



Versa Power Systems, Inc.

Robert A Stokes Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Applications

**Robert Stokes
President & CEO**

A Presentation to the
Hydrogen Technical Advisory Committee
Arlington, Virginia
February 17, 2011

Outline

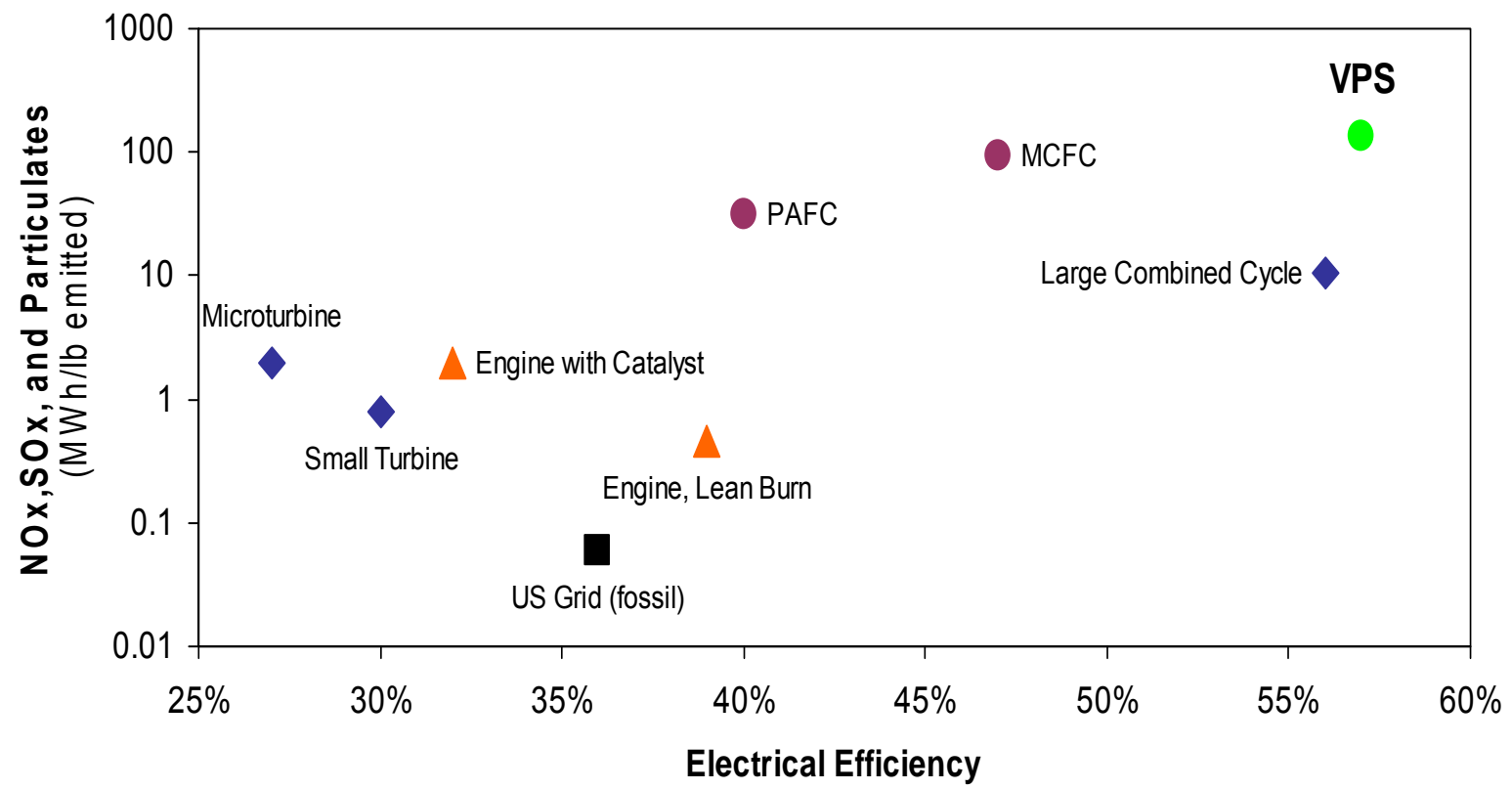
- ▶ Market Overview
- ▶ Company Overview
- ▶ SOFC Technology
- ▶ Cell, Stack, Scale-up, System and Manufacturing Status
- ▶ Commercialization Considerations

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The Solid Oxide Fuel Cell's competitive edge: the cleanest power with the highest efficiency.

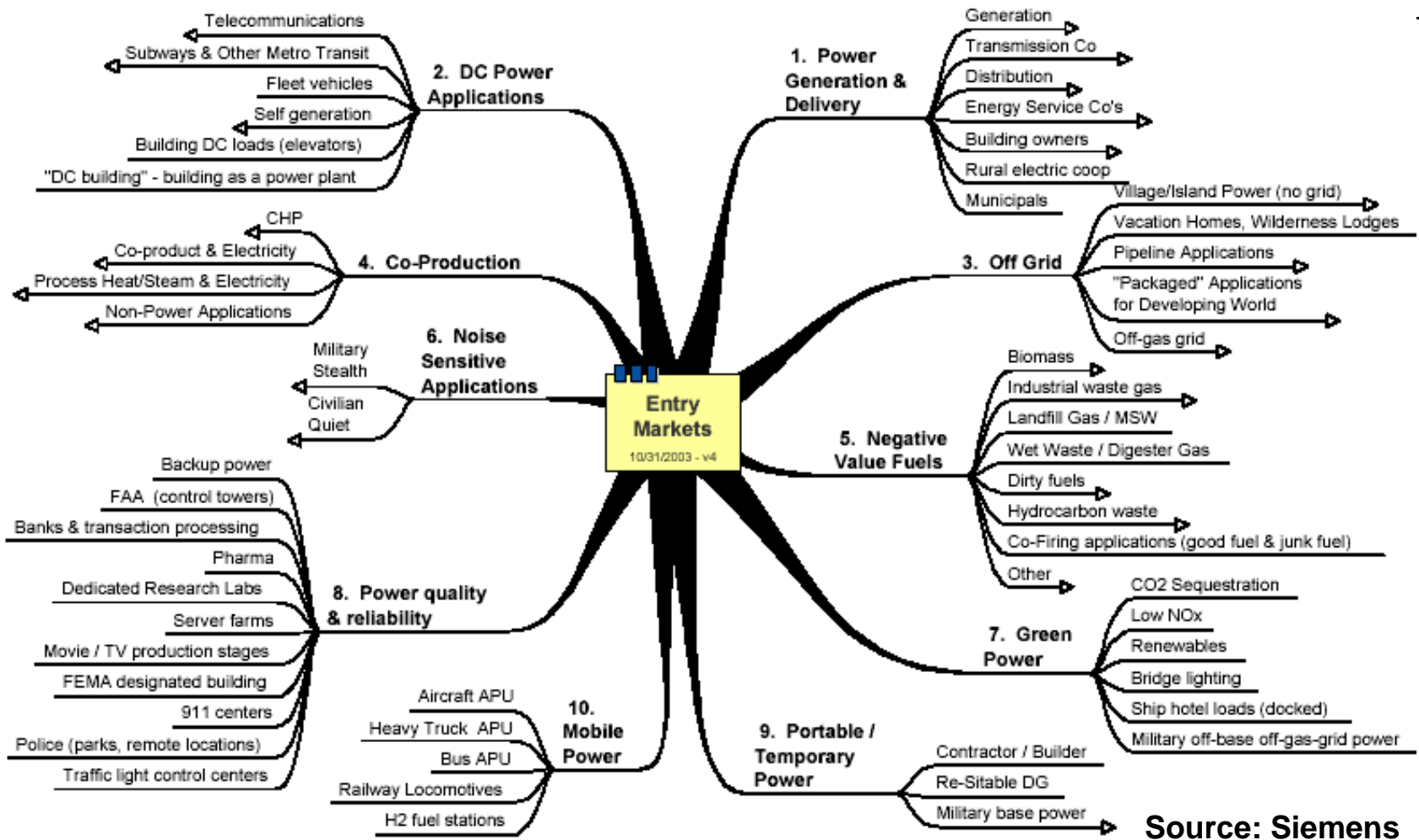
Cleaner Power



Higher Efficiency and Lower CO₂

Feature Plot

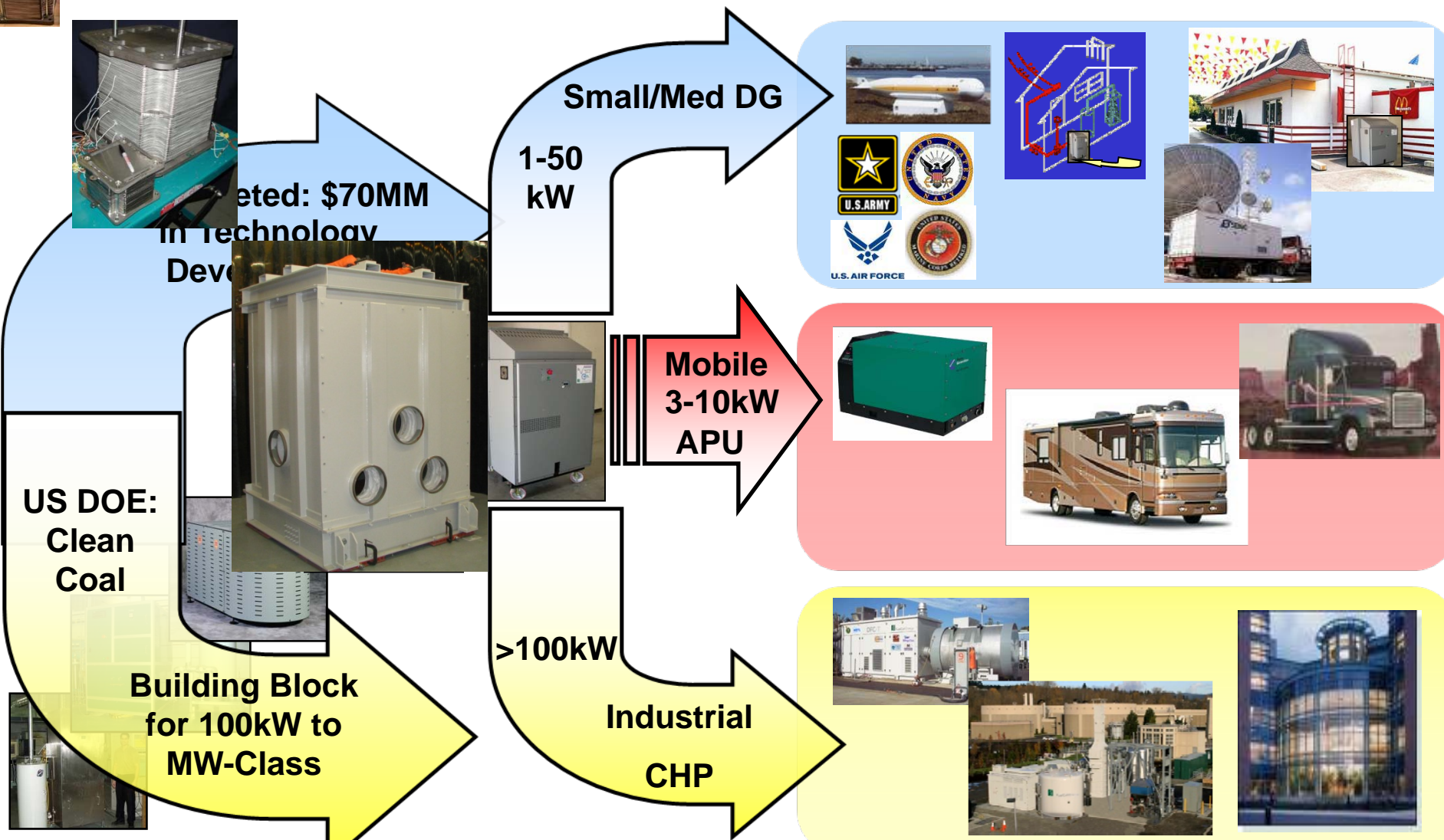
The definition of disruptive- the potential SOFC Markets



Source: Siemens

Many potential markets/applications: choose one and focus

What Are The Markets....today



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Company Overview

- ▶ A developer of planar solid oxide fuel cells
- ▶ Privately held company
- ▶ Headquartered in Littleton, Colorado
- ▶ SOFC development facilities in Colorado and Alberta, Canada
- ▶ Activities in both stationary and mobile SOFC development
- ▶ Annual contract revenue from the U.S DOE and DOD is approximately \$11 MM

VPS's 32,000 square foot facility contains product development infrastructure



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SOFC Technology Advantages

- ▶ High Electrical Generation Efficiency
- ▶ Low Environmental Impact
 - Low SO_x, NO_x, CO₂ Emissions
 - Quiet
 - Vibration-less
- ▶ Siting Flexibility
- ▶ Fuel Flexibility
 - Propane
 - Natural Gas
 - Coal-derived Fuel Gas
 - Methanol
 - Naphtha
 - Bio-gases
- ▶ Cogeneration Potential
 - High Quality Exhaust Heat
- ▶ Manufacturing equipment commercially available

Challenges for Commercialization

- ▶ The specific metrics vary based on application
 - Cost
 - Life
 - Thermal Cycling
 - Challenges of introducing a new disruptive product into the market space of incumbent product lines

Ceramic Ion Conductors: Early Work

■ Walther Nernst (1897)

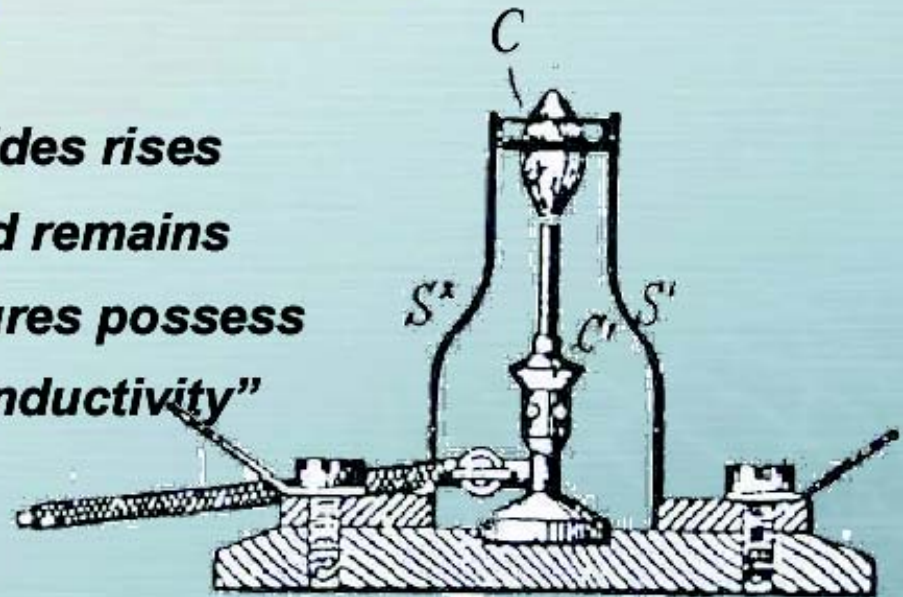
“that the conductivity of pure oxides rises very slowly with temperature and remains relatively low, whereas the mixtures possess an enormously much greater conductivity”

Initially:

“lime, magnesia, and those sort of substances;”

Later:

“Nernst mass (85% ZrO_2 + 15% Y_2O_3)”



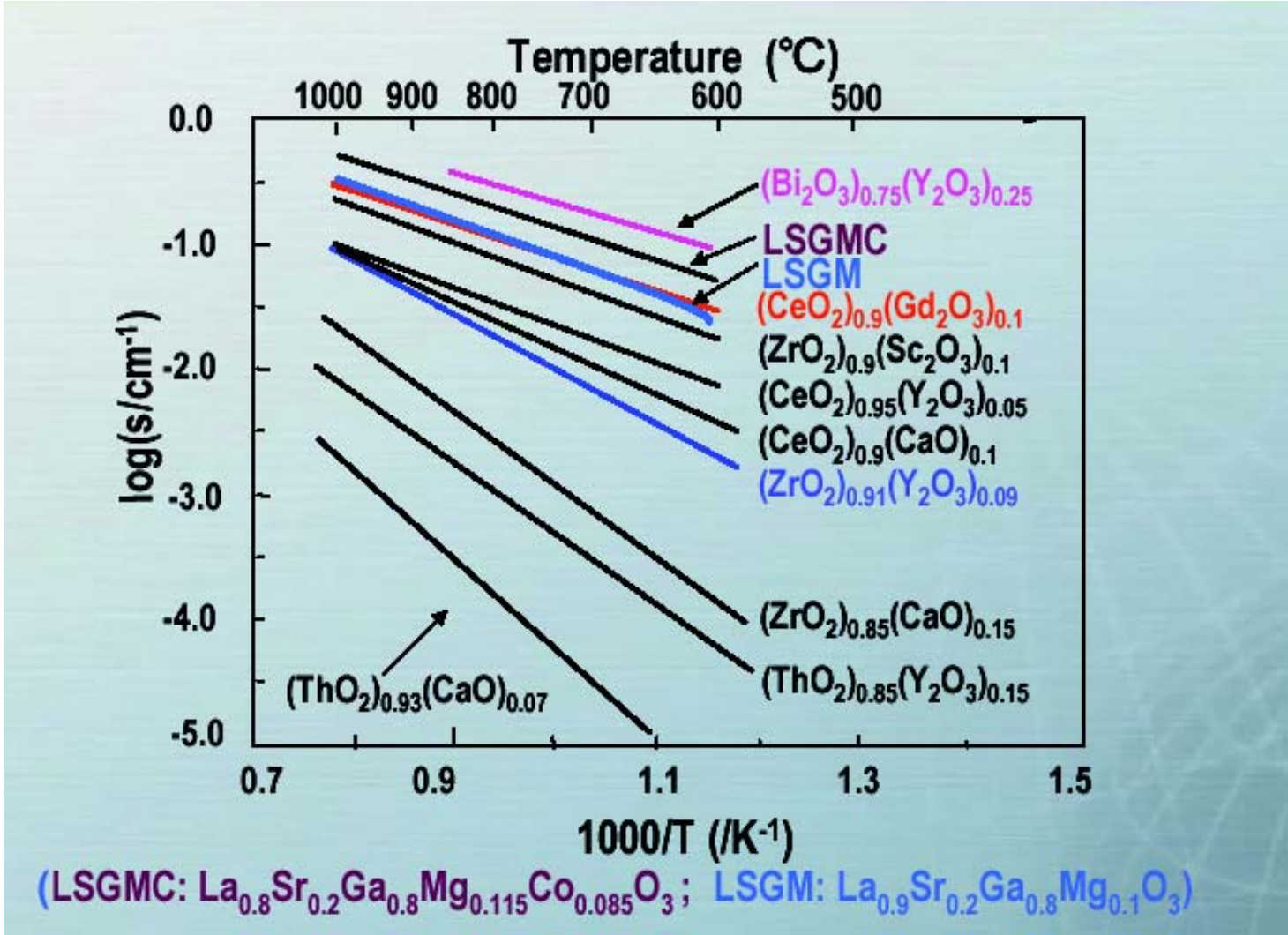
W. Nernst

“Electrical Glow-Light”

U.S. Patent 623,811

April 25, 1899

Comparison of Oxide Ion Conductivity



Zirconia-based Electrolyte Materials

- ▶ Very low electronic conduction (energy band gap: >7 eV)
- ▶ Very high thermodynamic stability (decomposition P_{O_2} at 1000°C : 10-35 atm)
- ▶ Easily doped with lower valence cations (such as Ca^{2+} , Y^{3+} , Sc^{3+}) to create oxygen vacancies
- ▶ Doped material is highly oxide ion conductive (conductivity: >0.1 $(\text{ohm}\cdot\text{cm})^{-1}$ at 1000°C)

Zirconia-based materials are still the most widely used for electrolytes of SOFCs

Many SOFC Stack Designs

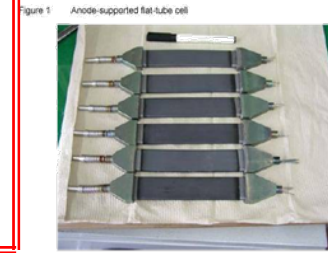
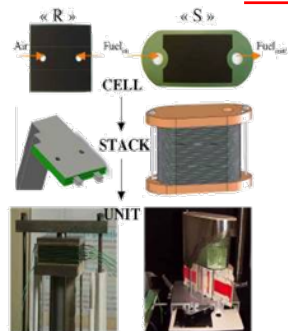
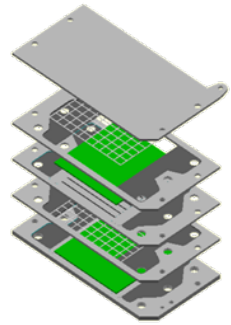
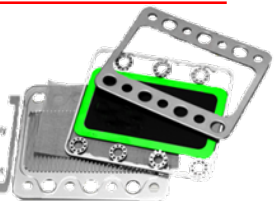
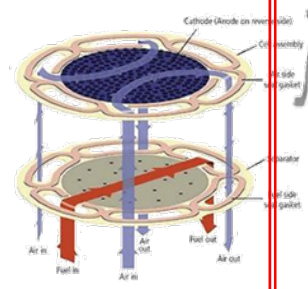
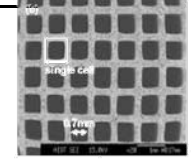
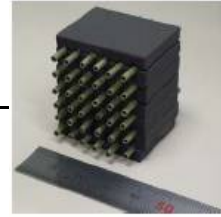
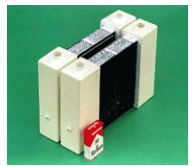
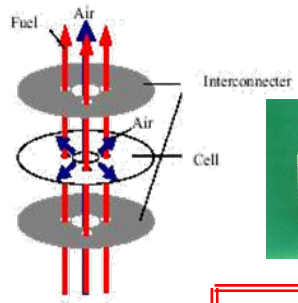
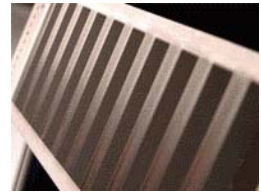
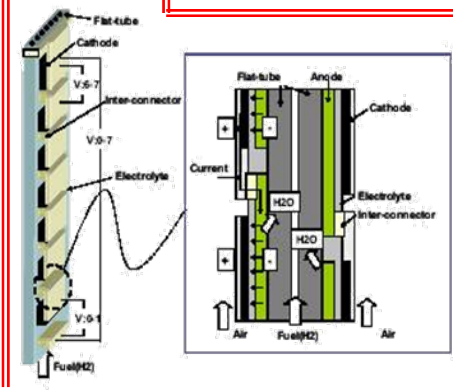
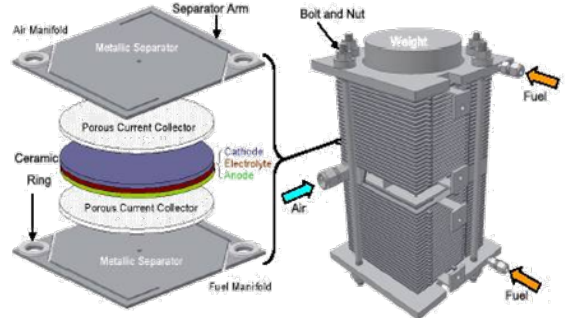
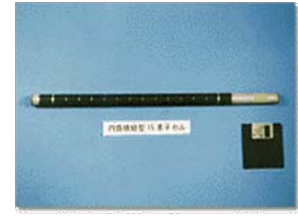
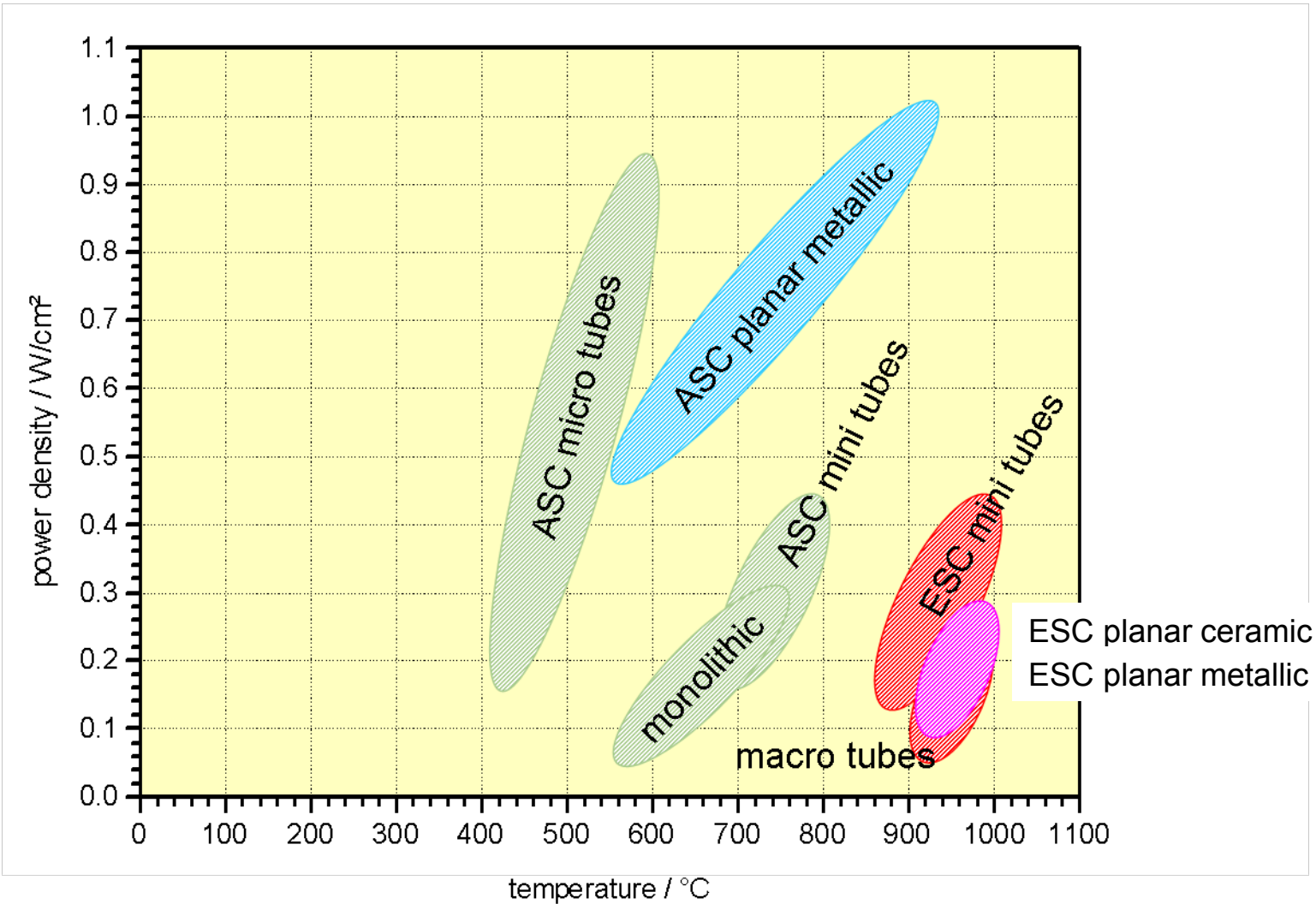


Figure 2 The brazed anode-supported flat-tube cell with the metallic cap.



Power density vs. Temperature



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Cell Scale-Up Development



Tape Casting



Screen Printing



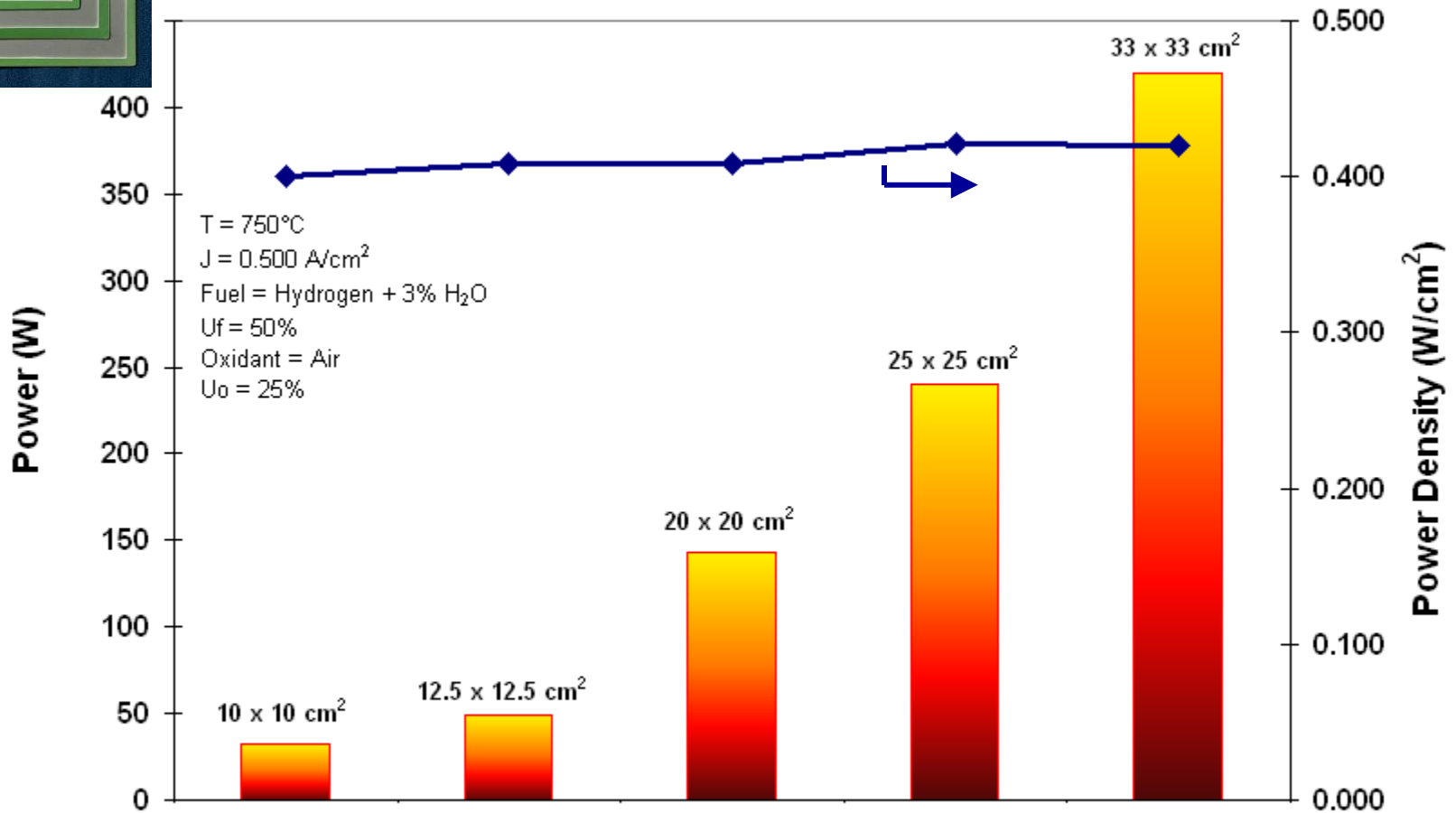
Co-sintering


- ▶ The established Tape casting/Screen Printing/Co-firing (TSC) process proved to be flexible enough to allow a >8X increase in cell active area (121 → 1000 cm²) without appreciable changes in performance or yield
- ▶ 25 x 25 cm² cells (550 cm² active area) are being used for stack development



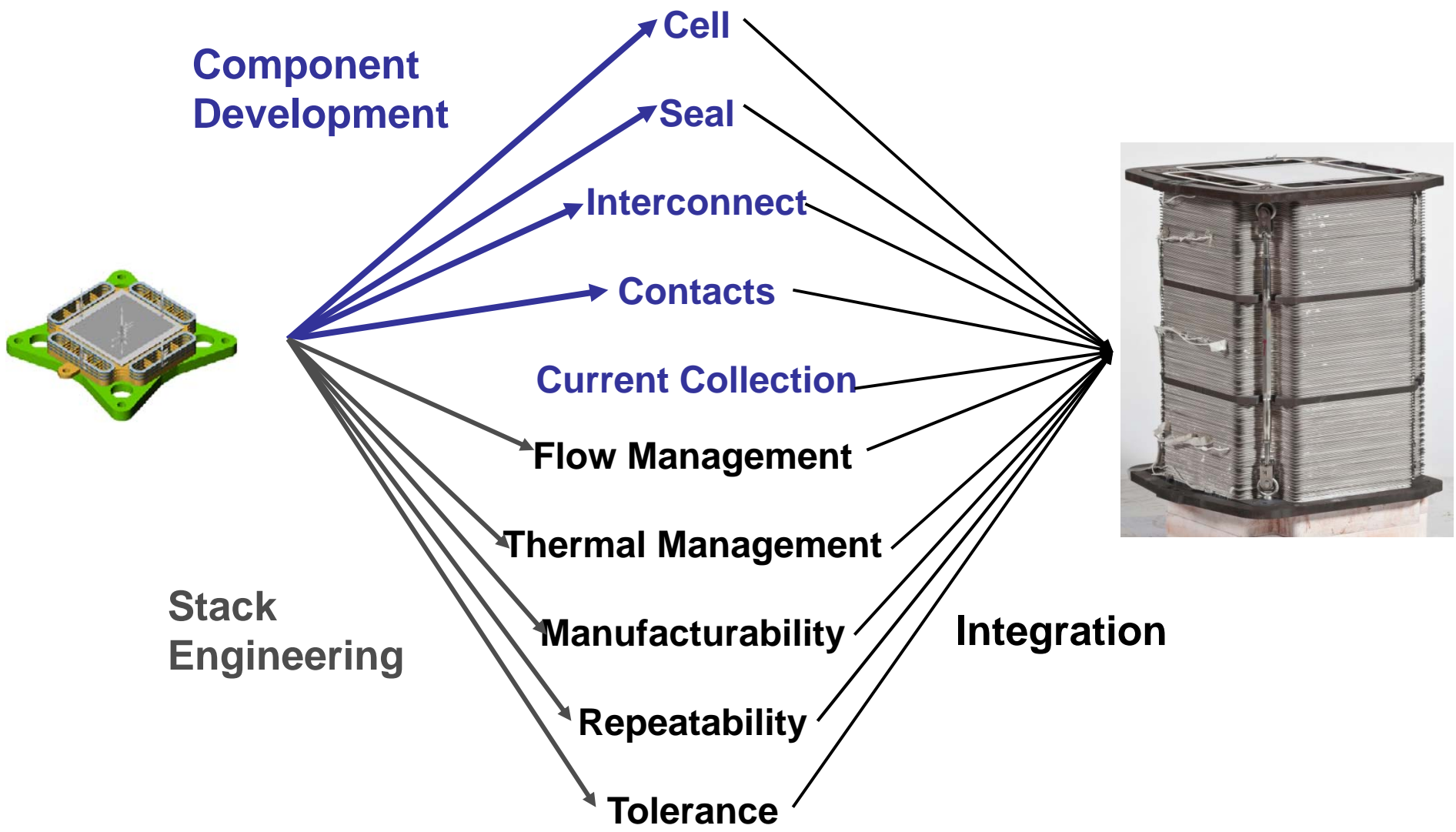
Cell Power Progression at 0.500 A/cm²

Stainless Steel Current Collectors, Cross-Flow Gas Delivery



 Power (W)	32	49	143	241	420
Cell Voltage (V)	0.80	0.82	0.82	0.84	0.84

Stack Development Strategy



Overall- the manufacturing capacity and proprietary processes, scalable for volume production, to deliver low-cost products

Tape Casting



Continuous Process

Screen Printing



Process on Green

Co-sintering



One Step Co-Firing

Global ThermoElectric - SOFC Production Tracking - [Green Tape Cutting Process]

File Production Inventory Administration Window Help

Tape ID: _____ Container: _____ Operator #1: _____ Process Start: _____
Operator #2: _____

Tape Cutting Process Instructions

1. latex gloves are to be worn at all times when cutting the tape
2. Turn on wind motor on back of caster.
3. Start and advance tape so that 2m is accessible to cut.
4. Remove the first two feet of tape and recycle.
5. Align the cutting die so that its edges are perpendicular to the edge of the cast.
6. Using the die score along the center of the die.
7. Score along the middle surface of the cutting die.

Width of Tape (cm):

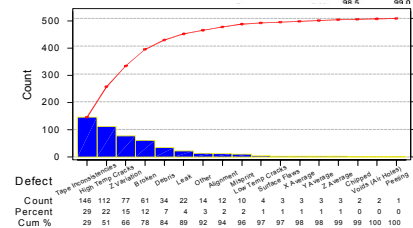
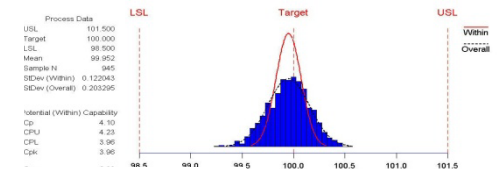
Starting Cell Serial #:

Ending Cell Serial #:

ACCEPT CANCEL

Process Tracking Database

Total Process Capability Analysis for XY ave



Statistical Process Control

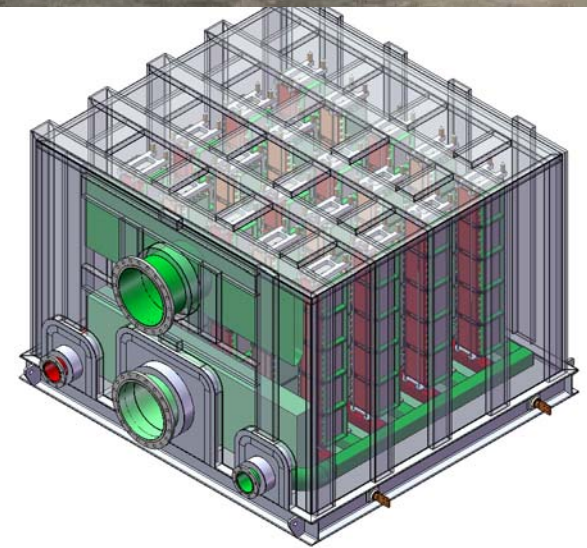
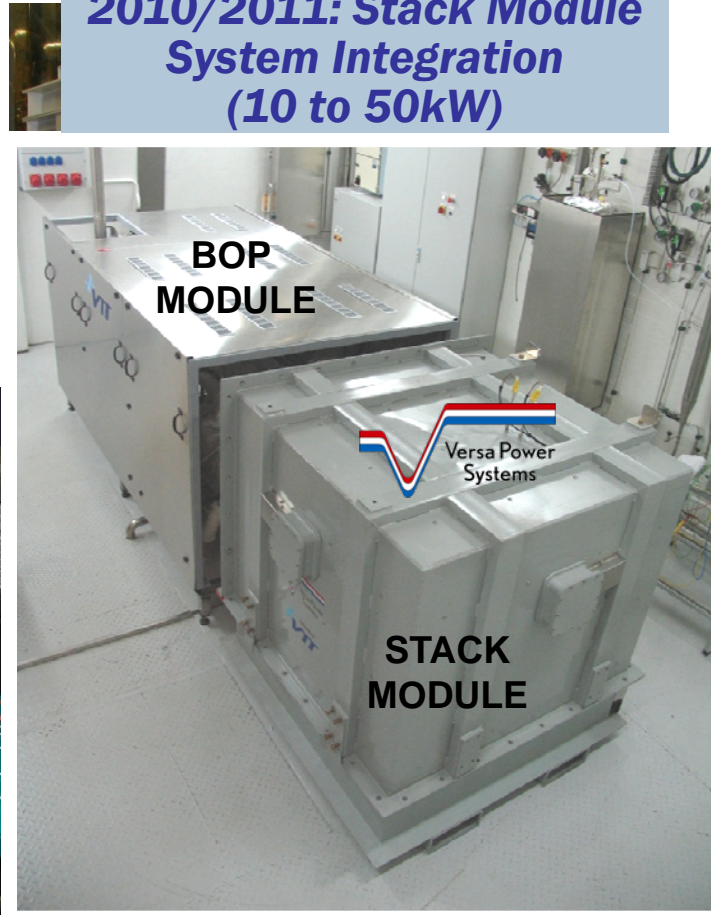
From Stack Block to 250 kW, System

Integrated Power Module

2012-2013: 250kW Power Module & System Integration

Stack Tower

Stack Module Development
2010/2011: Stack Module System Integration (10 to 50kW)

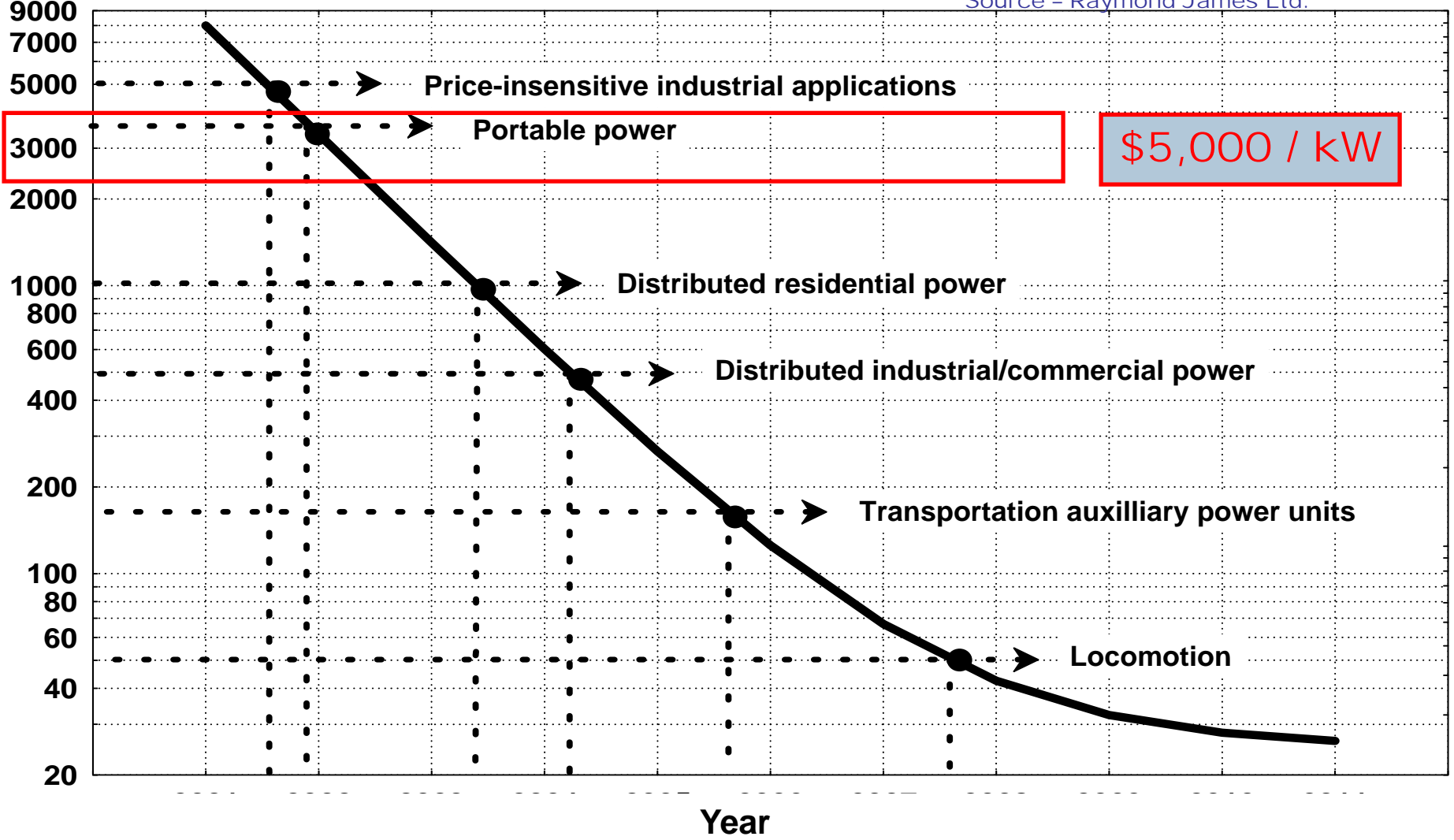


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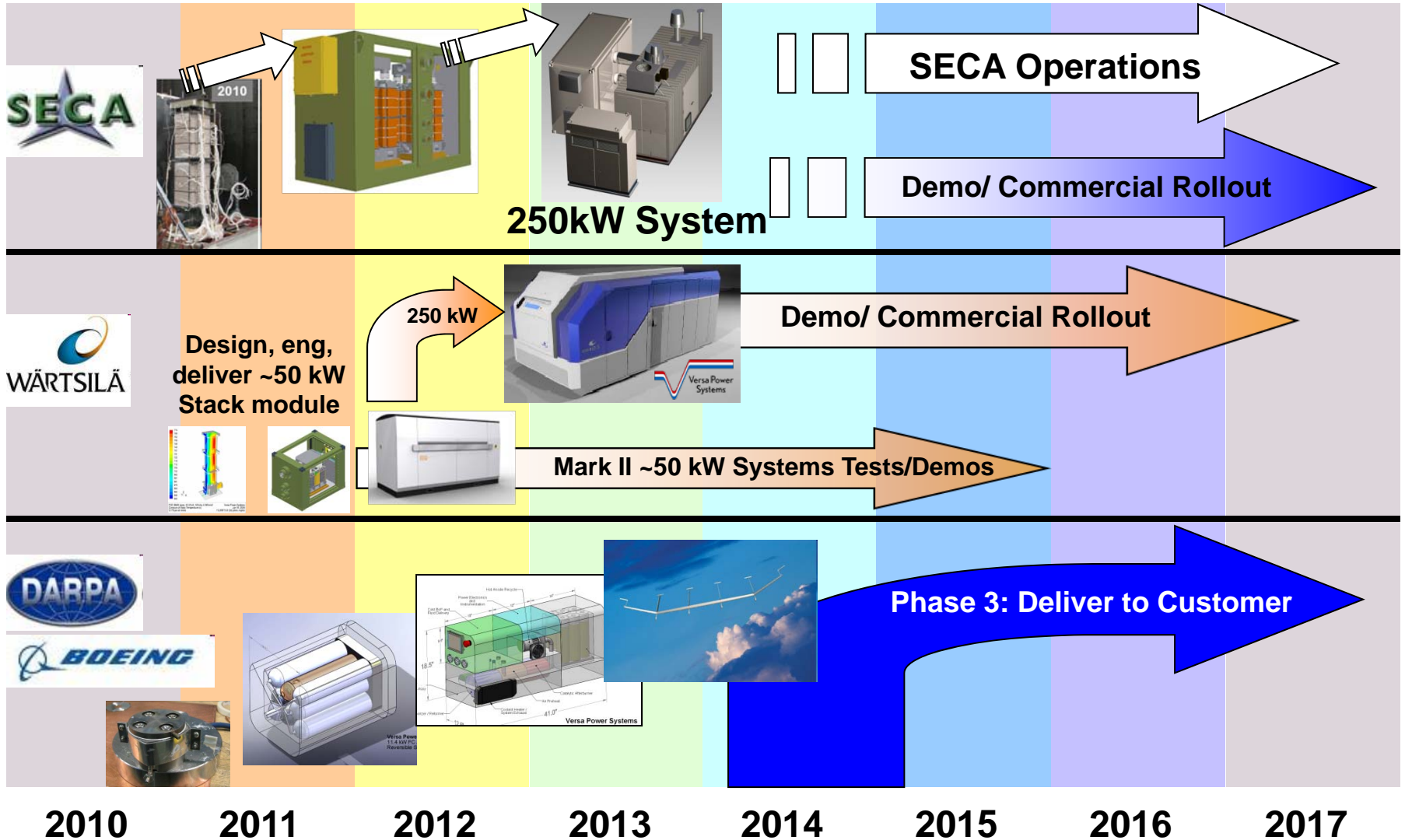
Fuel Cells Price Points

Source - Raymond James Ltd.



The VPS Product Development & Delivery Timeline

SECA Phase 3, Wärtsilä and DOD-DARPA/Boeing Phase 2



Boeing Wins DARPA Vulture II Program

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 16, 2010 -- The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] on Sept. 14 signed an agreement with the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop and fly the SolarEagle unmanned aircraft for the Vulture II demonstration program. Under the terms of the \$89 million contract, SolarEagle will make its first demonstration flight in 2014.

"SolarEagle is a uniquely configured, large unmanned aircraft designed to eventually remain on station at stratospheric altitudes for at least five years," said Pat O'Neil, Boeing Phantom Works program manager for Vulture II. "That's a daunting task, but Boeing has a highly reliable solar-electric design that will meet the challenge in order to perform persistent communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions from altitudes above 60,000 feet."

Under the Vulture II agreement, Boeing will develop a full-scale flight demonstrator, including maturation of the critical power system and structures technologies. **Key suppliers for the program include Versa Power Systems** and QinetiQ.

During testing, the SolarEagle demonstrator will remain in the upper atmosphere for 30 days, harvesting solar energy during the day that will be stored in fuel cells and used to provide power through the night. The aircraft will have highly efficient electric motors and propellers and a high-aspect-ratio, 400-foot wing for increased solar power and aerodynamic performance.

SolarEagle is one of Phantom Works' rapid prototyping efforts, which also include Phantom Ray, a fighter-sized, unmanned, advanced technology demonstrator scheduled to make its first flight in early 2011, and the hydrogen-powered Phantom Eye demonstrator, a High Altitude Long Endurance aircraft designed to stay aloft for up to four days, also scheduled to make its first flight in 2011.

A unit of The Boeing Company, [Boeing Defense, Space & Security](#) is one of the world's largest defense, space and security businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions, and the world's largest and most versatile manufacturer of military aircraft. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Defense, Space & Security is a \$34 billion business with 68,000 employees worldwide.



The Vulture Unmanned Air System (UAS); now re-named SolarEagle

VPS has teamed with Boeing Company on a DARPA-sponsored project to demonstrate unmanned air systems (UAS) using VPS' solid oxide technology as the energy storage and conversion platform

Phase 2: 2010-2014– Subscale Flight Demonstration

The Team

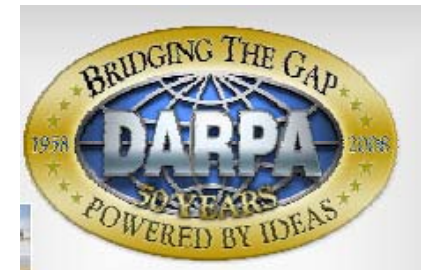


- ▶ Break the mindset that aircraft are defined by launch, recovery, and maintenance cycles
 - Unmanned Air Vehicle
 - Operate like a satellite for 5 years at a time

- ▶ 200X Voyager Endurance Record

- ▶ Pseudo-satellite benefits
 - Increased platform availability
 - Consistent and persistent coverage
 - Smaller fleet size

- ▶ Fundamental issues
 - Energy cycle: collection or refueling
 - Reliability: ultra-reliable or repairable system



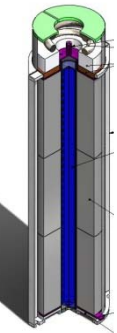
Power Density Progress & its Impact on Commercial Product Potential

Distributed Generation (DG) Stacks (DOE SECA)

Residential (DG) Stacks (DOE)



VPS High Power density Stack

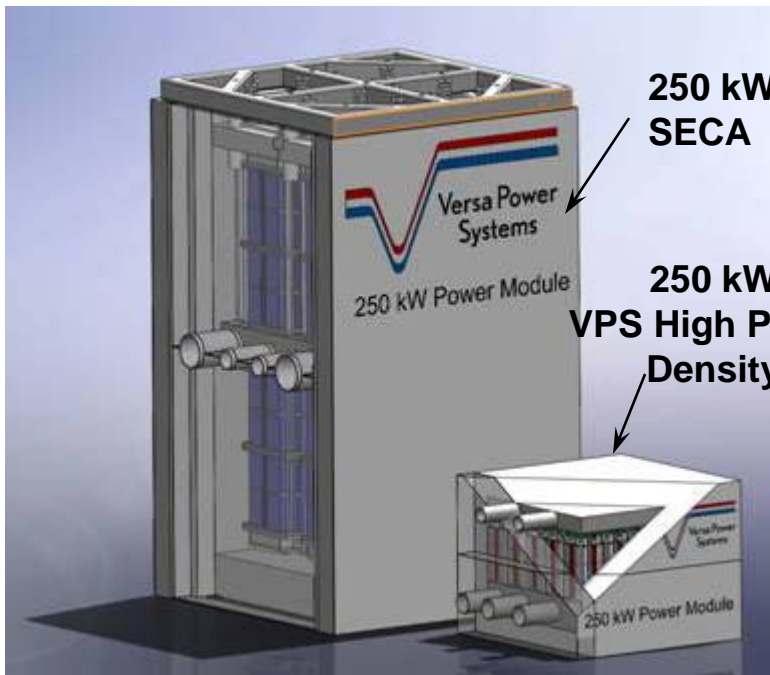


	Baseline Residential	64 cell DG-Coal based	92 cell DG-Coal based	Today	Projected
	390 mA/cm ²	390 mA/cm ²	450 mA/cm ²	20 cell Sept 10 390 mA/cm ²	270 cell projected 390 mA/cm ²
Gross Power (W)	1,200	11,000	18,000	157	2238
Power to Weight Ratio (W/kg)	69	61	72	216	472
Power to Volume Ratio (W/L)	225	175	200	775	1689

3x (from Baseline Residential to Today)
3.4x (from Baseline Residential to Projected)
6.5x (from Today to Projected)
7.5x (from Today to Projected)

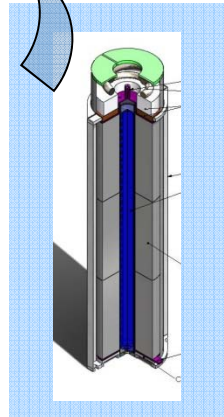
The VPS High Power Density Stack is the Foundation of the DARPA Program: opens the door for ultra-compact systems of the future

250 kW Stack Modules: 1/4th the size of SOA

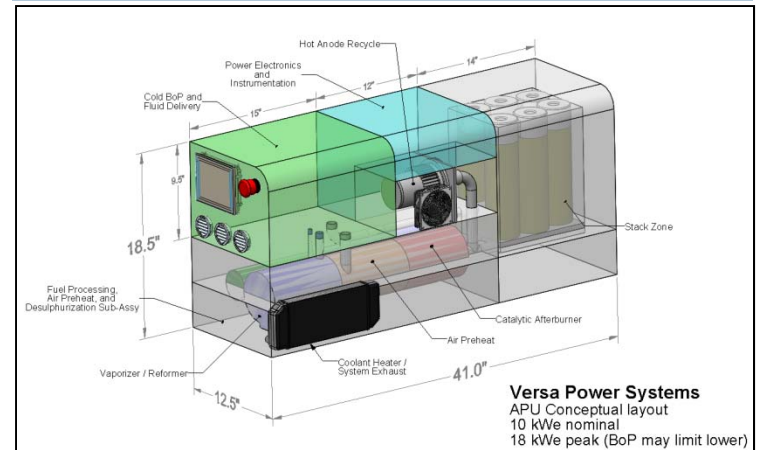


250 kW SECA

250 kW VPS High Power Density



Mobile: 10 kW, military & commercial APUs Gensets with 1/10th the weight



The High Power Density Stack:

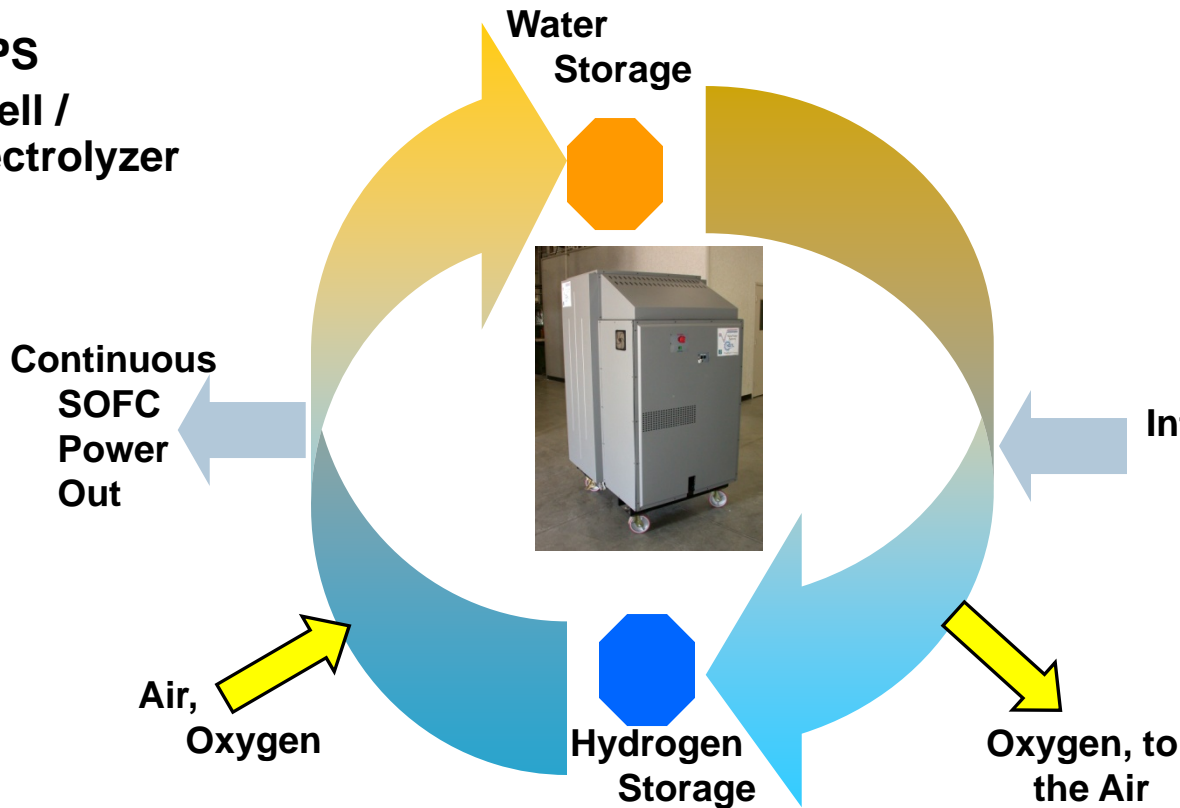
- ▶ Compact and lightweight
- ▶ Modular
- ▶ High voltage / Low current

Low Cost

- ▶ 10x less material (weight)
- ▶ Automated assembly

Enable Reliability for Renewables: Solving the Energy Storage Problem

The VPS Fuel Cell / Electrolyzer



Source:

- ▶ Wind
- ▶ Solar



Intermittent Power In

Continuous SOFC Power Out

Applications

- ▶ Continuous Power for Renewables
- ▶ Grid Support: load level, peak-shave
- ▶ Hydrogen commodity production

- ▶ Unitized Cell
- ▶ High energy density
- ▶ High round trip efficiency

Summary

- ▶ SOFCs offer many advantages over conventional power generation technologies, as well as a bridge to the “hydrogen economy”
- ▶ SOFC developers utilize a range of talents in their organizations, including: materials scientists, electrochemists, chemical engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, manufacturing engineers
- ▶ R & D opportunities exist within all of these specialties
- ▶ The main challenges that exist for SOFC developers are cost, lifetime and durability for a given market/application
- ▶ SOFCs have the potential to address very large power generation markets