



# Design and Analysis of in-pipe Water Generation from Spherical Turbine

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**ABSTRACT:** This generation requires an environmentally friendly electrical power producing technology. This project is about a novel way to generate electricity by using the flow of sewage waste liquid as the energy source for running turbines, which then drive electrical power generators. The goal is to construct a self-sustaining system that generates electricity using the kinetic and pressure energy of water flowing through turbine assemblies that include spherical turbines linked to generators that are sequentially situated in each water channel. Fast-growing cities, particularly in emerging nations, provide a problem for present energy consumption. Micro-turbines, rather than lowering pressure valves in urban water pipes, might help with energy delivery to the electrical grid. Understanding turbine design and operational parameters can aid in energy harvesting efficiency in these cities. We will investigate the needed process parameters, design requirements, operating parameters, implementation cost, and power producing capacity of a spherical turbine in-pipe water power generator in this research activity.

**KEYWORDS:** n-pipesystem, energy harvesting, turbine system.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The water flowing through pipe, especially vertically downwards, possesses a lot of energy in form of kinetic and pressure energy. The flow rate inside the pipe always remains constant. And in many cases, the end-user requirement is just flow rate and not the pressure. Hence, a part of the pressure energy can be extracted and stored in the form of electrical energy. The turbines available till now occupied a large amount of cross-sectional area in pipe. Hence as the area reduces the pressure energy gets converted into kinetic energy. Hence velocity increases. And the spherical turbine is the most efficient way to extract pressure energy from the pipe-flow.

The great variety in the size of hydropower plants allows this technology to adapt to both large centralized and small-scale urban distributed energy model needs. Recently, thanks to the development of small hydro turbines, compact and specified for urban use, it is possible to harness water power for on-site energy generation or domestic production in industrial and agricultural districts. Water possesses a lot of energy which is in the form of kinetic and pressure energy flowing vertically through pipe. The turbines working till date occupy a large amount of cross-sectional area in pipe. When the area reduces, it converts pressure energy into kinetic energy which results in increase of velocity. This velocity of water is utilized in in-pipe turbine and used for generating electricity.

Hydropower is considered as a developed and a cost-competitive renewable energy source, in which energy and water are linked strongly together. Indeed, significant energy is used to deliver the water to the consumers throughout the distribution system. This excessive energy might damage the transporting pipes at some points due to the extra pressure. Therefore, pressure valves are used to reduce the pressure in these pipes to proper levels. The excess pressure points can be exploited by generating clean energy that supplies different loads near to these points. The inclusion of the turbines in the distribution pipe will reduce the system costs significantly due to not using pressure valves. In this technology, the pipe is equipped with a turbine, which is connected to a generator, which is mounted on top of the pipe. The generated energy from the in-pipe system is known in the literature by in-pipe hydropower.

As India is progressing its power needs are increasing day by day. With uncontrolled electricity shortages in outlying villages and remote areas, it would be ideal to exploit the micro-hydro potential of water pipes to produce electricity. However, the use of compact turbines generating half to 1 kW power is desired and such a turbine needs to be designed and put



to practical use. This alternate source of power would be available all the time. Water Pipe line network is vast and extensive in areas where farming is done. Pipes are used in conveying water from reservoirs and dams to different parts of the country. This setup aims at using the force of the moving water in pipes to generate electricity that can be either stored or immediately used in nearby areas. This paper shows the technique used for the same

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

**Hani Muhsen, Mariam Ibrahim, Ahmad Alsheikh, Mohammed Qanadilo, and Abdallah Karadsheh Turbine Design and Its Impact on Energy Harvesting from In- Pipe Hydro Systems International Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Robotics Research Vol. 8, No. 5, September 2019**

In recent years wireless sensors are becoming more widely used to monitor water distribution systems in the water supply industry. When sensors are installed in areas where electric power supply is lacking and/or battery replacement is difficult, harvesting renewable energy from the water distribution systems or the environment would be an attractive option. This work studies the feasibility of energy harvesting in water distribution systems from hydraulic energy in bypass water pipes, thermal energy in the water-air temperature gradient, and kinetic energy in the water pressure fluctuation. The energy harvesting systems are modelled and then analysed by using simulated data and real data.

**Harvesting energy from in-pipe hydro systems at urban and building scale Marco Casini International Journal of Smart Grid and Clean Energy DOI: 10.12720/sgce.4.4.316-327**

In addition to photovoltaic and wind systems, nowadays in-pipe water to wire power systems are becoming particularly interesting for the integration of renewable resources at urban and building scale because of the potential to harness clean energy from excess head pressure in urban and domestic water pipelines. Able to operate across a wider range of head and flow conditions, these particular micro hydro power systems can be deployed in municipalities, energy-intensive industries and agricultural irrigation districts providing a consistent amount of clean and continuous energy without the typical intermittency of wind and solar and at the same time helping in pipelines management and maintenance. The article presents an overview of the different types of in-pipe hydro systems available on the market and illustrates their possible applications at the urban and building scale and the benefits achievable in terms of energy production compared to other renewable such as photovoltaic and wind systems.

**Computational Fluid Dynamics Study on Water Flow in a Hollow Helical Pipe Ebrahim Ahmadloo<sup>1\*</sup>, Najmeh Sobhanifar<sup>2</sup>, Fatemeh Sadat Hosseini<sup>3</sup> Received 1 April 2014; revised 1 May 2014; accepted 8 May 2014**

Although curved pipes are used in a wide range of applications, flow in curved pipes is relatively less well known than that in straight ducts. This paper presents a computational fluid dynamics study of isothermal laminar single-phase flow of water in a hollow helical pipe at various Reynolds numbers. The range of Reynolds numbers of fluid was from 703.2 to 1687.7. The three-

dimensional governing equations for mass and momentum have been solved. It was found that with increasing Reynolds number and creation of centrifugal forces, a high velocity and pressure region occurs between two tubes, at the outer side of the hollow helical pipe walls. Friction factor decreases as the tendency for turbulence increases.

## III. PART IMPLEMENTATION

### Construction:

The spherical turbine Power System is a water-to-wire system that generates clean, renewable energy from excess head pressure in gravity-fed water pipelines. Spherical turbine converts water pressure to energy using a unique, lift based, vertical axis turbine installed within a pipeline. A single unit can produce 20–100 kW of renewable, zero-emission electricity, depending on the flow and head pressure conditions at a given site. Multiple units can be aggregated for a system that can produce more than a MW. The Spherical Turbine rotates the same direction regardless of the direction of the water flow and can accommodate flows in any direction through a pipeline. This means gravity fed water can pass through the system to generate power, while when the pipeline is used to convey pumped water in the opposite direction, the system can be stopped and the impact is virtually unnoticed. Typically, Spherical Turbine systems are designed to generate 240 volts, 3-phase AC power. Other configurations are possible.



### Spherical Turbine:

A spherical turbine for any fluid type at any depth or elevation, which is capable of unidirectional rotation under reversible flow conditions, is disclosed. A spherical turbine is advantageous because, by design, it always remains symmetrical to flow, which is particularly useful in urban areas with tall buildings and in planar regions where winds are unstable, e.g. Patagonia. Moreover, in the field of mechanical engineering, a spherical frame is potentially the strongest and most reliable three-dimensional frame.

The turbine includes a rotatable shaft that is adapted to rotate about an axis of rotation and turbine blade support members that are fixedly attached to the rotatable shaft and to a plurality of meridian turbine blades. Geographically, a meridian is an imaginary arc on the Earth's surface that extends from the North Pole to the South Pole. In this invention, a meridian blade is an arc section lying on the surface of a non-solid sphere, extending from a "north" point to a diametrically-opposite "south" point.

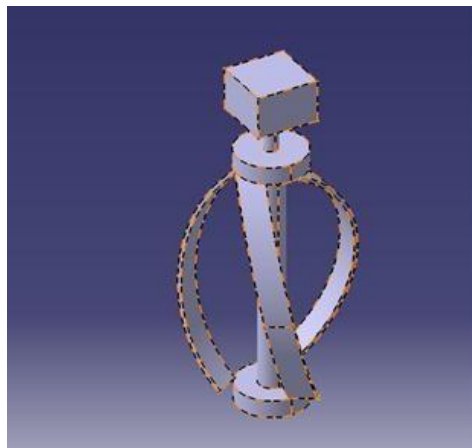


Fig. Spherical Turbine

### Flow Velocity:

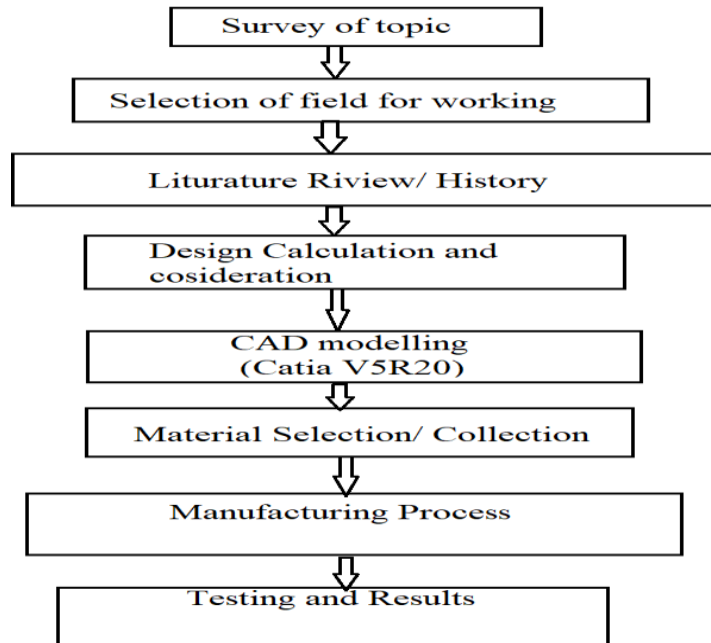
Water velocity is the most important indicator for determining the energy generating capacity of a pipeline. The power generated by the Pipe is proportional to the cube of the water velocity. Water velocity helps determine the optimal size of the Pipe system that can be operated in a pipeline. Also factored in are the pipeline diameter, head pressure that is available for extraction and the capacity factor (frequency and duration of water flow).

### Flow with Full Head:

Water flowing with full pipe is the basic requirement for the rotation of the spherical turbine and gaining the maximum rotation possible. Ultimately it helps in extracting more energy.



IV. METHODOLOGY



Methodology Flow Chart

**HYDROPOWERCLASSIFICATIONBYCAPACITY:**

Hydro Power plants capacities range from several watt (W) for the smallest individual installations, to tens of gigawatt (GW) for the largest. Depending on the installed capacity, hydropower systems are classified into "large hydro" (over 10 MW) or "small hydro" (upto 10MW). Small systems are in turn divided in "mini-hydro" (upto 1MW), "micro-hydro" (up to 100 kW) and "pico-hydro" (up to 5 kW). HPP with capacity lower than 10 MW are estimated to represent about 10% of the global HPP capacity. These size-based subdivisions represent an average size reference as there is no global agreement between different countries on the classification of hydro systems according to the installed power, with the consequent that the definition of small-scale hydro spans a very wide range of plant sizes. As shown in Table 1, various countries, or groups of countries, define 'small hydro' differently, from below 1.5 MW in Sweden to below 50 MW in China. This broad spectrum in definitions of size categories is motivated by local energy and resource management needs of different countries such as national licensing rules to determine which authority is responsible for the process.

Due to their ease of construction and integration into local environments, the deployment of small hydropower systems is increasing in many parts of the world, especially in remote areas where other energy sources are not viable or not economically attractive. Among systems with power up to 100 kW (micro hydro), particularly interesting for the potential of integration at urban and building scale are in-pipe hydro power systems. Designed for gravity fed and pressurized transmission and distribution lines as well as effluent outfalls and other pipe conveyance systems, these particular micro hydro systems may be located in municipal water or waste water systems, industrial water systems, or irrigation systems. In-pipe hydro systems can operate across a wide range of head and flow conditions inside most common piping materials such as steel, ductile iron, concrete, or any material that can be mated with steel pipe, providing clean, baseload energy without the intermittency of wind and solar and without environmental repercussion. Since most of piping runs underground, such systems are also protected from vandalism, theft or weather accidents and are compatible even with historical cities or locations with strict visual regulations.



**IN-PIPE WATER POWER GENERATION:**

Water possess a lot of energy which is in the form of kinetic and pressure energy flowing vertically through pipe. The turbines working till date occupies a large amount of cross-sectional area in pipe. When the area reduces, it converts pressure energy into kinetic energy which results in increase of velocity. This velocity of water is utilized in in-pipe turbine and used for generating electricity. The in-pipe water generator is an electrical power generating pipeline which can produce renewable energy completely clean, reliable low-cost electricity. The in-pipe turbine is setup in the pipe, the flowing water strikes the spherical blades of the turbine and leads to the rotation of it. The vertical shaft of the turbine is coupled to the generator which generates electricity and stores in batteries.

**IN PIPE HYDRO POWER SYSTEMS:**

In pipe hydro power systems can be divided into two main designs:

- Internal systems, where the runner is wholly inside the pipe section and only the generator protrudes from the conduit.
- External systems, where the runner is contained in a secondary conduit that bypasses the main one.

**V. WORKING**

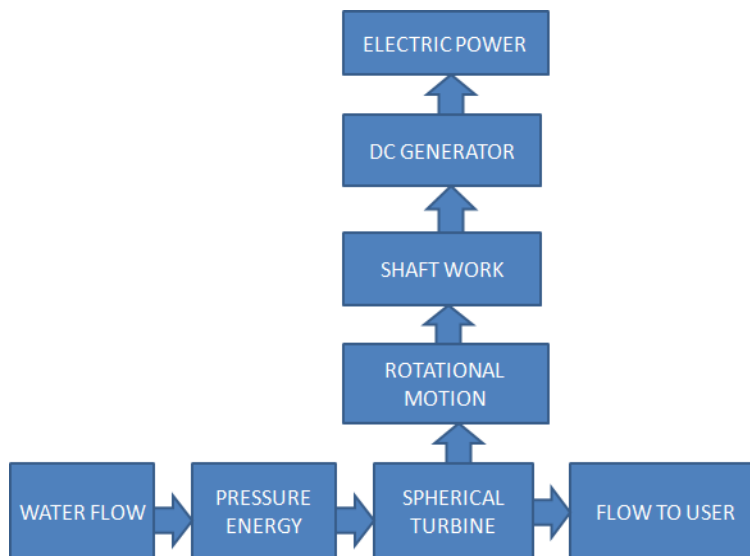


Fig. Basic Flow Chart

Water possess a lot of energy which is in the form of kinetic and pressure energy flowing vertically through pipe. The turbines working till date occupies a large amount of cross sectional area in pipe. When the area reduces, it converts pressure energy into kinetic energy which results in increase of velocity. This velocity of water is utilized in in-pipe turbine and used for generating electricity. The in-pipe water generator is an electrical power generating pipeline which can produce renewable energy completely clean, reliable low cost electricity. The in-pipe turbine is setup in the pipe, the flowing water strikes the spherical blades of the turbine and leads to the rotation of it. The vertical shaft of the turbine is coupled to the generator which generates electricity and stores in batteries.

**Advantages:**

- The modular pipe system to be placed on series, while allowing for uninterrupted water flow.
- Pipe does not need to be placed in a pressure transient zone or where extreme differential pressures are needed.
- Produce clean, low-cost electricity.



- It is reliable, cost-effective electricity.
- To maximize electricity generation, several pipe systems can be installed into a single pipeline.

#### Applications:

- Green electricity applications include wind turbines and water turbines used in applications for wind power and tidal power.
- Also applicable in the village or city water supply lines.
- Dam outlet pipe is the big source of this project.
- Farming water supply through the pipe is the great application for installation of this project because India is the farming country.

#### Limitations:

- Required a perfect design of spherical turbine otherwise it goes to backflow the water.
- Initial cost is required.

### VI. FUTURE WORK

- On the hilly areas the higher pressure head is easily obtained due to the altitude. And the velocity of the fluid is more due to the gravitational acceleration.
- The multi-store building, where the water almost flows constantly the overhead tank is filled and emptied very frequently in the buildings and the apartments. Hence we get almost continuous flow, which can be a great help in generating the electricity. The general purpose lighting of the building can be lit up by the stored energy.
- The government water distribution pipes for the different areas of a country Big pipe lines, used in the government projects for supplying the water to the dry areas of a country have also a large potential for this application.
- Agriculture and industries the water is the primary need of the agriculture and the industries. The turbines can be installed in the pipelines with sufficient diameter in these fields.

### VII. CONCLUSION

All the concepts of the theory and mathematical equations that related with this study have been applied in this project. The design and specifications of the turbine have been discussed in this report briefly. Based on the results shown in above chapter, it can be concluded that the higher power output can be generated when the high velocity of water is present. This is due to the pressure of water which increased the velocity of flow inside the pipelines. Moreover, due to high velocity of the water, it made the rotor of the turbine rotate faster at the shorter length and it can generate more output power. The technical potential for hydropower development around the world is much greater than the actual production. Selection of in-pipe turbine to generate power from the flowing water is an innovative approach towards renewable energy. This new scheme has provided us with a low-cost electricity generation which is big assistance in helping the world. Using this experiment, the waste energy from the flowing water inside the pipe can be extracted, which helps in fulfilling small scale electricity requirements. This is an eco-friendly method and has less installation and maintenance cost.

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