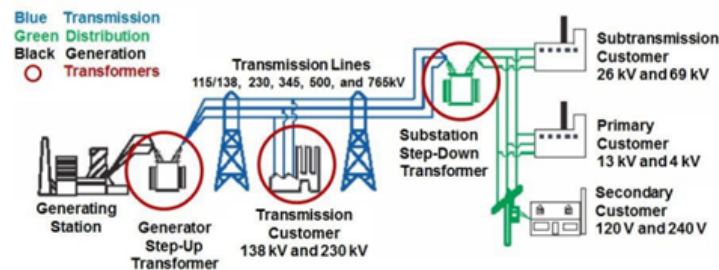




# Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study updates the initial June 2012 study under the same title, *Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid*. In this report, the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) assessed the procurement and supply environment of large power transformers (LPTs).<sup>1</sup> LPTs have long been a concern for the U.S. Electricity Sector, because the failure of a single unit can cause temporary service interruption and lead to collateral damage, and it could be difficult to quickly replace it. Key industry sources have identified the limited availability of spare LPTs as a potential issue for critical infrastructure resilience in the United States, and both the public and private sectors have been undertaking a variety of efforts to address this concern. Therefore, DOE examined the following topics in this report: characteristics and procurement of LPTs, including key raw materials and transportation; historical trends and future demands; global and domestic LPT suppliers; potential issues in the global sourcing of LPTs; and assessment of the risks facing LPTs.

LPTs are custom-designed equipment that entails a significant capital expenditure and a long lead time due to an intricate procurement and manufacturing process. Although prices vary by manufacturer and by size, an LPT can cost millions of dollars and weigh between approximately 100 and 400 tons (or between 200,000 and 800,000 pounds). The procurement and manufacturing of LPTs is a complex process that includes prequalification of manufacturers, a competitive bidding process, the purchase of raw materials, and special modes of transportation due to its size and weight. The result is the possibility of an extended lead time that could stretch beyond 20 months if the manufacturer has difficulty obtaining certain key parts or materials. Two raw materials—copper and electrical steel—account for more than half of the total cost of an LPT. Special grade electrical steel is used for the core of a power transformer and is critical to the efficiency and performance of the equipment; copper is used for the windings. In recent years, the price volatility of these two commodities in the global market has affected the manufacturing condition and procurement strategy for LPTs.

The rising global demand for copper and electrical steel can be partially attributed to the increased power and transmission infrastructure investment in growing economies, as well as the replacement market for aging infrastructure in developed countries. The United States is one of the world's largest markets for power transformers and holds the largest installed base of LPTs, and this installed base is aging. The average age of installed LPTs in the United States is approximately 38 to 40 years, with 70 percent of LPTs being 25 years or older. While the life expectancy of a power transformer varies depending on how it is used, aging power transformers are potentially subject to an increased risk of failure.

Since the late 1990's, the United States has experienced an increased demand for LPTs; however, despite the growing need, the United States has a limited domestic capacity to produce LPTs. In 2010, six power transformer manufacturing facilities existed in the United States, and together, they met approximately 15 percent of the Nation's demand for power transformers of a capacity rating greater than or equal to 60 megavolt-amperes (MVA).

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, the term large power transformer (LPT) is broadly used to describe a power transformer with a maximum capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA unless otherwise noted.

Although the exact statistics are unavailable, global power transformer supply conditions indicate that the Nation's reliance on foreign manufacturers was even greater for extra high-voltage (EHV) power transformers with a maximum voltage rating greater than or equal to 345 kilovolts (kV).

However, the domestic production capacity of LPTs in the United States has seen some improvements. Since April 2010, four new or expanded facilities have begun producing LPTs in the United States, including: Efacec's first U.S. transformer plant, which began production in Rincon, Georgia, in April 2010; Hyundai Heavy Industries' new manufacturing facility, which was inaugurated in Montgomery, Alabama, in November 2011; SPX Transformer Solution's facility in Waukesha, Wisconsin, which completed expansion in April 2012; and Mitsubishi's new power transformer plant in Memphis, Tennessee, which became operational in April 2013.

The upward trend of transmission infrastructure investment in the United States since the late 1990s is one of the key drivers for the recent addition of domestic manufacturing capacity for power transformers. Power transformers are globally-traded equipment, and the demand for this machinery is forecasted to continue to grow at a compound annual growth rate of three percent to seven percent in the United States according to industry sources. In addition to the need for the replacement of aging infrastructure, the United States has a demand for transmission expansion and upgrades to accommodate new generation connections and maintain electric reliability.

While global procurement has been a common practice for many utilities to meet their growing need for LPTs, there are several challenges associated with it. Such challenges include: the potential for an extended lead time due to unexpected global events or difficulty in transportation; the fluctuation of currency exchange rates and material prices; and cultural differences and communication barriers. The utility industry is also facing the challenge of maintaining an experienced in-house workforce that is able to address procurement and maintenance issues.

The U.S. electric power grid is one of the Nation's critical life-line functions on which many other critical infrastructure depend, and the destruction of this infrastructure can have a significant impact on national security and the U.S. economy. The electric power infrastructure faces a wide variety of possible threats, including natural, physical, cyber, and space weather. While the potential effect of these threats on the infrastructure is uncertain, public and private stakeholders in the energy industry are considering and developing a variety of risk management strategies to mitigate the effects. This DOE report updates the prior 2012 study and includes the following additional discussions:

- Updated information about global electrical steel supply conditions;
- The increased domestic production of LPTs resulting from four new or expanded plants;
- The historical assessment of risks to power transformers by an insurance firm; and
- New government and industry efforts to augment risk management options for critical electricity infrastructure, including power transformers.

Through these and the assessment of the manufacturing and supply issues related to LPTs, this report provides information to help the industry's continuous efforts to build critical energy infrastructure resilience in today's complex, interdependent global economy.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Focus of the Study

In today's dynamic, intersected global economies, understanding market characteristics and securing the supply basis of critical equipment, such as large power transformers (LPTs),<sup>2</sup> becomes increasing imperative for maintaining the resilience of the Electricity Sector.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of this report is to provide information to decision-makers in both public and private sectors about the country's reliance on foreign-manufactured LPTs and potential supply issues.

The Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure, assessed the manufacturing and supply conditions of LPTs in this report.<sup>4</sup> Power transformers have long been a concern for the U.S. Electricity Sector.<sup>5</sup> The failure of a single unit could result in temporary service interruption and considerable revenue loss, as well as incur replacement and other collateral costs. Should several of these units fail at the same time, it will be challenging to quickly replace them.

### Paths Forward

"Refine our understanding of the threats and risks associated with the global supply chain through updated assessments."

- *The National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security*,  
The White House, 2012

LPTs are special-ordered machineries that require highly skilled workforces and state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment and facilities. The installation of LPTs entails not only significant capital expenditures but also a long lead time due to the intricate manufacturing processes, including the securing of raw materials. As a result, asset owners and operators invest considerable resources to monitor and maintain LPTs, as failure to replace aging LPTs could present potential concerns, including increased maintenance costs, equipment failures, and unexpected power failures. Therefore, this report examines the following:

- Classification and physical characteristics of LPTs;
- Power transformer procurement and manufacturing processes;
- Supply sources and price variability of two raw commodities—copper and electrical steel;
- Global and domestic power transformer market and manufacturing conditions;
- Key global suppliers of LPTs to the United States;
- Potential challenges in the global sourcing of power transformers; and
- Assessment of potential risks and threats to power transformers.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this report, the term large power transformer (LPT) is broadly used to describe a power transformer with a maximum capacity rating of 100 MVA or higher, unless otherwise noted. See Section 1.3, Scope and Definition of Large Power Transformers, for discussions related to the inconsistencies in the industry's definition of LPTs, and see Section 2.2, Physical Characteristics of Large Power Transformers, for key physical attributes of LPTs.

<sup>3</sup> In this report, the Electricity Sector refers to the electricity industry as described in the "2010 Energy Sector-Specific Plan" (SSP). The Energy Sector, as delineated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7), includes the production, refining, storage, and distribution of oil, gas, and electric power, except for hydroelectric and commercial nuclear power facilities. The Energy Sector is not monolithic; it contains many interrelated industries that support the exploration, production, transportation, and delivery of fuels and electricity to the U.S. economy. See the 2010 Energy SSP, [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprdoc/DocumentsandMedia/Energy\\_SSP\\_2010.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprdoc/DocumentsandMedia/Energy_SSP_2010.pdf) (accessed April 7, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> The Presidential Policy Directive—Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (PPD-21) aims to advance a national unity of efforts to strengthen and maintain secure, functioning, and resilient critical infrastructure. It also identified the Nation's 16 critical infrastructure sectors, and the agencies that would be responsible for carrying out the policy for each sector. DOE is the Sector-Specific Agency that is responsible for the coordination of critical infrastructure protection activities for the Energy Sector. See the full text of PPD-21 at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/presidential-policy-directive-critical-infrastructure-security-and-resil> (accessed January 4, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> Such concern was raised in a June 1990 Congressional Report. See U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, Physical Vulnerability of Electric System to Natural Disasters and Sabotage, OTA-E-453 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1990).

## 1.2 Background

As applied to infrastructure, the concept of resilience embodies “the ability to adapt to changing conditions and prepare for, withstand, and rapidly recover from disruption.”<sup>6</sup> The resilience strategy is a cornerstone of the U.S. national policy as adopted in the 2013 *NIPP: Partnering for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience*, the 2012 *National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security*, and the 2010 *Energy Sector-Specific Plan*.<sup>7</sup> Broadly defined as the ability to withstand and recover from adversity, resilience is also increasingly applied to broad technical systems and social context.

The Electricity Sector has long embraced resilience as part of continuity of operations planning, risk management, and systems reliability. These practices have been so well ingrained in the operation of the electric grid that utility owners and operators often do not think of their practices as “resilience.”<sup>8</sup> Although reliability and redundancy are built into the system, the electricity industry identified that the limited domestic manufacturing capacity of high-voltage power transformers could present a potential supply issue in the event that many LPTs failed simultaneously.<sup>9</sup>

This concern was brought to light in the Electricity Sector’s High-Impact Low-Frequency (HILF) Risk Workshop in November 2009 and in a subsequent report entitled, *High Impact, Low Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power System* in the following year.<sup>10</sup> Co-sponsored by DOE and the North American Electrical Reliability Corporation (NERC), the HILF Risk Workshop examined selected severe impact risks to the Nation’s electrical grid. The workshop considered four risk scenarios concerning the Electricity Sector, including a severe geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) or electromagnetic pulse (EMP) event that damaged a difficult-to- replace generating station and substation equipment causing a cascading effect on the system.

In November 2010, NERC released the Critical Infrastructure Strategic Roadmap to provide a framework on how to address some of the severe impact risks identified in the HILF report.<sup>11</sup> The Roadmap provided recommendations on how to enhance electricity reliability and resilience

### Challenges and Opportunities in Increasing Resilience

“The limited availability of [spare] extra-high-voltage transformers in crisis situations presents potential supply chain vulnerability.”

- *A Framework for Establishing Critical Infrastructure Resilience Goals*, National Infrastructure Advisory Council, 2010

6 “The National Security Strategy,” The White House, May 2010, [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/national\\_security\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf) (accessed December 15, 2013).

7 See the “2013 NIPP: Partnering for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience,” U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NIPP%202013\\_Partnering%20for%20Critical%20Infrastructure%20Security%20and%20Resilience\\_508\\_0.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NIPP%202013_Partnering%20for%20Critical%20Infrastructure%20Security%20and%20Resilience_508_0.pdf); “National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security,” The White House, January 25, 2012, [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national\\_strategy\\_for\\_global\\_supply\\_chain\\_security.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_strategy_for_global_supply_chain_security.pdf); 2010 Energy SSP [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/Energy\\_SSP\\_2010.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/Energy_SSP_2010.pdf) (all accessed March 1, 2014).

8 “A Framework for Establishing Critical Infrastructure Resilience Goals,” the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, October 16, 2010, <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/niac/niac-a-framework-for-establishing-critical-infrastructure-resilience-goals-2010-10-19.pdf> (accessed December 8, 2013).

9 Ibid.

10 “High-Impact, Low-Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power System,” NERC, June 2010, [http://www.nerc.com/pa/CI/Resources/Documents/HILF\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/pa/CI/Resources/Documents/HILF_Report.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).

11 “Critical Infrastructure Strategic Roadmap,” Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council, November 2010.

from an all-hazards perspective and suggested direction for the Electricity Sector. Specifically, the Roadmap advised Electricity Sector entities to consider a full spectrum of risk management elements to address severe impact risks—planning, prevention, mitigation, and recovery.<sup>12</sup> In accordance with the Roadmap, both the public and private sectors of the Electricity Sector have undertaken a variety of activities that consider these risk management elements, including the recent development of the NERC Reliability Standards to protect the bulk power system from the effects of GMD.

This DOE report supplements the sector’s ongoing resilience efforts, specifically the prevention and recovery elements, through an examination of the supply chain of LPTs.

#### **Multi-Element Approach to Address Severe Risk Impacts**

“Prevention: Work with infrastructure vendors and suppliers to enhance identification of vulnerabilities, protections, and recoverability.”

“Recovery: Verify and enhance plans to provide human and material resources, with particular attention on equipment that may not be readily available.”

- *Critical Infrastructure Strategic Roadmap*, NERC, 2010

### **1.3 Scope and Definition of Large Power Transformers**

Throughout this report, the term LPT is broadly used to describe a power transformer with a maximum nameplate rating of 100 megavolt-amperes (MVA) or higher unless otherwise noted. However, it should be noted that there is no single, absolute industry definition or criterion for what constitutes an LPT and that additional specifications are often used to describe different classes of LPTs.

The size of a power transformer is determined by the primary (input) voltage, the secondary (output) voltage, and the load capacity measured by MVA. Of the three, the capacity rating, or the amount of power that can be transferred, is often the key parameter rather than the voltage.<sup>13</sup>

In addition to the capacity rating, voltage ratings are often used to describe different classes of power transformers, such as extra high voltage (EHV), 345 to 765 kilovolts (kV); high voltage, 115 to 230 kV; medium voltage, 34.5 to 115 kV; and distribution voltage, 2.5 to 35 kV.<sup>14</sup> A power transformer with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA typically has a voltage rating of greater than or equal to 115 kV on the high side; therefore, an LPT with a capacity rating of 100 MVA or greater can have a transmission voltage class of medium, high, or extra high (greater than or equal to 115 kV).

There are considerable differences in the definitions used to describe an LPT, including the transmission voltage classifications shown in Table 1. This report derived the criterion of an LPT from the following sources:

<sup>12</sup> The Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council represents the Electricity Sector as described in the Energy Sector Specific Plan, which includes bulk power system entities defined by Section 215 of the Federal Power Act.

<sup>13</sup> “Benefits of Using Mobile Transformers and Mobile Substations for Rapidly Restoring Electrical Service,” a

report to the United States Congress pursuant to Section 1816 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, U.S. Department of Energy, August 2006, [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/MTS\\_Report\\_to\\_Congress\\_FINAL\\_73106.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/MTS_Report_to_Congress_FINAL_73106.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. This study does not consider distribution transformers in the assessment, because the United States maintains domestic manufacturing capacity and backup supplies of distribution transformers. Moreover, a localized power outage at the distribution level does not present significant reliability threats, and utilities often maintain spare transformer equipment of this size range.

**Table 1. Transmission Voltage Classes**

Class	Voltage Ratings (kV)
Medium Voltage	34.5, 46, 69, 115/138
High Voltage	115/138, 161, 230
Extra High Voltage	345, 500, 765

Source: DOE, 2006; see footnote 13. Modified based on industry review.

- In a 2006 DOE study entitled, *Benefits of Using Mobile Transformers and Mobile Substations for Rapidly Restoring Electrical Service*, LPTs were described as “high-power transformers . . . with a rating over 100 MVA.”<sup>15</sup>
- A 2011 report from an antidumping investigation by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) established LPTs as “large liquid dielectric power transformers having a top power handling capacity greater than or equal to 60,000 kilovolt amperes (60 megavolt amperes), whether assembled or unassembled, complete or incomplete.”<sup>16</sup>
- The 2011 NERC Spare Equipment Database Task Force Report defined LPTs as follows:<sup>17</sup>
  - Transmission Transformers: The low voltage side is rated 100 kV or higher and the maximum nameplate rating is 100 MVA or higher.
  - Generation Step-up Transformers: The high voltage side is 100 kV or higher and the maximum nameplate rating is 75 MVA or higher.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

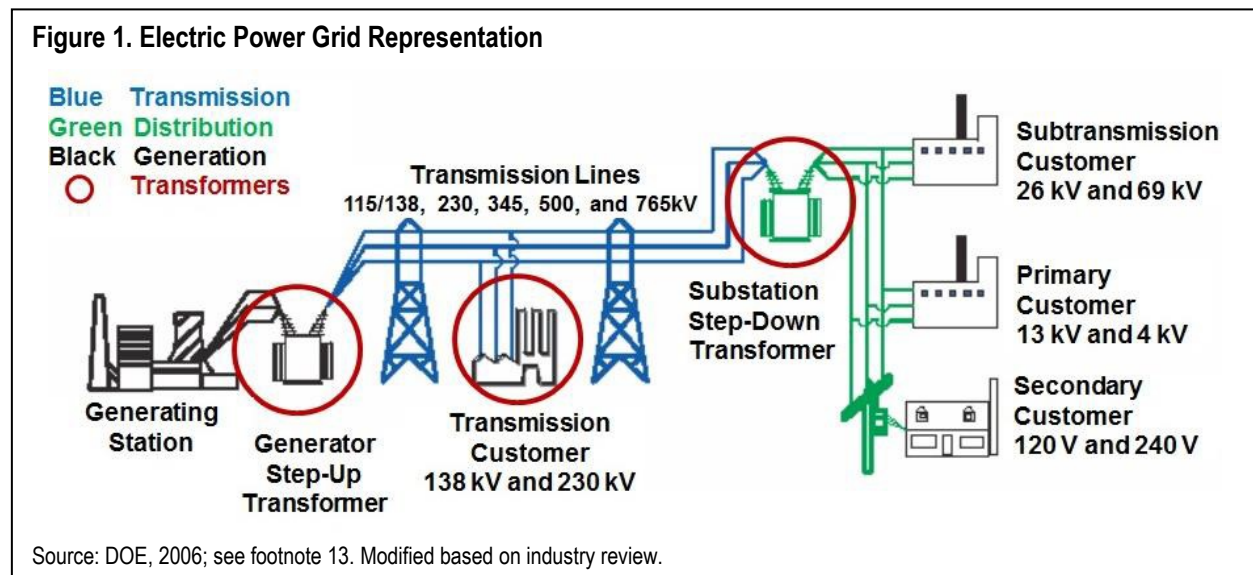
<sup>16</sup> “Large Power Transformers from Korea,” U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), Publication 4256, September 2011, [http://www.usitc.gov/publications/701\\_731/Pub4256.pdf](http://www.usitc.gov/publications/701_731/Pub4256.pdf) (accessed December 11, 2013).

<sup>17</sup> “Special Report: Spare Equipment Database System,” the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, October 2011, [http://www.nerc.com/docs/pe/sedtf/SEDTF\\_Special\\_Report\\_October\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/docs/pe/sedtf/SEDTF_Special_Report_October_2011.pdf) (accessed November 22, 2013).

## 2. POWER TRANSFORMER CLASSIFICATION

### 2.1 Power Transformers in the Electric Grid

North America's electricity infrastructure represents more than \$1 trillion U.S. dollars in asset value and is one of the most advanced and reliable systems in the world. The U.S. bulk grid consists of approximately 390,000 miles of transmission lines, including more than 200,000 miles of high-voltage lines, connecting to more than 6,000 power plants.<sup>18</sup> Power transformers are a critical component of the transmission system, because they adjust the electric voltage to a suitable level on each segment of the power transmission from generation to the end user. In other words, a power transformer steps up the voltage at generation for efficient, long-haul transmission of electricity and steps it down for distribution to the level used by customers.<sup>19</sup> Power transformers are also needed at every point where there is a change in voltage in power transmission to step the voltage either up or down. Figure 1 illustrates a simplified arrangement of the U.S. electric grid system.



### 2.2 Physical Characteristics of Large Power Transformers

An LPT is a large, custom-built piece of equipment that is a critical component of the bulk transmission grid. Because LPTs are very expensive and tailored to customers' specifications, they are usually neither interchangeable with each other nor produced for extensive spare inventories.<sup>20</sup> According to an industry source, approximately 1.3 transformers are produced for each transformer design. Figure 2 illustrates a standard core-type LPT and its major internal components.

Although LPTs come in a wide variety of sizes and configurations, they consist of two main active parts: the core, which is made of high-permeability, grain-oriented, silicon electrical steel, layered in pieces; and windings, which are made of copper conductors wound around the core,

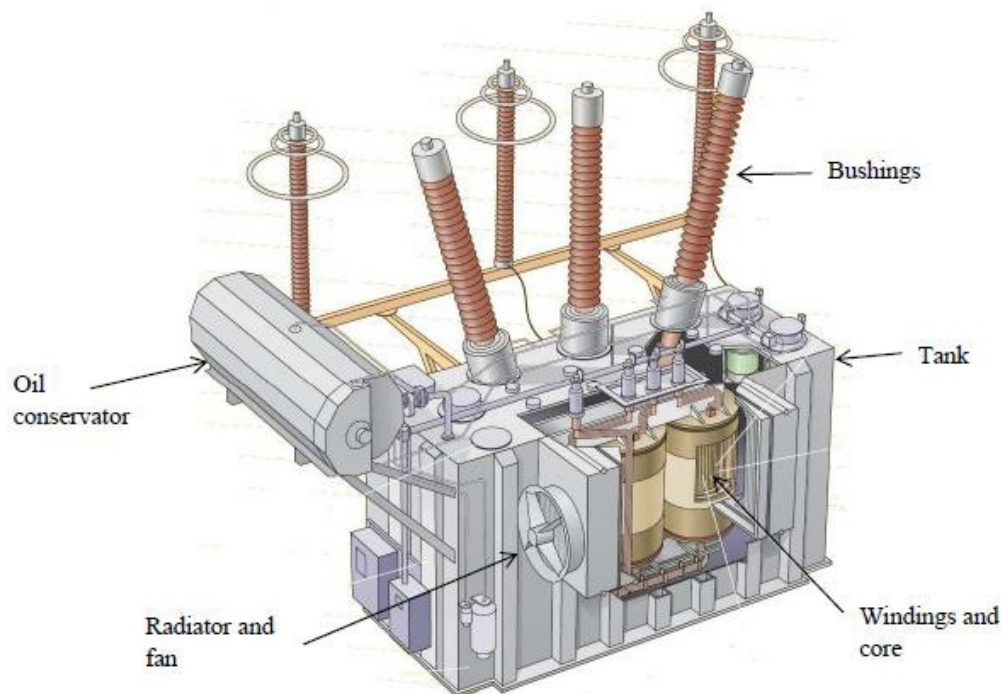
<sup>18</sup> 2013 NERC Electricity Supply & Demand Database, <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ESD/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>19</sup> Electricity is generally produced at 5 to 34.5 kV and distributed at 15 to 34.5 kV, but transmitted at 115 to 765 kV for economical, low-loss, long-distance transmission on the grid.

<sup>20</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011.

providing electrical input and output. Two basic configurations of core and windings exist—the core form and the shell form. In the usual shell-type power transformer, both primary and secondary windings are on one leg and are surrounded by the core, whereas in a core-type power transformer, cylindrical windings cover the core legs. Shell-form LPTs typically use more electrical steel for the core and are more resilient to short-circuits in the transmission systems and are frequently used in industrial applications.<sup>21</sup> The core and windings are contained in a rectangular, mechanical frame called the “tank.” Other parts include bushings, which connect LPTs to transmission lines, as well as tap changers, power cable connectors, gas-operated relays, thermometers, relief devices, dehydrating breathers, oil level indicators, and other controls.<sup>22</sup>

**Figure 2. Core-Type Large Power Transformer Showing Major Internal Components**



Source: “Liquid-Filled Power Transformers,” ABB

[http://www05.abb.com/global/scot/scot252.nsf/veritydisplay/299a52373c3fd0e6c12578be003a476f/\\$file/pptr\\_mpt\\_brochure\\_2406pl170-w1-en.pdf](http://www05.abb.com/global/scot/scot252.nsf/veritydisplay/299a52373c3fd0e6c12578be003a476f/$file/pptr_mpt_brochure_2406pl170-w1-en.pdf) (accessed March 31, 2014).

Power transformer costs and pricing vary by manufacturer, market condition, and location of the manufacturing facility. In 2010, the approximate cost of an LPT with an MVA rating between 75 MVA and 500 MVA was estimated to range from \$2 million to \$7.5 million in the United States; however, these estimates were Free on Board (FOB) factory costs, exclusive of transportation, installation, and other associated expenses, which generally add 25 percent to 30 percent to the total cost (see Table 2).<sup>23</sup> Raw materials, particularly copper and electrical steel, are a significant factor in power transformer prices. Transportation is also an important element of the total LPT cost because an LPT can weigh as much as 410 tons (820,000 pounds (lb)) and often requires long-distance transport.

<sup>21</sup> “Large Power Transformers from Korea,” USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011, p. I-5.

<sup>22</sup> “Benefits of Using Mobile Transformers and Mobile Substations for Rapidly Restoring Electrical Service,” U.S. Department of Energy, 2006.

<sup>23</sup> “Special Report: Spare Equipment Database System,” NERC, October 2011.

**Table 2. Estimated Magnitude of Large Power Transformers in 2011**

Voltage Rating (Primary-Secondary)	Capability MVA Rating	Approximate Price	Approximate Weight and Dimensions
<b>Transmission Transformer</b>			
<b><u>Three Phase</u></b>			
230–115kV	300	\$2,000,000	170 tons (340,000 lb) 21 ft W–27 ft L–25 ft H
345–138kV	500	\$4,000,000	335 tons (670,000 lb) 45 ft W–25 ft L–30 ft H
765–138kV	750	\$7,500,000	410 tons (820,000 lb) 56 ft W–40 ft L–45 ft H
<b><u>Single Phase</u></b>			
765–345kV	500	\$4,500,000	235 tons (470,000 lb) 40 ft W–30 ft L–40 ft H
<b>Generator Step-Up Transformer</b>			
<b><u>Three Phase</u></b>			
115–13.8kV	75	\$1,000,000	110 tons (220,000 lb) 16 ft W–25 ft L–20 ft H
345–13.8kV	300	\$2,500,000	185 tons (370,000 lb) 21 ft W–40 ft L–27 ft H
<b><u>Single Phase</u></b>			
345–22kV	300	\$3,000,000	225 tons (450,000 lb) 35 ft W–20 ft L–30 ft H
765–26kV	500	\$5,000,000	325 tons (650,000 lb) 33 ft W–25 ft L–40 ft H

Note: Prices are FOB factory and do not include taxes, transportation, special features and accessories, special testing (short-circuit, etc.), insulating oil, field installation, and/or optional services. The total installed cost is estimated to be about 25 percent to 30 percent higher.  
Source: "Special Report: Spare Equipment Database System," NERC, 2011; see footnote 17.

LPTs require substantial capital and a long-lead time (in excess of six months) to manufacture, and its production requires large crane capacities, ample floor space, and adequate testing and drying equipment. The following section provides further discussions on the production processes and requirements of LPTs, including transportation and key raw commodities.

### 3. LARGE POWER TRANSFORMER PROCUREMENT AND MANUFACTURING PROCESS

#### 3.1 Overview

This section provides an overview of key steps in the procurement and manufacturing process of an LPT, including bidding, production, and transportation. This overview is then followed by a discussion of key raw materials—electrical steel and copper—which are integral to LPTs. The several distinct steps and procedures, as well as the estimated lead time for each step required in power transformer manufacturing and procurement, are illustrated in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Large Power Transformer Procurement Process and Estimated Lead Time**



Note: This figure illustrates an optimal flow of the manufacturing process and the estimated lead time, which can extend beyond the estimated time frame shown.

\* Variable depending on distance and logistical issues.

Source: USITC and industry estimate.

#### 3.1.1 Prequalification of Manufacturers

As discussed in Section 2, LPTs are custom-made equipment that incurs significant capital costs. Utilities generally procure LPTs through a competitive bidding process, in which all interested producers must prequalify to be eligible to bid. Prequalification is a lengthy process that can take several years.<sup>24</sup> A typical qualification process includes an audit of production and quality processes, verification of certain International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications, and inspection of the manufacturing environment. This process can often be rigorous and costly to purchasers; however, it is an important step, because the manufacturing environment and capability can significantly affect the reliability of the product, especially of high-voltage power transformers.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, In the Matter of Large Power Transformers from Korea, USITC, August 4, 2011, [http://www.usitc.gov/trade\\_remedy/731\\_ad\\_701\\_cvd/investigations/2011/large\\_power\\_transformers/preliminary/PDF/Conference%2008-04-2011.pdf](http://www.usitc.gov/trade_remedy/731_ad_701_cvd/investigations/2011/large_power_transformers/preliminary/PDF/Conference%2008-04-2011.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).  
<sup>25</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011.

### 3.1.2 Bidding Process

A standard bidding process is initiated by a purchaser, who sends commercial specifications to qualified LPT producers. The producers then design LPTs to meet the specifications, estimate the cost, and submit a bid to the purchaser. The bids not only include the power transformer, but also services such as transportation, installation, and warranties.<sup>26</sup> Except for a few municipalities, most U.S. utilities do not announce the amount of the winning bid or the identity of the winning bidder. The winning bidder is notified, and bid terms normally require that the results be kept confidential by all parties involved.<sup>27</sup>

### 3.1.3 Production

The typical manufacturing process of an LPT consists of the following steps:<sup>28</sup>

1. **Engineering and design:** LPT design is complex, balancing the costs of raw materials (copper, steel, and cooling oil), electrical losses, manufacturing labor hours, plant capability constraints, and shipping constraints.
2. **Core building:** The core is the most critical component of an LPT, which requires a highly-trained and skilled workforce and cold-rolled, grain-oriented (CRGO) laminated electrical steel.
3. **Windings production and assembly of the core and windings:** Windings are predominantly copper and have an insulating material.
4. **Drying operations:** Excess moisture must be removed from the core and windings because moisture can degrade the dielectric strength of the insulation.
5. **Tank production:** A tank must be completed before the winding and core assembly finish the drying phase so that the core and windings do not start to reabsorb moisture.
6. **Final assembly of the LPT:** The final assembly must be done in a clean environment; even a tiny amount of dust or moisture can deteriorate the performance of an LPT.
7. **Testing:** Testing is performed to ensure the accuracy of voltage ratios, verify power ratings, and determine electrical impedances.

In the manufacturing process, certain parts can be produced either at the transformer plant or at another vendor or subsidiary location, depending on how vertically integrated the particular plant is and whether the plant has the necessary tools and capabilities, as well as for economic reasons.<sup>29</sup>

### 3.1.4 Lead Time

In 2010, the average lead time between a customer's LPT order and the date of delivery ranged from five to 12 months for domestic producers and six to 16 months for producers outside the United States.<sup>30</sup> The LPT market is characterized as a cyclical market with a correlation between volume, lead time, and price. In other words, the average lead time can increase when the demand is high, up to 18 to 24 months.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., p. V-I.

<sup>27</sup> Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, pp. 135-136.

<sup>28</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011, pp. I-9-I-10.

<sup>29</sup> Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, p. 95.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. II-7.

<sup>31</sup> SPX Transformer Solutions Analyst Day Presentation, September 11, 2012.

This lead time could extend beyond 20 months and up to five years in extreme cases if the manufacturer has difficulty obtaining any key inputs, such as bushings and other key raw materials, or if considerable new engineering is needed.<sup>32</sup> An industry source noted that high-voltage (HV) bushings often have a long lead time, extending up to five months. Another industry source added that HV bushings are usually customized for each power transformer and there are limited bushing manufacturers in the United States. Manufacturers must also secure supplies of specific raw materials or otherwise they could endure an extended lead time.<sup>33</sup>

Once completed, a power transformer is disassembled for transport, including the removal of oil, radiators, bushings, convertors, arrestors, and so forth. The proper transportation of a power transformer and its key parts is critical to ensuring the high reliability of the product and minimizing the period for onsite installation.

### 3.1.5 Transportation

Transporting an LPT is challenging—its large dimensions and heavy weight pose unique requirements to ensure safe and efficient transportation. Current road, rail, and port conditions are such that transportation is taking more time and becoming more expensive.<sup>34</sup> Although rail transport is most common, LPTs cannot be transferred over normal railcars, because they cannot be rolled down a hill or bumped into other rail cars, which can damage the power transformer. This is because the heaviest load a railroad normally carries is about 100 tons, or 200,000 lb, whereas an LPT can weight two to three times that amount.<sup>35</sup>

A specialized railroad freight car known as the Schnabel railcar is used to transport extremely heavy loads and accommodate height via railways. Figure 4 shows LPTs being transported on the road and on a Schnabel car. There are a limited number of Schnabel cars available worldwide, with only about 30 of them in North America.<sup>36</sup> Certain manufacturers operate a Schnabel car rental program and charge up to \$2,500 per day for the rental in addition to other applicable fees.<sup>37</sup> Access to a railroad is also becoming an issue in certain areas due to the closure,

**Figure 4. Transport of Large Power Transformers**



Note: Workers move wires, lights, and poles to transport a 340-ton power transformer, causing hours of traffic delay.

Source: Pittsburgh Live News, December 2011.



Note: Schnabel Car transporting an LPT.

Source: ABB

<sup>32</sup> Industry source estimate.

<sup>33</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011, p. II-7.

<sup>34</sup> Siemens, Transformer Lifecycle Management, [http://www.energy.siemens.com/mx/pool/hq/services/power-transmission-distribution/transformer-lifecycle-management/TLM\\_EN\\_.pdf](http://www.energy.siemens.com/mx/pool/hq/services/power-transmission-distribution/transformer-lifecycle-management/TLM_EN_.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>35</sup> Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, p. 100.

<sup>36</sup> "Large Power Transformer and Schnabel Rail Car," Business and Technical Report, National Security Industrial Readiness, Pre-decisional Draft for Official Use Only.

<sup>37</sup> "Railcar rental program for power transformer relocation," ABB,

[http://www05.abb.com/global/scot/scot252.nsf/veritydisplay/36bcc4e173d5c1558525760b00711641/\\$file/1zul004605-300\\_railcar\\_r4.pdf](http://www05.abb.com/global/scot/scot252.nsf/veritydisplay/36bcc4e173d5c1558525760b00711641/$file/1zul004605-300_railcar_r4.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).

damage, or removal of rail lines. A German machine called the Goldhofer, which “looks like a caterpillar with 144 tires and features a hydraulic system” to handle the heavy weight, is another mode of transportation used on the road.<sup>38</sup>

When an LPT is transported on the road, it requires obtaining special permits and routes from the department of transportation of each state on the route of the LPT being transported. According to an industry source, obtaining these special permits can require an inspection of various infrastructure (e.g., bridges), which can add delay. In addition, transporting LPTs on the road can require temporary road closures due to traffic issues, as well as a number of crew and police officers to coordinate logistics and redirect traffic. The transport modular shown in Figure 4 is 70 feet long with 12 axles and 192 wheels, and occupies two lanes of traffic.

Logistics and transportation accounted for approximately three percent to 20 percent of the total cost of an LPT for both domestic and international producers.<sup>39</sup> While important, this is less significant than the cost of raw materials and the potential sourcing concerns surrounding them. The next section describes some of the issues concerning raw materials vital to LPT manufacturing.

### 3.2 Raw Materials Used in Large Power Transformers

The main raw materials needed to build power transformers are copper conductors, silicon iron/steel, oil, and insulation materials. The cost of these raw materials is significant, accounting for well over 50 percent of the total cost of a typical LPT. Specifically, manufacturers have estimated that the cost of raw materials accounted for 57 percent to 67 percent of the total cost of LPTs sold in the United States between 2008 and 2010.<sup>40</sup> Of the total material cost, about 18 percent to 27 percent was for copper and 22 percent to 24 percent was for electrical steel.<sup>41</sup> For this reason, this section examines the issues surrounding the supply chain and price variability of the two key raw materials used in LPTs—copper and electrical steel.

#### 3.2.1 Electrical Steel and Large Power Transformers

The electrical steel used in power transformer manufacture is a specialty steel tailored to produce certain magnetic properties and high permeability. A special type of steel called cold-rolled grain-oriented electrical steel (hereinafter refer to as “electrical steel”) makes up the core of a power transformer. Electrical steel is the most critical component that has the greatest impact on the performance of the power transformer, because it is designed to provide low core loss and high permeability, which are essential to efficient and economical power transformers.

Electrical steel is produced in different levels of magnetic permeability: conventional and high-permeability. Conventional products are available in various grades from M-2 through M-6, with thickness and energy loss increasing with each higher number (see Figure 5).<sup>42</sup> High-permeability product allows a transformer to operate at a higher level of flux density<sup>43</sup>

38 Clark, Cammy, “Massive transformer makes long voyage to FPL’s Turkey Point nuclear plant,” July 2, 2012, Miami Herald, <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/06/06/2878497/massive-transformer-makes-long.html#storylink=cpy> (accessed April 1, 2014).

39 “Large Power Transformers from Korea,” USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011, p. V-1, and an industry source estimate.

40 Ibid.

41 Ibid., p. VI-1.

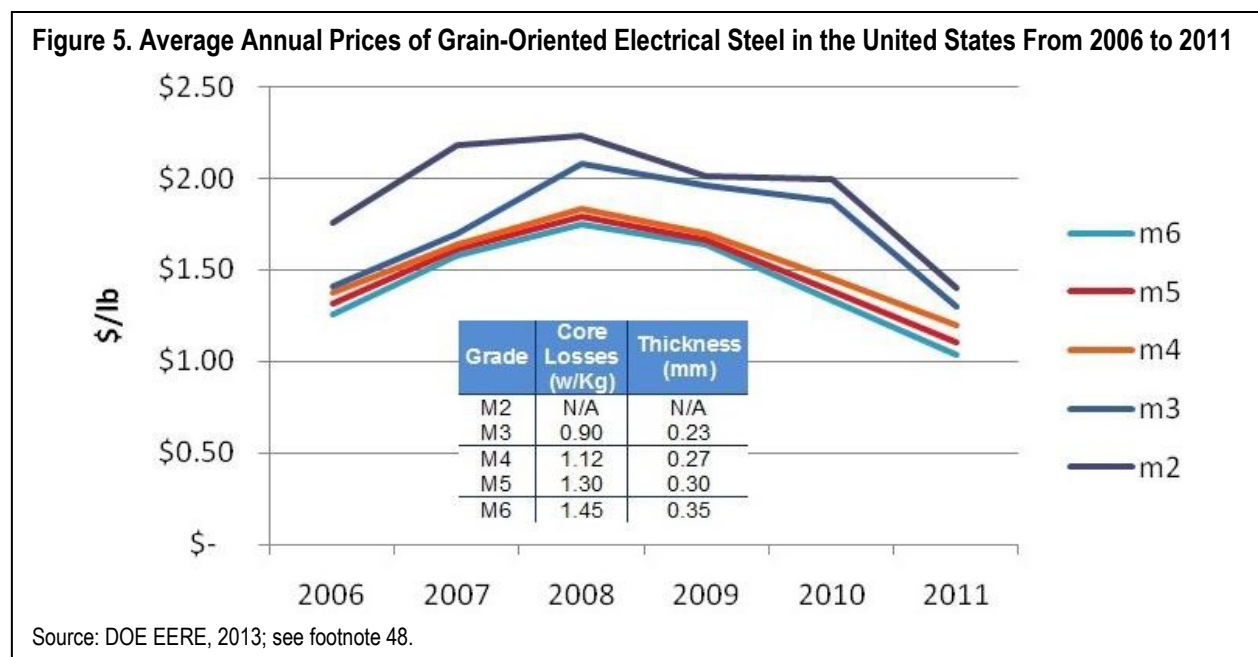
42 “Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel from China, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, and Russia,” USITC, Publication 4439, November 2013, [http://www.usitc.gov/publications/701\\_731/pub4439.pdf](http://www.usitc.gov/publications/701_731/pub4439.pdf) (accessed March 25, 2014).

43 “Flux density” generally refers to the total number of magnetic lines of force per unit area (i.e., the density of magnetic lines of force, or magnetic flux lines, passing through a specific area.) Source: Ibid.

than conventional products, thus permitting a transformer to be smaller and have lower operating losses.<sup>44</sup> The quality of electrical steel is measured in terms of loss of electrical current flowing in the core. In general, core losses are measured in watts per kilogram (W/kg), and the thinner the material, the better the quality.<sup>45</sup> An industry source noted that an electrical steel grade of M3 or better is typically used in LPTs to minimize core loss.

The quality or degree of loss that is acceptable can vary depending on the primary use of the power transformer—whether it is located on a site that carries a moderate or heavy load. In other words, the grade of electrical steel used for the power transformer core varies depending on how highly the utility values losses.<sup>46</sup> Recently, due to environmental protection requirements, energy savings and minimizing core loss in power transformers are becoming important.

Figure 5 present the average annual prices of grain-oriented electrical steel in the United States between 2006 and 2011. The average annual prices of electrical steel ranged from \$1.20 to \$2.20 per pound between 2006 and 2011, with peak prices occurring in 2008. According to an industry source, the price of electrical steel has been recorded as high as \$2.80 per pound (lb). As a reference, approximately 170,000 to 220,000 lb of core steel is needed in a power transformer with a capacity rating between 300 and 500 MVA.<sup>47</sup>



As shown in figure 5, the prices of electrical steel have been volatile over the time period from 2006 to 2008 and have generally declined from their 2008 highs. These trends can be attributed to the following factors:<sup>48</sup>

44 “Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel from China, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, and Russia,” USITC, Publication 4439, November 2013.

45 Ibid.

46 Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, p. 97.

47 Estimates provided by an industry source.

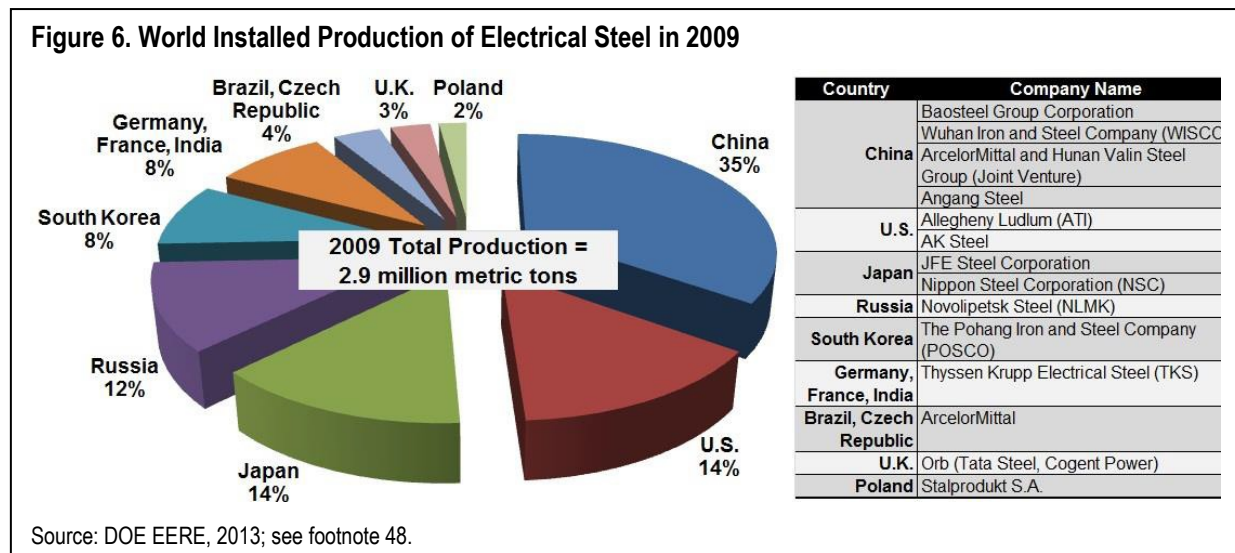
48 “Appendix 3A. Core Steel Market Analysis, Technical Support Document: Energy Efficiency Program for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment Distribution Transformers,” Office of Energy

- The continued increase in global demand for grain oriented electrical steel, particularly in China and India;
- Higher raw material prices to the core steel manufacturers (e.g., iron ore, coking coal, scrap steel) and higher processing energy costs;
- The low value of the U.S. dollar, (the low value increases the cost of imported steel and encourages domestic suppliers to export); and
- The onset of the global economic recession and financial meltdown in late 2008.

### 3.2.2 Global Electrical Steel Suppliers

The availability of electrical steel supply sources worldwide is limited. In 2013, there were only two domestic producers—AK Steel and Allegheny Ludlum. In addition to the two domestic producers, there were eleven major international companies producing grain oriented electrical steel. However, only a limited number of producers worldwide are capable of producing the high-permeability steel that is generally used in LPT cores. AK Steel is the only domestic producer of the high-permeability, domain-refined (laser-scribed) core steel used in high-efficiency stacked cores.

Figure 6 represents electrical steel production by country in 2009, as well as the names of producers from each country. In 2009, China's four companies produced 35 percent of the world's electrical steel, the majority of which were consumed domestically. Conversely, Japan produced 14 percent of the world's electrical steel mainly for the purpose of export. The two U.S. producers accounted for 14 percent of the world's electrical steel production.



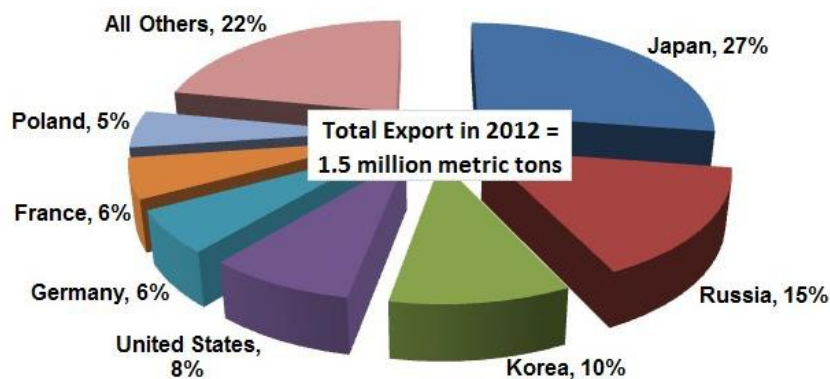
According to the USITC, in 2012, a total of 1.5 million metric tons of electrical steel were exported around the world, and exports from three countries—Japan, Russia, and South Korea—accounted for more than half of that total (see Figure 7).<sup>49</sup> While China was the largest producer

Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE), DOE, April 2013, [https://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance\\_standards/commercial/pdfs/transformer\\_preanalysis\\_app3a.pdf](https://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/pdfs/transformer_preanalysis_app3a.pdf) (accessed December 30, 2013).

49 "Technical Support Document: Energy Efficiency Program for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment Distribution Transformers," EERE, DOE, April 2013.

of electrical steel, it contributed only two percent of the total global export in 2012. Japan was the largest exporter of electrical steel with 27 percent, followed by Russia and Korea, each exporting 15 percent and 10 percent of total global electrical steel in 2012, respectively. See “Appendix B. Global Electrical Steel Manufacturer Profiles,” for additional information on the electrical steel producers.

**Figure 7. Global Exports of Electrical Steel by Reporting Countries in 2012**



Source: USITC, 2013.

### 3.2.3 Variability of Commodity Prices

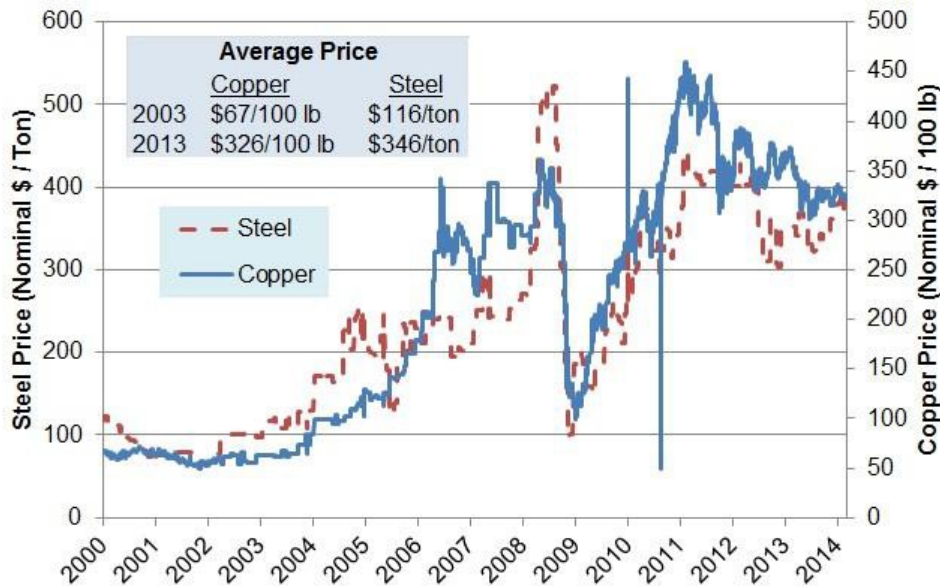
Since 2004, the global commodity market has experienced price fluctuations for both steel and copper, driven up largely by the demand from emerging economies. The global consumption of these metals is expected to continue to rise in the next decade as supply conditions tighten, leading to increased worries about the future price movement of these key commodities. The average price of copper more than quadrupled between 2003 and 2013, costing more than \$4.27 per pound by 2011 (see Figure 8). While the price of steel shown in this figure does not present the electrical steel used to manufacture LPTs, it does shed some light on the volatility of steel commodity prices worldwide.

In 2012, China was the single largest buyer of steel in the world, consuming more than 45 percent of the world’s total steel consumption of 1,413 million metric tons that year.<sup>50</sup> Although China’s primary need for steel is in the construction sector, China also has a significant demand for power transmission infrastructure. China’s and India’s demands for steel, including high-efficiency, grain-oriented steel, are expected to continue to affect the availability and price of steel and copper to the rest of the world.<sup>51</sup>

50 “World Steel in Figures 2013,” Worldsteel Association, <http://www.worldsteel.org/dms/internetDocumentList/bookshop/World-Steel-in-Figures-2013/document/World%20Steel%20in%20Figures%202013.pdf> (accessed April 9, 2014).

51 Technical Support Document: Energy Efficiency Program for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment Distribution Transformers,” EERE, DOE, April 2013.

**Figure 8. Historical Copper and Steel Price Variability From 2000 to 2013**



Source: Bloomberg, 2014.

Faced with the price volatility of raw materials and increased global demand for LPTs in recent years, the industry's procurement teams have revamped their sourcing strategies. According to a sourcing analyst from a major U.S. electric utility, a procurement strategy companies are increasingly using is multiyear "blanket agreements" in which they lock in volumes and price points for power transformers.<sup>52</sup> Blanket agreements are long-term alliances between an investor-owned utility and a specific LPT supplier; the utility selects and locks in with one manufacturer to provide it with LPTs for a period of two to five years. These agreements benefit the utility because once it provides specifications and buys one power transformer from the supplier, additional LPTs can be produced and shipped more rapidly. Although industry executives suggest that sales based on these alliances account for a significant share of LPT sales in the United States, the actual percentage of sales based on these agreements is unavailable.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Schumacher, Judson, "Buying Transformers," *Transmission & Distribution World*, May 1, 2006, [http://tdworld.com/business/power\\_buying\\_transformers/](http://tdworld.com/business/power_buying_transformers/) (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>53</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 29, 2011.

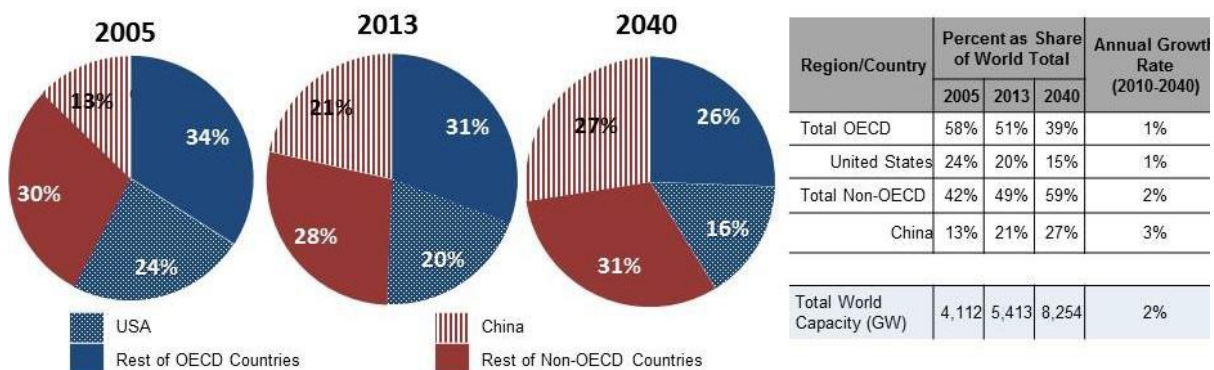
## 4. POWER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRENDS

### 4.1 Global Power Generation Capacity

In 2013, the world had more than five trillion watts of power generation capacity, which was growing at an annual rate of two percent. China and the United States had the largest generation capacity, with each holding about 21 percent and 20 percent of the world's total installed capacity, respectively.<sup>54</sup>

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) 2013 *International Energy Outlook*, the world will add 2,840 gigawatts (GW) of new capacity by 2040, a majority of which will be installed in non-OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries.<sup>55</sup> China's generating capacity is forecasted to increase by approximately three percent annually through 2040, while the U.S. capacity is expected to rise at approximately one percent annually during the same period (see Figure 9).<sup>56</sup> By 2040, China's installed power generation capacity will surpass that of the United States and will hold a quarter of the world's total capacity of 8,254 GW, becoming the world's largest power generating capacity holder. As a general rule, the addition of electricity generation capacity spurs investment in not only power generation infrastructure but also in transmission infrastructure, including transmission line equipment and power transformers, which are necessary to transmit power from generators to end users.

**Figure 9. Global Installed Power Generation Capacity From 2005 to 2040**



Source: "2013 International Energy Outlook," U.S. Energy Information Administration, July 2013.

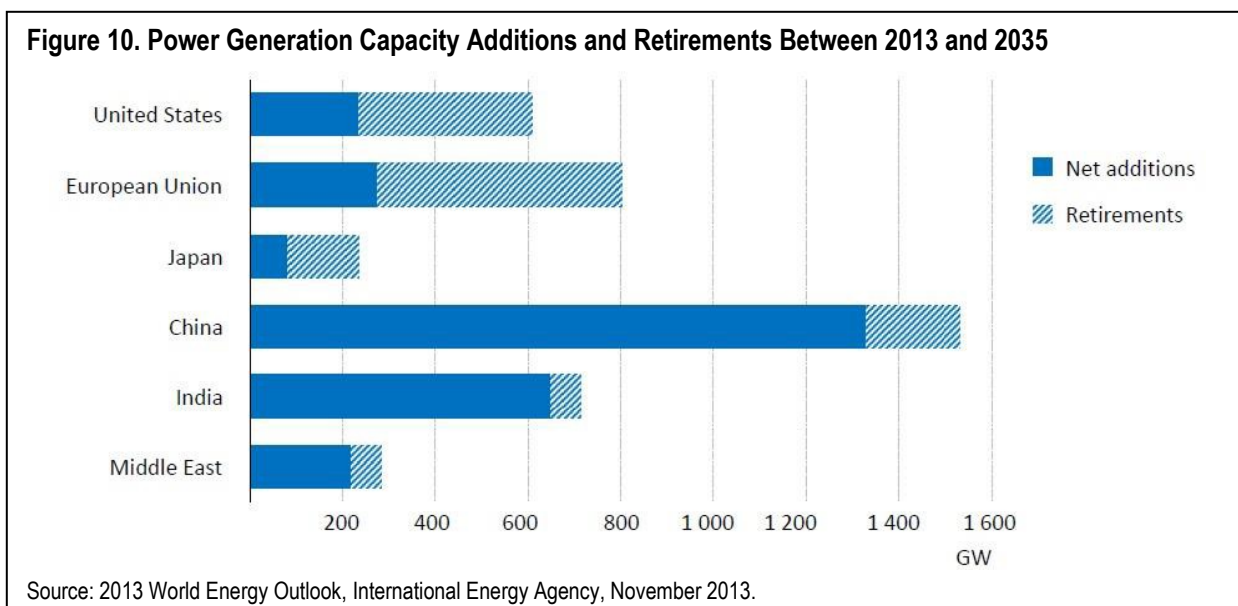
Similar to EIA, the International Energy Agency's (IEA) 2013 *World Energy Outlook* forecasted that the increase in new power generation capacity in the next two decades would be attributed to non-OECD countries, with China in the lead. IEA projected that China and India together would build almost 40 percent of the world's new capacity between 2013 and 2035, whereas 60 percent of capacity additions in the OECD would replace retired plants (see Figure 10).<sup>57</sup> In other words, while the infrastructure investment needs in developing countries (e.g., China and India) were mainly attributed to new generation capacity additions, the key catalyst for power infrastructure

<sup>54</sup> "2013 International Energy Outlook," U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), [http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/ieo\\_tables.cfm](http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/ieo_tables.cfm) (accessed January 8, 2014). <sup>55</sup> The EIA's 2011 IEO data are divided according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development members (OECD) and nonmembers (non-OECD). The 34 OECD member countries as of March 2014 are listed here: <http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/list-oecd-member-countries.htm> (accessed January 3, 2014).

<sup>56</sup> "2013 International Energy Outlook," EIA.

<sup>57</sup> "2013 World Energy Outlook," International Energy Agency, November 12, 2013, <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/media/weowebsite/2013/LondonNovember12.pdf> (accessed January 8, 2014).

investment in developed countries (e.g., United States) was the replacement market for aging infrastructure. In addition to aging infrastructure, the United States has a need for transmission expansion and upgrade to accommodate new generation connections and maintain electric reliability.



#### 4.2 Transmission Infrastructure Investment in the United States

According to analyses by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI),<sup>58</sup> the U.S. power industry reversed a downward trend in transmission investment in the late 1990s. The uncertainty about the nature and extent of power industry restructuring had triggered a decline in transmission investment in the 1980s and the 1990s. During this period of stagnant investment in transmission infrastructure, the electric load on the Nation's grid more than doubled.<sup>59</sup> This resulted in increasing transmission congestion in certain regions. The long-term trend of declining transmission investment between the 1970s and the 1990s recovered in the late 1990s, and transmission investments grew at a 12 percent annual rate between 1999 and 2003.<sup>60</sup> Reliability and generation interconnection needs were viewed as the main reasons for increasing transmission investments in the United States during this period.

Figure 11 represents the U.S. transmission investment forecast through 2015, based on (1) EEI's projected capital expenditure growth rates applied to the 2009 U.S. total investment level, and (2) estimated investment requirements associated with transmission circuit-mile additions data from NERC.<sup>61</sup>

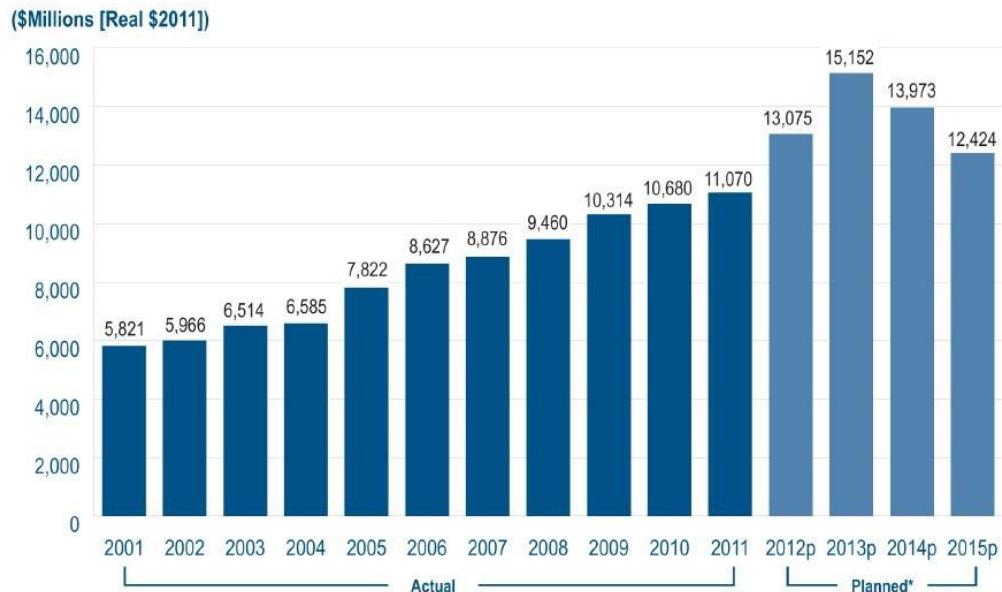
<sup>58</sup> The EEI is an association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric power companies. Its members serve 95 percent of the ultimate customers in the shareholder-owned segment of the industry and represent approximately 70 percent of the U.S. electric power industry. See <http://www.eei.org/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed December 1, 2013).

<sup>59</sup> Campbell, Richard J., "Regulatory Incentives for Electricity Transmissions – Issues and Cost Concerns," Congressional Research Service, October 28, 2011, <http://www.ieceusa.org/policy/eyeonwashington/2011/documents/electrans.pdf> (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>60</sup> EEI Survey of Transmission Investment, EEI, May 2005, [http://www.eei.org/ourissues/ElectricityTransmission/Documents/Trans\\_Survey\\_Web.pdf](http://www.eei.org/ourissues/ElectricityTransmission/Documents/Trans_Survey_Web.pdf) (accessed March 26, 2014).

<sup>61</sup> "Employment and Economic Benefits of Transmission Infrastructure Investment in the U.S. and Canada," WIRES (Working Group for Investment in Reliable and Economic Electric Systems) In Conjunction with The Brattle Group, May 2011, [http://www.wiresgroup.com/images/Brattle-WIRES\\_Jobs\\_Study\\_May2011.pdf](http://www.wiresgroup.com/images/Brattle-WIRES_Jobs_Study_May2011.pdf) (accessed December 1, 2013).

**Figure 11. Estimated Historical and Projected Transmission Investment in the United States From 2001 to 2015**



p = preliminary

Note: The Handy-Whitman Index of Public Utility Construction Costs used to adjust actual investment for inflation from year to year. Forecasted investment data are adjusted for inflation using the GDP Deflator.

\*Planned total industry expenditures are preliminary and estimated from the 85percent response rate to EEI's Electric Transmission Capital Budget and Forecast Survey. Actual expenditures from EEI's Annual Property and Plant Capital Investment Survey and from the FERC Form 1 reports.

Source: Edison Electric Institute, Business Information Group

NERC data indicated that 22,669 circuit-miles of transmission lines would be added between 2011 and 2015, and that 67 percent of those would be in EHV.<sup>62</sup> On average, the annual transmission investment was forecasted to range from \$12 billion to \$16 billion between 2013 and 2015. The cost of power transformers accounts for 15 percent to 50 percent of the total transmission capital expenditures; the rest is attributed to the transmission line equipment (e.g., conductors, towers, poles, etc.).<sup>63</sup> Given the developing investment in overall transmission infrastructure, the following section provides a market overview and investment forecast that are specific to power transformers.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> EEI Survey of Transmission Investment, EEI, May 2005.

## 5. POWER TRANSFORMER MARKET ASSESSMENT

The global power transformer market is a well-matured one although there are some research and development efforts in high-temperature superconductor transformers and solid state transformers. Analysts have reported that for most of the 1990s, power transformer prices were depressed and that the relationship between sales value and sales volume remained fairly constant.<sup>64</sup> However, starting in 2002, this situation was reversed due to volatile raw commodity prices, unprecedented market demand, and the rationalization of manufacturing bases.<sup>65</sup> Particularly, a sudden rise in the cost of raw materials had a significant impact on the price of power transformers.

According to recent industry analyses, the global power transformer market grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 13 percent from 2000 to 2009, reaching a total revenue of \$11 billion in 2009.<sup>66</sup> The global transformer market is forecasted to continue to develop over the next several years. According to a market report released in 2013, the global power transformer market was valued at \$17 billion in 2012 and is expected to reach \$29 billion by 2019, growing at a CAGR of eight percent from 2013 to 2019.<sup>67</sup> A different source also estimated the global transformer market to grow at a CAGR of eight percent through 2020<sup>68</sup> another estimated that the global electricity transformer market, including distribution transformers, would reach \$54 billion (almost 10 million units) by 2017.<sup>69</sup>

Key drivers for future transformer market development include an increase in electricity demand in developing countries, replacement of old electric power equipment in matured economies, and a boost for high-voltage power transformers and capital expenditure in the power sector worldwide. In addition, the adoption of energy-efficiency standards in developed markets, such as Europe and the United States, as well as in emerging markets, such as China and India, are expected to create a demand for new, more efficient electricity equipment, including power transformers.<sup>70</sup>

The remainder of this section discusses the key suppliers of LPTs, the current condition of the LPT market in the United States, and the domestic manufacturing capacity and historical imports of LPTs. In addition, an overview of China's power transformer industry, including demand, manufacturing capacity, and key manufacturers, is provided in "Appendix E. Power Transformer Industry in China."

### 5.1 Key Global Suppliers of Power Transformers

The global power transformer market has been one of fluidity and constant adaptation, characterized by a myriad of consolidations, new players, and power shifts throughout the last few decades. Due to the market's shifting nature, the latest statistics for market share by

64 "World Transformer Markets 2002 to 2012," Gouldon Reports 2009, Presented to Leonardo Energy, May 15, 2009, <http://www.leonardo-energy.org/sites/leonardo-energy/files/root/pdf/2009/20090515-trafomarket.pdf> (accessed March 26, 2014).

65 Ibid.

66 "Power Transformers Market Analysis to 2020," Global Data, 2009, <http://www.articlesnatch.com/Article/Power-Transformers-Market-Analysis-To-2020-1861724> (accessed March 26, 2014).

67 "Power Transformers Market - Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends and Forecast, 2013 – 2019," Transparency Market Research, November 2, 2013, <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/11/prweb11294070.htm> (accessed December 12, 2013).

68 "Power Transformers Market Analysis to 2020," Global Data, 2009.

69 "Global Electricity Transformers Market To Reach US\$53.6 Billion, 9.7 Million Units by 2017," Global Industry Analysts, October 12, 2011, <http://tdworld.com/business/global-transformer-market-1011/> (accessed March 26, 2014).

70 Global Industry Analysts, October 12, 2011.

manufacturer are unavailable. Figure 12 provides a list of key power transformer manufacturers in North America in 2012, including new domestic manufacturers.

**Figure 12. Primary Suppliers of Large Power Transformers in 2012**

Large-Power Transformer Suppliers											
											
Name	Siemens	ABB	Hyundai	Hico	SMIT	GE-Prolec JV	SPX	EFACEC	CG Pauwels	WEG S.A.	Pennsylvania Transformer
N.A. Plants	Mexico (europe)	Canada, Missouri	NEW: Alabama	none (korea)	none (europe)	Mexico	NEW: Wisconsin	NEW: Georgia	Winnipeg	Mexico	Pennsylvania

Source: SPX Transformer Solutions, 2012.

Note: Mitsubishi's new U.S. plant, which was inaugurated in April 2013 is not included in this figure.

In 2011, key manufacturers and analysts reported that ABB, Siemens, and Alstom Grid were the dominant suppliers of power transformers worldwide but indicated that emerging players also had a formidable presence in the global marketplace.<sup>71</sup> According to company reports, ABB had 20 transformer manufacturing plants worldwide in 2011, while Siemens and Alstom Grid had 21 and 13, respectively.<sup>72</sup> In terms of annual production capacity, ABB and Alstom Grid each had approximately 200,000 MVA and 130,000 MVA of annual production capacity, respectively.<sup>73</sup> Alstom Grid's production capacity reflects the additional manufacturing base it obtained through a recent acquisition of AREVA's transmission business in 2010.

#### 5.1.1 Consolidation of Power Equipment Manufacturers

Over the past few decades, the power equipment industry has witnessed a series of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and consolidation of operations to remove excess capacity and move their operations offshore, fueled by dramatic run-ups in commodity metals prices. In doing so, the firms also took advantage of lower labor costs in certain countries and their rapidly growing domestic electricity demand. Table 5 is a summary of the global M&A activities among power equipment manufacturers that have taken place since the 1980s.

These mergers have reduced the number of firms competing in the global market, and through them, stronger companies have emerged with "increased size, economies of scale, wider product ranges and enhanced financial strength . . . [who benefit] from having greater access to markets and higher bargaining power as a result of combined technological strengths."<sup>74</sup>

71 Global Industry Analysts, Inc., October 5, 2011; "Shareholders Meeting," Alstom, June 28, 2011; ABB Strategy 2011, Sept. 5, 2007.

72 ABB: [http://www.eyeproject.cl/files/94151d\\_ABB-BR-31-TrafoStar-FlipChart12Reasons.pdf](http://www.eyeproject.cl/files/94151d_ABB-BR-31-TrafoStar-FlipChart12Reasons.pdf); Siemens: [http://www.energy.siemens.com/cn/CN/powerTransmission/Transformers/Documents/TR%20China%20catalog\\_EN\\_2010.pdf](http://www.energy.siemens.com/cn/CN/powerTransmission/Transformers/Documents/TR%20China%20catalog_EN_2010.pdf); Alstom Grid: <http://www.alstom.com/grid/news-and-events/press-releases/upgrade-project-at-Alstom-Grid-s-Rocklea-factory/> (all accessed December 3, 2013).

73 Alstom Grid: <http://www.alstom.com/grid/solutions/high-voltage-power-products/electrical-power-transformers/> (accessed December 3, 2013); Siemens does not disclose its total annual production capacity; however, it has an annual manufacturing capacity of 70,000 MVA in China.

74 "Final Report on the Indian Capital Goods Industry," [http://dhi.nic.in/indian\\_capital\\_goods\\_industry.pdf](http://dhi.nic.in/indian_capital_goods_industry.pdf) (accessed December 14, 2013).

**Table 3. Key International Mergers and Acquisitions of Power Equipment Industry From 1980 to 2010**

<b>1980s</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEC (UK) + Alcatel (France) = <b>GEC Alstom</b></li> <li>• ASEA (Sweden) + BBC (Switzerland) = <b>ABB</b></li> <li>• <b>ABB</b> (Switzerland): Acquired 39 companies, plus power transmission and distribution (T&amp;D) business of Westinghouse Electric Corporation to become a technology leader in T&amp;D business</li> </ul>
<b>1990s</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1998, <b>Siemens</b> (Germany) acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Westinghouse's fossil power plant activities</li> <li>◦ Voith's (Germany) Hydro division</li> <li>◦ Parson's Power Engineering (UK)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Babcock Borsig Power</b> took over B&amp;W (Spain)</li> <li>• <b>GE Hydro</b> (Canada) bought Kvaerner (Norway)</li> <li>• GEC Alstom + ABB = <b>ABB-Alstom Power (AAP)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Early 2000s</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alstom</b> (France) bought ABB's stake in AAP</li> <li>• <b>GE</b> (USA) acquired EGT (France)</li> <li>• <b>Siemens AG</b> took over Alstom's industrial turbine business</li> <li>• <b>AREVA</b> (France) acquired Alstom T&amp;D business</li> <li>• <b>Hitachi</b> (Japan) took over the assets of insolvent Babcock Borsig</li> <li>• <b>JAEPS</b> (Japan) created a joint venture among Hitachi, Fuji and Meidensha</li> </ul>
<b>2005–2010</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005: <b>Crompton Greaves</b> (India) acquired Pauwels (Belgium)</li> <li>• 2005: <b>Siemens</b> took over VA Tech's (Austria) T&amp;D business</li> <li>• 2008: <b>ABB</b> acquired Kulman Electric (US)</li> <li>• 2010: <b>Alstom</b> took over AREVA's transmission business <b>Schneider</b> took over AREVA's distribution business</li> </ul>

Sources: 1980–early 2000s:

[http://dhi.nic.in/indian\\_capital\\_goods\\_industry.pdf](http://dhi.nic.in/indian_capital_goods_industry.pdf); For 2005–2010:

1. Crompton Greaves: [http://www.cgglobal.com/pdfs/annual-report/AR\\_05-06.pdf](http://www.cgglobal.com/pdfs/annual-report/AR_05-06.pdf)
2. Siemens: <http://tdworld.com/news/Siemens-VA-Tech-takeover/>
3. ABB: [http://tdworld.com/business/abb\\_acquire\\_kuhlman\\_electric/](http://tdworld.com/business/abb_acquire_kuhlman_electric/)
4. Alstom/Schneider: <http://www.aveva-td.com/>

## 5.2 U.S. Power Transformer Market Overview

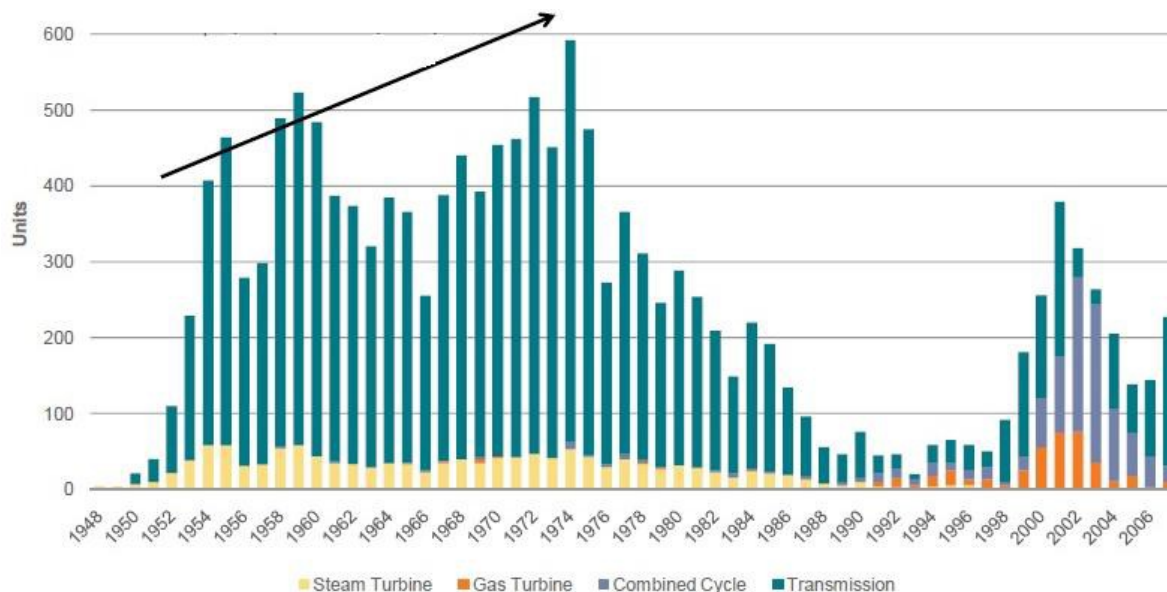
The United States is one of the world's largest markets for power transformers, with an estimated market value of more than \$1 billion in 2010, or almost 20 percent of the global market. The United States also holds the largest installed base of LPTs in the world. Using certain analysis and modeling tools, various sources estimate that the number of EHV LPTs in the United States to be approximately 2,000.<sup>75</sup> While the estimated total number of LPTs (capacity rating of 100 MVA and above) installed in the United States is unavailable, it could be in the range of tens of thousands, including LPTs that are located in medium-voltage transmission lines with a primary voltage rating of 115 kV.

Figure 13 represents the historical annual installment of LPTs in the United States, not including replacement demand. As illustrated in Figure 13, a large volume of LPTs were installed in the

<sup>75</sup> "Benefits of Using Mobile Transformers and Mobile Substations for Rapidly Restoring Electrical Service," DOE, August 2006. This DOE source provides an estimated voltage range of an LPT as 115–765 kV and the estimated power range as 200–1,200 MVA. "Report of the Commission To Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack," EMP Commission, April 2008, [http://www.empcommission.org/docs/A2473-EMP\\_Commission-7MB.pdf](http://www.empcommission.org/docs/A2473-EMP_Commission-7MB.pdf) (accessed January 3, 2014). Kappenman, John, "Geomagnetic Storms and Their Impacts on the U.S. Power Grid." Prepared for Oak Ridge National Laboratory, January 2010, <http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/geomag.pdf> (accessed January 3, 2014).

United States between the 1950s and 1970s. Although investment remained low in the 1990s, the need for LPTs has been growing steadily since 1999. Despite increasing demand for power transformers, the United States has a limited domestic capacity to produce LPTs.

**Figure 13. Yearly Installment of Large Power Transformers in the United States From 1948 to 2006**  
(Power transformers with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA)



Note: Figure includes LPTs with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA and excludes replacement demand.

Source: EIA; SPX Electrical Products Group, May 2010.

In 2010, the U.S. demand for LPTs was 127,309 MVA, valued at more than \$1 billion.<sup>76</sup> Only 15 percent of the Nation's demand, or 19 percent in terms of sales value, was met through domestic production. Note, however, that the data shown in Table 4 includes production capacity and the actual production of power transformers with a capacity rating of 60 MVA and above, which is different from the definition of LPT—capacity rating of greater than or equal to 100 MVA—used throughout this report. Although the exact figures are unavailable, sources have indicated that the U.S. dependence on import sources would be much greater than 85 percent for EHV LPTs with a voltage rating of 345 kV and above. This is due to the limited manufacturing capacity that existed in the United States prior to 2010, which is further discussed in the next section.

As a comparison, Figure 14 provides the estimated market size and production of power transformers in the United States and China in 2010. Different parameters are used to define power transformers—a capacity rating of 60 MVA and above for the United States and a voltage rating of 220 kV and above for China.<sup>77</sup> While attributes may vary, the comparison shows the distinct characteristics of the two markets—the U.S.' heavy reliance on foreign-manufactured power transformers and China's abundant domestic production capacity. In 2010, although

<sup>76</sup> "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011.

<sup>77</sup> Figure 14 was derived from the USITC's Publication 4256 on "Large Power Transformers from Korea," which defined an LPT as a power transformer with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 60 MVA. China's LPT data was derived from an industry analysis as reported in Reuters, which described used transformers with a voltage rating of 220 kV and above to describe the market. More recent data is not available.

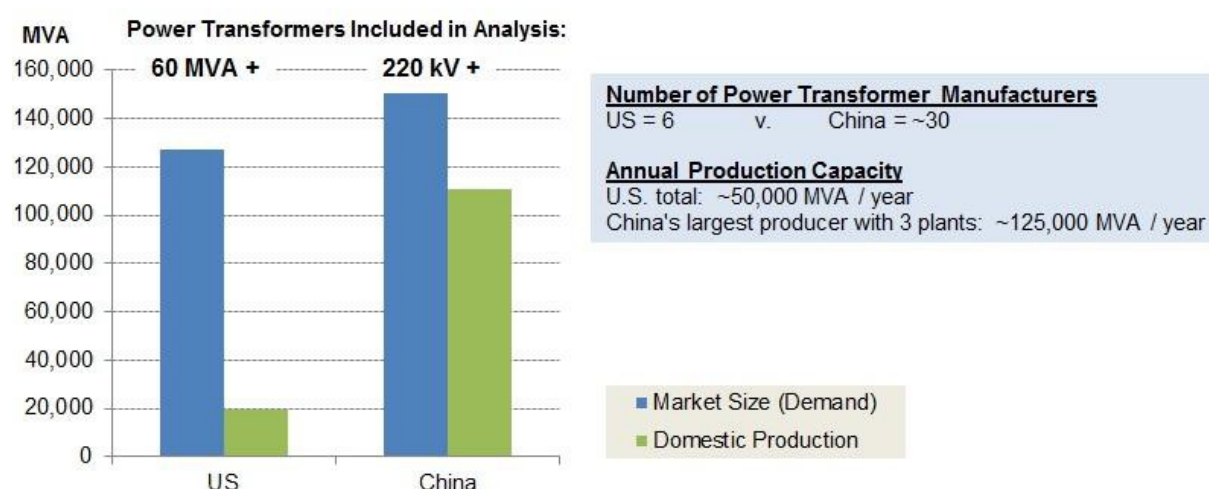
the estimated market size for the two countries were comparable in the range of 120,000 MVA and 150,000 MVA , the actual production of power transformers in the United States was less than one fifth that of China's.

**Table 4. Summary of the Power Transformer Market (60 MVA +) in the United States in 2010**

	Market Share by Quantity		Market Share by Value	
	Quantity (MVA)	Percent (%)	Value (1,000 dollars)	Percent (%)
<b>United States</b>	19,279	15%	\$213,070	19%
<b>All Import Sources</b>	108,030	85%	\$911,863	81%
<b>Total</b>	127,309	100%	\$1,124,933	100%

Note: This analysis includes power transformers with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 60 MVA. Source: "Large Power Transformers from Korea," USITC, September 2011.

**Figure 14. Estimated Power Transformer Markets: United States v. China in 2010**



Note: Different criteria used for the United States and China. For the United States, power transformers with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 60 MVA are included in the data; for China, power transformers with a voltage rating greater than or equal to 220 kV are included in the data.

Sources: USITC, 2011; China Transformer Net, 2010; China's Power Transformer Industry Report, Reuters, 2011.

In terms of manufacturing base in 2010, six domestic manufacturers accounted for all power transformers produced in the United States, whereas more than 30 power transformer manufacturers existed in China. The total annual production capacity<sup>78</sup> of the six domestic factories was approximately 50,000 MVA in 2010, far below the U.S. market demand of 127,309 MVA for that year. On the contrary, China displayed a self-contained LPT market in which the vast majority of its demand was met through domestic production. For example, three of China's largest power transformer manufacturers each held an annual production capacity of more than 100,000 MVA.

The following section discusses today's power transformer manufacturing industry in the United States. As a comparison to the global and domestic suppliers, China's manufacturers of LPTs are profiled in "Appendix E. Power Transformer Industry in China."

<sup>78</sup> In this paper, the term annual production capacity represents the capability of a manufacturer to produce transformers of all types and sizes, ranging from small to large, in an annual basis.

### 5.3 Large Power Transformer Manufacturing Capacity in North America

The United States was not an exception to the global, strategic consolidation of manufacturing bases. By the beginning of 2010, there were only six manufacturing facilities in the United States that produced LPTs. Although certain manufacturers reported having the capability to produce power transformers with a capacity rating of 300 MVA or higher, industry experts cautioned that the capacity to produce does not necessarily warrant actual production of power transformers of that magnitude.<sup>79</sup> Often, domestic producers did not have the required machinery and equipment to produce power transformers of 300 MVA, or 345 kV, and above. A number of firms identified constraints in equipment (e.g., cranes, ovens, testing, winding, and vapor phase systems) and the availability of trained personnel set limits to their production capacity.<sup>80</sup>

Up until 2010, a few domestic facilities were capable of producing EHV power transformers although it is unclear whether they actually produced any. While the exact statistics of EHV power transformers produced by domestic facilities are unavailable, sources suggested that the United States procured almost all of its EHV power transformers overseas. However, the limited domestic production capacity has improved significantly since then. Figure 15 is a map of LPT manufacturing facilities in North America in 2013 and the maximum rating of LPTs that they were capable of producing.<sup>81</sup> Also see “Appendix D. Large Power Transformer Manufacturing Facilities in North America” for a detailed list of LPT manufacturing plants in North America.

There were a total of eight power transformer manufacturers in the United States in 2013, four of which were capable of producing LPTs with a voltage rating greater than 345 kV in 2013:

- In April 2010, Efacec’s first U.S. transformer manufacturing facility was inaugurated in Rincon, Georgia. Approximately \$180 million was invested in this 230,000-square-foot plant which is capable of producing power transformers with ratings up to 1,500 MVA and 525 kV.<sup>82</sup>
- In November 2011, HHI’s new 404,000-square-foot power transformer manufacturing plant was inaugurated in Montgomery, Alabama. Since then HHI has been producing large power transformers of capacity ratings up to 550 MVA and 500 kV. With an investment of \$100 million, the plant has an annual production capacity of 200 units of 500 kV transformers.<sup>83</sup>
- In April 2013, Mitsubishi completed the construction of a new transformer manufacturing facility in Memphis, Tennessee. Approximately \$200 million was invested in this 350,000-square-foot plant which can produce transformers with ratings up to 3,000 MVA and 765 kV and a shipping weight up to 500 tons.<sup>84</sup>
- In April 2012, SPX Transformer Solutions, Inc. (SPX, also formally known as Waukesha Electric Systems, Inc.) completed an expansion at its existing facility in Waukesha, Wisconsin.<sup>85</sup> With a total of 432,00-square-foot and additional crane capacity now up to 500 tons,

79 Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, p. 113.

80 “Large Power Transformers from Korea,” USITC, Publication 4256, September 2011.

81 Figure 15 represents LPT manufacturing plants in North America as of May 2012. Plants became operational after 2010 were not included as part of the 2010 manufacturing capacity analysis in section 5.2.

82 Efacec, <http://www.efacecusa.com/>; Terracon Company, <http://www.terracon.com/projects/efacec-transformers/> (accessed April 3, 2014).

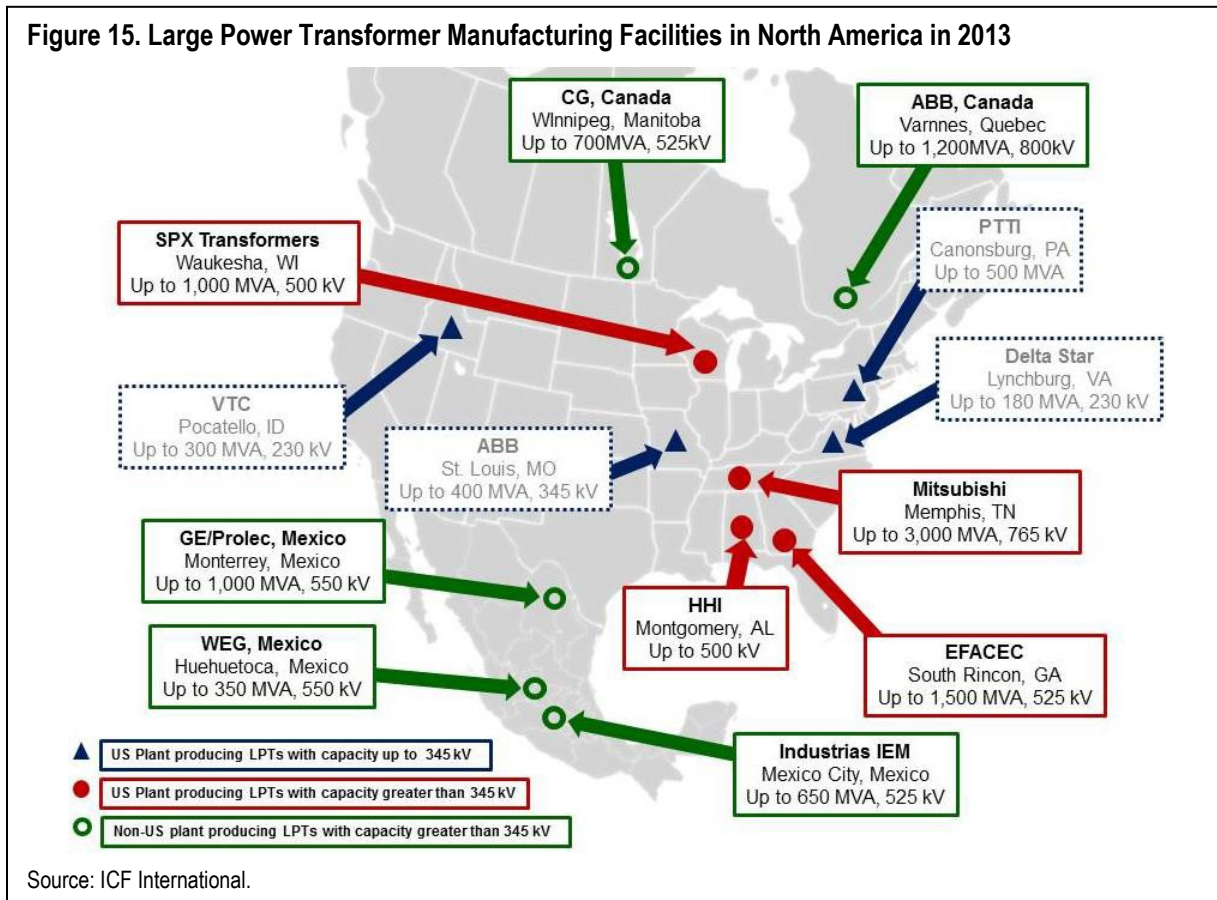
83 “Hyundai Heavy Completes Transformer Factory in Alabama,” Hyundai Heavy Industries, November 21, 2011, <http://hyundaiheavy.com/news/view?idx=53> (accessed March 26, 2014).

84 “Mitsubishi Electric To Build Transformer Factory in Memphis,” Mitsubishi Press Release, February 14, 2011, <http://www.mitsubishielectric.com/news/2011/0214-a.html> (accessed December 2, 2014).

85 “SPX Unveils Newly Expanded SPX Transformer Solutions Manufacturing Facility in Waukesha, Wisconsin,” April 12, 2012, [http://www.spxtransformersolutions.com/large\\_power.html](http://www.spxtransformersolutions.com/large_power.html) (accessed March 26, 2014).

the plant is expected to produce power transformers with a capacity rating up to 1,000 MVA/500 kV.<sup>86</sup>

**Figure 15. Large Power Transformer Manufacturing Facilities in North America in 2013**



#### 5.4 Historical Imports of Large Power Transformers in the United States

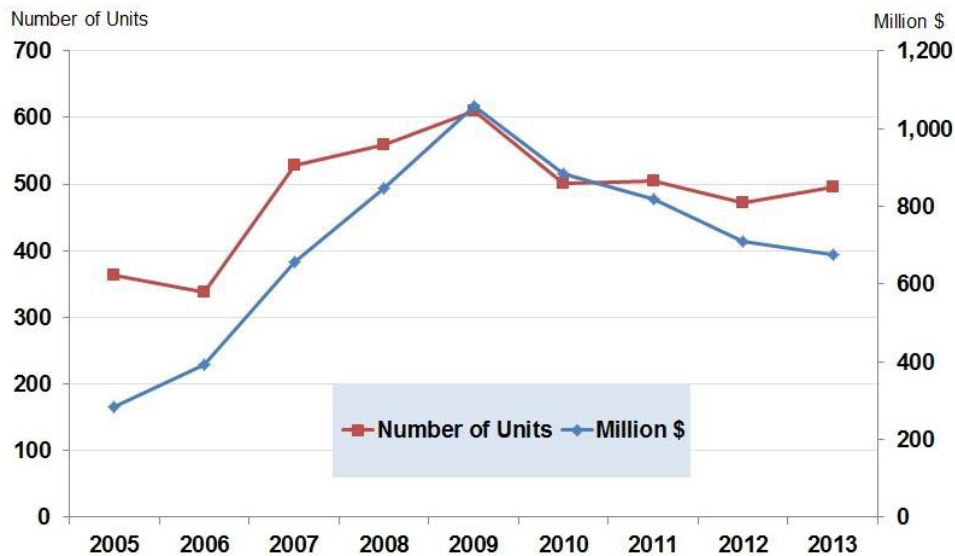
The upward trend of transmission infrastructure investment in the United States which began in 1999 has continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Figure 16 presents the historical LPT (capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA) imports in terms of value (US\$) and quantity (units) between 2005 and 2013.<sup>87</sup> In 2005, the United States imported 363 units, with a total value of \$284 million; LPT imports peaked in 2009 with 610 units valued at more than one billion dollars. Since then, LPT imports slowed down a bit. This can be attributed to the fact that four new LPT manufacturing facilities have begun operation in the United States since 2010. Despite newly added domestic capabilities, the demand for LPT imports remained relatively high, with a 496 units totaling \$676 million in 2013.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.; "Large Power Transformers," SPX, [http://www.spxtransformersolutions.com/assets/documents/LP%20Brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.spxtransformersolutions.com/assets/documents/LP%20Brochure_web.pdf) (accessed December 22, 2013).

<sup>87</sup> See "Appendix C. Historical Imports of Large Power Transformers in the United States" for data used in Figure 16.

<sup>88</sup> USITC Interactive Tariff and Trade DataWeb, [http://dataweb.usitc.gov/scripts/user\\_set.asp](http://dataweb.usitc.gov/scripts/user_set.asp) (accessed March 26, 2014).

**Figure 16. U.S. Imports of Large Power Transformers From 2005 to 2013**  
(Power transformers with a capacity rating greater than or equal to 100 MVA)



Source: USITC Interactive Tariff and Trade DataWeb, 2014.

Figure 17 is a simplified illustration of the global movement of LPTs to the United States between 2011 and 2013. Two South Korean firms, HHI and Hyosung, contributed the largest amount, or 28 percent of total imports in the United States during this three year period. HHI is one of the key global suppliers of LPTs with an annual production capacity of 120,000 MVA at its Ulsan, South Korea plant which is considered one of the largest transformer manufacturing facilities in the world.<sup>89</sup> A few Chinese manufacturers (e.g., TEBA, TWBB, and JSHP) also boast a similar scale of manufacturing capacity (see Appendix E). Other notable global exporters of LPTs to the United States include ABB (from its plants in Canada, Brazil, and Germany), Crompton Greaves of Canada, Siemens of Austria, Prolec GE of Mexico, and Smit Transformer of the Netherlands. A brief profile of these and some of the world's largest power transformer manufacturers is provided in "Appendix F. Selected Global Power Transformer Manufacturers."

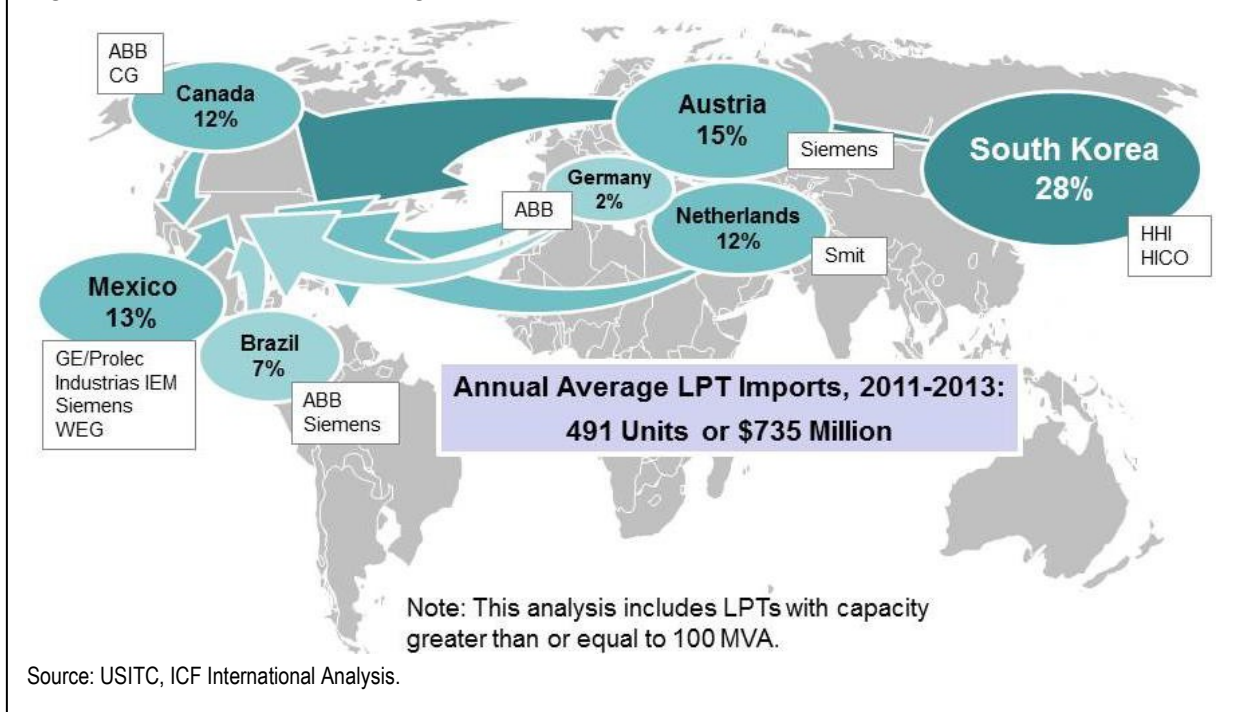
As discussed, power transformers are a globally-traded product, and the demand for this equipment is forecasted to continue to grow in the United States. According to two major power transformer manufacturers, the North American power transformer market is expected to grow at a CAGR of three percent to seven percent between 2011 and 2015.<sup>90</sup> In terms of units, one source estimated that the demand for LPTs in the United States would be around 400 to 600 units per year.<sup>91</sup> However, the demand for LPTs has varied greatly over time as the electricity growth rates have changed. In addition to the aging of power transformers, key demand drivers for LPTs include: transmission expansion to integrate solar and wind renewable sources; electric reliability improvement; and new capacity addition in thermal and nuclear power generation.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.; HHI Electro Electric Systems.

<sup>90</sup> SPX Electrical Products Group, May 2011 and an industry source estimate.

<sup>91</sup> "September 2012 Investor Presentation," SPX Transformer Solutions, September 2012.

**Figure 17. Global Suppliers of Large Power Transformers to the United States Between 2011 and 2013**



### 5.5 Challenges in Global Sourcing of Large Power Transformers

The global demand for LPTs has increased significantly since the late 1990s to meet the power demand growth and the need to replace aging power transformers. Purchasing decisions in the global marketplace are more complex than simply comparing prices. Some of the challenges associated with global procurement of LPTs are as follows:<sup>92</sup>

- Ocean and inland transportation, compliance with specifications, quality, testing, raw materials, and major global events (e.g., hurricanes) can significantly influence a supplier's lead time and delivery reliability. In addition, some railroad companies are removing rail lines due to infrequent use and other lines are not being maintained. This can pose a challenge to moving the LPTs to certain locations where they are needed.
- Fluctuations in currency exchange rates and the prices of materials during the time in which a power transformer is being manufactured can quickly change the competitive bid price for the order.
- Cultural differences and other communication barriers can be challenging. In many cultures, what the buyer-manufacturer relationship entails may vary from what is written in the contract.
- Foreign factories may not understand the U.S. standards such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or have appropriate testing facilities.
- Foreign vendors may not have the ability to repair damaged power transformers in the United States.

<sup>92</sup> Schumacher, Judson, "Buying Transformers," *Transmission & Distribution World*, May 1, 2006, [http://tdworld.com/business/power\\_buying\\_transformers/index.html](http://tdworld.com/business/power_buying_transformers/index.html) (accessed January 11, 2014).

- It is expensive to travel overseas for quality inspections and to witness factory acceptance testing.
- The utility industry is also facing the challenge of maintaining an experienced, well- trained in-house workforce that is able to address power transformer procurement and maintenance issues.

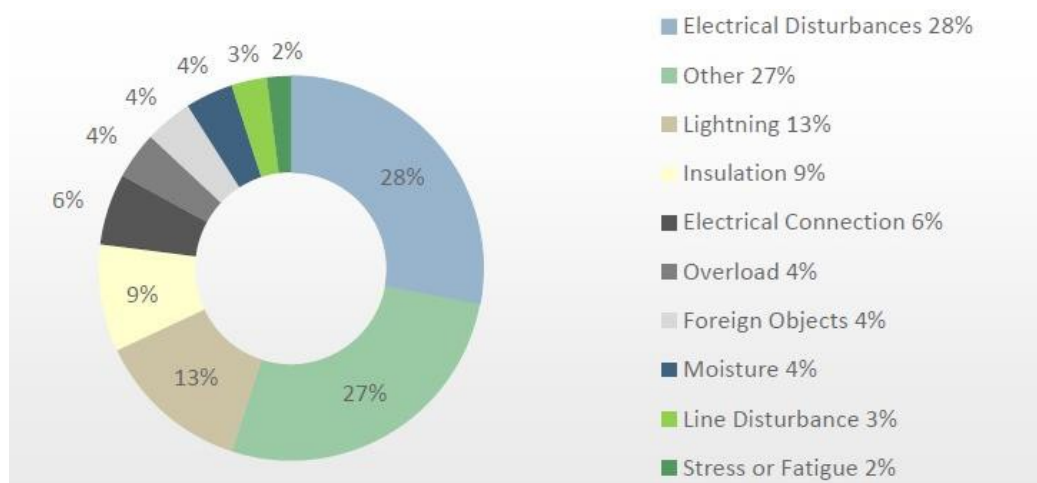
Utilities can minimize the potential risks related to global sourcing by focusing on proactive business strategies, planning effectively, and managing a portfolio of qualified and experienced suppliers.

## 6. RISKS TO POWER TRANSFORMERS

As discussed in this report, LPTs are significant investment pieces that are critical to the reliable operation of the electric grid; therefore, the assessment of the health of and risks to LPTs is an essential part of proper maintenance of the equipment. Figure 18 is an analysis of the main causes of power transformer failures between 1991 and 2010. This figure is based on the examination of historical insurance claims for various utility type transformers during the 20-year period, which included several hundred transformer failures.<sup>93</sup> This assessment was based on an insurance firm's own internal investigation of the failures. As shown in Figure 18, electrical disturbances were the leading cause for power transformer failures, responsible for 28 percent of the total failures that occurred during this 20-year period.<sup>94</sup> "Electrical disturbances" included phenomena such as switching surges, voltage spikes, line faults/flashovers, and other utility abnormalities, but excludes lightning.

Although age is not included as a cause of transformer failure in Figure 18, age is certainly a contributing factor to increases in transformer failures. Various sources, including power equipment manufacturers, estimated that the average age of LPTs installed in the United States is 38 to 40 years, with approximately 70 percent of LPTs being 25 years or older.<sup>95</sup> According to an industry source, there are some units well over 40 years old and some as old as over 70+ years that are still operating in the grid. An LPT is subjected to faults that result in high radial and compressive forces, as the load and operating stress increase with system growth.<sup>96</sup> In an aging power transformer failure, typically the conductor insulation is weakened to the degree at which it can no longer sustain the mechanical stresses of a fault.<sup>97</sup>

**Figure 18. Causes of Transformer Failures Between 1991 and 2010 (as a Percentage of Total Failures)**



Source: SPX; 2012 Doble Engineering Company—79<sup>th</sup> Annual International Doble Client Conference; Analysis of Transformer Failures, by William H. Bartley P.E., Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co.

93 Bartley, William H., "Analysis of Transformer Failures," Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co., 79th International Conference of Doble Clients, March 25 – 30, 2012, Boston, MA.

94 Ibid.

95 Conference Hearing for Investigation No.731-TA-1189, USITC, August 4, 2011, pp. 147–148.

96 Bartley, W.H., Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co., 2012.

97 Ibid.

Given the technical valuation that a power transformer's risk of failure is likely to increase with age, many of the LPTs in the United States are potentially subject to a higher risk of failure. Although age can be a factor, the life expectancy of a power transformer varies depending on how it is used. In addition, according to an industry source, there were also some bad batches of LPTs from certain vendors. The same source also estimated that the failure rate of LPTs is around 0.5 percent. In addition to these traditional threats to power transformers, the physical security of transformers at substations has become a public safety concern due to a coordinated physical attack on cyber infrastructure of a California substation in 2013. Efforts are under way to increase utilities' awareness of possible substation vulnerabilities.

In recognition of the importance of LPTs with regard to the reliability of the grid, there are various ongoing efforts to enhance the resilience of power transformers. Specifically, there is an increasing amount of activities to address the potential threats to LPTs, including the following:

- On March 7 2014, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directed NERC to develop mandatory physical security standards within 90 days in the wake of attacks on transmission facilities in the United States in 2013. Owners and operators are to first identify critical facilities, and then develop and implement plans to protect against physical attacks that may compromise the operability or recovery of such facilities.<sup>98</sup>
- NERC, under the direction of FERC, are developing reliability standards that are intended to mitigate the effects of GMDs on the reliable operation of the electric powersystem, including power transformers in a two-stage effort. The phase-one reliability standard will require applicable registered entities to develop and implement operating procedures that can mitigate the effects of GMD events.<sup>99</sup> Phase two efforts will require applicable registered entities to conduct initial and on-going assessments of the potential impact of benchmark GMD events on their respective system.<sup>100</sup>
- A number of manufacturers are exploring the development and implementation of mitigation and hardening options, including the development of parts that are more resilient to potential threats, as well as protective devices.
- EEI's Spare Transformer Equipment Program and NERC's Spare Equipment Database Program are designed to provide ways in which utilities may identify and share spare transformers across North America during an emergency.<sup>101</sup> As this information becomes available, this will help decision makers understand what additional programs or incentives may be needed to increase the number of available spares.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate, along with their partners, the Electric Power Research Institute, ABB, and CenterPoint Energy (CNP), and with the support of DOE and the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, have developed the Recovery Transformer (RecX), a prototype EHV transformer that would drastically reduce the recovery time associated with EHV transformers. The RecX is lighter

98 "Reliability Standards for Physical Security Measures," FERC, Order Directing Filing for Standards, March 7, 2014, <http://www.ferc.gov/CalendarFiles/20140307185442-RD14-6-000.pdf> (accessed April 1, 2014).

99 "FERC Proposes Reliability Standard on Geomagnetic Disturbances," FERC, January 16, 2014, <http://www.ferc.gov/media/news-releases/2014/2014-1/01-16-14-E-3.asp#Uz1tKHPD8dV> (accessed April 3, 2014).

100 "Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation," NERC, <http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project-2013-03-Geomagnetic-Disturbance-Mitigation.aspx> (accessed March 24, 2014).

101 For more information, see <http://www.eei.org/issuesandpolicy/transmission/Pages/sparetransformers.aspx> and [http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/sed/Pages/Spare-Equipment-Database-\(SED\).aspx](http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/sed/Pages/Spare-Equipment-Database-(SED).aspx) (accessed March 25, 2014).

(approximately 125 tons), smaller, and easier to transport and quicker to install than a traditional EHV transformer. The RecX has been operating in CNP's grid since March 2012, after a successful exercise that included the transportation, installation, assembly, commissioning and energization of the transformer in less than one week. The RecX is a 345:138kV, 200 MVA per phase transformer (equivalent to 600 MVA) and was designed to be an applicable replacement for more than 90 percent of transformers in this voltage class, which is the largest voltage class of EHV transformers.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>102</sup> For more information about RecX, see: <http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/st-snapshots-prototyping-replacement-ehv-transformers.shtm> and [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/15/business/energy-environment/electric-industry-runs-transformer-replacement-test.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/15/business/energy-environment/electric-industry-runs-transformer-replacement-test.html?_r=1) (both accessed March 24, 2013).

## 7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report examined the global power-transformer manufacturing industry, one that is characterized by continuous adaptation due to shifting and unpredictable market dynamics. In particular, this study addressed the considerable dependence the United States has on foreign suppliers to meet its growing need for LPTs. The intent of this study is to inform decision-makers about potential supply concerns regarding LPTs in the United States. This report provides the following observations:

- The demand for LPTs is expected to remain strong globally and domestically. Key drivers of demand include the development of power and transmission infrastructure in emerging economies (e.g., China and India) and the replacement market for aging infrastructure in mature economies (e.g., United States), as well as the integration of alternative energy sources into the grid and an increased focus on nuclear energy in light of climate change concerns.
- Two key raw materials—copper and electrical steel—are vital to LPT manufacturing. However, there are limited supply sources for the special grades of electrical steel needed for the LPT core, and both steel and copper have experienced wide price fluctuations since 2004. Although the prices of electrical steel have generally declined from their 2008 highs, the sourcing of key raw materials remain essential to LPT procurement and manufacture.
- LPTs require a long lead time, and transporting them can be challenging. The average lead time for an LPT is between five and 16 months; however, the lead time can extend beyond 20 months if there are any supply disruptions or delays with the supplies, raw materials, or key parts. Its large size and weight can further complicate the procurement process, because an LPT requires special arrangements and special rail cars for transport.
- The United States has limited production capability to manufacture LPTs. In 2010, only 15 percent of the Nation's demand for power transformers (with a capacity rating of 60 MVA and above) was met through domestic production. Although the exact statistics are unavailable, power transformer market supply conditions indicate that the Nation's reliance on foreign manufacturers was even greater for EHV power transformers with a capacity rating of 300 MVA and above (or a voltage rating of 345 kV and above).
- However, domestic production of LPTs is expected to continue to improve. Since 2010, four new or expanded facilities have begun producing EHV LPTs in the United States: Efacec in Rincon, Georgia; HHI in Montgomery, Alabama; Mitsubishi in Memphis, Tennessee; and SPX's expanded plant in Waukesha, Wisconsin. While these plants may not have reached their full capacity yet, it is evident that the new domestic capacities will provide some relief with regard to the U.S. dependence on foreign manufacturers for LPTs.

The U.S. electric power grid serves one of the Nation's critical life-line functions on which many other critical infrastructure depend, and the destruction of this infrastructure can cause a significant impact on national security and the U.S. economy. The U.S. electric power grid faces a wide variety of threats, including natural, physical, cyber, and space

weather. LPTs are large, custom-built electric infrastructure. If several LPTs were to fail at the same time, it could be challenging to quickly replace them. While the potential effects of these threats on the electric power grid are uncertain, the Electricity Sector continues to work on a variety of risk management strategies to address these potential severe risk impacts. Understanding the characteristics of today's power transformer procurement and supply environment is indispensable to both the public and private sectors. The assessment of LPTs in this DOE report provides background to industry and government stakeholders as they continue their efforts to enhance critical energy infrastructure resilience in today's complex, interdependent global economy.

## APPENDIX A. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAGR	Compound annual growth rate
CG	Crompton Greaves
CNP	CenterPoint Energy
CRGO	Cold-rolled grain-oriented
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EEI	Edison Electric Institute
EHV	Extra high voltage
EIA	U.S. Energy Information Administration
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FOB	Free on Board
GMD	Geomagnetic disturbance
HHI	Hyundai Heavy Industries
HICO	Hyosung Power and Industrial Systems
HILF	High-Impact Low-Frequency
HSPD-7	Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7
HV	High-voltage
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JSHP	JiangSu HuaPeng Transformer Co., Ltd.
Kg	Kilograms
kV	Kilovolts
LPT	Large power transformer
M&A	Mergers and acquisitions
MVA	Megavolt-amperes
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NIPP	National Infrastructure Protection Plan
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PTTI	Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc.
ReX	Recovery Transformer
SGCC	State Grid Corporation of China
TBEA	Tebian Electric Apparatus Stock Co., Ltd.
TWBB	Baoding Tianwei Baobian Electric Co., Ltd.
USITC	United States International Trade Commission
VTC	Virginia Transformer Corp.
W/kg	Watts per kilogram

## APPENDIX B. ELECTRICAL STEEL MANUFACTURER PROFILES

Name	Description
AK Steel	AK Steel, founded in 1899 and headquartered in Middletown, Ohio, employs about 6,600 people in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. With \$6 billion in sales in 2010, the company produces flat-rolled carbon, stainless, and electrical steel products. AK Steel produces a range of electrical steels, including oriented steel grades of M2, M3, M4, M5, and M6, non-oriented standard steel grades of M15 to M47, and domain-refined, laser scribed steels, H-0 DR, H-1 DR, and H-2 DR. In 2009, AK Steel produced 312,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Allegheny Ludlum	Allegheny Ludlum Corporation, headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA operates specialty metals manufacturing facilities in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Ohio. In 2009, Allegheny Ludlum had revenue of approximately \$3.1 billion. In addition to its other stainless and specialty steel products, it produces grain oriented steel with grades from M2 to M6. In 2009, Allegheny Ludlum produced 109,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Angang Steel	Angang Steel, located in China, was incorporated in 1997 with Anshan Iron and Steel Group Complex as its sole promoter. It produces a wide array of steel products, and began the mass production of grain oriented steel at the beginning of 2011. The facilities are expected to have the capacity to produce 100,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel annually.
ArcelorMittal	ArcelorMittal, a Brazilian company, was founded in 1944 and produced a total of 90.6 million tonnes of crude steel in 2010, representing approximately 8 percent of world steel output. ArcelorMittal offers both grain oriented and non-oriented electrical steel. In 2010, ArcelorMittal proposed a 50-50 joint venture with SAIL to set up a steel facility in Bokaro, India. Additionally, in 2008 ArcelorMittal entered into a joint venture with Hunan Valin Steel Group to build a steel facility in China with a projected annual capacity of 200,000 tonnes of grain oriented steel. In 2009, ArcelorMittal produced 107,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
China Steel Corporation	China Steel Corporation, the only integrated steel producer in Taiwan, was founded in 1971 and exports approximately 25 percent of its steel production volume. It currently has an annual crude steel production capacity of approximately 13.4 million tonnes and produces four grades of electrical steel. China Steel Corporation does not produce grain oriented electrical steel. CSC is planning to invest \$486 million in a new production line for electrical steel which would produce 150,000 to 200,000 tonnes of electrical steel annually.
Duferco Viz Stal Metallurgical Plant	The Viz Stal plant was founded in 1726, as a pig iron processing facility. In 1914, the plant became the first producer of hot-rolled, nonoriented steel in Russia. Then, in 1934 it began producing hot-rolled, grain-oriented steel. In 1973, the plant began producing cold-rolled, grain-oriented electrical steel, and in 1978 Viz Stal became the first manufacturer of cold-rolled, nonoriented electrical steel in the Soviet Union. Duferco, a Swiss international manufacturing and trading company, acquired the plant. Finally, in 2004, Viz Stal gained the capability to supply their customers with slit coils.
JFE Steel Corporation	JFE Steel Corporation is a Japanese company formed in December 2001 from a merger between Kawasaki Steel and NKK Corporation. It produced a total of 29.3 million tonnes of crude steel in 2008. JFE Steel produces several types (each with several grades) of grain oriented electrical steel and non-oriented electrical steel. In 2009, JFE Steel Corporation produced 160,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Nippon Steel Corporation	In 1970, Yawata Iron and Steel and Fuji Steel merged to form Nippon Steel Corporation. Located in Tokyo, Japan, Nippon Steel has about 15,800 employees and produces almost 30 million metric tons of crude steel annually. Nippon produces grain oriented steel with grades from M2 to M6 and non-oriented standard steel grades of M15 to M45. In 2009, Nippon Steel produced 243,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.  In 2009, 20 percent of Nippon Steel's exports went to China, while 60 percent were distributed among other Asian regions, 5 percent to North America, 4 percent to South

Name	Description
	America, and 2 percent to Europe. The remaining 9 percent were disbursed between Africa, the Middle East, and Oceania
Novolipetsk (NLMK) Metallurgical Plant	<p>NLMK started in 1931 when iron ore and limestone deposits were discovered in Lipetsk, Russia. NLMK is now the largest steel sheet producer in Russia, and produced more than 11 million metric tons of crude steel in 2010. In 2006 it acquired Viz Stal Metallurgical Plant, which was the largest producer of grain oriented steel and the second largest electrical steel producer in Russia.</p> <p>NLMK's share of global grain oriented electrical steel production is nearly 11 percent and more than 80 percent of its products are exported. In 2007, it produced 189,000 tonnes of grain oriented steel and 19,000 tonnes of non-grain oriented steel. In 2009, NLMK produced 344,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel. NLMK's total transformer steel production capacity is approximately 350,000 tonnes annually.</p>
Pohang Iron and Steel (POSCO)	POSCO, located in the port city of Pohang, South Korea, was founded in 1958, produced 35 million tonnes of steel in 2010, and has approximately 30,000 employees. In 2009, POSCO had about one million tonnes of electrical steel capacity annually. POSCO is considering partnering with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to build a production complex with a proposed annual capacity of about 3 million tonnes. In 2009, POSCO produced 250,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Shanghai Baosteel	Shanghai Baosteel, formerly Baoshan Iron & Steel, is state owned and China's largest iron and steel maker. Baosteel and its 22 wholly-owned subsidiaries have an annual production capacity of around 30 million metric tons of crude steel and 600,000 tonnes of electrical steel. In 2009, it produced 90,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Stalprodukt S.A.	In 1992, the Polish company Stalprodukt S.A. purchased two former Sendzimir Steel Works production plants. Stalprodukt S.A. produces four grades of grain oriented electrical steels. In 2009, Stalprodukt S.A. produced 62,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
Tata Steel (Cogent Power Ltd.)	Tata Steel is the world's tenth largest steel producer, with a crude steel capacity of more than 28 million tonnes. In April 2007, Tata Steel acquired Corus, an international metal company that provides electrical steel through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Cogent Power Ltd. The electrical steel division of Cogent Power comprises Orb Works, located in South Wales, and Surahammars Bruk, headquartered in Sweden. Orb Works and Surahammars both produce a wide variety of both grain oriented and non-oriented steels. In 2009, Orb produced 90,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
ThyssenKrupp Steel	ThyssenKrupp Steel, a subsidiary of ThyssenKrupp AG, entered the electrical steel market in 1989. In 2002 ThyssenKrupp Electrical Steel (TKES) was formed to consolidate all of the company's electrical steel activities. Further restructuring in 2004 created ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG to handle the company's non-oriented electrical steel products. TKES now deals solely with grain oriented steels. TKES is headquartered in Essen, Germany and has plants in Germany, India, Deutschland, Italy and France. ThyssenKrupp has a production capacity of approximately 1.5 million tonnes of electrical steel annually, making it the largest electrical steel producer in Europe and the third largest producer worldwide. In 2009, TKES produced 250,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel.
WCI Steel	WCI, a U.S. manufacturer based in Warren, Ohio, produced nonoriented electrical steel until exiting the business in January 2004. In September 2003, WCI filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. WCI management cited continuing volume deterioration and negative profit margins for the halt of steel production.
Wuhan Iron and Steel (WISCO)	WISCO, a Chinese company, produced 30 million metric tons of crude steel in 2009, and increased its annual electrical steel capacity to 2 million metric tons in 2010 with the completion of three new production lines. Currently, more than half of domestic silicon steel demand in China is met by WISCO. In 2009, WISCO produced 440,000 tonnes of grain oriented electrical steel, making it the largest producer of grain oriented steel.

Source: Distribution Transformers Final Rule Technical Support Document, Appendix 3A. Core Steel Market Analysis, DOE, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, April 2013, [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance\\_standards/commercial/pdfs/transformer\\_prealalysis\\_app3a.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/pdfs/transformer_prealalysis_app3a.pdf) (accessed January 14, 2014).

## APPENDIX C. HISTORICAL IMPORTS OF LARGE POWER TRANSFORMERS IN THE UNITED STATES

**Table C1. Large Power Transformer Imports by Country From 2005 to 2013 (in US \$ value)**

(Liquid dielectric transformers having a power handling capacity exceeding 100,000 kVA)

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Market Share 2011-2013 (%)
	In 1,000,000 Dollars									
Korea	33	73	173	255	292	331	279	210	126	28%
Canada	60	56	63	88	132	133	85	98	85	12%
Austria	46	55	84	102	132	106	109	126	93	15%
Mexico	51	94	171	159	165	91	91	97	101	13%
Netherlands	27	31	35	63	48	67	88	61	100	11%
Brazil	7	23	47	51	87	30	23	51	45	5%
Germany	16	30	23	47	54	11	26	28	13	3%
Subtotal	240	362	596	765	910	769	701	671	563	88%
All Other	44	30	63	81	147	114	116	40	113	12%
Total	284	391	658	847	1,057	883	817	711	676	100%

**Table C2. Large Power Transformer Imports by Country from 2005 to 2013 (by quantity)**

(Liquid dielectric transformers having a power-handling capacity exceeding 100,000 kVA)

(Liquid dielectric transformers having a power-handling capacity exceeding 100,000 kVA)

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Market Share 2011-2013 (%)
	In Actual Units of Quantity									
Korea	82	77	123	160	180	223	204	142	76	29%
Mexico	57	85	190	156	107	63	77	97	162	23%
Canada	56	36	34	34	44	43	26	37	28	6%
Austria	64	38	47	45	69	33	43	76	59	12%
Netherlands	24	21	21	33	22	30	40	36	72	10%
Brazil	9	17	27	25	37	12	13	30	27	5%
Germany	11	21	23	42	36	11	26	16	9	3%
Subtotal	303	295	465	495	495	415	429	434	433	88%
All Others	60	42	63	64	115	86	76	38	63	12%
Total	363	337	528	559	610	501	505	472	496	100%

Source: USITC Interactive Tariff and Trade DataWeb, [http://dataweb.usitc.gov/scripts/user\\_set.asp](http://dataweb.usitc.gov/scripts/user_set.asp), accessed January 5, 2014.

## APPENDIX D. LARGE POWER TRANSFORMER MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN NORTH AMERICA

Firm	Plant Location	Types of Transformers Produced at Location	Notes
ABB	South Boston, VA St. Louis, MO	Small to large size (up to 400 MVA and 345 kV) and midsize	
Delta Star	Lynchburg, VA San Carlos, CA	Small to medium size of 5-230 kV and 5-180 MVA	
Efacec	South Rincon, GA	Both core- and shell-type transformers of up to 1,500 MVA and 525 kV	Inaugurated in April 2010
PTTI	Canonsburg, PA	From 60 MVA up to 500 MVA	
SPX (Waukesha)	Goldsboro, NC Waukesha, WI	Mid to large size power transformers of up to 1,000 MVA and 500 kV  Had limited capacity to produce EHV prior to 2012 expansion	Expansion completed in April 2012
VTC	Roanoke, VA Pocatello, ID	Up to 300 MVA / 230 kV	
HHI	Montgomery, AL	Up to 500 kV (200 units/year once fully operational)	Inaugurated in November 2011
Mitsubishi	Memphis, TN	N/A	Inaugurated in April 2013
ABB	Varnnes, Quebec	Up to 1,200 MVA / 800 kV	Outside the USA
Crompton Greaves	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Up to 700 MVA / 525 kV	Outside the USA
Industrias IEM	Mexico City, Mexico	Up to 650 MVA / 525 kV	Outside the USA
Prolec GE	Monterrey, Mexico	Up to 1,000 MVA / 550 kV	Outside the USA
WEG	Huehuetoca, Mexico	Up to 350 MVA / 550 kV	Outside the USA

Source: Open source research.

## APPENDIX E. POWER TRANSFORMER INDUSTRY IN CHINA

China is the largest rising market for power transformers in both manufacturing capacity and demand, and whose market conditions undoubtedly affect those of the world. The vast majority of China's power transmission system is run by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC), a state-owned enterprise that constructs, owns, and operates the transmission and distribution systems in China's 26 provinces.<sup>103</sup> Established in 2002, the SGCC implemented a centralized bidding system for the procurement of transmission and distribution equipment.

China's transformer market is dominated by 220 kV transformers and below, despite the strengthening of super-high and ultra-high voltage power grid construction in recent years. In 2011, approximately 81 percent of the SGCC's bidding capacity was for 220 kV and below, while power transformers of 500 kV and above occupied less than 17 percent.<sup>104</sup> In 2010, the total bidding capacity for power transformers of 220 kV and above was 150,337 MVA, after a 25 percent decline from the prior year.<sup>105</sup> At present, China's transformer market shows signs of oversupply, boasting approximately 30 manufacturers of transformers of 220 kV and above and more than 1,000 manufacturers of power transformers of 110 kV and below.<sup>106</sup>

In addition to local companies, large multinational firms—Siemens and ABB in particular—also play main roles in the manufacturing of 220 kV and above transformers in China. With manufacturing facilities in the mainland, they shared 20 to 30 percent of China's transformer market in 2011 and continue to expand their footprint by leveraging advanced technology.<sup>107</sup> As of December 2011, Siemens had three transformer manufacturing plants in China, boasting a total annual production capacity of over 70,000 MVA;<sup>108</sup> ABB had five transformer manufacturing facilities in China, and its largest facility in Chongqing had an annual production capacity of 50,000 MVA.

Table E1 provides the top eight Chinese transformer manufacturers in terms of sales value in 2009. As of 2011, the primary market for these Chinese manufacturers was inland; however, some of the firms have begun extending their footprints overseas. With what appears to be large excess capacity, some Chinese manufacturers were already exporting transformers abroad. Some of them have established sales offices in the United States, including TBEA, TWBB, and JSHP.

103 Corporate Profile, State Grid of Corporation of China, <http://www.sgcc.com.cn/ywlm/aboutus/profile.shtml> (accessed January 5, 2014). Another state-owned enterprise, China Southern Power Grid manages the power transmission and distribution systems in the remaining five provinces on the mainland.

104 "Research and Markets: China's Power Transformer Industry Report, 2010–2011," Reuters, September 18, 2011, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/19/idUS19990+19-Sep-2011+BW20110919> (accessed December 14, 2013).

105 Ibid.

106 Ibid.

107 "Frbiz Analyzes China's Power Transformer Market," PR News, July 26, 2011, <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/frbiz-analyzes-chinas-power-transformer-market-99231019.html> (accessed December 14, 2013).

108 "Siemens Transformers China," 2010, [http://www.energy.siemens.com.cn/CN/powerTransmission/Transformers/Documents/TR%20China%20catalog\\_E\\_N\\_2010.pdf](http://www.energy.siemens.com.cn/CN/powerTransmission/Transformers/Documents/TR%20China%20catalog_E_N_2010.pdf) (accessed December 21, 2013).

**Table E1. Top Chinese Power Transformer Manufacturers in 2009**

Company Name	Annual Production Capacity*	Notes	Contact in the United States	Web site
Tebian Electric Apparatus Stock Co., Ltd (TBEA)	100,000 MVA (Two plants combined)	China's largest transformer manufacturer produces transformers of up to 1,000 kV, with a technical advantage on transformers 220 kV and above.	3452 E. Foothill Blvd., Ste. 1020 Pasadena, CA Phone: 001-626-7921037 Fax: 001-626-6283459 Email: shilin@tbea-usa.com	<a href="http://www.tbea-usa.com/">http://www.tbea-usa.com/</a> <a href="http://en.tbea.com.cn/">http://en.tbea.com.cn/</a>
JiangSu HuaPeng Transformer Co., Ltd. (JSHP Transformer)	100,000 MVA	In 2008, JSHP delivered 832 transformer units with a capacity of 110 kV-345 kV, or a total of 59,253 MVA.	4030 Moorpark Ave., Ste. 222 San Jose, CA 95117 Phone: +1-408-850-1416 Fax: +1-408-519-7091 Email: sales@jshp.com	<a href="http://www.js hp.com/">http://www.js hp.com/</a>
Xi'an XD Transformer Co., Ltd (XD Transformer)	50,000 MVA	Produces a wide range of transformers (10 kV-1000 kV) and has a technical advantage with transformers of 110 kV and above.	N/A	<a href="http://www.xdxb.com.cn/English/index.asp">http://www.xdxb.com.cn/English/index.asp</a>
Baoding Tianwei Baobian Electric Co., Ltd. (TWBB)	125,000 MVA (Three plants combined)	Exports 230 kV / 400 MVA transformers to more than 30 countries, including the United States.	Rotterdam, New York 12303 Phone: 518-357-9290 Cell: 518-421-4081 Email: wpesales@worldpowerequipment.com	<a href="http://www.twbb.com/web/einfo.asp?bid=8">http://www.twbb.com/web/einfo.asp?bid=8</a>
Shandong DaChi Electric	N/A	Main products include 550 kV/400 MVA power transformers, 35kV/200 MVA, and distribution transformers.	N/A	<a href="http://www.chinadachi.com/index.asp">http://www.chinadachi.com/index.asp</a>
Sunten Areva Electric	N/A	Mainly produces 35 kV distribution transformers.	N/A	<a href="http://www.sunten.com.cn/ENGLISH_B/index.asp">http://www.sunten.com.cn/ENGLISH_B/index.asp</a>
Changzhou Xiandian Transformer	28,000 MVA	Produces transformers of a voltage rating of 500 kV and below.	N/A	<a href="http://www.czxd.com.cn/en/about.asp">http://www.czxd.com.cn/en/about.asp</a>
Hangzhou Qianjiang Electric Group	N/A	Produces transformers with a voltage rating of up to 400 kV and distributes transformers.	N/A	<a href="http://www.qre.com.cn/en/index.aspx">http://www.qre.com.cn/en/index.aspx</a>

\*Note: The term Annual Production Capacity (MVA) represents a combined capability of a manufacturer to produce a range of transformers (from small to large) from all of its facilities in an annual basis.

Source: "2009 - Top 10 China Transformer Manufacturers," China National Transformer Association, June 22, 2010, [http://www.dsus.com/Top10\\_TR\\_inChina.pdf](http://www.dsus.com/Top10_TR_inChina.pdf) (accessed March 24, 2014).

## APPENDIX F. SELECTED GLOBAL POWER TRANSFORMER MANUFACTURERS

Company Name	Number and Location of Plants	Annual Production Capacity (MVA)*	LPT Production	Presence and Primary Markets Served	Notes
ABB	20 worldwide (Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, USA)	200,000 MVA (50,000 MVA in Chongqing, China; 15,500 MVA in Quebec, Canada)	Full-range LPTs up to 800kV/1200 MVA	Worldwide	Remains the largest transformer manufacturer and the global leader in transformer technology
Alstom (AREVA)	13 worldwide	130,000 MVA	Full-range LPTs up to 1200 kV	Worldwide	Primary markets are Asia/Pacific, Americas, and Europe/Africa
Bharat Heavy Electricals	India	45,000 MVA		Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe	
Crompton Greaves Ltd.	(Belgium, Canada, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, France, UK, USA)	70,000 MVA	100 - 1100 MVA		Acquired Belgium-based Pauwels Group and gained facilities in 5 countries: Belgium, Ireland, Canada, USA, and Indonesia
HHI	3 (South Korea, Bulgaria, USA)	120,000 MVA (Excluding a new U.S. plant)	Full range LPTs up to 800 kV/1500 MVA	Worldwide; Market presence in 2009: North America (46%) Middle East (28%)	Construction of a new U.S. plant completed in November 2011
HICO	4 (South Korea, China)	75,000 MVA	765 kV / 2200 MVA	Korea; North America	
Mitsubishi	Japan	N/A	1050 kV / 3000 MVA	Worldwide; North America	
Prolec GE	Mexico	100,000 MVA	Full-range LPTs up to 550 kV / 1000 MVA	Americas, Africa, the Middle East	
Siemens (VA Tech)	21 worldwide (China, India, Austria, Brazil)	Total production capacity unavailable. 70,000 MVA in China	Full-range LPTs up to 800 kV / 1000 MVA	Worldwide	Primary markets are Europe, China, and North America
Smit Transformers	Netherlands, Germany, Malaysia	N/A	800 kV / 1200 MVA	Germany, Netherlands, USA, Malaysia	Exports to the USA
SPX	USA	N/A	500 kV / 1200 MVA	North America	Expansion completed in April 2012 in Waukesha, Wisconsin

\*Note: The term Annual Production Capacity (MVA) represents a combined capability of each manufacturer to produce a range of transformers (from small to large) from all of its facilities on an annual basis.

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