

Silicon Carbide Device Update

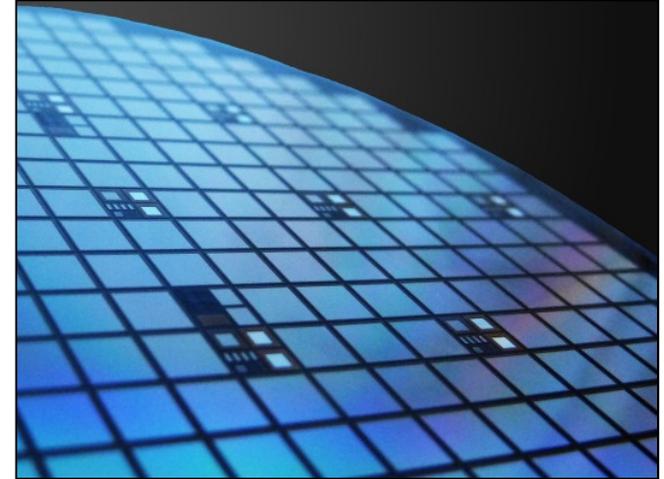
David Sheridan

VP Technology Development

*High Megawatt Power Conditioning System
Workshop*

david.sheridan@semisouth.com

www.semisouth.com



Material property	Si	4H-SiC	GaN
Bandgap	1.12 eV	3.25 eV	3.4 eV
Breakdown field	0.25 MV/cm	~3 MV/cm	~3 MV/cm
Thermal conductivity	1.5 W/cm·K	4.9 W/cm·K	1.3 W/cm·K
Electron mobility	1200 cm ² /V·s	800 cm ² /V·s	900 cm ² /V·s
Dielectric constant	11.7	9.7	9

- Silicon carbide is an ideal power semiconductor material
- Most mature “wide bandgap” power semiconductor material
- Electrical breakdown strength ~ 10X higher than Si
- Commercial substrates available since 1991 –
 - ✓ **now at 100 mm dia; 150 mm dia soon**
- Defects up to 1,000 times less than GaN
- Thermal conductivity ~ 3X greater than Si or GaN

SemiSouth → SiC Power Semi Technology Leader

- 1200 V – 1700 V Trench “normally – off” JFETs
- 650 V, 1200V – 1700 V Trench “normally – on” JFETs
- 1200 V Schottky Diodes

SemiSouth silicon carbide trench technology offers higher efficiency, greater power density & higher reliability than comparable silicon-based devices



Solar



Servers



HEV



Wind



SiC Wafer

SemiSouth *SemiSouth VJFET Technology*

• Why the SiC Trench JFET?

- ▣ **Cost**
- ▣ **3-10 X smaller** die size
- ▣ Up to **50% fewer manufacturing steps**

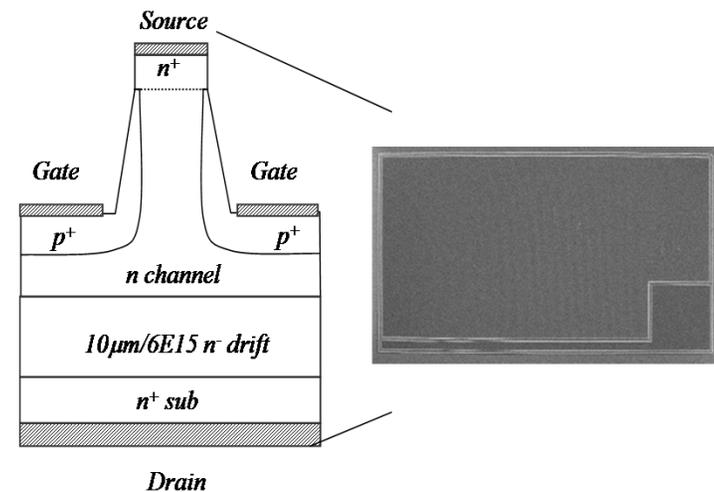
Performance

- ▣ **5-10X lower** switching energies
- ▣ **Normally-on or off** (industry first and only)
- ▣ Enables high-frequency **and** high-efficiency
- ▣ Industry best on-resistance per unit area

Reliability

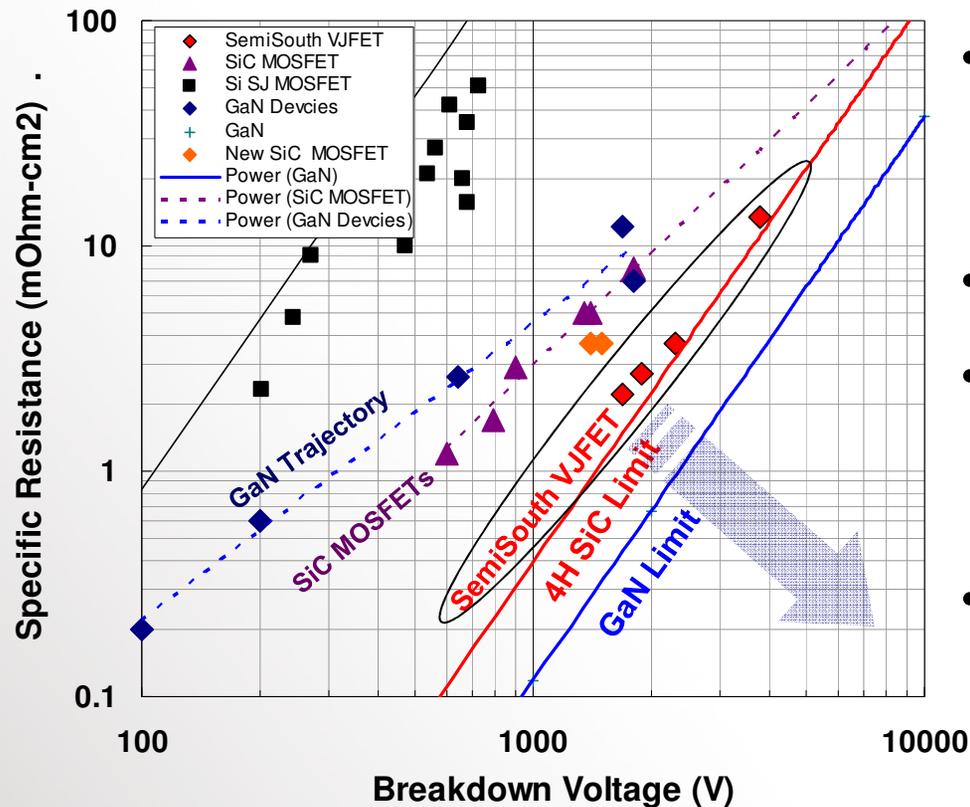
- ▣ Rugged structure for SiC JFET switch
- ▣ Over 1,000 hour HTRB
- ▣ No known degradation issues
- ▣ Robust operating range

SemiSouth Vertical-Channel JFET*



- (+) Few mask layers
- (+) Low RPT
- (+) $R_{(on)sp} \approx 2-3 \text{ m}\Omega \cdot \text{cm}^2$

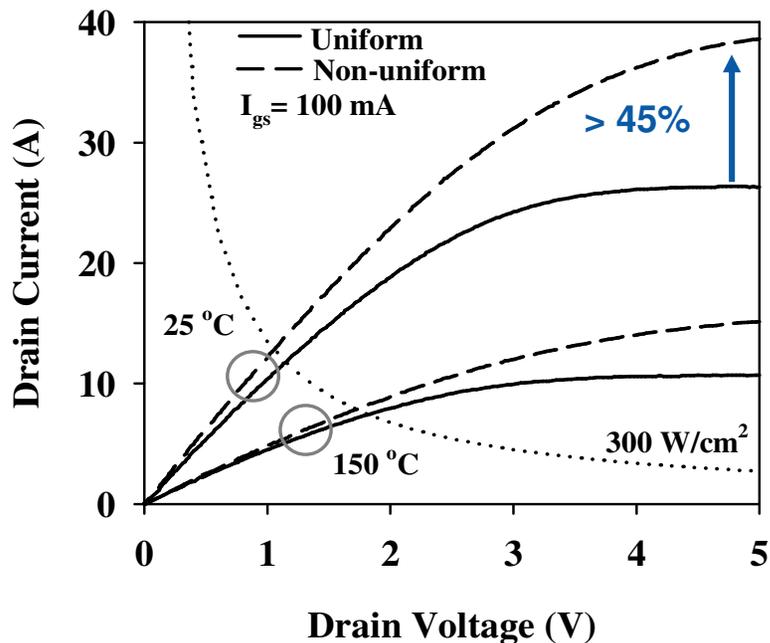
Proprietary Compact design leads to ultra-low specific on-resistance in power JFET (normally-on or normally-off versions available)



- SemiSouth first and only to offer TRENCH SiC JFET beginning in 2008
- Near theoretical specific R_{DSON}
- Normally-OFF OR Normally-ON use same device structure & manufacturing steps
- High reliability

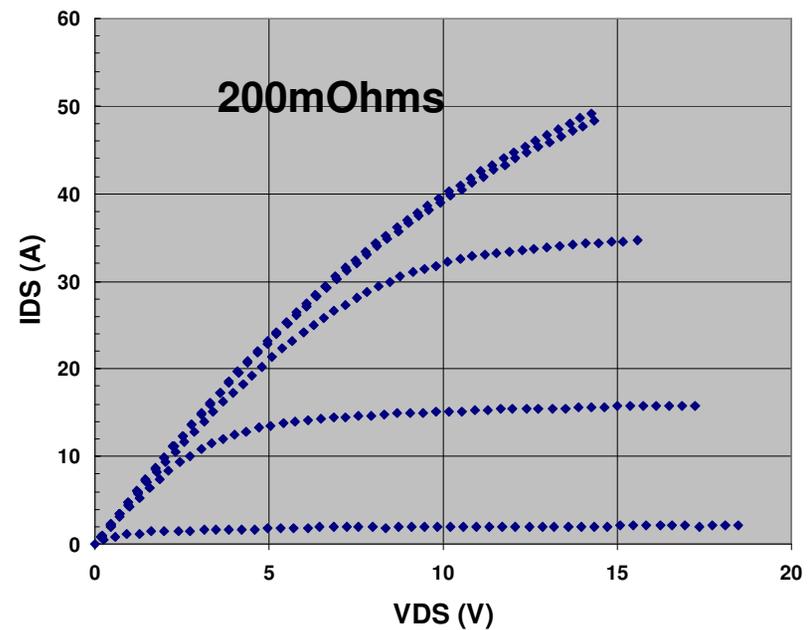
High Current Normally-Off

- Demonstrated novel channel design for improved saturation current
- Significant increase in current and increased threshold range



3.3kV Design Normally-Off

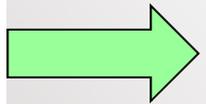
- Normally-off SiC JFET – 3.8kV Design (edge termination limited)
- Exceptionally low $R_{ds(on)} = 200\text{mOhms}$ - $> 50\text{A}$ saturation current



- Comparison of Vincotech Module With IGBT vs SiC JFET

- Dotted Line SiC

Blue 8kHz -> Red 64kHz



You can switch high Frequency

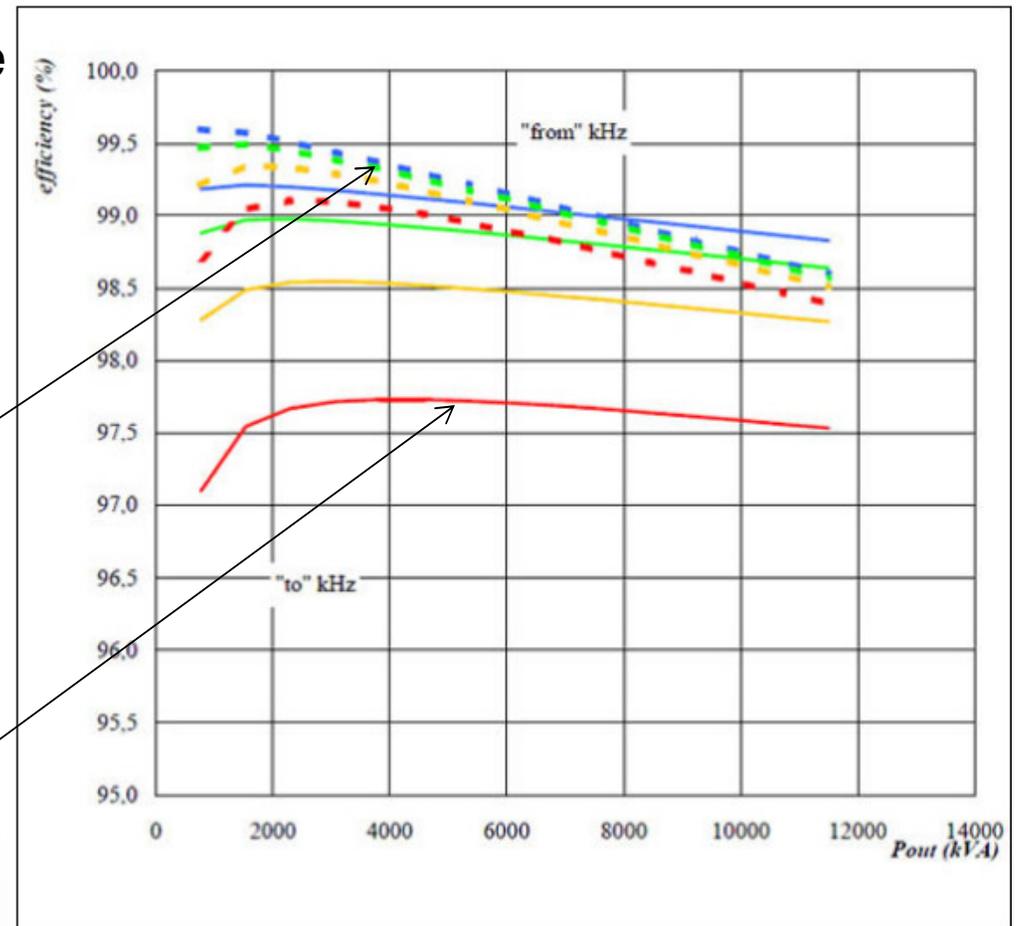
- Non dotted Line: IGBT

Blue 8kHz -> Red 64kHz



You can not switch high Frequency

JFETs gegen IGBTs

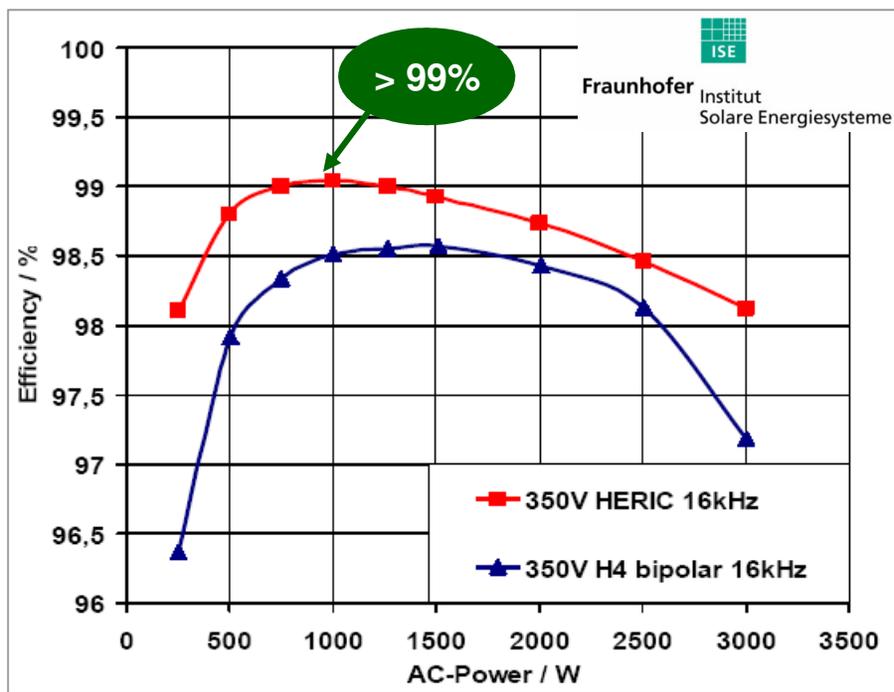


© Vincotech

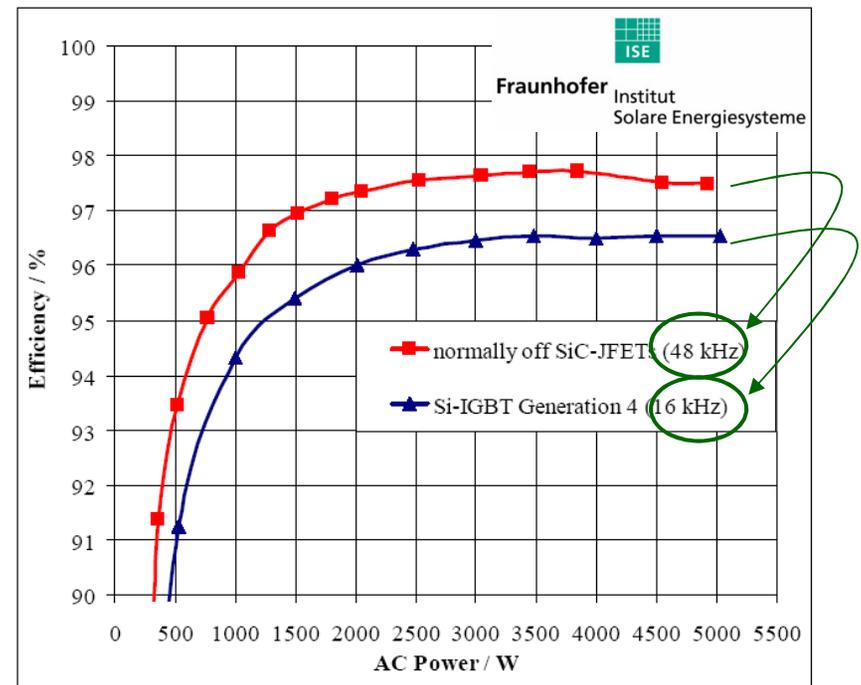
Bild 4: Effizienzvergleich von MNPC-Modulen mit Silizium-IGBTs (durchgezogene Linien) und SiC-JFETs (gestrichelte Linien) bei Schaltfrequenzen von 8 kHz (blau) bis 64 kHz (rot)

“We now use junction field-effect transistors (JFETs) made of silicon carbide (SiC) manufactured by SemiSouth Laboratories Inc.. This is the main reason for the improvement”, - Prof. Bruno Burger, leader of the Power Electronics Group at Fraunhofer ISE, July 2009 press release.

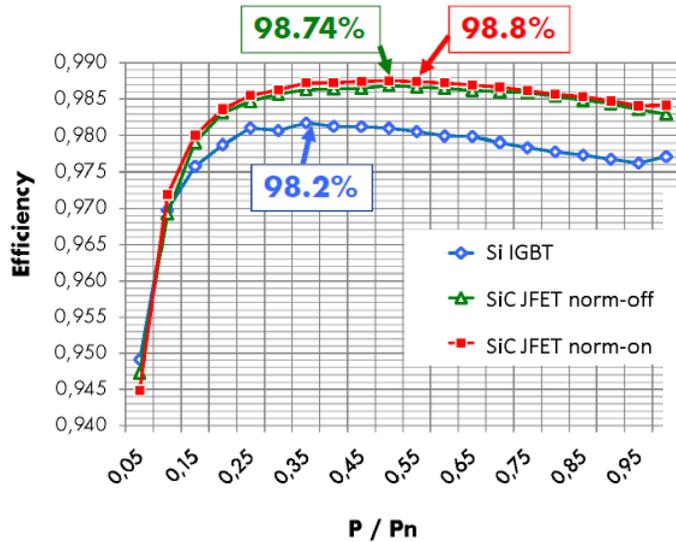
- Single phase Heric®
- Commercial inverters @ 98%
- SemiSouth’s JFET lowers losses ~ 50%



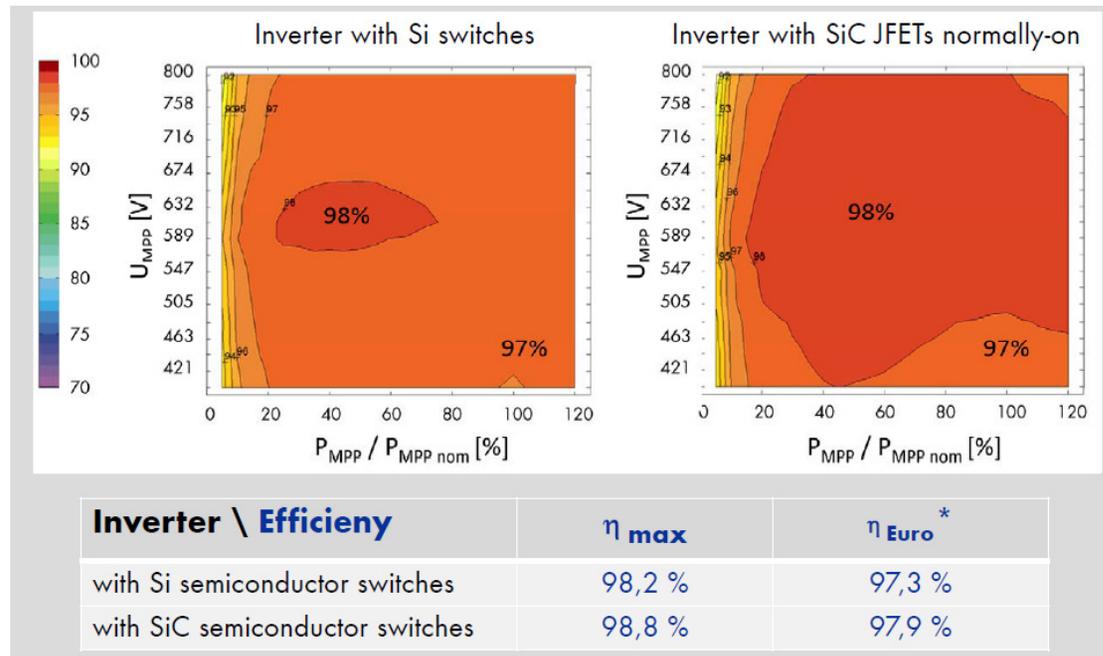
- Three phase full bridge inverter
- SemiSouth JFET boosts efficiency 1.2%
- SemiSouth JFET operates 3X higher freq.



* Bruno Burger, Dirk Kranzer, “Extreme High Efficiency PV-Power Converters,” EPE, Barcelona, Spain, 8-10



Efficiencies at several DC link voltages (400V up to 800V) - „Photon test“



* European Efficiency - specific weighted average value

- Dr. Regine Mallwitz, SMA: SiC & GaN User Forum, Birmingham 2011



1. Technical benefit of SiC semiconductors

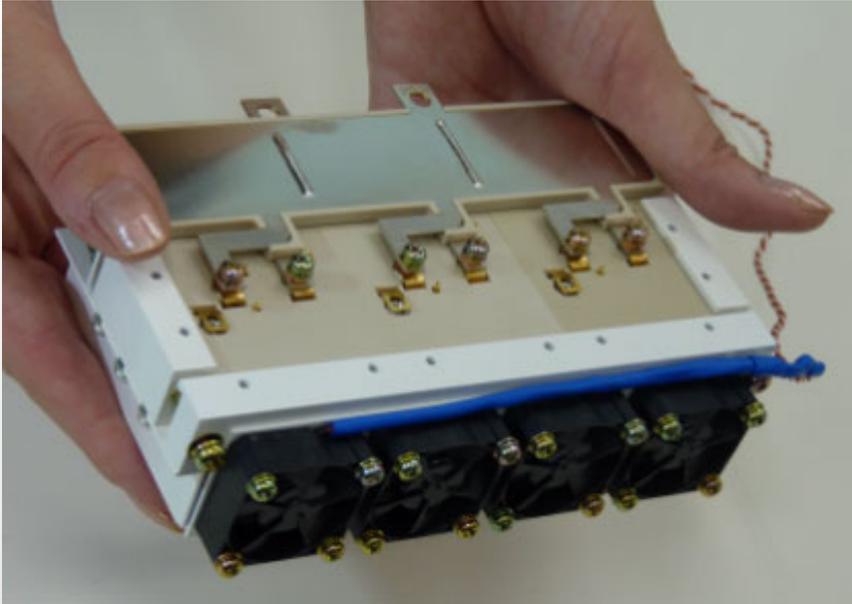
SiC devices promise

- low switching losses
- high rated voltages
- high operating temperature
- high radiation hardness

For PV inverters this properties offer possibilities toward

- **improved efficiency** above 99% (at same switching frequency like today) → reduction of cooling effort → system size
- **higher switching frequencies** (at same level of losses like today) → reduction of system size → system costs
- **higher level of output power** (at same switching frequency and losses) → reduction of specific cost (per W)
- **higher DC input voltages**

- Dr. Regine Mallwitz, SMA: SiC & GaN User Forum, Birmingham 2011

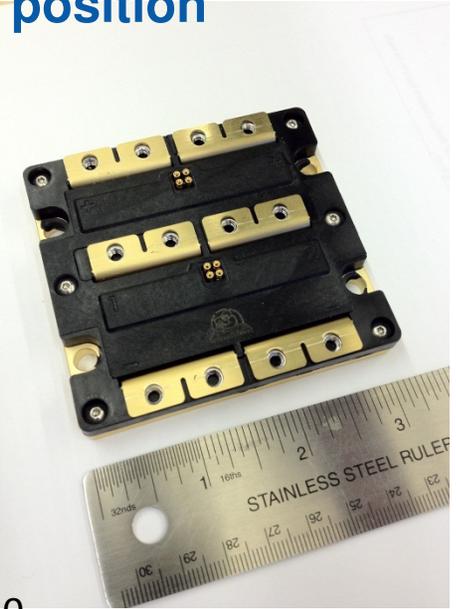
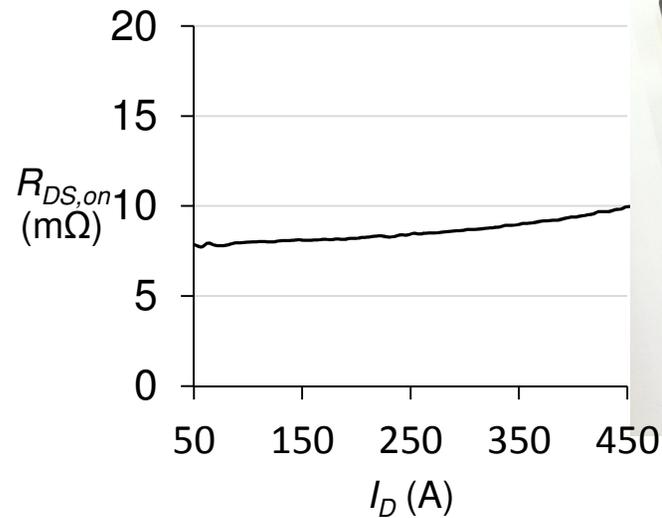
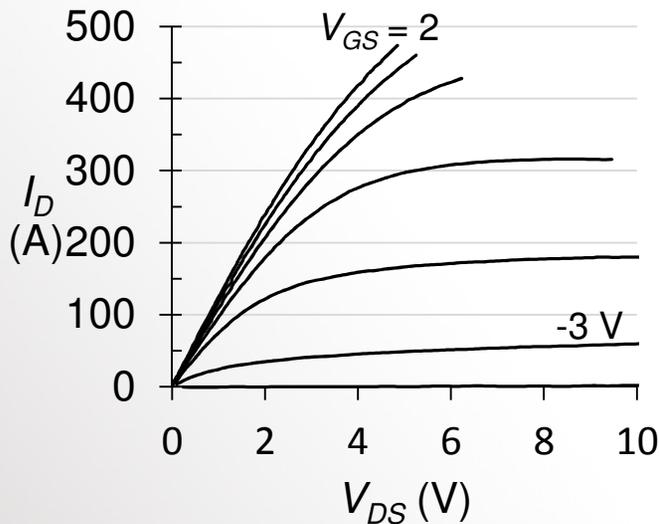


Sato, *et al*, International Conf. on SiC and Related Materials, Sept 2011

- Future Power Electronics Technology (FUPET) has developed an all-SiC-device-based three-phase inverter with a 0.5-liter volume, verified to achieve an output power density of **30kW/l**. "We believe this is the world's highest output power density for a small-volume inverter," commented FUPET officials.
- Using SiC junction field-effect transistor (JFET) devices procured from SemiSouth Laboratories, the power modules operate up to 200 °C.
- 500cc inverter connected to a three-phase motor achieved **15kW output**, which is 30kW/l or 30W/cc. At 15kW output, conversion efficiency was **99%**.



Only 36 mm² of JFET die area per switch position
(4 x SJDC120R045)



Switching energies at 25 °C of SiC VJFET modules ($I_D = 100$ A) and a Si IGBT module ($I_C = 150$ A)			
	Turn-on energy	Turn-off energy	Total switching losses
Enhancement-mode SiC VJFET	0.72 mJ	0.46 mJ	1.18 mJ
Depletion-mode SiC VJFET	0.33 mJ	0.90 mJ	1.23 mJ
Si IGBT (Infineon)	8.5 mJ	8.5 mJ	17.0 mJ



- ❑ SiC trench JFET production since 2008
- ❑ *Size and weight reduction are key elements to fight increasing raw material cost*
- ❑ *High frequency (power density) with improved efficiency is key to reducing weight and cost*

→ HV SiC devices are possible, and scaling to higher currents

- ❑ *What devices are needed for MV – HV applications?*
- ❑ *Initial insertion applications?*
- ❑ *Device requirements?*
- ❑ *Cost targets?*