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# The SuperGrid: Combined Delivery and Storage of Electricity and Hydrogen

*P. M. Grant, (Electric Power Research Institute)*

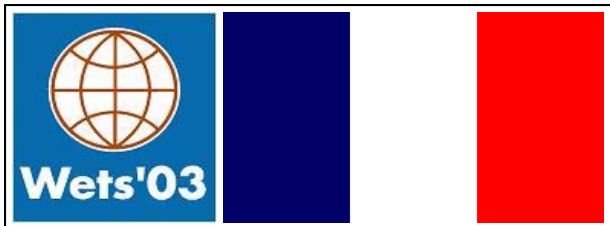
*pgrant@epri.com*

<ftp://grant:marulo@ftp.epri.com/Nat%20Lab%20SuperGrid%20Proposal/>

**EPRI**

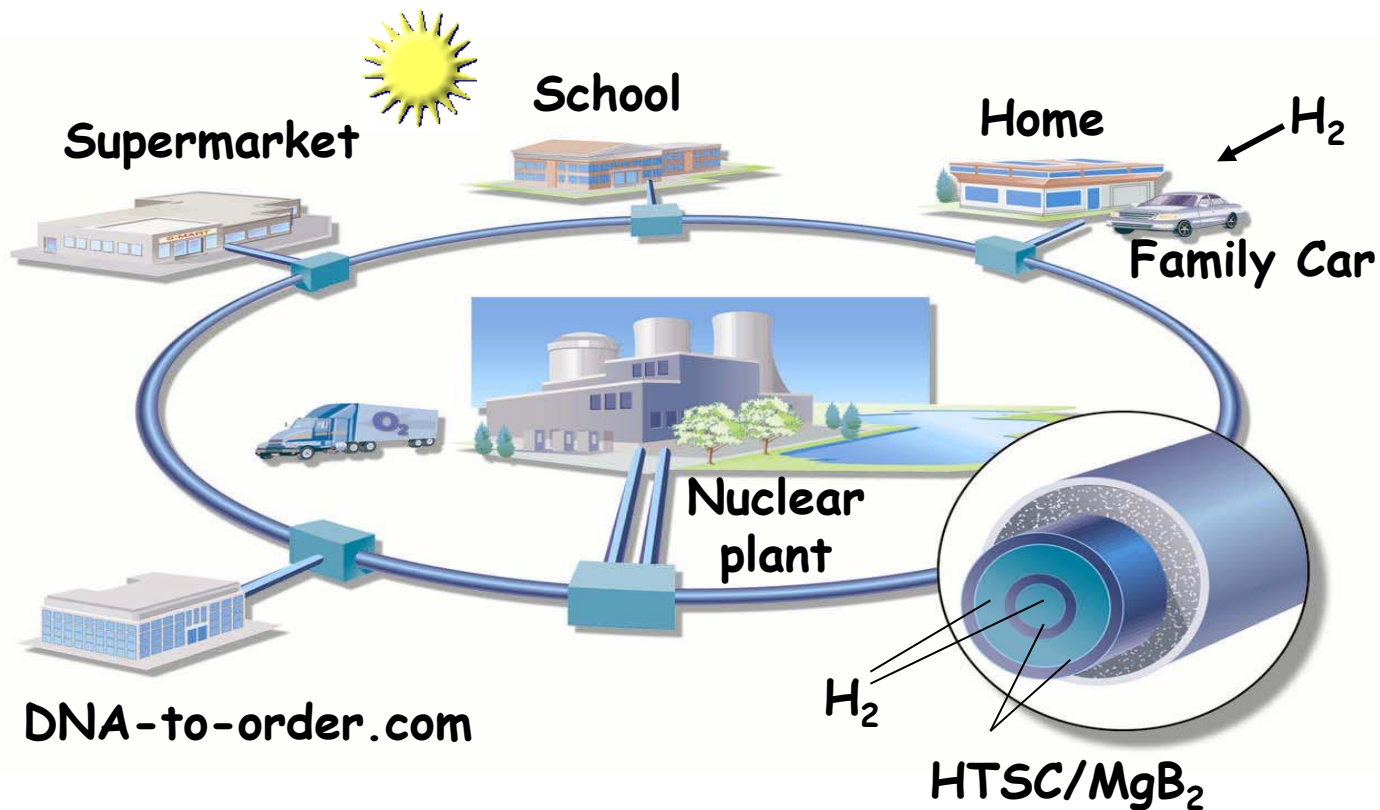
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# SuperCity



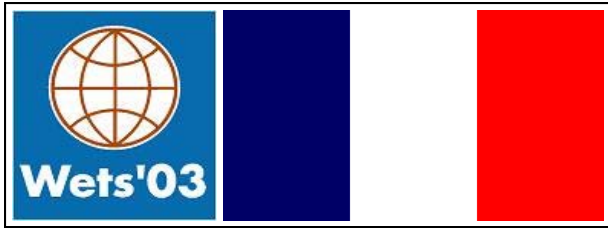
**P.M. Grant, The Industrial Physicist, Feb/March Issue, 2002**

<ftp://grant:marulo@ftp.epri.com/Nat%20Lab%20SuperGrid%20Proposal>

**EPRI**

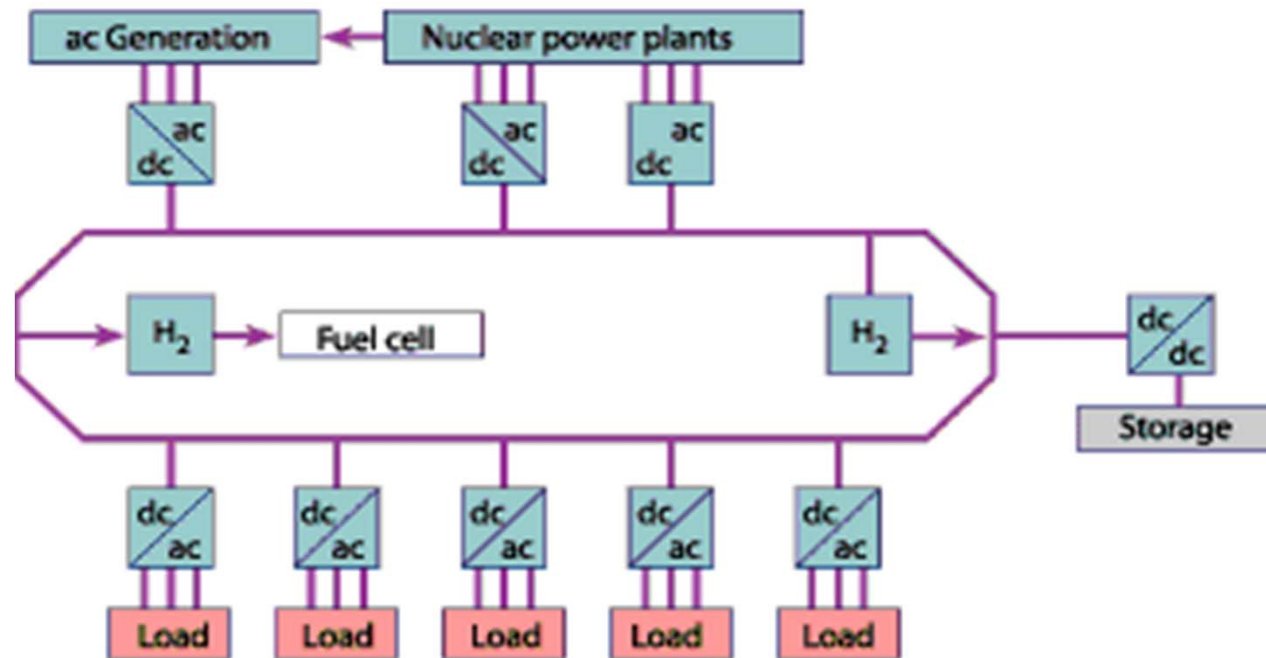
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# SuperGrid



## Continental SuperGrid

“Continental SuperGrid Workshop,” UIUC/Rockefeller U., Palo Alto, Nov. 2002

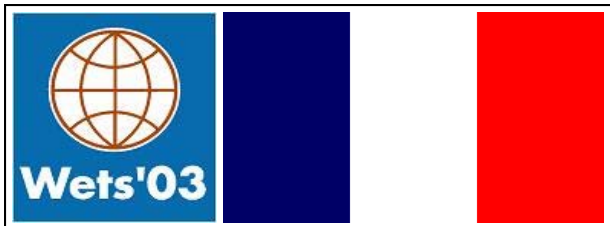
<ftp://grant:marulo@ftp.epri.com/Energy%20SuperGrid%20Workshop%20Proceedings/>

<http://www.epri.com/journal/details.asp?doctype=features&id=511>

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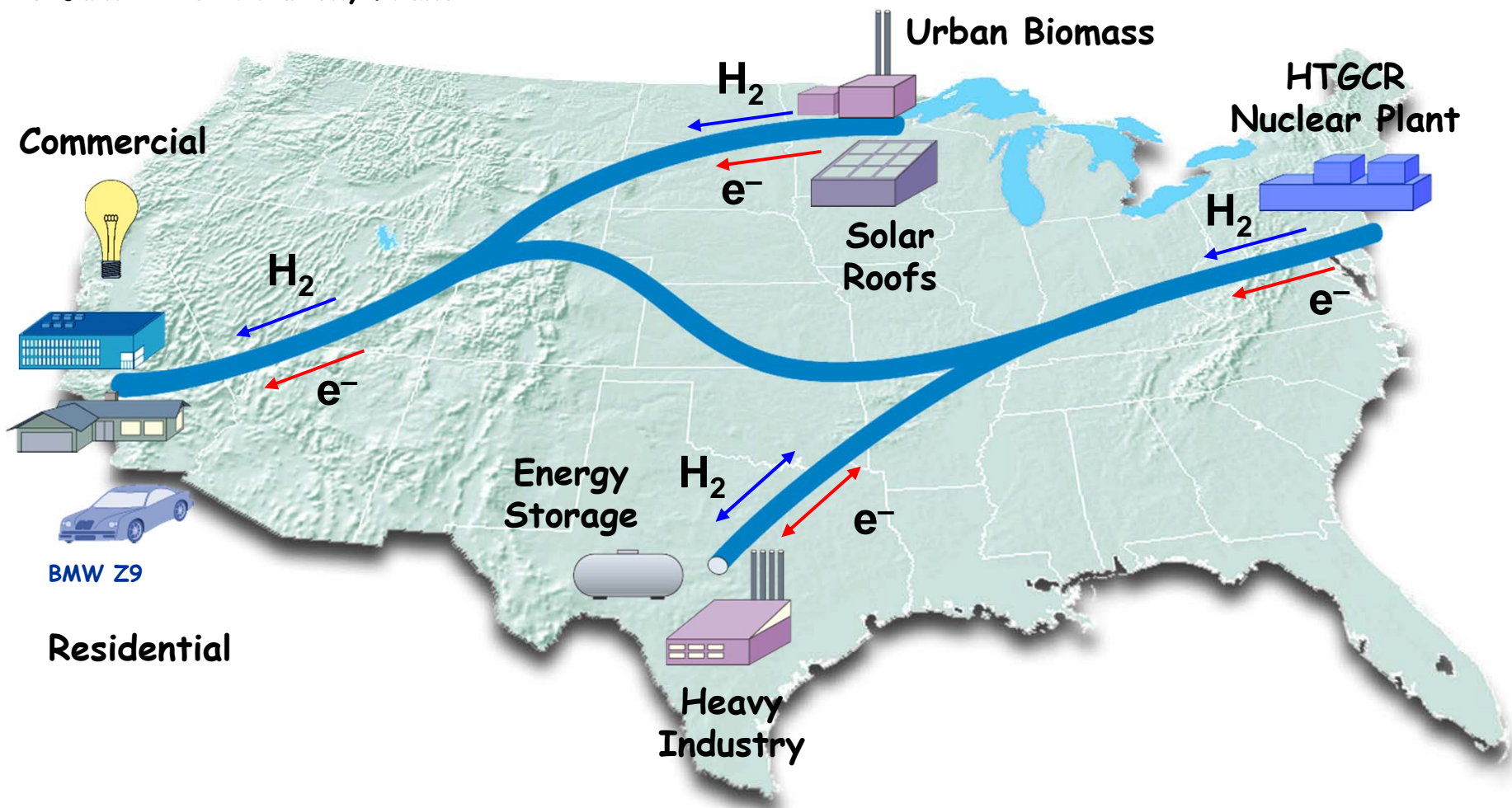
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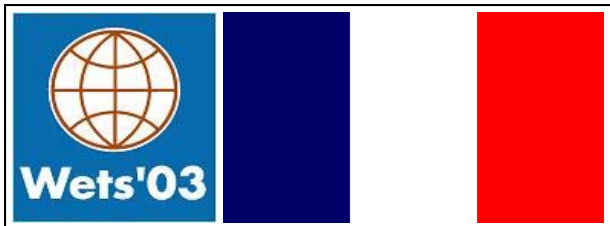
# North American 21st Century Energy SuperGrid



**EPRI**

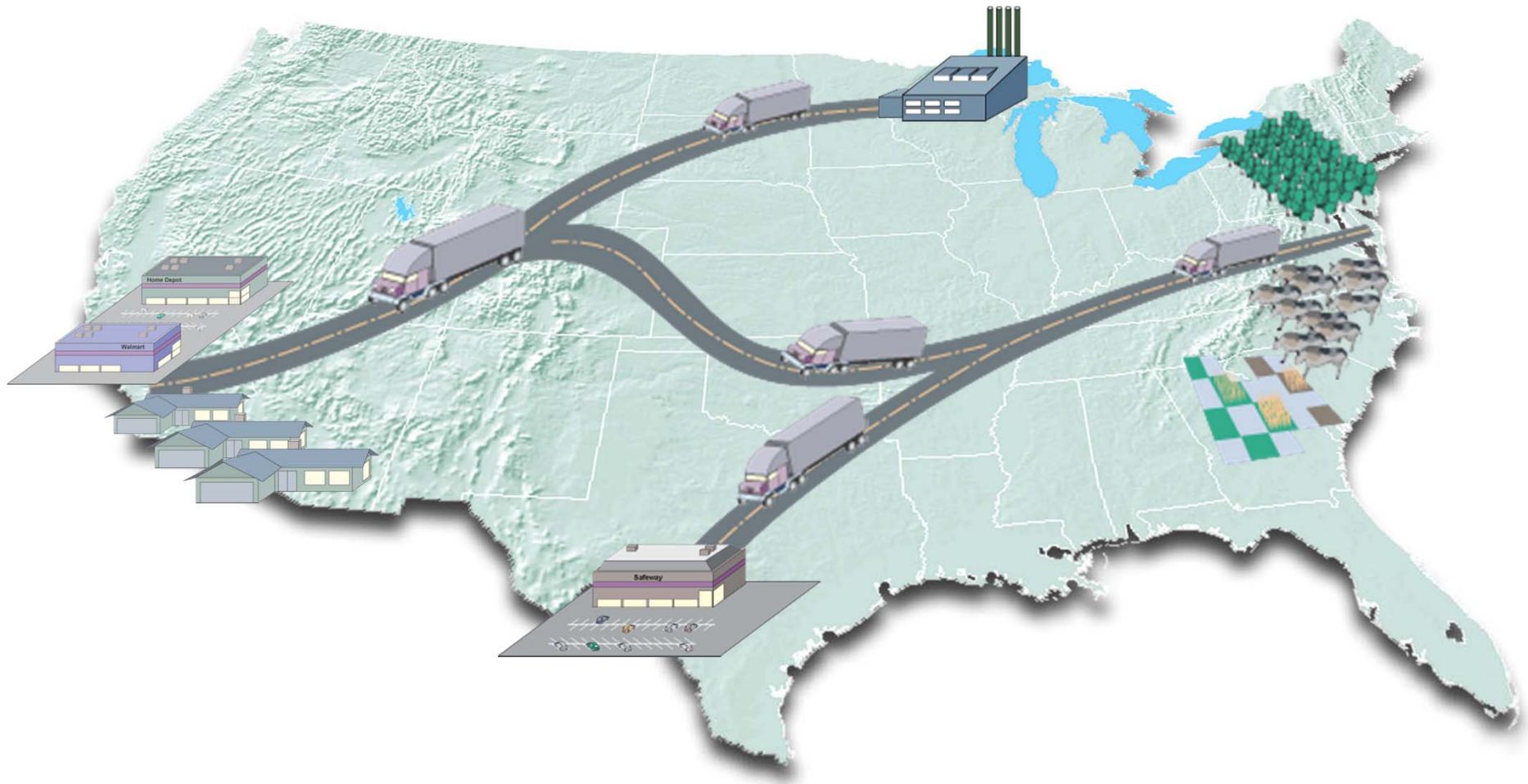
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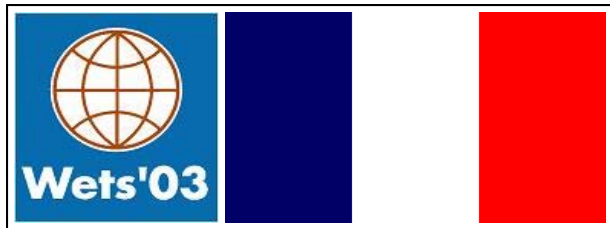
# Interstate 80 The 20th Century Diesel Grid



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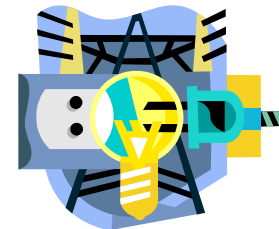


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# Architecture

## Three Dimensions

- **SuperGrid** – A superconducting, H<sub>2</sub>-cooled interstate “backbone” connecting regions coast to coast.
- **RegionGrid** – Two grid operators (East and West) with upgraded high capacity lines to transmit power regionally.
- **CityGrid** – Local mini- and micro-grids with distributed intelligence, energy resources, and demand response

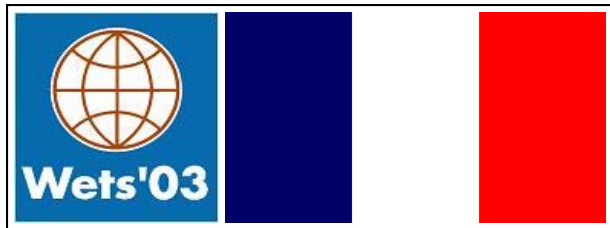


**Integrated systems architecture enables**  
**NationalGrid operations across all dimensions.**

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# Garwin-Matisoo (IBM, 1967)

100 GW dc, 1000 km !

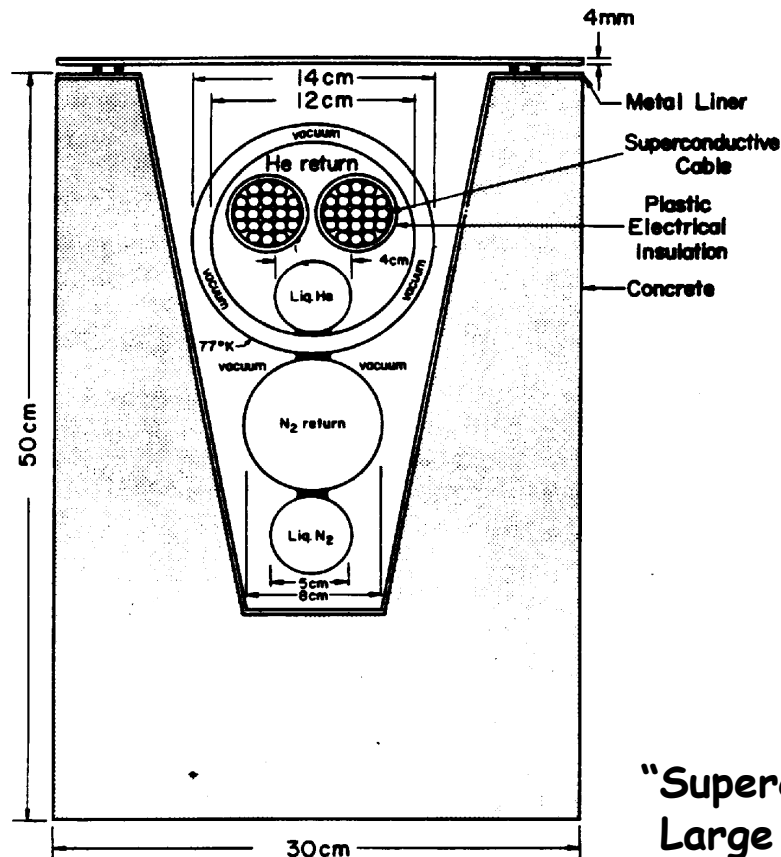
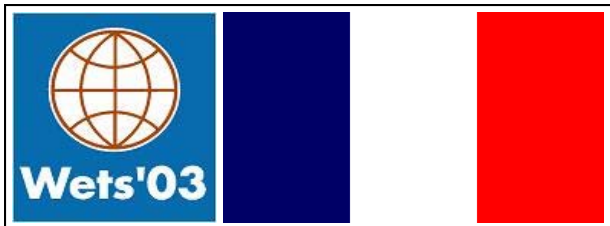


Fig. 1. Cross section of the 100-GW line.

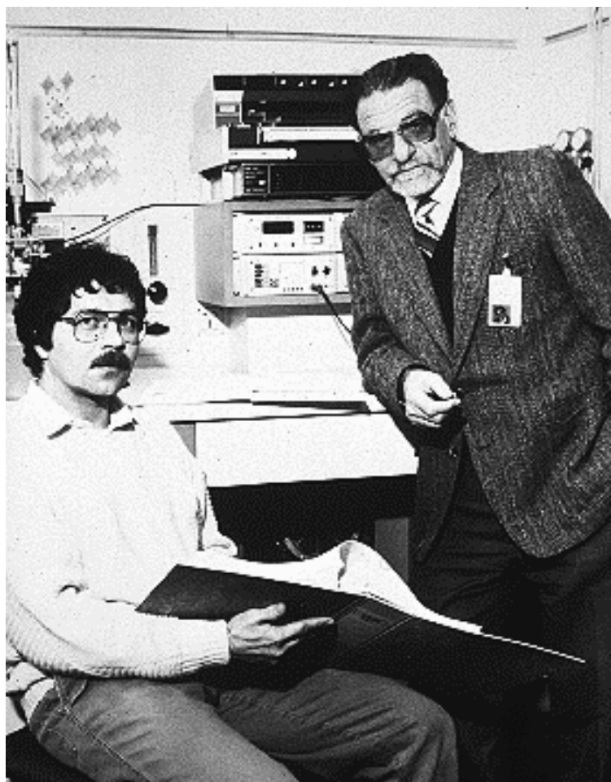
- $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  Wire
- $T_c = 9 \text{ K}$
- LHe liquid-vapor cooled
- $\text{LN}_2$  heat shield

"Superconducting Lines for the Transmission of Large Amounts of Electric Power over Great Distances,"  
R. L. Garwin and J. Matisoo, Proc. IEEE 55, 538 (1967)

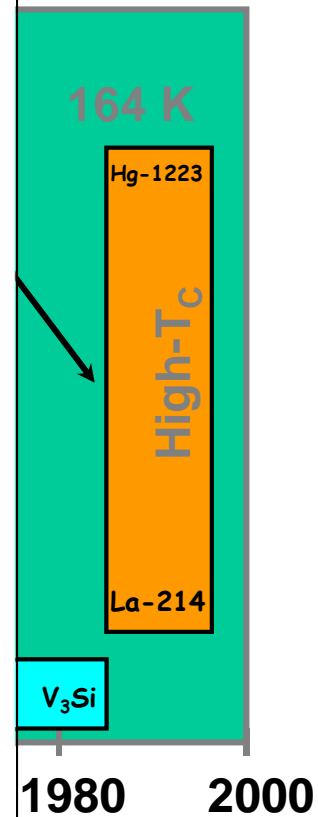
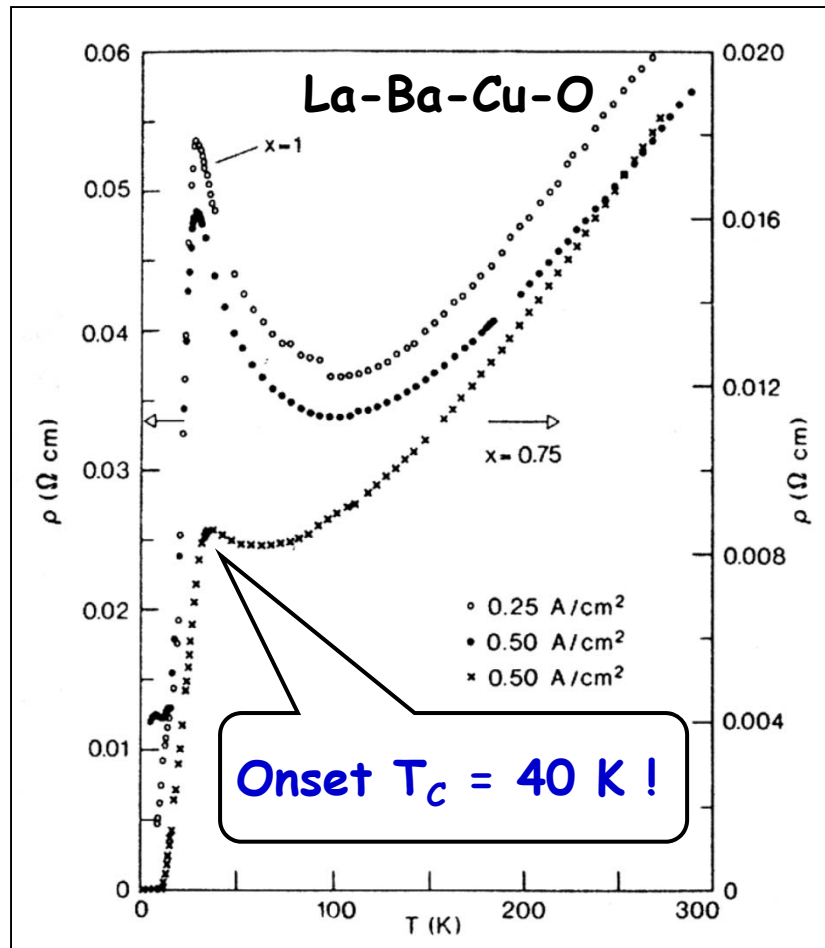


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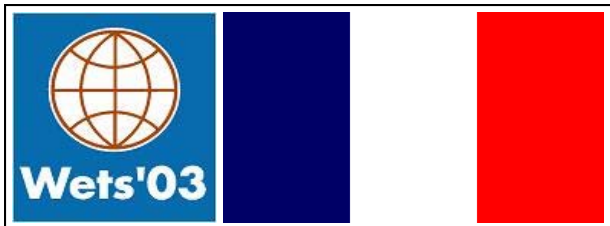
# 1986: A Big Surprise!



**Bednorz and Mueller**  
**IBM Zuerich, 1986**







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# 1987: "The Prize!"



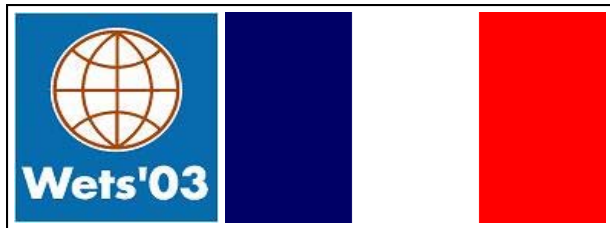
J. Georg Bednorz, left, and K. Alex Müller after learning they had won the Nobel Prize in physics.

*2 Get Nobel for Unlocking Superconductor Secret*

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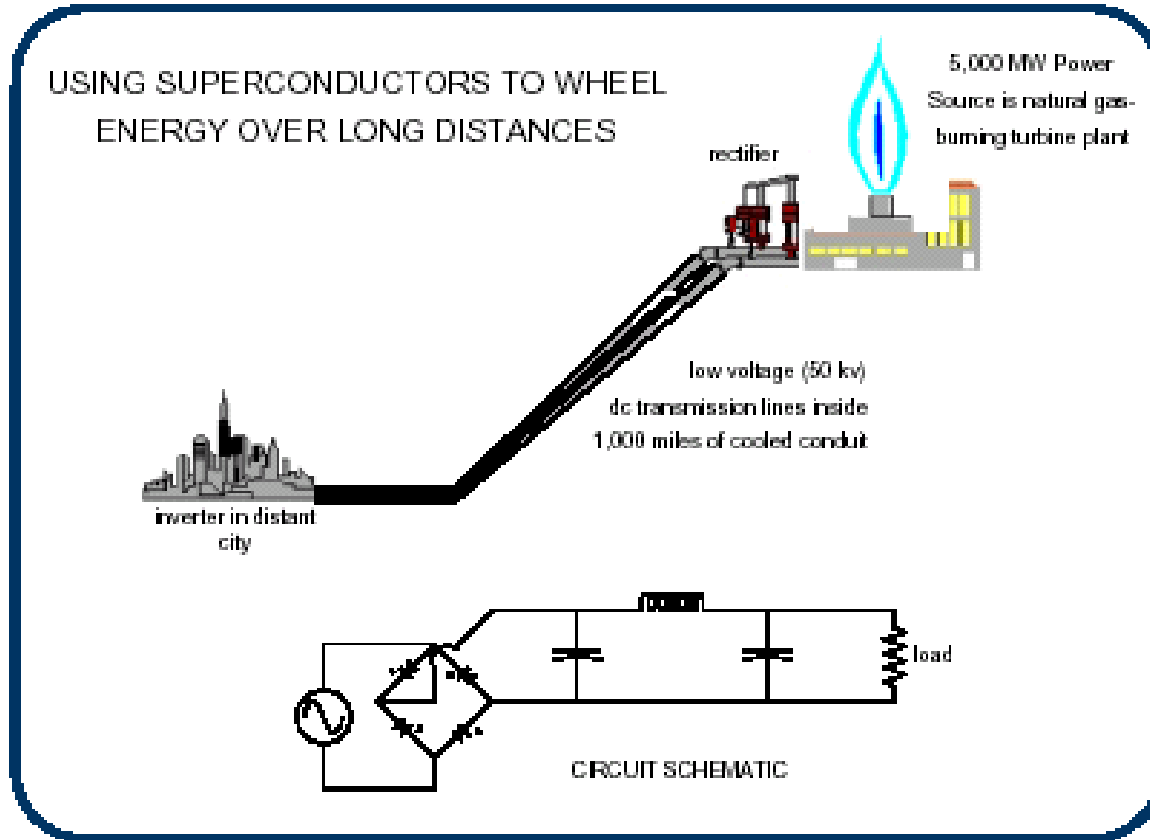
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# Electricity Pipe



Initial EPRI study on long distance (1000 km) HTSC dc cable cooled by liquid nitrogen -- 1997 --

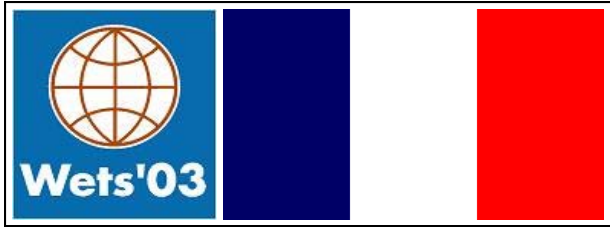
P.M. Grant, S. Schoenung, W. Hassenzahl, EPRI Report 8065-12, 1997

<ftp://grant:marulo@ftp.epri.com/Nat%20Lab%20SuperGrid%20Proposal>



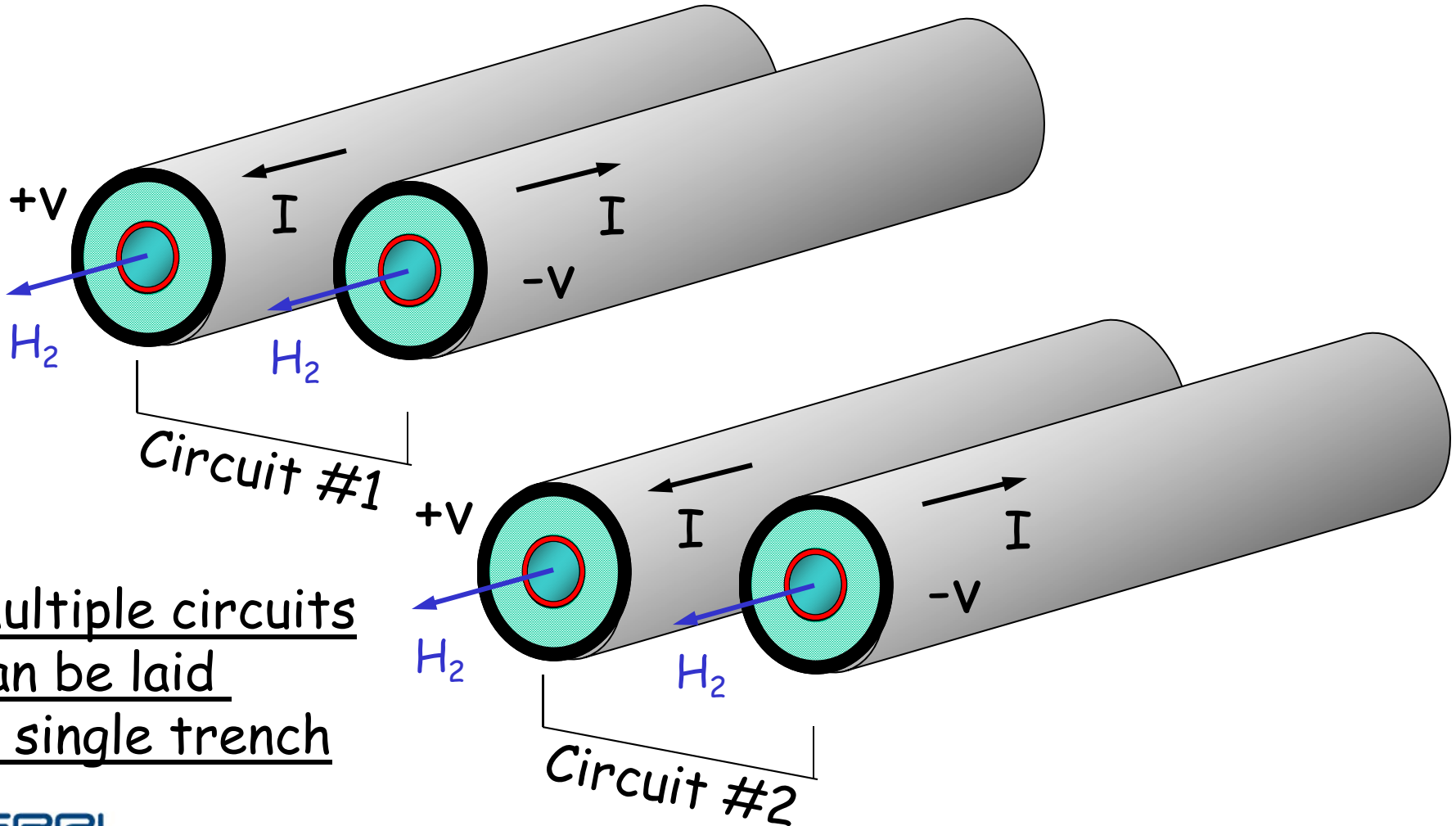
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# SuperCables

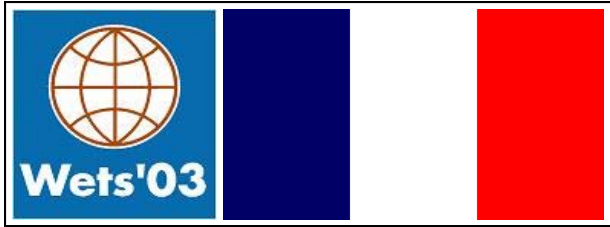


Multiple circuits  
can be laid  
in single trench

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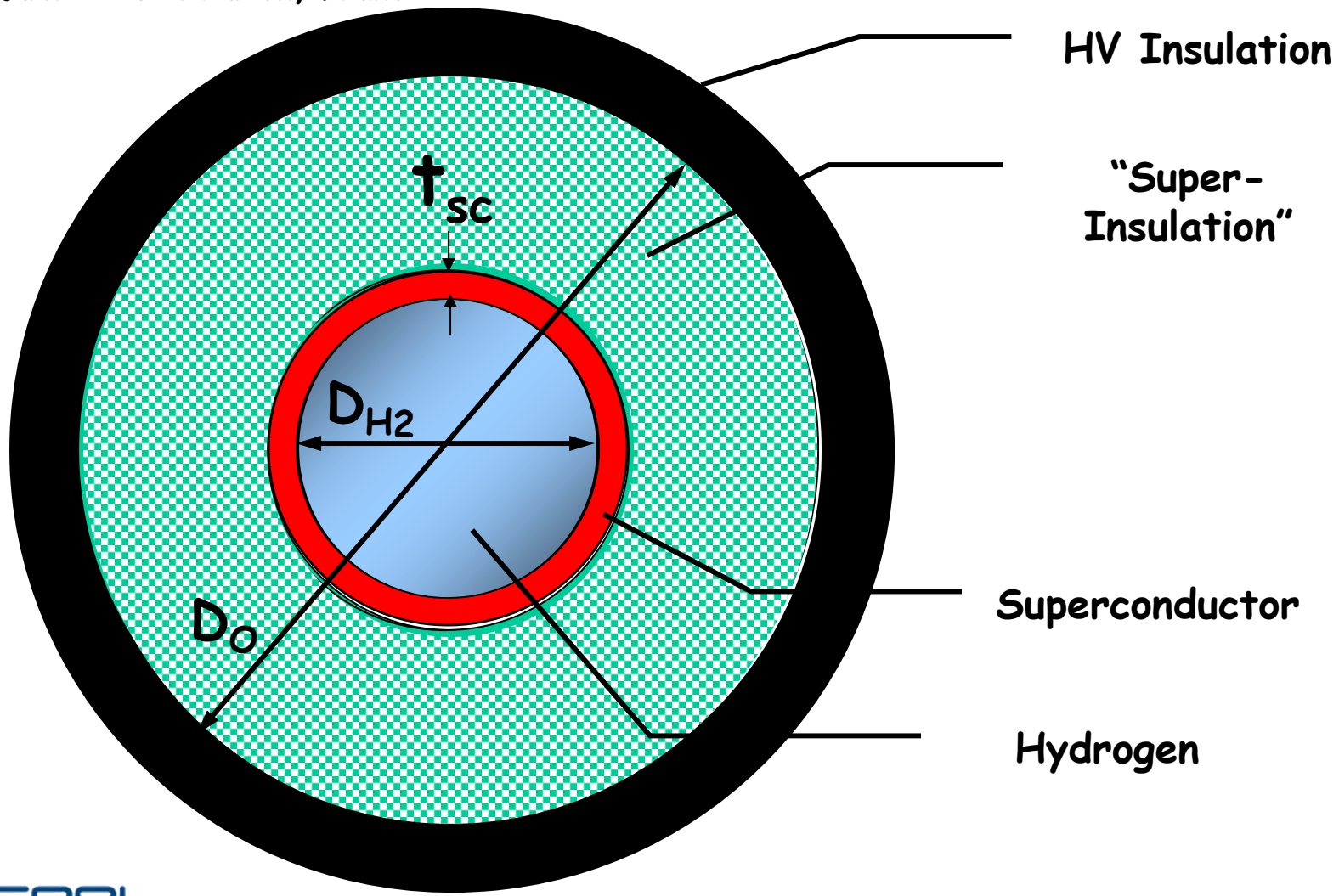
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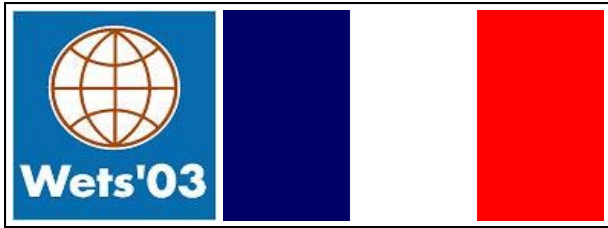
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# SuperCable





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# Power Flows

$$P_{SC} = 2|V|IA_{SC}, \text{ where}$$

Electricity

$P_{SC}$  = Electric power flow

$V$  = Voltage to neutral (ground)

$I$  = Supercurrent

$A_{SC}$  = Cross-sectional area of superconducting annulus

$$P_{H_2} = 2(Q\rho vA)_{H_2}, \text{ where}$$

Hydrogen

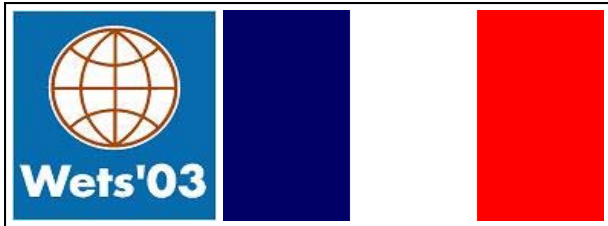
$P_{H_2}$  = Chemical power flow

$Q$  = Gibbs  $H_2$  oxidation energy (2.46 eV per mol  $H_2$ )

$\rho$  =  $H_2$  Density

$v$  =  $H_2$  Flow Rate

$A$  = Cross-sectional area of  $H_2$  cryotube



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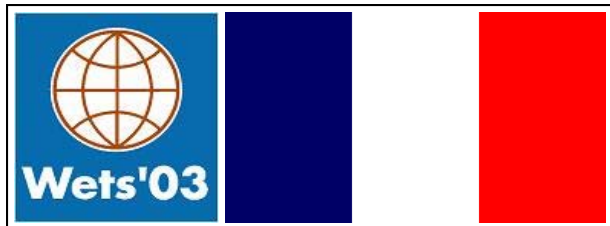
# Electric & H<sub>2</sub> Power

## Electricity

Power (MW)	Voltage (V)	Current (A)	Critical Current Density (A/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Annular Wall Thickness (cm)
1000	+/- 5000	100,000	25,000	0.125

## Hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>, 20 K)

Power (MW)	Inner Pipe Diameter, D <sub>H2</sub> (cm)	H <sub>2</sub> Flow Rate (m/sec)	"Equivalent" Current Density (A/cm <sup>2</sup> )
500	10	3.81	318



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# Thermal Losses

$$W_R = 0.5\epsilon\sigma (T_{amb}^4 - T_{SC}^4), \text{ where}$$

$W_R$  = Power radiated in as watts/unit area

$$\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W/cm}^2\text{K}^4$$

$$T_{amb} = 300 \text{ K}$$

$$T_{SC} = 20 \text{ K}$$

$\epsilon = 0.05$  per inner and outer tube surface

$$D_{SC} = 10 \text{ cm}$$

$$W_R = 3.6 \text{ W/m}$$

## Radiation Losses

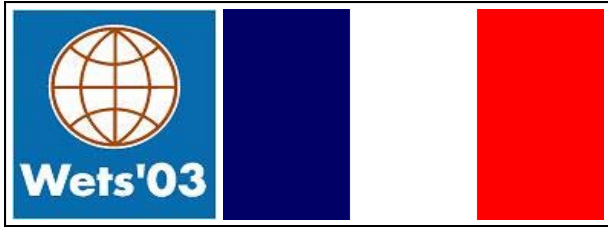
Superinsulation:  $W_R^f = W_R/(n-1)$ , where

$n$  = number of layers

Target:  $W_R^f = \underline{0.5 \text{ W/m}}$  requires ~10 layers

Other addenda (convection, conduction):  $W_A = \underline{0.5 \text{ W/m}}$

$$W_T = W_R^f + W_A = \underline{1.0 \text{ W/m}}$$



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# Heat Removal

$$dT/dx = W_T / (\rho v C_p A)_{H_2}, \text{ where}$$

$dT/dx$  = Temp rise along cable, K/m

$W_T$  = Thermal in-leak per unit Length

$\rho$  =  $H_2$  Density

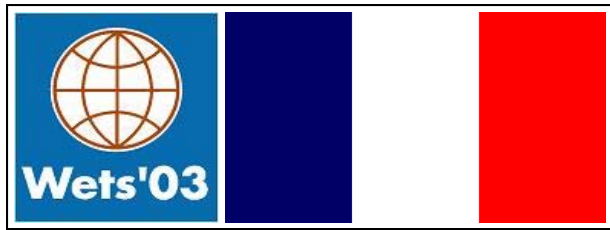
$v$  =  $H_2$  Flow Rate

$C_p$  =  $H_2$  Heat Capacity

$A$  = Cross-sectional area of  $H_2$  cryotube

Take  $W_T = 1.0 \text{ W/m}$ , then  $dT/dx = 1.89 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K/m}$ ,  
Or, 0.2 K over a 10 km distance

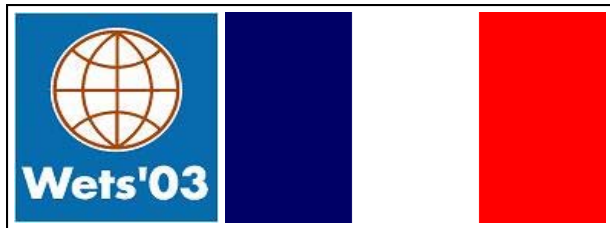




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# Remaining Issues

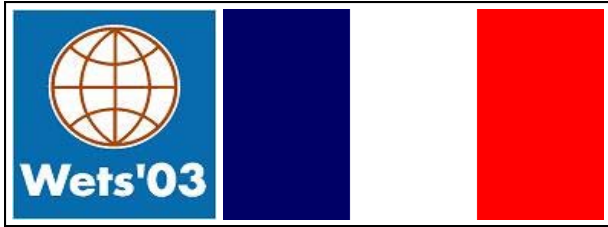
- Current stabilization via voltage control
- Cryogenic power electronics
- Hydrogen gas cooling and transport
- Hydrogen storage
- Prototyping
- Costs (!)
- Initial Demonstration Site



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Where there is no vision,  
the people perish...

*Proverbs 29:18*



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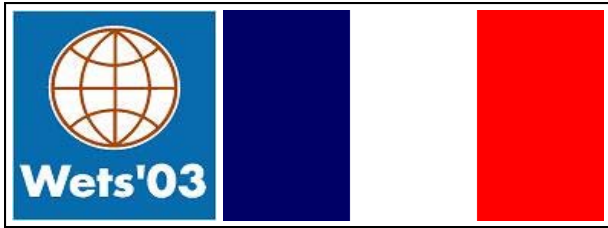
"You can't always get  
what you want..."



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"...you get what you need!"



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