

2004 DOE Hydrogen, Fuel Cells & Infrastructure Technologies

Program Review Presentation

Startech Hydrogen Production



This presentation does not contain any proprietary or confidential information.

Objectives:

1. Field test integrated hydrogen production on a pilot scale using plasma gasification and ceramic membrane hydrogen separation.
2. Evaluate commercial viability and scalability through extended operation under representative conditions.

Budget

- ◆ \$612,000 Total Current Funding.
- ◆ DOE Support = \$490,000
- ◆ Contractor's Share = \$122,000
- ◆ Award Expected July 2004.

Gasification Targets

3.1.2 Reduce Distributed Hydrogen Production Cost:

- Potential to meet or exceed distributed hydrogen production goal of \$1.50 per kg H₂.
- Potential tipping fee income from waste feedstock eliminates feedstock cost and can pay for hydrogen production by itself.

3.1.5 This Program Advances work on the following Technical Tasks

- Task 1: Distributed Production Feedstock Options This test program will Utilize Scrap Plastic, Coal, and Surrogate Medical Waste as representative Gasification Feedstocks.
- Task 2: Low-Cost, Low Volume Distributed Production of Hydrogen from Natural Gas or Liquid Fuels.
- Task 3: Advanced Distributed Hydrogen production: The PCS integrated with StarCell Hydrogen Purification constitutes an Advanced Fuel Flexible Reformer Technology for distributed hydrogen production.
- Task 7: Gasifier Product Gas Clean-up: Will determine PCS gas polisher efficiency and suitability of synthesis gas for subsequent processes.
- Task 11: Applied Research on advanced hydrogen Purification

Gasification Barriers

B. Operation and Maintenance Costs:

- The plasma Converter is highly automated: Low Labor Cost.
- Designed to run continuously despite variations in feedstock: Minimal Downtime.
- Plasma Conversion is cost competitive from both a Capital and an O&M Standpoint.

C. Feedstock and Water Issues:

- PCS feedstock flexibility addresses many location-specific feedstock supply issues.
- Water use is clean and minimal.

D. Carbon Dioxide Emissions:

- Process lends itself to clean Carbon Sequestration technologies.

E. Control and Safety:

- Fully Automated System with Fail Safe systems interlocks
- Ambient pressure and continuous feed contribute to an inherently safe gasification system.

Ceramic Membrane Features

- ◆ Applied Research on Advanced H₂ Separation
 - Utilize Systemized and Multistage Ceramic Membrane Technology for Hydrogen Purification.
 - Evaluate Ceramic Membrane performance with various operating conditions and over extended operation.

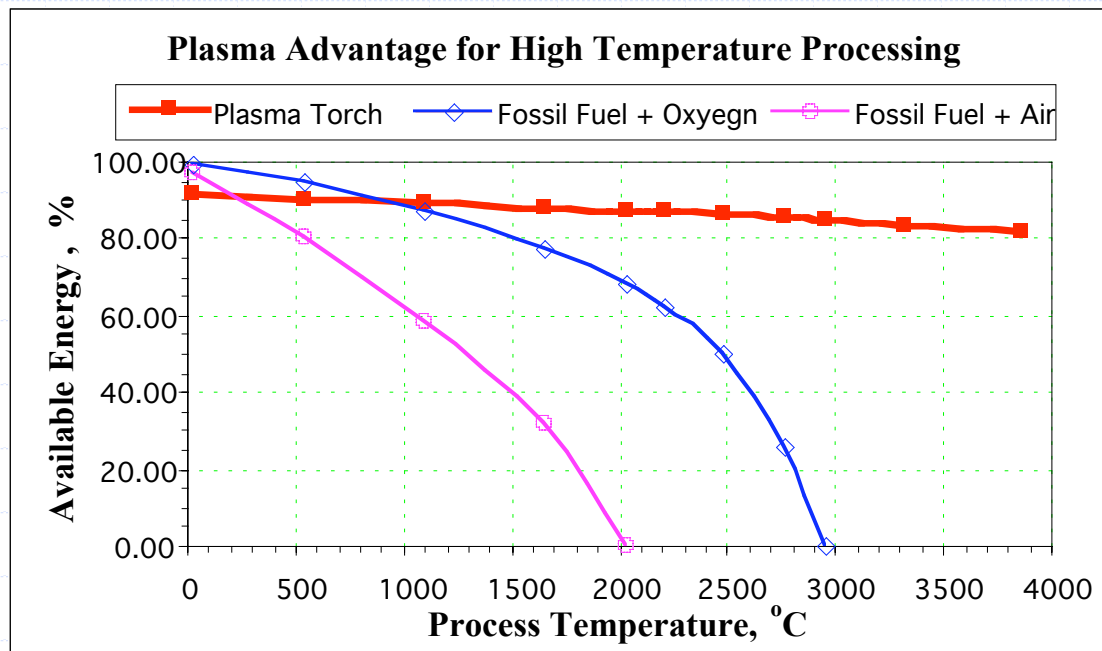
- ◆ Advantages of Ceramic Membranes
 - Excellent material temperature and chemical stability
 - Microporous material yields much higher throughputs versus nonporous polymeric membranes
 - Cost efficient gas separation can be achieved at low pressures, i.e. 50 to 100 psi

Technical Approach

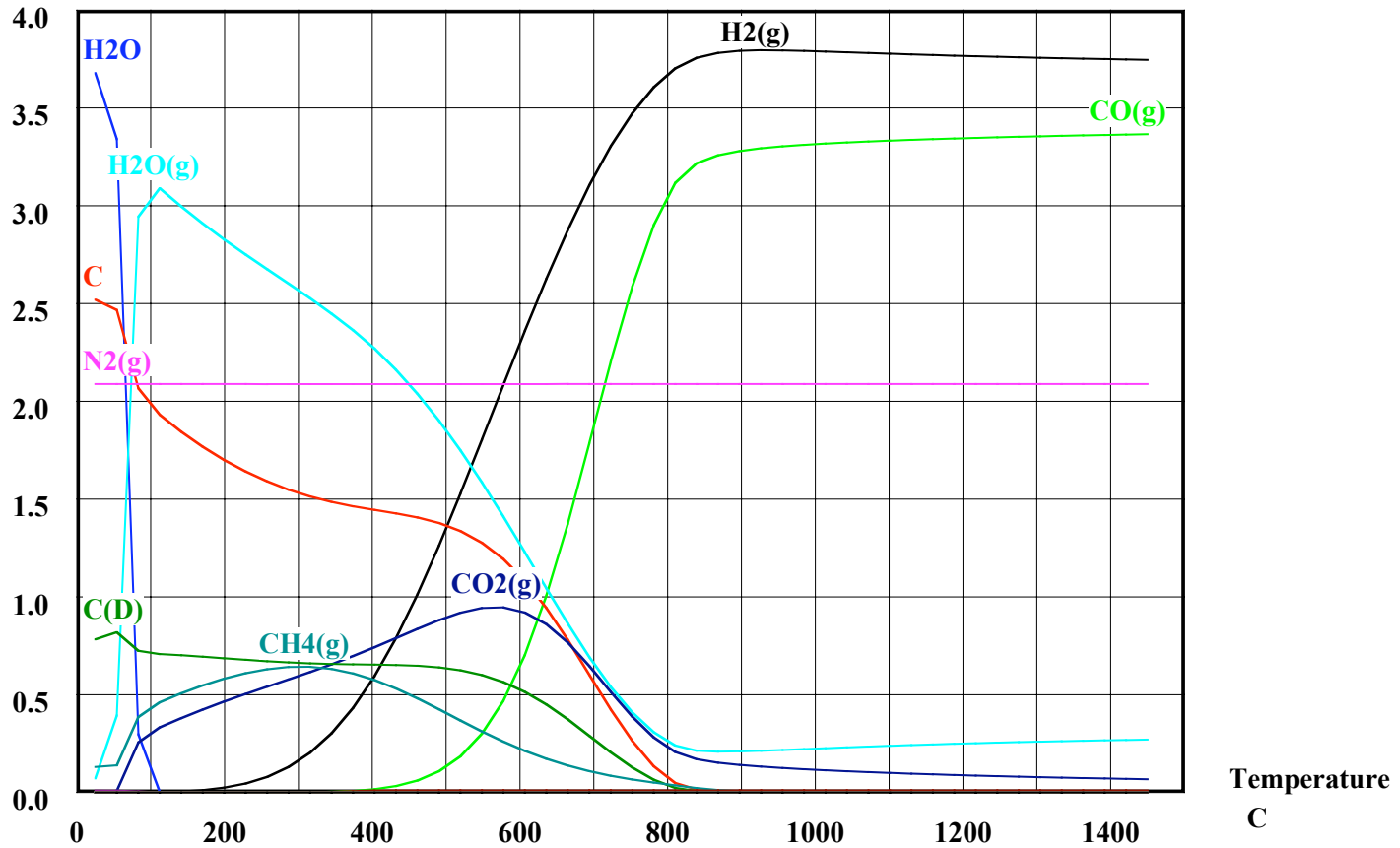
- ◆ Utilize StarCell Ceramic Membrane System to purify Hydrogen from a mixed Synthesis Gas.
- ◆ Utilize Plasma Converter Gasification System to generate Hydrogen Rich Synthesis Gas.
- ◆ Measure processing cost and quality of hydrogen production from several representative feedstocks.
- ◆ Characterize plasma gasification and membrane separation as an integrated hydrogen production system.
- ◆ Determine viability for StarCell scale-up and next phase development.

Why Plasma?

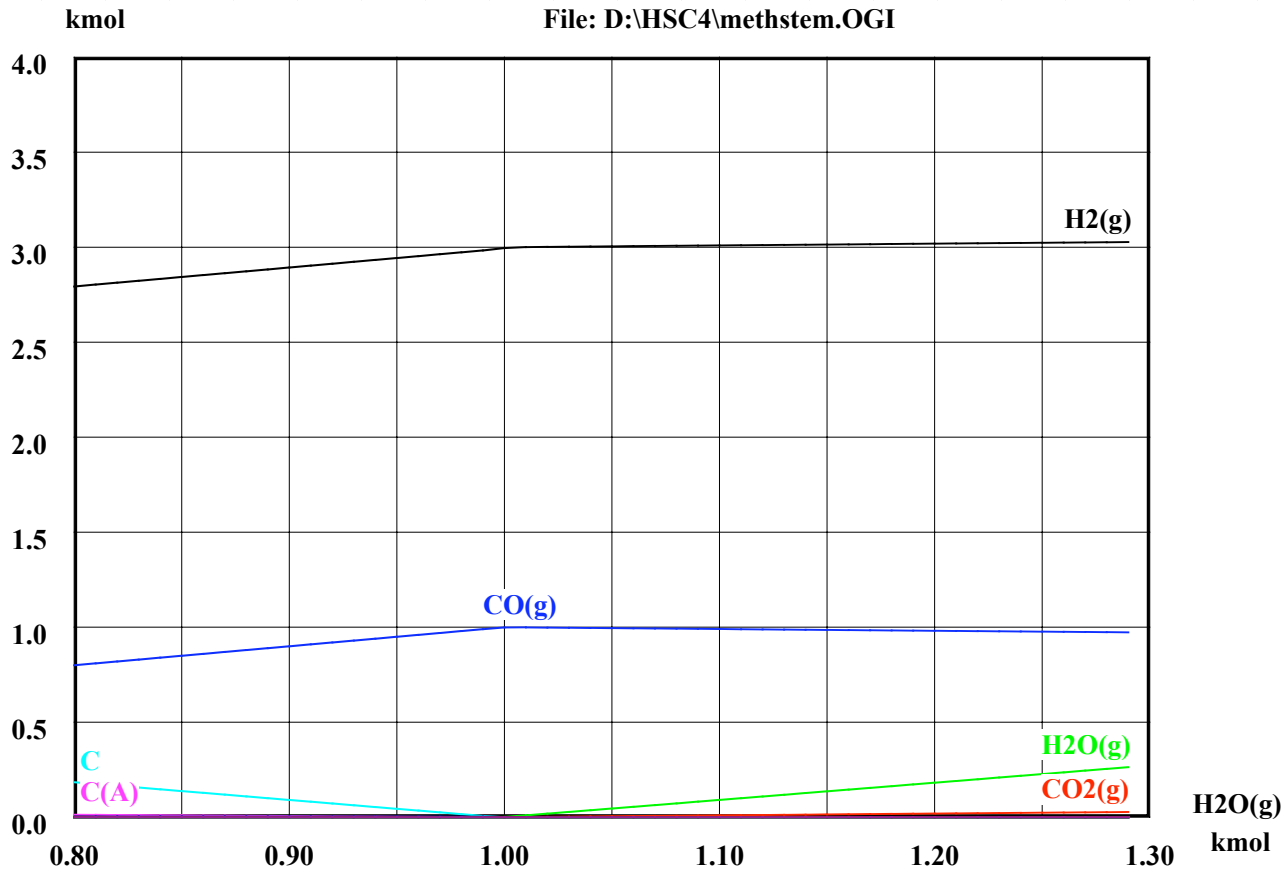
- Superior Environmental Performance
- “Massless Heat”
- High Temperatures
- Commercially Available Equipment
- Low Gas Volumes



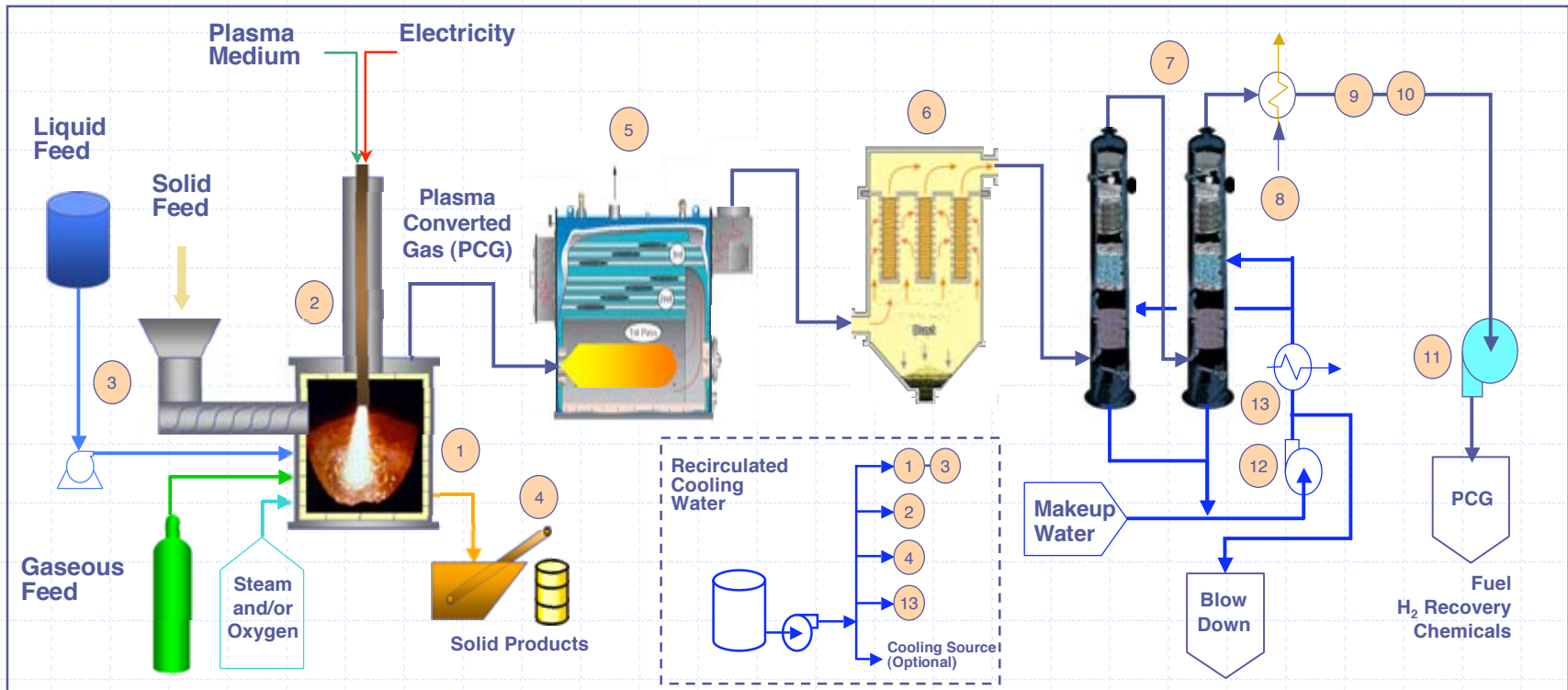
EOLE Gasification



Plasma Processing of Organic Materials

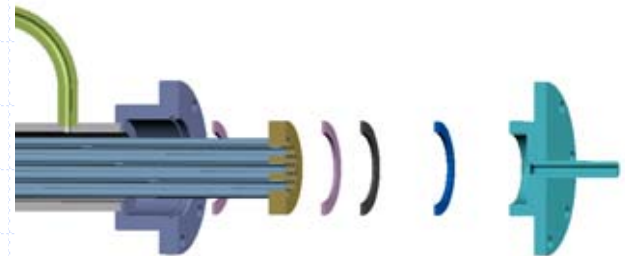


Plasma Converter System



StarCell: How It Works

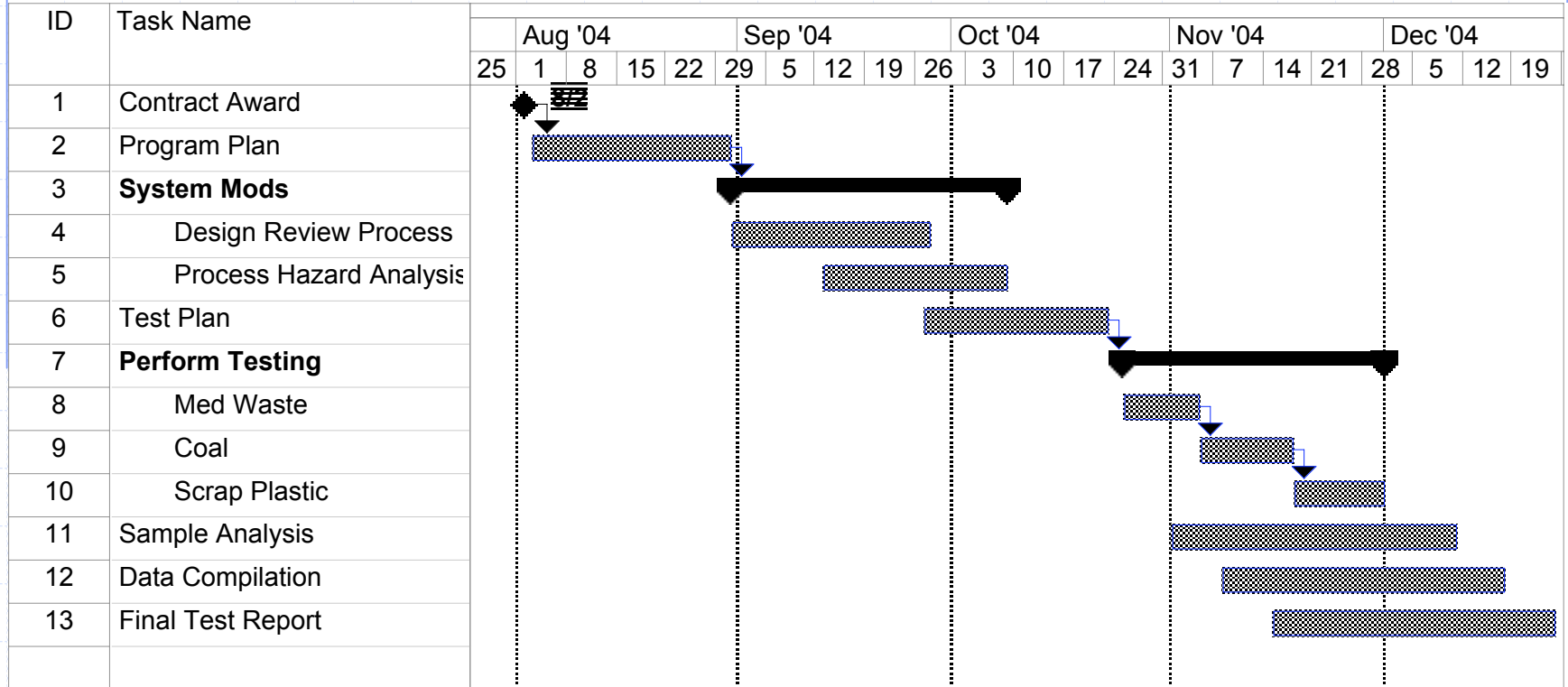
- ◆ StarCell Modules are stainless steel housings with ceramic membrane tube bundles inside.
- ◆ Rated for up to 600°F and operates at or below 100 psig.
- ◆ Mixed gas enters through the inlet port and hydrogen permeates through the membrane.
- ◆ Hydrogen exits through one exit port and the reject gas exits through another.



Project Safety

- ◆ Process Hazard Analysis and Design Review Principles Used
- ◆ Plasma Conversion is performed at slightly negative pressure vs. pressurized systems.
- ◆ High process temperature prevents accumulation of feedstock in the PCS.
- ◆ Gas is removed continuously from the system as it is generated.
- ◆ Control System has built in Fail-Safe controls.

Project Time Line



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