



# Digitalization – a key enabler of the energy transition

**Ambra Sannino**  
Vice President R&D

2024-05-16

# Outline

- General intro – myself and Vattenfall
- Vattenfall R&D
- 3 D's of the energy transition
- Why is digitalization a key enabler?

What is this picture on the right?

“Future energy system according to Vattenfall”  
– at least if you ask Dall-E 3 integrated in Bing



## Introduction

# About myself Ambra Sannino



M.Sc. Electrical Engineering, 1997  
Ph.D. Power Systems, 2000



2001-2004: Post-doc > Assistant Professor >  
Associate Professor



2004 – 2018:  
Corporate R&D: Project Manager > Team Manager  
R&D / Technology Manager, for FACTS, Substations,  
Product Manager for Power Quality Solutions



2019 – 2023:  
Business Director, Power System Analysis  
Head of Department Power Systems, Northern Europe



**VATTENFALL** 

Since August 2023:  
Vice President,  
Research and Development

IEEE Senior Member  
Cigré member



Board member  
of Kraftkvinnorna  
and Power Circle



# This is Vattenfall

Activities in the Value Chain ● Active ● Inactive



## In Brief

- A leading European energy company
- We want to enable the **fossil freedom that drives society forward**
- We are driving the transition to a more sustainable energy system through **growth in renewable production** and **climate smart energy solutions** for our customers
- **100% owned by the Swedish State**

**8.0 Million**  
Electricity customers

**2.1 Million**  
Heat customers

**1.0 Million**  
Electricity grid customers

**2.3 Million**  
Gas customers

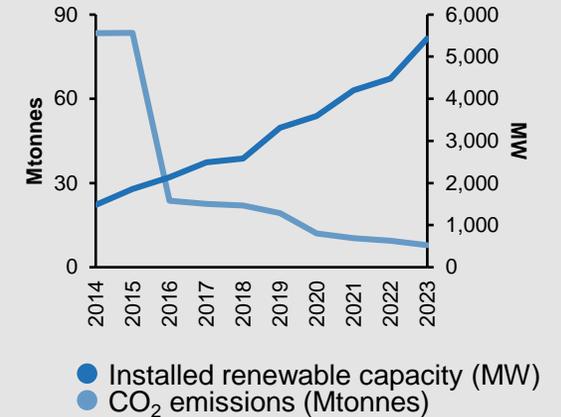
**20 995**  
Employees

## Main markets

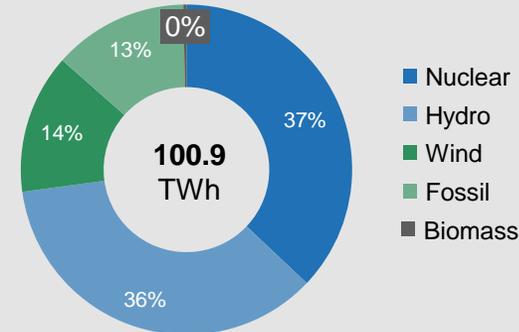
- Sweden
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- UK
- Germany



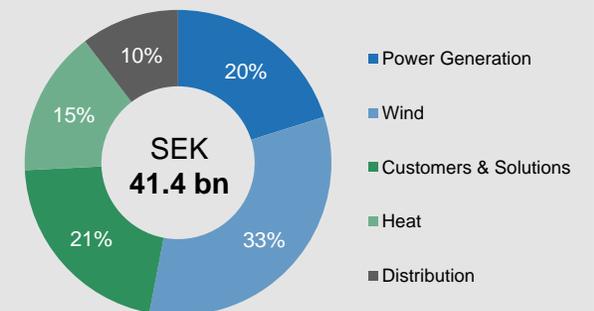
## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions & renewable capacity



## Electricity generation breakdown by technology, 2023



## Underlying EBITDA breakdown by segment, 2023<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Breakdown excludes other and eliminations  
Confidentiality: C1 - Public

## Introduction

# Location of our operations and major plants

Click on energy source to show locations



Wind ●



Biomass ●



Hydro ●



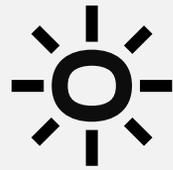
Gas ●



Nuclear ●



Coal ●

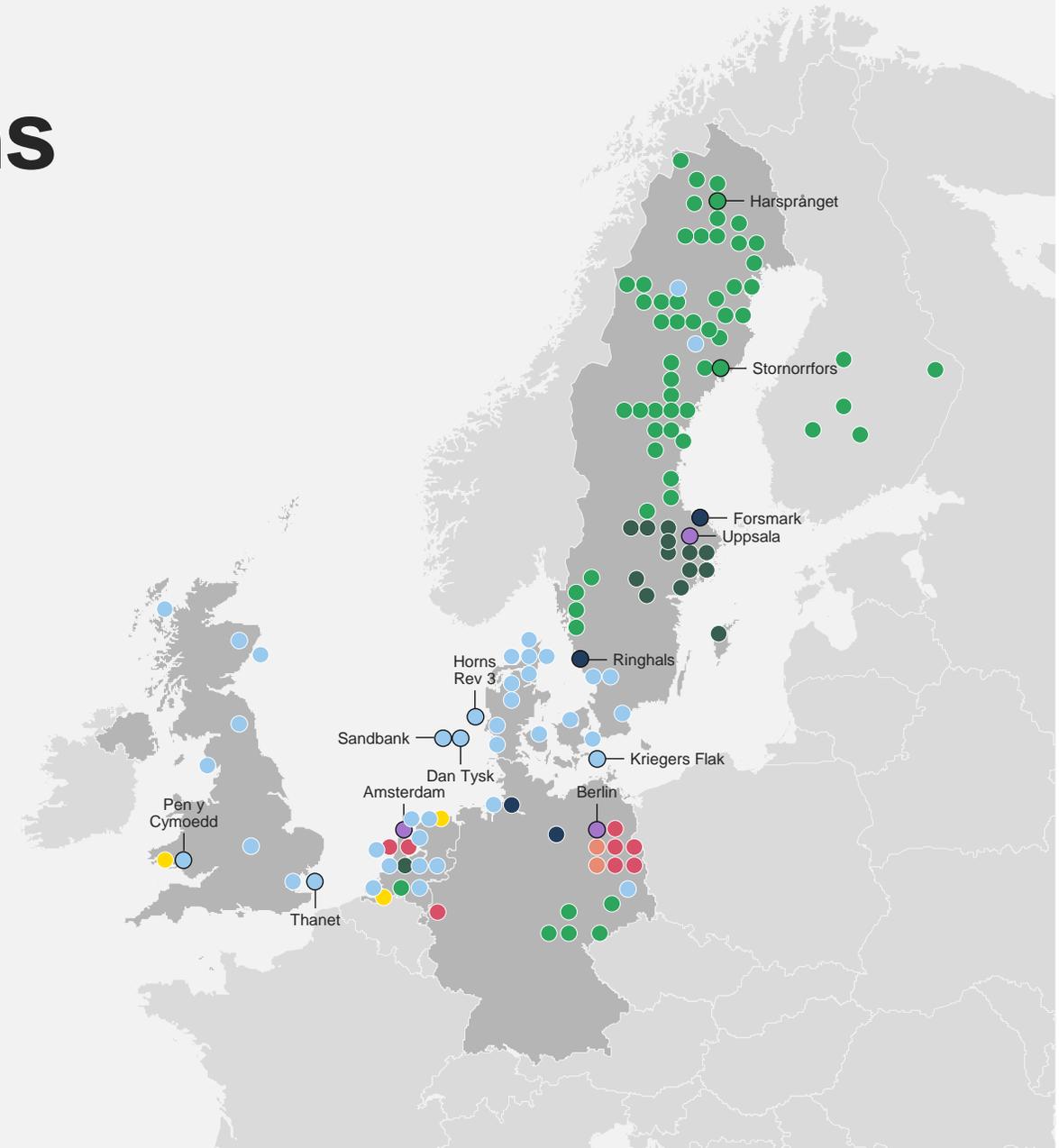


Solar ●



District heating ●

Largest facilities marked with a circle



# Our commitments toward Net Zero

**-51%**

Emission intensity reduction  
since 2017

→ 2021

**1.5°C**

Target for own emission  
reductions – alignment  
with 1.5°C trajectory

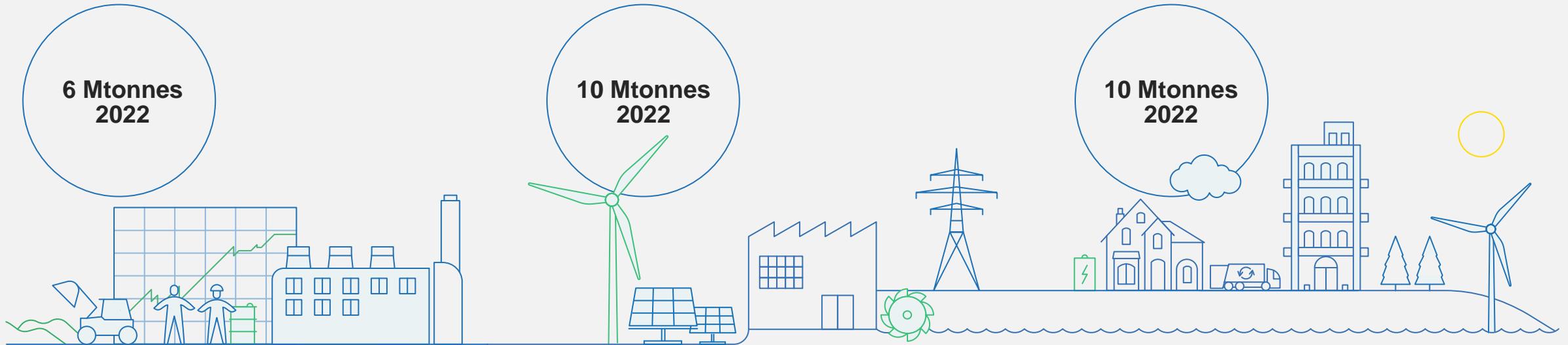
→ 2030

**Net Zero**

Emissions in our  
full value chain

→ 2040

# Cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions throughout the value chain



## Suppliers

Supplier dialogues and sustainability requirements in tenders

Lifecycle Assessments

Industry collaborations

## Own operations

Reducing emissions in line with climate science

Growth in renewables

Reducing emissions from employee travelling

## Customers

Climate smart solutions for homes and cities

City partnerships

Environmental product offerings

# R&D @ Vattenfall

**Fossil freedom**

Vattenfall

*Accelerate* **fossil freedom**

Strategic Development

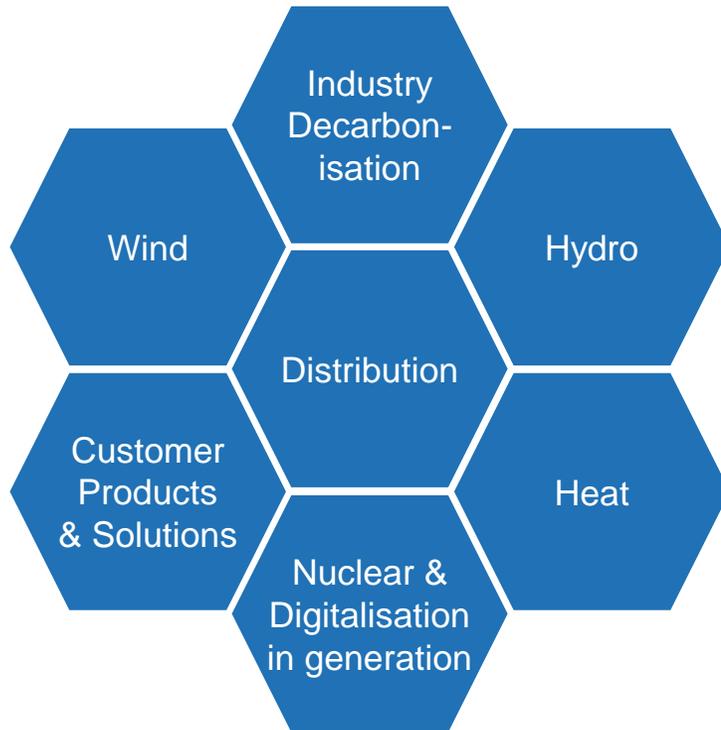
*Develop competitive solutions to accelerate fossil freedom*

Research & Development

*Develop for fossil freedom*

# Vattenfall R&D: Portfolios and sections

7 R&D Portfolios

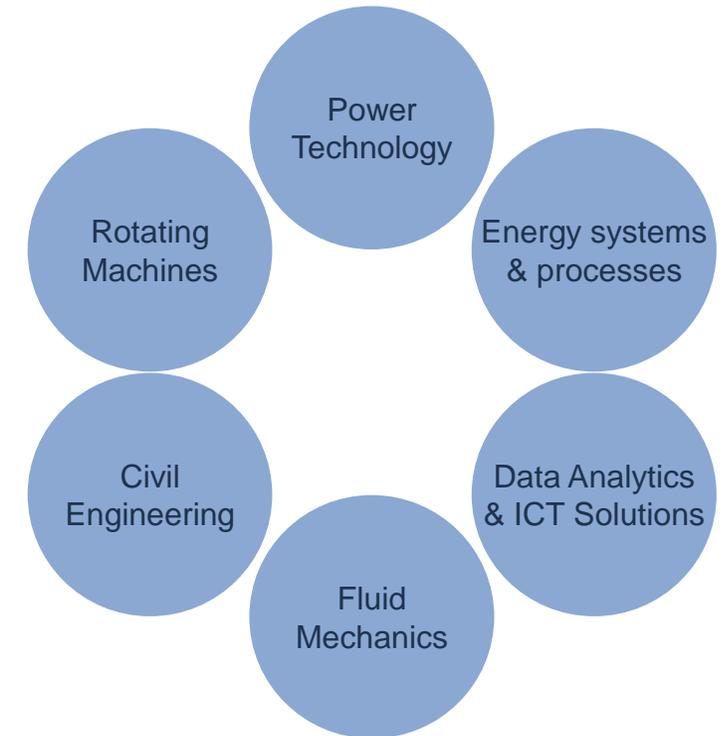


Staff: 145 employees

**Business-driven R&D (market pull):**  
Support all units with **competitive and verified solutions** for the specific businesses

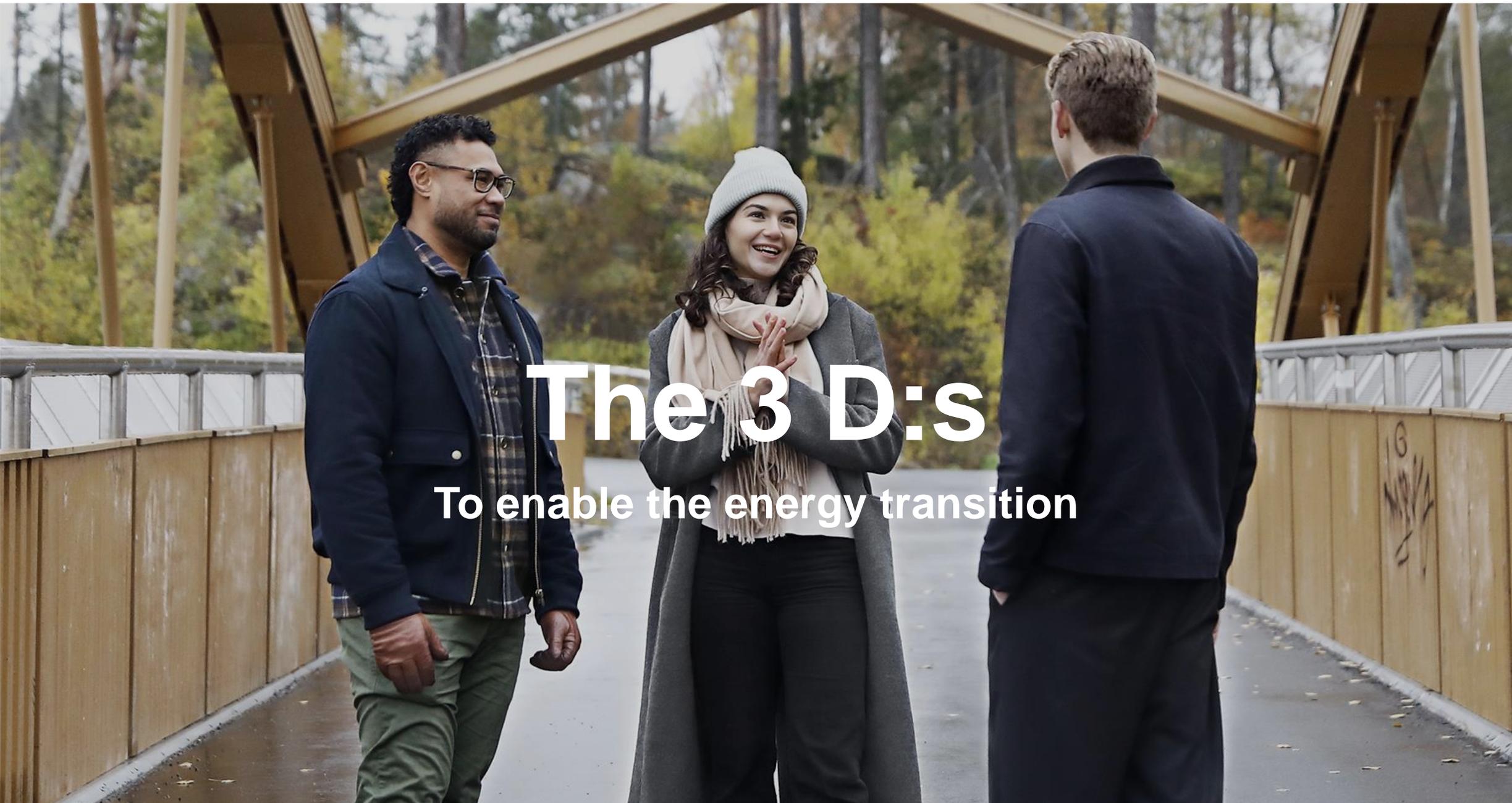
**Strategic R&D (technology push):**  
Speed up the adoption of **new technologies** and **realize synergies** across businesses

6 Depts / Sections



# Vattenfall's R&D supports execution of the strategy

 CPS*	 DIG* & Nuclear	 Distribution	 Heat	 Hydro	 Wind	 Industry Decarb.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Energy Solutions </li> <li>• Energy Management </li> <li>• E-mobility </li> <li>• Analytics </li> </ul> <p><small>*Customer Products &amp; Solutions</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Asset Analytics </li> <li>• Digital Inspections </li> <li>• Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics &amp; Concrete </li> </ul> <p><small>*Digitalisation in Generation</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Driven DSO </li> <li>• Digital Customer </li> <li>• Local Grid Control </li> <li>• Flexible Grids </li> <li>• Arholma Micro Grid </li> <li>• Uppsala Battery </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Energy Systems </li> <li>• Digital Acceleration Heat </li> <li>• Fossil Free Heat </li> <li>• Heat Business Beyond 2030 </li> <li>• Bio-CCS </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Safety &amp; Infrastructure </li> <li>• Environment </li> <li>• Hydropower Machines </li> <li>• Flexible Generation </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control &amp; Optimisation </li> <li>• Lifetime &amp; Operation </li> <li>• Foundations </li> <li>• Offshore Power Technology </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refineries </li> <li>• Cement </li> <li>• Petro-chemicals </li> <li>• Steel </li> <li>• Thermal Storage </li> </ul>



# The 3 D:s

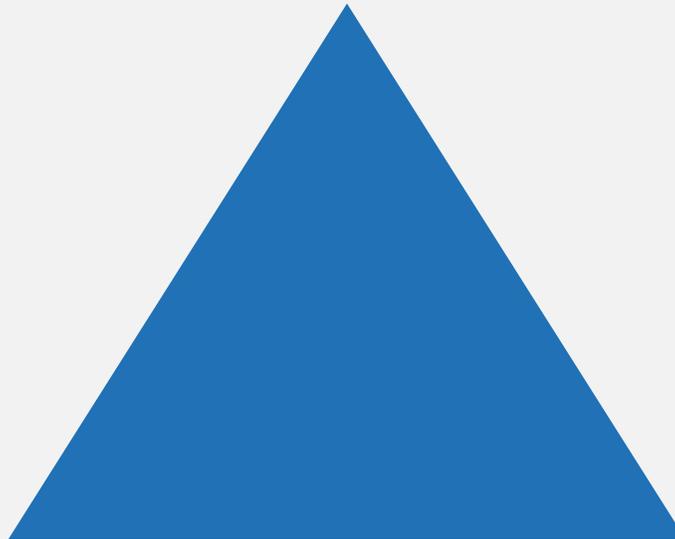
To enable the energy transition

## Trends

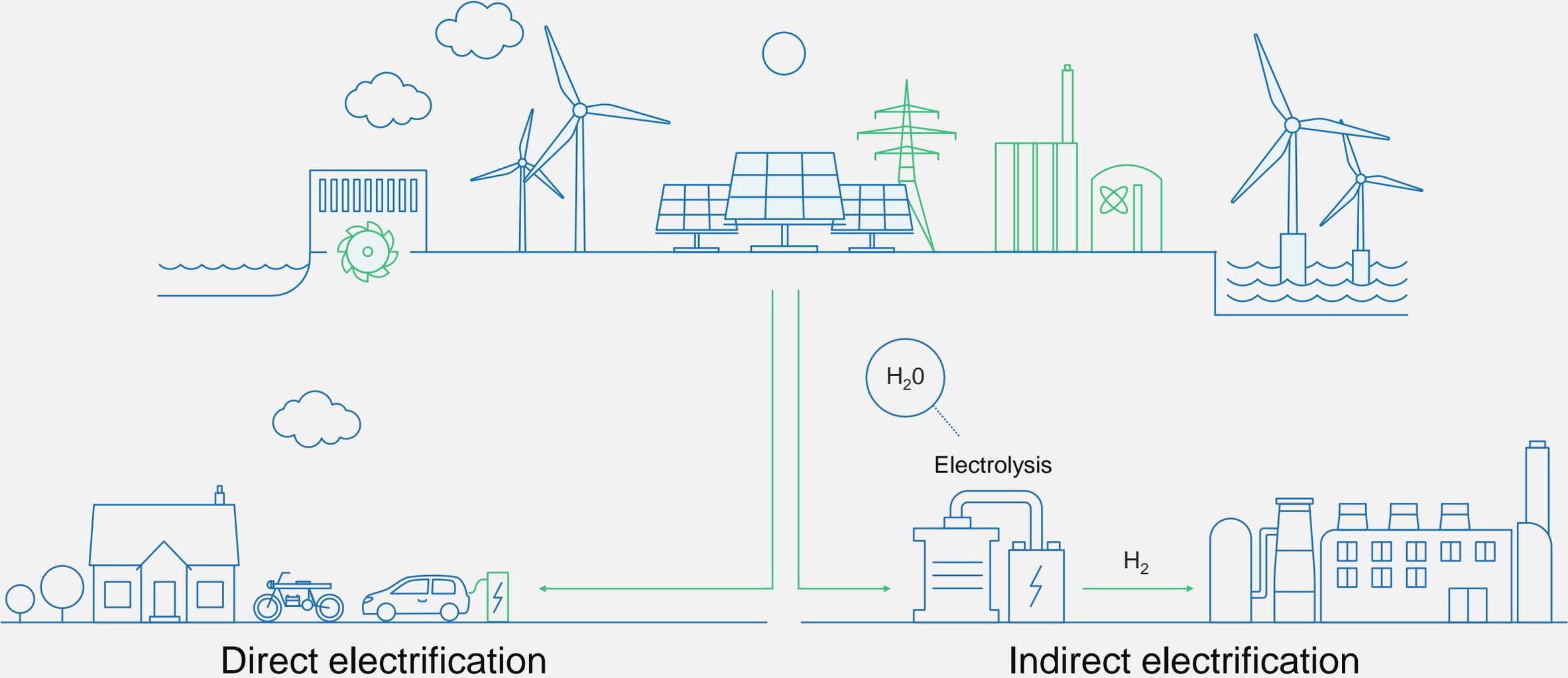
# The 3 D's of the energy transition

### **Decarbonization** through **Electrification**

- New generation → renewables
- New load → electric vehicles, heat pumps, etc



# From a power source to a source of innovation



Direct electrification

Indirect electrification

## Industry Decarbonisation



### HySkies

Jet fuel from fossil free H<sub>2</sub>  
and captured CO<sub>2</sub>

R&D: concept and support for  
successful EU application



### Preem & ST1

Collaboration agreements with  
Preem and ST1 on H<sub>2</sub>  
production from offshore wind



### Hybrit H<sub>2</sub> Storage

Flexibility in a volatile market

R&D: concept selection,  
engineering



# Press Release

16.10.2023

## HYBRIT: Hydrogen storage reduces costs by up to 40 per cent

HYBRIT's hydrogen storage has now been tested commercially on the electricity market. Its excellent results are important for the industry's transition. Fossil-free hydrogen is a prerequisite for producing fossil-free steel. By also adding storage, the variable cost of hydrogen production can be significantly reduced, by between 25 to 40 per cent. HYBRIT is a collaboration between SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall that started in 2016.

The hydrogen storage facility was used specifically on the electricity market for about a month. The mission was to produce hydrogen using fossil-free electricity at a variable electricity price with the lowest possible cost, for example during certain parts of the day or for longer periods when weather-dependent electricity generation was in good supply. The hydrogen was delivered in a steady flow to SSAB.

## Trends

# The 3 D's of the energy transition

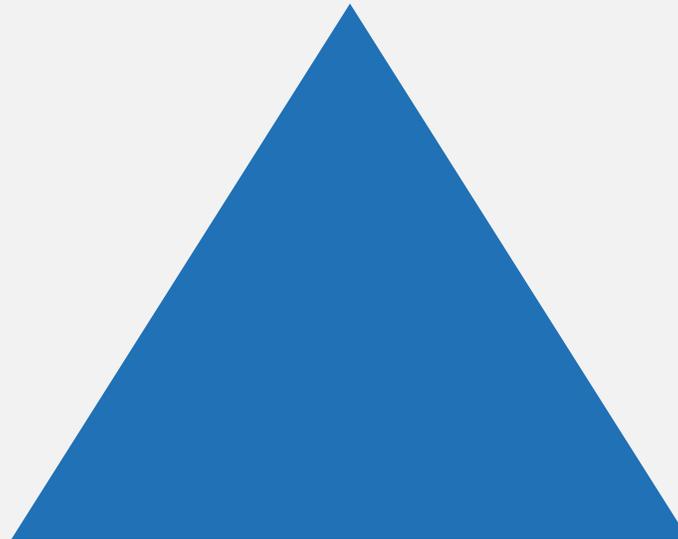
### Decarbonization through Electrification

- New generation → renewables
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### Decentralization

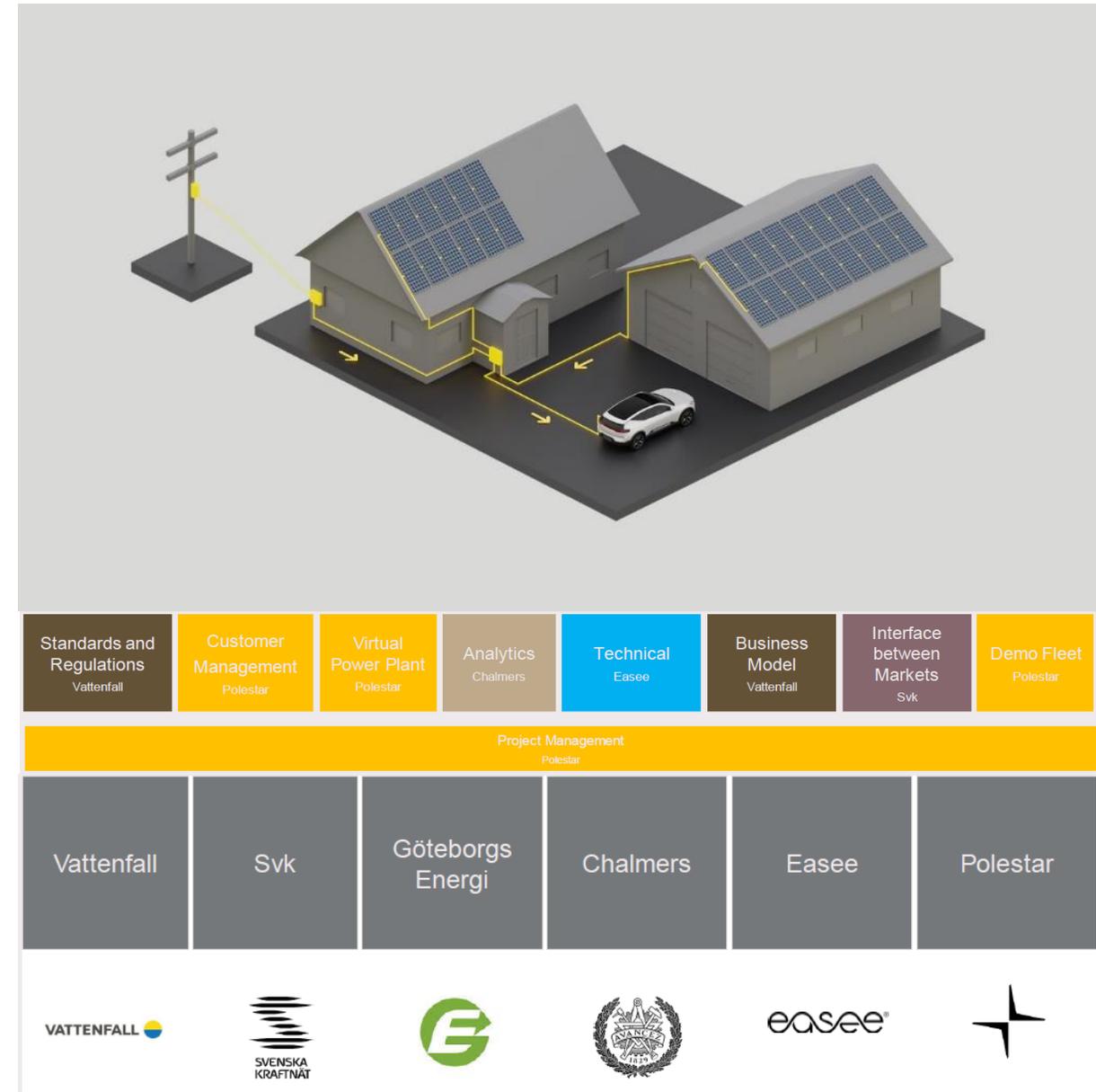
- Distributed generation (rooftop PV), storage and **flexibility**
- From consumer to **prosumer**



## Decentralization

# PAVE: Bidirectional Charging (V2G) pilot

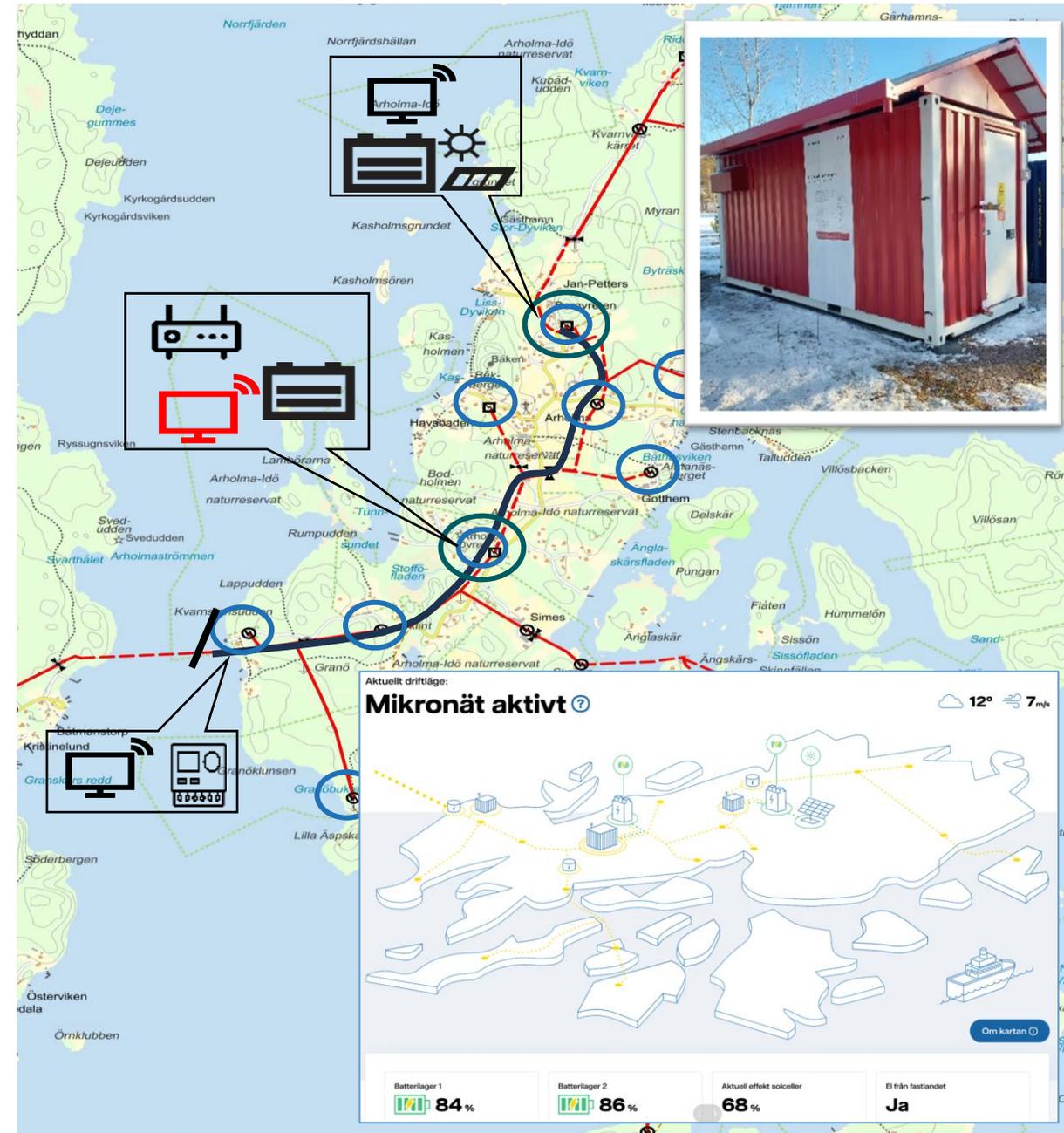
- V2G initiative based in Gothenburg, focused on exploring viable business models for V2G and piloting practical applications with potential for scalability and relevance across regions
- One of Europe's largest V2G pilots including a substantial number of Polestar 3 vehicles, co-funded by Swedish innovation agency Vinnova
- Vattenfall Distribution's focus: Analysis of standards and regulations from grid connection
- Vattenfall R&D's focus: commercial framework to ensure viability of V2G for all stakeholders



## Decentralization

# Microgrid on Arholma island

- Voltage regulation in weak grids with lots of solar power or seasonal heavy loads
- Connected to mainland with one cable
- Island operation to minimize interruption times
- Battery solution as a quick improvement option
- Battery storage x 2, 160 kVA and 330 kWh
- In operation since 2023
- R&D: design, engineering, control & protection



Decentralization

# Vattenfall's battery installations (examples)

Boliden Bergsöe

1 MWh  
0,5 MW



Haringvliet

12 MWh  
12 MW



Uppsala

20 MWh  
5 MW



Amsterdam Charging Hub

0,34 MWh  
0,24 MW



Jungheinrich

0,23 MWh  
0,24 MW



Voltpack

0,28 → 1,4 MWh  
0,3 MW



## Trends

# The 3 D's of the energy transition

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### Decentralization

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### Digitalization

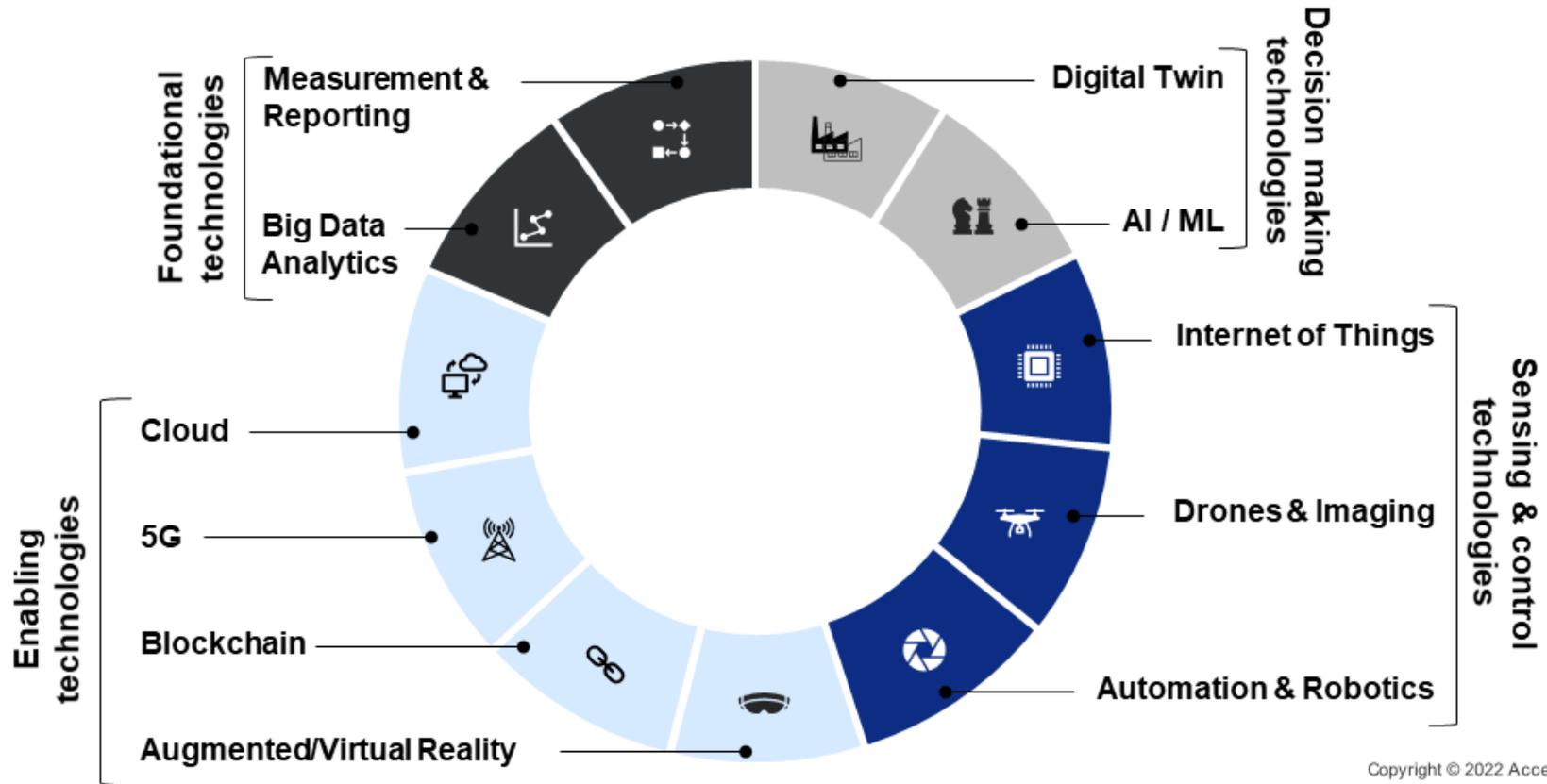
- Higher volatility, higher complexity, “more events with less time to react”
- Decisions to be taken automatically



Trends

# Digitalization

*A broad umbrella term covering many technologies*



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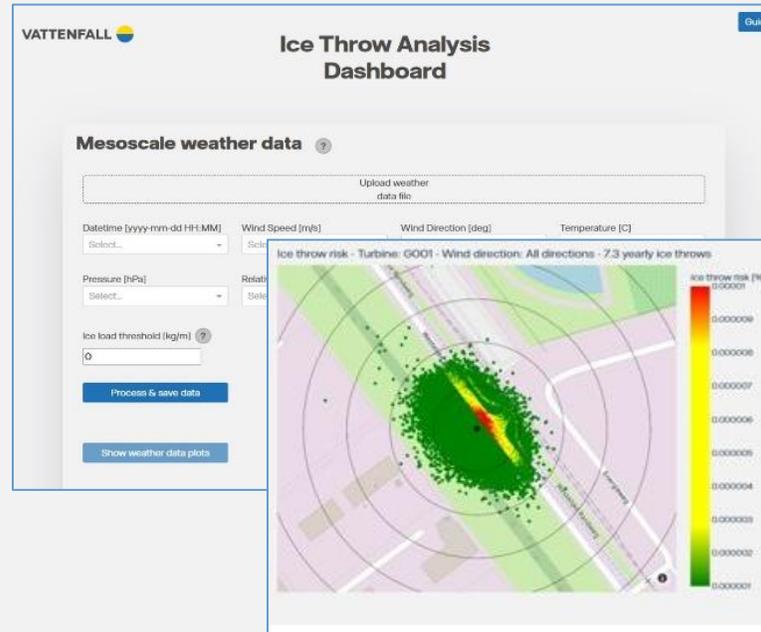
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## Digitalization & AI – Project Examples



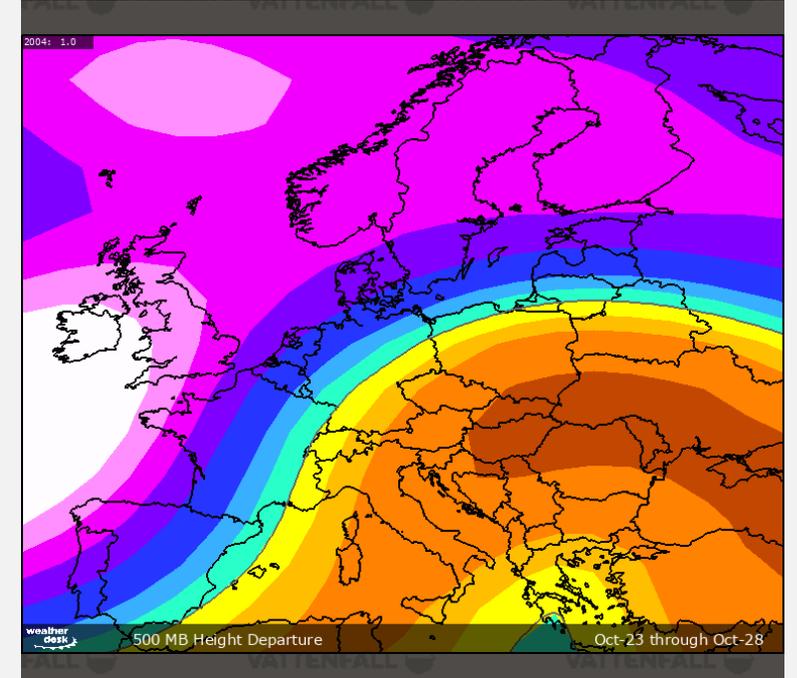
### Satellite data analysis

*Automatic identification of geographical and environmental segments. Monitor change over time.*



### Ice throw simulation

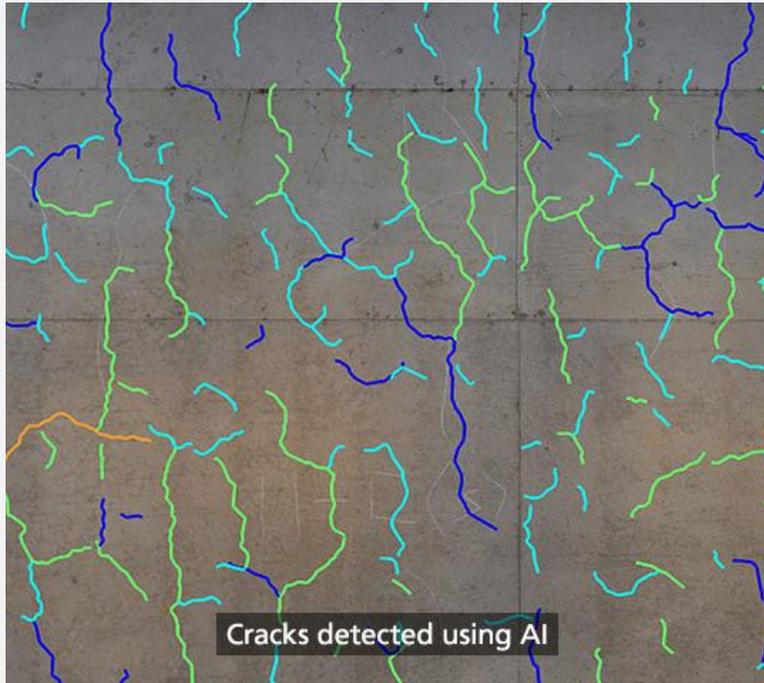
*Forecast risk for ice throws on wind turbines based on historical weather data.*



### Weather patterns

*Identify weather patterns to better predict production from wind power*

## Digitalization & AI – Project Examples (2)



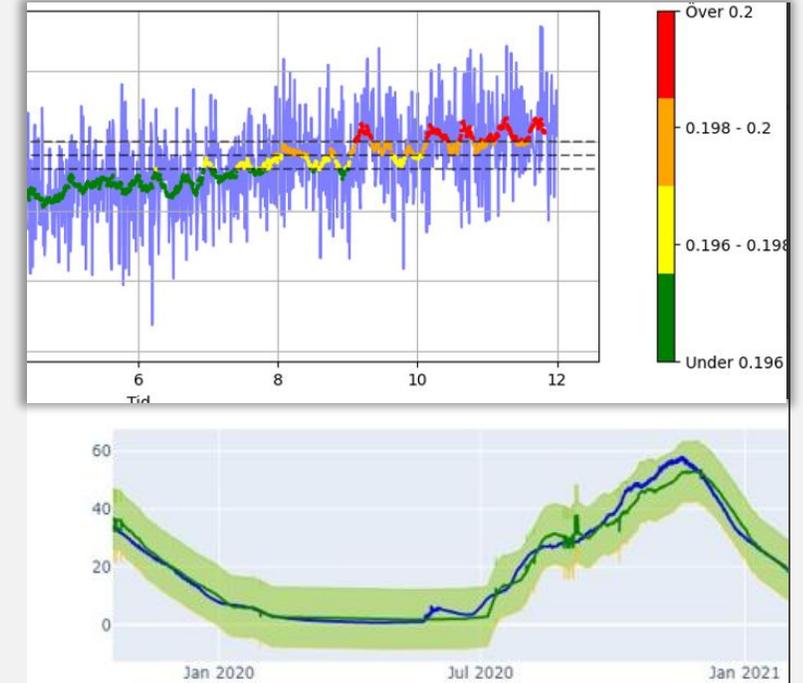
### Crack Detection

*Automate charting of mineral veins in bedrock and concrete*



### AI-assisted search

*Make use of Large Language Models (LLMs) to search through a large unstructured amount of docs*



### Monitoring

*Condition-based monitoring of hydro power plants through sensor and smart algorithms*

# Examples, AI for biodiversity research

- Real-time monitoring based on image recognition:
  - eg species (salmon vs trout), origin (wild vs farmed), sex (male vs female), state of health
- Implemented in the fish ladder at Stornorrfors
- Next step (ongoing): identifying individuals based on spot patterns on the head of the fish
- Capercaillie is an indicator of a good habitat
- AI-based real-time monitoring – combining both image and sound recognition
- Based on third-party tools, adapted (eg Birdnet)
- Implemented in wind power project Bruzaholm



## Digitalization – Examples Drone Inspections



### Aerial inspections

Outdoor inspections, eg of overhead lines or other assets, perimeter surveillance, including different types of cameras



### Confined spaces

Indoor inspections, in non-accessible or unsafe areas, including water-filled tunnels, boilers, or no-go zones in NPPs



### Underwater

Outdoors, eg hydropower dams, sea- or riverbed inspection and data collection, or indoors in NPP

## Digitalization – Examples Drone Inspections (2)



### Bird flapper

Commercial drone adapted by Vattenfall R&D to mount bird deterrents on overhead lines, semi-autonomous



### Drone in a box

Tested as remote-controlled and autonomous solution, for >250 missions around assets, in various weather conditions



### Robot dog

Tested as remote-controlled, and as a possible resident solution for remote grid stations and power plants

## Trends

# The 3 D's of the energy transition

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### Decentralization

- Distributed generation (rooftop PV), storage and **flexibility**
- From consumer to **prosumer**



### Digitalization

- Higher volatility, higher complexity, “more events with less time to react”
- Decisions to be taken automatically





***Thank you!***  
***Develop for fossil freedom***