



# 2008 DOE HYDROGEN PROGRAM REVIEW INTERNATIONAL STATIONARY FUEL CELL DEMONSTRATION

John Vogel, Plug Power 12 June 2008

Clean, Reliable On-site Energy

**Project ID: FC40** 

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## **OVERVIEW**

### **Timeline**

- Project start May 2007
- Project end April 2009
- 80% Complete

## **Budget**

- Total project funding \$7.1M
  - DOE \$3.55
  - Plug Power \$3.55
- Funding in FY07 \$2.1M
- Funding in FY08 \$1.45M

#### **Barriers**

- Barriers addressed
  - Durability 40,000 hr system
  - Cost < \$750/kW system cost</p>
  - Performance  $\eta_e$  = 35%,  $\eta_o$  = 85%

## **Partners**

- Interactions/collaborations
  - BASF Fuel Cell
- Project Lead
  - Dr. Emory DeCastro

























## **DOE TOPIC 7B/EU FP6 PROGRAM**

- First of it's kind collaboration between the DOE and the EU
- Goal to develop "high-temperature" (PBI-based) fuel cell heating appliances for residential use worldwide
- Executed through a US/EU consortium:
  - Plug Power (US)/Plug Power (Netherlands)
  - BASF E-TEK US/BASF (Germany)
  - Vaillant (Germany)
  - Domel (Slovenia)
  - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)
  - Gaia (Sweden)
  - Imperial College (United Kingdom)



























## **OBJECTIVES**

Develop, test and validate a high-temperature PEM, stationary, reformate-based, CHP, fuel cell system as the first demonstration of a modular, scalable design for a worldwide market.

- ❖ Total system cost of < \$750/kW in production volumes</p>
- $ightharpoonup \eta_{\text{electric}} = 35\%$  (line of sight to 40%);  $\eta_{\text{overall}} = 85\%$
- ❖ System life = 40,000 hours
- Modular and scalable system and CHP hydraulics concepts















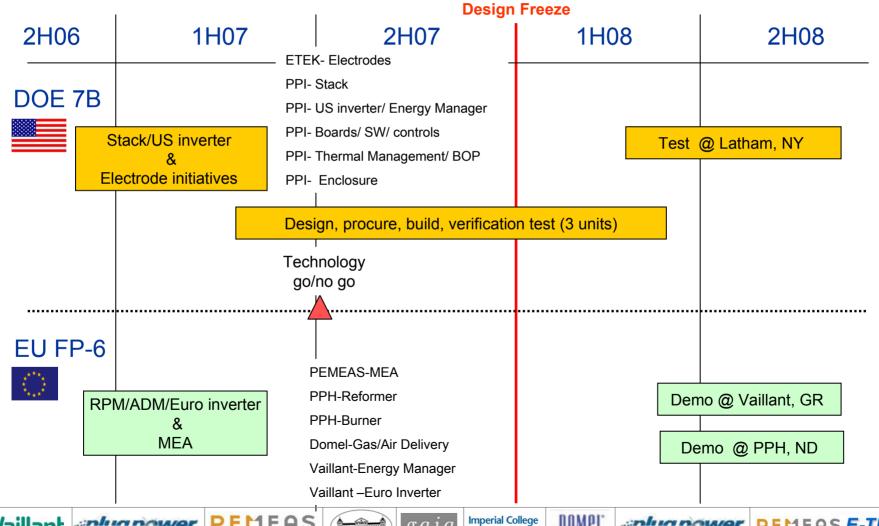








## **MILESTONES**



























APPROACH	DOE		EU		
	Plug Power US	PEMEAS E-TEK	Vaillant	Plug Power Holland	PEMEAS Germany
DOE Program Management (Lead)					
Task 1.0 Modular/Scalable Architecture					
Task 2.0 Catalyst Development					
Task 3.0 Cathode Development					
Task 4.0 Anode Pt. Reduction					
Task 5.0 Cathode/Anode Scale-up					
Task 6.0 Stack Development					
Task 7.0 Thermal Management Module					
Task 8.0 Inverter Design					
Task 9.0 Software and Controls			,		1
Task 10.0 Fuel Cell System Integrated Design					
Task 11.0 System Build Verification					
Task 12.0 6 Month Demonstration					
European Program Management (Lead)					
Task 13.0 Membrane improvements					
Task 14.0 Sulfur Tolerance					
Task 15.0 Fuel Processing Design and Development					
Task 16.0 Gas and Air Delivery					
Task 17.0 European Inverter, Energy Manager, CHP Integration					





















EU

DOE



NextGenCell - The Next Generation of Stationary microCHP Fuel Cells



**Power Holland** Germany E-TEK Power I PEMEAS PEMEAS Vaillant Plug Plug **DOE Program Management (Lead) Complete** Task 1.0 Modular/Scalable Architecture **Complete** Task 2.0 Catalyst Development Task 3.0 Cathode Development **Complete** Complete Task 4.0 Anode Pt. Reduction **Complete** Task 5.0 Cathode/Anode Scale-up 70% Task 6.0 Stack Development **Complete** Task 7.0 Thermal Management Module 90% Task 8.0 Inverter Design 40% Task 9.0 Software and Controls Task 10.0 Fuel Cell System Integrated Design Complete 35% Task 11.0 System Build Verification 0% Task 12.0 6 Month Demonstration **European Program Management (Lead)** Task 13.0 Membrane improvements Task 14.0 Sulfur Tolerance





**APPROACH** 



Task 16.0 Gas and Air Delivery

Task 15.0 Fuel Processing Design and Development



Task 17.0 European Inverter, Energy Manager, CHP Integration









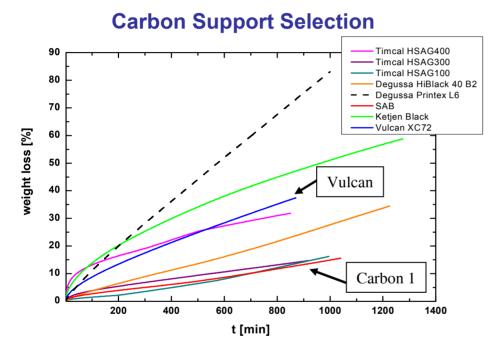


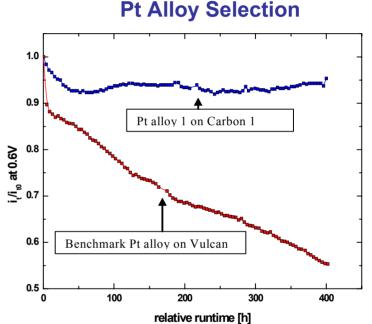






## **TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Cathode Development**





- Corrosion rates in Wt% at 180C, 1.0 volts
- Varying graphite content
- Two supports selected

- Performance under potential cycling
- Various alloys evaluated
- Scale-up tradeoffs

New cathode has improved resistance to corrosion and is robust to load cycling.

















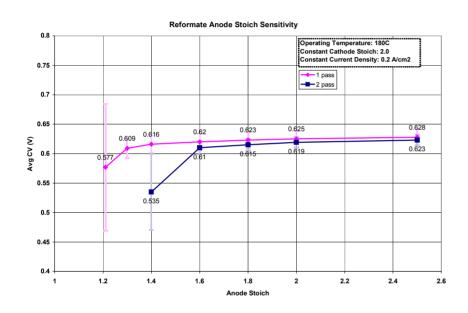






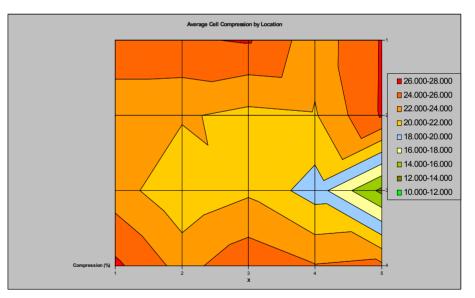


## **TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Stack Development**



- •Single vs. double pass flowfield analyzed
- •Single pass design is more robust to noise

- MEA compression distribution analyzed
- Design not robust to manufacturing tolerances
- Design and manufacturing process changes



Improved stack design and component manufacture should lead to better performance and life. Testing underway.

















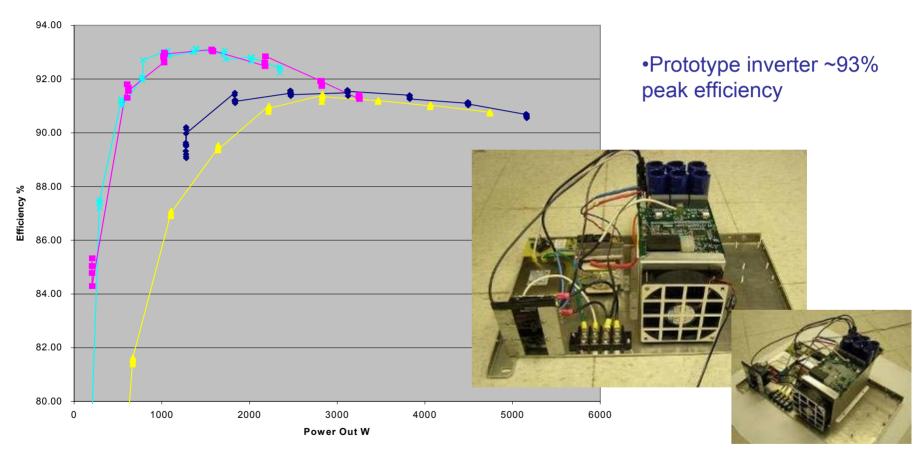








## **TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Inverter Development**



New inverter design is highly efficient, compact and low cost.

























## TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System build

- •Two systems "E1" and "E2" currently built.
- •E1 in final stages of debug at PP Latham
- •E2 displayed at Hannover Fair in Germany
- •E3 currently being built





























## **FUTURE WORK**

- Complete system build, debug and commissioning 2Q08
- Complete design verification testing at PP Latham 3Q08
- ❖ Ship E2 and E3 to PP Apeldoorn and Vaillant 3Q08
- Complete six month test in Europe 1Q09
- Finish stack design upgrade with demonstrated performance improvements in systems – 1Q09
- Complete controls development 3Q08

























## **SUMMARY**

- Through a very successful trans-Atlantic collaboration between the US DOE and the EU:
  - A high temperature PEM, stationary, reformate based, CHP fuel cell system has been developed based on commercial requirements
  - Enabling MEA, stack, reforming and power electronics technologies have been explored, down selected and developed
  - Progress has been made toward achieving DOE technical targets; especially performance and system durability
  - Design verification testing against commercial requirements is under way























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