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Gearboxes for the largest wind power plants of the world supplied by Wikov.

Wikov Industry has been developing top gear units. The first export contract for 5MW gearboxes should bring more than EUR 14,4mil.

Hronov 1st July 2010 - The largest wind power plants of the world with rotor diameter over 140 meters will have their “heart” – that means the gearbox – from the Czech company Wikov MGI a.s. from Hronov. The company has signed these days a premium contract with a renowned Chinese manufacturer of energetic equipment to supply two prototypes with and option. Based on the prototypes later in 2012 the company will manufacture and supply 20 pcs series in the total value over EUR 12mil. Including the two prototypes (which are going to be delivered already in 2011) the whole commission has a value more than EUR 14,4mil.

The planetary gearboxes of trademark Wikov will be installed in 5 MW wind power plants. These are at the moment the largest developed machines which will be installed in sea. The necessity to use such large rotor (over 140 m) is given by lower average wind speed in the area of operation in the sea near Chinese east coast.

“Such rotor diameter than puts large demands on the gearbox of the main drive from the view of the transmitted load. The design solution patented by our subsidiary company Orbital2 allows transmitting the torsion moment over 5000kNm with minimal dimensions and weight (only 57t compared to 85t from the competition). It therefore keeps also the requested reliability and operating life of the gearbox,” said about the exceptionality of technological solution the general director of Wikov Industry Mr. Antonín Růžička.

The mentioned gearboxes have already been in development and will be tested within the group Wikov Industry in cooperation with Wikov MGI and Orbital2 in 12 months. The total investments of Wikov Industry group into research and development of new products will be in this year on the level around circa EUR 2mil.

Wikov MGI produces wide assortment of industrial gearboxes, e.g. for water and wind power plants, transmission equipment for building machines, ships and rail-vehicles or for oil and gas industry. At the moment the list of the largest foreign customers includes such names as e.g. GE, Alstom, Siemens, Continental, Scana Volda. Last year the company reached revenues of circa EUR 38mil and the profit in the category EBITDA (before deductions, expense interest and taxes) increased by more than 190% to EUR 9,5mil. The company is employing 420 people. Between 2007 to 2010 the company invested into new manufacturing hall and machinery equipment more than EUR 40mil.

Wikov Industry is a traditional (the production in Hronov started in 1884, in Plzeň in 1921) and the largest producer of industrial gearboxes and transmission equipment in the CR. The engineering group **Wikov Industry** has started shaping in its contemporary look in 2002. Besides **Wikov MGI a.s.** the group includes also **Wikov Gear s.r.o. in** Plzeň (also a manufacturer of industrial gearboxes and gear wheels) and **Wikov Wind a.s.** from Hradec Králové (manufacturing of complete wind turbines). The company uses its other companies **Orbital 2** (with its seat in Great Britain, Wales) and its Czech branch **Czech Orbital 2** for design and construction of its products (gearboxes). All these companies are directed by its mother company **Wikov Industry a.s.** It also created with the Norwegian company Scana their joint venture **Scana Wikov AS** in Norway, where Wikov Industry a.s owns 50 %. The whole group **Wikov Industry** has been employing at the moment almost **640 people**.