



PNNL-SA-174437



**Panel Session T1A: Future Grid**

*Chairs: Prof. Joe Dong & Prof. Junhua Zhao*

# Power Electronics for Large-Scale Renewable Integration

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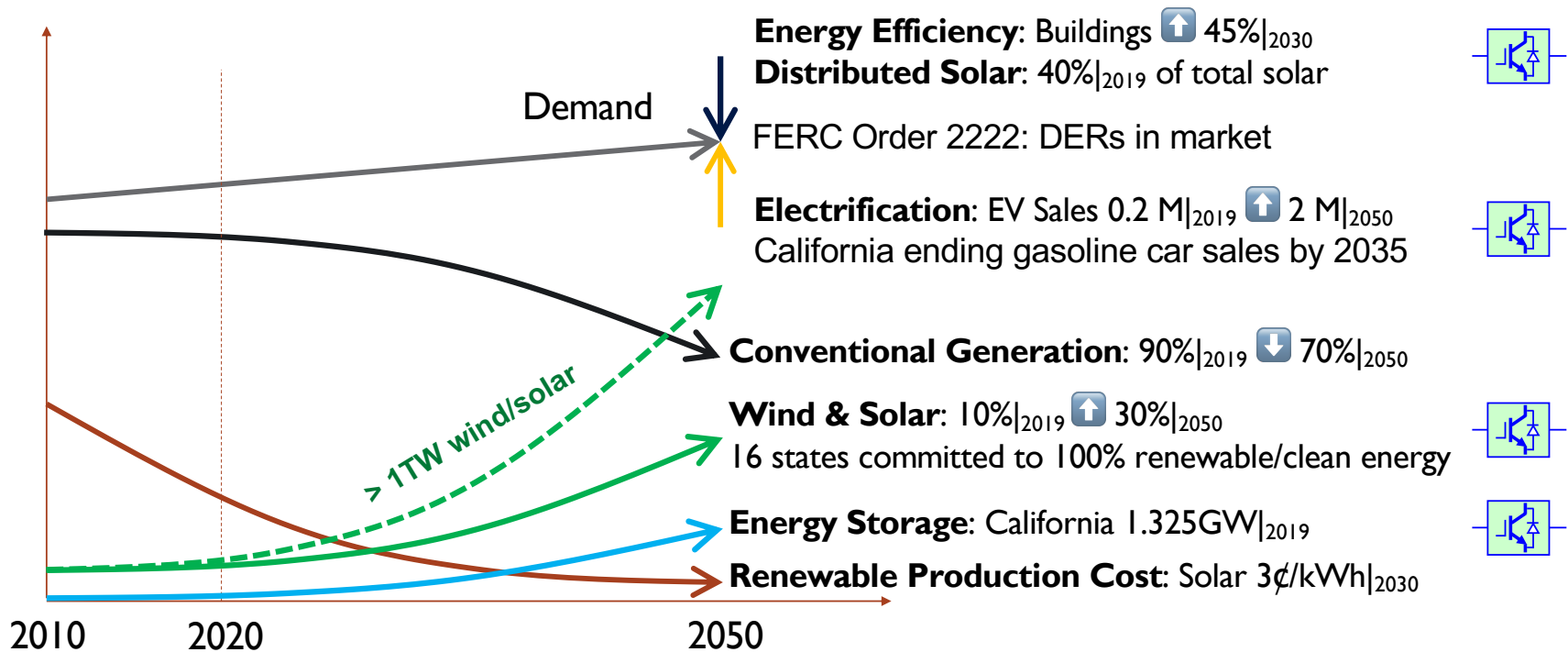
*June 14, 2022*



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# A future of clean electricity towards a Power Electronics-dominated power systems



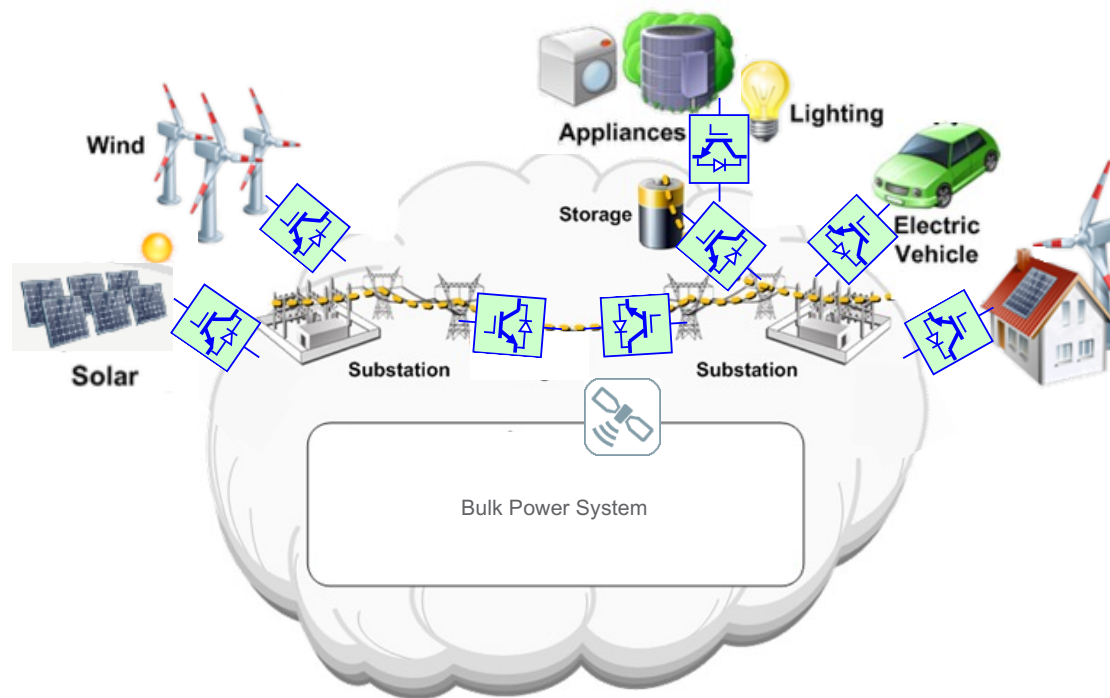
DERs = Distributed Energy Resources

EV = Electric Vehicle

FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

# Ubiquitous power electronics at all levels

- Power electronics are the glue if the grid is the fabric



**HVDC/SST:** National transmission

**MVDC/DC Breakers:** Offshore wind and regional transmission

**Low Frequency AC:** Offshore wind integration and reconductoring

**LVDC:** Inverters for renewables, data centers, buildings, ...

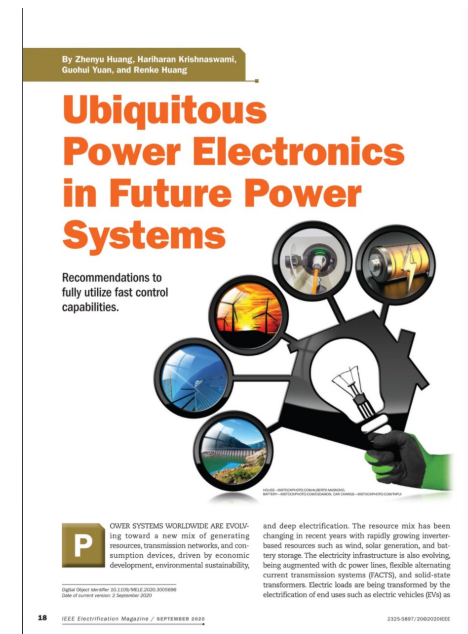
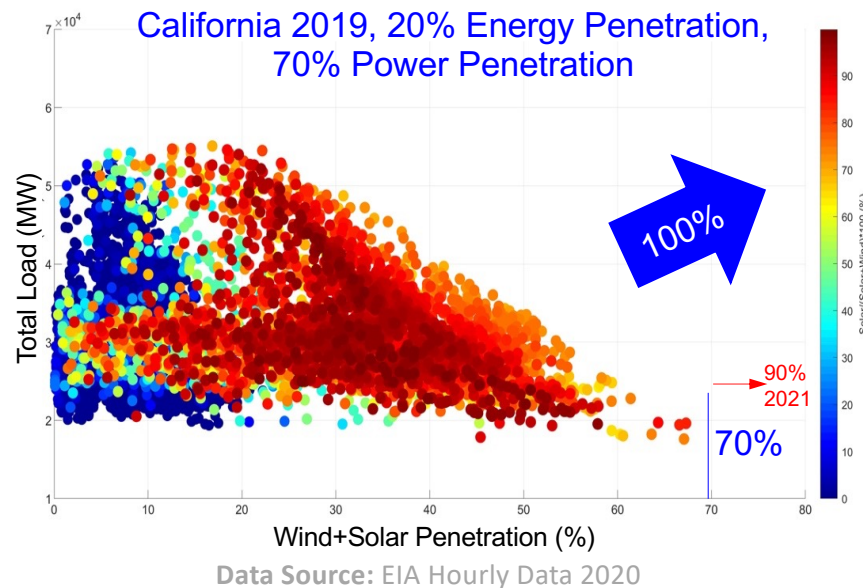


**Challenges:** low inertia

**Opportunities:** controllability and flexibility

## Challenge: PE-based power system reliability

- Inverter-based generation and resources (building loads, EV charging, etc.) displaced conventional ones, resulting in low system inertia and fast dynamics. Instantaneous wind/solar penetration approaches 80-100%!



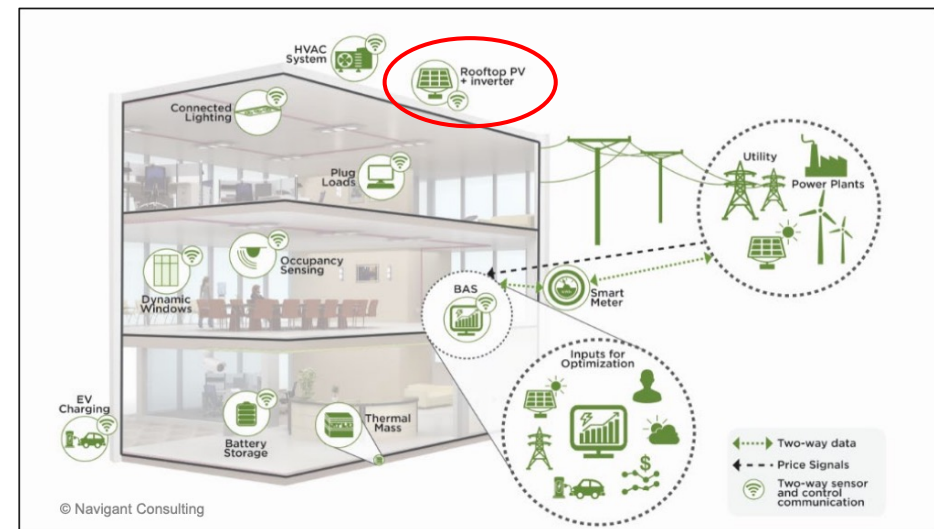
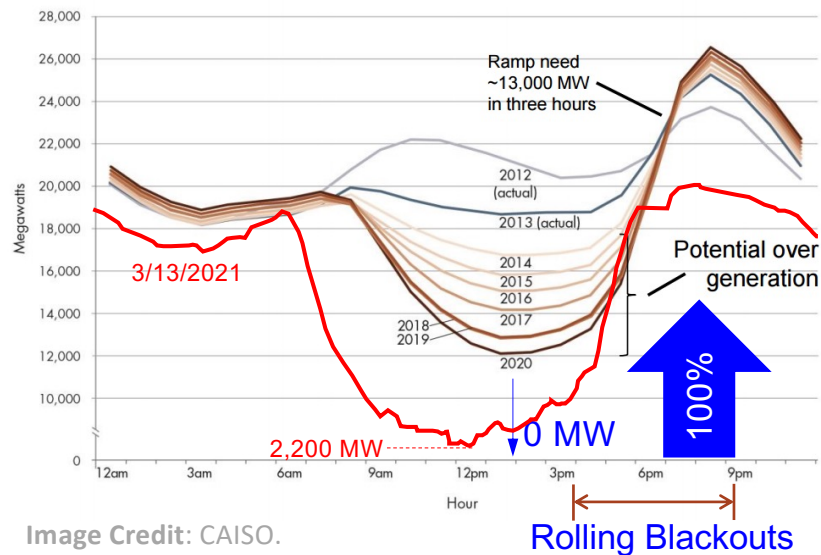
8600+ views in LinkedIn

Huang, Krishnaswami, Yuan, Huang, "Ubiquitous Power Electronics in Future Power Systems", IEEE Electrification, September 2020.



## Challenge: PE-based power system flexibility

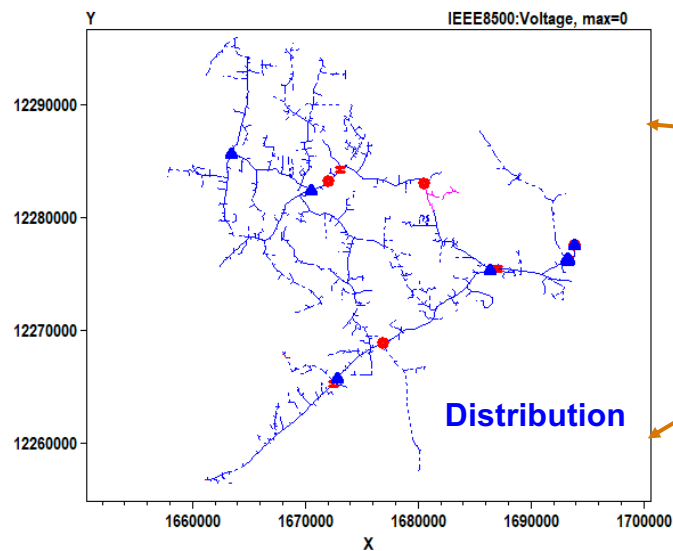
- Net load in California “Duck” curve approaching 0, need 80-100% ramping! Plus, no longer unique to California – a bigger system-level challenge.
- Many resources to optimize for maximum flexibility. Significantly larger number of active participants. 2.3 M solar generators on the U.S. distribution system today → 2.3 M inverters, and increasing rapidly.



## Established large-scale modeling and simulation capabilities for power electronics

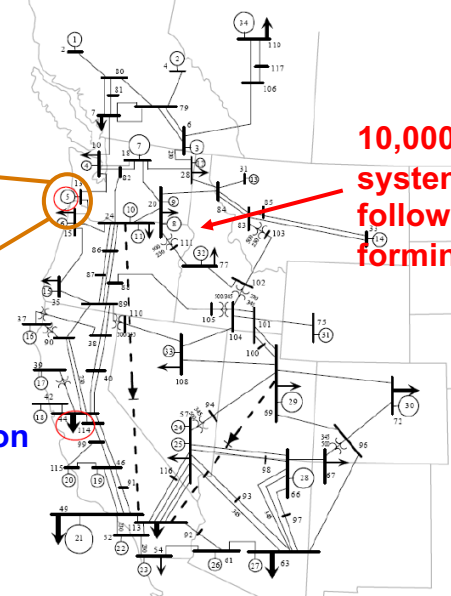


GridPACK™



Dynamic simulation of the modified IEEE 8500-Node Test Feeder with 550 IBRs in GridLAB-D.

Transmission

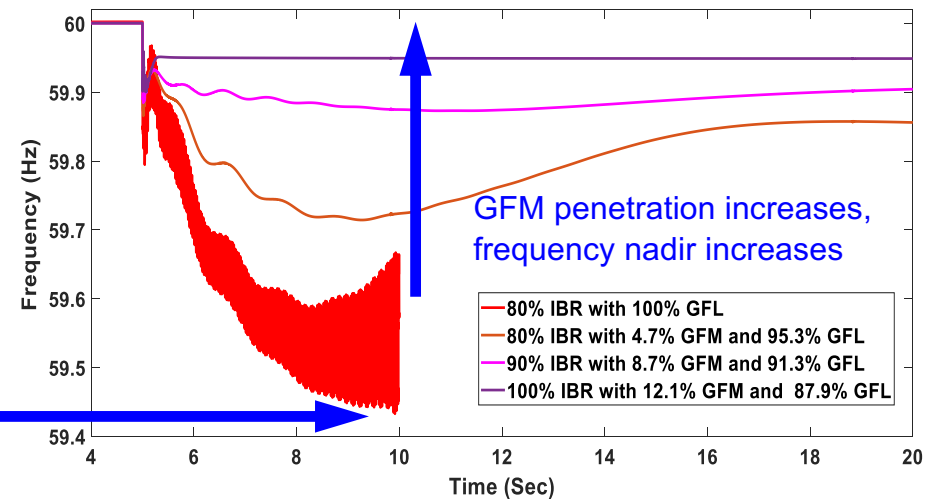
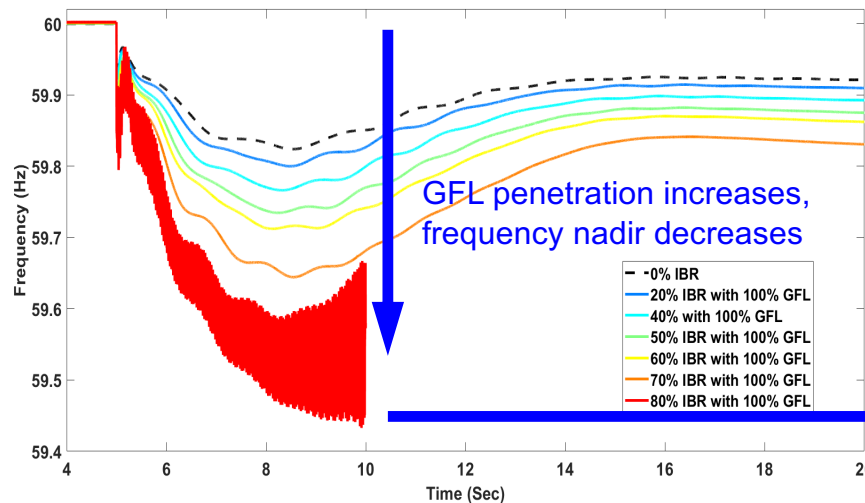
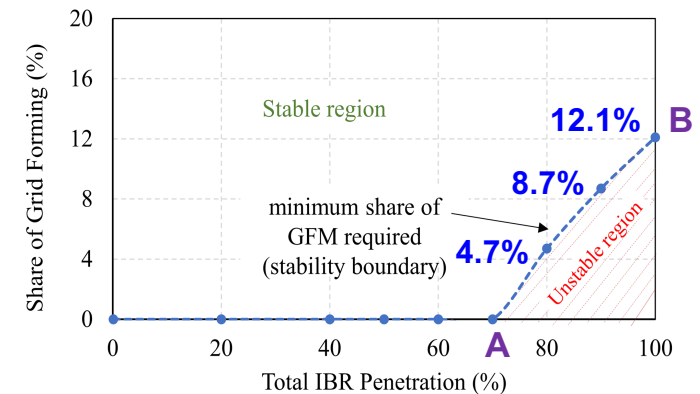


10,000+ IBRs in the T&D system including both grid-following (GFL) and grid-forming (GFM) inverters

160,000+ nodes T+D system with all 19 load buses replaced with the 8500-node test feeder (19\*550=10,450 IBRs)

# Inverters enhancing reliability in IBR-dominated power systems

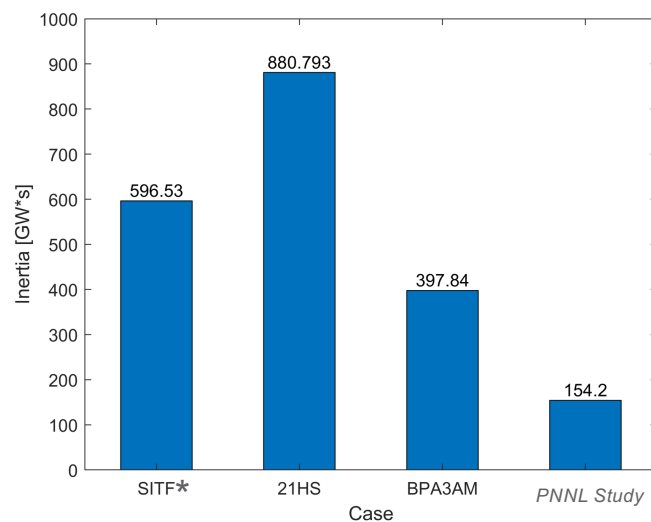
- **Question:** How many GFM are needed to maintain the stability of future IBR-dominated systems? In 160,000-node mini-WECC system with 10,000+ inverters:
  - 12.1% in 100% IBR system
  - 8.7% in 90% IBR system
  - GFMs, if properly controlled, achieves better system reliability performance than conventional synchronous machines



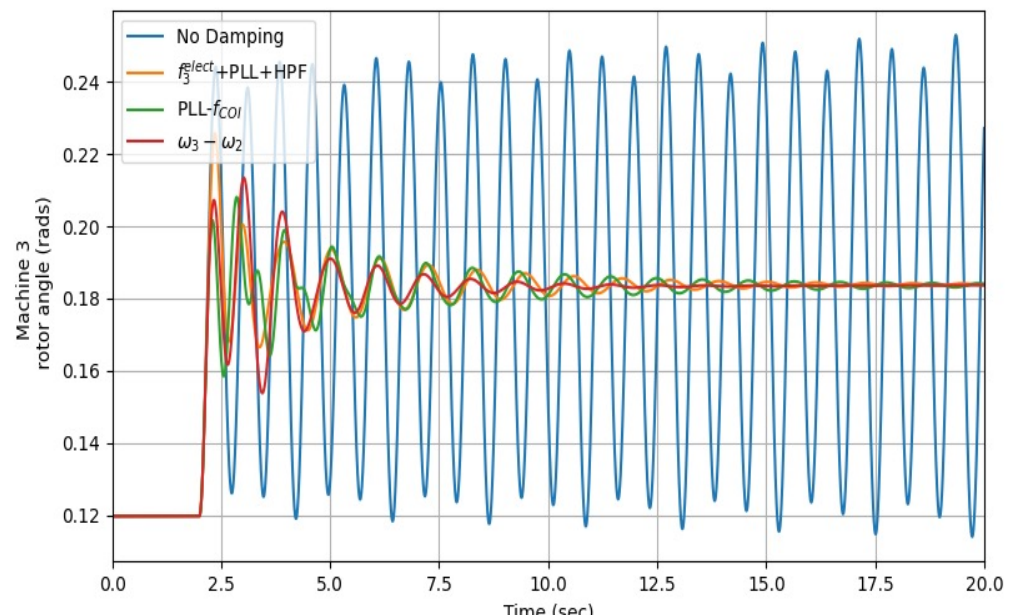
POC: Wei Du, PNNL

## Mitigating reduced inertia with energy storage

- WECC study showed dramatic decrease in inertia for a < 50% RE scenarios
- Energy storage with Fast Frequency Response (FFR) can dramatically improve system damping against disturbance.



[\*] Jon Jensen, Kent Bolton, Dick Simons, "Changes to System Inertia with High Renewable Implementation," WECC, February 2020

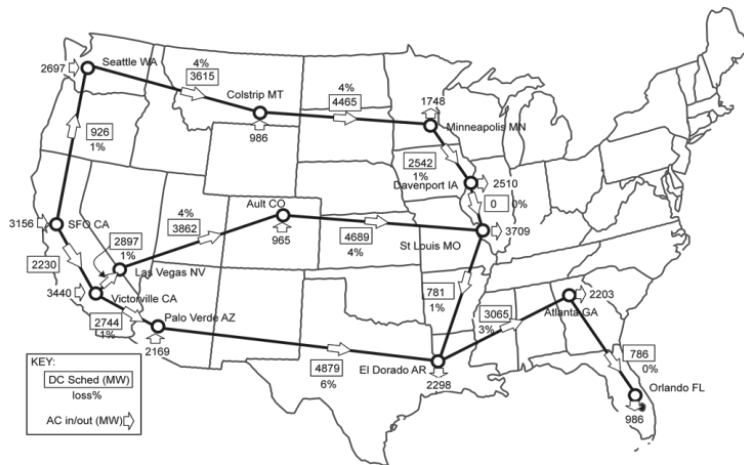


POC: Marcelo Elizondo, PNNL

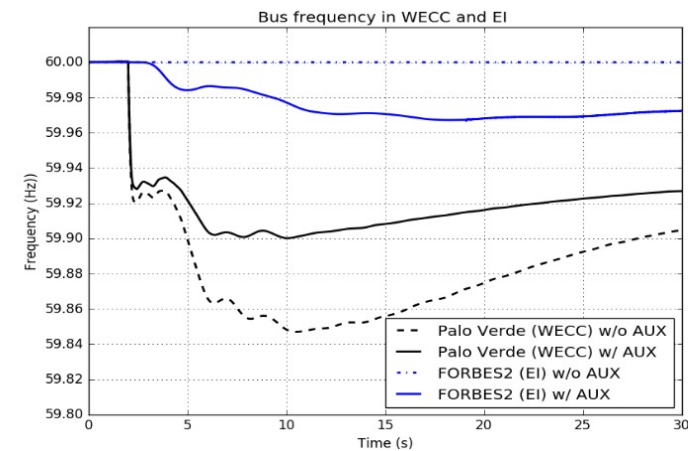


## HVDC: National transmission upgrades

- Developed continental-level combined modeling for the first time.
- Identified benefits such as shared frequency response through HVDC control.
- Such stability analysis complements many recent reports on macrogrid buildout for renewable integration and a clean electricity future.



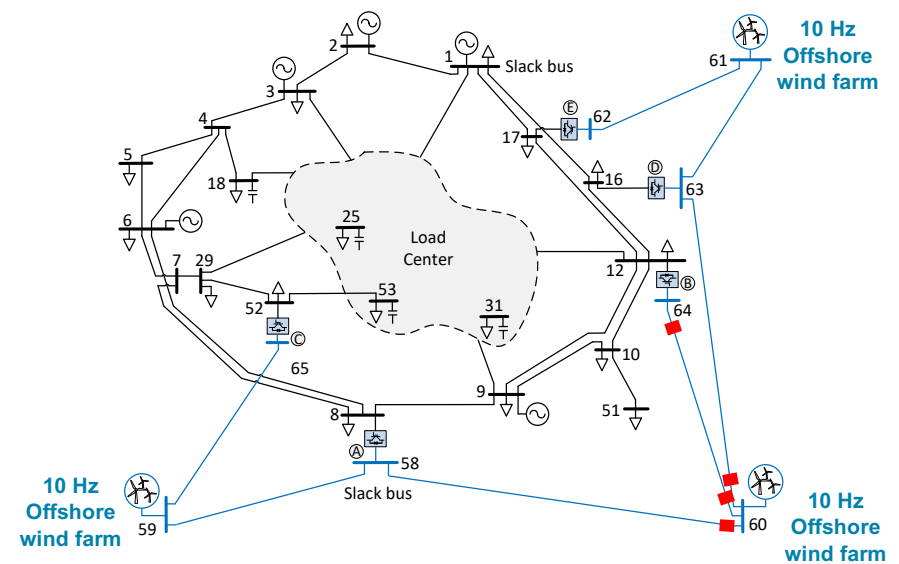
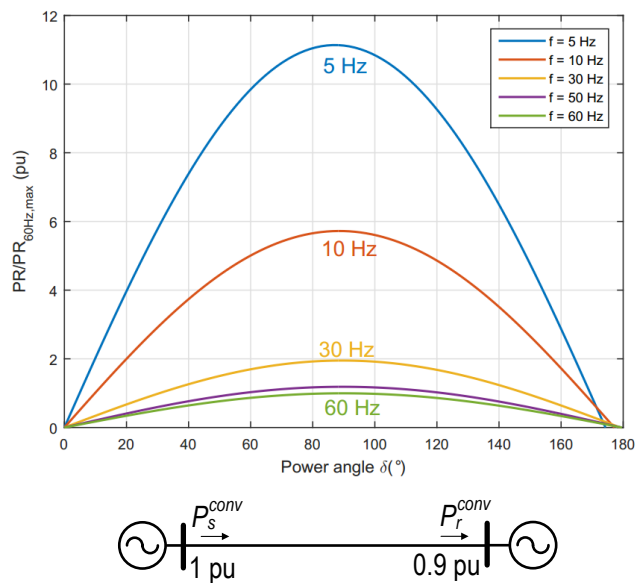
Credit: MISO



POC: Marcelo Elizondo, PNNL

# LF-HVac power electronics for network enhancement

- Low-frequency high-voltage alternating current (LF-HVac) to increase power carrying capabilities of existing transmission lines, leveraging existing technologies (e.g. circuit breakers).
- LF-HVac as a viable solution for offshore wind integration with better controllability.



POC: Quan Nguyen, PNNL

## Summary: A more responsive and flexible future grid

- Power electronics are fundamentally changing the **dynamics** of the grid, at all stages and all scales, towards a clean electricity future.
- Power-electronics-based resources bring challenges, but more importantly, they bring an **opportunity** for a better future grid – more responsive and flexible!
- New **methods, tools, and policies** are needed to enable the full functions of power electronics for power system performance, especially considering the probability of renewables. Many efforts are ongoing, but significant needs exist!



# Questions?

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