



# Solid-State Transformers (SST) Concepts, Challenges and Opportunities

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# Outline

- ▶ Transformer (XFMR) Basics
- ▶ Solid-State Transformer (SST) History
- ▶ Traction / Smart Grid Applications
- ▶ Derivation of Topologies
- ▶ Demonstrator Systems
- ▶ Evaluation / Challenges
- ▶ Conclusions

## Acknowledgement

Dr. G. Ortiz  
Th. Guillod  
D. Rothmund

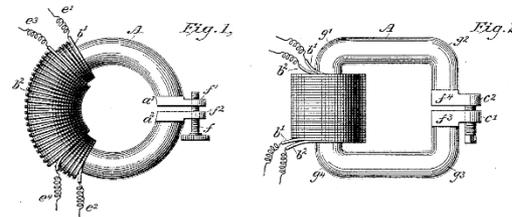
# History

*Transformer*  
*"Electronic" Transformer*

## ► Classical Transformer (XFMR) – History (1)

- \* 1830 - Henry/Faraday
- \* 1878 - Ganz Company (Hungary)
- \* 1880 - Ferranti
- \* 1882 - Gaulard & Gibbs
- \* 1884 - Blathy/Zipernowski/Deri

- Property of Induction
- Toroidal Transformer (AC Incandescent Syst.)
- Early Transformer
- Linear Shape XFMR (1884, 2kV, 40km)
- Toroidal XFMR (inverse type)



Patented Sept. 21, 1886.

No. 349,611.

W. STANLEY, Jr.  
INDUCTION COIL.



- \* 1885 - Stanley & (Westinghouse)

- Easy Manufact. XFMR (1<sup>st</sup> Full AC Distr. Syst.)

## ► Classical Transformer – History (2)



### UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

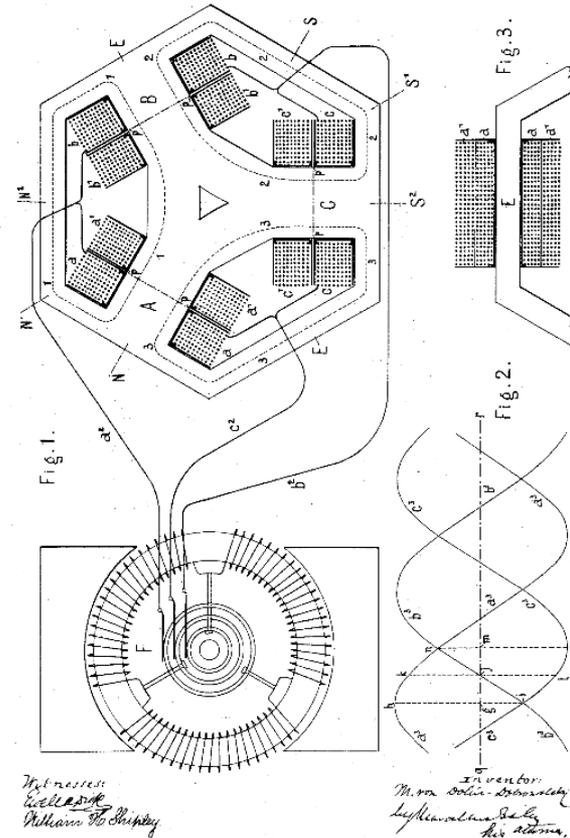
MICHAEL VON DOLIVO-DOBROWOLSKY, OF BERLIN, GERMANY, ASSIGNOR TO  
THE ALLGEMEINE ELEKTRICITÄTS-GESELLSCHAFT, OF SAME PLACE.

### ELECTRICAL INDUCTION APPARATUS OR TRANSFORMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 422,746, dated March 4, 1890.

Application filed January 8, 1890. Serial No. 336,290. (No model.)

(No Model.)  
**M. VON DOLIVO-DOBROWOLSKY.**  
ELECTRICAL INDUCTION APPARATUS OR TRANSFORMER.  
No. 422,746. Patented Mar. 4, 1890.



- \* 1889
- \* 1891

- Dobrowolski → 3-Phase Transformer
- 1<sup>st</sup> Complete AC System (Gen.+XFMR+Transm.+El. Motor+Lamps, 40Hz, 25kV, 175km)

# United States Patent Office

3,517,300  
Patented June 23, 1970

1

3,517,300  
**POWER CONVERTER CIRCUITS HAVING A HIGH FREQUENCY LINK**  
William McMurray, Schenectady, N.Y., assignor to General Electric Company, a corporation of New York  
Filed Apr. 16, 1968, Ser. No. 721,817  
Int. Cl. H02m 5/16, 5/30  
U.S. Cl. 321—60 14 Claims



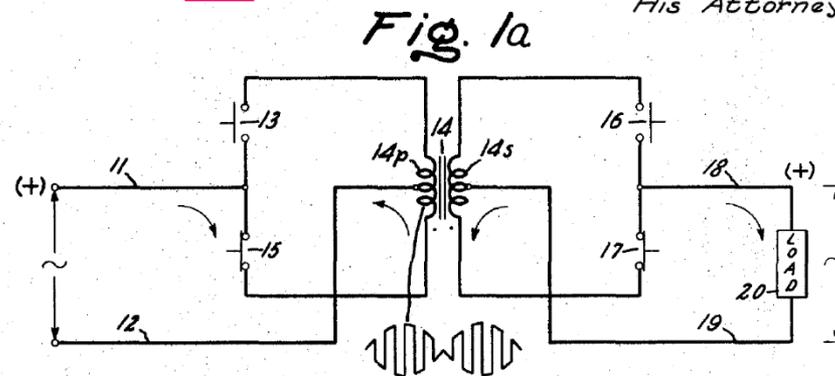
Inventor:  
William McMurray;  
by Donald F. Campbell  
His Attorney.

1968!

Filed April 16, 1968

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

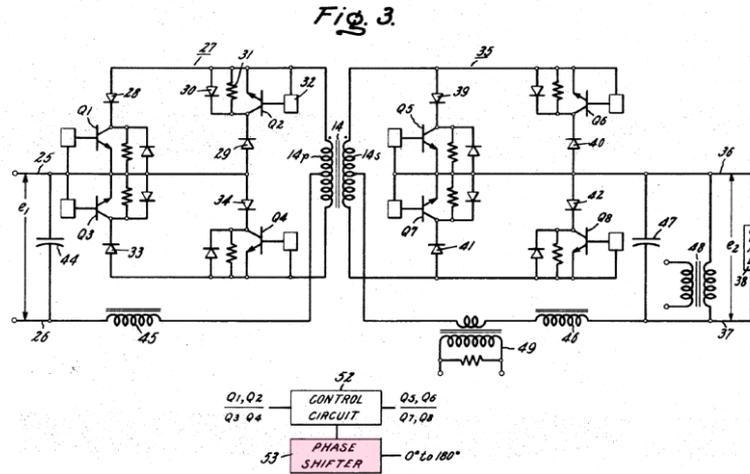
Several single phase solid state power converter circuits have a high frequency transformer link whose windings are connected respectively to the load and to a D-C or low frequency A-C source through inverter configuration switching circuits employing inverse-parallel pairs of controlled turn-off switches (such as transistors or gate turn-off SCR's) as the switching devices. Filter means are connected across the input and output terminals. By synchronously rendering conductive one switching device in each of the primary and secondary side circuits, and alternately rendering conductive another device in each switching circuit, the input potential is converted to a high frequency wave, transformed, and reconstructed at the output terminals. Wide range output voltage control is obtained by phase shifting the turn-on of the switching devices on one side with respect to those on the other side by 0° to 180°, and is used to effect current limiting, current interruption, current regulation, and voltage regulation.



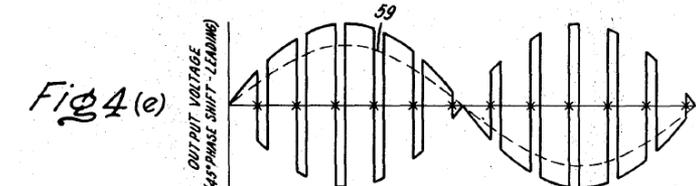
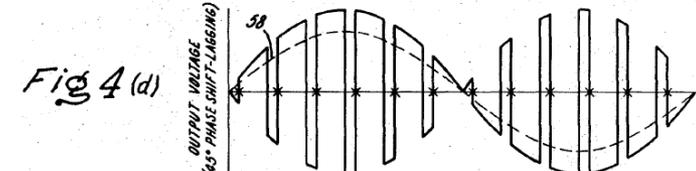
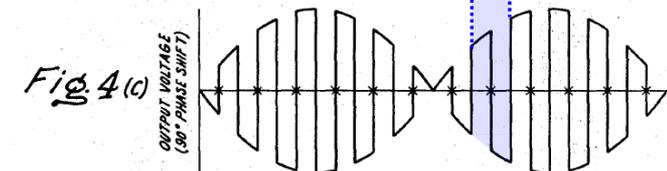
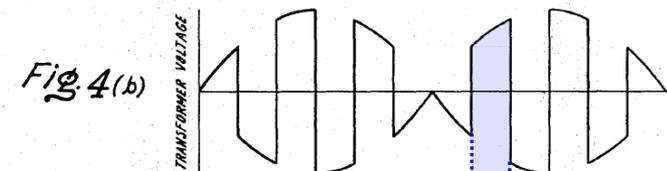
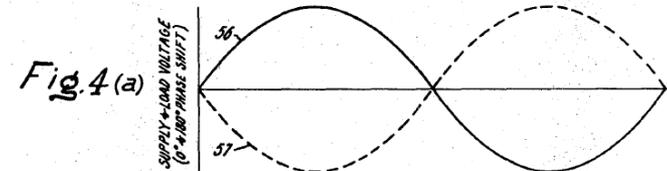
- Electronic Transformer ( $f_1 = f_2$ )
- AC or DC Voltage Regulation & Current Regulation/Limitation/Interruption

## ► Electronic Transformer

- Inverse-Paralleled Pairs of Turn-off Switches
- 50% Duty Cycle of Input and Output Stage



- $f_1 = f_2 \rightarrow$  Not Controllable (!)
- Voltage Adjustment by Phase Shift Control (!)



# The Thyristor Electronic Transformer: a Power Converter Using a High-Frequency Link

WILLIAM McMURRAY, SENIOR MEMBER, IEEE

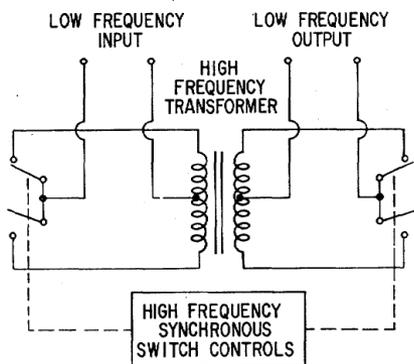


Fig. 1. Principle of electronic transformer.

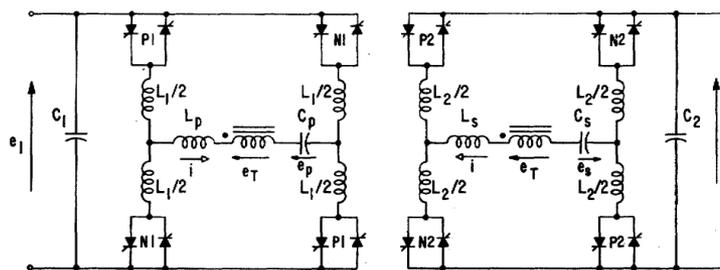


Fig. 5. Double-bridge electronic transformer; arrows define positive polarity of voltages and currents.

- Input/Output Isolation
- "Fixed" Voltage Transfer Ratio (!)
- Current Limitation Feature
- $f \approx f_{res}$  (ZCS) Series Res. Converter

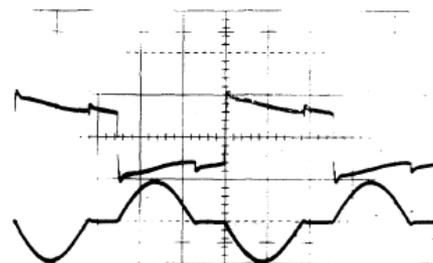


Fig. 8. Transformer waveforms, dc load 10 A; search-coil voltage—72 V/div; primary current—50 A/div; time—20  $\mu$ s/div.

**United States Patent [19]**

Brooks et al.

[11] **4,347,474**

[45] **Aug. 31, 1982**

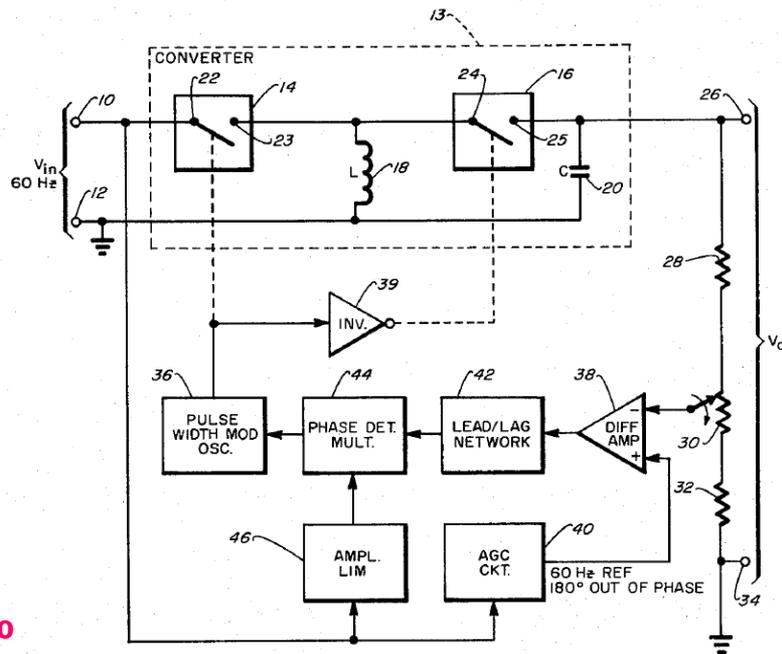
[54] **SOLID STATE REGULATED POWER TRANSFORMER WITH WAVEFORM CONDITIONING CAPABILITY**

[75] Inventors: **James L. Brooks**, Oxnard; **Roger I. Staab**, Camarillo, both of Calif.; **James C. Bowers**; **Harry A. Nienhaus**, both of Tampa, Fla.

[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy**, Washington, D.C.

[21] Appl. No.: **188,419**

[22] Filed: Sep. 18 **1980** ← **1980 !**



*Fig. 1.*

- **No Isolation (!)**
- **"Transformer" with Dyn. Adjustable Turns Ratio**

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Bowers et al, "A Solid State Transformer", PESC '80



**United States Patent** [19]

 [11] Patent Number: **5,027,264**

DeDoncker et al.

 [45] Date of Patent: Jun. 25, **1991** ← 1991

 [54] **POWER CONVERSION APPARATUS FOR  
 DC/DC CONVERSION USING DUAL ACTIVE  
 BRIDGES**

 [75] Inventors: **Rik W. DeDoncker**, Niskayuna, N.Y.;  
**Mustansir H. Kheraluwala**;  
**Deepakraj M. Divan**, both of  
 Madison, Wis.

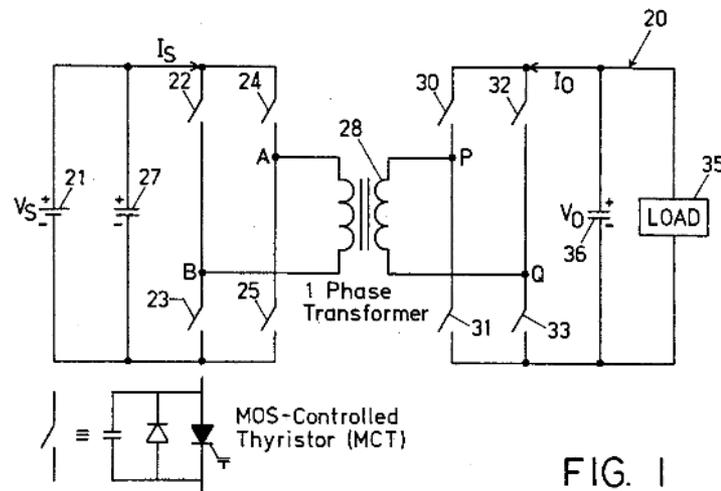
 [22] Filed: **Sep. 29, 1989**


FIG. 1

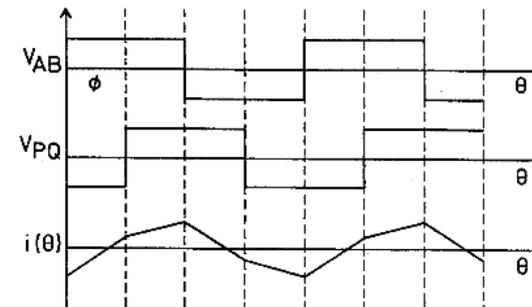


FIG. 2

- **Soft Switching in a Certain Load Range**
- **Power Flow Control by Phase Shift** between Primary & Secondary Voltage

# “Solid-State” Transformer (SST)

*XFMR Scaling Laws*  
*SST Application Areas / Concept*

## ► Classical Transformer – Basics (1)

- Magnetic Core Material \* Silicon Steel / Nanocrystalline / Amorphous / Ferrite
- Winding Material \* Copper or Aluminium
- Insulation/Cooling \* Mineral Oil or Dry-Type
  
- Operating Frequency \* 50/60Hz (El. Grid, Traction) or  $16\frac{2}{3}$  Hz (Traction)
- Operating Voltage \* 10kV or 20 kV (6...35kV)
- \* 15kV or 25kV (Traction)
- \* 400V

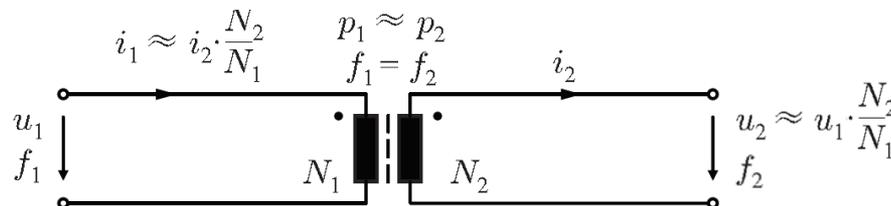
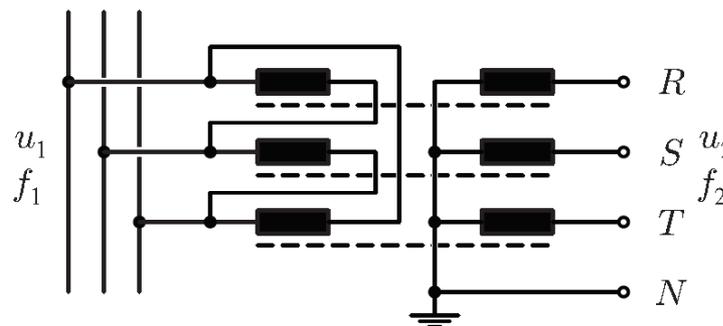
- Voltage Transf. Ratio \* Fixed
- Current Transf. Ratio \* Fixed
- Active Power Transf. \* Fixed ( $P_1 \approx P_2$ )
- React. Power Transf. \* Fixed ( $Q_1 \approx Q_2$ )
- Frequency Ratio \* Fixed ( $f_1 = f_2$ )

• Magnetic Core Cross Section

$$A_{Core} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{U_1}{\hat{B}_{max}} \frac{1}{f N_1}$$

• Winding Window

$$A_{Wdg} = \frac{2I_1}{k_W J_{rms}} N_1$$



## ► Classical Transformer – Basics (2)

### - Advantages

- Relatively Inexpensive
- Highly Robust / Reliable
- Highly Efficient (98.5%...99.5% Dep. on Power Rating)
- Short Circuit Current Limitation

### - Weaknesses

- Voltage Drop Under Load
- Losses at No Load
- Sensitivity to Harmonics
- Sensitivity to DC Offset Load Imbalances
- Provides No Overload Protection
- Possible Fire Hazard
- Environmental Concerns

### • Construction Volume

$$A_{Core} A_{Wdg} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \frac{P_t}{k_W J_{rms} \hat{B}_{max} f}$$

$P_t$  .... Rated Power

$k_W$  .... Window Utilization Factor (Insulation)

$\hat{B}_{max}$  .... Flux Density Amplitude

$J_{rms}$  .... Winding Current Density (Cooling)

$f$  ..... Frequency



- Low Frequency → Large Weight / Volume



## ► Classical Transformer – Basics (3)

### - Advantages

- Relatively Inexpensive
- **Highly Robust / Reliable**
- Highly Efficient (98.5%...99.5% Dep. on Power Rating)
- Short Circuit Current Limitation

Welding Transformer (Zimbabwe) – Source: <http://www.africancrisis.org>



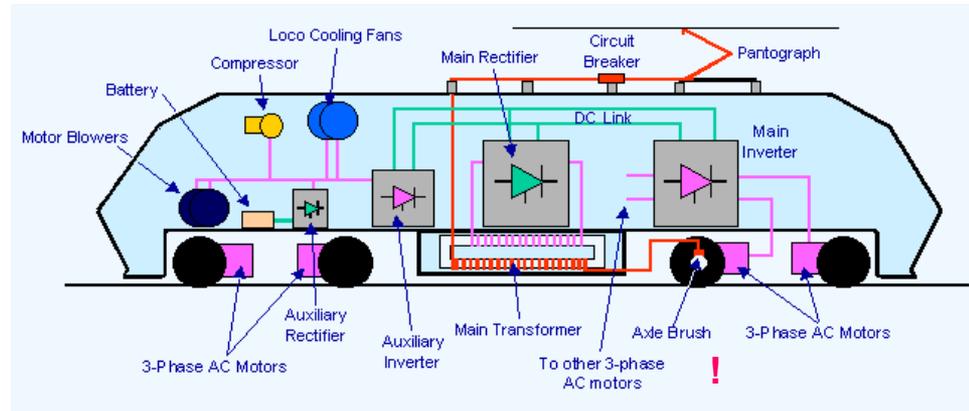
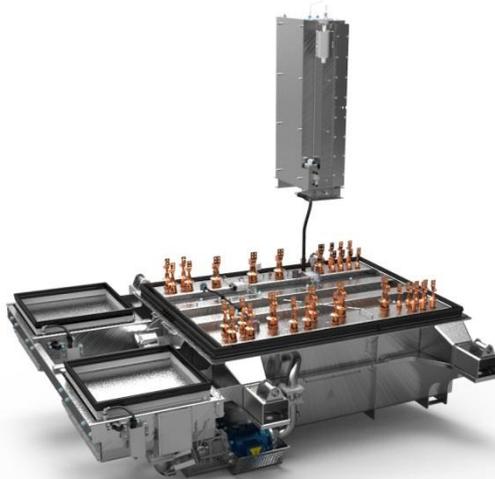
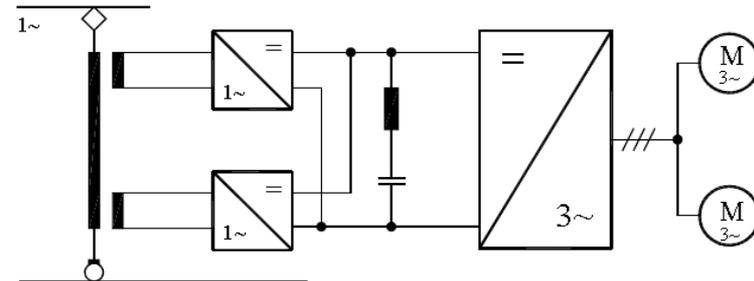
# SST Motivation

*Next Generation  
Traction Vehicles*



## ► Classical Locomotives

- Catenary Voltage     **15kV or 25kV**
- Frequency           **16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>Hz or 50Hz**
- Power Level         **1...10MW typ.**

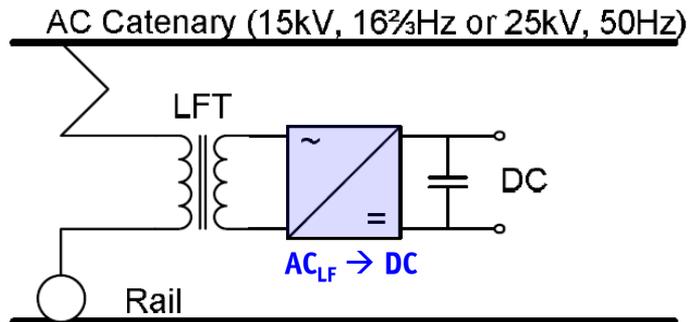


- Transformer:           **Efficiency**            **90...95%** (due to Restr. Vol., 99% typ. for Distr. Transf.)  
                              **Current Density**    **6 A/mm<sup>2</sup>** (2A/mm<sup>2</sup> typ. Distribution Transformer)  
                              **Power Density**     **2...4 kg/kVA**

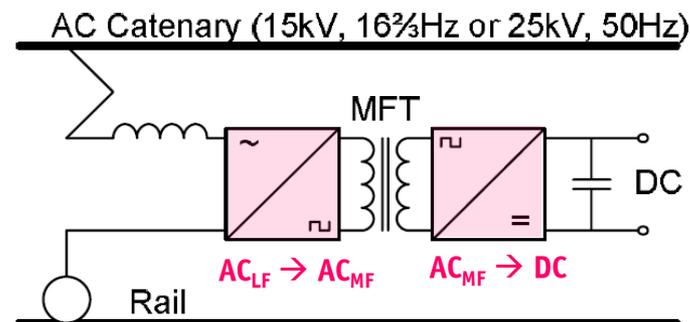
## ► Next Generation Locomotives

- Trends
  - \* Distributed Propulsion System → Volume Reduction (Decreases Efficiency)
  - \* Energy Efficient Rail Vehicles → Loss Reduction (Requires Higher Volume)
  - \* Red. of Mech. Stress on Track → Mass Reduction

Source: ABB



Conventional AC-DC conversion with a line frequency transformer (LFT).

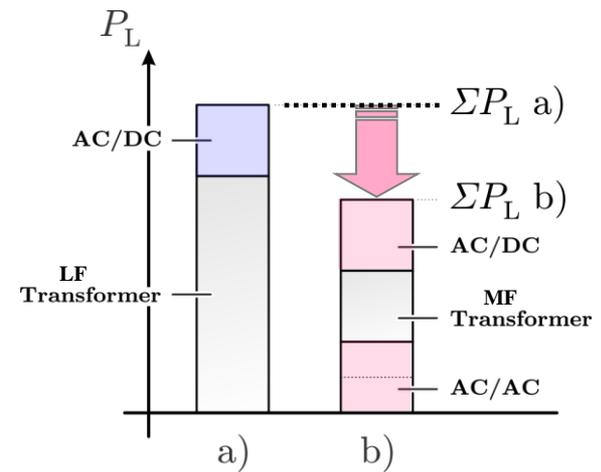
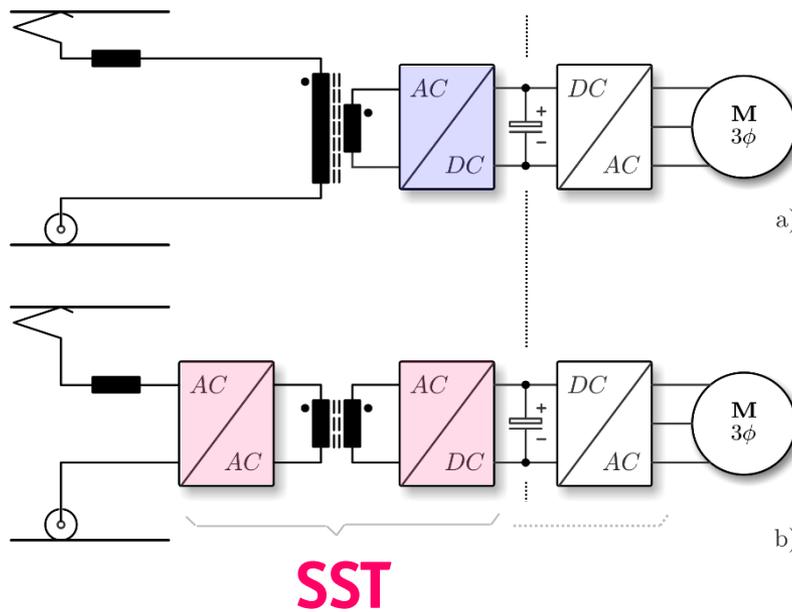


AC-DC conversion with medium frequency transformer (MFT).

- Replace LF Transformer by **Medium Frequency Power Electronics Transformer** → **SST**
- **Medium Frequency Provides Degree of Freedom** → **Allows Loss Reduction AND Volume Reduction**

## ► Next Generation Locomotives

### - Loss Distribution of Conventional & Next Generation Locomotives



- Medium Freq. Provides Degree of Freedom → Allows Loss Reduction AND Volume Reduction

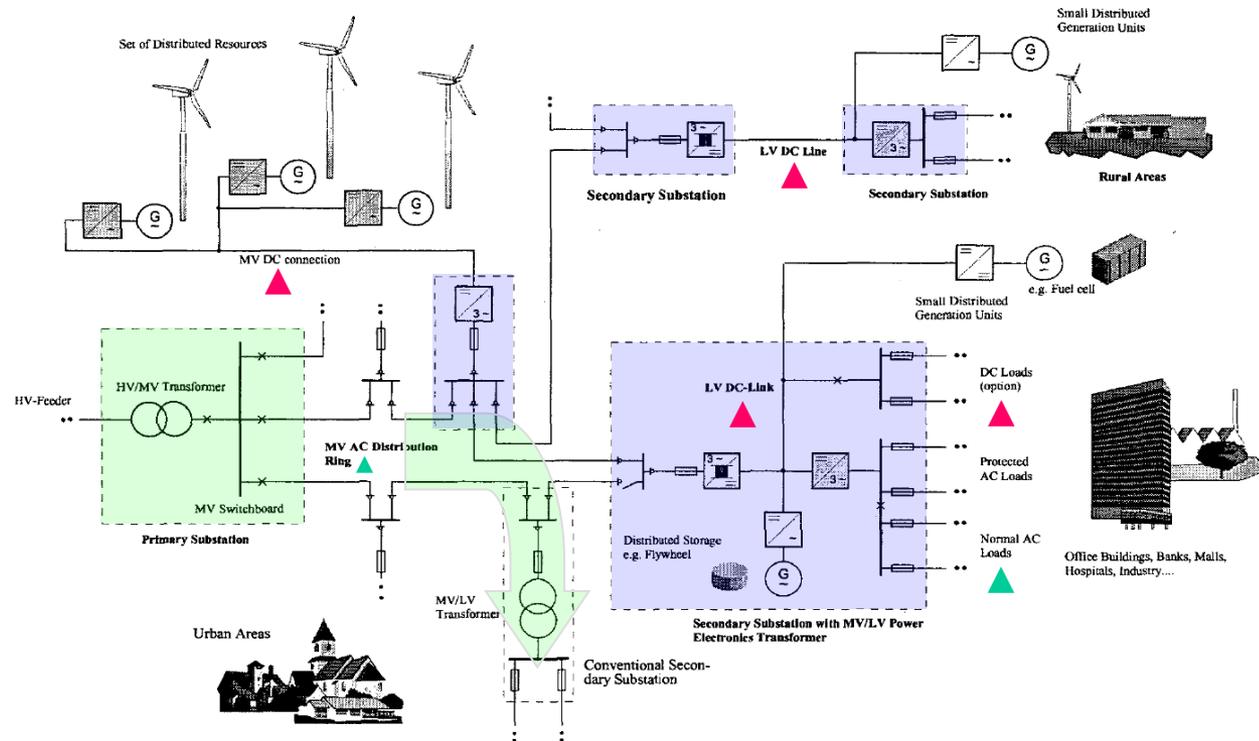
## *Future Smart EE Distribution*



Source: TU Munich

## ► Advanced (High Power Quality) Grid Concept

- Heinemann (2001)



- MV AC Distribution with DC Subsystems (LV and MV) and Large Number of Distributed Resources
- MF AC/AC Conv. with DC Link Coupled to Energy Storage provide High Power Qual. for Spec. Customers

## ► Future Ren. Electric Energy Delivery & Management (FREEDM) Syst.

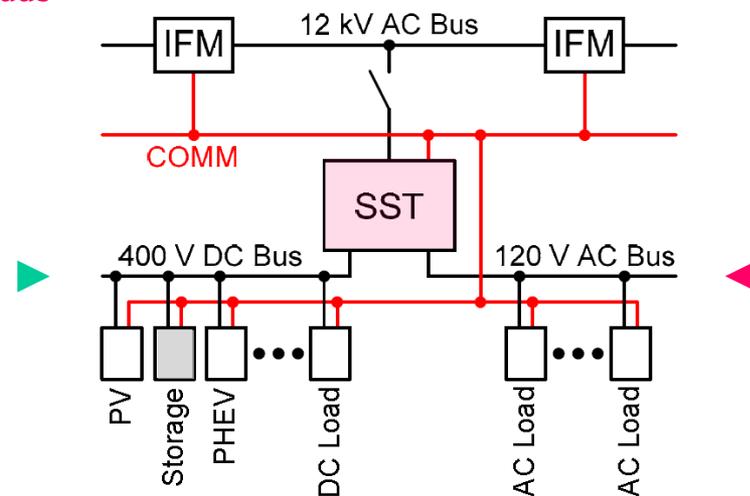
- Huang et al. (2008)

- SST as Enabling Technology for the “Energy Internet”

- Full Control of the Power Flow
- Integr. of DER (Distr. Energy Res.)
- Integr. of DES (Distr. E-Storage) + Intellig. Loads
- Protects Power Syst. From Load Disturbances
- Protects Load from Power Syst. Disturbances
- Enables Distrib. Intellig. through COMM
- Ensure Stability & Opt. Operation
- etc.
- etc.



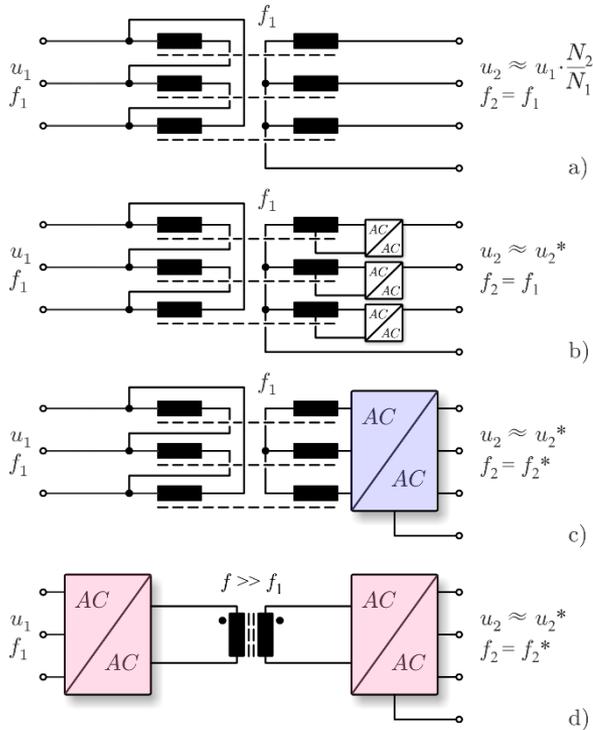
IFM = Intellig. Fault Management



- Bidirectional Flow of Power & Information / High Bandw. Comm. → Distrib. / Local Autonomous Cntrl

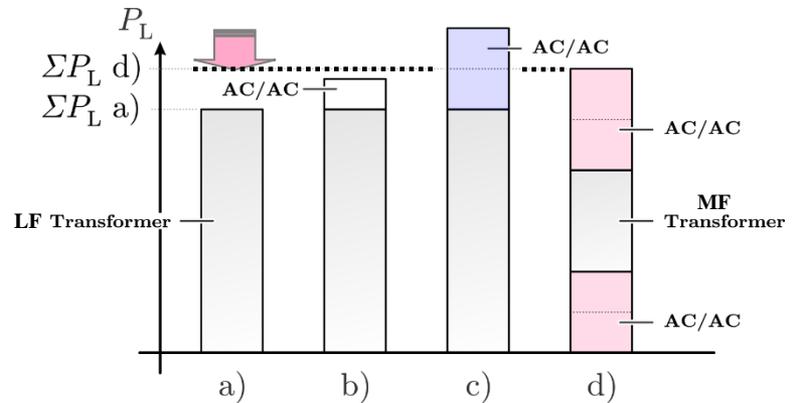
# ► Passive Transformer → SST

## - Efficiency Challenge



**LF Isolation**  
 Purely Passive (a)  
 Series Voltage Comp. (b)  
 Series AC Chopper (c)

**MF Isolation**  
 Active Input & Output Stage (d)

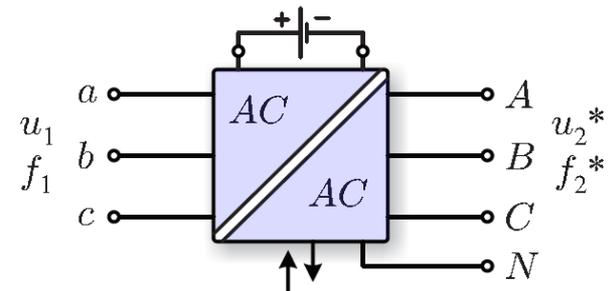
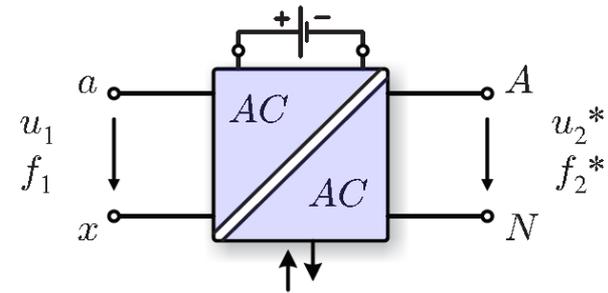


- Medium Freq. → Higher Transf. Efficiency Partly Compensates Converter Stage Losses
- Medium Freq. → Low Volume, High Control Dynamics

## ► Terminology

McMurray  
Brooks  
EPRI  
ABB  
Borojevic  
Wang  
etc.

Electronic Transformer (1968)  
Solid-State Transformer (SST, 1980)  
Intelligent Universal Transformer (IUT™)  
Power Electronics Transformer (PET)  
Energy Control Center (ECC)  
Energy Router



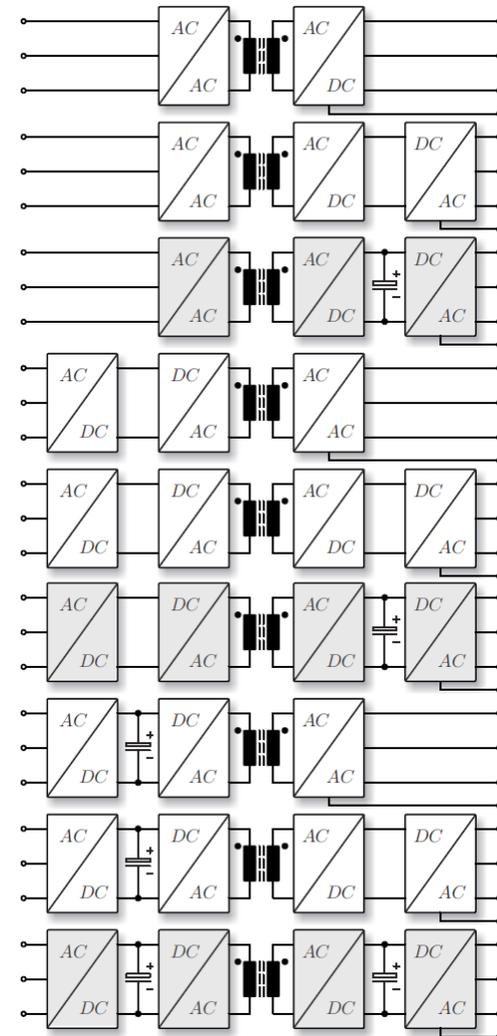
*Classification of  
SST Topologies*

## ► Basic SST Structures (1)

### ■ 1<sup>st</sup> Degree of Freedom of Topology Selection → Partitioning of the AC/AC Power Conversion

- \* DC-Link Based Topologies
- \* Direct/Indirect Matrix Converters
- \* Hybrid Combinations

- 3-Stage Power Conversion with MV and LV DC Link
- 2-Stage with LV DC Link (Connection of Energy Storage)
- 2-Stage with MV DC Link (Connection to HVDC System)
- 1-Stage Matrix-Type Topologies

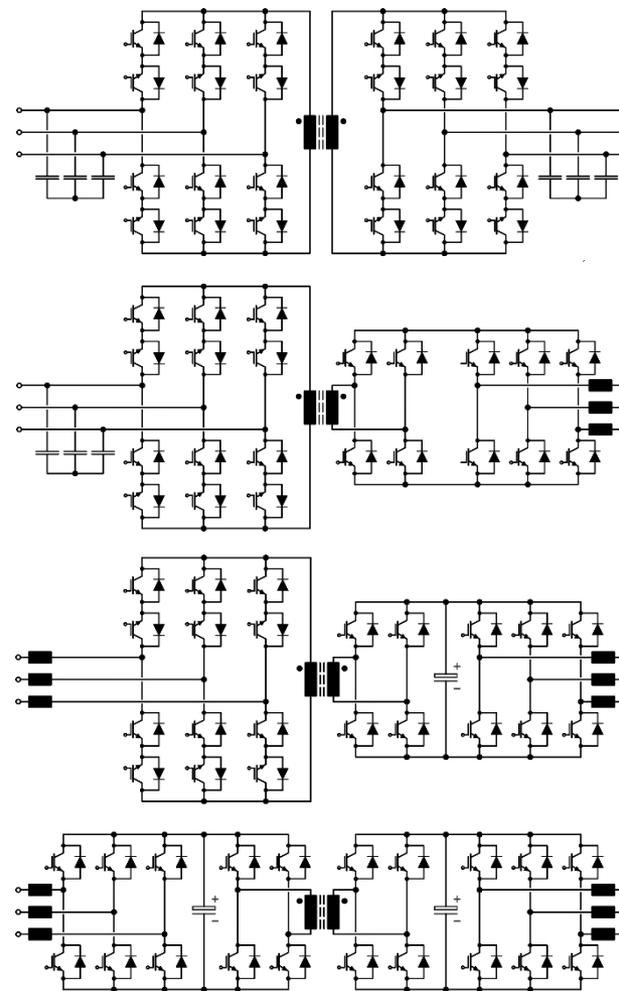


## ► Basic SST Structures (1)

■ **1<sup>st</sup> Degree of Freedom** of Topology Selection →  
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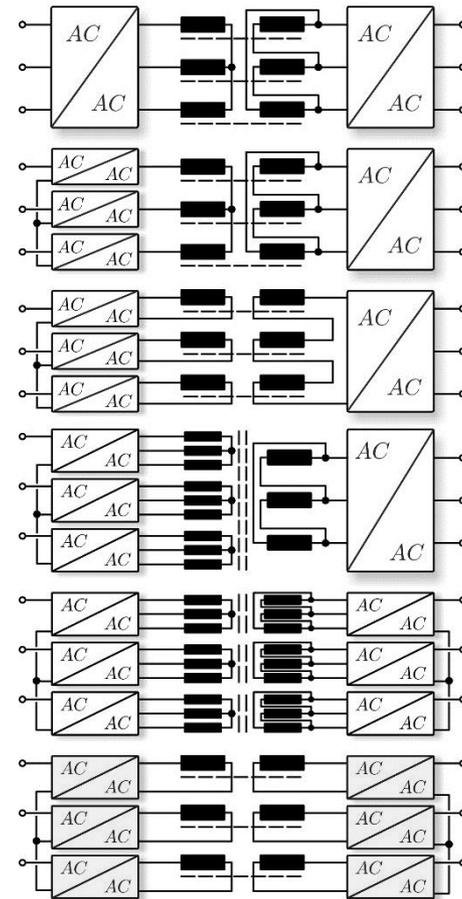
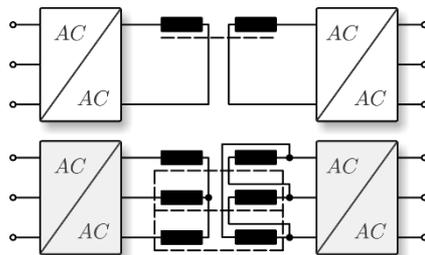


## ► Basic SST Structures (2)

■ **2<sup>nd</sup> Degree of Freedom of Topology Selection** →  
Partial of Full Phase Modularity

- \* Phase-Modularity of Electric Circuit
- \* Phase-Modularity of Magnetic Circuit

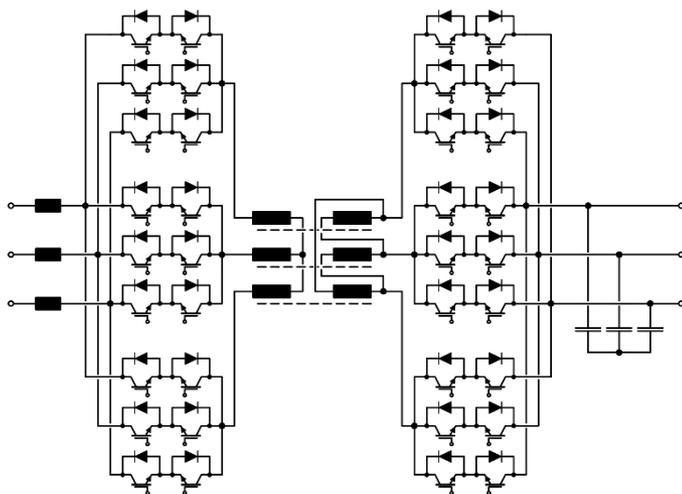
\* Phase-Integrated SST



## ► Basic SST Structures (2)

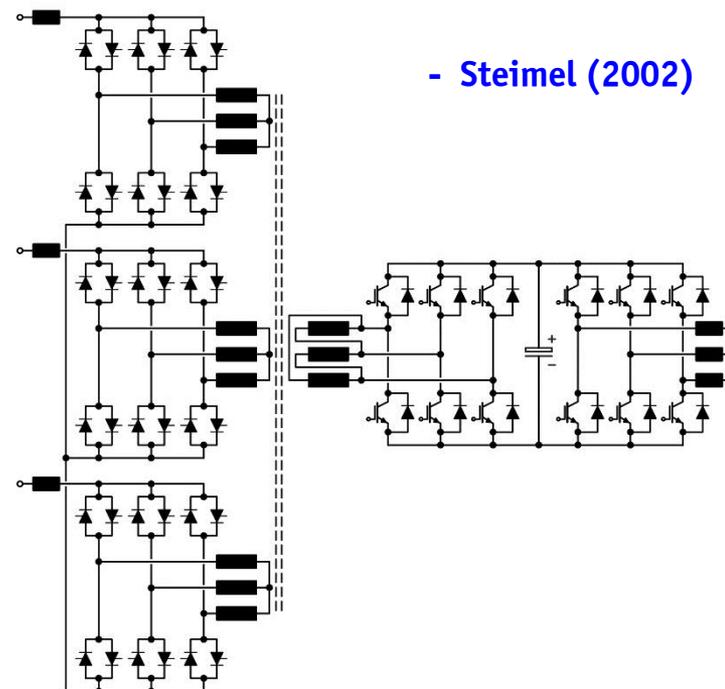
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree of Freedom of Topology Selection → Partial of Full Phase Modularity

- Enjeti (1997)



- Example of Three-Phase Integrated (Matrix) Converter & Magn. Phase-Modular Transf.

- Steimel (2002)



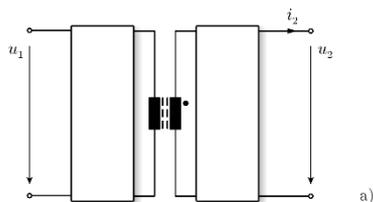
- Example of Partly Phase-Modular SST

## Basic SST Structures (3)

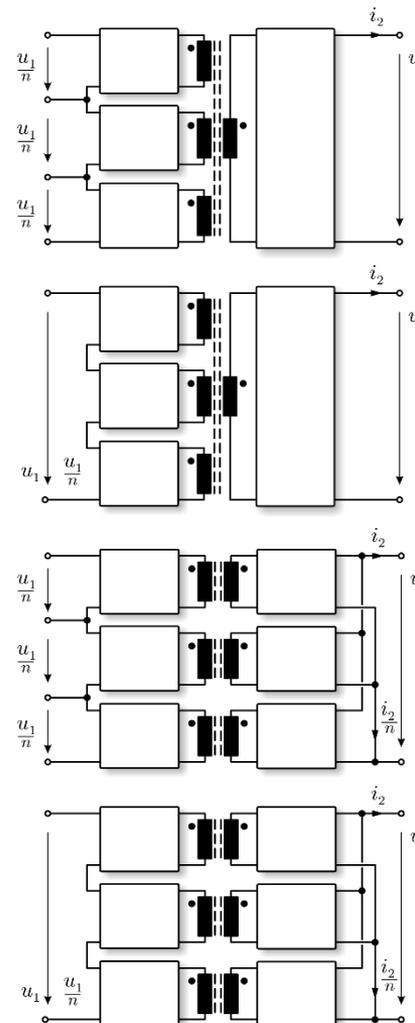
3<sup>rd</sup> Degree of Freedom of Topology Selection → Partitioning of Medium Voltage

- Multi-Cell and Multi-Level Approaches
- Low Blocking Voltage Requirement
- Low Input Voltage / Output Current Harmonics
- Low Input/Output Filter Requirement

\* Single-Cell / Two-Level Topology

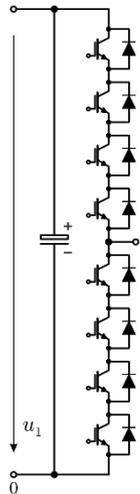


ISOP = Input Series / Output Parallel Topologies

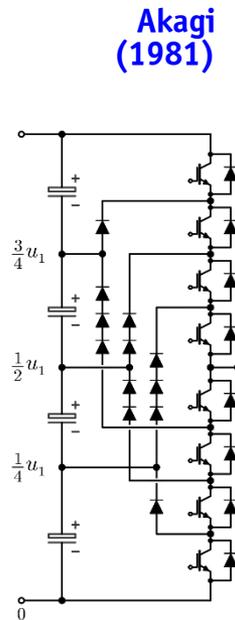


## ► Basic SST Structures (3)

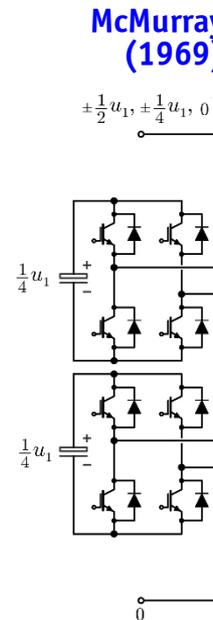
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree of Freedom of Topology Selection → Partitioning of Medium Voltage
- Multi-Cell and Multi-Level Approaches



\* Two-Level Topology

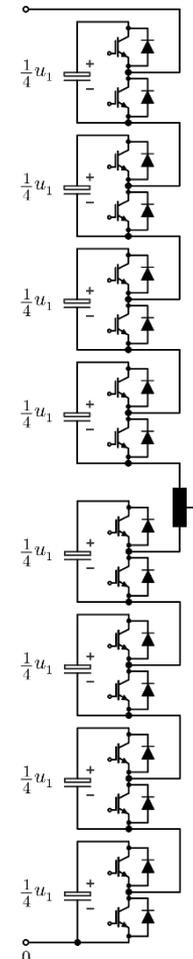


Akagi (1981)



McMurray (1969)

$$\pm \frac{1}{2} u_1, \pm \frac{1}{4} u_1, 0$$

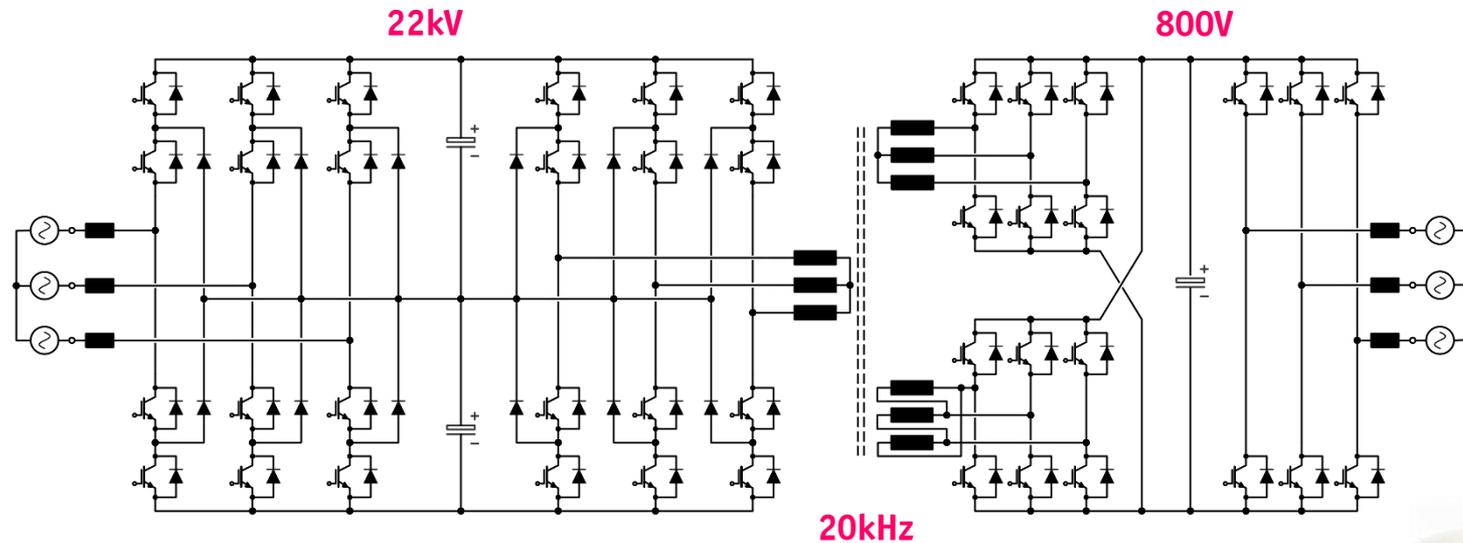


Alesina/Venturini (1981)

\* Multi-Level/  
Multi-Cell  
Topologies

## ► Basic SST Structures (3)

- Bhattacharya (2012)



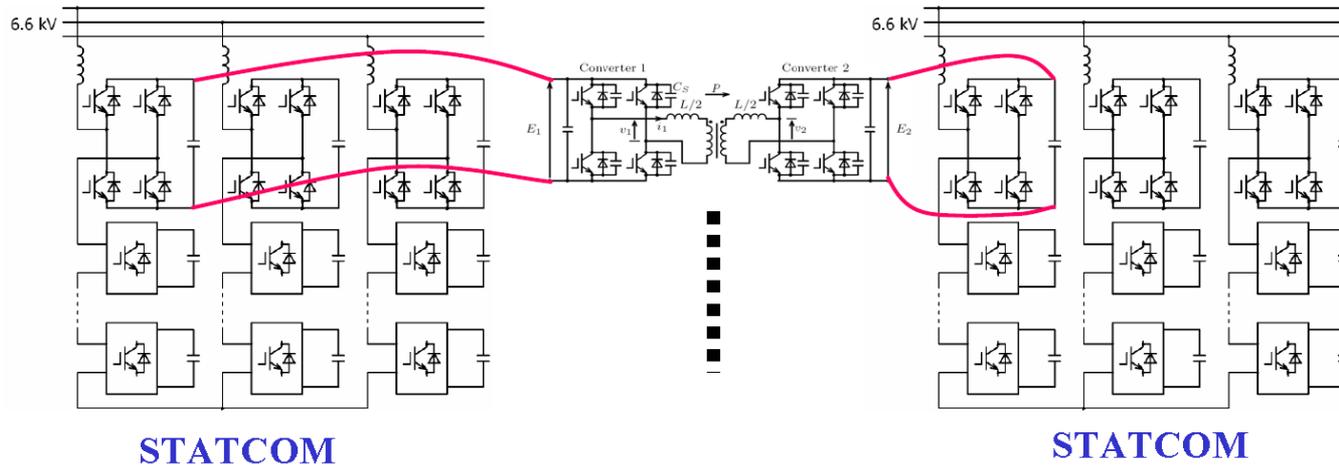
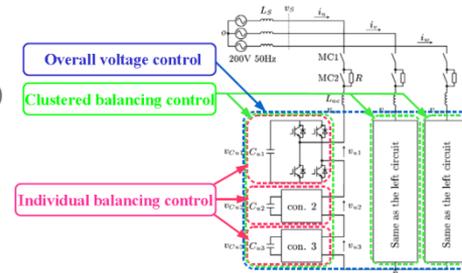
- 13.8kV → 480V
- 15kV Si-IGBTs, 1200V SiC MOSFETs
- Scaled Prototype



## Basic SST Structures (3)

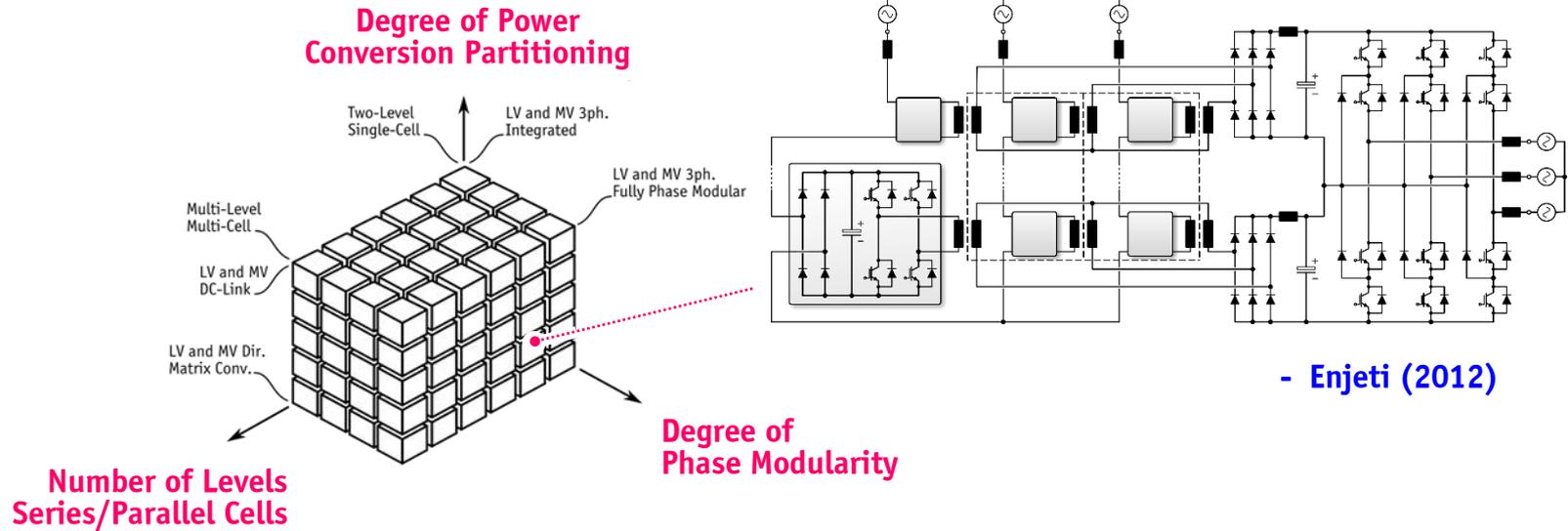
- Akagi (2005)

$$\bar{v}_{C_{it}} = \frac{1}{3} (\bar{v}_{C_{i1}} + \bar{v}_{C_{i2}} + \bar{v}_{C_{i3}})$$



- Back-to-Back Connection of MV Mains by MF Coupling of STATCOMs
- Combination of Clustered Balancing Control with Individual Balancing Control

## ► Classification of SST Topologies



- **Very (!) Large Number of Possible Topologies**

- \* Partitioning of Power Conversion
- \* Splitting of 3ph. System into Individual Phases
- \* Splitting of Medium Operating Voltage into Lower Partial Voltages

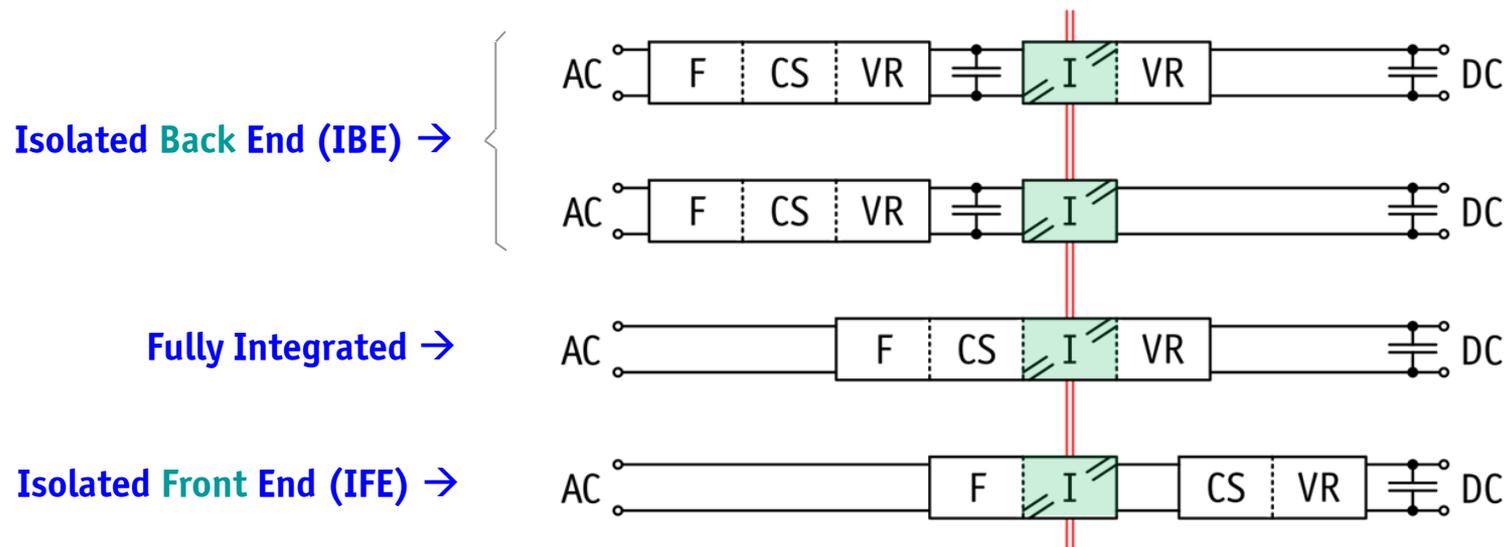
- Matrix & DC-Link Topologies
- Phase Modularity
- Multi-Level/Cell Approaches

## ► Functional Partitioning of AC/DC Power Conversion

### ■ Required Functions

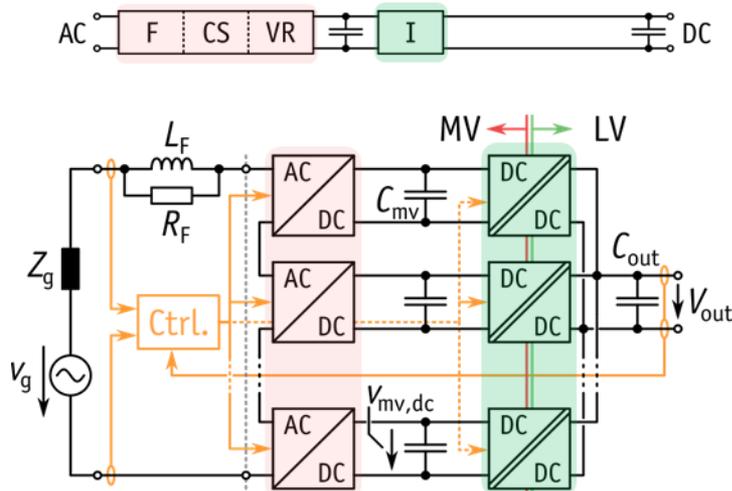
- **F:** Folding of the AC Voltage into a  $|AC|$  Voltage
- **CS:** Input Current Shaping
- **I:** Galvanic Isolation & Voltage Shaping
- **VR:** Output Voltage Regulation

### ■ Alternative Sequences of Equal Overall Functionality



## Isolated Back/Front-End Topology

### Isolated DC/DC Back End

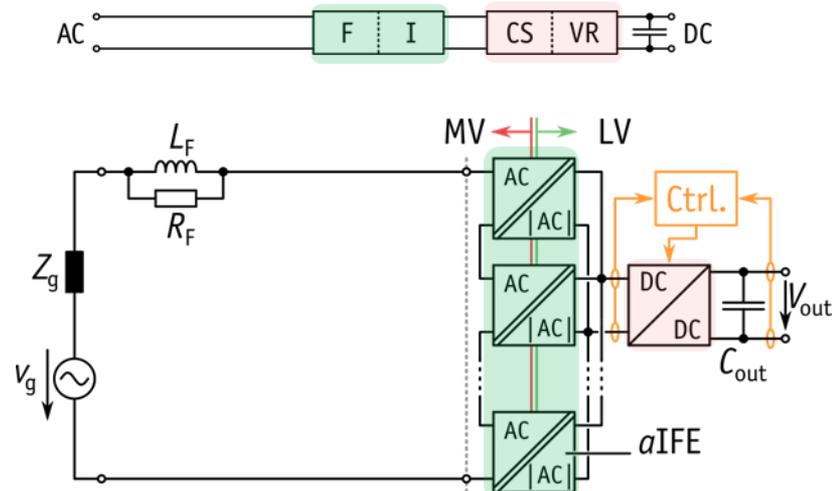


- Typical Multi-Cell SST Topology
- Two-Stage Multi-Cell Concept
- Direct Input Current Control
- Indirect Output Voltage Control
- High Complexity at MV Side

### Isolated AC/ | AC | Front End

70 NRP

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
**Energy Turnaround**  
National Research Programme



- Swiss SST (S3T)
- Two-Stage Multi-Cell Concept
- Indirect Input Current Control
- Direct Output Voltage Control
- Low Complexity on MV Side



# SST Demonstrator Systems

*Future Locomotives*  
*Smart Grid Applications*

# ► 1ph. AC/DC Power Electronic Transformer - PET



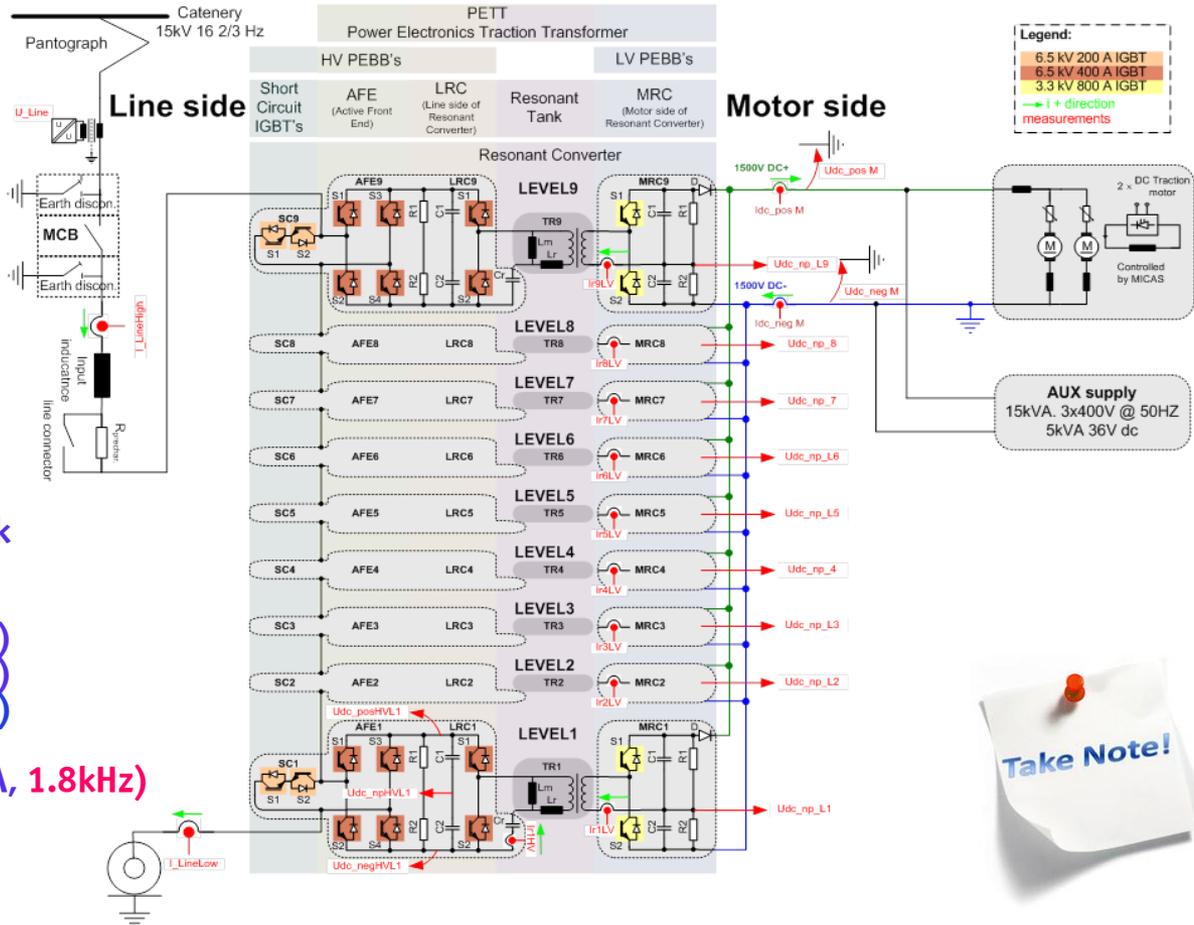
- Dujic et al. (2011)

- Rufer (1996)
- Steiner (1997)
- Heinemann (2002)

$P = 1.2\text{MVA}, 1.8\text{MVA}$  pk  
9 Cells (Modular)

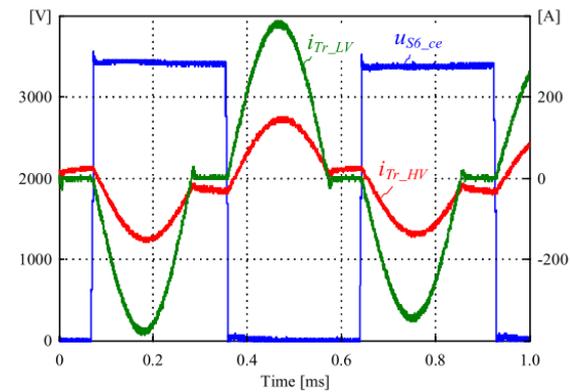
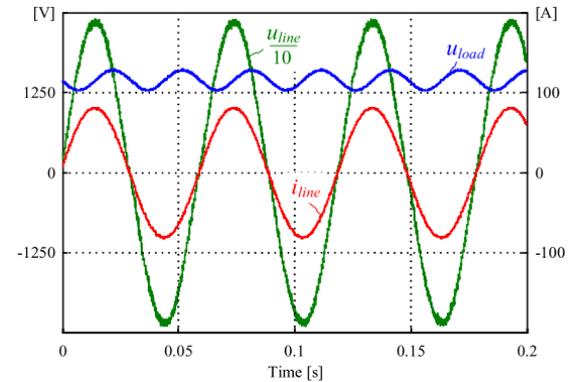
54 x (6.5kV, 400A IGBTs)  
18 x (6.5kV, 200A IGBTs)  
18 x (3.3kV, 800A IGBTs)

9 x MF Transf. (150kVA, 1.8kHz)  
1 x Input Choke



## ► 1.2 MVA 1ph. AC/DC Power Electronic Transformer

- Cascaded H-Bridges – 9 Cells
- Resonant LLC DC/DC Converter Stages

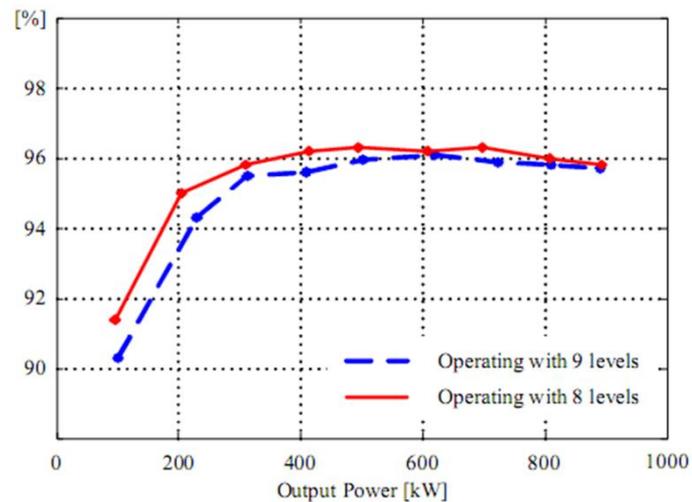


## ► 1.2 MVA 1ph. AC/DC Power Electronic Transformer

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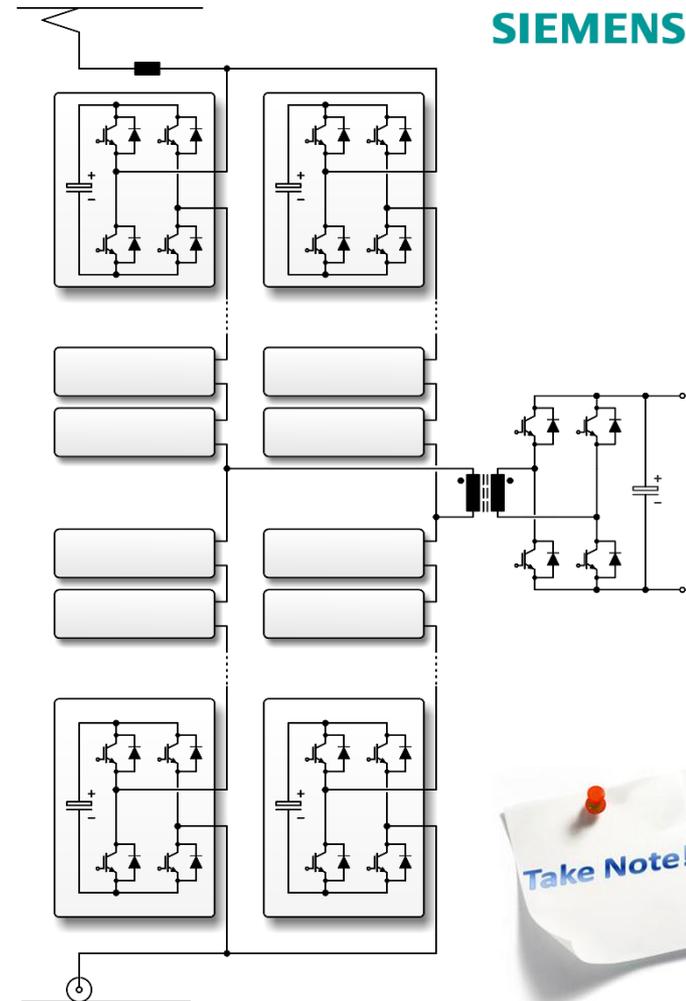
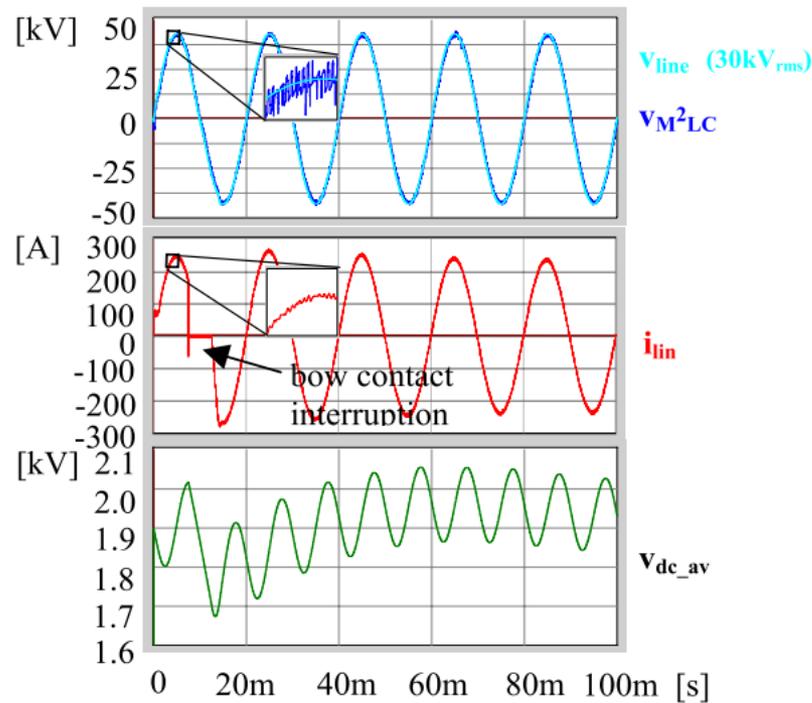


Efficiency



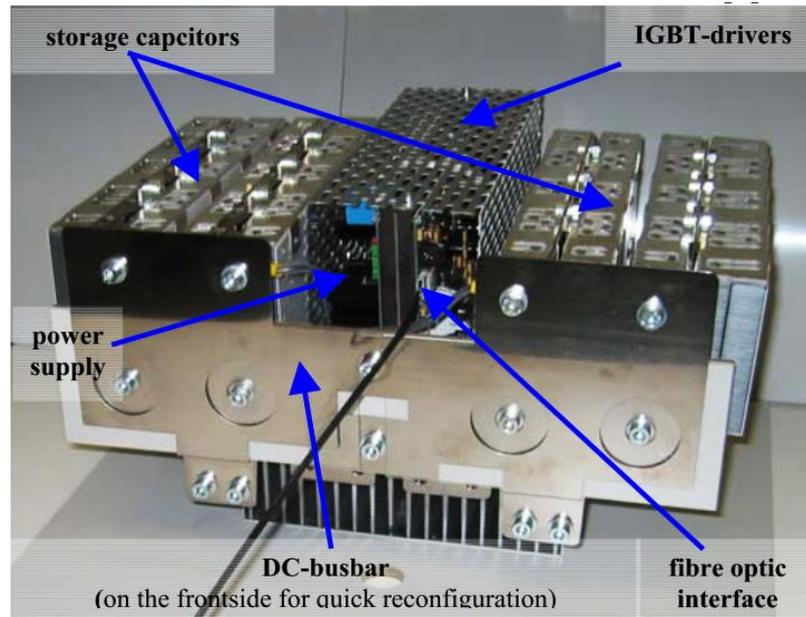
## ► Modular Multilevel Converter

- Marquardt (2003)



## ► Modular Multilevel Converter

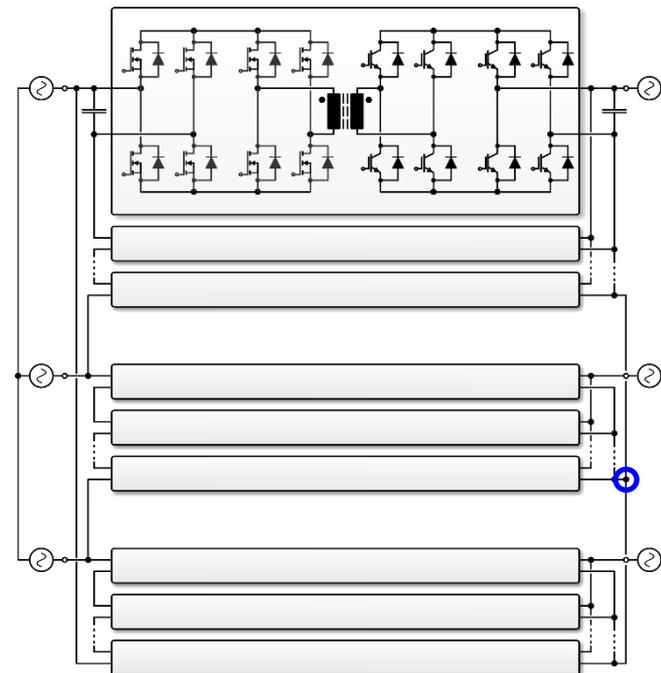
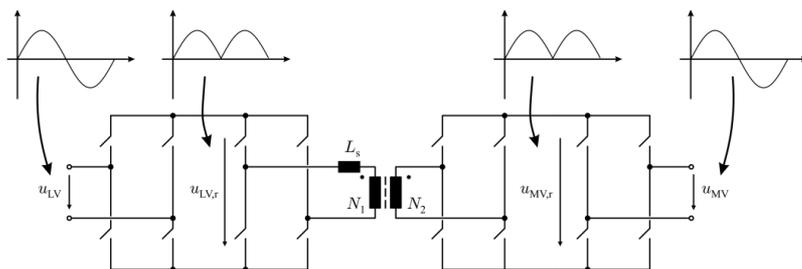
- Marquardt (2003)
- **Module Power**            270kW
- **Module Frequency**   350Hz



## ► SiC-Enabled Solid-State Power Substation



- Das et al. (2011)
- Lipo (2010)
- Weiss (1985 for Traction Appl.)
- Fully Phase Modular System
- Indirect Matrix Converter Modules ( $f_1 = f_2$ )
- MV  $\Delta$ -Connection ( $13.8\text{kV}_{\text{L-L}}$ , 4 Modules in Series)
- LV Y-Connection ( $465\text{V}/\sqrt{3}$ , Modules in Parallel)

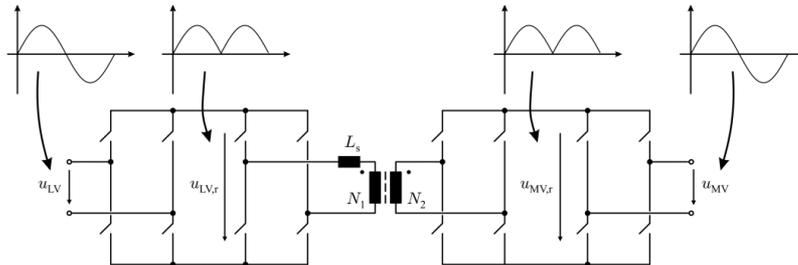


- SiC Enabled 20kHz/1MVA “Solid State Power Substation”
- 97% Efficiency / 25% Weight / 50% Volume Reduction (Comp. to 60Hz)

## ► SiC-Enabled Solid-State Power Substation

- Das (2011)

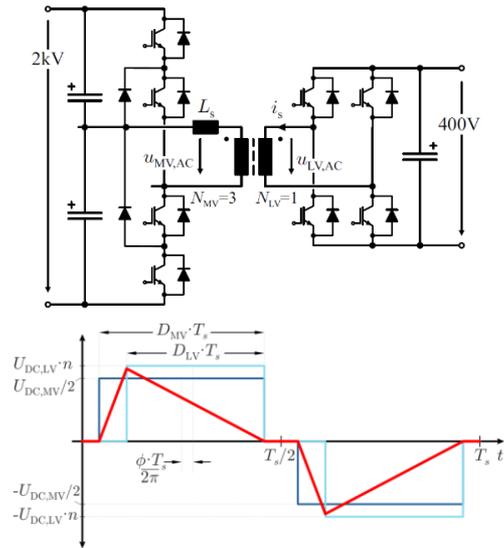
- Fully Phase Modular System
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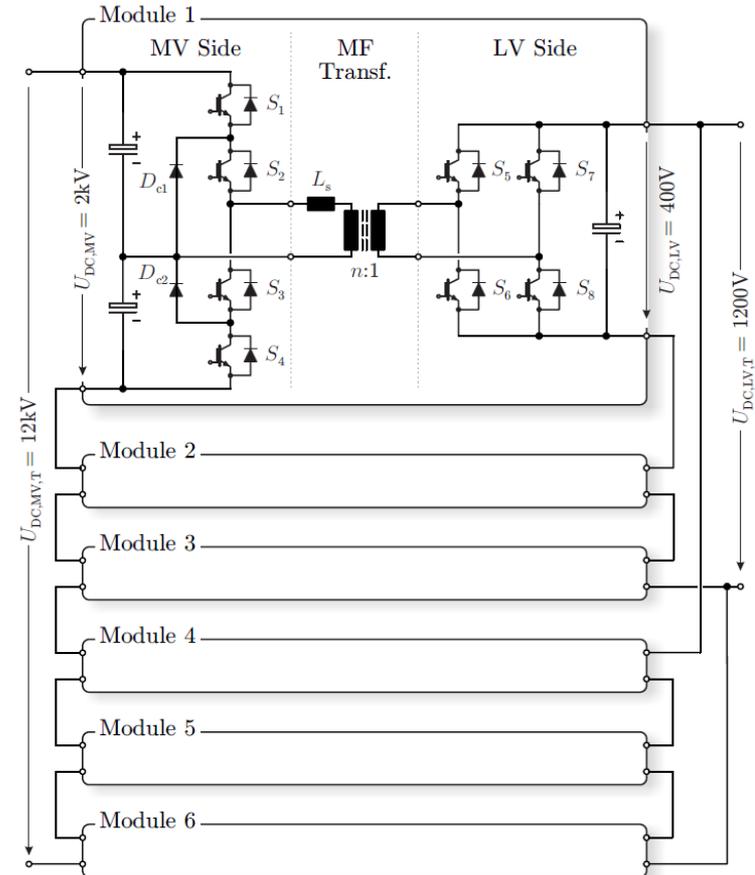
- SiC Enabled 20kHz/1MVA “Solid State Power Substation”
- 97% Efficiency / 25% Weight / 50% Volume Reduction (Comp. to 60Hz)

## MEGA Cube

- Rated Power **1MW**
- Frequency **20kHz**
- Input Voltage **12kV<sub>DC</sub>**
- Output Voltage **1.2kV<sub>DC</sub>**
- Efficiency Goal **97%**

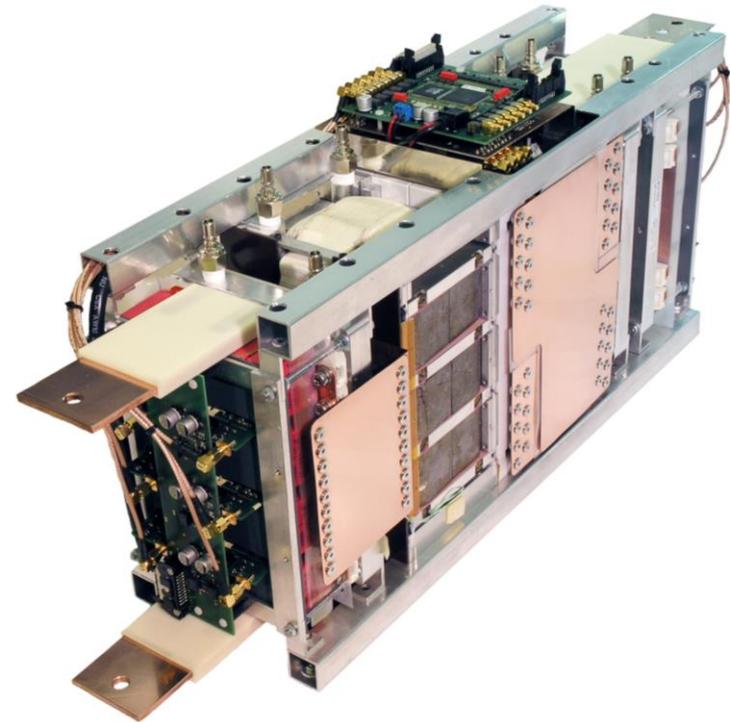
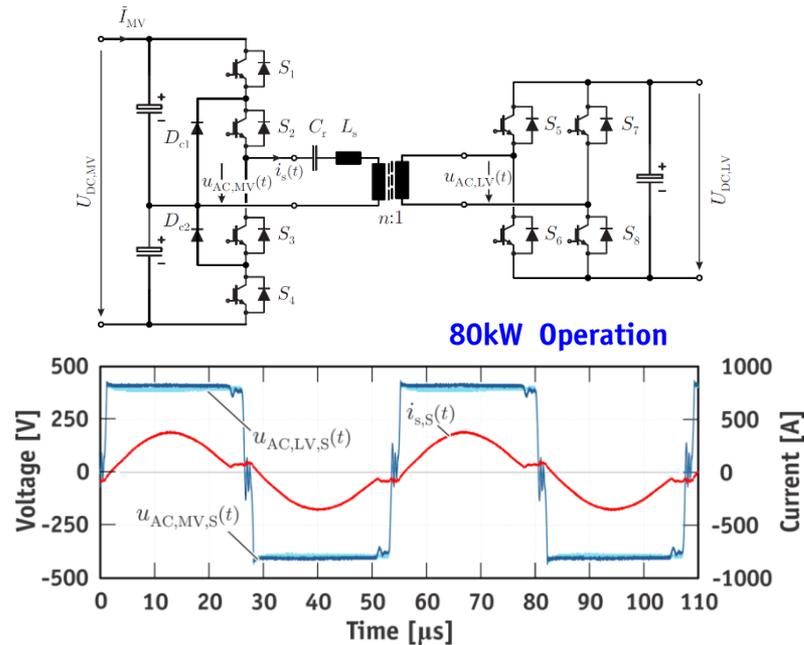


### ISOP Topology – 6/2x3 - Input / Output



## ► 166kW / 20kHz DC-DC Converter Cell

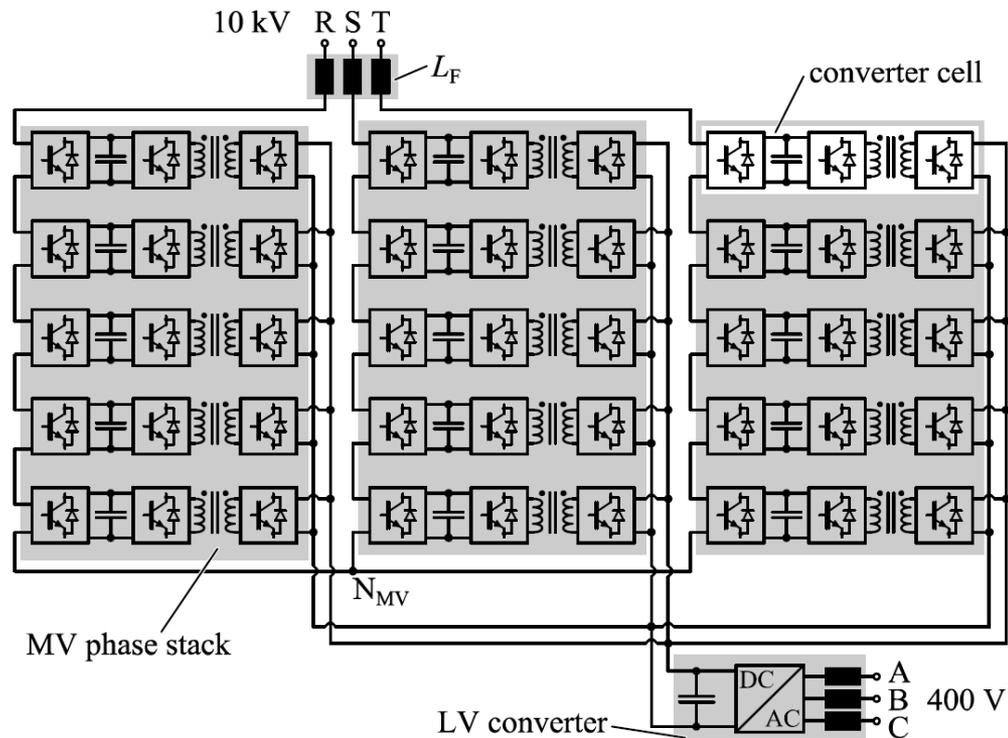
- Half-Cycle DCM Series Resonant DC-DC Converter
- Medium-Voltage Side **2kV**
- Low-Voltage Side **400V**



— *MEGA Link* —

## MEGALink @ ETH Zurich

$S_N = 630\text{kVA}$   
 $U_{LV} = 400\text{V}$   
 $U_{MV} = 10\text{kV}$

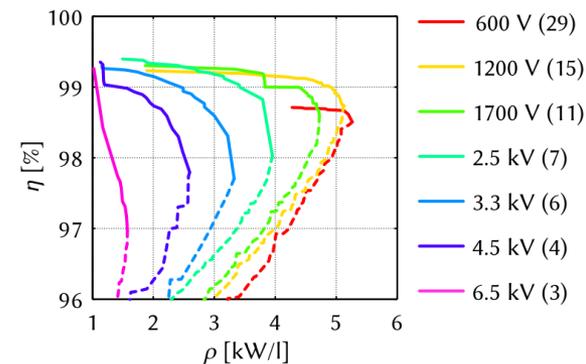
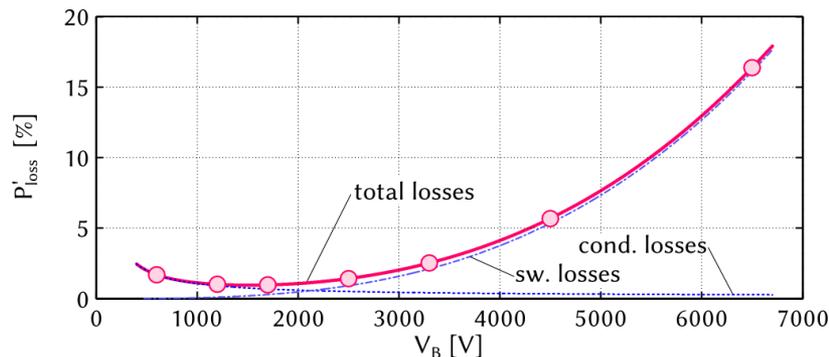
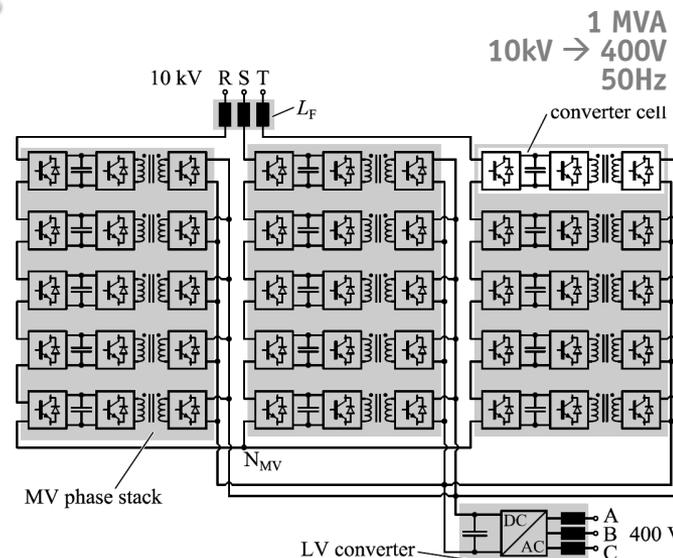


- 2-Level Inverter on LV Side / HC-DCM-SRC DC-DC Conversion / Cascaded H-Bridge MV Structure

## ► Optimum Number of Converter Cells

- Trade-Off High Number of Levels → High Conduction Losses/ Low Cell Switchg Frequ./Losses (also because of Device Char.)

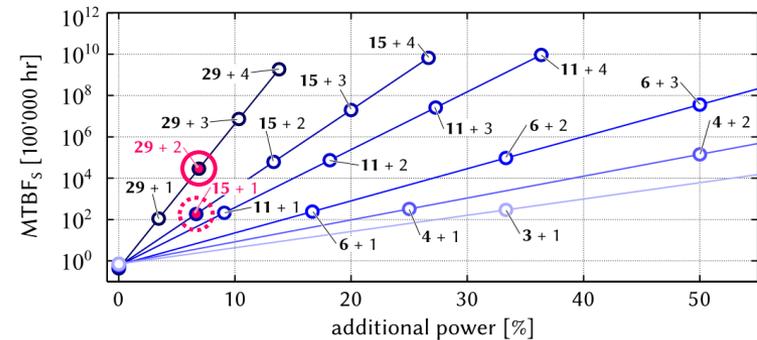
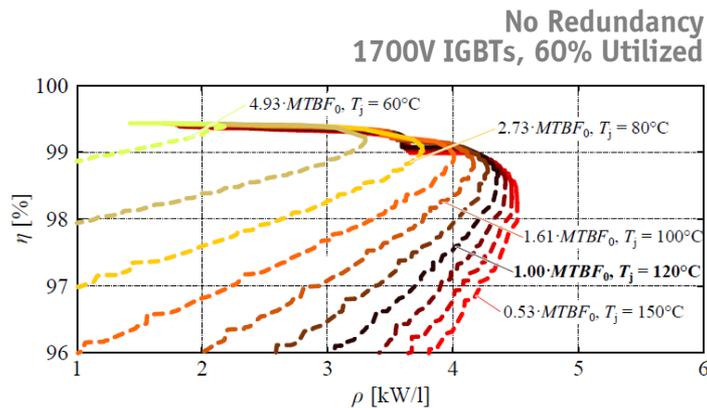
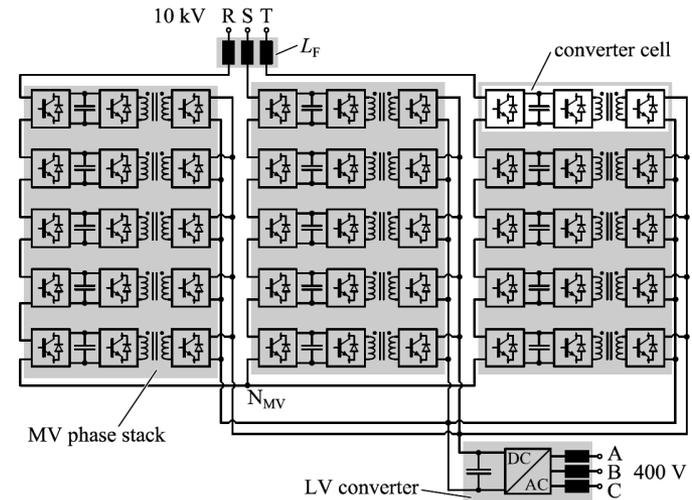
- Opt. Device Voltage Rating for Given MV Level
- $\eta$ -Pareto Opt. (Compliance to IEEE 519)



- 1200V ... 1700V Power Semiconductors best suited for 10kV Mains (No Advantage of SiC)

## ► Optimum Number of Converter Cells

- Trade-Off → Mean-Time-to-Failure vs. Efficiency / Power Density
- Influence of
  - \* FIT Rate (Voltage Utilization)
  - \* Junction Temperature
  - \* Number of Redundant Cells

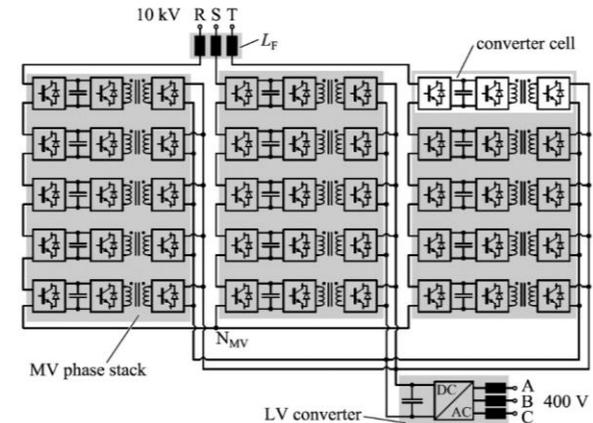
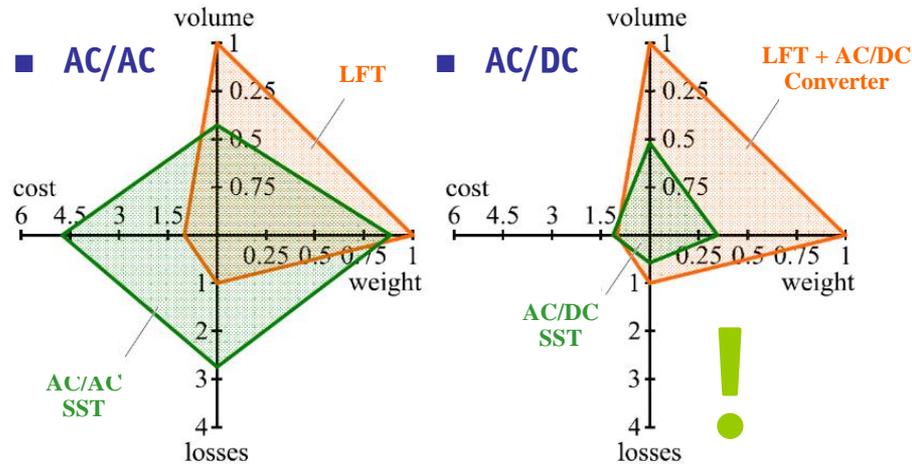


- High MTBF also for Large Number of Cells (Repairable) / Lower Total Spare Cell Power Rating

## ► SST vs. LF Transformer + AC/AC or AC/DC Converter

- Specifications
  - 1MVA
  - 10kV Input
  - 400V Output
  - 1700V IGBTs (1kHz/8kHz/4kHz)

- LF Transformer
  - 98.7 %
  - 16.2 kUSD
  - 2600kg (5700lb)

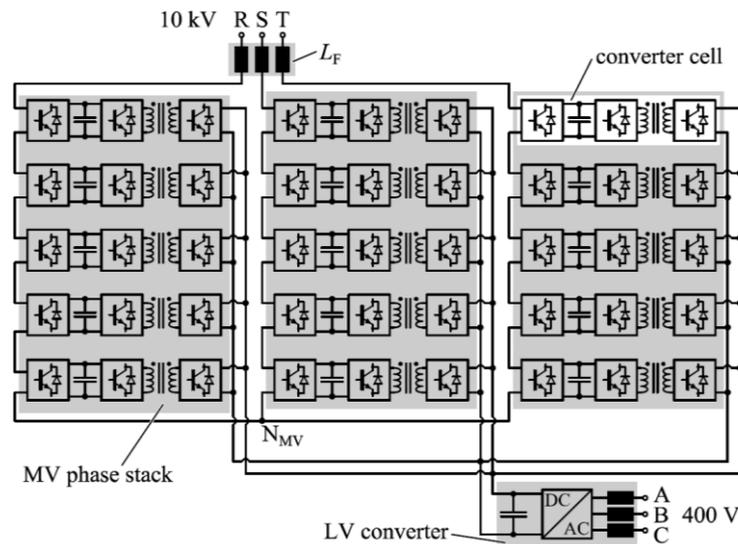
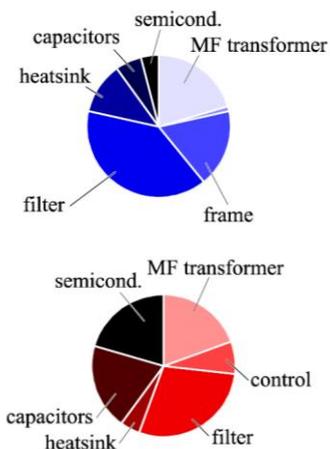


- Clear Efficiency/Volume/Weight Advantage of SST for DC Output (98.2%)
- Weakness of AC/AC SST vs. Simple LF Transformer (98.7%) - 5 x Costs, 2.5 x Losses

## Efficiency Advantage of Direct MV AC – LV DC Conversion

### Comparison to LF Transformer & Series Connected PFC Rectifier (1MVA)

#### MV AC/DC Stage Weight (Top) and Costs (Bottom) Breakdown



CHARACTERISTIC PERFORMANCE INDICES FOR 1000 kVA LFTS AND SSTS IN AC/AC OR AC/DC APPLICATIONS.

	AC/AC			AC/DC		
	LFT	factor	SST	LFT	factor	SST
losses [W/kVA]	13.0	×2.75	35.7	30.9	×0.58	17.9
costs [USD/kVA]	16.2	×4.75	77.0	43.9	×1.12	49.3
volume [l/kVA]	3.43	×0.57	1.96	3.64	×0.48	1.75
weight [kg/kVA]	2.59	×0.89	2.30	3.63	×0.35	1.26

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OVERVIEW.

	SST MV	SST LV	SST	LFT
efficiency	98.2 %	98.2 %	96.5 %	98.7 %
volume	1.751 m <sup>3</sup>	0.211 m <sup>3</sup>	1.962 m <sup>3</sup>	3.427 m <sup>3</sup>
weight	1262 kg	1036 kg	2298 kg	2591 kg
cost	49.3 kUSD	27.7 kUSD	77.0 kUSD	16 kUSD

## Potential Future SST Application Areas

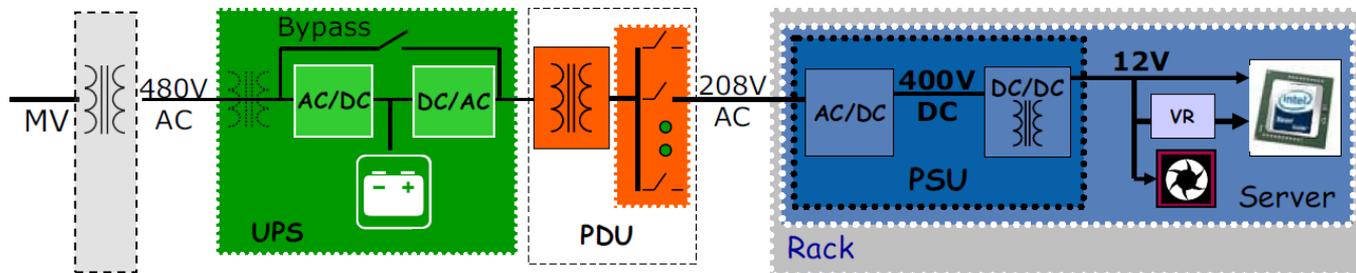
*Datacenters*  
*Oil and Gas Industry*  
*Power-to-Gas*  
*Distributed Propulsion Aircraft*  
*More Electric Ships*

## ▶ AC vs. Facility-Level DC Systems for Datacenters

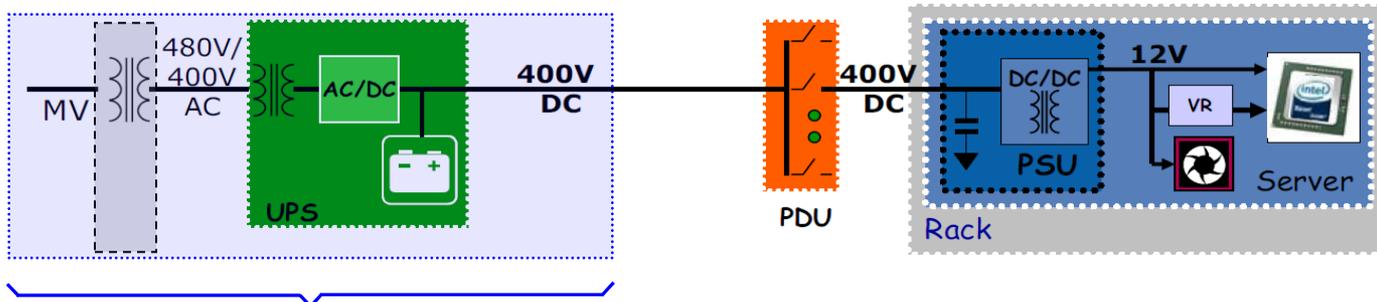
- Reduces Losses & Footprint
- Improves Reliability & Power Quality

### — Conventional US 480V<sub>AC</sub> Distribution

Source:  2007



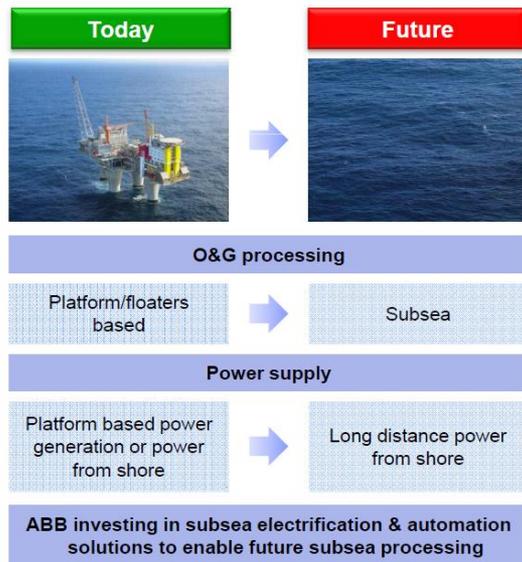
### — Facility-Level 400 V<sub>DC</sub> Distribution



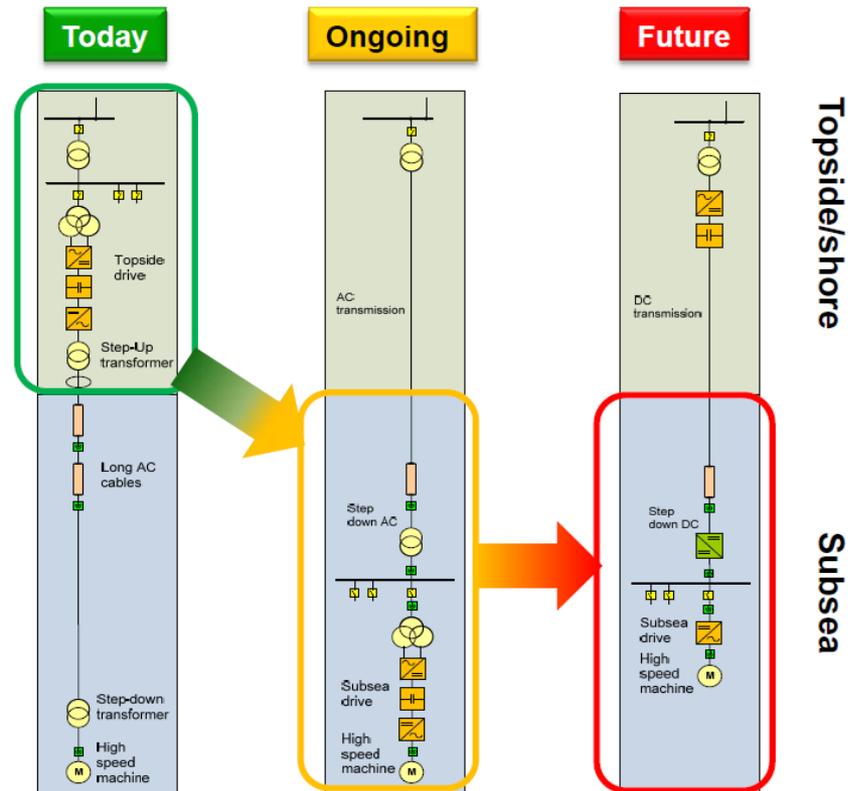
- Future Concept: Unidirectional SST / Direct 6.6kV AC → 400V DC Conversion

## ► Future Subsea Distribution Network – O&G Processing

- Devold (ABB 2012)



- Transmission Over DC, No Platforms/Floaters
- Longer Distances Possible
- Subsea O&G Processing
- Weight Optimized Power Electronics

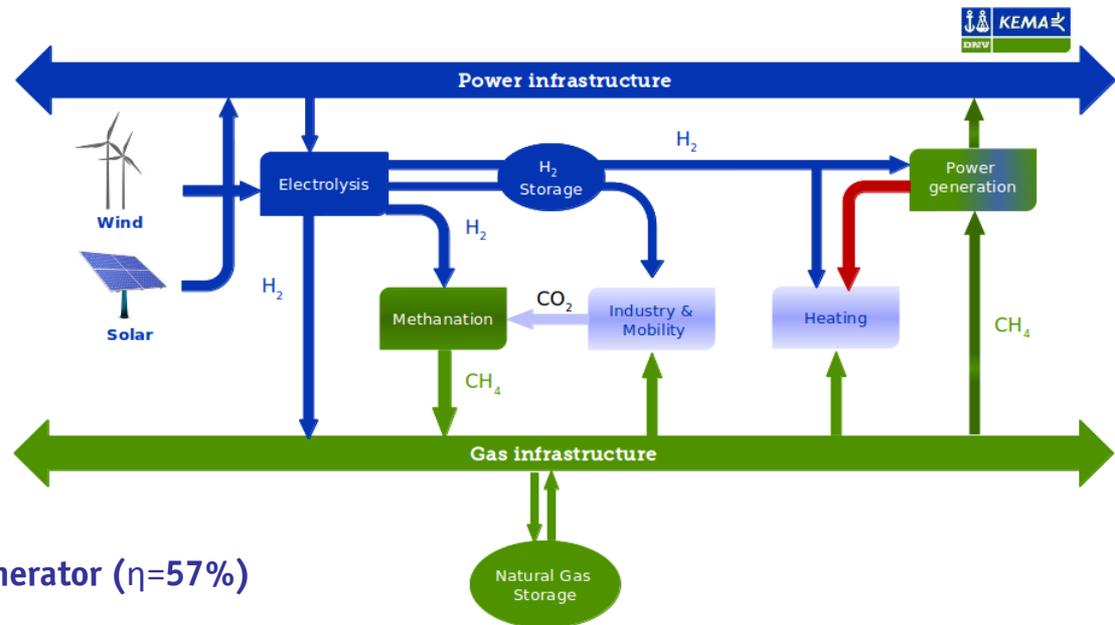


## ► Power-to-Gas

- Electrolysis for Conversion of Excess Wind/Solar Electric Energy into Hydrogen
  - Fuel-Cell Powered Cars
  - Heating
- High-Power @ Low DC Voltage (e.g. 220V)
- Very Well Suited for MV-Connected SST-Based Power Supply



– Hydrogenics 100 kW H<sub>2</sub>-Generator ( $\eta=57\%$ )



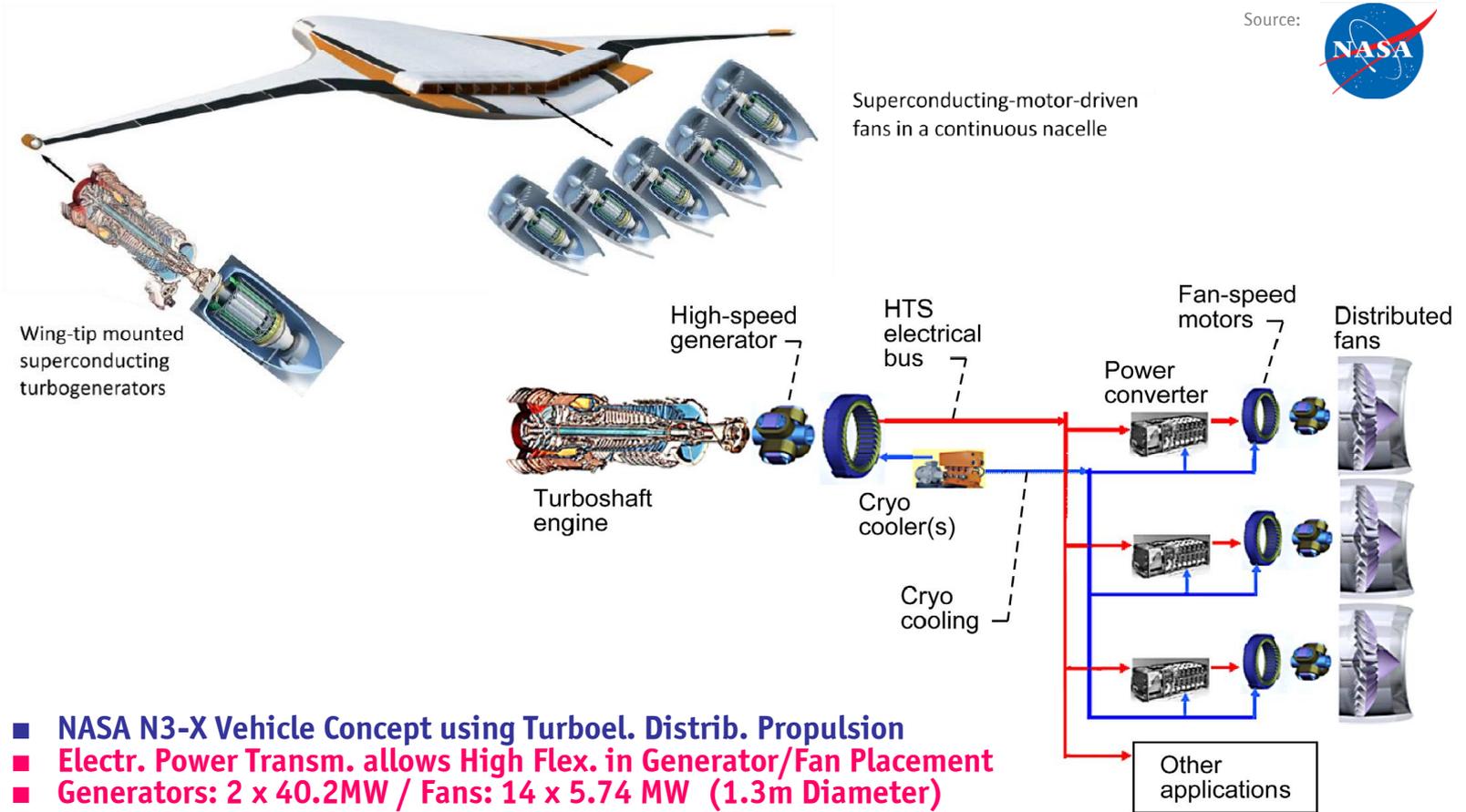
## ► Future Hybrid Distributed Propulsion Aircraft



Source:  
EADS

- Powered by Thermal Efficiency Optimized Gas Turbine and/or Future Batteries (1000 Wh/kg)
- Highly Efficient Superconducting Motors Driving Distributed Fans (E-Thrust)
- Until 2050: Cut CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by 75%, NO<sub>x</sub> by 90%, Noise Level by 65%

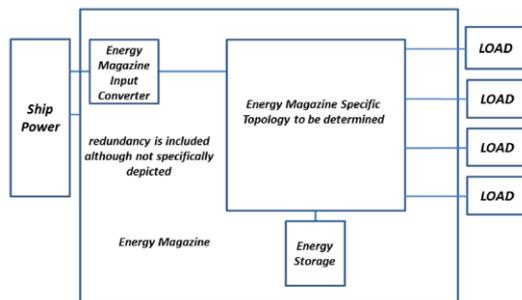
## ► Future Distributed Propulsion Aircraft



## ► Future Military Applications

- MV Cellular DC Power Distribution on Future Combat Ships etc.

Source:  
General Dynamics



- **“Energy Magazine” as Extension of Electric Power System / Individual Load Power Conditioning**
- **Bidirectional Power Flow for Advanced Weapon Load Demand**
- **Extreme Energy and Power Density Requirements**

## Conclusions

*SST Limitations / Concepts  
Research Areas*

# ► SST Ends the “War of Currents”

**THE CURRENT WAR**  
THE TALE OF AN EARLY TECH RIVALRY

## DC

### DIRECT CURRENT

The flow of electricity is in one direction only. The system operates at the same voltage level throughout and is not as efficient for high-voltage long distance transmission.

Direct current runs through:

- Battery-Powered Devices
- Fuel and Solar Cells
- Light Emitting Diodes

"[TESLA'S] IDEAS ARE SPLENDID, BUT THEY ARE UTTERLY IMPRACTICAL."  
- THOMAS EDISON

**THOMAS EDISON** VS. **NIKOLA TESLA**

You would have never found two geniuses so spiteful of each other beyond turn-of-the-century inventors Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison. They worked together—and hated each other. Let's compare their life, achievements, and embittered battles.

## AC

### ALTERNATING CURRENT

Electric charge periodically reverses direction and is transmitted to customers by a transformer that could handle much higher voltages.

Alternating current runs through:

- Car Motors
- Radio Signals
- Appliances

"IF EDISON HAD A NEEDLE TO FIND IN A HAYSTACK, HE WOULD PROCEED AT ONCE... UNTIL HE FOUND THE OBJECT OF HIS SEARCH. I WAS A SORRY WITNESS OF SUCH DOINGS, KNOWING THAT A LITTLE THEORY AND CALCULATION WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM 90 PERCENT OF HIS LABOR."  
- NIKOLA TESLA

**WAR OF CURRENTS OFFICIALLY SETTLED**  
In 2007, Con Edison ended 125 years of direct current electricity service that began when Thomas Edison opened his power station in 1882. It changed to only provide alternating current.

**NOBEL PRIZE CONTROVERSY**  
In 1915, both Edison and Tesla were to receive Nobel Prizes for their strides in physics, but ultimately, neither won. It is rumored to have been caused by their animosity towards each other and refusal to share the coveted award.

**EDISON FRIES AN ELEPHANT**  
In order to prove the dangers of Tesla's alternating current, Thomas Edison staged a highly publicized electrocution of the three-ton elephant known as "Topsy." She died instantly after being shocked with a 6,600-volt AC charge.

**LATE BLOOMER**  
Thomas Edison, the youngest in his family, didn't learn to talk until he was almost 4 years old.

**FALLING OUT**  
Edison promised Tesla a generous reward if he could smooth out his direct current system. The young engineer took on the assignment and ended up saving Edison more than \$100,000 (millions of dollars by today's standards). When Tesla asked for his rightful compensation, Edison declined to pay him. Tesla resigned shortly after and the elder inventor spent the rest of his life campaigning to discredit his counterpart.

**NOTABLE INVENTIONS**  
 DC (Direct Current): Incandescent light bulb, phonograph, cement making technology, motion picture camera, DC motors and electric power.  
 WAR OF CURRENTS: TRIAL AND ERROR, MASS COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS, HOME-SCHOoled AND SELF-TAUGHT, EDUCATION.  
 AC (Alternating Current): Tesla coil - resonant transformer circuit, radio transmitter, fluorescent light, AC motors and electric power generation system.

**STATISTICS**  
 1,093 NUMBER OF US PATENTS | 112 NUMBER OF NOBEL PRIZES WON | 0 NUMBER OF ELEPHANTS ELECTROCUTED | 0

**DEATH**  
 1931—Passed away peacefully in his New Jersey home, surrounded by friends and family.  
 1943—Died lonely and in debt in Room 3527 at the New Yorker Hotel.

SOURCES: CHENEY, MARGARET, "TESLA: MAN OUT OF TIME." | UHN, ROBERT, "TESLA: MASTER OF LIGHTNING." | THOMASEDISON.COM | PBS.ORG | WEB.MIT.EDU | WIRED.COM

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOOD AND COLUMN FIVE

■ No “Revenge” of T.A. Edison but Future “Synergy” of AC and DC Systems !

## ► Key Messages #1/3

### ■ Basis SST Limitations

- Efficiency (Rel. High Losses of 2-4%)
- High Costs (Cost-Performance Adv. still to be Clarified)
- Limited Weight/ Volume Reduction vs. Conv. Transf. (Factor 2-3)
- Limited Overload Capability
- Limited Overvoltage Tolerance
- (Reliability)



### ■ Potential Application Areas

- MV Grid/Load-Connected AC/DC and DC/DC Converter Systems
- Volume/Weight Limited Systems where 2-4 % of Losses Could be Tolerated

#### — Traction Vehicles

#### — MV Distribution Grid Interface

- \* DC Microgrids (e.g. Datacenters)
- \* Renewable Energy (e.g. DC Collecting Grid for PV, Wind; Power-to-Gas)
- \* High Power Battery Charging (E-Mobility)
- \* More Electric Ships
- \* etc.

#### — Parallel Connection of LF Transformer and SST (SST Current Limit – SC Power does not Change)

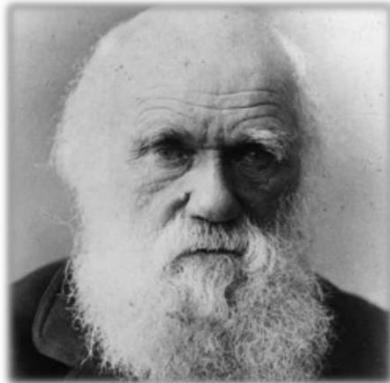
- Temporary Replacement of Conv. Distribution Transformer
- Military Applications

## ▶ Key Messages #2/3

### ■ Advantageous Circuit Approaches

#### ▶ Fully Modular Concepts

- Resonant Isolated Back-End Topology (ABB)
- Resonant Isolated Front-End Topology (Swiss-SST)



“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”

*Charles Darwin*

- \* Redundancy (!)
- \* Scalability (Voltage / Power)
- \* Natural Voltage / Current Balancing
- \* Economy of Scale

#### ▶ Alternatives

- Single Transformer Solutions (MMLC-Based)
- HV-SiC Based Solutions (SiC NPC-MV-Interface)

## ▶ Key Messages #3/3

### ■ Main Research Challenges

- Multi-Level vs. Two-Level Topologies with HV SiC Switches
- Low-Inductance MV Power Semiconductor Package
- Mixed-Frequ./Voltage Stress on Insul. Materials
- Low-Loss High-Current MF Interconnections / Terminals
- Thermal Mangmnt (Air and H<sub>2</sub>O Cooling, avoiding Oil)
- SST Protection
- SST Monitoring
- SST Redundancy (Power & (!) Control Circuit)
- SST vs. FACTS (Flexible AC Transmission Systems)
- System-Oriented Analysis → Clarify System-Level Benefits (Balancing the Low Eff. Drawback)

### ■ SST Design for Production → Multi-Disciplinary Challeng

#### ▶ Required Competences

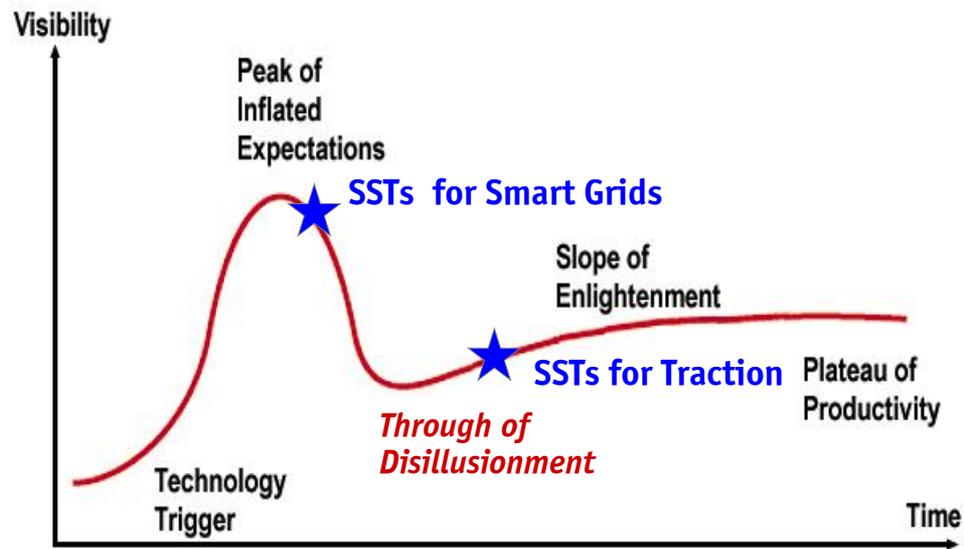
- MV (High) Power Electronics incl. Testing
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP & FPGA)
- MF High Power Magnetics
- Isolation Coordination / Materials
- Power Systems
- etc.

▶ 50/60Hz XFRM Design Knowledge is NOT (!) Sufficient



## ► SST Technology Hype Cycle

- Different States of Development of SSTs for Smart Grid & Traction Applications



**Thank You!**

# Questions

