The Operational and Market Benefits of HVDC to System Operators

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GRID UNITED
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Source: Siemens

Contents

This presentation is based on the report, ***The Operational and Market Benefits of HVDC to System Operators***, prepared with colleagues at The Brattle Group and DNV and input from industry participants. The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), GridLab, Clean Grid Alliance, Grid United, Pattern Energy, and Allete commissioned the work.


THE OPERATIONAL AND MARKET BENEFITS OF HVDC TO SYSTEM OPERATORS

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Executive Summary

HVDC transmission technology has evolved dramatically over the last 5-10 years

- HVDC offers higher-capacity, longer-distance, lower-loss transmission on a smaller footprint than AC
- The development of voltage-sourced converter (VSC) technology has also offered dramatic improvements in HVDC capabilities
- These VSC-based capabilities are increasingly needed to enhance the existing AC grid

Internationally, approximately 50 GW of VSC-HVDC transmission projects are in operation today and approx. 130 GW planned or under development through the end of the decade

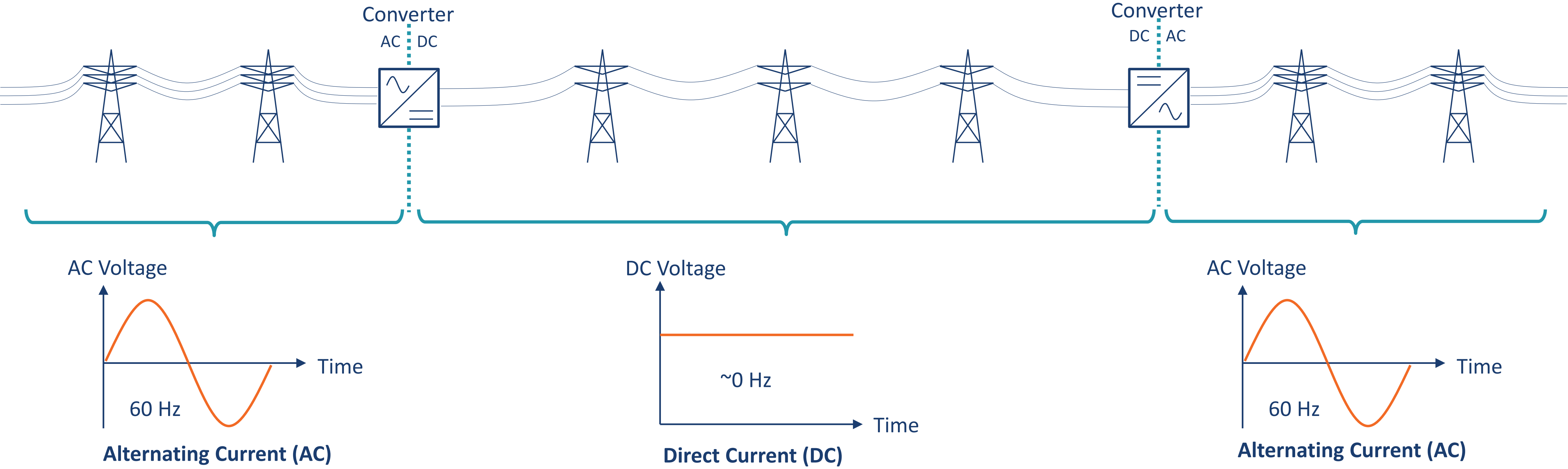
- North America accounts for only 3% of all VSC systems in operation worldwide and (almost exclusively due to merchant developers) for approx. 30% of planned and proposed VSC systems

U.S. system operators less familiar with HVDC can benefit from the experience gained overseas (particularly in Europe) … but significant planning, supply chain, operational, and regulatory challenges need to be addressed

- The report provides a primer on HVDC technology, documents available capabilities and experience, addresses misconceptions, and offers recommendations to collaboratively address the identified challenges

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) technology

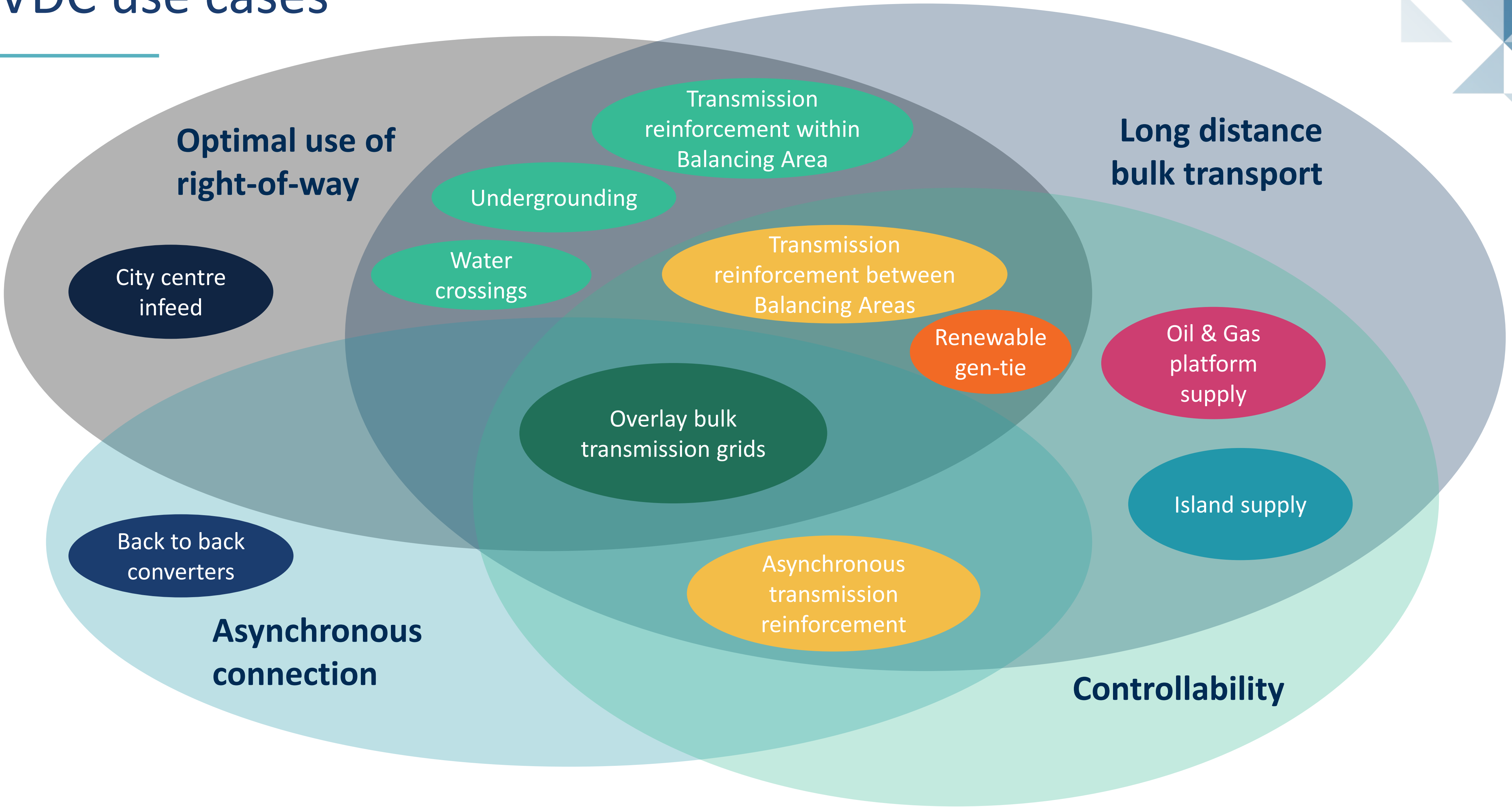
A reliable and effective electrical power transmission solution since the late 1890s



No reactive power → Long distance transmission
Overhead or underground
No skin effect → Optimal use of conductors
Converters → Power flow control

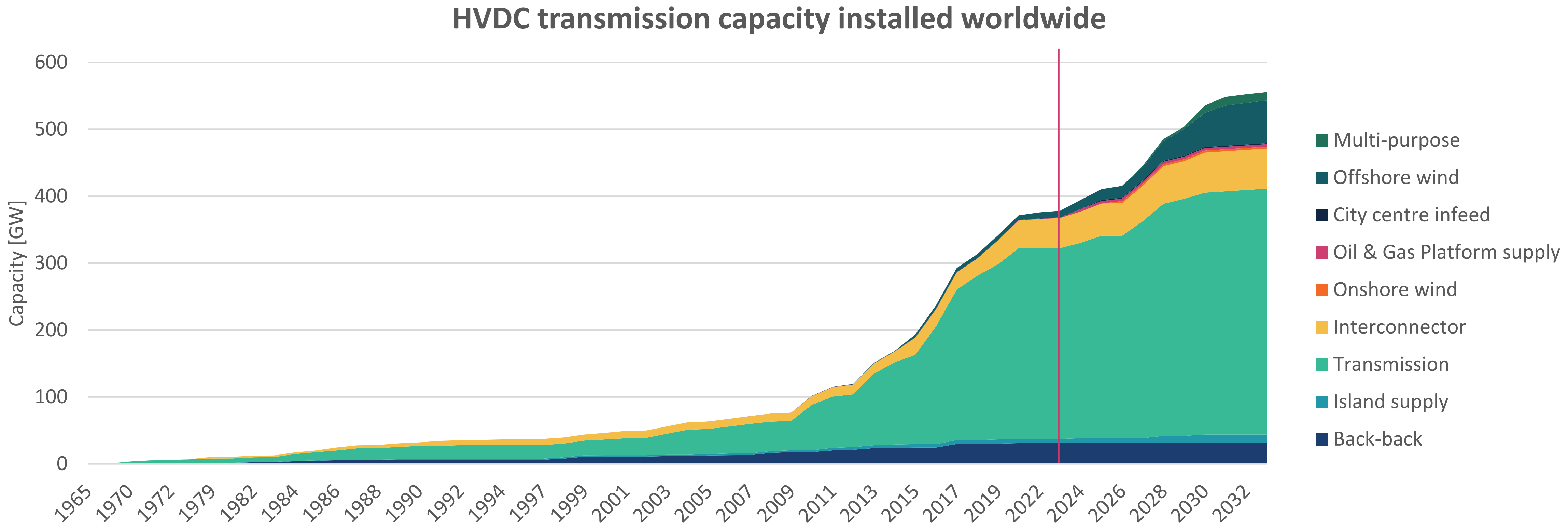
Less right of way = Smaller environmental and community impacts

HVDC use cases



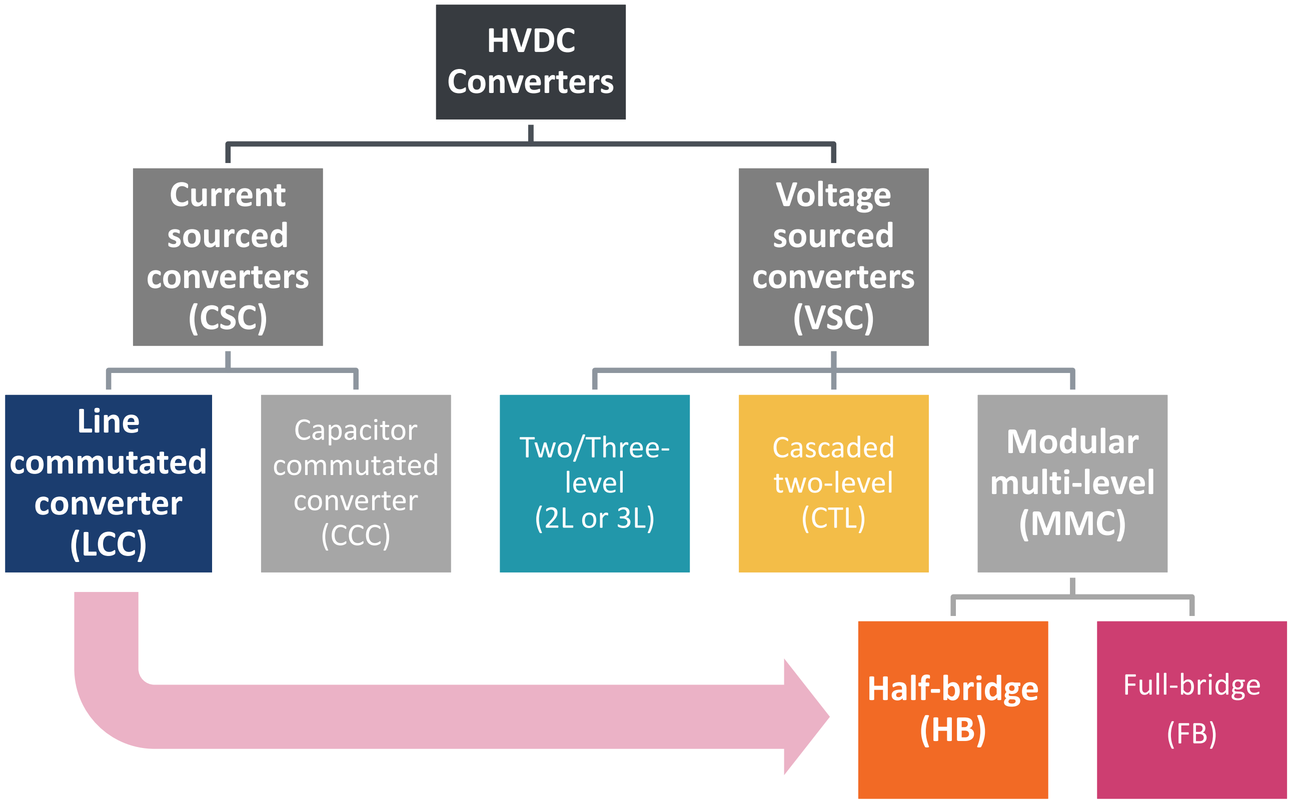
A significant amount of experience exists

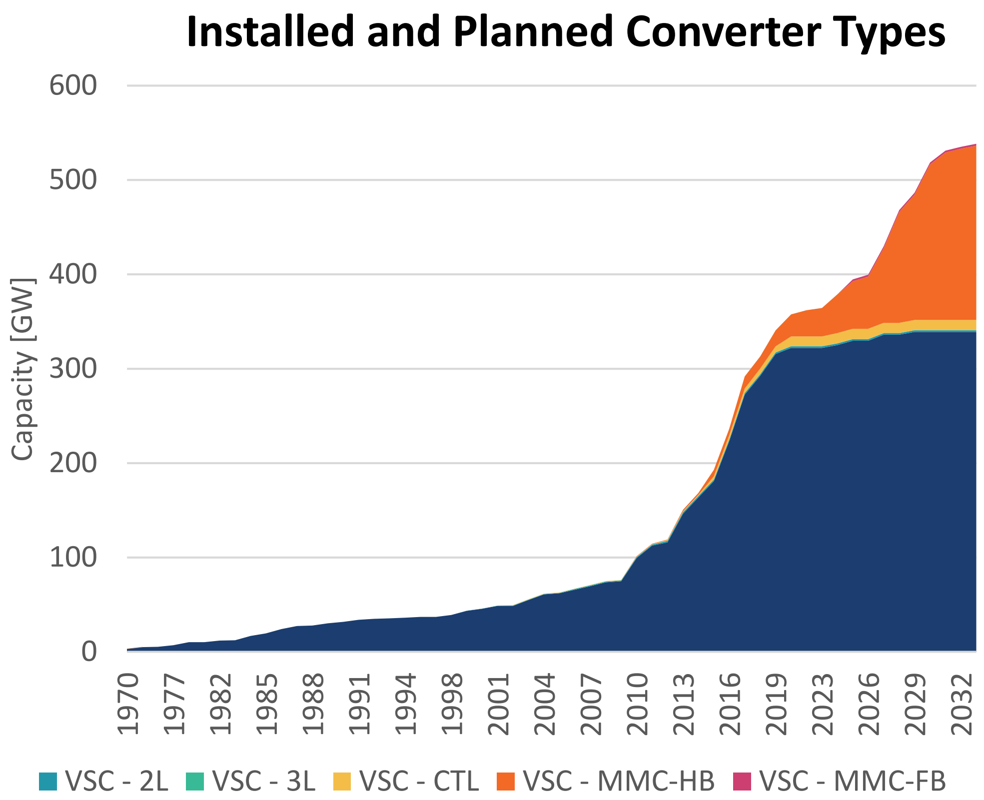
The majority of HVDC transmission capacity has been added in the last 5-10 years with more planned. Much of it is (or is planned to be) used to realize AC grid reinforcements



HVDC converter technologies

Many different converter technologies exist, but growth is driven by **modular multi-level voltage source converter technology**





Grid operation services (with VSC vs. LCC converters)

	Transmission functions	Grid operations support	Autonomous line dispatch	Power quality support	Contingency operations	Reliability & Market optimization
Both LCC & VSC	Real power control Reactive power control (static)	Synthetic inertia Frequency response Regulation, ramping, spinning reserves	External Power (Tracking) Control AC Line Emulation	Power oscillation damping	Run-back / run-up schemes Emergency energy imports	AC grid power flow optimization Resource adequacy, capacity imports Intertie optimization
VSC only	AC voltage and frequency control Weak and islanded grid connections	Voltage support / Reactive power control (dynamic)		AC phase balancing AC harmonics filtering	Black-start and system restoration	Frequent and rapid power flow reversal Weak grid connections

Case studies of HVDC experience

The report present 21 case studies of HVDC transmission experience in four areas of interest:

A. Experience with planning and procuring HVDC transmission overlays

B. Experience with HVDC Transmission Planning in North America

C. Operational experience with specific HVDC grid service capabilities

D. Experience with regional and interregional HVDC market integration

(Only a subset of these case studies is summarized on the next slides)

Germany's 10 GW of HVDC projects and 22 GW of procurements

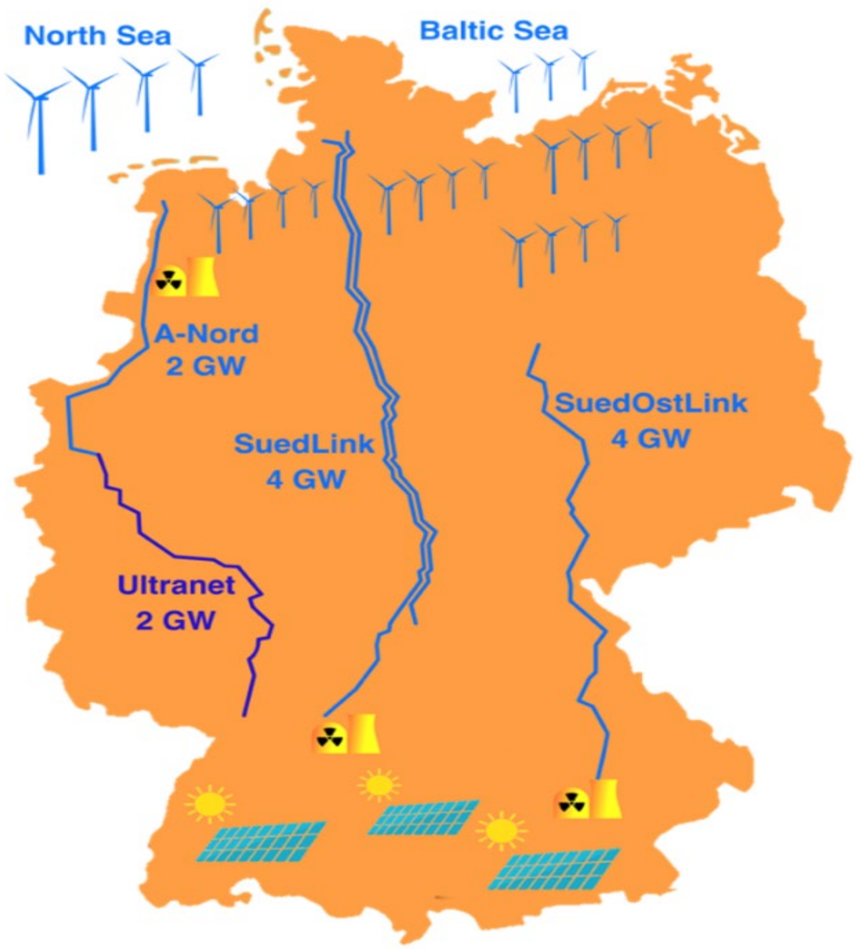
German grid operators are constructing major new HVDC lines designed to enhance the existing grid:

- 4 GW underground **SuedOstLink** project (2027)
- 2+2 GW underground **SuedLink** project (2028)
- 2 GW **multi-terminal** VSC HVDC link consisting of:
  - 2 GW **Ultranet** project, which converts one circuit of a multi-circuit AC overhead line to HVDC (2027)
  - 2 GW underground A-Nord link (2027)

TenneT also announced its "Target Grid" HVDC overlay

- Already awarded €23 billion in contracts for 22 GW of HVDC systems, including fourteen pairs of standardized 2 GW 525kV HVDC converters

Note: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) similarly procured five sets of 2 GW 525 kV HVDC systems to ensure delivery by 2030



Source: INMR, PD Measurements for HVDC Cable Projects, December 30, 2022.

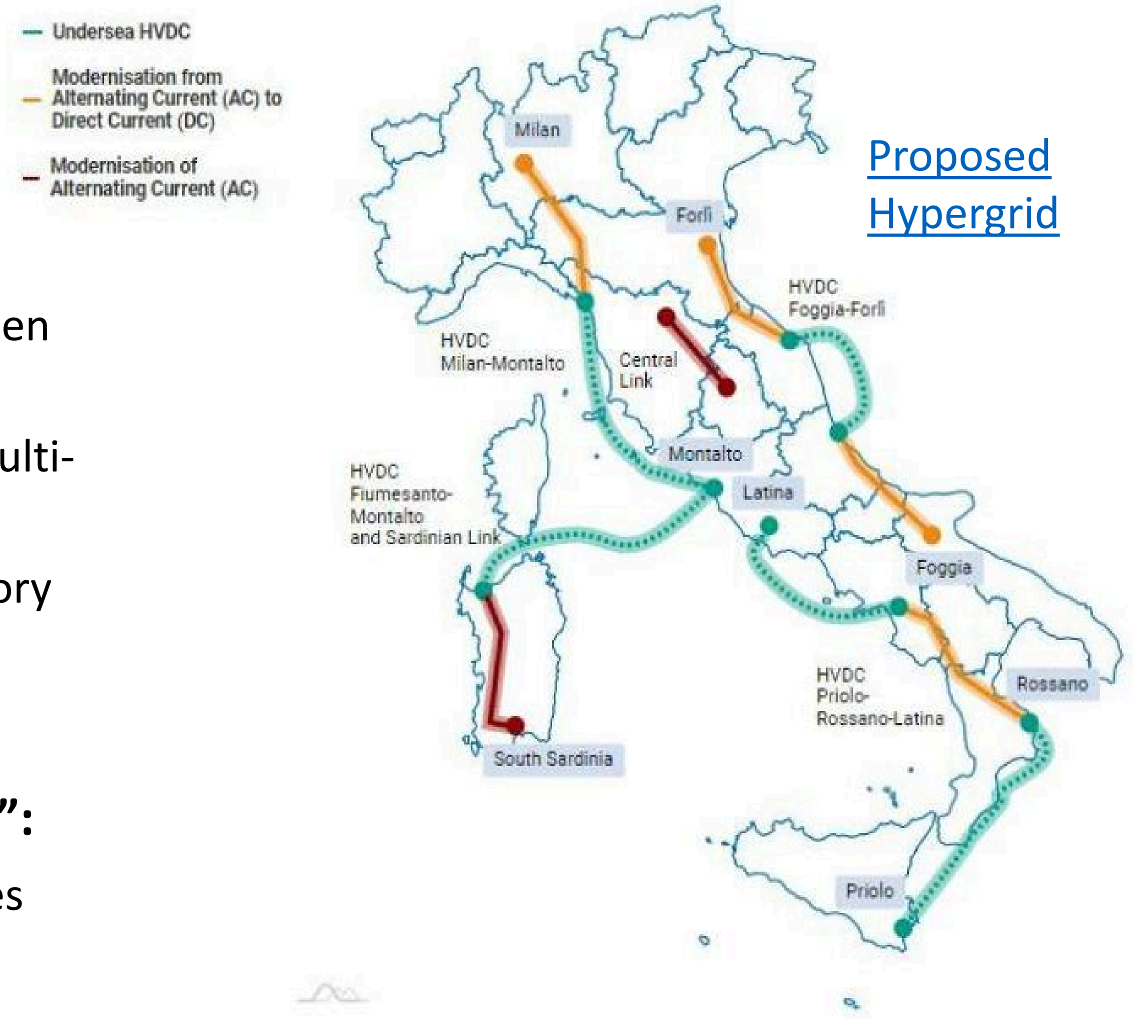
Terna's HVDC experience and "Hypergrid" proposal

The Italian Grid operator, Terna, gained substantial experience with new HVDC technologies, including

- 500 kV, 600 MW 260-mile LCC-HVDC submarine cable between Montenegro and Italy
- 2 × 600 MW MW, 230-mile underground VSC-HVDC link between Italy and France
- Conversion of the aging 200 kV, LLC-based HVDC submarine multi-terminal link to utilize modern 400 MW VSC-HVDC technology
- The performance of the existing HVDC links has been satisfactory and Terna reports high availability of the converter equipment

Based on lessons learned and positive operational experience, Terna committed to its €11 billion "Hypergrid":

- Existing onshore AC lines converted to high-capacity HVDC lines
- High-capacity HVDC submarine cables; and
- Additional AC grid upgrades



[Proposed Hypergrid]

Source: Terna, Terna: [2023 Development Plan for the National Electricity Grid Presented, Press Release], March 15, 2023

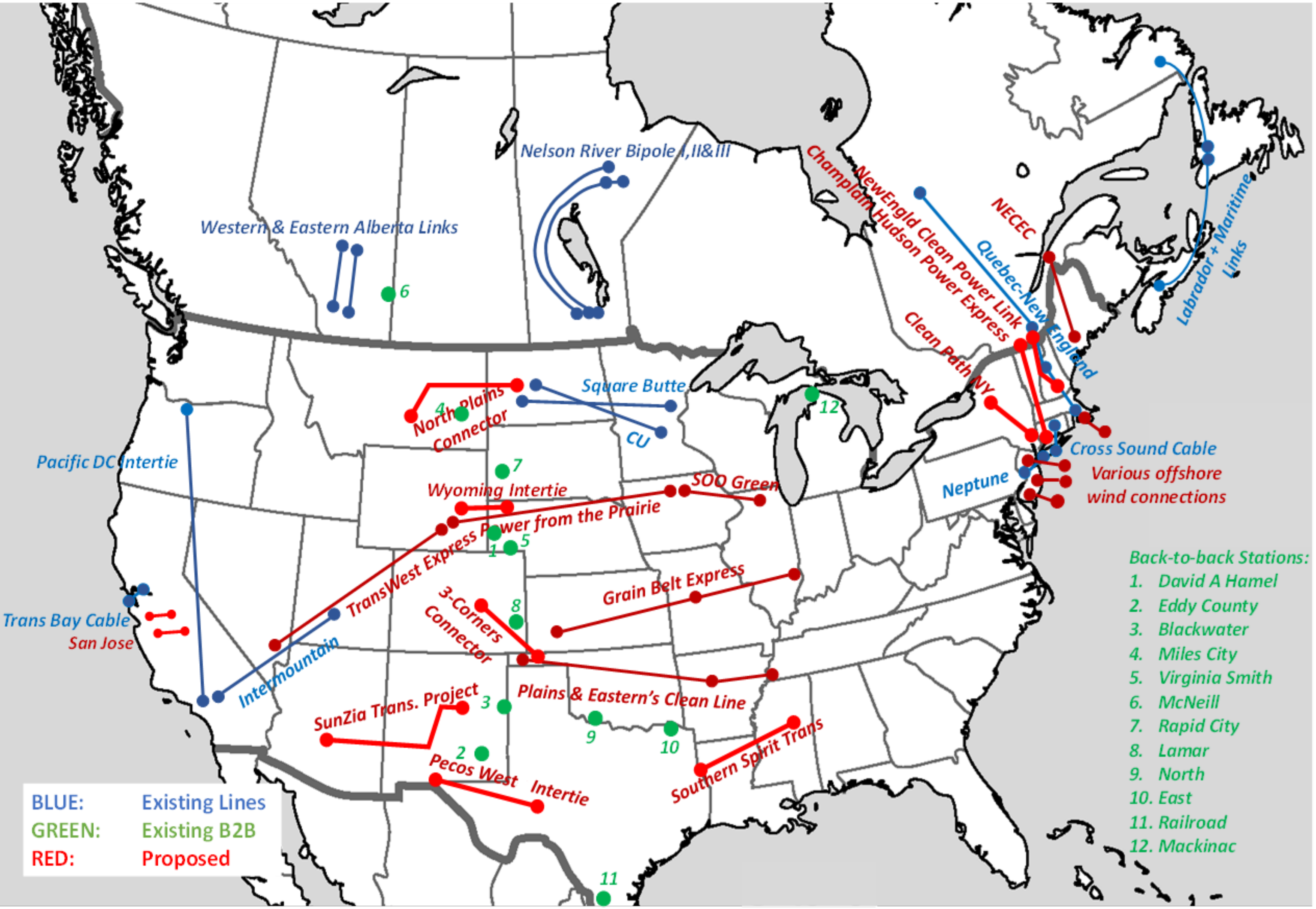
Experience with specific HVDC capabilities

These examples show that significant experience exists with advanced AC grid support capabilities

NEMO link Belgium - UK	• Frequency support and emergency energy
NordLink Norway - Germany	• Auto-reclosure for overhead line fault clearing and automatic bi- to monopole change
Maritime Link Canada	• HVDC runback schemes for prevention of overloading of AC lines
Fenno-Skan Sweden - Finland	• Mitigate AC stability constraints and improve system transfer capability
FIL France – Italy	• “AC line emulation” and AC grid loss and congestion reduction
INELFE France - Spain	• Power Oscillation Damping
Skagerrak 4 Norway - Denmark	• Black-start and system-restoration services
ULTRAnet Germany	• Converting existing AC overhead line circuits to HVDC

Experience with HVDC transmission in North America

North American HVDC Projects (Existing and Planned/Proposed)



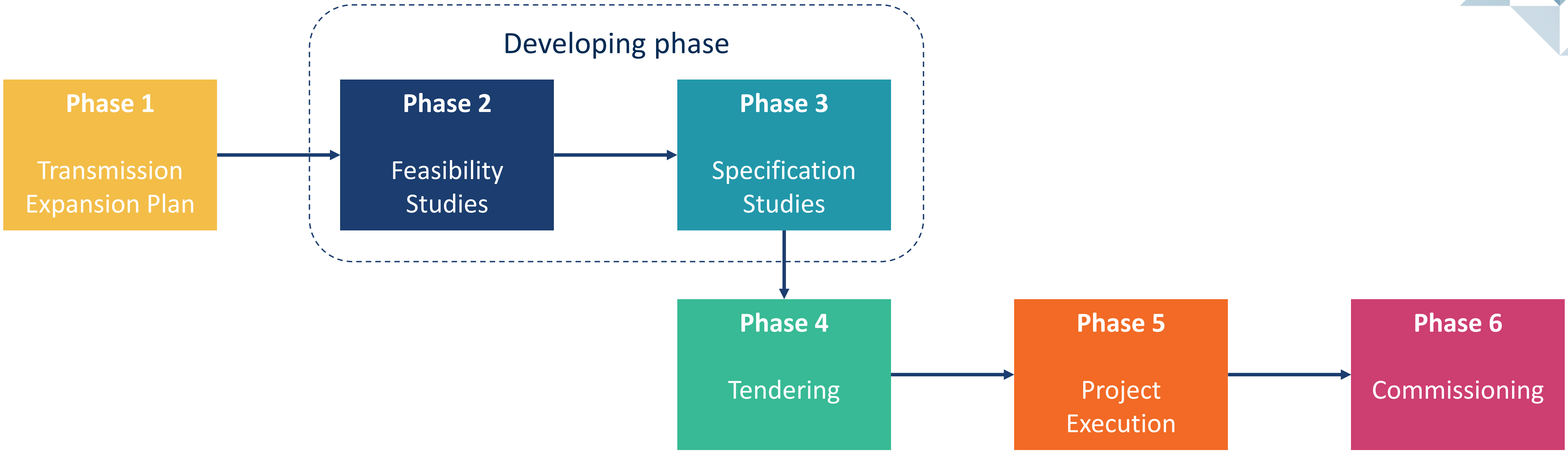
Source: Jim McCalley, Iowa State University

CAISO leads the U.S. in planning and utilizing HVDC transmission:

- First VSC-MMC HVDC line (TransBay, 2013)
- 10 VSC-HVDC systems evaluated in transmission planning; 2 approved
- Full co-optimization of HVDC transmission with generation in day-ahead and real-time markets since 2017
- Interregional optimization in WEIM
- Subscriber PTO proposal (merchant lines)

Most U.S. HVDC transmission projects proposed by merchant and OSW developers (not system operators)

HVDC transmission studies



- **IEEE HVDC & FACTS Subcommittee report (PES-TR86):** how relevant studies in each planning phase should evaluate HVDC projects, including in each of the shown six planning and project development phases. System operators and owners will need to be involved in all study phases shown.

Source: IEEE PES-TR86 Technical Report "Studies for Planning HVDC," February 2021.

HVDC transmission studies (cont’d)

Similar to AC transmission planning: HVDC systems need to be analyzed through a number of studies, sequentially adding more detail, scope, system performance, model fidelity, and temporal granularity

Market analysis

- Security constrained economic dispatch
- Market studies
- Production cost models

Steady-state analysis

- Voltage stability / circuit breaker ratings
- Load flow / short circuit studies
- 60 Hz models

RMS analysis

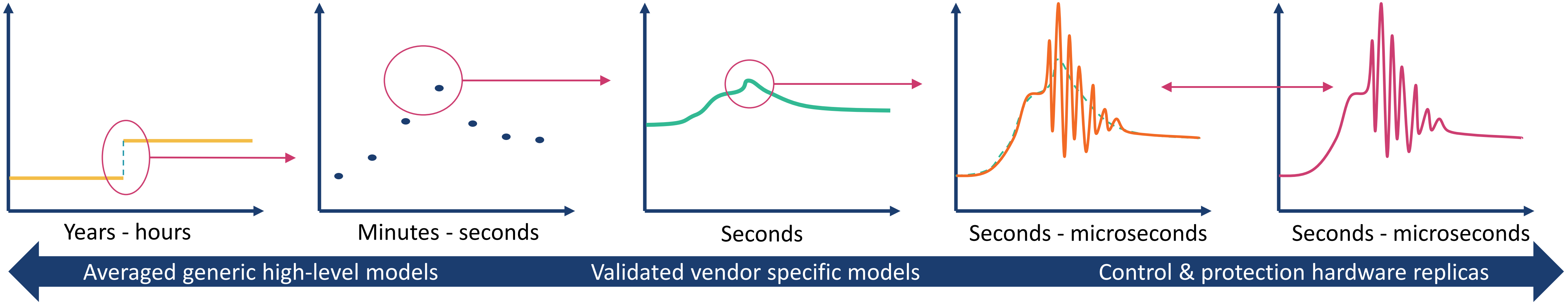
- Transient stability
- Electromechanical models
- 60 Hz models

EMT analysis

- Electro-magnetic behaviour
- Control & protection behaviour
- Instantaneous voltages and currents
- Dynamic studies
- ~0 Hz – kHz models

RTS analysis

- Real-time behaviour
- Control & protection replica performance
- Model validation
- Hardware-in-the-loop studies
- ~0 Hz – kHz models



Considering & quantifying HVDC benefits in transmission planning

HVDC-VSC Capability	Planning Benefits / Options for Quantification
1. Flow control/market optimization	• Estimate value of congestion relief and loss reduction on AC grid with nodal production cost model that can optimize HVDC
2. Dynamic reactive power and voltage control	• Avoided cost of STATCOMs, SVCs or synchronous condensers
3. Lower long-distance transfer losses	• Market value of avoided losses on transmitted energy
4. Smaller footprint/right-of-way (ROW), including for undergrounding option	• Lower cost for right-of-way (e.g., 50ft less than for 765kV AC); lower cost of undergrounding; lower permitting risks
5. Reliability benefits (fault ride-through, lower N-1 contingency for bipoles, voltage support)	• Increased transfer capacity; reduced cost of contingency reserves; avoided AC equipment costs (e.g., additional lines, STATCOMs)
6. AC dynamic stability; power oscillation dampening; mitigate stability constraints on AC grid	• Avoided cost of power system stabilizers/supplemental power oscillation damping (POD) controllers on batteries, SVCs, STATCOMs, switched shunt equipment, synchronous condensers, etc. • Value of congestion relief on proxy constraints
7. Grid forming, grid services, synthetic inertia, blackstart/restoration, etc.	• Market value or avoided cost of providing the grid services through conventional means

Common misconceptions about modern HVDC technology

VSC technology is not yet sufficiently mature	VSC converters have lower reliability and availability	VSC converters have high losses	Placing VSC-HVDC converters from different vendors close to one another is not reliable
VSC-HVDC technology is not suitable for overhead transmission lines	HVDC power electronic switches cannot handle the surge voltages from lightning strikes	MMC-VSC HVDC systems cannot handle overhead line faults	HVDC transmission systems have no overload capability
VSC-HVDC converters have the same fault-related issues as legacy inverters, such as "momentary cessation"	Inverter-based resources, such as HVDC, cannot provide black-start services because of large in-rush currents	HVDC circuit breakers do not yet exist	HVDC technology is "more complicated"

Challenges to the utilization of HVDC capabilities

Outdated, incomplete and uncoordinated technical standardization

- Existing standards do not fully take into account characteristics of modern HVDC transmission technology.
  - MMC-VSC converter technology
  - Underground and submarine HVDC cable technology
- Some ongoing standardization initiatives are overtly conservative and reduce ability to realize VSC-HVDC benefits
- Existing standards do not cover all HVDC applications
  - IEEE P2800 does not cover offshore converter AC performance requirements
  - No operational guideline for DC grid behavior
- HVDC standardization is not coordinated across regions and between functional disciplines
  - Health, safety, and environment
  - System performance and design
  - Technology & equipment (to ensure modularity and compatibility)
  - Test, measurement, & analysis
  - Communication and Cyber security

Challenges to the utilization of HVDC capabilities (cont'd)

Supply chain challenges

- Small number of HVDC suppliers
- Limited production capacity of the vendor in terms of engineering staff, number of production lines, limited transport and installation equipment, availability of testing facilities
- Technical maturity of the vendors' HVDC technology
- Project management experience of the vendor
- Country of origin of the vendor and the resulting export restrictions
- Sub-supplier/partnership strategy of vendors

Planning, regulatory, and market-design challenges

- Lack of proactive, multi-value planning processes that are able to capture long-term HVDC-related values
- Lack of grid codes to ensure that system operators are able to take advantage of the technology's grid-supporting HVDC capabilities
- Limited operator experience
- Lack of market-clearing software able to co-optimize generation and controllable HVDC transmission facilities

Recommendations: near-term priorities

1. Develop and implement “grid codes” for interconnected/embedding HVDC lines (as ENTSO-E has done) that allow grid operators to take full advantage of modern HVDC capabilities
2. Adapt grid planning tools and multi-value transmission planning frameworks to take full account of modern HVDC capabilities
3. Provide training for planning, engineering, and grid operations staff so they are able to take advantage of modern HVDC capabilities (rather than being focused solely on preventing problems that might be encountered)
4. Address current supply chain challenges by building manufacturing capability through clear long-term commitments
5. Develop standardized HVDC functional and interface requirements, and vendor compatibility standards, taking advantage of experience gained in similar European efforts
6. Develop new regulatory and cost-recovery paradigms that can take advantage of the controllable nature of HVDC technology (both regionally and inter-regionally), including merchant transmissions to permit greater competition and allow for more financial risk sharing with transmission owners

Recommendations: longer-term priorities

7. Update grid operations to be able to take full advantage of HVDC grid-service capabilities
8. Update market designs so system operators can co-optimize controllable transmission with generation
9. Implement optimization of interregional transmission capabilities that can accommodate merchant HVDC transmission

To implement these recommendations and address the identified challenges, grid operators and planning authorities should collaborate with:

- Transmission owners/developers
- HVDC equipment manufacturers
- North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)
- Industry groups, regulators, and states
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its National Labs

Thank You!

Comments and Questions?

About the Speakers

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Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger, a Principal at The Brattle Group, is an economist with a background in electrical engineering and over twenty-five years of experience in wholesale power market design, renewable energy, electricity storage, and transmission. He also is a Visiting Scholar at MIT's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR), a former Senior Fellow at Boston University's Institute of Sustainable Energy (BU-ISE), a IEEE Senior Member, and currently serves as an advisor to research initiatives by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Labs, and the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG).

Hannes specializes in wholesale power markets and transmission. He has analyzed transmission needs, transmission benefits and costs, transmission cost allocations, and renewable generation interconnection challenges for independent system operators, transmission companies, generation developers, public power companies, industry groups, and regulatory agencies across North America. He has worked on transmission matters in SPP, MISO, PJM, New York, New England, ERCOT, CAISO, WECC, and Canada and has analyzed offshore-wind transmission challenges in New York, New England, and New Jersey.

He received an M.A. in Economics and Finance from Brandeis University's International Business School and an M.S. and B.S. ("Diplom Ingenieur") in Power Engineering and Energy Economics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria.

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Dr. Cornelis A. Plet is Head of Department (Vice President) of DNV's Power System Advisory group, and is based in Canada, Toronto. He has over thirteen years of professional experience in failure investigations, owners engineering, research & development, and testing of transmission equipment. His current focus is on supporting governments, TSOs, and developers to accelerate the deployment of renewables through the development of offshore power systems and multi-terminal HVDC transmission.

Cornelis is an active member of CIGRE and currently convenes working group JWG B1 B3 D1.79 "Dielectric test requirements for HVDC gas insulated cable connection assemblies" and JWG C1 B4.49 " Offshore transmission grid planning". Cornelis was coordinator of the EU funded R&D project "Progress On Meshed Offshore HVDC Transmission Networks".

He holds an MEng degree in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in power electronics, both from Imperial College London.