

# Integrated System Design and Optimization

NREL WESE Workshop - Boulder, CO

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**ALSTOM**  
*Shaping the future*

# Agenda

01

Introduction

02

Current Methods

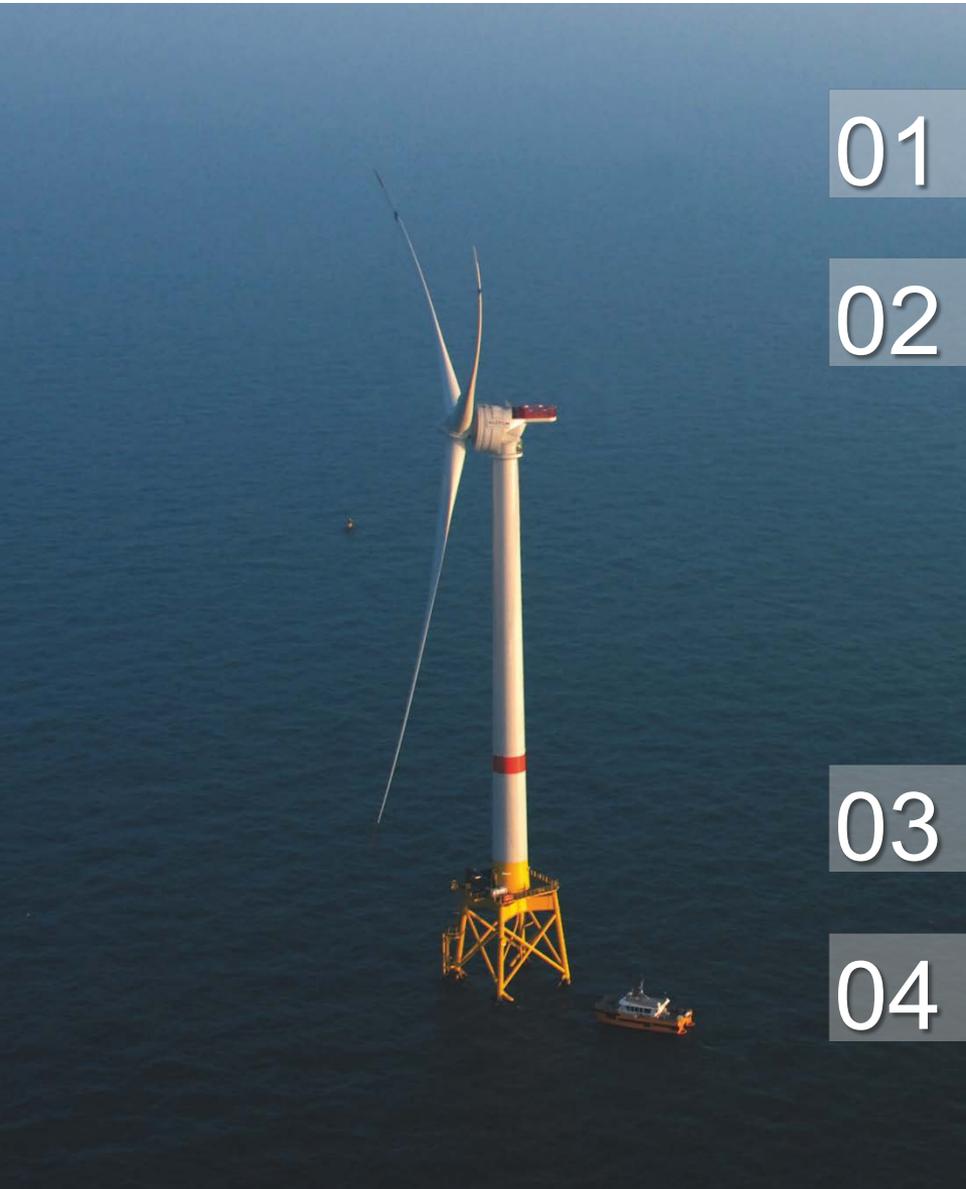
- Drive train
- Tower and Substructure
- Wind Farm
- Value Analysis

03

Future Work

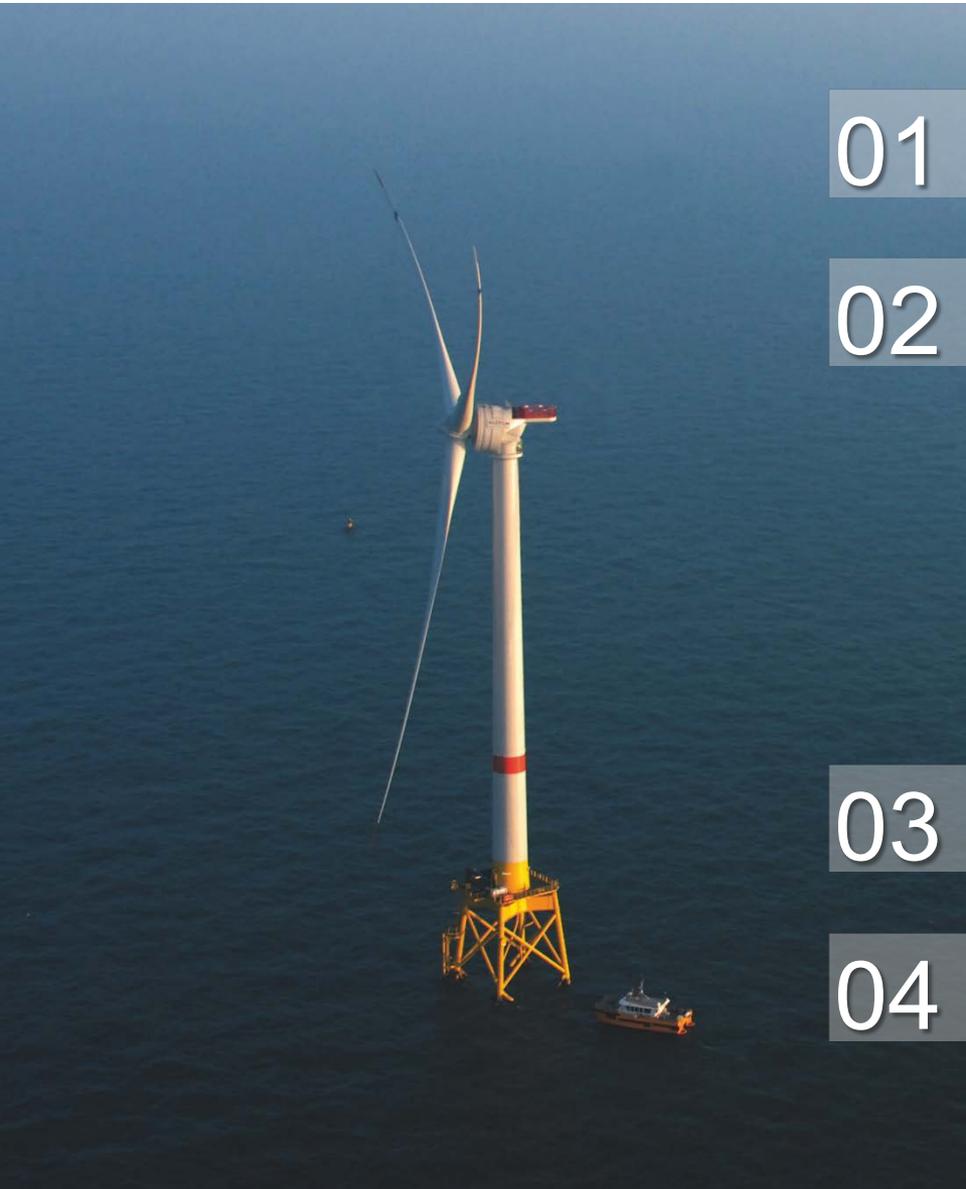
04

Management of ISD Tools



# Introduction

- The need for Integrated System Design and Optimization is understood and accepted.
- Driven by market competitiveness – must minimize costs and maximize performance.
- Wind farms fall into the category of “mass customization”.
- Use of Integrated System Design (ISD) has multiple benefits:
  1. Identification of system design drivers → reduction of time at early stages of the project; R&D cost savings.
  2. Reduction of cost of energy and project risk → more room to optimize and identify critical risks due to multiple results.
  3. Increases competitive advantage → enables OEM’s to deliver optimized solutions to customers, reduces time to market.



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# Alstom Current Methods

## Component Level

- SAMCEF
- ANSYS
- Ncode
- modeFrontier
- Hyperworks
- Matlab
- Excel
- Several others

## Turbine Level

- SAMCEF
- modeFrontier
- BLADED
- Matlab
- FAST
- Excel

## Wind Farm Level

- Openwind
- Excel

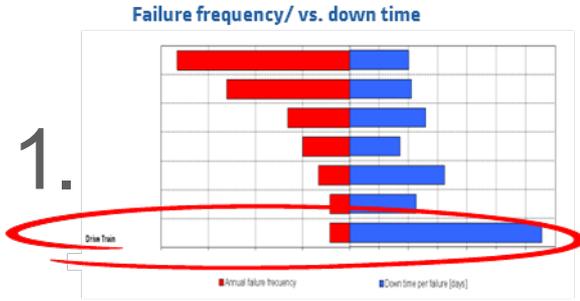
Applications for various system levels and phase in the design process

Drive train

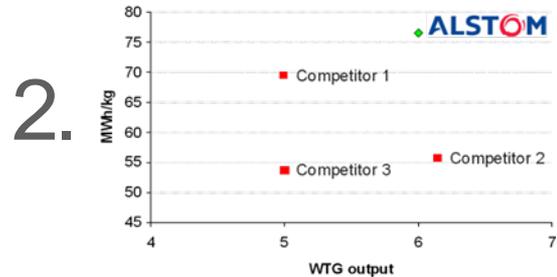


# Conceptual Design: Haliade™ 150-6MW

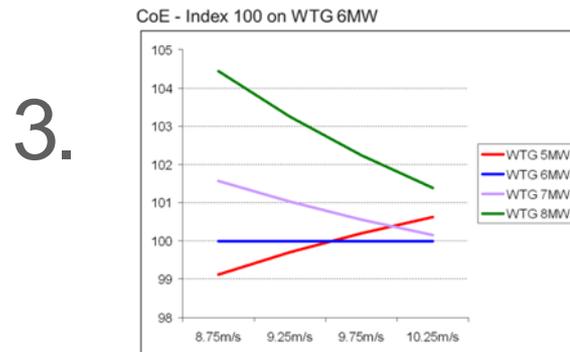
Major design choices targeting to reduce wind offshore CoE



**DIRECT  
DRIVE**



**150M**



**6MW**

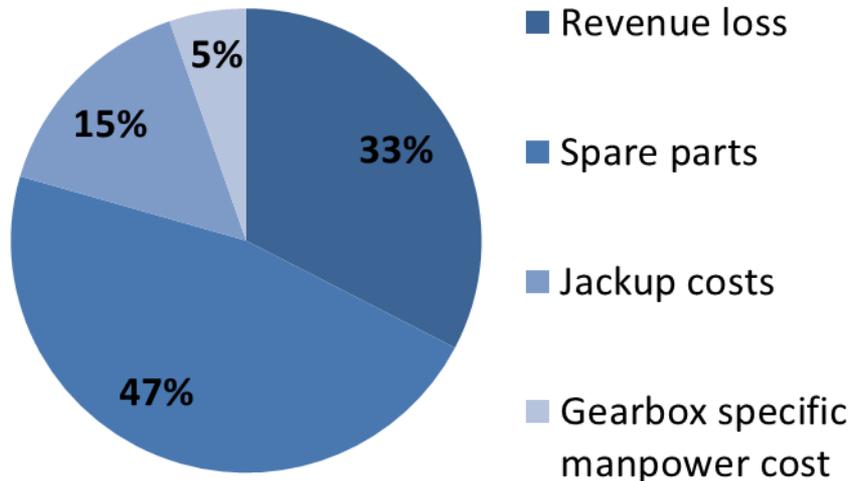
Direct Drive decision derived at the wind farm level

# Drive train

## Cost-benefit analysis during conceptual design phase

Net Present Value of costs: 500-800k€ estimated lifetime extra costs for a 6MW geared turbine

**500 to 800k€**



NPV of Gearbox specific costs (Alstom estimate)

- Considering one gearbox change over 20 years
- 2 campaigns of 50% of gearbox replacement around WF midlife
- Assuming perfect planning of gearbox repairs (predictive condition monitoring avoiding unscheduled downtime)
- Extra preventive maintenance for lubrication and oil changes

Conceptual design studies supported by “Pro Forma” analysis

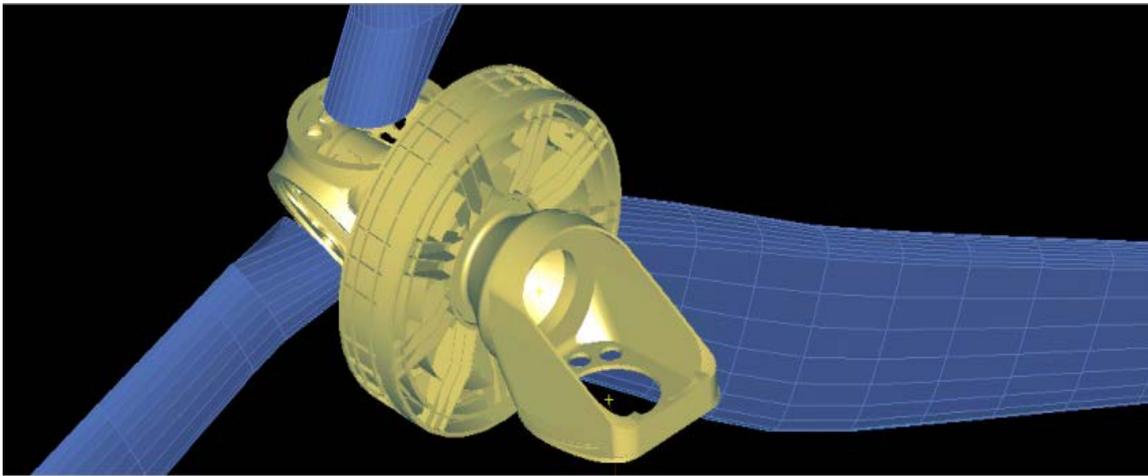
# Drive train – Component/Turbine Design Level

## Alstom uses SWT - Samcef Wind Turbines

- Global analyses of complete machines or local analyses of single components available in the same environment
- Also use Samcef Field for PRE and POST-Processing.

## Modules that are called from SWT or Samcef Field:

- Samcef Dynam: Solver for modal analysis, superelement creation.
- Samcef Mecano: Solver for time-domain analysis.
- Samcef Nonlinear Motion Analysis: to simulate flexible dynamics with high accuracy.



**Integrated  
aero/hydrodynamic  
loads and FEA.**

# Tower and Substructure

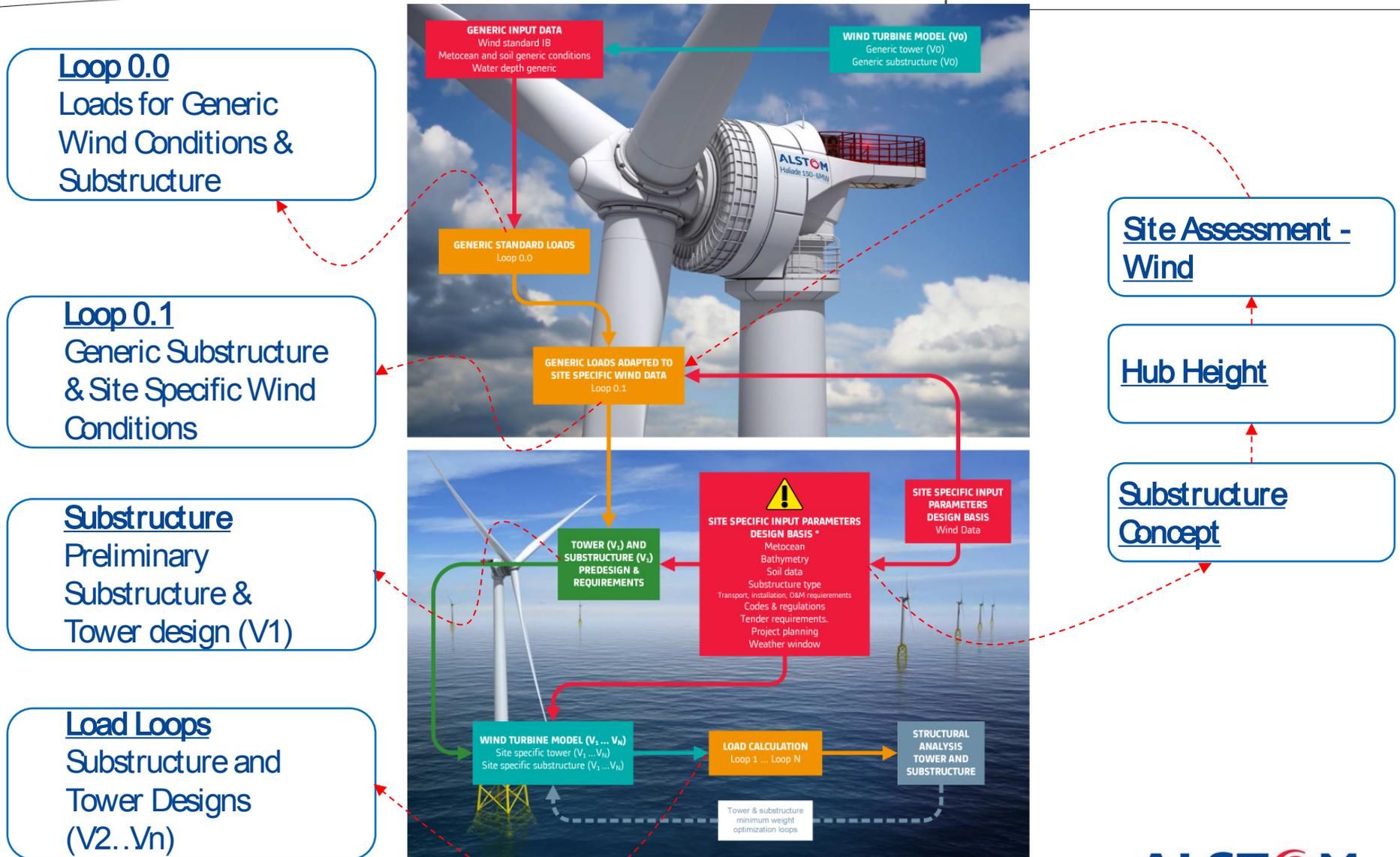


# Tower & Substructure - Integrated System Design

- Integrated structural dynamics:
  - Accurate structural dynamics
  - Accurate load response
  - Accurate numerical integration
  - Accurate extreme and fatigue structural design
- What we have in-house:
  - Know-how on complex sub-systems (SSI, WSI, Structural Analysis, and SAMCEF knowledge)
  - SAMCEF Multibody code → combines the aero-servo-hydro-elastic + FEA capabilities into 1 code.
  - modeFRONTIER → Software manager & optimization platform. Able to couple input-output codes in a single workflow.

# Tower and Substructure

## Project integrated load & structural analysis - Iteration Process



# Optimization with modeFrontier

## modeFrontier

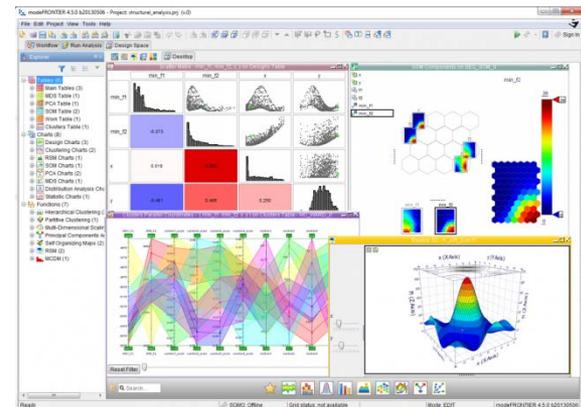
Samcef      Matlab  
Excel      SolidWorks  
ANSYS      BLADED

## Key Features:

- Allows for integration of various simulation tools
- Design of Experiments
- ~30 types of optimization algorithms
- User interface – GUI driven
- Analysis “wizard”

## To optimize 1 tower:

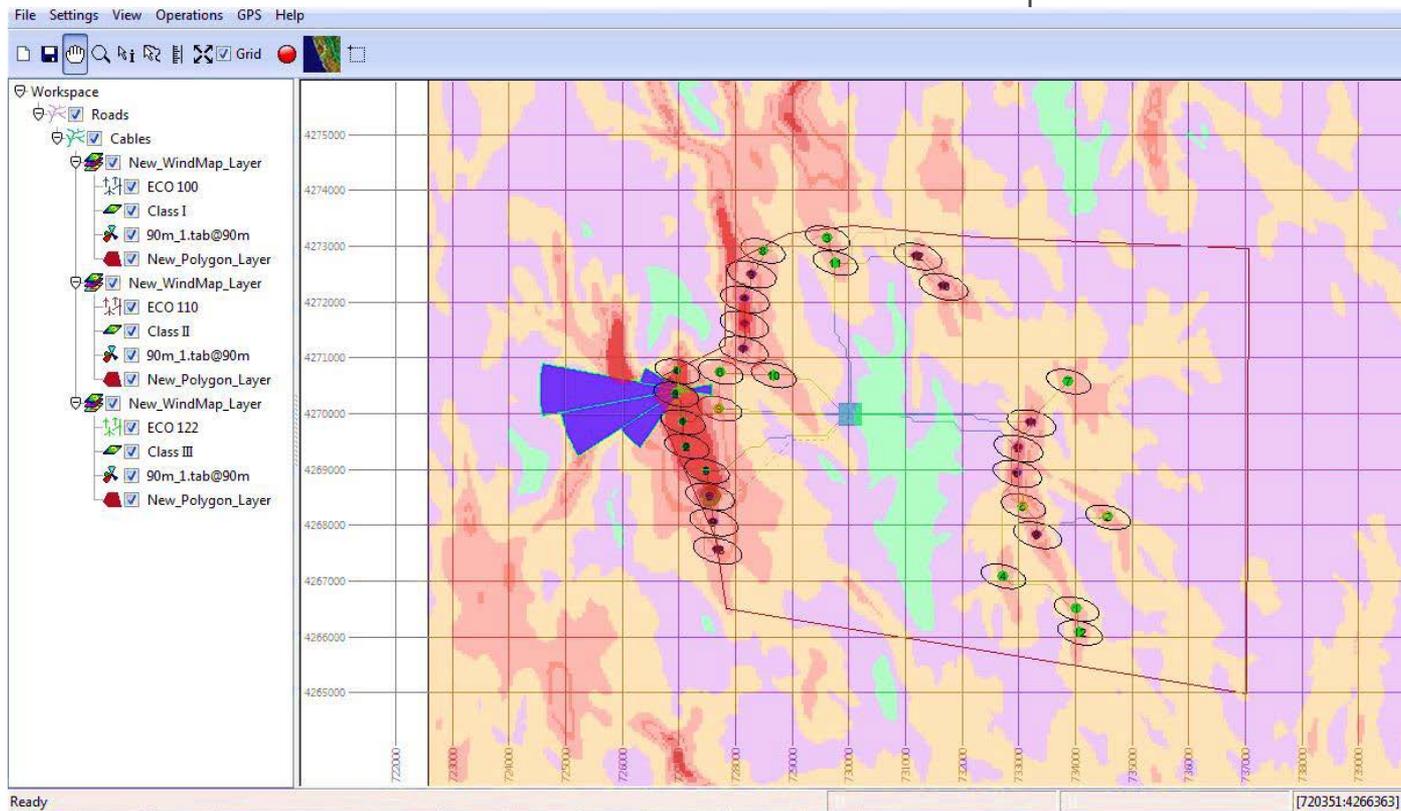
- 17K – 20K cases
- ~ 15.5 hours of runtime
- Runs on a dual core mobile workstation



# Wind Farm Level

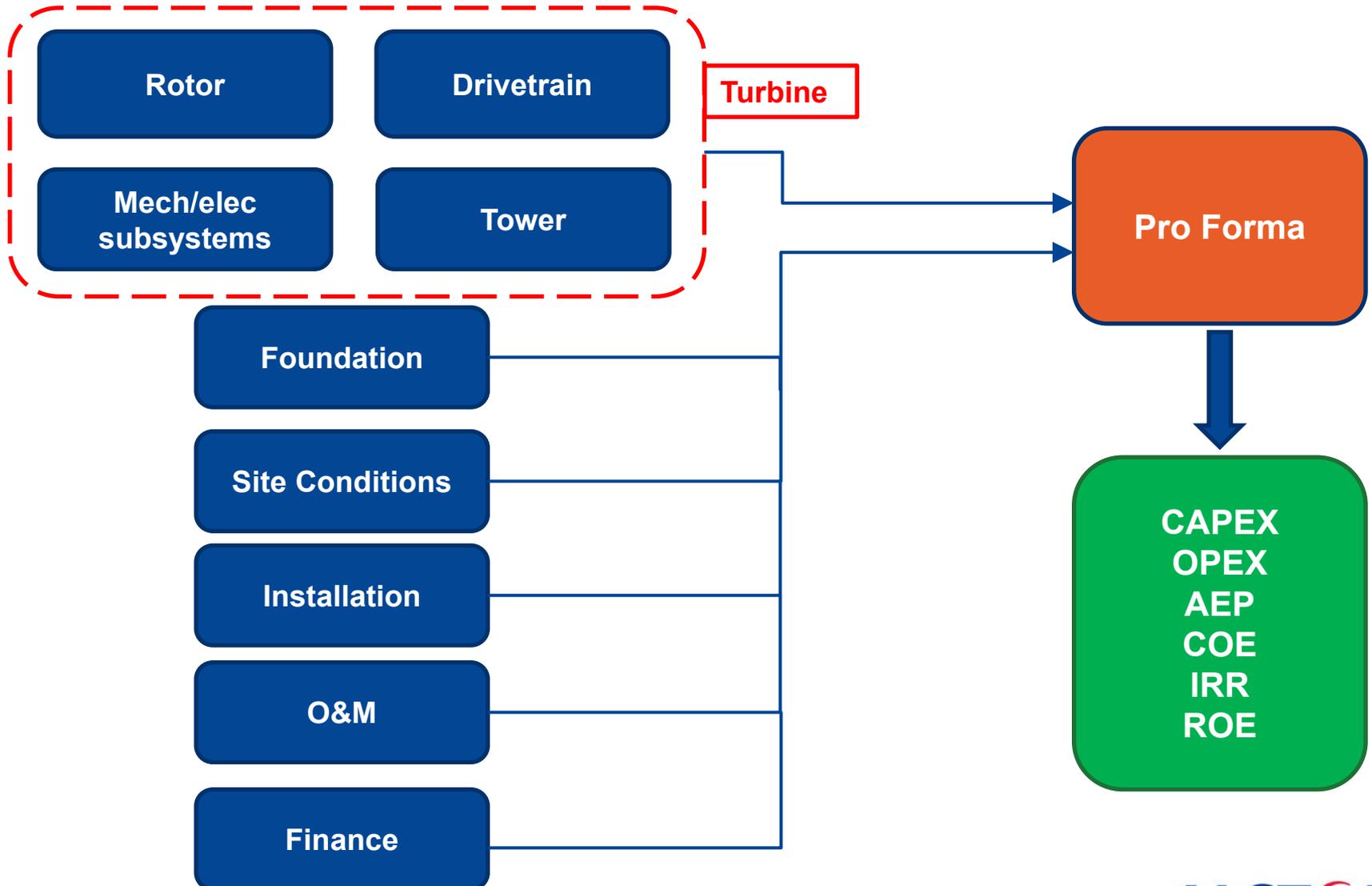


# Farm-Level Analysis and Optimization



- Alstom uses **Openwind** for farm layout optimization – turbine location and spacing; model different turbine configurations in a single farm.
- COE: maximize production, minimize installation and BOP costs.
- Used in conjunction with our Pro Forma analysis tool.

# Economic Value Analysis – “Pro Forma”



# Economic Value Analysis – “Pro Forma”

Results of component / subsystem analysis are inputs into a detailed technical and financial model.

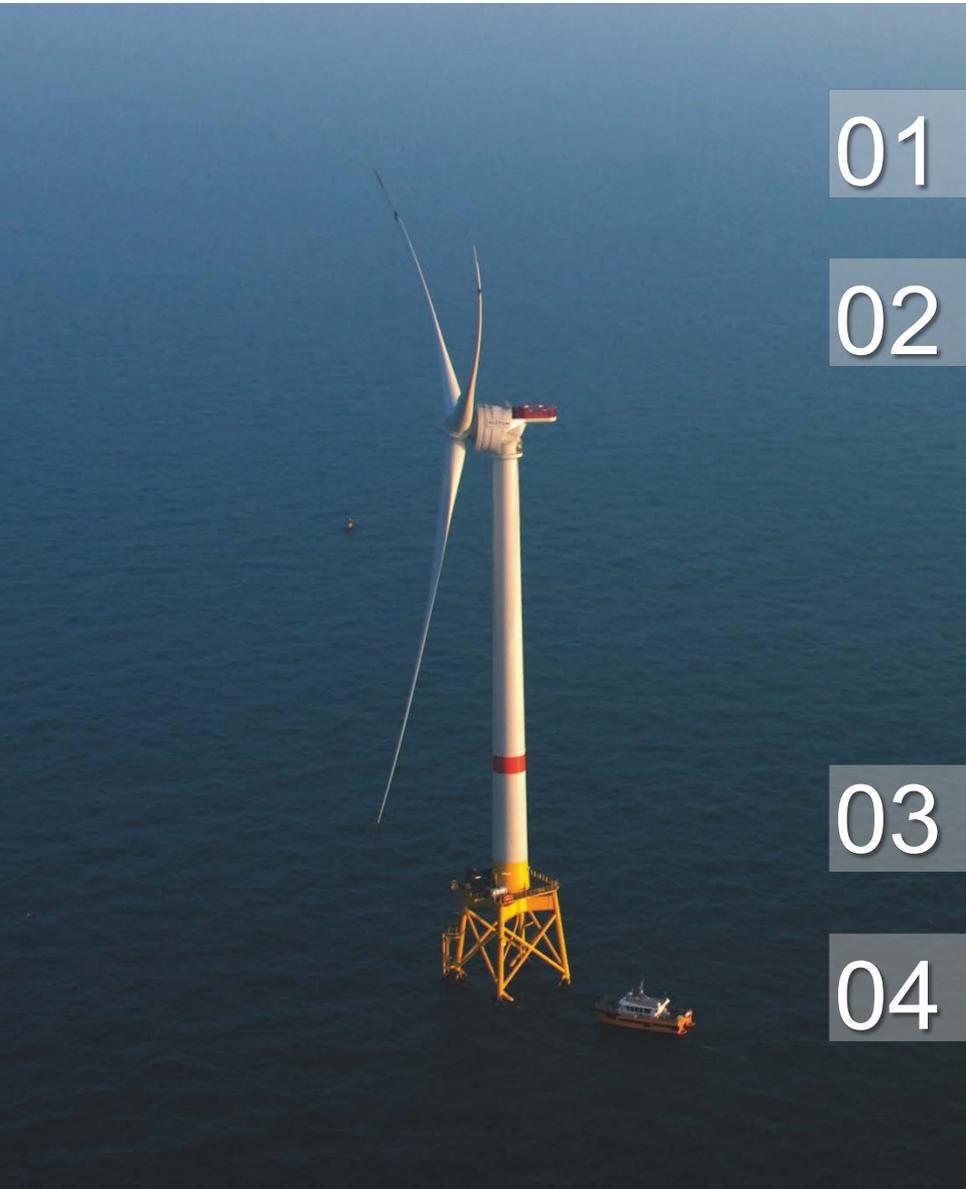
- Inputs owned by specialist in area (WTG subsystems, O&M, finance, etc.)
- Multiple scenario comparison
- Comparison to market

## Pros

- Excel-based
- Low licensing cost
- No specialized knowledge required (programming)
- Flexible, varying levels of complexity, analysis toolkits.

## Cons

- Limited number of scenarios
- Low level of integration – currently not set up for parametric studies.
- “Manual interface” with other tools



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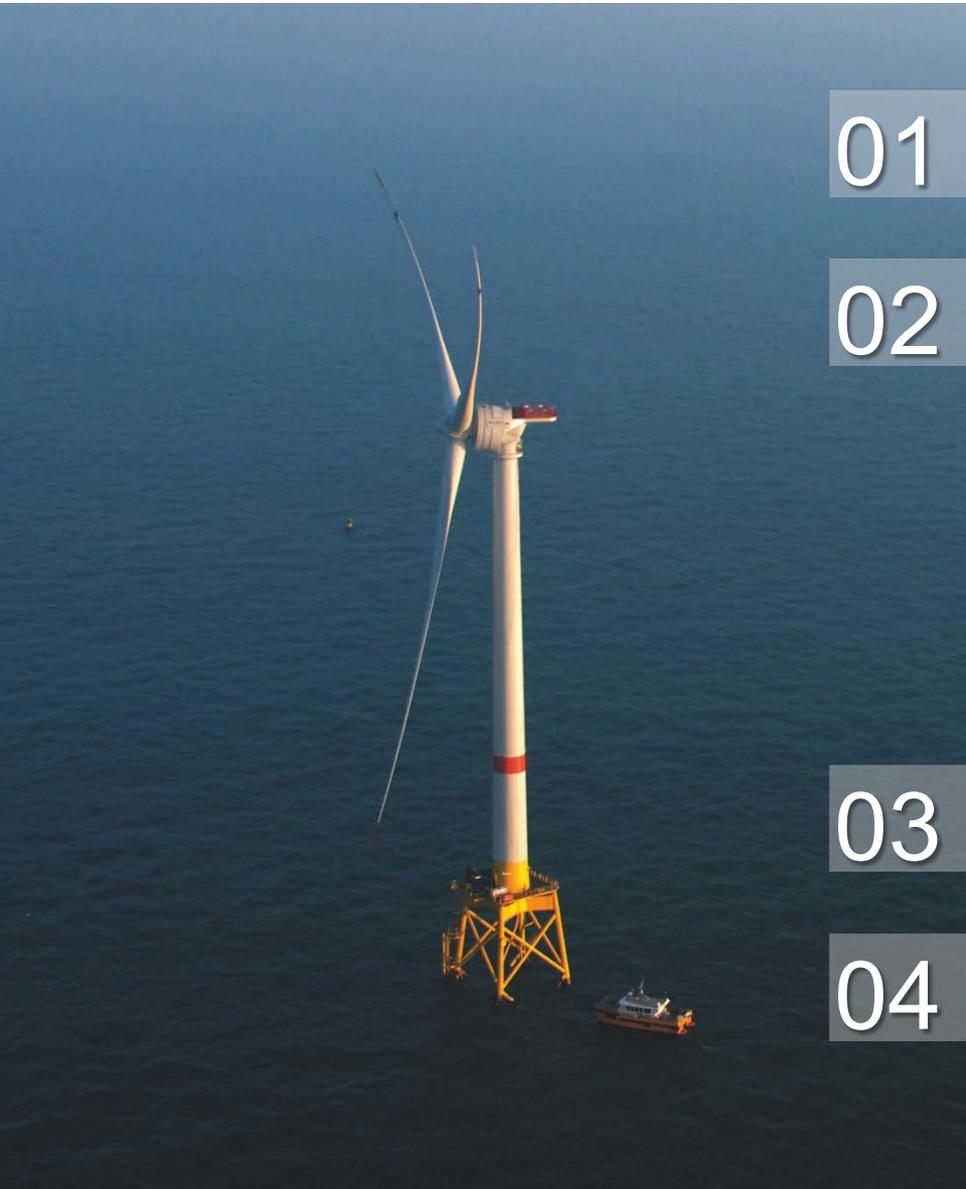
Management of ISD Tools

# Future Work – Platform Evolution

## Investigating expanded Integrated System Design capabilities

- Revised Pro Forma with integrated transfer functions
  - Expanded conceptual design tool
  - Improved fidelity in COE optimization
- LMS Boss Quattro for LMS SAMCEF optimization
  - Parametric studies
  - Monte Carlo method
  - Optimization and updating
  - Design of experiments methods
- Integrating economic value analysis and additional subsystems into modeFrontier®.





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# Management Considerations

## Factors for ISD platform selection, design and use

### Goals

- **Conceptual design**
- **Marketing strategy**
- **Product specification**
- **Detailed design**
- **Plant optimization**

### Cost

- **Features/capabilities**
- **Cost of implementing**
- **Cost of maintaining**
- **Complexity**

### Resources

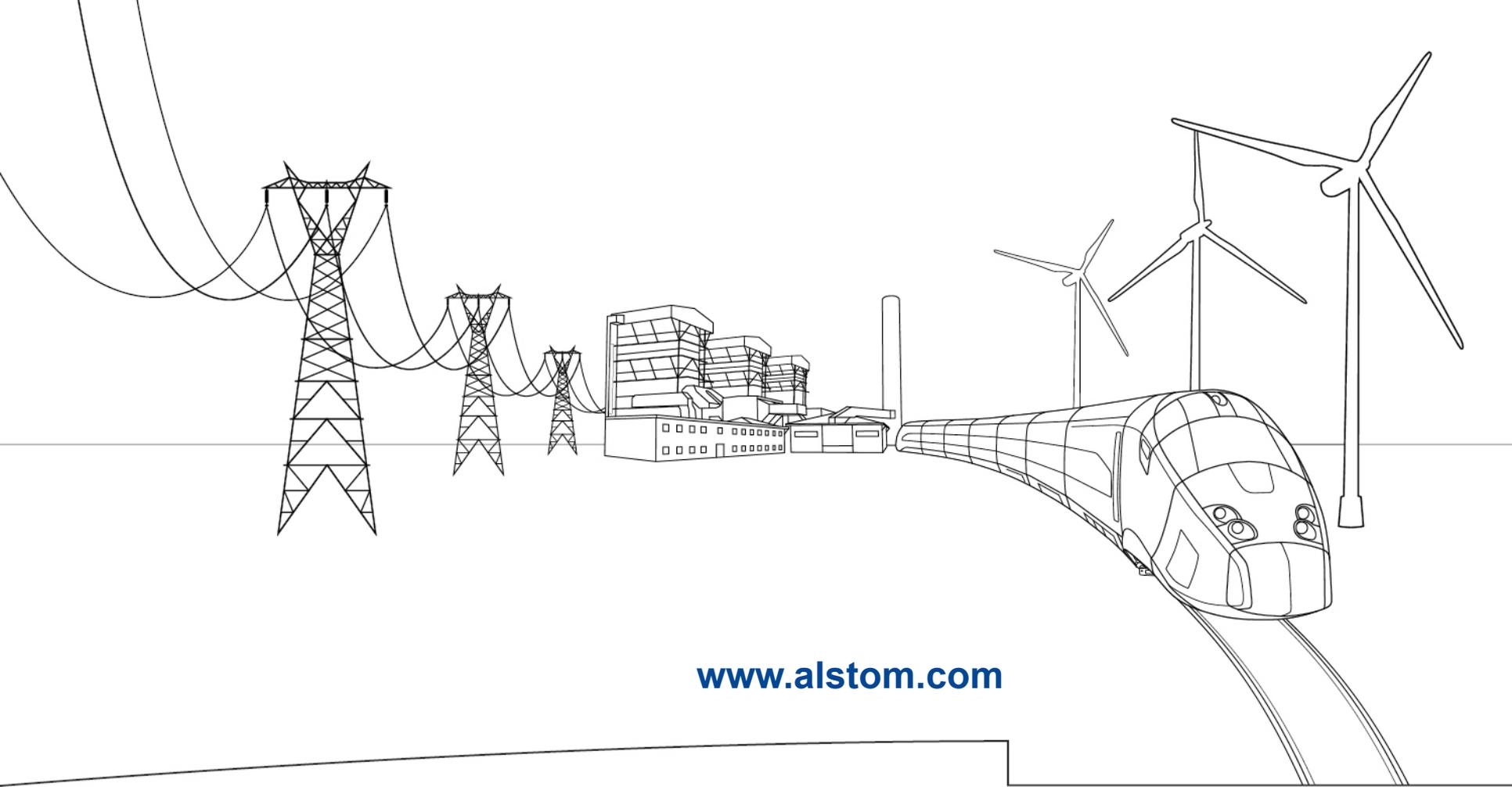
- **Size of team**
- **Skill level of team members**
  - **User interface**
  - **Programming needs**
- **Computing system requirements**

### Execution

- **Ownership/champion**
- **Communication between user groups**
- **Internal/external marketing**
- **Demonstrate value, quantify benefits.**

# Conclusion

- Integrated systems-level design is needed to compete in the marketplace and deliver optimized wind farm solutions.
- Alstom methodology currently uses a variety of tools at the component, turbine and wind farm levels.
- Tools and methods continue to evolve into a more integrated platform.
- Select the platform/tools appropriate for organizational goals.
- Intuitive user interface will increase accessibility/usage.
- “Sell it” internally and externally, demonstrate the value of new system design capabilities.
- ISD serves as a differentiator and increases an OEM’s competitive advantage.



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