



The northernmost University of Technology in Scandinavia  
World-class research and education

## Vindkraft i kallt klimat

# Tekniskt kunnande – en resurs för Norrland

Milan Veljkovic,  
VinterVind, Piteå, 2010.02.03.



# Agenda

- Resurser på LTU (forskning and utbildning)
- Stålbyggnad- en forskningsgrupp inom LTU
  - Ett nytt koncept för vindtorn
  - Nya rekommendationer för dimensionering, montering och underhåll
  - Vad är det nästa steget i vindtorn utvecklig
- Hur går vi vidare med kommersialiseringen av forskningen?



## LTU resources

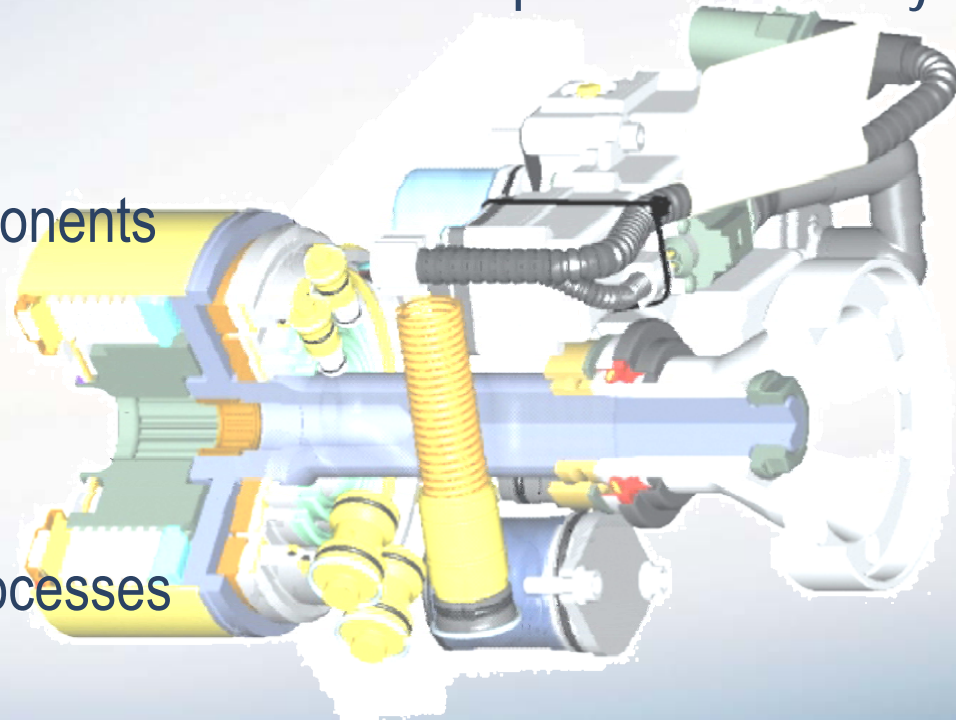
- Fluid Mechanics: Aerodynamics of Wind Power
  - Staffan Lundström
- Machine Elements: Lubrication at low temperatures
  - Erik Höglund, Elisbet Kassfeldt
- Computer Aided Design: Functional Product Development
  - Lennart Karlsson
  
- Structural Engineering: Concrete Foundation
  - Mats Emborg
- Structural Engineering: Ice research
  - Lennart Fransson

# LTU resources

## Division of Machine Elements

From fundamental to applied research with both experiment and theory

- Tribology of machine components
- Lubrication and lubricants
- Wear of materials
- Tribotesting
- Modelling of tribological processes





# LTU resources

## Div. of Structural Engineering

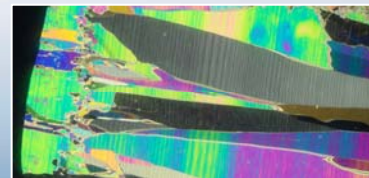
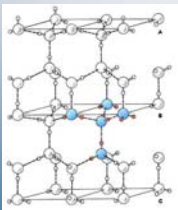
- Environmental friendly concrete
  - Low CO2 emission
  - Optimization of the locally produced components
  - Lower cement contents
  - Self compacting concrete
- Prefabrication of the tower





# Undergraduate Courses

- SNOW AND ICE  
Origin, physical properties, applications etc.
- ARCTIC ENGINEERING  
Construction in cold regions
- ICE KNOWLEDGE  
Safety aspects, bearing capacity of ice.







## LTU resources

- Centrum for High-Performance Steel
  - Mats Oldenburg
    - Milan Veljkovic

50% delfinansiering av industrirelevanta projekt  
i Norrbotten och Västerbotten



## Steel Structure

One of the main areas of research

Application of Higher Strength Steel in Construction  
Steel wind tower, connections

LTU PhD students



Jörgen  
Eriksen



Christine  
Heistermann



Tim  
Heistermann



Olga  
Garzon



Marouene  
Limam



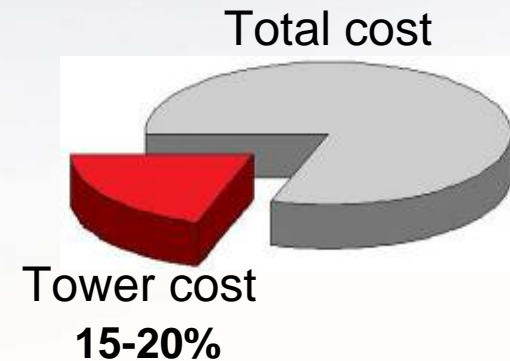
Joakim  
Sandström



# Why improvements of wind towers are needed?

## 1. For economical reasons

- 15 to 20 % of installation costs
- About 350 k€/MW





# Why improvements of wind towers are needed?

## 1. For economical reasons

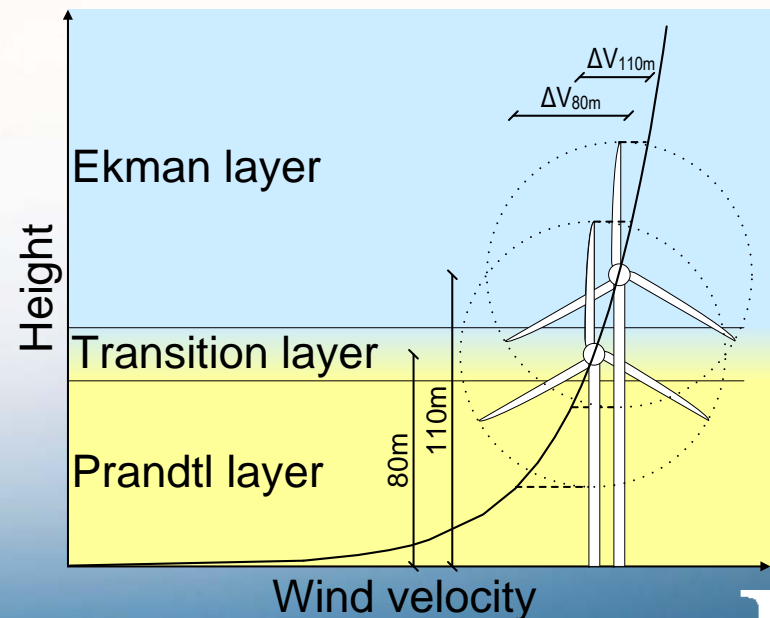
- 15 to 20 % of installation costs
- About 350 k€/MW

## 2. For building higher

- Larger rotors
- Higher wind speed
- Steadier wind

⇒ Need for optimized design

⇒ best resistance/cost ratio within given constraints





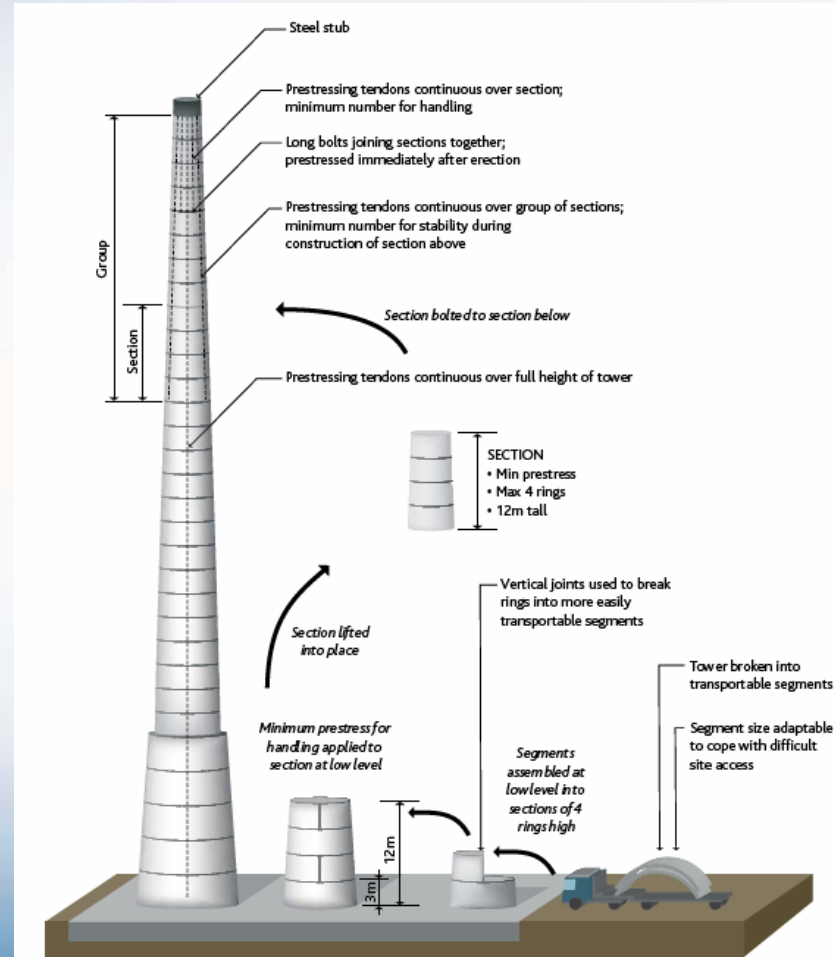
# Tower Alternatives

## Concrete Tower

The **Concrete Centre**

# Concrete Wind Towers

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS FOR OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE WIND FARMS







# Tower Alternatives

## Hybrid Tower



May 2009 Grevenbroich 2,3 MW,  
133m hub height, total 233m



# Tower Alternatives

## Lattice Tower



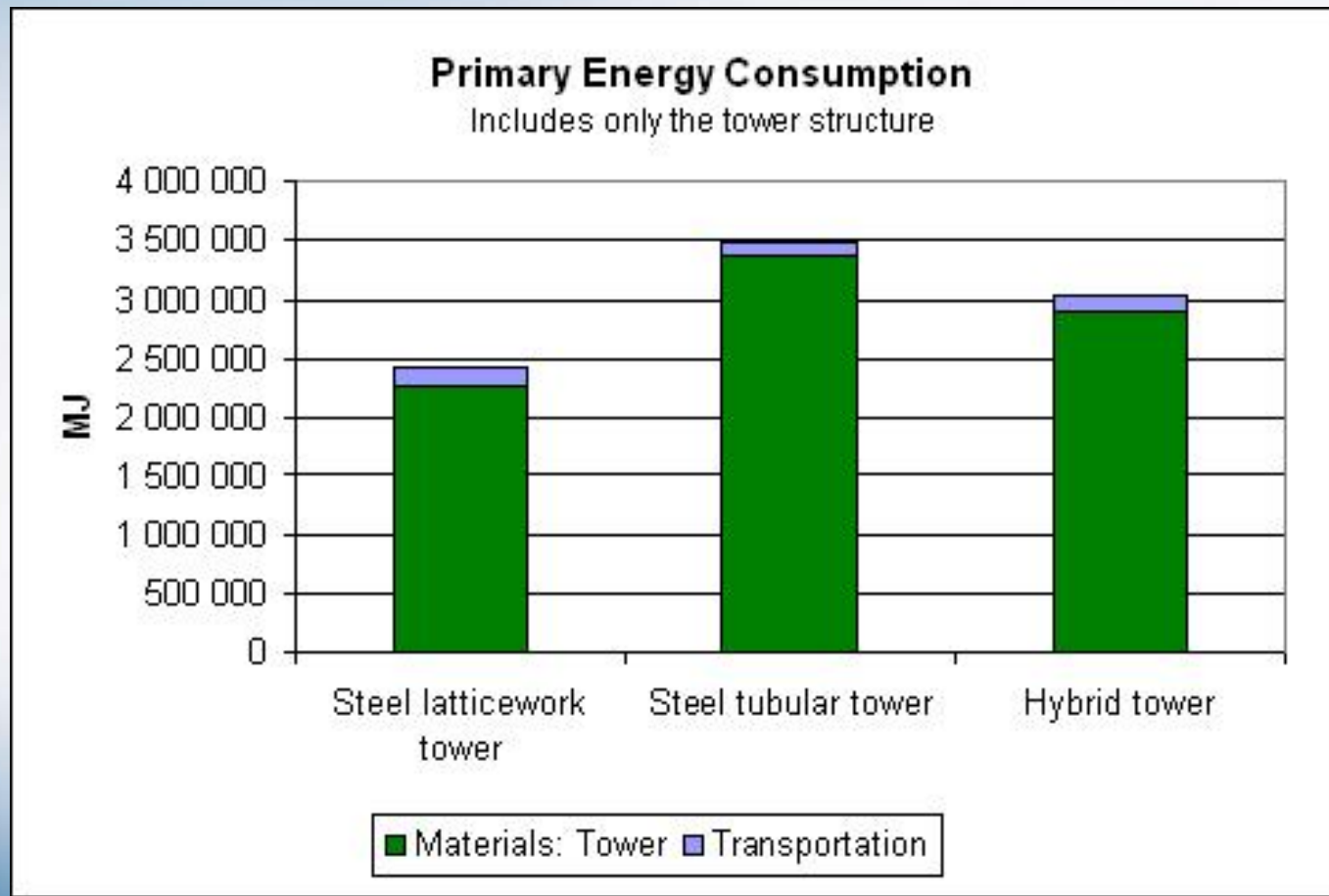
near Antwerp, 111m 1,5 Mw, 2006



SeeBA 160-m-Gittermast Laasow Lausitz Brandenburg  
Foto: Jan Oelker, 2006 jan.oelker@gmx.de

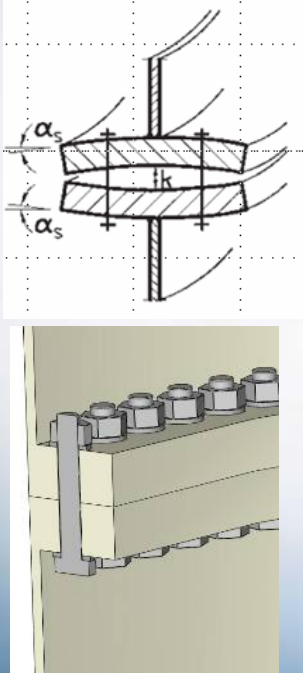
# LCA

## One segment

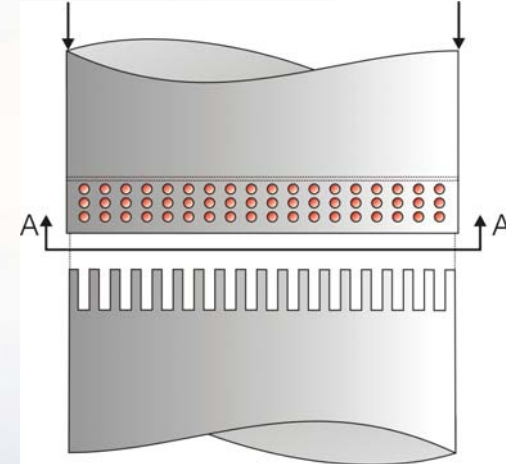


# High-strength steel tower for wind turbines

HISTWIN-Research project  
Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, 2006-2009  
Vindforsk, Energimyndigheten, 2008



REPOWER 5M assembled in 2004, Germany proposal



New



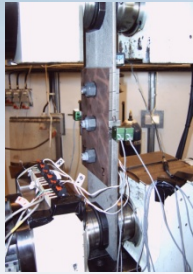




# Applied Research Approach

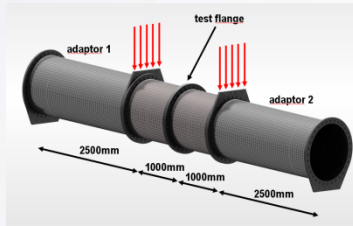
## Testing

- Segment test on a new friction connection, 2007-2008



- Static
- Long time measurements
- In-situ, TCB bolts

- Model test, flange and friction connection, 2008

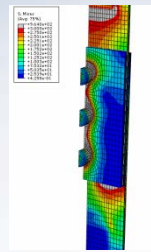


- In-situ measurements on a tower executed in 2007, measurements 2008

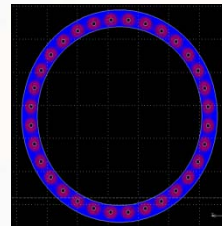


- Fatigue tests on a new friction connection

## Evaluation



Simple connection  
2007-2008



Flange and friction connection,  
2008



Fatigue tests 2008,

FEA 2008-2009

FEA

## Objective

Design model  
2008



Design model  
2008

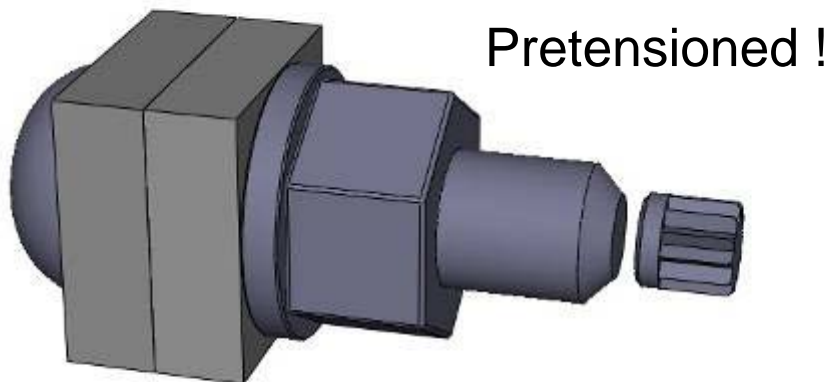
**Design guideline  
2009**

# Special fasteners: Tension Control Bolts

- Quick and easy installation
- Properties equivalent to HS Bolts 10.9
- No torsion in the shank
- Corrosion protection



TCB S10T M20-55mm



Electric shear wrench

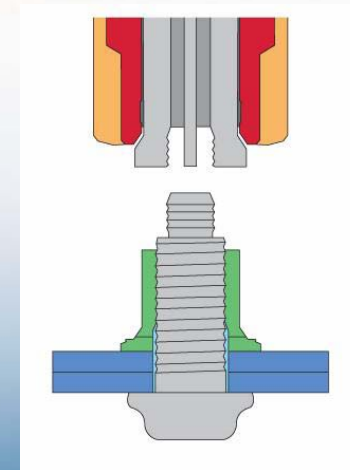
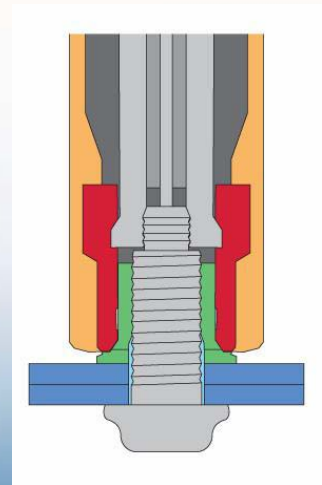
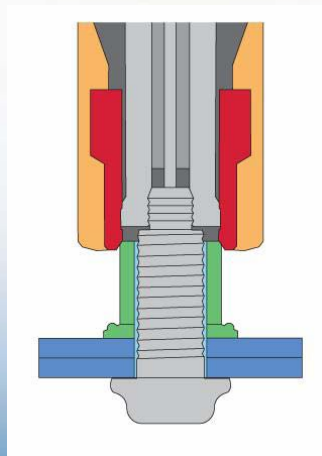
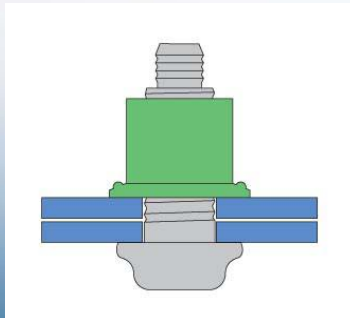
# Various bolts

- HUCK-bolts



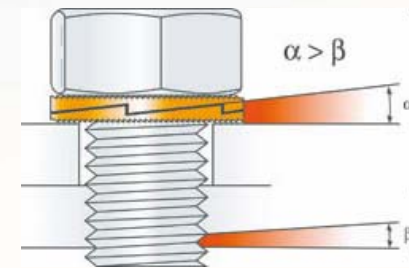
## Advantages

- High, consistent clamp load
- Vibration proof
- High fatigue endurance, high shear and tensile loadings
- Quick, easy and quiet installation



# Various bolts

- Normal Bolts plus Nord-Lock washers



## Advantages

- Tension makes the bolt self-locking
- Fastener safe to extreme vibration and dynamic loads





# What we have learned?

- Behaviour of assembling joints
- Static resistance
- Fatigue resistance
  
- Bolt forces (achieved pretension and variations over lifetime)
- Faying surfaces (friction and endurance)
  
- Comparison of different bolt types for optimal design for life time

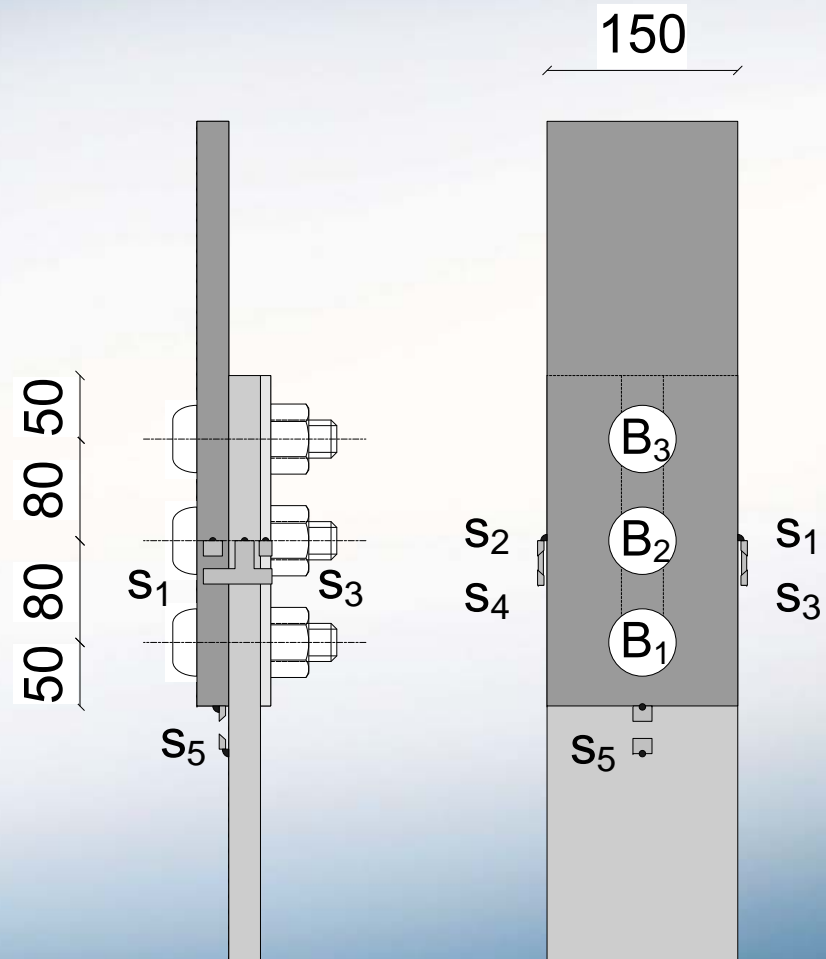
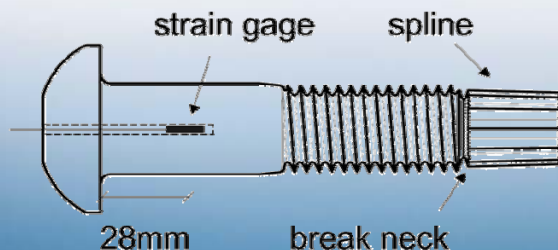
## Standard friction tests (10)

- S355
  - Ethyl silicate zinc rich paint
  - Load cells for bolt forces
  - Slip measurements
- ⇒ Friction coefficient



## Static segment tests (28)

- Segment tests = flat section of the cylindrical connection
- 25 mm and 8 mm plates (S355)
- M30 and M20 TCBs S10T (~10.9)
- Cover plates (hardened steel) instead of round washers



## Long term tests

- “Standard” configuration
- Load levels: 60 % and 80 % of static resistance
- Duration: 15 weeks

⇒ Creep

⇒ Relaxation

⇒ Remaining resistance



Long term test rigs



# Material costs-savings

	Flange connection			Friction connection		
	Unit price [€]	Qty.	Total cost [€]	Unit price [€]	Qty.	Total cost [€]
Bolts	20.32	124	2520	5.45	588	3205
Flanges	6762	2	13524	-	-	-
			16044			3205

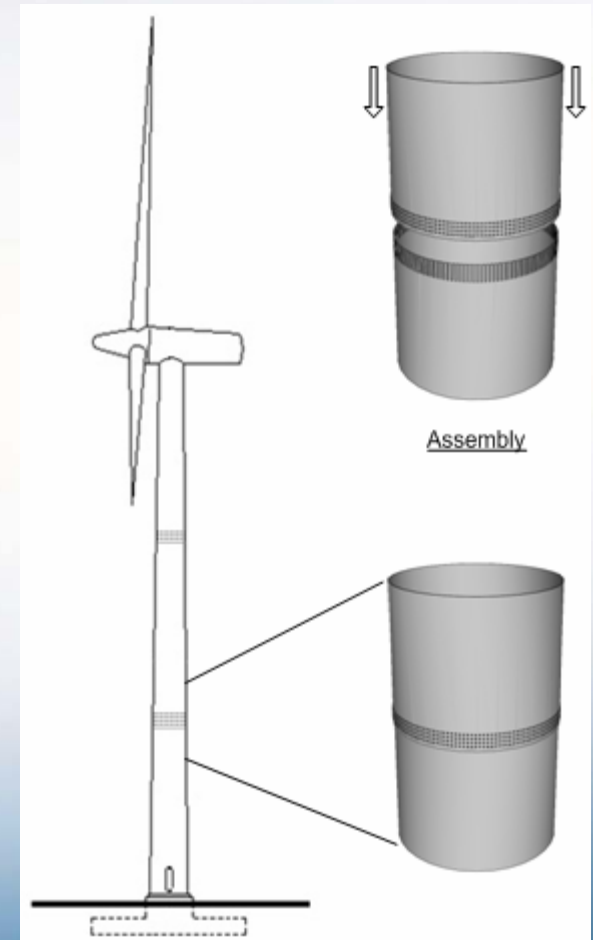
( Data from REpower, 2007 )

( Quote from TCB Ltd., 2007 )

- Material costs for the connection cut down by about 80 %

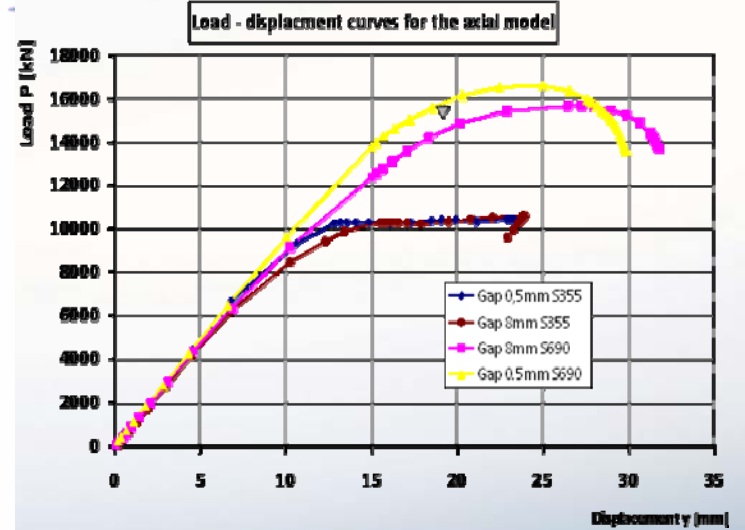
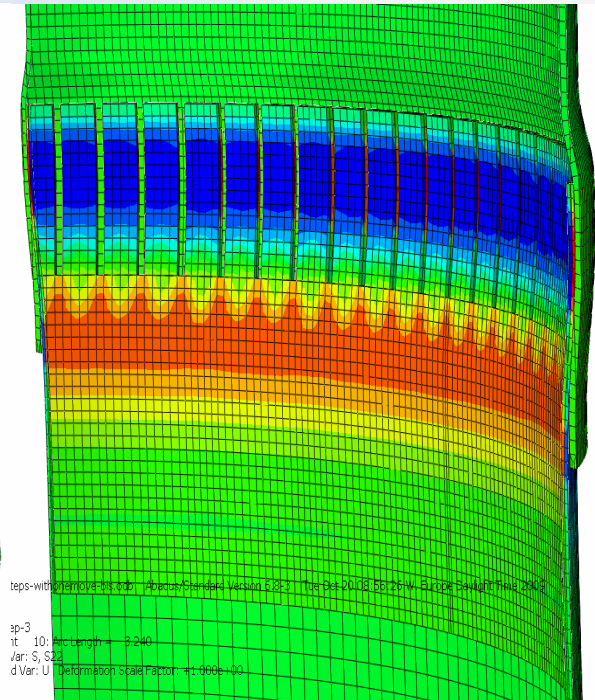
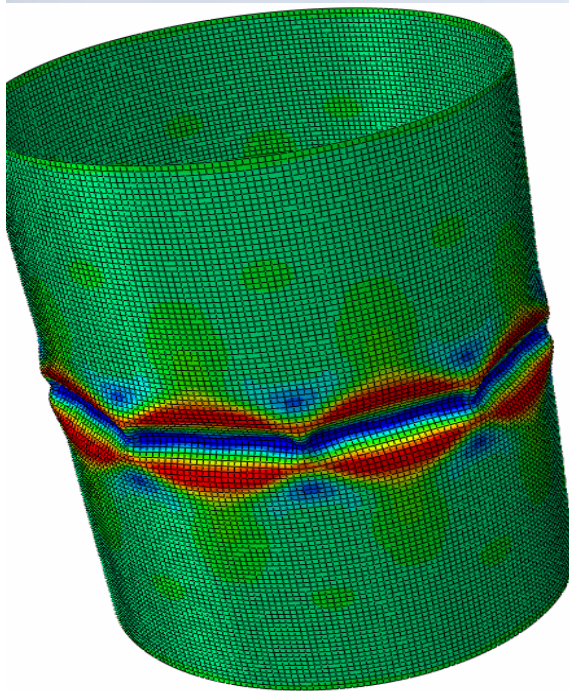
# Influence of the connection on the tower resistance

- Length: 6000 mm
- Material : Steel S355
- Thickness : 20mm
- Boundary condition: a fixed restrain at the bottom and pinned on the top part



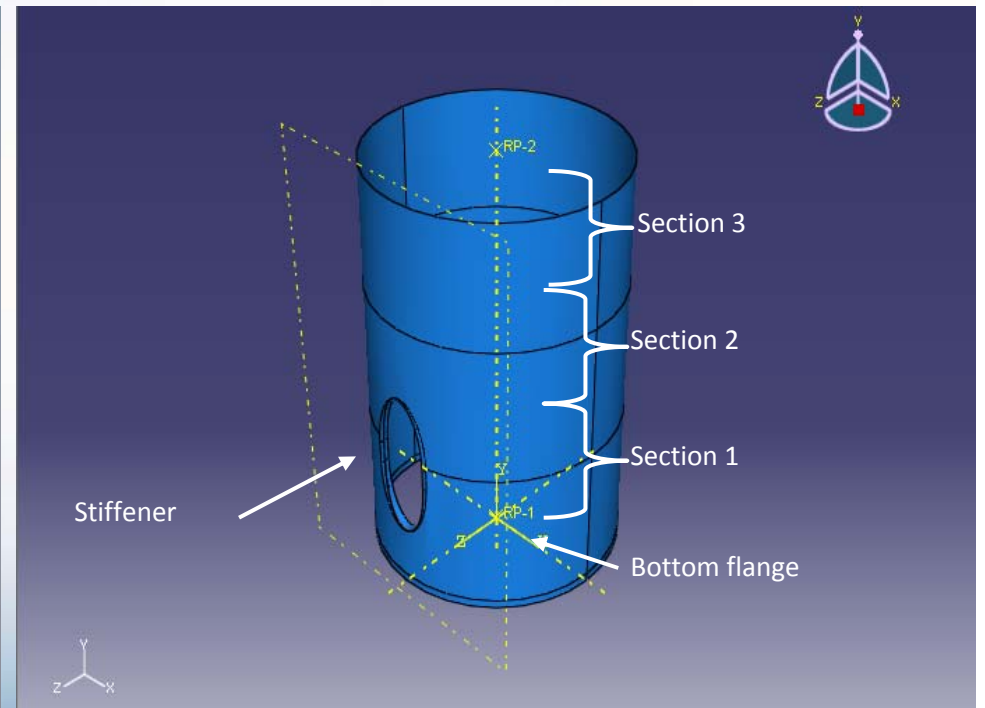


# Finite Element Analysis





# Stress distribution around the door opening of a steel tower for wind turbines



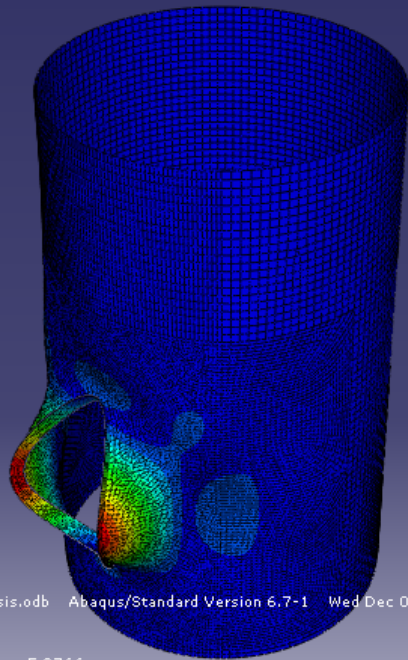
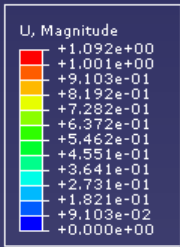
## Main properties of the FE model

- Geometry: Tower MM92 with 80m hub height
- Loading: Load which created maximum stress level at the door opening
  - geometry and load values provided by REpower
- Boundary condition: Fixed at the bottom of the tower
- Material: Steel S355 used in the executed tower and Steel S690 as an alternative



# Investigation of non linear effects

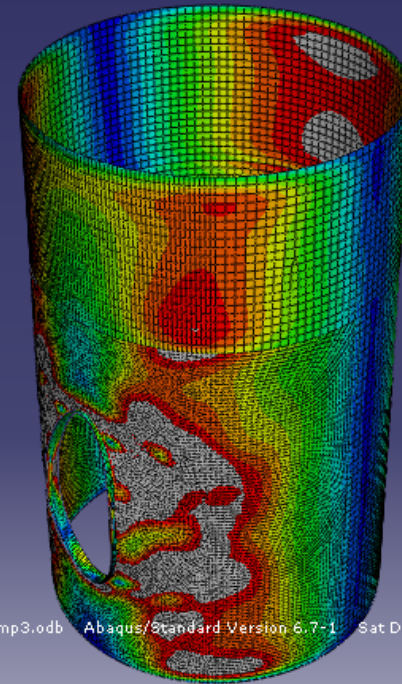
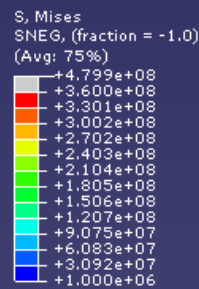
- Imperfection was introduced in the model
- The first eigenmode of the structure was used



ODB: buckling-analysis.odb Abaqus/Standard Version 6.7-1 Wed Dec 03 14:45:32 Westeur



Step: buckle  
Mode 1: EigenValue = 5.8766  
Primary Var: U, Magnitude  
Deformed Var: U Deformation Scale Factor: +6.990e-01



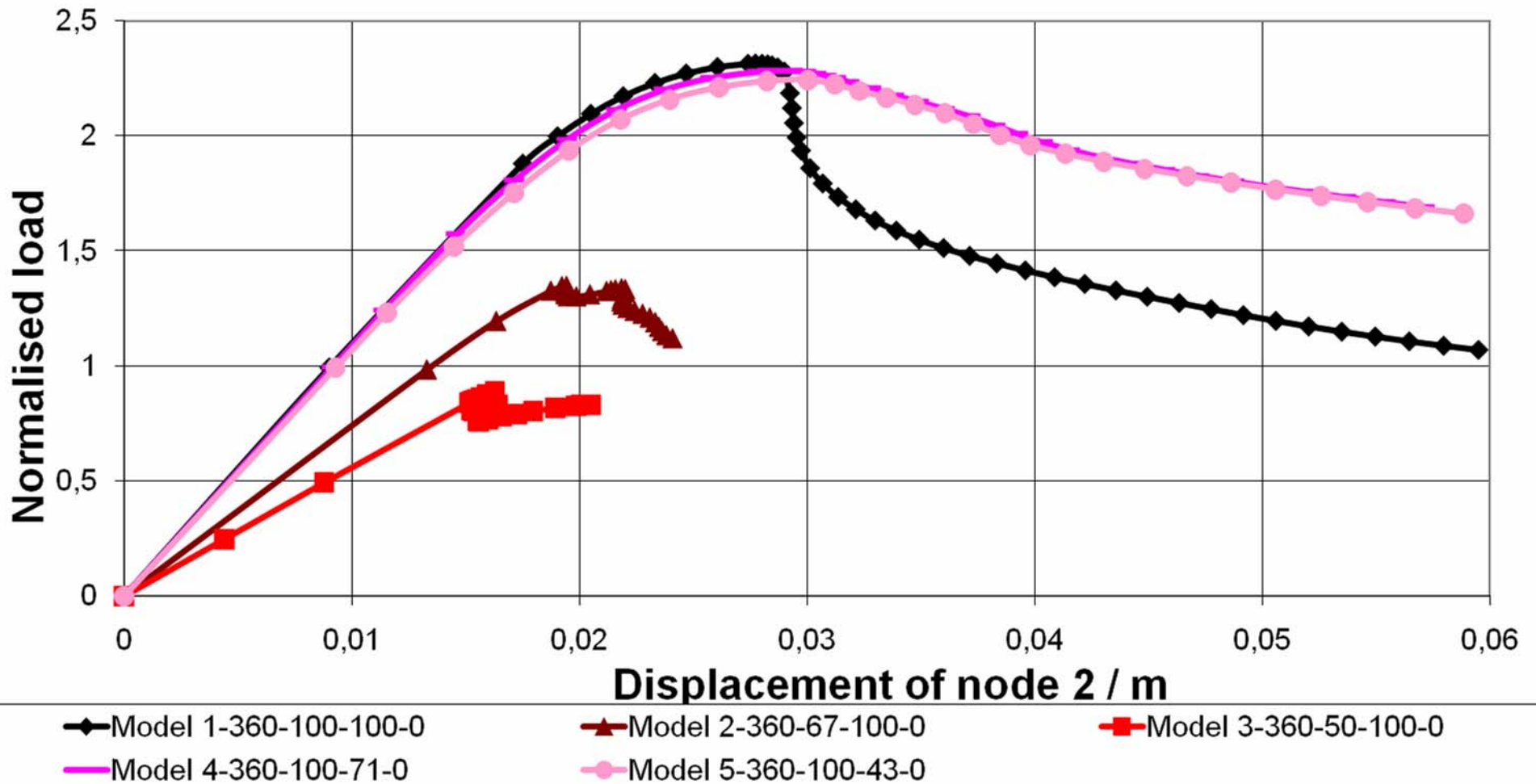
ODB: static-analysis-imp3.odb Abaqus/Standard Version 6.7-1 Sat Dec 06 18:14:09 W



Step: static  
Increment 4: Arc Length = 2.500  
Primary Var: S, Mises  
Deformed Var: U Deformation Scale Factor: +1.000e+00

# Influence of varied shell or stiffener thickness

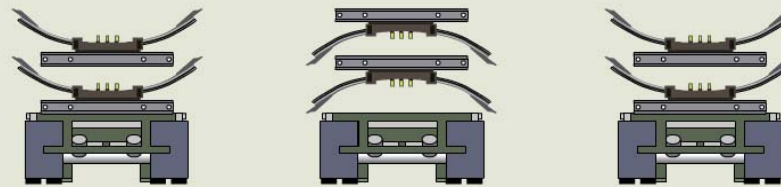
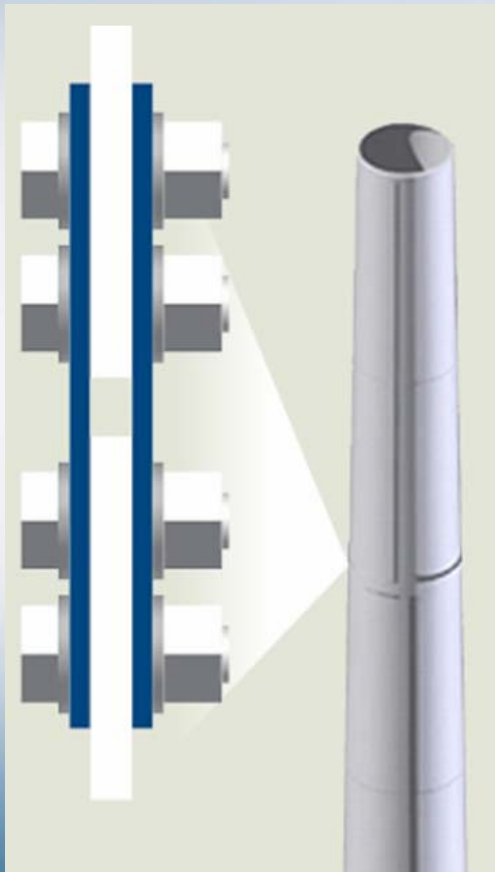
Load-displacement respond at node 2 depending on the shell or stiffener thickness





# Alternatives

## Modular steel tubular tower

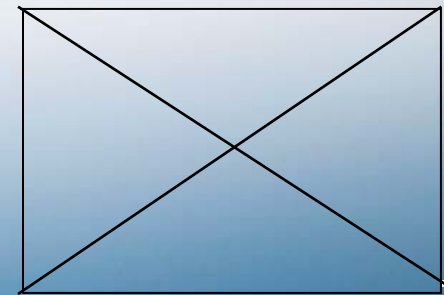
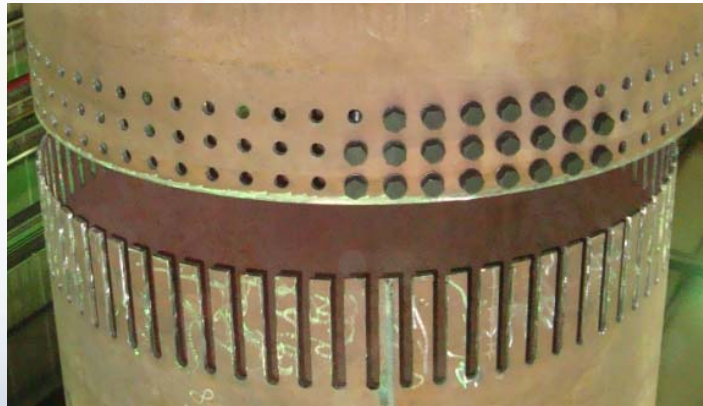
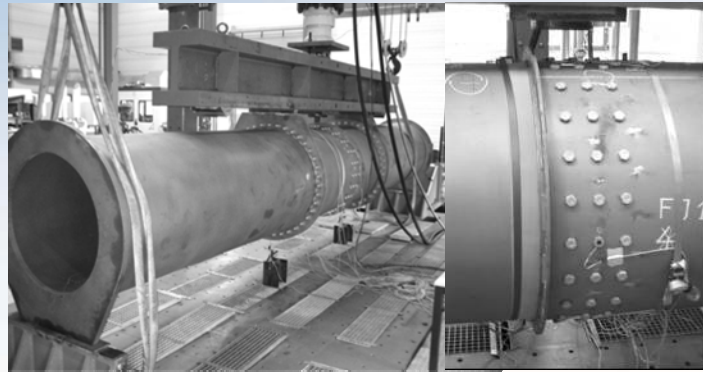


Copyright © 2008 Northstar Wind Towers. All rights reserved.





# Evolution of Tubular Steel Towers



# Hur (snabbt) går vi vidare?

- Har vi områden att bygga vindfarmer på ett hållbart sätt?
- Har vi potential att skapa nya lösningar och optimera den befintliga?
- Bidrar vindkraftsindustrin till ökad tillväxt?
- Kan ni vi göra något för att få "grönare" verkstadsindustri (i Norrbotten)?





The northernmost University of Technology in Scandinavia  
World-class research and education

# ”Steel Wind Tower Marines”



J. Rosenthal , AP, 1945

frogdog\* flickr



The northernmost University of Technology in Scandinavia  
World-class research and education

# ”Steel Wind Tower Marines” .....even in the cold climate



J. Rosenthal , AP, 1945



Luleå tekniska universitet, LTU

Great ideas grow  
better below zero!