

# Current-Modulation Electronic Power Converters

NIST/DOD Workshop  
Power Conditioning System Architectures  
for Plugin-Vehicle Fleet as Grid Storage  
13 June 2011

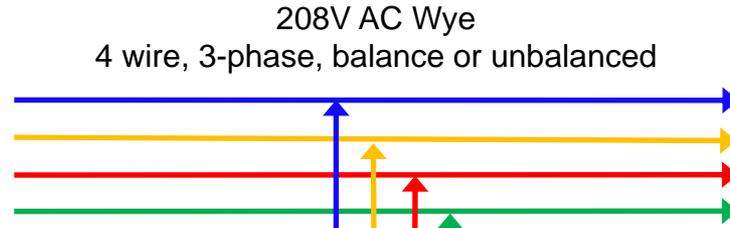
Bill Alexander  
CEO, CTO, and founder  
[Bill.Alexander@IdealPowerConverters.com](mailto:Bill.Alexander@IdealPowerConverters.com)





AC grid or generator(s)

**Reduces diesel  
fuel requirements  
by up to 40%**



AC 4-wire Interface

- 30kW
- 208V 3-ph or 120/240 1-ph
- real & reactive
- supply & load
- phase balancing



High Volt DC port

- 30kW
- 224-325V
- Bi-directional
- 22 lbs

Intelligent loads

- shedding
- prioritizing

**DC interface to:**

- Local batteries
  - PV Array
- Asynchronous microgrids

IPC - develops HI Power Microgrid Converter, low level controls  
Lockheed Martin – converter packaging, system controls, testing

## Applications

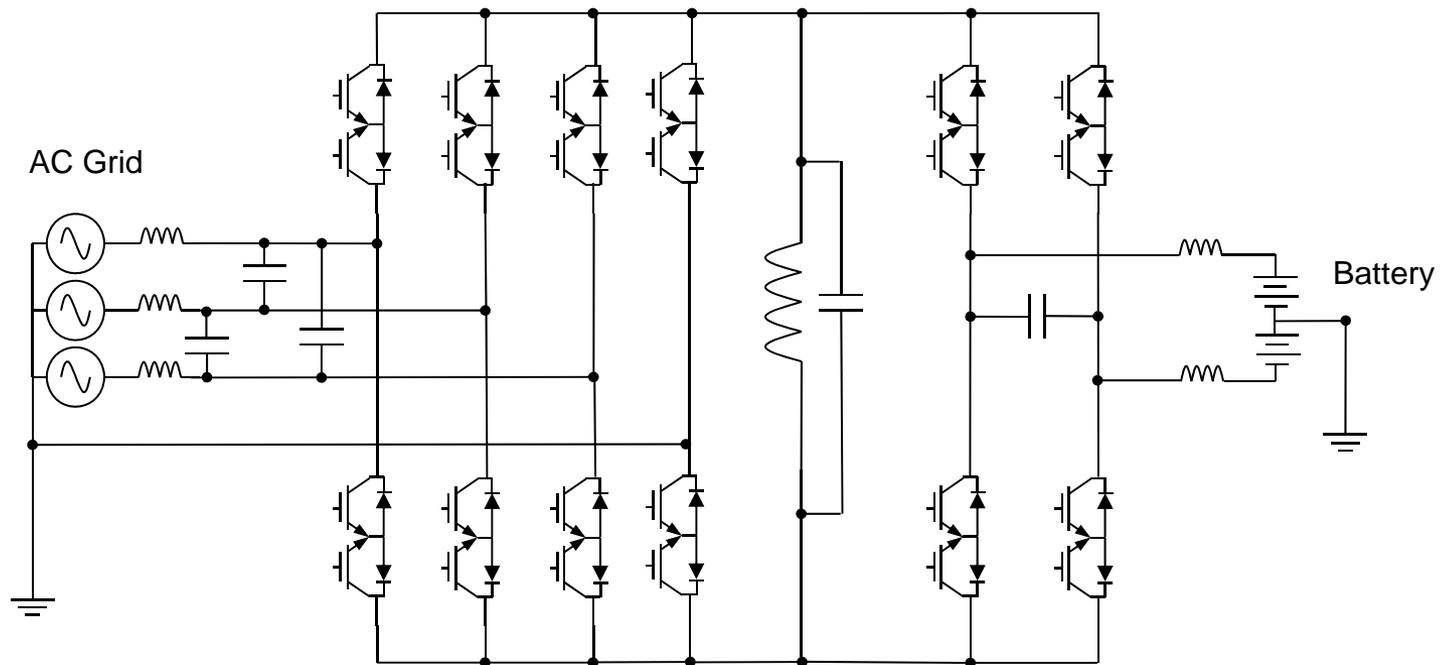
- **Stationary Batteries**
  - 30 kW, 480 VAC three phase 60 A
  - 0 to 700 volts DC
  - Bi-directional, power-to-grid
- **Vehicle Batteries**
  - Bidirectional Level 3 DC charger
  - Power-to-grid
  - Common mode isolated or full isolation



**30kW 480VAC  
battery inverter**  
80lbs, wall-mount  
97% efficiency

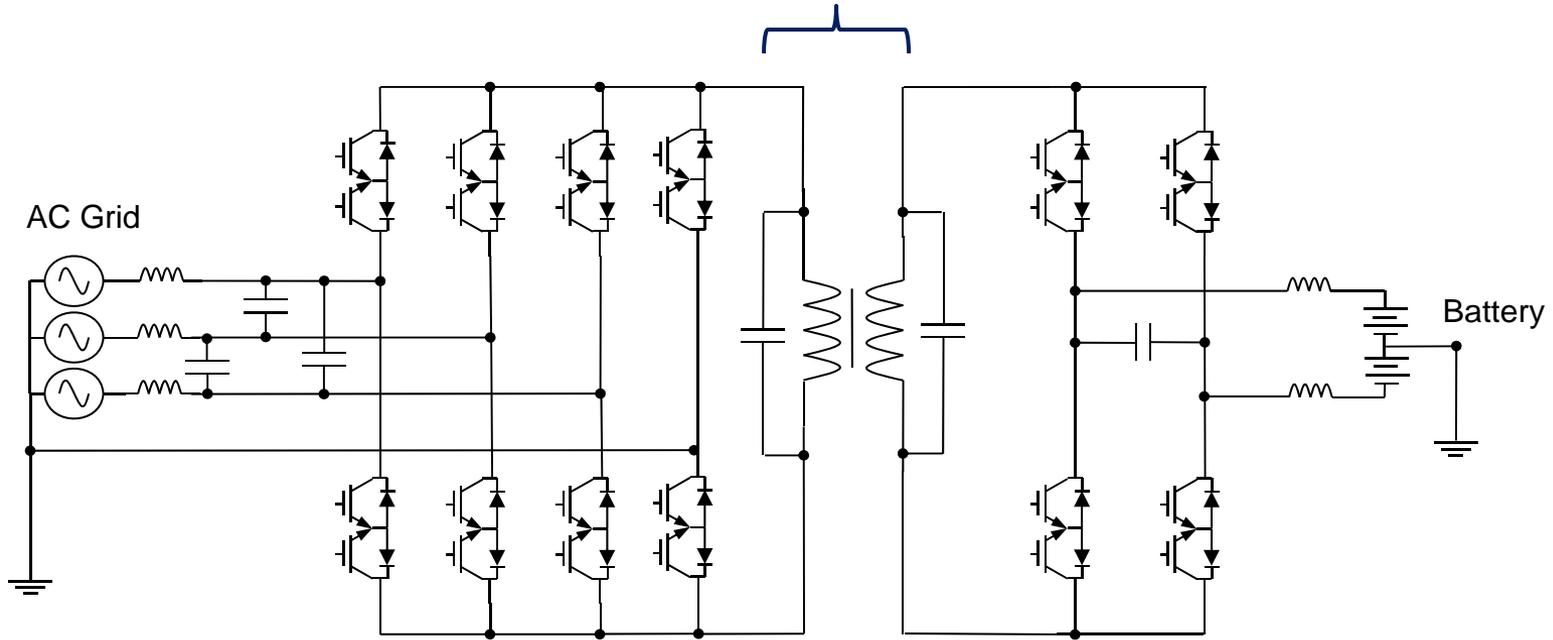
## 4-wire 3-phase grid interface

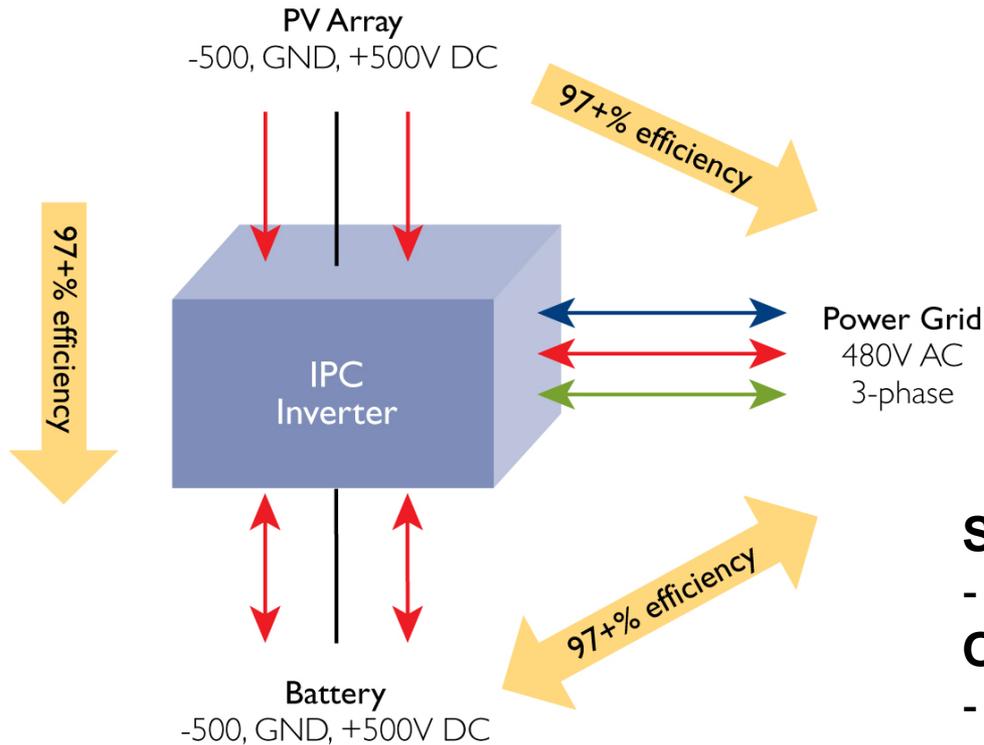
- Support Micro-grid – Intentional Islanding
- Support unbalanced loads & phase balancing
- Similar to 4-wire interface for HI Power
- Common Mode isolation



# Bidirectional Battery Inverter with Galvanic Isolation

2<sup>nd</sup> winding added  
to link inductor





## 4-wire 3-phase grid interface

- Microgrid – Intentional Islanding
- Support unbalanced loads

## **Single-Stage Conversion**

- Higher efficiency

## **Operates during faults**

- Grid faults
- Communications faults

## **DC charging of EV during peaks**

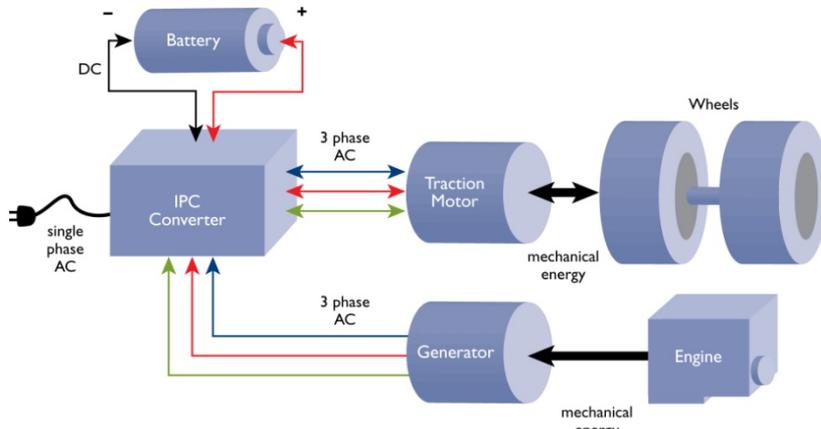
- Reduce peak load/transmission

## Station Battery

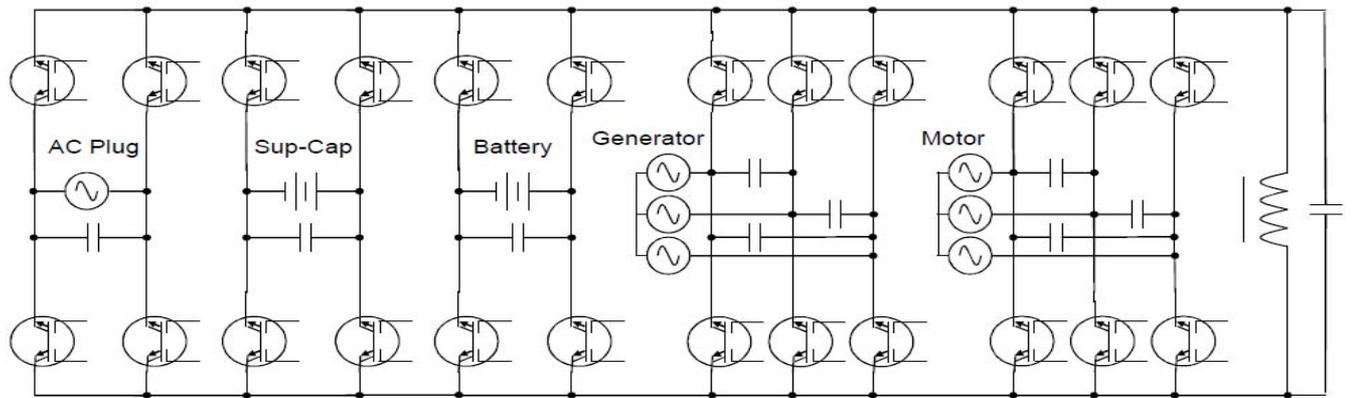
- PV smoothing and peak shaving
- UPS capabilities

## Vehicle Battery

- Bi-directional Level 3 DC charger



- Multi-port, multi-directional converter
- Superior efficiency, weight/size, cost
- Simplified cooling systems
- Supports inductor generator/motor
  - No PM or rare earths



120/240V  
single  
phase  
input  
charging

optional  
caps or  
12V aux  
battery

high voltage  
Li-Ion  
battery

*(note line capacitors not shown)*

generator  
from internal  
combustion  
engine

drive motor  
with re-  
generative  
charging

link  
inductor

## Backup Slides

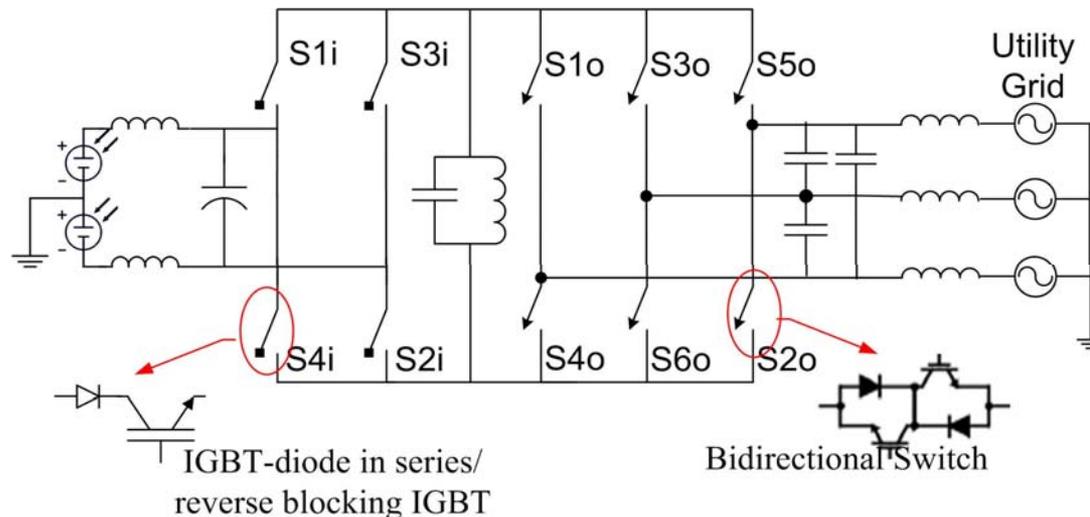
- **Developed new electronic power converter technology**
  - 2 US patents issued, additional US and international patents pending
  - Applications: photovoltaic, wind, battery, VFD and PHEV
- **Licensed to Lockheed Martin for military & vehicle mkts**
  - Developing new microgrid converter for forward military bases
- **Received funding**
  - Texas Emerging Technology Fund
  - Battery Venture
- **Initial product is 30kW PV inverter**
  - for US commercial-scale / flat rooftop installations
  - customers are commercial PV design & installation firms

**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



**BV**

- **Soft-switched, buck-boost, current-modulated converter**
- **All power transfer is through a link inductor (not resonant link)**
- **Link operates at 7 kHz at full power, AC current/voltage**
- **Precise current control reduces output harmonics**
- **Link capacitor acts as loss-less snubber for ZVS**
- **Zero voltage turn-on, low di/dt reverse recovery**
- **Inherent isolation between input and output, no transformer needed**



- **Development contracts from Lockheed Martin**
  - Funded by DOD and LMC internal R&D budgets
  - Developing Intelligent Microgrid Solution under DOD/LMC contract  
*“Reduces diesel fuel requirements up to 40% by improving microgrid efficiency for Forward Operating Bases” -Lockheed Martin*
- **Technology License to Lockheed Martin**
  - Exclusive rights to military & automotive (specific) markets
    - IPC retains rights to sell commercial-of-the-shelf to military
  - Generates royalty from LM sales and sub-licensee sales
    - Minimum royalties escalates annually
  - Validates & strengthens IPC patents
    - IPC retains all IP ownership
    - Royalty free rights to LMC improvements