



**SI3N4 SUBSTRATE FOR HYBRID /  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVE TRAIN  
INVERTER POWER MODULE**

Design-to-cost Si3N4 Ag-free AMB Metal Ceramic Substrate

Habib Mustain, Heraeus Electronics – September 2022

## OUTLINE

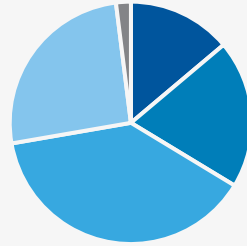
- 1 | **Company overview**
- 2 | **Market trends for EV/HEV drivetrain inverter applications**
- 3 | **Power module packaging trends for automotive applications**
- 4 | **Metal ceramic silicon nitride substrate**
- 5 | **Reliability results**
- 6 | **Summary**

## A GLOBALLY SUCCESSFUL PORTFOLIO COMPANY



**29.5 bn. €**  
**(34.9 bn. US\$)**

**TOTAL REVENUE**  
in 2021

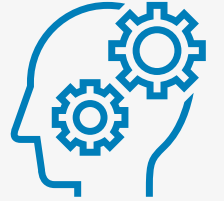


**Germany 14%**  
**Rest of Europe 20%**  
**Asia 39%**  
**America 26%**  
**Africa/Australia 2%**

US\$ calculated with 2021 average exchange rate (1€ = 1.1827 US\$)

Region breakdown based on revenues excl. Precious Metals

**6%** expenditures  
for **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**



based on revenues excl. Precious Metals

**12** market-oriented  
**GLOBAL BUSINESS UNITS**

**TOP 10**  
**FAMILY-OWNED COMPANIES**  
in Germany

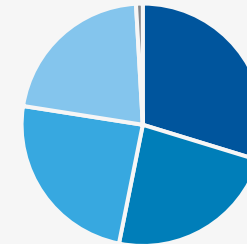
Listed in  
**FORTUNE**  
**Global 500**



More than  
**100** SITES in  
**40** COUNTRIES



Approx.  
**16,200**  
**EMPLOYEES**  
in 2021



**Germany 33%**  
**Rest of Europe 16%**  
**Asia 27%**  
**America 24%**  
**Africa/Australia 1%**

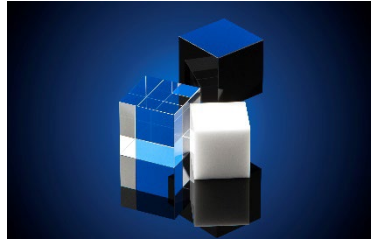
including staff leasing



## BUSINESS PORTFOLIO – LEADING IN GLOBAL MARKETS



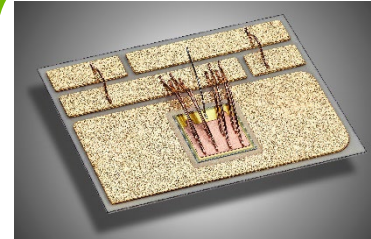
Heraeus  
**Comvance**



Heraeus  
**Conamic**



Heraeus  
**Electro-Nite**



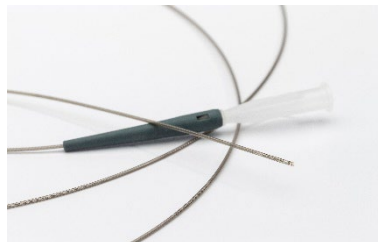
Heraeus  
**Electronics**



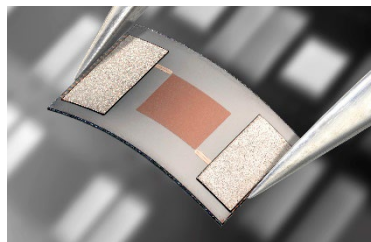
Heraeus  
**Epurio**



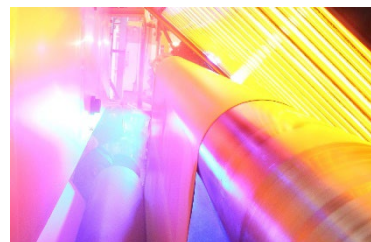
Heraeus  
**Medical**



Heraeus  
**Medical  
Components**



Heraeus  
**Nexensos**



Heraeus  
**Noblelight**



Heraeus  
**Photovoltaics**

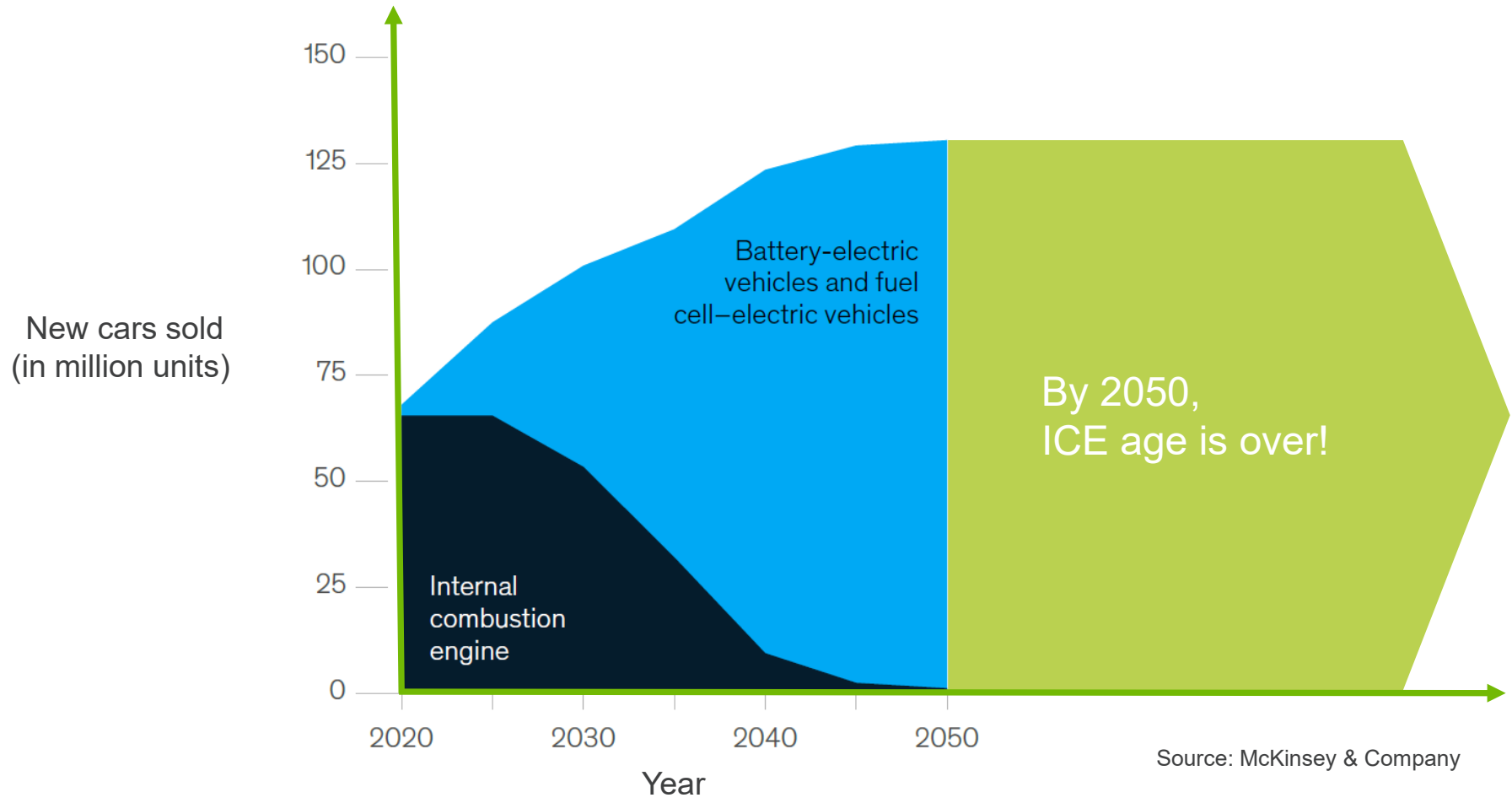


Heraeus  
**Precious  
Metals**



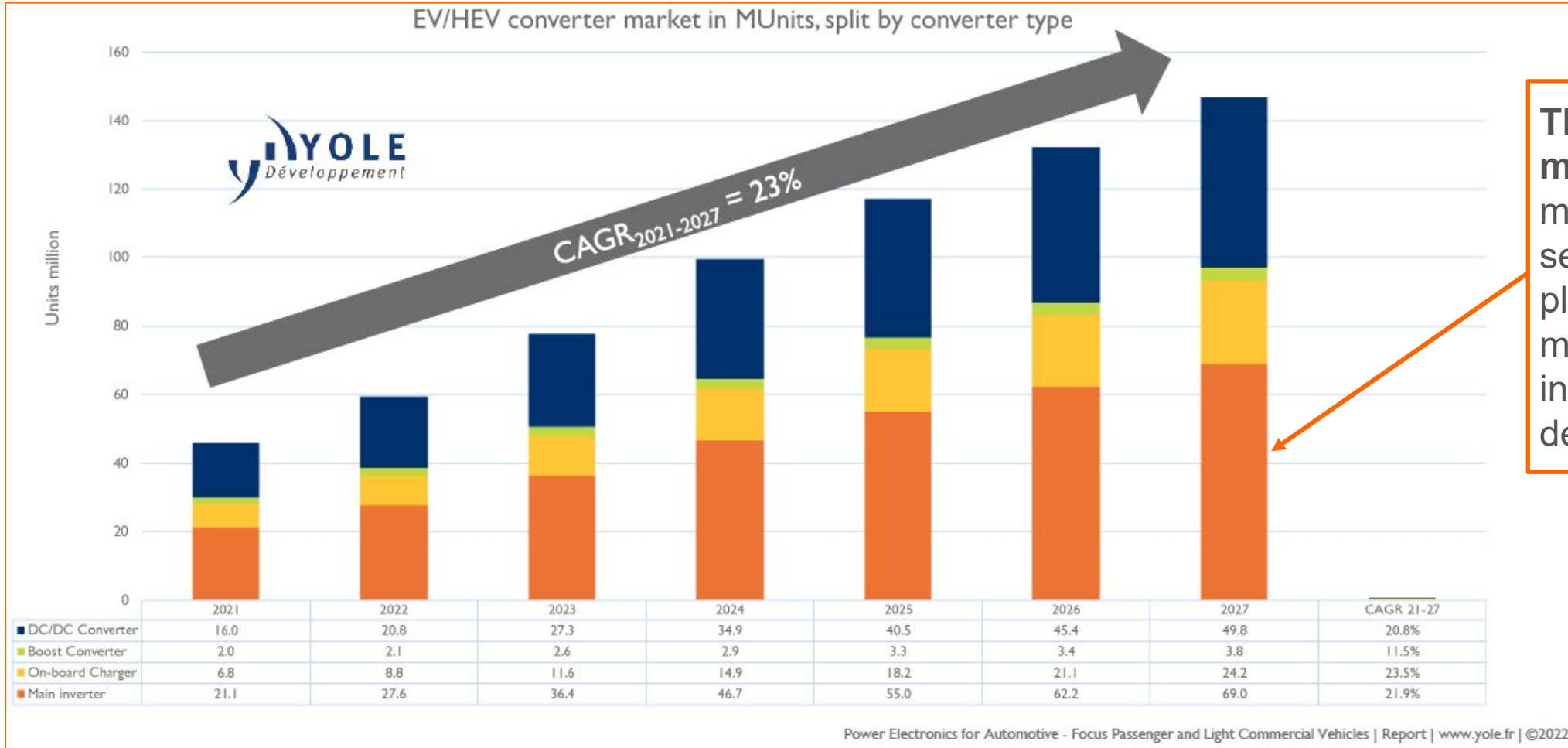
**Norwood  
Medical**

## MARKET TRENDS



Source: McKinsey & Company

# 2021-2027 GLOBAL XEV CONVERTER MARKET SPLIT BY DEVICE TYPE



The largest market segment: most power semiconductor players focus on main drivetrain inverter development

## POWER MODULE PACKAGING TRENDS IN AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATIONS



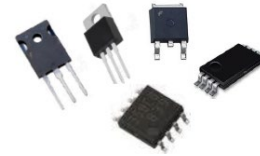
### Power Module

- Many custom designs
- Technology challenges



### Overmolded Module

- Fewer chips in module
- Flexibility in system design and size
- Less investment
- Scalability
- Adopt discrete device supply chain, manufacturing processes and tools

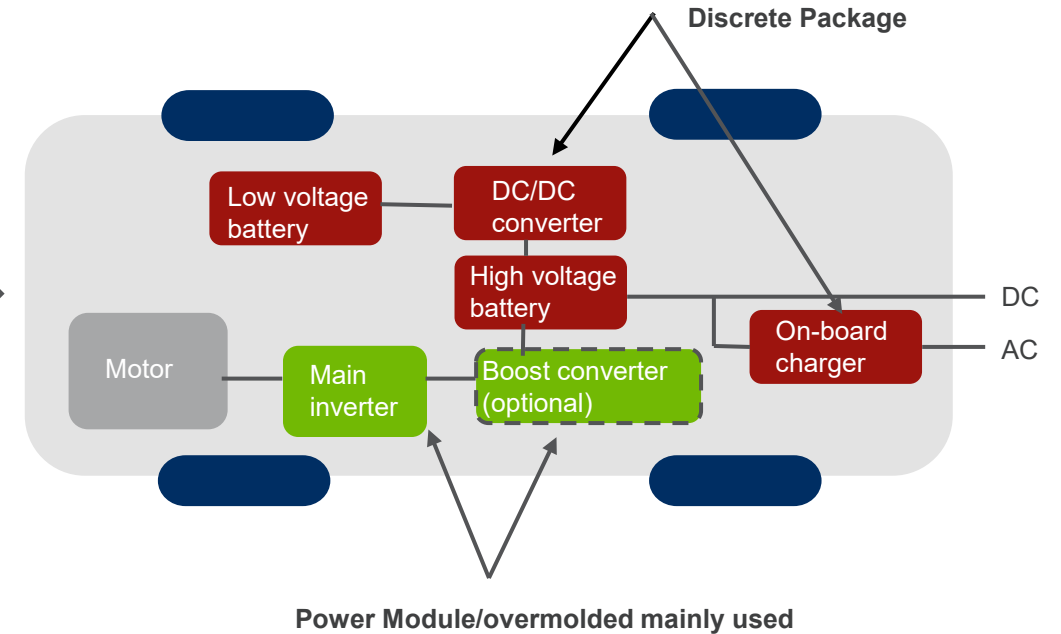


### Discrete Package

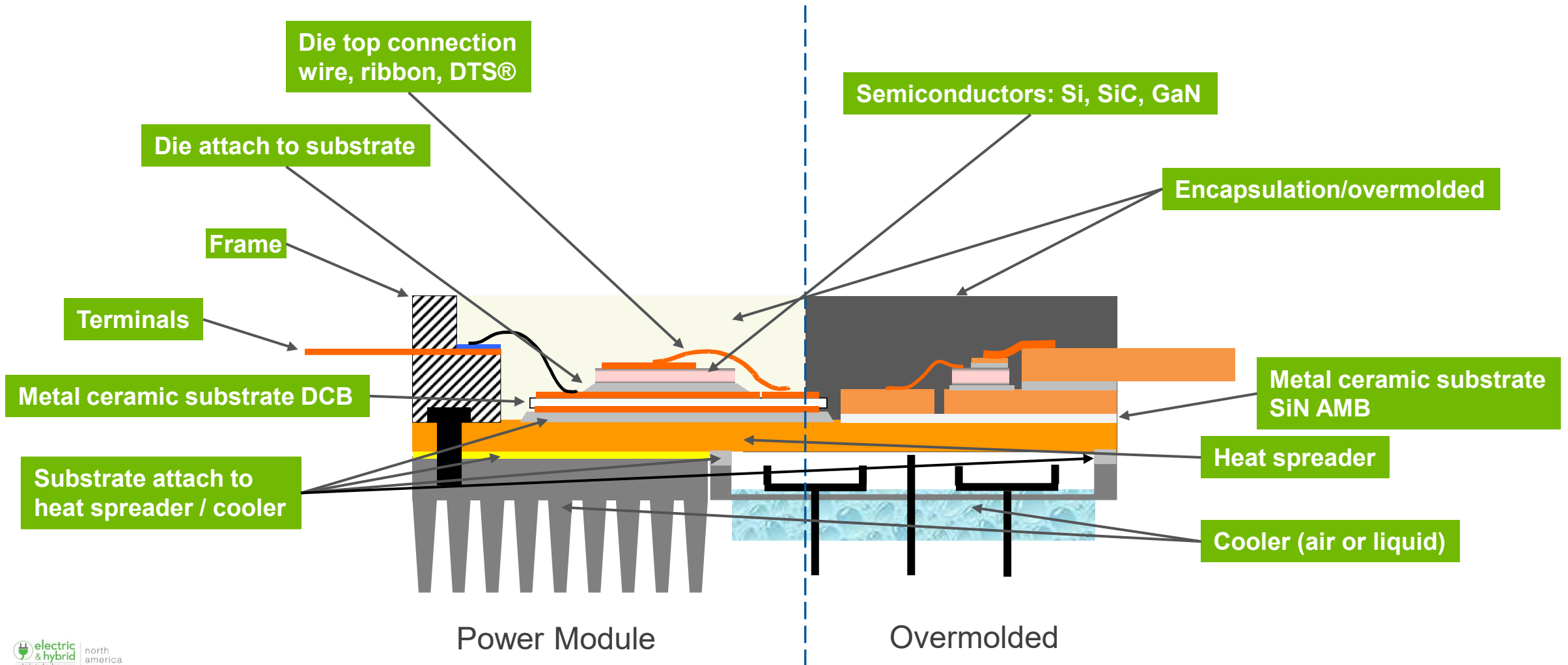
- High level of standardization
- High volume manufacturing



### Battery/Hybrid Electric Vehicle



# PACKAGING MATERIALS IN POWER MODULES





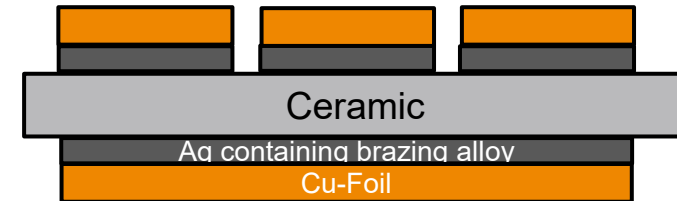
Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> WITH OVERALL BEST PERFORMANCE, CHALLENGE: COST EFFECTIVENESS

	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	ZTA	Si <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>
Thermal conductivity	0	0	++
Bonding process (Cu)	DCB	DCB	AMB
Substrate reliability	0	+	+++
Cu layer thickness	-	0	+++
Substrate cost	+++	++	-

DCB: Direct copper bonding



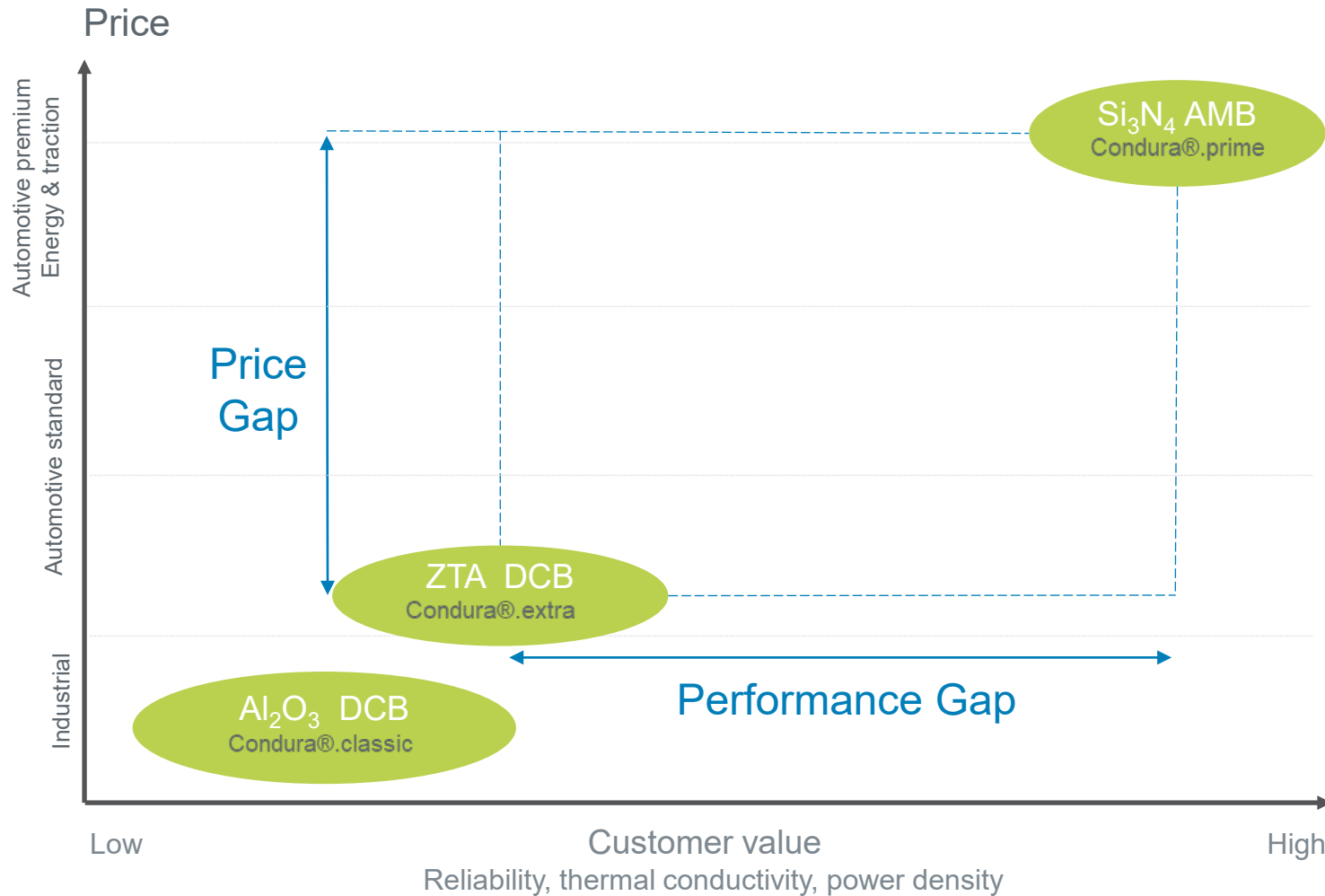
AMB: Active metal brazing



- Oxide based MCS offers sufficient reliability at moderate cost
  - Manufactured by DCB process
- Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> based MCS are typically manufactured by AMB process using Ag based brazing pastes
- Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> based MCS offer high reliability but cost effectiveness is a challenge
- Heraeus Electronics addresses this gap by **Ag free Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> AMB technology**

Source:  
Challenges of New Packaging Solutions for Power Modules, Prof. R. Eisele FH Kiel, Anton Miric HDE, PCIM Conference May 2021  
Silver-free thick film copper bonding for highly reliable metal ceramic substrates, Dr. Andre Schwöbel HDE, CIPS Conference 2022

# STANDARD MCS POSITIONING



### Metal ceramic substrates

Bonding Layer

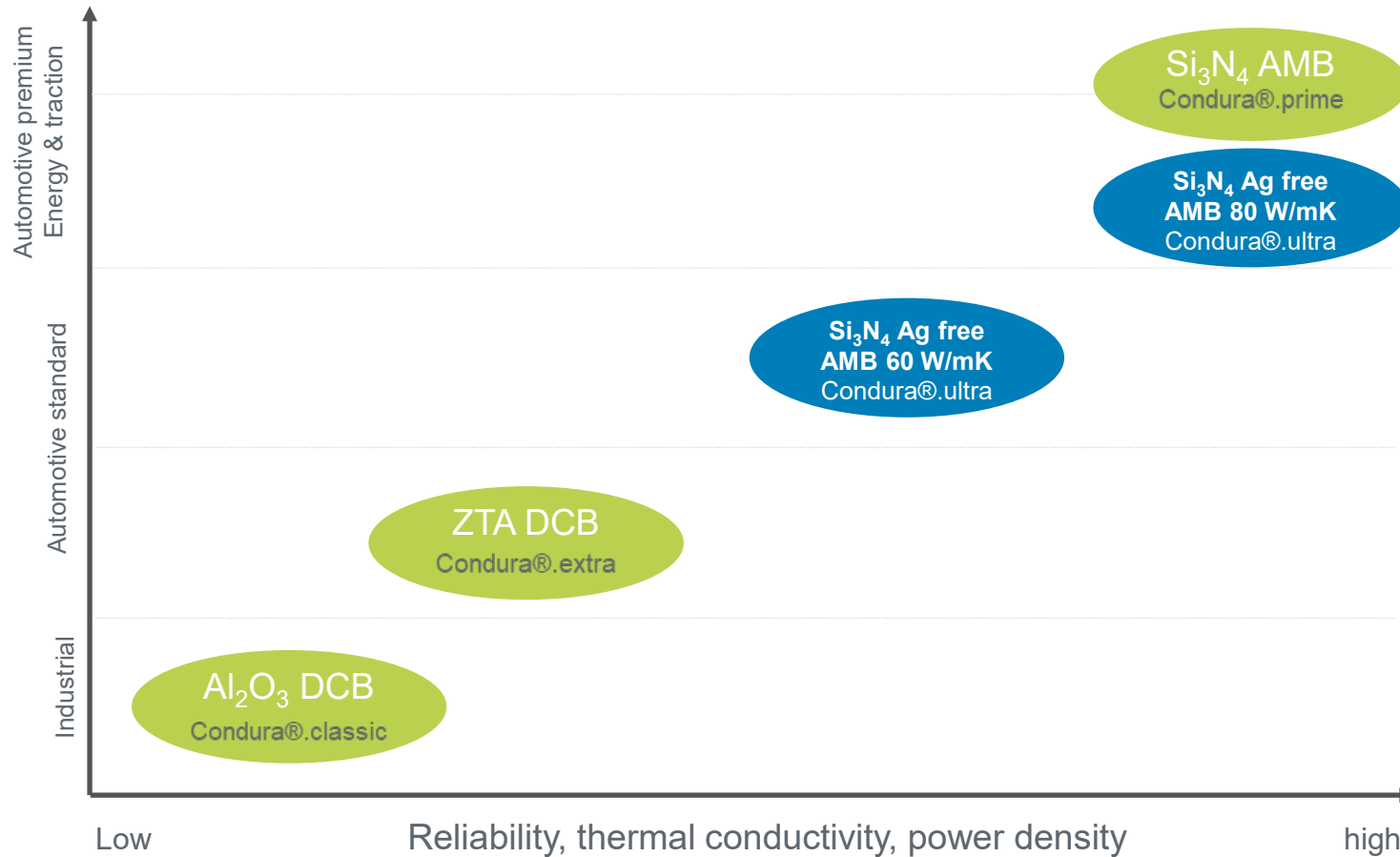
Ceramic

Cu-Foil

- $Al_2O_3$  DCB | industrial, automotive, Si / solder
- ZTA DCB | automotive standard, Si / solder
- $Si_3N_4$  AMB | automotive premium, SiC / sinter

- There is a significant cost & performance gap between ZTA and  $Si_3N_4$  AMB

## PRODUCT POSITIONING FOR $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ AG FREE AMB®



### Meeting Market Needs

- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  is the ceramic material of choice for advanced metal ceramic substrates in automotive
- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  Ag free AMB 80 W/mK offers AMB standard performance with commercial benefits
- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  Ag free AMB 60 W/mK offers AMB standard performance with tailored  $R_{th}$  "Design to cost ceramic"

## PRODUCTION OF NITRIDE CERAMIC-BASED SUBSTRATES

### Paste print and stacking

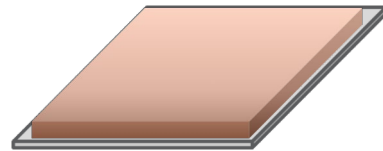
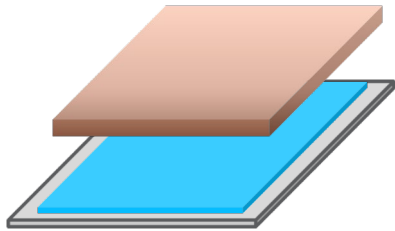
### Bonding Process

### Finishing

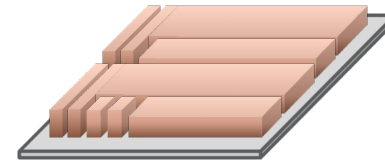
### Conclusion

AMB

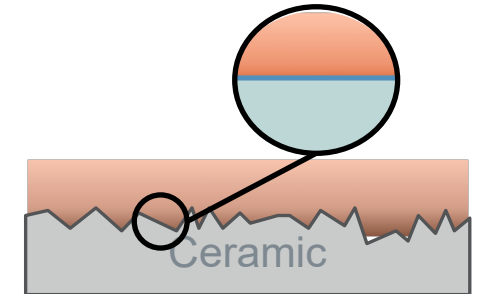
- › Nitride ceramic printed with active metal braze paste
- › Copper foil stacked on both sides
- › Copper and ceramic stack fired in vacuum
- › Long process time



- › Masking and etching
- › Laser scribing and surface finish



- › Ag-based brazing paste
- › Higher costs



Ag free  
AMB

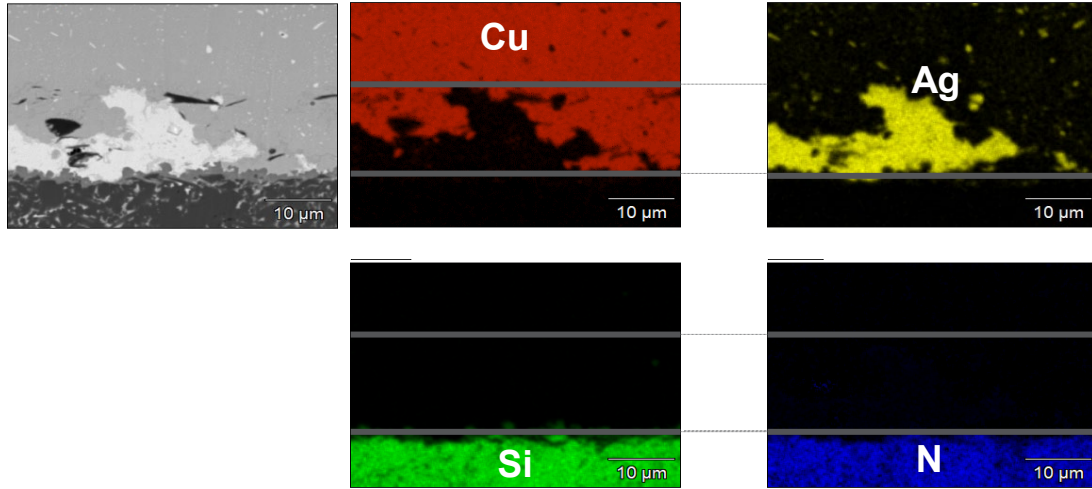
### Heraeus AMB Process

- › Masking and etching
- › Laser scribing and surface finish

- › Ag-free process
- › Reduced costs
- › no Ag migration Risk

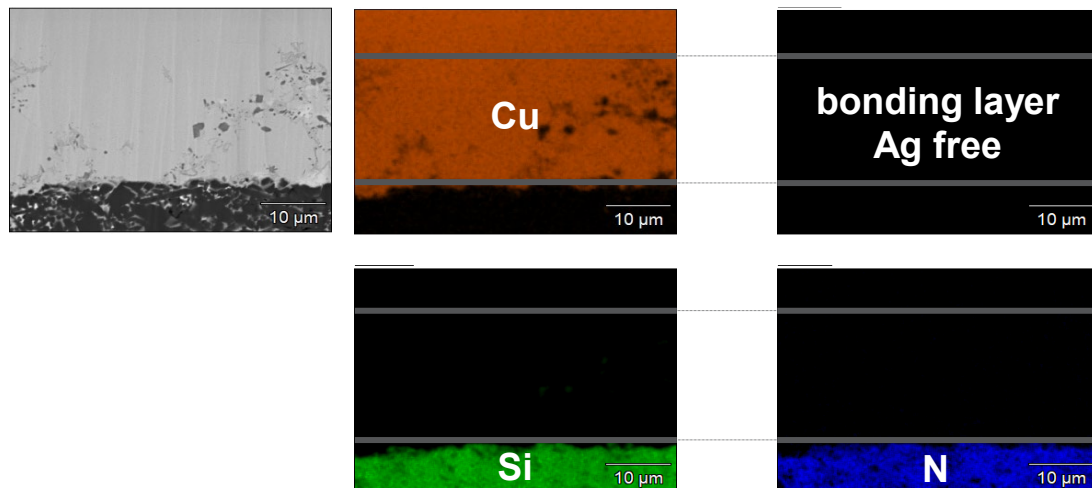
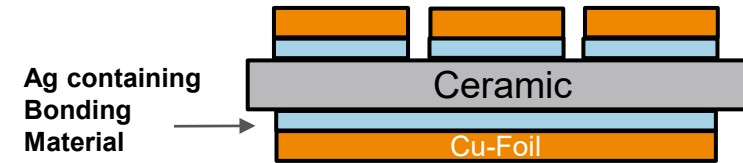
Source: Silver-free thick film copper bonding for highly reliable metal ceramic substrates, Dr. Andre Schwöbel HDE, CIPS Conference 2022

# MATERIAL MAPPING EDS (ENERGY DISPERSIVE SPECTROSCOPY)



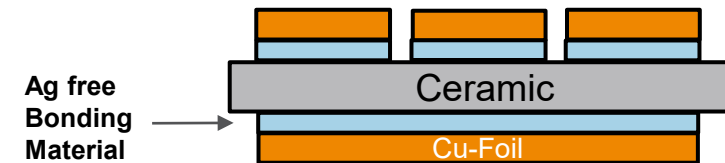
## AMB STANDARD

- Typical AMB brazing pastes contain >60 weight % Ag



## NEW BONDING TECHNOLOGY

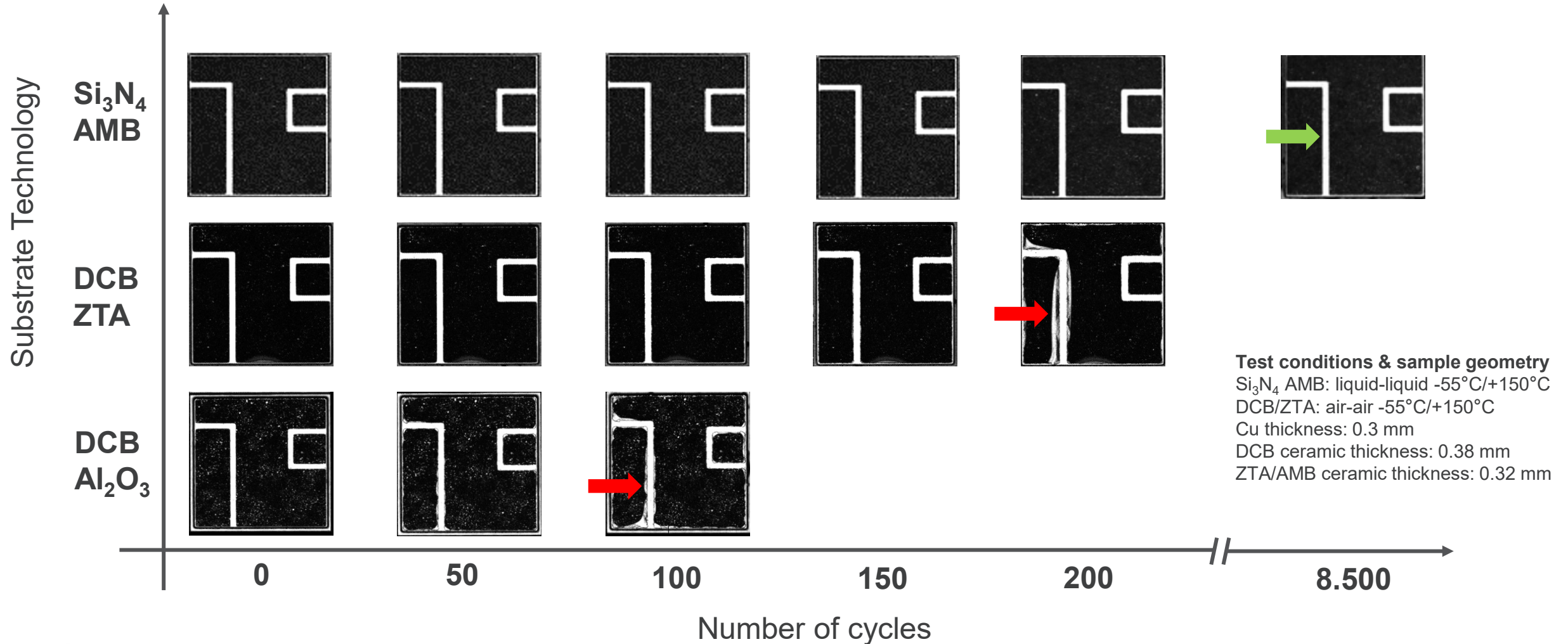
- Bonding material is **Ag-free**  
Effect: reduce costs / avoid Ag-migration



Source: Challenges of New Packaging Solutions for Power Modules, Prof. R. Eisele FH Kiel, Anton Miric HDE, PCIM Conference May 2021



# SAM EVALUATIONS OF VARIOUS MCS TYPES AFTER THERMAL CYCLING



# THERMAL SHOCK PERFORMANCE OF $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ Ag FREE AMB

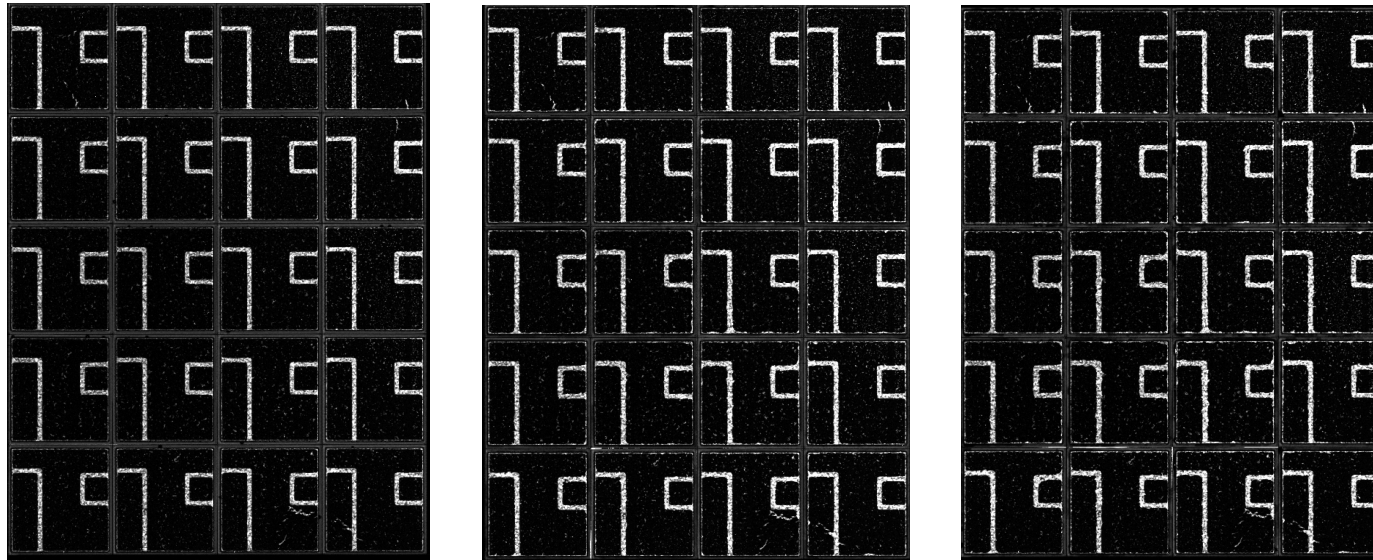
## SAM measurements

## Conclusion

0 cycles

1000 cycles

5000 cycles

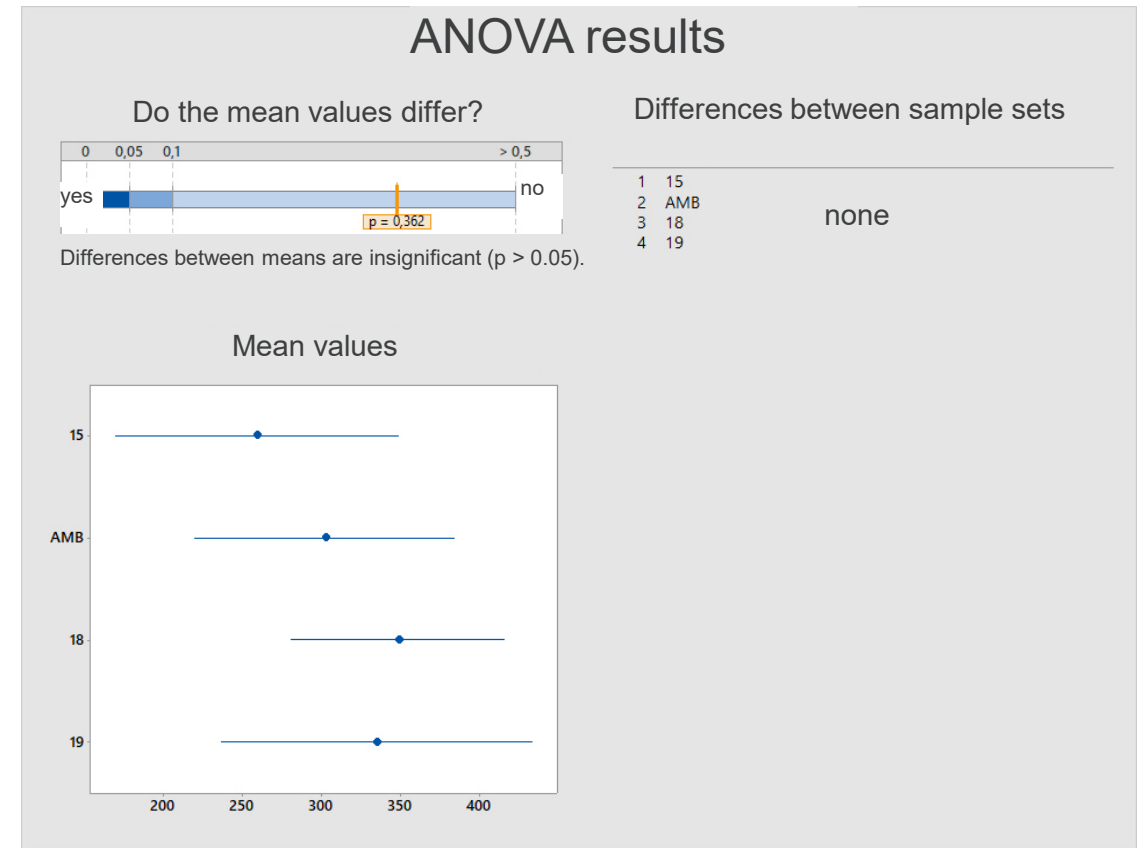


- No major degradation until 5000 cycles thermal shock observed.
- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  Ag free AMB is suitable for high reliability applications.

Material combination: 0.5 mm Cu & 0.32 mm  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  ceramic  
 Test condition:  $-55^\circ\text{C}/+150^\circ\text{C}$ , 5 min dwell time

## POWER CYCLING: COMPARISON STANDARD AND **AG FREE AMB**

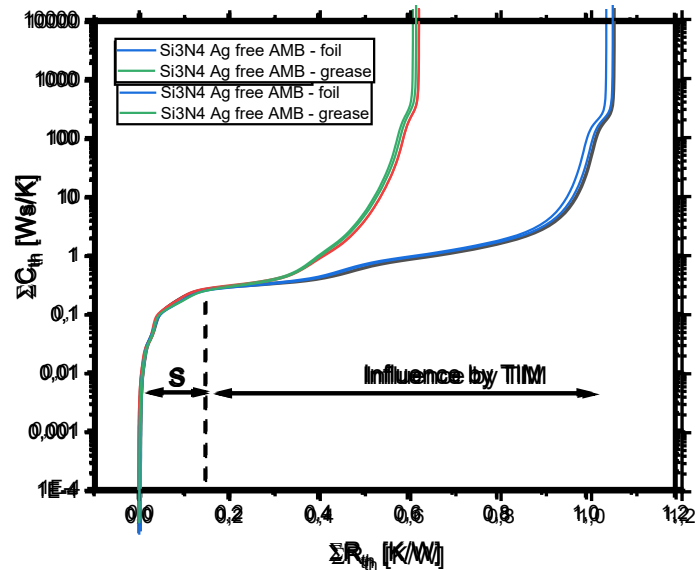
- IISB layout (0.5 / 0.32 / 0.5 )
- Die (SKCD81) sintered with ASP338-28, based plate soldered
- CucorAL 0,3mm;
- dT=85K; P<sub>cmin</sub> (ton 7 s)
- **No significant difference observed in power cycling compared with standard AMB**



# Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ag FREE AMB – THERMAL PERFORMANCE – R<sub>TH</sub> ASSESSMENT

## Initial status - R<sub>th</sub>

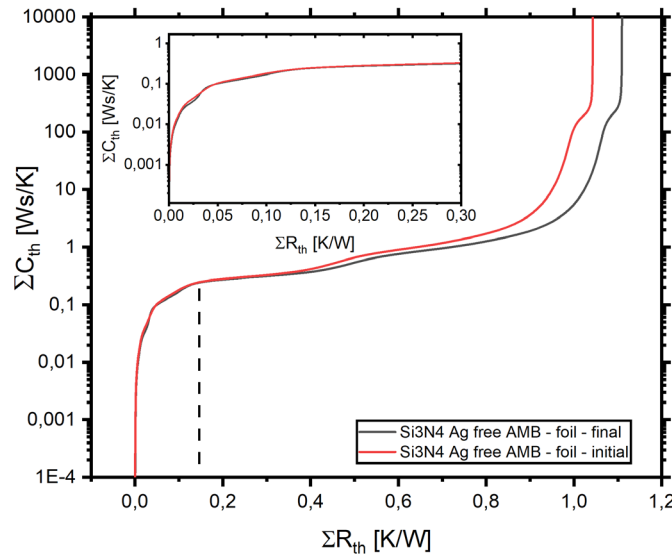
- R<sub>th</sub> assessed by Transient Dual Interface methodology.
- Cooling curve measurement of MCS with sintered diode and different TIMs.
- Point of divergence indicates R<sub>th</sub> of assembly without TIM.



S = metal ceramic substrate

## After HTS - R<sub>th</sub>

- Substrates were aged by high temperature storage (HTS)
  - 1000h
  - 175°C

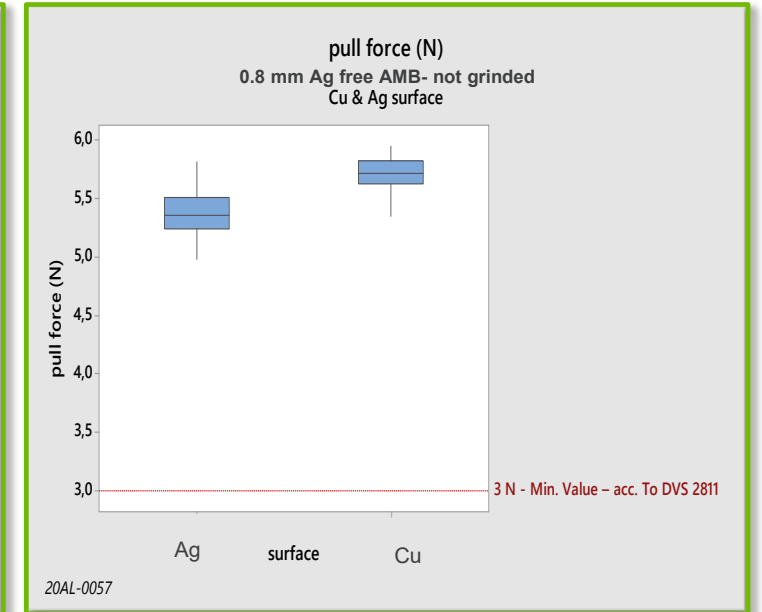
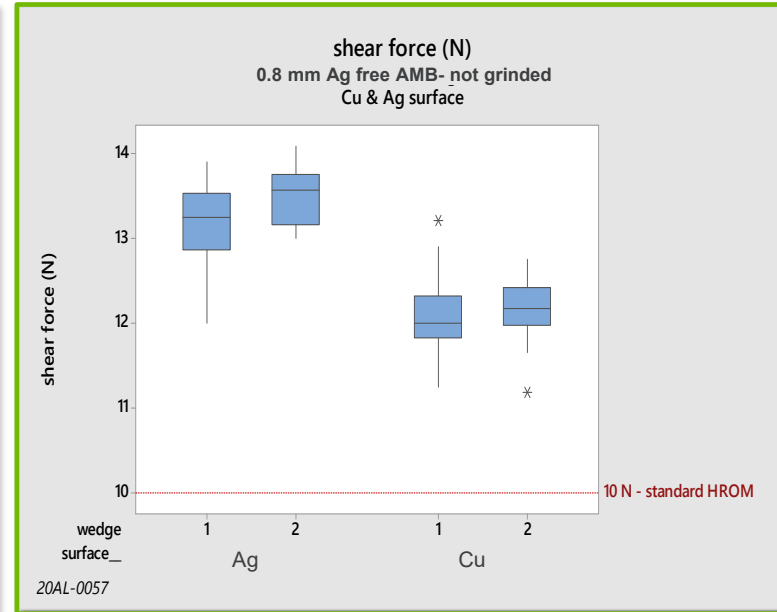
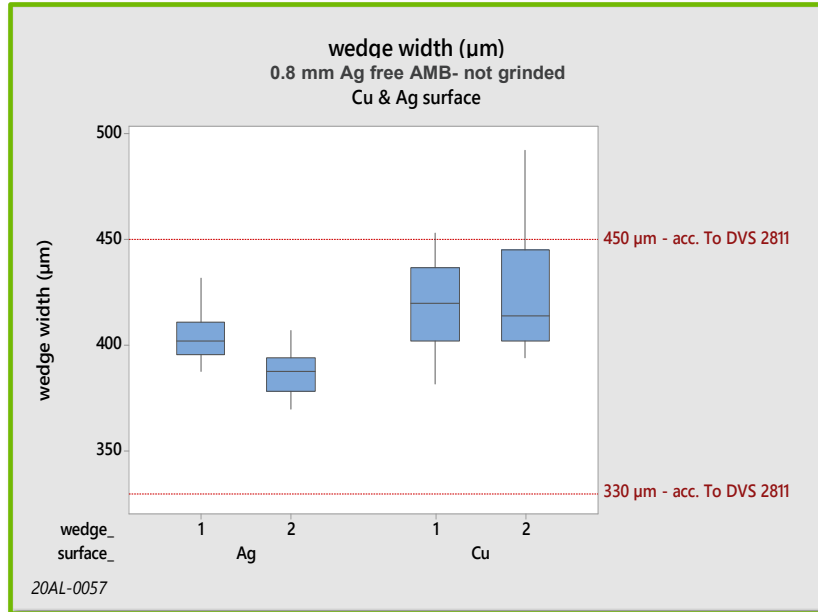


## Conclusion

- No difference in R<sub>th</sub> between our reference Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> AMB and Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ag free AMB.
- HTS does not induce a change in R<sub>th</sub> on Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ag free AMB substrates.

## Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ag FREE AMB – WIRE BONDABILITY

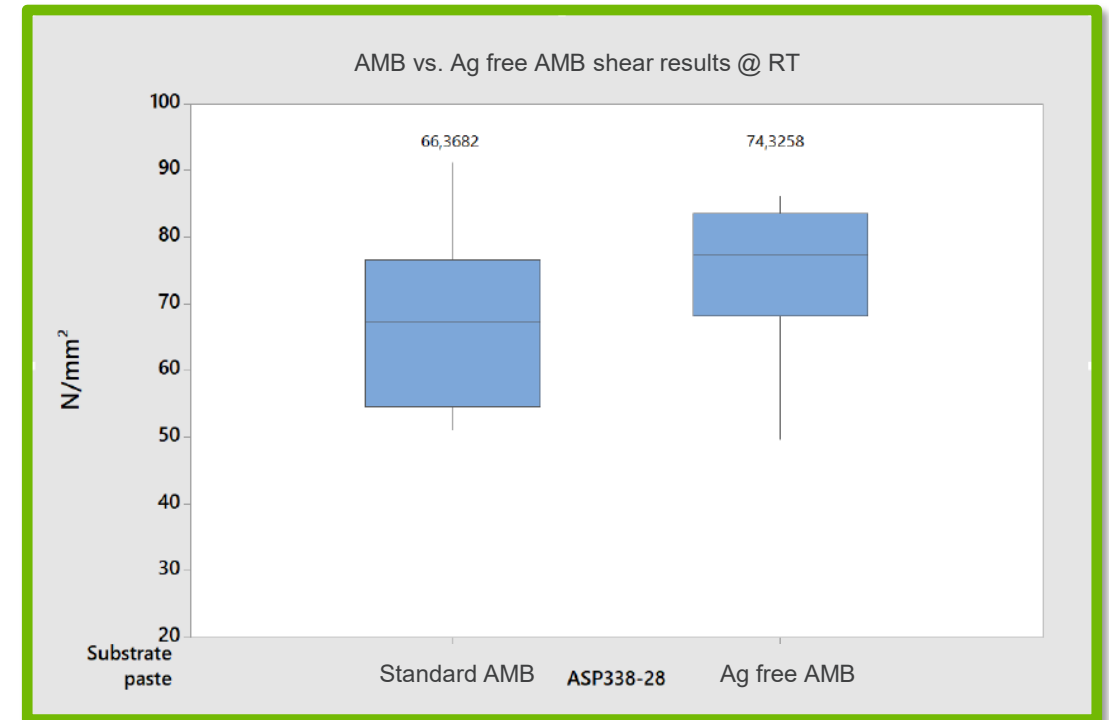
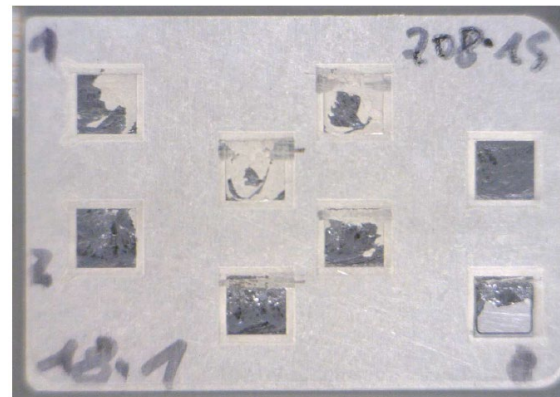
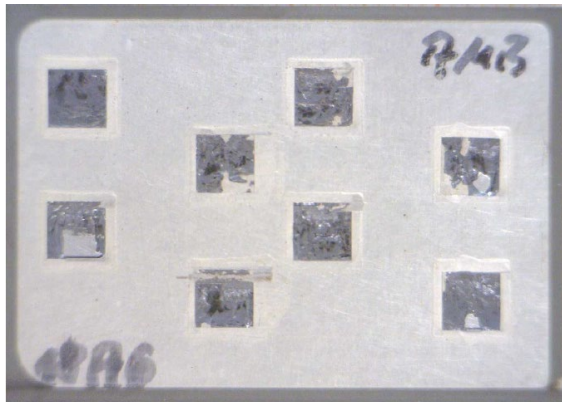
- IISB layout (0.5 / 0.32 / 0.5 )
- Wire: 300µm Al-H11
- Tool: 127 153 - 12B Standard
- Shear test (XYZTEC) 1000µm shear tool / Pull test (XYZTEC) 600µm hook
- **All in spec**





## Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ag FREE AMB – SINTERABILITY

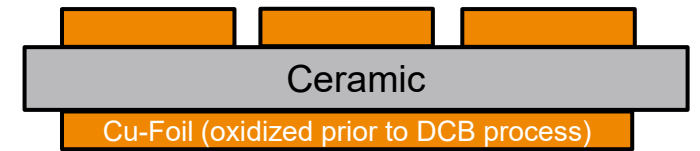
- IISB layout (0.5 / 0.32 / 0.5 )
- Paste: ASP338-28
- Diode: SKCD16 (4x4x0.24 mm) Ag metallization
- Pressure: 20 MPa; Time 5 min
- **No significant difference observed compared with AMB in shear force and failure mode (mixed failure mode).**



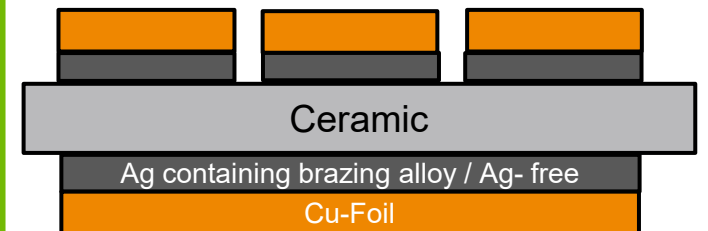
# FINAL COMPARISON MCS SUBSTRATE PORTFOLIO

	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Condura®.classic	ZTA Condura®.extra	Si <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Condura®.prime	Si <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> (80W/mK) Condura®.ultra	Si <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> (60W/mK) Condura®.ultra
Thermal conductivity	+ -	+ -	++	++	+
Bonding process (Cu)	DCB	DCB	AMB	AMB Ag free	AMB Ag free
Substrate reliability	+ -	+	+++	+++	+++
Cu layer thickness	-	+ -	+++	+++	+++
Substrate cost	+++	++	-	+ -	+

## DCB: Direct copper bonding



## AMB: Active metal brazing



Source:  
 Challenges of New Packaging Solutions for Power Modules, Prof. R. Eisele FH Kiel, Anton Miric HDE, PCIM Conference May 2021  
 Silver-free thick film copper bonding for highly reliable metal ceramic substrates, Dr. Andre Schwöbel HDE, CIPS Conference 2022

## CONDURA®.ULTRA Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> AG FREE AMB PRODUCT TIMELINE AND AVAILABILITY

Samples available

NOW !

Qualification

2022

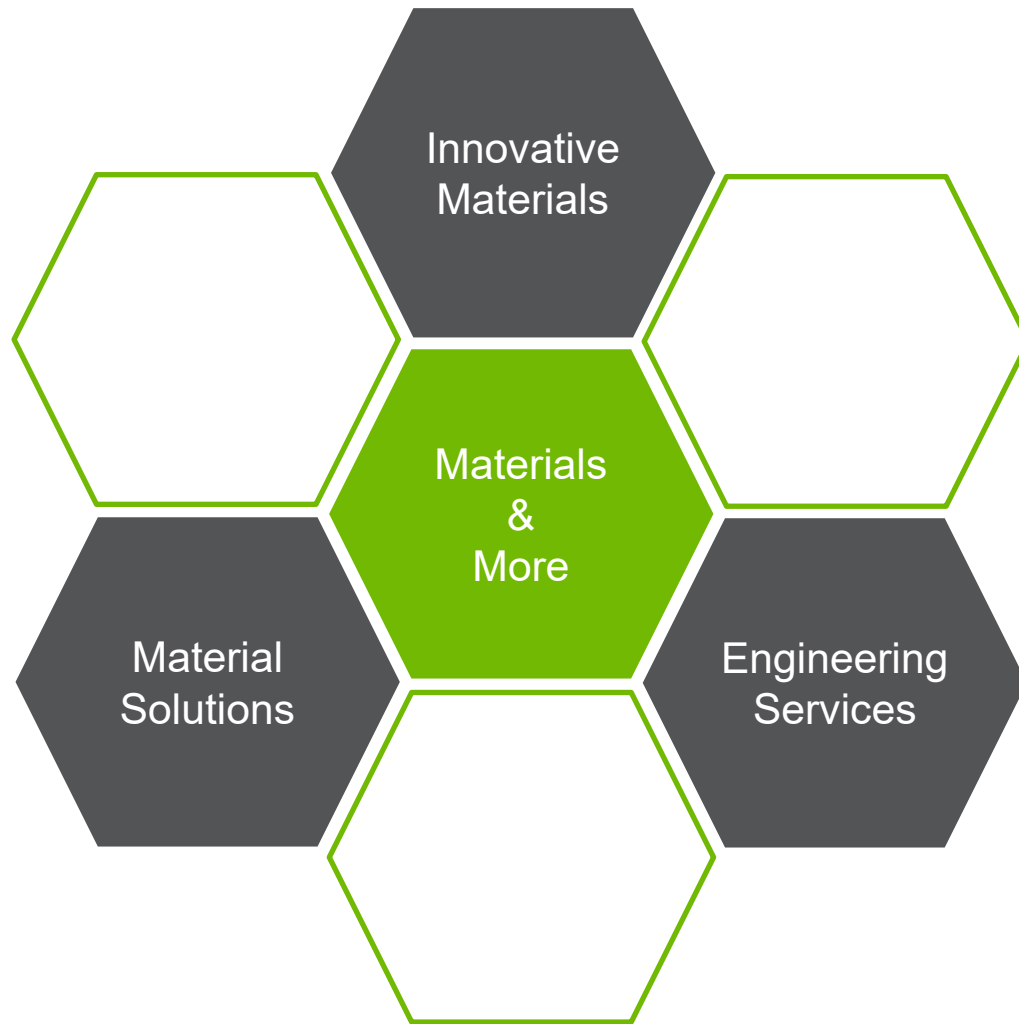
SOP

2023

## SUMMARY

$\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  Ag free AMB fully levers the advantages of the highly reliable  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  ceramics:

- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  Ag free AMB shows similar thermal cycling capability as AMB
- No difference in  $R_{\text{th}}$  vs  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  AMB
- No influence by HTS
- No risk of Ag migration
- Same processability as  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  AMB (confirmed by lead customers)



Thank you for your attention.  
For more information, visit  
our **booth # 1637** or contact  
[habib.mustain@heraeus.com](mailto:habib.mustain@heraeus.com)