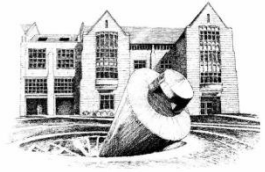


# The University of St. Thomas Renewable Energy Facility (USTREF)

HIGHER EDUCATION BLOCK GRANT CONTRACT  
WITH THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND – CYCLE 4  
GRANT CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS HE4-2

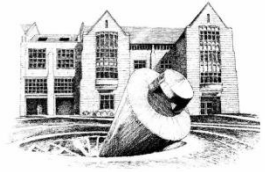
PI: Dr. Greg Mowry

17 Feb 2017



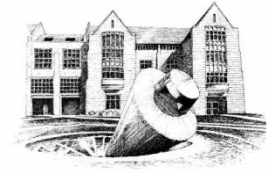
# Grateful Acknowledgements

Project funding provided by customers of Xcel  
Energy through a grant from the Renewable  
Development Fund.

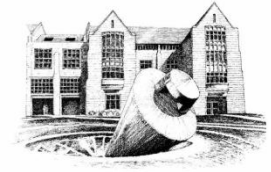


# Outline

- ❖ Intro and Program Review
- ❖ Accomplishments
- ❖ Program Benefits
- ❖ Budgets and Schedule
- ❖ Questions??

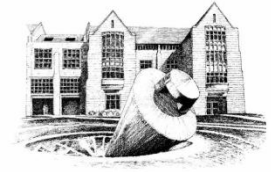


# Intro and Program Review



## Executive HE4-2 Summary (1)

- ❖ Install a multi-purpose microgrid which is now referred to as the, “USTREF”
- ❖ The primary objective of this facility will be to promote industry/academic collaboration in the design/build/test and validation of near commercial concepts in the areas of electricity generation and microgrid/subsystem control.



## Executive HE4-2 Summary (2)

- ❖ Incorporate real scale distributed energy resource and microgrid modeling experience into graduate and undergraduate electrical engineering curriculum;
- ❖ Develop an educational portal and curriculum for the K-12 grades showcasing sustainability and alternative energy systems in action.

Solar PV Array  
50 kW



Smart Inverter  
+  
Switch

Genset (2)  
Biofuel  
50 kW



Switch

Storage Node  
25 – 50 kW



Smart Inverter  
+  
Switch

Wind Turbine  
Emulator  
25 – 50 kW



Smart Interface  
+  
Switch

3<sup>rd</sup> Party Test Bays  
~ 50 kW; 2 of them

Device Under Test

Controller  
+  
Switch

...

EMS

480 V 3-Phase 4-Wire Bus

Custom Loads for  
control studies:  
➤ Dump loads  
➤ IMs  
➤ Arcs, ...

Switch

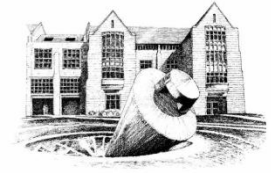
XF

Switch

13.8 kV Xcel Energy  
Campus Feeder

UST Facilities and Design Center





# Accomplishments





UST  
North  
Campus

This satellite map shows the University of St. Thomas (UST) North and South Campuses. The North Campus is located in the upper half of the image, featuring a large green baseball field with 'ST. THOMAS' and 'SVMONHS' written on it, surrounded by various academic and administrative buildings. The South Campus is located in the lower half, also featuring a green baseball field and several large buildings. A red line runs vertically through the center of the image, separating the two campuses. Summit Avenue is labeled horizontally across the middle. The surrounding area includes residential neighborhoods and a body of water on the left side.

Summit Avenue

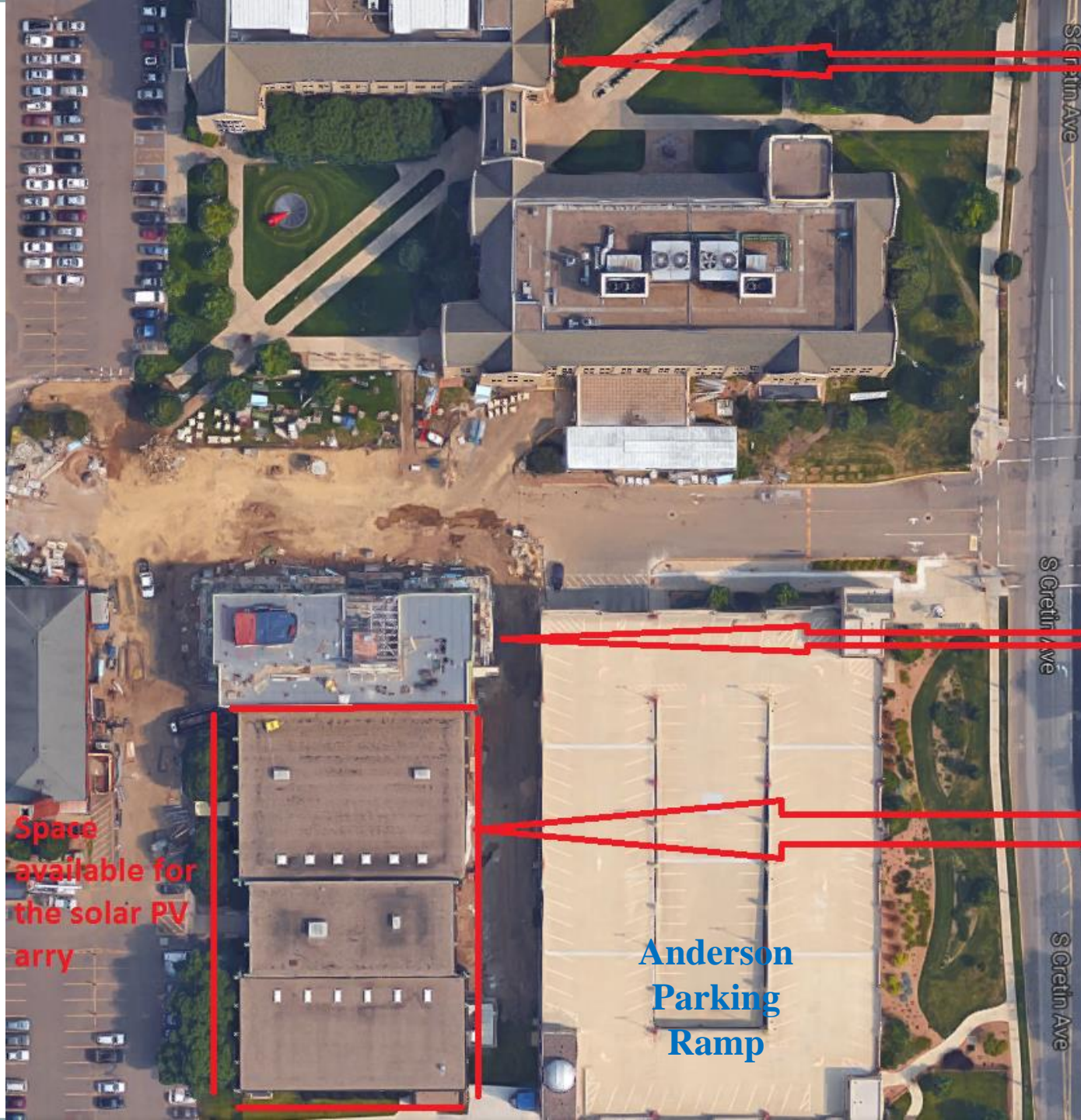
UST  
South  
Campus

© 2016 Google

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 3/11/2016 44°56'24.89" N 93°12'04.66" W elev 732 ft eye alt 5043 ft





## OSS

**FDC - now completed**

**McCarthy  
Gym**

# Anderson Parking Ramp



**Space  
available for  
the solar PV  
array**



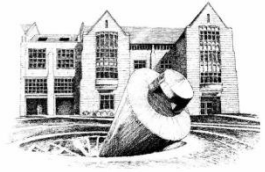
Google Earth  
view of the UST  
 $\mu$ Grid location





# FDC – the Facilities and Design Center

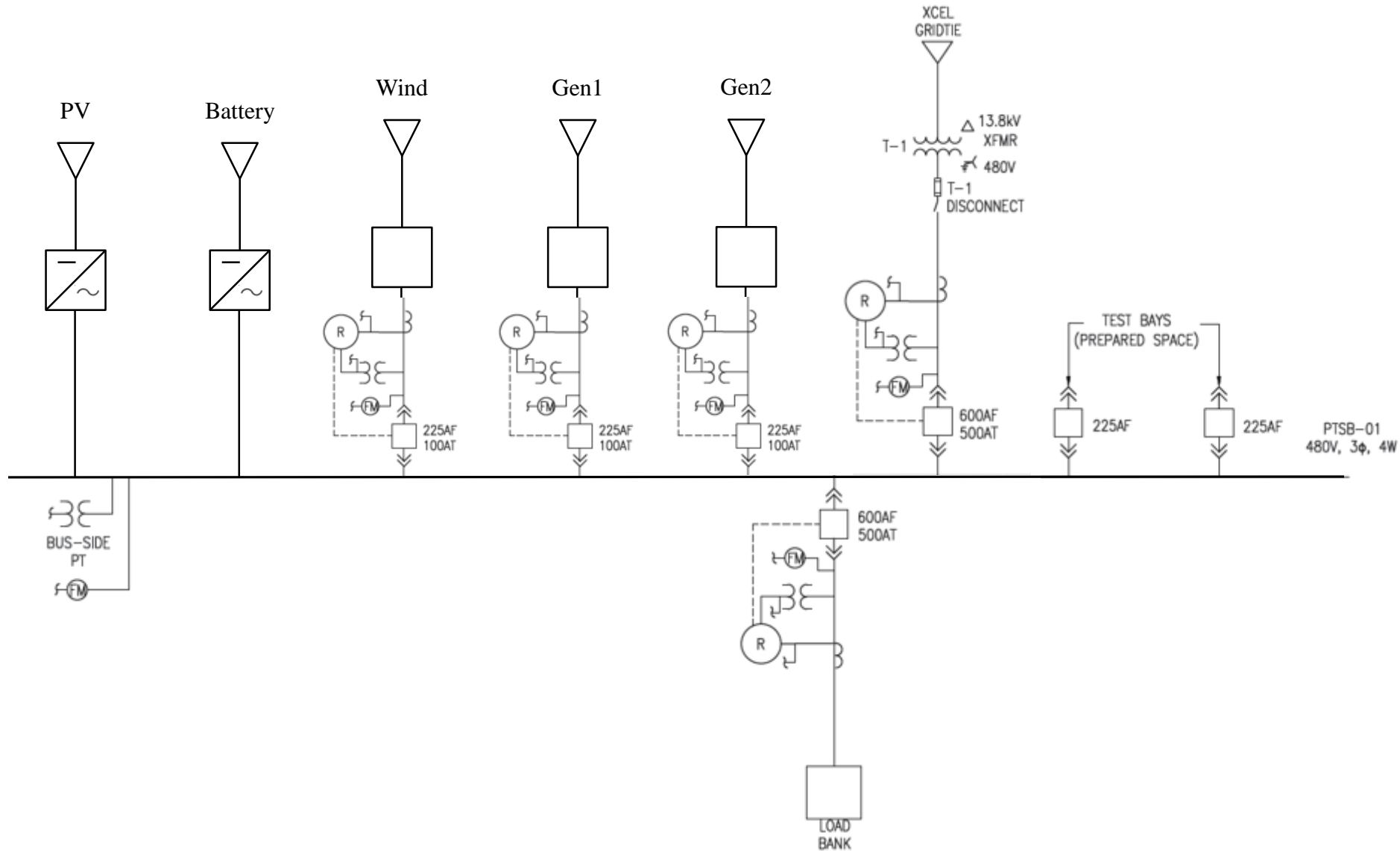


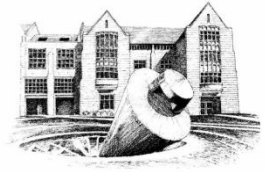


## Accomplishments (1)

- Full funding release has occurred
- Nearing the finalization of the one-line diagram that will be used to drive all RFQs, procurements, and asset deployments

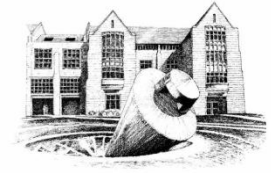
## Near Final One-Line Diagram of the research Microgrid





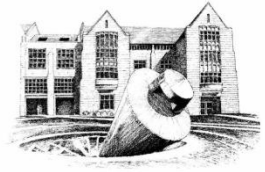
## Accomplishments (2)

- Several key vendor/partners:
  - Xcel Energy: grid tie and smart-substation interactions
  - Rhombus Energy Solutions: inverters & distributed EMS
  - Enersys: storage node
  
- Integration of preliminary R&D into both undergrad and graduate engineering curriculum at UST



# Program Benefits

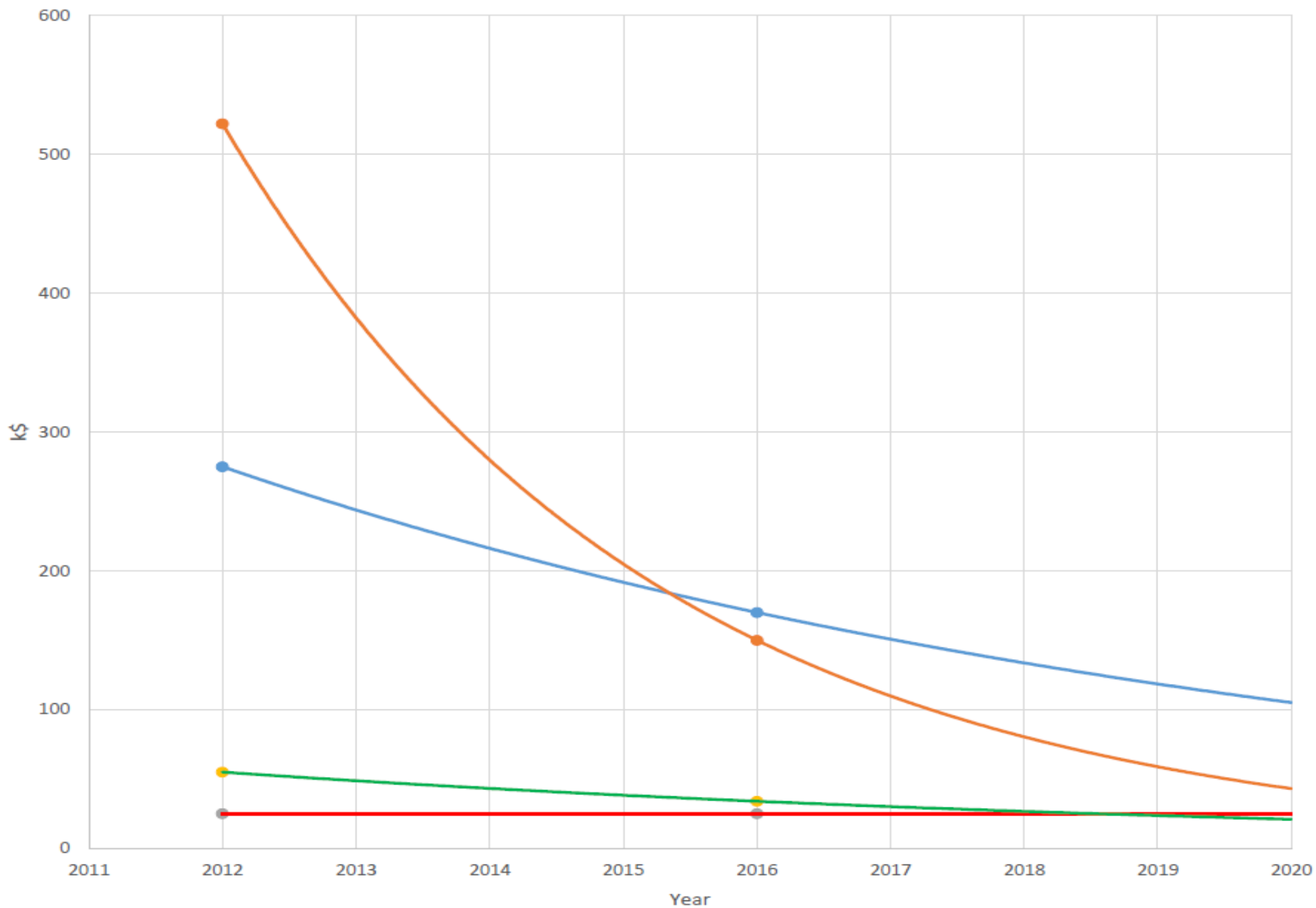




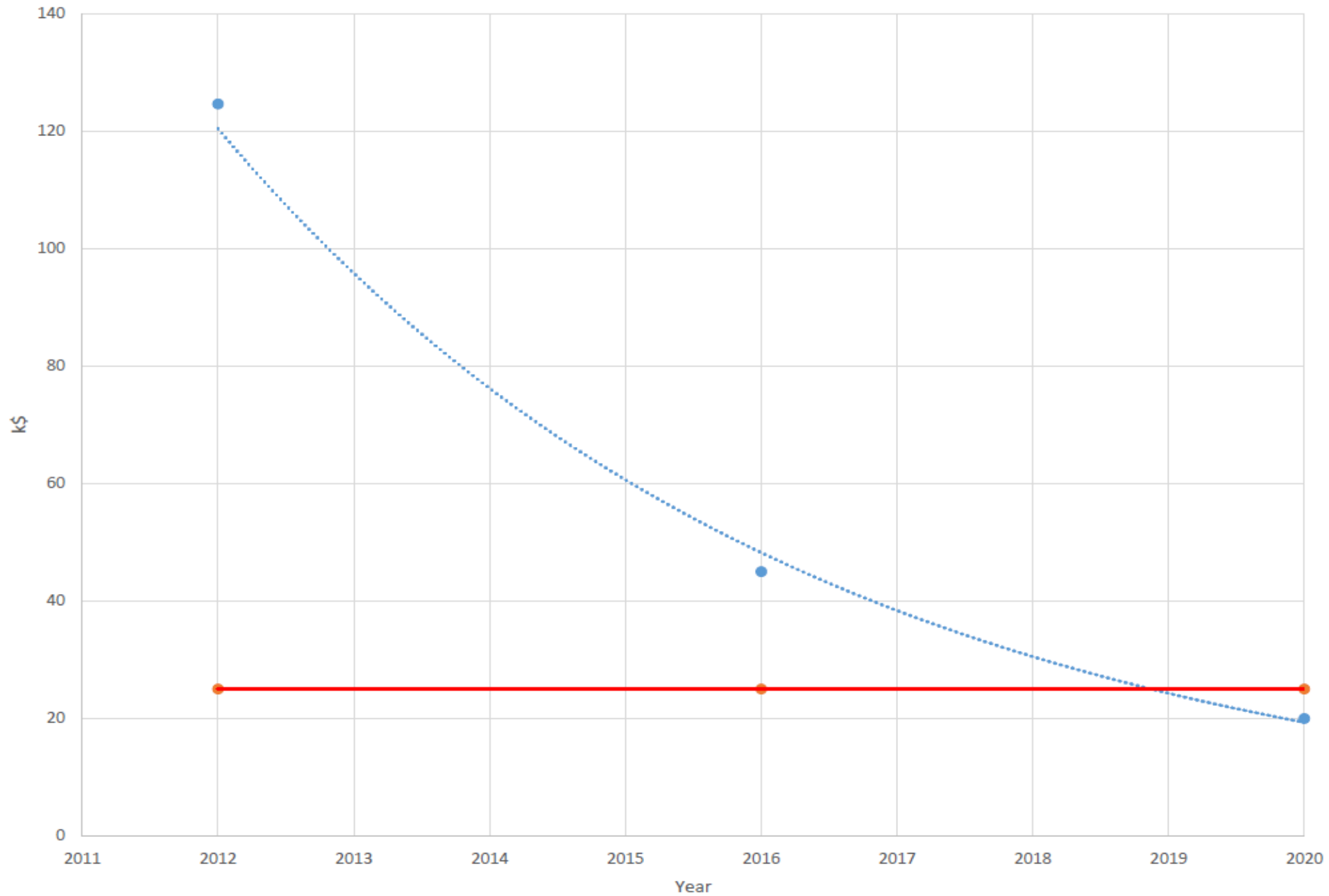
## Program Benefits (1)

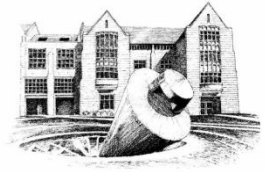
- Xcel Energy is being recognized as leading-edge and proactive in microgrid technology and deployment
- 4 invited microgrid presentations (completed or pending) with national visibility
  - ❖ National Society of Professional Engineers (done)
  - ❖ North Central Electrical League (done)
  - ❖ Xcel Engineering 2017 Technical Conference (done)
  - ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> Microgrids & Distrib. Gen. for Public & Private Sectors (pending)

Installed Solar-PV (Blue) & Storage Costs (Orange) - 50 kW  
(Red = Cost of new car; Green = 50 kW PV costs scaled to 5 kW)



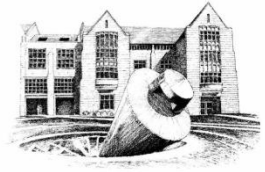
Projected Cost of 10 kW PV+Storage System (Blue)  
Cost of an Automobile (Red)





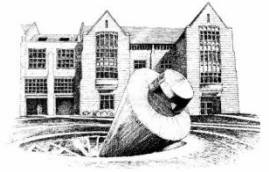
## Program Benefits (2)

- Significant boon to the University of St Thomas's School of Engineering power program: at both the graduate and undergraduate level
- The first graduate student with thesis/project work related to the USTREF has already graduate; Nathan Webster. He is now at ASU working on his PhD with a power focus



## Program Benefits (3)

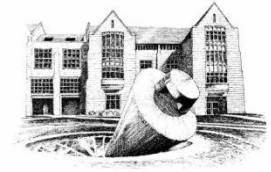
- Multiple grad and undergraduate research students will starting on the project in Spring 2017 semester as we move into the RFQ phase of the project.
- Significant recognition by 3<sup>rd</sup> party businesses in & moving into microgrid related markets



## Program Benefits (3)

- Opportunities pending for other RDF recipients for Multiple grad and undergraduate research students will starting on the project as we move into the RFQ phase of the project.
- World-wide recognition of humanitarian microgrid outreach.

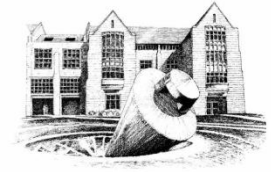
# Will Steger – Ely, MN



The Steger Wilderness Center is made of glass, native timber and stone, and recycled wood.



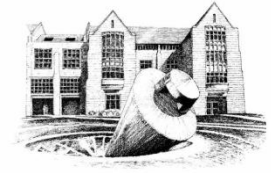
# Will Steger – Ely, MN



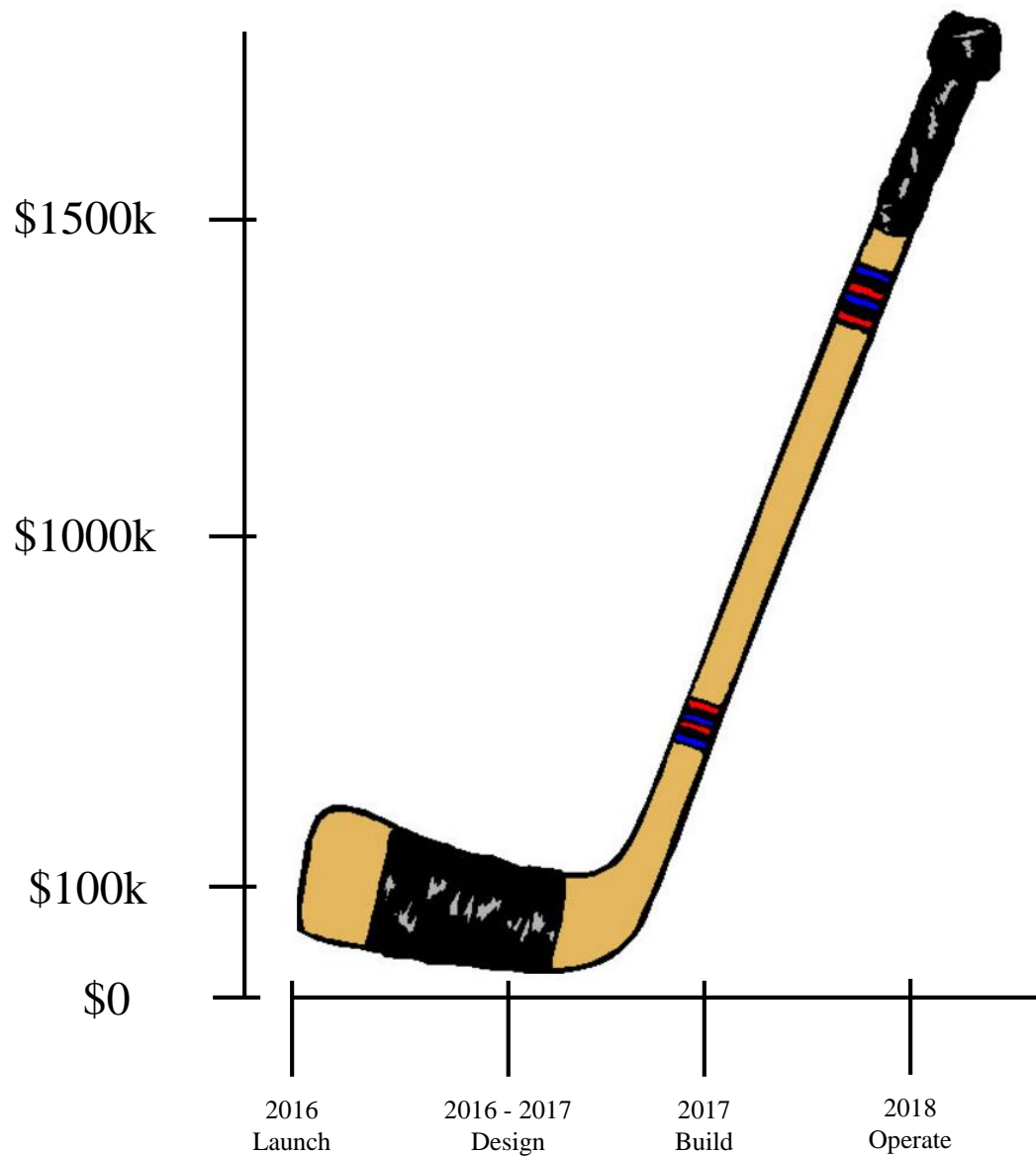
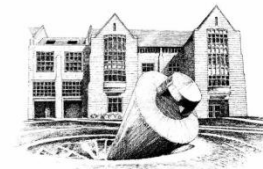


# Will Steger – Ely, MN

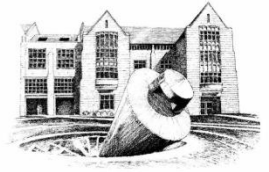




# Budgets and Schedule







Questions??