Press Release

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When 99.5 metres meet millimetre precision: SCHEUERLE RBTS in action for ENERCON

As part of a comprehensive repowering project in Lorup, Lower Saxony, ENERCON is currently replacing 16 older wind energy turbines with ten modern E-175 EP5 turbines. In addition to the construction of new towers, this also means a precision transport operation involving a total of 30 impressively-sized rotor blades – each of them almost 86 metres long. They are therefore among the longest onshore rotor blades in the world.

The first transports have now been successfully completed. Loaded at the Jade-Weser port facility in Wilhelmshaven, the 99.5-metre-long heavy load combinations covered the approximately 160-kilometre route to the wind park during two nights of transport – not a great distance but a logistical masterpiece nonetheless.

Technology that convinces: ENERCON invests in SCHEUERLE RBTS

Prior to the project itself, ENERCON Logistic had decided to purchase three SCHEUERLE Rotor Blade Transport Systems (RBTS). The deciding factors for this investment were not only the unique technical features of the system – such as the lateral displacement of the blade on the dolly, double lifting cylinder design or gyrostatic transport platform – but also the professional support provided by the team from TII SCHEUERLE, starting with the initial technical consultation through to the required training.

“With the RBTS, we have a reliable and well-thought-out solution that gives our drivers flexibility while simultaneously protecting the sensitive rotor blades. The combination of technology and support were absolutely convincing,” said Tino Hülsmeyer, Truck Fleet Manager at ENERCON Logistic.

Challenging route requiring precise technology availability

Right from the start, exiting the motorway demanded everything from the team: the trailing unit had to be lifted using a very wide angle in order to swing over crash barriers and roadside barriers – a situation that not every manufacturer can deal with and solve so confidently. Here, the SCHEUERLE RBTS fully demonstrated its strengths and advantages.

SCHEUERLE RBTS: flexible, modular, powerful

The SCHEUERLE RBTS was specially developed for the transport of the increasingly longer rotor blades produced for the latest generation of wind turbines. It consists of a towing vehicle with a 3 or 4-axle semi-trailer, an adapter for the rotor blade mounting and a trailing unit with its own steering system. The modular design allows flexible adaptation to accommodate different rotor blade types and transport requirements. Thanks to the high lifting height as well as the option for flexible steering control of the trailing unit, even narrow town centres, roundabouts or demanding reversing operations can be mastered safely and efficiently.

“The enormous lifting height of the RBTS was crucial for this operation. Such situations are really no problem for our system,” explained Markus Pflederer, Sales Manager at TII SCHEUERLE.

High demands were also placed on technology and the preparation phase in the Friesoythe area: a roundabout was temporarily dismantled and covered with steel plates while the rotor blade's swivel range was adjusted accordingly. The tractor unit including the lifting adapter had to drive through an underpass while the trailer was still manoeuvring on the roundabout area – this resulted in a complex interplay of vehicle guidance and system control.

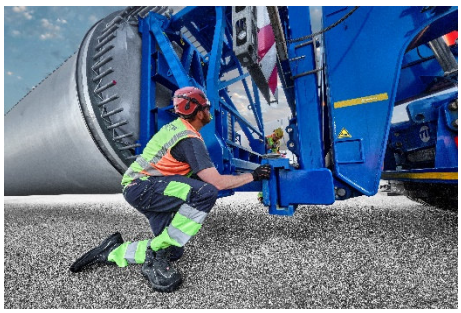
Reversing to the final destination – with sensitivity and teamwork

The final challenge was waiting in the wind park itself: reversing 800 metres along a narrow farm track – with a rotor blade behind you that is barely visible in the rear view mirror. The solution: perfect interaction between the rear steering system and the driver who steers the trailing unit via a radio connection whereby constantly maintaining a clear overview.

Photos:

With the more than 85-metre-long rotor blades securely loaded, the SCHEUERLE RBTS leaves the port of Wilhelmshaven.

High lifting height, gyrostatic platform, flexible lateral displacement:: the SCHEUERLE RBTS masters every challenge presented during the transportation of modern rotor blades.



Plug-and-Play in practice: the simple and safe installation procedure of the rotor blade mounting saves time as well as protecting both personnel and materials.

Tight roundabout, large radius: the SCHEUERLE RBTS also masters negotiating demanding inner-town and city routes at night with the highest precision.

Tackling the last 800 metres in reverse gear – perfect interaction between driver and the rear steering brings the rotor blade safely to its destination.

Strong team, strong technology: satisfied faces after the successful completion of the first transports with the SCHEUERLE RBTS.

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Company profile

The TII Group, a company owned by the Heilbronn-based Otto Rettenmaier family, is a globally active manufacturer of heavy-duty and special vehicles and has a workforce of around 1000 employees. The Group includes industry specialists, TII SCHEUERLE and TII KAMAG, and has production sites in Germany and India along with a worldwide organisation of sales and service partners. With innovative vehicles for manoeuvring and transportation operations, the TII Group, which is listed in the index of world market leaders, supports its customers in the transport and logistics sectors, building industry, plant engineering, air and space travel, shipbuilding, energy, steel and mining as well as yard logistics for realising a wide range of complex transport tasks. The TII Group holds the current world record of over 23,000 tonnes for the transportation of extremely heavy loads on vehicles. TII stands for the tradition of innovation, customer orientation and partnership as well as for high product quality and sustainability in heavy-duty mobility.

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