

*An Optically Isolated, High-Voltage,  
IGBT-Based Inverter for DER  
Applications*

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Research Program Peer Review  
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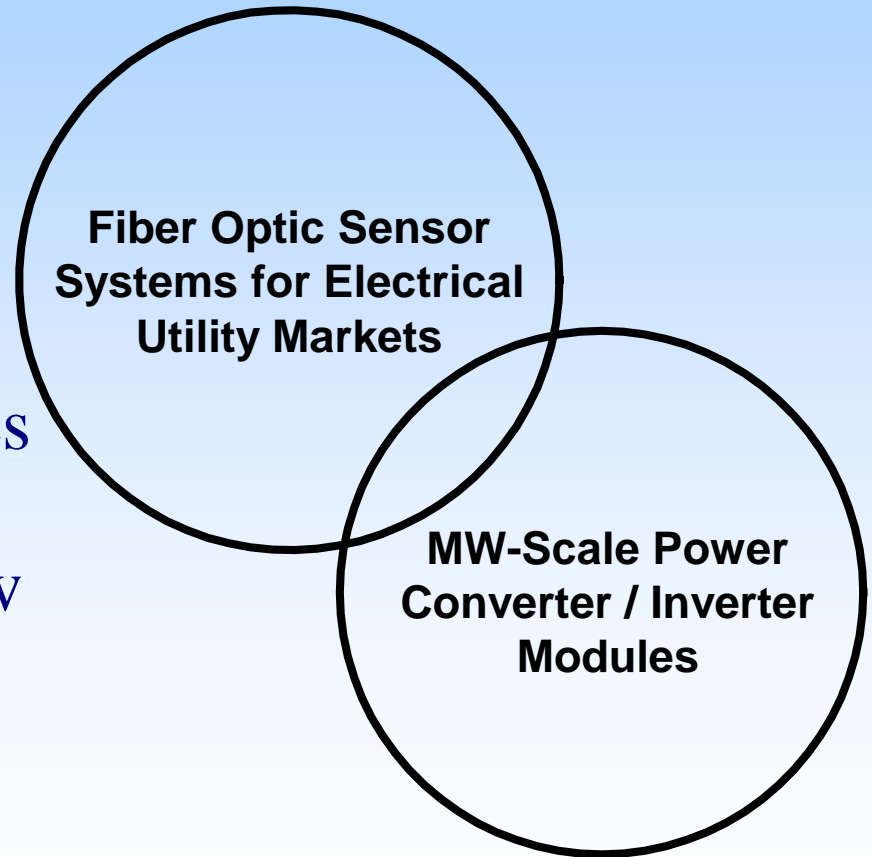
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# *Airak's Mission*

- Design & manufacture electrical power monitoring systems for utility-scale distributed generation markets
- Apply optical technologies to solve challenging problems, resulting in new products and licensing opportunities for partners



# *Airak's Inverter Technology*

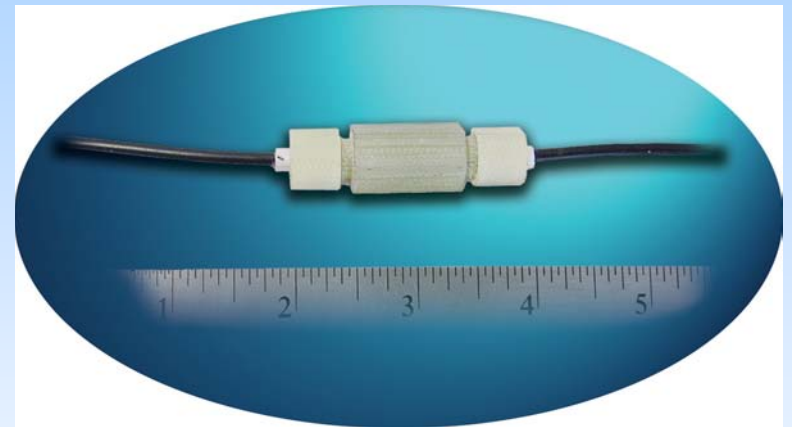
- Next-Generation Approach
  - Convert Energy to Usable Power
  - Do so at a Reasonable Price
- Three Main Characteristics Distinguish Inverter from Competing Products
  - Optical Sensors & Communications/Control Systems
  - Modular & Standardized
  - Self-Contained Cooling System



# *Optical Current/Voltage Sensors for Converter and Switchgear Monitoring*

- Improves Safety & Reliability in Power Converters
- Allows Converter to be Smaller, Weigh Less
- Industry Qualified
  - MIL-STD901-D (Shock)
  - MIL-STD-167-1 (Vibration)
  - -40C to 85C Temperature
  - IEEE 15KV Insulation Class

*Optical Current Sensor*



*Optical Voltage Sensor*



# *Power Converter/Inverter*

## *Features Advantages Benefits*

Optically Interconnected Sensors & Comms/Control	Immune to Radio Frequency Interference, Improved Safety	Higher Reliability Fast! Sensors → Smaller Footprint → Inverters have Higher Power Density Increased Personnel & Equipment Safety
Modular, Smaller Size Packaging	Lower Weight & Smaller Size	Install in Space Constrained Areas Greater Power Density - more Power/\$ Standardization of Components
Self Contained Heatpipe Cooling System	No External Cooling Components Degraded Mode Operation Possible	No Monthly Maintenance - \$\$\$ Savings in Filters, Pump Maintenance Improved Reliability - Increased Production Capacity

# *Competitive Advantages*

- Only One Other >100 KW Heat Pipe Inverter
  - GE Innovation Series Converter
  - Non-Optical, Lower Power Capacity
- Airak Controls IP – Patents Pending / Awarded
  - Optical Sensors – Voltage & Current (US 9,756,781 & Others)
  - Optically Interconnected Power Inverters (US 6,972,972)
- Standardized Modularity
  - Substantial Manufacturing Savings



# *Selected Inverter System Summary Specifications*

- \$ per KW @ 2.1MW: \$219 / KW (loaded), no quantity
- 76 KW/cu. ft. @ 2.1 MW
- Total Weight: ~1450 lbs per 3 phases
- System Efficiency: 96.7%, All Losses (18.7 KW @ 5 KHz per Phase)
- Peak Power Tested: 2KV @ 1,100A
- Typical Temp Rise
  - @  $f_s=5$  KHz → 1 deg/25 KW,
  - @  $f_s=4$  KHz → 1 deg/32 KW,
  - @  $f_s=3$  KHz → 1 deg/42 kW → 50C rise @ 2.1 MW

# *Inverter Program Status*

- Program Officially Ended in June 2006
- Currently have 4, 2-MW Inverter Phase Legs Ready for Deployment in Operational Environment
- Need Commercial Partner and Limited Engineering \$\$\$ for Deployment and Engineering Support;
- Airak Will License Patented Inverter Designs and Hardware/Software to Strategic Partner





# *Overall SBIR Program Successes*

- 2 Issued Patents, 2 Pending Patents Directly Associated to Program
- Optical Sensors Perfected on Program Led to Securing \$2.5M of Funding from U.S. Navy, and Resulted in:
  - MIL-SPEC Qualification (Vibration, Shock, Temp)
  - IEEE 15KV Metal Clad Busbar Certification
  - Installation on 13.8 KV/2000A Switchgear in October 2005; no failures
- Over \$103K in Specialized Contract Work and Sensor Sales (2006)



# *Overall SBIR Program Successes (con't)*

- Optical Sensors have Attracted in Excess of \$250K of Angel Investment (Sept. '06)
  - Creation of Optical Distribution Monitoring System (ODMS)
  - Comprehensive Market Research on Value of Monitoring Medium Voltage Distribution Completed in March 2006, Performed w/ Municipal Utility
  - 12.4KV Distribution Pilot Launched May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – no failures despite highest rainfall recorded in shortest period (12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> days) and highest recorded temperature (103 deg F)
- Presently Expanding Present Distribution Monitoring Pilot with Existing Utility and Developing 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot with a Western IOU.
- Next Round of Investment being Raised to Accelerate ODMS Deployment – Opportunity for Strategic Partnerships



# *The System Solution - Airak ODMS*

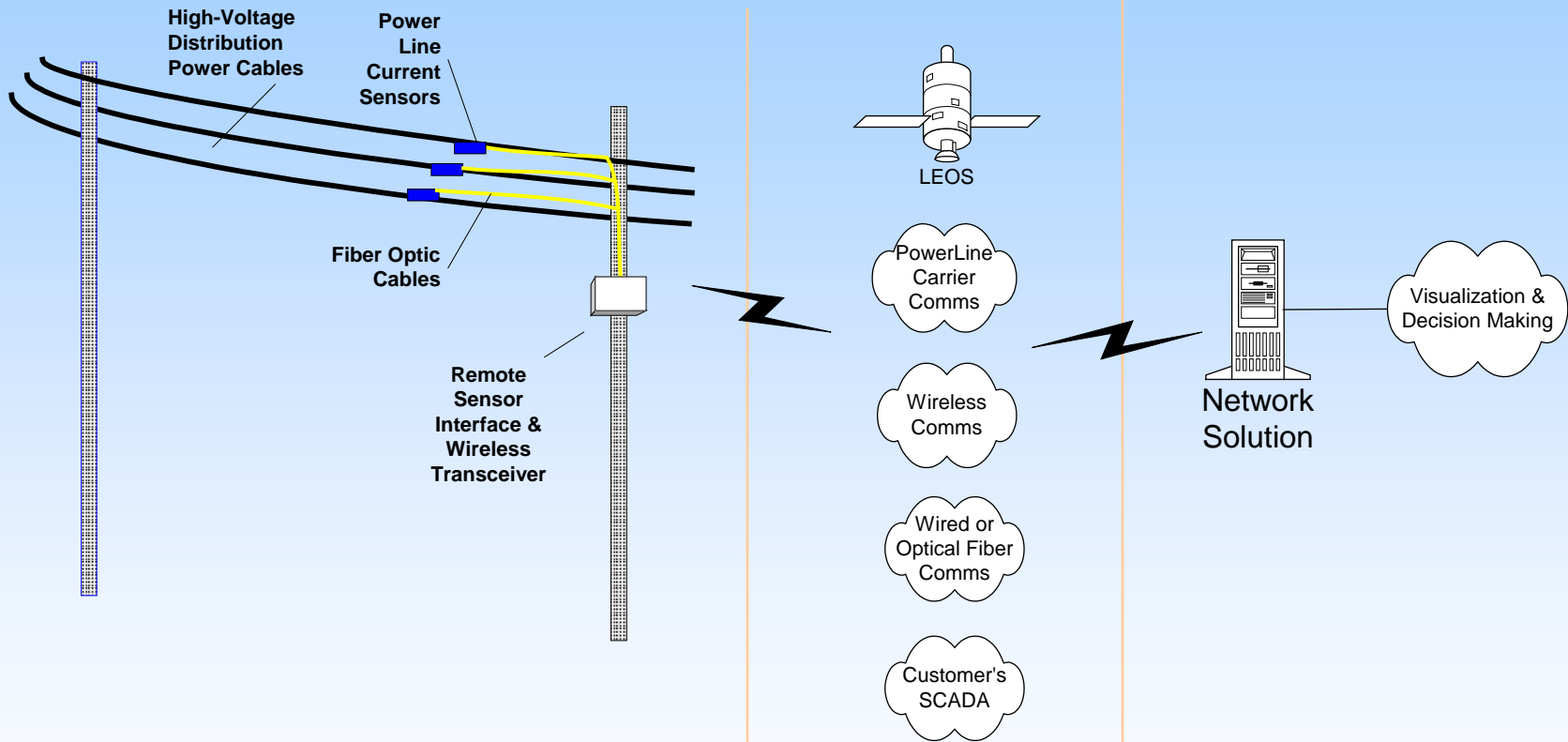
*A Breakthrough in Medium-Voltage Current Sensing Technology\**

- Airak patented system solution, the Optical Distribution Monitoring System (ODMS), is composed of
  - fiber optic sensor hardware,
  - communication subsystem, and
  - visualization monitoring software
- Airak's sensors install quickly to overhead or switchgear conductors, enabling immediate visibility into medium-voltage load dynamics and power quality events as well as significantly reducing cost of ownership
- Visualizing MV distribution load and power quality allows utility to manage aging assets and balance operations and maintenance with existing dollars



*\*Medium-Voltage: 480V to 38KV*

# Airak's ODMS: Utility Power Monitoring Solution



*Airak Optical  
Sensors & Electronics*

*Communications  
System*

*Airak Database &  
Visualization  
Software*

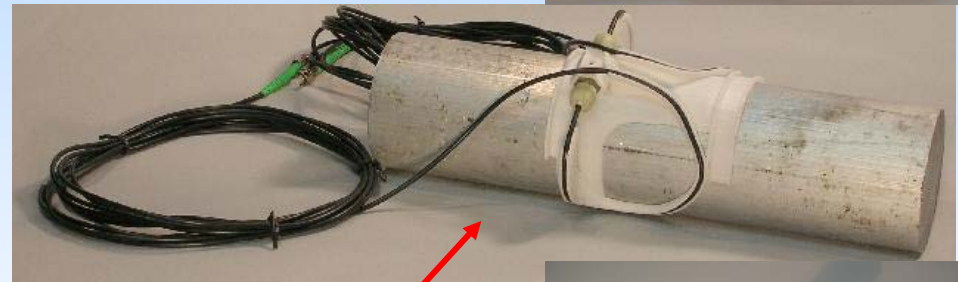
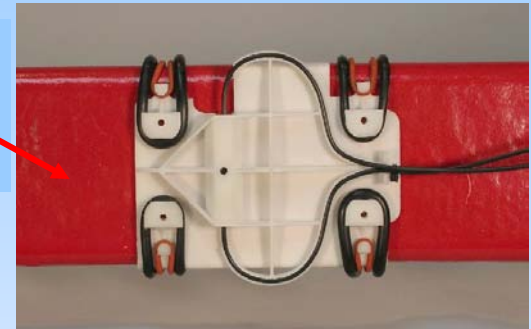


# Typical Busbar Installation (Switchgear Equipment)

## ➤ Benefits for Customer:

- No Disassembly of Equipment (Big Time Cost Savings)
- Easy to Install (Less than 2 Minutes)
- Safe (Isolated)
- Only Optical Current Sensor Qualified for:
  - ✓ IEEE 15KV Insulation Class
  - ✓ MIL-STD-167-1 Vibration
  - ✓ MIL-STD-901-D Shock
  - ✓ -40C to 85C Temperature

*15KV Busbar  
Sensor*



*22.5KV 3" Solid  
Conductor Sensor*

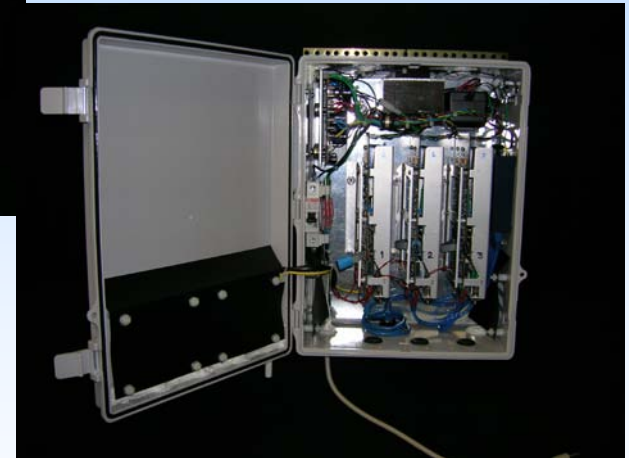
*34.5KV Overhead  
Sensor*



# *Pole-Mounted Electro-Optics*

## ➤ Benefits for Customer:

- Complete Data Acquisition, Processing, Storage (up to 1 GB)
- “Internet Ready”
- Digital and/or Analog Output Options Available
- Flexible User



## Interface:

### ➤ Ethernet

- Web Interface
- Modbus TCP

### ➤ Serial

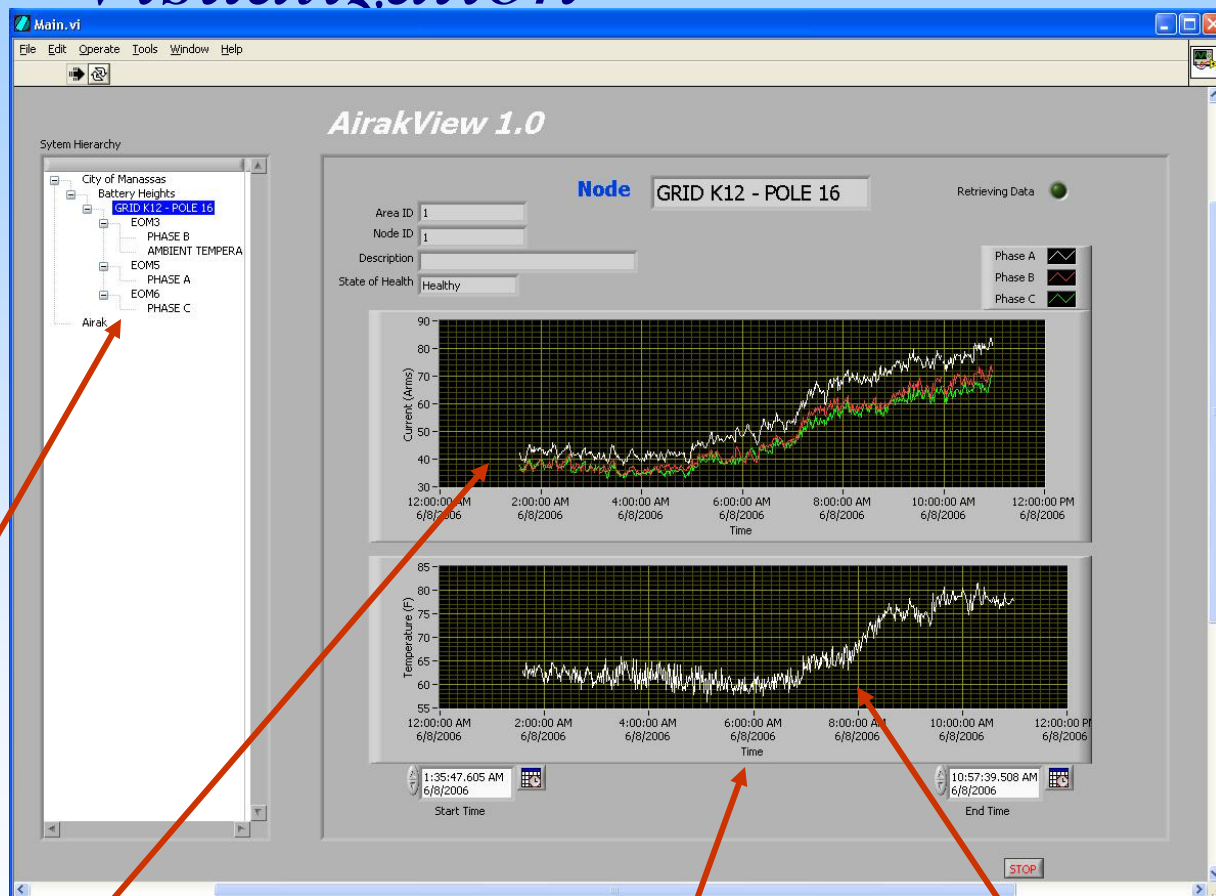
- RS232
- RS485
- Modbus

### ➤ Wireless

- CDMA “Plug and Play”

# Real-time & Historical Load Visualization

- AirakView™ provides the user to remotely view sensor information
  - load current
  - temperature
  - power quality (harmonics)
- Alarm capability triggered on thresholds
  - Send emails



*Installation Hierarchy*

*3-Phase Load Information*

*Time Stamp*

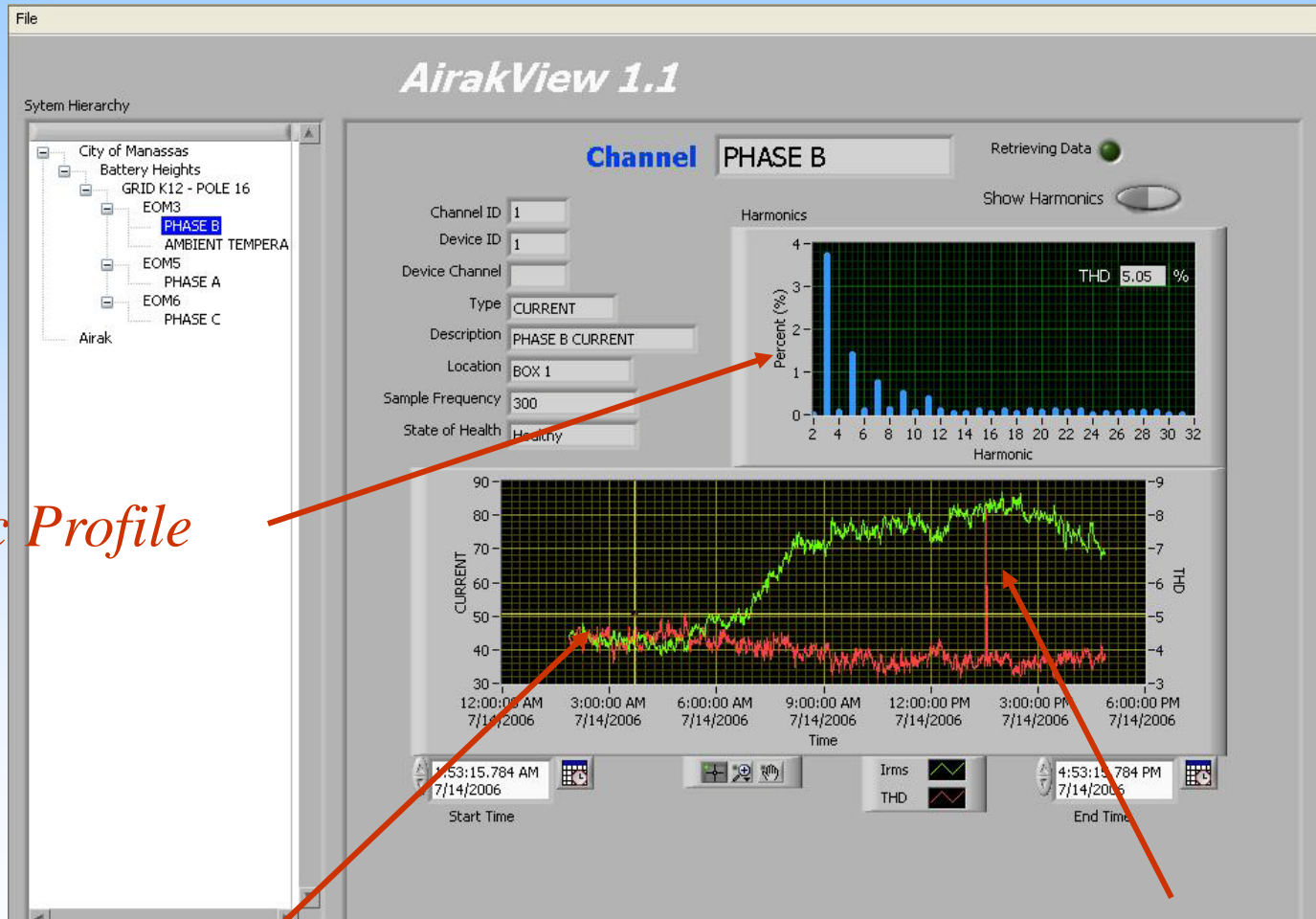
*Ambient Temperature*



*Note: Actual Display of Manassas Monitor*



# Real-Time and Historical Load Visualization



*Harmonic Profile*

*Total Harmonic Distortion (red) +  
Phase B Current Load (green)*

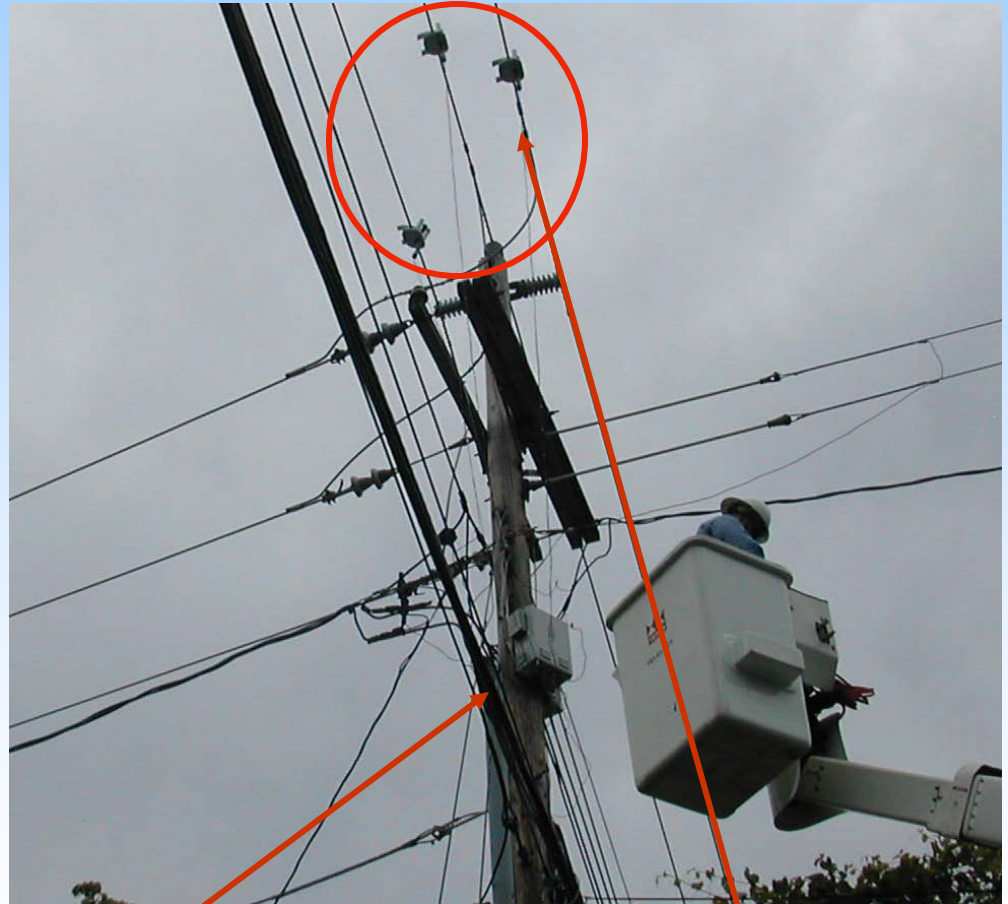
*Abnormal Power  
Quality Event*



# *Typical Overhead Installation*

## ➤ Benefits for Customer:

- No Outages to Install
- Easy to Install (via Hotstick)
- Safe (Isolated)
- Lightweight



*Electronics & Communications*

*Overhead Optical Current Sensors*

# Example of Multi-phase THD Events

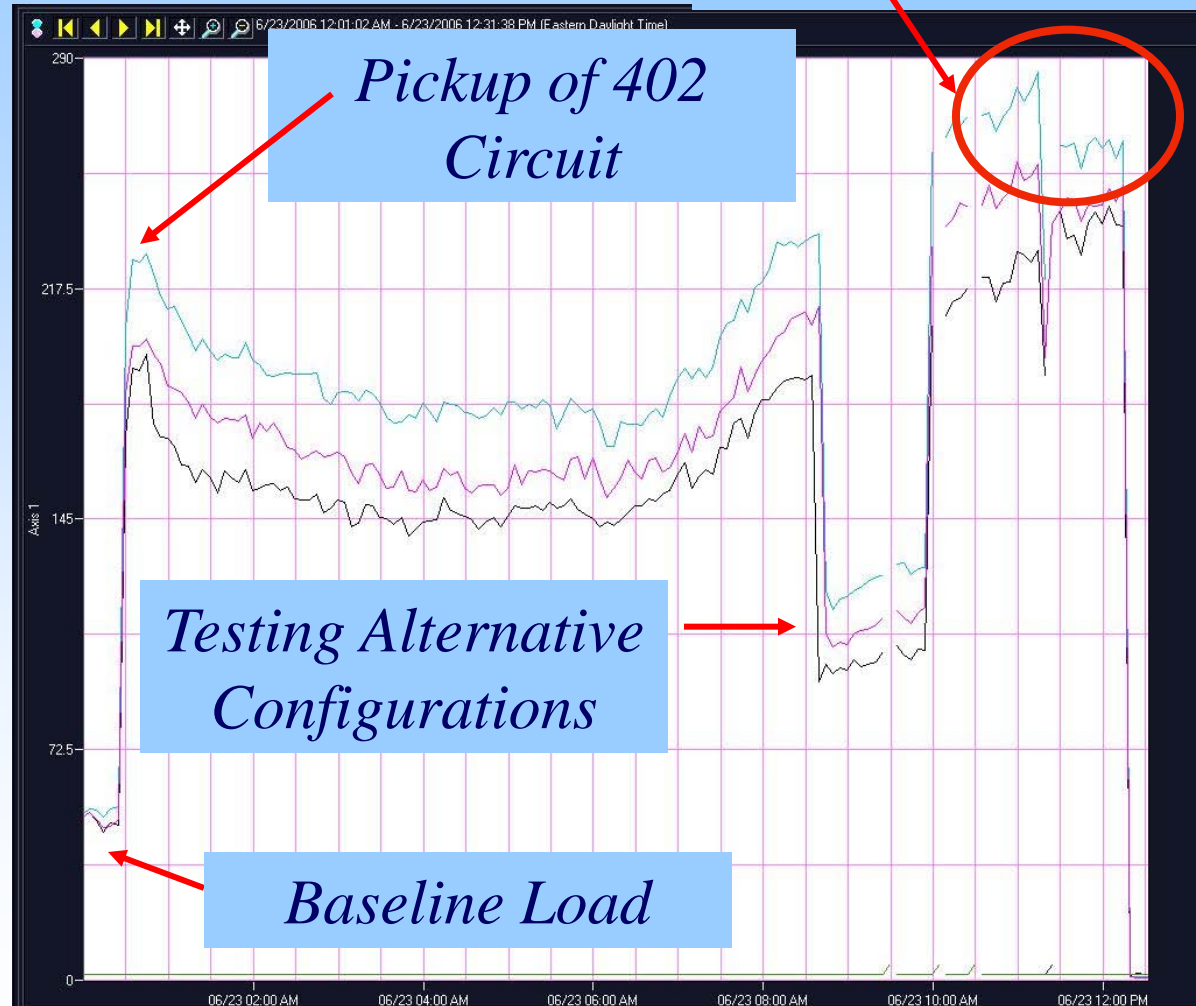
- Phases A&B  
Current Only
- Significantly  
Impact Power  
Quality
- Suspect  
Backfeed of  
MG Set or  
Partial  
Discharge w/in  
Xfmr



# Make Real-Time Load Configuration Changes

Emergency Rating Exceeded

- Period of Severe Thunderstorms
- Provided Real-time Confidence to Operate within Current Rating Margins
- Allowed Power Flow for Additional 12-hours



# Summary

## ➤ Inverter Program

- Economical MW-scale building blocks achieved with high performance and manufacturing modularity
- Inverters are ready for field demonstration & licensing to strategic partner
- MW program created two technologies, one which has received two significant awards and two issued/two pending patents

## ➤ Optical Sensors Program

- Technologies created on MW inverter program have generated nearly \$2.5M in Government acquisition revenue
- Program attracted \$250K in outside angel investment for ODMS technology
- ODMS provides visibility into the distribution “black hole”, allowing utilities to better manage aging assets and available dollars
- 1<sup>st</sup> commercial MV pilot launched in May '06 and being built-out; additional pilots being planned

# *Acknowledgements*

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