



P R E S S R E L E A S E

21st March 2013

META GETS WIND OF A BIG ORDER IN CHINA

UK firm wins major contract from Chinese wind turbine producer

Oxfordshire-based vision system manufacturer, Meta Vision Systems, has received an order from a large Chinese windtower manufacturer for 14 of its DLS digital laser scanners. They will be used to automate welding operations during production of monopiles for offshore wind installations.

Meta's DLS is unique among laser vision sensors for welding in that it uses the scanning spot principle rather than the more usual laser stripe method. The scanning spot system has significant advantages when welding the deep joints that are common when manufacturing monopoles, where wall thickness can be over 100 mm.

Dr Jing Zhao, Meta's Country Manager for China, commented: "We are very happy to have won this contract against tough competition and following a direct comparative evaluation in the customer's factory.

"The performance of the DLS in generating accurate profiles of deep, narrow weld joints is a significant benefit for our customers. The large

depth of the joints results in extended welding times, so continuous, consistent performance over long periods is vital.

"Monopile welding has to be done quickly and efficiently to meet production targets but, at the same time, high quality standards are demanded. This project demonstrates that the quality and productivity benefits of advanced welding automation are persuasive, even in situations where cost considerations are very important.

"Thanks to our emphases on quality and customer satisfaction, the Meta brand is well established and highly respected in China. This important new project gives us an opportunity to reinforce our leadership position in the market there."

The windtower industry worldwide has become extremely competitive with the evolution of designs that place increasing requirements on fabrication and welding. To be competitive, it is necessary for windtower manufacturers to combine high productivity with excellent quality by using the best practices available.

Meta has extensive experience in the field, having been working on windtower and monopile welding for over fifteen years, with a range of installations in the UK, USA, Canada, China, Korea, Netherlands and elsewhere.

Two photographs attached:

1. Typical offshore wind installation underway, showing monopiles and transition pieces already installed on the sea bed.
2. A DLS laser sensor on a typical monopile application.

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