

Advancing Dynamic Load Testing for Modern PV

June 2026



About Nextpower

- Leading solar technology platform for utility-scale power plants
- #1 Global market share; #1 U.S., Europe, LATAM and Australia¹
- \$3.6 billion revenue in FY26
- 160+ GW shipped since 2013 founding²
- 2000+ employees, nine global offices, HQ Silicon Valley
- 100+ manufacturing facilities
- 45+ countries served
- 1500+ patents issued and pending³
- Public company NASDAQ: NXT
- Investment-grade credit rating from Fitch

¹ Through 2024 based on GW trackers shipped – Wood Mackenzie Ltd., Global Solar PV Tracker Market Share 2025 and Wood Mackenzie Ltd., The Global PV Tracker Landscape 2016: Prices, Forecasts, Market Shares and Vendor Profiles, October 2016

² 160+ GW shipped as of FY26 end

³ 1500+ issued patents (U.S. and international) as of January 2026

Nextpower Technology Platform Today

Trackers

- NX Horizon®
- NX Horizon-XTR™
- NX Horizon® with Hail Pro™
- NX Horizon® Low Carbon

Foundations

- NX Anchor™
- NX Earth Truss™
- Traditional Piles

Module Frames

- NX CoreFrame™

eBOS

- NX PowerMerge™
- String Harnessing
- Trunk Systems
- Combiner Systems

Software

- NX One™
- NX Portal
- NX Navigator®
- NX Pulse™

Controls

- TrueCapture®
- Tracker Controllers
- Network Controllers

Robotics and AI Services

- NX Vantage™
- NX Ranger™
- NX Clario™ soiling monitoring
- Robotic panel cleaning

Power Conversion

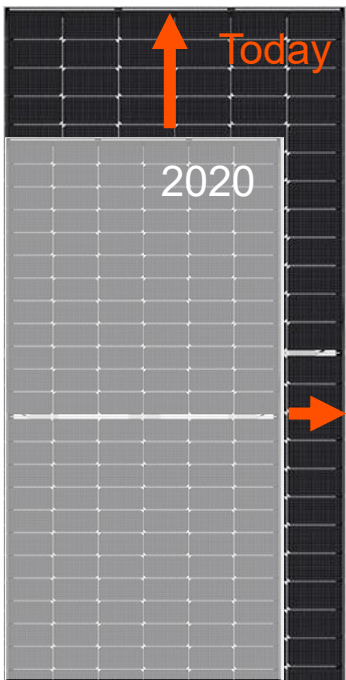
Solar and Storage

Module Trends Require Purpose-Built Frame Engineering

Larger formats increase total force on modules while design trends are reducing strength

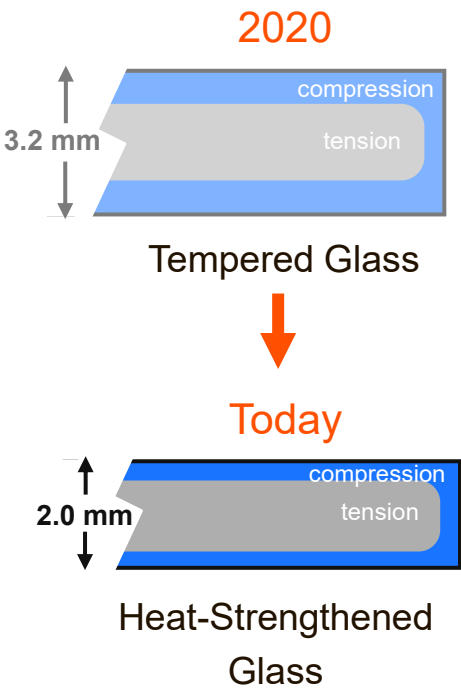
Larger Modules

40% to 60% surface area increase since 2020



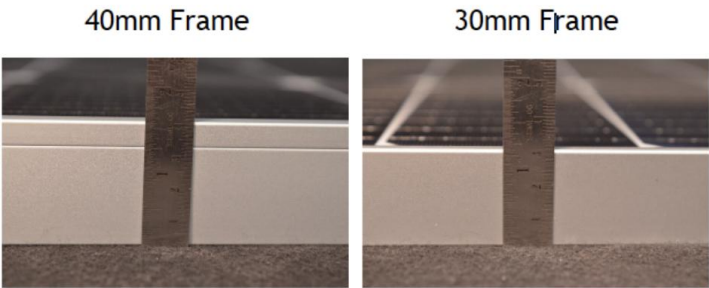
Thinner Glass

Transition to dual-glass driving weakening glass



Shorter Frame Heights

Material reductions and packaging savings

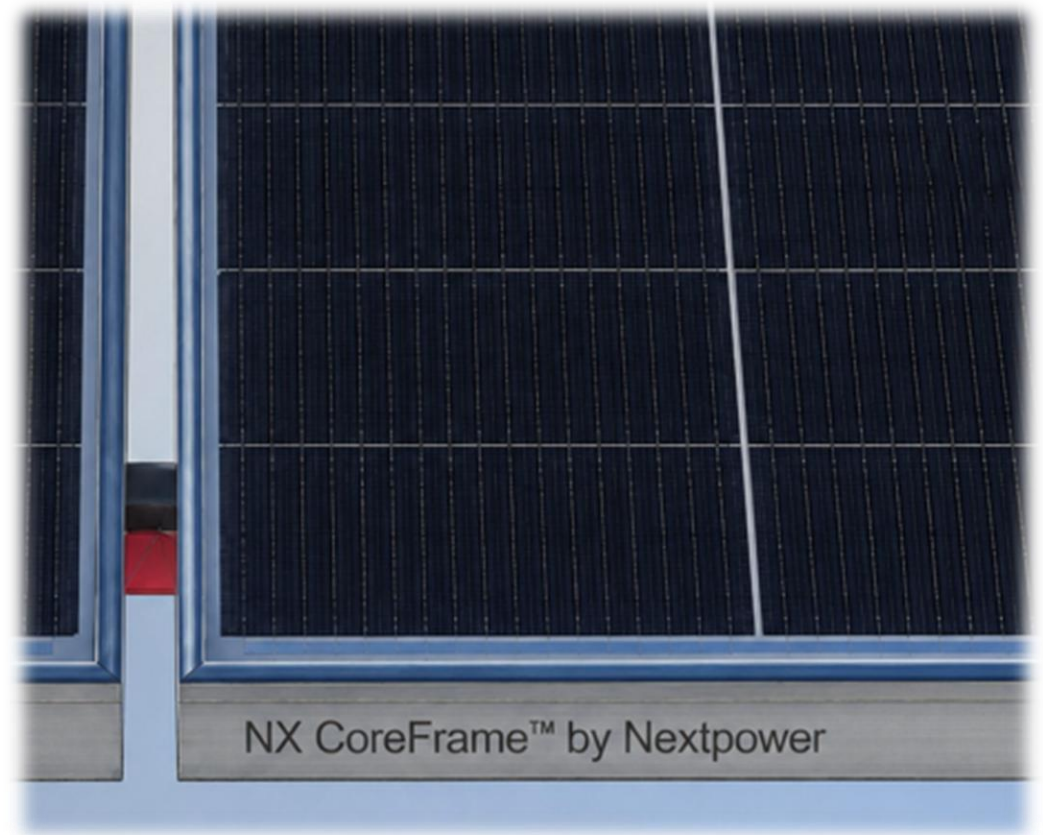
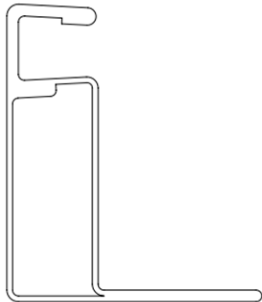


Source: GroundWork Renewables

The Steel Frame Advantage

NX CoreFrame™ is engineered to meet evolving strength requirements with a next-gen steel frame design

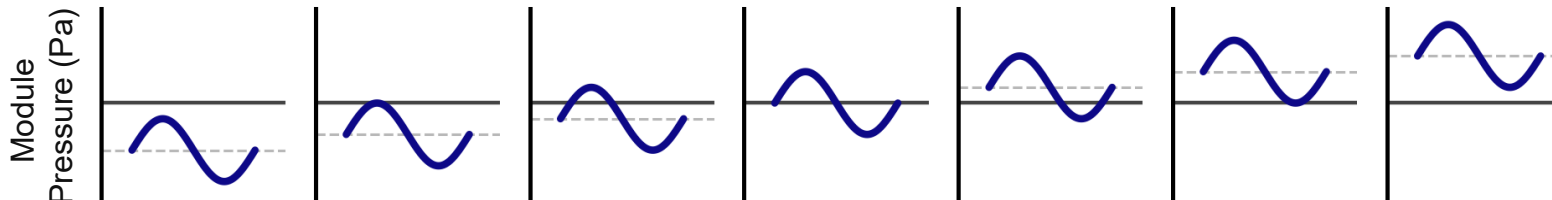
- High-strength steel increases material strength vs. aluminum **>2X**
- Enhanced stiffness reduces module deflection and **lowers risk of glass breakage**
- Increases load at failure **up to 130%**
- Simplifies tracker configurations, reduces long mounting rail usage
- Built on 4+ years of Origami Solar development and enhanced by Nextpower engineering
- Universal frame profile offers drop-in compatibility



Dynamic Loading Procedures Need Work

Insufficient standards limit confidence in real-world performance.

- Current certification standard: IEC 61215:2021 MQT 20 (Per IEC TS 62782) - not representative of field conditions
 - +/-1000Pa for 1000 cycles
- Alternative methodologies are emerging, but correlation to real wind effects is lacking
- Modules experience a wide range of dynamic loads, which don't typically oscillate around a zero value
- **Nextpower is leveraging wind engineering expertise and testing capabilities to advance industry understanding**



Fatigue Test Development – Work in Progress

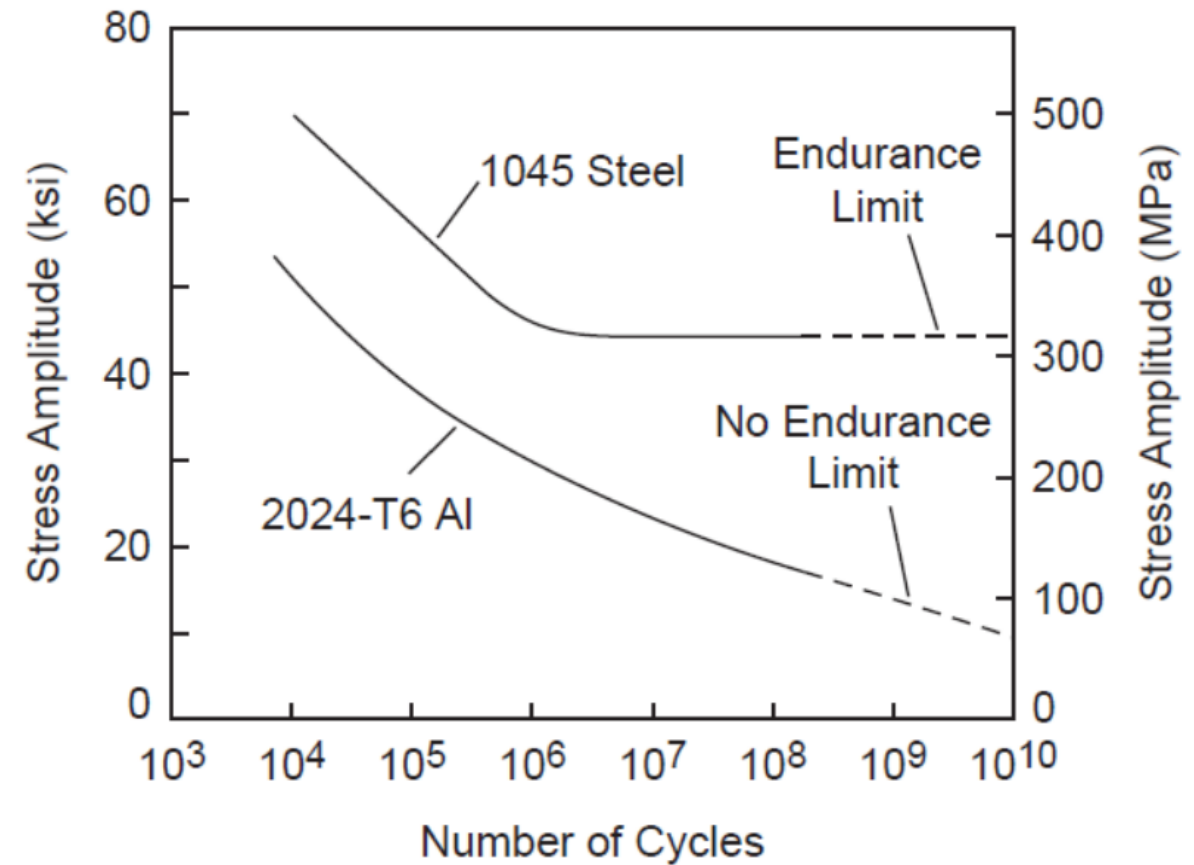
Various factors impact field fatigue

Step 1: Determine pressure cycles experienced in the field through engagement with CPP ¹	Impacted by: • Module size • Stow conditions • Perimeter vs. interior, tilt, height, GCR, etc.
Step 2: Run FEA model to determine cumulative damage incurred	Impacted by: • Mounting configuration • Frame design • Material used: Aluminum vs. Steel
Step 3: Determine test cycle constraints: total cycle count, pressure bins, min absolute amplitude (zero Pa)	Balance of what's realistically doable in a lab but still captures cumulative damage incurred
Step 4: Iteratively solve for a test plan that generates equivalent damage to 40+ year life in the field	Pressure cycles (from the field) are projected to equivalent damage test cycles
Future Work: Repeat for different frame designs and materials, stow conditions, site conditions	Will require many iterations to generalize to a single test conditions Fatigue tests should be reflective of field mounting configuration

1. Global leader in wind engineering since 1981; Operates state-of-the-art wind tunnel facilities

Infinite Fatigue Life of Steel vs Aluminum

- Metal fatigue is caused by initiation and growth of cracks under cyclic loads
- Endurance Limit: At low cyclic stresses, steel does not fatigue
- Steel microstructure arrests small fatigue crack growth
- Aluminum comparatively has no endurance limit
- Aluminum cracks propagate slowly, even at low stresses



A Study on Improvement of Fatigue Life of materials by Surface Coatings - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Comparison-of-steel-and-aluminum-fatigue-behavior_fig1_322220529

Wind Study Site Selection

4 sites representing extreme dynamic conditions of varying modes



Colorado Springs,
CO

Mountain downslope winds

- moderate-to-high wind speeds at long durations



Zaragoza, Spain

Valley-channeled winds

- sustained moderate-speed winds and occasional high-speed gusts



Tampa, FL

Hurricane winds

- very high sustained westerly winds and major dynamic effects



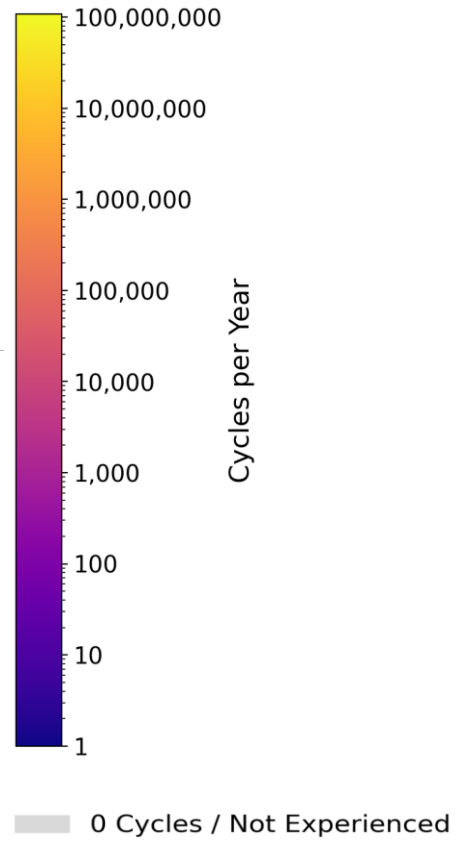
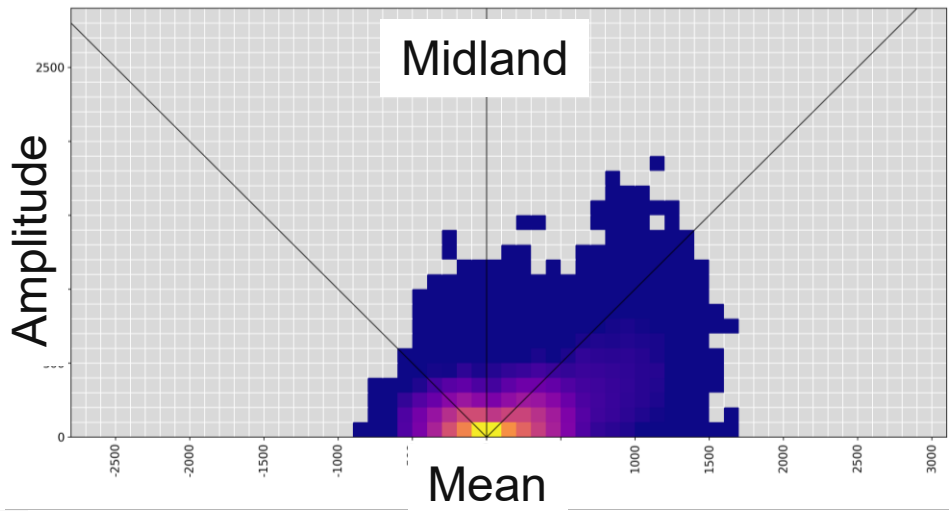
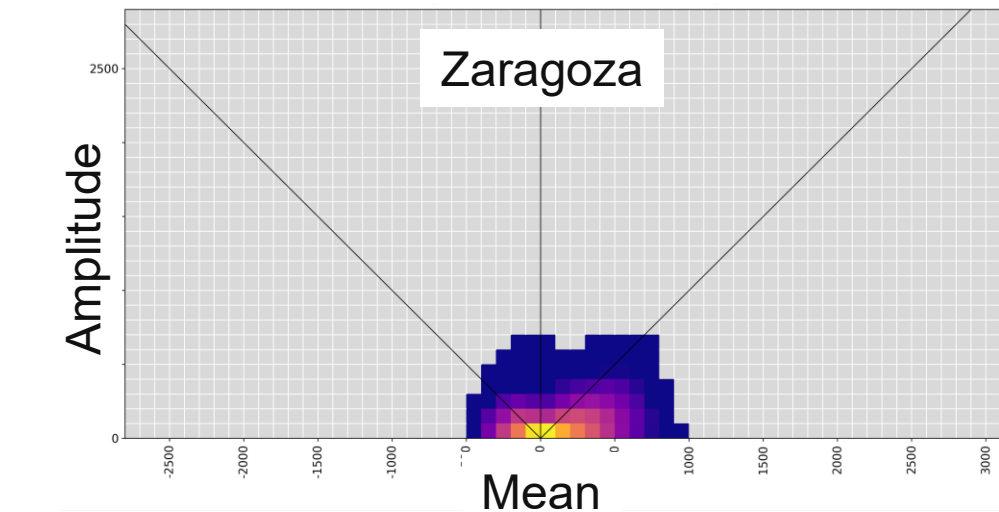
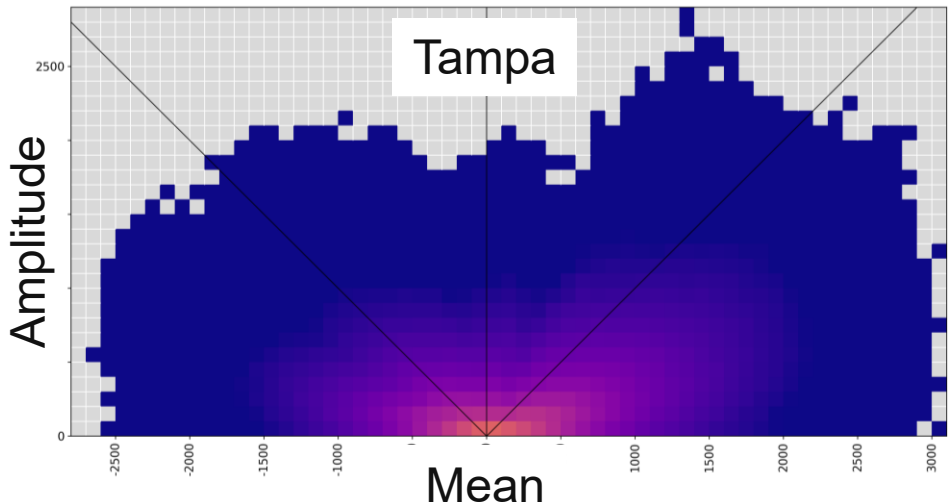
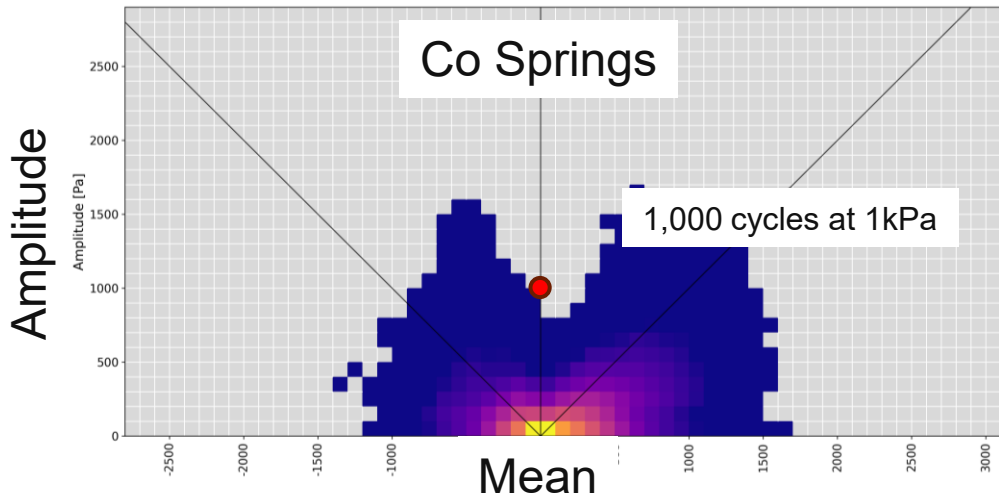
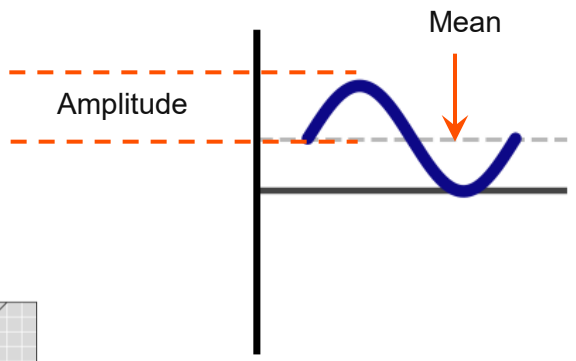
Midland, TX

Thunderstorms

- west/southwest, often accompanied by hailstorms forcing back-winded stow

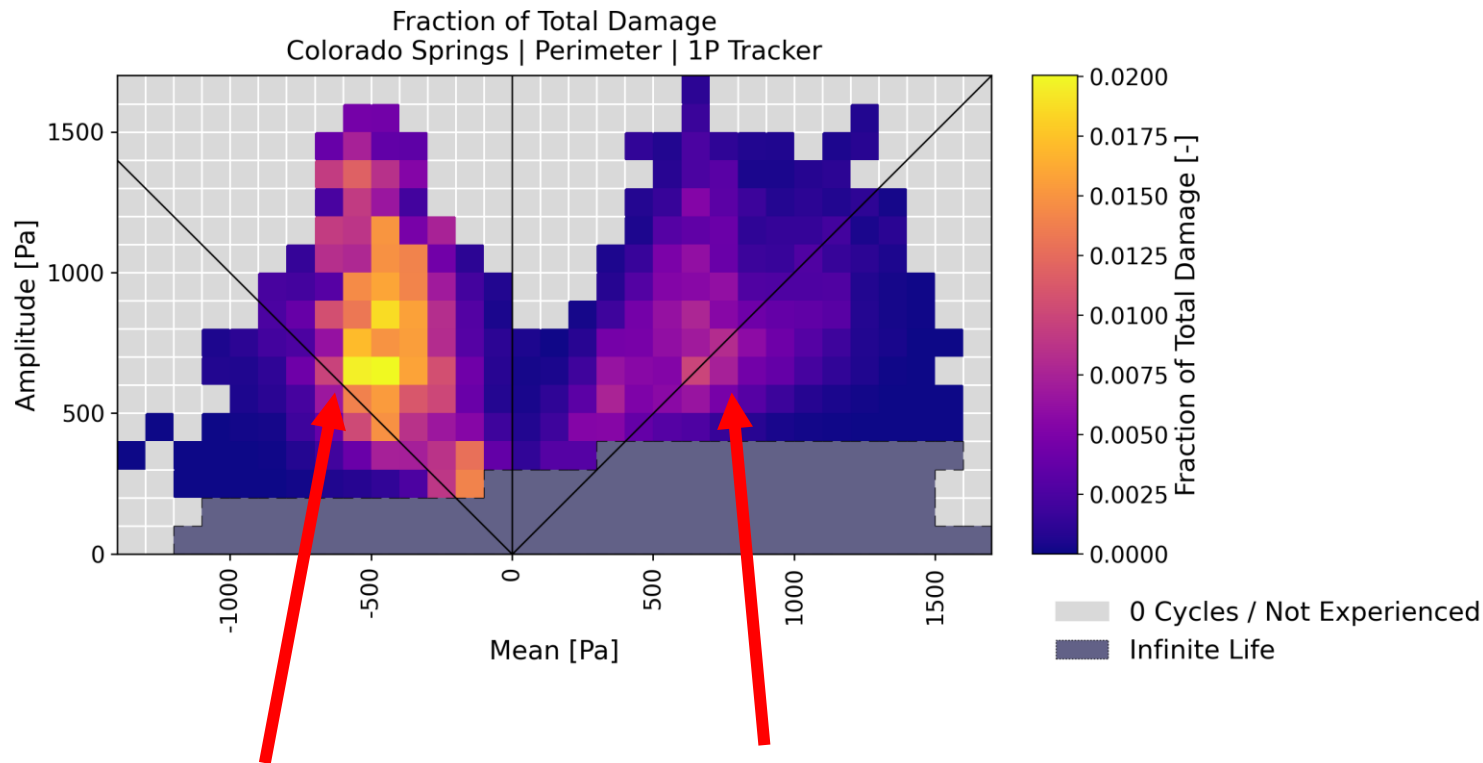
Real World Module Pressures Experienced

Perimeter Modules and Front-Winded Stow



Example Fatigue For One Frame Design

Need to repeat for multiple profile designs and materials to establish envelope of response



Damage generating cycles cluster around half-cycle loading

98.0%

Of cumulative damage
generating cycles have an
amplitude $< 1,000$ Pa

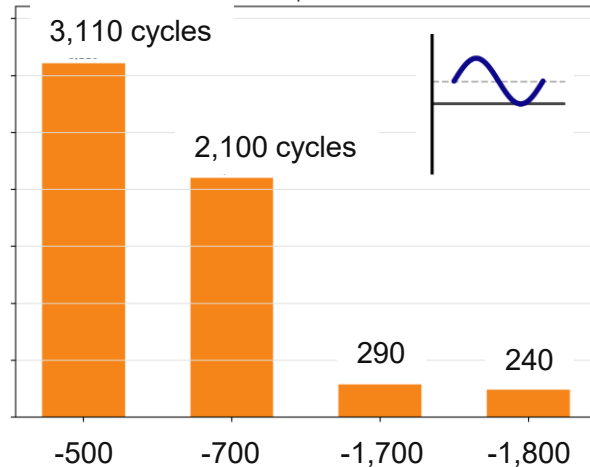
30.0%

Reduction of cumulative
damage by stowing into the
wind

Preliminary Fatigue Tests

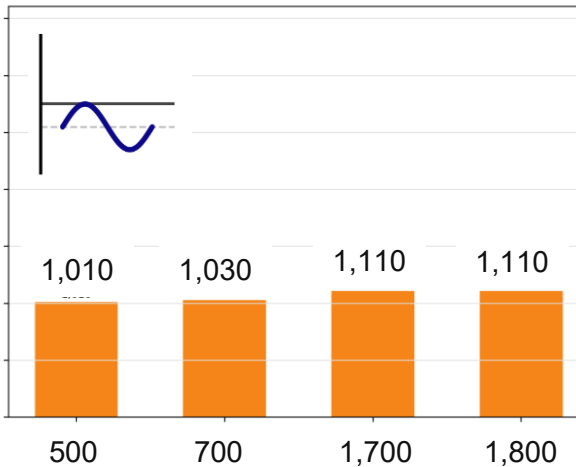
The testing program should be viewed as indicative – it will evolve as we continue the analysis

Uplift



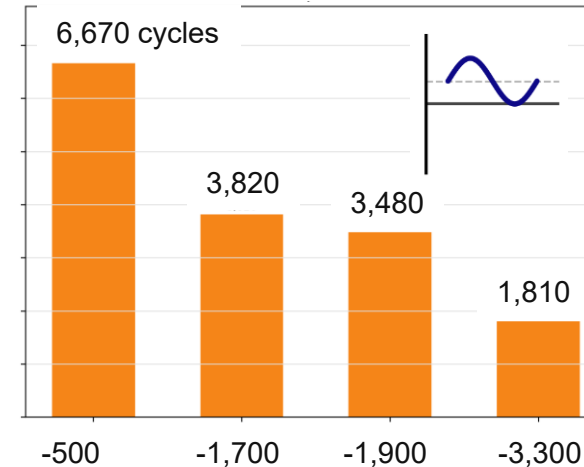
Peak Test Load (Pa)

Downforce



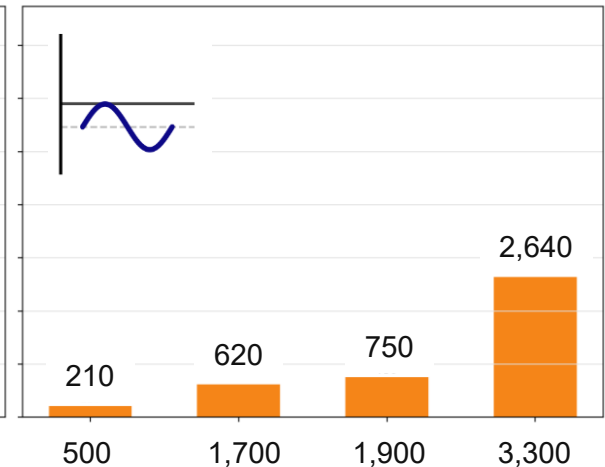
Peak Test Load (Pa)

Uplift



Peak Test Load (Pa)

Downforce



Peak Test Load (Pa)

Non-Hurricane Test Protocol

- 10k total cycles
- Half cycles (zero to max load)
- Worst case damage from all non-Florida sites

Hurricane Test Protocol

- 20k total cycles
- Half cycles (zero to max load)
- Test pressures are increased

Conclusions and Next Steps

Nextpower will continue its research to develop a universally-applicable dynamic testing protocol

Early Conclusions

- Fully reversing Load (pressure centered around zero Pa) tests are not reflective of real-world conditions
- Critical to cumulative damage:
 - Site conditions
 - Stowing strategy
 - Module mounting
- Hurricane regions should have a unique fatigue test
- Fatigue tests should match mounting configuration

Next Steps

- Broaden wind study analysis to expand scope of mounting and module sizes
- Complete FEA analysis on aluminum to generalize test cycles
- Perform testing on aluminum and steel frame modules
- Iterate fatigue testing protocol – initial results suggest separate tests for hurricane and non-hurricane
- Investigate test sequence ordering to capture history effects and ensure tests capture failure mechanisms generated by periodic overloading



Download our latest white paper on Steel Frames
“Reinforcing the Future of Solar with NX CoreFrame”

<https://tinyurl.com/NXCoreFrame>

