



# Energy Highways

## Large-scale DC Grid deployments



Martin Erath  
Managing Director



**30+**  
International  
and Renowned  
Speakers

**36**  
Seminars

**4**  
Technical  
Workshops

Track 1  
Effective Project  
Management

Track 2  
Renewable Energy

Tracks 3-4  
Disruptive  
Technologies  
and Smart Water

# Energy Highways - Large-scale DC Grid deployments

- **Design Development Issues**
- AC / DC Design Aspects
- Applying Technologies - limitations & selection
- DC Configurations P2P, B2B, MTDC (technical and commercial factors)
- Worldwide (U)HVDC Footprint
- System integration “Germany Energy Transition Plan, based on Large-scale DC Networks”
  
- **Project Implementation Issues**
- From Theory to Reality - Challenges during Execution
- PM Excellence “Suedlink Project – The DC Energy Highway in Germany”

# Martin Erath

Specialized in:

- Energy, Utilities, Smart Grids, Renewables, Infrastructure, Sustainability

25+ years Professional Experience:

- Regional Director GCC: Siemens Power Transmission and Distribution – Turnkey Solutions
- CEO Middle East: GOPA-Consulting Group (Intec)
- Managing Director: ILF Consulting Engineers KSA

Highlights:

- Dubai EXPO 2020 smart grid and renewable energy
- UAE: Largest Energy Storage System Program (BESS)
- Siemens: R&D and pilots in multi-functional power links

Education, Certifications and Awards:

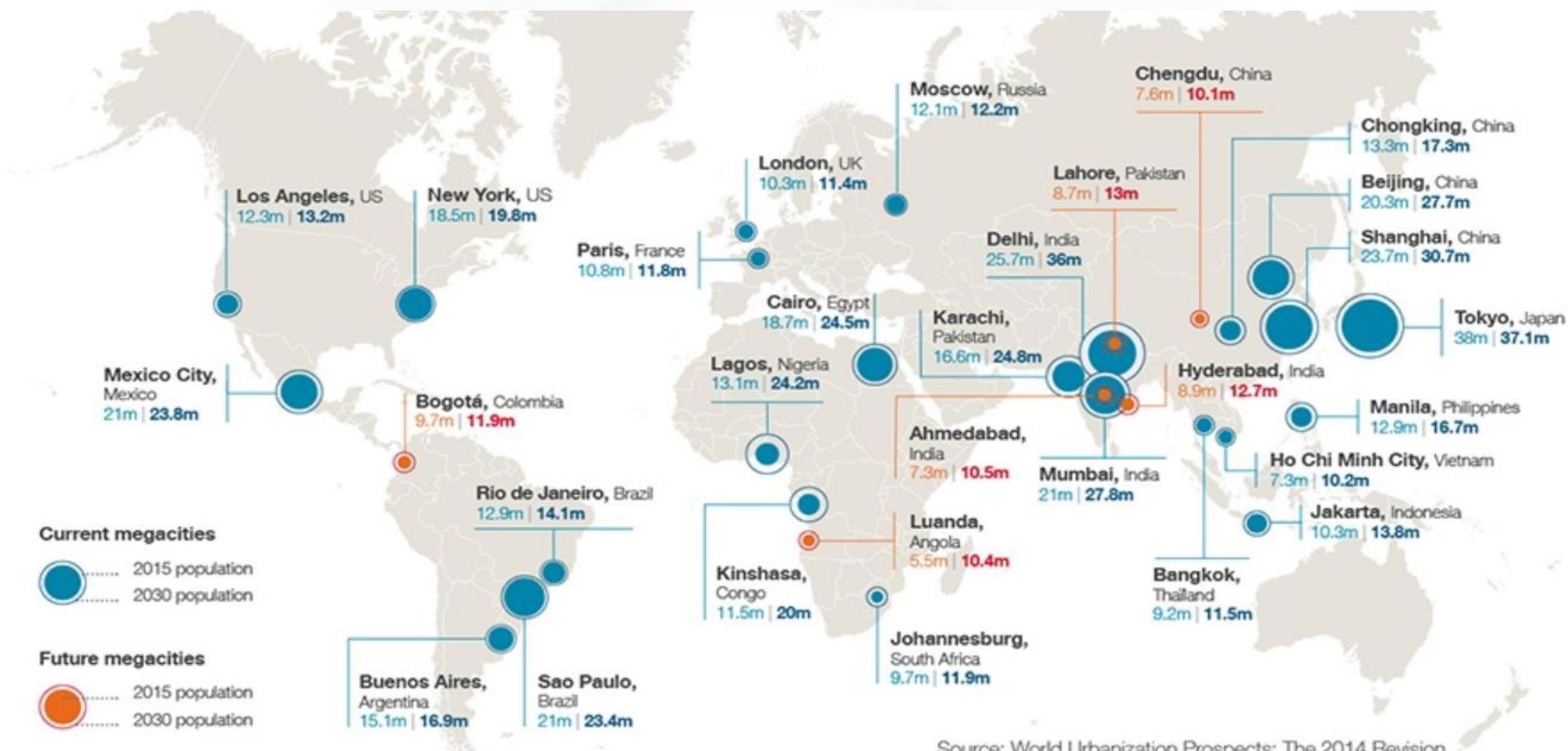
- Master in Electrical Engineering/MBA Finance
- World Sustainability Congress 2017: Awarded 100 Most Sustainable CEOs

A complex network graph composed of numerous white dots (nodes) connected by thin blue lines (edges). The graph is highly interconnected, forming a dense web-like structure against a dark blue background.

# Why Energy Highways ?

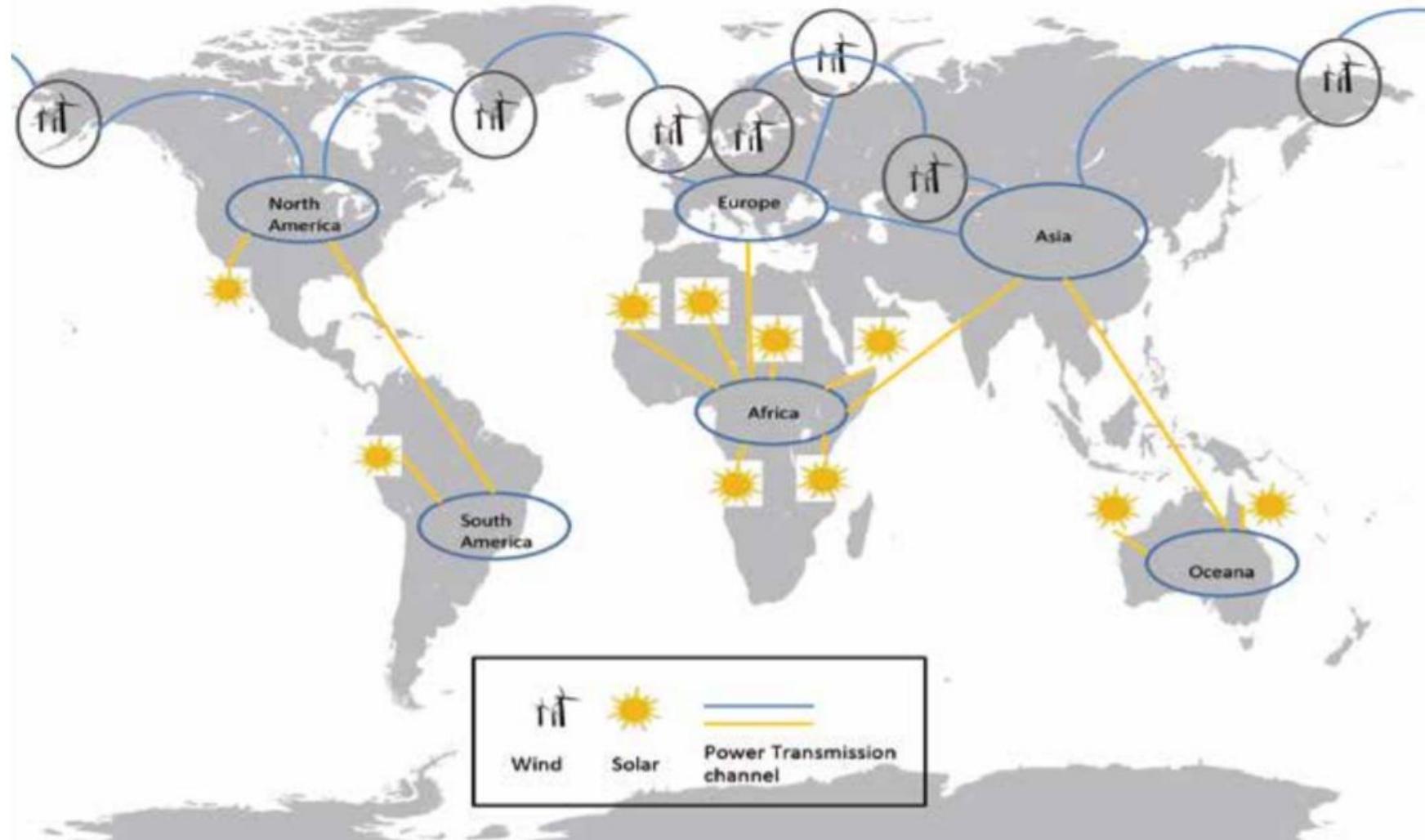
by Martin Erath

# Megacities Development – Enlarging load centers



Source: World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision

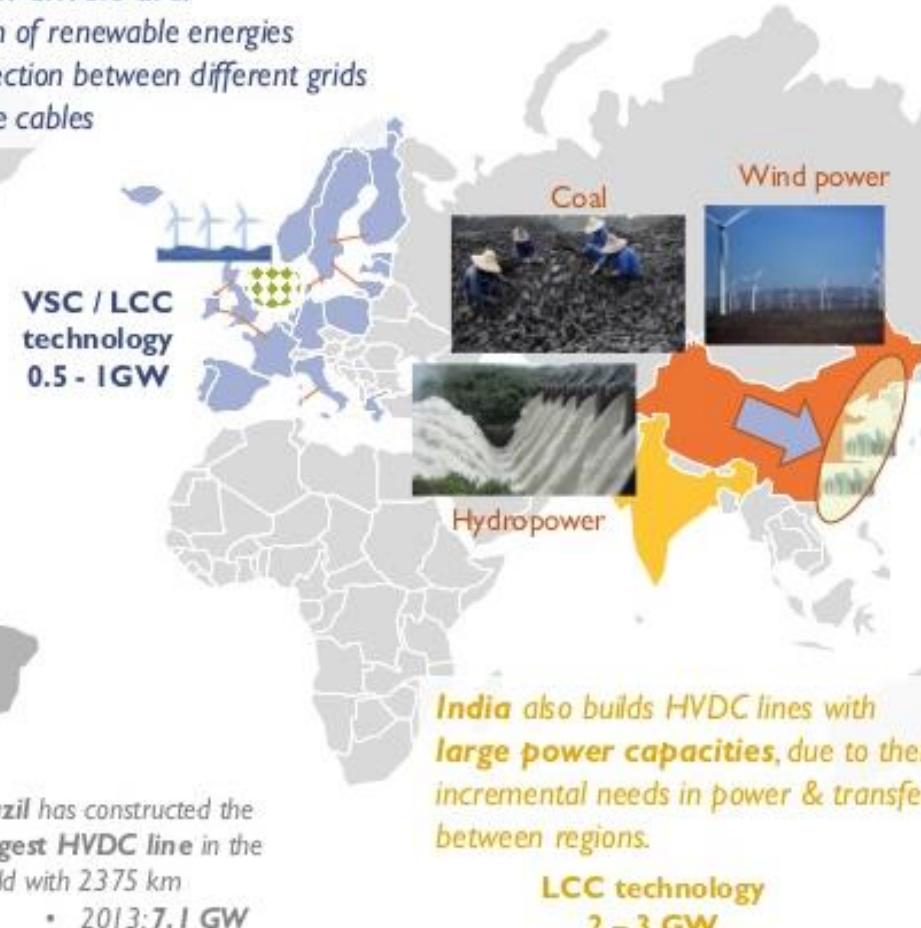
# Global resources and Economics drive opportunities



# Geographical Trends and Drivers for DC Energy Highways

- In Europe, main drivers are:

- Integration of renewable energies
- Interconnection between different grids
- Submarine cables



**China is constructing HVDC lines with huge power capacities**

- Due to their incremental needs in power on their actual networks.
- From the north-west to the south-east

LCC technology  
6 – 8 GW  
UHVDC: 800kV – 1100kV

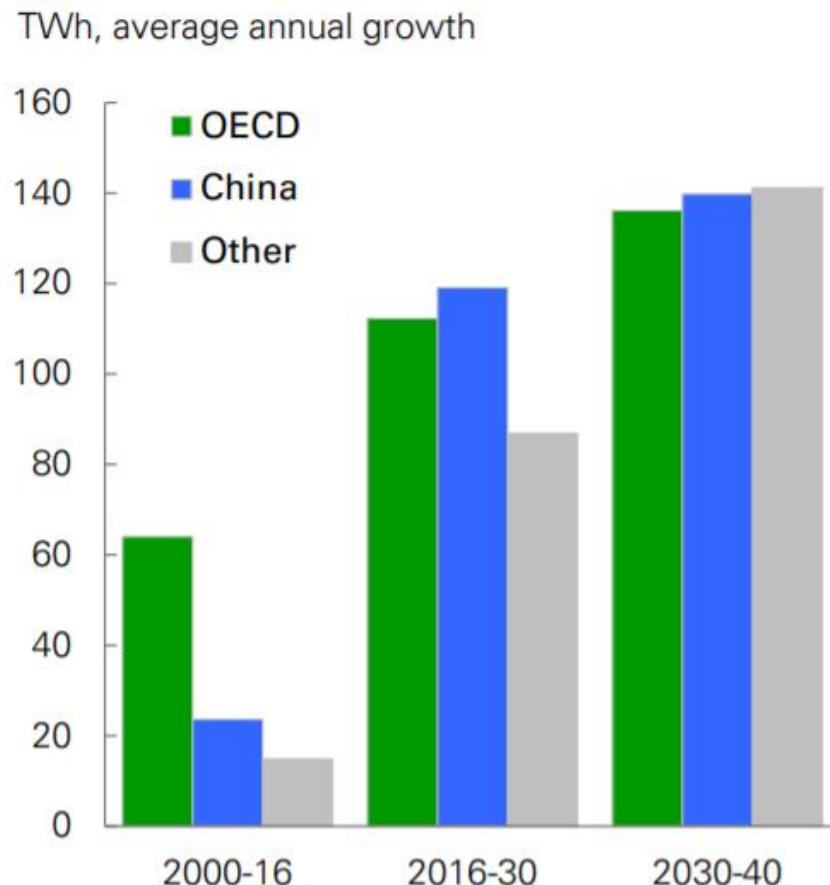
**India also builds HVDC lines with large power capacities, due to their incremental needs in power & transfer between regions.**

LCC technology  
2 – 3 GW

Source: Yole 2016

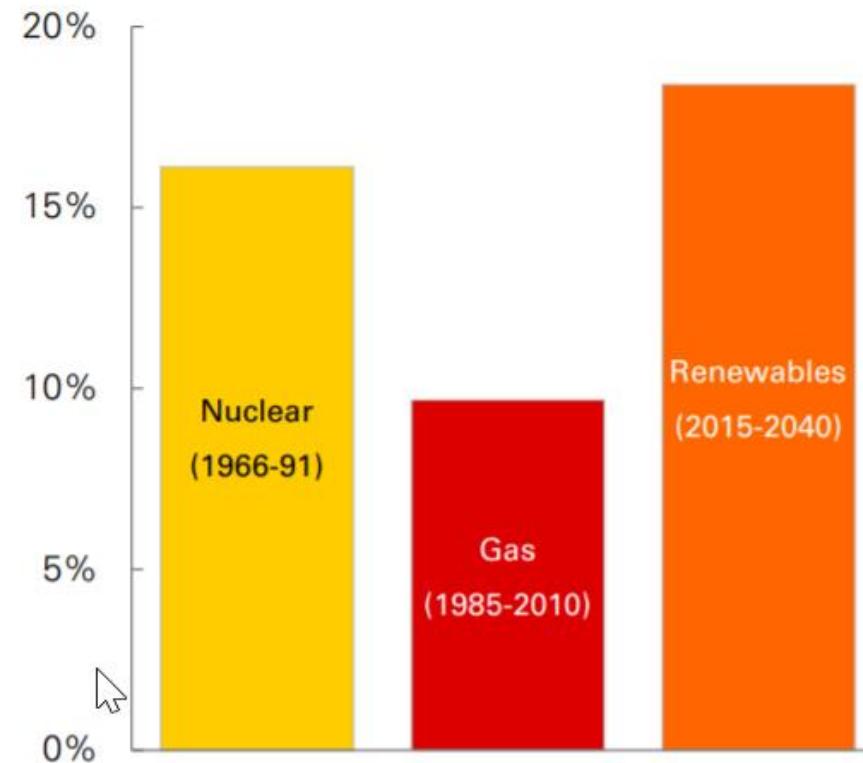
# Energy Outlook - Renewable Energy taking the lead

Growth of renewable power



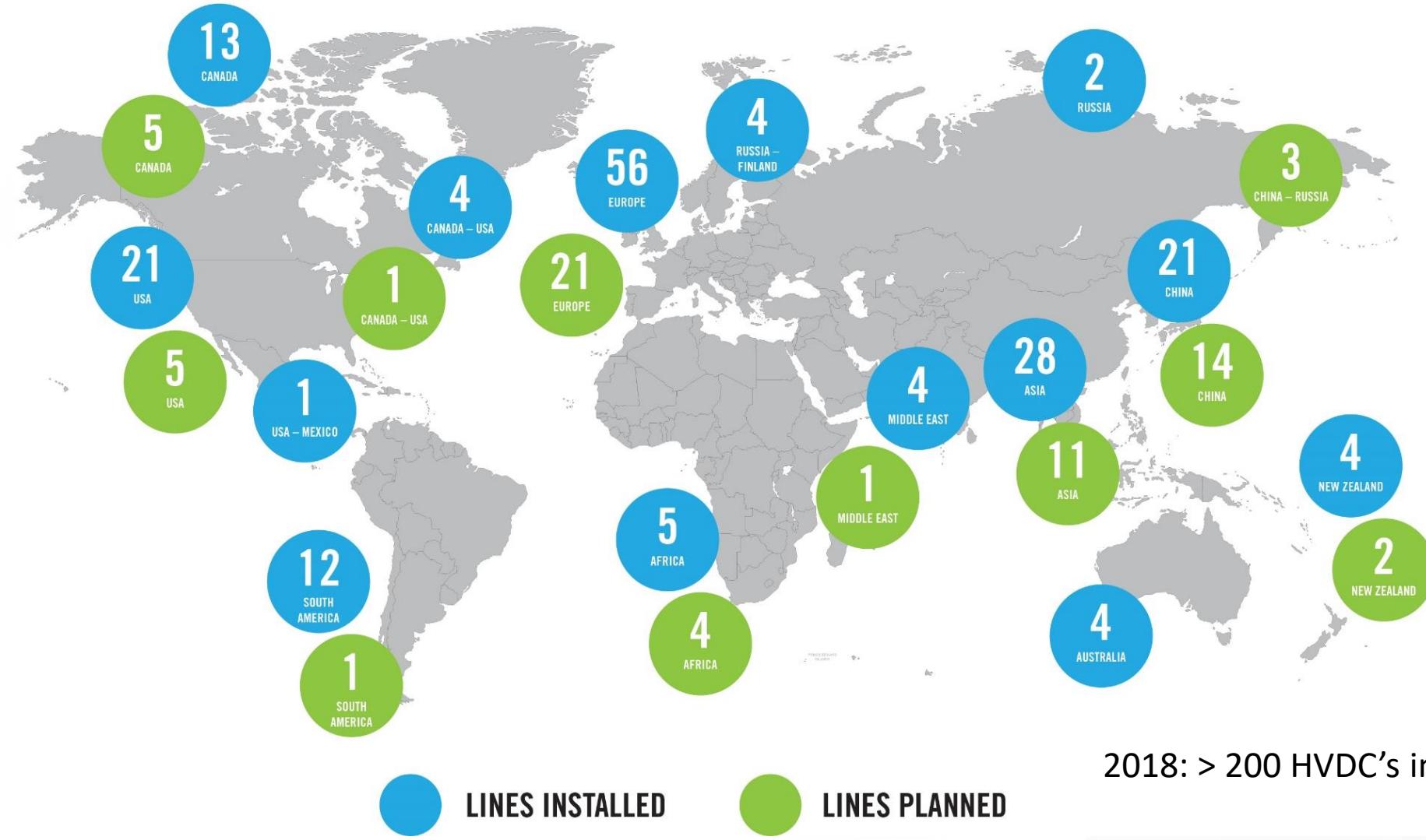
Pace of power market penetration

Largest gains in market share over 25 years, %pts



Source: BP Energy Outlook

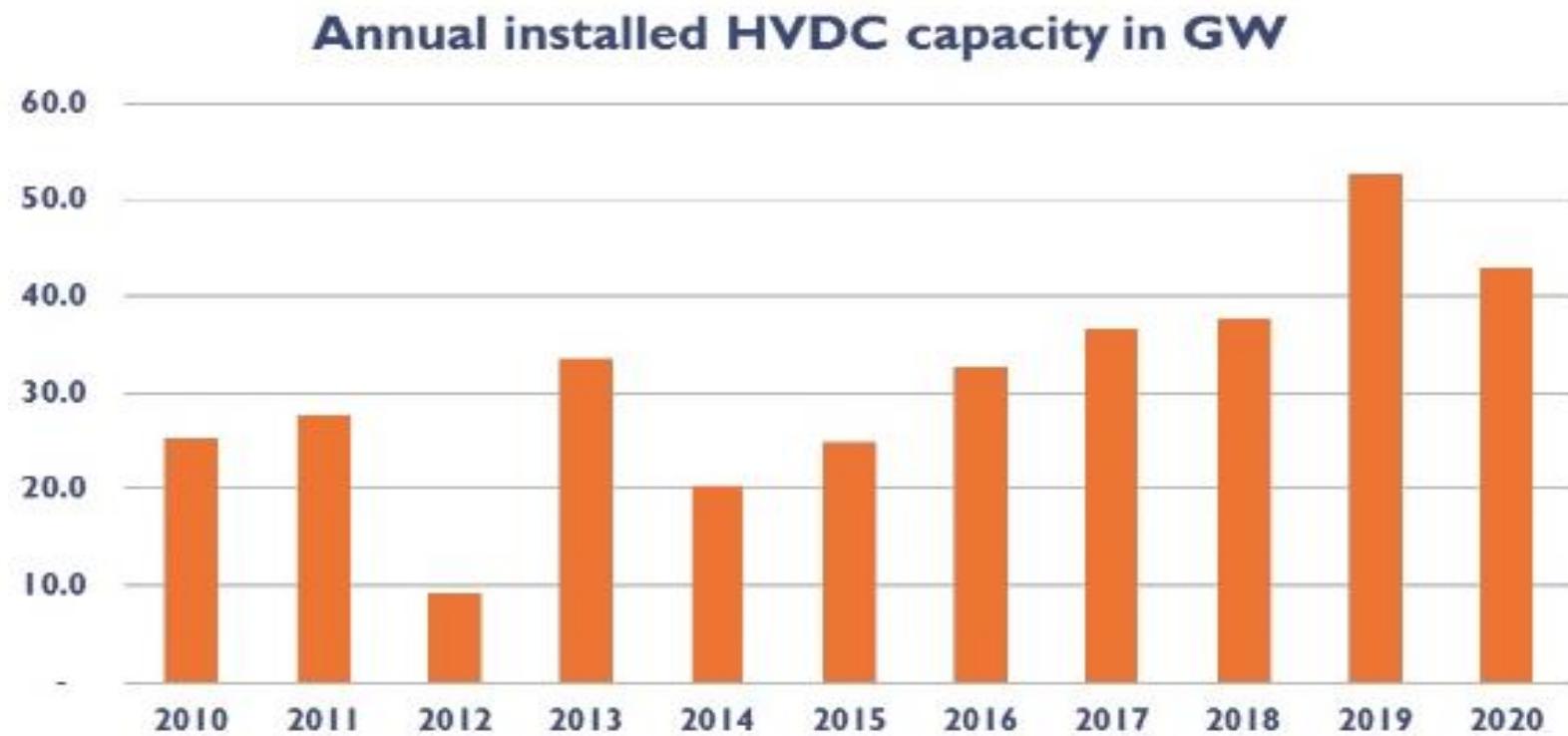
# Energy Highways – HVDC projects since 1951



# DC Energy Highways – Global Growth

During the next 5 years almost **200 GW HVDC capacity** will be installed worldwide.

- Estimation of **40 GW – 50 GW** transmission capacity per year.



Source: Yole

A complex network graph composed of numerous white dots (nodes) connected by thin white lines (edges). The nodes are densely packed in several horizontal bands across the frame, creating a sense of depth and connectivity. The background is a dark blue gradient.

# Energy Highways AC or DC? Feature Benefits

# Energy Highways – Why DC ?

**Long distance bulk power transmissions:** As the world's energy resources are normally decentralized from the ever increasing energy consumption, long HVDC transmissions are a particularly interesting area for the future.

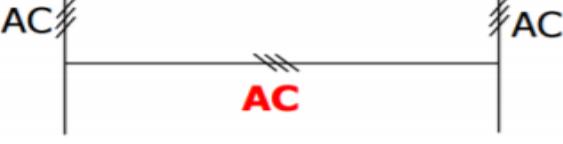
**Long cable transmissions:** The charging current in cables being fed with high voltage AC (HVAC) makes transmissions over long distances impractical.

**Asynchronous interconnection:** The HVDC technology can connect two asynchronous power systems with the same or different frequency. The interconnection is often beneficial for both of the systems and acts as a buffer between them. In case of cascading failures in one of the systems, the interconnection can serve as a "firewall" between the systems, preventing the propagation of disturbances from continuing into the connected system

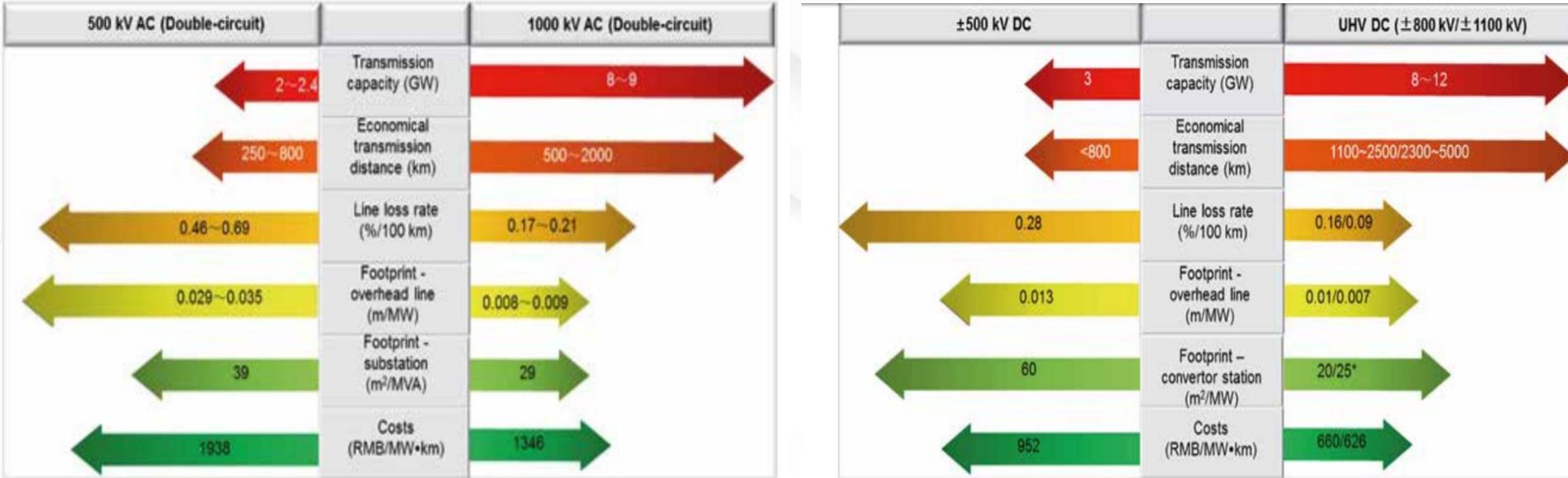
**Stabilization in power systems:** HVDC links can be used within synchronous AC systems to improve the control of power flow from one part of the system to another and thereby prevent large cascading failures or even blackouts in the grid. The stability can be improved, since the link provides a damping torque

**Ability to connect to weak AC grids,** adding less short-circuit power into existing network – no upgrade required

# Energy Highway AC vs. DC Design considerations

Transmission solution	Advantages	Drawbacks/Limitations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- simple (no conversion)</li> <li>- no maintenance</li> <li>- high availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- heavy cable</li> <li>- limited to 50-150 km</li> <li>- rigid power control</li> <li>- require reactive compensation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less no. of cables, lighter</li> <li>- no limits in length</li> <li>- low losses</li> <li>- good power control</li> <li>- very high transmission power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- needs strong AC networks</li> <li>- cannot feed isolated loads</li> <li>- polarity reversal for reverse flow</li> <li>- large space occupied</li> <li>- special equipment (trafo, filters)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- can feed isolated loads (oil platforms, wind parks, small islands, etc.) of medium power</li> <li>- modularity, short delivery time</li> <li>- small space and environmental impact</li> <li>- no polarity reversal for reverse flow</li> <li>- standard equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- higher conversion losses</li> <li>- limited experience</li> <li>- limited power</li> </ul>

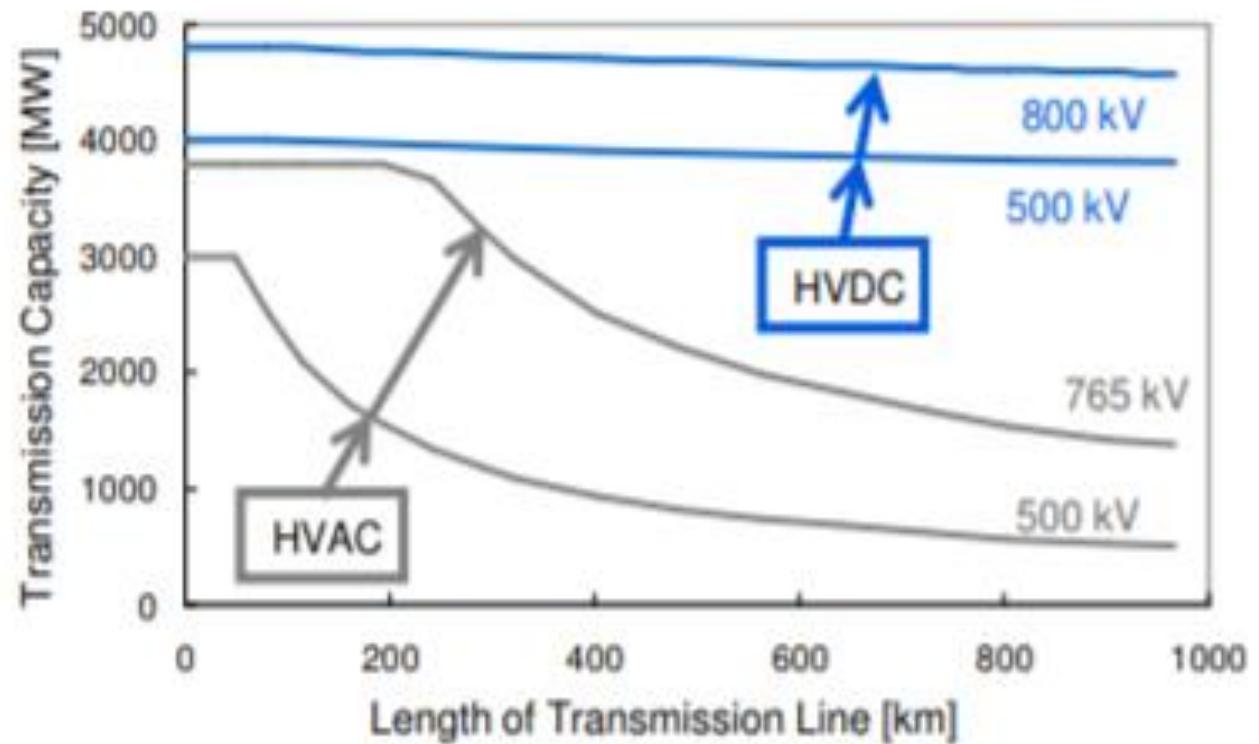
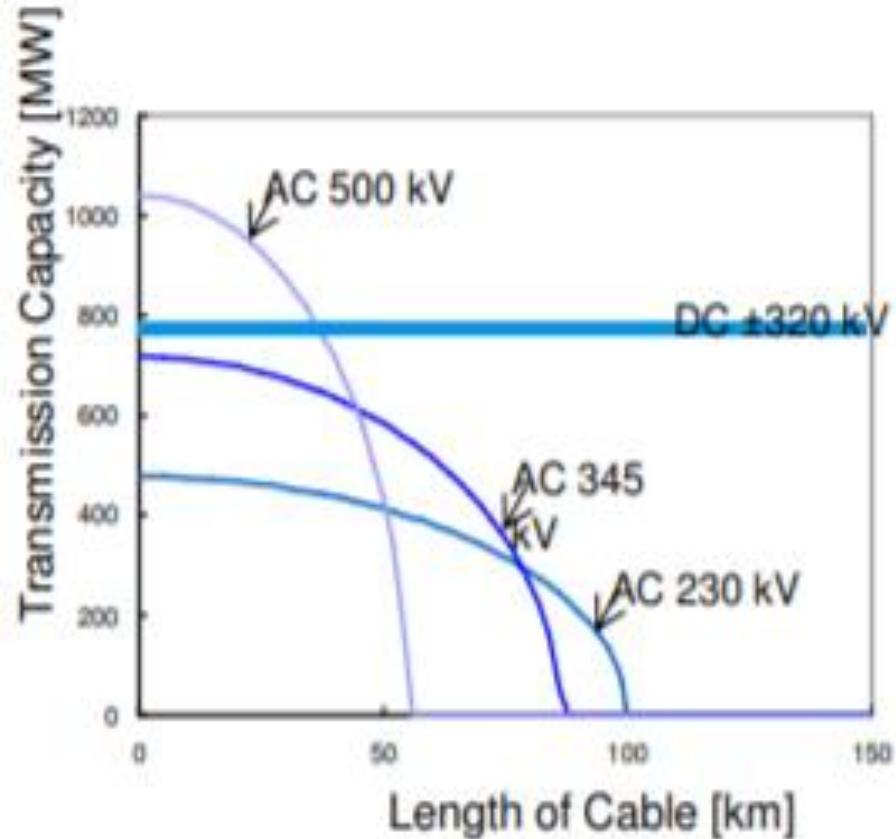
# AC versus DC in Energy Highways



\* The convertor station is connected to the AC system in two voltage levels.

Source: SGCC

# AC versus DC in Energy Highways



Source: ABB

# Energy Highways – AC vs. DC Economics

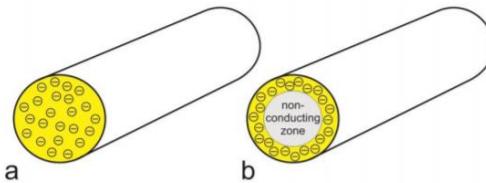
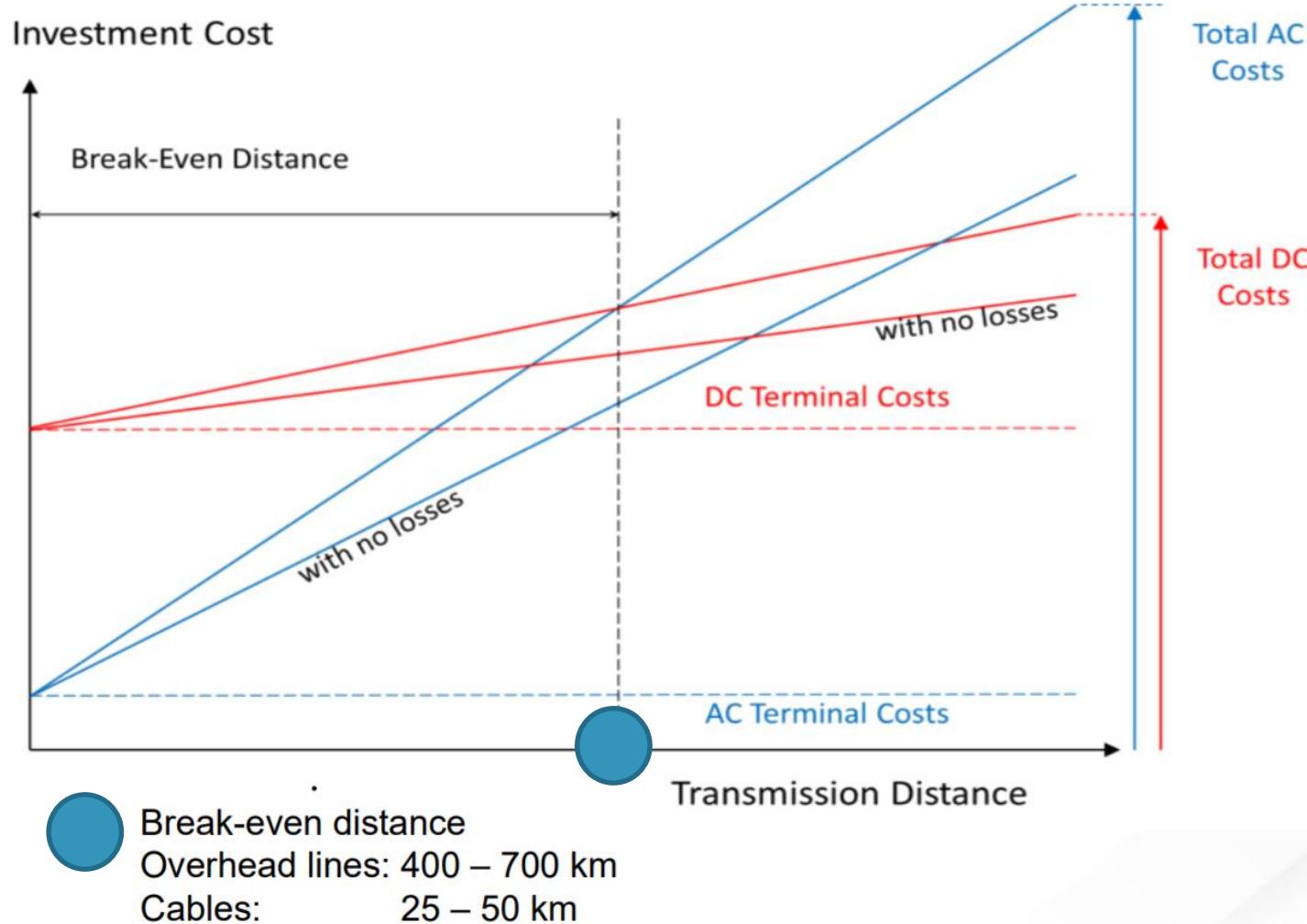


Fig. 2 – DC (a) and AC (b) flow in a conductor; the skin effect

Two examples of HVAC and HVDC cable losses for comparable lengths and voltages are given in Table 1.

Table 1 – Two examples of losses in HVAC and HVDC power transmission cables

	Length (km)	Power (MW)	Voltage (kV)	Losses (%)
AC	1000/2000	3000	800	6.7/10
DC	1000/2000	6400	800	3.5/5



The break-even distance greatly depends on the land conditions and project specifications.

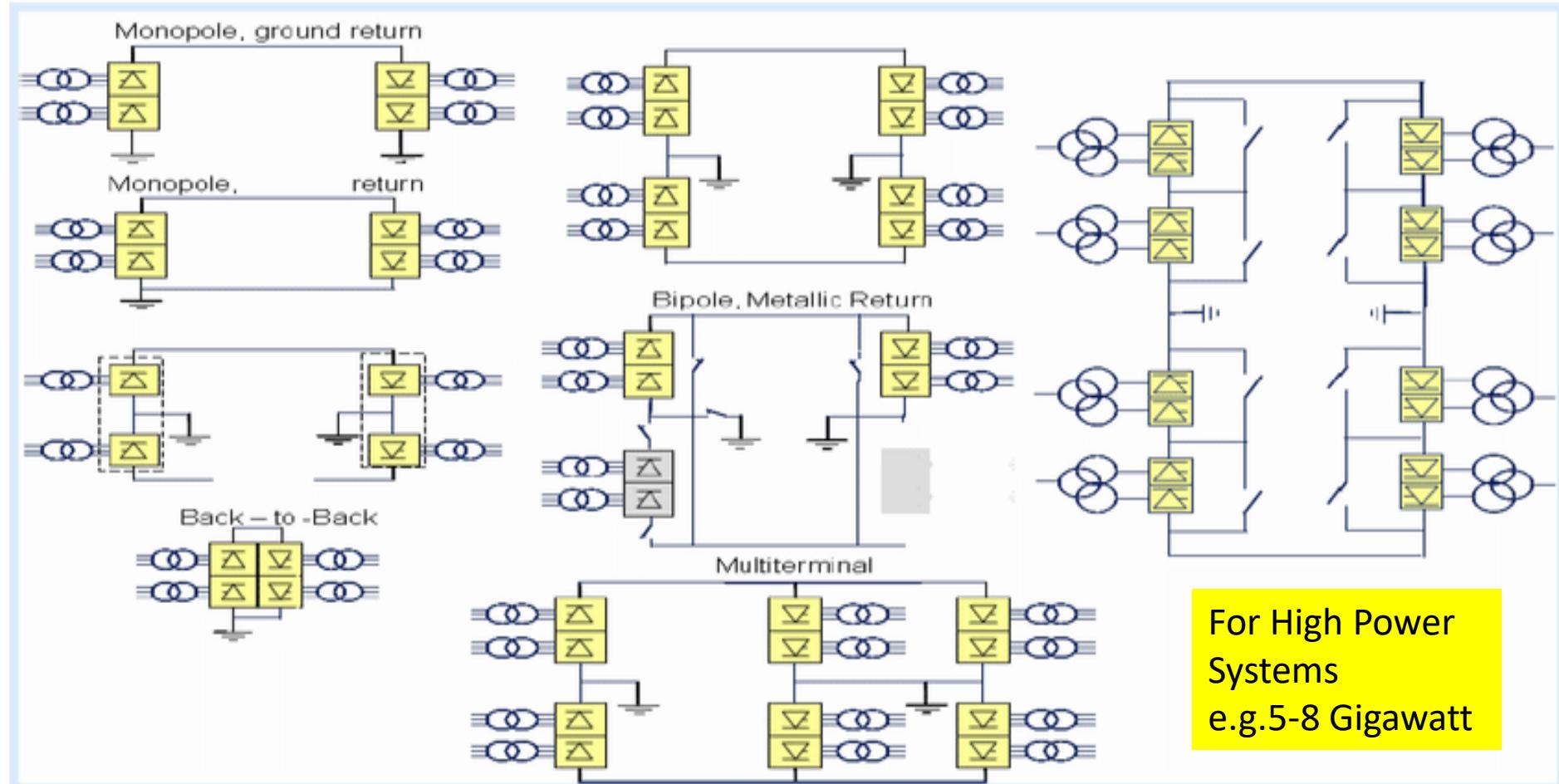
A complex network graph composed of numerous white dots (nodes) connected by thin blue lines (edges). The graph is highly interconnected, forming a dense web-like structure against a dark blue background.

# DC Energy Highways

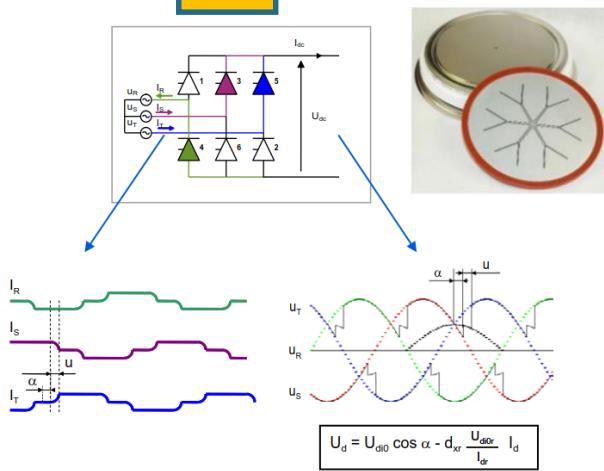
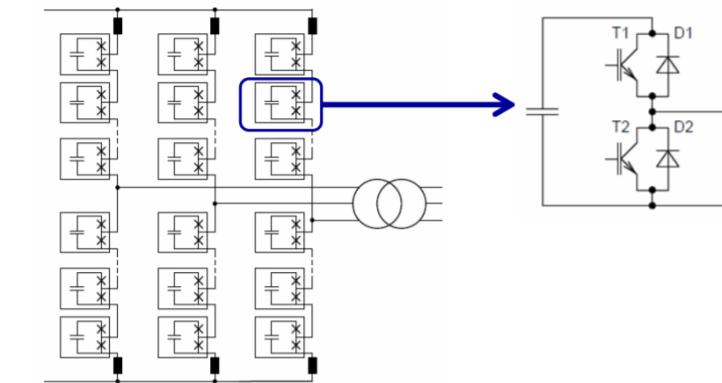
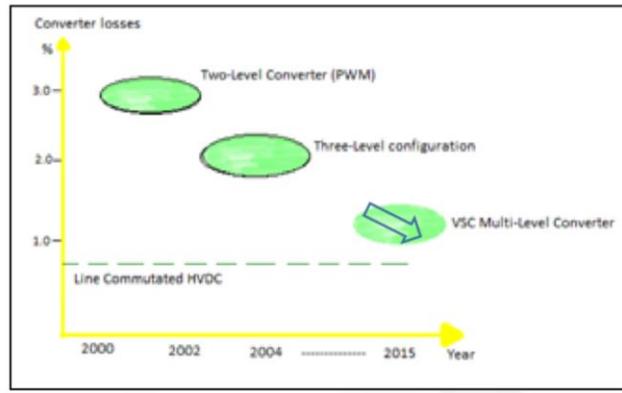
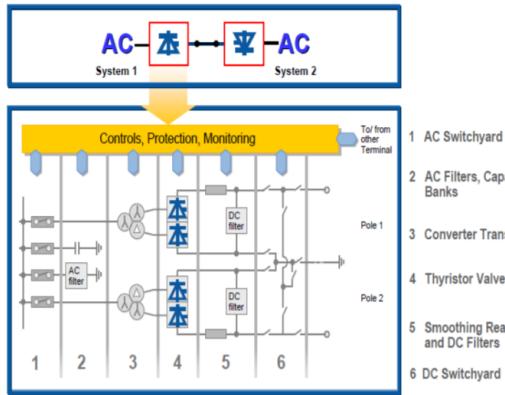
## Design

## Development

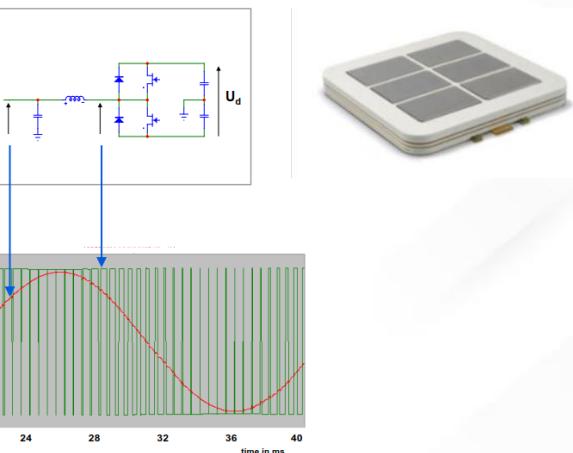
# Energy Highways HVDC Configurations



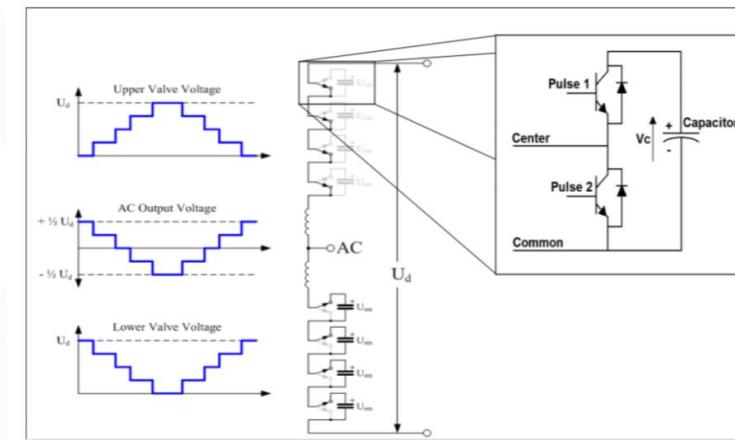
# HVDC Converter Design Development



## LCC (Thyristor)

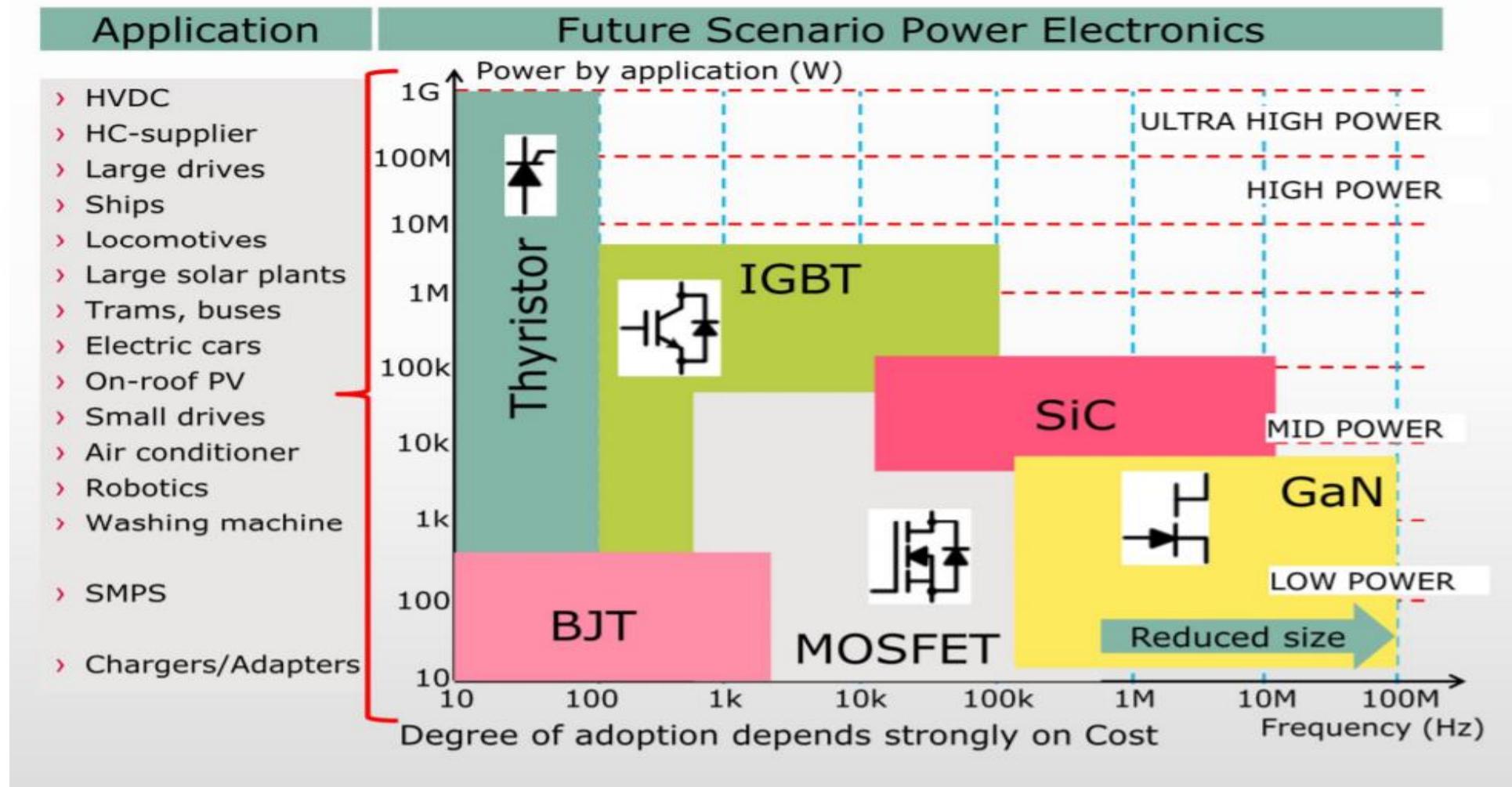


# VSC with IGBT



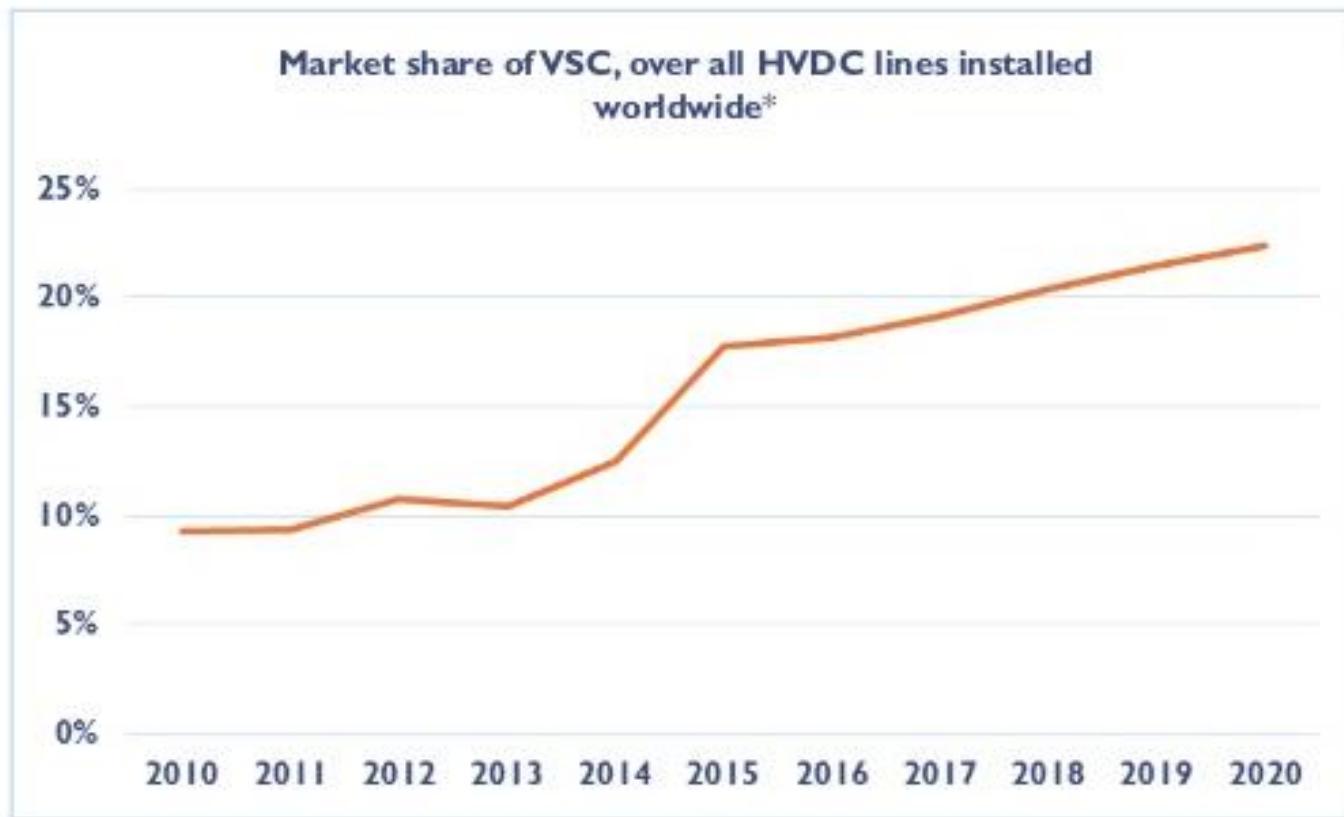
# VSC with MMC

# Major Power Devices Technology and Applications



Source: Empowering the Electronics Industry  
Power Technology Roadmap 2016

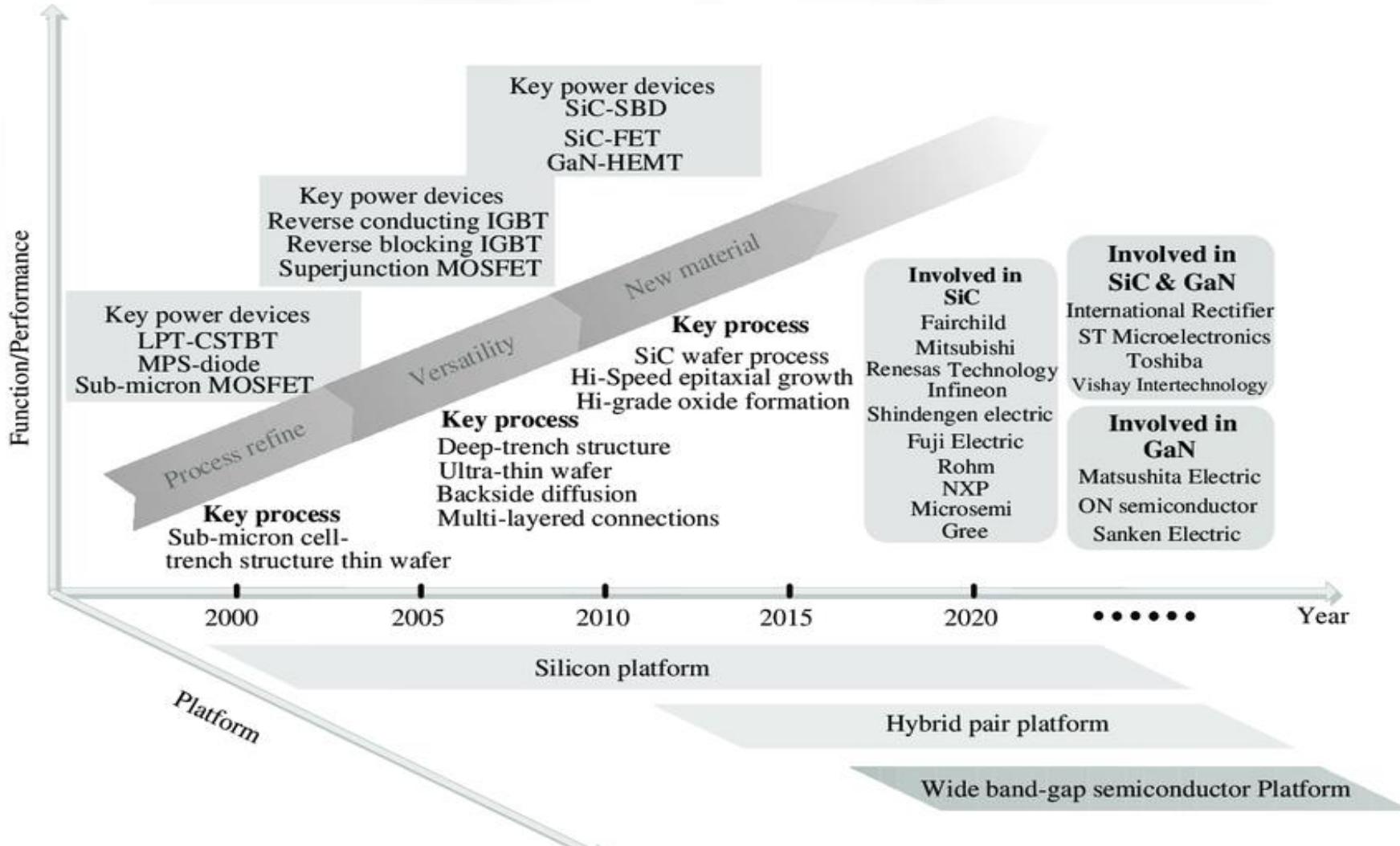
# Technical Trends in HVDC



The use of this technology is **mostly driving by the European market** and their off-shore renewables connection to the grid.

Source: Yole 2016

# Power Devices – R&D Platforms and Outlook



The background of the slide features a complex, abstract network graph. It consists of numerous small, white circular nodes connected by thin, light blue lines forming a dense web of triangles. This pattern is repeated across the entire slide, creating a sense of digital connectivity and data flow.

# DC Energy Highways Applications

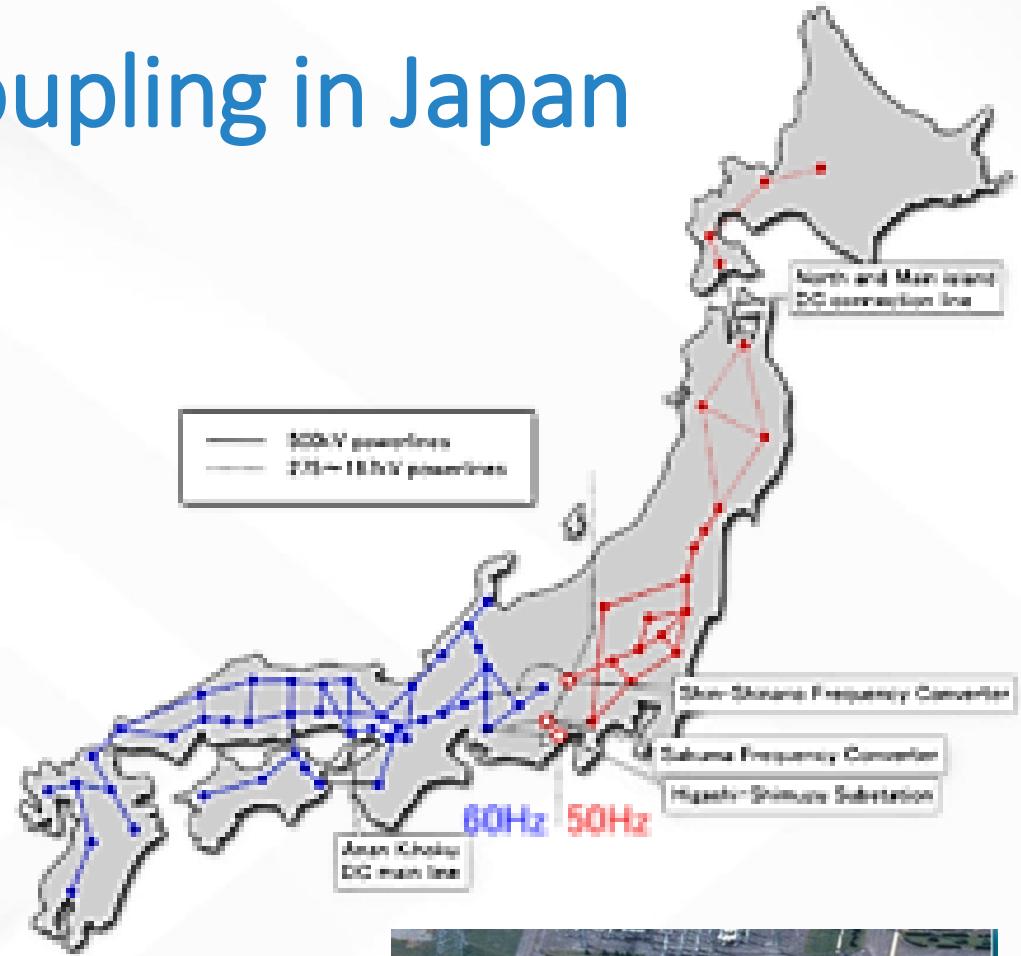
# B2B Energy Highway Coupling in Japan

- Shin Shinano Hendensho

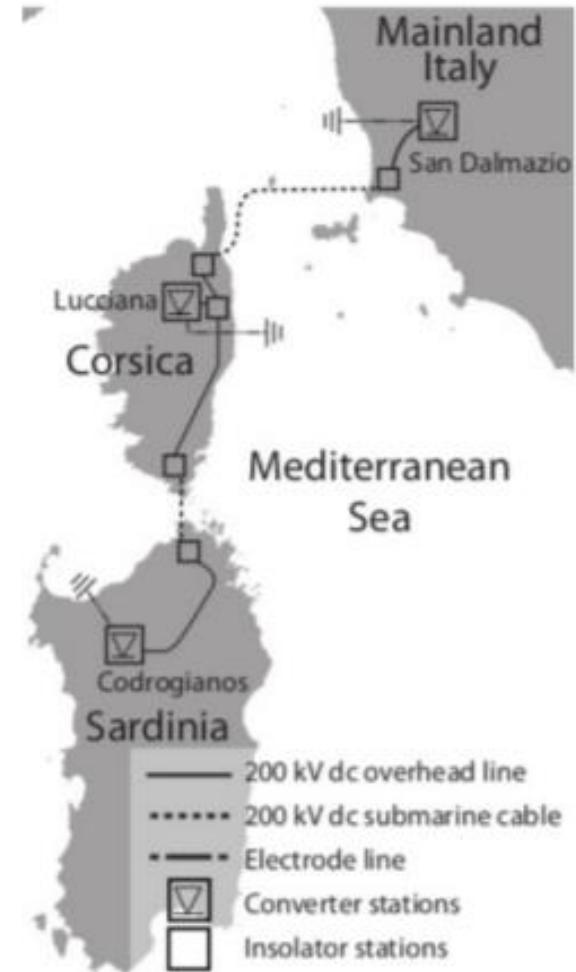
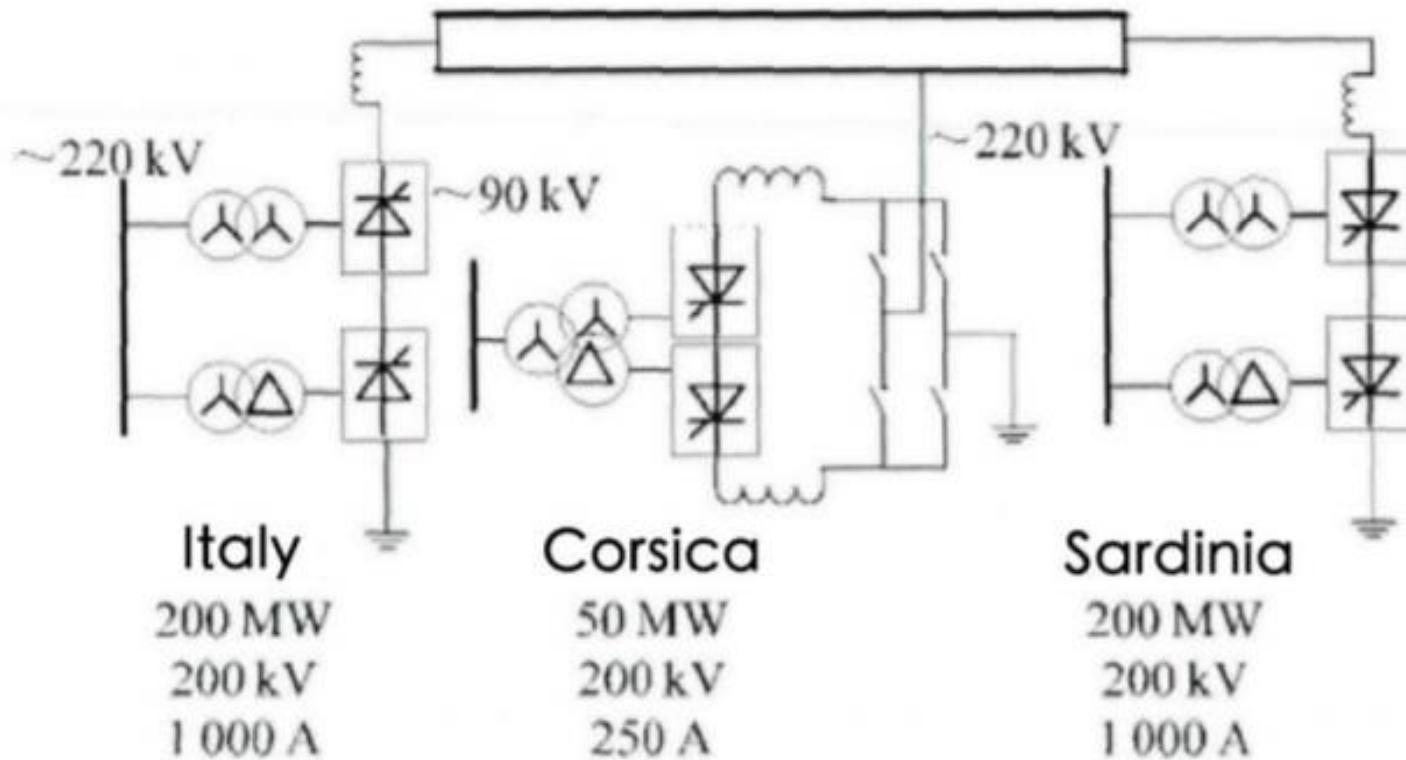
(HVDC – B2B) facility with four frequency Converter stations linking Japan's western and eastern power grids. The other three stations are at Higashi-Shimizu, Minami-Fukumitsu and Sakuma Dam.

## Converter equipment

The HVDC back-to-back facility Shin Shinano uses line-commutated thyristor converters. The station houses two converters, one of which opened in December 1977,[1] the other in 1992. The original 1977 converter was one of the first thyristor-based HVDC schemes to be put into operation in the world and used oil-insulated, oil-cooled outdoor thyristor valves supplied by Hitachi (60 Hz end) and Toshiba (50 Hz end).



# Islands Remote End – Energy Highway - Italy

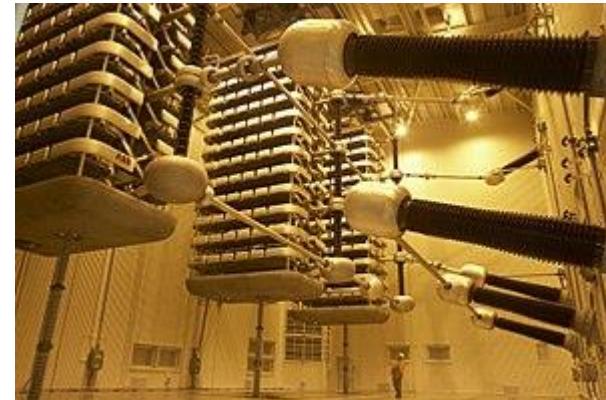


SACOI – Sardinia – Corsica – Italy Connection

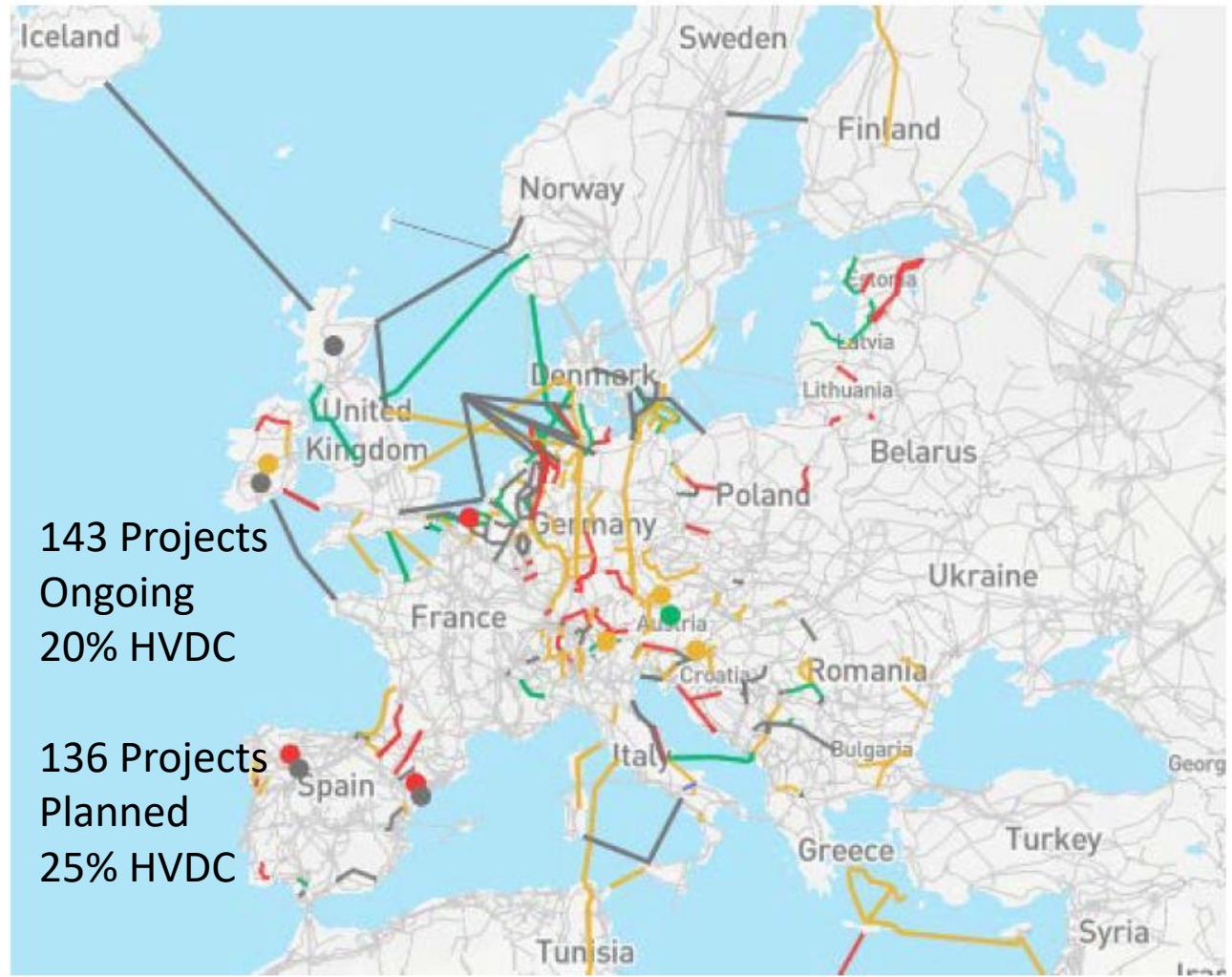
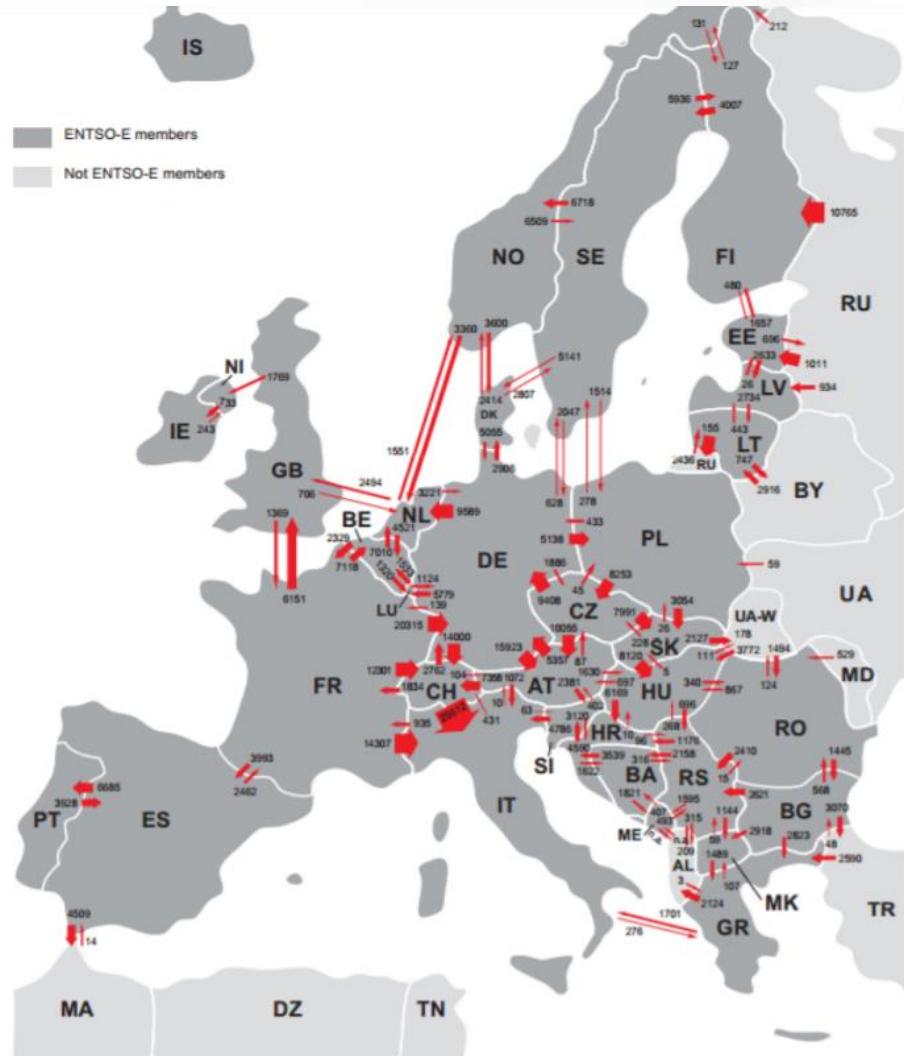
# Energy Highway – Island connection in New Zealand

The **HVDC Inter-Island** link is a 610 km (380 mi) long, 1200 MW bipolar high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system connecting the electricity networks of the North Island and South Island of New Zealand

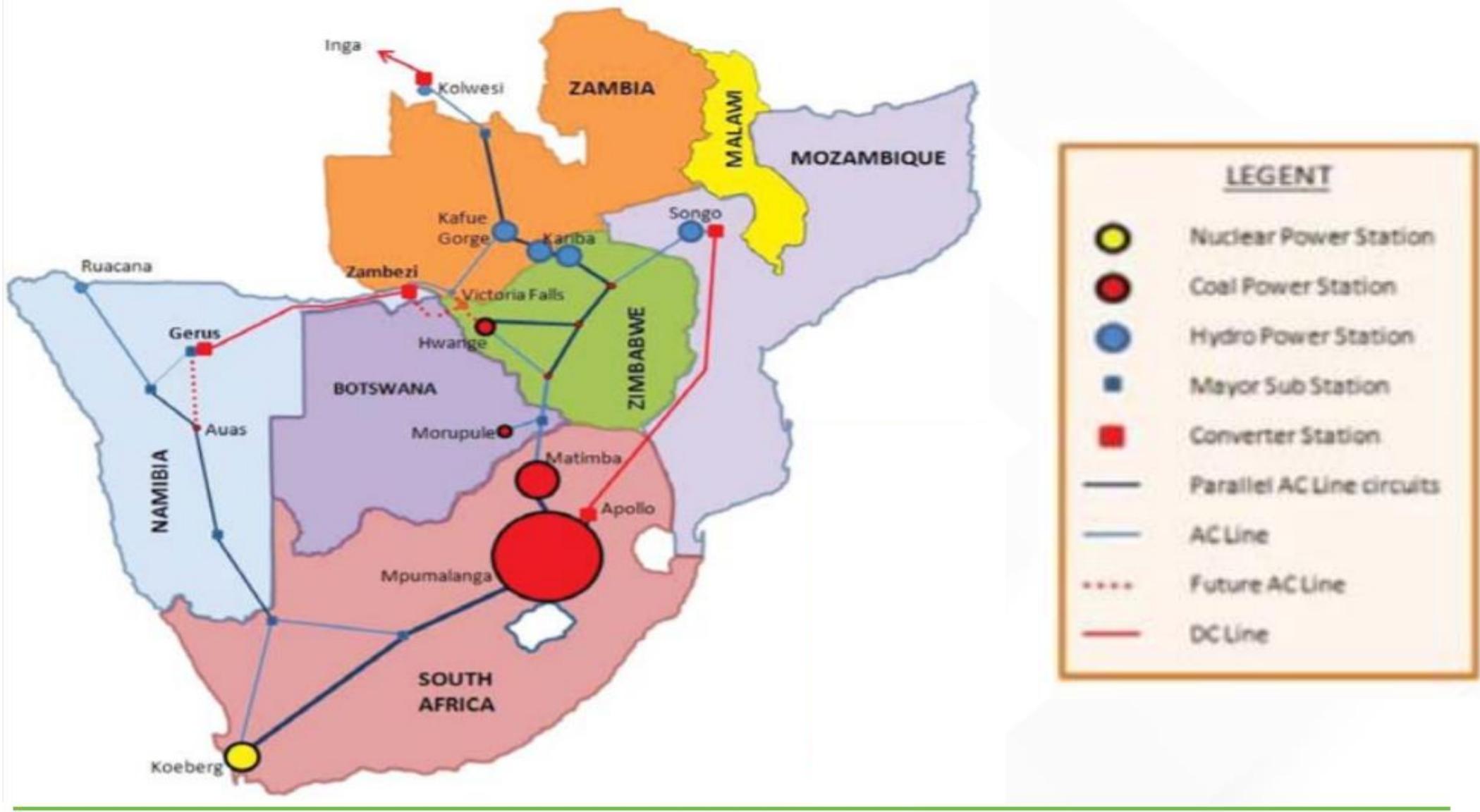
Much of New Zealand's electricity generation is hydro-electric. The majority of this generation is from stations established on lakes and rivers in the lower half of the South Island, while most of the electricity demand is in the North Island,



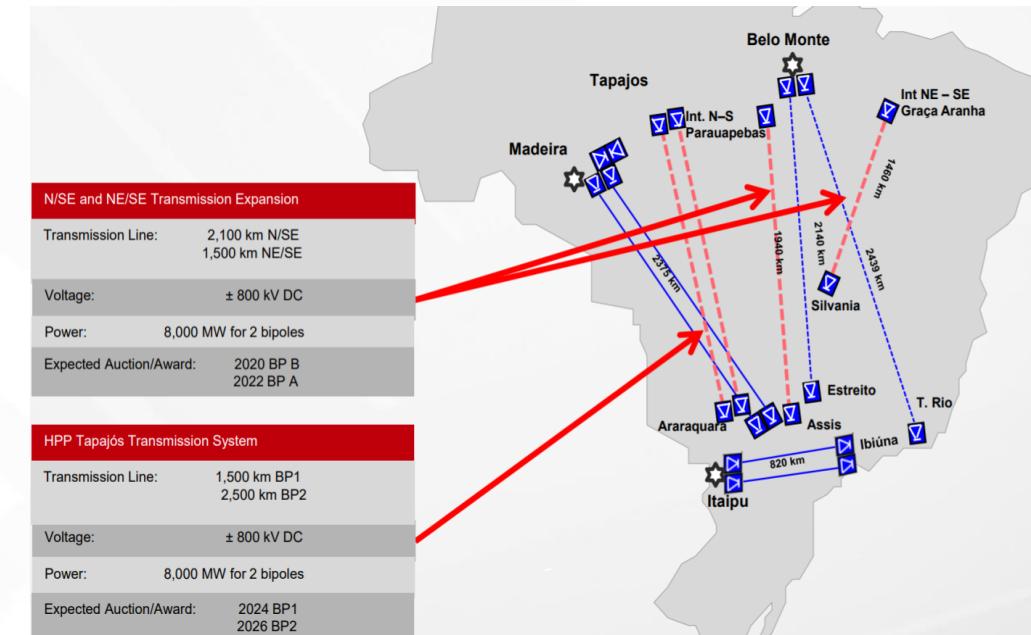
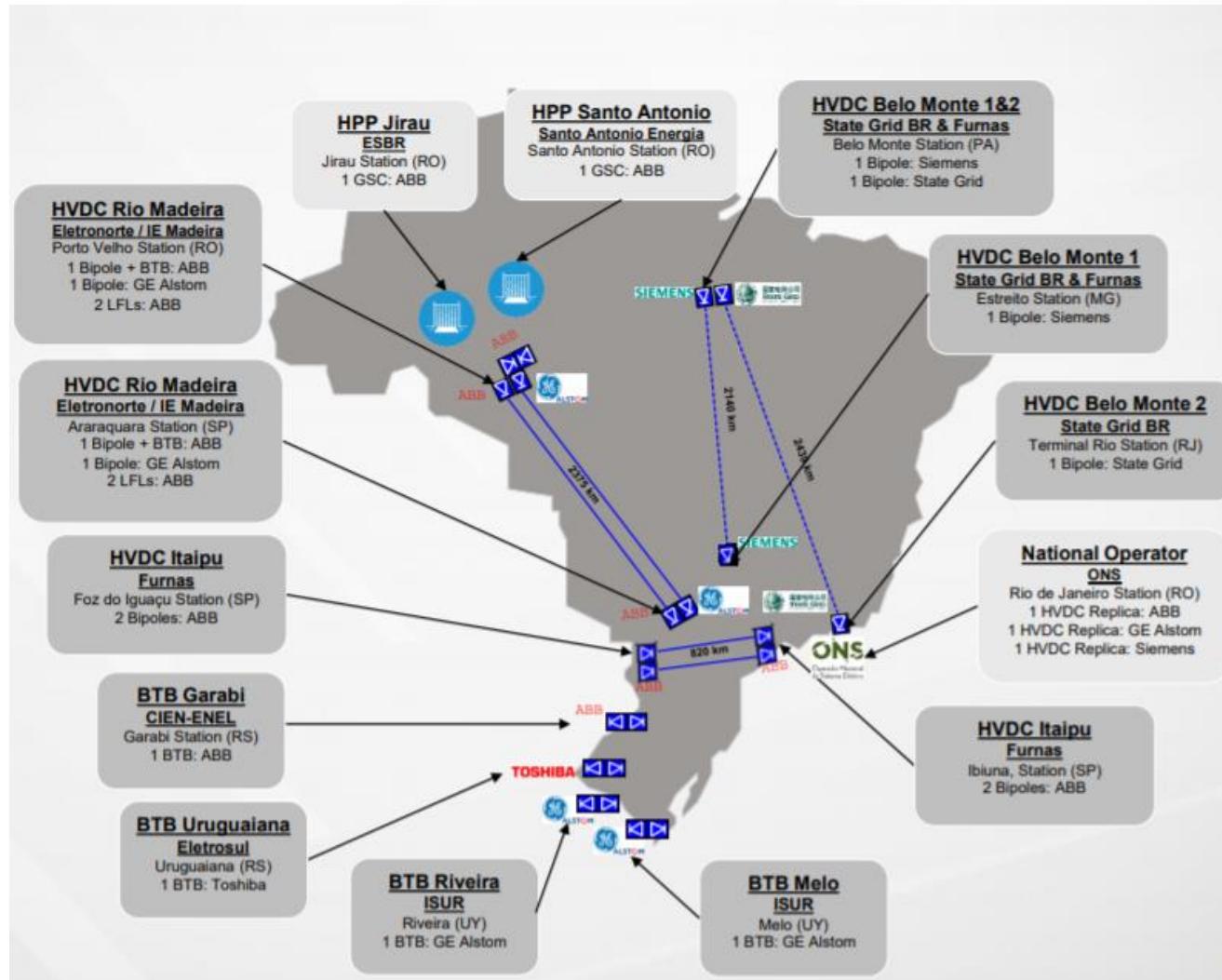
# Energy Highways in EU countries and Neighbors



# African Power Pool - DC Energy Highways

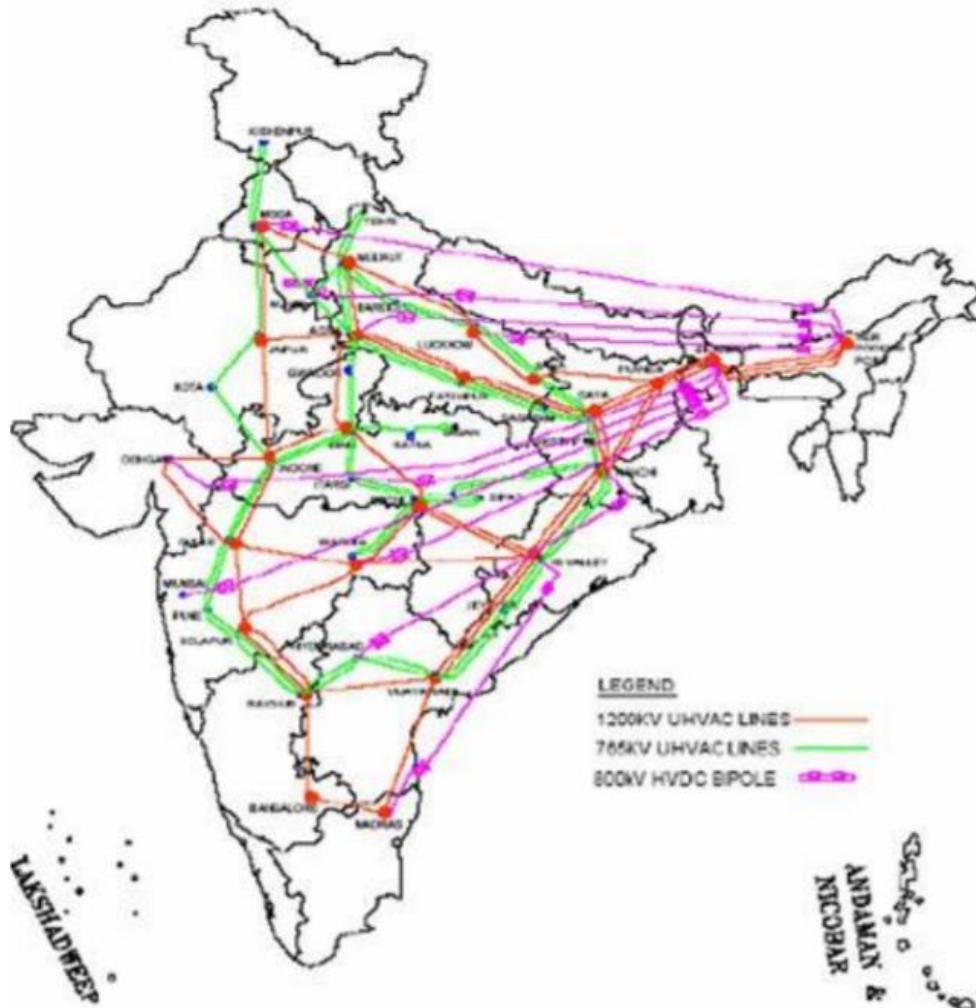


# DC Energy Highways in Brazil



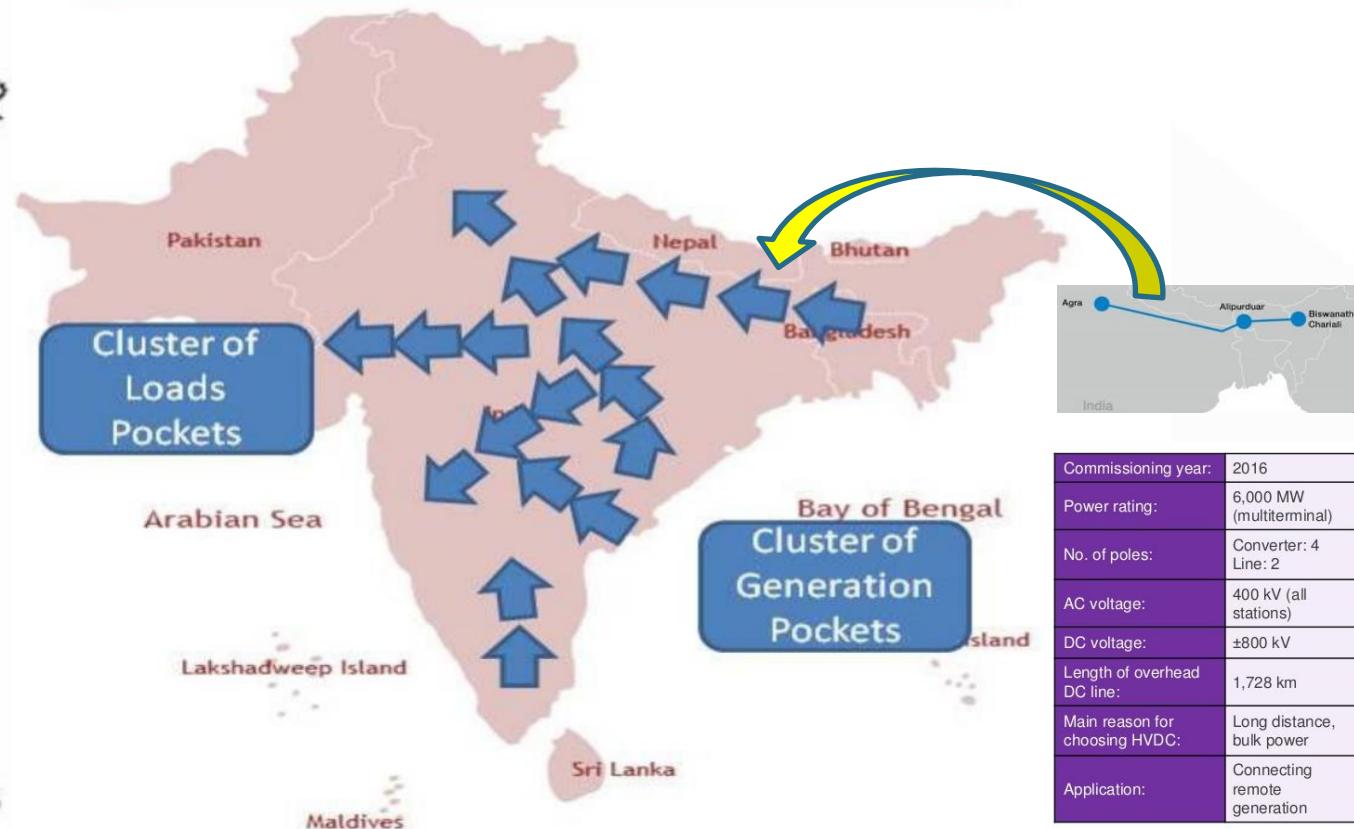
Source: ABB

# Mega Energy Highways in India (UHVDC)



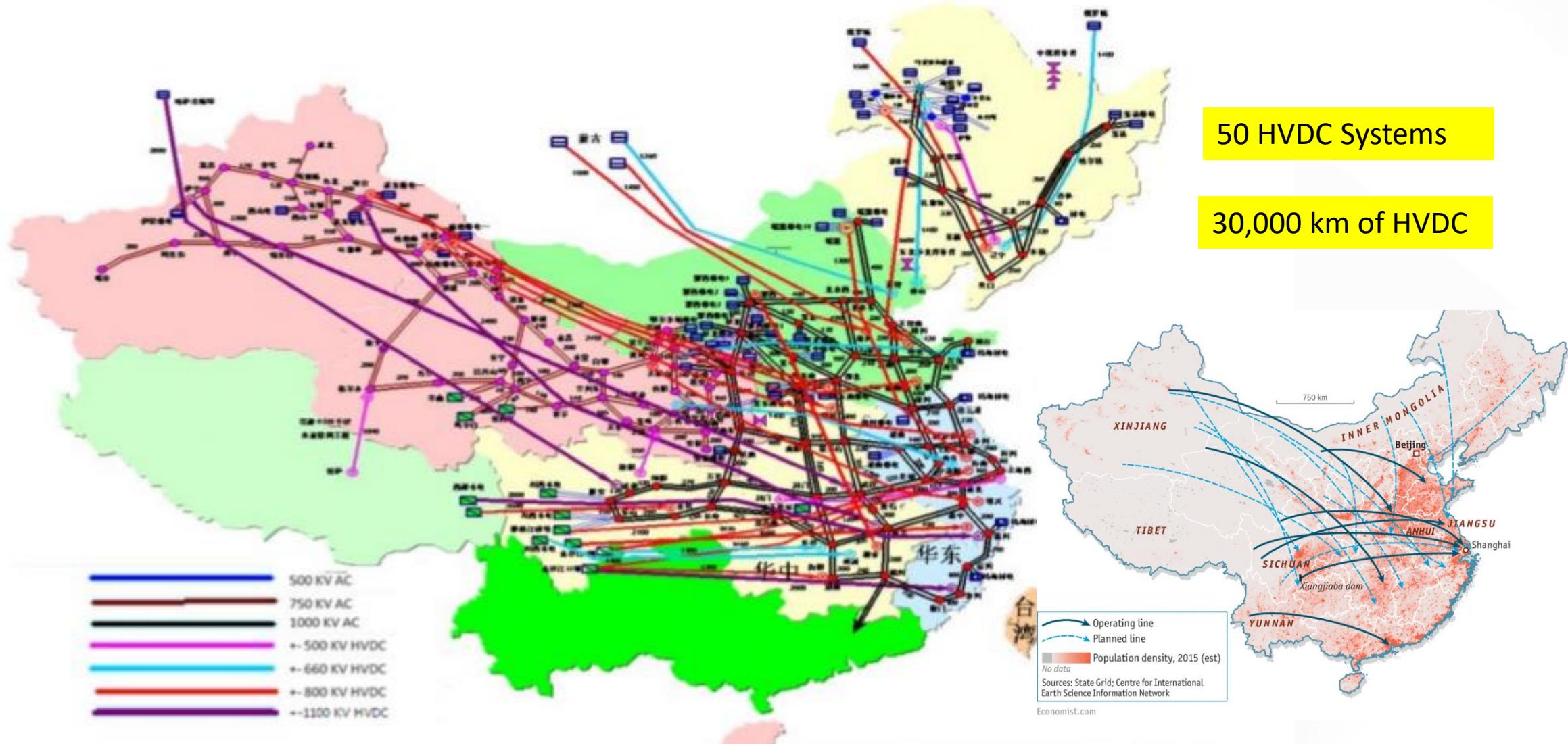
Source: CEA / Siemens  
IRENA Energy Week 2016

Creation of transmission highways from generation pockets to load pockets in India



Source: WASET

# Mega Energy Highways Roadmap – CHINA 2020



# The Energy Super Highways (UHVDC > 1 Megavolt)



One “Super Energy Highway” UHVDC transmission link could provide for about 26.5 million Chinese people.



**Energy Transition  
in Germany  
enabled by  
DC Energy Highways  
“a special Project”**

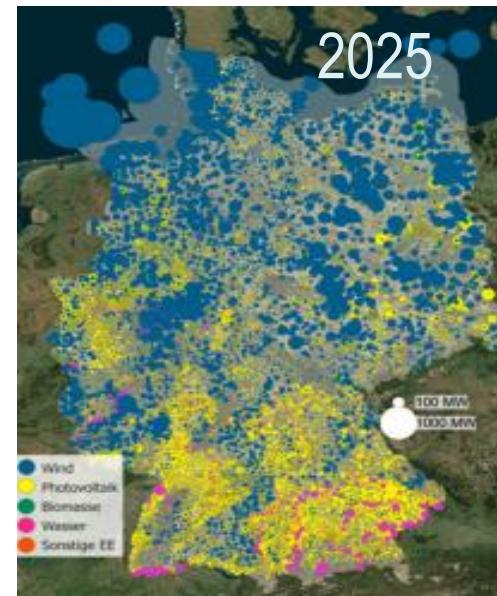
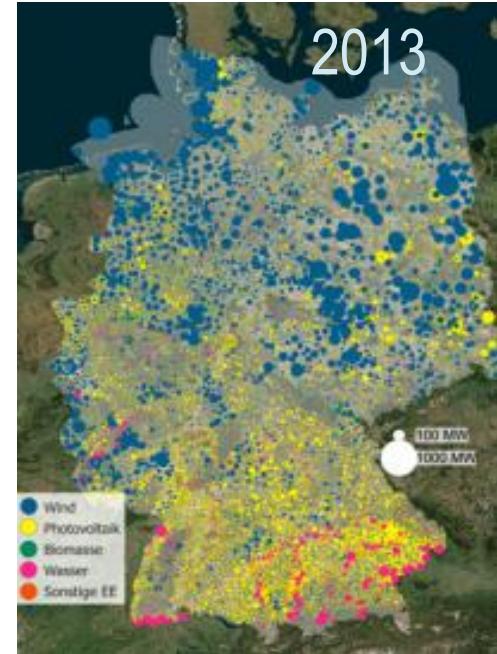
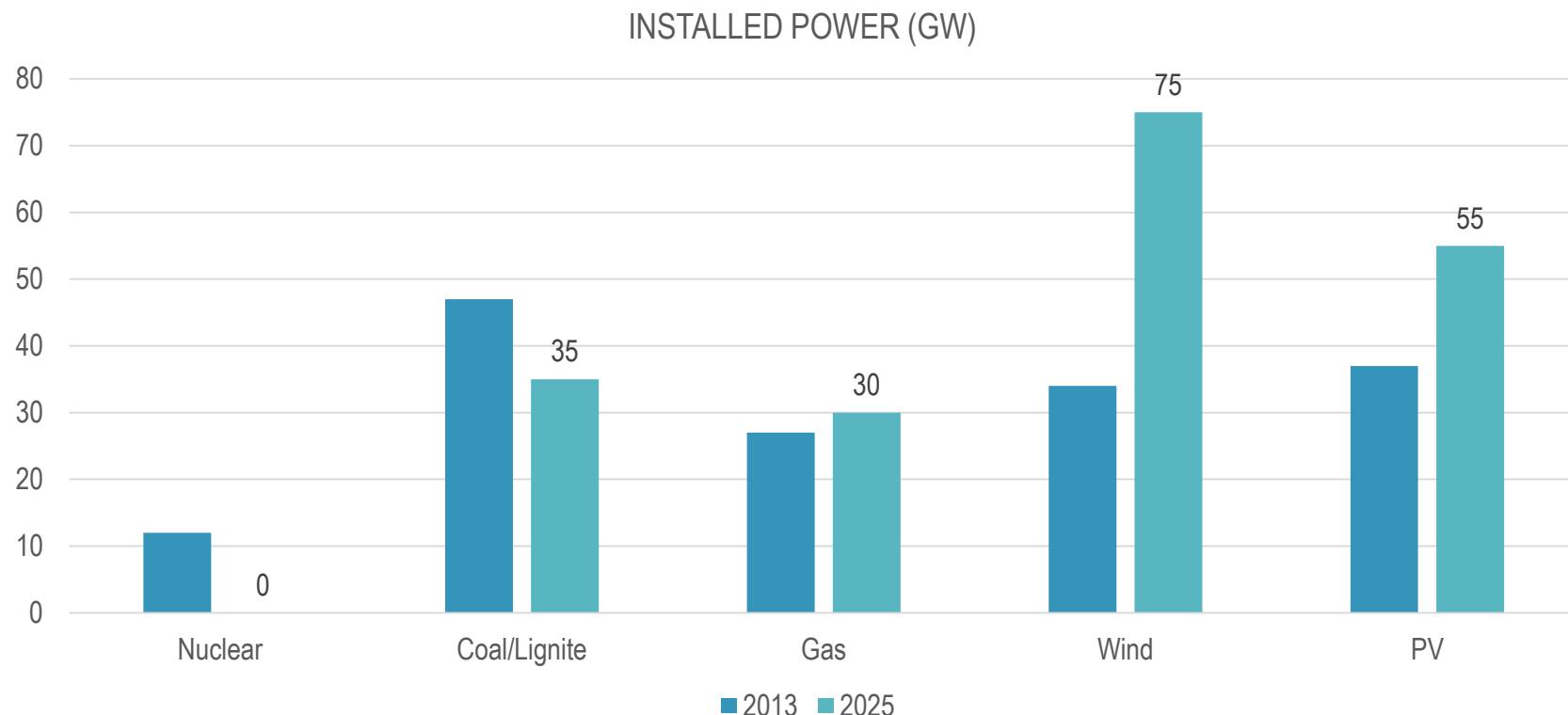
# GERMAN HVDC OFFSHORE CABLE CONNECTIONS

Project	On-/Offshore	Power	Year
BorWin1	75 km / 125 km	400 MW	2010
BorWin2	75 km / 125 km	800 MW	2015
BorWin3	30 km / 130 km	900 MW	2019
DolWin1	90 km / 75 km	800 MW	2015
DolWin2	90 km / 45 km	916 MW	2016
DolWin3	80 km / 80 km	900 MW	2017
HelWin1/2	2x 45 km / 85 km	1.266 MW	2015
SylWin1	45 km / 160 km	864 MW	2015
<b>Total</b>	<b>575 km / 825 km</b>		



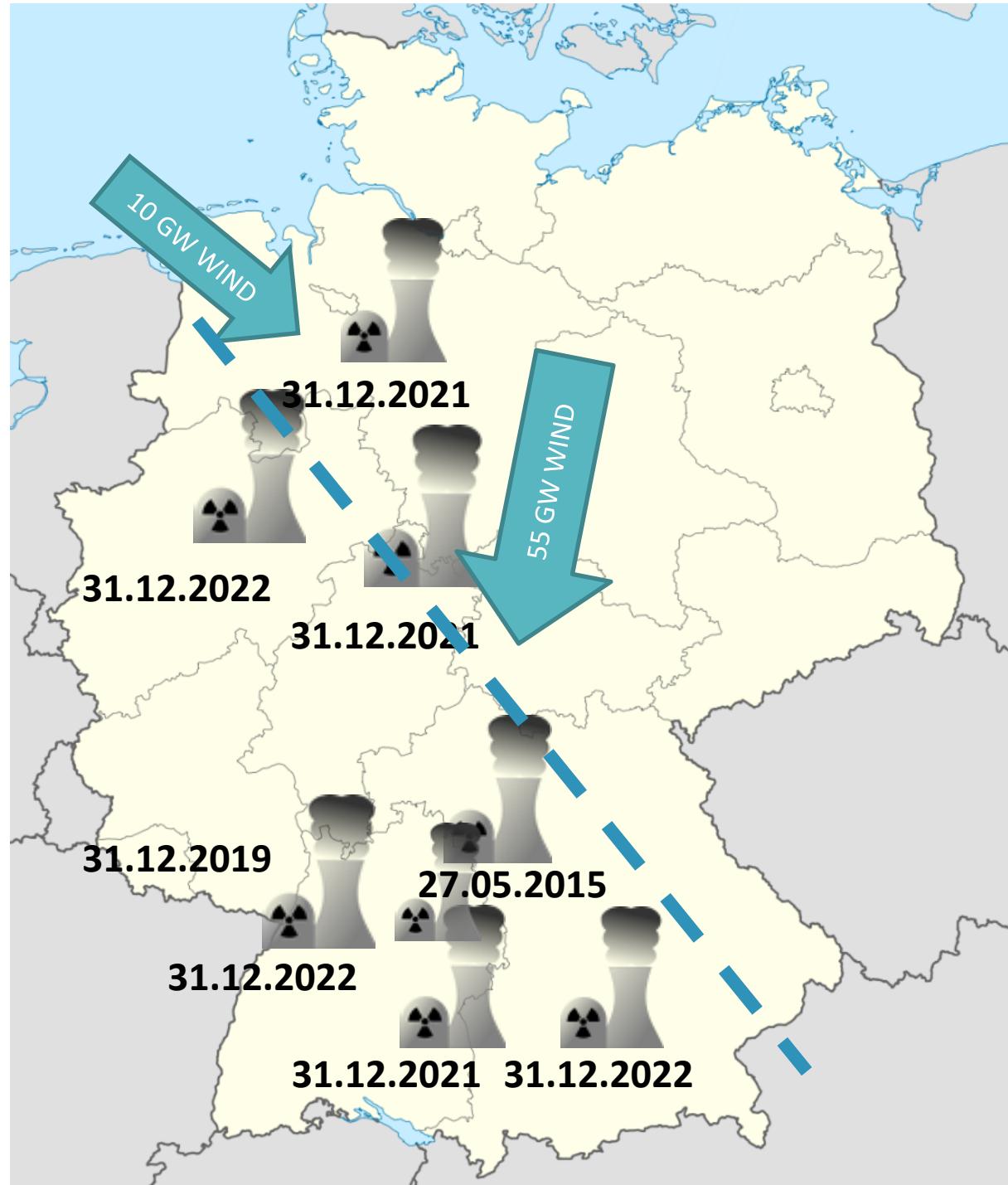
# GERMANY'S ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN

- Shift towards renewable energies
- **Wind Energy in the North** and **Solar Power (PV)** in the South



# SHUTDOWN OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

- Shutdown of 8 nuclear power plants until 2022
- Increase of wind power
- Power transmission North-South / East-West



# PLANNED HVDC CONNECTIONS

No.	Project Name	TSO	Length
DC1*	Ultranet	Amprion	320 km
DC2	Ultranet		340 km*
DC3*	SuedLink	TenneT / TransnetBW	770 km
DC4*	SuedLink	TenneT / TransnetBW	620 km
DC5*	SuedOstLink	50Hertz / TenneT	580 km
			<b>2.630 km</b>

- 2GW Capacity each connection
- \* Priority for underground cables according to decision by Federal Government in June 2015
- Definition of projects: [www.netzausbau.de](http://www.netzausbau.de) (BNetzA)



# PROJECT MANAGEMENT DRIVING GERMANY'S ENERGY TRANSITION

VDE ETG Taskforce  
Infrastructure



ETG

VDE

OVANET Study

Gefördert durch:  
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie  
aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages



2011

2014

6/2015

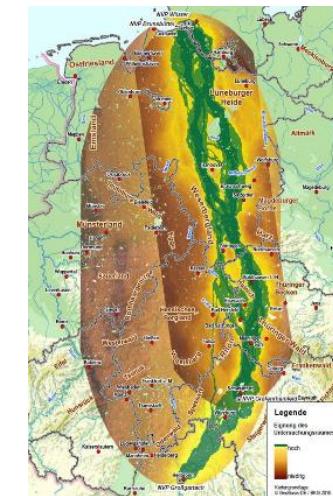
German decision for  
underground cable

SuedLink  
Feasibility Study



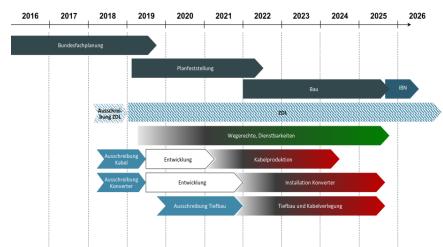
10/2015

SuedLink  
Regional planning  
Corridors 1,000m



2016-2020

ZDL SuedLink



2019-2026

Time

# HVDC NETWORK AND PM EXCELLENCE



HVDC Project „Suedlink“ In Germany

DC Grid

Capacity 2 x 2 Gigawatt

Length: 500 and 700km

System Voltage: 525kV

Largest underground Cable Project

Network Planning

EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment

1 Km wide Corridor Engineering

Permitting Process Management

Public Participation Coordination

# PARTICULARITIES OF HVDC UNDERGROUND CABLE

## ► ANALOGY OF PIPELINE AND CABLE CONSTRUCTION



## ► EXTENSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIRED (WEBGIS)

The screenshot shows the SuedLink WebGIS interface. On the left is a map of a rural area with various geographical features and roads. On the right is a sidebar with the following text and options:

Ansicht  
<Freie Ansicht>

SUCHEN **THEMENBAUM**

**VEKTOR**

- HINWEISE**
  - Hinweise geprüft
  - Hinweise ungeprüft
- PLANUNG**
- INFRASTRUKTUR
- ADMINISTRATIVE EINHEITEN
- RAUMWIDERSTAND
  - Raumwiderstandsklasse I\*
  - Raumwiderstandsklasse I
    - Biotop- und Gebietsschutz RWK I
    - Wasser RWK I
  - Ziele der Raumordnung -

The screenshot shows a comment entry form within the SuedLink WebGIS interface. It includes a map, a title "Herzlich Willkommen im SuedLink WebGIS!", and instructions for entering comments. A red box highlights the "Hinweis eingeben" button.

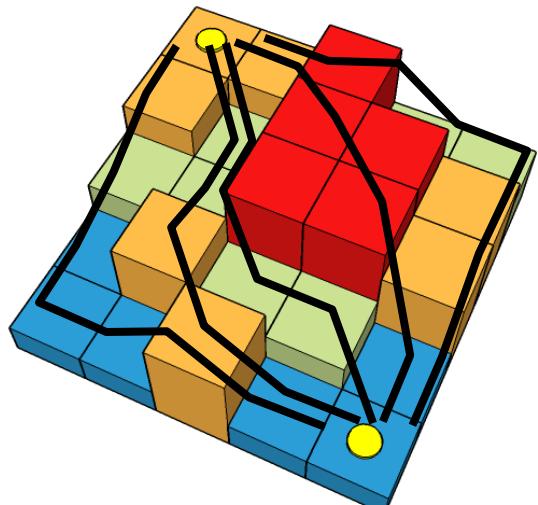
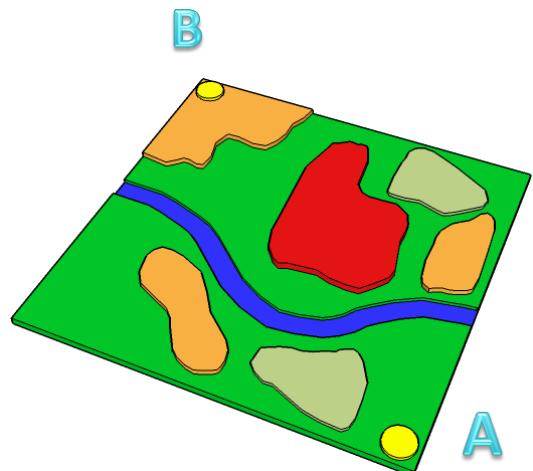
Hier können Sie punktgenau Hinweise für die Planung des Projekts eintragen.  
Um mit der Eingabe zu beginnen, klicken Sie zunächst auf das Symbol mit dem Stift.

**SUEDLINK PLANUNGSBETEILIGUNG**

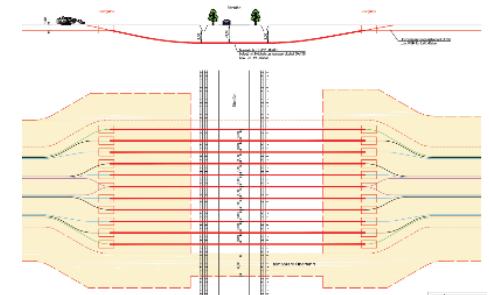
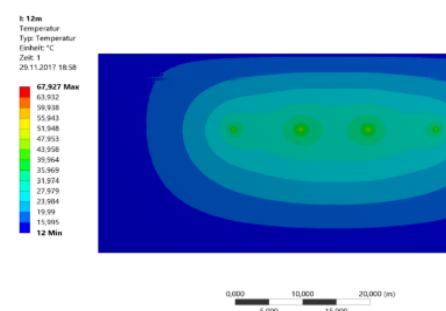
Ausschnitt vergrößern Ausschnitt verkleinern Ausschnitt verschieben Gesamtansicht Identifizieren SELEKTION **Hinweis eingeben HINWEIS** Hilfe für Hinweise

Navigieren Sie mit dem Mauszeiger in der Karte zu der Stelle, an der Sie einen Hinweis erstellen

## ► CONSTRAINT MAPPING & PREFERRED CORRIDOR CALCS



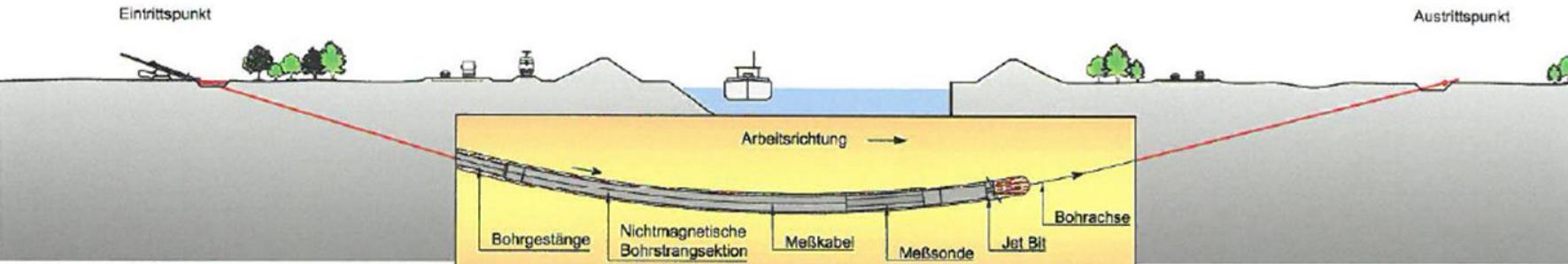
## ► THERMAL CABLE CALCULATIONS



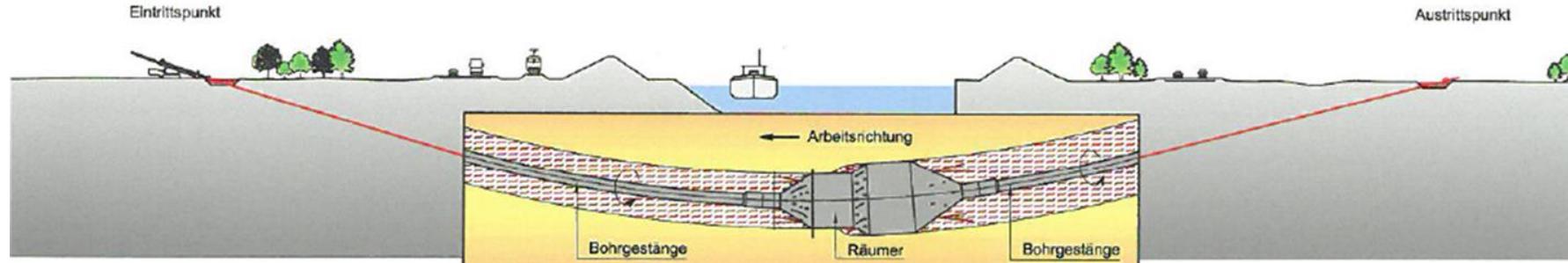
# HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND CABLE CONDUITS

- trenchless technique
- one separate cable conduit per cable
- pilot drill with steerable drill head
- bentonite as drilling liquid
- reaming and widening of drilling channel
- pulling in of cable conduit

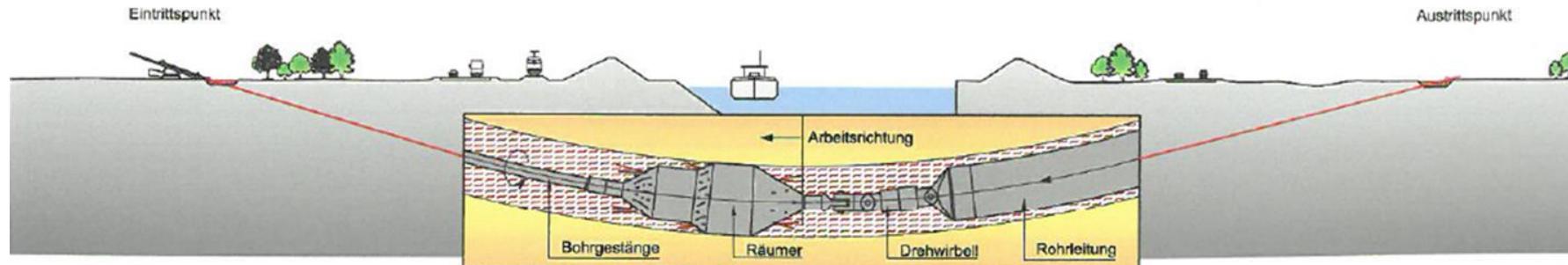
SCHRITT 1: Pilotbohrung



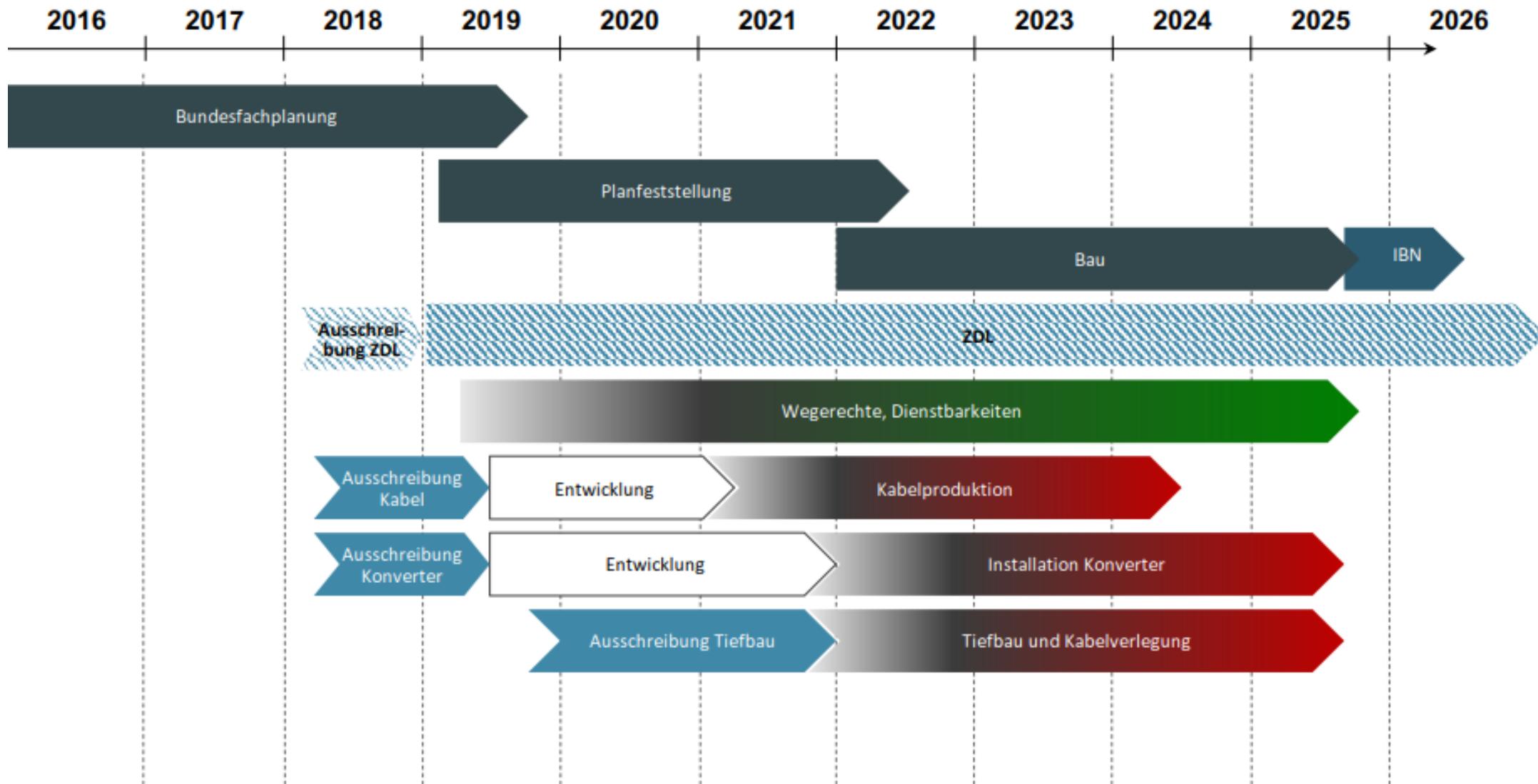
SCHRITT 2: Räumen



SCHRITT 3: Einziehen



# HVDC PM EXCELLENCE





**THANK YOU!**



Session Feedback: <https://goo.gl/zopBt8>

