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# “TRANSFORM” project strengthens Europe’s SiC supply chain

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# Ambition of TRANSFORM

## Trusted European SiC Value Chain for a greener Economy

**Horizon 2020 Call: H2020-ECSEL-2020-1-IA-two-stage (H2020-ECSEL-2020-1-IA-two-stage) Topic: ECSEL-2020-1-IA Type of action: ECSEL-IA Proposal number: 101007237-2 Proposal acronym: TRANSFORM**

“TRANSFORM will provide European downstream market players with a reliable source of these important electronic components and systems, based on an **entirely European silicon carbide value chain**, ranging from substrate wafers to energy converters.... will significantly strengthen the competitive position of European technology in the global market. The project TRANSFORM will strongly improve current SiC technologies beyond the state-of-the-art to serve the large emerging markets for electric power conversion in renewable energies, mobility and industry...”



[ECSEL Joint Undertaking](#)  
[Electronic Components and Systems](#)  
[for European Leadership](#)



# Consortium structure and TRL



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WP3	Smart Cut 150mm								
	Smart Cut 150->200mm scale-up								
	High-quality bulk								
	Substrate 150->200mm scale-up								
	Epitaxy 150 -> 200mm scale-up								
WP4	Trench MOS								
	Planar MOS								
	Copper backend								
WP5	Ultrasonic copper bonding								
	Copper sintering								
	Power modules								
	SiC specific gate driver								
WP6	Robustness/Reliability (Tests + Modeling)								
	Reversible AC charging								
	SiC traction inverter								
	Machinery for precision farming								
	Industrial power converter								
High-voltage DC/DC power converter									



# Demonstration of the technology



1

**Traction Inverter**

- 800V
- 50kW/l
- 98,5% efficiency @10%Pnom



2

**On Board charger**

- 800V batteries
- Bidirectionnal
- 22kW 1/3 phases
- 2kW/l



3

**Precision farming DCDC converter**

- 700V
- 25-30kW
- For actuator supply in heavy tractors farming application



4

**Industrial machine battery charger**

- 20kW
- 96V batteries
- 3phase 400VAC
- Cloud connected



5

**DCDC converter for PV string optimization**

- 20kW
- 1500V input/output
- Multilevel converter



SiC component benefits and smartcut technology will be demonstrated through 5 different converters for 4 different application domains





# TRANSFORM press release

“ The aim of the Transform project is to secure a leading role for Europe in new technologies based on silicon carbide, ”

says Jens Fabrowsky, who holds the position of executive vice-president in the Bosch Automotive Electronics division.

<https://www.bosch-presse.de/pressportal/de/en/from-wafers-to-power-electronic-applications-new-consortium-to-create-european-supply-chain-for-silicon-carbide-semiconductors-234624.html>

## From SiC wafers to hyperefficient power electronic applications

Power electronic applications are at the heart of numerous electronic systems. They control the switching processes in these systems and keep any power losses to a minimum. The power semiconductor devices in these applications ensure that they operate as efficiently as possible. Conventionally, the chips in these devices are made of ultra-pure silicon. In the future, however, this will increasingly be replaced by silicon carbide, which offers numerous advantages over pure silicon. For example, silicon carbide semiconductors display better electrical conductivity and enables higher switching frequencies while also ensuring that much less energy is dissipated in the form of heat. In addition, power electronic applications with SiC chips can be operated at much higher temperatures, with the result that a simpler cooling system is required, which also saves energy. And finally, silicon carbide has a higher electric field strength, meaning that components made of this material can be smaller in design while nonetheless delivering a higher power conversion efficiency. Compared with conventional silicon chips, experts believe this will result in an energy saving of as much as 30 percent, depending on where the components are used.

## The objectives of Transform

The objective of the Transform project is to establish a resilient European supply chain for the production of power electronic applications based on innovative SiC power semiconductor devices. The demand for such technology is set to grow rapidly, especially with respect to energy-intensive applications such as electrical vehicle powertrains, EV charge spots, and power supply infrastructure. A forecast by the market research and consulting company Yole indicates that, between now and 2025, the SiC market as a whole will grow on average by 30 percent a year to over 2.5 billion dollars. The Transform project will therefore also cover the development of new SiC technology along with the requisite production processes and methods. In addition, it will endeavor to secure the availability of machinery and equipment for the production of this technology by European suppliers, ranging from wafers to finished power





# ST pioneering Silicon Carbide more than 25 years of R&D commitment

## Catania: Power Electronics Competence Center

Ecosystem made of Academic, Research Centers and ST as a semiconductor leader, created a true "incubator"



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Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche

Everything started from **1" wafer**

More than **70 patents and 580 technical documents** on SiC

Leveraging on **CNR Facilities** at early stage

**> 30 years experience** in power semiconductor

### ST major milestones



1996



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2003: 2" ST line

2006: 3" ST line

2011: 4" ST line

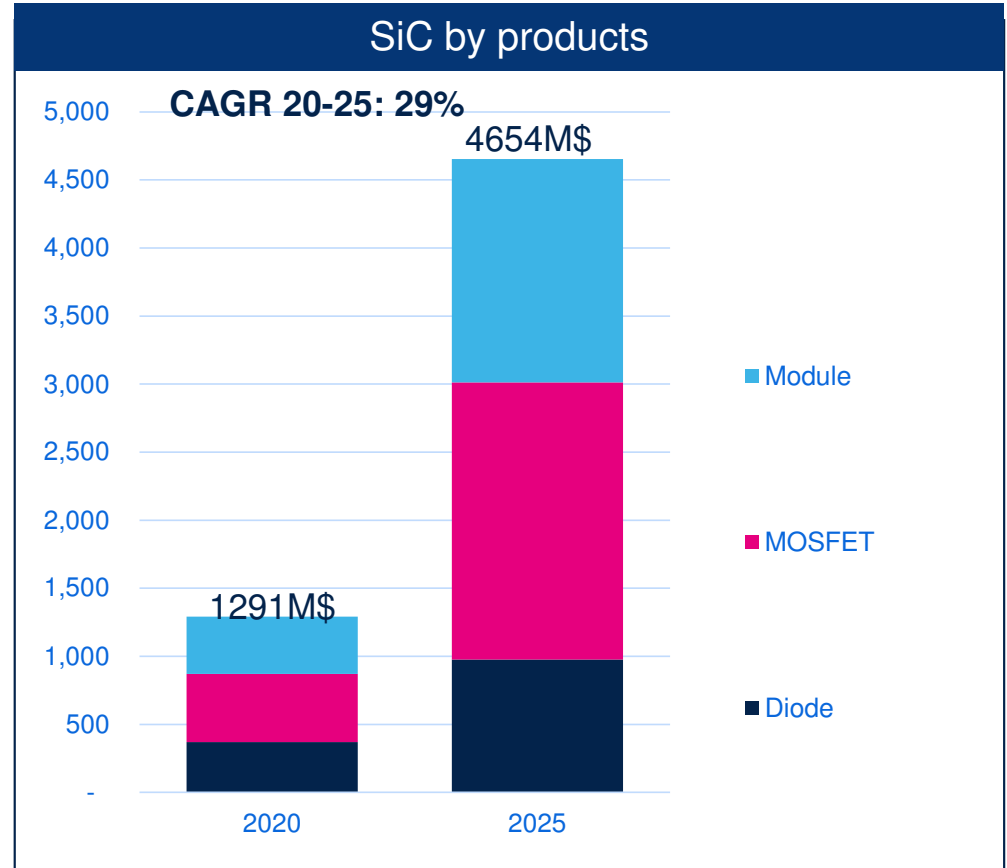
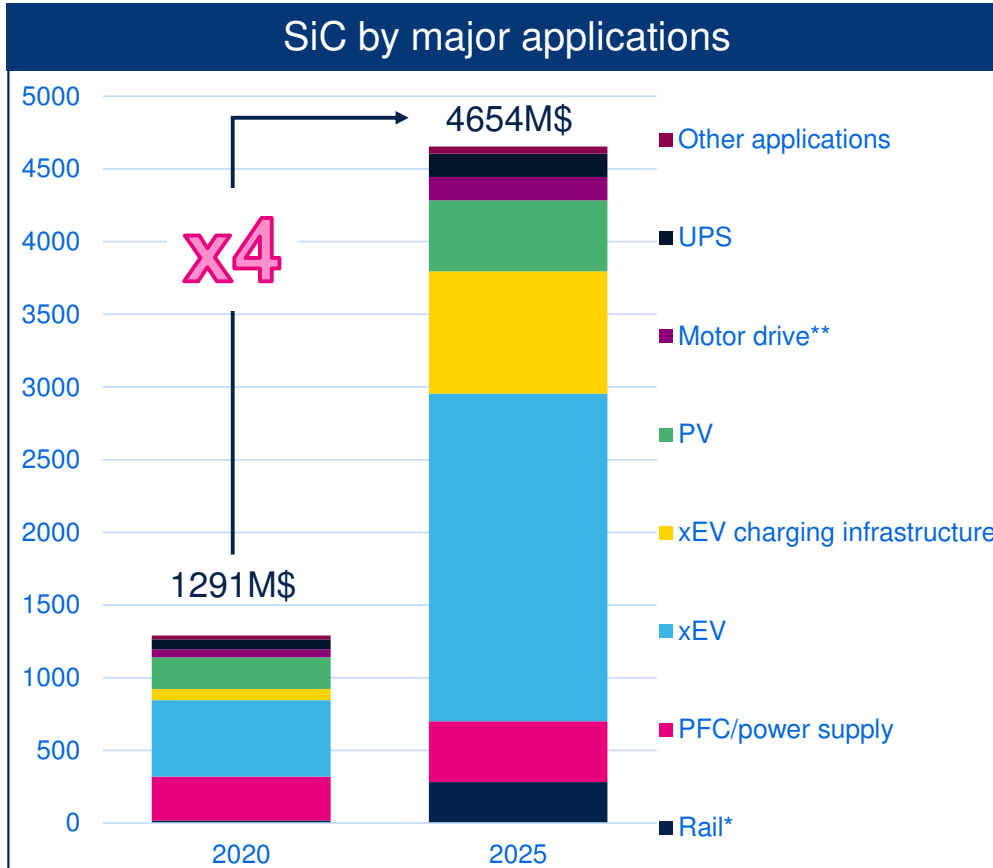
2016: 6" ST line

2021

(\*) start production (\*\*) prototype



# Silicon Carbide market outlook

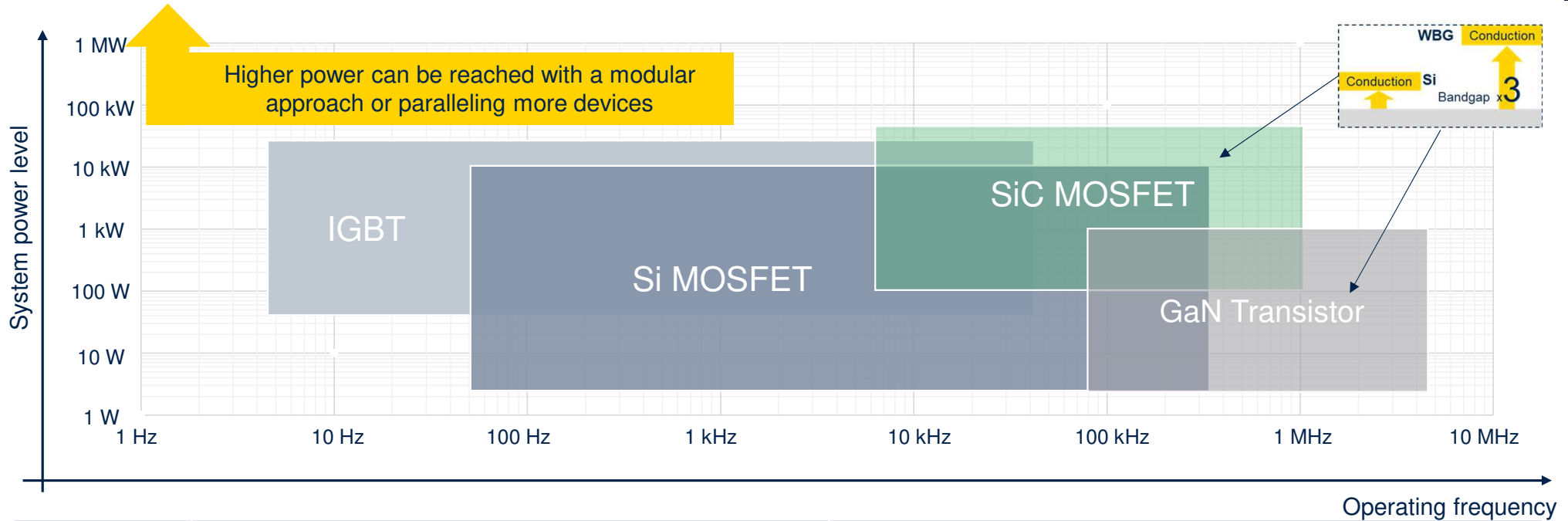


Other applications = Others, Wind, Oil and Gas, Military, Medical, R&D  
 \* including auxiliary power  
 \*\* including air conditioning

Source: Power SiC Market July 2019 Report (2025 projected by CAGR) – YOLE



# Si and Wide Band Gap technologies mapping



Technology	Features	Applications
SiC MOSFET	Very high power, high voltage, high frequency, high temperature ratings	High power DC/DC, UPS, charging stations, main traction inverters, OBC, etc.





weight: ~ 100 - 250kg  
working temperature up to 250 °C  
efficiency ~ 30 - 45%  
CO<sub>2</sub> emission > 100g/km



# Mobility e-revolution

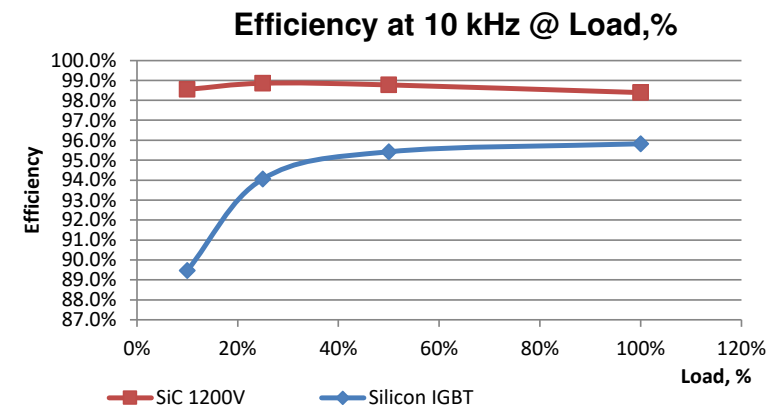
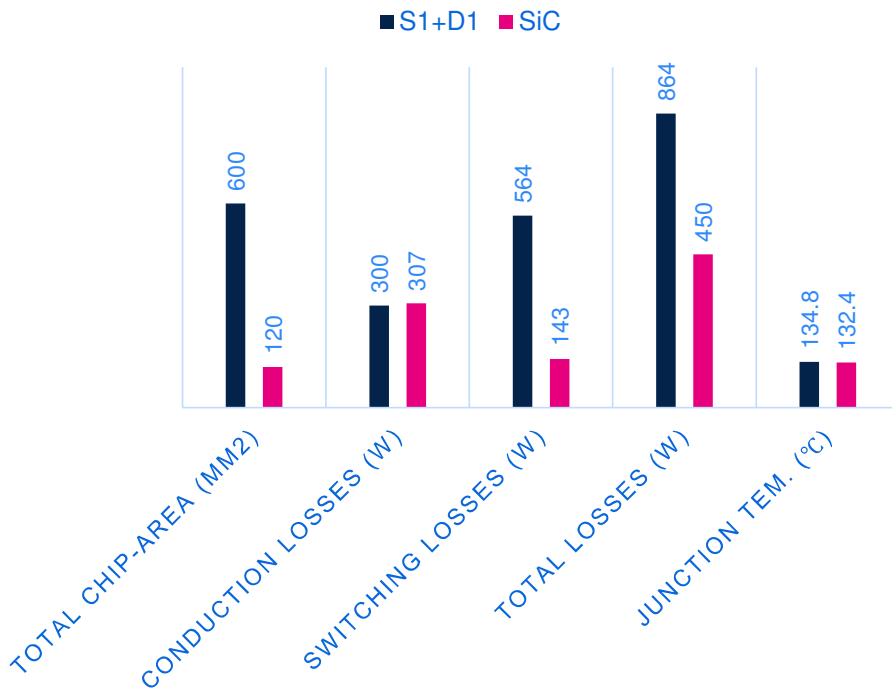
weight: 75kg  
working temperature 65 °C  
efficiency > 90%  
CO<sub>2</sub> emission = 0 g/km





# SiC advantages in a EV's inverter

## 1200V SiC MOSFET vs. IGBT: 210 kW traction inverter @ 10 kHz



Mission profile of a typical EV traction inverter

Modes	City	Highway	Top speed	Accelerating	Regeneration
Percentage of time	45%	40%	10%	5%	Braking
Load	10%	20%	7%	100%	30%



Typical power losses per switch at peak power: 350 A<sub>rms</sub>

# Our technology starts with You



Find out more at <http://www.st.com/stpower>

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