

# Vehicle Electrification and Automation

Brij N. Singh, Ph.D., IEEE Fellow and John Deere Technical Fellow



## Outline

About myself (Brij)

John Deere company

Environmental impact of farming operations

Climate smart farming practices

Unlocking economic headroom for farmers

Off-road vehicles' electrification examples

SiC inverter technology development in Deere

Summary

## Brij N. Singh

### **Geographical Path:**

Born (Fatehpur, UP), brought-up and educated in India  
Immigrated to North America in 1996

### **Technical Education:**

BE (89), ME (91) and Ph.D. (96)  
MMMUT Gorakhpur, IIT Roorkee and IIT Delhi

### **Professional Experience:**

ÉTS, Montreal (1996-1998) - Post Doctoral Fellow  
Concordia University, Montreal (1999) - Research Fellow  
Tulane University, New Orleans (2000-2007) - Assistant Professor  
John Deere Inc., USA, Fargo  
- (2007-2011) - Staff Power Electronics Engineer  
- (2011-2020) - Senior Staff Engineer - Advanced Power Electronics  
- (2020- present) - Region 4 Manager External Relationships



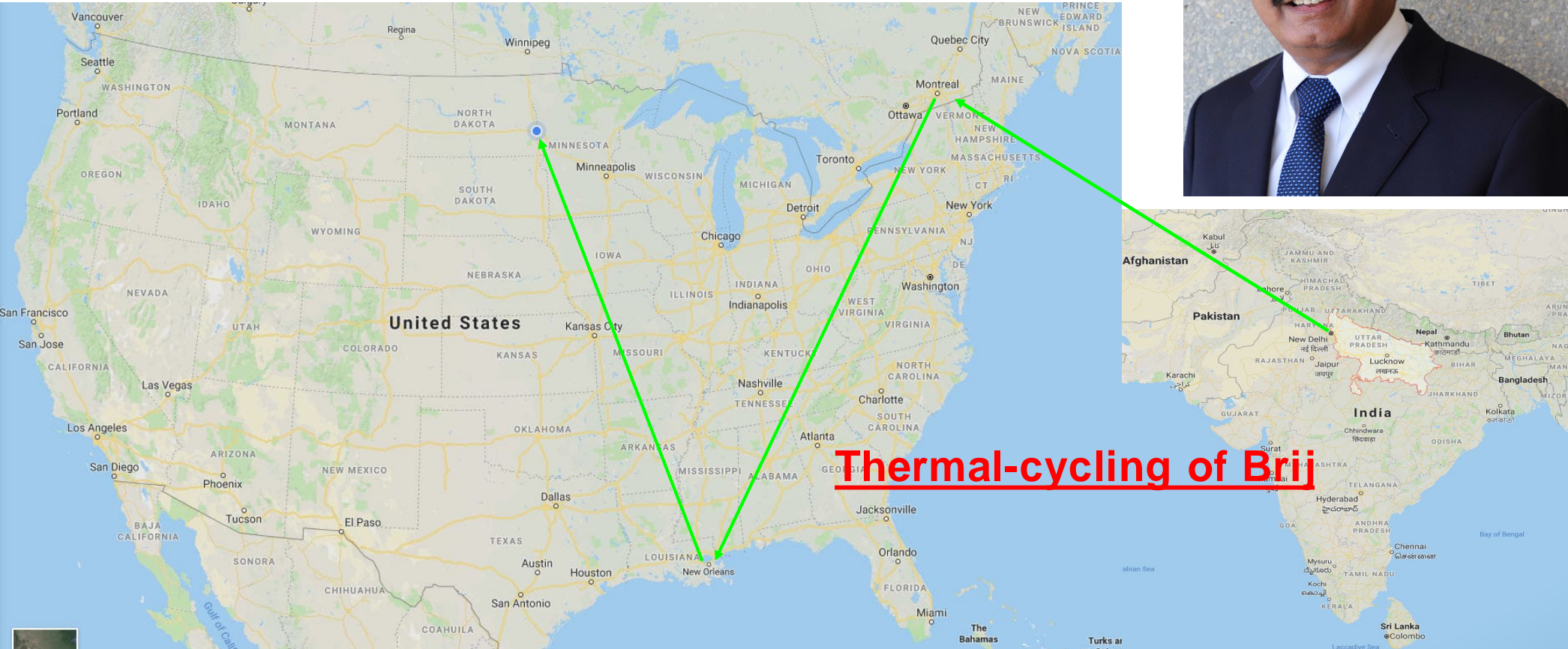
# About Brij N. Singh

## INDIA States and Union



My ancestors and family members lived in this village for thousand years, record is available as early as year 1360. I am very proud of my roots in village in India and farming

# Brij has seen extreme weather conditions and has developed appreciation for nature





## WHO WE ARE

John Deere is a world leader in providing advanced products and services and is committed to the success of those linked to the land.



# 185 History and fast forward 2022

**Deere and Company didn't get this far easy way,  
challenges were overcome with tough  
decisions since 1837**

A blacksmith is shown working at an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and a glowing piece of metal. Sparks are flying from the point of contact between the hammer and the metal. The anvil is a large, heavy metal tool with a flat top and a pointed end. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the work area, creating a dramatic effect. The text "INTEGRITY | QUALITY | COMMITMENT | INNOVATION" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

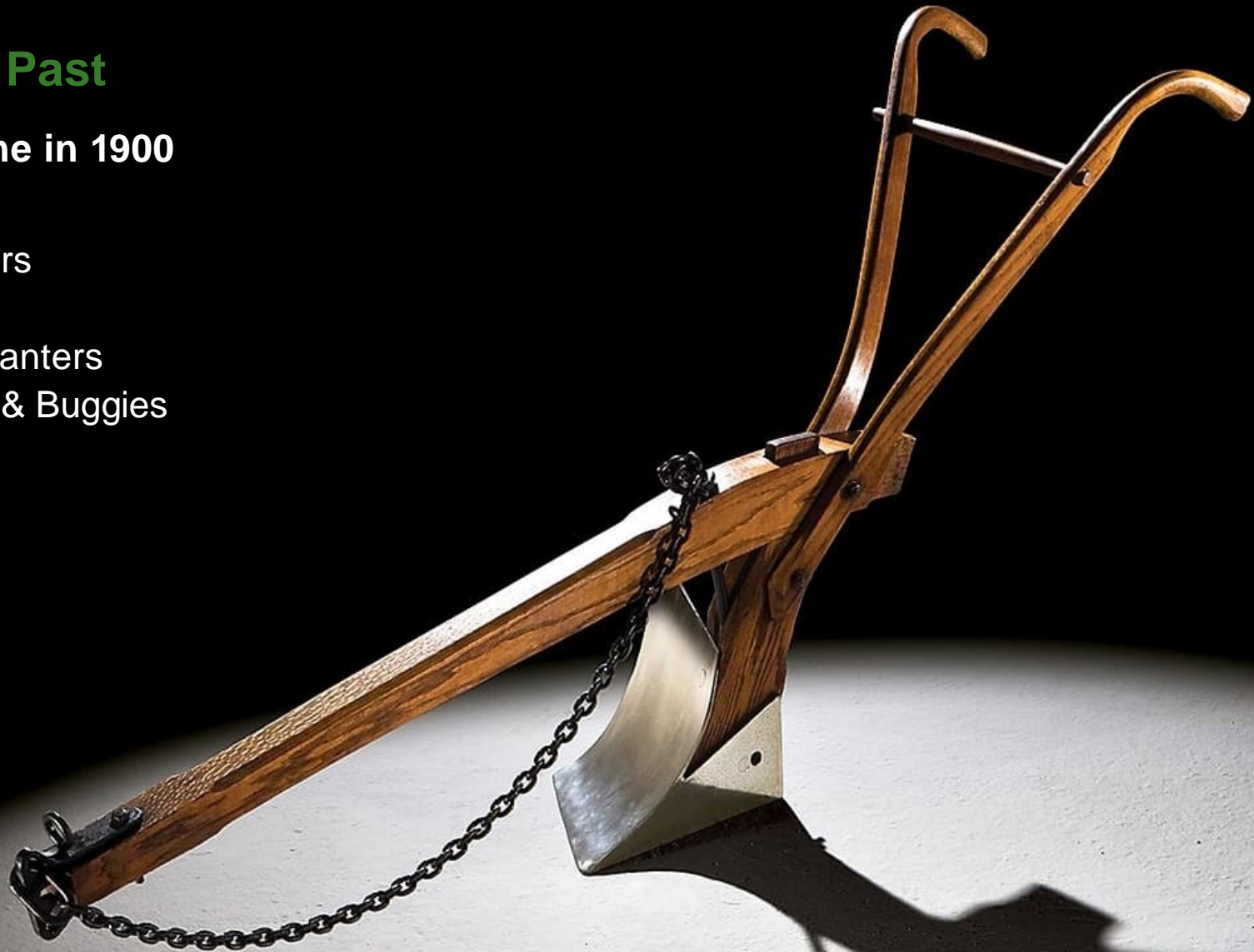
**INTEGRITY | QUALITY | COMMITMENT | INNOVATION**



## A Proud Past

### Product line in 1900

- Plows
- Cultivators
- Harrows
- Drill & Planters
- Wagons & Buggies



# John Deere Today

## Global Growth Operations



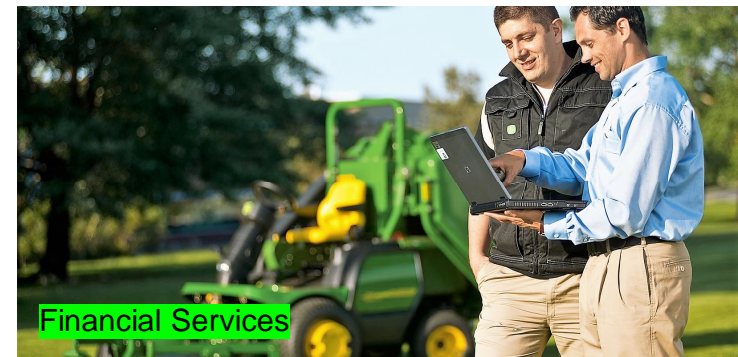
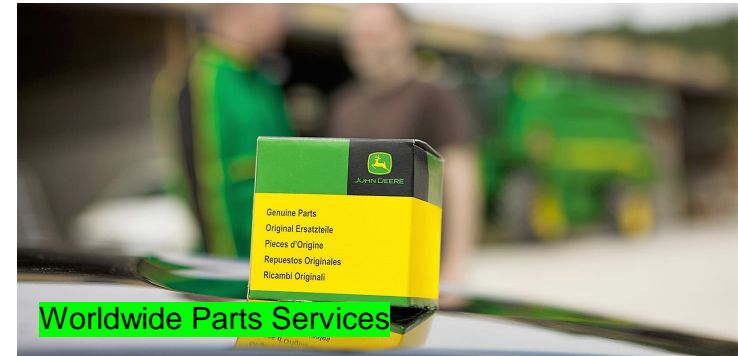
# John Deere Today

## Complementary Operations



# John Deere Today

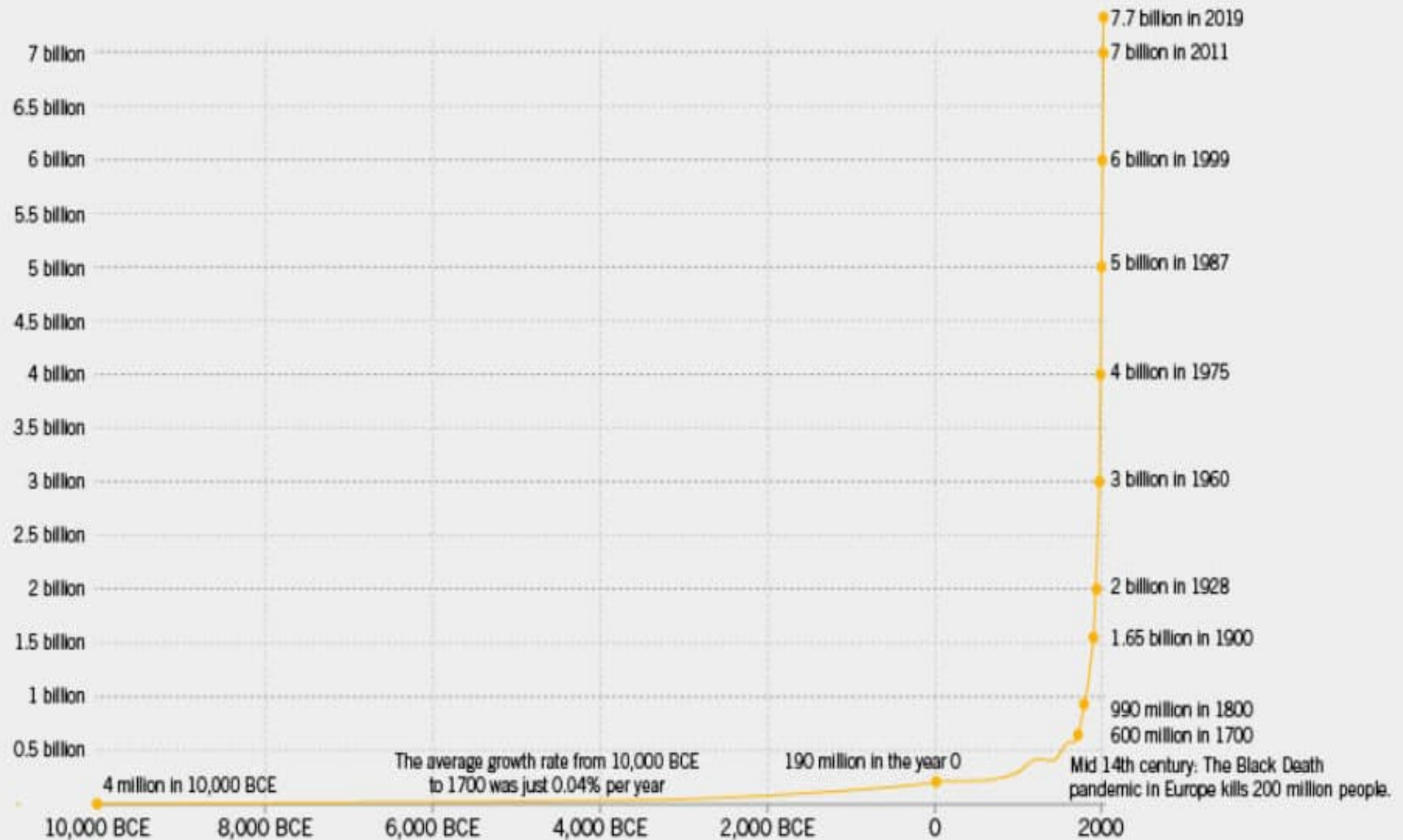
## Supporting Operations





# Environmental impacts of farming

# Trend in World Population over last 12,000 years

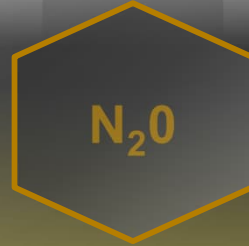
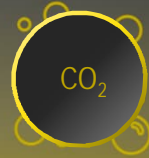


1.1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e ac<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> EMITTED TO ATMOSPHERE

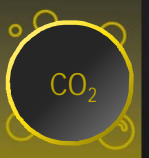
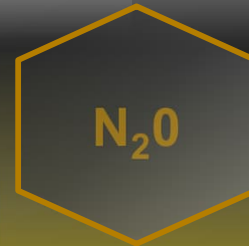
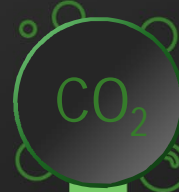
CARBON  
EMITTED TO  
ATMOSPHERE



CARBON  
STORED IN  
PLANTS & SOILS

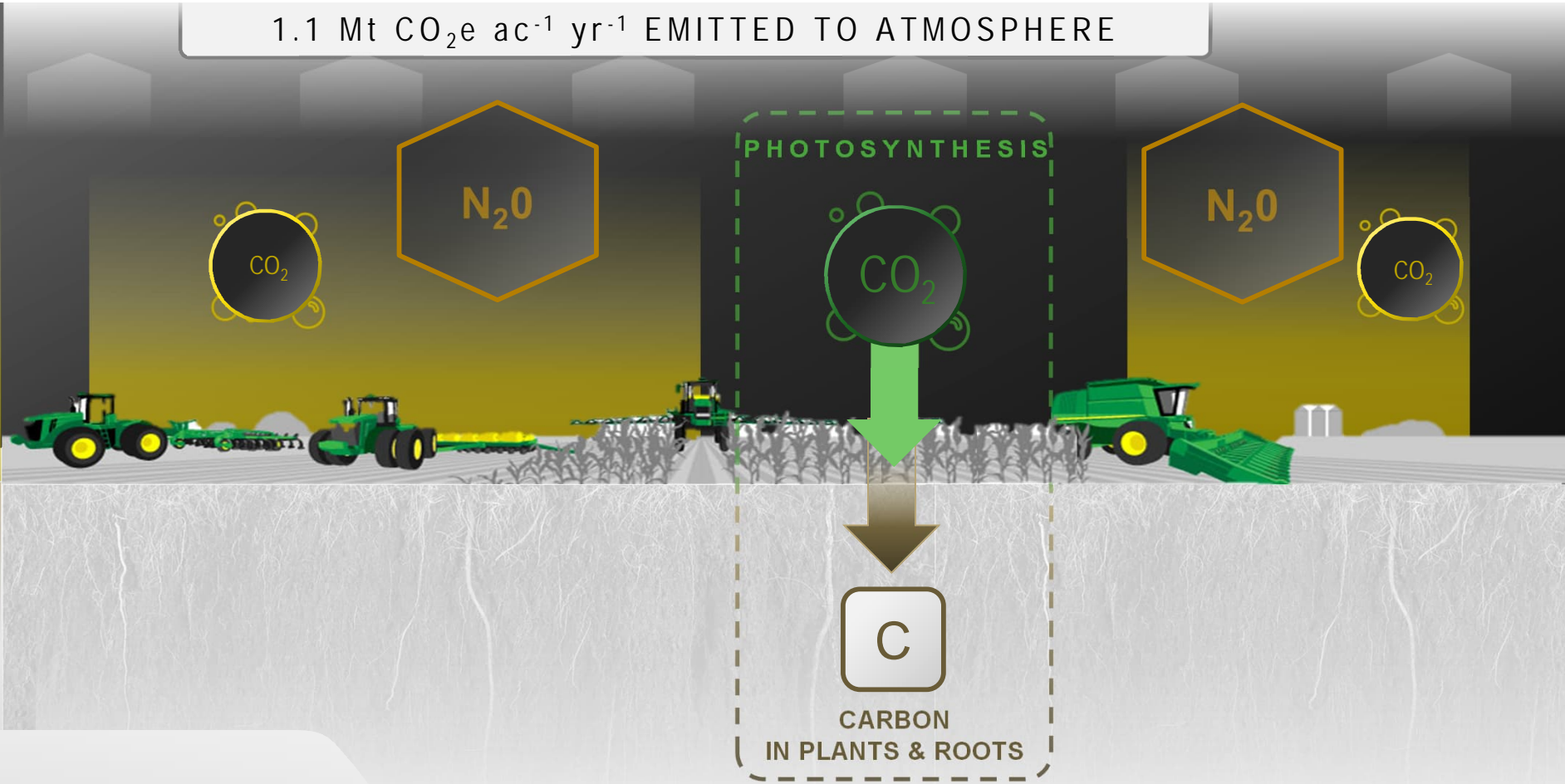


PHOTOSYNTHESIS



CARBON  
IN PLANTS & ROOTS

Typical coarse grain  
production system



# Climate smart farming practices

- Enabled by electrification technologies



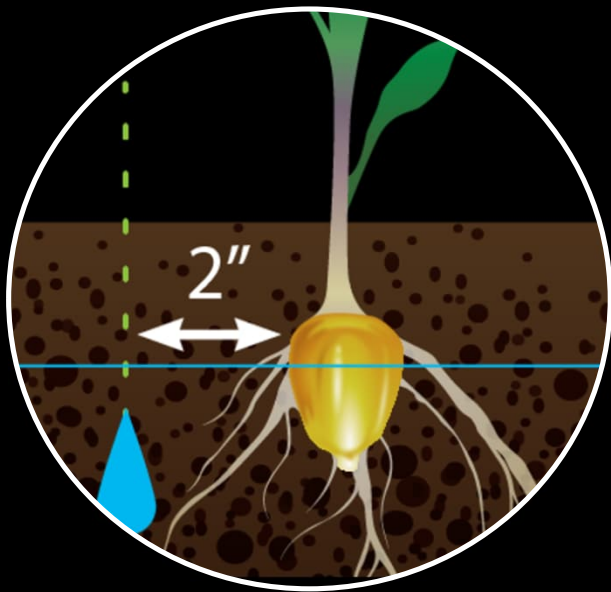


# Exact Emerge Planter Video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XebeXoHOI\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XebeXoHOI_0)

## ExactEmerge™ Planter - Video

# Trench View ExactRate™



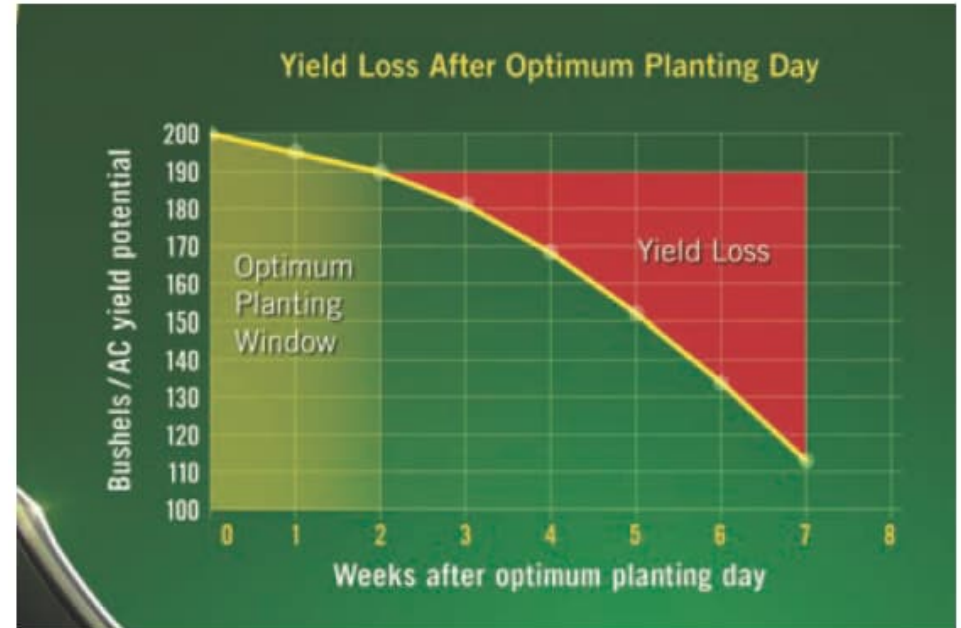
# ExactEmerge™ Planter

## Criticality of planting window

- Yield potential is highly affected by when the seeds are planted

## We can't control the weather...

- What can we do to help farmers stay within or close to optimum planting window?



## Lost Productivity by Missing Planting Window

Corn is \$3.5/bushel, missed planting by 2 weeks, loss is 10 bushels

For 5,000 acres field, total loss =  $\$3.5 \times 10 \times 5000 = \$175,000$

Missed planting by 8 weeks loss would be ~\$2M



AUTOMATION  
AND CONTROL

# Job Quality by Automation and Control



Job optimization



System optimization

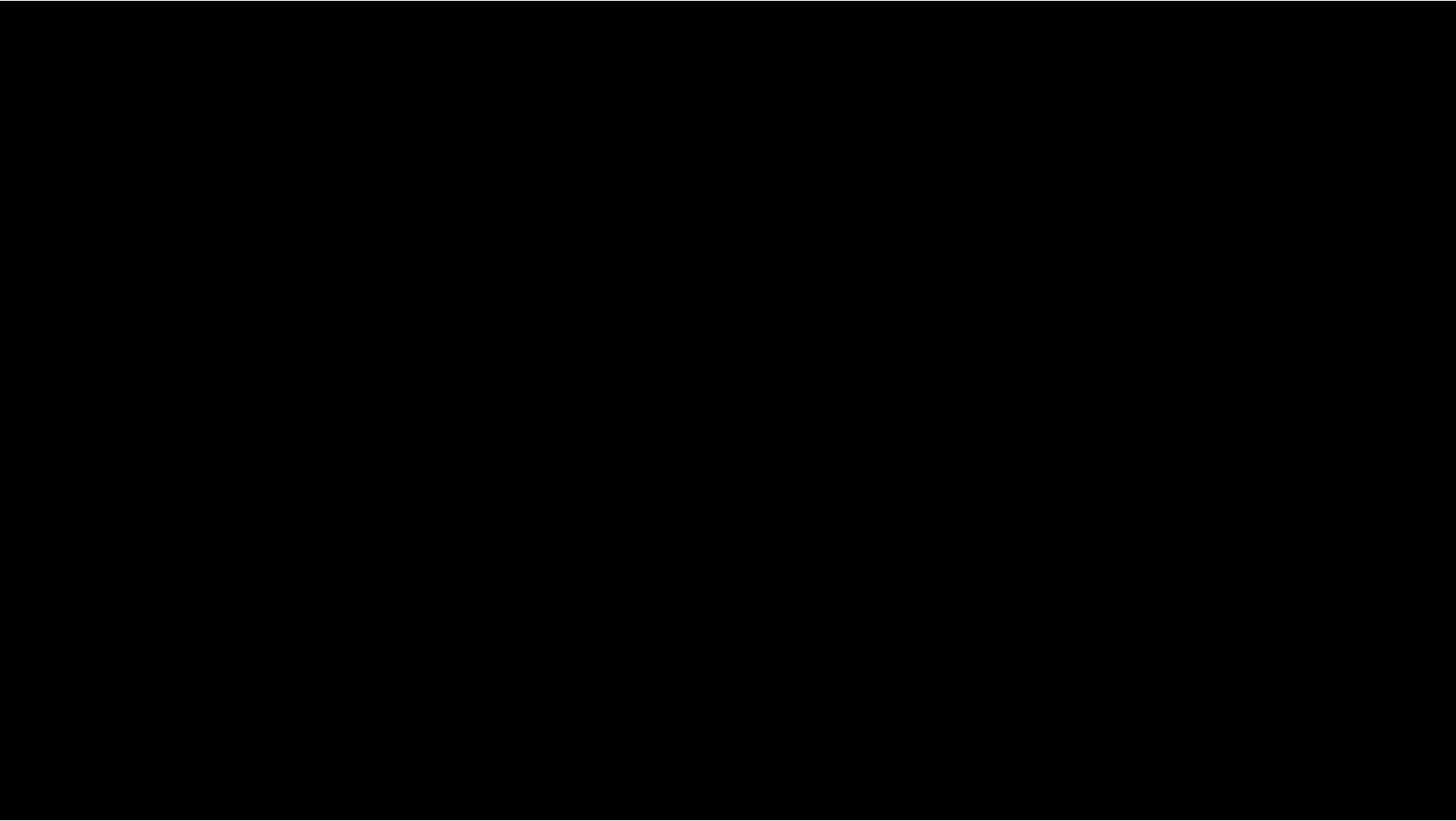


**R** BLUE RIVER  
TECHNOLOGY



# See & Spray video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YCa8RntsRE>







See & Spray™ Select

# Economic Headroom for Famers

- **Automation and autonomy**
- **Smart equipment making decisions**
  - Improved job quality
- **Mitigation of skilled workers shortage**

# Farming



**Racing  
against time**

**Threats:  
Weather  
Pests  
Costs**

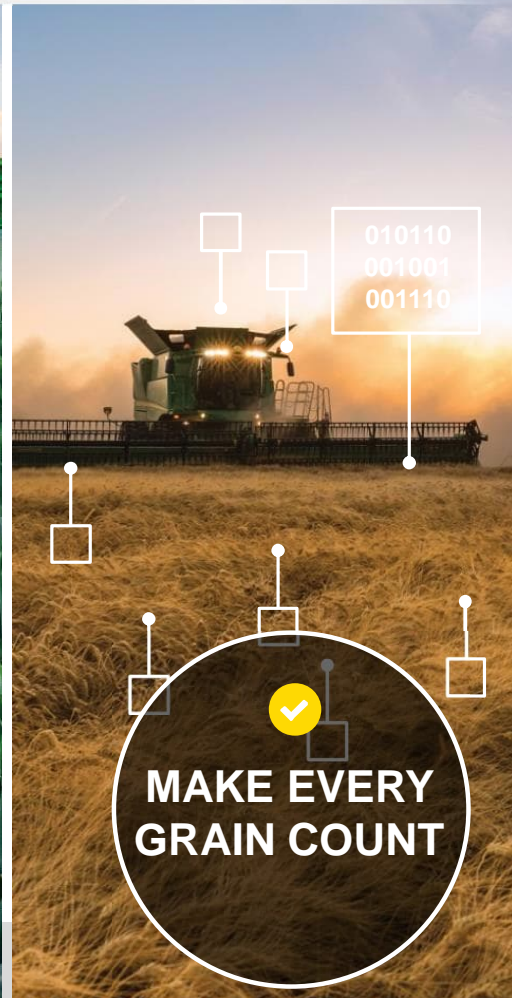
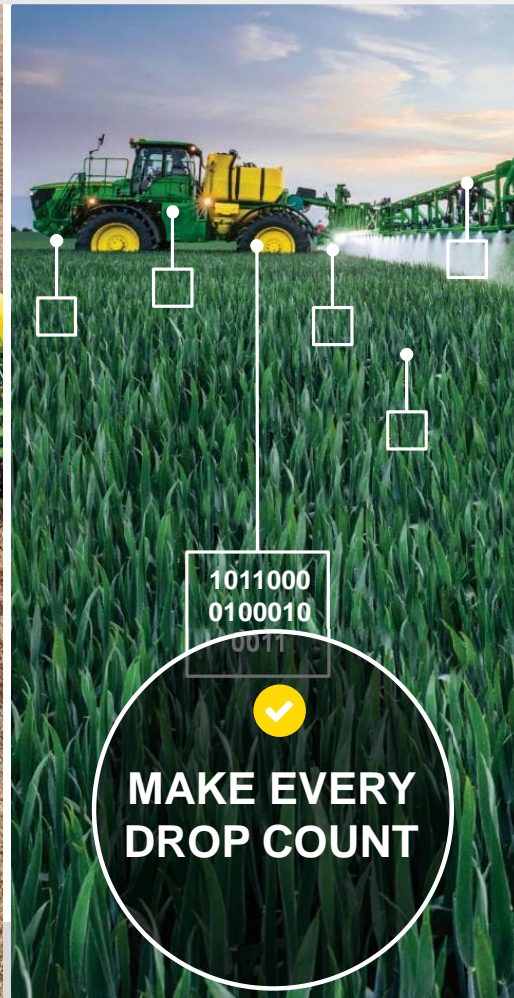
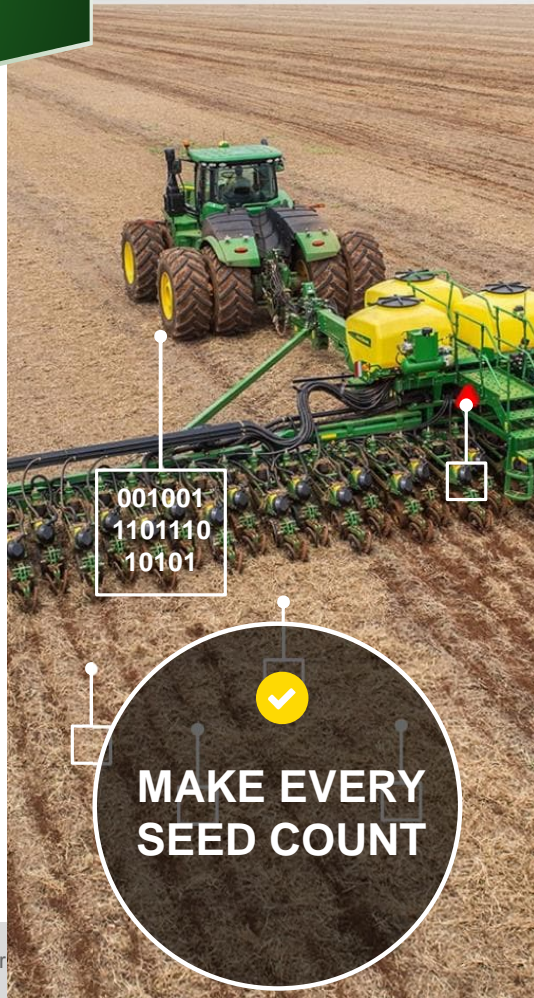
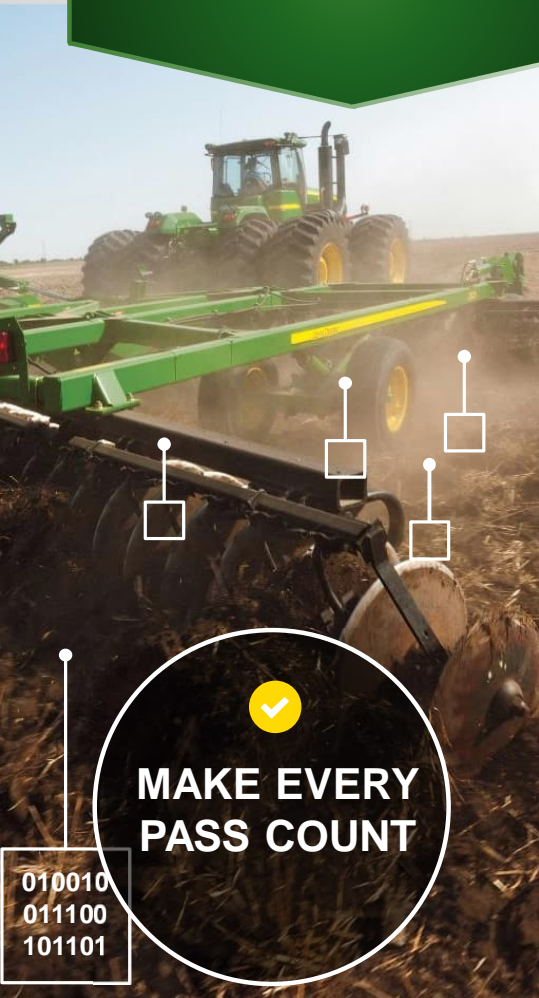
**Many hard  
decisions**

**Shrinking  
Labor Pool**

**Our customers need intelligent solutions**

# Smarter Equipment Better Decisions

## Finding value across the system step to step



**Data is the fuel, not the exhaust**

**3,000,000,000**

**15,000,000**

**104**

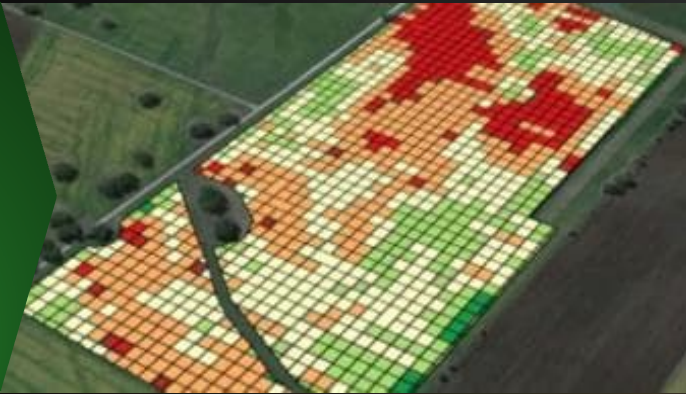


**Building large, diverse, real data sets**

# Computer Vision, Machine Learning and Automation

Changing the landscape of agriculture

Field level decisions



Plant level decisions



Production system decisions



Made in real-time

DECIDE



EXECUTE



Seconds

0

1

SENSE



LEARN



## John Deere thinks rural 5G could help feed the world

<https://www.fiercewireless.com/5g/john-deere-thinks-rural-5g-could-help-feed-world>

- ❑ Machine to machine connectivity
- ❑ Machine to cloud server connectivity
- ❑ Machine to John Deere operation center connectivity





# Electrification programs in Deere



## **Why electrification of off-road Ag vehicle is important and carbon footprint story ?**

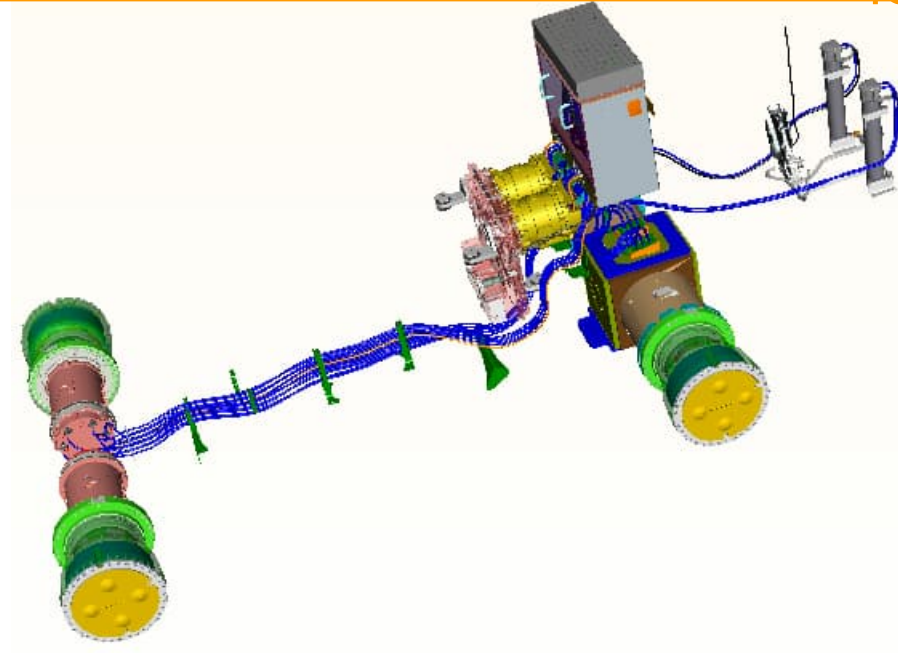
**- It is about performance, productivity, precision, reduction of GHG intensive chemicals, and positioning Deere for compliant to govt regulations**

**Shortage of skill labor is huge problem for Deere's customers**

## 944K Hybrid Loader's Powertrain Architecture

- Control system prevents near zero speed tire spin and slicing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVd6ZNtGmqg>

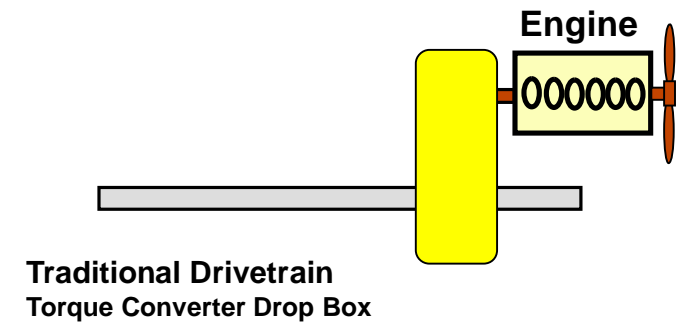
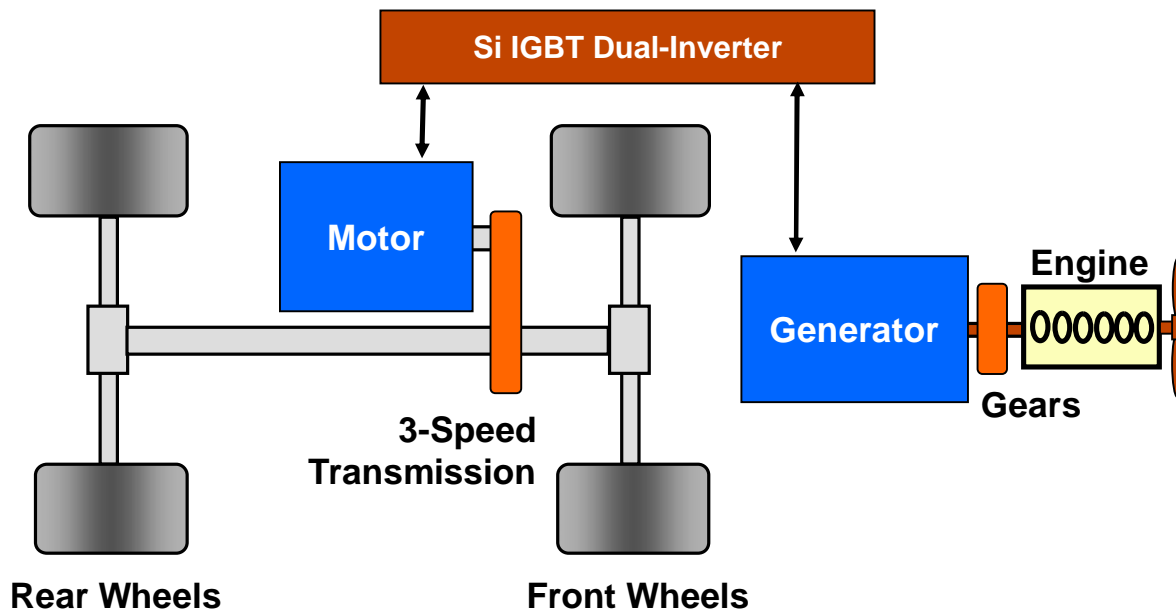


Industry leading reliability goals met by advanced control and pre-power diagnosis

<https://www.rermag.com/earthmoving/article/21145781/john-deere-944k-hybrid-wheel-loader-reaches-1-million-field-operating-hours>

# 644K Hybrid Loader's Powertrain Architecture

- Control system allows application of maximum power where it is needed the most



# Power Electronics Applications

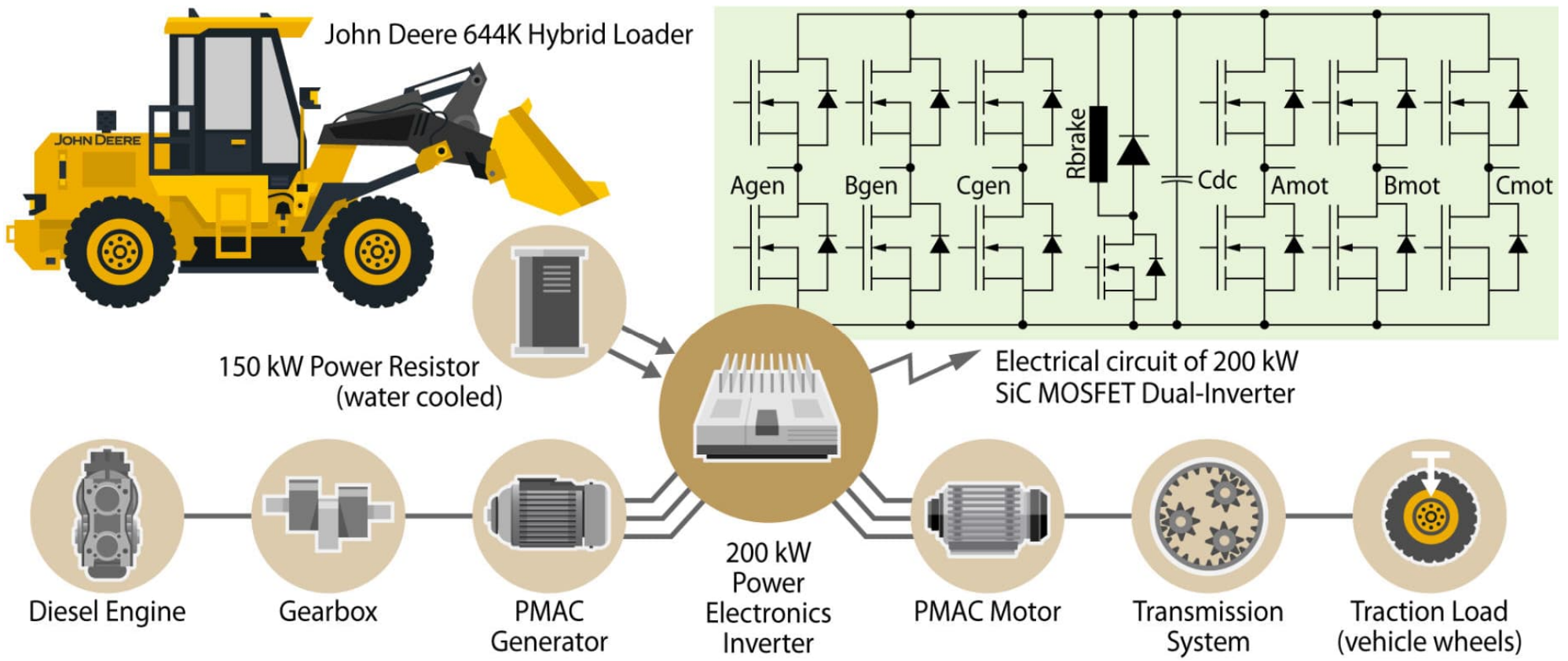


# Power Electronics Applications



# JD 644K Hybrid Loader - Powertrain Architecture

- Vehicle power management (VPM) enabled by advanced control system

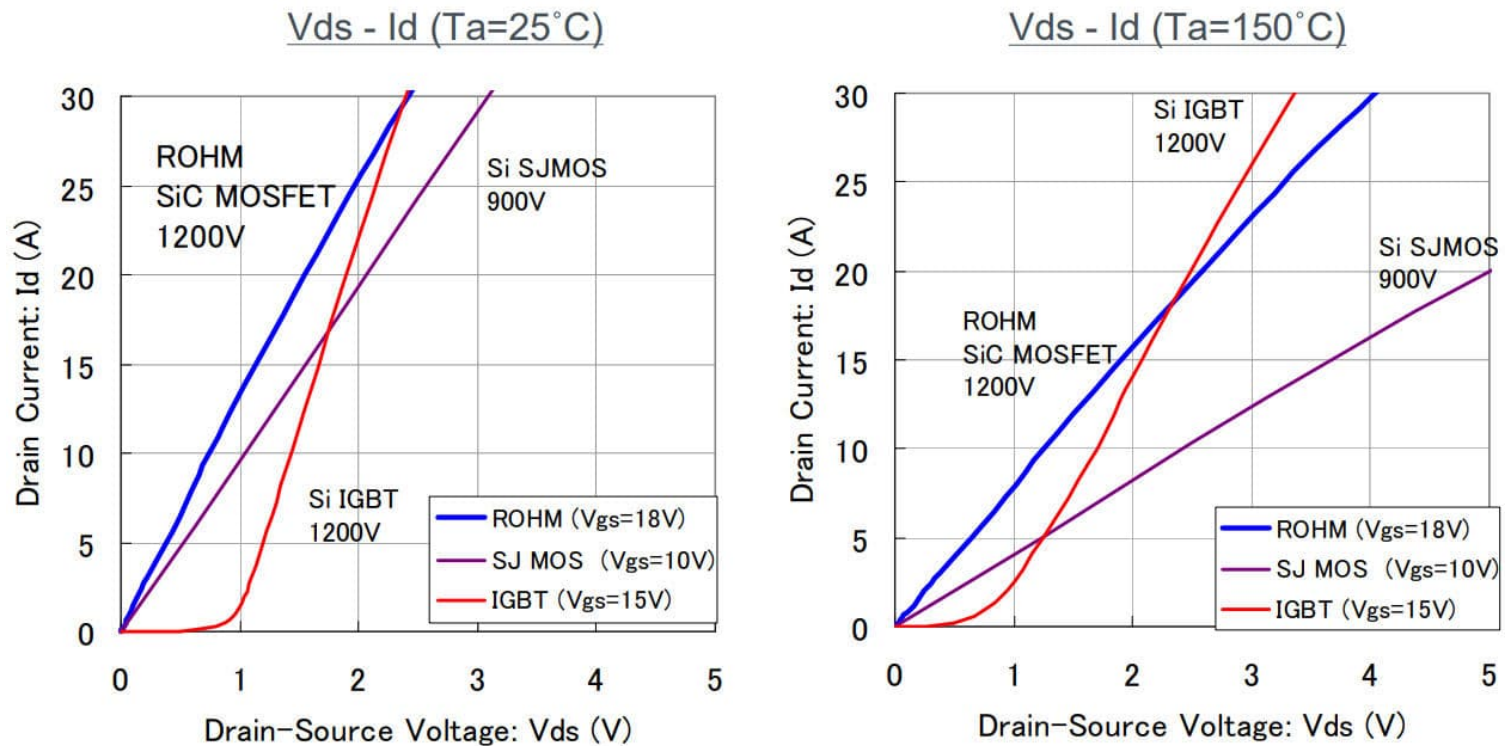


# Wide Bandgap (WBG) Technology

Silicon Carbide Inverter Technology Development

- A project co-funded by DOE-PowerAmerica

## Si IGBT vs SiC MOSFET - Partial Load Advantage



V-I characteristics of Si IGBT and SiC MOSFET

Observations: SiC MOSFET is far more efficient – good for extended range in EVs





# SiC inverter technology

# SiC Technology Development (US DOE funding \$6M)

## - Technology objectives

### Design Goals for SiC Dual Inverter

- 200 kW, 1050 VDC SiC dual inverter
- 97% efficiency, < 25 L, < 25 kg
- Power density > 25 kW/L
- > 25% gain in fuel economy as compared to conventional drivetrain
- 115°C coolant operation in off-highway vehicles
- SiC advanced and emerging technology for off-road vehicle applications
  - Risks: being new and first in the field of use
  - Supply chain issues must be addressed
  - Competitive advantages should be put for greater use
- Innovations could mitigate risks



## WBG Technology Objectives - Current Status

### SiC inverter power density > 25 kW/L

- Gen-2 SiC inverter power density > 43 kW/L

### Full-load efficiency of SiC inverter: 97%

- Gen-1 SiC inverter > 98% over coolant temperature

### Engine coolant (maximum 115°C WEG) SiC inverter

- Gen-1 SiC inverter tested with 105°C WEG coolant
  - At 150 kW maximum junction temperature ~165°C (extrapolated data)
- Gen-2 SiC inverter test verified with 115°C WEG coolant
  - At 150 kW maximum junction temperature ~145°C (in-lab testing data)

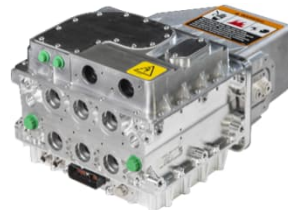
### Achieve system-level cost parity with the silicon IGBT inverter

- Costs for SiC inverter is many folds compared to Si IGBT inverter

## JDES Inverter Power-Density and Capability Progression



Si IGBT PD550 Inverter  
9 kW/L, 700 VDC,  
70°C Coolant  
2013 Production



Si IGBT PD400 Inverter  
11.4 kW/L, 700 VDC  
70°C Coolant  
2017 Production



Gen-1 SiC Inverter  
18 kW/L, 1050 VDC  
105°C Coolant  
2017 TRL3/4



Gen-2 SiC Inverter  
43 kW/L, 1050 VDC  
115°C Coolant  
2020 TRL5/6  
440  $\mu$ F DC bus cap  
Six-Pack SiC modules

John Deere 200 kW dual-inverters (400 kW) with electric braking

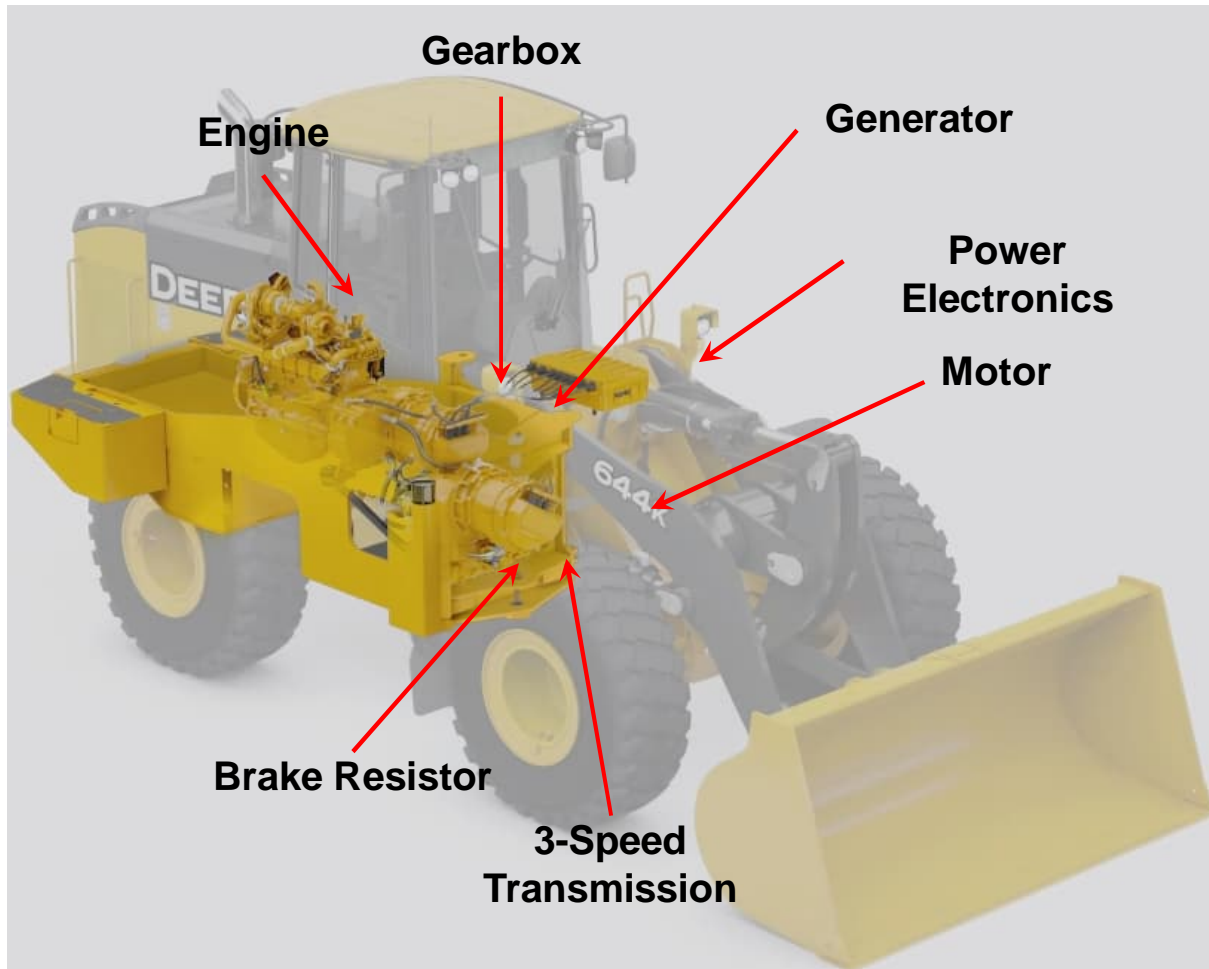
Three generations of SiC inverter developed and tested in lab and vehicle

- Modularity: useful for many applications
- Increasing power density: competitive advantage
- Decreasing weight, size, and form-factor: easier integration in vehicle system
- Improved performance and high temperature: system benefits

# Why off-road vehicles are different ?

- Requirement of stall-torque

## John Deere 644K Hybrid Loader

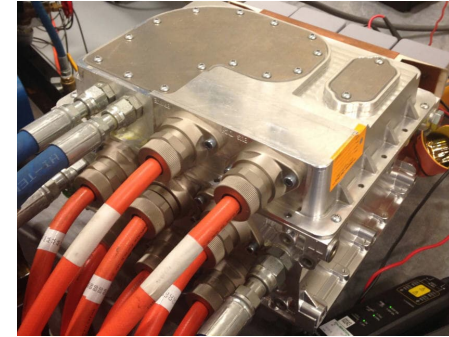
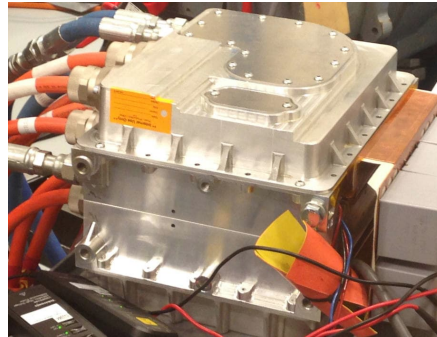
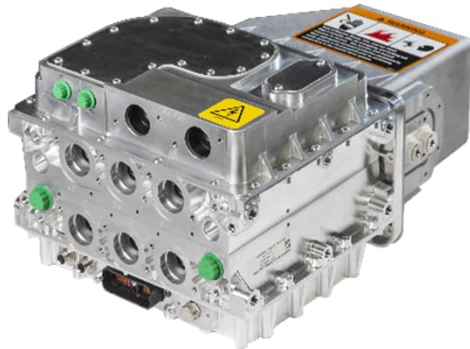


**Engine-coolant capable power-dense SiC inverter could significantly simplify vehicle architecture of the 644 Hybrid Loader**



# Three generations of SiC inverter

## Gen-0 SiC Inverter Development

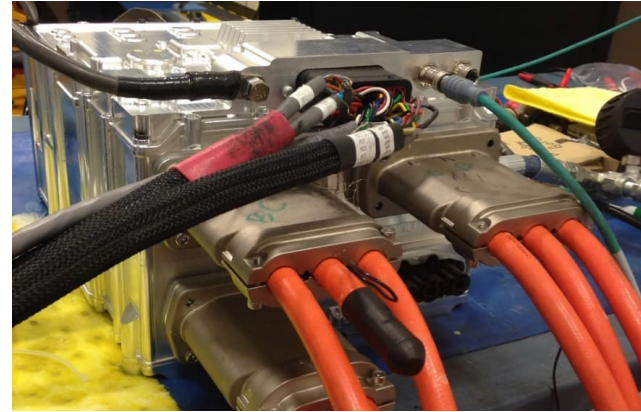
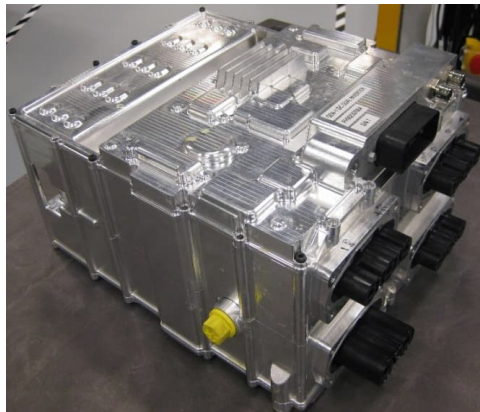


JDES's PD400 IGBT Inverter Retrofitted with SiC Power Modules

- SiC gate driver development
- 1100 V rated DC bus capacitor development
- 690 V permanent magnet AC motor development
- dv/dt filter
- Bench-top and back-to-back motor dyno testing
  - Spinning of PMAC motor within 10 months start of project

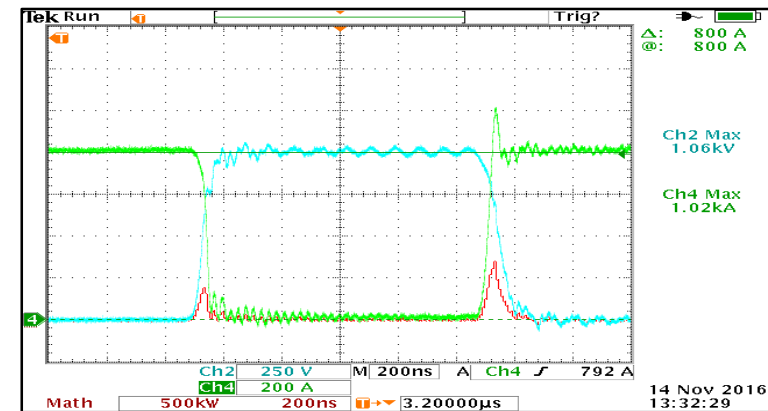


## Gen-1 SiC Inverter Development

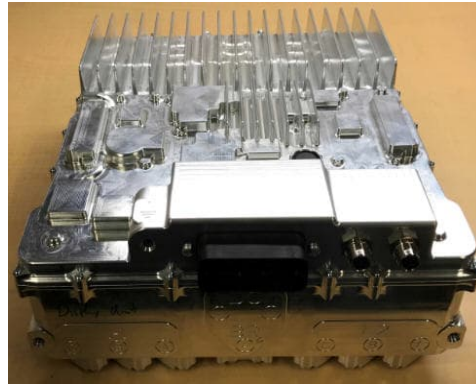
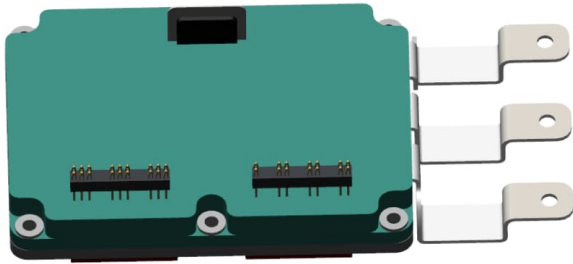


Improved electrical and thermal systems for inverter

- Super low-inductance DC bus bar < 1 nH
- Super low-inductance power module < 4 nH
  - Only 10 V over-shoot at 800 A turn-off
- Power density improvements: 11 kW/L to 18 kW/L
- 105°C WEG coolant operation at 150 kW power



## Gen-2 SiC Inverter Development



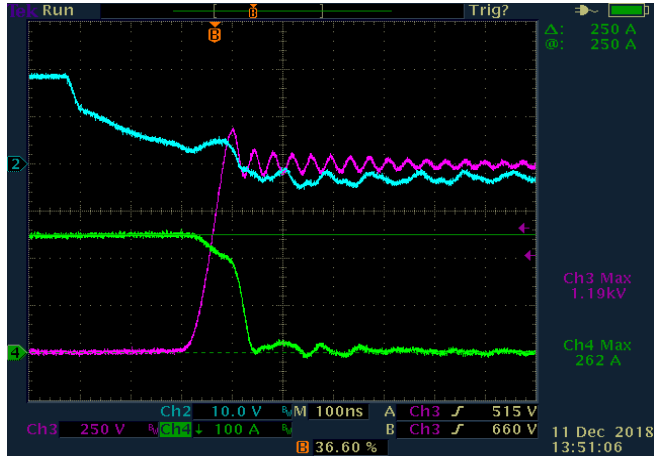
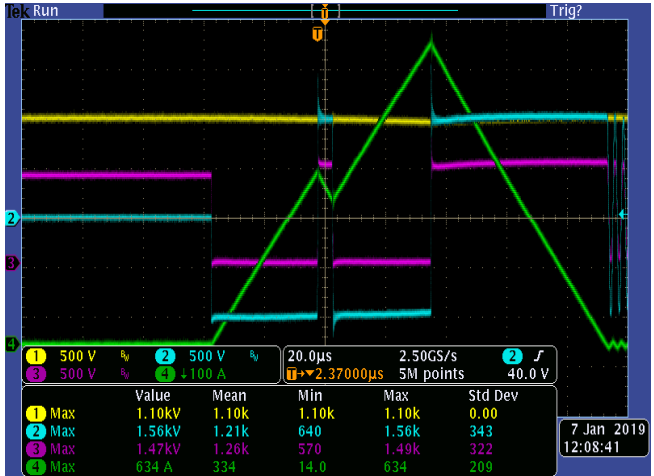
Power-Density Improvements by SiC module's miniaturization

- Significant miniaturization of SiC power module
  - 1700 V and 250 A rated six-pack SiC power module developed
- Both inverters on same side
  - Low inductance between both inverters
  - Easier manufacturing of inverter including in-vehicle deployment
- Power density improvements: 18 kW/L (Gen-1) to 43 kW/L (Gen-2)

# Gen-2 SiC Inverter Test Waveforms for Six-Pack Power Module



1700 V 400 A DC  
 GEAS SiC module



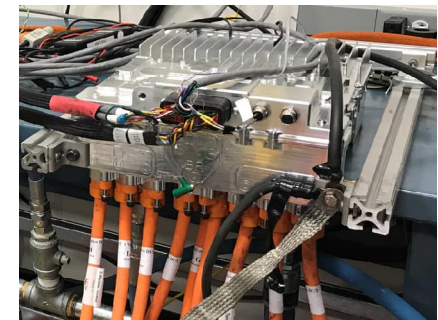
## Gen-0 to Gen-2 SiC Inverters' Comparison



Gen-0 SiC inverter



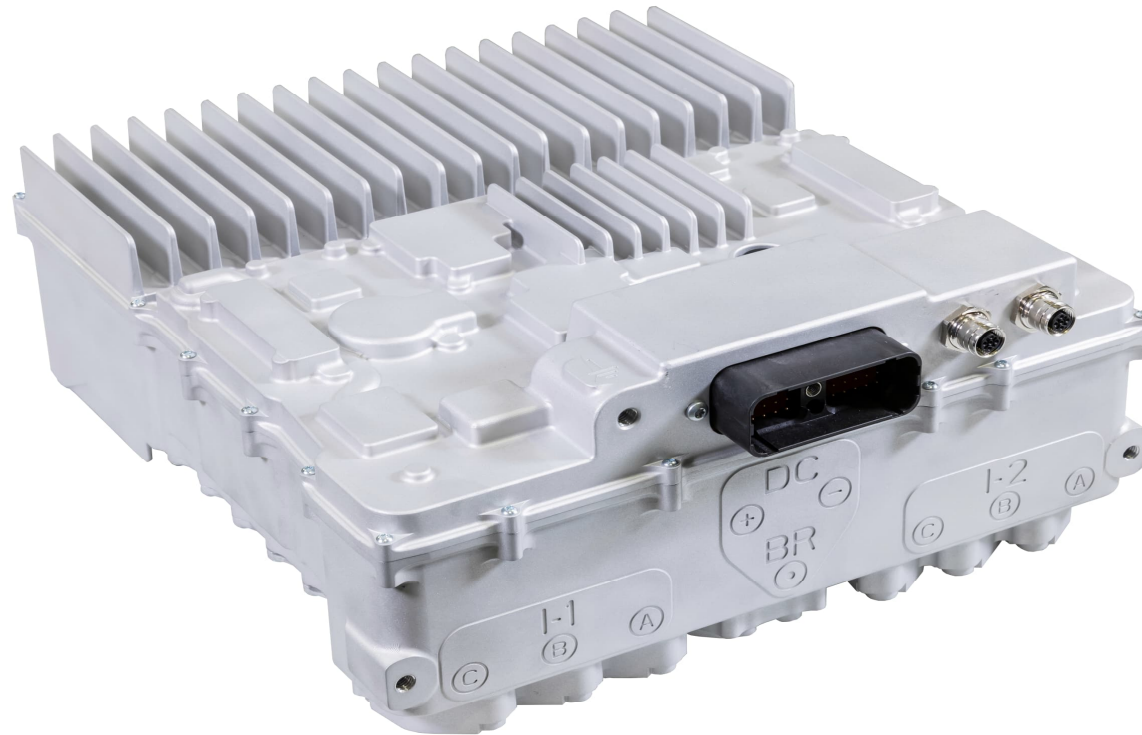
Gen-1 SiC inverter



Gen-2 SiC inverter

## Innovative EXPECT SiC Technology

**EXtremely Power-Dense Engine-CoolanT-Capable**



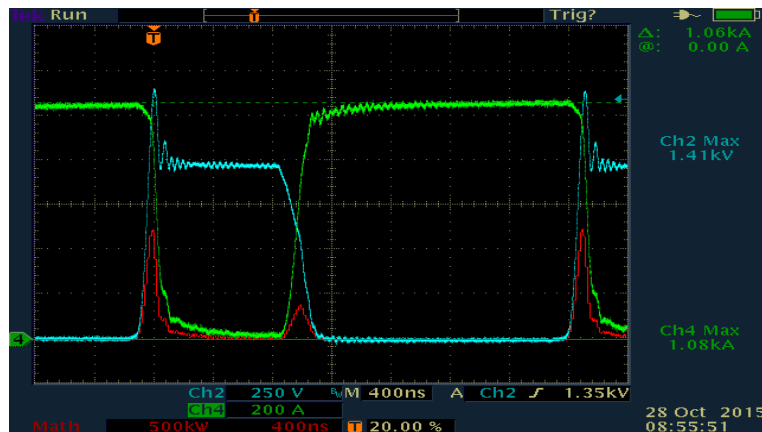
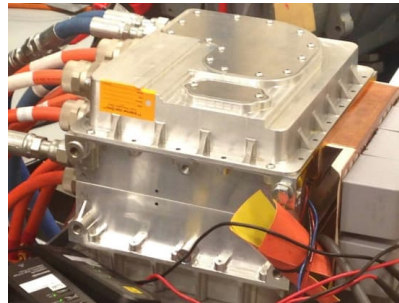
<https://vimeo.com/437142186/4b026a218f>

# Key Lessons

- **Packaging**
- **Thermal management**
- **Technology proliferation to peripherals**
  - **Batteries**
  - **Electric motors**
  - **Power interconnects**

## Lessons - Si IGBT Mind-Set Doesn't Work

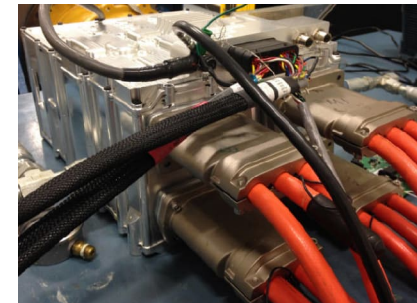
Gen-0 Inverter  
(11 kW/L)



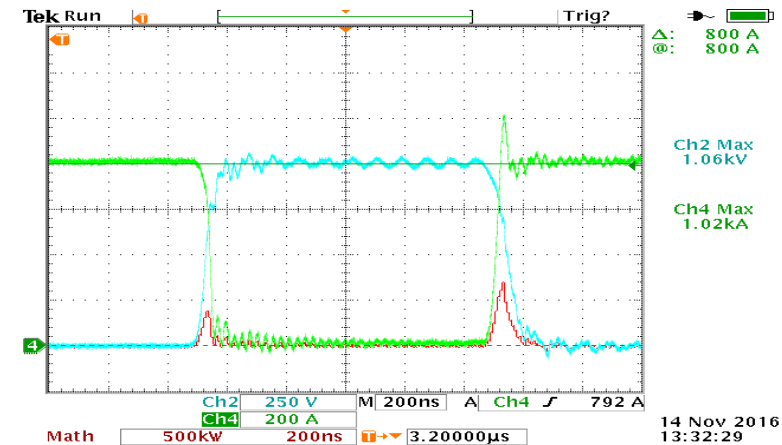
1000 A turn-off with 360 V overshoot energy

- Over-voltage issue with connectors, cables, and electric machine

- Improvement in common mode voltage and bearing current
- EMI and EMC improvements



Gen-1 Inverter  
(18 kW/L)



800 A turn-off with 10 V overshoot energy, reverse recovery, easy for electric motor



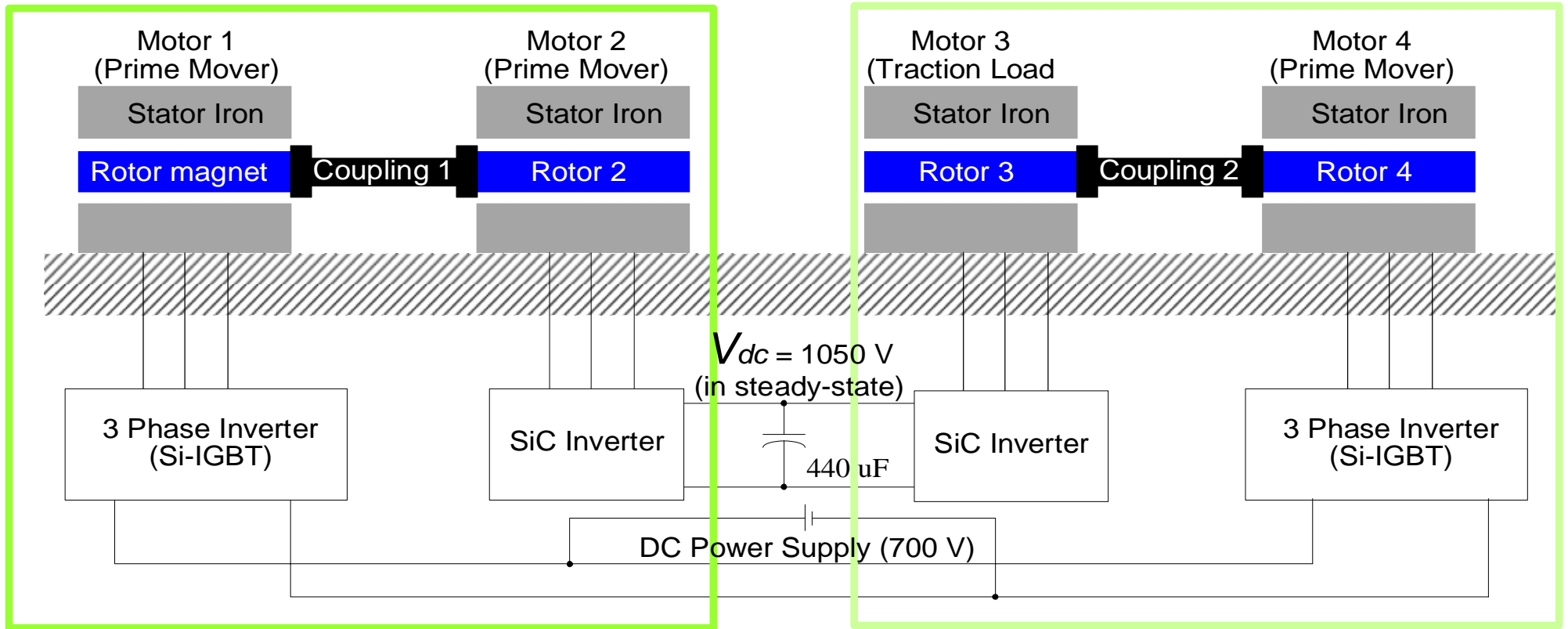
# In-lab inverter characterization



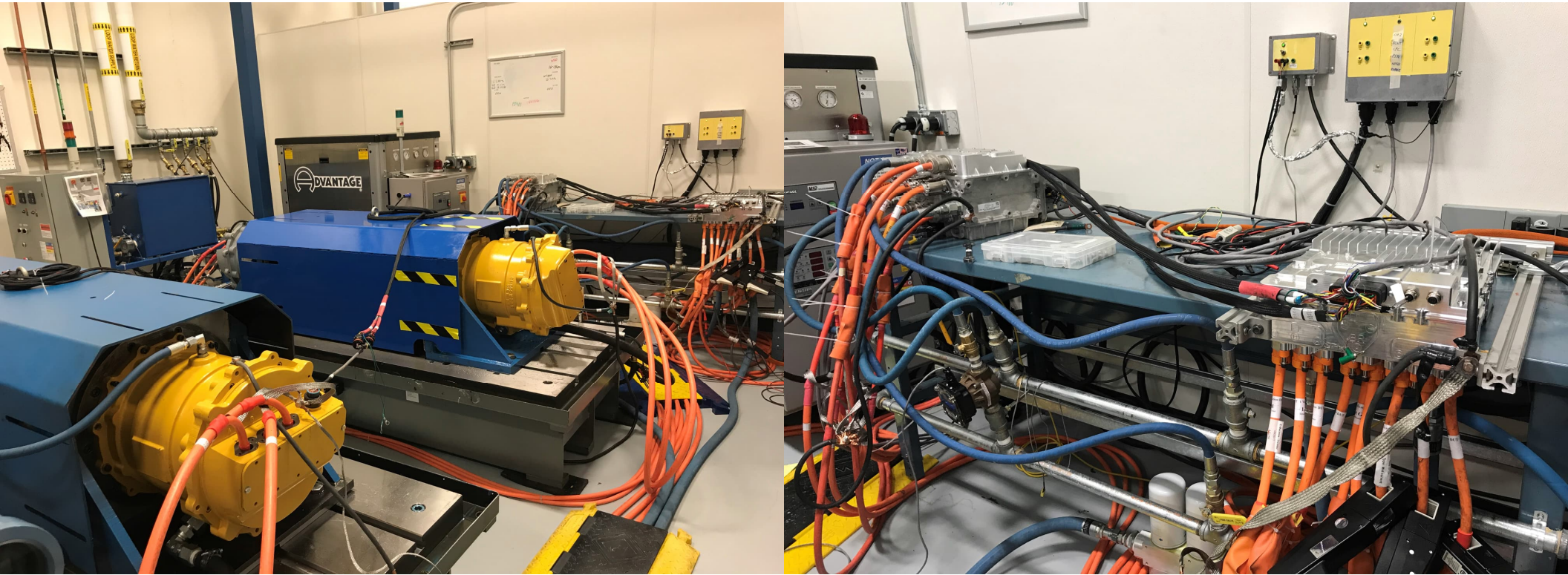
# Dynamic Testing of Inverter (4 inverters and 4 electric machines set-up)

Simulates engine driven PM generator to produce on-board power

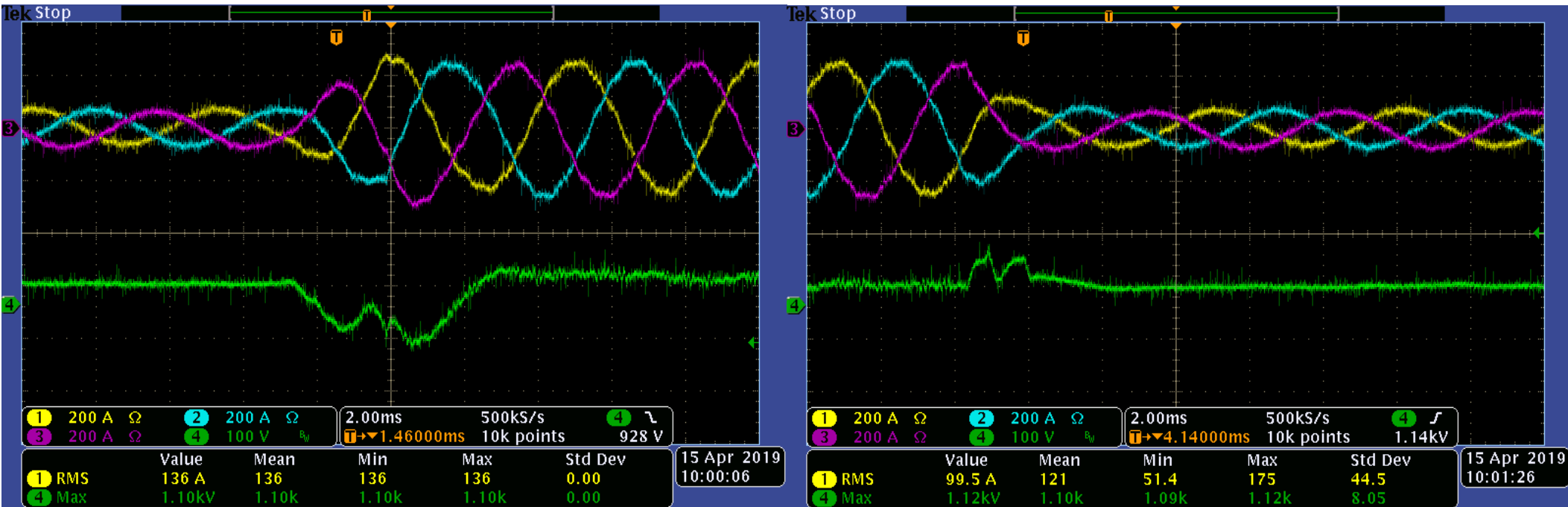
Simulates PM traction motor driven vehicle transmission system and wheel load



# Dynamic Testing of Inverter (4 inverters and 4 electric machines set-up)



## Dynamic Testing of Gen-2 SiC Inverter



Load change

30 kW to 150 kW

150 kW to 30 kW

Power-Shift dynamics of 644K WBG Loader

## High Temperature Testing in John Deere Lab

Data obtained so far with Gen-2 SiC inverter



25°C - 115°C coolant and up to 75°C ambient for 90 minutes operation

- Beyond 90°C coolant inverter needs to de-rate from 150 kW
  - At 55°C ambient and 115°C, power rating is 60 kW

John Deere may need 105°C ambient and 115°C coolant SiC inverter with no flexibility to de-rate

- Inverter with thermal treatment has achieved capability
  - At 55°C ambient and 115°C, power rating is 150 kW



Enlarged view of six-pack SiC power module

## Competing Technology Trade-Offs

### SiC MOSFET Inverter

200 kW, 1050 VDC

Performance

Capability

High temp coolant

High frequency

300 A 1700 V MOSFET

Capability cost (A\$): Expected



Gen-1 SiC Inverter

### Silicon IGBT Inverter

200 KW, 1050 VDC

Performance

Capability

High temp coolant

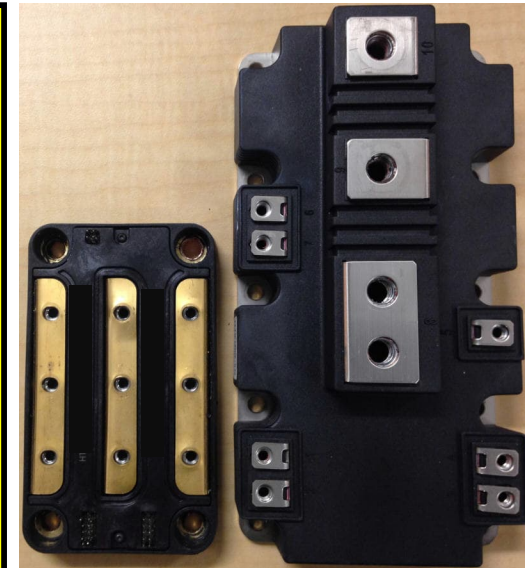
High frequency

900 A 1700 V IGBT

Capability cost (A\$) : Market value



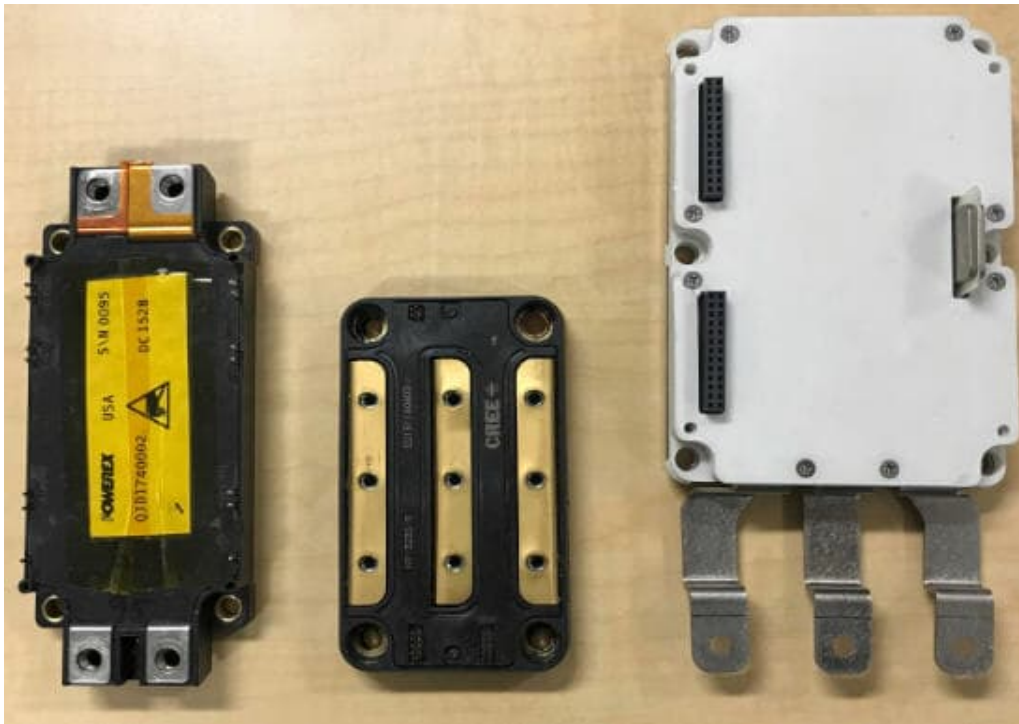
PD550 IGBT Inverter



110 x 65 x 17  
140 g

172 x 89 x 37  
825 g

## Experience with Variety of SiC Power Modules



Supply-chain issues understood/addressed

- Variant of six-pack SiC module
- Dual-sourcing of six-pack SiC modules
- Working experience with many suppliers

Power Modules for 200 kW Gen-0, Gen-1 and Gen-2 SiC Inverters

## Technology Innovations by 9C Solutions

- Capacitor:** 5x size reduction and 10x cost reduction
- Coolant:** 70°C WEG to 115°C WEG
- Connector:** Simpler, cost-effective, and easier for shielding
- Case:** Power density ~11 kW/L to 43 kW/L
- Control:** Advanced control due to higher switching frequency
- CCS:** Magnetic core based current sensor replaced with coreless current sensor: **cost reduction and simplified design**
- Cable:** Smaller diameter cables
- Copper:** Lower overall copper content
- Cost:** Competitive with silicon IGBT technology at system level



## Summary

- Power electronics can enable climate smart farming
  - Per acre higher grain production with increased protein content
  - Result in low carbon intensity foodgrains
  - Support feeding the world in environmentally responsible manner
- SiC power electronics is real
  - Early adopter likely to be a niche application
  - By 2025 SiC MOSFET technology may compete out silicon IGBT technology
  - John Deere has ~3,500 hours operating experience
- Cost reduction for SiC power devices needs to happen
  - \$x for IGBTs versus \$3x for SiC MOSFETs
- System approach is required for successful commercialization
  - WBG technology innovations by 9C solutions
    - Capacitor, Coolant, Connector, Case, Control, CCS (coreless current sensor), Copper, Cable, and Cost



# Acknowledgement



# More Government Funding

## Fiscal Year 2021 Low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Vehicle Technologies Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment

**FOA # DE-FOA-0002475**

AOI 4b - Electrified Construction Vehicle Research, Development, and Validation

John Deere	Moline, IL	Articulated Dump Truck (ADT) Electrification - GHG Reductions and Commercialization of New Technology in Construction Vehicles Fleet	\$2,756,732
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With in-kind cost share, this project cost is ~\$4M plus abundance of resources for in-vehicle testing of the diesel-electric-hybrid powertrain testing in the electrified Articulated Dump Truck (eADT).

Societal impacts of innovative diesel-electric-hybrid powertrain technology will be multi-million metric tons of GHG reductions in a fleet of eADTs.



# Questions?

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