







Electrical Subgroup Kickoff Meeting

26 March 2015 Washington DC 25 in-person

13 virtual

Electrical Subgroup Virtual Meeting

"Rare Earth Magnets"

29 April 2015

~22 attendees











Electrical Subgroup Leads



Dr. Ruth Douglas Miller Kansas State University



Dr. Rob Wills Intergrid



Dr. Eduard Muljadi **NREL**



Dr. Greg Mowry University of St Thomas, School of Engineering









Electrical Subgroup Opportunities

Inverters

- Options
 - -Off-the-shelf (ABB/Power One, Princeton Power Systems)
 - -Custom, in-house (e.g. Bergey, Pika, NPS, Dakota)
- Need Si-C inverters: more efficient, reduced weight, less complex, reliable, less \$ system cost
- Inverter cost breakdown
 - -1/3 cost in passive
 - -1/3 cost switching
 - -1/3 cost metal works
- Rob Wills awarded Competitiveness Improvement Project (CIP) subcontract from US Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a 20-40 kW single phase inverter to work with **VFDrives**



More on this in August









Electrical Subgroup Opportunities Power Electronics

- Variable-frequency Drives
 - disconnect between wind industry and semiconductor industry in terms of what is commercially available
- What have other industries done to standardize their product offerings?
- Most turbine companies focus on blades first and then electronics

Dr. John Muth

Power America

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Wide Band Gap Semiconductors for Power Electronics
Silicon Carbide Diodes and MOSFETS
Gallium Nitride







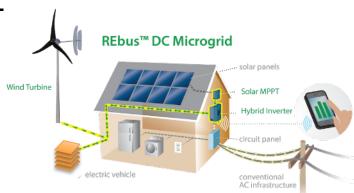


Electrical Subgroup Opportunities

Other

- How can we link with other industries?
 - -Collaborate w/ electric vehicle generator/motor development and power electronics
 - –A generator is a motor, demands are the same for small turbines
- Keeping an eye on changing IEEE 1547 requirements
- Standardize grid interconnections, make webenabled w/ performance-based software
- Integrate all RE, tie systems together













Electrical Subgroup Opportunities OEM priorities

- Inverters are still expensive to build due to low annual volumes
- Reduce system cost w/ inverter development (more impact than alternator improvements)
 - –E.g. Ginlong is selling 5-kW inverters for 25 cents/Watt
- Can variable speed drives be made to work with turbines?
- DW OEMs typically cannot afford the development \$ to start from scratch
- have to easily integrate storage









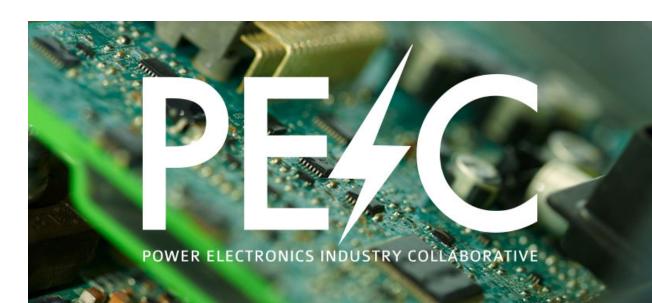




Electrical Subgroup Opportunities

Power Electronics Industry Collaborative

- Goal to identify technology gaps in power electronics
- supply chain gap analysis results
- understand areas of research focus



Discussion Notes/Specific Actions

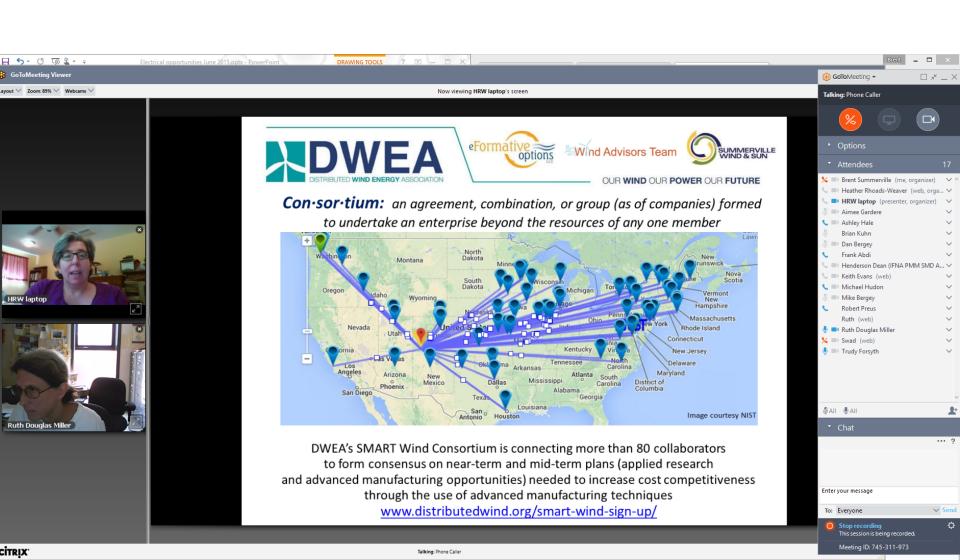
- Swad Renewables are a good place to collaborate, keep US leadership by working at the system level, maintain design and application leadership, maintain US manufacturing for emerging the (as opposed to bringing manufacturing back to the US)
- August virtual meeting on VFDs and inverters Wednesday, August 26 @ 230pm (tentative); ID some players to invite
- Rob W on the SiC inverter project, magnetics are the difficult part, BOM of \$2500, \$8-900 is magnetics, source for magnetic cores is currently Korea with long lead times Nanofoundry
- Keith Nanofoundry is a new PEIC member that may offer this (early stage)
- Rob VFDs pretty common in large wind; use the DC bus to motor connection in reverse instead of straight rectification of the PMG, allows active torque control
- Inverters Dean H, level of US leadership depends on power level; TF need to work on the whole system, not just the pieces/parts, request info on US team to focus on the inverter:
- Power range is 200 W to 750 kW; for inverter based, 2kW to 100 kW
- Dean is there a market/business plan/vision for this market? TF noted the report on distributed wind.org
- Rob W is very interested in collaboration in supply chain side, application side (manufacturing and design);
- Rob in the WBG space, CREE is the leader, prices high, limited competition
- Ruth emailed SMA (Windy Boy), Sunny Boys can be reprogrammed but may have warranty issues: Rob W – party true, but some limitations on programming power/volt curve, etc (for Tripower), lack of dynamic settings needed for wind turbines;
- Dean still somewhat a fragmented market; 15-20 companies hearing bits and pieces of the story may not carry water; collective voice may be better heard
- TF Roadmap should highlight needs in PE, Tom L at NIST thrilled with this intersection of work
- Member meeting in Santa Clara, follow up later









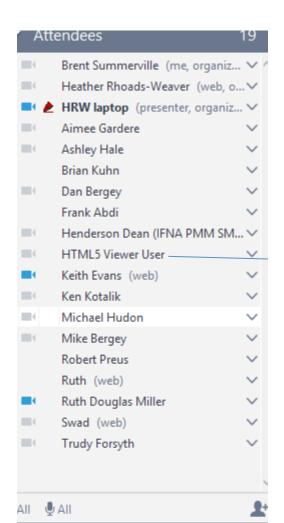












Rob Wills