



# INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION



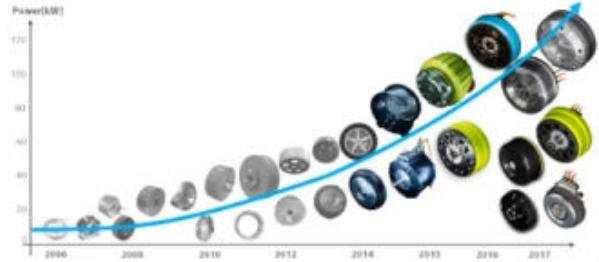
## Elaphe Propulsion Technologies

**A holistic approach to noise reduction in an in-wheel electric motor drive**



**Martin Strojnik, PhD**  
Head of active part design

Over 15 direct-drive motor designs delivered and integrated



Most powerful motor

Largest number of vehicles

Most powerful in-wheel car

Elaphe JV Production line

## Company

- Formally established in 2006, research since 1980s
- Complete in-wheel drivetrain solution disrupting the mobility market
- Partnerships with key automotive suppliers in EU and China

- Commercial, Develop & Deliver and Research projects in all key markets (US, EU, China, Asia)
- JV in China for local manufacturing with the largest Chinese Tier 1 brake supplier

## Market position

- World leader in direct-drive
- Patented technology
- Headquarters in EU, JV in China

## R&D Team

- Large and focused R&D center (> 20% with PhD)
- Complete set of skills, knowledge and experience



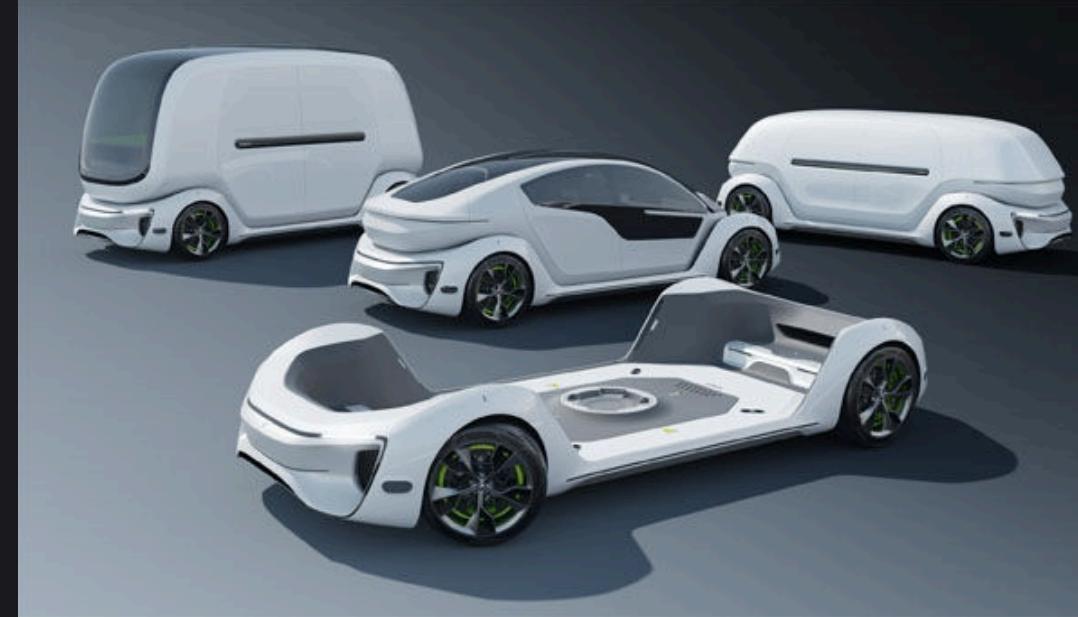
Some of Elaphe awards



European partner network

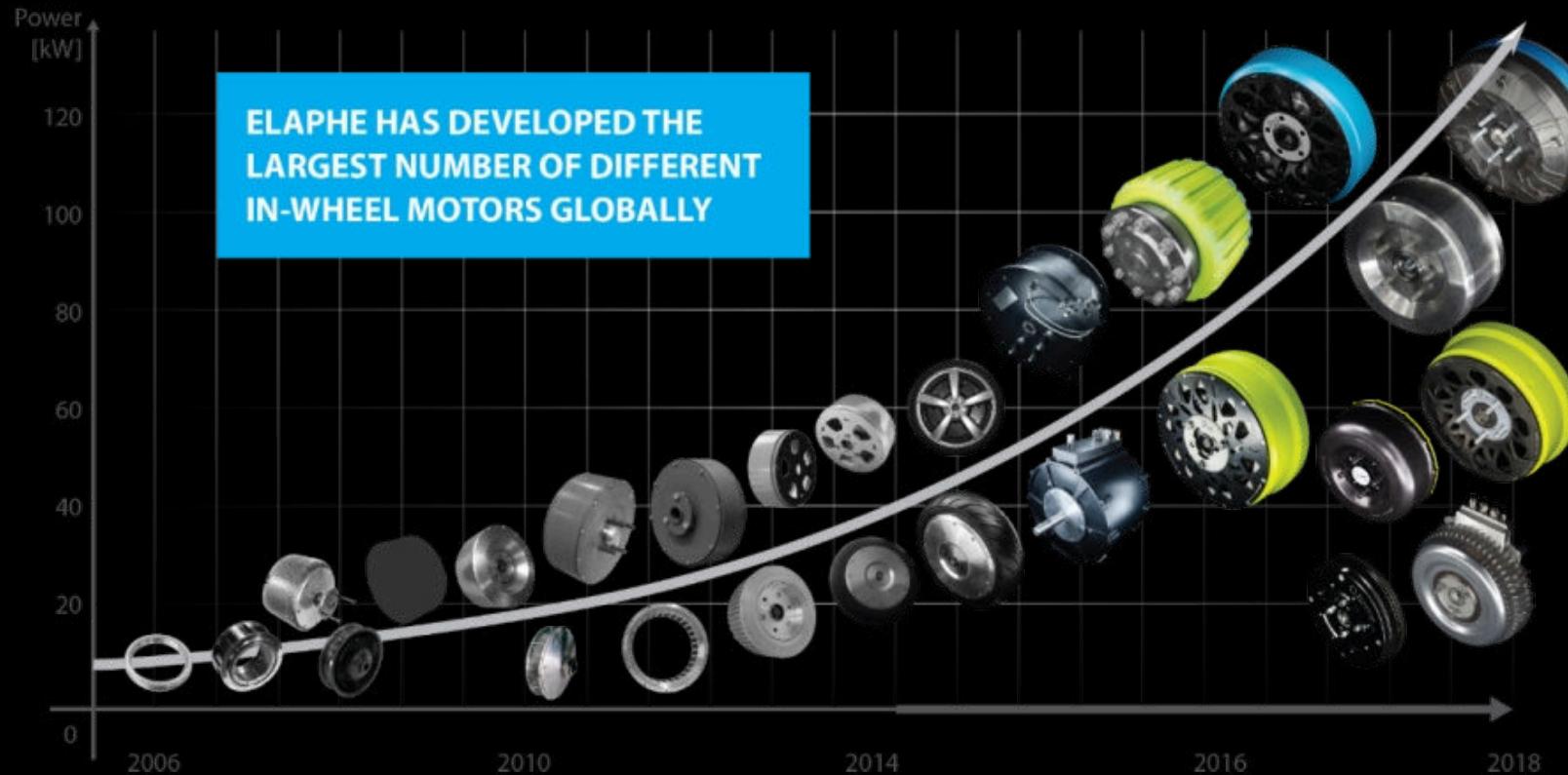
# In-wheel: The modular approach

## FUNCTION CENTERED VEHICLE DESIGN



- Modularity of the platform
- Reducing the weight and number of components
- Lowering the total cost of development and ownership
- Increasing manoeuvrability

# Scalable in-wheel motor design for multiple vehicle architectures



Versatile technology with many applications of the same products

- No gears necessary
- System with OEM parts
- Fully electric or hybrid
- Performance up to 1500 Nm
- Speeds up to 2000 rpm



# Jump-Start to electrification

## I. READY ADVANCED SOLUTIONS

## II. WORKING WITH YOUR R&D

Adapting to your level of development need

Leading in-wheel solution

Complete HW & SW solution

System & Vehicle engineering

**PLUG & PLAY**

Beyond state-of-the-art

Building on Elaphe know-how

Completing your teams

**AGILE & DEDICATED**

# Completing the innovation: Advanced electronics

High functional safety level (D)

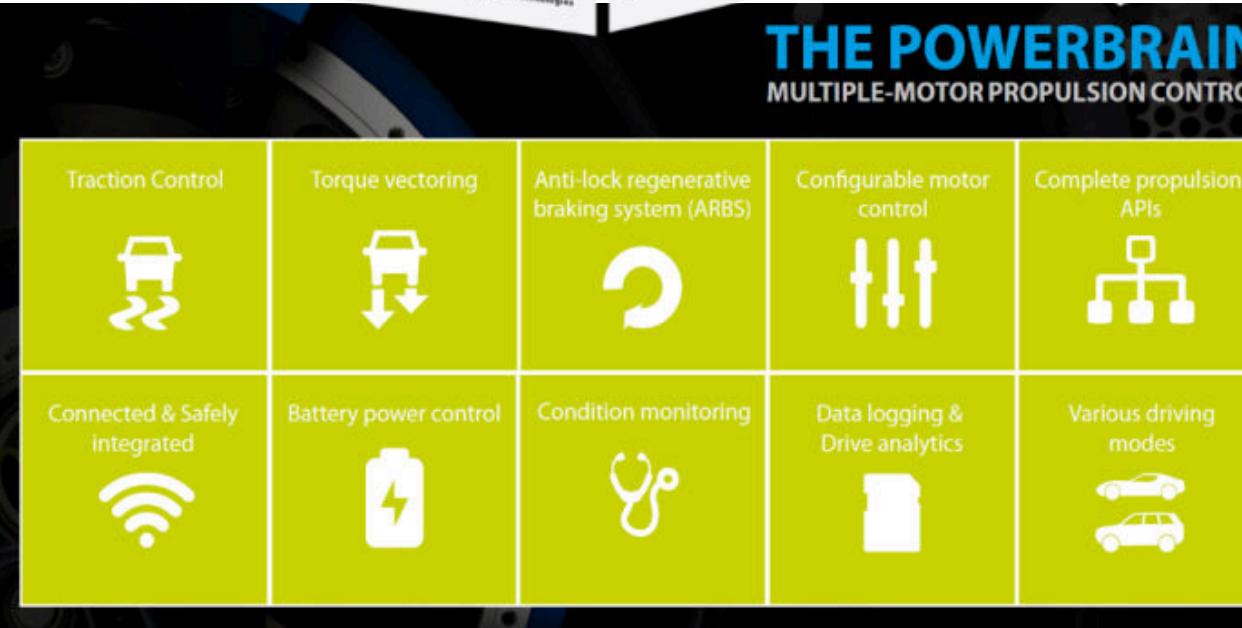
Automotive standards

Modular & connected

Rich, intelligent data



NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR  
SAFETY, BRAKING AND  
TRACTION CONTROL



# Key requirements for in-wheel motor design



- PACKAGING WITH STEERING, SUSPENSION, BRAKE AND WHEEL
- MECHANICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DURABILITY
- HIGH MASS AND VOLUME TORQUE DENSITY
- THERMAL MANAGEMENT
- ACOUSTIC AND STRUCTURE BORNE NOISE





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## In-wheel motor NVH aspects

### What is the difference vs. conventional EVs?

- In-Wheel motor noise cannot be shielded with same methods
- In-wheel motors are rigidly connected to the wheel knuckle – different vibration transfer path.
- Airborne noise is propagated directly to the environment.
- Structural design is limited by design space and weight restrictions
- Much higher pole count improves the EM excitation effects



# Holistic approach to NVH optimization





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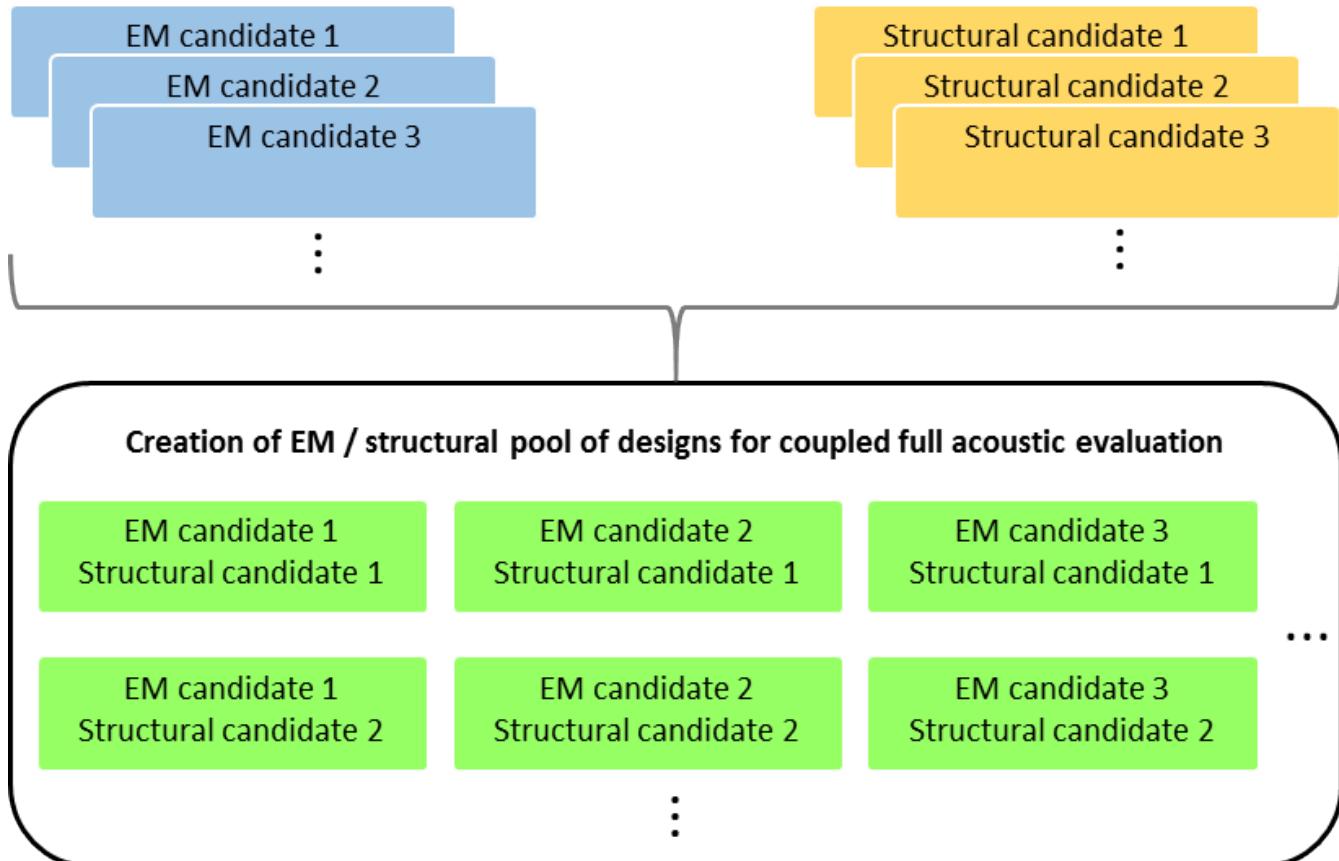
## In-wheel motor NVH aspects

### In-wheel motor structure optimization

- Focused on electromagnetic design and structural design
- Major effect on air-borne noise
- Partial effect on structure borne noise excitation



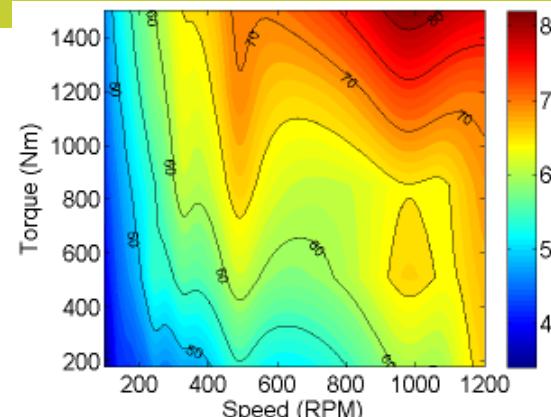
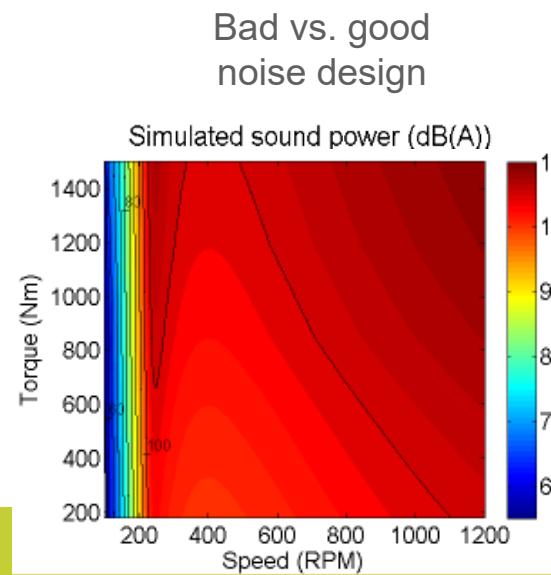
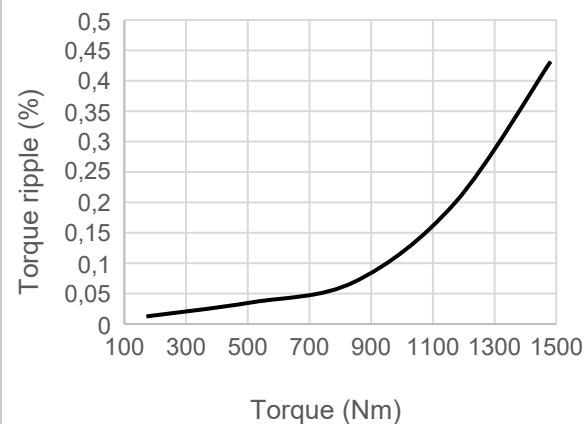
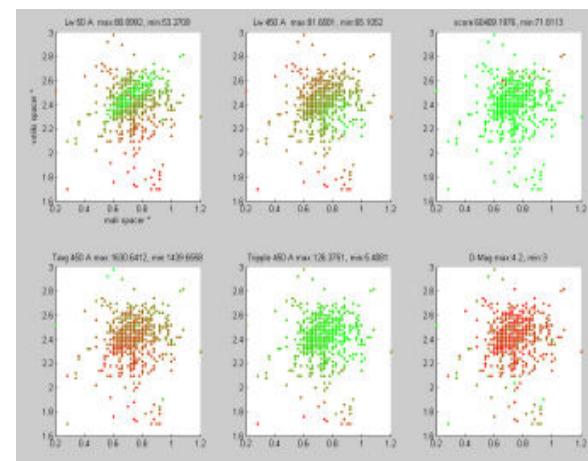
# In-wheel motor structure optimization



## Two-step optimization

- Differential evolution for generation of candidates
- EM optimization target function:
  - Torque ripple
  - Sound emission from analytical acoustic model
  - Performance (torque, speed, efficiency) used as BC
- Structural optimization target:
  - No structurally excited resonances in common driving scenarios
  - Decrease of ERP for excited resonant modes

# In-wheel motor structure optimization



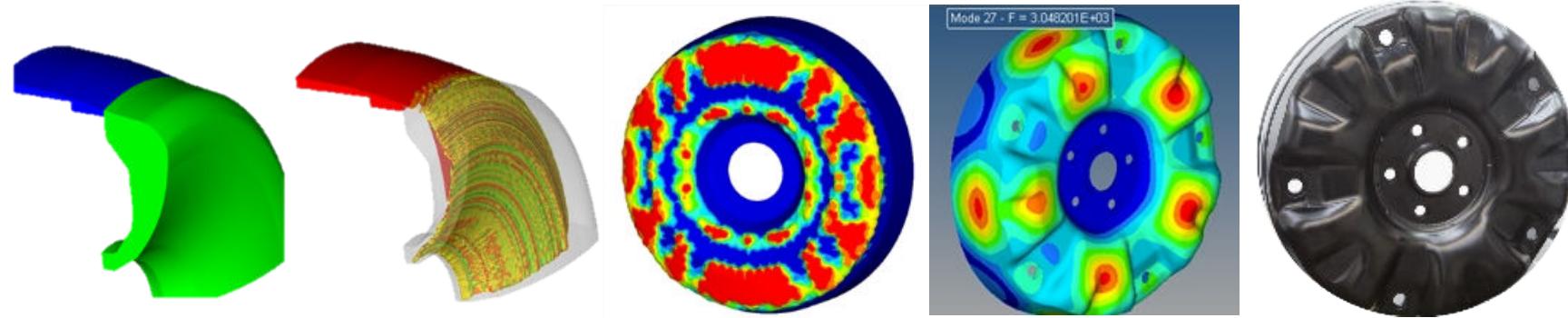
## Active part design results

- Evaluation of each member in several working points (speed, torque)
- Analytical noise Analytical evaluation of emitted sound for the best performing candidates
- Export of excitations for analysis with rotor structures

## Two-step optimization

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# In-wheel motor structure optimization



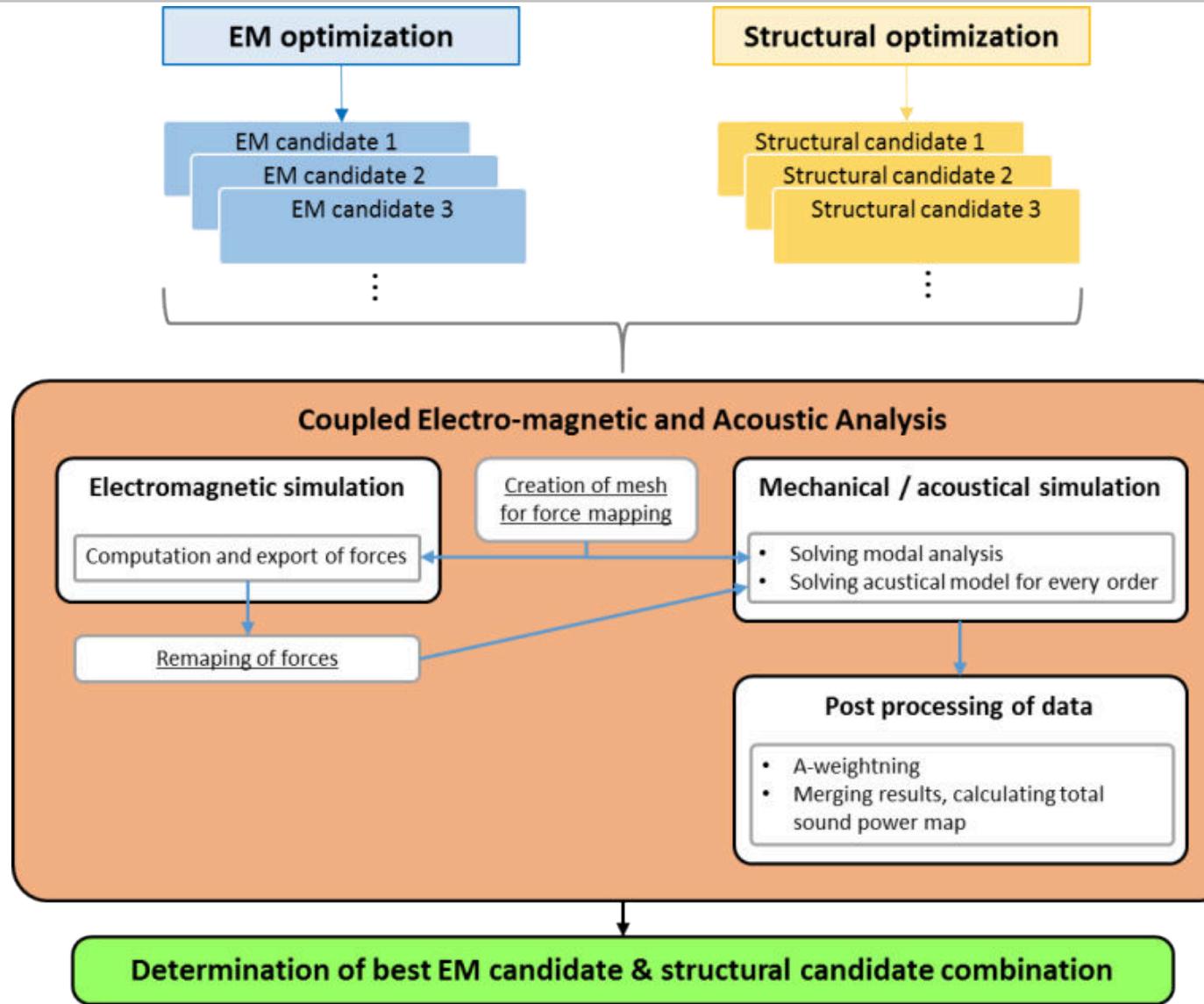
## Mechanical design results

- Rotor thickness and shape optimization within boundary conditions (topology optimization)
- Appropriation of the manufacturing process
- Pairing with excitations by active part candidates

## Two-step optimization

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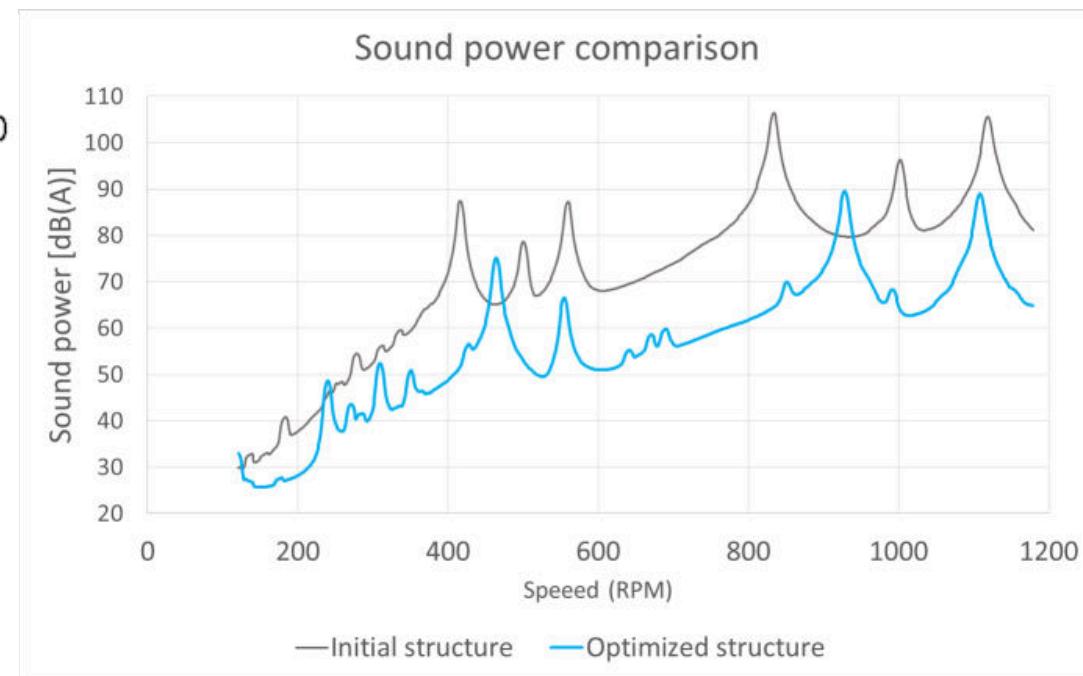
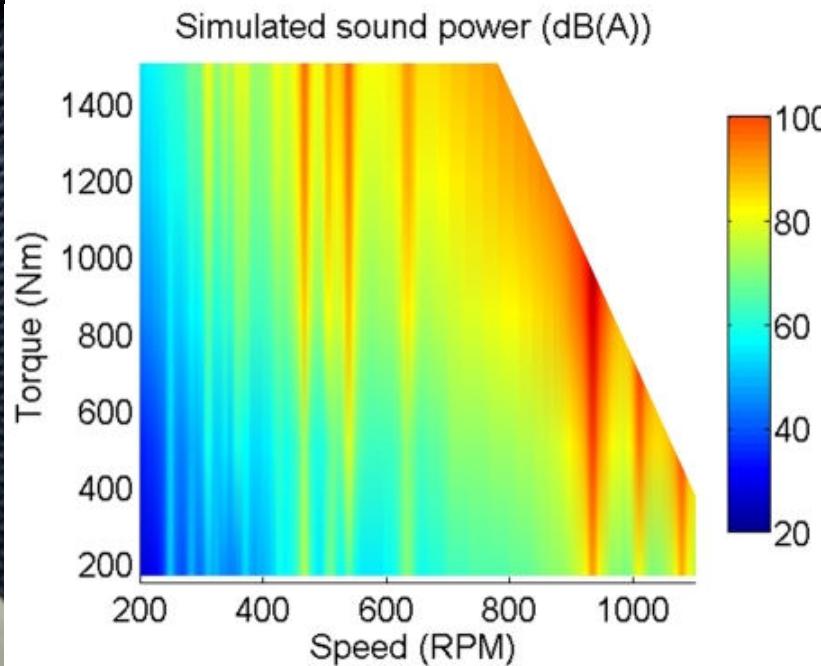
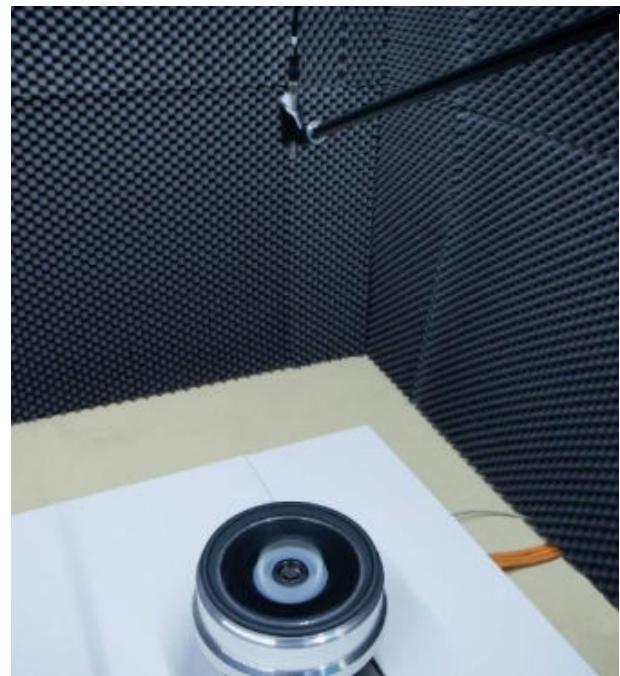
# In-wheel motor structure optimization



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# In wheel motor structure optimization



## Airborne noise output

## Large improvement over initial prototypes

- Sound optimization focused on urban environment driving and low and medium torque successful
- Improvement over the version A considerable – 10-20 dB(A) in most working points
- SPL at pass-by is expected to be around 20 dB lower than motor sound power



# INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION



## In-wheel motor NVH aspects

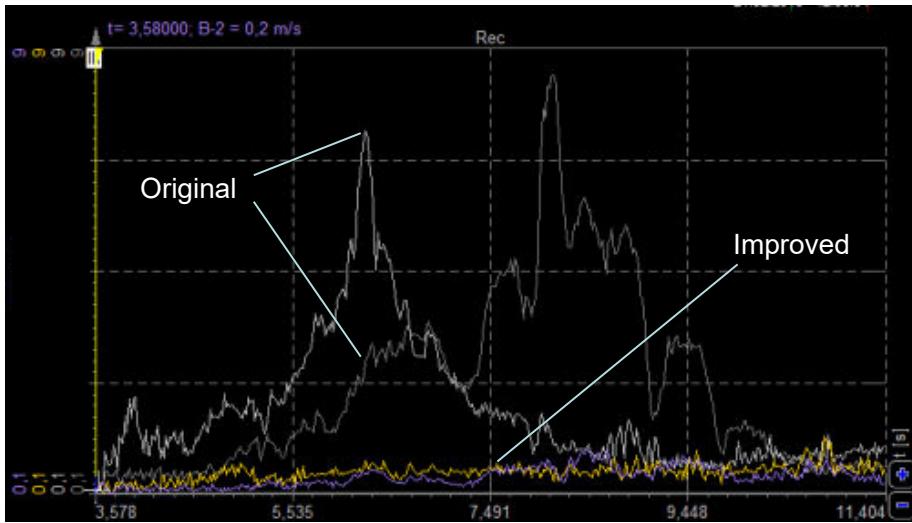
### Control optimization

- Focus on torque ripple reduction
- Major effect on structure-borne noise excitation
- Small effect on air-borne noise

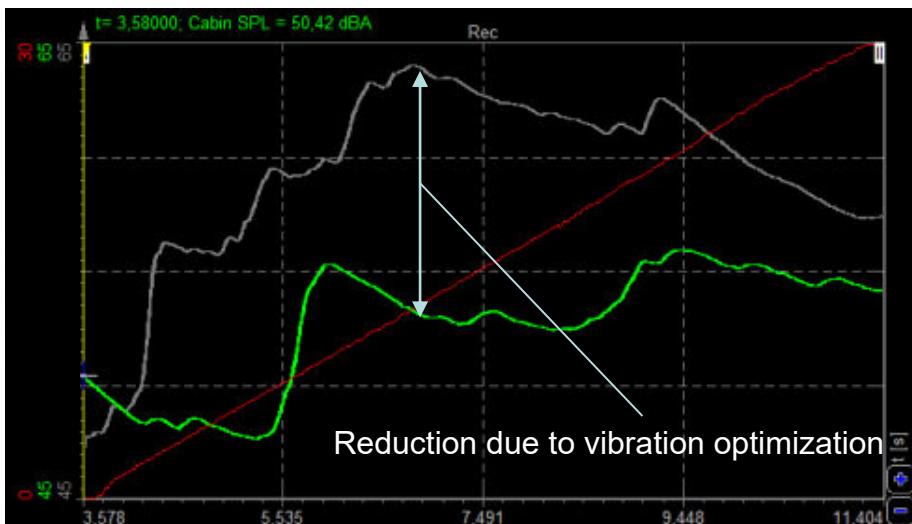


# Control optimization

## Vibration on suspension



## Acoustic noise in cabin



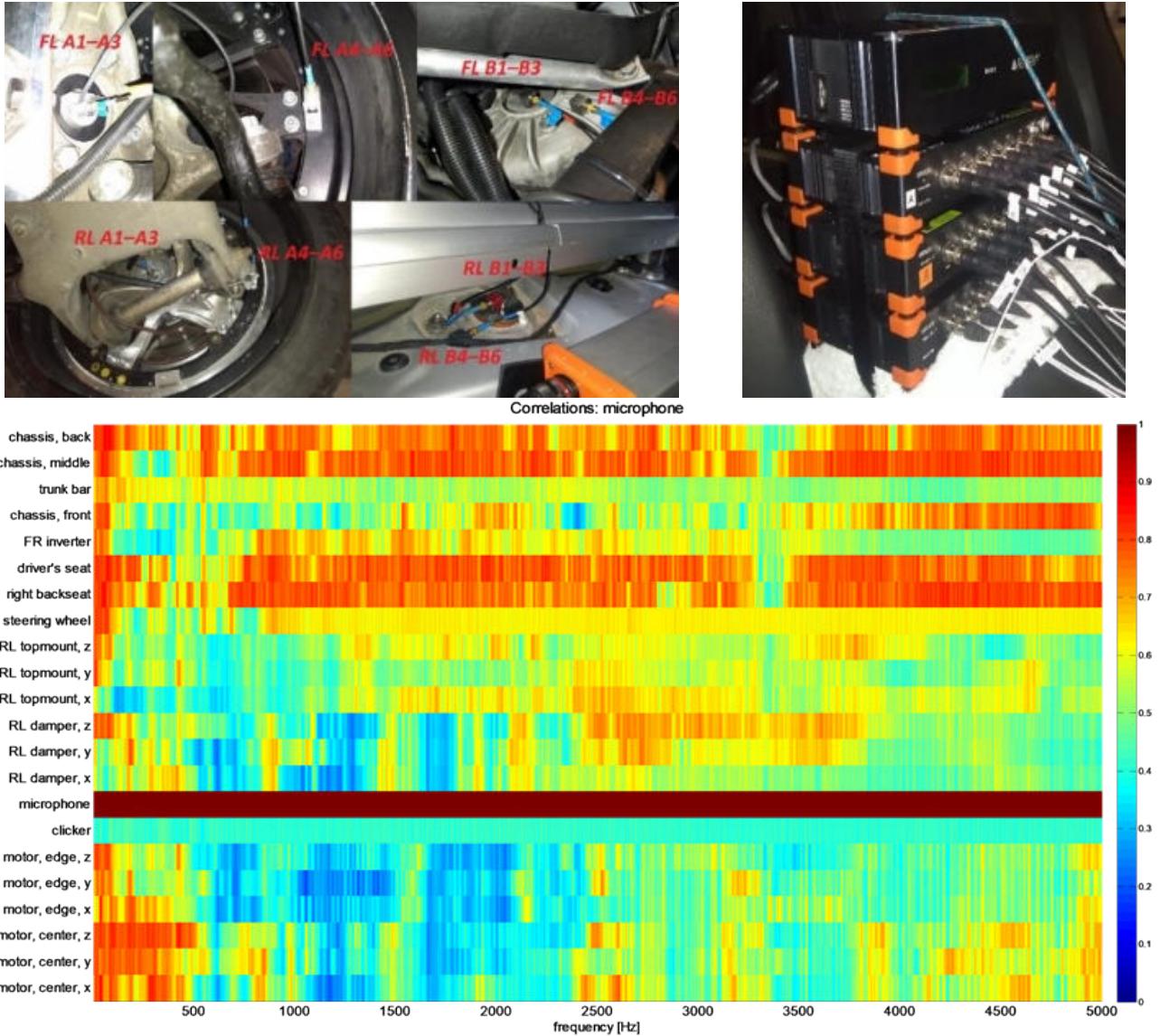
## Cause of vibrations

- Interaction between rotor magnets and stator current harmonics magnetic fields
- Origins
  - motor geometry
  - Production tolerances
  - **Motor control**
- Ripple induced by motor control
  - **PWM control artefacts**
  - **Position sensor non-linearity**
  - **Inverter current control inaccuracy**
- Cogging is negligible

# Control optimization

## Approach

- Identification of structure-borne noise source through measurement on vehicle (vibration, sound)
- Identification of appropriate tuning sensor positions and targets
- Compensation of PWM control inaccuracy
- Compensation of inverter position and current sensing inaccuracy
- Active injection of higher harmonics:
  - Simultaneous tuning of 12 parameters corresponding to 6 harmonics (phase, gain)
  - One day tuning through automated processing and iteration



# Control optimization

## Approach

- Identification of structure-borne noise source through measurement on vehicle (vibration, sound)
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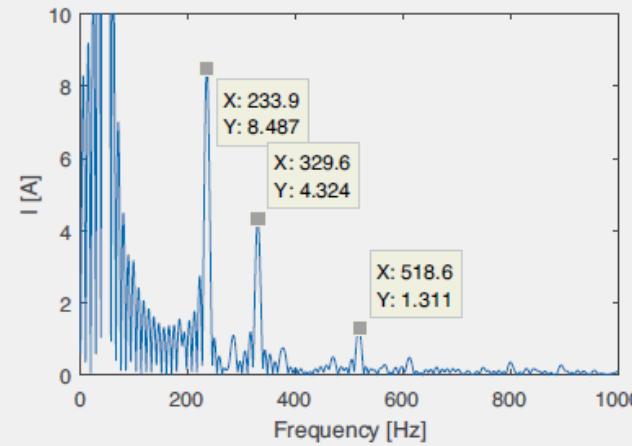


Figure 9: FFT of current without dead-time compensation.

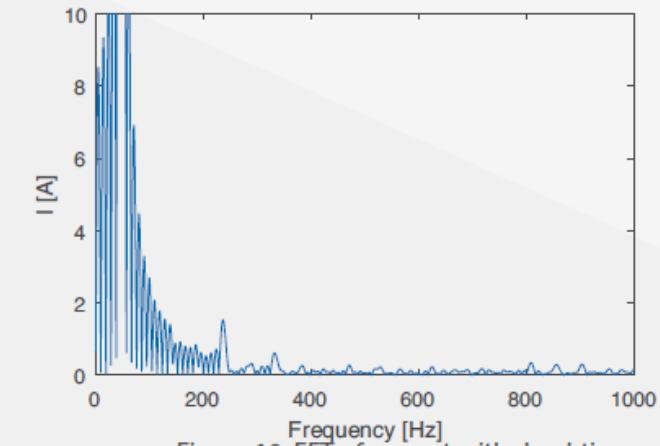
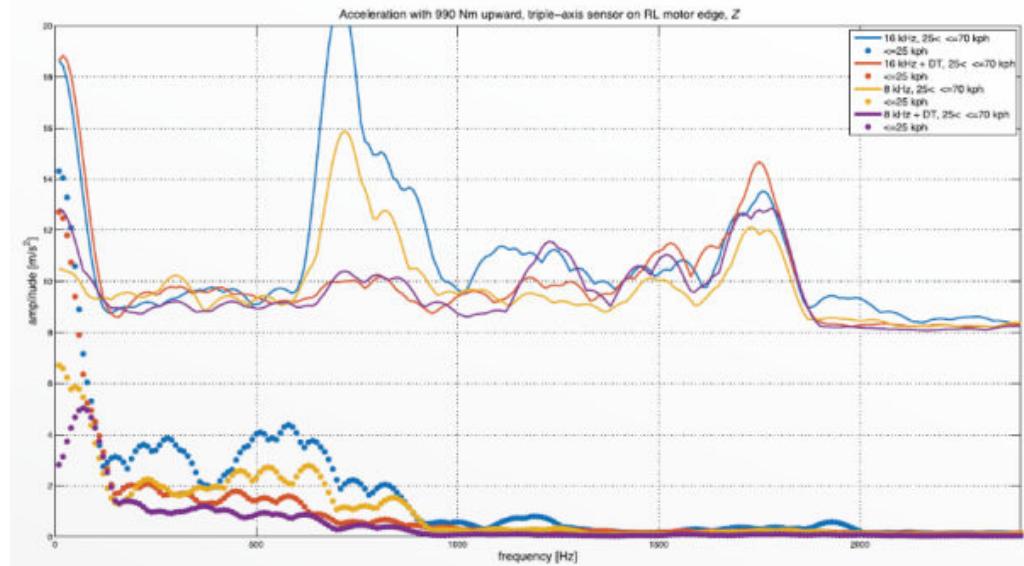


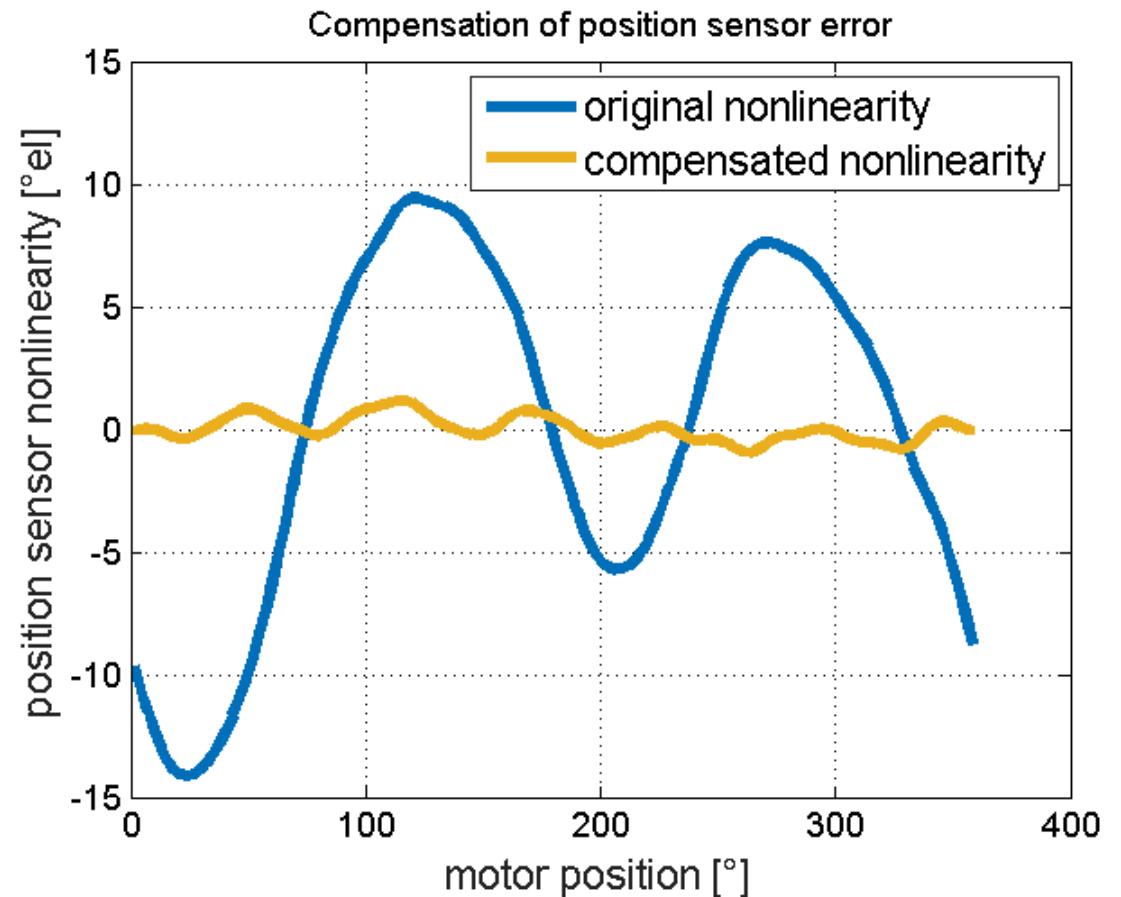
Figure 10: FFT of current with dead-time compensation.



# Control optimization

## Approach

- Identification of structure-borne noise source through measurement on vehicle (vibration, sound)
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- **Compensation of inverter position and current sensing inaccuracy**
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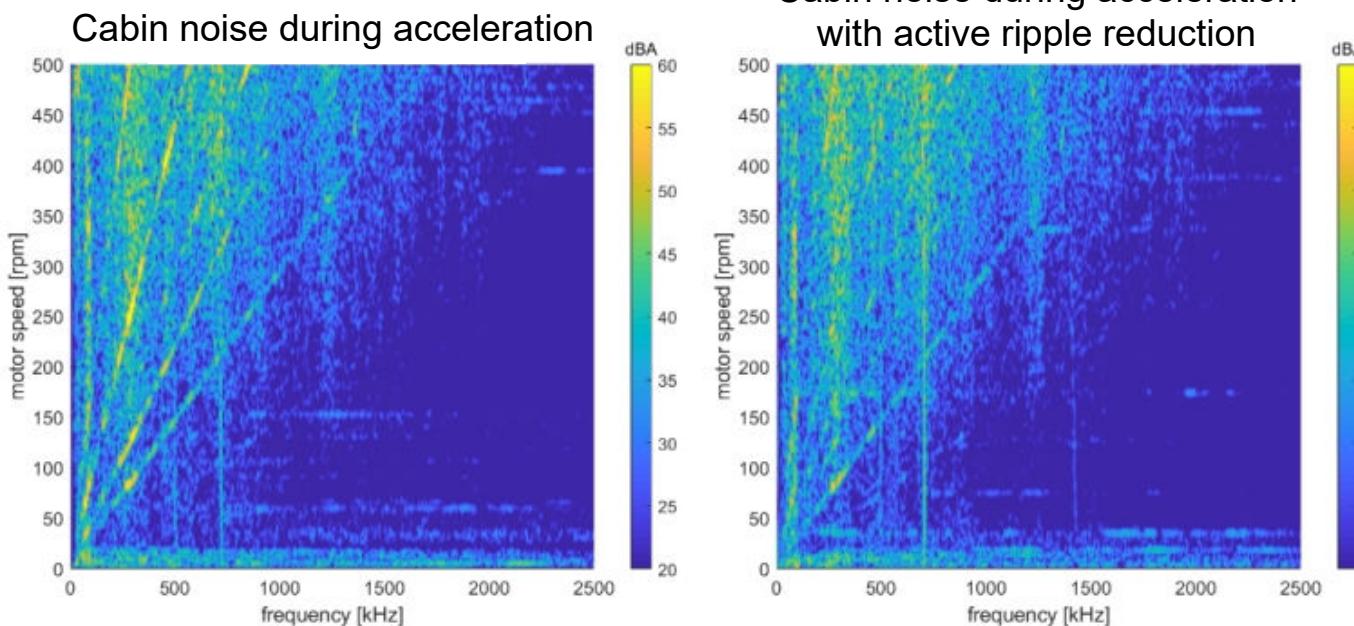
Compensation of an extreme case of position sensor nonlinearity

# Control optimization

## Approach

- Identification of structure-borne noise source through measurement on vehicle (vibration, sound)
- Identification of appropriate tuning sensor positions and targets
- Compensation of PWM control inaccuracy
- Compensation of inverter position and current sensing inaccuracy
- **Active injection of higher harmonics:**
  - **Simultaneous tuning of 12 parameters corresponding to 6 harmonics (phase, gain)**
  - **One day tuning through automated processing and iteration**

## Acceleration at full torque – 6000 Nm





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## In-wheel motor NVH aspects

### System level approach

- Air-borne noise shielding with rim
- Structure-borne noise damping optimization by suspension and mounting
- Active noise cancelling in cabin

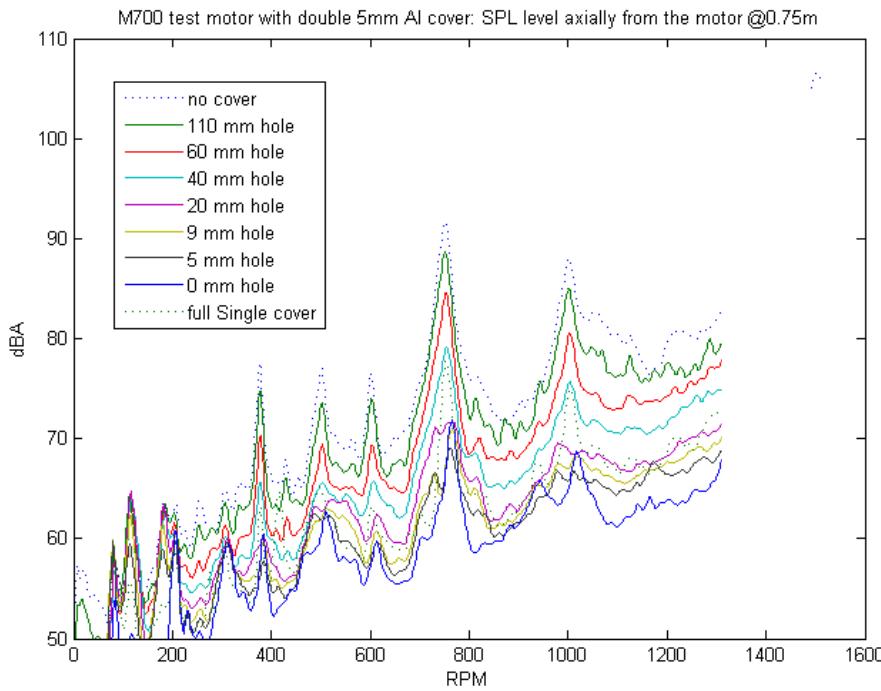


# System level approach

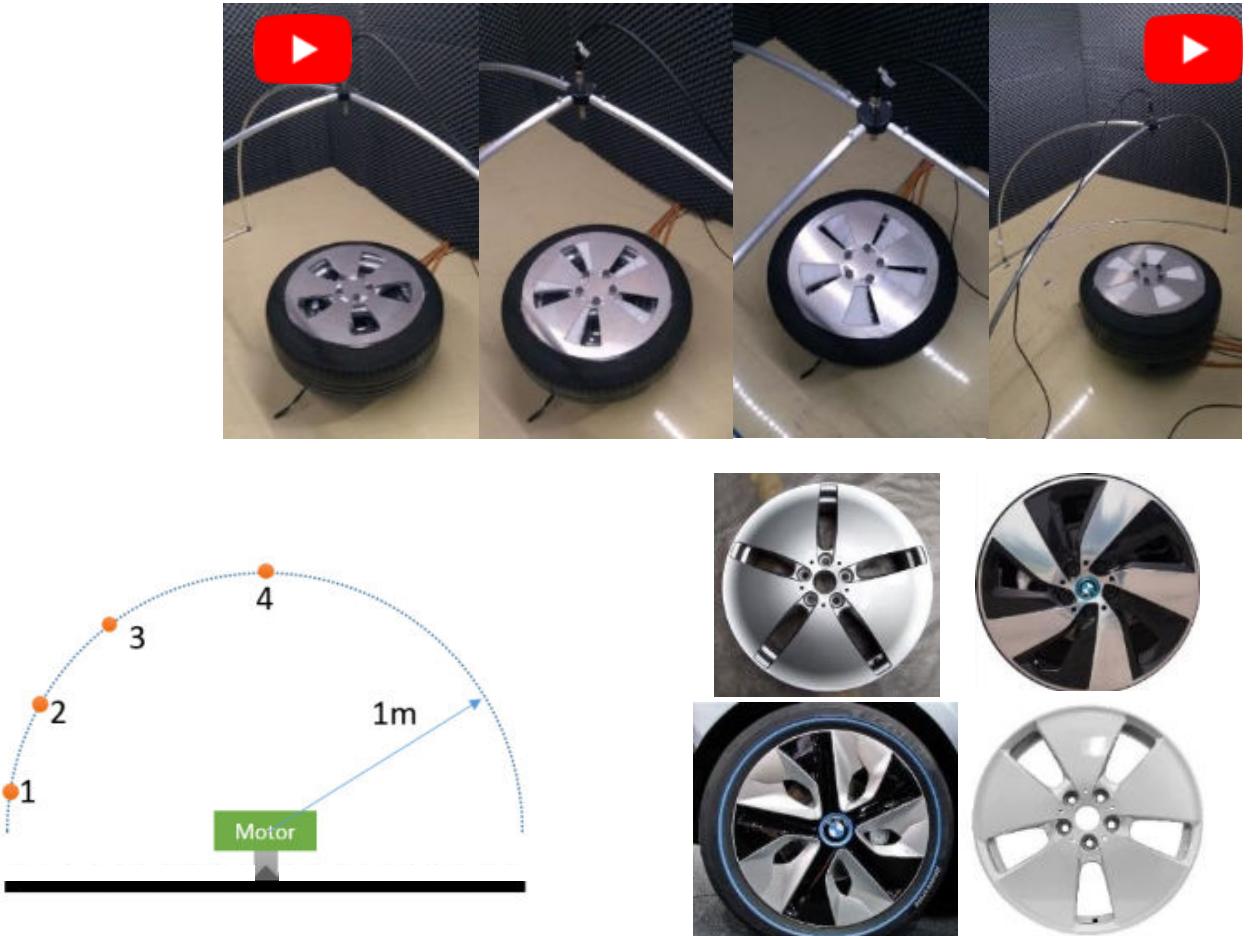
## External acoustic sound optimization through rim and bumper design

### Concept tested and confirmed:

- Reduction of noise by up to 20-25 dB with closed rim
- Reduction of more than 10 dB with 20% opened rim
- Rotor cooling concept possible and shown in existing rims



Sound pressure levels at mic 4 position at different rim cover openings during speed sweep.

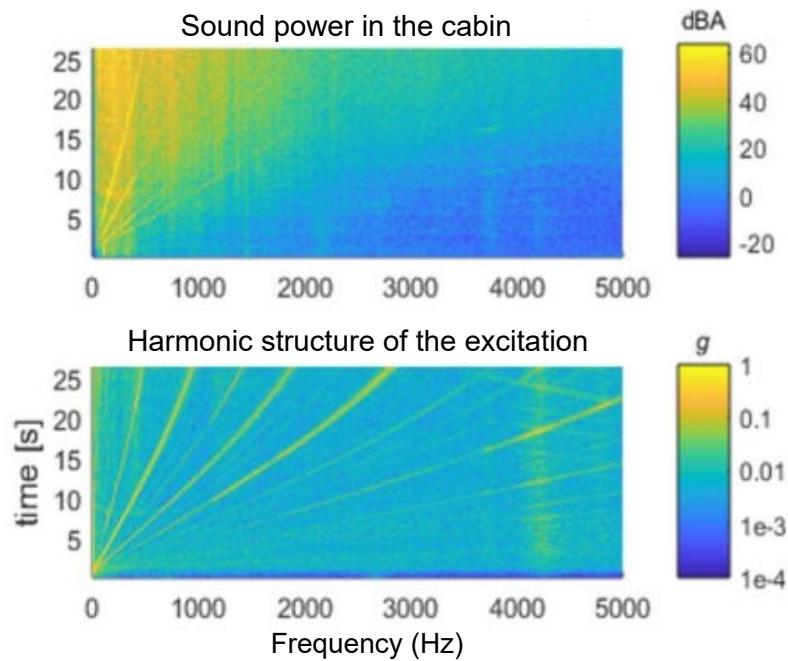


Some EV rim designs already go in the direction of reducing the size of the rim holes

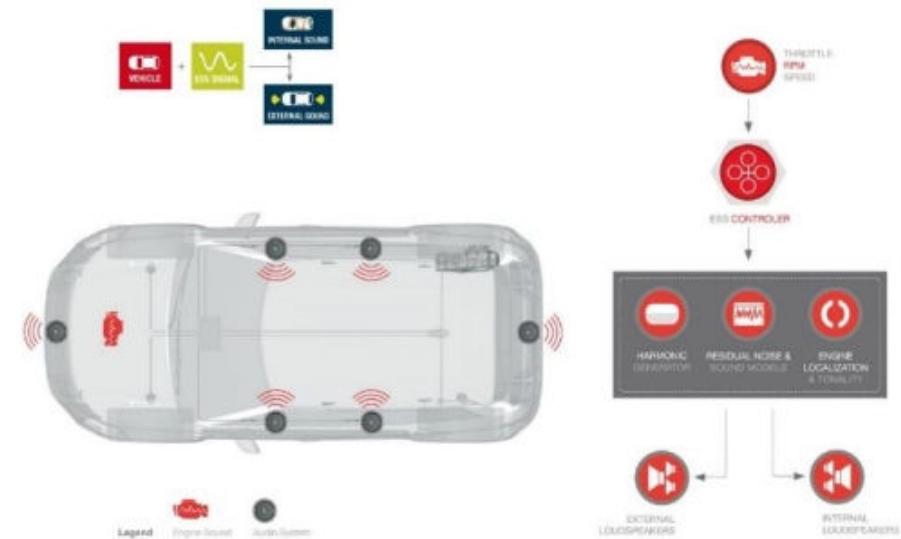
# Further work for maximum comfort

## Completely eliminate passenger cabin noise for sensitive applications

- Optimization of interfaces between suspension and vehicle body
  - Challenge: high frequency damping and low frequency stiffness
  - Even non-optimized suspension can contribute substantially to damping



HALOsonic system by Harman



- Active cancelling of cabin noise
  - Periodic signals
  - Predictable volumes and frequencies
  - Possible challenges not yet known

# Summary

## Holistic approach solves the challenges of in-wheel motor NVH

- Design optimization for air- and structure-borne noise optimization
- Control solutions for further optimization of cabin noise
- Advanced system level solutions available for most sensitive applications





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[www.in-wheel.com](http://www.in-wheel.com)



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TURNING THINGS AROUND

## ELAPHE SOLUTIONS

- Off-the-shelf in-wheel motors
- Development of custom in-wheel motors
- Development of a complete powertrain and control systems

Support in bottom-up new vehicle development  
Turn-key electric vehicle propulsion systems

	Development of custom motor		Mass production		Electronics
	Propulsion system		Turn-key car project		Partner in projects

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