

# Power Electronics for PtX: Challenges and Opportunities

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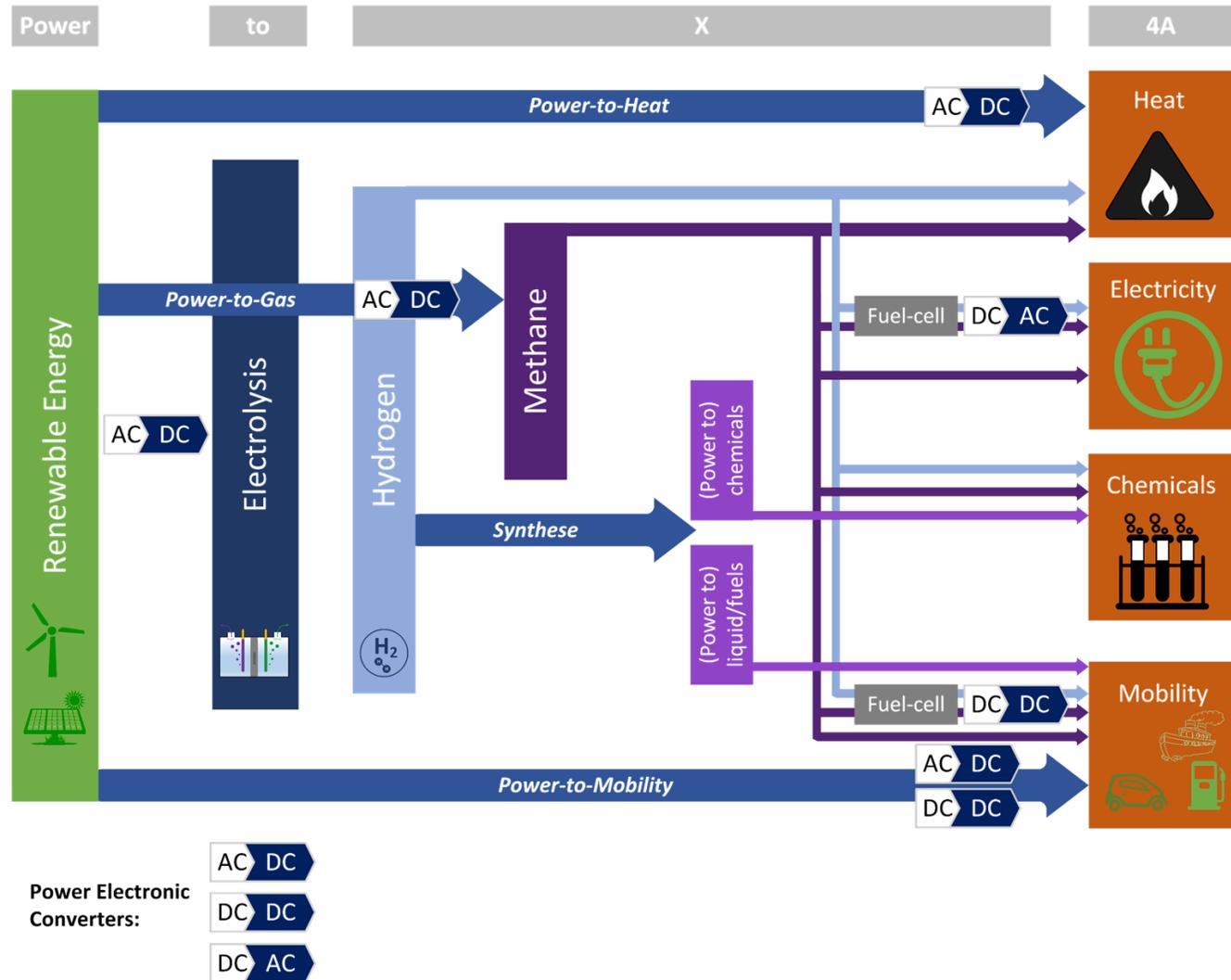
# Outline

- INTRODUCTION
- TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW
  - ELECTROLYSIS
  - METHANE REFORMING
- CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
- CONCLUSION

# INTRODUCTION

## P2X and Role of Power Electronics

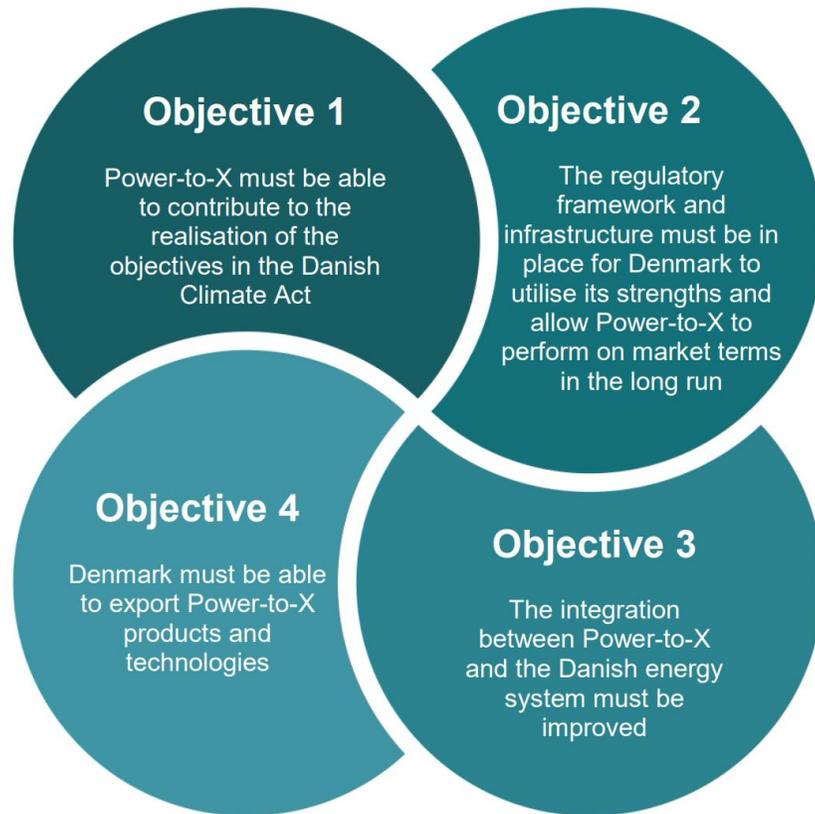
- Power electronic converters are needed across the whole powertrain



# INTRODUCTION

## Power-to-X Strategy

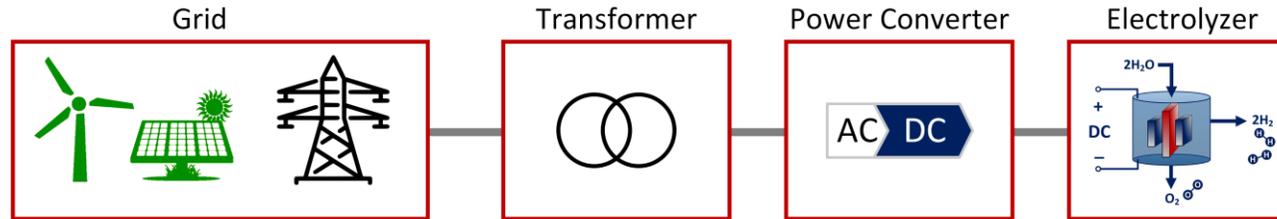
### National P2X Landscape



Source: The Government's strategy for POWER-TO-X, Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities, 2021.

# INTRODUCTION

## General Requirements for Power Electronics



### ■ Requirements

- Input Voltage: 0.4 – 35 kV
- Output Voltage: 350 – 1000V
- Output Current: 1- 12 kA (< 5% ripple)
- Output Power
  - < 1MW
  - 1MW < P < 5MW
  - > 5MW
- Galvanic Isolation
- Controllability: Output Current/Voltage
- PF > 0.9
- THDi:
  - < 30% (small systems)
  - < 5% (large systems)

### ■ Recent Future Trends

- High efficiency requirement (> 98%)
- Pushing to 1500V output
- Higher power levels
- Load dependent THDi & PF
- High PF (>0.95) and low THDi (< 5%)
- Scalability
- Low foot-print and volume (reducing transformer size)
- High reliability
- Low cost [Euro/kW]
- Ancillary services



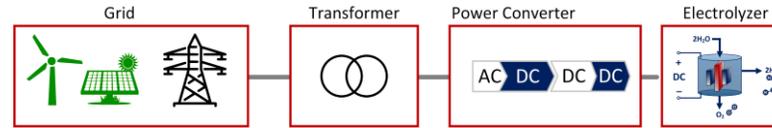
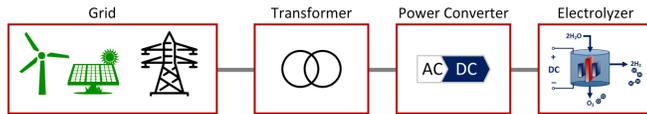


# Outline

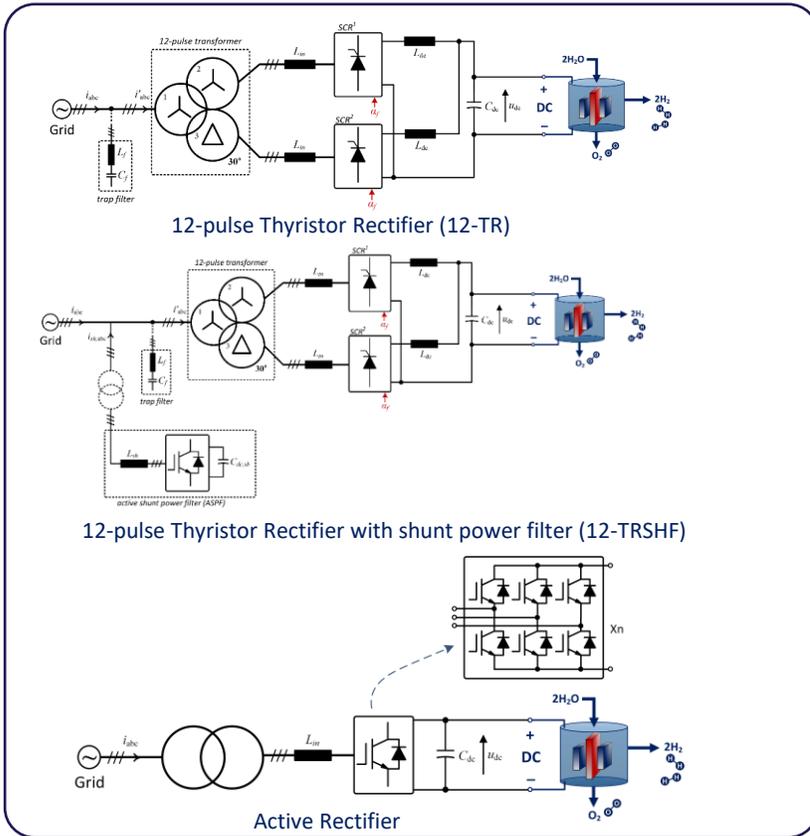
- INTRODUCTION
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# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

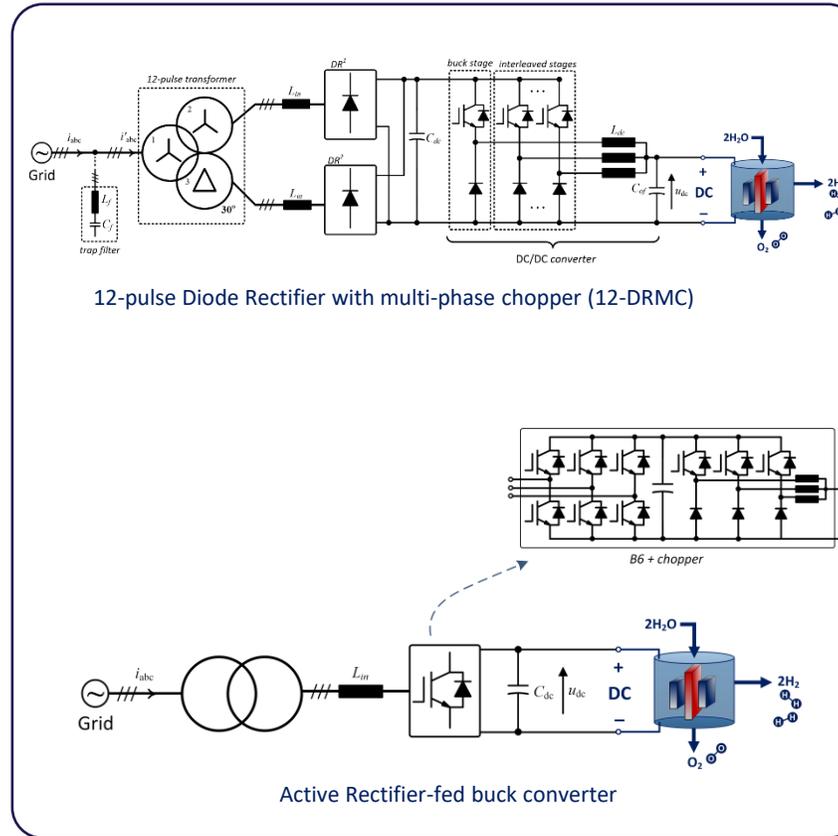
## State-of-the-Art (general classification):



Single-stage power supplies



Double-stage power supplies



Ref: M. Chen, S. F. Chou, F. Blaabjerg, P. Davari, "Overview of Power Electronic Converter Topologies Enabling Large-Scale Hydrogen Production via Water Electrolysis". *Appl. Sci.* 2022.  
 A. Abdelhakim and F. Canales, "Power Electronics Role in Future Hydrogen Systems", APEC 2023.

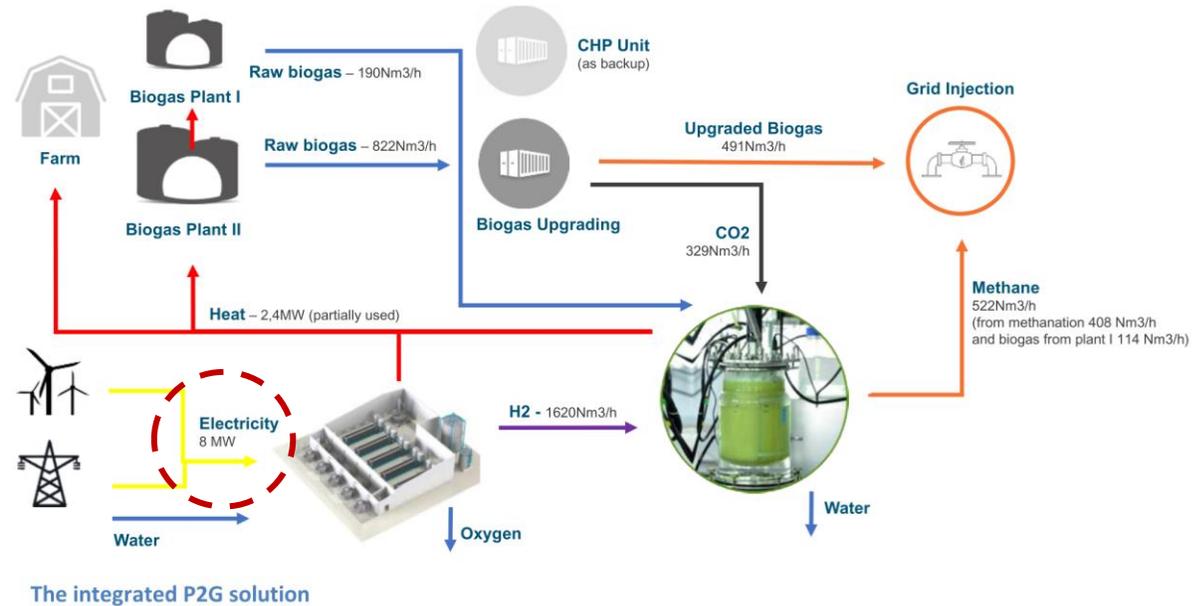
# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

BioCat Project

EUDP



- EUDP Project with NEL Hydrogen

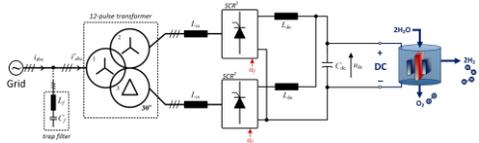


# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

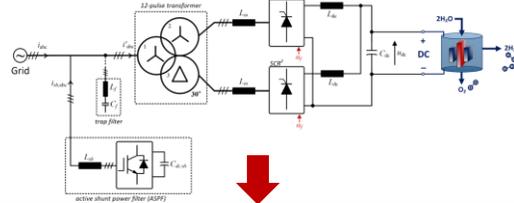
## State-of-the-Art (Comparison):

BioCat Project (EUDP) – 5 MW case study @BOL

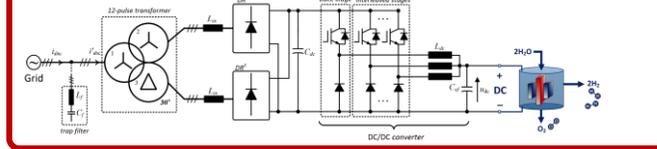
12-pulse Thyristor Rectifier (12-TR)



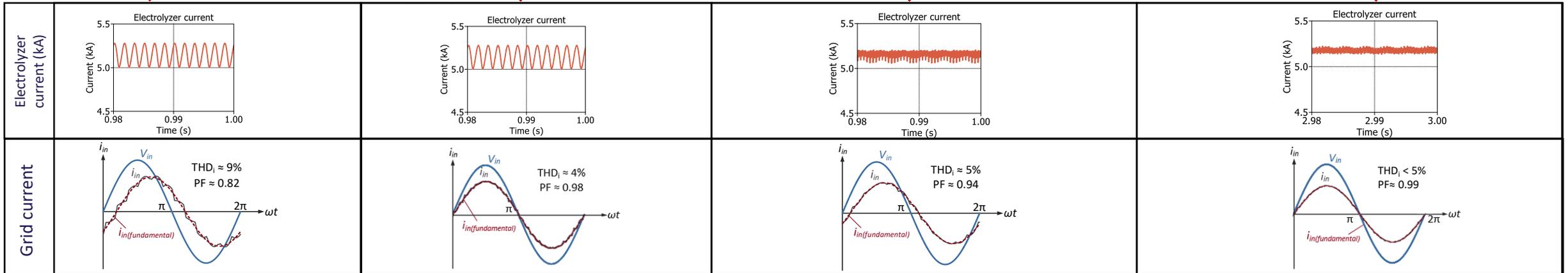
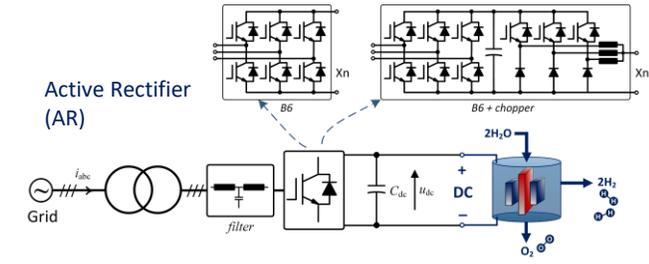
12-pulse Thyristor Rectifier with shunt power filter (12-TRSHF)



12-pulse Diode Rectifier with multi-phase chopper (12-DRMC)



Active Rectifier (AR)



	Power Quality	Efficiency	Cost	Reliability	Control Complexity	Footprint
12-TR	-	+	+	++	+	-
12-DTRMC	Δ	Δ	+	+	Δ	-
12-TRSHF	+	Δ	-	Δ	-	-
AR	++	Δ	-	Δ	-	-

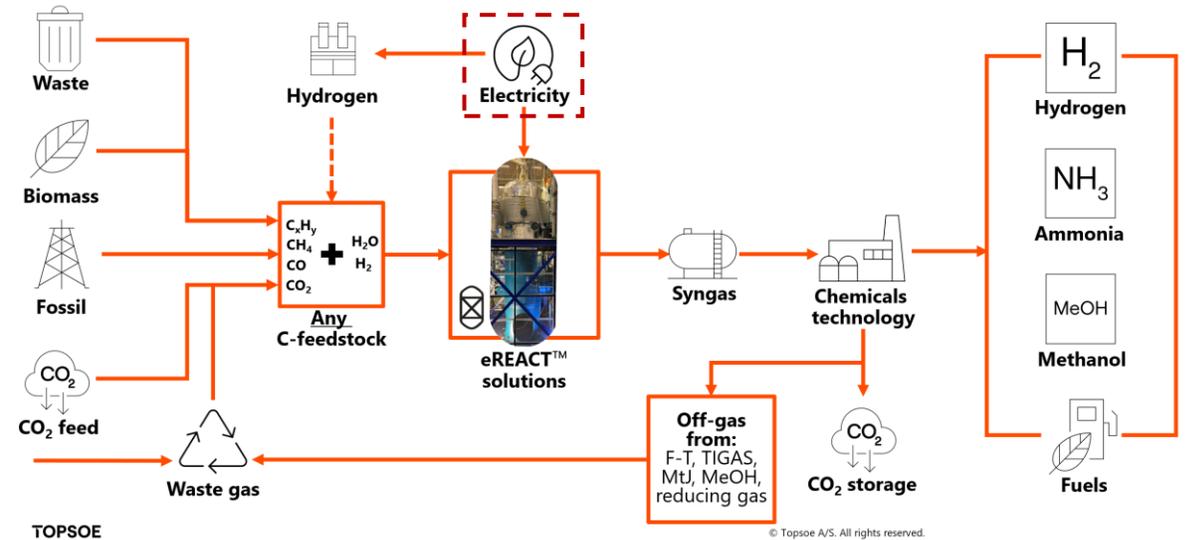
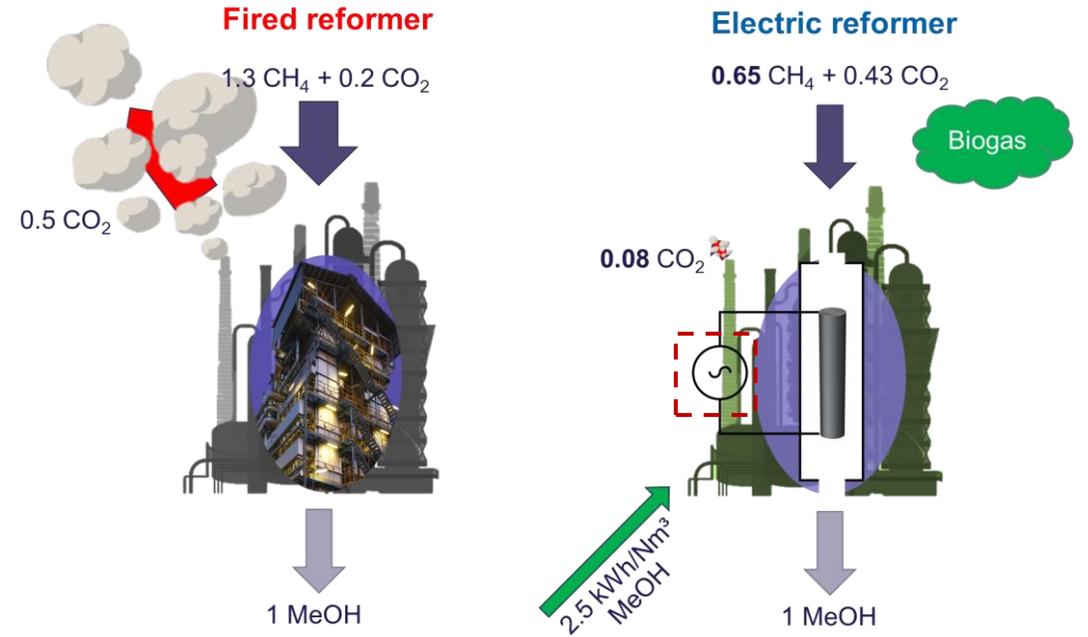
Ref: M. Chen, S. F. Chou, F. Blaabjerg, P. Davari, "Overview of Power Electronic Converter Topologies Enabling Large-Scale Hydrogen Production via Water Electrolysis". *Appl. Sci.* 2022.

# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

## eREACT Technology

### EUDP

- Electrically driven steam methane reforming technology (eSMR)
- EUDP Project with Haldor Topsøe A/S
  - (Pilot Site Foulum)
  
- ❑ Green Methane based on renewables
- ❑ Integration of methanol as an energy vector
- ❑ Contribution to balancing the electricity grid



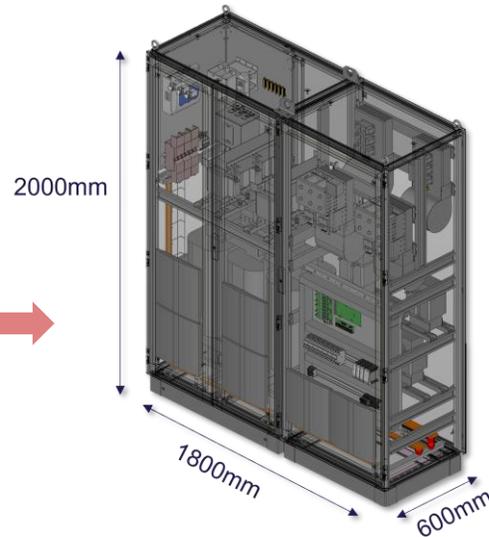
# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

## eREACT Technology

12-Diode Rectifier with Multiple Chopper (12-DRMC):

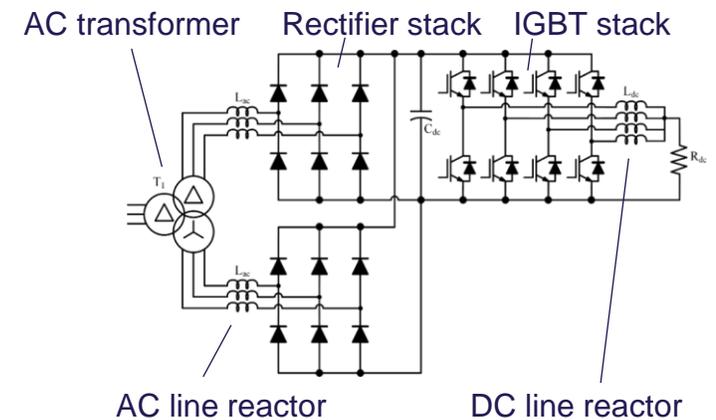
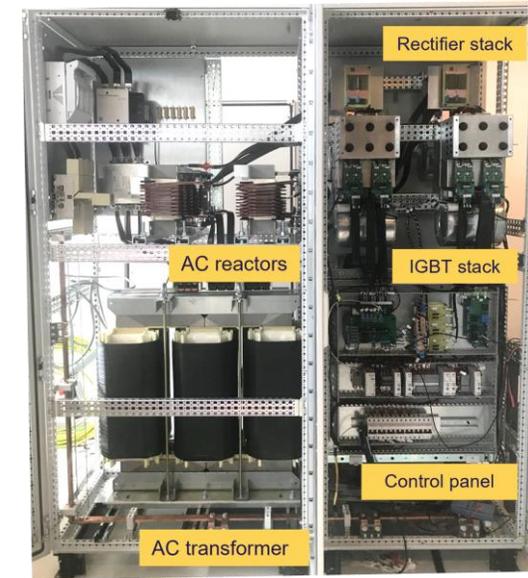


Pilot Site in Foulum



### Specifications

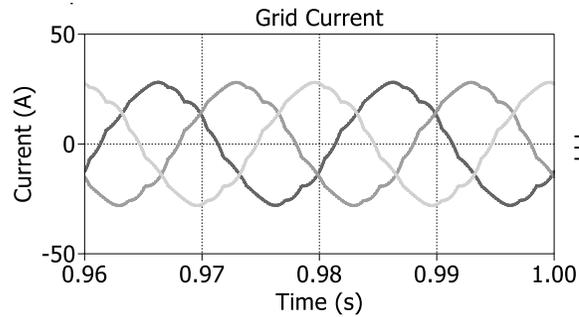
- Input AC Voltage: 400 V
- Output DC Voltage: 150 V (Pilot)
- Output DC Current: 850 A (Pilot)
- Output Power: 128 kW (Pilot)
- Galvanic Isolation
- Controllability: Output Voltage/ Output Current



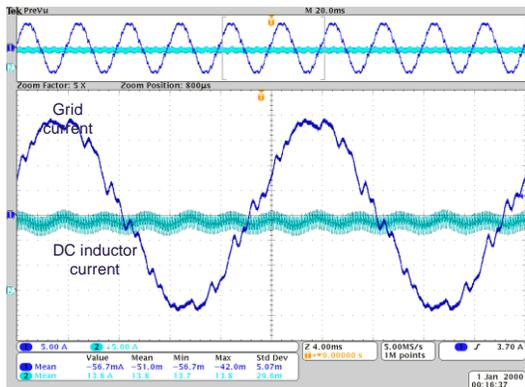
# TOPOLOGY OVERVIEW

eREACT Technology

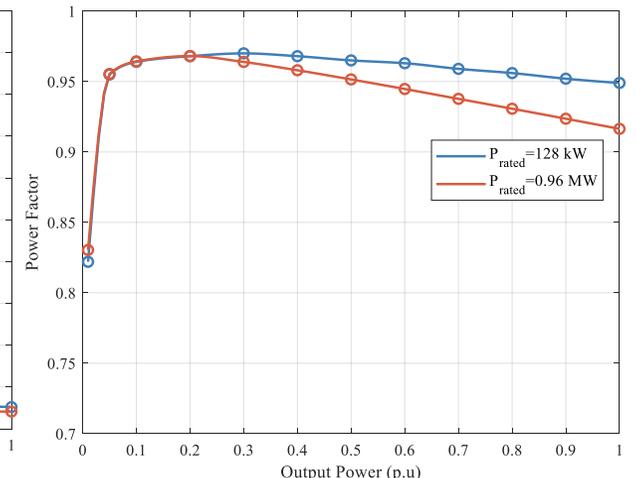
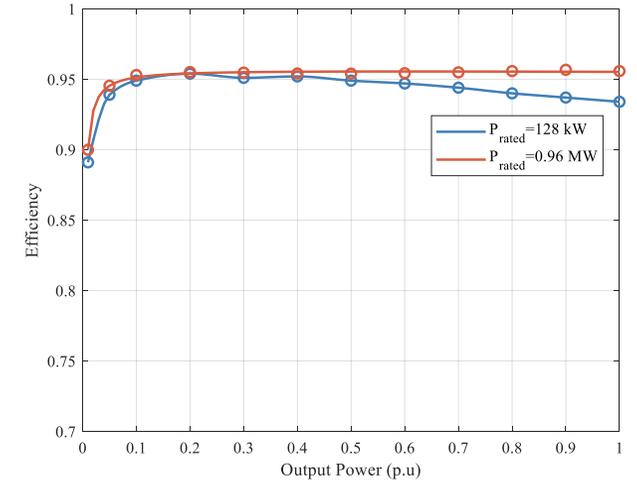
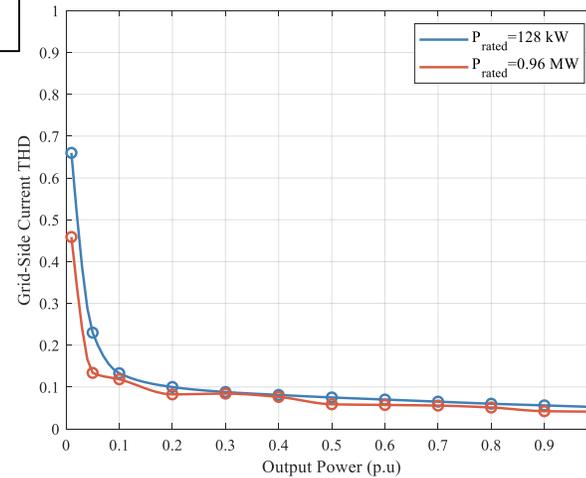
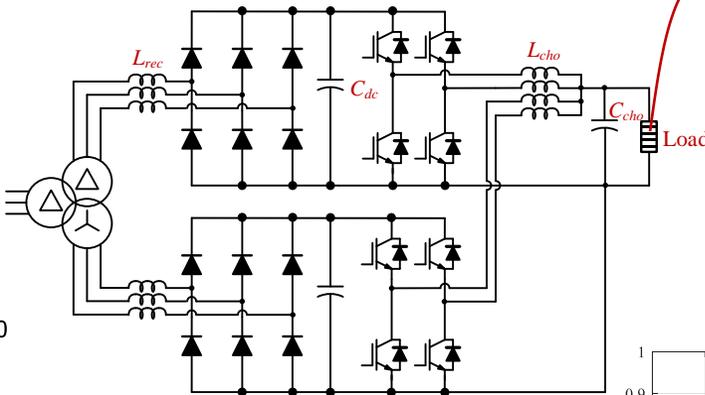
12-Diode Rectifier with Multiple Chopper (12-DRMC):



Grid current @ 0.96 MW (Output: 960V, 1000 A)



Grid current (experiment)



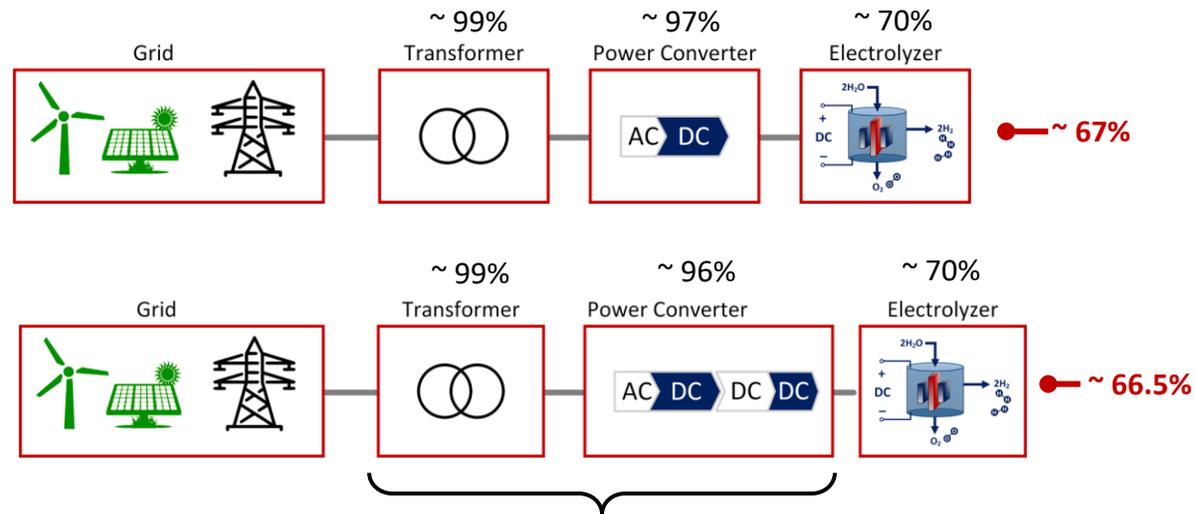


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# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## Design for Higher Performance



### Impact on:

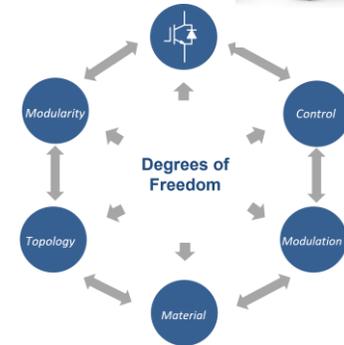
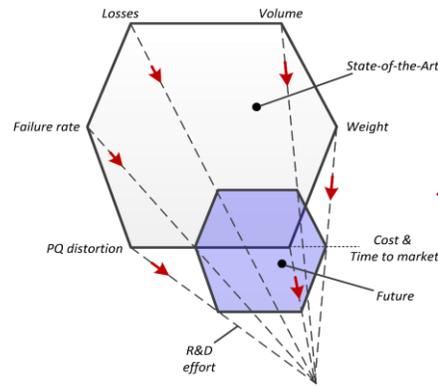
- Total system cost (Euro/kW)
- Electrolyzer efficiency and lifetime (current ripple)
- Overall system foot-print and volume
- Materials saving (e.g., less copper mass → CO<sub>2</sub> reduction)
- Scalability to cover different stack sizes (time-to-market + savings on R&D effort)

# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

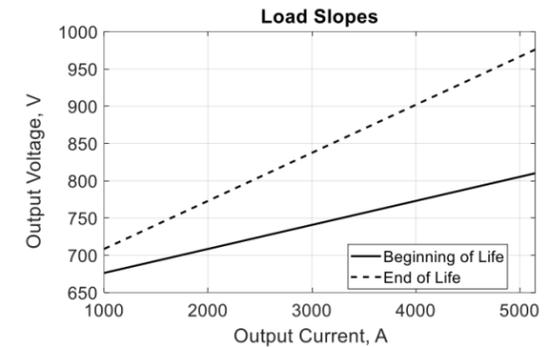
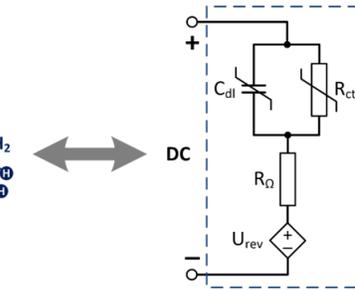
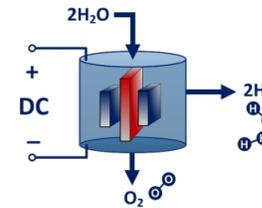
## Design for Higher Performance



### Power electronic



### Electrolyzer



Aging-depended electric characteristic

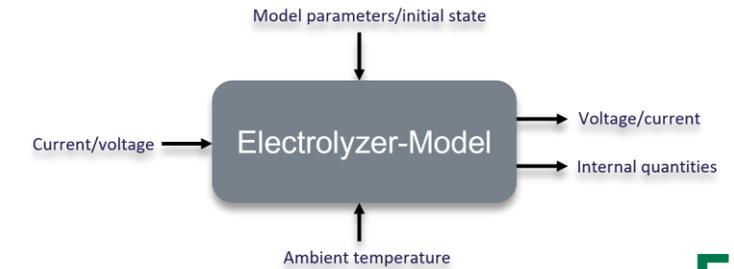
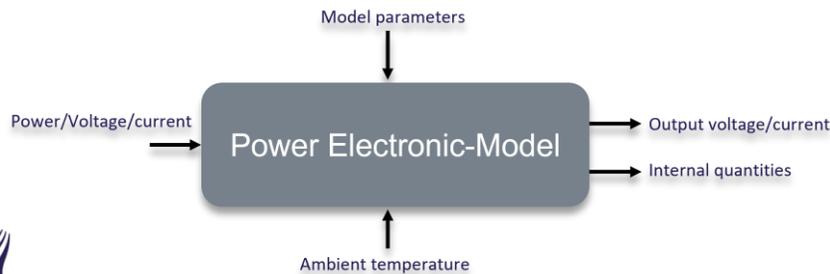
- Efficient and Scalable
- Modular and reliable
- High power quality and grid compatible
- **Strong need for Digital Twin models**

### Chemistry-aware Digital Twin models



- Energy efficient solutions
- Lifetime prediction and improvement
- Dynamic behavior
- Hybrid solutions with battery storage
  - Better utilization
  - Grid ancillary services

- Predicting efficiency and reliability
- Exploring new materials for better life-time and efficiency
- Accelerating development time
- **Strong need for Digital Twin models**



# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

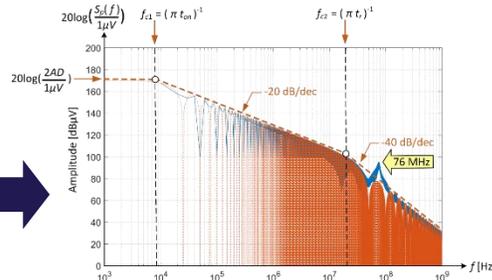
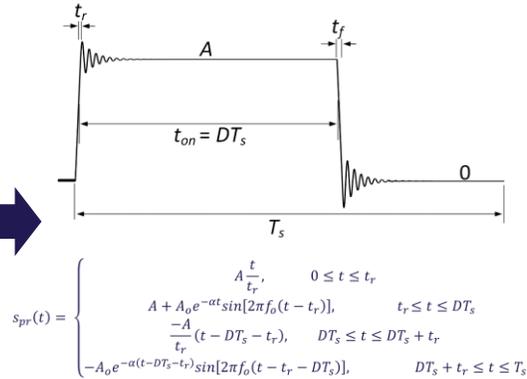
## Digital Twin Modeling

Innovation Fund Denmark

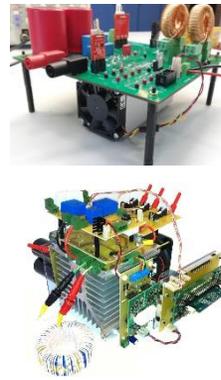
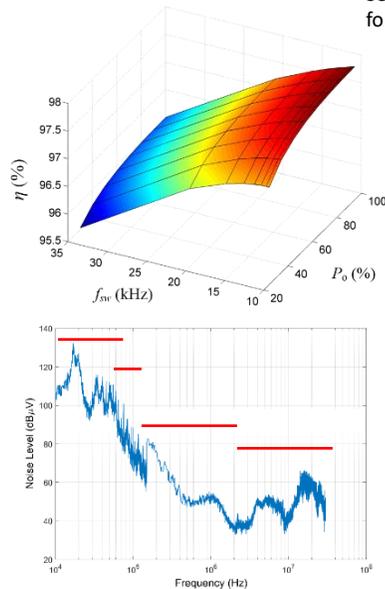
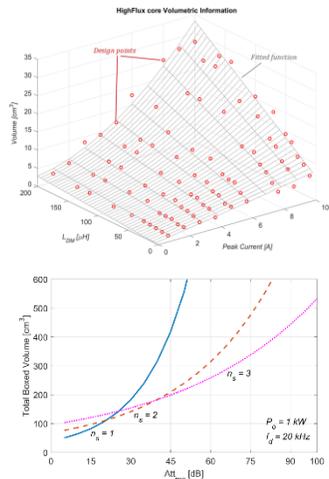
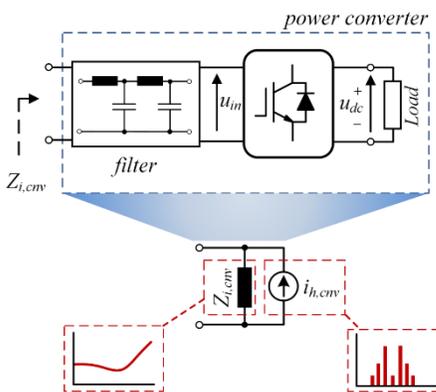


Our Methodology:

### @ Device Level

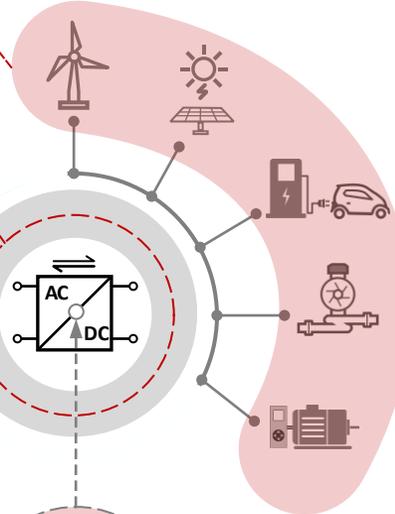


### @ Converter Level



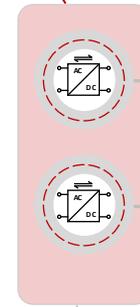
### APPLICATION

Validation and practical applications



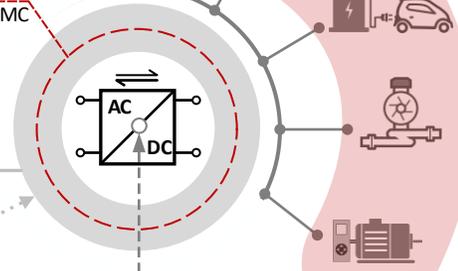
### SYSTEM LEVEL

Time-frequency based system level aggregation



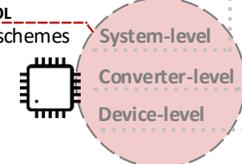
### CONVERTER LEVEL

Optimized design for EMC



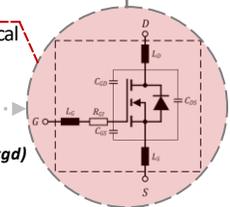
### SMART CONTROL

Self-learning schemes for EMC



### DEVICE LEVEL

Multi-physics mathematical model of noise source



$$f_{noise} = f(vds, id, Tj, cds, cgd)$$

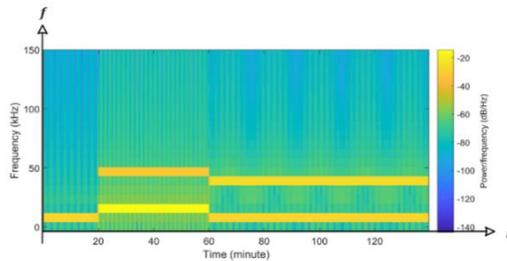
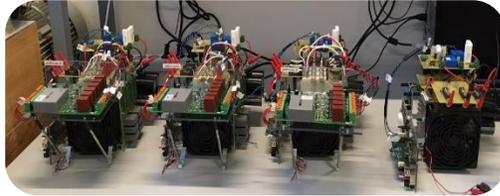
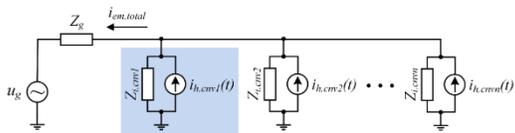
# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## Digital Twin Modeling

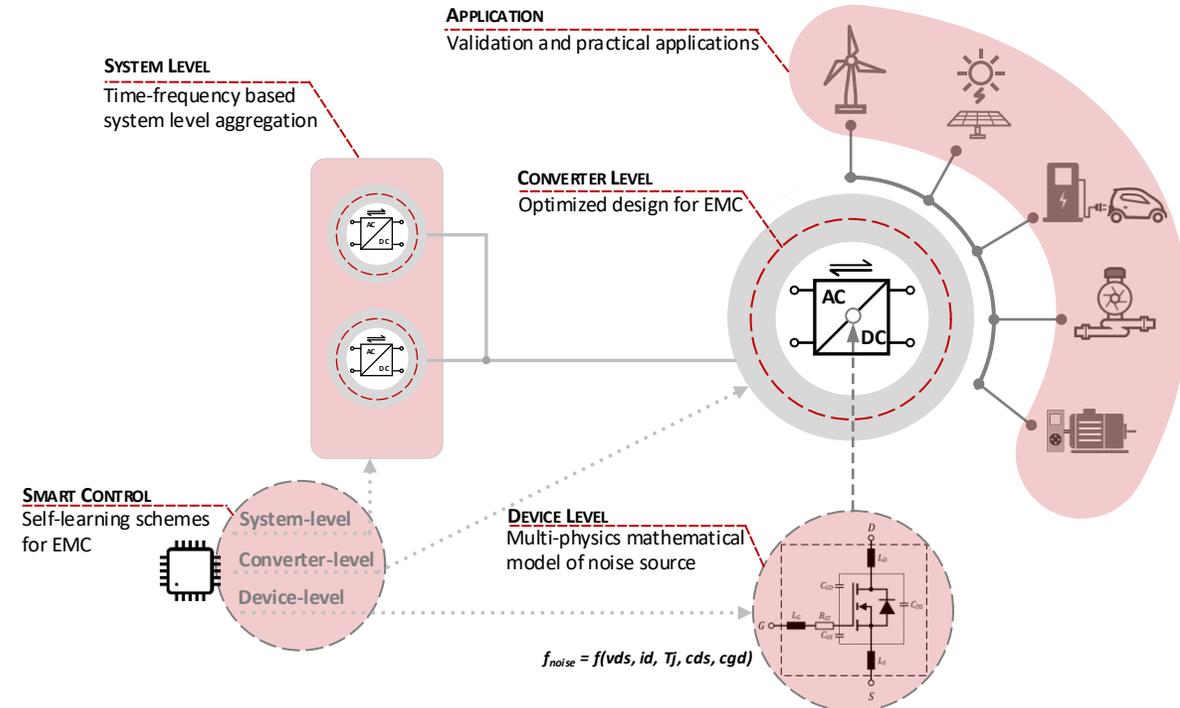
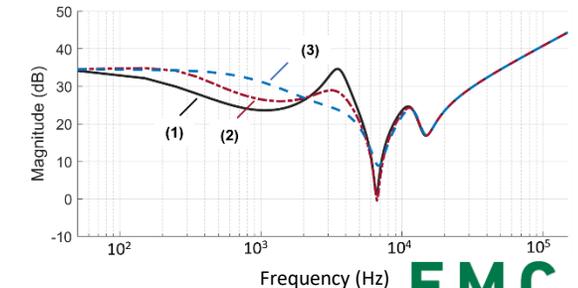
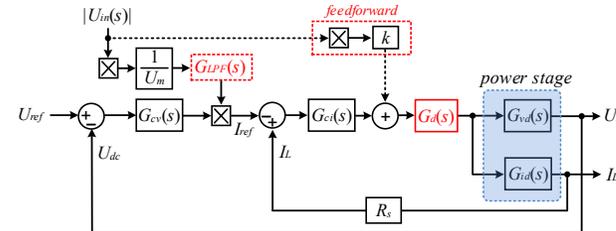
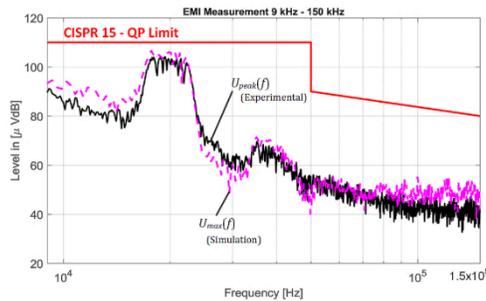
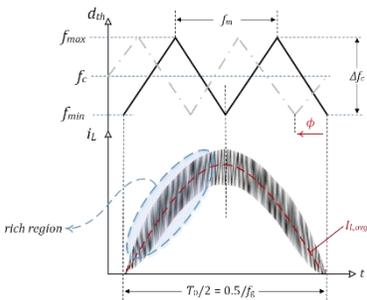


Our Methodology:

### @ System Level



### @ Smart Control/Modulation



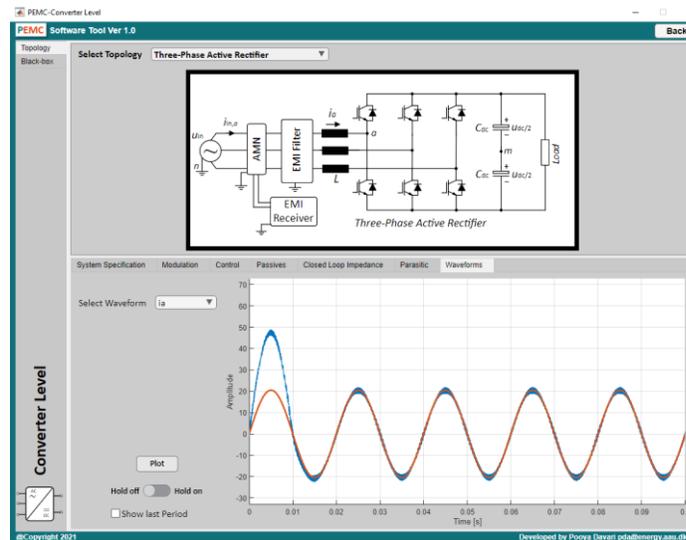
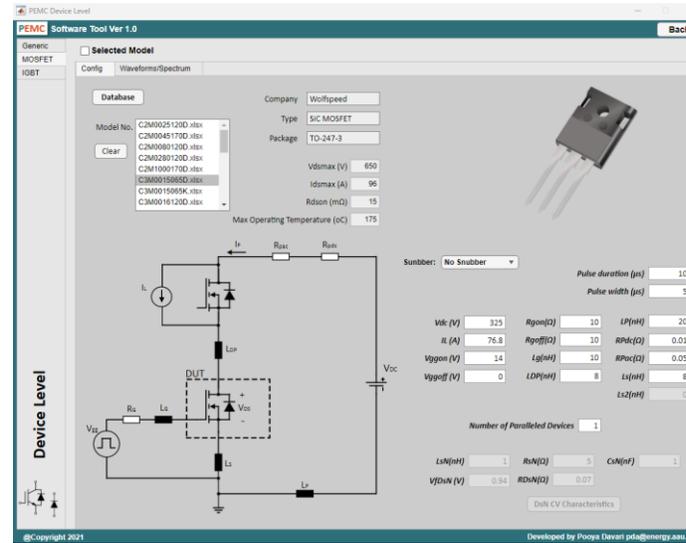
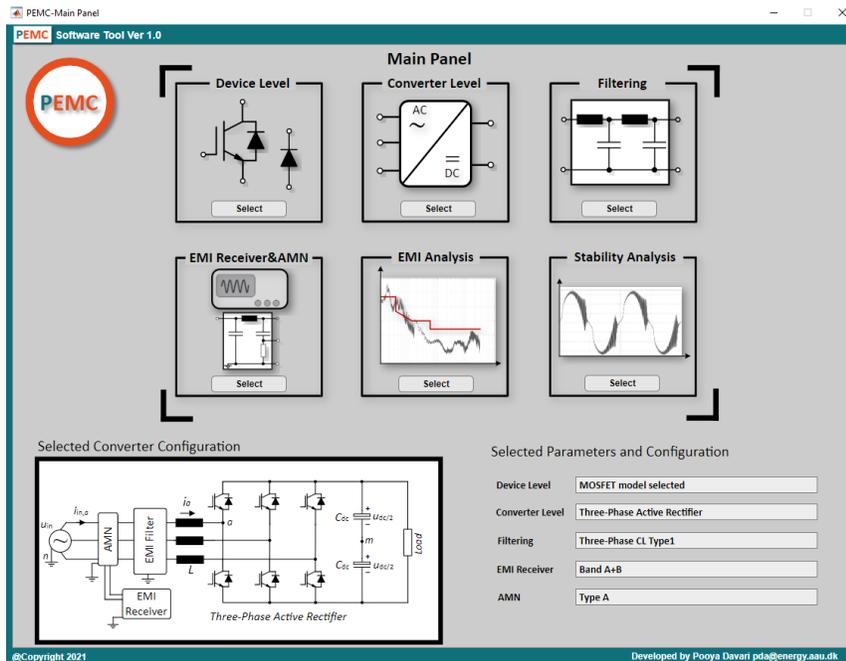
# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## PEMC Software-Tool

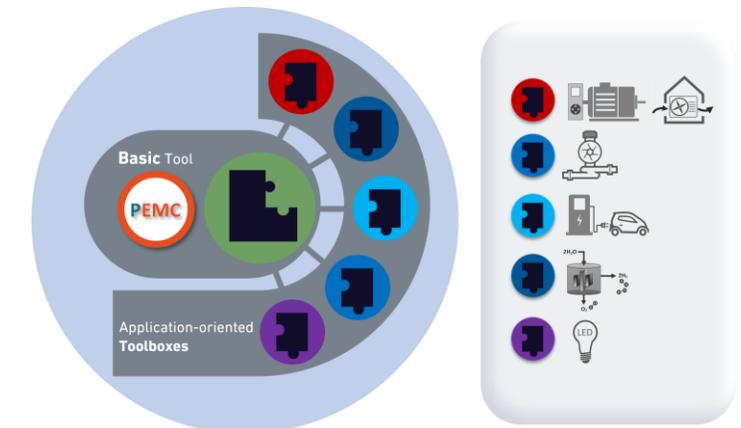


POWER ELECTRONICS SOFTWARE  
TOOL FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC  
INTERFERENCE PRE-COMPLIANCE

The tool is developed based on Power Electronics  
**Digital Twin** concept.



- ❑ **25%-40%** product development cost reduction
  - ❑ **30%** faster time-to-market
  - ❑ Up to **20 times** faster simulation time compared to existing commercial software tools
  - ❑ **Focused** solely on power electronic converters
- ✓ Large collection of power converter topologies (suitable for different application areas)
  - ✓ Full dynamic simulation
  - ✓ Control and efficiency optimization
  - ✓ Optimized design following grid compatibility standards



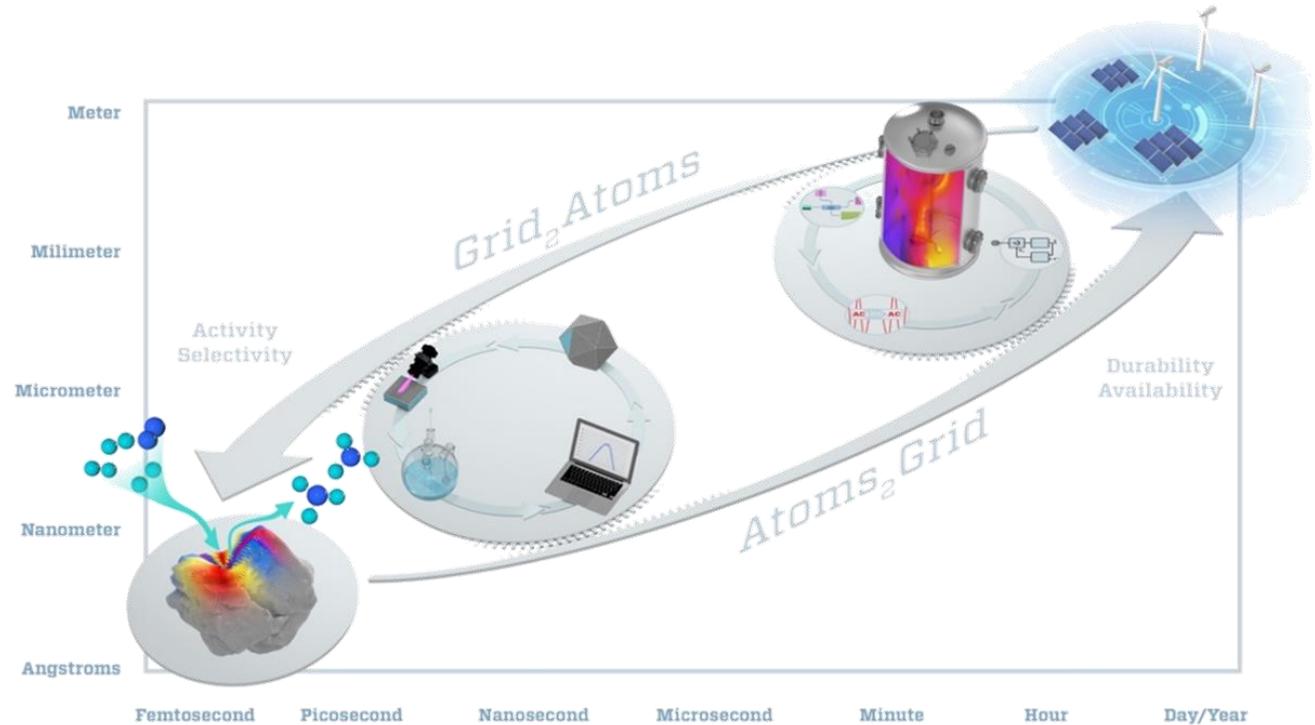
# ACCELERATING P2X

CAPeX New Pioneer Center



Center leader: Tejs Vegge, DTU, Co-lead: Frede Blaabjerg, AAU

- Educate and mentor the next generations of P2Xperts and 50-60 PhDs and 50-60 postdocs by establishing the CAPeX Academy and three international fellowship programs



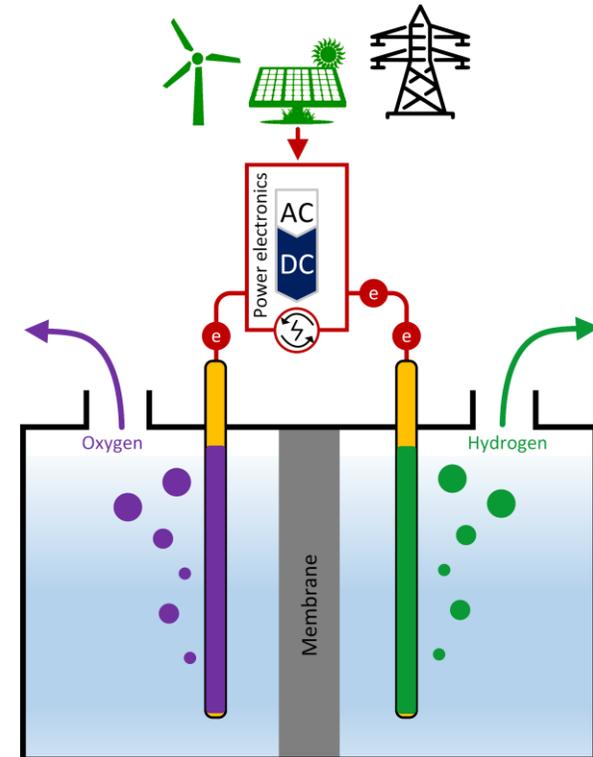
- Digital twins at multiple scales
- Coupling data from experiments and models
- Change conditions at one scale and track effect up/down in scale
- Determine consequences
  - Efficiency and selectivity
  - Durability at system level



# CONCLUSION

## Role of Power Electronics in P2X

- The green transition hinges on more efficient, durable, cost-effective and scalable design for Power2X
- Power electronic converters will impact the system total costs of ownership and production
- System efficiencies and reliabilities require further improvement
- Lack of confidence in utilizing new technologies
- Faster processes are needed to understand and develop new components, devices and systems
  - Digital-twin modeling and Virtual-oriented simulation
  - Open-access databases
  - Unified/standard modeling approach
  - Power hardware in-the-loop (PHIL) simulation





Aalborg University  
AAU Energy

# EMC



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**EMI/EMC IN POWER ELECTRONICS  
RESEARCH GROUP**

# Thank you!

<https://www.energy.aau.dk/research/research-groups/emc>