



# Unlocking the potential of Multi Level Inverters with Integrated GaN Technologies

*Farhan Beg, Director of Application Engineering,  
Cambridge GaN Devices*

**Bodo's  
Wide Bandgap  
Event 2025**

*Making WBG Designs Happen*

**GaN**

# Cambridge GaN Devices at a Glance

The Fast-paced Scaleup Making Green Electronics Possible



**A fabless semiconductor company** designing, developing and commercializing **energy-efficient GaN-based power devices and ICs**

Operating from

4

Locations

Innovation

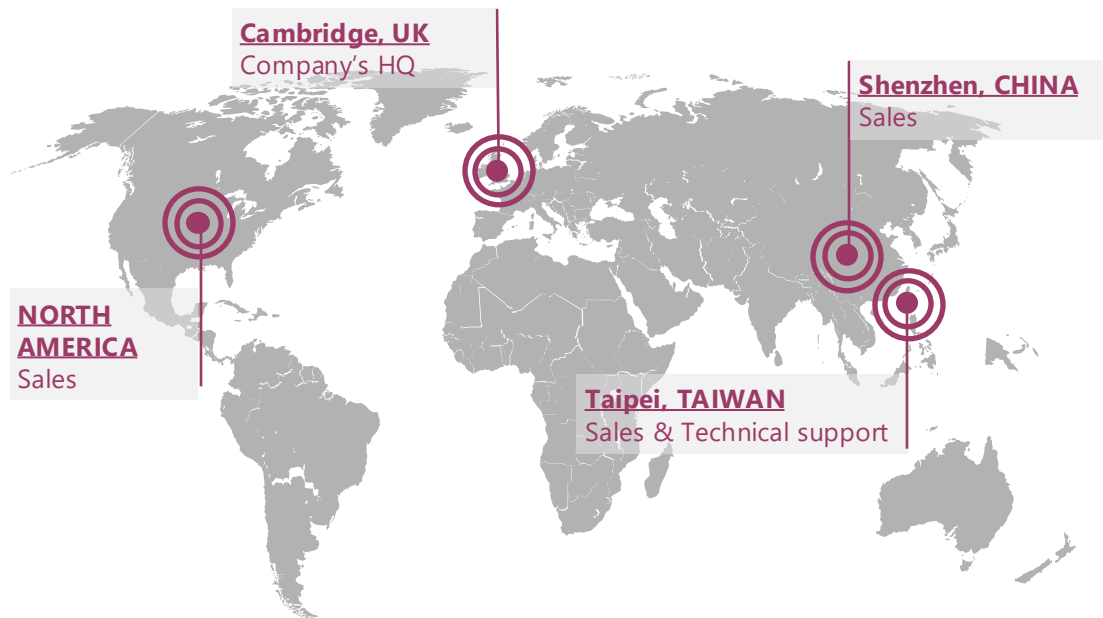
130+

Patent applications

Employees

~60

And expanding



**Knowledge**

Academic excellence and industry expertise combined



**Innovation**

Innovative power solutions that help protect the environment



**Sustainability**

Eco-compatible business measures (**ESG**)



**Collaboration**

Cooperation, empowerment, respect, listening to customers, employees and partners

# CGD Vision

Leveraging ICeGaN® for use in automotive applications

## FOCUS

2023 >



### INDUSTRIAL

Volume reduction  
High efficiency



### DATACENTRE and TELECOM

Achieving high power  
density and efficiency for  
Next Gen AI Data Centers

## FOCUS

2025 >



### AUTOMOTIVE

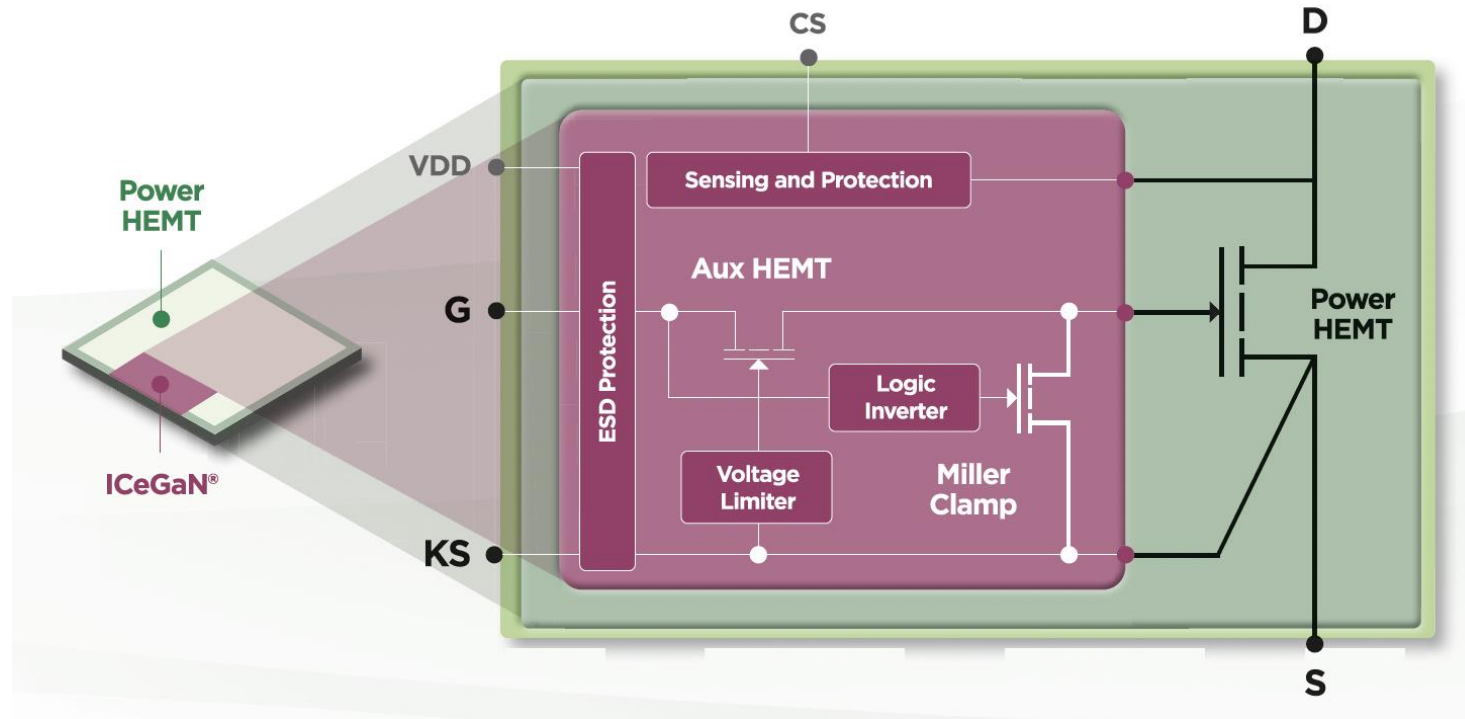
Component downsizing  
Reduced form factor OBCs  
and DCDC converters



Reduced system losses  
Lightweight and compact  
motors

# ICeGaN®: Easy-to-Use GaN power transistors

Combined System Performance with Ease of Use



- ✓ Monolithically integrated features
- ✓ Aux HEMT for increased  $V_{th} \sim 3V$
- ✓ Miller clamp for unipolar operation & safe turn off
- ✓ Current sense and protection for increased functionality
- ✓ Better noise immunity & reliability

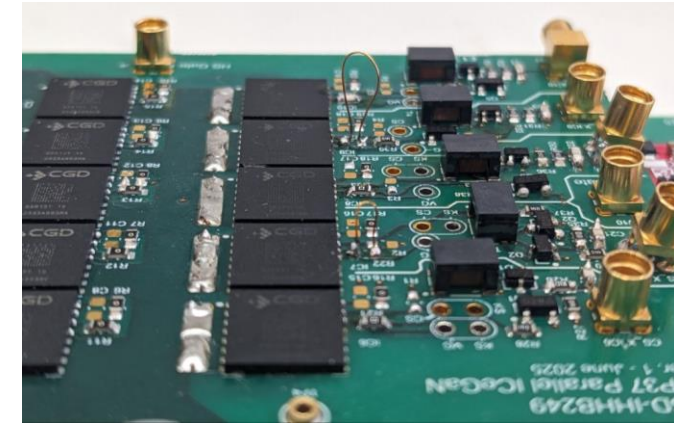
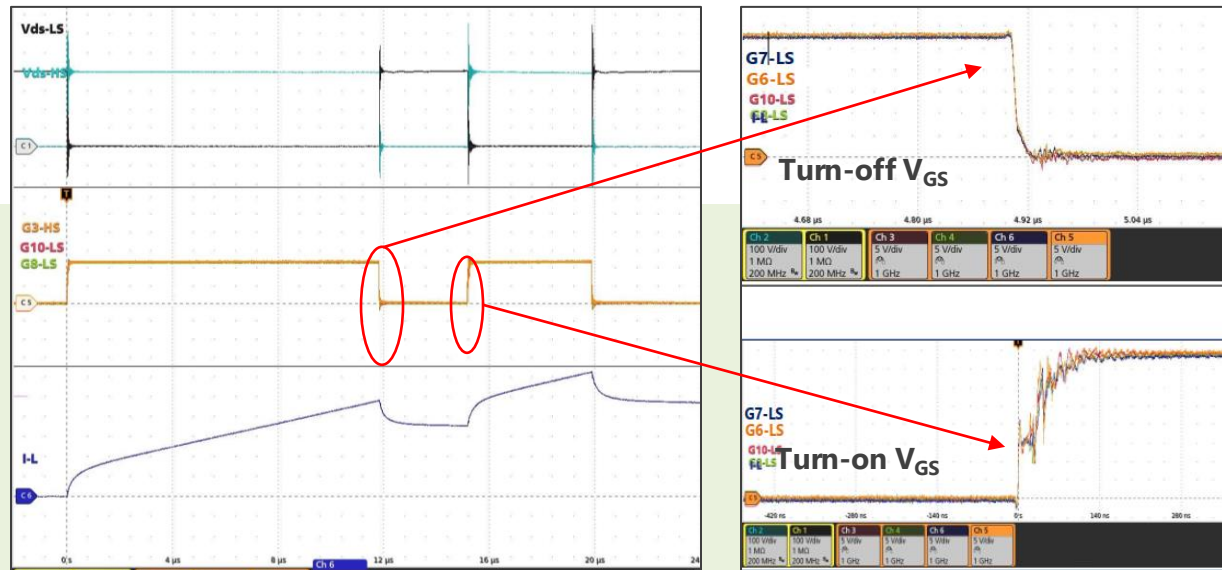


# Scaling ICeGaN<sup>®</sup> for High Power

ICeGaN Offers Ease-of-Paralleling with Standard MOSFET and IGBT Gate Drivers

## ICeGaN Half-Bridge Paralleling Test – x5 / 55 mΩ

Double pulse test (650 V / 65 A)



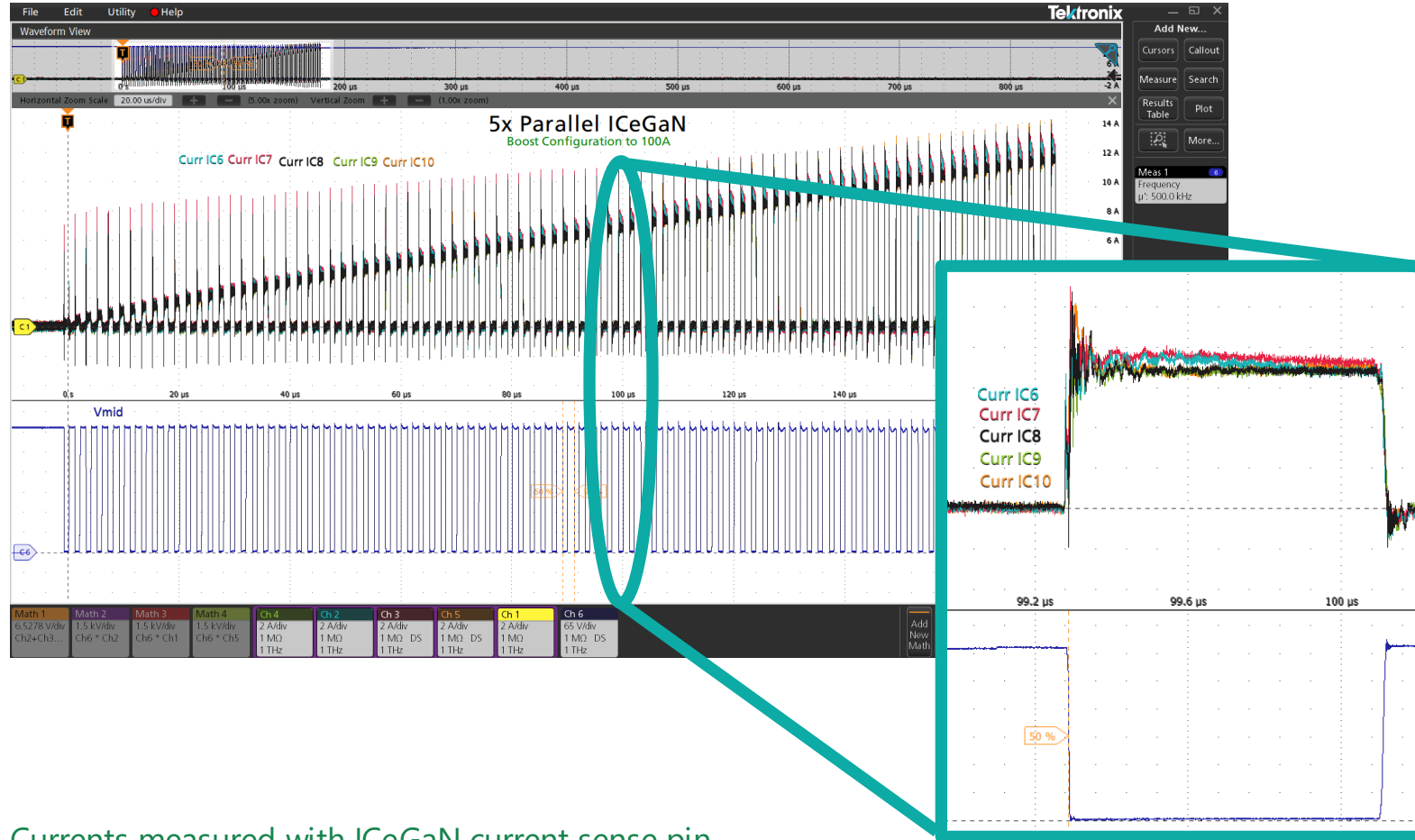
Tests show 5 pcs of ICeGaN in parallel with **Clean and Stable Switching** waveform at 400 V/65 A hard-switching without parasitic oscillation.



ICeGaN simplifies GaN adoption in high-power industrial and automotive applications

# ICeGaN® for high power & frequency

5x parallel ICeGaN devices behave like a single switch.



Currents measured with ICeGaN current sense pin.

## Testing Parameters:

- ▶ 400 V input
- ▶ 500 kHz switching frequency (90 pulses)
- ▶ Peak current 100 A

ICeGaN features combine to create an **effective single switch** that has 5x the rated current of an individual device.

**No de-rating** is needed for x5 ICeGaN in parallel.

# ICeGaN® Benefits versus state of the art SiC

## Switching losses comparison of ICeGaN versus SiC

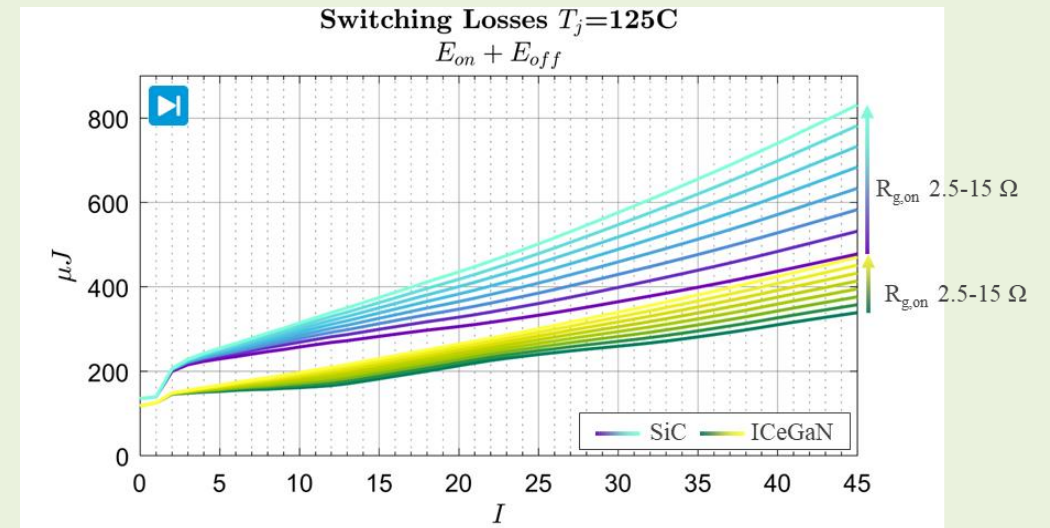
ICeGaN® enables a 30 – 60 % reduction in switching losses\*:

- Enabling higher switching frequency operation
- Higher system efficiencies

\*compared to a state of the art SiC Discrete MOSFET for the same voltage and  $R_{DSon}$  class.

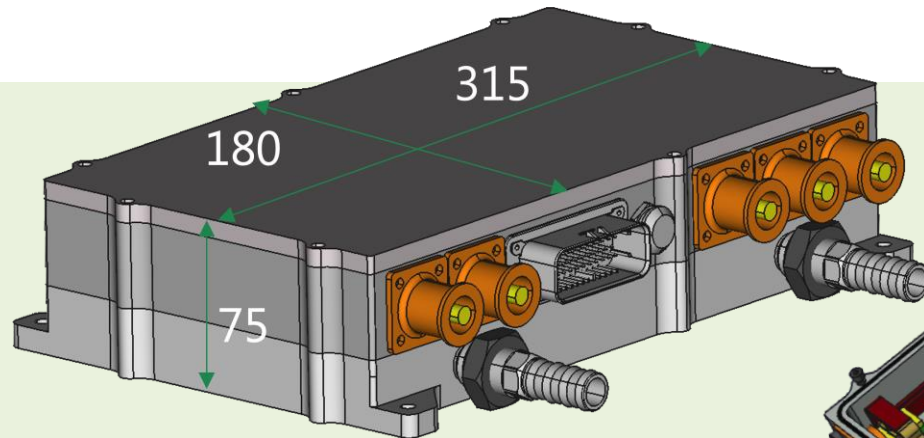
### Benefits of Higher Switching Frequency:

- Low Current ripple --> Reduction in Copper Losses
- Low Flux ripple --> Lower Iron Losses
- Low Charge Ripple --> Reduction in DC Link Capacitor

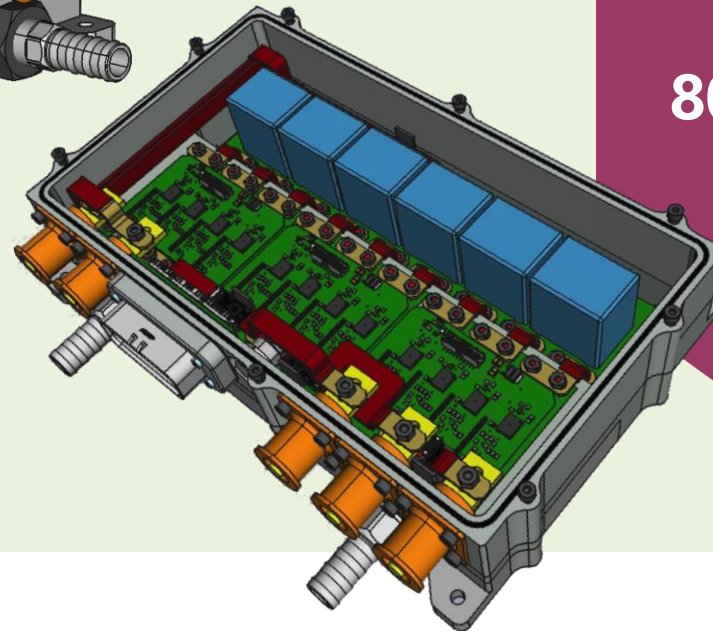


# ICeGaN® in Automotive Traction Inverter

## Demo Board: Mechanical Integration



ICeGaN-based traction inverter including  
PCB boards, connectors, cooling system



Volume :  
**< 4,2 L**

High power density :  
**25 -30 kW/L**

$V_{IN}$  :  
**800 V<sub>DC</sub>**

Peak Current:  
**180 A<sub>pk</sub>**  
125 A<sub>rms</sub> (10 s)

$P_{OUT}$  :  
**100 kW (peak),**  
**75 kW**  
(continuous)



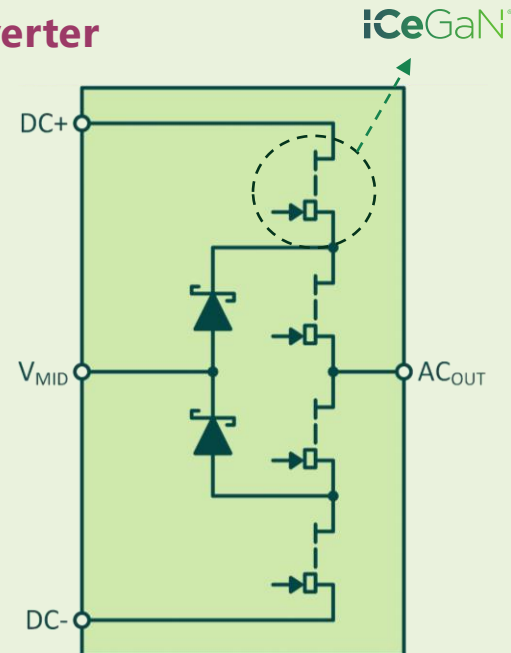
# ICeGaN® in 3-level NPC Inverter

## Advantages of 3-level NPC Inverter in Electric Vehicles

### 3-level NPC Inverter

- Allows for the use of 650 V power devices with 800 V DC bus
- Reduced switching loss due to lower switching voltage than 2-level inverter
- Improved efficiency through utilisation of GaN devices

### Single phase of 3-level NPC inverter



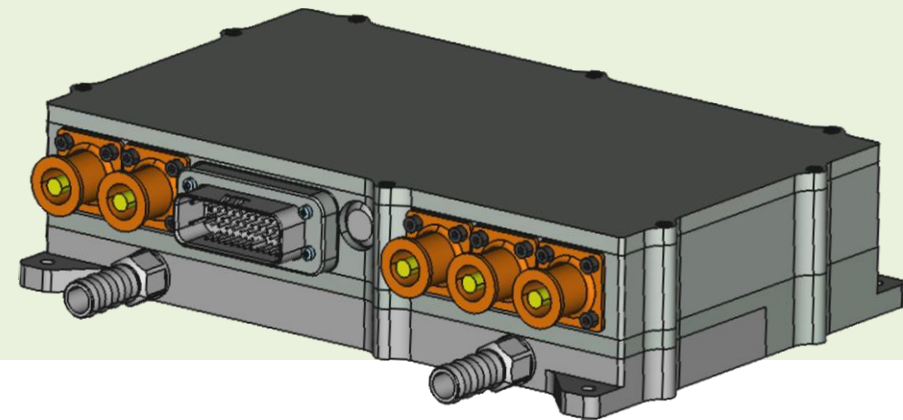
### Advantages for Electric Vehicles

Increase in WLTP range\* & consequent reduction in charging cycles of batteries

OR

Reduction in battery volume and consequent cost for the same WLTP range.

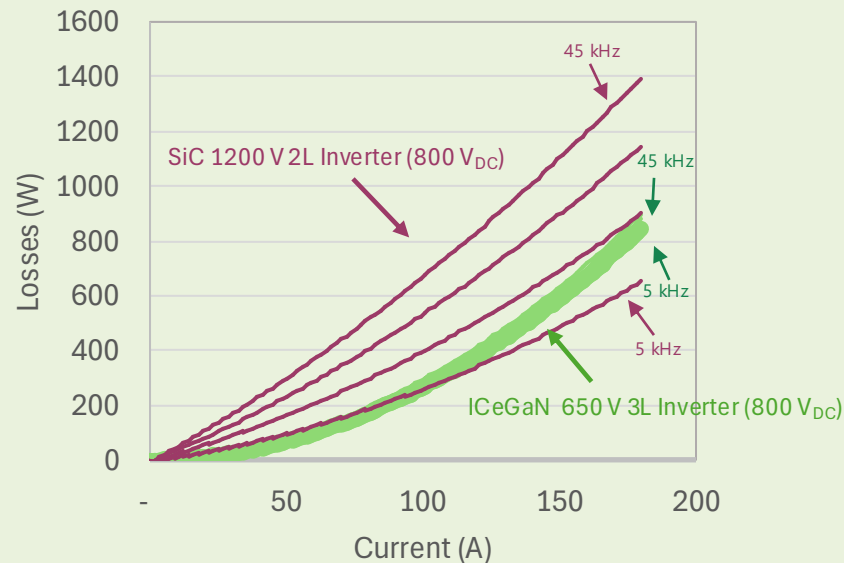
\*WLTP range: maximum distance an EV will travel on a single charge, based on a standardised test.



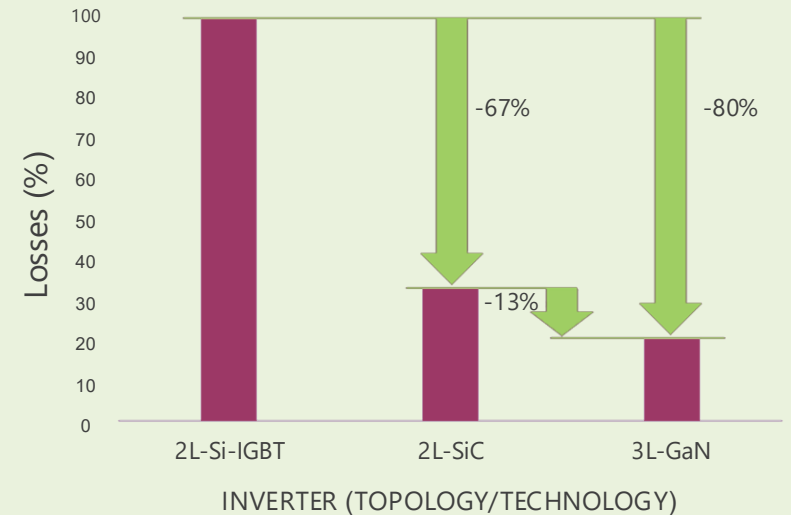
# ICeGaN® Benefits in Automotive Traction Inverter

## GaN-based 3L-inverter vs IGBT-based & SiC-based 2L-inverters

Switching frequency impact\*



Power loss comparison



Test conditions:  $f_{SW} = 40$  kHz for a 90 kW traction inverter

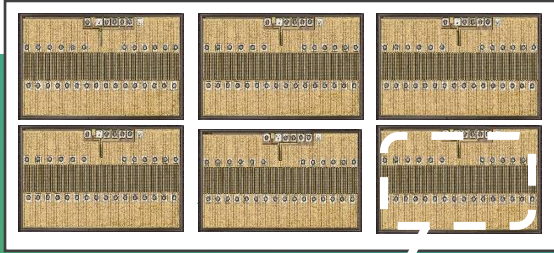
GaN has excellent switching properties, hence the system with GaN is less dependent on switching frequencies than with SiC counterparts

Increasing the switching frequency can lead to a reduction of the motor iron losses, smaller filters and smaller DC caps

# Simple use of ICeGaN® for power modules

## Ease of integration and parallel implementation

*ICeGaN 3 phase module composition with monolithic die*

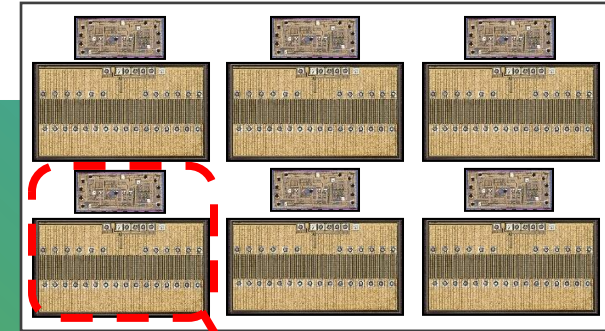


### Single ICeGaN die [1 placement]



- One die placement with all the benefits of the ICeGaN interface
- Monolithic solution for simpler module construction and parallel use
- Simplified BOM for gate driver development
- Optimized power density and use of cavity area

*Discrete 3 phase module composition with GaN die and separate interface IC*



### Discrete GaN die and Si IC [2 placements]



- Alternative solutions require an additional interface IC or multiple external components
- Additional cost in components and placement
- More complex layout and challenging gate loop parasitics
- More challenging to use die in parallel

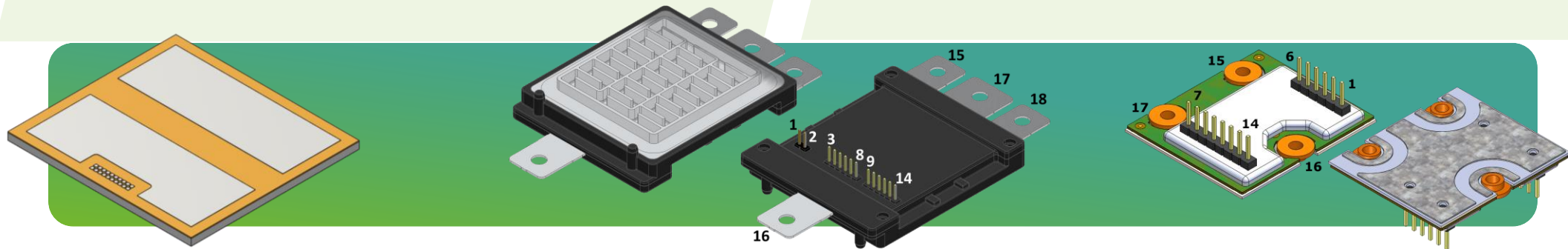
# CGD Product Development

Building products to address automotive traction inverters

## *Evaluation modules for R&D*

- Lower  $R_{ds(on)}$  to address high power class application in automotive and industrial verticals
- Metallisation process to facilitate the use in power modules, i.e. top metal dimensions compatible with Cu clips or Al ribbon bond
- KGD die availability

- Modules aid customer / partner development of ICeGaN<sup>®</sup> in automotive and industrial verticals
- Build proof of concept for multi-level and hybrid approach to high power inverters.
- To better understand the entire application and system use case



# *Dare to innovate differently*

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