### ENERGY SECURITY for the 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY Reliable, Refordable, Environmentally-Sound Energy

## Hydrogen Production R&D



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### EERE Hydrogen Production and Delivery R&D Budget



 Difference between the total 04-07 request and available funds is \$48.5M

\* Budget numbers do not include earmarks

# Hydrogen Production Strategy

- Focus on near-term distributed production to support the 2015 Technology Readiness Milestone – Distributed production pathways delay the need to build a hydrogen distribution infrastructure
  - Natural gas distributed reforming
  - Renewable liquid reforming (alcohols, sugars)
  - Distributed electrolysis
- Longer-term <u>renewable</u> technologies
  - Central electrolysis
  - Central biomass gasification
  - Photoelectrochemical
  - Solar high-temperature thermochemical
  - Biological

### **Distributed Reforming Independent Cost Review**

- Technical objective: Reduce the cost of distributed production of hydrogen from natural gas (delivered, untaxed) at the pump to:
  - \$3.00/gge by 2006 (best laboratory technology), \$3.00/gge to be demonstrated by Technology Validation in 2009
- Review strategy to verify cost status
  - Hydrogen Production Tech Team reviewed projects in conjunction with normal project reviews/visits. These reviews helped gather data for the independent assessment.
  - Experts conducting independent technology assessment
    - Managed by the Systems Integration Group
- DOE projects reviewed



 Independent panel review results will be available this summer and published in our 2006 annual report

### **Distributed Reforming Accomplishments**

Natural Gas – Air Products and Chemicals Inc. Integrated energy efficient components into a refueling system that produces, dispenses and stores high purity hydrogen at a cost approaching our 2006 target. Gains achieved through improvements to the purification system, reactor design (materials and catalysts) and systems integration.

#### Renewable Liquids – Virent Energy Systems Inc.

Identified a new reactor system that allows the Aqueous Phase Reforming of bio-sugars. Improvements in hydrogen generation with appropriate catalyst, reactor configuration, and reaction conditions are underway.





# **Electrolysis Highlights**

- Hydrogen Utility Group (HUG) Involves utility participation (eight founding utilities) in hydrogen production technologies through the efforts of its members, in collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Analysis efforts Economics of wind electrolysis completed and H2A analysis underway to refine technical targets for distributed and central applications
- Established NREL/XCEL cooperative research agreement - collaborative R,D&D project to characterize integration issues between wind and hydrogen production systems – test system to be assembled at NREL
- Giner lowered stack cost by achieving >50% reduction in part count – example: anode support structure reduced part count from 9 to 4
- Solar and Wind Technologies Report to Congress as required by Epact. The report details multiple solar/wind hydrogen production pathways





## Long-term Technologies

### **High Temperature Solar**

- Cycles evaluated and down selected
  - 353 cycles examined and downselected to 14 based on literature work and initial thermodynamic and analyses
  - 3 cycles eliminated based on laboratory R&D
  - 7 cycles now under active R&D efforts (2 sulfur based cycles [NE], 2 volatile metal oxide cycles, 2 nonvolatile metal oxide cycles, hybrid Cu cycle).
- Initial systems designed and costs estimated for hybrid sulfur and a volatile metal oxide using H2A.
  Preliminary H2A results indicate this technology may be able to achieve a competitive cost.



Solar Two Power Tower, near Barstow, California

# Long-Term Technologies

- Biological Budget constraints have restricted activity resulting in incremental progress:
- Completed the biochemical characterization of the tla1 mutant and the molecular analysis of the Tla1 gene.
- Identified additional pathways for mutagenesis, single and double mutants were constructed to improve oxygen tolerance.



Manipulating oxygen tolerance in FeFe Hydrogenase

Photoelectrochemical

- Developed new corrosion resistant, high efficiency tandem cell design for PEC water splitting based on GaPN
- Achieved 3.1% solar-to-hydrogen efficiency in a WO<sub>3</sub> hybrid photoelectrode device (2003 efficiency was 0.7%).
- We are working with Basic Energy Sciences to leverage activities and accelerate progress.



