



# ADVANCES IN DAB TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS

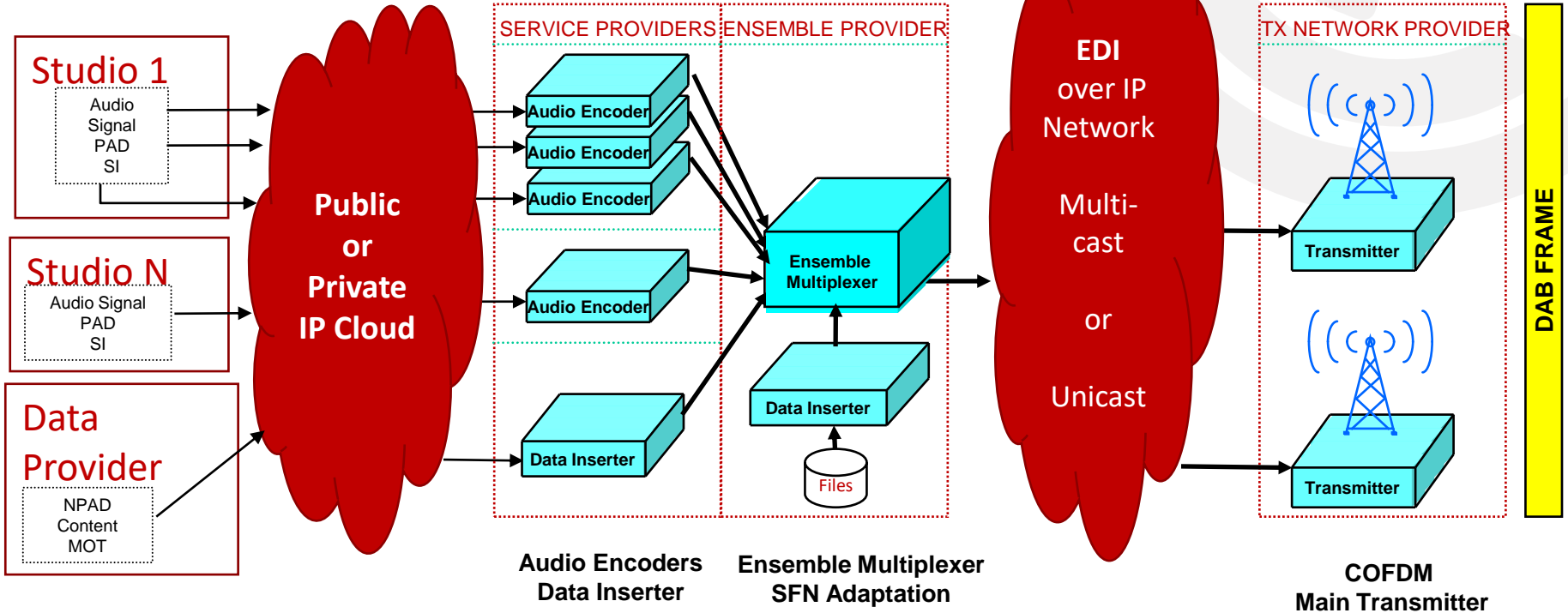
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CONNECTING WHAT'S NEXT

**RICH REDMOND**

- Transmitter Options for DAB networks
- Advancements in energy efficiency
- Considerations using liquid or air cooled
- Configuration for redundant operations
  - Transmitter redundancy and link redundancy
- Reinventing transmitter sites
  - Multi - Channel Transmitter systems
  - Multi Carrier transmitter

# STRUCTURE OF A DAB NETWORK IN PRACTICE



DAB

Low Power



**VAXT 80/150**  
Ultra Compact

Air Cooled



**VAX 300/450**



**VAX 550/750**

VLX Liquid Cooled



**VAX 1.2kW - 13.6kW**



**VLX 1.5kW - 45.6kW**

# DAB ULTRA-COMPACT MODELS - SUMMARY



## KEY FEATURES

- High-efficiency Doherty PA's
  - VHF BIII is a single broadband design 170-240MHz
- ETI and EDI inputs
  - Additional input board options
  - 2 – EDI plus 2-ETI
  - 4 – ETI inputs
- Adaptive pre-correction circuits with MER  $\geq$  33dB
- Configurable as: Transmitter, On-channel SFN Gap-Filler, or Transposer
- Modular design, PA and Power Supply plug-in and can be replaced in a few minutes.

# DAB ULTRA-COMPACT VHF MODELS / POWER LEVELS

1RU Models

- 80 W
- 150 W



2RU Models

- 300 W
- 450 W

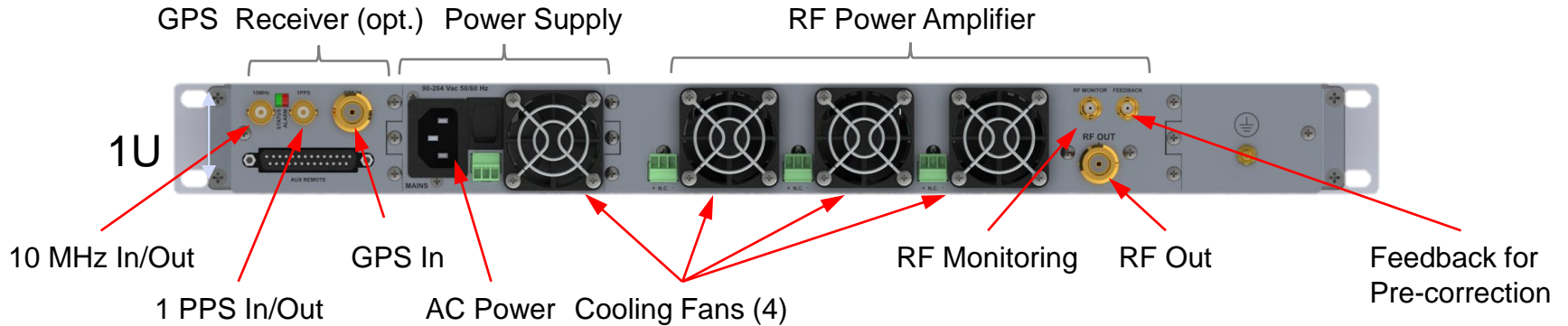


3RU Models

- 550 W
- 750 W

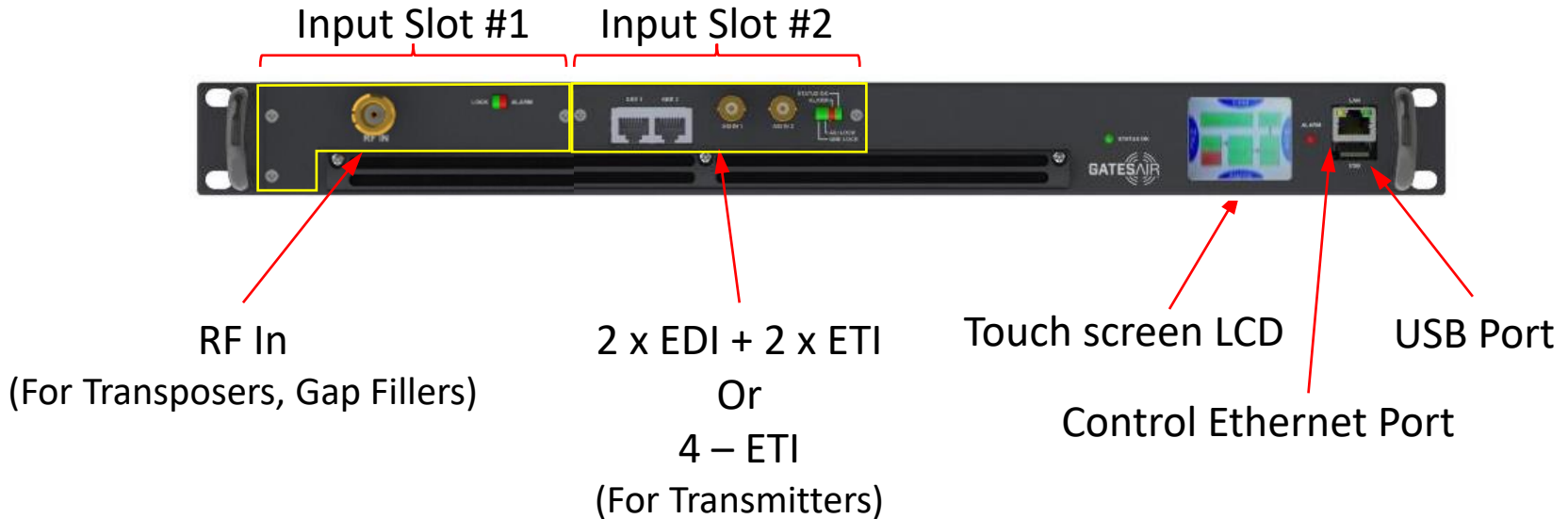


# FRONT AND REAR OF 1RU ULTRA-COMPACT



## FRONT PANEL

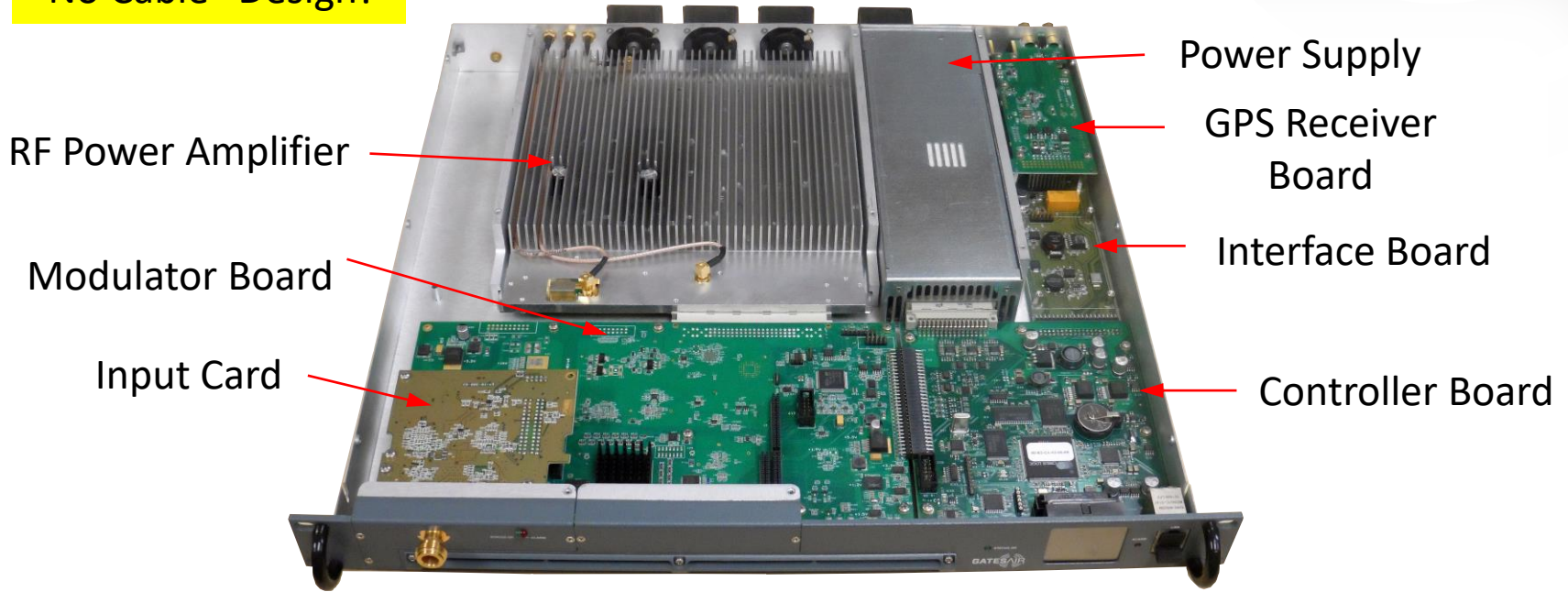
Note that one or two input cards can be used, for flexibility





# UNDER THE HOOD - WHERE ARE THE CABLES?

“No Cable” Design!



## Maxiva Air-Cooled VAX-OP VHF Series

300W to 1.2kW



2+1 RU / 3+1 RU

1.5kW – 1.9kW



3.5+1 RU

Same PA used in racked systems

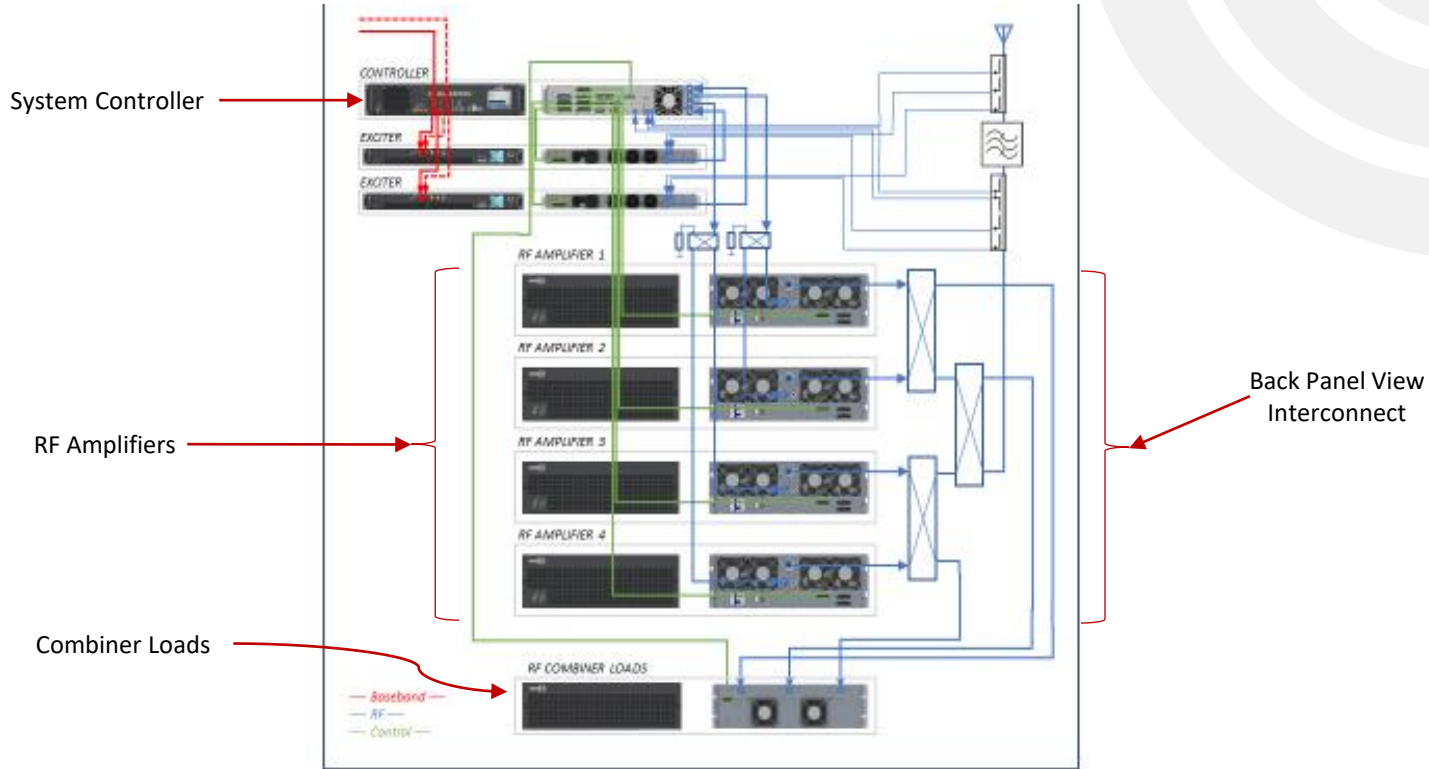
3kW – 13.6kW



2, 3, 4, 6  
and 8 PA  
Systems  
in 36RU  
Rack

- Same 1RU exciter/driver and same input option cards as Ultra-Compact
- Available with single-drive or dual-drive (option)
- Multiple PA systems include a 36RU rack (single PA systems - rack optional)
- GPS/GLONASS option

# BLOCK DIAGRAM – 4 RF AMPLIFIERS



## KEY FEATURES

- High Efficiency (Broadband PA's)
- Low consumption Pump and Heat Exchanger (pump + heat exchanger + external fans = 535W)
- Dual Redundant Pumps standard
- Coolant reserve tank (8 liters) for automatic liquid refilling, reduces on-site maintenance
- Liquid Cooled Control Unit: level (liquid + refilling), pressure, temperature, pump status, etc.
- Very small external heat exchanger with 24V power, 2 fans or 4 fans
- Heat Exchanger automatic reverse fan rotation feature to remove debris (user settable timing)



## Maxiva Liquid-Cooled VLX-OP VHF Series

### Single Rack Systems

**15.2 kW** 8 PA's

**11.4 kWz** 6 PA's

**9.5 kW** 5 PA's

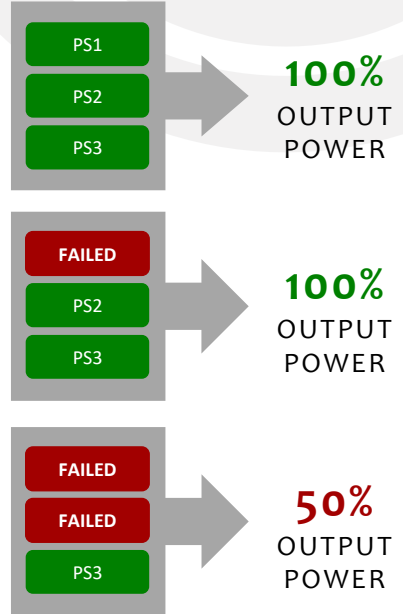
**7.6 kW** 4 PA's

**5.7 kW** 3 PA's

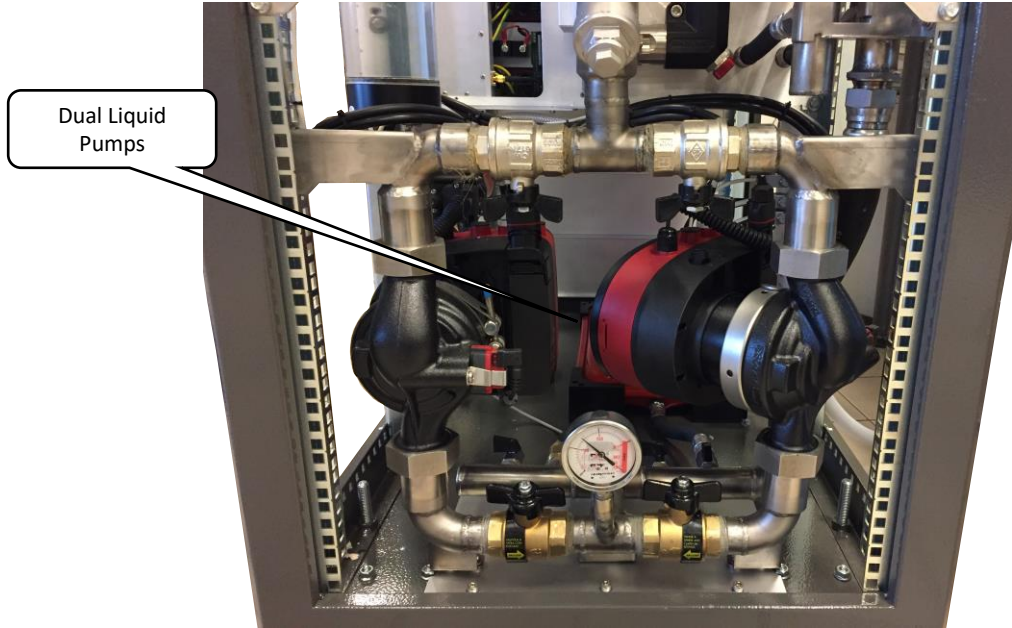
**3.8 kW** 2 PA's



VLX-OP (6 PA's)



# VLX-OP LIQUID-COOLING SYSTEM



**Lower Portion of  
Liquid-Cooled Tx Rack**

Refilling System



**Automatic Liquid Refilling System  
(8 litres capacity)**

# VLX-OP HEAT EXCHANGERS



**61 cm W x 80 cm H x 26 cm D**  
**(24" W x 31.5" H x 10.2" D)**

Fans 24V DC  
Speed-controlled

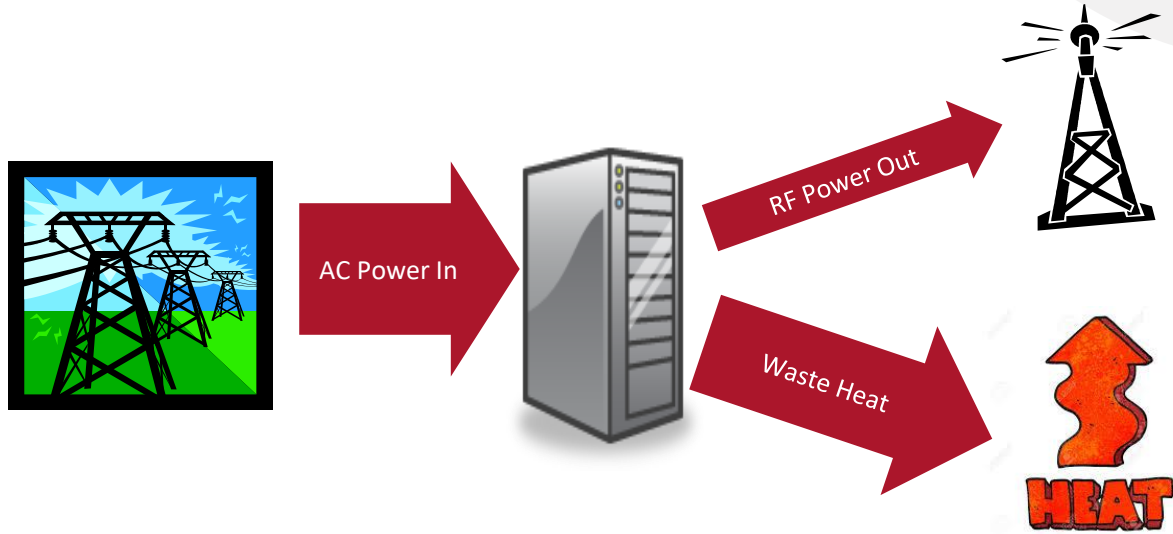
Programmable  
auto-reversing to  
clear debris



**72 cm W x 96 cm H x 27 cm D**  
**(28.3" W x 37.8" H x 10.6" D)**

- **Efficiency of a transmitter:**

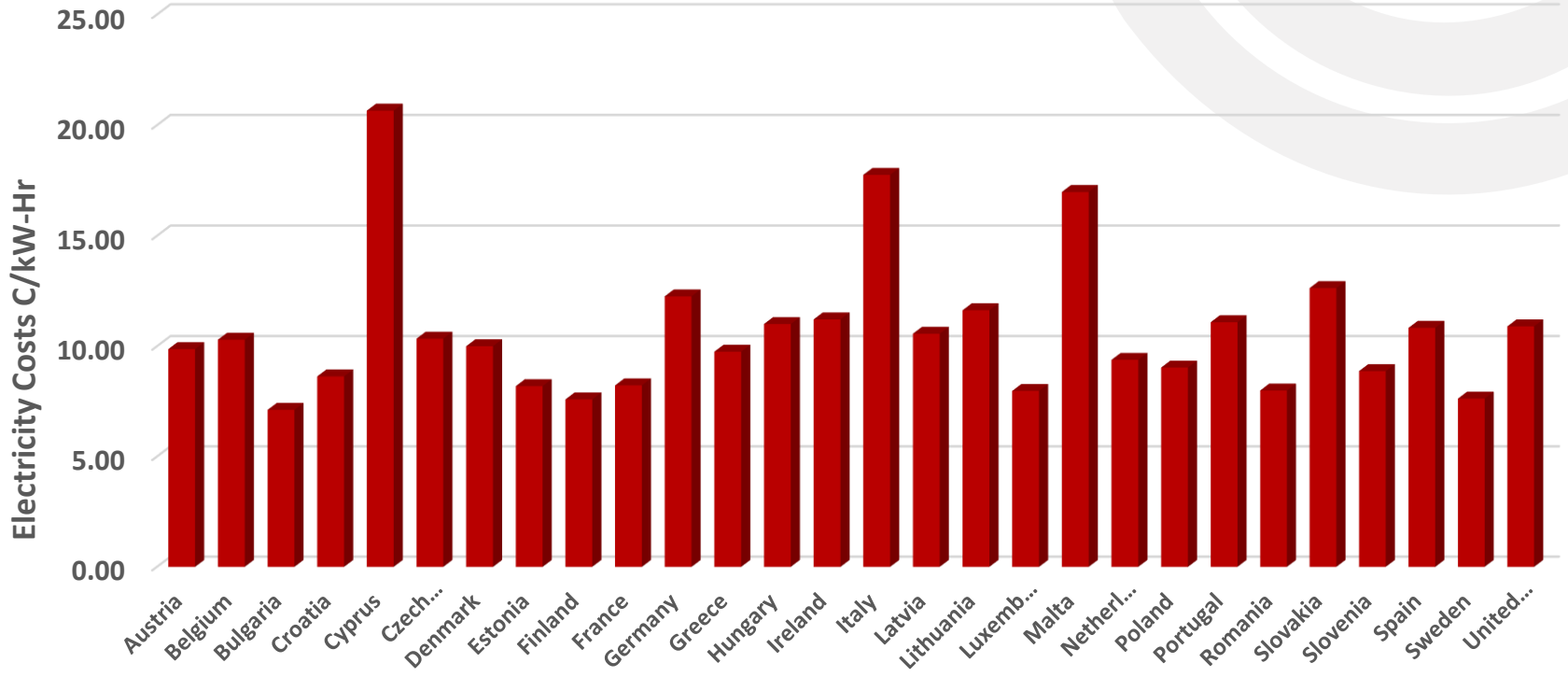
- Definition:  $(\text{RF Power Out} / \text{AC Power In}) \times 100\%$





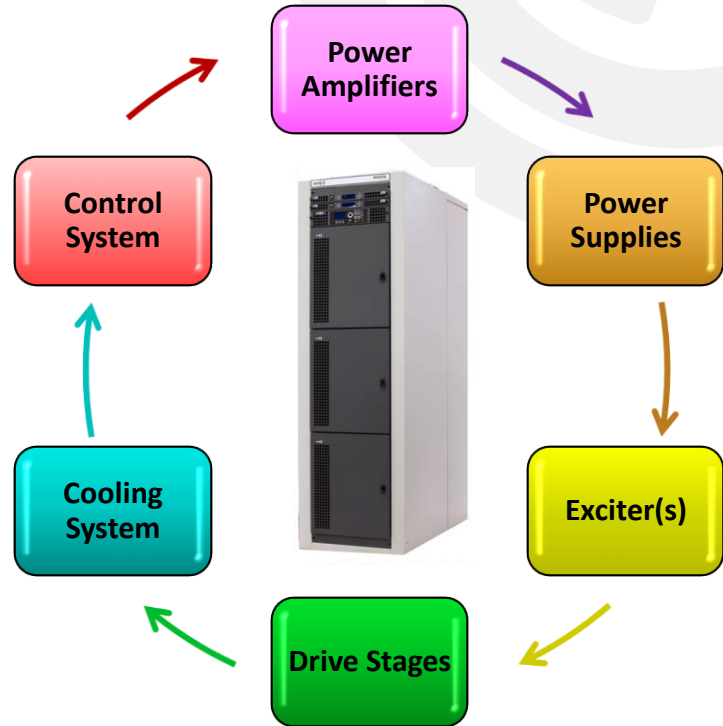
# ELECTRIC POWER COSTS

European Electricity Pricing - Cents/kW-Hr (2019 Data)



# TRANSMITTER EFFICIENCY

- Transmitter System Efficiency
- Some Items may have fixed losses:
  - Control System
  - Exciters
- Some Items may have varying losses:
  - PA Module (varies with modulation, saturation)
  - Drivers (varies with modulation, saturation)
  - Cooling System (speed-controlled pumps and fans)
  - Power Supplies (can vary depending on load)
- Why are low power transmitters less efficient than high power?
  - As power is reduced, fixed losses become a larger part of the equation



# PRIMARY EFFICIENCY DRIVERS IN A TX

- Power Amplifiers
  - Most older designs used Class AB PA's
    - PA Efficiency in range 23% to 33% (Overall Tx efficiency in range of 16% to 27%)
  - Most new designs uses High-Efficiency (Doherty) PA's
    - PA Efficiency over 50% VHF and UHF (Overall Tx efficiency often > 40%)
- Power Supplies
  - 12 years ago 86% was “state-of-the-art” efficiency
  - Today – power supplies can be up to 96% efficient
- Cooling System
  - Older less efficient transmitters used large high volume and pressure blowers
  - Large pumps and heat exchangers in liquid-cooled transmitters
  - New systems use variable speed fans and pumps and have less heat to remove

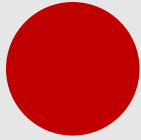
# EFFECT OF POWER SUPPLY EFFICIENCY

Item	Old Technology PS 86% Effy.	Recent Power Supply 90% Effy	New High Eff. PS 96% Effy.
RF Power Output (W)	10,000	10,000	10,000
Power Amplifier Efficiency	51%	51%	51%
Combining losses (dB)	0.30	0.30	0.30
RF power before losses (W)	10,715	10,715	10,715
DC Power to PA's (W)	21,010	21,010	21,010
<b>Power Supply Efficiency</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>96%</b>
AC Power to Power Supplies (W)	24,430	23,345	21,886
Power Supply Loss (W)	3420	2334	875
Drivers	600	600	600
Exciters	150	150	150
Control	120	120	120
Cooling	600	600	600
Total AC Input (kW)	29,321	27,149	24,231
<b>Overall Tx Efficiency</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>41%</b>

- Clearly, the design of the power supply has a significant impact on total efficiency
- Example of a high-efficiency power supply:
  - Efficiency 96% at 50% FL
  - Power factor typ. 0.995
- Input voltage range typ. 185 – 300 VAC



# TCO VERSUS TRANSMITTER EFFICIENCY

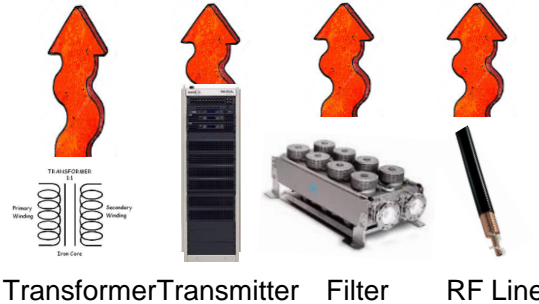


## TCO

- It's the total cost to own and operate the transmitter system over time
- Includes initial equipment cost and delivery
- Includes the installation / commissioning costs
- Routine and unscheduled maintenance costs
- Repair/replacement and other operational costs



Energy converted to heat



## EFFICIENCY

- Transmitter efficiency = Power Out / Power In (tx only)
- System level efficiency may also include::
  - AC transformers and voltage regulators
  - Heat load to the room (HVAC power costs)
  - RF system losses (often significant)
  - RF feeder losses (often significant)
  - Even antenna gain and pattern?

# CALCULATING TCO & BREAKEVEN ANALYSIS



- Each element of the Transmitter lifecycle has a cost
- Over the lifetime of the Transmitter, the total cost may far exceed the purchase price by several times

## Questions:

- Is it really worth buying a new transmitter?
- Will I see a return on investment?
- When will it pay back for itself?

*Let's use the TCO Calculator and find out...*

# AIR TO LIQUID-COOLED 9.6KW TX TCO AND BREAKEVEN

## GATESAIR TCO & Breakeven Analysis

User Entry Cells:   
Result Cells:

Item	Existing Transmitter	New Transmitter	Unit
Transmitter Model	<b>Diamond DHD45P2</b>	<b>ULXTE-16</b>	
Tx Average Power Output	9.6	9.6	kW
Cooling Method (select Air or Liquid)	Air	Liquid	
Planning Costs	\$0	\$1,200	USD
New Transmitter Cost	\$0	\$265,000	USD
Delivery / Shipping Costs	\$0	\$5,500	USD
Installation / Commssioning Costs	\$0	\$29,000	USD
Training Costs	\$0	\$2,500	USD
Average Annual Maintenance Costs	\$11,000	\$4,500	USD
Transmitter Efficiency	19.9%	42.2%	%
Electricity Cost (\$ per kW/hr)	\$0.15	\$0.15	USD
Operational Hr/day	24	24	Hrs.
Operational days/year	365.25	365.25	Days
Major Repair / Upgrade at Year 5**	\$45,000	\$10,000	USD
Disposal Costs at EOL	\$10,000	\$10,000	USD
HVAC Efficiency Rating*	14	14	SEER

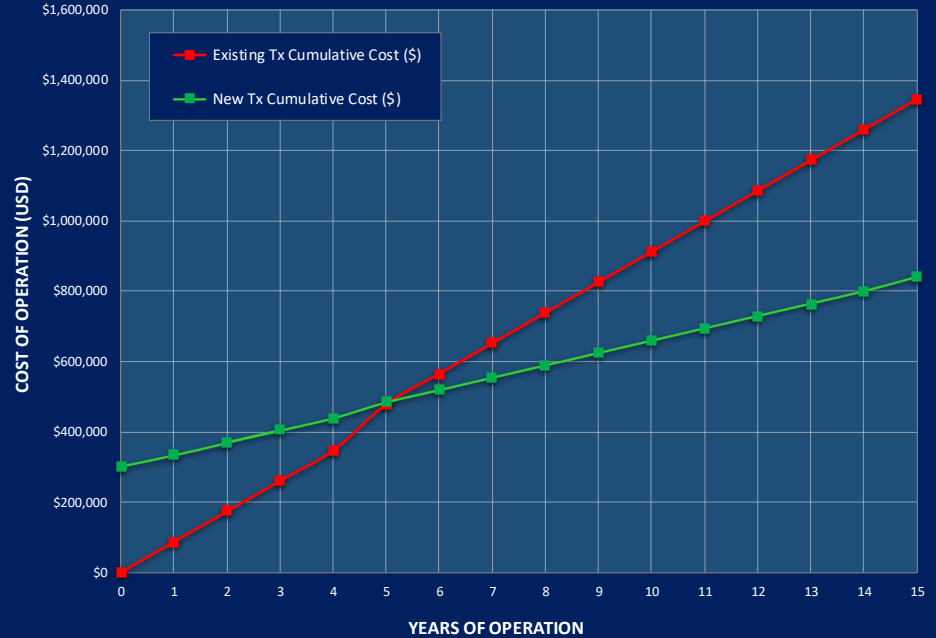
Calculated Summary Results		
Estimated Breakeven Period	<b>5 Years, 2 Months</b>	Y / M
Reduction in Heat Load to Room	<b>126,465</b>	Btu/hr
Annual Reduction in Carbon Emmissions	<b>149.8</b>	Tons CO <sub>2</sub>
Tx Power cost savings per year	<b>\$33,520</b>	USD
HVAC Power Cost Savings per Year	<b>\$11,878</b>	USD
Total Power Cost Savings per year	<b>\$45,398</b>	USD

\* SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) usually between 10 and 22 (typical 14)  
\*\* For Tube Transmitters, include replacement Tube Costs



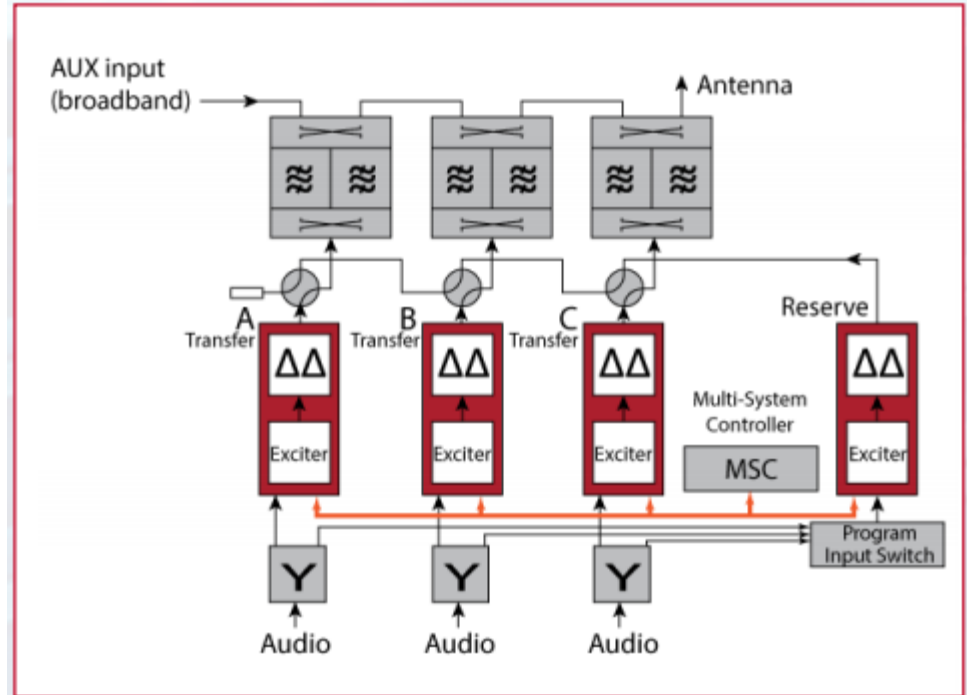
## TCO & Breakeven Analysis Existing / New Transmitter

9.6kW Tx  
Air to Liquid-Cooled



# CONFIGURATIONS FOR REDUNDANT OPERATIONS

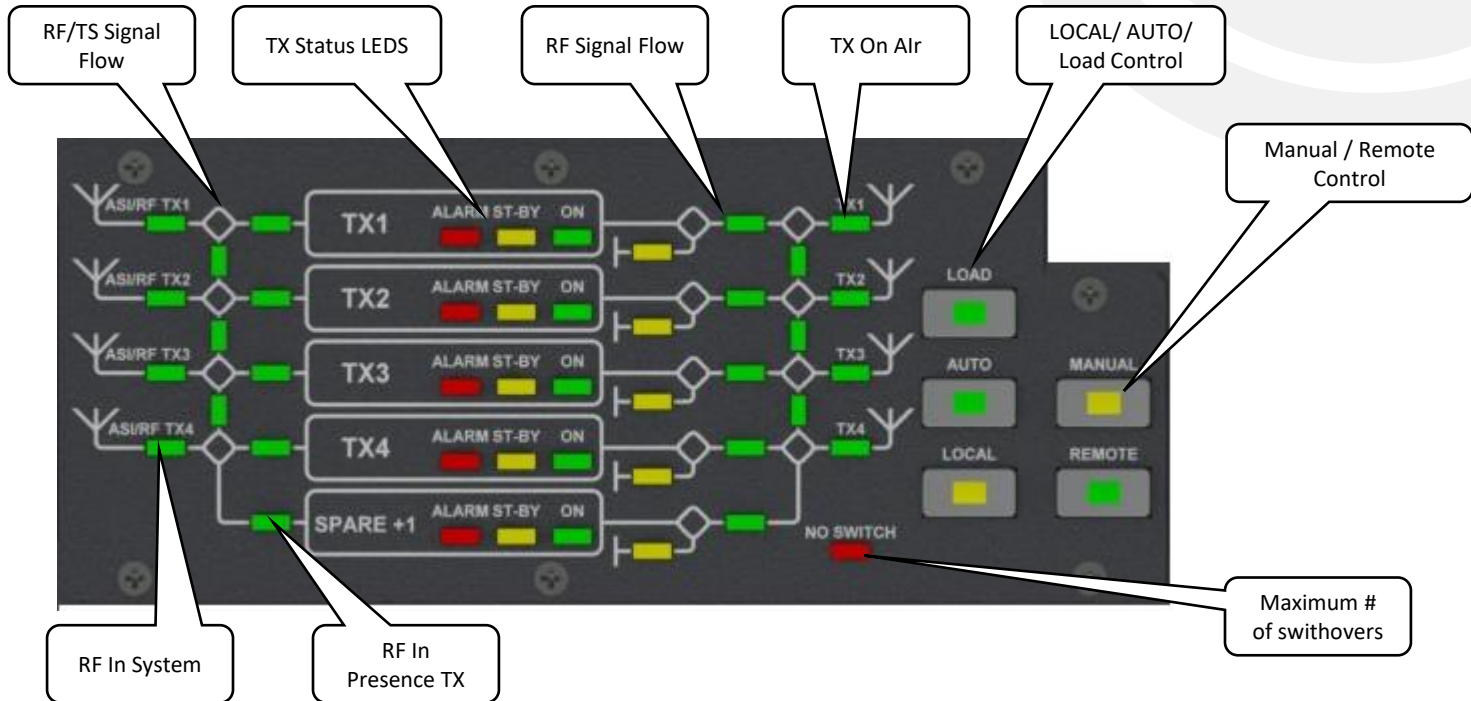
- 1+1 – Main – Alt
- N+1 – multi transmitter back up
- Dual Drive
- Evaluate your tolerance for risk vs the cost to provide insurance
- Share back up in a multi transmitter site can be affordable





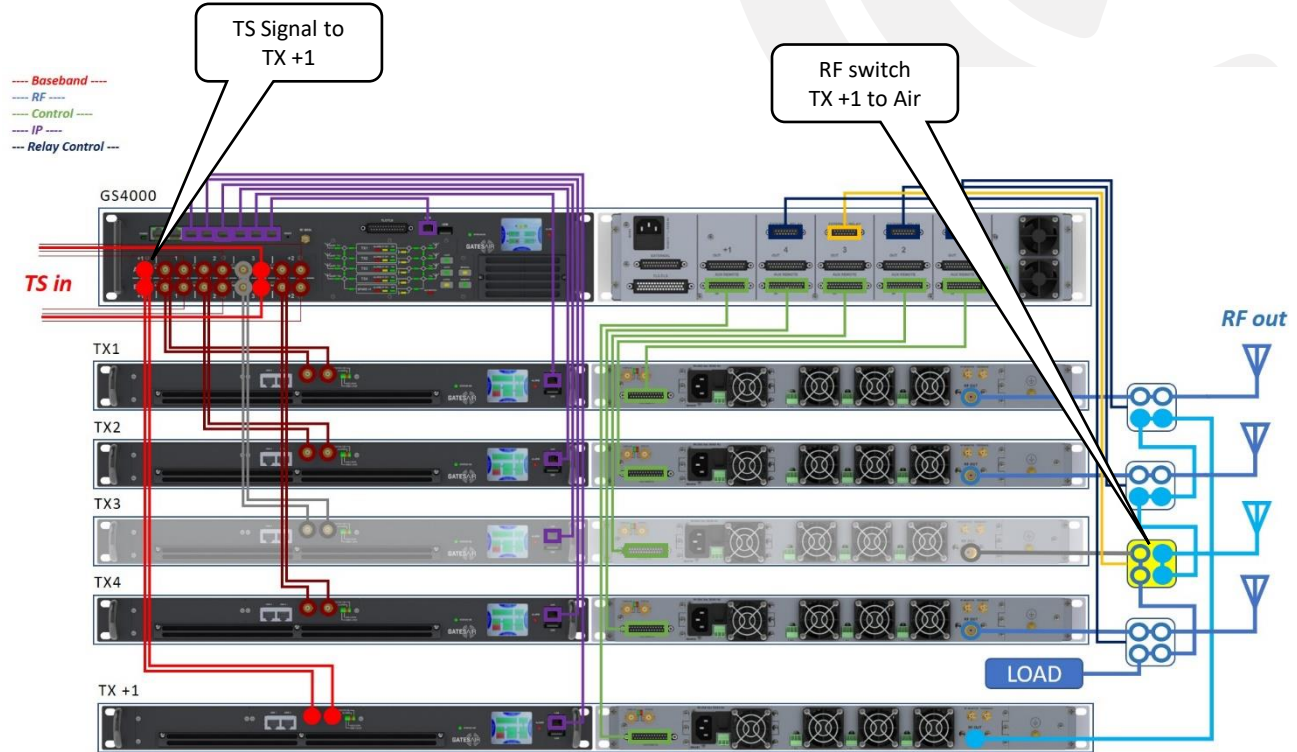
# 4000 SERIES FRONT PANEL

## Front Panel Status on 4000 series

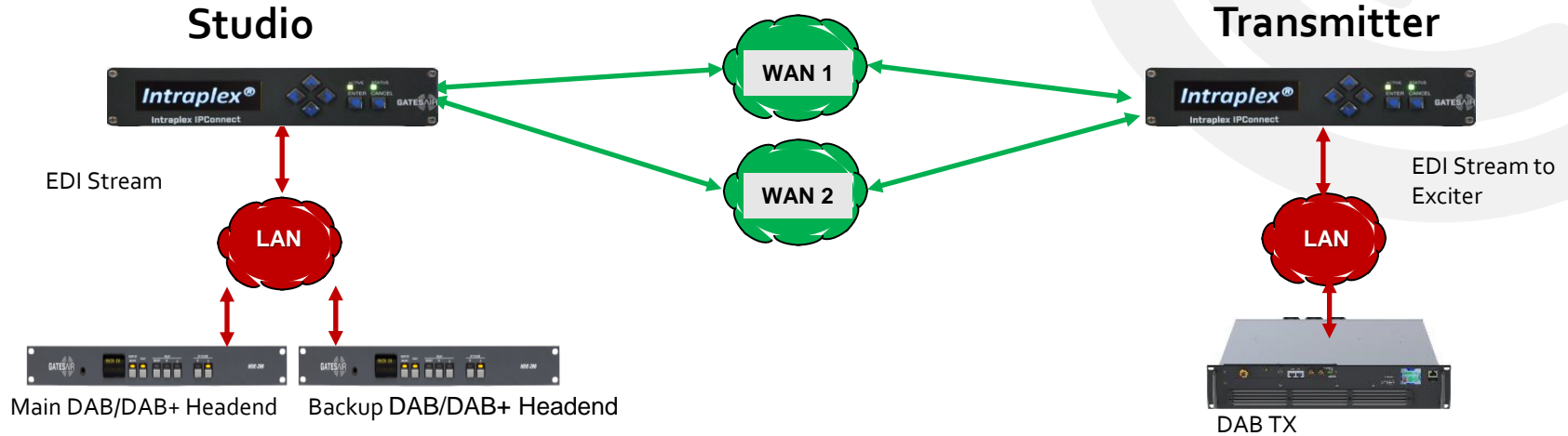


# GATESWITCH 4000 LAYOUT – 4+1

- Illustration of +1 redundancy
- TX 3 is off-line, Transport stream (RED) is rerouted for TX3 to +1 spare
- RF coax switch relay (BLUE) positions to put +1 TX to air



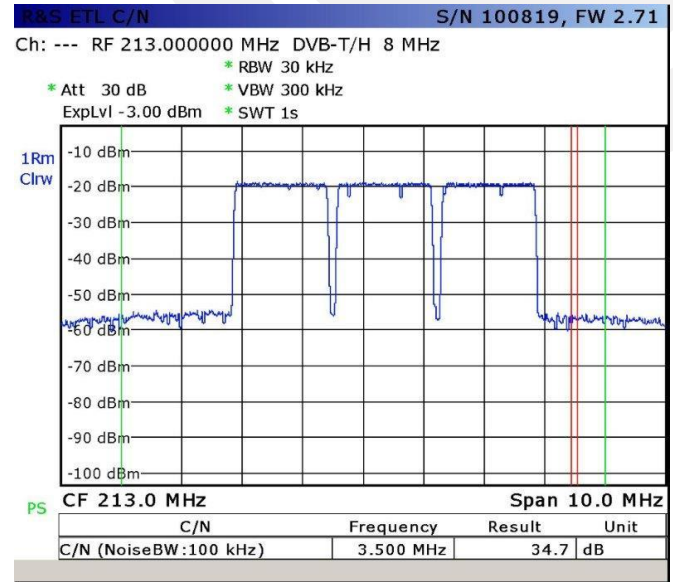
# INTRAPLEX IPCONNECT APPLICATION



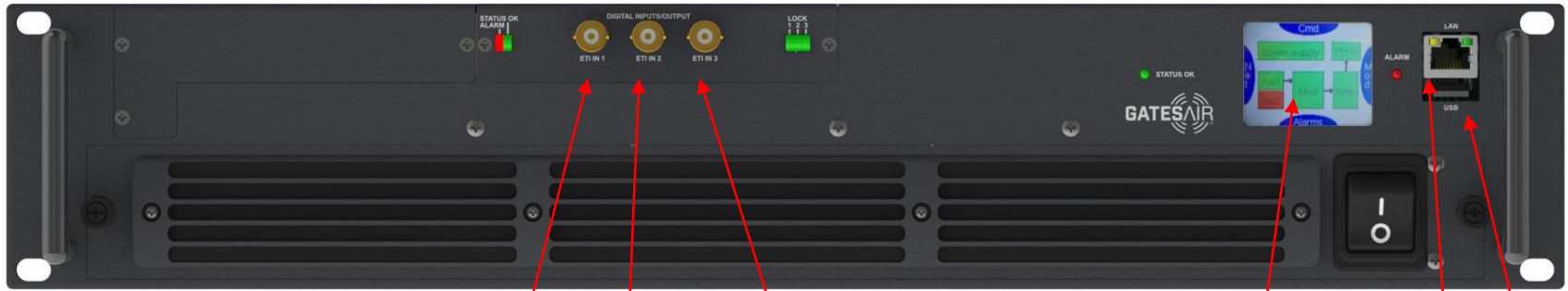
- Provides “Hitless” protection using Intraplex® Dynamic Stream Splicing technology for EDI streams
- IPConnect intercepts the streams from the Headend and reliably tunnels it to one or more excitors
- IPConnect works with unicast, multi-unicast and multicast topologies
- Also monitors and provides automatic failover between Main and Backup Headend at the Studio side

# MULTICARRIER DAB+ TRANSMITTER

- Allows up to 3 DAB+ Carriers to be generated or re-transmitted through a single amplifier
- Advanced pre-correction and linear broadband amplification
- Unique solution ONLY available from GatesAir
- More economic than standard solutions
- More compact
- Less expensive to operate, lower power consumption



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ETI In #1

ETI In #2

ETI In #3

Touch screen LCD

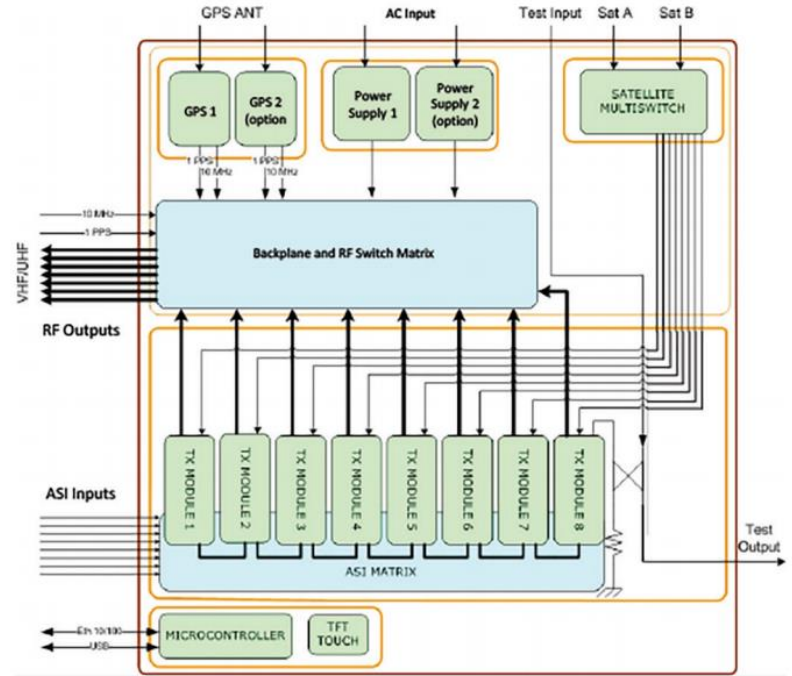
USB Port

Control Ethernet Port

- Compact 1U rack 19 "chassis.
- Output power up to 240W rms total
- Common RF amplification.
- Wide Band VHF BIII Doherty Amplifier technology with high efficiency.
- Supported Modulations: DAB / DAB + / T-DMB.
- Multi-carrier modulation (3 channels), for adjacent and non-adjacent frequencies.
- Adaptive pre-correction circuits.
- Built-in high-stability GPS / GLONASS receiver (Optional).
- Hot swappable amplifier and power supply.
- Input interface: 3 ETI inputs.
- SNMP, Web interface and Touch Screen display.
- USB service interface for up-grade / download.

# MULTI CHANNEL TRANSMITTER

- Ideal for low power multi ensemble sites – shared redundancy
- 7+1 6+2 redundancy
- Integrated Satellite receiver card



- New options for DAB transmission networks allow for network design flexibility
- Advancements in energy efficiency help reduce long term operating costs
- Energy consumption and costs can be impacted by using liquid or air-cooled transmitters
- Multiple options can allow for cost effective redundancy for transmitters and links
- Unique system configurations and modulation capabilities can simplify network deployment





# ADVANCES IN DAB TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS

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CONNECTING WHAT'S NEXT

**RICH REDMOND**