

# Highly Efficient, High Power Density GaN-based DC-DC Converters for Grid-Tied Energy Storage Applications

Department of Energy Phase II SBIR

**APEI**

**Daniel Martin, PhD**

Senior Staff Engineer, Switched-Mode Power Supplies

**September 22, 2015**



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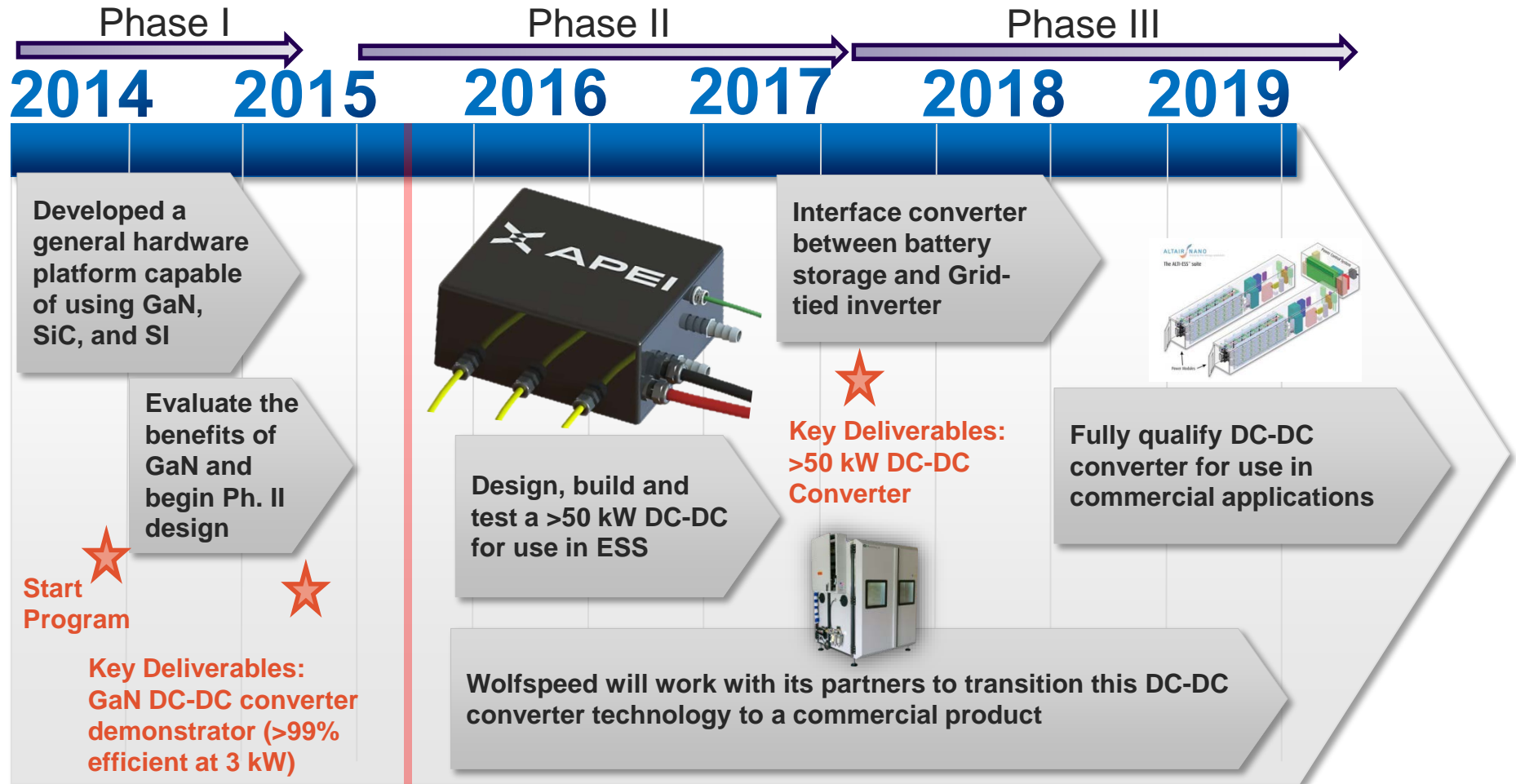
# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank **Dr. Imre Gyuk** of the DOE Energy Storage Program for funding this work and **Dr. Stan Atcitty** for his technical contributions.



# SBIR PROGRAM GOALS AND TIMELINE

Design and develop a high efficiency (>98%) power dense (>10 kw/L) bidirectional GaN based DC-DC converter for energy storage applications



# PROGRAM TARGET APPLICATIONS

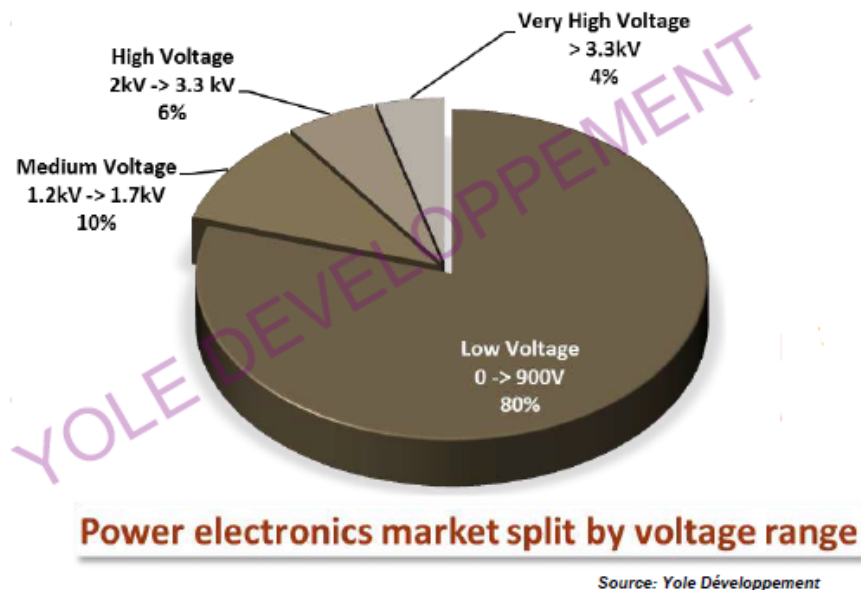
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- Residential and light commercial (<10 kw)
  - Renewable energy storage and interface converter
  - Hybrid Electric/Electric vehicle
- Industrial (10 kW to MW scale)
  - Renewable energy storage and interface converter
  - Uninterruptible power supplies
  - Hybrid Electric/Electric heavy vehicle (locomotives, heavy machinery)



## Power Electronics Market

- **< 900 V** – GaN set to grow greatly in this area. GaN has the potential to offer higher performance and lower cost.
- **> 1.2 kV** – Currently, ideal Area for SiC; GaN research being done to penetrate this market

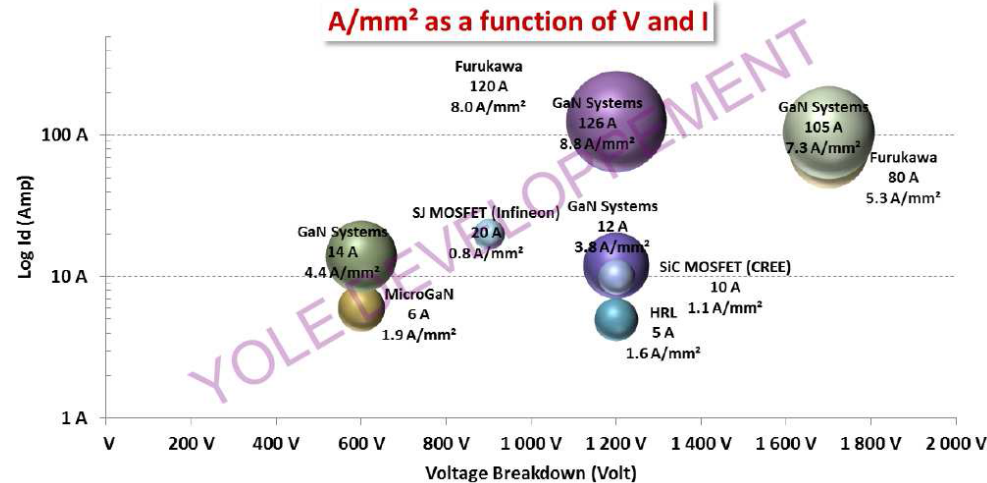


## Energy Storage Market

- The global energy storage market is expected to grow to \$400 B by 2020 [1]

[1]. <http://climatecrocks.com/2013/07/20/more-on-energy-storage-breakthrough-batteries/>





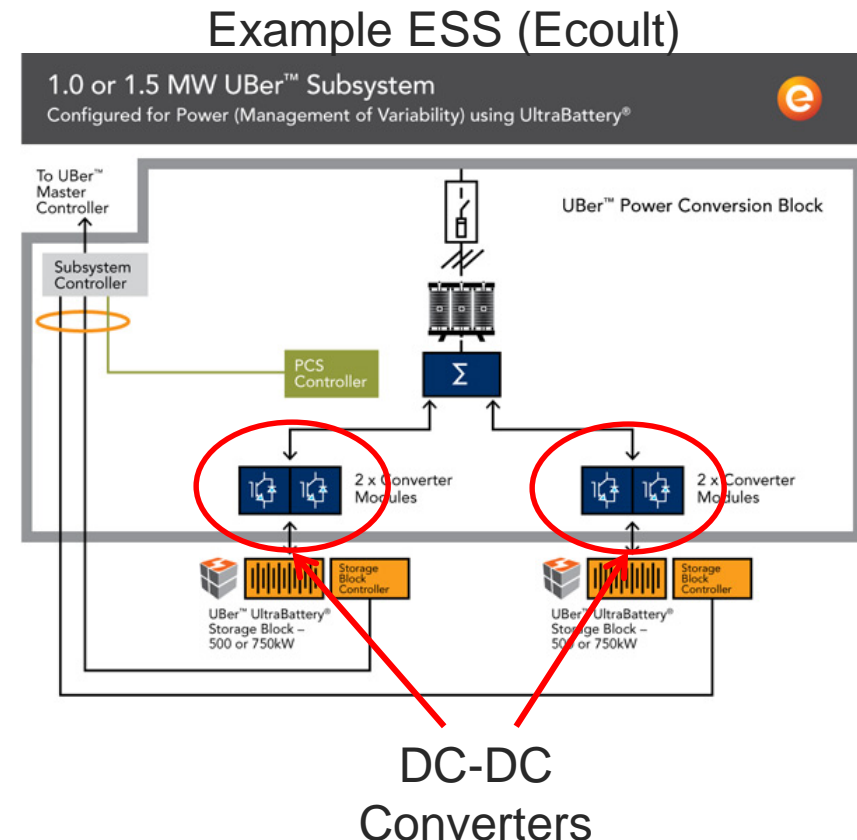
- Extremely fast switching which enables:
  - Smaller/less expensive filtering elements
  - Lower switching loss increases efficiency and reduces cooling requirements
- Cascode arrangement enables:
  - Simple drive requirements (Si MOSFET front end)
  - Usable anti-parallel diode

“Power GaN: Market & Technology Analysis,” Yole Development.

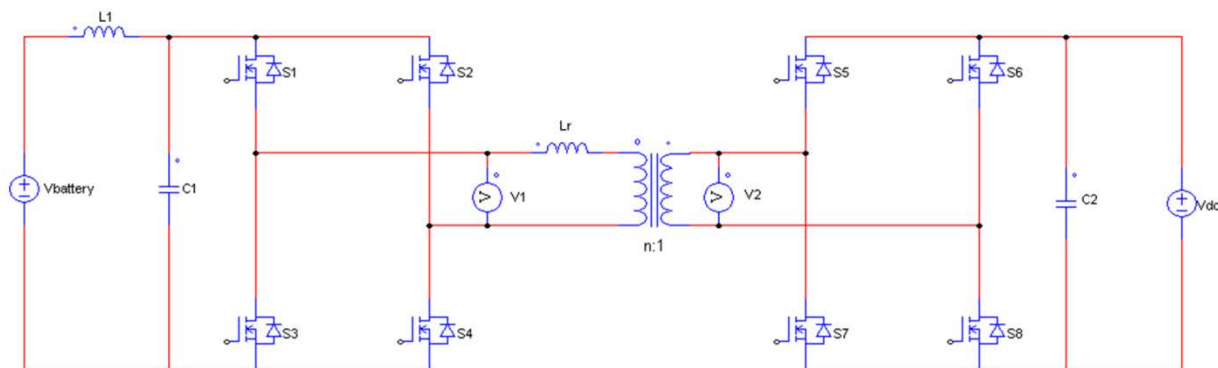
# NEED FOR HIGH EFFICIENCY DC-DC CONVERTERS IN ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

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- High efficiency DC-DC converters provide critical functionality in energy storage systems
  - They provide galvanic isolation (safety)
  - They are inherently capable of providing circuit breaker functionality
  - They interface the inverter to the batteries
  - They control the charging/discharging of batteries
- **High efficiency is critical and can significantly decrease wasted energy, operational cost, and payback period**





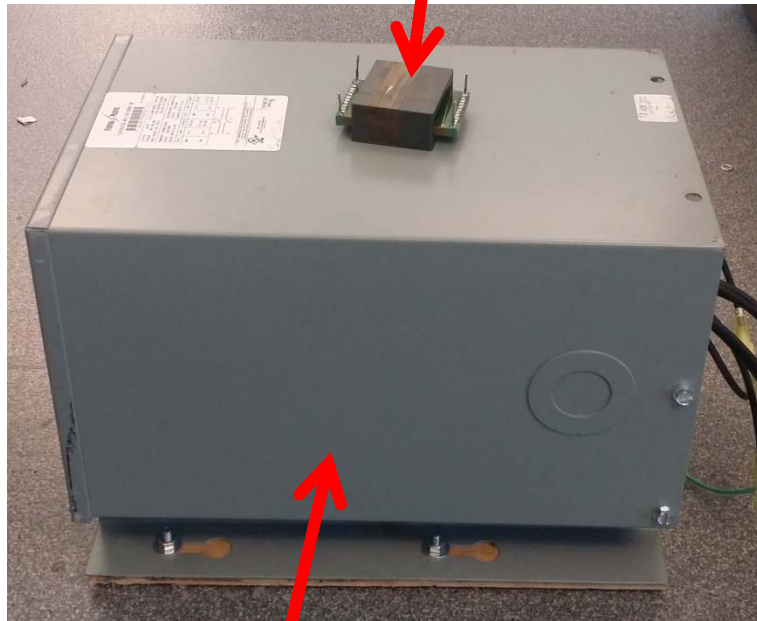


- Dual Active Bridge (DAB) topology
  - Power bidirectional
  - Soft switching topology decreases switching loss
  - High frequency isolation transformer enables galvanic isolation in a small volume
  - Scalable from 100's of watts to MWs

# HARDWARE PROTOTYPE

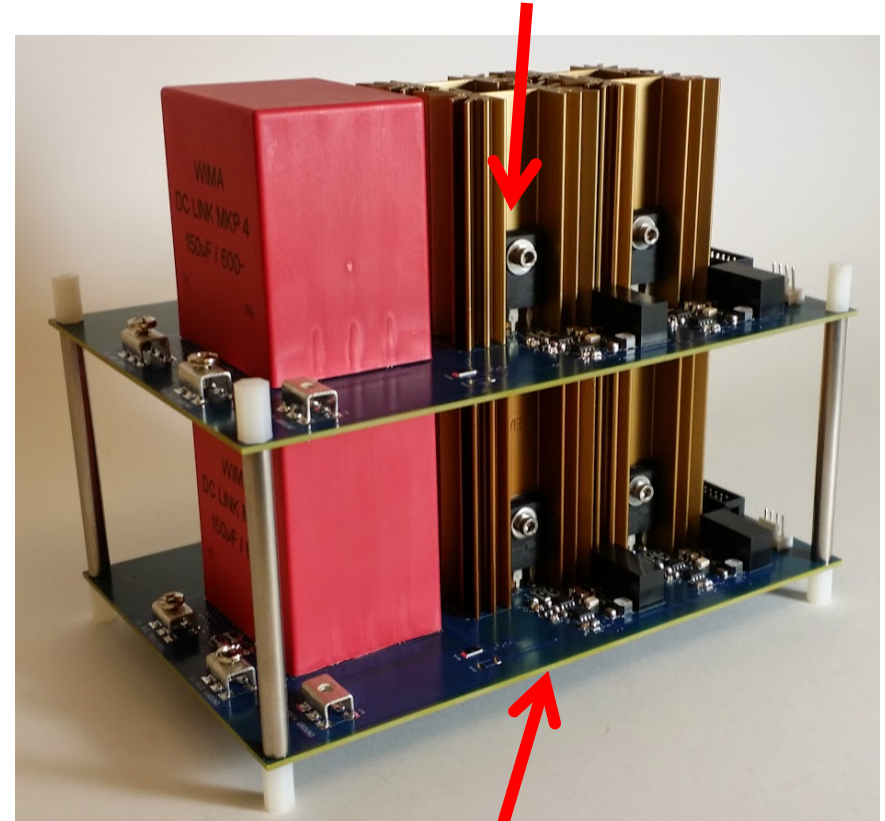
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100 kHz Ferrite Transformer  
8 kW – 328 grams



60 Hz Si-Steel Transformer  
7.5 kVA – 150 lbs

Primary Side Full Bridge

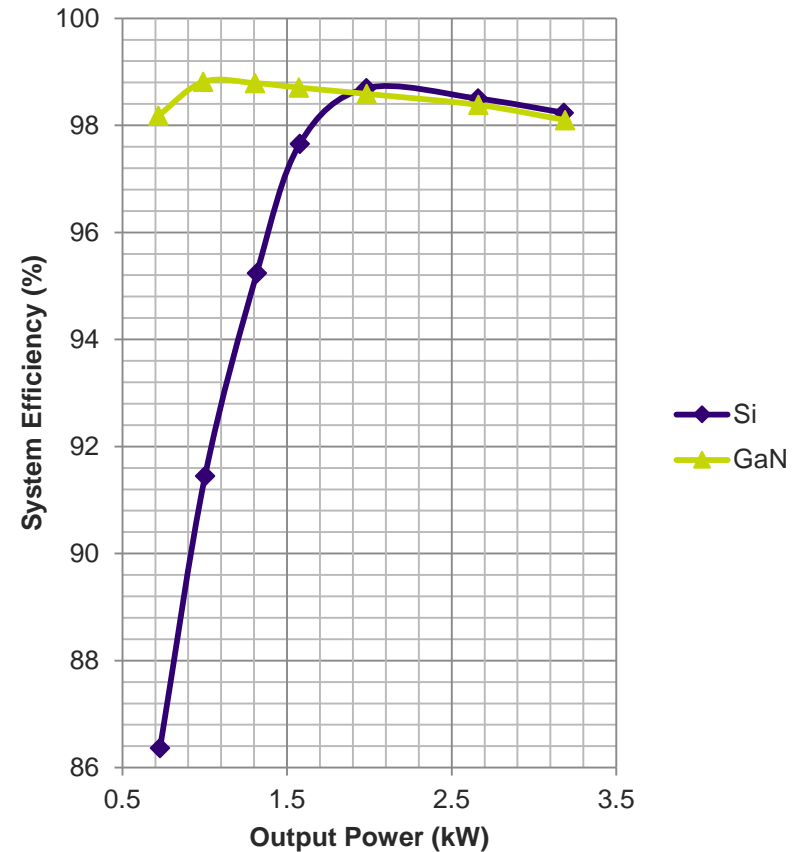


Secondary Side Full Bridge

# PHASE I RESULTS

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- GaN proved to be superior to state of the art super junction Si FETs
- Improved weighted efficiency (CEC efficiency) by 2.7% (95.66% for Si and 98.37% for GaN)
- GaN can further dominate by lowering conduction loss via power module



- Develop a custom power module around GaN capable of  $>250$  A and  $>600$  V
- Use the developed module to create a scalable 50 kW power processing unit for energy storage units (series/parallel capability for use in higher voltage/higher power applications)
  - $>50$  kHz operation to enable small magnetic components
  - $>98\%$  efficiency to reduce cooling requirements
- Explore advanced magnetic based control strategies to improve system efficiency at light loads

- High efficiency bidirectional DC-DC converters are critical for current and future energy storage systems
- GaN transistor technology can greatly improve efficiency compared to Si technology
- The DC-DC converter demonstrator deliverable for Phase I exceeded all initial targets
- GaN power modules required to achieve higher power levels are being developed in this effort
- A high power (>50 kw) converter is being developed in the Phase II utilizing a custom GaN power module to enable higher efficiency energy storage units



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*Leading the Pack*<sup>TM</sup>