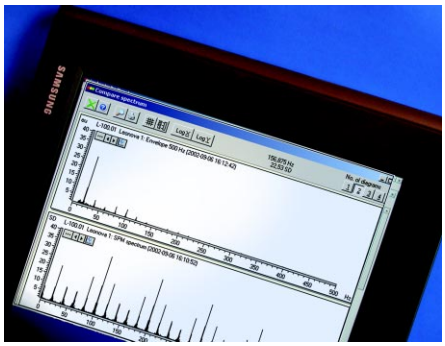
SPM
condition monitoring solutions

Certified for Wind Power

Allianz



Since March 2004, an SPM continuous monitoring system for wind power plants has been used by Borchener Windenergie in Germany on a 1,5 MW NEG MICON plant.

Since then, another 6 systems have been installed. Monitored are the main shaft bearings, the gear box and the generator, using VCM20-WM units with EVAM vibration analysis.

The system was tested by ATZ (Allianz Zentrum für Technik) in accordance with their *Requirements of a Condition Monitoring System for Wind Power Plant* and found suitable for condition based maintenance.

The immediate benefit to the power plant operator is that the costly time based replacements of parts are now avoided. Instead, the insurance company accepts the evidence of the monitoring system. All parts remain operational until their condition values indicate the need for replacement.

The Allianz Group operates world wide as one of the largest underwriters of high risk, high technological ventures.

Meanwhile, the SPM monitoring system has started to pay back. It detected a serious generator alignment fault which could be corrected without loss of production. The extra load caused by misalignment can reduce the bearing life by a factor of 5 to 6, and the cost for replacing a gearbox after a catastrophic bearing failure is estimated at 150,000 EUR.