

30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
30 GW YEARS OF OPERATION

# OUR EXPERIENCE YOUR ADVANTAGE



900+ Utility-Scale  
Projects Worldwide



Nearly 20 GW Awarded  
or Installed Globally



Installations in  
25+ Countries



Ron Corio develops  
first solar tracker  
for the Wattsun  
concentrator  
module.

1989

Helium Balloon Tracker  
built for Steve Fossett's  
first Around the World  
attempt.



360 degree tracker  
purchased by the  
Canadian Government  
for use in the Arctic  
Circle.

1996



DuraTrack® HZ  
installed in largest  
utility-scale solar  
project in the US, a  
6 MW site located in  
Alamosa, CO.

2006



Array partners with RWDI to  
study and solve how  
trackers should be designed  
for wind

1 GW Shipment Milestone  
surpassed

2012



DuraTrack® HZ v3 is  
launched and ships to its  
first utility-scale site,  
Tranquility 256 MW.

2015



Array introduces  
SmarTrack™  
optimization software to  
boost power production.

2018

1992

Ron Corio  
purchases the  
Wattsun  
Corporation and  
forms Array  
Technologies,  
Inc.



2004

Array Technologies  
begins shipping trackers  
to utility-scale projects  
across Europe and Asia,  
including a 5.7 MW site  
in South Korea.

2011

DuraTrack® HZ's terrain  
flexibility wins over fixed-  
tilt for 20 MW site  
located in Arizona,  
avoiding grading and  
maximizing land  
occupancy.

2013

Array Technologies  
ships DuraTrack® HZ  
tracker to a 265 MW  
in California, the  
largest tracked thin  
film project in the  
world, at the time!



2017

Array expands  
globally and opens  
offices in Europe,  
Central and South  
America, and  
Australia.



2019

Array celebrates  
30 years of solar  
innovation and  
surpasses 17+ GW  
awarded or  
installed  
milestone.

# RWDI

## Principal wind consultant on ...

- 7 of the world's 10 tallest buildings
  - Nearly half of the top 100 (according to CTBUH)
- Some of the world's longest-span bridges

NAME	HEIGHT/SPAN (m)	LOCATION
Jeddah Tower	1,000	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Burj Khalifa	828	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Shanghai Tower	632	Shanghai, China
Messina Strait Bridge (Suspension)	3,300	Sicily to Calabria, Italy
Golden Gate Bridge (Suspension)	1,280	San Francisco, CA, USA
Stonecutters Bridge (Cable-Stayed)	1,020	Hong Kong, China

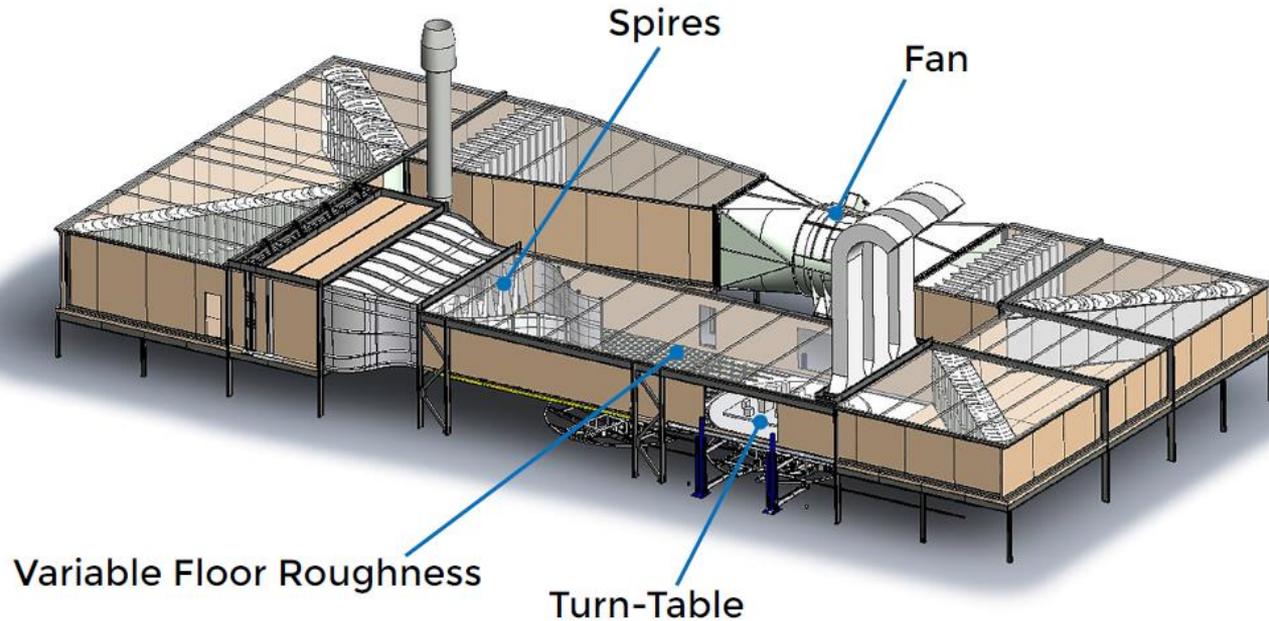


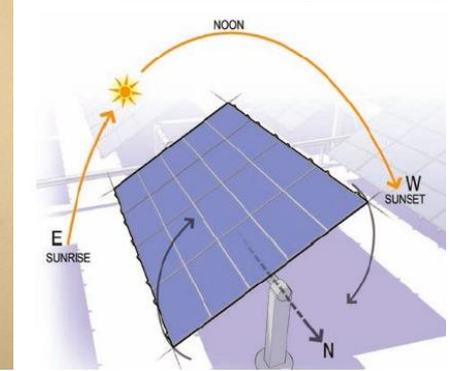


# RWDI will discuss

- Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Testing
- Key Challenges of Single-Axis Trackers
- Components of Total Wind Load
- Aeroelastic Model Testing
- Aerodynamic Damping and Stiffness
- Stow Tilt Strategies: Low, Mid, High

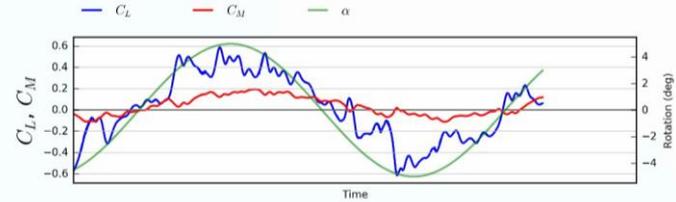
# Boundary-Layer Wind Tunnel Testing





# Key Challenges of Single-Axis Trackers

- Prone to aerodynamic instabilities
- Torsional Galloping at Low Tilt Angles
- Torsional Flutter at Mid Tilt Angles
- Aeroelastic effects
- Self-Excited Forces
- Design Wind Loads?
- Stow strategy?

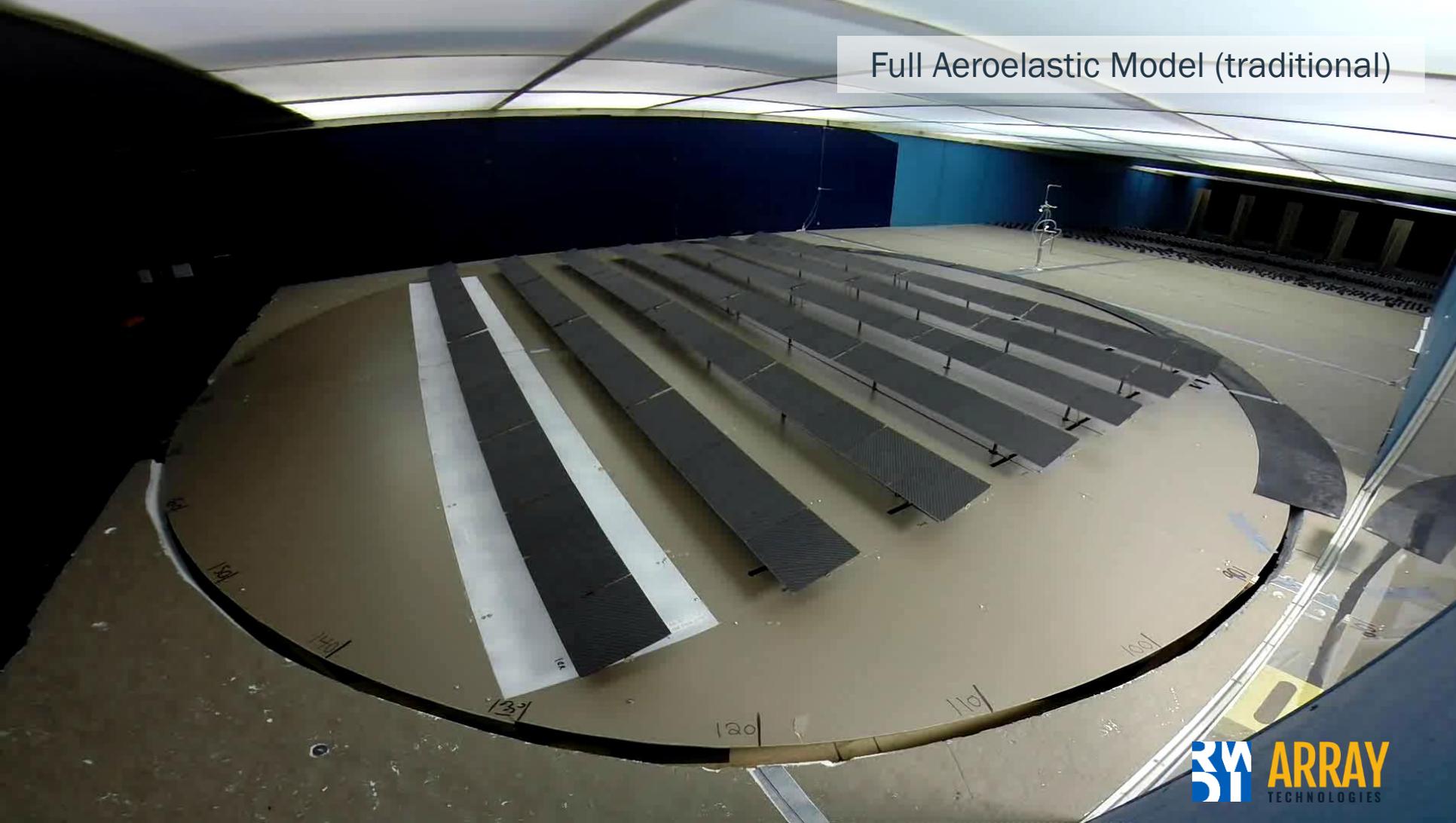


# Components of Total Wind Load

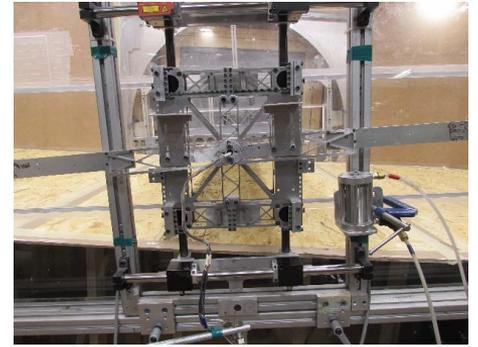
$$[K]\{Z\} = \underbrace{\{F\}_{SE} + \{F\}_{BUFF}}_{\text{Aeroelastic Model Test}} - \underbrace{[M]\{\ddot{Z}\} - [C]\{\dot{Z}\}}_{\text{Conventional Pressure Model Test + DAF Approximation}}$$

Stiffness Force      Self-Excited Force      Buffeting Force      Inertial Force      Damping Force

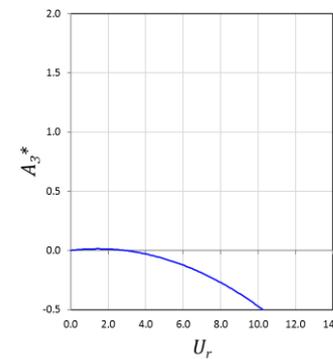
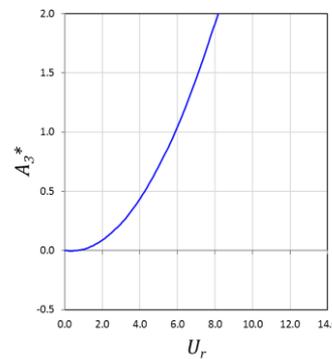
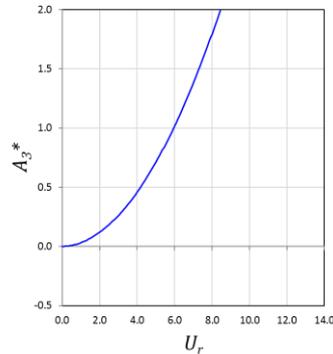
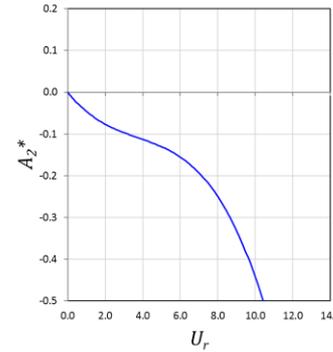
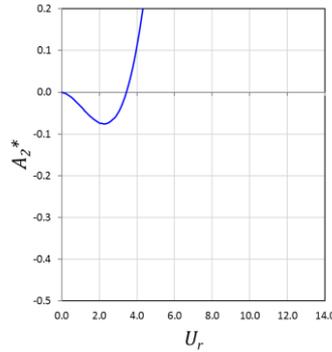
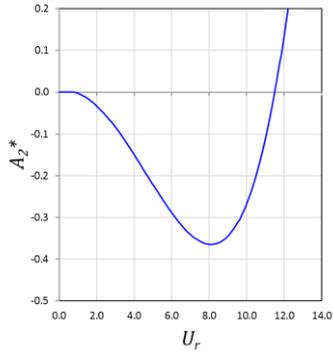
# Full Aeroelastic Model (traditional)



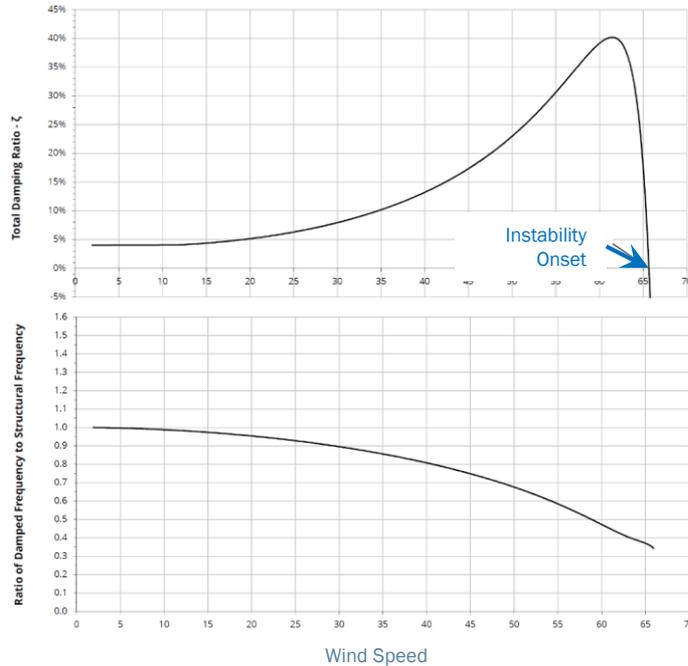
# Aeroelastic Sectional Model Testing



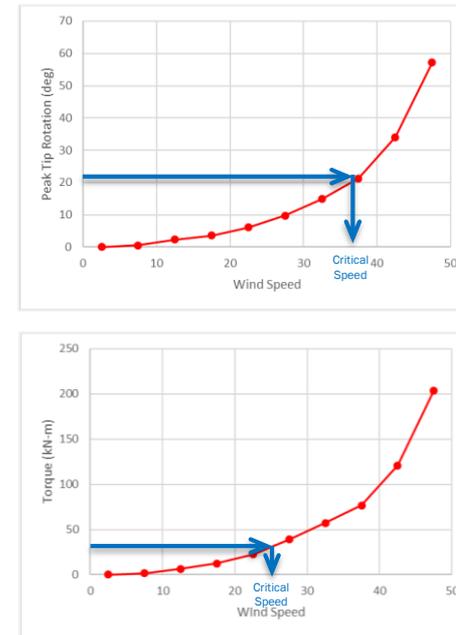
# Aerodynamic (Flutter) Derivatives



# 3D numeric simulations in the time domain

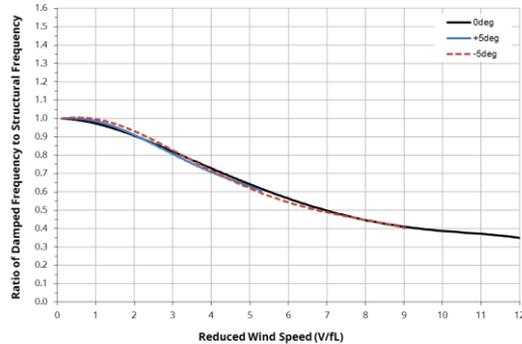
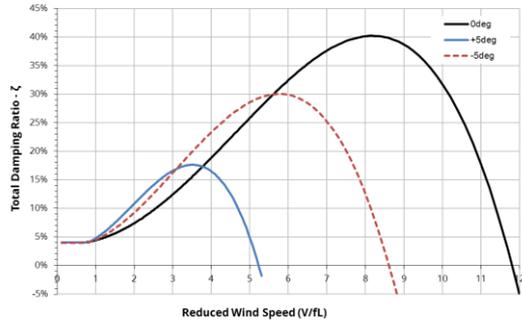


3D Flutter Analysis



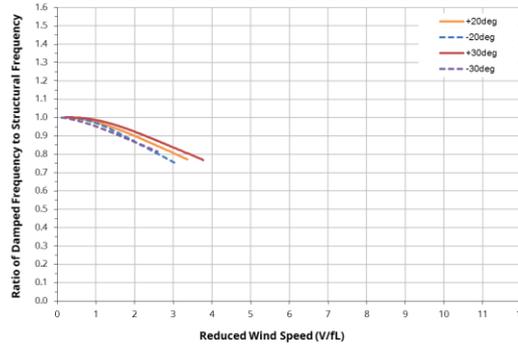
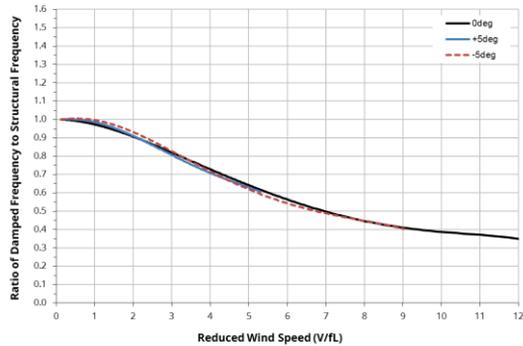
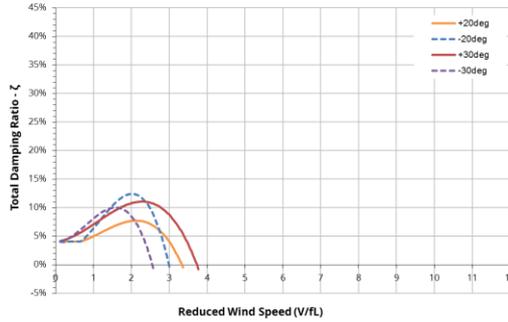
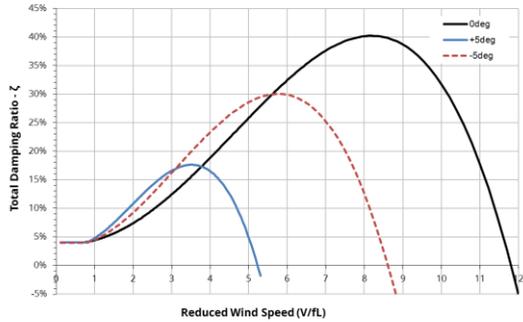
3D Buffeting Response Analysis

# Stow Tilt Strategies



Low Tilts ( $0^\circ$ - $5^\circ$ )

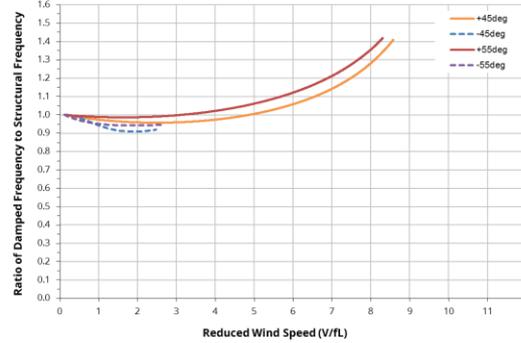
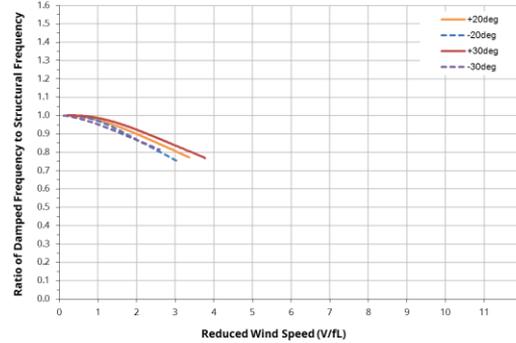
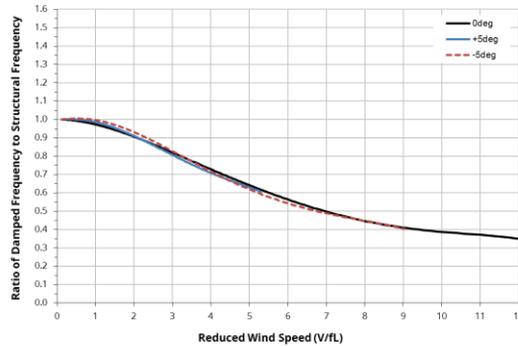
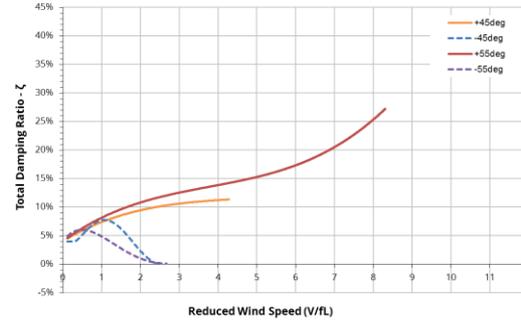
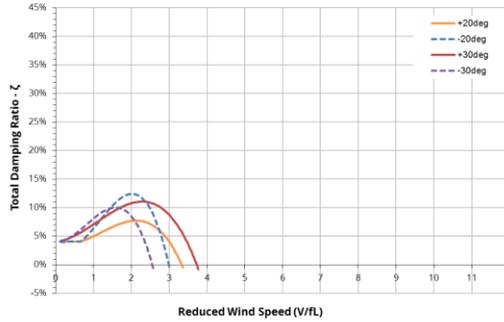
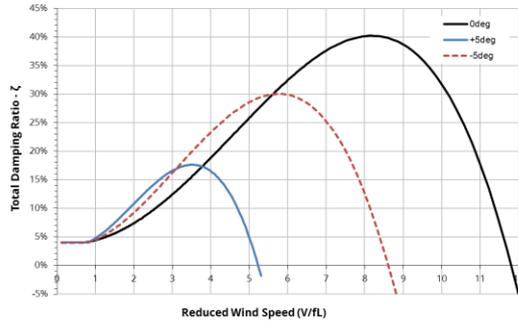
# Stow Tilt Strategies



Low Tilts ( $0^{\circ}$ - $5^{\circ}$ )

Mid Tilts ( $20^{\circ}$ - $30^{\circ}$ )

# Stow Tilt Strategies



  
Aerodynamic Damping

  
Aerodynamic Stiffness

Low Tilts (0°-5°)

Mid Tilts (20°-30°)

High Tilts (45°-55°)



# Understanding tilt angles and key stability drivers

## Low Tilts:

- Torsional Galloping: stiffness-driven instability
- Potentially large aeroelastic forces/rotations
- Damping mitigation is less effective

## Mid Tilts:

- Torsional Flutter: damping-driven instability
- Aeroelastic forces/rotations are still possible; higher static lateral loads
- Damping mitigation is more effective

## High Tilts:

- Positive tilt angles are aerodynamically stable
- Negative tilt angles can be unstable at low damping
- Generally small aeroelastic forces/rotations; highest static lateral loads

## All Tilts:

- What are the appropriate design wind loads?



# Overview of the Problem

*Dynamic wind forces can amplify the load on single axis trackers, which can lead to damage, downtime, and higher cost of ownership.*

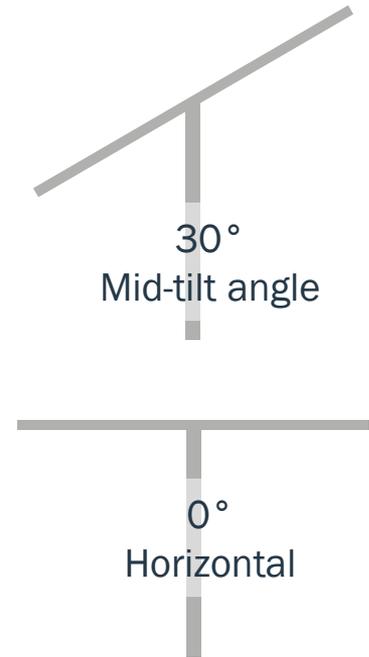
*Ensuring the stability of solar tracking systems and modules during wind events is one of the top concerns of solar site owners, project developers and EPC contractors.*

*Array has over 30 years and 30GW-years of field experience with trackers and wind. For the better part of a decade, Array and RWDI together have been studying and solving this complex problem.*

# Conventional Tracker Wind Mitigation Methods

Many conventional tracker wind mitigation methods actively stow the entire solar field between  $0^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  during a wind event

- Why? Static wind loads are lower on horizontal modules than on modules at higher tilts.
- Lower static wind loads mean that structures theoretically can be made less robust with thinner or weaker materials.
- Capital costs decisions drive many tracker manufactures to design for lower and lower wind loads.



# Issues may arise with the conventional approach

- A system is only as strong as its weakest link
- Slow response time / offline
- Structural inadequacies
- Module or tracker damage
- Torsional galloping can still occur
- Lost energy production due to frequent wind events

# High and low tilt angles for single-axis trackers in extreme winds, a different approach...

Throughout our partnership with RWDI and with our understanding of the complex challenges of wind design, we set out to create a system that answers the following questions:

- Is it safe at any tracker angle?
- Is it safe at any designed wind speed and direction?
- Is it possible to take a no-stow approach?
- Is it dependent on on a power source, batteries, sensors, or communications to react?
- Is it stable both during construction and in operation?
- Does it maximize the value of the solar asset?



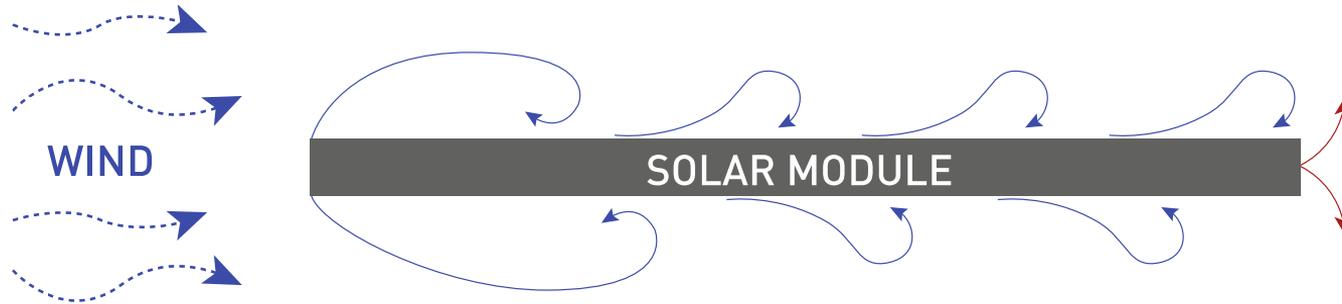


# How did Array Solve the Problem?

- Partnered with industry leading firms to study the effects of wind on single axis trackers
- Validated our extensive simulations and physical testing, and tracker experience with the wind tunnel studies.
- Focused on eliminating failure points – even in worst case scenario, the system is safe at any angle.
- Ensure each row can act independently – only rows affected by wind respond: Better Performance
- Created a ground-up design that can resist maximum wind speed, from any direction.
- Customer Focused Solution: Protect the asset for the long haul.

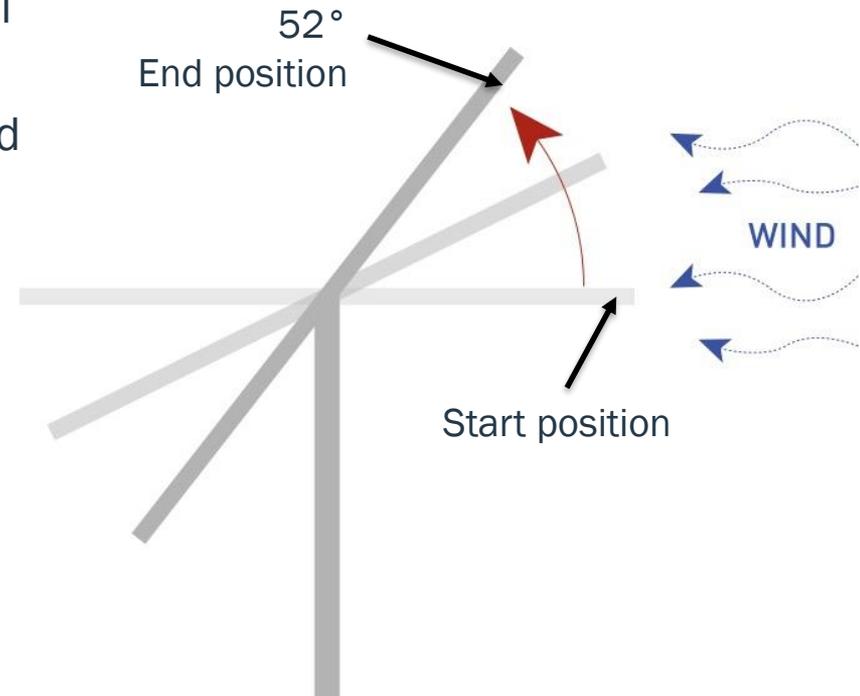
# Understanding the Wind

- Wind is unpredictable and can come from any angle
- Both high and low speed wind events can induce damaging behavior on a single axis tracker
- The exterior areas of a solar farm can be the primary areas affected by wind

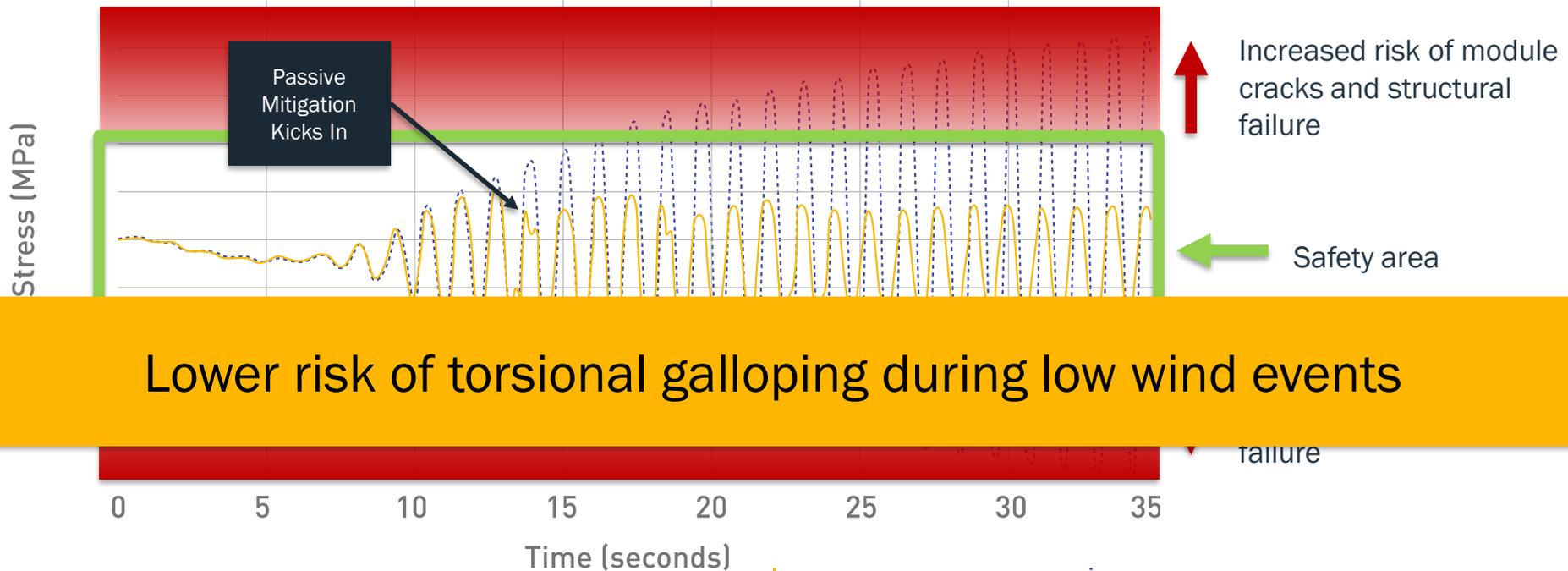


# A unique approach to wind mitigation

- Patented, passively controlled, mechanical release
- Single row actuation – not all rows effected
- Functions during construction periods
- Designed to handle site wind speed requirements, regardless of tracker position
- Ultimately channels wind forces to the foundation
- Includes damping components to handle portions of the wind inputs of the system



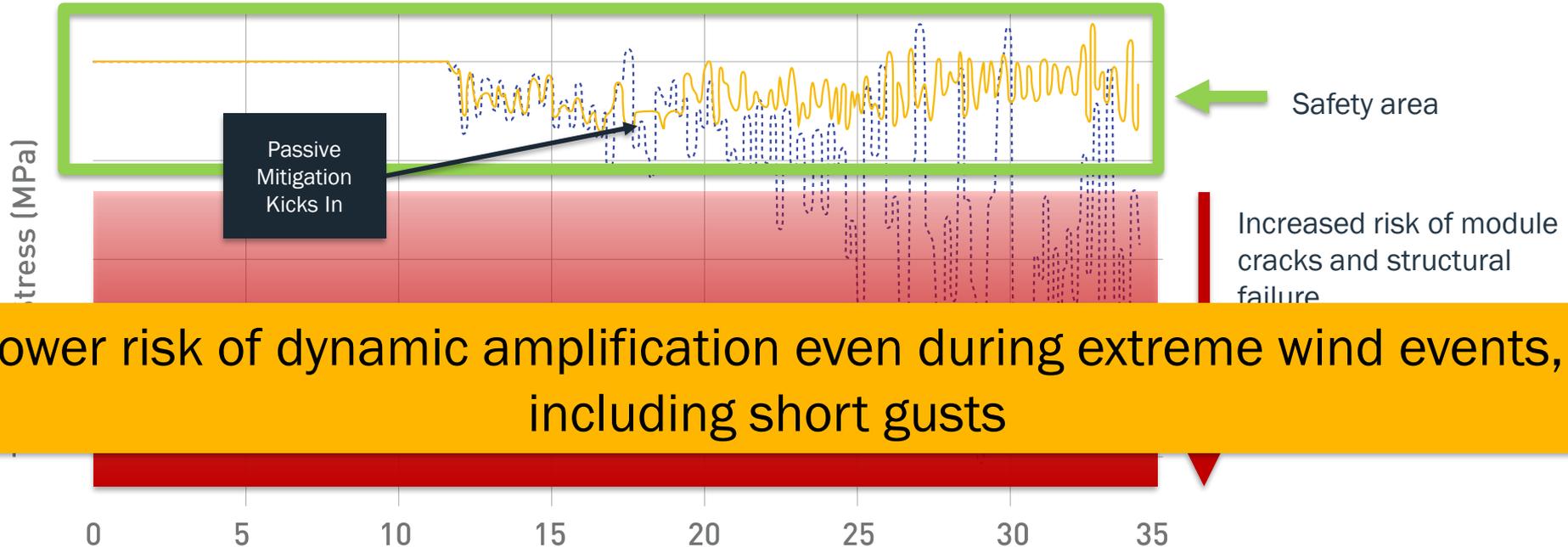
# Active Stow vs Passive Mitigation



= Solar tracker with passively controlled release

= Solar tracker with active stowing

# Active Stow vs Passive Mitigation



Lower risk of dynamic amplification even during extreme wind events, including short gusts

— = Solar tracker with passively controlled release

⋯ = Solar tracker with active stowing



# Problem Solved

## Passive Wind Mitigation System that:

- Ensures safety at any angle – reduces potential for failure and expensive downtime
- Based on 30GW year of experience and industry leading partner research
- Fewer mechanical components to fail, wear out, require maintenance
- Single Row actuation – Better Site performance
- Doesn't require power, complex systems to actuate – works during construction
- **Continuously protects the customer's assets for the design life of the tracker**



**ARRAY**  
TECHNOLOGIES

Thank you.