



2015 Applied Power Electronics Conference

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Film Capacitors For High Temperature Switches And Power Electronics Applications Above 125°C

Joe Bond –Operations And Engineering Manager

March 2015

PSMA Capacitor Committee

- Electronic Concepts Inc. is an industry leading plastic film capacitor manufacturer incorporated in 1969.
- Primary markets served include military, medical, aerospace, alternative energy, traction, and industrial power conversion.
- Global corporation with design and manufacturing in America and Europe.
- Vertically integrated with:
 - Solvent casting plant producing polymers including polycarbonate and proprietary dielectrics.
 - Full machining capabilities including CNC machining centers, CNC screw machines, punch presses, and other equipment to produce terminals, housings, buss bars, laminates, tooling and production machines.
- In-house film metallizing and converting capabilities.
- Full qualification capabilities including environmental and electrical testing and qualification.
- R&D for materials and capacitors for corporate objectives, universities, industries, and government labs.



Presentation Flow

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- The industry need for high temperature caps
 - Wide Band Gap (WBG) semiconductors
 - Department of Energy (DOE) objectives
 - Other applications
- Standard available dielectric options
 - Overview of characteristics
 - The bi-axially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) benchmark
- Barriers to high temperature dielectric development
- Previous dielectric development
- Electronic Concepts Inc. (ECI) dielectric development and product series
- ECI continuing development goals for 2015-2017

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This presentation is an overview of ECI dielectric research and industry available dielectrics.

Benchmarking to bi-axially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) is discussed.



Industry needs for high temperature capacitors

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Wide Band Gap (WBG) Semiconductors

- North Carolina State University is leading Wide Band Gap (WBG) development for the Energy Department
- New SiC and GaN semiconductor switches operate at higher temperatures and voltages
- Capacitors complementing these switches needed
- Present plastic dielectric options limited to 125C

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“January 15, 2015 President Obama announced that North Carolina State University will lead the Energy Department’s new manufacturing innovation institute for the next generation of power electronics. The institute will work to drive down the costs of and build America’s manufacturing leadership in wide bandgap (WBG) semiconductor-based power electronics -- leading to more affordable products for businesses and consumers, billions of dollars in energy savings and high-quality U.S. manufacturing jobs.” (Source: <http://energy.gov/articles/wide-bandgap-semiconductors-essential-our-technology-future>)

(Source: NCSU Site reference: <http://www.ncsu.edu/power/>)



Industry needs for high temperature capacitors

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- Wide Band Gap (WBG) semiconductors
- Band gap refers to the energy (eV) required to move an electron from the valance to the conduction band.
- Wide Band Gap Materials:
 - Operate at higher temperatures
 - Operate at higher voltages
 - Eliminate up to 90% of present technology loses

Wide bandgap semiconductors (shown in green) are materials that possess bandgaps significantly greater than those of silicon.

Semiconductor Materials		
Material	Chemical Symbol	Bandgap Energy (eV)
Germanium	Ge	0.7
Silicon	Si	1.1
Gallium Arsenide	GaAs	1.4
Silicon Carbide	SiC	3.3
Zinc Oxide	ZnO	3.4
Gallium Nitride	GaN	3.4
Diamond	C	5.5

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According to the Department of Energy article, “Wide Bandgap Semiconductors: *Pursuing the Promise*” WBG Electronic devices:

- *Reduced energy losses:* Eliminates up to 90% of the power losses that currently occur during AC-to-DC and DC-to-AC electricity conversion.
- *Higher-voltage operation:* Handles voltages more than 10 times higher than Si-based devices, greatly enhancing performance in high-power applications.
- *Higher-temperature operation:* Operates at temperatures over 300°C (twice the maximum temperature of Si-based devices). This tolerance for higher operating temperature results in better overall system reliability, enables smaller and lighter systems with reduced lifecycle energy use, and creates opportunities for new applications.
- *Higher frequencies:* Operates at frequencies at least 10 times higher than Si-based devices, making possible more compact, less costly product designs and opening up a range of new applications, such as radio frequency (RF) amplifiers.
- *Improved power quality:* Ensures more reliable and consistent power electronic device operation.

(Source: <http://energy.gov/articles/wide-bandgap-semiconductors-essential-our-technology-future>)

Industry need for high temperature capacitors – DOE traction inverters



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- Remove electronics cooling
- Run off engine coolant 90-105C
- 140C non-energized
- Higher switching frequencies and temperatures (WBG semiconductor incentives)
- High energy density of 4 joule/cc (65.5 joule/cu.in)
- Low cost (similar or lower than standard BOPP)

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The Department of Energy (DOE) objectives for traction inverters are reducing cost and increasing efficiency.

High temperature electronics eliminate the separate cooling system and devices operate off engine coolant. Latent heat specifications project that on shutdown the temperature could rise to 140C.

DOE incentives to use wide bandgap semiconductors (WBG) intend to increase switch frequency and decrease capacitor and inductor size and weight.

Energy density goals for high temperature capacitors far exceeds the state-of-the-art for 85C BOPP DC Links.



DOE Goals

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Traction Drive Requirements: 55 kW peak power for 18 sec; 30 kW continuous power; 15-year life

Traction Drive System					Power Electronics		
Impacts →	Reduce Cost	Reduce Weight	Reduce Volume	Reduce Energy Storage Requirements	(\$/kW)	(kW/kg)	(kW/l)
Year	Cost (\$/kW)	Specific Power (kW/kg)	Power Density (kW/l)	Efficiency			
2010*	19	1.08	2.60	>90%	7.9	10.8	8.7
2012	17	1.12	2.86	>91%	7	11.2	10
2015	12	1.17	3.53	>93%	5	12	12
2020	8	1.44	4.00	>94%	3.3	14.1	13.4

Electric Motors		
(\$/kW)	(kW/kg)	(kW/l)
11.1	1.2	3.7
10	1.24	4
7	1.3	5
4.7	1.6	5.7

* 2010 traction drive cost target achieved with development of the GM integrated traction drive project

Vehicle Technologies Program – Advanced Power Electronics and Electric Motors eere.energy.gov

EV Everywhere Target Analysis	Current Status	PHEV 40	AEV 100	AEV 300	
System Cost	\$/kW	20	5	14	4
Motor Specific Power	kW/kg	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.3
PE Specific Power	kW/kg	10.5	16	12	16.7
System Peak Efficiency	%	90	97	91	98

Present BOPP energy density DC links ~5 j/cu.in. (~0.31 j/cc) does not meet DOE goal of 65.6 j/cu.in (4 j/cc)

Present BOPP DC links for traction inverters typically range 500-1000uF and 450 – 1200vdc with typical switch frequencies of 2-5kHz producing ripple currents 200 – 500 amps-rms

Because of the higher cost of high temperature dielectrics the best opportunity for film caps is high frequency WBG switches to drive capacitance required down (10x ripple frequency = 1/10 capacitance for same Z).

(Source: Susan Rogers, APEEM R&D Vehicle Technologies Program, “Electric Drive Status and Challenges”, Slides 2-3)

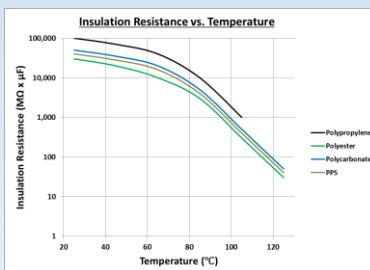
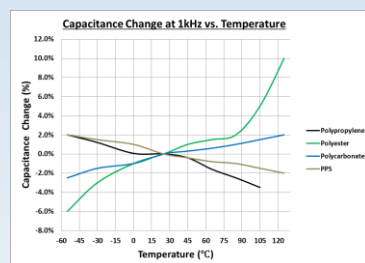
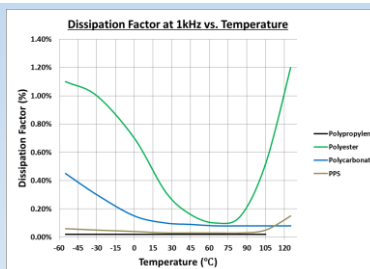


Standard available dielectric options

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Market available dielectrics

- BOPP – Bi-axially oriented polypropylene
- PET – Polyester
- PC – Polycarbonate
- PPS – Polyphenylene sulfide



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Industry standard dielectrics available to capacitor manufacturers.

BOPP dominates the power capacitor market, and is the benchmark new polymers are compared against.

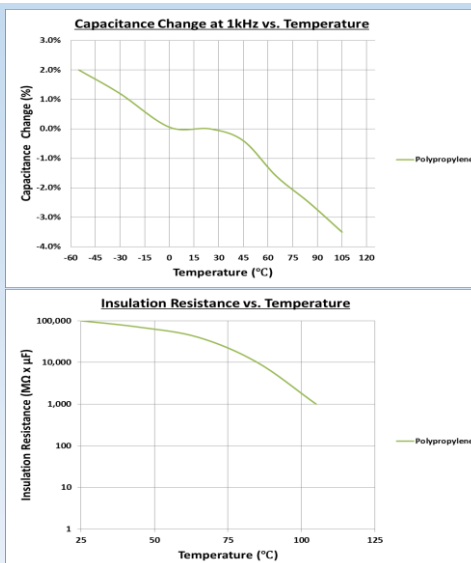
Polycarbonate is presently not available for new designs.

ECI is the last global producer of high molecular weight solvent cast polycarbonate for capacitor dielectric. Finite resin supply. We continue to look for new sources of the proper resin grade needed to continue production viable for new design.

The polypropylene benchmark

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- Light weight – specific gravity 0.91
- Low DF – 0.02% through 100kHz
- Highest DC Link energy density (3-5 j/cu.in.) of standard dielectrics
- Stable capacitance vs. temperature
- Lowest cost dielectric option
- Excellent self-healing ability



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Standard metallized bi-axially oriented polypropylene (BOPP).

BOPP is the dominant dielectric for power capacitors.

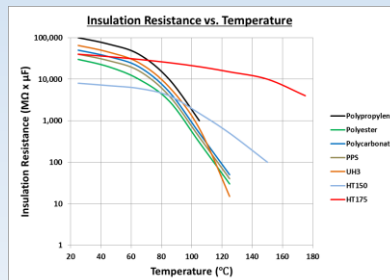
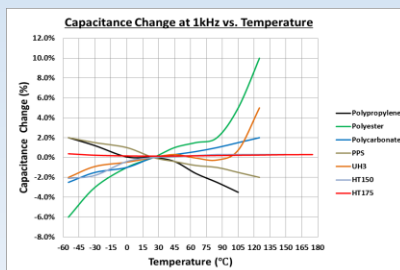
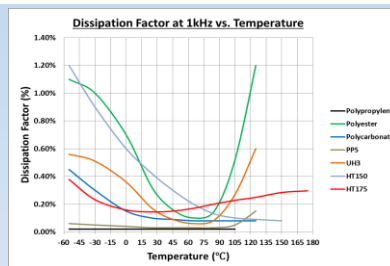
Energy density, low losses, self-healing, and low cost set a high standard for comparison to high temperature dielectrics.

Overview with high temperature film

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Market available dielectrics

- BOPP – Bi-axially oriented polypropylene
- PET – Polyester
- PC – Polycarbonate
- PPS – Polyphenylene sulfide
- UH3, HT150, and HT175 ECI proprietary dielectrics



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ECI high temperature HT150 and HT175 referenced to standard industry dielectrics.

Capacitance stability versus temperature for HT150 and HT175 better than BOPP.

High temperature insulation resistance for HT150 and HT175 better than BOPP over 100C.

High temperature dissipation factor for HT150 and HT175 provides low ESR in DC Link banks.



Dielectric comparisons

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Notes to following comparison slides

- Basic winding volume and weight without packaging
- Data based on present state-of-the-art for DC links

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Data used in graphics based on unpackaged capacitor windings.

Data derived based on design comparison of 1000uF/1000vdc design varied by dielectric and present (2014) design stresses for each dielectric.

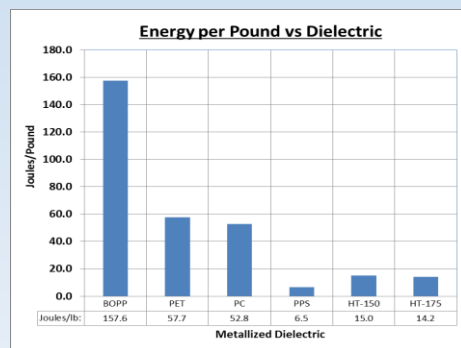


Present DC Link Energy Densities

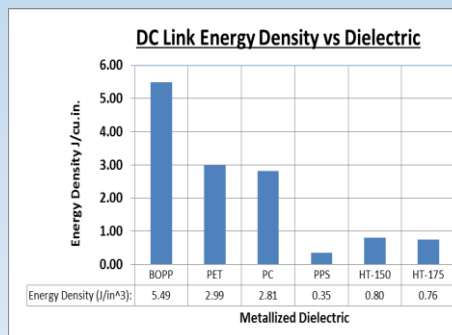
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Graphic represents DC link energy densities

Important to note that energy density of BOPP in snubbers (~0.7 - 1 j/cu. in.) is already available for HT150 and HT175



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2014 HT150 & HT175 energy density enables direct size replacement of snubbers mounted to high temperature switches!

Energy comparison of dielectrics including ECI proprietary HT150 and HT175 at 2014 design levels.

HT150 and HT175 already qualified to stress levels equivalent to many market available BOPP snubbers enabling direct size replacements for many snubber and resonant capacitors at higher temperature ratings.

HT150 and HT175 qualifications at maximum temperature translate to high reliability at lower temperatures.



ECI Available high temperature dielectrics

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- Polycarbonate (125C) – QPL 83421, 55514, several industrial series under MC and 5MC
- PPS (125C) – QPL MIL-PRF-83421/06 (hermetic seal), MU series (wrap & fill)
- UH (125C) – UH3 series (plastic case - ripple filter)
- Teflon (200C) – MT1 series (wrap & fill – down hole)
- HT-150 (150C) – HT1 series (plastic case - snubber)
- HT-175 (175C) – 5HT46 series (plastic cased - resonant supplies)
- Application specific designs using any of the above dielectrics (metallized or film-foil)

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PC produced by ECI film division but not recommended for new designs due to finite resin availability.

PPS limited availability by Toray's production schedule.

Teflon (PTFE) energy density low, heavy, and expensive.

UH lower cost 125C alternative to PPS or PC.

HT-150 and HT-175 produced by ECI film division.



High temperature dielectric barriers

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- Present demand too small to motivate resin manufacturers
- Most resin reactors look for 100 ton markets
- Present alternatives do not approach BOPP benchmarks (energy density, low losses, cost)

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Many lab scale polymers actively being studied but most do not realize commercialization.

Although market demand is growing for high temperature capacitor dielectric, it is still a fraction of what resin manufacturers want to react new polymers.

A common problem facing many new high temperature dielectrics is the extreme price compared to the BOPP benchmark. Combined with lower energy densities and higher losses, the products require larger volume and higher dielectric content exaggerating the cost in comparison to BOPP.



ECI UH3 Capacitors

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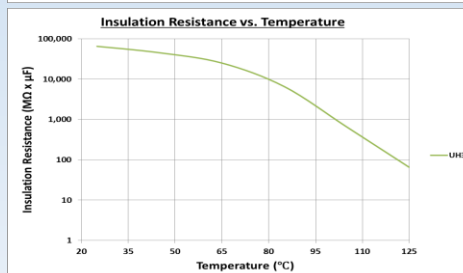
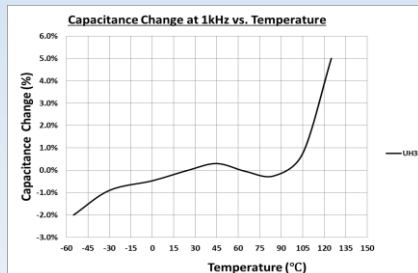
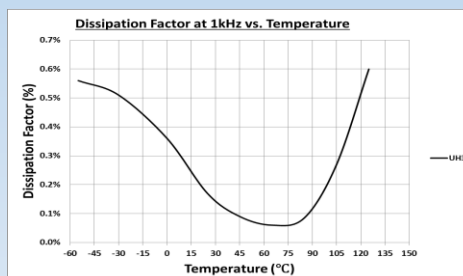
UH3 – Proprietary metallized dielectric

Lower cost than PPS or PC.

Lighter than PET or PPS.

Lower losses than PET.

Life Tested 2000 hours at 130% Vr at 125C



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UH3 series

Lower cost than polycarbonate or PPS.

Values recorded from metallized UH3 capacitors.

As with all ECI technologies, available for application specific designs.



ECI UH3 Capacitors

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- **Capacitance Range**
15.0 μ F to 120.0 μ F
- **Operating Temperature Range**
-65°C to +125°C
- **Voltage Rating**
450VDC to 1200VDC

FEATURES

- Continuous operation at 125°C
- Lower cost than PC or PPS
- Long term available resin
- UH3 offered with stud or threaded bushings
- Integrated mechanical mounting
- Ultra low ESL < 10nH available



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Metallized UH3 proprietary dielectric capacitors.

Lower cost than polycarbonate or PPS with 125C operation.

Convenient building block units with integrated mountings.



ECI HT-150 dielectric (150C capacitors)

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HT-150 – Proprietary metallized dielectric

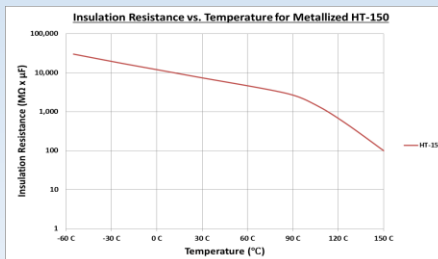
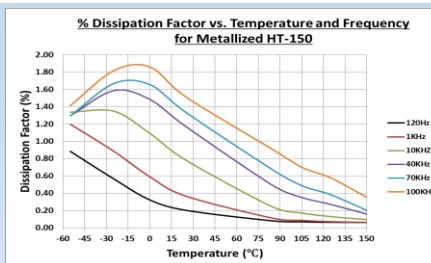
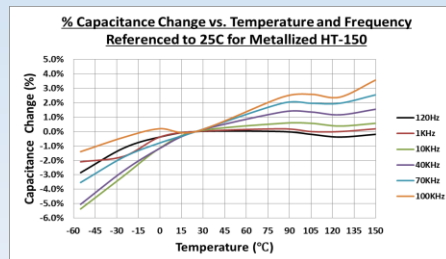
Stable Capacitance Change vs. Temperature and Frequency;
-5.5% to +3.5%

Low Dissipation Factor vs. Temperature and Frequency; <2%

Very high peak current (>10 x BOPP)

Life Tested 2000 hours at 130% Vr at 150C

*Metallized versions available for snubbers and resonant caps
at BOPP energy density at >10x I-pk of BOPP



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HT-150

Values recorded from metallized HT-150 capacitors.

Tight capacitance stability.

DF decreases with temperature.

Life testing at 130% rated voltage at 150C produces very high life projections at 100-120C and typical application voltage of 70% rated voltage.

Further testing planned to define higher energy density gradient at 105C – 125C



ECI HT1 Series snubber - 150C capacitors

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- **Capacitance Range**
0.12 μ F to 2.2 μ F
- **Operating Temperature Range**
-55°C to 150°C
- **Voltage Rating**
600VDC to 2400VDC



FEATURES

- Continuous operation at 150°C
- Highest peak current capabilities of any metallized film capacitor technology
- Low loss factors that decrease with temperature
- Tight capacitance stability versus temperature between -55°C and +150°C
- Volume efficiency comparable to 85°C polypropylene snubber capacitors like ECI series MP88

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HT-150 proprietary metallized dielectric.

Other values and voltages on request.

Snubber caps (HT1 series) have the same energy density as standard BOPP snubbers.

Peak current tested >1M pulses at >30x BOPP breakdown with no change at 25C

Peak current tested >500K pulses at >30x BOPP breakdown with no change at 150C

Design retrofits available for ECI snubber lines 5MP2, MP80, MP88, and PT88.

Design retrofits available for ECI DC ripple filtering line UH3.



ECI HT1 Ripple current power test

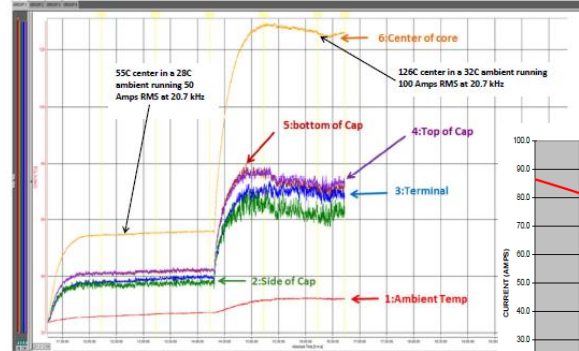
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Electronic Concepts Incorporated

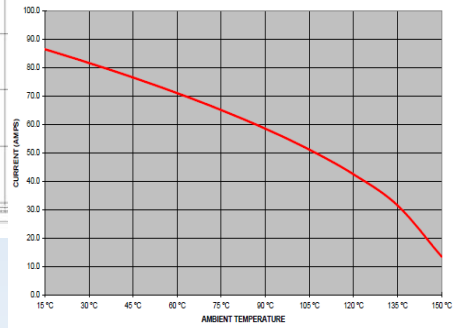
HT1 150C Power Capacitor Testing

SHT-3003GJ, 60uF +/-5%, 400VDC, Ripple Current Testing

$$R_{th} = (126C - 32C) / (100^2 \times 0.00247) = 94 / 24.7 = 3.8 \text{ C/Watt-Dissipated}$$



- -55C to 150C
- 60uF / 400vdc
- 50 A-rms & 100 A-rms at 20kHz
- $R_{th} = 3.8 \text{ Deg-C/Watt-dissipated}$



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HT-150 metallized dielectric.

20kHz ripple current with thermocouples in capacitor center data logged relative to terminals and outer surfaces of capacitor.

A typical 500uF/400vdc (~ 8 x 60uF shown) DC link bank capable of 400 amps at 105C and 240 amps at 125C.



ECI HT-175 dielectric (175C capacitors)

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HT-175 Proprietary dielectric and foil high-current resonant caps

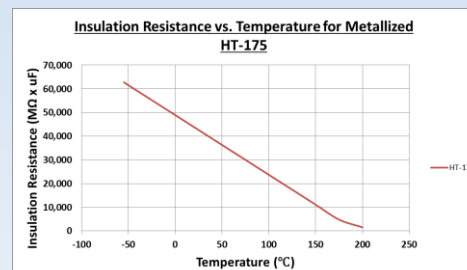
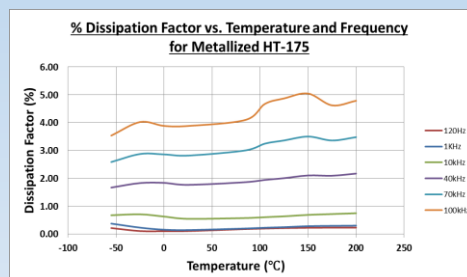
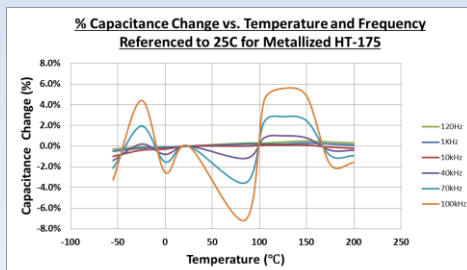
Stable Capacitance Change vs. Temperature and Frequency

Low Dissipation Factor vs. Temperature and Frequency (high temp AC filter capacitors possible)

Very high peak current (>10 x BOPP)

Life Tested 2000 hours at 130% Vr at 175C

*Metallized versions available for snubbers and resonant caps at BOPP energy density at >10x I-pk of BOPP



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HT-175

Values recorded from metallized HT-175 capacitors.

Characterized to 200C.

For DC biased ripple filtering ESR is the heating factor. A 10x increase in DF results in a 2.5x ESR. Thus capacitance values > 100uF see very little effect of the higher frequency DF due to the low reactance.

Further testing planned to define higher energy density gradient at 105C – 150C



ECI 5HT Series resonant – 175C capacitors

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- **Capacitance Range**
0.010 μ F to 0.100 μ F
- **Operating Temperature Range**
-55°C to 175°C
- **Voltage Rating**
400 VDC, 230 VAC



FEATURES

- Continuous Operation at 175°C
- Compact Configuration
- Direct Plug-in Spade Lugs
- Low ESL
- Low ESR
- High dv/dt
- High Peak Current

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HT-175 proprietary dielectric and foil.
Low capacitance values with extremely high peak currents for high frequency applications like resonant supplies.

Other values and voltages on request.

Metallized versions also available for snubber caps with the same energy density as standard BOPP snubbers.
Peak current tested >1M pulses at >30x BOPP breakdown with no change at 25C
Peak current tested >500K pulses at >30x BOPP breakdown with no change at 175C

Retrofits ECI snubber lines 5MP2, MP80, MP88, and PT88.

Design retrofits available for ECI DC ripple filtering line UH3.



ECI continuing R&D

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- Increase energy density on HT-150 and HT-175
 - ▣ Define stress curve through life
 - ▣ Goal to double voltage stress (4x energy density)
- Continue working with resin manufacturers
 - ▣ Studying new dielectrics in film labs
- Continue working with universities
 - ▣ NCSU, VT, PSU,...
- Continue working with government labs
 - ▣ Support DOE projects

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HT150 and HT175 both tested and characterized for life at max temperature (150C and 175C respectively) and 130% rated voltage.

Further testing planned to study higher voltage stresses at 105C, 125C, and 140C.

Further advancements in film production and electrode design under study to increase energy density.

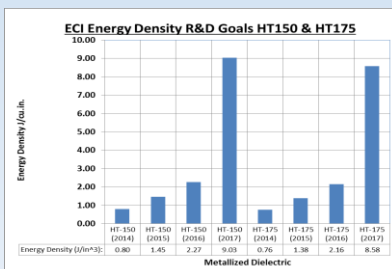
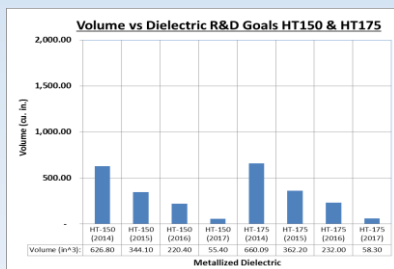
Presently working with other polymers in partnerships with many institutions.



ECI continuing high temperature R&D 2015-2017

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- Continuing development of HT150 and HT175
- 2014 energy densities equivalent to BOPP snubber lines MP80, MP88, 5MP2 (direct replacements at higher temperature)



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ECI R&D goals for 150C and 175C increases in energy density, and reductions in volume and cost.

Look to partner with WBG users for direct-to-switch mounted high temperature snubbers.

- HT150 and HT175 already qualified for replacing BOPP snubbers in equivalent energy densities.
- Peak current capabilities of HT150 and HT175 are rated 10x higher than equivalent sized BOPP snubbers.



Other ECI High temperature research

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- FPE (>200C) – ECI solvent cast and successfully tested to 300C, resin cost prohibitive (>> PPS)
- PEEK (175-200C) – lacks self-healing similar to PPS, ECI stretched and characterized
- PTFE (>200C) – heavy, low voltage stress, research on-going by resin manufacturer
- PEN HV (150-175C) – limited availability, problems with ESR over life in multiple trials
- Other polymers actively under research with universities, government labs, polymer groups, and private companies

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Some other materials studied and characterized for capacitor dielectrics but not actively designed in DC links for reasons shown.

Although many high temperature dielectrics are discussed in conferences and technical bulletins, most are not commercially available for production.

ECI materials research pursues two avenues of studies:

- Market available materials serving other applications to provide sustained availability not driven by dielectric applications.
- New polymers at lab scales evaluated in partnership with external organizations for future development.



End of Presentation

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Contact Electronic Concepts Incorporated for more information or application assistance.

Visit our website at ecicaps.com

Connect with us on Linked In

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Phone: 732-542-7880

Email: sales@ecicaps.com

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Visit our website for further information on available standard product series.

ECI specializes in designing application specific products – please contact us to discuss your particular requirement.

Connect and follow us on Linked In for latest product announcements and discussions.

Revisions

25

- Final 1 – released to APEC for print
- Final 2 – after release corrections made to slides:
 - #2 – correct date range to 201-2017
 - #7 – correct graphs showing PET twice
 - #12 – expanded series with description
 - #15 – correct temperature range from 150C to 125C
 - #20 – correct temperature range from 150C to 175C

3/10/2015

Footer Text