



FuelCell Energy

# Electrochemical Hydrogen Compression (EHC)

**Pinakin Patel and Ludwig Lipp**

**Presentation at DOE Hydrogen Compression,  
Storage and Dispensing Workshop at ANL**

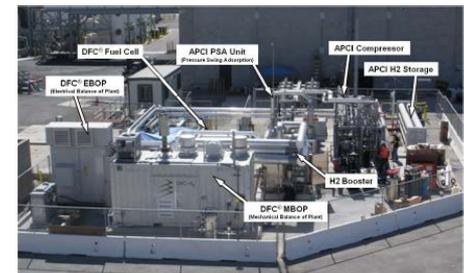
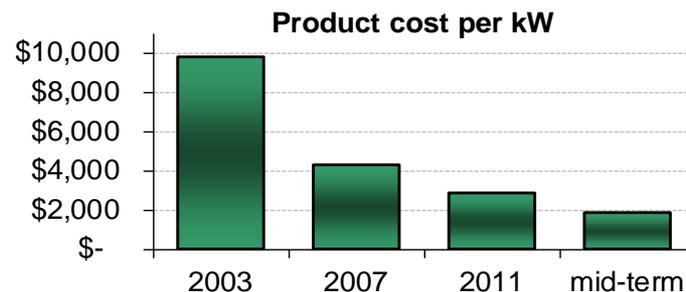
Argonne, IL

**March 20, 2013**

Ultra-Clean, Efficient, Reliable Power



- Experience with all fuel cells – MCFC, SOFC, PEM, PAFC, etc.
- Excellent progress in commercialization of MCFC technology (>300 MW installed + backlog, >50 MW per year production rate, 11 MW single site unit in Korea, >1.5 billion kWh produced)
- Unique internal reforming technology for high efficiency fuel cells



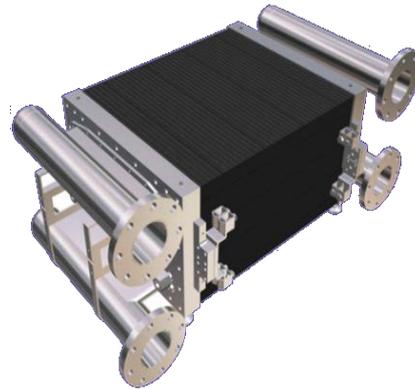


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Ultra-Clean, Efficient, Reliable Power

# Advanced Hydrogen Co-production Technology



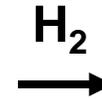
**DFC® Power Plant**  
(Electricity + Hydrogen)



**Solid State Hydrogen Separator (EHS)**



**Solid State Hydrogen Compressor (EHC)**



**H<sub>2</sub>**



**Fuel Cell Cars**



**Materials Handling Equipment**



**Liquid Biofuels**



**Peak and Back-up Power**

MO3145

1 yr Factory Test at FCE  
>2.5 yr Site Demo at OCSD  
(DFC-H2-PSA)

100-cell baseline stack tested  
Advanced CO-tolerant stack  
tested for 1 year

1 year operation at  
3,000 psi  
Feasibility of 12,000  
psi demonstrated

**Strategic Alliance  
with Hydrogen  
Users**



Parameter	Program Goals	Current Status	DOE Goals
Hydrogen Product Pressure	Up to 3,000 psi building block, 6-12 kpsi	<b>12,800 psi single stage</b> <b>6,000 psi 2-stage</b>	12,500 psi
Hydrogen Inlet Pressure	5 - 300 psi	<b>0 – 2,000 psi</b>	300 psi
Compression Ratio	Up to 300:1	<b>300:1</b>	43:1
Hydrogen Recovery Efficiency	90 - 95%	<b>&gt;95%</b>	99.5%
Hydrogen Flux	500 -1,000 mA/cm <sup>2</sup>	<b>750 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> for &gt;6,000 hrs</b>	High
Hydrogen Capacity	2-4 lb/day at 3,000 psi	<b>~0.8 lb/day</b>	Up to 1000 kg/day
Endurance Capability	1,000 hrs at 3,000 psi	<b>&gt;8,000 hrs at 3,000 psi</b>	>5 years
Compression Efficiency	<10 kWh/kg at 3,000 psi	<b>6-12 kWh/kg from &lt;30 to 3,000 psi</b>	6.2 kWh/kg from 300 to 12,500 psi



# Technology Challenges

- Cell Technology: Creep of cell materials (especially electrode support) increases resistance and power requirement
- Hydrogen backdiffusion through the membrane: reduces compression efficiency
- Seal degradation (time, T, compression cycling): higher operating temperature reduces cost, but limits life
- Stack Technology: Higher current density operation is limited by stack cooling strategy;  $>1,000$  mA/cm<sup>2</sup> needed to reduce capital cost
- Scale-up: cell area, stack height for 6-12 kpsi operation
- Manufacturing: tighter tolerances reduce yields and increase cost
- H<sub>2</sub> embrittlement and excessive yield of compression hardware



- Larger-area multi-cell stack technology development needed for greater capacity building block, longer-term endurance testing, innovative packaging
- Develop lower-cost protective coatings with desirable tolerances
- Develop hydrogen-resistant seal materials and designs with acceptable creep at higher operating temperatures
- Higher strength materials development needed for 6-12 kpsi operation (lower-cost support layers with higher yield strength and spring constant, engineered structure, ...)
- Develop membranes with lower H<sub>2</sub> diffusion (new materials, barrier layers with low electrical resistance)
- Develop robust, low-cost thermal and water management systems