

**OPAL-RT**  
TECHNOLOGIES



# OPAL-RT Technologies

## Real-Time Digital Simulators

*April 7th, 2016*

*GECAD, Porto -Portugal*

FROM IMAGINATION... TO REAL-TIME



[#OpalRTSemGecad](https://twitter.com/OpalRTSemGecad)

Provide with more  
high-end services

Growing complexity

More & more smart  
systems

Design safer systems

Combine many  
systems

More electrical systems

Shorter deadlines



Difficult integration of many complex,  
smarter, safer systems

# I want to reduce

**DELAY**



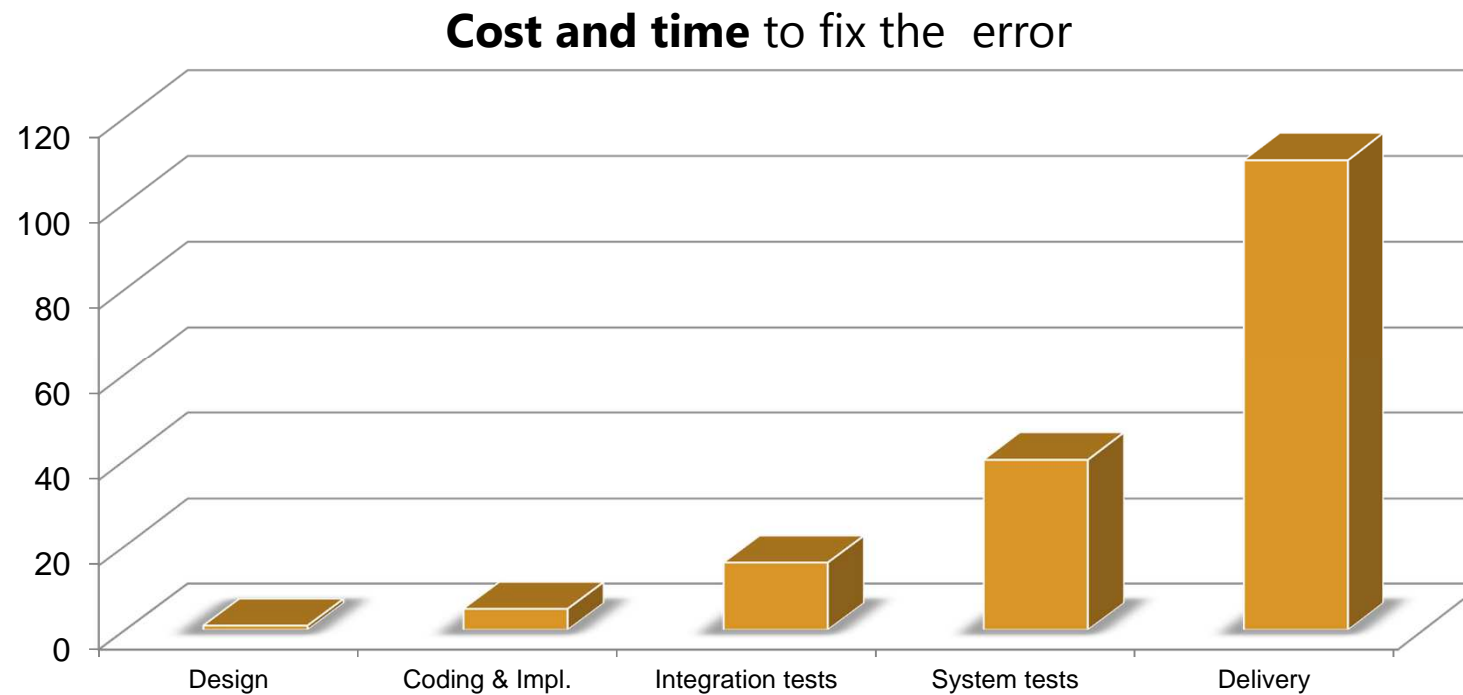
**RISK**



**COST**



## When an error is introduced at the design stage ...



# Contents

1. **OPAL-RT Technologies**
2. Benefits of simulation
3. Real-time simulation
4. Simulation methods
5. Hardware
6. Software
7. Conclusion

# OPAL-RT Technologies



- Established in 1997, Montreal (Canada).
- Subsidiaries: Europe, Asia and Australia.
- Wide distribution network.
- More than 130 employees.
- Over 500 customers.
- 20% reinvested in R&D.

- **Numerical Real-Time Simulators.**
- Designing and validation of electrical, electromechanical and control systems.
- MIL/accelerated simulation.
- Rapid Control Prototyping.
- Hardware in-the-loop.
- Compatibility with MATLAB/Simulink, PSS/e, PSIM and others.
- Industrial sectors: Energy, Aeronautics, Automotive, R&D, University.



# Some customer references



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- 2. Benefits of simulation**
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# Benefits of simulation

## Tests on the field are, by experience:

- Difficult to handle (*logistics, impacts, ...*)
- Expensive (*time, resources, equipment, ...*)
- Sometimes hazardous (*power systems, moving parts, ...*)

## Simulation tools allow:

- Verifications all along the project
- Early detection of errors (*design, implementation & integration*)
- Almost infinite test capabilities (*faulty cases, hazardous tests, ...*)

# Benefits of simulation

## **Reduce cost**

- No need for a real system or prototype
- Detect faults earlier : the earlier the better !
- Minimize malfunctions after installation

## **Reduce delay**

- Develop independently the HW and th SW of a controller
- Test systems independently in the lab with their simulated environment
- Reduce the rework activities with a progressive verification

## **Reduce risk**

- Study a complex system in detail with simulation
- Better test coverage
- Test the system in faulty conditions in a safer way

# Benefits of simulation

**Challenge:** to perform a project dealing with complex, combined, **electro-mechanical systems** which need **embedded control algorithms** with

- Accurate results
- High quality
- Maximum safety
- Shorter delays
- Reduced cost

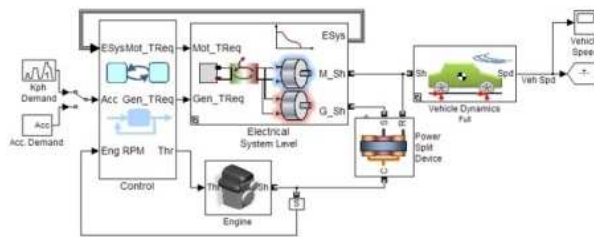
## How ?

## REAL-TIME SIMULATION

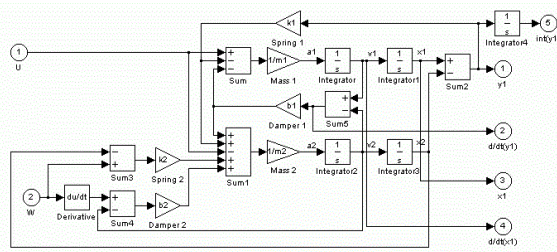
# Benefits of simulation

## Simulate systems with models

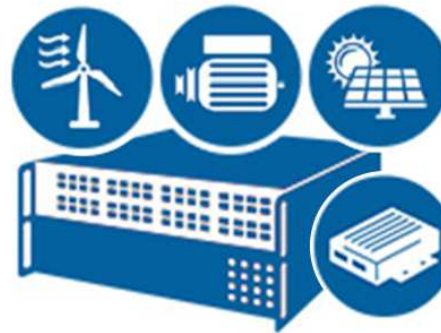
### Physical models



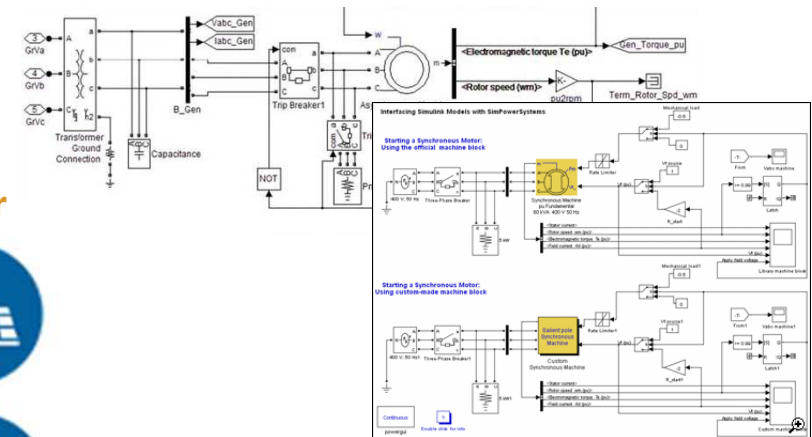
### Algorithms



### Real-time simulator



### Power systems



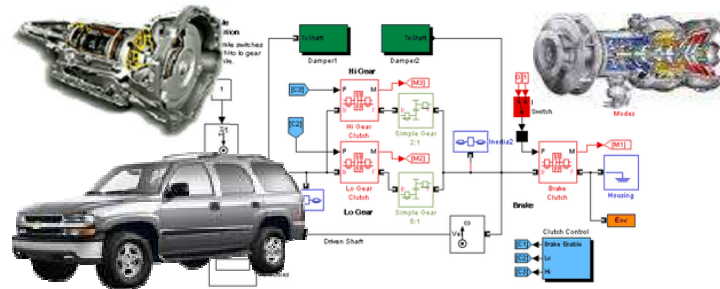
### Code

```
24 # -----
25 ## If the script is executed (not imported)
26 if __name__ == "__main__":
27
28     ## Connect to a running model using its name. The system
29     ## control is release
30     systemControl = 0
31     modelName = 'acquisition'
32     modelPath = ''
33     exactMatch = 0
34     returnOnAmbiguity = 0
35
36     instId, modelState = \
37         OpalapiPy.ConnectByType(modelName, modelPath, exactMatch,
38                                 systemControl, returnOnAmbiguity)
39     print "The connection with '%s' is completed." % modelName
40
41     try:
```

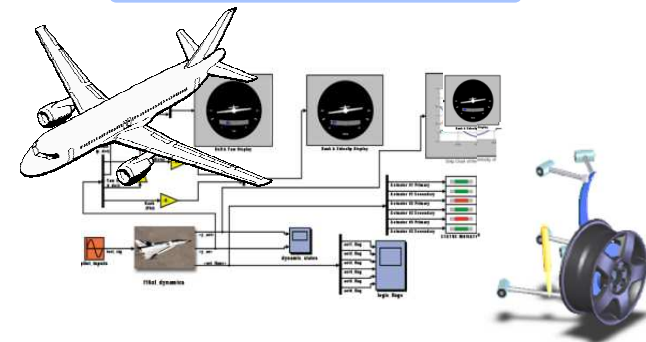
# Benefits of simulation

## Electromechanical systems

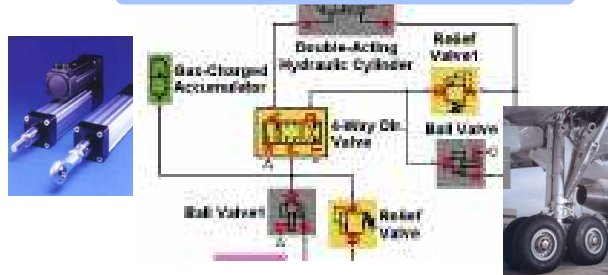
### Mechanical Systems



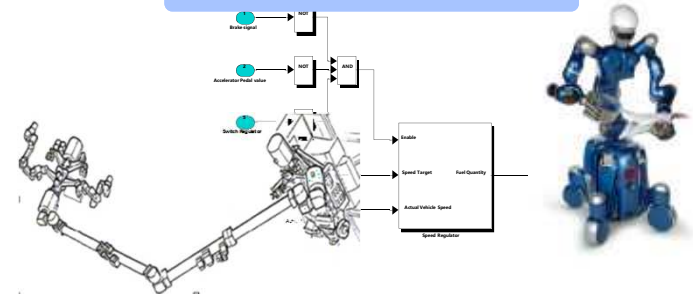
### Vehicle dynamics



### Hydraulics



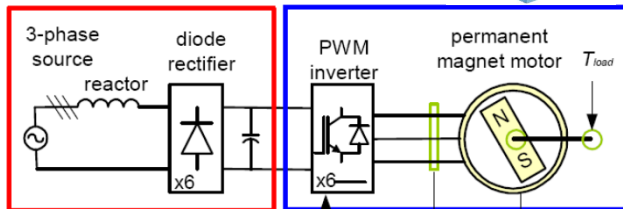
### Robotics



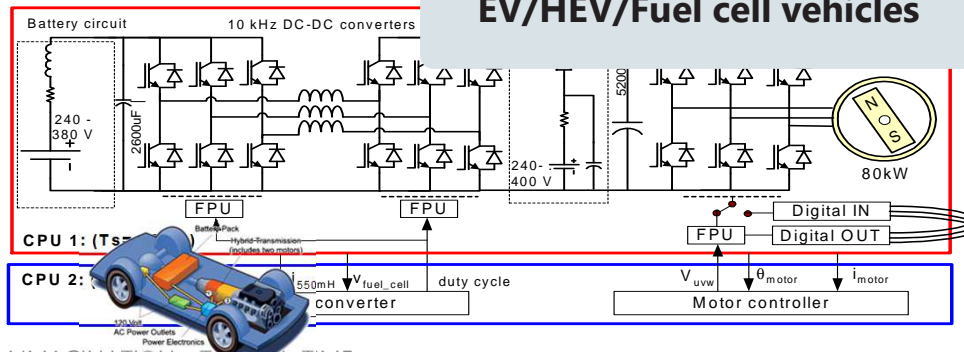
# Benefits of simulation

## Electrical drives and power electronics

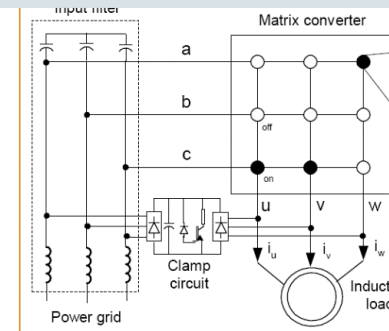
### Common Electrical Drives



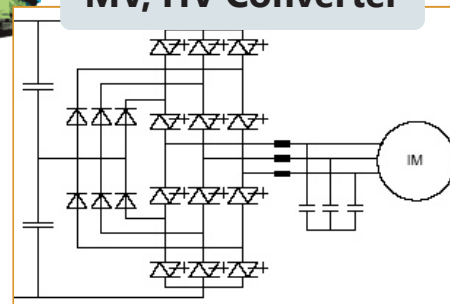
### EV/HEV/Fuel cell vehicles



### AC-AC, AC-DC, DC-AC, DC-DC Converters



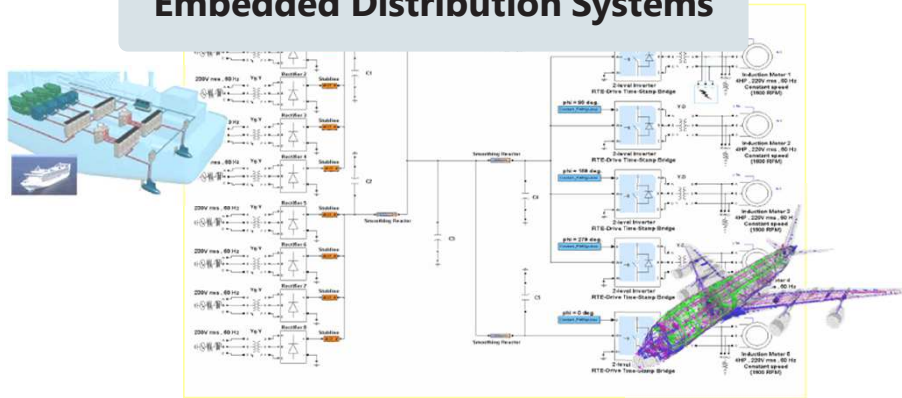
### Multi-level, MV, HV Converter



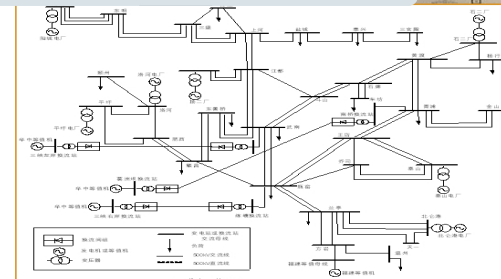
# Benefits of simulation

## Power systems

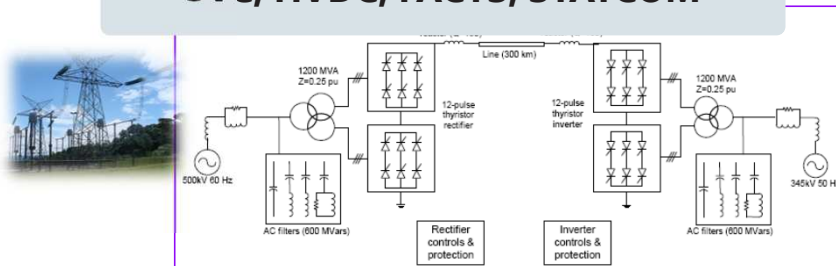
### Embedded Distribution Systems



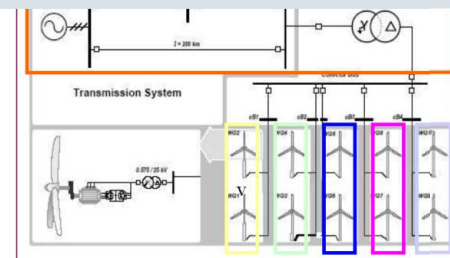
### Large Grids, SmartGrids



### SVC, HVDC, FACTS, STATCOM



### Renewable Energy Sources





# Benefits of simulation

## Simulation brings valuable help at different stages of a project:

- **Design** of systems
- **Validation** of control devices
- **Commissioning** of complex devices
- **Maintenance** of control systems





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1. OPAL-RT Technologies
2. Benefits of simulation
- 3. Real-time simulation**
4. Simulation methods
5. Hardware
6. Software
7. Conclusion

# Real-time simulation

## What is **real-time**?

- Provide with the right *result*
- At the right *time* !

## A real-time system is not necessarily *very fast*

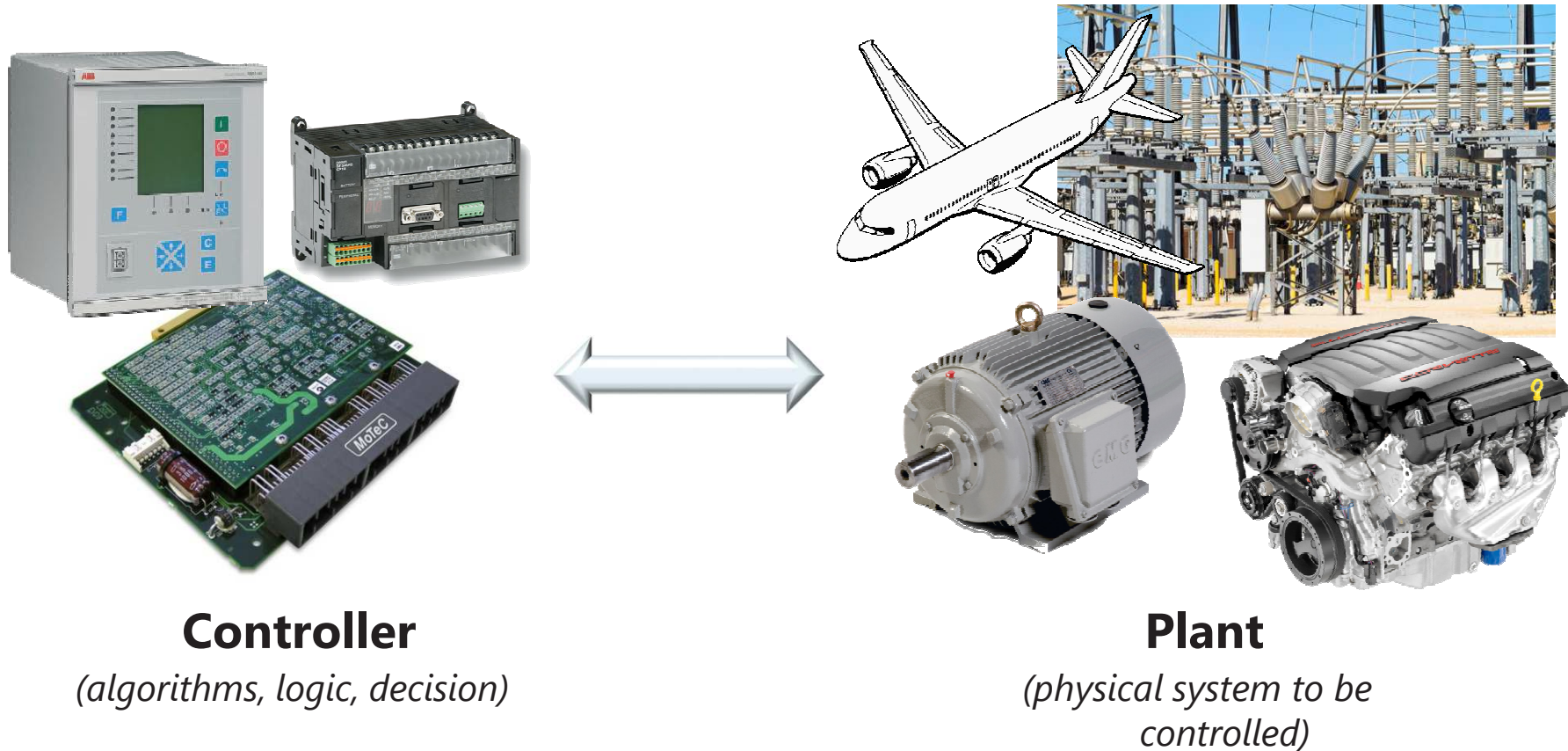
- Just fast *enough*, depending on the application

## Examples of time responses:

- **Microseconds** ( $10^{-6}$ ) for fast transient electrical systems
- **Milliseconds** ( $10^{-3}$ ) for mechanical dynamics
- **Seconds** for temperature control

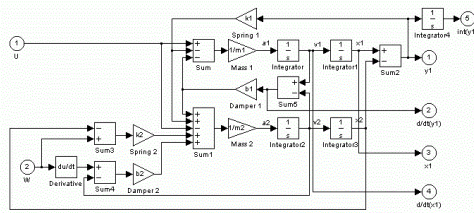


# Real-time simulation



# Real-time simulation

## 1. Design of the model



## 2. Model execution on RT simulator



## 3. Tests with hardware in the loop



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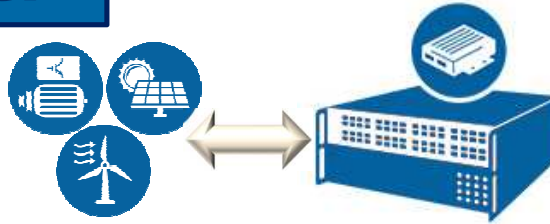
# Introduction : simulation methods

## MIL



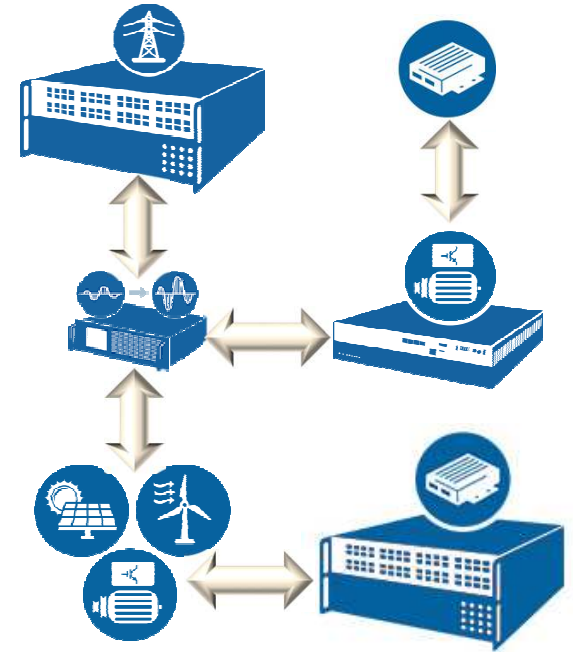
All simulated

## RCP

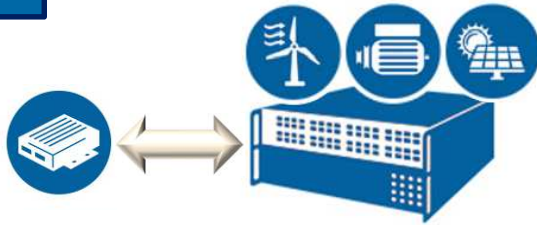


Simulated **controller**, real **plant**

## HYBRID

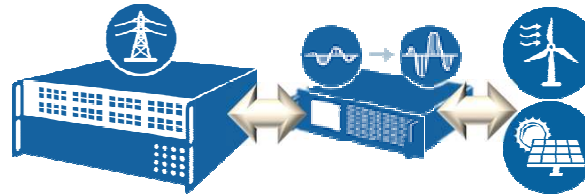


## HIL



Real **controller**, simulated **plant**

## PHIL



Real **plant**, simulated **plant**

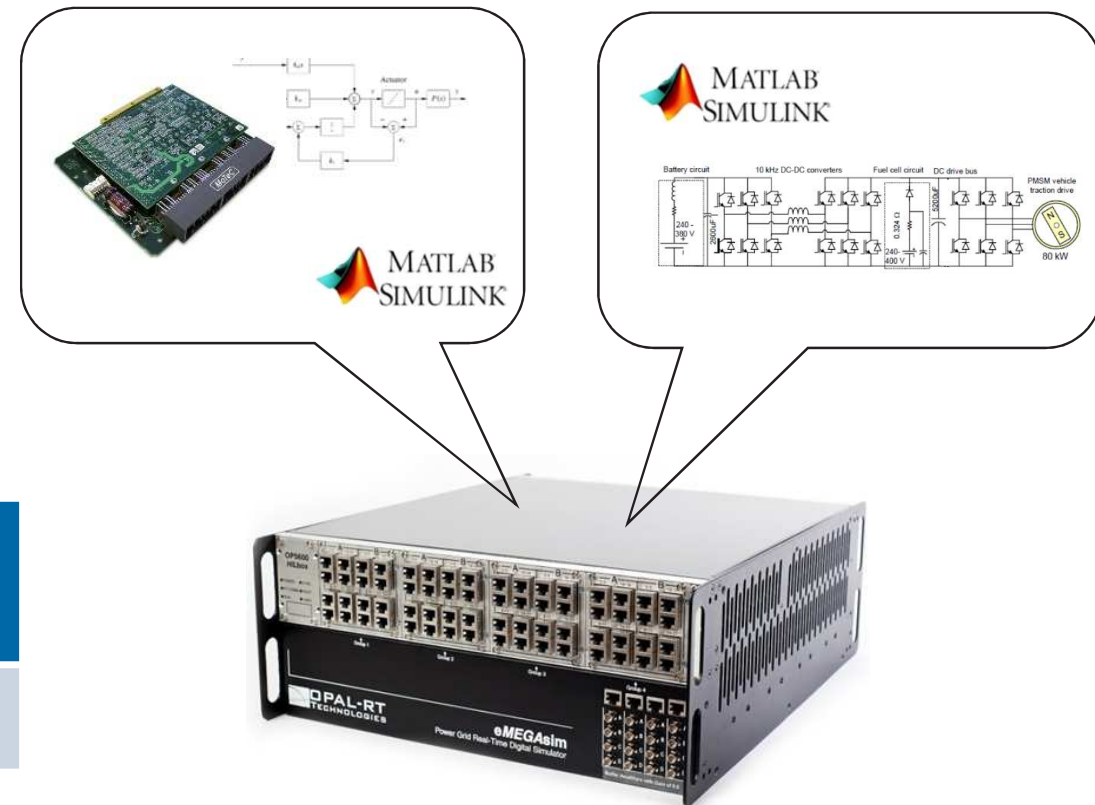


# Model-in-the-Loop

- **Purpose:** Proof of concept  
Functional description  
Preliminary studies

- **Configuration**

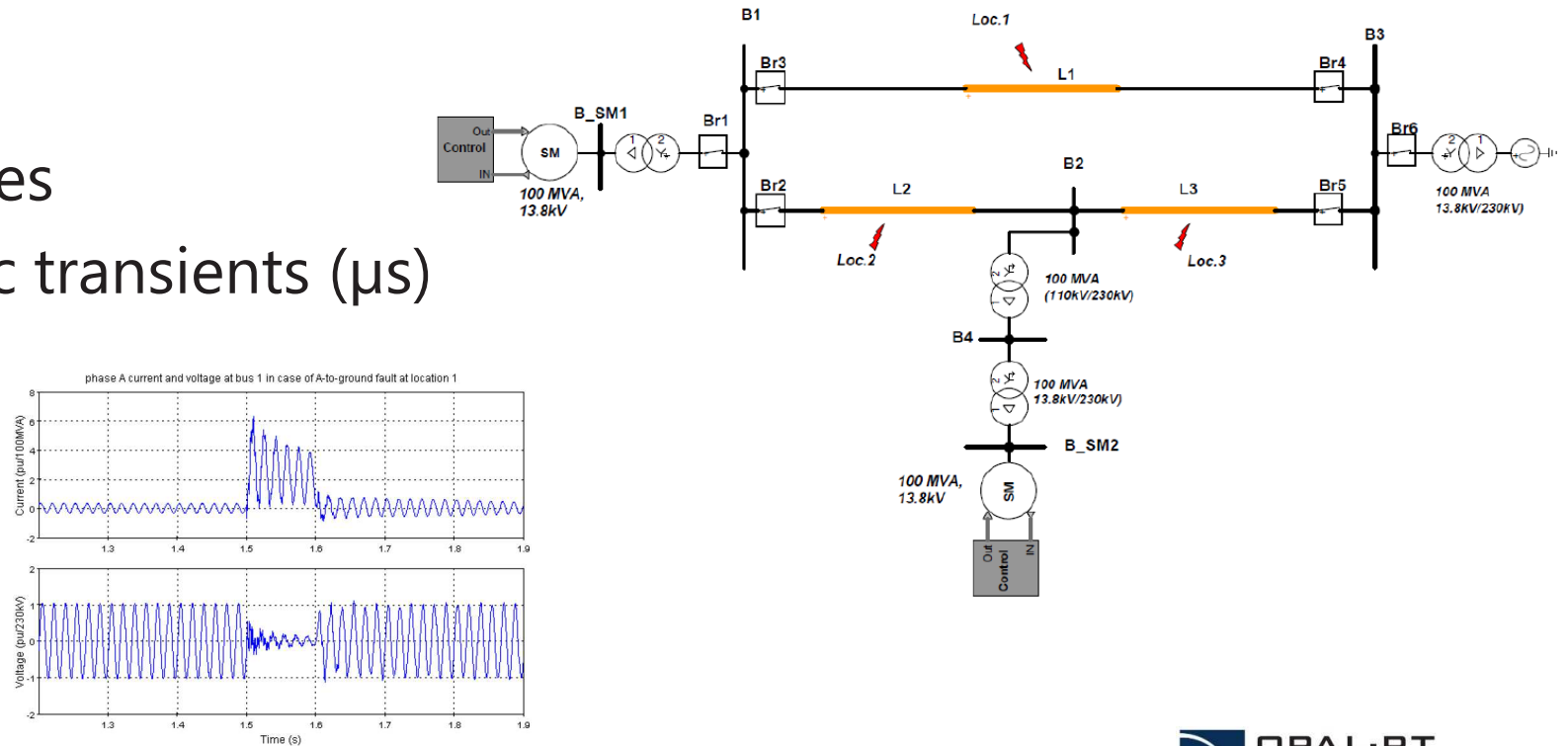
Plant (physical controlled system)	Controller (control algorithm)
Simulated	Simulated



# Model-in-the-Loop

## Application case: Electro-magnetic transients on transmission system

- Smaller grid
- Harmonic studies
- Electromagnetic transients ( $\mu\text{s}$ )





# Model-in-the-Loop

## What can we expect from offline simulation ?

- Get results faster

*Hours of simulation become minutes*

- More runs

*Faster simulation = more iterations to refine a design*

- Early fault detection

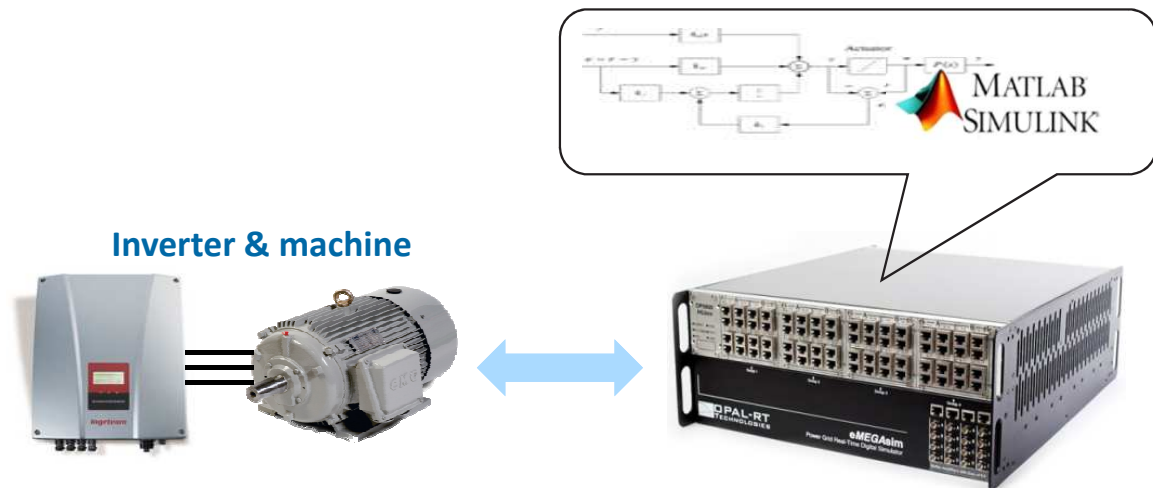
*Capture system-level errors early*

# Rapid Control Prototyping

- **Purpose:** To test the algorithms of a controller  
To refine the algorithm parameters  
To connect the simulated control to a real plant

- **Configuration**

Plant (physical controlled system)	Controller (control algorithm)
Real	Simulated



# Rapid Control Prototyping

## What can we expect from RCP?

- Decouple HW and SW development of a controller

*Final controller hardware is not required*

- Refine the control algorithm

*Control parameters are accessible in run-time !*

- Early fault detection

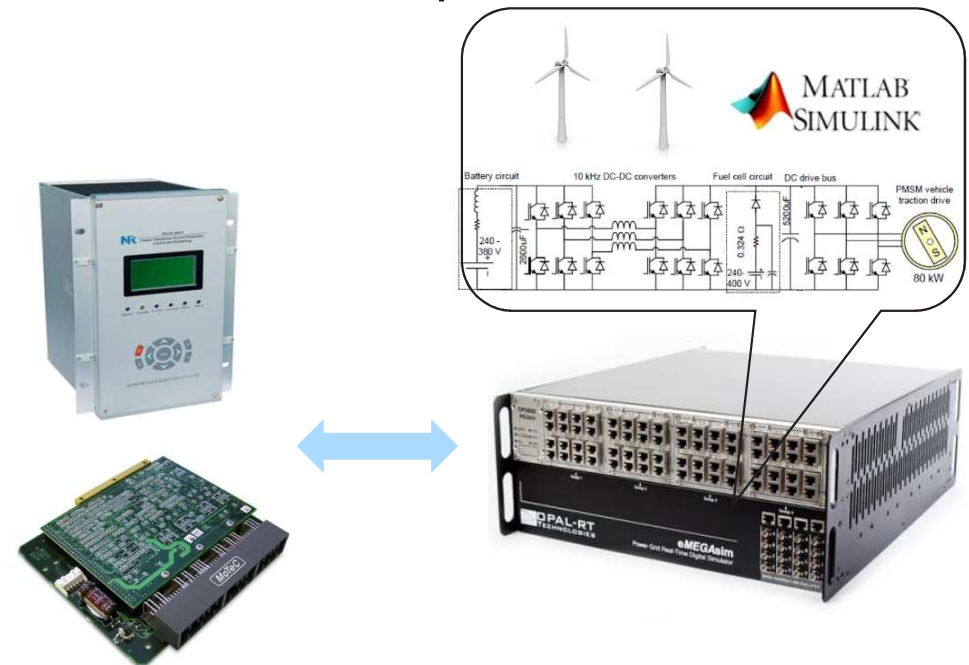
*Design errors can be captured before final implementation of controller*

# Hardware in-the-loop

- **Purpose:** To test the final controller in safer conditions  
To prepare the final physical tests  
To connect the real control to a simulated plant

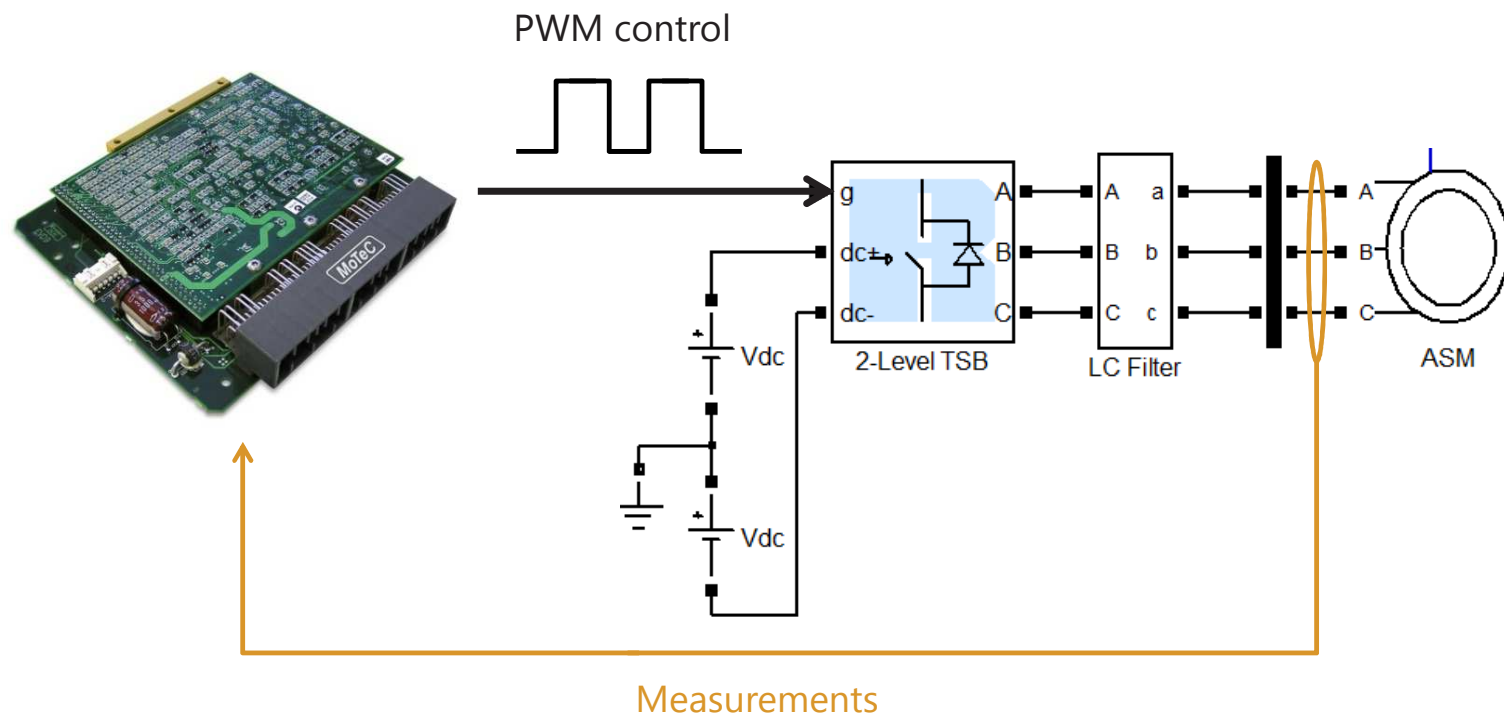
- **Configuration**

Plant (physical controlled system)	Controller (control algorithm)
Simulated	Real



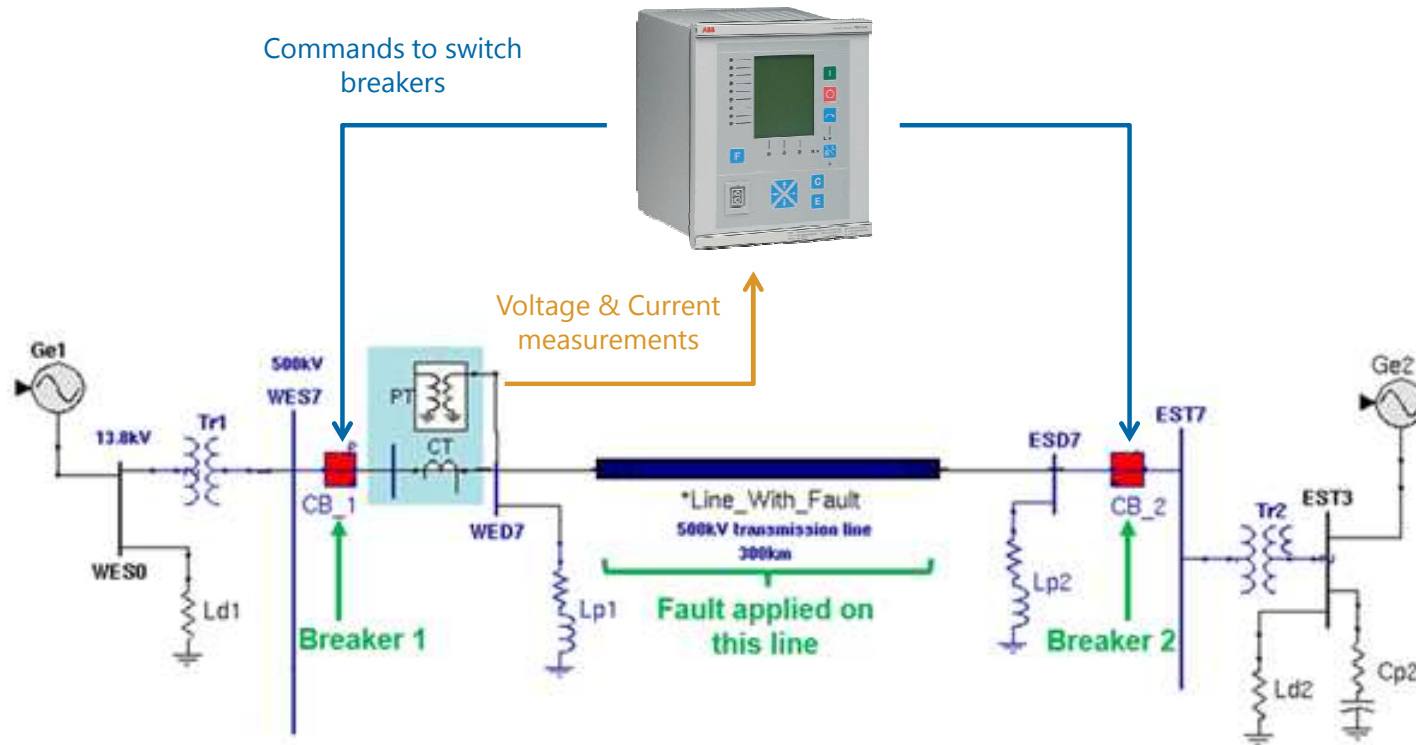
# Hardware in-the-loop

## Application case: Testing the control of an electrical drive



# Hardware in-the-loop

## Application case: Protection relay testing



# Hardware in-the-loop

## What can we expect from HIL?

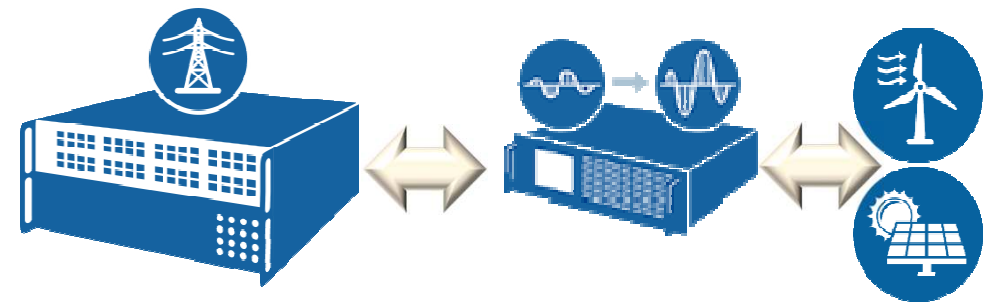
- Validate integration of HW and SW  
*Tests performed on the final controller*
- Safer tests – the plant is modeled !  
*Difficult or hazardous tests can be easily done*
- Better efficiency and wider test coverage  
*Automatic tests can run 24/7. Non-regression tests.*

# Power Hardware in-the-loop

- **Purpose:** Test integration between systems handling power  
Emulate power devices and their environment

- **Configuration**

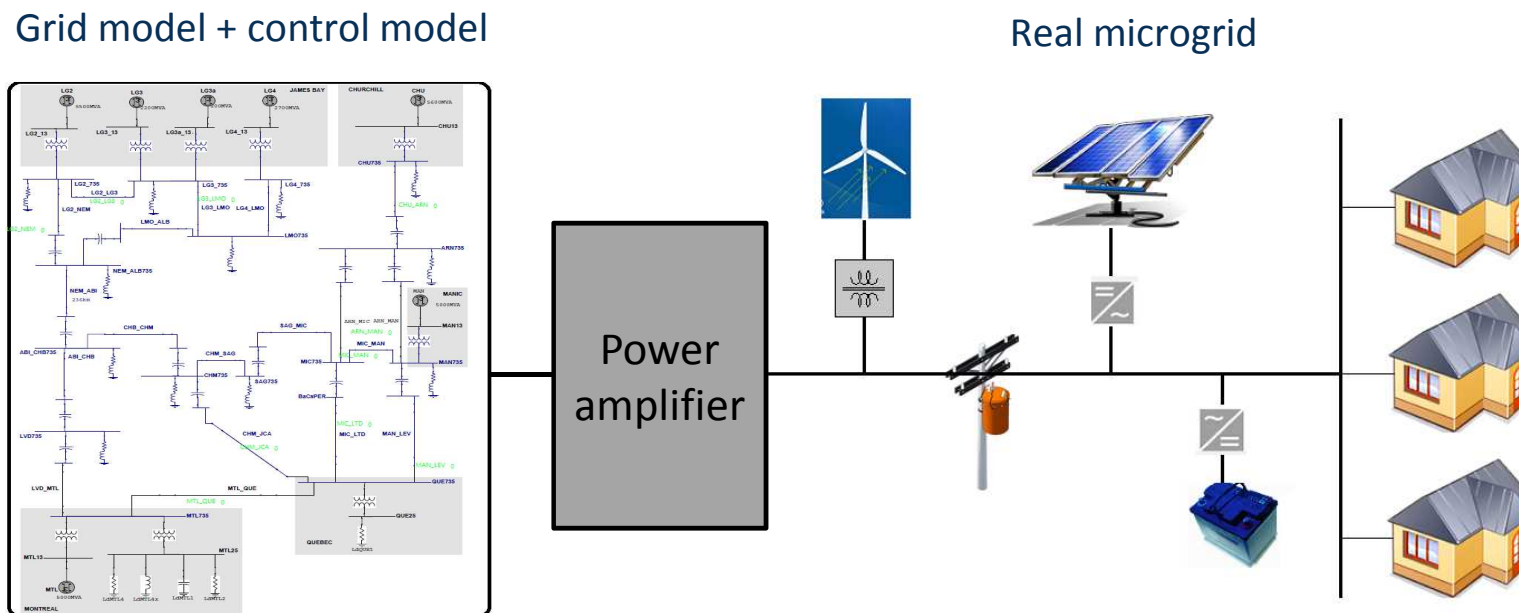
Plant (physical controlled system)	Controller (control algorithm)
Partly Simulated, partly real. Use of a power amplifier.	Real or Simulated





# Power Hardware in-the-loop

## Application case: Integration of microgrid and power grid



# Power Hardware in-the-loop

## What can we expect from PHIL?

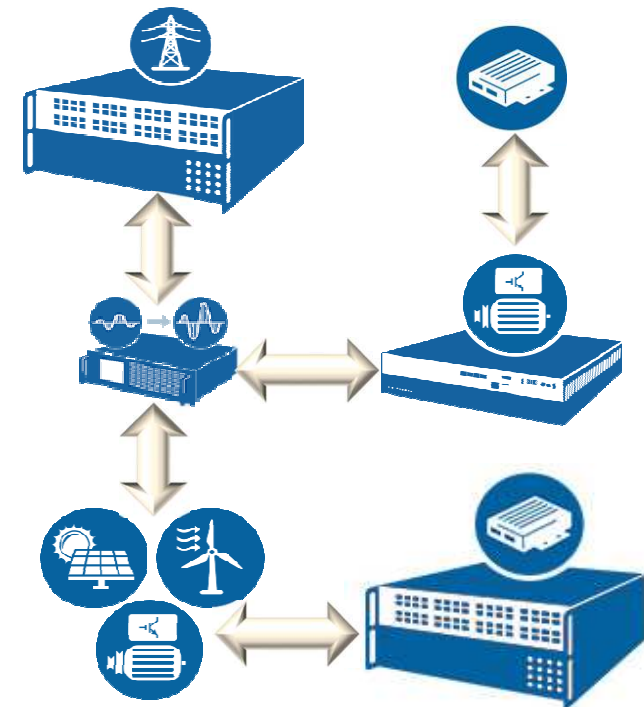
- Emulate power devices  
*For example the power grid*
- Validate integration of power devices and their environment  
*Tests are closer to reality since part of the system is real*
- Test devices which need to be connected to power devices  
*Test of PMUs and protection relays*

# Complex hybrid simulations

- **Purpose:** Test complex setups involving all kinds of controllers and plants

- **Configuration**

Plant (physical controlled system)	Controller (control algorithm)
Simulated and/or real. Use of a power amplifier.	Real and/or Simulated



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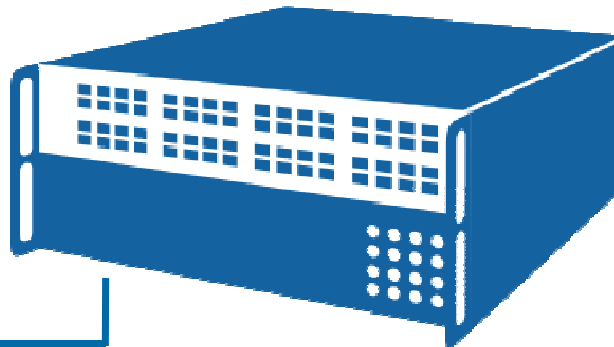
1. OPAL-RT Technologies
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# Real-Time Simulators

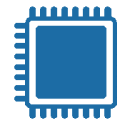
**Host PC**  
Model Edition  
Simulation management  
Graphical interface



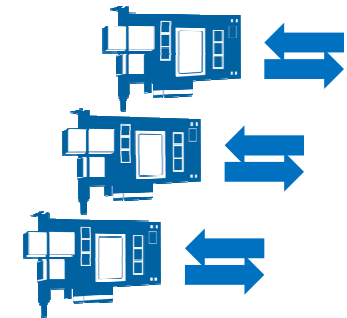
**RT Simulator**  
Model Execution  
Data logging  
I/O management



**Ethernet**  
Link between host PC and  
simulator



**Multiple-core CPU**  
Model computation



**FPGA & I/O  
boards**  
Interface with real  
devices

# Real-Time Simulators

## OP5600



## Features

- Up to 32 INTEL® CPU cores
- Rack-mountable format 19" (4U)
- PCIe slots for connection with expansion units
- Support of communication boards (*IEC61850, C37.118, MODBUS, CAN...*)
- XILINX® FPGA with up to 8 I/O boards
- Designed for offline simulation, RCP & HIL

# Real-Time Simulators

## OP4510



## Features

- 4 INTEL® CPU cores
- Compact format (2U)
- PCIe slots for connection with expansion units
- Optional SFP (optical fiber) connectors
- XILINX® FPGA Kintex 7 with 4 I/O boards
- Designed for offline simulation, RCP & HIL

# Real-Time Simulators

## OP4200

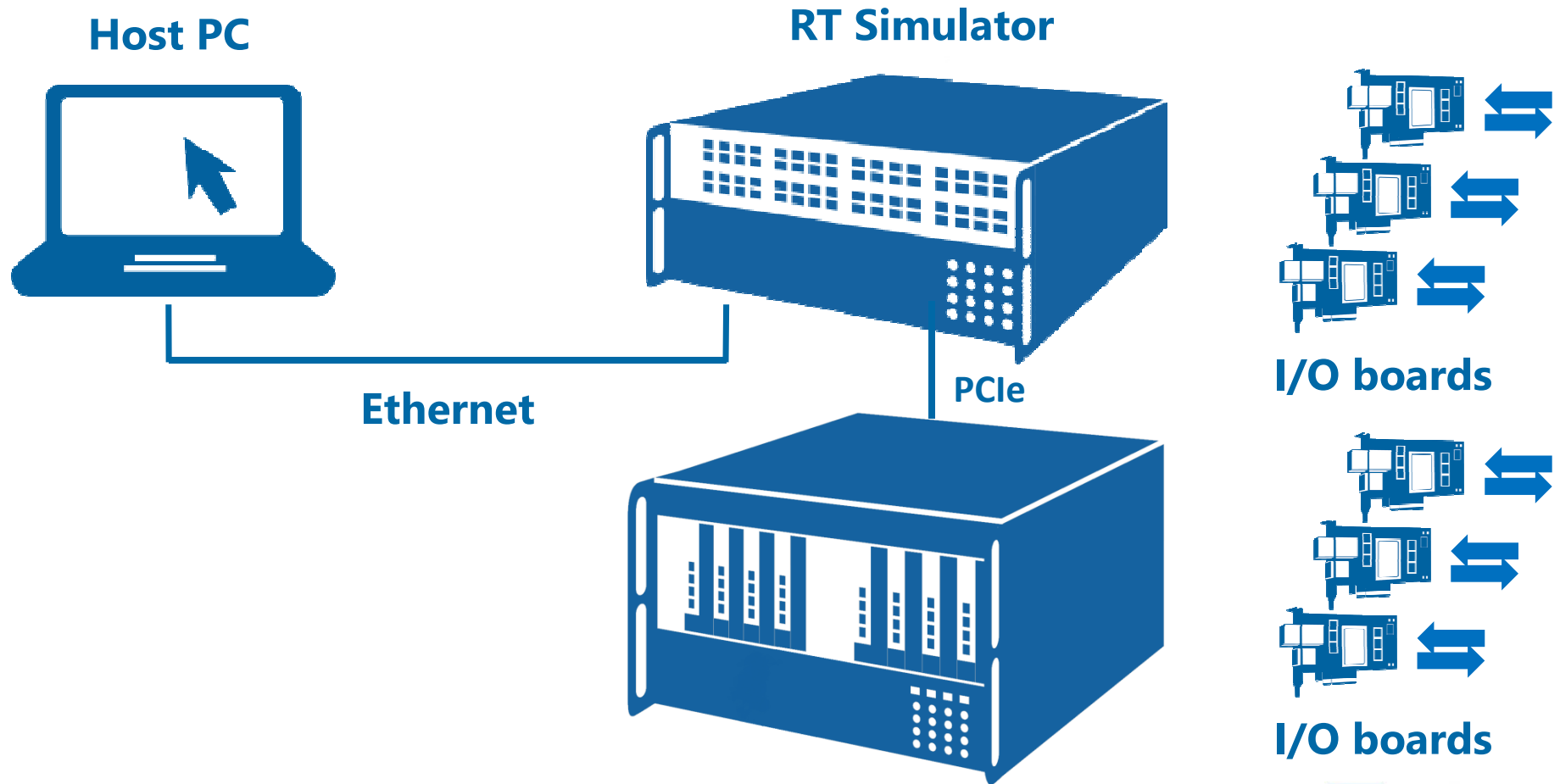


## Features

- ARM® Processor-based SoC device
- Compact format with vehicle and rack mounting options
- Optional SFP (optical fiber) connectors
- XILINX Zynq® FPGA with 4 I/O cassette slots
- Designed for offline simulation, RCP & HIL



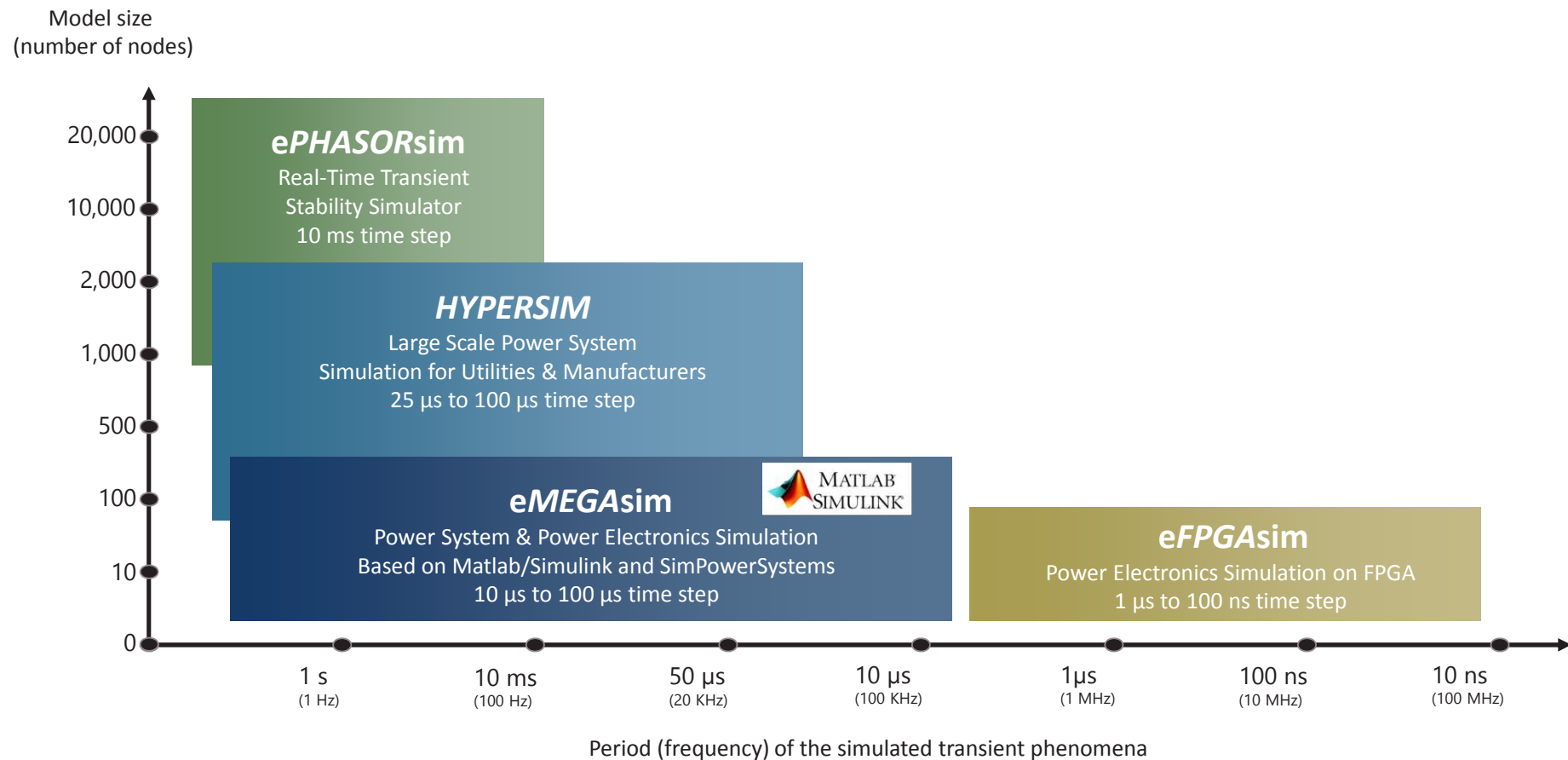
# Expansion units



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# Overview



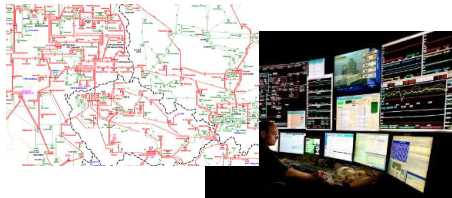
# Software

## Power Systems

### Electromechanic Transients

**(phasor)**

1 up to 100Hz  
(millisecond)



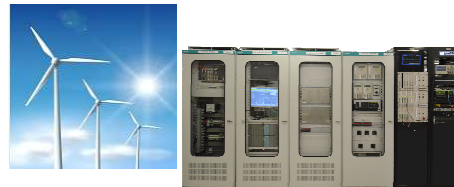
- Grid Control Center
- Energy Management System
- PMU Data Analysis
- Cyber security
- Wide Area Control
- State estimation

*ePHASORsim*

### Electromagnetics Transients

**(EMT)**

20 000 Hz  
(microsecond)



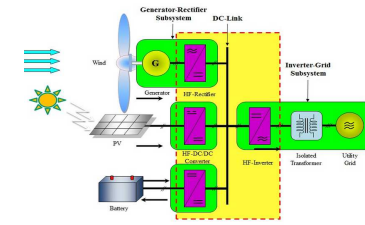
- Voltage Stability
- Frequency control
- Protection
- HVDC Control
- SVC Control
- FACTS
- Microgrid System Controls

*eMEGAsim*

*HYPERSIM*

### Power Electronics

2 000 000 Hz  
(nanosecond)



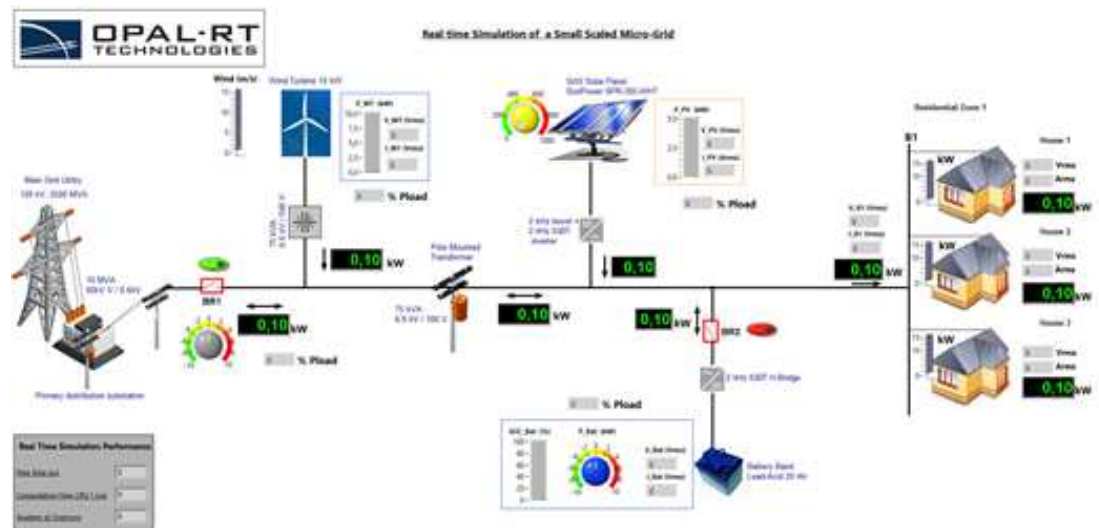
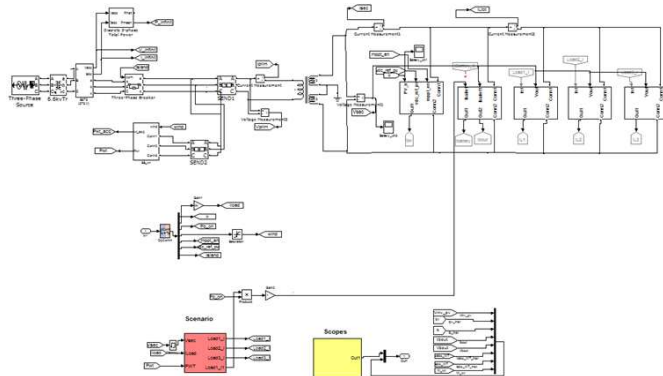
- Local control
- Power converters
- Fast transients
- High frequency harmonics
- Microgrid local control

*eFPGAsim*

# eMEGAsim demonstration – Microgrid

The microgrid is composed of a distribution system on which is connected a 10kW wind turbine, a 5kW solar panel, a lead-acid battery bank and residential loads.

The wind speed, the sunshine and the residential loads can be modified which directly affect the power flow in the microgrid and the battery state of charge.



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# OPAL-RT Proposal

## **OPAL-RT offers real-time simulation solutions:**

- ✓ All industrial sectors: Energy, smart grids, automotive, aeronautics...
- ✓ All kind of applications : Power electronics, grids, power systems and automation
- ✓ Corporative and academical R&D.

## **Allows increment of tests in type and quantity all along the V cycle:**

- ✓ Model-in-the-loop, Rapid Control Prototyping, Hardware-in-the-loop and Power HIL
- ✓ Software suites and solvers are real-time adapted.
- ✓ Multi-core and multi-rate processing.
- ✓ Fast I/O – FPGA.

## **Complements prototype and physical models:**

- ✓ Detects and solves early stage errors.
- ✓ Allows complex or dangerous testing.
- ✓ Not only validates; but optimizes.
- ✓ Cost reduction.



# How can we start together?

**Execute your own models in real-time, demo licenses.**

## **Try our Real-Time Simulators**

- ✓ Real conditions evaluation with your own projects.
- ✓ Two-months renting trial period available.
- ✓ Local training at your facilities.

## **Buy your first simulator**

- ✓ Proposal according your requests including training.
- ✓ Progressive: Incremental core activation to boost simulation power, additional I/O cards, ...

# OBRIGADO

# Datos de contacto

## **OPAL-RT Technologies**

[www.opal-rt.com](http://www.opal-rt.com)

**Yoann MOUGENOT**, *Business Unit Manager*

[yoann.mougenot@opal-rt.com](mailto:yoann.mougenot@opal-rt.com)

**Arturo BAEZA**, *Sales Manager España y Portugal*

[arturo.baeza@opal-rt.com](mailto:arturo.baeza@opal-rt.com)

