

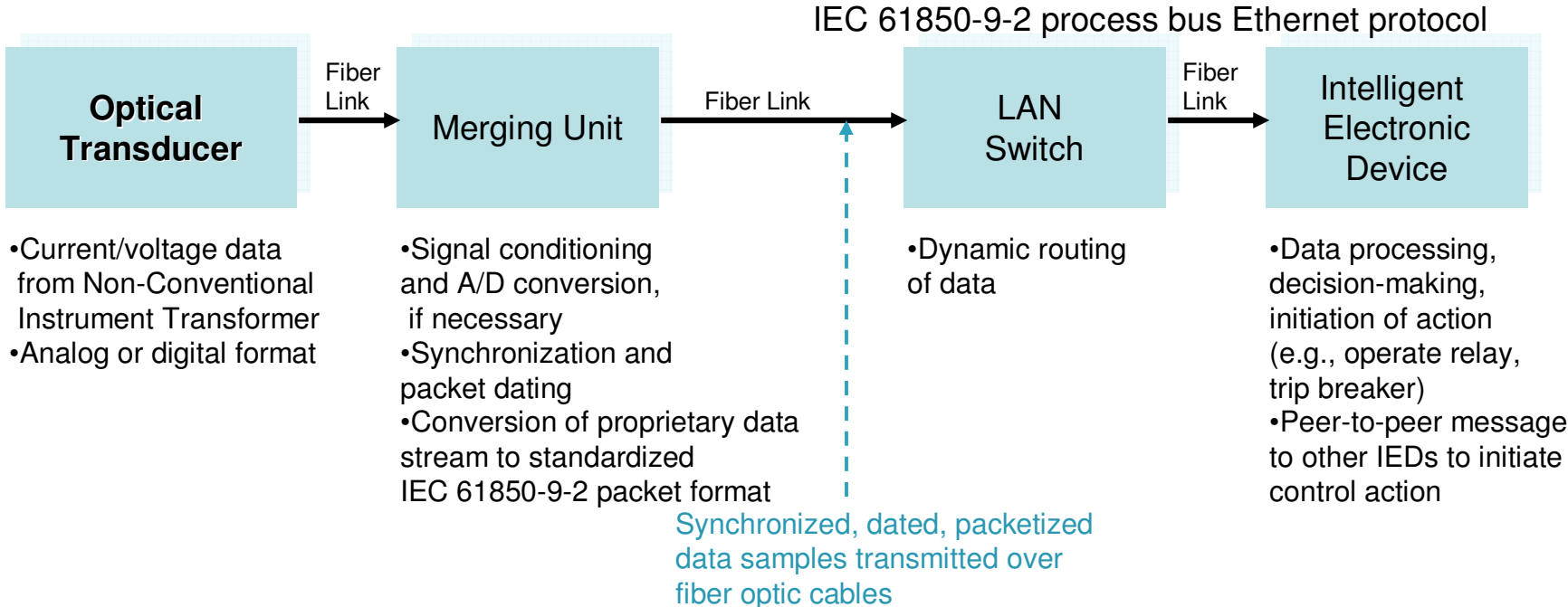
# Fiber Optic Technology Will Drive Next Generation Intelligent Substations

Mort Cohen, MBA

[RevGen Group](#)

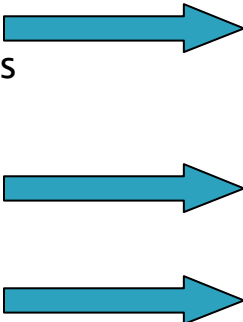
[Mort.Cohen@RevGenGroup.com](mailto:Mort.Cohen@RevGenGroup.com)

# Elements of the Intelligent Substation



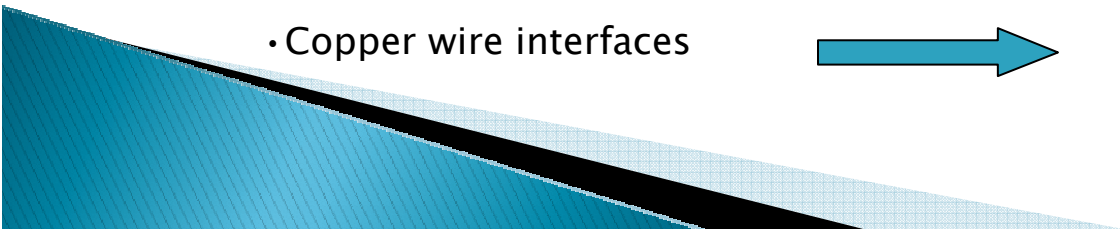
## Traditional Substation

- Electromechanical relays, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors
- Master-slave protocols
- Copper wire interfaces



## Intelligent Substation

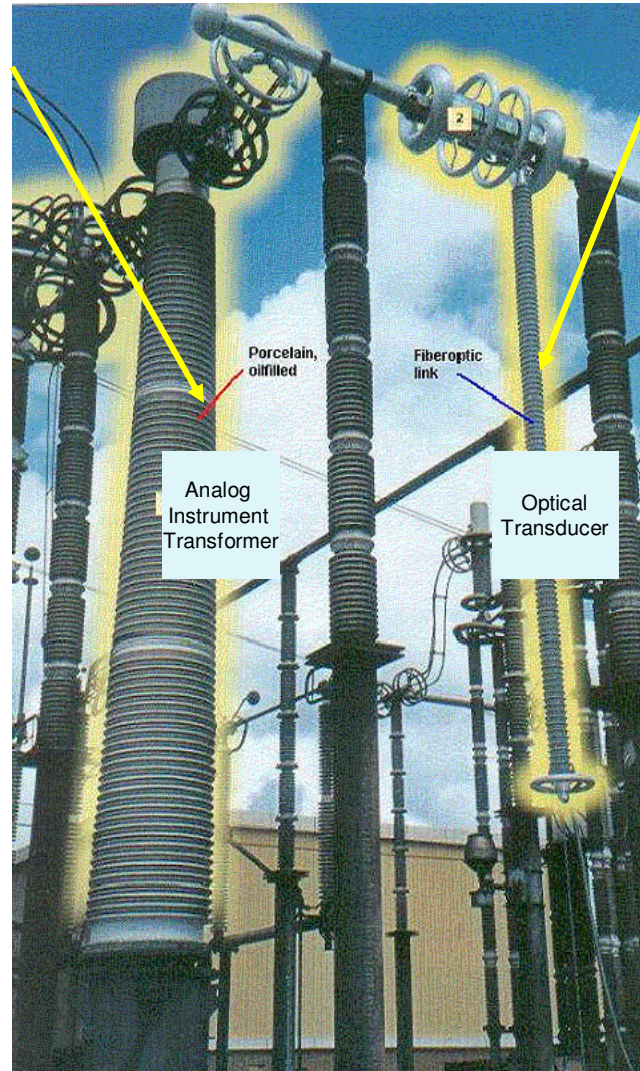
- Digital input from optical transducer; Ethernet communications between interchangeable IEDs
- Peer-to-peer messages over process bus
- Small numbers of fiber optic cables replace large bundles of copper wire



# Why Use Optical Transducers?

## Conventional Instrument Transformer

- Proven
- Heavy and challenging to install at higher voltages
- Subject to open current circuit conditions
- Potential for explosion or leak
- Must convert analog measurement to digital format in intelligent substations



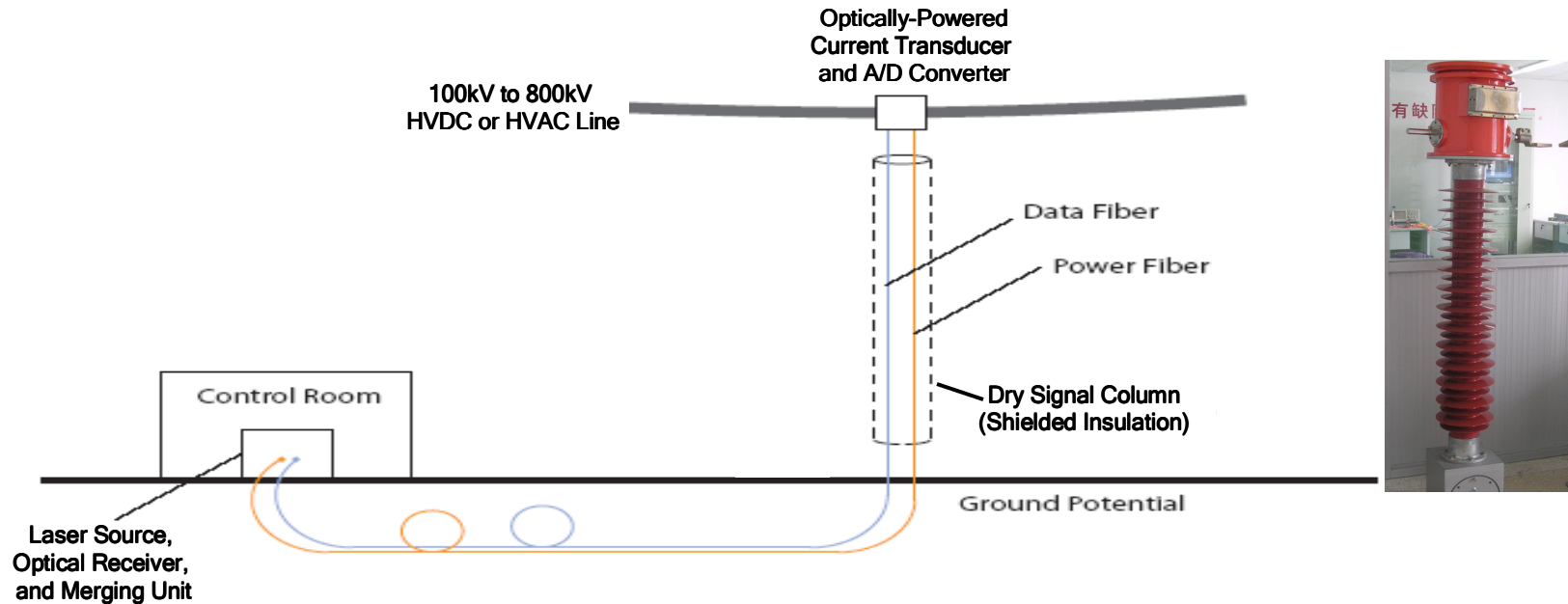
## Non-Conventional Optical Transducer

- Unaffected by high voltage, lightning or electromagnetic effects
- Small size conserves substation space and reduces seismic considerations
- Not subject to open circuit conditions
- Dry signal column eliminates possibility of explosion or leak
- Compatible with IEC 61850-9.2 digital process bus requirements

# Optical Measurement Technologies

Characteristic	Optical Current/ Voltage Sensors	All-Optical Transducers	Electro-Optical (Digital) Transducers
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and voltage sensing on LV and MV AC Networks (up to 36 kVAC)</li> <li>• Primarily in distribution networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and voltage sensing on HVAC and HVDC Networks (100 kV to 550 kV)</li> <li>• Primarily in substations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current sensing on HVAC and HVDC Networks (100 kV to 800 kV+)</li> <li>• Primarily in substations</li> </ul>
Measurement Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-conductive Faraday Effect sensors and fiber cable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical light source illuminates Faraday Effect sensors, photodiode measures intensity and rotation of polarized beam and converts it to analog signal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical light source illuminates photovoltaic conversion device to generate electrical power</li> <li>• Measured current is converted to digital format on the HV line and sent optically to the control room</li> </ul>
Typical Current Measurement Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current range 5–20,000 AAC</li> <li>• +/-2A accuracy (5–100A)</li> <li>• 2% accuracy (100A–20,000A)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &lt;0.2% metering accuracy from 1A to 5000A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &lt;0.1% metering accuracy from 1A to 1500A, and &lt;0.2% from 1500A to 5000A</li> </ul>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple, inexpensive system and installation</li> <li>• Non-conductive materials allow installation on cables or copper bars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide dynamic range for protection, and good measurement accuracy for metering</li> <li>• Fully optical solution using one fiber</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metering, protection and temperature measurement in one system</li> <li>• Electronics optically isolated from HV lines by non-conductive fiber</li> <li>• 18-bit digital measurement accuracy</li> </ul>
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement accuracy insufficient for 100 kV and above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precise installation of optical sensor required to avoid environmental or temperature effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires power fiber and data fiber</li> </ul>

# Electro-Optical Transducer System Approach

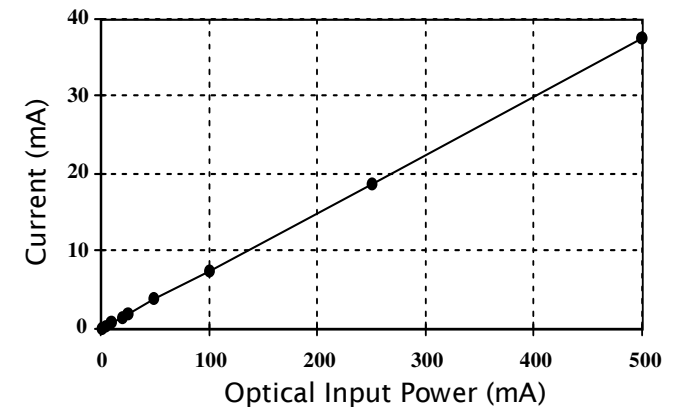
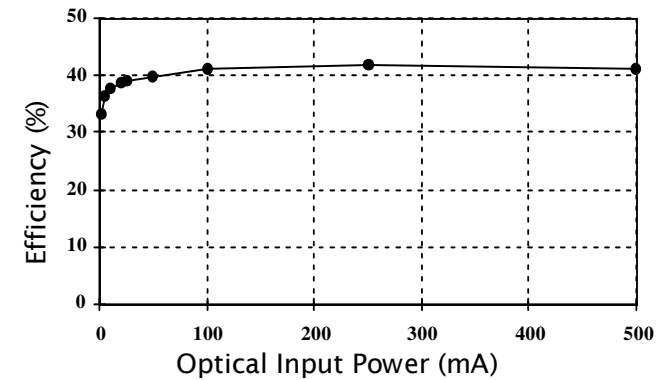
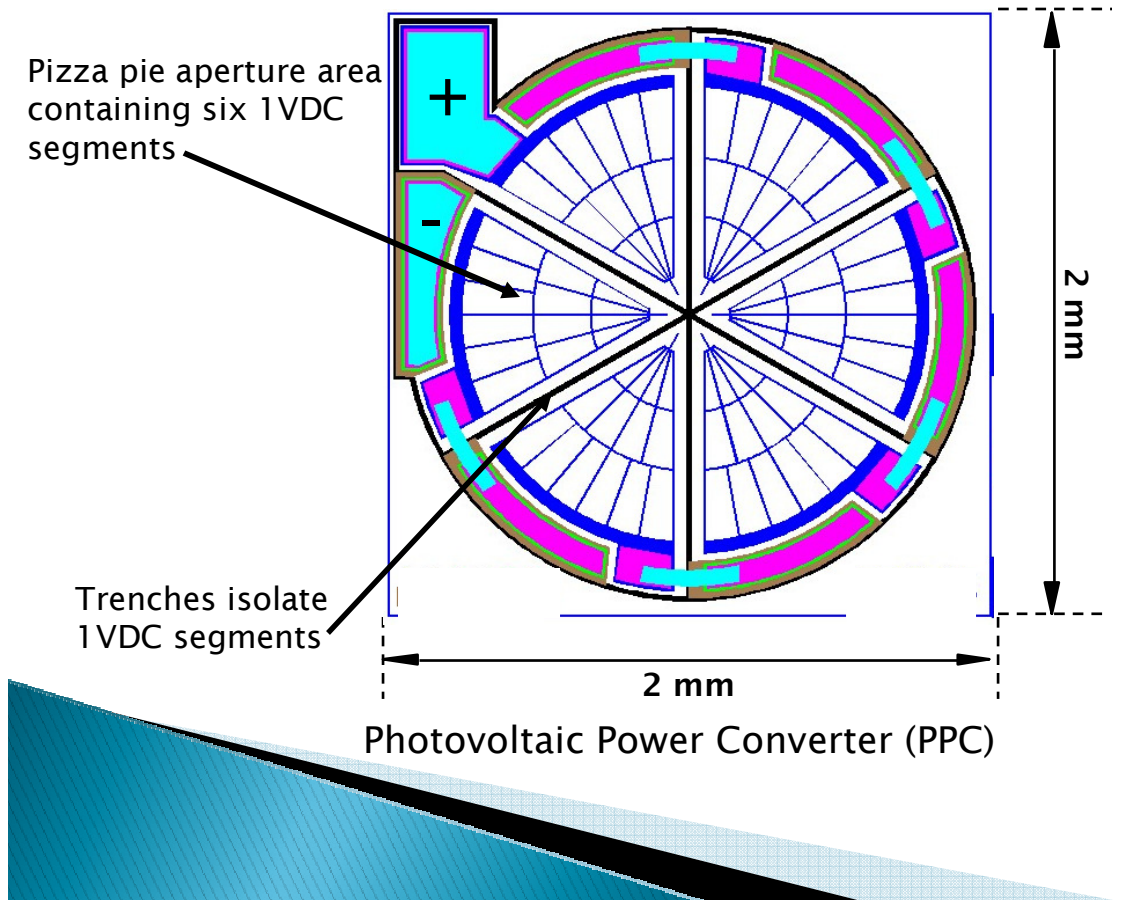


- ▶ **Application:** Current metering and protection and temperature measurement on HVDC or HVAC line
- ▶ **Enabling Technology:** Optical-to-electrical power conversion; analog signals converted to digital format on HV line and transmitted to control room via fiber optic line (or optionally over a wireless connection)
- ▶ **Key Benefit:** Non-conductive nature of fiber optic power cable isolates the electronics from ground permitting measurement electronics to mount in close proximity to the high voltage line



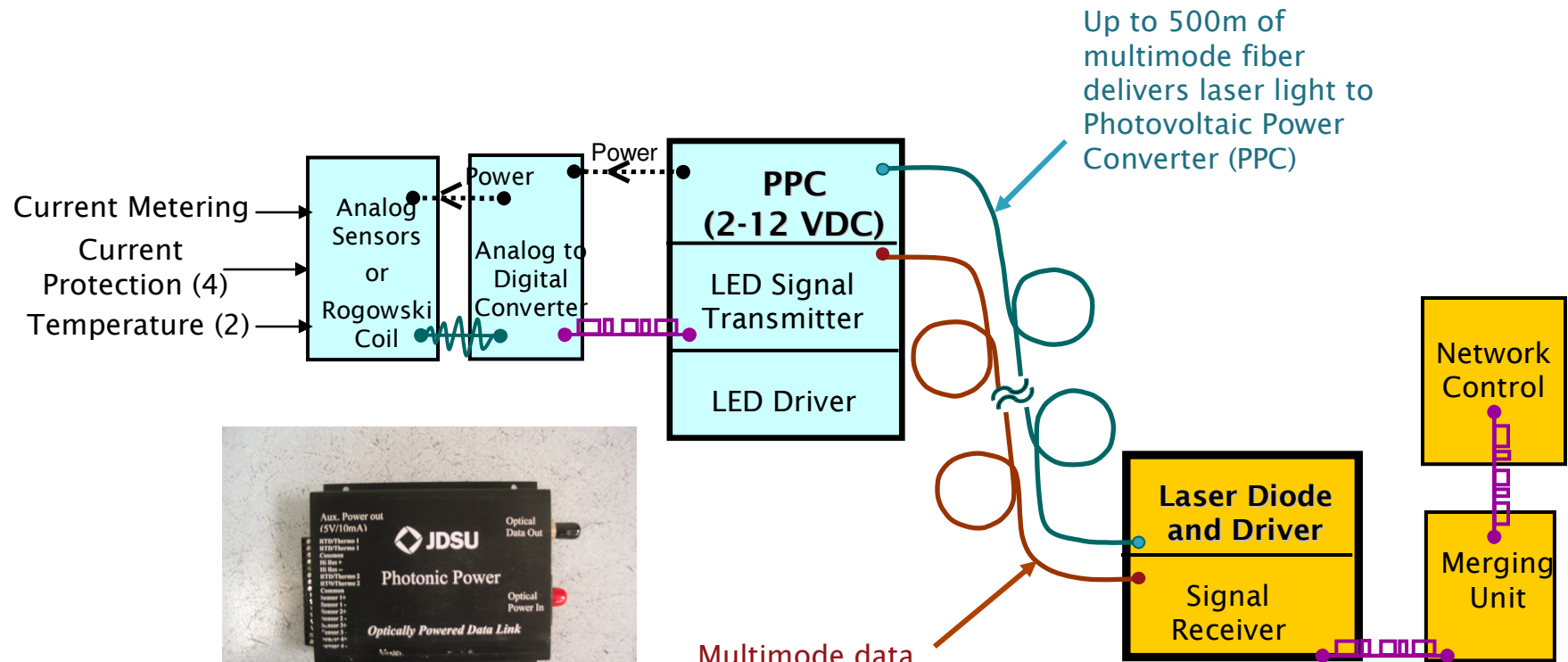
# Enabling Technology: Power by Laser Light

- ▶ Single junction AlGaAs or InP semiconductor device converts laser light to electrical power with 40%+ efficiency
- ▶ Voltage from each segment of device added in series; delivered electrical current is linearly proportional to input optical power level
- ▶ 6-segment device below delivers about 220mW of electrical power
- ▶ Same functionality as solar cell, but optimized for maximum efficiency over the wavelength range of the laser source



Source: JDSU Corporation

# Power by Light Block Diagram (All-Fiber Solution)



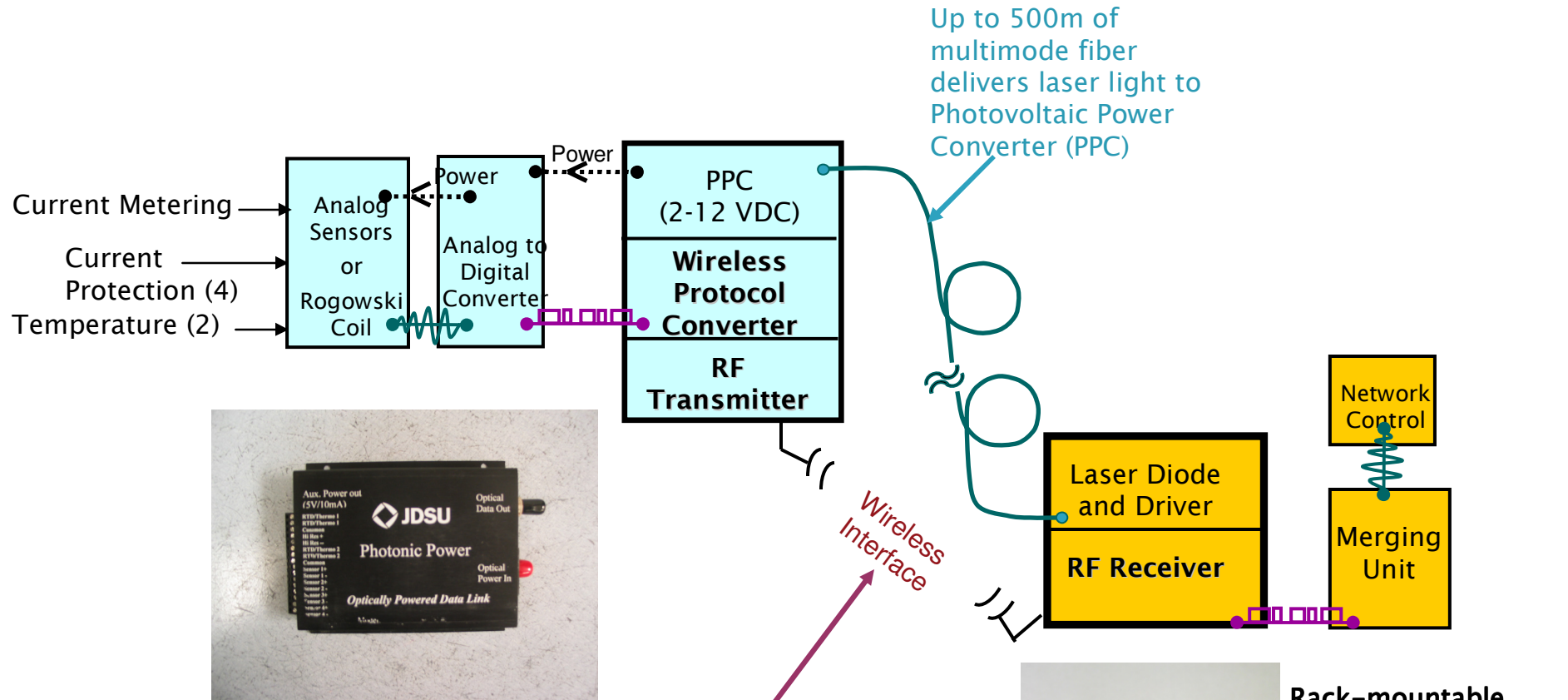
Optically-powered remote module processes up to 7 metering, protection and temperature channels simultaneously

Multimode data fiber delivers optically modulated digital data stream to merging unit in control room



Rack-mountable local module monitors laser output power, data link integrity and synchronization

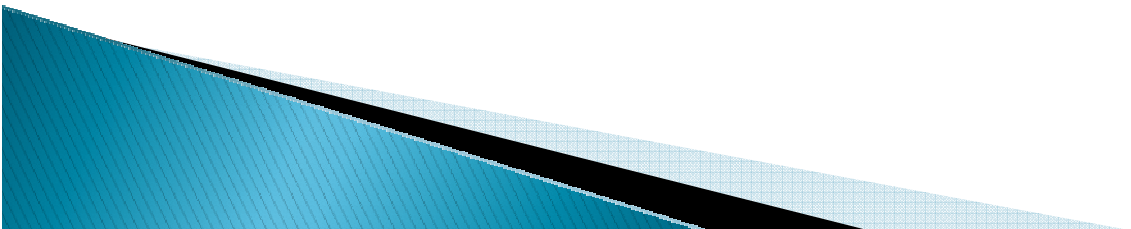
# Power by Light Block Diagram (Fiber/Wireless Solution)



Optically-powered remote module processes up to 7 metering, protection, and temperature channels simultaneously

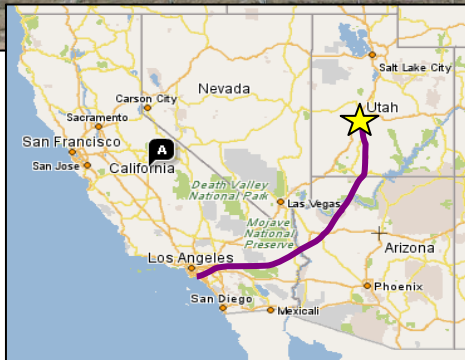
RF link, fully isolated from high voltage line, replaces data fiber

Rack-mountable local module monitors laser output power, data link integrity and synchronization



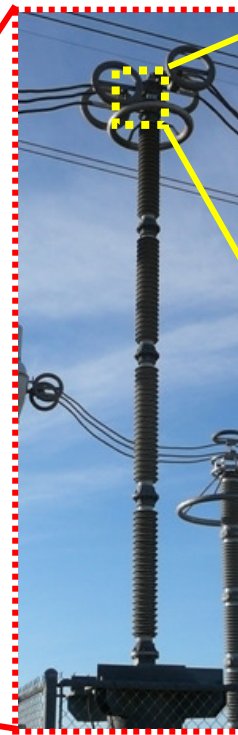


# US HVDC Electro-Optical Transducer Installation



Intermountain Power Generator Station, Utah

490-mile long HVDC transmission line delivers 1600MW to Arizona and California



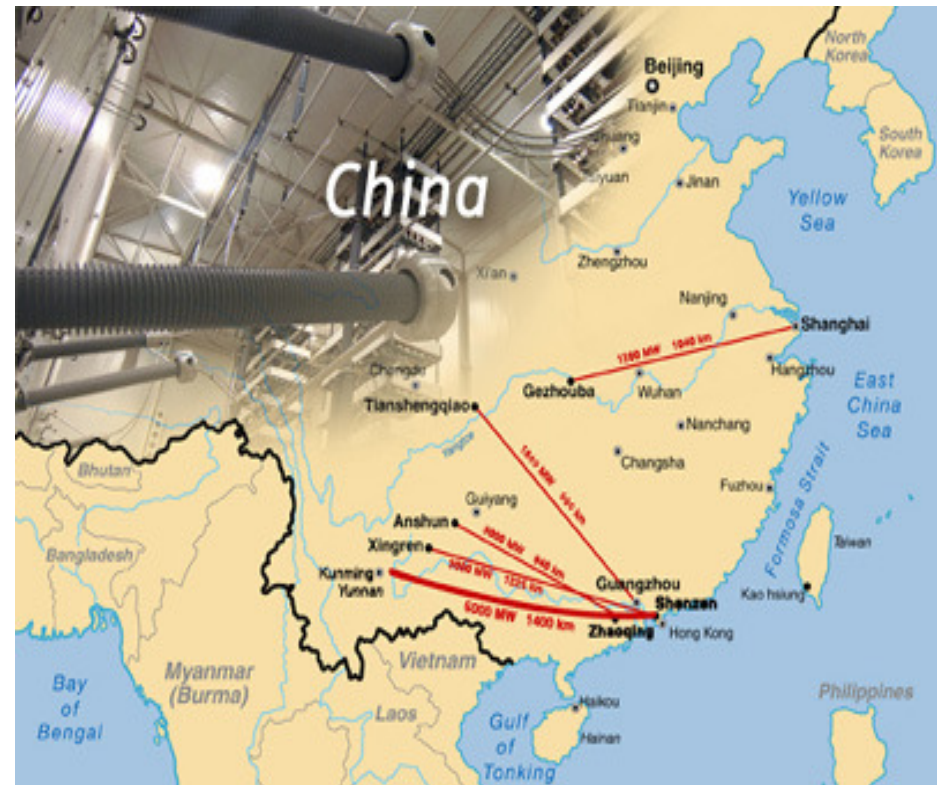
Optically-powered Remote Module powers the measurement electronics

Optical CT System converts 3200 Amps of current at 500kVDC to digital data stream for metering and protection

- Intermountain is using an optically-enabled CT system for power metering and protection of its 490-mile transmission line
- Grid is reliably serving nearly four million homes in Arizona and Southern California

# China is Leader in Electro-Optical Transducer Deployments

- ▶ Several HVDC ECT systems are operational in China
  - Monitoring HVDC lines carrying 1000MW to 6000MW of power over distances ranging from 500 to 1400 km
  - Several more HVDC ECT projects underway
- ▶ HVAC ECT systems being certified and field tested in China at 110kV to 550kV; higher voltages under evaluation



HVDC transmission lines utilizing electro-optical transducers shown in red

# Enabling the Intelligent Substation with Fiber Optics

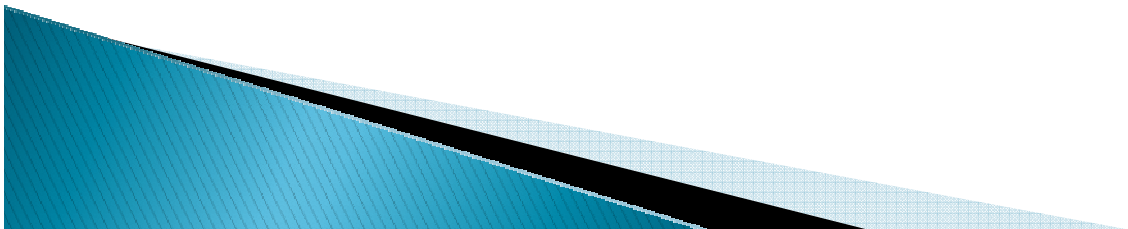
## Performance Benefits

- ▶ Precise measurement and synchronization
- ▶ Better protection against current surges and open circuit conditions
- ▶ Enables digital substation process bus per IEC61850-9.2
- ▶ Impervious to electromagnetic effects, high voltages, and lightning

## Operational Benefits

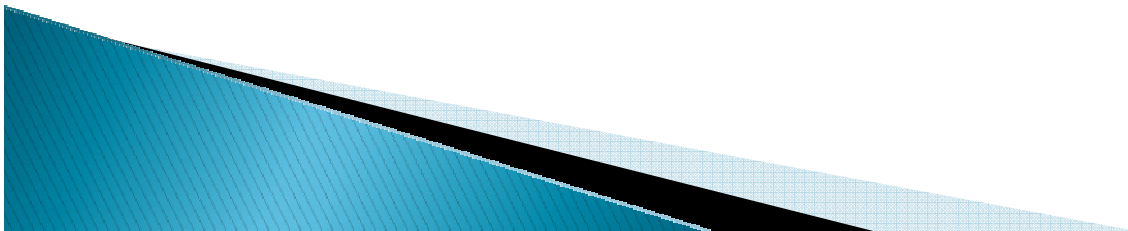
- ▶ Potential to reduce outage minutes
- ▶ Potential to allow grid to be run closer to rated capacity
- ▶ Accurate time history of events in digital format
- ▶ Eliminates potential for transformer leaks or explosion

Improved accuracy, control, response, and safety



# Summary

- ▶ Fiber optic technology can be a key enabler for the Intelligent Substation
- ▶ Moving from analog to digital grid control offers benefits in performance, operation, safety and O&M
- ▶ The technology to deploy the electro-optical transducer exists and has been deployed in many HVDC applications worldwide
- ▶ China has served as the first proving ground for electro-optical transducers for HVAC applications



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