



CASE STUDY WINDPARKS /- MILLS

Harnessing the power of wind

France – Clear course at the “Tower of Babel”

An 80-metre-high tower in which four languages are spoken is something unusual, even for BELFOR! However restoration means coordination and communication! This was certainly true for a case involving a French wind turbine, on which a cable fire had initially damaged the switching cabinets and spread contamination throughout the entire tower. Accordingly, BELFOR shared out the benefits of its international network: the manufacturer notified the German BELFOR Relectronic, and from here the message was relayed to French colleagues who pulled out all the stops to get a crew on site immediately. However, the term ‘immediately’ is relative when the nature and extent of the damage is – to put it mildly – “difficult”. The preparation work alone, for instance, took three weeks: specialist equipment had to be obtained, French team members specially trained and three platforms completely replaced. Six days

a week, all of the members of the team worked for up to nine hours a day to meet an extremely tight deadline and while wearing heavy safety and protection equipment, but their efforts paid off. The “Tower of Babel”, where there was clear communication despite four different languages being spoken, will be back in operation at the start of the autumn.

Italy – no grid, but an international network

A second case study shows that it works the other way round too: when we can’t resolve damage on site, then we simply “move” it to another location where we can. This is precisely what happened with a new, 2 Megawatt wind turbine. The electrical cable had burned out due to a technical defect, contaminating the entire tower and the nacelle with soot. Following an initial damage estimate, BELFOR took care of the major cleaning of the tower and nacelles on site.

