#### Superconductivity: Power in the Fast Lane

Paul M. Grant EPRI Lead, Tech Forecast Strategic Science & Technology IEEE Power Engineering Winter Meeting 4 February 1998



#### **Fathers of Electricity**







#### **Discoverers**

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#### **Practitioners**









#### **Fathers of Cryogenics**



Mallues Delivar

P.M. Grant IEEE PE Mtg Superconductivity 4 February 1998 Dewar

 $\begin{array}{c} {\sf CH}_4 & 112 \; {\sf K} \\ {\sf O} & 90 \\ {\sf N}_2 & 77 \\ {\sf Ne} & 27 \\ {\sf H}_2 & 20 \\ {\sf He} & 4.2 \end{array}$ 



**Kammerlingh-Onnes** 

## Models of Electrical Conductivity



Just Goes to Zero!



**Powering Progress** 

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R

## Models of Electrical Conductivity

Т



The Most Popular:

Freezes Out!



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R

#### Models of Electrical Conductivity



**Reality:** R Limited by **Impurities!** Т



### A Big Surprise!



Thus the mercury at 4.2 K has entered a new state, which, owing to its particular electrical properties, can be called the state of *superconductivity* 

#### H. Kamerlingh-Onnes (1911)





#### Physics of Superconductivity



**Electrons Pair Off!** 

#### **BCS Equation**

$$T_C = 1.14 \,\theta_D \exp(-1/\lambda)$$

$$\theta_D = 275 \text{ K},$$
  
 $\lambda = 0.28$ 

$$T_C = 9.5 \text{ K}$$
 (Niobium)



## T<sub>c</sub> vs. Year: The Past





#### **Superconductivity:** *What's It Good For?*





#### MRI Surgical Unit General Electric

#### **Tevatron** Fermi National Laboratory

## Superconductivity: High-Tc Surprise!





Bednorz and Mueller IBM Zuerich, 1986



#### 1987: "The Prize!"





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

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2 Get Nobel for Unlocking Superconductor Secret



### **Type II Superconductivity**





#### **Abrikosov Vortex Lattice**





#### **BSCCO OPIT/Ag Process**

#### **ASC Wire Forming Process**



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#### Wire is the electrical commodity

### BSCCO OPIT/Ag Tape EP **Generation I Wire**





#### Power Applications: *Wire for Cables*

















#### Layered CuO Perovskites



# Coated HTSC Conductors EPRI Generation II Wire

- Biaxially Oriented
   Y-123
- Out of Japan, LANL, ORNL



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#### "The SokPlot"

"Sokolowski Plot" of HTSC Wire Performance and Cost



## Wire C/P Market Entry EPRI Powering Progress EPRI EVALUATE STRESS EVALUATE STRESSE EVALUATE STR





## Electricity & SC: Weakest Scenario

- Fuel Types & Location
  - Gas, Renewables Dominate No More Nukes
  - Distributed Generation Grows
- Geopolitics
  - Regional Instability
  - Economic Gap between Nations Continues
- Environment
  - Carbon Sequestration Successful
  - Risk Abatement Deferred



## Electricity & SC: Strongest Scenario

- Fuel Types & Location
  - Nukes, Hydro, Non-Transportables Dominate
  - Centralized Generation Grows
- Geopolitics
  - Regional Stability Achieved
  - Economic Gap between Nations Shrinks
- Environment
  - Risk Abatement Implemented
  - Global Climate Change Proven/Perceived

# Global Electrification: EPRI A Superconductivity Solution







## The Superconducting Electricity Pipe!





Total Cryo
 System

• Power: 5 GW dc

Cost: < Gas, HVDC > 500 Miles



#### **Gas/HVDC Comparison**

#### Marginal Cost of Electricity (Mid Value Fuel Costs)



#### Electricity Delivery Is Its Future dc?







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#### <u>Tesla</u> Inventor, Polyphase ac System

Edison Maybe he was right after all!