

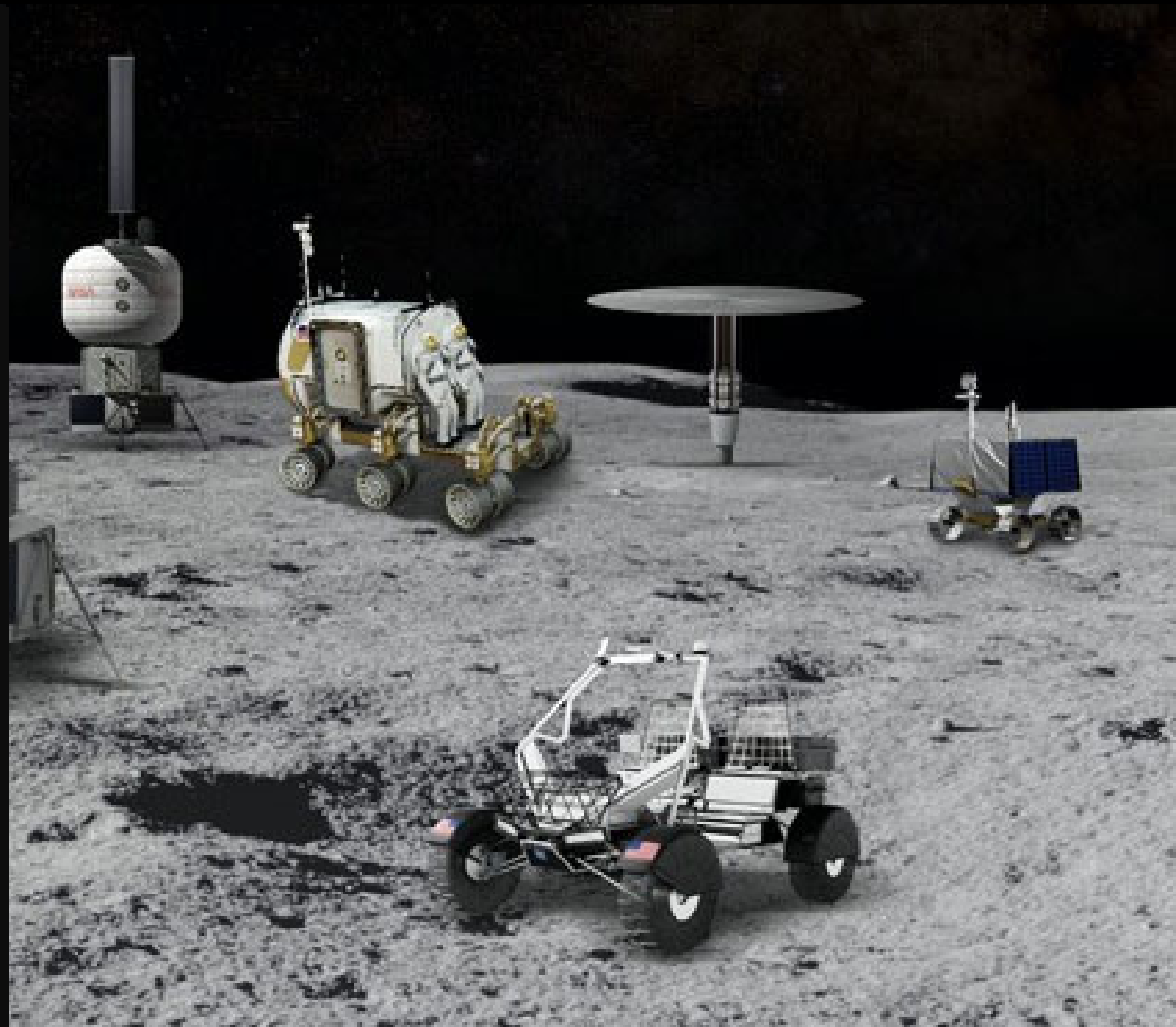
Universal Modular Interface Converter

Jeffrey Csank, Project Lead Engineer
George Thomas, UMIC Lead

Joe Piboontum, Project Manager
Chad Gray, Deputy Project Manager

NASA Glenn Research Center
Cleveland, OH

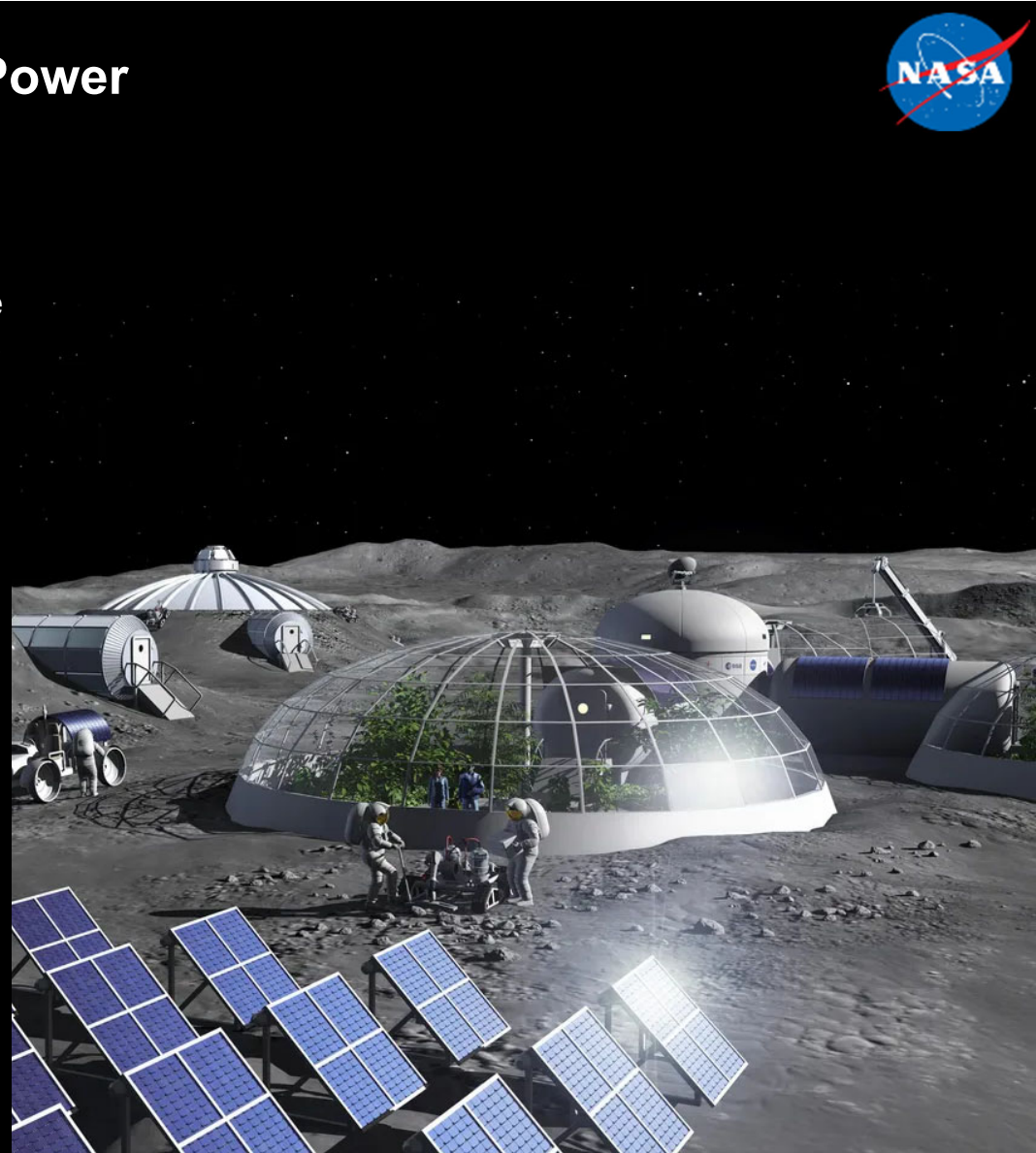
6/14/2023



The Need for Universal Lunar Surface Power



- **Lunar surface operations will grow and expand**
 - Power demands will exceed elements capability - Self sufficient power is not feasible
 - Systems will have to be integrated together or to a power grid (shared access)
- **Power over long-distance**
 - Driven by minimum safe landing distance and radiation stand off (1km+)
 - Needed for power in permanently shadowed regions (PSR)
- **Dissimilar power sources**
 - Increase power availability – provide power during longer eclipse periods
 - Contingency scenarios - Provide needed redundancy and reliability



Microgrid Definition and Interface Converter for Planetary Surfaces (MIPS)



- **Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)**
 - Game Changing Development (GCD) Program
- **Project goal is to develop technology to provide universal access to power**
 - Define Lunar Power System Architecture
 - Power type and voltage level
 - Power strategy / CONOPS
 - Develop and Demonstrate Converter
 - Universal Modular Interface Converter (UMIC)
 - Define interface to help guide standards and future technology development efforts

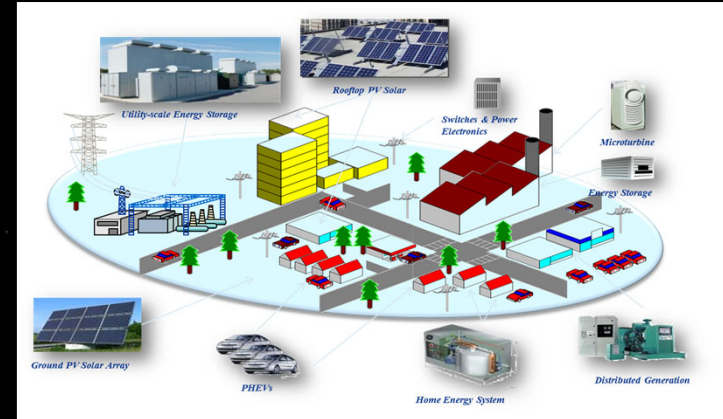


Lunar Power Grid



- **Benefits of a power grid**

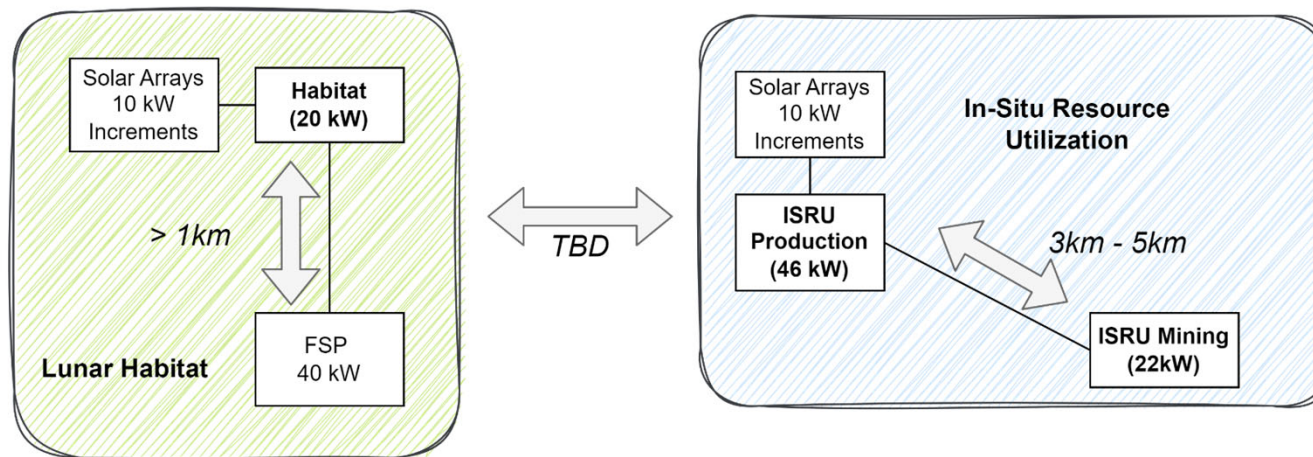
- Flexibility, evolvability, and reconfiguration
- Optimal dispatch of power sources and energy storage to service loads & enhance reliability
- Systematic integration of new sources and loads
- **Common grid interface (commonality)**
- Allows for the deployment of future loads that do not need to carry their own power generation



Lunar Power System Architecture



Baseline Architecture Design Requirements



Power Sources:

Solar Arrays

- Vertical Solar Array Technologies (VSAT)
- 10 kW increments
- 120 VDC Source

Fission Surface Power (FSP)

- 40 kW Power
- Voltage TBD (AC)
- Must be located more than 1km from other lunar elements

Lunar Elements (Loads):

Surface Habitat

- 20 kW during habitation (must be during insolation)
- 2 kW during eclipse and non-habitation

In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)

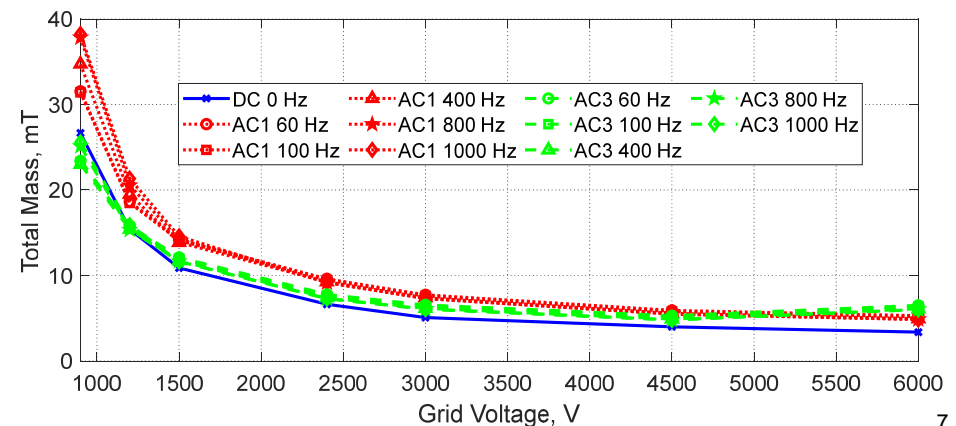
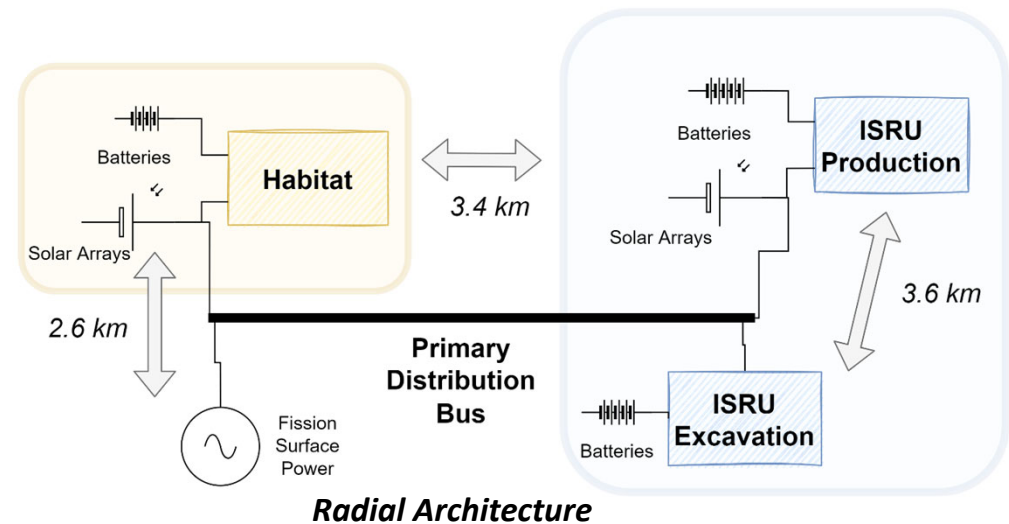
- ISRU processing - 46 kW insolation / 9 kW eclipse
 - Located on crater rim (in the sun)
- Excavation - 22 kW insolation / 4 kW eclipse
 - Located in permanently shadowed regions (water-ice)
 - About 3km – 5km from processing facility

Notional Reference Artemis Base Camp Microgrid



- Trade studies focused on primary power distribution system (transmission)
 - Architecture (radial, ring, mesh)
 - Power type (AC vs DC)
 - Voltage: (600V – 6 kV)
 - Data contains estimated mass of converters + cables
- Results
 - Increasing voltage decreases mass
 - AC vs DC at a single voltage is marginal
 - Especially higher voltages
 - Technology limitations need to be considered
 - Max DC: 1.5 kV
 - Rad hard limitations
 - Max AC: none known

Recommendation: 3kVAC, 3-phase, 1000 Hz



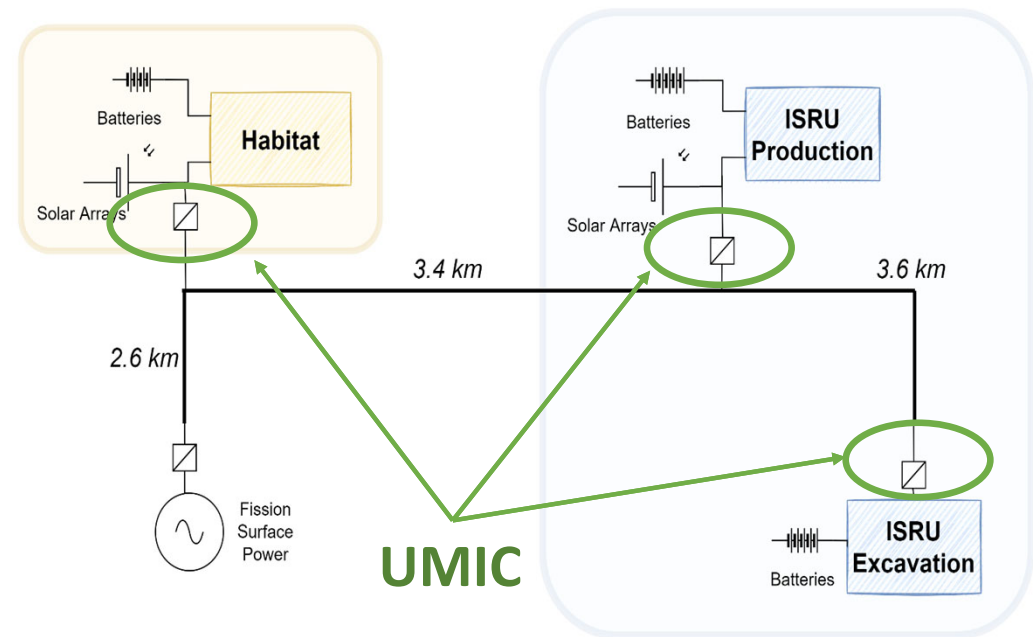
Universal Modular Interface Converter



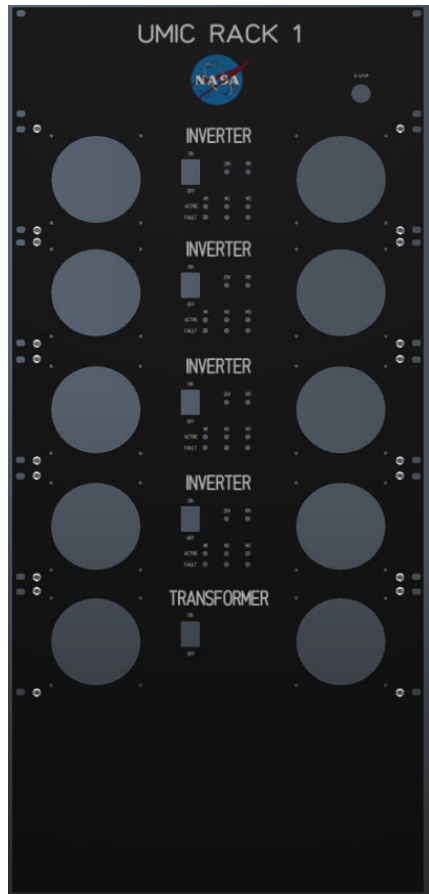
Universal Modular Interface Converter for a Lunar Surface Grid



- **Lunar grid can provide key benefits to users of lunar surface power system**
 - Power sharing for improved power reliability/availability
 - FSP power available after 1 year demo
 - Reduce overall energy storage mass by providing night-time power (FSP)
 - Can connect new assets that do not carry their own power
- **The UMIC can connect lunar assets to the grid**
 - Power sources (solar arrays, FSP)
 - Energy storage (batteries, fuel cells)
 - Loads
- **Can be standalone product or integrated into other source or load equipment**



Universal Modular Interface Converter Overview



• Universal Modular Interface Converter

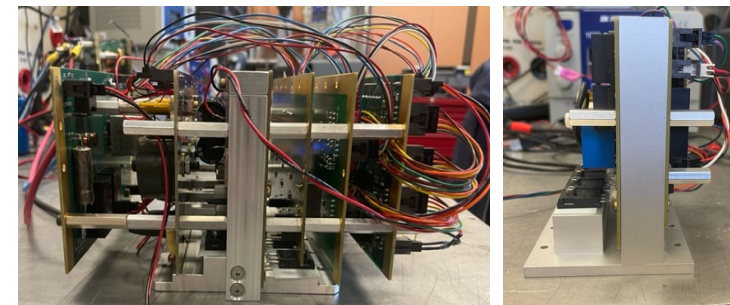
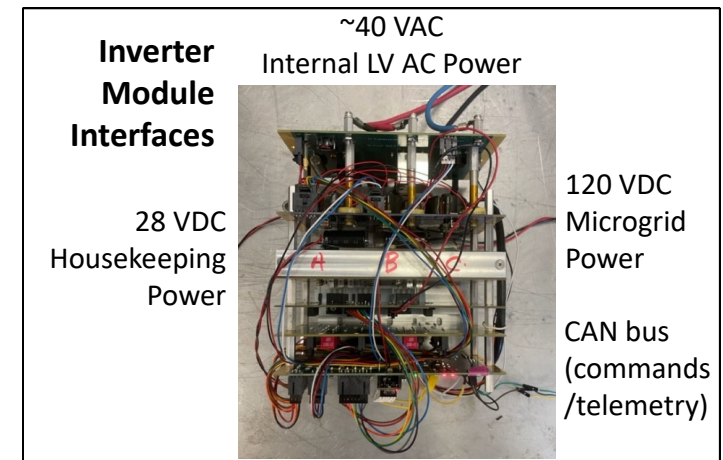
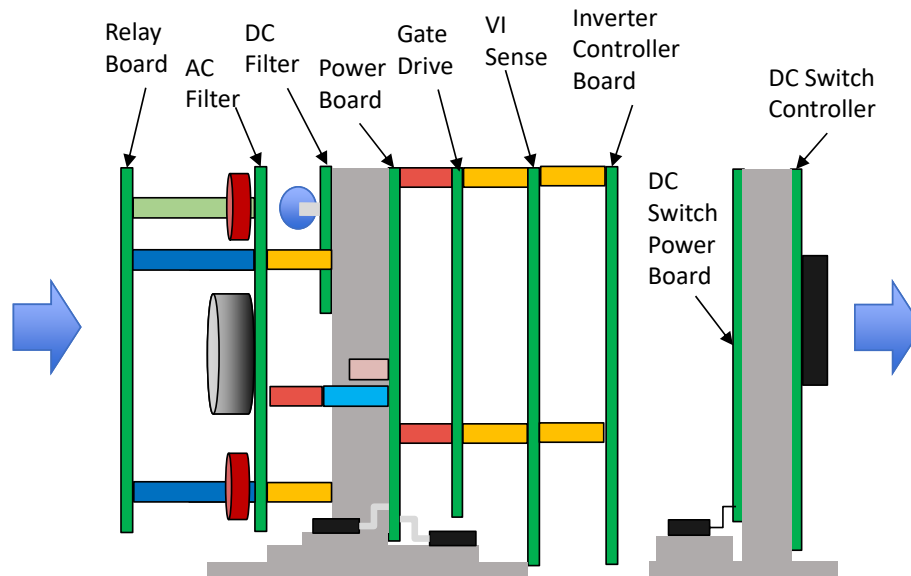
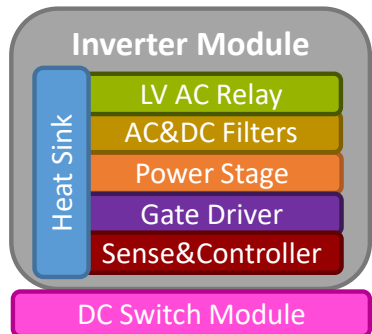
- Modular, bi-directional converter
 - Grid side: 3-phase, 3000 VAC, 1000 Hz
 - Load/Source Side: 120 VDC
- Full rack capable of 10 kW of power (nominal)
 - 12 kW peak
- Parallelable - can provide more than 10 kW at single location
- Design goals:
 - >95% efficiency
 - 350 W/kg power density (est. for flight)
- Capability:
 - Grid forming
 - Grid syncing

UMIC 1 kW Modular Power Electronics Details



- **1 kW Inverter Module plus 1 kW DC Switch Module**

- **Inverter:** Converts 120 VDC microgrid bus to UMIC internal low voltage 40 VAC bus
 - Includes filters, power control logic, AC isolation
 - Consists of 5 main subsystems in a stacked card form factor
- **DC Switch:** Provides DC-side current limiting & isolation capability



UMIC Transformer Details

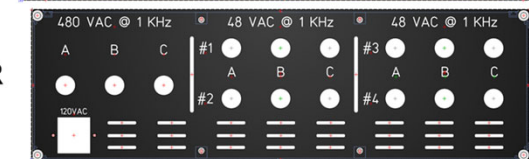


- **Transformer chassis to include all transformers needed at a given site**
 - May shrink or grow based on site power needs
- **Modular (1 kVA) transformers design**
(both single and 3-phase types)
 - 10x 1 kVA three phase transformers (10 kVA total)
- **Centralized transformer design**
(both single-phase type only)
 - 3x 3.3 kVA single phase transformers (10 kVA total)

TRANSFORMER
FRONT



TRANSFORMER
REAR



NASA 1 kVA 3-phase design



3.3 kVA single-phase design
(3x for 10 kW)

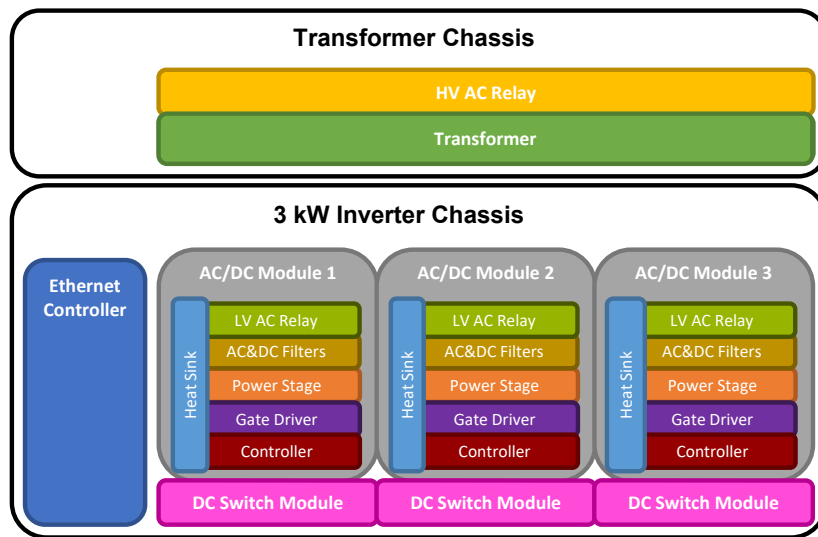


3 kW UMIC Initial Breadboard Chassis Implementation

- **Common 19" rack form factor selected for packaging**
 - Volume enough for 3 kW of inverter modules
 - 3-10 kW of transformers (scalable to other systems/loads)

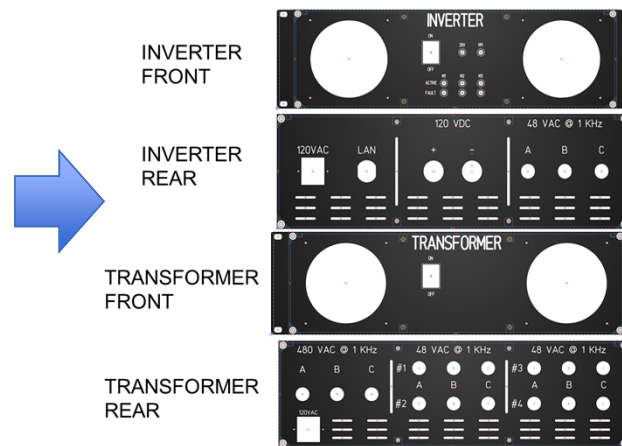
Conceptual Breadboard Chassis Design

3 kVAC, 1000 Hz, 3-phase

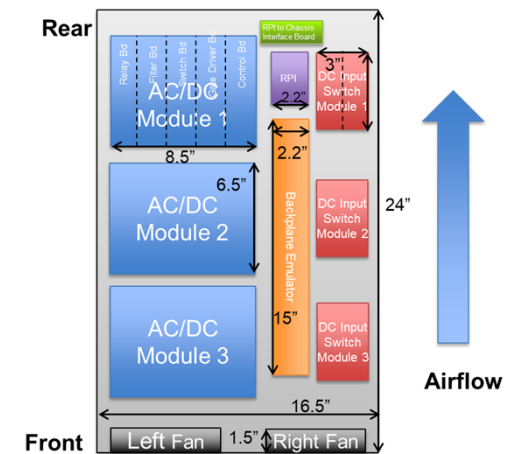


120 VDC

Front and Rear Panels



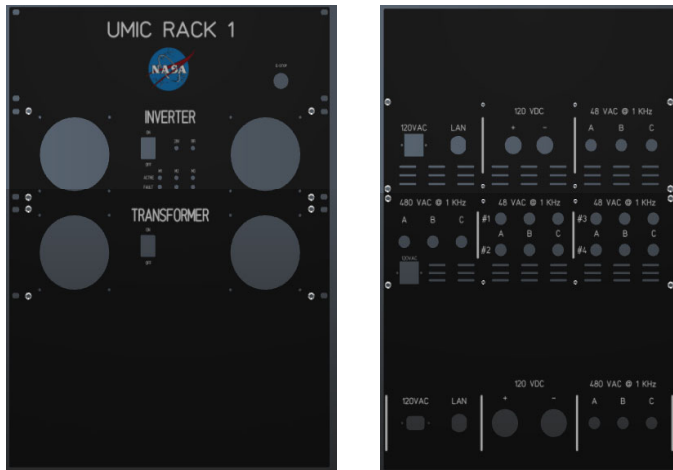
Chassis Top View



3 kW UMIC Rack



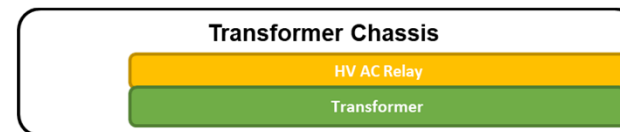
3 kW UMIC Rack



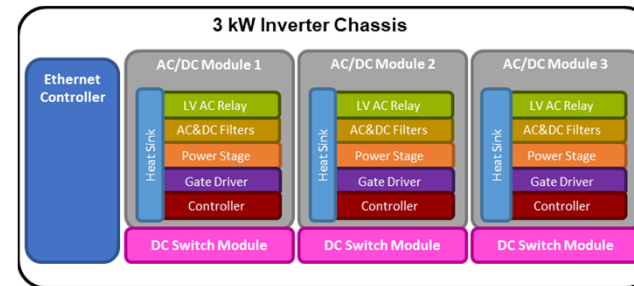
2 kVA continuous with margin, 3 kVA peak

3 kW UMIC Rack

- 1x Transformer Chassis (3 kVA)



- 1x Inverter Chassis (3 kW each)



- Interface Rear Panel
 - 120 VDC
 - 3 kV AC
 - Ethernet/LAN
 - 120 VAC mains power (housekeeping/fans)

10 kW UMIC Rack



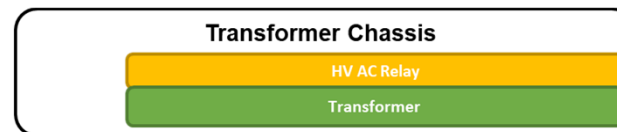
10 kW UMIC Rack



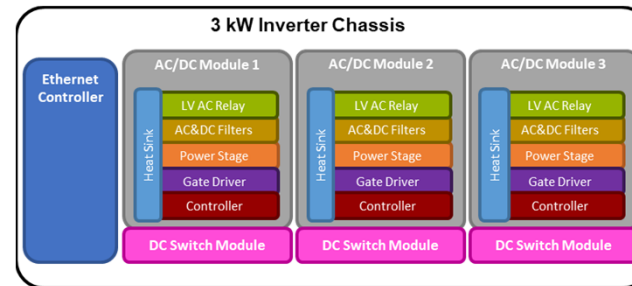
10 kVA continuous with margin, 12 kVA peak

10 kW UMIC Rack

- 1x Transformer Chassis (10 kVA)



- 4x Inverter Chassis (3 kW each)



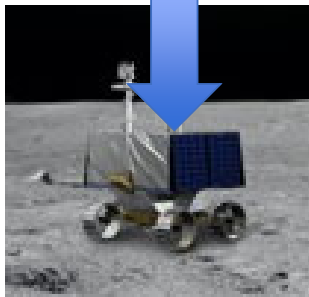
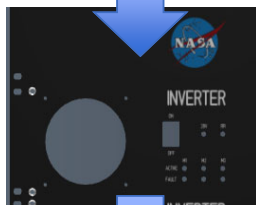
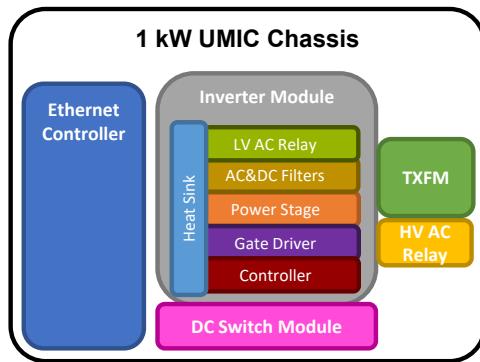
- Interface Rear Panel

- 120 VDC
- 3 kV AC
- Ethernet/LAN
- 120 VAC mains power (housekeeping/fans)

UMIC Scales to Application

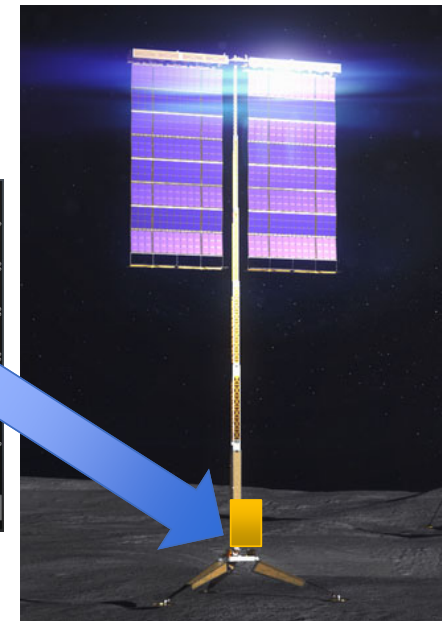
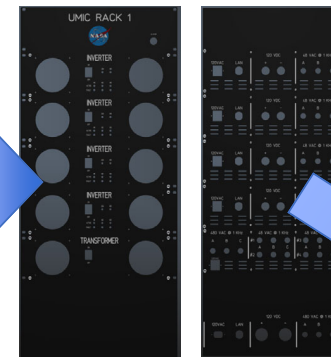
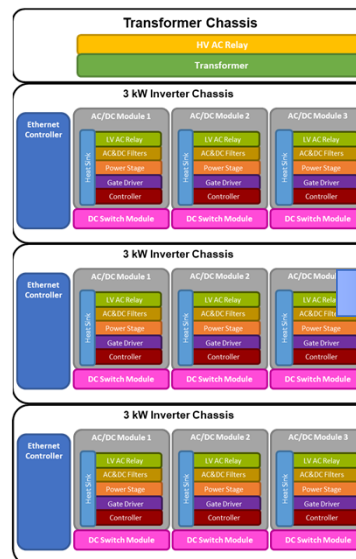


1 kW UMIC



Add modules to go from
Low Power to High Power

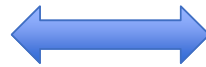
10 kW UMIC





UMIC can serve as interface converter between variety of space power assets

AC



DC

- Point-to-point AC transmission system
- AC power grid
- AC loads
 - Motors
 - Heaters

- Stationary DC loads
 - Habitat
 - In Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)
- Rover or rover charger
- Power plant
 - Solar array
 - Fission Surface Power (rectified DC interface)
- Energy storage element
 - Battery
 - Regenerative fuel cell (RFC)

Remaining Milestones



MIPS Milestones Remaining	Date	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
First Breadboard UMIC Rack Build & Delivery to ASPIRE Lab	7/15/2023										
Single 10 kW UMIC Demonstration	9/29/2023										
Second Breadboard Rack Build & Delivery to ASPIRE Lab	10/31/2023										
Multi-UMIC Demo	12/31/2023										
UMIC Documentation	12/15/2023										
MIPS Final Report	1/29/2024										

Thank you

