

# HVDC Transmission networks - HVDC Grid

Multi-terminal HVDC, DC Grid, HVDC Light, VSC

Kerstin Lindén, Senior Principal Lead Engineer, HVDC

# Speaker: Kerstin Lindén

**DC GRID**

**HVDC**

**HVAC SYSTEM**

**TEACHER**

Pictures on title page from left to right:

Presented by Kerstin Lindén in London June 6, 2011 at “North Sea Offshore Networks; Enabling Offshore Wind and Balancing Power” UK-Norway Forum and Roadmapping Workshop. With sectionalizing DC breakers. Inspired by planned “bootstrap” HVDC projects in UK, North-sea plans and interconnections to Scandinavian spinning reserves.

Presented by Kerstin Lindén in Germany 2011. Building a DC grid - from several point-to-point links, through radial multi-terminal to connected HVDC system with sectionalizing DC breakers. DC grid topology inspired by Swedish AC transmission system design and Germany’s network development plans.

Presented by Kerstin Lindén in Germany 2012. With sectionalizing DC breakers. Inspired by the Kriegers flak project.

## Hitachi Energy/ABB

2012-2024 Lead Engineer in the tender and project for the Caithness Moray Shetland HVDC link in Scotland, UK

2019- Lead Engineer in tenders

2009-2012 R&D Project Manager for the HVDC Grid project

1998-2004 Technical Manager at ABB T&D University and Power System Engineer at H T G System Design

## STRI AB

2004-2009 Technical Manager for Power System Analysis and Simpow development. Senior Specialist. Manager for Consulting Services

1993-1998 Research manager for Power Systems. Research project manager

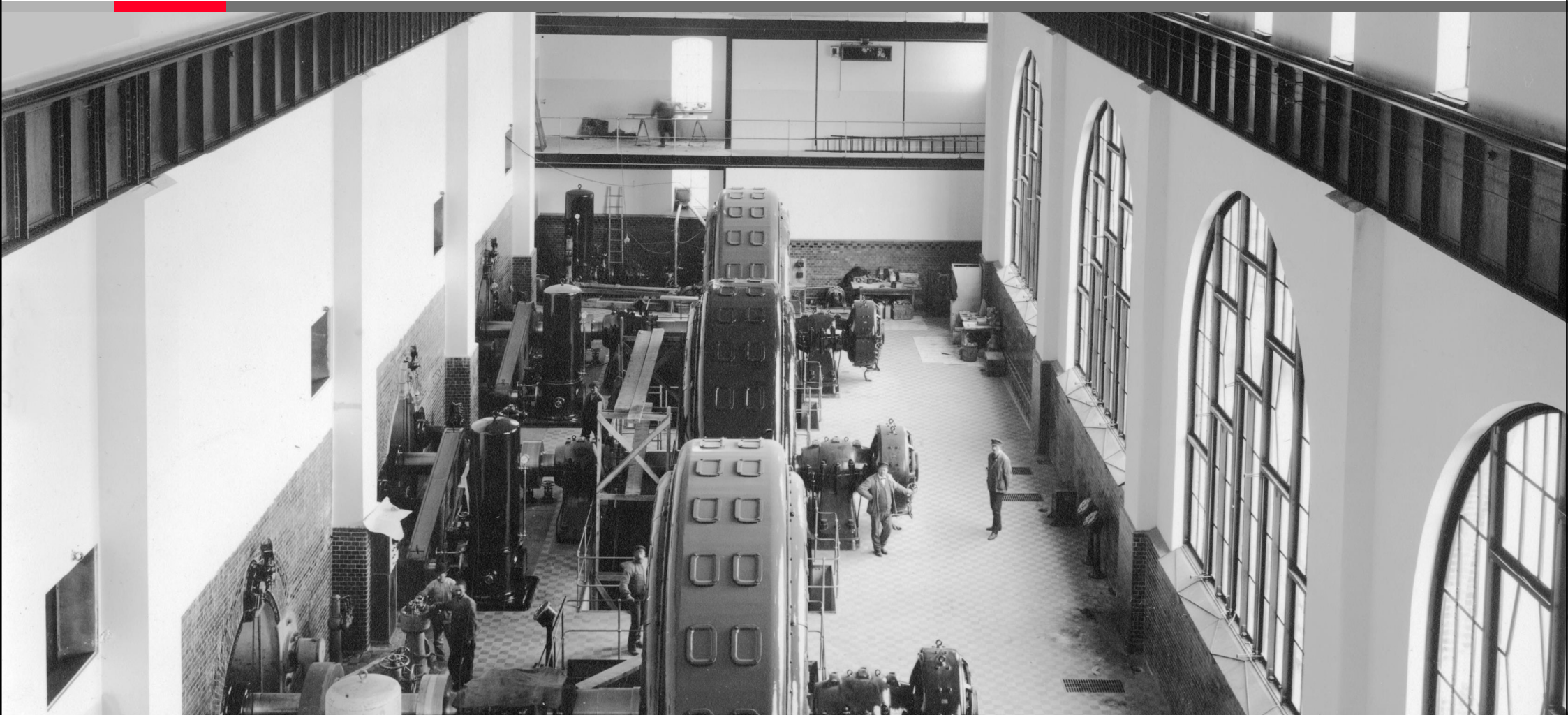
## Universities

1993-1998 Lecturer at Mälardalen University

Lic. Eng. and M. Sc. E. E. from Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden, 1992 and 1988.

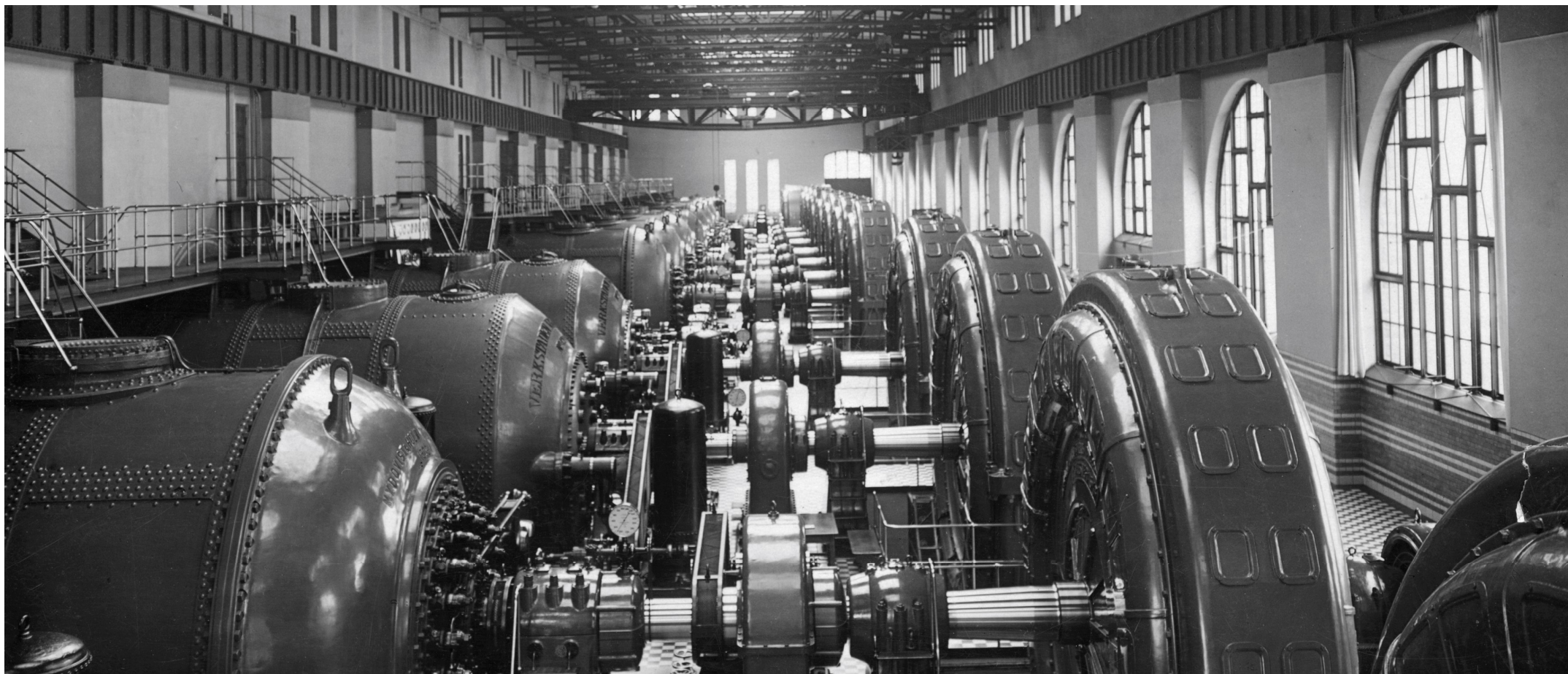
Hundred years ago, in Älvkarleby...

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next



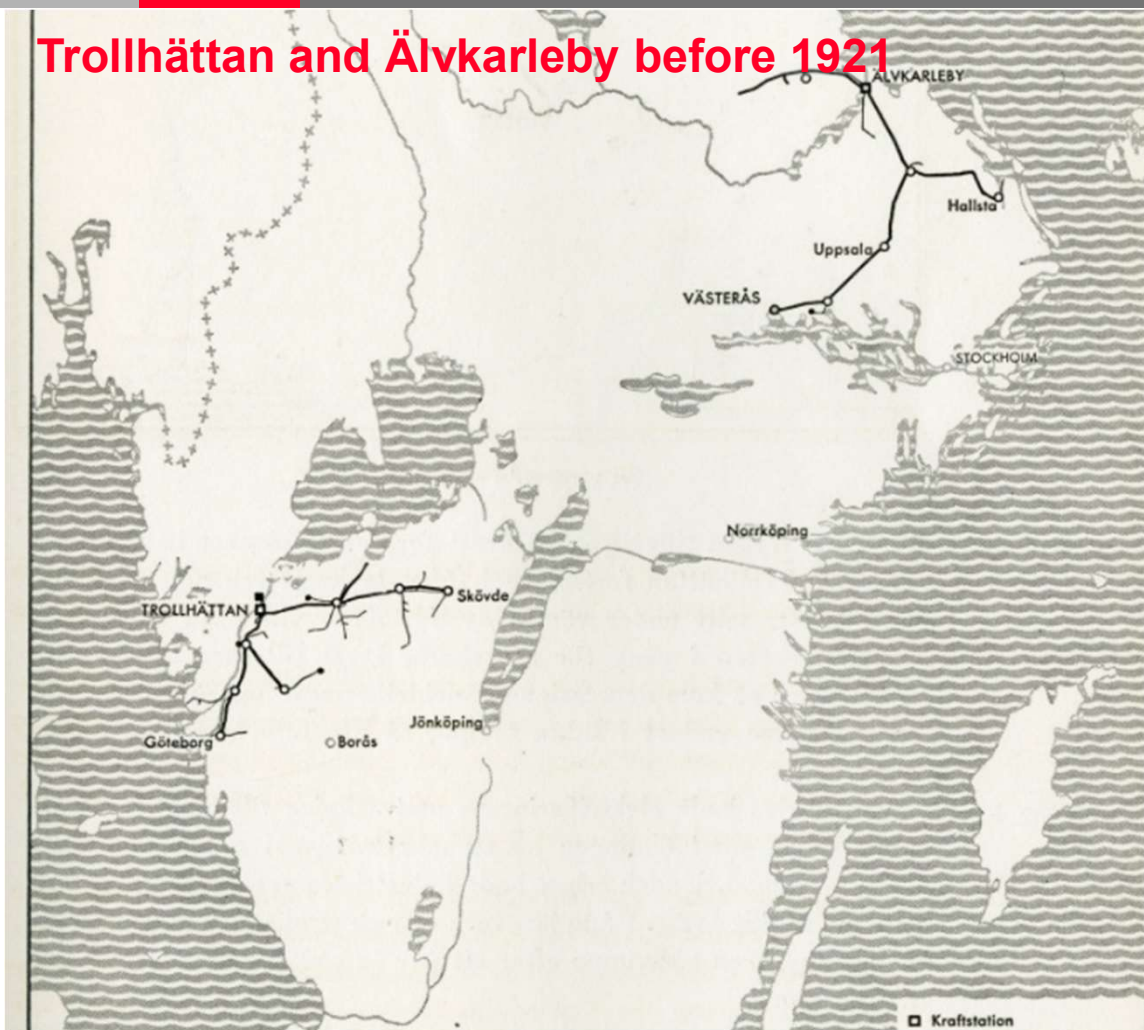
and in Trollhättan hundred years ago...

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next

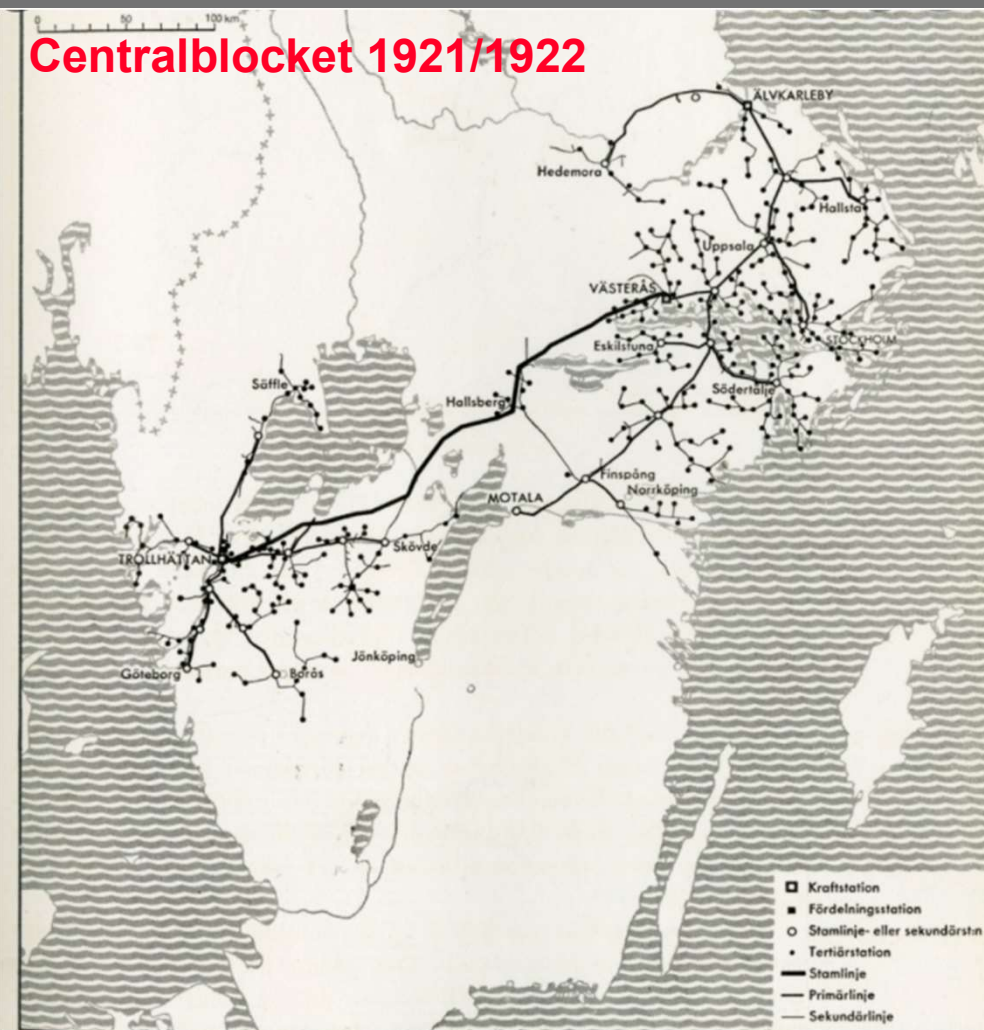


# Development of the first multi-purpose AC grids From electrical islands to interconnected grid - 1922

**Trollhättan and Älvkarleby before 1921**

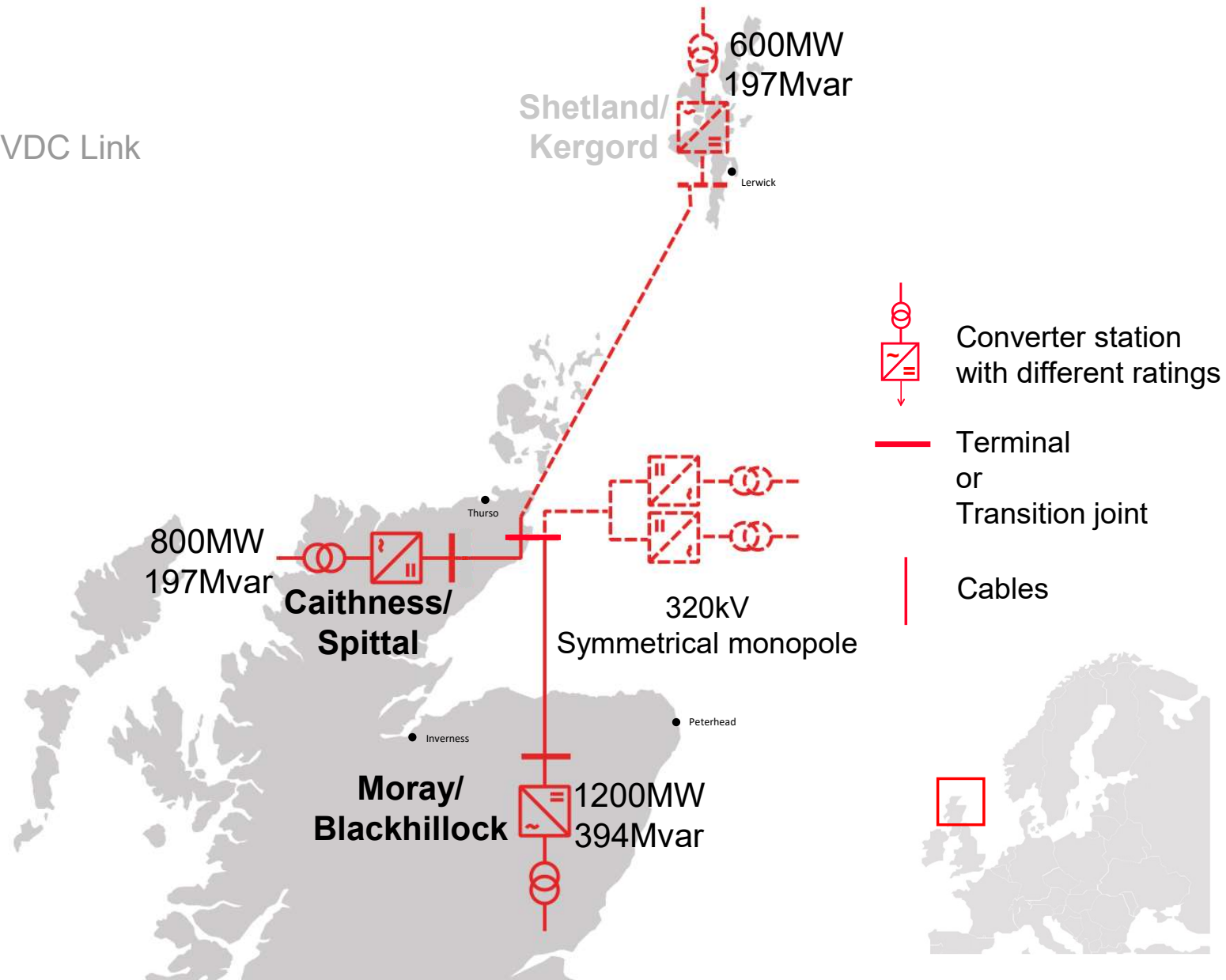


**Centralblocket 1921/1922**



# Multi-purpose HVDC

## Caithness – Moray – Shetland HVDC Link

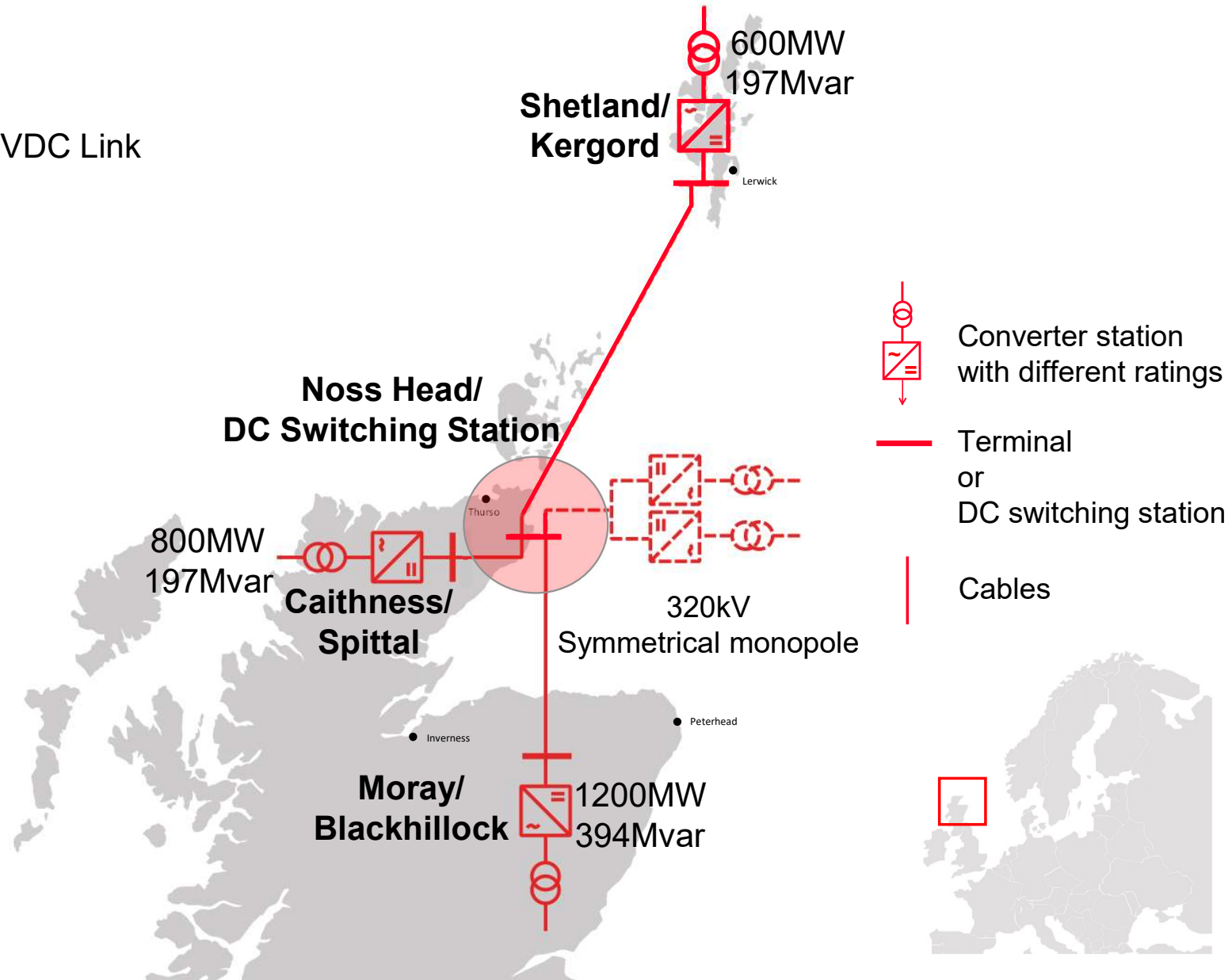


Cigré Paris session 48, 2020, B4-116,  
Linden, Hanson and McHardy,  
“Planning and implementation of an  
HVDC link embedded in a low fault  
level AC system with high penetration  
of wind generation”

# Multi-purpose HVDC

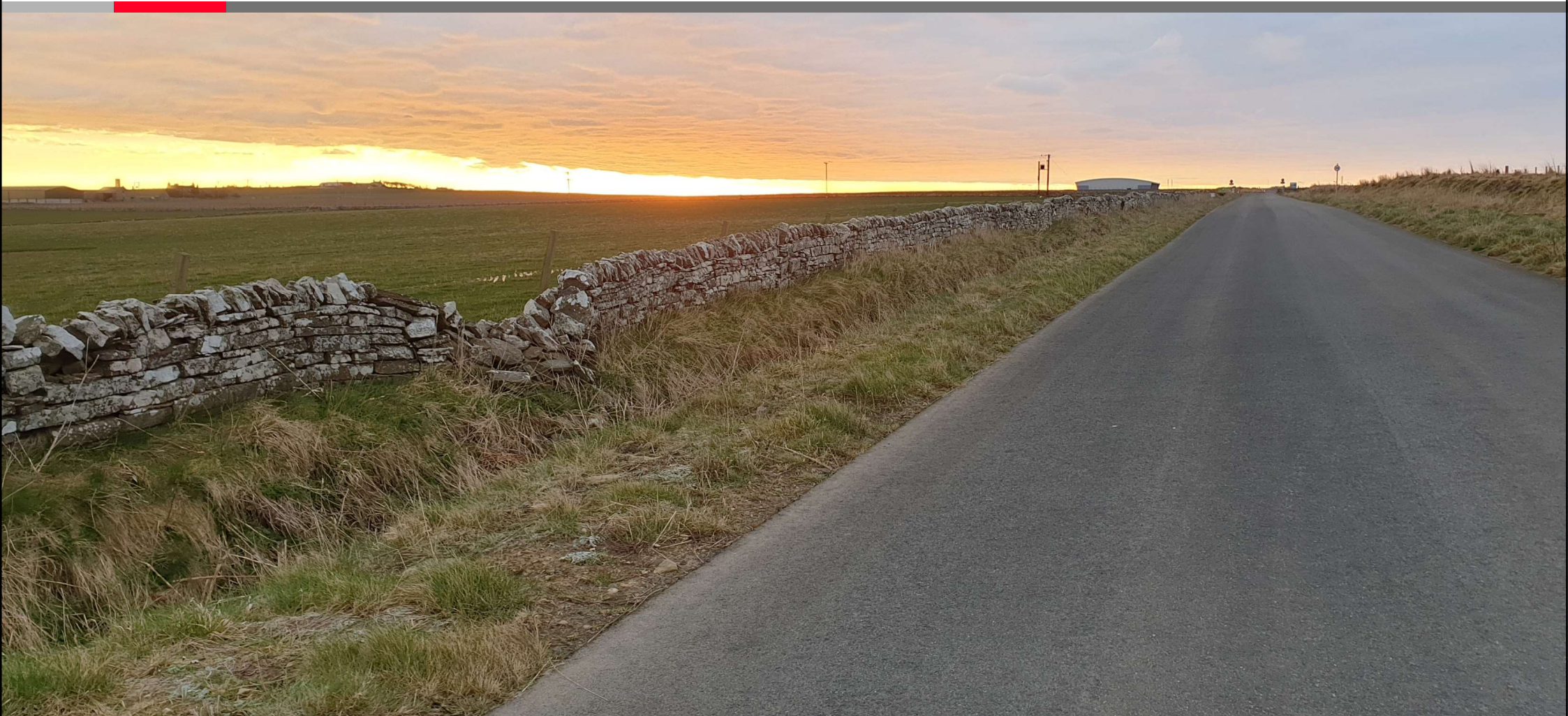
Caithness – Moray – Shetland HVDC Link

No DC Breaker (DCCB)

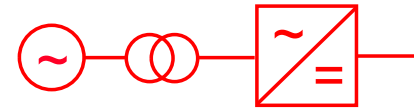


# CMS – Noss Head DC Switching station

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next

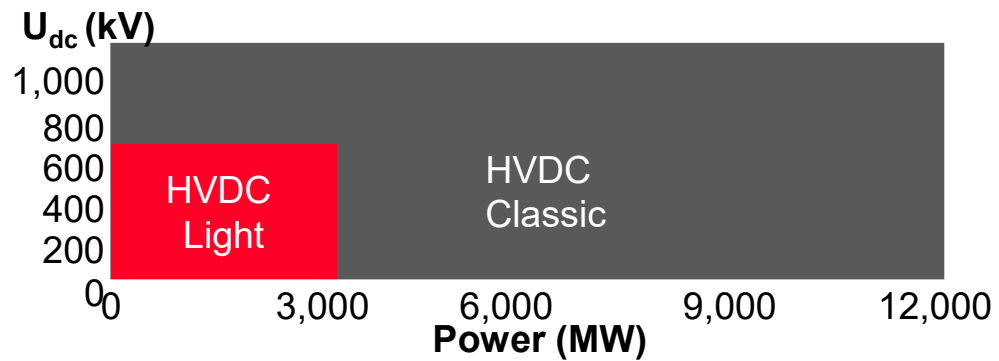
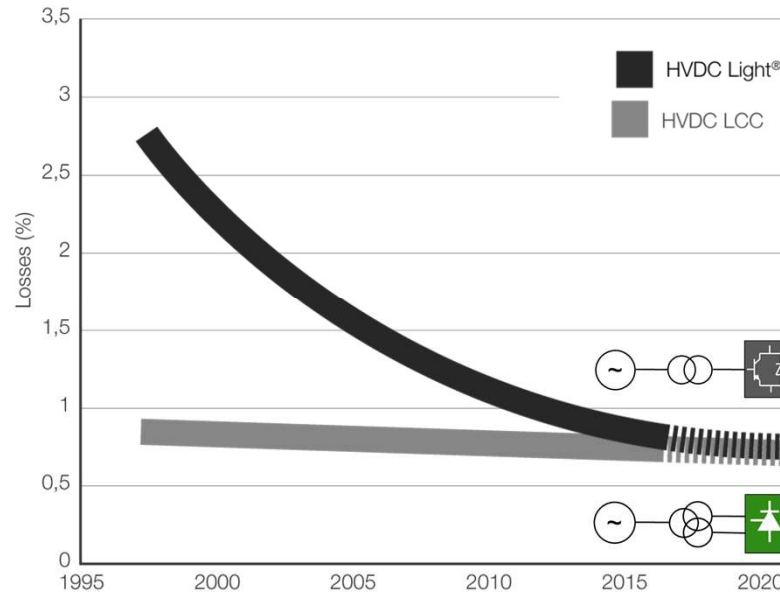






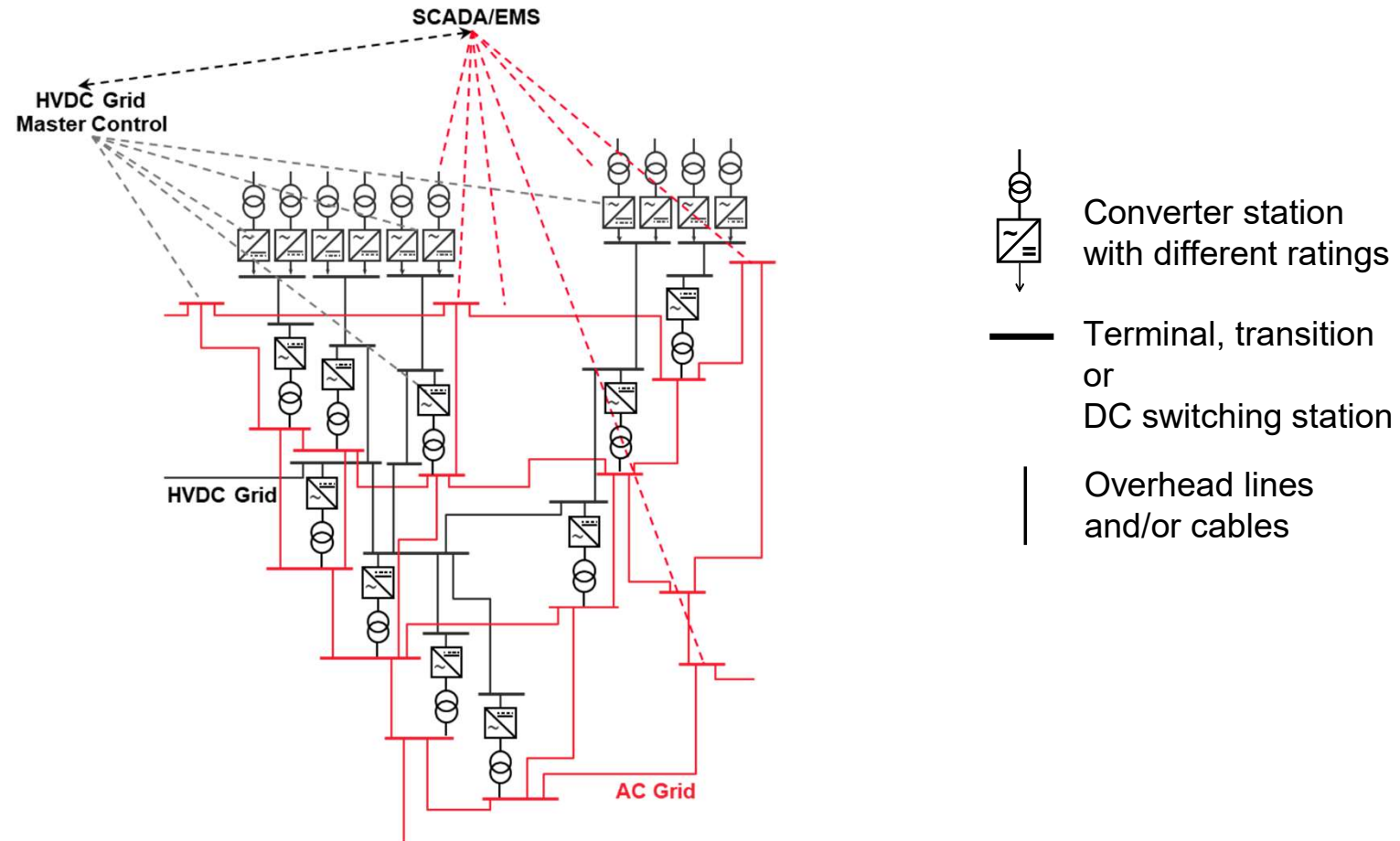
## HVDC Light

- DC Grid Master Controller
- DC voltage control sharing
- Fault separation
- Building a DC grid



## HVDC Light

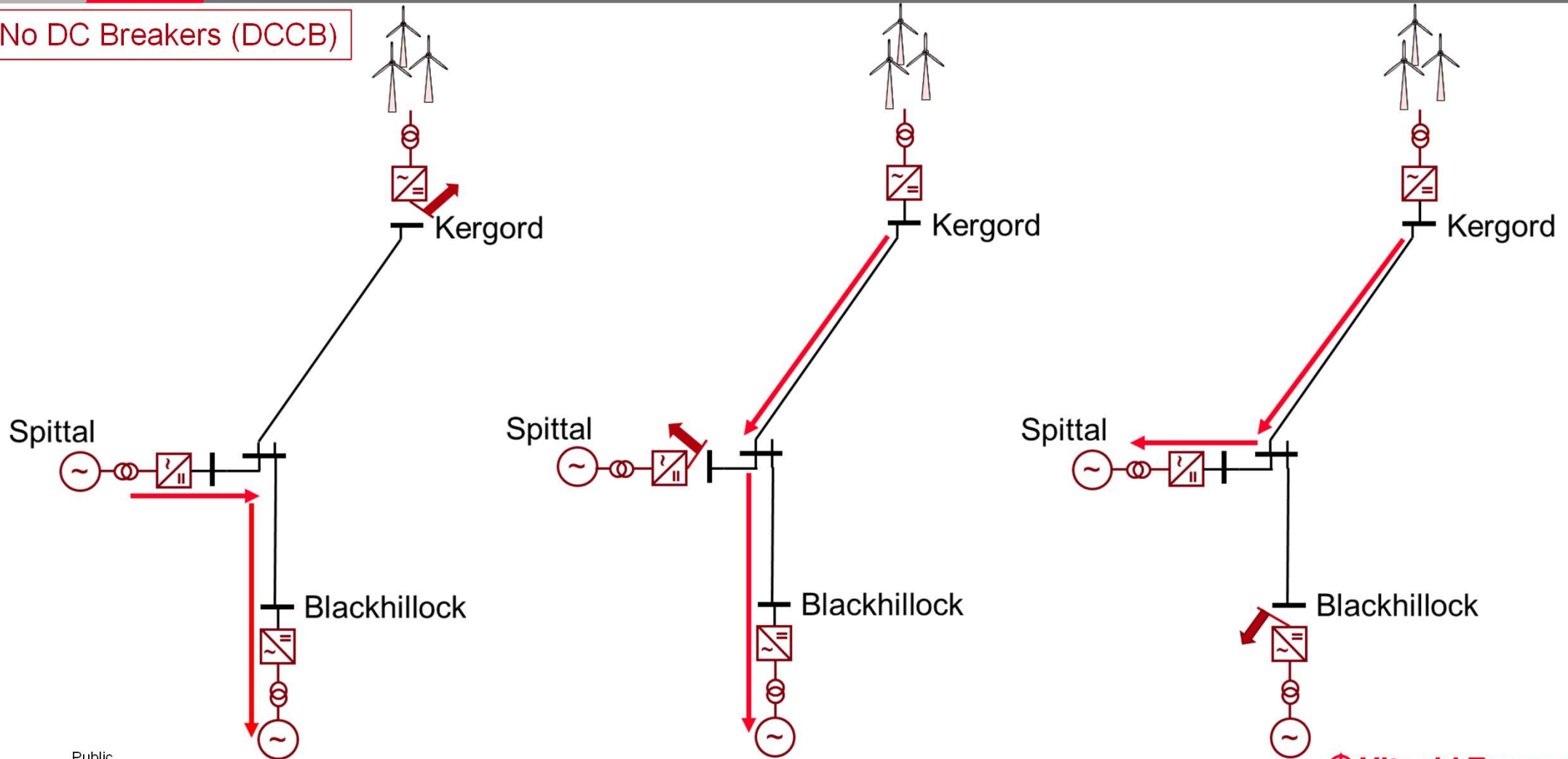
- DC Grid Master Controller
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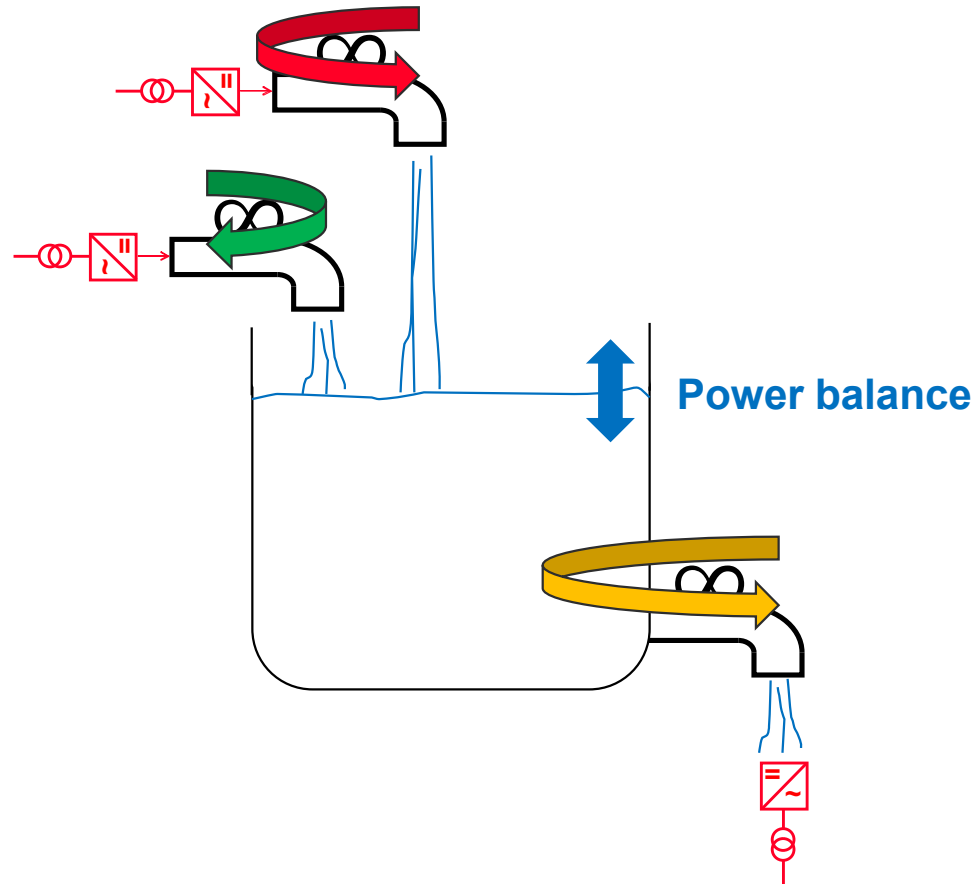
# Switch out/in any converter/cable during operation – without disturbances

No DC Breakers (DCCB)



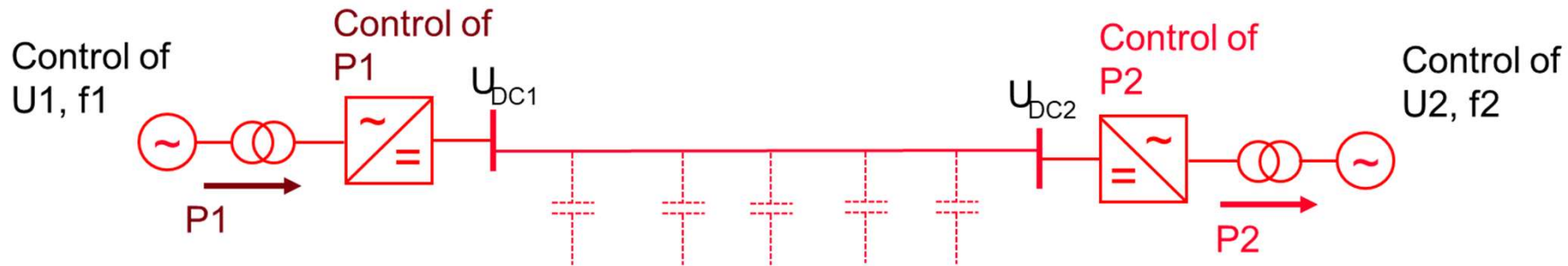
## HVDC Light

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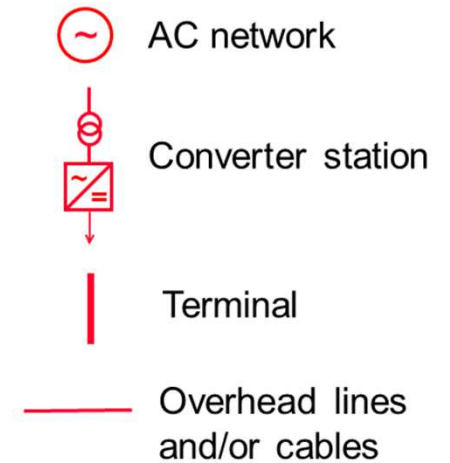
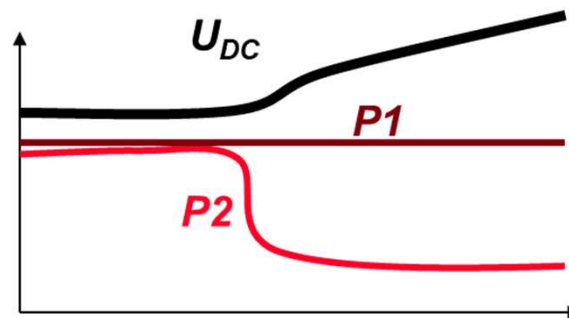


# Basic control principles - Power balance

## DC voltage control – Active power control

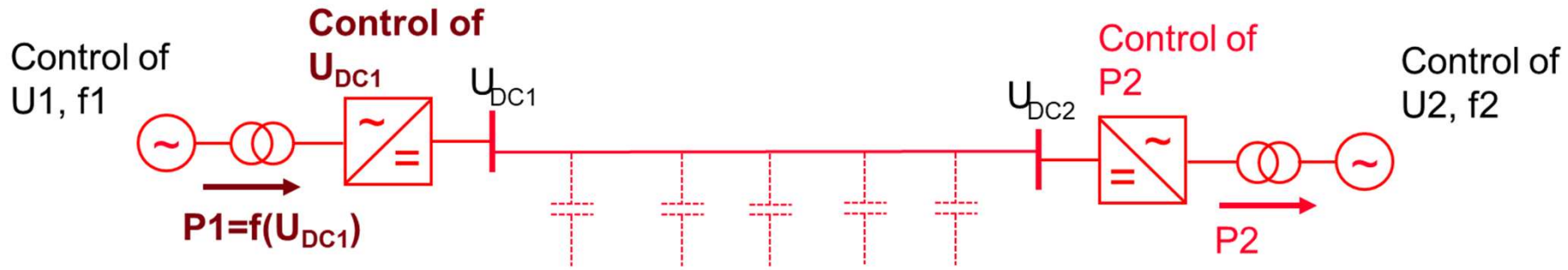


**Without DC voltage control**



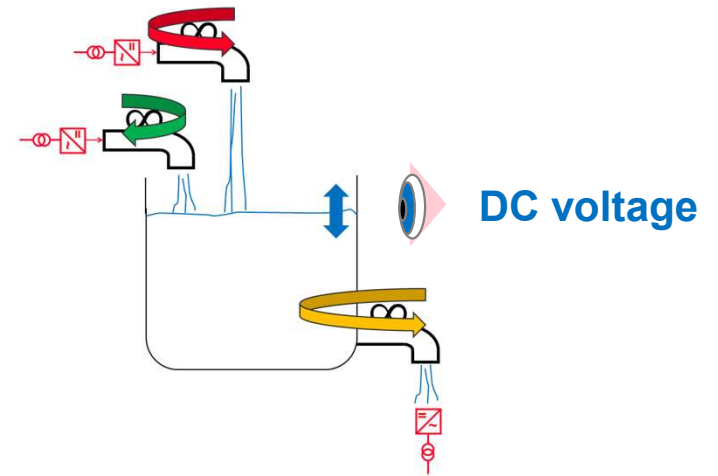
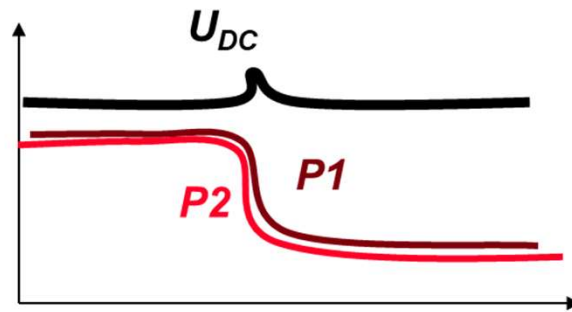
# Basic control principles - Power balance

## DC voltage control – Active power control



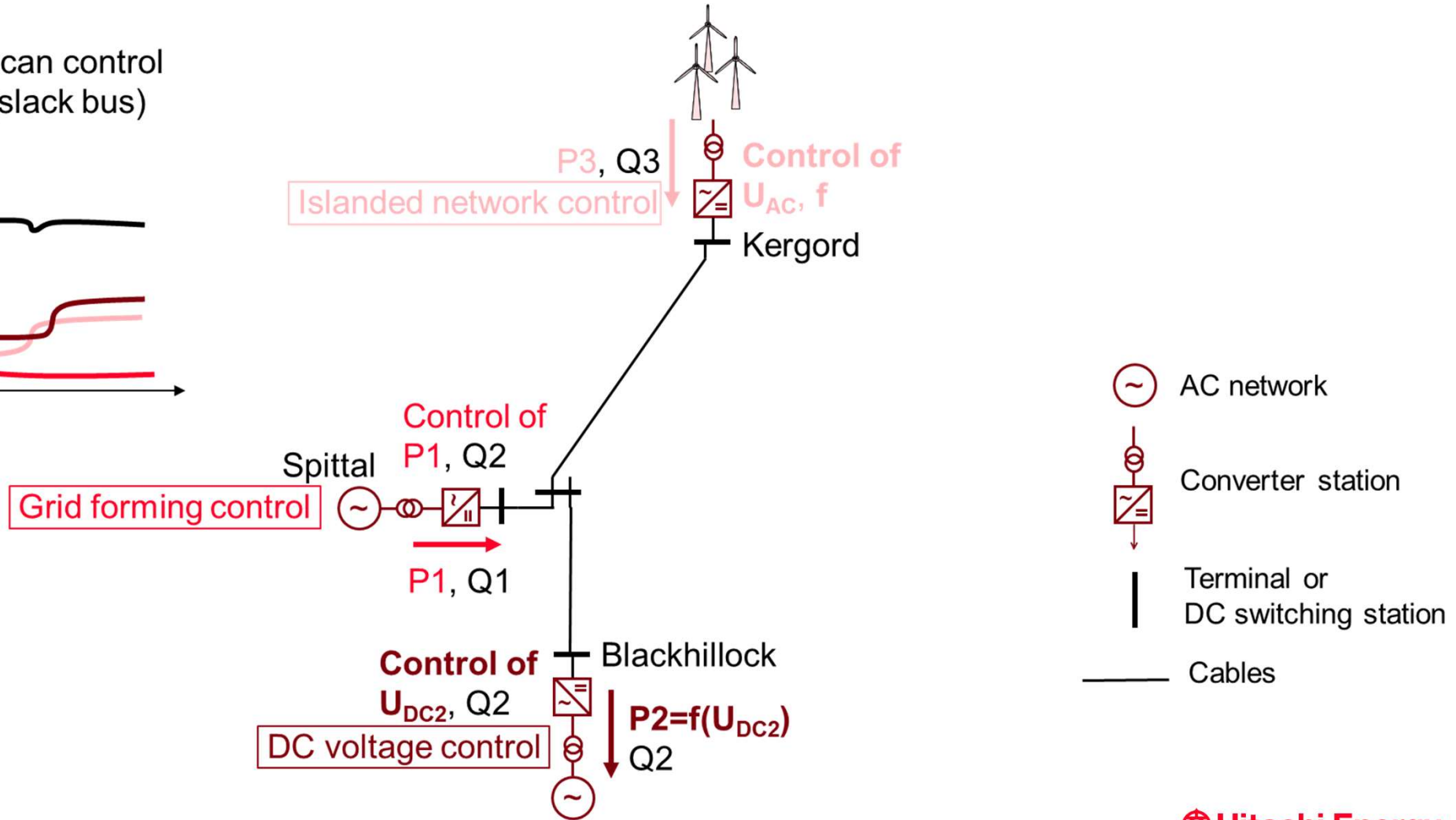
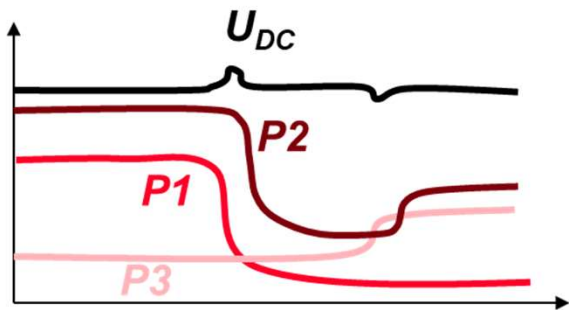
*With DC voltage control*

The DC-voltage controlling converter acts as slack



# MTDC DC voltage control

Still one terminal can control the DC-voltage (slack bus)

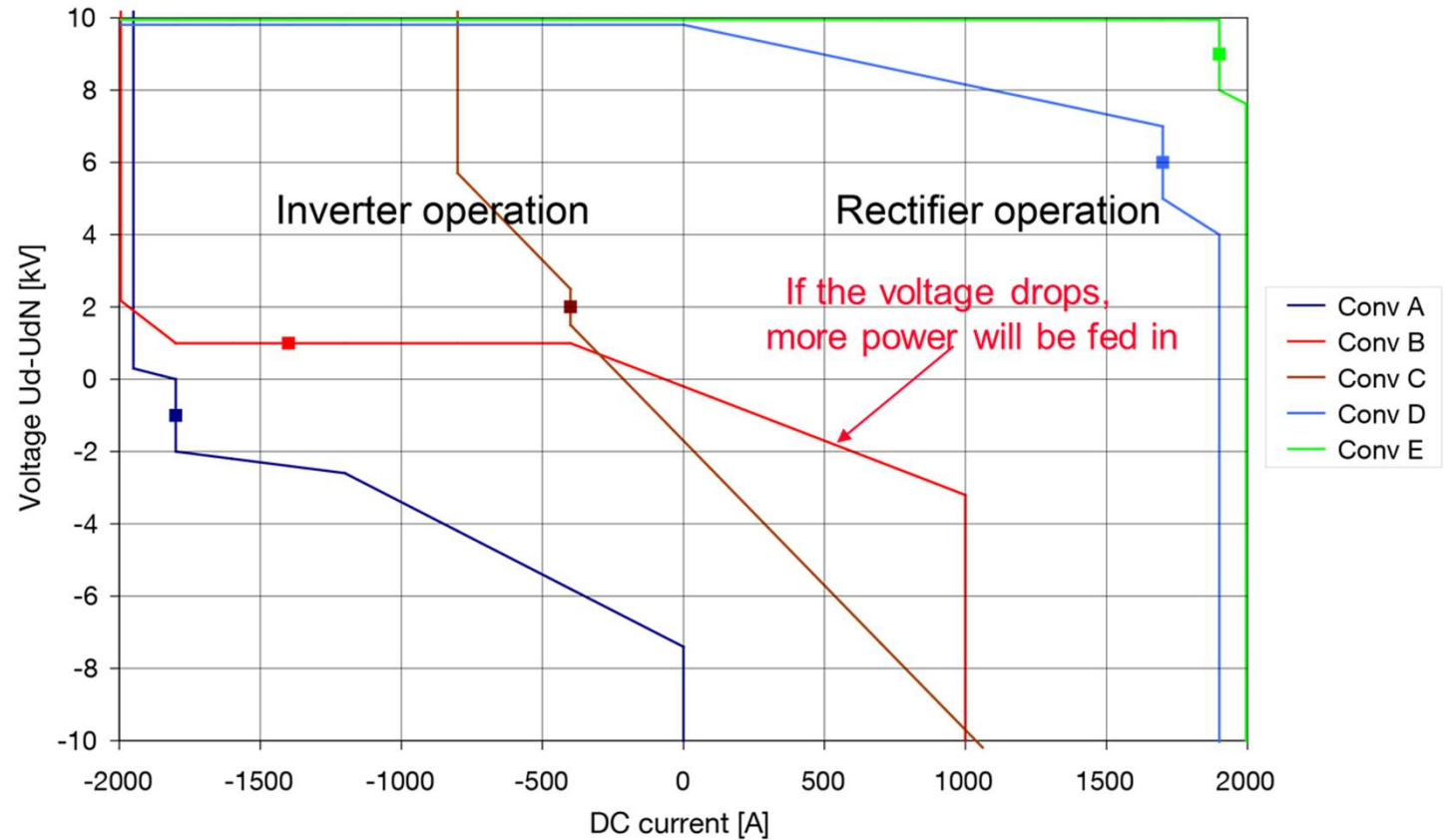
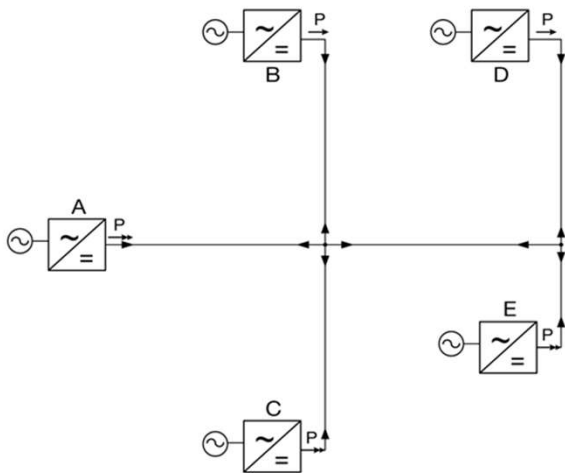




# DC voltage control sharing - Dead-band together with droop control

## Operating points

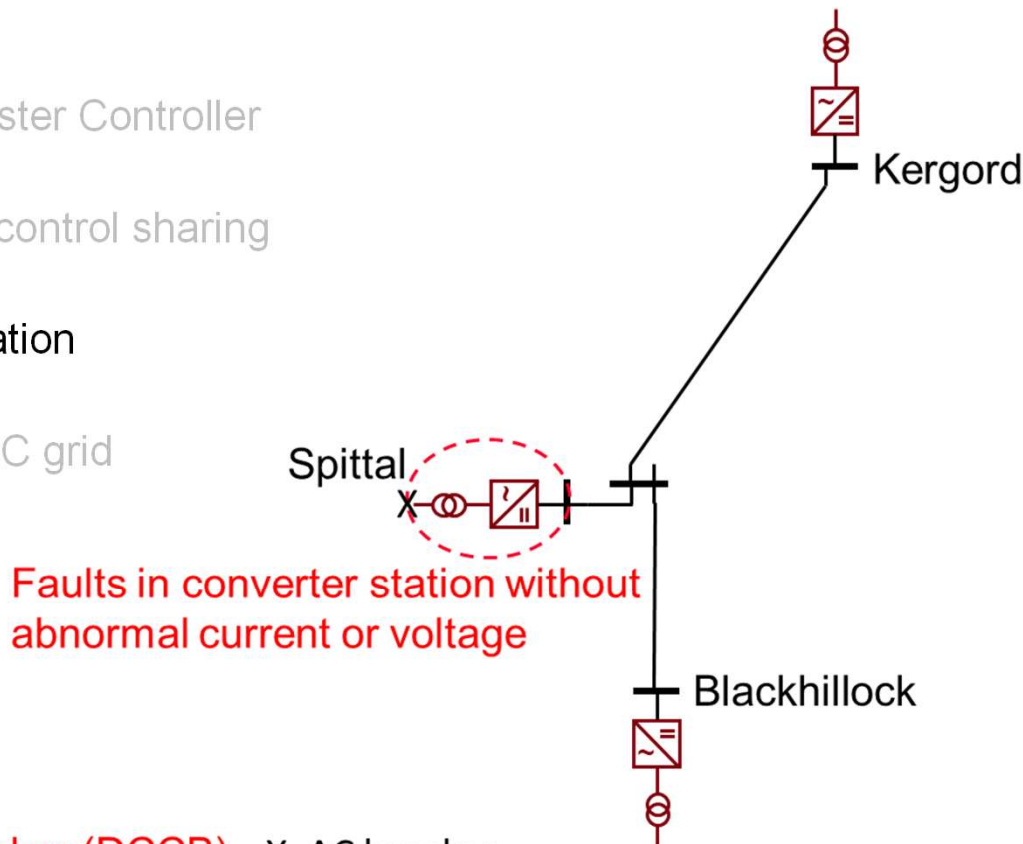
Horizontal/vertical lines with operating points = dead-band



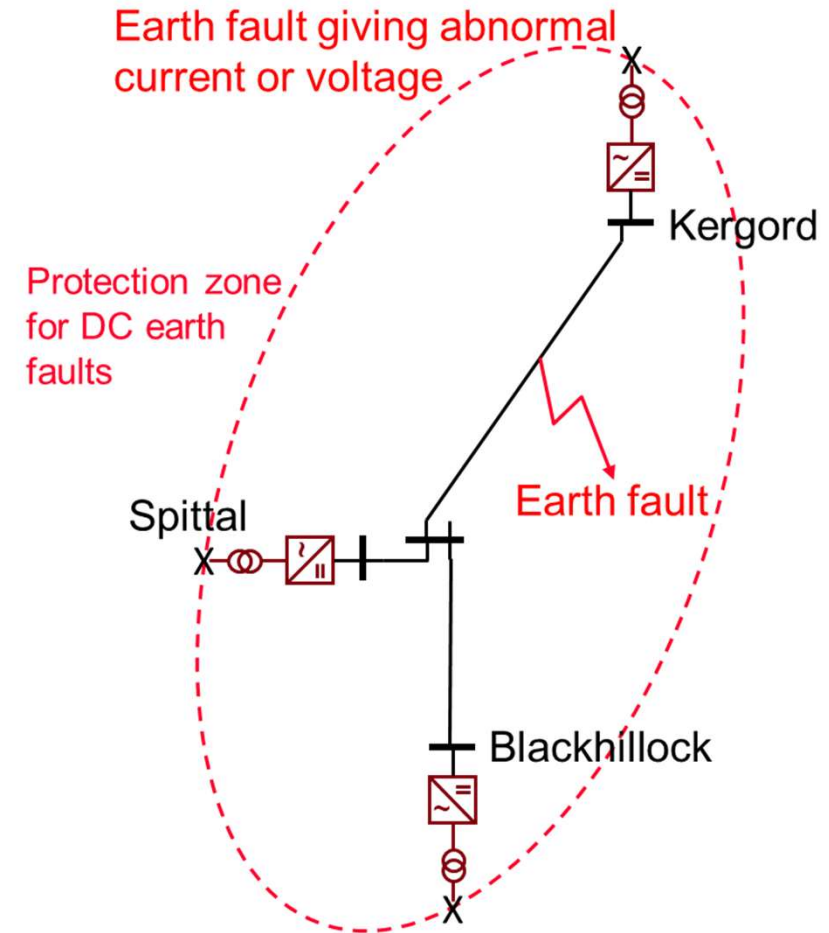
Characteristics of five converters, three in inverter operation and two in rectifier operation

## HVDC Light

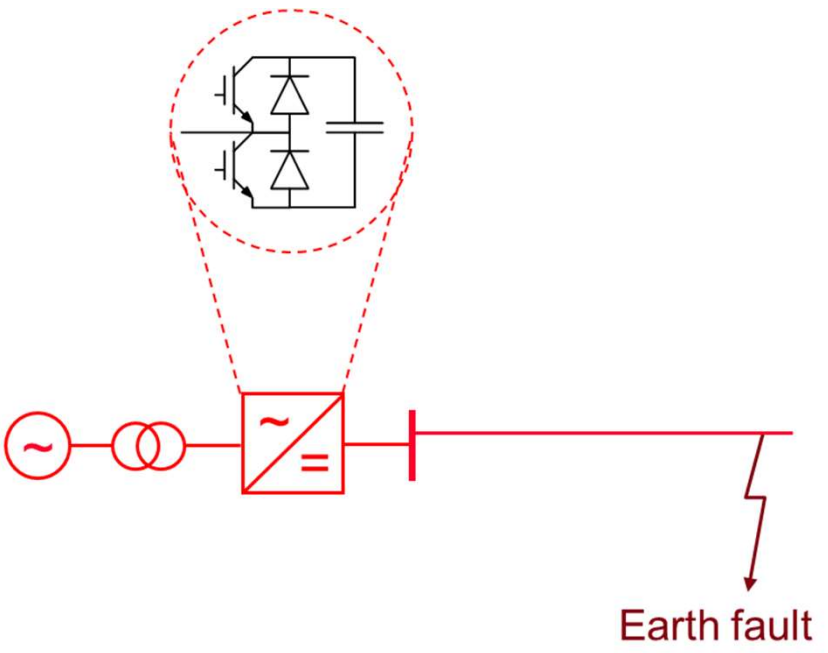
- DC Grid Master Controller
- DC voltage control sharing
- Fault separation
- Building a DC grid



No DC Breaker (DCCB) X AC breaker



# Diod-bridge and lines - fault currents



Currents from the AC-side

+

Surges from DC capacitors

Surges from e.g. cables:  $U_{dc}/Z_v$ ,

Earth fault

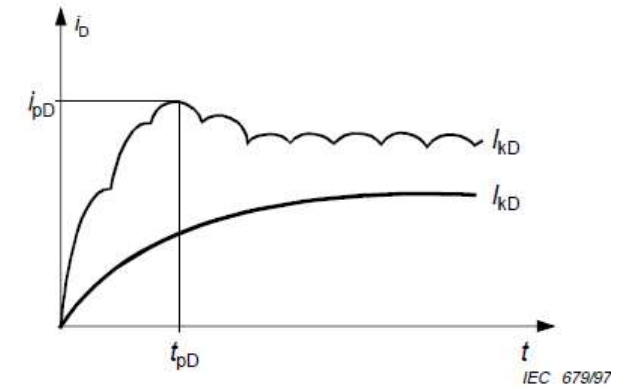


Figure 1a – Rectifier without and with smoothing reactor

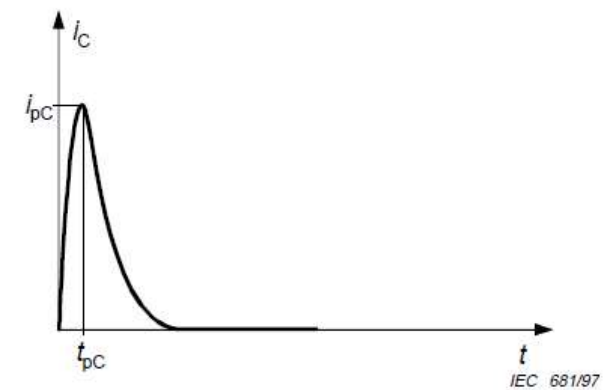
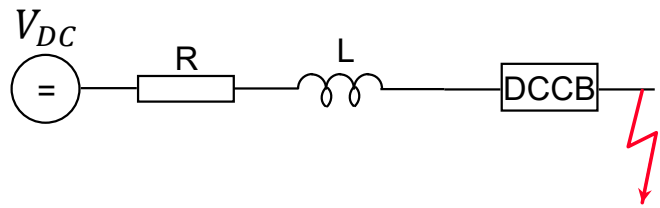
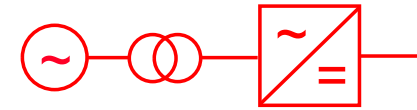


Figure 1c – Capacitor

# Fault currents in a DC grid – DC breaker requirements



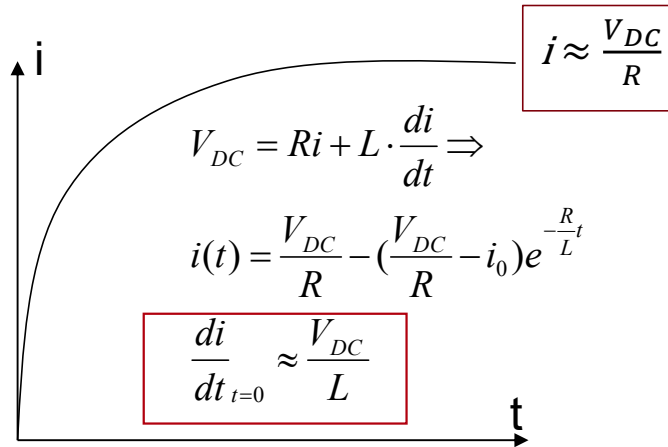
**Simplified equivalent circuit** for fault clearance in a DC Grid

R = ac reactance and dc resistance, combined

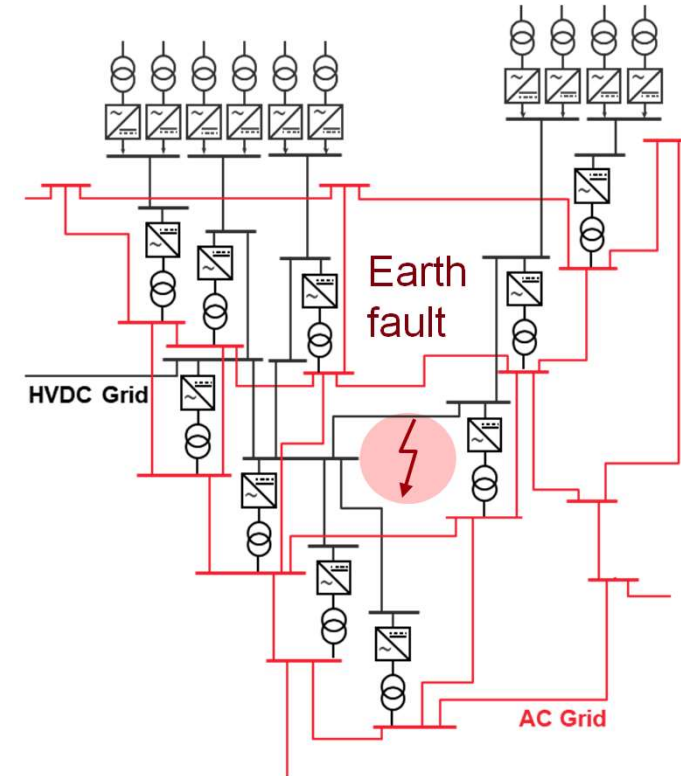
L = inductance in the circuit

— DCCB — DC Circuit Breaker

Neglected capacitive surge

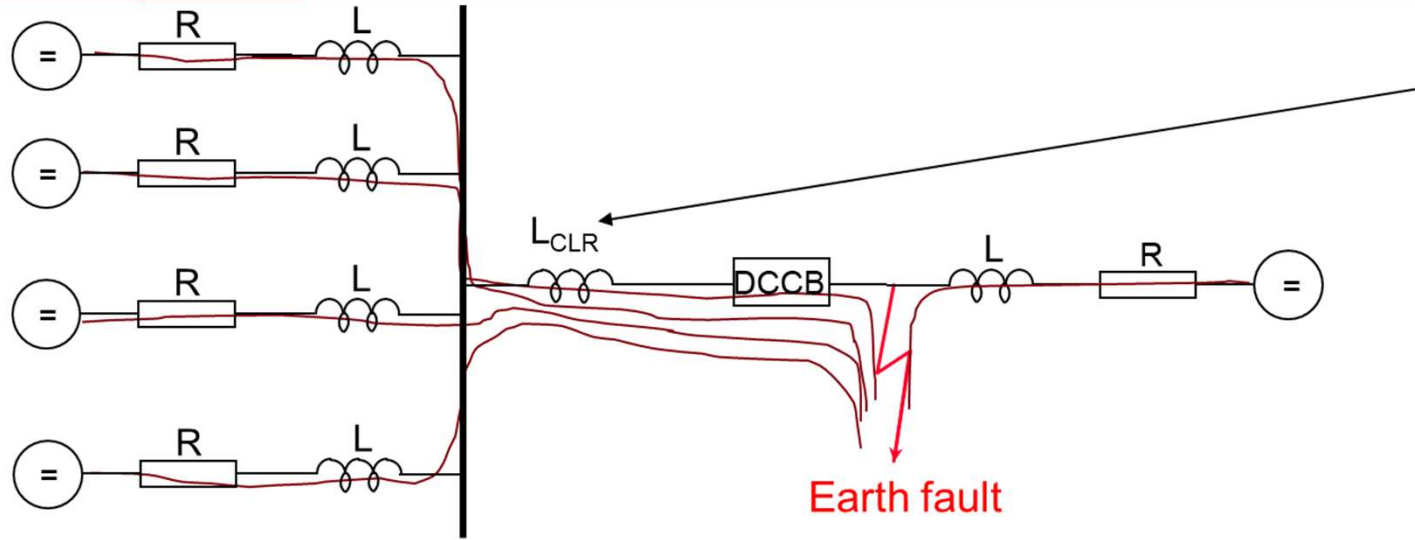
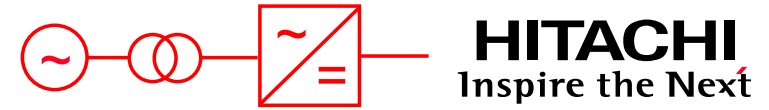


Steady state levels after ~50-70ms (depends on network size)

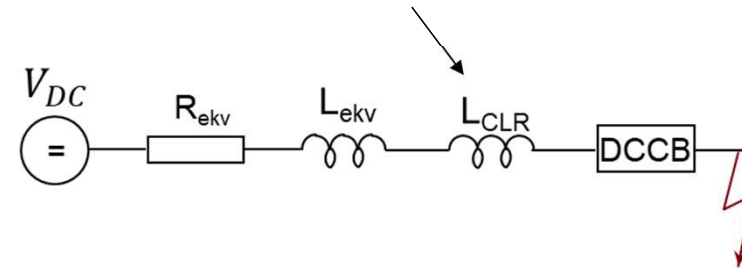


**High rate of rise currents to high values**

# Current limiting reactor to limit the current rate of rise

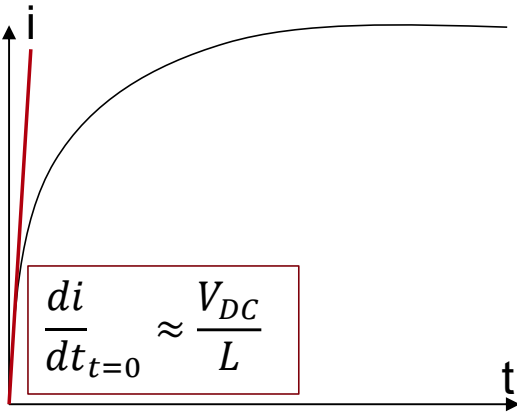


Current limiting reactor to limit current rate of rise



Earth fault

$$I \approx \frac{V_{DC}}{R}$$



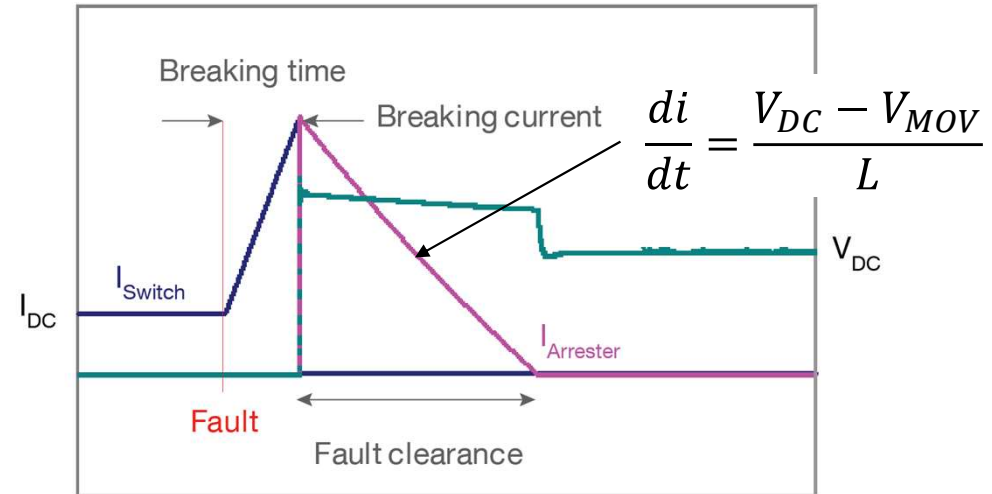
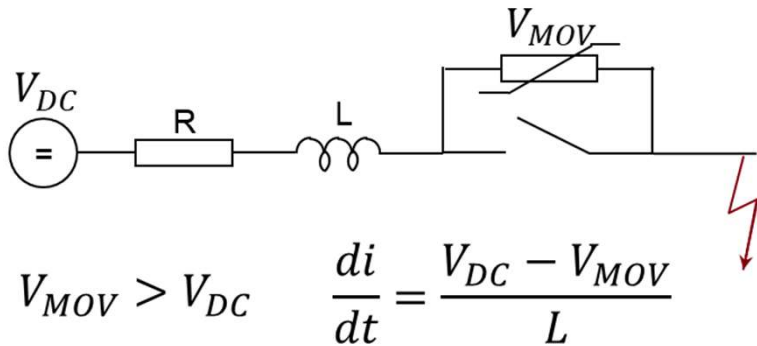
Current limiting reactor, 100 mH:  
Time vs current to break in a 525 kV grid.

Detection and breaking time ms	Necessary breaking current kA
1	5.25
2	10.5
5	26.25
10	52.5



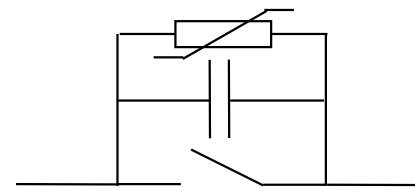
# No natural current zero-crossings - Energy

DCCB



Arrester (MOV) dissipate fault energy:

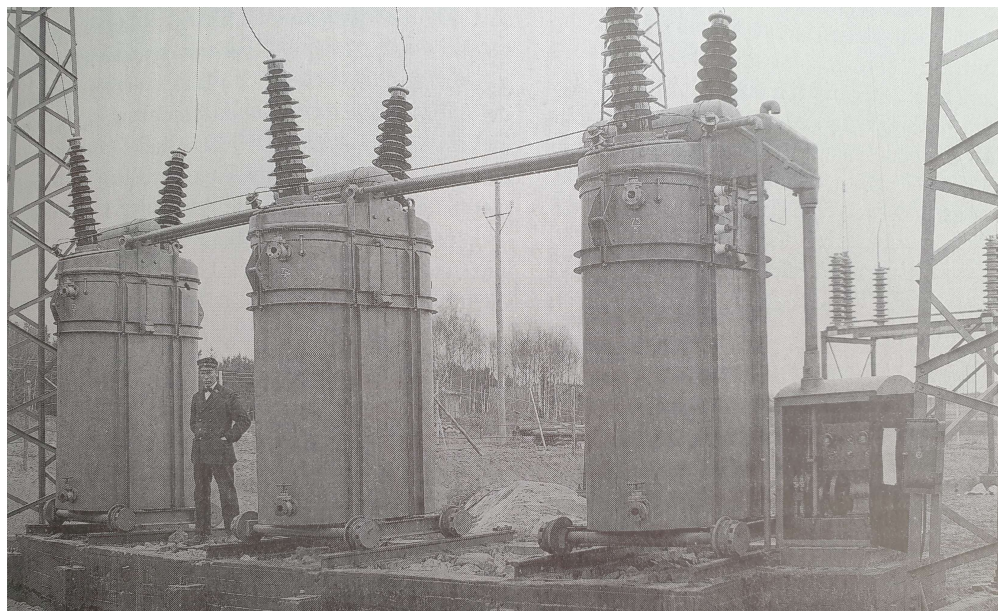
$$E = \frac{1}{2} L \cdot i^2$$



Mechanical or/and electronic switches, capacitors w/o active circuits etc, but all DCCBs need to handle energy

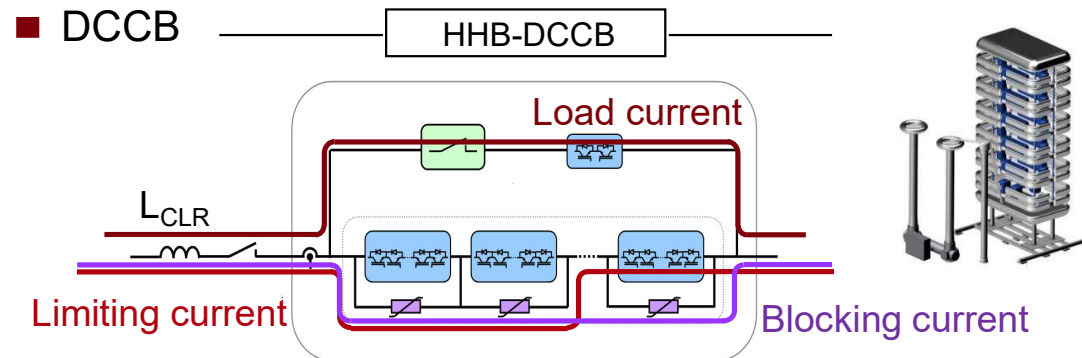
**Large Current Limiting Reactor -> sizable reactor and arresters**

# 132kV AC breaker 1925-1935 vs 350kV DCCB 2020

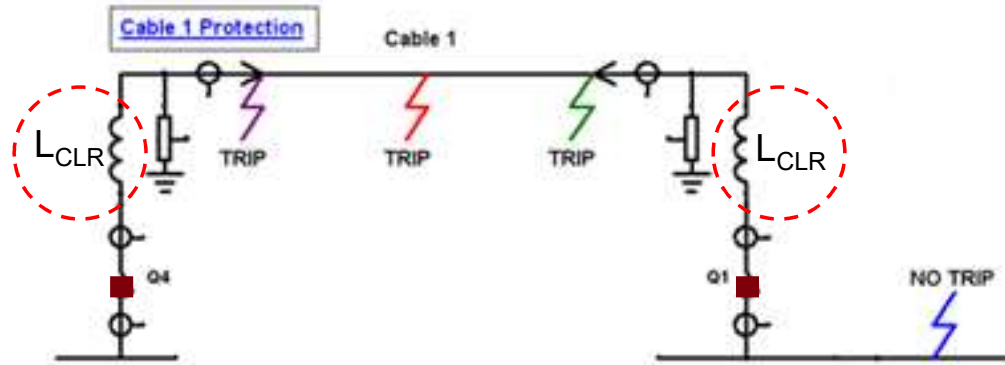


Sizable 132kV AC breaker in Moholm 1925-1935. Expected to be 9 meters high for 220kV and 60 tons.

X AC breaker

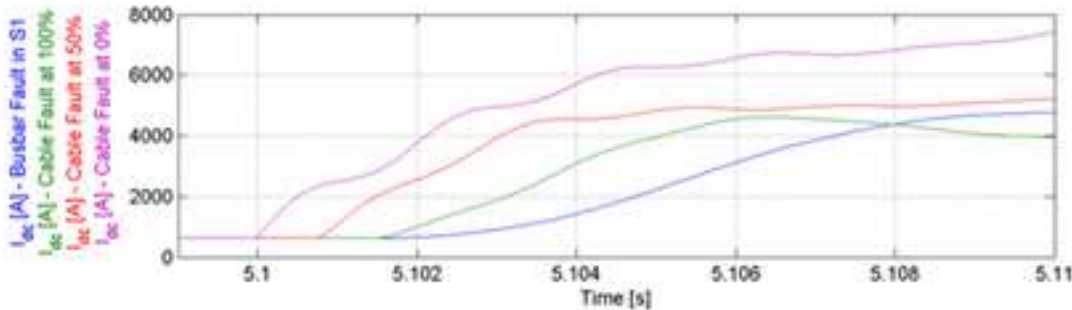


# Reactors also essential for Fault Detection



■ DCCB

Current limiting reactors close to the measuring device  
Derivative and travelling wave protection for selective detection



Within few milliseconds, with:  
Selectivity - take out only the faulty line/zone  
Stability - stable for disturbances

**Challenging!**

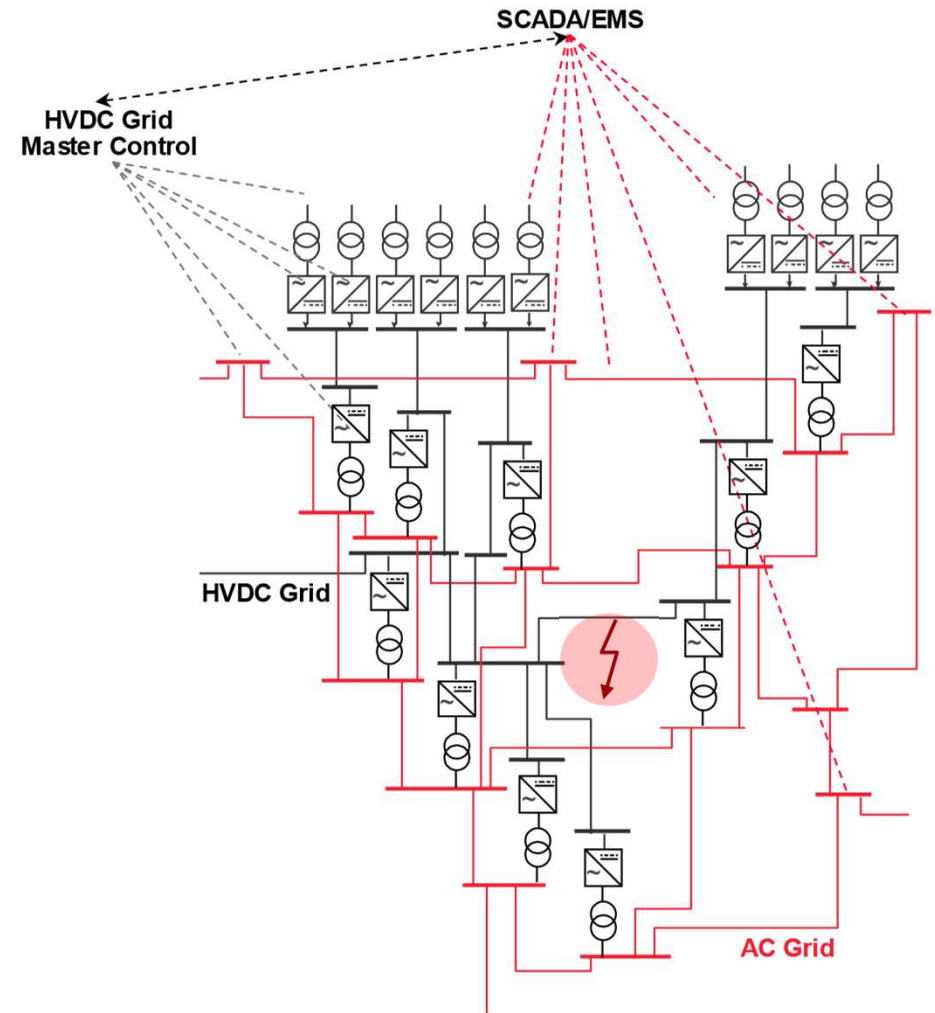
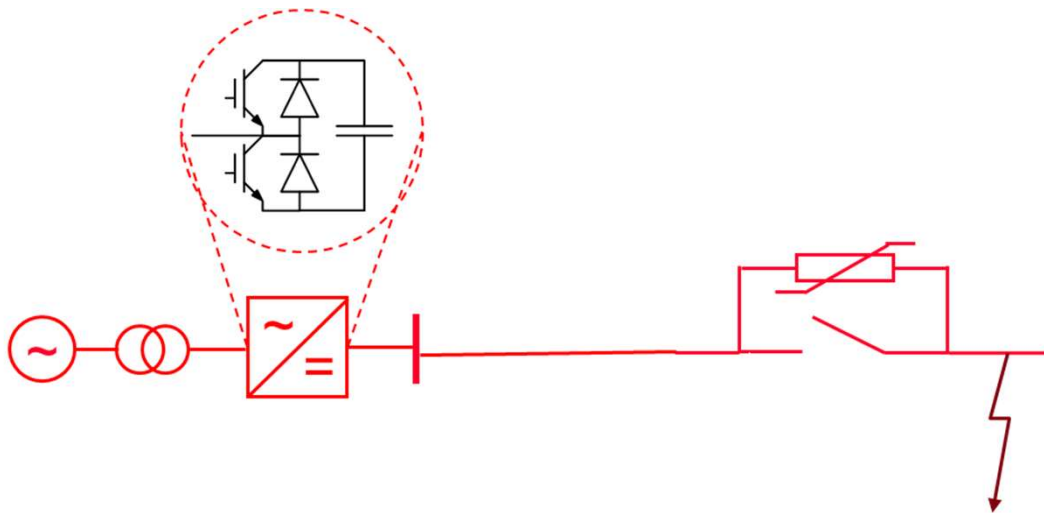


# Will the DC grid survive? The need for speed!

## HVDC grid

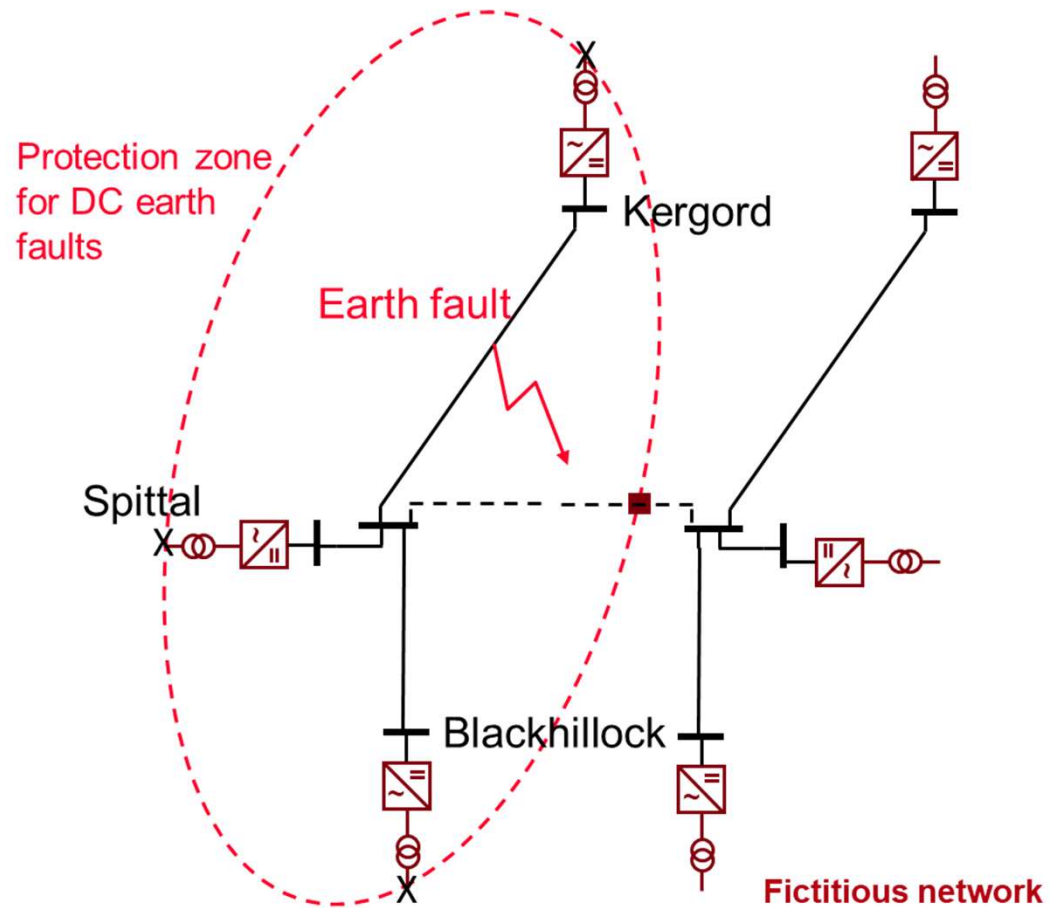
- Fast and deep fault penetration
- Keep DC voltage at reasonable levels to maintain operation of converter stations

➔ Fast DC Breakers with breaking times <3 ms range required to avoid voltage collapse in HVDC grid



## HVDC Light

- DC Grid Master Controller
- DC voltage control sharing
- Fault separation
- Building a DC grid



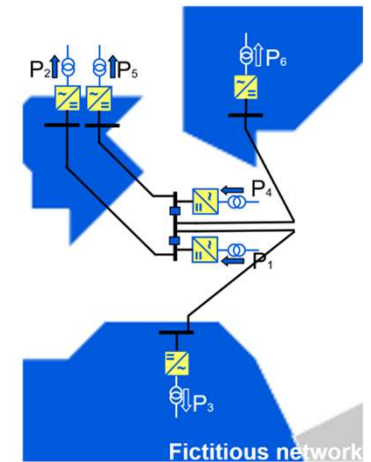
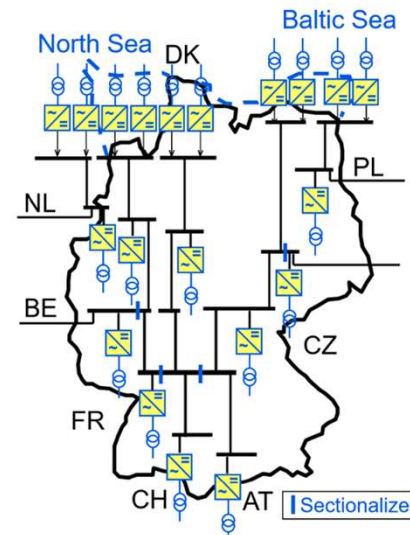
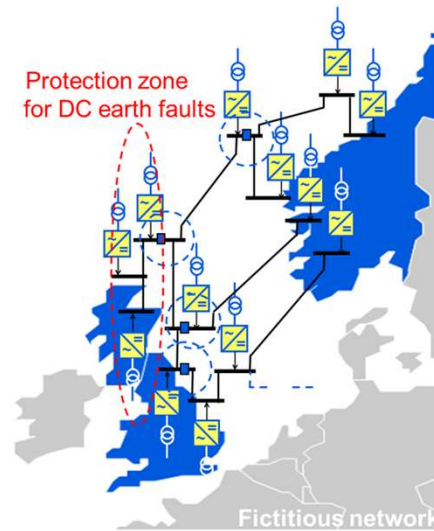
X AC breaker      ■ DCCB

DCCB = DC Circuit Breaker

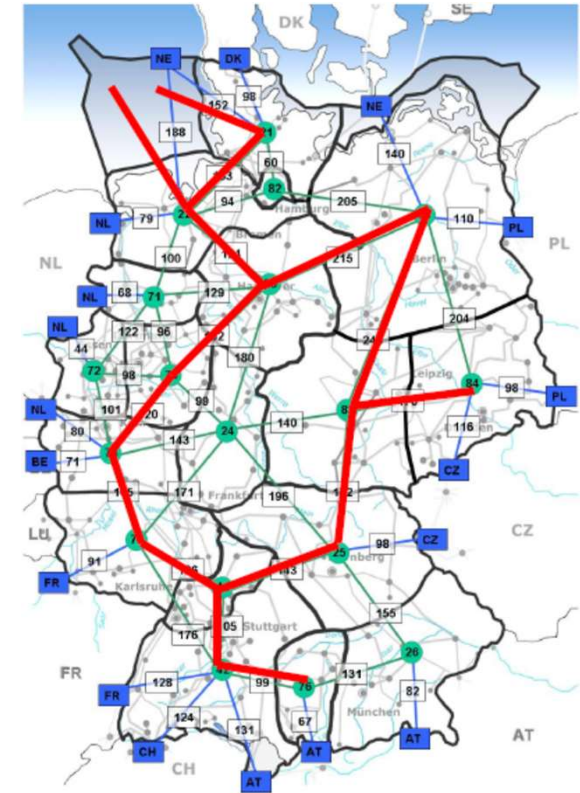
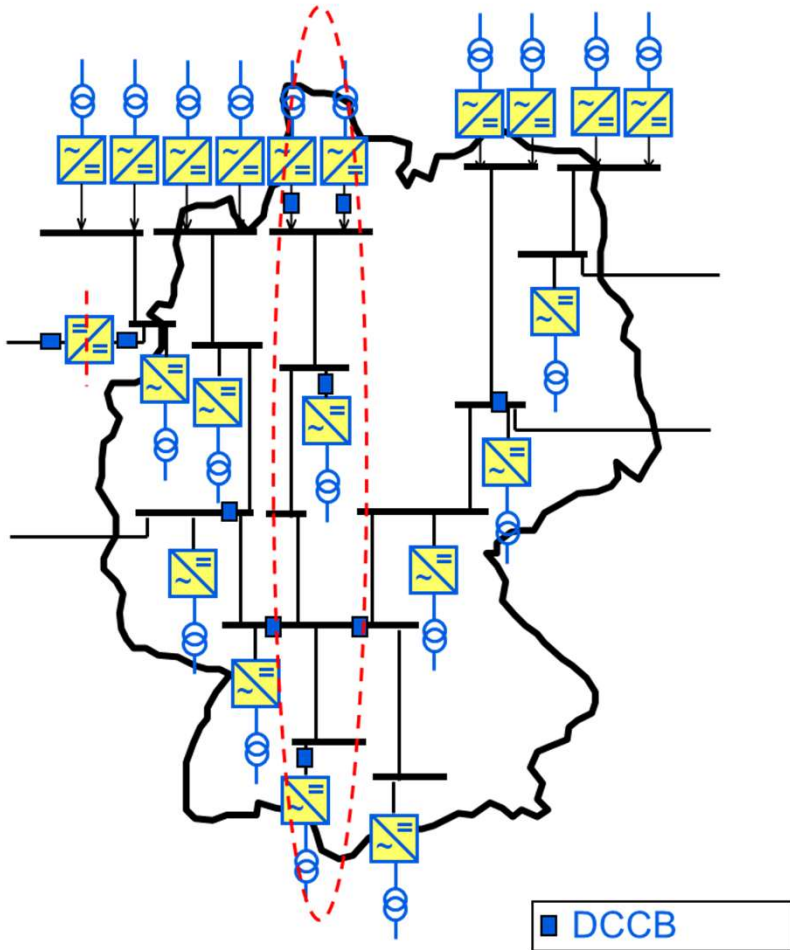
# HVDC Grid essentials

## HVDC Light

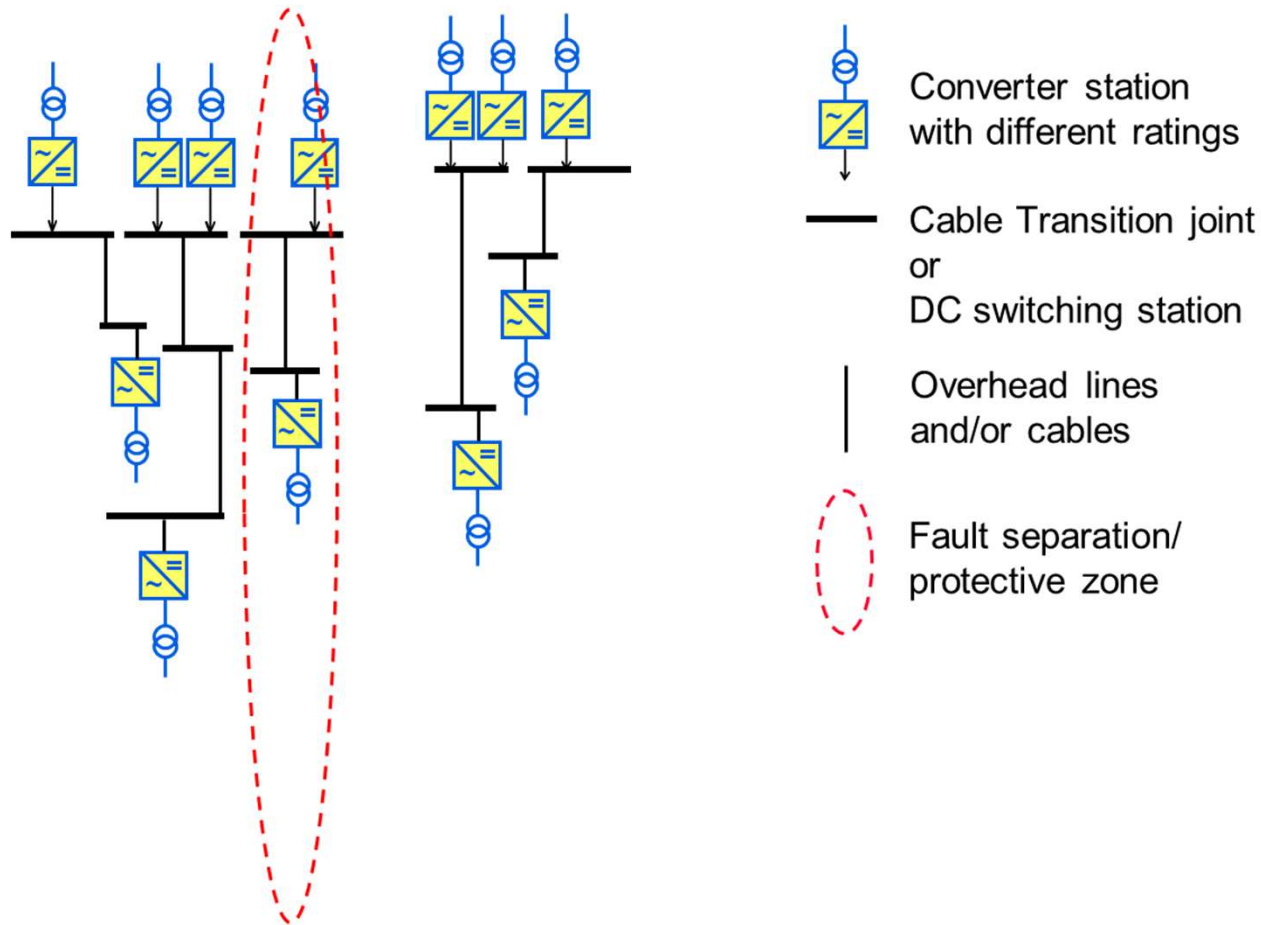
- DC Grid Master Controller
- DC voltage control sharing
- Fault separation
- Building a DC grid



# Building a DC Grid – stage wise

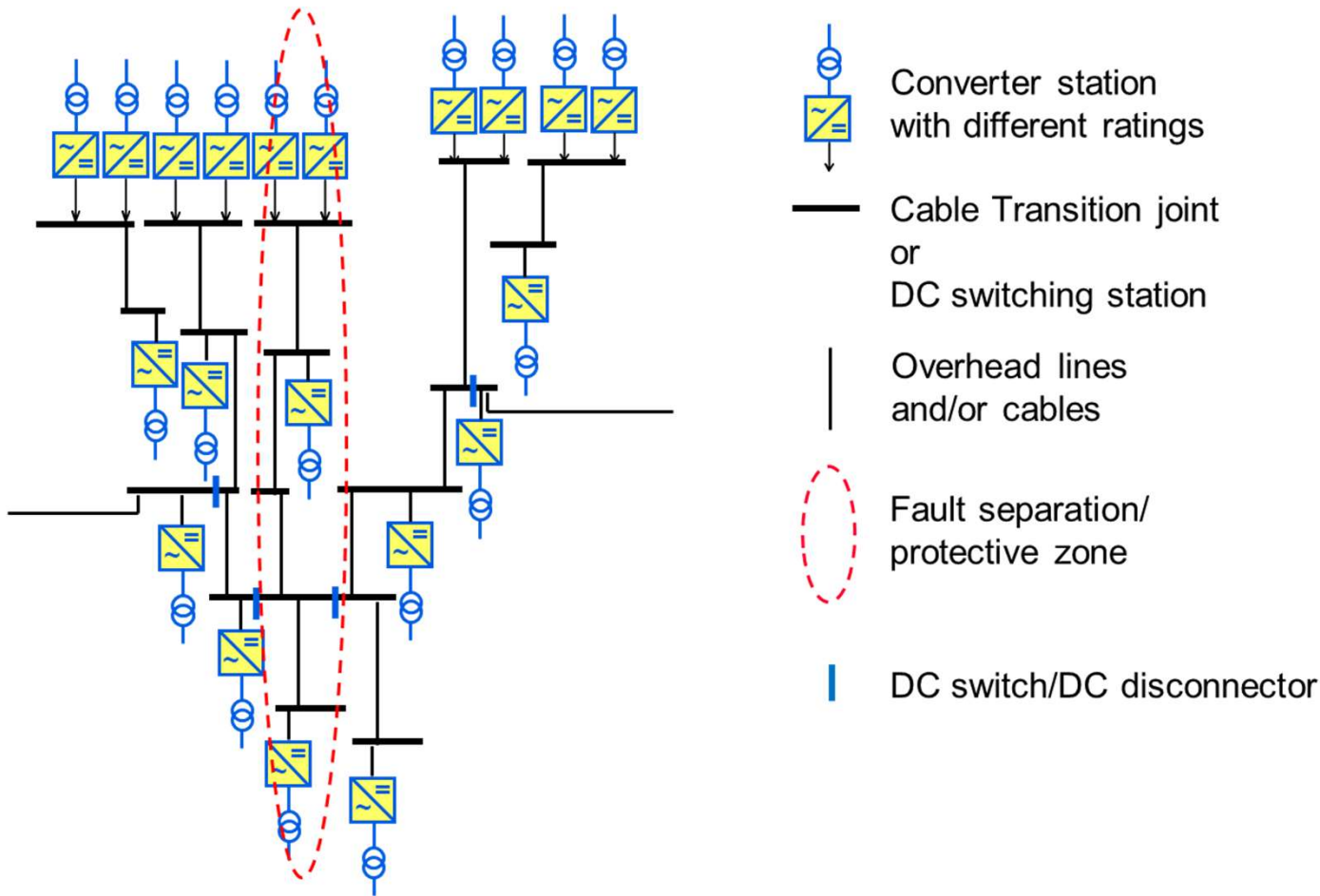


# Building a DC Grid – stage wise – First stage



First stage  
P2P multiterminal ready links

# Building a DC Grid – stage wise – Second stage



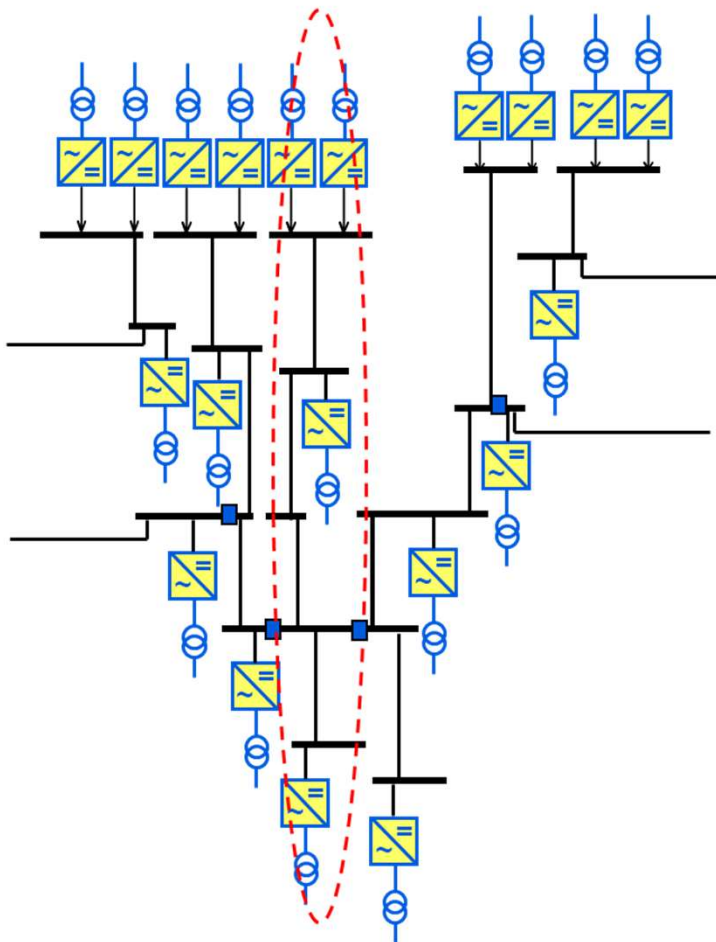
First stage







P2P multiterminal ready links

Second stage

P2P and/or radial multi-terminal with sectionalizing disconnectors

# Building a DC Grid – stage wise – Third stage



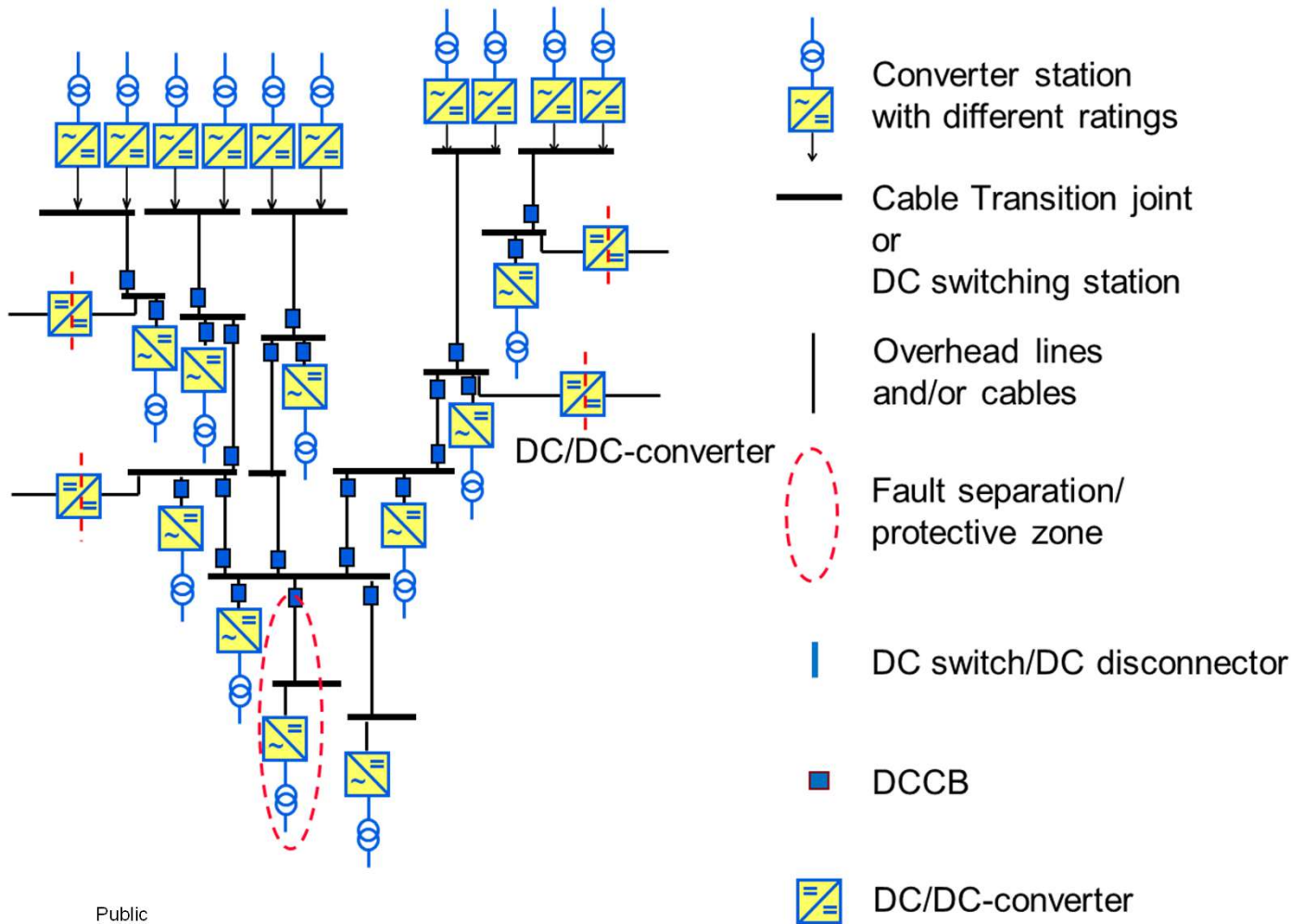
-  Converter station with different ratings
-  Cable Transition joint or DC switching station
-  Overhead lines and/or cables
-  Fault separation/protective zone
-  DC switch/DC disconnectors
-  DCCB

First stage  
P2P multiterminal ready links

Second stage  
P2P and/or radial multi-terminal with sectionalizing disconnectors

Third stage  
Connect the different multiterminals through sectionalizing DCCBs

# Building a DC Grid – stage wise – Fourth stage



First stage  
P2P multiterminal ready links

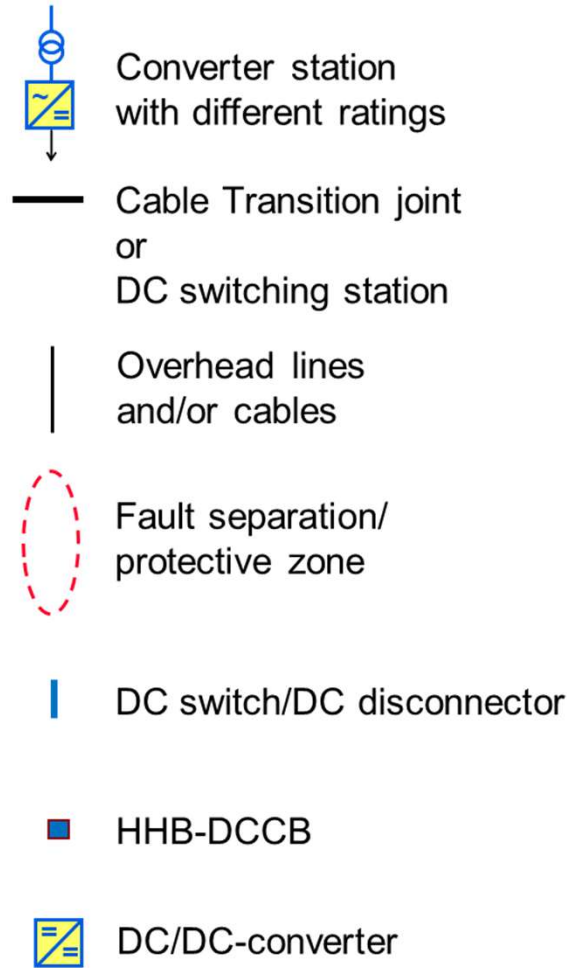
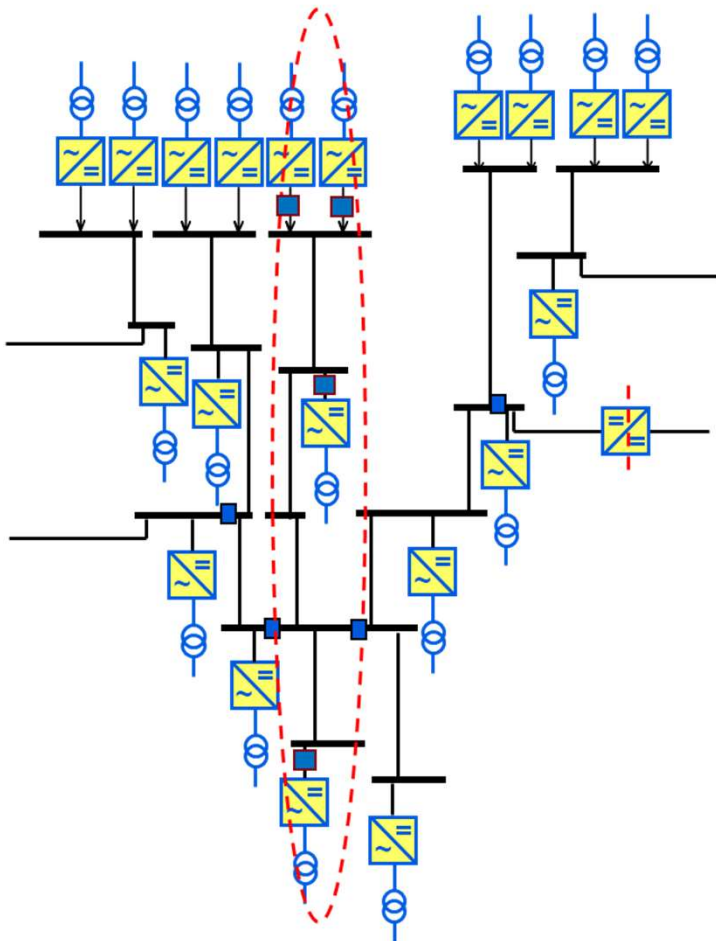
Second stage  
P2P and/or radial multi-terminal with sectionalizing disconnectors

Third stage  
Connect the different multiterminals through sectionalizing DCCBs

Fourth stage  
DC/DC-converters?  
and/or  
DCCBs protecting each object?



# Current blocking function



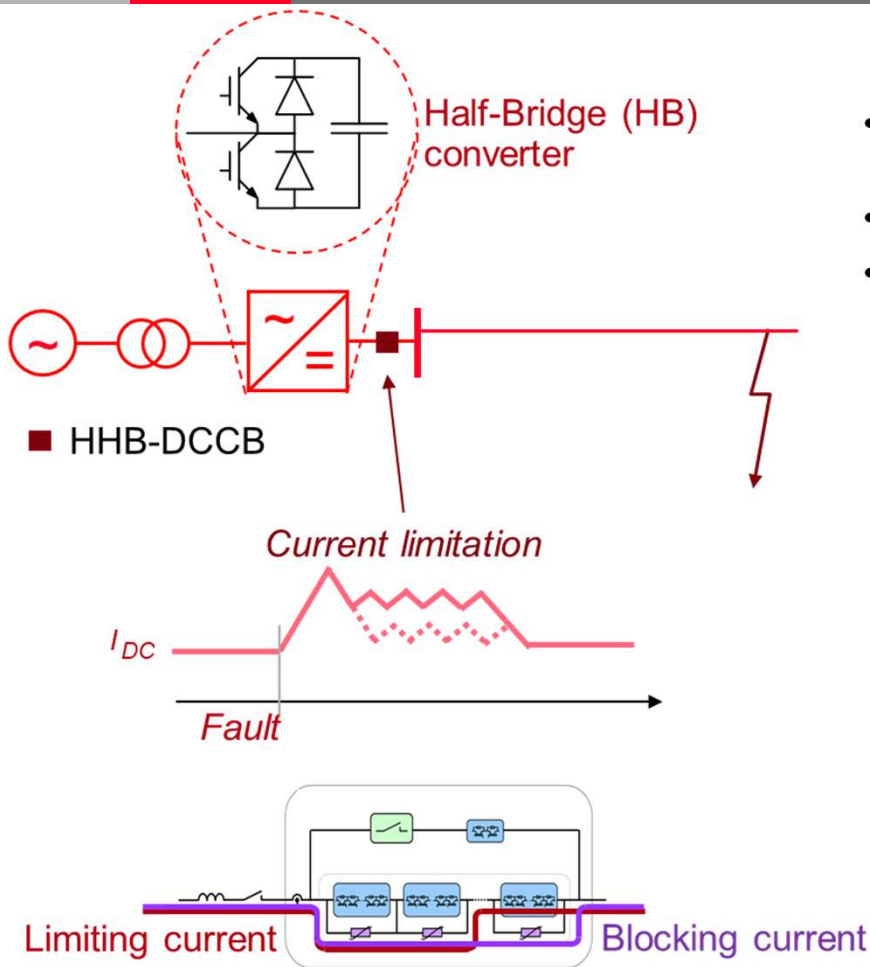
First stage  
P2P multiterminal ready links

Second stage  
P2P and/or radial multi-terminal with sectionalizing disconnectors

Third stage  
Connect the different multiterminals through sectionalizing DCCBs

Fourth stage  
DC/DC-converters?  
and/or  
DCCBs protecting each object?  
and/or  
**Converter breakers with current blocking/limiting function (HHB-DCCB)?**

# Current blocking/limiting function – if required

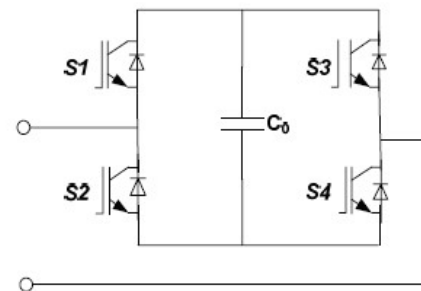


## DC earth faults, HB+HHB-DCCB

- The DC breaker limits fault current through converter
- AC breakers will not open
- VSC can provide reactive power support during disturbances

The same functionality can be achieved with:

Full-bridge converters (FB)  
Some hybrid converters



Full-Bridge (FB) converter

## Half-Bridge (HB) converter

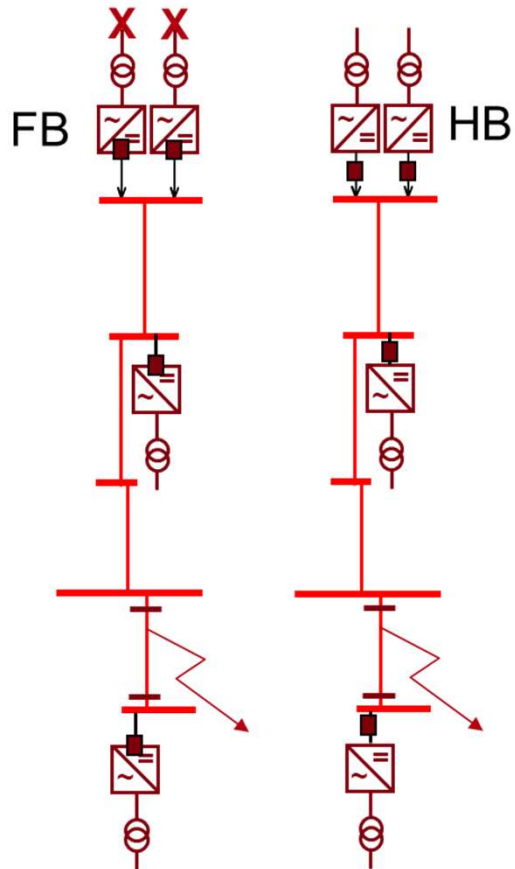
- + Lower losses
- + Lower converter cost
- External current breaking and/or limitation for converter fault current blocking

## Full-Bridge (FB) converter

- Higher losses
- Higher cost
- + Incorporated current limitation

Hybrid combinations have also been proposed

# Internal vs external current blocking



Full-bridge converter (FB):

The on-shore converter stations continues reactive power support of the AC grid

*All off-shore converters trip ( X )*

Half-bridge converter (HB)+HHB-DCCB, and DC chopper in-between:

The on-shore converter stations continues reactive power support of the AC grid

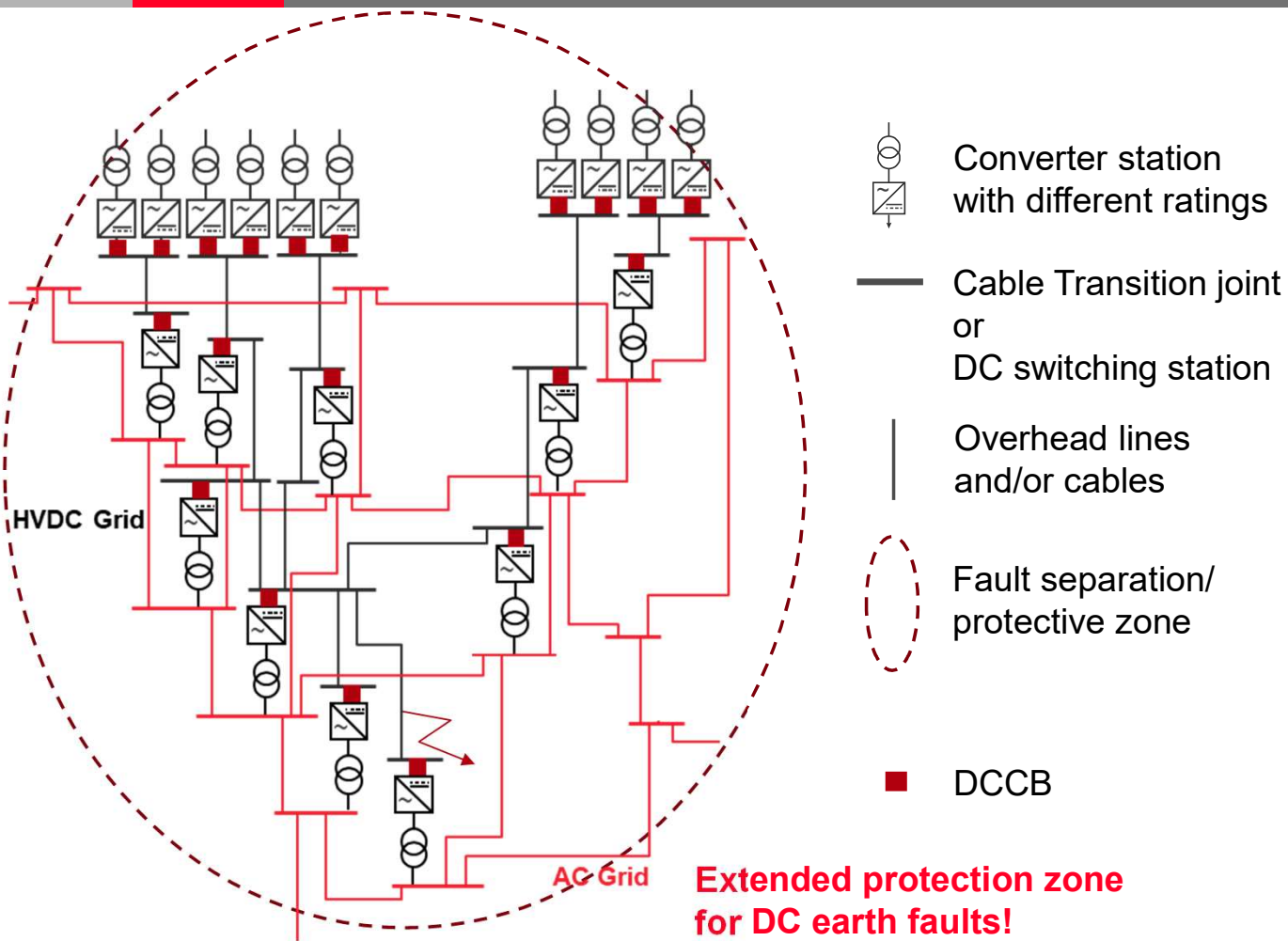
The off-shore converter DC-chopper supports fault-ride through of the wind farms until opening of the disconnectors

**X** AC breaker

**■** Internal or external current blocking/limitation

**However, sectionalizing DCCB is still needed in the DC grid!**

# Current blocking function without sectionalizing DCCB



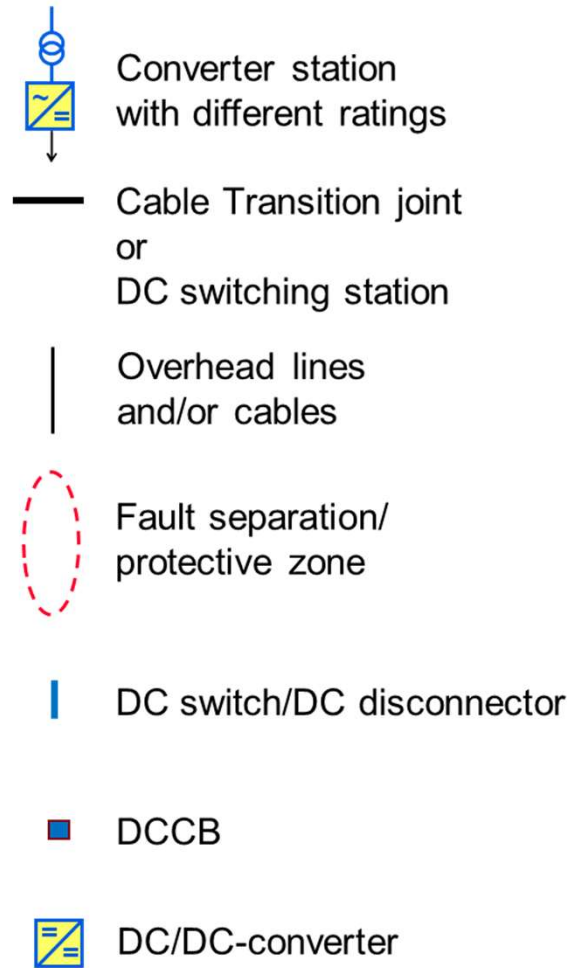
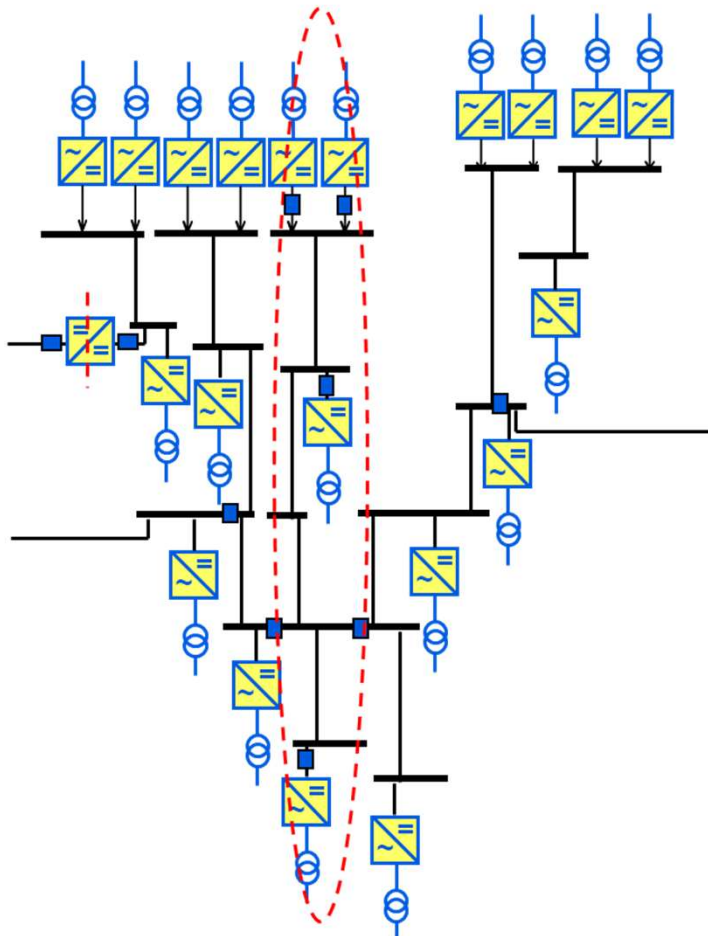
The whole DC system will now be influenced before the fault is cleared!

Highly likely not acceptable for HVAC Grid Code compliance, since

**Large temporary loss of power infeed (RoCoF)**

**Temporary re-routing of high power on AC lines (Line protection, voltage dip)**

# Probable DC Grid evolution



First stage

P2P multiterminal ready links

Second stage

P2P and/or radial multi-terminal with sectionalizing disconnectors

Third stage

Connect the different multiterminals through sectionalizing DCCBs

Fourth stage

Some converter breakers with current limiting/blocking function

Fifth stage

DC/DC-converters with current limiting function

DCCBs protecting each object???

## **HVAC grids**

### 1) First phase

Single purpose network

Manufacturer doing system studies

### 2) Intermediate phase

Multi-purpose network

Cooperation between system owner and manufacturer

(Kungliga Vattenfallsstyrelsen and ASEA)

Company standards

### 3) Final phase

Multi-purpose network

System owner doing system studies (Core competence)

International standards

## **HVDC grids**

# Evolution of HVAC and HVDC systems

## HVAC grids

### 1) First phase

Single purpose network

Manufacturer doing system studies

### 2) Intermediate phase

Multi-purpose network

Cooperation between system owner and manufacturer

(Kungliga Vattenfallsstyrelsen and ASEA)

Company standards

### 3) Final phase

Multi-purpose network

System owner doing system studies (Core competence)

International standards

## HVDC grids

### 1) First phase

Single purpose network (mostly P2P)

Manufacturer doing system studies

### 2) Intermediate phase

### 3) Final phase

Multi-purpose network

System owner doing system studies

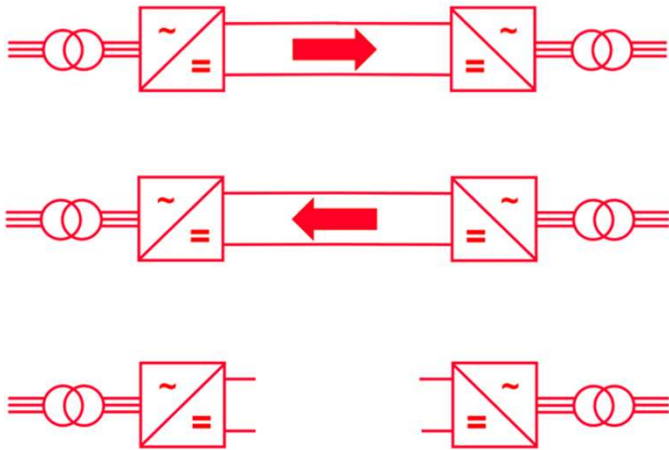
International standards

**MTDC Intermediate stage – sharing the system studies and verifications?**

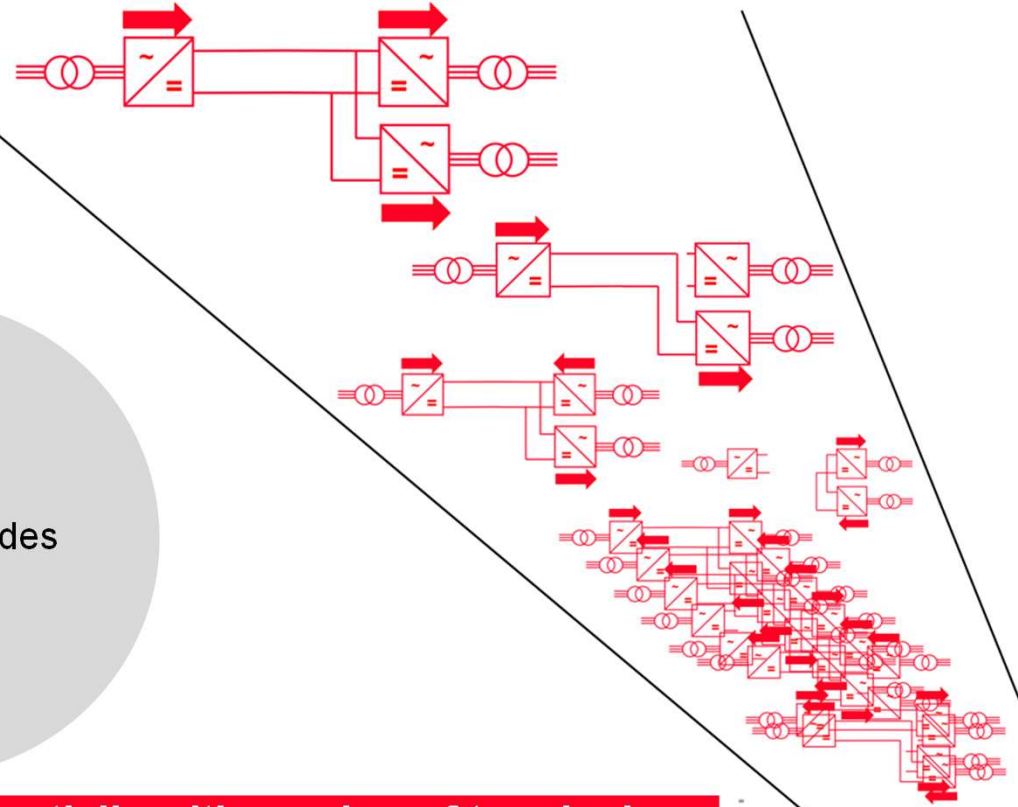
# Engineering challenges - Modes of operation

## P2P vs multiterminal

### Point-to-point (P2P) – monopole (3)



### 3-terminal – monopole (13)



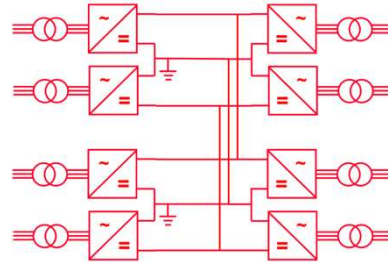
- Inverter
- Rectifier
- Statcom
- Control modes
- Reduced voltage
- ...

**Operation modes scales exponentially with number of terminals**

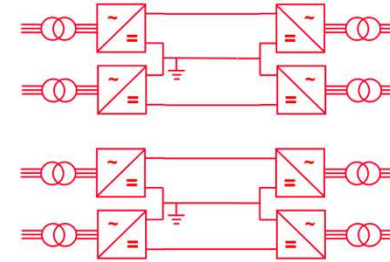


# Road-blocker - DC Grid planning studies during HVDC project

No stations	Bipole			
	All L	2L 1W	1L 2W	2L 2W
2	7			
3	73	34	16	
4	727			160



versus

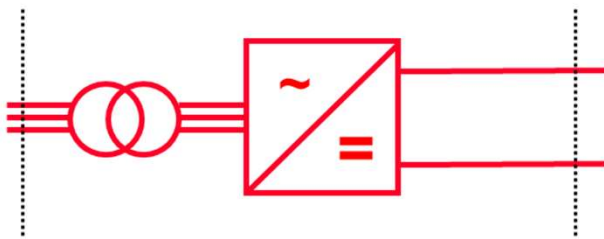


Four terminal

Two separate bipoles ~7 + 7

PoI-AC

PoI-DC



Output from pre-project system planning studies - parameters for *both* PoI-AC and PoI-DC!

Customer specification





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