

# Wind Turbine Wake Research at the SWiFT Facility

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Sandia National Laboratories



*Exceptional  
service  
in the  
national  
interest*



SAND2017- PE

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# Topics

- Overall R&D approach
- Sandia Wake Imaging System
- National Rotor Testbed
- Wake Steering Experiment
- Partnerships

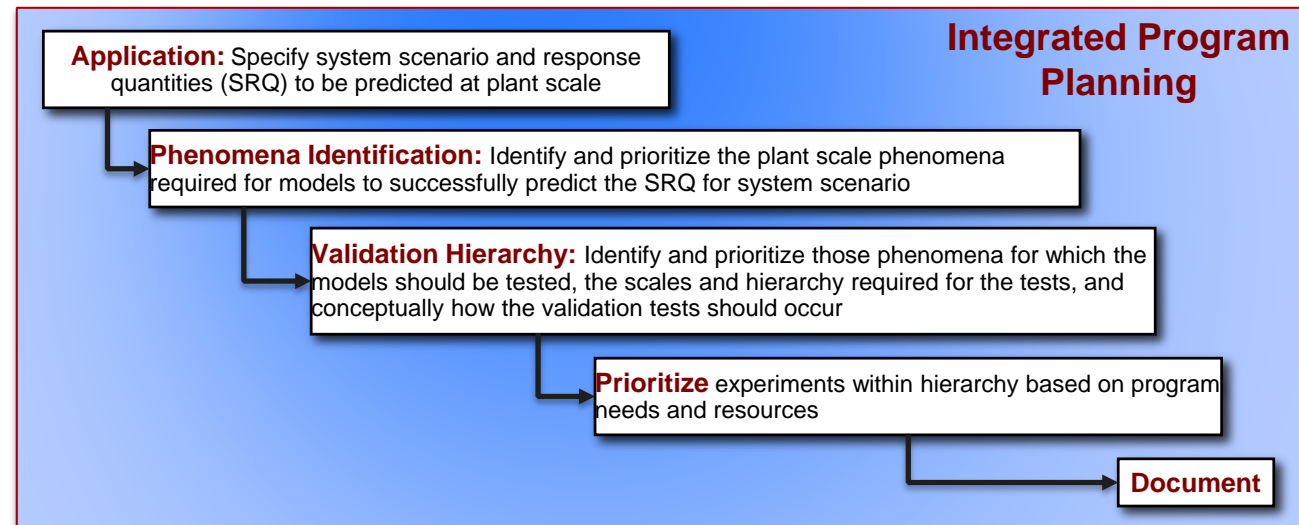


# V&V Framework

(2015 Hills, Maniaci, Naughton)

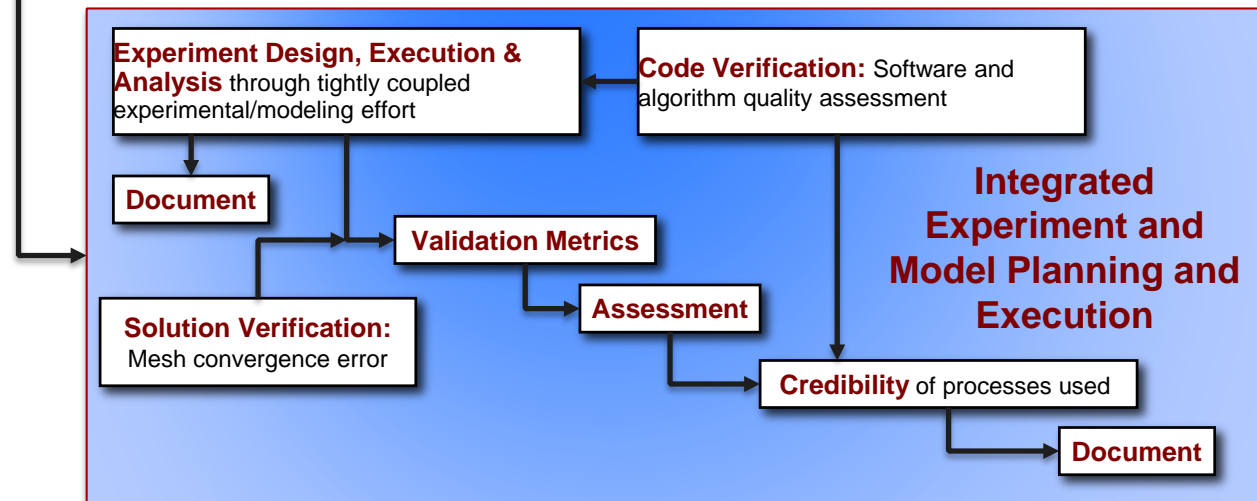
## Integrated Planning

- Program leaders, modelers, software developers, experimentalists, V&V specialists

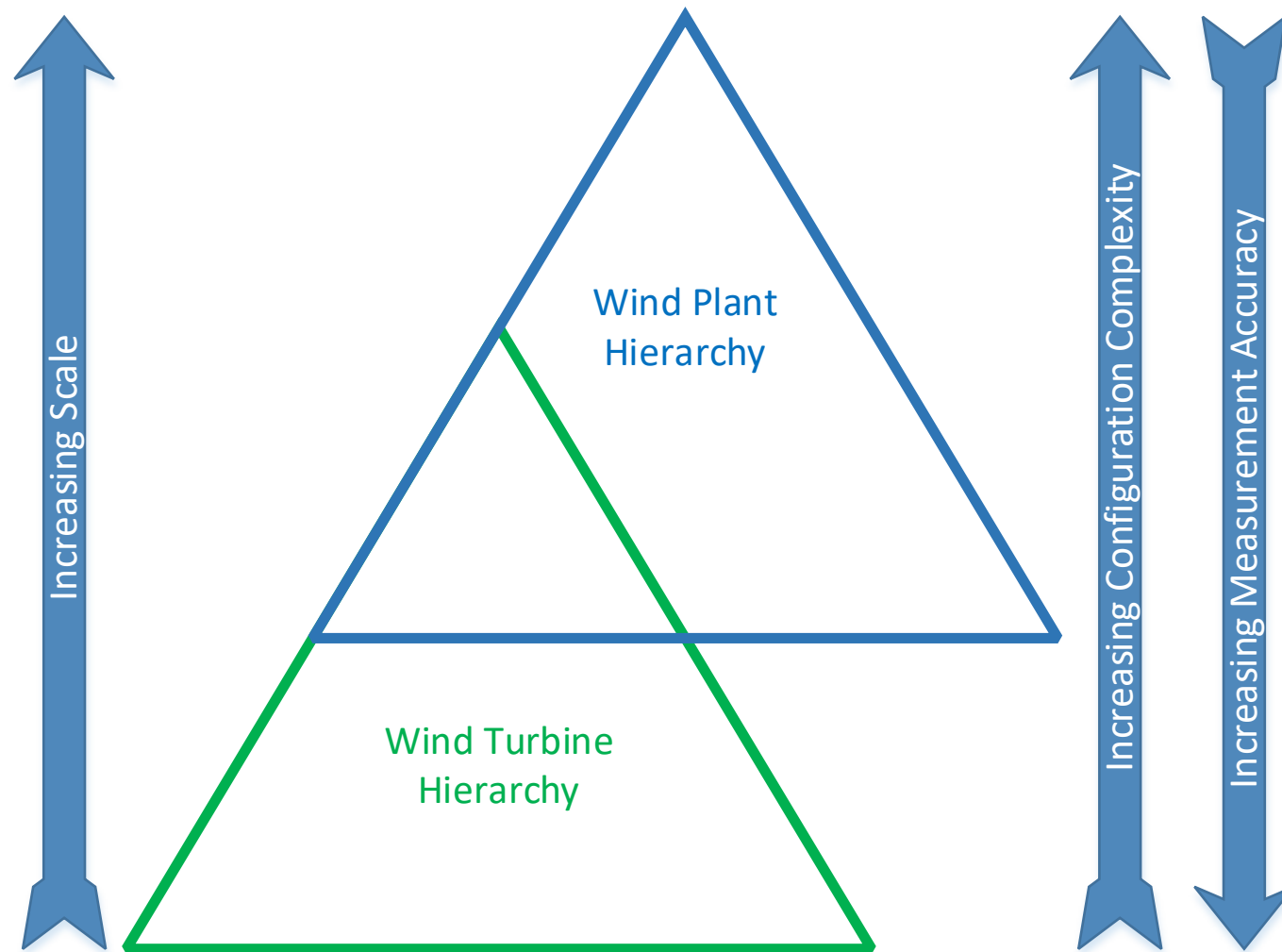


## Validation Planning

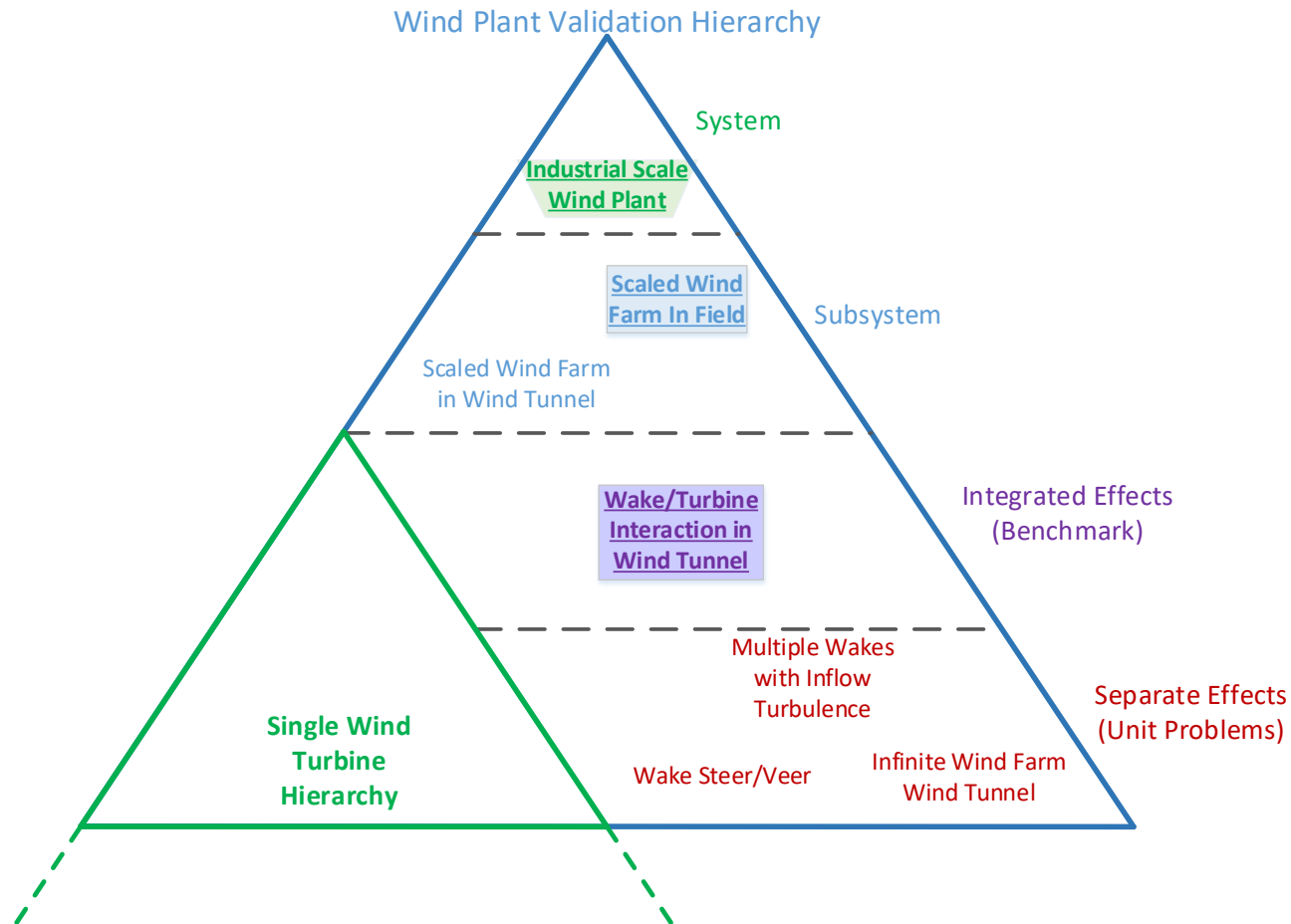
- Domain specific program leaders, modelers, experimentalists, V&V specialists, data acquisition specialists

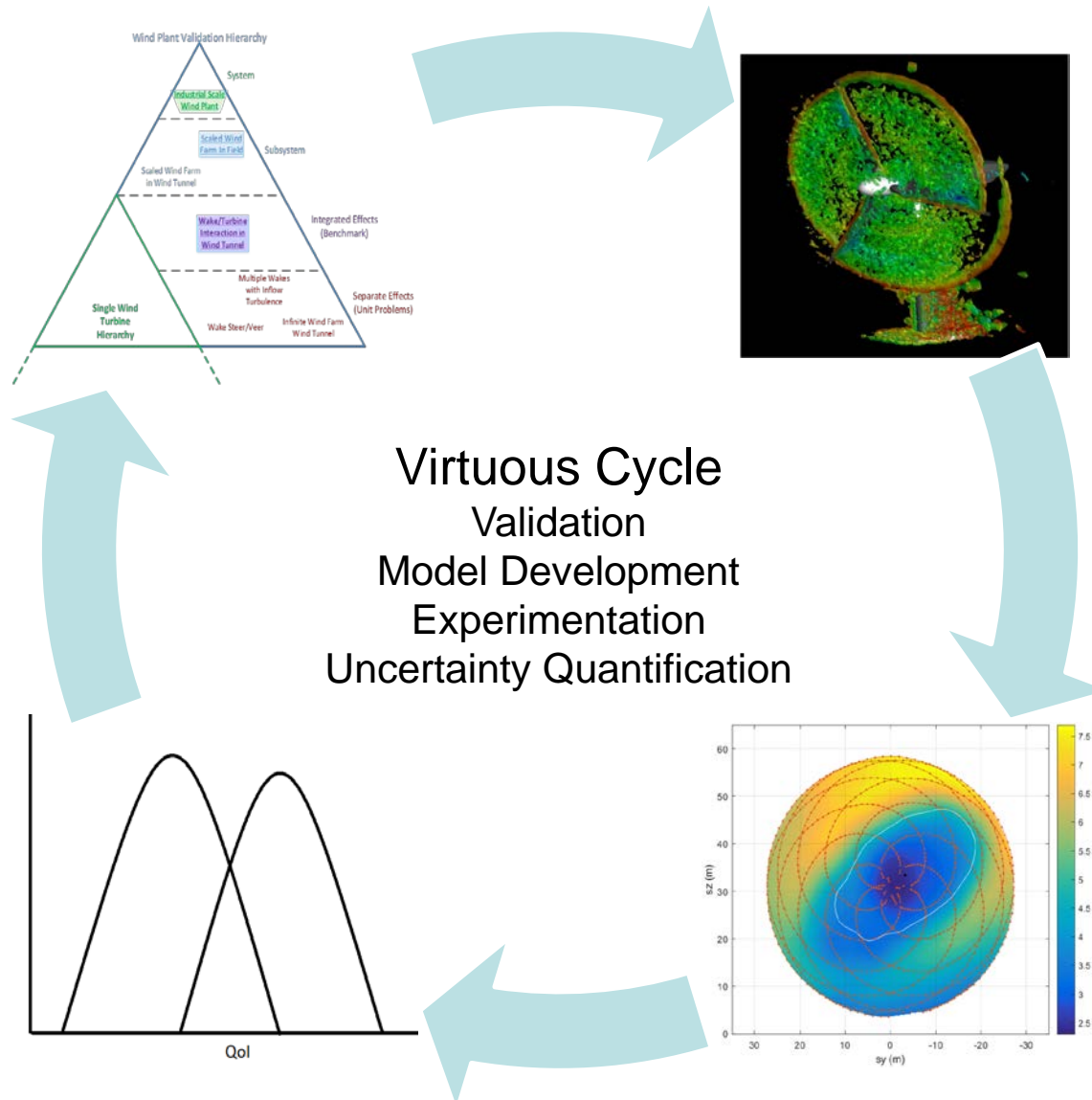


# Validation Hierarchy

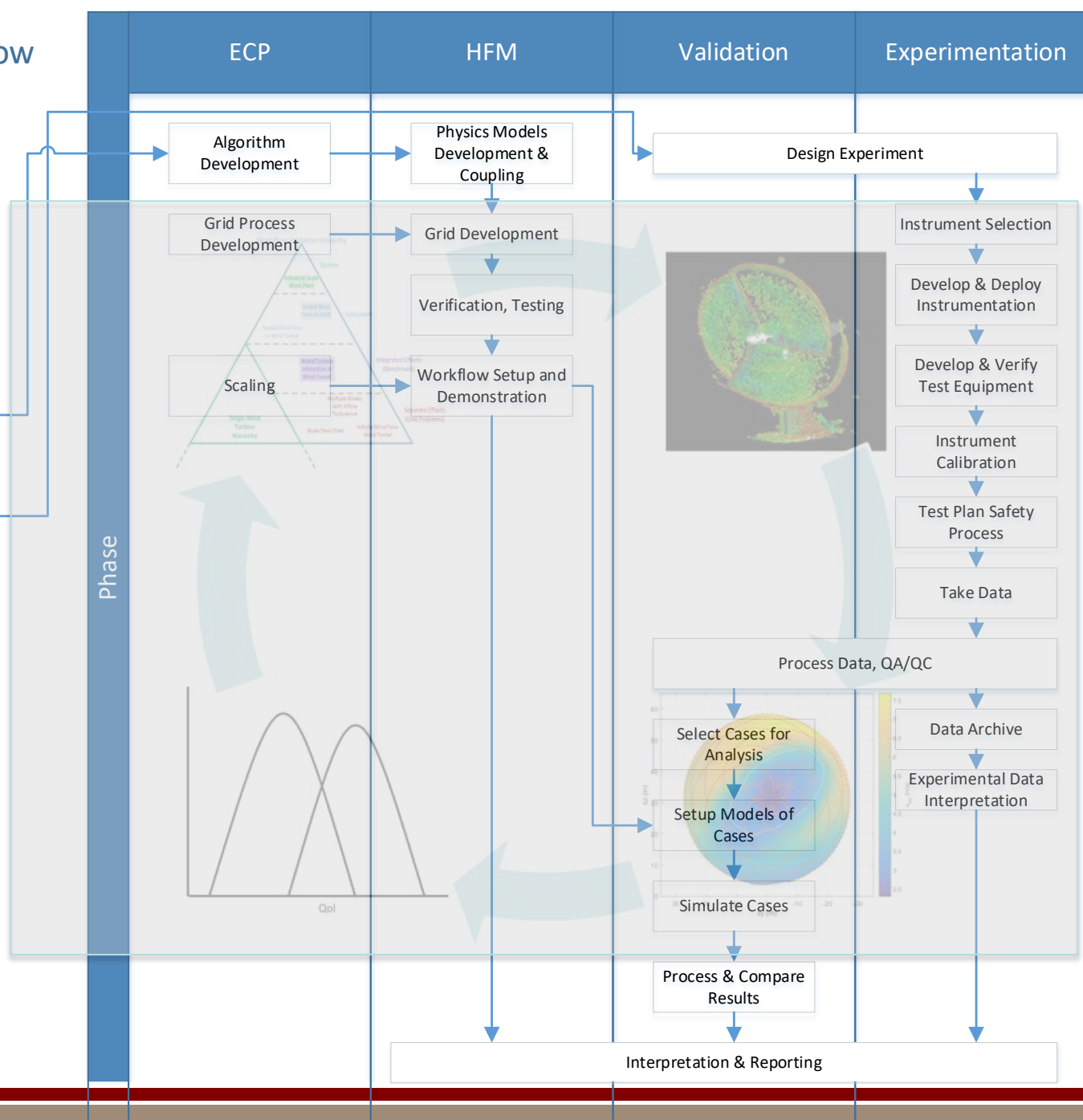


# Wind Plant Validation Hierarchy



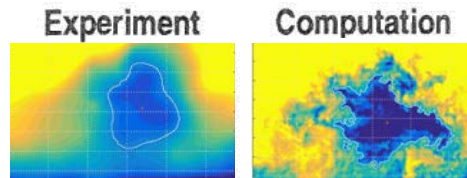


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graph TD; A[Application Definition] --> B[PIRT]; B --> C[Prioritization, Use Cases]; C --> D[Physics Selection]; D --> E[Design Validation Studies];
```

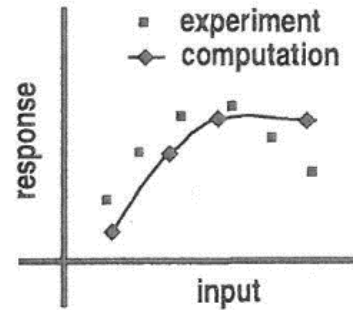


# Uncertainty Quantification

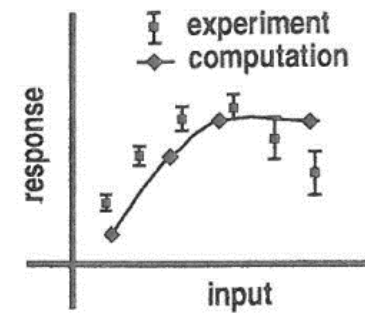
## Levels of Precision



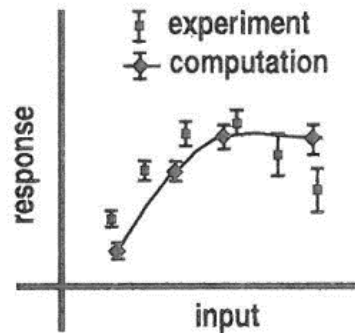
(a) Viewgraph Norm



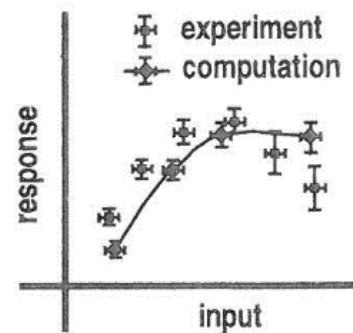
(b) Deterministic Simulation



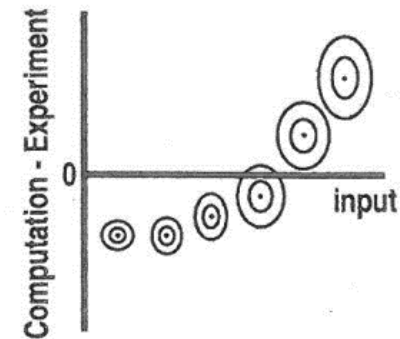
(c) Including  
Experimental  
Uncertainty



(d) Including  
Numerical Error



(e) Nondeterministic  
Simulation



(f) Statistical  
Mismatch

Modified from Oberkampf and Roy, 2012



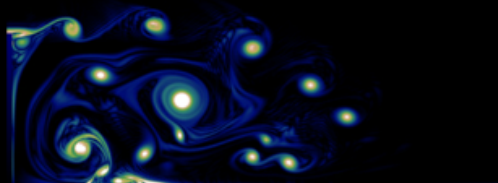
# Nalu V1.0

SAND2014-15367M

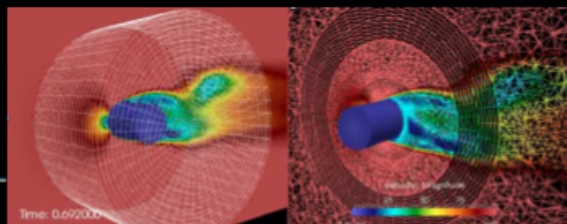


## Open Source: BSD license has been granted<sup>(5/2014)</sup>

Weak scaling demonstrated to 524,000 core with 10 billion unstructured hex mesh  
Generalized unstructured (CVFEM and EBVC supported)

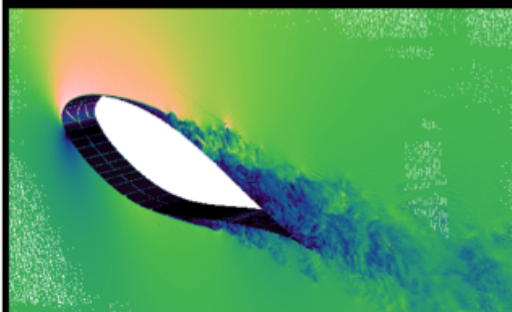


Backstep (vorticity)

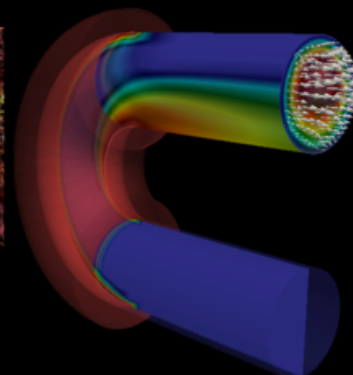


Time: 60.000000

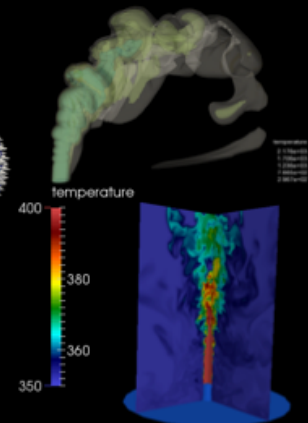
2D/3D sliding mesh



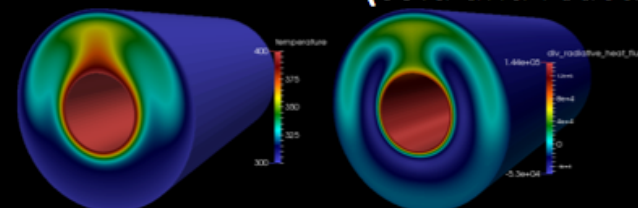
2D/3D periodic



Multiphysics CHT



LES Jet  
(cold and reacting)



Multiphysics Fluids/PMR



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# Multi-level Uncertainty Quantification with LES

Demonstrated an order of magnitude reduction in computational cost for a cylinder flow problem by coupling Nalu (CFD) to DAKOTA (UQ) and using a multilevel UQ approach.

## Problem description

- (Laminar) Flow over a cylinder ( $Re=10-750$ )
- Input parameters: Density and Viscosity
- QoI: Coefficient of Drag
- 4 levels of mesh resolution

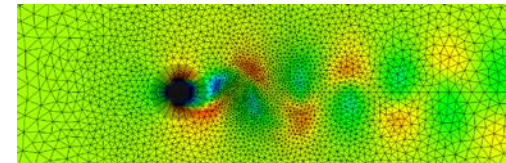
## UQ approach

- Multilevel sampling-based estimator to accelerate convergence

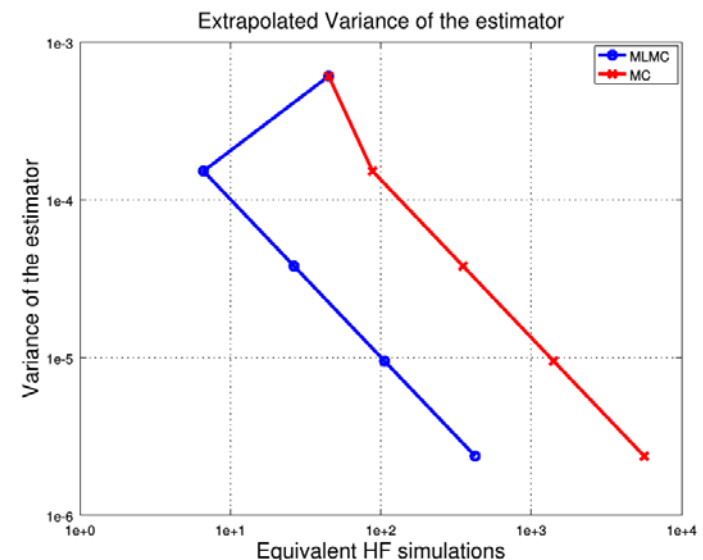
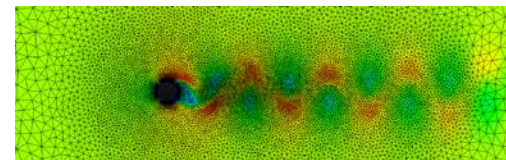
## Impact

- Sampling methods are well suited for UQ problems with extremely high dimensionality (such as wind farm LES)
- Convergence is guaranteed for non smooth QoIs
- Demonstrated order of magnitude improvement in accuracy/cost of Multilevel estimators (MLMC) relative to conventional Monte Carlo (MC) for the cylinder problem

Coarse Mesh: 10 minute time to soln.



Medium Mesh: 4 hours time to soln.





# SWiFT Site Experimental Uncertainty Quantification

## ■ Inflow Measurements

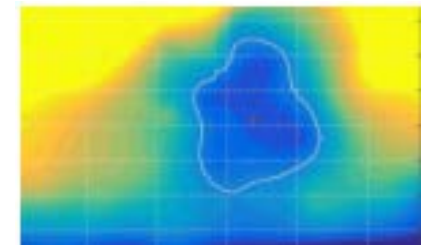
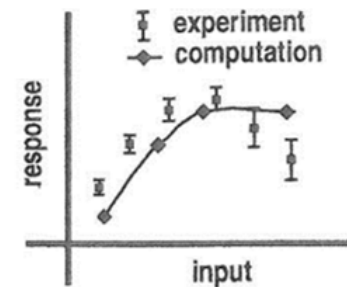
- $\alpha$
- $\rho$
- $p$
- RH
- T
- TI (sonic)
- $U_\infty$  (sonic)
- U (sonic)
- V (sonic)
- $U_\infty$  (cup)
- $U_\infty$  (nacelle)
- $V_r$  (sonic)
- WD (sonic)
- WD (vane)

## ■ Turbine Measurements

- Aerodynamic power
- Rotor speed
- Aerodynamic torque
- Rotor thrust
- Individual blade root loads (instantaneous)
- Individual blade loading profile (instantaneous)
- Nacelle measured wind direction
- Nacelle measured wind speed
- Yaw heading
- Yaw misalignment
- Blade pitch
- Rotor azimuth
- Nacelle acceleration

## ■ Wake Measurements

- DTU Spinner Lidar
- Wake identification and tracking
- Turbulence estimators



# Experimental Validation Campaigns



Sandia SWiFT



NWTC GE 1.5



NextEra Peetz

- Detailed measurement of wakes
- Wake steering demonstration
- Power and loads



# Instrumentation for reduced uncertainty

- SWiFT facility overview
- Sandia Wake Imaging System
- National Rotor Testbed

# SWiFT Site Layout and Capabilities

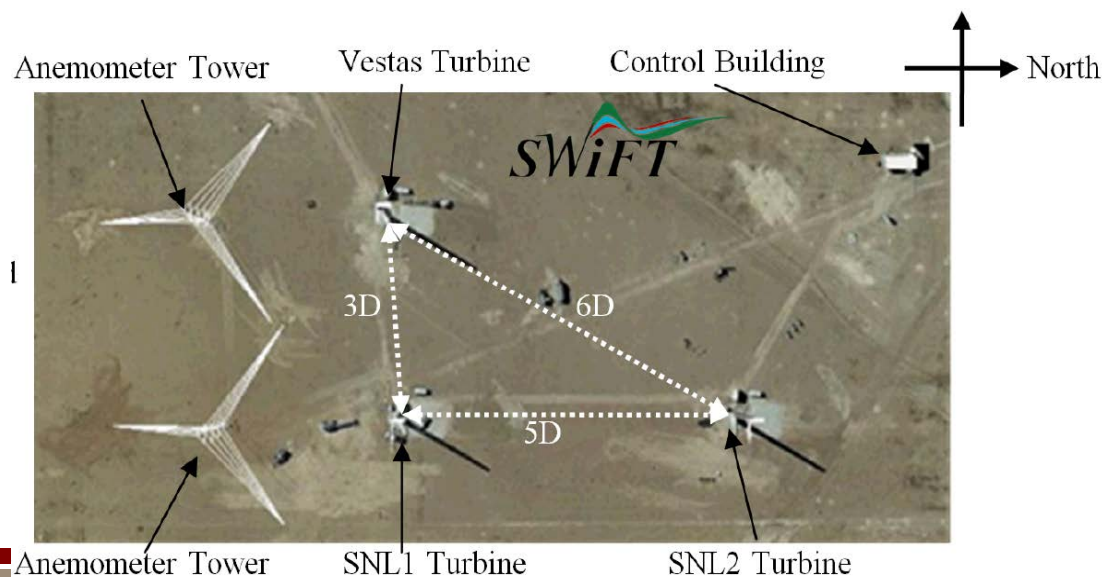
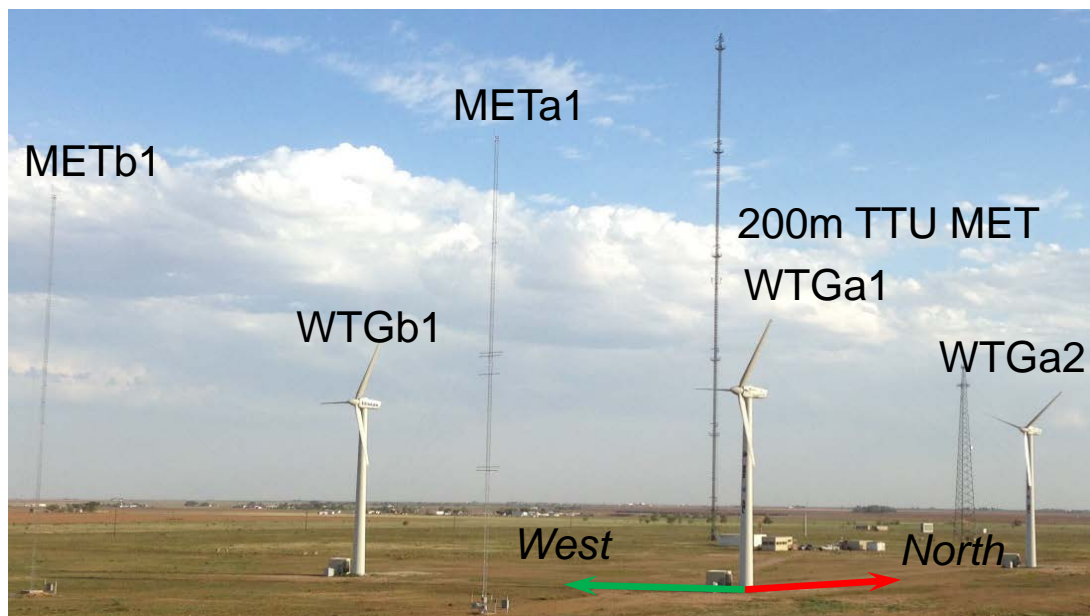
DOE/SNL Scaled Wind Farm  
Technology (SWiFT) facility  
hosted by Texas Tech University  
(TTU)

## SWiFT exists to:

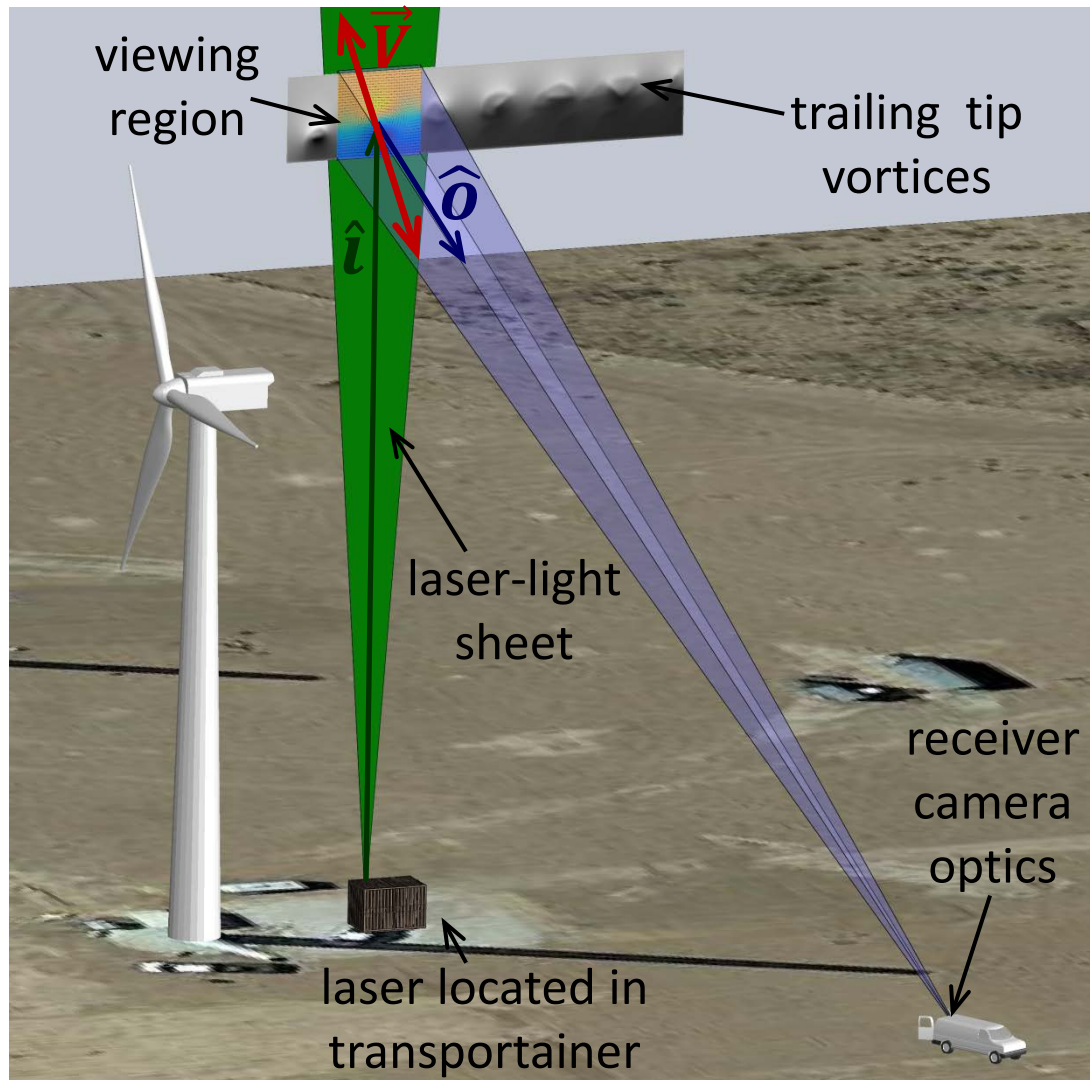
- Reduce turbine-turbine interaction and wind plant underperformance
- Public, open-source validation data
- Advance wind turbine technology

## Facilities:

- Three variable-speed variable-pitch heavily-modified V27 wind turbines
- Two heavily instrumented inflow anemometer towers
- Site-wide time-synchronized data collection



# Sandia Wake Imaging System (SWIS)

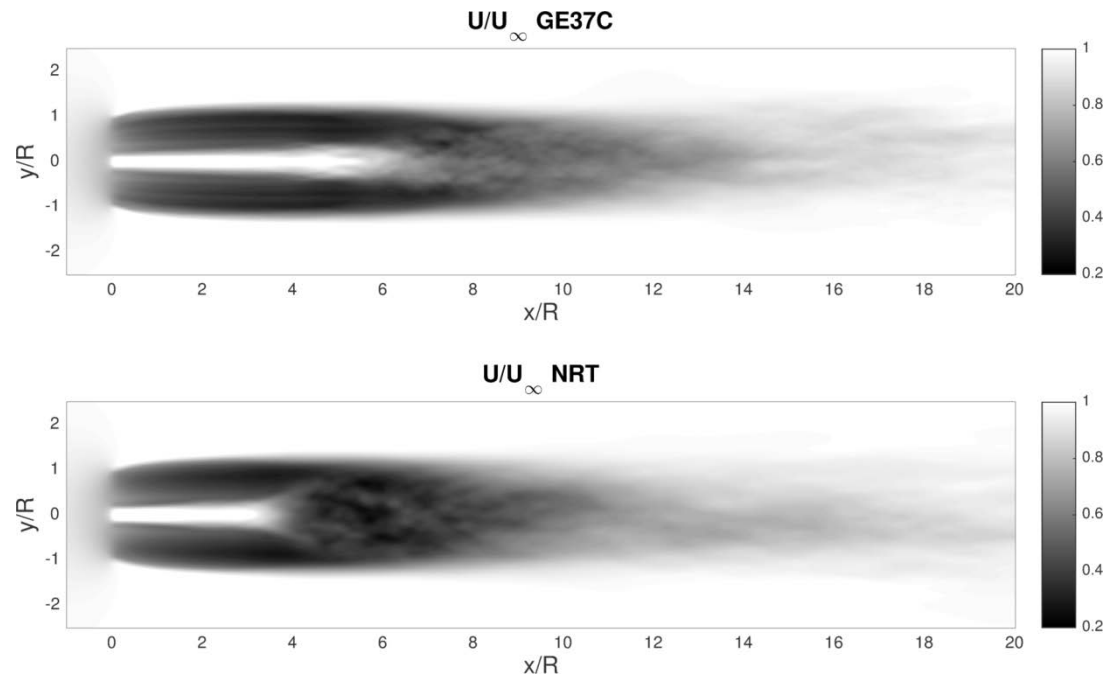


- Uses Doppler Global Velocimetry technique
- Position of laser and camera dictates the measured velocity component
- Measure velocity component along bisector angle between observation and incident vectors,  $(\hat{o} - \hat{i})$
- Additional velocity components measured with additional observation angles



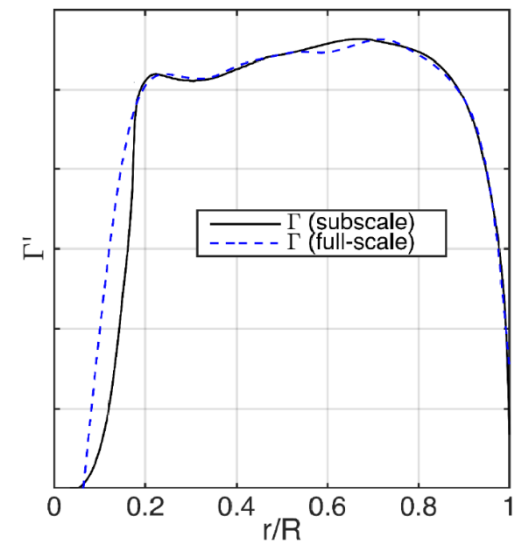


# National Rotor Testbed Design

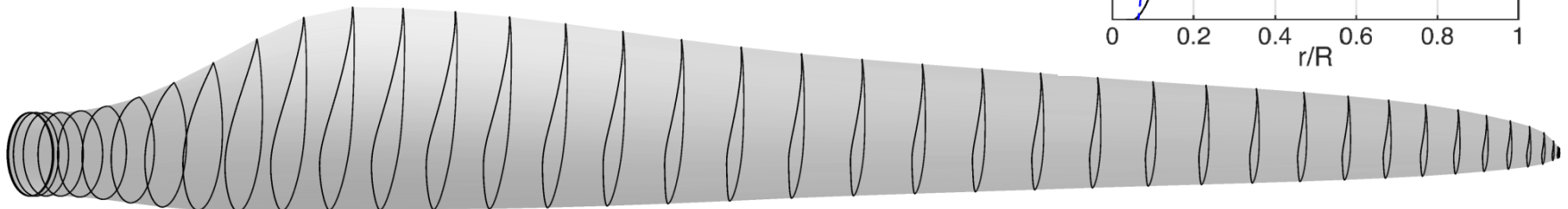


Developed a unique design method using a variety of computational tools to functionally scale the circulation distribution of a utility-scale blade to a 14m blade to be manufactured and installed at the SWiFT facility. This enhances wake research and validation capabilities.

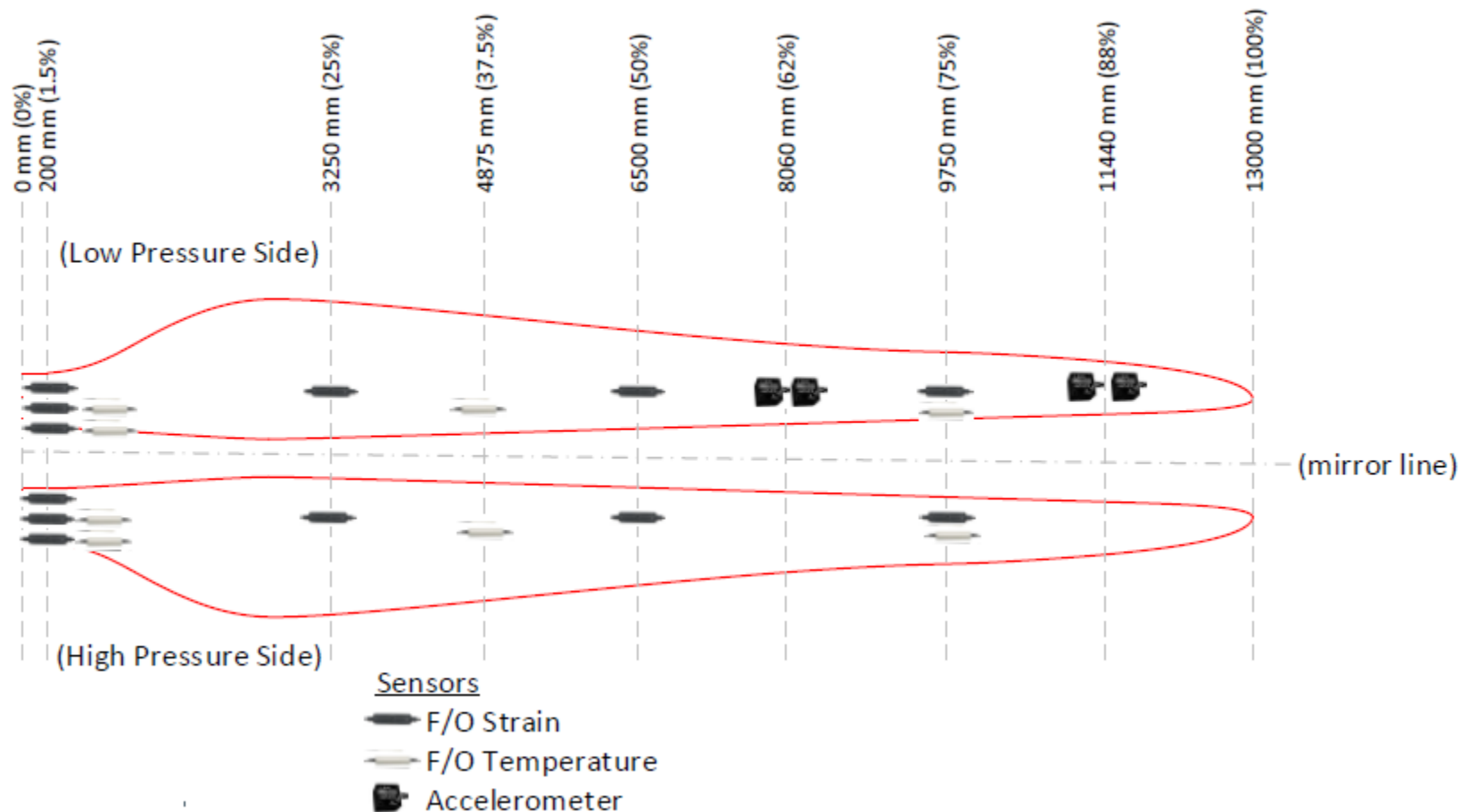
Circulation



Free wake vortex simulation of the two rotors in neutral inflow.



# NRT Sensors



# NRT Manufacturing



NREL structural testing of NRT-00

Oak Ridge National Laboratory additive manufacturing of molds



# NRT Flight test



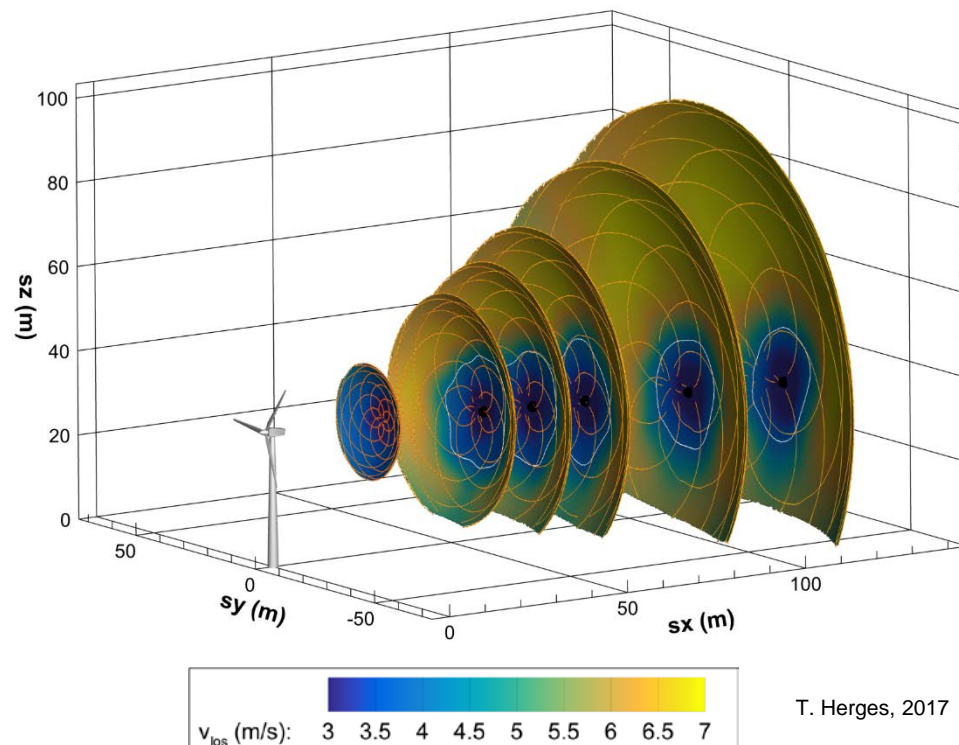
- NRT blades will be installed on WTGa1 in Oct. 2017
- The turbine will undergo commissioning tests related to the new rotor and controller for 1-2 months
- Testing will begin in October to verify the NRT design performance
- Later testing will be used to compare turbine and wake QoI to the GE 1.5 at NWTC



# SWiFT Wake Measurements

DOE/SNL Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) facility  
hosted by Texas Tech University (TTU)

**Objective:** Assess the ability of models to predict *wake shape, strength, and deflection*.

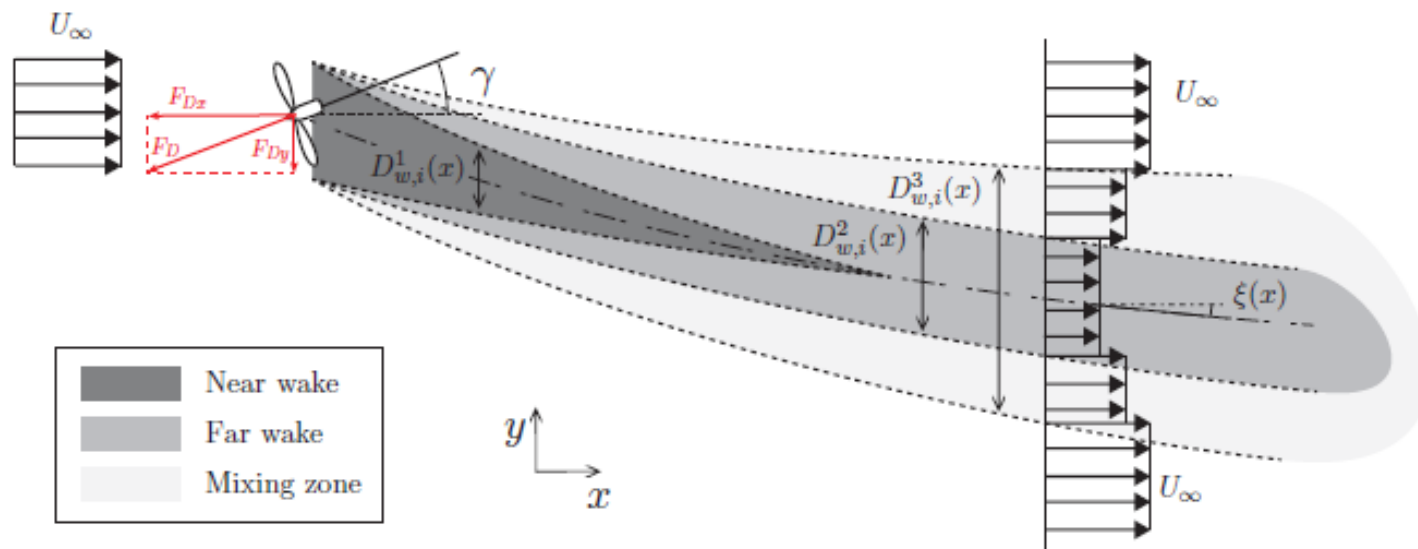




# Wake Steering Experiment

- Goal
  - Demonstrate capability of wake steering control to improve total wind turbine array power production
- Structure
  - Phase I: Correlate inflow and turbine operating state to impact on wake characteristics
  - Phase 2: Compare power and loads for two turbines operating with and without yaw-based wake steering control

# FLORIS Model



Key parameters (Guided experimental design):

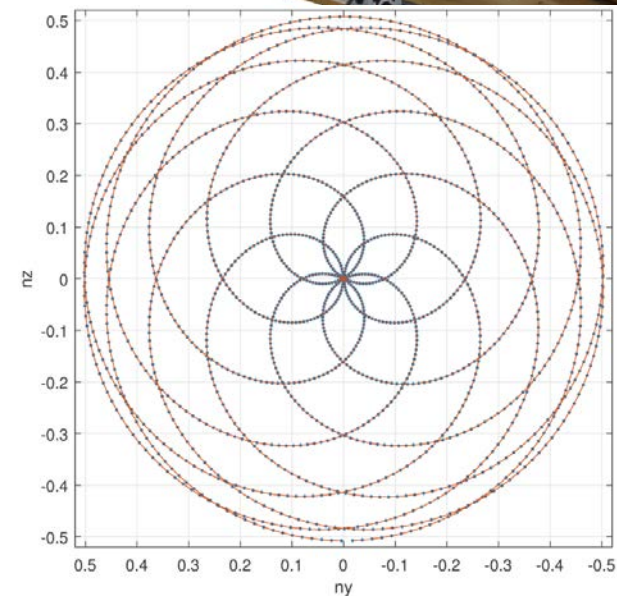
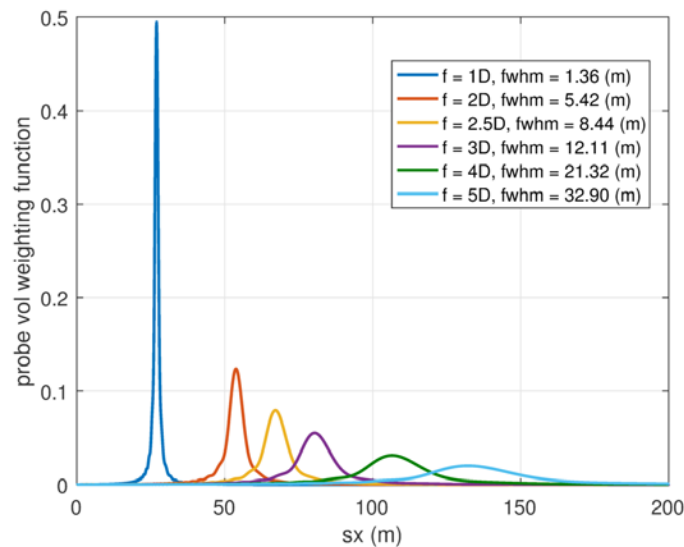
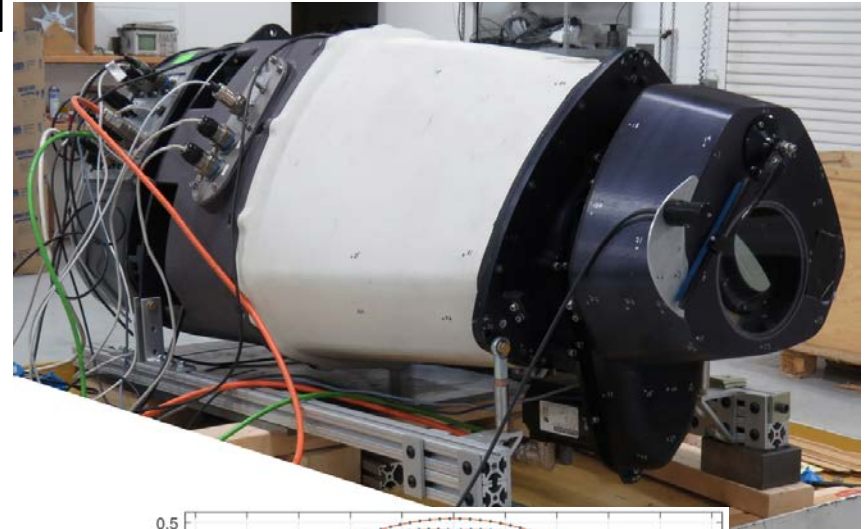
- Relationship between yaw-offset and wake-steering
- Recovery to mean wind direction
- Velocity deficits, recovery and expansion of the wake zones

Atmospheric relationships (Functionality being added):

- Turbulence intensity
- Wind veer and shear
- **Stability**

# Wake Measurements: DTU SpinnerLidar

- Uniquely capable of measuring the wind turbine wake at high temporal and spatial scales
- Capable of scanning 5D (135 m) downstream
- Configured to stream averaged Doppler spectra at a rate of 492 measurements per second



Herges, T. et. al. "Scanning Lidar Spatial Calibration and Alignment Method for Wind Turbine Wake Characterization," AIAA 2017-0455.

# Experiment Planning

- Identify *Quantities of Interest*
- Specify
- Simulate

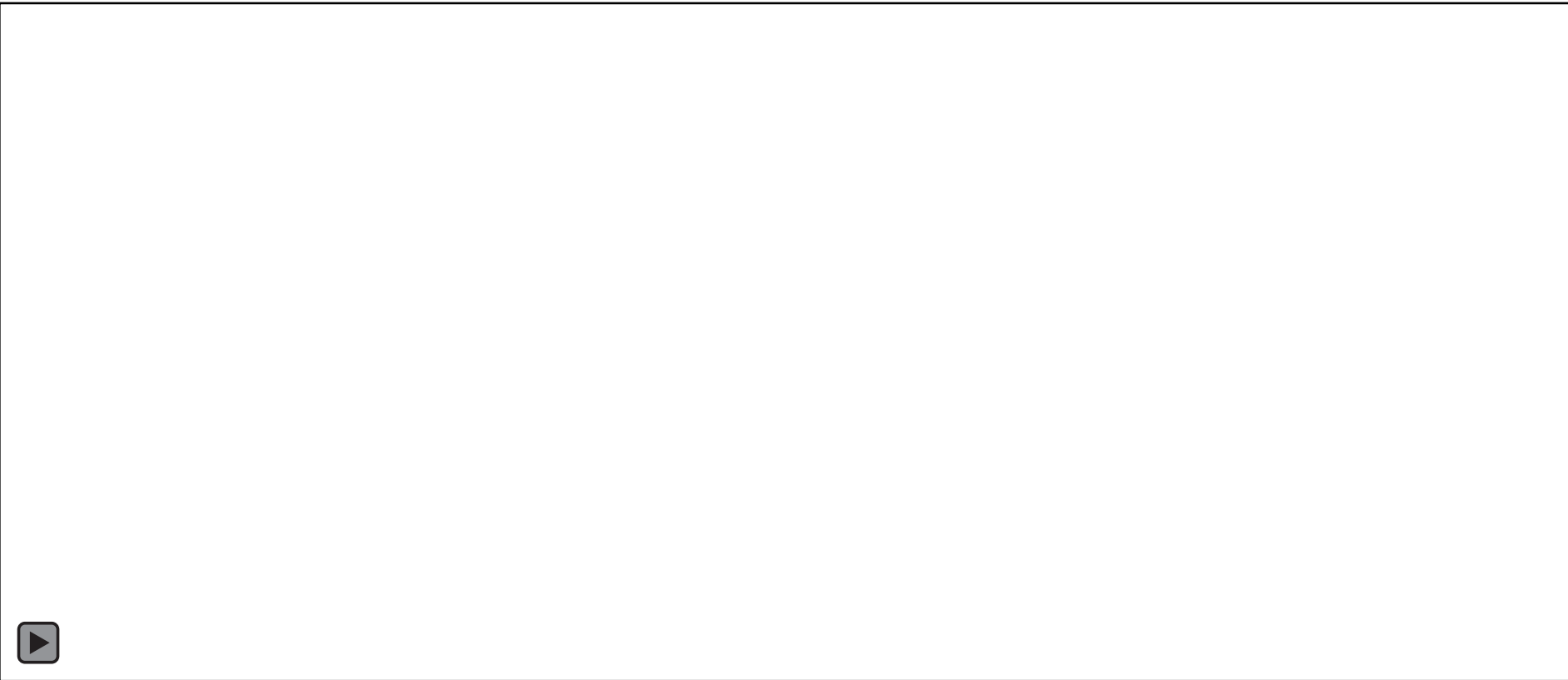




# Lidar Simulation and Selection

**SOWFA Simulated  
Velocity**

**Simulated Lidar  
Measurements**



- Comparison of identical time steps in order to show effect of SpinnerLidar on measurements and how that impacts wake position determination
- Measurements at 3D downstream of turbine



# Measuring impact of turbine state

- Bulk Richardson = 0.7
- $z/L = 3.1$
- $\alpha = 0.3$
- wind speed = 7.5 m/s
- TI = 0.08
- veer = 4.4°
- yaw offset = -7.5° to 15°
- Yaw heading = 159.5 degN

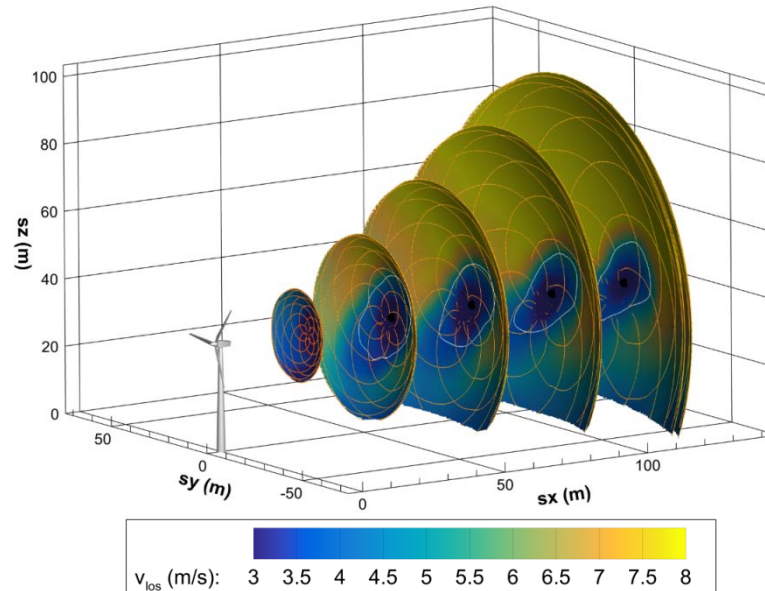




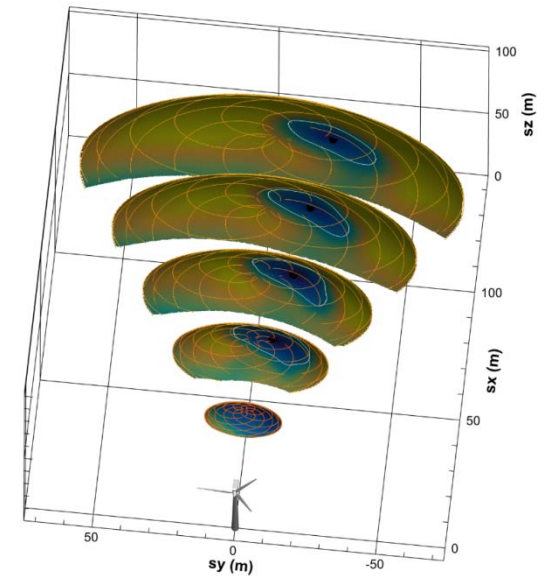
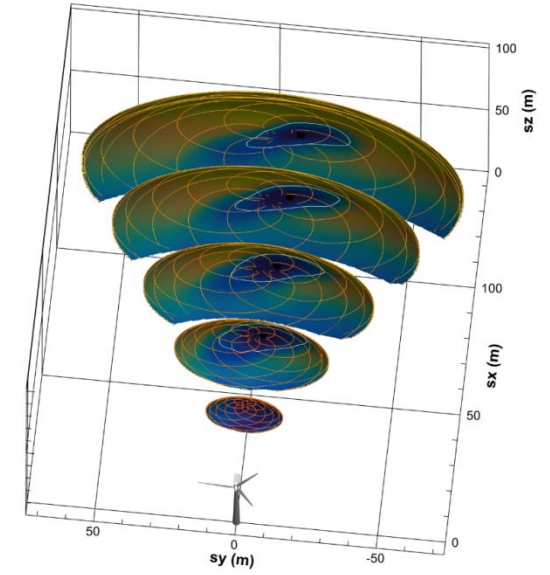
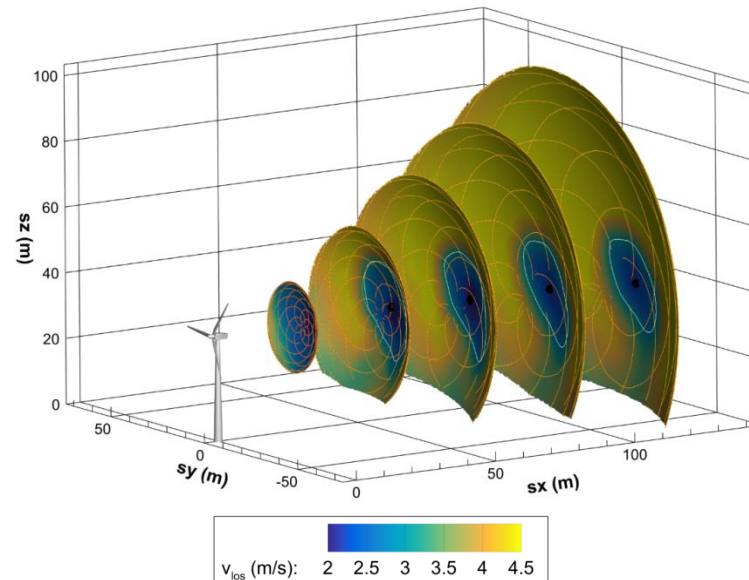


# Measuring Impact of Inflow

**Stable ABL  
Positive Veer**



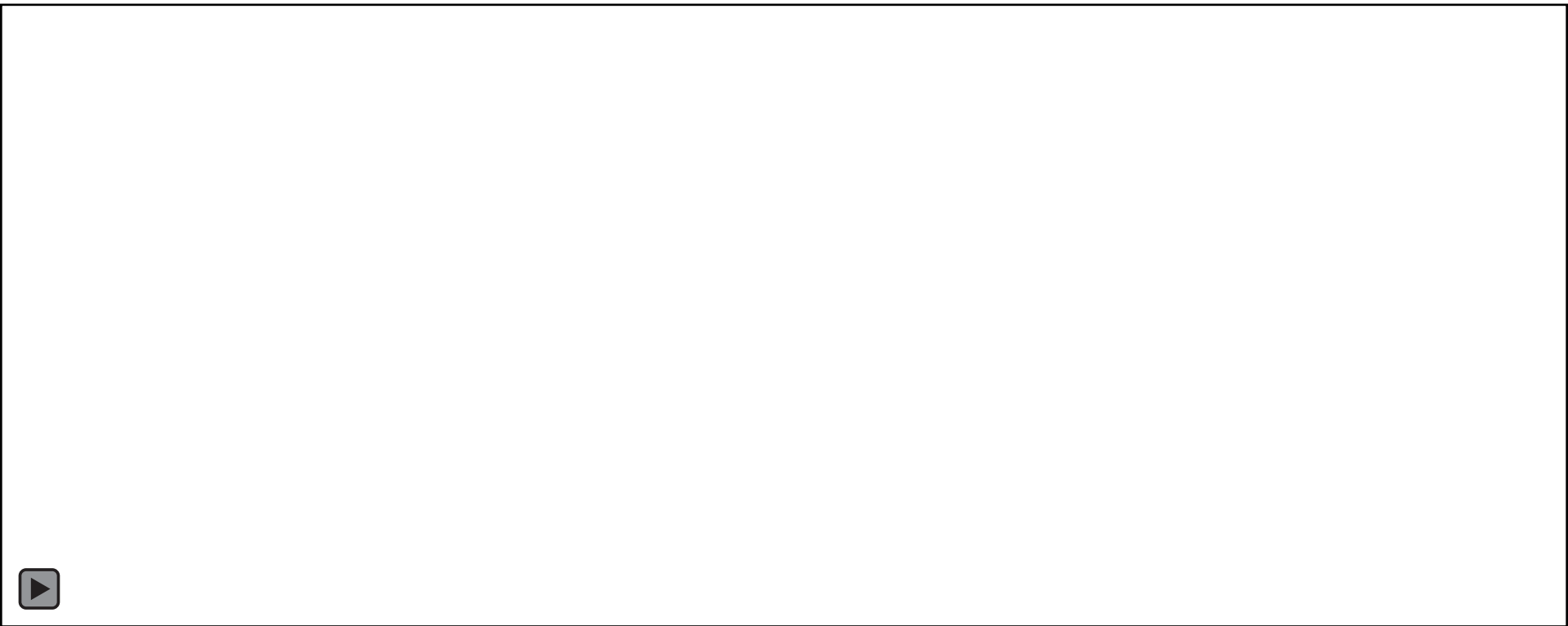
**Stable ABL  
Negative Veer**





# Wake Tracking

Lidar data viewed 3D (81m) downstream looking downwind





# Wake Tracking with Higher Order Qols

## Lidar data viewed 2.5D (67.5m)

- Bulk Richardson = 0.78
- $\alpha = 0.25$
- wind speed = 5.7 m/s
- TI = 0.04
- veer =  $5.7^\circ$
- yaw offset =  $7.43^\circ$
- yaw heading = 145.6 degN
- Note that you can see turbulence coming off the nacelle and tower before the turbine turns on and the wake forms

$V_{los}$

$V'_{los}$





# Initial Model Assessment

## Measured and Simulated $v_{los}$





# Initial Model Assessment

## Measured and Simulated $v'_{los}$



# Collaboration



**A2e Data Archive and Portal** <https://a2e.energy.gov/about/dap>  
Public validation data including experimental and simulation results.

**Nalu:** <https://github.com/spdamin/Nalu>

# Thank you

*"If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."  
- F. Bacon - 1605.*

dcmmania@sandia.gov  
<https://a2e.energy.gov/data>

## Parallel HFM funding and development efforts:

**A2e HFM:** Create a predictive modeling capability, with multiple levels of fidelity, that is backed by rigorous V&V (with UQ).

**ExaWind:** Ensure that the HFM capability is highly scalable on today's peta-scale HPC systems, and tomorrow's exascale systems

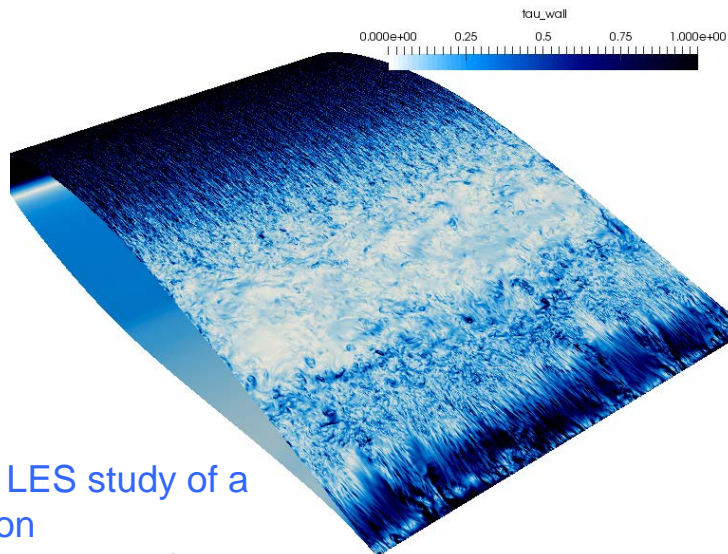
**10-year ExaWind Challenge Problem:** Predictive simulation of a wind plant composed of  $O(100)$  multi-MW wind turbines sited within a 10 km $\times$ 10 km area with complex terrain.





# Long-term HFM research activities

- Use the code to understand the complicated wind farm flow physics, including turbine-wake interactions, multiple-wake interactions, atmospheric turbulence, and flow over complex terrain
- Ensure that the code is correctly implemented and predictive of wind plant physics through a formal verification and validation program
- Enable a next generation of lower fidelity tools that will be used for decision making and analysis in the design process



Nalu wall-resolved LES study of a turbine blade section  
(Trinity Open Science project)

Nalu ABL simulation

