

School of Engineering (SOE) University of St Thomas (UST)



\$2.1 M Campus uGrid Addresses Sustainability Goals Outlined by Pope

Greg Mowry, Professor

Director **REAL**: <u>R</u>enewable <u>E</u>nergy & <u>A</u>lternatives <u>L</u>aboratory Director MSEE: Power & Magnetics/Electric-Machine Emphasis

June 2016





## The University Mission

Inspired by Catholic intellectual tradition, the University of St. Thomas educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good.





## The Engineering Mission

We provide an applied, values-based learning experience that produces well-rounded, innovative engineers and technology leaders who have the technical skills, passion, and courage to make a difference.







### LETTERA ENCICLICA LAUDATO SI' DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO SULLA CURA DELLA CASA COMUNE





# Excerpts from the Environmental Encyclical by Pope Francis, 24 May 2015

My appeal

13. The urgent challenge of protecting our common house ... unite the whole human family in search of ... sustainable development ...

161. The rate of consumption of waste and environmental changes has exceeded the possibilities of the planet, in such a way that the current lifestyle, being unsustainable, may only result in disaster, as in fact is already happening periodically in different regions.





### Human Development Index (HDI)

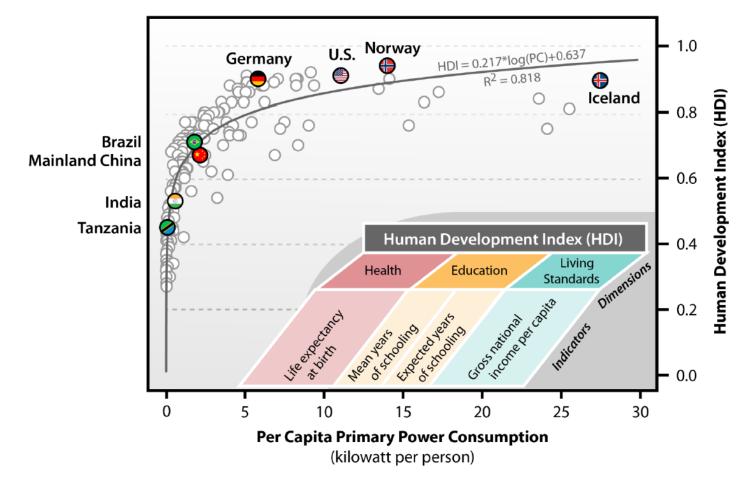
The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.





#### **Energy Consumption & Human Well Being are Linked**



Excerpted from: 'Global Energy Futures and Human Development: A Framework for Analysis' by Alan D. Pasternak, October 2000 & 'Energy, the Wealth of Nations, and Human Development: Why we must have renewable fuels', by Professor Dale, MSU, 22 Oct 2012





## **Modern Civilization**

- Depends on energy
- Energy is produced by burning 'stuff'
- Burning 'stuff' generically pollutes
- Energy systems are scalable by virtue of Faradays' Law:

$$V = \frac{d\varphi}{dt}$$





## .: Our Current Civilization

## Is NOT Sustainable!!





# The UST uGrid





## The UST uGrid

### Made possible through the Xcel Energy RDF program

### Functional part of REAL

Strong support from the UST administration and the School of Engineering





## The UST uGrid

#### ➢ Big Picture:

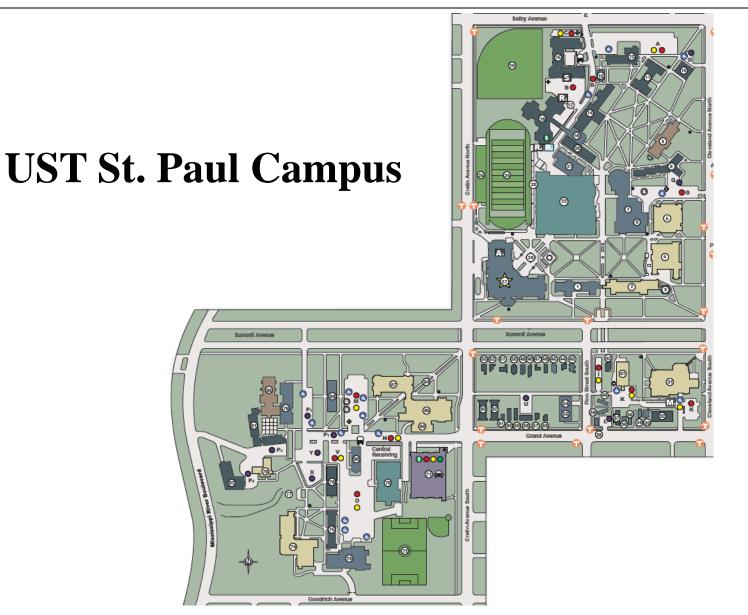
- Phase-I Island mode operation
- Phase-II Grid Connection
- Phase-III Full R&D/development mode
- Phase-IV UST Campus uGrid

#### Part of on-going education at UST: Grad & Undergrad

Outreach, responsibility, and 'for the common good'

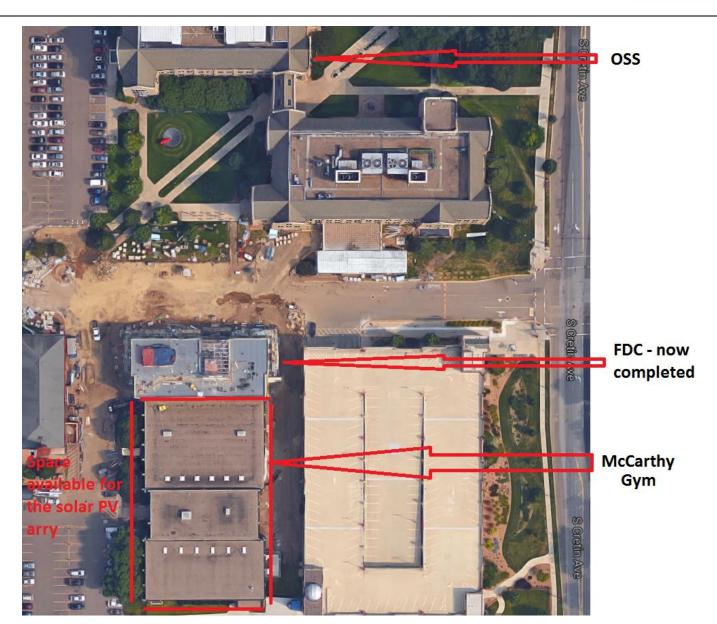












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#### **Facilities and Design Center**









### uGrid Program Goals

- 1. Establish a research and testing platform for microgrid and microgrid-subsystem R&D for academic and industry collaboration
- 2. Engage Minnesota industry partners at the microgrid facility in design/build/test and validation of projects of near-commercial distributed-energy-resource technologies through a RFP process
- 3. Execute research and publish findings involving design, control, and power electronics of the base facility
- 4. Modify Electrical Engineering undergraduate and graduate curriculum to incorporate real scale distributed energy resource and microgrid modeling experience
- 5. Develop an educational portal and curriculum for the K-12 grades showcasing sustainability and alternative energy systems in action.





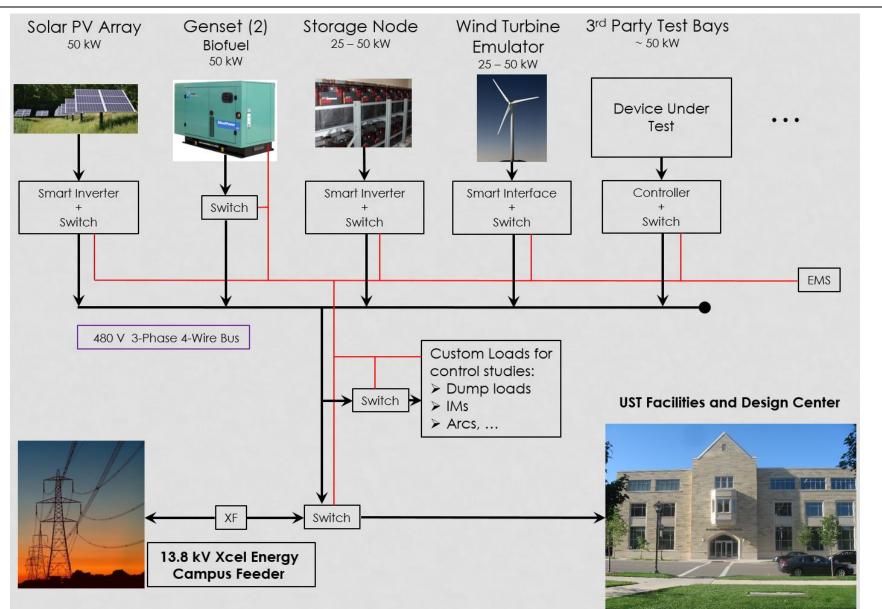
## Intellectual Property

- ➢ Founded in 1885, the historic mission of UST was to:
  - Train people with skills that help them get jobs in the new world
  - Help businesses succeed
- Today the historic mission manifests itself via: UST does not own IP.
- R&D work-product and associated IP <u>ARE OWNED BY THE FUNDING</u> <u>SPONSOR</u> so long as the research engages UST students.
- Corporate R&D has little or no overhead with ~ 100% of the funding going to the research. There are also potential tax benefits for such directed research.



#### **uGrid Cartoon**









### Schedule

#### 2016 – Begin; ~ August

- Vendor identification and selection
- Preliminary site preparation
- Preliminary construction

#### 2017 – Island mode operation

- uGrid construction
- Operation in island mode
- Grid connection studies
- > 3<sup>rd</sup> party R&D
- Campus expansion

#### 2018 – Full Grid-connect/Island-mode operation

- ➢ Grid tie
- ≻ R&D
- ➢ 3<sup>rd</sup> party R&D





### Companies Involved in the UST uGrid

> Xcel Energy

Many Minnesota companies

Several main-stream power & power-related companies

> Many others; names not given to avoid offending  $\odot$  <sup>20</sup>





### Anticipated/On-going Research Projects

#### Peer-to-peer DER communications

- ✤ distributed vs. centralized
- uGrid control
- Smart inverters
- Specialized power electronics
- Safety and grid interactive controls





# Other uGrid Projects





## Humanitarian uGrid Projects

#### 1. 2005 – 2008: Microgrids in Moldova

- 5 10 kW low-head hydro and wind
- Moldova lost its grid; interconnected microgrids is one-way to rebuild a grid
- Many small villages and rivers with low-head hydro potential

#### 2. 2007 – 2010: Hospital Power in Dodoma, Tanzania

- 20 MW combined wind, diesel, storage
- 150 bed energy neutral hospital design in Dodoma, TZ
- LEED type hospital building design both done by REAL teams

#### 3. 2010 – 2014: Village Power/Energy in Uganda & Mali

- 2 kW split-power microgrid
- Energy systems for living and farming
- Education

#### 4. 2015 – 2016: Liberia & Will Steger uGrid Projects



### Moldova





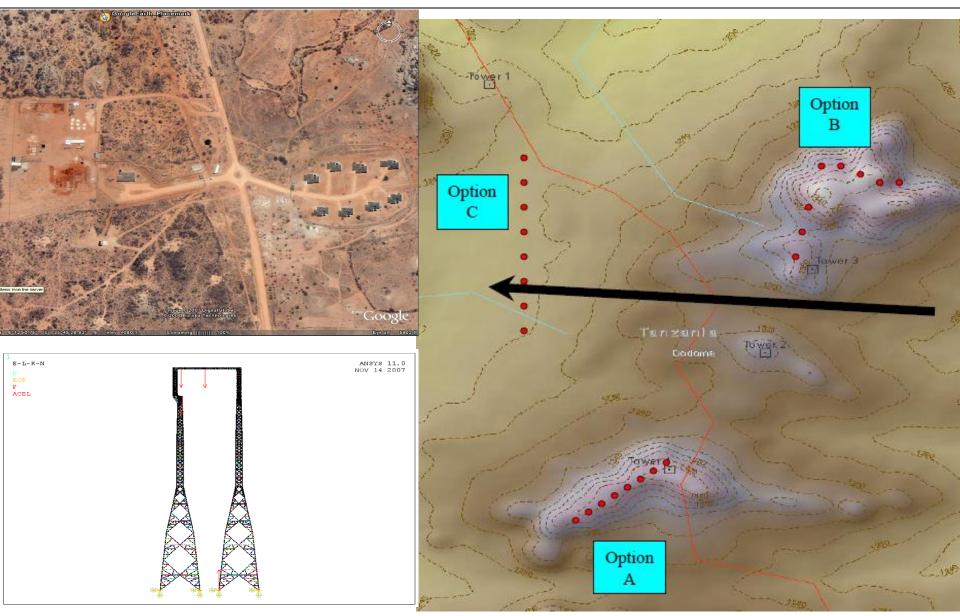


























### Phebe, Liberia



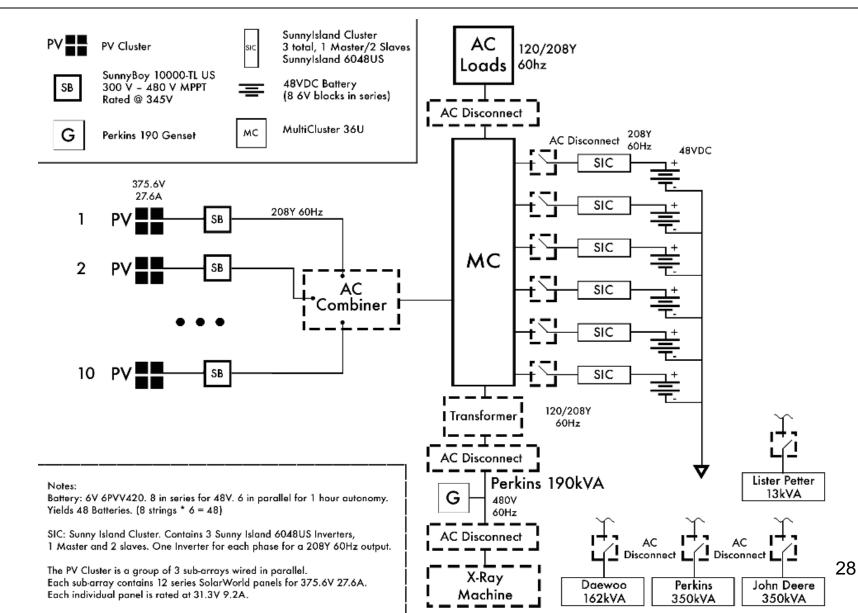






### Phebe, Liberia







### Will Steger – Ely, MN







The Steger Wilderness Center is made of glass, native timber and stone, and recycled wood.



### Will Steger – Ely, MN











## uGrid Projects, e.g. Corporate Sponsored



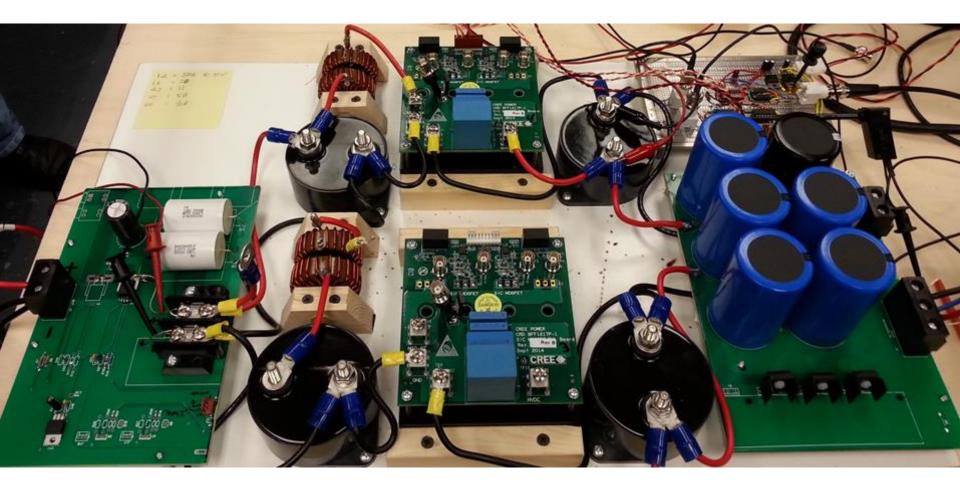


**Cell-Phone Tower-Power** 

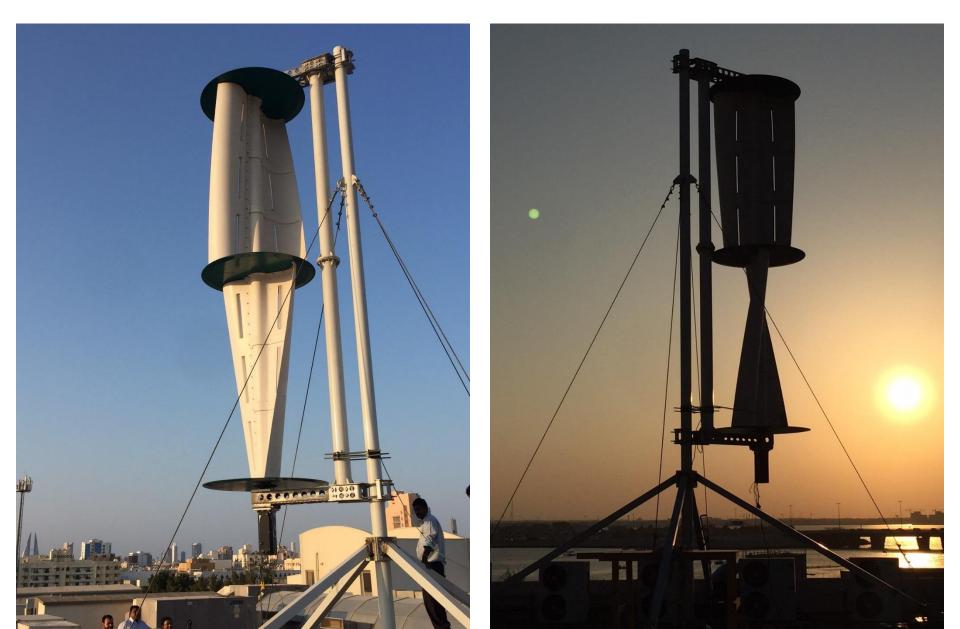
Juha Rouvinen, President & CEO <u>www.windstrip.com</u> 651-260-8363

- ➢ Hybrid Power System (HPS) for Windstrip, LLC
  - DC/AC bus design and development
  - ✤ Power electronics design and development; MISO, …
  - Controls system modeling, design, development, and test
  - Wind turbine modeling, design, development, and test

### **Cell-Phone Tower-Power** Gen-1 SiC HPS Electronics, 98%+ @ 4 kW



### **Cell-Phone Tower-Power**





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# REAL

### <u>Renewable</u> Energy & <u>Alternatives</u> Laboratory

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## Are you Reddy to get REAL?



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