

# EAPM

Real-time aerodynamic performance sensing  
for aerodynamic assets

# Outline

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1. EAPM introduction
2. How EAPM works
3. EAPM test history
4. Preliminary test results
5. The way ahead

# EAPM Introduction

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EAPM is an aerodynamic sensor that measures the state of the airflow wherever its sensors are located

- EAPM is not an icing detector, yet it can quantify the performance impact and stall-margins in icing in ways that ice detectors cannot
- EAPM is not a salt or insect detector, but it detects and quantifies their effects on efficiency in real-time
- EAPM is not an inspection system, but it enables targeted on-condition inspections to an individual compromised segment of a single blade on a wind turbine
- EAPM is not a structural monitor, but it can detect structural degradations (delamination, leading-edge erosion) before they manifest on the power curve

# Aerodynamic impacts from environmental factors

*"In cold climates, the performance of wind turbines may be significantly reduced by ice accretion on the turbine blades. The magnitude of production loss can reach over 50% during winter months, and exceed 10% on an annual basis."*

DNV (2020)

*"Operators have no quantitative sense of production loss due to roughness."*

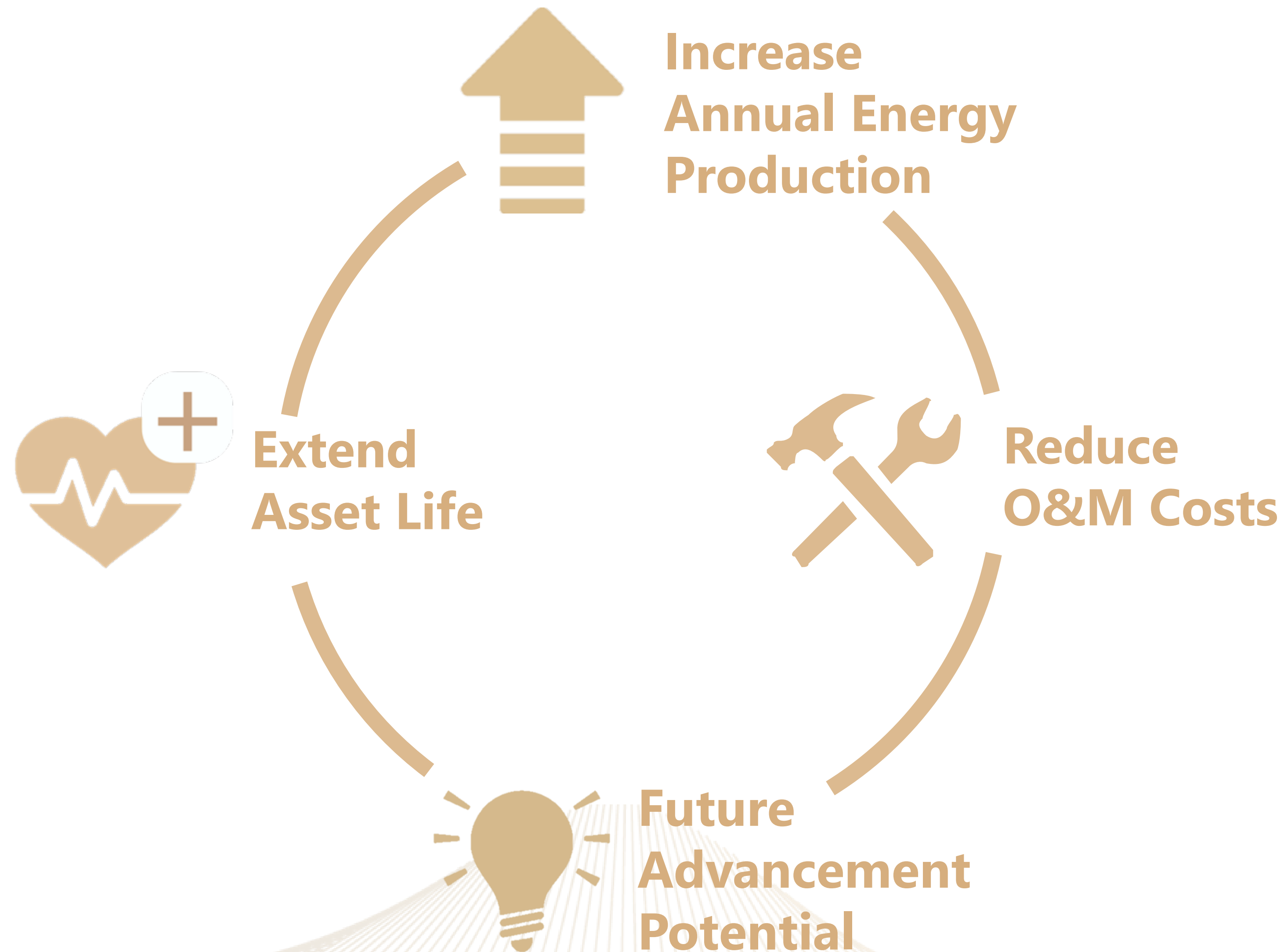
*"Insect roughness was observed to cause a 25% decrease in energy production."*

*"...erosion has been observed to result in 20% or greater loss in energy capture and can affect blades that have been operating for as little as two-to-three years."*

Sandia National Labs (2017)

**If real-time blade aerodynamic performance is available, these impacts can be substantially reduced by optimizing W-T operation and improving maintenance planning**

# What if we quantified **real-time aerodynamic performance**?





# Detecting Turbulence is the key!

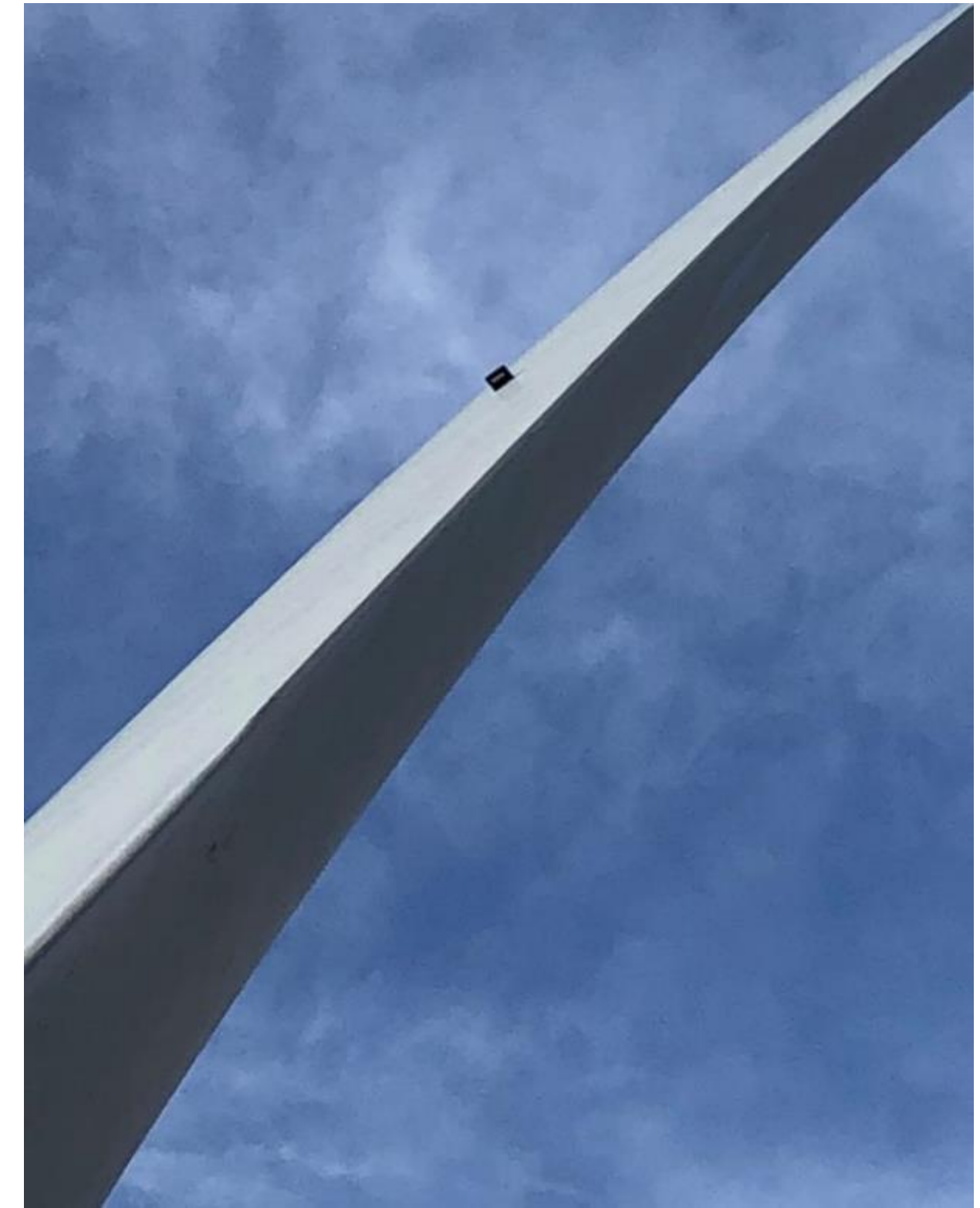
## *String Tufts ("tell-tales")*

1. *Limited quantitative data*
2. *Rarely permanently installed*
3. *Unsuited to harsh conditions, including icing*



Source: Smart Blade GMBH

*Wind Tufts on a Turbine Blade*



*EAPM: A permanently-installed electronic wind tuft that produces quantified aerodynamic performance data*



Source: Practical Boat Owner, UK

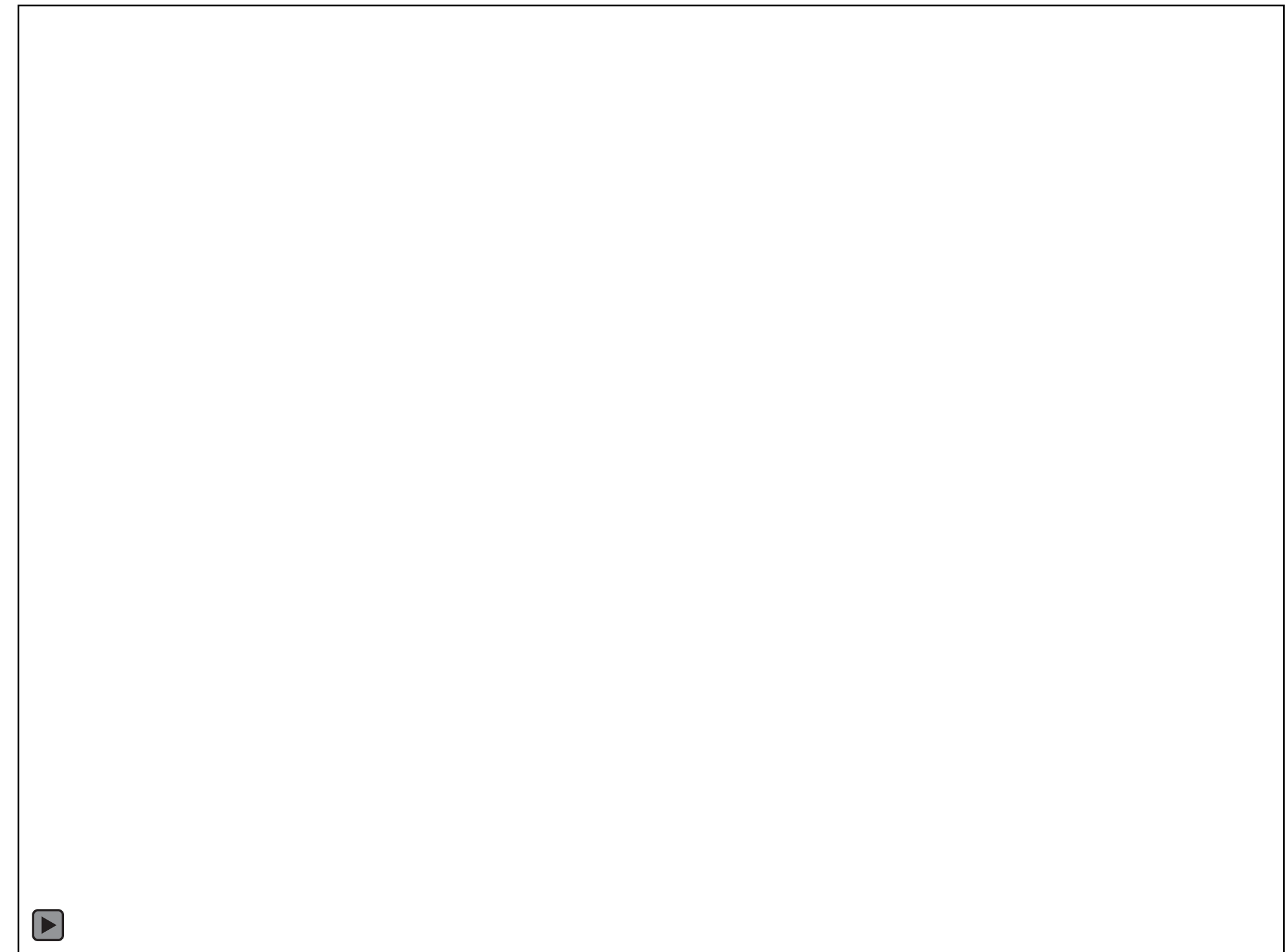
*"Tell-tales" on a Sail*





## The R value: quantifying aerodynamic performance

- EAPM measures the non-dimensional turbulence intensity ratio ("R") of the airflow
- R correlates very strongly with the *actual lift curve slope* – regardless of contamination (icing, salt, insects), or airfoil surface degradation (erosion, delamination)
- R indicates *proximity to the stall* and quantifies the remaining performance margin available from the blade



Source: Cambridge University, College of Engineering

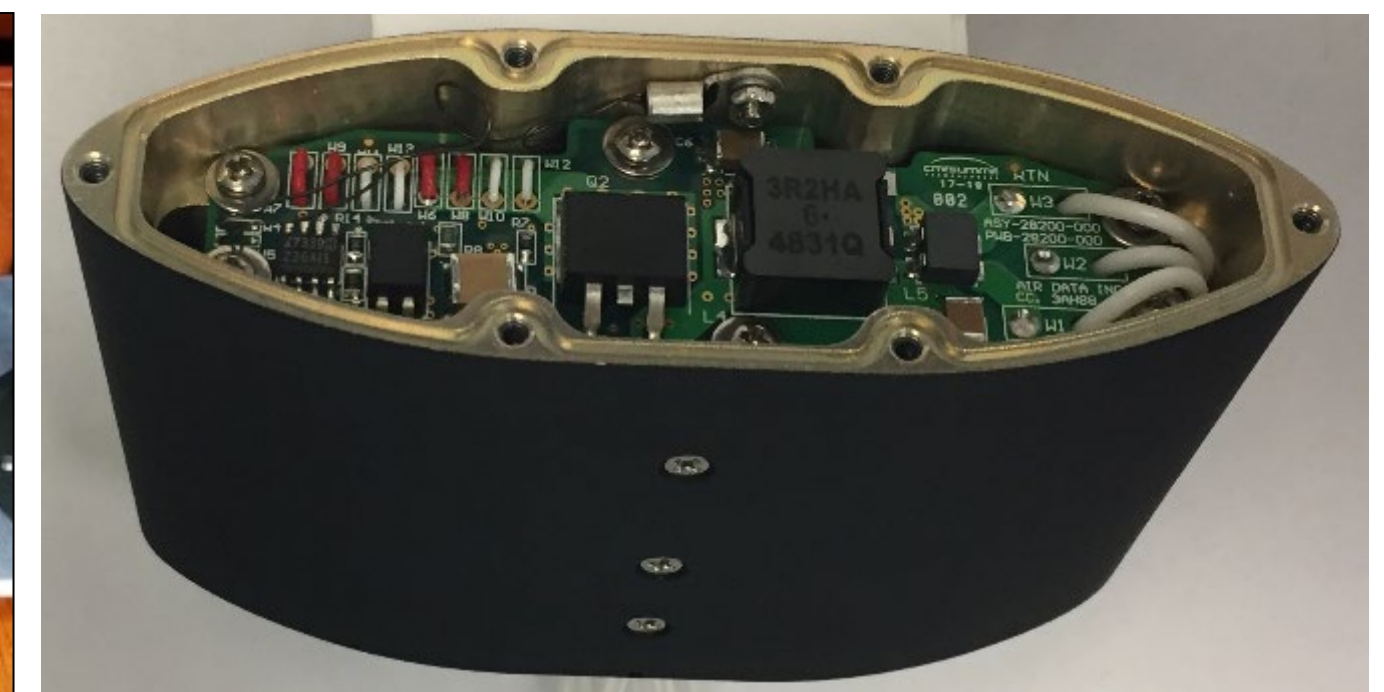


# Enhanced Airfoil Performance Monitor (EAPM)

Patented technology with a very strong aerospace pedigree (APM)

EAPM is the enhanced version tailored for the wind industry

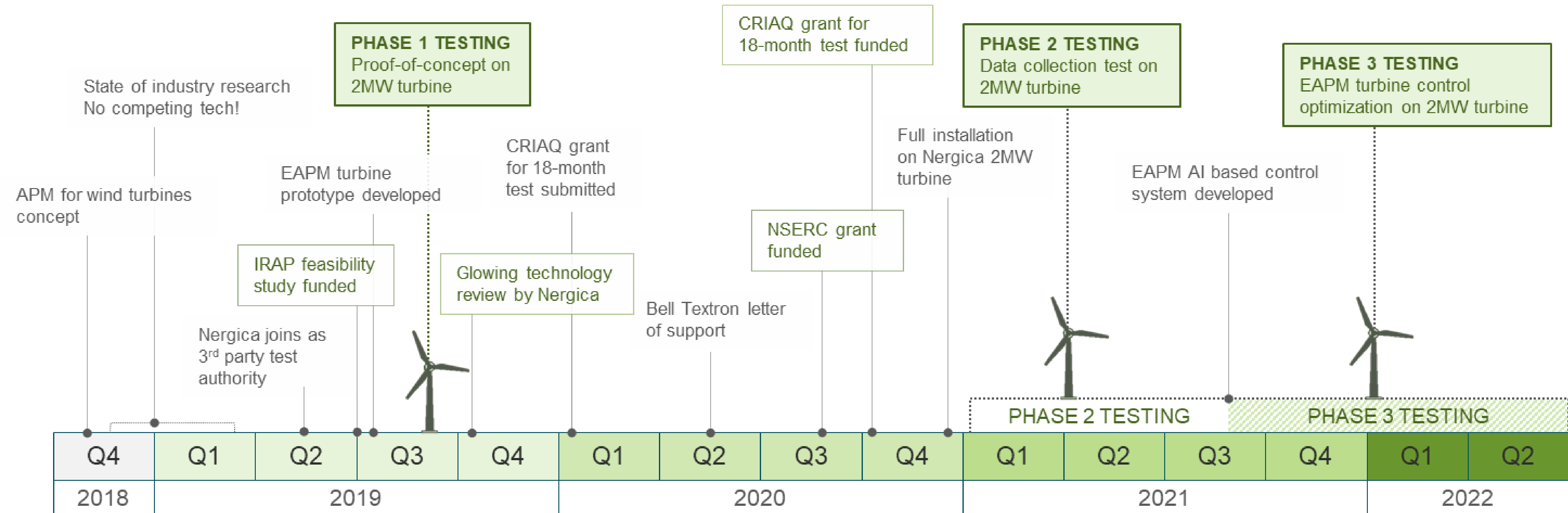
- Developed to capture and quantify the turbulence intensity ratio and report the R value
- Allows real-time, actionable control decisions to optimize turbine operation





# EAPM TEST HISTORY

# EAPM Development Timeline





## Tested and proven technology

### Tunnel Testing



#### Rail-Tec Arsenal Icing Tunnel (Vienna)

- 9 successful tunnel tests, 4 test facilities

### Aircraft Testing



#### Twin-Otter Flight Testing (Canada)

- Multiple successful drone and passenger aircraft tests

### Turbine Testing



#### Nergica 2MW Turbine Testing (Canada)

- 2019 successful Phase 1 turbine testing
- 2021 Phase 2 testing in progress

**NERGICA**

# Nergica (Quebec) EAPM Test Facility



Testing partner:	Nergica
Turbine:	Senvion MM92 CCV (Cold Climate Version)
Rated power:	2.05 MW
Rotor diameter:	92.5 m
Hub height:	80 m
EAPM masts:	3
EAPM Mast 1:	18.8 m radius 65% chord (blade 1)
EAPM Mast 2:	18.8 m radius 70% chord (blade 2)
EAPM Mast 3:	18.8 m radius 75% chord (blade 3)

## Main observed test parameters

- EAPM R-values
- Turbine RPM
- Turbine power output
- Nacelle direction
- Blade pitch angles
- Wind speed and direction
- Icing information from multiple sensors

Photo of a Senvion MM92 CCV at the Nergica test facility

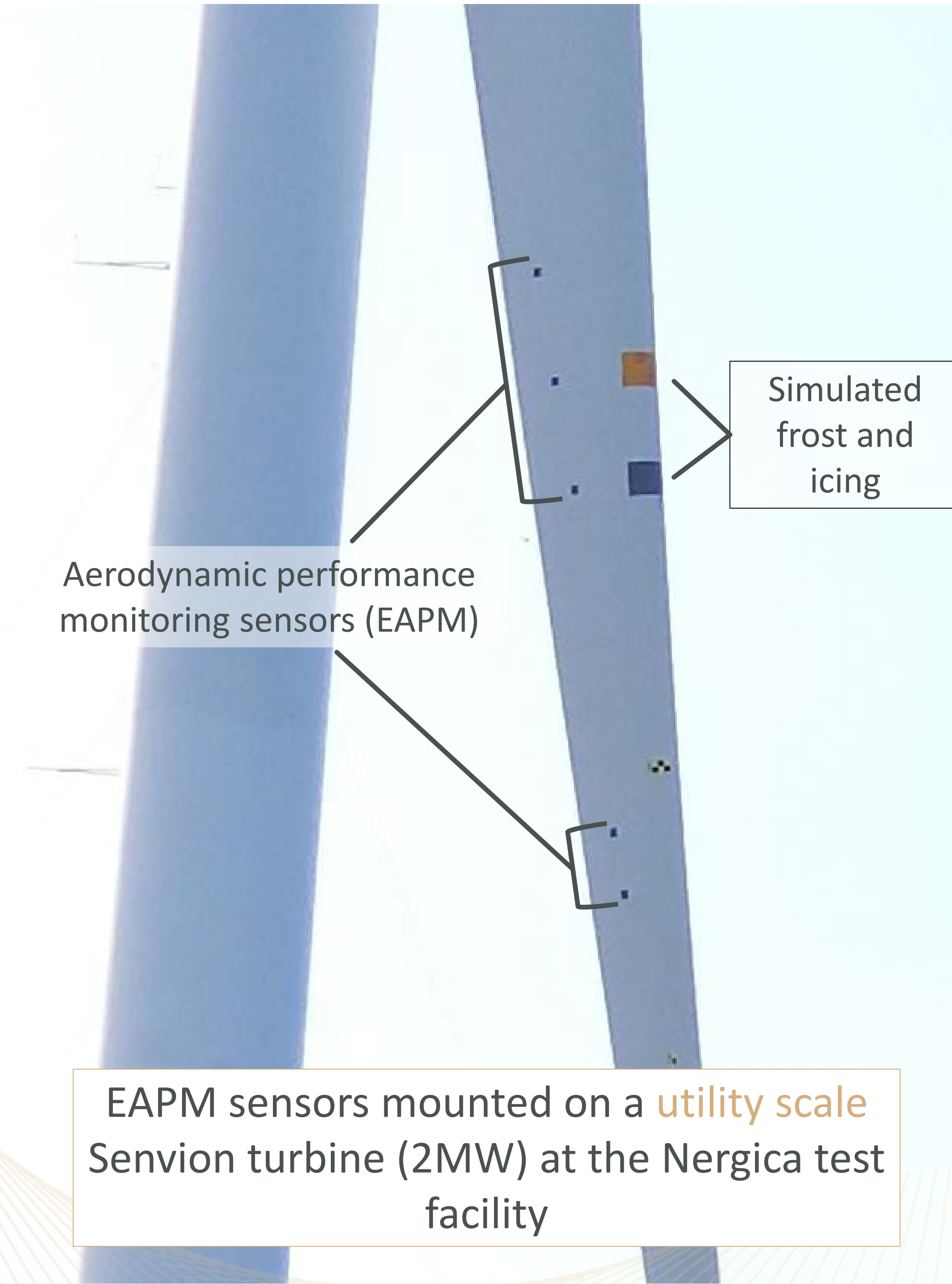
**NERGICA**



## Phase 1 testing: **Exceptional results**

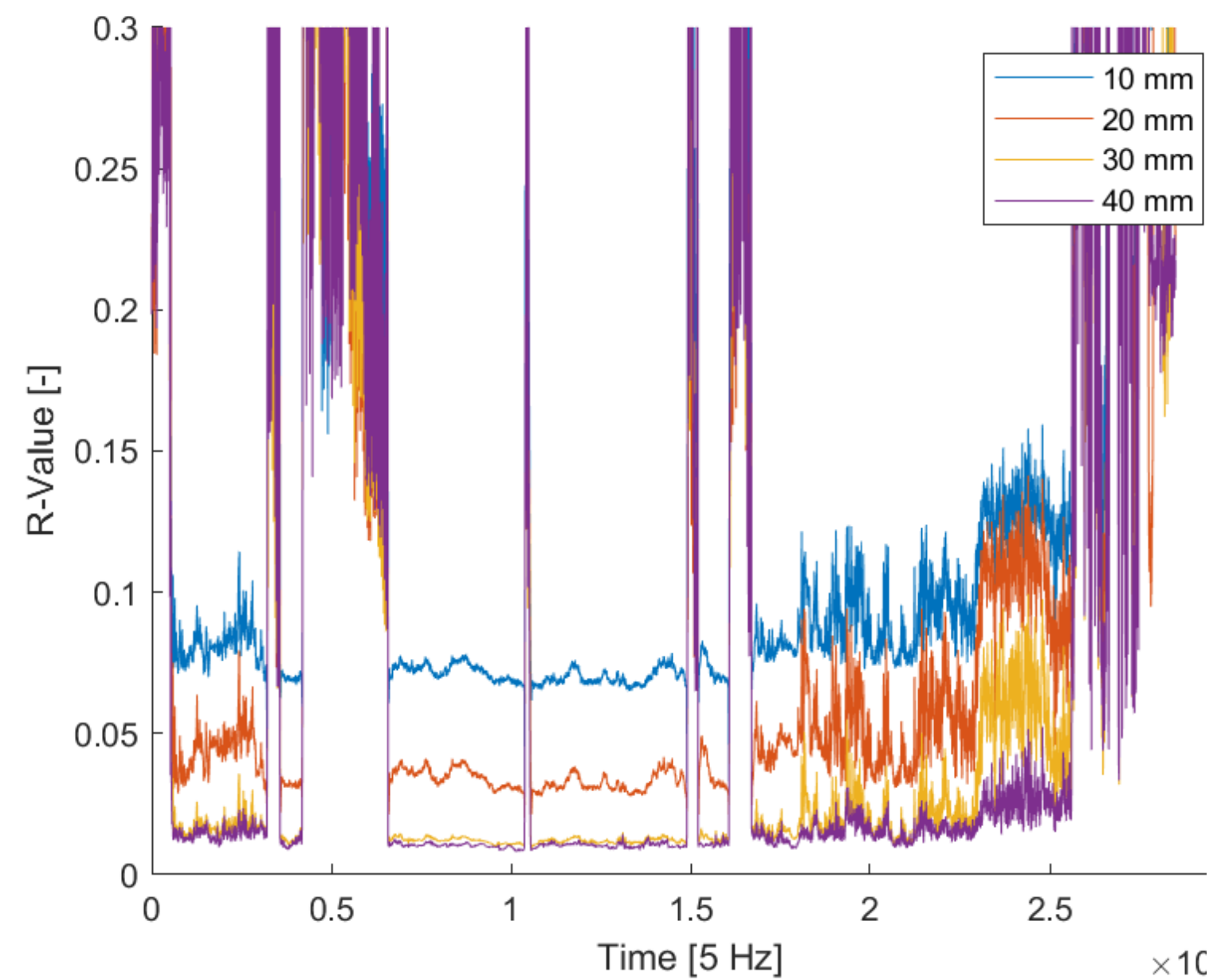
“Given the results of this test, the **potential** for **deploying EAPM sensors** in the wind energy industry is **undeniable**.” “...this sensor could be used and contribute to significant applications, including **ice detection**, turbine **control in icing**, leading-edge **erosion detection** and **individual pitch control**.”

**NERGICA**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> party testing partner)

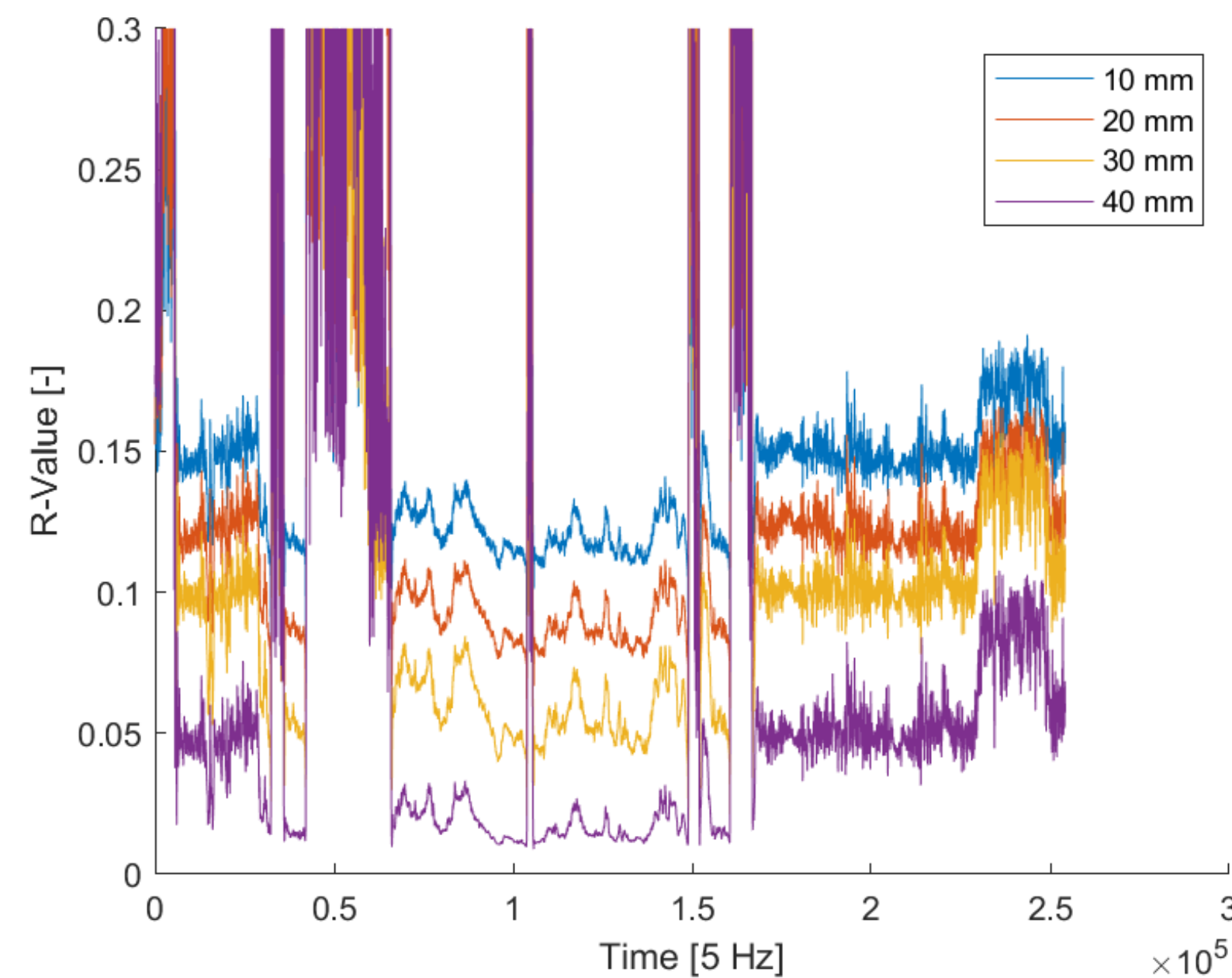


# Nergica Phase 1 Test Results

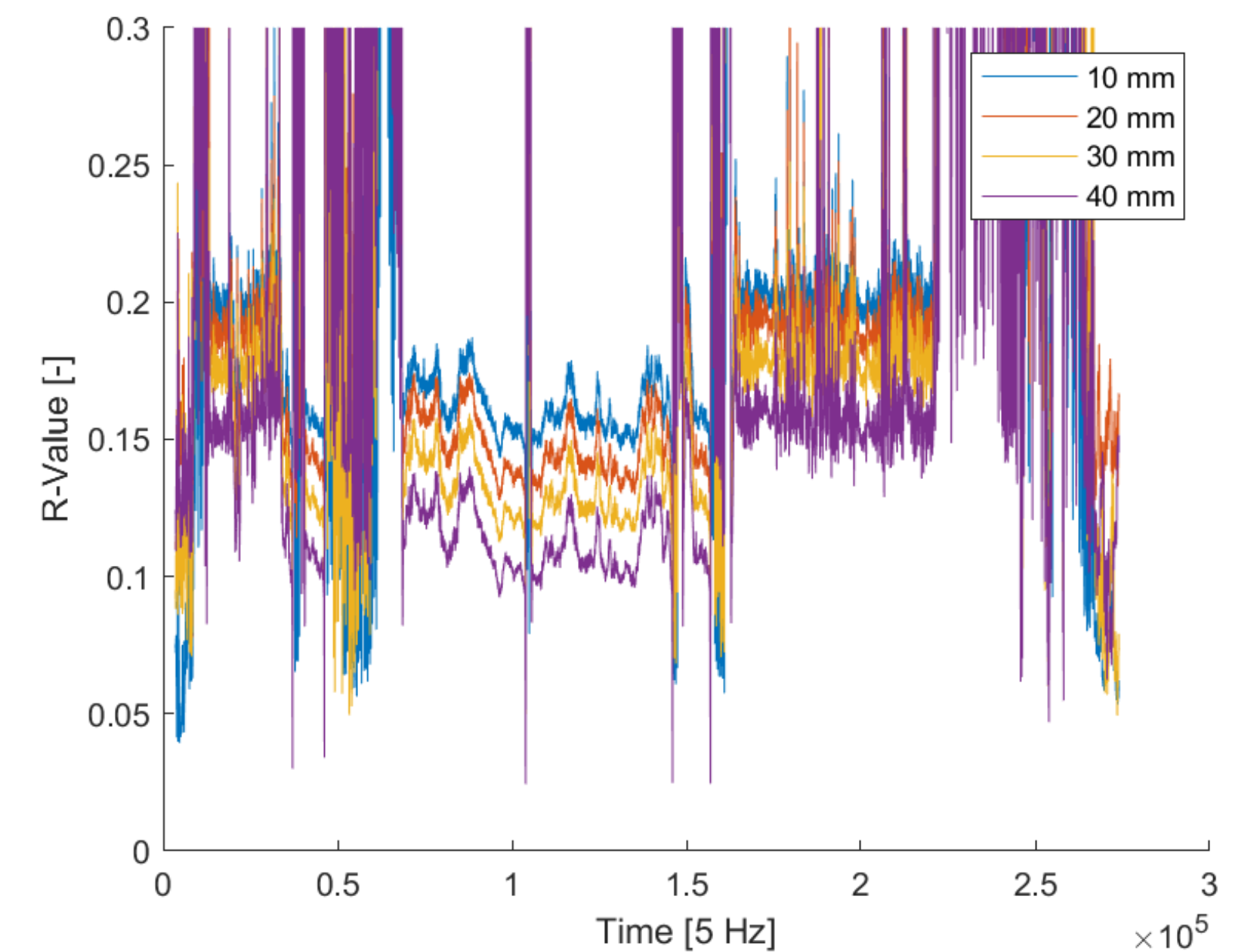
EAPM traces showing the aerodynamic stress caused by simulated frost and moderate icing on the Senvion MM92 CCV wind turbine



Clean



Simulated Frost



Simulated Ice



## Phase 2/3 extended duration testing



### Phase 2: Data collection / analysis

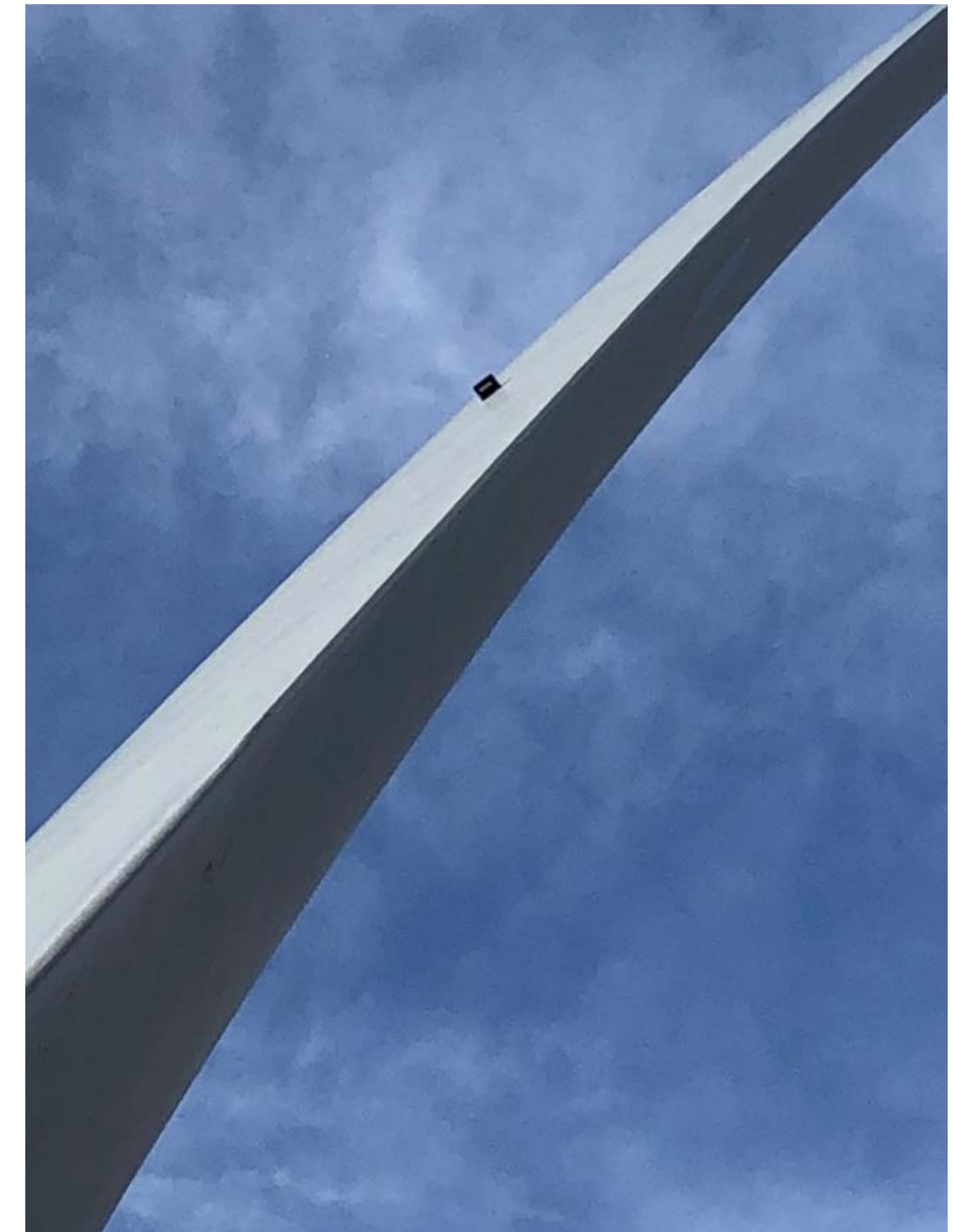
- Characterize performance in all conditions
- AI / machine learning data insights

### Phase 3: Control optimization

- Integrate with SCADA
- Optimize with AI insights
- Quantify AEP improvement, O&M savings, other AI insights (\$\$\$)

## Phase 2 testing is **underway now!**

- 18 months of testing through **two winter periods**
- **Fully funded** by Canadian Government
- Test team includes:
  - **Marinvent** – technology inventor and aerodynamics experts
  - **Nergica** – industry and cold climate experts
  - **AI data analytics** company
  - In discussion to involve an **operator** and turbine **manufacturer**
- Comprehensive real-time high-frequency EAPM data **streaming via VPN today!**

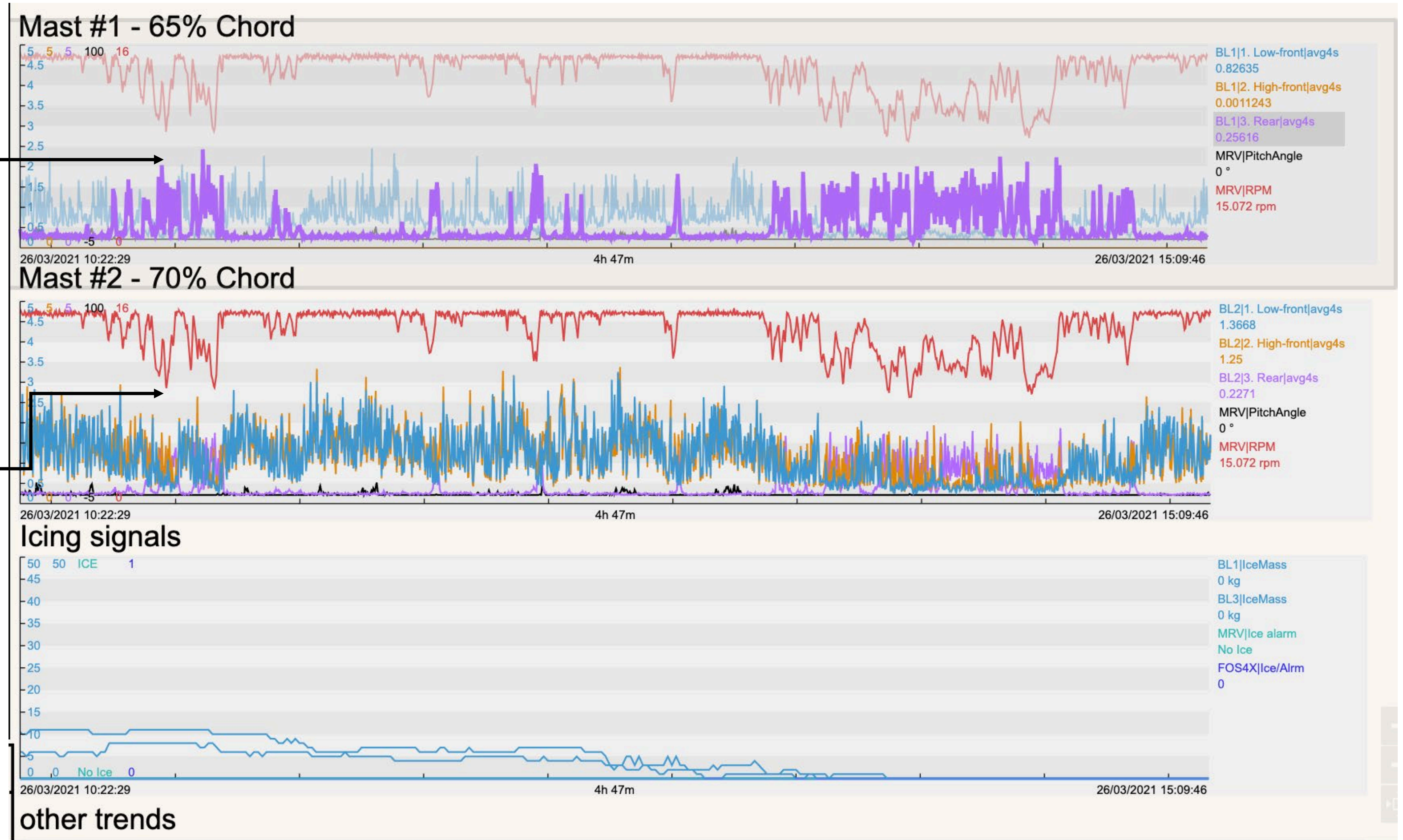


EAPM mast installed on one of  
Nergica Senvion MM92 CCV



# EAPM in action

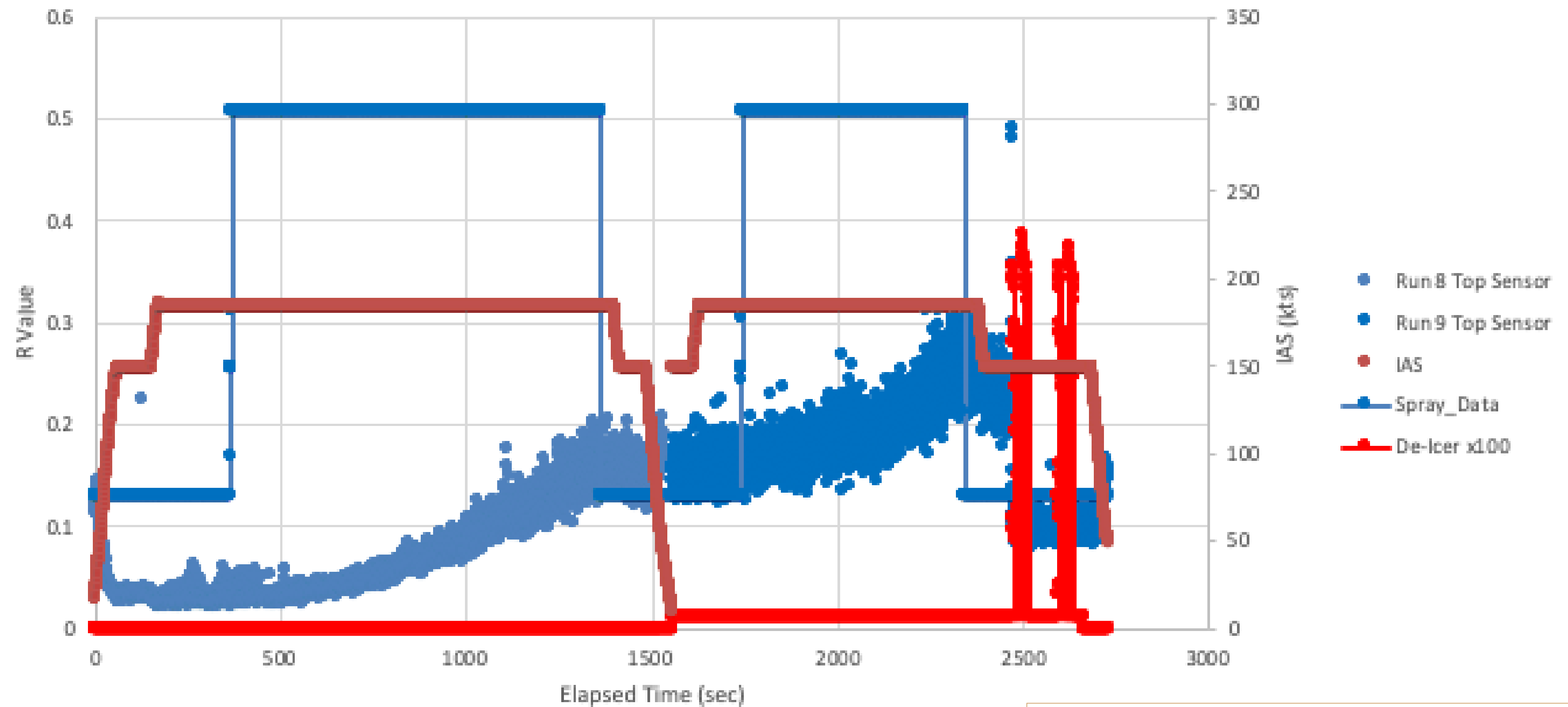
Examples of EAPM signalling multiple local blade “distress” periods when RPM sags





# EAPM “seeing” icing degradation

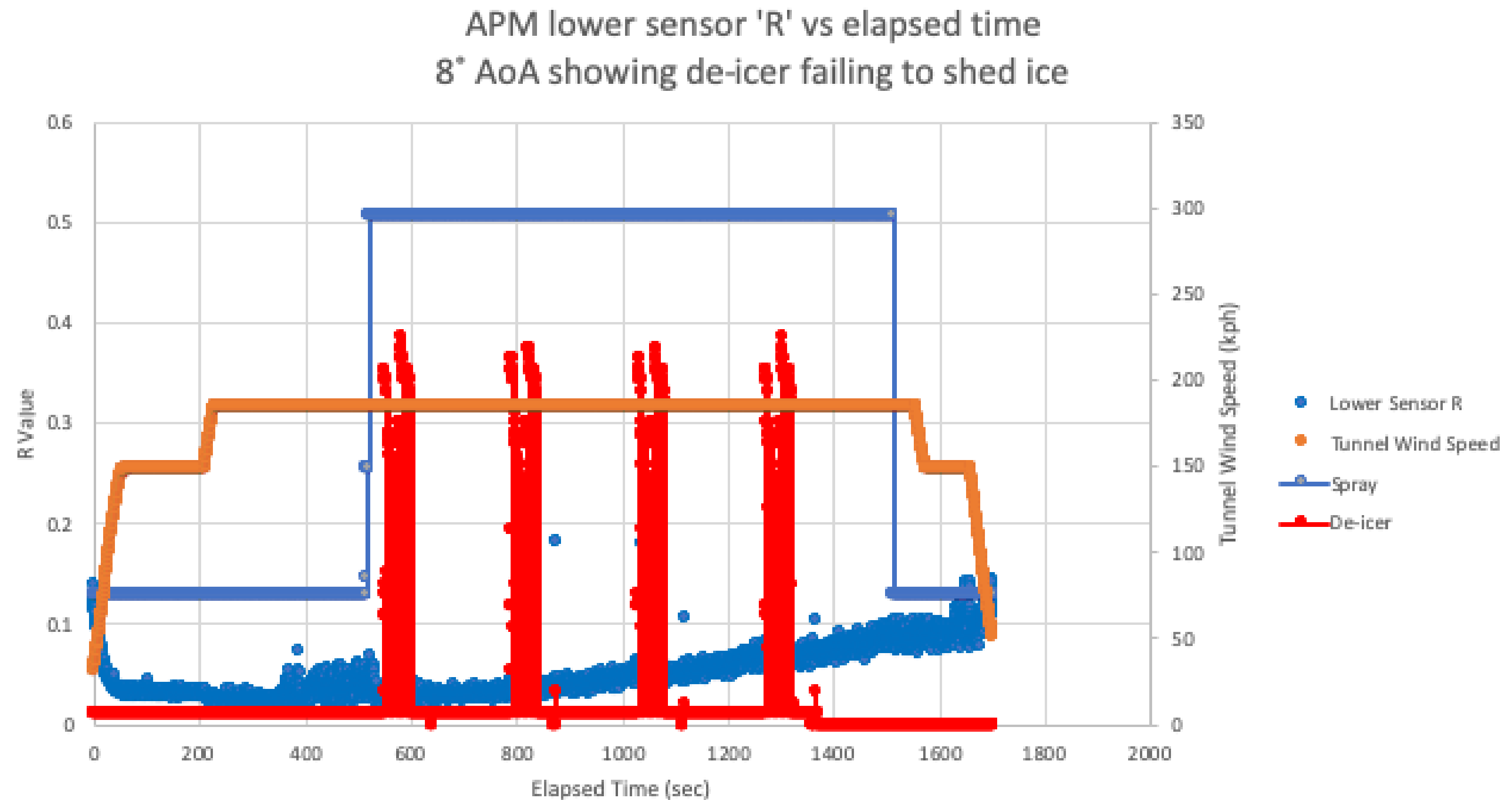
Example of EAPM signalling increasing blade distress (blue slanted line) as ice accumulates with time



Red spikes show de-ice system activation and reduction of blade distress

# EAPM “seeing” deicing system failing

EAPM signalling increasing blade distress (blue slanted line) as ice accumulates with time



Red spikes show de-ice system activation with *no* reduction of blade distress



Let's take a look at **EAPM in real-time**

Real time EAPM display

# EAPM potential



## Increase AEP



## Reduce O&M



## Extend Asset Life



## Future Advancements

- More predictable AEP (lower project risk)
- Better AEP through closed-loop control of blade pitch based on real-time aerodynamic performance
- Optimized blade angle-of-attack (AoA) and stall margins in *all* conditions

*2% increase in AEP translated to \$5,700/MW – WindESCo (2020)*

*“A 1% annual production increase at a typical wind farm with 100 two megawatt turbines can boost revenue by \$250,000–\$500,000.” – EPRI Journal*

- Detect and react to abnormal or degraded aerodynamics in real-time
- Enable optimized on-condition maintenance and inspections based on highly-specific real-time monitoring

*“Within the next couple of years... operating expenses (OPEX) will eclipse capital expenditures (CAPEX) – Wind Power Engineering and IHS Markit (2019)*

- Very precise health trend-monitoring data, for a single wind turbine or an entire installation
- Optimized maintenance interventions
- Reduced chance of black swan events

*“The wind industry needs to prepare for upcoming challenges, such as maintenance of aging assets, assessment of structural integrity, lifetime extension decision making, and decommissioning of turbines” – Renewable & Sustainable Energy Review*

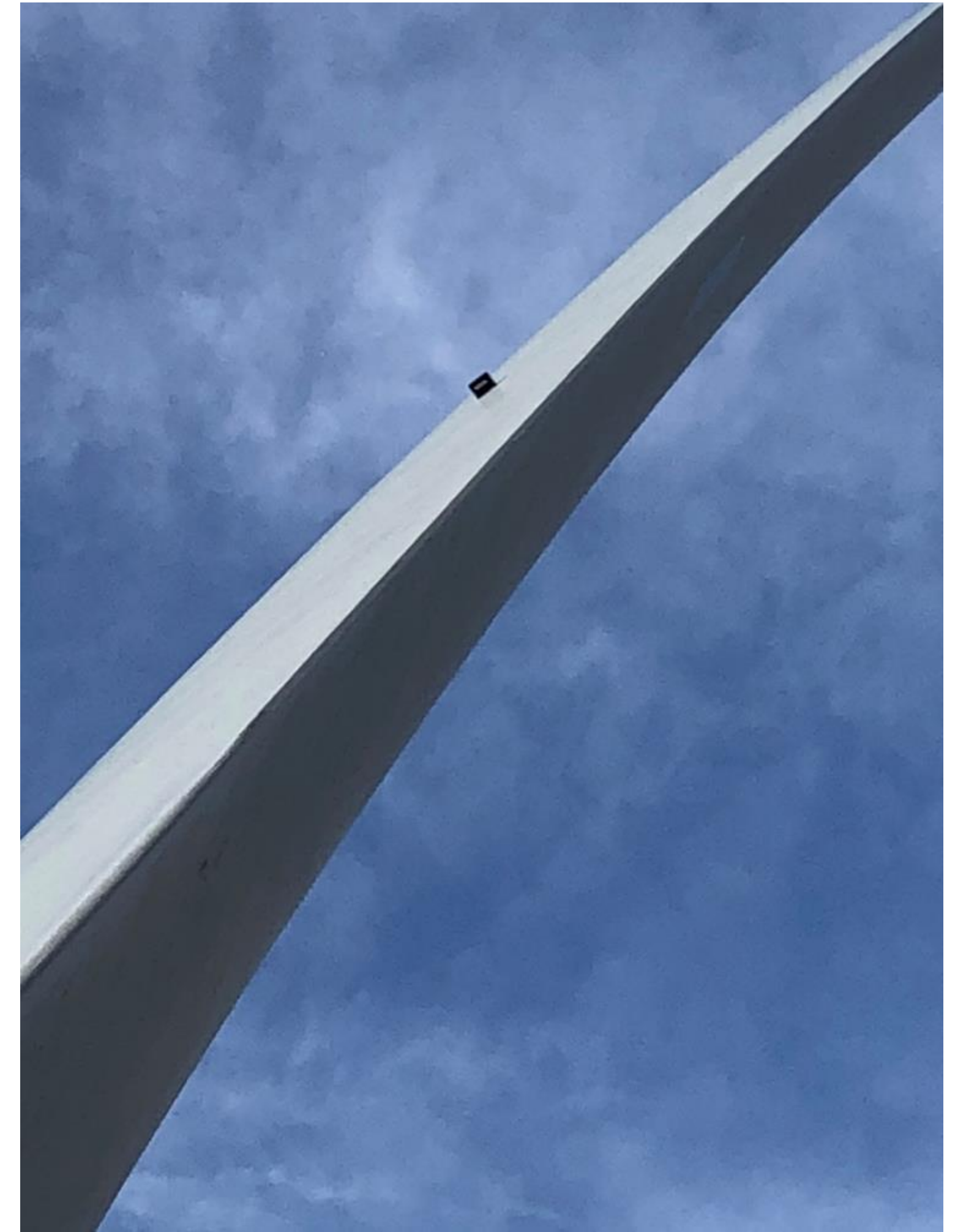
- Detailed quantified metrics for performance  $\Delta$ s from future aerodynamic optimizations (vortex generators, saw-teeth, etc.)
- Optimized individual (cyclic) blade pitch control
- Closed-loop feedback for AI wind-farm optimizations



# Thank you!

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A special thank you to our colleagues at Nergica and to the Canadian government for co-funding the intense development effort that allowed us to introduce this disruptive technology to the wind industry!



# Questions?

**Contact us:**

Email: [info@aeras.eco](mailto:info@aeras.eco)