

# POWER TRANSFORMERS FOR THE GRID OF THE FUTURE

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The World's First Flexible Power Transformer

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# About GE Vernova

## *A built-for-purpose energy transition company*

### POWER



#### Gas Power

- Heavy Duty Gas Turbines
- Aeroderivative Gas Turbines
- Steam Turbines/Generators



#### Steam Power

- US Nuclear, Global Coal
- Steam, Generators, Boilers



#### Hydro

- Hydro Turbines/Generators
- Pumped Storage



#### Nuclear

- Boiling Water Reactors
- Fuel
- Small Modular Reactors

### WIND



#### Onshore Wind

- 2 - 3.5 MW platform
- 5 – 6 MW platform
- Services & repowering



#### Offshore Wind

- Haliade-150 (6 MW)
- Haliade-X (14 MW)



#### Wind Power

- ONW blades
- Haliade X blades

### ELECTRIFICATION



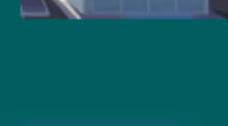
#### Grid Solutions

- Transmission
- Transformers
- Grid Automation



#### Power Conversion & Storage

- O&G, Rails & Ports, Electrification
- Marine, Navy & Heavy Industry
- Battery Energy Storage
- Solar inverters



#### Electrification Software

- GridOS
- Manufacturing
- Power and O&G

### ACCELERATORS

#### Financial Services

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party financing support
- Direct financing through equity

#### Consulting Services

- Power Market Assessments
- Investment Decision Analysis

#### Advanced Research

- Differentiated Technologies
- External Partnerships

# GE Vernova in numbers

**~7,000**

gas turbines  
installed - the  
world's largest fleet

**2,324 GW**

global installed base  
across our Power  
and Wind segments

**3+ GWh**

battery energy  
systems operational  
globally

**1ST**

commercial  
contract for a small  
modular reactor in  
North. America

**30 GW**

solar inverters global  
installed base

**\$4 BN+**

orders for GE Vernova  
technologies enabled  
by Financial Services  
in 2023



**~55,000**

wind turbines  
installed in  
50+ countries

**117+ GW**

global wind  
installed  
generating  
capacity

**#1 U.S.**

onshore wind  
turbines provider for  
the 5th year in a row\*

**90%**

of global power  
transmission utilities  
have been equipped  
with GE Vernova  
technologies

**~\$1 BN**

invested in annual  
R&D across Advanced  
Research + our  
businesses, ~3% of  
2023 revenue

**30%**

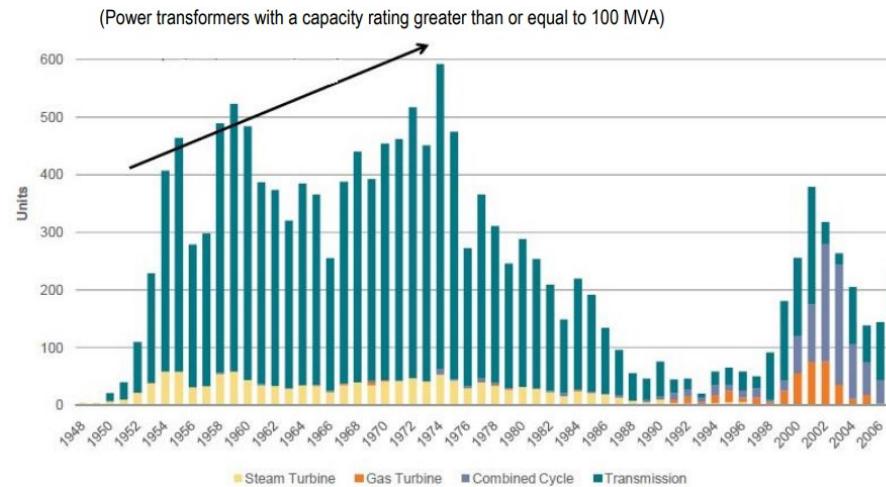
of the world's  
utilities are served  
by our software

**~25% of the World's electricity is generated with GE Vernova's technology**

# About power transformers

## *And why rethinking their design matters in today's context*

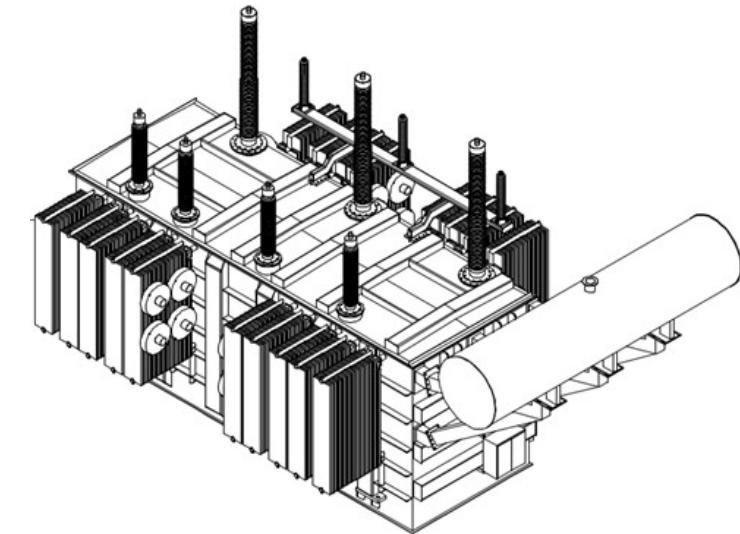
- Large Power Transformers (LPTs):
  - Per our definition, with power capacity greater than 100MVA
  - Custom-made (**production per design ratio ~1.3** - Source: DOE);
  - Long-lead times, difficult to transport, and expensive which lead to high spare inventory costs
  - Weather extremes, load and generation volatility to require more support for optimal power flow dispatch (Grid enhanced technologies – GETs)
- About the US fleet
  - average age of U.S. populations of LPTs ~38 years, 70% being +25 years old ([Source: DOE](#)).



- Surging demand for electrification & decarbonization (Datacenters, EV, Renewables)
- US import +80% of its LPT demand ([Source: DOE](#))

Source:

- DOE, [Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid](#), April 2014
- DOE, [Large Power Transformer Resilience](#), July 2024



In this context, will more flexible LPT better support the grid and improve its reliability and resilience?

# A deeper look into the US fleet

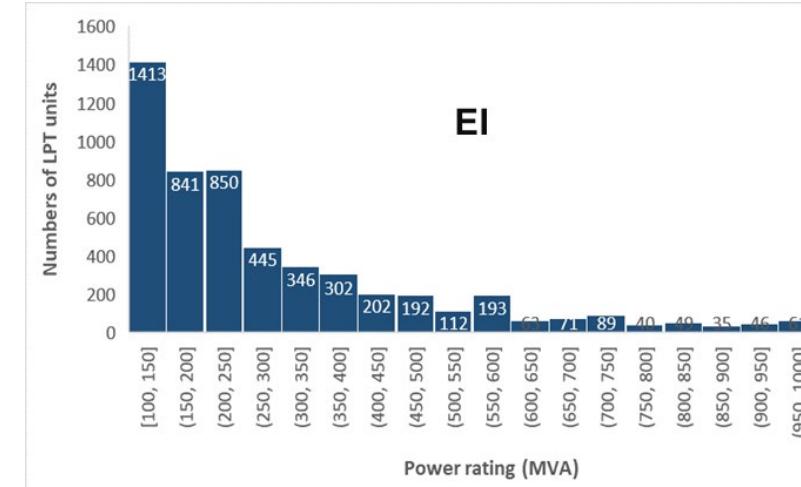
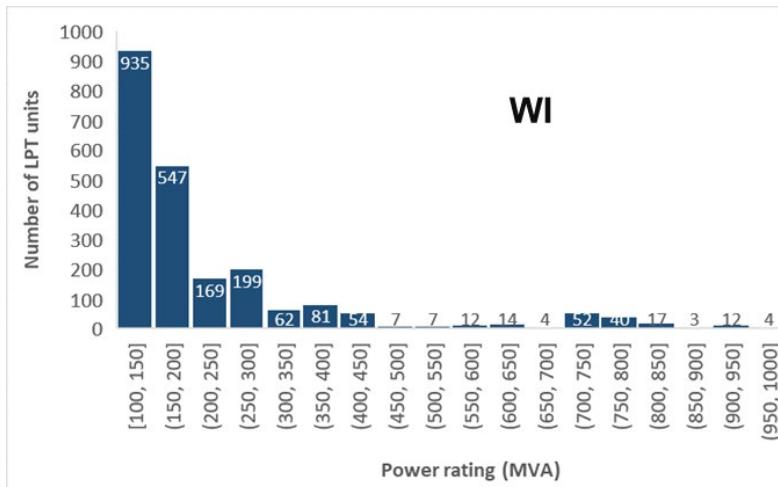
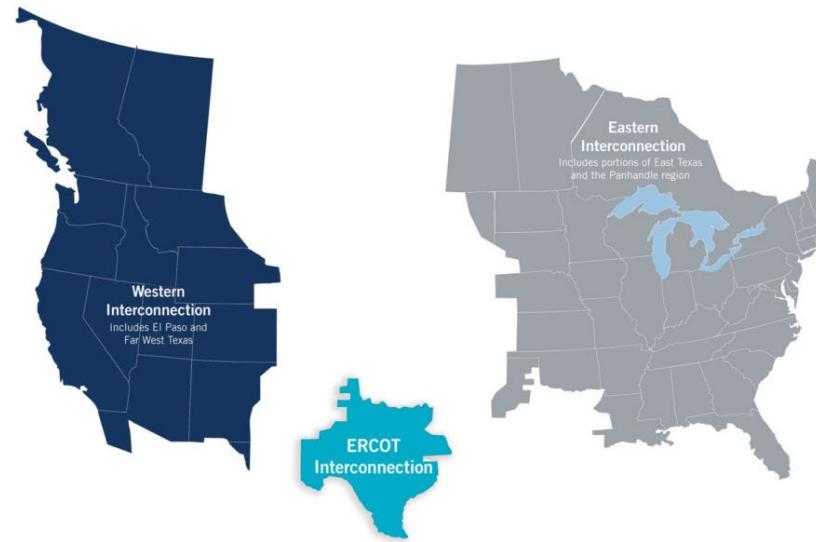
## WECC interconnection (WI)

- 9,126 transformers
- 2,221 LPTs

## Eastern interconnection (EI)

- 14,898 transformers
- 7,502 LPTs

Source: Transformers data obtained from GE Vernova Energy Consulting database



- LPTs represent ~40% of the total power transformers installed in the US
- 100MVA to 150MVA is the largest segment and account for 18.8% in EI and 42.1% in WI

# A deeper look into the US fleet

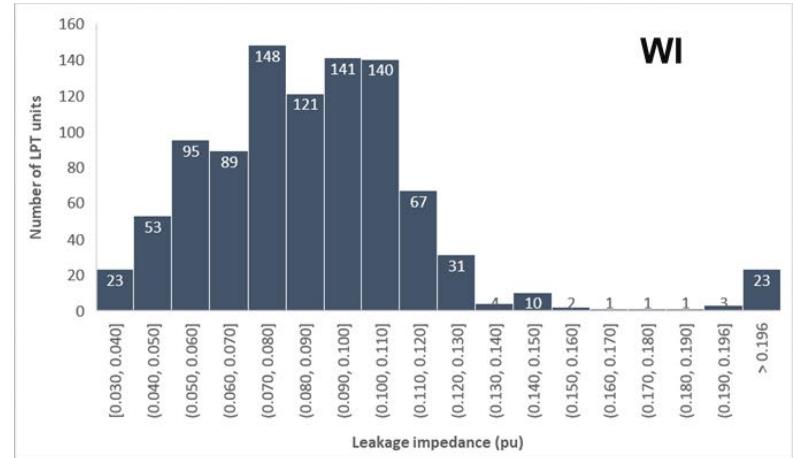
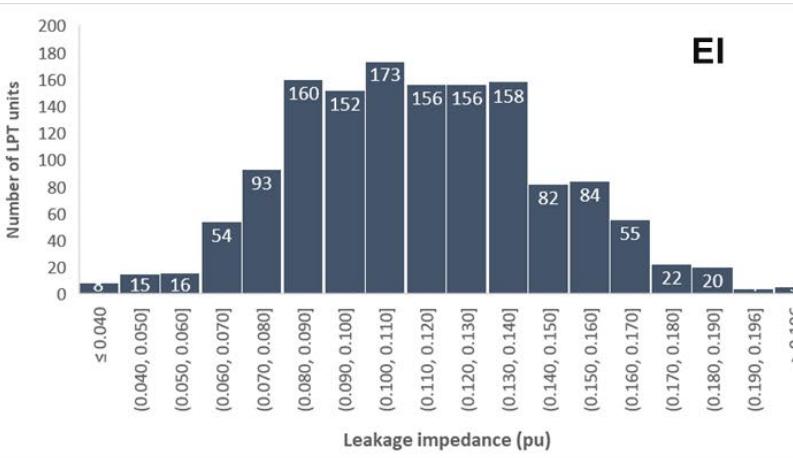
The voltage and impedance characteristics of 100MVA to 150MVA LPTs

EI

High Voltage side (kV)	Low Voltage side (kV)							Trans. class LPTs only	Total
	345	230	161	138	115	69	<35		
500	0	0	0	0	1	1	19		
345		0	0	2	2	0	19		
230			4	12	53	66	255	69	390
161				5	18	124	48	23	195
138					115	157	199	115	471
115						31	211	0	242
	0	0	4	19	189	379	751	212	1342

WI

High Voltage side (kV)	Low Voltage side (kV)							Trans. class LPTs only	Total
	345	230	161	138	115	69	<35		
500	0	0	0	0	2	3	28		
345		8	0	3	18	1	11		
230			13	81	88	182	314	69	678
161				1	2	0	0	23	3
138					1	13	37	115	51
115						11	26	0	37
	0	8	13	85	111	210	416	212	843



- 19.6% of 100MVA to 150MVA LPTs are transmission class transformers
- 230kV is the most common HV side voltage used by the 100 to 150MVA transmission class LPTs
- 161kV, 138kV, and 115kV are the most common LV side voltages used by 230kV HV side
- +80% of the 100MVA to 150MVA LPTs have a short-circuit impedance between 4% and 14%

A flexible LPT should be customizable for different Voltage, Impedance and Power ratings

- Autotransformer or conventional transformer
- Adjustable leakage impedance (online or offline)
- Connectable at different voltage class

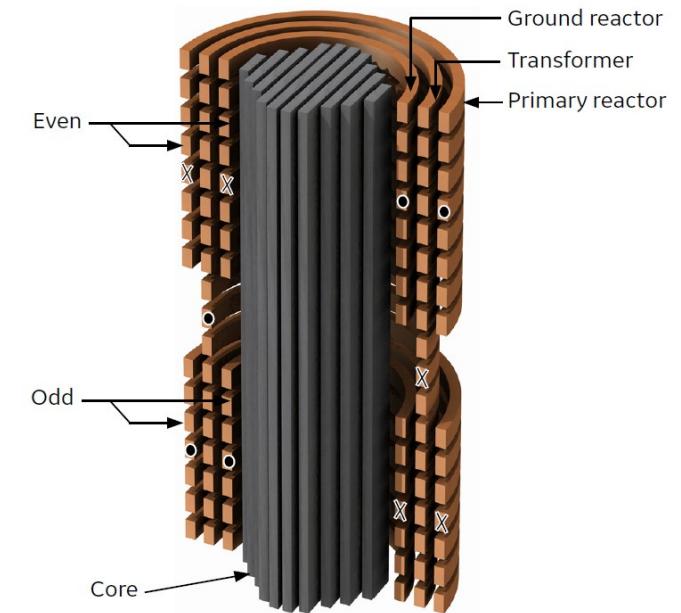
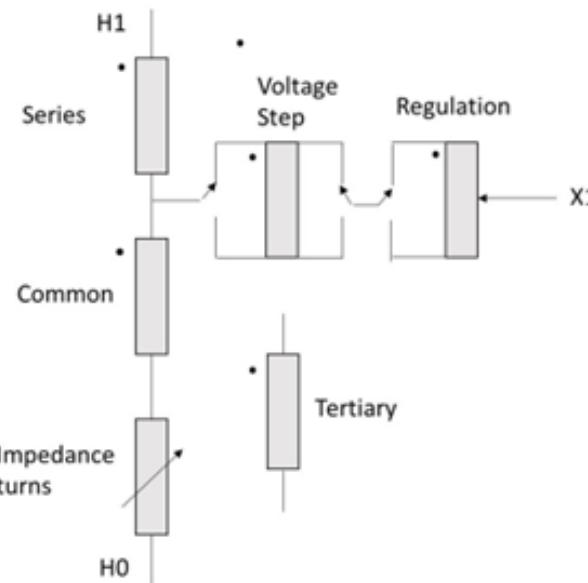
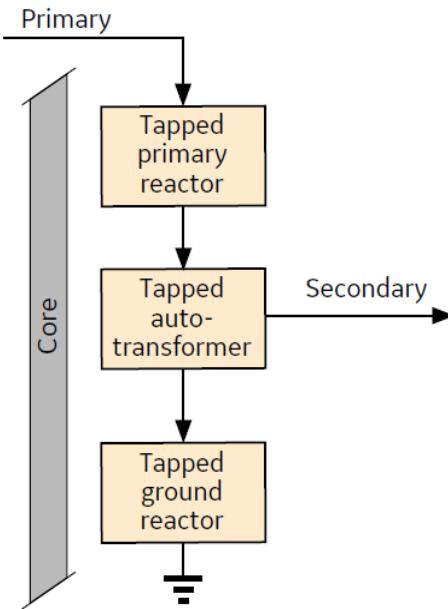
## Specific design challenges for flexible power transformers

- Can the flexible LPT design meet standards requirements (e.g. IEEE C57)?
- Can the flexible LPT footprint be within 120% of similarly sized regular LPTs?
- Can the flexible LPT impedance be adjusted online without adverse impact?
- Can the protection settings be updated online following an impedance change?

# Flexible power transformer concept



An innovative concept: autotransformer with flexible low voltage and adjustable leakage impedance for transmission application



## Universal spare coverage

- Single or multiple voltage rating
- Off-line adjustable impedance

### Applications

- Coverage for targeted substations or a specified fleet
- Short-circuit management for evolving grid

## Power Flow Controller

- Single-voltage rating
- Online adjustable impedance

### Applications

- Power flow control & congestion management
- Contingency management & grid stability
- Emergency response

# User case 1: Application as a Universal Spare for the US fleet

## 100MVA-150MVA flexible LPT

Item	Description
Application	Autotransformer (transmission)
HV Voltage Class	230 kV
LV Voltage Class	115 kV / 138 kV / 161 kV
Rated capacity (ONAN)	100 / 120 / 150 MVA
Maximum capacity (ONAF)	166 / 200 / 250 MVA
Impedance Range	4% to 14 % @ 100 MVA



Can replace **26 units** in the EI and **75 units** in the WI corresponding respectively to 37.7% and 41.2% of 230kV, 100 to 150MVA transmission class LPTs

## 250MVA-300MVA flexible LPT

Item	Description
Application	Autotransformer (transmission)
HV Voltage Class	345 kV
LV Voltage Class	115 kV / 138 kV / 161 kV
Rated capacity (ONAN)	230 / 260 / 290 MVA
Maximum capacity (ONAF)	383 / 433 / 483 MVA
Impedance Range	4% to 14 % @ 200 MVA



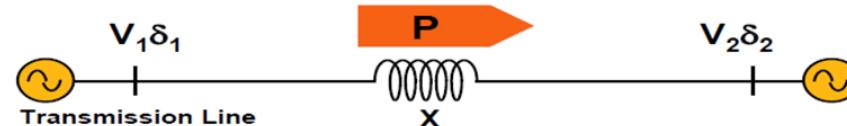
Can replace **23 units** in the EI and **11 units** in the WI corresponding respectively to 92% and 42.3% of 345kV, 250 to 300MVA transmission class LPTs

- A much smaller spare coverage level would be required by utilities
  - A universal spare can be cost-effective if it can replace 2 spare units
  - Ideal scenario is 1 universal spare to replace +3 spare units

- Power flow control (PFC) is one of GETs
- The flexible transformer combines in one **single equipment** the function of a conventional transmission class transformer and that of a series compensation system which allows it to be cost -effective for most transmission lines seeking PFC.

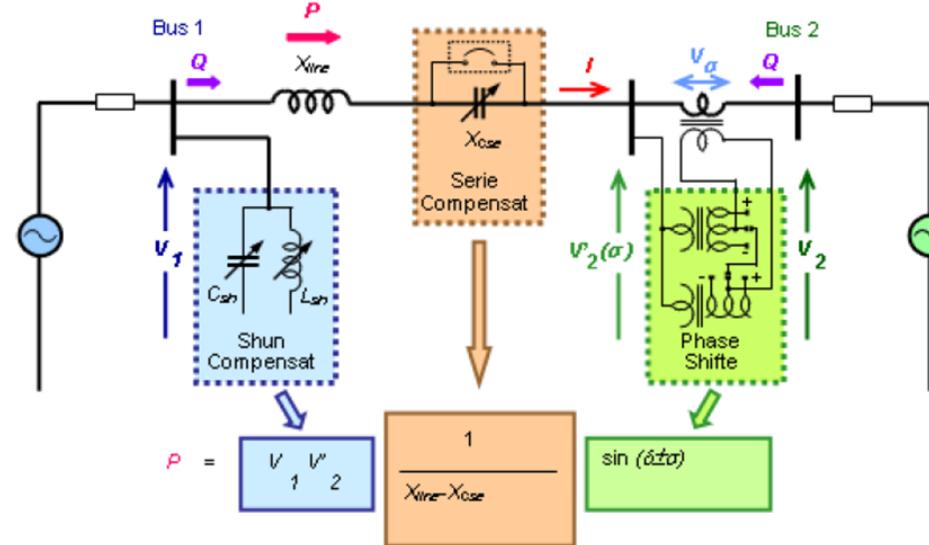
## Passive Transmission

Picture: Source EPRI



$$P = V_1 V_2 \frac{1}{X} \sin(\delta_1 - \delta_2)$$

## Active Transmission



A flexible power transformer can be the most cost

-effective way for power flow control

# Prototyped flexible power transformer for field validation

## Prototype specifications

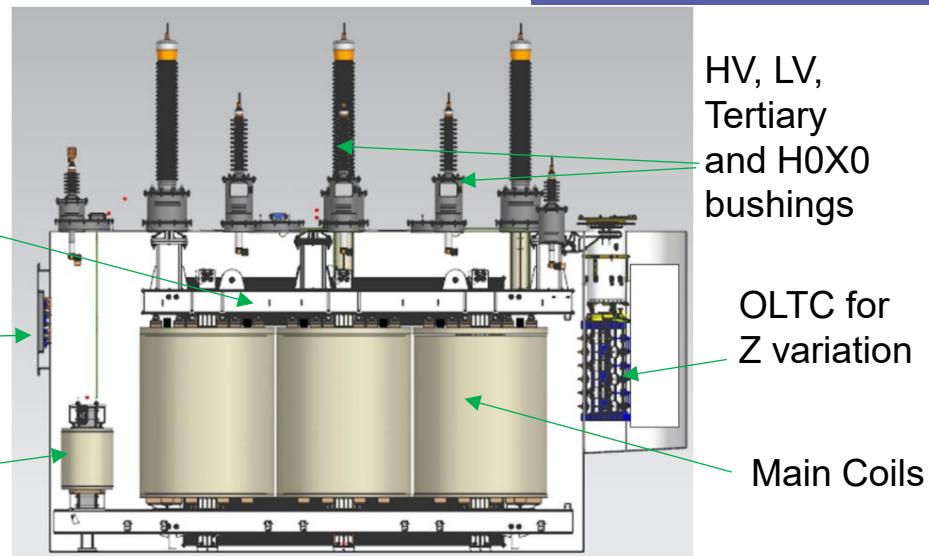
Autotransformer  
60/80/100 MVA  
(12/16/20 MVA External Tertiary)

		<u>Connection</u>	BIL
VH	161 kV	Y	650
VX	57.5/69/80.5 kV	auto	350/150
VY	13.8 kV	D	110
3Ph	ONAN/ONAF/ONAF	60 Hz	65 °C

On-line Impedance Variation range  
 $ZH-X = 4.2$  to  $9.3\% @ 60$  MVA

Voltage regulation (in LV line)

## Internal layout

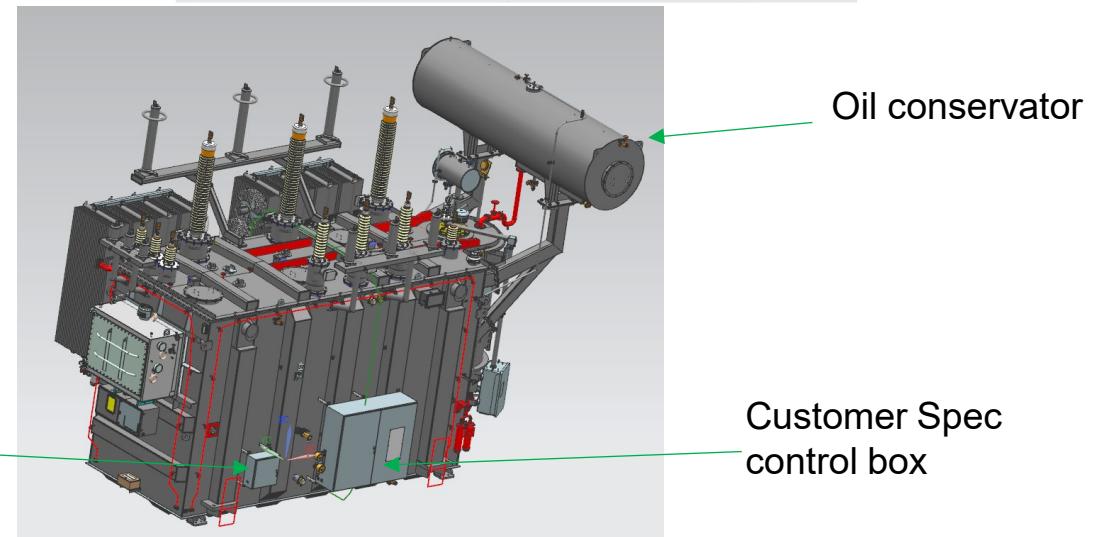


## Core & Frames

OLTC as per specifications

Auxiliary winding

## External layout



Customer Spec  
control box

M&D System  
control box

Same material and engineering procedures as applied to today's conventional transformers

# World's 1<sup>st</sup> Flexible Power Transformer

With 3 configurable LV ratings and an online adjustable leakage impedance



Autotransformer  
60/80/100 MVA  
(12/16/20 MVA External Tertiary)

		<u>Connection</u>	
VH	161 kV	Y	
VX	57.5/69/80.5 kV	auto	
VY	13.8 kV	D	
3Ph	ONAN/ONAF/ONAF	60 Hz	65 °C

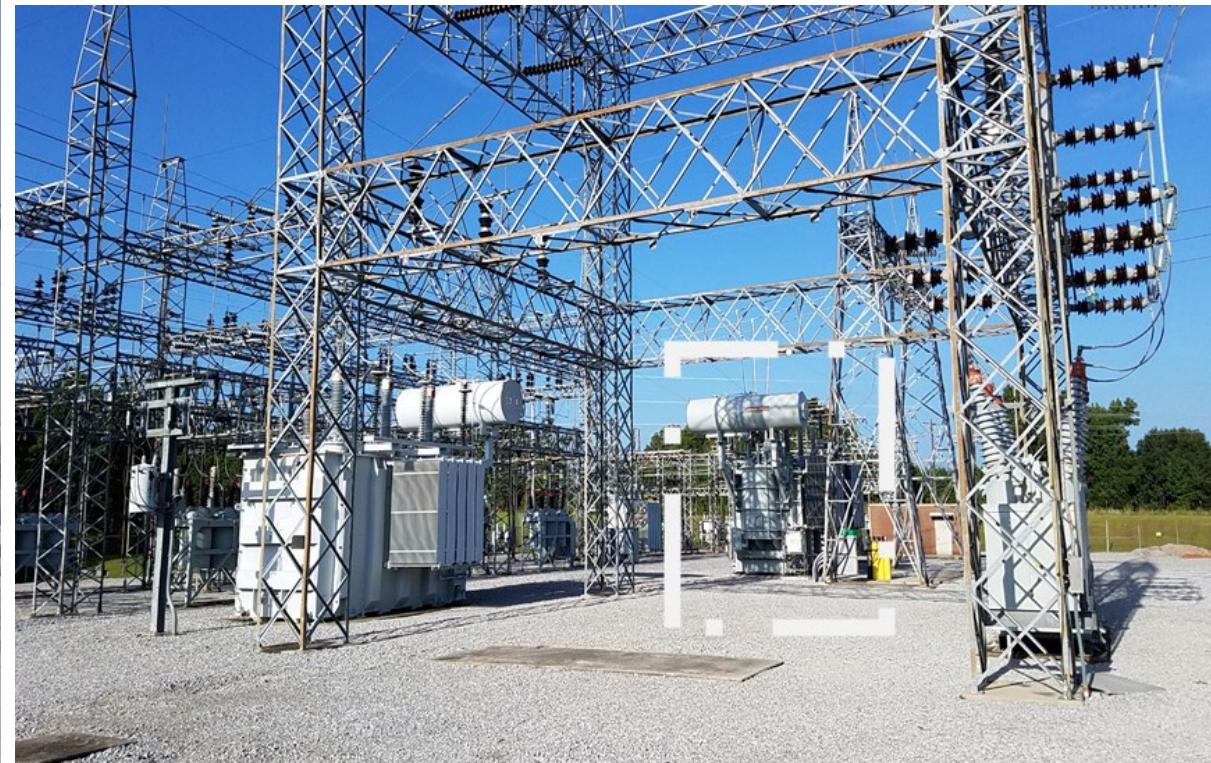
On-line Impedance Variation range  
 $ZH-X = 4.2$  to  $9.3\% @ 60$  MVA

Voltage regulation (in LV line)  
+/- 10% of rated voltage in 16 taps

Designed and tested according to

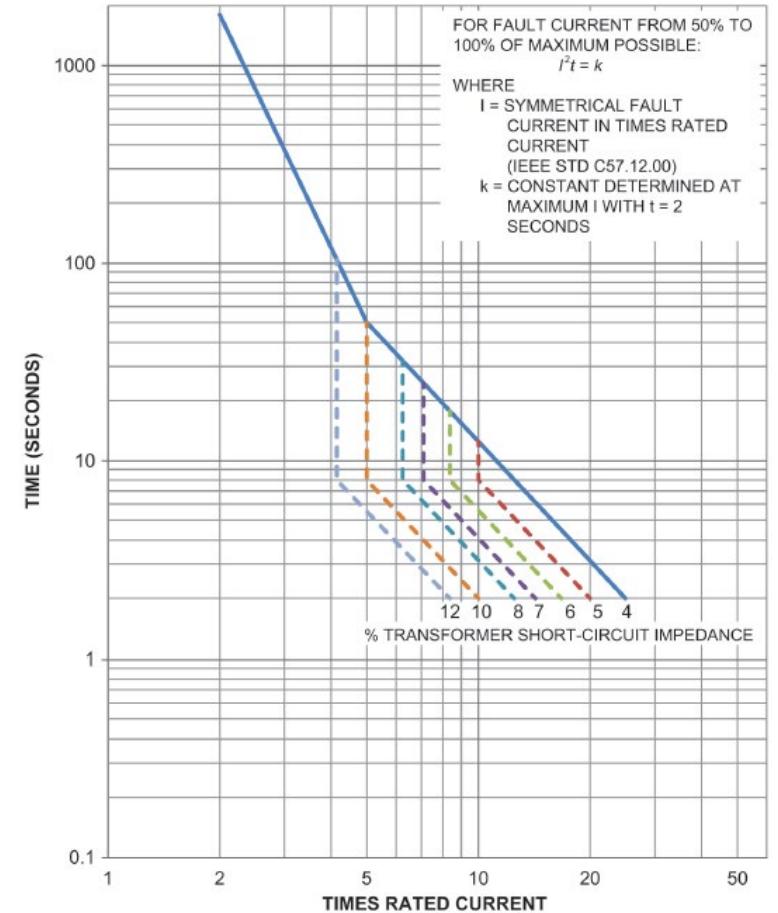
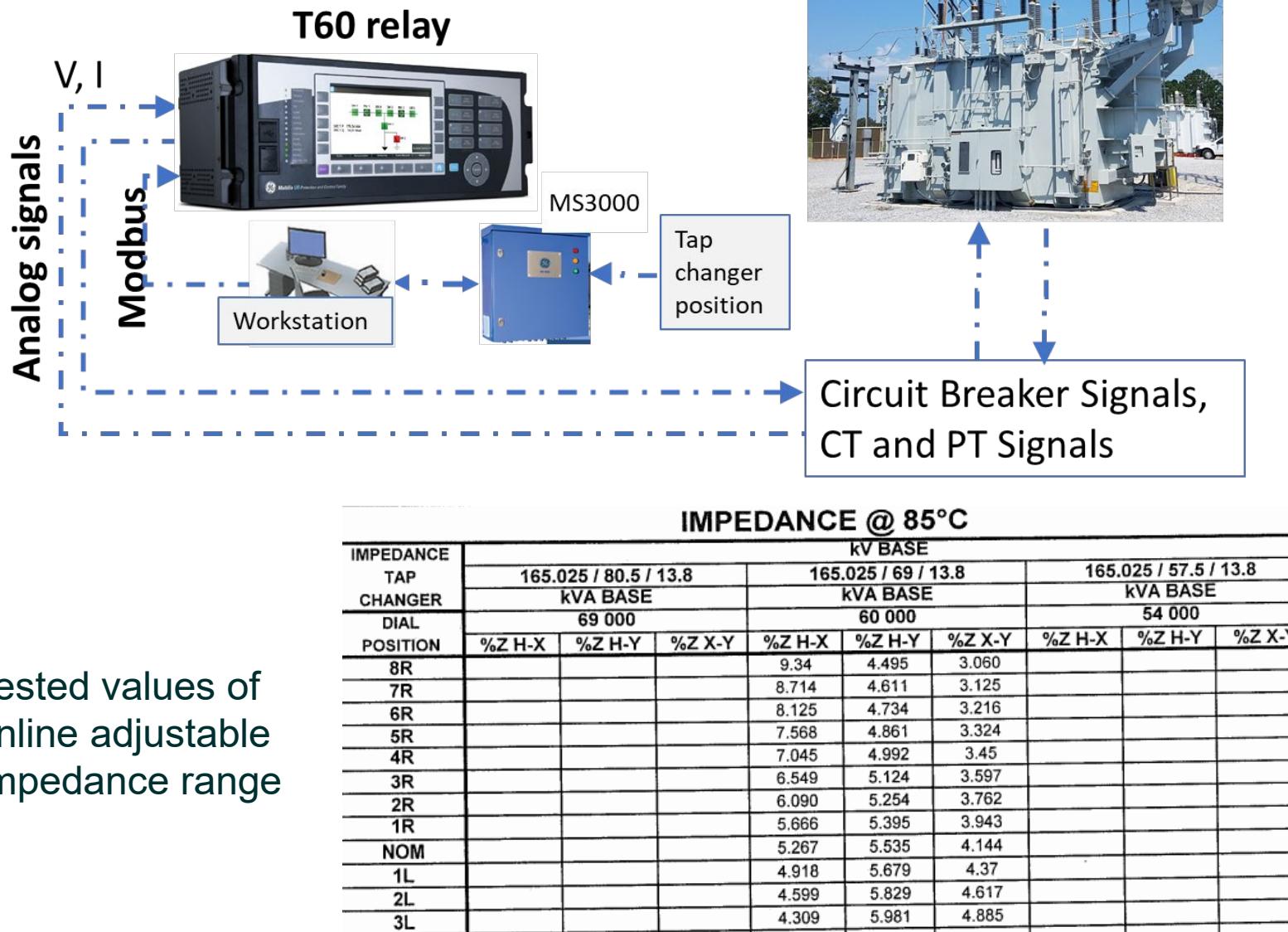
- IEEE C57.12.00 IEEE Std for General Requirements of Liquid-Immersed Transformers
- IEEE C57.12.90 IEEE Std Test Code for General Requirements of Liquid-Immersed Transformers

# Flexible power transformer prototype as installed in the field and ready for operation



➤ Energized on 10/3/2021 at **Cooperative Energy's** Columbia substation in Mississippi USA

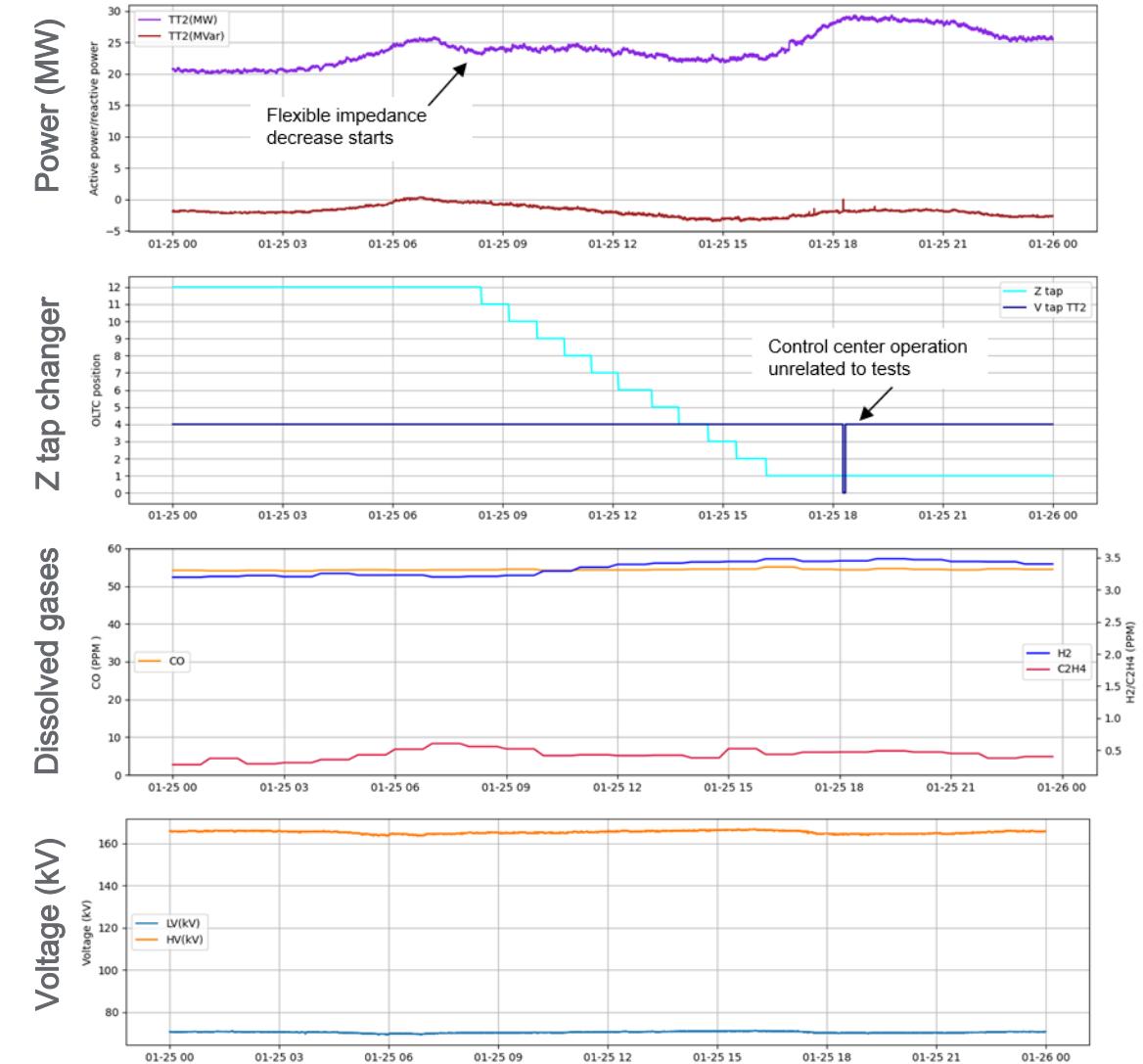
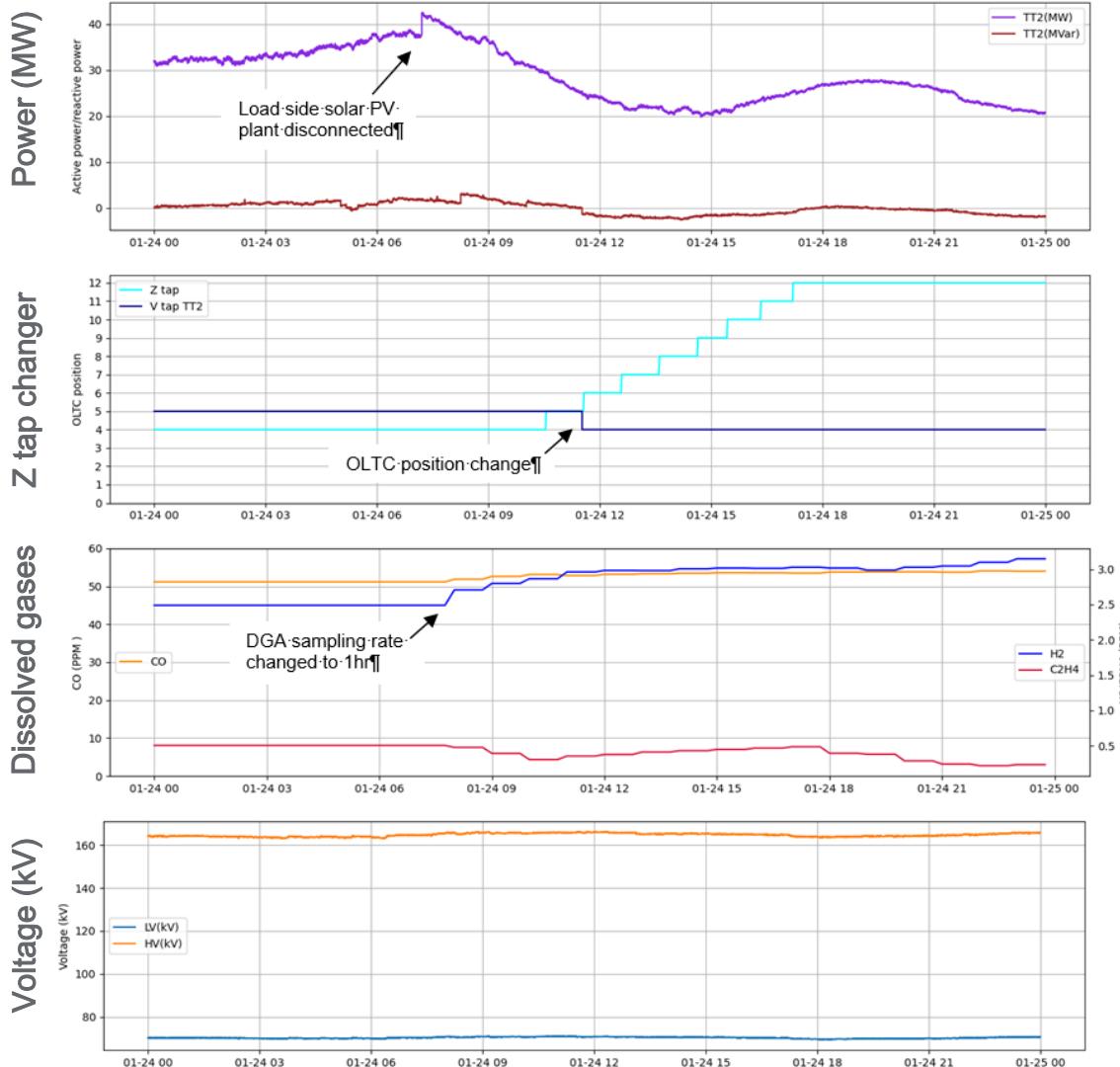
# Flexible protection system for flexible transformer



IEEE Std C57.109-2018 IEEE Guide for Liquid Immersed Through Fault Current Duration

# Flexible power transformer validation in the field

## Power flow control



Power flow control with no adverse impact on the grid

# Emerging Power Transformer Technologies: **Solid State Transformer (SST)**

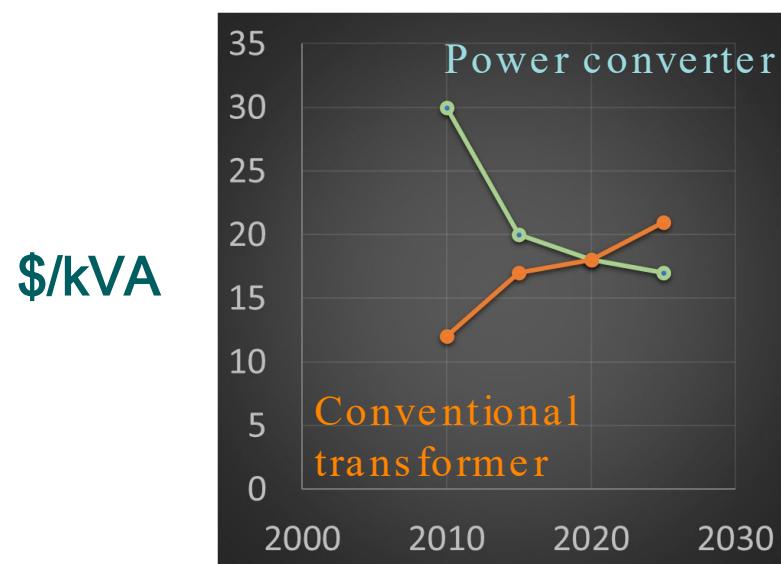
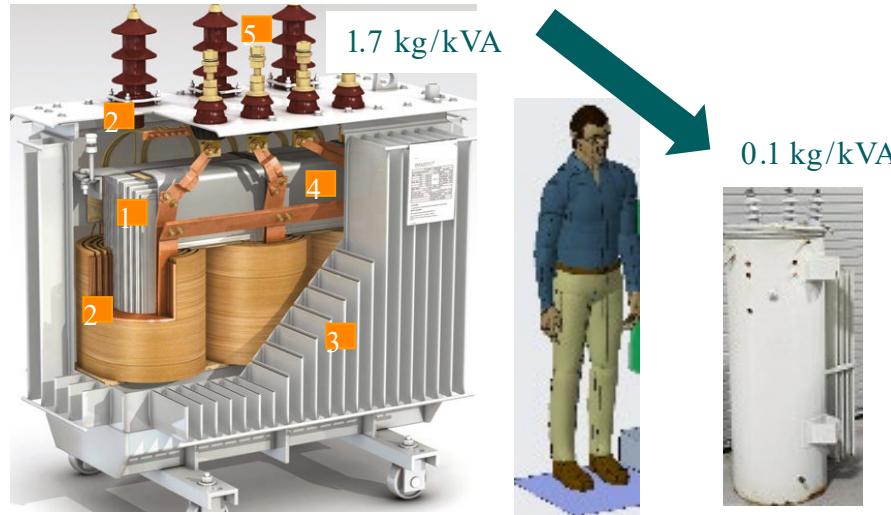
# Solid State Transformer

## Economic trend

- During last 15 years cost of power converters reduced from ~30\$/kVA down to ~17\$/kVA
- In 2020 line -frequency inverter was no more expensive than utility grade transformer

## SST power scale -up 250kVA ↗ Multi MVA tradeoffs

- Power density↑ Vs losses/cooling↑
- Magnetics GOES @ medium frequency vs Nano-crystalline @ high frequency
- Converter losses
- Modularity @ MV voltage insulation: resonant LLC versus MMC topology



# How can SST support the energy transition?

## Current challenges for the energy transition

- Supply chain constraints due to high demand for power transformers
- Required high grid infrastructure investments due to penetration of intermittent generation and load
- Increased occurrence of severe weather conditions to challenge grid equipment and operation
- Equipment to adapt to the reduction of grid inertia to maintain grid reliability
- Space constraints and transportation restrictions require high power density transformers

Datacenters	C&I	Wind & Solar plants	Distribution network	Transmission network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large MV transformers fleet (BTM)</li><li>• <i>Power quality</i> &amp; integration of storage</li><li>• DC architecture enabler</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Power quality</i></li><li>• DER integration &amp; grid services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Efficiency of collector system</li><li>• DC architecture enabler</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Power quality</i></li><li>• EV charging station</li><li>• Power density</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grid controls</li><li>• <i>Power quality</i></li><li>• Modular design easy for transportation</li><li>• SS substations</li></ul>

SST can improve grid performance while reducing the dependency to GOES and foreign suppliers

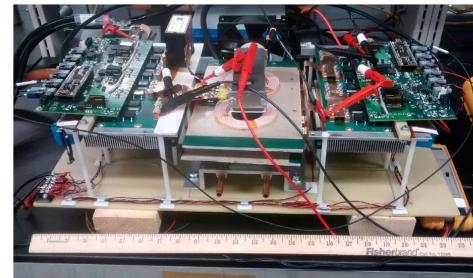
# Experience in SST design and prototyping



1MVA, 13.8kVac – 265Vac  
20kHz SST (2009)



1MW, 4.16kVac – 1kVdc  
40kHz SST (2011)



150kVA, 1kVdc – 1kVdc  
250kHz SST (2018)



1MW, 6kVdc – 1kVdc  
200kHz SST (2020)



1MW, 6kVac – 690Vac  
200kHz SST (2021)

SST need further development to meet stringent requirements for grid applications

# Solid-state transformer

*First 13.8kV/265V SST demonstration at GE Research using 10kV SiC devices (2009)*

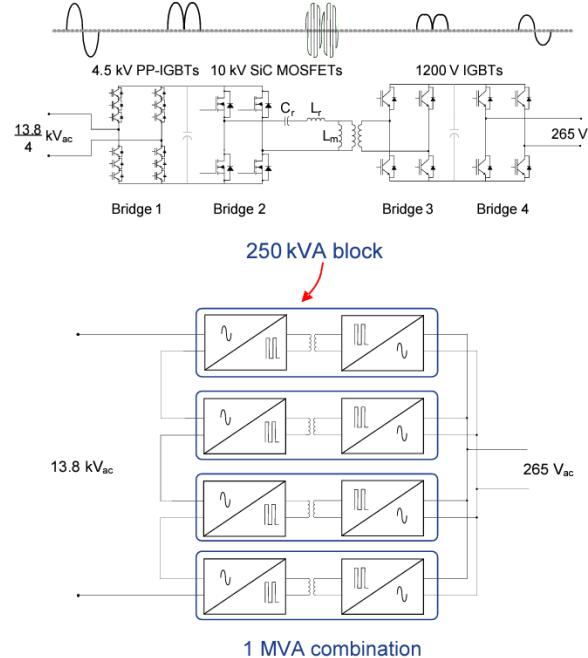


Fig. 3. Schematic of 250 kVA AC/AC block (top) and input-series



.2. ~250 kVA transformers – 60 Hz dry-type (back), 20 kHz oil-filled  
er-cooled (front left) and 20 kHz dry-type forced-air cooled (front right).



Fig. 4. Back-to-back test setup with prototype SST cabinets and 60 Hz transformers.

A SST, being a substation by itself can retire many ancillary equipment in the grid

# Acknowledgment



- The world's first flexible power transformer prototype development was sponsored by the US Department of Energy under the agreement DE-OE0000908
- The prototype was designed and manufactured by Prolec GE
- Cooperative Energy, Mississippi was the utility partner on the first field demonstration
  - installed and operate the flexible power transformer prototype at their Columbia substation. The transformer is still in operation and has a design service life of 40 years.

## Contacts:

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