

this  
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ESET Solar

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9:30 am – 10:30 am | CEST, Berlin

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | AEST, Sydney

pv magazine  
**webinars**

# Surfing extreme winds: How 'Every-post self-locking' trackers eliminate torsional risks



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# Welcome!

Do you have any questions?  

Send them in via the Q&A tab.  We aim to answer as many as we can today!

You can also let us know of any tech problems there.

We are recording this webinar today. 

We'll let you know by email where to find it and the slide deck, so you can re-watch it at your convenience.  



# How 'Every-Post Self-Locking' Trackers Eliminate Torsional Risks.

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Frank Wang  
Technical Support Director

# METAVAST Metavast Introduction

1984

Began With Hot Dip Galvanizing,  
Rooted In Metal Surface  
Treatment

2008

 HDG & Insulator  
REMARKABLE  
瑞马科空

2009



Steel Tower & Pole

2017

 FITMAN  
瑞马智能

HDG,  
Continuous Galvanizing  
Production Line  
& Laser Cutting Machine

 板弘国际  
HYSTONE EPC

2019

 YOUIMATE  
优美特

Tube & Screw Pile

2020



E-commerce

 BAOHWA  
宝华新材

ZAM(Zn-Al-Mg)  
Material

2021



Solar Tracking &  
Racking system

2022



HDG & Steel Tower

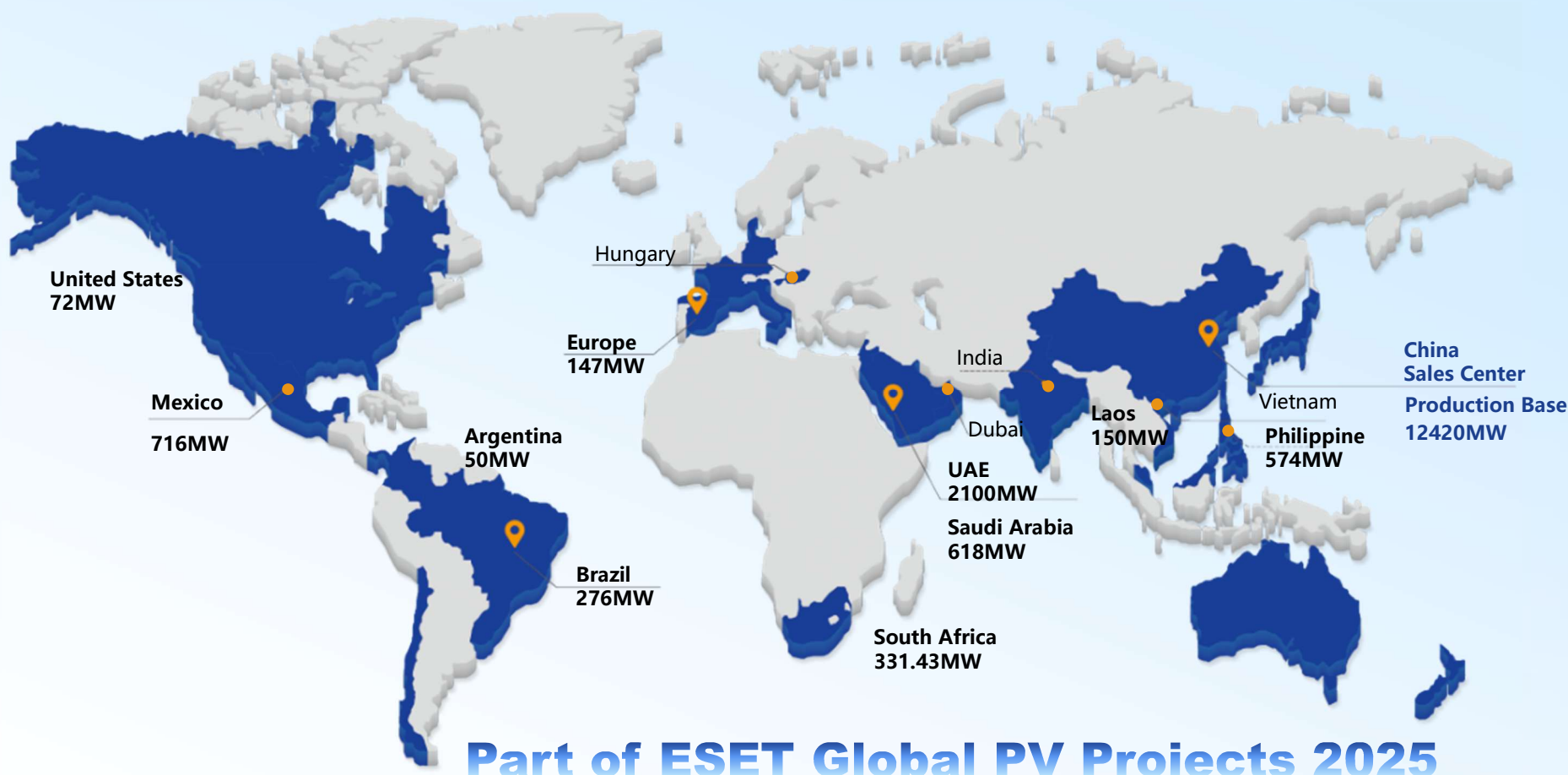
 METAVAST  
板弘集团

Group Established

2025



Power Transformer



**50<sup>GW+</sup>**  
Global Shipment Volume

**12**  
Smart Factories

**30<sup>GW+</sup>**  
Annual Capacity in China

**3<sup>GW</sup>**  
Annual Capacity in KSA

**500<sup>+</sup>**  
Project Cases



PV Tracker System



Flexible PV Mounting System



Fixed PV Mounting



Fixed PV Mounting



EPC

## ESEEK-Steady



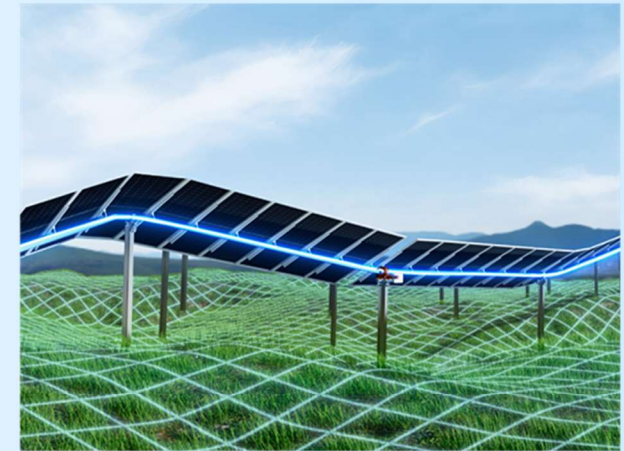
- Ultimate Safety**  
Protection Against Strong Winds
- Optimal Cost**  
Efficient Installation for Time and Effort Savings
- Stable and Reliable**  
Stable Craftsmanship and Reliable Structure
- Superior Efficiency**  
Smart Commissioning for Effortless and Worry-Free Operation

## ESEEK-Twins



- Worry-free Installation**  
Omni-directional Adjustment for Easy Installation
- Ultimate Safety**  
Protection Against Strong Winds
- Stable and Reliable**  
Stable Craftsmanship and Reliable Structure
- Superior Efficiency**  
Smart Commissioning for Effortless and Worry-Free Operation

## ESEEK-Climber



- Terrain Adaptability**  
Slope Adaptation - Natural Fit
- Structural Safety**  
All Posts Self-locking - Enhanced Wind Resistance
- Flexible Installation**  
Retractable Connections - Simplified Modular design
- Long-Term O&M Efficiency**  
Stress Control - Smart Maintenance

# ESET Every Post Locking

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# Design Background

## The specific manifestations of damage to PV Tracker



Plastic deformation caused by high rotation. **Wind shakes the rack.** Cracks grow bigger

Trackers Twist along the row during rotation  
 Trackers don't move as one flat piece  
 Causes **>2% annual yield loss**  
 Leads to **microcracks** and premature failure  
 Lighter, larger modules = Softer structures  
 Everyday winds (10-15 mph) are enough to cause damage.

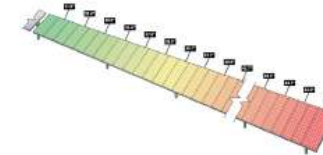
## The Hidden Killer: "Propeller Effect"

## The Propeller Effect: How Tracker Operational Twist Can Reduce Total Yield by Over 2% and Increase Module Failure Risk

By: Frank Oudheusden & Christopher Needham (Azimuth Advisory Services)

Single-axis solar trackers are designed to maximize energy capture, yet under normal operation, many rows experience measurable twist. Known as the "propeller effect," this occurs when the row gradually rotates from the actuator toward the row end, like the changing pitch of an aircraft propeller. Azimuth Advisory Services has developed proprietary models to estimate this effect. Twists approaching 20° have been documented or reported across several utility-scale projects representing hundreds of megawatts.

Figure 1: Row Twist Across a Typical 112-Module Row



This creates two primary risks:

### Annualized Yield Impacts:

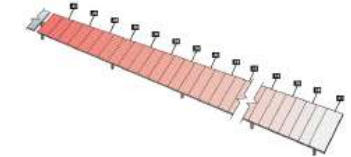
Twist causes modules to deviate from their optimal tilt angle. This results in uneven irradiance across strings and row-to-row shading near row ends. In some cases, localized shading losses have exceeded 30% and are often misdiagnosed as backtracking errors. Controller adjustments can reduce visible shading, but do not eliminate the underlying row distortion. Because PV strings are limited by the lowest-performing module, even corrected systems can experience total row annualized yield reductions exceeding 2% at twists approaching 20°. IEC 62817 correlates ±5° of tracker accuracy with ~0.4% energy loss, including both motor

accuracy and structural twist. Field observations suggest this may be conservative under higher twist conditions.

### Potential Module Damage:

Repeated twisting places cyclic stress on modules. AAS has measured individual module twist of ~1" during routine tracking (Figure 2). Though small, this motion repeats with each tilt adjustment, resulting in hundreds of thousands of stress cycles over a project lifetime. Field observations show that glass and cell cracking frequently align with areas of highest individual module twist, often adjacent to the actuator (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Individual Module Twist Across a Typical 112-Module Row



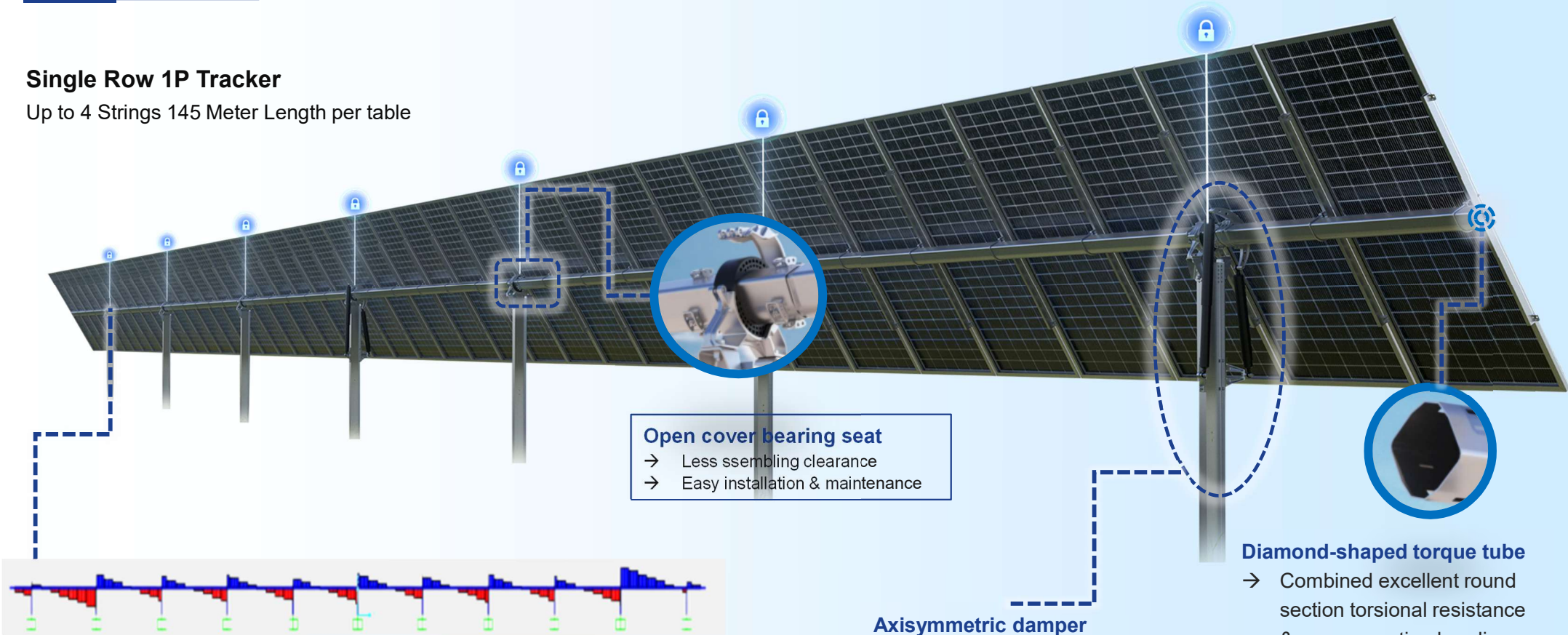
As module sizes increase and structures become lighter, operational twist is a measurable and often under-modeled risk. Counterintuitively, twist is often highest on interior rows, where structures are optimized for material efficiency rather than stiffness.

Independent Engineers should evaluate the propeller effect during due diligence and assume realistic daily wind exposure, not just extreme natural catastrophe events. Moderate backside wind speeds of 10–15 mph can meaningfully increase twist, compounding both energy loss and fatigue-related stress over the system life.

# ESEEK-Steady

## Single Row 1P Tracker

Up to 4 Strings 145 Meter Length per table



**Open cover bearing seat**  
→ Less assembling clearance  
→ Easy installation & maintenance

**Axisymmetric damper**  
→ Lower Vibration amplitude  
→ Higher critical wind speed

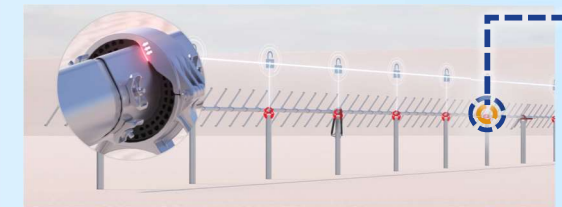
**Diamond-shaped torque tube**  
→ Combined excellent round section torsional resistance & square section bending resistance  
→ Lower W / T value and safer

**All points self-locking to uniform distribution of torque**  
→ Prevent vibration diffusion, avoid flutter or vortex vibration

# ESEEK Steady Highlights

## Stable Diamond-shaped beam

- A diamond-shaped cross-section design combines the excellent torsional resistance of circular sections with the bending strength of square sections.
- With a lower width-to-thickness (W/T) ratio, the material strength is not compromised, allowing for the true utilization of high-strength materials. Under the same material usage, compared to square main beams, the strength can be increased by more than 30%.



Theoretical Method

| 圆截面参数表         |                |                |                | 正方形参数表         |                |                |                | 菱形参数表           |                 |                 |                 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A              | Ix             | Iy             | Wx(L)          | A              | Ix             | Iy             | Wx(L)          | A               | Ix              | Iy              | Wx(L)           |
| 1156.4623      | 3151380.0000   | 8302758.5000   | 42018.4000     | 1154.6128      | 2832498.0000   | 5264812.5000   | 43873.4333     | 1155.1216       | 2927394.0000    | 5264812.5000    | 43892.4473      |
| 52.1566        | 42018.4000     | 42018.4000     | 27197.6167     | 47.7063        | 47.7063        | 47.7063        | 25292.4530     | 50.3416         | 50.3416         | 50.3416         | 26300.6793      |
| 42018.4000     | 42018.4000     | 42018.4000     | 75.0000        | 42018.4000     | 42018.4000     | 42018.4000     | 60.0000        | 43892.4473      | 43892.4473      | 43892.4473      | 67.0000         |
| 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.0000,0.0000 | 10.7077,-0.7077 | 10.7077,-0.7077 | 10.7077,-0.7077 | 10.7077,-0.7077 |

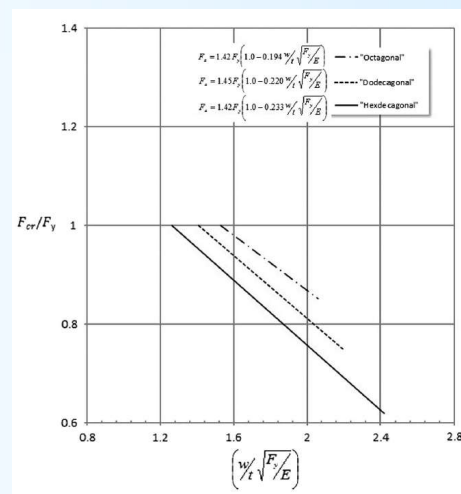


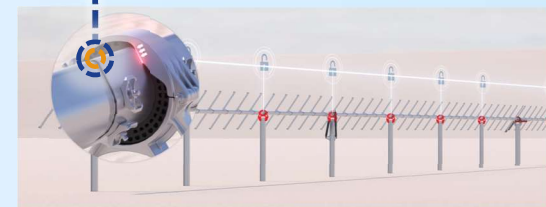
Figure C5-4. Comparison of local buckling equations.

Core of Product Design

## ESEEK Steady Highlights

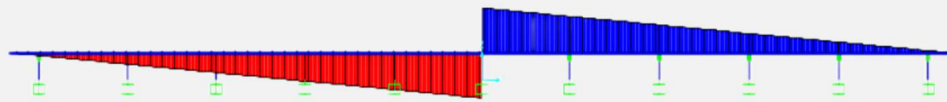
### Separable Bearing seat

- The open-cover bearing housing ensures a tighter fit with the main shaft and bearings, reducing assembly clearance;
- The polymer bearings feature a monolithic design, offering high stability.



Core of Product Design

## Every Post Locking



Single Point Driven Main Beam Torque Diagram



Full Domain Self-Locking Structural Torque Diagram

### Advantage-1

→ All columns and main shafts are fully locked, with torque evenly distributed

### Advantage-2

→ Prevent the spread of vibrations from the bracket

### Advantage-3

→ Avoid flutter or vortex-induced vibrations

## Every Post Locking

→ Key structural points: Column (bearing) center and both end faces.

→ Manually control rotate to target angle; wait 30 seconds for system stabilization.

→ Precisely measure actual rotation angles of each photovoltaic module.



Fig.4: Target rotation angle 0°, south end component angle



Fig.5: Target rotation angle 0°, non-driven 1 component angle



Fig 6: Target rotation angle 0°, non-driven 2 component angle



Fig 7: Target rotation angle 0°, non-driven 3 component angle



Fig 8: Target rotation angle 0°, non-driven 4 component angle

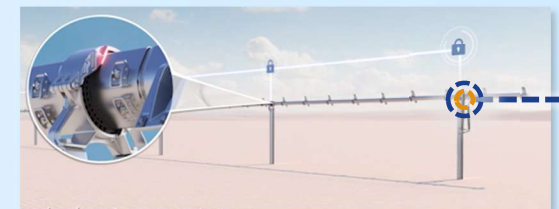
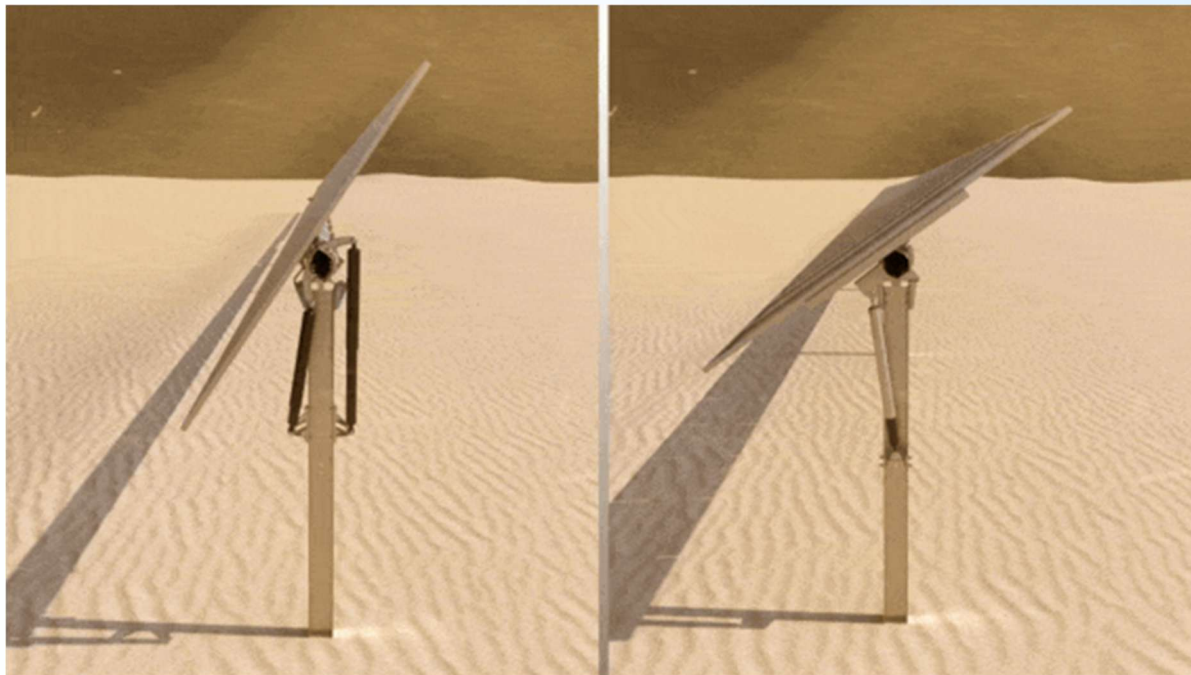


Fig 9: Target rotation angle 0°, non-driven 5 component angle

## ESEEK Steady Highlights

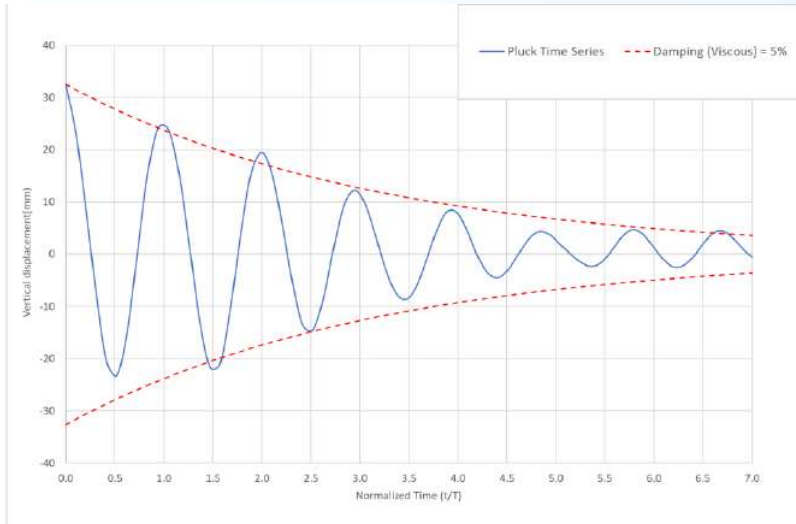
### Strengthen Damper

- Axisymmetric damping design increase the damping ratio & Lower Vibration amplitude & Higher critical wind speed.
- Larger angle of inclination & damping for wind protection provide better stability.



Core of Product Design

# Pluck Test

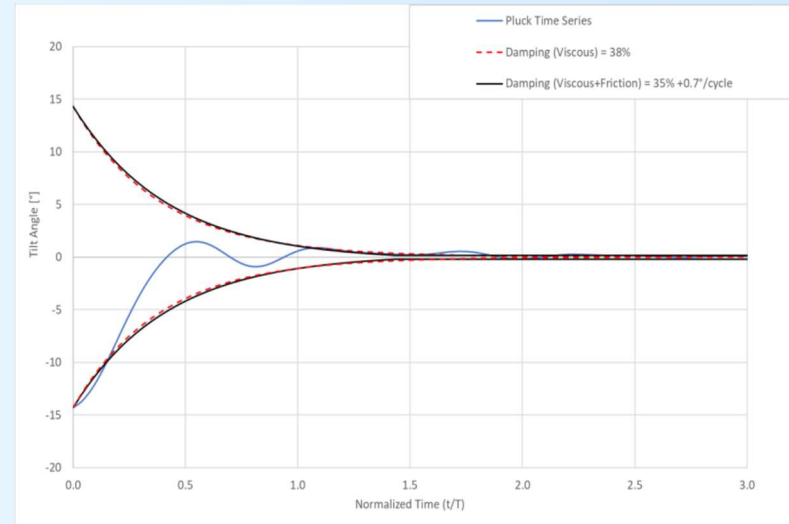


Heaving mode pluck time history

DRAFT REPORT 21402 ADD07  
14 NOVEMBER 2025

## Jiangsu Evershine 1P Pluck Test Review

Single-drive system



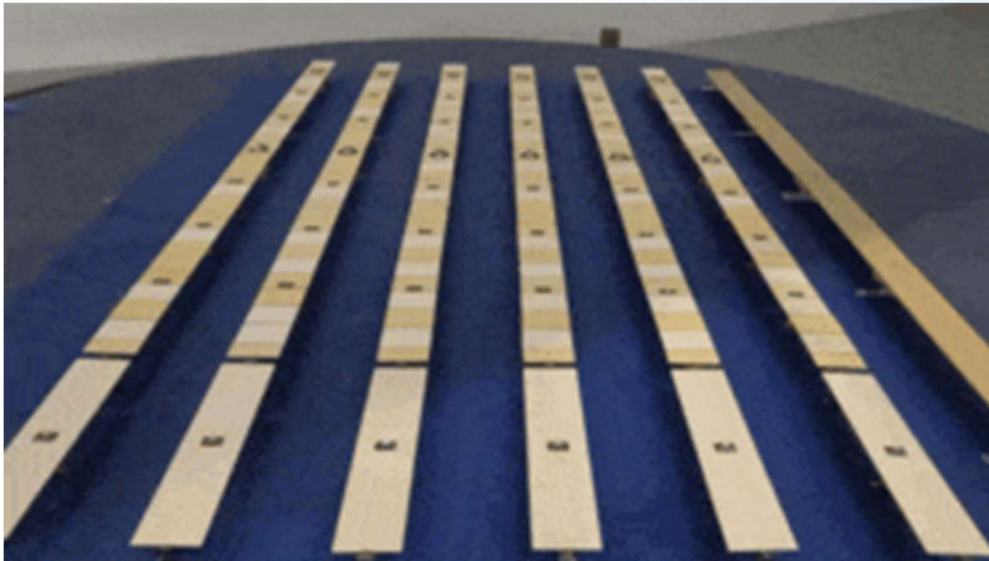
Torsional mode pluck time history

## ESEEK Partnership with CPP

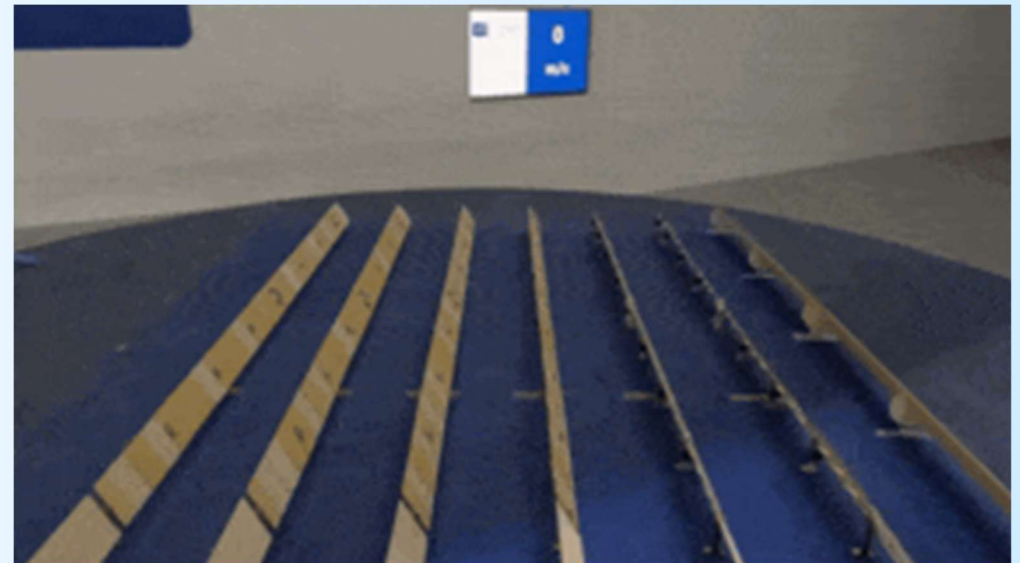
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### Verification and Validation - CPP Wind Engineering Consultants

- For the 0° tilt case the lowest critical wind speed was observed at 47 m/s (3-second gust at 10 m).
- At higher tilts,  $\pm 30^\circ$  and  $\pm 60^\circ$ , no significant angular deflections (more than 30° peak-to-peak) were observed during the test, up to a maximum wind tunnel speed of 69 m/s (3-second gust at 10 m).



**No Self-locking Mode**



**Every-post Self-locking Mode**

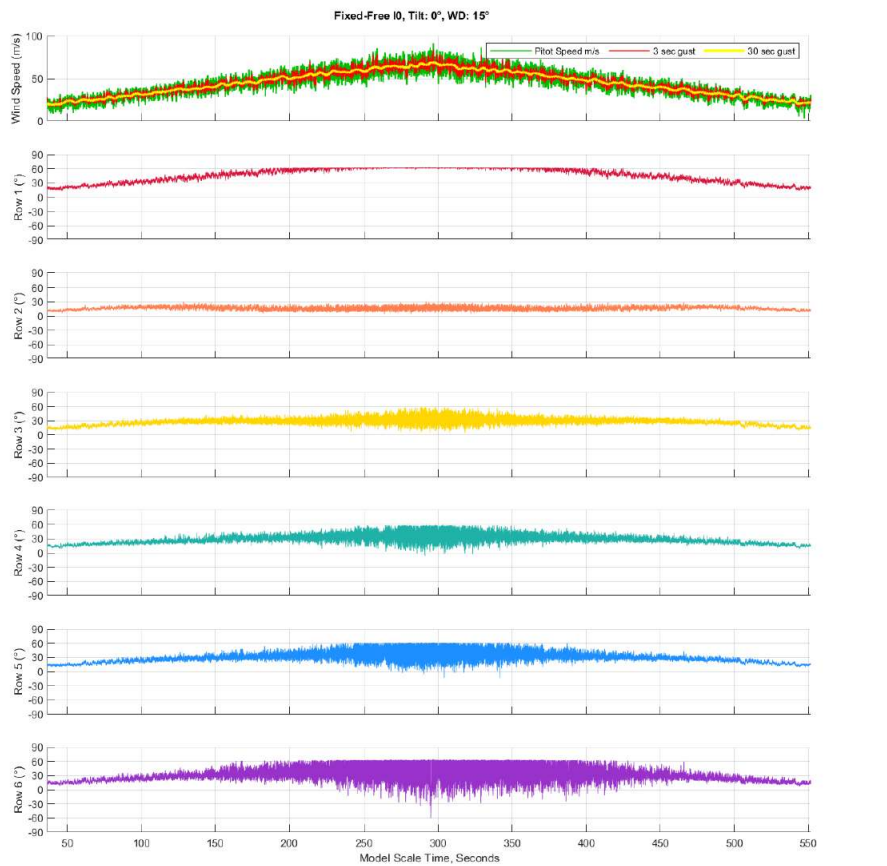


Figure 6: Model Scale Time, Seconds

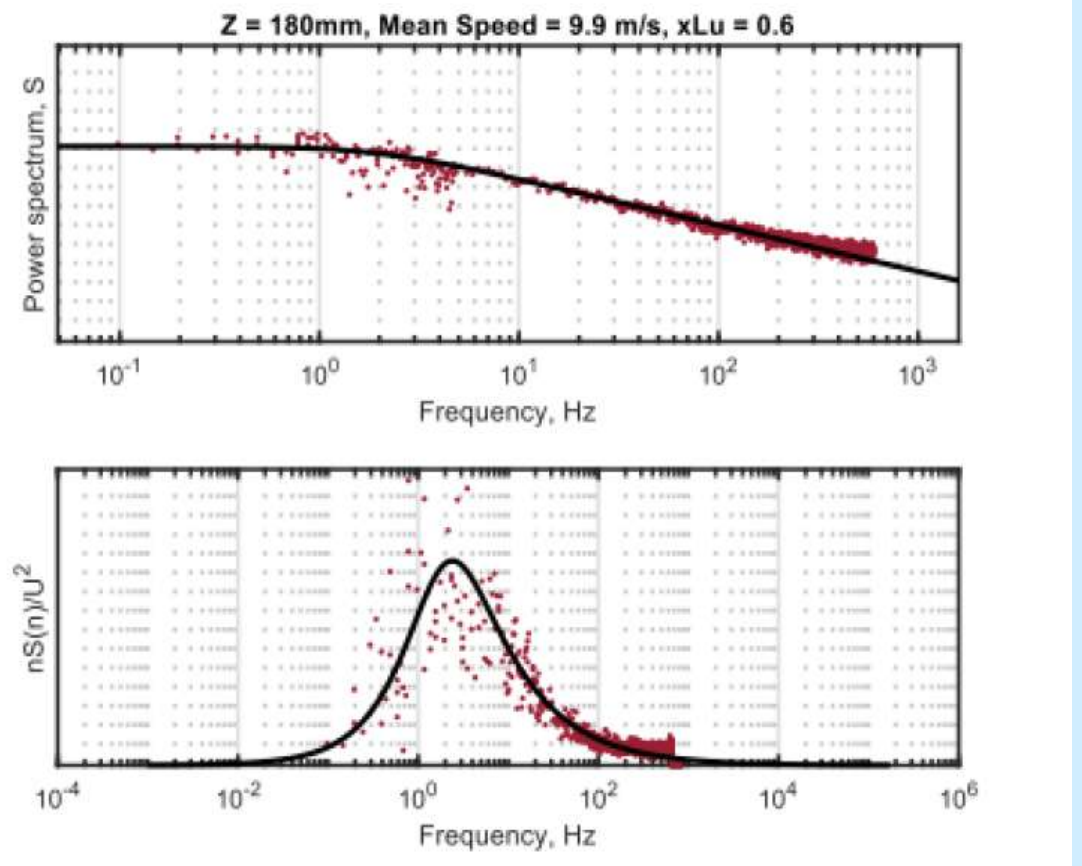


Figure 7: Turbulent Energy Spectrum at the turntable

Wind tunnel test examples for the Jiangsu Evershine 1P system (at various tilt angles) are shown. The critical velocity ( $U_{cr}$ ) is represented by the black bounding curve, indicating the minimum threshold for safe motion under peak winds.

## Critical Wind Speed Calculation

| 1P Tracker Section | 30° Peak-to-peak (3-second gust at 10 m) (m/s) |                    |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
|                    | Minimum measured Ucr                           | Bounding curve Ucr |
| Tilt               | Fixed-Free span                                |                    |
| -60°               | 86   | 77                 |
| -30°               | 81   | 73                 |
| 0°                 | 48   | 41                 |
| 30°                | 82   | 74                 |
| 60°                | 87   | 78                 |

- At 60° tilt, Ucr=78 m/s
- At 0° tilt, Ucr=41 m/s
- Smaller torque tube twist angle
- More stable and less vibration
- **Binary Stow**

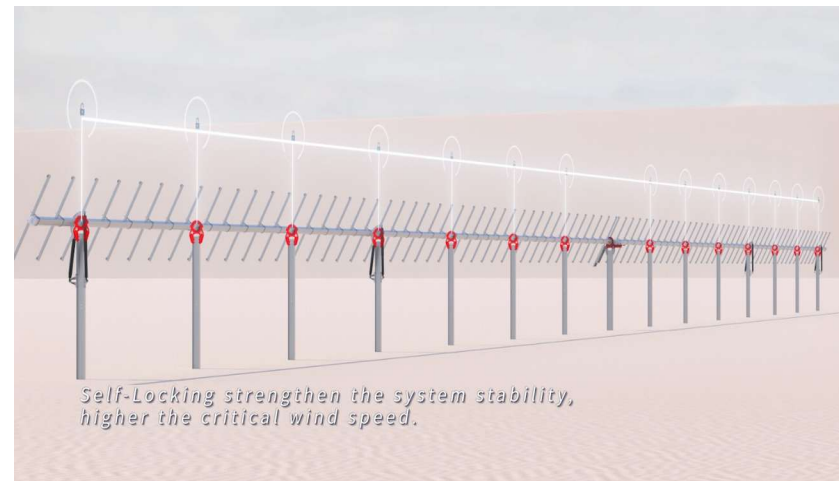
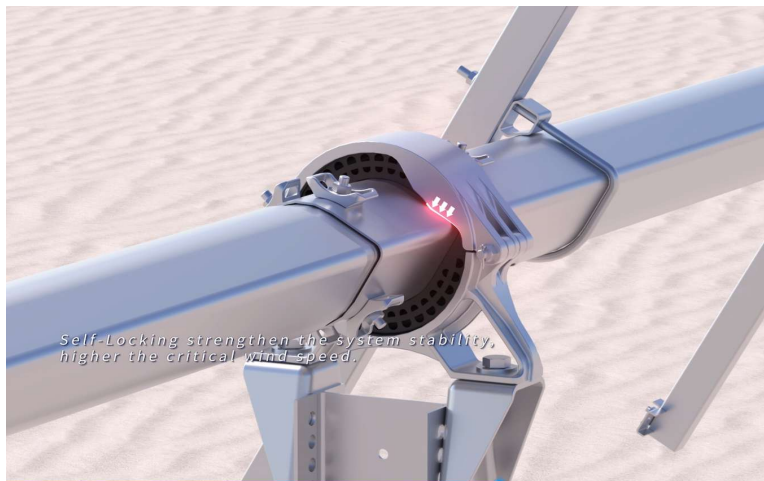
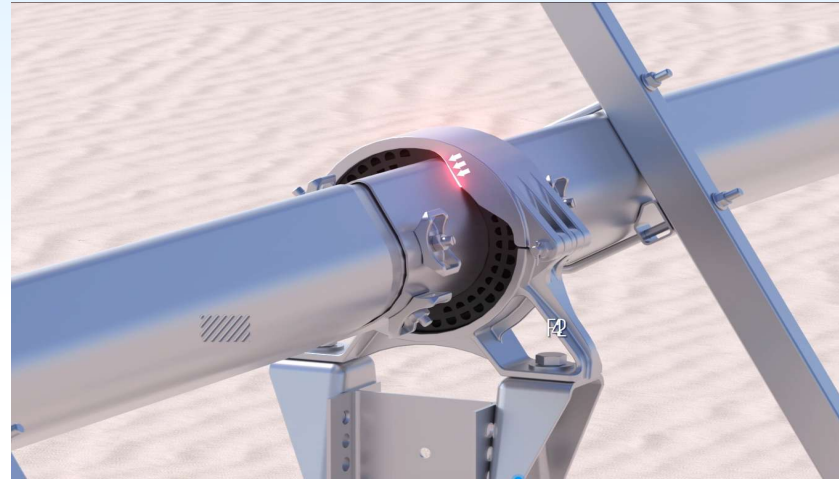
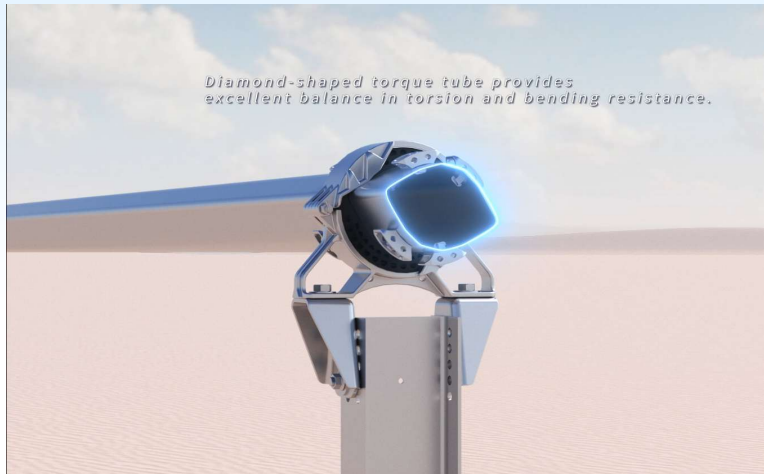
$$U_{crb} = U_{cra} \frac{S_a}{S_b}$$

Flexible Span Length

$$U_{crb} = U_{cra} \sqrt{\frac{GJ_b}{GJ_a}}$$

Torsional Rigidity

## ESET Every Post Locking



## **ESEEK Steady Highlights**



**Swaged Tube & No Special Tools**



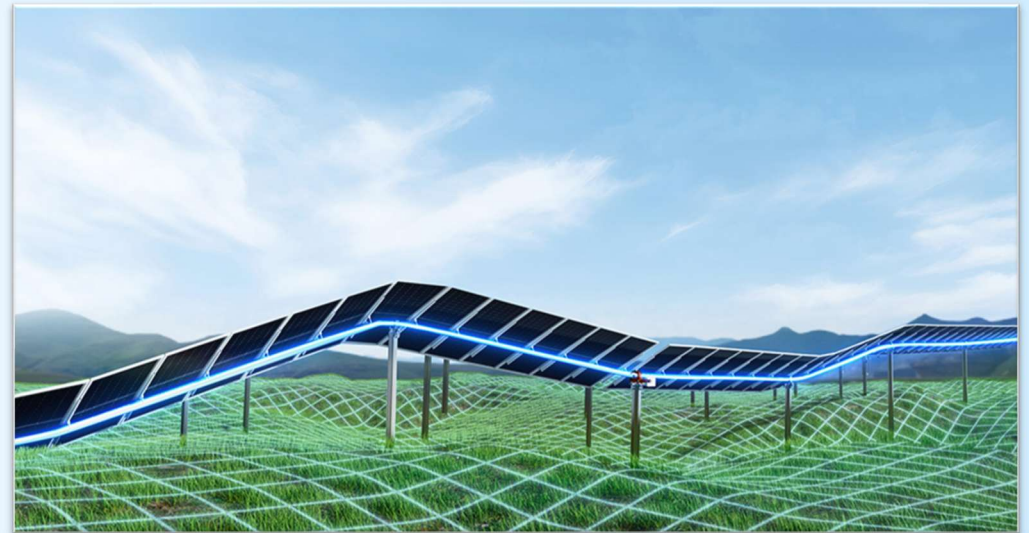
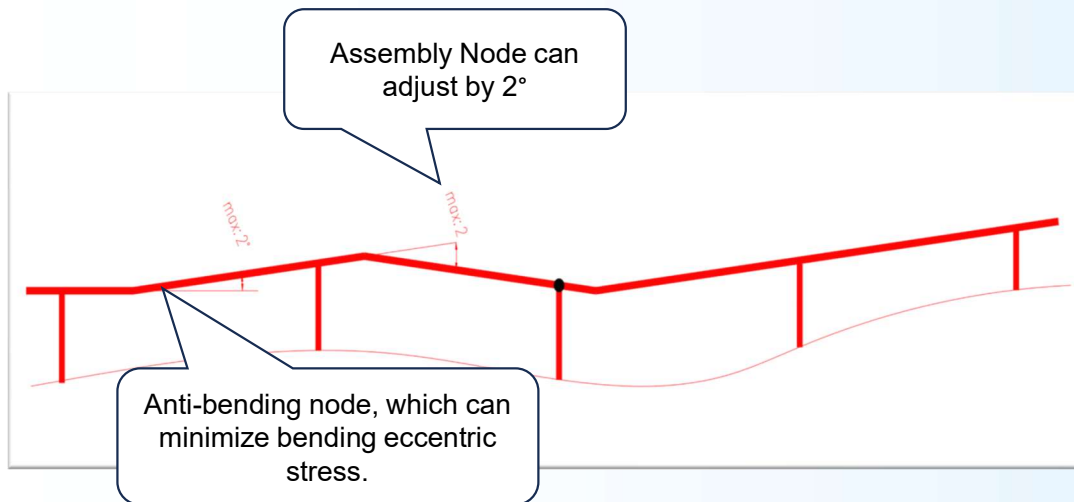
**Removable Battery Slot**

# ESEEK System solution

## Slope-adaptive - ESEEK-CLIMBER Terrain following system

→ A single diameter-reducing node can adjust by 2°;

→ Highly adaptable to uneven ground, reduces earthwork for leveling, minimizes environmental impact, and lowers project risks.



# Certifications and Patents



CPP

TUV

UL

SBP

CE

## FACTORIES



Production



Manufacturing



Manufacturing

## FACTORIES

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**Zn-Al-Mg Production line**



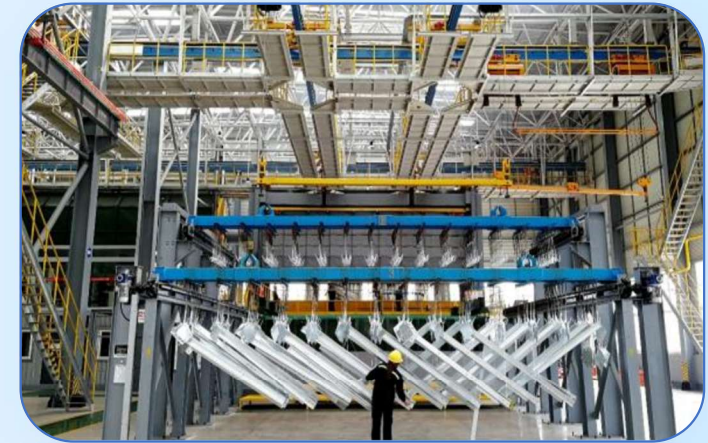
450,000 tons/year

**Solar Structure Production Line**



30 GW/year

**Hot Dip Galvanizing Line**



750,000 tons/year

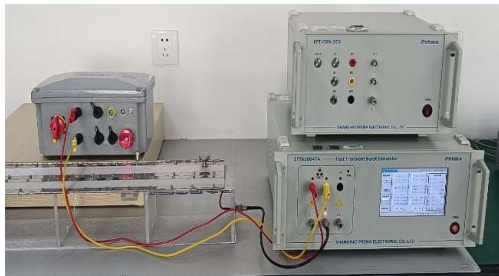
# QUALITY CONTROL

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## ESEEK Steady

### Verification and Validation - Prototype testing

→ Electrical Test for Control Systems.



Electrical Fast Transient/Burst (EFT/B) Test



Lightning Surge Test



Vibration test



Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Test



Insulation Voltage Test



High and low temperature test

# Module Compatibility Test

IEC 61215-2:2016 Static Mechanical Load test



Front



Back

2nd Cycle



Front



3rd Cycle

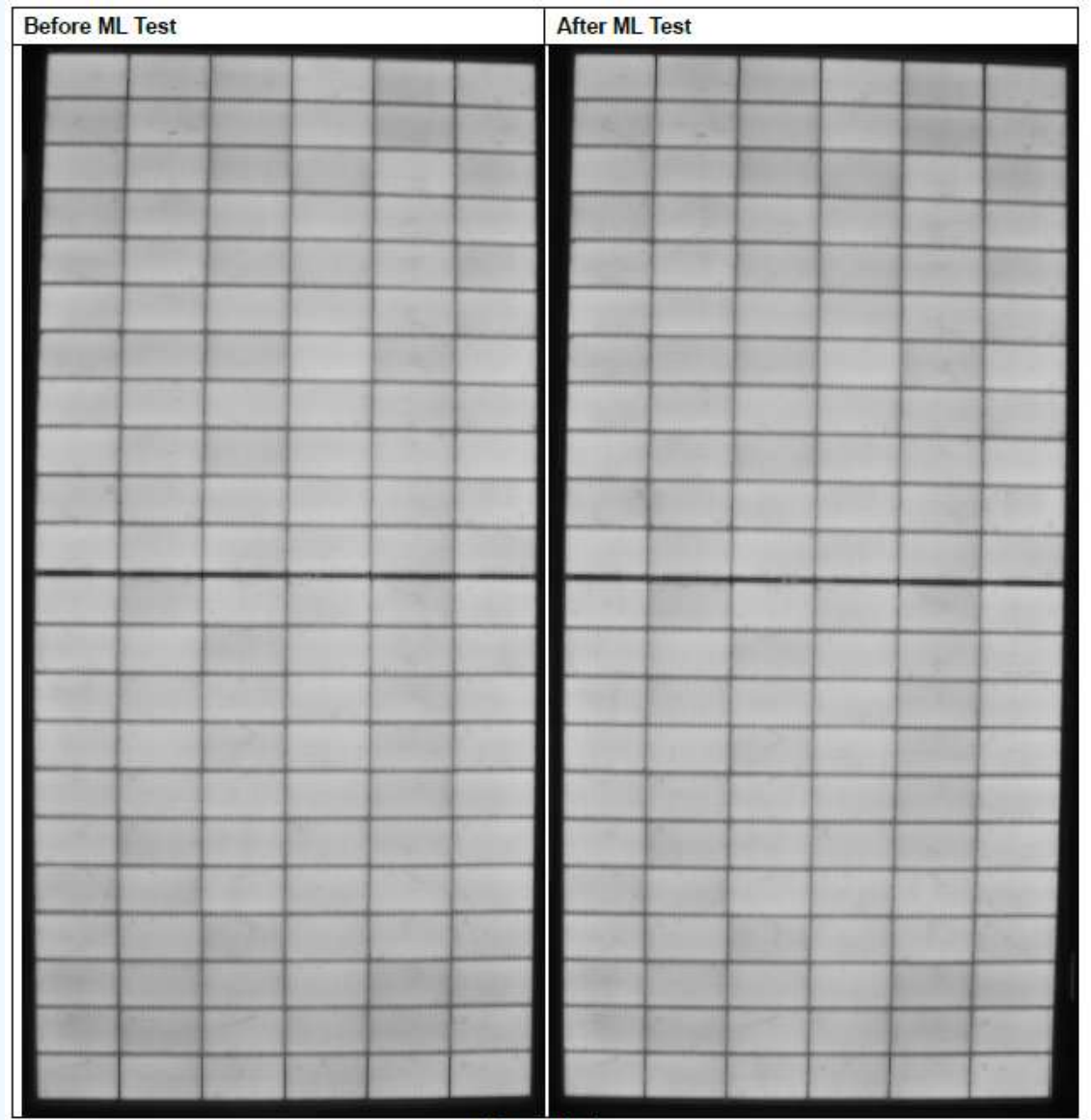
# Module Compatibility Test

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✓ **Passed:** Harsh Mechanical Load (ML) Testing.

✓ **Result:** No Cracks / No Frame Deformation.

✓ **Conclusion:** 100% Module Compatibility Guaranteed.



# Structure Test

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Loading Test



Structure Section Test 1



Torque Tube Loading Test

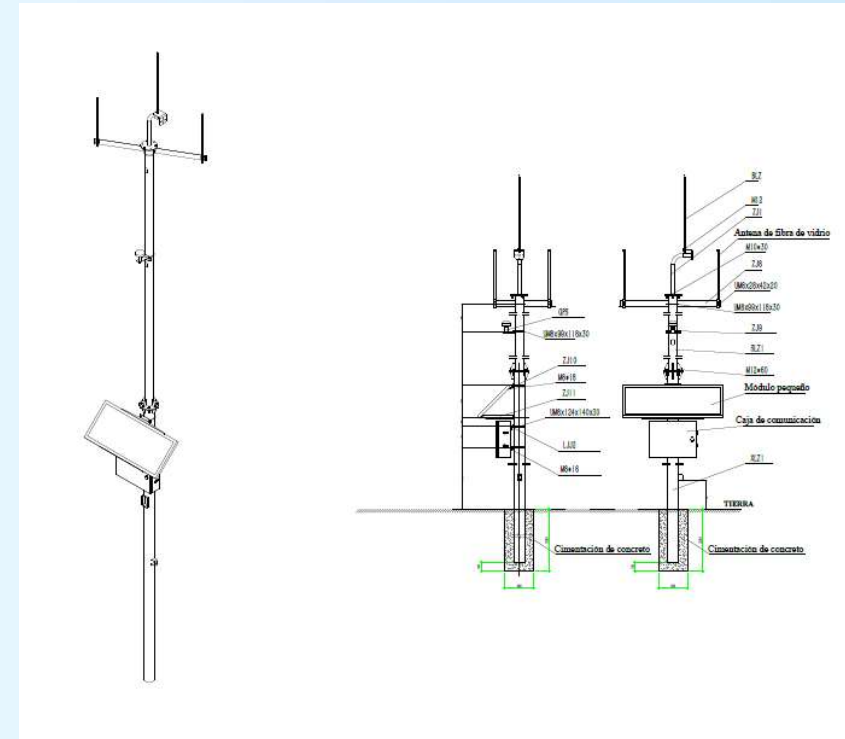
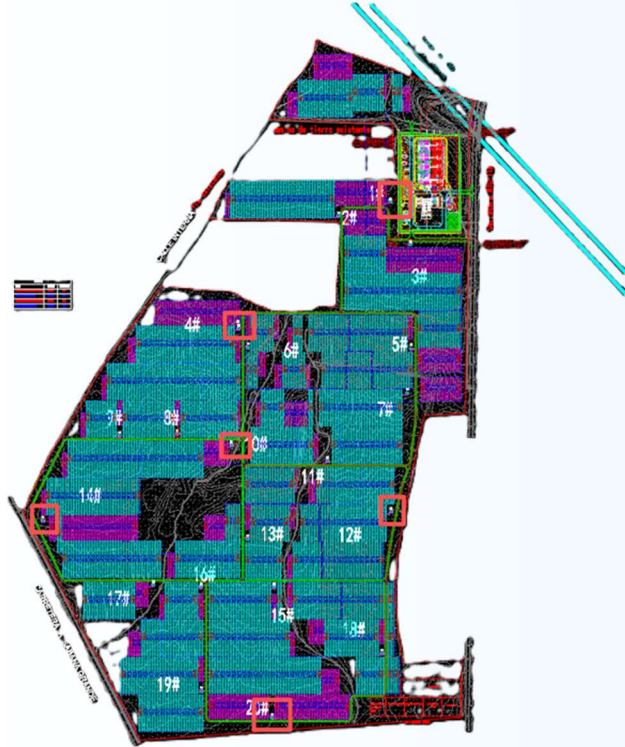


Structure Section Test 2

# ESET Case Study

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## Case Study 1: Nicaragua 70MW Project



- Surrounding Meteorological Station Location
- Reinforced **Wind Monitoring Redundancy**

- 10m Weather station
- More accurate wind speed measurement

# ESEEK Steady Highlights

## Smart Tracking

- NCU + TCU + SCADA
- Lora / Zigbee communication



Wireless communication with Lora / Zigbee  
Easy installation

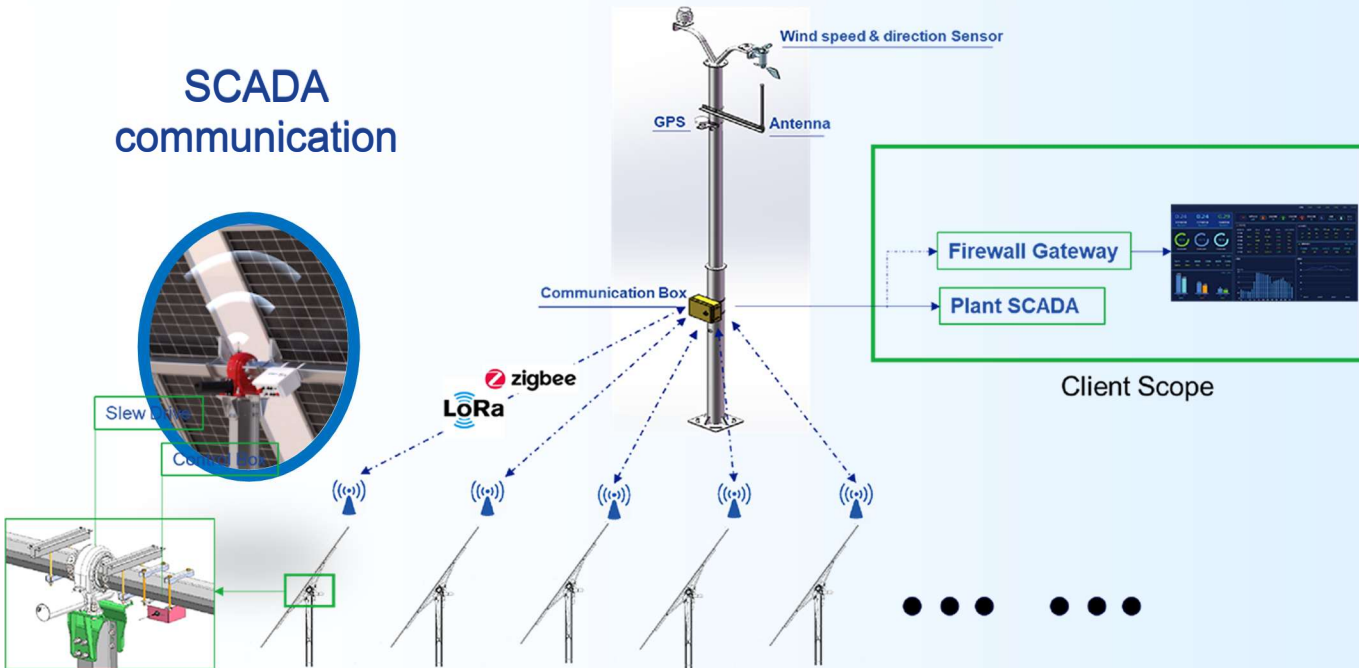


Power by String / Self / AC  
Lithium Battery Backup



Astronomical Algorithm  
Built-in inclinometer  
Backtracking

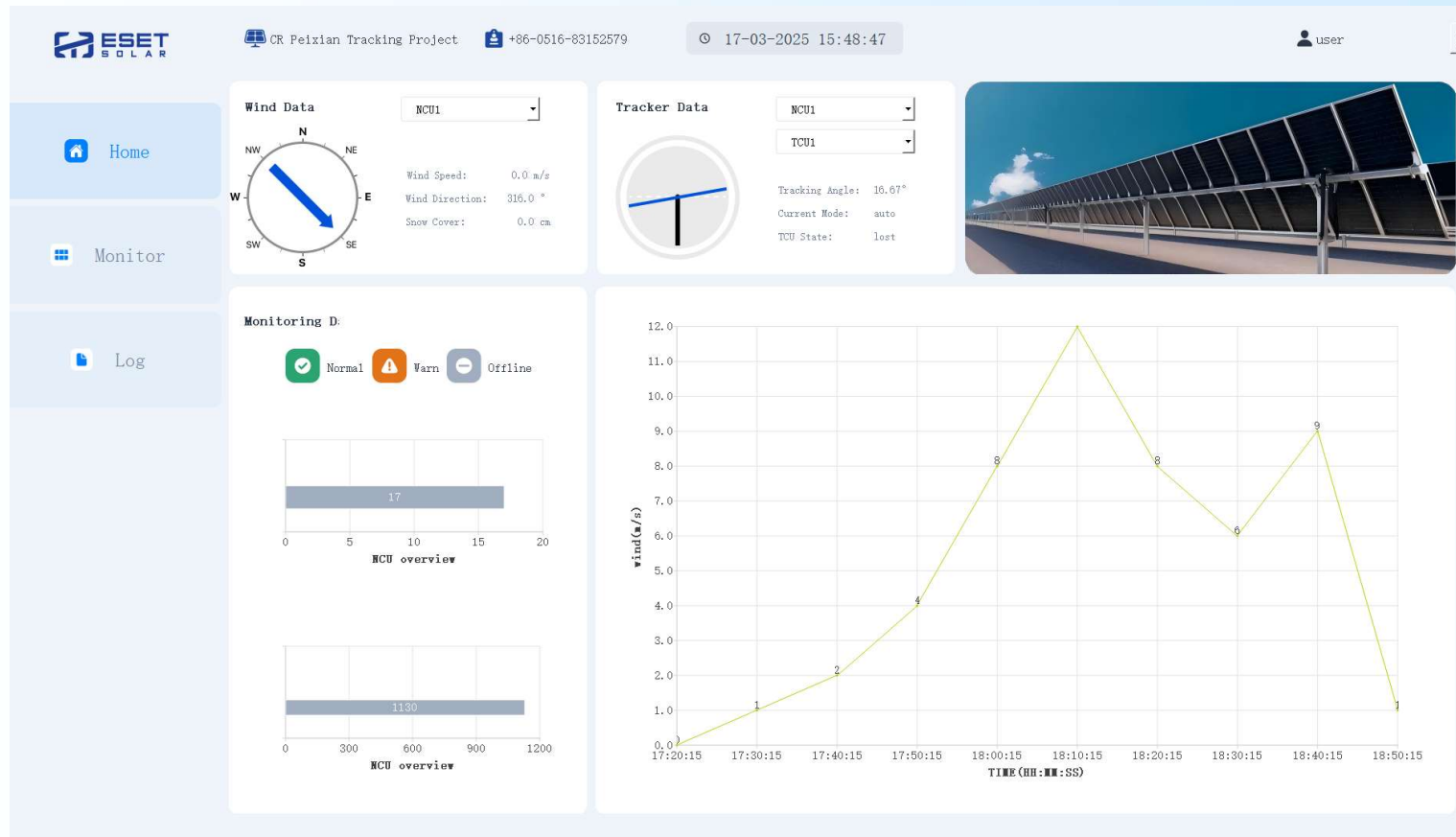
## SCADA communication



# SCADA System-User Interface

SCADA Functions:

Home: Project Overview; Operation condition; Meteorological information; Block information.



# SCADA System-User Interface

Monitor: Display the operating status of each block; View block information; Send control instructions

The screenshot displays the SCADA System-User Interface for the CR Peixian Tracking Project. The interface includes a header with the ESET SOLAR logo, project name, phone number, and timestamp. A left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, Monitor (selected), and Log. The main area shows a control panel with buttons for 'All select', 'NCU Offline' (0), and 'NCU Abnormal' (17). Below this are control buttons for 'Auto', 'Snow', 'Wind', 'Clean', 'Maintain', 'Flood', 'Manual', and 'Stop'. The central part of the interface is a grid of 24 NCU blocks, each with a checkbox, a status indicator (all showing 'lost'), and an 'enter' button.

| NCU ID | Status |
|--------|--------|
| NCU1   | lost   |
| NCU2   | lost   |
| NCU3   | lost   |
| NCU11  | lost   |
| NCU12  | lost   |
| NCU13  | lost   |
| NCU14  | lost   |
| NCU15  | lost   |
| NCU16  | lost   |
| NCU17  | lost   |
| NCU18  | lost   |
| NCU19  | lost   |
| NCU20  | lost   |
| NCU21  | lost   |
| NCU22  | lost   |
| NCU23  | lost   |
| NCU24  | lost   |

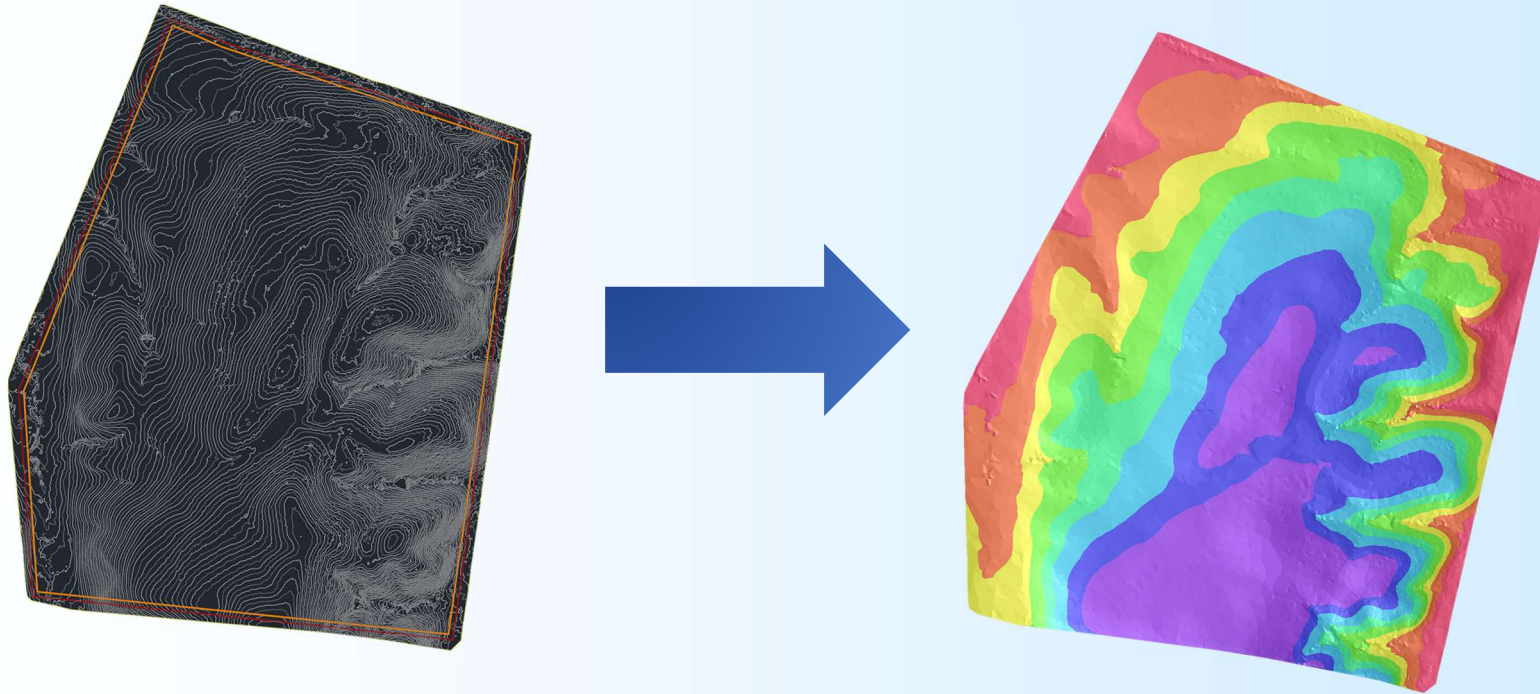
# SCADA System-User Interface

Log: View the past operation status

The screenshot displays the SCADA system user interface. At the top, the ESET SOLAR logo is visible on the left, and the project name 'CR Peixian Tracking Project' with a phone number '+86-0516-83152579' and a timestamp '17-03-2025 15:50:56' are shown in the center. A user profile icon labeled 'user' is on the right. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Monitor', and 'Log' (the active page). The main content area features a search bar with a date range from '2025-03-17 15:48' to '2025-03-17 15:48' and a search button. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'MENU', 'INFO', 'TCU', and 'EXPORT'. The central part of the interface is a table with the following columns: NO., Block, Table Number, longitude, latitude, Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Snow thickness, and Time. The table contains 15 rows of data. At the bottom, there is a pagination bar showing 'total 37 item', 'Page 1', and 'go to 1 page'.

| NO. | Block | Table Number | longitude | latitude | Wind Speed | Wind Direction | Snow thickness | Time                  |
|-----|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 3.6m/s     | 135.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 15:05:42cm |
| 2   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.8m/s     | 89.0°          | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 15:44:35cm |
| 3   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 3.1m/s     | 134.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 15:54:02cm |
| 4   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 3.5m/s     | 111.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 15:54:39cm |
| 5   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.4m/s     | 159.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:00:13cm |
| 6   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 0.0m/s     | 164.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:06:38cm |
| 7   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 1.9m/s     | 124.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:18:10cm |
| 8   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.4m/s     | 113.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:21:05cm |
| 9   | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 1.7m/s     | 101.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:30:07cm |
| 10  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.8m/s     | 75.0°          | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:39:06cm |
| 11  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.2m/s     | 104.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:56:36cm |
| 12  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.6m/s     | 125.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 16:57:53cm |
| 13  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 2.9m/s     | 120.0°         | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 17:03:19cm |
| 14  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 4.0m/s     | 84.0°          | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 17:06:30cm |
| 15  | 1     | 69           | 116.48°   | 34.57°   | 4.3m/s     | 66.0°          | 0.0cm          | 2025-03-11 17:07:11cm |

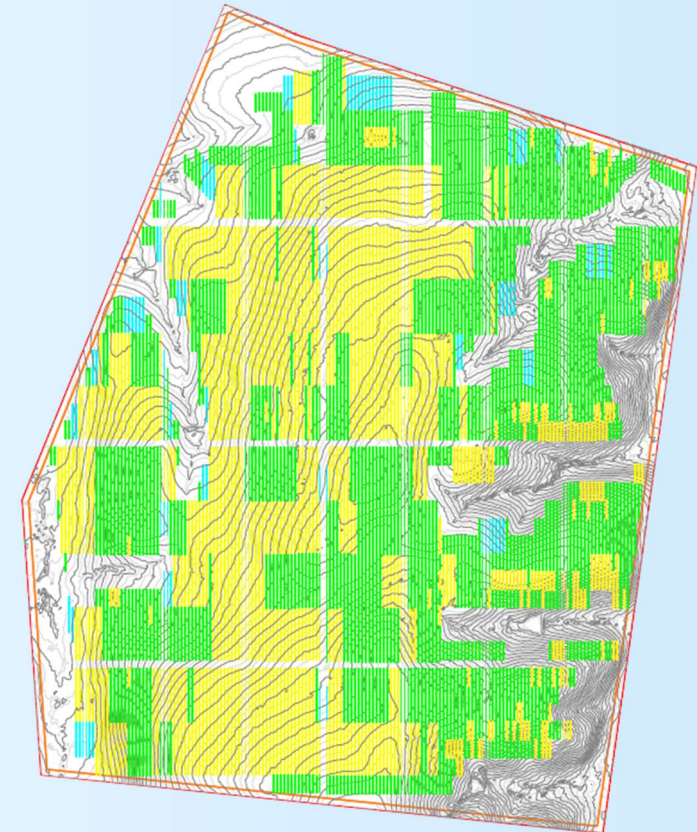
## Case Study 2



- Full site detailed slope analysis
- Create a 3D model based on contour points.

## Case Study 2

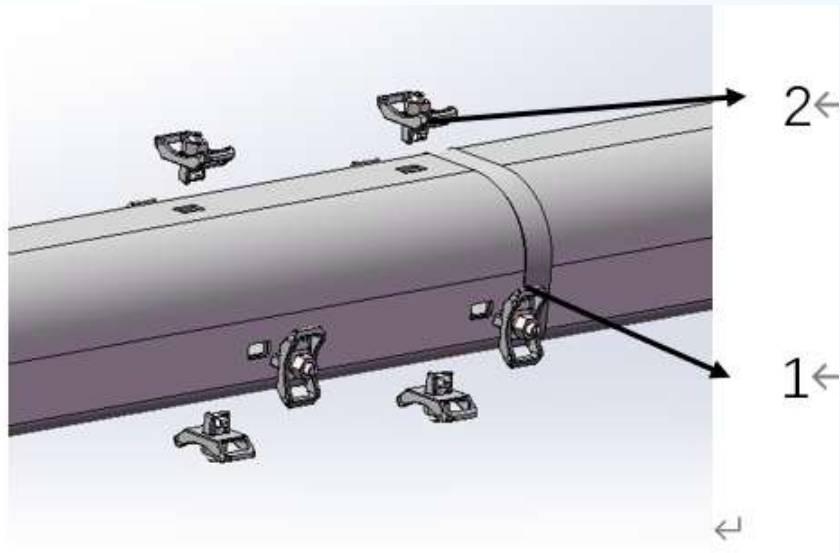
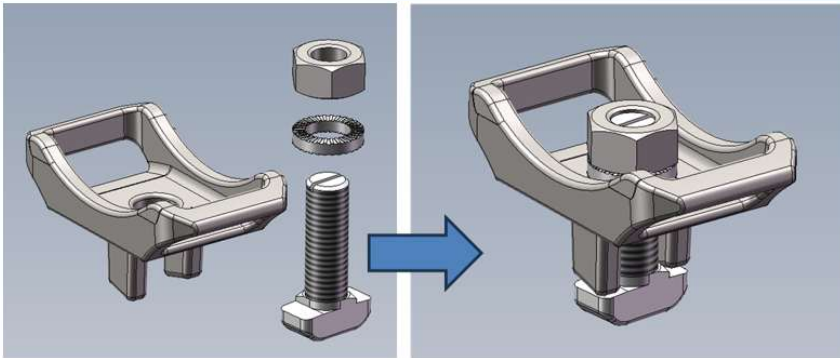
- Specific layout arrangement according to slope analysis
- Cut&fill analysis to obtain earthing volume (optional)
- Post location table



### Cut/Fill Report

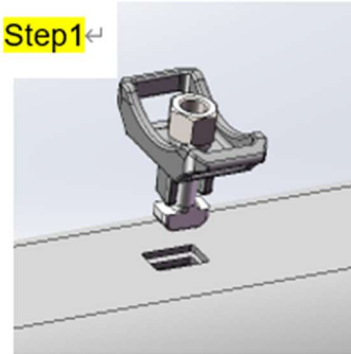
|              | Name | Elevation after balancing | 2D Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Cut (m <sup>3</sup> ) | Fill (m <sup>3</sup> ) | Net (m <sup>3</sup> ) |                     |
|--------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1            | Melo | Varied                    | 2140876.646               | 3431.76               | 3430.956               | -0.804                | <Fill>              |
| <b>Total</b> |      |                           | <b>2140876.646</b>        | <b>3431.76</b>        | <b>3430.956</b>        | <b>-0.804</b>         | <b>&lt;Fill&gt;</b> |

## Case Study 2



Pre-assembled T bolts for torque tube connection

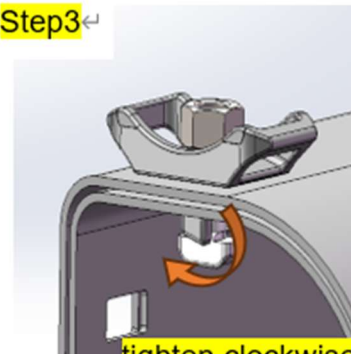
Step1



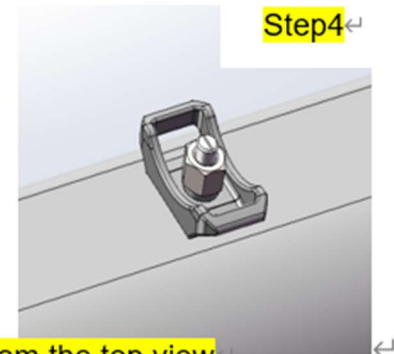
Step2



Step3



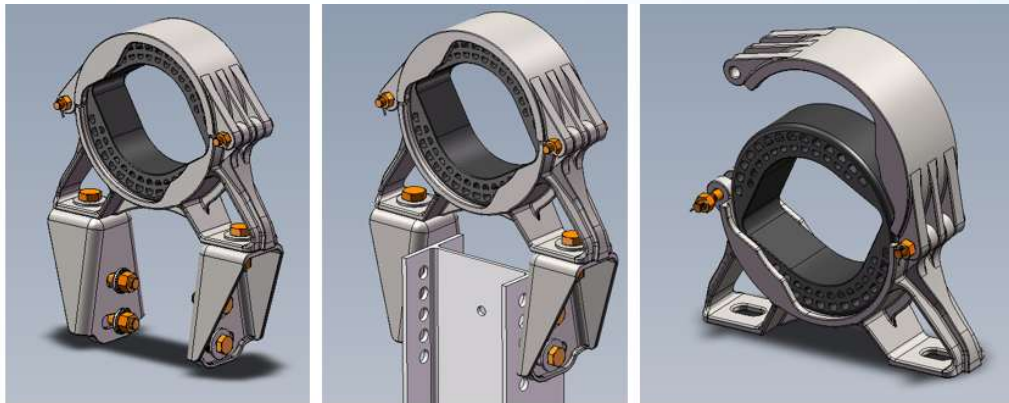
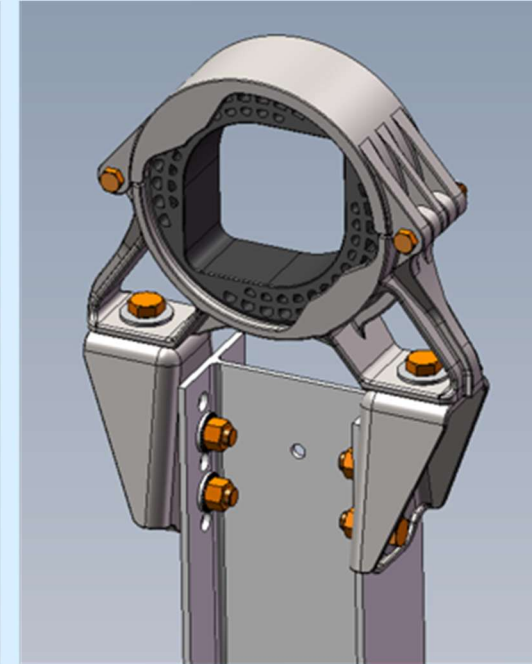
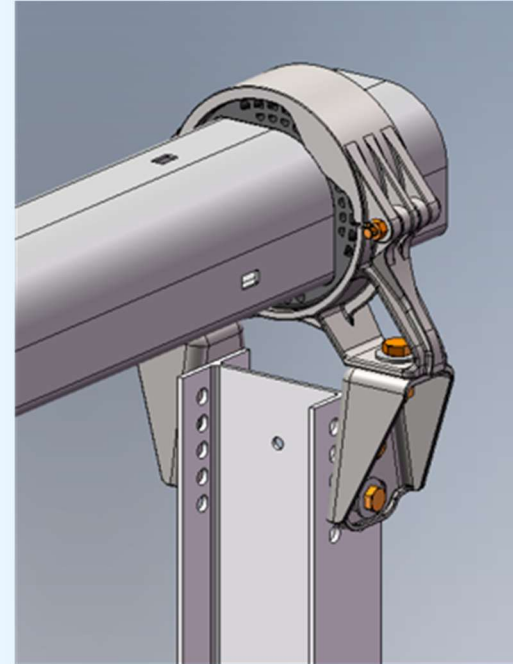
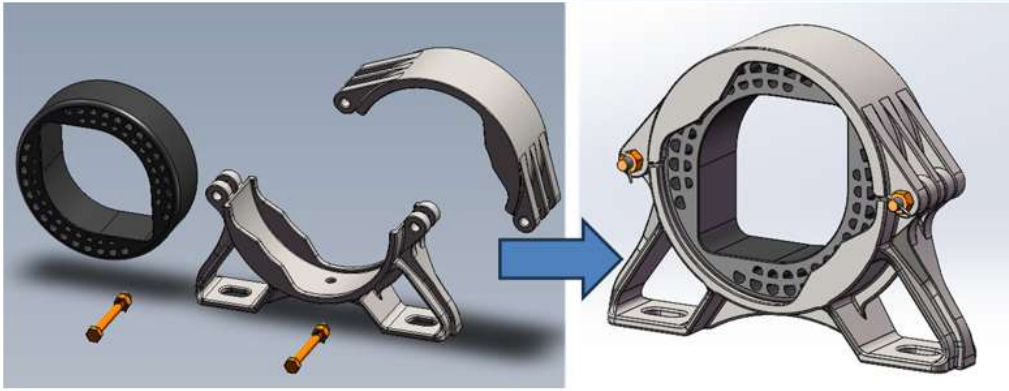
Step4



tighten clockwise from the top view

Figure 4.2: Installation diagram of carriage bolts

## Case Study 2



Pre-assembled bearing housing



Earnest | Openness | Courage | Responsibility

# THANKS

**Jiangsu Evershine Energy Technology Co. Ltd**

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Development Zone, Xuzhou, Jiangsu, China

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WIND ENGINEERING  
CONSULTANTS

# Wind Tunnel Testing of ESET Steady

Surfing extreme winds: How 'Every post self-locking' trackers eliminate torsional risks

15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Parsa Enshaei

[penshaei@cppwind.com](mailto:penshaei@cppwind.com)

# Who We Are

- *Structural engineering + aerodynamics:*
  - Variety of structures:
    - Tall buildings, Stadiums, Bridges, Data centers, Landmarks and Monuments, Airports, etc.
  - **Utility-Scale Solar Sites**
- *Offices around the world:*
  - US, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, India, UAE
- *Four wind tunnels:*
  - 2 in Colorado, 1 in Sydney, 1 in Kuala Lumpur

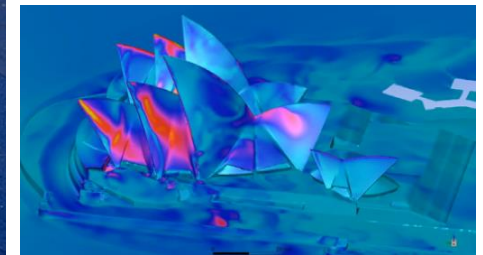
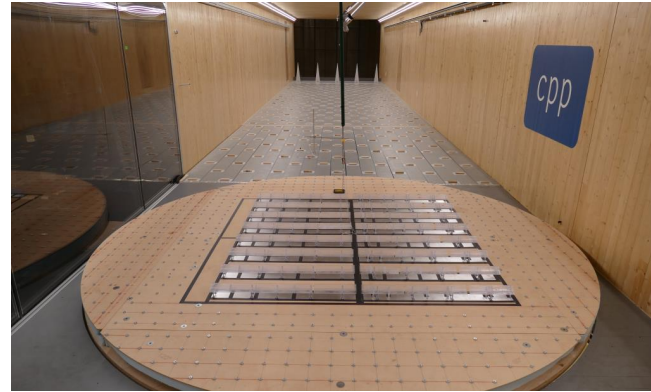
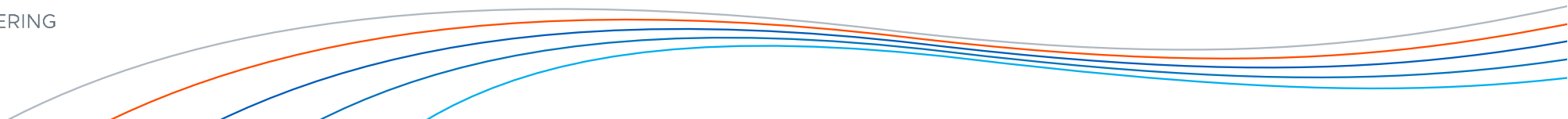
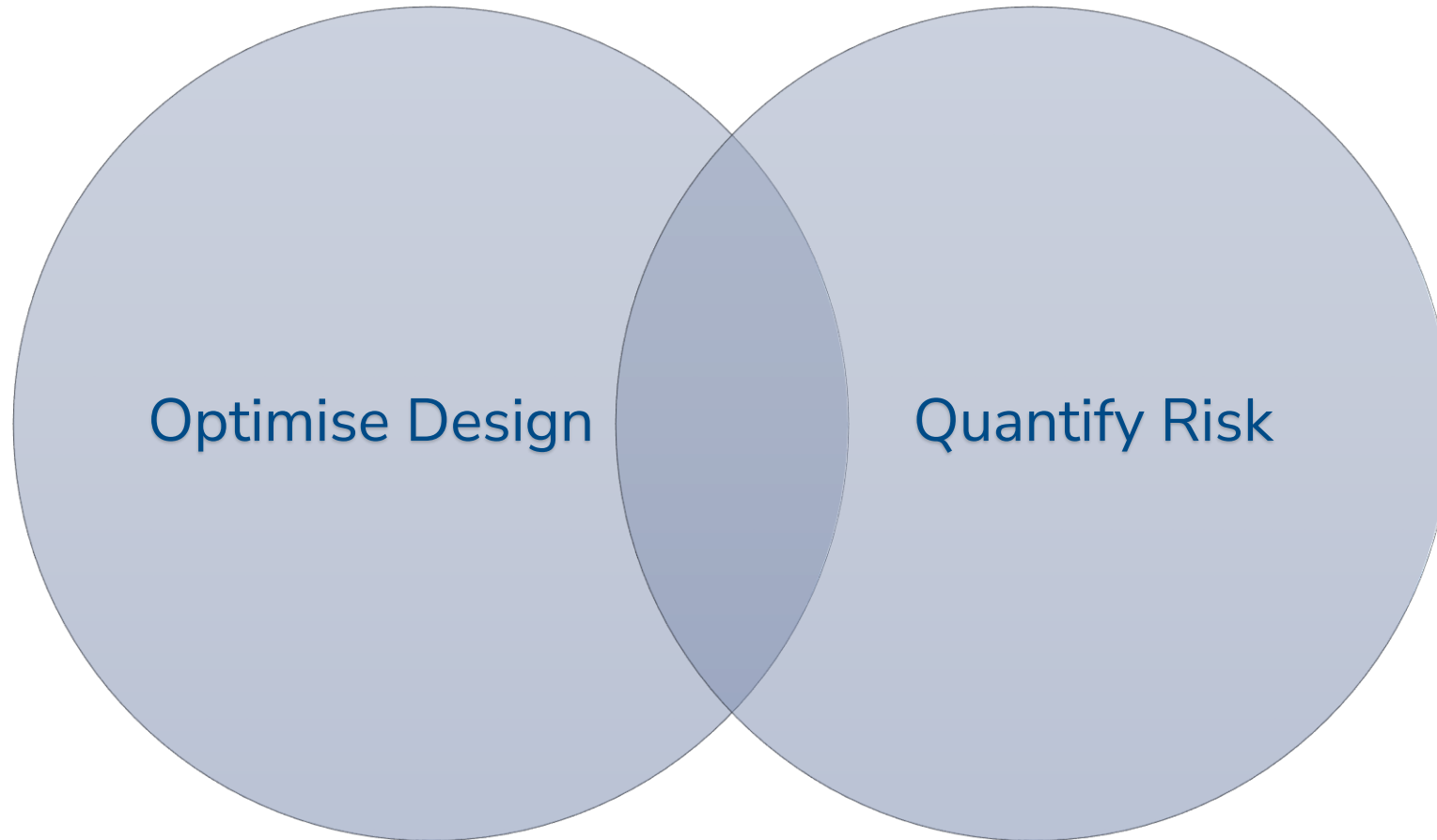


Figure: CPP services across different sectors



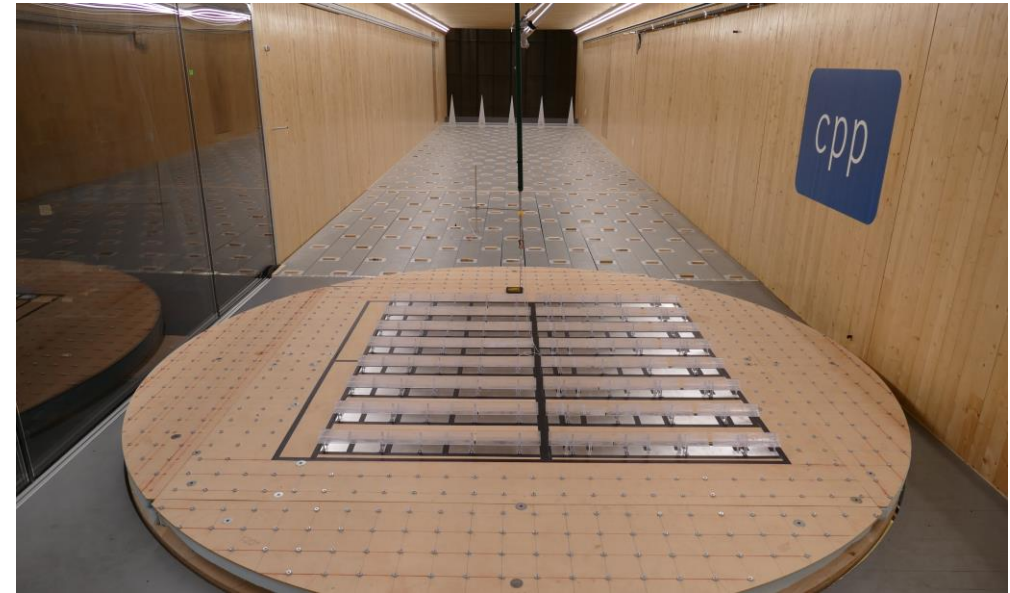
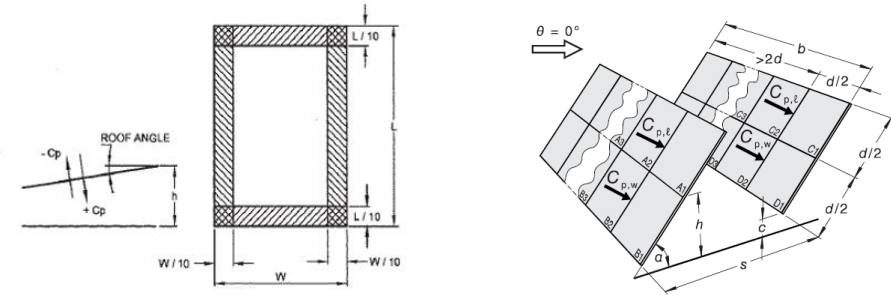
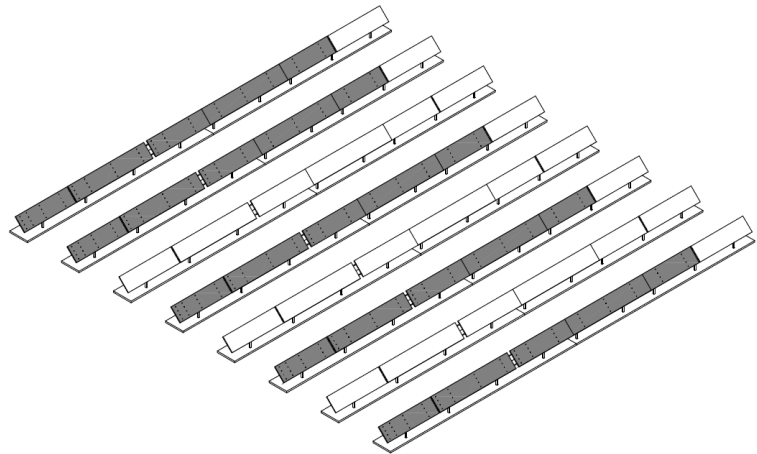
# Wind-Induced Risk



*Figures: Solar mounting failures reported on social media*

# Pressure Tests

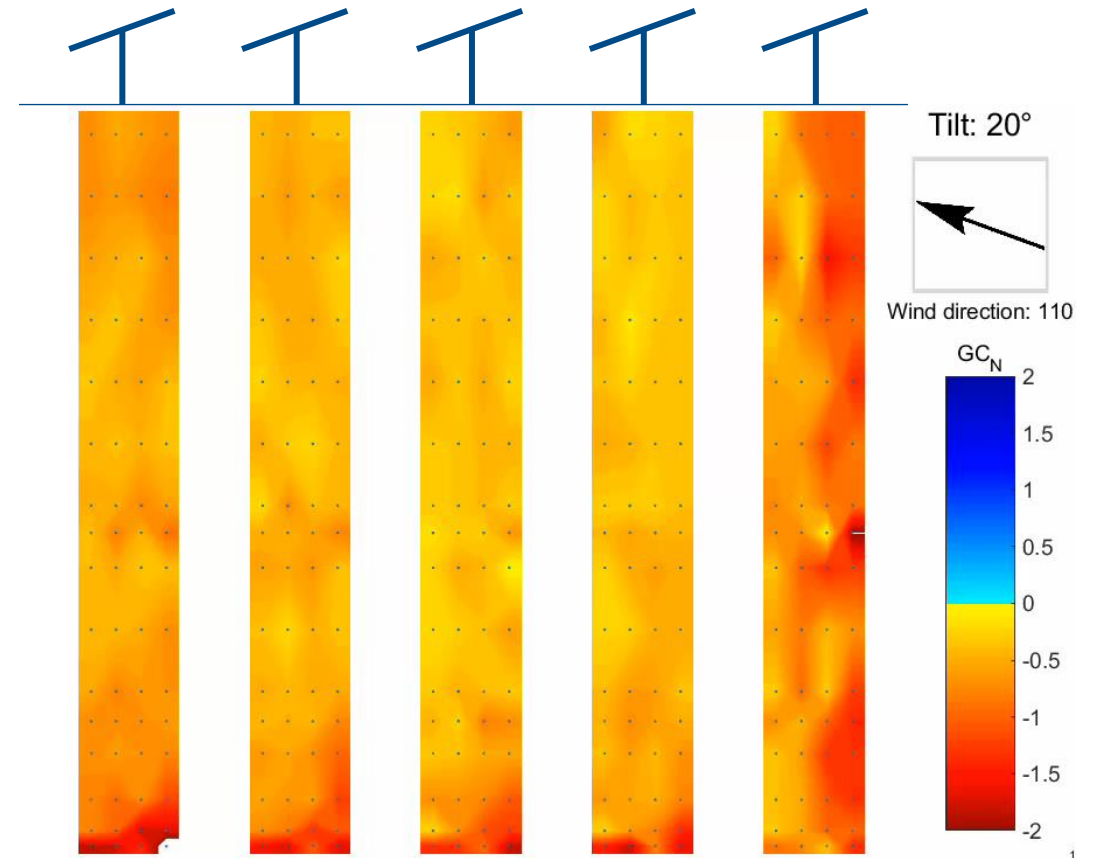
- Assumed-static analysis for forces and moments
- Assumes vibration or deflection isn't significant enough to alter the aerodynamics
- Not accurately covered in wind codes



Figures: Pressure testing of solar trackers

# Pressure Fluctuations

- *Variation with Location and Geometry*
  - Sample case of leading edge up at 20° during a cornering wind
  - Several tilts, heights and row spacings are considered
  - Inter-row and gap effects clear



Figures: Peak pressure locations on the system in uplift

# Advanced Dynamics Analysis

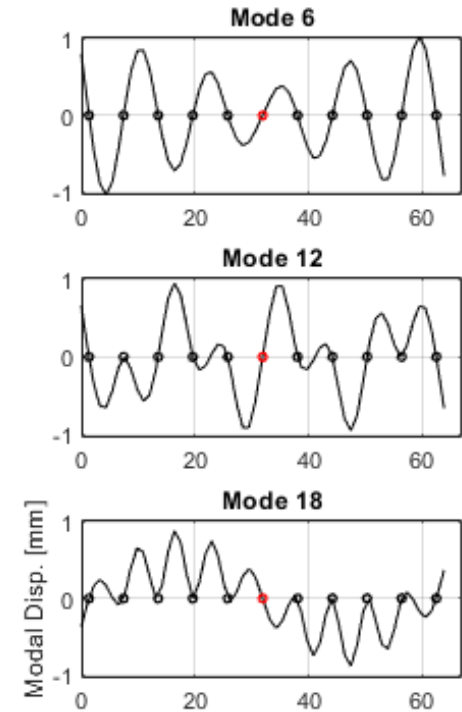
- *Dynamic (resonant) effects can amplify loads*
  - Advanced structural analysis
  - Verified damping levels



Video: Heaving motion of trackers (Social Media)



Figures: Snapshot of pluck tests on the ESET system (middle) and heaving mode shapes (right)



# Torsional Instability



*Video: Tracker array experiencing torsional instability (LinkedIn)*



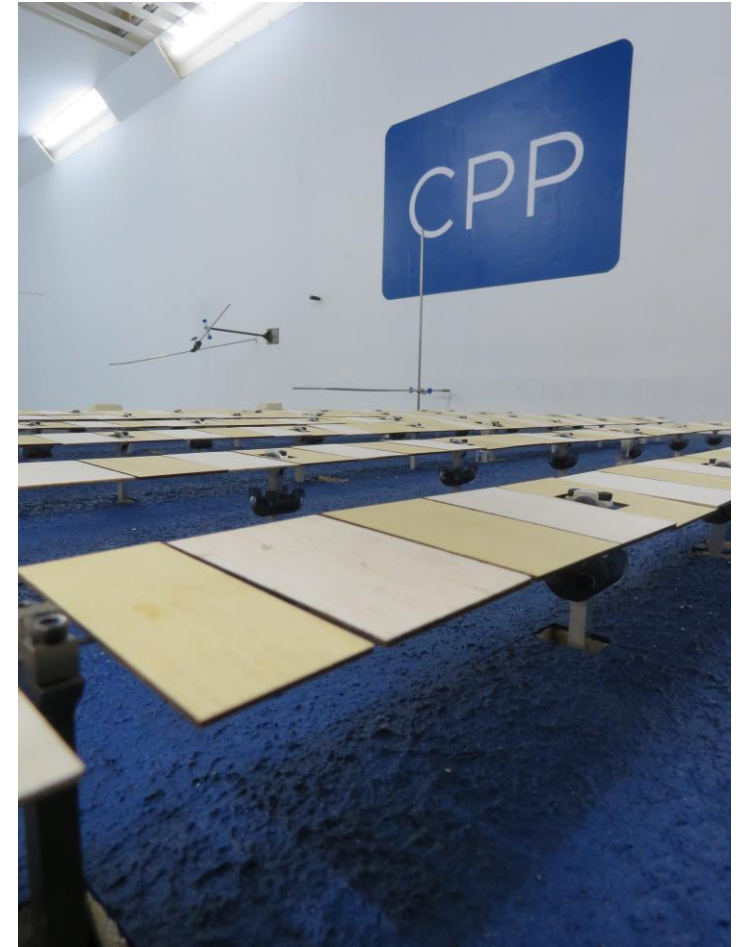
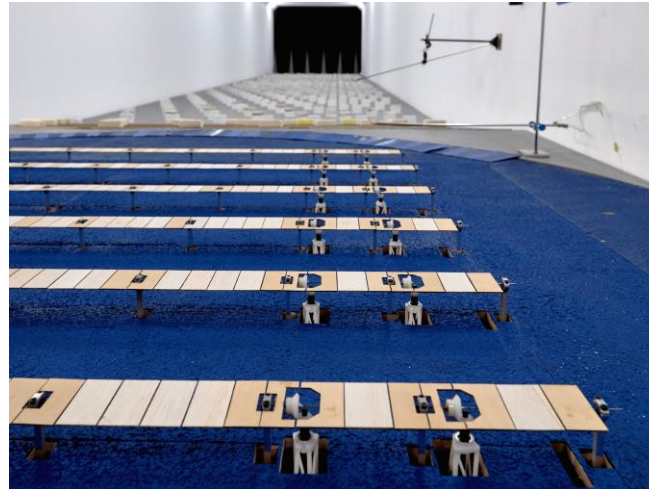
*Figure: Aftermath of damage incurred:*

*Top: At the Oakey 2 site in October 2018 (pv magazine, 2020)*

*Bottom: South of Spain (Valentin et, al, 2022)*

# Aeroelastic Models

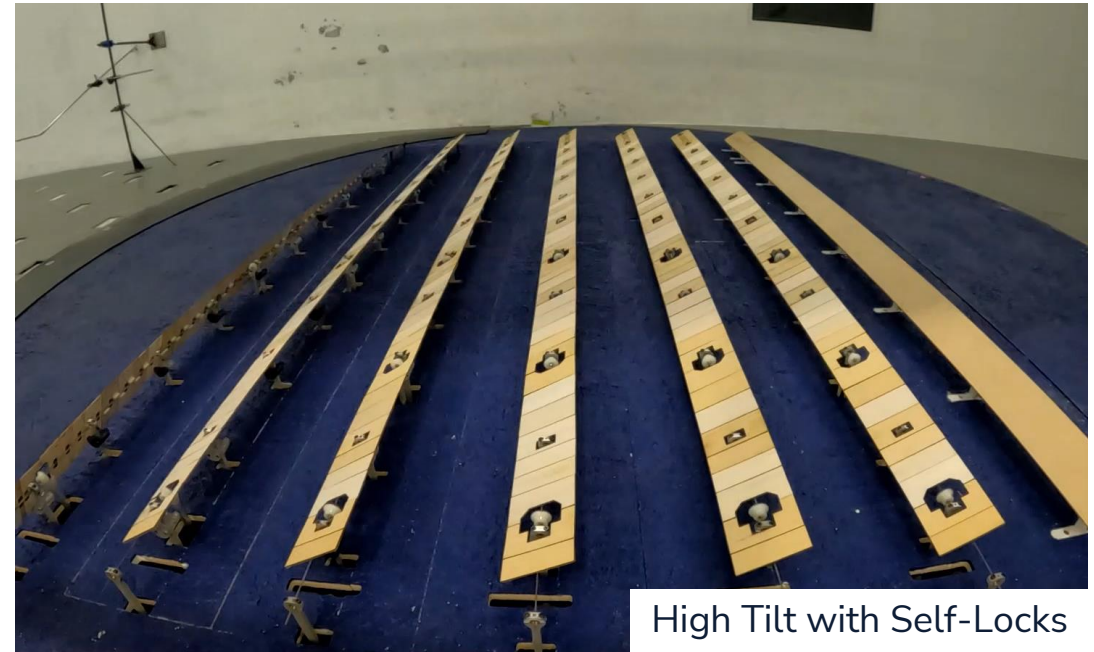
- *Scaled model that moves like the full-scale system in torsion*
  - Tracker geometry
  - Torsional stiffness and mass moment of inertia
  - Damping
  - Self-locks



Figures: ESET Torsional Instability Aeroelastic Models

# Aeroelastic Instability Testing

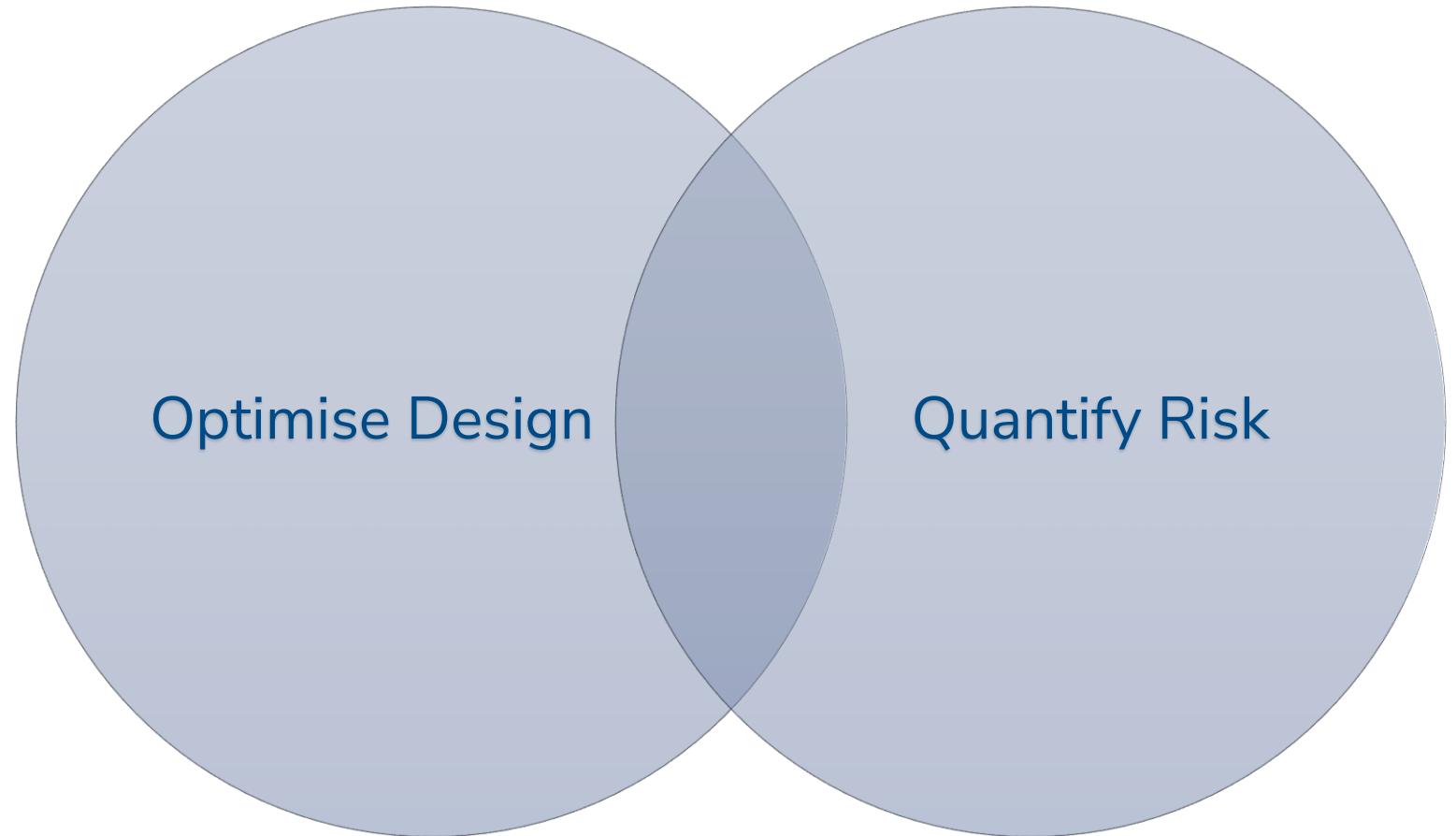
- *Guidance in defining the stow strategy and design wind speed*



Videos: *Torsional instability tests of wind tunnel models*

# Overview

- *Step by step engineering*
  - ✓ Assumed-static loads
  - ✓ Advanced dynamics analysis
  - ✓ Torsional aeroelastic testing
  - ✓ Site-specific analysis...





# Thank You

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## PV Tracker Risk Analysis

**An Independent Engineer's perspective**

Dipl.-Ing. Max Dinkelaker

*PV Magazine Webinar, 15.06.2026*

- *sbp sonne* founded in 1980 by Prof. Jörg Schlaich and Rudolf Bergermann as part of specialist consultancy *schlaich bergermann partner*

Stuttgart – Berlin – Hamburg – New York – Sao Paulo – Shanghai – Paris – Madrid – Los Angeles - Riad

- areas of expertise
  - **PV - Technology** development & -design consultancy,
  - **CSP - Technology** development / -licensing,
  - independent **structural reviews**, checking engineering and certification
  - interdisciplinary **engineering services**
- third-party reviewer for > 60 GW single-axis PV tracker since 2016 for owners, developers, insurance companies, system OEMs



## Evolution of single-axis tracking technology

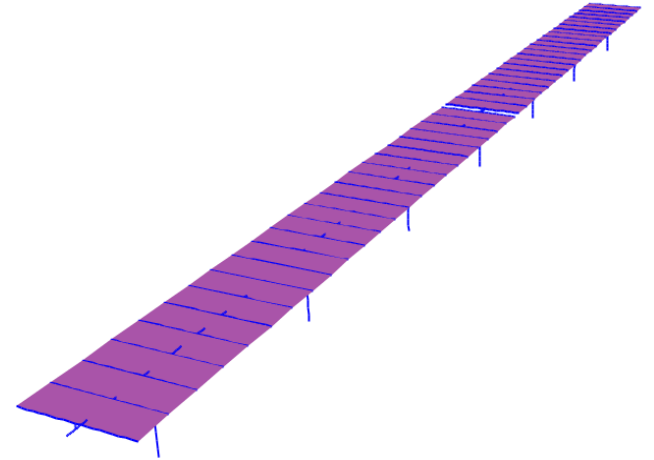
|                      | Previously   | Nowadays  |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Typical Project Size | 5 - 25 – 50 MW   | 600 – 1000 - <b>3000 MW</b> ...   |
| PV Tracker Layouts   | 1P → 3L → 2P → 1P + 2P   | <b>1P</b> .. 2P   |
| stow-tilt            | dominantly $-15^\circ < 0^\circ < 15^\circ$                    | diverse - <b><math>60^\circ &lt; -45^\circ &lt; 0^\circ &lt; 45^\circ &lt; 60^\circ</math></b>                              |
| Drive                | central-/mono-drive  | multi-drive / multi-locked  |
| Design Innovation    | homogeneous designs for most tracking systems (square TT, ...) | Innovative, individual designs, broad diversity of solutions (TT sections, dampers vs locks, module brackets, purlins, ...) |
| Wind Tunnel Test     | code-based approach<br>Basic WTT: Static & Dynamic             | adv. WTT: Static, <b>adv. Dynamics &amp; Aeroelastic</b>  |
| Mechanical Tests     | unusual for the market, basic testing                          | market standard practice, <b>advanced testing</b> , sbps customized testing requirements                                    |

→ constant design development

→ constant innovations to improve structural, electrical, economic performance enable growth and technology maturity

## Anatomy of modern tracking systems

- PV-Tracker shall be considered **both - static and moveable** structures
- PV-Trackers are **highly optimized** through advanced physical testing (static/dynamic/aero-elastic WTT, damping, mechanical load tests)
  - structural stiffness decreases, various degrees of freedom
  - high deformations & dynamic behavior to be considered
  - **advanced analysis methods** are mandatory
  - interaction between **system response** (stiffness) and **loading** (i.e. wind) needs to be considered at all design stages / analysis steps
- PV-Tracker / Solar Structures being developed as *products* but implemented in specific *site-conditions*, thus detailed adaption engineering is required.



## Key Design Challenges

### Each tracker in a different location/site is a new tracker!

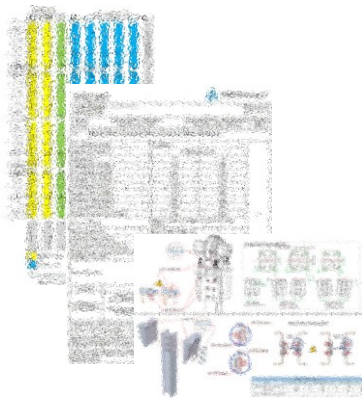
A tracker previously designed & reviewed for a different site, *does not mean less efforts!*

- local wind conditions
- applicable local code(s)
- soil conditions
- specific OTS criteria
- small changes in a tracker (structural) design can cause cascading consequences
  
- trend towards *modular, multi-drive tracker assemblies* leads to more individual/unique project designs

### Consequences

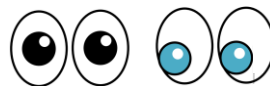
- Design Criteria between **Code(s) – OTS – OEM project design** must be reviewed for consistency individually for each site/project/phase
- Focus on implementation of Wind Tunnel Testing: application, processing, adaption to project parameter
- Analysis models must be customized and benchmarked for each projects individually

**Review of above criteria are independent from previous reviews for “similar” projects!**



## Design

- Documentation
- Load assumptions
- Analysis
- Results
- Verification



4-eye principle

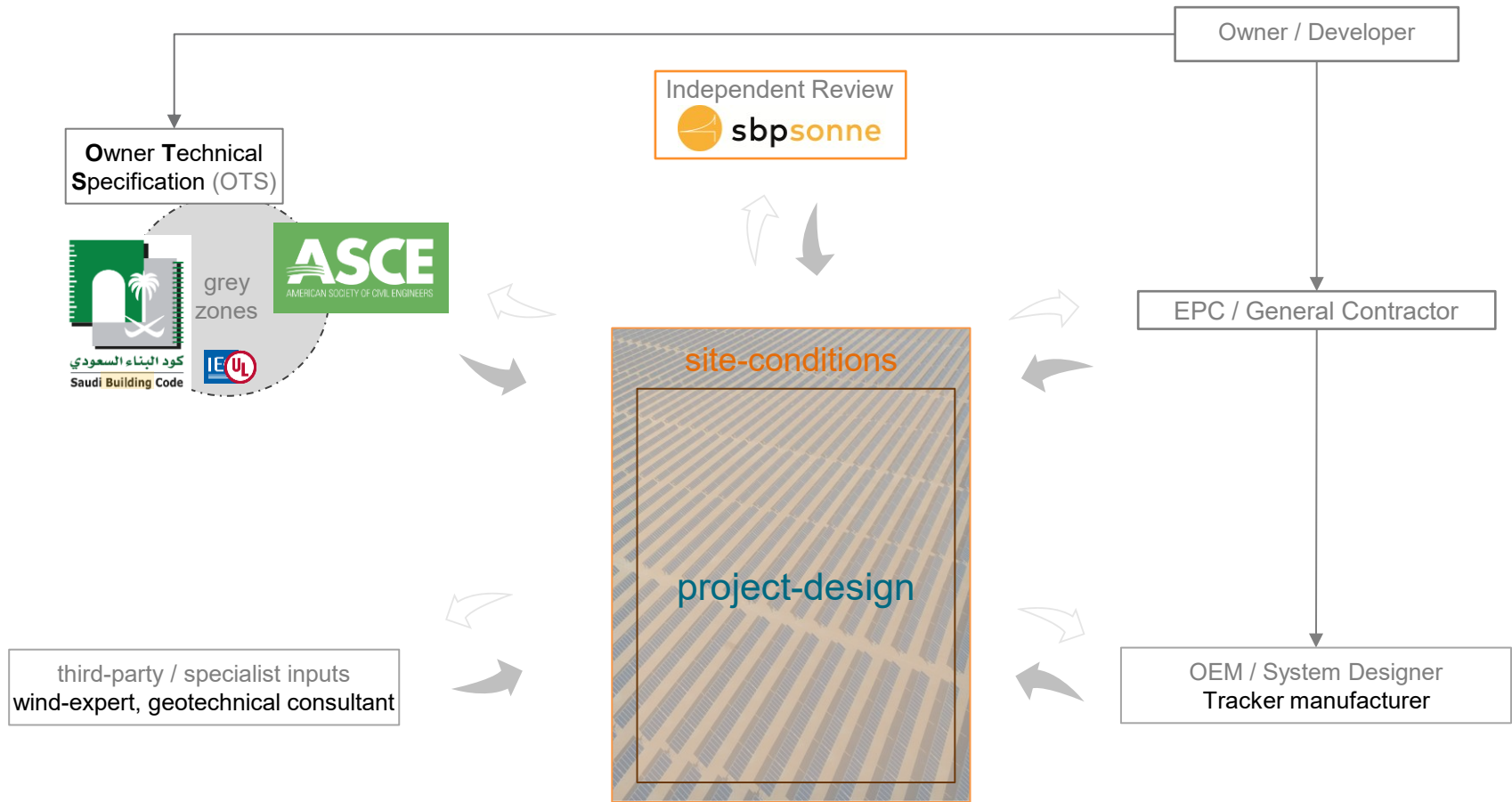
## Checking

- 'Global' Safety Concept considerations
- Reference Calculations
- Feedback and Confirmation



*independent  
separating  
ensuring*

from technical and economic conflicts  
design and checking  
design support, education and quality through dialogue



## Design Reviews

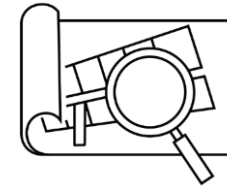
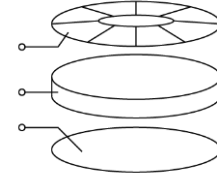
- regulations: adapting Building Codes to specific characteristics of PV plants  
i.e. size-effects, stiffness criteria, serviceability criteria

***understand – challenge – analyze – refine***

- optimization / customization / site-specific designs and control strategies are *industry-standard*  
i.e. *WTT-implementation and applicability*

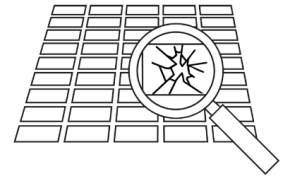
***Every design review is unique – attention to the details!***

- Structural and mechanical malfunction or failure influence electrical performance of plant.  
***Reliability of structural components in utility-scale PV plants is essential for resilient energy-supply.***



## Incident Investigations

- sbps observes accumulation of PV-Trackers damage incidents in recent years – *pre-dominantly systems designed before 2020.*
- main root-cause(s)
  - high-wind events, exceeding code provisions
  - ‘blank spots’ in structural design, i.e. in-sufficient aero-elastic stability, construction-sequence design, -stow strategy
  - in-sufficient site adaption
  - control / communication system outages
  - incompatibility tracker-to-module
- magnitude of damages/failures significant
  - module breakage
  - primary steel structure failure
  - assembly failure and cascading array collapse



## What can we learn for the future to reduce development risks

### Specification

Refining code regulations where necessary – relaxing where possible!  
Bespoke, site-specific load criteria based on advanced analysis and research.

### Systems

Product development must be followed by detailed adaption engineering.  
Resilient system design beats optimization and cost-savings.

### Approval

Comprehensive, third-party checking of structural and electro-mechanical systems – before execution

### Monitoring

Holistic QA during construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance.  
Tracking weather, control and structural data on-site, estimating short- and long-term trends





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# Surfing extreme winds: How 'Every-post self-locking' trackers eliminate torsional risks | Q&A



**Marian Willuhn**

Senior Editor  
pv magazine



**Frank Wang**

Director of Technical Support  
ESET Solar



**Parsa Enshaei**

Associate Principal  
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