

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

Modvion is a Swedish company developing modular wind turbine towers from laminated wood for heights of +130 meters.

Motivation:

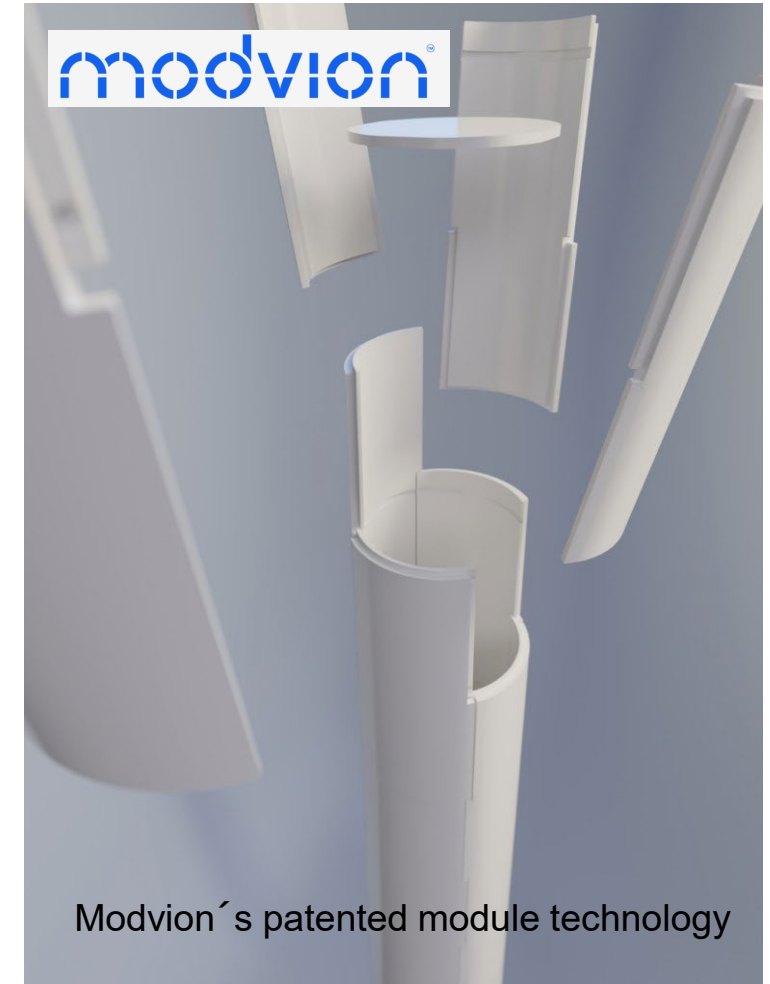
1. Easier transportation of tower modules

As wind towers rise above 100 meters in height transportation causes considerable problems as 4.3 meters is the limit for transport width in most parts of the USA and the EU.

2. Decreased cost for lower weight and higher height

3. Positive environmental impact

Emissions of about 2000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> are avoided in tower production only



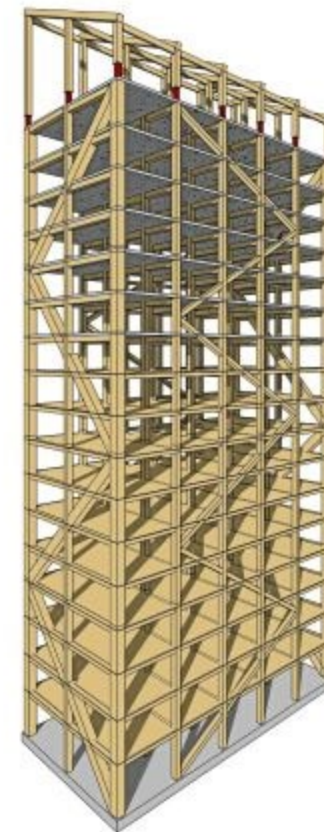
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The 81 meter high Mjösa tower in Brumunddal, Norway.

Fire impregnated Glue-Laminated Timber

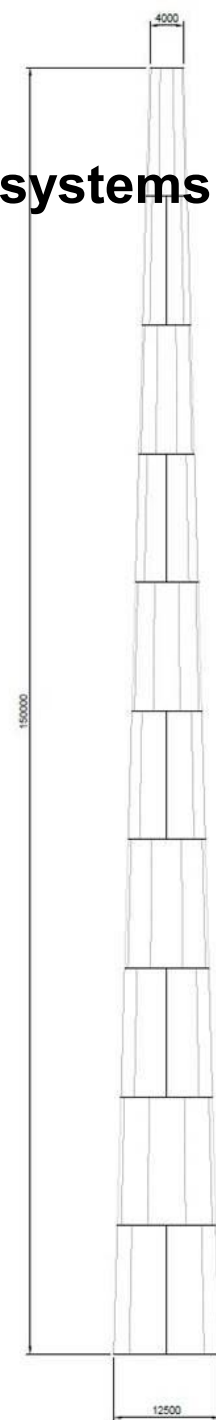
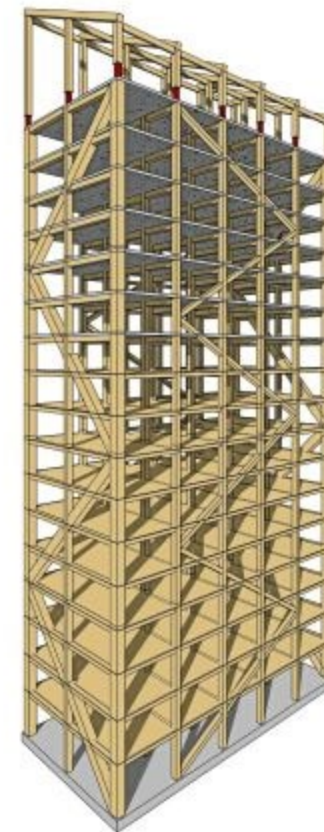
High buildings made from wood is the future



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The full size laminated wood tower next to the Mjösa tower

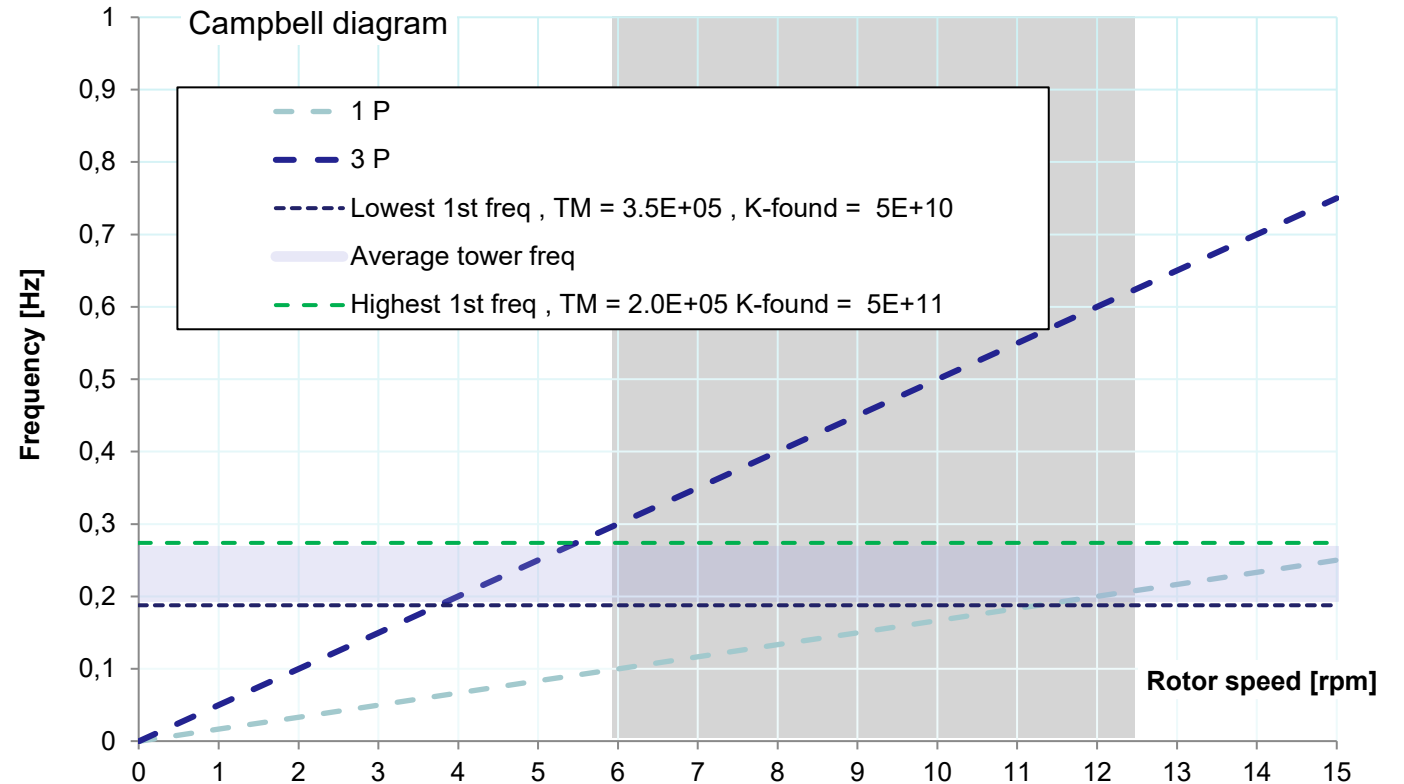


# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The structural dynamics of a 150 meters laminated wood tower is similar to a 120 meters steel tower.

But wood has better damping properties.

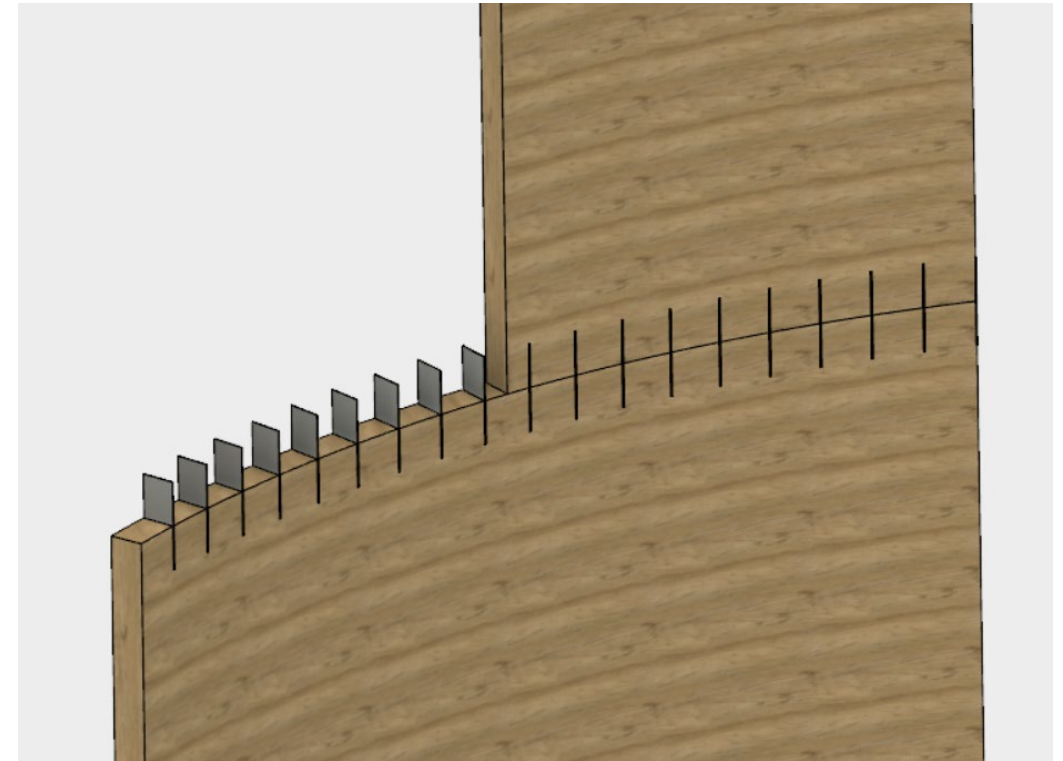




# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The joint consists of perforated steel plates which are connected to the wooden structure by special glue for the purpose



Modvion's patented module technology

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

There is an existing German instruction from DIBt and specification for general connections of wood parts.

This has been used and refined in the Modvion tower application.



Elektronische Kopie der abZ des DIBt: Z.9.1-770

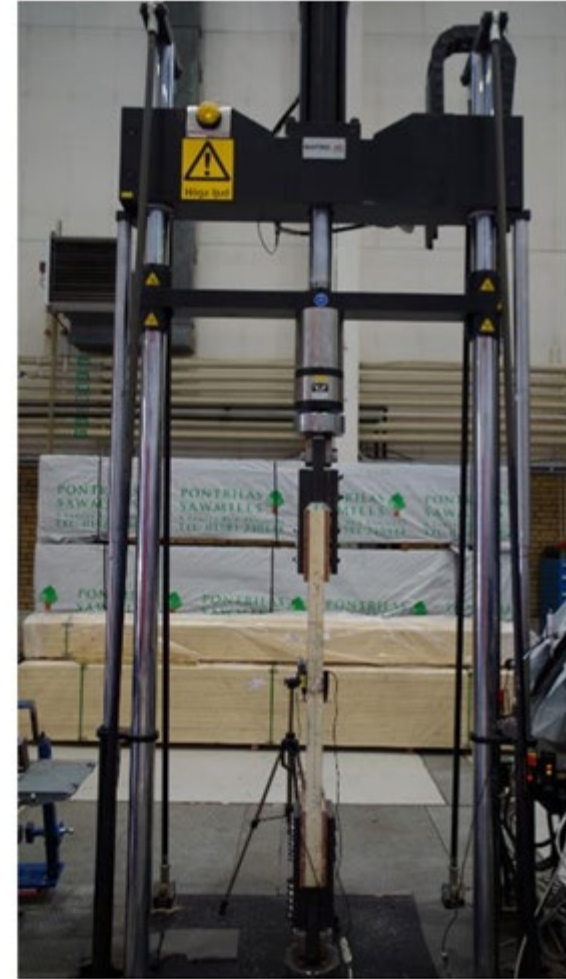
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>6a</p>  | <p>5. Einkleben mittels Injektion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vertiefung mit Breite <math>4,5\text{mm} \pm 0,5\text{mm}</math> und der erforderlichen Tiefe herstellen</li><li>Injektionsbohrung und ggf. Entlüftungsbohrungen herstellen<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><math>\varnothing 6\text{mm}</math> oder <math>\varnothing 8\text{mm}</math></li><li>Injektion muss in Richtung der Blechebene erfolgen</li><li>Injektion kann von unten nach oben oder horizontal erfolgen (stehend/liegend)</li><li>Klebstoff darf immer nur in eine Richtung fließen, damit keine Luftblasen eingeschlossen werden</li></ol></li><li>Grobe Späne mit geeignetem Werkzeug aus Vertiefung entfernen (Sichtkontrolle) und mit ölfreier Druckluft reinigen</li><li>Trockene und staubfreie HSK-Verbinder innerhalb der Vertiefung ausrichten und mit geeigneten Mitteln fixieren (Klebstofffluss möglichst wenig behindern), sodass zwischen Blech und Sägeschlitzwandung ein Mindestabstand von <math>0,5\text{mm}</math> vorliegt</li></ol> |
| <p>6b</p>  |   |
| <p>6c</p>  |   |
| <p>6d</p>  |   |
| <p>Holz-Stahl-Klebeverbindingssystem (HSK-System)<br/>Montageanleitung</p> <p>Anlage 8</p> |   |

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The current joint design of Modvion's laminated wood tower has been investigated by experimental tests with respect to the structural integrity.

RI  
SE

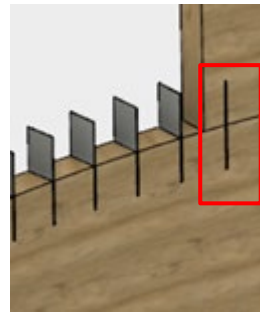


The specimen in the machine which has a capacity of  $\pm 300$  kN (compression/tension)

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The steel is designed to be the weaker part of the joint.  
It means that failures, in case of both ultimate and  
fatigue loads, occur in the steel plate itself.  
This is validated in the workshop tests.



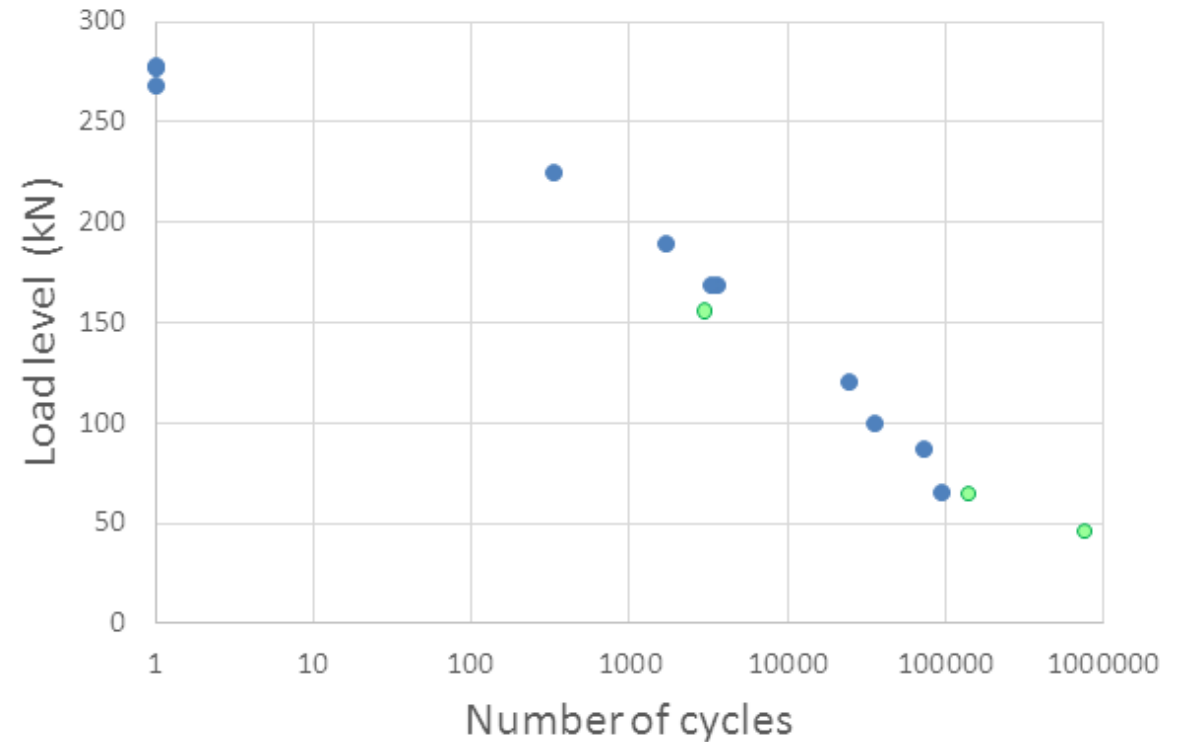
Picture of the tested samples with cyclic loading  
Test sample nr. 7



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The first group of three samples were tested to failure to establish an estimated failure load. Another 11 samples, were tested with a sinus shaped cyclic load with a stress ratio between the “upper” load and the “lower” load of  $R = -1$ .



Loads and results for the tested samples Blue dots mark “Failure”, Green dots “Test stopped without failure”

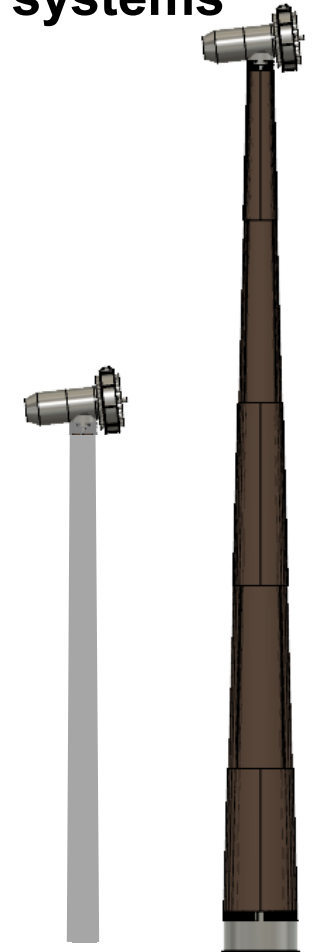
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The first pilot tower, 30 m height, is designed for the Chalmers upgraded test turbine in Gothenburg.



Manufacturing at Moelven in Töreboda

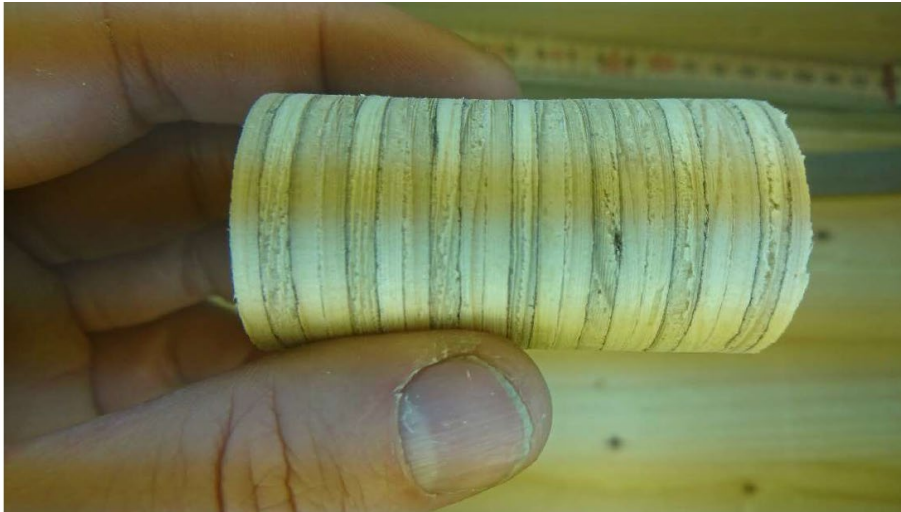


Original steel tower vs updated wooden tower

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

Evaluation of the strength of lamination and the shear transferring capacity between modules.



Inspection and measuring of bondline thickness of test specimens



Figure 2 Making test specimens from the laminated module



Figure 3 ID for each test specimen

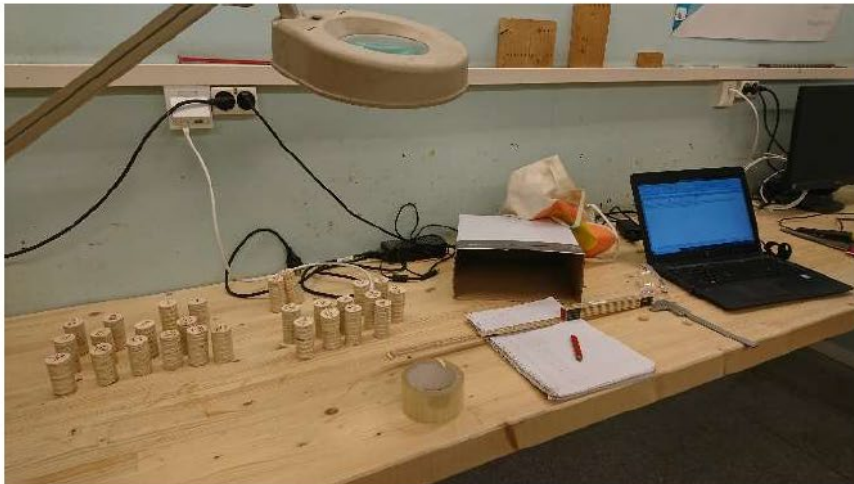


# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

Based on the result from the tests, the design shear strength of the bondline can be calculated according to Eurocode recommendations.

The testing was carried out in accordance with procedures in ISO 6891:1983





# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

The first pilot tower was erected in the summer 2020



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

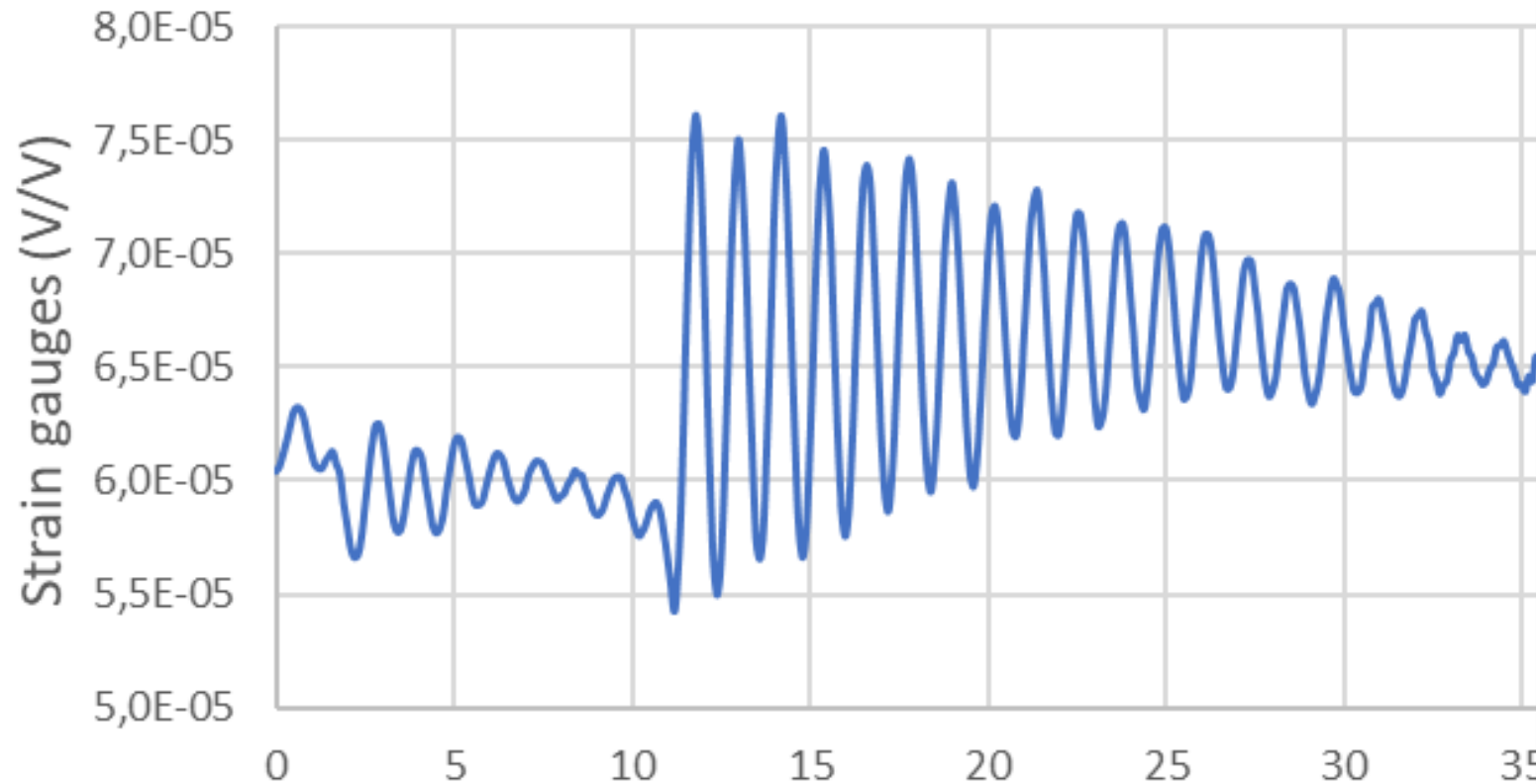




# Structural dynamics and damping based on experience from Björkö tower

WP5: Innovative wood tower

## Tower Moment Base North South



Thumbnail of a report cover with the following text:

**Resultat från validering av modeller och simulering för dynamisk last av vindkraftverk med trätorn**

Ola Carlson, Magnus Ellsén, Sara Fogelström Chalmers tekniska högskola  
Anders Wickström, RISE

Chalmers tekniska högskola

2021-09-03

The thumbnail includes two images: on the left, a tall construction crane next to a white wind turbine tower; on the right, a close-up view of a wooden tower structure showing the radial arrangement of wooden beams.

# Structural dynamics and damping based on experience from Björkö tower

WP5: Innovative wood tower



Newtons rörelseekvation

$$M\ddot{x} + D\dot{x} + Kx = F$$

$M$  = Massa

$D$  = Dämpning

$K$  = Styvhet

$F$  = Kraft

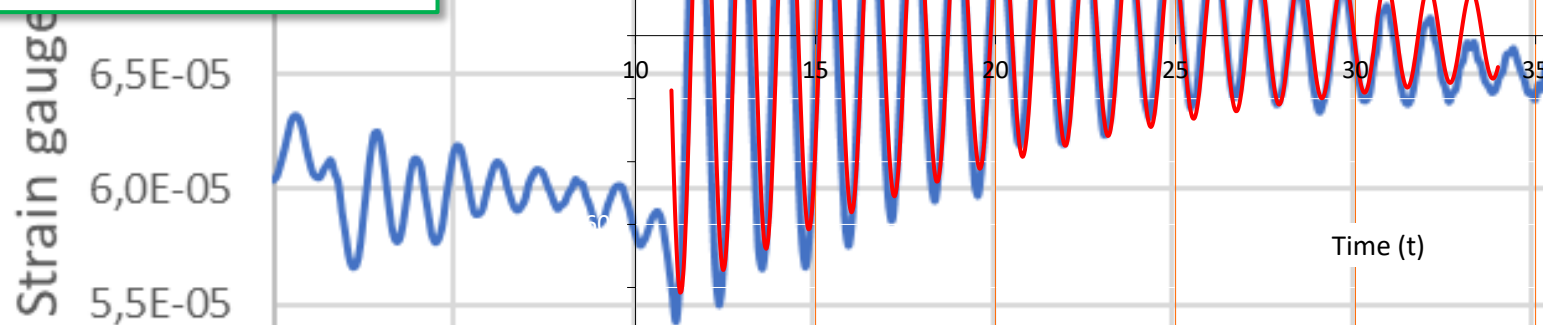
$\ddot{x}$  = acceleration

$\dot{x}$  = hastighet

$x$  = läge

## Tower Moment Base North South

Analytic solution to Newton's equation of motions



|                         |          |       |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|
| Stiffness ratio         | $K/M$    | 28    |
| Dampning constant       | $D$      | 0.16  |
| Natural frequency       | $f_n$    | 0.84  |
| Relative damping        | $\zeta$  | 0.015 |
| Logaritmisk decrementet | $\delta$ | 0.094 |

**Resultat från validering av modeller och simulering för dynamisk last av vindkraftverk med trätorn**

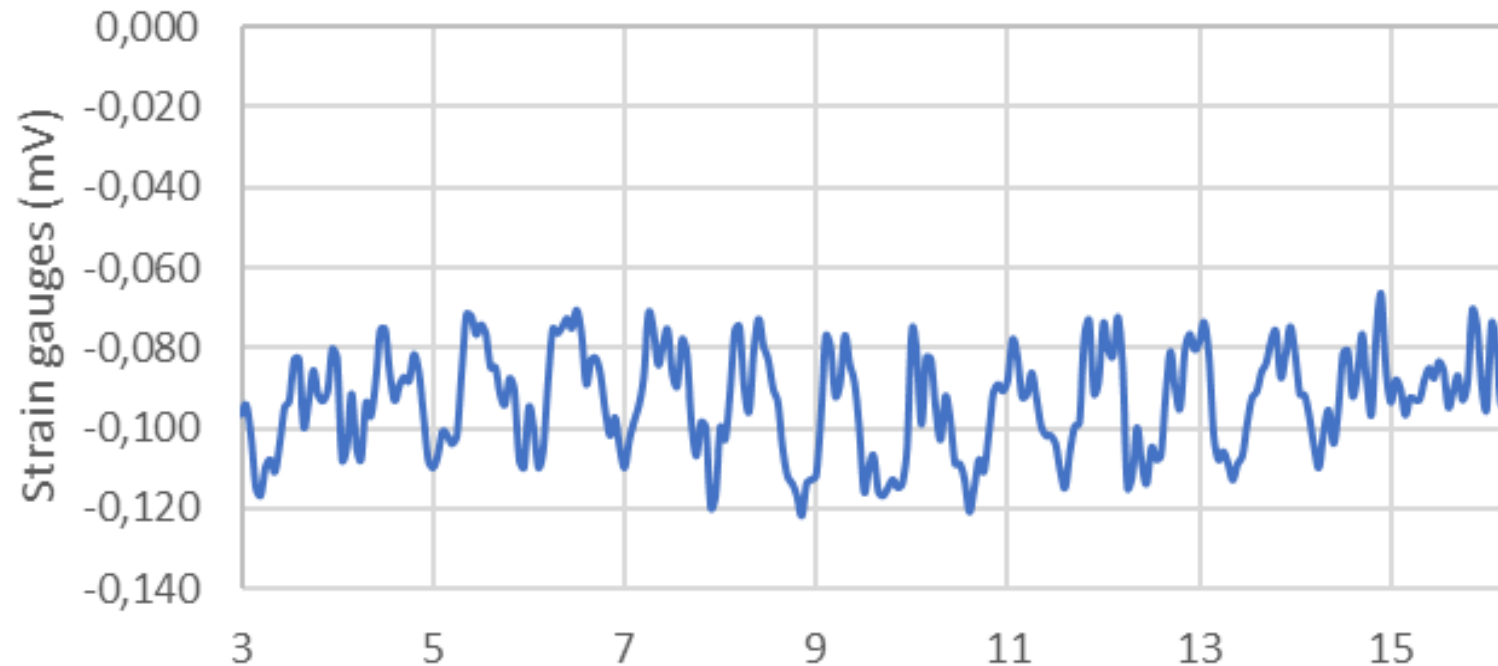
Ola Carlson, Magnus Ellsén, Sara Fogelström Chalmers tekniska högskola  
Anders Wickström, RISE

Chalmers tekniska högskola  
2021-09-03



# Structural dynamics and damping based on experience from Björkö tower

## Zoom of tower strain gauges, north-south

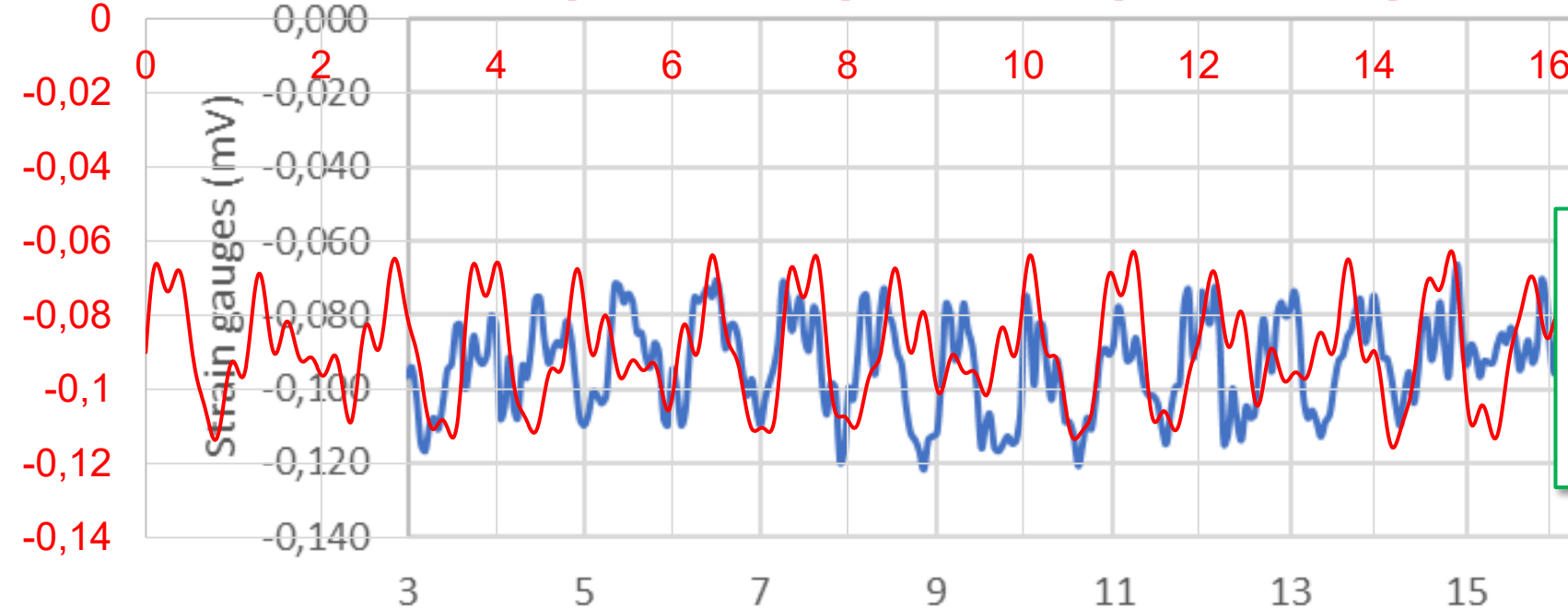



The thumbnail shows the cover of a report. At the top right is the Chalmers logo. The title is 'Resultat från validering av modeller och simulering för dynamisk last av vindkraftverk med trätorn'. Below the title, the authors are listed: Ola Carlson, Magnus Ellsén, Sara Fogelström (Chalmers tekniska högskola) and Anders Wickström (RISE). The institution 'Chalmers tekniska högskola' and the date '2021-09-03' are also present. At the bottom, there are two images: one of a wind turbine tower under construction with a crane, and another showing a close-up of the tower's internal structure.

# Structural dynamics and damping based on experience from Björkö tower

## Zoom of tower strain gauges, north-south

$$f(t) = A1 * \sin(2\pi * f1 * t) + A2 * \sin(2\pi * f2 * t) + A3 * \sin(2\pi * f3 * t) + A4 * \sin(2\pi * f4 * t) + C$$








**Resultat från validering av modeller och simulering för dynamisk last av vindkraftverk med trätorn**

Ola Carlsson, Magnus Ellsén, Sara Fogelström Chalmers tekniska högskola  
Anders Wickström, RISE

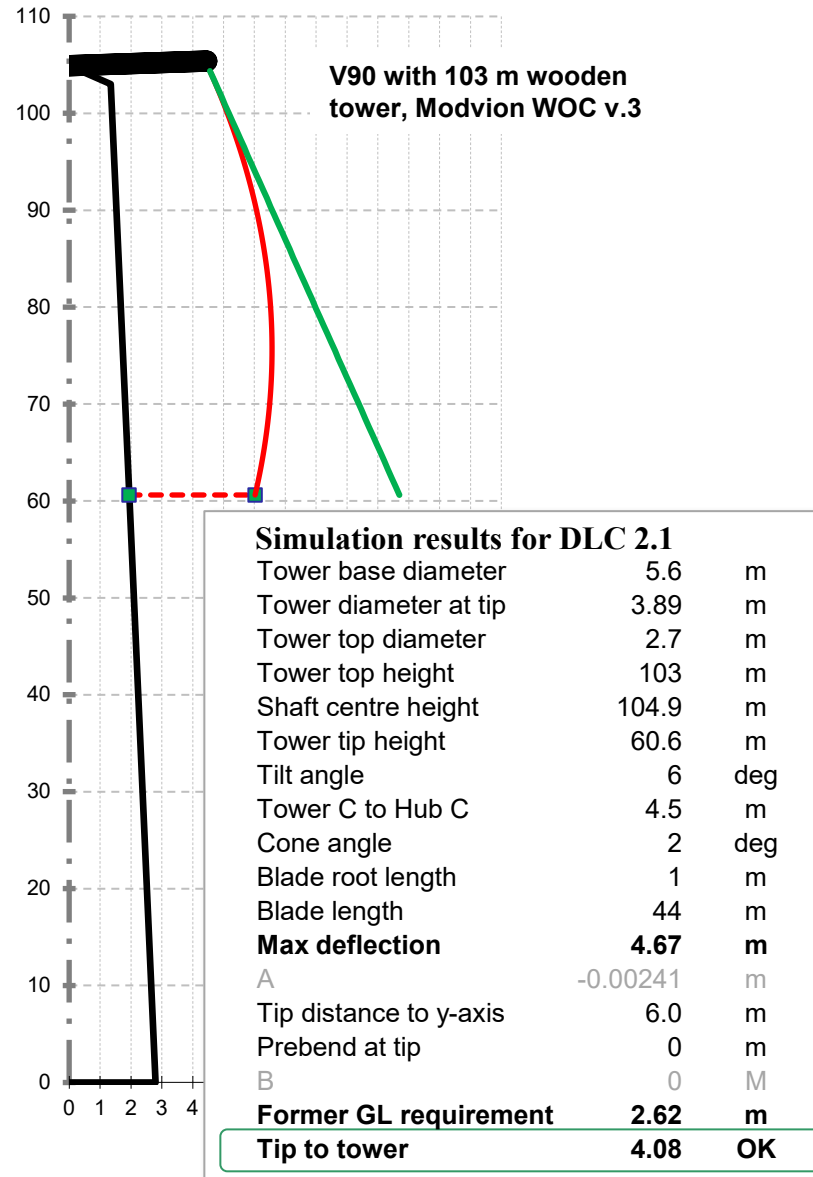
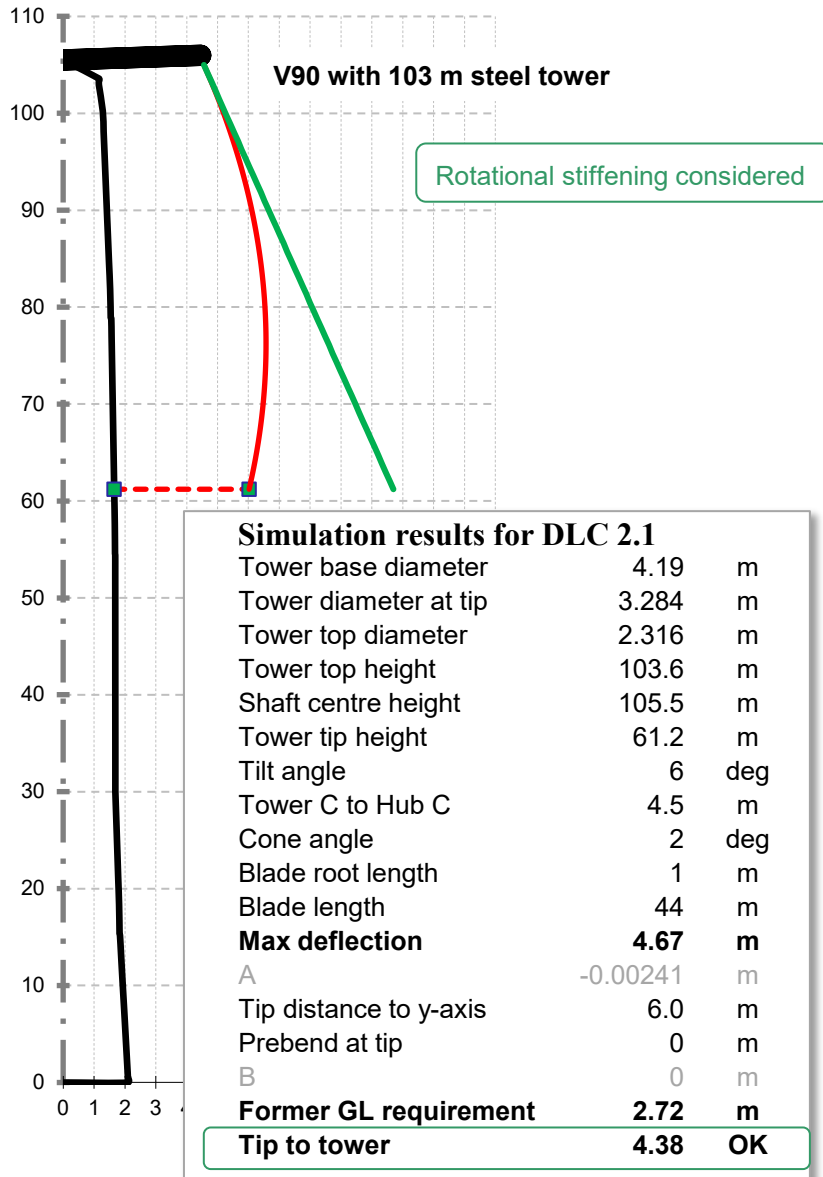
Chalmers tekniska högskola

2021-09-03

| Varvtal | n     | =     | 66    | rpm   |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|         |       | 1P    |       | 3P    |
| f-nr    | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     |
| A       | 0.015 | 0.010 | 0.005 | 0.005 |
| f       | 0.83  | 1.10  | 2.50  | 3.30  |
| C       | -0.09 |       |       |       |

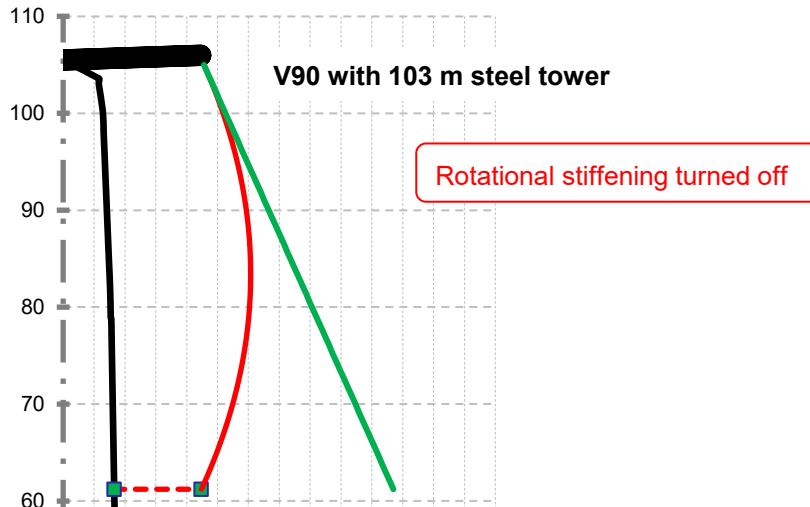




# Calculation of tower clearance based on a Vestas V90 on different towers



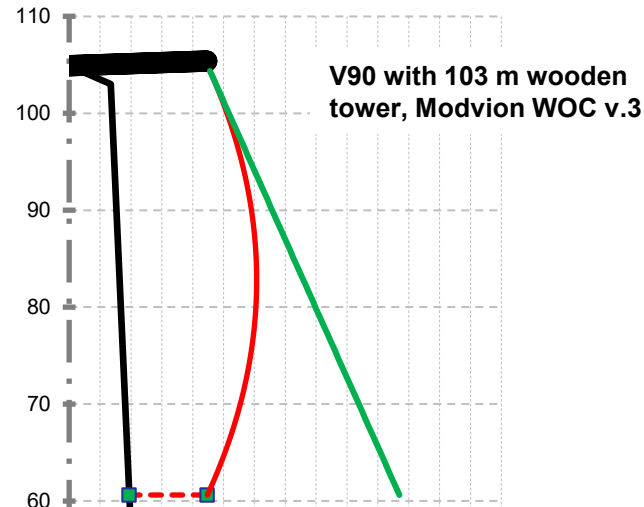
Check of tower clearance due to larger tower diameter than the ordinary steel towers used for Vestas V90

# Calculation of tower clearance based on a Vestas V90 on different towers



## Simulation results for DLC 2.1

|                              |             |           |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Tower base diameter          | 4.19        | m         |
| Tower diameter at tip        | 3.284       | m         |
| Tower top diameter           | 2.316       | m         |
| Tower top height             | 103.6       | m         |
| Shaft centre height          | 105.5       | m         |
| Tower tip height             | 61.2        | m         |
| Tilt angle                   | 6           | deg       |
| Tower C to Hub C             | 4.5         | m         |
| Cone angle                   | 2           | deg       |
| Blade root length            | 1           | m         |
| Blade length                 | 44          | m         |
| <b>Max deflection</b>        | <b>6.22</b> | <b>m</b>  |
| A                            | -0.00321    | m         |
| Tip distance to y-axis       | 4.5         | m         |
| Prebend at tip               | 0           | m         |
| B                            | 0           | m         |
| <b>Former GL requirement</b> | <b>2.72</b> | <b>m</b>  |
| <b>Tip to tower</b>          | <b>2.83</b> | <b>OK</b> |



## Simulation results for DLC 2.1

|                              |             |               |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Tower base diameter          | 5.6         | m             |
| Tower diameter at tip        | 3.89        | m             |
| Tower top diameter           | 2.7         | m             |
| Tower top height             | 103         | m             |
| Shaft centre height          | 104.9       | m             |
| Tower tip height             | 60.6        | m             |
| Tilt angle                   | 6           | deg           |
| Tower C to Hub C             | 4.5         | m             |
| Cone angle                   | 2           | deg           |
| Blade root length            | 1           | m             |
| Blade length                 | 44          | m             |
| <b>Max deflection</b>        | <b>6.22</b> | <b>m</b>      |
| A                            | -0.00321    | m             |
| Tip distance to y-axis       | 4.5         | m             |
| Prebend at tip               | 0           | m             |
| B                            | 0           | m             |
| <b>Former GL requirement</b> | <b>2.62</b> | <b>m</b>      |
| <b>Tip to tower</b>          | <b>2.53</b> | <b>NOT OK</b> |

Check of tower clearance due to larger tower diameter than the ordinary steel towers used for Vestas V90



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

WP5: Innovative wood tower

Examine and validate fire resistance

## Ignition sources

Test plan with time for fire exposure

| Test specimen     | Wood crib | Burner 30 kW | Burner 100 kW |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Test trial 1      |           |              |               |
| Unprotected wood  | ~70 min*  | 30 min       | -             |
| Test trial 2      |           |              |               |
| Unprotected wood  | -         | -            | 60 min        |
| Wood with coating | ~70 min*  | 60 min       | 60 min        |

\* Test continues until the wood crib is fully consumed.



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

## Ignition sources

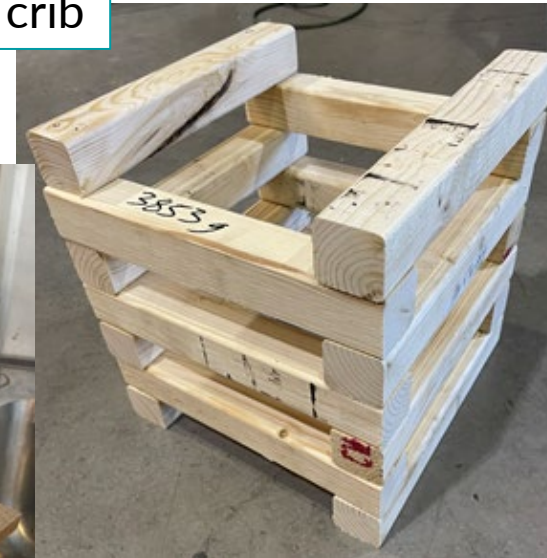
Three ignition sources:

1. Burner – 30 kW
2. Wood crib, 300x300x300mm
3. Burner – 100 kW



Fibre board (200x95x10mm)  
soaked with 1 dl methanol

Wood  
crib



Burner



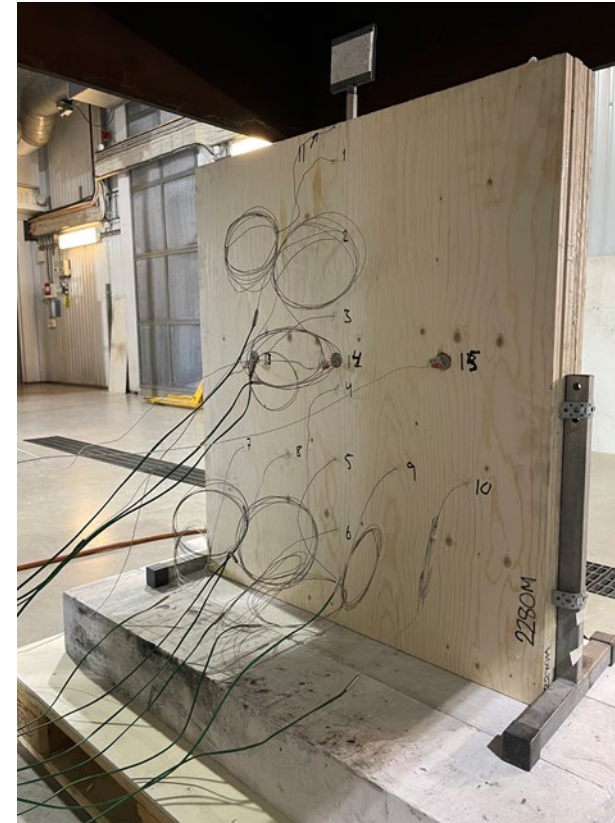
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

Test 1\_A1  
Untreated wood panel/Burner 30 kW

Test set up - Burner

Thin skin calorimeter



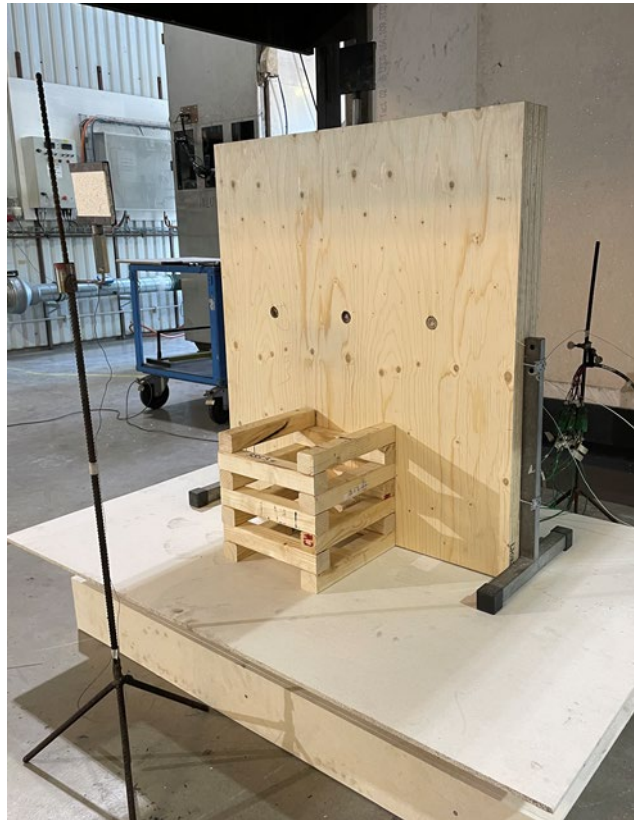


# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

Test 2\_B1  
Untreated wood panel/Wood crib

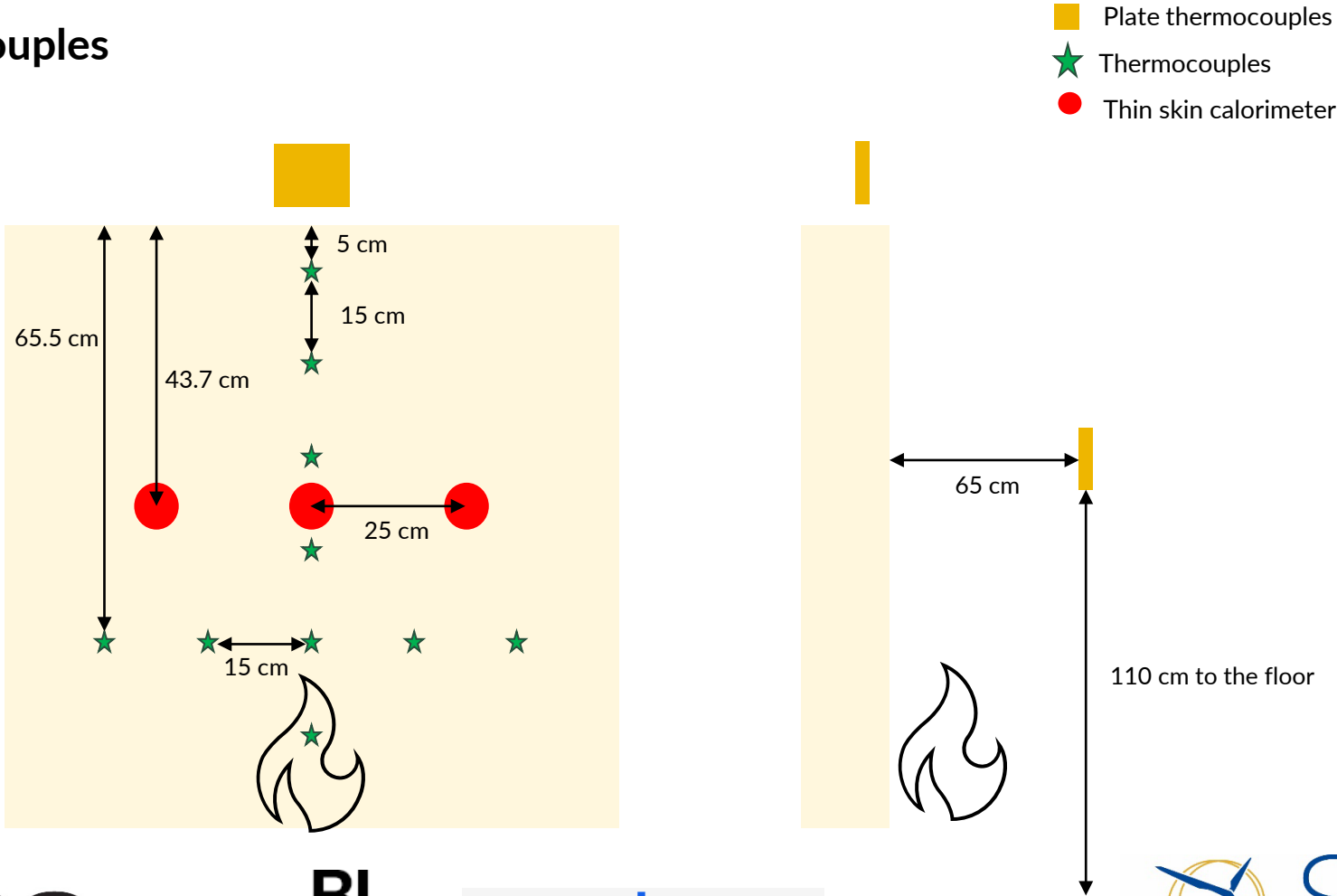
Test set up - Wood crib



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

## Positions of thermocouples





# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

During fire test with burner

Test 1\_A1  
Untreated wood panel/Burner 30 kW

1 min



5 min



15 min



30 min



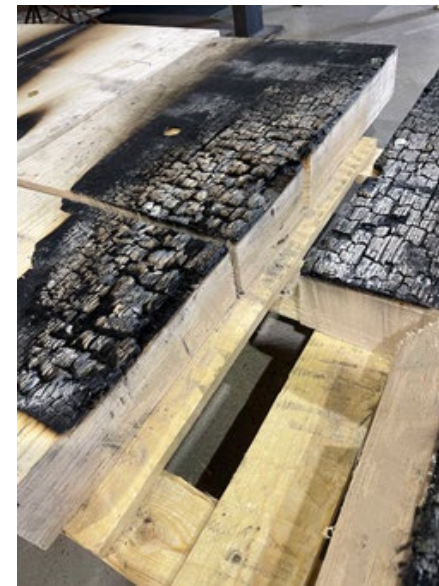


# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

Test 1\_A1  
Untreated wood panel/Burner 30 kW

Result - Burner



Depth of charred wood  $\approx$  1 cm  
Protecting inner layers of wood



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

During fire test with wood crib

Test 2\_B1  
Untreated wood panel/Wood crib



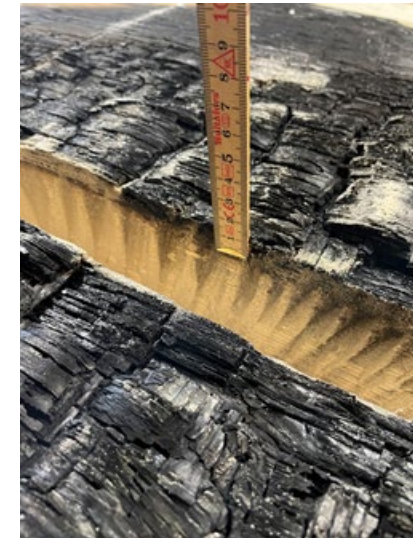


# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate fire resistance

Test 2\_B1  
Untreated wood panel/Wood crib

Result - Wood crib



Depth of charred wood  $\approx$  1 cm  
Protecting inner layers of wood



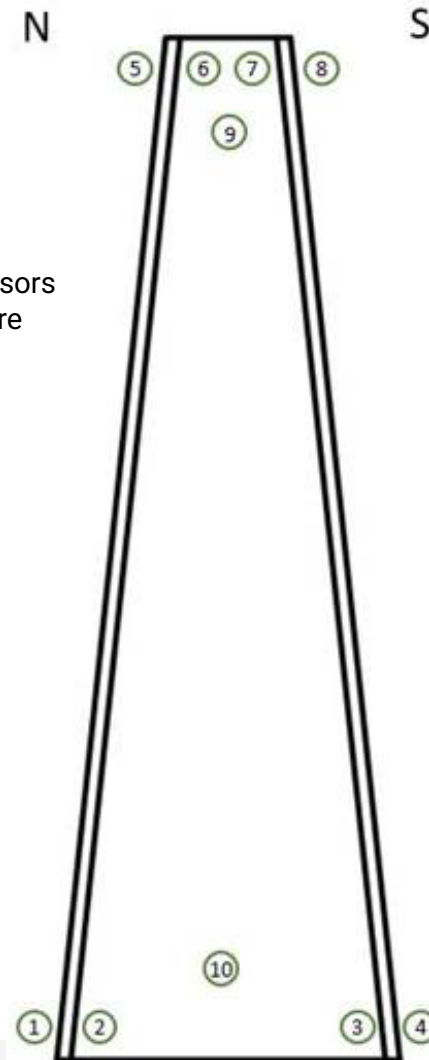
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate content of moisture in the air

Evaluation of measurements and investigation/test of air- and rain leakage



Positions of RH and T sensors and electrodes for moisture content measurement



## Methods and material for sustainable and c

Examine and validate content of moisture in the air

Evaluation of measurements and investigation/te  
and rain leakage



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## UTLÅTANDE

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Datum

2022-05-06

Beteckning

P105307-F1

Sida

1 (5)

Modvion

### Inledande utvärdering av klimat och luft o regnläckage i trätorn, Björkö

(6 bilagor)

#### Uppdrag/bakgrund

RISE har fått i uppdrag av Modvion att utvärdera klimatmätningar i ett trätorn på Björkö i Göteborg samt en inledande luftläckagesökning och regn-/vatteninläckagesökning vid botten av trätornet med mera. Modvion har låtit utföra kontinuerliga fukt- och temperaturmätningar (mätdata) som har delgivits RISE via åtkomst till Celsiview (Celsicom).

Trätornet har en konisk form och är 30 m högt, se bilaga 5. Väggarna består av laminerat trä, LVL, med tjocklek av 60 mm och regler invändigt. Utsidan har en coating av polyurea, med primer av epoxy och topcoat av polyuretan. Insidan är obehandlad.



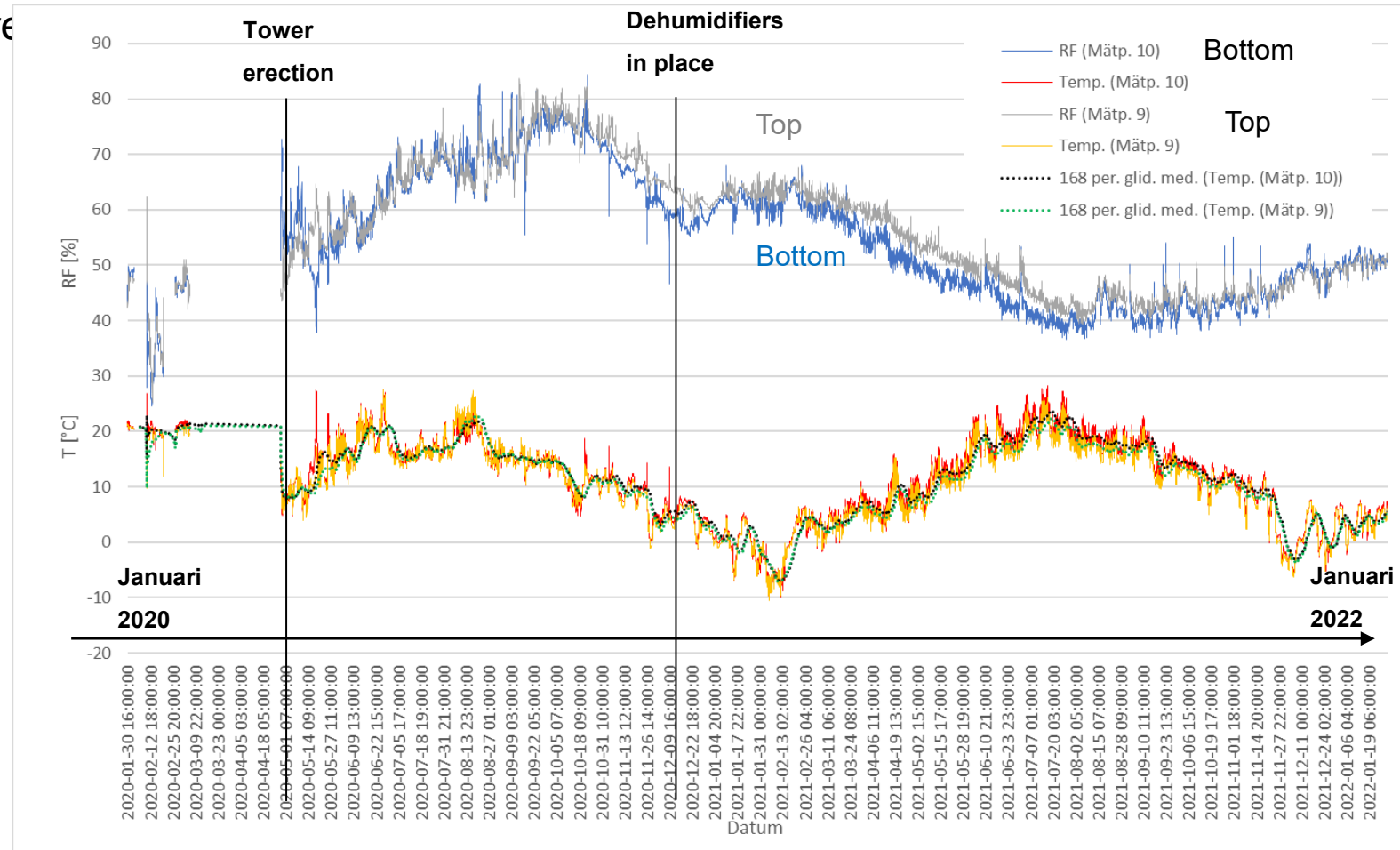
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

Examine and validate content of moisture

## Measurements of RH and temp.

There are small differences in Relative Humidity (RH) and temperature of indoor air in the tower at bottom space and top space. because of mechanical air mixing.

Dehumidifier installed late 2020 seems to work well (results in approx. 50% RH)





# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

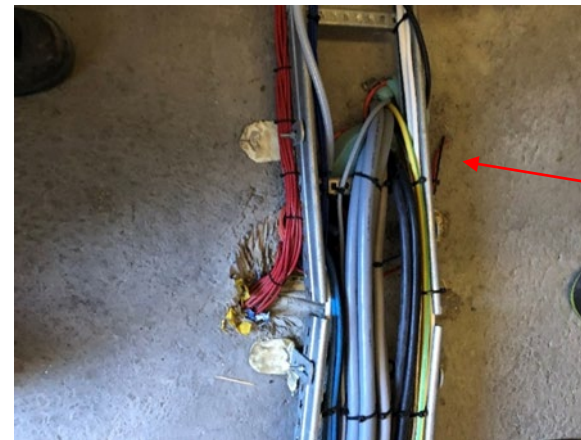
Examine and validate content of moisture in the air

## Investigation of moisture sources

- Air leakage in door, gaps between sealing strip and door, and through pipes in floor.
- Rain/water penetration between tower and concrete foundation during ongoing test and water penetration in door.
- Probably ongoing moisture evaporation from concrete foundation.



Inward leakage of water



Inward leakage of air through pipes from ground

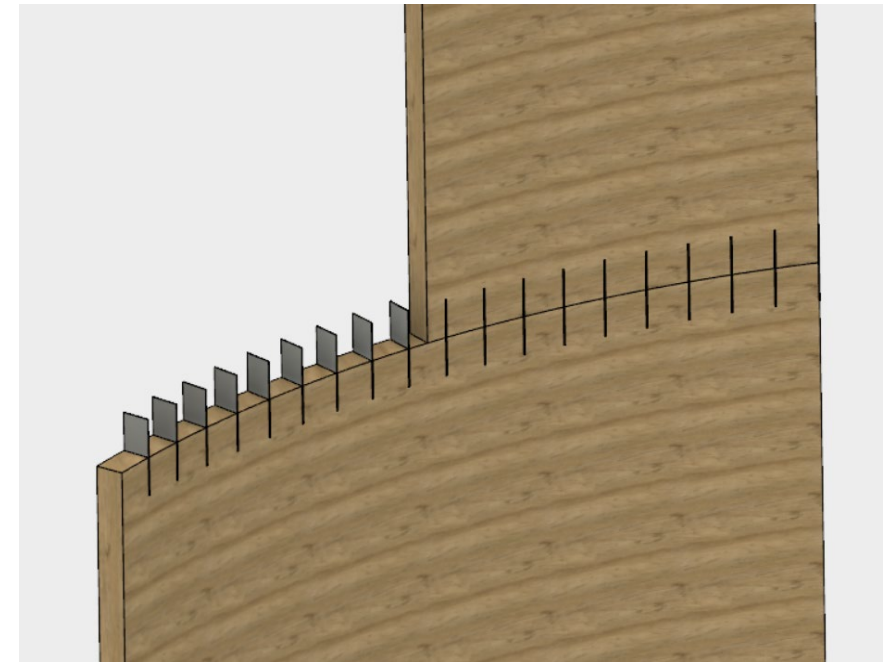
# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

I ur och skur – Whether Weather

*On-site gluing and weather effects on tall wooden wind turbine towers*

Modvion's glued connections offer:

- Quick assembly at the construction site.
- High strength and stiffness.



Modvion's patented module technology

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

I ur och skur – Whether Weather

*On-site gluing and weather effects on tall wooden wind turbine towers*

Glues vary in properties depending on temperature and moisture content.

Glues are dominantly applied in controller indoor climates.

| Raumtemperatur  | 17 °C | 20 °C | 30 °C |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Frühester Zeitpunkt, zudem eine mechanische Beanspruchung von höchstens 75 % der Maximallast erfolgen darf in Tagen | 3     | 2     | 1     |
| Zeitdauer bis zum Erreichen der endgültigen Klebfugenfestigkeit in Tagen  | 14    | 7     | 3     |

*Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik DIBt, Z-9.1-896 – Henkel & Cie. AG – 2K-PUR Klebstoff LOCTITE CR 821 PURBOND zum Einkleben von Stahlstäben in tragende Holzbauteile, 2020*



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

I ur och skur – Whether Weather

*On-site gluing and weather effects on tall wooden wind turbine towers*

To investigate how weather effects influence the performance of the joints.

## Temperature and Moisture

How does the temperature and moisture content of the surrounding air impact the bond quality of the joints?

## Loads during curing

How does the strength increase during curing and when is full capacity reached?

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

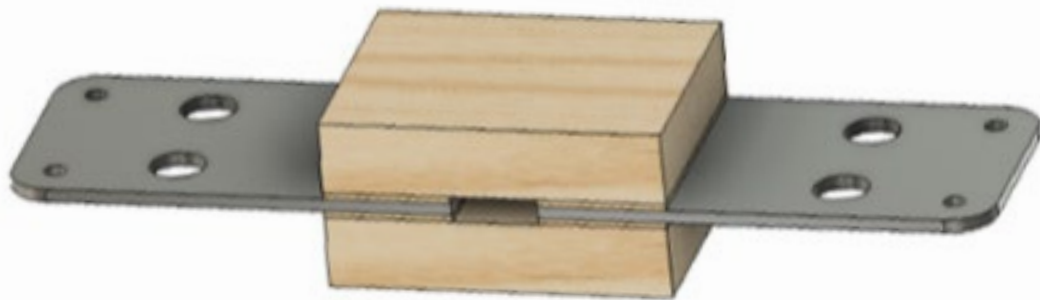
I ur och skur – Whether Weather

*On-site gluing and weather effects on tall wooden wind turbine towers*

Small scale tensile test

The following tests will be performed:

- Curing time of 7 days



*Table 1. Test series at different curing times*

| Test Batch | Curing times | Number spec. |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Batch CT1  | 1 hour       | 5            |
| Batch CT2  | 3 hours      | 5            |
| Batch CT3  | 6 hours      | 5            |
| Batch CT4  | 12 hours     | 5            |
| Batch CT5  | 24 hours     | 5            |
| Batch CT6  | 2 days hours | 5            |
| Batch CT7  | 4 days hours | 5            |

# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems

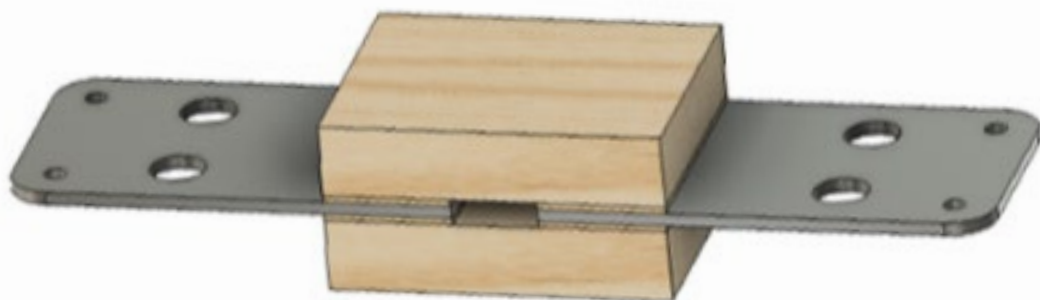
I ur och skur – Whether Weather

*On-site gluing and weather effects on tall wooden wind turbine towers*

Small scale tensile test

The following tests will be performed:

- Curing time of 7 days
- Temperatures of 0 to 30 °C
- Relative humidity of 10 to 95 %



*Table 2. Test series at different climate conditions*

| Test batch | Storing, <u>gluing</u> and curing conditions (surrounding air) | Number of specimens |
|------------|--|---------------------|
| Batch T1   | 0 °C / 65% RH  | 5                   |
| Batch T2   | 5 °C / 65% RH  | 5                   |
| Batch T3   | 10 °C / 65% RH   | 5                   |
| Batch T4   | 30 °C / 65% RH   | 5                   |
| Batch RH1  | 20 °C / 95% RH   | 5                   |
| Batch RH2  | 20 °C / 10% RH   | 5                   |

Note: Moisture equilibrium at respective RH



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective

## Ilur och skur – Whether Weather

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### WEATHER RELATED EFFECTS ON HYBRID JOINTS GLUED ON-SITE

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**ABSTRACT:** Modvion develops modular wind turbine towers made of wood. The application requires strong and stiff connections. To achieve the desired performance a hybrid connection with perforated steel plates slotted into LVL modules is used. The parts are glued together on site, using a polyurethane adhesive (PUR), providing high stiffness to the connection. This study aims to investigate how temperature and relative humidity of the surrounding air during assembly will influence the quality of the bond glued on site. In addition, the strength growth during curing is investigated. The results will serve as an initial screening, identifying which parameters will influence the performance of the timber to steel connections glued on site.

**KEYWORDS:** Tensile strength, Polyurethane adhesive, On-site gluing, LVL, Glued-in plates connection type

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

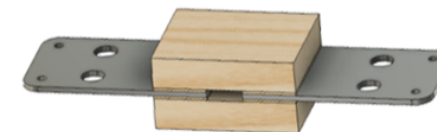
The Swedish company Modvion AB is developing modular wind turbine towers made of wood. To be competitive, the production method must be both reliable and fast. To achieve this a recently developed joining technique is used, where the LVL wall-modules are assembled on-site, combining adhesive and perforated steel plates. Thin plates made of high strength steel are inserted into slots in the wall-modules and bonded using a two-component polyurethane (PUR) adhesive. The method results in strong and stiff connections with glue-dowels through the holes of the plate. This hybrid type of glued-in plate joints has been used in different timber building applications to elegantly assemble CLT, LVL and GLT elements. The method is similar to glued-in rods, which also is adhesively bonded steel and timber. Research and development works have been performed in central Europe [1] and in Germany, where the commercial and certified HSK-system from the company TiComTec is available [2].

Connections with glued-in plates provides a strong and stiff connection compared to more traditional mechanical connections for timber structures, e.g. screws and dowels. It can be applied with high precision and keeps the steel elements encapsulated in the timber structure. However, the application process of adhesives for structural timber products is recommended for controlled conditions that

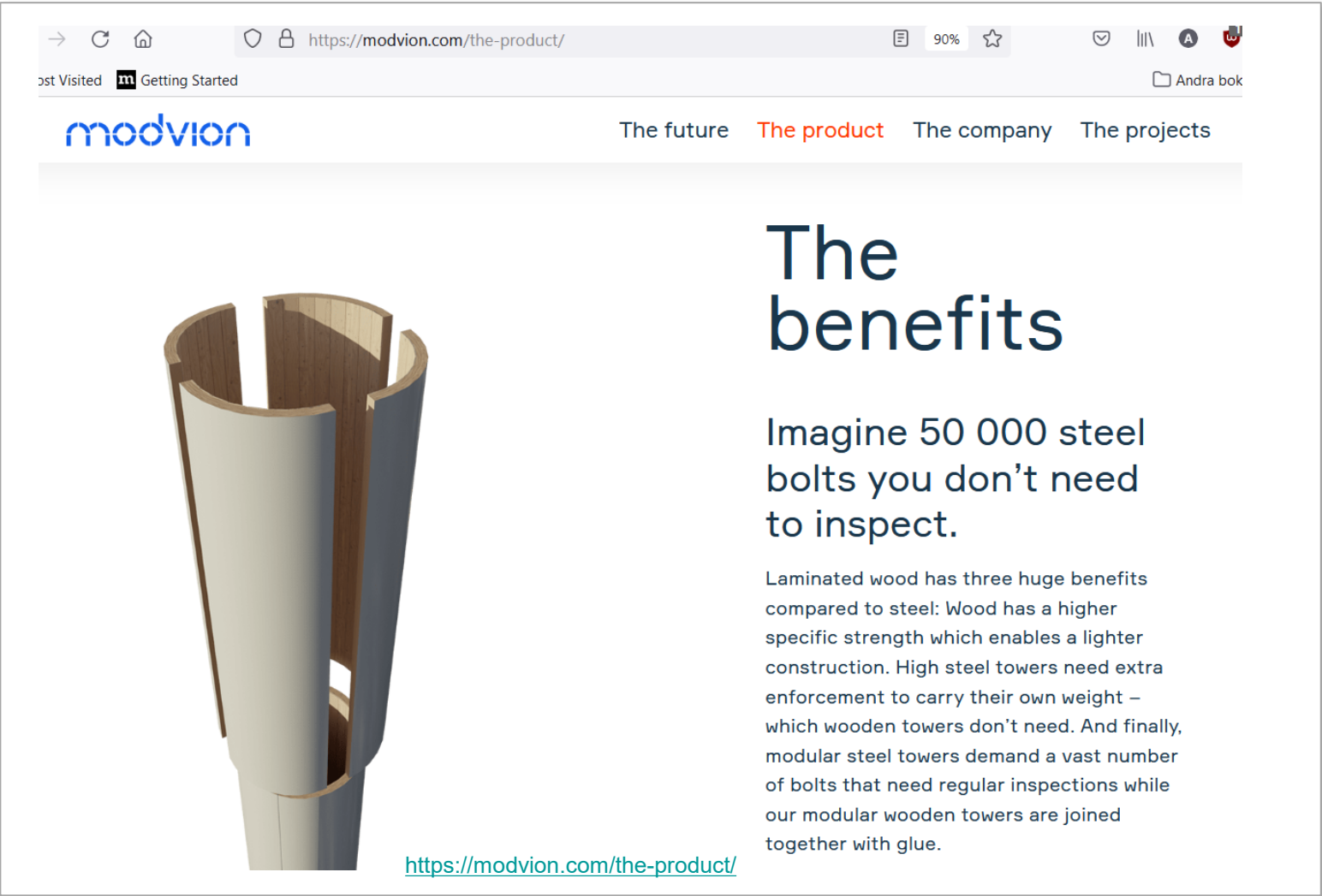
parameters temperature, humidity and curing time are investigated experimentally to determine their impact on the tensile capacity of the joints. This screening is aimed to identify suitable weather conditions and which environmental parameters require further investigation.

#### 2 TEST PROCEDURE

Several testing series are planned to investigate how gluing conditions impact the strength of the hybrid joints. A reference series of ten hybrid joint specimens will be conditioned and assembled at 20 °C and 65% RH. The PUR adhesive used is Loctite PURBOND CR821 which reaches full bond strength in 7 days according to the manufacturer Henkel and 75% after 2 days [3]. When full strength is obtained, the specimen is tested in tension until failure. The ultimate load is recorded and will serve as a cross-reference, representing ideal bonding of the joint. A principal sketch of the test specimens is illustrated in Figure 1.



# Methods and material for sustainable and cost effective structural supporting systems



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://modvion.com/the-product/>. The page features the Modvion logo and navigation links: "The future", "The product", "The company", and "The projects". The main content area displays a 3D cutaway rendering of a tapered wooden tower structure. To the right of the rendering, the text reads: "The benefits", "Imagine 50 000 steel bolts you don't need to inspect.", and "Laminated wood has three huge benefits compared to steel: Wood has a higher specific strength which enables a lighter construction. High steel towers need extra enforcement to carry their own weight – which wooden towers don't need. And finally, modular steel towers demand a vast number of bolts that need regular inspections while our modular wooden towers are joined together with glue." A URL <https://modvion.com/the-product/> is visible at the bottom of the rendering.

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