

Press Release: Drone technology makes a breakthrough

There has been a breakthrough in the use of drones in power grid inspections this spring. Norwegian drone service providers and utility companies are leading the charge on a global scale.



Tensio has awarded a contract to drone company KVS Technologies to collect data from their power grid in Trøndelag this summer. The drones will take around 250,000 images while flying over the power lines, which span 3,600 kilometres. A total of 35,000 masts will be photographed, and the power grid will be monitored for potential issues with trees, vegetation, or any activity that is taking place too close to the power lines.

‘When it comes to using drones as a tool for the inspection of the power grid, drone companies have made a breakthrough this spring,’ says subject head Jon Anders Krokann from Tensio. He emphasizes that KVS Technologies had also priced themselves most competitively in the tender process, compared to other bidders which include helicopter companies.

Besides Tensio, Agder Energi Nett has also awarded contracts for power line inspections to drone companies this spring. This type of inspection work has been done primarily by helicopters before, even though their disadvantages include noise pollution, disturbance to third parties, and carbon emissions. Tensio and other power grid companies have for several years been actively working towards a point where

drones can take over the inspection market. Now, it looks like the breakthrough has finally been made – with forward-leaning Norwegian-based drone companies in the drivers' seat.

'We are very pleased that Tensio has chosen KVS Technologies to inspect their power lines. The recent contracts awarded by power grid companies indicate that the national market for drone services is really opening up. Norway is ahead of other countries in this arena, and we believe that Norwegian drone technology companies that specialise in the energy sector will eventually be landing contracts and partnerships outside of Norway,' says Jimmy Bostrøm, COO of KVS Technologies.

KVS Technologies is a Norwegian drone technology company headquartered in Stavanger. They also have a local office in Stjørdal. Several of the company's drone pilots are from Trøndelag.

'Coming from Snåsa in Trøndelag, I am proud and excited that KVS Technologies will be inspecting Tensio's power grid. My job is to help maintain our society's critical infrastructure and it's a great feeling to be able to contribute to ensuring the reliability of the grid so close to home,' says drone pilot Mette Nyås.