



# DRIVESTART

OVERVIEW

# Solcon Group overview



200

Employees 3 subsidiaries  
(Europe, USA and Asia)



40

years in business



Over  
100

International Partners



Over  
250,000

Installations WW



Full scope of both MV & LV SST  
and Motor Protection



# GROUP OVERVIEW - GLOBAL OPERATIONS



## Standardization & Certification



Lloyd's Register  
Marine



ClassNK

# LOW VOLTAGE PRODUCTS - DIGITAL



**iStart**



- ✓ Full Range – up to 1100A
- ✓ Internal Bypass
- ✓ Modular Design
- ✓ 3 & 2 Phase control
- ✓ Multi-language Support



**RVSDN**



- ✓ Heavy Duty - Up to 3000A
- ✓ External Bypass
- ✓ Marine Type Tested



# MEDIUM VOLTAGE SOFT STARTERS



**DriveStart**

- Groundbreaking, IGBT based MV Soft Starter
- Ratings: up to 6.6KV
- Optimized for applications that require low starting current and/or a high starting torque



**HRVSDN PowerStart**

- MV Soft Starter in Fully Type Tested Switchgear
- Ratings: 2300-15000V, up to 48MW
- Reliable, heavy duty soft starter
- Integrated data Logger



# POWER CONTROL PRODUCTS



**TPS**



Low voltage  
Power Control System



**MV TPS**



Medium Voltage  
Power Control System



# WHO AM I?



**2010 – today** - Solcon Industries Ltd. - Vice President Engineering and Projects - Management of all global engineering activities in the company, in Europe as well as in the USA including, managing engineering groups in Europe and USA.

**2005-2010** - Solcon Industries Ltd. - Technical support manager - working with clients abroad.

Pre-sale, after-sale & commissioning of low and Medium voltage soft starters and motor protection relays.

**1993-2005** - Consulting Engineers "R. Cohen & Assoc.". - Design electrical installations of all types, high voltage installations, low voltage, low voltage, power distribution, special projects.

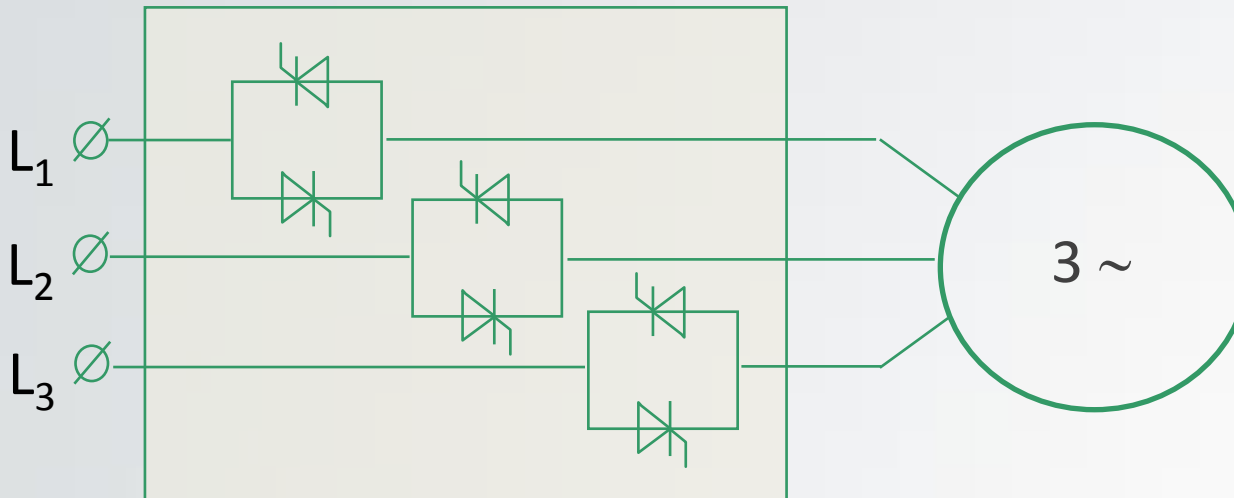
**1983-1988** - Electrician in a Navy vessel.



# CLASSIC LV SOFT STARTER

A soft starter controls motor currents by controlling motor's voltage

Low voltage soft starter

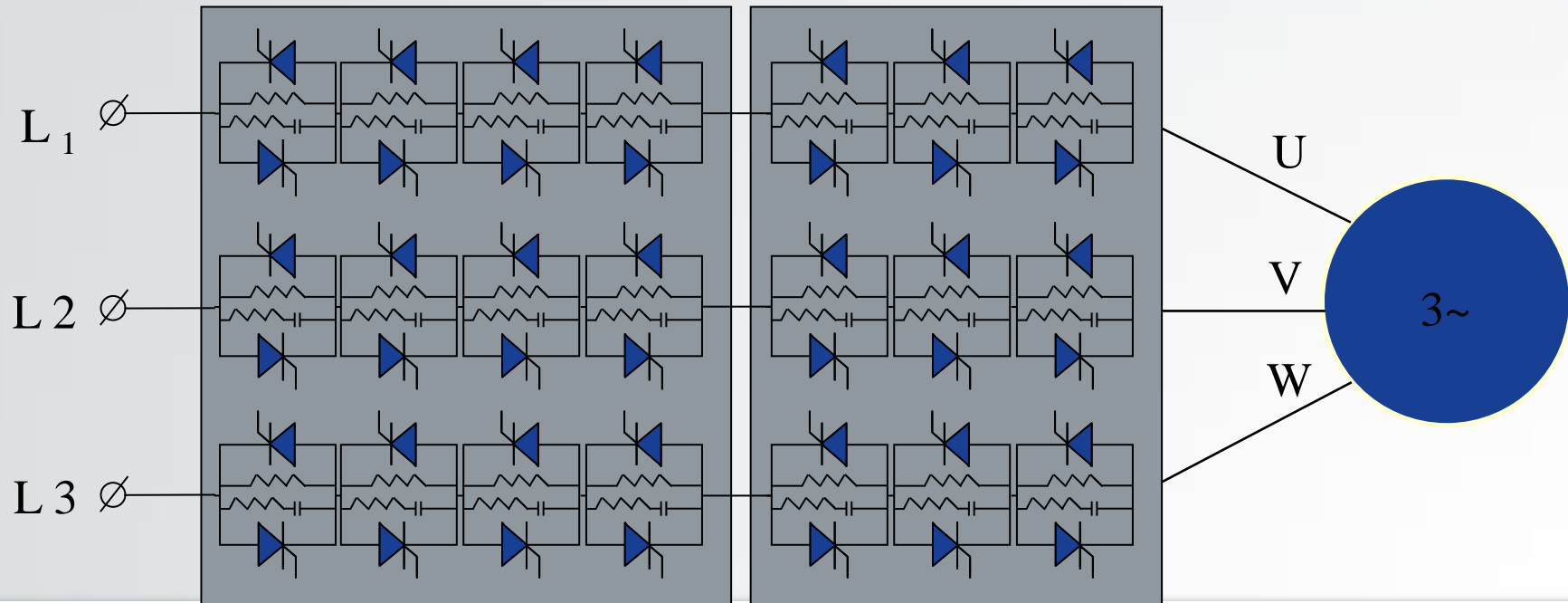




# CLASSIC **MV** SOFT STARTER

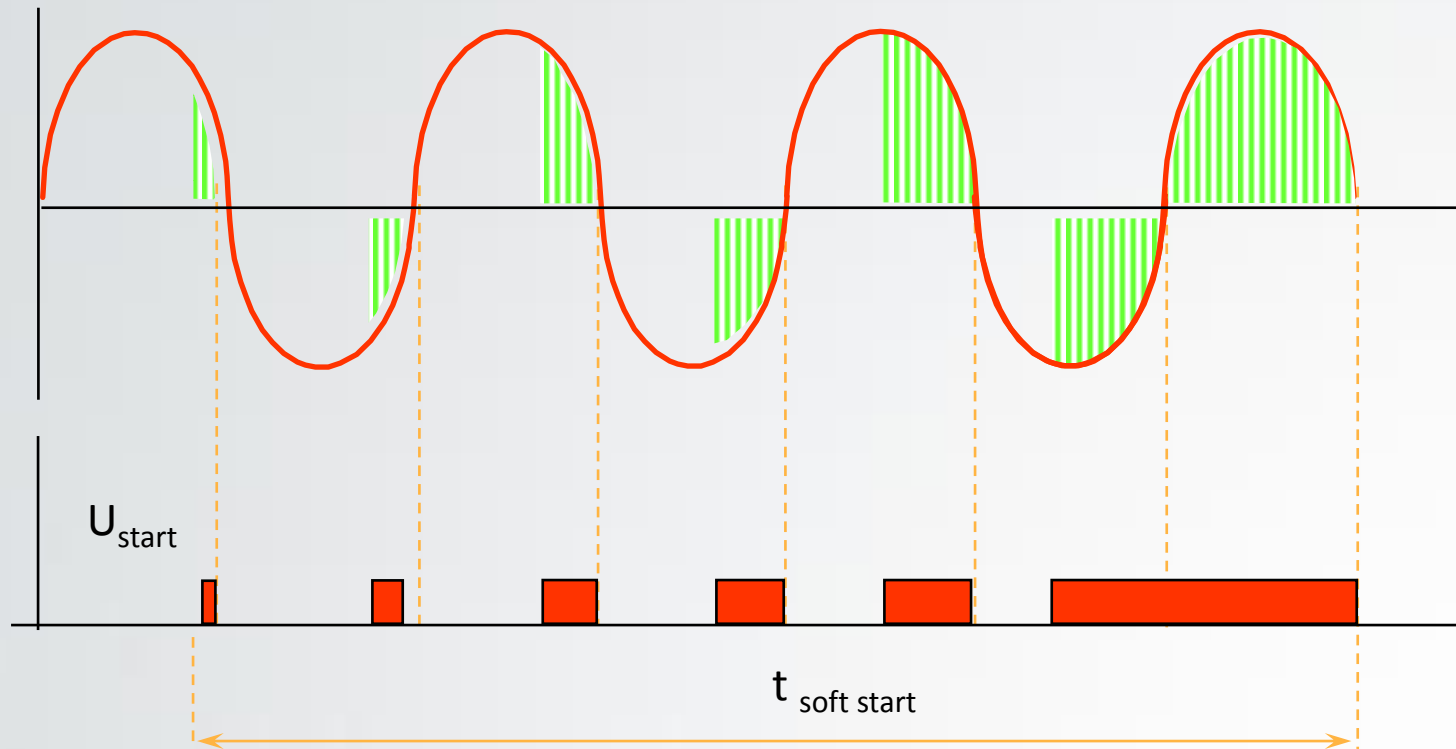


Medium Voltage soft starter



# CLASSIC SOFT STARTER

The firing point of thyristors determines output voltage level



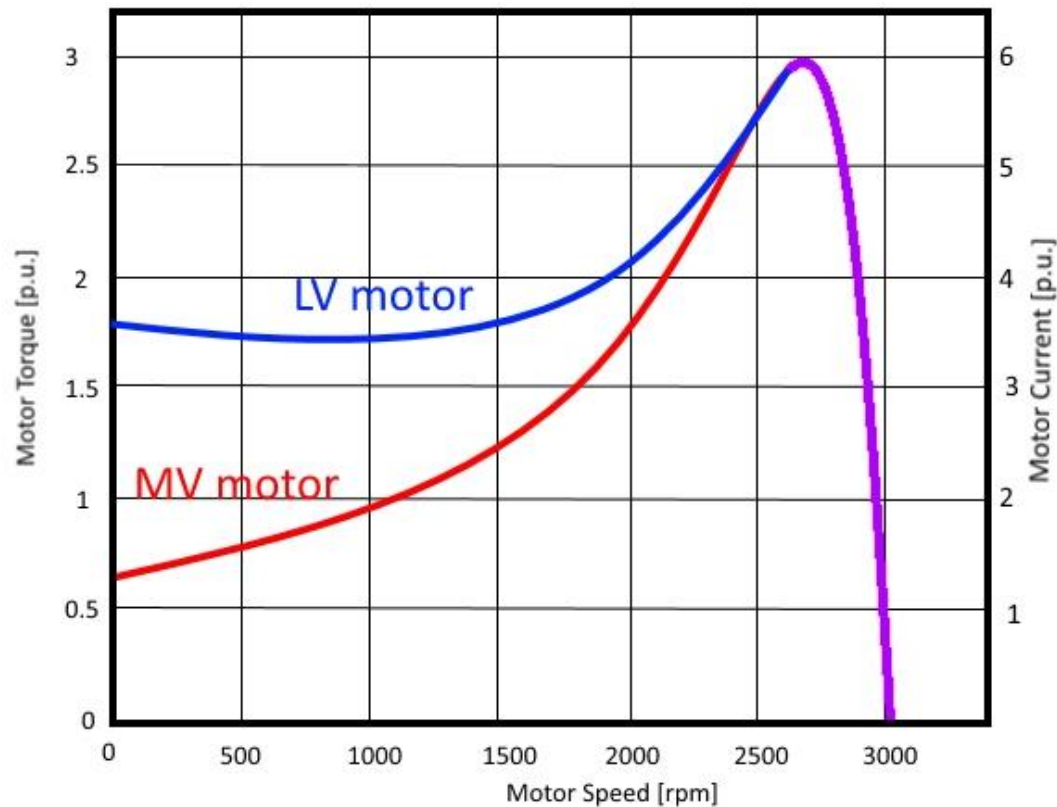
# CLASSIC SCR TECHNOLOGY SOFT STARTERS

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- Reduced voltage starting where the operating frequency is fixed and equal to the mains frequency
- Softstart with SCR technology controls
  - Current (I) - reduced in direct ratio to V
  - Torque (T) - reduced in ratio to  $I^2$
- For most applications (pumps, compressors...) reducing voltage is a good solution - reducing current, while still having enough torque
- Slip (S) starts at 1.0 and reduces during start process to  $\approx 0.006$  for large motors.
- Motor efficiency is lower than 1-S
- Motor efficiency is very low, accompanied by motor heating
- Usually, maximum necessary starting current  $\approx 250\%$ - $400\%$  of the rated current
- Solcon has manufactured soft starters for rated currents up to 3000A and 13.8kV.

# MV MOTOR TORQUE VS. LV MOTOR TORQUE DURING START

Very significant difference between LV and MV motor torque behavior during start



# CLASSIC SOFT STARTER

Loads that require **high torque** and therefore cannot allow significant voltage reduction

Applications that require **both high starting torque and low starting current**

Ex: **Marine applications** using local generators as a power source

Even **mains applications** sometimes require low starting current

Starting capacitors are often incorporated in the Input Side of soft starters to reduce the starting current

Certain applications require **speed control** during the starting process

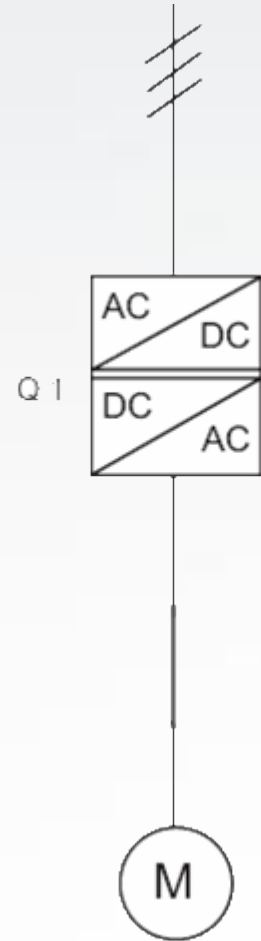
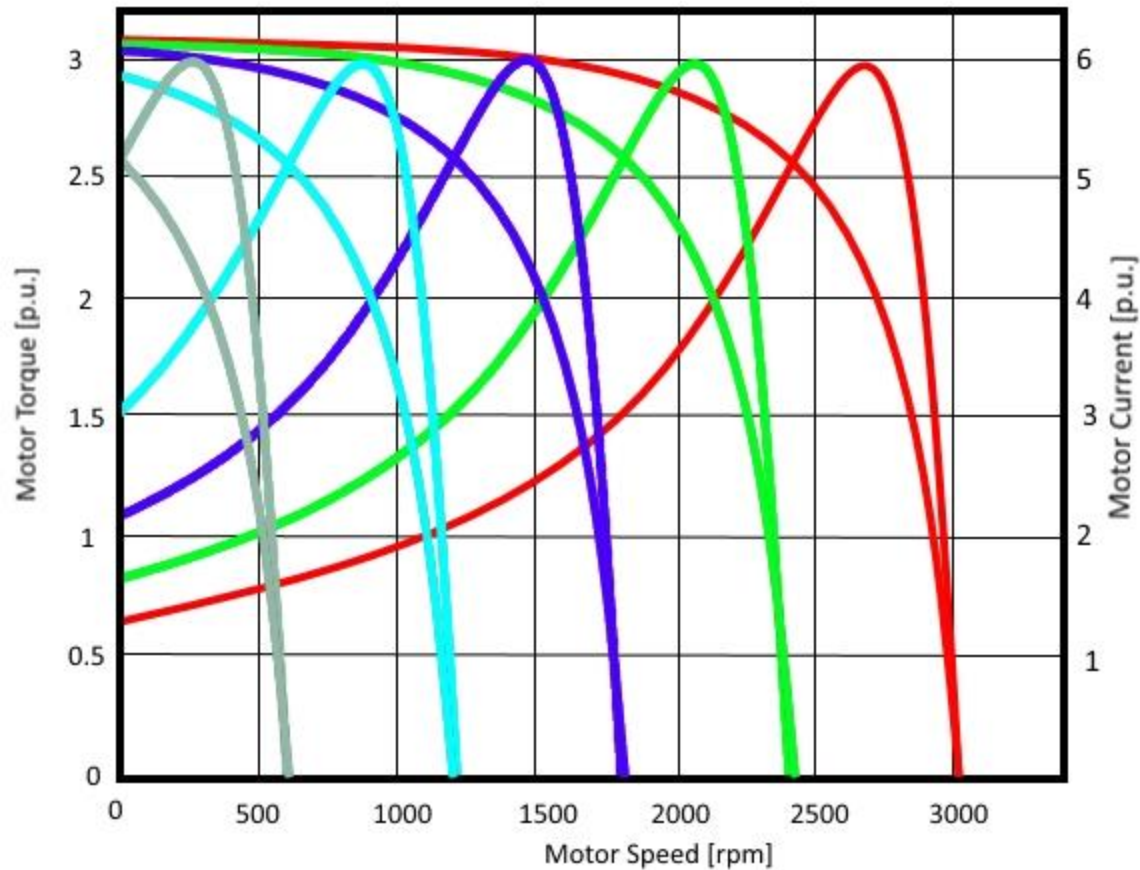
Conveyor belts require “S” profile, long starting process and high torque

High pressure water pumps in desalination plants require monitoring of the rate of pressure change. A value greater than 1 bar per second can damage membranes.

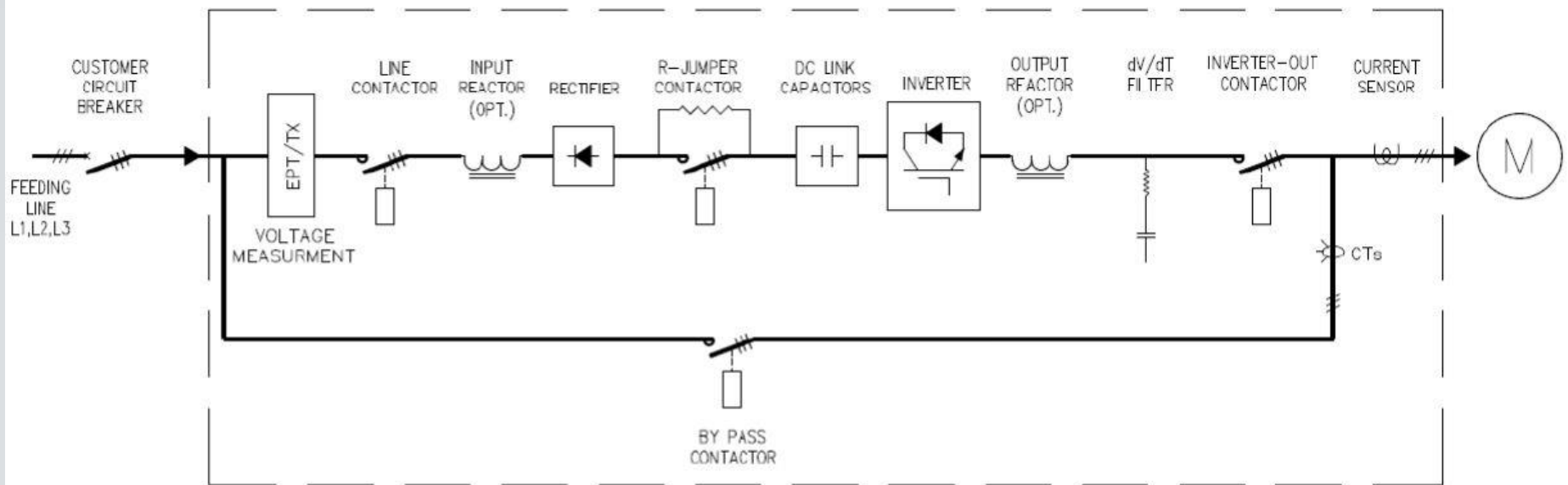
Classic soft starters with tacho generator feedback can be used, but heat developing in the rotor during a long start often requires forced cooling or special more expensive motors.



# WHY DRIVESTART?



# DRIVESTART TOPOLOGY



# DriveStart (DST) Principles

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## Soft Starter based on IGBT technology

3 Level, 6 Pulse, Neutral Point Clamped (NPC) Inverter

### Incoming stage

Mains Voltage is rectified and charges **2 “large” Capacitors** (a few  $\mu\text{F}$  per each Ampere of motor rated current) and creates **double DC BUS**, one positive and one negative.

### Inverter

DC voltages supply, 3 branches of transistors, one branch per phase  
Each Branch includes (for 3300V & 4150V mains) 4 power transistors

The switching elements are Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor (IGBT)





# WHY DRIVESTART

## Advantages over SCR starting technology

- Starting at very **low current** ( +/- Nominal current)
- Much **higher** starting **torque** available
- Greatly **reduced Heating** in Motor Rotor
- Nearly **unlimited** number of **starts** per hour
- Low Speed operation – **Inching/Jogging**
- Change Rotation Direction **without** additional external contactor



# DRIVESTART VS. STANDARD VFD STARTER

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- **Synchronised** closing of **Bypass** Contactor at end of acceleration **soft start**
- **Synchronised** opening of **Bypass** for **soft stop**
- **Closed Transition** Bypass – No spikes or Dips Frequency, Phase and Voltage level
- **Minimal Transients** after Bypass - only few cycles
- **Air Cooled** cooling system
- Very **Low Maintenance** schedule (on Bypass IGBT's are not energized)
- Very **small part Count**
- **Uncomplicated design** utilizing **Fiber optic Control Technology** (as in HRVSDN)
- **Simple Multistart/stop** design philosophy



# DriveStart Internal Bypass – Closed Transition

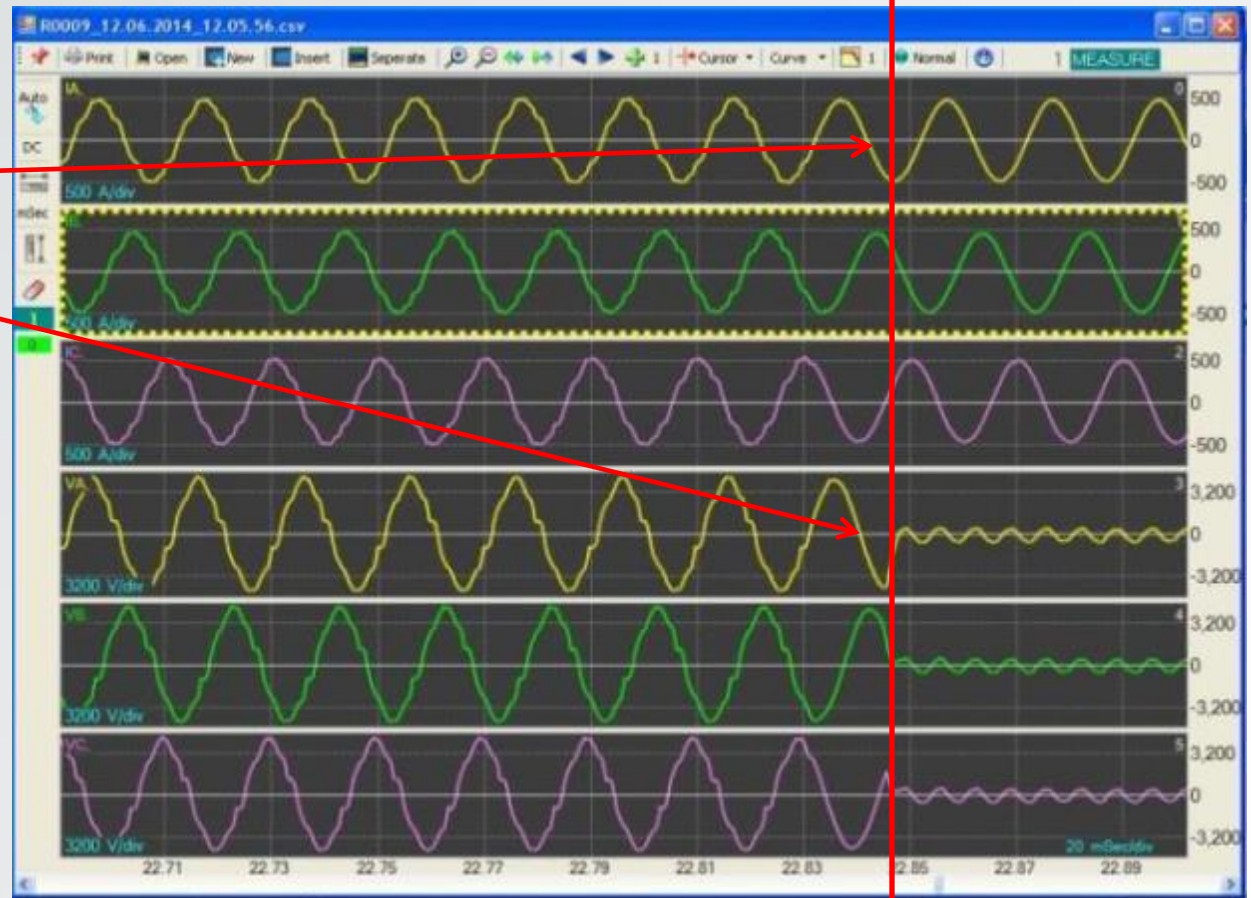
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Synchronised Closed transition

No Network Spike

✓ Current

✓ Voltage



I1

I2

I3

Vo1

Vo2

Vo3

# DriveStart Internal Bypass – Closed Transition

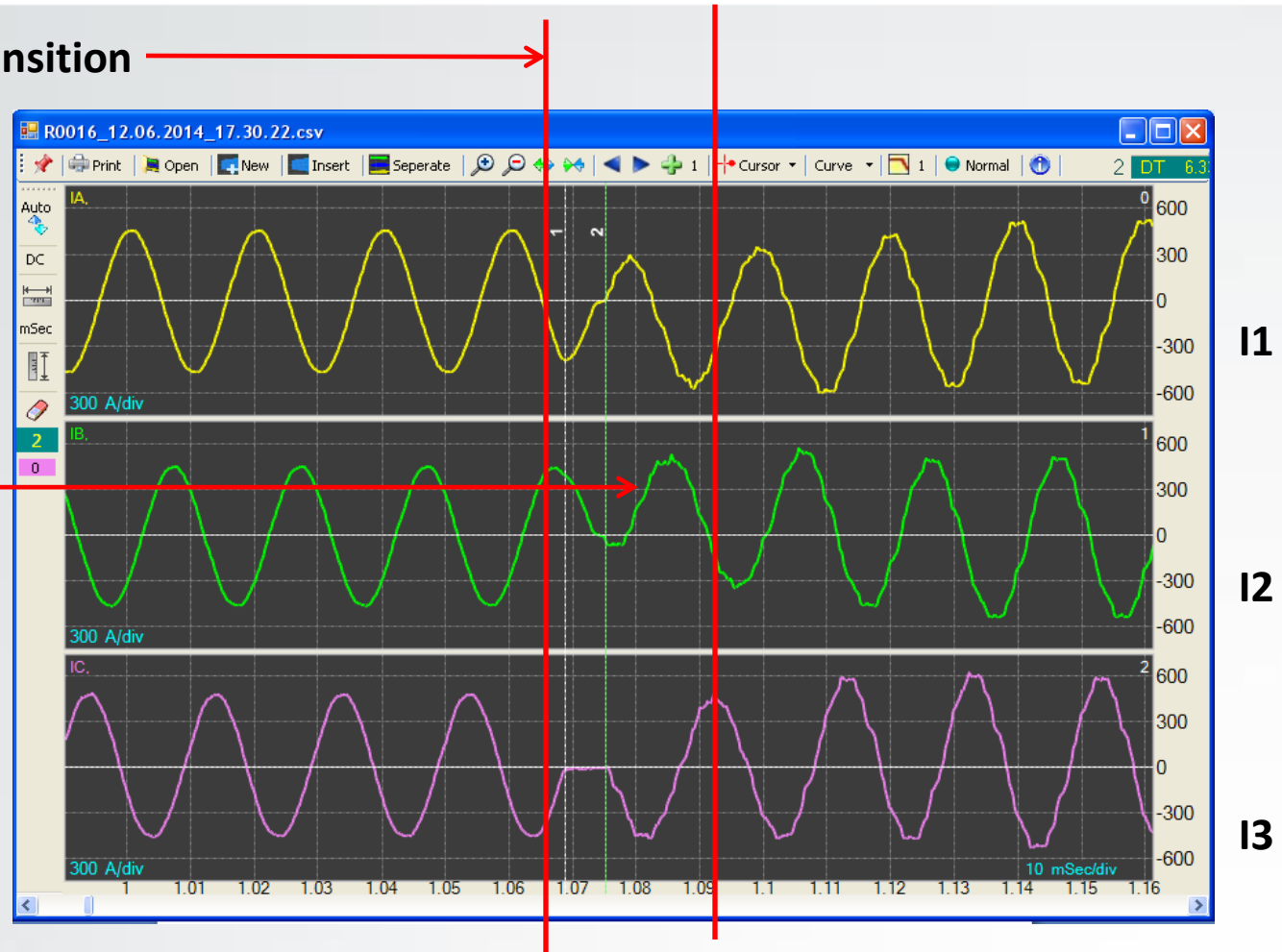
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Synchronised Closed transition

Soft Stop

Transients very short  
(few cycles)

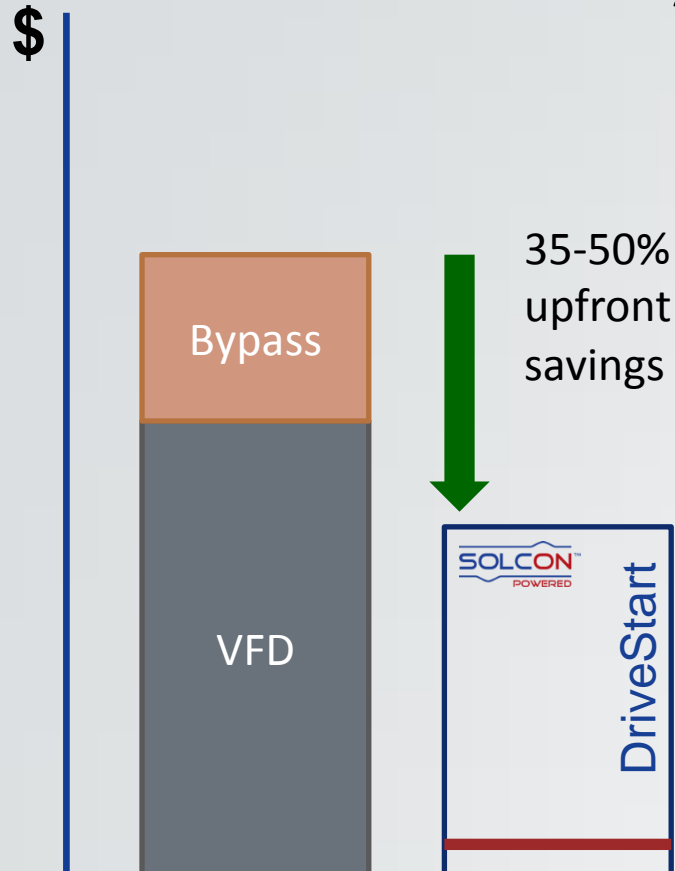
During bypass  
opening



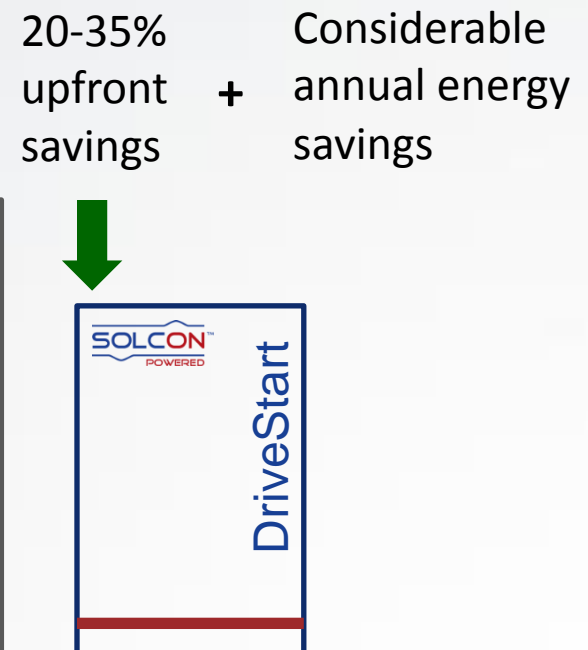
# Value Proposition

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## DriveStart vs. VFD with bypass

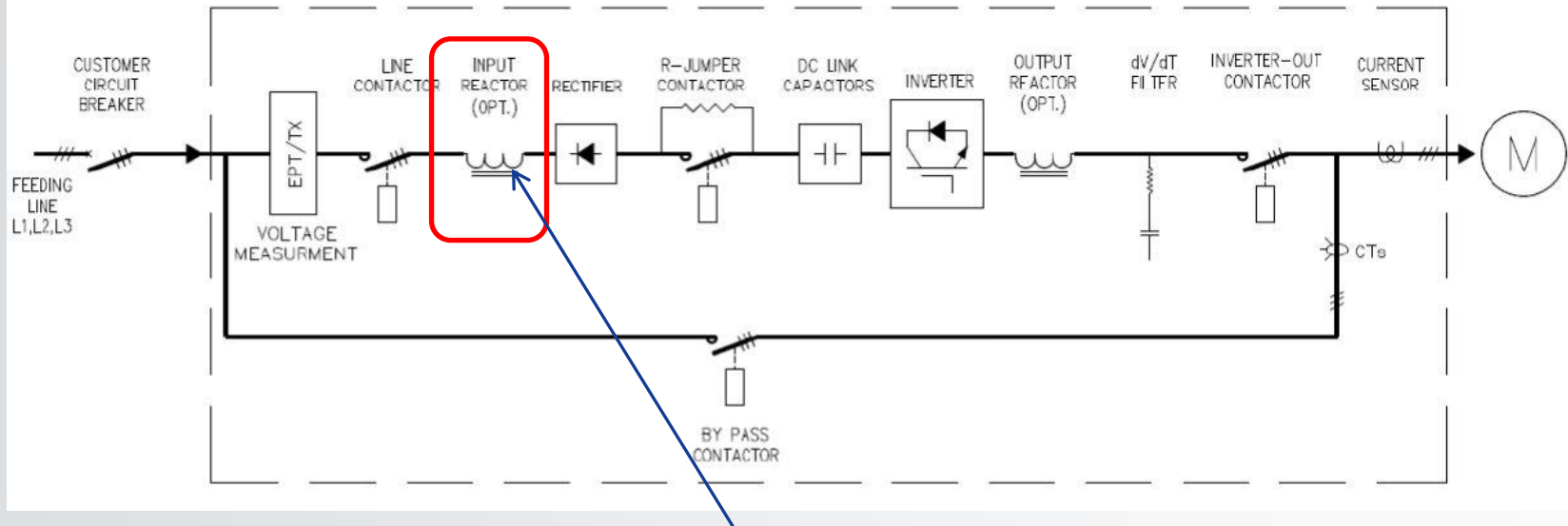


## DriveStart vs. VFD without bypass



Significant Cost Savings

# DRIVESTART SOLUTION CASE STUDY

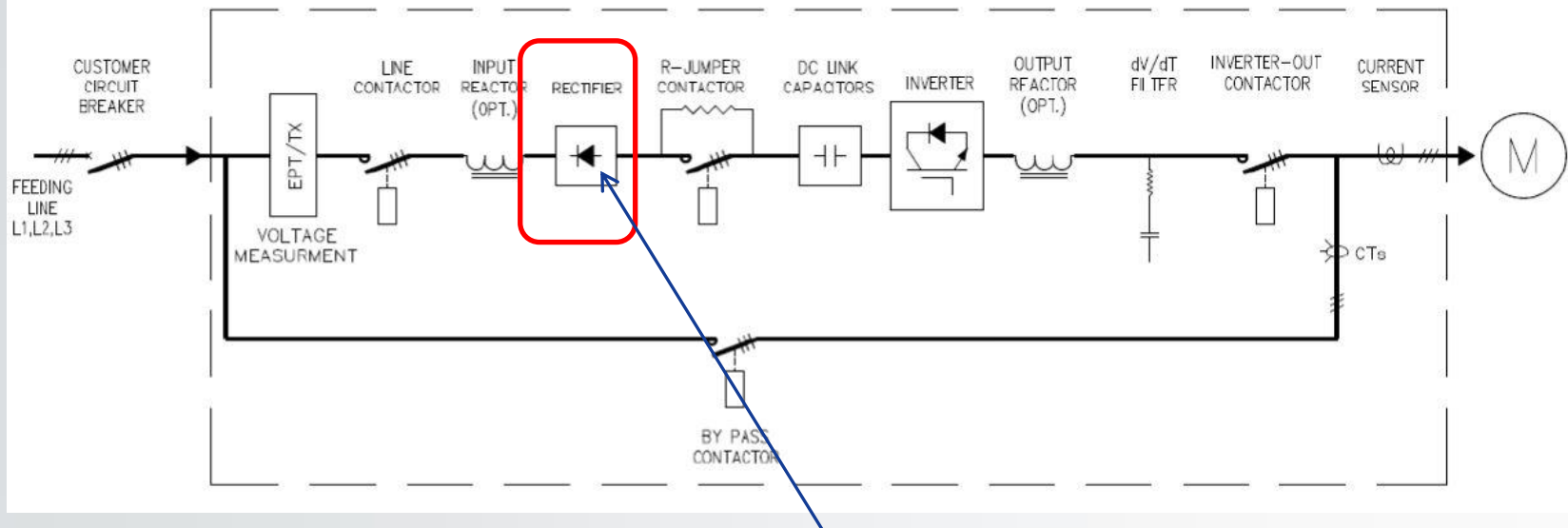


Incoming reactor – When is it needed?

- Protect the Rectifying Bridge Diodes
- Reduce Harmonics in the mains
- Typical value: 2-3% (of  $V_{ph}/I_{ph}$ ). (3300V/400A):  $2.6\% \Rightarrow 400\mu H$
- Disconnected at Bypass.



# DRIVESTART SOLUTION CASE STUDY

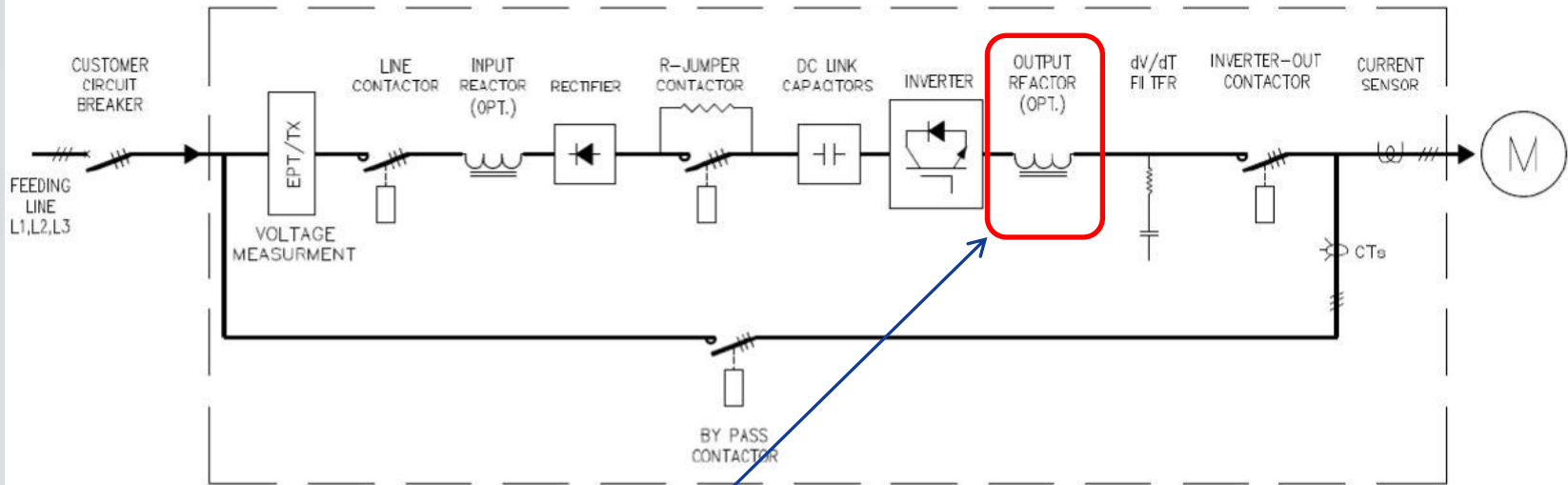


Rectifier – 6 pulse vs. 12 pulse or 24 pulse

- Do we need harmonic mitigation?
- 24 pulse however in this case replacing the incoming transformer may be an issue.



# DRIVESTART SOLUTION CASE STUDY



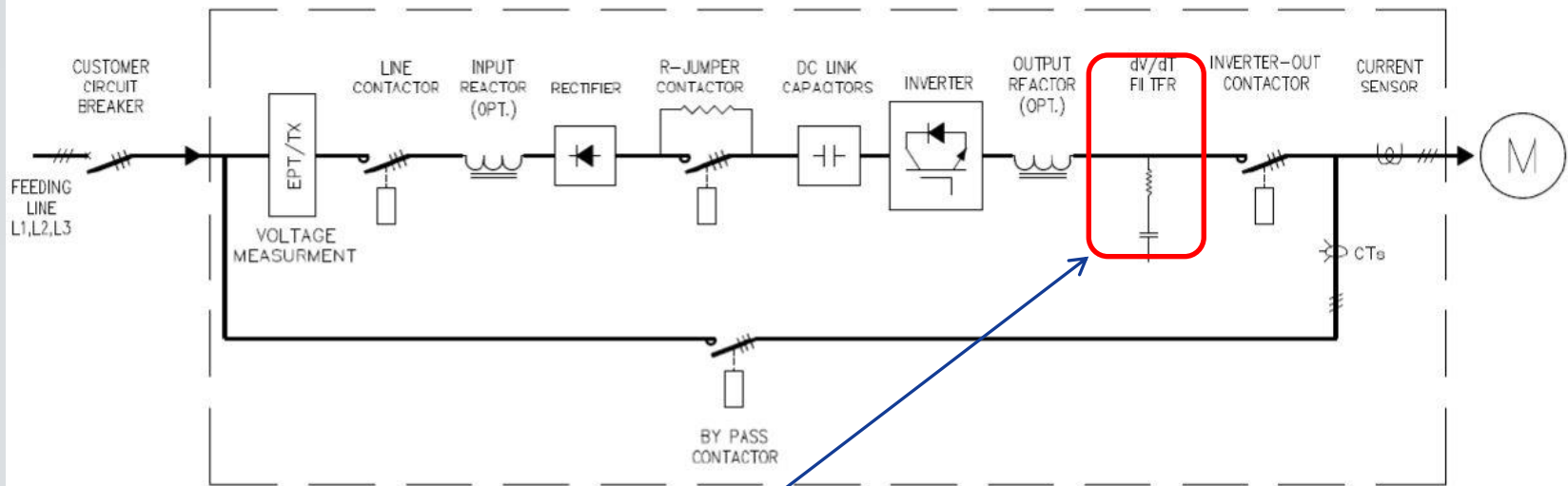
Output Reactor

- Prevent Short circuit between mains and inverter output at closed transition.
- It is part of the dv/dt output filter
- Typical value: Half than Input Inductor
- Disconnected at Bypass.





# DRIVESTART SOLUTION CASE STUDY



dv/dt Filter

- Reduces the rate of  $dv/dt$  mainly for non "inverter-rated" motors.
- $dv/dt < 1.5kV/\mu s$
- Disconnected at Bypass.



## DRIVESTART SOLUTION CASE STUDY

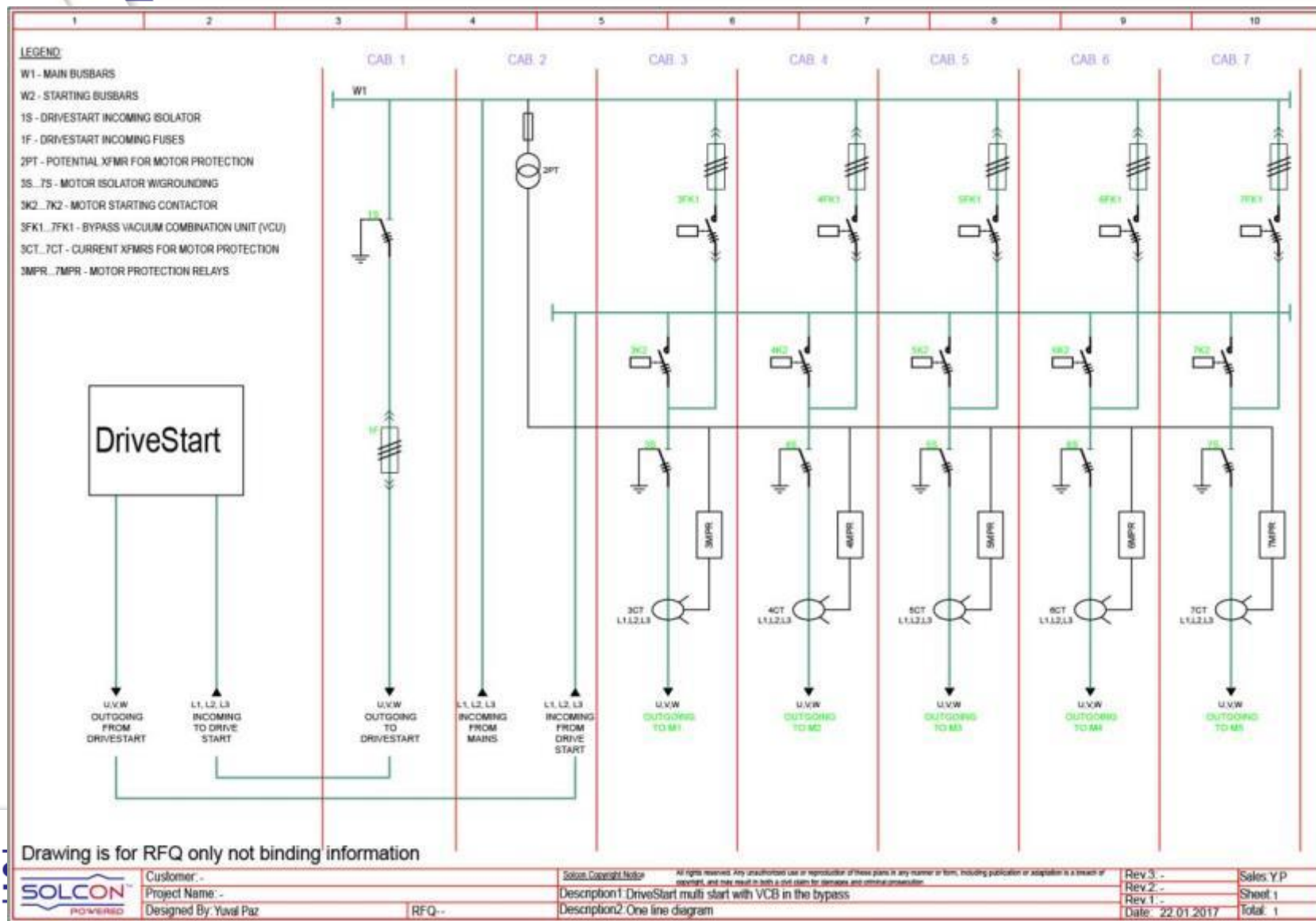
- Weak network
- High torque start (650 tons of sludge)
- 500m cable length
- 5 motors – cost constrained
- Space constrained – existing SWGR room.
- construction Time constrained
- Solcon engineering design according to Solcon ProGear type tested medium voltage SWGR integrated with the DriveStart and motor protection relays.





# Multi-Start – Design Philosophy – Internal Bypass

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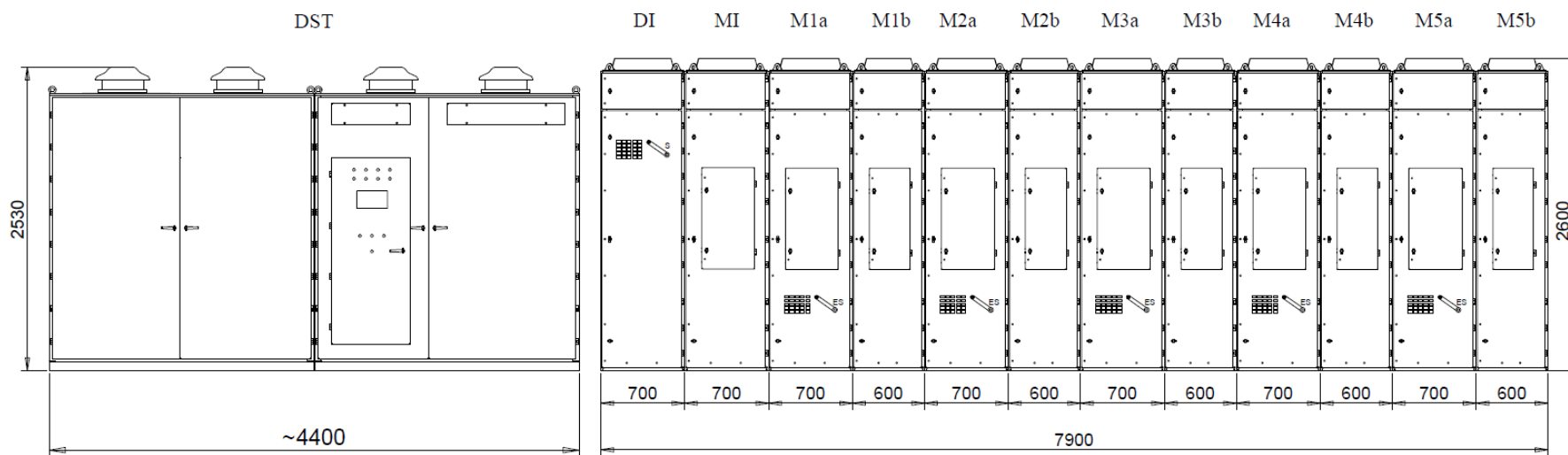




# Multi-Start – Design Philosophy – Internal Bypass

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## Front View





THANK YOU!

