

5th High Lift Prediction Workshop

August 2-3, 2024

Hybrid RANS/LES TFG

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Scale-resolving methods e.g. Hybrid RANS-LES, Wall-Modelled LES (WMLES), Wall-resolved LES (WRLES) have become more widely used in academia and selected parts of the aerospace external aerodynamics industry for three reasons that have together helped the industry to approach a turning point:

- 1) HPC hardware has increased in performance over the past decade (both CPUs and GPUs) **and** the average end-user has access to more compute e.g. industry had ~100's CPU cores per job in 2014 versus ~1000's CPU cores per job in 2024 (+ more recently access to GPUs)
- 2) Research in scale-resolving turbulence modelling approaches have reached a technology readiness level such that they can transition out of academic codes into production codes and be assessed or used for complex geometries such as high-lift aircraft
- **3)** Growing evidence from public workshops, internal R&D and publications that these methods can* offer improvements over current state-of-the-art RANS/URANS models

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However…

- **1) RANS models (largely SA or SST-based) are well understood in the aerospace sector and whilst there are some V&V issues, the average end-user, code provider, companies, has had decades to develop best-practices**
- 2) Conversely, in general the aerospace industry (outside of select R&D departments) has much less practical experience of scale-resolving methods – especially for full production, at scale.
- **3)** Turbulence Modelling Resource website and prior HLPW's have helped codes to mature their RANS approaches but there is still many unanswered questions for scale-resolving methods – thus this workshop is needed to **educate** and provide **best-practice guidelines** to accelerate their industrial adoption.

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In this talk we focus on Hybrid RANS-LES methods and the following talk by Dr Kiris will focus on WMLES.

What is Hybrid RANS-LES

- Advantages of RANS in attached + advantages of LES in separated
- Makes sense in an existing code i.e. just change RANS formulation (relatively simple to implement)
- Non-zonal (seamless) or zonal approaches
- Resolve to the wall or wall-functions
- Many methods out there but arguably **Detached-Eddy Simulation (Spalart/Strelets et al.)** is the most known, and well used.

Lessons from HLPW4 [1]

"The computational simulation of turbulent flow over high-lift configurations **remains challenging**, but there appears to be room for **cautious optimism** with transient, scale-resolving hybrid RANS/LES methods."

[1] Neil Ashton, Paul Batten, Andrew Cary & Kevin Holst - Summary of the 4th High-Lift Prediction Workshop Hybrid RANS/LES Technology Focus Group, Journal of Aircraft, 2023 https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/1.C037329

Lessons from $HLPWA$ [1]

"*A variety of codes, using a range of HRLES techniques and models, all appear to offer improved accuracy over SA-based RANS models in terms of improved force and moment coefficients as well as local flow-field predictions.*

There have not been sufficient simulations exploring other (non SA-based RANS) models to be able to conclude that no RANS models can predict this flow type correctly - but none were observed to predict the correct flow physics, forces and moments over the entire envelope and configurations (i.e cases 2.1-2.4) during this workshop."

[1] Neil Ashton, Paul Batten, Andrew Cary & Kevin Holst - Summary of the 4th High-Lift Prediction Workshop Hybrid RANS/LES Technology Focus Group, Journal of Aircraft, 2023 https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/1.C037329

Recent discussions about new HLPW4 tests may change these conclusions (i.e Onera HLPW4 test had C_1 0.06 higher)

Fig. 20 Test Case 2b - L-001.5 (SA-QCR RANS), L-001.8 (SA-QCR DDES), and W-032 (LBM-VLES)

Lessons from $HLPWA$ [1]

"*At lower angles of attack where much of the flap separation remains shallow, HRLES methods don't appear to do quite as well and actually show a tendency to return slightly worse moment predictions."*

[1] Neil Ashton, Paul Batten, Andrew Cary & Kevin Holst - Summary of the 4th High-Lift Prediction Workshop Hybrid RANS/LES Technology Focus Group, Journal of Aircraft, 2023 https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/1.C037329

Fig. 20 Test Case 2b - L-001.5 (SA-QCR RANS), L-001.8 (SA-QCR DDES), and W-032 (LBM-VLES)

Recent discussions about new HLPW4 tests may change these conclusions (I.e. closer to Onera HLPW4 test)

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Lessons from $HLPWA$ [1]

"*Unfortunately, this paper is not able to draw any conclusions on the specific performance of the shielding functions used in the various HRLES methods, as these weren't systematically tested or compared by any contributor. Further work could usefully be done to explore even larger meshes, to assess whether accuracy improves or, importantly, whether accuracy worsens due to some shieldingfunction breakdown"*

[1] Neil Ashton, Paul Batten, Andrew Cary & Kevin Holst - Summary of the 4th High-Lift Prediction Workshop Hybrid RANS/LES Technology Focus Group, Journal of Aircraft, 2023 https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/1.C037329

Main objective

Given the conclusions from **HLPW4** – how much is still true for **HLPW5**? The sign of a mature method is generalizability between geometries/problems and similar results between different codes and groups.

1. Correlation to experiment (absolute and geometry deltas) (target: C₁ +/- 0.03)

- 2. How close are we to **mesh convergence** and how many cells do we need?
- 3. Level of **repeatability** between codes/meshes for the same HRLES model
- 4. Are there modelling issues e.g do we see the **shielding function issues** i.e modeled-stress depletion?
- 5. What is the **Computational time & cost?**

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Submissions

Big thank you to all these groups who spent the past 2 years meeting bi-weekly, running millions of compute hours – often outside of their 'day' job.

Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

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Executive Summary (2.2)

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Executive Summary (2.2)

Best-Practice grid/setup

Executive Summary (2.2) Example comparison

L-001 – SA-QCR DDES

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Very strong spanwise flow by 23.8deg AoA

Executive Summary (2.3)

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Executive Summary (2.3) Example comparison

Similar strong spanwise flow at 23.5 as 2.2, but flaps restrict it mainly inboard

Executive Summary (2.3)

23.5deg AoA

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Executive Summary (2.4)

L-013 may require further mesh refinement (discussed later)

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Executive Summary (2.4) Example comparison

23.6 AoA

Case 2.4 – L-009

Executive Summary (2.4)

Correlation looks closer for 2.4 than 2.3 for Cp inboard cuts – but now outboard cut is under-predicted – which may be responsible for Cm correlation

Executive Summary

Case 2.4 - 2.2: Forces and Moments

- Does the constant offset cancel out if we look at the delta between 2.4 and 2.2?
- Trends are well captured by HRLES (all SA-DDES variants) by three separate codes, with different meshes.
- Low AoA (i.e 6 degrees) remains a challenge for absolute + delta means many unanswered questions
- Important to note that for some submissions the change different 2.2 and 2.4 is not only geometry (i.e bestpractice changed) so please treat this as initial analysis only

- **1.** HRLES still shows the same overall improvements over SA-based RANS (i.e better $C_{L_{max}}$ prediction) and better flow-field correlation
- 2. Addition of the flaps (2.3 and 2.4) has been challenging for all groups (including other TFGs) and there remains many unanswered questions around transition & mesh refinement requirements i.e. issues not unique to HRLES
- **3.** When sufficient mesh resolution and a low dissipation scheme is used, there is good agreement between different codes for HRLES (SA DDES variants) which suggests a maturity of the method for industry. **However all submissions need further mesh refinement.**
- 4. Low AoA configurations with flaps remains a challenge (absolute and deltas) as seen with HLPW4 flap deflection study
- 5. More work to do to address the unknowns related to HLPW5 and more analysis by the TFG which will be shown in the SciTech summary paper.

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Detailed Analysis

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Case 1

Case 1 Submission details

Forces & moments - RANS

L-004.1 – SA-QCR RANS , L005.2 – SST-RANS

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L-001.1 – SA-DDES-low-diss, L-001.2 - SA-DDES, L-001.3 - SA-QCR DDES, L-003.1 – SA-DDES-custom (Custom Pointwise Grid), L-004.1 – SA-QCR RANS, L-004.3 – SA-QCR DDES, L-004.4 SA-QCR-DDES-DR, L-005.1 – SST-SBES, L-005.2 – SST-RANS, L015 – SST-DDES

Forces & moments - HRLES

L-001.1 – SA-DDES-low-diss, L-001.2 - SA-DDES, L-001.3 - SA-QCR DDES, L-003.1 – SA-DDES-custom (Custom Pointwise Grid), L004.3 – SA-QCR DDES, L004.4 SA-QCR-DDES-DR, L005.1 – SST-SBES (ANSA Grid)

Case 1 – L004.3 – SA-QCR-DDES

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Case 1 – L004.4 –SA-QCR-DDES-DR

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- **Case 1 (i.e clean wing with no slats/flaps) has exposed an issue previously known (but not observed in HLPW4) of shielding function breakdown for the standard DDES formulation on fine grids**
- Confirmed using two different codes and different DDES formulations (SA-QCR DDES and SA-DDES)
- Initial work to mitigate this with Deck-Renard function, custom DDES formulation and SBES looks promising, but more work needed to confirm (most groups moved to focus on case 2)
- Revisit once exp. data is available

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- **Revisit once exp. data is available**

Case 2.1

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Case 2.1: Forces and Moments

Limited time for analysis – so please see SciTech paper for full details

Case 2.2

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Flow features

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Flow features

No flap or nacelle

L004 SA-QCR DDES simulation

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Case 2 Submission details

Mesh details (*2p4 but similar for 2.2/2.3*)

L-009 built their own heldenMesh grids (**top)**

L-013 used the committee HeldenMesh grids (**middle**) Helden: L-009 C24 ONERA MS10 N S100 Helden: H5C24 HRLES C01 $Y = 0$ ANSA: 2p4_ONERA_LDG_v01_Optimized

L-001 and L-004 used ANSA meshes (**bottom**)

 $Y=0$

Mesh details (*2p4 but similar for 2.2/2.3*)

Y=232 (slat shear layer)

Mesh details (*2p4 but similar for 2.2/2.3*)

 $Y = 1015$

L-009 built their own heldenMesh grids (**top)**

L-013 used the committee HeldenMesh grids (**middle**)

L-001 and L-004 used ANSA meshes (**bottom**)

Case 2.2 – All best-practice submissions

L-015 is an outlier - three other simulations ultimately match closely for their best-practice settings

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Case 2.2 - HRLES

As expected, main differences are at higher AoA - clear to see that there is trend of additional mesh refinement moving towards exp. data

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Case 2.2 - HRLES

Case 2.2, L-004 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

As expected, main differences are at higher AoA - clear to see that there is trend of additional mesh refinement moving towards exp. data

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Case 2.2 - HRLES

Case 2.2, L-013 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

As expected, main differences are at higher AoA - clear to see that there is trend of additional mesh refinement moving towards exp. data

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Case $2.2 - 17.7$ deg AoA -HRLES | L-001: Blue, L-004: Orange, L-015: Green, L-013: Magenta, Exp: black

Good correlation reflected in the Cp at 17.7

SAIAA

Case 2.2 – 23.8deg AoA –HRLES L-001: Blue, L-004: Orange, L-015: Green, L-013: Magenta, Exp: black

Differences at 23.8 arises from inboard under-prediction of Cp peaks – most obvious at Cut A.

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Case 2.2 – 10deg AoA – HRLES (MSD)

1. MSD is less obvious than Case 1 and only L-004 ran grid E. At grid E we do see the signs of what happened to Case 1. However it seems the slat has a delaying influence, given Case 1 showed issues for Mesh D. L-013 used a different grid family and we may need extra grid level to be sure

Case 2.2 – 10deg AoA – L.004 – SA-QCR DDES & RANS

Still need submissions using DR function to better answer

Mesh B

Mesh E

Still need submissions using DR function to better answer

Case 2.2 – 21.5deg AoA - HRLES

Note: L-001 SA DDES has lower dissipation scheme compared to L-001 SAQCR DDES

- 1) Moving to lower dissipation schemes + SA-DDES vs SA-QCR-DDES gave consistent move towards exp. data
- 2) Majority of submissions are trending towards the exp. Data with increased mesh size, but most likely would need an extra mesh level to be sure (i.e ~500M cells)
- 3) Pitching moment shows the worst correlation and deviation between methods

Check on Best-Practice Submission Averages Using Meancalc – Case 2.2

Check on Best-Practice Submission Averages Using Meancalc – Case 2.2

Case 2.2 – L-001 – SA-QCR DDES

Very strong spanwise flow by 23.8deg AoA

Case 2.2 – L-001 – SA **RANS**

Very different flow predicted by SA **RANS** – much larger separation explains lower C_L at 23.8

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Case 2.2 – L-004 – SA-QCR DDES

Good agreement

Case 2.2 – L-013 – SA-QCR DDES

Very strong spanwise flow by 23.8deg AoA

Case 2.2 – L-015 – SST-DDES

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Mesh details (*2p4 but similar for 2.2/2.3*)

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L-013 used the committee HeldenMesh grids (**middle**)

L-001 and L-004 used ANSA meshes (**bottom**)

"O-level" Mesh - Targeted/Solution-Driven Mesh Refinement – Beyond the C+ Mesh…

Group effort between multiple groups to create this new grid – not just A-B-C-D-E. (full paper will show differences more clearly)

Mesh C+ mesh solution used to compute a (short) time-averaged solution of total TKE at lowest and highest AoAs (7.6 and 23.6 degrees):

Normalized Total TKE =
$$
\frac{1}{2U_{\infty}^2} \left[\left(\overline{u'_i u'_i} \right)_{resolved} + \left(\overline{u'_i u'_i} \right)_{modeled} \right]
$$

With $\left(\overline{u_i'u_i'}\right)_{modeled}$ approximated via trace in QCR terms (Bradshaw's hypothesis

Two solutions (7.6 and 23.6 degrees) are averaged to produce a metric relevant for requested AoA range

Combined & normalized TKE = 0.005 isosurface

L-013 had less grid resolution than L-004.1 (they focused on 2.4 or had limited HPC resources) – O-level grid made a big difference

Summary paper will have more analysis of the flap prediction issue at low-mid AoA

2.3 much more challenging than 2.2 due to addition of the flap

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Case 2.3, L-004 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

"O-level" grid helped but still more work to focus on mesh topology, not just refinement.

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Case 2.3, L-013 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

Clear that additional refinement is still needed

Case 2.3 – 17.7deg AoA –HRLES

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Case 2.3 – 23.5deg AoA –HRLES

Similar to 2.2 at highest AoA, inboard cuts show the biggest differences (both A and B)

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Case 2.3 – L-004 SA-QCR DDES

Similar strong spanwise flow at 23.5 as 2.2 but flaps restrict it mainly inboard (exp. and L-004)

Case 2.3 – L-001 SA DDES (*with low dissipation scheme*)

Similar between L-001 and L-004 – capture main features of the flow – slightly larger separation than exp.

Check on Best-Practice Submission Averages Using Meancalc – Case 2.3

Transitional Studies with Langtry-Menter Model + Experimental Trips

Given Re=5.8M, geometry has select trip points along slot

"**No tripping is applied on section of the wings where slats and flaps are present"**

Transition on wing

- Cadcut P/N 5 (thickness 127 µm)
- In between slats only
- On the upper surface only
- Parallel to the wing leading edge

 9.2_m

Distance from leading edge, see figure

Transition on nacelle

- Cadcut P/N 5 (thickness 127 µm)
- Both on the outer and inner surface of the inlet

mm

 10 mm

14.3 mm

- 8 mm downstream and parallel to the inlet leading edge
- 10 mm downstream of pylon leading edge

Transition on horizontal and vertical tail planes

4.3 mm

- Cadcut P/N 4.5 (thickness 114 µm)
- 10% of local chord downstream of leading edge
- On both sides .

Transition on fuselage

Cadcut P/N5

48.5 mm

- (thickness 127 um)
- 48.5 mm downstream of nose tip

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Case 2.2 – L-004 HRLES vs LM+Trips – 6 deg AoA

SA-QCR-DDES – Mesh D RANS- Langtry-Menter+Trips – Mesh D

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Case 2.3 - HRLES vs LM+Trips – 6 Degree AoA

For 2.3 with the addition of the flap – the main element is not fullyturbulent everywhere **Theory is that the separation on**

the flap has an induced effect on the main wing (given the coupled nature of the wing/flap loading)

SA-QCR-DDES – Mesh D RANS- Langtry-Menter+Trips – Mesh D

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Case 2.4 – HRLES vs LM+Trips – 7.6 Degree AoA

Even more regions of laminar flow on the main wing for 2.4

Initial study – lots of uncertainties but raises the question of whether a fullyturbulent approach within HRLES methods is valid. Needs more investigation

SA-QCR-DDES – Mesh D RANS- Langtry-Menter+Trips – Mesh D

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Case 2p4 mesh details

Y=360 (zoomed out)

L-009 built their own heldenMesh grids (**top)**

L-013 used the committee HeldenMesh grids (**middle**)

L-001 and L-004 used ANSA meshes (**bottom**)

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Case 2p4 mesh details

Y=360 (nacelle)

L-009 built their own heldenMesh grids (**top)**

L-013 used the committee HeldenMesh grids (**middle**)

L-001 and L-004 used ANSA meshes (**bottom**)

Better than 2.3 and other than L-013 – close agreement – however further mesh refinement will bring these together

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Case 2.4, L-004 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

Still need further mesh refinement for higher AoA

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Case 2.4, L-013 SAQCR DDES: Forces and Moments

Still need further mesh refinement for higher AoA

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Case 2.4 (RANS)

Case 2.4, L-004 SAQCR RANS: Forces and Moments

Further mesh refinement doesn't help SA-RANS (but see RANS TFG for more details)

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Case 2.4 – 23.6deg AoA –HRLES

may be responsible for Cm

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Largely capturing the correct flow at the higher AoA

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Largely capturing the correct flow patterns at the higher AoA but more separation on the flaps

Good capturing of the overall flow patterns

23.6

Needs time-averaged streamlines but appears to be correct flow patterns

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Delta between 2.3 and 2.2 i.e addition of the flap

Case 2.3 - 2.2: Forces and Moments

- All submissions found it challenging to predict the delta (not just the absolute 2.3 force and moments)
- Important to note, turbulence models and mesh refinement sometimes differed between 2.2 and 2.3 for a particular submission
- HRLES closer than the SA-based RANS

Delta between 2.4 and 2.3 i.e adding nacelle

- HRLES in general predict closer deltas than RANS (as it does for absolute values)
	- May be better still if we held the exact same HRLES CFD setup for each geometry

Delta between 2.4 and 2.2

Case 2.4 - 2.2: Forces and Moments

HRLES in general predict closer deltas than RANS (like absolute values) May be better still if we held the exact same HRLES CFD setup for each geometry

Computational cost and time

1. The time it takes to run a simulation is an important factor in the adoption of a specific code or method e.g 4hrs vs 4 days

- 2. The time itself is a function of available HPC resources, the type of HPC resources and the scalability of the code and specific setup of the code for the problem itself
- **3.** Simulation time is highly dependent on the amount of HPC resources, but simulation cost is more constant (whilst in the linear range of scalability)
- 4. Cost is an important factor in whether a method can ultimately be used in production
- 5. Power/CO₂ is an increasingly important metric in the era of sustainability and climate change concern
- **6.** Accuracy of the method/setup/code must be considered or else a super-fast/cheap method that is poorly correlating could be considered 'best'

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1. Time itself is not a fair metric because it depends on HPC resources thus traditionally corehours has been a common metric

- **2.** Core-hours is misleading because 1) it assumes CPUs 2) it doesn't take into account the wide range of speed 'per core' 3) it can be difficult to put into reality e.g what does 1M core-hours really mean to you as an engineer/researcher?
- **3.** The mixed use of GPUs by some and CPUs by others means there needs to be a more common metric e.g node-hours. However GPU nodes are many times more powerful than CPU nodes, so node-hours would make all GPU results look much lower than CPU ones.
- 4. The cost of a GPU node can be >x50 more expensive than a CPU node thus how do you factor this in?
- **5.** Hardware costs of CPUs/GPUs are not readily available other than through cloud computing providers
- **6.** Power/CO₂ is difficult to measure (how much of the HPC 'system' and environment do you include) and not readily made available through cloud providers

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- **1. In HLPW4 – we took the approach of using AWS public costing and translating each run to a related AWS GPU/CPU and then multiplying by the simulation time.**
- **2.** Positives consistent metric to balance out the large difference in per-node costs of GPUs and CPUs
- 3. Negatives 1) didn't take into account accuracy of the method. 2) doesn't include power numbers 3) doesn't reflect the cost that an end-user would pay (differing discounts by cloud/on-prem) or the particular node type being different
- 4. One particular comment was that some approaches were not optimized for HPC i.e either the code was running in debug mode, running on old hardware, had lots of extra reporting. Were based upon a very large mesh that only made 1% difference etc
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Recommendations

- **1. It's clear that cost/time are important, but we need to have an agreed way to report this and include accuracy**
- 2. Accuracy needs to be averaged over various quantities and AoA to more fairly represent its correlation
- **3.** A dedicated working group should be created to come up with suggestions that can be agreed by all and used in future workshops.
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Conclusions and next steps

Full configuration of HLPW5 has ultimately been a more difficult test-case to predict than HLPW4 (*although new insights from Onera HLPW4 WT may challenge this***). There is still positive news:**

- **1.** HRLES still shows the same overall improvements over SA-based RANS (i.e better $C_{L_{max}}$ prediction) and better flow-field correlation
- 2. Addition of the flaps (2.3 and 2.4) has been challenging for all groups (including other TFGs) and there remains many unanswered questions around transition & mesh refinement requirements i.e. issues not unique to HRLES
- **3.** When sufficient mesh resolution and a low dissipation scheme is used, there is good agreement between different codes for HRLES (SA DDES variants) which suggests a maturity of the method for industry. **However all submissions need further mesh refinement.**
- 4. Low AoA configurations with flaps remains a challenge (absolute and deltas) as seen with HLPW4 flap deflection study.
- 5. Open question of transition for case 2 given Re=5.8M. All the HRLES methods assume fully-turbulent flow, yet experimental tripping is challenging and fully turbulent flow may not be realized. Thus is it even possible for HRLES to match the exp. data if transition is not accurately modelled for all AoAs? Still remains a source of uncertainty.
- 6. More work to do to address the unknowns related to HLPW5 and more analysis by the TFG which will be shown in the SciTech summary paper.

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Q & A