

## Article

# Minute-Scale Forecasting of Wind Power - Results from the collaborative workshop of IEA Wind Task 32 and 36

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**Abstract:** The demand for minute-scale forecasts of wind power is continuously increasing with the growing penetration of renewable energy into the power grid, as grid operators need to ensure grid stability in the presence of variable power generation. For this reason, IEA Wind Tasks 32 and 36 together organized a workshop on “Very Short-Term Forecasting of Wind Power” in 2018 to discuss different approaches for the implementation of minute-scale forecasts into the power industry. IEA Wind Task 32 is an international platform for the research community and industry to identify and mitigate barriers to the use of lidars in wind energy applications. IEA Wind Task 36 focuses on improving the value of wind energy forecasts to the wind energy industry. The workshop identified three applications that need minute-scale forecasts: (1) wind turbine and wind farm control, (2) grid power balancing, (3) energy trading and ancillary services. The forecasting horizons for these applications range from around 1 s for turbine control to 60 minutes for energy market and grid control applications. The methods that can be applied to generate minute-scale forecasts rely on upstream data from remote sensing devices such as scanning lidars or radars, or are based on point measurements from met masts, turbines or profiling remote sensing devices. Upstream data needs to be propagated with advection models and point measurements can either be used in statistical time series models or assimilated into physical models. All methods have advantages but also shortcomings. The workshop’s main conclusion was that there is a need for more research into new minute-scale forecasting techniques and how to enhance quality and reliability. Longer term, standards will help to support the adoption of these methods.

**Keywords:** wind energy; minute-scale forecasting; forecasting horizon; Doppler lidar; Doppler radar; numerical weather prediction models

## 22 1. Introduction

23 In the past years, minute-scale forecasting of wind power has become an important research  
24 topic in the wind energy community. Whereas traditional forecasting techniques provide a forecasting  
25 horizon in the hour or day range [1], new methods allow to predict the power output of wind turbines  
26 or wind farms on a minute scale. Due to the increasing penetration of renewable energy power systems  
27 into the grid, there is a demand for minute-scale wind power forecasts, as grid operators need to  
28 ensure grid stability in spite of the highly fluctuating power sources. The forecasts become even more  
29 important with increasing sizes of wind farms of several 100 MW and especially if those wind farms  
30 conglomerate geographically as it is the case for offshore sites. The objective of this paper is to provide  
31 a summary of the needs of minute-scale forecasting and an overview of the developed methods and  
32 the possible solutions to the barriers that prevent end users from adopting them.

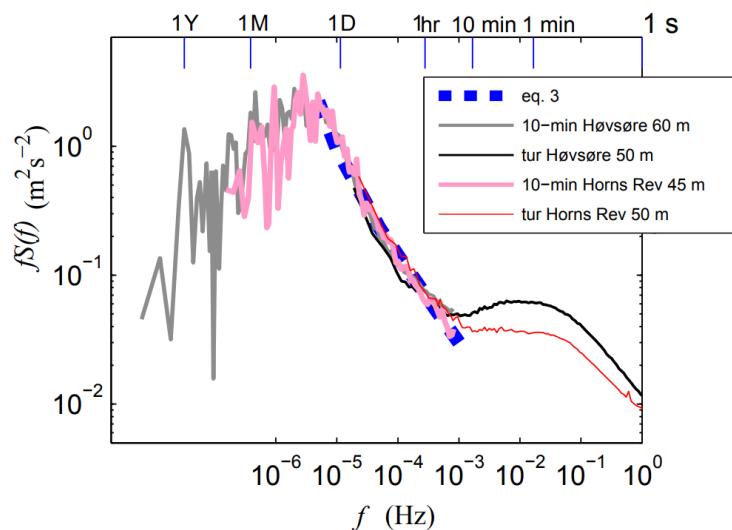
33 The results presented in this paper are based on the outcome of the collaborative IEA Wind Task  
34 32 and 36 workshop “Very Short-Term Forecasting of Wind Power” held in Roskilde, Denmark in June  
35 2018. IEA Wind Task 32: “Wind Lidar Systems for Wind Energy Deployment” is an international open  
36 platform with the objective of bringing together experts from the academic and industrial communities  
37 to identify and mitigate barriers to the use of lidar for wind energy applications. IEA Wind Task 36:  
38 “Forecasting of Wind Power” is focused on improving the value of wind energy forecasts to the wind  
39 energy industry. During the workshop, participants from academia, forecasting service providers,  
40 wind farm operators as well as the lidar and wind turbine manufacturers discussed the future needs of  
41 minute-scale forecasting, the advantages and barriers of different forecasting techniques and strategies  
42 for overcoming those barriers.

43 This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the need for minute-scale forecasting  
44 and explains target forecasting horizons for different applications. In Section 3, different forecasting  
45 techniques are described. To that end, first a review of state-of-the art forecasting techniques and the  
46 gap that needs to be closed with new methods in order to achieve minute-scale forecasts is given. Then  
47 different approaches to close the gap are discussed and for each method barriers and possible solutions  
48 are given. In Section 4 challenges for the implementation and commercialization of the new methods  
49 are discussed and the paper is finalized with conclusions in Section 5.

## 50 2. The need for minute-scale forecasting

51 In 2017 Denmark was the country with the highest wind power penetration rate (44% of the  
52 annual consumption of electricity), followed by Portugal (24%) and Ireland (24%). In the case of  
53 Denmark, the maximum hourly penetration rate was over 140%. With a total net installed capacity of  
54 169 GW, the power generation capacity of wind power in Europe increased by almost 300% in the last  
55 10 years [2]. Given the expected rising penetration levels of wind power and the increasing size of  
56 on- and especially offshore wind farms feeding power into the grid at a single point [3], it becomes  
57 crucial to have forecasts of wind power generation with lead times of few minutes ahead and temporal  
58 resolutions of seconds or minutes.

59 When generating a forecast, one useful practice is to consider the power spectral density (PSD)  
60 of the measured physical process to understand which time frequencies contribute to the variance of  
61 the signal. Peaks in the spectra correspond to larger relative fluctuations which are traditionally more  
62 difficult to capture and predict. This type of analysis is demonstrated in Larsen et. al [4] using long  
63 term site measurements from Høvsøre test station and Horns Rev offshore wind farm in Denmark.  
64 Boundary layer wind spectra were resolved across cycles ranging from 0.1 seconds (10 Hz) to 1 year.  
65 Figure 1 presents a main result of that work which compares full scale wind PSDs at 50 m height both  
66 on- and offshore [4]. Apt [5] presents a similar PSD analysis of wind turbine output using 1-second  
67 power data for a single wind turbine as well as a 6-turbine wind farm. Attributes of the PSD signal



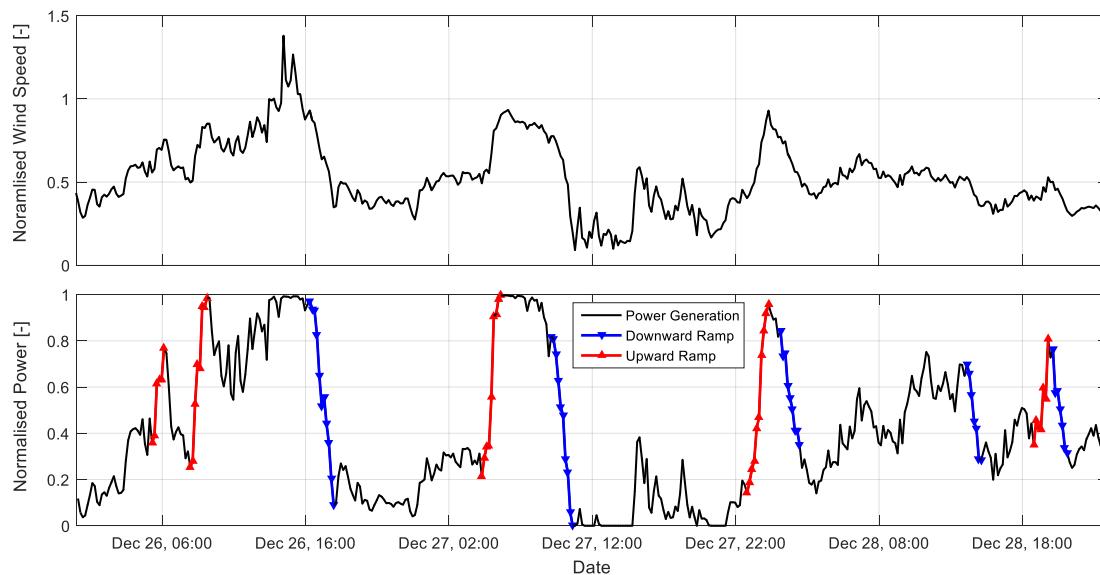
**Figure 1.** Power spectral density (PSD) of wind speed with corresponding timescales denoted atop. High frequency sonic measurements are used to devise the onshore (black) and offshore (red) lines. Reproduced with modifications from Larsen et. al [4] with permission from the Springer Nature publisher.

will vary by location, time, sensor type, and physical property being measured. Still, from the results in Figure 1, a strong peak can be detected around 1 min, indicating the strong variability of the wind at that temporal scale. This variability of the wind is associated to atmospheric phenomena like open cellular convection, gravity waves, sea breezes or low level jets, among others [6]. At frequencies  $f > 0.01$  Hz (seconds to one minute) the PSD signal strongly decreases and, as reported in [7], wind power fluctuations of large wind farms are not considered an issue due to the smoothing effect of aggregated power.

Yet, the intra-hour variability of wind power not only depends on the variability of the wind itself but on the size of the wind farm, the number of wind turbines and their geographic dispersion. Indeed, it has been shown by several authors that for offshore wind farms, the small geographic dispersion of the wind turbines results in an increased power variability in the minute scale, compared to widely dispersed onshore wind turbines [8].

The enhanced variability in those time scales shows itself in rapid changes in wind power generation (ramp events). These unexpected events are mainly caused by extreme changes in wind speed and/or direction in a very short period of time, and are frequently associated with the passage of weather fronts. Despite being critical for the management of the grid, the dynamic allocation of reserves and the stability of the system [9,10], it is an individual process of the end-user to define critical ramps and thereby ramp events. A recent publication on the history of wind power ramp forecasting [11] gives an overview of the definitions used in ramp event detection, the meteorological conditions associated to those events and the current forecasting techniques. For most wind power forecasting applications however, the definition of what is critical for an end-user is very individual and dependent on the application as well as the available reserves. For example, a system operator on an island grid or badly interconnected grid will have to have all reserves available within the control zone in order to prevent that a critical ramp could cause security issues. A trader may also be very interested in ramp forecasts, as just one event with a large error may cause 95% of the imbalance costs in a month.

Ramp events are often classified into ramp-up and ramp-down events, according to the direction of the power gradient. The example time series in Figure 2 illustrates a number of steep ramps in both



**Figure 2.** Example time series of wind speed and generated power of a single wind turbine with wind ramps marked for a time window of 60 min and a change of power of 40%. The time series is based on 10-minute averages [12].

96 directions. While ramp-up events always can be handled in the very short-term with curtailments,  
 97 ramp-down events can become extremely critical due to the sudden missing generation. This enhances  
 98 the importance of generating accurate minute-scale forecasts of wind power.

99 The forecast horizon and the parameters that are needed to be forecast however, depend on the  
 100 application of the forecast. Three applications have been identified where minute-scale forecasts of  
 101 wind speed or power are needed.

- 102 1. **Wind farm control:** Wind turbine and wind plant controllers need the information to optimize  
 103 e.g. the power output of the turbines.
- 104 2. **Physical balancing:** They are required by the Transmission System Operator (TSO) in order to  
 105 optimally operate reserves for the continuous balance of the power system and grid constraint  
 106 management.
- 107 3. **Economic balancing:** Trading and balancing of wind power in the intra-day or rolling power  
 108 markets require minute-scale updates of the forecasts with real power output in order to reduce  
 109 imbalance costs and increase incomes.

110 The next step in the evolution will be storage system planning and optimization in the real-time  
 111 markets, where the bulk of the energy production will come from renewable energy sources. However,  
 112 this paper focuses on the applications listed above. In the following each application is discussed in  
 113 more detail.

### 114 2.1. Wind turbine and wind farm control

115 Preview information of the wind field is helpful for the control of wind turbines and wind  
 116 plants. Wind turbines are highly dynamic systems that are excited by stochastic influences from the  
 117 wind and most of the wind turbine control is designed to deal with variations in this disturbance.  
 118 However, traditional feedback controllers are only able to react to impacts of wind changes on the  
 119 turbine dynamics after these impacts have already occurred. Lidar-assisted control algorithms, which  
 120 can exploit preview information of the wind, are promising to provide improved operation over  
 121 conventional control algorithms, with the ultimate aim of increasing the energy yield while keeping  
 122 the structural loads low. Regarding the required preview time, the following classification is useful:

- 123 1. around 1 s: Feedforward control is used to compensate wind changes to reduce structural loads.  
124 For e.g. the blade pitch, the rotor-effective wind speed is needed only a short time before the  
125 wind reaches the rotor to overcome the pitch actuator dynamics.
- 126 2. around 5 s: For Model Predictive Control, the control inputs are optimized to get a chosen  
127 compromise of load reduction, energy production, and actuator wear [13]. Here, a short time  
128 horizon of wind characteristics such as wind speed, direction, and shears is used, typical 5–10 s.
- 129 3. around 1–10 min: For yaw control, a wind direction estimation is used to align the wind turbine  
130 with the mean wind direction. For this, a preview in the minute scale is helpful.

131 Active wind farm control is a promising technology to increase the energy production of wind  
132 farms [14]. However, flow models are still an important research topic, and the validation of flow  
133 models and control strategies are still ongoing. Wind preview for flow control is mainly used for  
134 induction control and wake steering for higher energy capture and management of fatigue loading.  
135 Regarding the required preview time, following classification is useful:

- 136 1. around 10 sec to 1 min for induction control: Usually the blade pitch angle is used to reduce the  
137 power and thus the thrust to weaken wake effects on downstream turbines, which increase the  
138 overall production. At partial load this is done by adjusting the “fine pitch” settings which is  
139 usually based on a filtered wind speed estimate. Wind preview might help to better adjust the  
140 power balancing.
- 141 2. around 1–10 min for wake steering: The yaw misalignment is used to deflect wakes away from  
142 downstream turbines and thus similar preview times compared to the conventional yaw control  
143 is useful. A preview of the wind direction might help to better adjust the yaw misalignments in a  
144 wind farm.

## 145 2.2. Power grid balancing, frequency control and power quality in reserve market

146 The focus in this section is on grid balancing, frequency control and power quality embedded in  
147 reserve market while the energy market and ancillary services are discussed in the following Section  
148 2.3. The balancing term can be employed in a much broader sense in the context of balancing longer  
149 time scales. However in these time scales of mainly energy and reserve market, where balancing  
150 actions are scheduled before the real time, there are several other means of observations with lower  
151 resolutions available. [15–17]. However, these are not in the time scales of minute-scale forecasting  
152 that is the focus of this section. It should be noted that there are differences in terminology in different  
153 countries for same and slightly different balancing actions. In this section, the EU terminology is  
154 adapted for the rest of the discussions.

155 To guarantee the stability of the grid, supply and demand always have to be balanced in spite of  
156 the fluctuating power sources. Power quality is achieved if the grid frequency stays within a certain  
157 range of a rated value. An imbalance between supply and demand impacts voltage stability and grid  
158 frequency, hence there is a need for power balancing [15,18–20].

159 The volatility of wind resources creates volatility in the supply and as a result, balancing control  
160 actions are needed. One can distinguish between different time scales in this phase of controls  
161 embedded in the reserve market, which are known as primary, secondary, and tertiary control. The  
162 autonomous response of the system to supply/demand imbalances is automatically addressed with  
163 primary controls, which is in the scale of microseconds, milliseconds to seconds. In the secondary  
164 controls, there are automatic actions and manual actions in scales of seconds to minutes. In the tertiary  
165 controls, both manual and automatic controls are in action from minutes to quarter of an hour to half  
166 an hour scale. All of these actions of balancing are carried out in order to ensure power system quality.  
167 Any forecast data that is available in scale of microseconds to minutes can be automatically employed  
168 in the state estimator of the controller [15,18–20]. The state estimator corrects with observational data,  
169 the state of the system.

170 From the market point of view, primary and/or secondary controls do not involve auction  
171 mechanisms. The participation to primary and secondary control can be traded by auction. This results

in the availability of reserve for primary and/or secondary control. The market period can be day to year. The reserve market addressed in the context of primary and/or secondary controls consists of generators that can allocate themselves to be available as reserves for primary and/or secondary control. This availability is for a predefined time period for automatic control. This is achieved without any bidding as a result of commercial agreements or participation based on the context of the country. If there is utilization of reserve service, an utilization price is employed based on [21].

Wind power and other renewable energy create low levels of rotational inertia since these energy conversion systems do not normally act on rotational inertia which has impacts on the power grid frequency. Moreover asynchronous machines and Double Fed Induction Generator (DFIG) are disconnected by inverter from rotating mass of inertia. Suppliers have started to make changes to create synthetic inertia that can emulate inertia synthetically [22]. Synthetic inertia is about acting to AC frequency, possibly after the loss of a big power plant which makes the grid under-supplied and will result with the AC frequency beginning to fall. This makes the accurate short term forecasting even more important since all of these emulations are dependent on accurate estimation of wind speeds. Hence automatic control for primary and/or secondary controls will certainly benefit from more accurate forecasting on the short time scales of minutes in control applications.

### 2.3. Energy and ancillary services markets

Electricity markets need to be balanced in order to match the supply and demand of energy. This physical balancing of the transmission grid is carried out by the transmission system operators (TSO) or by an independent system operator (ISO). Given the increased integration of power generation from variable sources of energy like wind and solar, the physical balancing has become more complicated. Therefore, electricity markets with such intermittent and variable sources have to become more flexible and introduce either rolling markets (e.g. in the UK and Australia) or introduce shorter intra-day auctions, additional to the day-ahead auction, which have become very popular in Europe. Among the intra-day market platforms, one can distinguish between discrete auctions or continuous intra-day markets. In intra-day auction markets like in Italy, Spain or Portugal, intra-day bids are restricted to a few established auctions. By contrast, in continuous intra-day markets, counter parties match the bids using a trading platform that operates continuously. Those continuous intra-day balancing markets operate in Europe with different lead times ranging from 5 to over 100 minutes and most of the countries work with trading blocks of 15 minutes. Table 1 includes the lead times and smallest trading blocks for several countries in Europe and for Turkey. Hence, the importance of the use of updated available minute-scale forecast of wind power has arrived to stay.

**Table 1.** Lead times and smallest trading blocks for different countries. Sources: Epex [23], Nordpool [24], EXIST [25], and BSP South Pool [26].

Country	Lead time (minutes)	Trading blocks (minutes)	Market
Austria and Germany	5	15	EPEX Spot
Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden	60	15	NordPool
Belgium, France and the Netherlands	5	60	EPEX Spot
Slovenia	60	15	BSP Southpool
Switzerland	30	15	EPEX Spot
Turkey	90	60	EXIST

In light of this, the forecast process can be split into three components: (1) production of a smooth day-ahead forecast tuned for economic adjustment via the intra-day market, (2) targeting intra-day forecasts for the predictable part of the day-ahead forecast errors and (3) application of forecasts on minute-scale to manage the wind after gate closure of the intra-day. The two first components correspond to current practices in long-term and short-term processes with some enhancements. The

<sup>209</sup> third component is a process running on minute-scale with 1 or 2 hour look ahead [e.g. 27]. A more  
<sup>210</sup> detailed description of the electricity markets and their time lines can be found in [28].

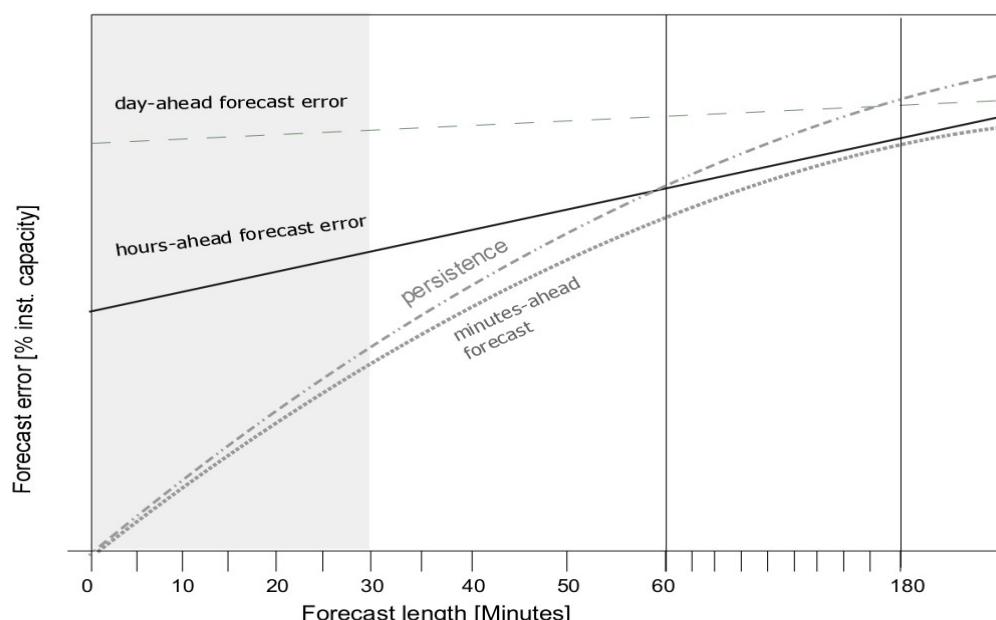
<sup>211</sup> Minute-scale forecasts are also necessary when applying to provide ancillary services, secondary  
<sup>212</sup> or tertiary reserve or balancing capacity for the pool of large utilities. For instance, a recent pilot project  
<sup>213</sup> in Germany allows wind power generators to participate in the reserve market by down-regulating  
<sup>214</sup> their production. The possible or available power produced by the wind farms needs to be calculated  
<sup>215</sup> in one-minute intervals. Furthermore, the standard deviation of the percentage error of the possible or  
<sup>216</sup> available wind farm power, during the pilot phase, should be less than 5% [29].

### <sup>217</sup> 3. Minute-scale forecasting techniques

#### <sup>218</sup> 3.1. State of the art forecasting of wind power - where are the gaps?

<sup>219</sup> State of the art wind power forecasting methodologies utilize wind speeds from weather forecasts  
<sup>220</sup> and on-site real-time measurements to compute wind power.

<sup>221</sup> Figure 3 shows qualitatively the forecast error levels of day-ahead, hours-ahead and  
<sup>222</sup> minutes-ahead compared to a persistence error, where the persistence forecast is the most recent  
<sup>223</sup> available measurement. It can be seen that the margin of possible improvements by minutes-ahead  
<sup>224</sup> forecasts in the first 30 min of the forecast is rather small in comparison to persistence. This is so in  
<sup>225</sup> average weather conditions and when measured over longer time. However, when weather conditions  
<sup>226</sup> are changeable and more extreme with strongly ramping wind speeds, only a combined use of forecast  
<sup>227</sup> and measured wind speed can predict ahead with a reasonable accuracy.



**Figure 3.** Error decomposition in a minute-ahead forecasting environment inclusive persistence.

<sup>228</sup> Current average error growth of up to 2% of the installed capacity of a short-term forecast of 15  
<sup>229</sup> minute time resolution is rather steep (see Figure 3). It is therefore fair to say that the improvement over  
<sup>230</sup> persistence, which is the objective in the very short time ranges of minutes and hours, is therefore rather  
<sup>231</sup> modest. This is often used as a reason for system operators not to base decisions on forecasts today, but  
<sup>232</sup> rather use persistence, even during ramping, where the persistence forecast is a poor approximation.  
<sup>233</sup> If the previous 15-minute forecast already appears to be off track, then the control room cannot justify  
<sup>234</sup> to trust in the forecast. Also, the similarity between the average error of a short-term forecast and

235 persistence over the next 15 minutes strongly indicates whether the short-term forecast has good  
236 quality or less good quality.

237 Forecast providers are continuously looking for enhancements, which can improve the hour-ahead  
238 and minute-scale forecast in the less good quality periods, because these result in the most significant  
239 power system benefits. Use of wind speed measurements in addition to wind power measurements is  
240 therefore a key to improve forecasts in periods, where the wind speed is in the flat ranges of the power  
241 curve ( $< 5 \text{ m/s}$  or  $> 12 \text{ m/s}$ ). Without wind speed measurements, the minute-scale forecast is in fact  
242 unable to correct the weather forecast for phase errors in periods, where the generation is zero or at  
243 full capacity.

244 A steady increase in wind speed from 15 m/s to above the high speed shutdown point at 25 m/s  
245 can also be improved by using wind speed measurements in the short-term algorithms. At the  
246 high-speed shutdown points ( $> 25 \text{ m/s}$ ), the wind speed forecast uncertainty is at least 2 m/s even  
247 in high predictability events. The timing of the shutdown is therefore uncertain, even a few minutes  
248 before it happens. Wind speed measurements from the wind farms reduce this uncertainty significantly.  
249 The timing of the high speed shutdown is important for grid security, because there are potentially  
250 many Megawatts instantly ramping down. In combination with forecasting on the minute-scale,  
251 such wind speed measurements can help to bridge the gap between the actual generation and both  
252 short-term and long-term forecast.

253 For wind speeds below the cut-in level there are similar considerations. Mostly, a cut-in wind  
254 speed occurs at a low aggregated wind power generation. Nevertheless, a large and strong low  
255 pressure centre may have near zero wind speeds from different directions. Both, the changes in  
256 wind direction and wind speed are better identified by wind speed measurements than wind power  
257 measurements. Thus, information about wind speeds below cut-in can be crucial for the forecast  
258 accuracy near a low pressure system centre at high aggregated wind power generation. During periods  
259 of moderate and high generation, wind speed measurements can be used to calculate current turbine  
260 availability or validate the delivered availability value. To conclude, measurements of low, medium  
261 and high wind speeds all add value to forecasting, while those measurement signals in the steep range  
262 of the power curve are least important.

263 From a technical perspective of the instrumentation, one of the most reported gaps for forecasting  
264 hours-ahead and minutes-ahead is the quality of the measurement signals. While wind farm developers  
265 have to use qualified instrumentation and standardized methodologies in order to obtain a bankable  
266 level of siting accuracy in the first phase of a wind project, the planning and commissioning phase, the  
267 use of meteorological measurements is mostly not or badly defined, documented nor standardized  
268 in the following operational phase. Although the measurements are important in many ways, e.g.  
269 situational awareness in extreme events, scheduling and dispatch of generation on power system  
270 level, the balancing of large forecast errors, maintenance of instrumentation, there are no standards  
271 for the quality of the signals in real-time environments today. For example, if a measurement stops  
272 working correctly and sends constant values, a persistence forecast will benefit in a verification, while  
273 the forecast is penalized for providing a more realistic view of the situation. Dependent on the amount  
274 of such periods with constant values, this can easily lead to an overestimation of the performance of a  
275 persistence forecast in comparison to minutes-ahead forecasts and thereby prevent use and application  
276 of minutes-ahead forecasts.

277 Due to such missing standards and industry guidelines, the main gaps for the use of and collection  
278 of meteorological measurements and thereby advances in minute-scale forecasting can be summarized  
279 as:

- 280 • lack of requirements in the grid codes  
281 • lack of strategy for handling of missing or constant signals from measurements in real-time  
282 • lack of quality of measurements in real-time

283 3.2. Using remote sensing data for forecasting

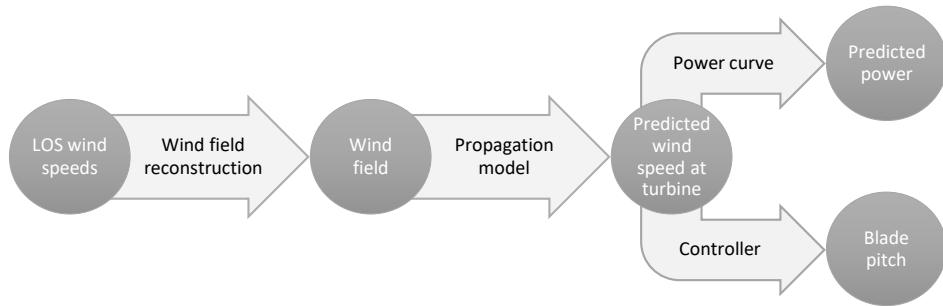
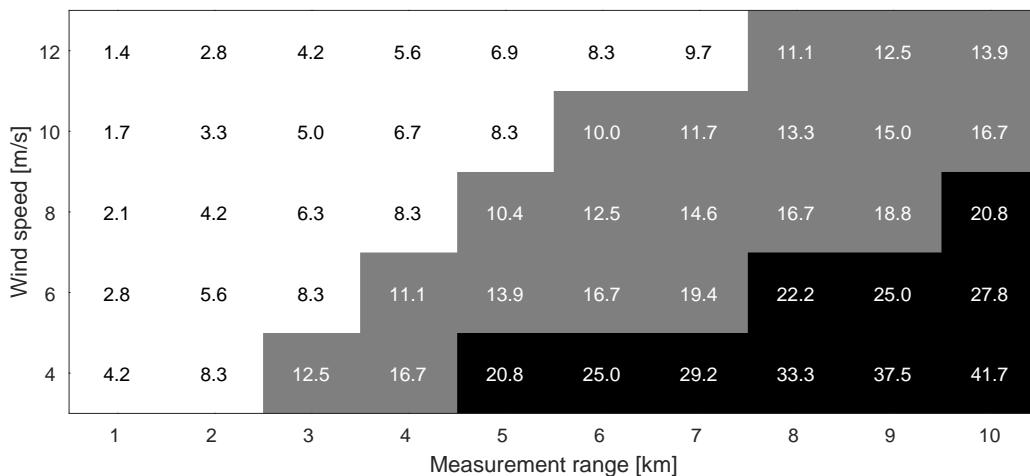
284 Remote sensing techniques are a new technology development in wind energy applications,  
285 which has its roots in the desire to find alternative measurements for expensive and at times difficult  
286 installation and erection of met masts. Especially with increasing hub heights, met mast heights  
287 have grown to a size, where the erection requires planning permission and cranes of significant size.  
288 Hence, it has become so expensive that previously never considered alternatives from the remote  
289 sensing area have become price competitive. An additional compelling justification is that the cost of  
290 lidar instruments have fallen significantly over the same time, driven in tandem by competition and  
291 the telecommunications boom, which has resulted in affordable optical fiber components becoming  
292 available.

293 The main driver of recent developments has been the competitiveness in price, the ease of  
294 installation and the increasing heights of wind turbines and size of the projects, where it is often no  
295 longer sufficient to measure at only one site. Nevertheless, the disadvantage of not directly measuring  
296 the target value is still present, as remote sensing devices only measure the wind speed in direction of  
297 the emitted beam. With increasing experience and technical advances in technology, the remote sensing  
298 devices have however become a real alternative. This has also been reflected in the IEC 61400-12-1  
299 2017 standard [30], where remote sensing devices have been incorporated as possible devices to carry  
300 out wind measurements for wind energy applications. A new application for remote sensing devices  
301 is forecasting. Especially scanning devices such as scanning lidars and radars offer the possibility  
302 to carry out minute-scale forecasts by delivering high resolution temporal and spacial previews of  
303 the upstream wind field of a wind turbine or wind farm. Therefore, the next two sub chapters give  
304 an overview of using those devices for forecasting purposes and finally lessons learned with remote  
305 sensing instruments in real-time forecasting projects are summarized.

306 3.2.1. Scanning lidar-based forecasts

307 Wind lidars can measure the line of sight (LOS) wind speed at distances from a few centimeters to  
308 several kilometers [31]. The first commercial wind lidar systems targeted at wind energy applications  
309 appeared in the early 2000's [32]. Because of their costs and ease of installation, lidars have become  
310 accepted as an alternative to the traditional mast-based wind sensors for site assessment and power  
311 performance testing, as evidenced by their inclusion in international standards [30]. Additionally,  
312 because they can measure upwind of operating turbines, wind lidars are used for feed-forward control  
313 of wind turbines [33]. For this application nacelle-based lidar systems are used to measure the wind  
314 speed several hundred meters upwind, thus forecasting the rotor effective wind speed seconds before  
315 it hits the rotor just in time to pitch the rotor blades and reduce loads. A new application for scanning  
316 lidars is wind power forecasting for power grid balancing. Commercial lidar manufacturers increased  
317 the range of their systems and pulsed compact scanning wind lidars may now measure up to 10 km  
318 away, enabling measurements across an entire site from one location [see e.g., 34,35]. The basic idea is  
319 to use the spacial and temporal high resolution wind field information measured several kilometers  
320 upwind of a wind turbine or wind farm to forecast the power output ahead in time.

321 The forecast process (Figure 4) is the same for both applications- control and power grid balancing.  
322 First the raw lidar data is filtered for outliers and the horizontal wind speed and direction is  
323 reconstructed from the measured LOS wind speeds. Depending on the number of synchronized  
324 lidar measurements, different assumptions need to be made in order to resolve both horizontal wind  
325 speed and direction. For instance, a velocity-azimuth display (VAD) retrieval technique is used to  
326 resolve both wind speed and direction when only one lidar measurement is available [36]. Then  
327 the wind speed in the distance is propagated towards the wind turbine by means of a propagation  
328 model. The simplest model is based on Taylor's hypothesis which claims that turbulent eddies are  
329 transported with the mean flow and do not change their properties. With this assumption the time can  
330 be calculated that the wind speed measured in a certain distance needs to reach the turbine or wind  
331 farm. Thus the farthest measured distance determines the forecast horizon. The forecasted wind speed

**Figure 4.** Forecast process using lidar data.**Figure 5.** Forecast-horizon based on Taylor for different wind speeds and measurement ranges; horizon given in minutes; white: <10 min, grey: 10-20 min, black: >20 min [37].

332 at the turbine or farm location is then used either to forecast the power output by means of a power  
 333 curve or as an input to the wind turbine controller.

334 As mentioned, the forecast horizon is determined by the measurement distance of the lidar and  
 335 the magnitude of the wind speed (Figure 5). For wind speeds above rated wind speed, the maximum  
 336 forecast horizon with a state-of-the-art long-range scanning lidar that ideally measures up to 10 km is  
 337 around 15 min. The maximum horizon increases to around 40 minutes for a wind speed of 4 m/s that  
 338 corresponds to cut-in wind speed.

339 The advantage of scanning lidars is that they offer the possibility to directly measure the wind  
 340 speed upstream of a turbine. All the long-range scanning lidars are pulsed devices, which means that  
 341 the wind speed information is gathered simultaneously at different measurement distances. Thus the  
 342 wind flow can be tracked over the span of the measurement and local changes in the wind speed are  
 343 captured. Modern lidars have compact dimensions of around one cubic meter which allows for flexible  
 344 measurement campaigns and the installation for instance on the nacelle of a wind turbine or other  
 345 alleviated points such as an offshore substation. Then the scanning of the area on e.g. a horizontal arc  
 346 leads to the desired horizontal wind speed information after reconstruction without having to take  
 347 into account shear effects.

348 Recent investigations have shown that lidar-based forecasting models were able to predict  
 349 near-coastal winds better than the benchmarks persistence and ARIMA for a forecasting horizon  
 350 of 5 min [38]. Another relevant study is Simon et al. (2018) [39] which explores space-time correlations  
 351 of upwind lidar observations measured on a flat horizontal plane, as well as implements a 1-60 minute

352 ahead forecast method utilizing the lidar inflow scans which significantly outperforms the persistence  
353 method.

354 However, there are some drawbacks when using lidar data for forecasting. One of the major  
355 barriers to overcome is the availability of the measurements. The lidar measurement principle is  
356 based on the interaction of laser pulses with particles suspended in the air. The wavelength of the  
357 backscattered light is shifted relative to the speed of the aerosols according to the Doppler principle [40].  
358 This means that the measurement depends on the existence of these aerosols and if the concentration in  
359 the air is too high or too low, the device records a noisy signal. It also means that the measurement range  
360 fluctuates due to environmental conditions such as fog or rain showers [37]. And as the measurement  
361 range determines the forecast horizon, realtime forecasts are not possible if the lidar is blind. As  
362 physics cannot be changed, and the measurement principle is what it is, as a consequence a fallback  
363 solution needs to be implemented in case the lidar does not provide measurements. Data from other  
364 sensors such as radar or drone measurements could be one solution. Using statistical models (see  
365 Section 3.3.1) or the coupling of the measurements with NWP models (cf. Section 3.3.2) could be  
366 another solution. Also more investigations have to be carried out to determine the optimum conditions  
367 for good range measurements of lidars.

368 Another drawback of lidars so far have been the high costs and the inaccuracies of signals in  
369 complex terrain. According to the white paper of the Deutsche Windguard [41] and [42], especially “in  
370 complex terrain sites, influence of the relatively large scanning volume of today’s LiDAR and SODAR  
371 must be carefully considered in terms of its influence on the measurement accuracy...”. This has been a  
372 general observation and an ongoing research topic [see e.g., 43–48].

373 Another obstacle when working with lidars is that currently there is no standard or Recommended  
374 Practices for the use of scanning lidar for wind speed forecasting. More research is needed to find out  
375 what the ideal measurement setup looks like, in particular how many lidars are needed and where  
376 to place those devices within a wind farm. Also the optimal measurement strategy is not clear. To  
377 that end different use cases have to be investigated to find out what the best campaign setup and  
378 measurement strategy is. Such use cases should include on- and offshore wind farms of different  
379 scales. Recommended practices then need to be consolidated so that the widespread use of lidar for  
380 forecasting becomes possible on a commercial level.

### 381 3.2.2. Radar-based forecasts

382 Radars are remote sensing systems which can determine the position, angle or motion of objects  
383 and are being used in multiple applications including traffic control, ocean surveillance, weather  
384 monitoring, flight control systems and antimissile systems. Similar to wind lidars, Doppler radars  
385 can be used for wind power forecasting as they are able to determine the velocity of the objects. The  
386 working principle is the same as for lidars, but rather than sending light waves, they emit radio waves.  
387 Thus, in an environment where meteorological particles with high humidity such as water droplets or  
388 ice crystals are present, radars are able to measure the wind speed by determining the motion of the  
389 hit particles.

390 The maximum range that radars can measure is given by the wavelength of the signal emitted, but  
391 in this paper we only focus on radars which work on wavelengths that are of interest for minute-scale  
392 forecasting of wind power. Thus, we limit our review to radars working between the C-Band and the  
393 Ka-band radars, or with a wavelength of 3.2 cm to 8.6 mm.

394 Doppler-radars working in the Ka-band (35 GHz) are optimal candidates for wind power  
395 forecasting (Figure 6). The short wavelength employed allows for high temporal and spatial resolution  
396 of the measured wind fields. As lidars, Doppler radars measure the LOS wind speed. Thus, measuring  
397 with one Doppler radar over a defined Plan Position Indicator (PPI) trajectory, the horizontal wind  
398 speed can be determined by applying a VAD retrieval technique. To derive the two horizontal wind  
399 speed components, two synchronized Doppler radars are needed [49]. The number of publications  
400 on the use of Doppler radars for wind energy applications has grown in the last years. Hirth et al.



**Figure 6.** A Doppler radar unit deployed on the shore of the Westermost Rough wind farm [51,54].

401 coupled wind farm operational data with wind fields measured by two synchronized Doppler radars  
 402 (dual-Doppler radar) to further investigate wind farm wake effects [50]. Dual-Doppler measurements  
 403 of the wake behind an offshore wind farm were also reported by Nygaard et al. [51]. The performance  
 404 of wind turbines was also validated with dual-Doppler measurements in [52].

405 First evidence of the promising application of Doppler radar systems for forecasting purposes was  
 406 documented by Hirth et al. [53]. An extreme wind ramp event observed by the Texas Tech University  
 407 Ka-band radars at a wind farm in Oklahoma was presented. The authors merged dual-Doppler wind  
 408 fields with operational data from 32 wind turbines to document the observed transient wind event  
 409 and its effect on the wind turbines' performance. They also coupled data from a meteorological tower  
 410 to analyze the weather conditions that originated the transient event.

411 Recently, it was shown that Doppler radar wind field observations can be employed to derive  
 412 minute-scale density forecasts of wind power. In [54] the authors proposed a methodology that uses  
 413 dual-Doppler radar observations of wind speed and direction in front of a wind turbine to forecast the  
 414 power generated in a probabilistic framework. In a case study, they predicted the power generated by  
 415 seven turbines in the North Sea with a temporal resolution of one minute and with a lead time of five  
 416 minutes. They showed that the radar-based forecasting model is able to outperform the persistence  
 417 and climatology benchmarks in terms of overall forecasting skill and generate reliable density forecasts  
 418 in the case of optimized trajectories.

419 One of the main advantages of Doppler radars is the extended range they can measure (over  
 420 30 km). Additionally, the optimal trade-off between the temporal (one minute) and spatial (50 m)  
 421 resolution of dual-Doppler radar measurements, compared to that of typical wind measurements from  
 422 met-masts or satellites, makes them promising candidates for minute-scale forecasting of wind power.  
 423 As with lidars, the same wind power forecasting process can be implemented to derive a wind power  
 424 forecast. Besides, the fact that they can perform volumetric measurements (wind field measurements  
 425 at multiple heights), allows to infer further information such as horizontal and vertical wind shear.

426 However, as with lidars, one of the main obstacles to the adoption of radar as a forecasting tool  
 427 is the availability of the measurements. The radar measurement principle is mainly based on the

428 backscatter signal of particles in the air containing high humidity such as water droplets or ice crystals.  
429 Therefore, the quality of the measurements relies on the concentration of these particles in the air [49].  
430 Besides, the relatively large dimensions of Doppler radars complicate their installation and reduces the  
431 range of possibilities for placing them, especially in offshore environments. The advantage of Doppler  
432 radar with respect to lidars is the maximum range that they can measure. However, compared to  
433 lidars, the wider beam width of radar results in larger beam spread at large ranges.

434 Although we have mainly focused on the use of Doppler radars for forecasting applications,  
435 weather radars have been also identified as promising candidates for very short-term power forecasting  
436 of offshore wind power. Modern weather radars working in the C and X-band measure the intensity  
437 of precipitation. They are, consequently, able to anticipate precipitation fields associated with severe  
438 wind speed and power fluctuations. The capabilities of anticipating strong wind power fluctuations  
439 in offshore wind farms using local weather radars was introduced in [55]. There, the authors were  
440 able to monitor the arrival of precipitation events in the vicinity of an offshore wind farm, which  
441 highly correlate with strong power fluctuations. The authors also identified shortcomings of the use of  
442 weather radars for wind power forecasting, which included: interception of radar waves (cluttering),  
443 beam attenuation due to intense precipitation, anomalous propagation of the radar waves during  
444 specific atmospheric conditions, underestimation of precipitation reflectivity (beam filling) during  
445 convective events, and overshooting at long ranges due to the curvature of the Earth.

#### 446 3.2.3. Lessons learned with remote sensing instruments in real-time forecasting projects

447 Several research projects have been conducted with the goal of integrating remote sensing  
448 measurement into real-time forecasting projects. For this purpose not only scanning devices were  
449 deployed, but also profiling, ground-based devices. In the largest and longest measurement campaigns  
450 targeted towards real-time forecasting of wind energy in recent years were two projects funded by the  
451 United States Department of Energy, the wind forecasting improvement project (WFIP I and II) [56]  
452 there were used 12 wind profiling radars, 13 sodars and three lidars amongst other meteorological  
453 sensors. The lidars as well as sodars are basic equipment used in meteorological data assimilation  
454 today and have been quality checked following meteorological standards through the Meteorological  
455 Assimilation Data Ingest System (MADIS) [57]. This was a necessary step in order to improve the  
456 simulation into the real-time model forecast systems [58]. In the second project, "Distributed Resource  
457 Energy Analysis and Management System (DREAMS) Development for Real-time Grid", a number  
458 of sodars, lidars were used to enhance the Hawaiian system operator's EMS (Energy Management  
459 System) tools for situational awareness in critical events [59]. Here, the instruments were for the first  
460 time part of the operational management system at a system operator in real-time.

461 From the above described studies and experimental measuring campaigns as well as real-time  
462 testing it can be concluded that the remote sensing instruments need to be serviced well and maintained  
463 similarly to any other real-time instrument operating under changing conditions throughout the yearly  
464 cycles. If this is not done, echoes, interfering noise sources, laser beam disturbances deteriorate  
465 the instruments and make the further processing of the data impossible and the quality of the data  
466 deteriorates significantly over time. It is also commonly understood that it requires skilled personnel  
467 to install and maintain such instrumentation, if it should run continuously and reliably.

468 The following lists their findings and recommended technical requirements to ensure high quality  
469 data in long-term real-time operation:

- 470 • Lightning protection and recovery strategy after lightning should be ensured.
- 471 • Instruments must be serviced and maintained by skilled staff.
- 472 • Version control must be maintained for signal processing.
- 473 • Measurements must be raw or technical requirements must include maintenance and software  
474 updates.
- 475 • Profiling measurements should be taken at a height appropriate for the wind farm, either at one  
476 height or preferable at both hub height and around 30 m.

- 477     • Wind characteristics data must be measured on wind turbine level.  
478     • Remote sensing devices in complex terrain require special consideration.

479     From these findings and studied projects and measurement campaigns, it can be concluded that in  
480 active weather conditions, i.e. at the flat range of the power curve as well as under strong precipitation  
481 events, it must be expected that met mast anemometers are more reliable than sodar or lidar devices.  
482 From a forecasting and operational monitoring perspective, it has been found that the conditions  
483 outside of the instrument's range are some of the most critical conditions for grid operation, such as  
484 storms with precipitation or high winds. Sodars are more prone to data delivery failures than lidar,  
485 but to this date it is still also an issue for lidar devices that measurement information is not accessible  
486 in critical conditions, where it is most needed.

487     *3.3. Adaptation of models with different types of measurements*

488     When there is sparse, inaccurate, irregularly distributed data in space and time which is generally  
489 the case in atmospheric science, models can be used to infer the evolving state of the system. However,  
490 to infer the evolving state of the system being modeled, data needs to be employed or assimilated by a  
491 model. This model can employ physical single point or multiple point time series data that calibrates  
492 itself based on measurements or spatially distributed time dependent or independent physical model  
493 that assimilates which will be discussed in the next sections.

494     *3.3.1. Statistical time series models*

495     Statistical approaches to forecasting problems mainly rely on deducing patterns from past  
496 observational data and extrapolating these relationships to predict future values over a desired  
497 time step. With wind energy applications in mind, in this section we consider the task of forecasting  
498 a one dimensional time series signal such as a wind speed measurement, or a SCADA source such  
499 as wind turbine or wind farm active power signal. The chosen forecast horizon should relate to  
500 the time resolution of available input data, and at minimum be one sample (time step) ahead to  
501 avoid errors introduced by interpolation. Statistical forecasting methods used on the minute scale are  
502 largely identical to techniques employed for longer horizons. The main differences being the temporal  
503 resolution of the data and the variability of the physical process being predicted (see Section 2).

504     Data acquisition systems are ordinarily capable of sampling and saving data at high frequency,  
505 although historically this data has not always been used nor recorded. For the purposes of minute-scale  
506 forecasting, 10-minute or hourly averaged data sets are not sufficient for capturing signal characteristics  
507 needed to construct and validate a well performing statistical model. For this reason we recommend  
508 that all data generators ensure that they have access to and are logging their high frequency data. The  
509 lower bound of the recorded sampling rate should be at minimum twice the highest frequency in  
510 the analog signal you wish to capture, in order to avoid aliasing in the discrete signal transformation  
511 (Nyquist sampling theorem). In practice, 1 Hz (1 sample per second) is proposed as a compromise  
512 between functionality and transmission/storage considerations.

513     Time series data contrasts to cross-sectional data in that it is naturally ordered in time. Samples  
514 which are closer together will normally express a higher correlation than those further apart. This  
515 temporal link should be explored through inspection of the autocorrelation and partial autocorrelation  
516 function of the time series before beginning any attempts to build a model.

517     There are often a number of characteristic sub-components embedded in the time series which can  
518 be obtained through decomposition techniques in order to normalize samples across time. Examples  
519 include differencing an integrated series, removing an overall trend (usually by either mean subtraction  
520 or model fitting to obtain the residuals), accounting for cyclic fluctuations, and adjusting for seasonal  
521 variations.

522     A common assumption made by statistical forecasting methods is that of stationarity. Stationary  
523 processes comprise of data where the mean, variance, and autocorrelation structure do not change over

time. By implementing the techniques described above, it is possible to transform a non-stationary time series into a stationary one which can be used with traditional forecasting methods.

Benchmarking in any forecasting exercise is crucial. Commonly for forecasting at these short timescales the persistence and climatology models are employed; these simple methods assume that the forecast for the target variable is the most recent available measurement or summary statistics of historical measurements, respectively. Statistical methods for wind speed and power forecasting are typically based on time-series models such as autoregressive [60] (AR) and autoregressive moving average (ARMA) [61,62] models as well as other soft computing techniques such as neural networks [63].

Purely AR models are formulated as a weighted combination of past observations (lags) where the coefficients are normally estimated via ordinary least squares regression. The order of the AR model, or maximum lag, is crucial and can be chosen most simply by inspection of the auto-correlation and partial auto-correlation functions of the signal. Cross-validation or an information criterion provide an alternative method for defining the model order. Domain knowledge of the local meteorological conditions can also be used to extend these simple models. For example, in certain regions the wind/power time series may exhibit strong diurnal trends which would necessitate the inclusion of time-of-day into the model.

Beyond time series models, machine learning techniques also are widely employed. These techniques can be more flexible than classic time series models in terms of easily allowing for more explanatory variables and are typically more naturally able to capture non-linear relationships. It should be noted that this comes at the expense of additional model tuning to optimize algorithm specific hyper-parameters and possible overfitting of the data unless careful cross-validation procedures are followed. Examples include artificial neural networks [63], hybrid multi-models with blending [64] together with feature selection [65], and penalized regression [66].

Artificial neural networks, particularly recurrent neural networks (RNN), have been widely applied for sequence prediction including time-series data. Long short-term memory (LSTM) networks are explicitly designed to capture data patterns of arbitrary lags, and assimilate long-term temporal dependencies [67]. This has led to numerous applications in energy forecasting which outperform traditional time-series modelling approaches. Wu et al. [68] demonstrates such a probabilistic 4-hour ahead wind power forecast model employing a LSTM network architecture.

Statistical forecasting models can also be made dependent on the current behaviour of the target time-series or on exogenous variable(s). These are termed regime-switching models and can be based on unobserved regimes [69,70] or by observed regimes like atmospheric conditions [71,72]. It follows that these regimes can be derived from lidar/radar measurements [73]. The benefit of regime switching is that the statistical models can react faster to changing conditions, as opposed to having a fixed coefficient models or by tracking slower changes in behaviour via for instance an online update of the coefficient estimates.

Concurrent information from spatially distributed wind farm or met mast measurements also provide a route for improvements in forecast skill [74,74]. Multivariate forecasts which encode information on the spatio-temporal dependency of neighbouring sites can be tackled via a vector autoregressive models (VAR) at these time horizons. With an increasing number of sites, making sparse estimates of the coefficient matrices becomes more important, as does estimating them via efficient numerical procedures [75–77].

These discussed statistical methods have been widely proven to increase forecast skill over persistence at time-horizons generally at a minimum of 10 minutes ahead. Further research is required to evaluate the suitability of statistical methods below this time horizon and at what time range forward facing lidar/radar based systems or hybrid statistical and radar/lidar systems are a more suitable choice.

### 572 3.3.2. Statistical data assimilation based on physical models

573 Data assimilation performs an essential role in the forecasts of wind power systems. While the  
574 concept is very inclusive, meaning inherently assimilation of any data with any model, in this section,  
575 the term is used in more exclusive sense without addressing statistical time series models, which is a  
576 special case of data assimilation where usually non-physical models are taken into consideration. This  
577 was discussed in the previous section. The concept is inherent from the fact that neither the model nor  
578 the observations are perfect. As a result to have an accurate state of the system, the numerical model  
579 without guidance of how accurate the current state is, is not sufficient and guidance from observations  
580 is required. This is even more so for weather forecast systems, where the system itself is very sensitive  
581 to initial conditions and boundary conditions. Data assimilation was employed first in engineering  
582 however it is more than an engineering tool today.

583 In summary, data assimilation is the technique to adopt multiple measurements and observations  
584 of different types into a 3-dimensional model space. In meteorology it is used to generate an initial  
585 state of the atmosphere from observations that is required as input field, together with boundary  
586 conditions to any numerical weather prediction (NWP) model.

587 In renewable energy production, data assimilation and state estimation also has an important  
588 role, in a classical way, but also with possibility of assimilation on control zone level or even park level.  
589 System operators and Wind farm operators require advanced knowledge of ramp-up and ramp-down  
590 events [78–80]. In a ramp/extreme event forecast you want to analyze and use outliers in order to get  
591 the risk of a critical ramp/event to occur, while some data assimilation algorithms can dismiss outliers.  
592 The increased frequency of assimilation can address this challenge. The frequency of assimilation  
593 is important for ramp prediction, while the challenge comes from the model size and assimilation  
594 method chosen for the task, however simplified models with higher frequency can be adapted for the  
595 applications discussed here.

596 The work on data assimilation and state estimation spans many disciplines and several  
597 decades, where various approaches of data assimilation to adapt numerical weather model states to  
598 measurements [81,82] have been developed. The initial development of data assimilation has started  
599 as an objective analysis [e.g., 83,84], which was also referred as successive correction methods.

600 This work was followed by optimum interpolation (OI) [e.g. 81,85]. In the sequential data  
601 assimilation techniques (OI), the model solution is recursively updated during a forward integration  
602 with weights on observations and model output according to their corresponding uncertainties. These  
603 uncertainties are static and based on predefined model output statistics and hence lack the dynamical  
604 and non-linear behaviour of the weather and model system. OI methods have lead to development  
605 of variational methods in data assimilation, where constraints were introduced in variational data  
606 assimilation methods. These methods are namely 1DVAR, 2DVAR, 3DVAR [e.g. 86,87] and 4DVAR  
607 [88,89, e.g., ] where D stands for Dimension. Variational approaches can be also formulated in the  
608 context of a Bayesian problem.

609 In parallel the Kalman filter was introduced which is an observer feedback control system. The  
610 main difference between 4DVar and Kalman filters are the way that they address the mode and mean  
611 when the distributions are non-normal. There are several existing methods used in state estimation and  
612 data assimilation and most of them are based on the Kalman filtering theory introduced by Kalman  
613 and Bucy [90]. The pure form of the Kalman filter has been widely employed for the state estimation  
614 of the linear Gaussian systems [91], however it is linear and is not preferred for non-Gaussian and  
615 nonlinear systems [91,92]. For transition of Kalman filtering to the nonlinear and non-Gaussian  
616 systems, techniques such as extended Kalman filter (EKF), ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF), unscented  
617 Kalman filter (UKF) and particle filter (PF) algorithms are developed [91,92] and are employed to  
618 wide range of problems from low to high dimensional systems. The EKF method is implemented by  
619 linearisation of the non-linearities via using a Jacobian matrix. The EnKF uses Monte Carlo methods  
620 that helps to estimate the error covariances of the background error, gets an approximation to the  
621 Kalman-Bucy filter and produces an ensemble of initial conditions that can be utilized in an ensemble

forecasting system. The EnKF embeds the non-linearities into the original linear KF solution and it uses an extra covariance inflation to consider the nonlinearities [93,94]. Later, adjustment solutions [e.g., 95] and also sequential solutions of the filter have been developed [e.g., 96].

Some of the limitation of the Kalman filter technique in meteorological context is however not a limitation in wind power context, because there the area of observational distribution is rather small, even if the area spans over an entire country. Most of the data used in meteorology are sparse in time, but widespread over the entire globe. Nevertheless, if the traditional KF should be applied for a data assimilation task in a wind power context, where the true state of the atmosphere is the target, this would imply that the models would have to generate forecasts in a small area, which is undesired, or it would require unrealistically many computing resources and observational input of meteorological variables. As described by Anderson and Anderson [95] and Houtekamer and Mitchell [96], the standard KF propagates the error covariance from one assimilation step to the next, which is computationally expensive. In the EnKF, this procedure is approximated by using an ensemble of short-range forecasts, where the forecast error covariance is directly computed from the ensemble when they are needed for the data assimilation. Meng and Zhang [97] found that it was beneficial to use a multi-scheme ensemble approach rather than a single-scheme approach, because it does not require such a large ensemble size to cover the uncertainties. They built an ensemble based on a Penn-State University WRF model kernel and different parameterisation schemes. Möhrlein et al. [98] developed what they called an “inverted” Kalman Filter approach where they make use of the ensemble Kalman filter technique and translate this into a wind power context. This approach does not only solve the problem of distribution of observations in space, but also in time. By taking the weather situation into account, the well-known timing problem (phase errors) and temporal influence of measurements can be solved mathematically with the help of a forecast covariance matrix. The additional feature of making use of situations with anti-correlating weather conditions adds to the physical correctness of the approach, as it identifies, where the borders, or in meteorological context, fronts are in space and time.

This feature is an important factor, especially, if large wind farms are located in a relatively small area, where sharp fronts pass over the area and where there is risk for cut-off or situations of rapid decrease of power production over short times. Such situations are for example reported regularly at offshore wind farms in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Alberta, Canada and Oregon, USA at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Möhrlein et al. [98] set up an inverted Ensemble Kalman Filter approach (iEnKF) that is designed for short-term wind and solar energy forecasting, upscaling and data assimilation. They report that this type of iEnKF approach has been tested in a number of areas around the world and its capabilities demonstrated with large amount of measurements, typical for a TSO area with larger amounts of wind and solar power on the grid. The algorithm allows for any kind of measurements that is in any kind of relation to the target parameter, e.g. wind power, solar power to be used and mixed into the matrices. Hence, it is the first physically consistent methodology, where meteorological ensemble forecasts provide the framework for the distribution of observational influence and where it is possible to back-scale aggregated total production measures of an area physically consistent for the statistical training of wind power forecasts (see Figure 7). In that sense the iEnKF provides an indirect feedback mechanism to the NWP input for the generation of power curves.

This is a milestone in variable energy generation forecasting and is of great value for the large-scale integration and requirements of reliable handling of these power sources for transmission system operators, and also for traders and wind farm operators in the electricity markets with fast growing wind capacity and liberalised market rules, especially because it can be applied on all time scales, from minutes to hours ahead, as it has an inherent dependency of the measurement influence on the forecasts built into it. The computationally expensive part of this point assimilation technique is done on the typical 6-hourly meteorological cycle, while the Kalman Filter can run on minute basis handling

671 thousands of measurements within a few seconds due to the simple linear algebra that the covariance  
672 matrix computations are based on.

673 The unscented Kalman filter (UKF) employs the calculation of an approximate mean and  
674 covariance as a linear combination of a number of propagated points (called as sigma points). The  
675 PF and its variants also use the Monte Carlo simulation with sampling method based approximation  
676 of the posterior density of the state vector rather than doing any explicit functions so it simulates  
677 non-linearity and non-Gaussianity. Even though PF is a competent tool for the estimation of the  
678 nonlinear and non-Gaussian systems [99], it can be computationally demanding because of size that  
679 increases accuracy however this can be addressed adaptively with careful selection of ensembles  
680 introduced by Uzunoğlu [100].

681 The computational complexity in the above summarized methods can be addressed in the  
682 subspace of ensembles that was one of the focuses of the Maximum Likelihood Ensemble Filter  
683 (MLEF) that employs ensembles in the pre-conditioner. This approach differs from the EnKF and PF  
684 by working on state space rather than sample space and it optimizes a nonlinear cost function through  
685 maximum likelihood practice which reduces the computational time and addresses the stochasticity  
686 and the discontinuity while it utilizes the sampling in low dimensional space and employs the Hessian  
687 information. This method has been applied to many disciplines such as power systems as well as  
688 to the wind energy industry [19,101]. In the workshop, the successful application of this method to  
689 second scales were presented.

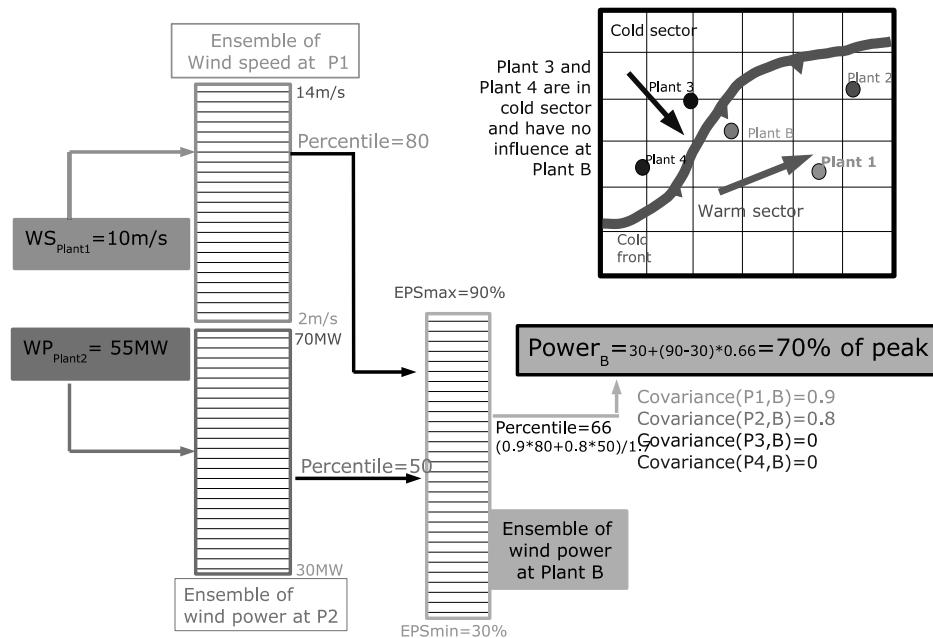
### 690 3.3.3. Use of different types of measurements to identify extreme events

691 Extreme events in a meteorological sense are events that deviate from the mean and exceed  
692 beyond specific threshold values. In the power system, extreme events can occur under meteorological  
693 average conditions as well and not be considered extreme, when meteorological threshold values, such  
694 as wind speed, are exceeded. The differences are mainly due to the constraints in the power lines and  
695 the supply and demand relationship. Only in areas where wind turbines shut down due to high wind  
696 speeds - so called high-speed shutdowns can such wind speeds challenge both life and the ability to  
697 safely control the grid.

698 The way to deal with extreme events in both meteorology and the power industry is by applying  
699 uncertainty forecasts that provide an objective measure of the possible extreme. Deterministic forecasts  
700 cannot serve such situations, as they are tuned for best average conditions, i.e. in the setup, statistical  
701 training and model output statistics, outliers and extremes are filtered out. While statistical approaches  
702 can be used in many life science applications, in power system applications, it is crucial to employ  
703 an approach that provides a valid uncertainty of the forecast inclusive extremes in every hour of  
704 the forecast. Such extreme forecasts must be established based on probabilities computed from a  
705 probabilistic prediction system that can take the spatial and temporal scales into consideration in order  
706 to capture the temporal evolution and spatial scale of e.g. low pressure systems that contain wind  
707 speeds leading to large scale shut-down of wind farms.

708 This can for example be provided by such a physical approach based on a NWP ensemble that  
709 ideally contains all extreme values inherent in the approach without the requirement of statistical  
710 training such as the multi-scheme method. Alternative solutions may exist from statistical approaches  
711 by employing an extreme event analysis to a statistical ensemble [see e.g., 102]. However, statistical  
712 approaches are always limited to past climatology and require large amounts of data. The requirement  
713 for such forecasts is that they must be able to provide probabilities of extreme events, where each  
714 forecast or "forecast member" provides a valid and consistent scenario of the event. The probabilities  
715 need to be suitable solutions for a decision process. They can be computed for very critical and less  
716 critical events, depending on the end-users' requirements.

717 If the target is to achieve a feedback mechanism for all kinds of data that are in any kind of  
718 relation to wind or solar power data, which by default is not reversible, the solution requires a unified  
719 methodology to measure the value of an observation and its impact on the total system. This is a



**Figure 7.** Functionality of the inverted Ensemble Kalman Filter when using different kind of measurements.

well known problem in meteorology, which has been extensively researched, because more and more sophisticated observational instrumentation is developed and deployed that require transformations of observations into the numerical weather prediction systems [97,103–106].

Modern Doppler radar measurements for example require retrieval transformation algorithms, where wind fields are computed with continuity equations and the thermodynamic properties through physical constraints, once the wind field is known. Snyder and Zhang [105] and Zhang et al. [106] discovered that the ensemble Kalman filter is a practical approach for the generation of state estimates with convective-scale data assimilation from such Doppler radar measurements. Applying an EnKF approach [27] with input from a multi-scheme ensemble is able to use an inherent intelligence, if the input ensemble data contains a combination of historical calibration, actual and historic weather and a transformation method for the use of different types of measurements. Generating percentiles from such an ensemble method enables the construction of a uniform covariance matrix and in fact ensures that measurements are handled consistently without the need of any physical considerations of their compatibility or irreversibility inside the iEnKF itself. The example in Figure 7 shows the functionality of an inverted Kalman Filter approach for the assimilation of point measurements in (wind and solar) power space with a multi-scheme ensemble approach. This MSEPS (multi-scheme ensemble prediction system) has 75 ensemble members with various different parameterisation schemes for the advection and the fast physical processes such as condensation and vertical diffusion. The principles of this MSEPS are described in detail in [98]. The spread in the MSEPS is physically based, because all members in the ensemble are essentially equally valid descriptions of the physical properties in the atmosphere and full-scale NWP models. The iEnKF method in combination with ensemble forecasts follows in principle these developments in data assimilation methodologies and hence provides a compatible and extendible solution with the combination of meteorological and wind and solar power observations and also presents major improvements and reliability enhancement in the short-term forecasting and data assimilation of wind and solar power.

#### 745 4. Challenges for the Implementation of Minute-Scale Forecasting in Large Energy Systems

746 There are several use cases for predictions shorter than 1 to 2 hours. In Australia, the system runs  
747 on a 5-min schedule [107] and requires renewable energy and load forecasts on those time scales. In  
748 Germany, renewable energy plants can be pre-qualified to participate in the reserve market, and need  
749 to predict their possible power with less than 5% accuracy in the pilot phase and less than 3.3% in  
750 the implementation phase. This is calculated in one-minute intervals. In Denmark, with hourly wind  
751 penetrations of over 140%, the grid is run proactively in hourly steps, predicting the imbalance and  
752 reacting accordingly on the basis of spatio-temporal forecasts [108]. So the use cases for minute scale  
753 forecasts are there, and the best forecasts require upstream information in real time.

754 In a large energy system with moderate penetration from wind sources, a system operator can  
755 choose to outsource balancing of wind. This is the approach chosen widely in central Europe. A major  
756 reason behind the liberalized strategy in Europe is a wish to make the market more competitive and  
757 indeed it happened faster than anybody expected in both Denmark (2009) and Germany (2012) [109]  
758 with the result of lower spot market prices in the NordPool market and the German-Austrian part of  
759 EPEX.

760 The difference between a TSO and a power trader's prioritized optimization lies in the target  
761 horizon. The trader is looking up to several weeks ahead, while the TSO's optimisation horizon is  
762 over one year. In particular once the commercial path is taken, then the TSO lacks information about  
763 the generation and must rely on the information from the trading companies. In Germany, the TSOs  
764 have today little control of the renewable energy generation and relies on out-sourced solutions for  
765 critical system information to a degree, which has not been considered acceptable for many years from  
766 a system security perspective.

767 Although Germany has the highest capacity of wind and solar generation in Europe, it is apparent  
768 that the system lacks information for optimization. This is seen in frequent down regulation of wind  
769 farms in day-time and recovery during the middle of the night, often many hours after the wind  
770 has dropped again. This process has become highly inefficient in recent years, because there are no  
771 requirements for wind farms to provide real-time data to the system operator.

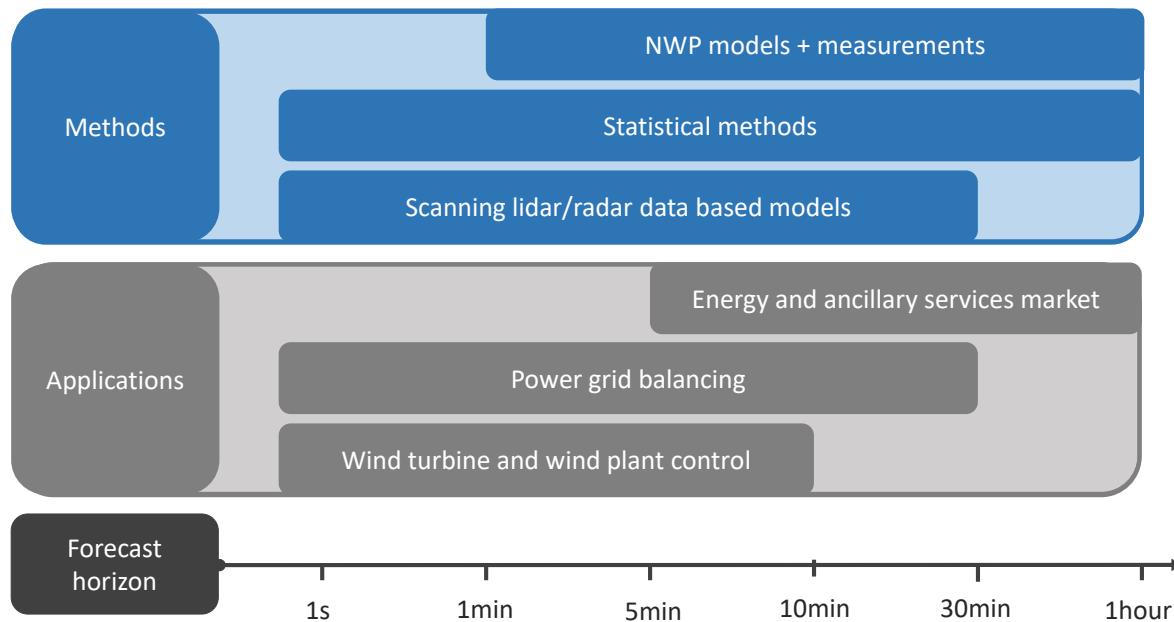
772 German experience shows that wind energy loses efficiency and value unless there are obligations  
773 for wind farms to provide data required by various forecasting and system operation processes.

774 Based on this experience, it is crucial to define standards regarding setup and maintenance of  
775 instrumentation, collection and provision of data, as well as required quality of data. Beside the  
776 standards, in transparent markets the grid codes should also contain a clear definition about the rights  
777 on the use and the obligation to provide the data. Without such regulations, the required quality is  
778 hard to achieve in order to improve forecasts. Corrupt and wrongly calibrated instrumentation can do  
779 more damage to a forecast than not having data. This is one of the greatest challenges at present and  
780 the reason for slow progress on minute-scale forecasting. Especially in large systems such as Germany  
781 with many thousands of individual wind turbines and small wind farms, this is a difficult challenge to  
782 overcome. Nevertheless, the need to make appropriate changes to the grid codes is the same for all  
783 markets.

#### 784 5. Conclusions

785 Minute-scale forecasting of wind power is a discipline that is becoming crucial to accomplish in  
786 globally transitioning power systems with increasing amounts of variable generating power sources  
787 from Renewables. The participants of the collaborative IEA Wind Task 32 and 36 workshop established  
788 a framework for forecasting at the minute scale and discussed new techniques that will push the limits  
789 of state-of-the-art forecasting methods to a new level.

790 Three applications were identified that can benefit from minute-scale forecasting and their  
791 respective forecasting horizons. Wind turbine and wind farm controllers need wind speed forecasts  
792 to optimize the turbine and farm operation. The task of balancing the power grid and optimizing  
793 energy markets relies heavily on precise wind power forecasts as well. To carry out forecasts that range



**Figure 8.** Overview of forecast horizons of different wind energy applications and forecast methods in the second and minute scale.

from 1 second to 60 minutes, forecasters have the choice between different methods (Figure 8). In our discussions at the workshop and this review we differentiate between using preview data from remote sensing devices, statistical approaches that deduce patterns from observational data to predict future values and finally methods that are based on data assimilation into physical models. These assimilated data can originate both from remote sensing devices or other existing observational data sources from meteorological masts or wind turbine data.

By investigating more deeply the respective methods it became clear that they all have advantages, but also barriers that need to be overcome in order to achieve reliable forecasts on a commercial level. The following list provides an overview of focus areas for the near future to advance further with minute-scale forecasting:

- **Research Requirements.** At this point, many methods are still under development. There are a lot of open questions to solve and the optimal forecasting techniques for the different applications has not been found yet. It is also not sufficiently demonstrated that all methods add value. So more research needs to be carried out and both measurement experts and meteorological modelers need to collaborate closely to find solutions.
- **Data Requirements.** All forecasting methods rely on data. This might sound obvious, but what is needed is high resolution, high quality data delivered in real-time to forecast systems. Wind turbine or wind farm operators often only log 10-minute averages of their operational data. However, to train and validate models, high frequency data is necessary.
- **Requirement for standards.** End users have more confidence in data when the collection and use of the data is supported by recommended practices and standards. Community-driven recommended practices are available for some applications of wind lidar but not in the context of forecasting.
- **Expert Training.** As with any emerging technology, there are a limited number of experts that know how to carry out a remote sensing measurement campaign, feed data into neural networks or know how to assimilate data into a NWP model. This forms a barrier to the widespread commercialization of minutes-scale forecasting. IEA Wind Tasks form an ideal platform for the

821 international exchange and dissemination of knowledge order to establish more widespread  
822 training in this topic.

823 **Supplementary Materials:** IEA Wind Task 32 is operated by the Chair of Wind Energy at the Institute of Aircraft  
824 design at the faculty of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Stuttgart. More details about IEA Wind  
825 Task 32, including minutes from the workshops and other documents, can be found at [www.ieawindtask32.org](http://www.ieawindtask32.org). IEA Wind Task 36 Forecasting is operated by Gregor Giebel of DTU Wind Energy at Risø, Denmark.  
826 See [www.ieawindforecasting.dk](http://www.ieawindforecasting.dk) for more information. General information about IEA Wind can be found at  
827 [www.ieawind.org](http://www.ieawind.org). IEA Wind TCP functions within a framework created by the International Energy Agency.  
828 Views, findings, and publications of the IEA Wind TCP do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the  
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835 and 3.2 and led Section 2.3 and 3.2.2. Elliot Simon was a co-organizer of the workshop, led Section 3.3.1, and  
836 contributed text in Sections: 2, 3.2.1, and 3.2. David Schlipf led Section 2.1. Bahri Uzunoğlu led Section 2.2 and  
837 wrote Section 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 together with Corinna Mörlen who also led Section 3.1 and 3.2.3 and contributed to  
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