



2009 DOE HYDROGEN PROGRAM REVIEW INTERNATIONAL STATIONARY FUEL CELL DEMONSTRATION

John Vogel Plug Power Inc 18 May 2009

Clean, Reliable On-site Energy

Project ID: FCP_05_Vogel

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NextGenCell - The Next Generation of Stationary microCHP Fuel Cells



OVERVIEW

Timeline

- Project start May 2007
- Project end April 2009
- 100% 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 η_e = 35%, η_o = 85%

Partners

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



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COLLABORATIONS - 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

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- 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)

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Imperial College (United Kingdom)













RELEVANCE - 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>
- $\eta_{\text{electric}} = 35\%$ (line of sight to 40%); $\eta_{\text{overall}} = 85\%$
- System life = 40,000 hours
- Modular and scalable system and CHP hydraulics concepts

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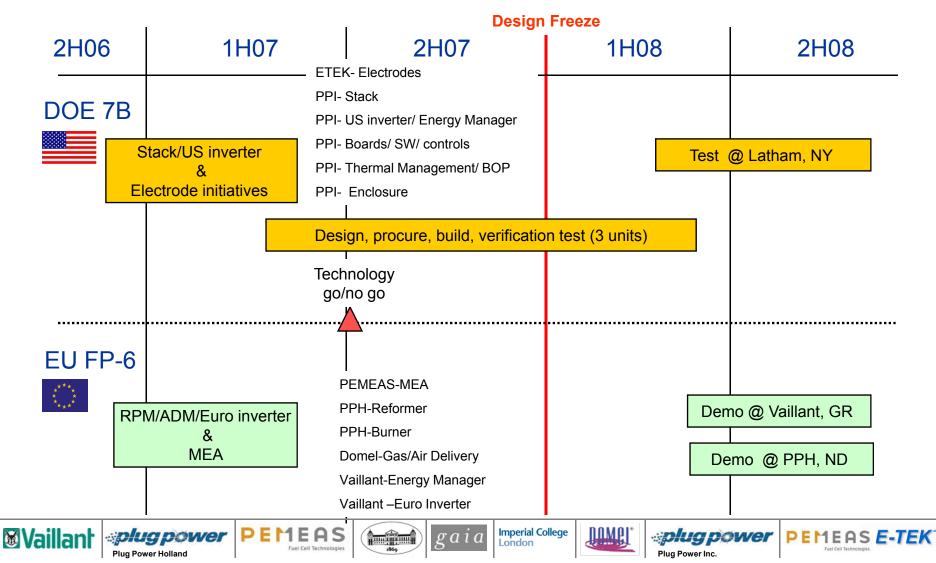








APPROACH - MILESTONES









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					
	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					
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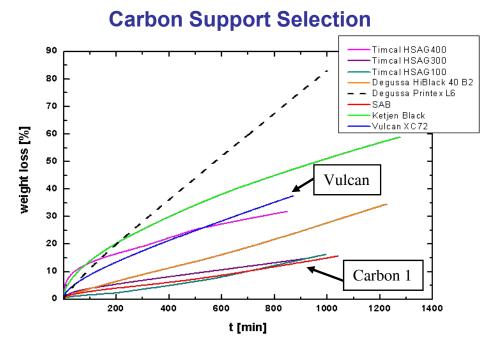




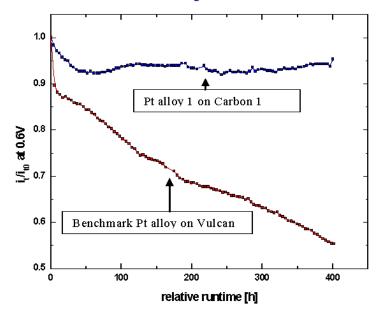




TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Cathode Development



Pt Alloy Selection



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

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•Performance under potential cycling

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- •Various alloys evaluated
- Scale-up tradeoffs

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

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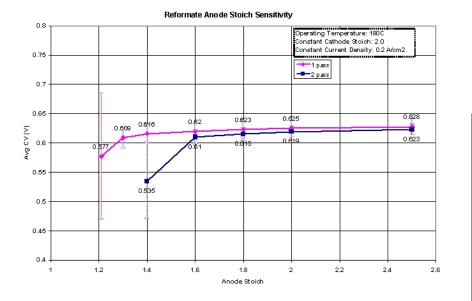
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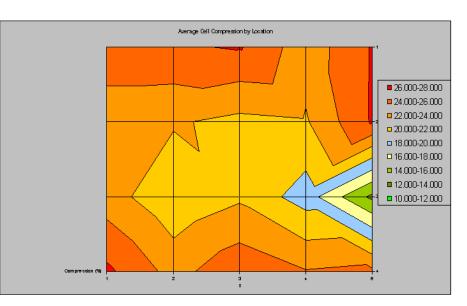


TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Stack Development



Single vs. double pass flowfield analyzedSingle pass design is more robust to noise

MEA compression distribution analyzedDesign not robust to manufacturing tolerancesDesign and manufacturing process changes



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

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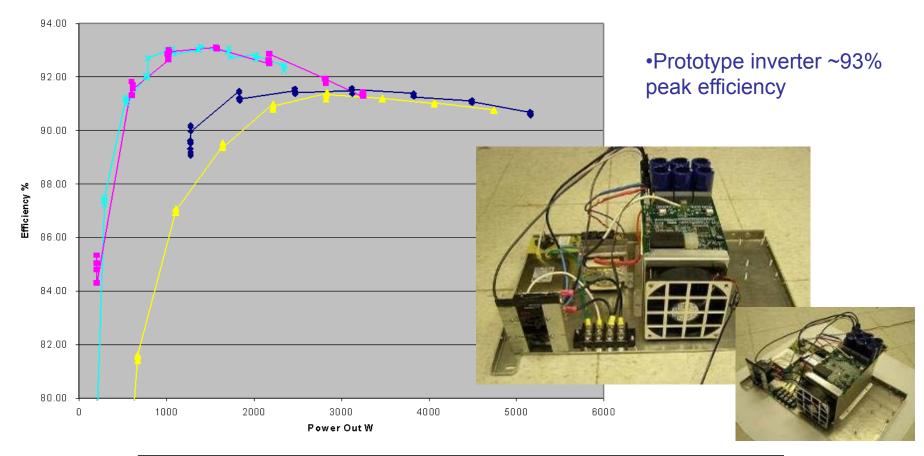






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TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Inverter Development



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

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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

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•E3 currently being built











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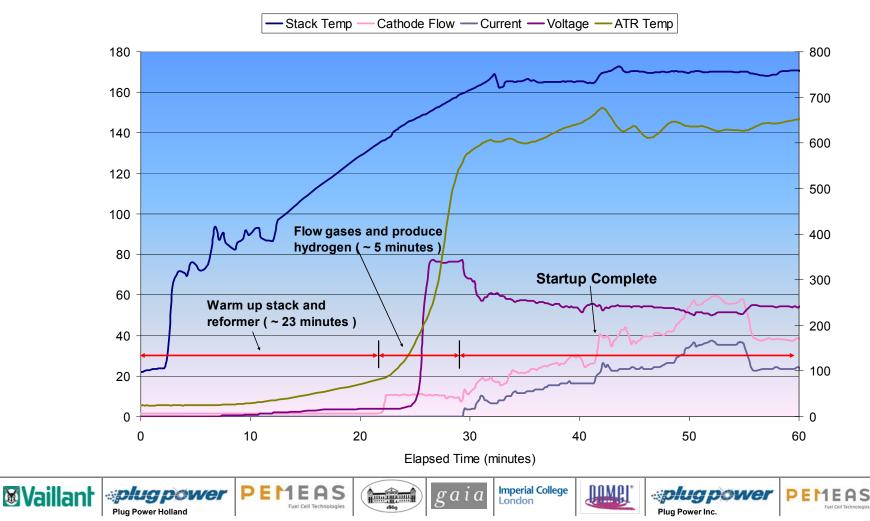
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TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

During a Conservative start up the system produces power in ~ 30 minutes

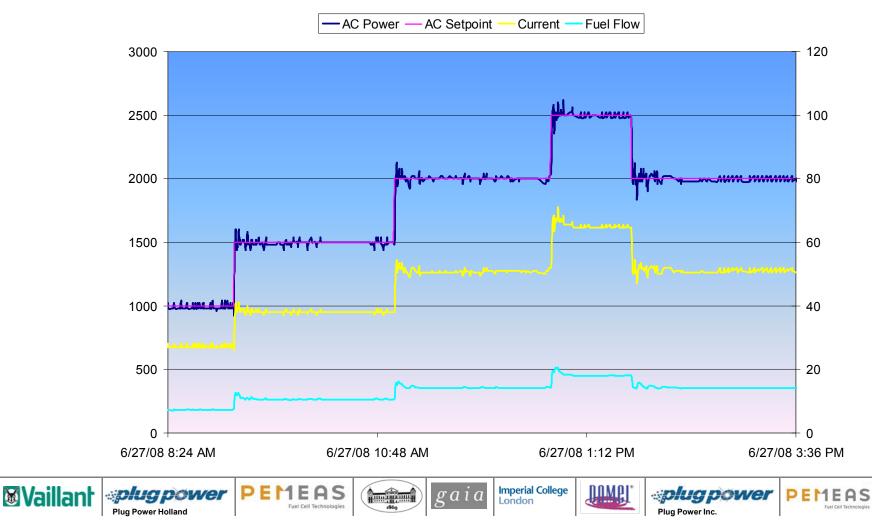






TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

System demonstrates rudimentary load following capability.







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TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

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MicroCHP system testing at Vaillant

Realized test program:

- ✤ 09/08: Installation
 - 1,000 operating hours
- ✤ 12/08: 1st Stack replacement
 - 500 operating hours
- ✤ 03/09: Improved TMM-module 2nd Stack replacement

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In total 1,526 operating hours in the Vaillant lab



Experienced international installation team:













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PROPOSED FUTURE WORK

- Continue Epsilon testing in Europe 3Q09
- Ship additional systems for external testing with strategic partners – 2Q09
- Begin installing systems in employees' homes 2Q09
- Establish DOE sponsored reliability fleet 3Q09
- Use learning from Epsilon, reliability fleet and employee home testing for next design iteration for commercial field trials – 1Q10











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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 complete

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