

APEC 2025



Atlanta, GA

March 16-20

Georgia World Congress Center

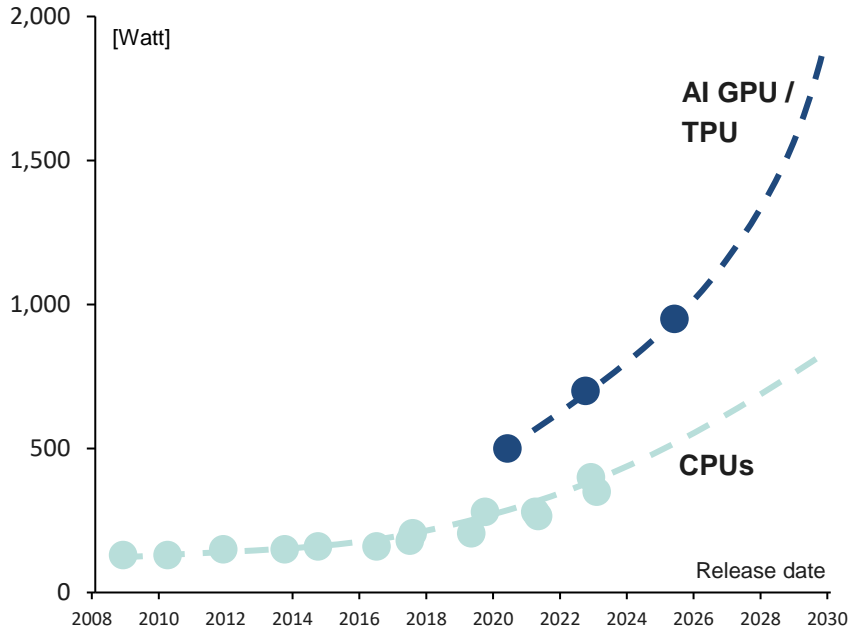
Improving cloud computing and AI power delivery efficiency with a holistic semiconductor approach

Thomas Neyer, Infineon Technologies AG

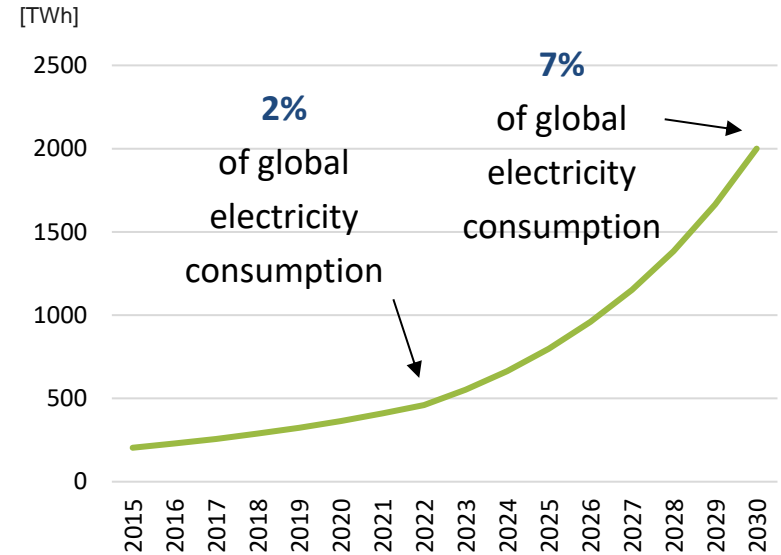


Exponential growth in global data center power consumption

Single processor electricity demand over time



Projected electricity consumption of data centers

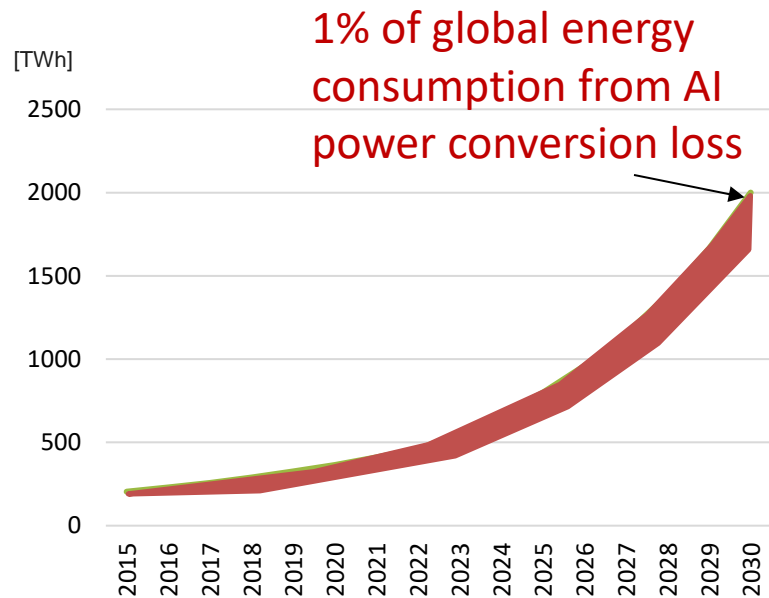


Sources: [IEA](#) including crypto mining energy use; Infineon assumption and calculation; [McKinsey](#), [BCG](#)

What can we do about it?

- **15% total loss in power delivery chain**
- To offset only the power conversion loss with green energy would require:
 - ❑ **400 million PV panels**
 - ❑ 1000 sq. km (350 sq. mi.) solar farm in a high-irradiance area, e.g. Arizona
- If the power is generated from natural gas:
 - ❑ Losses will produce **0.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide** over 5 years
 - ❑ Equivalent to adding 20 million passenger cars to the road
- Saving just **1% efficiency** anywhere in the power delivery chain will reduce carbon emissions by **35 million tons**, equivalent to 1.4 million passenger cars

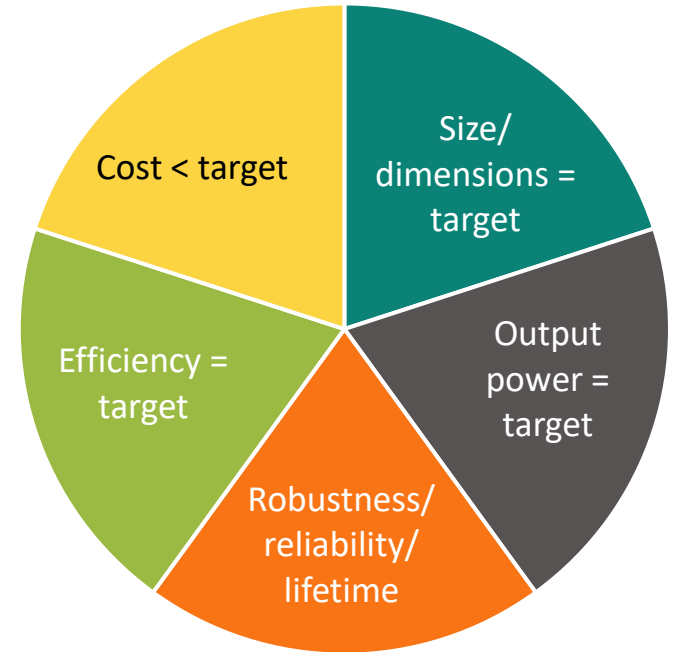
Projected electricity consumption of power loss in data center power delivery chain



[Assuming 85% end-to-end efficiency for all years]

Design criteria in data center power systems

- Size, power, lifetime, and efficiency must meet minimum requirements/targets
- Efficiency improvement beyond the target is fine, but a lower cost alternative might be selected instead
- Highest efficiency solution doesn't always get implemented!

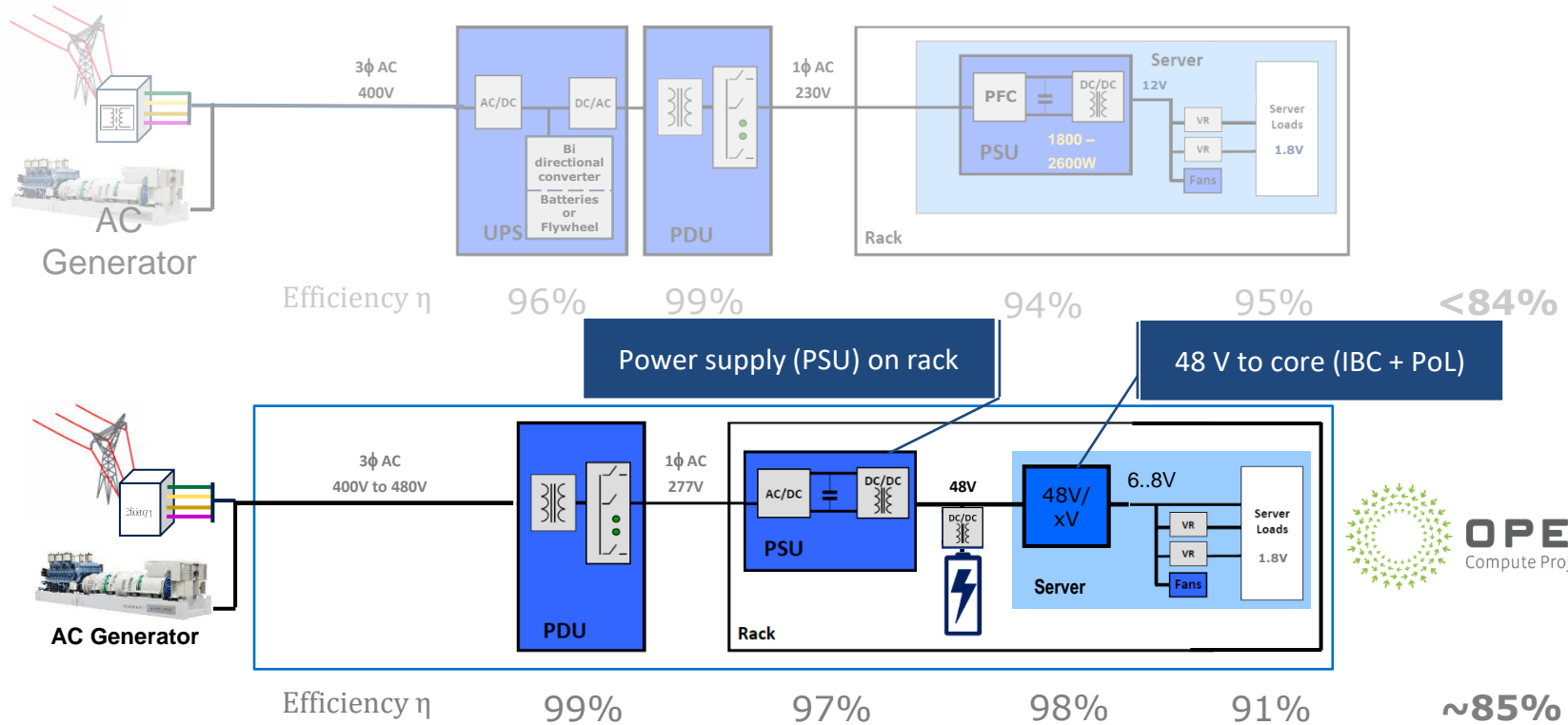


Relative merits of each semiconductor technology with today's state-of-the-art

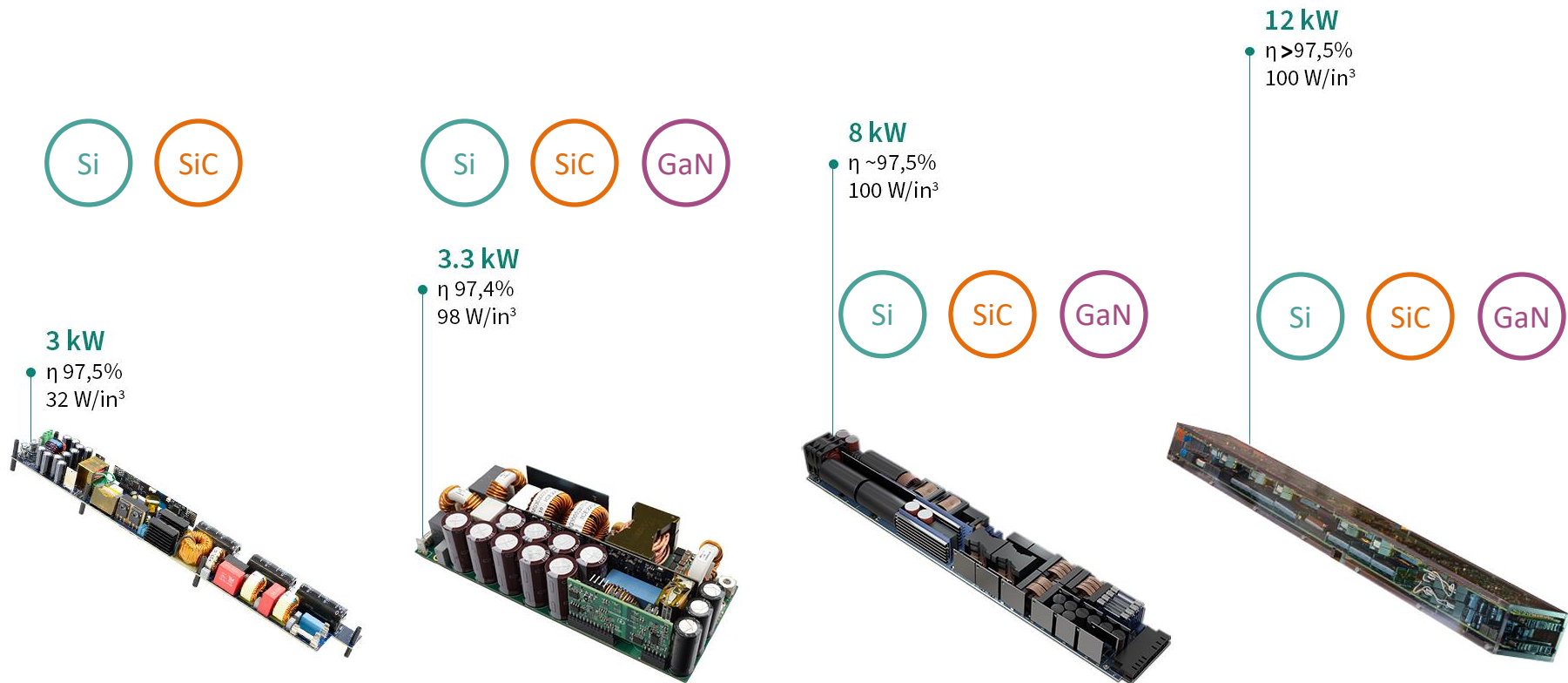


Reality tomorrow? More on that later!

Data center power delivery system transitioning from enterprise to hyperscale architecture requires higher power density & efficiency



Addressing the growing demand of AI with higher power on-rack PSUs, using all 3 semiconductor technologies

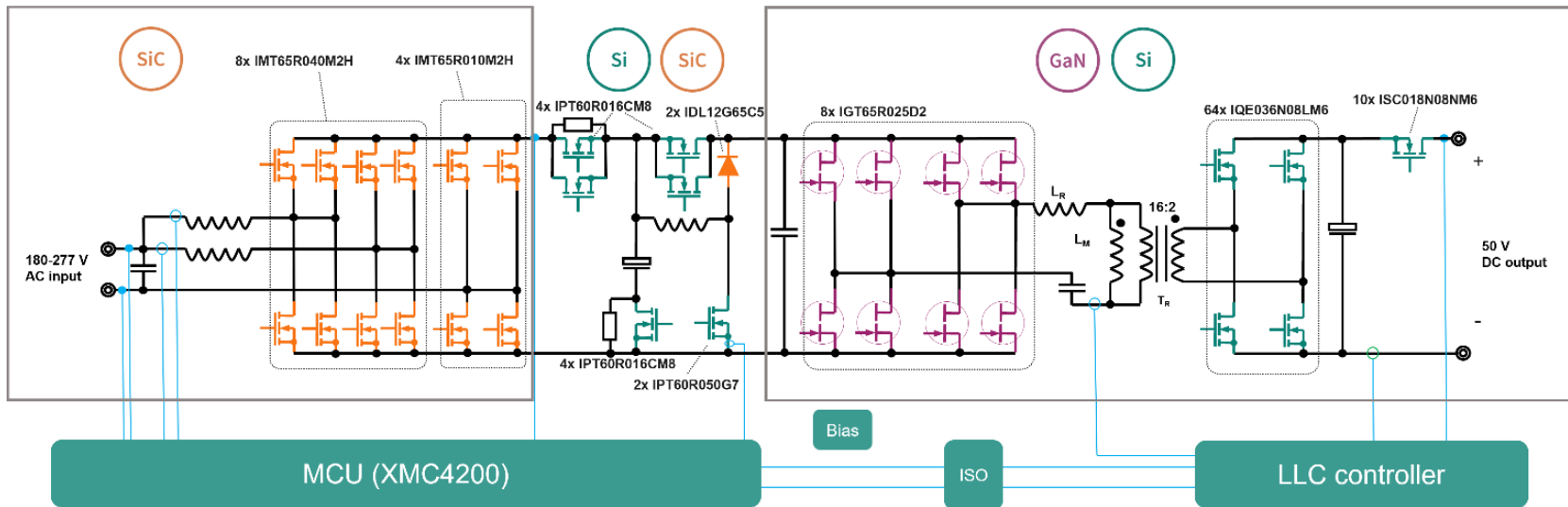


8 kW server/AI PSU with Si+SiC+GaN

Interleaved Totem-Pole PFC 2 x 65kHz

Holdup time extension
rerush, inrush circuits

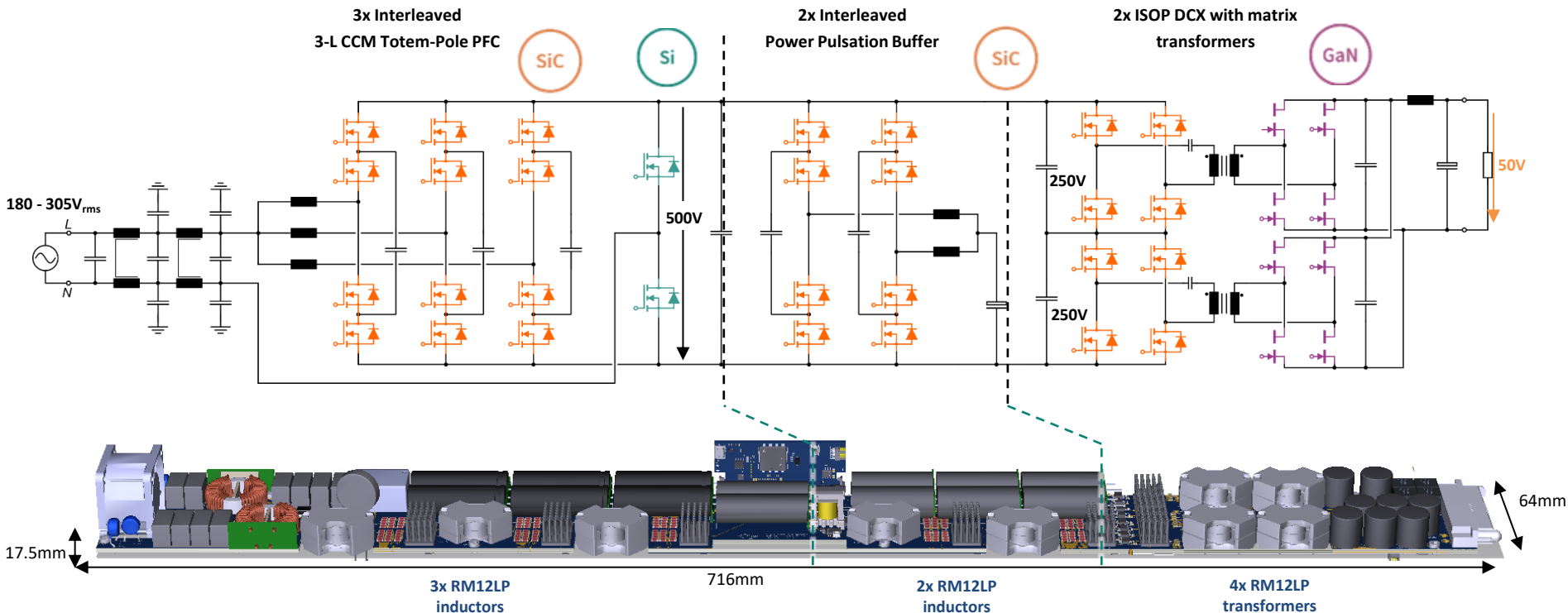
GaN FB + Si FB syncrec LLC



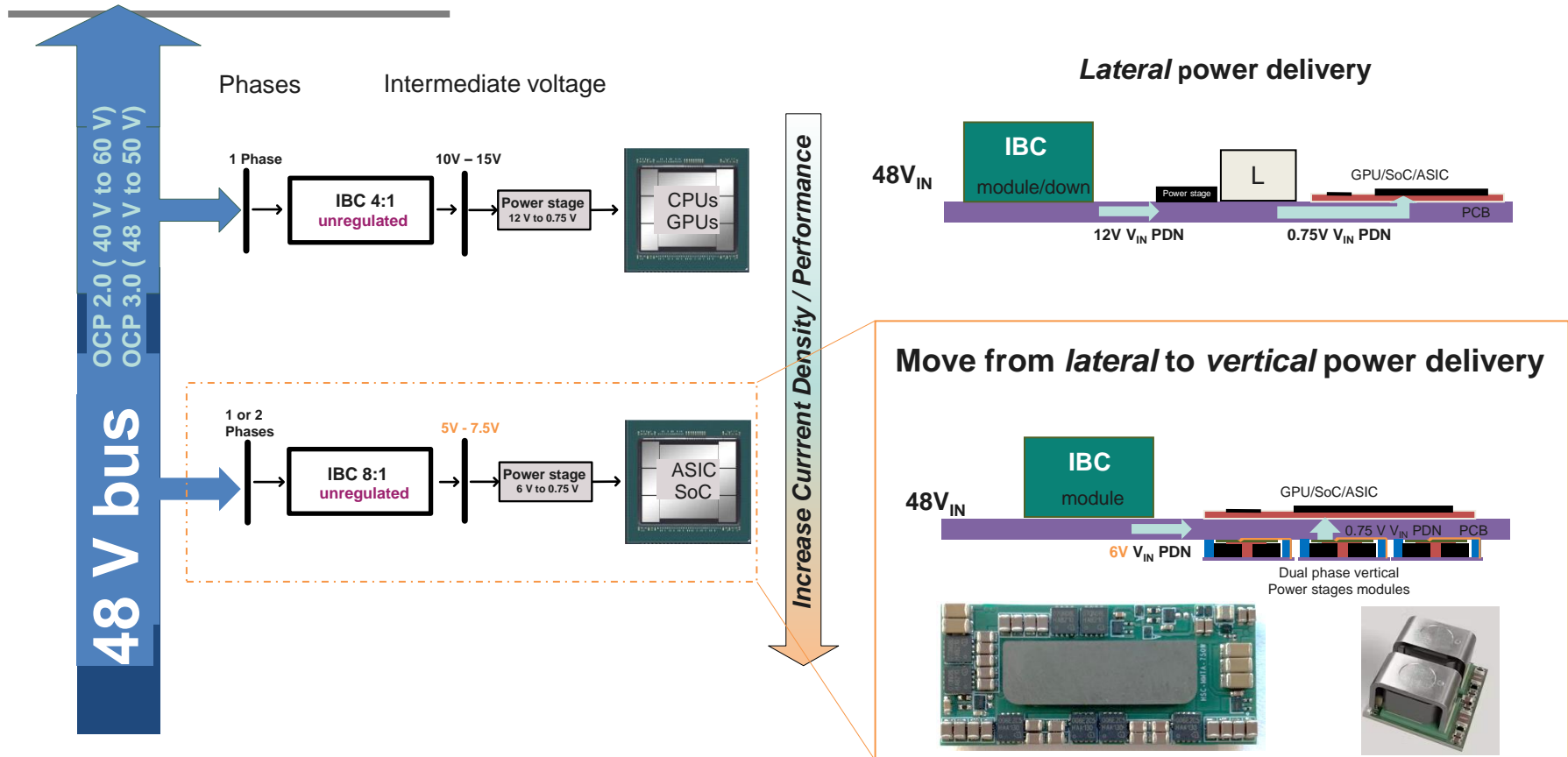
8kW in 73.5x40x446 mm³
→ ~100W/inch³

12 kW server/AI PSU with Si+SiC+GaN

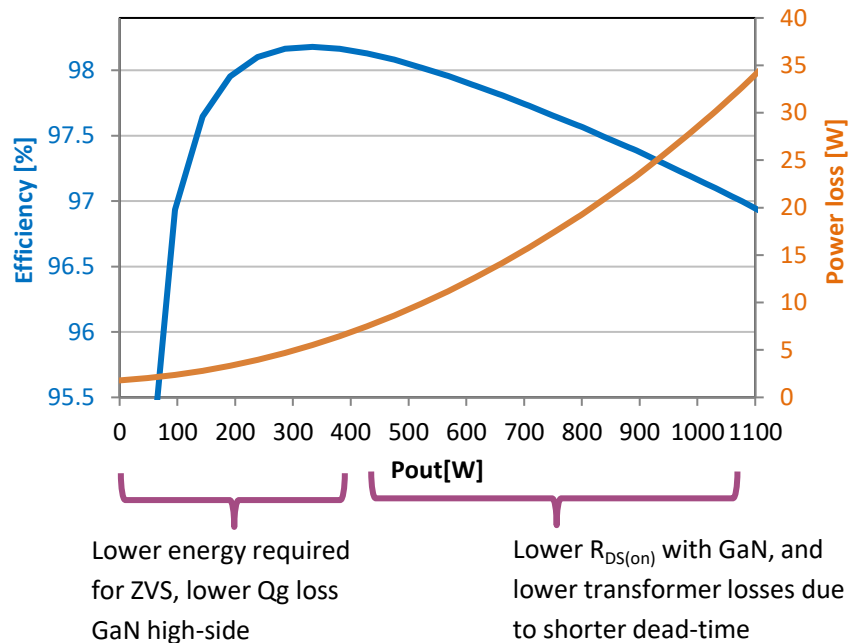
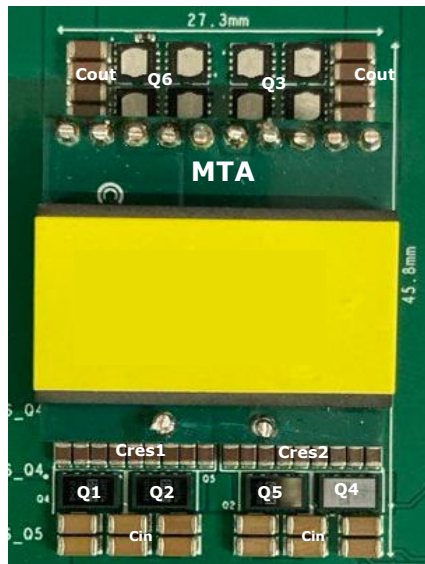
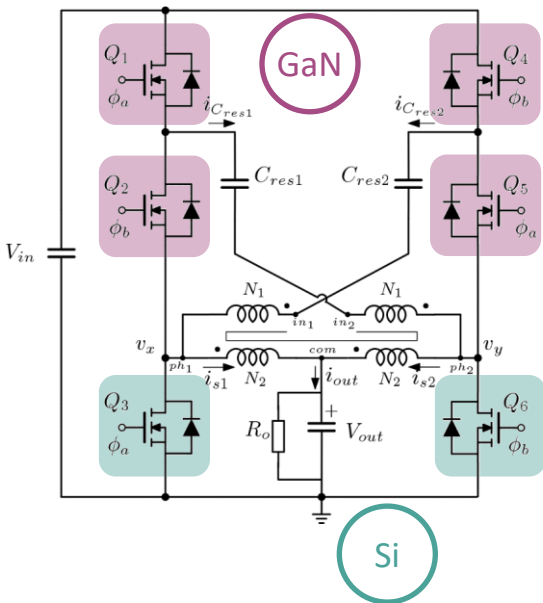
2 x 6 kW modules, each with ½ U height, stacked vertically to fit 1U max height



2-stage power delivery with vertical power flow

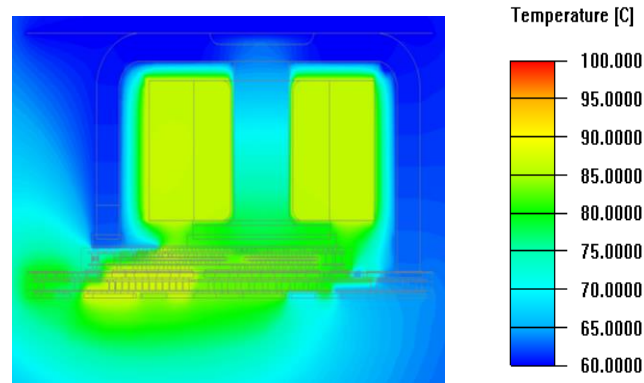
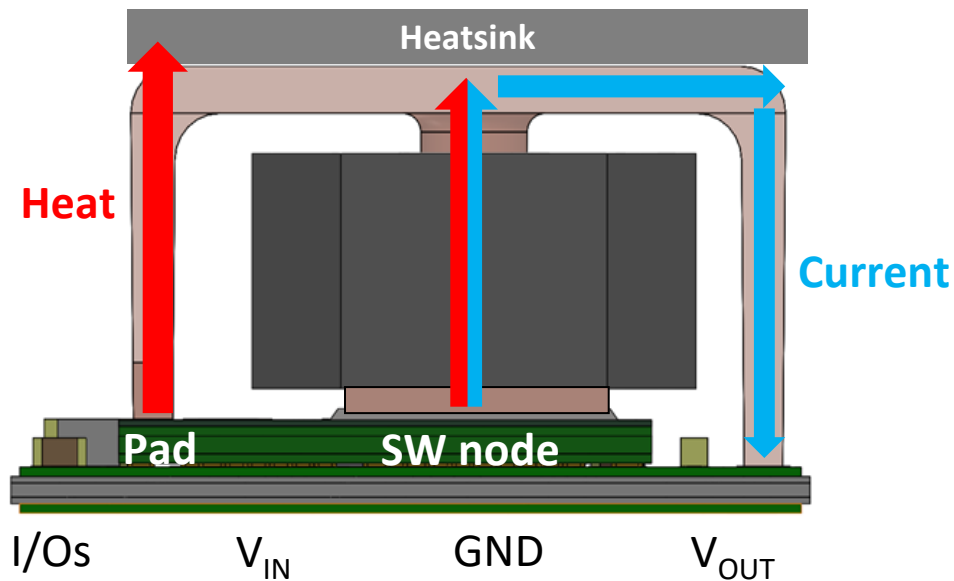


48-to-n V IBC using hybrid switched capacitor topology with GaN + Si



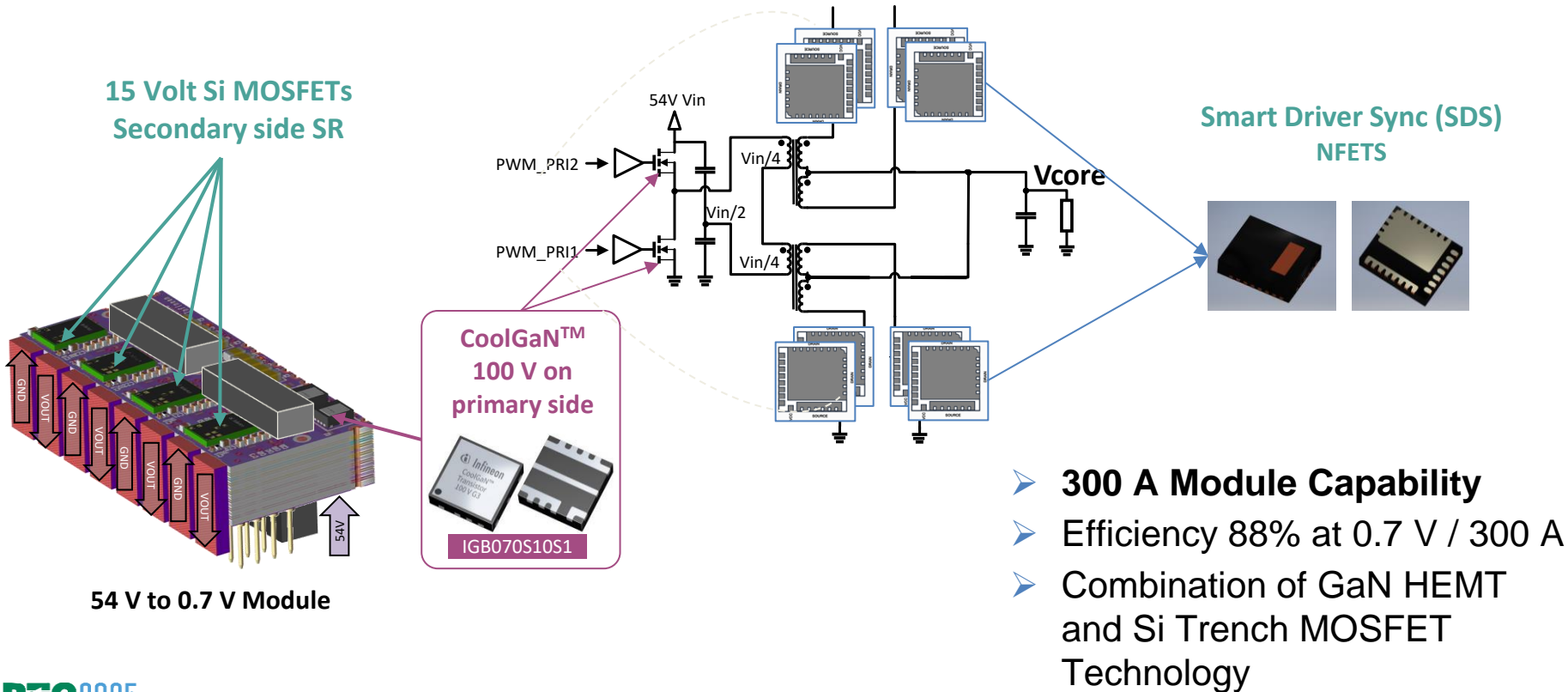
GaN takes IBC efficiency to the next level, due to lower dead-time required for ZVS, dramatically reducing transformer losses as well as transistor loss.

Vertical power delivery to GPU/CPU using chip-embedded Si and novel magnetics design, achieving >92% efficiency

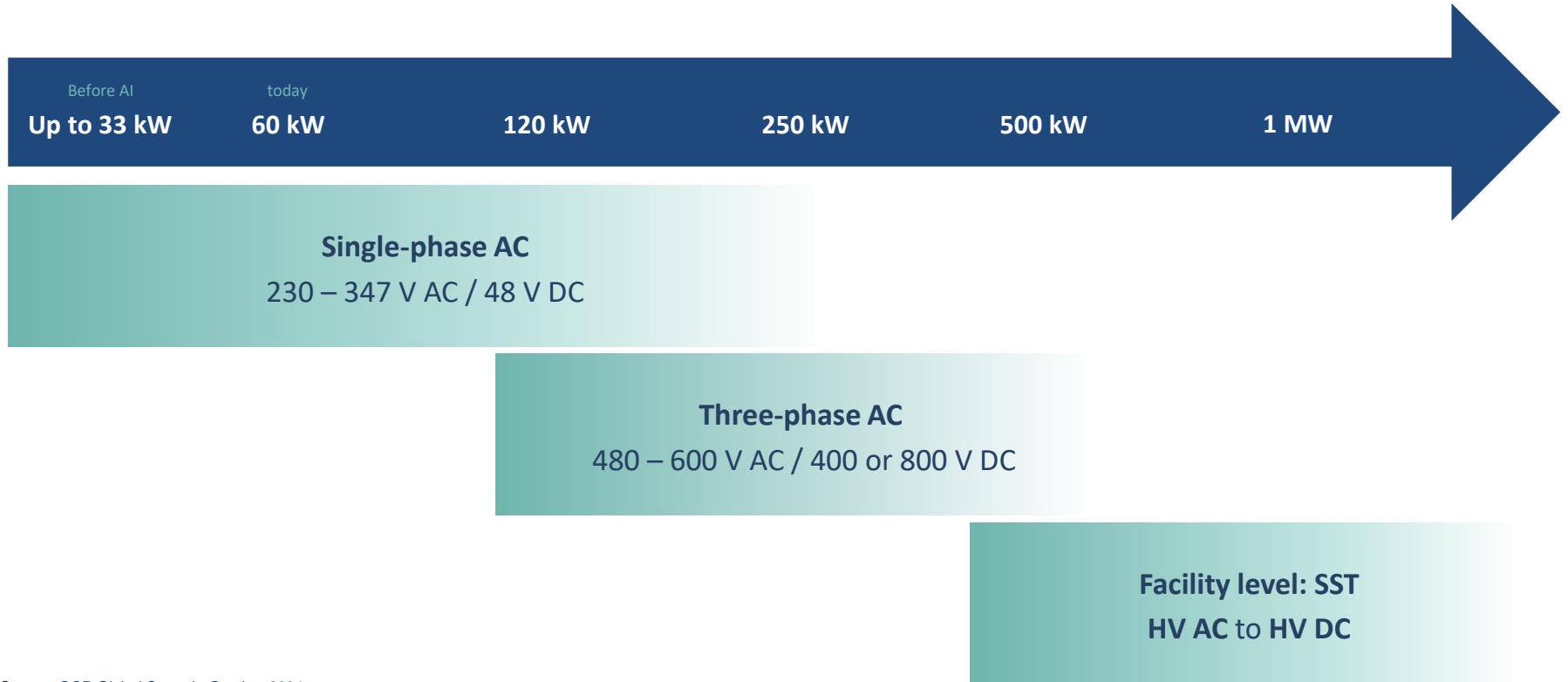


- Chip-embedding LV Si MOSFETs improves EMI and heat extraction
- Inductor has two tasks: **electrical and thermal conduction, tightly bound to each other**

Direct ~48 V to core conversion, 300 A_{out} with half-bridge current doubler, using GaN + Si

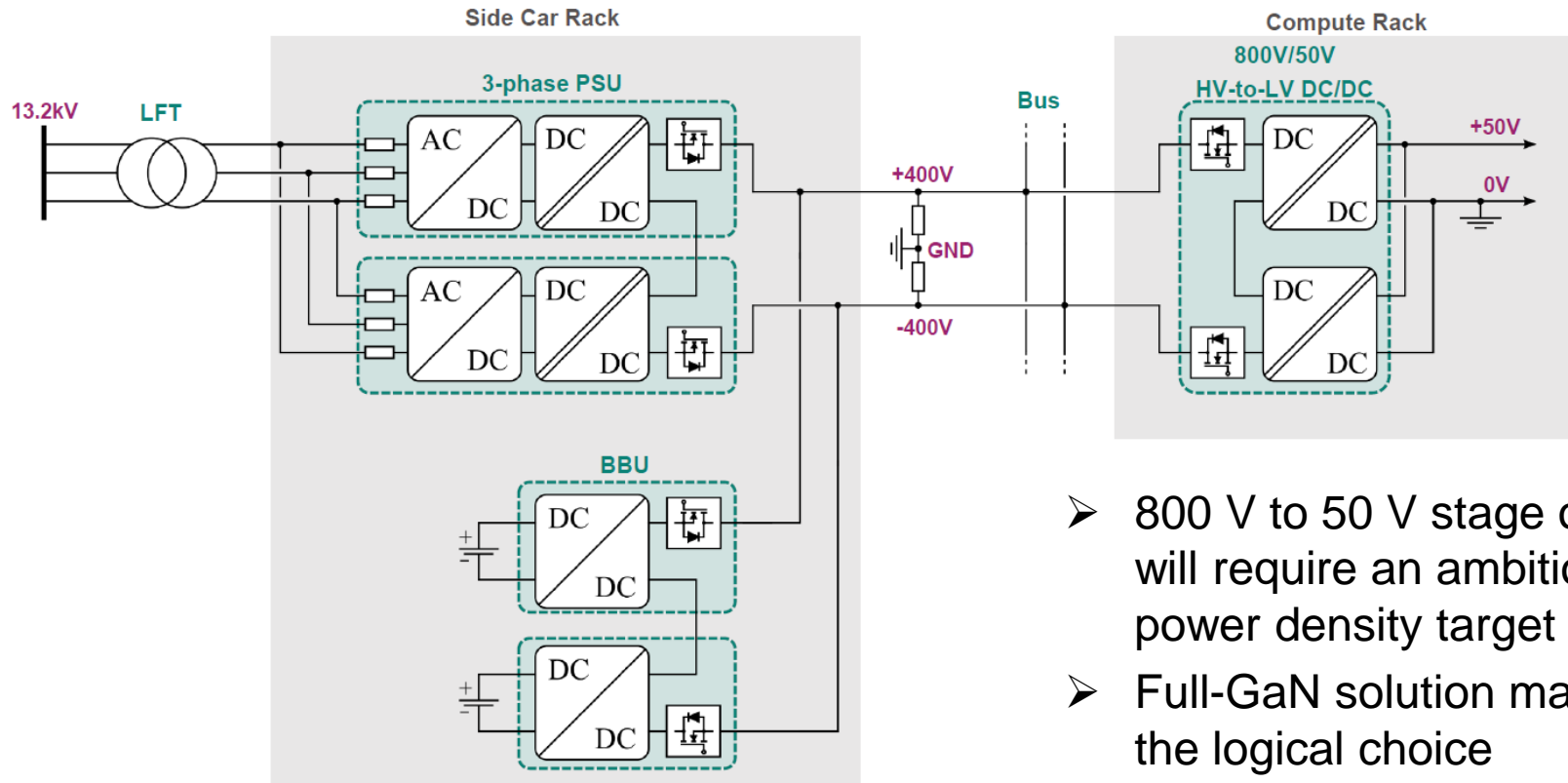


AI training will drive rack power to even higher power, triggering new architectures and topologies



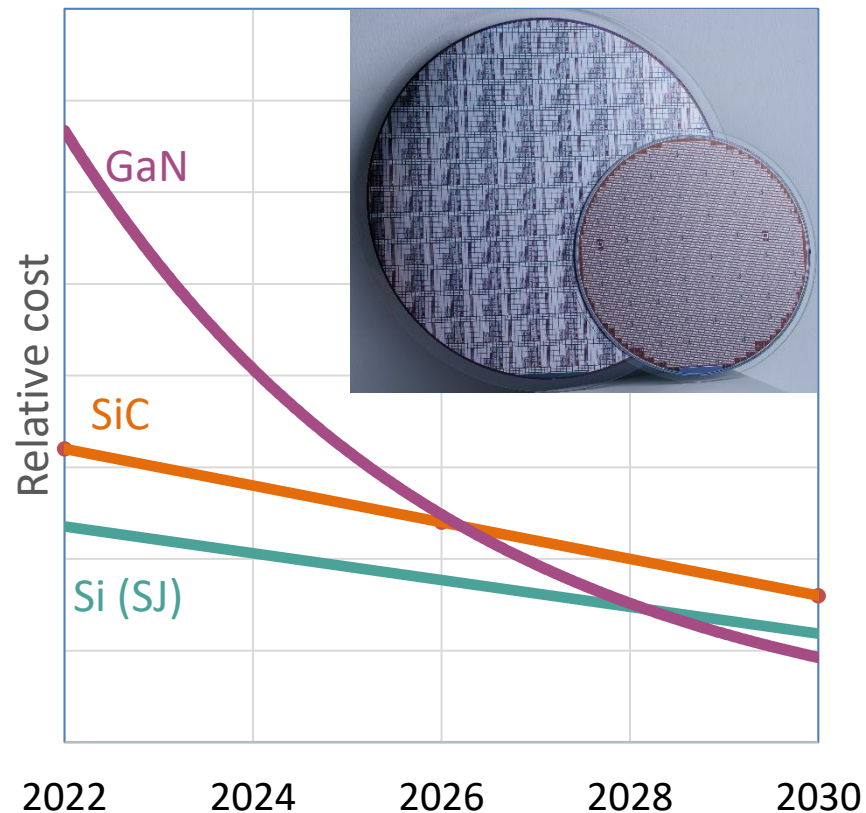
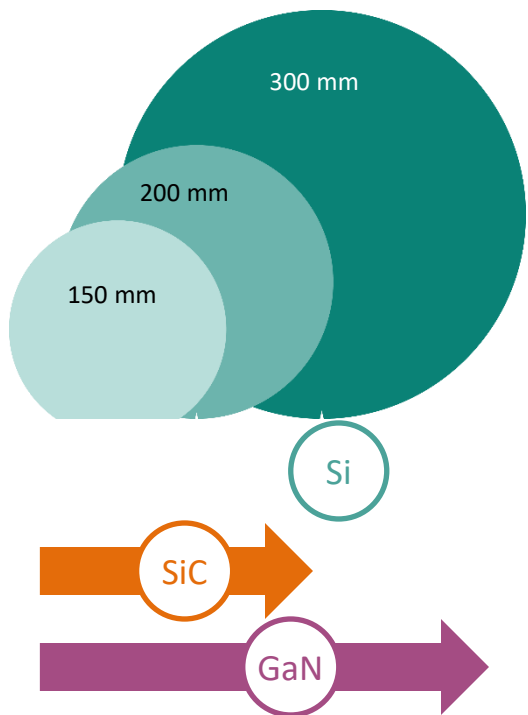
Source: OCP Global Summit, October 2024.

HV IBC driven by 3ph AC input architecture



- 800 V to 50 V stage on rack will require an ambitious power density target
- Full-GaN solution may be the logical choice

Si, SiC, and GaN costs dropping at different rates, approaching cost parity/crossover point by end of the decade



Conclusions

- Our mission is to improve data center power delivery efficiency with practical solutions, and the time is now!
- Holistic approach to semiconductor selection enables the best optimization to meet application requirements
- **Call to action:**
 - Develop solutions that meet the application targets, with some efficiency bonus on top of the minimum requirement
 - Keep an open mind to all three semiconductor
- **Join us to shape a sustainable AI future**

APEC 2025



Atlanta, GA

March 16-20

Georgia World Congress Center

THANK YOU

Thomas Neyer, Infineon Technologies AG

