



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

SAND2020-2790C

# ENERGY STORAGE POWER ELECTRONICS PROGRAM



*PRESENTED BY*  
Stan Atcitty, Ph.D.



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SAND2019-XXXXXX

# ENERGY STORAGE R&D AT SANDIA



## BATTERY MATERIALS

Large portfolio of R&D projects related to advanced materials, new battery chemistries, electrolyte materials, and membranes.



## CELL & MODULE LEVEL SAFETY

Evaluate safety and performance of electrical energy storage systems down to the module and cell level.



## POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Research and development regarding reliability and performance of power electronics and power conversion systems.



## SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Test laboratories evaluate and optimize performance of megawatt-hour class energy storage systems in grid-tied applications.



## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Work with industry to develop, install, commission, and operate electrical energy storage systems.



## STRATEGIC OUTREACH

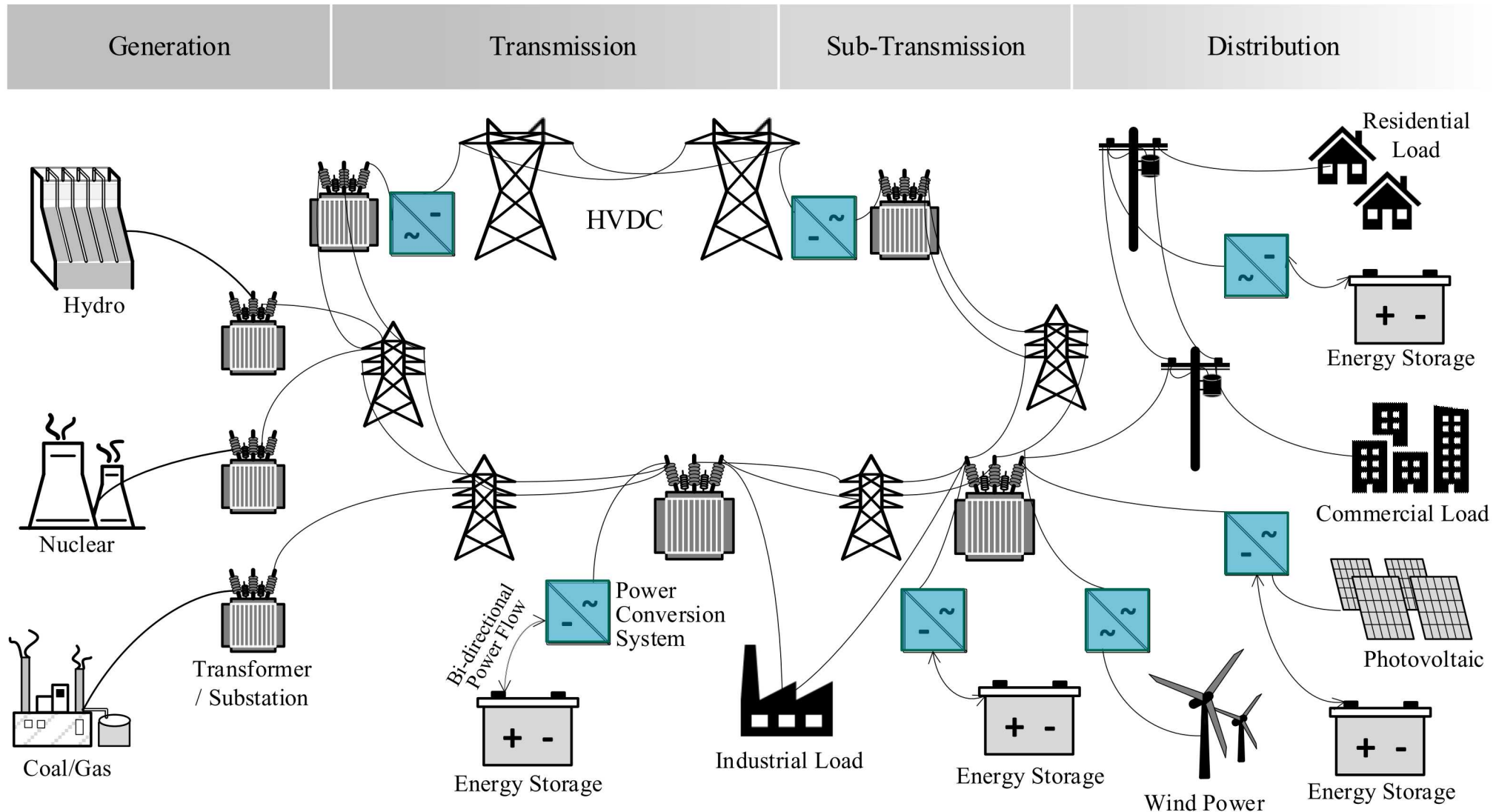
Maintain the ESS website and DOE Global Energy Storage Database, organize the annual Peer Review meeting, and host webinars and conferences.



## GRID ANALYTICS

Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.

Wide ranging R&D covering energy storage technologies with applications in the grid, transportation, and stationary storage



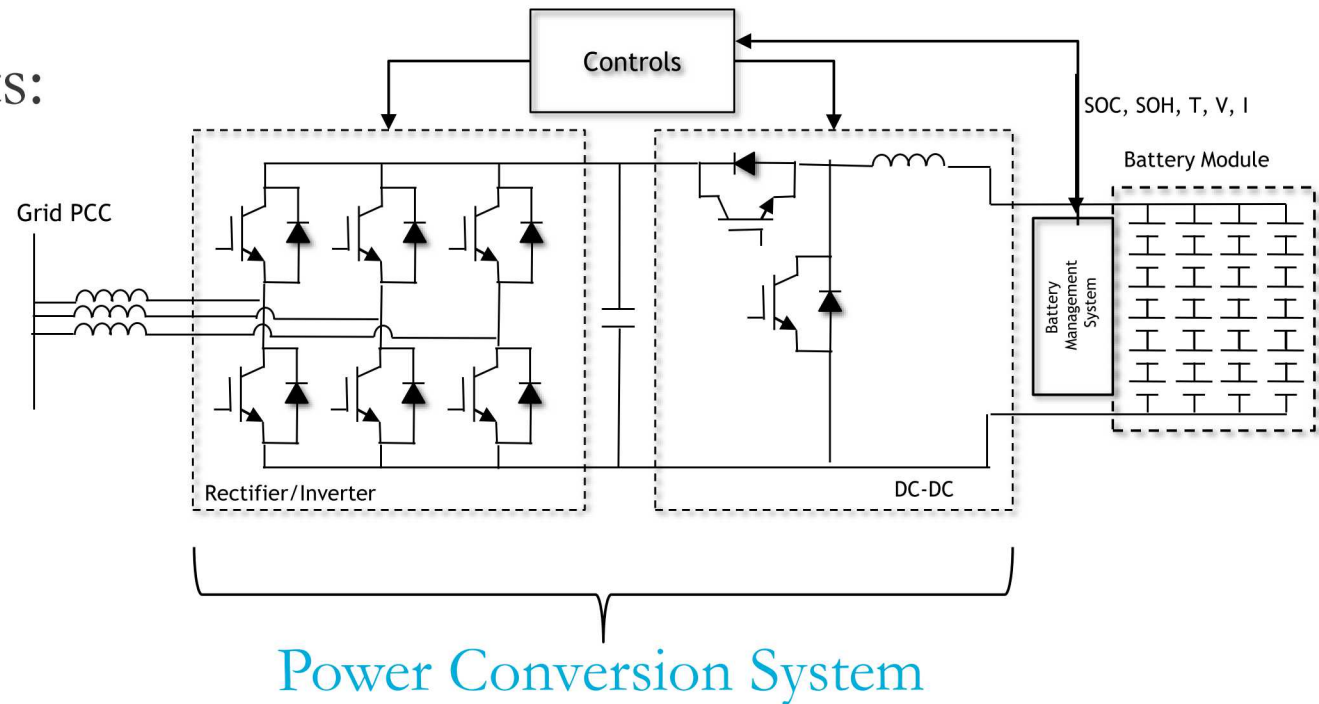


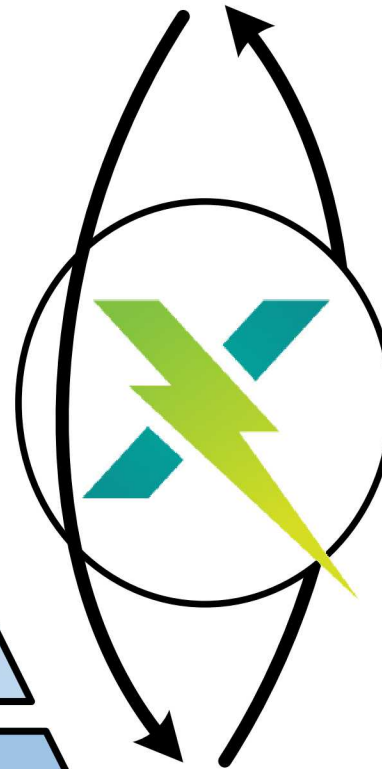
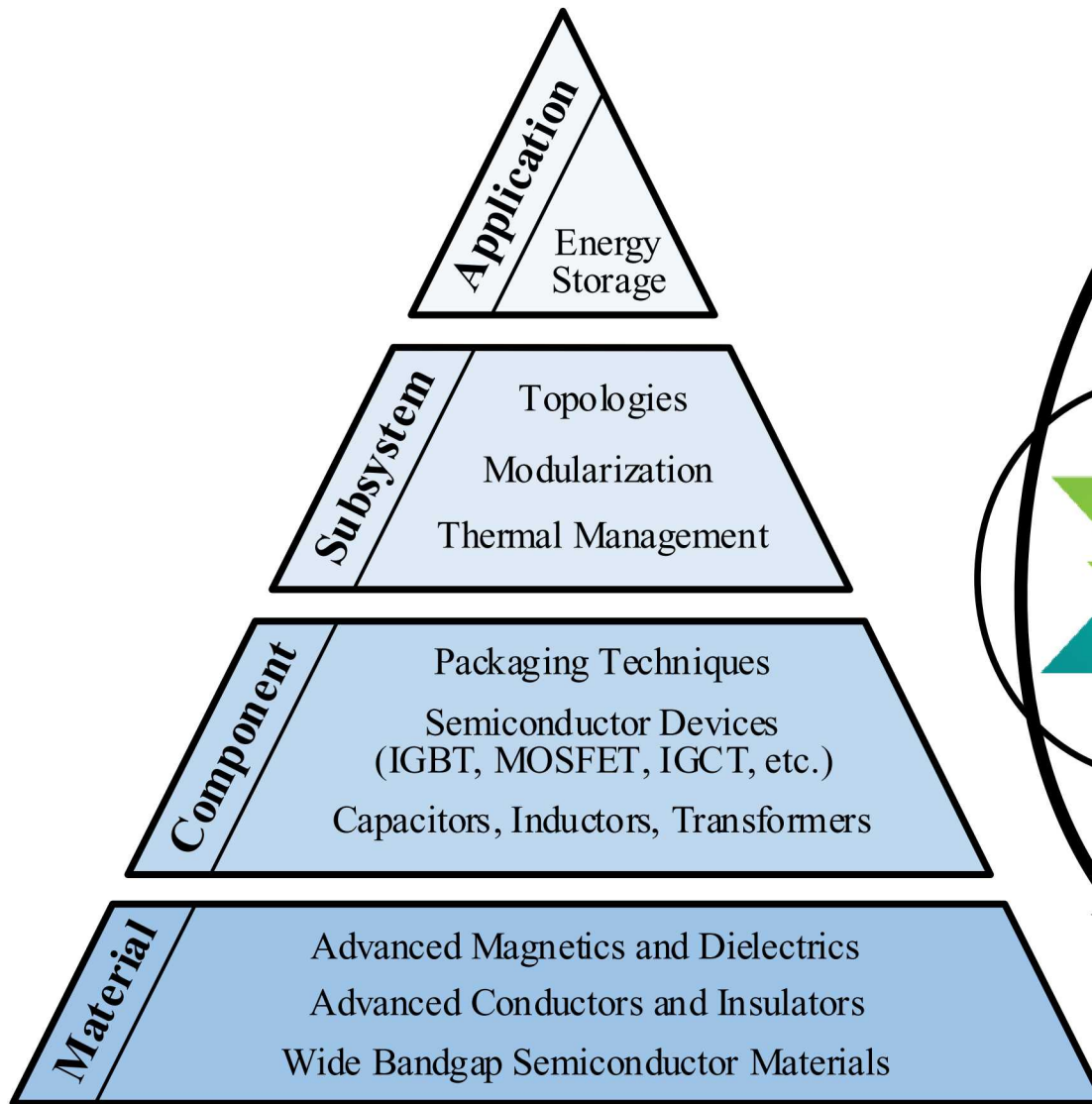
# BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM



Battery Energy Storage System contain three major components:

- Battery Module
- Monitoring and Control System
- Power Conversion System





Reliability is fundamentally a challenge in system integration

Reliable power electronics require R&D at all levels of

Strategic Principles:

- Optimally match advanced component and material capabilities to the needs of emerging applications
- Facilitate a two-way information transfer between basic science research efforts and end-use applications
- In assessing new technologies, trust but verify through rigorous hardware experimentation



- Contact:** Jake Mueller (jmueller@sandia.gov), Stan Atcitty (satcitt@sandia.gov)
- Problem:** New power conversion solutions are needed to support the expanding role of energy storage in the grid
- SNL Approach:** Develop new power conversion topologies and intelligent control strategies; leverage the capabilities of advanced components and materials; verify performance through hardware experimentation
- Key Outcomes:** Modular and fault-tolerant hardware architectures improve the reliability, scalability, efficiency, and flexibility of utility-scale storage
- Key Capabilities:** Real-time simulation; rapid prototyping and electrical fabrication; energy storage emulation at cell, module, and system level; converter analysis in 30 kW bidirectional hardware-in-the-loop testbed, fault insertion and destructive testing







◦ **Contact:** Jon Bock, jabock@sandia.gov

## Why do they fail?

- **Excessive heating** from electrical losses ( $\tan \delta$ , ESL, ESR)
- **Current spikes** leading to electrode arcing/evaporation (polymer film caps)

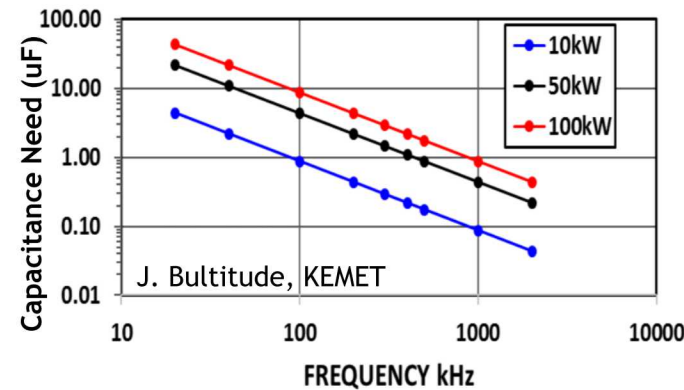
## How do they fail?

- Heating causes melting, defect electromigration, or other problems
- Capacitance loss, shorting, open-circuit failure, depending on cap type and failure mode

## How are we increasing reliability?

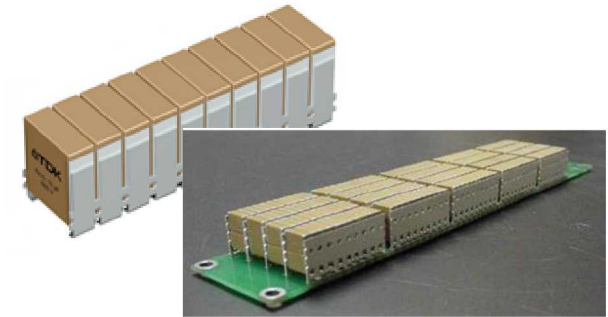
- Evaluation of ceramic capacitor replacements for polymer capacitors in high  $dV/dT$  situations
- Evaluation of lifetime and identification of degradation in ceramic capacitors designed for DC-Link applications (e.g. Ceralink)
- Investigation of Next-Generation dielectric materials
  - $(\text{Bi,Zn})\text{:BaTiO}_3$ 
    - 3 orders of magnitude higher resistivity than  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ , high permittivity up to  $200^\circ\text{C}+$ , low loss.
    - Processability concerns being addressed.
    - Degradation behavior unknown – investigating.

## Increased Frequency and Voltage Lowers Capacitance Needs

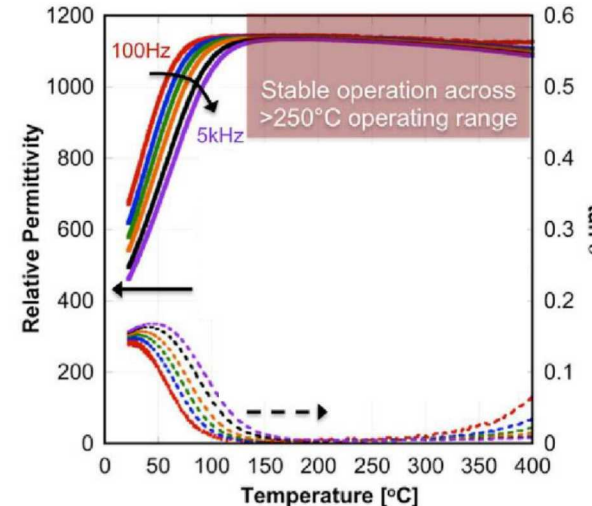


## In-Depth Lifetime Evaluation of Current-Gen Technologies

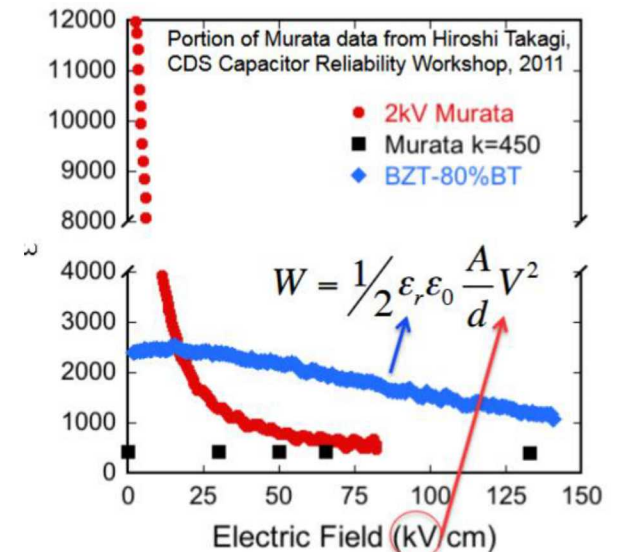
### KC-Link and Ceralink



## High Permittivity Dielectrics $>150^\circ\text{C}$



## High Permittivity *at high field*

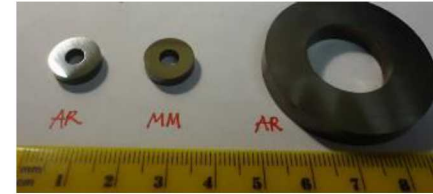


# ADVANCED COMPONENTS: MAGNETICS

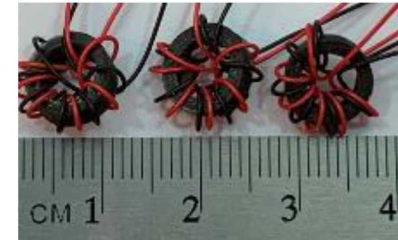


- **Contact:** Todd Monson, tmonson@sandia.gov
- **Why do they fail?**
  - **Excessive heating** from electrical losses
  - Saturation from current/voltage excursions, GMP, EMD
- **How do they fail?**
  - Heating causes deterioration in conductor insulation
  - Radiative heat from magnetics can cause neighboring components to fail
  - A saturating inductor or transformer becomes a short and can damage other components
- **How are we increasing reliability?**
  - New high magnetization core materials robust against saturation in the face of EMP, GMP, and other current/voltage excursions
  - Low loss magnetic core materials generate less waste heat
    - Less risk to conductor insulation
    - Less aging effects to other power electronics elements from elevated temperature
    - Only passive cooling required

$\gamma'$ -Fe<sub>4</sub>N toroidal inductive cores



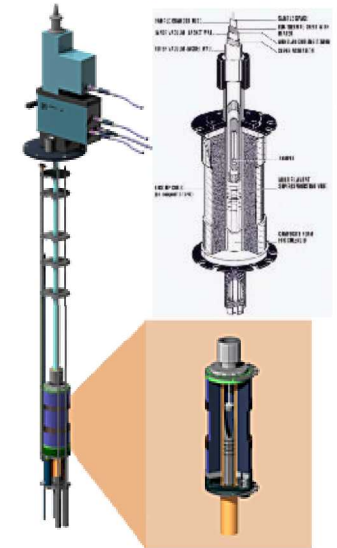
Composite magnetic cores wound for B-H analysis



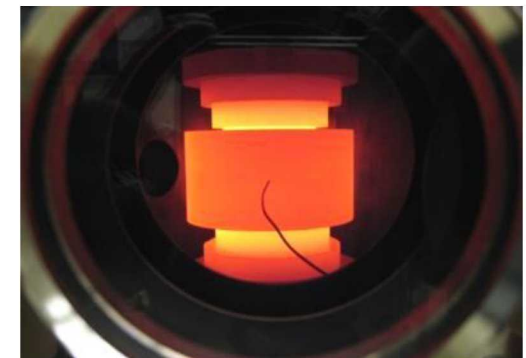
Iwatsu B-H analyzer



Quantum Design  
Magnetic Property  
Measurement System  
(MPMS)



Spark Plasma Sintering  
(in collaboration with UC Irvine)





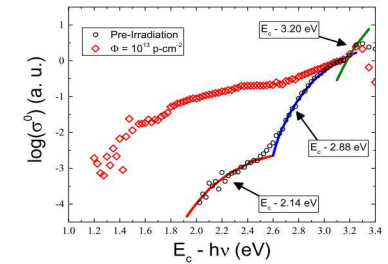


- **Contact:** Bob Kaplar, rjkapla@sandia.gov
- **Why do they fail?**
  - Failure can occur at package or die level
  - Defects of various types can form in the materials or interfaces between these materials (i.e. semiconductors, gate dielectrics, metals contacts, etc.)
  - Such defects can impact electrical properties of the device
- **How do they fail?**
  - Variety of types of failures can occur
    - Gradual – e.g. charges may be trapped in a defect in the material, producing a shift in the threshold voltage of a transistor or in the leakage current of a diode
    - Catastrophic – e.g. if a sufficient number of defects builds up in a gate dielectric, it may completely break down, resulting in a short
- **How are we increasing reliability?**
  - Sandia is studying how defects form in WBG power devices, and what their impact on performance is, by studying:
    - The operation of the devices in realistic circuits
    - The fundamental properties of defects
    - How defects impact device performance
    - How changes in device properties impact circuit and system performance

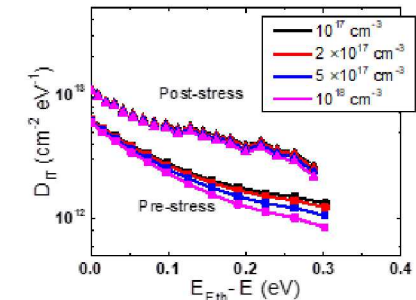
## WBG Material and Device Fabrication and Characterization



## Defect Spectroscopy



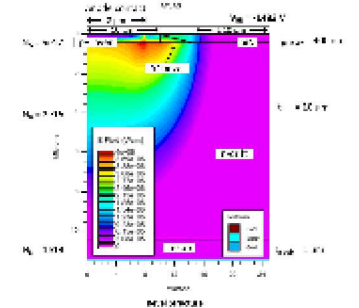
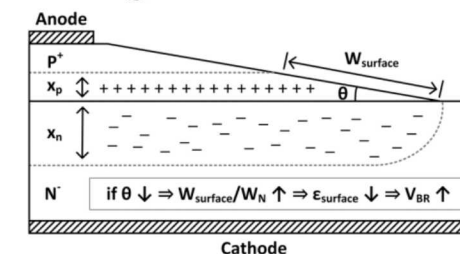
## Reliability Physics



## SiC MOSFET Reliability

## Switching Reliability Testing

## Novel Edge Terminations



## Device Simulation

New components are important,  
but not the whole story

### **Advanced Topologies:**

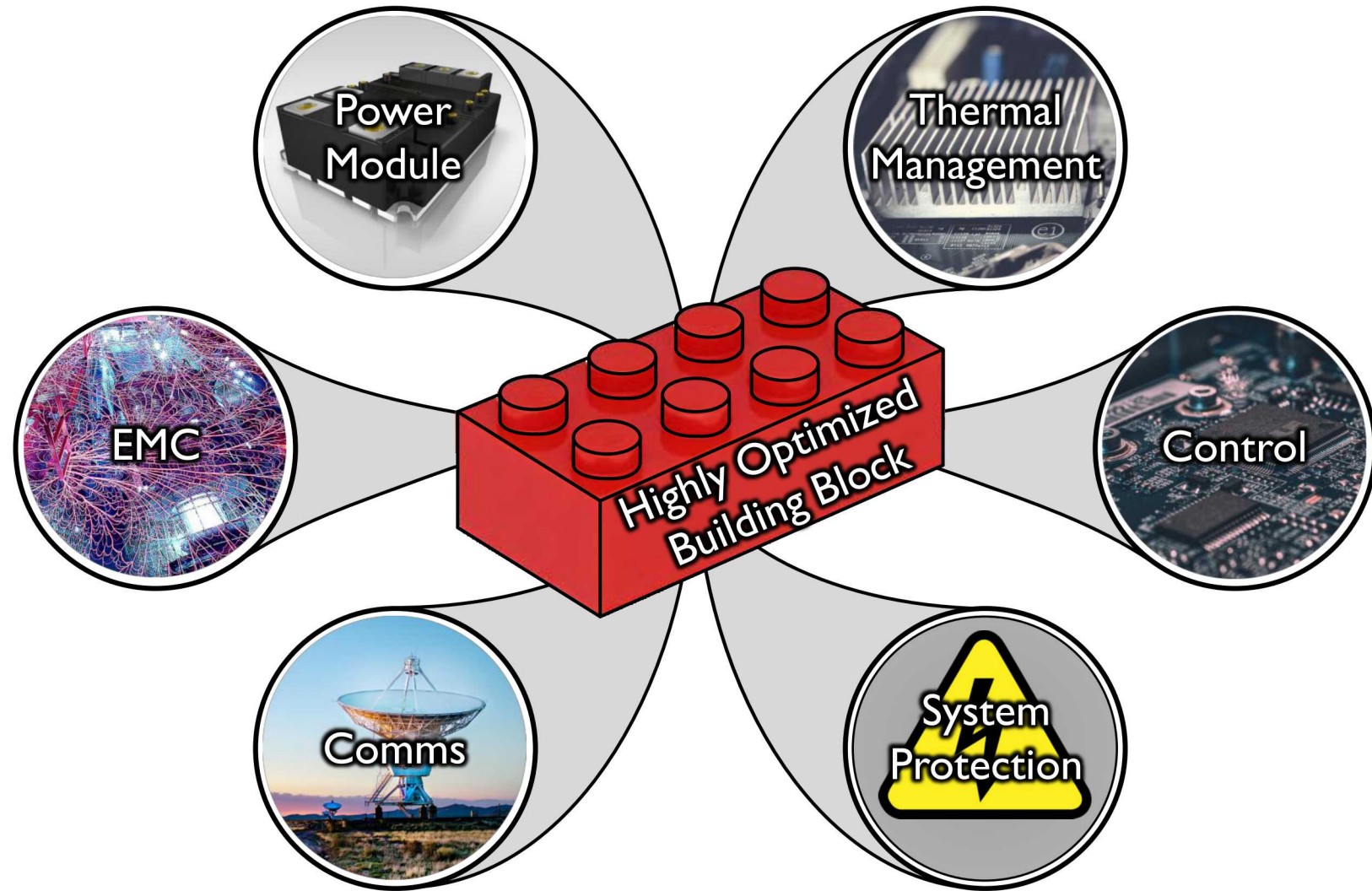
Modular, fault-tolerant hardware  
architectures

### **Advanced Control Systems:**


Methods for detecting and  
reacting to internal failures in real  
time

### **Design-For-Reliability:**

Computational tools for  
assessing reliability and remaining  
time-to-failure based on  
application-specific operating  
conditions







The Energy Storage Power Electronics Program is supported by Dr. Imre Gyuk and the Energy Storage Program in the DOE Office of Electricity.

# Questions?



Thank You!