KOLEKTOR

www.turboinstitut.com

Turbine R&D

We provide best-in-class solutions
- Development of new top-performance water turbines
- Refurbishment of all types of water turbines
- Independent model testing
- Site testing
- CFD Analysis
Decisions in Hydro Power

To build new HPPs?

Large investment costs should be counterbalanced by high-efficiency design to shorten the payback period and to increase profit.

Kolektor Turboinštitut offers the following options for R&D and testing in our hydraulic laboratory:
• In-house R&D of a hydraulic shape and testing,
• Independent testing of customer’s hydraulic shapes,
• Independent testing of two or three producer’s hydraulic shapes – comparative test.

Simplified estimation of income for a HPP

E.g., for a HPP, operating for 4500 h/year at an average power of 300 MW, with electricity price 0.05 €/kWh, the income is equal to 1.01 billion € in 15 years
To refurbish old HPPs?

The decision to refurbish is always based on a cost-benefit analysis, and is site-specific.

Our team of experts can:
• Determine the existing situation of the power plant (site testing, reverse engineering, geometry analysis)
• Propose tailored solutions and/or perform independent model testing of proposed solutions:
  - In-house R&D of a hydraulic shape and testing
  - Independent testing of customer’s hydraulic shapes
  - Independent testing of two or three producers’ hydraulic shapes – comparative test
• Perform site testing

Simplified estimation of additional income for a refurbished HPP (because of e.g. efficiency improvement, improved turbine characteristics, etc.)

Conclusion: 3% increase in turbine efficiency over a period of 15 years, will result in over 30M EUR increase in revenue!

(at an average HPP power of 300 MW)
R&D with Computational Fluid Dynamics

R&D with CFD in Kolektor Turboinštítut

• Based on more than 65 years of experience, Kolektor Turboinštítut offers the high-efficiency design of water turbines for our customers
• More than 30 years of experience in computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
• Numerical analysis has become an indispensable tool in Kolektor Turboinštítut’s design process
• CFD enables a shorter design cycle, less experimental work and, finally, machines with better characteristics
• Our research findings are instantly applied to our design process

CFD Analysis of an Existing Turbine

Numerical analysis gives insight into the flow in all turbine parts. On the basis of numerical results it is easier to find the reasons for low efficiency and/or cavitation, and to make improvements to the hydraulic shapes.

Flow separation along stay vanes
Leading edge cavitation and cavitating vortex rope in a Francis turbine
Cavitation in a prototype of a bulb turbine
CFD in a Design Process and Detailed Analysis of the Final Geometry

- CFD enables the analysis of a large number of hydraulic shapes
- Only one or two models of the best designs are manufactured and examined on the test rig

Several shapes of runner blades analyzed numerically during the design process

Detailed analysis of the final design

Recent Progress in CFD

In the last ten years there has been much progress in CFD predictions, which is confirmed by our numerous research papers and our EU project ACCUSIM (Accurate Simulations in Hydro-Machinery and Marine Propellers)

- Accuracy of predicted efficiency and cavitation has improved considerably due to transient simulations with advanced turbulence models
- Transient phenomena, such as rotating vortex rope in the draft tube of Francis turbines, can be accurately simulated
- Even for Pelton turbines, where multiphase flow has to be modelled, efficiency and cavitation can be predicted

Cavitating vortex rope in a Francis turbine

Efficiency prediction for a 6-jet Pelton turbine
Independent Model Testing

Model testing at Kolektor Turboinštitut:
- In accordance with IEC 60193 standard
- Over 230 model acceptance tests performed
- Over 1000 development tests performed for various producers and users of hydraulic turbines

Four test rigs available for:
- Francis, pump or Kaplan turbines
- Kaplan turbines
- Pelton turbines (horizontal and vertical)
- Bulb turbines
- Test rigs are completely independent of each other
- All four test rigs can operate simultaneously

The following options can be observed:
- Energetic performances (efficiency)
- Cavitation characteristics
- Dynamic performances

Equipment:
- Modern control and acquisition system
- Calibrated measurement equipment
- Modern control rooms

Model materials and manufacturing:
- Spiral casing: CNC manufactured from aluminium blocks
- Draft tube: stainless steel, using welding technology
- Runner blades, guide vanes and stay vanes are usually made of bronze using CNC technology
- All wet surfaces are smooth finished
- Carbon steel components are protected with anticorrosive paint

Model dimensions:
- Defined by the runner outlet diameter - typically 350 mm, only in exceptional cases between 300 mm and 400 mm
- Model dimensions and test rig operating parameters allow Reynolds numbers as required by the IEC 60193
Main parameters of turbine test rigs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Francis</th>
<th>Kaplan</th>
<th>Bulb</th>
<th>Pelton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head $H_{\text{max}}$</td>
<td>60 m</td>
<td>32 m</td>
<td>32 m</td>
<td>110 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow rate $Q_{\text{max}}$</td>
<td>0.7 m$^3$s$^{-1}$</td>
<td>0.9 m$^3$s$^{-1}$</td>
<td>1.0 m$^3$s$^{-1}$</td>
<td>0.25 m$^3$s$^{-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torque $T_{\text{max}}$</td>
<td>1500 Nm</td>
<td>700 Nm</td>
<td>700 Nm</td>
<td>1000 Nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power $P_{\text{max}}$</td>
<td>150 kW</td>
<td>150 kW</td>
<td>90 kW</td>
<td>150 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rot. speed $n_{\text{max}}$</td>
<td>1500 rpm</td>
<td>1500 rpm</td>
<td>1500 rpm</td>
<td>2000 rpm</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Site Testing

Measurement of Energy and Dynamic Characteristics

- According to IEC 60041 and IEC 62006
- We have performed 72 on-site measurements on 50 power plants since 1996
- Flow measurement methods can be chosen depending on power plant configuration and customer requirements
Flow Measurement by Current Meters

- Measurement and calibration in accordance with standards IEC 60041, ISO 3455, ISO 3354 and ISO 7194
- We have performed 56 current-meter flow measurements on 37 power plants since 1996
- Current-meters are manufactured at Turboinštitut according to our own design and technology
- Signals from current-meters are connected to Turboinštitut’s proprietary hardware connected to a computer and processed with software developed at Turboinštitut.
- Velocity profiles are immediately visually checked before the on-site integration of the flow is performed

Based on our experience we conclude that the repeatability of our flow measurement is in the range of ±0.2 % and always has an uncertainty less than IEC recommended levels.
Reference Cases

**Bulb turbine**
**Development with model acceptance test**

HPP in Serbia on the river Danube, with a bulb turbine having one of the biggest diameters in the World, was refurbished after about 30 years of operation. New runner was developed using the advanced CFD technique and model testing in 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow</td>
<td>m³/s</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>rpm</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of units</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Kaplan Turbine**
**Site pre-testing, turbine R&D with model & site testing**

The biggest HPP in Slovenia was refurbished after about 40 years of operation. Site testing before refurbishment was finished in 1998. New runner and new guide vanes were developed using CFD technique and model testing in 2005. Site testing after refurbishment was performed in 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow</td>
<td>m³/s</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>rpm</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of units</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pump turbine**
**Development with model testing**

A new runner/impeller with 9 blades was designed to replace the old one with 7 blades. Stay and guide vanes were also modified. An advanced CFD technique of nonstationary flow field calculation through complete pump-turbine in pump and turbine modes was performed. A complete series of model tests were performed in four quadrant operation modes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow</td>
<td>m³/s</td>
<td>151.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>121.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>rpm</td>
<td>136.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of units</td>
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</table>
The power plant operates at very high head – 1000 m, with 3 turbines, each with two runners on the shaft. The owner required turbine refurbishment with a 10% increase of the discharge and with unchanged servomotor stroke. The requirements were met by increasing the nozzle diameter, changing the needle shape, increasing the bucket width and using the protection plates.

Running more than 4000 h/year at full load the turbines operated at unfavourable conditions. New runner and guide vanes were developed using CFD technique and model testing. Significant improvement in efficiency and maximum flow has been achieved.

**6-jet Pelton turbine**

**Development with model acceptance test**

This development was performed for a new HPP with two Pelton turbines. High turbine efficiency was achieved.

**2-jet Pelton turbine**

**Development with model acceptance test**

The power plant operates at very high head – 1000 m, with 3 turbines, each with two runners on the shaft. The owner required turbine refurbishment with a 10% increase of the discharge and with unchanged servomotor stroke. The requirements were met by increasing the nozzle diameter, changing the needle shape, increasing the bucket width and using the protection plates.

**Francis turbine,**

**feasibility study, model development with testing, site testing**

Running more than 4000 h/year at full load the turbines operated at unfavourable conditions. New runner and guide vanes were developed using CFD technique and model testing. Significant improvement in efficiency and maximum flow has been achieved.
We live our values and we foster them through our work