

# Zukünftige Herausforderungen in der Leistungselektronik

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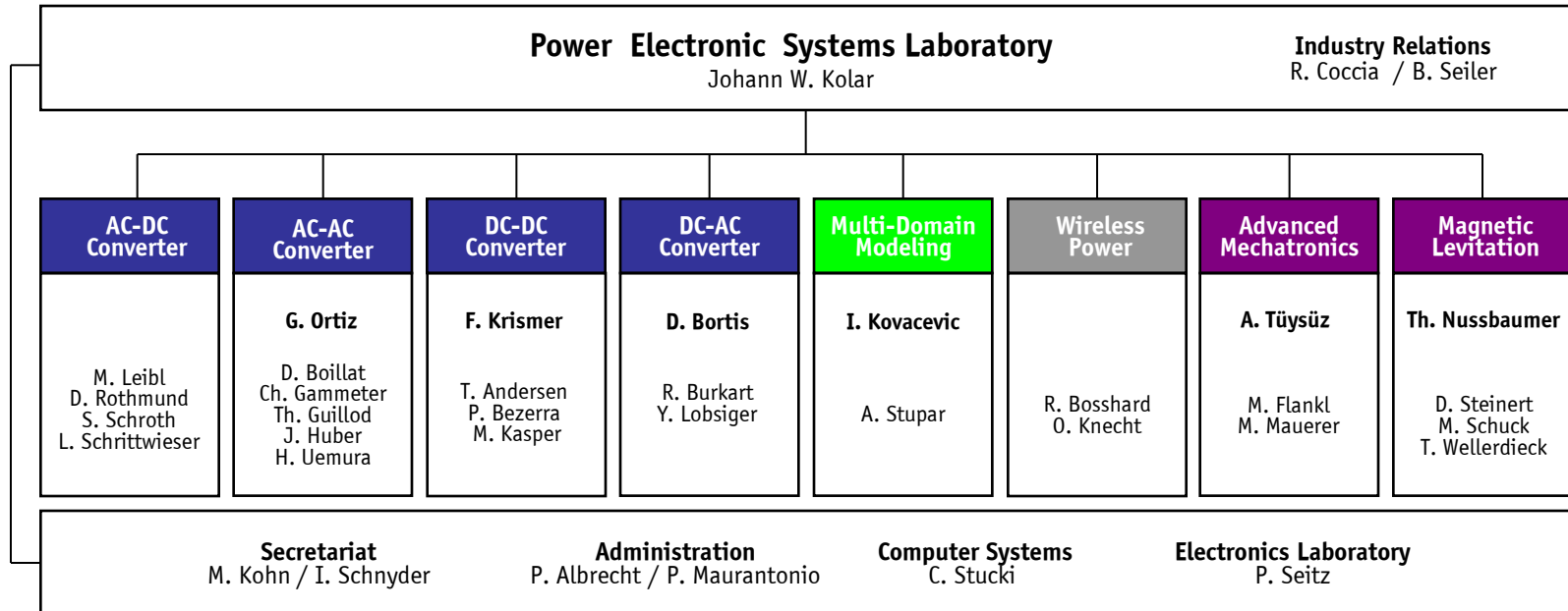
# Power Electronics 2.0

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## ► Power Electronic Systems Laboratory @ ETH Zurich



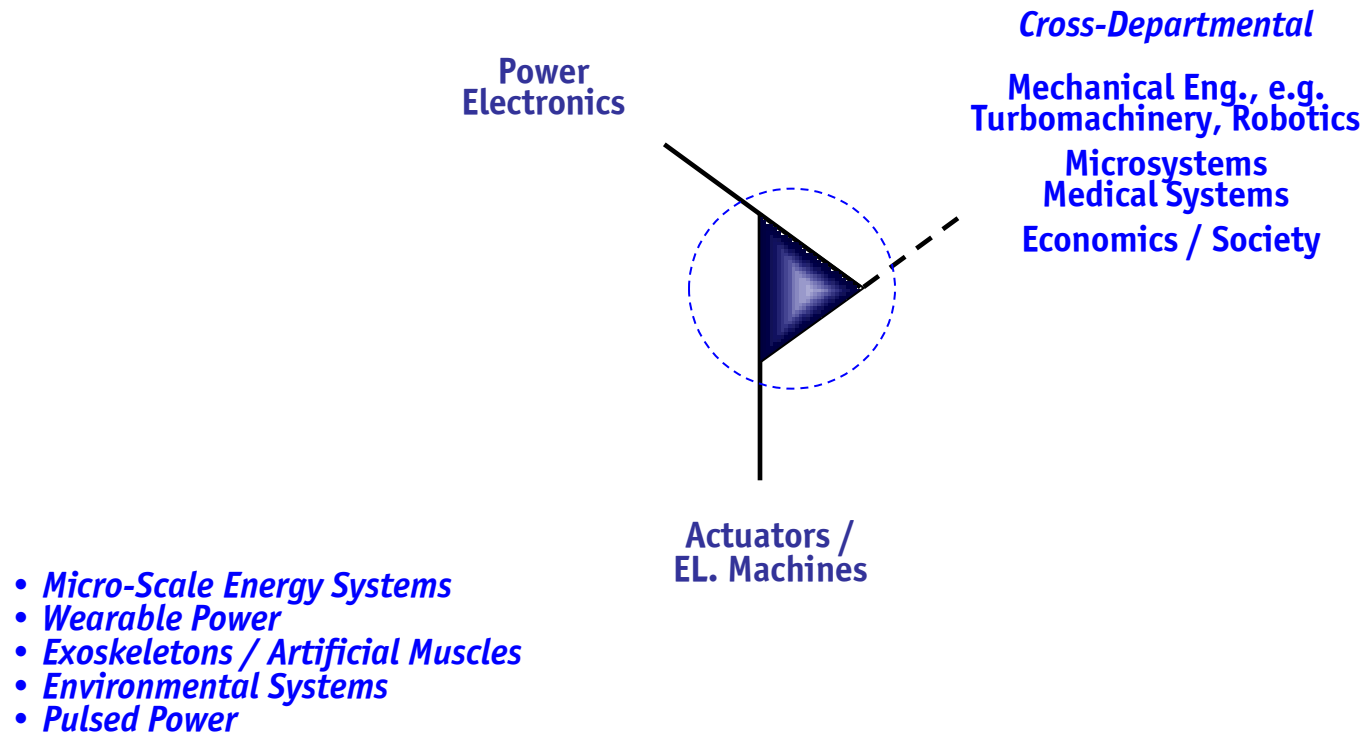
22 Ph.D. Students  
4 Post Docs

→ 1:5 PostDoc/Doc - Ratio



Leading Univ.  
in Europe

## ► Research Scope

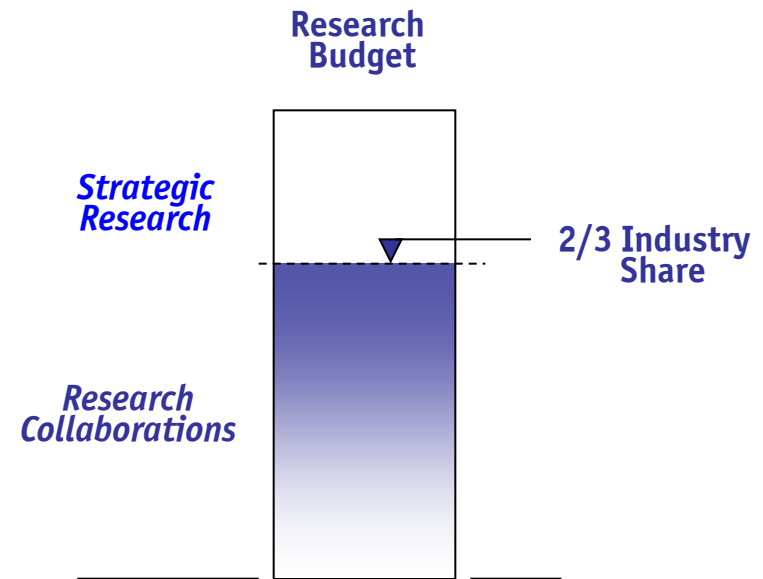


## ► Industry Collaboration

### ■ Core Application Areas

- Renewable Energy
- UPS
- Smart Grid
- Automotive Systems
- More-Electric Aircraft
- Medical Systems
- Industry Automation
- Semiconductor Process Technology
- Etc.

### ■ 16 International Research Partners



# Outline

- ▶ Application Areas & Performance Trends
- ▶ Component Technologies → Challenges
- ▶ Topologies & Modulation / Control → Challenges
- ▶ Design & Testing Procedure → Challenges
- ▶ Future CHALLENGES → Opportunities (!)
- ▶ Future Univ. Research & Education
- ▶ Conclusions

## Application Areas Performance Trends



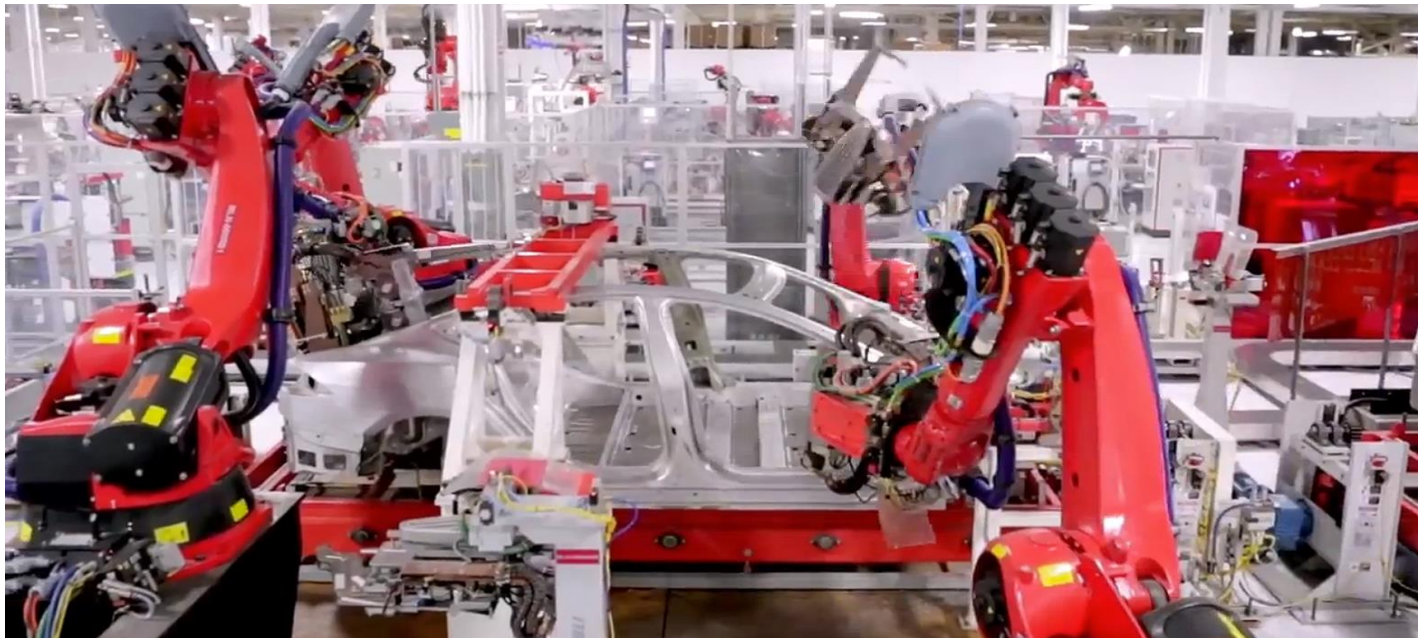


## ► Application Areas

- Industry Automation / Processes
- Communication & Information
- Transportation
- Lighting
- etc., etc.

.... Everywhere !

Source:  TESLA MOTORS





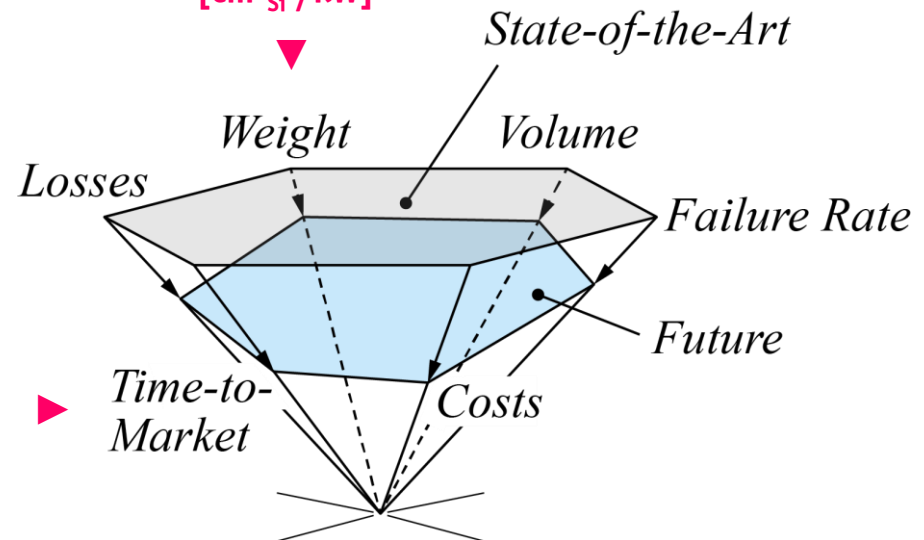
## ► Power Electronics Converters Performance Trends

### ■ Performance Indices

- Power Density [kW/dm<sup>3</sup>]
- Power per Unit Weight [kW/kg]
- Relative Costs [kW/\$]
- Relative Losses [%]
- Failure Rate [h<sup>-1</sup>]

Environmental Impact...

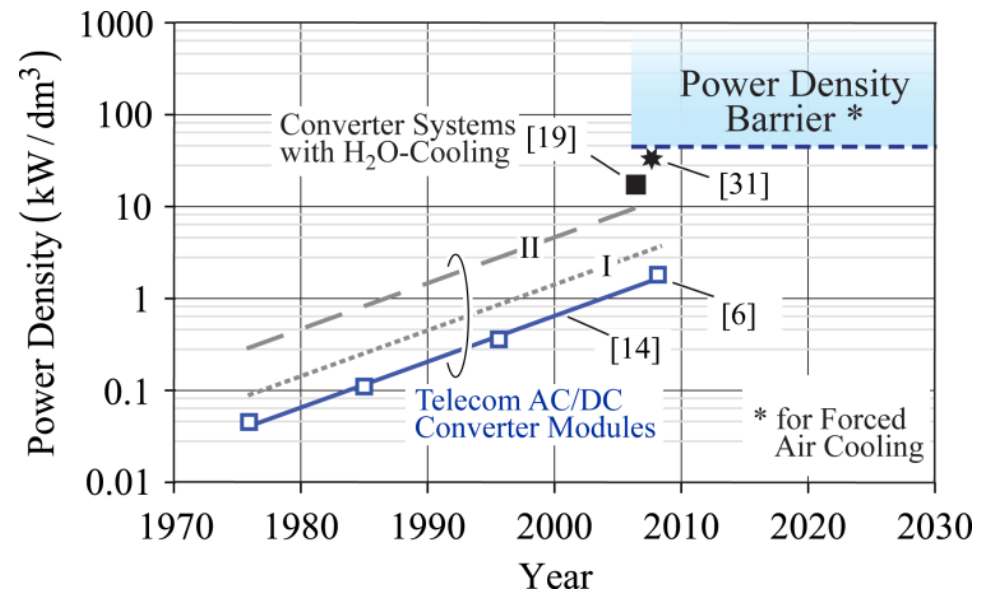
[kg<sub>Fe</sub> /kW]  
[kg<sub>Cu</sub> /kW]  
[kg<sub>Al</sub> /kW]  
[cm<sup>2</sup><sub>Si</sub> /kW]



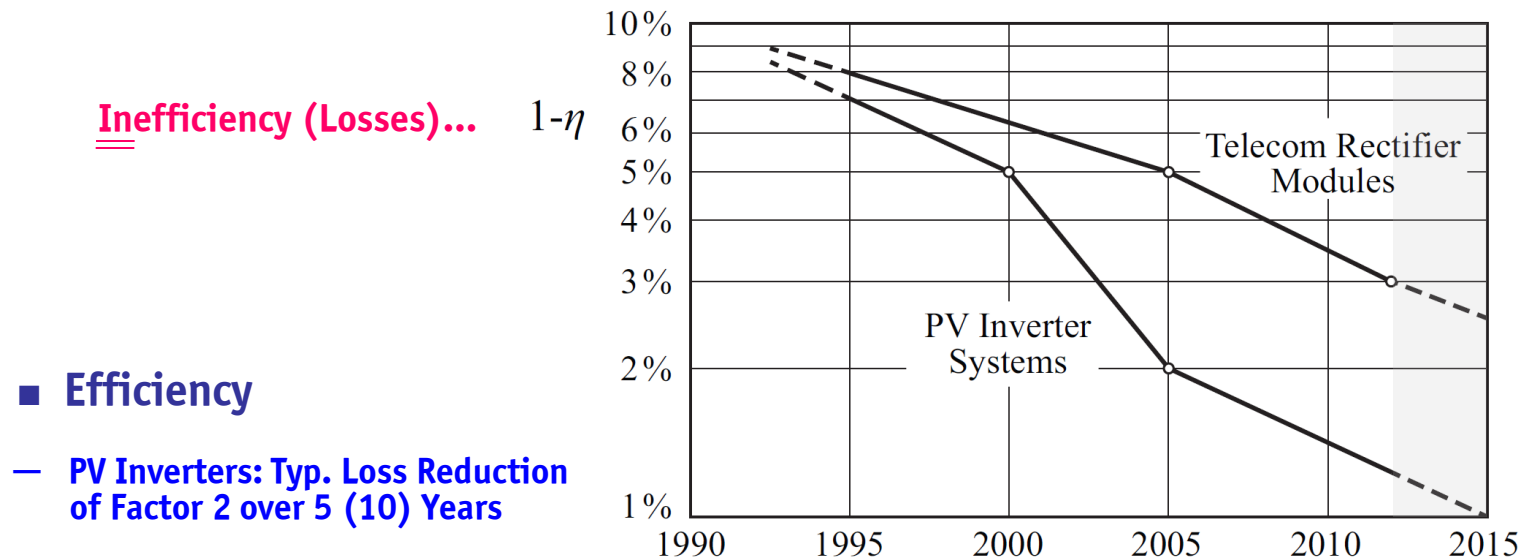
## ► Performance Improvements (1)

### ■ Power Density

— Telecom Power Supply Modules:  
Typ. Factor 2 over 10 Years



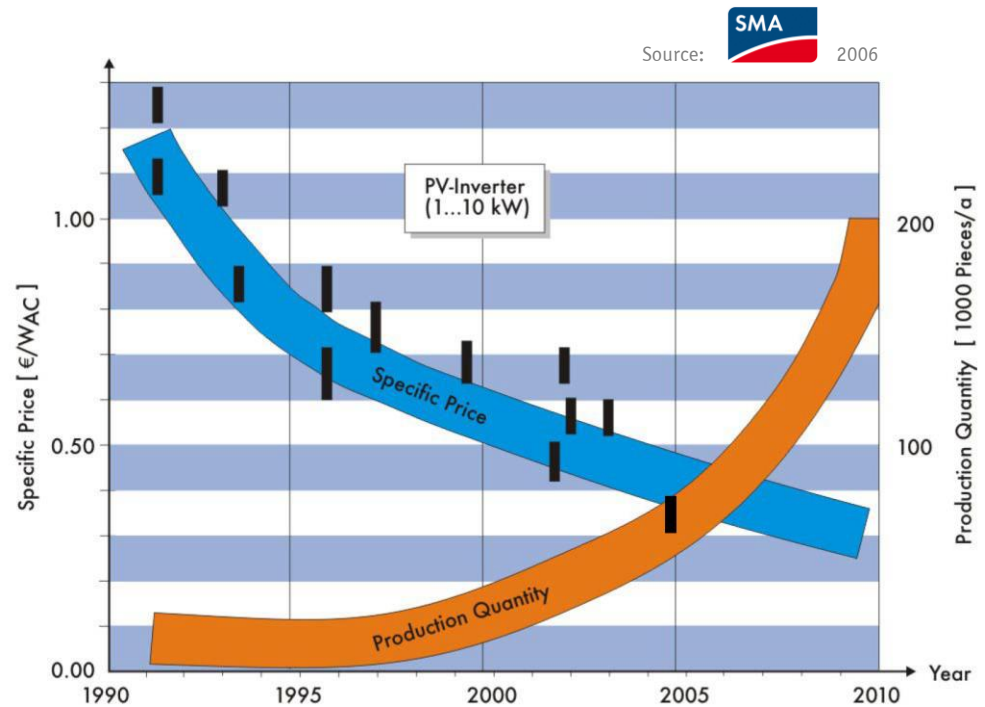
## ► Performance Improvements (2)



## ► Performance Improvements (3)

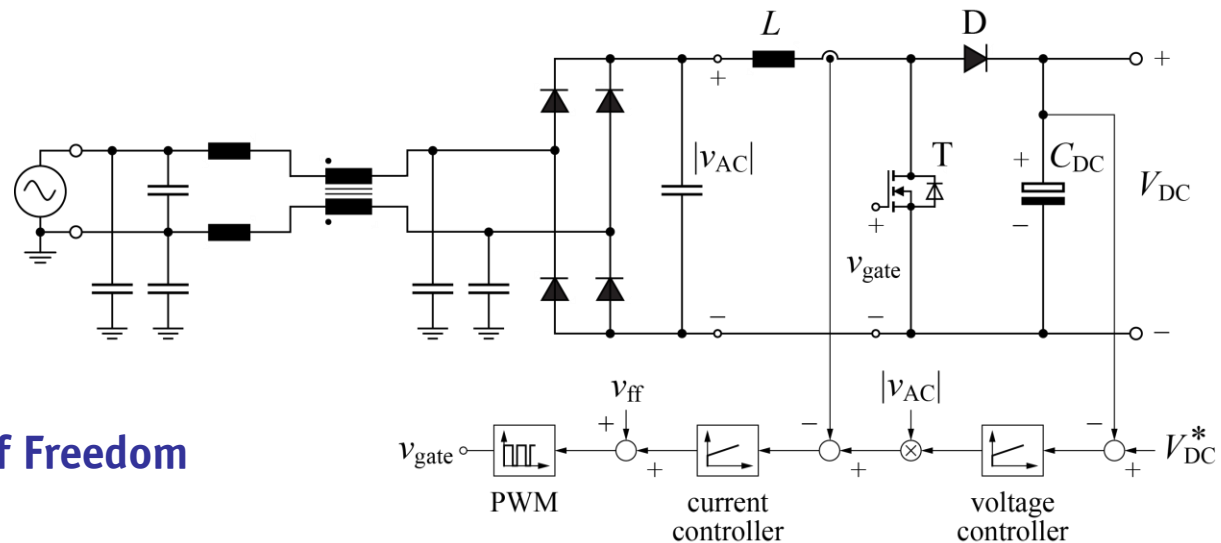
### ■ Costs

### — Importance of Economy of Scale



## ► Challenge

### ■ How to Continue the Dynamic Performance Improvement (?)



### ■ Degrees of Freedom

- Components
- Topologies
- Modulation & Control
- Design Procedure
- Modularization / Standardization / Economy of Scale
- Manufacturing
- New Applications

# Components

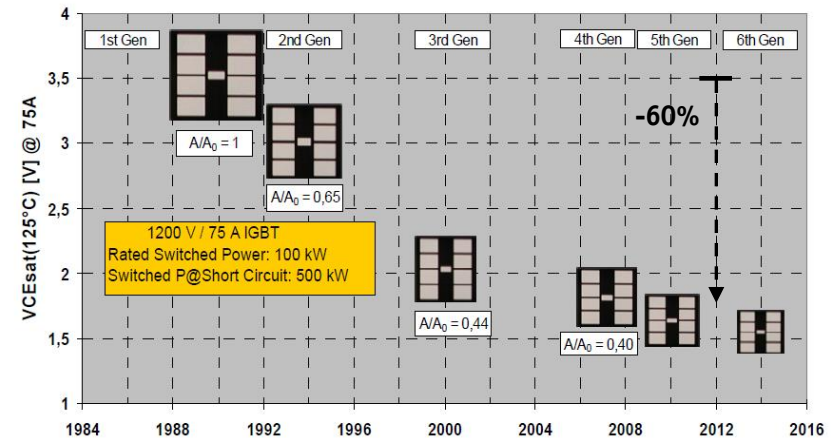
## Potentials & Limits



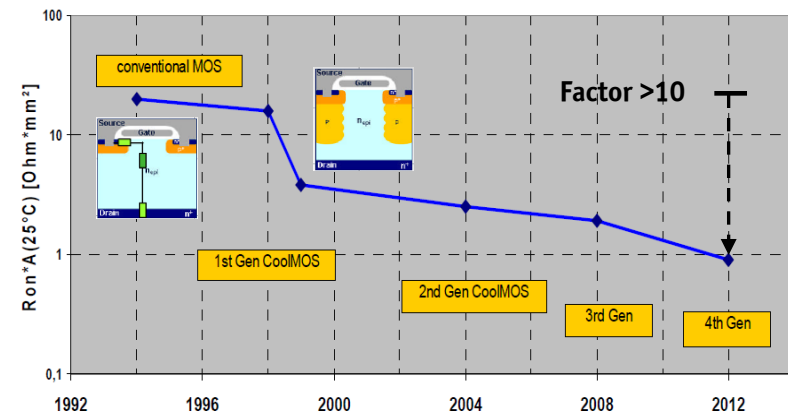
\_\_\_\_\_ **Power Semiconductors** →  
→ Si / SiC / GaN

## ► Si Power Semiconductors

Source: Dr. Miller / Infineon / CIPS 2010



600V Devices

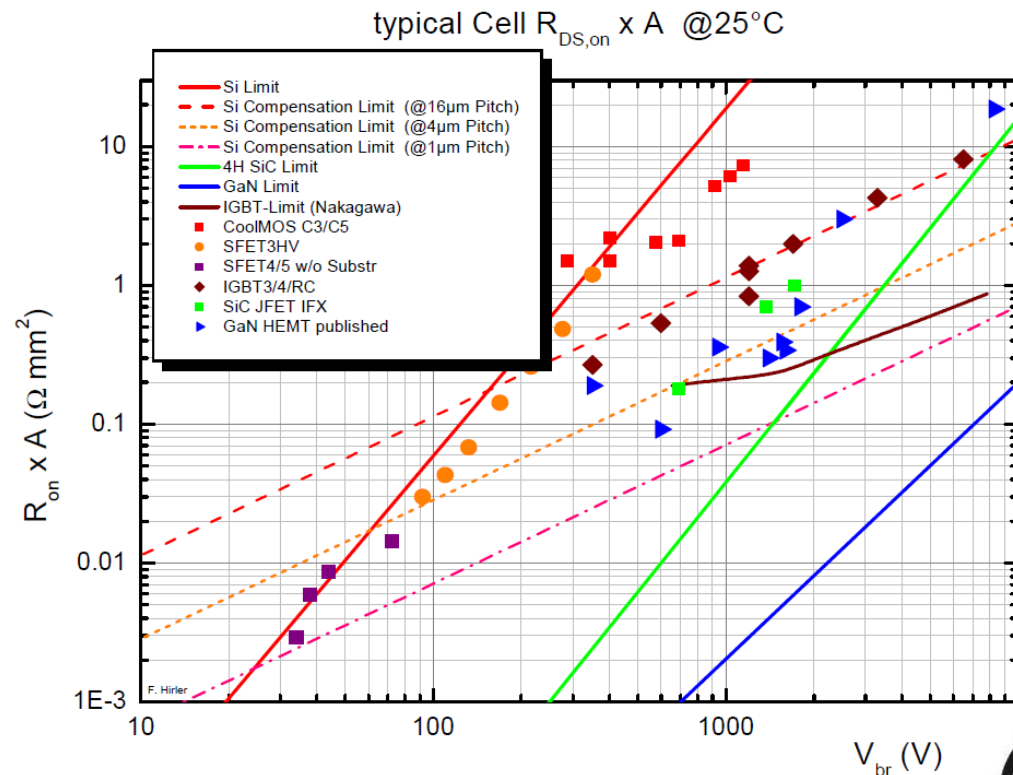


### ■ Past Disruptive Changes

- IGBT Trench & Field-Stop
- MOSFET Superjunction Technology

## ► WBG Power Semiconductors

Source: Dr. Miller CIPS 2010



■ Disruptive Change

— Extremely Low  $R_{DS(on)}$   
— Very High  $T_{j,max}$   
— Extreme Sw. Speed

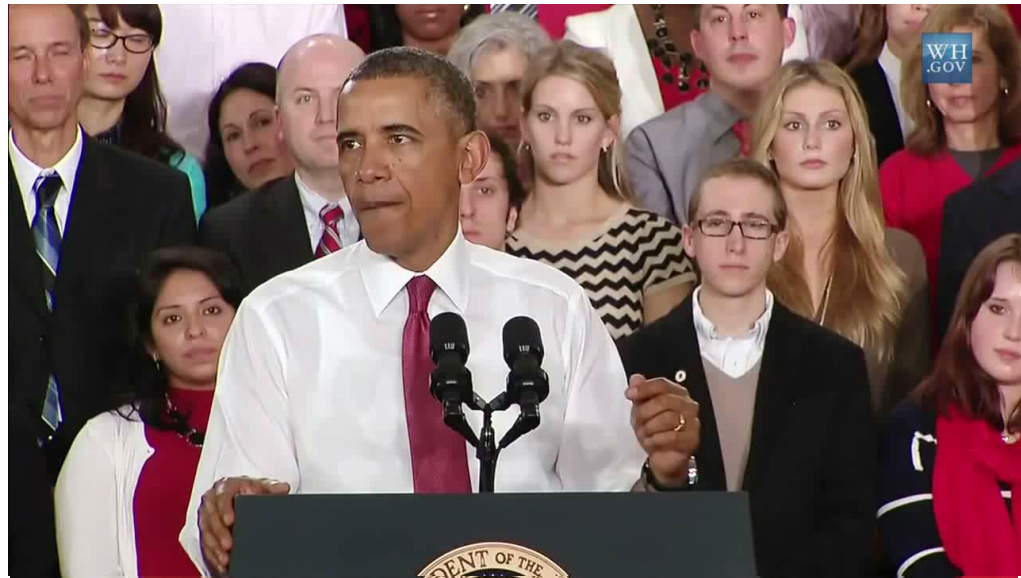
■ Utilization of Excellent Properties → Main Challenges in Packaging (!)



## ► WBG Power Semiconductors

### ■ Disruptive Change

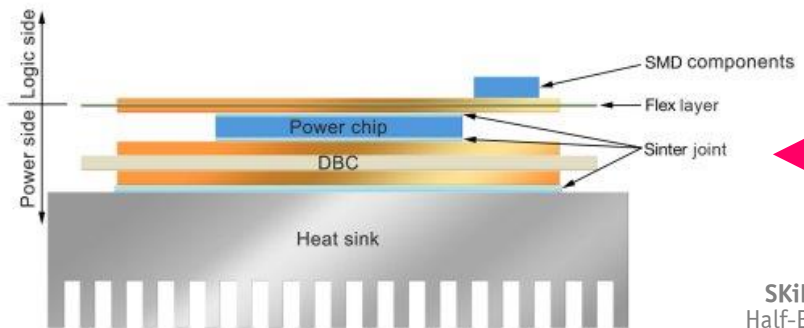
- Extremely Low  $R_{DS(on)}$
- Very High  $T_{j,max}$
- Extreme Sw. Speed



- Utilization of Excellent Properties → Main Challenges in Packaging (!)

## ► SKiN Technology

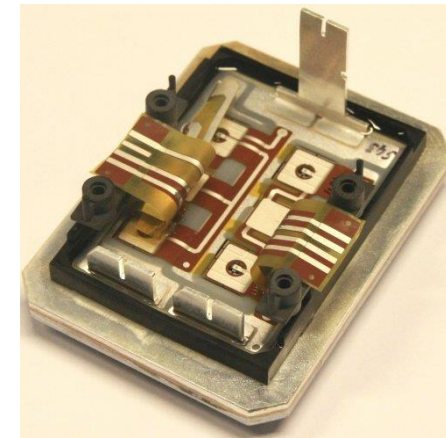
- No Bond Wires, No Solder, No Thermal Paste
- Ag Sinter Joints for all Interconnections of a Power Module (incl. Heatsink)
- **Extremely Low Inductance & Excellent Thermal Cycling Reliability**



SKiN 600V/400 A  
Half-Bridge Module

Source: **SEMIKRON**  
innovation+service

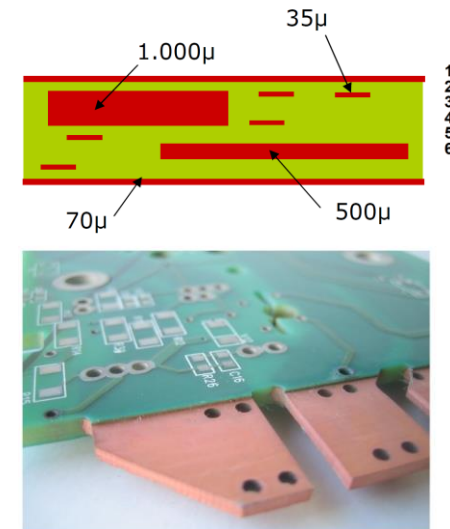
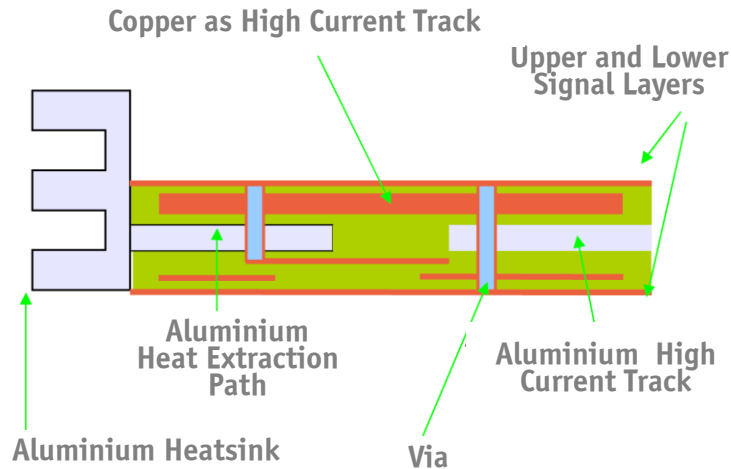
Dr. Scheuermann  
Dr. Beckedahl  
CIPS 2008



- Allows Extension to 2-Side Cooling (Two-Layer Flex-Foil)
- Allows Integration of Passive & Active Comp. (Gate Drive, Curr. & Temp. Measur.)
- **Disruptive Improvement (!)**

## ► Multi-Functional PCB

- Multiple Signal and High Current Layers
- Integrated Thermal Management



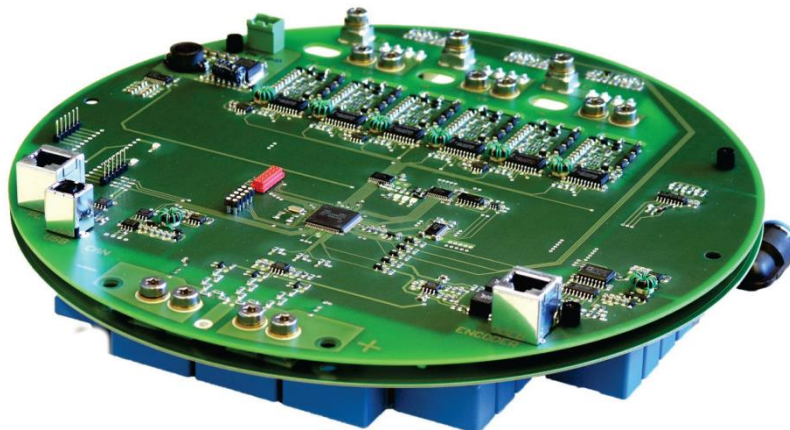
- Substantial Change of Manufact. Process → "Fab-Less" Power Electronics
- Advanced Simul. Tools of Main Importance (Coupling with Measurment.)
- Testing is Challenging (Only Voltage Measurement)
- Once Fully Utilized – Disruptive Change (!)



## ► 3ph. Inverter in p<sup>2</sup>pack-Technology

- **Rated Power** **32kVA**
- **Input Voltage** **700V<sub>DC</sub>**
- **Output Frequency** **0 ... 800Hz**
- **Switching Frequency** **20kHz**

Source:   

## ► Latest Systems Using WBG Devices → GaN

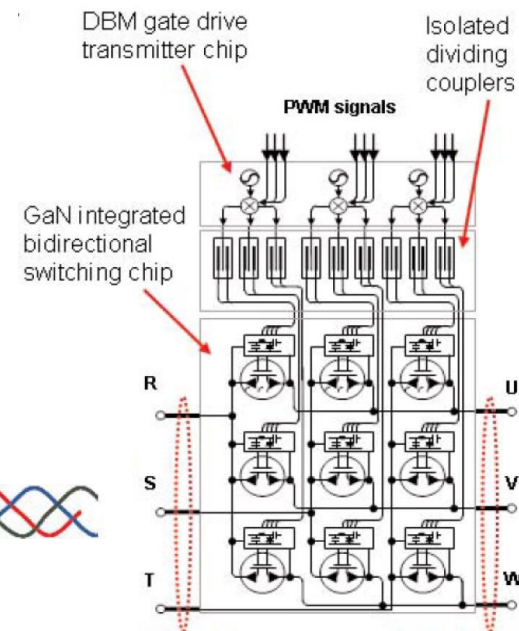
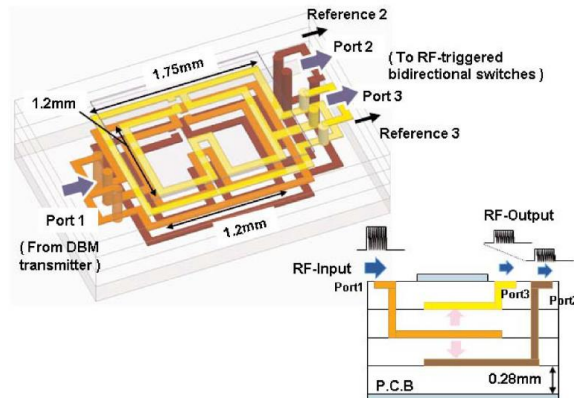
Source: **Panasonic** ISSCC 2014

### ■ GaN 3x3 Matrix Converter Chipset with Drive-By-Microwave (DBM) Technology

- 9 Dual-Gate Normally-Off Gate-Injection Bidirectional Switches
- DBM Gate Drive Transmitter Chip & Isolating Dividing Couplers
- Extremely Small Overall Footprint -  $25 \times 18 \text{ mm}^2$  (600V, 10A – 5kW Motor)



5.0GHz Isolated (5kVDC) Dividing Coupler





## Power Semiconductors Gate Drive Packaging

- Disruptive Changes Happened – WBG, LTJT
- Cont. Further Improvements – Packaging, Reliability (!)
- Main Challenges to Manufacturers
- Main Challenges to General Users



## ► Capacitors

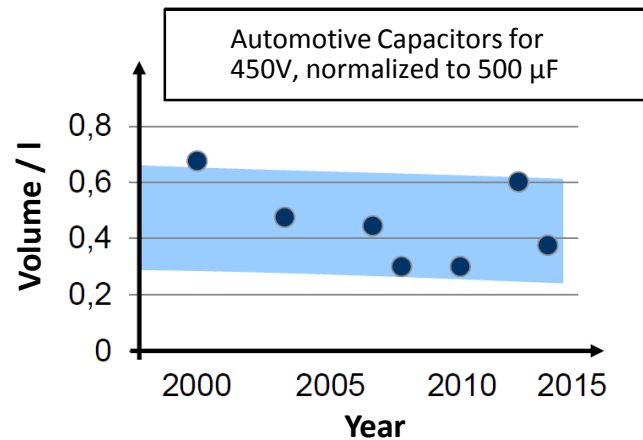
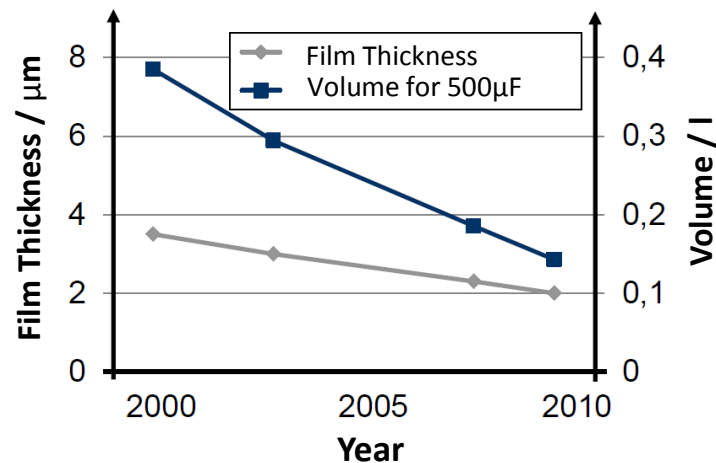
- Relatively (Slow) Technology Progress
- Recently Significant Improvement (Packaging) – e.g. CeraLink

### — Foil Capacitors

OPP = Oriented Polypropylene  
PHD = Advanced OPP  
COC = Cycloolefine Copolymers

Source: EPCOS

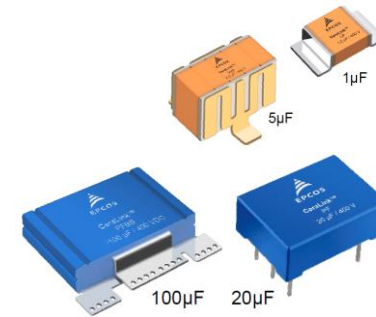
	2000	2005	2010	2015
Energy Density	100%	100%	110%	120%
Film Material	OPP	PHD	COC	?
Max. Temperature	105 °C	115 °C	150 °C	160 °C
Self Inductance	60 nH	30 nH	15 nH	10 nH



Source:  
Dr. Plikat et al.  
Volkswagen AG  
PCIM 2013

## ► Power Chip (Foil) Capacitors

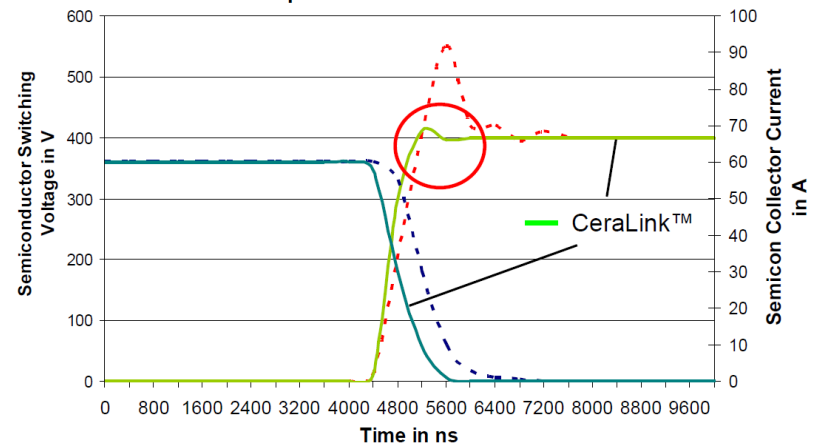
- Targeting Automotive Applications up to 90kW
- High Voltage Ratings / High Current Densities ( $>2\text{A}/\mu\text{F}$ )
- Low Volume / High Volume Utilization Factor
- Low Ind. Busbar Connection / Low Switching Overshoot



Source:



Principle Semiconductor Overshoot





## ► Magnetics

→ There is No “Moore's Law” in Power Electronics !

### ■ Example: Scaling Law of Transformers

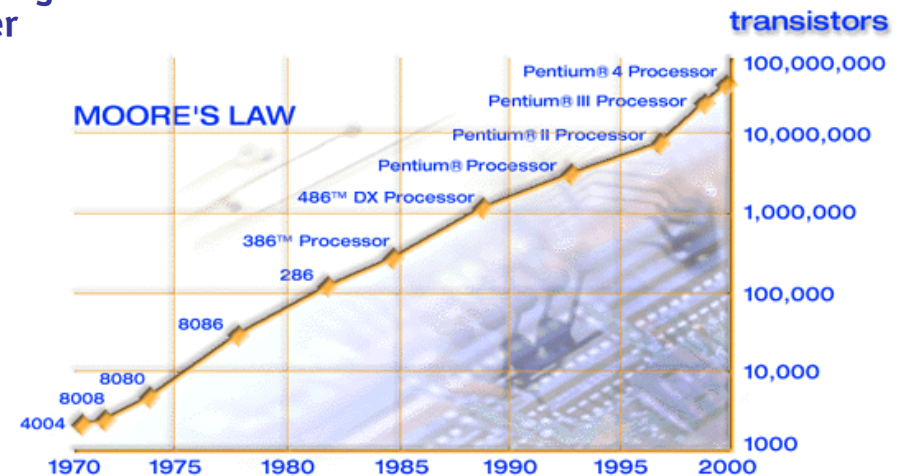
$$A_{Core} A_{Wdg} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \frac{P_t}{k_W J_{rms} \hat{B}_{max} f}$$

$\hat{B}_{max}$  ... Relatively Slow Technology Progress  
 $J_{rms}$  ... Limited by Conductivity – No Change  
 $f$  ... Limited by HF Losses & Converter & General Thermal Limit



### ■ No Fundamentally New Concepts of

→ We have to Hope for Progress in Material Science



## ► Magnetics

→ There is No “Moore's Law” in Power Electronics !

### ■ Example: Scaling Law of Transformers

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

↑



### ■ No Fundamentally New Concepts of

→ We have to Hope for Progress in Material Science (Magnetic, Thermal – Could take > 10Years)



## ► Operation Frequency Limit

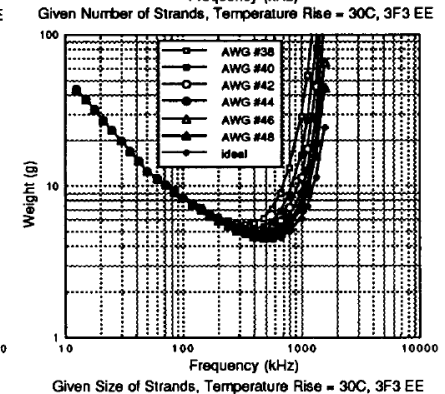
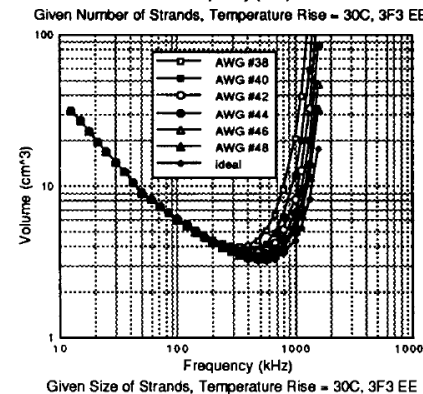
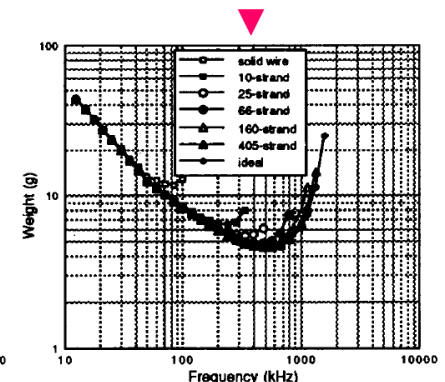
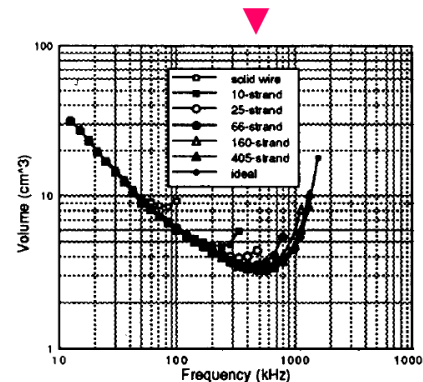
### ■ Relationship of Volume and Weight vs. Frequency

- Higher Frequency Results in Smaller Transformer Size only Up to Certain Limit
- Opt. Frequencies for Min. Weight and Min. Volume (!)



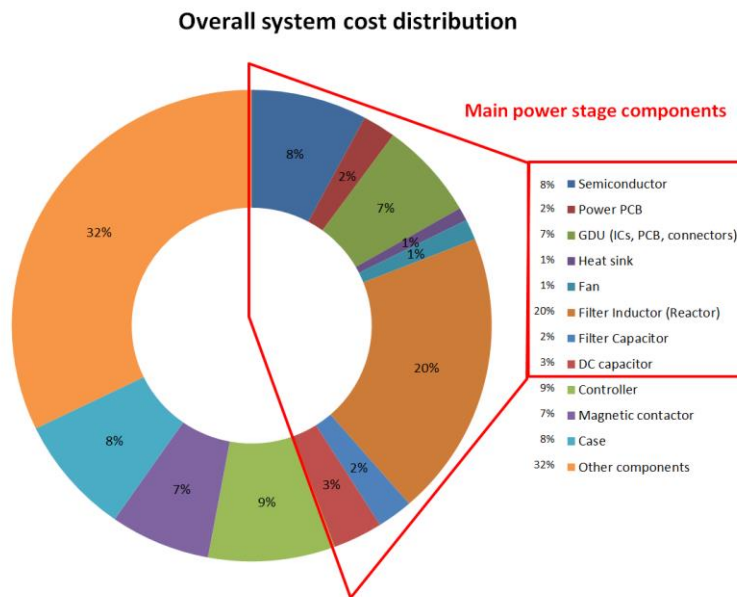
Source: Philips

### ■ 100Vx1A 1.1 Transformers, 3F3, 30°C Temp. Rise



## ► Influence of Magnetics on System Costs

### ■ Example of 20kVA UPS System (Single-Stage Output Filter)



■ 44% of Main Power Stage Costs (!)





## Magnetics Capacitors

- Large Volume Share / Cost Factor
- Only Gradual Improvements
- **Magnetics**
  - Careful Design Absolutely Mandatory (!)
  - Hope for Adv. Power Transformer Materials
  - Improved Heat Management
- **Capacitors**
  - High Frequ. Operation for Minim. Vol. (e.g. DC Link)
  - Hope for Adv. Dielectrics

## **Converter Topologies**



# History and Development of the Electronic Power Converter

E. F. W. ALEXANDERSON  
FELLOW AIEE

E. L. PHILLIPI  
NONMEMBER AIEE

**T**HE TERM "electronic power converter" needs some definition. The object may be to convert power from direct current to alternating current for d-c power transmission, or to convert power from one frequency into another, or to serve as a commutator for operating an a-c motor at variable speed, or for transforming high-voltage direct current into low-voltage direct current. Other objectives may be mentioned. It is thus evidently not the objective but the means which characterizes the electronic power converter. Other names have been used tentatively but have not been accepted. The emphasis is on electronic means and the term is limited to conversion of power as distinguished from electric energy for purposes of communication. Thus the name is a definition.

Paper 44-143, recommended by the AIEE committee on electronics for presentation at the AIEE summer technical meeting, St. Louis, Mo., June 26-30, 1944. Manuscript submitted April 25, 1944, made available for printing May 18, 1944.

E. F. W. ALEXANDERSON and E. L. PHILLIPI are with the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

654 TRANSACTIONS

Alexanderson, Phillipi—Electronic Converter

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

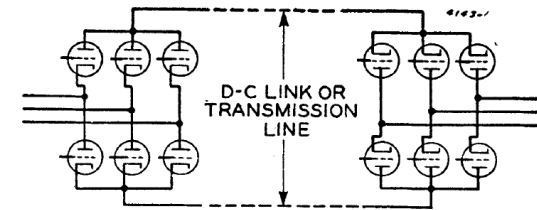


Figure 1. Electronic converter, dual-conversion type

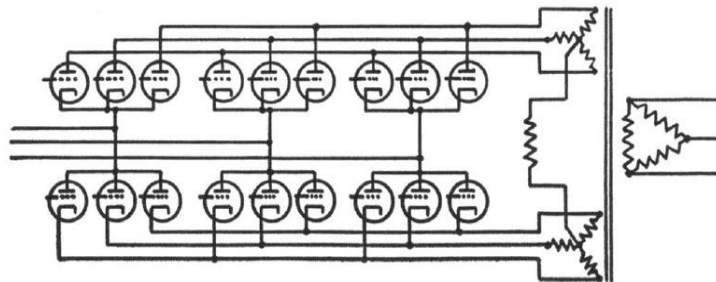


Figure 4 (left).  
Single-conversion  
type frequency  
changer

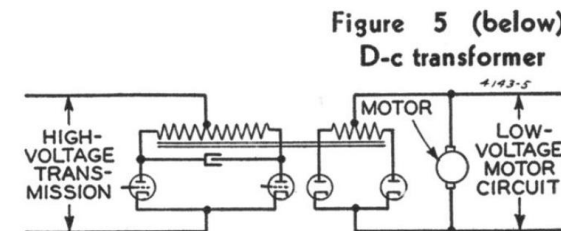


Figure 5 (below).  
D-c transformer

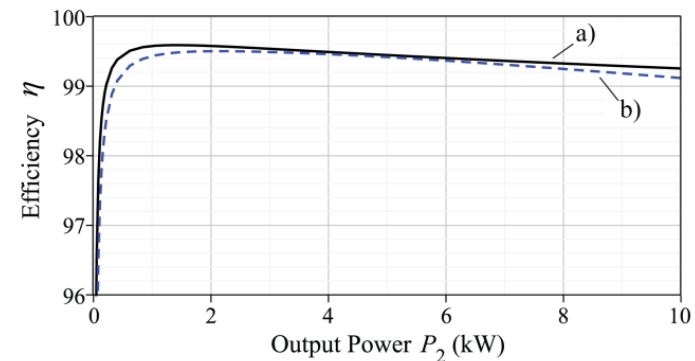
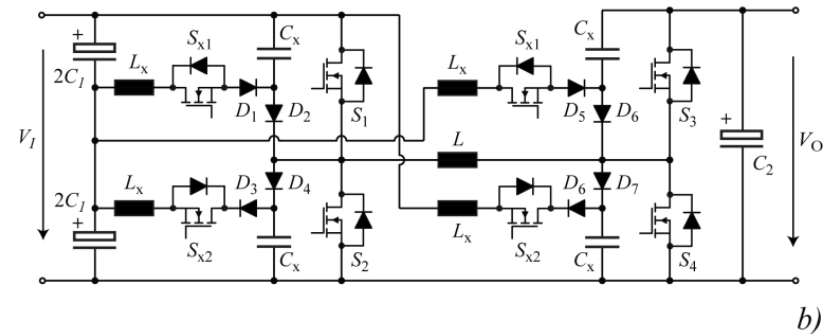
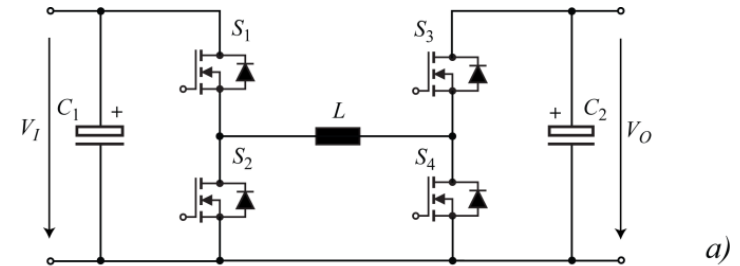
## ► Auxiliary Circuits

- Example: Non-Isolated Buck+Boost DC-DC Converter for Automotive Applications



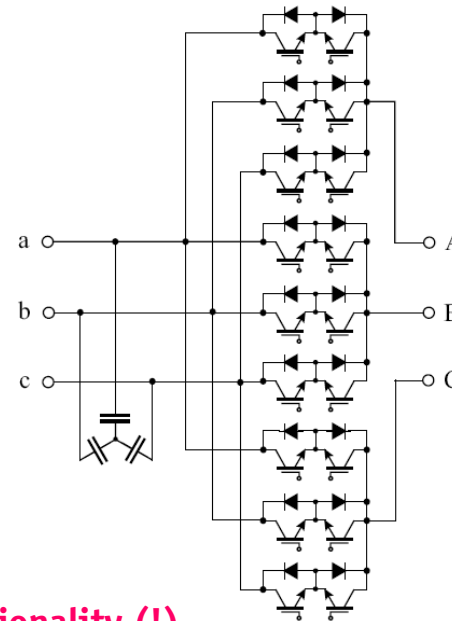
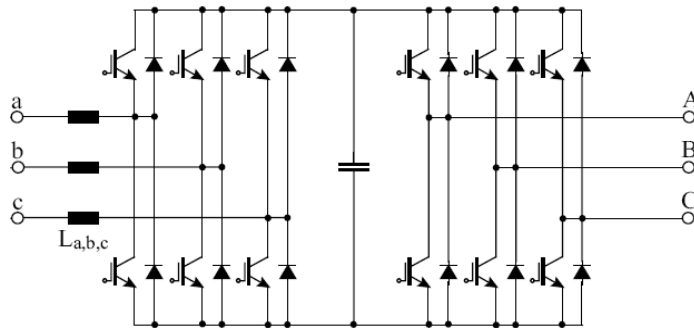
98% Efficiency  
29kW/dm<sup>3</sup>

- Instead of Adding Aux. Circuits  
Change Operation of BASIC (!) Structure -  
"Natural" Performance Limit



## ► Integration of Functions

- Examples:
  - \* Single-Stage Approaches / Matrix Converters
  - \* Multi-Functional Utilization (Machine as Inductor of DC/DC Conv.)
  - \* etc.

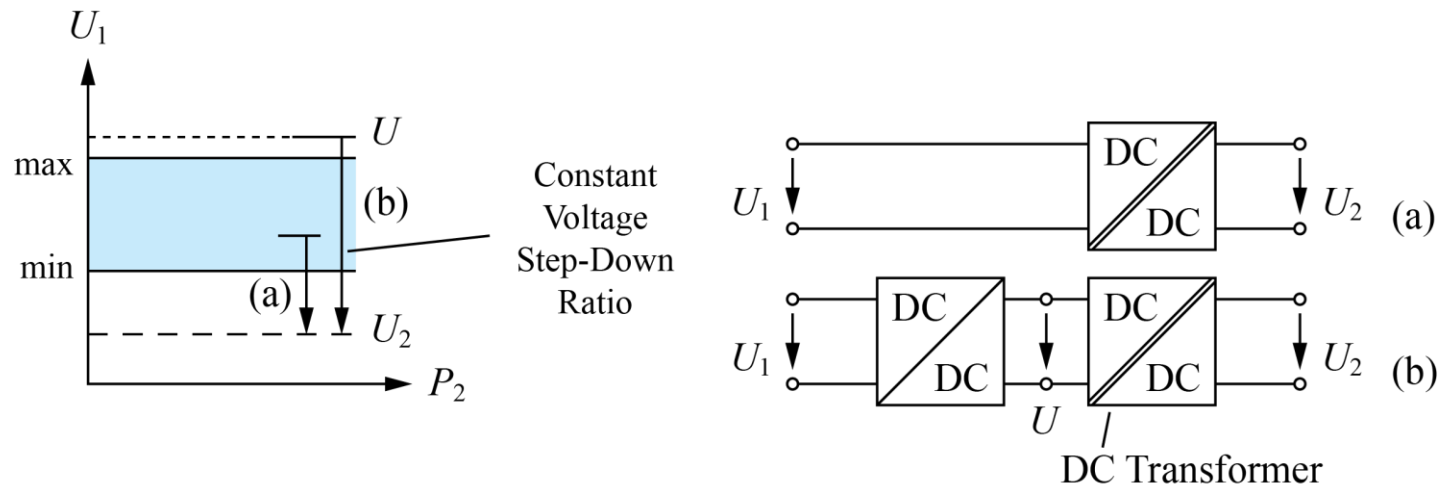


- Integration Restricts Controllability / Overall Functionality (!)
- Typ. Lower Performance / Higher Control Compl. of Integr. Solution
- Basic Physical Properties remain Unchanged (e.g. Filtering Effort)



## ► Extreme Restriction of Functionality

- Highly Optimized Specific Functionality → High Performance for Specific Task
- Restriction of Functionality → Lower Costs



- Example of Wide Input Voltage Range Isolated DC/DC Converter



# $\Sigma$ New Topologies



## → Some Exceptions

- Multi-Cell Converters
- 3-ph. AC/DC Buck Converter
- etc.

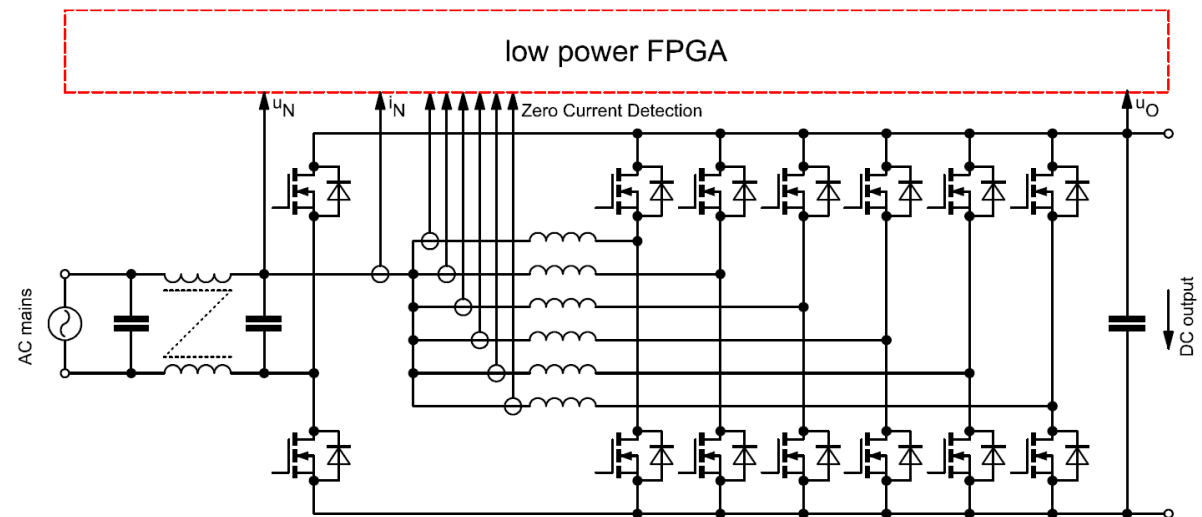


## Multi-Cell Converters

- Ultra-Efficient 1ph. PFC
- 1ph. Telecom PFC Rectifier

## ► Bidirectional Ultra-Efficient 1- $\Phi$ PFC Mains Interface

★ 99.36% @ 1.2kW/dm<sup>3</sup>



- Employs NO SiC Power Semiconductors -- Si SJ MOSFETs only

## ► Bidirectional Ultra-Efficient 1- $\Phi$ PFC Mains Interface

★ 99.36% @ 1.2kW/dm<sup>3</sup>

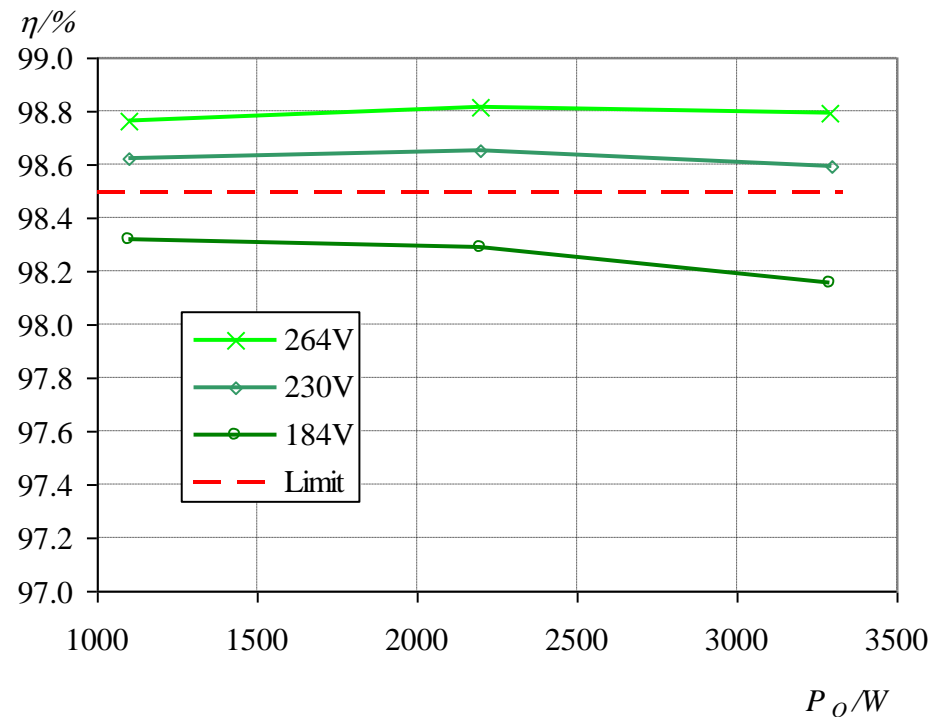


- Employs NO SiC Power Semiconductors -- Si SJ MOSFETs only



## ► 1- $\Phi$ Telecom Boost-Type TCM PFC Rectifier

- Input Voltage 1-ph. 184...264V<sub>AC</sub>
- Output Voltage 420V<sub>DC</sub>
- Rated Power 3.3kW



★ 98.6% @ 4.5kW/dm<sup>3</sup>



## Topologies Modulation Schemes Control Schemes

### → Topologies

- Basic Concepts Extremely Well Known - Mature
- Comprehensive Comparative Evaluations Missing (!)
- Promising Multi-Cell Concepts (!)

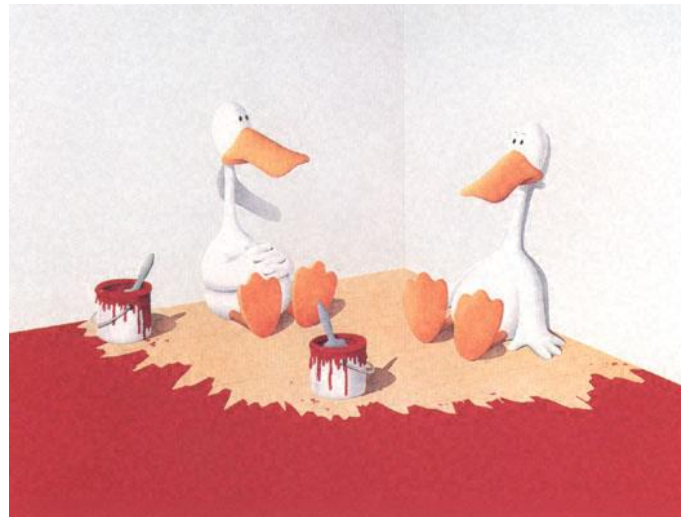
### → Modulations / Control Schemes

- Basic Concepts Extremely Well Known - Mature
- Digital Power – All Diff. Kinds of Functions

## ► Observation

- Very Limited Room for Further Performance Improvement !

Efficiency



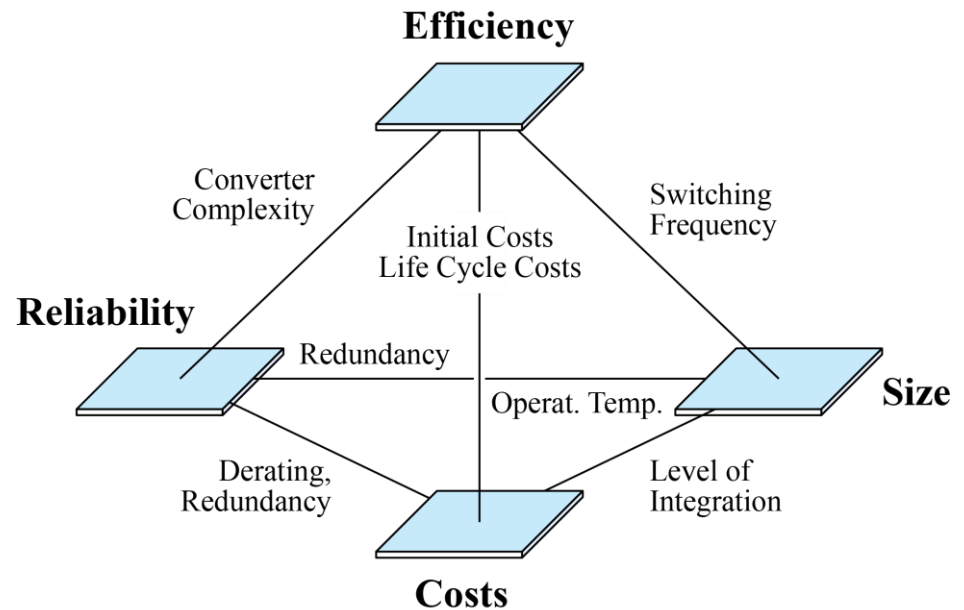
Power  
Density



## ► Design Challenge

- Mutual Couplings of Performance Indices → Trade-Offs

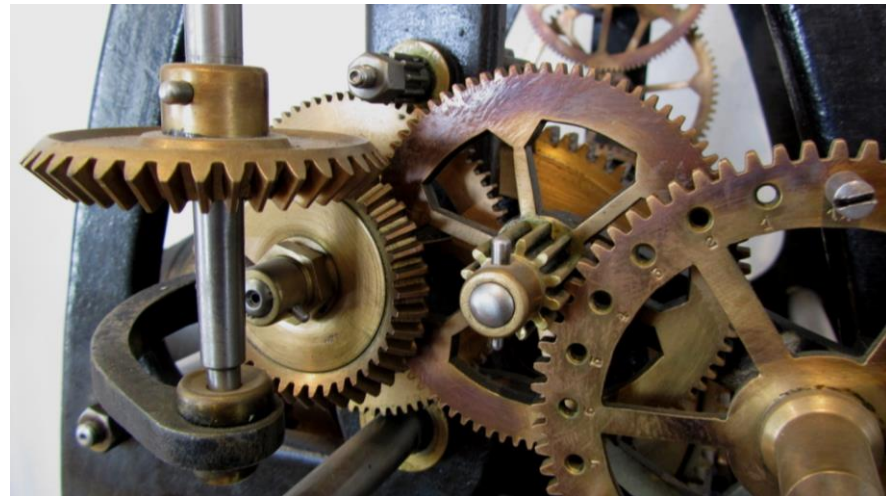
- For Optimized System Several Performance Indices Cannot be Improved Simultaneously



## ► Design Challenge

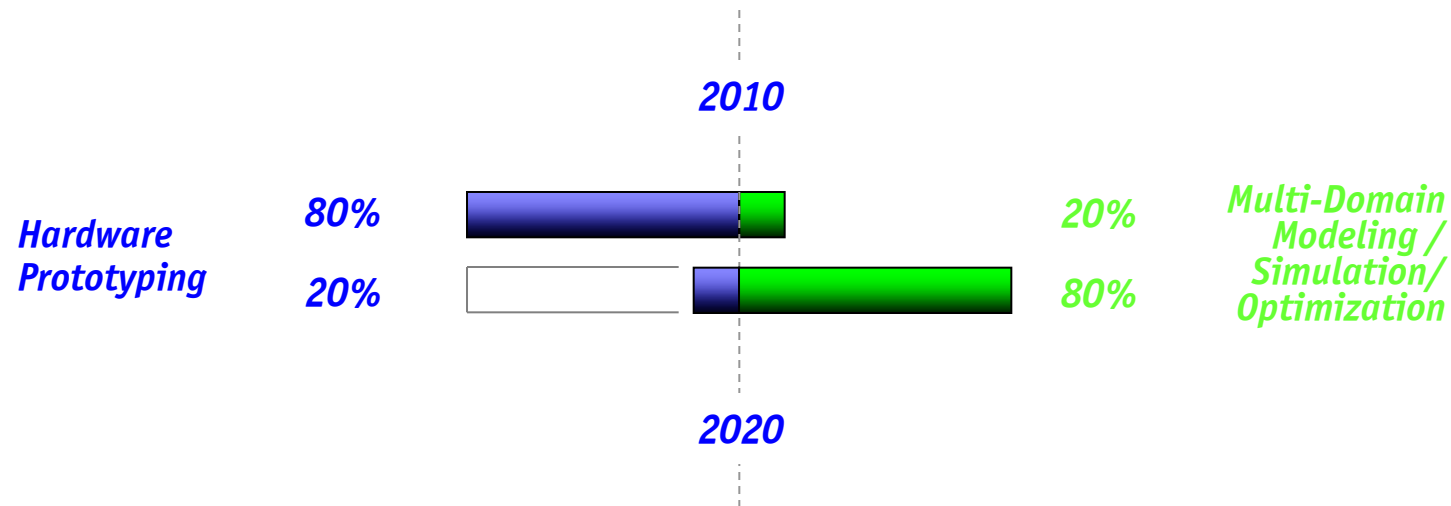
- Mutual Couplings of Performance Indices → Trade-Offs

- For Optimized System Several Performance Indices Cannot be Improved Simultaneously



## ► Future Design Process

### ■ Challenge: Virtual Prototyping



- Reduces Time-to-Market
- More Application Specific Solutions (PCB, Power Module, and even Chips)
- Only Way to Understand Mutual Dependencies of Performances / Sensitivities (!)
- Simulate What Cannot Any More be Measured (High Integration Level)



## Virtual Prototyping

### → Remaining Challenges

- Comprehensive Modeling (e.g. EMI, Reliability)
- Model Order Reduction

... will Take a “Few” More Years



## “Power Electronics 1.0”

Maturing → Reduce Costs, Ensure Reliability (!)



“New Challenges”

## ► Consider Converters like “ICs”

- If Only Incremental Improvements of Converters Can Be Expected

→ Shift to New Paradigm !



$$p(t) \rightarrow \int_0^t p(t) dt$$

- “Converter” → “Systems” (Microgrid) or “Hybrid Systems” (Autom. / Aircraft)
- “Time” → “Integral over Time”
- “Power” → “Energy”

## ► Consider Converters like “ICs”

- If Only Incremental Improvements of Converters Can Be Expected

→ Shift to New Paradigm !



$$p(t) \rightarrow \int_0^t p(t) dt$$

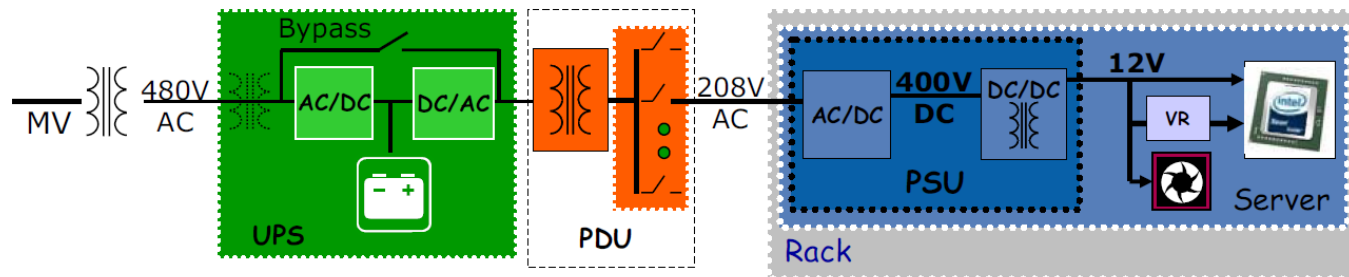
- |                       |   |                                                                     |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| — Power Conversion    | → | Energy Management / Distribution                                    |
| — Converter Analysis  | → | System Analysis (incl. Interactions Conv. / Conv. or Load or Mains) |
| — Converter Stability | → | System Stability (Autonom. Cntrl of Distributed Converters)         |
| — Cap. Filtering      | → | Energy Storage & Demand Side Management                             |
| — Costs / Efficiency  | → | Life Cycle Costs / Mission Efficiency / Supply Chain Efficiency     |
| — etc.                |   |                                                                     |

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

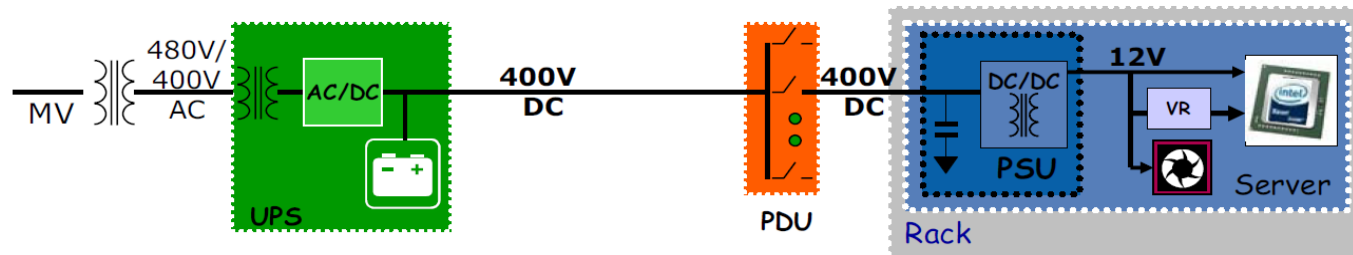
- Reduces Losses & Footprint
- Improves Reliability & Power Quality

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

Source: 2007



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

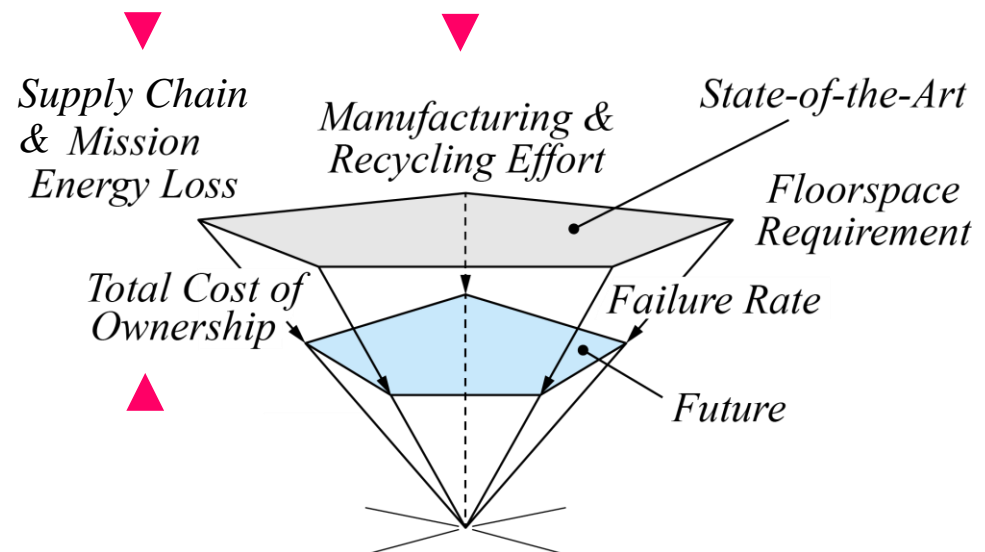


- Proposal for Public +380V<sub>DC</sub>/-380V<sub>DC</sub> Systems by Philips, , etc.

## ► Power Electronics **Systems** Performance Figures/Trends

### ■ Complete Set of New Performance Indices

- Power Density [kW/m<sup>2</sup>]
- Environm. Impact [kWs/kW]
- TCO [\$/kW]
- Mission Efficiency [%]
- Failure Rate [h<sup>-1</sup>]





## System-Oriented Analysis

### → Main Challenges

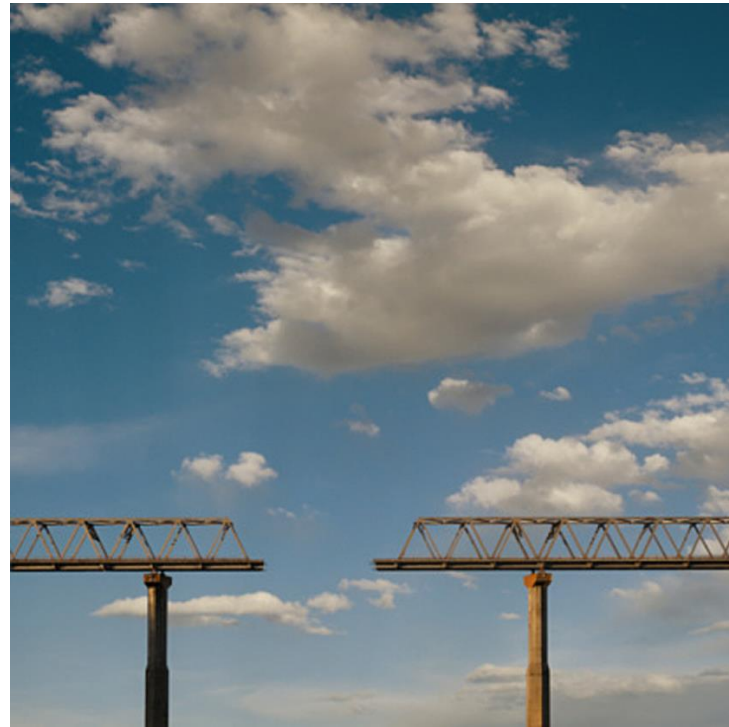
- Get to Know the Details of Power Systems
- Theory of Stability of Converter Clusters
- Autonomous Control

Remarks on  
University Research



## ► University Research Orientation

### ■ General Observations



- Gap between Univ. Research and Industry Needs
- In Some Areas Industry Is Leading the Field



## ► University Research Orientation

### ■ Gap between Univ. Research and Industry Needs

#### — Industry Priorities

1. Costs
2. Costs
3. Costs



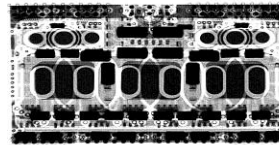
#### — Basic Discrepancy !

Most Important Industry Variable, but  
Unknown Quantity to Universities

- Multiple Objectives ...
- Low Complexity
- Modularity / Scalability
- Robustness
- Ease of Integration into System

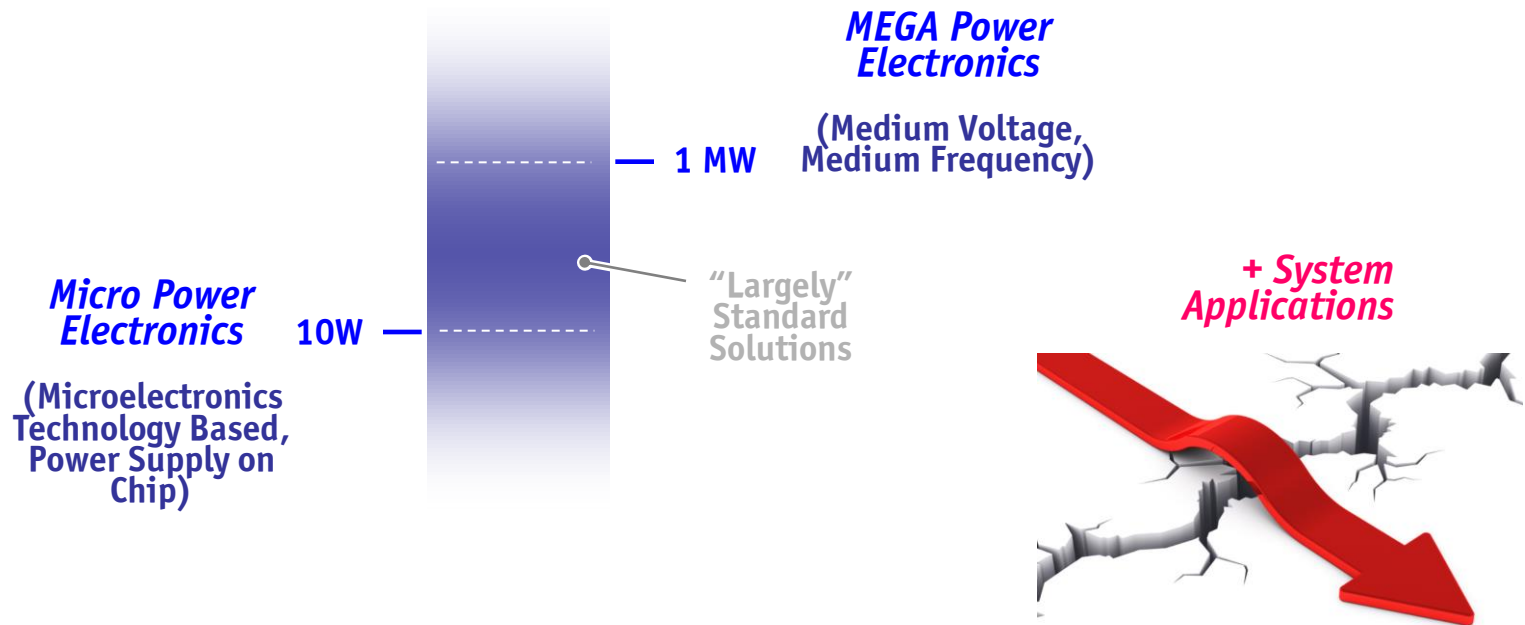
## ► University Research Orientation

- In Some Areas **Industry Is Leading the Field !**



- Industry Low-Power Power Electronics (below 1kW) Heavily Integrated – PCB Based Demonstrators Do Not Provide Too Much Information (!)  
Future: “Fab-Less” Research
- Same Situation above 100kW (Costs, Mech. Efforts, Safety Issues with Testing etc.)
- Talk AND Build Megawatt Converters (!)

## ► University Research Orientation



- Bridge to Power Systems
- Establish (Closer) University / Industry (Technology) Partnerships
- Establish Cost Models, Consider Reliability as Performance

## ► University Education Orientation

### ■ Need to Insist on High Standards for Education

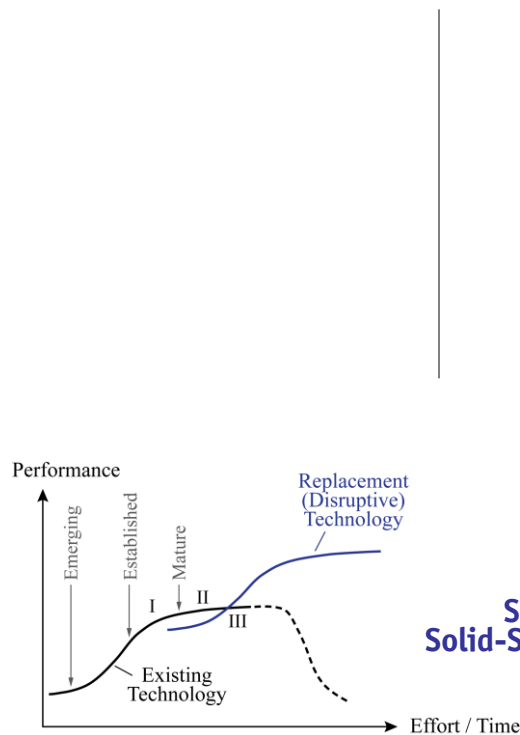
- \* Introduce New Media
- \* Show Latest State of the Art (requires New Textbooks)
- \* Teach Converter Design (Synthesis not Analysis)
- \* **Interdisciplinarity**
- \* Introduce New Media (Animation)
- \* Lab Courses!

→ The Only Way to Finally Cross the Borders (Barriers) to  
Neighboring Disciplines !

# Finally, ...

\_\_\_\_\_ **Power Electronics 2.0** \_\_\_\_\_→

## ► Technology S-Curve

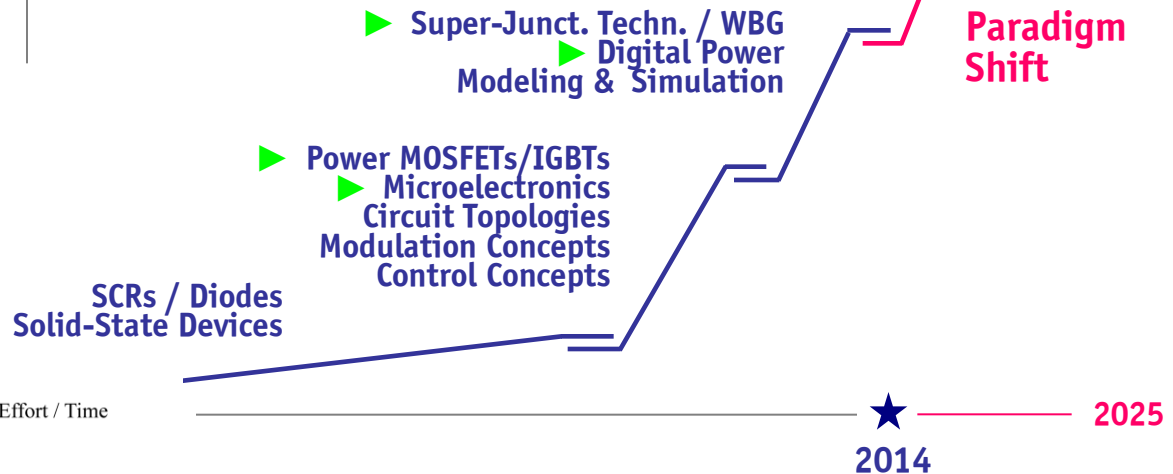


...after Switches and Topologies

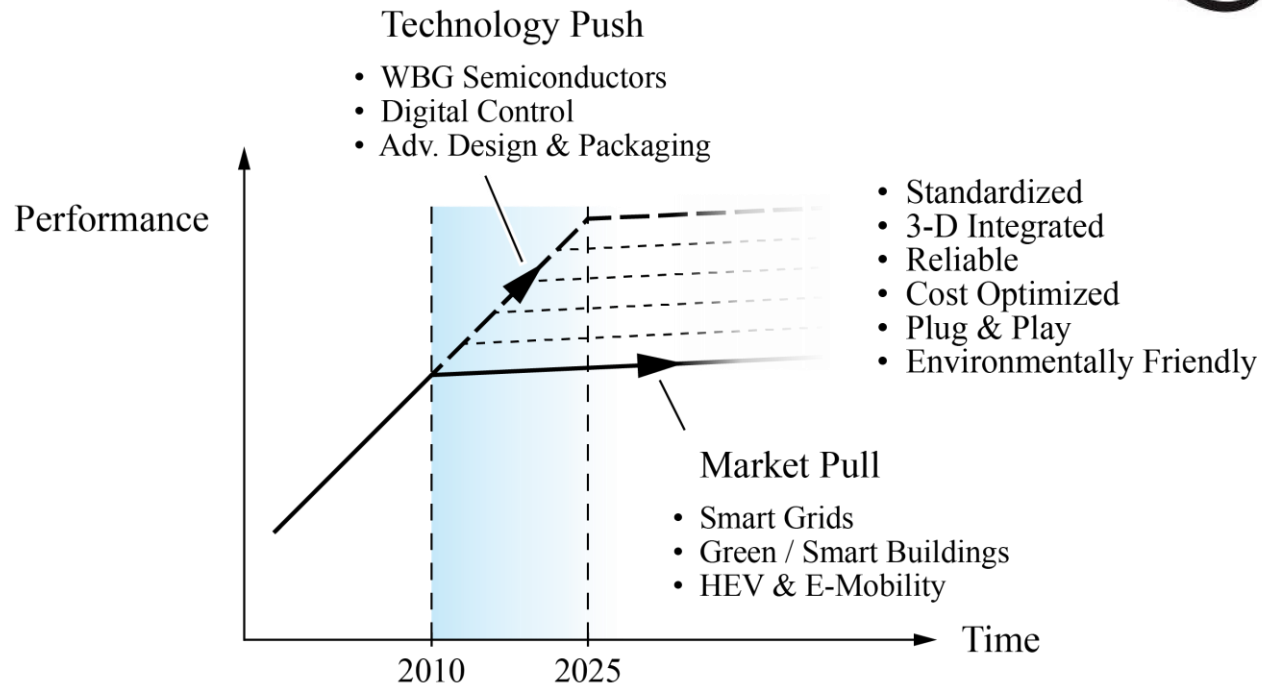
# "Passives"& Advanced Design

THE Main Challenges of the  
Next Decade

**+ Costs**  
**+ Systems**



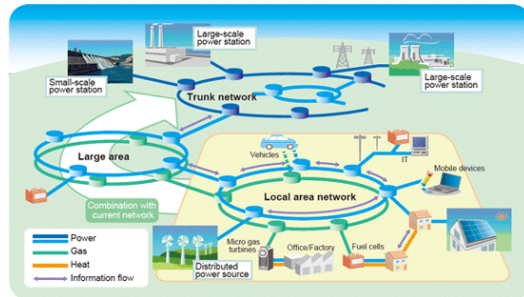
## ► Future Developments



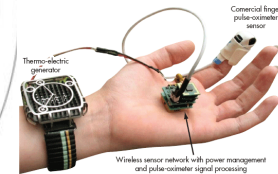
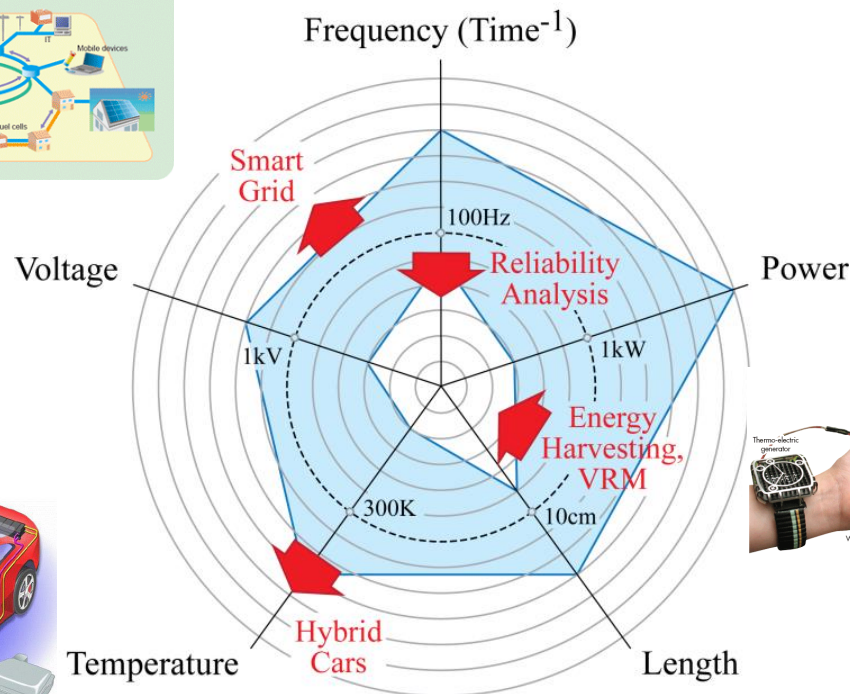
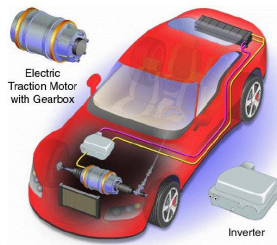
■ **WBG Semiconductors + Next Level of Integration**

■ **New Applications Could Establish Mass Markets solving the WBG Chicken-and-Egg Problem**

## ► Future Extensions of Power Electronics Applications



Source: AIST





# Power Electronics 2.0

## New Application Areas

- Smart XXX (Integration of Energy/Power & ICT)
- Micro-Power Electronics (VHF, Link to Microelectronics)
- MEGA-Power Electronics (MV, MF)

## Paradigm Shift

- From "Converters" to "Systems"
- From "Inner Function" to "Interaction" Analysis
- From "Power" to "Energy" (incl. Economical Aspects)

## Enablers / Topics

- New (WBG) Power Semiconductors (and Drivers)
- Adv. Digital Signal Processing (on all Levels – Switch to System)
- PEBBs / Cells & Automated (+ Application Specific) Manufacturing
- Multi-Cell Power Conversion
- Multi-Domain Modeling / Multi-Objective Optim. / CAD
- Cybersecurity Strategies

**Thank You !**

## Questions ?

