

Joe Poindexter H<sub>2</sub> Products Manager

## SYSTEM INTEGRATION CHALLENGES



© Teledyne Energy Systems Inc.





## **Teledyne Energy Systems**

- Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Teledyne Technologies
- 122,000 ft<sup>2</sup> in two facilities
- Manufacturing, Engineering, Design, Sales & Service / Support
- State-of-the-art Thermoelectric, Hydrogen & Fuel Cell production
- 120 Employees



**TELEDYNE TECHNOLOGIES:** Thousands Oaks, California







- Concerns of dropping below certain power levels
  - o Manifold Electrolysis
    - Constant amount of Stray Current
    - Low level production, cannot dilute the opposite gas, combustible mixture
    - Must shut down current to the cell stack below that point
  - $\circ$  Auxiliary Power
    - Must have minimum power levels for control power
    - Some systems need power for electrolyte pumps
    - UPS for control power minimum, possibly for pumps for short periods
- Effect on Efficiency
  - Electrolyte Temp Intermittent Operation may allow to cool





- Rapid changes in power level/gas generation could cause problems with
  - Differential Pressure control
  - Electrolyte Level control
  - System Pressure
    - need back pressure regulators to avoid dropping to low
- Power Level above maximum
  - Must Size the system properly for power input
  - o Charge large battery







- Operational Mode
  - Industrial Applications Demand Following
  - Renewable Energy Applications Load Following
  - Different type of control is needed
  - $\circ~$  Setting of Controls
- Maintenance
  - Continuous Operation Less Stress on Mechanical Parts
  - Intermittent More Pressure and Thermal Cycling, reduces Life of Parts







NERGY SYSTEMS Everywhere**you**look



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**Efficiency Balances** 

- Caustic, Higher Temperature, Oxygenated, Electrochemical Reactions Prime for Corrosion Ο
- Must use materials that can withstand- Higher Cost Ο
  - Low Carbon Stainless Steel •
  - Nickel or Nickel Plated •
  - Advanced Polymers

**Concentration Gradient** 

Instrumentation and Controls, Vessels, Piping more specialized

Too much concentration difference drives efficiency • down

Higher Temperature – More Efficient but Faster Corrosion

Too much mixing of electrolyte from both sides ٠ causes high h2-in-o2 and o2-in-h2



MANAGING CONCENTRATED KOH



- Must have special or complex sealing methods
  - KOH has a very low surface tension, it can leak through very small gaps
  - Cannot use NPT pipe thread in KOH loop
  - Careful around any electrical connections
  - Magnetically-Coupled Pumps
  - O-rings and Gaskets material must be compatible











- Must ensure no high-pressure leaks and that the system is shielded for safety
- Must use care when handling for maintenance
  - o PPE
  - Neutralizing solutions available
  - Proper Mixing Water first









## MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES

- Must Use 316L Stainless
  Threads and hardware gall easily
- Pressure vessels
  - ASME Stamped
  - o Quality Control system
- Skilled welders





- Details must be cleaned very well
  - O2 Cleaning
  - Contamination
  - Welding Properly
  - Sealing Properly
- Skilled Assemblers
  - Precision work to avoid leaks
  - Proper swaging of compression fittings





## **OTHER CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES**

- Differential Pressure control system must be more complex
  - Must keep Hydrogen and Oxygen near same pressure 0
  - If Electrical, must use UPS 0



**Differential Pressure Control System** 

- Configuration: Must keep cell stack flooded so phase separation best to be above
- Heat Control
  - Balance between current density/size and cooling method
  - Heat Exchangers 0
- DC Electrical bussing becomes more difficult with size
  - Bus Bars vs. Cable  $\cap$
  - More Space 0
  - Cost of Copper Ο
- Water Purity Level not as high as PEM
  - Research into contaminated water, sea water





