

DIGITAL WE DAYS

2023



## BENEFITS OF GAN IN QR FLYBACK

Partnered with STMicroelectronics

WÜRTH ELEKTRONIK MORE THAN YOU EXPECT

# Today's speakers



**PRESENTATION**  
Ester Spitale  
Technical Marketing Manager



**MODERATION**  
Silas Zorn  
Marketing Department

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However, you can ask us questions using the chat function.

**Duration of the presentation** 30 Min

**Q&A:** 10 – 15 Min

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**On our channel** Würth Elektronik Group

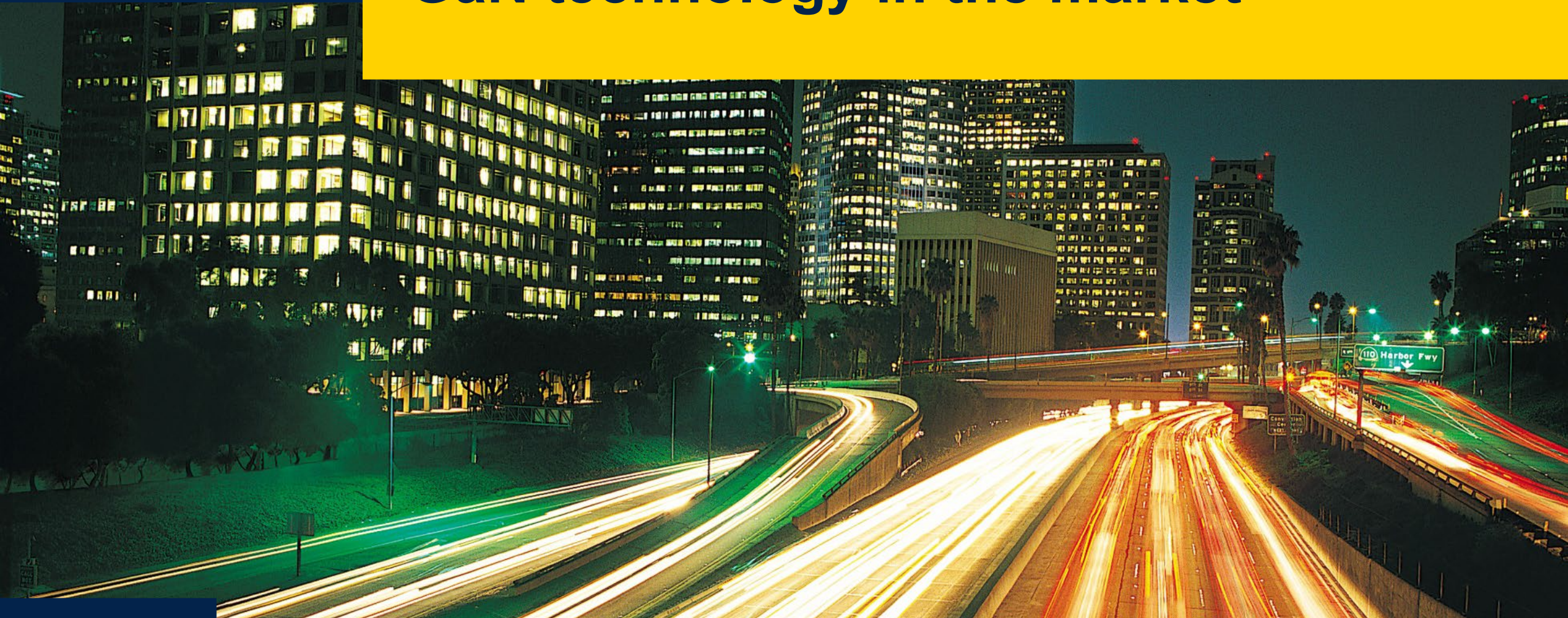
**And on** [Digital WE Days 2023 YouTube Playlist](#)



# Agenda

- 1 GaN technology in the market
- 2 GaN characteristics and benefits of GaN in power conversion
- 3 GaN-based quasi-resonant flyback & comparison with GaN-based ACF
- 4 ST's GaN system-in-package overview
- 5 Conclusions

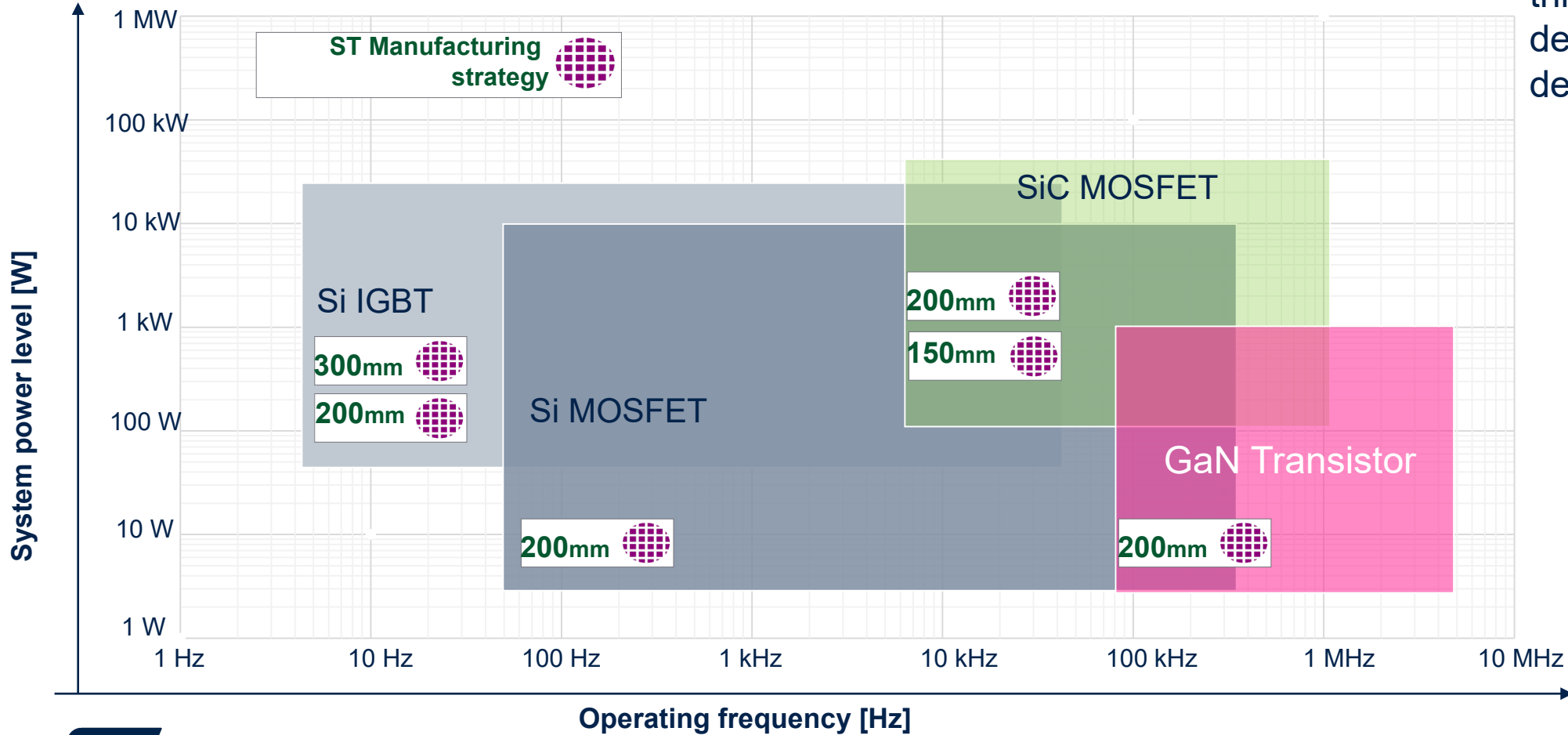
# GaN technology in the market



# Silicon & wide-bandgap

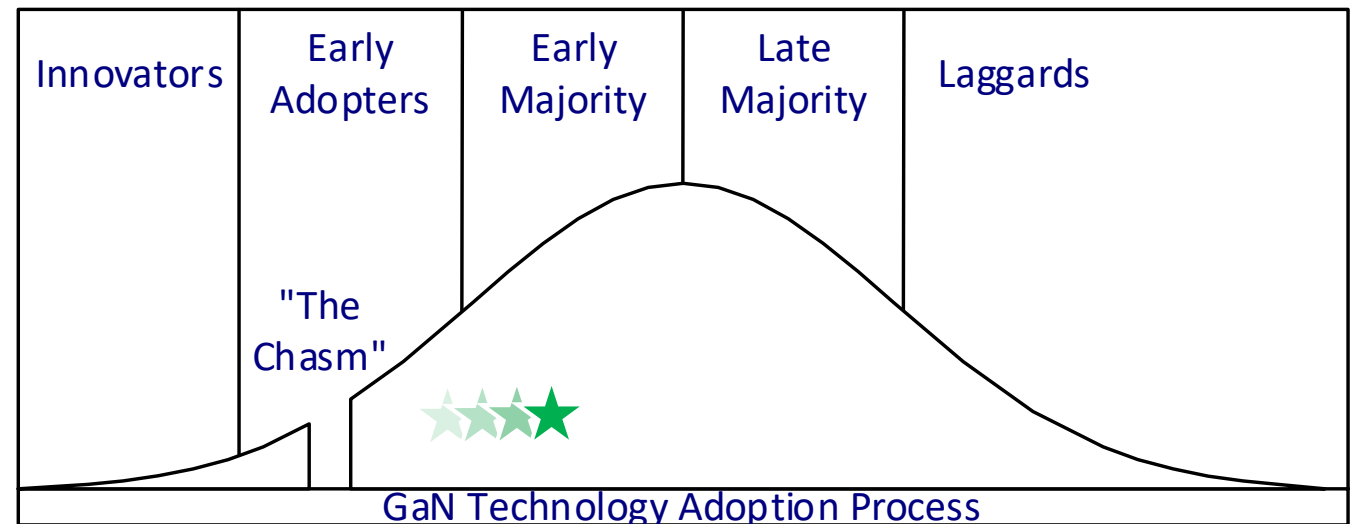
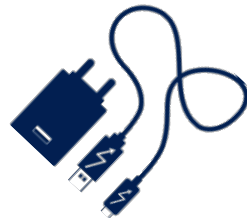
## Power devices positioning

Higher power is achieved through modular deployment or paralleling devices



# Wide-bandgap trends vs technology adoption

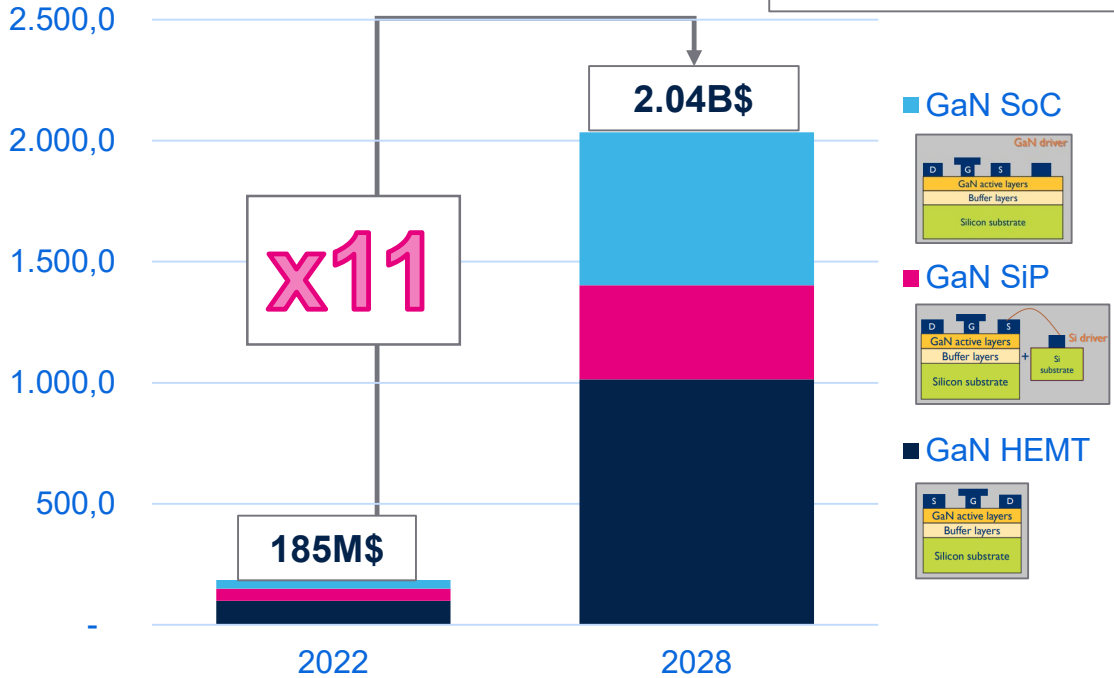
- In consumer, GaN crossed the chasm in 2020-2021 due to rapid growth in fast chargers, and is now being deployed in other AC/DC applications.
- System-in-package with embedded drivers/controllers will contribute to adoption due to simplicity of integration.



# GaN market outlook

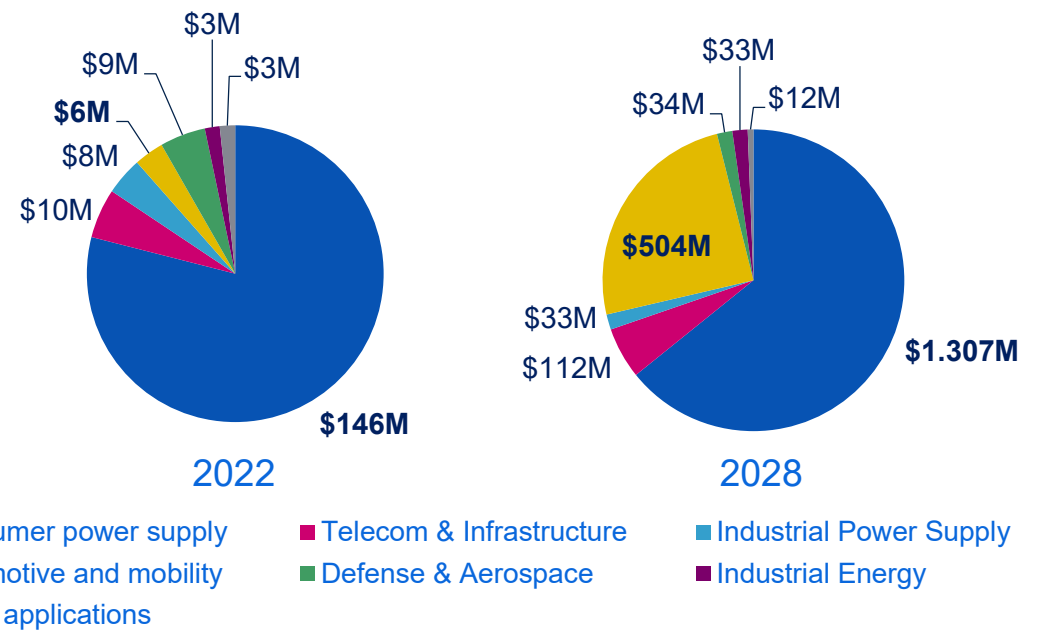
## GaN by products

CAGR 22-28: 49%



## GaN by major applications

**AUTOMOTIVE & MOBILITY**  
CAGR 22-28: 110%



Other applications = includes power supplies for medical applications and high-power (few kW) ones for gaming and crypto-mining, and some R&D activities.



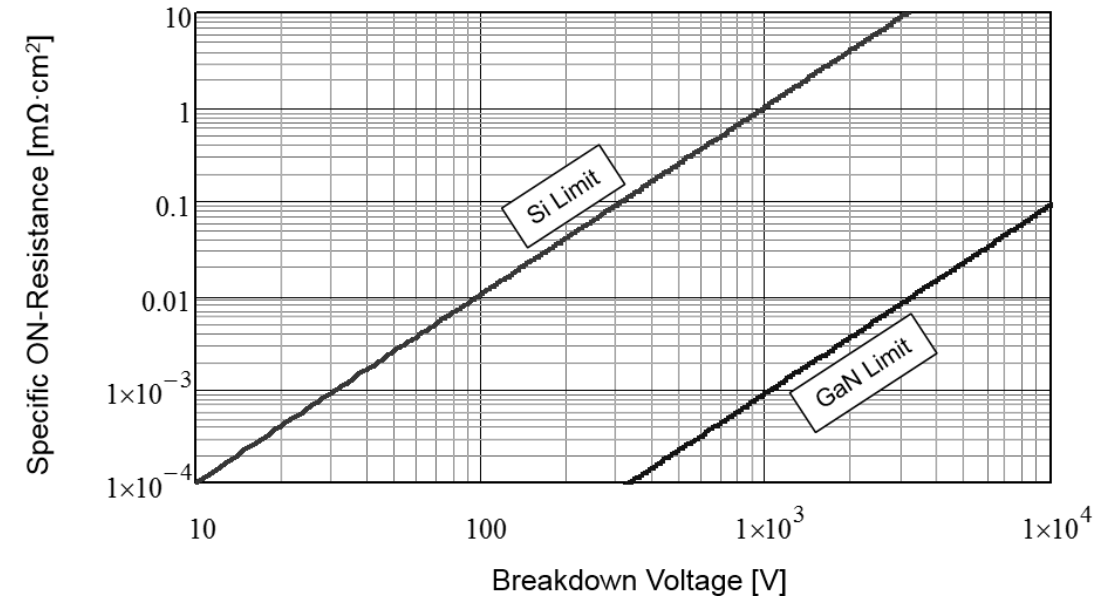
# GaN characteristics and benefits of GaN in power conversion



# Specific $R_{DS-ON}$ : GaN vs. Si

Property	Si	GaN
$E_g$ (eV) – band gap	1.1	3.39
$E_c$ (MV/cm) – critical electric field	0.3	3.33
$\epsilon_r$ – dielectric constant	11.9	9
$\mu_n$ (cm <sup>2</sup> /Vs) – electron mobility	1350	1700

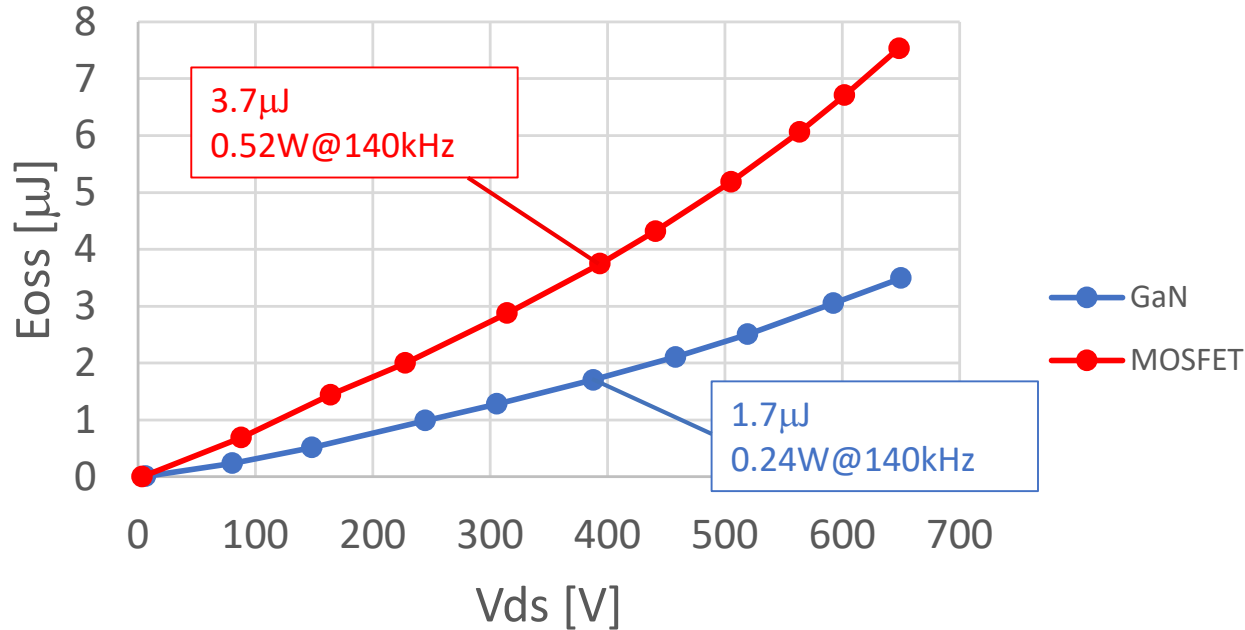
$$BFoM|_{GaN} \gg BFoM|_{Si}$$



- GaN offers lower specific Ron vs. breakdown voltage limit  
→ the technology allows to achieve lower Ron \* cm<sup>2</sup>
- GaN transistor is typically 4 to 10 times smaller than equivalent MOSFET\*

# $E_{OSS}$ : GaN vs. Si

Output capacitance stored energy (\*)



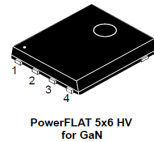
$$P_{Coss} = E_{OSS} \cdot f_{SW}$$

- ✓ During the switching, energy of output capacitance is being dissipated to the heat
- ✓ GaN transistor has much lower Eoss than equivalent Si MOSFETs

- Benefits:**
- ✓ Lower switching losses
  - ✓ High switching frequency permitted
  - ✓ High system's efficiency
  - ✓ Higher power density compared to silicon-based transistors

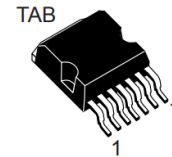
# Q<sub>RR</sub> comparison

**SGT65R65AL**



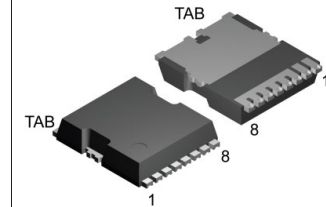
65 mΩ \*

**SCTH35N65G2V-7**



67 mΩ \*

**STO67N60DM6**



59 mΩ \*

Parameter	GaN-650V	SiC-650V	Si-600V
Total gate charge Q <sub>G</sub> [nC]	5.4	73	72.5
Reverse recovery charge Q <sub>RR</sub> [nC]	0	85	> 600

**GaN transistors have zero reverse recovery charge  
→ less losses in hard switching**

# Usage of GaN in power conversion

most common topologies

Power

Zero current switching

Soft switching

Hard switching

Flyback QR

Active Clamp Flyback (ACF)

Half-bridge LLC Resonant

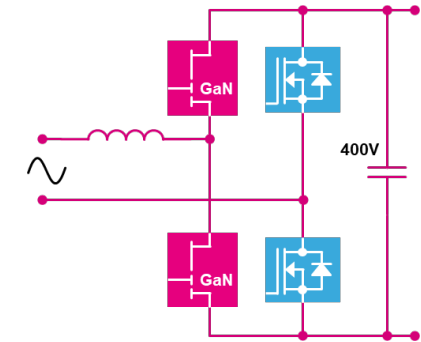
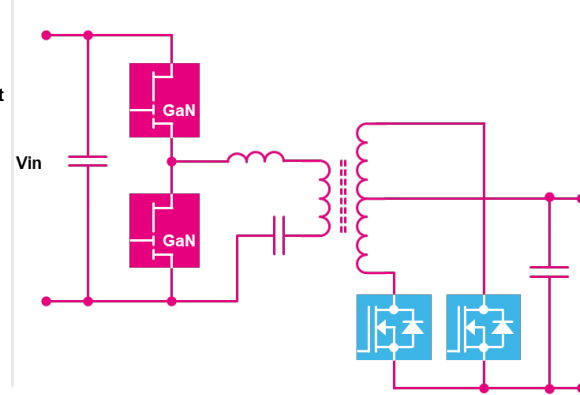
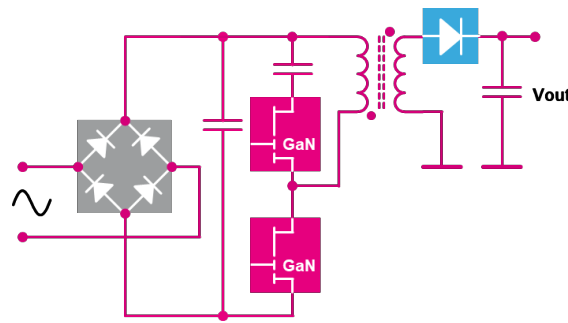
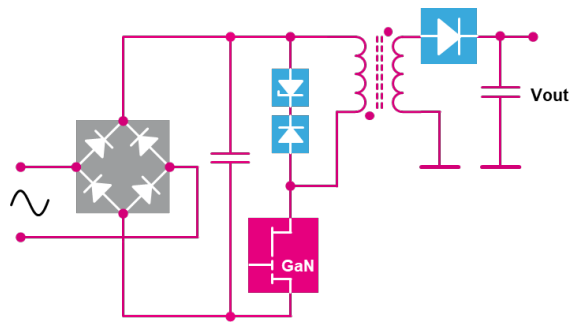
Totem-Pole Bridgeless CCM

AC/DC

AC/DC

DC/DC

AC/DC (PFC)



Auxiliary SMPS

Chargers / LED drivers

Industrial / lighting / telecom SMPS

Power supplies < 100W

Power supplies > 100W

Power supplies > 1kW

# Usage of GaN in power conversion

## most common topologies

Power

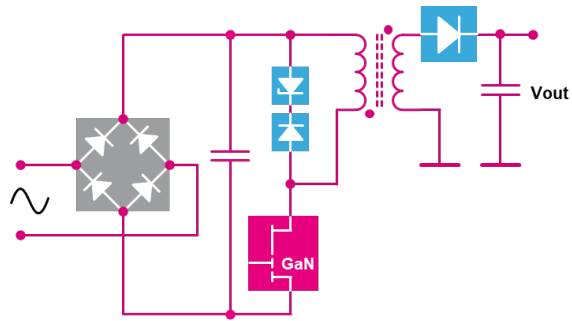
Zero current switching

Soft switching

Hard switching

Flyback QR

AC/DC

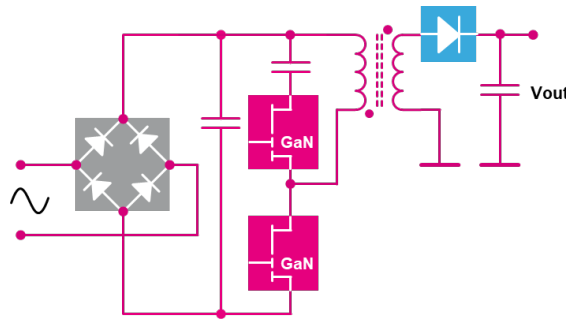


Why GaN?

- Lower parasitic capacitances
- Lower losses
- **increasing efficiency**
- **increasing frequency**  
(to reduce size of magnetic)

Active Clamp Flyback (ACF)

AC/DC

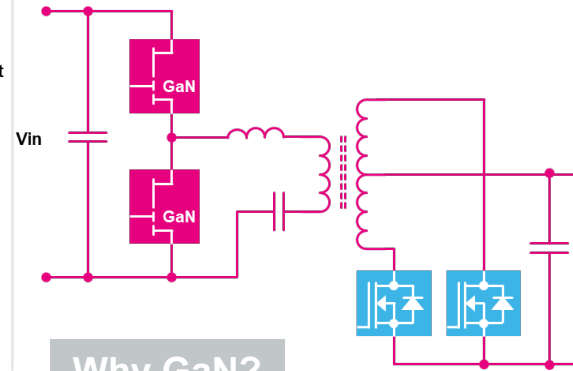


Why GaN?

- Lower parasitic capacitances
- Lower losses
- increasing efficiency
- **increasing frequency**  
(to reduce size of magnetic)

Half-bridge LLC Resonant

DC/DC

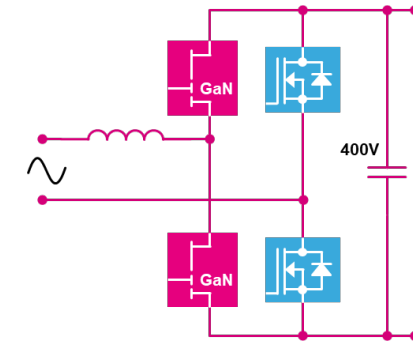


Why GaN?

- Lower parasitic capacitances
- Lower gate losses
- increasing efficiency
- **increasing frequency**  
(to reduce size of magnetic)

Totem-Pole Bridgeless CCM

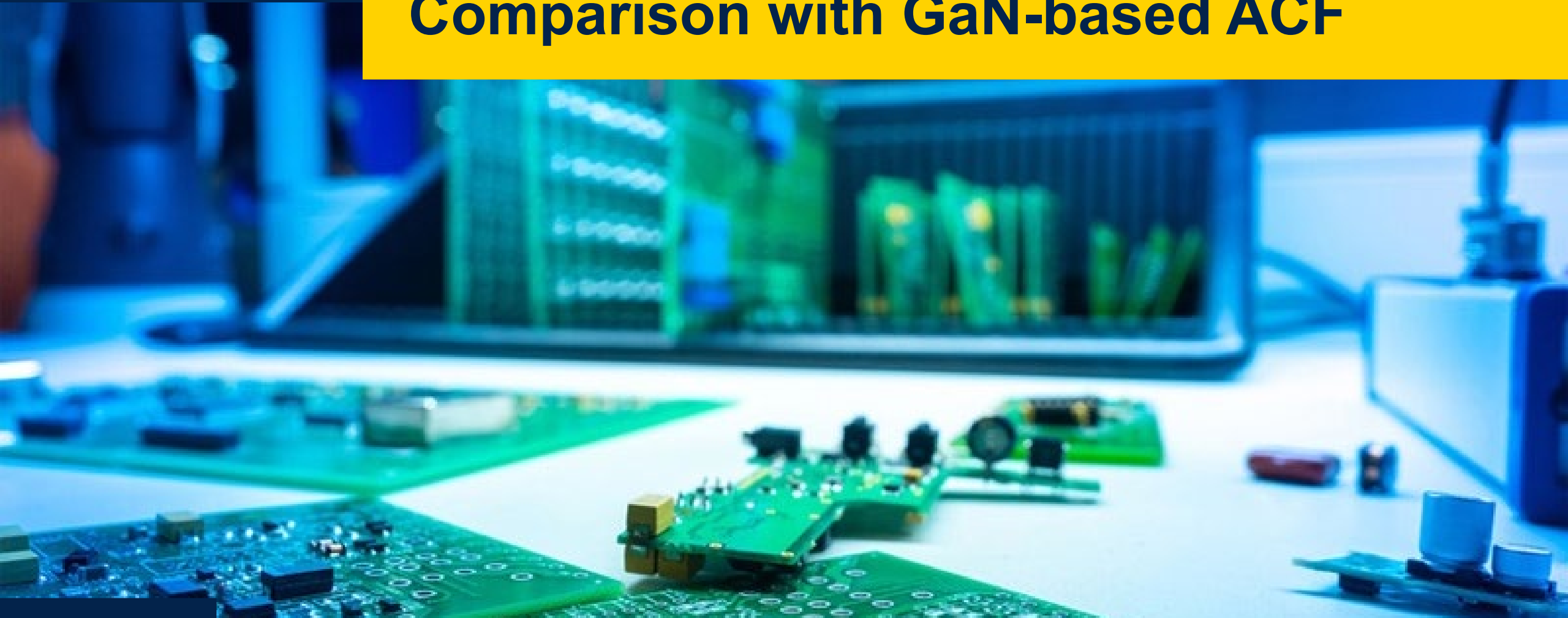
AC/DC (PFC)



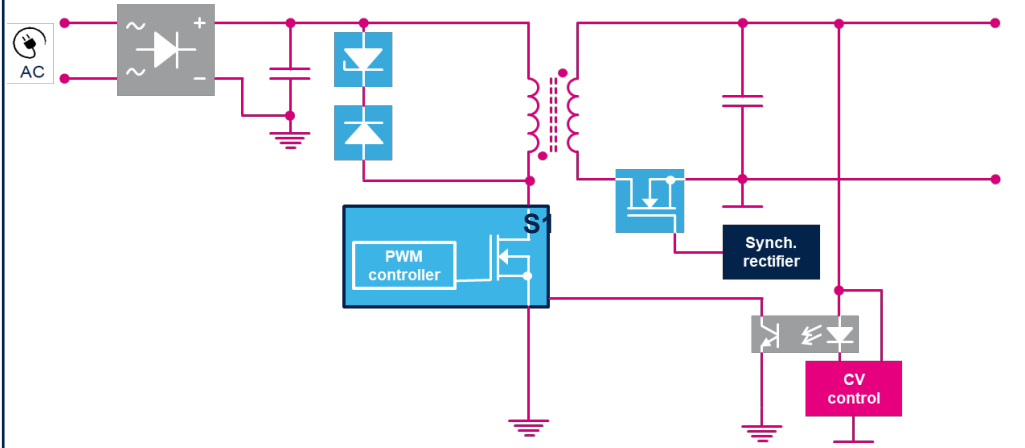
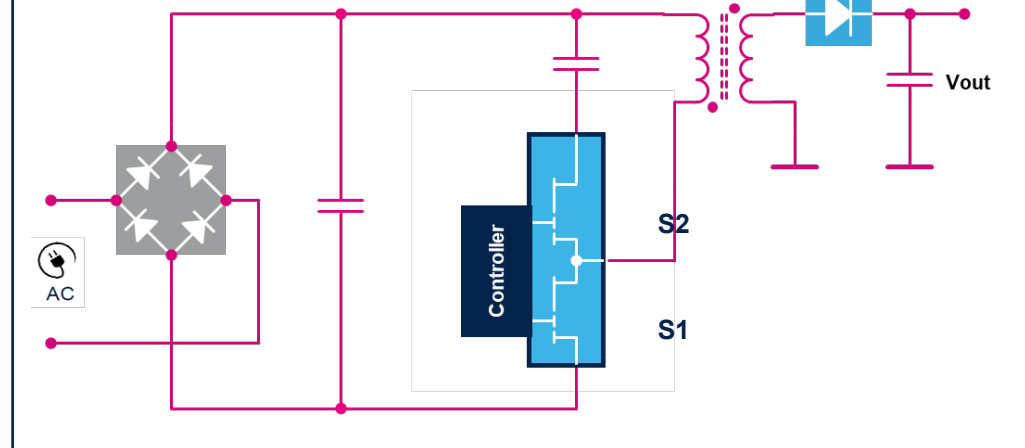

Why GaN?

- No reverse recovery of the diode
- Lower parasitic capacitances
- Lower losses
- **increasing efficiency**

# GaN-based quasi-resonant flyback & Comparison with GaN-based ACF

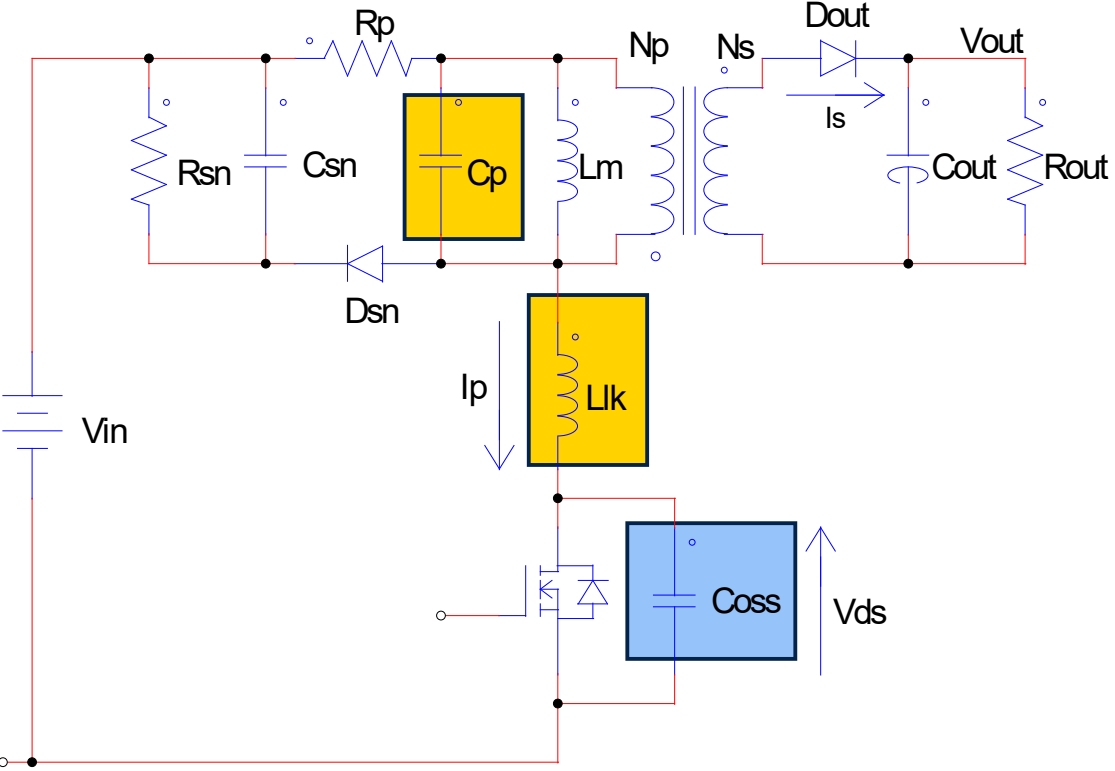


# Commonly used topologies up to 100W

<p>Topology</p>	<p>Traditional Flyback (up to 50W)</p> 	<p>Active Clamp Flyback (ACF)</p> 
<p>Operation</p>	<p><b>Stage1:</b> S1 turn-on, the transformer stores energy  <b>Stage2:</b> S1 turn-off, the energy is transferred to the secondary; the leakage inductance energy is absorbed by RCD snubber</p>	<p><b>Stage1:</b> S1 turn-on, the transformer stores energy  <b>Stage2:</b> S1 turn-off, the energy is transferred to the secondary, S2 turn-on and the leakage inductance energy transfers to Csn  <b>Stage3:</b> S2 turn-off, the energy stored in Csn discharges Coss to achieve ZVS for S1</p>
<p>PROs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Easy to design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The energy of the leakage inductance is recycled</li> <li>• ZVS is achieved and switching losses are minimized → High efficiency and high switching frequency achievable</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High power losses and spike caused by leakage inductance of the transformer</li> <li>• High switching losses of the main MOSFET</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional clamp power switch with dedicated high-side driver</li> <li>• Increases the complexity of the controller</li> </ul>

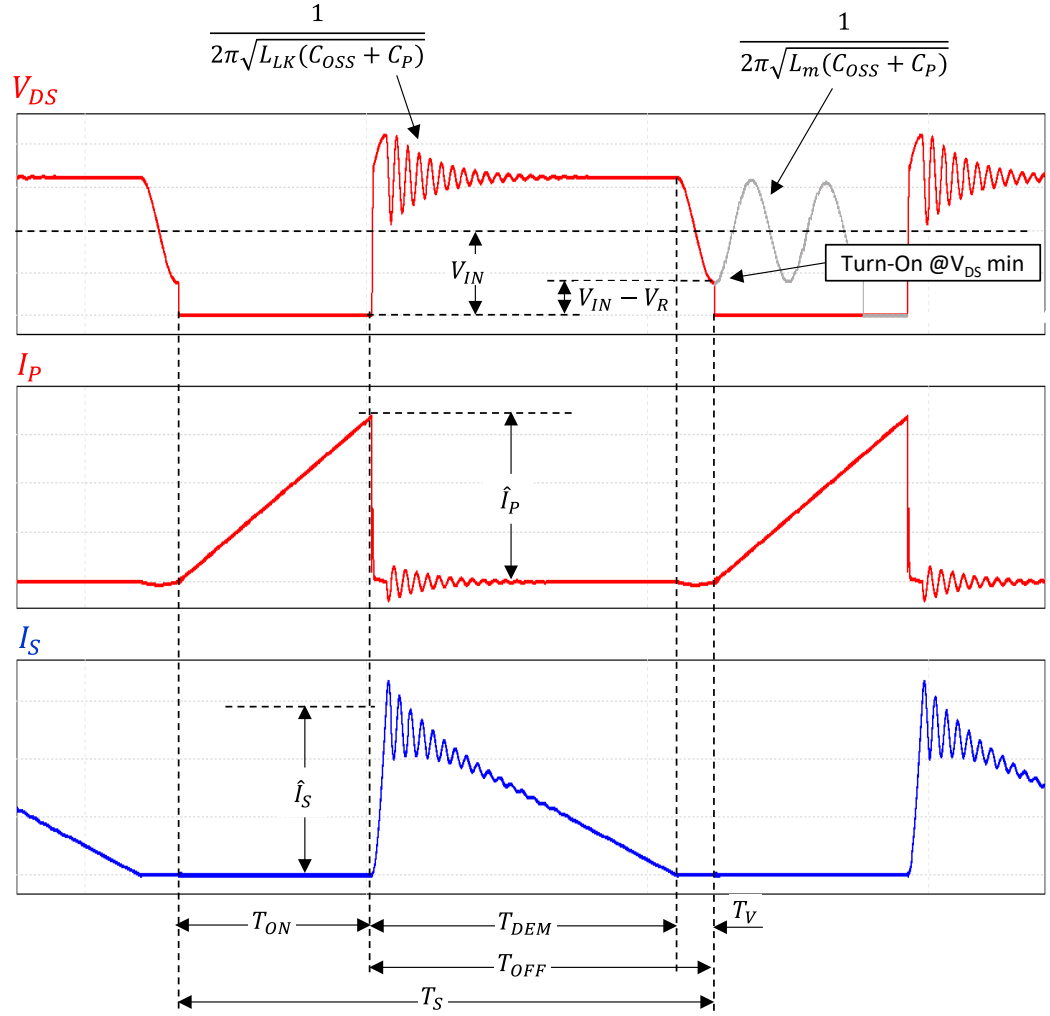


# QR Flyback converter

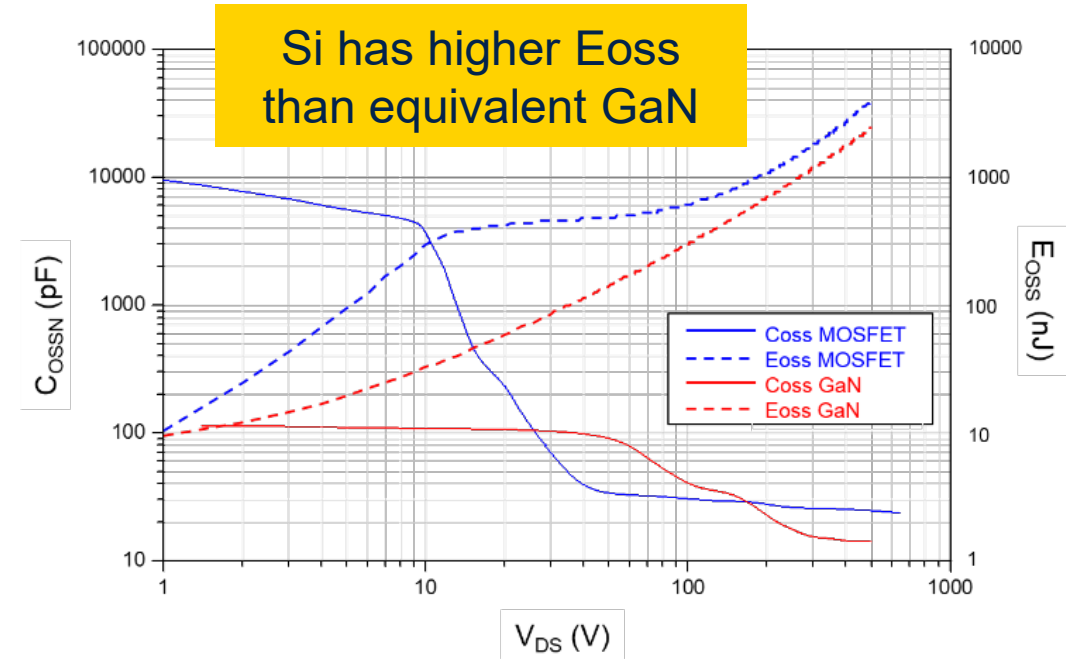
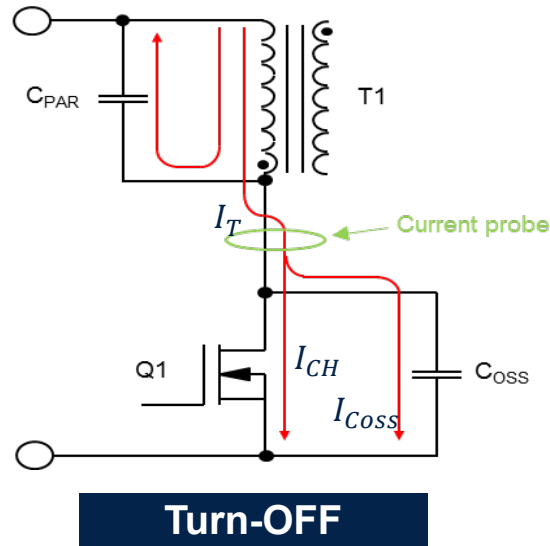
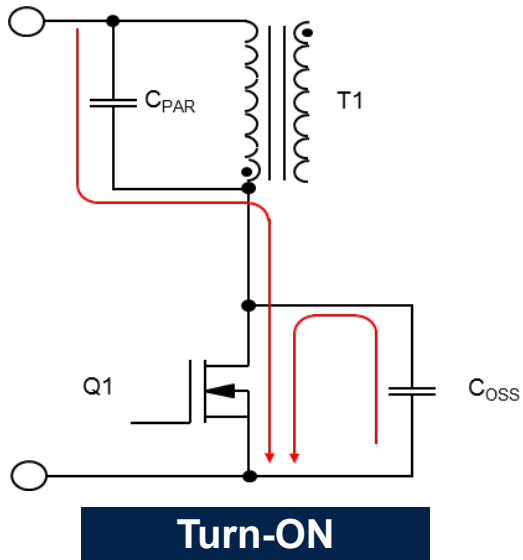


Topology-related

Power switch-related



# Main ICs losses in a traditional flyback converter



## Transistor-related losses

$$P_{ON} = I_{P(RMS)}^2 R_{DS(ON)}$$

$$P_{SW-ON(Coss)} = f_{SW} \int_0^{V_{DS(OFF)}} C_{OSS}(V_{ds}) V_{ds} dV_{ds}$$

## Topology-related losses

$$P_{SW-ON(Cp)} = \frac{1}{2} C_P V_{DS(OFF)}^2 f_{SW}$$

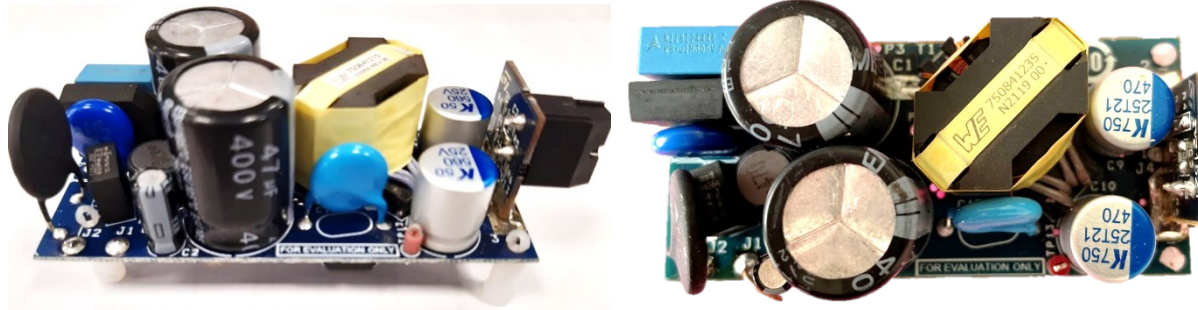
$$P_{Sn} = \frac{1}{2} L_{LK} I_P^2 \frac{V_{LK} + V_R}{V_{LK}} f_{SW}$$

$$P_{SW-OFF} = (V_{IN} + V_R) I_P t_{OFF} f_{SW}$$



# Single switch flyback with GaN: VIPerGaN50 eval-boards

## 50W / 15V - QR flyback



Isolated QR flyback converter with adaptive synchronous rectification

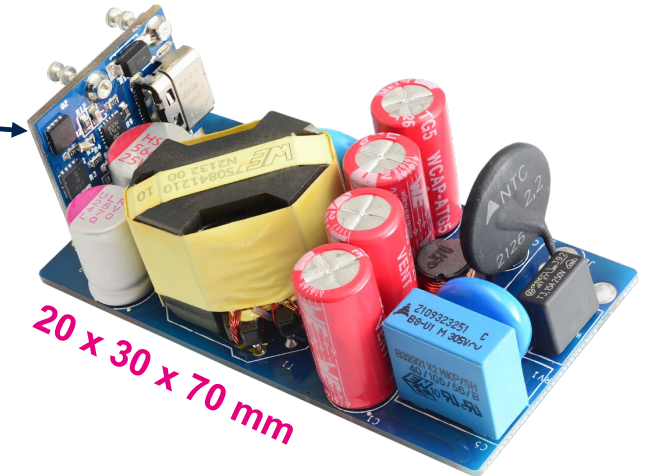
	115 V <sub>AC</sub>	230 V <sub>AC</sub>
No load cons.	49 mW	60 mW
Aver. Eff	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>90.1%</b>
Peak Eff.	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>92.2%</b>
Eff.@ 10% load	88.4%	84.6%

VIPerGaN50 PWM controller with 650V GaN

- $V_{IN} = 90V_{AC} \sim 265V_{AC}$
- $V_{OUT} = +15V$
- $I_{OUT} = 3.3A$
- $P_{OUT\_tot} = 50W$
- $T_{AMBmax} = 60^{\circ}C$

## 45W / USB PD - QR flyback

USB Type-C® output  
On daughter board



20 x 30 x 70 mm

45W USB Type-C® Power Delivery 3.0 charger based on VIPERGAN50, SRK1001, and STUSB4761

	115 V <sub>AC</sub>	230 V <sub>AC</sub>
No load cons.	< 30 mW	
Max. Eff @full load	<b>91.5%</b>	
Eff.@ 10% load	88%	83%

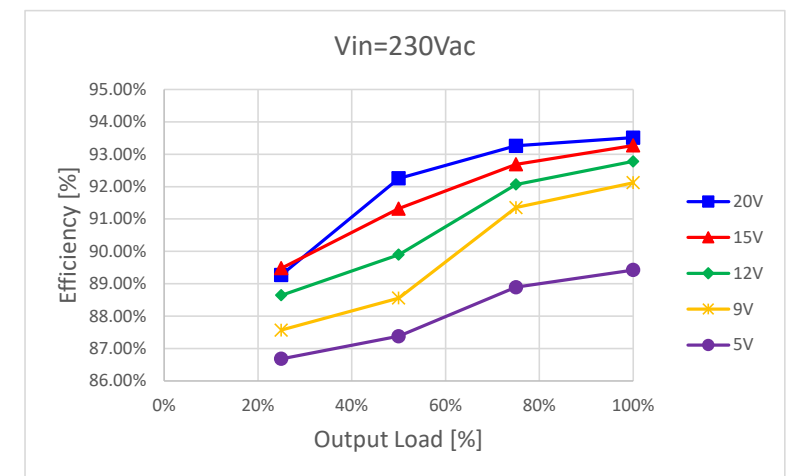
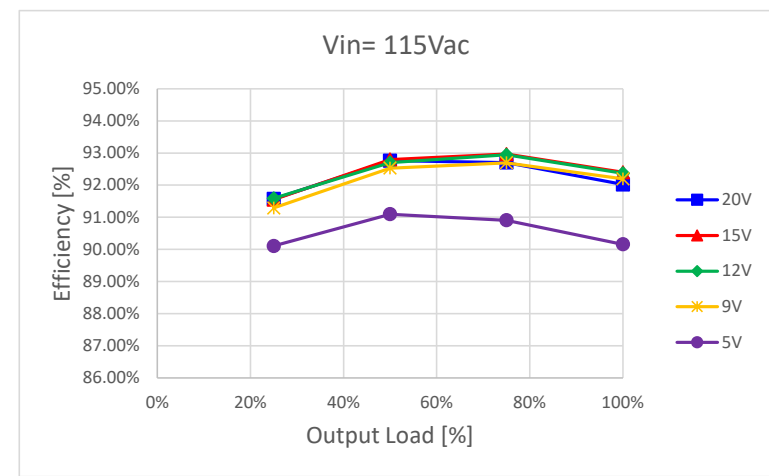
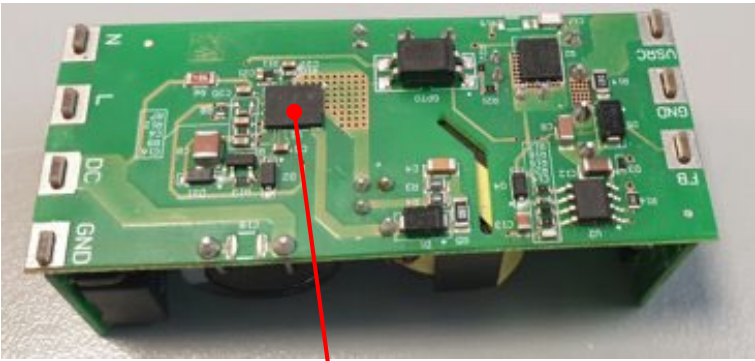
- $V_{IN} = 90V_{AC} \sim 265V_{AC}$
- PD output profile =
  - 5V/9V/12V/15V @ 3 A
  - 20 V @ 2.25 A
- $P_{OUT\_max} = 45W$
- $T_{AMBmax} = 60^{\circ}C$

> 93.5% peak efficiency

# Single switch flyback with GaN: VIPerGaN65 USB-PD eval-board

## EVLVIPGAN65PD – 65W USB-PD

- Input Voltage: Universal AC from 90 VAC to 264 VAC with 47 Hz up to 63 Hz
- Support for 65W Type-C USB-PD (5V, 9V, 12V, 15V@3A – 20V@3.25A)
- Efficiency: Meets CoC Tier 2 and DoE Level 6 efficiency requirements
- EMC Compliance: CISPR22B / EN55022B
- Power density: 22.1 W/in<sup>3</sup> (unboxed) - (69x20x35) mm

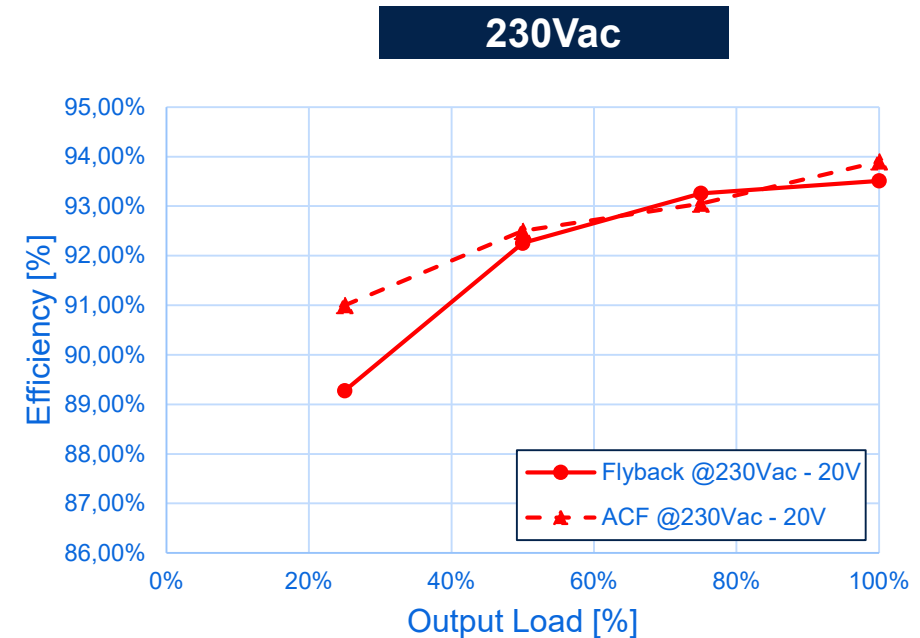
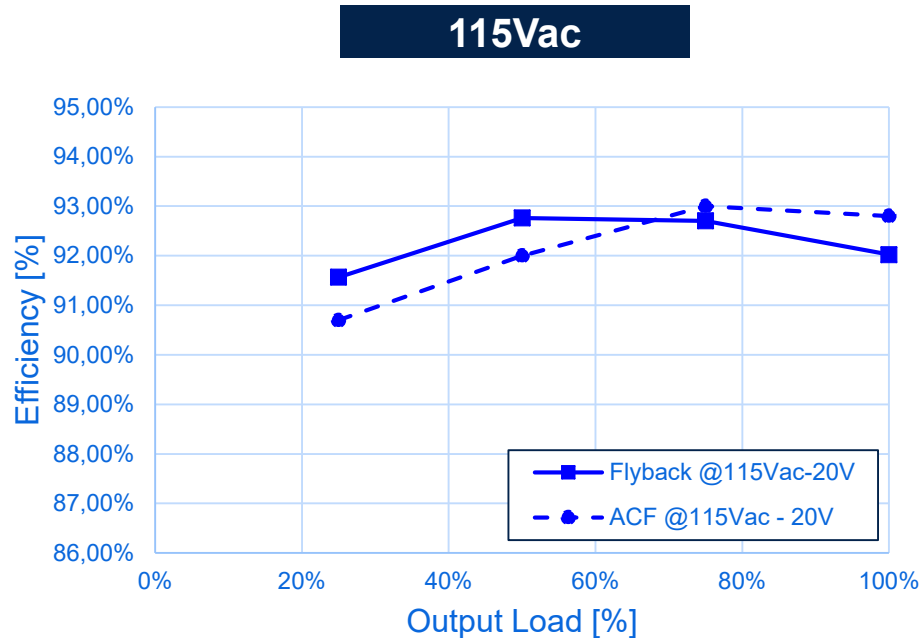


VIPerGaN65

# GaN-based Flyback vs. ACF

## Efficiency comparison

### 65W USB-PD application – 20V profile

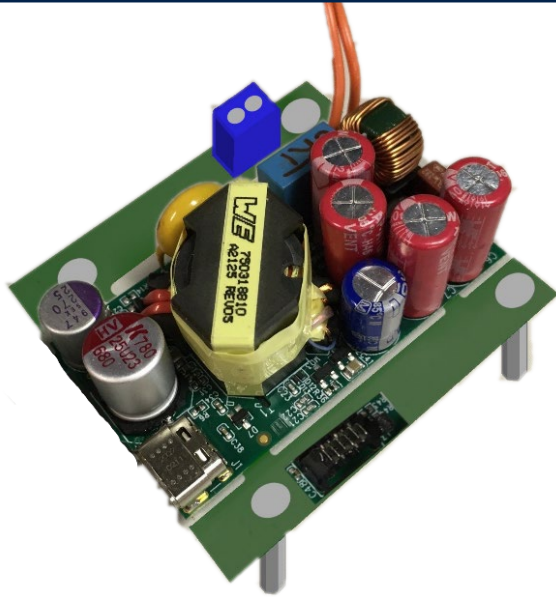


- ✓ GaN-based QR flyback efficiency is comparable with ACF efficiency in most of operative conditions
- ✓ ACF is better where switching losses have greater impact → high input voltage/medium-light load

# GaN-based Flyback vs. ACF

## Power density comparison

ACF has better power density due to the higher switching frequency operations



**EVLONE65W (ACF)**

Dimensions	(58 x 32 x 20) mm
Power density	28.7 W / in <sup>3</sup>
Switching frequency	Up to 250 kHz

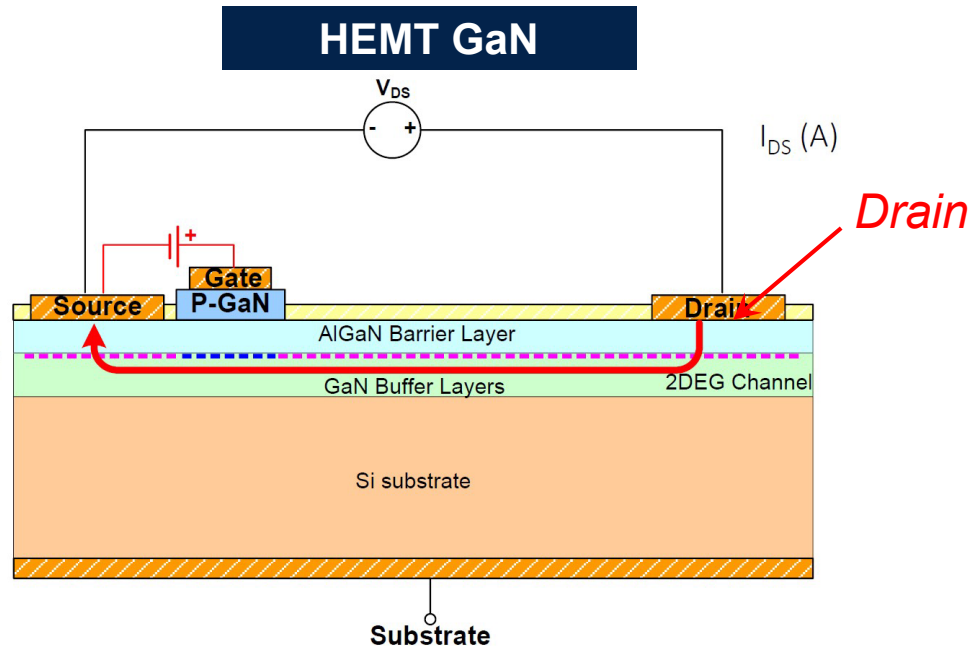


**EVLVIPGAN65PD (QR flyback)**

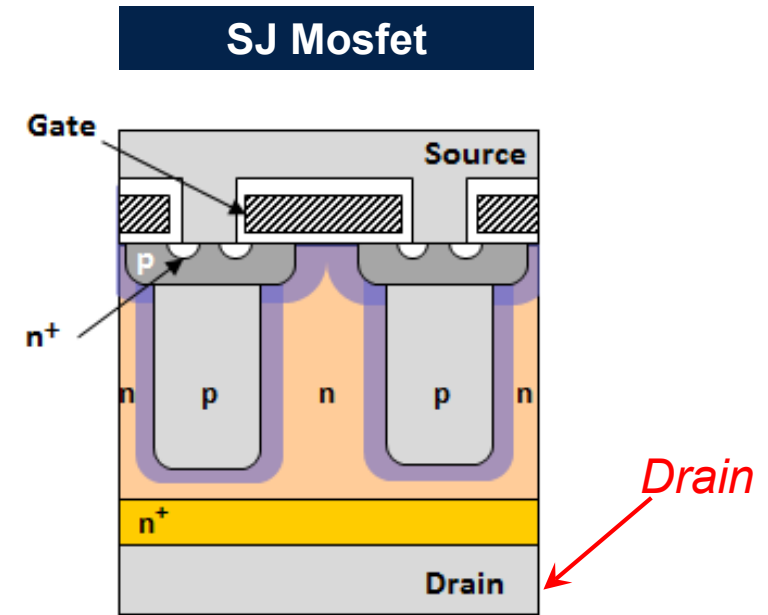
Dimensions	(69 x 20 x 35) mm
Power density	22.1 W / in <sup>3</sup>
Switching frequency	Up to 140 kHz

# HEMT GaN vs. MOSFET

## Device structure



Lateral structure



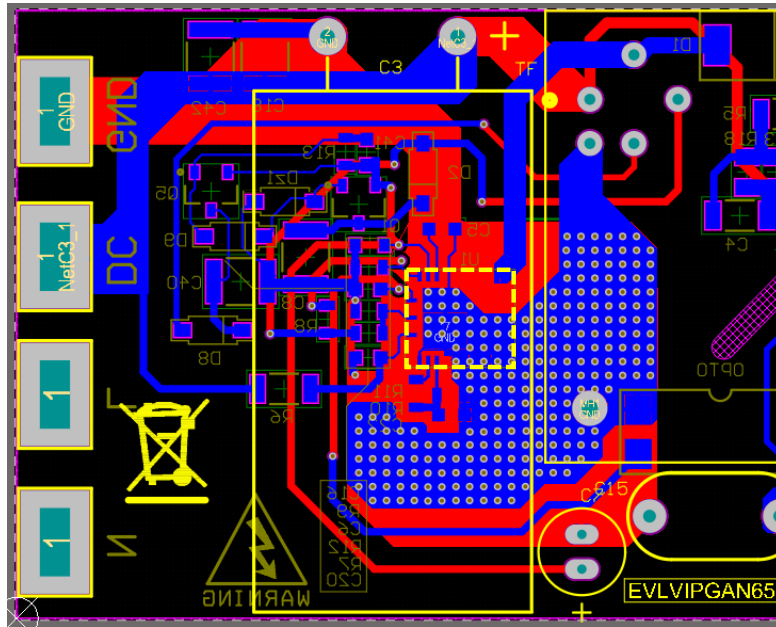
Vertical structure

- The substrate of the GaN can be connected to GND to cool-down the chip

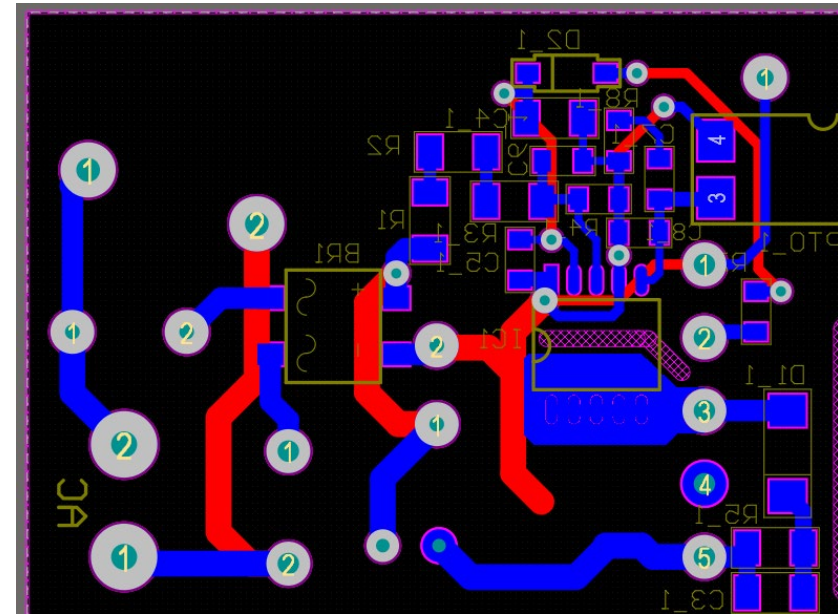
# HEMT GaN vs. MOSFET

## Device structure

GaN-based chip



Mosfet-based chip



- The substrate of the GaN can be connected to GND to cool-down the chip
  - ✓ Simplified package → Lead-frame with single die pad required
  - ✓ Better package thermal performances → Small package required and lower cost
  - ✓ Simplified PCB design → Dissipation pad can connect to a ground plane without affecting the EMI performances

**Beneficial especially in topologies with LS switch only, like single switch flyback**





VIPer

MasterGaN



# ST's GaN system-in-package overview



life.augmented

## Innovative 600V and 650V GaN HEMT products

VIPerGaN

VIPerGaN50



450mΩ GaN HEMT

VIPerGaN65



260mΩ GaN HEMT

VIPerGaN100



225mΩ GaN HEMT



QFN 5x6 mm<sup>2</sup>,  
pin-to-pin scalable

Quasi-resonant Flyback

MasterGaN



GQFN 9x9 mm<sup>2</sup>,  
pin-to-pin scalable

MasterGaN3



225mΩ + 450mΩ

MasterGaN2



150mΩ + 225mΩ

MasterGaN5



450mΩ + 450mΩ

MasterGaN4



225mΩ + 225mΩ

MasterGaN1



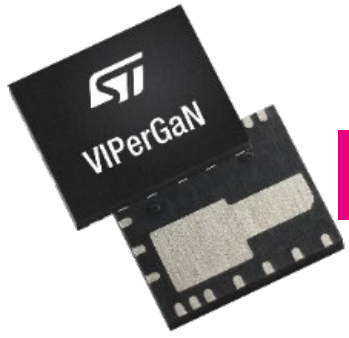
150mΩ + 150mΩ

Active Clamp Flyback

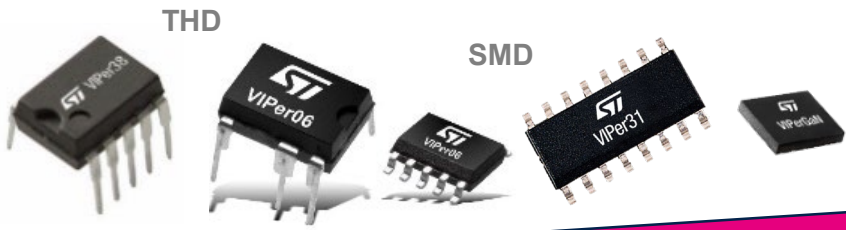
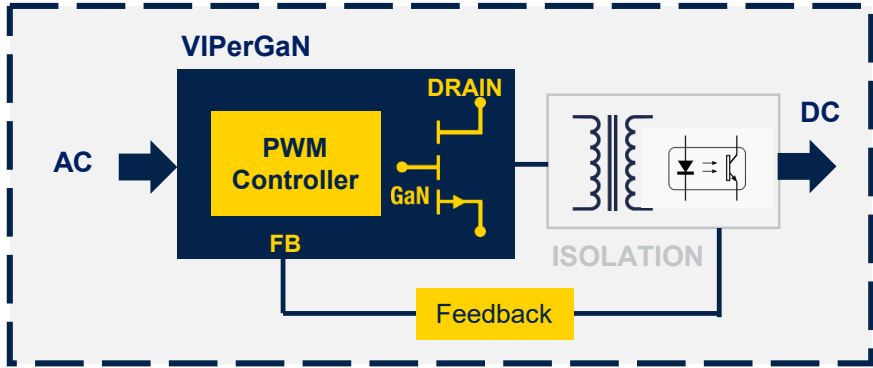
LLC Resonant

Up to 500W

# VIPerGaN: offline flyback converter with 650V GaN HEMT switch



QFN 5x6 mm<sup>2</sup>,  
pin-to-pin scalable



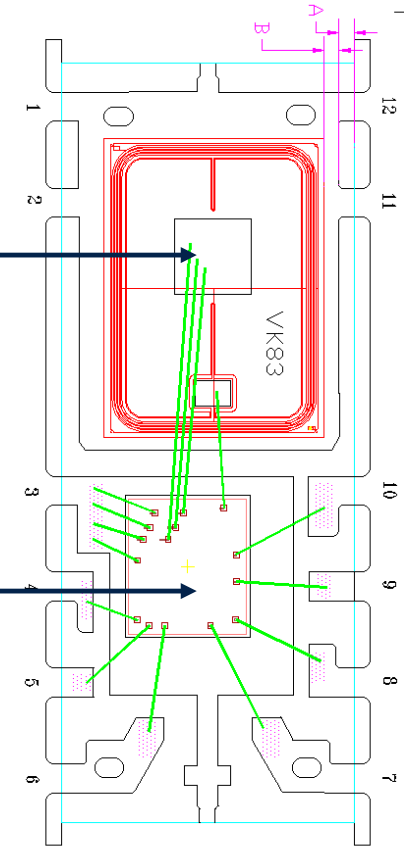
Power capability  
Miniaturization

## GaN HEMT

- 650 V E-mode power GaN transistor
- 850 V transients allowed for  $T_{pulse} < 1 \mu s$

## Advanced controller

- PWM controller
- Startup
- Current sensing

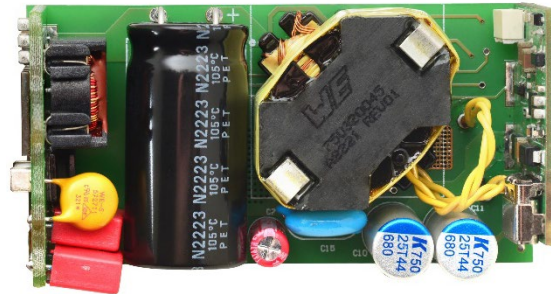
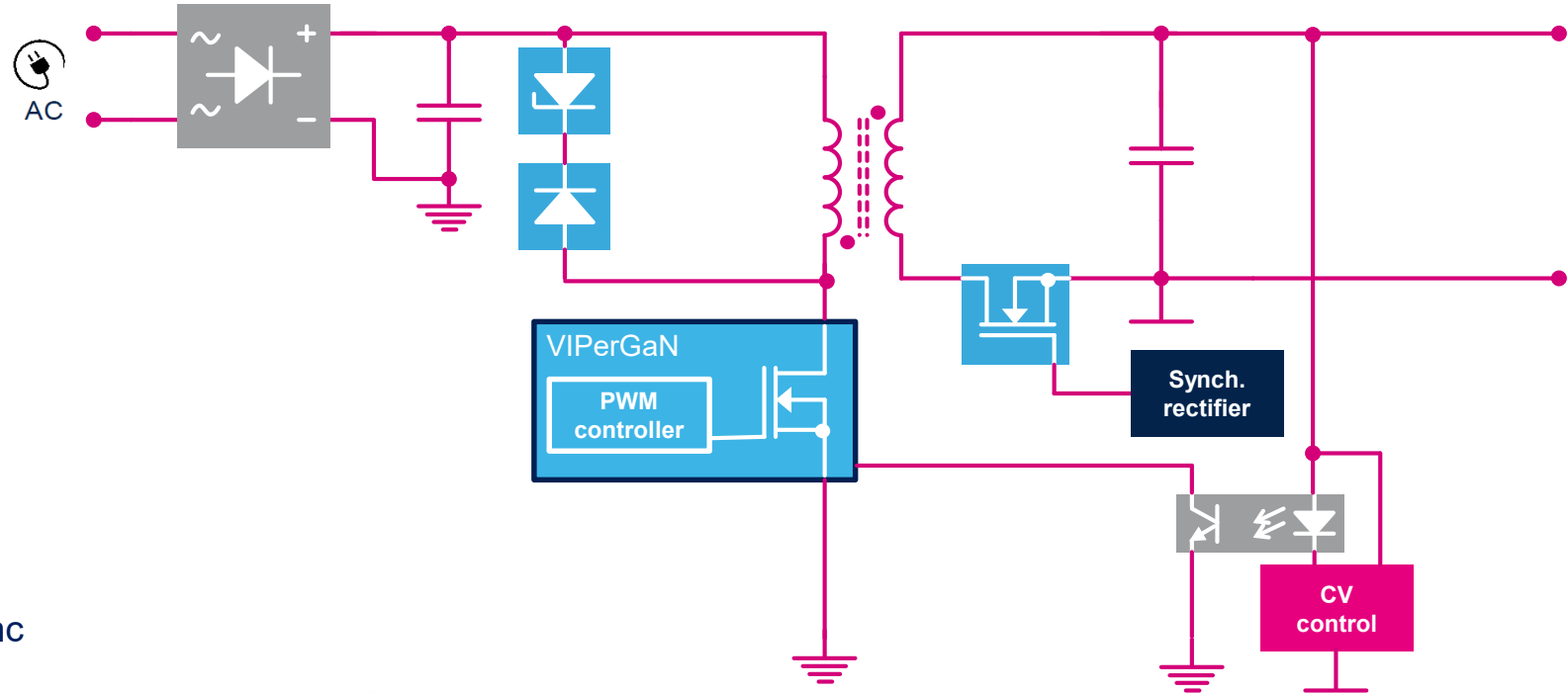




# VIPerGaN quasi-resonant flyback topology

## VIPerGaN family

- Integrated controller + 650V GaN HEMT
- $R_{DS(ON)} = 225 - 450 \text{ m}\Omega$
- Advanced quasi-resonant flyback up to 100W
- Embedded HV start up generator
- Embedded protections
- **Up to 240kHz switching frequency + jittering**
- Less than 30mW standby power consumption
- Dynamic blanking time and adjustable valley sync
- Adaptive burst mode
- Easy entry to wide bandgap
- Minimized magnetic components
- Cost-effective BoM
- Energy saving regulations



**EVLVIPGAN65PD**  
65W USB PD Charger



**EVLVIPGAN50FL**  
50W Quasi-resonant

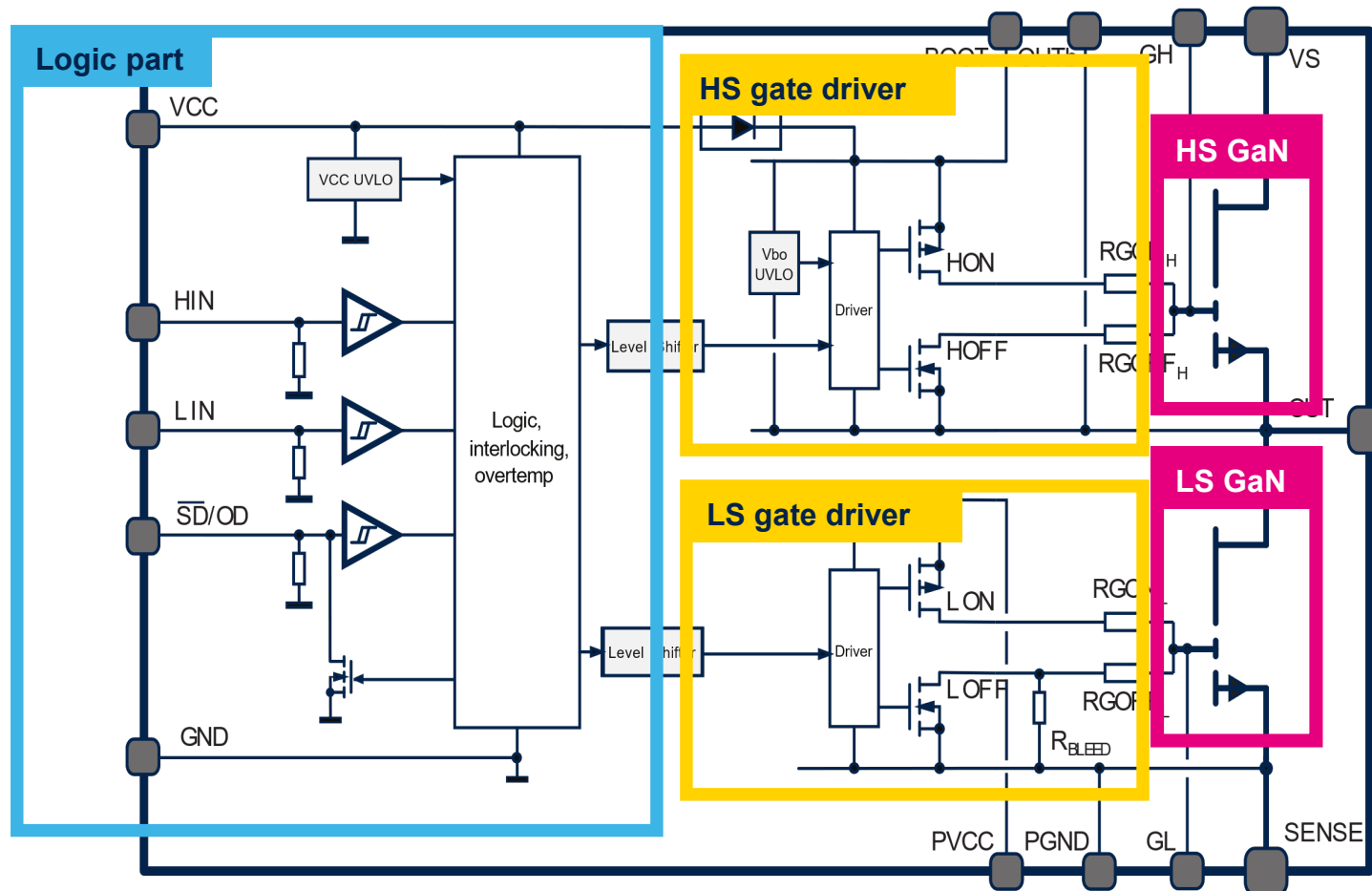


# MasterGaN block diagram

The world first solution combining 600 V half-bridge driver with GaN HEMT: compact, robust & easy to design



GQFN 9x9 mm<sup>2</sup>,  
pin-to-pin scalable

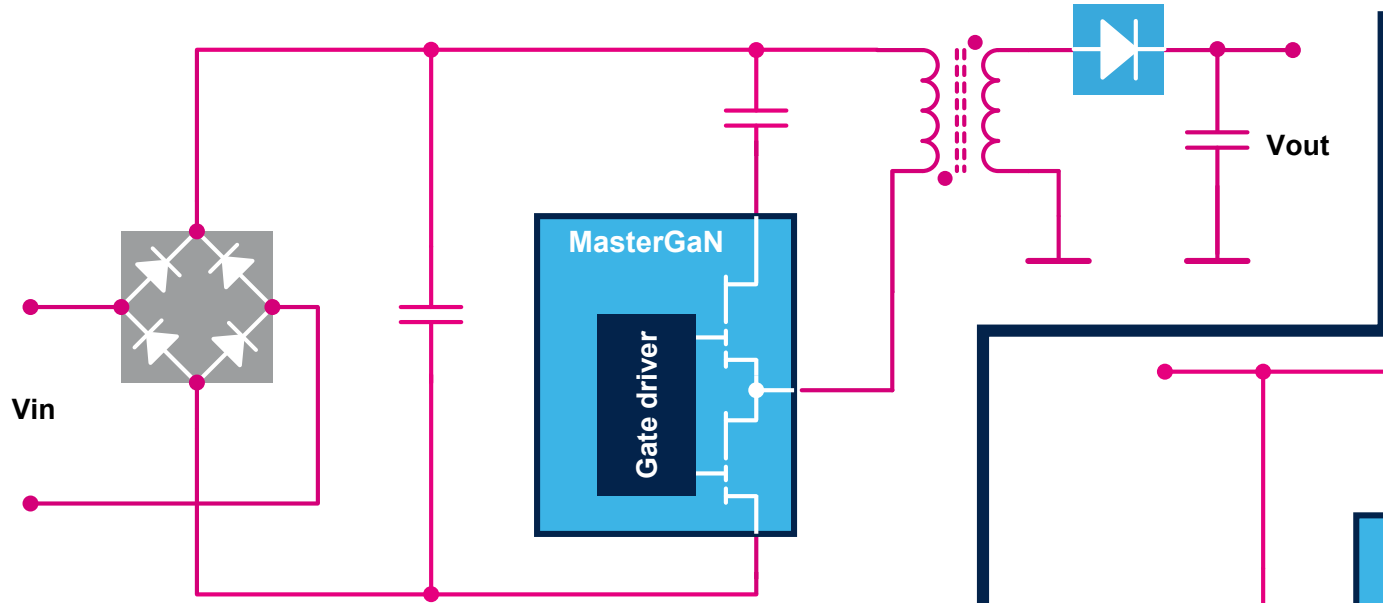


## MasterGaN family

- 600V GaN HEMT
- Integrated half-bridge
- Integrated gate driver
- $R_{DS(ON)} = 150 - 450 \text{ m}\Omega$
- Up to 500W
- Active-clamp flyback, LLC, LCC...
- High power density applications
- High efficiency
- Minimized size of magnetics

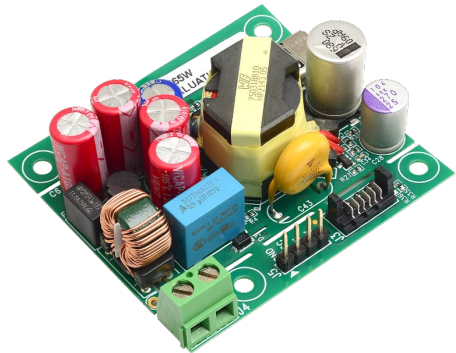


# MasterGaN ACF and LLC topology



## Active clamp flyback

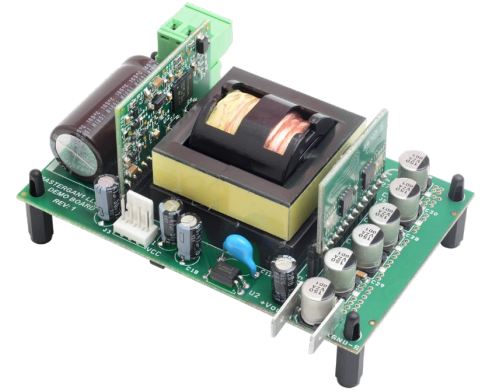
- AC/DC converter
- Soft switching
- Two switch topology
- Up to 150W



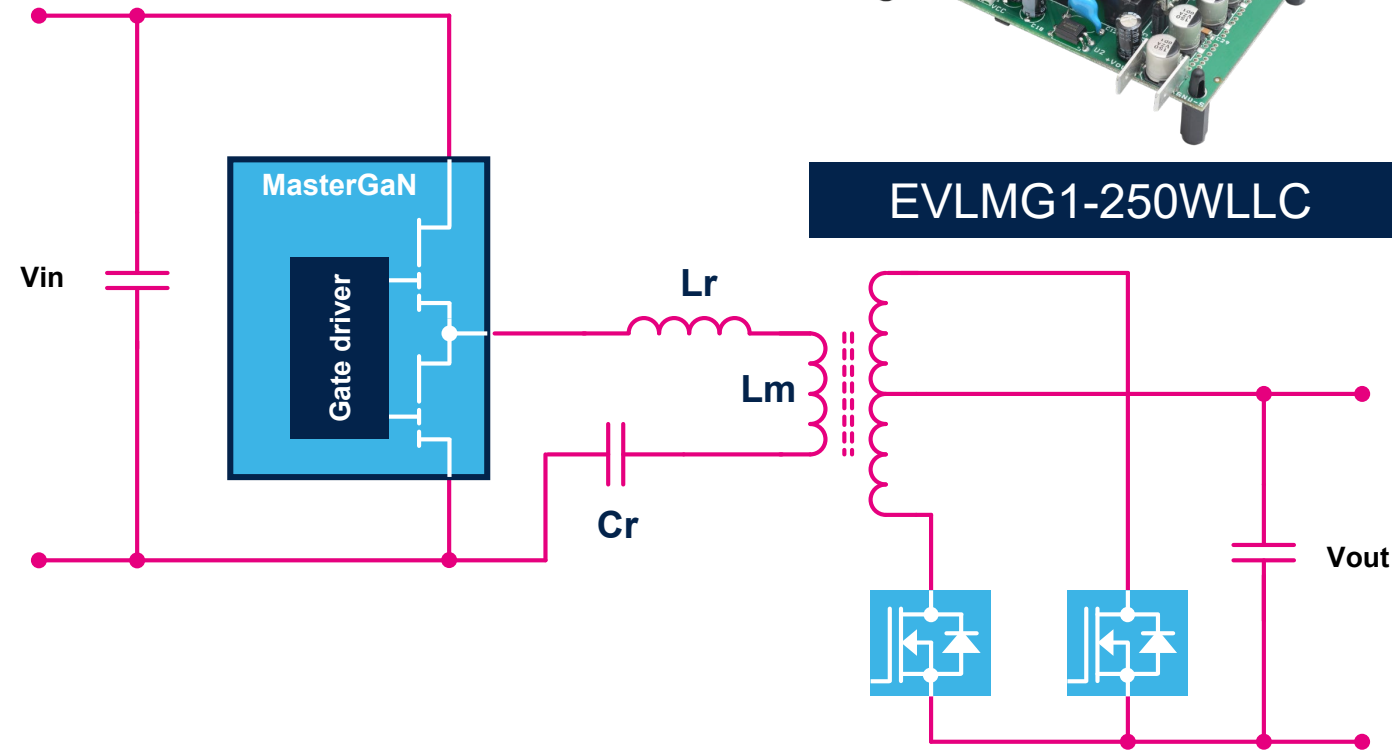
**EVLONE65W**

## LLC converter

- DC/DC converter
- High efficiency
- Soft switching



**EVLMG1-250WLLC**



# Conclusions



# Conclusions

- Thanks to the lower  $E_{OSS}$ , QR flyback with GaN offers much higher efficiency than QR flyback with Silicon (typically 3-4% more) and the possibility to work at higher switching frequency, thus leading to much higher power density
- Efficiency of GaN-based QR flyback is similar to the one of GaN-based ACF in most operating conditions
- Active clamp flyback with GaN shows better efficiency at high input voltage and light-medium loads
- Active clamp flyback with GaN is the best solution when the highest power density is required (~30% higher than in QR flyback)
- GaN-based QR flyback represents the best trade-off performance - cost



# Questions & Answers



We are here for you now!  
Ask us directly via our chat or via E-Mail.

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# Thank you

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