

# *Update on Optically Interconnected Inverter System*

The DOE Workshop on Systems Driven  
Approach To Inverter R&D

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# *Overview*

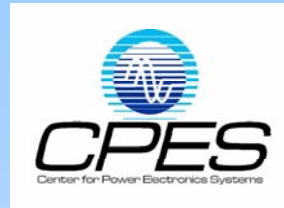
- USDoE Inverter Program Background
- Program Status
- Anticipated Markets
- Future

# *Background: Project Goals*

- **Primary: Develop and test an advanced pre-production three phase, 5 megawatt inverter system based upon HV-IGBTs switches with complete optical isolation (control and sensing) between the high power subassemblies and the low power control and signal processing hardware.**
- **Secondary**
  - Successfully Implement Robust Heat Pipe Thermal Solution
  - Design the System for Manufacturability “...from the Start...”
  - Build the Complete System for \$150/KVA @ > 99% Efficiency
  - Develop Optical Current/Voltage/Temperature Transducers for Introduction into Other Electrical Markets



# Background: Team Members



Pre-production  
Engineering  
Support

Power Conversion  
System  
Design & Testing



Funded  
Research

**Products**

High-Power Inverter  
Applications

Optical Transducers  
for High-Power  
Applications



Optimized  
Sensor  
Elements

System  
Specifications

Technical  
Oversight



Thermal  
Management





# *Background: Motivation*

- There exist few cost-effective, efficient power conversion topologies for high-power markets.
- High-power conversion systems are largely based upon smaller conversion systems with applied scaling rules, e.g., a 5-MW system ~ size of 10, 500 KW systems.
- There are no optically-isolated/interconnected high-power systems in the market today.
  
- Solution: Optical Sensor Technologies + High-Voltage IGBT Power Systems + Advanced Heat-Pipe Cooling Solutions





# *Background: System Advantages*

- HV-IGBT Topology Allows:
  - Elimination of Current Snubbers and Voltage Clamps
  - Simplified Gate Drive Circuitry and Isolation
  - Higher Frequency Switching (~ 5 kHz)
- Optical Transducers and Interfaces Allow:
  - Intrinsic Galvanic / Electrical Isolation
  - EMI Immunity => Increased Reliability
  - Increased Equipment and Personnel Safety

# *Background: System Advantages (Con't)*

- Integrated Heat-Pipe Cooling System Allows:
  - Considerable Life-Cycle Cost Reduction over Conventional Pumping Systems
  - Lower (Minimal) Maintenance Requirements
  - Higher Reliability
  - Smaller Footprint / Compact Design
  - Degraded Mode of Operation Possible
  - Up to 20 KW Heat Removal per Phase Leg



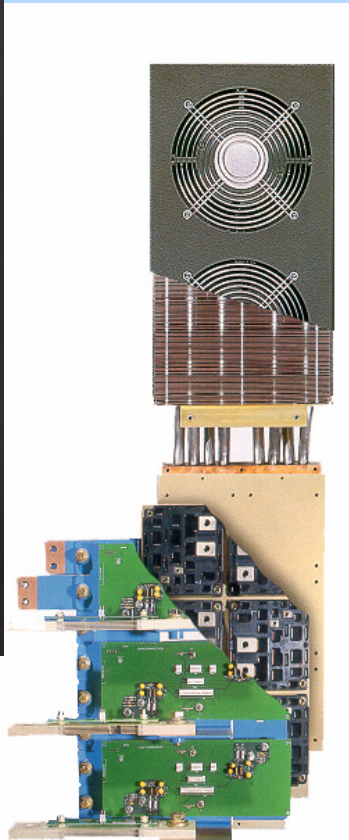
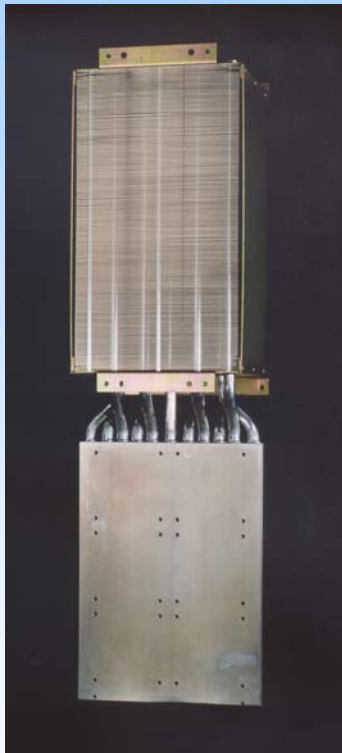
# Mitsubishi HV-IGBT Packages



- Common 190 x 140 mm Footprint
  - CM1800HB: 1.7 KV, 1800A
  - CM1200HB: 2.5 KV, 1200A
  - **CM1200HB: 3.3 KV, 1200A**
  - CM900HB: 4.5 KV, 900A
- Scaleable Phase Leg Designs Possible
- Efficient Interface to Buss Bar



# *Therma-Charge™ Multi-Kilowatt Heat Pipe Heat Sink*



**Power Rating: 10,000 watts  
(Modified Standard 835 Design)**

**Nom. Air Flow: 600 CFM per 2  
Fans**

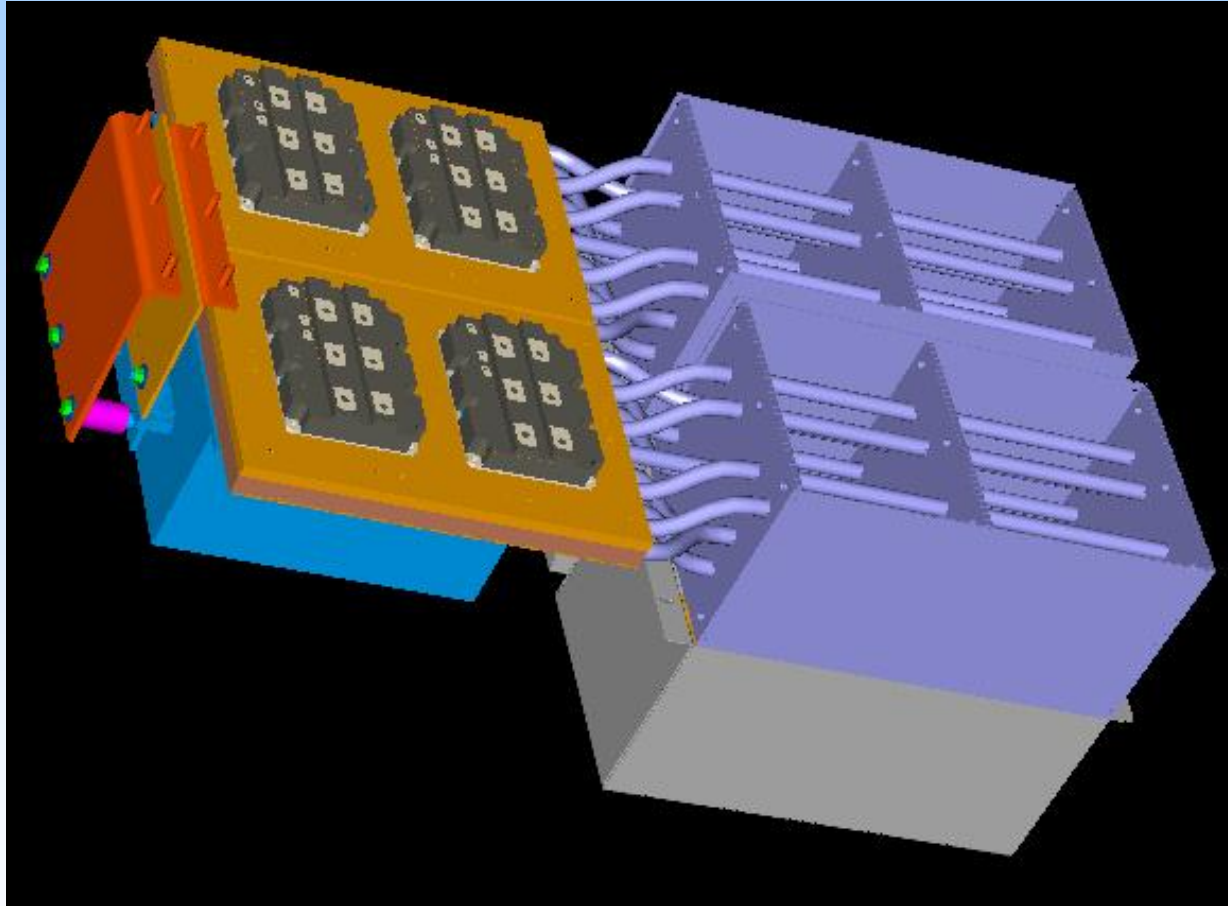
**Working Fluid: Water**

**Operating Range: 40° C – 180° C**

**New Design Tested to  $\Delta 43^{\circ}$  C at  
8250W True Power Dissipation**

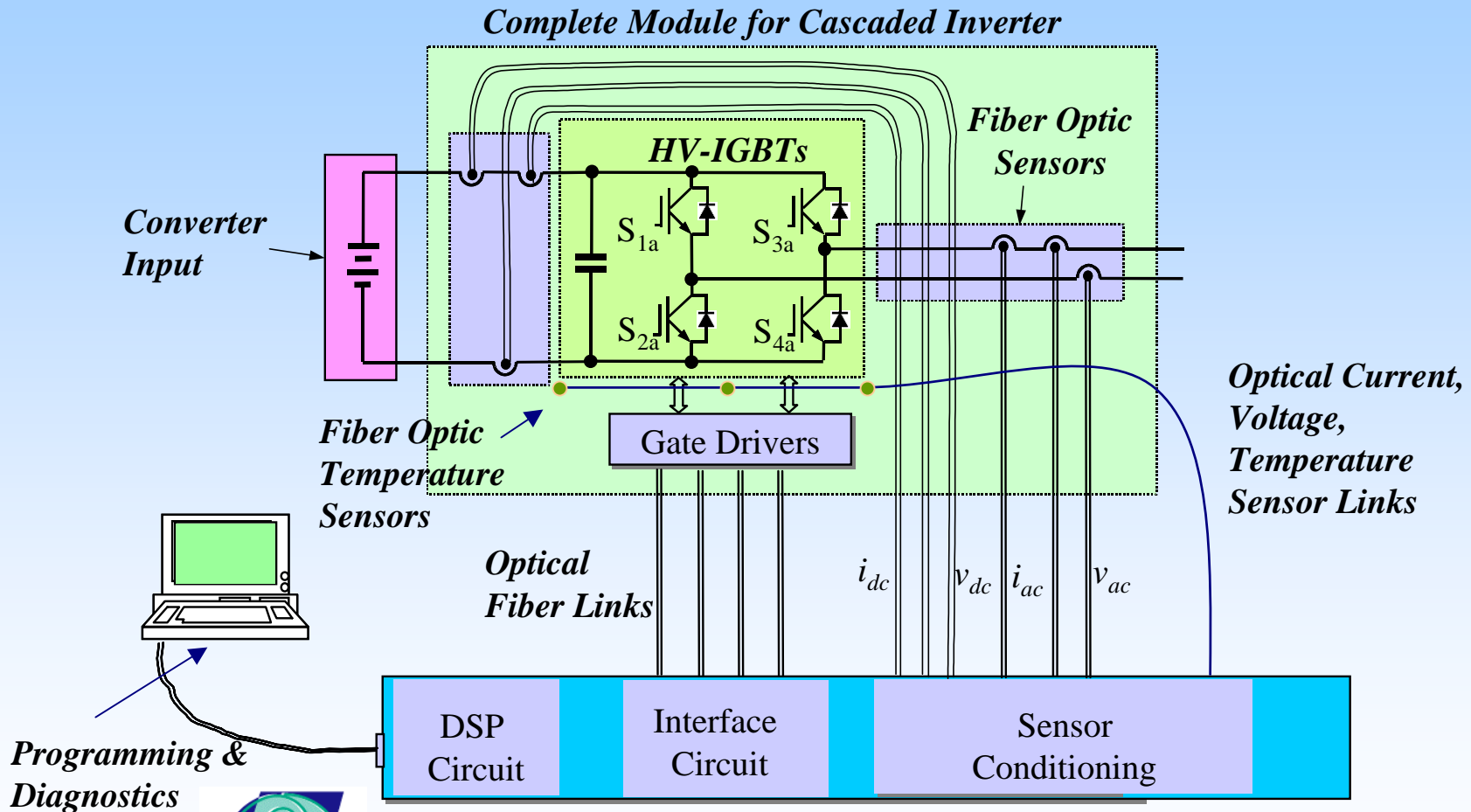


# *1700 KVA Phase Leg Topology*



# Single Phase Building Block

## Sensor & Control Configuration



# 5-MW 3-Phase Multi-Level Inverter

**Instrumentation Enclosures**

**ThermaCharge  
20KW Cooling  
Assys per Phase  
Leg + Fan Packs  
(6)**

**53"**

**Weight: ~1450 lbs.**

**DC Input:  
50V-2.5kV**

**Projected \$ / KW:  
\$125/kW**

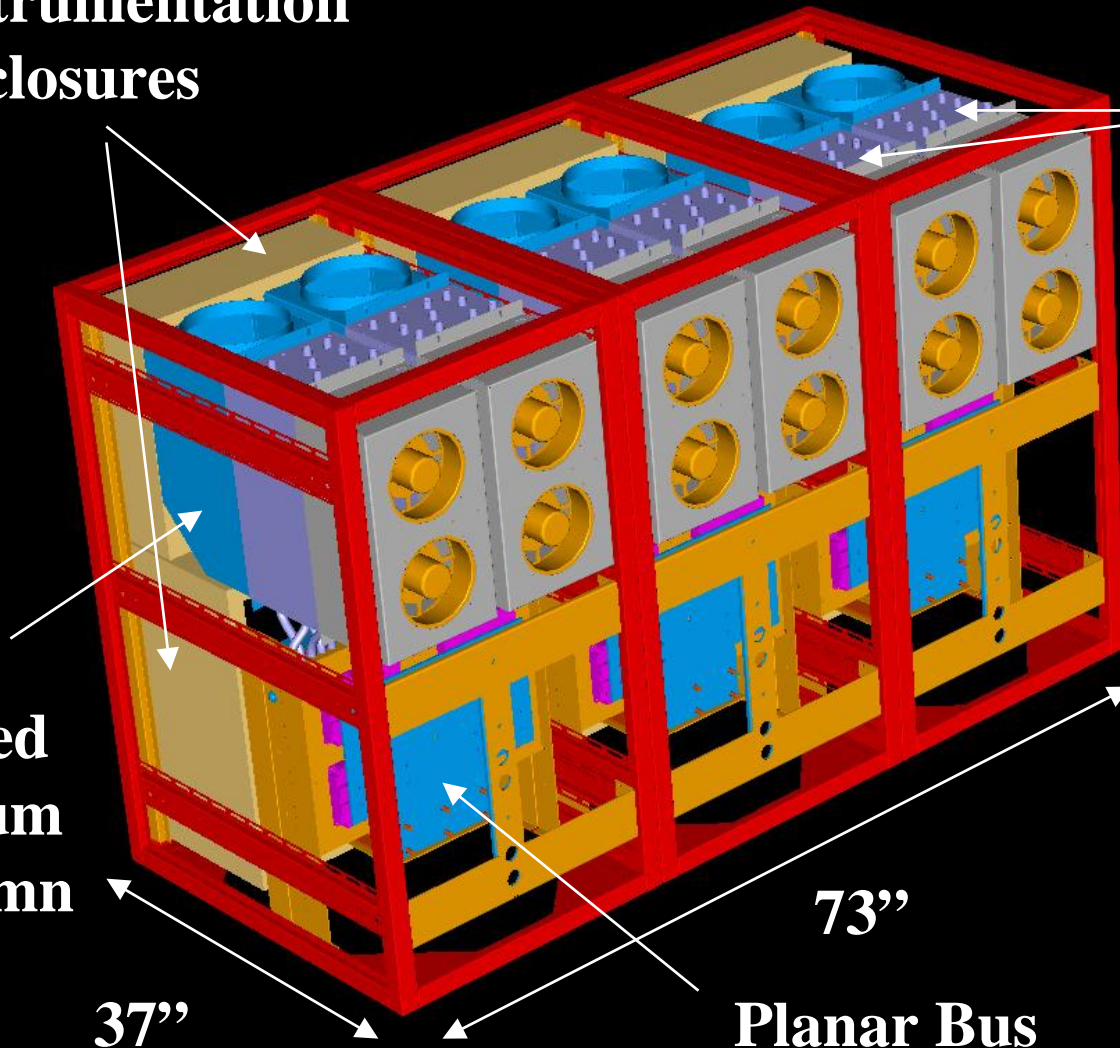
**Actual \$ / KW:  
\$90/kW**

**Ducted  
Plenum  
Column**

**37"**

**73"**

**Planar Bus**





# *Rationale for CAD Effort*

- Ensure Everything “Fits” / Get it Right the First Time
- Self Documenting for Manufacturing / More Cost Efficient
- IDEAS™ Models Directly Import Into Maxwell 3D for Field FE Solver Calculations
  - Parametric Solver Shows Optimum Placement of High-Power Cables, Interconnecting Buss Bars, etc.
  - ES and EM Shielding Requirements for 5-MW Operation can be Inferred from 300 KW Model Convergence → Greater Chance of Success @ 5 MW







# *Program Status as of 4/23/03*

- Currently In Month 11 of 24 Month Program (Full Contract Awarded September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002); Program is On Schedule
- All Major Subsystems have been Implemented in CAD-Space
- All Major Hardware has been Procured and Receipt is Anticipated by End of April
- Closed-Loop Control System Development Underway



# Single Phase-Leg Size Reference & Major Components



Cooling Fins

Cooling Fans

Heatpipes

Copper Thick-Block

I/O Cable Support

850  $\mu$ F Capacitor

# *Program Status (Con't)*

- Optical Current Sensors are Undergoing Extensive Temperature Testing to Ensure Long-Term Performance
- Optical Temperature Sensors are Ready for Integration & Testing
- The Packaging for the Optical Voltage Sensors is being Developed for Integration into the Planar Buss Bar





# *Anticipated Markets*

- Emergency Power Markets
  - Short Term Ride Through Appl.
  - Longer Term UPS Applications
- Distributed Energy Markets
- Advanced Power Conversion Technologies
  - Fuel Cell Manufacturers
  - Flywheel Manufacturers
  - Wind & Hydro Turbine Mfrs.
  - Solar Manufacturers

- Military Markets
  - Fuel Cell Applications
    - ✓ Submarines
    - ✓ Afloat Forces
    - ✓ Forward Deployed Forces
  - “All Electric” Ship
    - ✓ Zonal Power Distribution
    - ✓ Prime Mover Power Conversion





# *Upcoming Major Milestones*

- 1700 KVA Single Phase Assembly/Testing Underway (Open Loop, Conclude June '03)
- Low-Power Single Phase Leg Close-Loop Testing (Start June '03)
- 3-Phase Low-Level (<300 kW) Testing (Start Aug '03)
- 3-Phase Inverter Delivery to AEP (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2004) or....?

