



EUROPEAN TRANSONIC WINDTUNNEL



## ETW – Bis an die Grenzen des Möglichen

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Hamburger Aerospace Lecture Series: ETW – Bis an die Grenzen des Möglichen

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EUROPEAN TRANSONIC WINDTUNNEL

## Chronology ETW and NASA-NTF (National Transonic Facility)

NATO-AGARD identified inadequacies of conventional wind tunnels based on C-141, C-5A experience, and recommended way forward

↓ NTF Go-ahead

HRRT  
TRT  
NASA

AEDC  
NASA

AGARD

LAWs  
AEROTEST

F  
G  
UK  
NL

PG 7-  
WG 1

Adopt  
Cryogenic  
Technology

Detail  
Design

Construction

Start-  
up

Initial  
Operation

NTF

USA

Site Select

Mechanical  
Completion

Europe

Preliminary  
Design

Extensions

Final  
Design

Construction

Com-  
mis-  
sioning

Initial  
Operation

ETW

1970

1975

1980

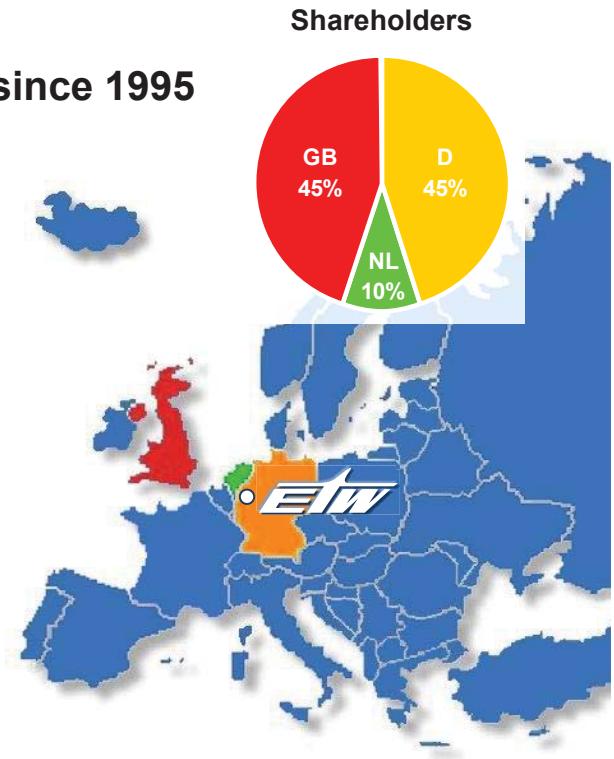
1985

1990

1995

## ETW at a Glance

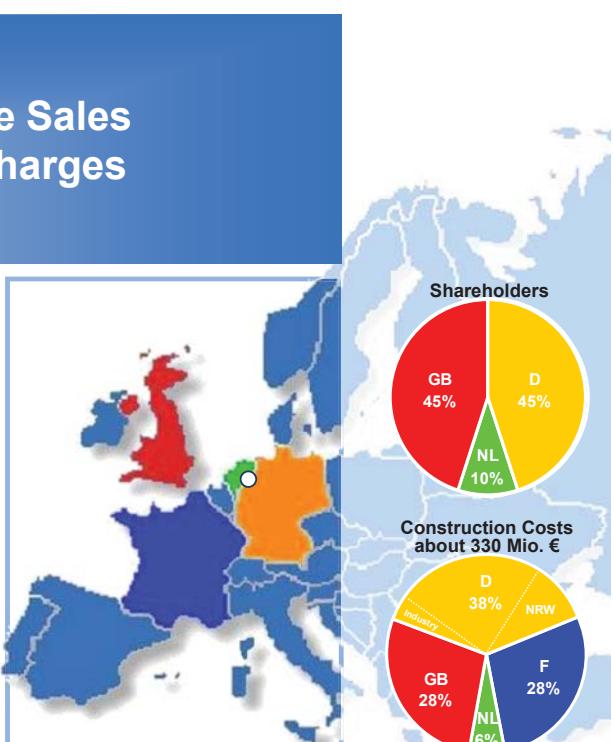
- > Conceptual design started 1977
- > Erected 1988-1993, serving the world since 1995
- > Limited-liability company / Non-Profit aiming for self-supporting operation
- > Total investment > M€ 360 to date



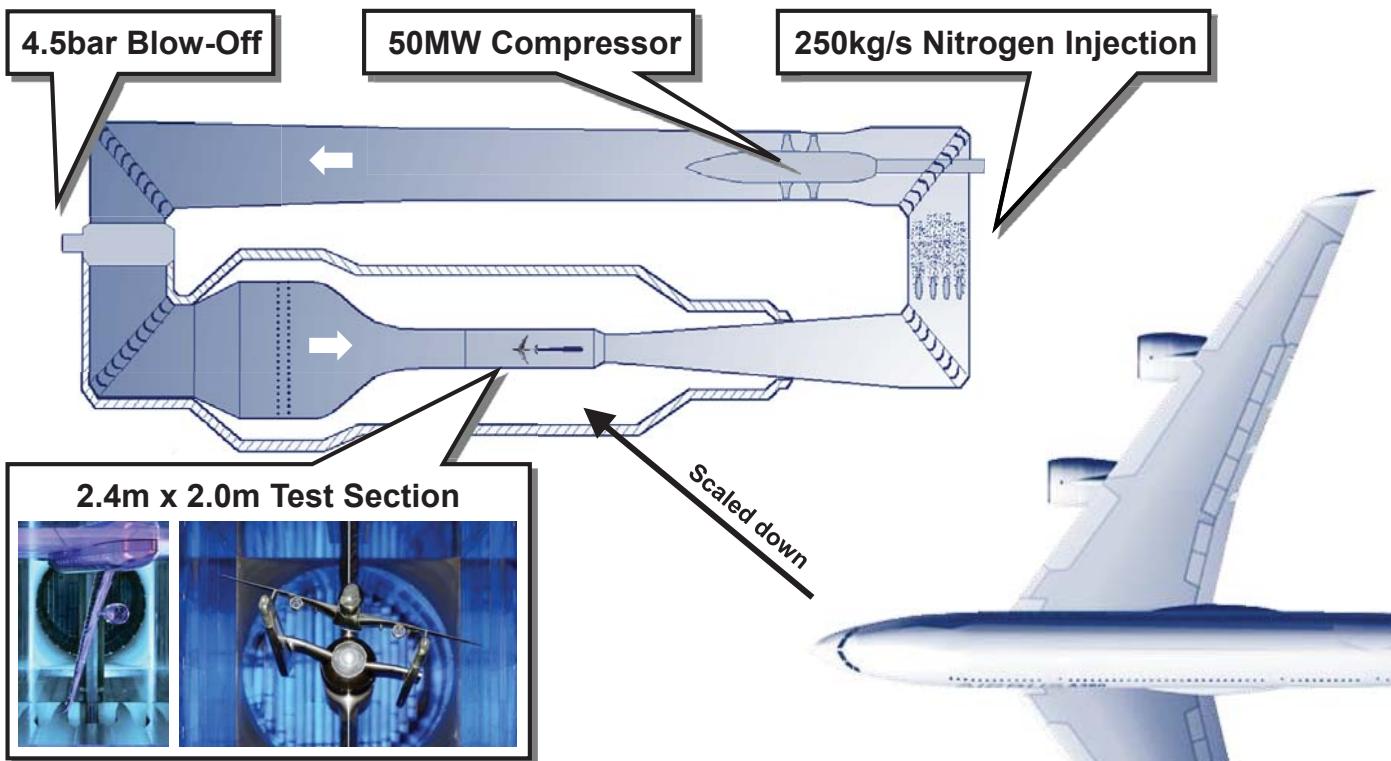
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## Organisational Building Blocks



## ETW's Tunnel Circuit



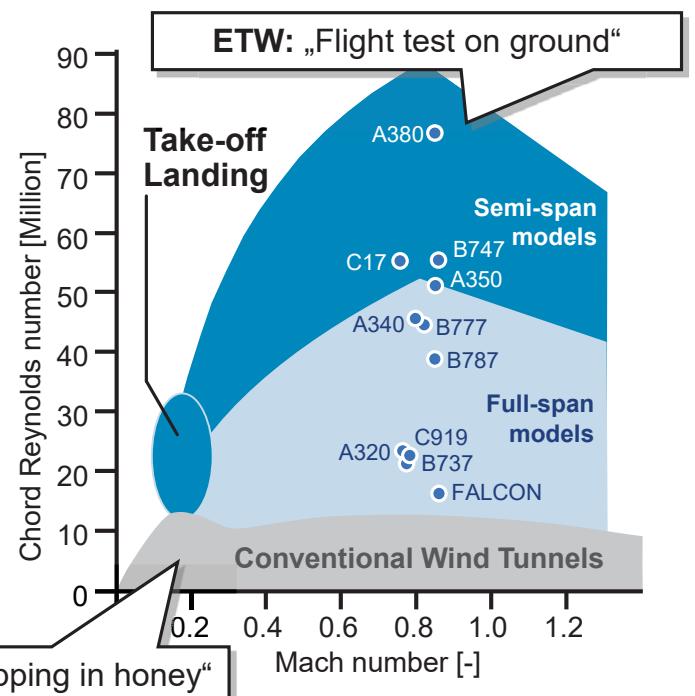
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## ETW's Key Characteristics & Capabilities

**Aerodynamic similarity between real aircraft & wind-tunnel model:**

- > **Geometry**
- > **Mach number**  
(Velocity per speed of sound)
- > **Reynolds number**  
(Air inertia forces per friction)



## ETW's Key Capabilities & Characteristics

### 1. Take-off, landing, cruise, off-design testing at flight Reynolds No

Mach numbers      0.15 - 1.35  
 Stability             $\pm 0.0005$  -  $\pm 0.0010$

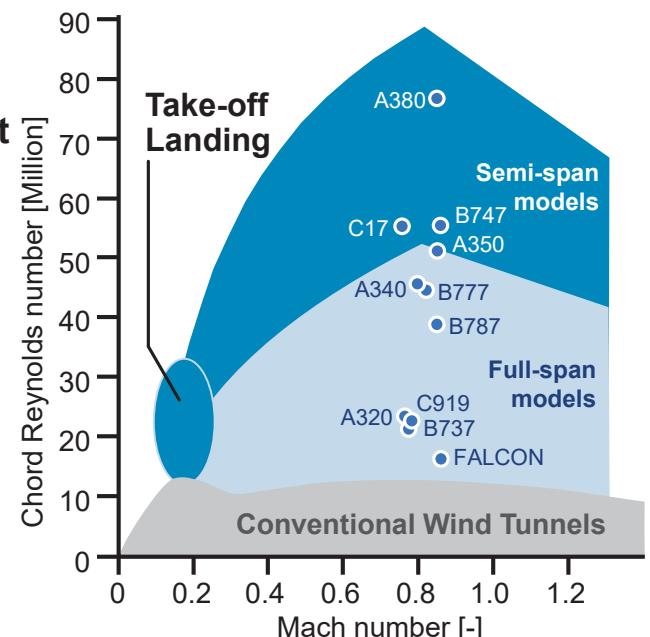
### 2. Aeroelastic testing with independent Reynolds No & loads control

Total pressure      1.1 - 4.5 bar  
 Stability             $\pm 0.1\%$   
 Total temperature   110 K - 313 K  
 Stability             $\pm 0.25$  K

### 3. Laminar testing flow quality close to free flight

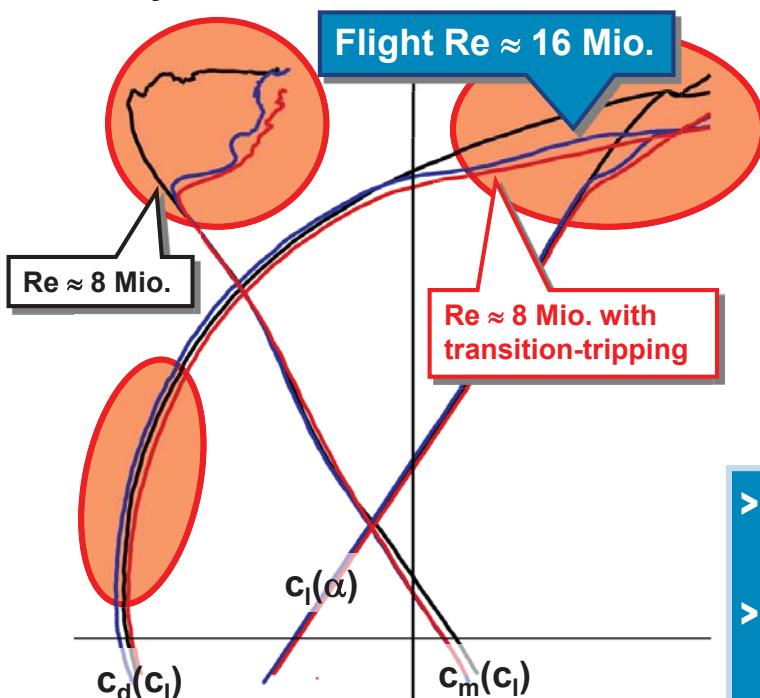
### 4. High cryo-testing productivity & costs efficiency

### 5. Security & client confidentiality

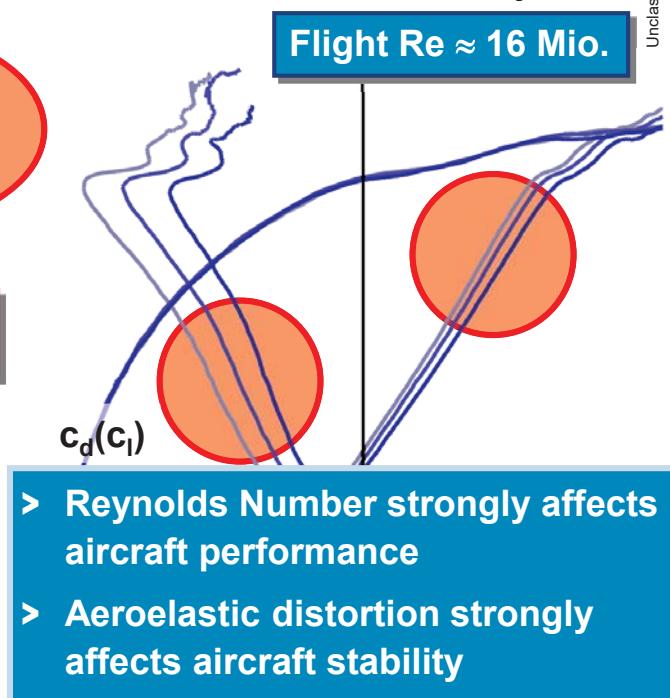


## Lift, drag, pitching-moment characteristics Falcon 7X

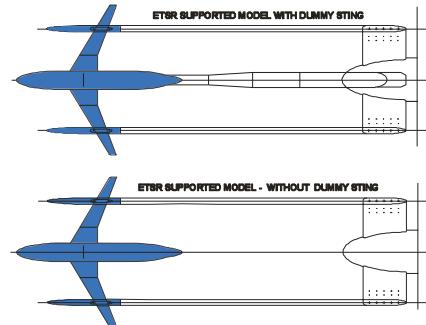
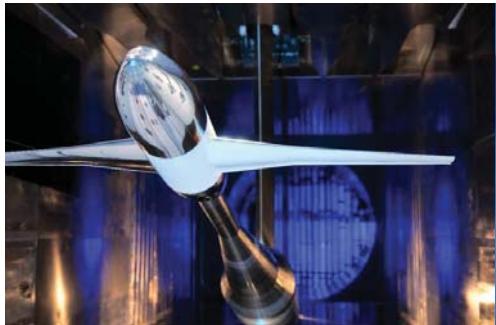
Reynolds Variation at const. Airloads



Airloads Variation at const. Reynolds



## Full-Span Model Data Corrections



### Cost Optimized

- > Performance data based on corrected low & high Reynolds data
- > Single-sting data complete model / body alone plus deformation data
- > Assessment of sting interference using CFD for the body alone config.
- > Wind-tunnel calibration data & robust

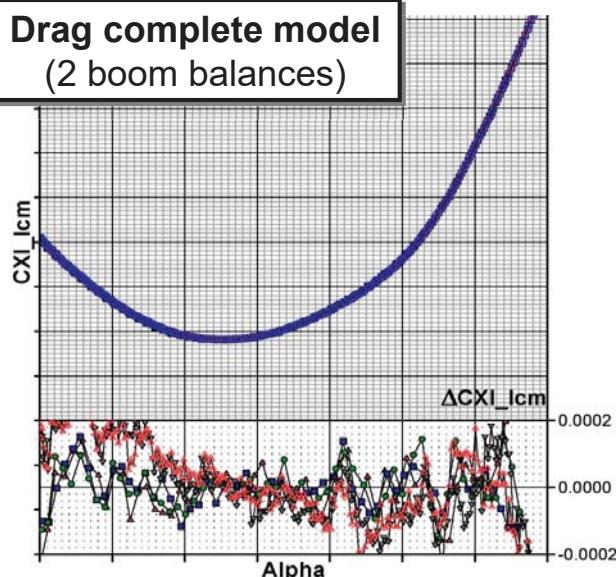
### Quality Optimized

- > Absolute performance data based on fully corrected high-Reynolds data
- > **Lowest impact of sting correction method on final flight estimate**
- > **Prediction of flight test data with an accuracy of better than 99%**

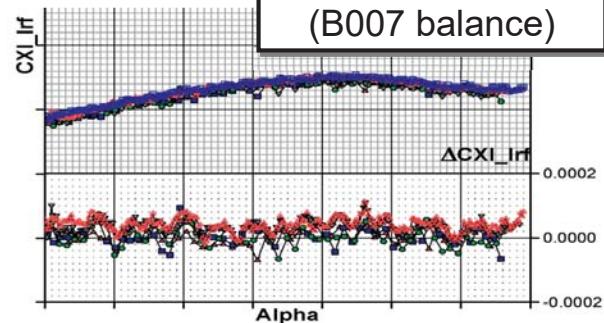
## Long-Term Test Repeatability

- > 4 years between tests
- > Entire re-rigging of model & support

**Drag complete model  
(2 boom balances)**

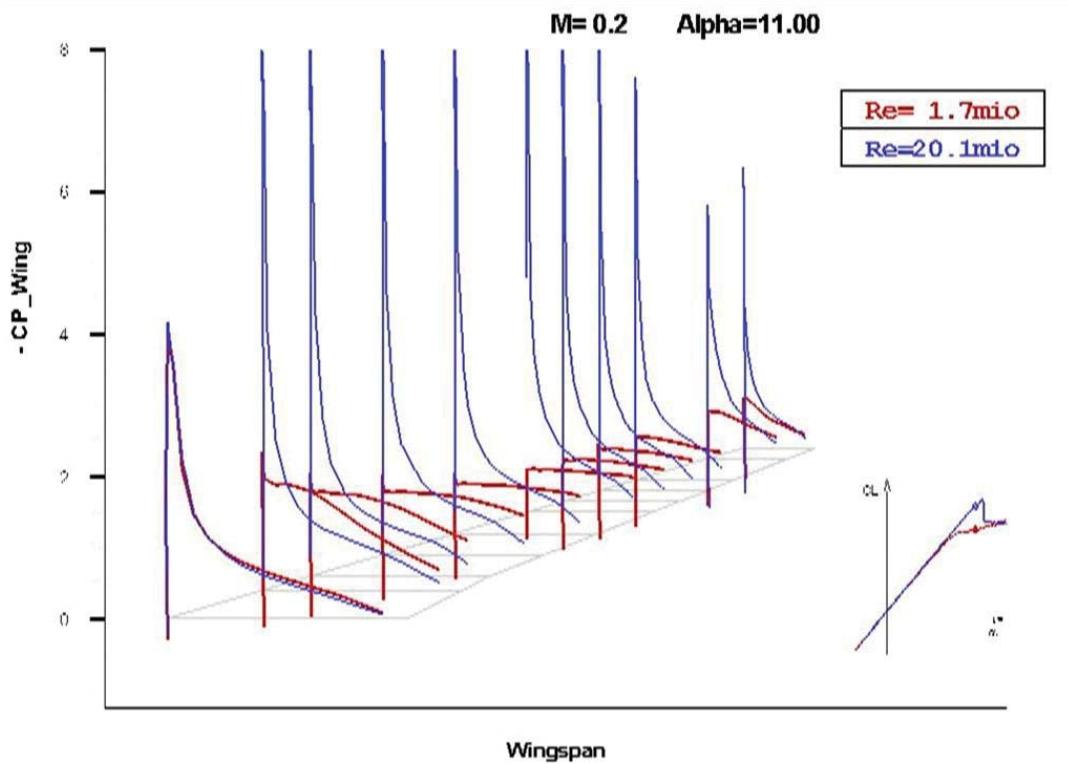


**Drag rear fuselage  
(B007 balance)**



## Reynolds-number Effect on Pressure Distribution

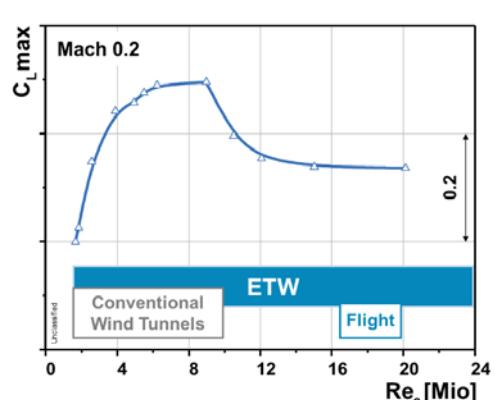
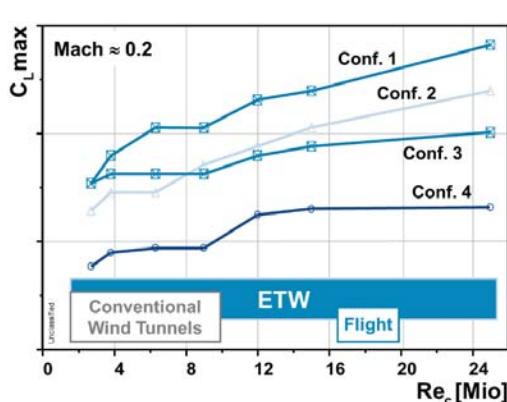
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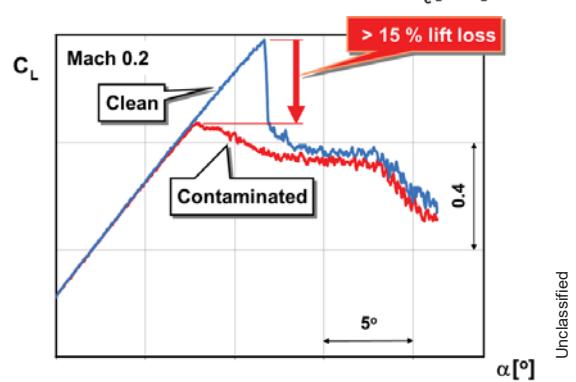
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## Reynolds-number Effect on Maximum Lift



- ETW provided aerodynamic performance & deformation data
- Particular configuration determines  **$C_{L\max}$  dependency on Reynolds No**
- Contamination may have strong impact



# ETW Complements the Aircraft Development Process

and enables better solutions faster at lower risks

## Final check-out for cruise, off-design & high-lift performance

- Validate a final configuration by ETW tests

## Computational Fluid Dynamics CFD / Aeroelasticity CAE validation

- Obtain flight-Reynolds-number ETW test data at high-lift, cruise, and off-design high-speed conditions
- Provide recommendations for appropriate modelling
- Validate / calibrate CFD / CAE tools by comparison of computational results with ETW (and flight-test) data

## Aircraft design for flight Reynolds numbers

- Develop advanced aircraft by using validated / calibrated computational tools and complementing ETW tests
- Early verification & validation, exploiting physical limits
- **More simulation, less conventional but more specific testing**

## ETW & CFD Complement Each Other

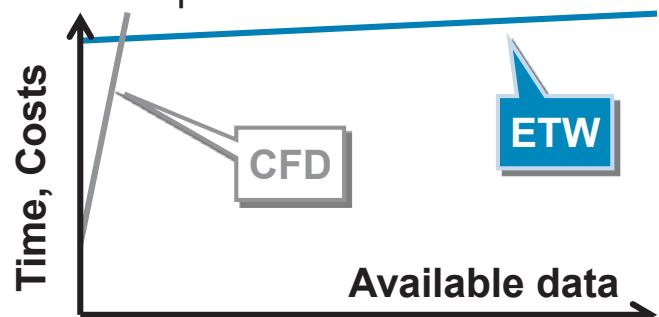
### ETW strengths:

- Real flow about complex configurations
- High productivity as soon as the test is set up
- Risks mitigation

### CFD strengths:

- Responsive to shape changes
- Detailed flow field insights

*“There should not be an over-emphasis on what computers tell you, because they only tell you what you tell them to tell you.”*  
 (Joe Sutter to FlightGlobal, 2009)



⇒ **CFD optimizes the design by screening & refining,  
ETW discovers governing physics, validates & verifies**

**Note: Both share CI, maintenance, staff & electricity as cost drivers,**  
 e.g. US DOE asks for 20-40 MW in 2020 for 1 exaflop, down from theoretical 200 MW with today's technology

## Benefits From ETW's Capabilities

$$\text{Range} = \frac{\text{Velocity}}{\text{Specific Fuel Consumption}} \cdot \frac{\text{Lift}}{\text{Drag}} \cdot \ln\left(1 + \frac{\text{Fuel Weight}}{\text{Load} + \text{Empty Weight}}\right)$$

### Engines

- > UHBR / OR
- $\Rightarrow$  Engine Integration

### Aerodynamics

- > Flight-Re Design
- > Lift-induced Drag
- > Flow Control, e.g. Laminarity

### Structures

- > Lightweight
- $\Rightarrow$  Aeroelastic Tailoring
- > New configurations
- $\Rightarrow$  Lack of Tool Calibration

Plus understanding/prediction  
of cruise safety margins

**Vital need for ETW Capabilities  
in Research & Development**

## ETW Users' Demand Beyond The Horizon in the 70s/80s

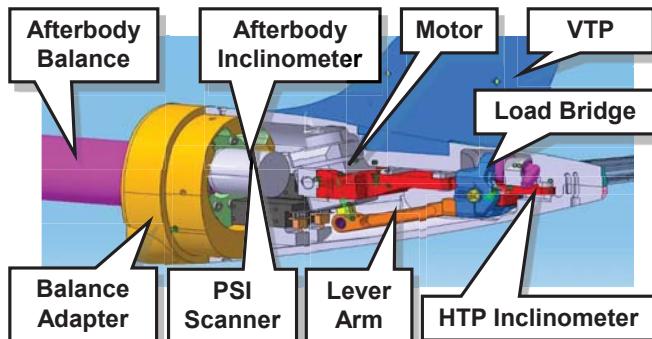
- > Conditions beyond cruise at which Reynolds number similarity matters:  
High-lift, off-design, handling-quality & laminar testing
- > CFD / CAE validation
- > Making use of ETW as a design tool complementing CFD  
rather than for experimental check-out only

Requiring:

- > Significantly enhanced productivity & value for money
- > Low-interference supports including anti-vibration systems
- > Deformation measurement
- > Unsteady data acquisition & synchronisation of multiple techniques
- > Flow visualisation on the surface & in the flow field
- > Noise source localisation
- > Engine simulation

**Currently, shareholders invest M€ 20 in developing the most urgent ones**

## Remotely Controlled Movables, e.g. HTP



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- Avoid model-transport / -change, and -conditioning time
- **Abs. position accuracy  $\pm 0.1^\circ$ , Rel.  $\pm 0.05^\circ$  during polar**

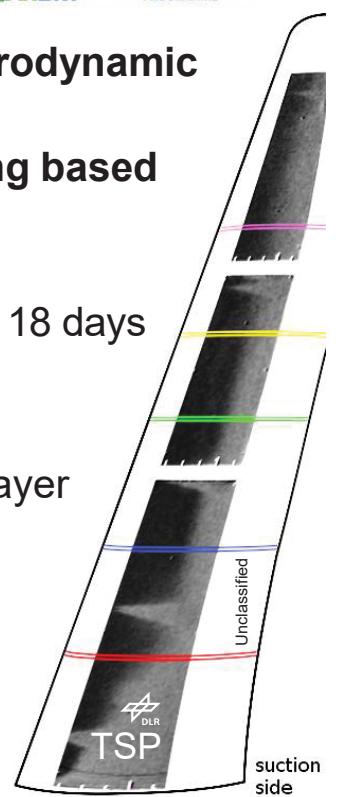
## ETW HiLamBiz Testing in Clean Sky Facility / test technique improvements



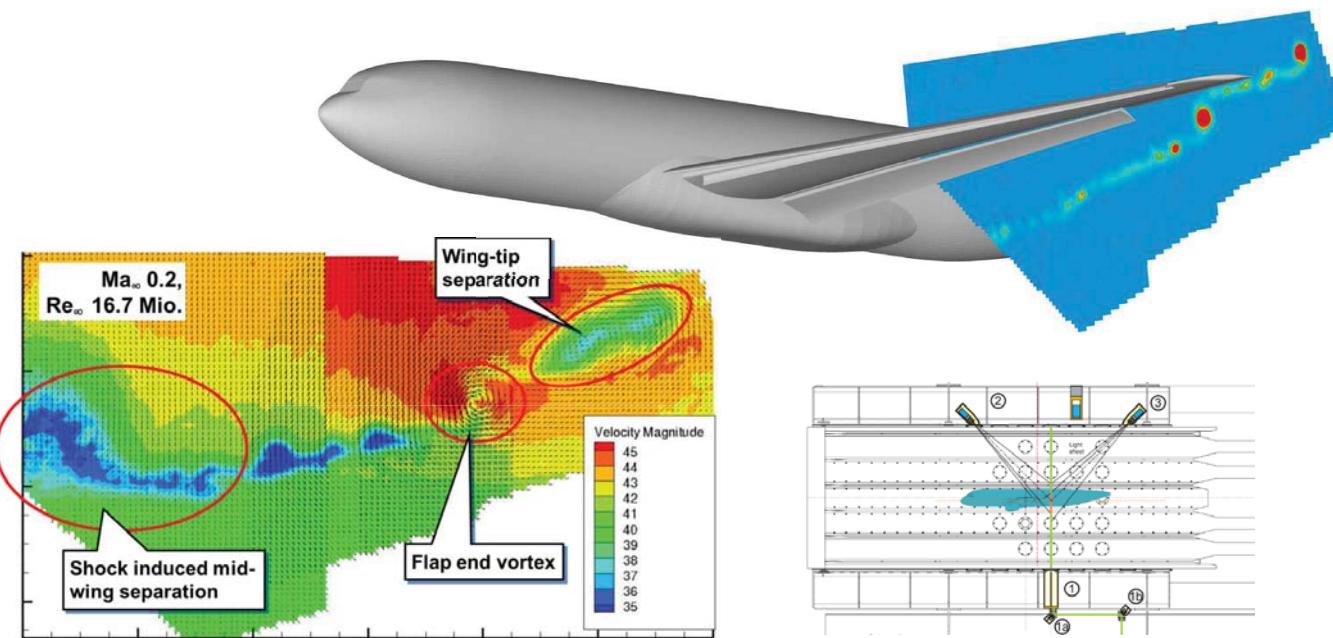
- **Rather productive testing:**  
9 configs + 10 HTP settings in 18 days

- Laminar-turbulent boundary-layer detection by 4 TSP cameras

- **Tested up to  $Re = 10M / 65M/m$ , and low amount of tunnel induced turbulent wedges occurred due to:**
  - Effective pre-test cleaning & operating procedures
  - Solimide protection & effective tunnel drying



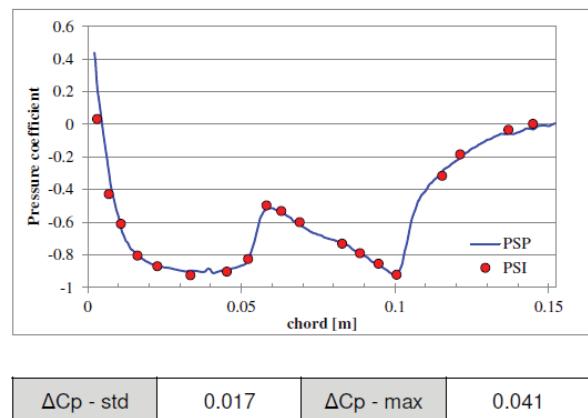
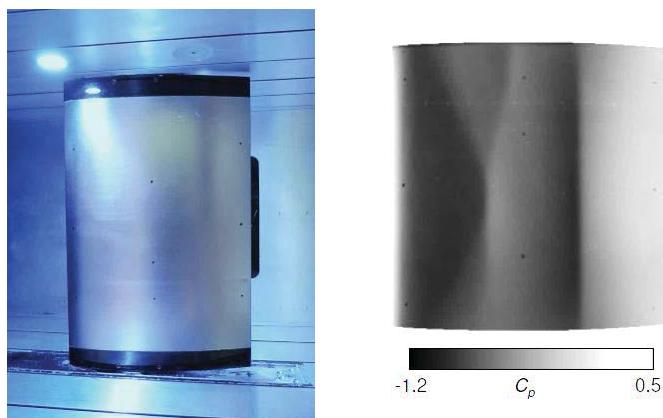
## Applying PIV to Understand Flow Topologies



- > Cryo-PIV applicable at flight-relevant Mach & Reynolds numbers
- > Time resolve capability demonstrated up to 1 kHz sampling

Unclassified

## Cryogenic PSP – LuFo Work in Progress

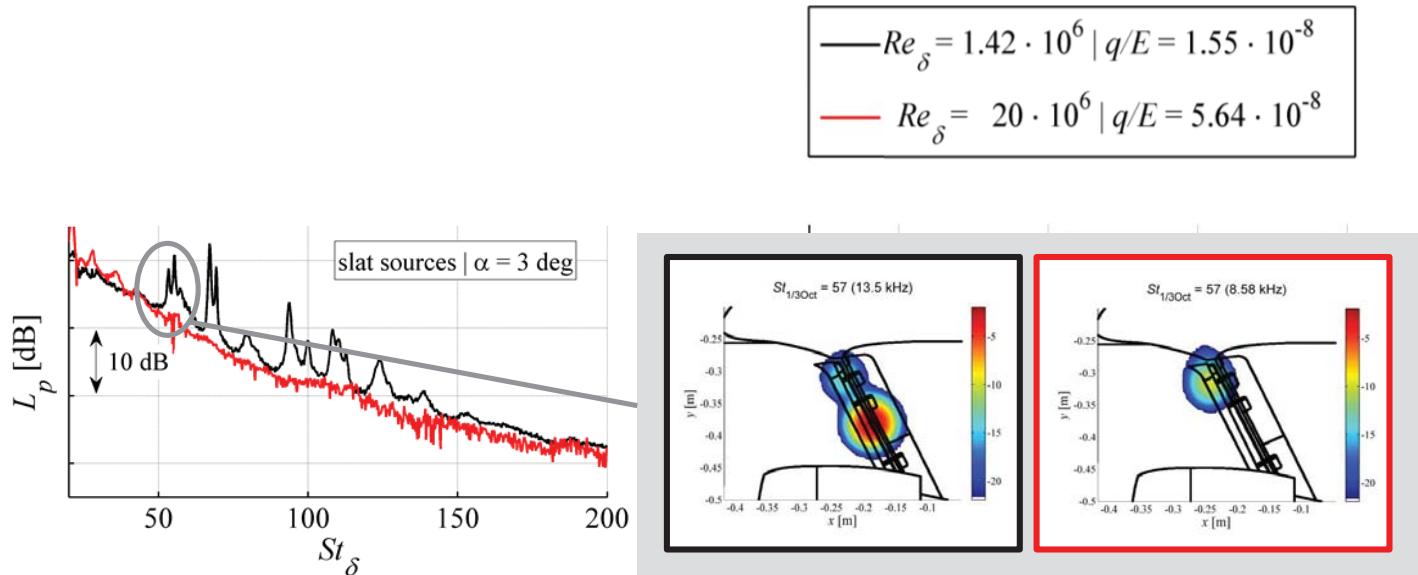


- > Most hard- & software shared with TSP, integrated into ETW DAS
- > Successful test entries in PETW in 2015 & 2016
- > Aiming for further improvements  
on 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  surface roughness and PSP sensitivity
- > ETW high-speed test planned for beginning 2017
- > Suitable e.g. for wing regions or junctions

Unclassified

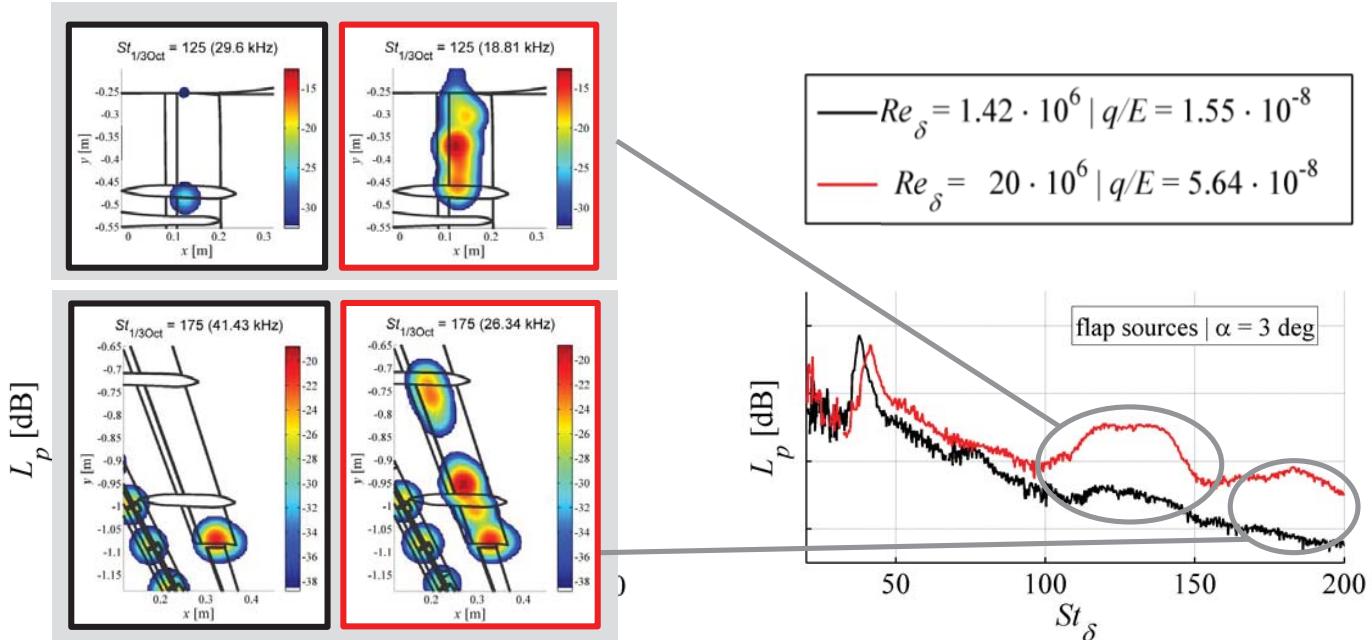
## Localisation of flight-Re Relevant Noise Sources – Work in Progress

- > No-/low-cost add-on piggyback to high-lift performance testing
- > Added value for dedicated acoustic testing e.g. at DNW-LLF



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## Conclusion

**ETW is a European strategic facility, bridging the gap between**

- > **Lab & Flight**, enabling flight-test prediction for low- & high speed
  - > **CFD & Reality**, advancing, validating & complementing numerical simulation
  - > **Research & Industry**, accelerating innovation from science to application
- ca. 26% of all operating commercial aircraft benefited from ETW,  
additional ca. 6,900 are ordered, and more to come

**ETW remains a permanent challenge, requiring**

- > **Sufficient workload from diverse users**
  - To financially survive despite cyclic demand
  - To “train” the facility & its workforce
- > **Continuous improvement & investment**
  - To adapt to the changing demand of users
  - To improve value for money

**More use by Academia would be mutually beneficial ...**