

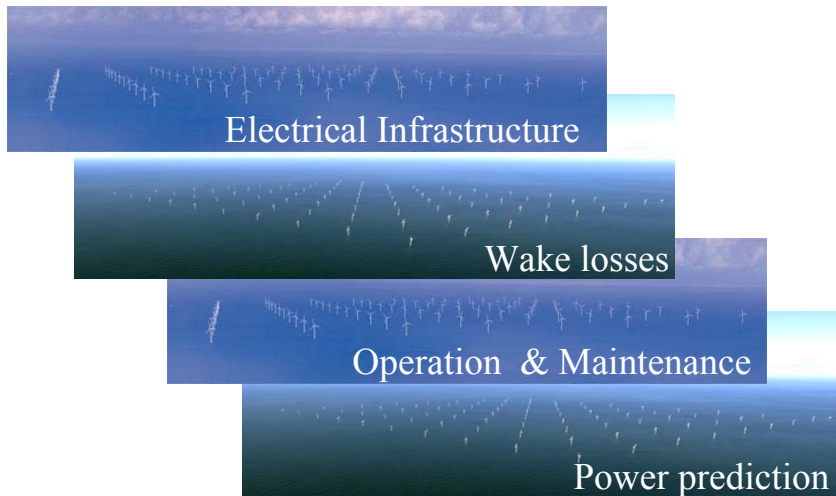
**OFFSHORE WIND FARM ASPECTS**

**Gerard van Bussel**

section Wind Energy



**Typical wind farm aspects**



## Contents

- **power production**  
of wind turbines in wind farm
- **power collection**  
inside wind farm
- **power transmission**  
from wind farm to shore
- **power prediction**  
of wind power station

## “The example”

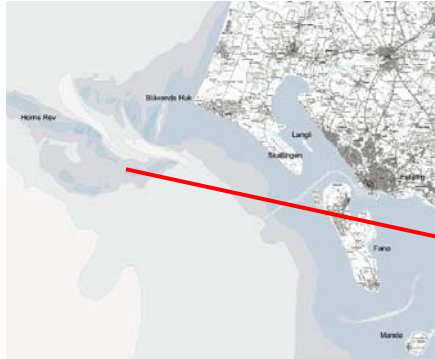
Horns Rev, an 80 unit offshore wind farm  
in the North Sea



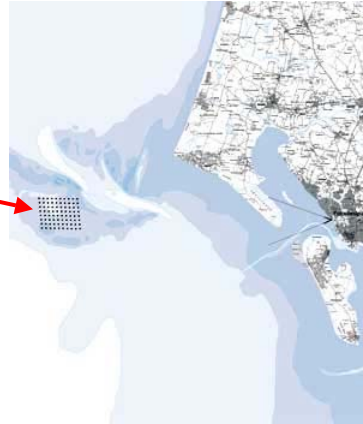
[www.hornsrev.dk](http://www.hornsrev.dk)

Copyright: Elsam A/S

## Horns Rev (DK)

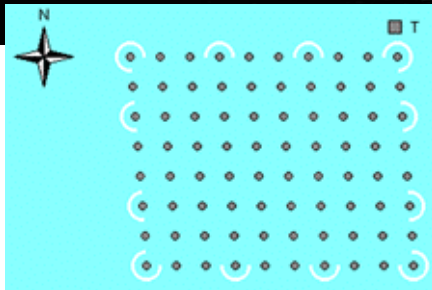


80 x 2 MW = 160 MW



Near Esbjerg (Jutland)  
6-14 m depth, area 20 km<sup>2</sup>

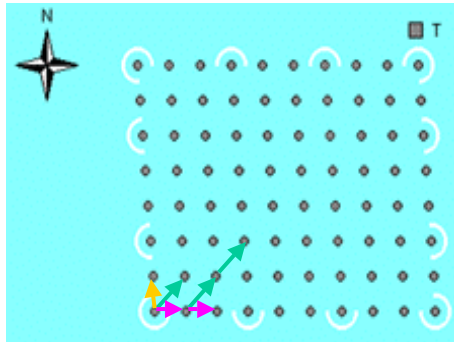
## Horns Rev (DK)



**Array:**

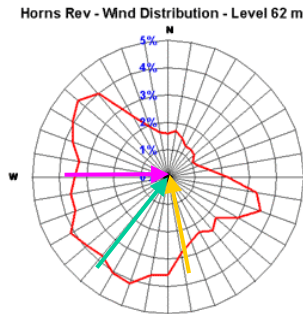
- 10 rows of 8 turbines
- 560 m apart (7 rotor diameters)
- slightly skewed geometry

## Wind farm optimisation



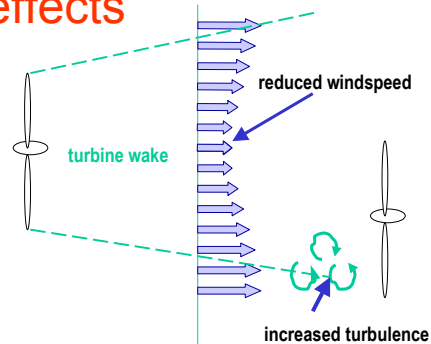
560 m  
7 D.

790 m  
~ 10 D.



- With respect to ambient wind
- Available area
- Environmental restrictions
- visibility

## Wake effects



### Onshore wake

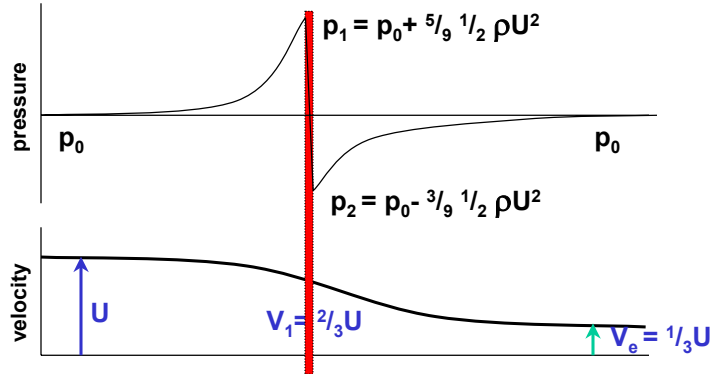
- decreased mean wind speed: spacing 3 - 5 D
- increased turbulence (especially for stall turbines)

### Offshore wake

- larger extension due to lower ambient turbulence
- Larger spacing: 5 - 8 D

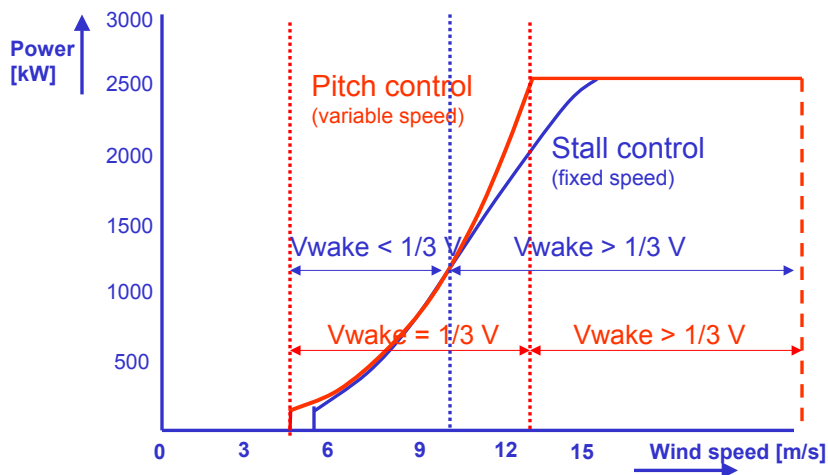
## Axial momentum theory

Optimal pressure and velocity distribution

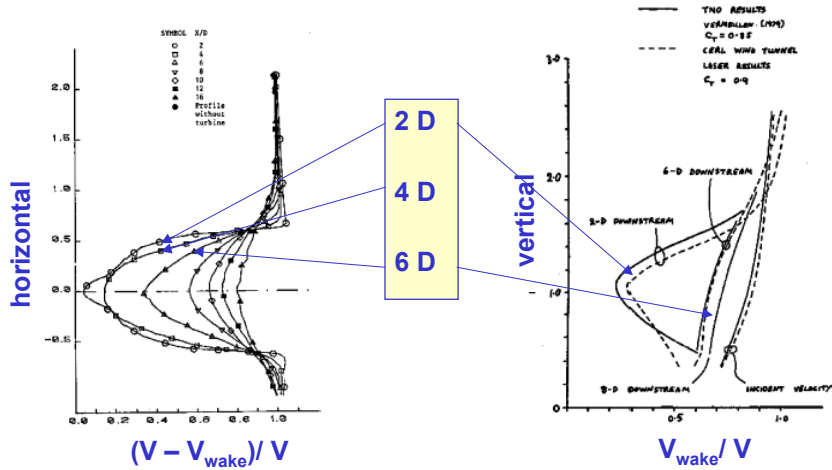


pressure drop:  $\Delta p = \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \rho U^2$     velocity drop:  $\Delta V = \frac{2}{3} U$

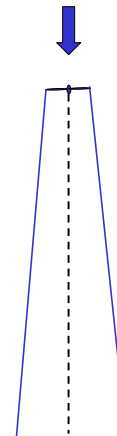
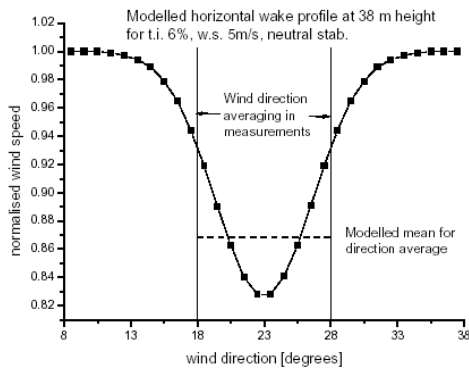
## (Near) wake velocities



## Measured (nearer) wakes

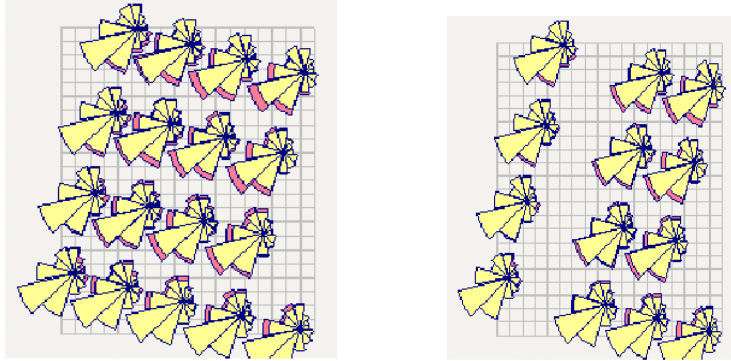


## Wake effects



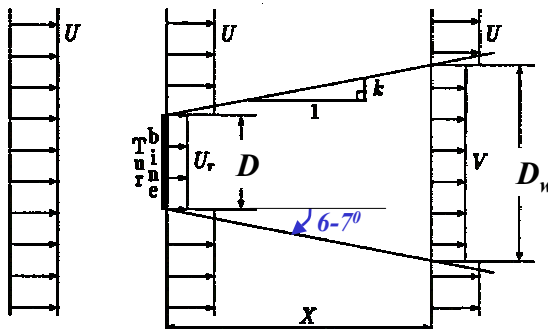
Calculated (single) offshore wake at 10 D behind a turbine (ENDOW project)

## Wake interference



- **Red:** power losses due to wake effects
- **right:** more spacing reduces wake losses significantly

## Jensen's (far) wake model

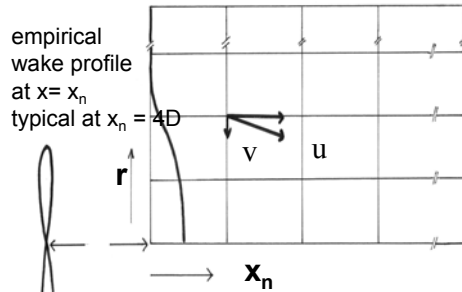


- 2 explicit equations for wake width and depth
- linear wake expansion
- linear velocity decay
- no wind speed profile, no turbulence

$$D_w = D + 2kx \quad V = U \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - C_{Dax}} \right) \left( \frac{D}{D_w} \right) \right]$$

Jensen, 1984  
Katic et al., 1986

## Ainslie wake model



- 2 equations solved numerically on 2D axis-symmetric grid
- eddy-viscosity closure
- no near wake modelling

Ainslie, 1988

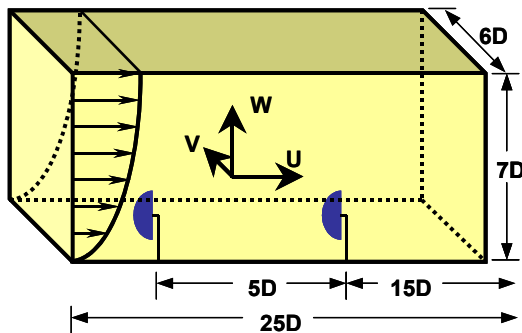
$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (r \overline{u'v'})}{\partial r} \quad \text{momentum}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (rv)}{\partial r} = 0 \quad \text{mass}$$

$$-\overline{u'v'} = \varepsilon \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}$$

closure

## Advanced Navier-Stokes solver



- Fully elliptic 3D turbulent Navier-Stokes solver
- with  $k-\varepsilon$  turbulence closure (3D-NS)

Rados et al., 2002



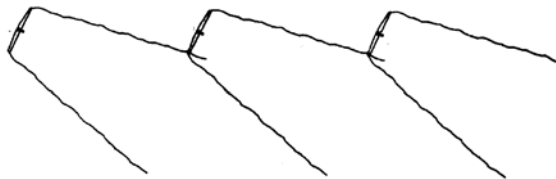
## Wind farm (wake) power output prediction programs

### Numerical tools for farm output modelling:

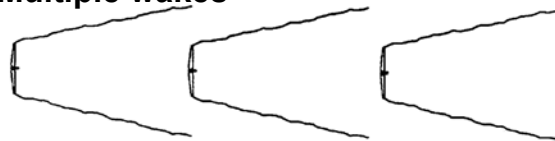
- WAsP/PARK (Riso): Jensen model
- Windfarmer (Garrad Hassan): Ainsly model
- FLaP (Univ. Oldenburg): NS solver

## Wind farm model

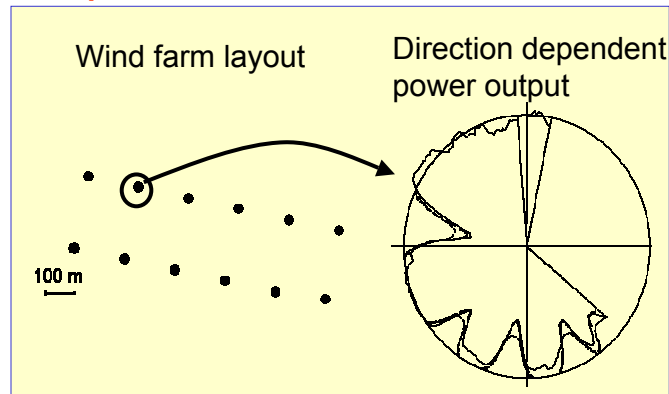
- Effective wind speed for power output



- Multiple wakes



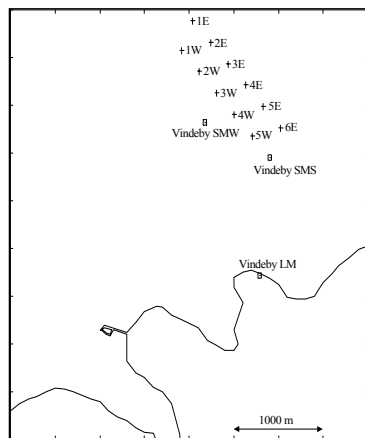
## Example of modelled farm losses



Beyer et al., 1996

Wind farm production loss due to wakes 2 to 7 % depending upon topology, wind climate etc.

## The Vindeby wind farm (DK)

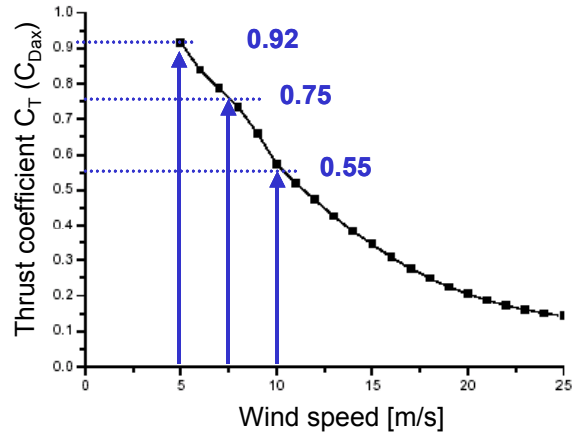


Barthelmie et al., 1994

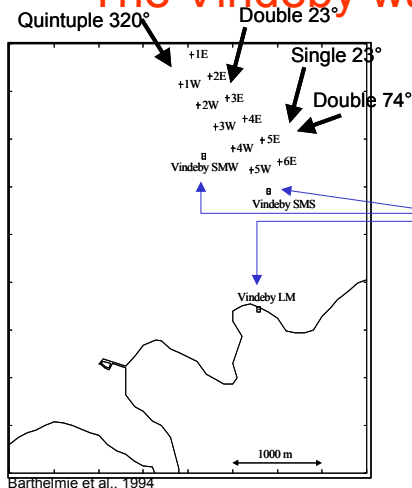
### Offshore wind farm with 11 turbines

- Bonus 450 kW turbines
- Stall controlled
- Two rows
- Spacing 300 m (8.6 D) in row
- Spacing 335 m (9.6 D) between rows

## Thrust coefficient of Bonus 450 kW



## The Vindeby wake measurements



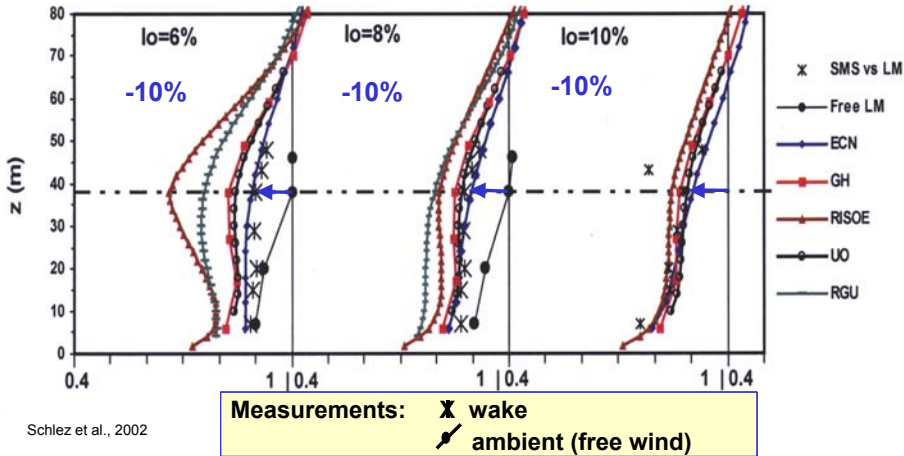
### Offshore wind farm with 11 turbines

- 3 measurement masts
- 2 years data
- 1 minute averages
- 4 wake cases selected

Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Vindeby Single wakes (9.6 D)

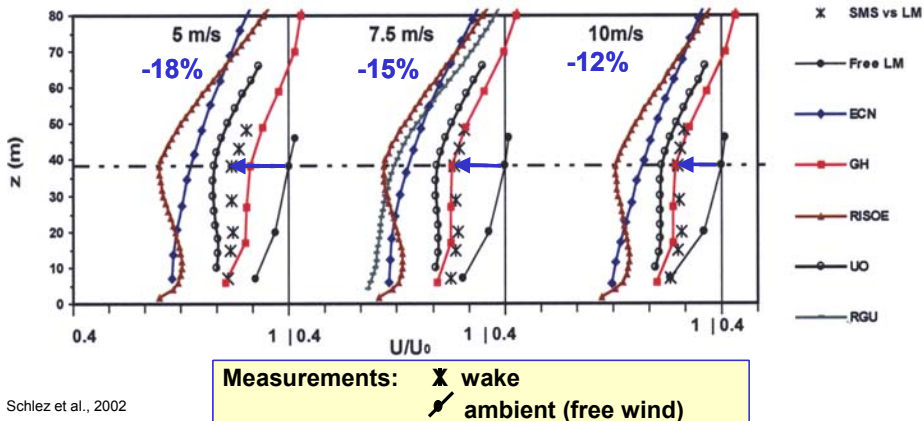
- Ambient conditions:  $v=7.5\text{m/s}$



Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Vindeby Multiple wakes (8.6 D)

- Quintuple wake  $I=8\%$

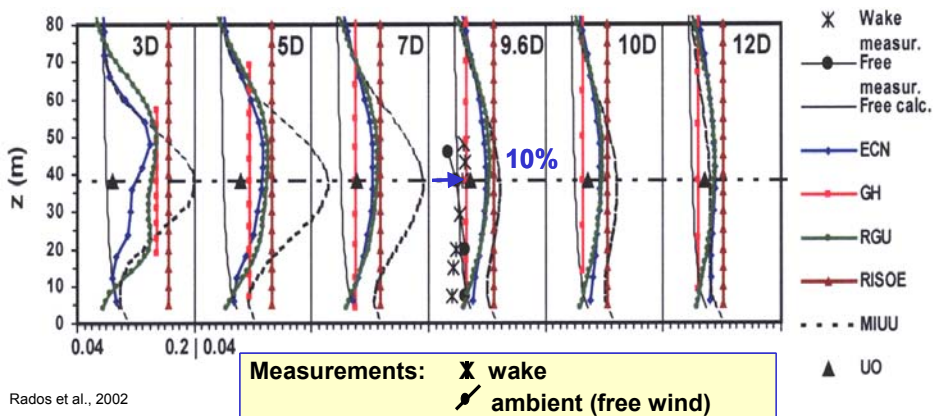


## Wake turbulence intensity

- **Emperical model**
  - fit to results of wind tunnel and/or field experiments
- **Field models**
  - from eddy-viscosity or turbulent kinetic energy

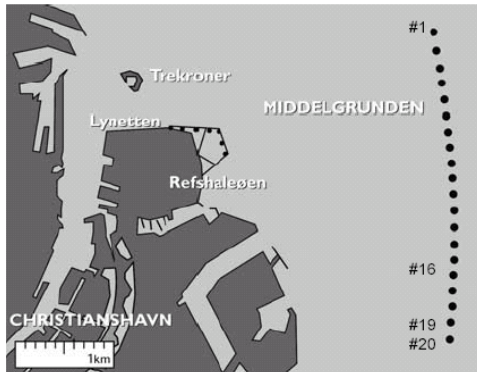
## Turbulence in a wake

Ambient conditions:  $v=7.5\text{m/s}$   $I=8\%$



Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

## Middelgrunden wind farm

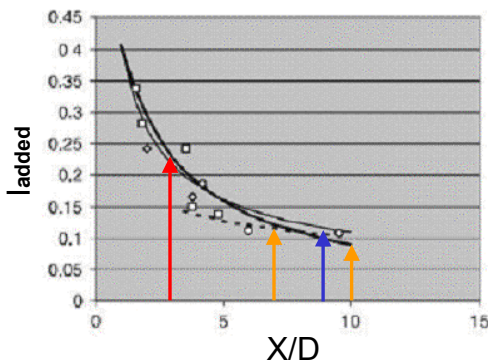


- 20 turbines
- Bonus 2000 kW
- (active) stall controlled
- one “row”
- Spacing 183 m (2.4 D)!!
- Production on line visible !!

[www.middelgrund.com](http://www.middelgrund.com)

Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

## Added turbulence in (single) wake



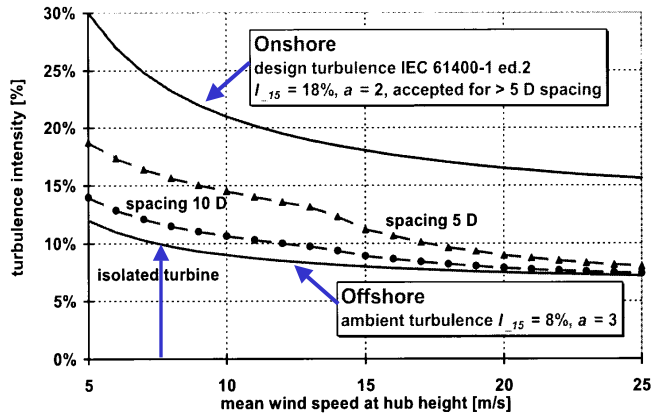
Added turbulence at hub height

$$\Delta I = \sqrt{I^2 + I_{\infty}^2}$$

- Vindeby
- Horns Rev
- Middelgrunden

Various sources compiled by Ghaie (1997)

## Turbulence in offshore wind farms

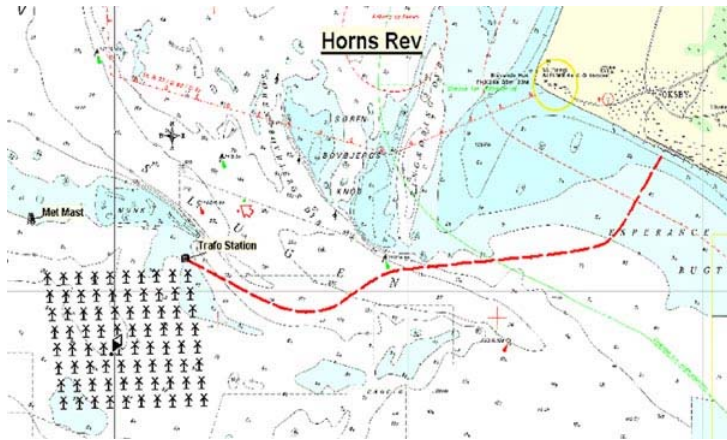


Vindeby

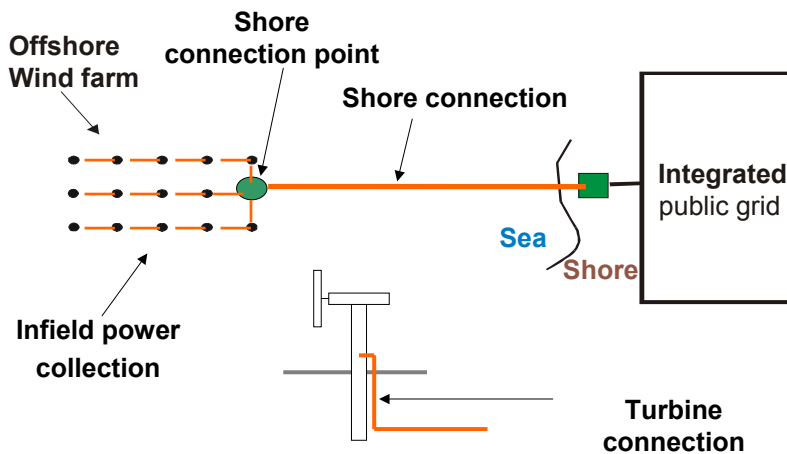
## Summary wakes and wake losses

- spacing offshore  $> 7 D$  with some (extreme) exceptions
- velocity reduction in wakes 10 – 20%
- production loss due to wakes 2 – 7%
- turbulence increase 8 – 10%
- with 8% ambient turbulence:  
=> total wake turbulence 10 – 13% ( $> 7 D$ )

## Electrical transmission (Horns Rev)



## Topology of grid connection



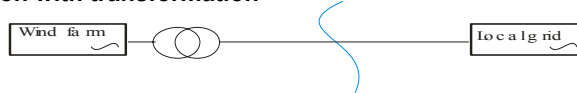


## Shore connection options

- AC Connection at onshore wind farm voltage level



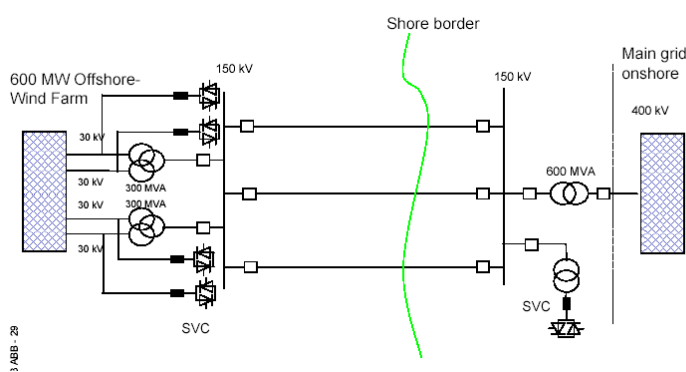
- AC Connection with transformation



- High voltage DC connection

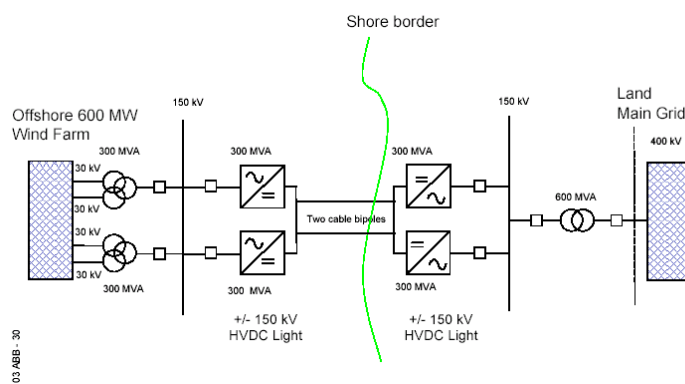


## 600 MW AC connection



## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### 600 MW DC connection



## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Components for power collection and transmission

- cables
- transformers for voltage adaptations
- switch gears for protection and redundancy
- offshore connection platform (larger wind farms)
- onshore connection point
- (HVDC) power electronic converters (if present)
- VAR compensators for AC voltage (if required)

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Power cable installation**

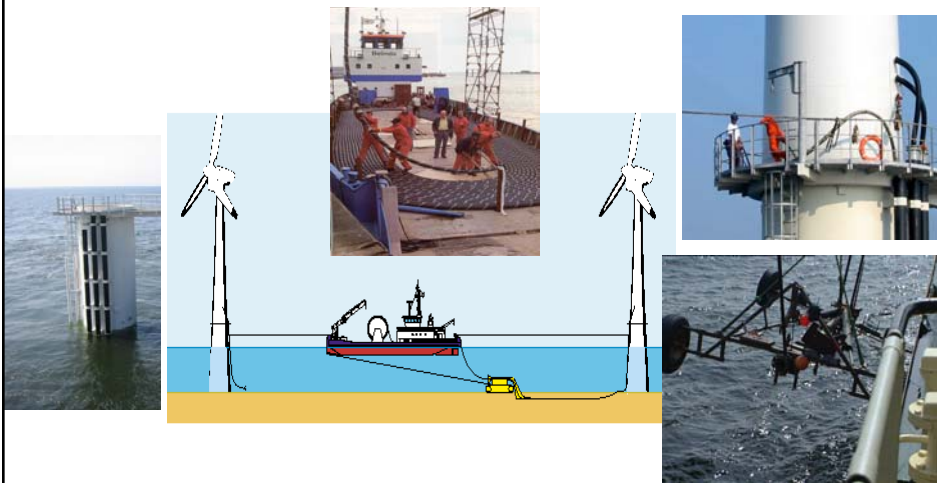


Specialised installation with existing equipment



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Power cable installation**



## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Offshore wind farm electrical systems

Wind farm name	Power	Collection voltage	Transm. Voltage	Distance to shore	
Utgrunden (S)	7 x 1.4 MW	20 kV	20 kV	8 km	AC
Middelgrunden (Dk)	20 x 2 MW	30 kV	30 kV	3 km	AC
Horns Rev (Dk)	80 x 2 MW	36 kV	150 kV	15 km	AC
Nysted Rødsand (Dk)	158 MW	33 kV	132 kV	10 km	AC
Egmond (NL)	100 MW	~33 kV	~ 33 kV	8 km	AC

- no DC connections yet
- larger farms at 110-150 kV level

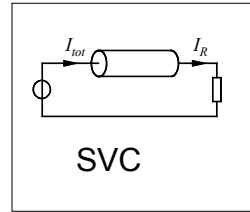
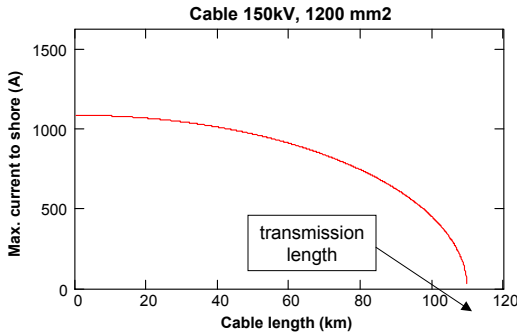
## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Limiting factors for AC transmission

- cable current limited to 1000 - 1500 A (ampacity) with 150 kV → 150 – 200 MW
- cable losses increase with  $i^2$   
→ high voltage to reduce losses in long cables
- availability of space for placement of equipment
- reactive-power consumption of long AC cables
- high initial costs of high-voltage equipment
- failure risk of components
- distance to shore

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

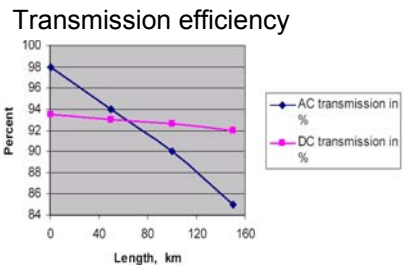
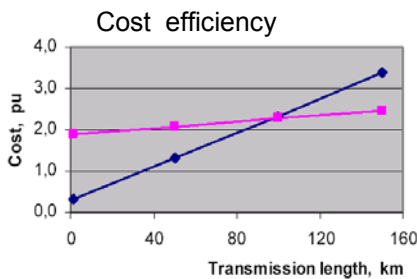
**Allowable load current AC cables**



- compensation of capacitive current required for medium length cables using SVC's (Static VAR Compensators)
- 

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**AC versus DC connection**



with 1 pu cost = DC investment 0 km  
 Losses evaluated with 9,1 €/kWh, 20 years 7 %

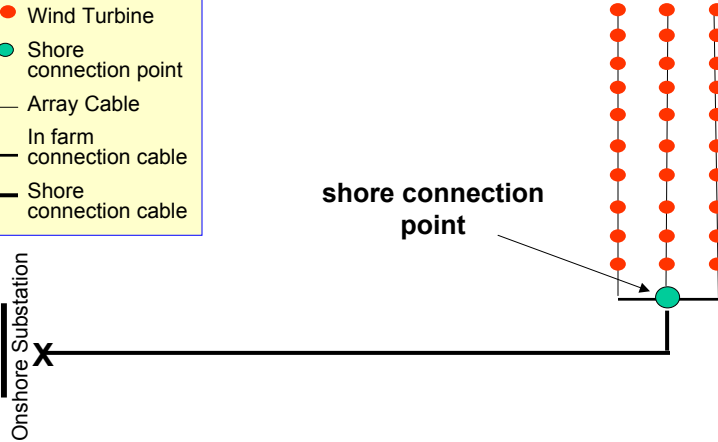


- compensation of capacitive current required for medium length cables using SVC's (Static VAR Compensators)
- DC feasible for cable connections longer than 60 km (!?)

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## Network Topologies String or Radial Network

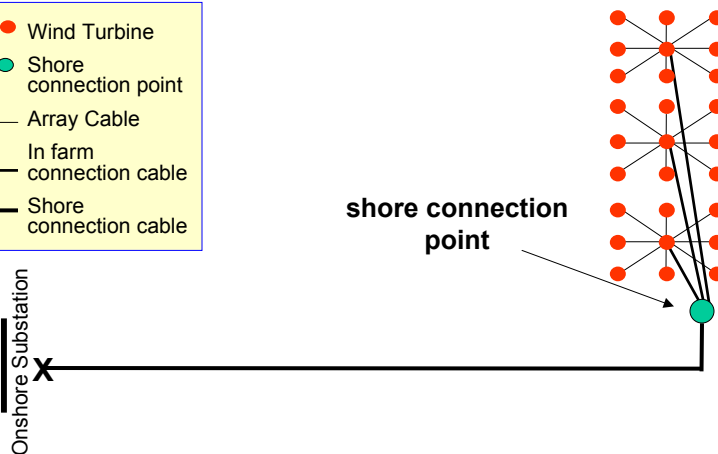
- Wind Turbine
- Shore connection point
- Array Cable
- In farm connection cable
- Shore connection cable



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## Network Topologies Star Network

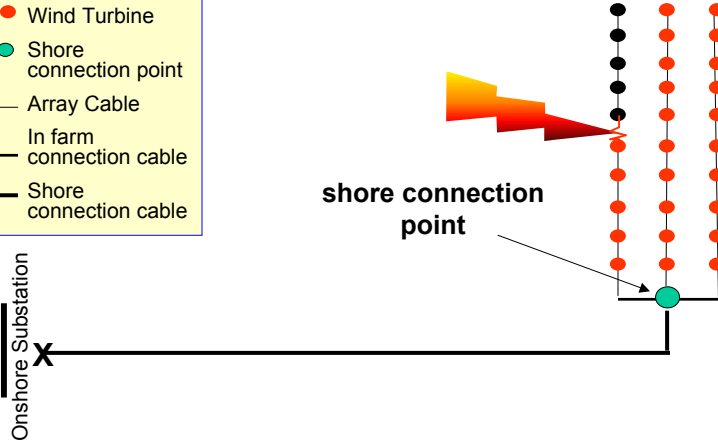
- Wind Turbine
- Shore connection point
- Array Cable
- In farm connection cable
- Shore connection cable



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## String Topology loss after cable failure

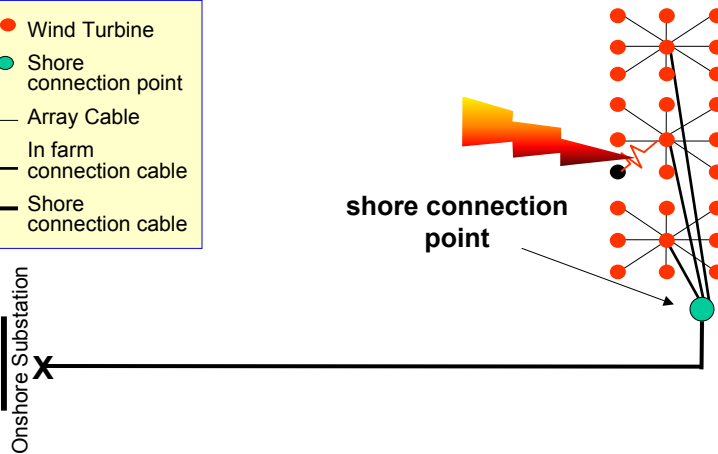
- Wind Turbine
- Shore connection point
- Array Cable
- In farm connection cable
- Shore connection cable



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

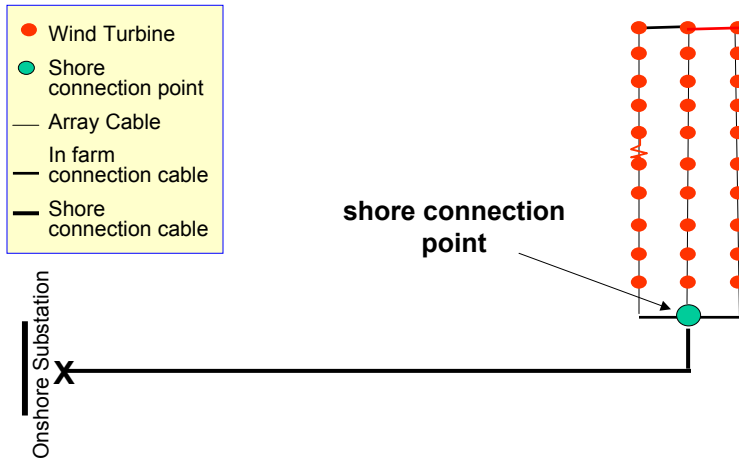
## Star Topology loss after cable failure

- Wind Turbine
- Shore connection point
- Array Cable
- In farm connection cable
- Shore connection cable



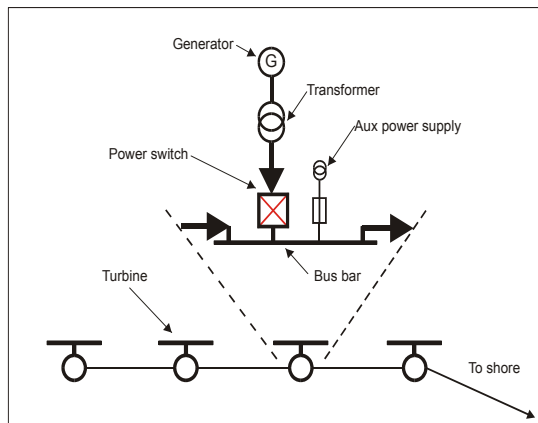
**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## Looped Topology no loss after cable failure!



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## String and Star Topology



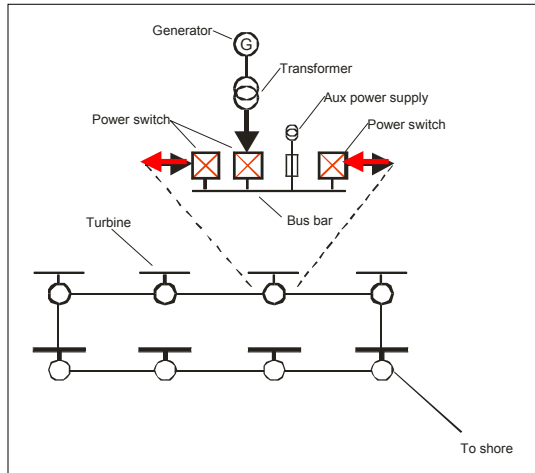
**Fairly simple power connection:**

- Single power switch => reliable
- No redundancy
- Loss of auxiliary power



Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

# Looped Topology

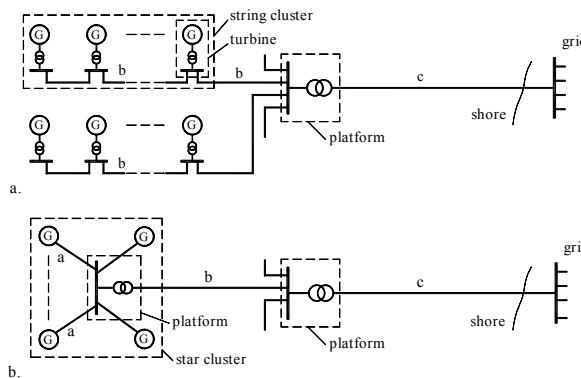


**Complex power connection:**

- Triple power switch => more complex
- Redundant
- No loss of auxiliary power

Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

# Lay-out of in wind connections



**string cluster:**

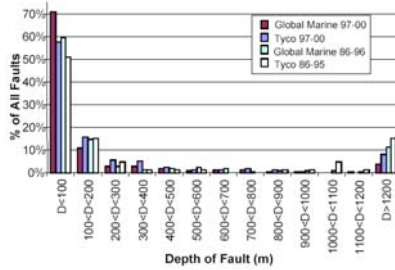
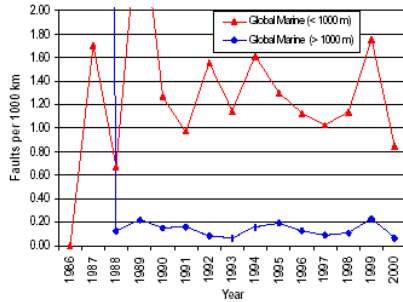
- two voltage levels
- individual trafo's

**star cluster:**

- three voltage levels possible
- option: shared trafo
- extra substation ??

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Power cable failure rates**



**~ 1 failure per 1000 km per year**

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Electric failure rates  
(for 30 offshore wind turbines)**

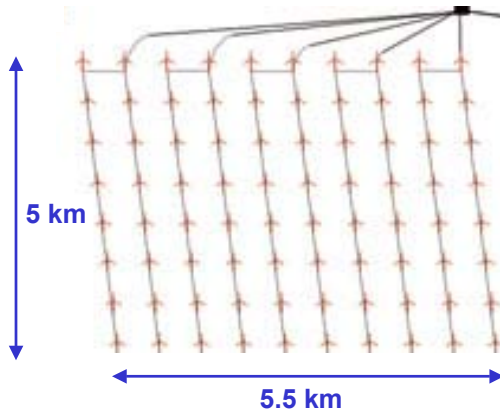
Component	Number of Failures in 20 year life of Wind Farm	
	String Network	Looped string Network
Array Cable	3.09	3.35
Shore Link Cable	3.12	3.12
MV Switchgear	0.24	0.74
Terminations	2.98	2.98

**Total (20 yrs):      9.43                      10.19**

Source: Econnect UK

## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Horns Rev lay out



- 10 strings of 8 turbines
- 4 in farm connection cables (16 turbines each)
- transformer 690 – 36 kV in each turbine
- separate transformer station: 36kV/150kV

## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Electrical collection (Horns Rev)

- 5 double strings, AC 36 kV (Medium Voltage)
- no submerged connections (connections in turbines)

- triple-core copper cable with lead shielding incl fibre optics for communication
- 95 and 150 mm<sup>2</sup> in strings
- 400 mm<sup>2</sup> from cluster to trafo platform
- 80 – 140 mm diameter
- 20 – 42 kg/m



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

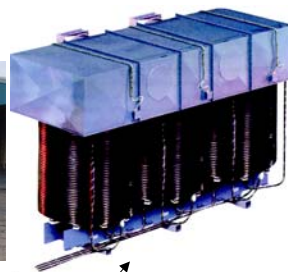
## Summary infield power collection

- high cable laying costs
- buried at 1-2 m depth or more (currents, anchors)
- mostly XLPE cables (=‘low cost’),
- string lay out
- meshing/looping in farms not yet applied
- connections in wind turbine
- no substations apart from power collection point (larger wind farms)



**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

## Horns Rev transformers:



transformer 690 – 36 kV  
in each turbine  
separate transformer  
station: 36kV/150kV

## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Horns Rev trafo station (shore connection point)

- size 20 x 28 m (110 tons)
- Heli platform
- 36/150 kV transformer
- 36 kV switch gear
- 150 kV switchgear
- control, instrumentation and communication system
- emergency diesel including 2x50 tonnes Diesel fuel
- sea water based fire-extinguishing equipment
- staff and service facilities
- crawler crane
- MOB (man overboard boat)



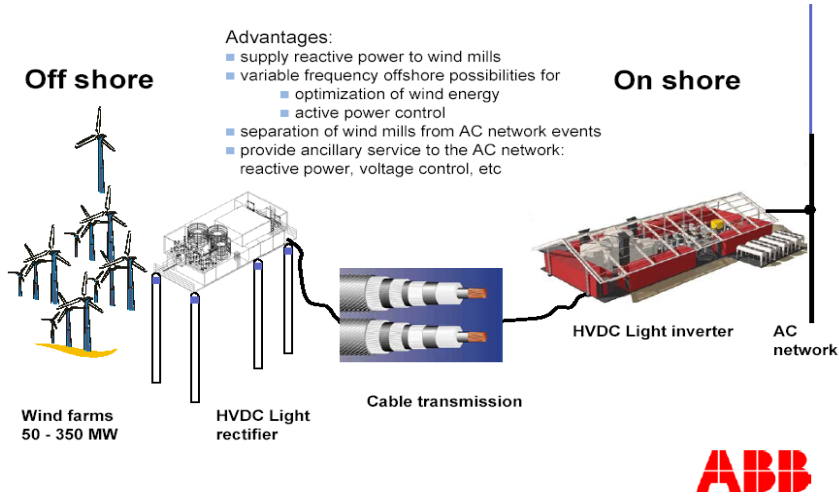
## Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

### Summary substations and connection cables

- substations are costly and brings (some) extra failure risks
- cables (+laying) are costly
- simplest approach is usually adopted to reduce investment (and costs ??)
  - substations avoided if possible
    - losses higher than technically feasible
    - transmission voltage = collection voltage
  - no meshing (→no redundancy)
  - no double shore connections (→no redundancy)

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Future HVDC “light” grid connection**

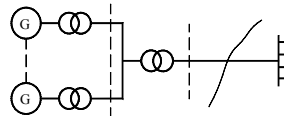


**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Present electrical system in wind farm with individual turbine control**

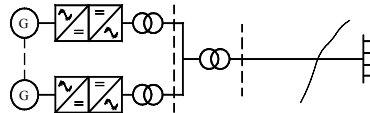
(State of the art wind farms)

**Constant speed**

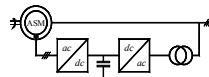


**Variable speed**

“synchronous”



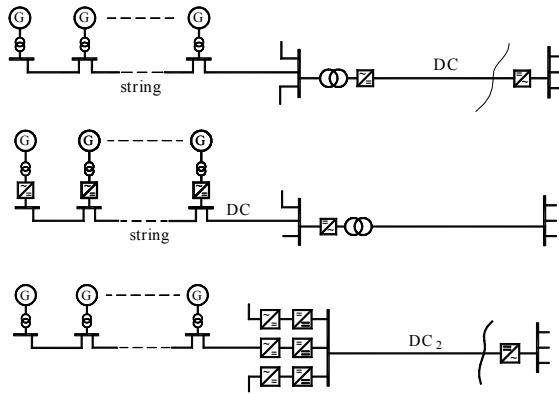
**Asynchronous doubly fed generator**



**Horns Rev**

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Advanced systems with DC in the farm**



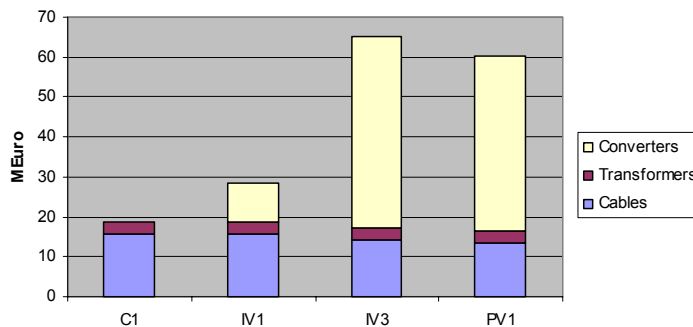
HVDC grid connection  
constant speed or farm  
coupled variable speed

AC grid connection  
individual variable  
speed

HVDC grid connection  
cluster coupled variable  
speed

**Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects**

**Cost Breakdown of some electrical systems**



C1 : constant speed with strings  
 IV1: individual variable speed with strings  
 IV3: individual variable speed with strings, HVDC light  
 PV1: park coupled variable speed

## Summary grid connection and control

- Reactive power compensation required for medium length cables (AC connection)
- Maximum distance with AC is limited to 50-60 km
- DC-links required for remote offshore farms
- In the future coupled speed systems might become interesting if the cost of power electronics decreases

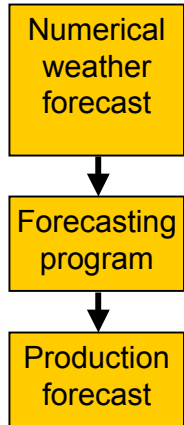
## Output Power Predictability

### Wind speed prediction can be used to:

- Unit commitment (matching the load curve)
- Put other generation into service when low wind speed is expected
- Switch off loads when necessary and/or allowed
- Gain knowledge how much power to sell in a liberalized market

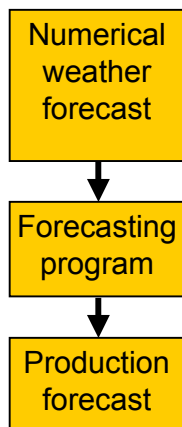


## Model approaches



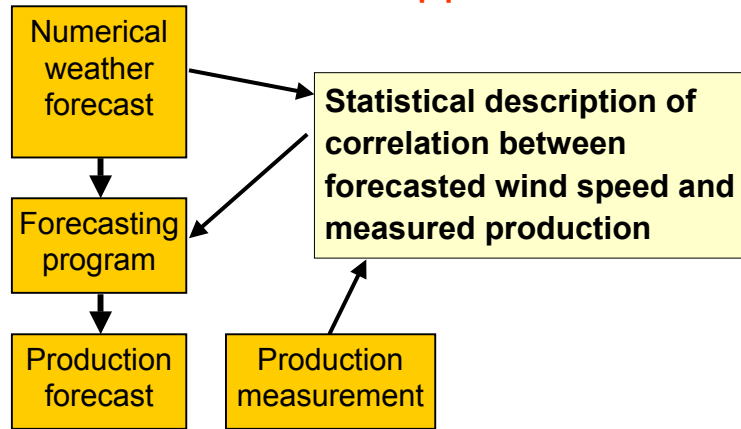
- **Physical approach:**
  - Prediktor
  - E-wind
  - Previento
  - ...
- **Statistical approach:**
  - WPPT
  - ISET (neural networks)
  - ...

## Physical approach



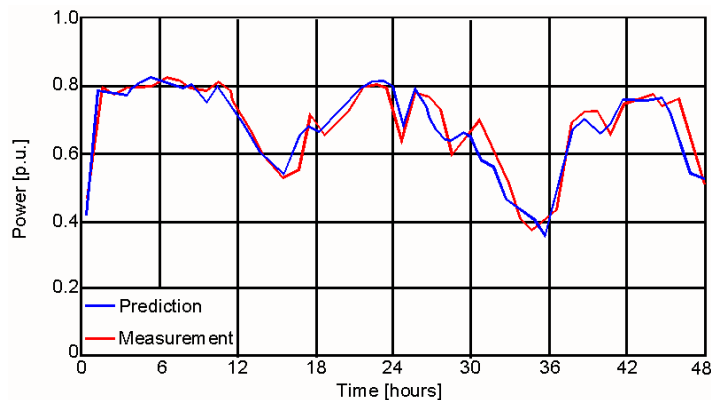
- Local site specific wind speed
  - terrain influence
  - surface roughness
  - thermal stratification
- Wind farm effects
- Power curve

## Statistical approach



## Output Power Predictability (short term)

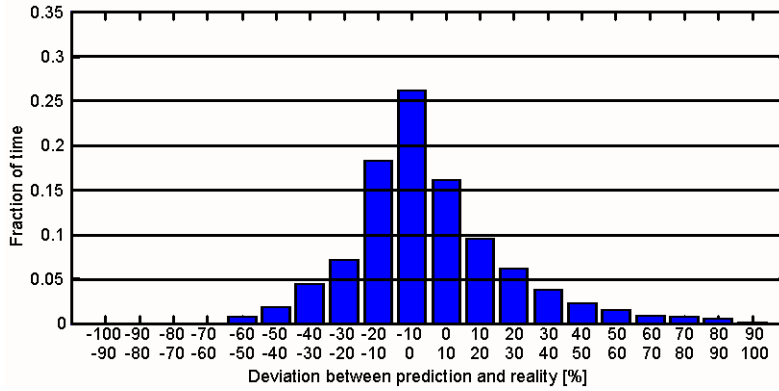
### Example of output power prediction



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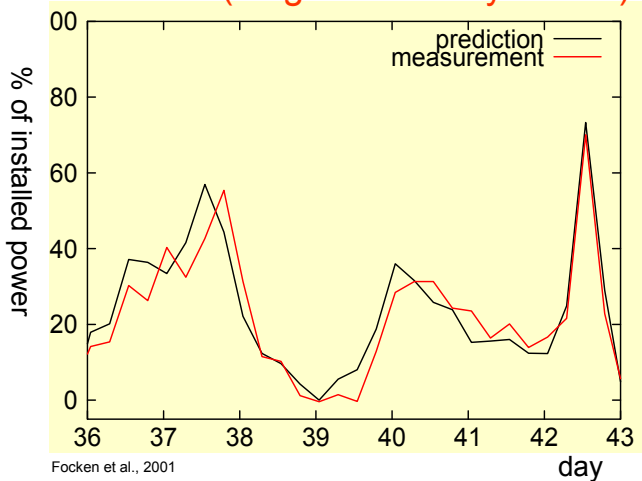
## Output Power Predictability (short term)

Histogram of prediction error



Module 9: Wind Farm Aspects

## Output Power Predictability (longer term: day ahead)



**Example:**

- Previento
- single site

Focken et al., 2001

## Forecast uncertainty

### Onshore:

- 10 – 15% rms error of installed power for single site
- 5 – 10% rms error of installed power for a regional forecast (e.g. whole Germany)
- similar for all models
- mainly due to uncertainty in weather prediction

### Offshore:

- ??? Not yet known

Focken et al., 2002

## Challenges for offshore farm performance prediction

- **Numerical weather prediction**
  - Improved parameterisation of roughness and stability
  - Currents, tide, ...
- **Physical models**
  - Improved parameterisation of roughness and stability
  - Farm effects
- **Statistical forecast models**
  - Inclusion of additional parameters: stability, tide, ...