

# Protection in Smart Grids with Ultra-Fast Solid-State Circuit Breakers

Michael Geissmann CEO Astrol Electronic AG



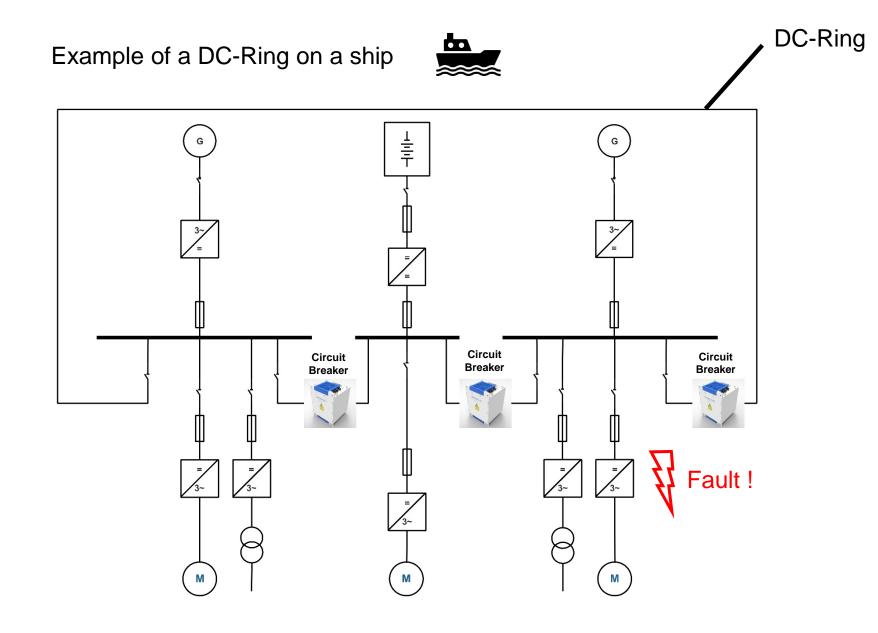
PO

2. Konferenz «Die Bedeutung der Versorgungsnetze in den nächsten 25 Jahren»



## Fault current protection in modern DC-Grids



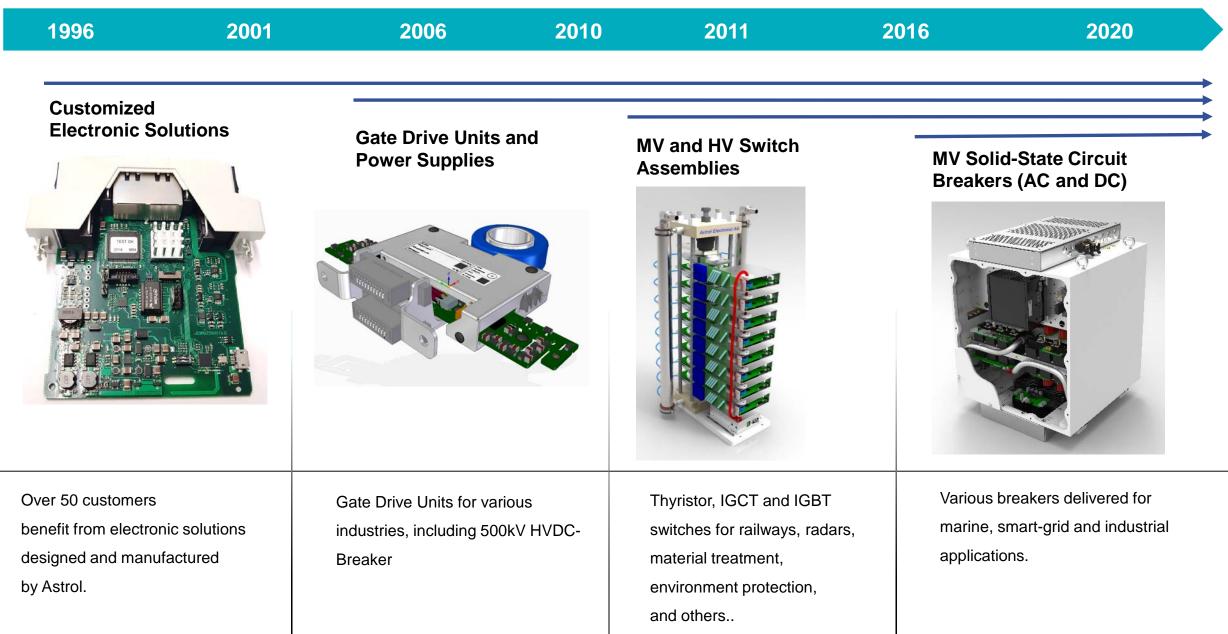


Requirements for Solid-State Circuit Breaker

- Ultra-fast
- Suitable for AC <u>and</u> DC: no zero crossing of current required
- Short-circuit and overload protection
- Zone protection
- No added inductance
- Autonomous, system independent
- Highly reliable, compact design

### About us





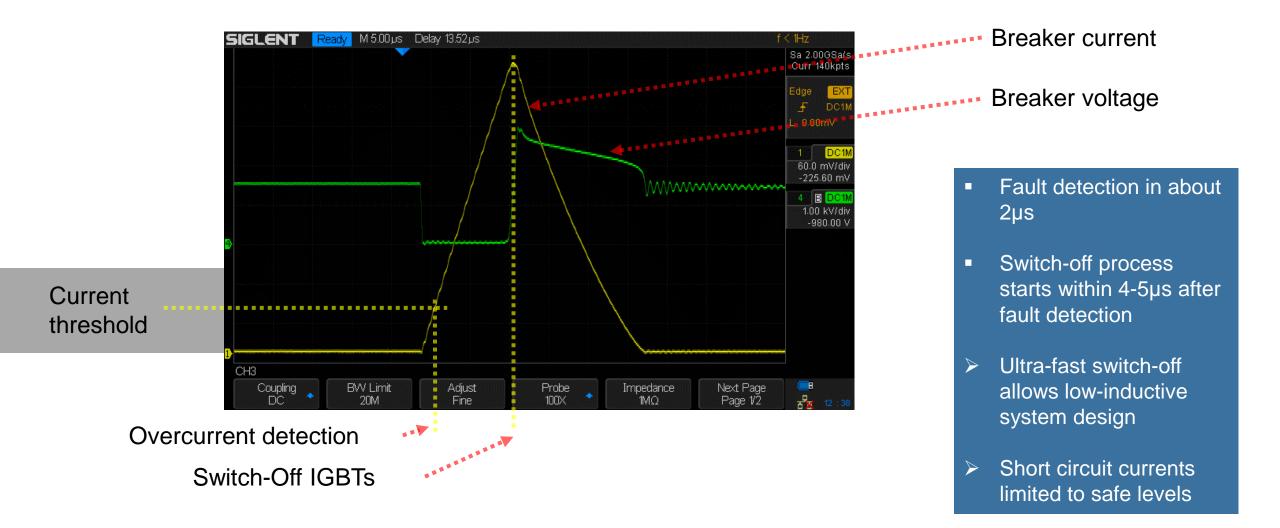
# **Product Groups in 2021**



| Solid-State<br>Circuit Breakers  | Solid-State Power<br>Switches  | Gate Drive Units<br>and Isolated<br>Power Supplies   | Customized<br>Electronics  | Further Products  |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1.5kV - 1.25kA Marine DC-Breaker   | Figure 25 Parality Section Switch  | Dual IGBT Gate Unit for Sooky HyDC-Breaker   | ŢŢŢ<br>ţ   |   |
| <ul> <li>Largest product variety<br/>in the market</li> <li>Marine DC-Grids</li> <li>Smart-Grid DC and AC</li> <li>Industrial / Research</li> <li>Our breakers are based<br/>on IGBT technology,<br/>IGCT-based breakers and<br/>hybrid breakers available<br/>upon request</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Pulsed Power<br/>Up to 100kV, 200kA*<br/>High di/dt up to 30kA/us</li> <li>Fusion Power</li> <li>Research Laboratories</li> <li>Industrial Applications</li> </ul> AC-Switches <ul> <li>Railway neutral section switch</li> <li>Maglev traction</li> </ul> Crowbar Switches, and more | Customized Gate Drive<br>Units for<br>IGBT<br>BIGT*<br>SiC*<br>GCTs<br>Thyristors<br>Fully programmable to<br>optimize switching<br>behaviour<br>Inductive power supply<br>solutions up to 100kV | Electronics design and<br>manufacturing<br>• HW and SW design<br>• Prototype<br>• Industrialization<br>• Series production | Various controllers and<br>optical interfaces<br>Battery Cyclers<br>Semiconductor Testing<br>Equipment<br>FADEC 3 (Thyristor tester)<br>* (higher ratings) upon request |



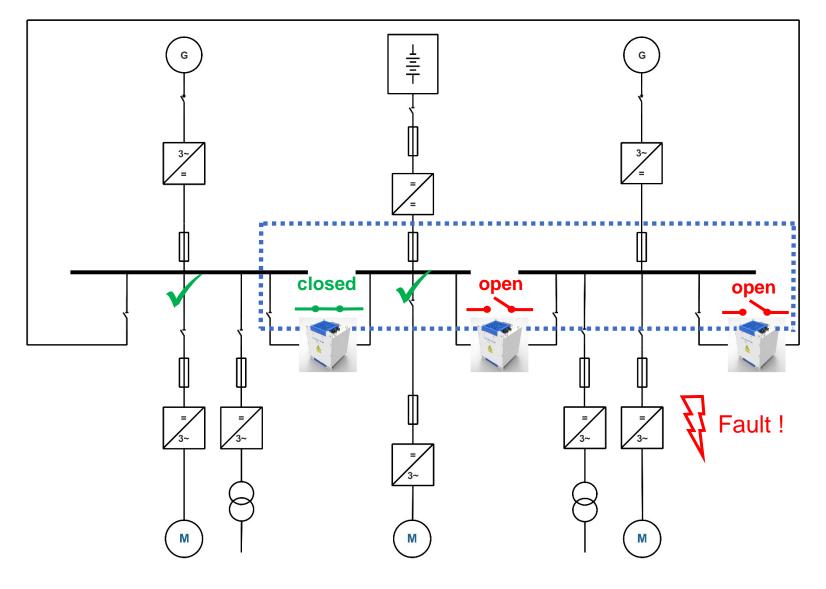
### **Ultra-fast switch-off of AC and DC**



# **Key features**



### **Zone Protection**



If a fault occurs in one zone of the grid, the fault is measured by all breakers in the system.

The breakers need to determine the location of the fault withing microseconds.

Astrol Circuit Breaker allow efficient zone protection. Key elements are:

- Ultra-fast detection
- Direct optical link between each breaker and its neighbours in the system.
- Configurable current thresholds and switch-off timing

Optical direct link between breakers

# **Key features**

ASTROL

### **Voltage Balancing**

- Integrated voltage balancing for controlled (pre)charging of the circuit via charging resistor.
- Automatic or remote control startup





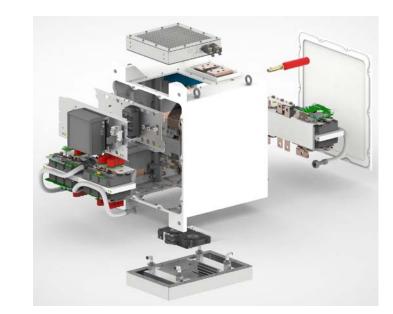
### Interface to host system

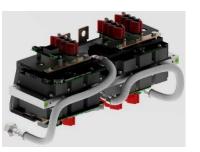
- Ethernet based Protocols
  - Modbus TCP/IP
  - Profinet
  - Others on request
- **Optical Interface** 
  - Custom specific via glass or plastic fiber
- Ruggedized connector
- Vibration proof design (marine version)
- Power connection
  - Bus bar
  - Cable



## Unique modular design

- Autonomous detection and switch-off
- Maintenance free in normal operation no moving parts
- Self-diagnostic



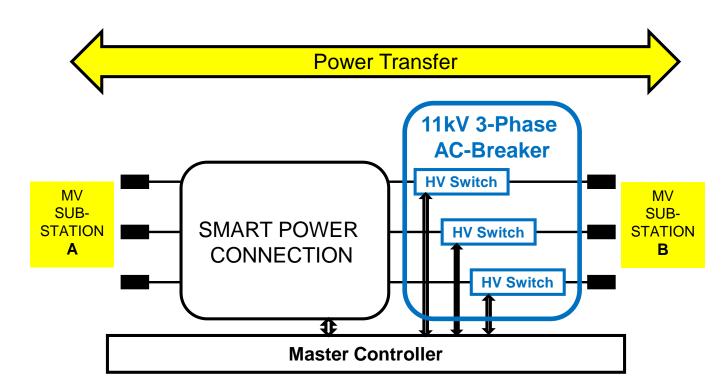




## **Application cases**

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Power Exchange between substations 11kV – 3-phase





12-level IGBT assembly with series connected StakPak modules

## **Application cases**

ASTROL

**Industrial DC Grid** Grid connection DC-Bus 0 M N П



1kV Industrial DC-Breaker Modular design 19-inch rack



1kV - 200A, 500A, 1250A Reference projects in all current ratings

1kV - 3kA

#### Available for order now!

3kV versions upon request

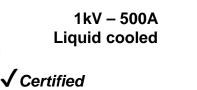


1kV – 200A Air cooled



DNV.GL

ISO 9001



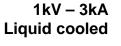


1kV – 1250A Liquid cooled



ASTROL





In Q3 2021

## **Product Ove**

Model

Voltage rating

Current rating

Phase / Pole design

switching speed

IGBT type

Cooling

**Product Certification** 

Typical application

First delivery

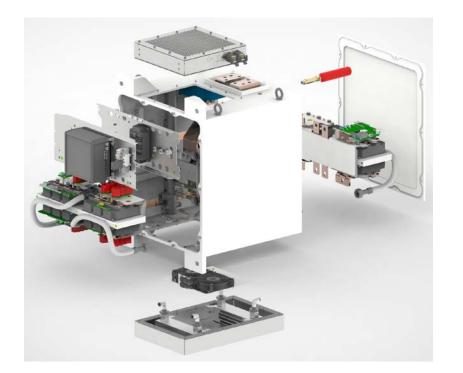
Picture

| 3-Phase AC-Breaker                       | Marine DC-Breaker   | Universial Solid-State Breake  |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 11kV nominal<br>27kV peak                | 1kV   | 1kV                            |
| 300A nominal<br>600A peak                | 200A air-cooled<br>500A - 5kA water-cooled                    | 4kA                            |
| 3-phase AC                               | Bi-directional DC - one pole                                  | Bi-directional DC - one pole   |
| Ultra-fast (<10µs)                       | Ultra-fast (<10µs)  | Ultra-fast (<10µs)             |
| Stakpak IGBTs                            | Hipak IGBTs   | Hipak IGBTs                    |
| Deionized water cooling                  | Air cooling / water cooling / optional ambient air<br>cooling | Water cooling                  |
| -  | DNV, Lloyd's  | -                              |
| Power Distribution, Smart Grid, Industry | On-board DC distribution                                      | Industry, Research, Smart Grid |
| 2019                                     | 2018  | 2020                           |
|  |   |                                |

# Summary

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- Ultra-fast solid-state circuit breakers allow reliable fault current protection in smart-grids
- Astrol offers the most comprehensive range of solid-state MV circuit breakers in the market, with reference projects in
  - Marine
  - Smartgrid
  - Industry
- 25 years of experience in designing and manufacturing MV and HV power switches, measurement and control electronics form the basis for our state of the art AC and DC breakers.







Unser Partner in Deutschland:



#### morEnergy GmbH

info@morenergy.net +49 (0)40 555 546 215

Georg-Wilhelm-Straße 187 21107 Hamburg

#### **Astrol Electronic AG**

info@astrol.ch +41 56 485 60 20

Ahornweg 14 5504 Othmarsingen Switzerland

