

Limitations in timing and time transfer

-

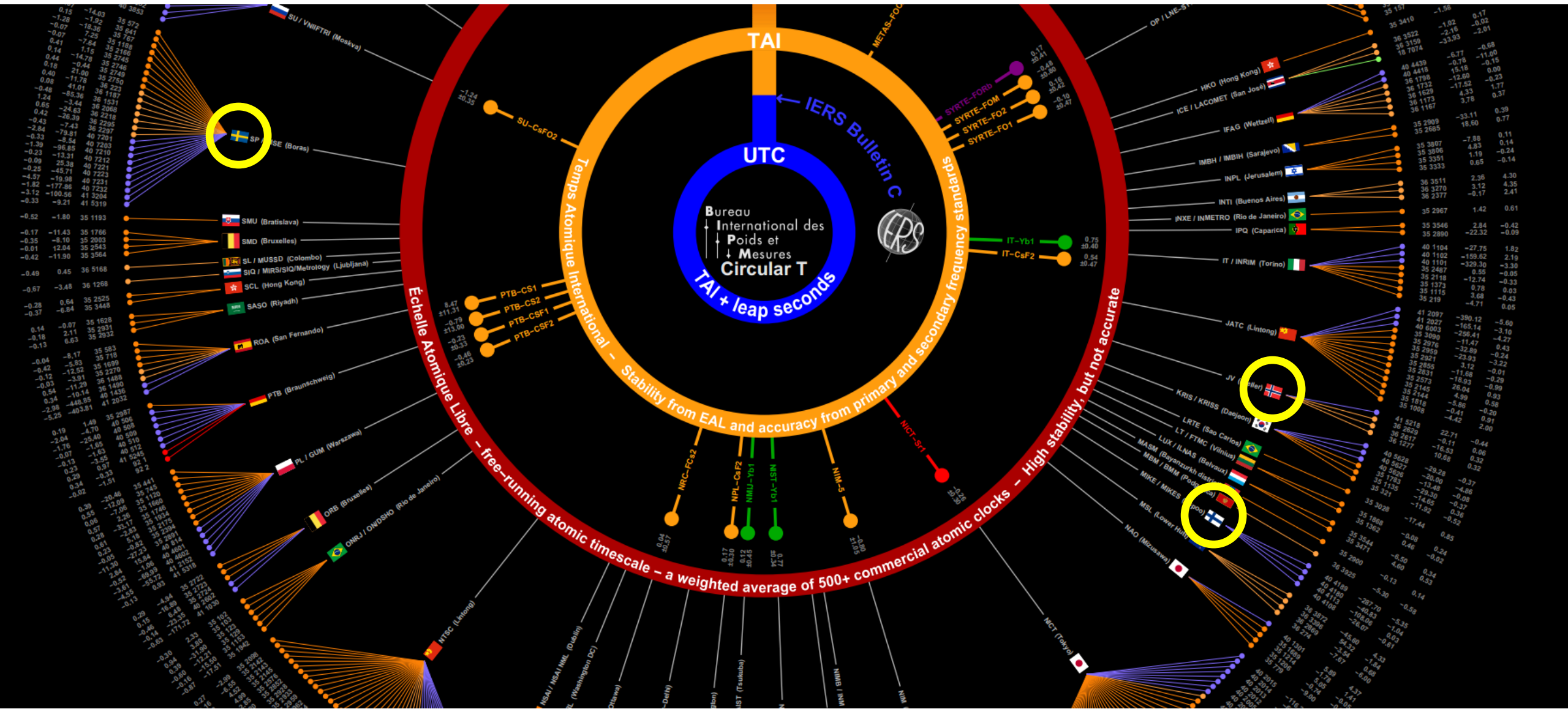
lessons from Statnett COSECTIME pilot project

Seminar on
Safety and Security Issues in Positioning, Navigation and Timing
June 14 2023

Harald Hauglin

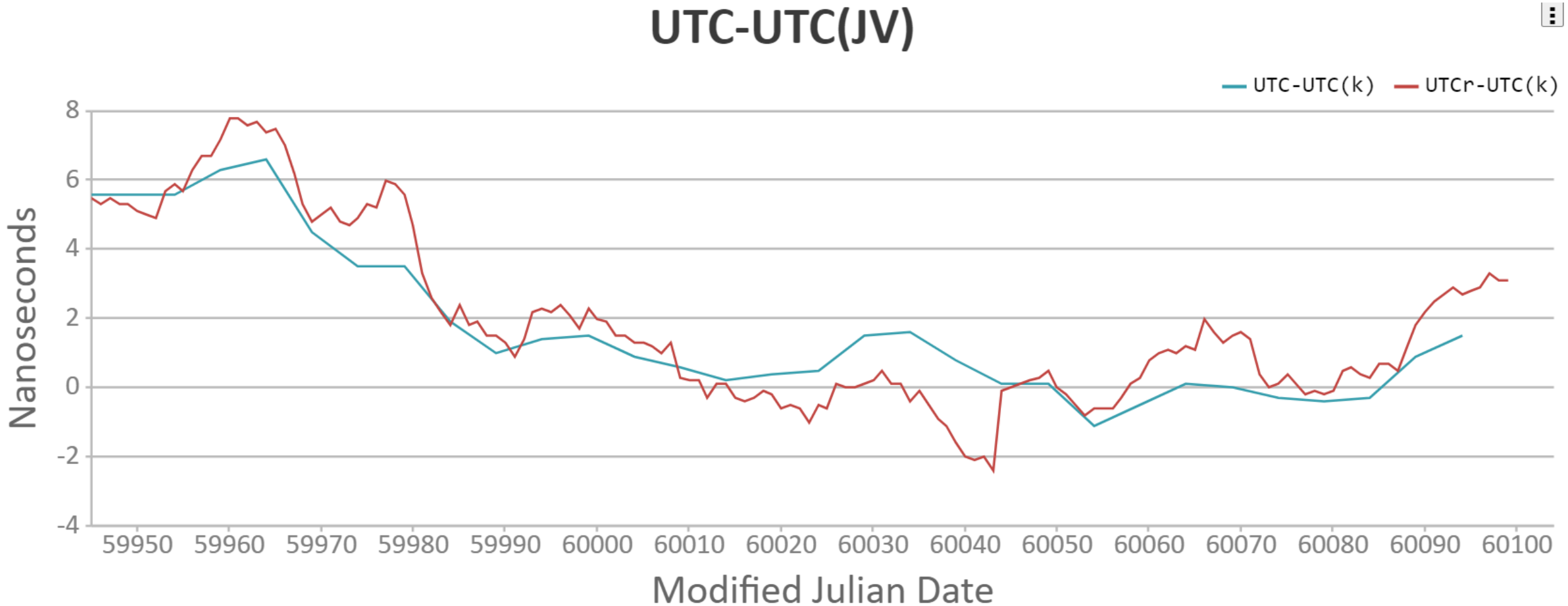
Chief engineer, time and frequency metrology
Justervesenet – Norwegian Metrology Service
hha@justervesenet.no

Nordic timing labs contribute 30+ clocks to TAI/UTC



<https://www.justervesenet.no/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UTC-illustrasjon-mars-21.pdf>

UTC(JV) during 2023. Target $\ll 10$ ns offset and increased redundancy



<https://webtai.bipm.org/database/canvas.html?lab=JV&utclab=ok&utcrclab=ok&mjd1=59945&mjd2=60104>

Justervesenet timing lab R&D on PNT security

In collaboration with Norwegian Space Centre:

- Tests of Galileo OSNMA.
- GNSS-signal generator for generating tests of GNSS jamming and spoofing

In collaboration with Statnett:

- COSECTIME 1-3 2016 –
- 2022-25 EU-project EPM 'Digital-IT' on timing and sampled values at digital substations

Redundant secure timing sources and timing distribution to digital power protection and control applications

H. HAUGLIN*, T. DUNKER*, A. WALLIN+, O. TUNGLAND*, N. HURZUK*, R. LØKEN*
*JUSTERVESENET, +VTT MIKES, *STATNETT,
+ Norway, +Finland

Summary

The power transmission system is increasingly dependent on accurate time-stamping of digitally sampled values used for protection and control. In particular, real-time streaming of data from networked Phasor Measurement Units (PMUs) for wide area 'closed loop' automated control applications implies a critical dependence of accurate, available, and reliable microsecond-level timing.

While microsecond accuracy is easily met by GNSS timing receivers, GNSS signals for open civilian use are weak and also lack effective authentication mechanisms. GNSS timing receivers are therefore vulnerable to interference from malicious or inadvertent radio noise (jamming) and susceptible to 'spoofing' with generated GNSS-signals containing misleading timing and navigation data.

The overall goal of the COSECTIME project funded by Statnett is to demonstrate the applicability of state-of-the-art fiber-optic time transfer techniques for traceable, secure and redundant synchronization of digital power transmission protection and control applications. In full deployment, the transmission system operator (TSO) will generate redundant autonomous UTC-traceable atomic timescales and distribute timing through redundant fiber optic networks also under TSO control. Here we present results from a pilot demonstration of timing distribution to the Statnett R&D project pilot IEC 61850 digital substation.

1. Introduction – timing requirements in the power system

The power transmission system is increasingly dependent on accurate time-stamping of digitally sampled values used in protection and control. Power system uses of timing and associated accuracy requirements are summarized in figure 1. For a comprehensive overview of power sector timing issues, see references [NASPI2017] and [GSA2018].

The IEC 61850 requirement of microsecond accuracy with respect to UTC can be met by properly installed and characterized GNSS timing receivers [EURAMET2016] in combination with timing distribution using the IEEE 1588 PTP precision timing protocol on the substation process bus. However, GNSS signals for open civilian use are weak and also lack effective authentication mechanisms. GNSS timing receivers may therefore be vulnerable to interference from malicious or inadvertent radio noise (jamming) and susceptible to 'spoofing' with generated GNSS-signals containing misleading timing and navigation data [Shepard2012]. Malicious timing attacks or simply inadvertent timing errors may have adverse impact on monitoring and control applications [Almas2018]. Applications studied in [Almas2018] illustrate the role of precision timing as a valuable cyber-asset in power sector control systems. For critical applications timing accuracy requirements need to be complemented by requirements on availability and integrity.

Spoof proof GPS timing

A detection and mitigation system for GPS time spoofing

Aril Johannes Schultzen



Thesis submitted for the degree of
Master in Informatikk: programmering og nettverk
60 credits

Spoof proof GPS timing
Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Autumn 2016

Justervesenet
Institutt for Informatikk, UiO

<https://www.duo.uio.no/handle/10852/53770?show=full>

GPS timing interference

Building a setup for evaluating the effect of jamming and spoofing on GPS based timing devices

Thomas Rødningen



Thesis submitted for the degree of
Master in Robotics and Intelligent Systems: Cybernetics and
Autonomous Systems
60 credits

Department of Informatics
Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Spring 2022

Justervesenet
Forsvarets Forskningsinstitutt og ITS/UiO
Statnett

Norwegian policy process update 2023:

Recommendations to establish a national timing service

NSM sikkerhetsfaglig råd (2023):



8 Romsikkerhet

Det bør etableres en nasjonal tidstjeneste

Tilgang til nøyaktig tid er avgjørende for både stats- og samfunnssikkerheten. Formålet med å opprette en slik tjeneste er å redusere avhengigheten av GNSS-tid og sikre tilgang på nøyaktig tid ved redusert tilgang eller forstyrrelser av GNSS-signaler. En slik nasjonal evne kan være basert på et antall sikrede bakkebaserte atomklokker og distribusjon av nøyaktig tid i ekom-nettene.

<https://nsm.no/regelverk-og-hjelp/rapporter/sikkerhetsfaglig-rad-et-motstandsdyktig-norge#Sikkerhetsfaglig%20r%C3%A5d%20-%20et%20motstandsdyktig%20Norge>

Totalberedskapskommisjonen (2023):



21.5.1 Tydeliggjøre et myndighetsansvar for norsk romvirksomhet

Kommisjonen vil særlig påpeke at de fleste satellittbaserte tjenestene tjener både sivile og militære formål, uten at det synes som om roller, ansvar og myndighet på området i tilstrekkelig grad er avklart. Kommisjonen har videre merket seg at svært mange samfunnsfunksjoner er avhengige av nøyaktig tid fra satellitter som er utenfor nasjonal kontroll. En nasjonal tidstjeneste som sikrer nasjonal egenevne med tanke på nøyaktig tid vil være et viktig virkemiddel for å redusere denne sårbarheten.

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/nou-2023-17/id2982767>

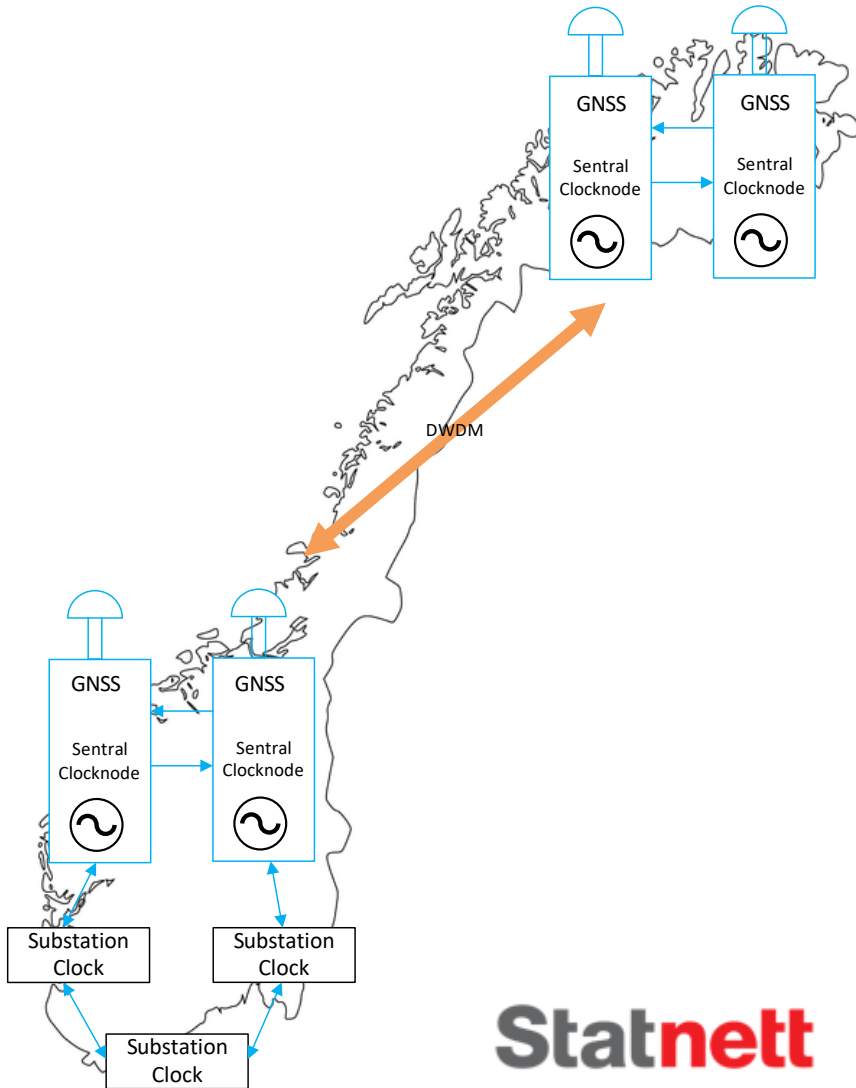
Statnett is developing a nation-wide timing service
for power sector needs

COSECTIME3 goals

BfK § 7-14 j) Sikker tidsreferanse

Driftskontrollsystem som er *avhengig* av *eksakt* tidsreferanse, skal ha *sikre kilder* for tidsangivelse.

- Statnett generates its own autonomous atomic timescales referenced to UTC
- No direct dependence of global navigation satellite systems
- Redundant clock systems and sync networks
- Deliver accurate timing ($1\mu\text{s}$) to transmission network substations via optical fibers for:
 - Protection relays (over IP)
 - Phase Measuring Unit

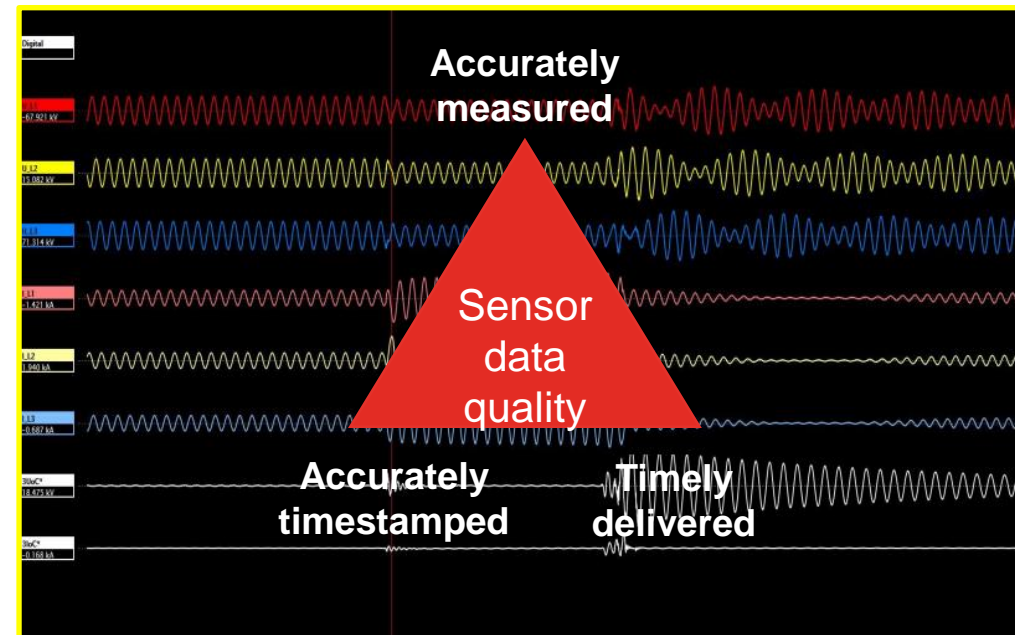


Why power sector reliance on accurate timing?

2003 North East USA blackout a wake-up call



Digital networked control systems require tight synchronization



Analog control systems, manual processes, wide operating margins



Digital control systems, timestamped sensor data over networks, automated processes for rapid response

Wikipedia

Sensor timestamps need microsecond accuracy: GPS/GNSS disciplined clocks.

Incorrect timestamps may give wrong estimates of grid power flows.

How secure/resilient?

Timing threats

- GNSS jamming
- GNSS spoofing
- Network timing attacks

Other timing mishaps

- Failing clocks
- Sync network failures
- GNSS equipment failures

Level*	Minimum Requirements
Level 1	Ensures recoverability after removal of the threat. 1. Must verify that stored data from external inputs adheres to values and formats of established standards. 2. Must support full system recovery by manual means, making all memory clearable or resettable, enabling return to a proper working state, and returning the system to the defined performance after removal of the threat. 3. Must include the ability to securely reload or update firmware.
Level 2**	Provides a solution (possibly with unbounded*** degradation) during threat. Includes capabilities enumerated in Level 1 plus: 4. Must identify compromised PNT sources and prevent them from contributing to erroneous PNT solutions. 5. Must support automatic recovery of individual PNT sources and system, without disrupting system PNT output.
Level 3	Provides a solution (with bounded degradation) during threat. Includes capabilities enumerated in Levels 1 and 2 plus: 6. Must ensure that corrupted data from one PNT source cannot corrupt data from another PNT source. 7. Must cross-verify between PNT solutions from all PNT sources.
Level 4	Provides a solution without degradation during threat. Includes capabilities enumerated in Levels 1, 2 and 3 plus: 8. Must have diversity of PNT source technology to mitigate common mode threats.

Lessons from COSECTIME pilot demos:

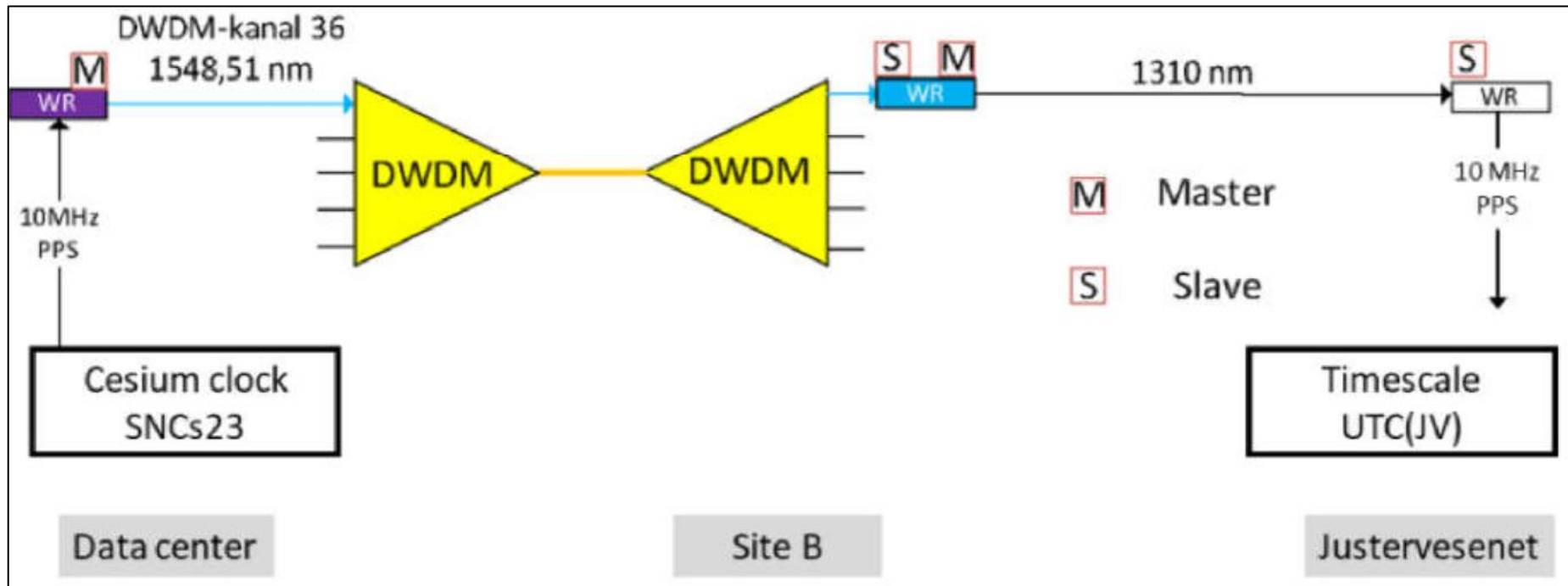
#1: Timing networks may have intermittent glitches

#2: Timing networks are asymmetric and need calibration

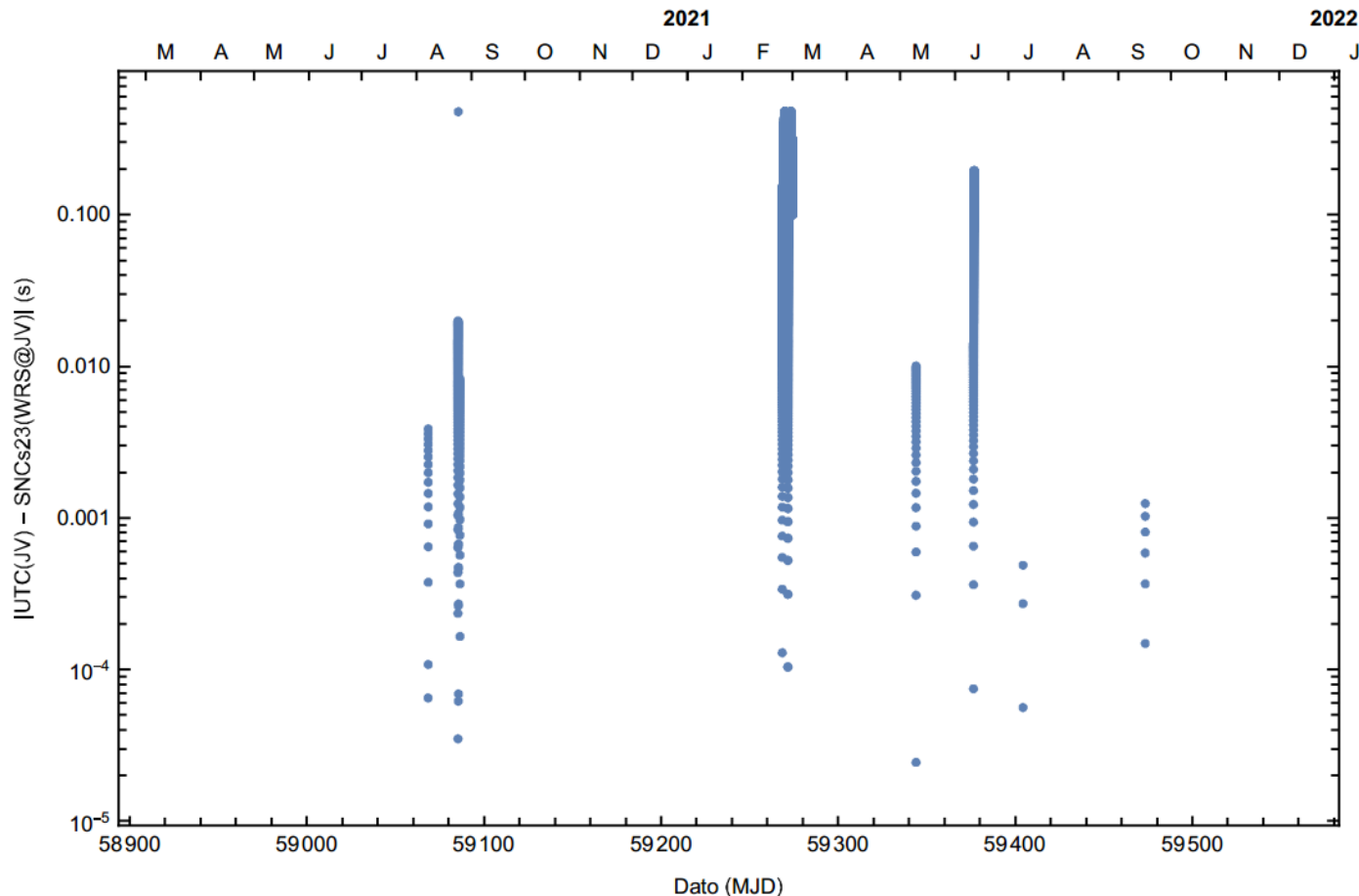
#3: Asymmetries may change due to network reconfiguration

#4: Cs clocks may autonomously provide $<1 \mu\text{s}$ timing over years

Time transfer over high accuracy network

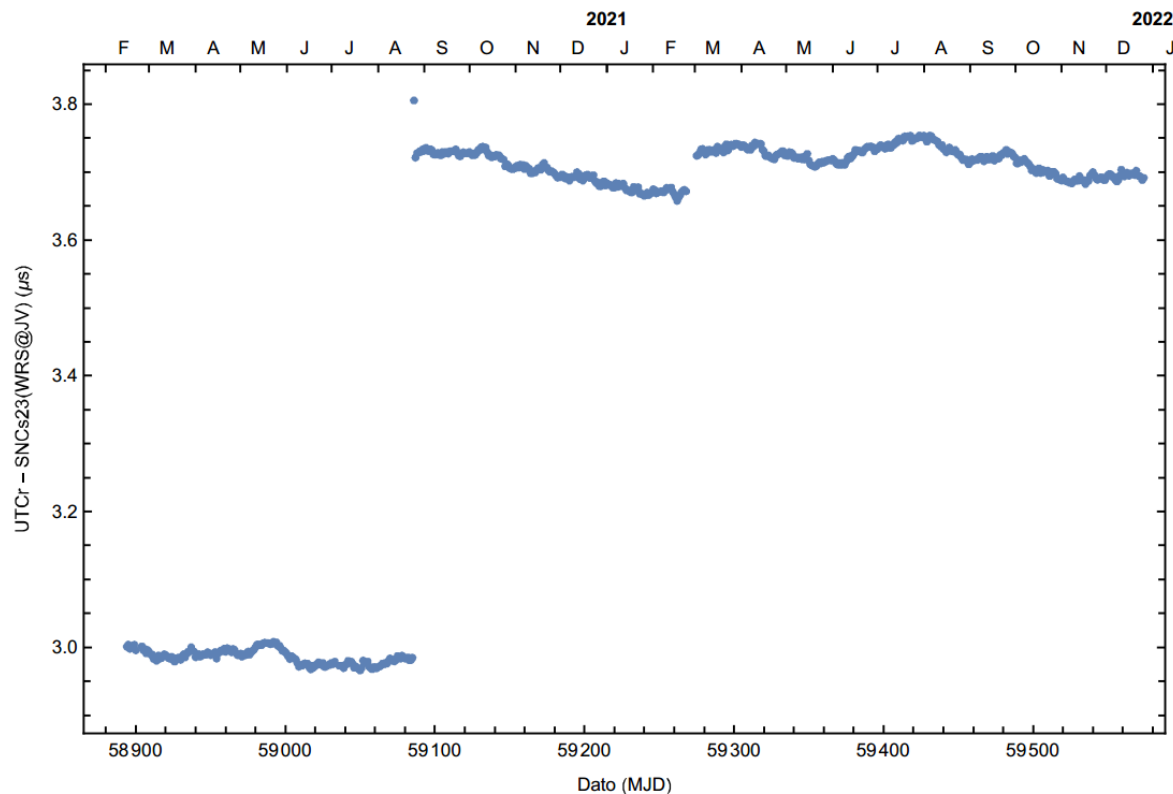


Statnett time scale measured against UTC(JV)



- Two years of continuous operation
- Outliers 1 % of the time
- Some are planned outages, other intermittent glitches

Statnett time scale measured against UTC(JV)



- 3 microsecond asymmetry needs calibration to compensate
- Changes in asymmetry due to network reconfiguration
- Statnett time scale is stable to +/- 100 ns over 2 years of autonomous operation

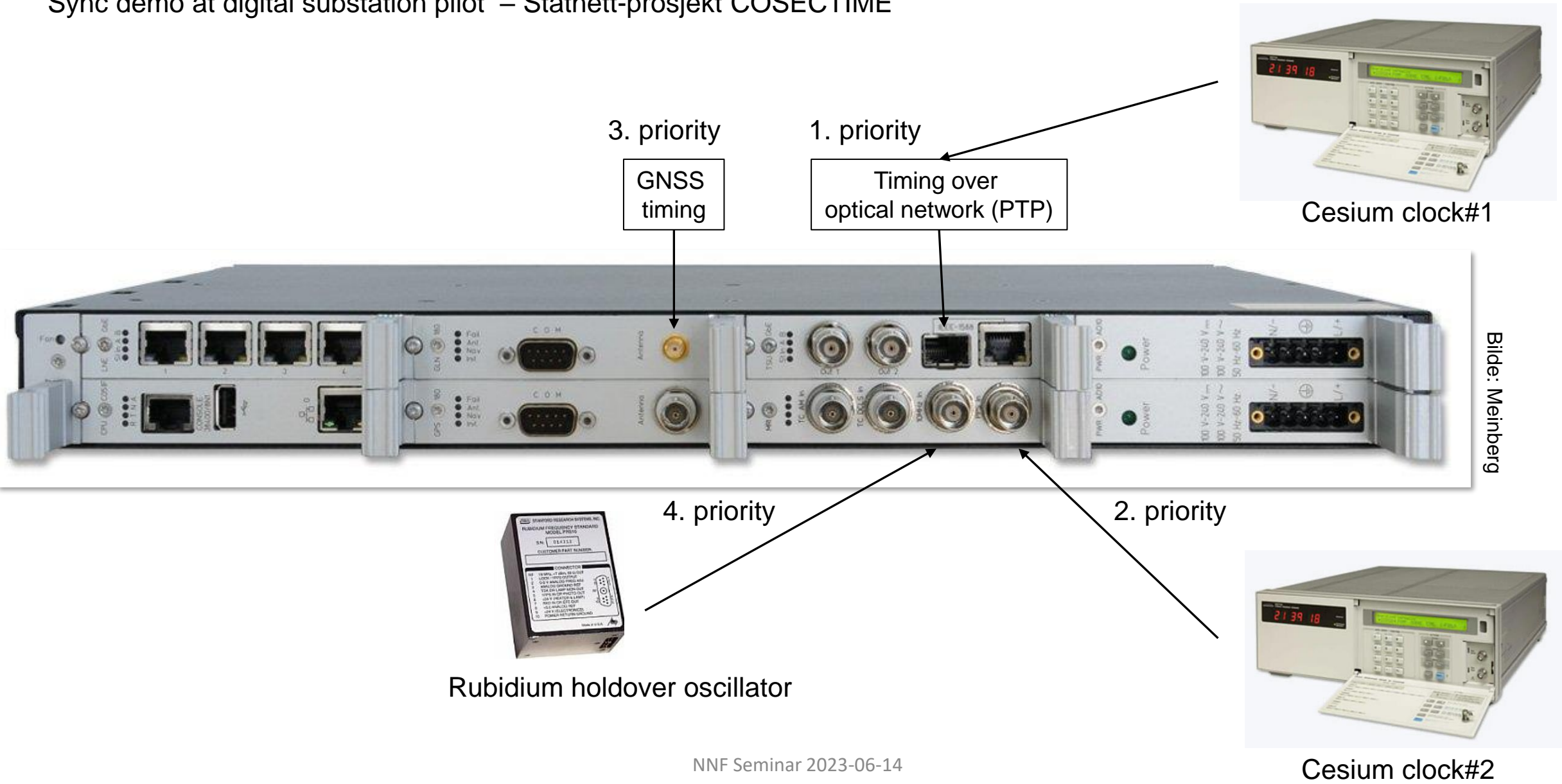
Lessons from COSECTIME pilot demos:

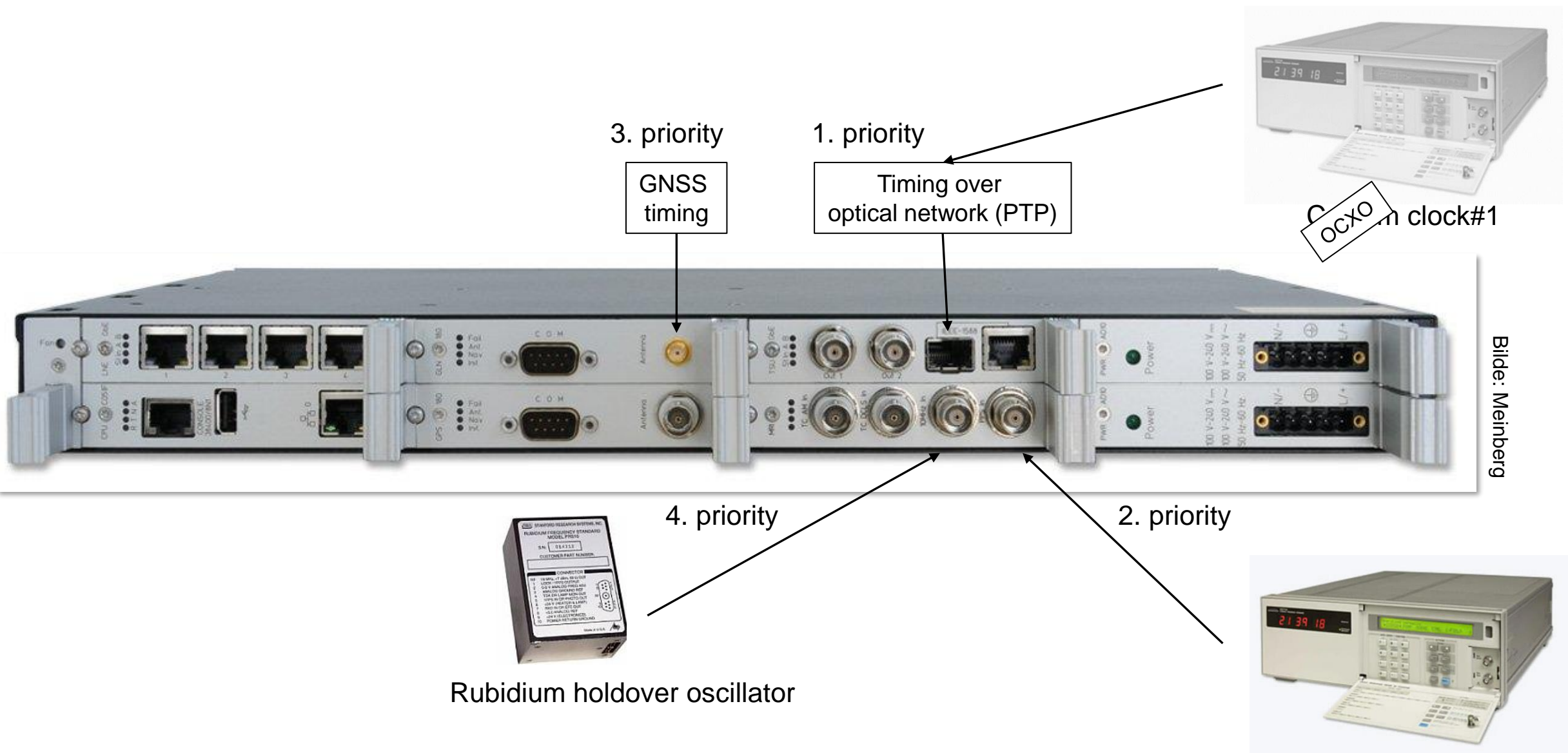
#5: Clocks may/will fail

#6: Alternative timing sources need to be combined and selected using robust logic for actual resilience

Robust sync? 2 x belts + 2 x suspenders

Sync demo at digital substation pilot – Statnett-prosjekt COSECTIME





Cesium clock#1
OCXO

Bilde: Meinberg



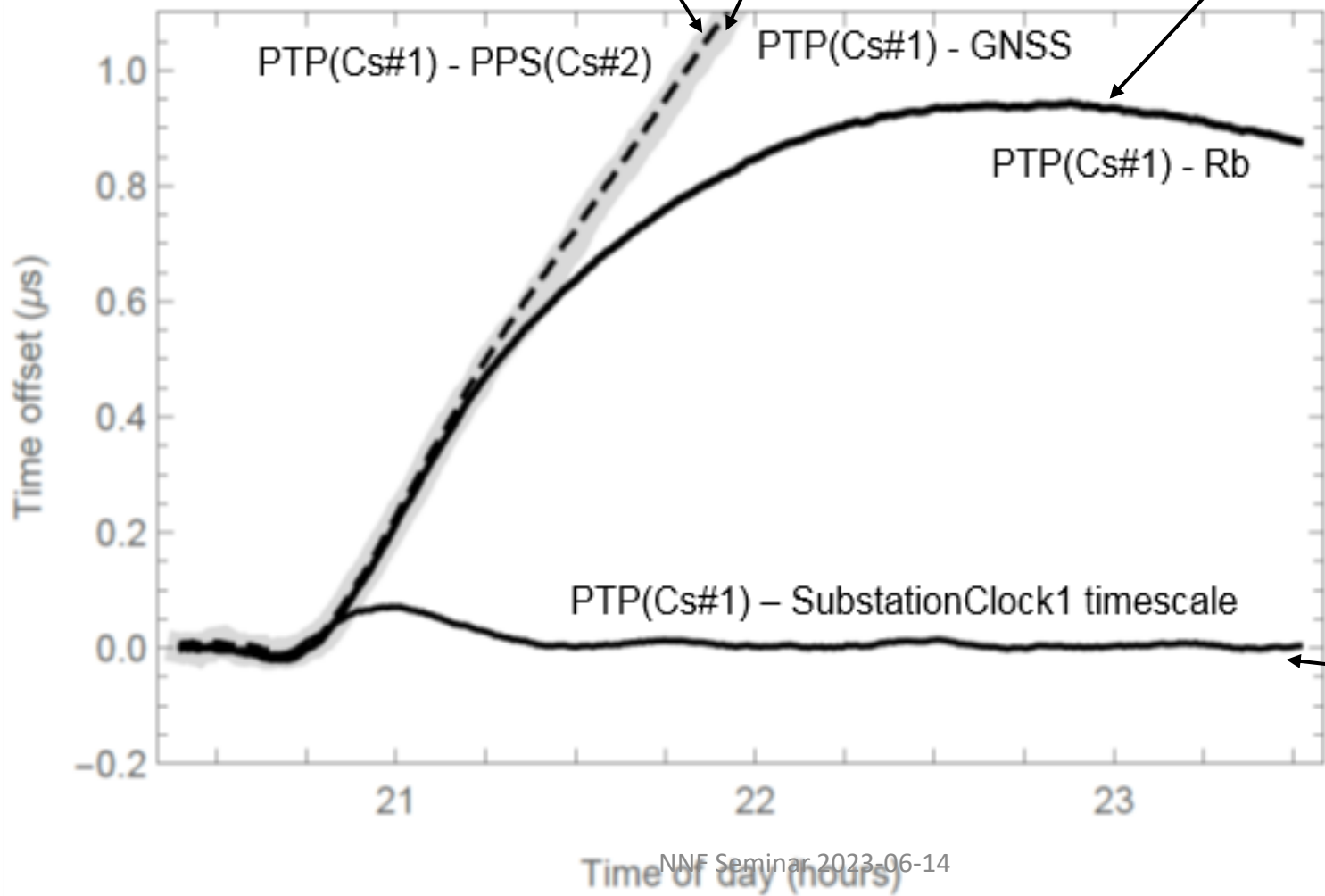
Cesium clock#2

2. priority



3. priority
GNSS timing

4. priority



1. priority



Conclusions

- Engineering challenge: National timing service keeping the performance of GNSS and reducing direct dependence
 - Robust multi-source systems ('zero trust')
 - Core timing network
 - Accurate clock nodes
- Distributing resilient timing over 5G may enable also alternative GNSS independent position and navigation

Extras

Effects of incoherent spoofing – Skibotn 2021

GNS Clock [CLK1 - checking time]:

Priority	Source	Status	Offset
.01	GNSS Receiver	Signal available, Is master, Is locked	- 66h 58m
.02	PPS in	Signal available	-145.6ms [+150.0ns]
.03	Fixed Freq. in	Signal available	-41.60ms
-	IRIG	Not prioritized	N/A
-	NTP	Not prioritized	N/A
-	PTP (IEEE1588)	Not prioritized	N/A
-	PPS plus string	Not prioritized	N/A



Information

GNS Clock [CLK1]:

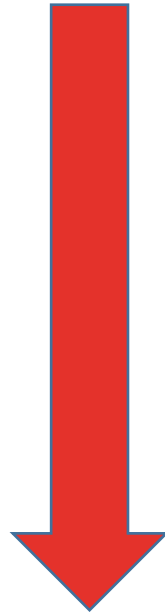
Name	Value
GNSS Status:	NORMAL OPERATION
GPS Position LLA:	LAT: 70.0000 LON: 10.0000 ALT: 89m
GPS Position LLA Degree:	LAT: 70° 00' 0" N LON: 10° 00' 0" E ALT: 89m
GPS Position XYZ:	X:2154718m Y: 379935m Z:5971124m



How dependent on accurate timing?

Nice to have

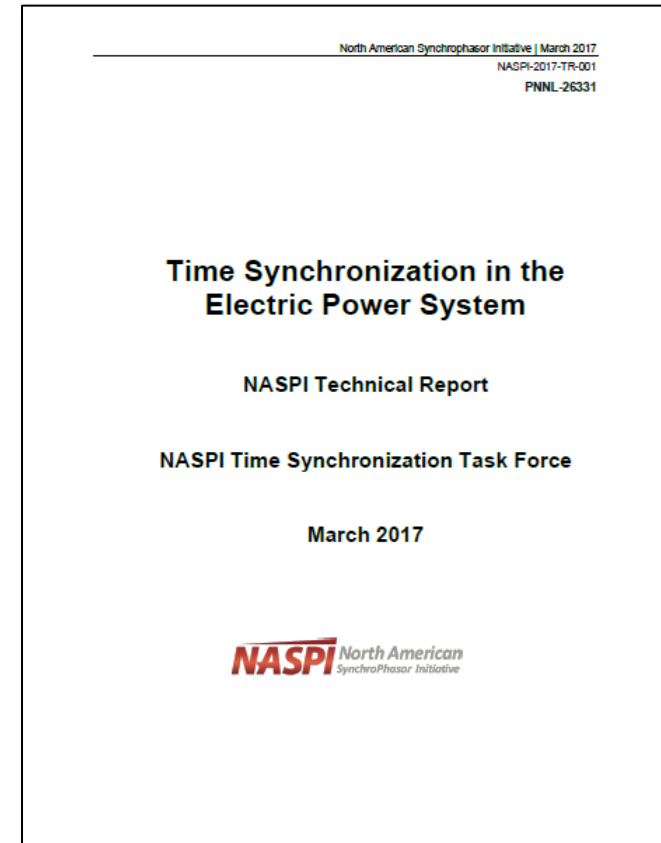
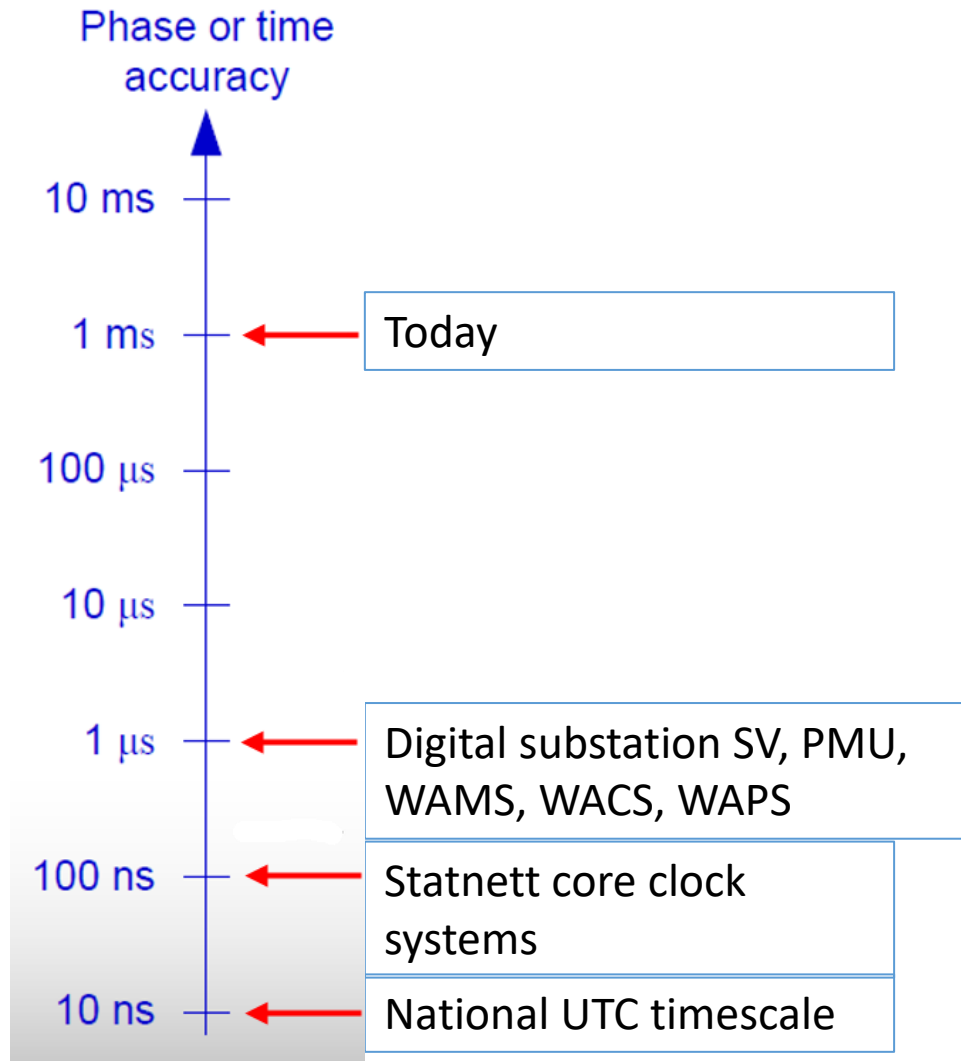
- Better real-time system modelling
- Better fault analysis
- Faster fault localization
- Leaner substations
- Better wide-area monitoring (WAMS)



Need to have

- Synchronized sampled values within substations
- Wide-area synchronized data for protection (WAPS)
- Wide-area synchronized data for control (WACS)

How accurate?



<https://www.naspi.org/node/608>