

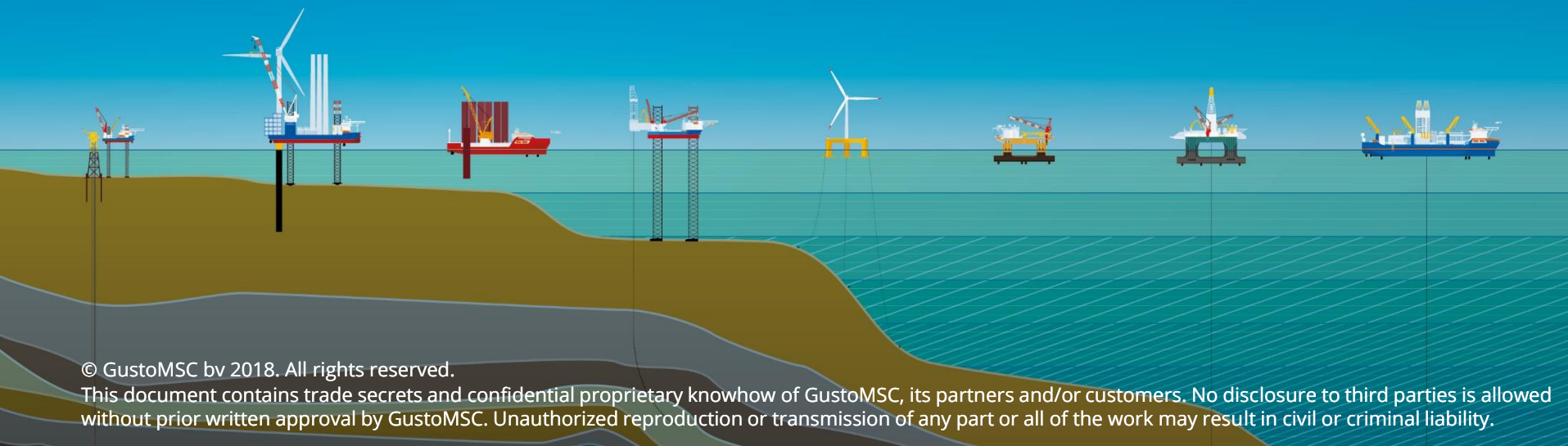
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# OFFSHORE WIND TURBINE INSTALLATION - SAFELY PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

18 OCT 2018, SCHIEDAM

Andries Hofman & Kayo Vanderheggen



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# OVERVIEW

## Introduction

- Market development
- Wind Turbine Installation
- WTI jack-up sizing challenges
- Why push the limits?

## Industry knowledge gaps

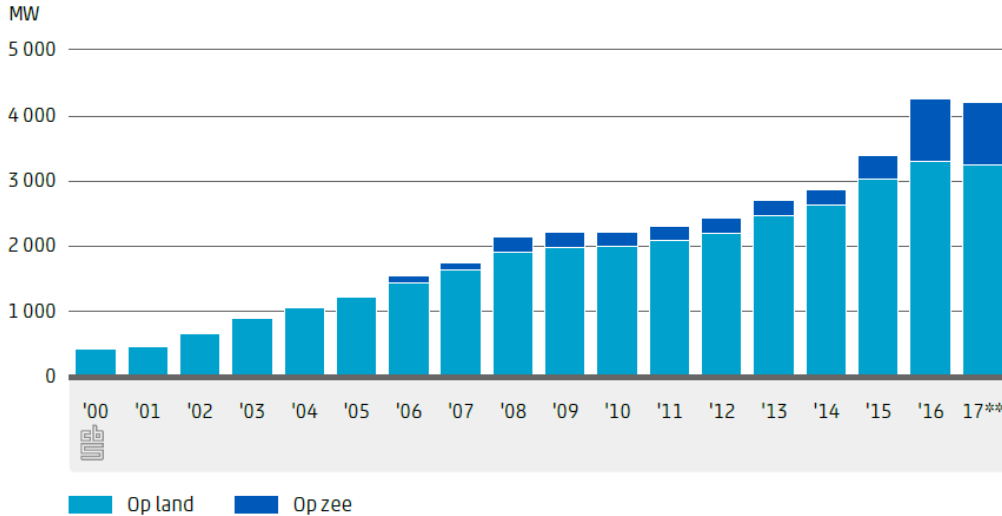
- Information flow
- Soil interaction
- Increased dynamics

## Pushing the boundaries safely

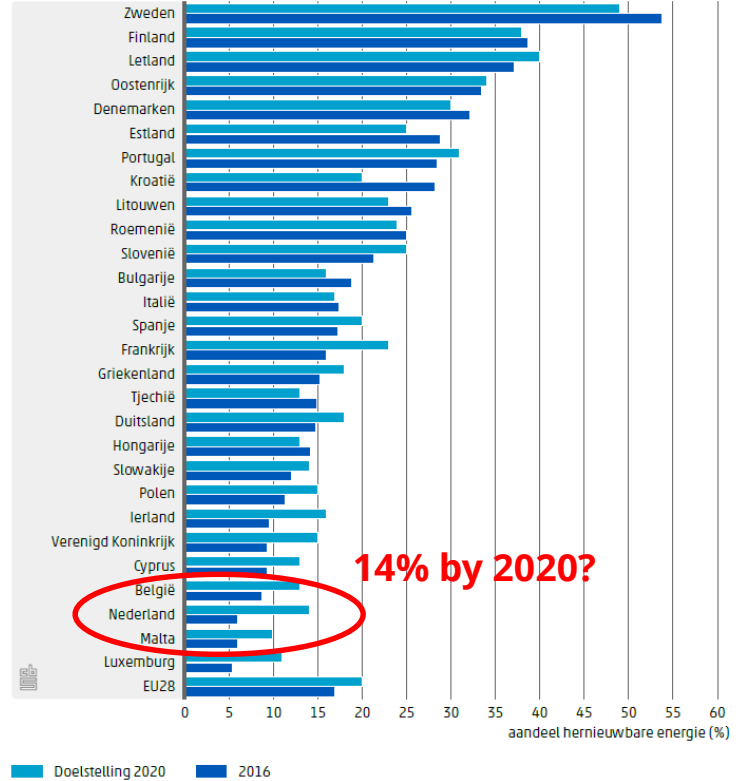


# MARKET

## 4.0.1 Opgesteld vermogen windenergie



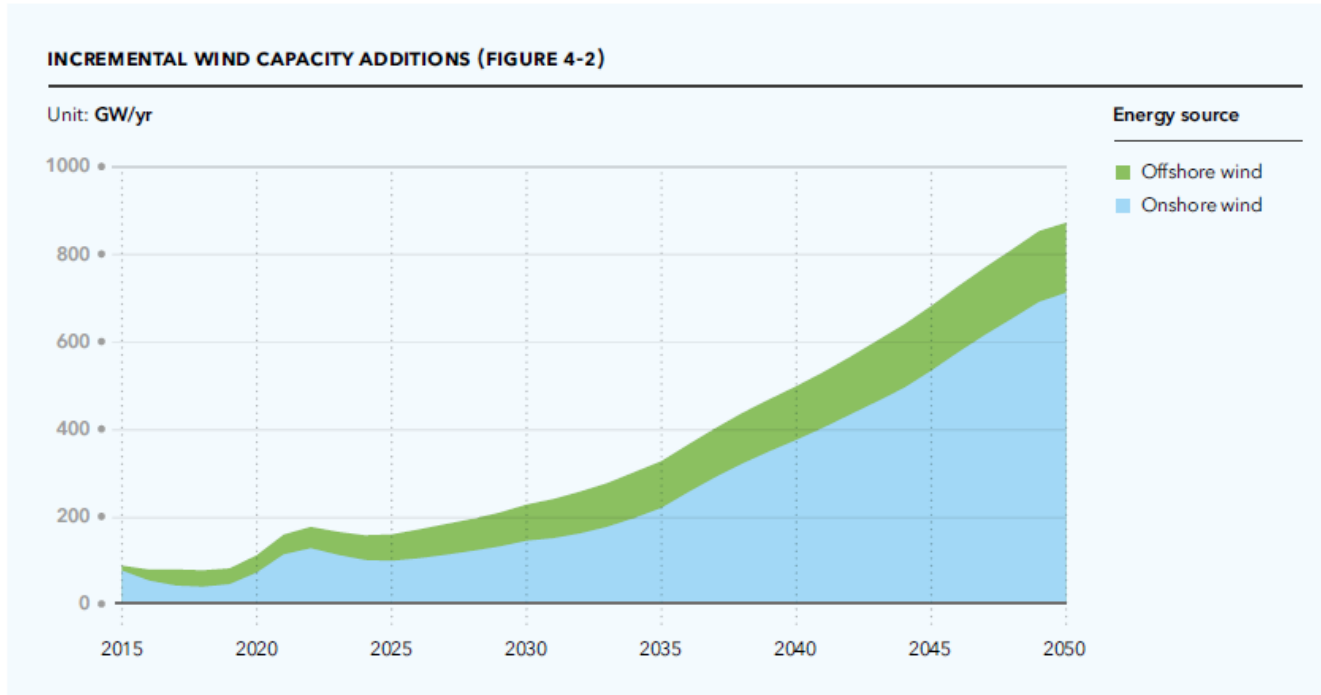
## 2.5.1 Aandeel hernieuwbare energie in bruto energetisch eindverbruik



Bron: CBS voor Nederland, Eurostat (2017a) voor andere landen.

Source: CBS – Hernieuwbare energie in Nederland 2017

# MARKET - WORLD WIDE POTENTIAL?

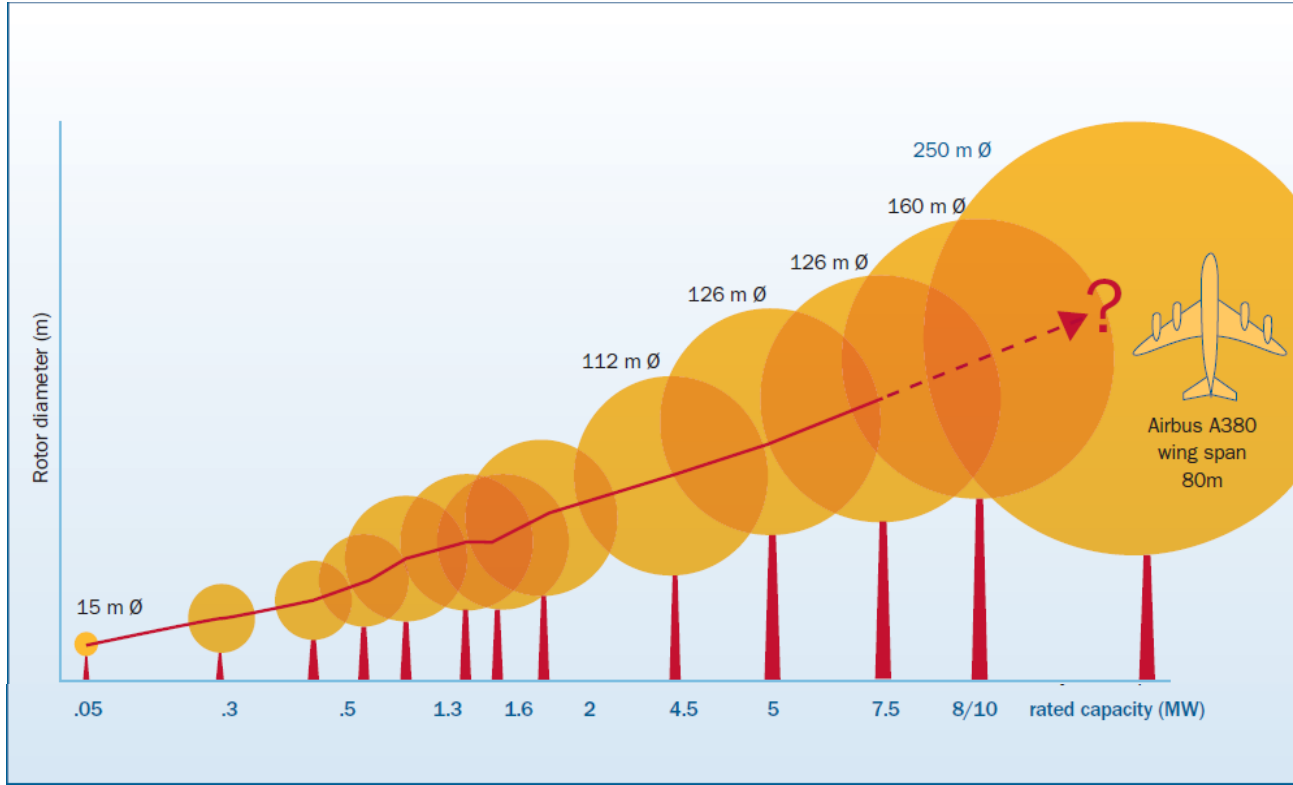


**Question:**

**How to get those  
MW's up and  
running...**

**...safely and  
efficiently?**

Source: DNV GL\_ Energy Transition Outlook 2017



Source: GEAI (modified)

# FOUNDATION INSTALLATION



# FOUNDATION INSTALLATION



# TRANSITION PIECE INSTALLATION





# TURBINE INSTALLATION

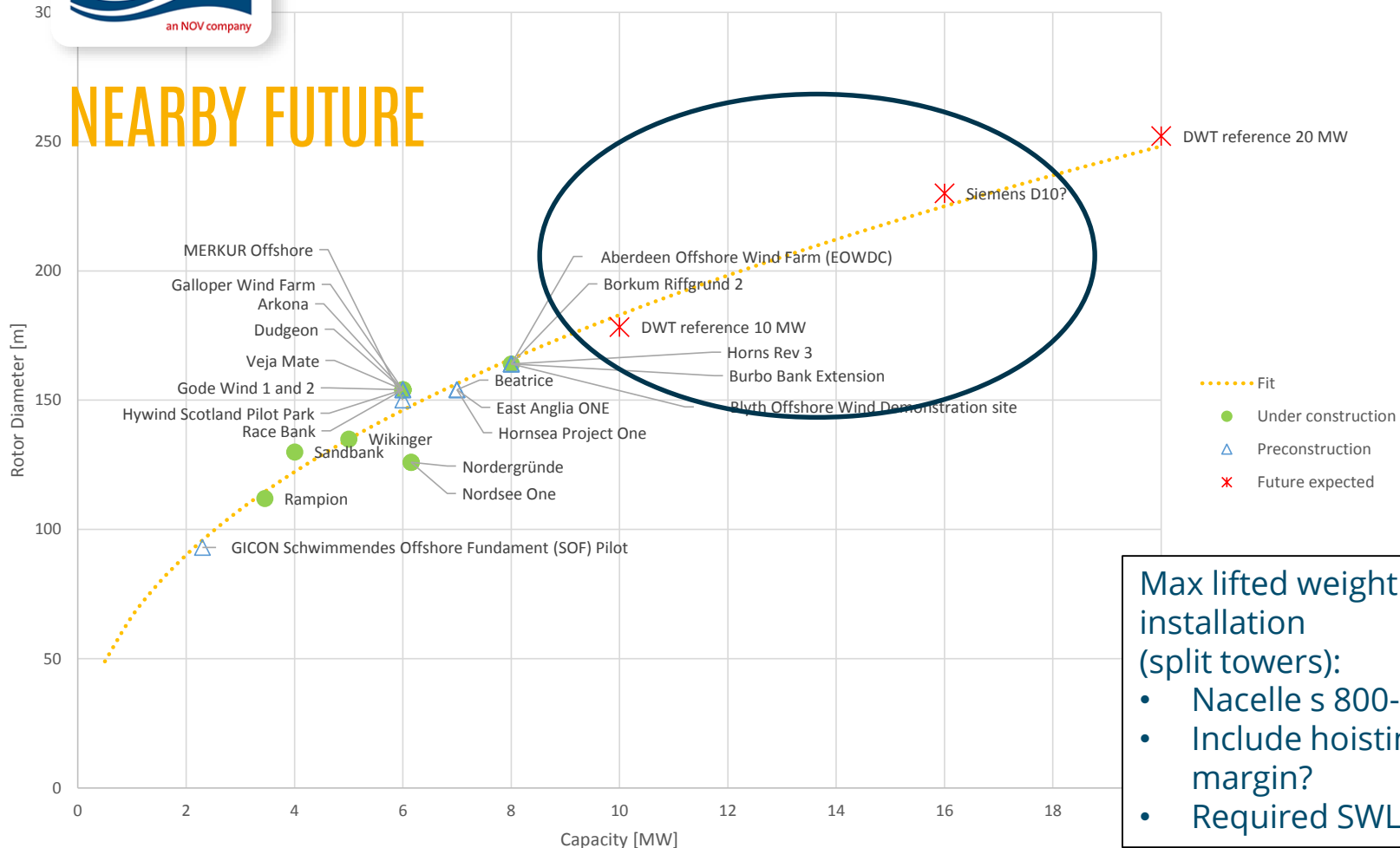
**The table must  
be stable...**

Especially when  
mating bolted  
flanges at 100+ m  
above SWL



Rotor Diameter  $D$  vs Turbine Capacity

**NEARBY FUTURE**



**Max lifted weight WTG installation (split towers):**

- Nacelle s 800-1100 t?
- Include hoisting gear, margin?
- Required SWL...?

# TURBINES ARE GETTING LARGER

## **Installation bottleneck?**

Higher mass to be lifted → Larger cranes needed

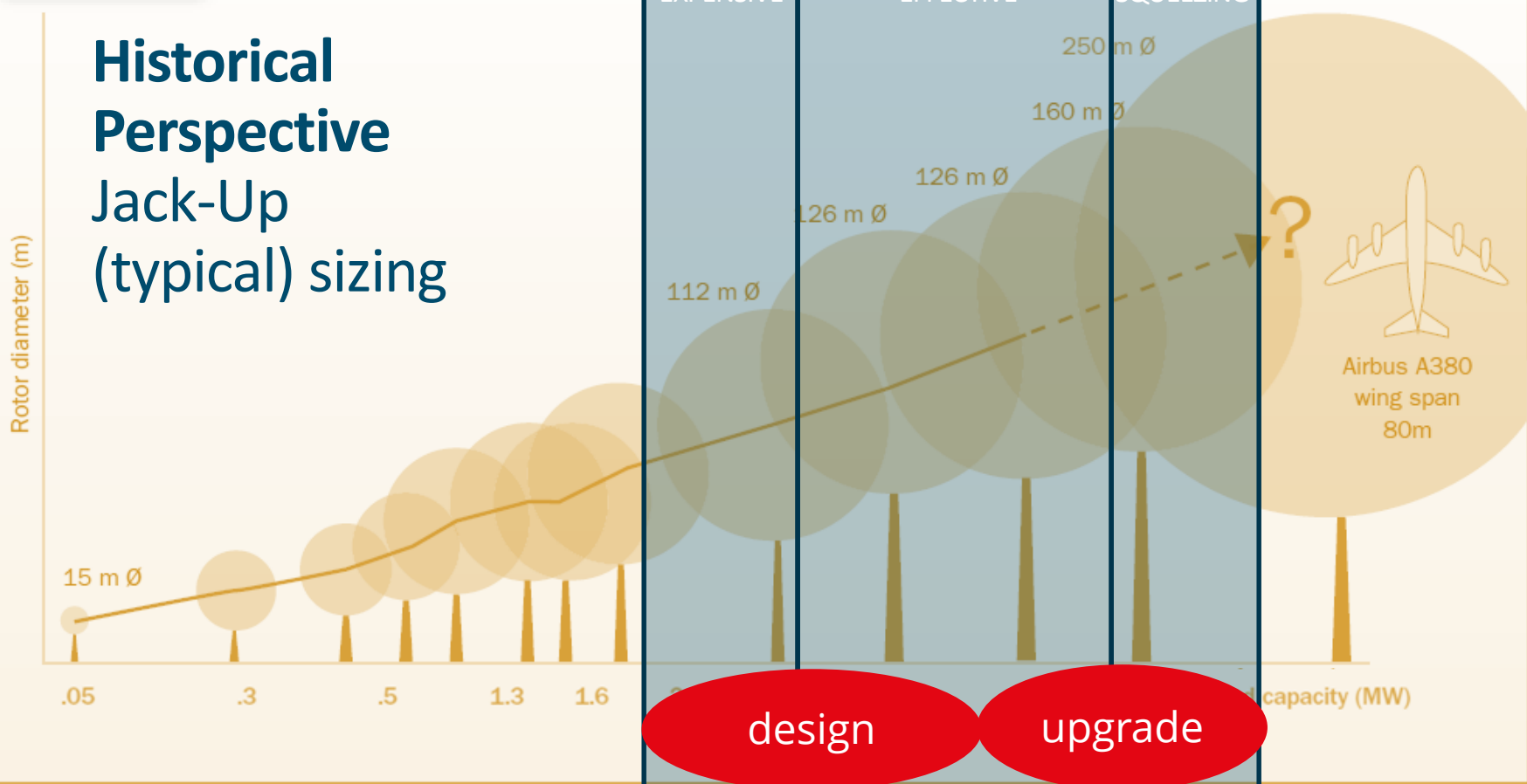
Larger crane → Larger Jack-Up needed. Cost still in proportion?

Higher hub heights → Longer crane. Stiffness? Dynamics?

Fewer turbines per field: 400 MW wind farm? 100 x 4 MW vs 40 x 10 MW

Can we predict a reasonable horizon? Investment for 20 years?

**Historical Perspective Jack-Up (typical) sizing**



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Fewer turbines per field: 400 MW wind farm? 100 x 4 MW vs 40 x 10 MW

Can we predict a reasonable horizon? Investment for 20 years?

Can we stretch current solutions?

## Extremely long boom:

- Maneuvering in harbor
- Boom flexibility, tugging
- Extra boom weight = extra overturning
- Transit sea state (boom strength + fatigue)

Can we stay efficient enough?

Or do we go back in time? LCOE?



Note: Ingenious solution, but for harsh remote sites different solutions are required

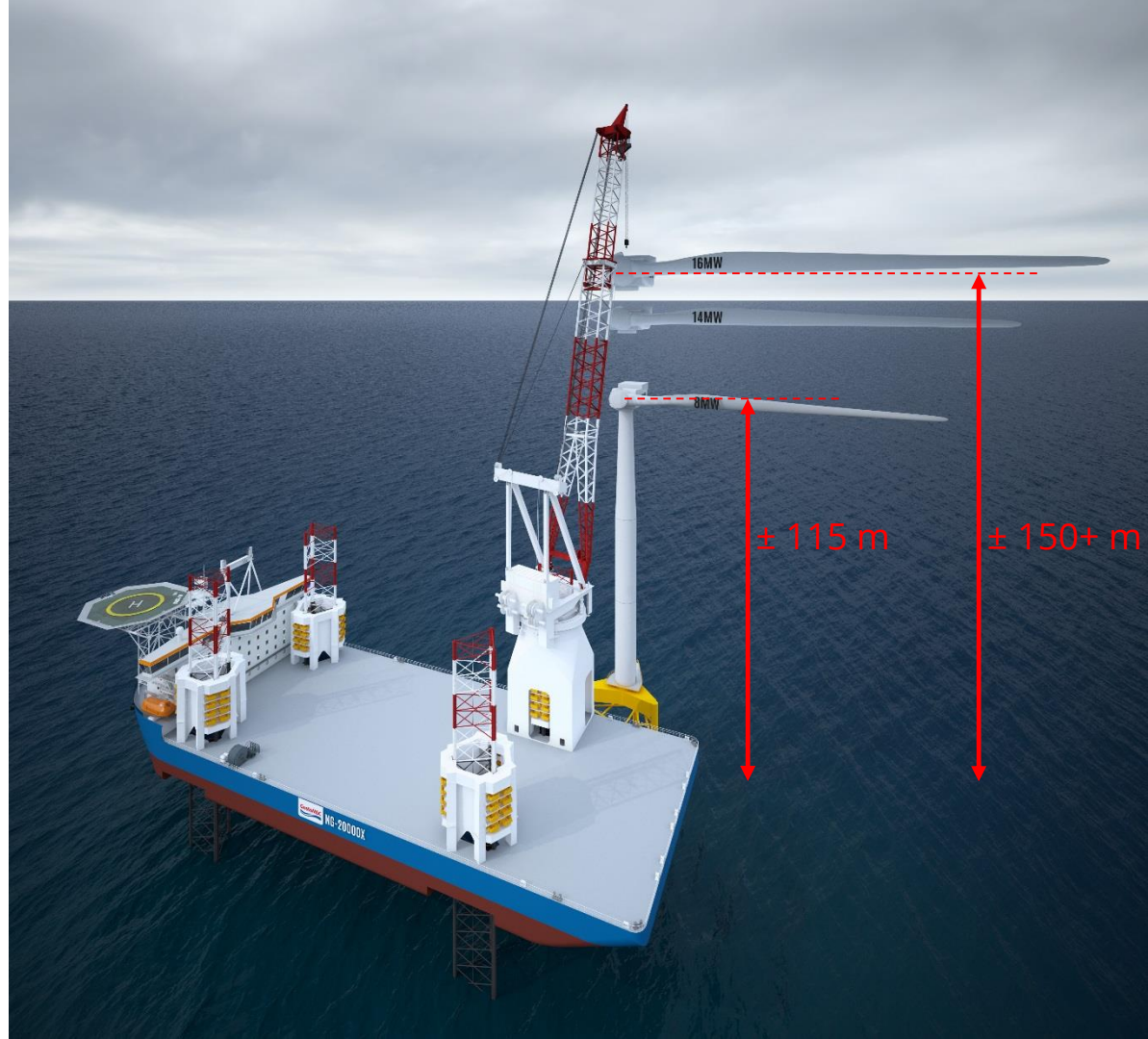
## Current Lifting Height:

- Typical 6-8 MW
- Hub height approx.  $\pm 115$  m +SWL
- Required hook height:  
     $\pm 150$  m +SWL  
    Reasonable airgap 15 m
- Typical hull depth 10 m

## Consequence:

Long crane boom required for 6-8 MW.

**Next generation WTG: Extremely long boom required.**



# PRELOADING - CRANE OPS

Larger crane?

Jack-up OK?

How about the soil?





# FOUNDATION INTEGRITY

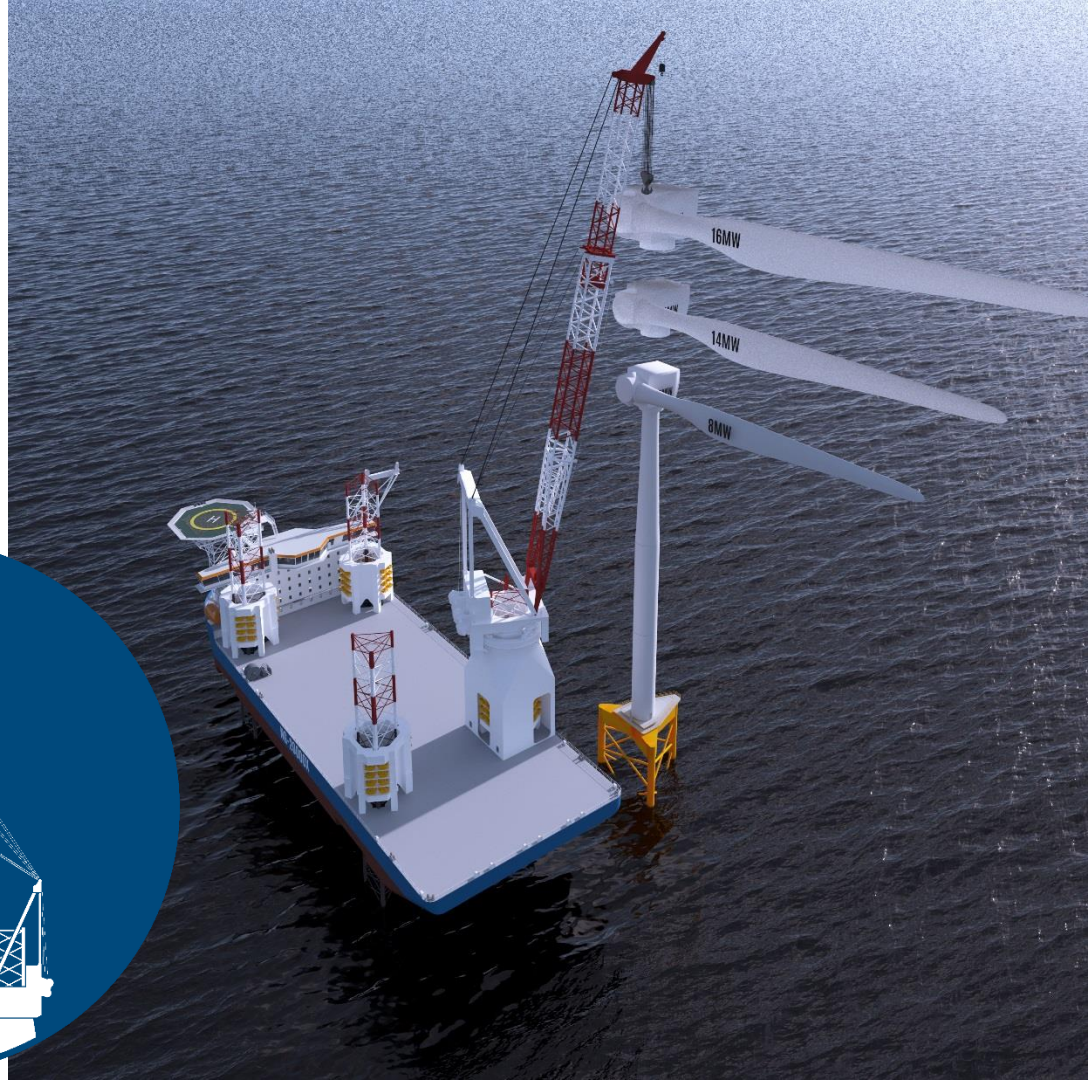
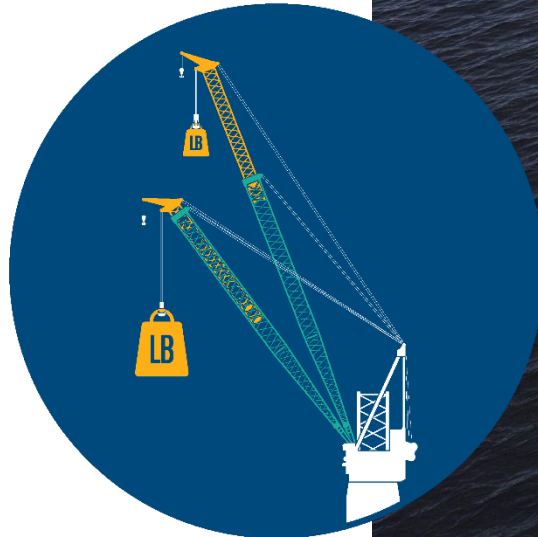


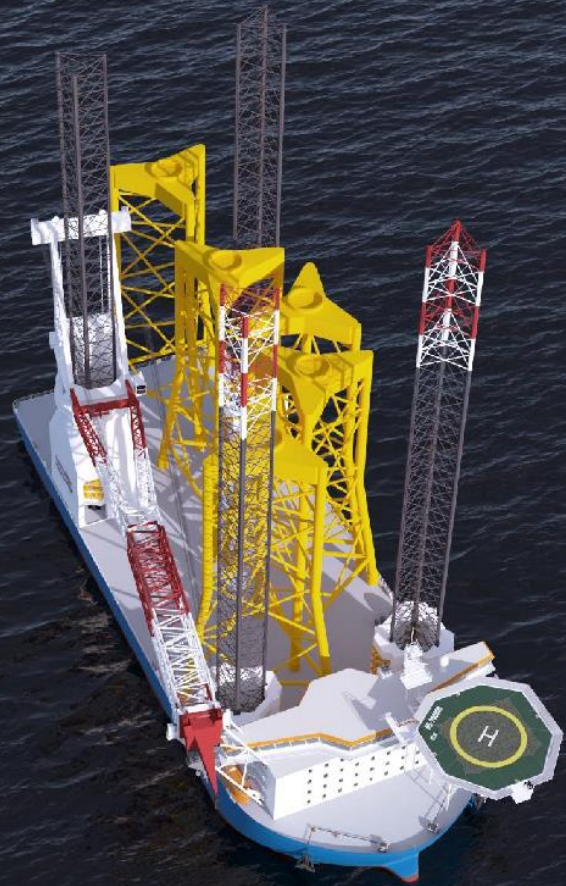
# EXTENDED HEIGHT + WEIGHT

Telescopic boom, proven platform,  
truss legs  
**Solid**

Sufficient beam  
**Safe**

Sufficient preload  
**Stable**

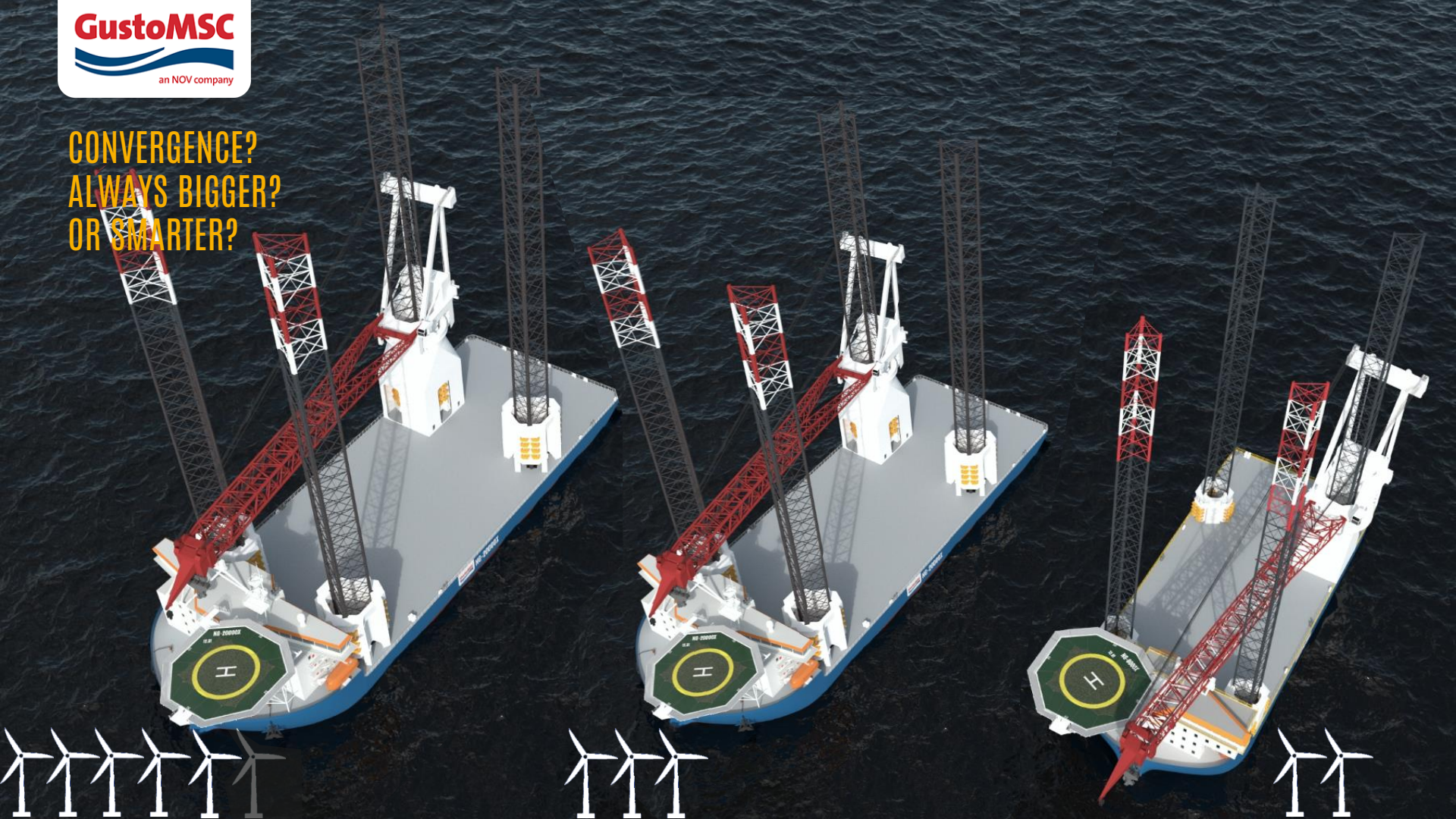




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CONVERGENCE?  
ALWAYS BIGGER?  
OR SMARTER?



# WHY PUSH THE LIMITS

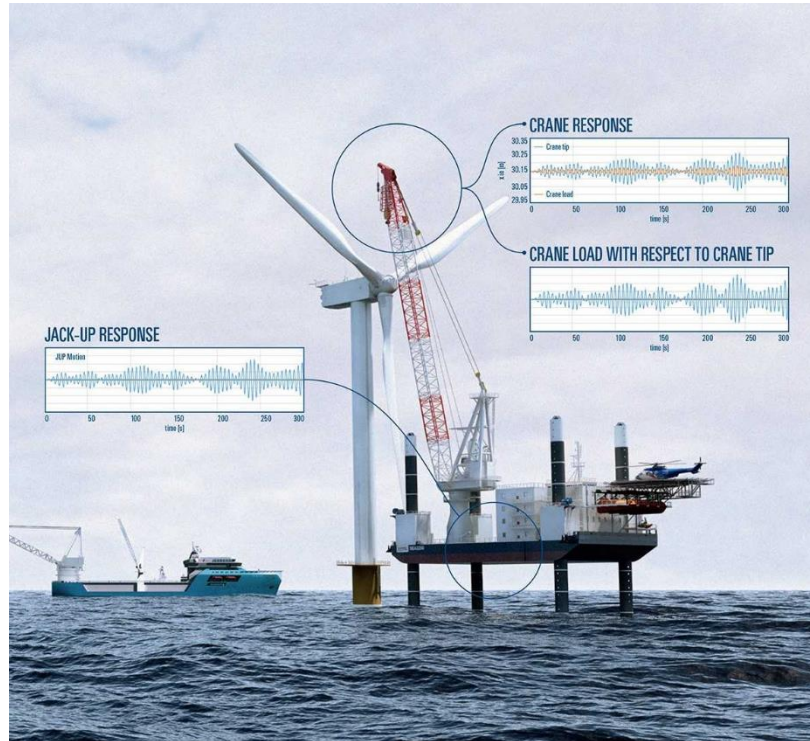
**Bigger is not always better**

**Stretching current solutions, developing improvements**

By in depth knowledge of technical and key operational challenges

**To achieve more efficiency at equal or better safety**

# PUSHING THE LIMITS - TRADITIONAL ENGINEERING METHODS

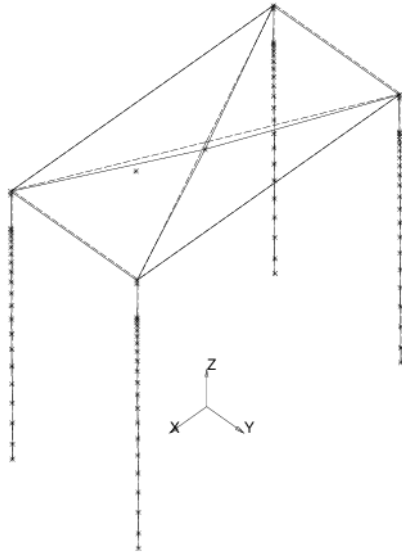


A successful wind turbine installation starts with a well designed jack-up that provides a solid and stable basis for the required operations.

Operational boundaries can only be optimized based on a **thorough understanding of the jack-up and crane response in an offshore environment.**

To provide the required insight into the workability of jack-ups, GustoMSC has developed a portfolio of engineering tools, which allow a thorough yet fast assessment of the motions and internal loads for any given unit and its crane.

# ENGINEERING TOOLS - EQUIVALENT JACK-UP MODELS



GustoMSC has developed (and continuously improves) the software it uses to assess the behavior of a jack-up on site.

Equivalent jack-up models are used to assess the (dynamic) response of the jack-up for different conditions:

- Leg-bottom impact
- Jacking and preloading
- Operational
- Survival
- Accidental (earthquake)

These comprehensive models vary greatly in complexity depending on the:

- Structural model
- Wave kinematics (e.g. higher order waves in time domain simulations)
- Soil-structure interaction (e.g. kinematic hardening)
- Workings of the jacking and fixation system

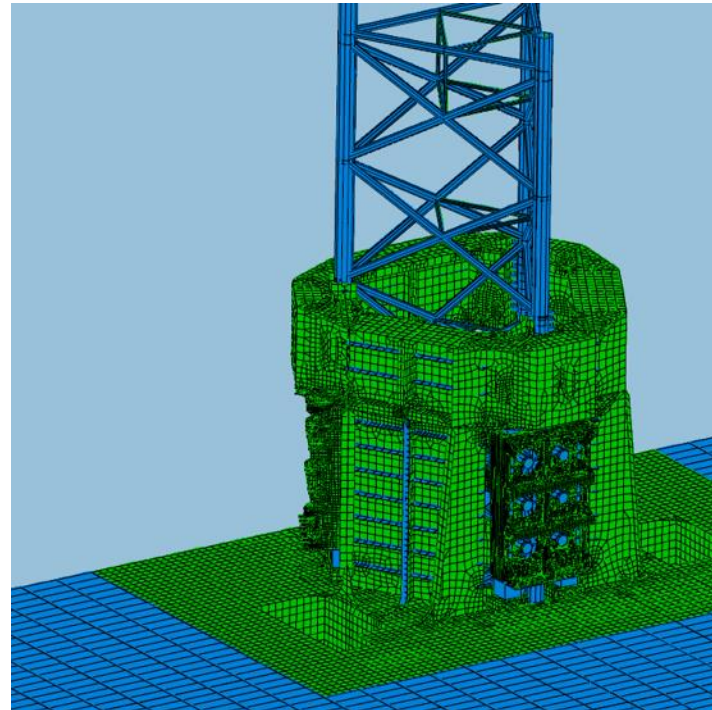
## ENGINEERING TOOLS - DETAILED JACK-UP MODELS

Detailed structural models are used to verify structural adequacy of the leg, hull and interface based on the (internal) loads provided by the detailed model.

These detailed models are time consuming to create and solve compared to the equivalent models.

A practical approach to evaluating the adequacy of the jack-up is to identify the critical load cases using the equivalent models, while using the detailed model for the final verification.

A similar approach may be applied to cranes: In addition to detailed models used to verify design cases, an equivalent crane model is useful to evaluate the (dynamic) response of the total system.





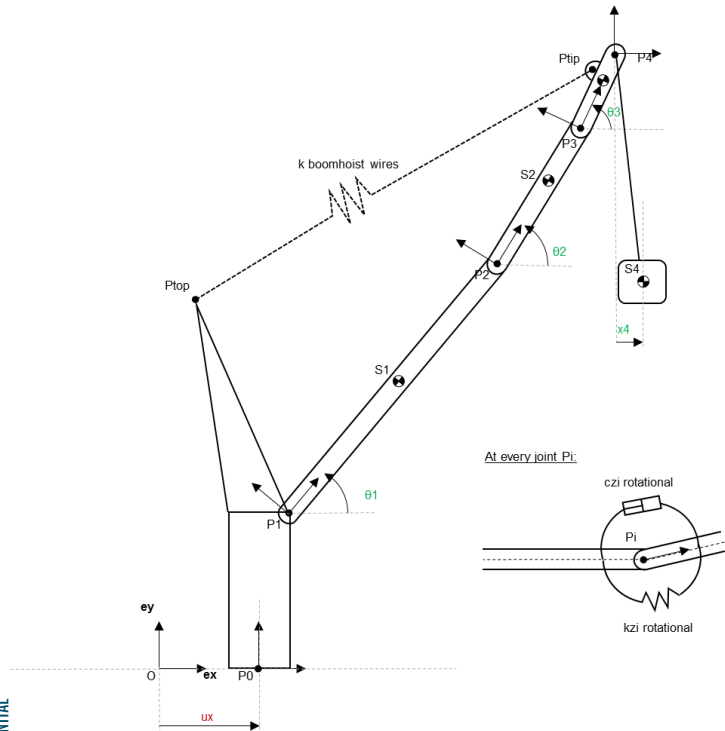
# ENGINEERING TOOLS - EQUIVALENT CRANE MODEL

The rationale is to go for the **simplest model that accurately captures the response of a crane on a jack up**, based (as much as possible) on first principles.

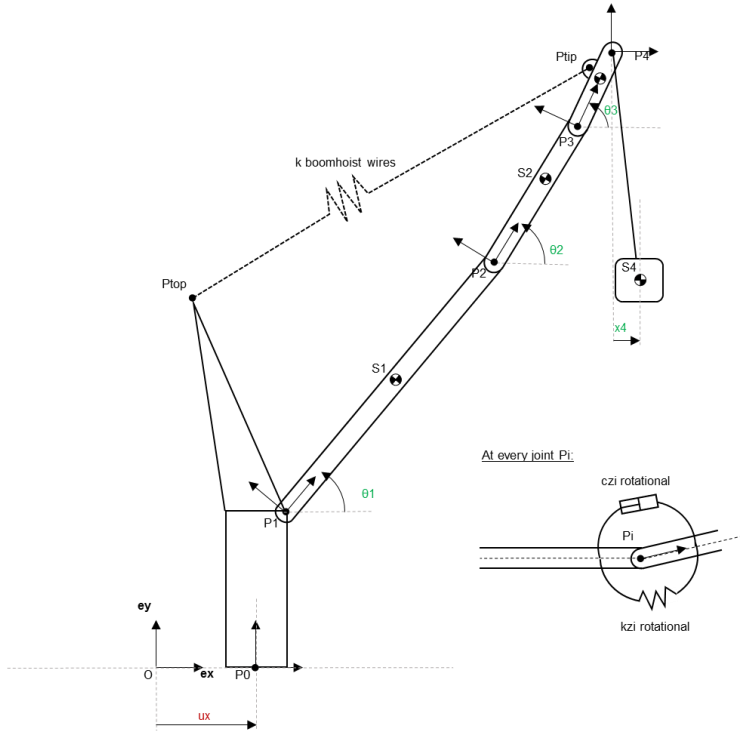
Advantages:

- Easy to modify the crane model
- Easy to combine with the jack-up models
- Easy (and fast) calculation of the relevant eigenmodes
- Easy (and fast) calculation of the response

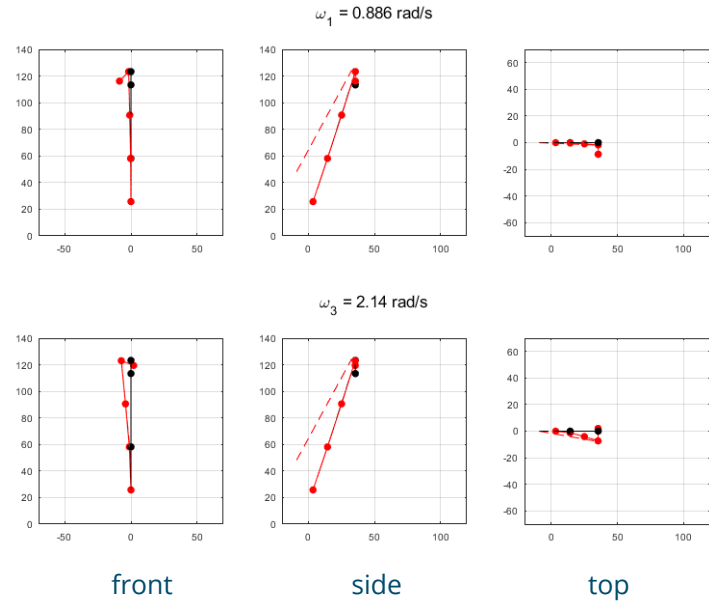
Making possible fast pre- and post processing of the vast amount of cases that are required for the purpose of optimizing a crane design or its workability on a particular site.



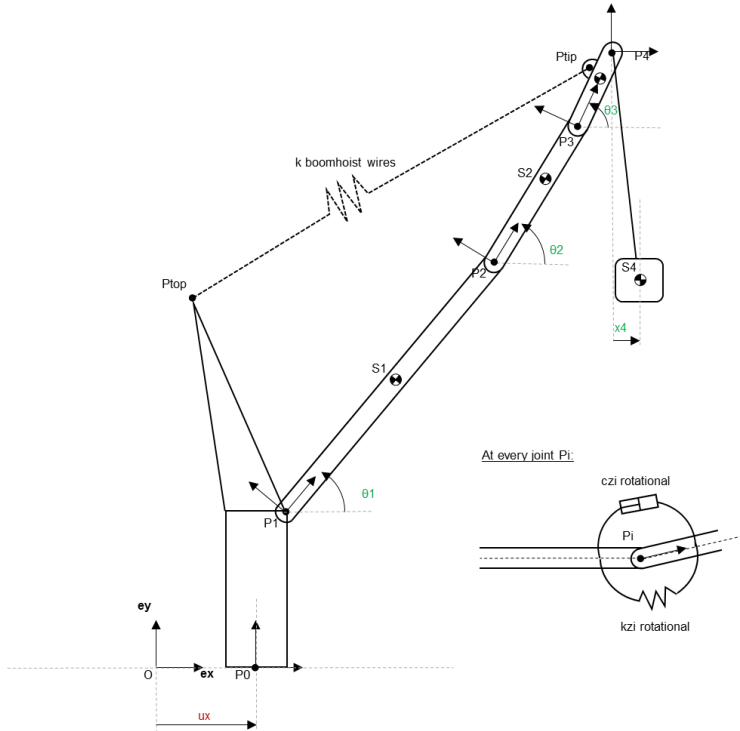
# CRANE DYNAMICS - MODAL ANALYSIS



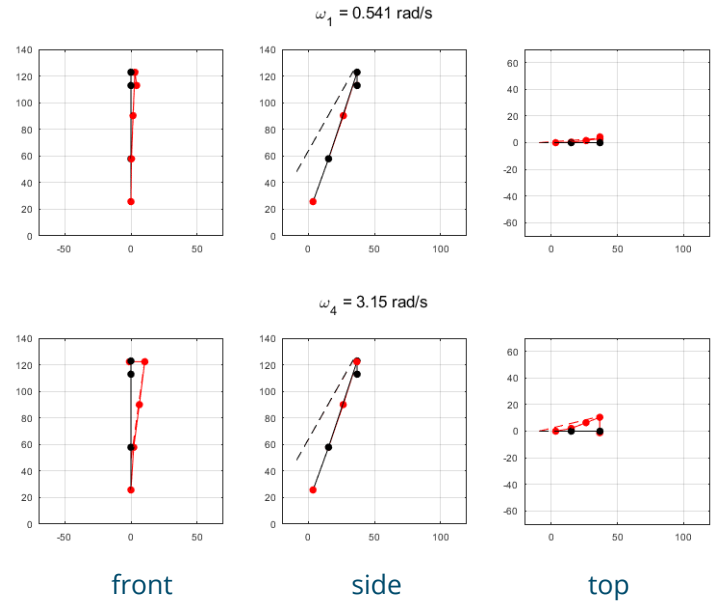
10 m sling length, no load in hook



# CRANE DYNAMICS - MODAL ANALYSIS



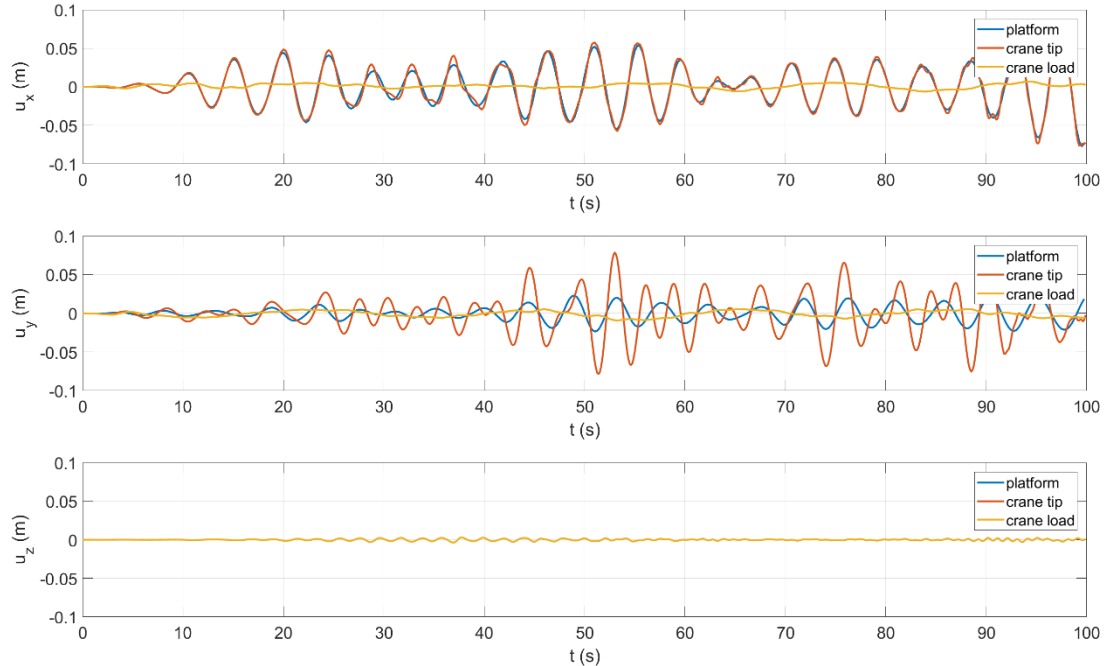
10 m sling length, 400t load in hook



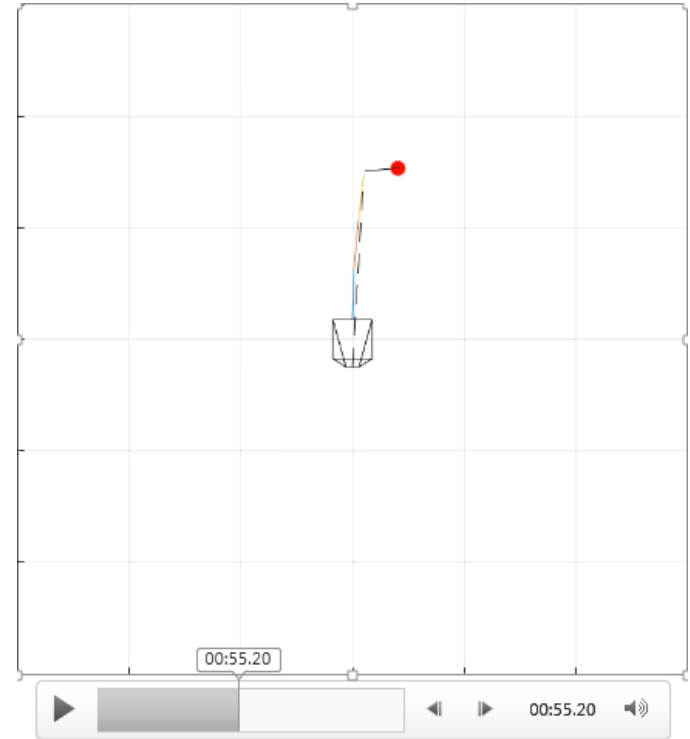
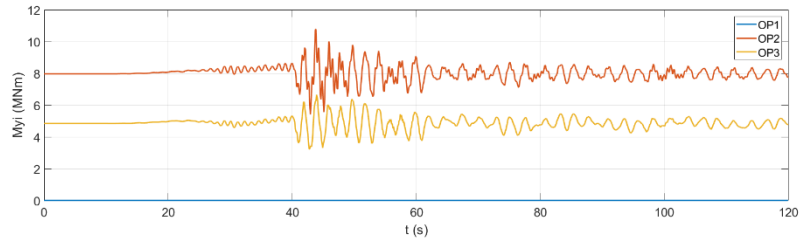
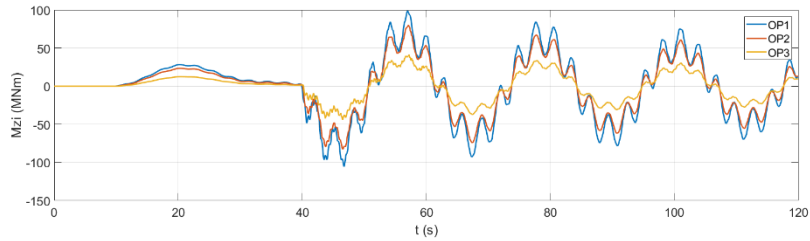
# CRANE DYNAMICS - TIME DOMAIN SIMULATIONS

## Time domain simulations

- NG-9000C
- 18,000t elevated weight
- 40 m airgap
- $H_s = 2.5$  m
- $T_p = 5$  s
- crane on PS AFT
- boom angle = 75 deg.
- slew angle = 90 deg.
- main hoist load = 800 t
- sling length = 80 m



# CRANE DYNAMICS - EMERGENCY SLEW STOP TEST



# IDENTIFYING ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

## CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS

*“I just want to know if I can commence the operations in this particular situation. What am I to do with this 100 page report full of figures and tables from GustoMSC?” Asks the operator.*

*“Yes, I’ll figure out the answer.” says the engineer to the operator. “Let me think about it and write a report containing my advice. I’ll come back to you in two weeks.”*

*The jacking engineer tries to make out what preload was achieved as the crane operator slews the foundation overboard, resulting in an increase of the loads on the crane leg increase: “Was it 8900 t or was it 8800 t for the leg closest to the crane? The handwriting of that guy from the night shift is so difficult to read.”*

*“Hey,” exclaims the marine warranty surveyor looking over the shoulder of the jacking engineer during preloading operations, “the preload shown on the jacking system console does not match the preload covered in the site specific assessment report.”*

# IDENTIFYING ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

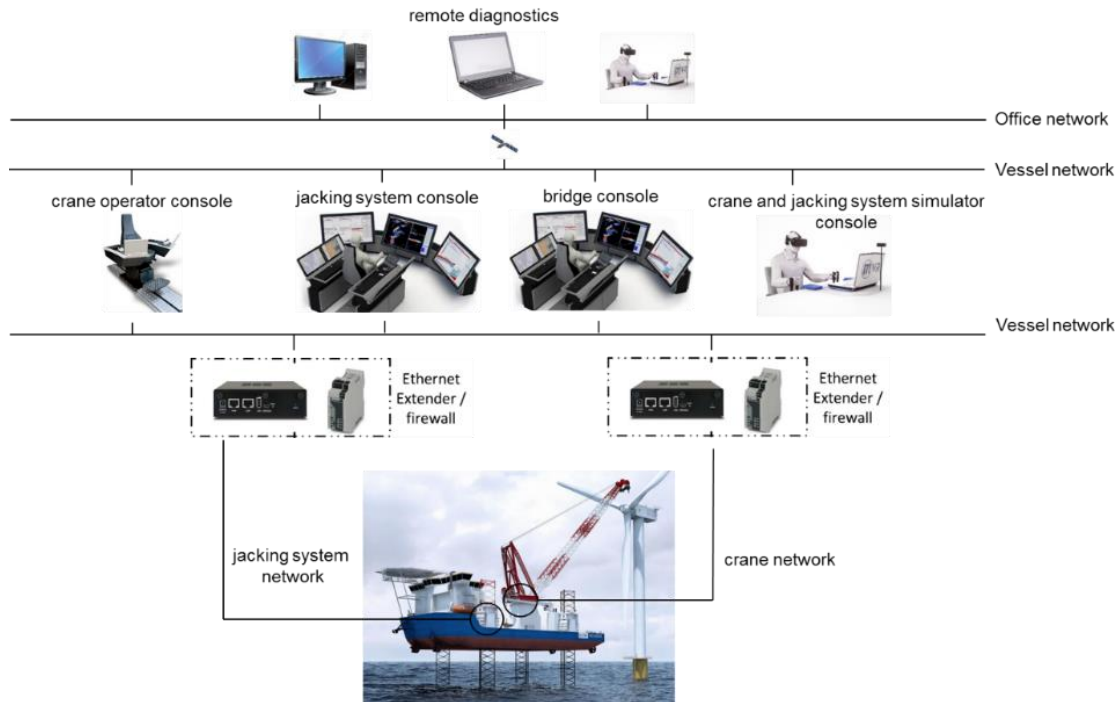
## CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS

*The jacking engineer, after preloading operations, equalizes the loads on the legs and shuts off the hydraulic power units and exclaims: "I'm off to doing something else, my work here is done."*

*The crane operator chooses a different travel path for the foundation with a weight at the limit of the crane capacity. He is sure that as long as he respects the crane SWL curve on his display everything is safe.*

# PUSHING THE LIMITS - THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Through connecting the different system networks and by translating the data into practical real-time guidance for the operators the safety and performance of the units may be increased

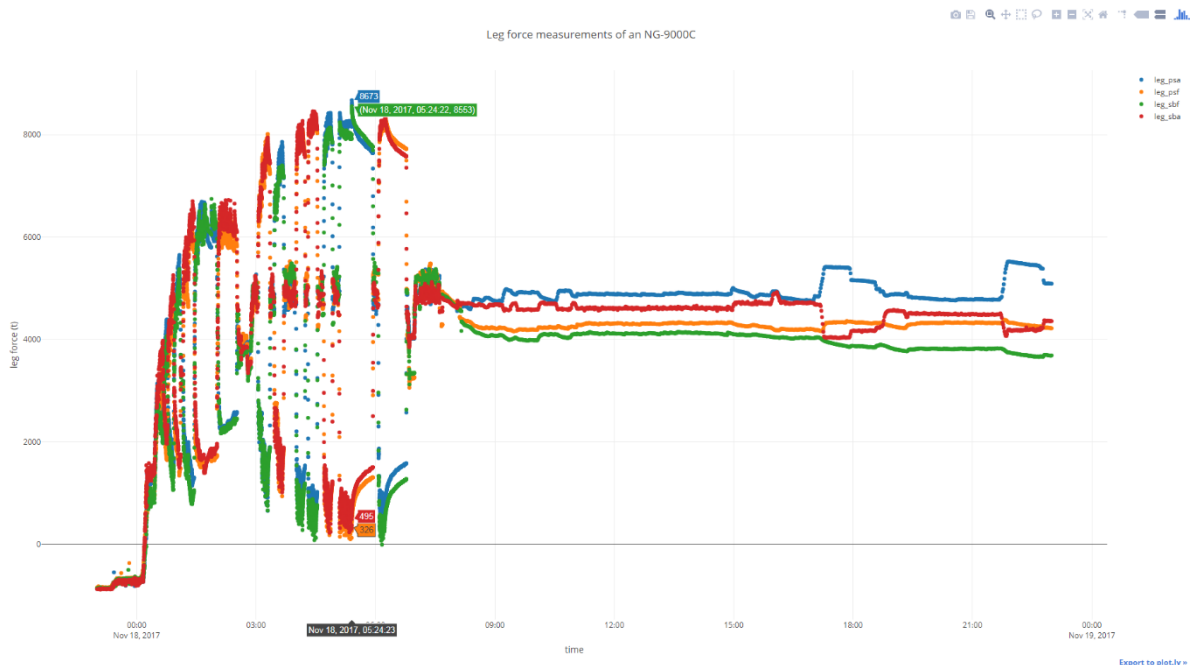




# USER FRIENDLY ACCESS TO KEY SYSTEM DATA

## EXAMPLE: IMPROVING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN OPERATORS AND ENGINEERS

Provide interactive dashboards to access actual and historical system data (e.g. jacking system loads)

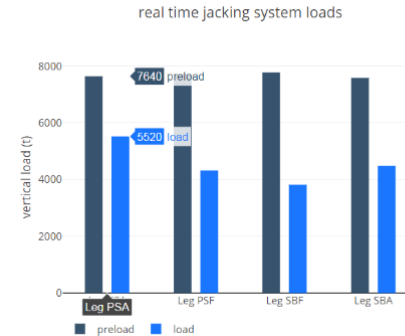
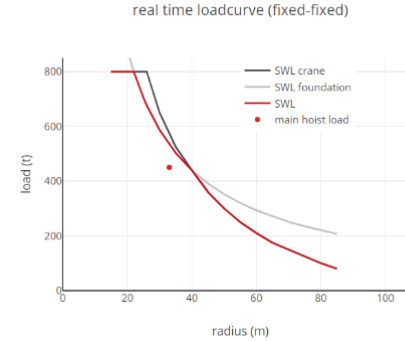


# AUTOMATED GUIDANCE DURING OPERATIONS

## EXAMPLE: IMPROVE OPERATOR AWARENESS ON ACTUAL UTILIZATIONS DURING LIFTING OPERATIONS

The crane driver should be aware of the governing limits, this includes the limit imposed by the jack-up foundation.

The jacking engineer should have clear insight on the load and the established foundation capacity (preload).



# AUTOMATED GUIDANCE DURING LIFTING OPERATIONS

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Providing automated guidance to the operators enhances the safety during lifting operations and allows the operators to focus on their primary tasks.
- Reliable knowledge of the utilizations allows the operator to unlock the full potential of the wind turbine installation vessel (GustoMSC's PRETORQUE method).

This significantly increases the maximum crane size that may sensibly be installed on a unit without compromising safety  
(see example upgrade of NG-9000 with 900 t to a 1500 t crane)

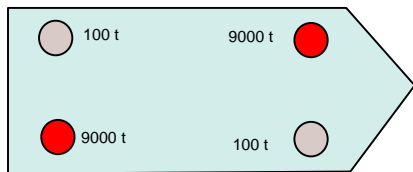
# PRETORQUE

The rationale is to reduce the load on the leg nearest to the crane (PS AFT) before lifting operations, therefore increasing the margin of safety for the foundation stability during lifting operations.

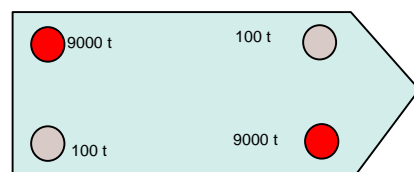
Example of modest PreTorque:

Example:  
4000 t vs 4550 t

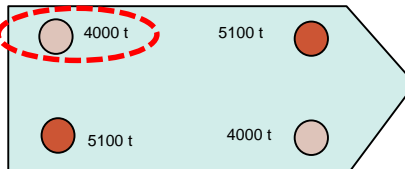
## Preload legs 2 and 4



## Preload legs 1 and 3



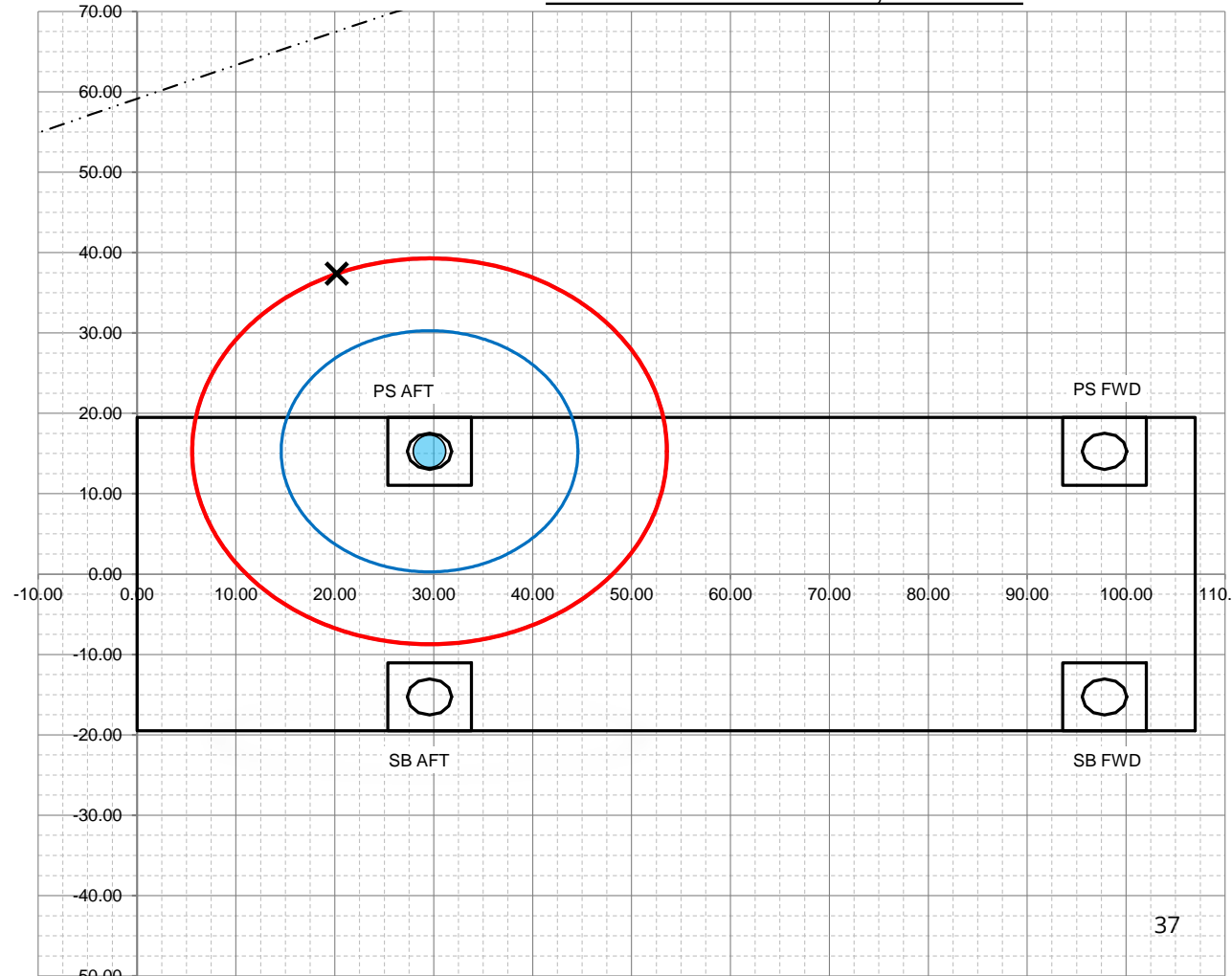
## PARTIALLY equalize



# PRETORQUE

Safe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 900 t x 24 m,  
safety 0.9,  
(original design)

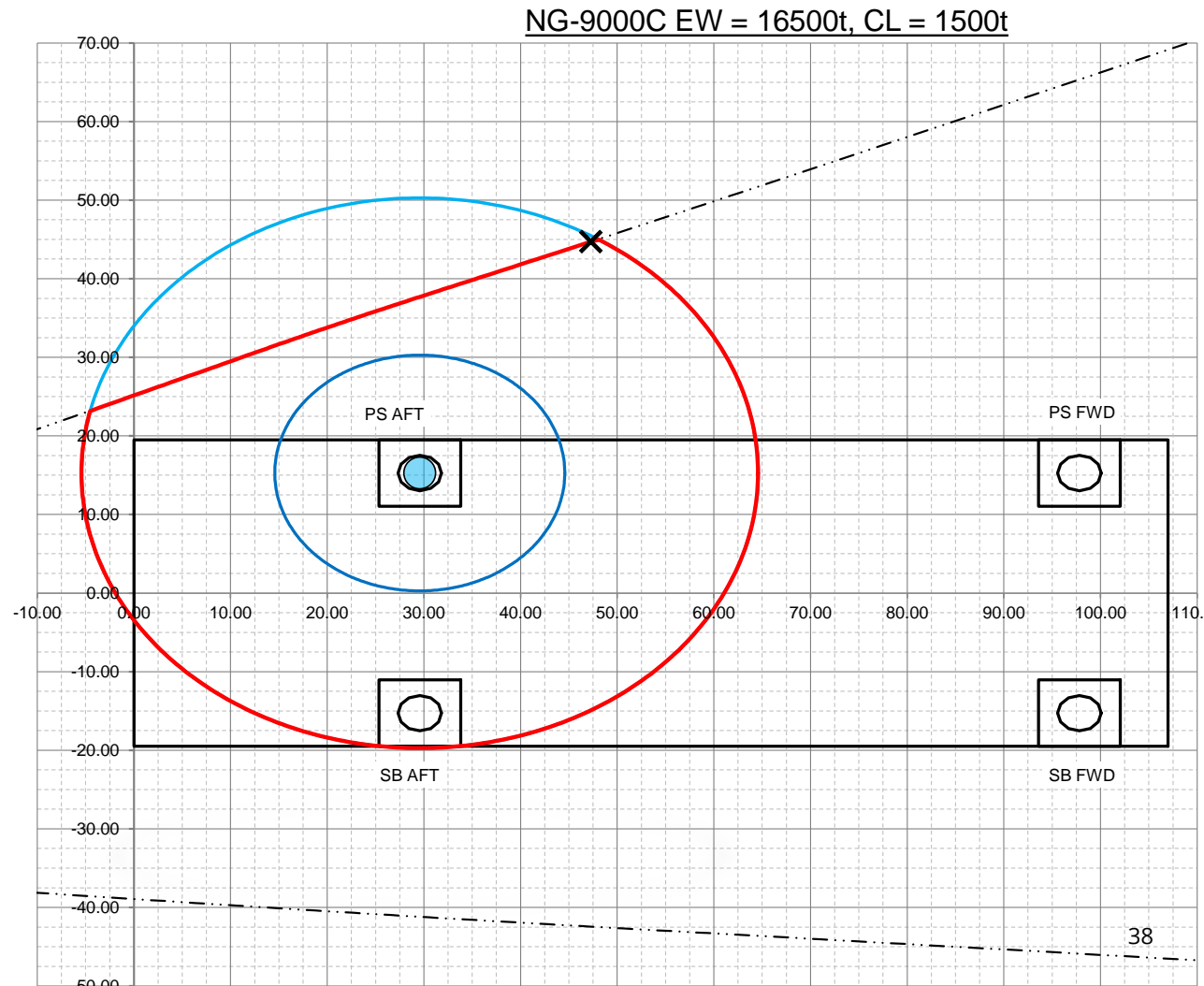
NG-9000C EW = 17100t, CL = 900t



# PRETORQUE

Safe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 900 t x 24 m,  
safety 0.9,  
(original design)

Unsafe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 1500 t x 35m,  
safety 0.9

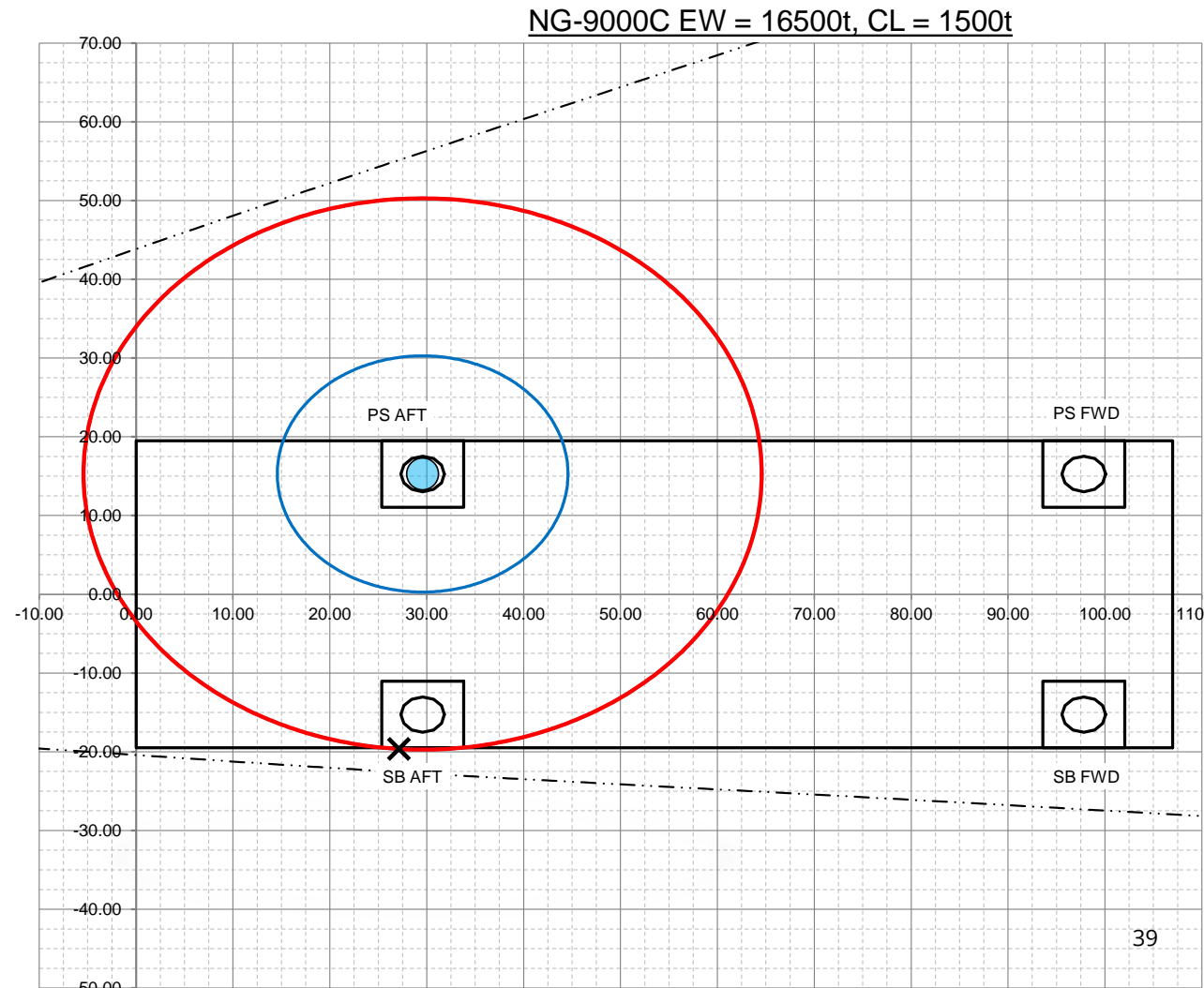


# PRETORQUE

Safe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 900 t x 24 m,  
safety 0.9,  
(original design)

Unsafe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 1500 t x 35m,  
safety 0.9,

Safe:  
NG-9000C with  
Crane 1500 t x 35m,  
safety 0.9,  
With **PreTorque**





## SAFELY PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

# CONCLUSION

GustoMSC aims to achieve more efficiency for the wind turbine installation units at equal or better safety by developing smart solutions using in depth knowledge of technical and operational challenges.

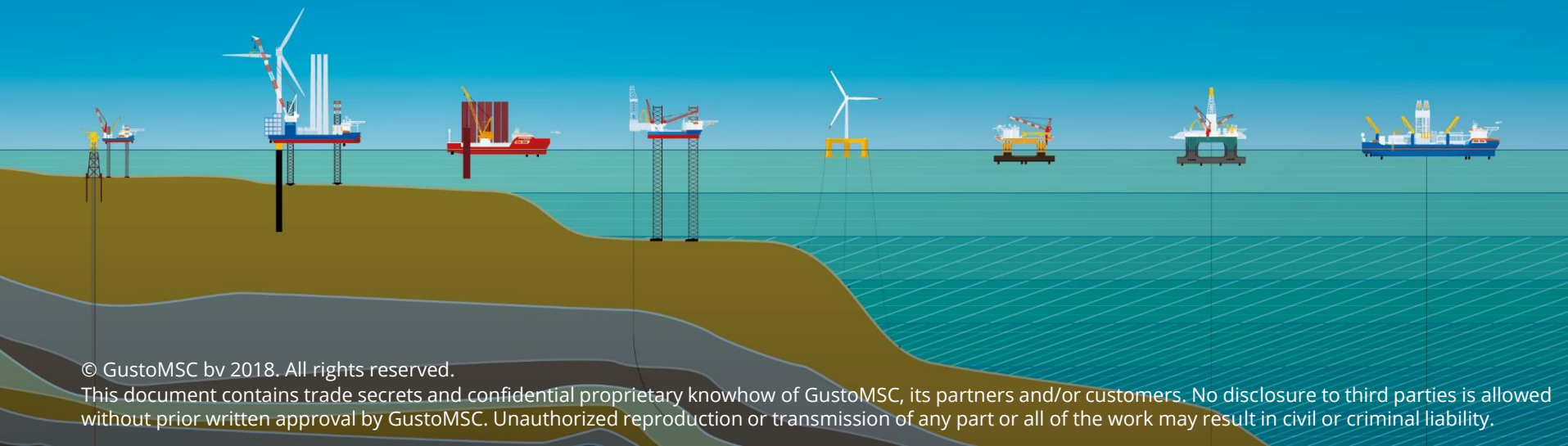
To achieve this goal we continuously improve our in-house developed software that allows us to efficiently perform analyses for the wind turbine installation vessels, while various new ways are explored to provide key operational guidance to operators in real-time.



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