



THE FUTURE OF ENERGY™

## CHARM

**C**ost-effective **H**igh-efficiency **A**dvanced **R**eforming **M**odule

2005 DOE Hydrogen Program Review

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Nuvera Fuel Cells

26May'05

Project ID # FC45

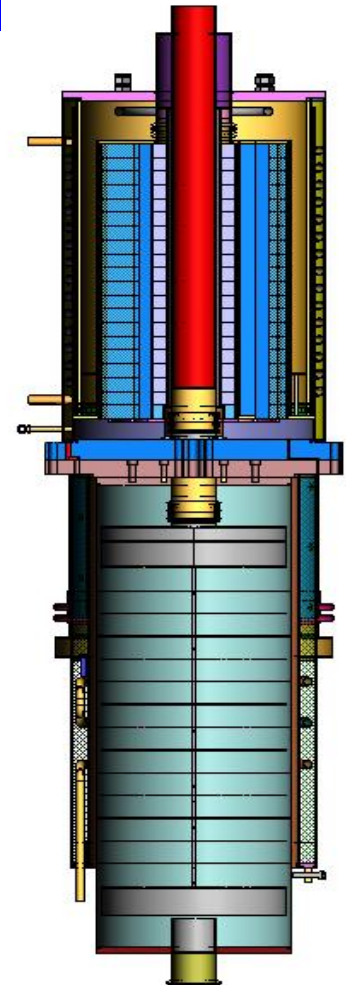
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# Background

## Project SOW amended in Jun'04

- Formerly “Innovative Low-cost and High Efficiency Hybrid PEM Fuel Cell Power System for Distributed Generation Market” (DuAlto)
  - 75 kW Hybrid system development:
    - ⊕ Fully integrated Fuel processor
    - ⊕ PEM fuel cell
    - ⊕ Turbo-compressor-motor-generator (TCMG)
  - AC Generation Efficiency: > 40%
  - Cost: > \$1,500/kW<sub>e</sub>
  
- Fuel processor:
  - Cost: \$70K
  - Durability: limited by high temperatures
  - Manufacturability: high complexity of thermal expansion joints
  - Repairability: component failure requires replacement of sub-system

DuAlto FP2



# Overview

## Timeline

- Project start date:
- Project end date:
- Percent complete:

### Total

Jan'02  
Mar'07  
75%

### DuAlto

Jan'02  
Jun'04  
100%

### CHARM

Jul'04  
Mar'07  
30%

## Budget

- Total project funding:
- DOE share:
- Contractor share:
- Funding in FY04:
- Funding for FY05:
- Funding for FY06:

\$17.02MM  
\$12.00MM  
\$ 5.02MM

\$9.96MM  
\$7.04MM  
\$2.92MM

\$2.51MM

\$7.06MM  
\$4.96MM  
\$2.10MM  
\$0.49MM  
\$2.15MM  
\$1.78MM

## Barriers

- Fuel Processors: Develop technology for reforming NG or LPG
  - ⊕ A: Durability
  - ⊕ B: Cost
  - ⊕ F: Fuel Cell Power Integration
  - ⊕ I: Hydrogen Purification
  - ⊕ J: Startup time/transient Operation

# CHARM Objectives

- Develop an advanced reforming module for stationary applications
  - Develop a 1,000 scfh (2.4 kg/hr) fuel processor with low product life-cycle cost
    - ⊕ Minimize Capital, Operating & Maintenance costs over 5 year product life
  - Develop a scalable technology from 500 to 2,000 scfh (1.2 to 4.7 kg/hr)
  - Achieve a cost-effective balance between efficiency and manufacturability
  - Lifetime assessment through accelerated aging
  - 1,000 scfh demonstration at Argonne National Laboratory

GOALS		
Fuels	NG, LPG	To afford flexibility
Efficiency	>75% (LHV)	Thermal effy: H <sub>2</sub> +CO out/All fuel in
Lifetime	40,000 hours 1000 cycles	Ultimate goal is 80,000 hours and 4000 cycles
Cost: 1,000 scfh	\$10,000	100 kWth input; Volume = 50 units
Cost: 500 scfh	\$6,000	50 kWth input; Volume = 50 units

- Past year Objectives:
  - System Definition
  - Design & Analysis

# Approach

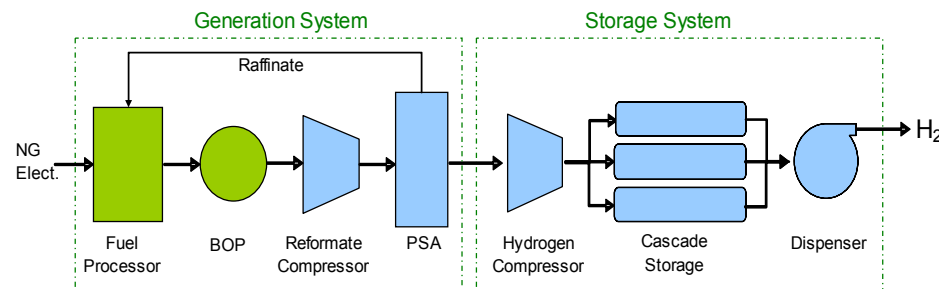
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- ➔ Task-1: System Definition [Q3'04]
  - System modeling
    - ⊕ What is the proper balance of fuel processor integration?
  - Define specifications and operating conditions
- ➔ Task-2: Design & Analysis [Q3'04-Q1'05]
  - Subscale concept testing, concept selection
    - ⊕ What are the tradeoffs of capital and manufacturing costs versus efficiency and durability?
- ➔ Task-3: Prototyping & Testing [Q1'05-Q1'06]
  - Full-scale performance testing of the fuel processor sub-system
  - Assess temperature profiles, heat flux, reaction equilibrium, burner emissions
  - Design iterations to achieve performance objectives
- ➔ Task-4: System Demonstration [Q3'05-Q4'06]
  - System level testing
  - Durability testing
  - System demonstration at Argonne National Laboratory

# Task-1. System Definition

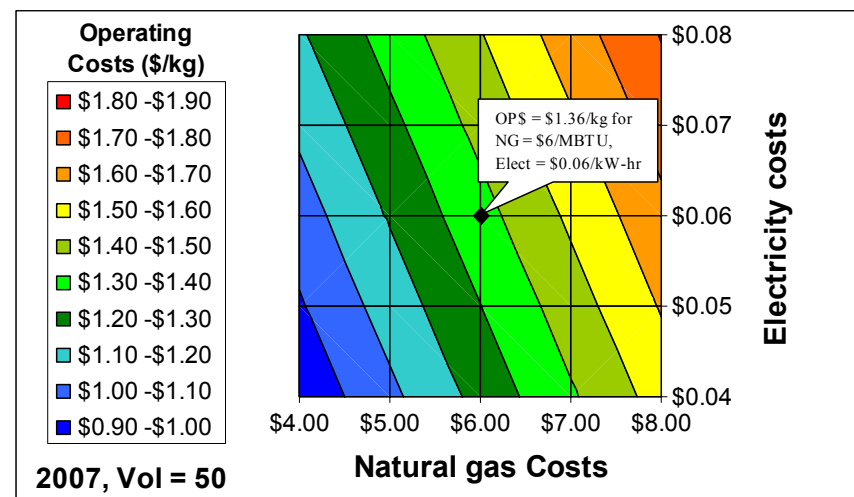
## System

- Hydrogen Generation & Refueling station (2.4 kg/hr)
- Assess FP performance in a hydrogen generation, storage and refueling application
- CHARM scope: FP & Balance of Plant (SH, SG's, HTS, HX's)

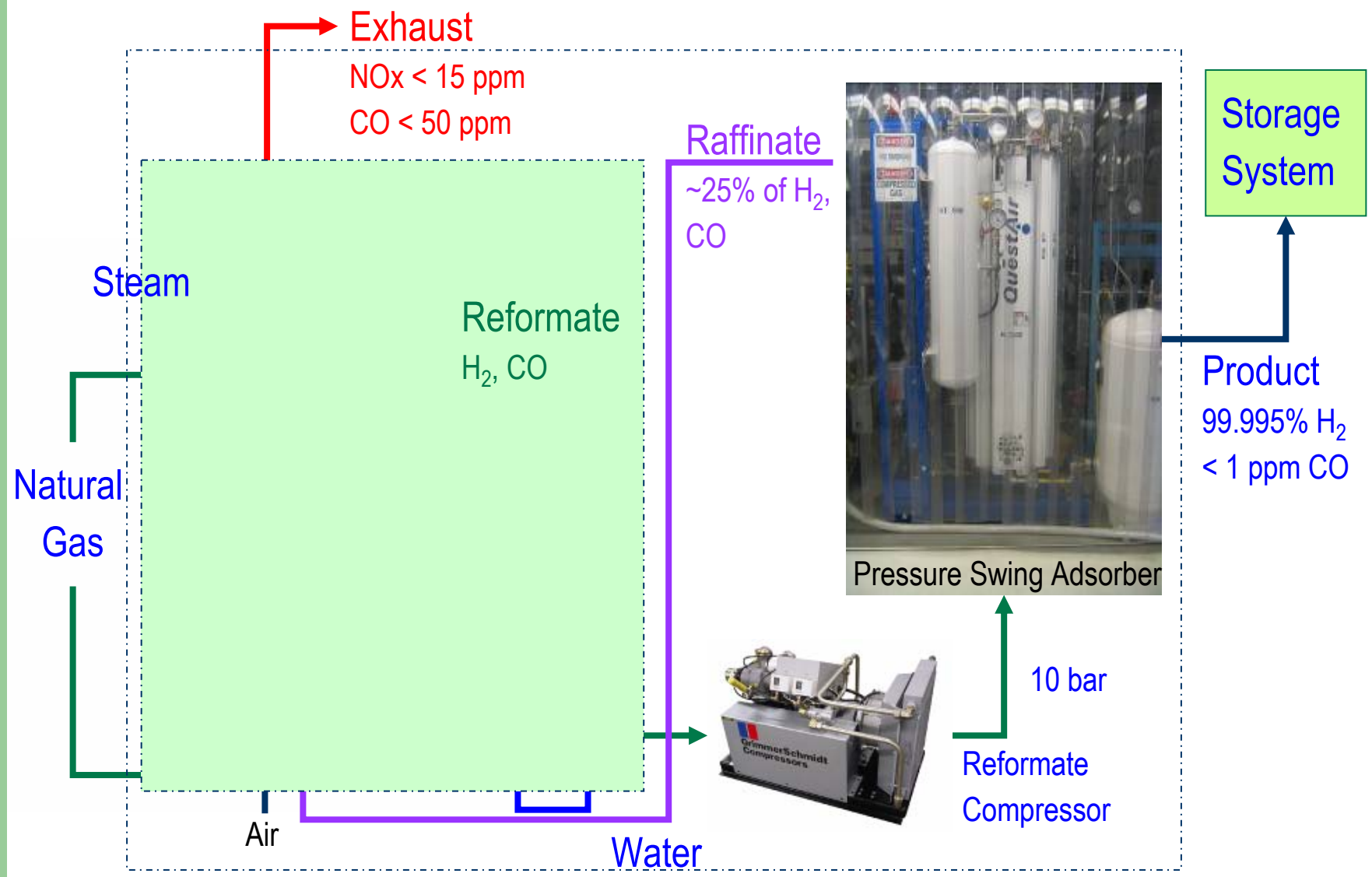


## System Modeling

- Hysys process simulation
  - Define sub-system and component specifications
- Parametric analysis
  - Assess process sensitivity
  - Define component tolerances
- System Operating cost ~ \$1.36/kg
  - Assumes NG @ \$6/MM BTU



# Task-1. System Definition



# Task-1. System Definition

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## Fuel Processor specifications:

- Hydrogen output: 1,000 scfh (2.35 kg/hr)
- Scalable from 500 to 2,000 scfh
- Minimize capital cost: < \$10K at QTY = 50
- Low system operating cost: < \$1.41/kg
- Efficiency: > 75% (LHV)
- High durability: 40,000 hours, 1,000 cycles
- Low technical risk: max flame stability, minimize fuel/air manifold complexity
- Burner emissions: NO<sub>x</sub> < 15 ppm, CO < 50 ppm (3% O<sub>2</sub>, 3 hour average)
- ASME code stamping: minimize boundary metal temperatures
- Repairability: life mitigating parts can be replaced at 1/3 the cost of a new FPA
- FID controls: able to use existing Nuvera control module
- Short development time: Prototype available in March'05
- Fuels: Natural gas or LPG



# Task-2. Design & Analysis

## Fuel Processor Screening

- Concept-1
  - Based on residential furnace burner design
  - Burners tubes in a SR shell
- Concept-2
  - Similar to Nuvera 5 kW FPA
  - SR tubes in a burner shell
- Concept-3
  - Competitive benchmark
  - Fully integrated FPA
- Low & High pressure SR

Specification		Concept-1		Concept-2		Concept-3	
Description	Importance	Low P	High P	Low P	High P	Low P	High P
Durability	9	5	3	5	3	5	3
Operating Cost	9	5	9	5	9	9	5
Schedule	9	9	9	9	9	3	3
Tech Risk	9	5	3	5	3	3	3
FID/Controls	9	5	5	5	5	3	3
Start Up Time	9	5	5	5	3	3	3
Emissions	5	5	5	5	5	9	5
ASME Code Stamping	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Repairability	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Nuvera USP/ Patent	5	5	5	5	5	0	0
H2 Output Purity	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
FP Capital Cost	3	5	3	5	3	5	3
Turndown	3	5	9	9	9	5	5
Dimensions	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
Combined Cycle	3	0	0	3	3	5	5
Portable Applications	3	5	5	5	3	3	3
Scalability	3	9	9	5	9	5	5
Fuel Type	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Total score</b>		<b>533</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>408</b>



- Fully integrated concept: concerns of technical risk, repairability and development time
- High pressure reforming options have lower operating costs
  - ⊕ but higher capital costs and concerns over durability and technical risk
- Low pressure concepts 1 & 2 scored similarly
  - ⇒ Proceed with subscale testing to enable data-driven decision

# Task-2. Design & Analysis

## Fuel Processor Concept Evaluation

- Concept Screening of Low pressure concepts

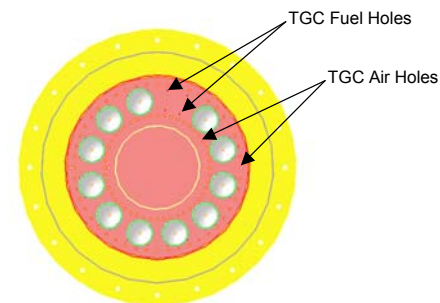
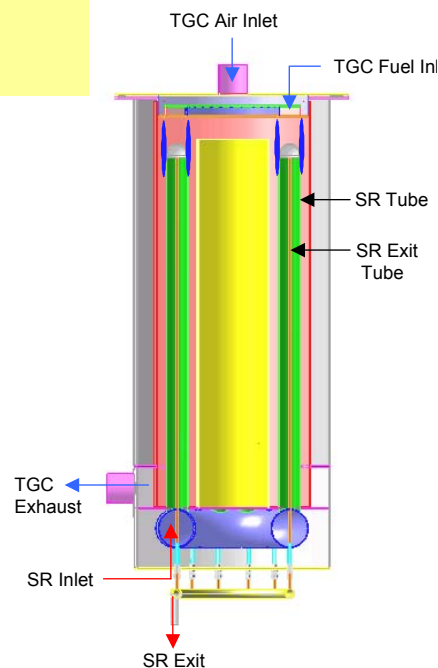
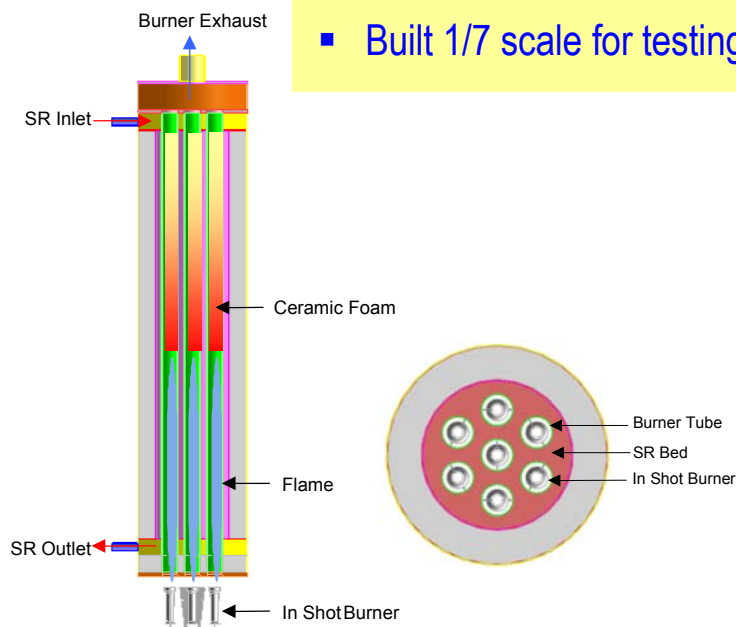
### “Blue Flame” concept

- Residential burner technology
- 7 burner tubes in an SR shell
- Very long flame length
- FPA is 65” tall
- Built 1/7 scale for testing

vs.

### Avanti “Hubcap” concept

- Nuvera 5 kW FP technology
- 12 SR tubes in a burner shell
- Short flame length
- FPA is 52” tall
- Built full-scale for testing



# Task-2. Design & Analysis

## Fuel Processor Concept Selection

### Blue-flame FP Testing

(+) Operating cost

(+) Durability

(--) **Raffinate and NG flame speeds require different nozzles**

### Hubcap FP Testing

(+) Reliable ignition & controls

(+) Flame stability on a wide range of fuel compositions and flow rates

- Transition from NG ⇒ Raffinate
- Accommodate PSA pulsations
- Suitability for other applications

(+) Does not require ASME PV stamp

(-) **SR manifold complexity**

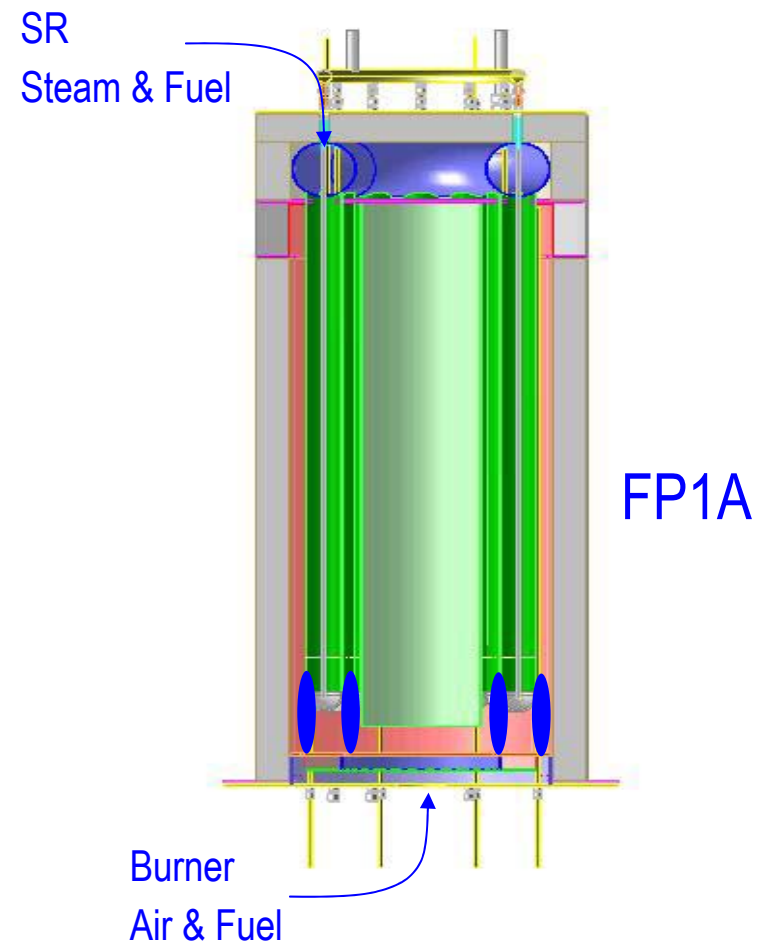
⇒ Selected Hubcap concept

Specification	Importance	FPA Design Options	
		Blue-flame	Hubcap
FP Capital Cost	9	5	5
Operating Cost	9	9	5
Scaleability	9	5	5
Reliability	9	5	9
Durability	9	9	5
Steam Production	5	5	5
Development Schedule	5	5	9
Flame Stability	5	3	9
Controls	5	5	5
Emissions	5	5	5
Turndown	5	5	9
Startup time	3	5	5
ASME Certification	3	5	9
Nuvera USP / Patent	3	5	5
Build Complexity	3	5	3
Fuel Type	3	3	5
<b>Total score</b>		<b>506</b>	<b>552</b>

# Task-3. Prototyping & Testing

## Hubcap (FP1) $\Rightarrow$ FP1A Conversion

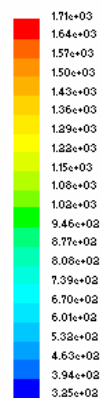
- ➔ Inverted burner with an “up-fire” configuration
  - Lower pressure drop due to buoyancy
  - Lower heat loss thru the burner end plate
  - Improved NOx emissions by decreasing the residence time at high temperatures
  - More suitable for commercially available induced draft exhaust blower
- ➔ Technical challenges
  - Direct flame impingement on the SR caps is responsible for the max wall temperature
  - Performance limited by non-uniform flow of combustion gasses



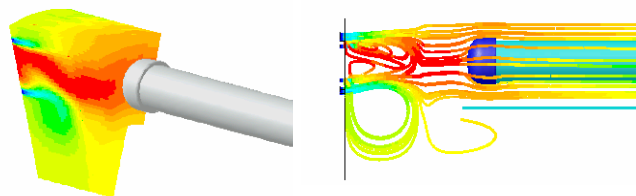
# Task-3. Prototyping & Testing

## FP1A Combustion Behavior

### FLAME TEMPERATURE

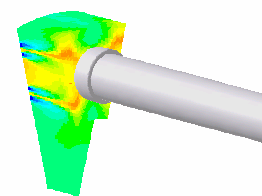


current pattern



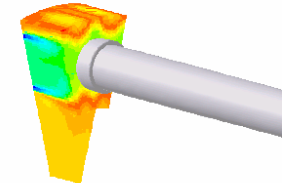
- ❖ most fuel burns in headspace
- ❖ 4 flames merge
- ❖ Flame impinges on cap

alternate I



- ❖ most fuel burns in burner bed
- ❖ lower gas temp in headspace

alternate II



- ❖ fuel burns near wall & core
- ❖ high outer wall temp

### ➤ CFD modeling

- Enhanced the understanding of air/fuel mixing & combustion in the burner
- Combustion behavior was found to vary significantly depending on air/fuel inlet hole pattern
- A hole pattern with improved combustion behavior was identified

## Task-3. Prototyping & Testing

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- FP1B Modifications (April-May'05)
  - Reduced SR peak wall temperatures with modified burner hole pattern
  - Quick-change burner endplates to allow testing of alternate designs
  - Adjustable burner headspace distance
  - Simplified SR manifolding
  - Improved burner flow distribution via exhaust port design
  - Improved SR catalyst effectiveness via optimization of inner/outer tube geometry
  - Reduced heat loss via improved internal insulation design
  - Improved SR inlet temperature and burner fuel controls
  
- Verify FP1B performance against the high level specifications (June'05)

# Reviewer's Comments

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- Include more data in the presentation
  - Due to the proprietary nature of this development effort, it is often difficult to reveal specific data until after the Intellectual Property is protected
  
- Emphasize the Technology Transfer
  - The scope of the CHARM program is to develop a scaleable fuel processor technology with flexibility for a range of fuel types, compositions and flows
  - The first commercial application envisioned for this fuel processor is in Nuvera's hydrogen generation, storage and refueling product
  
- Define off-ramps in the program
  - Nuvera employs a rigorous Stage-gate product development process with Go/No-go decision points
  - The Proof of Concept Stage-gate for the CHARM fuel processor and the entire hydrogen generation system will be in Jun'05
    - ⊕ Full-scale technology demonstration
    - ⊕ Detailed assessment of system capital and operating costs

# Future Work

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## ➔ Task-3. Prototyping & Testing

- Verify FP1B performance against the high level specifications (June'05)
  - ⊕ Hydrogen generation rate: 1,000 scfh (2.35 kg/hr)
  - ⊕ Hydrogen purity: > 99.995%, CO < 1 ppm
  - ⊕ Burner emissions: NO<sub>x</sub> < 15 ppm, CO < 50 ppm (3% O<sub>2</sub>, 3 hr average)
  - ⊕ Evaluate performance at steady state, idle, and all transient conditions
- Complete FP2 design and fabrication (Aug'05)
  - ⊕ Correct any FP1B performance deficiencies in FP2 design
  - ⊕ FP2 designed for manufacturability and durability
- Verify FP2 performance against the detailed specifications (Oct'05)

## ➔ Task-4. System Demonstration

- Incorporation into Nuvera hydrogen generation system (Nov'05)
- Demonstration at Argonne National Laboratory (Mar'06)
- Complete Durability trials (Dec'06)



# Publications & Presentations

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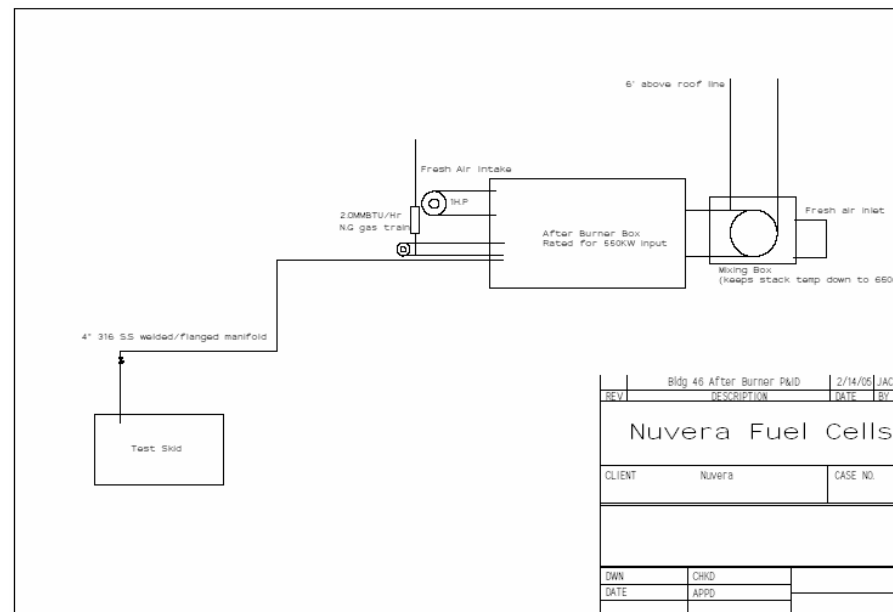
➔ None

# Hydrogen Safety

➔ The most significant hydrogen hazard associated with this project is:

- The DOE Safety Evaluation team (Oct'04) expressed some concern with the laboratory exhaust system that disposes the CHARM hydrogen product stream to an afterburner.

- Potential for combustible gases to lie stagnant in the dead-ended manifold exhaust line to the afterburner.
- If the concentrations approach or exceed the mixture lower flammability limit (LFL), there is an explosion hazard in the line and in all the laboratories it serves.



# Hydrogen Safety

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- ➔ Our approach to deal with this hazard is:
- ➔ A detailed Hazop analysis of the exhaust line is being conducted
  - Corrective actions will be implemented