



Microscale Enhancement of Heat and Mass Transfer for Hydrogen Energy Storage

Kevin Drost

Oregon State University

May 14th



Hydrogen Storage Engineering
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

ST 046

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information



Overview

Timeline

- Feb 1st 2009 start
- June 30st, 2014 finish
- 72% Complete

Budget

- Total project funding
 - DOE - \$2,023,935
 - Contractor - \$521,685
- DOE Funding for FY09/13 - \$1,570,000
- OSU DOE Spending - \$1,468,589

Barriers

- Barriers addressed
 - A) System Weight and Volume
 - E) Charging and Discharging Rates
 - H) Balance of Plant

Partners

- **HSECoE Partners** - SNRL, PNNL, LANL, NREL, JPL, United Technologies, GM, Ford, BASF, Lincoln Composite, HSM, UQTR
- **Center Lead** - SNRL



Relevance -Objectives

- **Objective** – Use enhanced heat and mass transfer available from arrayed microchannel processing technology to ...
 - 1) Reduce the size and weight of storage,
 - 2) Improve charging and discharging rate of storage
 - 3) Reduce size and weight and increase performance of thermal balance of plant components.
- **Barriers Addressed**
 - Reduce system size and weight (Barrier A)
 - Charging and Discharging rates (Barrier E)
 - Balance of Plant (Barrier H)



Relevance – Arrayed Microchannel Processing Technology and Hydrogen Storage

- Significant reduction in size and weight are possible when a process is limited by diffusion
 - **Reduces storage size and weight related to heat and mass transfer**
 - **Reduces size of balance of plant thermal components**
- High degree of control over process
 - **Optimizes storage for weight minimization**
- Number up rather than scale up
 - **Maintain optimum performance attained in single cell**
- Complexity can be added without increasing cost
 - **Integrate hydrogen distribution in cooling surfaces**
- Low thermal mass and high heat and mass fluxes will allow rapid start-up and response to transients
- Attractive high volume, low cost manufacturing options exist.



Approach - Programmatic

- **Phase 1: System Requirements & Novel Concepts**
 - OSU focused on simulation and experimental investigations to identify and prioritize opportunities for applying microscale heat and mass transfer enhancement techniques.
 - Working with other team members, OSU identified the highest value applications and conducted experimental investigations and modeling to collect data necessary to support the Go/No-Go decision to proceed to Phase 2.
- **Phase 2: Novel Concepts Modeling, Design, and Evaluation**
 - For each high-priority application, OSU is developing predictive models, design and evaluating components, fabricate proof-of-principle test articles, conduct proof-of-principle tests, and using the results to validate the predictive models.
 - With other team members, OSU will select one or more high-priority components for prototype demonstration.
- **Phase 3: Subsystem Prototype Construction, Testing, and Evaluation**
 - For each high-priority component, OSU will design, optimize, and fabricate the component.



Approach – Technical Approach to Phase Two Scope of Work

- For each high priority application we use microchannel technology to reduce barriers to heat and mass transfer and to facilitate integration with other storage system components (i.e. adsorption media)
- Optimize the performance of a single unit cell or module and then “Number Up” to attain desired performance
 - Develop appropriate simulation tools
 - Validated simulation tools by experimental investigations
 - Use simulation to optimize a unit cell
- Validate microlamination as a path to “numbering up” by low cost high volume manufacturing

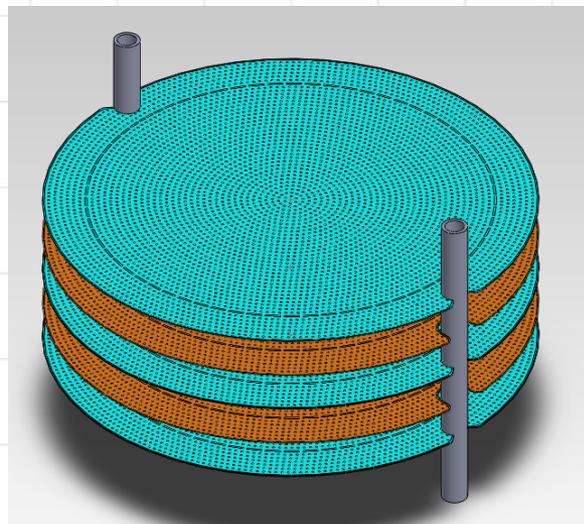
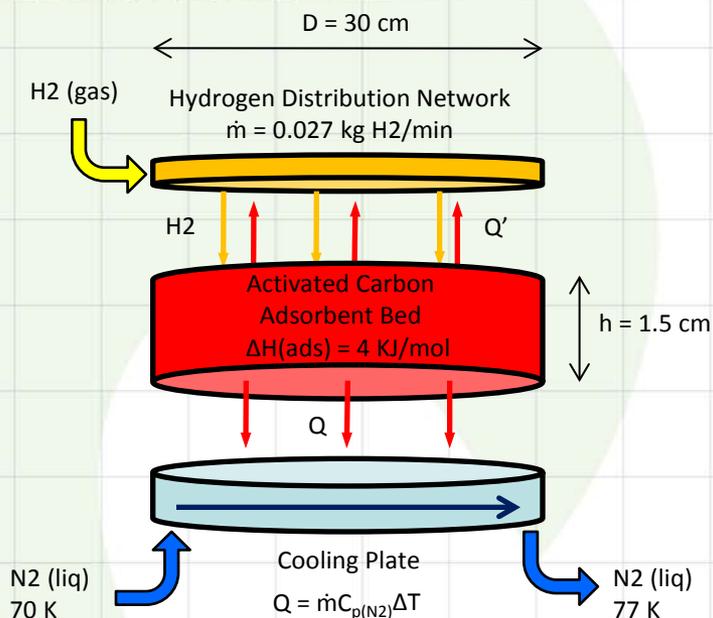


Technical Accomplishments

- **Technical Progress Relative to 2012/2013 Milestones** - Completed feasibility studies and experimental investigations on the two highest value applications:
 - Modular Adsorption Tank Insert (MATI)
 - Microchannel Combustor-Recuperator for Hydrogen Conditioning in Adsorption System
- **Technical Progress relative to Objectives:**
 - 1) Reduce the size and weight of storage and Improve charging and discharging rate of storage – **MATI**
 - Developed a revised design that reduces cost and weight through the use of micro pyramidal truss networks (MPTN)
 - Completed experimental investigations of single puck charging and validated model
 - Completed qualification of aluminum as a material of construction
 - Completed modeling of charge and discharge cycle
 - Completed separate effects experimental investigations of microchannel cooling plate heat transfer and pressure drop.
 - 2) Reduce size and weight and increase performance of thermal balance of plant components – **Microchannel Combustor-Recuperator-for Hydrogen Conditioning**
 - Successfully completed design and modeling of a 1 kW_t microchannel combustor for heating hydrogen during cold starts followed by a successful experimental demonstration.



Barriers A and E - Modular Adsorption Tank Insert (MATI) Design Concept and Status

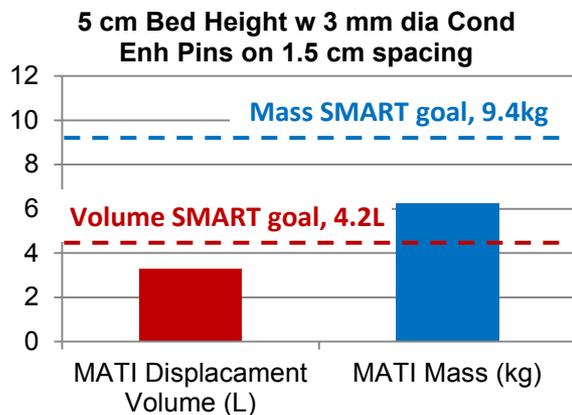


MATI Concept: can be enclosed to contain media

Why?

- 1) Separate cooling function from adsorption allowing a wider range of cooling strategies
- 2) Facilitates use of fuel cell waste heat for storage discharge
- 3) Optimized for use of densified media
 - Low void fraction (<5%)
 - Insensitive to mechanical failure of the media

- Heat of adsorption removed by LN_2 and H_2
- Axial distribution of H_2 to adsorption bed



Development Plan

Phase 1

- S.S. with combined cooling and H_2 distribution plates

Phase 2

- S.S. with separate cooling and H_2 distribution plates

Phase 3

- Al with separate cooling and H_2 plates and enhanced media conductivity

Status

- Completed assembly of cryogenic test apparatus
- Completed fabrication and test of phase 1 single and multi module test articles
- Completed fabrication and test of phase 2 SS and Al test articles
- Qualified aluminum as a material for microlamination
- Initiated development of densified media conduction enhancement

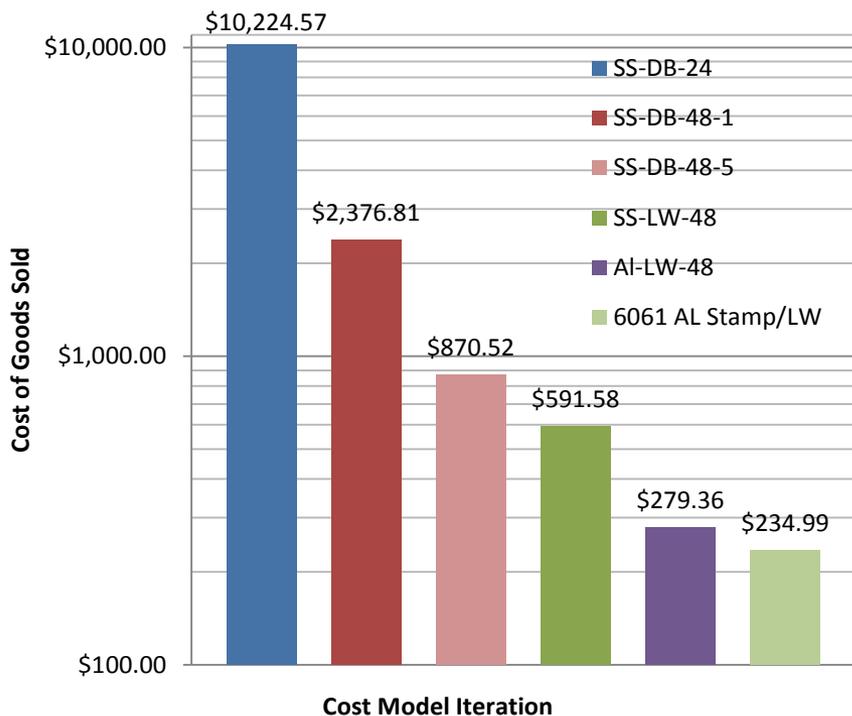


Barriers A and E - MATI Cost Estimate

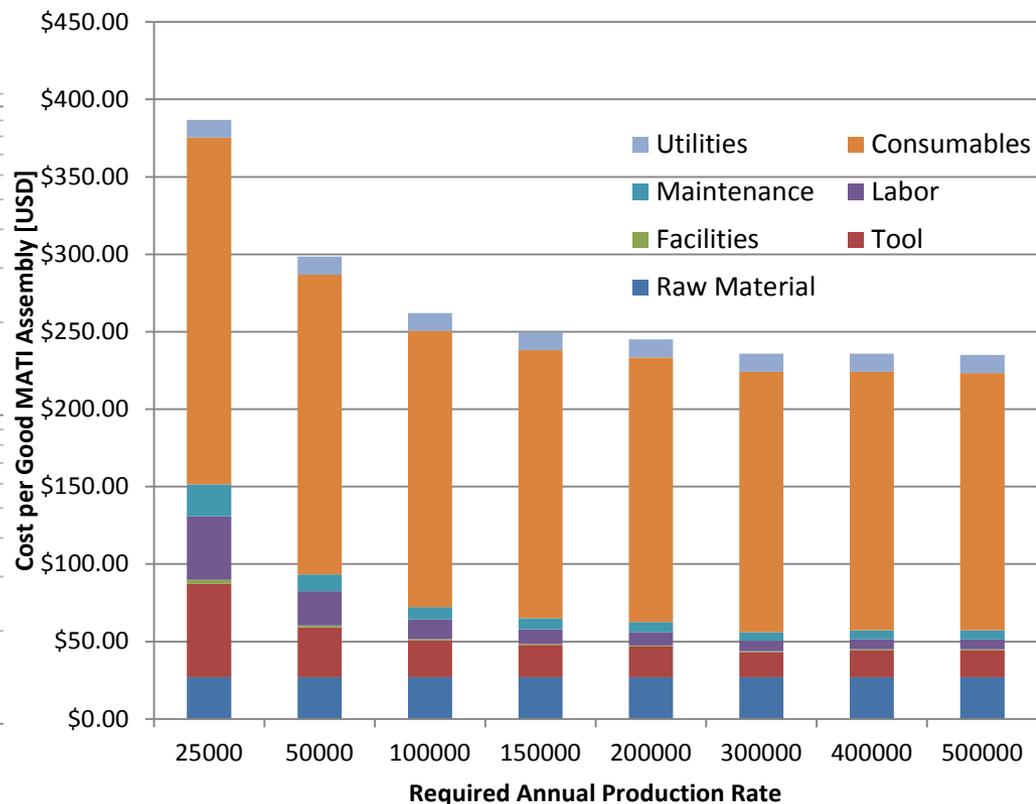
- Process-based cost models used to estimate Cost-of-Goods-Sold (COGS)
- Use of stamping significantly increases raw material utilization
- Opportunities to reduce consumables by increasing stamping tool life

MATI COGS

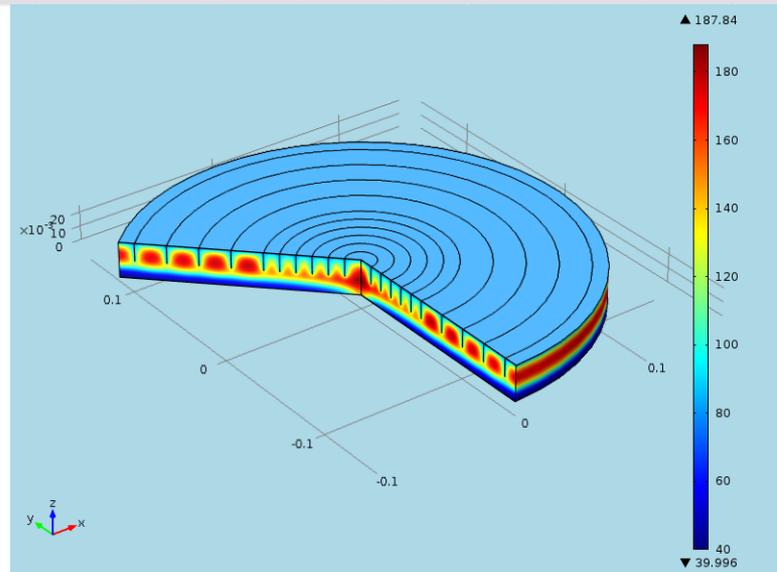
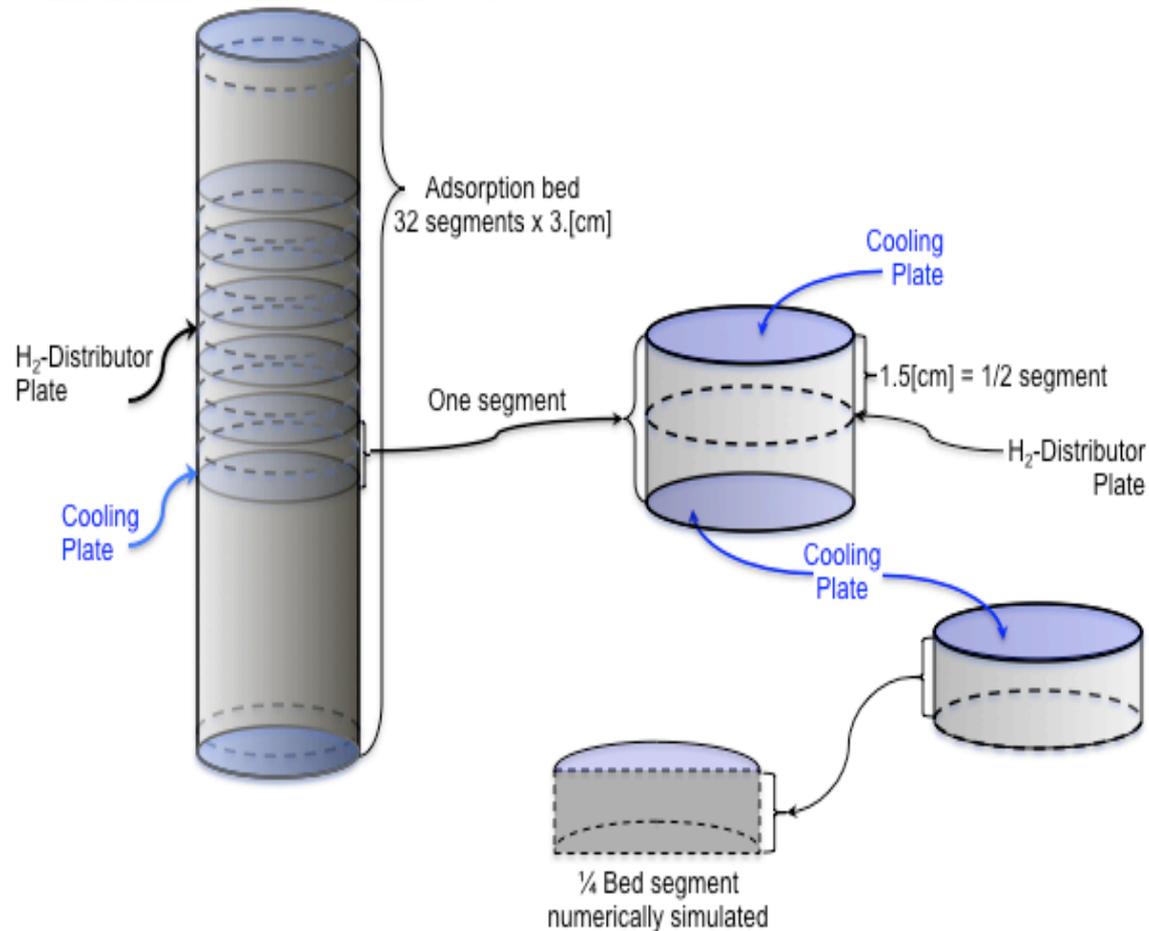
(Production Volume = 500000 TMS/Yr)



MATI COGS

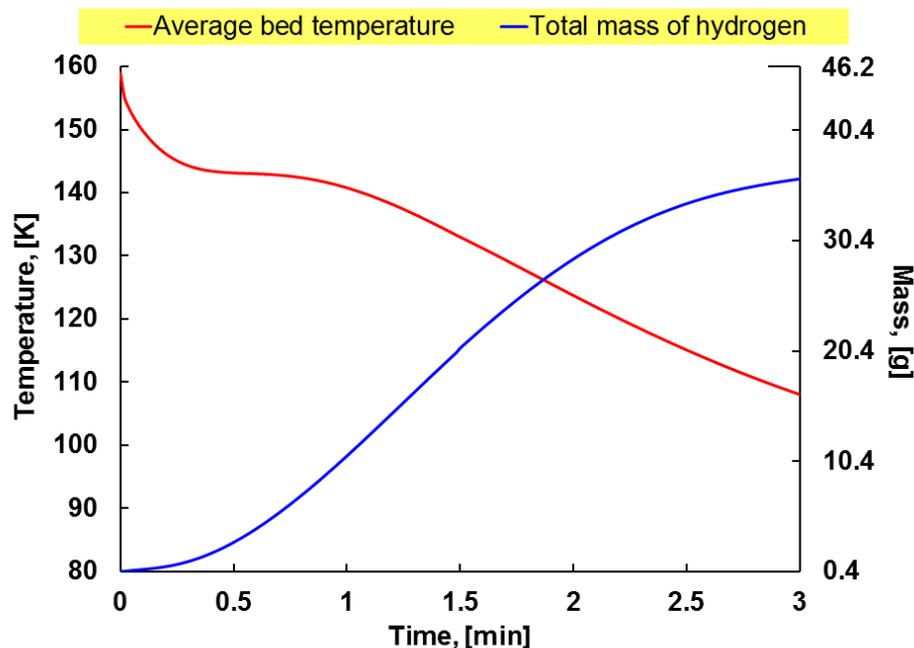


Barriers A and E - Impact of bed conduction and MATI on charging and discharging cycle





Barriers A and E - Impact of bed conduction and MATI on charging and discharging cycle



Bed charging simulation results:
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a unit cell, no heat conduction enhancement used;

Charging is modeled by increasing the pressure at the side of the distribution plate during 3 min from 1 to 100 bar.

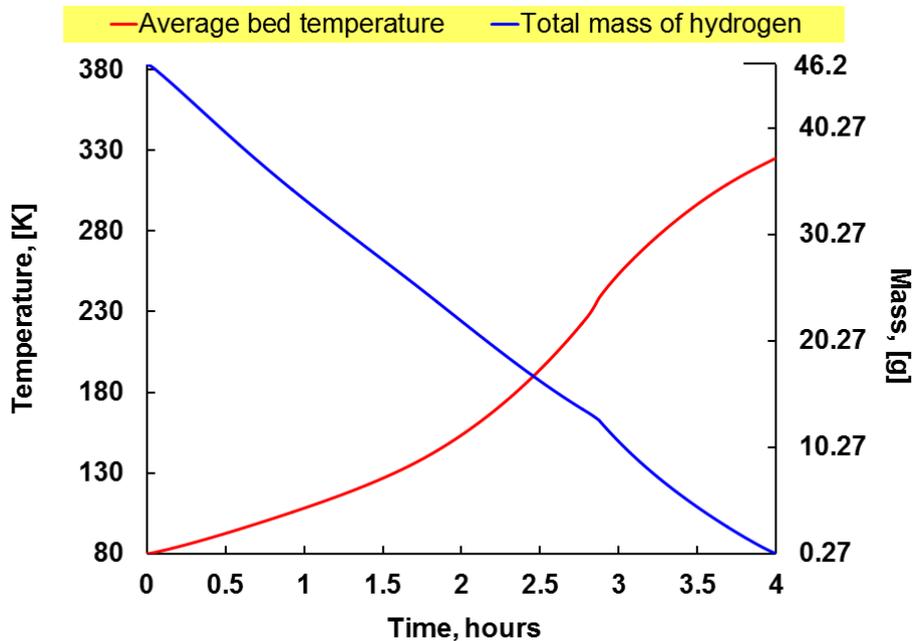
Bed Property	1/2 Bed Segment	Whole Bed
MOF-5 density	320 [kg/m ³]	320 [kg/m ³]
Initial bed temperature	160 [K]	160 [K]
Final bed pressure	100 [bar]	100 [bar]
Filling time	3 min	3 min
Additional cooling time	5 min	5 min
Total H ₂ mass after 8 min	43.5 [g]	5568 [g]
Total H ₂ mass at 80 [K] and 100 [bar]	46.2 [g]	5914 [g]

Conclusions:

- Without heat conduction enhancement it will take 8 minutes to fill the bed.
- heat conduction enhancement is needed in order to reach target mass of hydrogen stored (cm long pin-fins spaced 1 cm apart)



Barriers A and E - Impact of bed conduction and MATI on charging and discharging cycle



Bed property	½ Bed Segment	Whole Bed
MOF-5 density	320 [kg/m ³]	320 [kg/m ³]
Initial bed temperature	80 [K]	80 [K]
Initial bed pressure	100 [bar]	100 [bar]
Final bed pressure	5 [bar]	5 [bar]
Discharging time	4 hours	4 hours
Hydrogen outflow rate	0.0032 [g/s]	0.41 [g/s]
Total initial mass of H ₂	46.2 [g]	5914 [g]
Total final mass of H ₂	0.27 [g]	34.6 [g]

Discharging is first driven by increasing the temperature of H₂ in the heat exchanger plate. When maximum temperature is reached, target hydrogen mass outflow is maintained by appropriate pressure drop.

Conclusion: heat conduction enhancement **is not needed** to maintain the desired discharging performance during 4 hours.

Barriers A and E - Conduction Enhancement Study



- 23 Gauge (0.025"), sharp tip
- 21 Gauge (0.032"), sharp tip
- 23 Gauge (0.025"), w/o sharp tip
- Cracks caused by 21 Gauge needle

Current Status:

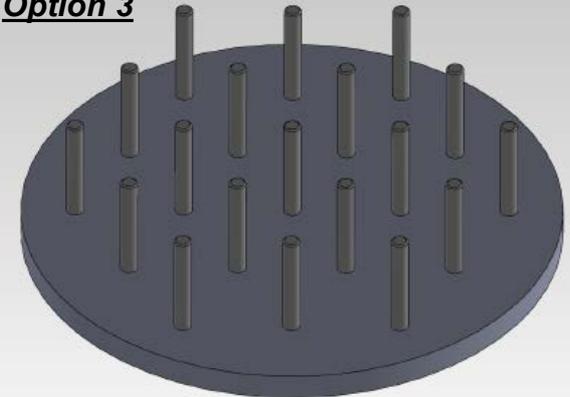
- **Conducted needle insertion tests for MOF5 bed using 21 and 23 gauge needles**
- **Cracks were mainly caused by the 21 Gauge needles indicating size limitation**
- **Although the shape of needle tip was not critical, pushing solid pins of the same sizes will see significant challenges because of displacement stress**
- **Shorter needle and/or insertion depth will likely succeed**
- **The 23 Gauge needles seem to work well at the tested distance (12–19mm), it becomes a concern as the population increases or spacing decreases**

Going Forward...

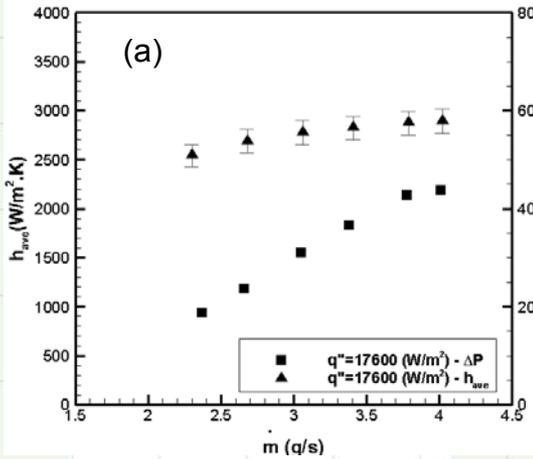
- **Option 1 (high risk but easy to make) --- Pushing solid pins into the MOF5 bed (Diameter=0.15-0.25mm; Length=10mm; Spacing=10mm)**
- **Option 2 (medium risk but easy to make) --- Pushing hollow pins into the MOF5 bed (Diameter<0.65mm; Length=10mm; Spacing=10mm)**
- **Option 3 (lower risk but hard to make) --- Forming the MOF5 bed around solid pins for higher conduction enhancement (Diameter=0.8-1.6mm; Length=10mm; Spacing=10mm)**

The plan is likely to be investigate Option 1 first, then Option 2 and Option 3

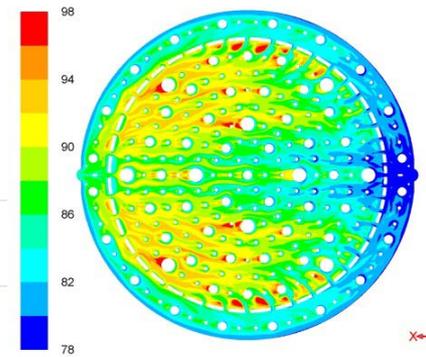
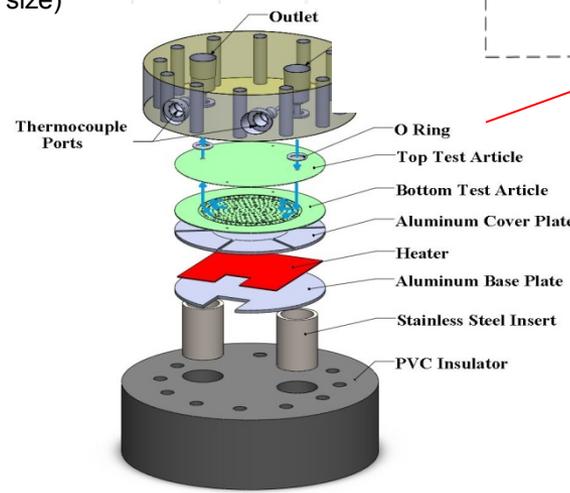
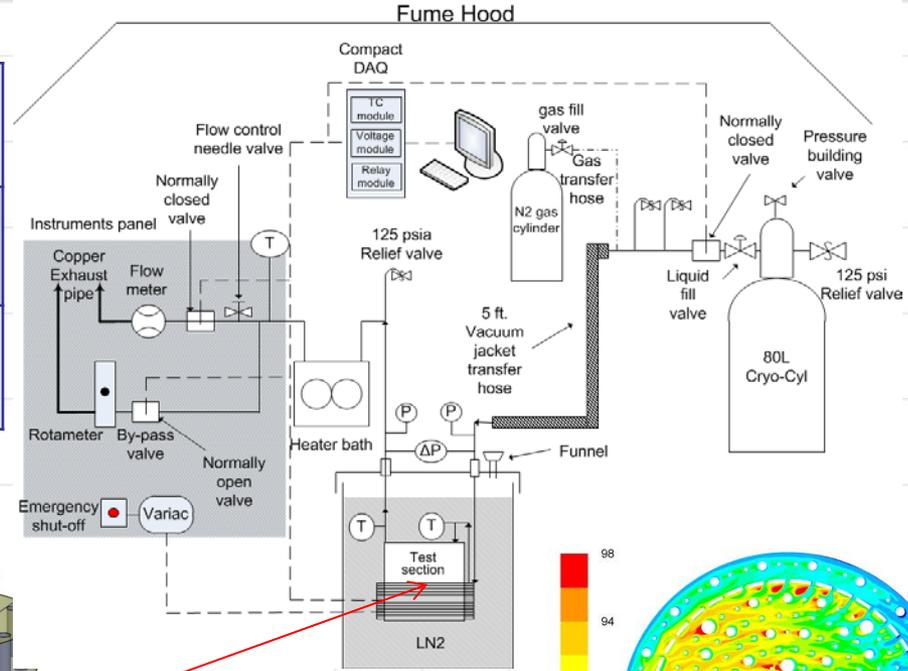
Option 3



Barriers A and E - MATI Separate Effects Heat Transfer Testing (Single Phase)

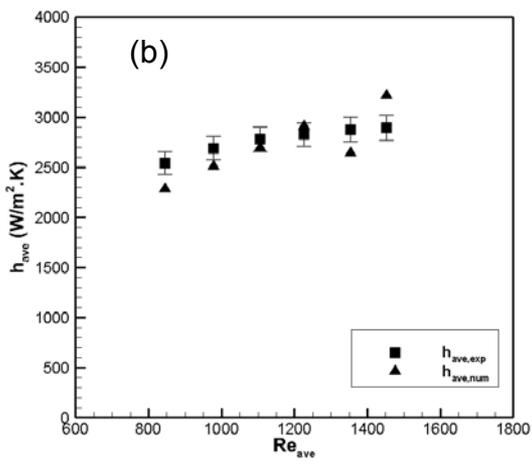


Mean Average Error (MAE) at $q'' = 17600 (W/m^2)$	
h_{num} vs. h_{exp}	7.1%
ΔP_{num} vs. ΔP_{exp}	13.7%



Contours wall temperature for a mass flow rate of 3 g/s and an applied heat flux to the bottom wall of $17600 W/m^2$. The flow is from right to left.

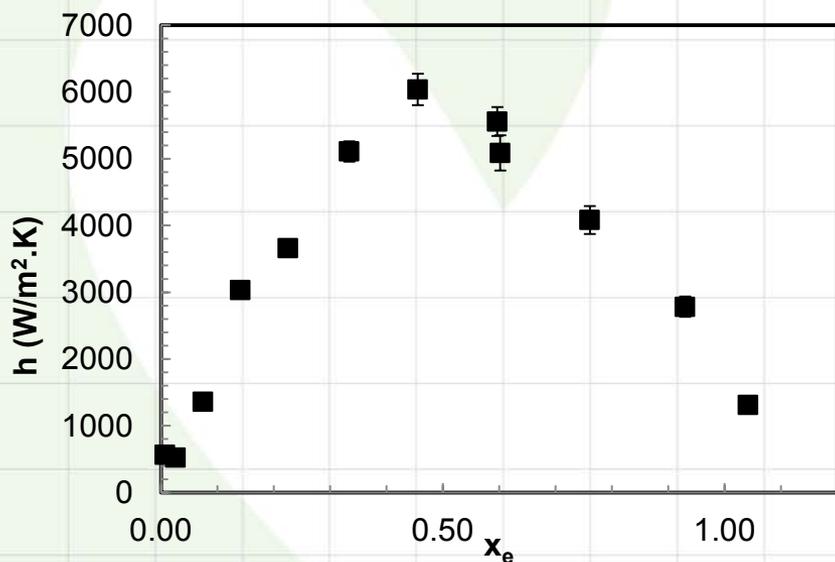
(a) Pressure drop and heat transfer coefficient variation with mass flow rate including max error bars of measurements (ΔP error bars smaller than symbol size)
 (b) Comparison of experiments and CFD results



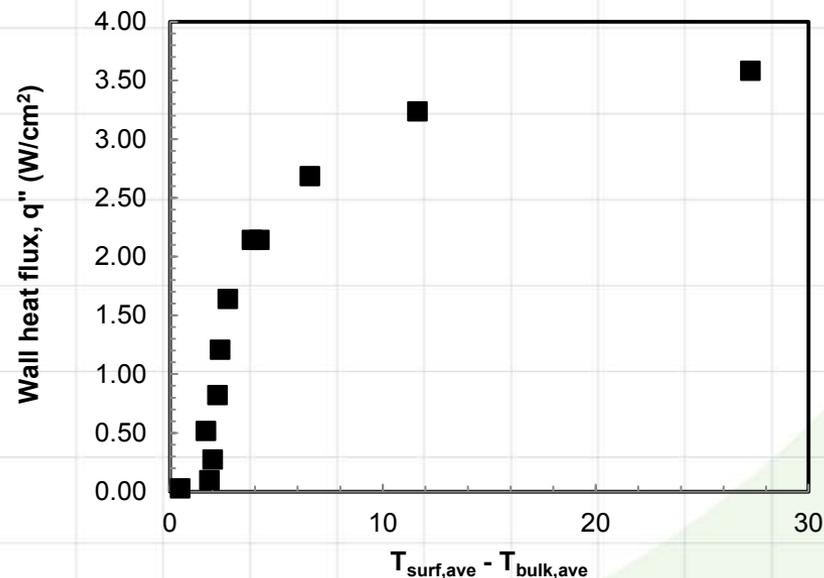


Barriers A and E - MATI Separate Effects Heat Transfer Testing (Preliminary Phase Change)

- It is likely that the available LN2 supply in the forecourt will be in a saturated state.
- A larger amount of heat per unit LN2 mass flow rate can be removed via phase-change, hence reducing the amount of LN2 used.



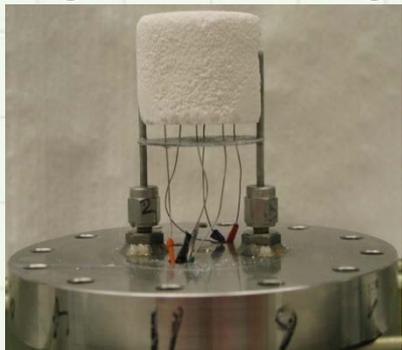
Corresponding heat transfer coefficient plot versus flow quality for a mass flow rate of ~ 0.36 g/s; inlet temperature is near saturation.



Preliminary boiling curve for a mass flow rate of ~ 0.36 g/s; inlet temperature is near saturation.

Barriers A and E – MATI Integrated Adsorbent Test Bed

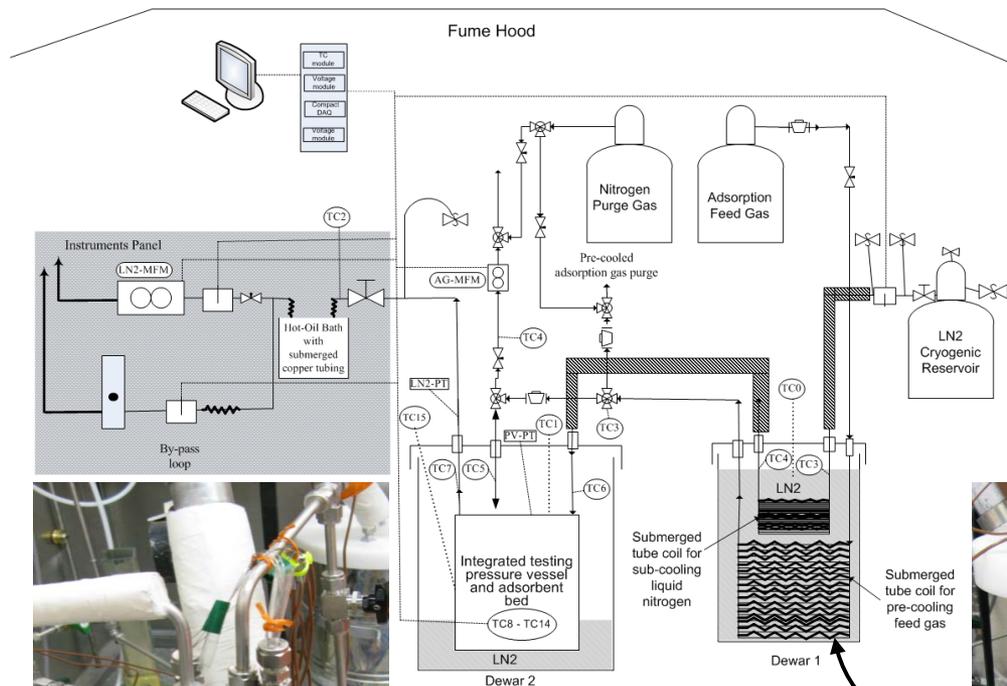
MOF-5 Bed , thermocouples,
single MATI cooling plate



Fully assembled integrated pressure vessel



Integrated pressure vessel installed in experimental test loop



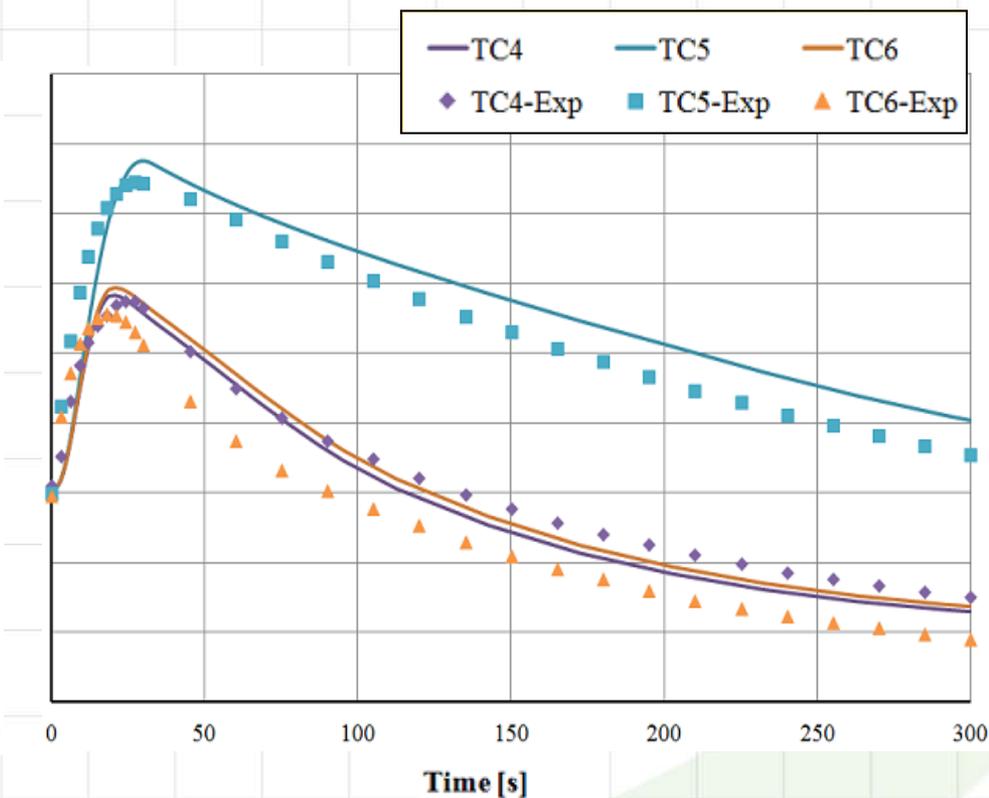
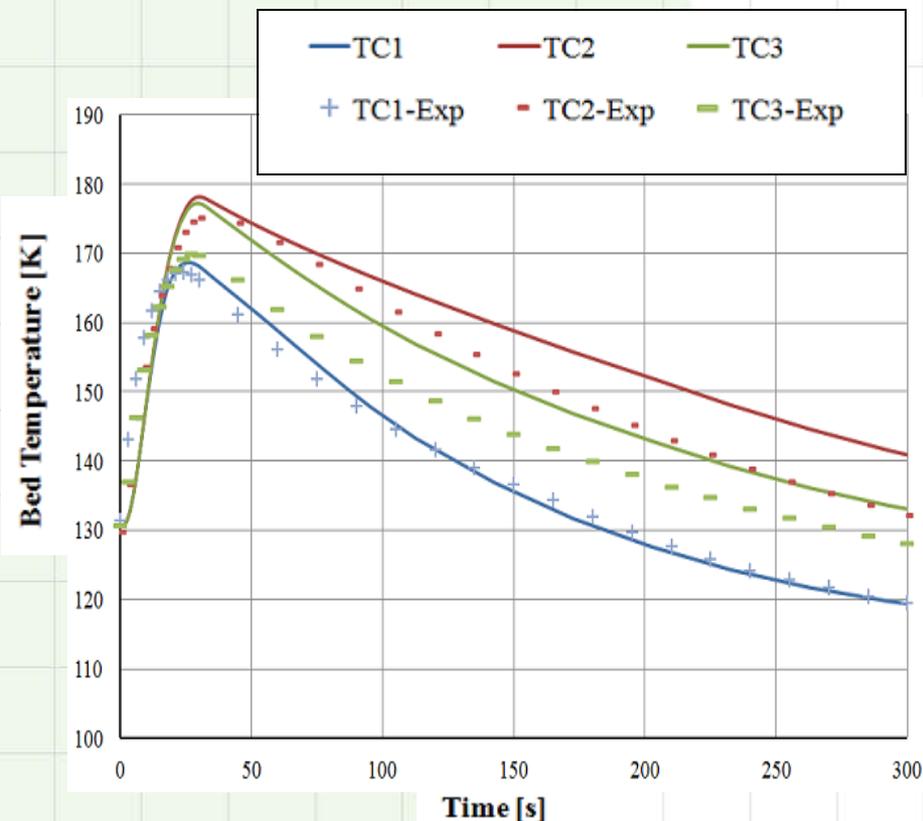
LN₂ sub-cooling and H₂ pre-cooling heat exchangers





Barriers A and E – MATI Integrated Adsorption Bed Testing

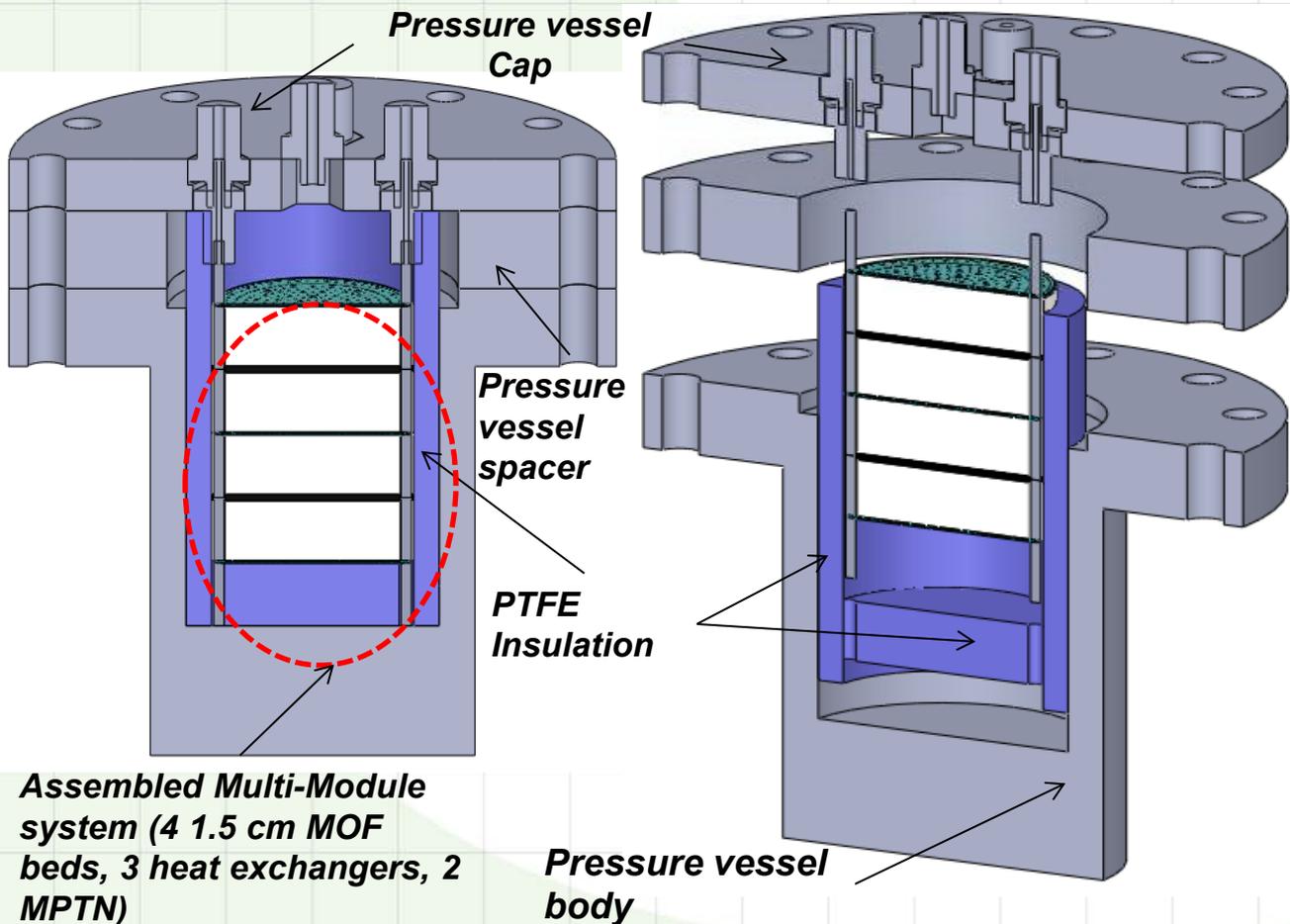
LN2 Cooled adsorption on MOF-5; Experimental and Modeling results





Barriers A and E – MATI Multi-module Adsorption Bed Testing – System Design -Retrofitting

Multi-module adsorption system



- Retrofitting experimental cryogenic adsorption system to accommodate a multi-modular stack;

- Stack consists of three cooling plates, four 1.5 cm compressed, MOF-5 beds, two sets of MPTN hydrogen distribution layers

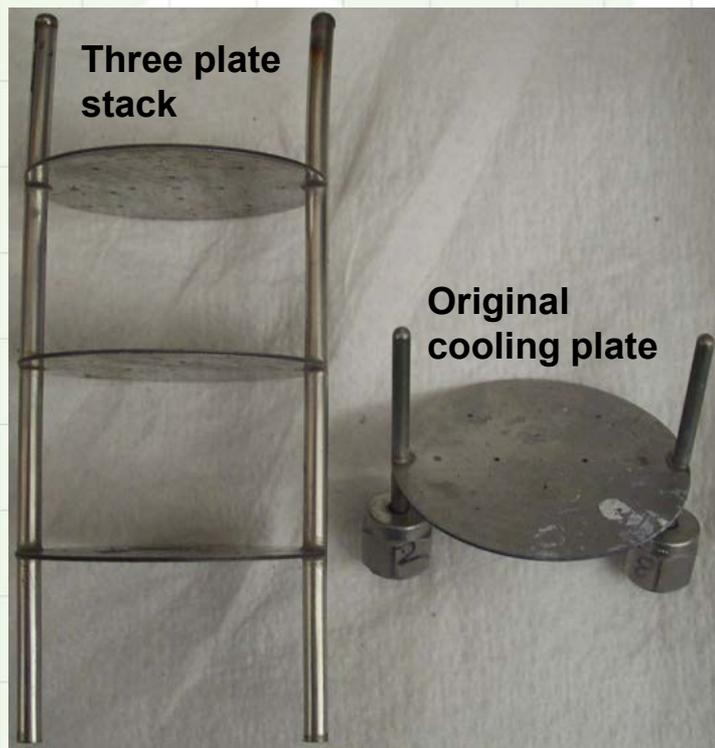


Barriers A and E – MATI Multi-module Adsorption Bed Testing – System Design -Retrofitting

Status of Retrofitting: In progress

Three cooling plate stack has been fabricated and excess header length has been welded and leak tested

Spacer has been fabricated to accommodate the increased height of the multi-module system





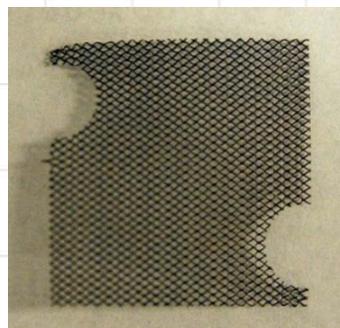
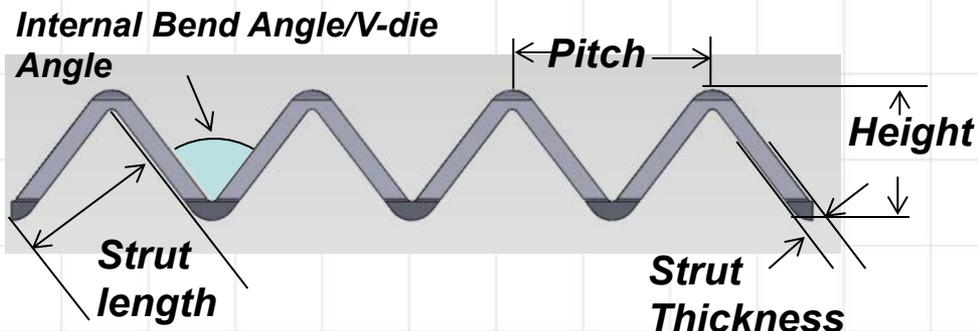
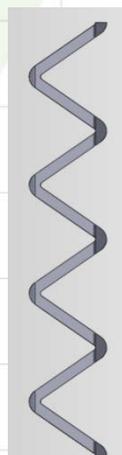
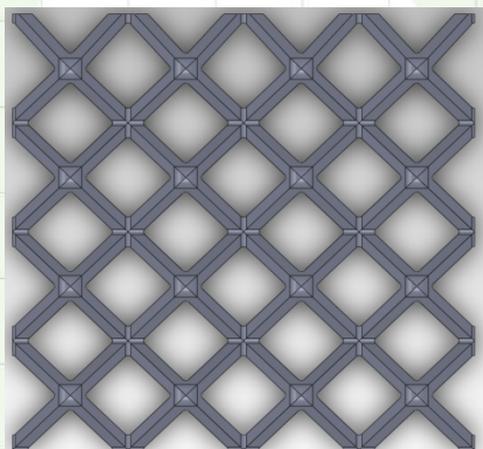
Barriers A and E – MATI Multi-module Adsorption Bed Testing – System Design -Retrofitting

Status of Retrofitting: In progress

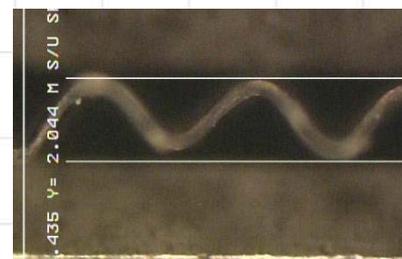
Activation of MOF-5 compressed beds

Pressing and fabrication of MPTN hydrogen distribution layers

Structural trusses

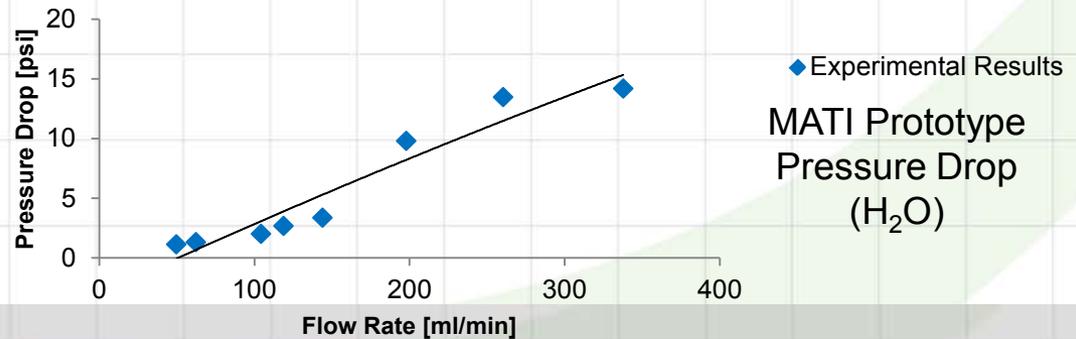
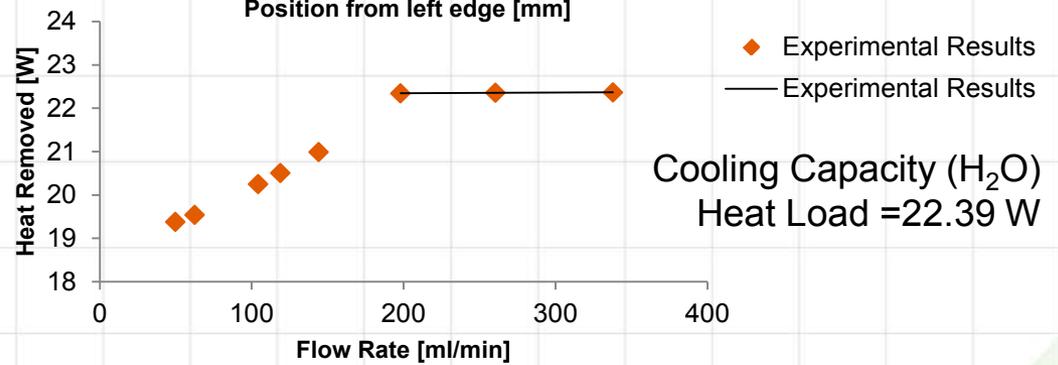
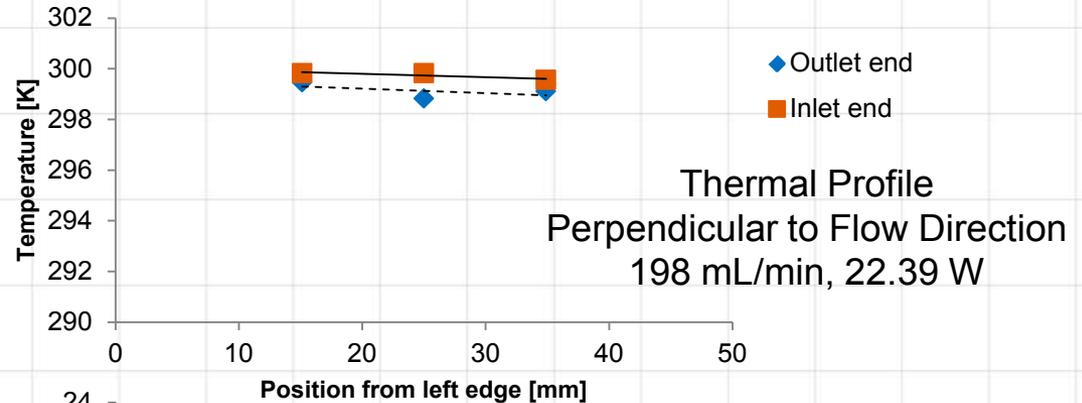
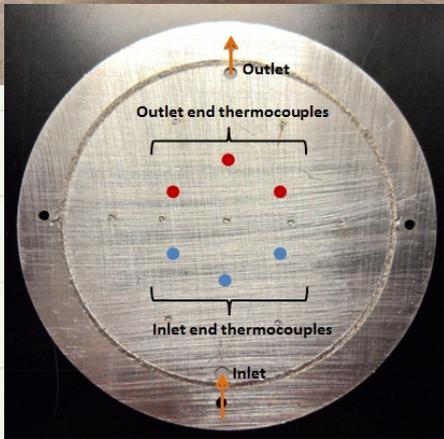
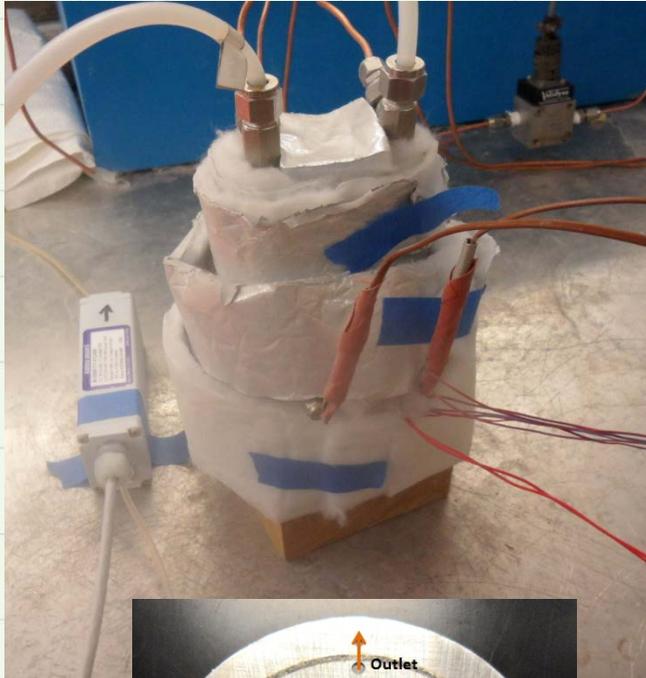


25.4[mm]



Top and side views of idealized PTN

Barriers A and E - 6061 Al MATI Cooling Plate





Barriers A and E – MATI Smart Goals and Conclusions

Smart Goals:

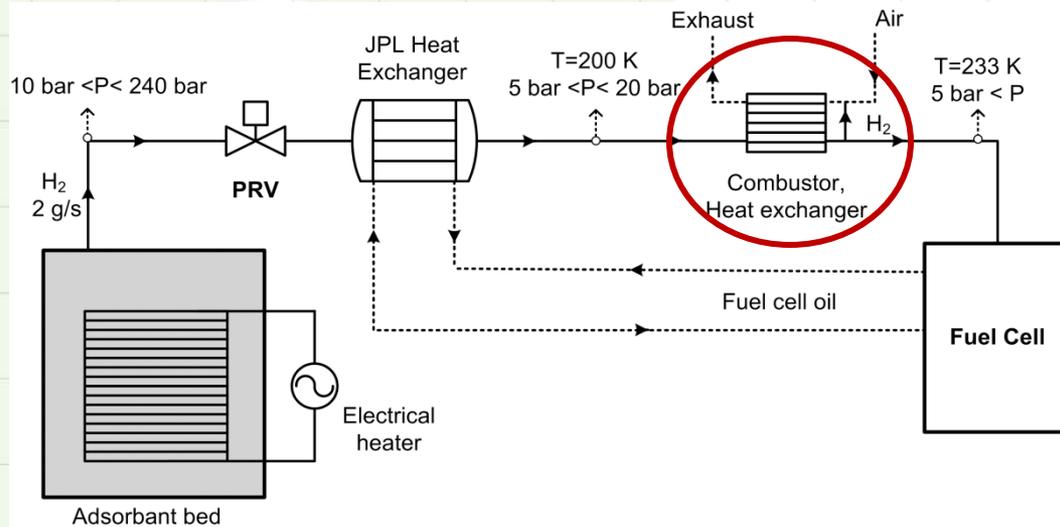
- Report on ability to develop and demonstrate a Modular Adsorption Tank Insert designed for a system consisting of 100% densified media and capable of allowing less than 3 min. refueling time and H₂ release rate of 0.02 g H₂/(sec. kW) with a mass less than 9.4 kg and a volume less than 4.2 liters.

Conclusions

- Experimental results have validated our MATI charge and discharge models
- Simulation using validated models that predict that the MATI concept can meet the performance documented in the MATI smart goals
- Based on patterning and bonding testing, aluminum is a realistic material of construction for both the MATI and the microcombustor.
- It appears that some degree of puck conduction enhancement will be required.

Barrier H - Application

- To heat the H₂ stream from 200K to acceptable fuel cell operating temperature (T>233K) when fuel cell coolant and ambient temperatures are as low as 233K.



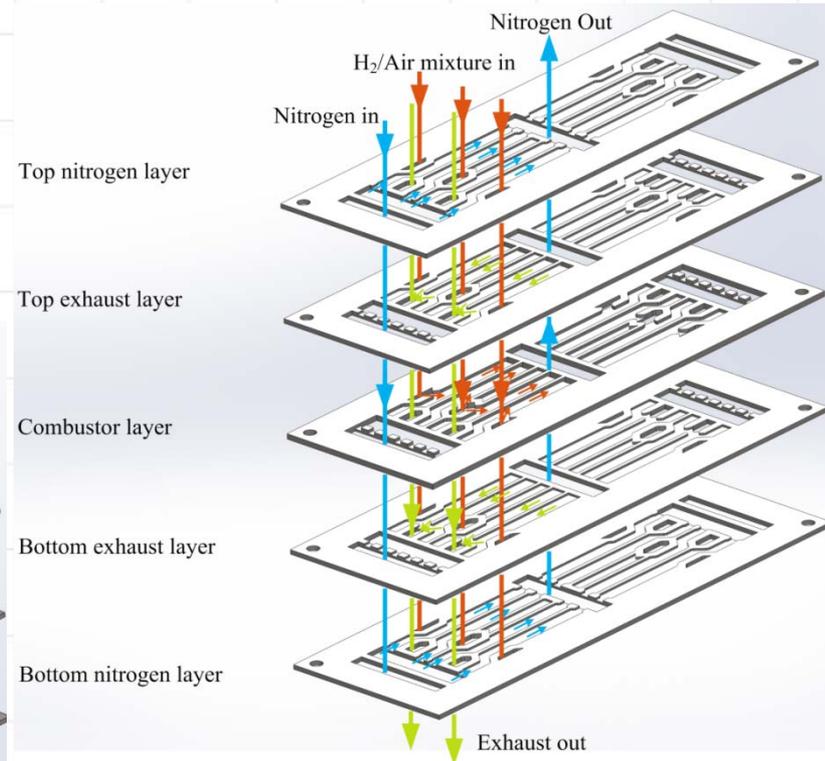
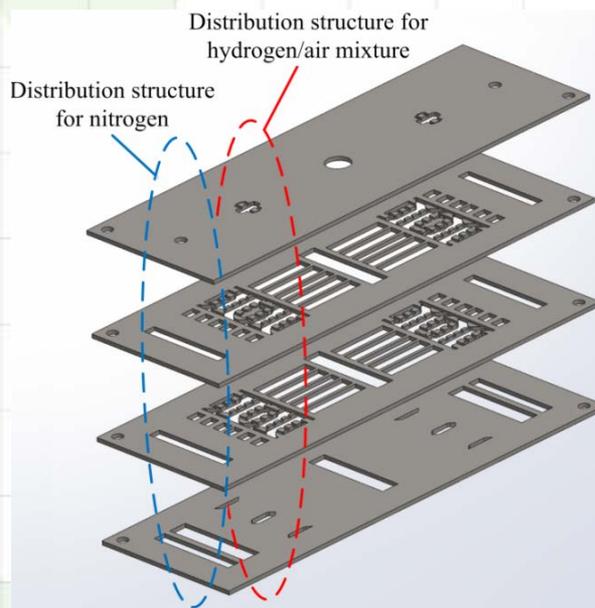
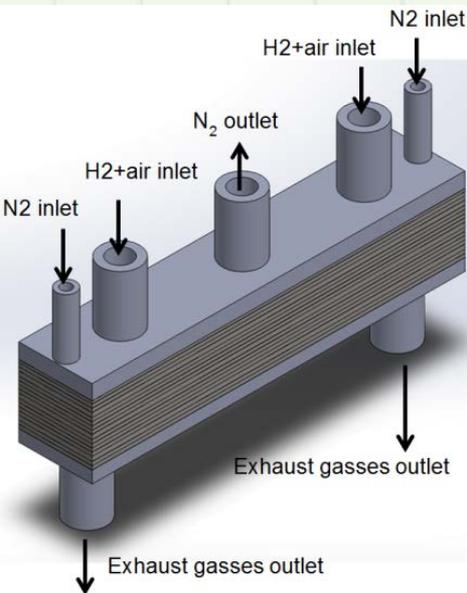
Pressure range	Inlet pressure of 5 to 20 bar; outlet pressure greater than or equal to 5 bar
Temperature range	Inlet temperature of ~200 K
Target Heating	Increase temperature to a minimum of 233 K
Fluid flow rate	Maximum 2 g/s

SMART goal:

Develop and demonstrate a 1 kW catalytic combustor heat exchanger having > 85% efficiency having a dry mass less than 0.9 kg and volume less than 0.65 liters



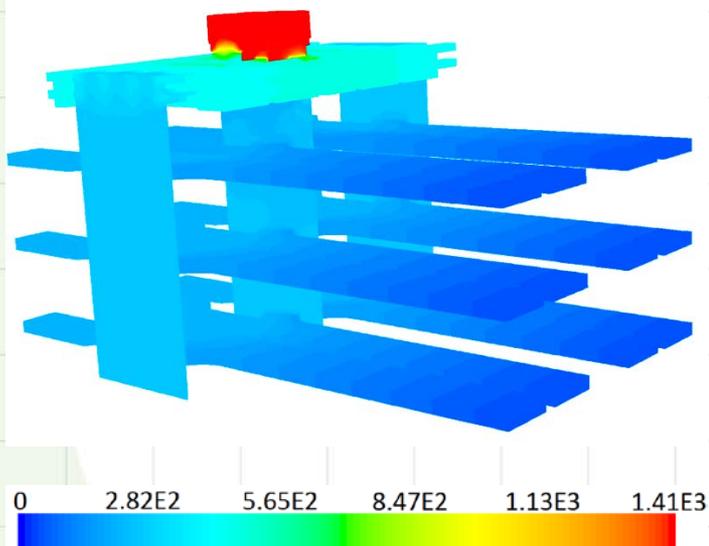
Barrier H- Microcombustor Multiple Unit Cell Design





Barrier H - Multiple Unit Cell Flow Distribution Simulations

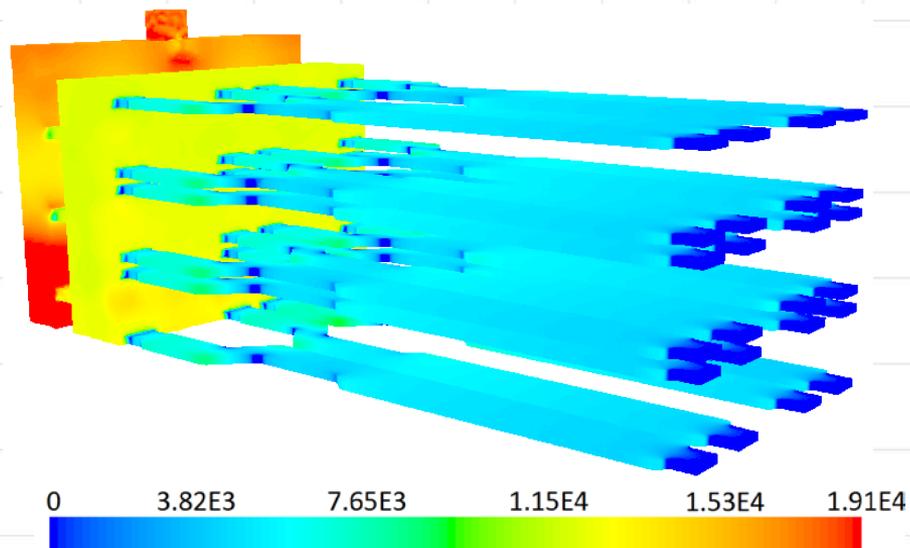
Air/fuel inlet



Average velocity magnitude in combustor layers

Channel velocity (m/s)				
Layer 1	2.61	2.59	2.57	2.6
Layer 2	2.57	2.51	2.51	2.57
Layer 3	2.56	2.53	2.53	2.55

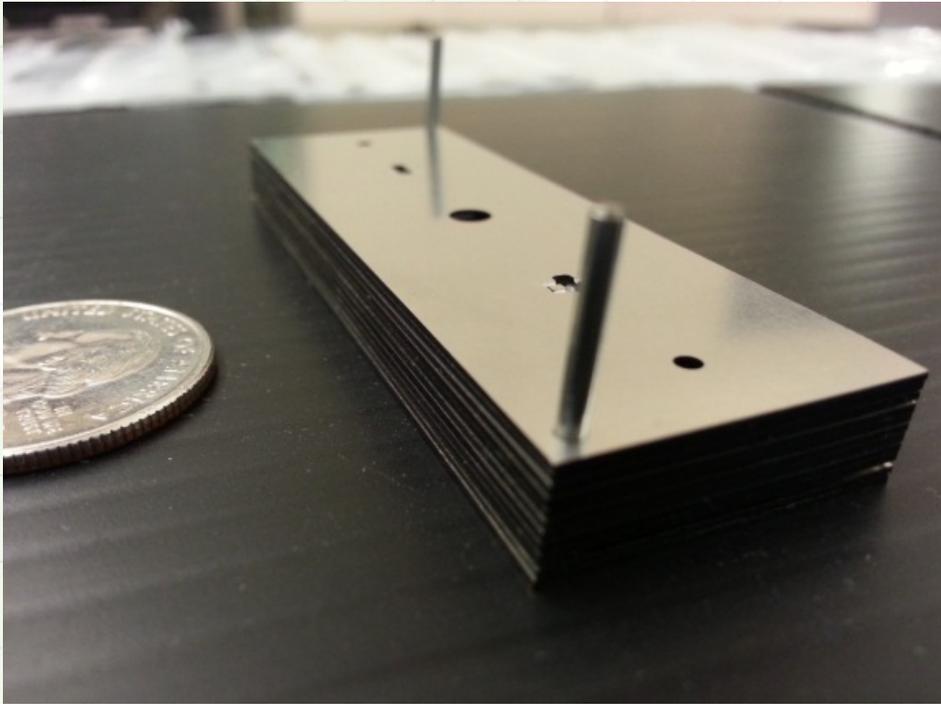
Nitrogen inlet



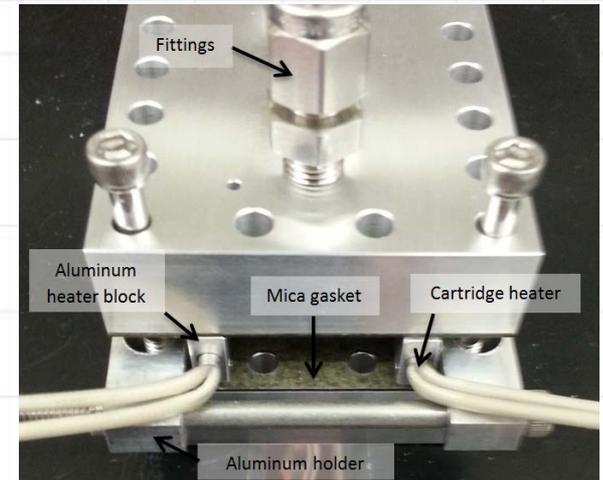
Average velocity magnitude in nitrogen layers

Velocity (m/s)	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Layer 4	Layer 5	Layer 6
	37.2	37.4	37.6	37.4	37.2	37.1
	37.1	37.4	37.8	39.4	37.4	37.2
	37.1	37.5	37.3	37.2	39.2	37.1
	37.2	37.5	37.6	37.1	37.3	37.3

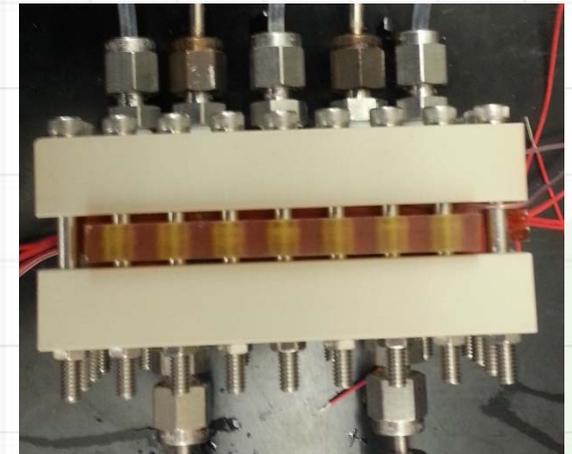
Barrier H- Microcombustor Experimental Validation



A 16 unit cell device



Activation process setup



Experimental setup for the test conditions.



Barrier H – Microcombustor Experimental Results

The current results are for ambient temperature nitrogen as the heat transfer fluid and the first generation design.

Test case	Residence time (ms)	Hydrogen conversion (%)	Device Efficiency (%)	Device efficiency without heat loss (%)
1	11.2	89.3	83.1	89.3
2	33	92	75	92
3	66	97	65	97

- Efficiency and conversion are strong functions of the body temperature of the device as well as the hydrogen/air mixture residence time.
- Based on the experimental results, 16 unit cell device can transfer 81.6 W to nitrogen flow with an efficiency of 83.1%. Therefore for a 1kW device 200 unit cell is required that produces 1020 W. The total size of such a system is 0.151 liters including the headers. The weight of the device will be 879.6 g if made from stainless steel and 296.9 g if made from Aluminum.

	Power	Size	Weight	Efficiency
SMART goal	1020 W	0.65 liters	900 grams	85
Experimental data	1000 W 	0.151 liters 	880 grams 	84 Improvements ongoing



Barrier H – Microcombustor Smart Goals and Conclusions

- Smart Goal – Report on ability to develop and demonstrate a 1 kW catalytic combustor to augment partial H₂ preconditioning by an exiting FC radiator with >85% efficiency having a mass less than .6 kg and volume less than .65 liters
- Conclusion – The current test article has achieved performance consistent with our smart goals using aluminum as the material of construction.



Proposed FY 2014 Future Work

- Reduce Size and Weight of Storage and Improve Charge and Discharge Rates – **Modular Adsorption Tank Insert Development**
 - Complete experimental demonstration of the multi-cell test article in the current test apparatus
 - Demonstrate ability to enhance conductivity of the MOF-5 puck.
 - Complete design, assembly and initial testing of Phase 3 technology demonstration and test facility
- Reduce size and weight and increase performance of thermal balance of plant components - **Microchannel Combustor-Recuperator-Oil Heat Exchanger**
 - Complete demonstration of a 3 kW_t microchannel combustor/heat exchanger



Collaboration

- Oregon State University is a member of the Hydrogen Storage Engineering Center of Excellence (HSECoE) collaborating with five federal laboratories, one university and six companies
- Development of the Modular Adsorption Tank Insert heat exchanger is a collaboration with Savannah River National Laboratory (SNRL), Ford Motor Company, University of Michigan, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Universite' du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres.
- Development of system design for MATI is a collaboration with Savannah River National Laboratory, Ford Motor Company, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and University of Michigan.
- Development of enhanced puck conductivity. Is a collaboration with Ford Motor Company and University of Michigan
- Development of the Microchannel Combustor-Recuperator-Hydrogen-HX is a collaboration with JPL and Savannah River National Laboratory



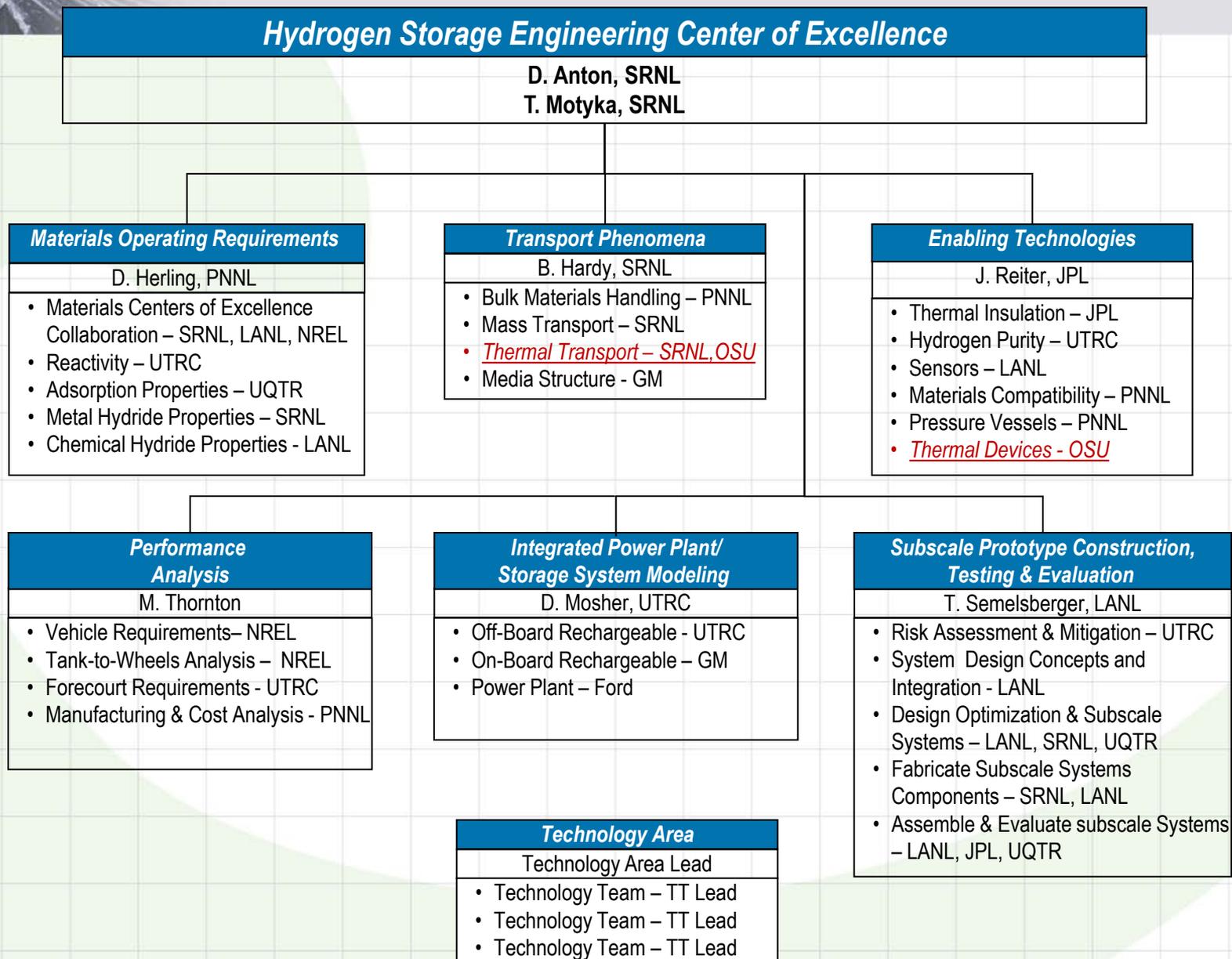
Project Summary

- **Relevance:** Microchannel technology can reduce size, weight and charging time of hydrogen storage.
- **Approach:** For MATI and Microchannel Combustor-Recuperator-Oil-HX
 - Use MECS techniques to enhance the performance of heat and mass transfer devices.
 - Optimize a single unit cell
 - Use microlamination to “Number Up” .
- **Technical Accomplishments:**
 - Developed a revised MATI design that reduces cost and weight through the use of stamped MPTN.
 - Completed experimental investigations and model validation of single puck MATI
 - Completed modeling of charge and discharge cycles.
 - Initiated demonstration of enhance conductivity in “Hockey Puck”
 - Completed qualification of aluminum as a material of construction
 - Completed experimental investigation and model validation of microchannel cooling plate heat transfer and pressure drop
 - Completed design and testing of a 1 kWt Microchannel Combustor-HX unit for hydrogen heating during cold starts. Results confirm performance and demonstrate ability to meet SMART goals.
- **Collaboration:** Member of HSECoE team.
- **Proposed Future Research:**
 - Complete demonstration of multi-cell MATI test article,
 - Complete demonstration of puck conduction enhancement
 - Complete design, assembly and initial testing for Phase 3 2 liter prototype
 - Complete demonstration of a 1-3 kW_t combustor for hydrogen conditioning

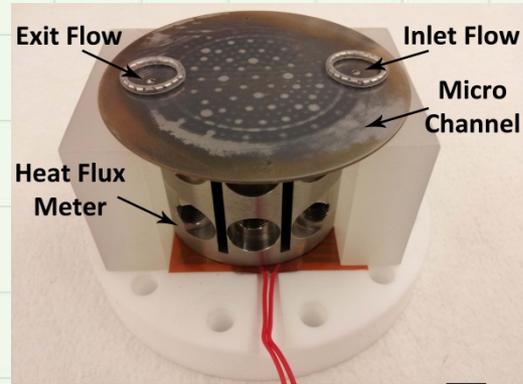


Supplemental Slides

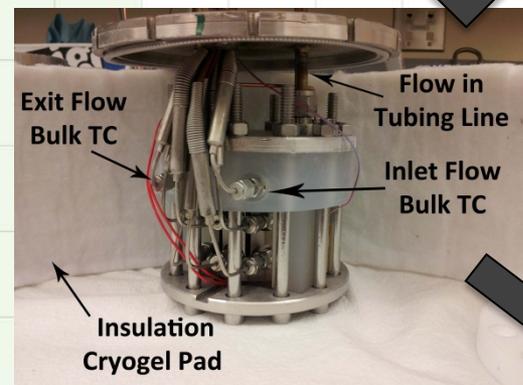
HSECoE Center Organization



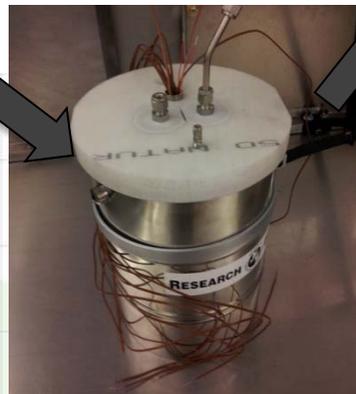
Barriers A and E – MATI Separate Effects Heat Transfer Testing



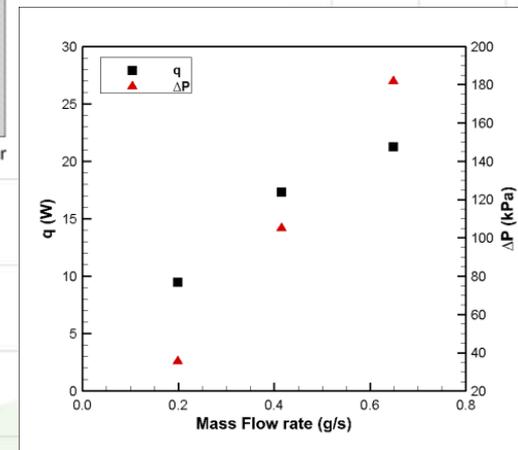
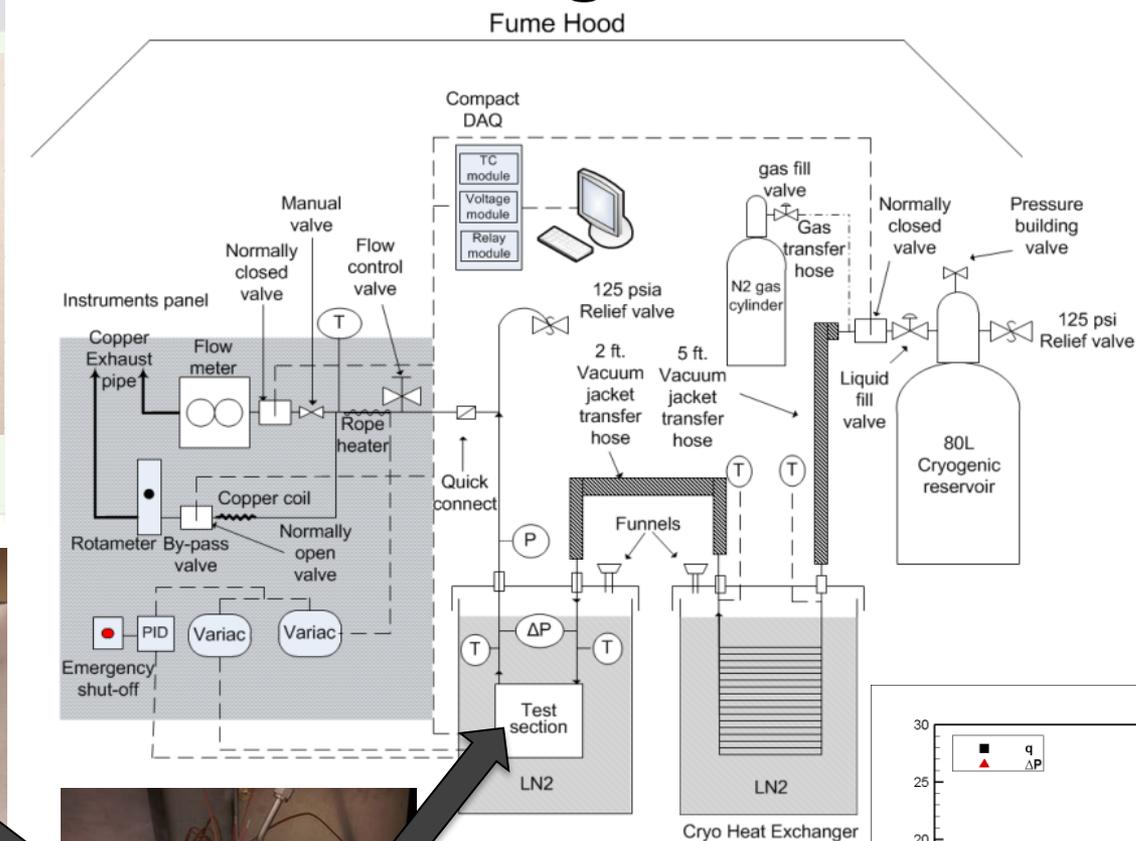
Partially assembled view of the test section



Assembled view of the test section

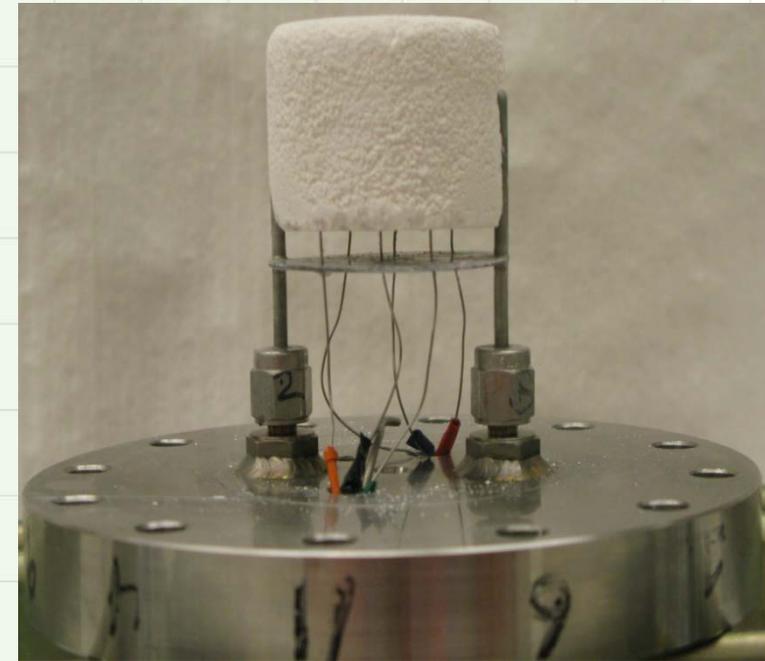


Test section dewar

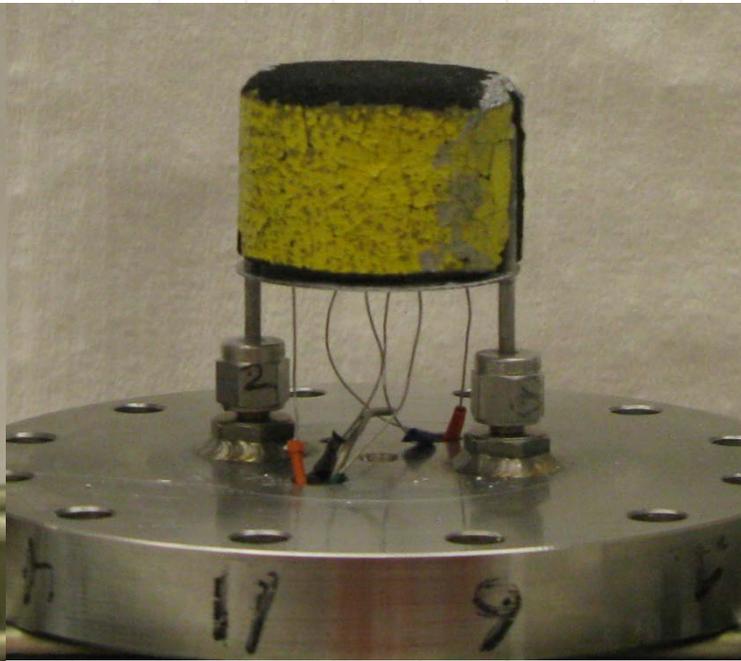


Preliminary heat transfer test with N₂ gas

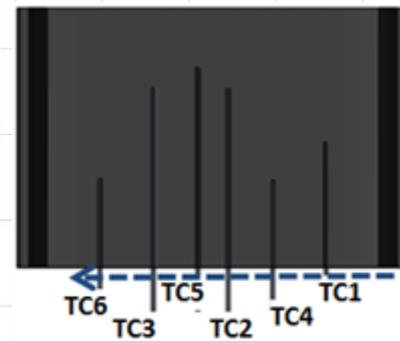
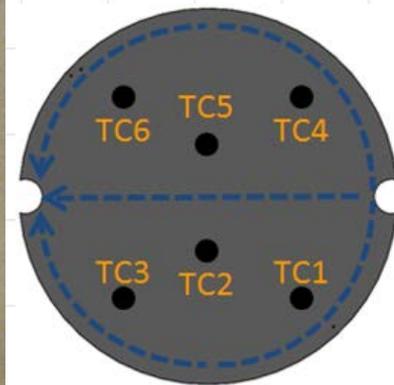
Barriers A and E – Placement of Adsorbent Beds



MOF-5 suspended over single MATI cooling plate by thermocouples after completing N_2 and H_2 adsorption experiments.



Activated carbon sample on surface of single MATI cooling plate after completing N_2 and H_2 adsorption experiments.





Barriers A and E - Impact of bed conduction and MATI on charging and discharging cycle

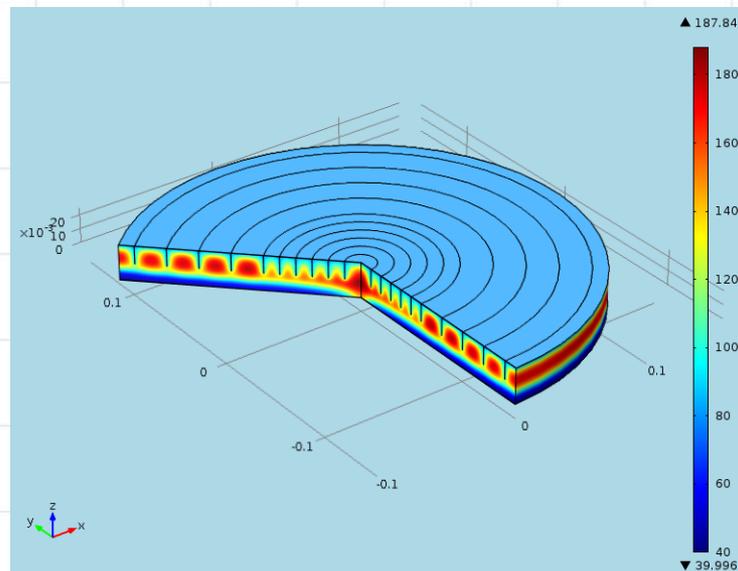
Hydrogen enter/leave the bed through a distribution plate. During charging, the bed is cooled by liquid nitrogen flowing through the heat exchanger. During discharging, the bed is heated by hot hydrogen flowing through the heat exchanger.

Momentum conservation is modeled with Navier-Stokes equations in the distribution and heat exchanger plates. Adsorption bed is modeled as porous media with Brinkman equations.

Mass conservation is implemented through continuity equation.

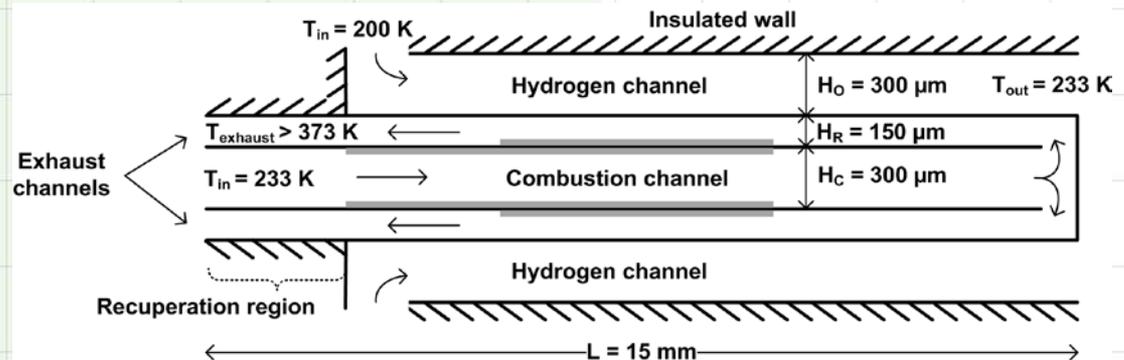
Energy balance in the bed distinguishes adsorbent material, adsorbed and free space hydrogen.

Adsorption/desorption kinetics is computed with Dubinin-Astakhov model and it's effects are accounted for in all three balances.

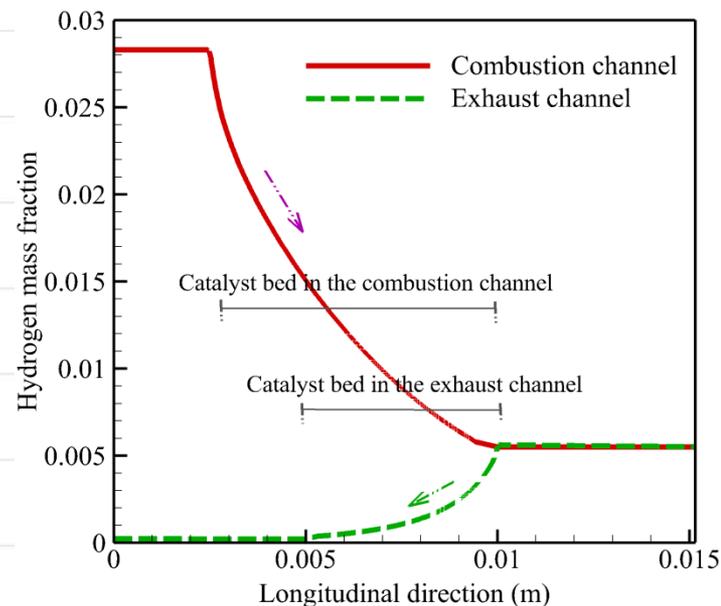
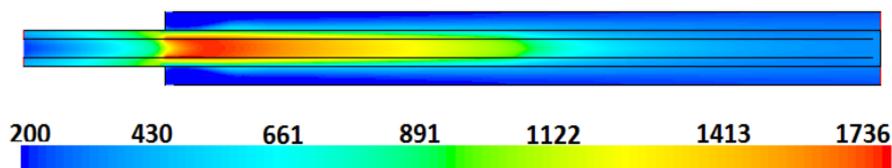




Barrier H – Microcombustor 2D Simulations



Temperature contours (K)



Hydrogen mass fraction along the length of the channel

**Working Fluid:
Hydrogen**

\dot{m}_{H_2} (g/s)	P_{H_2} (bar)	T_{out,H_2} (K)	H ₂ conversion (%)	η (%)	ΔP (Pa)
2	5	235.7	99.8	93.3	5736.3
	20	236.1	99.5	92.9	5833.9
0.5	5	237.7	99.8	92.4	991.6
	20	243.8	99.4	92.1	1014.4

**For Lab Experiments- Surrogate
Working Fluid: Nitrogen**

\dot{m}_{N_2} (g/s)	P_{N_2} (bar)	T_{out,N_2} (K)	H ₂ conversion (%)	η (%)	ΔP (Pa)
26.1	5	233.6	99.9	93.1	5133.7
6.57	5	233.3	99.8	92.4	711.8



Integrated Combustor-HXs

- **Length: 280 mm**
- **Width: 70 mm**
- **Height: 40 mm**
- **Volume: 540 cm³ (material)**
- **Weight with SS: 4.25 kg**
- **Weight with Al: 1.46 kg**

Channel Dimensions

- **Depth = 0.4 mm**
- **Width = 2.0 mm**
- **16 channels/shim**
- **66 shims in total**

Heat Duties

- **HX1 = 5.4 kW**
- **HX2 = 4.5 kW**
- **Combustor = 1.7 kW**

Pressure Drops

- **HX1_PG = 1.7 psi**
- **HX2_PG = 0.6 psi**

