

Complete Fiber/Copper Cable Solution for Long-Term Temperature and Pressure Measurement in Supercritical Reservoirs and EGS Wells

Project Officer: William Vandermeer

Total Project Funding: \$3,222,398

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Kendall Waterman

Draka Cableteq USA. Prysmian Group

Track 2

Geothermal energy production can be greatly aided by tools which give the operator the data they need to optimize the performance of the well, particularly the temperature over the length of the well and the pressure in the well.

This project supports an overall EGS R&D objective for Downhole Tools for depths of 10,000 meters and 300°C.

The cable development provide a distributed fiber optic temperature sensor as well as a power/communication link to a downhole discrete P/T tool.

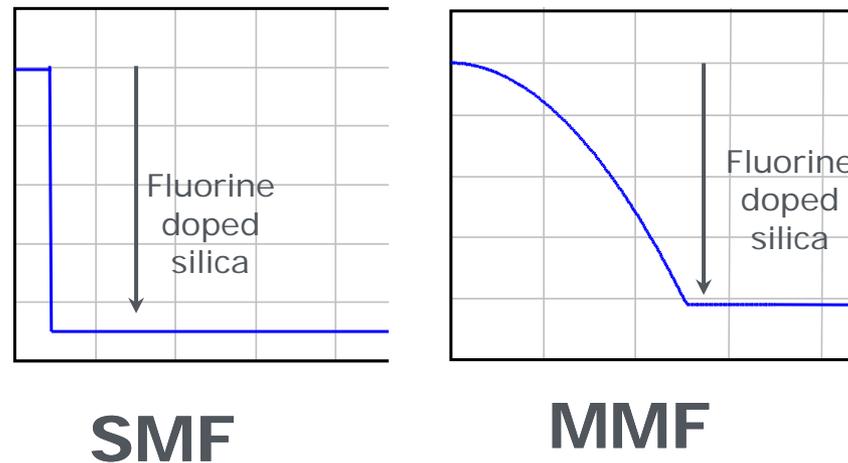
EGS Challenges for Cable Performance:

- Very high temperatures
- Highly corrosive environment
- High pressure
- Self supporting deployment

Innovative Aspect: Unique Glass Chemistry Process

- Highly tuned and controlled, optimized glass chemistry using “down doped fluorine” profiles,
- Industrial manufacturing thanks to Proprietary PVCD process

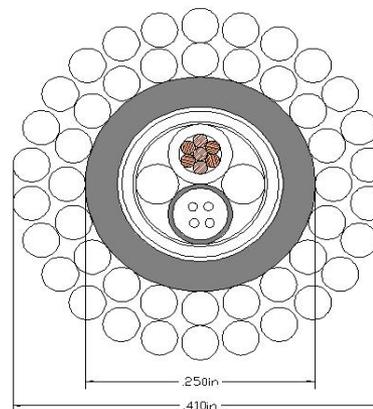
→ Enhanced tolerance to hydrogen darkening for both SMF and MMF



Innovative Aspect: Unique Cable Design Elements

- Non-conventional gel for fiber support
 - Unsuccessful in finding traditional gel for 300°C
 - Developed non-conventional solution
 - Non-Provisional patent filed in Feb. 2013
- 300°C insulation
 - Unique material developed by DuPont
- Long length reinforced
 - Armor needed for long self supporting lengths (> 10,000 ft.)

Cable Design



Current cable design per
TA – 121511

- Uses 1 conductor with the tube/armor as the return
- All polymeric material is DuPont Ectreme polymer
- Metal tube wall thickness is currently 0.035", this could be reduced to 0.028 if larger conductor is needed.

Phase 1 – Optical Fiber Development

- Task 1: Fiber Development
 - Made numerous (> 20) preforms with varied chemistries
 - Developed model for hydrogen test results
- Task 2: Coatings Development
 - Numerous fiber draw trials with several unique coating chemistries from Tetramer Technologies and compared to commercially available high temperature coatings
- Task 3: Fiber Testing and Validation
 - Tested for heat aging with TGA techniques
 - Examined effects of optical fiber strength with H₂O exposure
 - Examined performance with and without carbon coating

Phase 2 – Cable Development

- Task 1: High Temperature Fiber in Metal Tube (FIMT)
 - Explored options for high temperature gel
- Task 2: High Temperature Cable Development
 - Tested heat aging of 300°C insulation
- Task 3: Tube Encapsulated Cable (TEC) Development
 - Modeled maximum self supporting length.

Phase 3 – Cable Testing and Validation

- Task 1: Short-term Downhole Test (14 days)
 - Work with installation specialist to plan well-site equipment

- Task 2: Medium-term Downhole Test (1 month)
 - Begin DTS and pressure monitoring and work out data collection methods.
 - Evaluate performance of fiber

- Task 3: Long-term Downhole test (3 months)
 - Evaluate DTS and pressure performance over longer period

Phase 1 – Optical Fiber Development (Since May 2011)

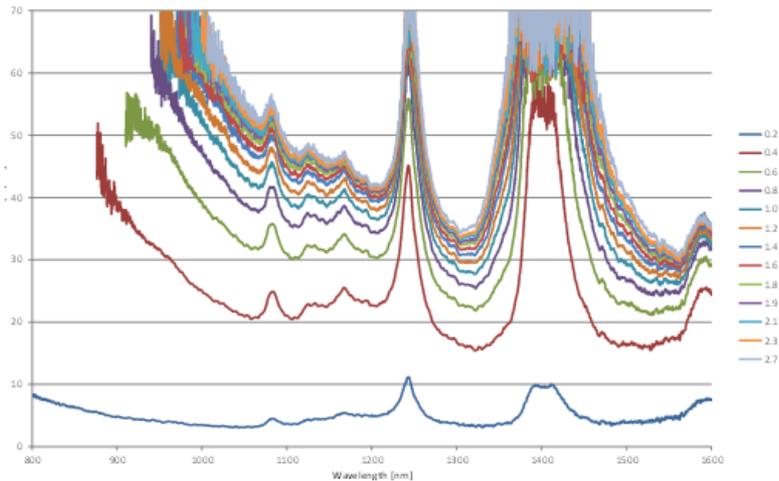
- Developed model for hydrogen test results
- Selected best 300°C rated coating.
- Demonstrated carbon coating not necessary at 300°C
- Completed 4 rounds of H₂ testing at Sandia Labs

Phase 2 – Cable Development (Since May 2011)

- Produced first trial lengths with armor
- Completed all electric 400°C cable
- Did not find a conventional gel for the fiber in metal tube (FIMT)
- Developed non-conventional gel solution (patent filed)
- Determined need for additional reinforcement and found solution

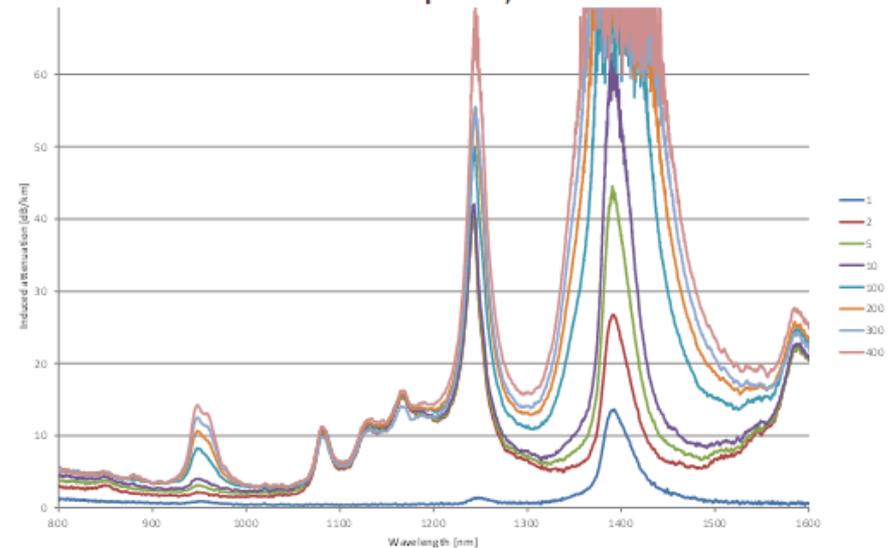
Germanium doped MMF – Attenuation vs. Wavelength by Time

- Laboratory: Sandia Laboratories
- Exposure conditions: 300°C, 4400 psi 5% H₂ in Air, 220 psi H₂ (= 15 bar H₂)
- **Result: high H₂ Induced Losses across entire spectrum in very short time, only 2.7 hours**



Fluorine doped MMF – Attenuation vs. Wavelength by Time

- Laboratory: Sandia Laboratories
- Exposure conditions: 300°C, 4400 psi 5% H₂ in Air, 220 psi H₂ (= 15 bar H₂)
- **Much lower effect, especially below 1200 nm, even at extended time period, 400 hours**



Milestone or Go/No-Go	Status & Expected Completion Date
Complete two long cables (primary and backup)	April 2013
Install cable in well and start monitoring	May 2013
Complete three month well monitoring	September 2013
Complete Final Report	December 2013
Begin Cable Commercialization	End 2013

- Fiber development and new products being commercialized
- Cable manufacture has been a challenge.
- Cable development is nearly complete.
- Prototype for down-hole trials nearly complete.
- Final arrangements for down-hole trial need to be completed very soon
- Well monitoring to be completed by September

Timeline:

Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Actual Start Date	Current End Date
1/29/2010	3/31/2013	1/29/2010	9/30/2013

Budget:

Federal Share	Cost Share	Planned Expenses to Date	Actual Expenses to Date	Value of Work Completed to Date	Funding needed to Complete Work
3,222,398	1,001,993	4,224,391	3,040,824	3,040,824	800,279

- A special report was submitted notifying DOE about project delays due to cable production problems.
- DOE extended the project completion date from March 31, 2013 to September, 2013.