

FabricAir

**BorealisWind**  
Ice Protection System

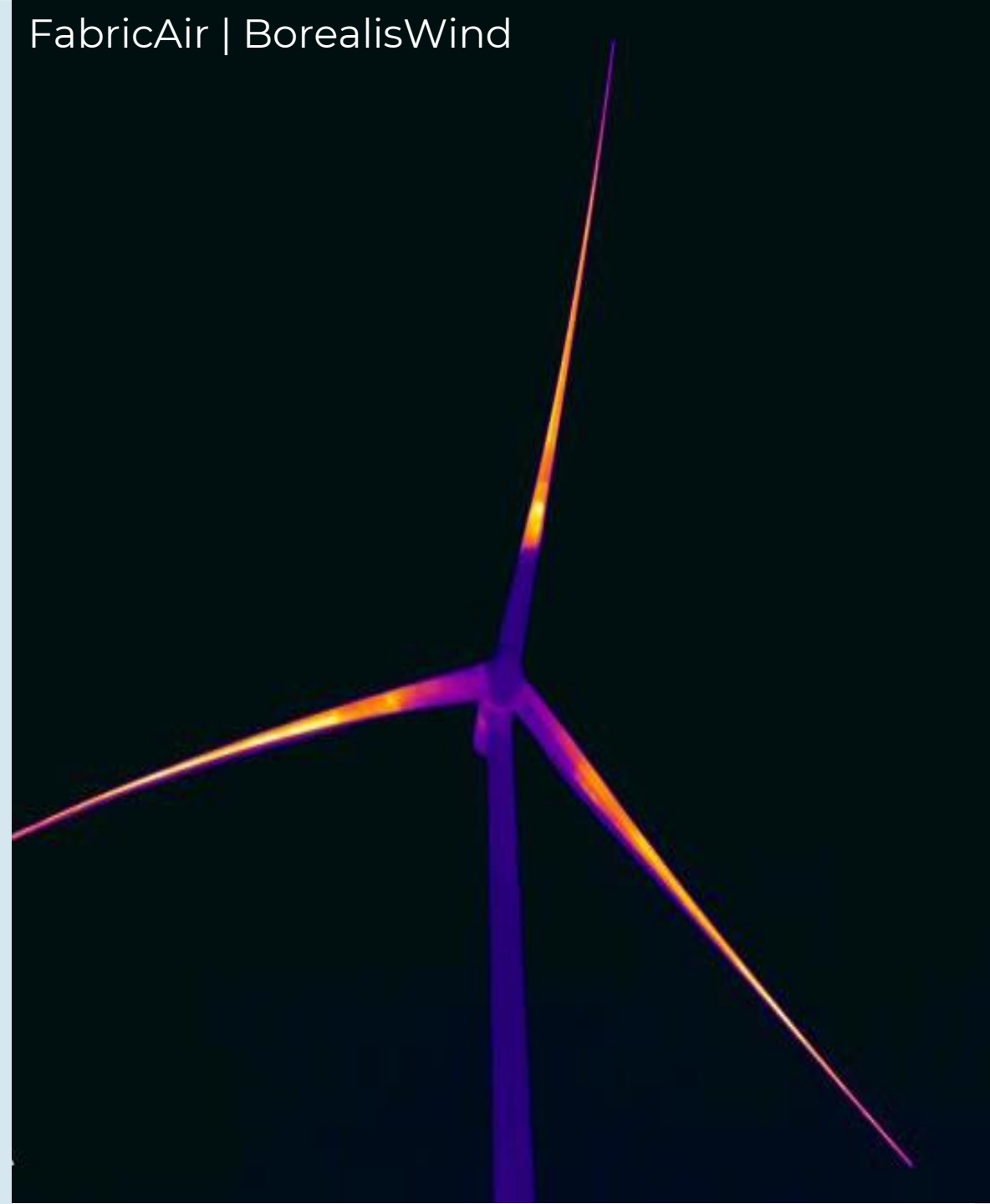
# Cost Benefit Analysis of Ice Protection Systems – Validated with Field Data

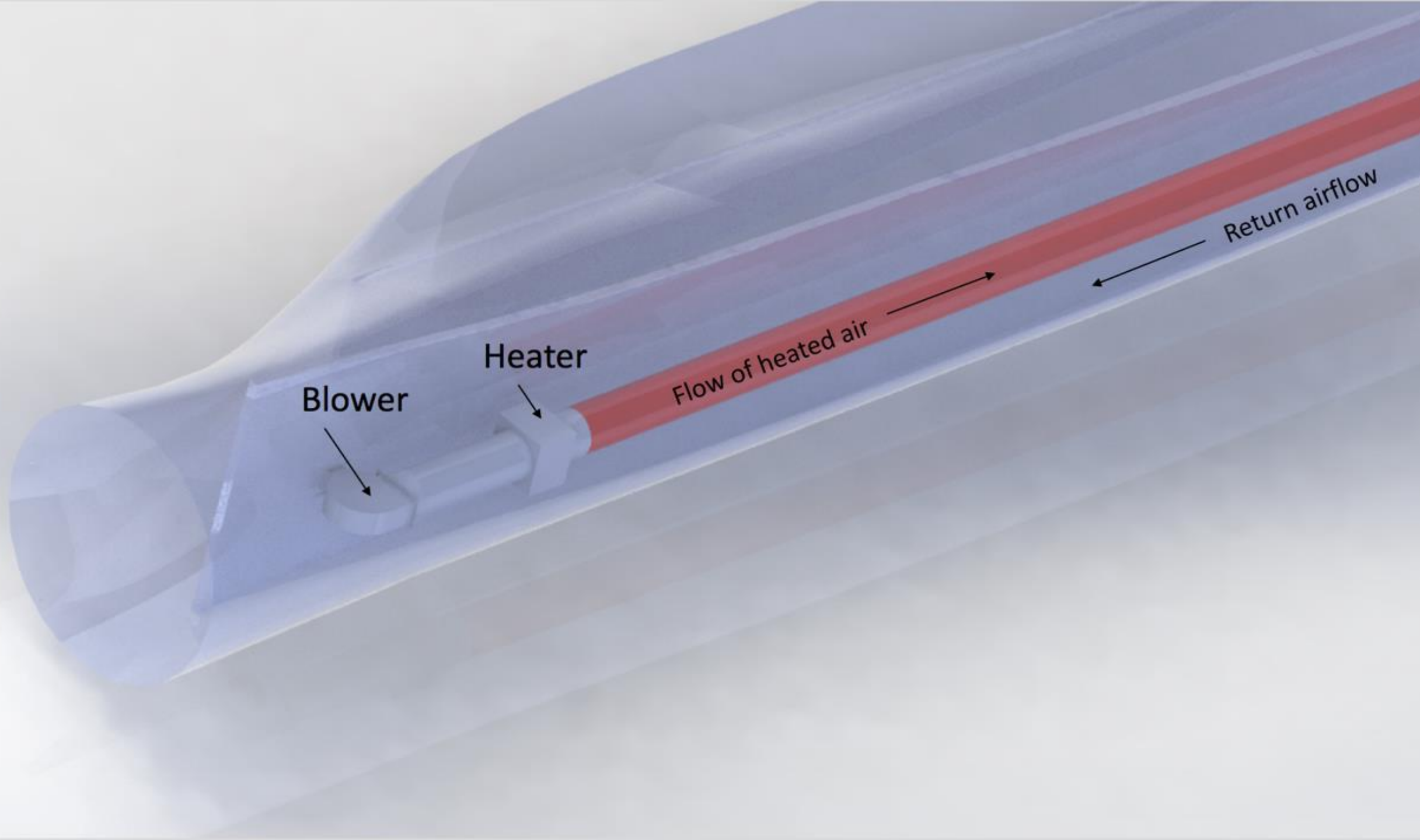
*Daniela Roeper, March 2024*



## Who are we?

- Provide retrofit Ice Protection Systems (IPS)
- 5 wind farms retrofitted in Canada
- 5 winters of operational validation
- 500 MWh energy gain per turbine
- 10% AEP increase on average





Blower

Heater

Flow of heated air

Return airflow

# Infrared Picture of Blade with Ice Protection System

Ambient Temperature -7°C

Wind Speed 6 m/s

Blade Internal Temperature 32°C

Blade External Temperature 11°C





# Case Study: Wind Farm in Canada

- Case study is based on real data that is anonymized
- Class 3 icing site in Canada
- Located on hilly terrain
- Most severely impacted turbines have IPS
- We will review:
  - Costs of icing
  - Costs of the IPS
  - ROI calculation
- Bonus: Global icing data and where an IPS will have a positive ROI



Photo/Robert F. Bukaty



**Turbine is stopped due to icing**

**The hidden  
cost of wind  
turbine icing**

Damage to the turbine

Safety incidents  
due to ice throw

Reduced lifespan of major  
components

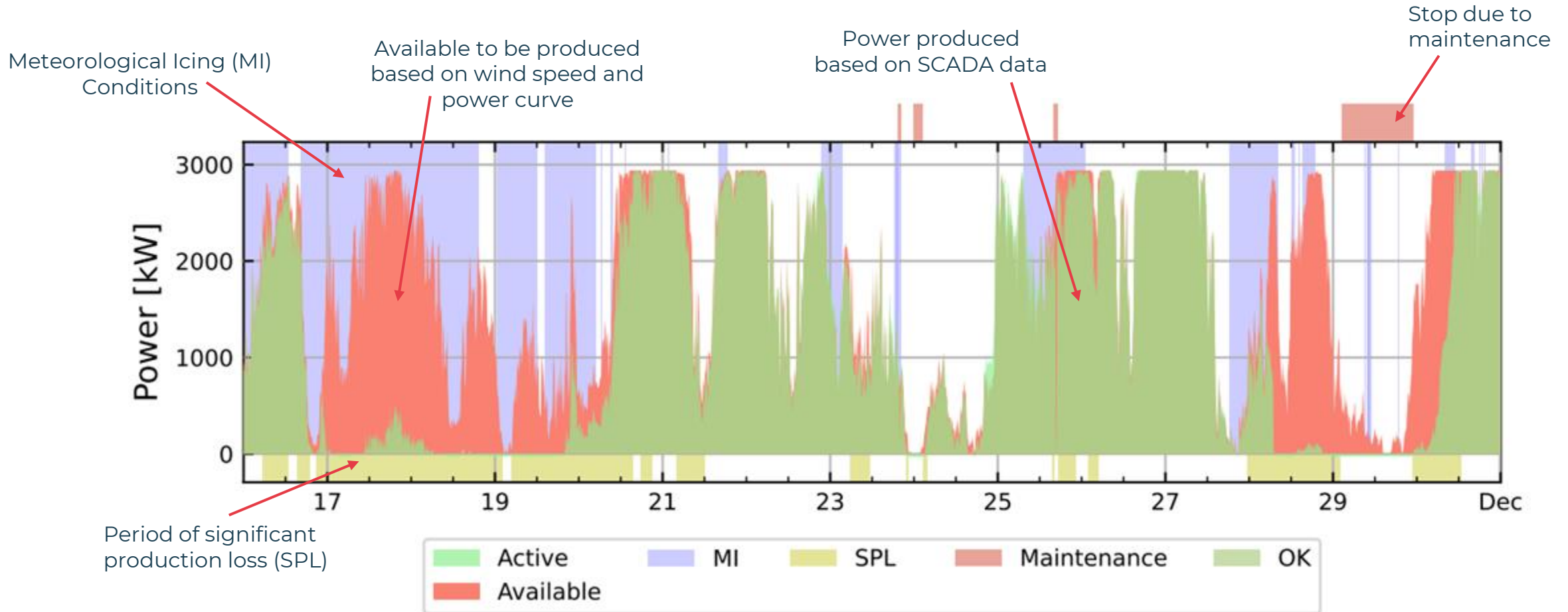
Reduced performance

Penalty due to non-  
delivery of energy

Significant revenue loss  
due to change of energy  
price

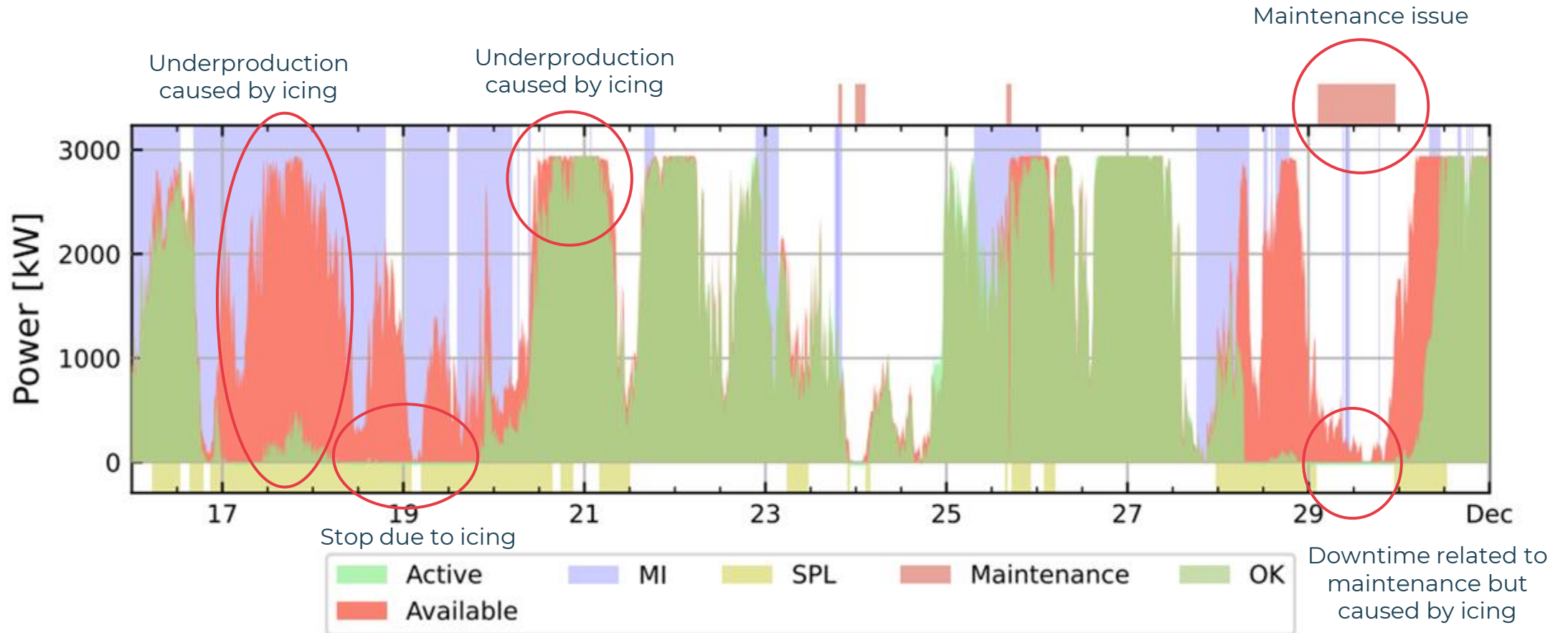


# Cost of Ice – Production Loss



Analysis and Graph by Ictek (Ictek.ca)

# Cost of Ice – Production Loss

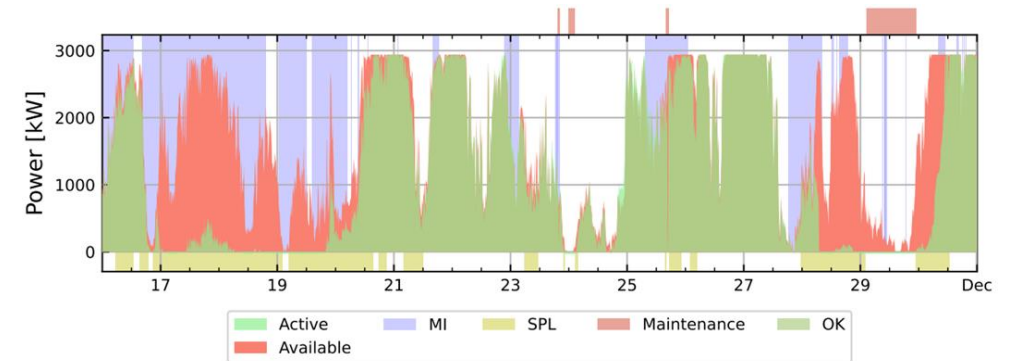


Analysis and Graph by Ictek (Ictek.ca)



# Cost of Ice – Production Loss

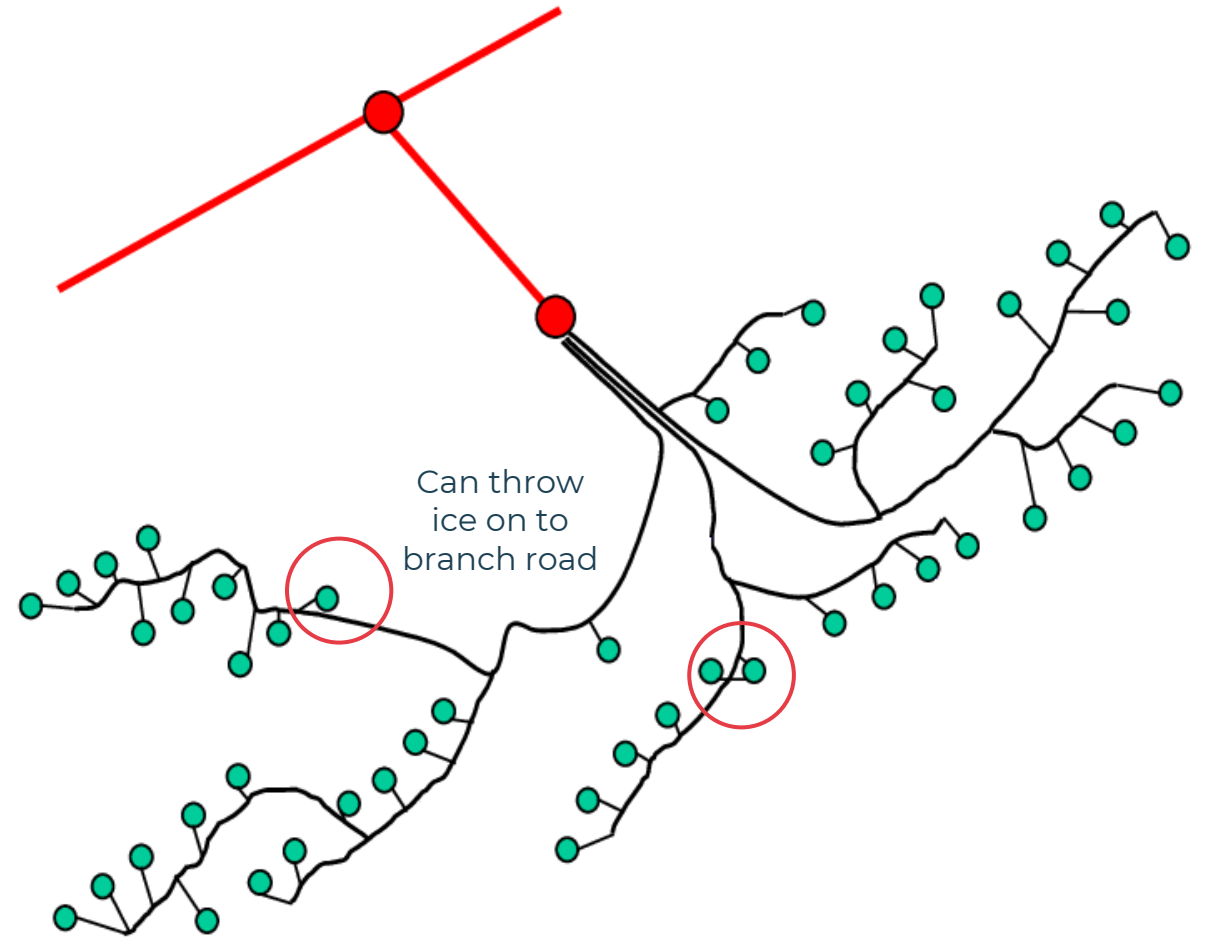
- Reviewed the data for the whole winter in a time series analysis
- Cost:
  - 1180 MWh / turbine / winter
  - PPA at 58 €/MWh
  - **68.440 €** of revenue loss / winter due to lost production



Analysis and Graph by Ictek (Ictek.ca)

# Cost of Ice – Ice Safety Losses

- Ice safety related losses:
  - Inability to access turbine for troubleshooting
  - Inability to access a branch of turbines for troubleshooting
  - Safety of people and workers at risk
- Cost:
  - 3 days of turbine stopped due to no access
  - **4635 € / winter**



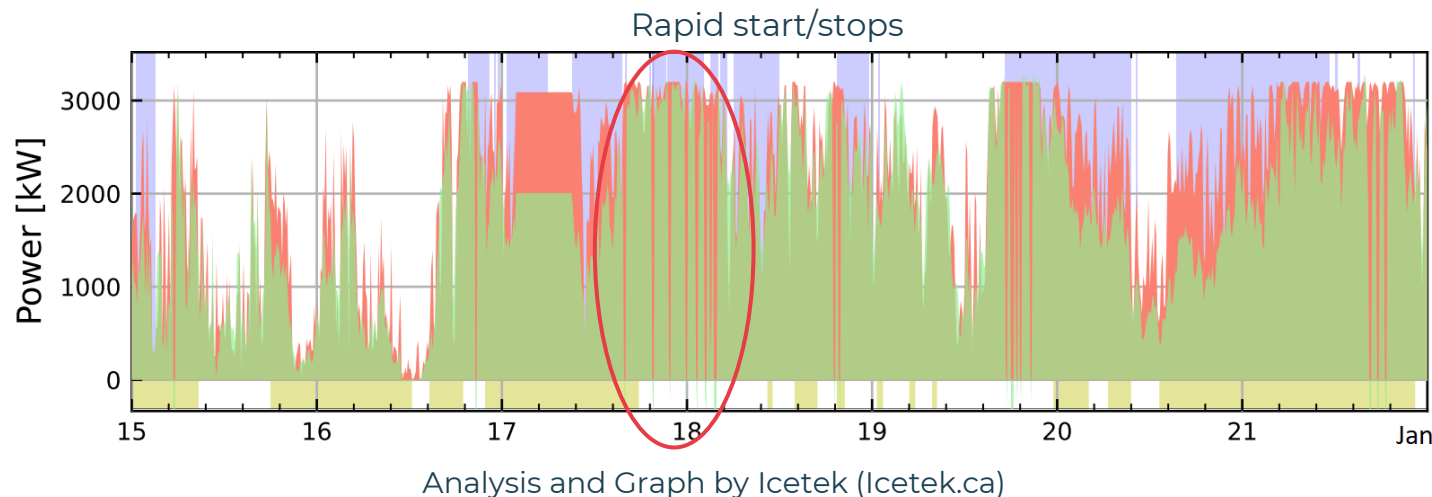
# Cost of Ice – Direct Damage

- Ice throw can cause damage to the turbine itself
  - Blades, nacelle, transformer, stairs
- Can damage nearby buildings
- Can damage vehicles or equipment
- Cost:
  - Damage to turbine stairs: 7000 €
  - Damage to truck windshield: 600 €
  - Assume damage occurs once every 3 winters per turbine: **2533 € / winter**



# Cost of Ice – Lifespan of major components

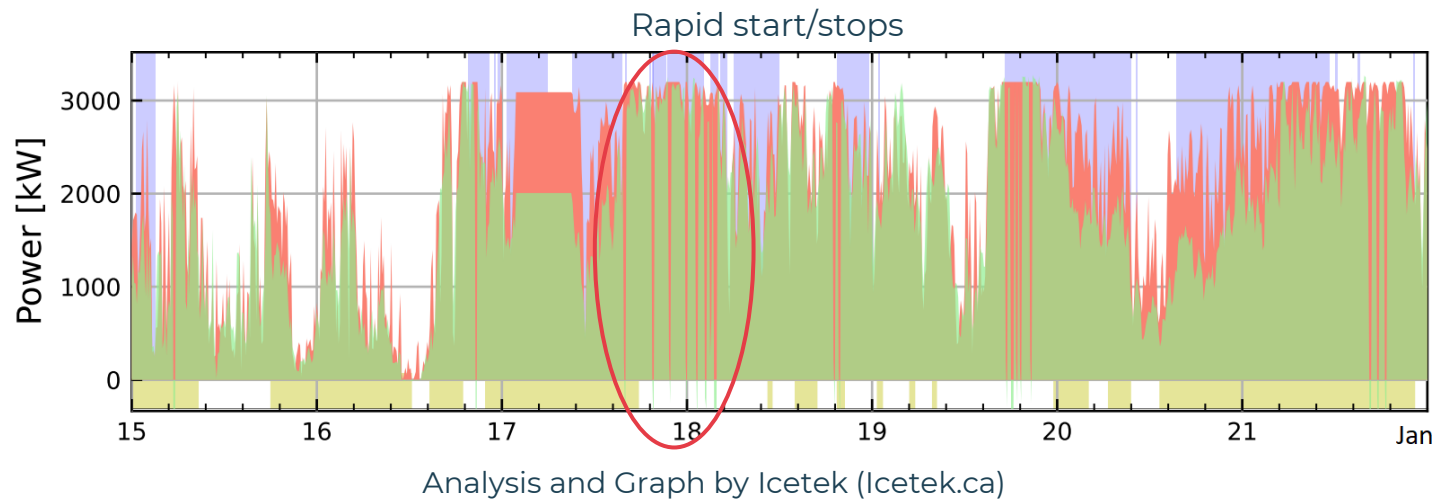
- Additional load and mass imbalance can impact major components
- Additional load often causes the turbine to stop in vibration or oscillation error codes
- Icing can also cause rapid start/stops of the turbine which puts significant strain on the turbine





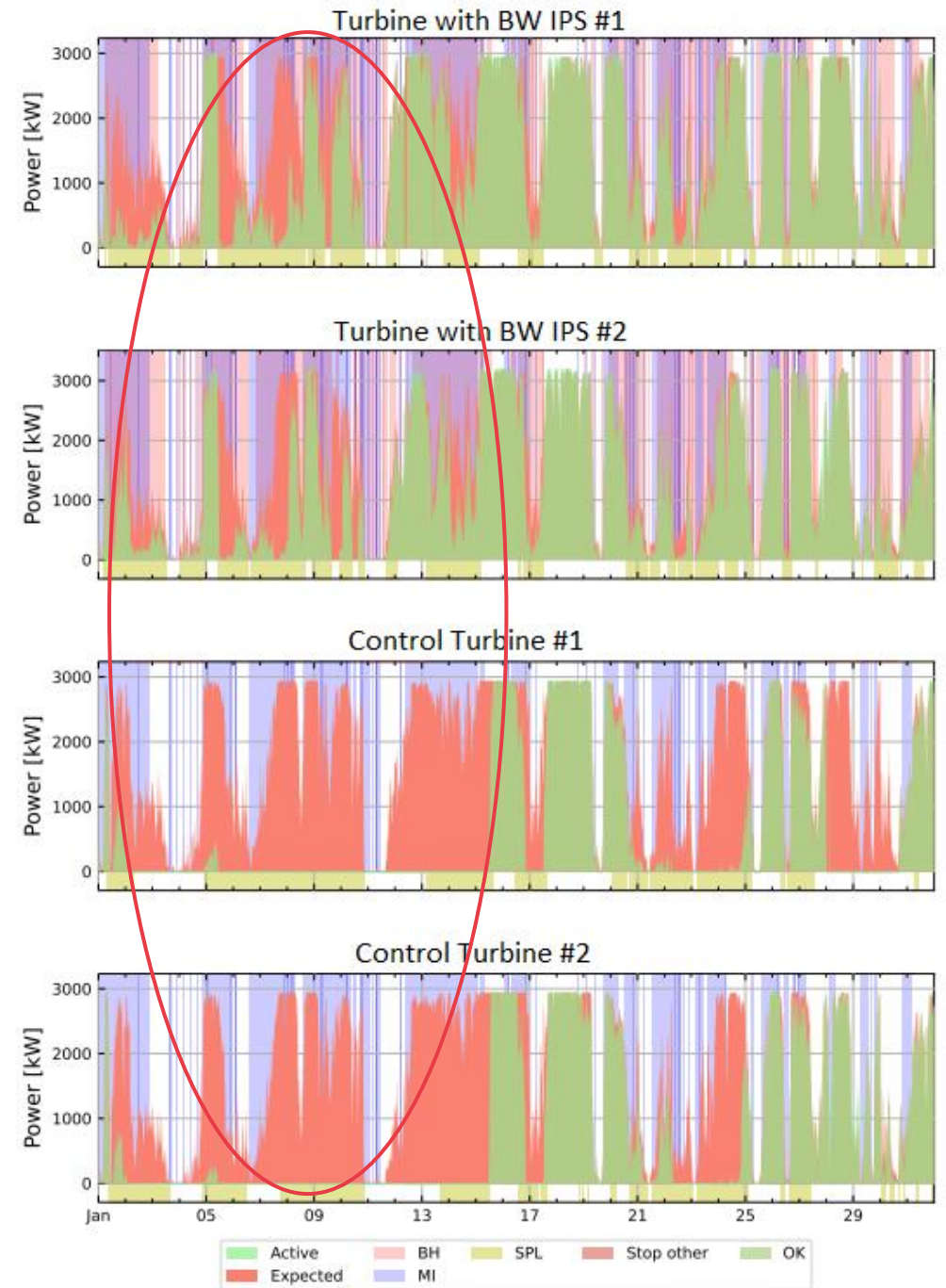
# Cost of Ice – Lifespan of major components

- Cost:
  - Hard to quantify
  - Estimate as: 1 case per 20 turbines per 10 years, with each instance incurring 500k €
  - Annual cost of **2500 €**



# Benefit of IPS – Recovered Production

- Performance of turbines with IPS were compared to neighboring control turbines
- Data is analyzed on a time series basis
- Benefit:
  - 767 MWh / turbine of production loss recovered
  - PPA at 58 €/MWh
  - **44.486 €** of revenue recovered / turbine / winter
  - **65% rate of recovery**

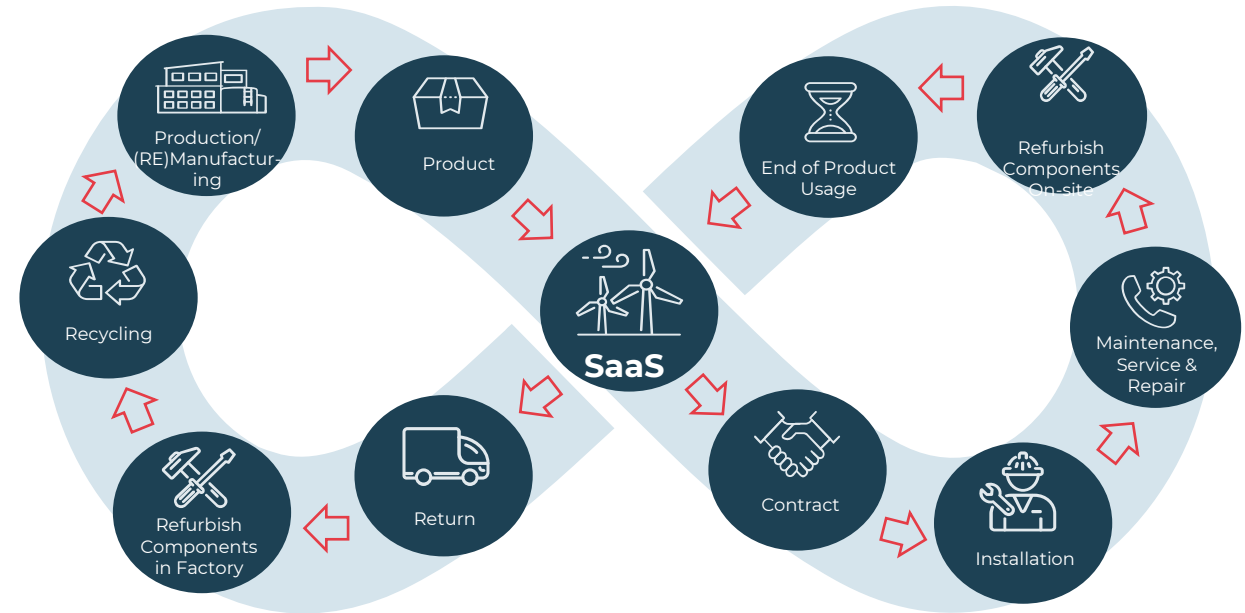


# Recoverable Icing Losses

	Costs of Ice	Recoverable with IPS
Production Loss	68.440 €	44.486 €
Safety Losses	4.635 €	3.013 €
Direct Damage	2.533 €	1.647 €
Long term Damage	2.500 €	1.625 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.109 €</b>	<b>50.771 €</b>

# Cost of IPS – IPS & Maintenance

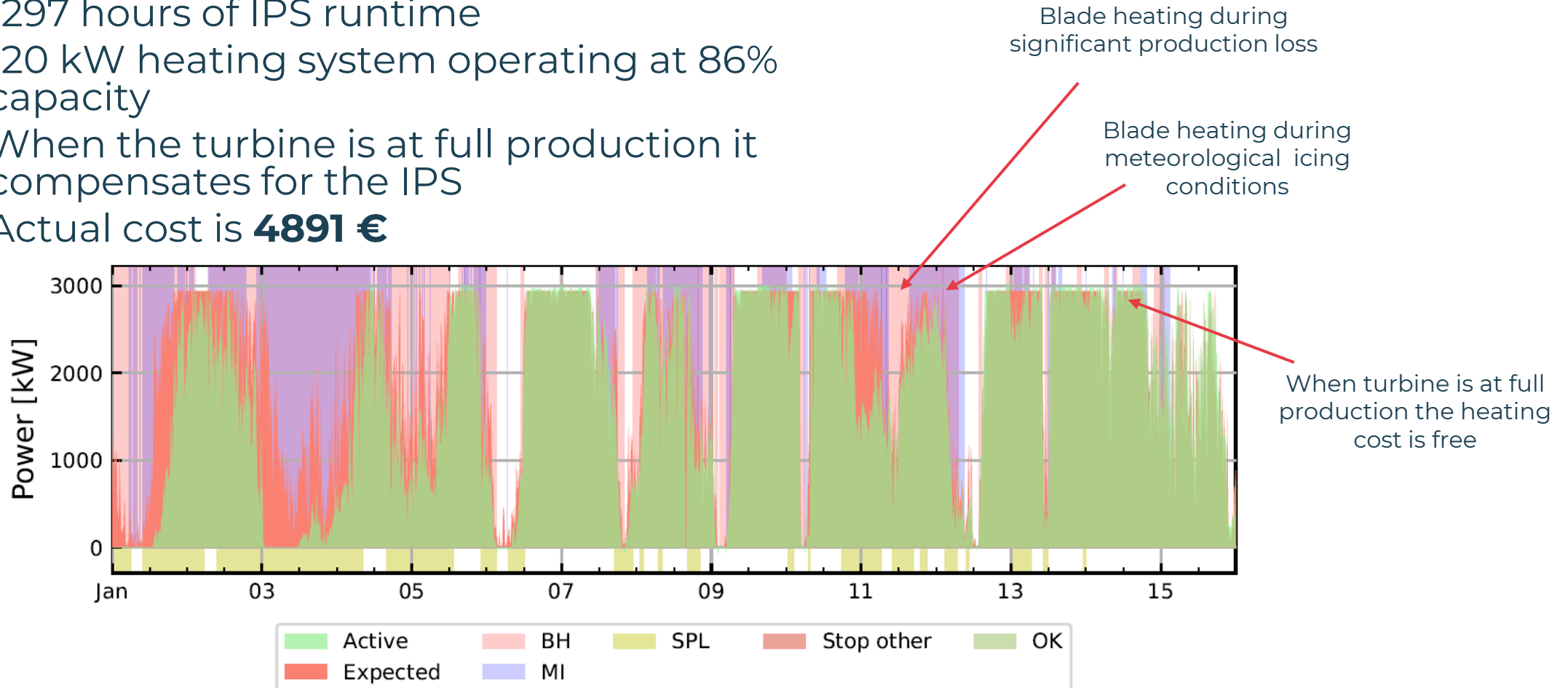
- BorealisWind IPS is based on a system as a service model
  - Installation, maintenance and service are included
  - Availability of the system falls under the comprehensive warranty
- Pricing is based on size of the blade heating system and requirements for maintenance
- For this case study the cost of the IPS is **24.000 € / year**
- Each year there will be 2 days on maintenance stoppage which is therefore worth **780 €**





# Cost of IPS – Power Consumption

- Cost:
  - 1297 hours of IPS runtime
  - 120 kW heating system operating at 86% capacity
  - When the turbine is at full production it compensates for the IPS
  - Actual cost is **4891 €**



# IPS Cost Benefit Summary

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	<b>Recoverable with IPS</b>	<b>Cost of IPS</b>
Recovered Revenue	50.771 €	
Cost of IPS		24.000 €
Power Consumption		4.891 €
Maintenance Downtime		780 €
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>21.100 €</b>	
<b>Effective AEP Increase</b>	<b>4%</b>	

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# Conditions for Return on Investment (ROI)

Legend

	Excellent ROI
	Positive ROI
	Negative ROI

Estimated Production Loss at 58 €/MWh		Ice Class				
		1	2	3	4	5
Size of Turbine (MW)	2	1.880 €	11.280 €	26.320 €	45.120 €	75.200 €
	3	2.820 €	16.920 €	39.480 €	67.680 €	112.800 €
	4	3.760 €	22.560 €	52.640 €	90.240 €	150.400 €
	6	5.640 €	33.840 €	78.960 €	135.360 €	225.590 €

FabricAir

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# For more information:

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