Electric Drive Component Manufacturing Facilities

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Project Duration: FY09 to FY12

DOE Vehicle Technologies Program
Advanced Power Electronics and Electric Motors R&D
FY12 Kickoff Meeting

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The Problem

- Component manufacturing costs are driven largely by production quantity, and to achieve high production volumes, low cost components are required.

- Without high volume commitment from OEMs, component manufacturers are unwilling to invest in the equipment, tooling, and other supply chain costs to bring propulsion system prices down.

- Without low cost propulsion systems, OEMs are unable to price vehicles at a level that will create consumer demand.
Project Overview

Focus Area: *motors and power electronics (traction drive system) ➔ manufacturing*

Objective

- This project aims to address the problem by making manufacturing investments to facilitate lower costs, and therefore, higher volumes within electrified vehicle markets

Addresses Targets

- UQM Technologies is focusing on two markets within this project by taking existing products and applying manufacturing disciplines and investments to bring costs down and volumes up
  - Automotive (100 to 135 kW)
  - Truck and Bus (150 to 220 kW)

Uniqueness and Impacts

- UQM’s established technology and decades of vehicle electrification experience provide a solid foundation to apply manufacturing principles and disciplines
Description of Technology/Approach

- Apply Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DFM/DFA) principles to existing products to create low cost electric propulsion systems that can be manufactured in volume, following Advanced Product Quality Planning (APQP) and Control Plans, creating quality products that meet SAE Standards

- Create a manufacturing facility that supports high volume component manufacturing

- Set up production lines and systems to support an initial rate of at least 20,000 units a year on a single shift

- Establish multiple suppliers for key components to minimize timing and volume delivery risks

- Design manufacturing systems that are flexible enough to adapt to evolving technologies and product variants
Accomplishments to Date

- Renovated and moved into a facility that provides the company with sufficient manufacturing space to achieve the objectives of the program
  - 13,000 square meters / 140,000 square feet
  - Facility contains all UQM operations
- Completed in July 2010
Accomplishments to Date

- Designed and implemented production lines to support the objective volumes
  - Motor Production Line
  - Controller Production Line
- Completed in June 2011, including product PPAP
- 28 new hires over the last 18 months for production assembly and related activities (e.g., manufacturing engineering, quality)
Accomplishments to Date

- Completed the Production Part Approval Process (PPAP) for the automotive product (100 kW motor and controller)

- Design and process validation includes the following standards
  - Mechanical Vibration: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Mechanical Shock: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Humidity Cycle: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Salt Fog: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Thermal Cycle: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Water Immersion: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Liquid Contaminant Splash: SAE J1455 Heavy duty truck standard  Passed
  - Pressure Wash: DIN 40 050  Passed
  - Electrical System Qualification: Battery of tests based on previous experience  Passed
Accomplishments to Date

- Initiated production work on the bus/truck product (220 kW motor and controller)

- Preliminary Specifications include the following:
  - 220 kW Peak Power (295 hp)
  - 120 kW Continuous Power (161 hp)
  - 700 N-m Peak Torque (517 lb-ft)
  - 6000 RPM Top Speed
  - 360 VDC to over 700 VDC nominal
  - Concept units being tested
  - DV and PV units in 2012
Accomplishments to Date

• Completed the prototype 220kW systems and began design validation testing

• Prototype 220 kW systems sent to key customers for early development testing
Accomplishments to Date Summary

- High volume manufacturing facility is in place
- Automotive production system is complete, manufacturing lines are running, and product is being supplied to high volume customers
- Well over a thousand production 100 kW systems built on the production line
Accomplishments to Date Summary

- Bus/Truck production system is being tested and production is planned for calendar year 2012
- No exclusivity agreements exist and these systems may be supplied to any customer with production programs
- UQM continues to plan next generation product offerings with leading edge technologies and evolving standards in mind
FY12 Approach and Challenges

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- **Truck/Bus Concept Unit Testing**
- **Truck/Bus Production Planning**
- **DV (soft tooled) Truck/Bus System**
- **Go No/Go Decision Point**
- **Design Validation Test Results**
- **PV Planning and Implementation**

**Go No/Go Decision Point:** Concept Unit and Design Validation Unit customers are identified and Production Line investments will be made based upon programs that support the investments.

**Challenges/Barriers:** Truck and Bus customers are generally lagging behind automotive customers relative to production decisions and the volumes are lower. UQM is careful to launch the PV phase only when the opportunities justify the investment.
FY12 Approach Highlights

- The electrified truck and bus markets are important segments to address within the VTP Program
- Creating a production-intent system, through design validation, is an important step toward fielding these vehicles
- Analysis of the market and UQM’s opportunities will be an important step before launching production lines for this system
- This is a continuing project from FY11 and no changes in the scope have occurred