

# CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

## WIND ENERGY OPERATION PLEASES THEIR INSURANCE CO., PROTECTS THEIR WIND TURBINES AND THEIR WORKERS BY INSTALLING **VESDA**

### The Challenge

The wind power operation within the Umwelt Kontor group has been the most dynamic market for renewables, listing an average annual growth rate of more than 50%. Currently Umwelt Kontor operates 30 wind parks and is developing offshore wind farm locations. As part of this expansion, the need to ensure business continuity and life safety is essential.

The wind farms are situated in remote locations, which makes easy access by fire crews difficult and unpractical. The high value of each wind turbine makes it essential that it is fire protected for insurance purposes as well as valuable business continuity. Plus the added concern of maintenance worker safety is paramount.

Together with the holding company's Finance division, Umwelt Kontor is responsible for the wind farms. From project initiation, through securing finance to technical and commercial support, the company also ensures every step has been made to protect the wind farms from the risk of fire.

### The Solution

Umwelt Kontor's Area Project Manager, Ralph Ratanski, researched the spectrum of products on the market before specifying the VESDA VLC-VN system designed and manufactured by VESDA. Supplied through their German Channel Partner, Novar, it was installed by specialists, Wellman, as a pilot project into Umwelt Kontor's wind park in Bergheim, which comprises five wind turbines.



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**PROJECT:**  
Umwelt Kontor

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**END USER/LOCATION:**  
Erkelenz, Germany

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**INDUSTRY:**  
Power Generation

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**SOLUTION:**  
VESDA VLC-505

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“The system is easy to operate by our operational staff, which is another massive benefit.”

Ralf Ratanski  
Area Project Manager, Umwelt Kontor

The VESDA VLC-VN system is an ideal cost effective solution for the protection of single and smaller environments that occupy less than 800 m<sup>2</sup>—in this case each wind turbine. It boasts its flexible VESDAnet menu driven programmer, which simply allows the user to configure, commission and maintain their VESDA system as well as program each individual detector.

Under the supervision of Wellman’s Project Manager, Mr Gruttgen, two VESDA detectors have been installed into each turbine. One is positioned at the top to protect the machinery and technical components and the other at ground level to protect the electrical cabinets. The VESDA systems are connected to the turbines’ intelligent control system, which enables the engine to stop immediately when the VESDA aspirating system detects traces of smoke in its air chamber.

## The Outcome

Since the installation of the pilot project Ralf Ratanski has been satisfied with the system. He explained: “It has augmented the Bergheim Park’s potential from an insurance point of view and has undoubtedly secured our investment in the wind turbines. The system is easy to operate by our operational staff, which is another massive benefit. As the system is connected directly to the local fire station, it promotes peace of mind at all levels of management.”

