



11.11.2020

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# R&D plans and needs – the view from Finland

Research plans and needs for the Nordic transmission system operators

Luleå University of Technology and IEEE Sweden, 11th November 2020, via Teams

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## Fingrid in brief



**14 300**

KILOMETRES OF POWERLINES

EMPLOYEES  
**380**

€ **789** TURNOVER  
MILLION



AMONGST THE BEST IN THE WORLD IN EFFECTIVENESS OF MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT AND RELIABILITY OF GRID. SOURCE: ITOMS (INTERNATIONAL TRANSMISSION OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE STUDY)

GREAT PLACE TO WORK

**7**<sup>th</sup>  
IN 2020



CUSTOMERS' SATISFACTION 2020  
**38** (NET PROMOTER SCORE)

TRANSMISSION RELIABILITY ON THE GRID  
**99,9999 %**

BALANCE SHEET TOTAL  
€ **2,1** BILLION

TAXES PAID 2019  
€ **21** MILJONAA EUROA

**68,7 TWh**  
OF ELECTRICITY WAS TRANSMITTED ON FINGRID'S GRID IN 2018, REPRESENTING

**76 %**  
OF THE TOTAL TRANSMISSION VOLUME IN FINLAND



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## Content

R&D at Fingrid

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## Why R&D at Fingrid

R&D is required due to the following reasons

- **To shape the clean, market-oriented power system of the future**
- **To secure cost effectively reliable electricity for our customers and society (despite of energy revolution)**
- **To ensure adequate transmission capacity for the electricity markets (despite of energy revolution)**
- **To ensure the expertise in key business areas**

Megatrends increase the need of R&D

- Climate change and energy revolution: electrifying of industry, heating sector and transportation, increasing amount of distributed RES
- Increasing dependency of electricity and higher need for good security of supply
- Digitalization renews methods and processes in the power system and electricity markets

Other trends

- power system more dependent on weather, forecasting becomes difficult
- amount and importance of data is increasing

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**2019:**  
3,4 M€

**2020:**  
4,5 M€  
(forecast)

# Fingrid's R&D portfolio

2/3  
outsourced

50-60  
projects  
annually

Activities in 2019: <https://annualreport2019.fingrid.fi/en/business-operations/research-and-development.html>

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## Nordic challenges



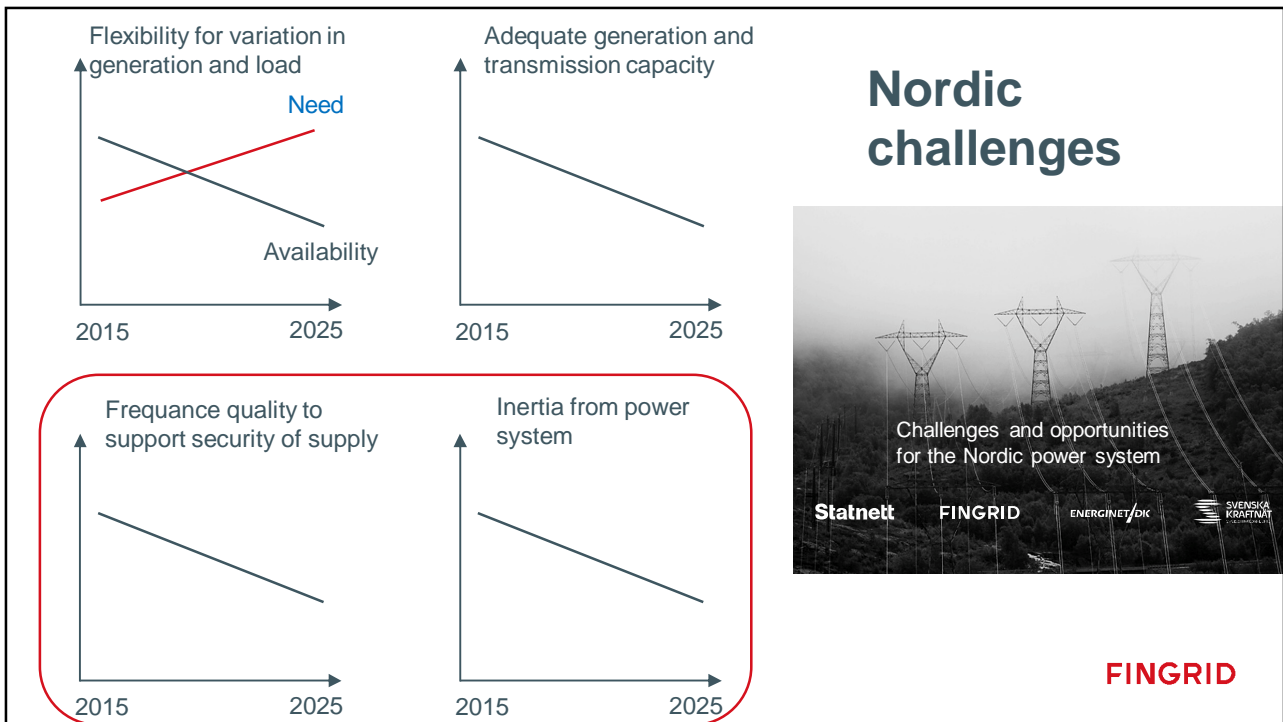
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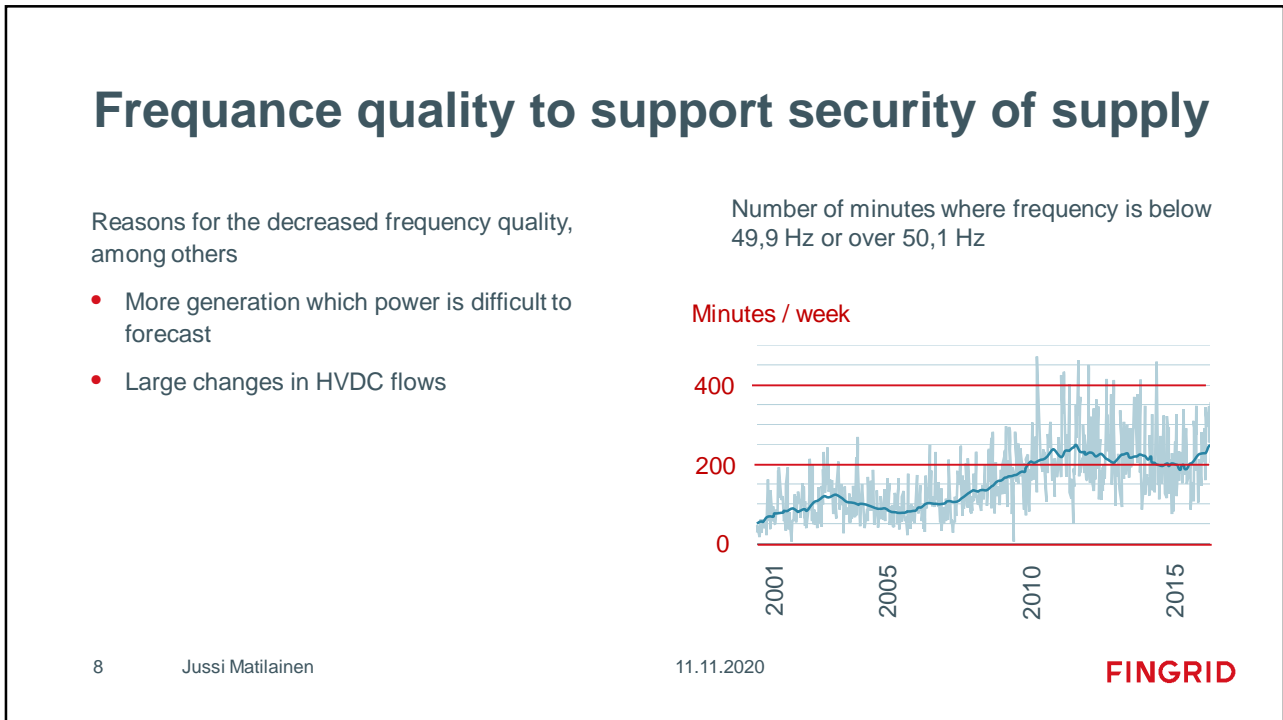
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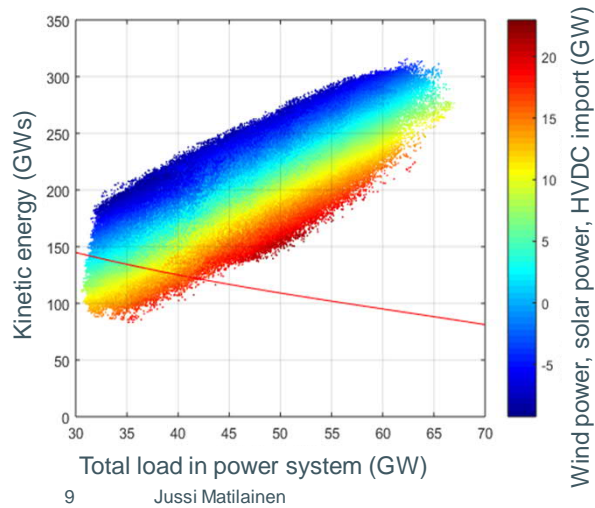


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## Estimation of kinetic energy in 2025



- Production and consumption are based on market simulations
- Colour of dots shows the amount of wind and solar power generation as well as HVDC import
- Hydrological years 1962–2012 included
- Red line shows the estimated amount of required kinetic energy
- **Time of inadequate kinetic energy is about 8% of total time**

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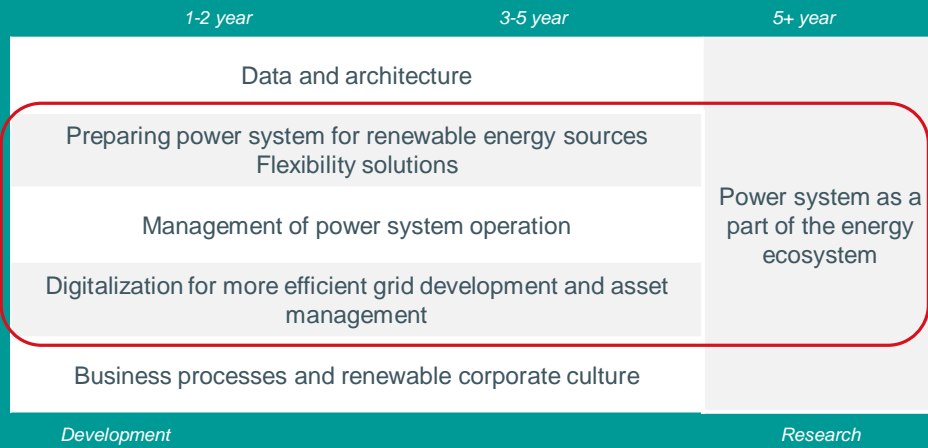
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## Fingrid's challenges and R&D needs



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## Fingrid's strategic focus areas



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## Preparing power system for renewable energy sources



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## Possible changes in prevailing paradigms of power system stability

Stability theory

From "electromechanical dynamics" to "performance as implemented"

Validation

From "staged testing" to "big data analysis"

Planning

From "deterministic" to "stochastic"

Analysis

From "modelling" to "monitoring"

In practice both will most likely remain and prevail but  
in different extent in different contexts

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## Large amount of converters at system level

Transition from large rotating machines to large amount of small converters

Increasing amount of equipment with stochastic generation/consumption pattern will result into increasingly large variations in the technical performance characteristics\* of the system

System level measures to estimate, monitor, visualize and manage the impact of the variations on system security are required to support both the planning and operations

How the impact of the converters shall be managed on system, regional and local levels?

Large scale wind power in the middle of heavily meshed and heavily compensated transmission system

Management of subsynchronous and over-voltage ride-through issues in very complex network structure

\* short circuit capacity, voltage support, reactive power flows, inertia, prevailing stability phenomena etc.

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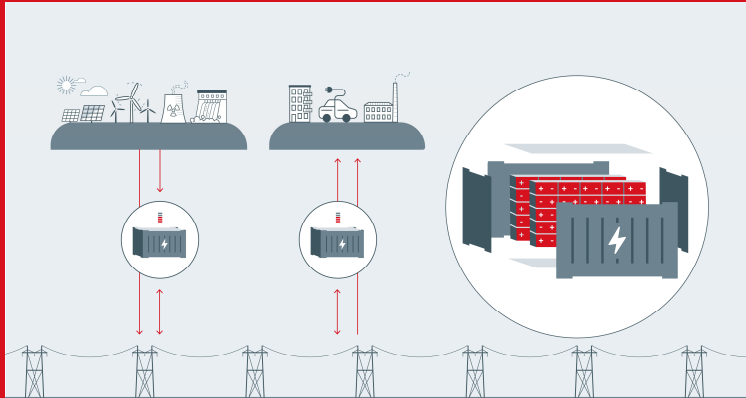
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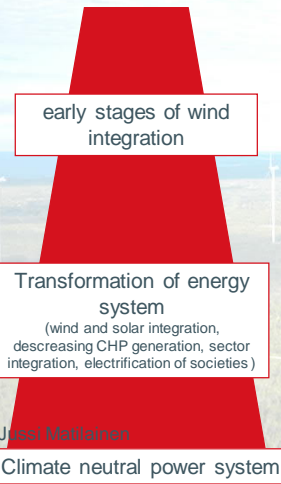
# Flexibility solutions



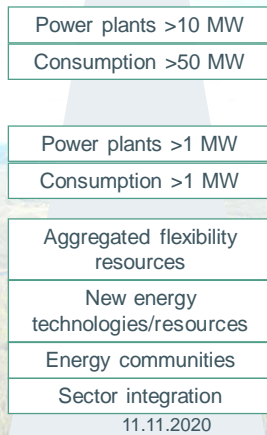
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## The transition increases the need for flexibility (and there is a need to facilitate market-driven mechanisms to release the flexibility potential)

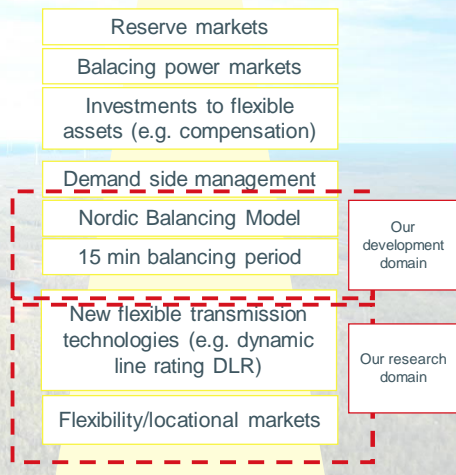
Evolution of increasing need for flexibility



Flexibility resources to address increasing need



Mechanisms to release flexibility



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## What it takes to release the new flexibility?

Along with the on-going transformation of electrical energy system, the new energy resources have great potential to play a key role in management of transmission capacity at local, regional and national level

**Preconditions for releasing the potential**  
(most of these require still R&D natured effort)

Availability of adequate power and energy capability to address the network needs

Sector-integration!

Access to multilateral markets - releasing the full value of flex  
(possibility to provide services for grid operators, balance responsible parties, 3rd party aggregators)

Aggregation!

Technology solutions to facilitate the provision of flexibility (validation, monitoring etc.)

Flexibility markets!

Tools for planning and operation of power systems full of flex (e.g. forecasting for different time frames and visualization)

Co-ordination of planning and operation!

Data exchange!

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## Management of power system operation

### Control room challenges



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## What is changing ?

- electrification
- role of electricity is increasing
- distributed resources
- grid congestions may occur more frequent bottlenecks in the transmission network flexible increasing need for balancing
- situation awareness is more difficult to maintain
- the role of operator is changing → **less time to react for changes**
- more data available and more data needed → **the role of data quality becomes more critical**

## What is needed to be able to react in the control centre?

- automatic control to save operators time for analyses
- new tools and methods for forecasting
  - production / consumption
  - inertia
  - local transmission needs in the network
  - weather
  - flexibility resources, availability and location
- results of system analyses (e.g. contingency, dynamic stability) should be presented in an understandable way
  - current situation and forecasts
- need for data transfer between it-systems: real-time and 24/7
- network models must be updated more often and easily

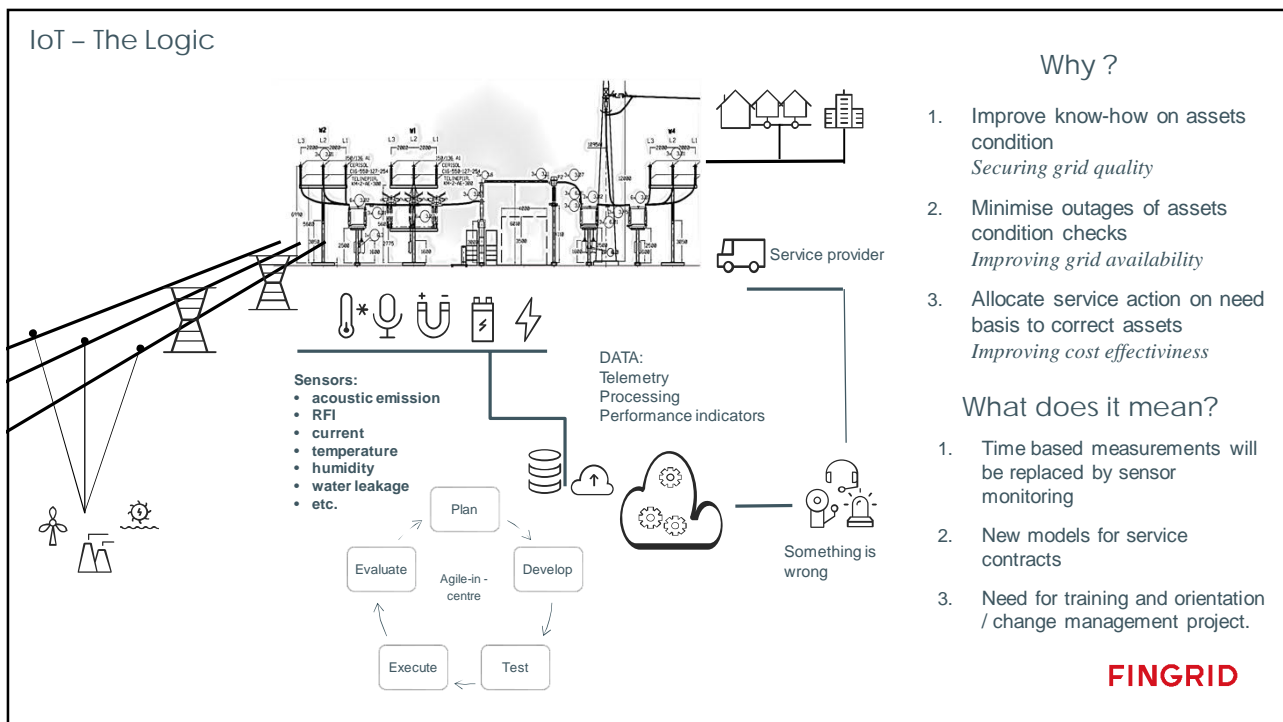
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## Digitalisation for more efficient asset management



Improving asset management efficiency in substations by IoT

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## IoT in substations - challenges

- Asset management is already IoT-based in four substations (IoT-based monitoring of buildings in all substations) in Finland
- Cooperation with other TSOs who are also using the same concept and common database
- Benefit: the more substations and devices to be monitored, the more data → better forecasts

### Challenges

- to develop modular and scalable architecture
- to have an interface between different monitoring systems (e.g. in different countries) where seamless data transfer (despite of possible different formats) and cybersecurity can be ensured
- to ensure that AI-based data analysis can manage the situations where the methods of measurements slightly varies (or how to ensure one common measurement method per device type for the entire Europe)?

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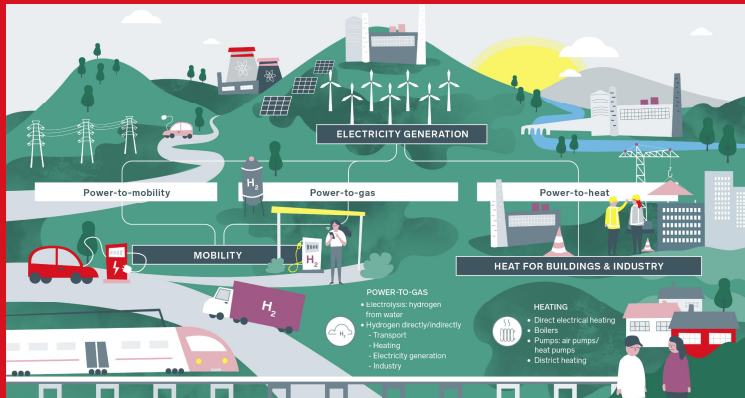
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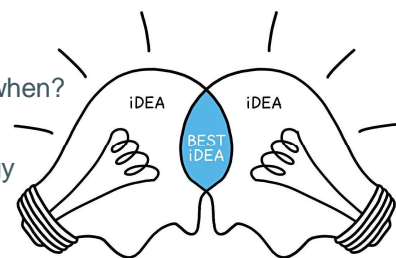
# Power system as a part of the energy ecosystem



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## Relevant questions

- Electrification – how much electricity is needed, where and when? How it varies over time?
- What will be the future flexibility potential (including all energy sectors)?
- Solutions for long term energy storages?
- How to create markets for multisectoral needs?
- What data (real time / market-based) is needed to ensure the forecastability of energy use (consumption, production, storage)?
- Concept of data exchange between the sectors?
- Electric vehicles: How is a charging power changing over time in future? How to enable access to EV battery and charging data in order to have system level view of flex potential?



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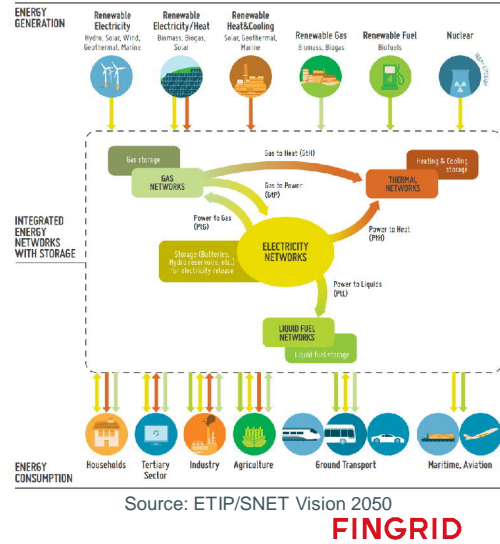
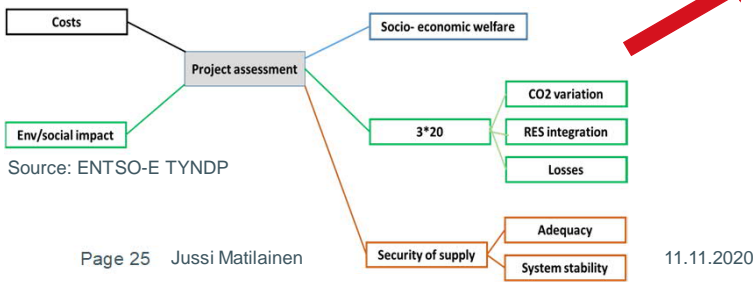
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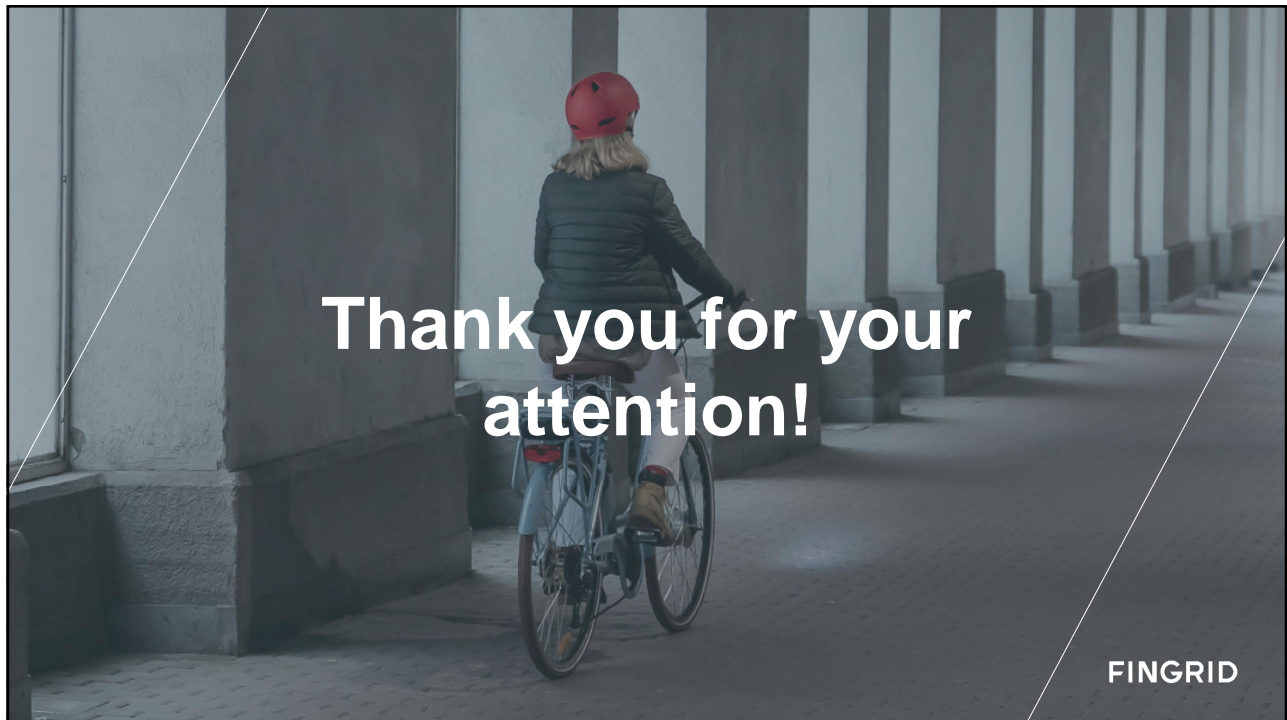
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# From transmission grid planning to energy system planning

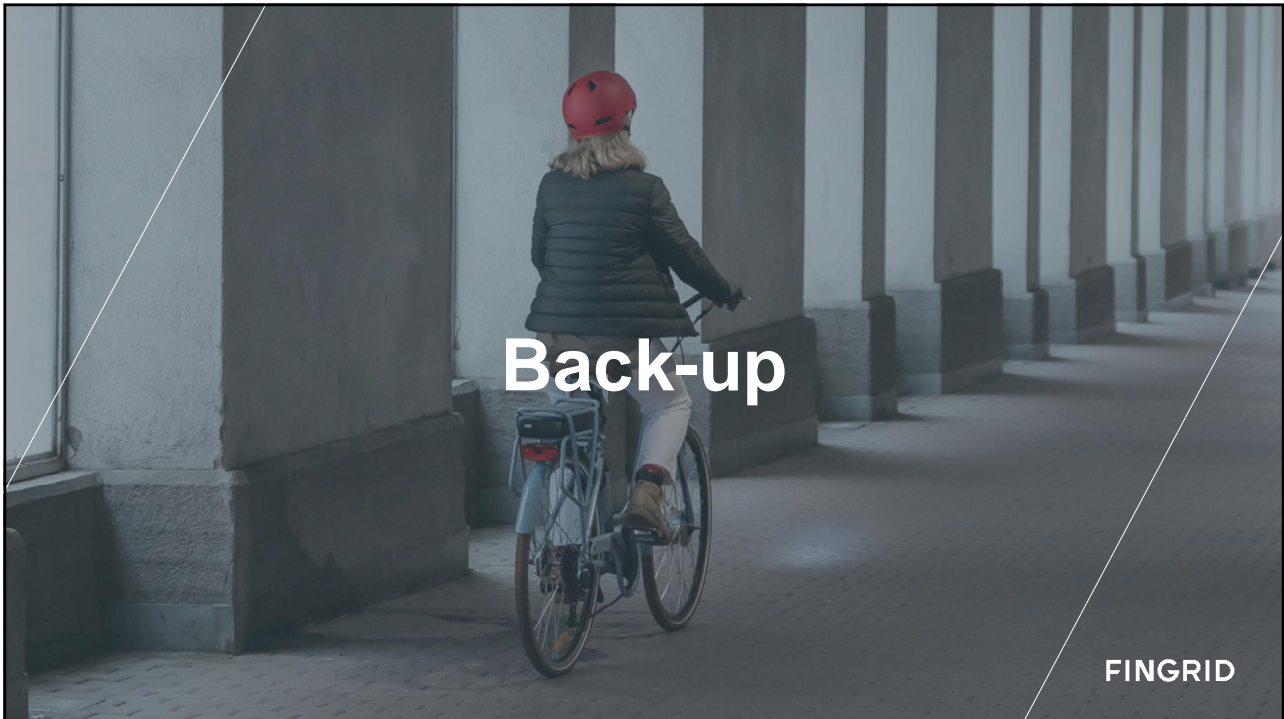
- Modelling of different sectors; level of details, national, regional or European wide?
- Data quality and availability?
- Combining different sectors into one (simulation) model?
- Total optimisation, criteria?



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**Artificial intelligence to support business**

**HOME / NEWS / FINNISH COMPANY IMPRESSED BY AI TECHNOLOGY OF AVS START-UP FINDEST**

**Finnish company impressed by AI technology of AVS start-up Findest**

**OCTOBER 15, 2020 [Amsterdam Venture Studio's](#) startup [Findest](#) scouts technologies by using IGOR^AI. A Finnish electricity grid operator Fingrid Oyj used IGOR^AI to find out how they could increase the transmission capacity or eliminate bottlenecks. In Fingrid magazine the company shared their experience, arguing that "[IGOR^AI] is one of the first applications to really demonstrate how artificial intelligence could help knowledge workers in the future." For the Finnish company, the AI system identified 38 technologies. Nine technologies were selected and more information was obtained. Although the results about the technologies are still under examination, Fingrid Oyj stated that "IGOR identified some truly impressive technologies: there are now several routes that can be taken to address bottlenecks."**

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AI pilot to optimise the visual information for power system operator and other information users

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## Open innovation to reach the best expertise

Fingrid is looking for new ideas for condition monitoring of transmission grid post insulators and temperature monitoring for grid components

Does your company have a great idea or solution, which you would like to pilot in collaboration with Fingrid? Do you yearn for new business opportunities and world class expertise to help in commercialising your idea? We are announcing a search for partners for companies looking for new condition monitoring business.

Fingrid, in collaboration with Spinverse, announces a partner search for companies, corporations and teams of all sizes looking for partnerships and new business in the field of condition monitoring. Fingrid's cost-effectiveness and network reliability have been ranked among the best in international comparisons. However, activities

**Fingrid and Spinverse are now looking** for new cost-effective project ideas for assessing and monitoring the condition of post insulators used in the power grid's electric stations, as well as continuously monitoring the temperatures in power grid components.

**What kinds of ideas do we seek?**

- Ideas must be feasible within 1-5 years. Already commercialized solutions are also welcome.
- The solutions must work in a live grid, since the post insulators are part of a 110-400 kV system and the components the temperature of which is to be measured are a part of a 20kV-400kV system.
- Ideas can be related, **for example**, to measurement technology (eg modern, inexpensive wireless sensors; power, vibration, acceleration, image, sound, temperature, pictures), information processing (eg neural networks, genetic algorithms), visualization of measurement information, drones or laser scanning. We do not rule out any technology.
- The data transfer methods that may be used in the idea need to be based on commercial solutions