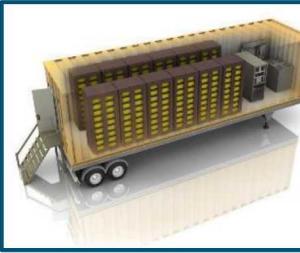
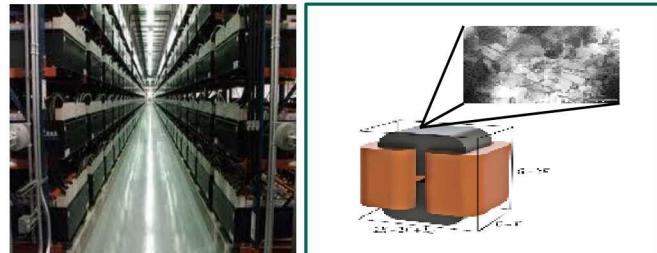




# ENERGY STORAGE POWER ELECTRONICS PROGRAM



*PRESENTED BY*  
Stan Atcitty, Ph.D.

# 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

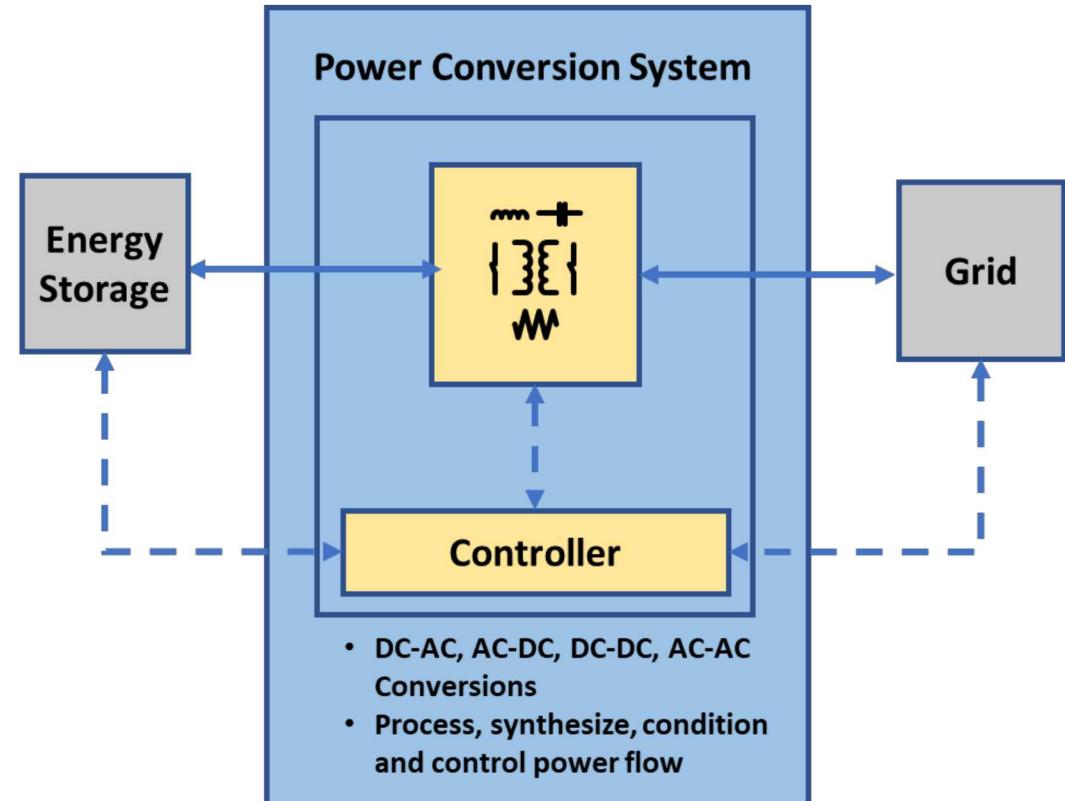
Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.

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

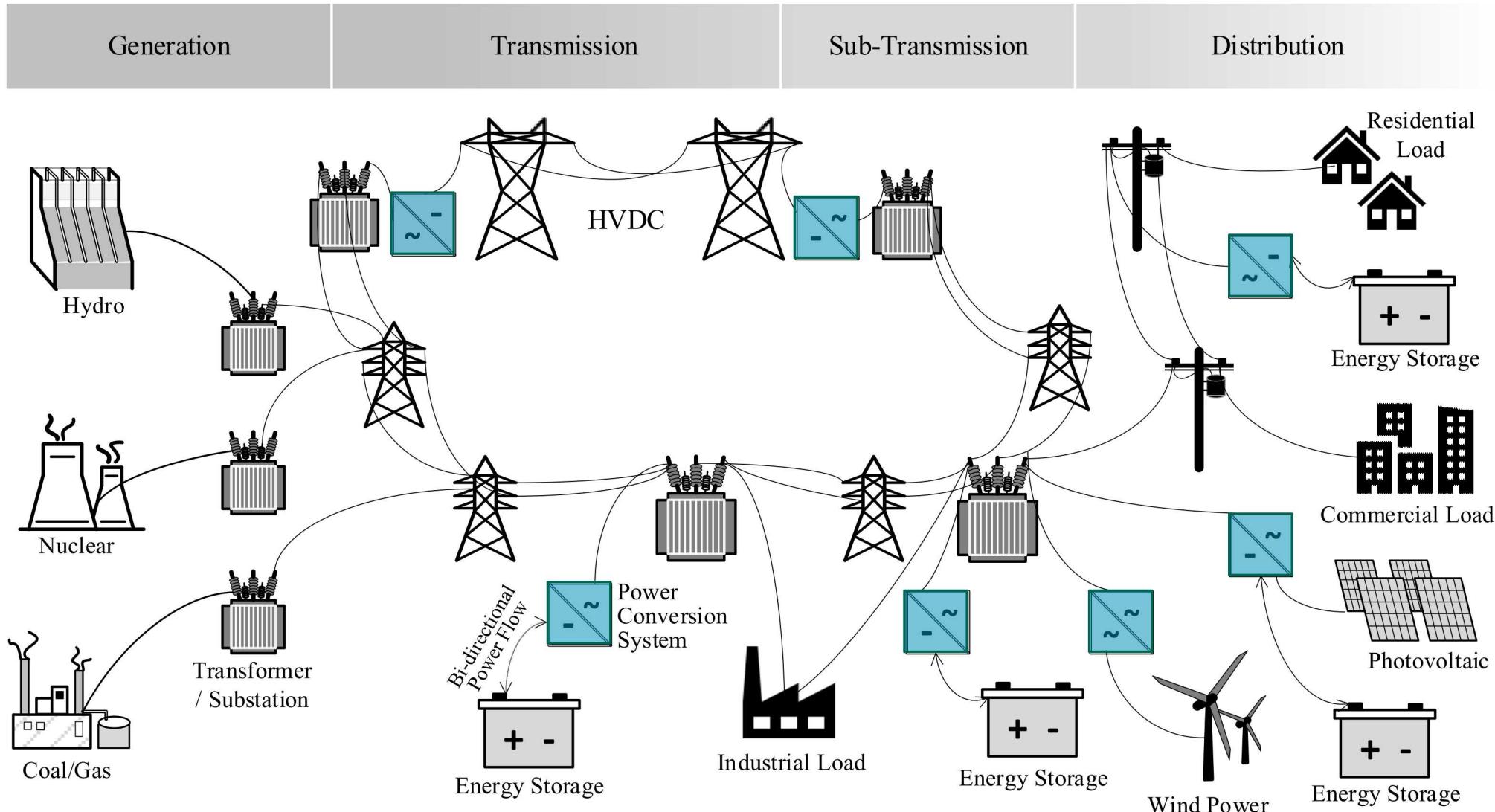
# POWER CONVERSION SYSTEM



- Power conversion systems (PCS), sometimes referred to and used interchangeably as power electronics, are a key enabling technology for energy storage.
- In a grid-tied energy storage system, the PCS controls the power supplied to and absorbed from the grid, simultaneously optimizing energy storage device performance and maintaining grid stability.
- There are multiple types of energy storage technologies, and each has their own characteristics and control parameters that must be managed by the PCS.
- An energy storage installation may be tasked with a variety of different grid support services; the PCS is responsible for controlling the flow of energy to meet the requirements of the intended grid support application.
- The major electrical components of a PCS are semiconductor switches, capacitors, magnetic devices such as inductors and transformers, and a controller.



# POWER CONVERSION SYSTEM – KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGY



# BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM ELEMENTS



## Battery Storage

- Modules
- Racks
- \$/KWh

## Battery Management System (BMS)

- Battery Management & BESS Protection

## Power Conversion System (PCS)

- Bi-directional Inverter
- Inverter control
- Interconnection / Switchgear
- \$/KW

## Energy Management System (EMS)

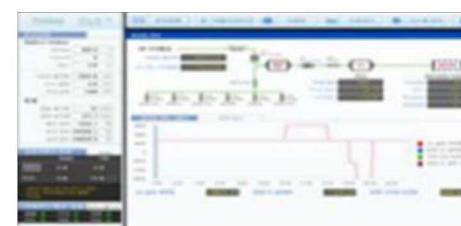
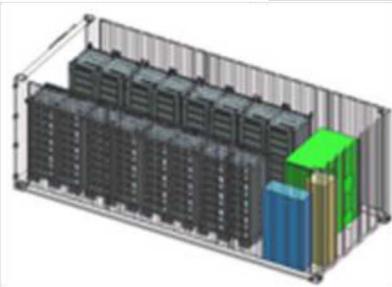
- Charge / Discharge
- Load Management
- Ramp rate control
- Grid Stability
- Monitoring
- \$ / ESS

## Site Management System (SMS)

- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) control
- Synchronization
- Islanding and microgrid control
- \$ / microgrid

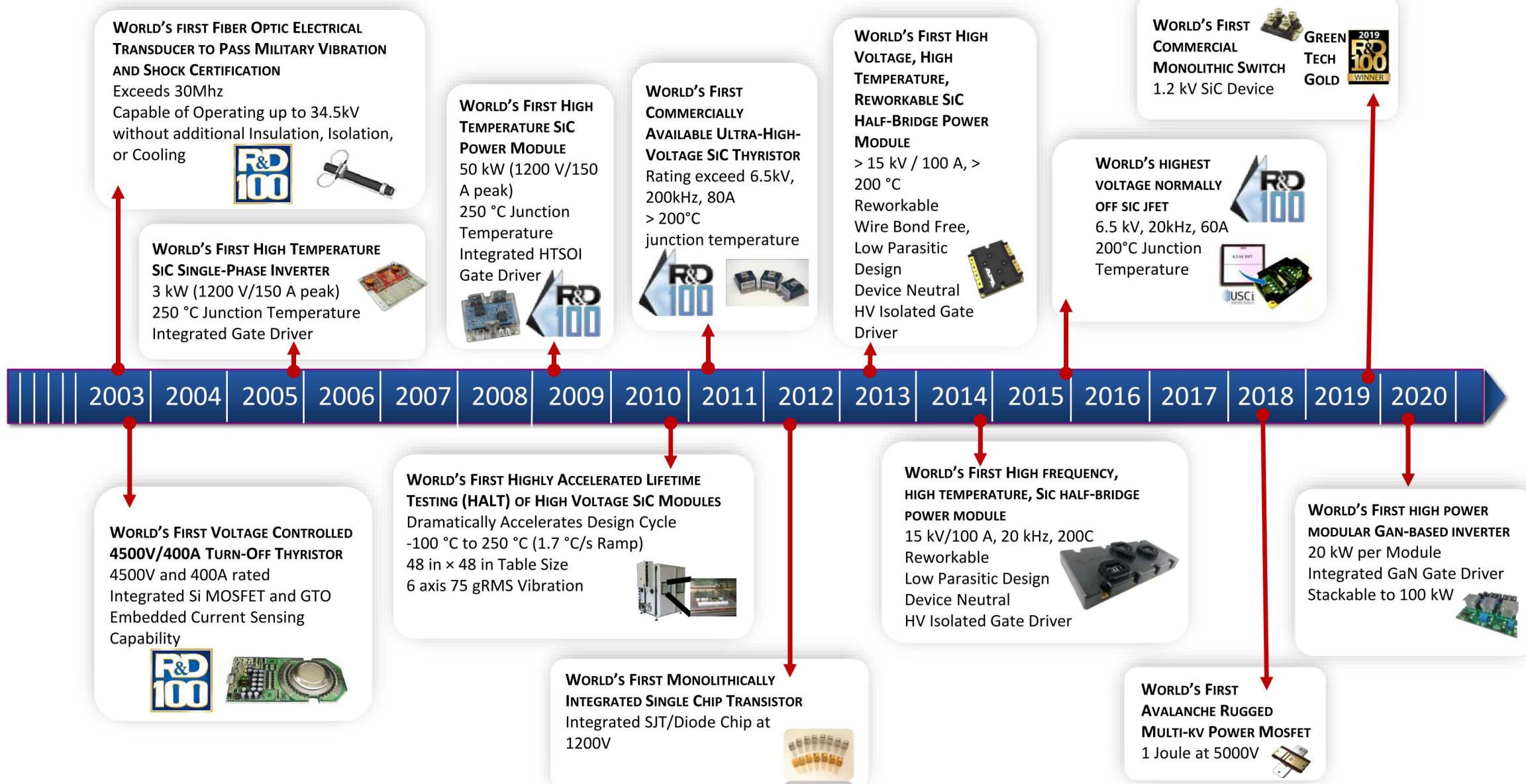
## Balance of Plant

- Transformer/ POC switchgear
- BESS container
- Climate control
- **Fire protection**
- Construction and Permitting
- \$ / project



NOTE: Important to have single entity responsible for the ESS integration.

# DOE OE POWER ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT





TRS Technologies

Airak Corp.



**Contact:**

Jake Mueller (jmuelle@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:**

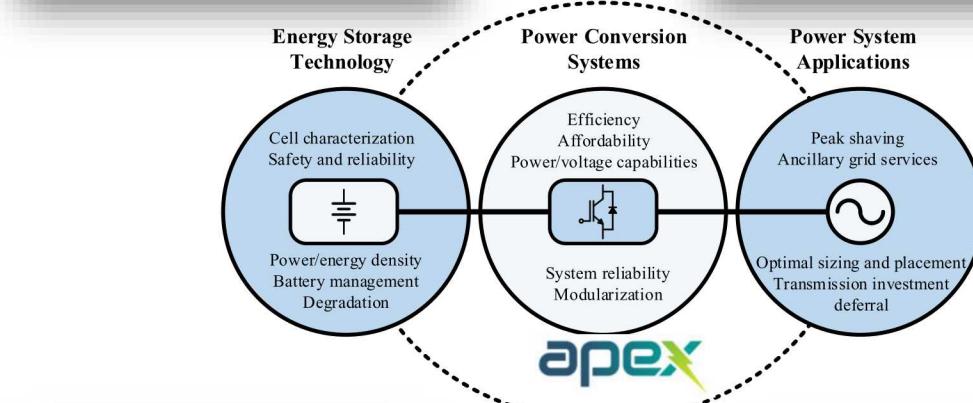
Develop new power conversion topologies and intelligent control strategies; leverage the capabilities of advanced components and materials; verify performance through hardware experimentation

**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



# ADVANCED COMPONENTS: SEMICONDUCTORS



Contact: Bob Kaplar, [rjkapla@sandia.gov](mailto:rjkapla@sandia.gov)

## Problem:

- Reliability remains one of the major factors impeding the widespread adoption of wide bandgap (WBG) power devices
- In particular, power circuit designers need to be confident in the devices' reliability
- Need to design, fabricate, and characterize WBG switching devices as a neutral third party

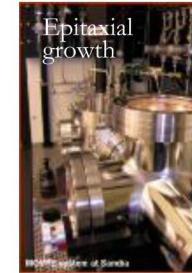
## Approach:

- Utilize a range of techniques from atomic-scale characterization to reliability testing in switching circuits
- Stressing WBG power devices, measuring their change in performance, modeling the results, and ascertaining the impact on the system
- Examining new devices as they have been introduced such as SiC MOSFETs, GaN HEMTs, vertical GaN

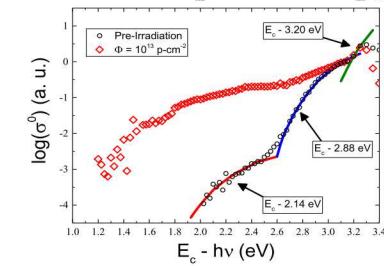
## Key Outcomes:

- The ability to correlate materials physics to the impact of device degradation on the power conversion system

## WBG Material and Device Fabrication and Characterization



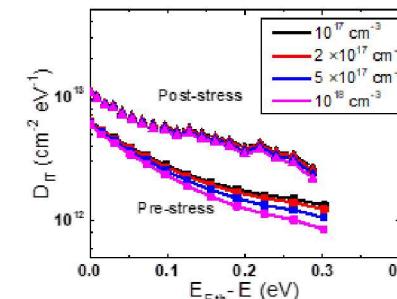
## Defect Spectroscopy



## Reliability Physics

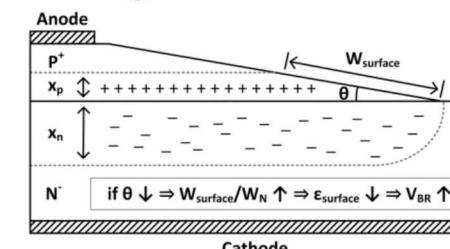


## Switching Reliability Testing

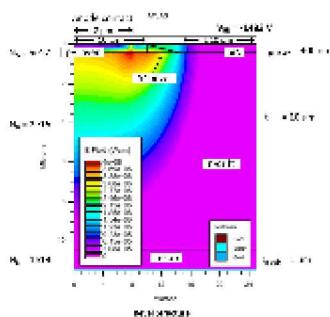


## SiC MOSFET Reliability

## Device Simulation



## Novel Edge Terminations



# ADVANCED COMPONENTS: MAGNETICS



**Contact:** Todd Monson ([tmonson@sandia.gov](mailto:tmonson@sandia.gov))

## Problem:

- Current soft magnetic materials do not meet all the requirements of emerging power electronics topologies
- Significant volume reduction and increased reliability in power conversion systems will be enabled by advanced magnetics.

## SNL Approach:

- Develop new high magnetization, low loss magnetic cores for high frequency transformers
- Going beyond state of the art through the implementation of iron nitride ( $(Fe_4N)$ )

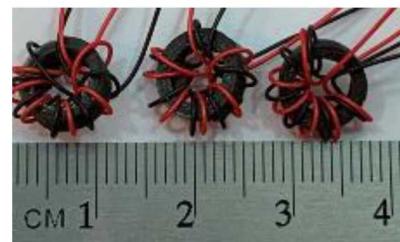
## Key Outcomes:

- New high magnetization, low loss soft magnetic core materials capable of operating in conjunction with wide bandgap semiconductor based power electronics

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



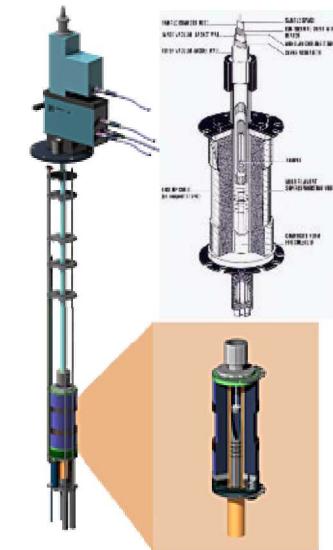
Composite magnetic cores wound for B-H analysis



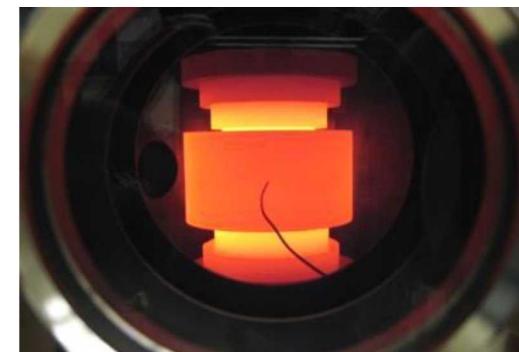
Iwatsu B-H analyzer



Quantum Design  
Magnetic Property  
Measurement System  
(MPMS)



Spark Plasma Sintering  
(in collaboration with UC Irvine)



# ADVANCED COMPONENTS: CAPACITORS



Contact: Jon Bock, [jabock@sandia.gov](mailto:jabock@sandia.gov)

## Problem:

- DC-link capacitors are prone to failure and can negatively impact the adoption of power conversion systems used in distributed energy and renewable systems
- Dielectric breakdown and temperature limitations caused by excessive heating from electrical losses and degradation are of key concern for high-reliability systems from Space, MIL, and Grid

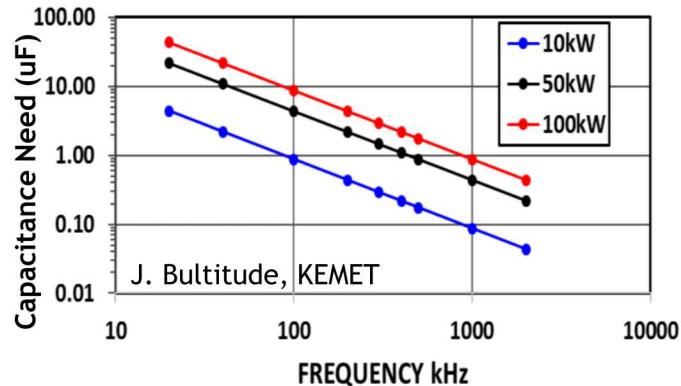
## SNL Approach:

- Perform reliability assessment on commercial capacitors, understand failure physics for better reliability models, and develop next-gen capacitor materials
- Evaluating reliability of current gen ceramic capacitors for DC-link applications (KC-Link, Ceralink, X7R)
- Evaluate next-gen high temperature capacitors under realistic ripple waveform seen in power electronics

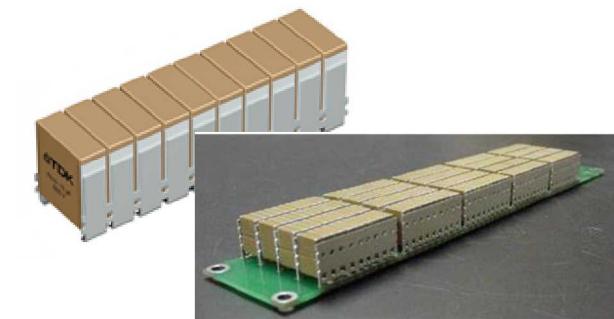
## Key Outcomes:

- Understanding of reliability and root cause of failures leads to capacitor design changes, circuit-level reliability estimates, expanded capacitor capabilities leading to increase performance of power conversion systems

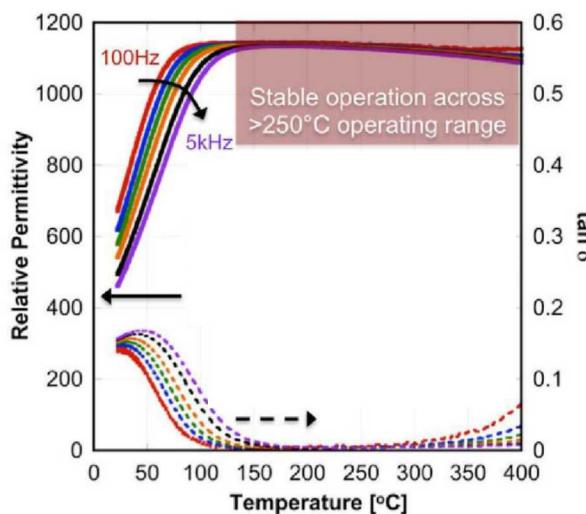
### Increased Frequency and Voltage Lowers Capacitance Needs



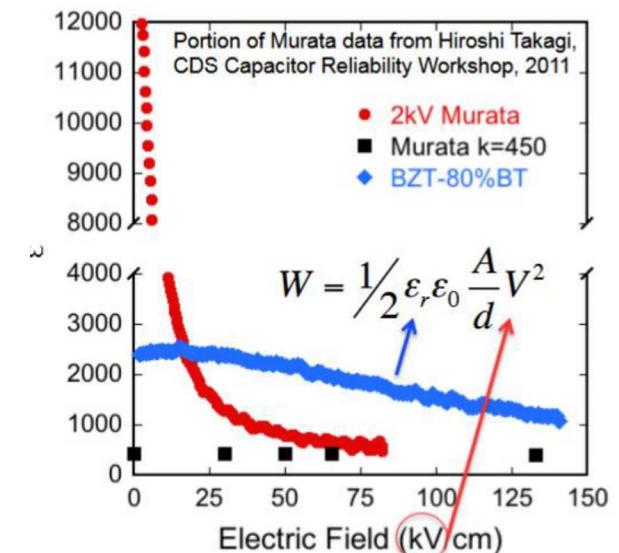
### In-Depth Lifetime Evaluation of Current-Gen Technologies KC-Link and Ceralink



### High Permittivity Dielectrics >150 °C



### High Permittivity at high field

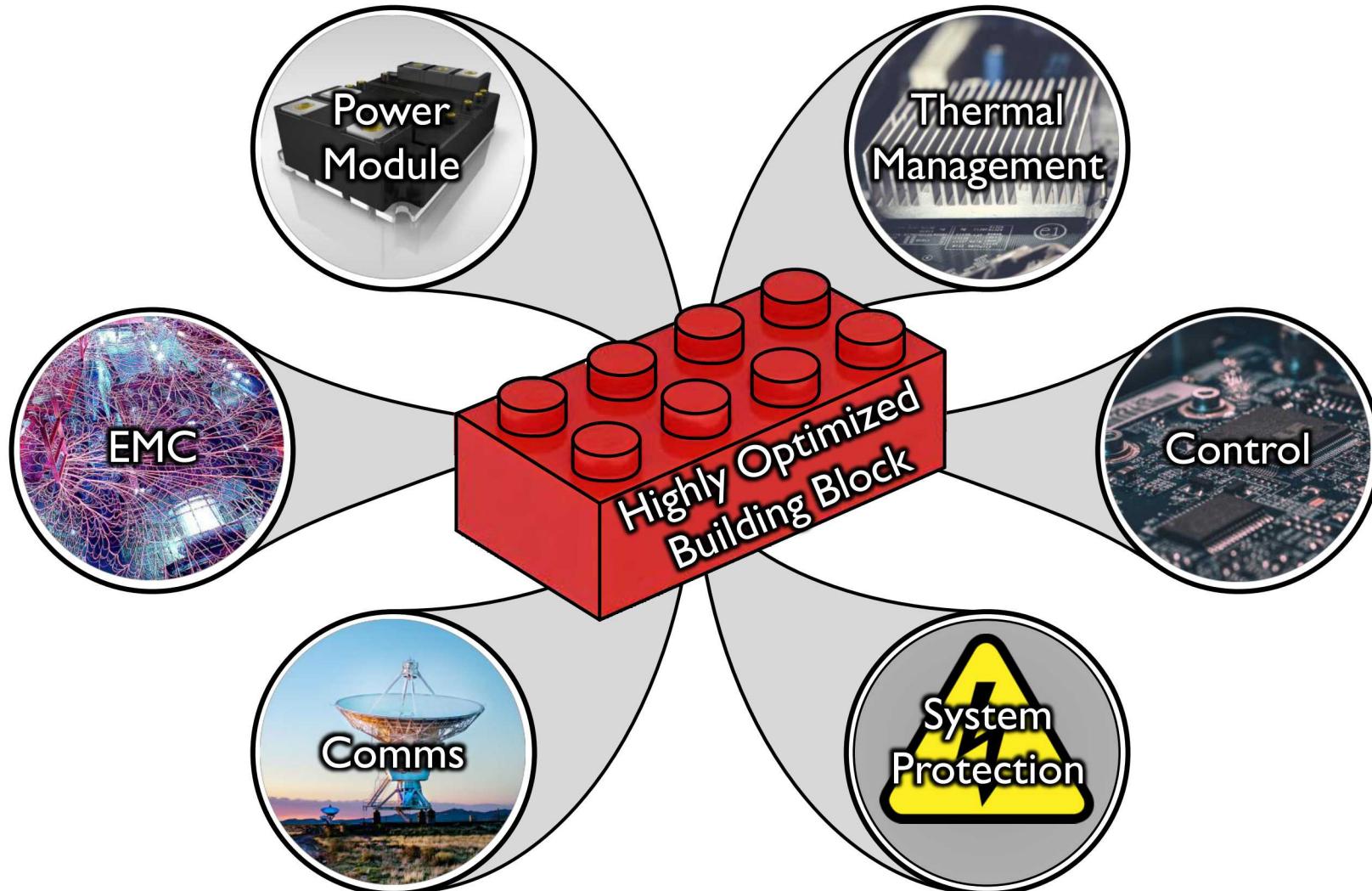


New components are important, but not the whole story

**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





## Target Research Areas

- Power conversion system for scalable energy storage deployments
  - Modular topologies for direct MV grid connection
  - Integration of storage in existing and emerging power electronic energy infrastructure
- Uninterruptible converter topologies for critical storage assets
  - Fault-tolerant and reconfigurable hardware architectures
  - Hot-swap capable converters and storage systems
- Applications of power electronics in storage system safety
  - Stranded energy extraction
  - Active response to thermal runaway
- Integration of advanced components
  - Wide bandgap devices
  - Advanced magnetics
  - Advanced capacitors



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# Questions?

Thank You!

