

# НИТАСНИ

Virgiliu Botan

Design and Reliability  
Considerations for 3.3kV SiC  
Modules for Traction

Date  
2025-11-29

Public

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# Design and Reliability Considerations for 3.3kV SiC Modules for Traction

Subtitle  
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# HE Semiconductors enabling sustainability from generation, transmission... **HITACHI**





... to consumption

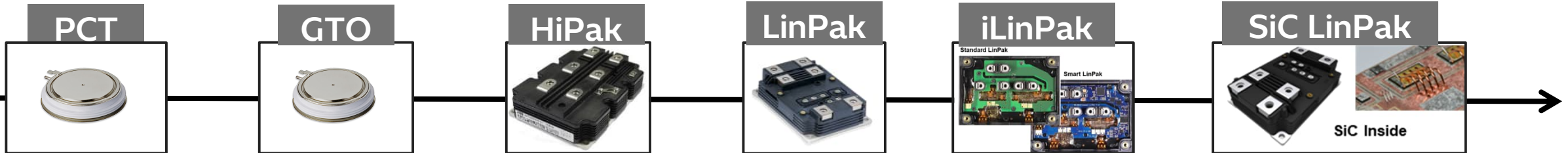
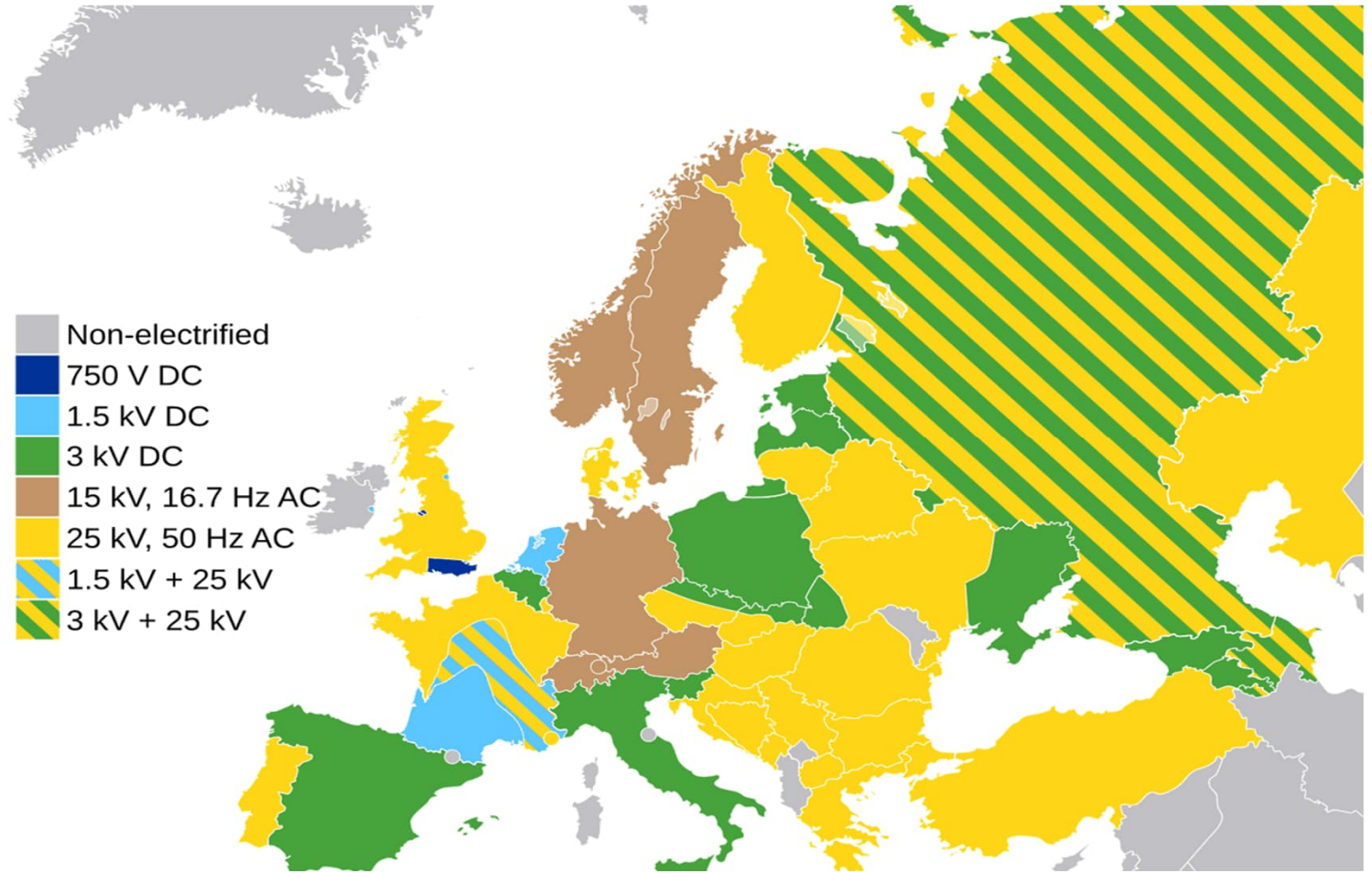
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# Rail Network in Europe, A wild mix of Challenges

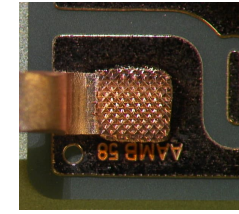
- Variety of voltages (AC & DC)
- Most difficult power cycling requirements
- Environmental robustness
- 30 Year lifetime required



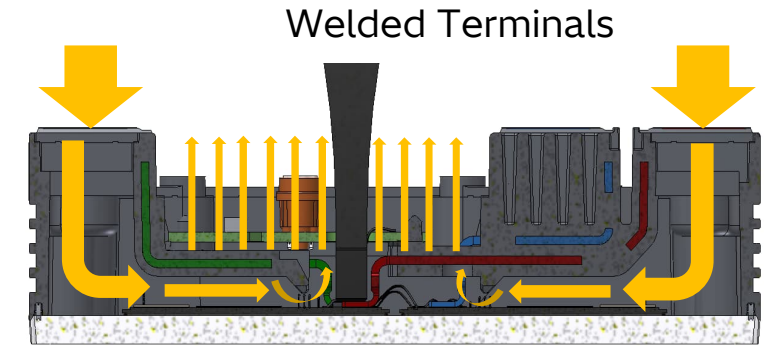
# LinPak, next standard in Traction

## LinPak advantages:

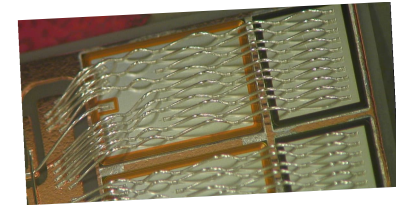
- Compact phase leg design
  - Module optimized for compact converter design
    - Ideal for paralleling, no derating
      - Used with both Si and SiC
        - Same footprint over broad voltage range (1200V to 6500V)
          - **Unmatched reliability: welded terminals, sinter chips, optimized bonding...**



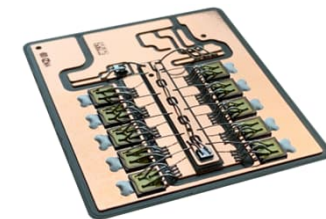
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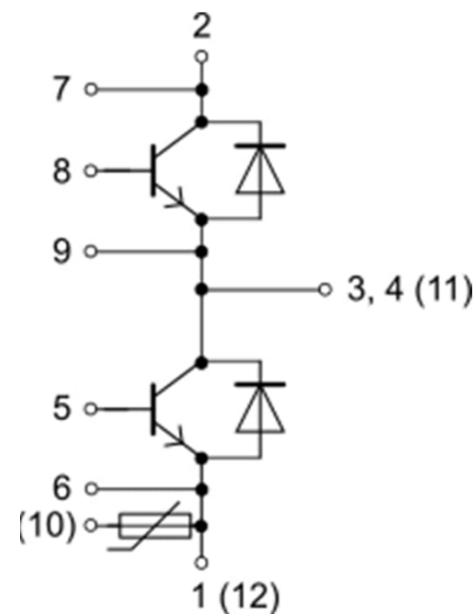
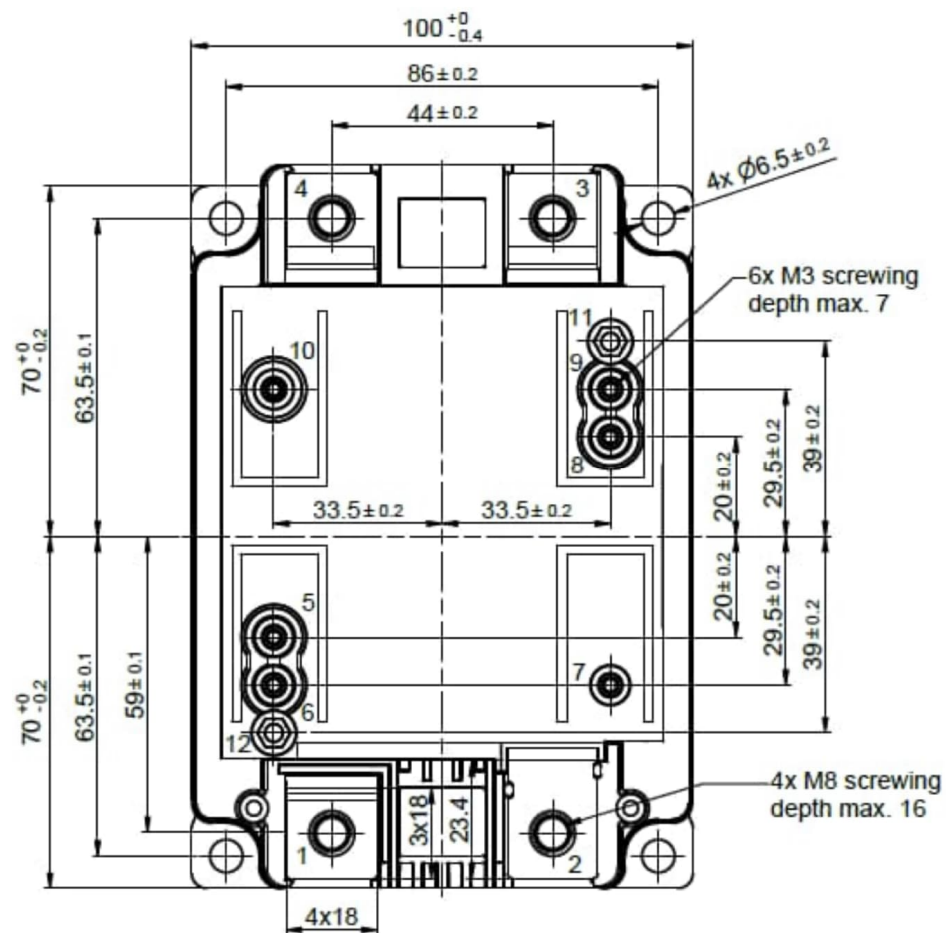
Air Blade against particles



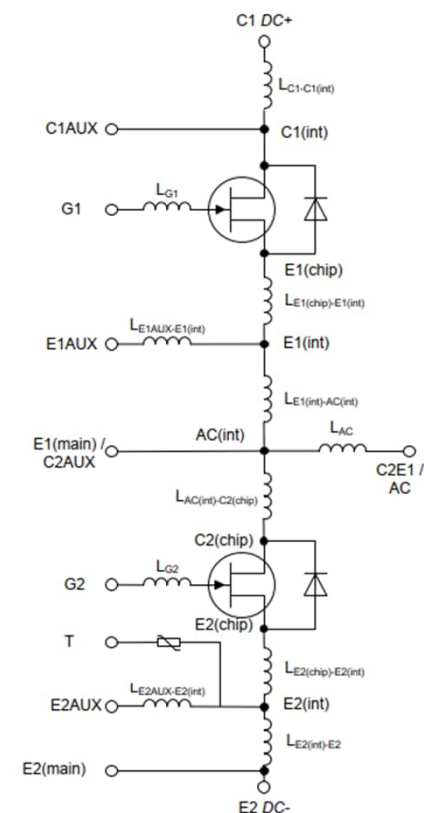
Sintered chips, optimized bond layout



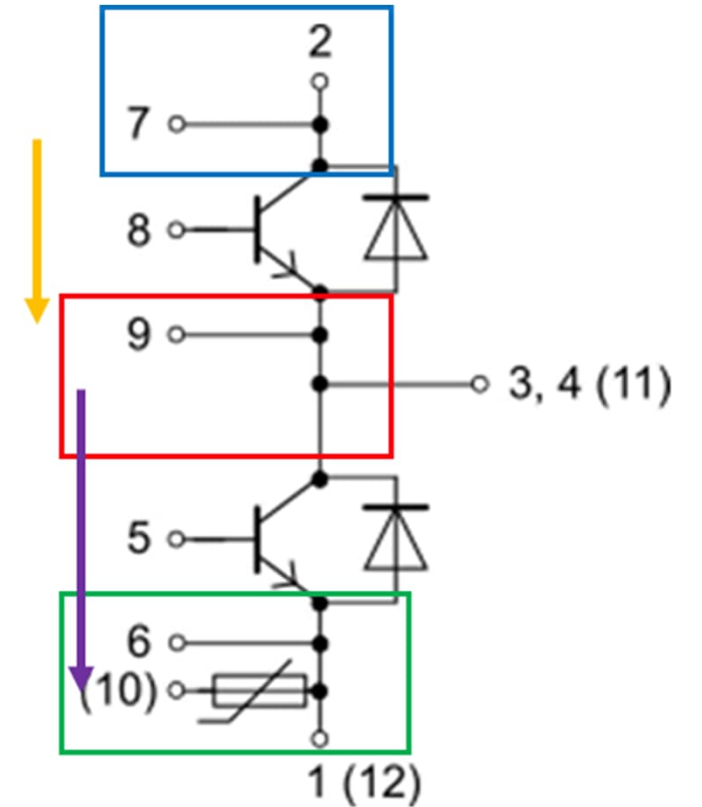
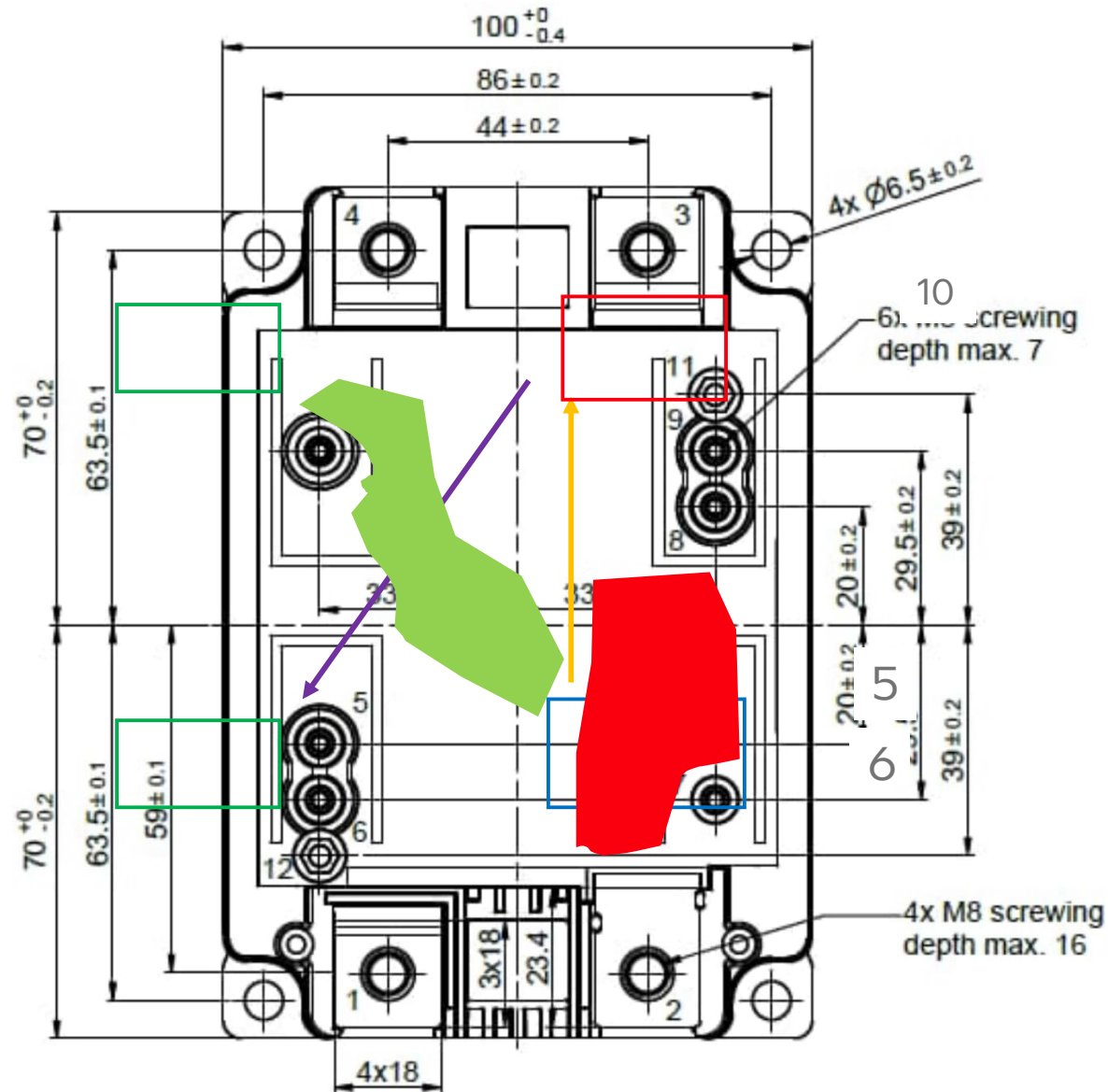
Uses Si and SiC



# Roll2Rail Specification



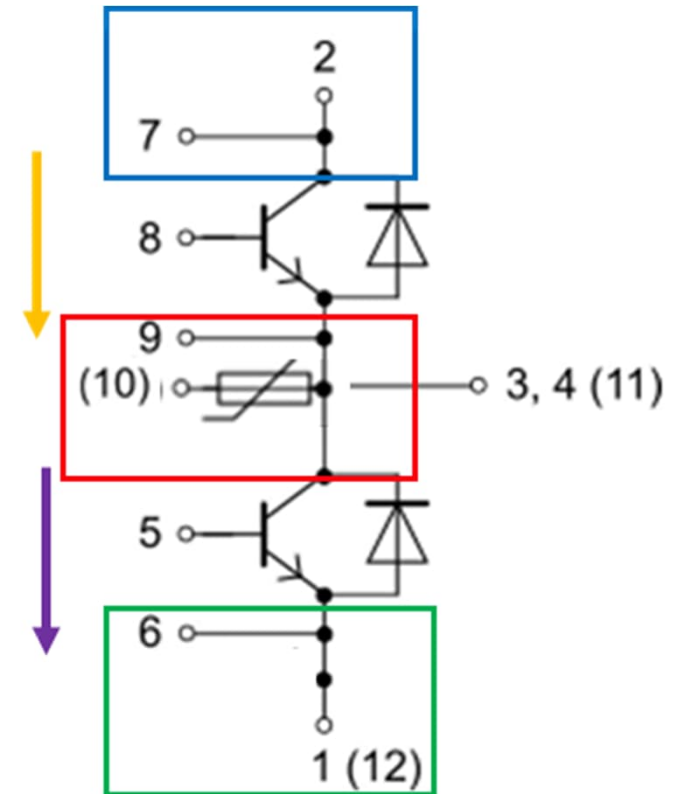
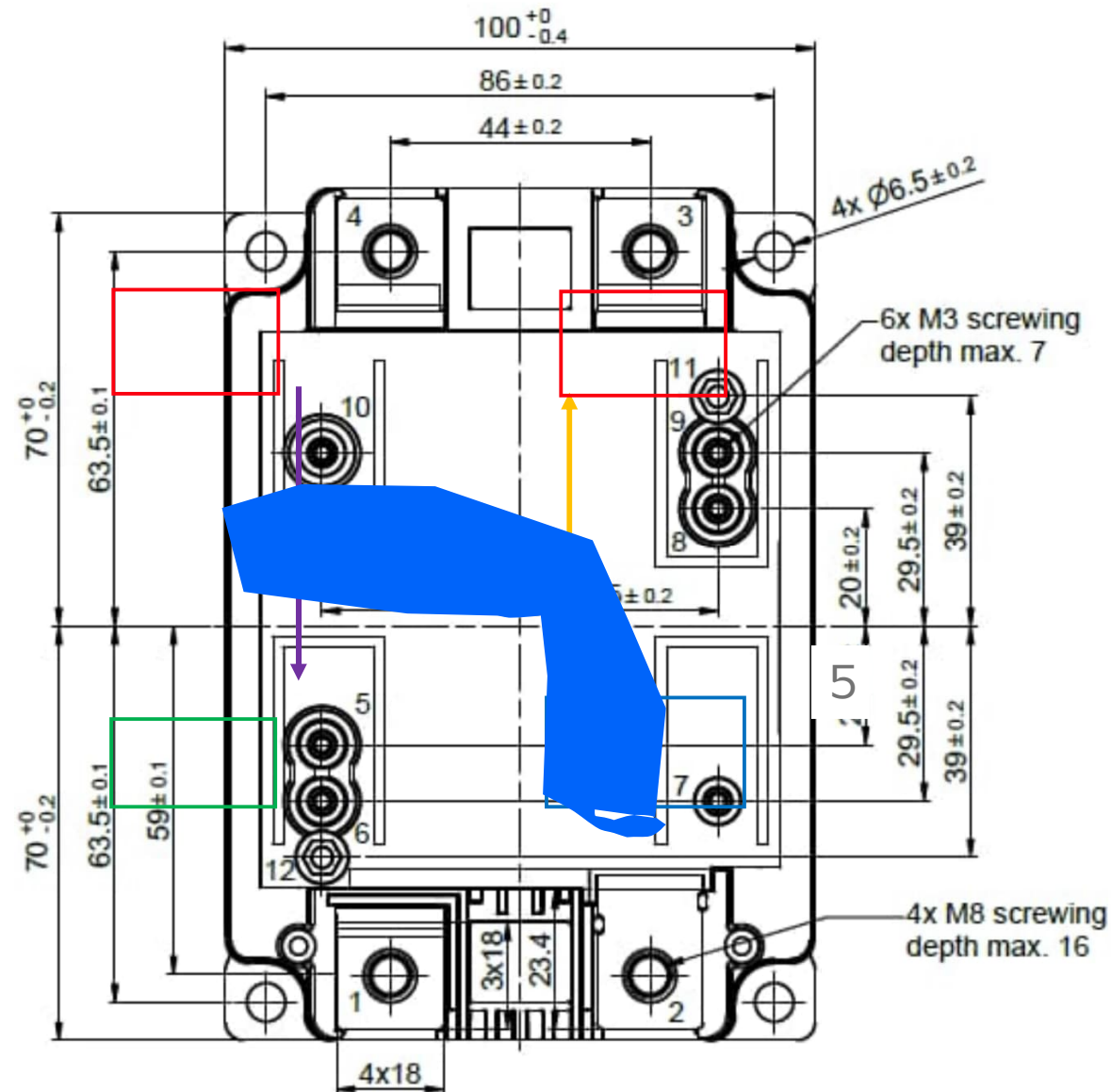
# NTC at DC- potential



7 -> 9:  $V_{ce,sat}$ -measurement high side  
 9 -> 6:  $V_{ce,sat}$ -measurement low side

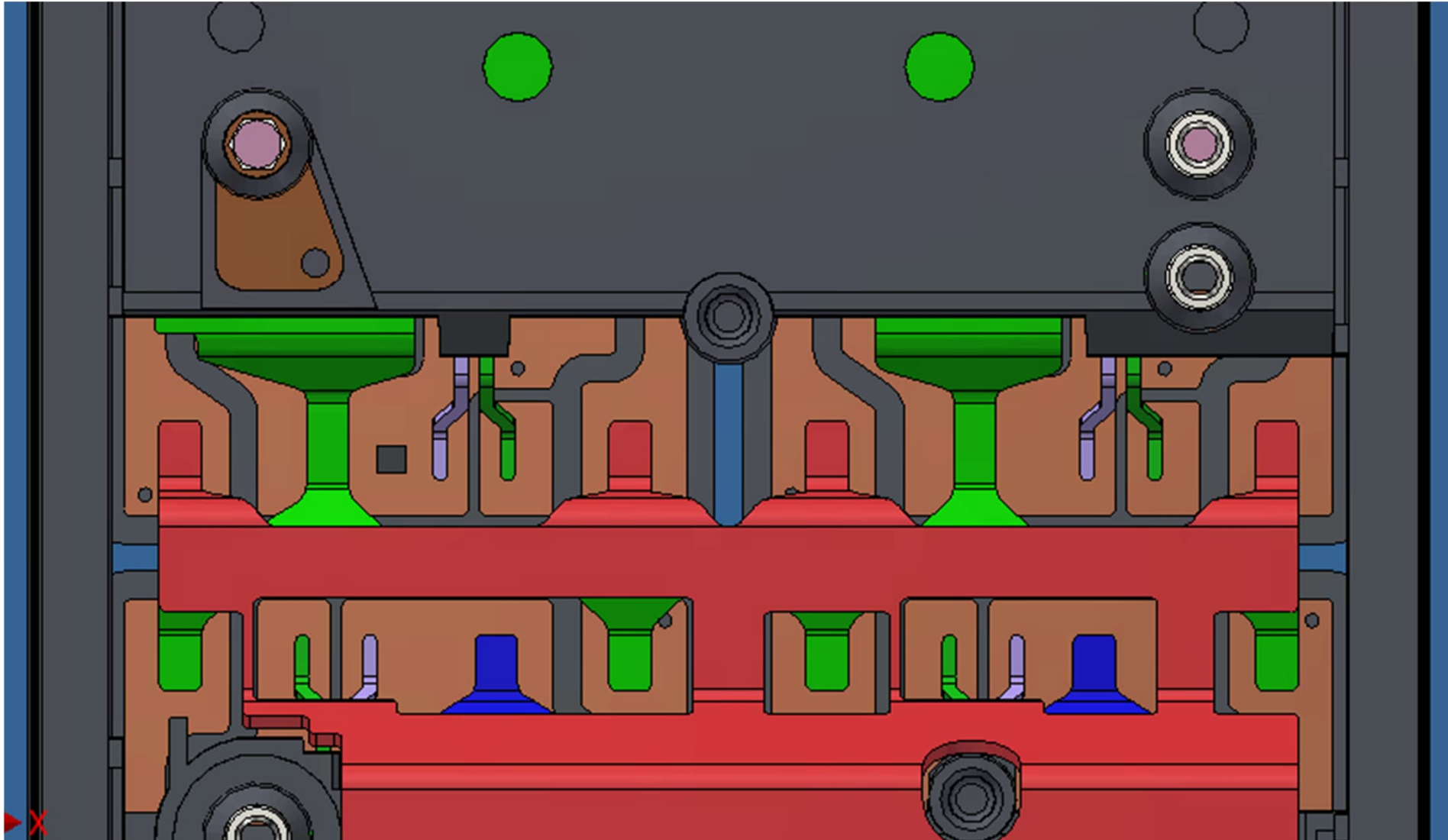


# NTC at the AC potential



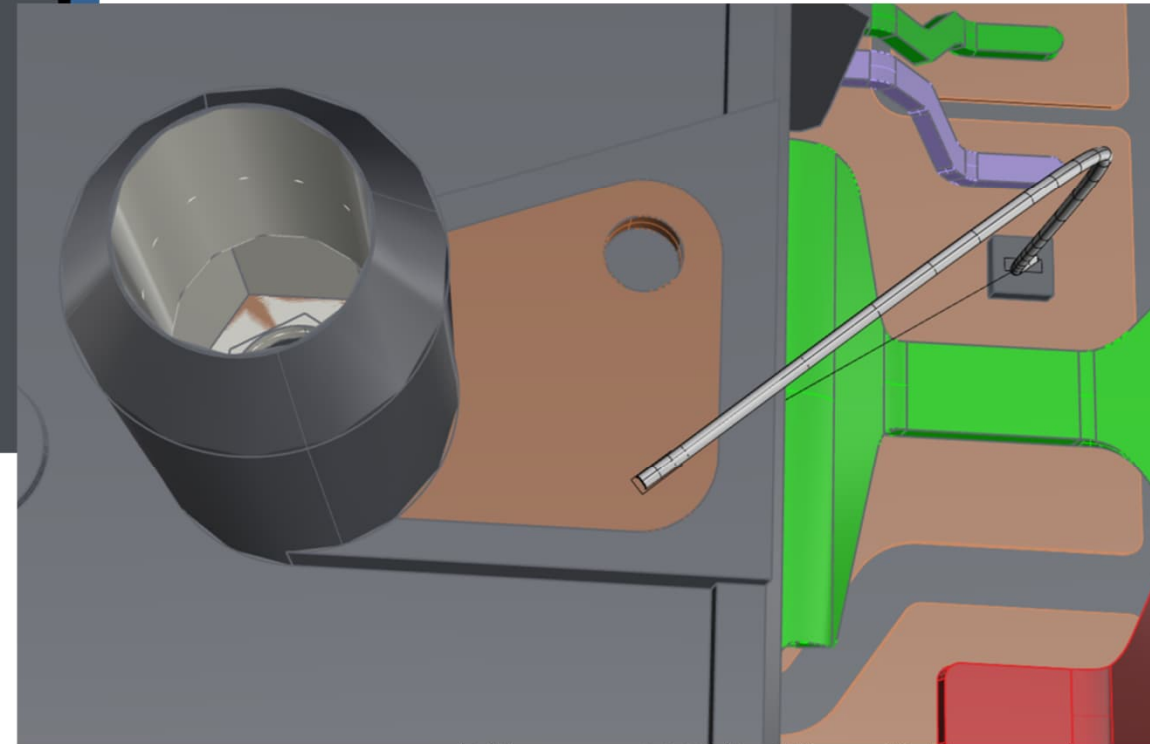
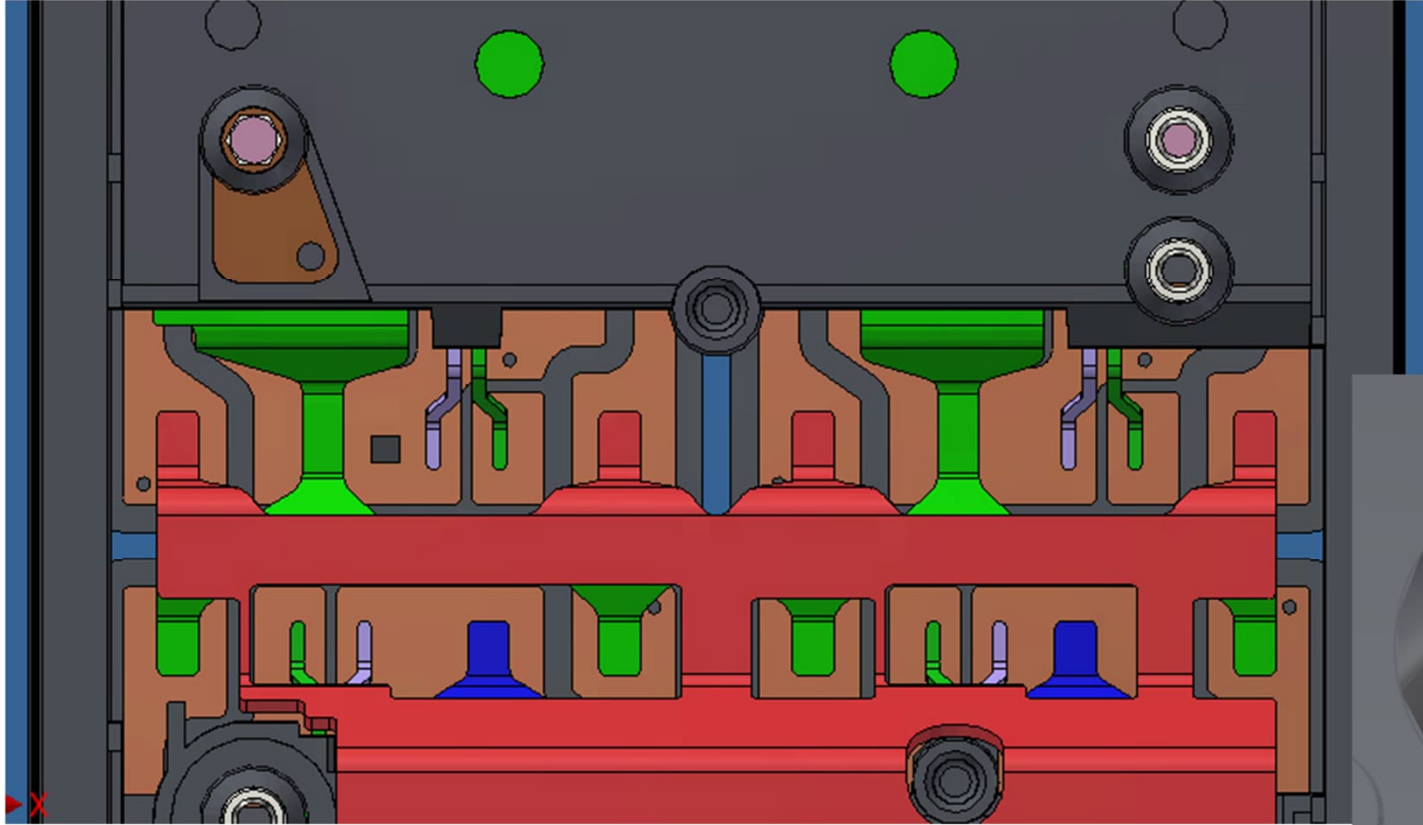
7 -> 9:  $V_{ce,sat}$ -measurement high side  
 10 -> 6:  $V_{ce,sat}$ -measurement low side

## Change of NTC on the AC Terminal





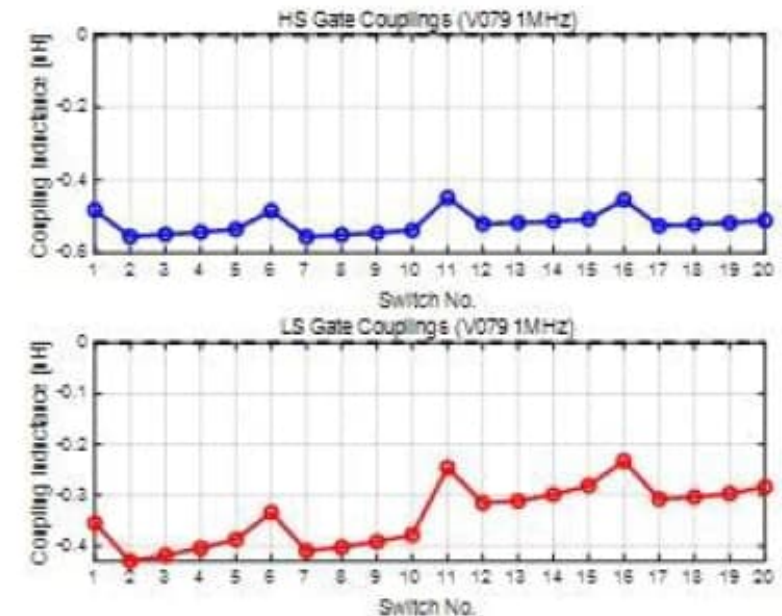
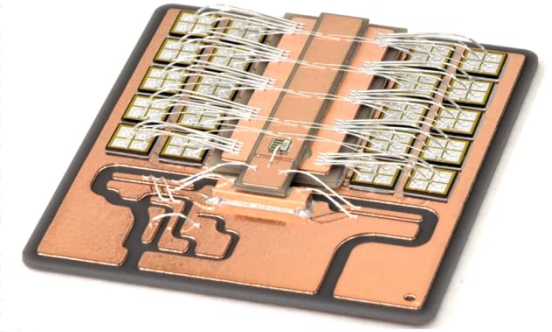
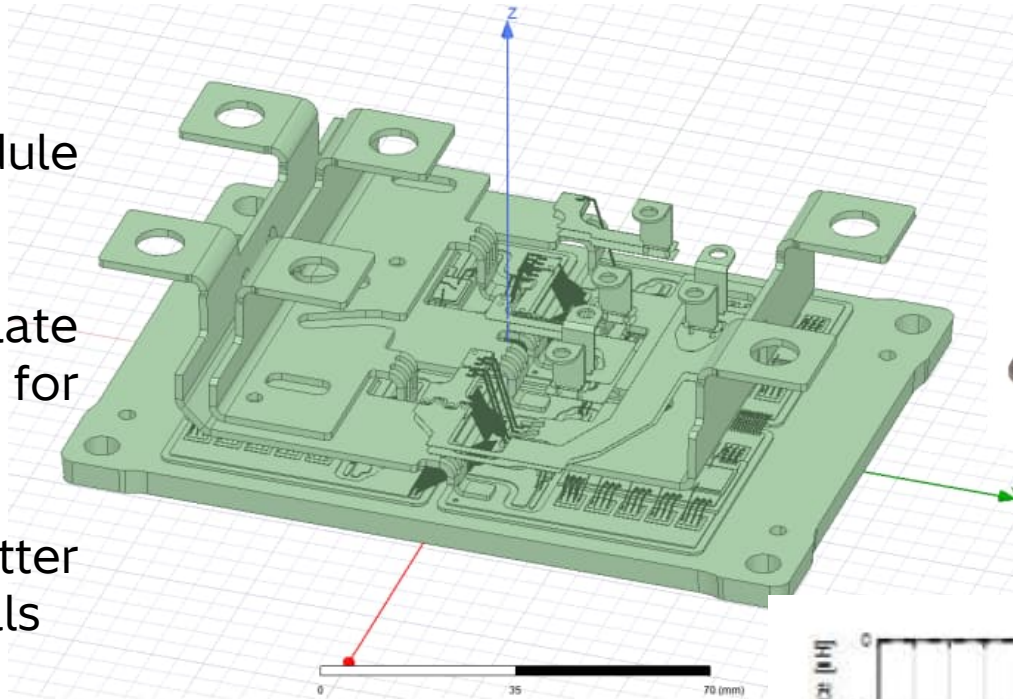
## Change of NTC on the AC Terminal



## Module Design – SiC LinPak

Having so many chips inside the module (up to 80pcs) is very challenging.

1. build up SPICE model to simulate the swithing behaviour for optimization
2. special substrate design for better distribution of Gate and Source signals
3. Optimization of electromagnetic coupligs for faster switching and optimized paralleling





# Comparison of Switching Behavior Si IGBT vs. SiC MOSFET HV LinPak



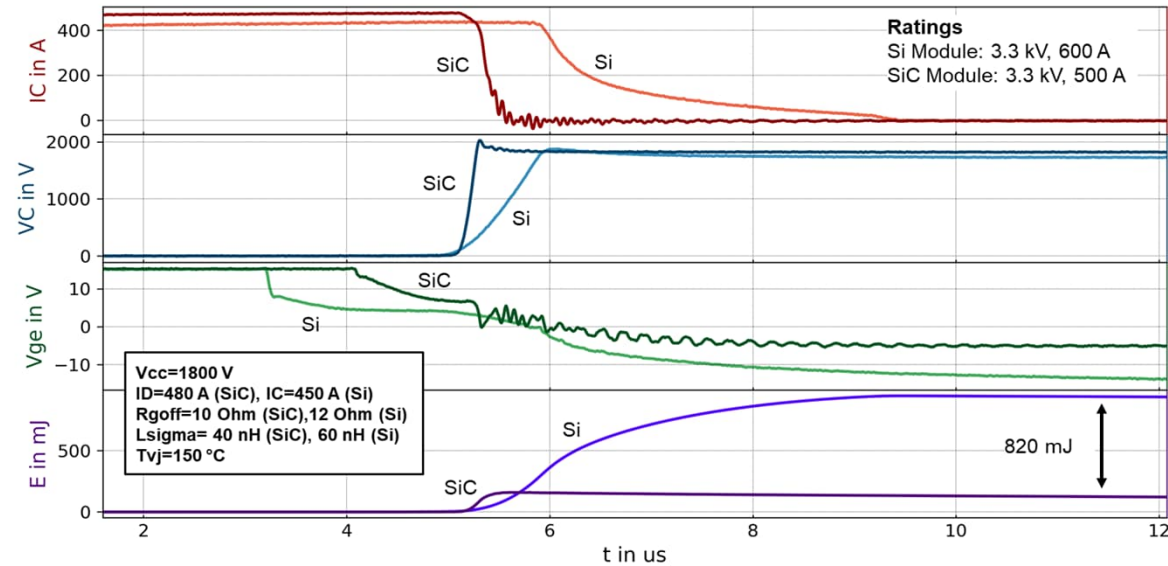
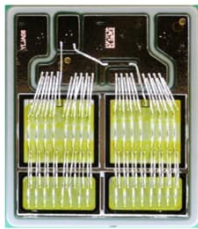
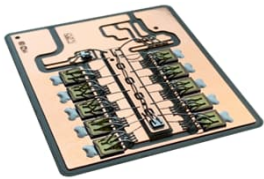
Si IGBT Hv LinPak 3.3kV 600A

SiC MOSFET HV LinPak 3.3kV 480A

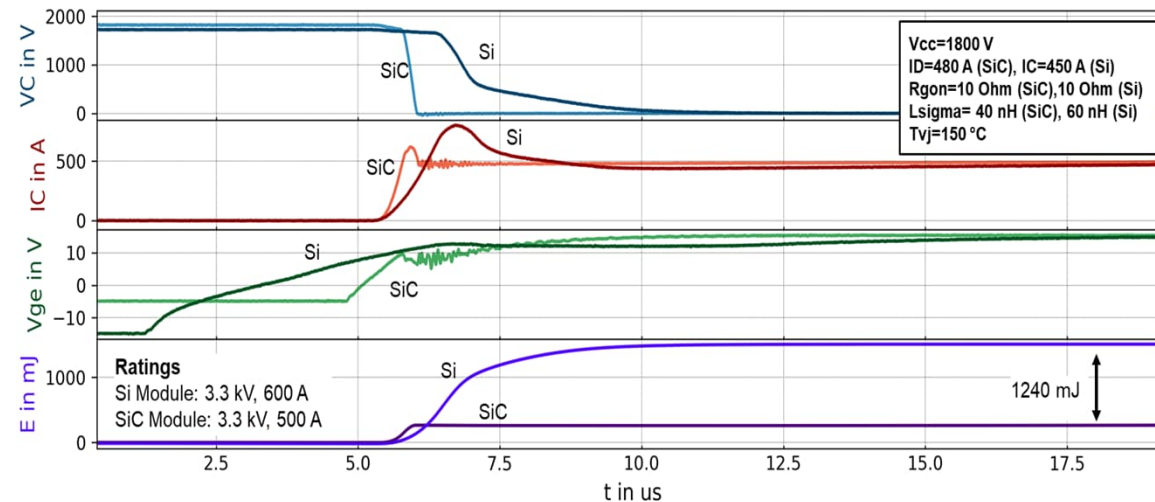
$V_{CC}=1800V$ ,  $I_D=480A$ ,  $I_C=450A$ ,  $T_j=150^{\circ}C$

$E_{offIGBT}-E_{offMOSFET}=820mJ$

$E_{onIGBT}-E_{onMOSFET}=1200mJ$



Turn-off



Turn-on

# Comparison of Switching Behavior Si IGBT vs. SiC MOSFET HV LinPak



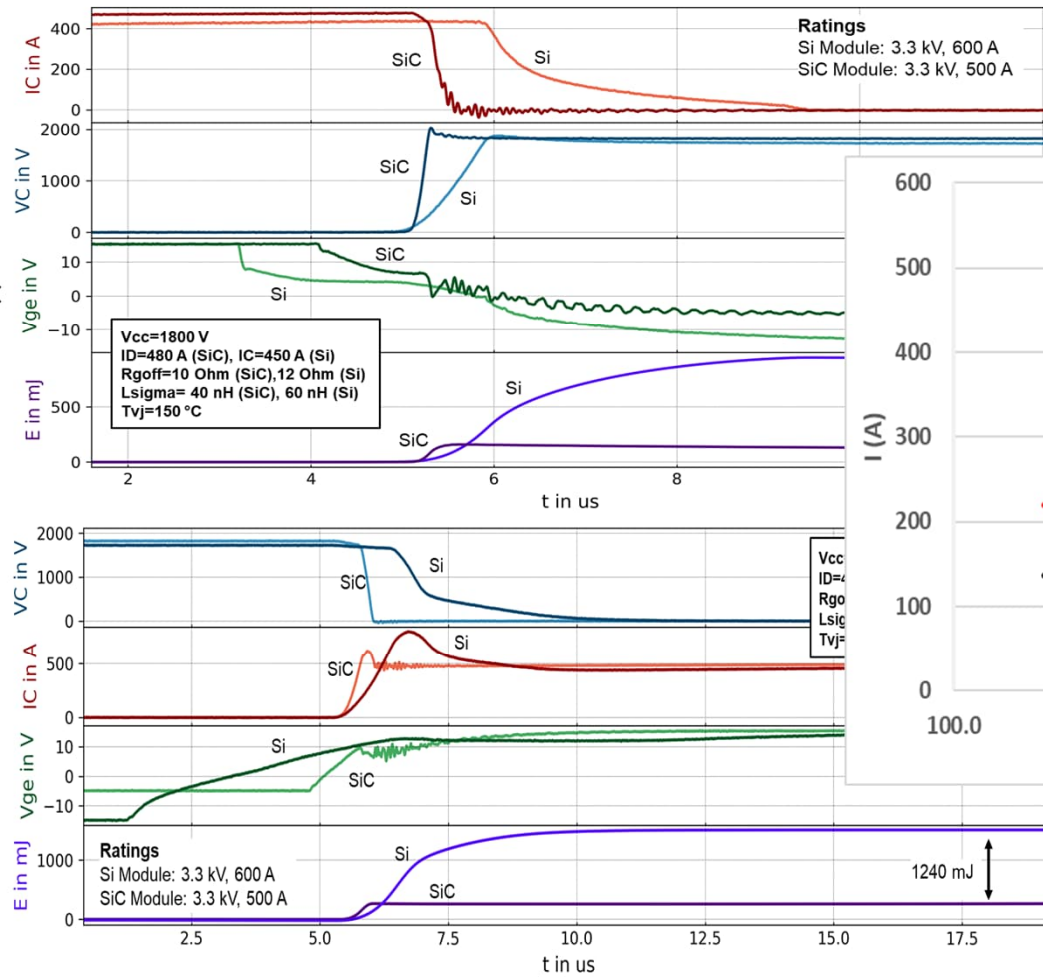
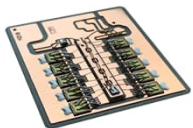
Si IGBT HV LinPak 3.3kV 600A

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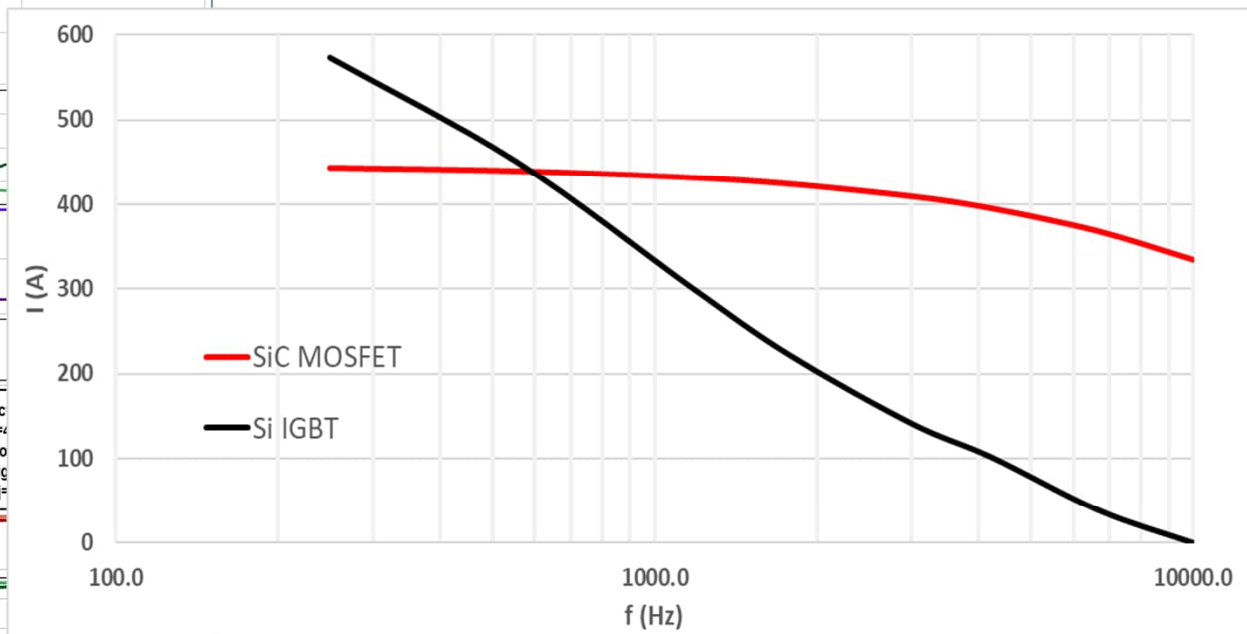
$V_{CC}=1800V$ ,  $I_D=480A$ ,  $I_C=450A$ ,  $T_j=150^\circ C$

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## Current output





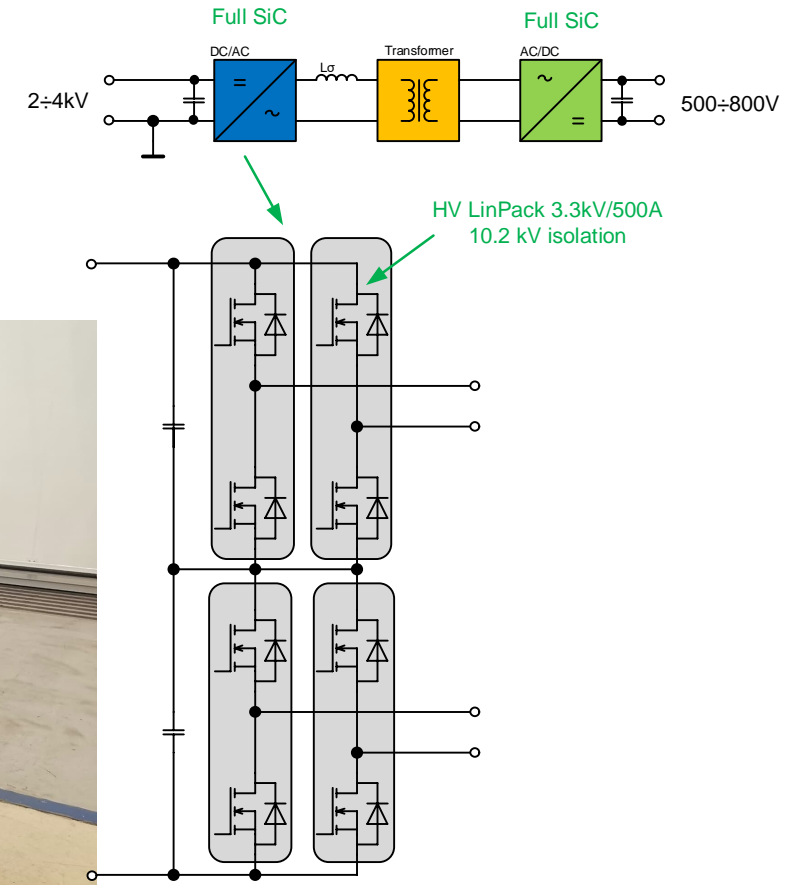
# Going from Si to SiC

## Going for SiC for the galvanically isolated DC-DC converter

The goal is to reduce dimensions and weight with increasing frequency



SiC 5SFG 0480Z330100  
3.3 kV, 2x480 A  
10.2 kV isolation



## HV-H<sub>3</sub>TRB according to ECPE Guideline

- Voltage is not seen as an accelerator, typical catenary voltage is used (i.e. 1950V)
- Test humidity and temperature 85%, 85°C
- Acceptance criteria In-test:  $I_{DSS} < 10 \times I_{DSS\_initial}$
- Acceptance criteria after the test  $V_{SD}$ ,  $R_{DS(on)}$ ,  $V_{GS,th}$  with less than 10% change and  $I_{DSS}$ ,  $I_{GSS}$  less than factor 10 change, and  $V_{ISO}$  minimum within 80% of original



### ECPE Guideline PSRRA 01

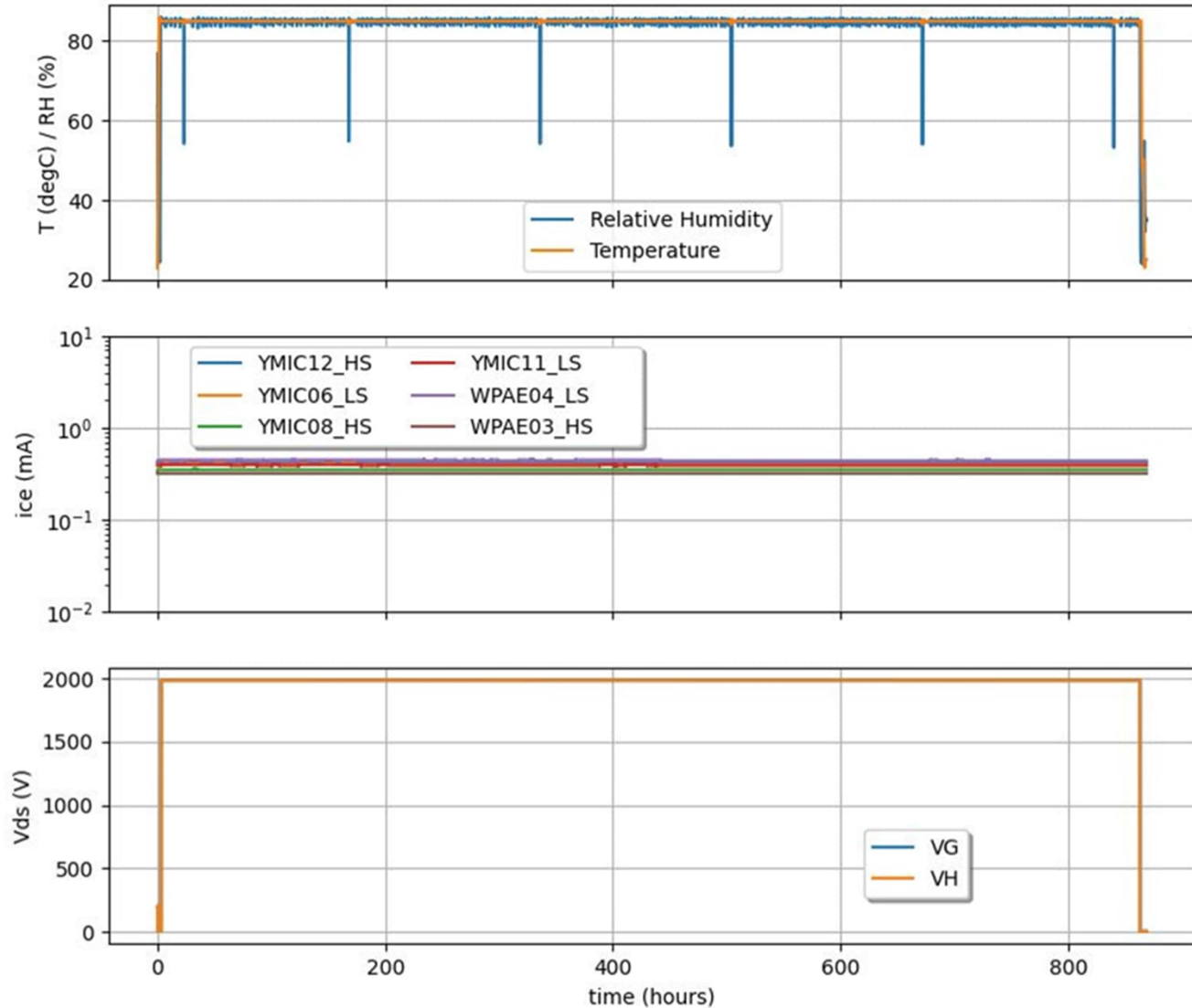
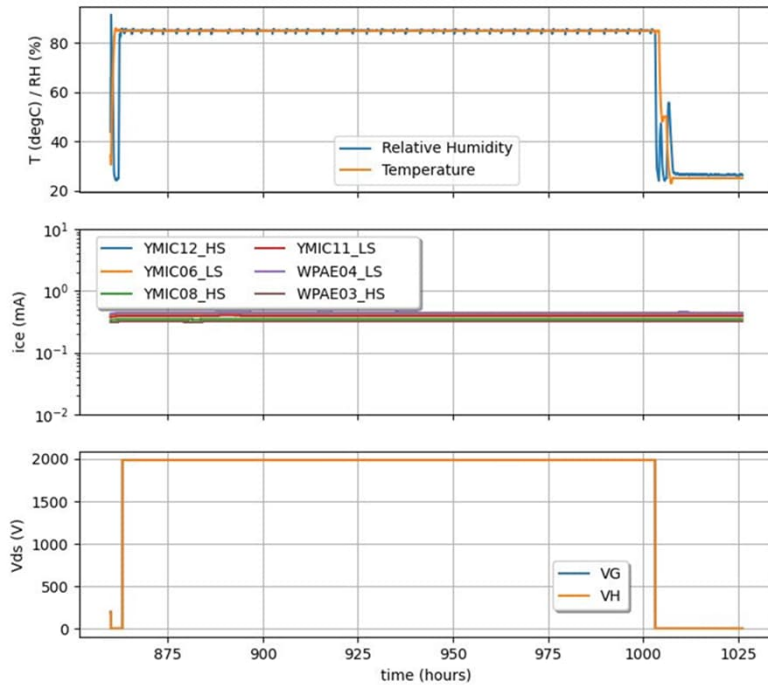
#### Railway Applications

#### HV-H3TRB tests for Power Semiconductor



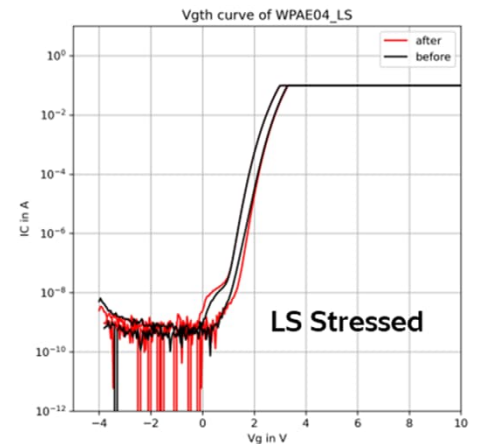
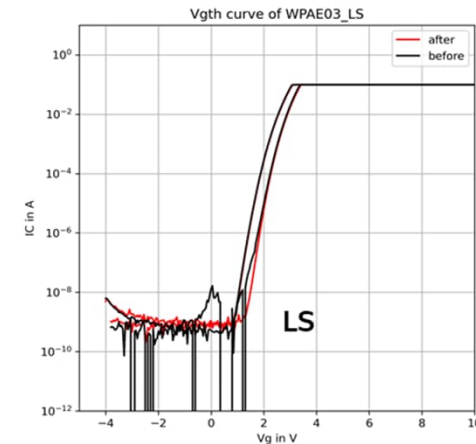
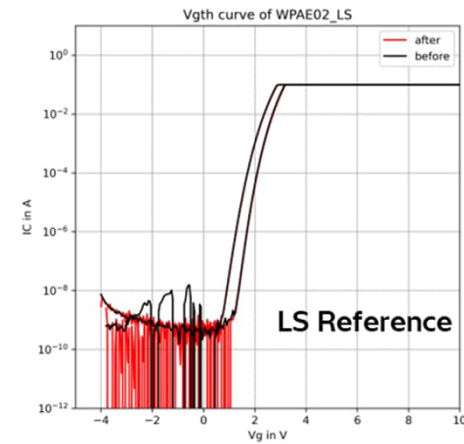
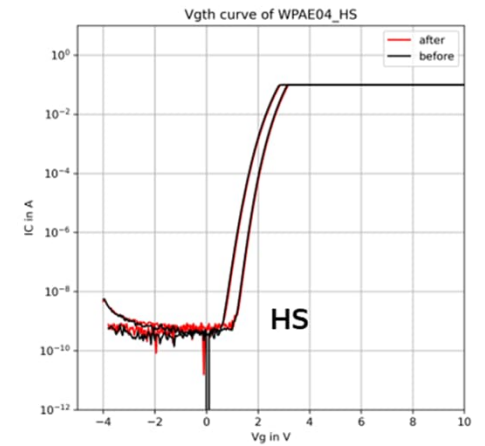
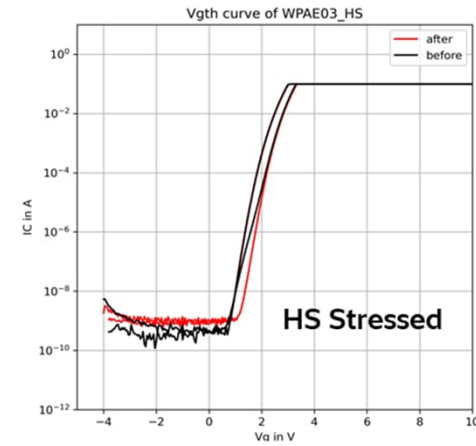
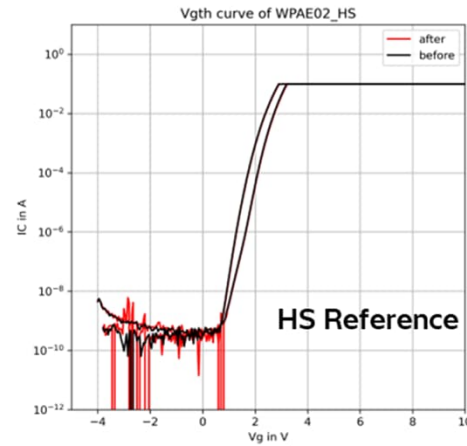
# HV-H<sub>3</sub>TRB according to ECPE Guideline

- In-situ monitoring of Temperature, Humidity, Voltage and Leakage Current



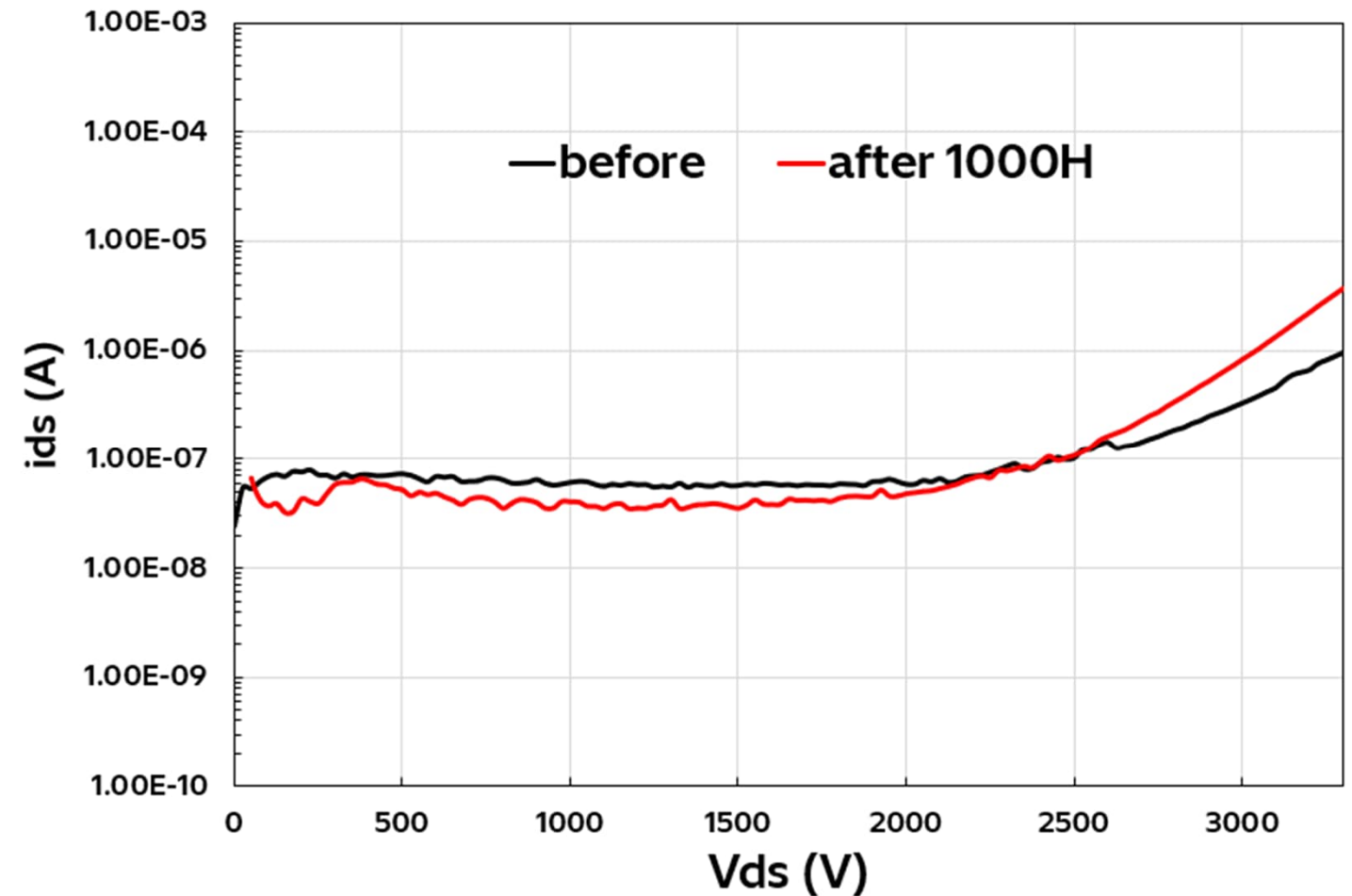
# HV-H<sub>3</sub>TRB according to ECPE Guideline

- Before-After V<sub>th</sub> curves for modules that were tested vs. reference non stressed or not tested



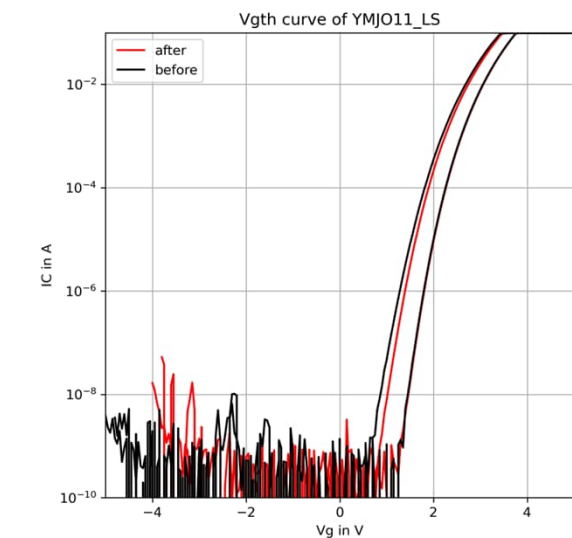
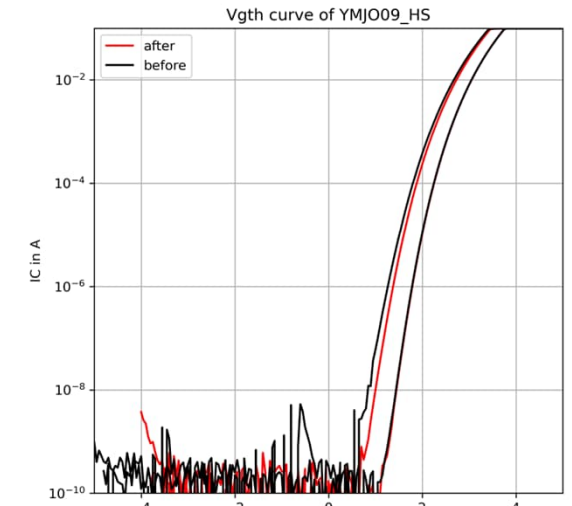
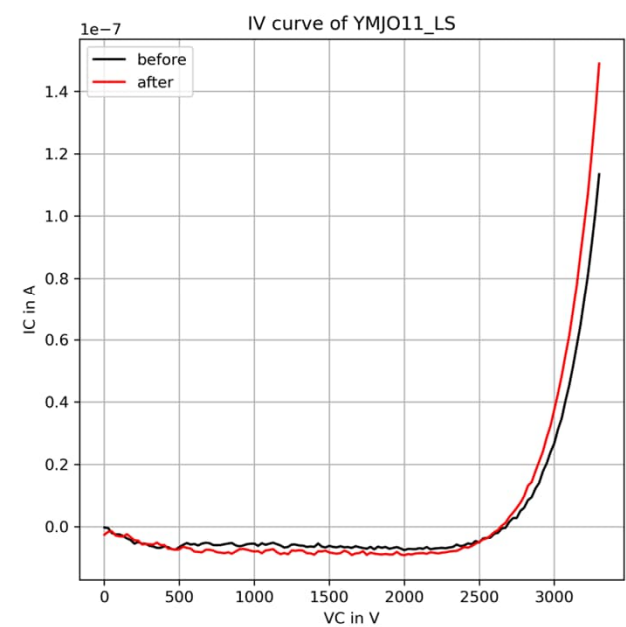
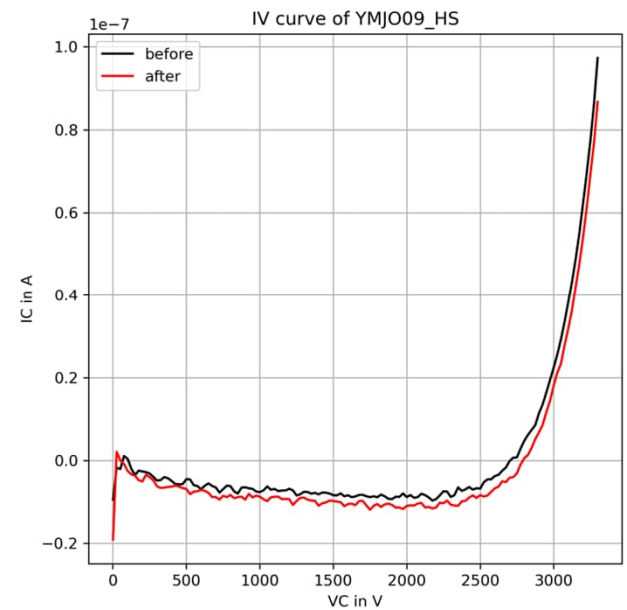
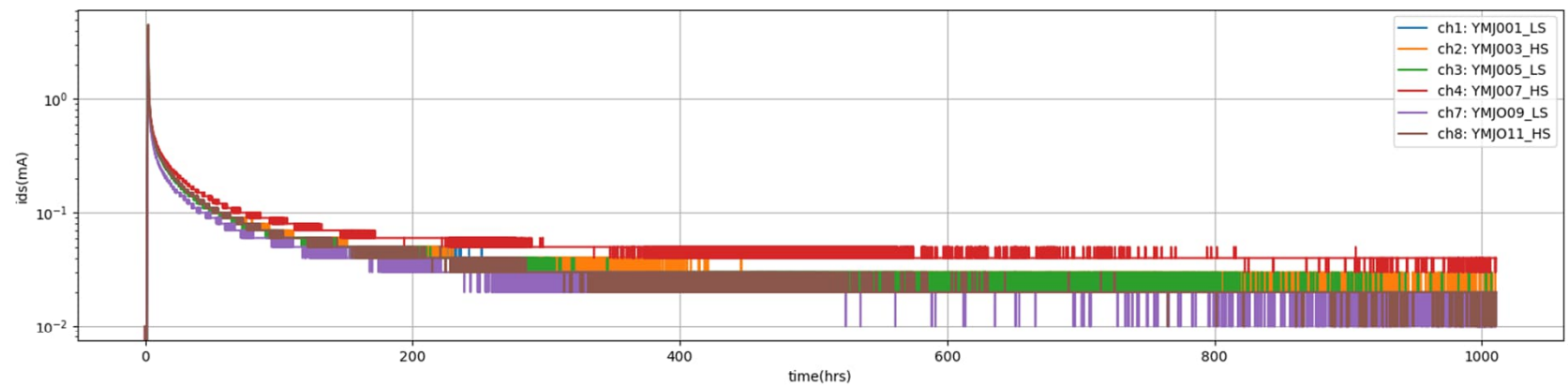
## HV-H<sub>3</sub>TRB according to ECPE Guideline

- Before-After IV curves for a typical module that underwent 1000h HV-H3TRB





# HTRB according to ECPE Guideline



## Conclusion

- Hitachi Energy HV LinPak is a state-of-the-art module that can incorporate both Si IGBT and SiC MOSFET
- SiC switching characteristic allows the customer to increase switching frequency more than factor 20 when comparing to Si
- Design choices for housing, passivation materials and design of the chip termination allow successful pass of HTRB, HV-H3TRB, etc for both Si IGBT and SiC MOSFET



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