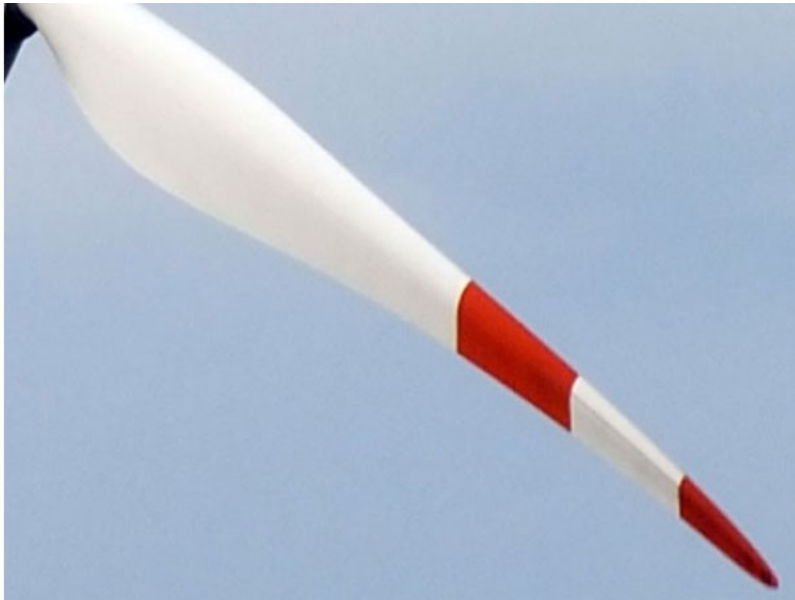


Blattmonitoring an der Spitze des Rotorblattes  
-  
Condition Monitoring at the Tip of a Rotor Blade



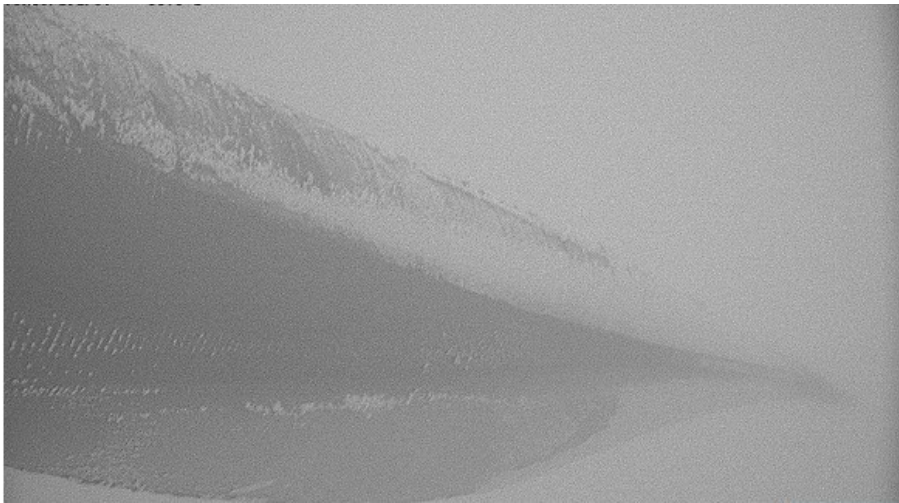
**Thomas Schlegl, Theresa Loss**  
**eologix sensor technology gmbh**



## Different interesting things going on on the blade surface

- Icing
- Heating Results
- Vibration & Loads

# Große Verluste durch Vereisungen



## Huge losses due to unreliable ice detection:

- Stopped operation although no ice on the blades
- Delayed re-start (ice on the blades already disappeared)
- Safety and load issues in case there is undetected ice

# Blattbasierte Eisdetektion



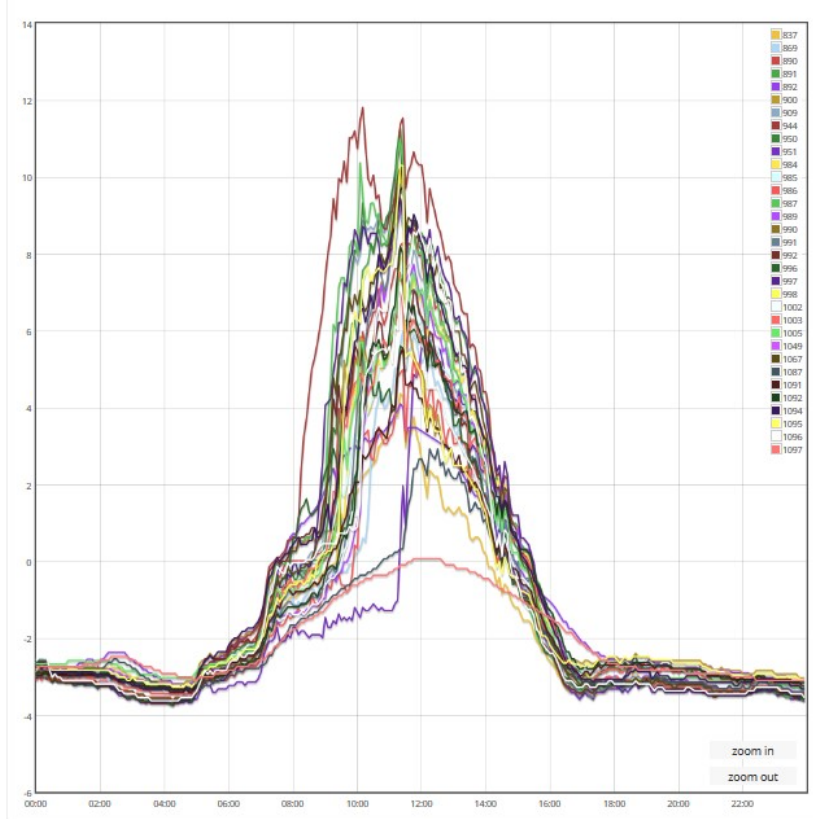
## Ice Detection where it occurs:

- Directly on the blades
- Thin as well as thick layers of ice should be differentiated
- Special customer needs:
  - “No ice at all on the blades”
  - “Want to keep the blades ice free / Control heating solution”

# Temperatur der Blattoberfläche

## Temperatur measurement

- directly on the blade surface
- accuracy +/- 0.25° C
- fully calibrated
- excellent long term stability (< 0.04 °C/yr)



# Heizungssteuerung

## Heating solution should be used to

- Keep blades ice free
- In severe conditions, icing of blades should be delayed
- Ice should be detected just before it occurs and when it is gone
  - Predictive Ice Detection
  - Turn on/off heating at correct times



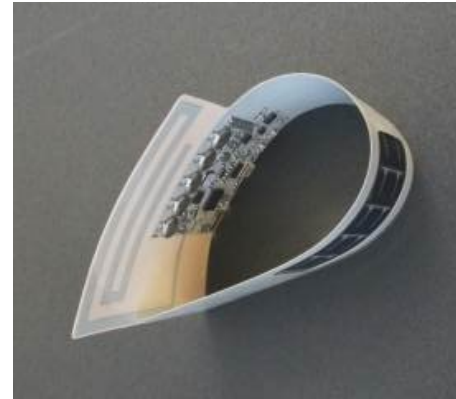
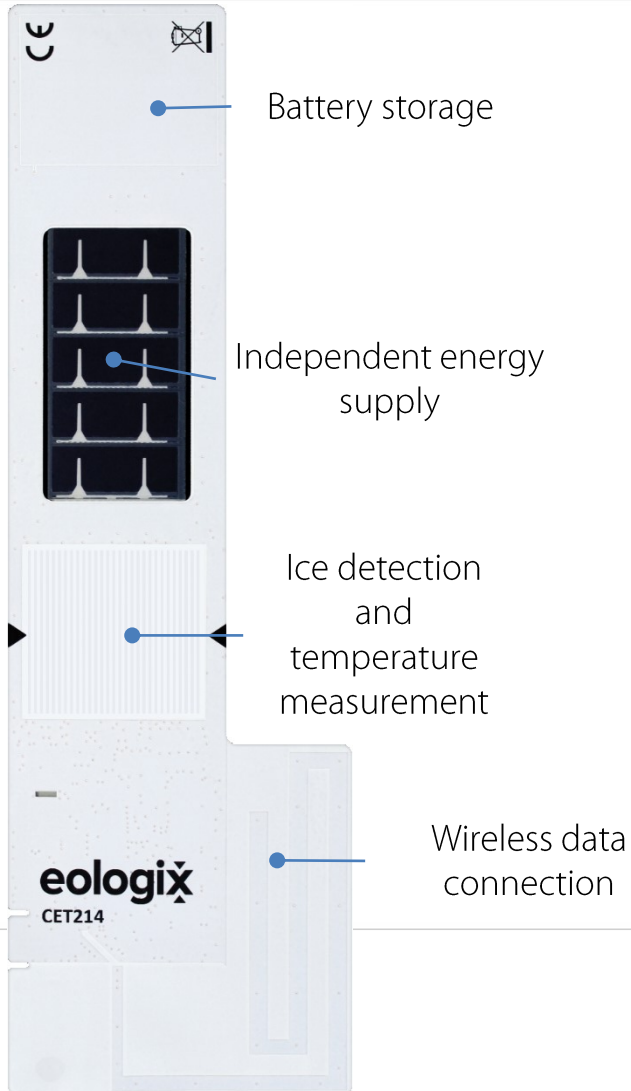
# Heated Turbine: Ice Creation & Heater Control



Turbine with heating solution



# Sensor

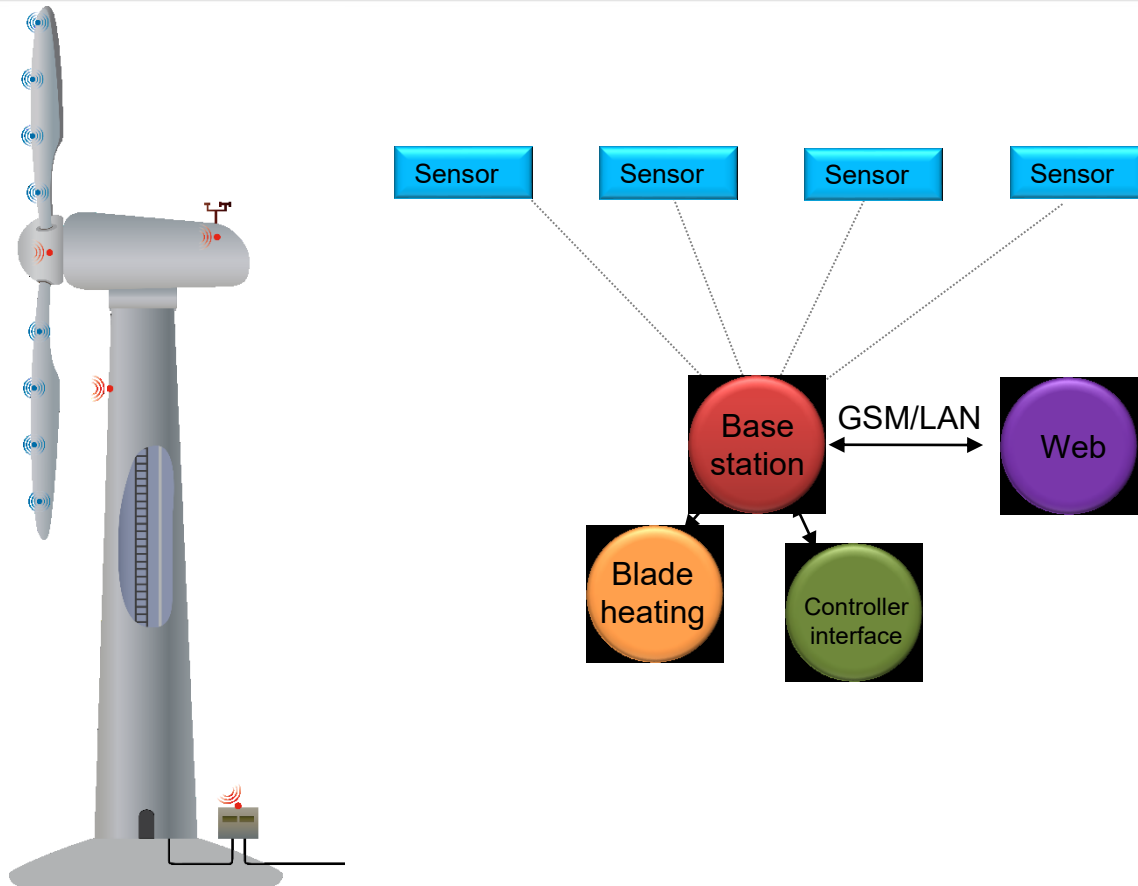


## Sensors

- Wireless
- Integrated power supply and storage
- Thin & flexible foil
- Direct ice detection on the blade surface
- Detects thin ice layers as well as thick ones
- Distinguishes ice layer thicknesses
- Surface temperature measurement
- Robust & reliable
- Decoupled & isolated from internal wiring
- No influences on or from lightning
- Easy to apply even as retro-fit
- Inexpensive solution
- DNV GL certified



# Empfangsstation



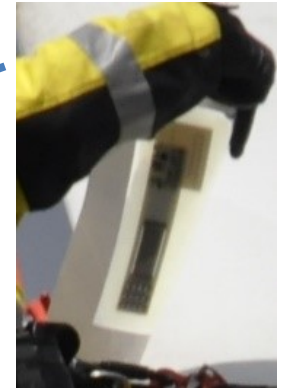
## Data acquisition unit

- Measurement data acquisition & analysis
- Autonomous offline fully functional
- Optional controller integration
- Optional data transfer LAN or wireless via GSM
- Automatic stop & restart function DNV GL certified
- Mounted in the nacelle or else where

# Installation Examples: Ground based installation



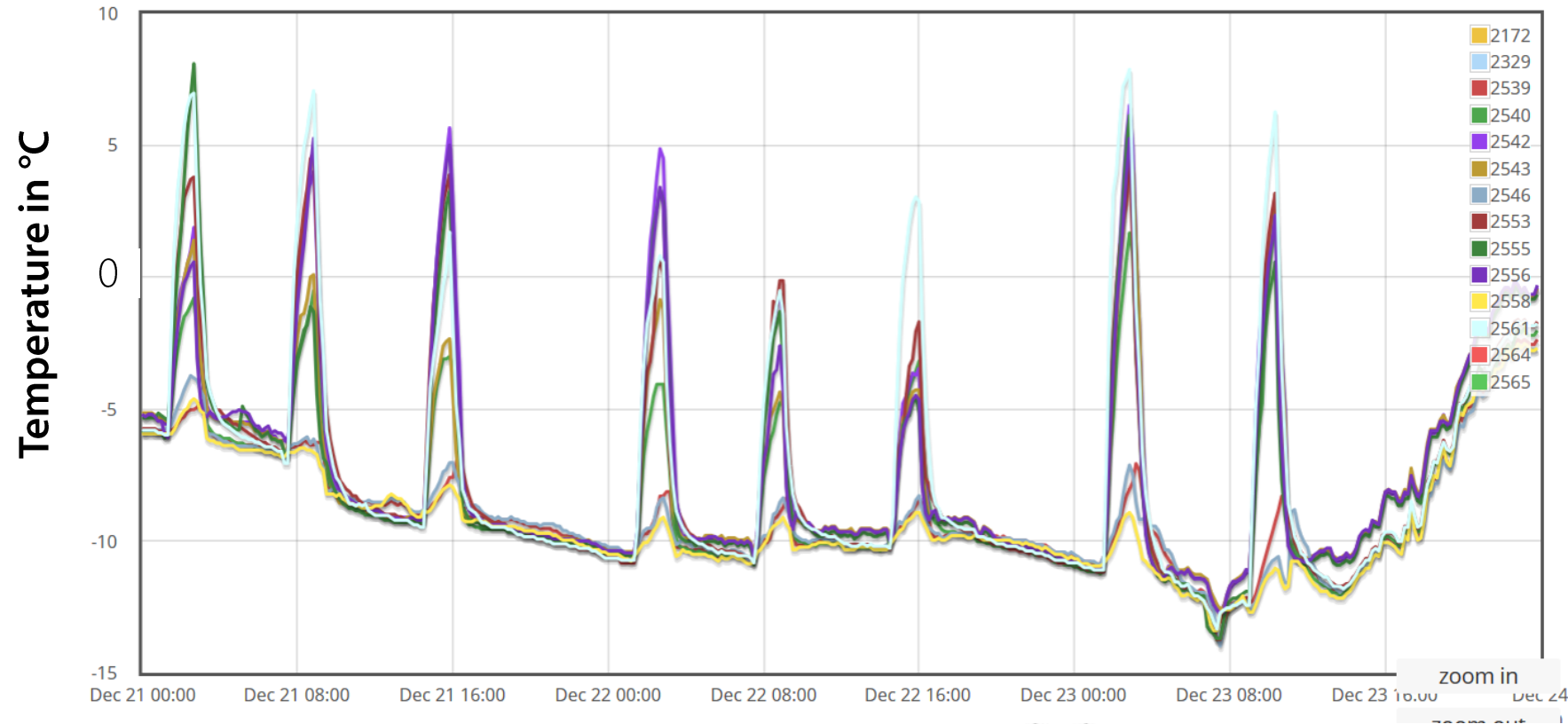
# Installation Examples: In-air installation by rope-climbers



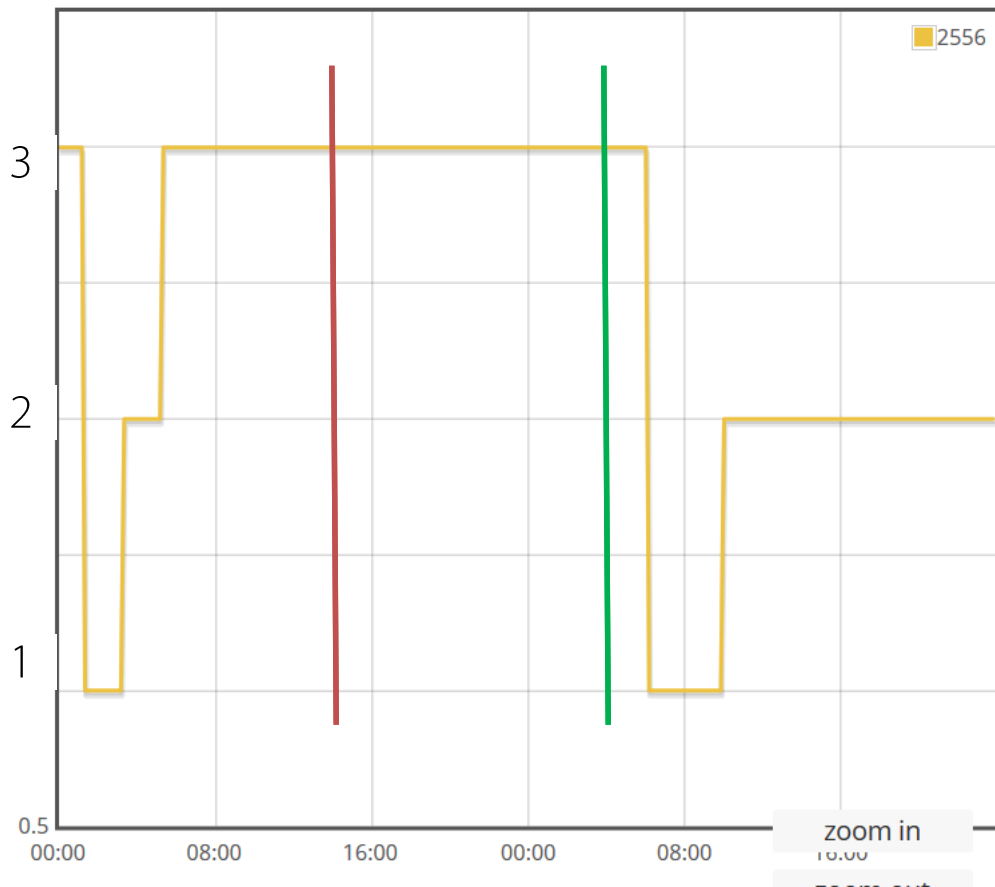
Stoppage of turbines for installation purpose: usually 1-2 days

# Heated Turbine: Ice creation & Heater Control

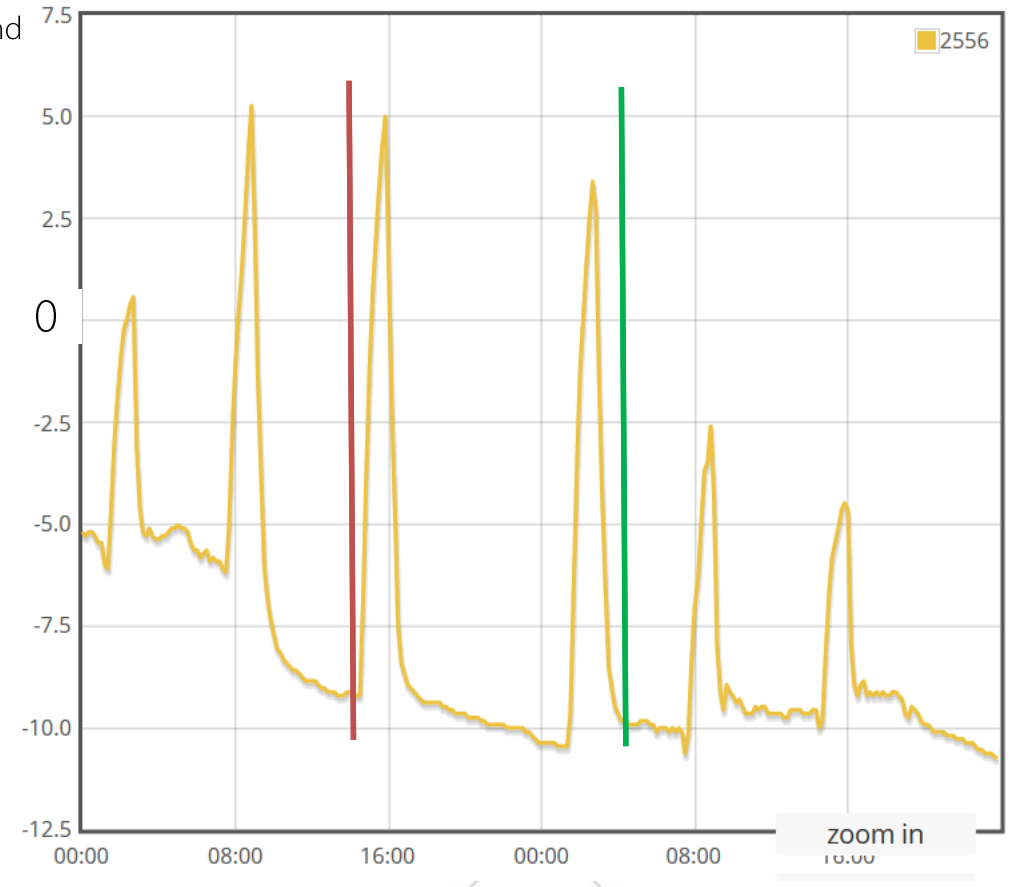
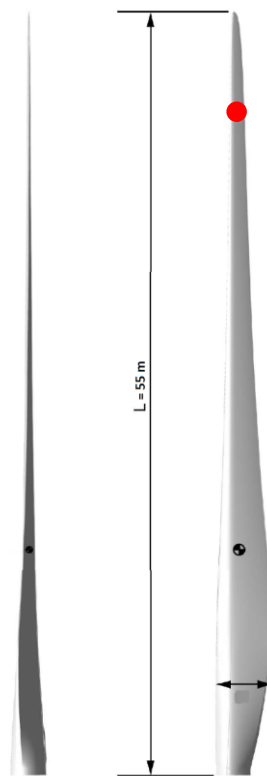
- Temperature from  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>



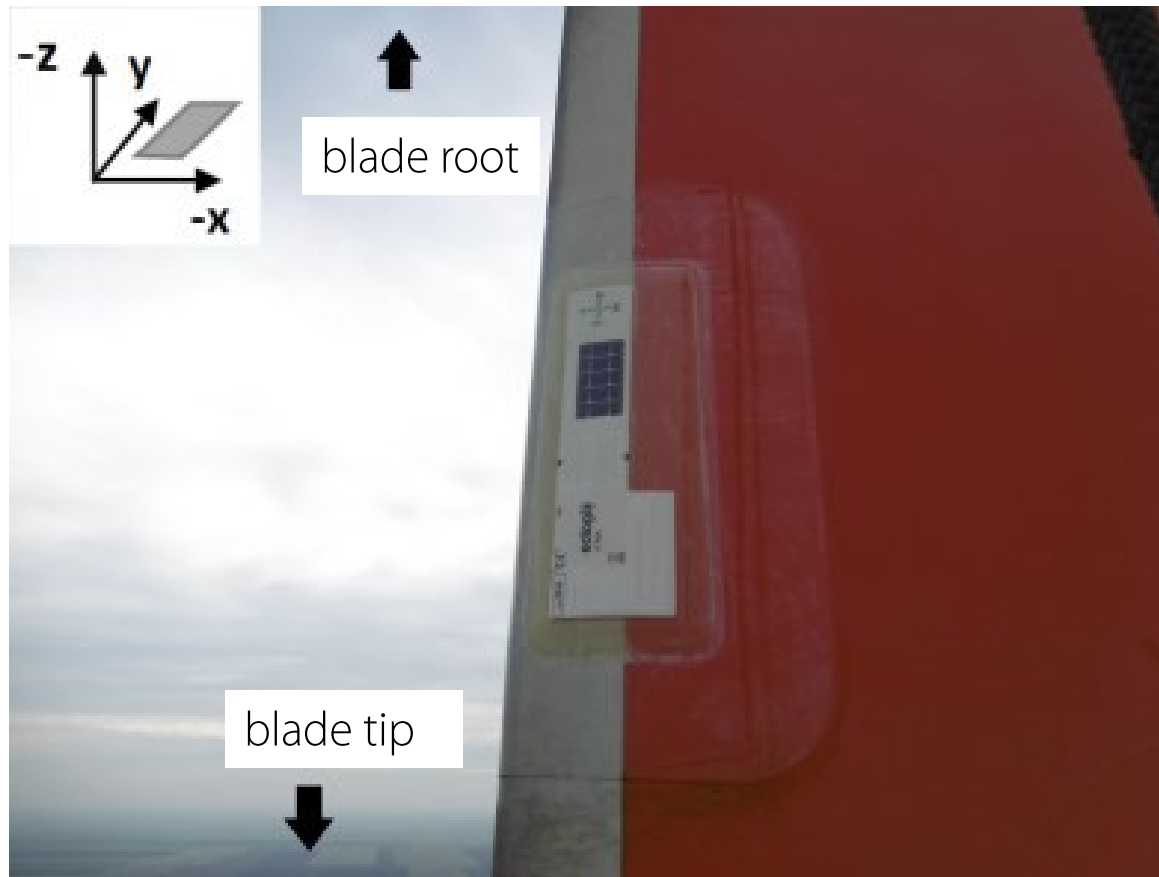
# Heated Turbine: Ice creation & Heater Control



Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>



# Vibrationsmessung am Tip



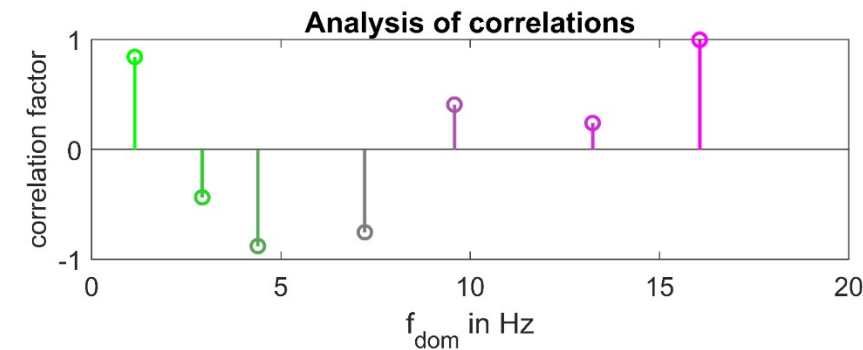
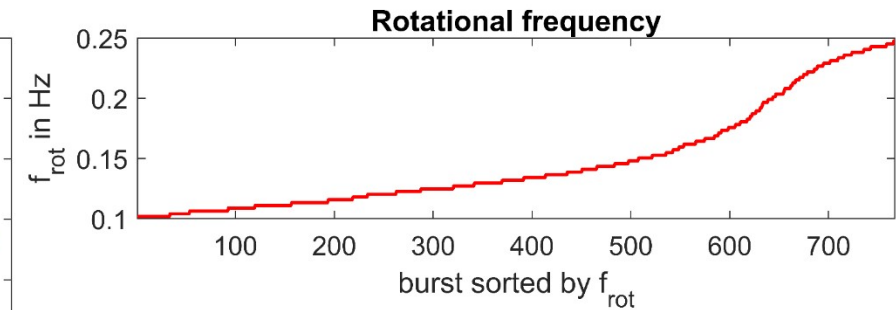
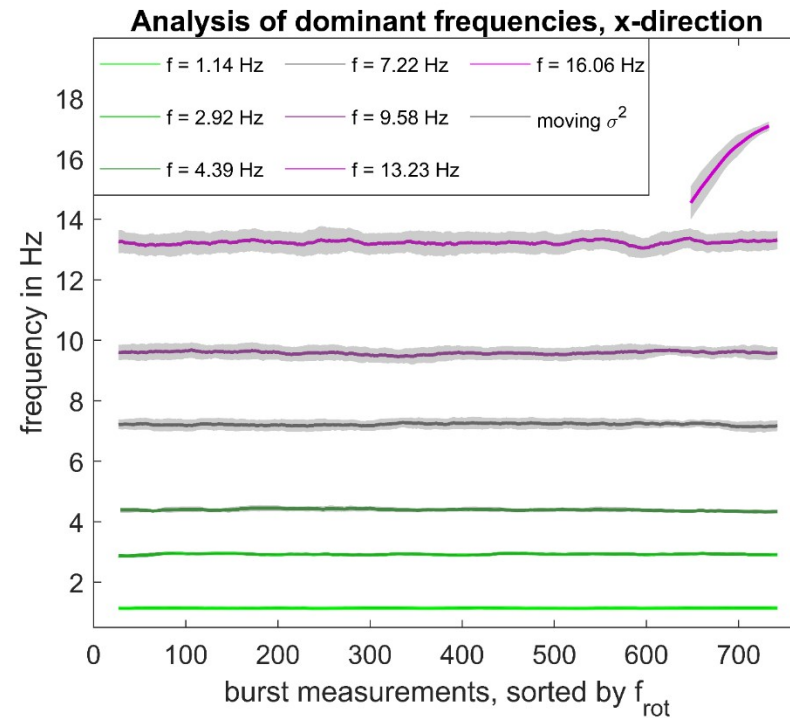
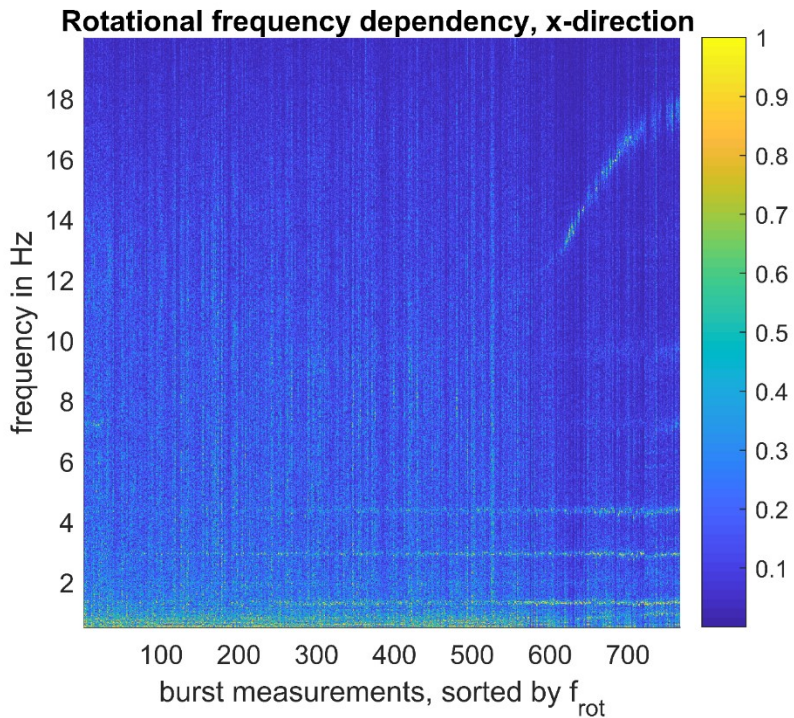
## Sensor Placement:

- > 90% of the blade length
- On the outside (no space limitations, easy maintenance)
- Placing accelerometers on the blade tip → Maximum deflection

## How ?

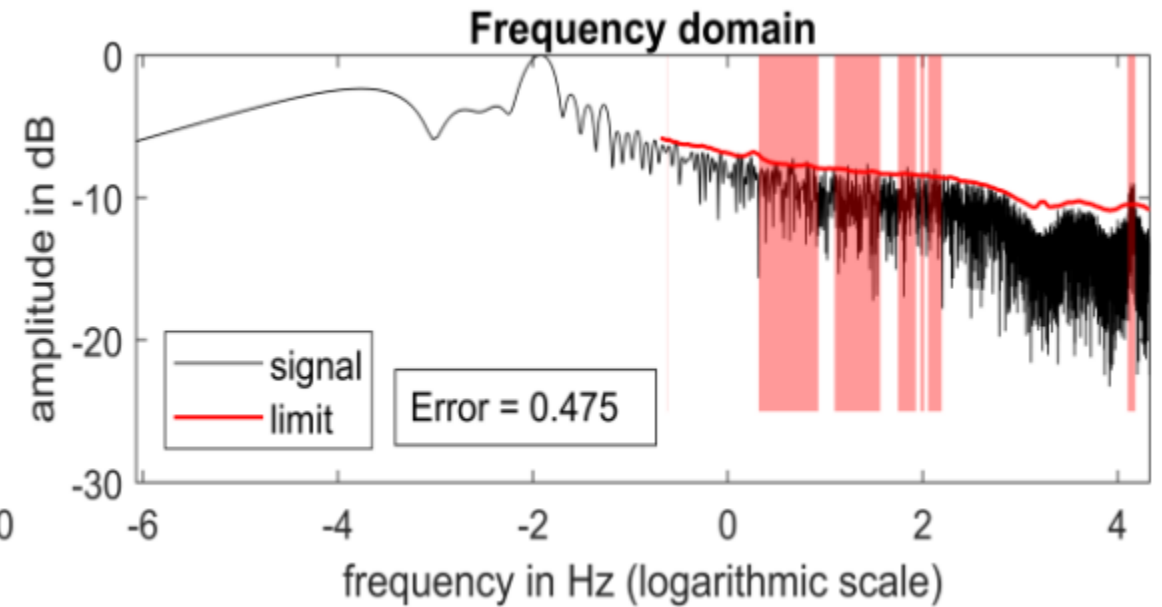
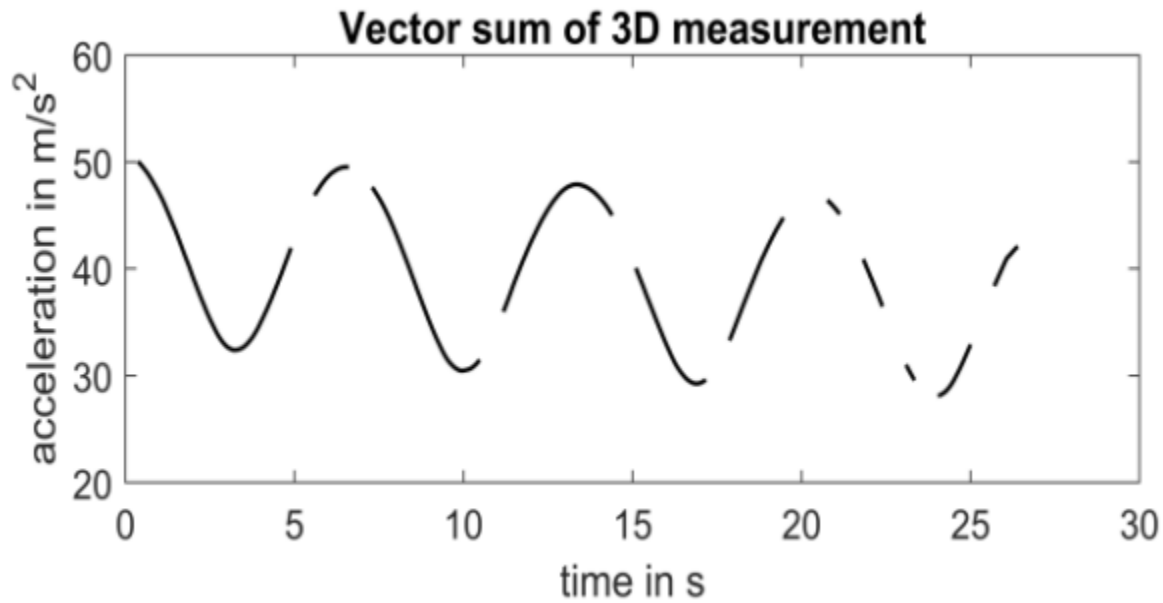
- Integration of MEMS sensor element into sensor
- Thin and flexible design
- Wireless power supply and data transmission
- Burst measurements of  $\hat{\quad}$  26s @ ~150 Hz

# Messdaten – Charakterisierung v. Vibrationsdaten



- Increased vibrations for high rotational frequencies (DF at  $f=16.1 \text{ Hz}$ ,  $f_{rot} > 0.2 \text{ Hz}$ )
- Increasing DFs with increasing  $f_{rot}$  (stiffening effect of the blades)
- Few DFs with a very small or even negative correlation

# Turbine Setting Monitoring





# Feature Development

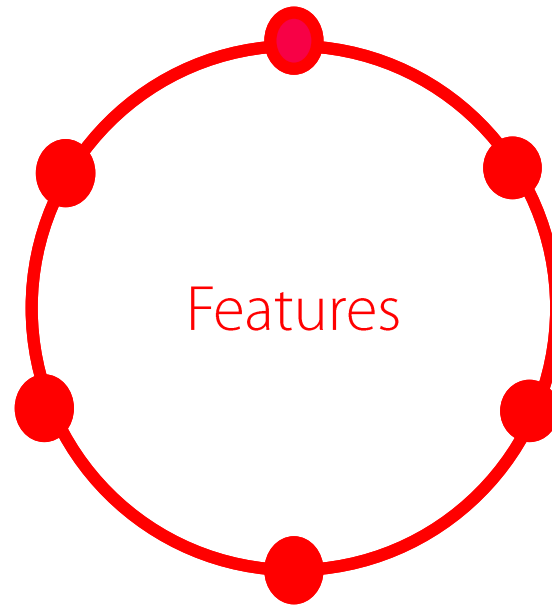
Non-ideal circular movement,  
Split into right/left half-circle  
Difference in rotational frequencies:

$$F_{RL}$$

Non-ideal circular movement,  
Split into top/bottom half-circle  
Difference in rotational frequencies:

$$F_{TB}$$

Rotational frequency  $f_0$ ,  
estimated from FFT



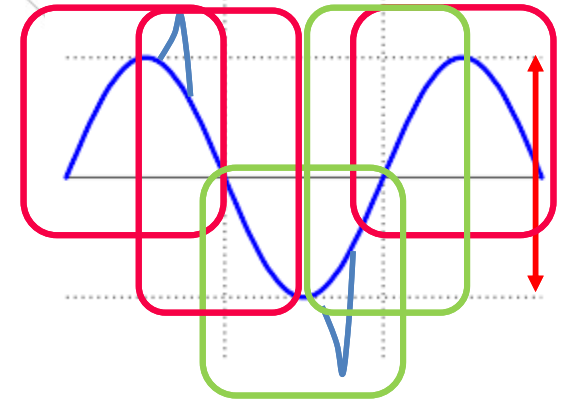
AC amplitude  $F_{SC}$

Periodic deviations from  
ideal sine wave  
(top / bottom)

Peak widths:  $F_{PW1} / F_{PW2}$

Periodic deviations from  
ideal sine wave (top / bottom)

Peak distances:  $F_{PD1} / F_{PD2}$



# Blattspitzenbewegungen



## Settings:

- 4 week real world data set
- MEMS sensor mounted on the blade tip
- Wind turbine with a diameter of 101 m
- Preprocessing: interpolation of missing values (transmission errors)

# Real Data Evaluation

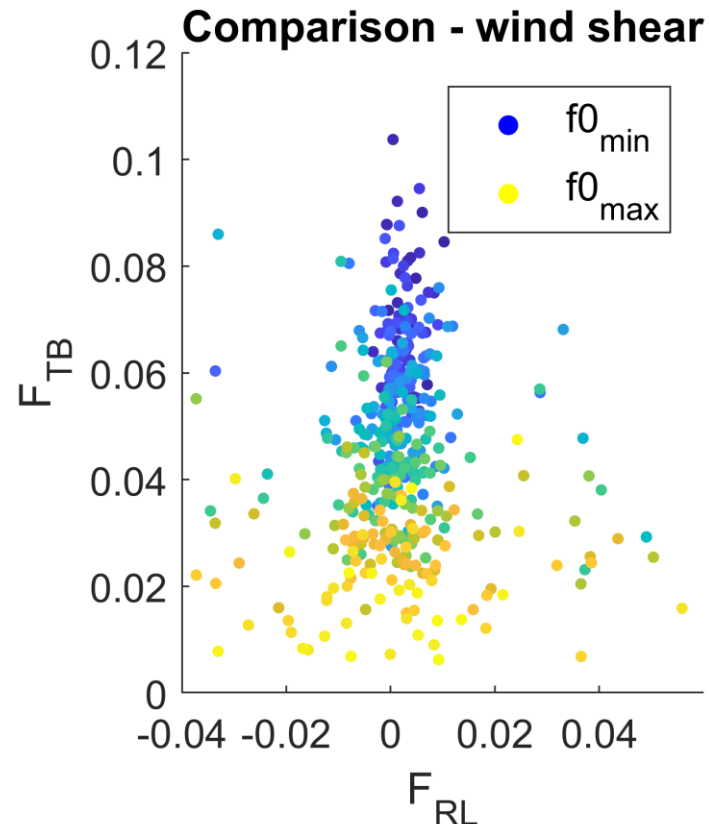
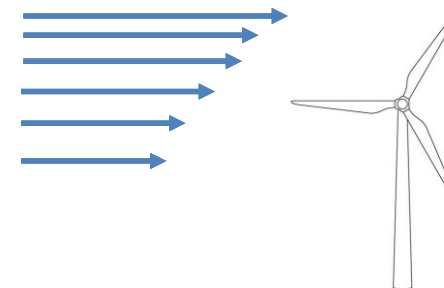


Figure 12: Evaluation of wind shear features

- Decrease of  $F_{TB}$  with increasing  $f_{rot}$  (balanced rotation, stiffening)
- Spread of  $F_{RL}$  at higher  $f_{rot}$  (difficult alignment at higher windspeeds)



# Real Data Evaluation

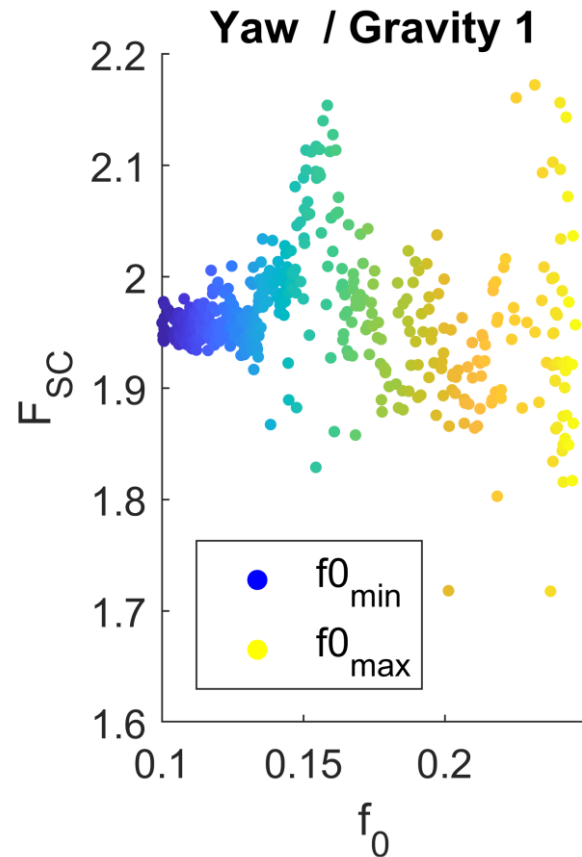


Figure 13: Evaluation yaw features

- Increased variance of  $F_{SC}$  at 0.15 Hz (imperfect alignment of turbine and wind direction)
- Decrease of  $F_{SC}$  at higher  $f_{rot}$  (difficult alignment at higher windspeeds)

# Selected References



OEM:



Austria:



International:



# Zusammenfassung & Ausblick



- Einfach nachrüstbar
- Keine externen Daten nötig
- Messung an der Blattspitze essentiell für Eis, Temperatur und Bewegungsmonitoring
- Vibrationsmessung an der Blattspitze wurden das erste Mal überhaupt in Betrieb gemessen
- Höhere Lasten und Vibrationen können gemessen und erkannt werden

Vielen Dank!

contact us:

[thomas.schlegl@eologix.com](mailto:thomas.schlegl@eologix.com)

T: +43 (0) 316 931215 300