



Wind Tree - Aymar de la Mettrie

- Aymar ...yes a tiny bit of me in the west part of France. The very beginning is a French writer who used to write scenarios for the Chile who wrote a book about inventor and this should have an idea. So he found an idea about a tree that generated electricity. So when he send the manuscript before he could publish his book people said what a great idea. So that's the very beginning of the story. So it began 2011 and then with public comed in from Brittany they began to develop and make some prototypes. So from 2011 to 2014 they make 2 trees who was a kind of proof of concept that prove that was working and working well. So then the company began to develop to hire more people more specialists in dynamics and mechanics and electricity and so on and now we're here.
- Rob This wind tree then. Could you describe it briefly about what it looks like; what size it is; what powers does it have and what can it produce?
- Aymar To be honest the wind tree looks like a tree. Basically a tree with a trunk and branches and leaves. Each leaf is a plastic turbine, a **trabonist** ? turbine which generates electricity. The first 8 wind trees we made and sell last year was a height of about 10 metres.
- Rob Ten metres high?
- Aymar Yes, 8 metres width, they carry 63 of those leaves we call them éolists Each of those leaves can generate 100 watts power. We limit this power to 100 watts because of it will change the electrical competence more than that. Above this power there is a brake that limits the speed of the windmill. With the high speed wind we could have 63 per 100 watts which is maximum 6 kilowatts, 6.3kw.
- Rob One tree could produce that much?
- Aymar Yes. But our target is not to produce as much as we can because our target is to generate electricity at low speed wind. Because a storm carries a lot of energy but you don't have it every day.
- Rob That's true. We have a lot of wind turbines in Brittany which sometimes do not move.

- Aymar That's it, that's it. Our strategy is not to push the maximum energy; our strategy is to take energy from very low speed wind. So our strategy is to have a starting wind which is very low, today it's between one and two metres per second and we try to make it lower. To achieve that our limit and the maximum power which is found in the tree is not a good figure because if we look at this figure we compare to a big windmill quite oftenly don't move, when we have big wind above 8 or 9 metres per second sometimes they move. So we don't want to compare to them, it's not the same thing.
- Rob The New Wind for which Aymar de la Mettrie you are the director of research and development?
- Aymar That's it.
- Rob This wind tree that you describe is very large, will there be an opportunity one day for people, individuals to have one of these trees in a private place?
- Aymar You mention two things in your question. The first thing is who gonna buy it and the second thing is the size. The first thing is who's gonna buy it - today we sell it to cities and towns who are dealing with new green cities et cetera and I intend still to offer it to everybody. So there is a second question - the size of the object. Today it's quite large, I agree with you. But we are now on development on other projects that carry lower number of leaves and they have going smaller. 4 metres height and 2 or 3 metres width so you can have it in your garden but it's not to date maybe in the future in one or two years.
- Rob So there is a project for making it available to individuals one day?
- Aymar Yes . We are today prototyping it. Not in time for this year but it will be on the market for individuals in maybe one or two years.
- Rob I understand that the wind tree made an appearance at the recent conference near Paris there for the climate change. What kind of impact did it have?
- Aymar We were very happy with the... we have a very good response from the market and a very good response from the media about this. So we put two of those trees at the entrance of the COP vingt-et-un COP 21 climate change conference in Paris. People took a lot of pictures of it; we have a lot of questions from all over the world; we have TV teams from Asia who came to our office to ask for it.
- Rob I'm not surprised it's a beautiful looking structure. Anyone can see it by, I mean obviously we can't show it on the radio but they can go to the website presumably of New Wind, which is the name of your company, and see what it looks like.

- Aymar Yes . You mention it's a beautiful object. In the windmill market there is something we called 'windyline'. It's okay it's green in energy but when it make noise and when it's ugly you don't want to have it. So we have a product that generate electricity and it is beautiful and it make no noise - absolutely no noise at all. So you could have it in the centre of the town, in your garden, anywhere, you would be put it very close to the place when you need energy. So it's not only a beautiful thing it is charging electricity and it's affordable and you can put it in the city we are willing to say.
- Rob Are there some cities now that have these wind trees installed?
- Aymar We have last year installed 3 of the first wind trees and we are now installing the fourth one and the remaining other 4 will be installed in the next few weeks.
- Rob The places where they are going to be installed in the cities they are producing electricity for what reason for what service, for street lighting or something like that? Or...
- Aymar It depend on the place you are so the wind you have. But let's speak in average. We say that in average one tree could generate enough electricity to fulfil the needs of a house - half a house - for a year ???? in average, without heating. And today when you put them in to cities it's more electricity for urban services. We have plan to put them close to electrical charging points for cars or for bikes and they will be used for lighting the street.
- Rob Is there a chance to see one of these trees in Brittany?
- Aymar Not now because the first prototype were dispatchful? Because they will not treat? the maximum wind you need to stand when you want to install for a long time. Today you can see those wind trees in Germany, in Switzerland, in Paris. In Paris they are at **La Bogere**???, ... we have just been told they will be wanted in Roland Garros so you should look at there. In the tennis match next summer you will see one of them but if you want to see them now you are better to come to Paris. But you will find our prototype for the new product 101 in Brittany in the next 2 months so if you come to Brittany you will see soon.
- Rob And where will that be?
- Aymar. It will be in St. Brieuc.
- Rob Give me a little few more details because some of our listeners will be close to St. Brieuc.
- Aymar Today our network of industrial partners is in Brittany. We have a workshop and we have our assembly line and near St.Brieuc, in Trégueux we have a workshop and we will begin our tests of our prototypes in Trégueux in March and April.

Rob Aymar de la Mettrie of NewWind.fr thank you very much for speaking to us this afternoon.

Aymar. Thank you very much

Rob It's another example of enterprise and forward thinking that comes from Brittany I think.