



2009 DOE HYDROGEN PROGRAM REVIEW INTERNATIONAL STATIONARY FUEL CELL DEMONSTRATION

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Plug Power Inc
18 May 2009

Clean, Reliable On-site Energy

Project ID: FCP_05_Vogel

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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
 - Performance – $\eta_e = 35\%$, $\eta_o = 85\%$

Partners

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

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
- ❖ 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)



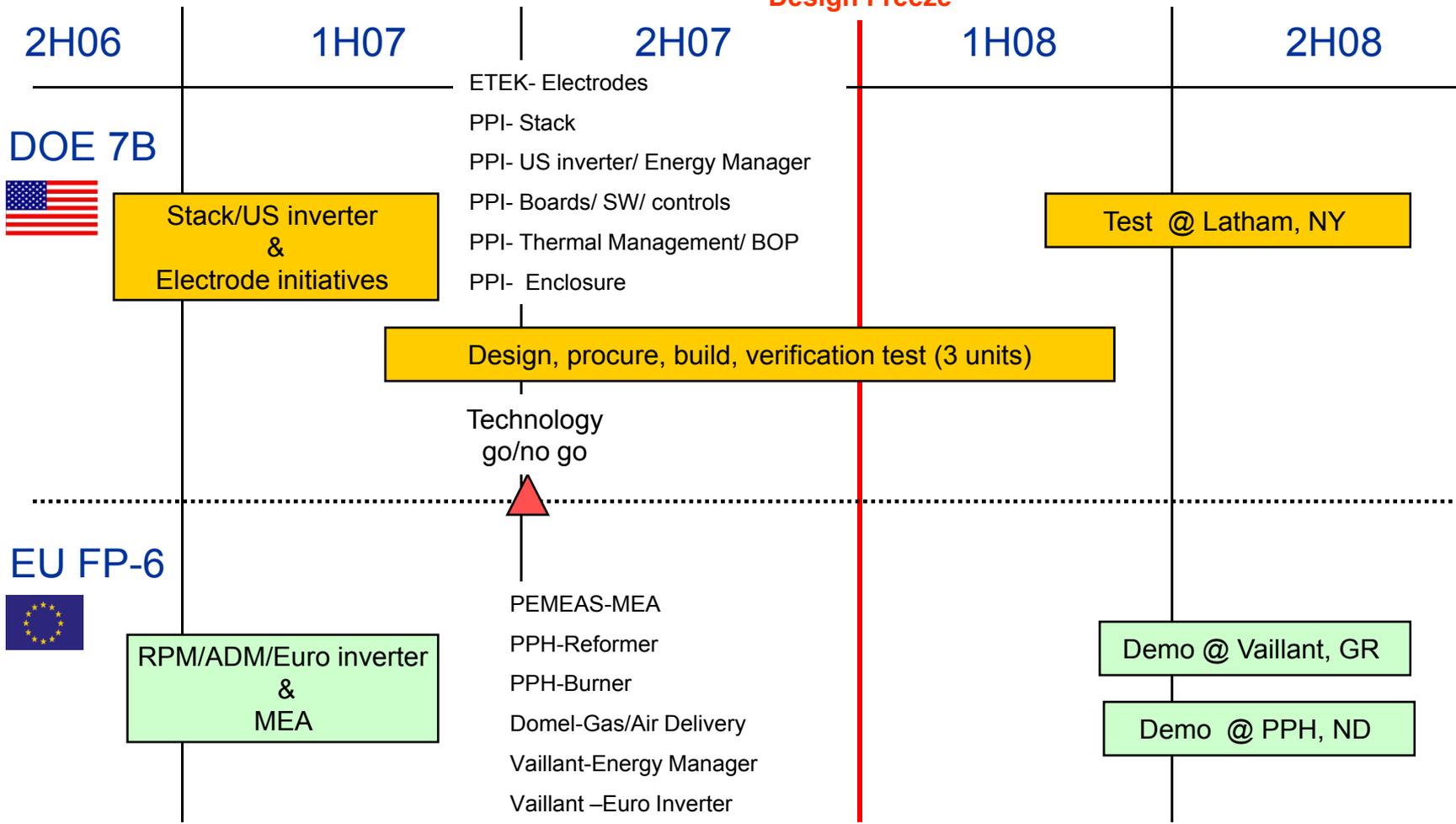
RELEVANCE - OBJECTIVES

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

APPROACH - MILESTONES

Design Freeze

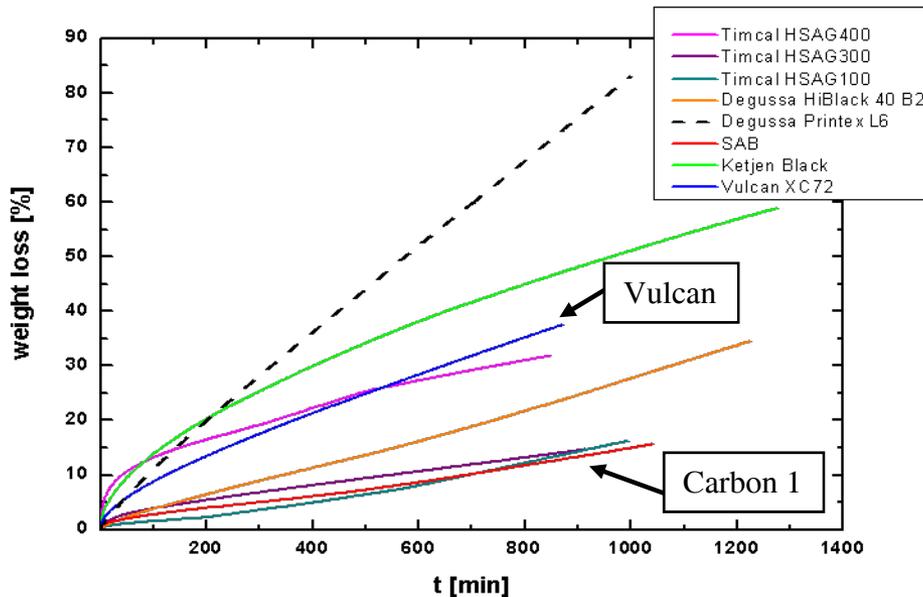


APPROACH

	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					

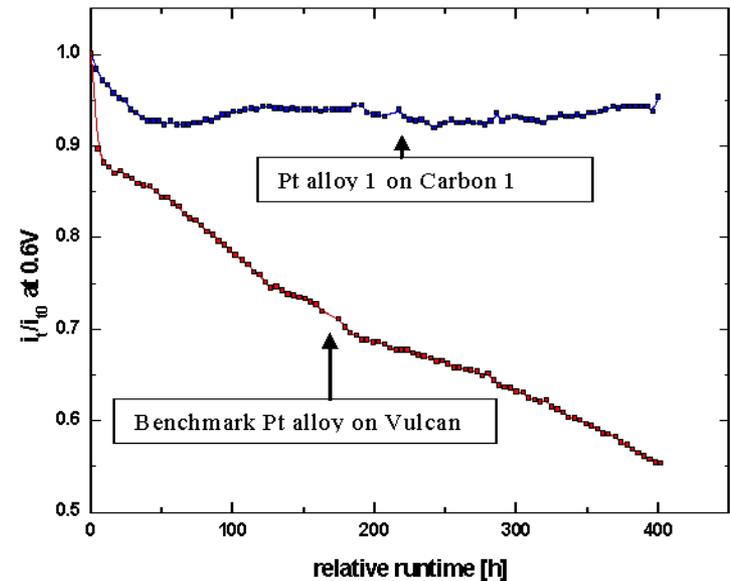
TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Cathode Development

Carbon Support Selection



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

Pt Alloy Selection

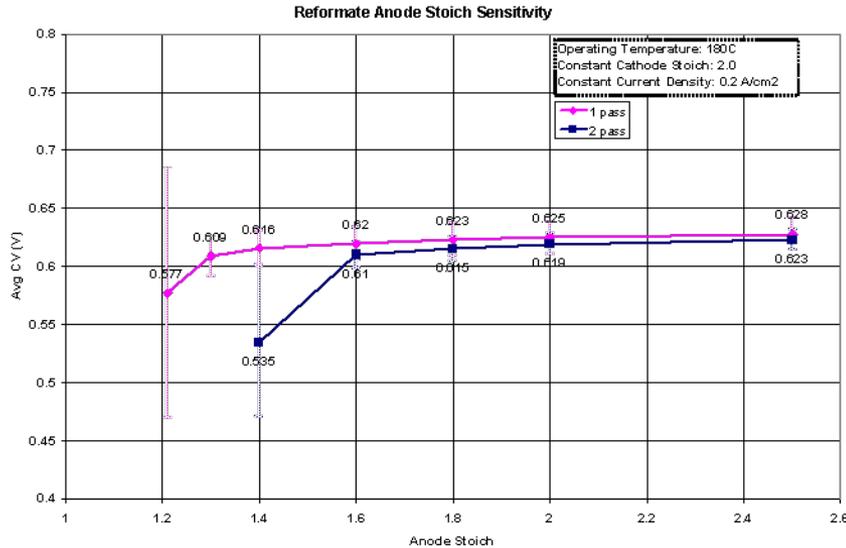


- Performance under potential cycling
- Various alloys evaluated
- Scale-up tradeoffs

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

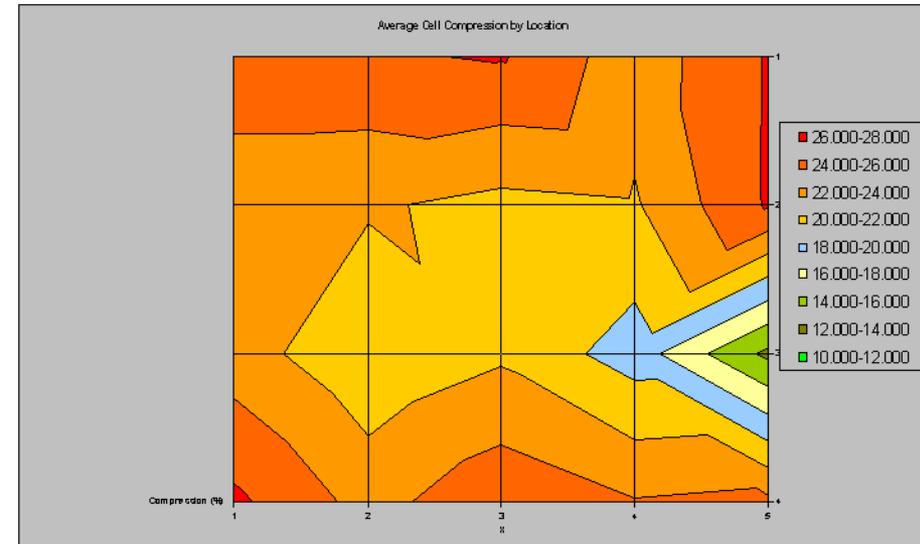


TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Stack Development



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

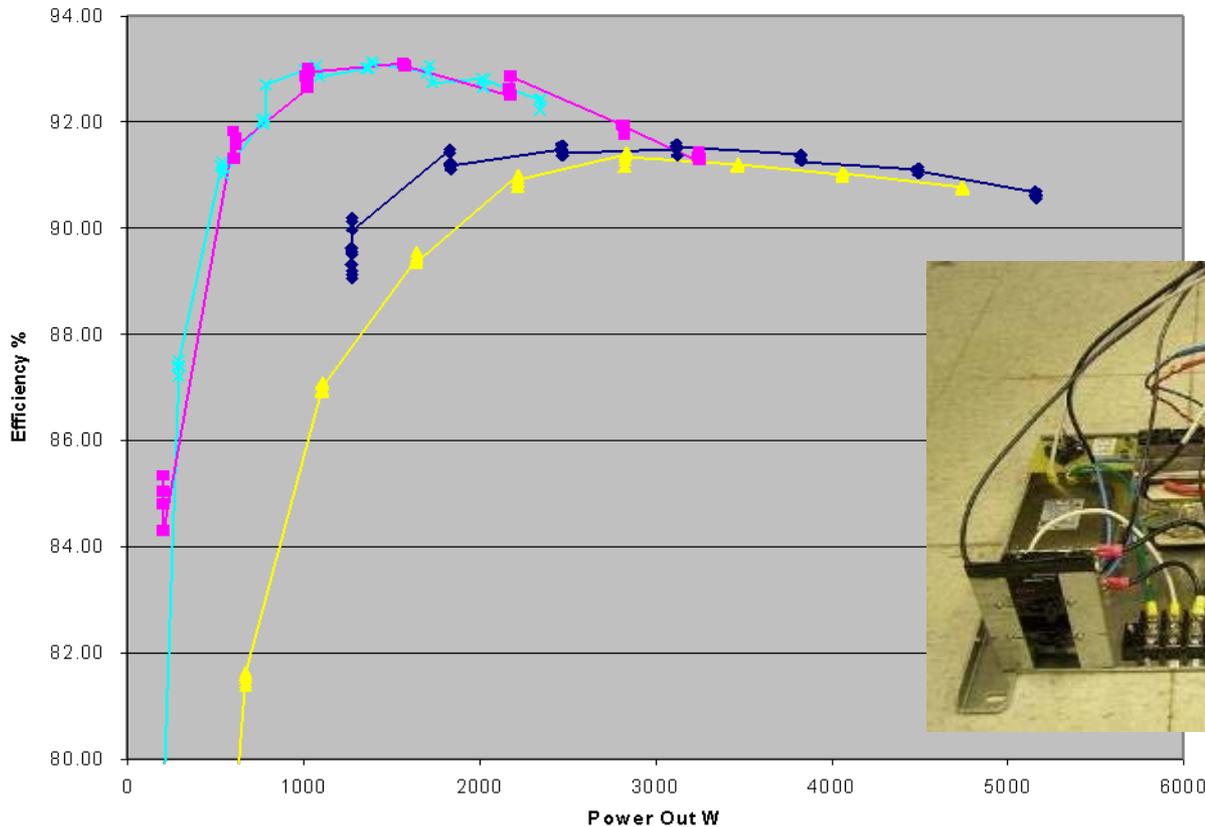
- Single vs. double pass flowfield analyzed
- Single pass design is more robust to noise



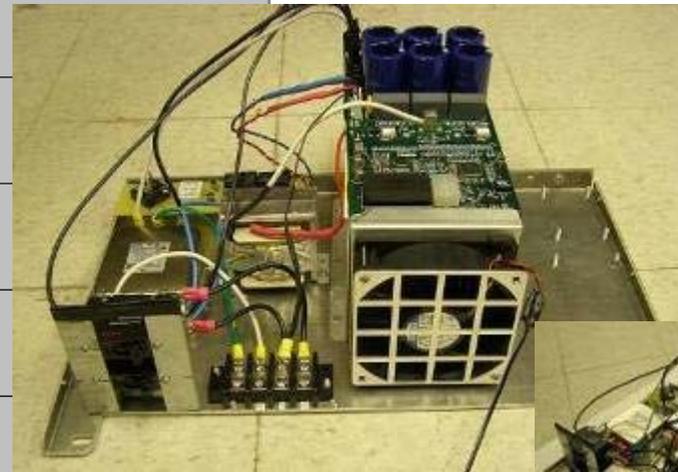
Improved stack design and component manufacture should lead to better performance and life. Testing underway.



TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Inverter Development



•Prototype inverter ~93% peak efficiency



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

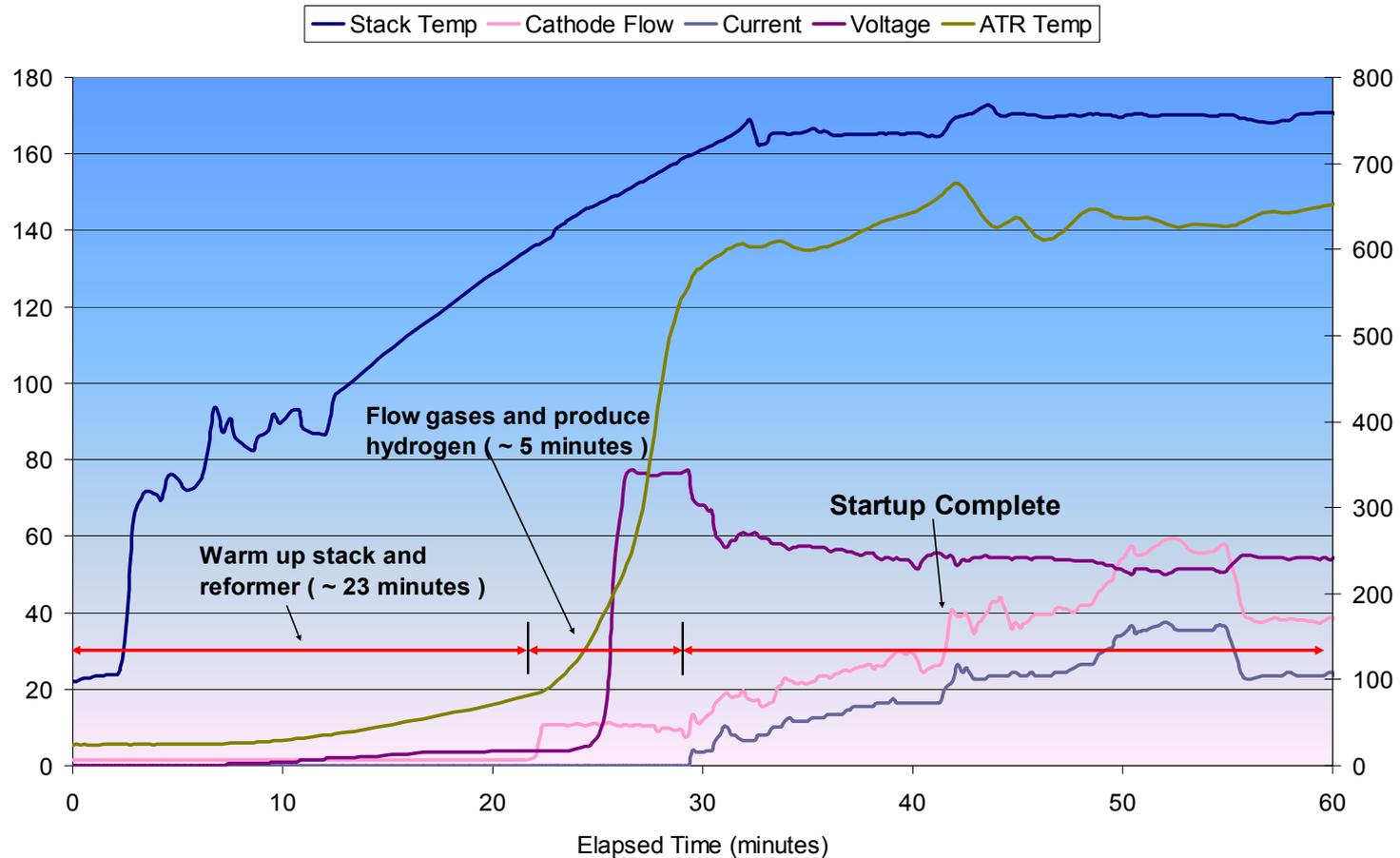
TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System build

- 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



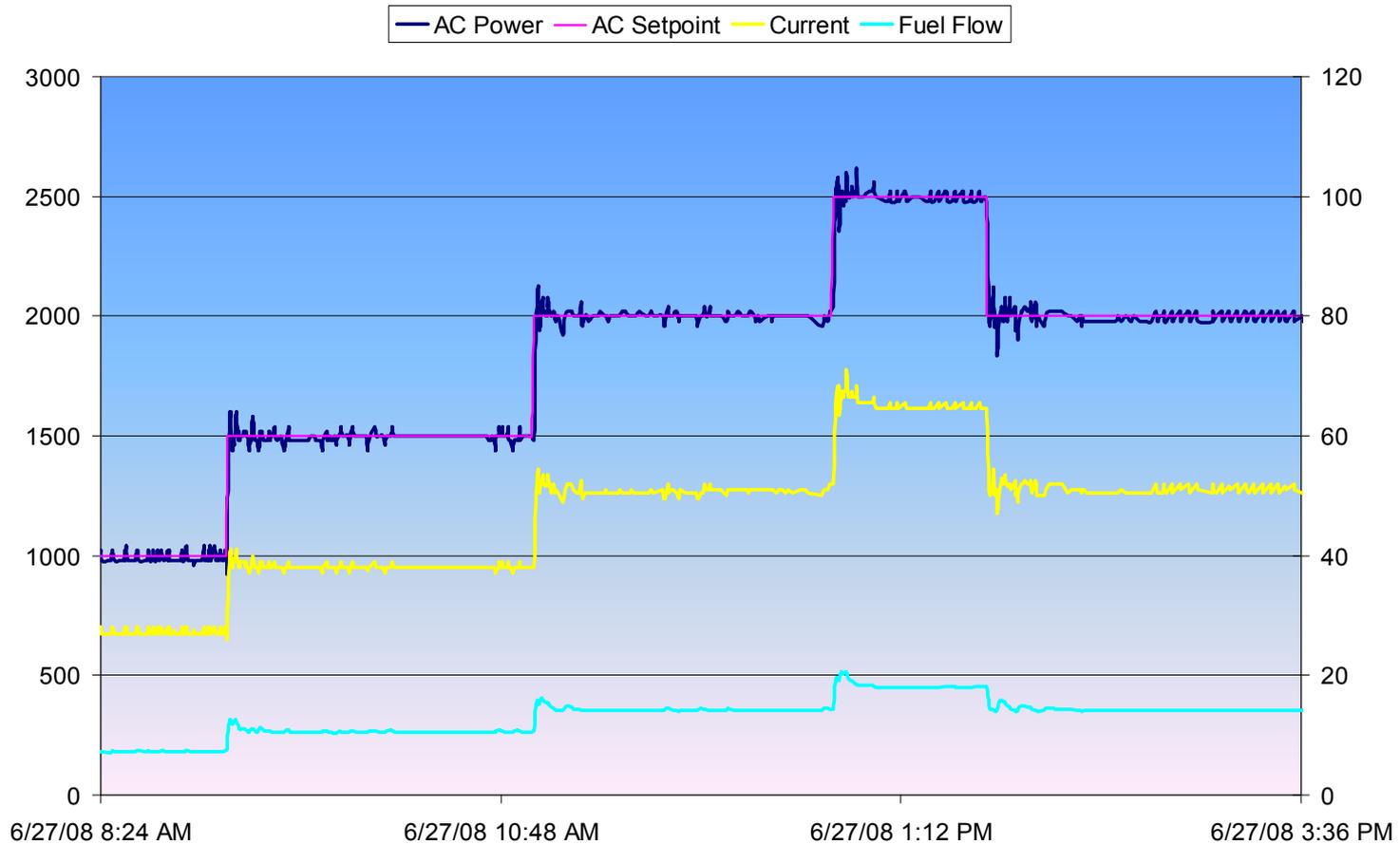
TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

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



TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

System demonstrates rudimentary load following capability.



TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS – System test

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



In total 1,526 operating hours in the Vaillant lab

Experienced international installation team:



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

SUMMARY

- ❖ Through a very successful trans-Atlantic collaboration between the US DOE and the EU:
 - A high temperature PEM, stationary, reformatate 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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