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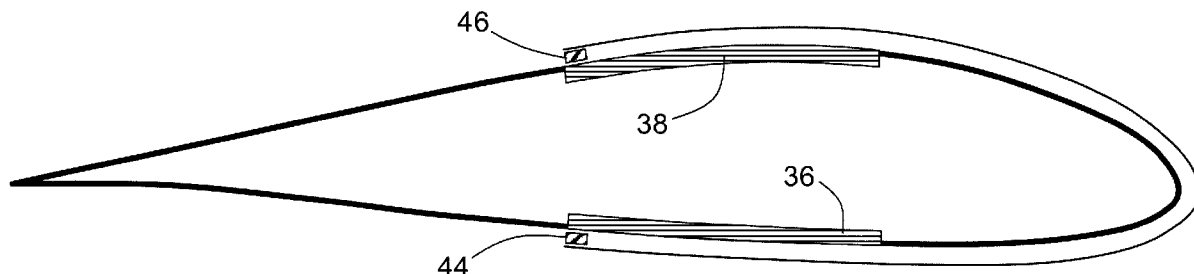
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(54) Titre : PALE DE ROTOR D'EOLIENNE COMPORTANT UN DISPOSITIF CHAUFFANT ELECTRIQUE ET UNE PLURALITE DE PARATONNERRES

(54) Title: WIND TURBINE ROTOR BLADE HAVING AN ELECTRICAL HEATING DEVICE AND A PLURALITY OF LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Wind turbine rotor blade having a rotor blade root, a rotor blade tip, an electrical heating device, a lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip and a plurality of lightning conductors leading from the lightning receptor to the rotor blade root, characterized in that

- precisely two of the lightning conductors are provided,
- at least one further lightning receptor is provided, which is arranged at a distance from the rotor blade tip and is connected to one of the lightning conductors, and
- each of the two lightning conductors is electrically conductively connected to the electrical heating device at a multiplicity of points between the rotor blade root and the rotor blade tip, with the result that, in the event of a lightning strike, equipotential bonding between the two lightning conductors takes place via the electrical heating device.

Abstract:

Wind turbine rotor blade having a rotor blade root, a rotor blade tip, an electrical heating device, a lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip and a plurality of lightning conductors leading from the lightning receptor to the rotor blade root, characterized in that

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- each of the two lightning conductors is electrically conductively connected to the electrical heating device at a multiplicity of points between the rotor blade root and the rotor blade tip, with the result that, in the event of a lightning strike, equipotential bonding between the two lightning conductors takes place via the electrical heating device.

Wind turbine rotor blade having an electrical heating
device and a plurality of lightning conductors

5 The invention relates to a wind turbine rotor blade having
a rotor blade root, a rotor blade tip, an electrical
heating device, a lightning receptor in the region of the
rotor blade tip and a plurality of lightning conductors
leading from the lightning receptor to the rotor blade
10 root.

As a result of their large physical height, wind turbines
are often affected by lightning strikes. Most frequently,
the lightning strikes in the region of the rotor blade tip
15 when the rotor blade is pointing upwards at an angle or
straight. In order to prevent destruction of the rotor
blade by the lightning strike, it has long been known to
arrange a lightning receptor in the region of the rotor
blade tip and to connect it to a lightning conductor. The
20 current from lightning striking the lightning receptor is
then discharged via the lightning conductor to the rotor
blade root, from there into the hub via the nacelle and the
tower to ground. Primarily copper cables with a relatively
large cross section are arranged within the rotor blade, in
25 particular along a spar or shear web of the rotor blade, as
lightning conductor.

In order to counteract icing-over of the rotor blades,
electrical heating devices are used. These are made of an
30 electrically conductive material and a heating current
flows through them during operation; the heating current
results in heating of the heating device. Such heating

devices are additional electrically conductive structures in or on the rotor blade which are typically arranged over a large length more or less parallel to the lightning conductor. In the event of a lightning strike, electrical
5 currents with very high and rapidly rising current intensities are discharged via the lightning conductor which, on the basis of Ampere's Law with Maxwell's correction, produces a severely variable magnetic field in the surrounding environment of the lightning conductor. On
10 the basis of the Maxwell-Faraday equation high voltages can be induced in the electrical heating device as a result, which results in potential differences between the lightning conductor and the heating device or between the lightning conductor and the electrical conductors connected
15 to the heating device. Depending on the current gradient and the geometric relationships in the rotor blade, these potential differences can amount to several megavolts, with the result that flashovers occur between the lightning conductor and the electrical heating device or the
20 electrical conductors. This can result in damage to the heating device or adjacent structures of the rotor blade, up to total damage.

The publication WO 2006/051147 A1 discloses a wind turbine
25 rotor blade having a supporting structure consisting of carbon fibers. The wind turbine rotor blade does not have an electrical heating device. A lightning conductor is connected to metal plates on the supporting structure via a plurality of cables in order to bring about equipotential
30 bonding between the lightning conductor and the electrically conductive supporting structure.

Publication WO 2011/148049 A1 discloses a wind turbine rotor blade having a box-shaped supporting structure and
35 profile leading edges and profile end edges attached thereto. An electrical heating device which has a plurality of heating wires is provided in the region of the profile

leading edges. In addition, there is a plurality of lightning conductors, which are arranged distributed over the box-shaped supporting structure and the profile leading edges.

5

Publication EP 1 187 988 B1 discloses a wind turbine rotor blade having a central lightning conductor arranged approximately centrally in the rotor blade. A lightning receptor arranged in the region of the rotor blade tip is
10 connected to this central lightning conductor. An electrical heating device having a plurality of electrical heating elements is provided in the region of the profile leading edge.

15 The electrical heating elements are connected to two electrical connecting lines running in the longitudinal direction of the rotor blade, with the result that a heating current can be supplied to the electrical heating elements. Those ends of the electrical connecting lines for
20 the heating elements which are on the rotor blade tip side are connected to the lightning receptor via spark gaps. As a result, some of the lightning current is intended to be discharged by the electrical connecting lines of the heating elements, with the result that these connecting
25 lines also act as lightning conductors. The potential difference between the two connecting lines should always be zero or so low that the heating elements cannot be damaged by the lightning strike.

30 On this basis it is the object of the invention to provide a wind turbine rotor blade having an electrical heating device and a lightning conductor wherein the rotor blade has improved lightning protection.

The wind turbine rotor blade has a rotor blade root, a rotor blade tip, an electrical heating device, a lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip and a plurality of lightning conductors leading from the lightning receptor to the rotor blade root. The wind turbine rotor blade is characterized in that

- precisely two of the lightning conductors are provided,
- at least one further lightning receptor is provided, which is arranged at a distance from the rotor blade tip and is connected to one of the lightning conductors, and
- each of the two lightning conductors is electrically conductively connected to the electrical heating device at a multiplicity of points between the rotor blade root and the rotor blade tip, with the result that, in the event of a lightning strike, equipotential bonding between the two lightning conductors takes place via the electrical heating device.

The wind turbine rotor blade can be intended for a wind turbine having a rotor with a horizontal axis. It can be made from a fiber-reinforced plastics material, for example in a vacuum infusion process. It can be assembled from two prefabricated rotor blade half-shells, in particular from a pressure side rotor blade half-shell and a suction side rotor blade half-shell. The wind turbine rotor blade can have a supporting structure including one or more spar caps and one or more shear webs arranged between two half-shells or two spar caps. Alternatively, the rotor blade can have a spar as the central supporting structure, for example with a box configuration. The mentioned supporting structure elements, in particular the spar caps, can be connected to the rotor blade half-shells before the rotor blade half-shells are assembled to form a rotor blade. For this

purpose, they can be prefabricated separately and integrated in the half-shells during production of the half-shells. Alternatively, they can be produced together with the remaining component parts of the half-shells, for
5 example by reinforcing fibers being inserted into the half-shell forms.

A blade connection region for connection to a rotor hub can be formed at the rotor blade root of the wind turbine rotor
10 blade, for example a fastening flange. The wind turbine rotor blade has, in cross section, an aerodynamic profile with a profile leading edge and a profile end edge. The wind turbine rotor blade can have a length of, for example, 30 m or more, in particular of 50 m or more.

15 In order to prevent icing-over or to counteract existing icing-over, the wind turbine rotor blade has an electrical heating device. This can extend over a part or over the entire length of the wind turbine rotor blade. The
20 electrical heating device is configured such that electrical current flows through it and heats it. It can be arranged in the region of the profile leading edge of the wind turbine rotor blade. In particular, the electrical heating device can extend approximately from the profile
25 leading edge up to a profile thickness reserve, both on the pressure side and on the suction side of the wind turbine rotor blade. The electrical heating device can be configured to heat the mentioned surface region of the wind turbine rotor blade more or less uniformly. The electrical
30 heating device can be arranged on an aerodynamic surface of the wind turbine rotor blade.

The wind turbine rotor blade has a lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip. This can in particular
35 be a metallic body which forms part of the surface of the wind turbine rotor blade or is arranged closely adjacent to this surface, for example only separated from the surface

by a layer of paint. The lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip can also be formed by the rotor blade tip itself, which in this case is preferably made of metal. Alternatively, lightning receptors can be arranged
5 on the suction and/or pressure side of the rotor blade in the region of the rotor blade tip. Such a lightning receptor which does not include the rotor blade tip itself is likewise located in the region of the rotor blade tip and can reach up directly as far as the rotor blade tip or
10 have a small distance from the rotor blade tip, for example a distance in the range of 1 cm to 25 cm, in particular in the range of 5 cm to 20 cm or in the range 10 cm to 15 cm. The term "distance" is intended now and in the following text to mean the distance between the rotor blade tip and
15 that point of the lightning receptor which is nearest to the rotor blade tip. In general, a lightning receptor can be considered as being arranged in the region of the rotor blade tip when its distance from the rotor blade tip is less than 25 cm, in particular less than 15 cm.

20 A plurality of lightning conductors lead from the lightning receptor to the rotor blade root. These lightning conductors can be arranged at a distance from one another over their entire length between the lightning receptor and
25 the rotor blade root. In the region of the rotor blade root, the lightning conductors can have one or more grounding connections, via which a connection to further lightning conductors can be produced in a rotor hub, a nacelle and/or a tower of a wind turbine. In this manner,
30 the lightning current from a lightning strike can be discharged via the lightning conductors to ground. The lightning conductors are dimensioned such that they can discharge the current intensities occurring in the event of a lightning strike of, for example, 50 kA or more, without
35 being destroyed. In this case, the lightning current in the rotor blade can be divided amongst a plurality of conductors or else discharged substantially by only one of

the lightning conductors. In the event that the lightning current is discharged via a plurality of conductors, the lightning current at the lightning receptors and/or in the region of the blade root can be combined onto one lightning
5 conductor.

Precisely two lightning conductors are provided in the invention. Each of these two lightning conductors is configured to discharge, possibly also on its own, the
10 current of a lightning strike without being damaged thereby.

At least one further lightning receptor is arranged at a distance from the rotor blade tip and is connected to one
15 of the lightning conductors. The at least one further lightning receptor is located outside the region of the rotor blade tip. Its distance from the rotor blade tip can be, for example, 30 cm or more, for example approximately 50 cm or more. Lightning strikes occurring at a distance
20 from the rotor blade tip can be discharged via this at least one further lightning receptor. By using a separate lightning receptor, damage to the rotor blade in this region can be avoided. A lightning strike in the further lightning receptor is substantially discharged via the
25 lightning conductor connected to the further lightning receptor. It goes without saying that part of the lightning current can also be discharged via the other lightning conductor.

30 Each of the two lightning conductors is electrically conductively connected to the electrical heating device at a multiplicity of points between the rotor blade root and the rotor blade tip. In the event of a lightning strike, equipotential bonding can take place between the two
35 lightning conductors via the electrical heating device.

The invention is based on the knowledge that, in particular in the case of large rotor blades which have a plurality of electrically conductive structures, equipotential bonding is required between these structures in order to avoid
5 damage as a result of voltages and currents which are induced in the relevant component parts by a lightning current rising suddenly in a few μ s. In particular, the inventors have identified that, for the necessary equipotential bonding, it is not only a matter of high
10 electrical conductivity of the equipotential bonding element used. If the equipotential bonding is brought about at a multiplicity of points at a greater or lesser distance from one another, the multiplicity of connections between the two lightning conductors contributes substantially to
15 the potential differences occurring over a single equipotential bonding element being limited. The inventors have established that such equipotential bonding brought about at a multiplicity of adjacent points can be provided not only by cables or other conductors with a
20 correspondingly low resistance, but also by electrical heating devices which have a comparatively high resistance owing to the heating taking place. Surprisingly, it has been established that the current loading capacity of electrical heating devices in the event of current loading
25 during a lightning strike has also increased temporarily. In particular, the high degree of resistance to temperatures of such heating devices contributes to this.

A particular advantage of the invention consists in that,
30 as a result of the equipotential bonding brought about via the electrical heating device, it is possible to work with additional lightning receptors at a distance from the rotor blade tip. If lightning strikes into such a lightning receptor, in contrast to a lightning strike in a lightning
35 receptor located at the rotor blade tip, there is necessarily an asymmetric current distribution among the two lightning conductors. Without equipotential bonding

between the two lightning conductors, this can result in damage to the wind turbine rotor blade as a result of induced voltages and currents. As a result of the equipotential bonding via the electrical heating device,
5 such damage is reliably prevented.

In an embodiment, each of the lightning conductors is in electrical contact with the electrical heating device along the entire length of the electrical heating device. In
10 particular, peripheral sections or edges of the electrical heating device can be connected to the adjacently arranged lightning conductors in such a manner that electrical contact which is continuous in a longitudinal direction of the lightning conductors is produced. Likewise included is
15 contact-making between the electrical heating device and the adjacently arranged lightning conductors at short distances of, for example, 10 cm or less, in particular 1 cm or less, which corresponds to quasi-continuous electrical contact-making over the length of the electrical
20 heating device. In any case, particularly effective equipotential bonding between the two lightning conductors is achieved.

In an embodiment, the electrical heating device can be
25 supplied a heating current via the two lightning conductors. This means that the connection between the heating device and the lightning conductors is configured in a suitable manner for this and that the lightning conductors are connected to a heating current supply
30 device, or are provided or suitable for this purpose. One advantage of this embodiment is the particularly simple configuration, in which the two lightning conductors are used simultaneously for discharging lightning currents and for supplying current to the electrical heating device.

35 In an embodiment, the electrical heating device is configured in such a manner that a heating current supplied

to it via the two lightning conductors flows transversely to a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade through the electrical heating device. For this purpose, the electrical heating device can have, for example, a flat, film-like material or else a multiplicity of electrically conductive wires or fibers arranged flat. The electrical conductivity of the heating device in the mentioned direction is particularly advantageous for effective equipotential bonding.

10

In an embodiment, one of the lightning conductors has a metallic conductor which runs over the entire length of the electrical heating device. The metallic conductor can be, for example, a solid metal profile, a cable with a single conductor or a multiplicity of conductors such as wires or litz wires and with a flat, angular or round cross section. The metallic conductor can in particular be made of copper. It is likewise possible to use aluminum or other metals which have sufficient conductivity. The metallic conductor can have a cross section of, for example, 25 mm² or more, in particular approximately 50 mm² or more when using copper. The lightning conductor can be made exclusively of such a metallic conductor, but can also be combined with further electrically conductive elements to form the lightning conductor.

25

In an embodiment, the rotor blade has an electrically conductive main spar cap, which extends over the entire length of the electrical heating device, and the lightning conductor or part thereof is formed by the electrically conductive main spar cap. The electrically conductive main spar cap can in particular include a carbon fiber material. It forms part of a supporting structure which absorbs the majority of the mechanical loads on the wind turbine rotor blade. The lightning conductor can be formed exclusively from the main spar cap over its entire length or over the entire length of the electrical heating device.

30

35

Alternatively, it can be combined with further electrically conductive materials to form the lightning conductor. The use of an electrically conductive main spar cap as lightning conductor or the inclusion thereof in the lightning conductor is advantageous because separate equipotential bonding between the lightning conductor and the main spar cap is in this case not required. Additional problems resulting from induction of voltages or currents in the main spar cap on discharge of a lightning current by a lightning conductor arranged adjacent to the main spar cap are ruled out from the outset. At the same time, it is possible to dispense with additional lightning conductors or electrical connecting lines for the heating device.

In an embodiment, the main spar cap has an outer side which faces an aerodynamic surface of the wind turbine rotor blade, wherein a first section of the outer side, which first section extends in the form of a strip in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade, is in electrical contact with the electrical heating device, and a second section of the outer side is separated from the electrical heating device by an electrically insulating material layer. In particular, a direct electrical contact between the first section of the outer side and the electrical heating device can be provided. The electrically insulating material layer can have, for example, a single layer or a plurality of layers of glass-fiber-reinforced plastics material from which parts of the rotor blade half-shell, which is combined with the main spar cap, are made. The second section of the outer side of the main spar cap can likewise be strip-shaped and run in the longitudinal direction of the rotor blade. As a result of the mentioned type of contact-making, the supply of current to the electrical heating device is performed via the main spar cap in a targeted manner in the region of the first section of the outer side of the main spar cap. As a result, the

heating device can already have the desired heating effect in the region of the second section of the outer side.

5 In an embodiment, the lightning conductor is formed in the region of the electrical heating device by the main spar cap and an adjacently arranged metallic conductor. The two elements are in electrical contact with one another and jointly form one of the two lightning conductors. It goes without saying that the two lightning conductors can also
10 be configured in this way; this also applies to the embodiments described above and below. The additional metallic conductor can increase the current-carrying capacity of the combined lightning conductor. In addition, it can simplify the electrical contact-making of the
15 heating device, which can take place via the metallic conductor. In particular, the metallic conductor can extend over the entire length of the electrical heating device and/or the main spar cap. If the main spar cap ends at a distance from the rotor blade tip, the metallic conductor
20 can extend beyond the end of the main spar cap as far as the lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip.

In an embodiment, a metallic grid is arranged between the
25 main spar cap and the adjacently arranged metallic conductor. The metallic grid can be, for example, a wire mesh, wire woven fabric or wire nonwoven fabric made of copper wires or copper litz wires. This favors electrical contact-making over a large area of the main spar cap and
30 thus avoids damage as a result of nonuniform discharge of the lightning current.

In an embodiment, the electrical heating device includes a carbon fiber material. In principle, the electrical heating
35 device can also be made of a metallic material, in particular resistance wires or a film with a defined electrical resistance. The use of a carbon fiber material

is characterized by particularly simple integration in the structure and the manufacturing processes of the wind turbine rotor blade.

5 In an embodiment, a connection between one of the lightning conductors and the lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip and/or the at least one further lightning receptor and/or a grounding connection in the region of the rotor blade root has a spark gap and/or a vacuum
10 interrupter. A corresponding connection between the respective other lightning conductor and the remaining mentioned elements can be formed in the same manner. Other components that can be used as surge receptors can likewise be used for the connection. The spark gap and/or the vacuum
15 interrupter or another corresponding surge receptor ensure electrical insulation between the mentioned elements below a predetermined potential difference. As a result, the lightning conductors can easily be used for supplying current to the electrical heating device with operating
20 voltages in the range of, for example, 400 V or more, in particular up to 1000 V. At relatively high voltages, for example of several megavolts as in the case of a lightning strike, flashovers occur and the lightning current can be discharged via the spark gap and/or the vacuum interrupter
25 or the other surge receptor.

The connection between one of the lightning conductors and the lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip and/or the at least one further lightning receptor can also
30 be in the form of segmented diverter strips. A segmented diverter strip can have a multiplicity of conductors arranged at distances from one another, for example blocks or sheets of a metal such as copper or aluminum, in particular arranged on an electrically insulating substrate
35 material such as an adhesive strip. The diverter strips can be arranged on the surface of the rotor blade and can be cohesively connected thereto. This enables easy fitting and

accessibility of the surge receptors without bringing about significant changes in the contour of the rotor blade. In particular, it is possible to use the segmented diverter strip to bridge a distance between a lightning conductor and a lightning receptor, in particular a distance between a blade tip side end of a lightning conductor in the region of a blade tip side end of the heating device and the lightning receptor in the region of the rotor blade tip.

10 In an embodiment, one of the two lightning conductors is arranged on a pressure side and the other of the two lightning conductors is arranged on a suction side of the rotor blade. The lightning receptors arranged on both sides of the wind turbine rotor blade are connected to a
15 respective lightning conductor, with the result that damage can be avoided in the event of a lightning strike on the side remote from a lightning receptor.

In an embodiment, all of the lightning receptors provided
20 are arranged at a distance of 20% or less of the length of the rotor blade away from the rotor blade tip. In particular, all of the lightning receptors can be arranged at a distance of 15% or less or even only 10% or less of the length away from the rotor blade tip. Experience tells
25 us that a lightning strike is particularly frequent in these regions of the rotor blade which are close to the rotor blade tip and providing additional lightning receptors at this location on the rotor blade is particularly important.

30 The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to several exemplary embodiments illustrated in figures, in which:

35 FIG. 1 shows a rotor blade according to the invention in a simplified, perspective view,

FIG. 2 shows a cross section through the rotor blade shown in figure 1 at the point denoted by A-A in a simplified, schematic illustration,

5 FIG. 3 shows a cross section through another wind turbine rotor blade having two electrically conductive main spar caps in a simplified schematic illustration,

10 FIG. 4 shows a cross section through another wind turbine rotor blade having two lightning conductors, which each have a metallic conductor and an electrically conductive main spar cap, in a simplified, schematic illustration,

15 FIG. 5 shows a cross section through a further wind turbine rotor blade, in which a metallic grid is arranged between the main spar cap and the metallic conductor, likewise in a simplified, schematic illustration.

20

The wind turbine rotor blade 10 shown in figure 1 has a rotor blade tip 12 and a rotor blade root 14. A lightning protection receptor 16, which forms the rotor blade tip 12 is arranged in the region of the rotor blade tip 12. The rotor blade 10 has a pressure side 26 facing the viewer and a suction side 28 remote from the viewer.

25

An electrical heating device 18 is arranged in the region of the profile leading edge of the rotor blade 10. It has a rotor blade tip side end 20 and a rotor blade root side end 22 and extends over a large proportion of the length of the rotor blade 10 up to close to the rotor blade tip 12.

30

35 FIG. 1 also shows a first lightning conductor 24, which has a metallic conductor. It extends from the rotor blade root 14 up to the rotor blade tip 12 and is connected there to

the lightning protection receptor 16. As shown in the figure, the first lightning conductor 24 runs substantially adjacent to a rim of the electrical heating device 18 which is arranged on the pressure side 26. There, it is
5 conductively connected to the electrical heating device 18 at a multiplicity of points.

A second lightning conductor 30 likewise extends from the rotor blade root 14 up to the rotor blade tip 12 and is
10 connected there to the lightning receptor 16. It runs on the suction side 28 of the wind turbine rotor blade 10 and is arranged in the region of the electrical heating device 18 adjacent to a rim of the electrical heating device 18 arranged on the suction side 28 and is conductively
15 connected there to the electrical heating device 18 at a multiplicity of points.

A further lightning receptor 52 is located on the pressure side 26 at a distance of approximately 10% of the total
20 length of the rotor blade from the rotor blade tip 12. The further lightning receptor is electrically conductively connected to the first lightning conductor 24. A lightning receptor which is connected to the second lightning conductor (not illustrated) is likewise located on the
25 suction side 28 in the same position.

The connection between the second lightning conductor 30 and the lightning protection receptor 16 includes a spark
30 gap 58, or, as an alternative, a vacuum interrupter 60.

Further details are apparent from the cross-sectional illustrations in FIGS. 2 to 5. FIG. 2 shows the pressure side 26 and the suction side 28 of the wind turbine rotor blade 10 from FIG. 1 in cross section. The profile end edge
35 54 and the profile leading edge 32 are shown. The position of the profile thickness reserve 34, that is the greatest profile thickness, is indicated by a dashed line 34. The

electrical heating device 18 extends from the first lightning conductor 24 on the pressure side 26 forwards around the profile leading edge 32 and from there on the suction side 28 back to the second lightning conductor 30.

5

The peripheral regions of the electrical heating device 18 arranged in the region of the first lightning conductor 24 and the second lightning conductor 30 are each connected to one of the two lightning conductors. An electrical heating
10 current is supplied to the peripheral regions via these lightning conductors 24, 30. At the same time, the electrical heating device 18 causes equipotential bonding owing to the mentioned electrical connection to the two lightning conductors 24, 30 in the event of a lightning
15 strike. The electrical heating device 18 is connected to the two lightning conductors 24, 30 not only in the mentioned cross-sectional position, but continuously over the entire length of the electrical heating device 18.

20 The two lightning conductors 24, 30 are made of copper conductors with a total cross-sectional area of at least 50 mm².

In the exemplary embodiment in FIG. 3, the rotor blade has
25 two electrically conductive main spar caps 36, 38, which are substantially made of a carbon-fiber-reinforced plastics material. A first main spar cap 36 is arranged on the pressure side 26, and a second main spar cap 38 is arranged on the suction side 28. The remaining elements of
30 the half-shells assembled to form the rotor blade, which elements are illustrated by a thicker continuous line, are substantially made of a glass-fiber-reinforced plastics material, which is electrically insulating. The electrical heating device 18 extends over the same region of the cross
35 section as explained with reference to FIG. 2. In contrast to FIG. 2, however, there are no metallic conductors which form the two lightning conductors. Instead, the pressure

side main spar cap 36 forms the first lightning conductor 24 and the suction side main spar cap 38 forms the second lightning conductor 30.

5 Each of the two main spar caps 36, 38 has an outer side, which faces an aerodynamic surface of the wind turbine rotor blade. In each case a first section 40 of this outer side is in electrical contact with a peripheral section of the electrical heating device 18 and in each case a second
10 section 42 of this outer side is electrically insulated from the electrical heating device 18 by the glass-fiber-reinforced plastics material of the rotor blade half-shell. As a result, when an electrical heating current is supplied, the electrical heating current flows through the
15 electrical heating device 18 via the two main spar caps 36, 38 in each case starting from peripheral sections of the main spar caps with which sections there is contact in the first sections 40.

20 In the exemplary embodiments shown in FIG. 4, there are likewise two electrically conductive main spar caps 36, 38. These are combined with metallic conductors 44, 46, whose arrangement corresponds to the metallic conductors of the first lightning conductor 24 and the second lightning
25 conductor 30 shown in FIG. 2. The combination of the pressure-side main spar cap 36 and the metallic conductors 44 forms a first lightning conductor 24. The combination of the suction side main spar cap 38 and the metallic conductor 46 forms the second lightning conductor 30. To
30 this extent, in this exemplary embodiment too, there are precisely two lightning conductors 24, 30. Further electrically conductive elements which contribute to the discharge of a lightning current to a non-negligible degree are not provided, as is also the case in the other
35 exemplary embodiments.

In the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 5, substantially an arrangement of two electrically conductive main spar caps 36, 38 and metallic conductors 44, 46 connected thereto corresponding to FIG. 4 is provided. In order to
5 achieve contact with the main spar caps 36, 38 over a larger area, in each case a metallic grid 48, 50 is arranged between these elements.

It goes without saying that, in the exemplary embodiments 4
10 and 5, the electrical contact between the heating device 18 and the lightning conductors combined from the mentioned elements can be performed exclusively via the metallic conductors 44, 46. Those sections of the electrical heating device which are arranged adjacent thereto above and below
15 the main spar caps 36, 38 and metallic grids 48, 50, respectively, can be separated therefrom by an electrically insulating material layer.

In FIG. 5, the electrically conductive structures, that is
20 in the example the electrical heating device 18, the metallic conductors 44, 46, the main spar caps 36, 38 and the metallic grids 50, together form a type of Faraday's cage, in which, even in the event of a lightning strike, only low potential differences occur. The voltage-free
25 space 56 resulting in the case of idealized consideration is illustrated in the figure. It is particularly suitable for accommodating further electrical lines which are required, for example, for connecting units accommodated in the rotor blade such as sensors or actuators because lines
30 arranged in the voltage-free space 56 or the units connected thereto are not damaged as a result of electromagnetic induction in the event of a lightning strike.

List of reference symbols used:

	10	Wind turbine rotor blade
	12	Rotor blade tip
5	14	Rotor blade root
	16	Lightning receptor
	18	Electrical heating device
	20	Blade tip side end
	22	Blade root side end
10	24	First lightning conductor
	26	Pressure side
	28	Suction side
	30	Second lightning conductor
	32	Profile leading edge
15	34	Profile thickness reserve
	36	Pressure side main spar cap
	38	Suction side main spar cap
	40	First section
	42	Second section
20	44	Metallic conductor
	46	Metallic conductor
	48	Metallic grid
	50	Metallic grid
	52	Further lightning receptor
25	54	Profile end edge
	56	Voltage-free space
	58	spark gap
	60	vacuum interrupter

Claims

1. A wind turbine rotor blade (10) having a rotor blade root (14), a rotor blade tip (12), an electrical heating device (18), a lightning receptor (16) in the region of the rotor blade tip (12) and a plurality of lightning conductors (24, 30) leading from the lightning receptor (16) to the rotor blade root (14), characterized in that
- two of the lightning conductors (24, 30) are provided,
 - at least one further lightning receptor (52) is provided, which is arranged at a distance from the rotor blade tip (12) and is connected to one of the lightning conductors (24, 30), and
 - each of the two lightning conductors (24, 30) is electrically conductively connected to the electrical heating device (18) at a multiplicity of points between the rotor blade root (14) and the rotor blade tip (12), so that, in the event of a lightning strike, equipotential bonding between the two lightning conductors (24, 30) takes place via the electrical heating device (18).
2. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that each of the lightning conductors (24, 30) is in electrical contact with the electrical heating device (18) along the entire length of the electrical heating device (18).
3. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the electrical heating device (18) is supplied a heating current via the two lightning conductors (24, 30).
4. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the

electrical heating device (18) is configured such that a heating current supplied to the electrical device via the two lightning conductors (24, 30) flows transversely to a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade through the electrical heating device (18).

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5. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that one of the lightning conductors (24, 30) has a metallic conductor (44, 46) which runs over the entire length of the electrical heating device (18).

6. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the rotor blade has an electrically conductive main spar cap (36, 38), which extends over the entire length of the electrical heating device (18), and that one of the two lightning conductors (24, 30) or part thereof is formed by the electrically conductive main spar cap.

7. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to claim 6, characterized in that the main spar cap (36, 38) has an outer side which faces an aerodynamic surface of the wind turbine rotor blade (10), wherein a first section (40) of the outer side, which extends in the form of a strip in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade, is in electrical contact with the electrical heating device (18), and a second section of the outer side (42) is separated from the electrical heating device (18) by an electrically insulating material layer.

8. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the one of the two lightning conductors (24, 30) is formed in the region of the electrical heating device (18) by the main spar

cap (36, 38) and an adjacently arranged metallic conductor (44, 46).

- 5 9. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to claim 8, characterized in that a metallic grid (48, 50) is arranged between the main spar cap (36, 38) and the adjacently arranged metallic conductor (44, 46).
- 10 10. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the electrical heating device (18) includes a carbon fiber material.
- 15 11. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a connection between one of the lightning conductors (24, 30) and at least one of the lightning receptor (16) in the region of the rotor blade tip (12), the at least one further lightning receptor (52), and a
20 grounding connection in the region of the rotor blade root (14), has at least one of a spark gap and a vacuum interrupter.
- 25 12. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 11, characterized in that one of the two lightning conductors (24, 30) is arranged on a pressure side (26) and the other of the two lightning conductors (24, 30) is arranged on a suction side (28) of the rotor blade.
- 30 13. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one of the claims 1 to 12, characterized in that at least two further lightning receptors (52) are provided, of which one is arranged on a pressure side (26) and the
35 other is arranged on a suction side (28) of the rotor blade.

14. The wind turbine rotor blade (10) according to any one
of the claims 1 to 13, characterized in that all of
the lightning receptors (16, 52) provided are arranged
at a distance of 20% or less of the length of the
5 rotor blade away from the rotor blade tip (12).

Fig. 1

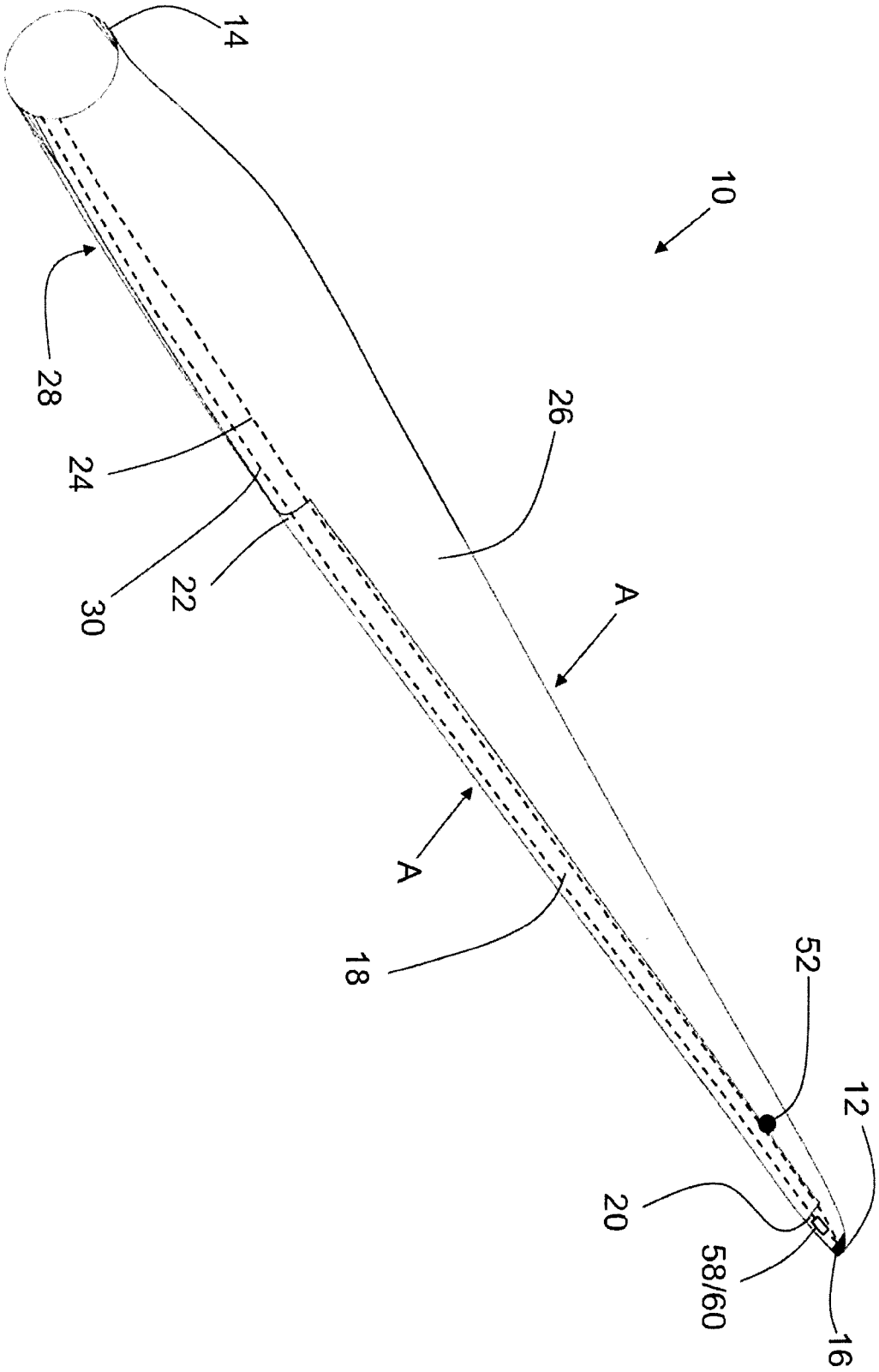


Fig. 2

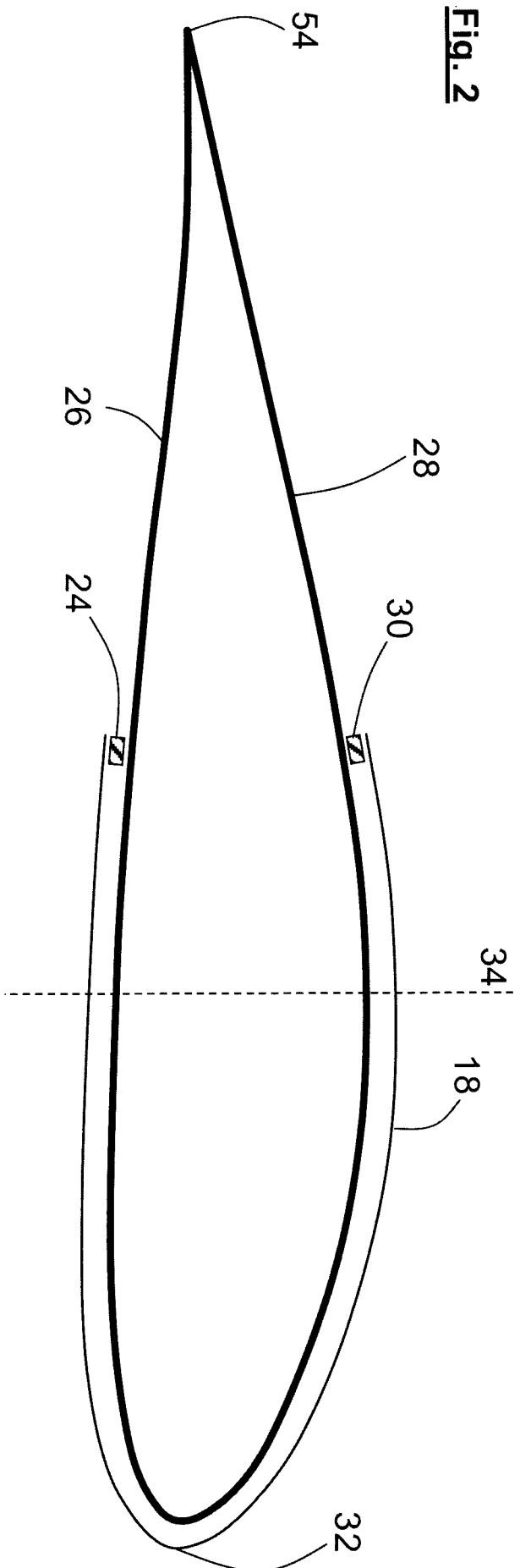


Fig. 3

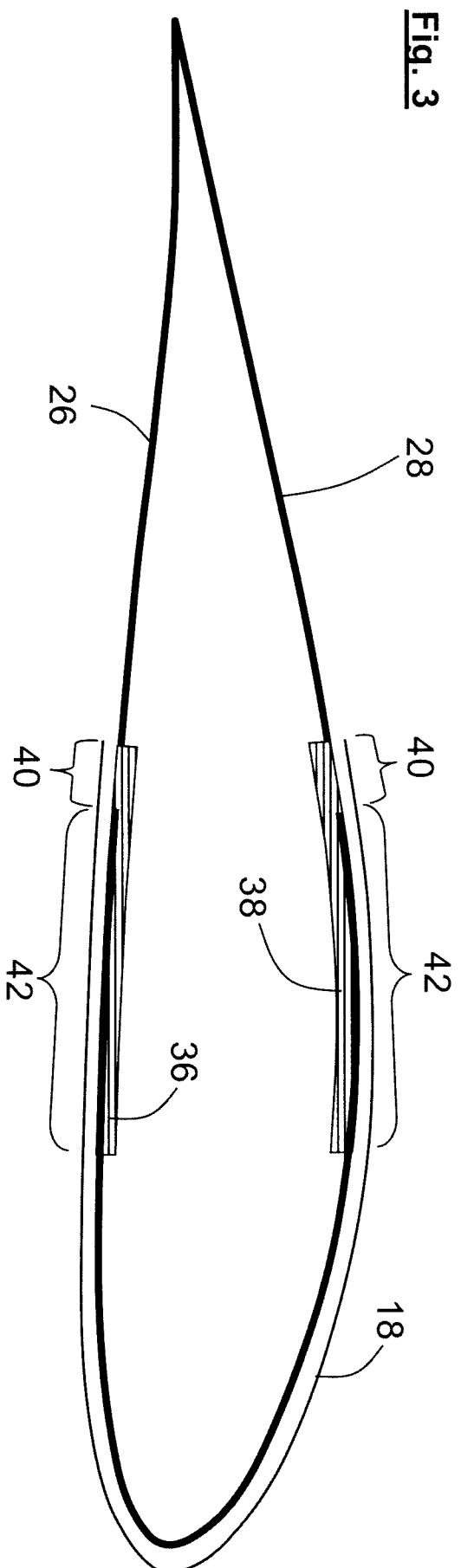


Fig. 4

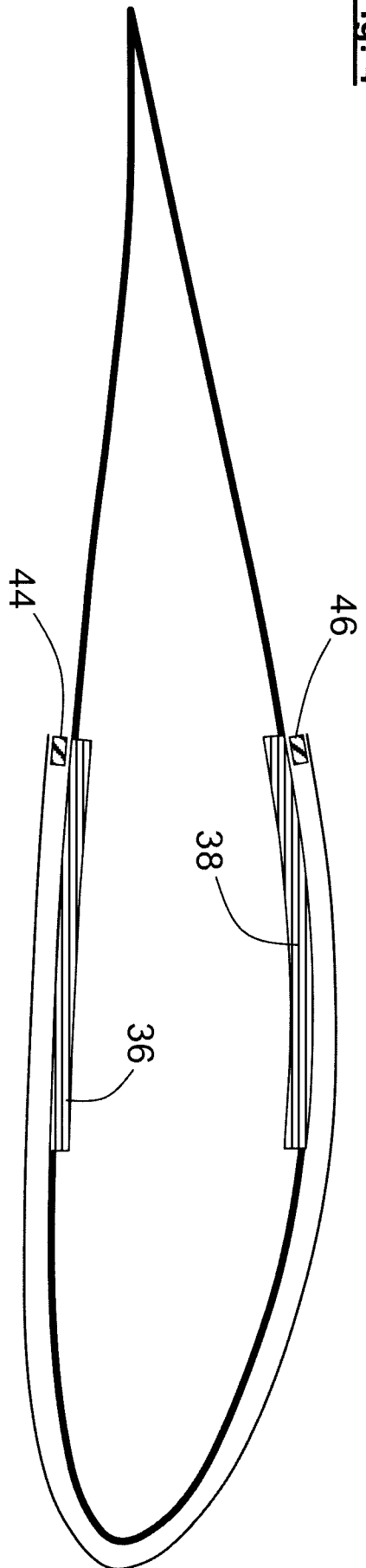


Fig. 5

