



## Ice ablation modelling & testing: lessons from icing wind tunnel tests

Raul Prieto, Simo Rissanen, Mikko  
Tiihonen, Ville Lehtomäki

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

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Topic: 07. Laboratory and full scale testing, test centers, small wind turbines

## Outline

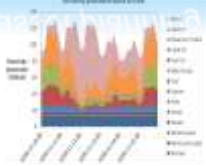
- VTT in wind power
- Ice ablation and mechanisms involved
- Sublimation model
- Test description
- Test results & key findings

# VTT Services for wind power value chain

30 % consultancy  
70 % jointly funded

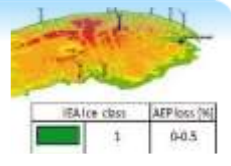
~40 person years/year

## Power system design /and asset planning



- Value of wind power generation
- Electricity market impacts
- Capacity adequacy
- Grid electricity planning
- IEA and EERA activities

## Investment Feasibility



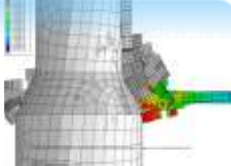
- Wind Power Icing Atlas (WIceAtlas)
- Grid Code Compliance
- Noise Assessment Methodology
- Radar, TV and communications interference

## Technology and Innovations



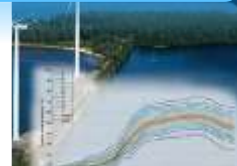
- Technologies for Cold Climates
- Ice detection systems
- IEC standards, IEA & EERA activities
- Drivetrain solutions
- Technology and Markets Foresight

## Construction and Installation



- Sea ice loads
- Offshore / onshore foundation measurements and design

## Operation and Maintenance



- Production forecasting methods
- Smart decision-making for wind turbine O&M

International customers throughout the value chain

Related networks



Contact: [ville.lehtomaki@vtt.fi](mailto:ville.lehtomaki@vtt.fi) [geert-jan.bluemink@vtt.fi](mailto:geert-jan.bluemink@vtt.fi)

[www.vttresearch.com/windpower](http://www.vttresearch.com/windpower)

VTT in wind power

Ice ablation & mechanisms

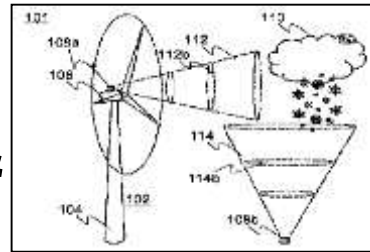
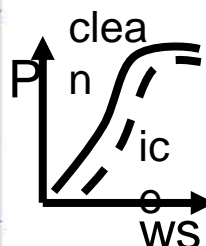
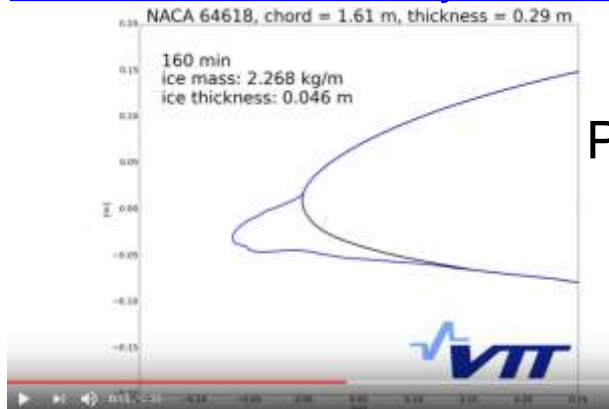
Sublimation model

Test description

Results & key findings

# VTT Cold Climate Wind Power Patent

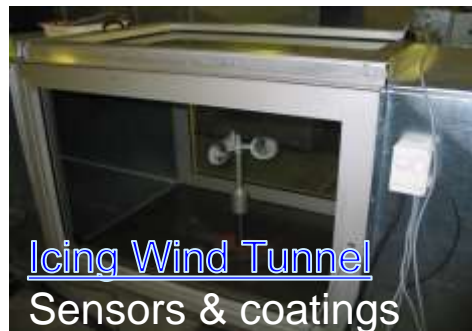
## Ice accretion theory 1990s -



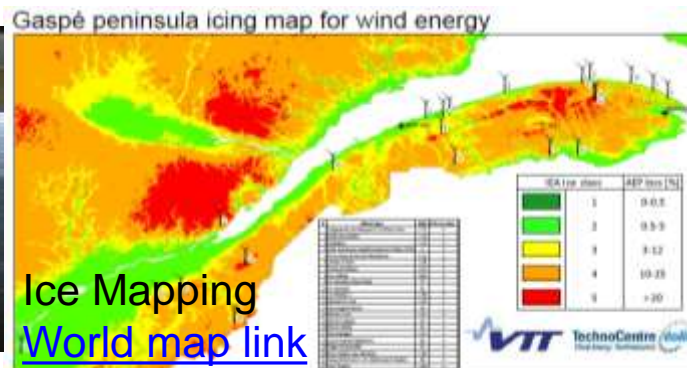
Test site Olos



Ice Prevention System  
Commercial spin-off



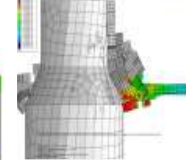
Icing Wind Tunnel  
Sensors & coatings



Ice Mapping  
[World map link](#)

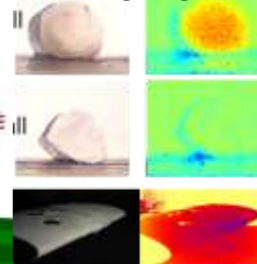
[vttresearch.com/windpower](http://vttresearch.com/windpower)

Sea ice

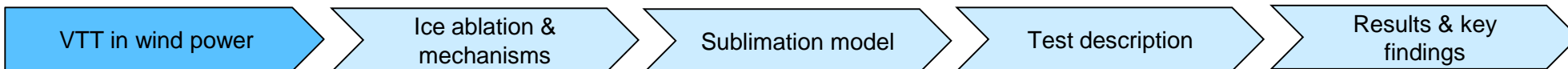


Ice

Picture VTT Icelmage®

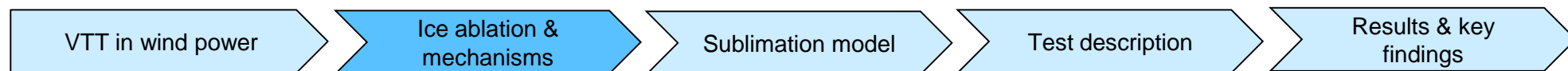


Load simulations



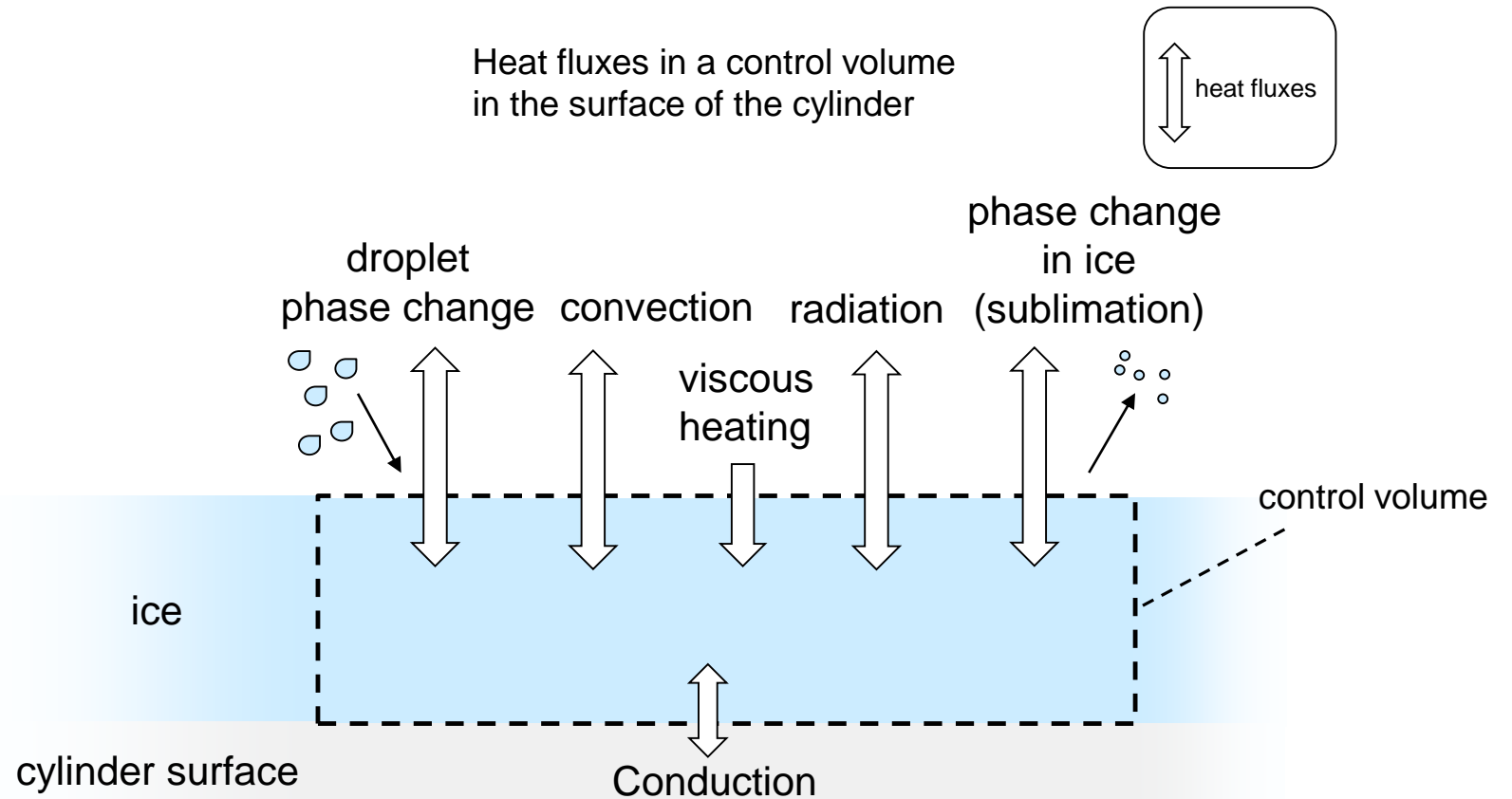
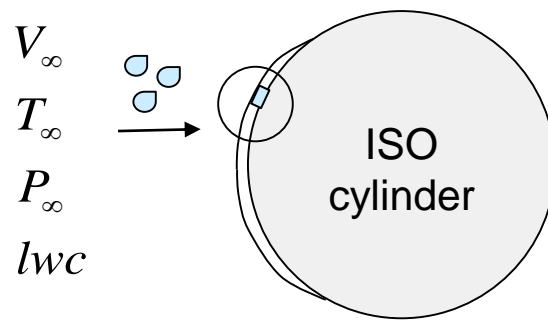
## Ice ablation – Understanding ice removal in structures

- **What?** Ice ablation is the removal of ice from a surface by the combined effect of melting, sublimation, erosion, radiation and ice shedding (IEA Task 19)
- **Why?** Ice ablation is relevant to **wind turbine operation** in cold climate, and **overhead power line icing** among other technical challenges . Together with ice accretion models, ice ablation allows to estimate the amount of ice in the structures
- **How?** Experiments in controlled conditions in **icing wind tunnel** are essential to **validate** the ice ablation model



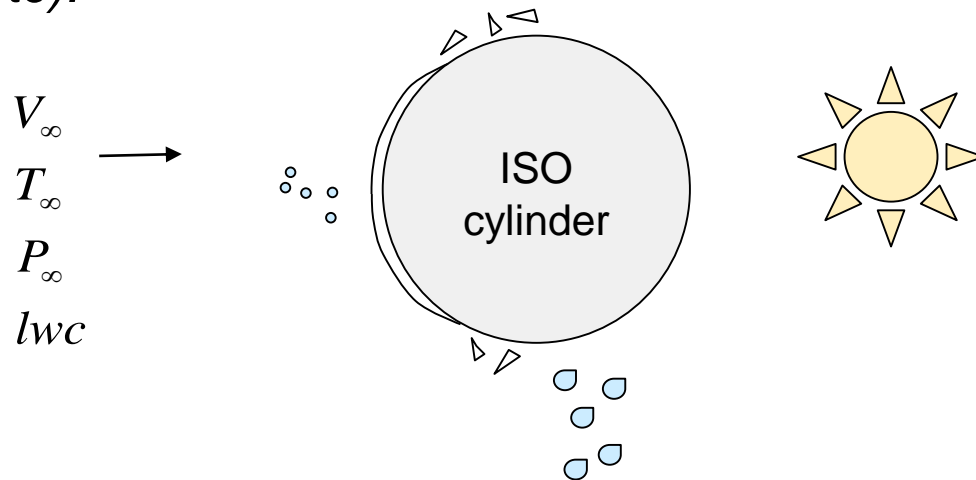
## Ice ablation mechanisms (1 of 2)

- **Sublimation:** phase change process modulated by the heat balance in the ice



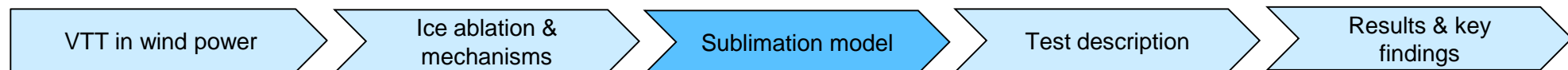
## Ice ablation mechanisms (2 of 2)

- **Ice shedding:** ice bits detached from the surface due to the action of aerodynamic and inertia forces
- **Melting:** ice turning to water at temperatures above freezing
- **Erosion:** Mechanical removal of micro ice particles from the accreted ice by impact of air transported particles (dust, ice crystals, etc).



## Modelling sublimation of ice on a 2D cylinder

- *The sublimation model by Jeroen Dilingh (2014) was used to estimate the ice mass loss rate due to sublimation.*
- *The model is based on the steady-state heat balance equation integrated over the cylinder covered with ice.*
- *The following inputs are needed:*
  - *cylinder size*
  - *inflow properties :  $p, T, V$ , relative humidity*
  - *angular extension of ice in the cylinder*
  - *radiation influx into the sample (separate model)*

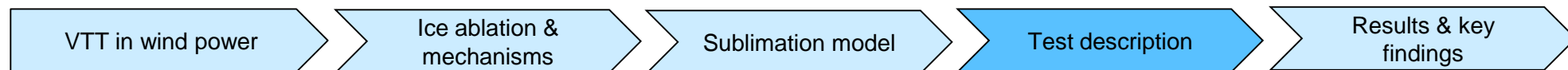




## Ice ablation – description of tests

- **Objective:** *Generate an experimental dataset to validate the **sublimation dynamics** in the ablation model. The loss of ice mass was determined in controlled conditions, with no significant melting or erosion*
- **Test description:**
  - *Test sample - ISO cylinder (3cm diameter, 54cm length)*
  - *Sample iced during a icing run, then weighted and laser scanned to characterize geometry.*
  - *Two successive runs follow, with the sample characterized (mass, shape) at start and end of each run. Conditions are provided in table below*

test run	duration (s)	Relative Humidity (%)	Ambient T (degC)	Wind speed (m/s)	LWC (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	ice mass loss in sample (gr)
test1 - part1	12000	99.86	-4.95	10.0	0.0	5.461
test1 - part2	61920	89.57	-4.90	10.0	0.0	48.418



## Ice ablation – description of tests

- *Characterization of samples: laser scan for ice shape geometry*



VTT in wind power

Ice ablation &  
mechanisms

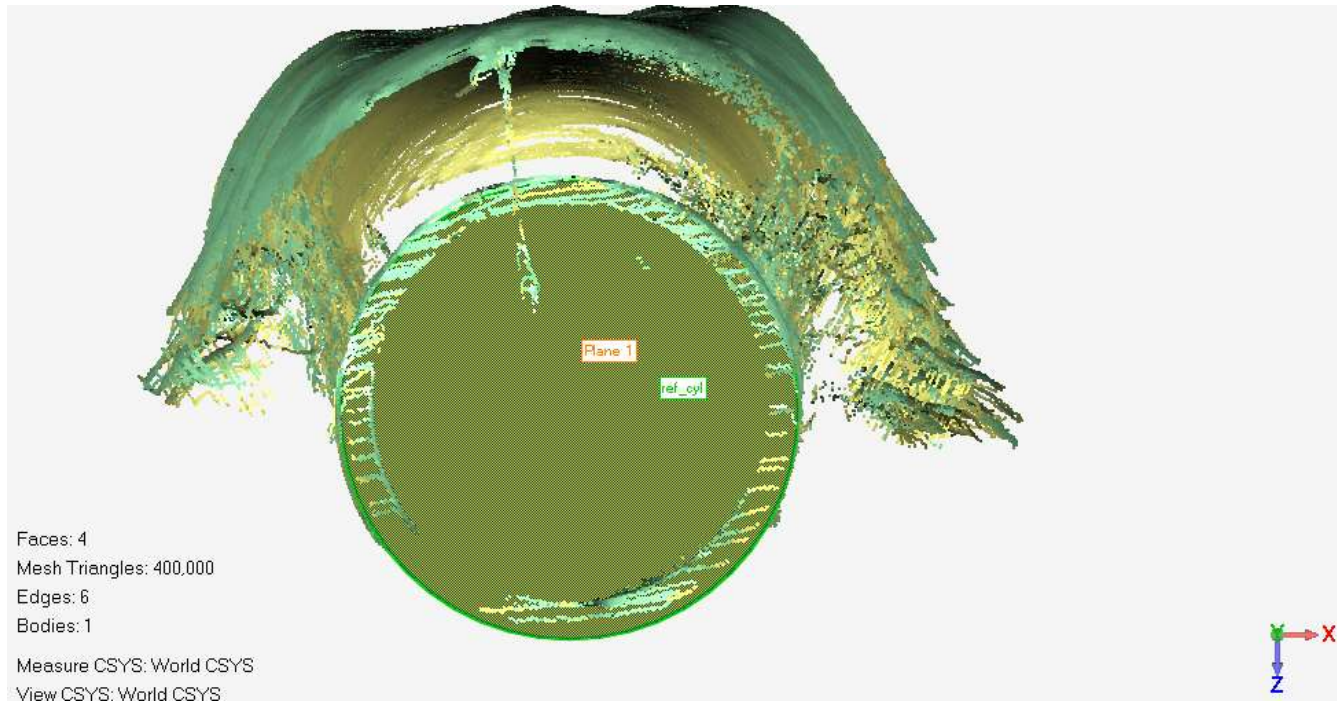
Sublimation model

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Results & key  
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## Ice ablation – description of tests

- **Characterization of samples:** laser scan for ice shape geometry



VTT in wind power

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## Ice ablation – description of tests

- **Characterization of samples:** weight sample to characterize mass loss



VTT in wind power

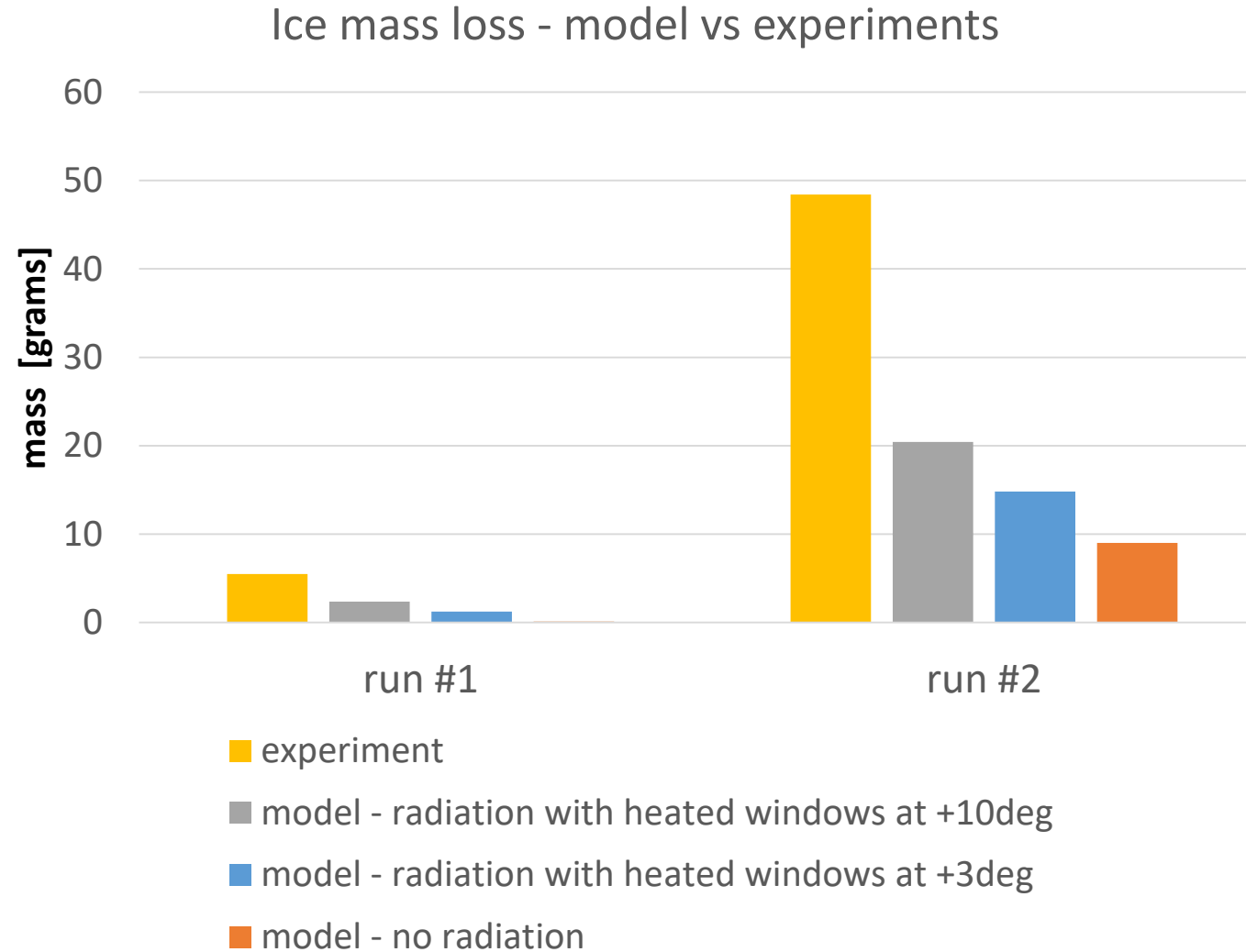
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## Tests results vs. model



VTT in wind power

Ice ablation & mechanisms

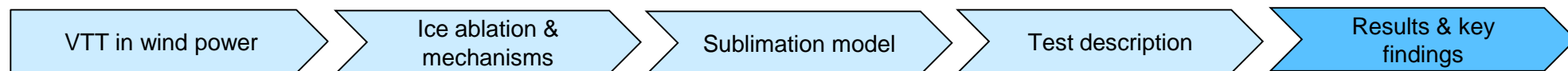
Sublimation model

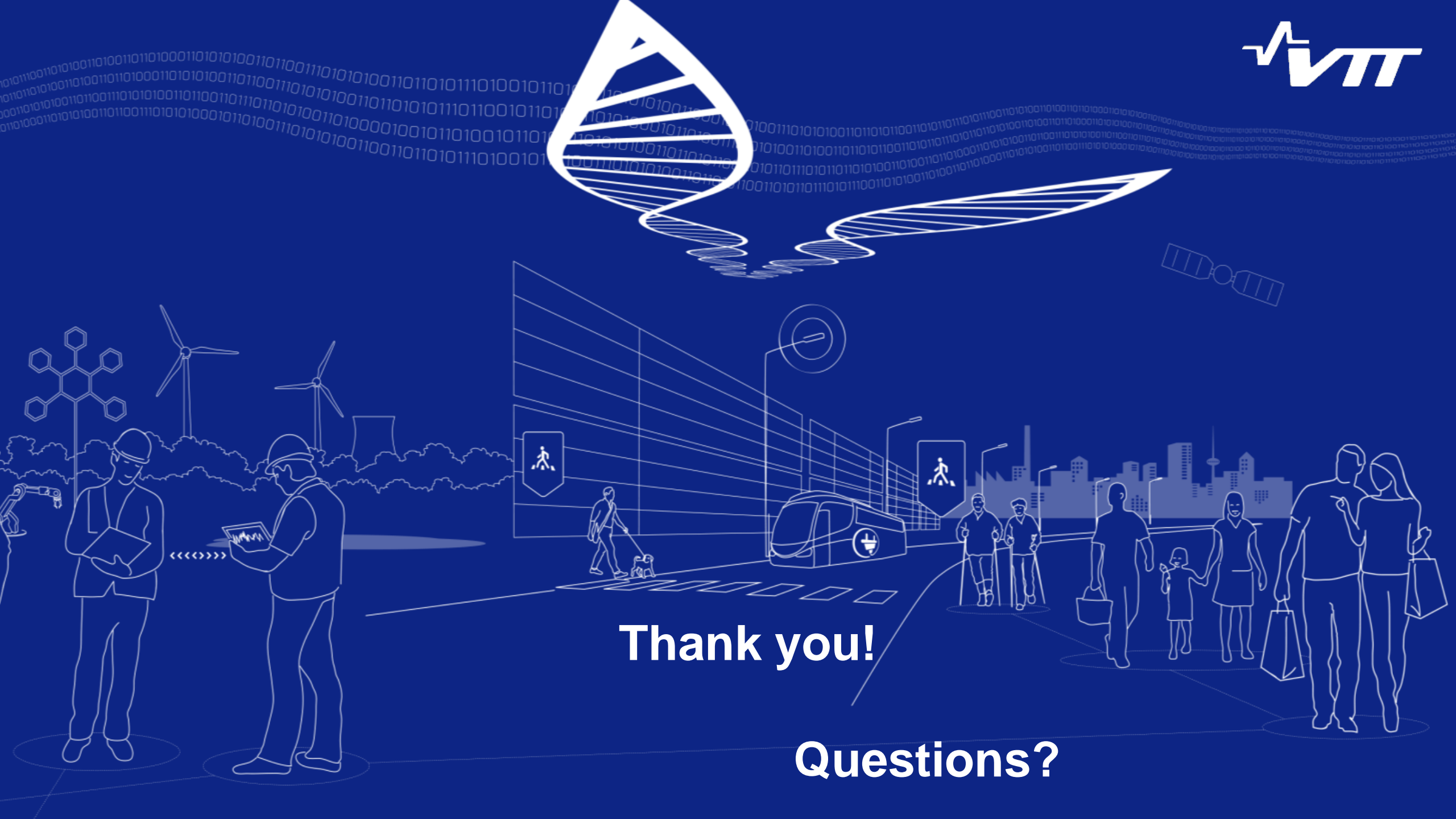
Test description

Results & key findings

## Key findings

- *Qualitative agreement between model and experimental results*
- *The model underpredicts sublimated mass by a factor of ~2*
- *Radiative heat exchange is significant*
- *Areas for further exploration:*
  - *To increase the number of test cases for validation*
  - *Irregular ice shape affects heat transfer to air, as well as the diffusion process associated with sublimation*
  - *Sublimation process is an important mechanism, but others as erosion & ice shedding need to be investigated.*
  - *Conduction losses in the cylinder*





**Thank you!**

**Questions?**



# TECHNOLOGY FOR BUSINESS

