

Press Release

F'IS showcases its condition monitoring expertise at HUSUMwind 2003

One-stop shopping for wall-to-wall remote monitoring and diagnosis for wind turbines by an outside service provider – Individual measurement as an alternative service option

Herzogenrath, Germany, July 7, 2003 – At this year's HUSUMwind tradeshow, which will run from September 23 to 27 in Husum, Germany (Hall 2, Booth B251), FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS) will be showcasing an extensive line of product and service offerings for early detection of damage in wind turbine systems. One of the focal points of this year's offerings from the service subsidiary of Schweinfurt-based FAG Kugelfischer AG & Co. KG, a member of the INA Schaeffler Group, will consist of complete condition monitoring for wind turbines, including remote monitoring and diagnosis. This early-warning damage detection service offering is presently considered to be the most secure method for avoiding costly downtime and consequential damage. This is why a number of insurance companies already view it as an underwriting prerequisite for machinery damage policies. In addition to vibration measurement, the condition monitoring additionally includes options for further parameters, such as torque and temperature, for example, as well as oil quality data in the future. All relevant data are captured by the sensors in the FAG Wind Turbine Protection System (WIPRO). Should the system detect variances from the specifically defined standard values, an alarm is triggered and the data are sent to the F'IS Service Center via fixed-network, radiotelephony or satellite modem. Following intensive analysis and detailed, in-depth diagnosis, the wind turbine operator is then notified which maintenance measures will be necessary to avoid the risk of unexpected shutdown and costly consequential damage.

At the wind turbine tradeshow in Husum, Herzogenrath-based F'IS will also be showcasing individual measurement of vibration and temperature data by means of mobile damage diagnosis units as an alternative first step in condition monitoring. This method, which could incorporate semiannual measurements, for example, of critical elements of the machinery in the wind turbine pod, followed by analysis and diagnosis by the F'IS service experts, is a more affordable alternative and continues to be accepted as an underwriting prerequisite by various insurance companies. The F'IS exhibits at this tradeshow will be rounded out by an extensive range of consultancy offerings relating to the development and implementation of modern maintenance strategies.

F'IS views wind power as an important growth market, and condition monitoring of wind turbines represents one of the key areas of activity of this FAG subsidiary. The service experts at F'IS began remote monitoring and diagnosis of the first systems in a wind turbine park more than two years ago. Since then, it has not only been possible to gather extensive experience; thanks to early detection of various kinds of impending damage, it has also been possible to clearly demonstrate the advantages offered by this method.

FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS)

Since the beginning of 2001, FAG Kugelfischer AG & Co. KG, a member of the INA Schaeffler Group, has consolidated its independent service operations at FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS), which is headquartered in the town of Herzogenrath near Aachen. As an independently operating company, F'IS offers vendor-neutral maintenance-related services and service products. This means that F'IS is able to assist its customers in reducing maintenance costs, optimizing plant availability and avoiding unexpected plant shutdowns.

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