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# Copper Rotor technology for electric and hybrid vehicles

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*ICREPQ 2012*

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# Summary

Market perspectives for electric, hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles

Technology options for electric and hybrid vehicles

Conclusions

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# Market perspectives for electric, hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles



# Electric vehicles are here – more are coming



BMW Mini E



Citroen C-Zero



Fisker Karma



Ford Transit Connect



Daimler Smart EV



Nissan Leaf



Hyundai i10



Toyota Prius



GM Chevrolet Volt



BYD F3DM



Ford Focus EV



Mitsubishi iMiEV

- **2010**

10 major auto manufactures with 10 production models

- **2012**

Over 20 production models available

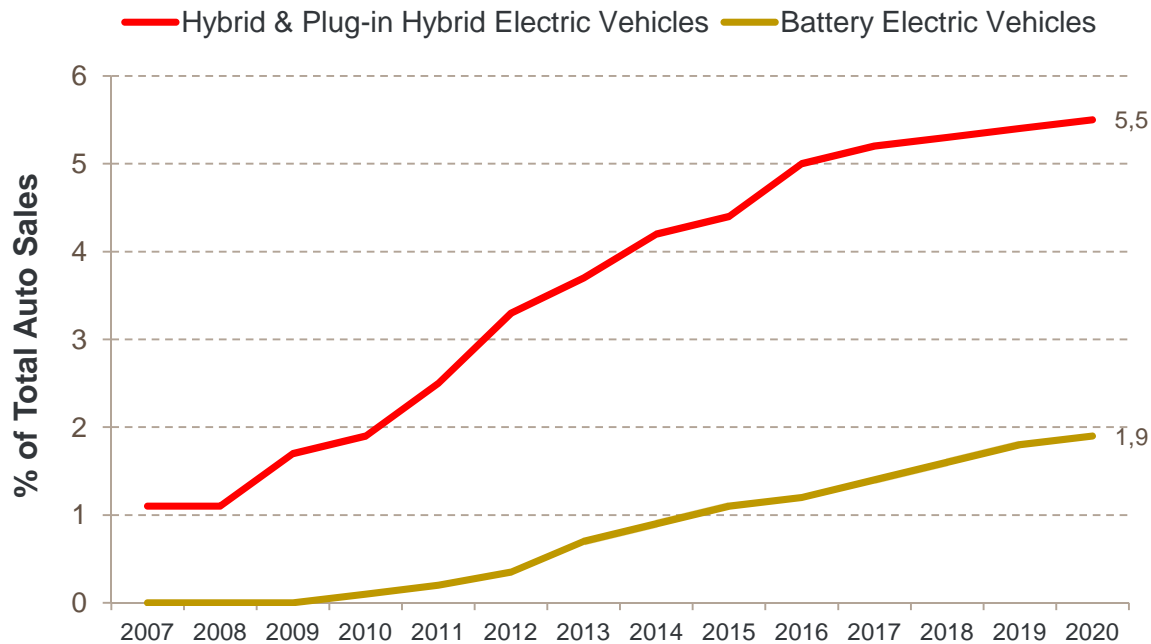
- **Industry Consensus**

5 Million Plug-in Cars in use by 2017 worldwide

Source: Pike Research

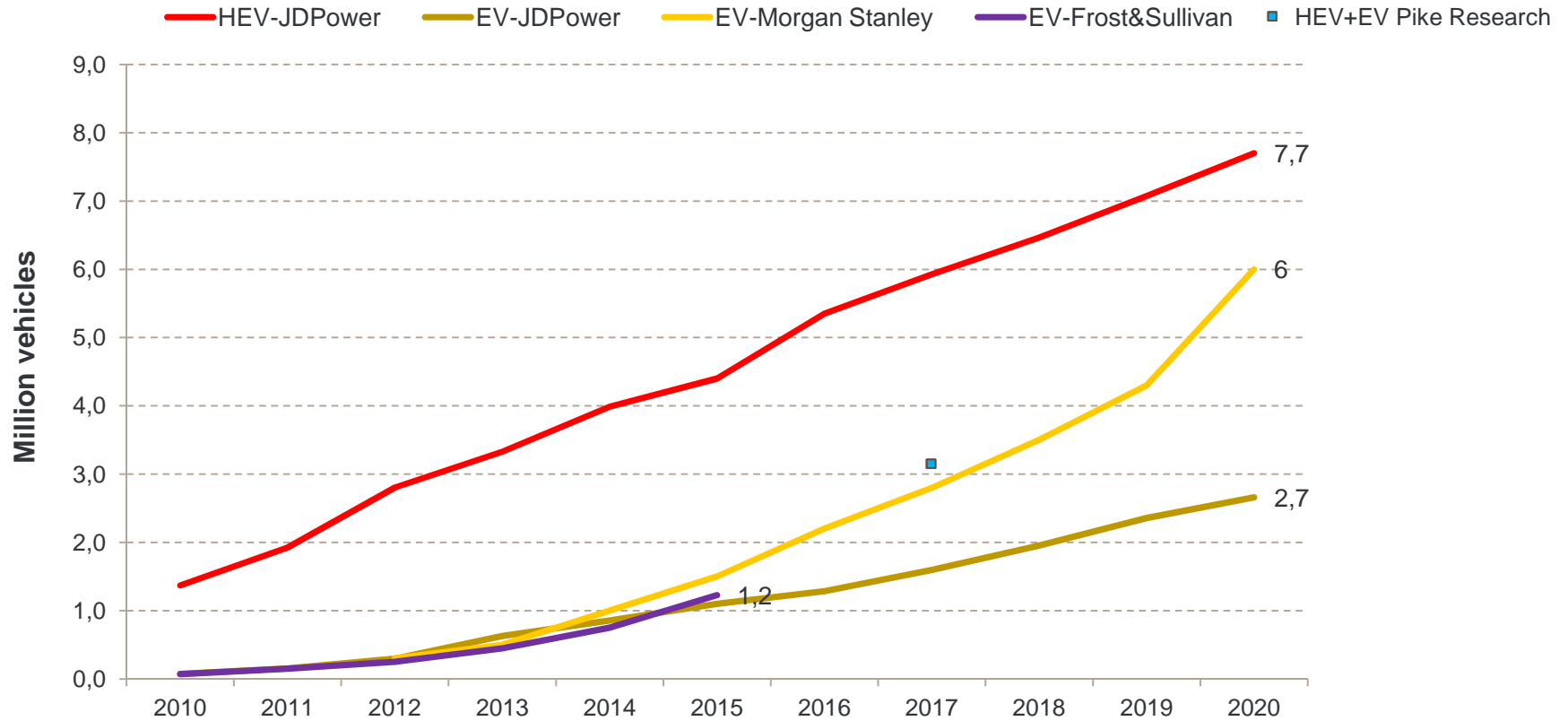
# Market share of hybrid and electric vehicles 2007 – 2020 (% of overall auto sales)

The share of battery-powered vehicles will grow but is expected to remain small through 2020, largely because of high costs.



Source: J.D. Power & Associates

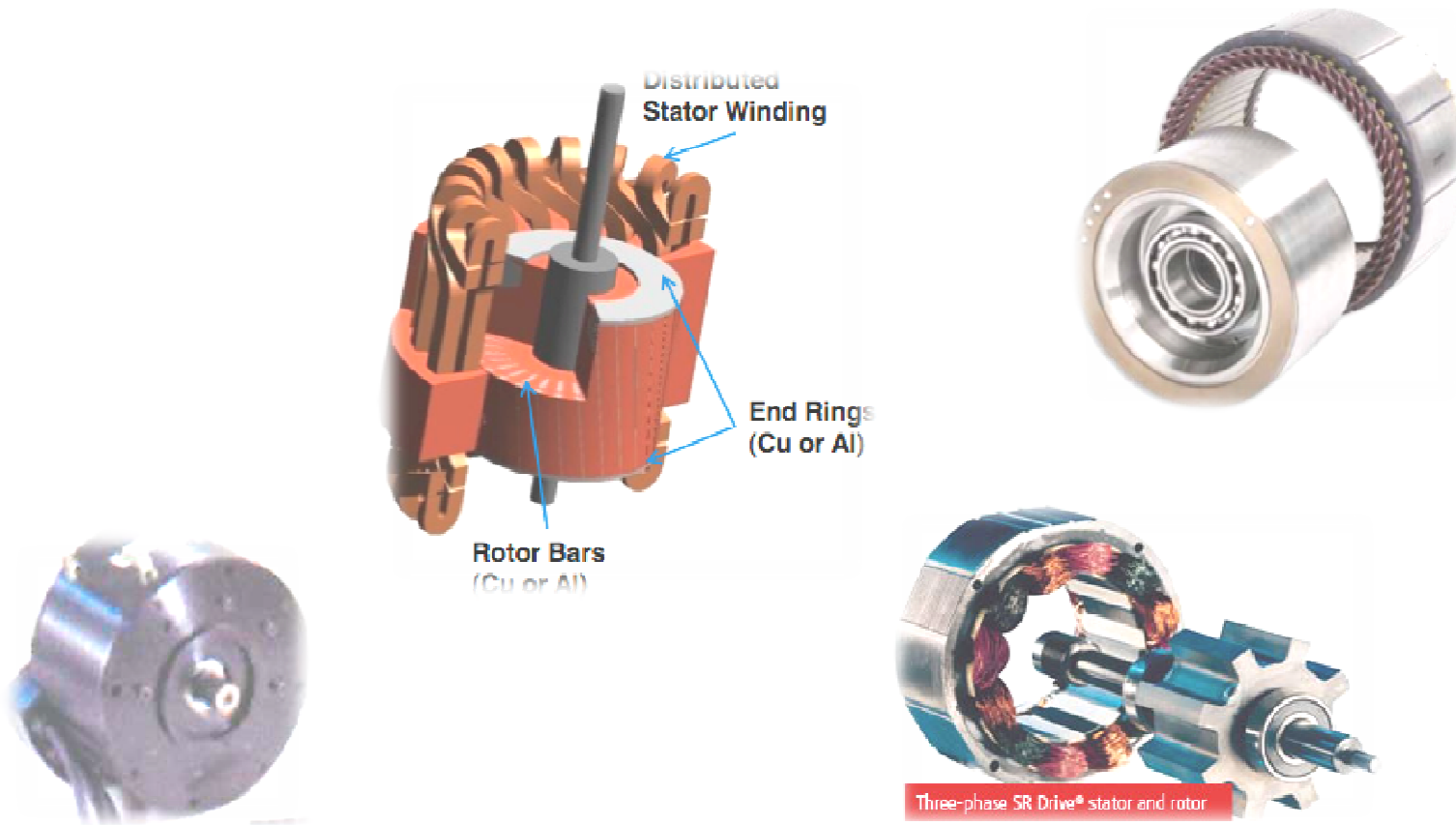
# Demand forecast for hybrid and battery electric vehicles



Source: J.D. Power & Associates, Morgan Stanley, Frost & Sullivan, Pike Research

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# Technology options for electric and hybrid vehicles



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## Motor technology alternatives

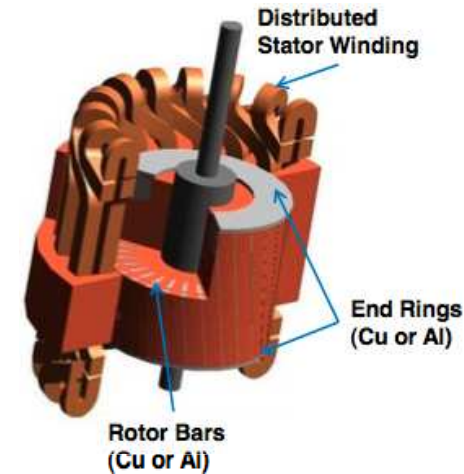
- Internal Permanent Magnet (IPM)
  - Currently popular choice for HEV and EV applications
  - Highest efficiency with high power density
  - Wide range of constant power
  - Overall weight and volume reduced for given output power
- Stator losses may be significant at higher speeds
- Limited field weakening capability due to presence of PMs, makes it more difficult to go to higher frequencies (rpm)
- At very high speed range, efficiency may drop because of risk of PM demagnetization
- Proper cooling is very important at high frequencies
- Dependency on rare earth magnets a real concern



## Motor technology alternatives (2)

### ■ Induction Motor (IM)

- Ready and proven technology for HEV/ EV applications (GM e-Assist, Tesla)
  - No magnets
  - Readily runs at higher temperatures
  - Durable and reliable
  - Lower material cost than IPM and can be recycled
  - Lower sensor cost
  - Ability to operate in hostile environments
  - Comparable power/torque density, noise and peak efficiency to IPM
  - Can withstand higher intermittent currents than IPM
  - “Drop in” rotor replacement for IPM, avoiding total redesign of motor
- 
- Slightly lower efficiency at low speeds



## Motor technology alternatives (3)

- Switched Reluctance motor (SR)

- Simple and rugged construction
- Cost effective – low tooling requirements
- Fault-tolerant operation
- Simple control
- Excellent torque-speed characteristics
- Constant power output over a wide speed range



- Acoustic noise and vibration are design challenges for automotive operation
- High torque at low speed capabilities make it attractive for heavy vehicle applications (Caterpillar, Deere)

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## Motor technology alternatives (4)

- Synchronous Wound Field DC Motor (DC)



- Excellent torque-speed characteristics for propulsion
- Simple speed controls



- Lower power/torque density and efficiency
- More bulky construction
- Low reliability
- Usually needs brushes and slip rings which can wear and create conductive dust (and increase maintenance)
- Rotor field windings can limit speed rating



DC motor in the Hybrid Citroën Berlingo

# Electric propulsion systems evaluation

Induction motor has the highest rating for electric propulsion of urban HEVs





## IPM

- Higher power density
- Slightly better peak efficiency

## IM

- Simpler
- Lower cost

• Use of copper rotor improves power density and efficiency (not shown in chart)

<i>Propulsion Systems</i>				
<i>Characteristics</i>	DC	IM	IPM	SRM
<i>Power density</i>	2.5	3.5	5	3.5
<i>Efficiency</i>	2.5	3.5	5	3.5
<i>Controllability</i>	5	5	4	3
<i>Reliability</i>	3	5	4	5
<i>Technological Maturity</i>	5	5	4	4
<i>Cost</i>	4	5	3	4
<i>Total</i>	22	27	25	23

Source: *Electric Motor Drive Selection Issues for HEV Propulsion Systems: A Comparative Study*, M. Zeraouia et al, *IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology*, Vol.55, No. 6, November 2006, pp. 1756-1764

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## Copper rotors deliver better performance in IMs

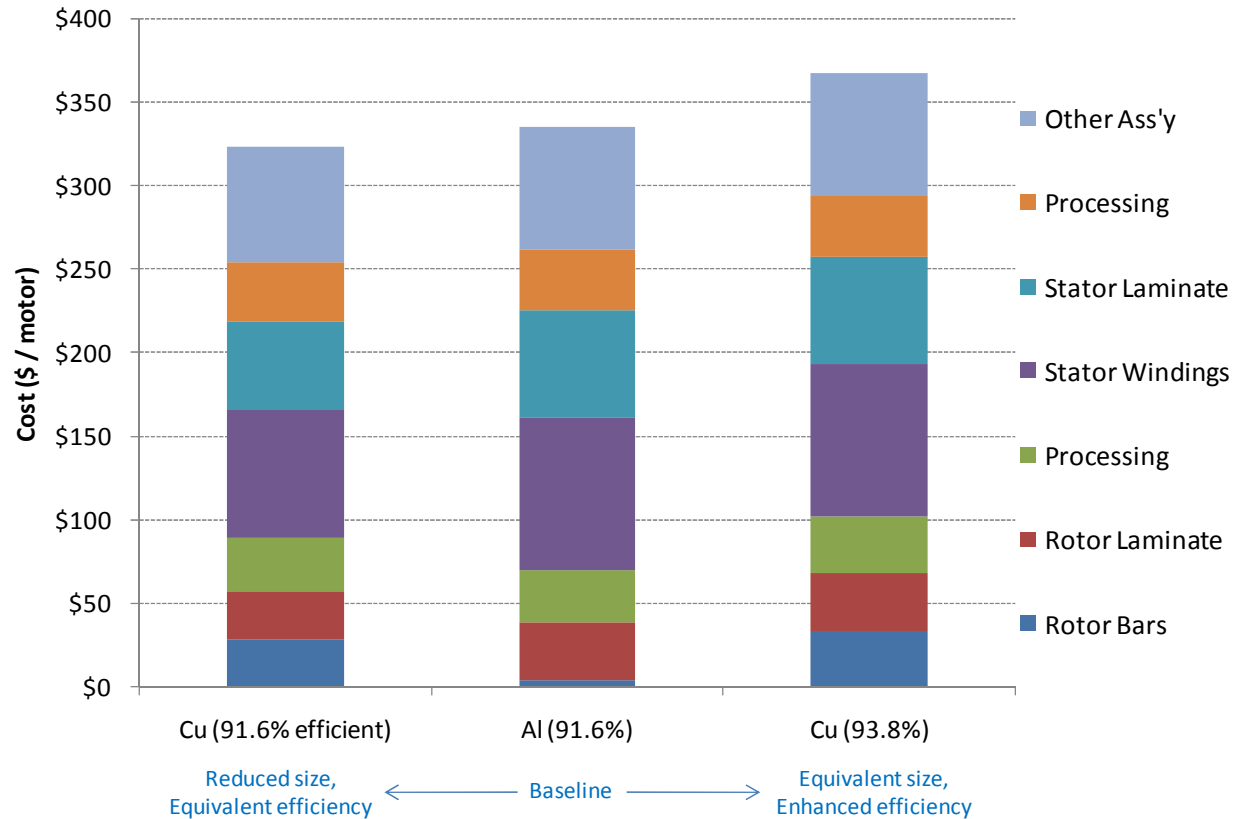
- Copper rotor bars and end rings reduce rotor electrical losses
  - Smaller and/or more efficient motors offer the same output performance
- Excellent heat conduction properties make thermal management easier
- Advanced copper die casting techniques manage cost and maximize quality for production volumes
- Die cast rotors provide better mechanical properties than fabricated rotors



# Manufacturing cost structure for three alternative designs of a 7.5 kW induction motor (needs updating to current metal prices)

## (7.5 kW) Electric Motor Manufacturing Costs

October 2008 electrical grade metal prices: Al (\$2.10/kg), Cu (\$5.07/kg)



Source: IBIS Associates

## Cost savings of copper rotor vs aluminum rotor are 14 to 18%

**Table 1. Motor Cost Comparisons: Copper vs. Aluminum Rotors**

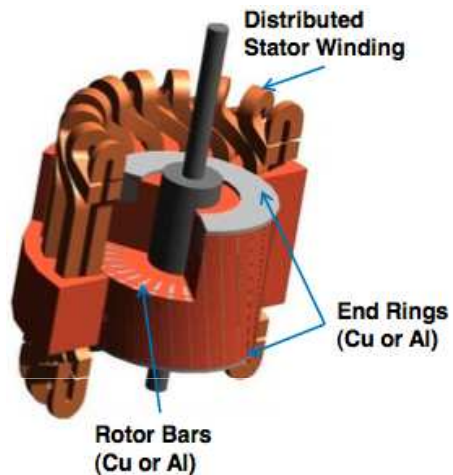
Motors Designed for Equivalent Energy Efficiency and Performance Characteristics (See text.)

Motor Size, Rotor Type	Costs, US\$					Savings with Copper-Rotor Motors
	Steel	Windings	Rotor	Shaft/Housing Assembly	Total	
<b>15 hp (11 kW)</b>						
COPPER	179	39	18	142	378	<b>\$64 (14%)</b>
ALUMINUM	222	46	6	168	442	
<b>7.5 hp (5.5 kW)</b>						
COPPER	123	20	11	117	271	<b>\$60 (18%)</b>
ALUMINUM	156	33	4	138	331	

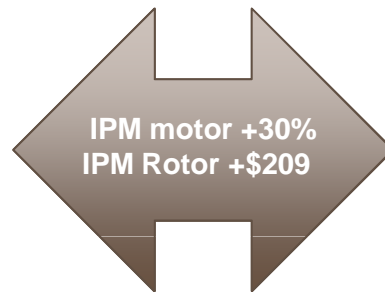
Source: Copper Development Association, Aug 2005

# IPM is now 30% more expensive than IM

IPM rotor costs \$209 more than copper rotor



*Induction motor with copper rotor  
Rotor cost ~ \$51*



*Internal permanent magnet motor  
Rotor cost ~\$260*

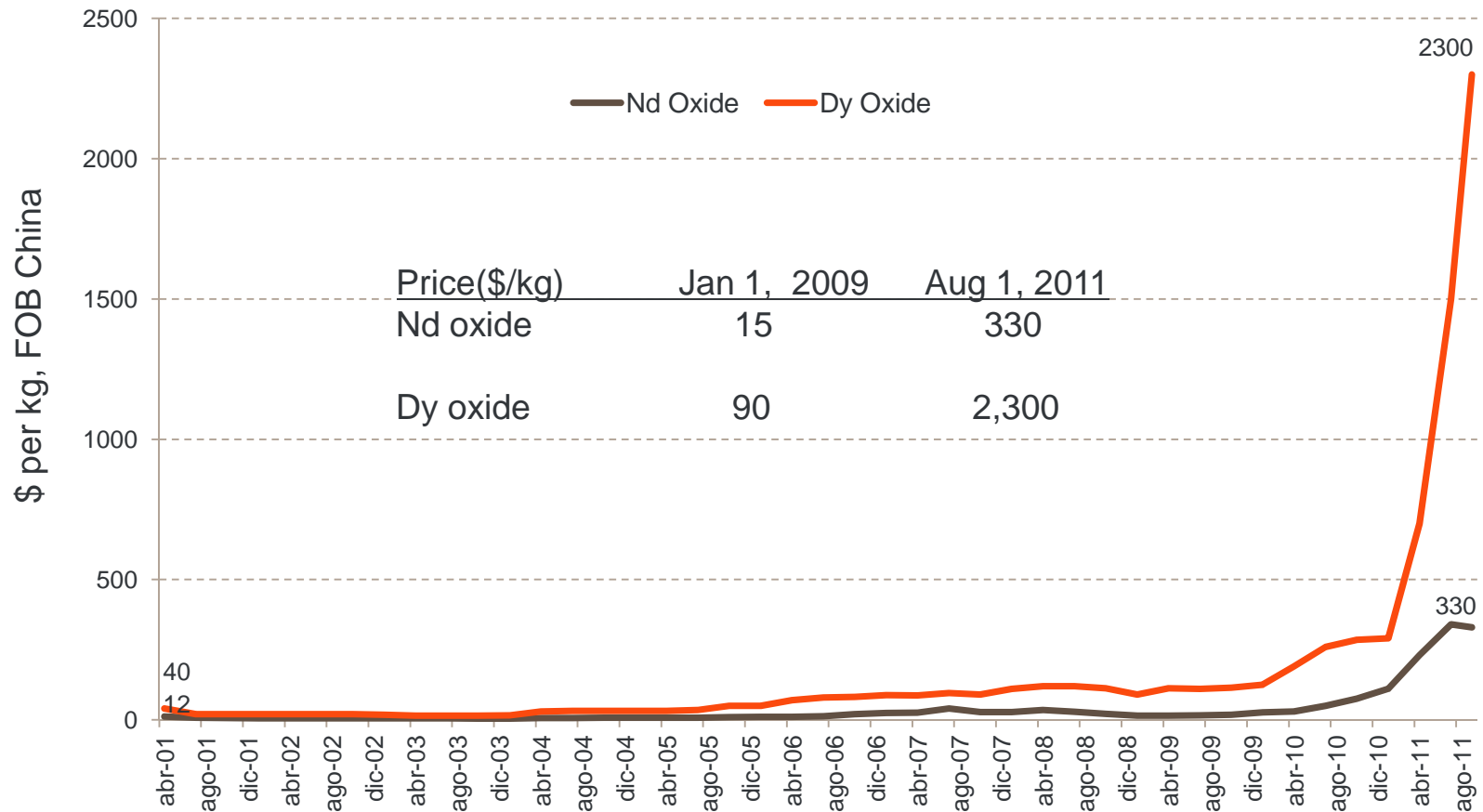
- ❑ For equivalent power density and torque IPM will be a smaller motor than IM but 30% more expensive<sup>1</sup>
- ❑  $Nd_{2-x} Dy_x Fe_{14} B$  is the basic magnet composition with Neodymium 23-26% by wt, Dysprosium 3 – 12% by wt
- ❑ General Motors' IPM rotor cost \$120, in January 2009.<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ Neodymium and Dysprosium prices have risen 22x and 25x respectively since Jan 2009, therefore the IPM rotor cost is at least \$140 higher or \$260.
- ❑ An average copper rotor costs \$51, so the difference in cost is ~\$209

*Source: Copper Development Association, SEW Eurodrive GmbH, ICA estimates*

<sup>1</sup> IPM also requires a frequency inverter if used at the grid but not in traction applications

<sup>2</sup> CDA meeting at General Motors

# Neodymium and Dysprosium prices have risen dramatically due to limits on Chinese exports

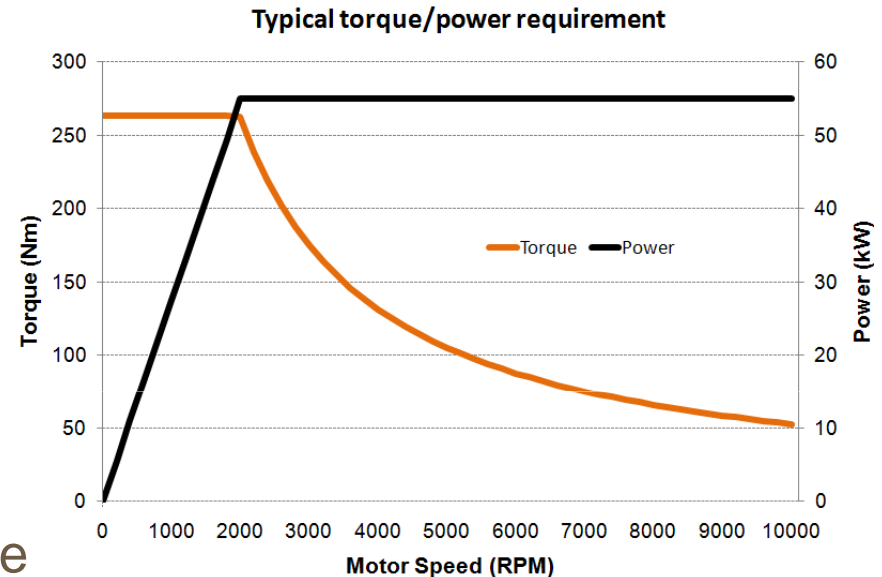


Source: [metal-pages.com](http://metal-pages.com), Kidela Capital

# Traction motors for electric vehicles

## Requirements

- Efficiency
- Reliability
- Durability
- Smaller motor size
- Reduced weight
- Reduced noise
- Better thermal management
- Operate over wide temperature range
- Operate over a wide speed/torque range
  - Constant torque at low speeds
  - Constant power at higher speeds to a maximum speed



Source: Electrical and Electronic Technical Team Roadmap, Freedom CAR fuel Partnership, November 2006

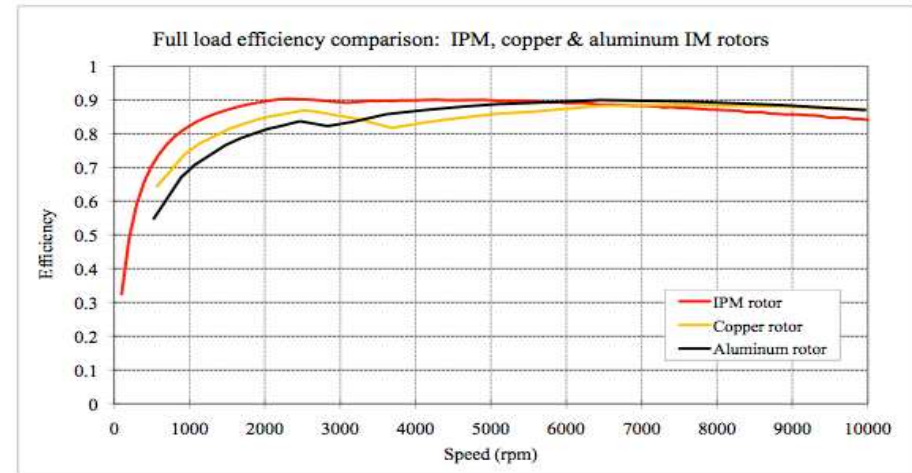
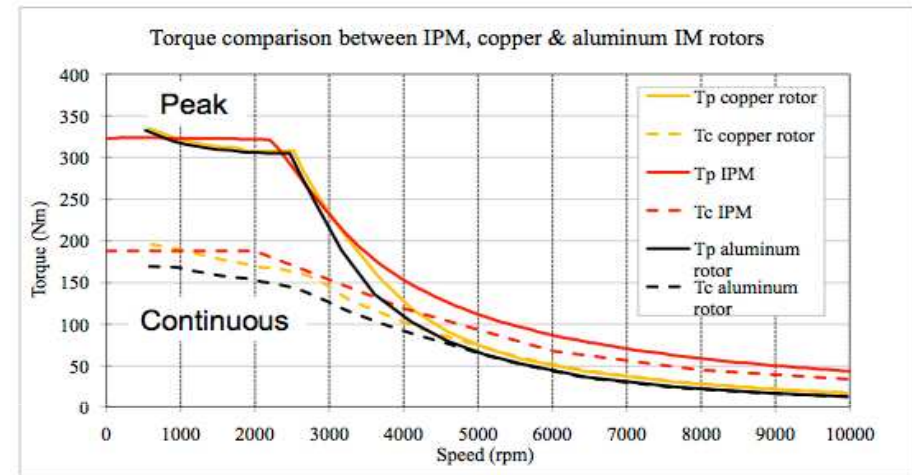
# Performance comparison of IPM vs IM motors

## Torque comparison:

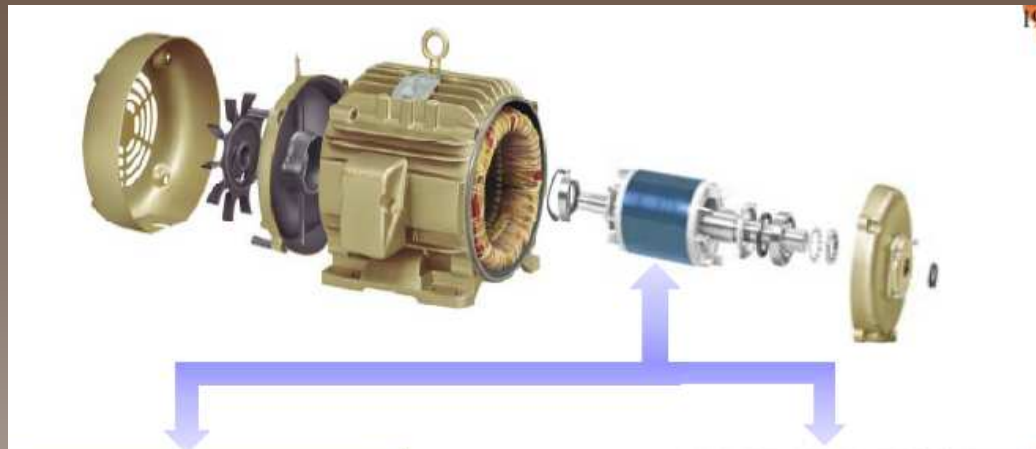
- Data taken using same battery, inverter, cooling system, and stator
- Comparable low speed performance
- At high speed, IM dropped off faster than IPM
- System voltage could be boosted to maintain high speed performance

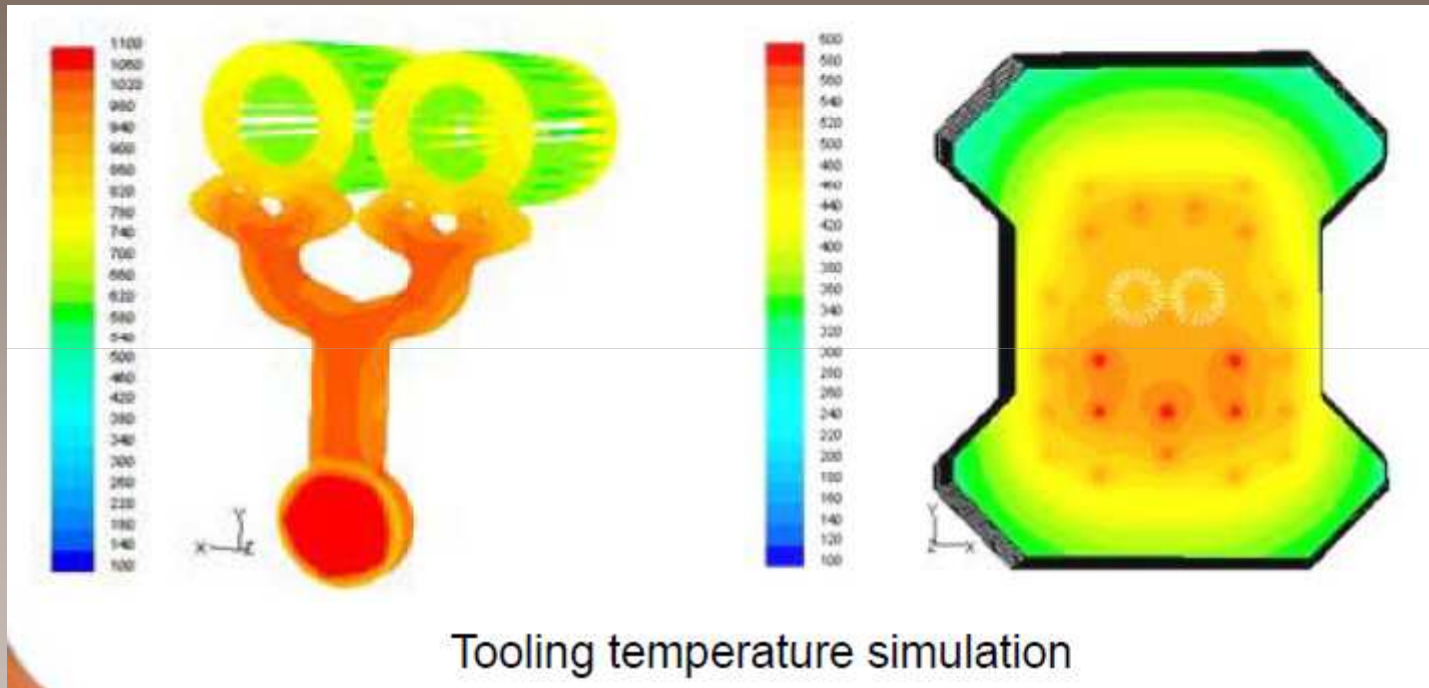
## Full load efficiency comparison:

- IM shows some compromise in performance at low speeds, but slight improvement at high speeds versus IPM



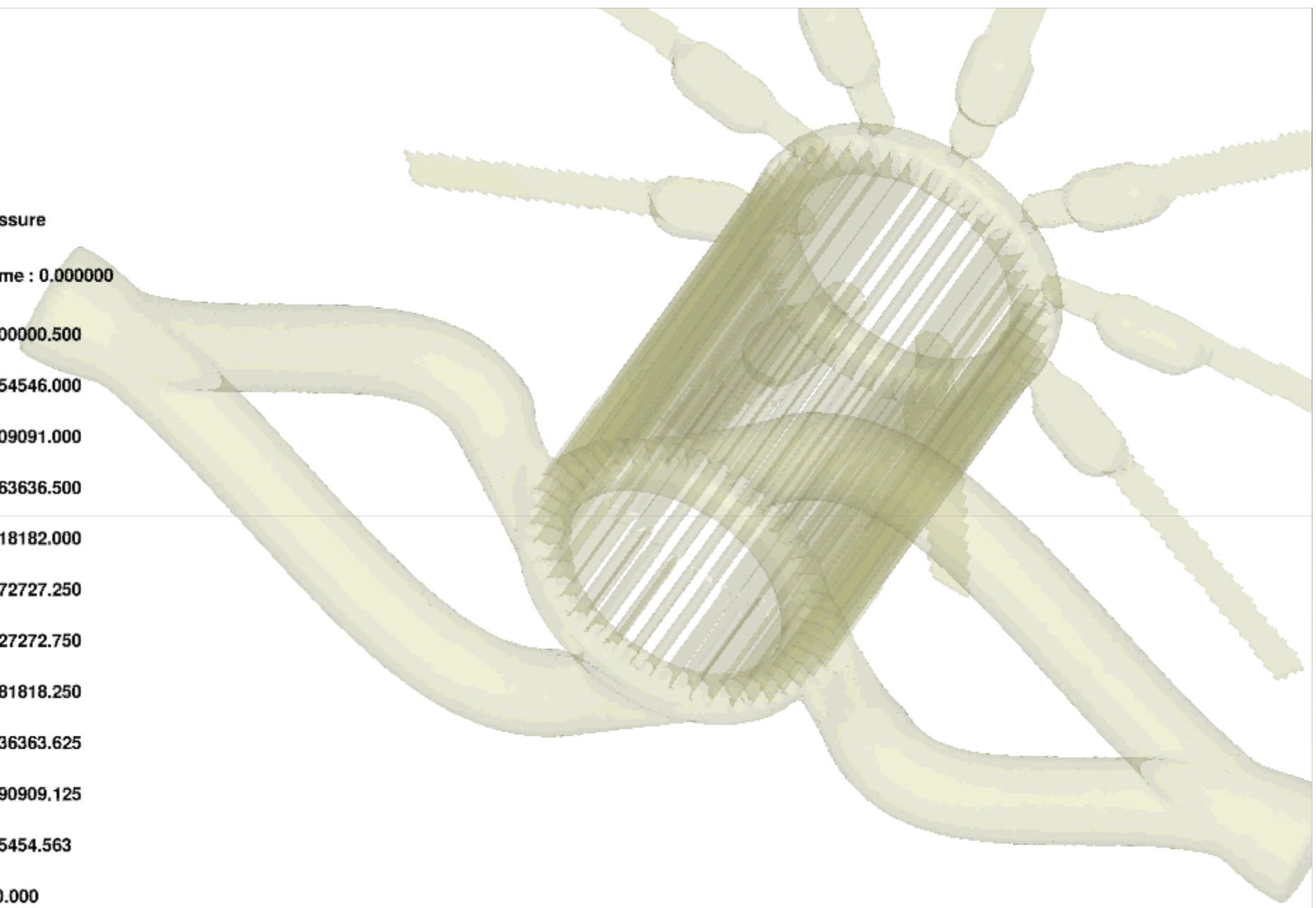
Source: Remy International





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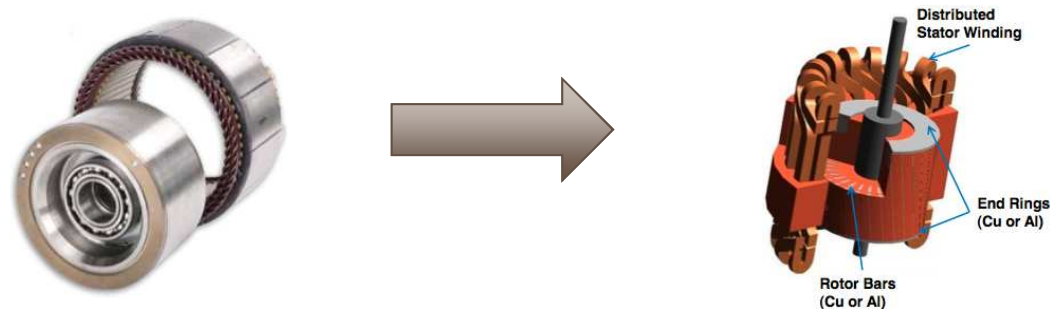
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## Conclusiones

- 10 million electric vehicles (mostly hybrids) by 2020
- Internal Permanent Magnet technology has been the most reasonable choice till now, however, for cost reasons, current competitiveness is low and very sensitive to the price of rare earths.
- Copper Rotor Motor offers very close or higher performance, at a better price and almost no volatility



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# International Copper Association develops and collaborates in the design and optimization of Copper Rotor Motors for automotive industry

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<http://www.copper.org/applications/electrical/motor-rotor/index.html>

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