



# A Complex and Complicated Railway Project

**Alnabru Intermodal Freight Terminal**

**Multiconsult**

**Sam Paul Singh Pawar**  
Planning & Infrastructure

*Railway Systems Engineering Comes of Age  
4-5<sup>th</sup> December 2015, University of Birmingham*



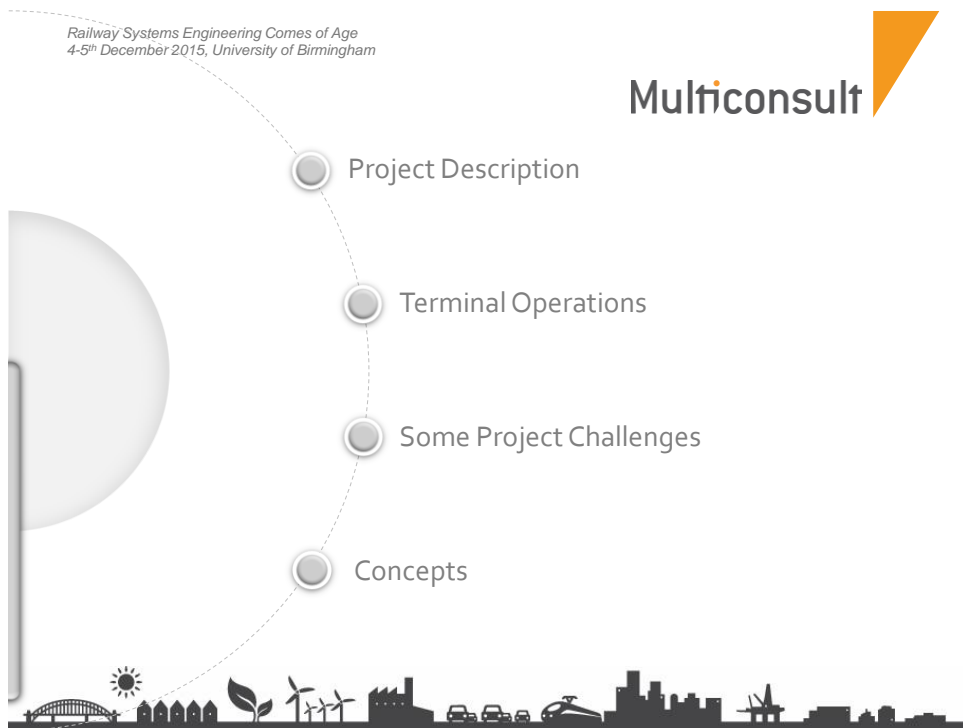
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## About me

- Sam Paul Singh Pawar - 30 years old from Oslo, Norway
- Graduated from MSc RSEI in 2011
- Former underground train/metro driver (4 years)
- Worked 8.5 years at Multiconsult AS (Norway's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest consultant company)
  - Currently Team Leader at department for Planning and Infrastructure
  - Railway alignment design, station design, terminal logistics and capacity, system engineering, highway design, traffic safety and capacity assessments
  - Experience with mainline railway, freight railway, light railway, tram and metro





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## Alnabru Intermodal Freight Terminal

- Inland intermodal terminal
- No port connection
- One of Europe's largest freight terminals of its type
- At its peak it had 600 000 TEU (2008)
- Primarily domestic goods
- Built for shunting and wagon load operations
- Fatal accident in 2010 changed the way it was operated



20ft. Container = 1 TEU

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4

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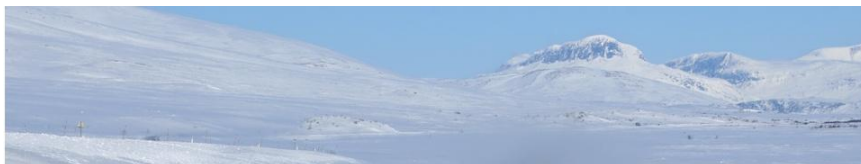
## Location



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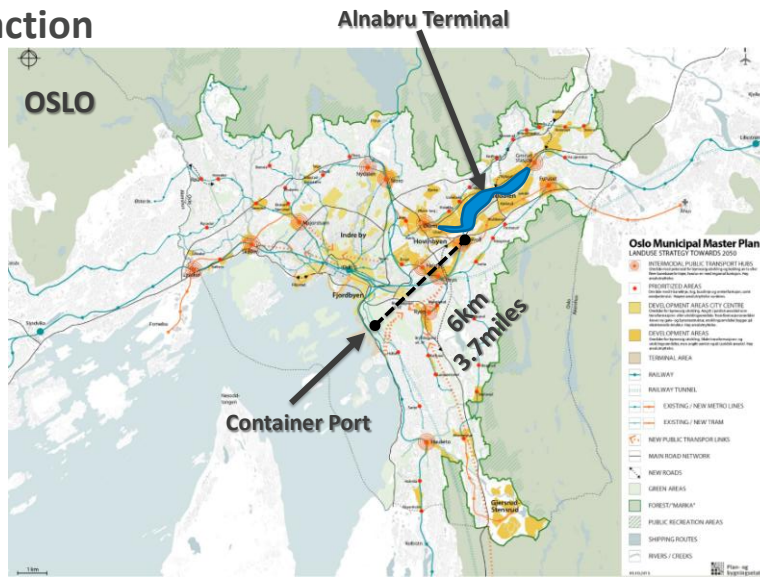
## Location



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## Location



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## History



- Established 1907 along Norway's first main line (built in 1854 by Robert Stephenson)
- Industrial and agriculture area
- Built for shunting trains and wagon load operations

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## History



- Today's track layout design as hump shunting yard (1972)
- Upgraded in 1991 to accommodate container freight operations
- Partly electrified



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## The project



- Design and feasibility study of Alnabru Intermodal Freight Terminal (Mk 3)
  - Triple the terminal capacity from 430,000 TEU to 1,200,000 TEU pr. year
  - Increase train lengths from average 450m to 600m
    - » Be able to handle 750m and 1000m long trains
  - Terminal has to remain fully operational during construction
  - Reduce investment costs from approx. £1.2bn to £400m
  - Design for multiple terminal operators
- All within today's track layout!!



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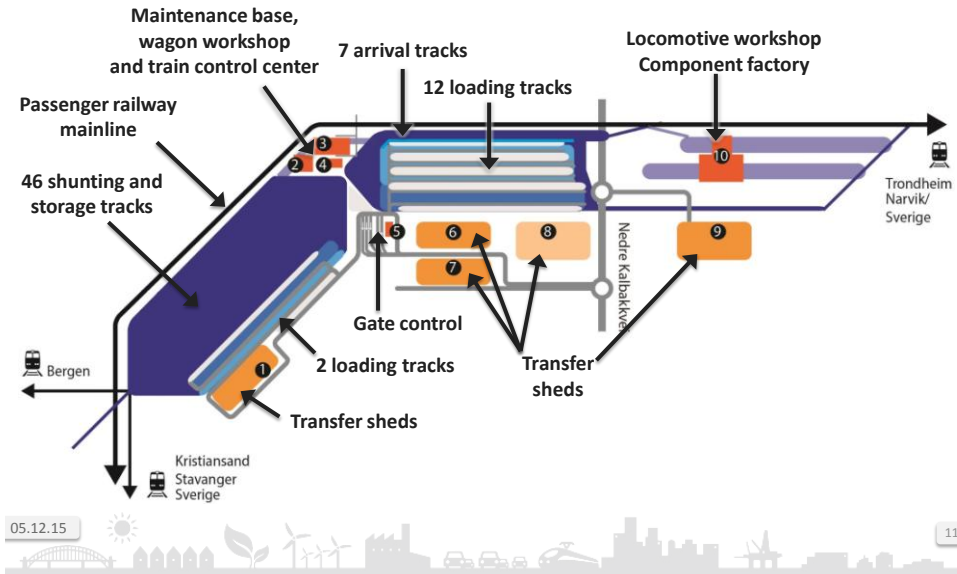
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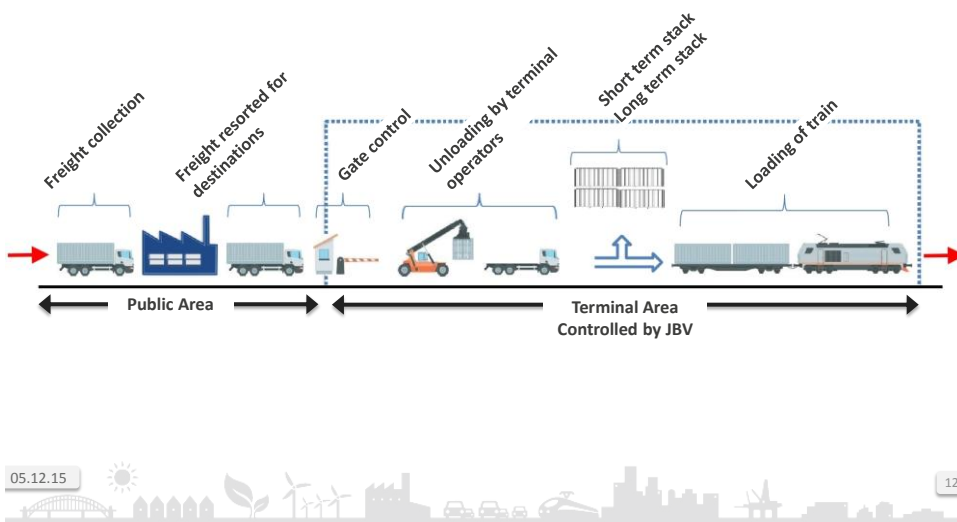
## Terminal Operations - Layout



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## Terminal Operations – Freight Handling



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## Terminal Operations – Loading and unloading

### Reach Stackers vs. Portal Cranes

- Lower investment costs
- Flexible operations
- Curved tracks
- Easy to upgrade
- Area inefficient
- 20 TEU per h.



- High investment costs
- Rigid operations
- Straight tracks
- High number of tracks per m<sup>2</sup>
- 27.5 TEU per h.
- Environmentally friendly

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## Examples of Typical Transport Units...



20ft. Container = 1 TEU



45ft. container



Pressurized tanks/silos



25ft. Swap bodies



Road trailers



Thermo trailers

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## Lift time increased by 80%



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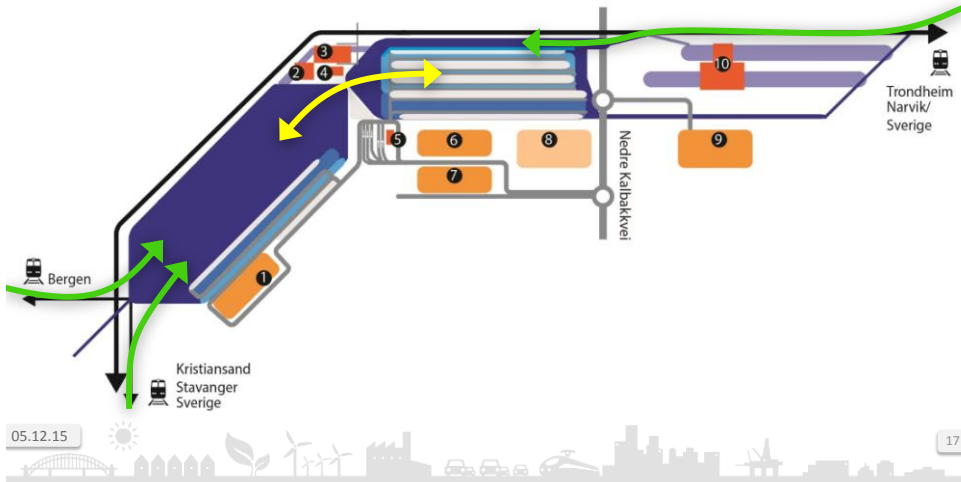
16



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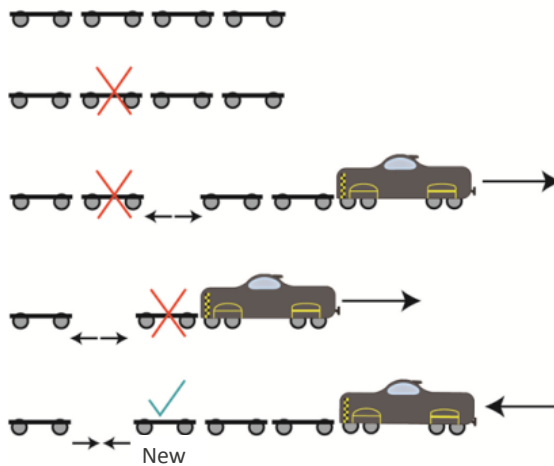
## Terminal Operations – Train movements



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## Terminal Operations - shunting

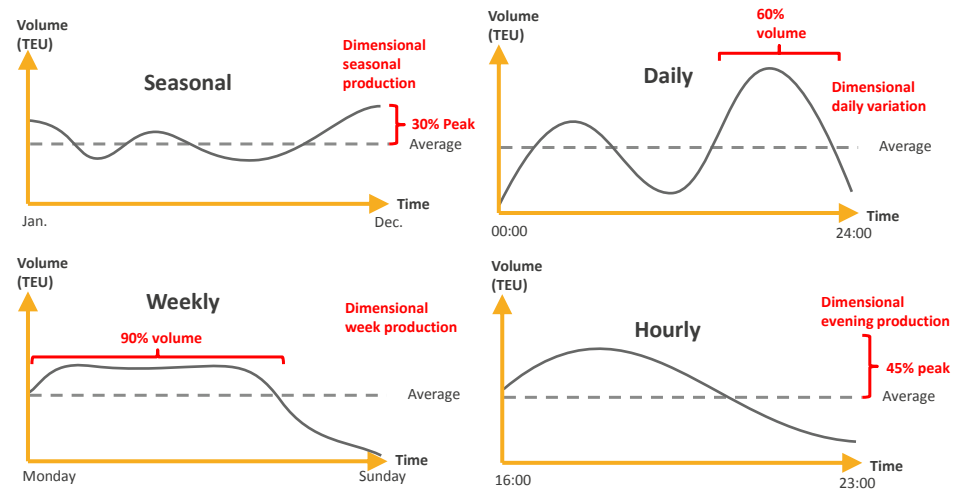


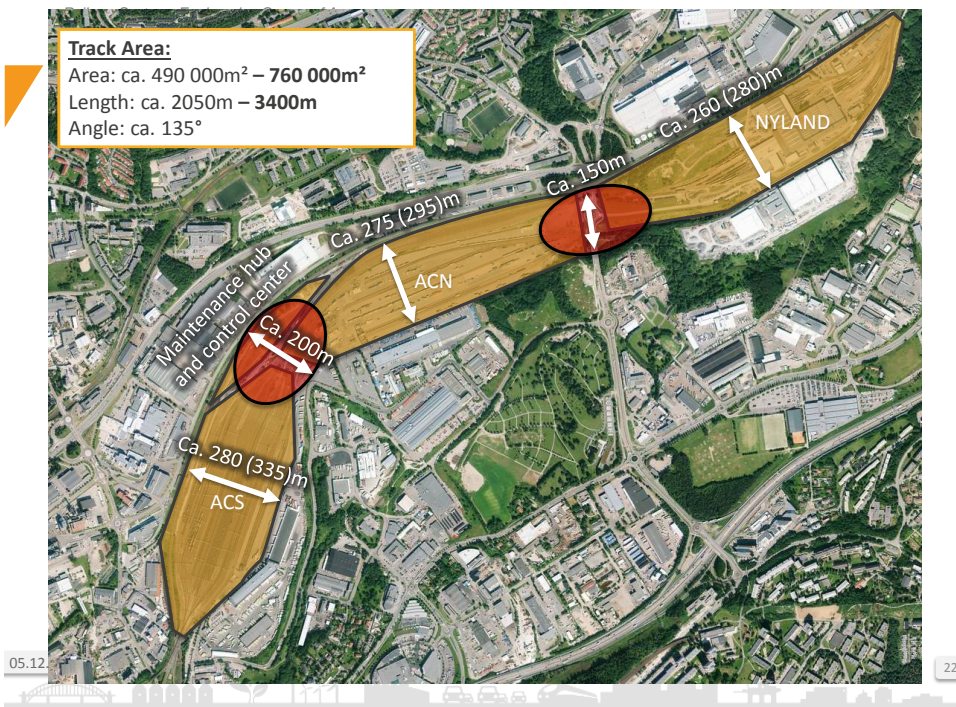
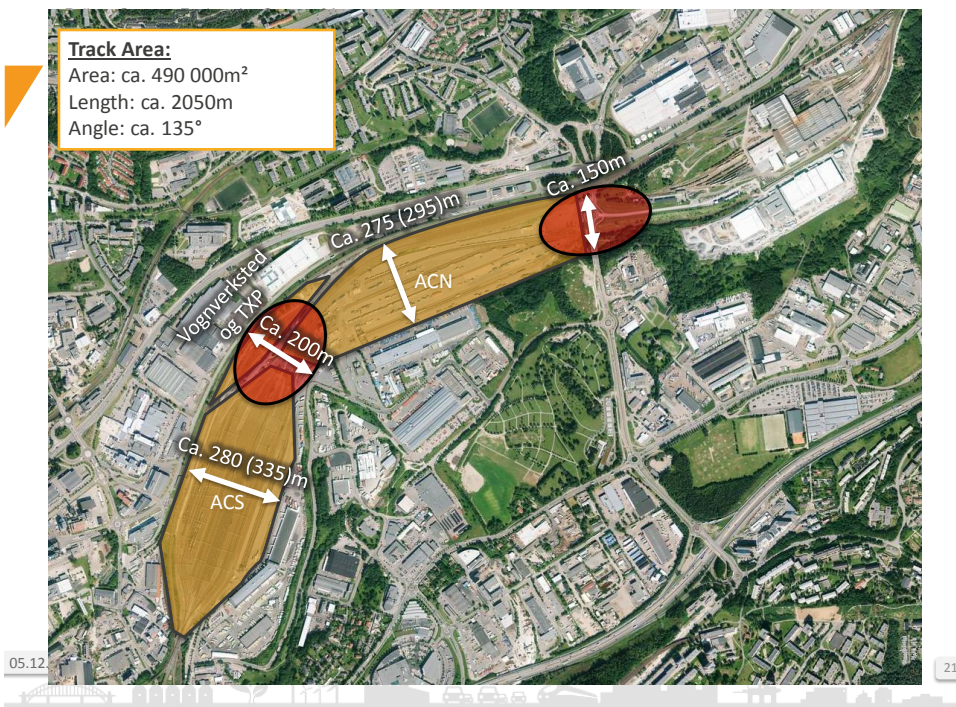


# Some Project Challenges



## Freight Production Flow – Very Peaky





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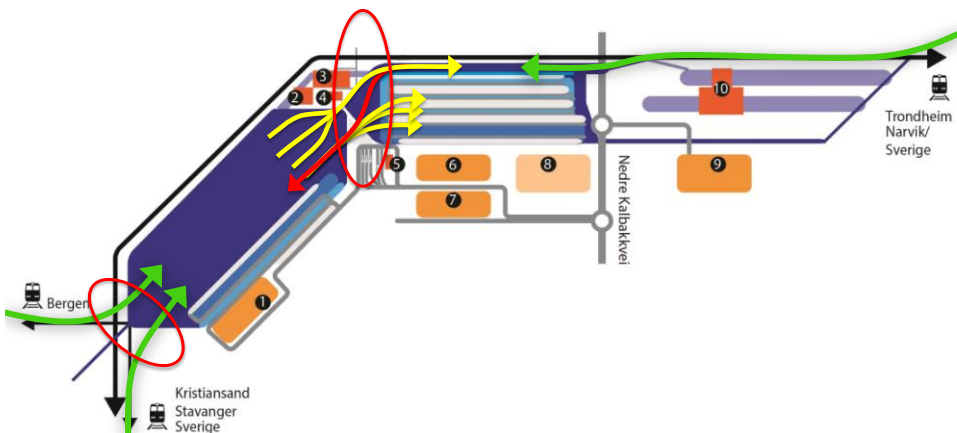
## Road traffic through gate – 1 every 8 sec.



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## Terminal Operations – Capacity Challenge



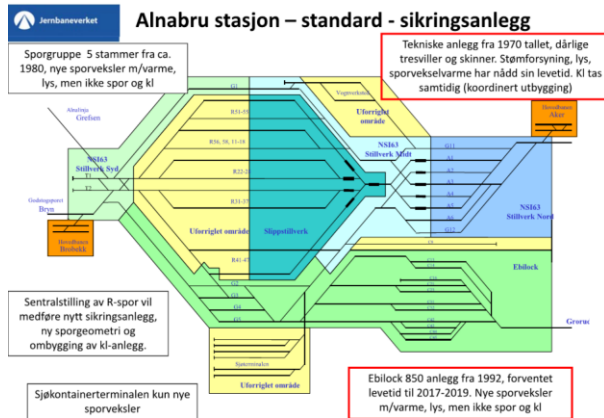


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## Operational Risks

- 3 different types of obsolete signaling systems
- No spare parts available
- Locations without any signaling at all
- Signaling system must be upgraded independently of the main project



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## Operational Risks

- Points are operated locally by hand by operators
- 55 trains arriving and departing per day
- 650 shunting movements per day
- Heating system only on new switches



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26



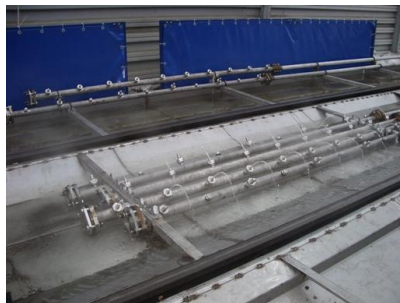
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## Operational Risks – Snow and Ice Build-up



- Packs up underneath wagons
- Brake freezes
- Wheel flats
- Manually removed or carefully with digger



- De-Icing system
- Only preventative
- Location
- Accessibility
- Costs

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## Operational Issues



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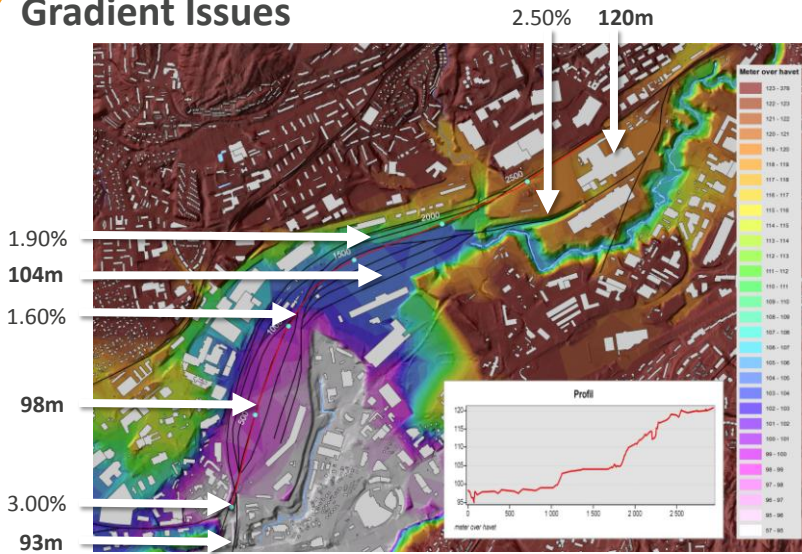


28

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## Gradient Issues



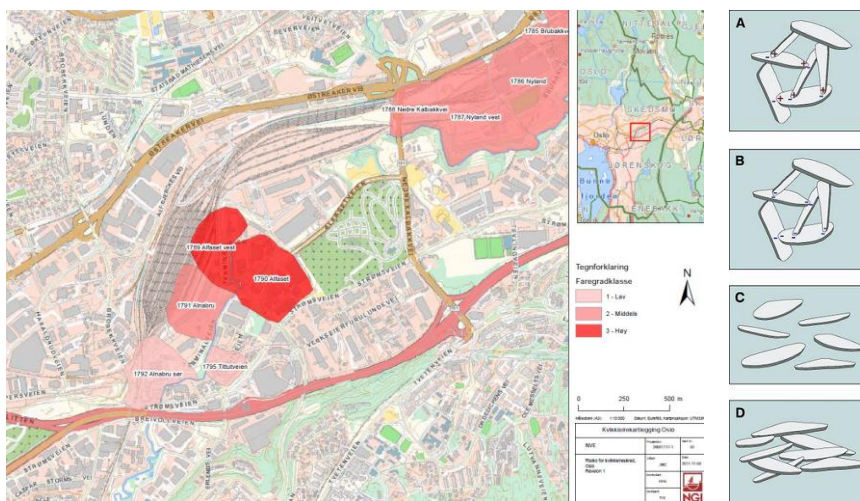
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## Ground conditions – quick clay area



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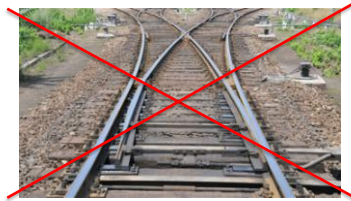
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## Switch Design & Alignment

### Stricter technical regulations

- Switches
  - Requires standard switches “off-shelf”
  - No “switch in switch”
  - No curved switches
  - No symmetrical switches
- Alignment
  - No gradient changes allowed within switches
  - Standard requirement 300m radius
  - Minimum allowed 190m radius
  - High risk of derailment due to string behavior of empties



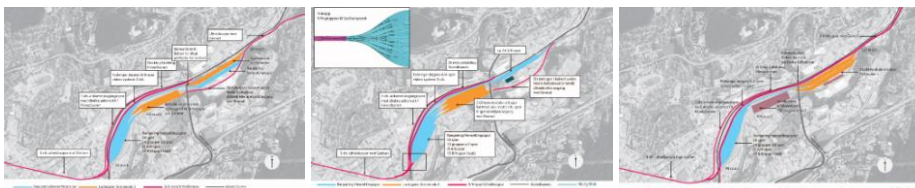
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## Concepts

- Concepts to make principal decision for further detailing
  - Concept zero – to be able to operate (signaling)
  - Concepts level 3 – major adjustments
  - Concepts level 4 – total redesign to reach targets
- However, detailed designed necessary to confirm concept



32



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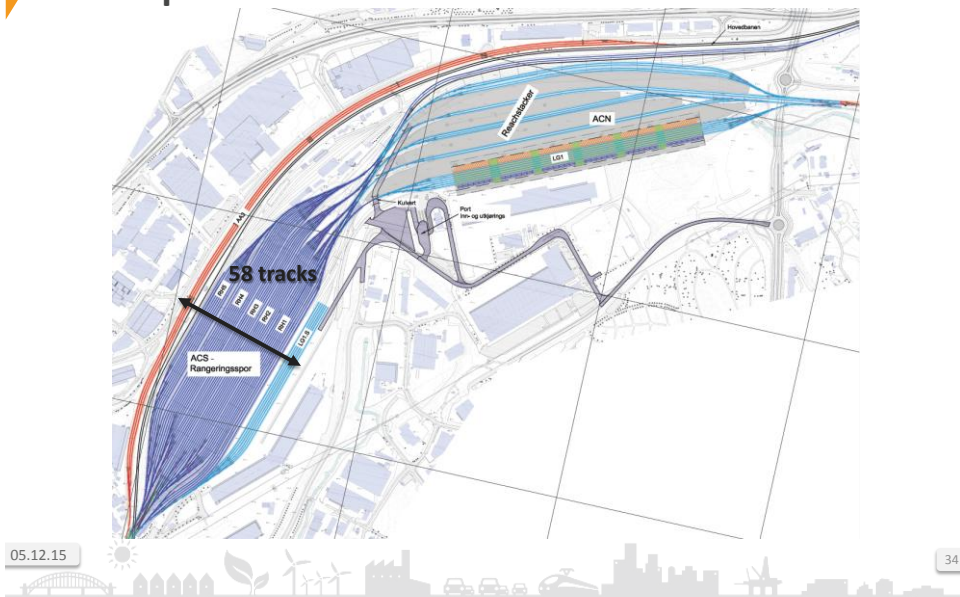
## Concept 0 - Details



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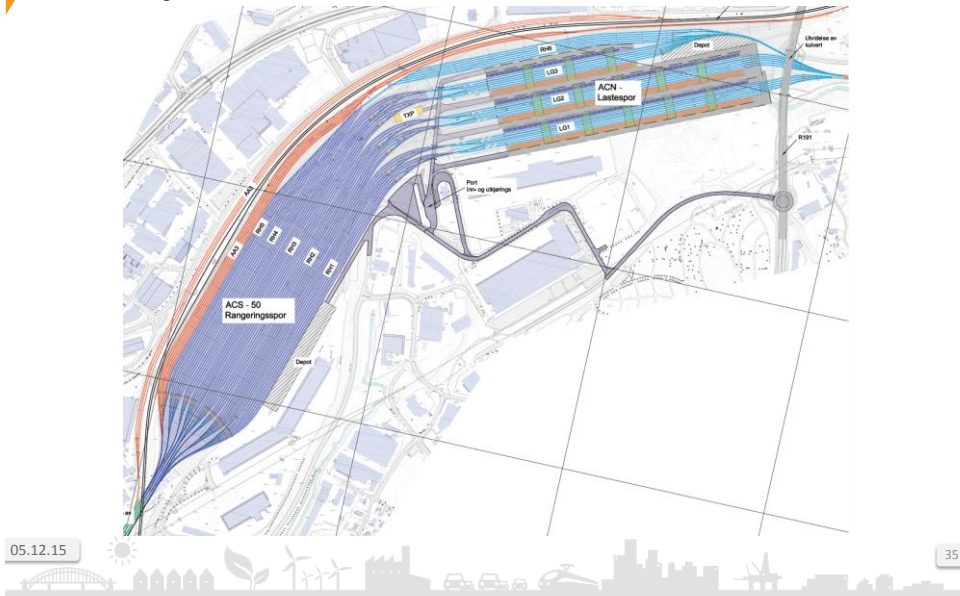
## Concept 3.6 - Details



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## Concept 4.1 - Details



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**Thank you for your attention!**

Contact info:

**Sam Paul Singh Pawar**

*Railway System Engineer, Planning & Infrastructure*

*Multiconsult AS*

*Nedre Skøyen vei 2*

*0213 Oslo, Norway*

**Email:** [sp@multiconsult.no](mailto:sp@multiconsult.no)

**Phone:** +47 91 71 06 02