

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Sulzer Schmid's new technology platform slashes cost of drone-based rotor blade inspections



Zurich, Switzerland, 06 February 2019 – [Sulzer & Schmid Laboratories AG](#), a Swiss company pioneering next-generation technology for the inspection of wind turbine rotor blades, announced today that it has launched a new highly competitive inspection platform. The company's new 3DX™ HD product has been developed as a cost-effective solution to cope with large volumes of high definition blade inspections.

Based on the compact and flexible DJI M-210 drone, Sulzer Schmid's latest innovation delivers high performance and fully autonomous drone inspections at a significantly lower cost compared to its existing 3DX™ Ultra-HD product based on the DJI's M-600 drone.

Thanks to the new capabilities offered by unmanned aerial vehicles, the market for drone-based rotor blade inspections has boomed in recent years. *"Our technology produces high-definition image quality that is superior to any other inspection method,"* explained Tom Sulzer, Co-founder of Sulzer Schmid. *"Our drone inspections offer a myriad of benefits: they are automated and therefore immune to human error, repeatable and consistent in quality while covering 100% of the blade. Most importantly, the fully digital end-to-end process creates a foundation for trend analysis and predictive maintenance"* he continued.

Depending on the type of inspections and their requirements, wind turbine OEMs, wind asset owners and O&M service providers will now be able to choose the technology that best suits their needs. Whereas critical inspections, such as end-of-warranty or change of ownership, call for the superior images provided by the 3DX™ Ultra-HD product, regular inspections can now be carried out with great efficiency by the 3DX™ HD platform at a fraction of the cost.

The new 3DX™ HD product combines increased inspection capacity with improved ease of deployment. It offers all the key benefits of autonomous inspection flights, while improving

inspection efficiency, handling and deployment during field operations. It is compact enough to be checked-in as regular luggage for air travel and can be deployed easily on CTV ships for Offshore Wind inspections.

“We are pleased to deliver a new solution that addresses our customers’ needs for high-volume and routine blade inspections. We always push the envelope by increasing automation in all steps of the inspection workflow and by increasing the robustness of our products. We also continue to expand our product range and we expect to launch our new offshore inspection solution later this year,” concluded Christof Schmid, Co-founder of the company.

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Note to Editors

About Sulzer Schmid

Founded in 2015 by Tom Sulzer and Christof Schmid, Zurich-based Sulzer Schmid is at the forefront of innovation in the energy service sector. Recognizing the potential for unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology to redefine industrial grade inspections, the two entrepreneurs and their engineering team have developed an end-to-end technology platform that produces high-quality inspection results with ease – precisely, repeatably, efficiently. The development of the dedicated 3DX™ Inspection Platform started in 2015. Since those days, more than a thousand autonomous inspection missions have been conducted based on its technology throughout Europe, each underpinned by a commitment to the highest quality, efficiency, safety and ground-breaking use of technology.

For further information, please contact:

Ulrich Moor – Sulzer Schmid Laboratories AG

+41 55 508 1715 - info@sulzerschmid.ch

www.sulzerschmid.ch

OR

Jonathan Collings - Alesia Communications

+33 (0) 652 694 221 - jonathan@alesia-communications.com

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