



# High-Temperature Superconducting Power Applications to meet major Challenges in Energy Systems

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## Acknowledgement

- I gratefully acknowledge the support of
  - my co-directors Tabea Arndt and Bernhard Holzapfel
  - my co-workers at the Institute of Technical Physics
  - our project partners from industry, research and academia
  - and all of you that contributed to the successful development of high-temperature superconducting power applications.

## Motivation



„Machines are heavier than air and can never fly“  
Lord Kelvin, 1895

„I believe, there is a world market of  
maybe 5 computers.“  
Thomas J. Watson, IBM, 1943

„The wall will exist in 50 years and in 100  
years.“

Erich Honecker, Staatsratsvorsitzender  
German Democratic Republic, 1989

„The internet is no mass media“  
Matthias Horx, Researcher on trends  
and future, 2001

„The music download model has failed“  
Steve Jobs, Apple, 2003

„Superconducting power applications are too expensive and no solution“  
Transmission and distribution system operator, 2019



## Table of Content

- Major Challenges in Power Systems

- Power Applications

- Cables
- Fault Current Limiters
- Rotating Machines
- Transformers
- SMES



Benefits

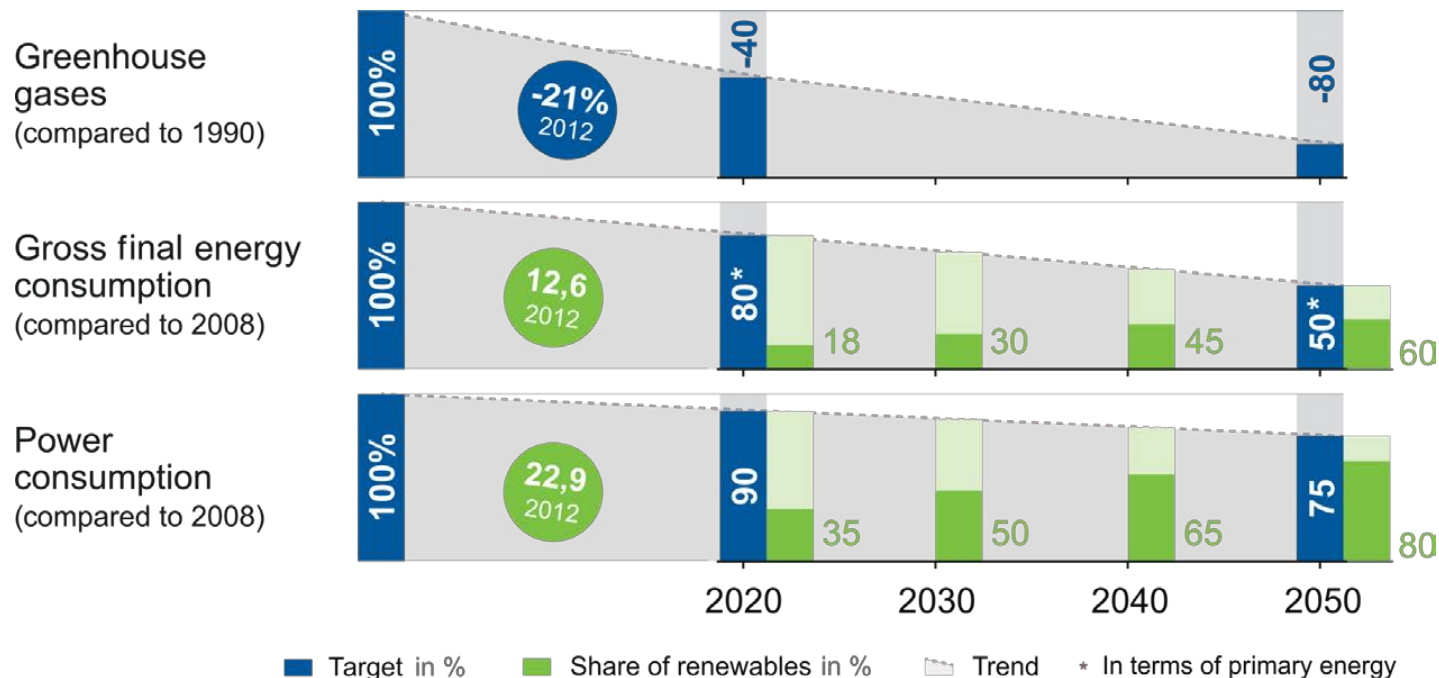
Development of the State-of-the-Art

How this meets Power Challenges

- Summary

## Major Challenges in Power Systems

### Objectives of the energy transition in Germany



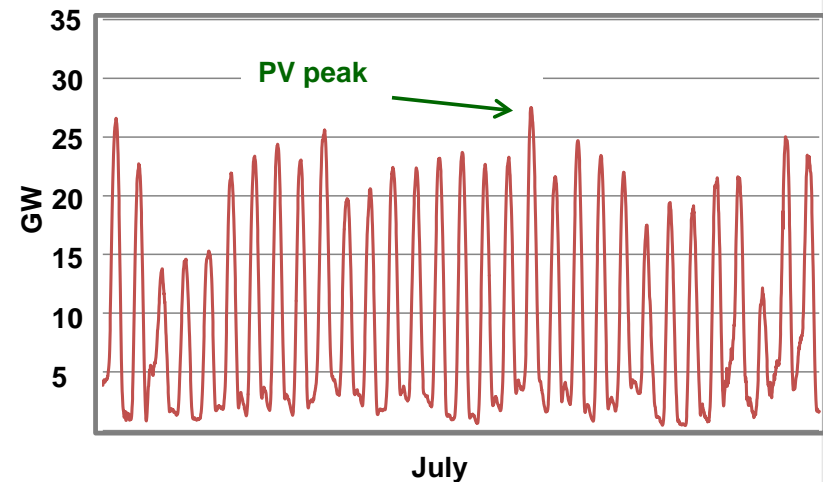
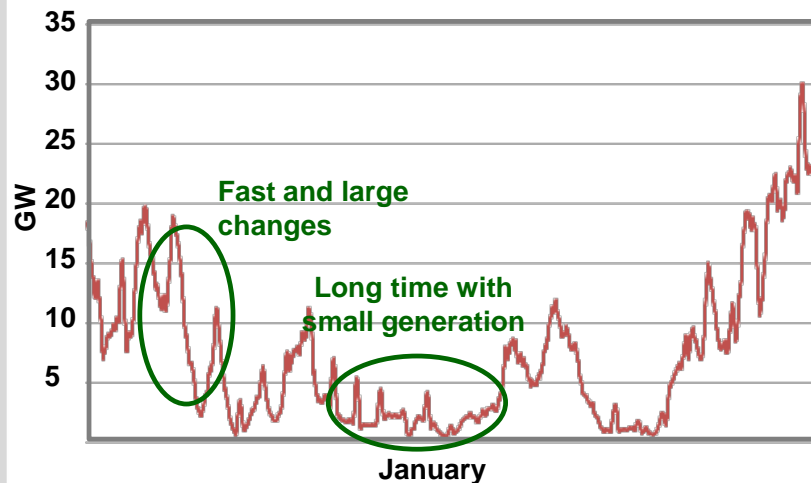
... plus 2022 phase out nuclear and 2038 phase out coal in Germany

## Major Challenges in Power Systems

- Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.

### Typical generation profile of photovoltaic and wind energy in Germany

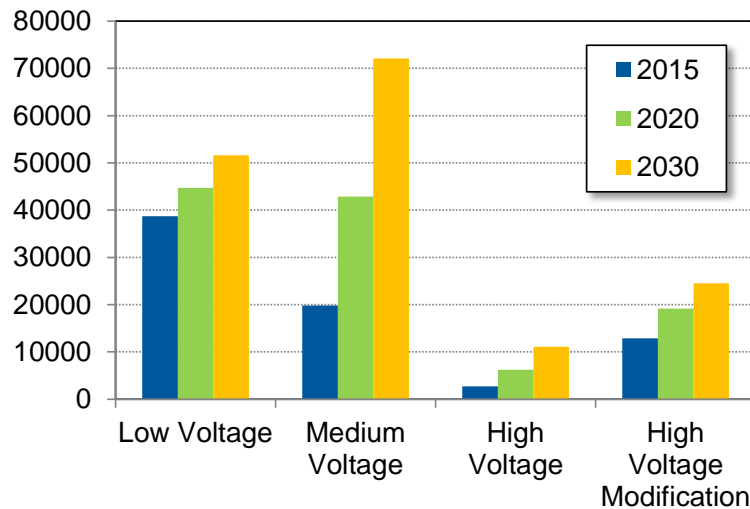
Data transmission system operators (data 2013)



## Major Challenges in Power Systems

- Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.
- Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.

### Network extension in Germany

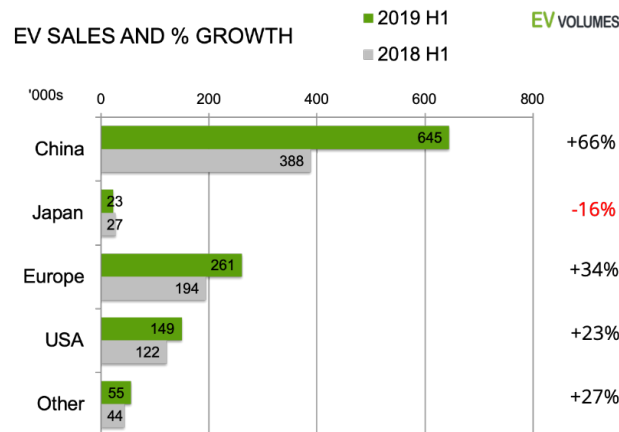


Source: dena Verteilnetzstudie 2012



## Major Challenges in Power Systems

- Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.
- Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.
- **Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**





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  - **Cables**

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## Benefits of HTS AC Cables

### User

- Higher transmission capacity at lower voltage
  - Avoid high voltage equipment in urban areas
- Higher transmission capacity at lower diameter
  - Flexible laying, less underground work
- Three phases in one cable up to high capacities
  - Less right of way, fast cable laying, less underground work

### Environment

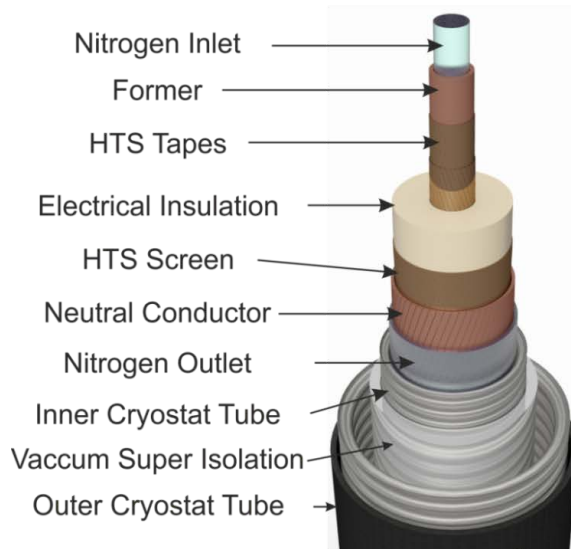
- Electromagnetic compatible
- Potential of lower losses
- No ground heating

### Operation

- Low impedance
- Operation at natural load

## Cable Types – Cold Dielectric

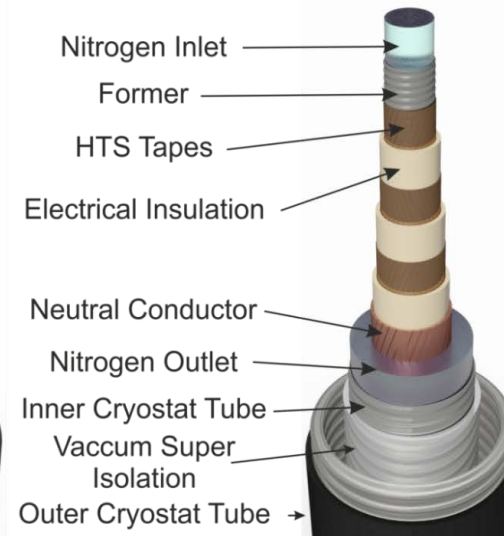
Single Core Cable



Three Core Cable



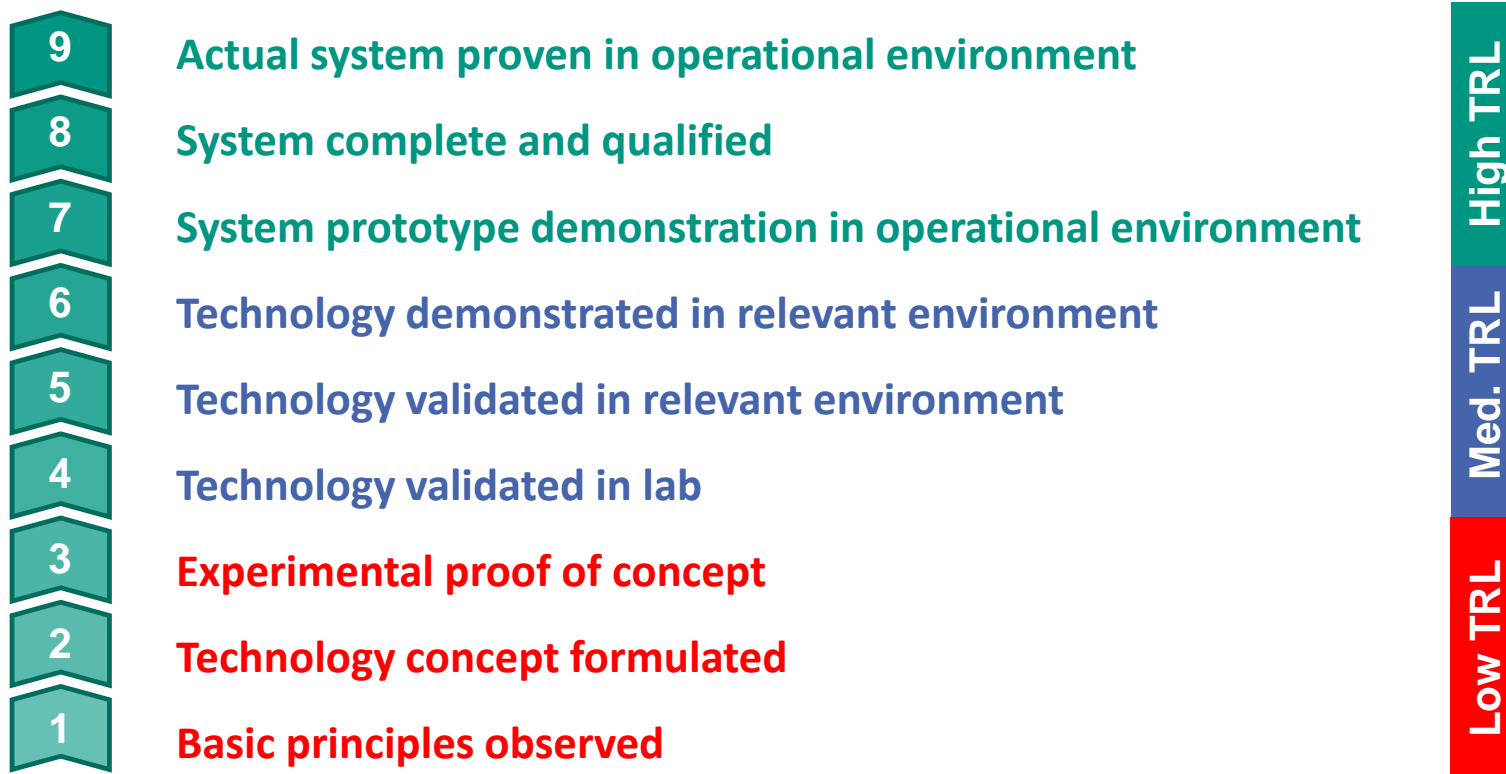
Three-Phase Concentric Cable



	Three single phases	Three phase in one cryostat	Three phase concentric
<b>Voltage level</b>	High voltage > 110 kV	30-110 kV	10-50 kV
<b>Amount of superconductor</b>	higher	higher	smaller
<b>Cryostat loss</b>	higher	smaller	smaller

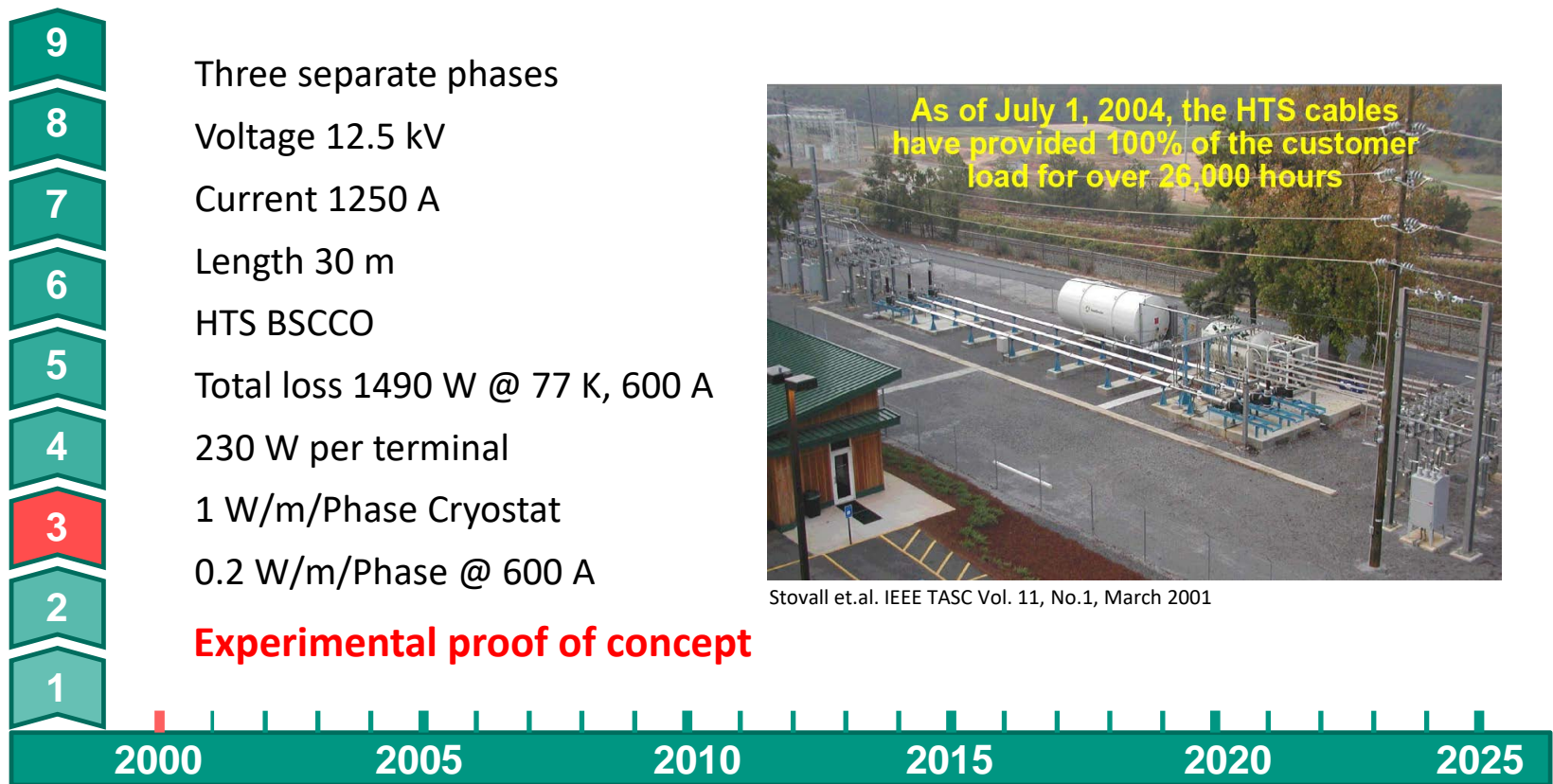
## State-of-the-Art

### ■ Technology Readiness Level (EU H2020)



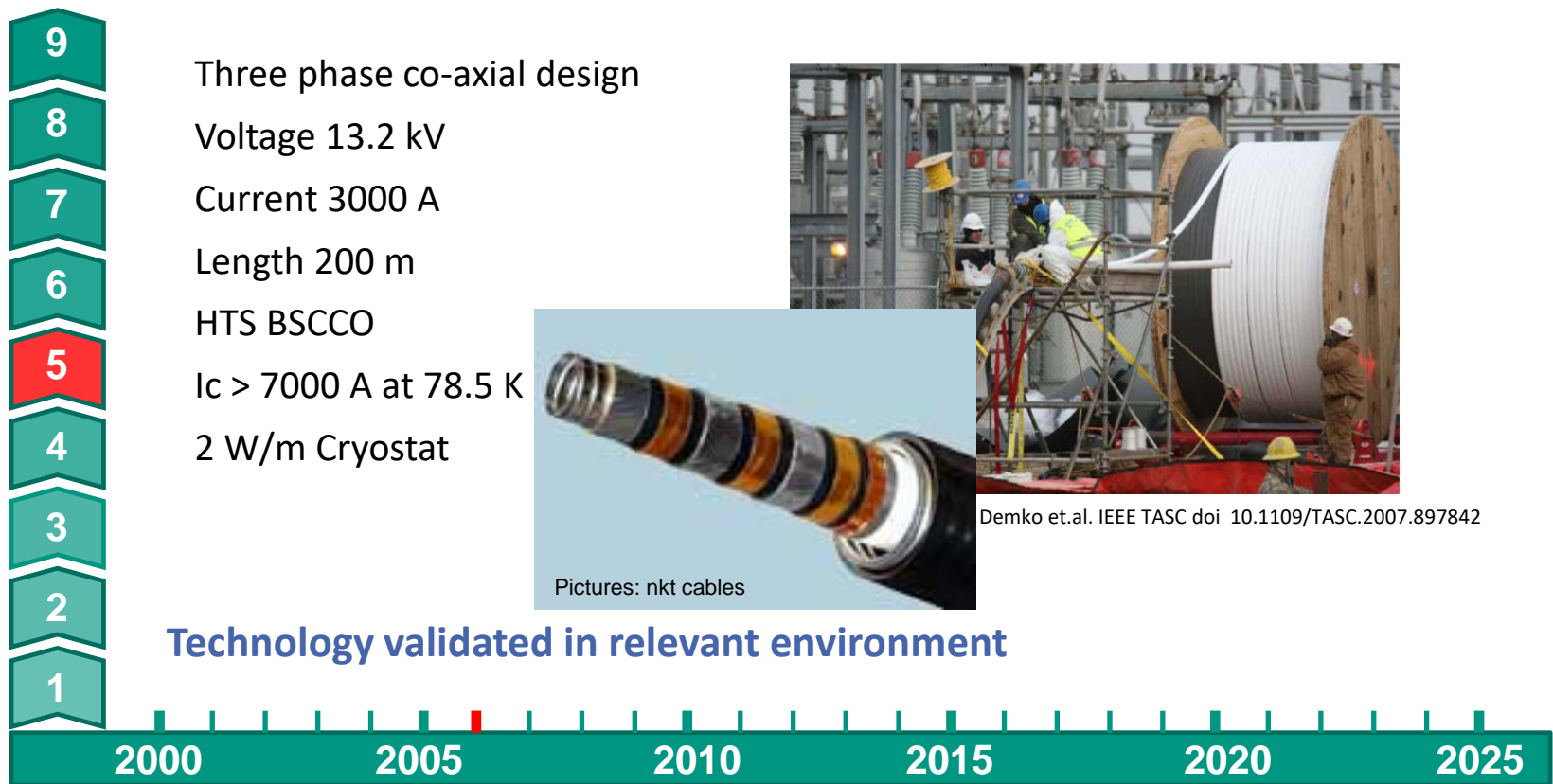
## HTS AC MV Cables – State-of-the-Art

2000 – First HTS cable in public grid operation by Southwire



## HTS AC MV Cables – State-of-the-Art

2006 – First three phase concentric design in long term (~ 1 year) field test by Ultera (Southwire, nkt cables)





# HTS AC MV Cables – State-of-the-Art

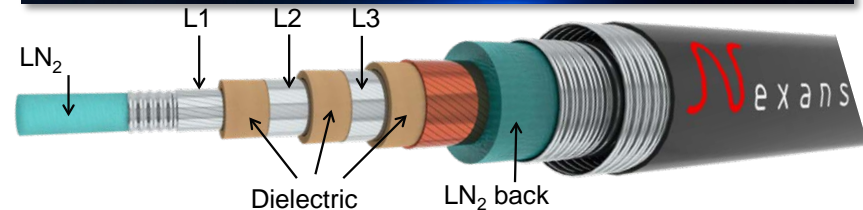
2014 – First long term (> 5 years) and continuous operation in the grid of Essen by Nexans and Westnetz



- 9 Three phase co-axial design
- 8 Voltage 10 kV
- 7 Power 40 MVA
- 6 Length 1000 m
- 5 HTS BSCCO
- 4 Loss 1.8 kW at 68 K,  $I < 0.5 I_n$



Courtesy: Westnetz



Stemmler et. al. IEEE PES T&D Conference and Exposition, 14-17 April 2014, Chicago, IL, USA  
 DOI: 10.1109/TDC.2014.6863566

**Technology demonstrated in relevant environment**



# Superconducting AC Cables

## State-of-the-Art



Manufacturer	Place ,Country, Year	Data	HTS
SECRI	Shanghai, China, 2021	35 kV, 2.2 kA, 1200 m	YBCO
Nexans	Chicago, US, 2020	12 kV, 200 m	YBCO
LS Cable	Singal, Korea, 2019	22.9 kV, 50 MVA, 1000 m	YBCO
LS Cable	Jeju, Korea, 2016	154 kV, 600 MVA, 1000 m	YBCO
Nexans	Essen, Deutschland, 2014	10 kV, 2.4 kA, 1000 m	BSCCO
Sumitomo	Yokohama, Japan, 2013	66 kV, 1.8 kA, 240 m	BSCCO
LS Cable	Icheon, Korea, 2011	22.9 kV, 3.0 kA, 100 m	BSCCO
LS Cable	Icheon, Korea, 2009	22.9 kV, 1.3 kA, 500 m	BSCCO
Nexans	Long Island, US, 2008	138 kV, 2.4 kA, 600 m	BSCCO/YBCO
LS Cable	Gochang, Korea, 2007	22.9 kV, 1.26 kA, 100 m	BSCCO
Sumitomo	Albany, US, 2006	34.5 kV, 800 A, 350 m	BSCCO
Ultera	Columbus, US, 2006	13.2 kV, 3 kA, 200 m	BSCCO
Sumitomo	Gochang, Korea, 2006	22.9 kV, 1.25 kA, 100 m	BSCCO
Furukawa	Yokosuka, Japan, 2004	77 kV, 1 kA, 500 m	BSCCO

**More than 10 years of operational experience and no HTS degradation reported.**

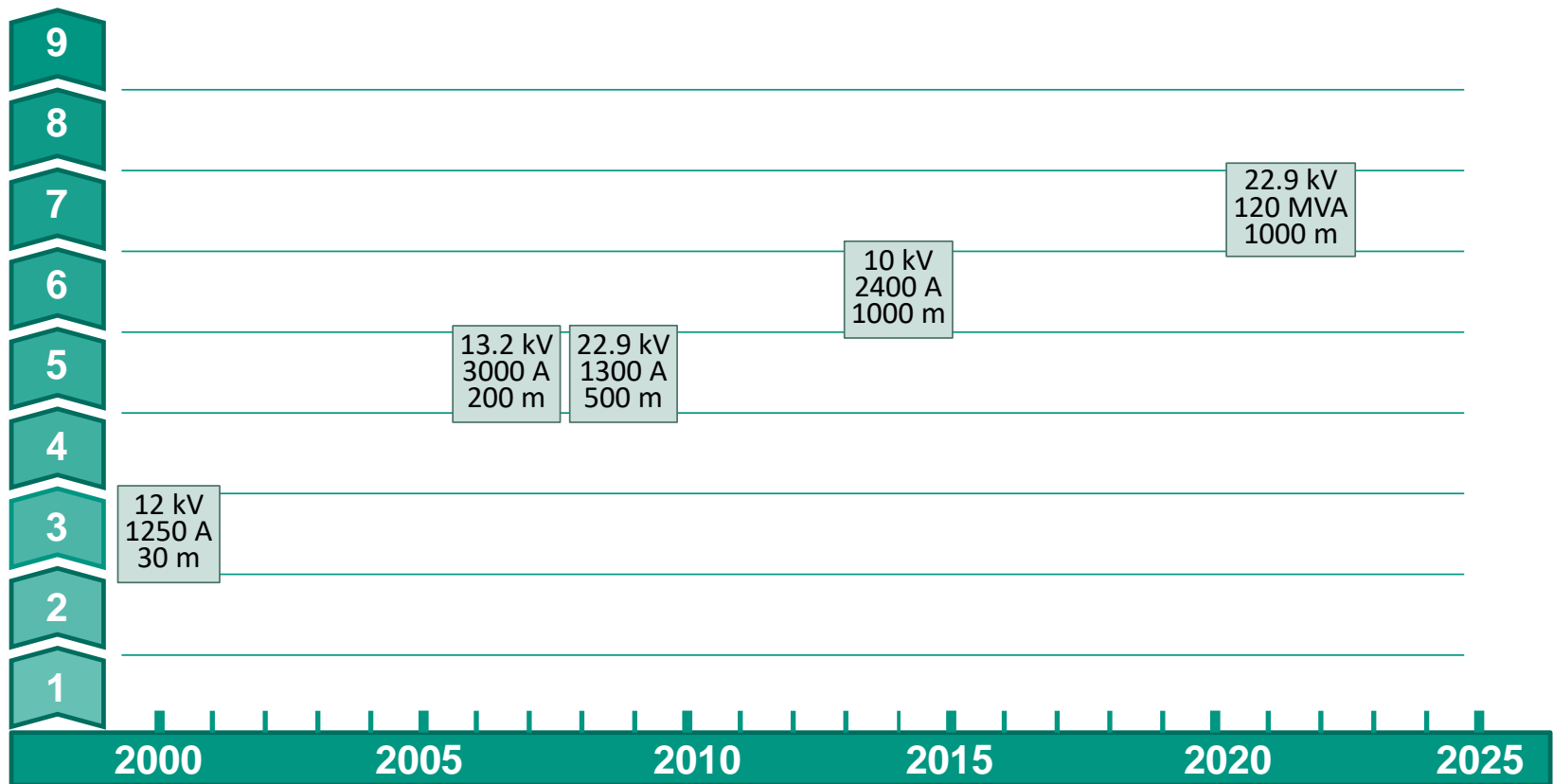




# HTS AC MV Cables – State-of-the-Art

## Development of TRL

Three phase concentric

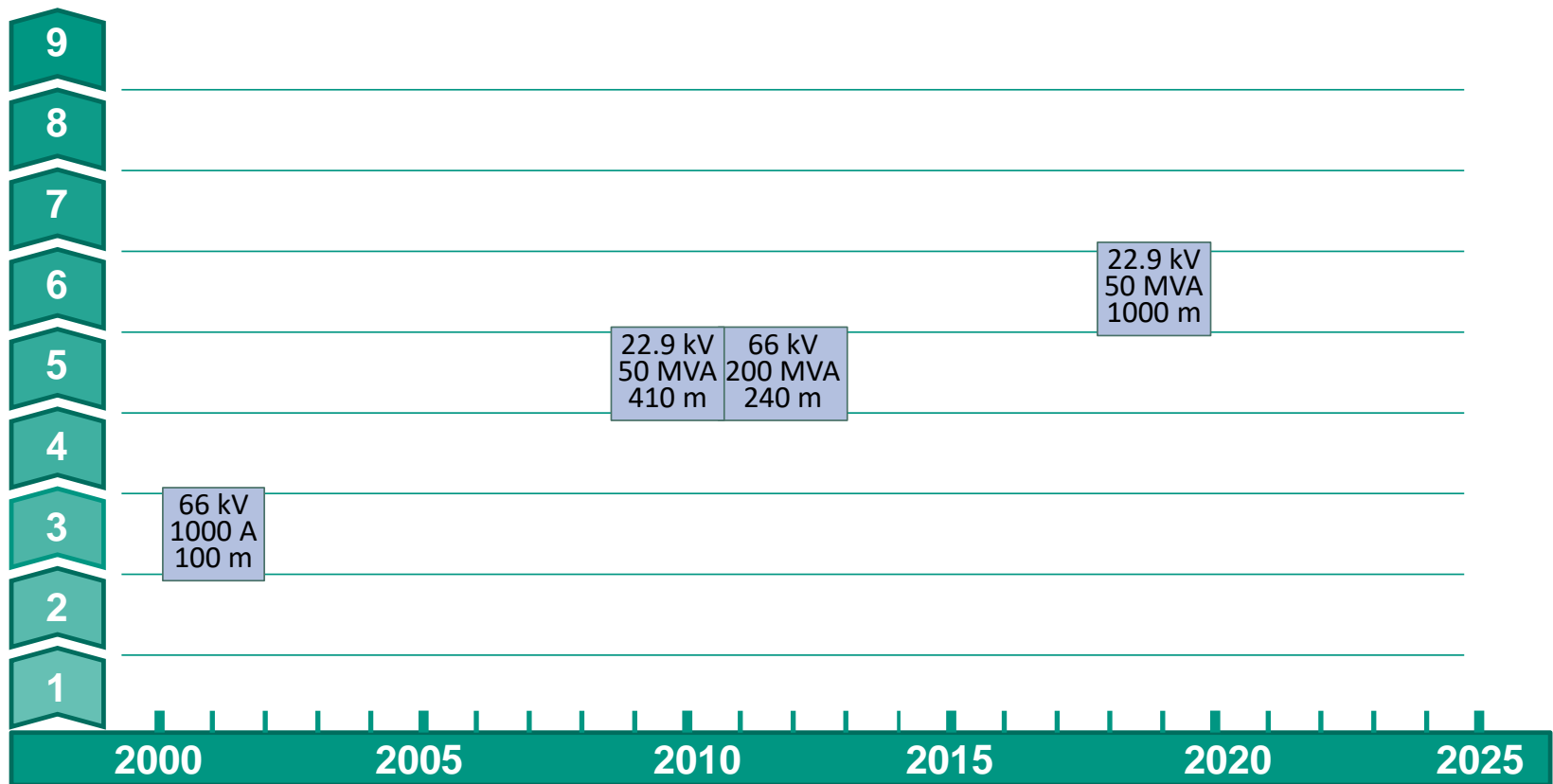




# HTS AC MV Cables – State-of-the-Art

## Development of TRL

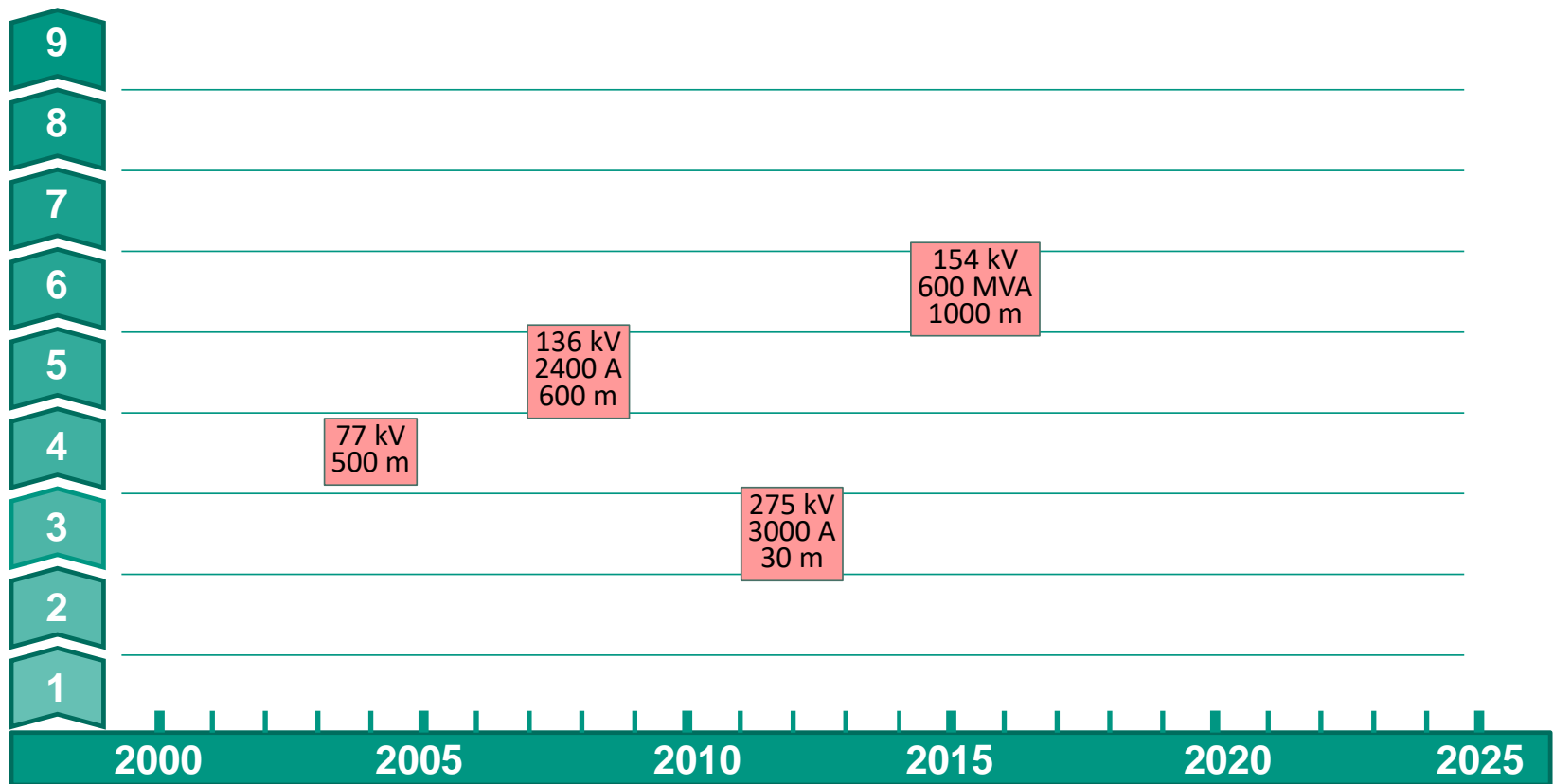
Three phase in one cryostat



# HTS AC HV Cables – State-of-the-Art

## Development of TRL

One phase in one cryostat



## How HTS Cables meet Power System Challenges



- Integration of renewables and EV needs new technologies and transmission and distribution lines.
  - Many new transmission lines need to be built with a large fraction of cables instead of overhead transmission lines.
  - The distribution grid needs a considerable extension.
- A higher acceptance of compact high power lines and a faster approval procedure is achieved.
  - More compact cable ways for very high voltage cables.
  - Use of retrofit ducts in cities avoids new cable ducts.
- Lower losses and consequently CO<sub>2</sub> savings are achieved.
- Environmentally friendly.

- 1) Ensure stable, reliable and **economic** operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.
- 2) **Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.**
- 3) **Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

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How this meets Power Challenges

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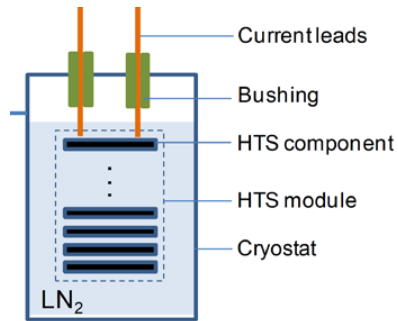
# Benefits of Fault Current Limiters

## Economic Benefits

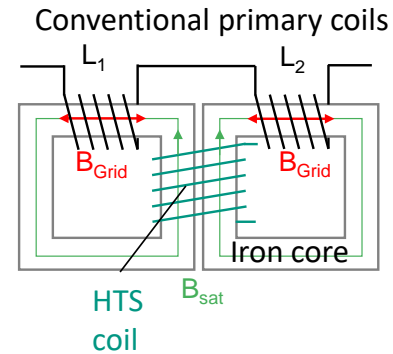
- Delay improvement of components and upgrade power systems
  - e.g. connect new generation and do not increase short-circuit currents
  - e.g. couple busbars to increase renewable generation and keep voltage bandwidths
- Lower dimensioning of components, substations and power systems
  - e.g. FCL in power system auxiliary
- Avoid purchase of power system equipment
  - e.g. avoid redundant feeders by coupling power systems
- Increase availability and reliability
  - e.g. by coupling power systems
- Reduce losses and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - e.g. equal load distribution with parallel transformers

# Different Types of Fault Current Limiters

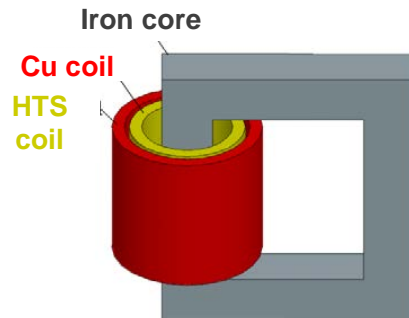
## Resistive type



## DC biased iron core



## Shielded core type



## plus many others

Diode bridge

Flux lock type

...

# Fault Current Limiters – State-of-the-Art

2004 – First resistive type SCFCL in grid operation at RWE



- 9 Voltage 10 kV
- 8 Current 600 A
- 7 Limited Current 8.75 kA
- 6 Fault duration 60 ms
- 5 BSCCO bulk



**Technology validated in relevant environment**

Bock et. al. IEEE TASC, Vol. 15, Nr. 2, p 1955-1960, 2005





## Fault Current Limiters – State-of-the-Art



2014 – Resistive type SCFCL in long term grid operation at Westnetz in Essen

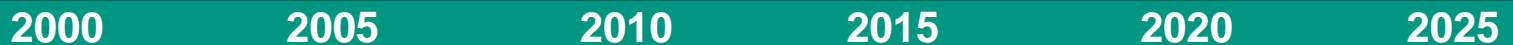


- 9 Voltage 10 kV
- 8 Power 40 MVA
- 7 Limited Current 13 kA
- 6 Fault duration 100 ms
- 5 YBCO tapes



Stemmler et. al, IEEE PES T&D Conference and Exposition, 14-17 April 2014, Chicago, IL, USA, DOI: 10.1109/TDC.2014.6863566

**System prototype demonstration in operational environment**



## Fault Current Limiters – State-of-the-Art



2019 – First 220 kV resistive type SCFCL in grid operation in Russia



- 9 Voltage 220 kV
- 8 Current 1200 A
- 7 Limited Current 7 kA
- 6 Fault duration ?? ms
- 5 25.2 km, 12mm wide YBCO
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1



Picture and information Superox

Technology demonstrated in relevant environment



# Superconducting Fault Current Limiters

## State-of-the-Art of field tests of resistive Type SFCL



Lead Company	Country	Year	Data	Superconductor
ACCEL/NexansSC	Germany	2004	12 kV, 600 A	Bi 2212 bulk
Toshiba	Japan	2008	6.6 kV, 72 A	YBCO tape
Nexans SC	Germany	2009	12 kV, 100 A	Bi 2212 bulk
Nexans SC	Germany	2009	12 kV, 800 A	Bi 2212 bulk
ERSE	Italy	2011	9 kV, 250 A	Bi 2223 tape
ERSE	Italy	2012	9 kV, 1 kA	YBCO tape
KEPRI	Korea	2011	22.9 kV, 3 kA	YBCO tape
Nexans SC	Germany	2011	12 kV, 800 A	YBCO tape
AMSC / Siemens	USA / Germany	2012	115 kV, 1.2 kA	YBCO tape
Nexans SC	Germany	2013	10 kV, 2.4 kA	YBCO tape
Nexans SC	UK	2015	12 kV, 1.6 kA	YBCO tape
Siemens	Germany	2016	12 kV, 815 A	YBCO tape
Superox	Russia	2019	220 kV, 1.2 kA	YBCO tape
LS Industrial Systems	Korea	2020	25.8 kV, 2 kA	YBCO tape
China Southern Pow. Gr.	China	2023	160 kV, 2 kA	YBCO tape

Table not complete

**More than 10 successful field tests and a few companies offering commercial systems**

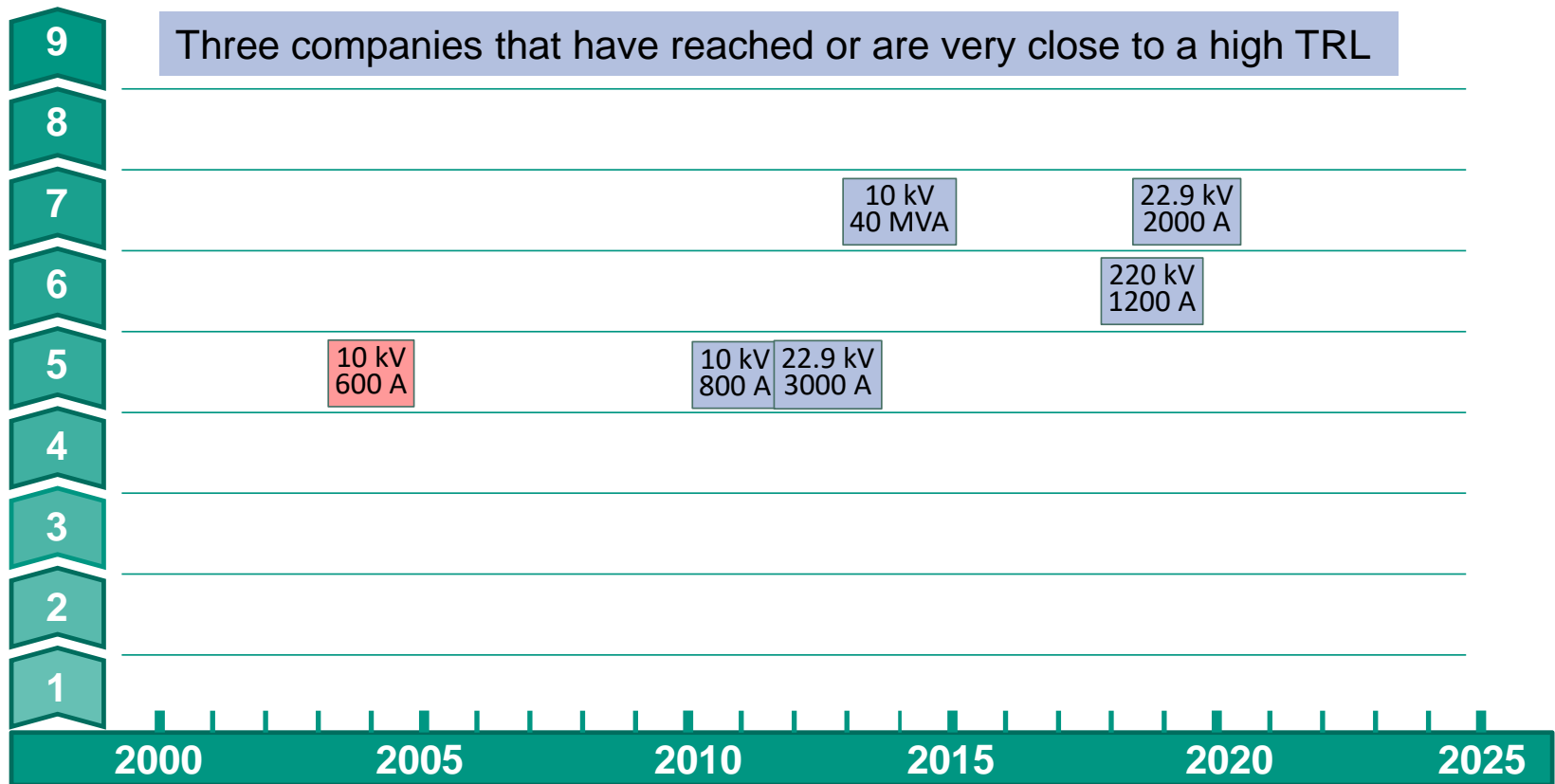
# HTS Fault Current Limiter – State-of-the-Art



## Development of TRL of resistive type SFCLs

BSCCO bulk

YBCO tapes



## How SCFCL meet Power System Challenges



- Enable integration of additional generation without increase of short-circuit currents.
- Enable meshing of grids without increase of short-circuit currents
  - Increased security of supply
  - Lower losses
  - Higher power quality
- Enable instantaneous reduction of increasing fault current levels in densely populated areas with automatic recovery (no conventional counterpart so far)

- 1) Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.**
- 2) Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.**
- 3) Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

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# Superconducting Rotating Machines

## ■ Promising Applications

### Power generators



Picture: Siemens

### Ship propulsion



K Umemoto et.al, doi:10.1088/1742-6596/234/3/032060

### Hydro generators



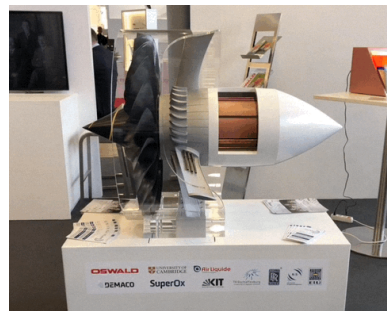
Picture Courtesy of Convertteam

### Wind generators



Picture: Ecoswing EU

### Electric aircraft



Picture: Oswald

### Others



Picture: Oswald

# Benefits of Superconducting Rotating Machines



## Example of a Synchronous Machine with Superconducting Rotor

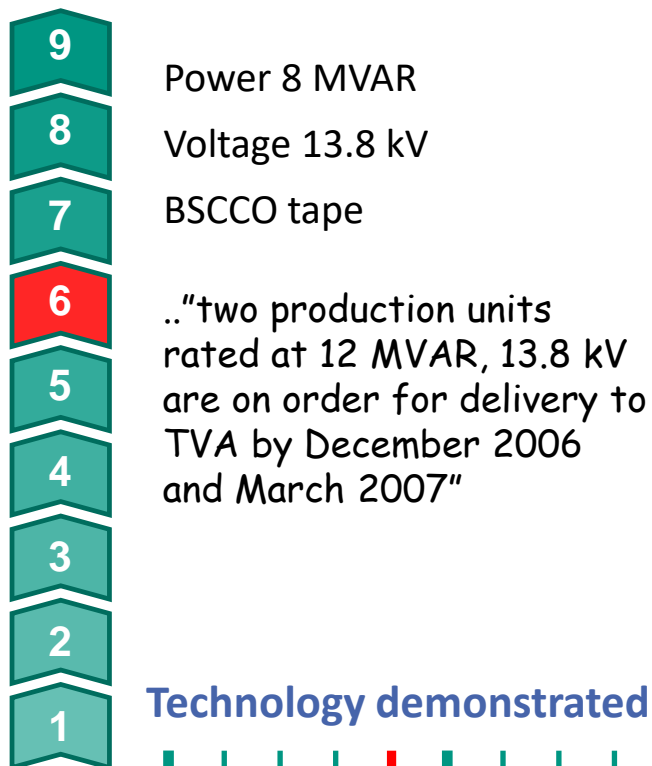
- Smaller volume and weight
  - Half the weight and volume
  - Two times higher power density
- Less resources
  - Higher efficiency
  - Less material
- Improved operation parameters
  - Lower voltage drop ( $x_d \sim 0.2-0.3$  p.u.)
  - Higher stability
  - Higher torque and dynamics
  - Higher ratio of breakdown torque to nominal torque
  - More reactive power

Enables new drive and generator **systems**



## Rotating Machines – State-of-the-Art

2004 – First superconducting rotating machine in field operation – Synchronous Condenser from AMSC



Source: KALSI S et al., IEEE Trans. on Applied Superconductivity 17, No. 2, 1591-4 (2007).

Technology demonstrated in relevant environment

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025

## Rotating Machines – State-of-the-Art

2008 – Largest superconducting rotating machine with a power of 36.5 MW for ship propulsion by AMSC



- Power 36.5 MW
- Speed 120 U/min
- Voltage 6 kV
- Current 1270 A
- Polepairs 8
- Weight 75 to
- Efficiency > 97 %
- BSCCO



Gamble et.al, IEEE TASC, Vol. 21, Nr. 3, June 2011



Technology validated in lab



## Rotating Machines – State-of-the-Art

2018 – First Multi-Megawatt superconducting wind generator power generation by Ecoswing EU project



- Power 3.6 MW
- Voltage 690 V
- Torque 2.46 kNm
- Speed 14 rpm
- Cryogenfree cooling at 30 K
- YBCO tapes



Anne Bergen et al 2019 Supercond. Sci. Technol. 32 125006

Technology demonstrated in relevant environment

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025

# Superconducting Rotating Machines

## State-of-the-Art for ratings larger than 1 MVA



Application	Company	Country	Year	Power	RPM	HTS
Demonstrator	AMSC	US	2003	5 MW	230	BSCCO
<b>Synchron. condenser</b>	<b>AMSC</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>8 MVAR</b>		<b>BSCCO</b>
<b>Power generator</b>	<b>Siemens</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>4 MVA</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>BSCCO</b>
Ship propulsion	Siemens	Germany	2007	4 MVA	120	BSCCO
Motor	Doosan	Korea	2007	1 MVA	3600	BSCCO
Ship propulsion	Kawasaki	Japan	2009	1 MVA	190	BSCCO
Ship propulsion	AMSC	US	2010	36.5 MVA	120	BSCCO
Hydro generator	GE/Convert.	US/UK		1.7 MW	214	BSCCO
Ship propulsion	Kawasaki	Japan	2016	3 MW	116	BSCCO
<b>Wind generator</b>	<b>Envision</b>	<b>EU H2020</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>3.6 MW</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>YBCO</b>

In bold field test

Table not complete

**So far not many field tests took place.**

## How Rotating Machines meet Power System Challenges



- Increase energy and resource efficiency (typically more than 50% of our electricity is either produced or used by electric rotating machines).
  - Less volume. less material
  - Higher efficiency
- Enable considerable reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in electric aircraft and ship propulsion.

- 1) Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.
- 2) Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.
- 3) Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

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## Benefits of Superconducting Transformers

### Manufacturing and transport

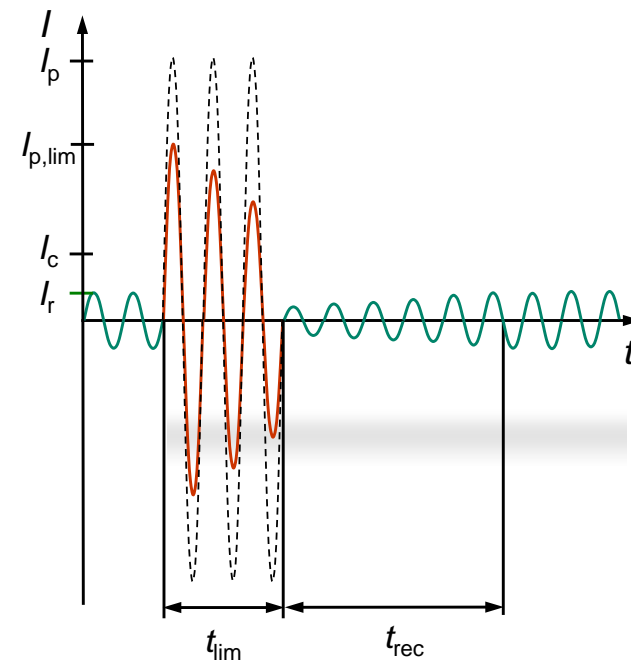
- Compact and lightweight (~50 % Reduction)

### Environment and Marketing

- Energy savings (~50 % Reduction)
- Ressource savings
- Inflammable (no oil)

### Operation

- Low short-circuit impedance
  - Higher stability
  - Less voltage drops
  - Less reactive power
- Active current limitation
  - Protection of devices
  - Reduction of investment

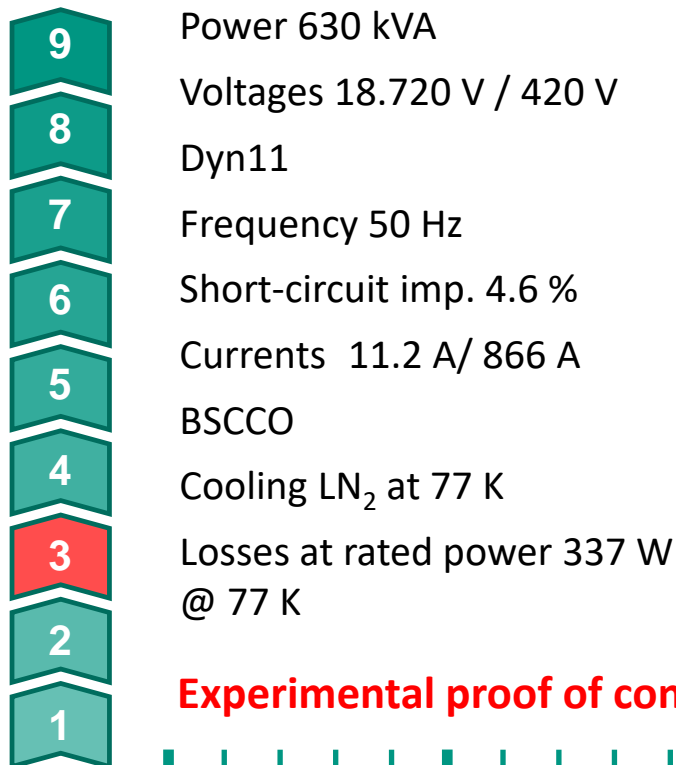


**Enables new class of transformers.**



## Transformers – State-of-the-Art

1996 – First superconducting transformer in grid operation in Switzerland



Zueger et.al, Cryogenics 38 (1998) 1169–1172

**Experimental proof of concept**

2000

2005

2010

2015

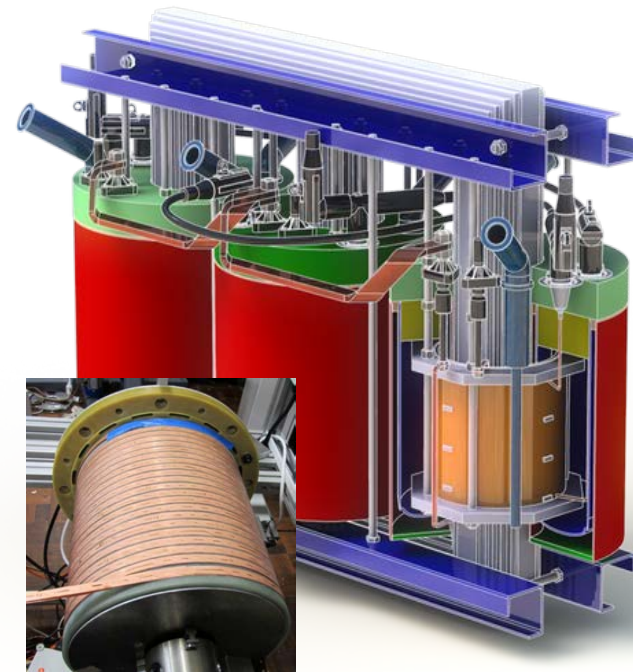
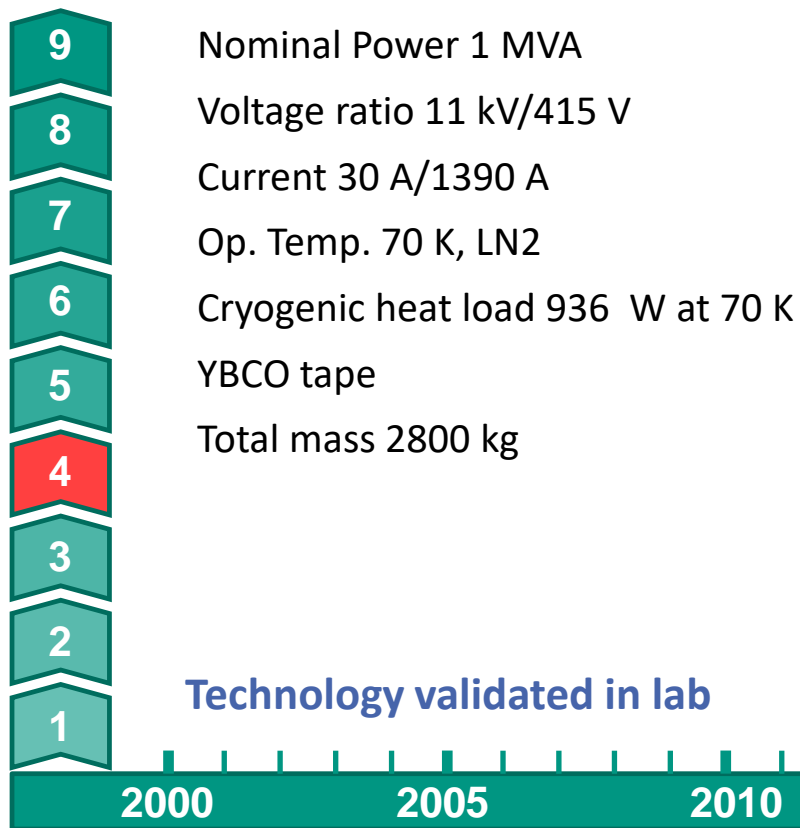
2020

2025



## Transformers – State-of-the-Art

2012 – First superconducting transformer with HTS Roebel winding in New Zealand



Glasson et. al, IEEE TASC VOL. 23, NO. 3, JUNE 2013  
Doi 10.1109/TASC.2012.2234919

## Transformers – State-of-the-Art

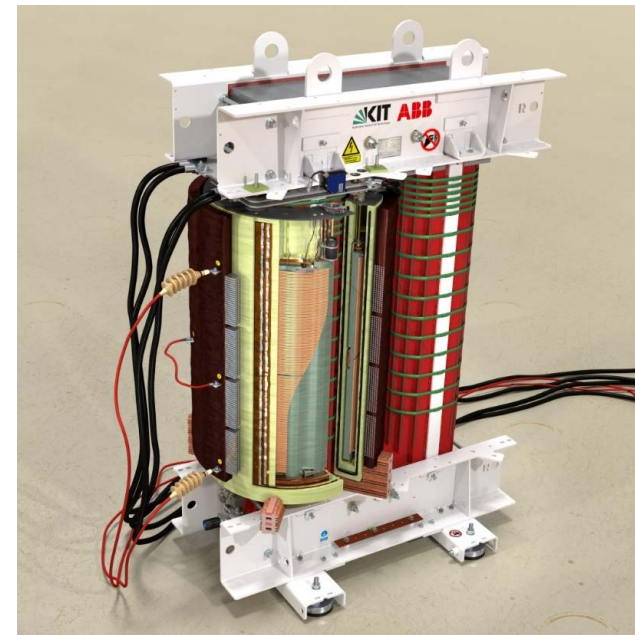
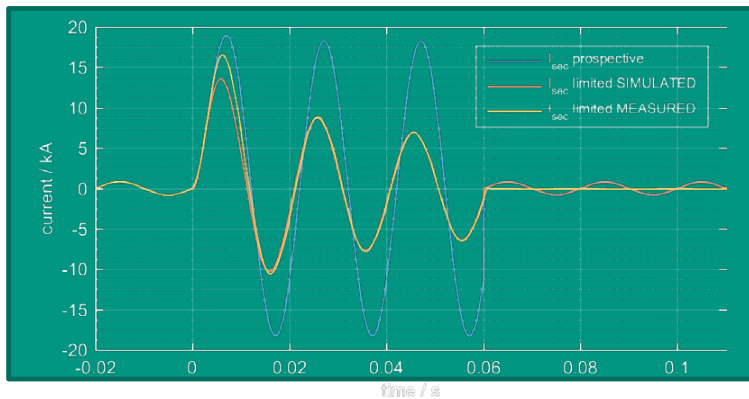
2017 – 1 MVA fault current limiting transformer demonstrated in laboratory at KIT

Nominal Power 577 kVA

Voltage ratio 20 kV/1 kV

Fault duration 60 ms

YBCO tape



Hellmann et. al, IEEE TASC Vol. 29 (Nr. 5), 8675321, 2019

**Experimental proof of concept**

- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1



# Superconducting Transformers

## State-of-the-Art (> 500 kVA)

In bold field test



Country	Inst.	Application	Data	Phase	Year	HTS
Switzerland	ABB	Distribution	<b>630 kVA, 18.4 kV/420V</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>BSCCO</b>
Japan	Fuji Electric	Demonstrator	500 kVA, 6.6 kV/3.3 kV	1	1998	BSCCO
USA	Waukesha	Demonstrator	1 MVA, 13.8 kV/6.9 kV	1	-	BSCCO
USA	Waukesha	Demonstrator	5 MVA, 24.9 kV/4.2 kV	3	-	BSCCO
Japan	Fuji Electric	Demonstrator	1 MVA, 22 kV/6.9 kV	1	2001	BSCCO
Germany	Siemens	Railway	1 MVA, 25 kV/1.4 kV	1	2001	BSCCO
Korea	U Seoul	Demonstrator	1 MVA, 22.9 kV/6.6 kV	1	2004	BSCCO
Japan	Fuji Electric	Railway	4 MVA, 25 kV/1.2 kV	1	2004	BSCCO
Japan	Kyushu Uni.	Demonstrator	2 MVA, 66 kV/6.9 kV	1	2004	BSCCO
<b>China</b>	<b>IEE CAS</b>	<b>Demonstrator</b>	<b>630 kVA, 10.5 kV/400 V</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>BSCCO</b>
Japan	U Nagoya	Demonstrator	2 MVA, 22 kV/6.6 kV	1	2009	BSCCO/YBCO
Australia	Callaghan	Demonstrator	1 MVA, 11 kV/415 V	3	2012	YBCO
China	IEE CAS	Demonstrator	1.25 MVA, 10.5 kV/400 V	3	2014	BSCCO
Germany	KIT/ABB	Demonstrator	577 kVA, 20 kV/1 kV	1	2017	Cu/YBCO

**Not many activities so far to develop prototypes for field tests.**

## How Transformers meet Power System Challenges



- Increase energy and resource efficiency.
  - Less volume, less material
- For superconducting transformers with active current limitation see fault current limiters.
- Enables new class of transformers with very high voltage ratio.

- 1) Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.**
- 2) Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.**
- 3) Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

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- **SMES**

Benefits

Development of the State-of-the-Art

How this meets Power Challenges

- Summary



## Benefits of SMES

- Short reaction time (ms)
- Fast charge and discharge
- 0-100 % charging possible
- Independent supply of active and reactive power
- High efficiency
- No degradation
- Environmentally friendly

**Attractive benefits but limited energy storage capacity.**

## LTS SMES – State-of-the-Art

2001 – AMSC commercializes D-SMES



Capacity 3 MJ per stack

Up to 8 stacks

BSCCO in CLs

NbTi in SMES

Out of 2001 AMSC Yearly Report “We had sold 11 D-SMES systems worldwide as of May 31, 2001”



**System complete and qualified**

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025



## HTS SMES – State-of-the-Art

2008 – 800 kJ HTS SMES for military application



Capacity 800 kJ

Current 315 A

BSCCO2212

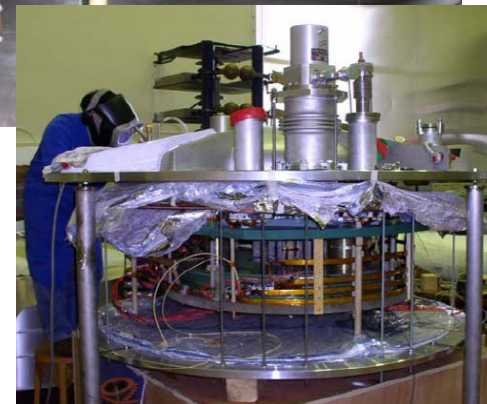
26 'pancake' coils

Cryogenfree cooling

Temperature 20 K



Tixador et.al. IEEE TASC VOL. 17, NO. 2, JUNE 2007



Technology validated in lab

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025

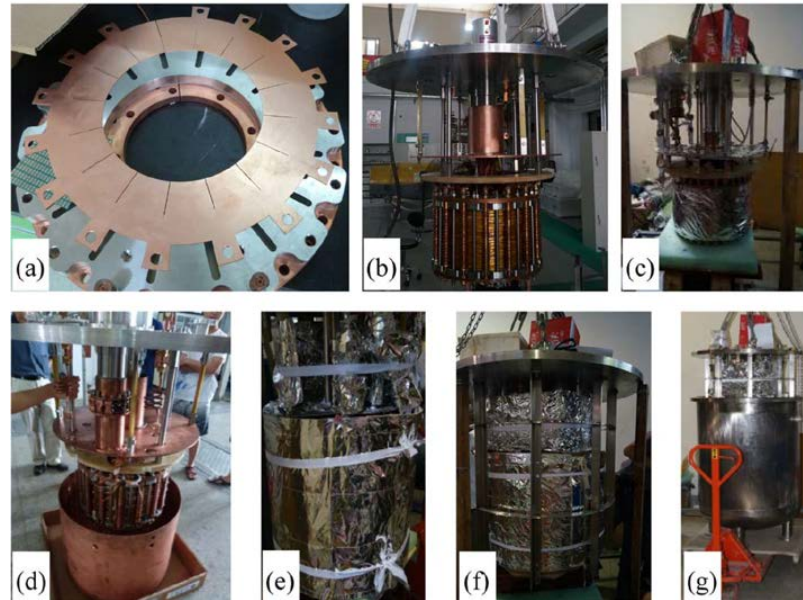


## HTS SMES – State-of-the-Art

2014 – 100 kW, 150 kJ movable HTS SMES



Nominal Power 100 kW  
Capacity 150 kJ  
Max. Current 183 A  
BSCCO and YBCO coils  
17 coils  
Temperature 20 K  
Max. Field 4.7 T



Li Ren, et.al. Development of a Movable HTS SMES System, IEEE TASC, VOL. 25, NO. 4, AUGUST 2015

**Technology validated in relevant environment**





## HTS SMES – State-of-the-Art

Lead Institution	Country	Year	Data	Super-conductor	Application
Chubu	Japan	2004	1 MVA, 1 MJ	Bi 2212	Voltage stability
CAS	China	2007	0,5 MVA, 1 MJ	Bi 2223	-
KERI	Korea	2007	600 kJ	Bi 2223	Power-, Voltage quality
CNRS	F	2008	800 kJ	Bi 2212	Military application
KERI	Korea	2011	2.5 MJ	YBCO	Power quality
HUST	China	2014	100 kW, 150 kJ	YBCO/BSCCO	Power conditioning
U Bologna	Italy	2020	300 kJ, 100 kW	MgB <sub>2</sub>	Hybrid energy storage

**High TRL achieved but commercialization challenge due to high investment cost.**

## How SMES meet Power System Challenges



- Compensate fast fluctuating changes in generation and/ or load
- Provide peak power
- Ideal for hybrid energy storage

- 1) Ensure stable, reliable and economic operation by e.g. balancing fluctuating generation and volatile consumption.**
- 2) Extension of energy infrastructure to better integrate storage and renewables.
- 3) Development of acceptable energy and resource efficient technology solutions and processes to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## Table of Content

- Major Challenges in Power Systems

- Power Applications

- Cables
- Fault Current Limiters
- Rotating Machines
- Transformers
- SMES



Benefits

Development of the State-of-the-Art

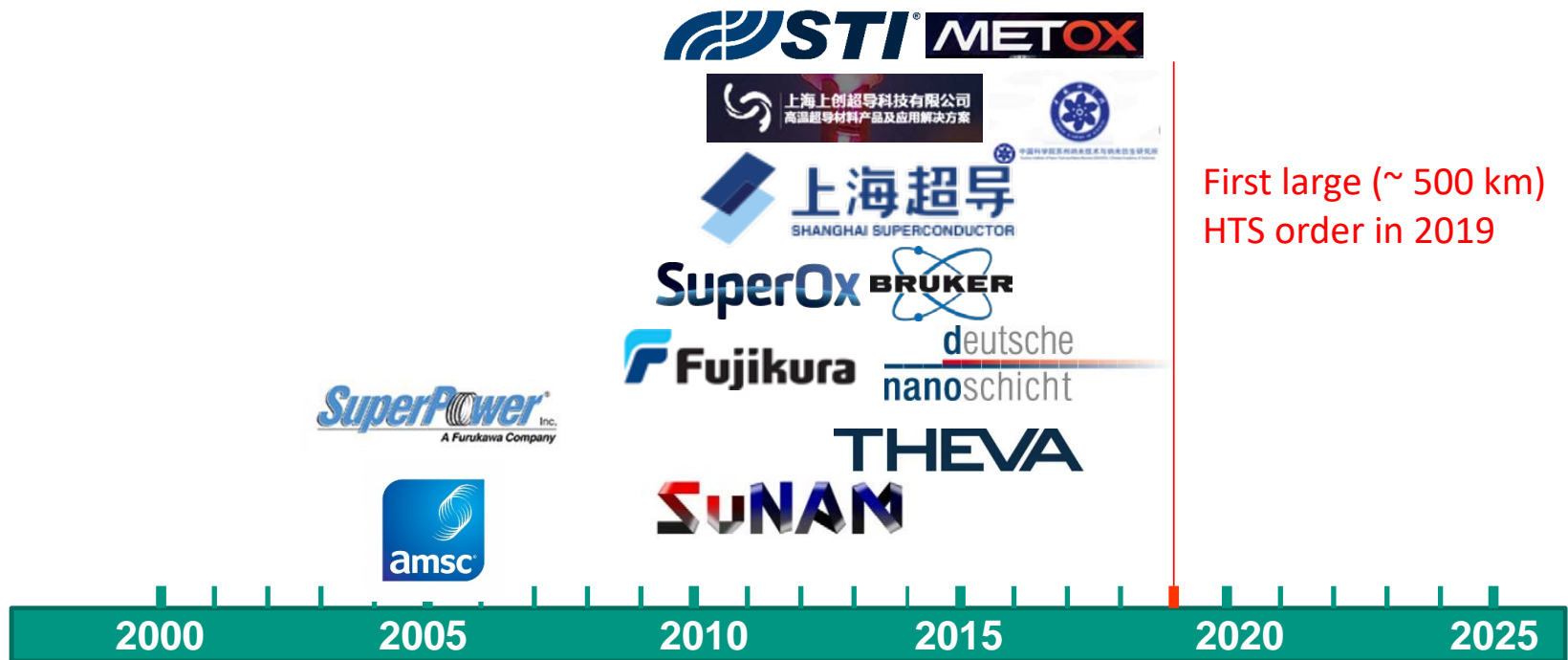
How this meets Power Challenges

- **Summary**



## Availability of YBCO tapes

Year of first significant manufacturing or delivery of YBCO tapes



Between 2005 and 2015 more and more companies developed pilot production lines for YBCO tapes.

## Summary – State-of-the-Art



Low TRL

Medium TRL

High TRL

	TRL 1	TRL 2	TRL 3	TRL 4	TRL 5	TRL 6	TRL 7	TRL 8	TRL 9
AC MV Cables						(X)			
AC HV Cables						(X)			
DC High Current					(X)				
DC High Voltage					(X)				
SFCL MV Resistive Type							(X)		
SFCL HV Resistive Type						(X)			
Ship Propulsion Motor				(X)					
Wind Generator					(X)				
Electric Aircraft Generator		(X)							
Traction Transformer				(X)					
Utility Transformer				(X)					
LTS SMES								(X)	
HTS SMES					(X)				

**Most of the applications need to move from medium to high TRL.**

## Summary – State-of-the-Art

○ Status 2000  
 ○ Status 2010



Low TRL

Medium TRL

High TRL

	TRL 1	TRL 2	TRL 3	TRL 4	TRL 5	TRL 6	TRL 7	TRL 8	TRL 9
AC MV Cables			○		○	⊗			
AC HV Cables		○			○	⊗			
DC High Current				○	⊗				
DC High Voltage				○	⊗				
SFCL MV Resistive Type				○	○		⊗		
SFCL HV Resistive Type		○	○			⊗			
Ship Propulsion Motor		○		○	⊗				
Wind Generator		○			⊗				
Electric Aircraft Generator		⊗							
Traction Transformer				○	⊗				
Utility Transformer			○	○	⊗				
LTS SMES								○	⊗
HTS SMES			○	○	⊗				



## Summary – What needs to be done?

- For applications with TRL progress in the past develop more prototypes and perform more long term field tests.
- For applications with no TRL progress in the past check if economic viability can be achieved or try „out of the box“ approach.
- For applications with low TRL develop first large scale demonstrators and prototypes.

Many thanks for your attention!