



# KONFLOT

Energía berriztagarri flotatzaileen kontrol diseinu bateratua

Control co-design for floating renewable energy

Eider Robles & Markel Peñalba



Goi Eskola  
Politeknikoa



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*Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Ekonomiaren Garapen, Jasangarritasun eta Ingurumen Saila (ELKARTEK 2022 Programa) diruz lagundutako proiektua*  
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# CONTEXT

- **Floating wind** is a technology that will allow the efficient exploitation of wind potential in deeper waters and, therefore, will be able to foster rapid growth in the future offshore wind market.
- **Wave energy** is a developing technology that is mainly in the prototype and demonstration phase.

By 2030 it is estimated worldwide...

- 20 GW of floating wind power; 60% in the US, 30% in the US and 10% in Asia [1]
- 500 MW of wave energy installed power [2]



[1] Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) (2022), *GLOBAL OFFSHORE WIND REPORT 2022*, Rebecca Williams, Feng Zhao, Joyce Lee

[2] IRENA (2020), *Innovation outlook: Ocean energy technologies*, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi.

# DESIGN PARALELISM

## Current design



Stable design, without considering the control

## Control co-design



Control system



Unstable design: lighter



# CURRENT DESIGN METHODOLOGY



- Sequential and independent design
- Each step limits the possibilities of the next
- Control takes part in the end, once the design is finished



Technically impossible for a multidisciplinary system to be fully optimized if the interactions between the subsystems are not considered in the design.

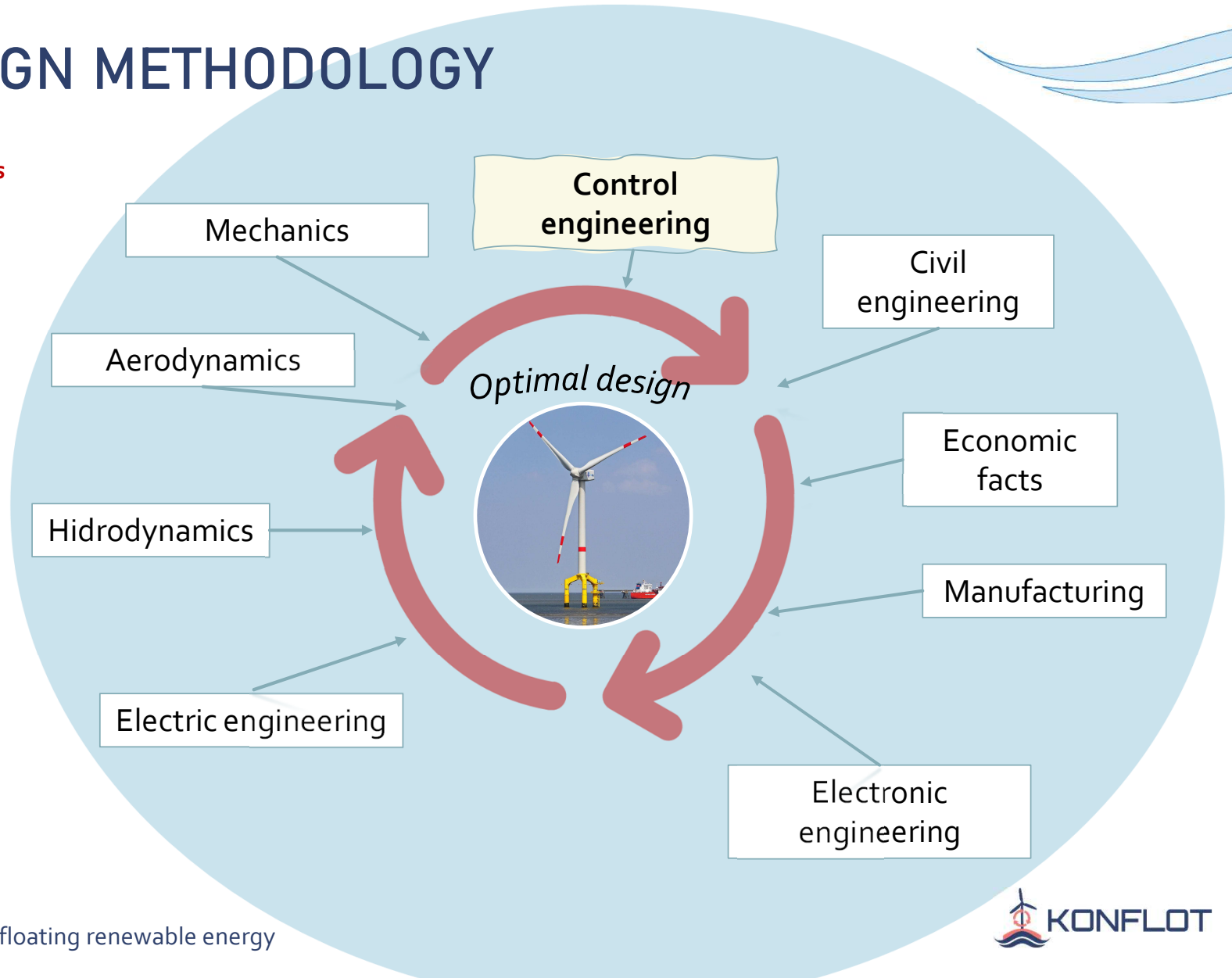
# NEW DESIGN METHODOLOGY

Different disciplines work concurrently from the start

~~Sequential~~

~~Independent~~

Emphasis on interactions between subsystems and control paradigms



# OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE

According to the main CCD researcher, Mario García-Sanz [1], Program director at ARPA-E (Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, USA), control codesign techniques could help to:

- Reduce mass of the structures up to 50%
- Reduce losses up to 15%
- Reduce OPEX up to 15%



**Globally reducing the LCOE (Levelized Cost Of Energy) up to 45%**

[1] Mario Garcia-Sanz Program director ARPA-E, "Control Co-Design for Wind/Tidal/Wave Energy Systems", 2018

# OBJECTIVES

Establish a design methodology that considers, from the early design phases, the different subsystems, their dynamics and interactions, and the performance of the controls available in the floating renewable generation devices..

- Identification of CCD techniques applicable to floating wind power and wave energy collectors
- Selection of variables with the greatest impact in the design of the subsystems and definition of the objective metrics to apply CCD
- Definition of a CCD methodology based on numerical models, innovative control strategies for different subsystems and optimization algorithms
- Validation of the methodology and tools by applying them to two use cases: (i) floating wind and (ii) wave energy



## EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✓ A **methodology** to apply CCD techniques to floating wind and wave energy collectors.
- ✓ **Optimization tools** and algorithms that allow the interaction between the dynamics of the different subsystems.
- ✓ **Advanced controls** for floating wind and wave energy, which are integrated into the CCD process.





# PARTNERS

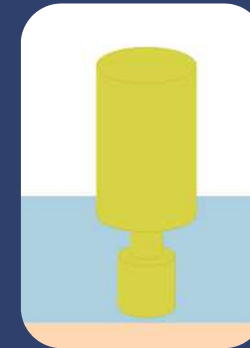
Project coordination and management



Control co-  
design of  
floating wind



Control co-  
design of wave  
energy



Control strategies for its application in co-design



Co-optimization strategies and algorithms



Communication and dissemination

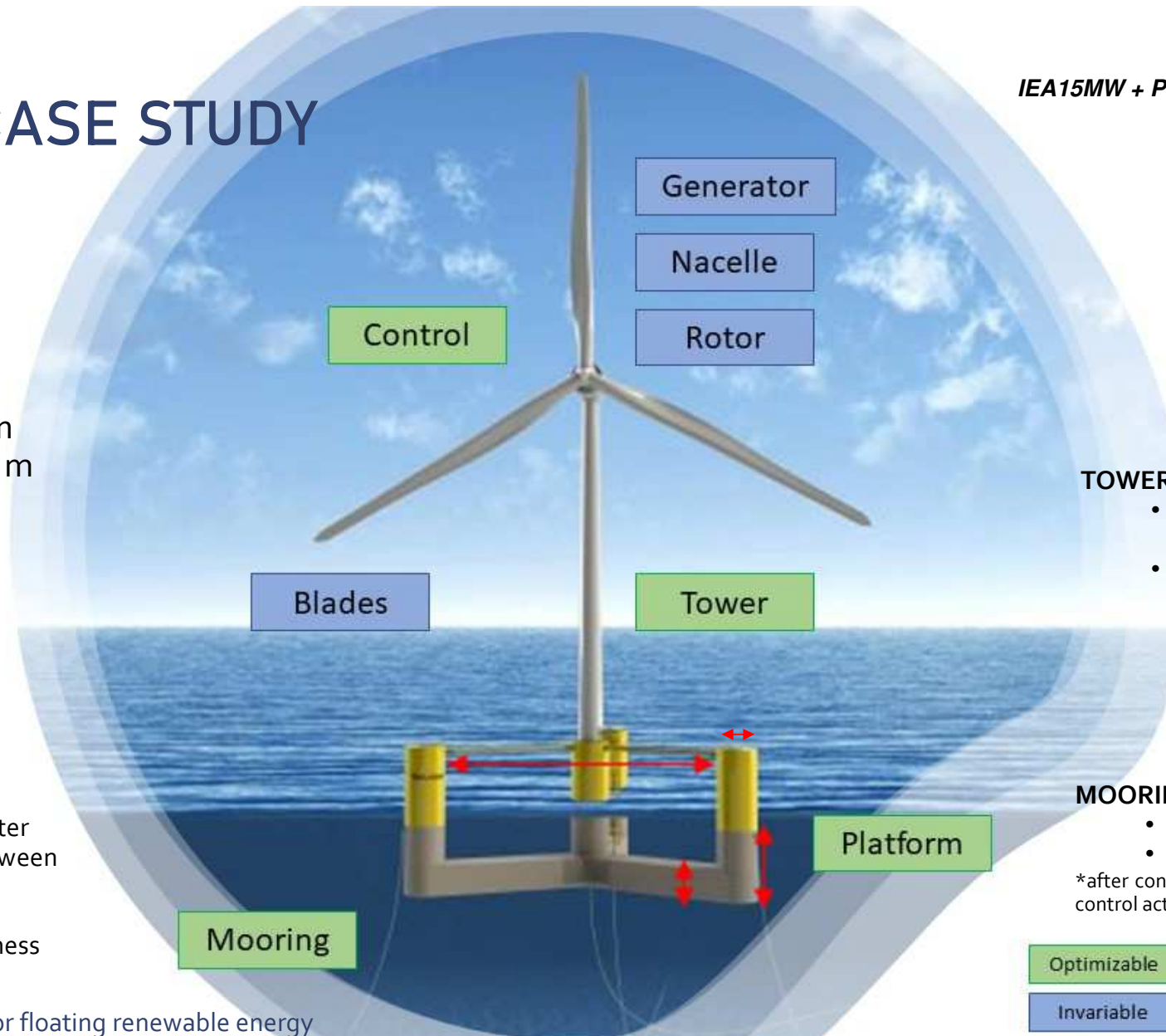
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# FOWT CASE STUDY

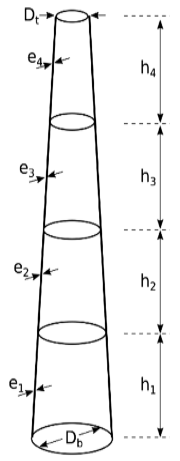
IEA15MW + Plataforma Umaine VoltturnUS-S

**SITE: 5West of Barra – Scotland**  
 Hs = 15,60 m .  
 Extreme metocean conditions d = 100 m



- PLATFORM (4)**
- Column diameter
  - Distance between columns
  - Columns high
  - Pontoon thickness

- TOWER (2xn sections)**
- External diameter
  - Thickness



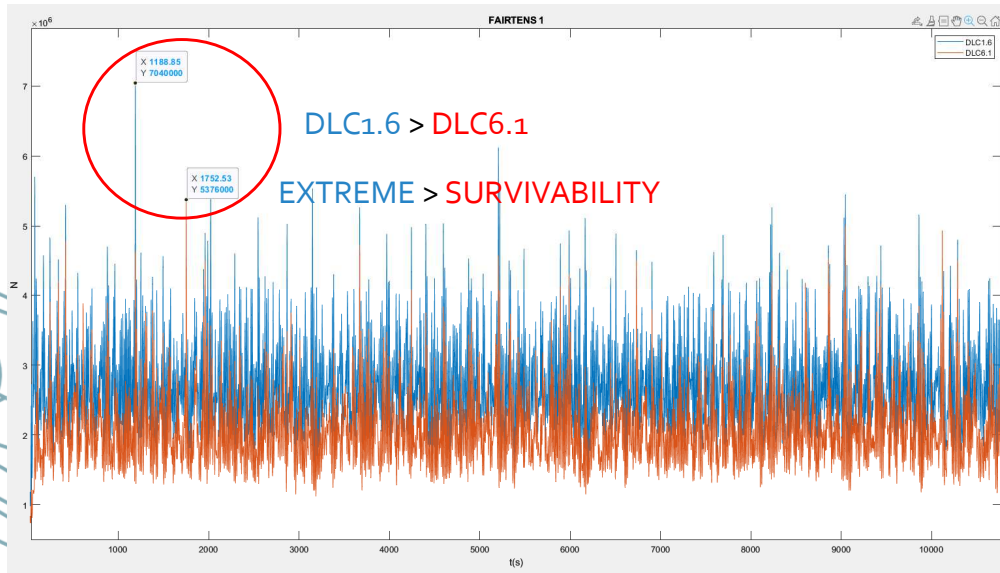
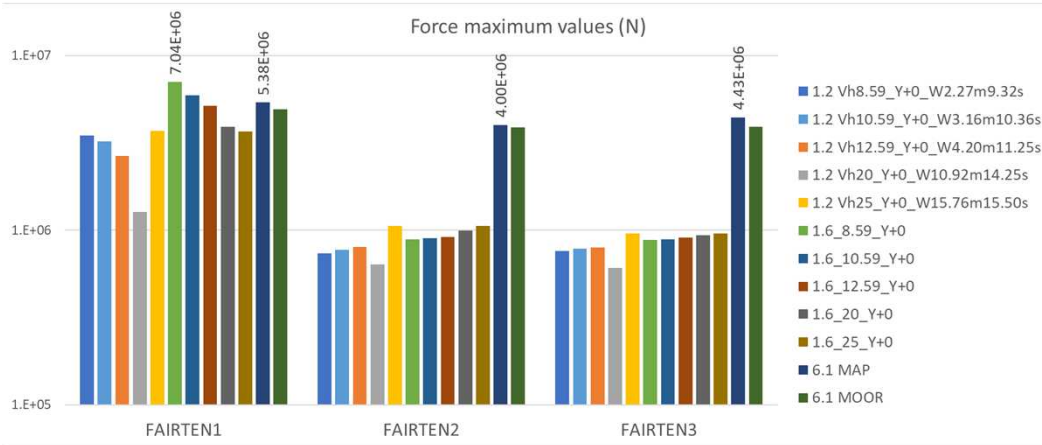
- MOORING (2)\***
- Pretension
  - Diameter
- \*after concluding that the design governs it during control actuation

Optimizable

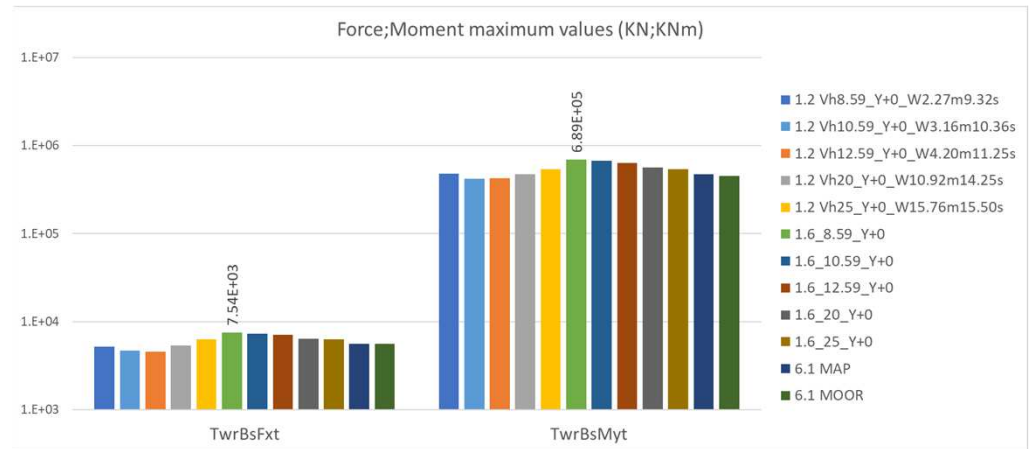
Invariable

# LOAD CASES

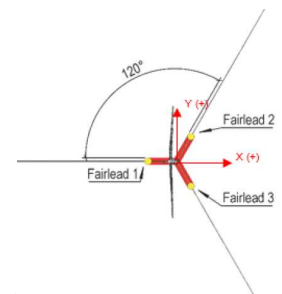
- FORCES IN FAIRLEADS



- FORCES/MOMENTS IN TOWER BASE



- DLC1.6 has máximums in FAIRTEN<sub>1</sub> → Mooring subsystem must be in co-design
- To run the entire DLC set according to the norm for its validation and subsequent comparison against

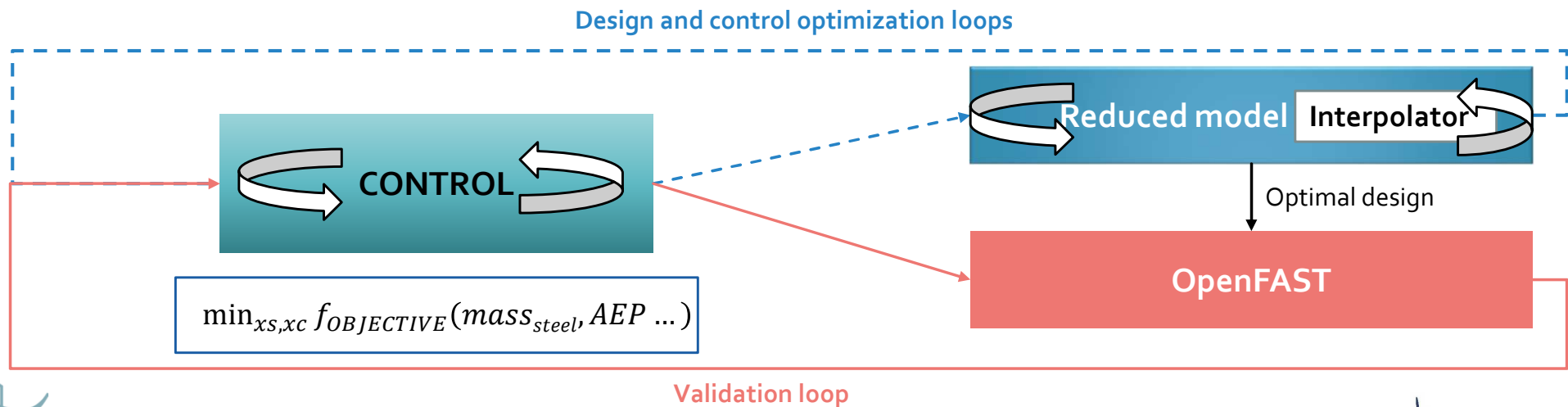


# DEVELOPMENT OF DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION TOOL

For coupled dynamic simulation, optimization and evaluation of the system, allowing the use of different controllers and variables to be optimized.

For **optimization**, a **reduced model** of the system is used that captures the interactions with the controller design.

Once an optimized system has been reached, **OpenFAST** is used for **validation**, so that the design is validated in a software widely used by the industry with all DoF. It represents the real system.

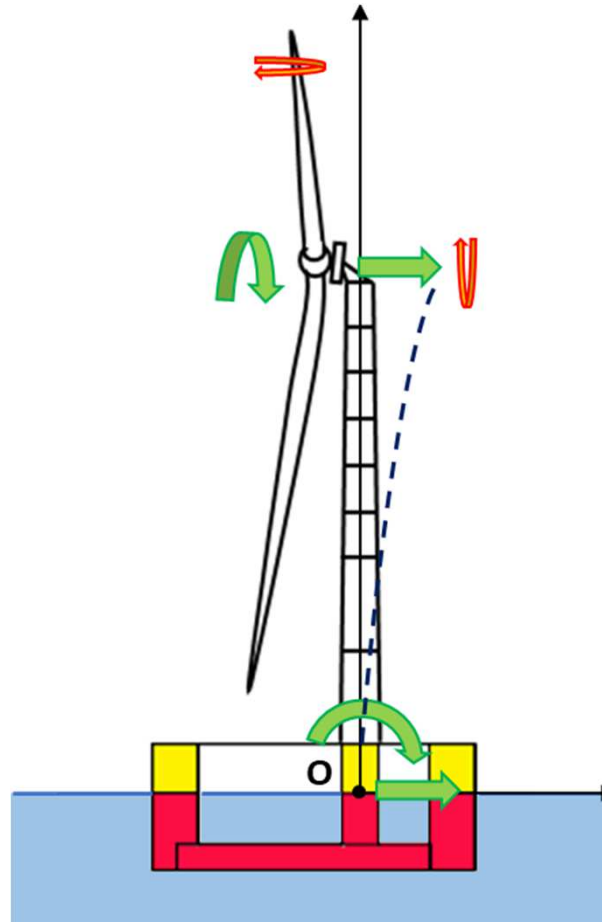


# REDUCED MODEL

The **hydrodynamics** of the model consider first order hydrodynamics and Morison elements have been added to represent second order drag forces.

**Aerodynamics** is represented by Thrust and Power coefficients obtained from BEM theory.

The **mooring** system is represented by the catenary equation.



## Degrees of Freedom

- Surge
- Pitch
- 1<sup>st</sup> bending mode of the tower in fore-aft
- Rotor speed
- Pitch actuator
- Torque actuator

# REDUCED MODEL: Intelligent interpolator

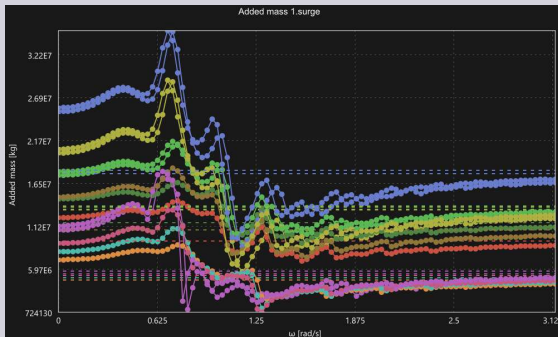
Geometric variations of the platform



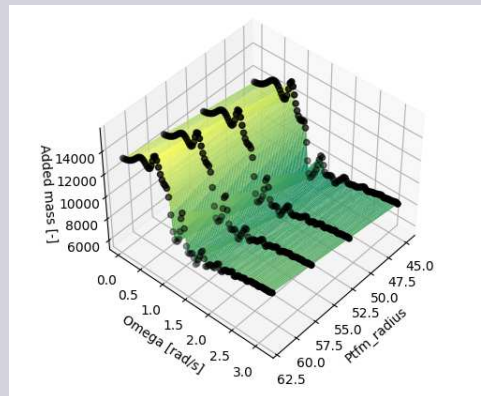
Recalculate hydrodynamic matrices



High computational cost



*Example: Added mass in surge*



Estimation of hydrodynamic parameters using data-based techniques

- ✓ 4D Interpolation
- ✓ Non-linear regression:
  - ✓ Polynomial (4D)
  - ✓ Machine-learning based

# CONTROL STRATEGY

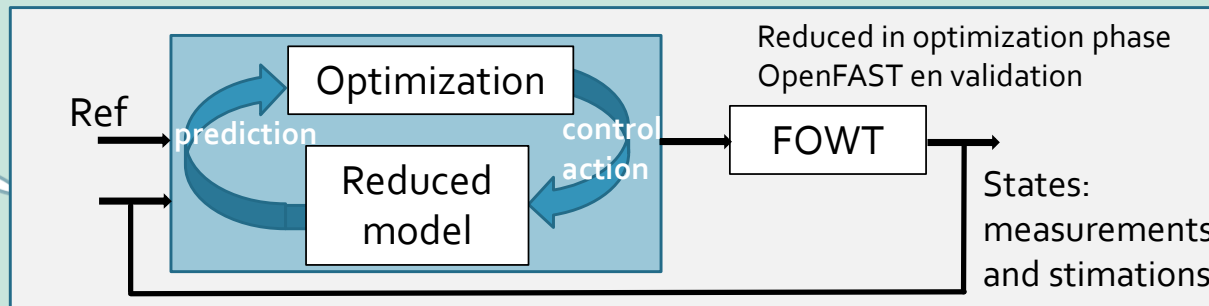
## Objectives

- Maximum power extraction
- Reduce loads to allow optimization of subcomponent design

## Blade Collective Control

## Nonlinear Model Predictive Control (NMPC)

- Optimal control, based on previous work [2]
- Ability to anticipate disturbances



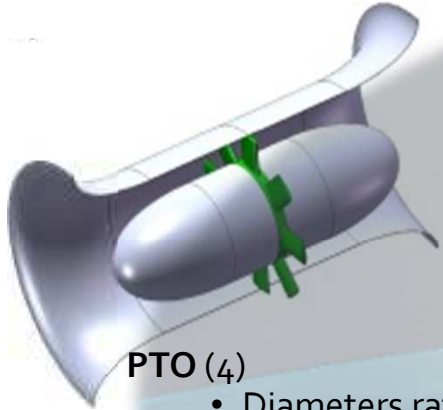
- Flexible tool → different options
- NMPC with the same number of degrees of freedom of the plant with Feedback from all states
- NMPC as power regulator together with additional loops that reduce movements (e.g. tower damper)
- NMPC as an additional help to the turbine base controller (in anticipation of the difficulty of accessing the controller of a real turbine)
- Base control with PI controllers
- Allows co-design with other control strategies

[2] Javier López-Queija, Eider Robles, Josu Jugo, Santiago Alonso-Quesada, Review of control technologies for floating offshore wind turbines, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 167, 2022, 112787, ISSN 1364-0321,

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# WEC CASE STUDY



## PTO (4)

- Diameters ratio
- Aero. profiles
- # blades
- Rot. speed ( $\omega$ )

## MOORING (3)

- Slack
- # lines
- Diameter

Mooring lines

PTO

Control

Hull

## Spar-like floater (4)

- Inside diameters
  - Upper
  - Lower
- Draft
- Thickness/mass

## Sparbuoy OWC wave energy converter

### SELECTED LOCATIONS:

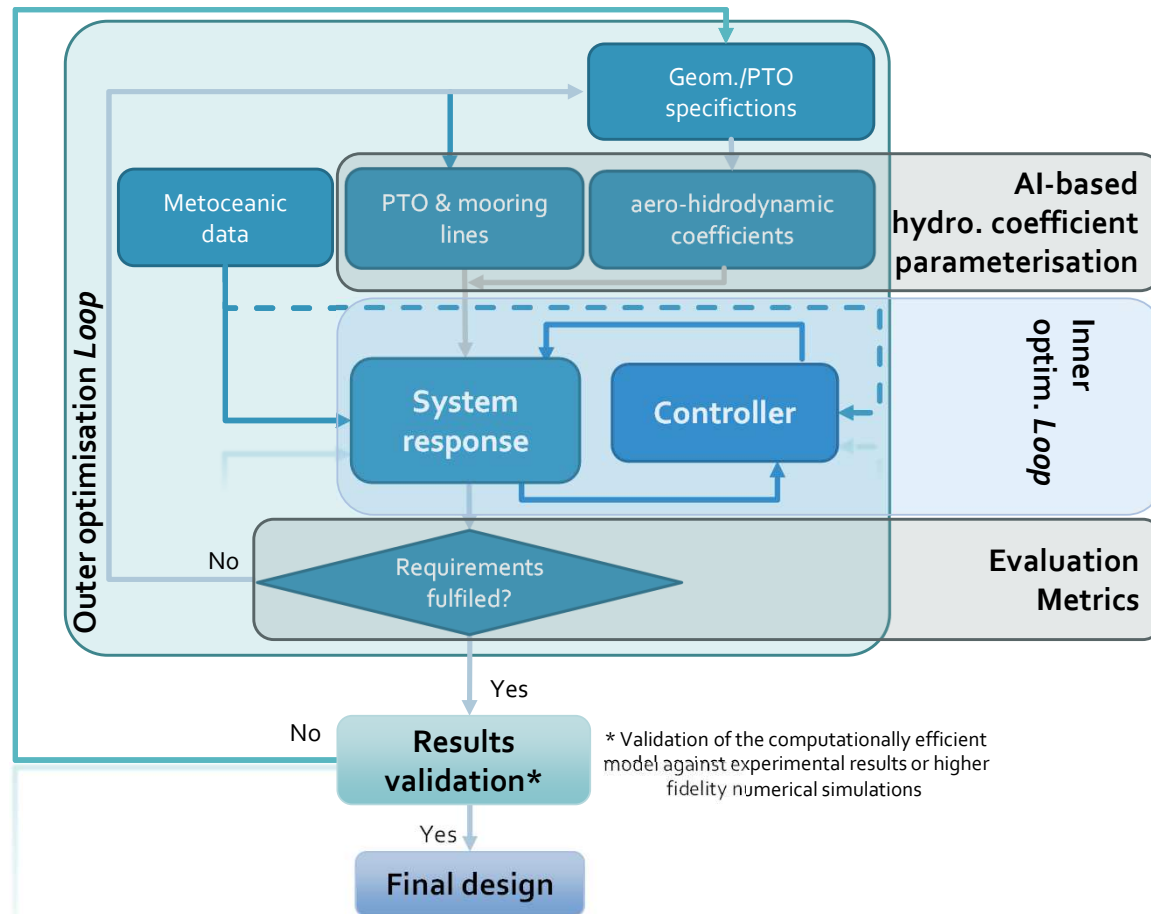
- BiMEP / EMEC (testing platforms)
  - Depth = 20 m
- Bay of Biscay / Portugal (N. Atlantic)
  - Depth = 100 m

### LOADING CONDITIONS

- Power production mode (operational region)
  - Resource characterisations via downscaled climate models
  - Operational region definition via clustering techniques

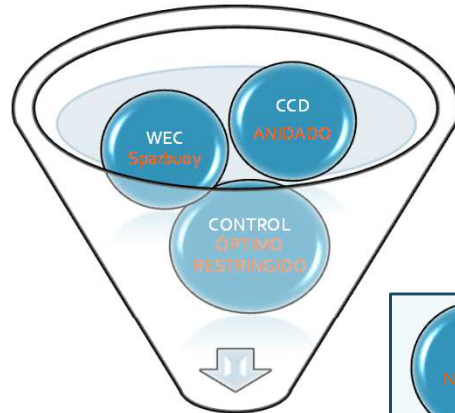


# General CCD structure

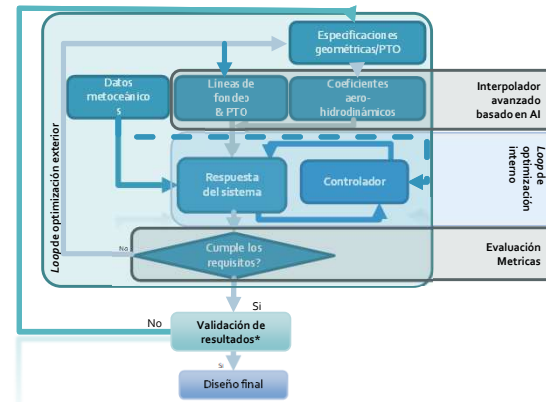
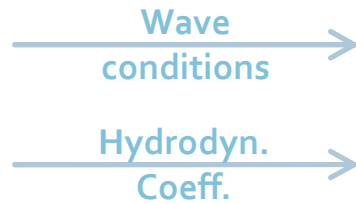


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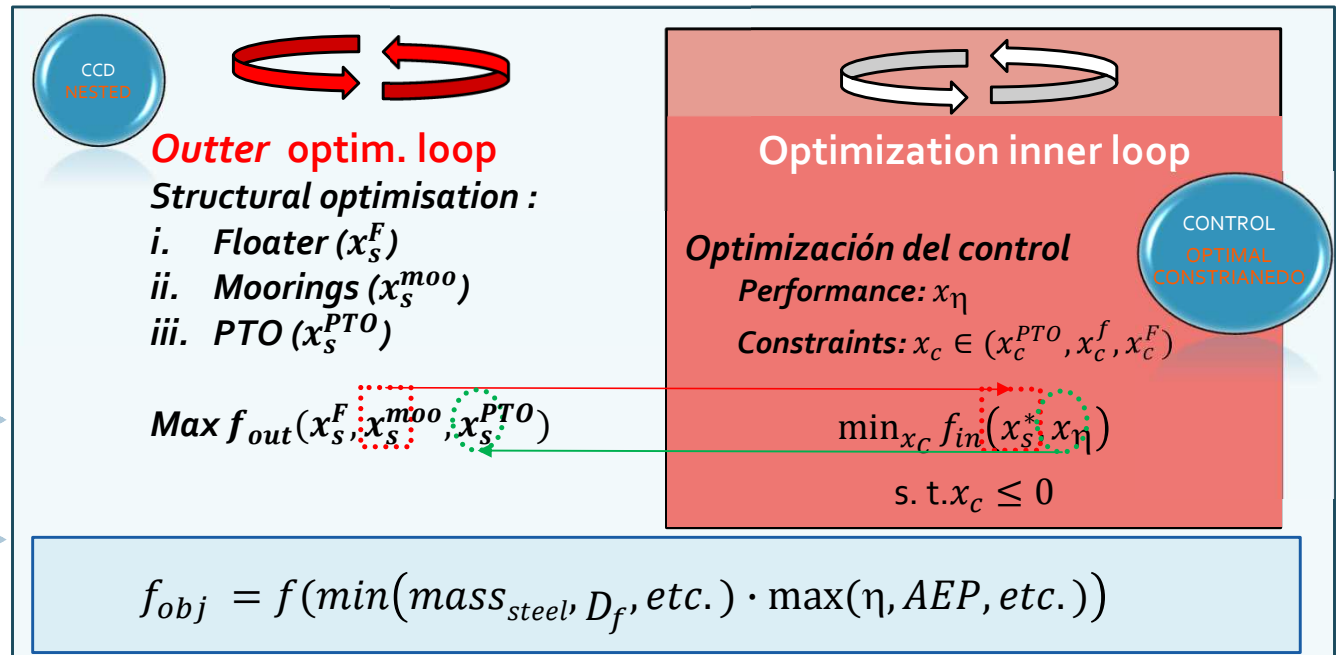
# METHODOLOGY



Constrained control optimisation is carried out in the *Inner* optim. Loop for every combination of the *outer* loop



Outer optim. Loop incorporates advanced optimisation algorithms (GA)



# Advanced modelling

- Math. Model for the controller (*pseudo-espectral*)

- The spectral model is defined as continuous state-space model:

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), f_{ex}(t))$$

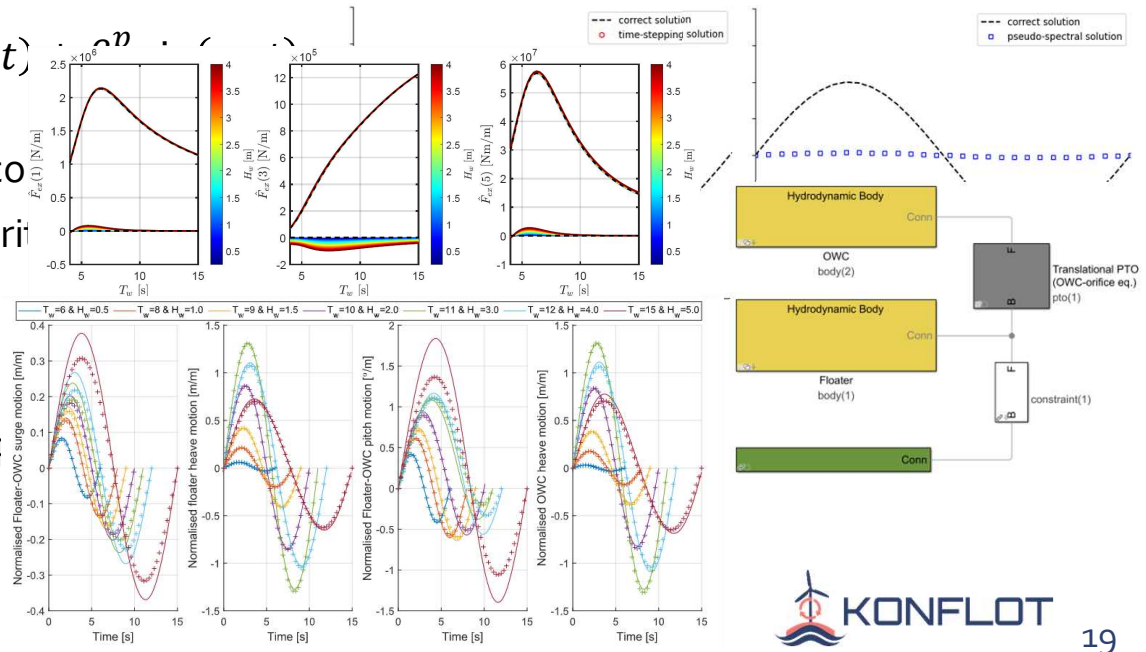
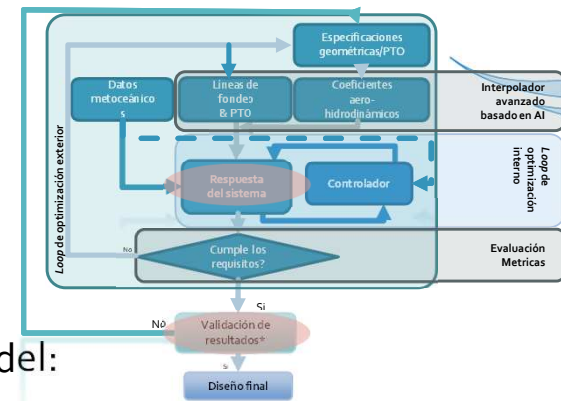
where,  $x(t) = [z(t)^T, \dot{z}(t)^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n_b \times 1}$  y  $f$  is the mapping based on harmonic basis functions:

$$\tilde{x}_i(t) = \sum_{p=1}^N \alpha_i^p \cos(p\omega t)$$

- Pseudo-espectral model compatible with co
- Harmonic-balance model enables non-linearit

- Validación model (non-linear FK)

- Instantaneous re-meshing
- Semi-analytical approximation based on a
- Preliminary comparison



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# Controller design

- Objective function

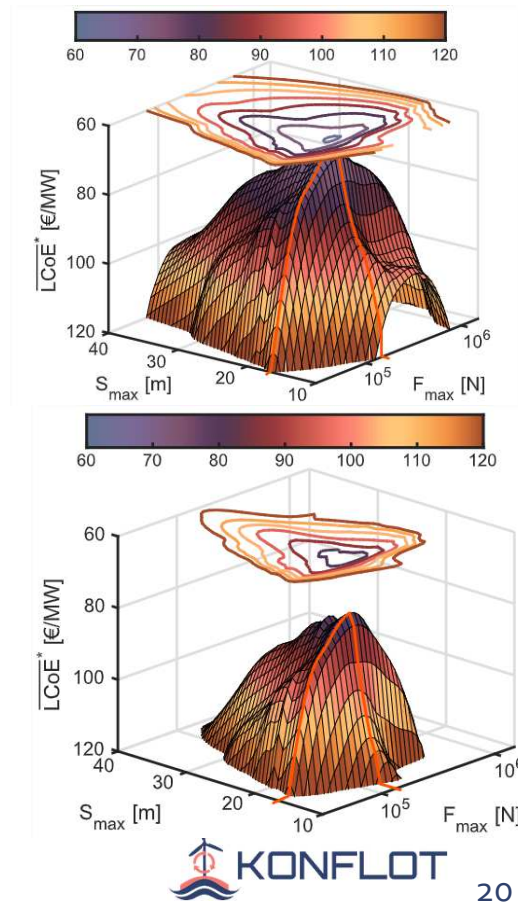
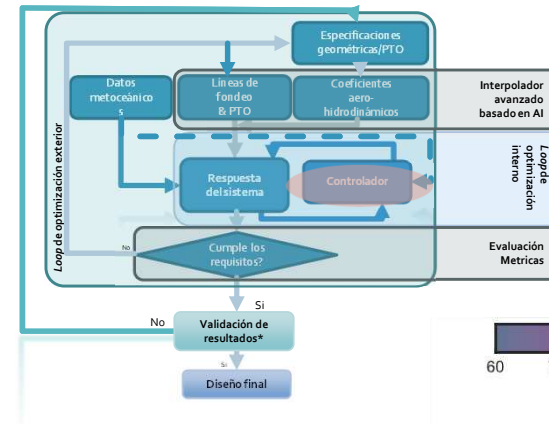
Based on energy maximisation

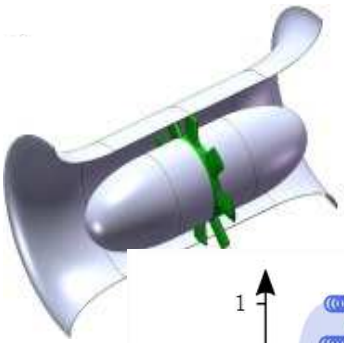
$$E = - \int_0^T P(t) dt = - \int_0^T \dot{z}^T(t) f_{PTO}(t) dt,$$

$$\max_{f_{PTO}(t)} - \int_0^T \dot{z}^T(t) f_{PTO}(t) dt \quad \text{sujeto a}$$

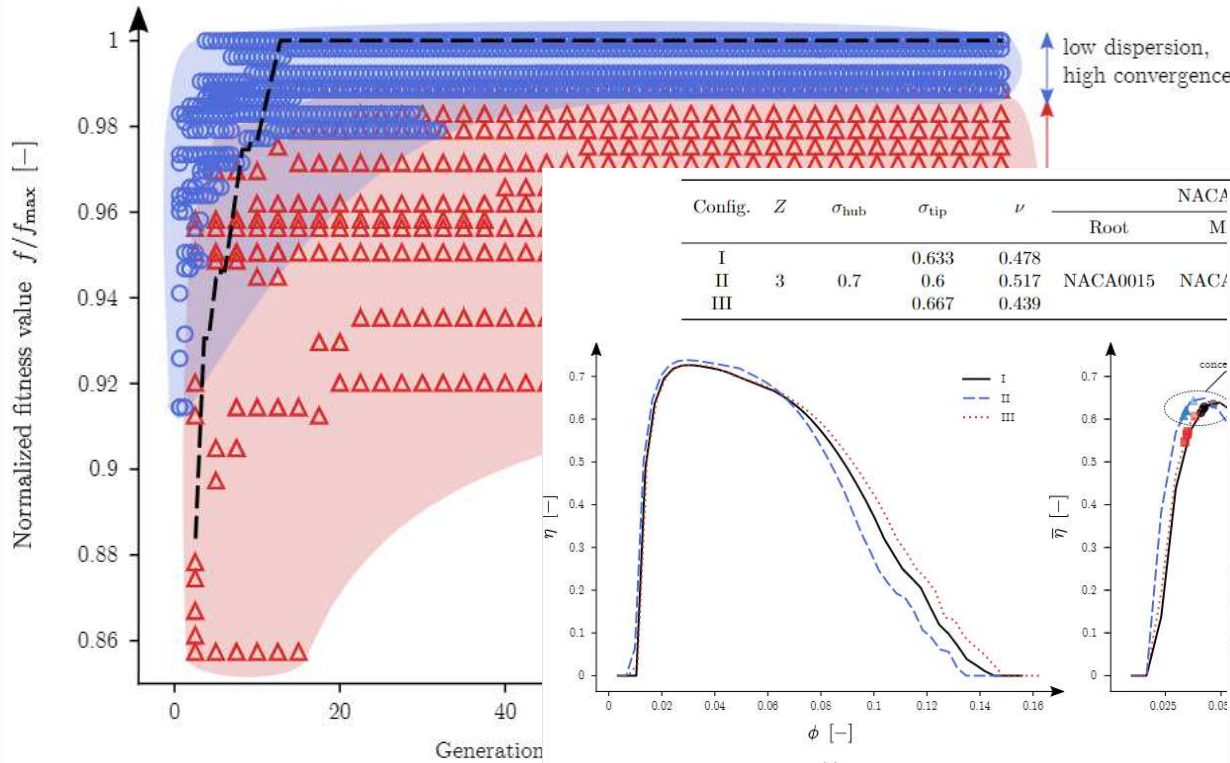
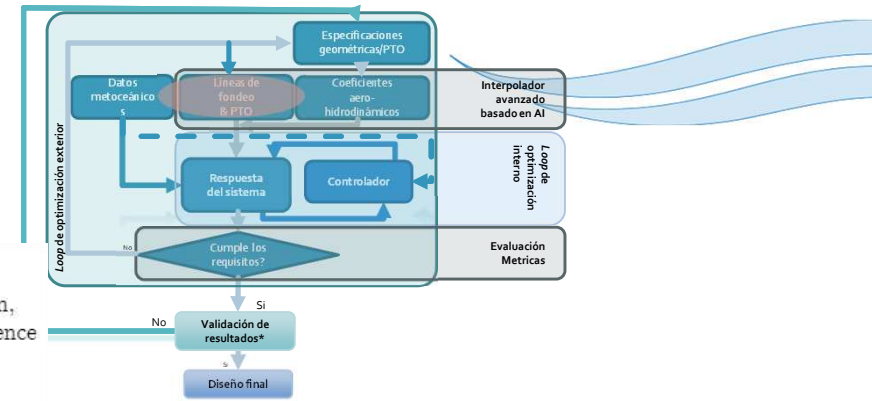
$$\begin{aligned} |z(t)| &\leq Z_{\max}, \\ |f_{PTO}(t)| &\leq F_{\max}. \end{aligned}$$

- Cost function defined based on energy/LCOE
- Nonlinearities included in the controller (losses in the PTO)
  - Losses incorporated in the post-processing (so far)
- On-going work:
  - Coupling the CCD with the PTO optimisation
  - Define displacement/force *constraints* based on realistic floating OWC devices.

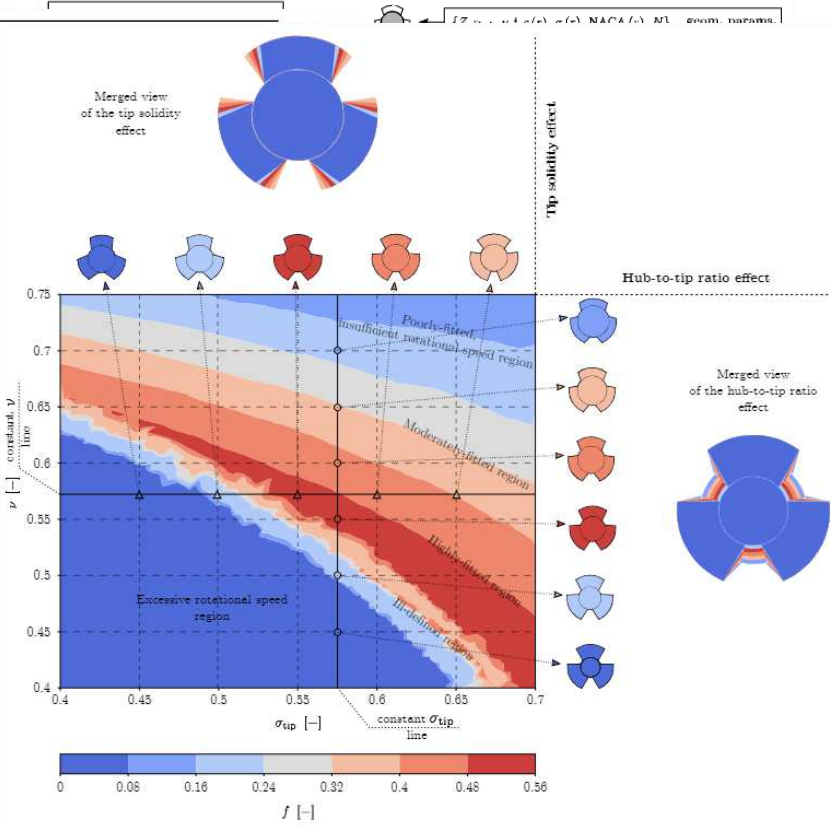




# PTO optimisation



DEFINITION OF GA parameters (mutation factor, populations size, # genes/generations)



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# OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES



- Adapting metaheuristics to the properties of the problem
  - We train a metaheuristic on a simple problem and apply it to a more complex one.
- Early stopping
  - We stop evaluating unpromising solutions to save time.
- Problems with adjustable precision
  - We can speed up the search process by intelligently adjusting the model precision in real time.
- Co-optimization of morphology and control
  - How to distribute computational resources between morphology and control.



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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## KONFLOT REMARKS

- Teamwork is a must in this project. Partners really believe in what we are doing
- KONFLOT is a starting point of a new design methodology that we think will be the future of ORE. Companies that do not get on board will be out of the race
- It won't be a reality without the active involvement of the industry
- We still have a long way to go. KONFLOT will show that this is the way

**BUT**

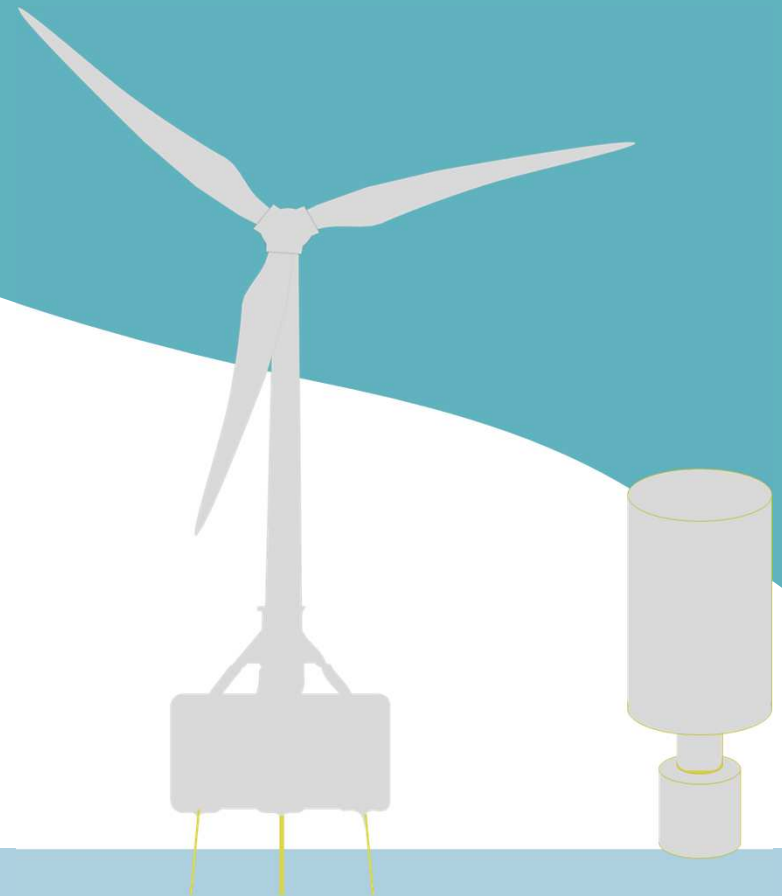




# CCD: further requirements

## I. Manufacturability, transportability and O&M issues

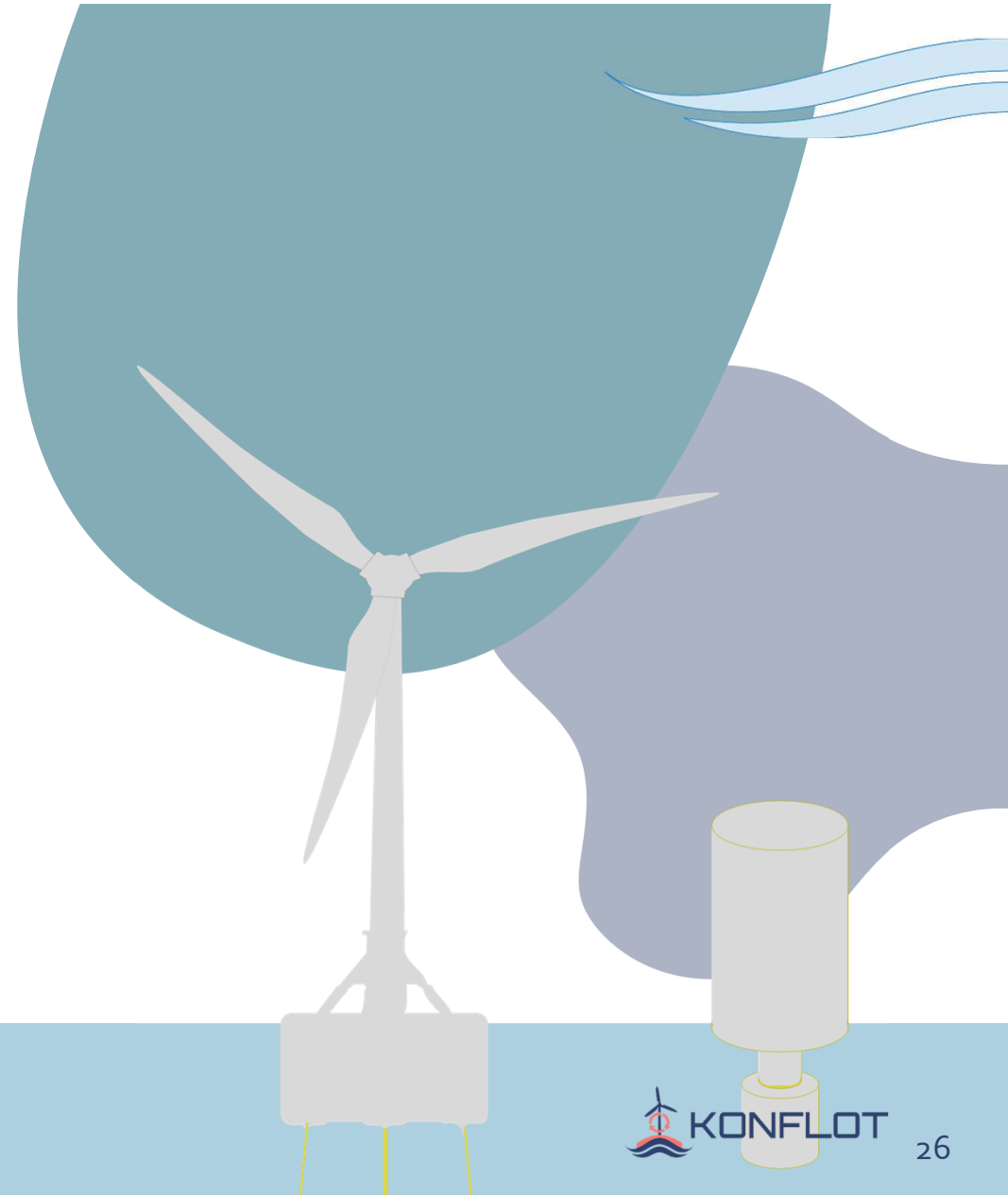
*Optimum design may not match with what can be manufactured or transported*



# CCD: further requirements

## II. Include design parameters of other components

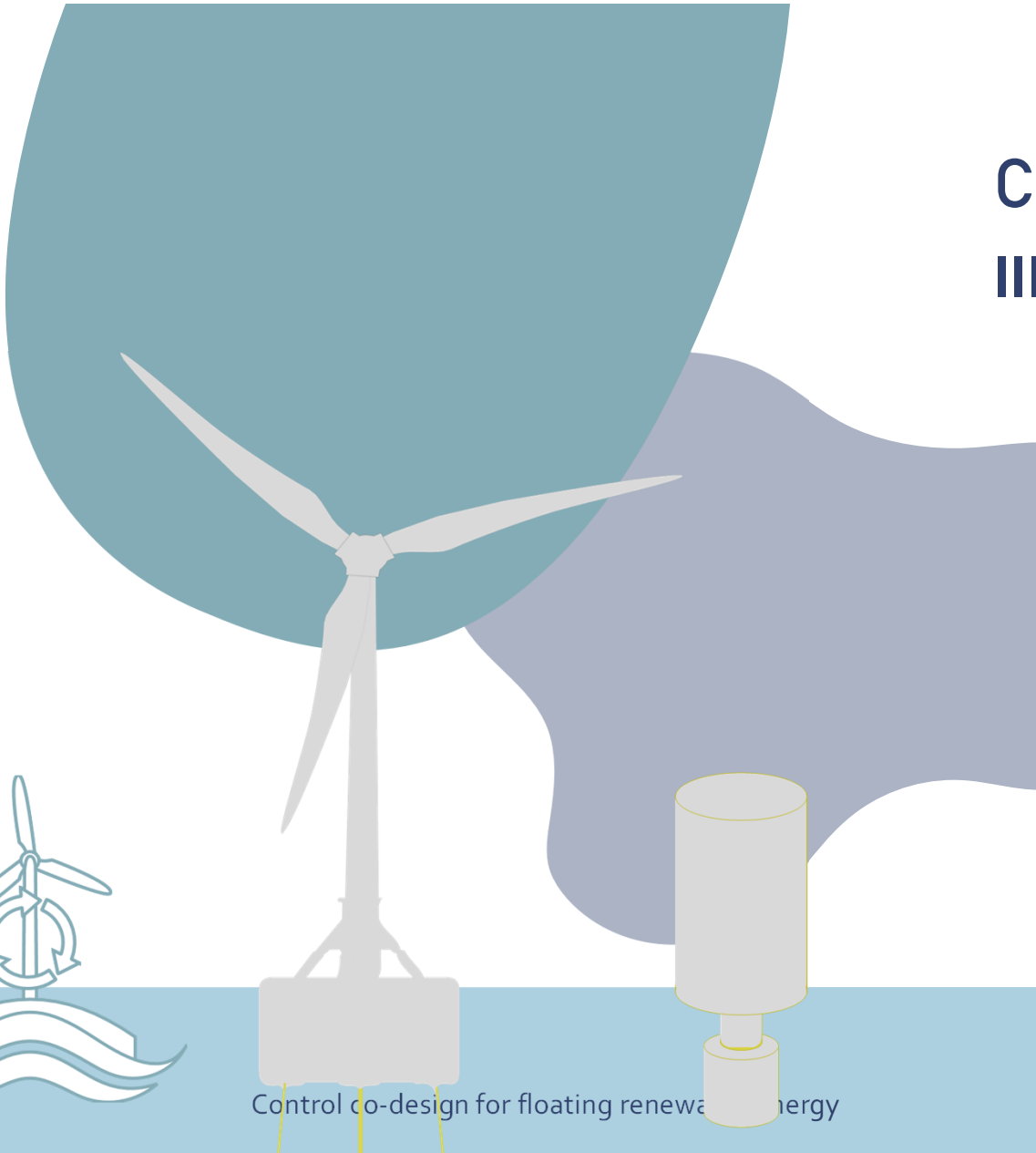
- a) Moorings in WECs
- b) Dynamic cable
- c) Anchoring
- d) Electrical generator
- e) Advanced parameterization of hydrodynamic coefficients



# CCD: further requirements

## III. Definition of DLCs

- a. Real characterization of the resource
- b. Definition of operation region
- c. Clustering



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# CCD: further requirements

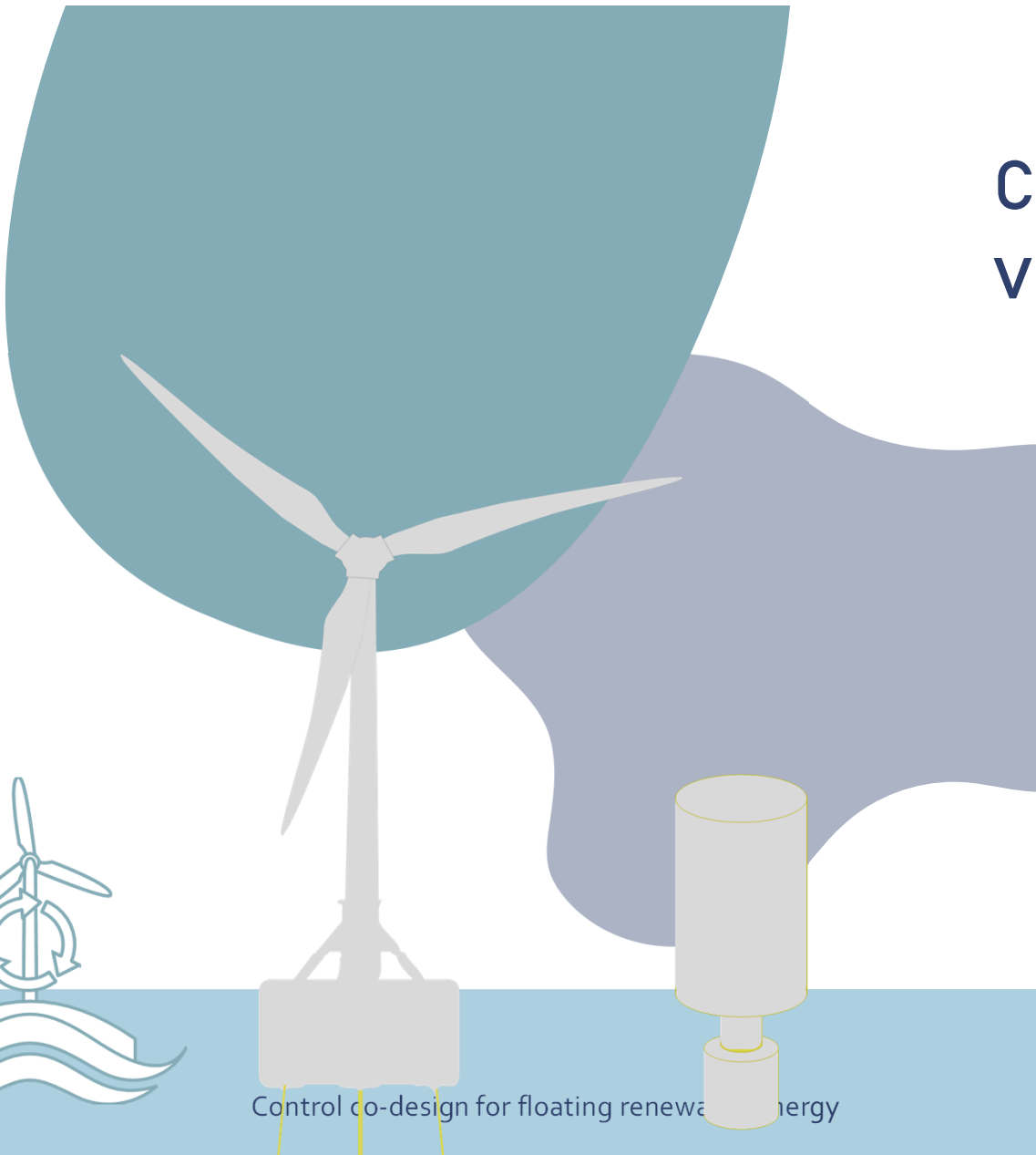
## IV. Multi-device FOWT/WEC

- a) Aero-hydrodynamic effects in farms
- b) Shared moorings lines?
- c) Shared dynamic cables?
- d) Shared anchors?
- e) Shared electrical connection?



## CCD: further requirements

- V. Experimental demonstration (proof of concept) of control strategies



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# KONFLOT

Codiseño de control de  
energías renovables flotantes

Eskerrik asko !  
¡Gracias!



EKONOMIAREN GARAPEN,  
JASANGARRITASUN  
ETA INGURUMEN SAILA  
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Project funded by the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government (ELKARTEK 2022 Programme)



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