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Secondment Reports: Insights from Academic and Industrial Secondments

Academic Secondment at TU Braunschweig: Bridging Legal and Technical Perspectives on HVDC Systems



From September 1st to November 28th, 2025, Donia Ayari (RUG), completed her academic secondment at Technische Universität Braunschweig (TUBS), within the elenia Institute for High Voltage Technology and Power Systems. The secondment focused on the technical and modelling aspects of multi-vendor as well as multi-terminal HVDC systems.

During her secondment, Donia worked closely with other Inter-oPEn doctoral candidates on modelling, interoperability, roles and responsibilities, and cybersecurity in HVDC systems. This helped bridge legal analysis and engineering practice in the energy transition.

Read the full secondment report here [\[website\]](#).

Academic Secondment at KTH: Designing FPGA based IED for MMC Protection in a Real Time PHIL Test Bed



From December 1st, 2025, to March 1st, 2026, Tuanku Badzlin Hashfi (TU Delft) completed his academic secondment at KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden, within the Department of Electric Power and Energy Systems. The secondment focused on the design and development of an Intelligent Electronic Device (IED) for power system applications.

During his secondment, Badzlin worked on FPGA programming, PCB design, and device testing. The developed IED will be integrated into a power-hardware-in-the-loop (PHIL) platform to support protection, monitoring, and control of converter-based systems.

Read the full secondment report here [\[website\]](#).

Academic Secondment at RWTH Aachen University: Bridging Intellectual Property and HVDC Engineering



From January 1st to March 31st, 2026, Mohammadtaher Azampour(RUG) completed his academic secondment at RWTH Aachen University, within the Institute for Automation of Complex Power Systems. The secondment focused on the link between intellectual property rights and interoperability in multi-vendor, multi-terminal HVDC systems, helping connect legal research with technical practice. During his placement, Mohammadtaher engaged in technical discussions on HVDC control systems, participated in RWTH ACS research meetings, and presented IP law basics to an engineering audience.

Read the full secondment report here [\[website\]](#).

Industrial Secondment at CRESYM: Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Insights



From December 1st, 2025, to February 28th, 2026, Donia Ayari (RUG) completed her industrial secondment at CRESYM. The secondment focused on stakeholder engagement and policy perspectives related to HVDC deployment in Europe. During her placement, Donia presented her research and exchanged views with industry and intergovernmental stakeholders, including ELIA, T&D Europe, and the North Seas Energy Cooperation. The experience strengthened her understanding of the policy and industry landscape and helped position her research on HVDC governance in a real-world context.

Read the full secondment report here [\[website\]](#).

Past Inter-oPEn Events

Training Module 5 “Making the most out of Interdisciplinarity; simple description of complex technological problems; solutions”– followed by a meeting with the sister project ADOREd

Training Module 5 took place in two phases, with a virtual session on May 12th, 2026, and an in-person session on May 20th to 21st, 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Training Module brought together the Inter-oPEn doctoral candidates, an industry expert, and an educational consultant for scientific exchange, professional development, and networking.

The program included expert presentations, a panel discussion, elevator pitch training, and a joint poster session as well as a trip to the Middlegrunden Offshore Wind Farm with the ADOREd fellows.

This exchange between the two doctoral networks was one of the key highlights of the Training Module. It created valuable opportunities for interdisciplinary discussion, peer feedback, and cross-network learning. The visit to the Middelgrunden Offshore Wind Farm further strengthened the collaborative and interdisciplinary character of the module.

More information on [\[website\]](#).



Conference Participation

HVDC Colloquium 2026



From March 18th to 20th, 2026, five Inter-oPEn doctoral candidates attended the HVDC Colloquium in Leuven, Belgium. The event brought together researchers and industry experts to discuss current developments in HVDC technologies and future grid interoperability. During the colloquium, Abdolhamid Farshadi (TUBS) presented his paper, “*MBSE-Based Concept-Level Protection Implementation for HVDC grid protection system development,*” and Mohammadtaher Azampour (RUG) presented his paper, “*Patent Protection and Interoperability of Control Systems in Multi-Terminal Multi-Vendor (MVMT) High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission.*” The event provided valuable opportunities for technical exchange, constructive feedback, and collaboration across the HVDC research community.

More information on [\[website\]](#).

22nd IET International Conference on AC and DC Power Transmission



From April 28th to 29th, 2026, four Inter-oPEn doctoral candidates attended the 22nd IET International Conference on AC and DC Power Transmission in Berlin, Germany. The event brought together power system specialists, industry experts and researchers to discuss the latest developments in AC and DC power transmission technologies. During the conference, Musa Mathew (RWTH IAEW), Ali Sajjadi (RWTH ACS), Gerald Cham Kpu (KTH) and Abdolhamid Farshadi (TUBS) presented their latest research on HVDC system stability, DC protection, and multi-vendor interoperability. The program also included networking sessions with researchers and industry professionals and concluded with a technical visit to the Siemens Energy switchgear factory.

More information on [\[website\]](#).

Behind the scenes

#1 Upcoming Inter-oPEn Events: Training Module 6 “How to make good recommendations” (planned for November 2026) will take place online for 2 half days under the lead of CRESYM and PTB. More information (e.g. date and agenda) will be published on the [events page](#) of the project website soon.

#2 Elections to the Doctoral Researcher Representatives Board: Ali [Sajjadi \(RWTH ACS\)](#), [Gerald Cham Kpu \(KTH\)](#) and [Donia Ayari \(RUG\)](#) are the new Doctoral Research Representatives to the Supervisory Board. They have been elected for one year and will represent the views and act in the interest of all Doctoral Candidates at the Supervisory Board level.

#3 New Dissemination Activities: Stay tuned for short video statements from the Inter-oPEn doctoral candidates, in which they introduce themselves and present their research topics! Follow us on LinkedIn so you don't miss them!

#4 Periodic Report no.1: The first periodic report explaining the project progress as well as the first deliverable drafts for our whitepapers on the research Work Packages have been submitted to the EU Commission.

Kind regards,

Your Inter-oPEn Team

Published on behalf of the Rector of RWTH Aachen University.

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Funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101119349. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.