

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
**Combined Heat and Power/District Energy (CHP/DE) System  
Portfolio Meeting**  
(June 7-9, 2022)

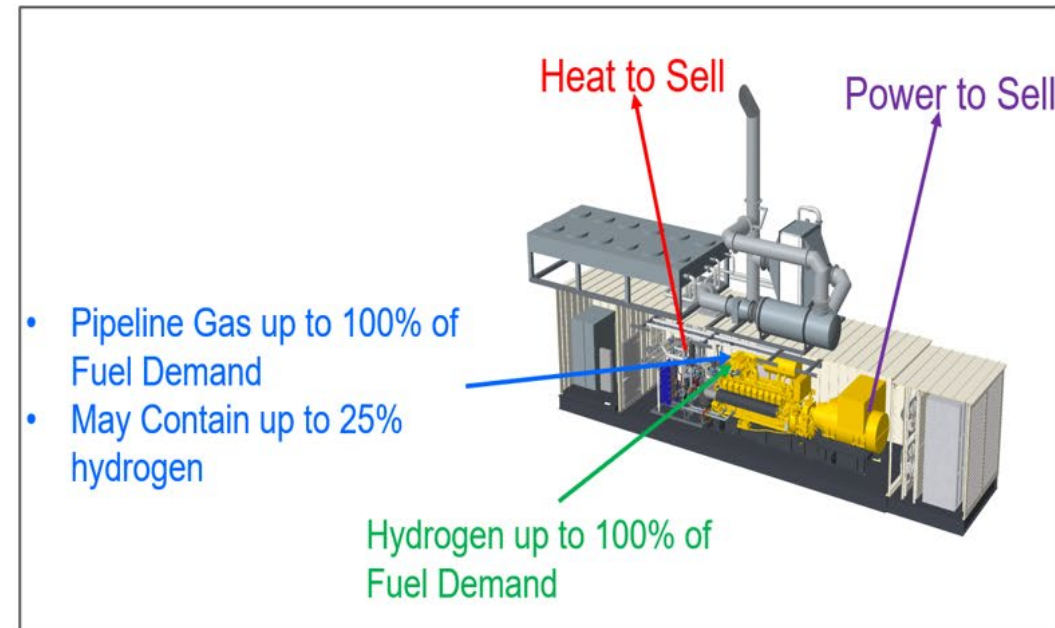
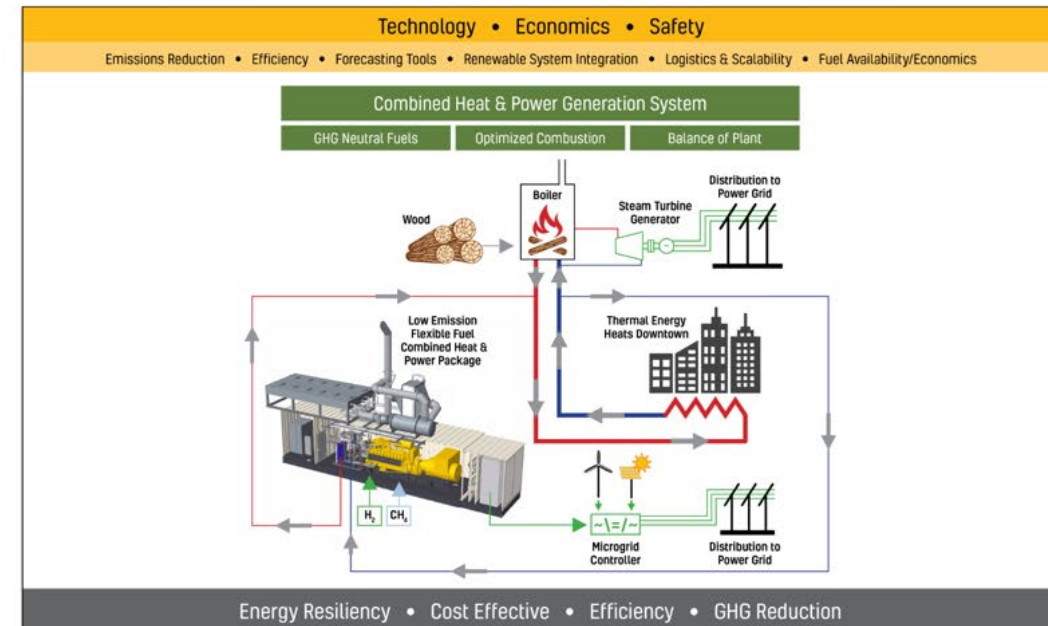
## Flexible Natural Gas/Hydrogen Engine for Combined Heat and Power Applications

Flexible Natural Gas/Hydrogen CHP System Development & Demonstration  
(DOE Award: DE-EE009422)

Principal Investigator & presenter:

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# AGENDA

- **Program overview & objectives**
- **External partners**
- **Single-cylinder engine testing results**
- **Demo site and preliminary design**
- **Significant results and next steps**

# DOE-Caterpillar CHP-Hydrogen(H2) Program

**Duration:** April 2021 – March 2024 (three years)



**Budget:** \$12M (Caterpillar share: \$7.45M, DOE share: \$4.55M)

## **Key deliverables:**

- Development of a hydrogen/natural gas flex-fuel 2.0 eMW CHP genset capable of running on 100% natural gas, 100% hydrogen, or up to 25% hydrogen + natural gas blends (volume basis), and
- Demonstration in a renewably fueled district energy (DE) system.  
Capability to automatically and seamlessly:
  - respond to variations in electric power generation by the renewable(s) to maintain base-load operation of the facility, and
  - serve as a back-up generation asset for the grid

# DOE-Caterpillar CHP-H2 Program:

## Two Major Development Components

### Flex-fuel Gas Genset System Development

A natural gas genset that also runs on:

- Blends of hydrogen + natural gas,
- 100% hydrogen,
- Meets performance requirements, and is
- Emission and safety compliant

### Power Electronics and Controls Development

- Enable CHP system integration into and coordination with the District Energy system power microgrid
- Compliance with grid/micro-grid codes
- Remote asset monitoring
- Cybersecurity

# Program Team (External Partners)

## ➤ District Energy St. Paul (DESP), MN

- Flex-fuel CHP power system demonstration site
  - We are finalizing the subcontractor agreement
  - We plan on leaving the containerized CHP plant for DESP to use after the demo is complete

## ➤ National Renewable Energy Lab

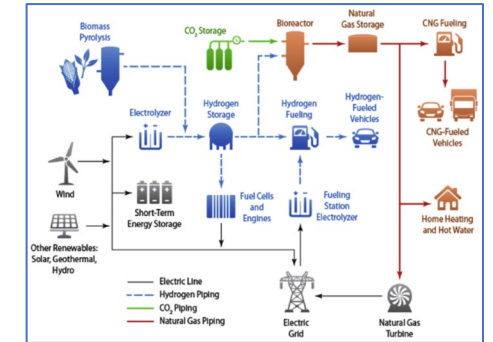
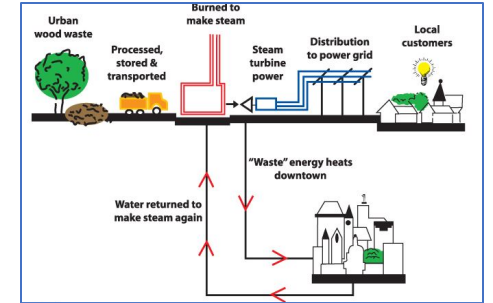
- Hydrogen safety/regulations experts, GHG & TEA analysis
  - Kickoff meeting held, planning to meet regularly

## ➤ McKinstry, LLC, and Ziegler Cat®

- Demo site permitting, preparation, and equipment installation
  - We are finalizing the subcontractor agreement w/McKinstry
  - Cat® dealer will help service the genset/CHP plant as needed

## ➤ Linde/PRAXAIR

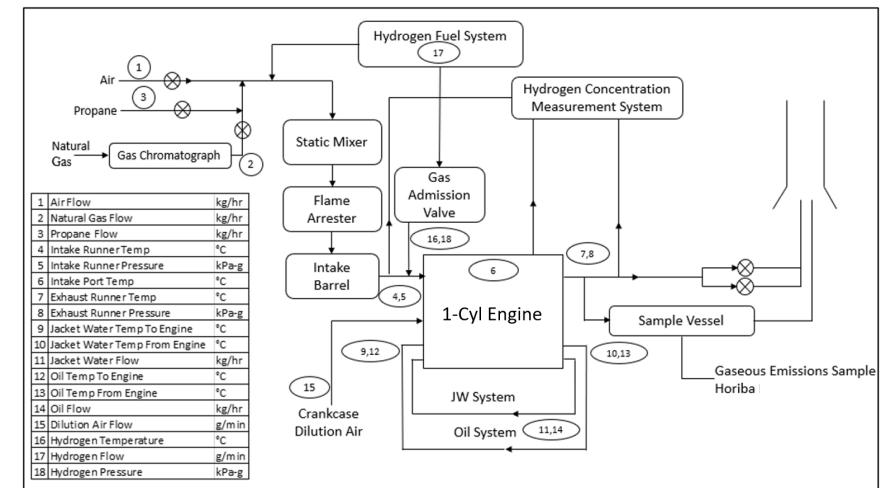
- Green hydrogen fuel and fueling infrastructure supplier



# 1-cyl Engine Test Cell Prep: Engine Testing with H2 and NG+H2

## ➤ Key Systems and Considerations Put in Place

- Test cell & hydrogen supply systems
- High speed data acquisition systems
- H<sub>2</sub> port fuel injection system
- Generic instrumentation: Pr, Temp, Flow-rates
- Engine H<sub>2</sub> concentration measurement in test cell
- Engine exhaust emission measurement systems
- Instrumentation for complete JW & Oil HR measurement
- Lube oil quality evaluation plan
- Engine flame arresters
- Component temperature measurement
- Test cell safeties/trainings
- H<sub>2</sub> Safety: Regulations & Certification Requirements



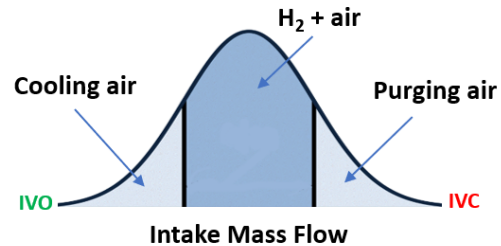
A schematic of the single cylinder engine laboratory.



# 100% Hydrogen Port Fuel Injection (PFI)

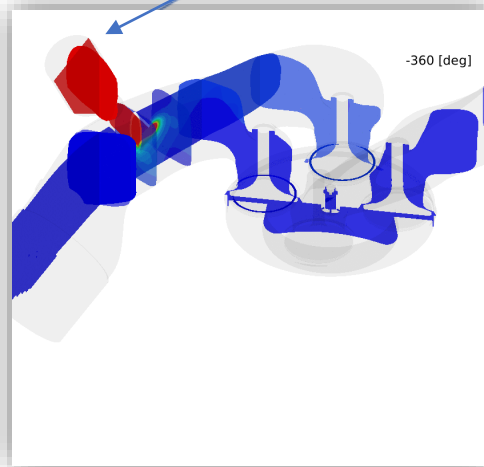
- Hydrogen port fuel injection through –
  - The side of cylinder head into intake port, and
  - Intake runner
- H<sub>2</sub>+NG blends will use modified premixed or fumigated system
- 1D/3D CFD simulation used to optimize design

## “Hydrogen Sandwich” approach



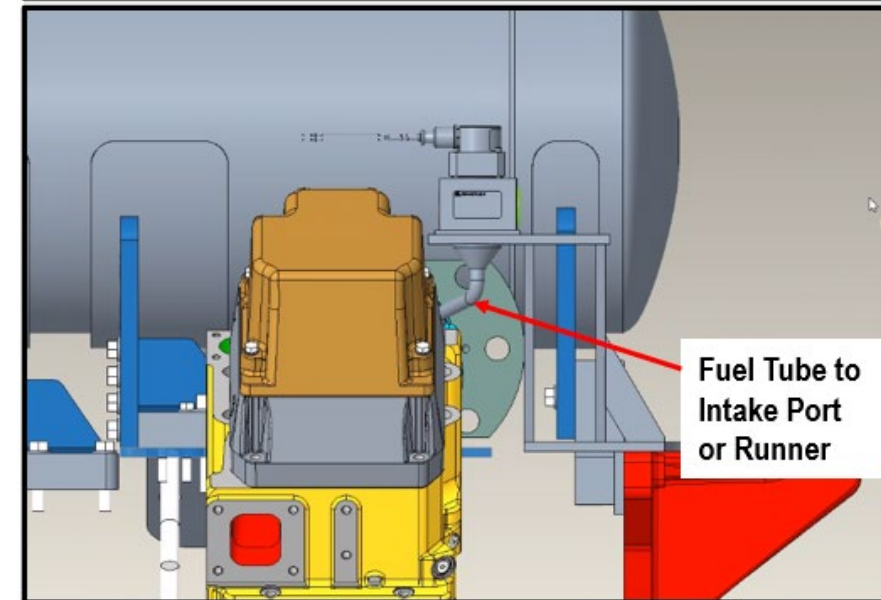
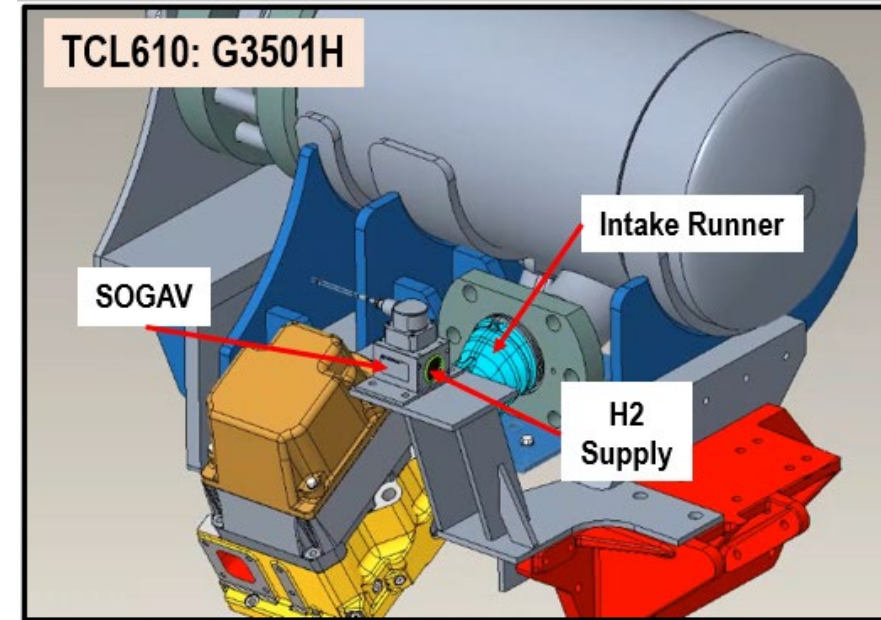
1. Cooling air mixes with exhaust residuals and cools off combustion chamber
2. Hydrogen is injected
3. Hydrogen injection stops, intake runner purged

## H<sub>2</sub> Injector (GAV)



- Minimum leftover hydrogen in intake port with acceptable in-cylinder mixing

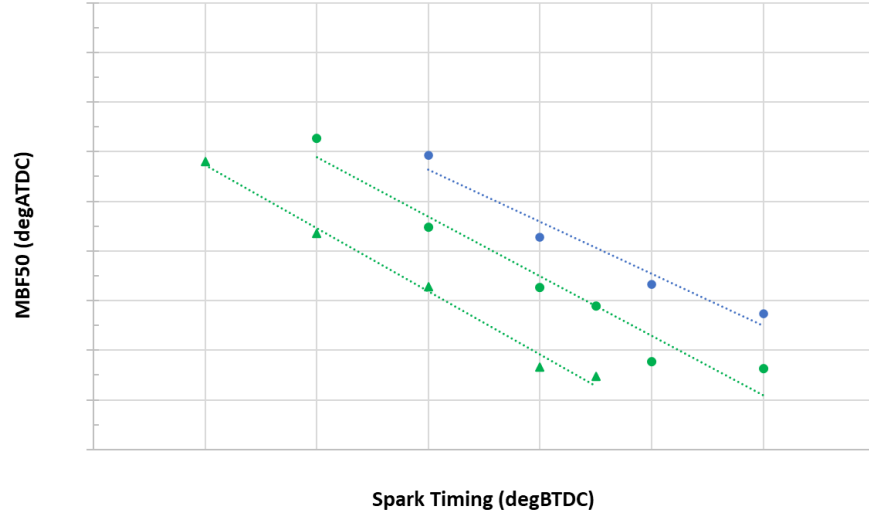
## TCL610: G3501H



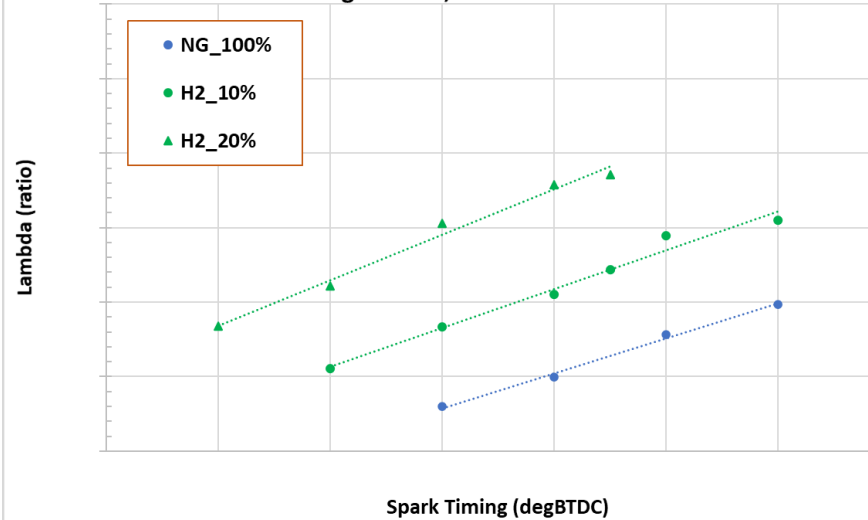
# G3501 Flex-fuel Engine Performance with Hydrogen + NG Blends

Spark timing sweeps with NG and NG+H2 blends - fixed engine out NOx and engine load

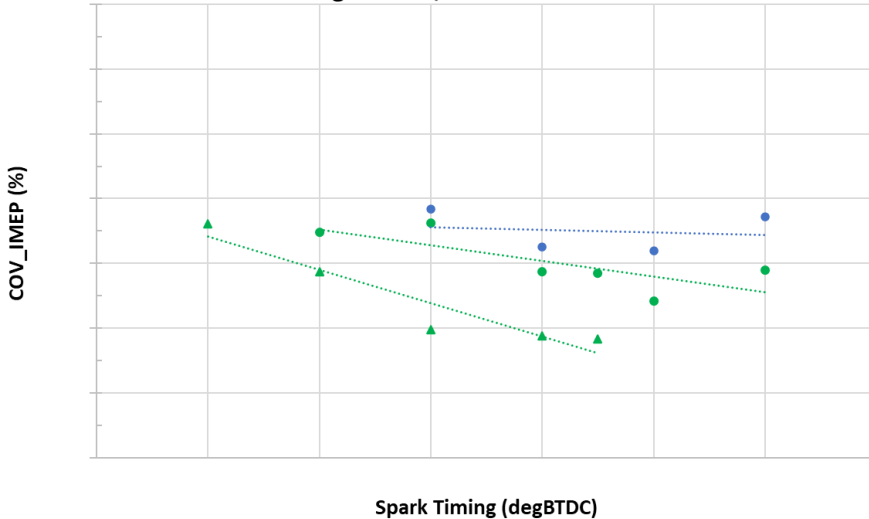
50% Fuel Burn Location, NG vs Blends  
Fixed NOx and engine load, 0-10-20% H2 blends in NG



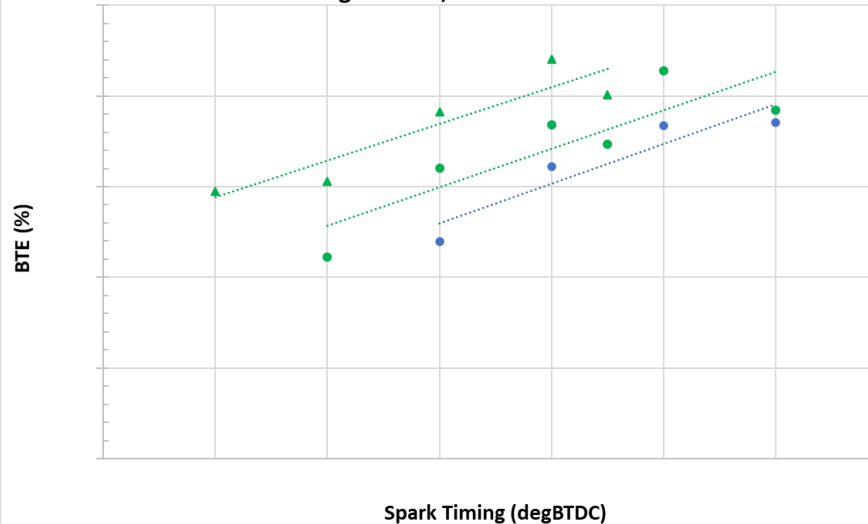
Air-Fuel Mixture Stoichiometry, NG vs Blends  
Fixed NOx and engine load, 0-10-20% H2 blends in NG



Engine Combustion Stability, NG vs Blends  
Fixed NOx and engine load, 0-10-20% H2 blends in NG



Engine Brake Thermal Effy, NG vs Blends  
Fixed NOx and engine load, 0-10-20% H2 blends in NG

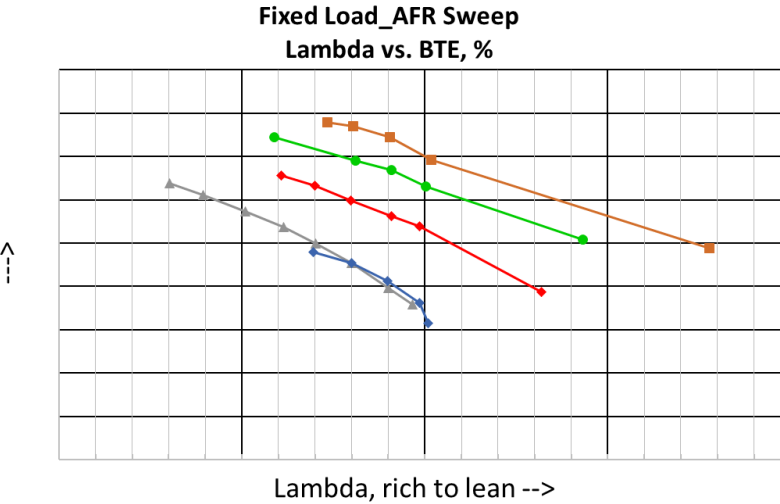
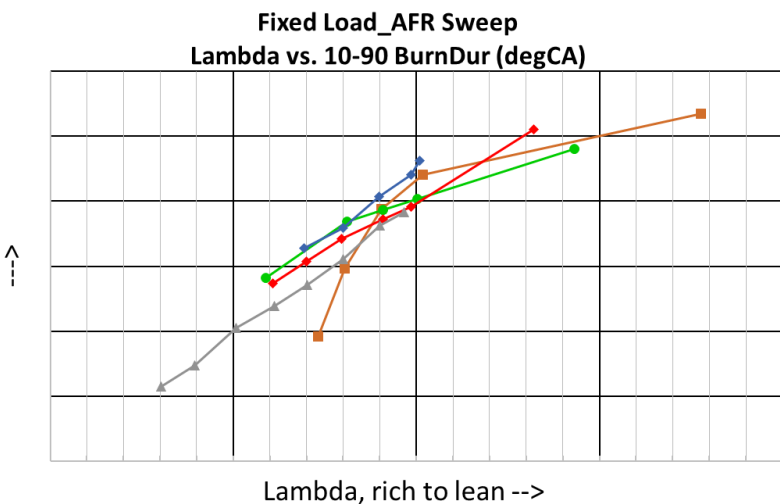
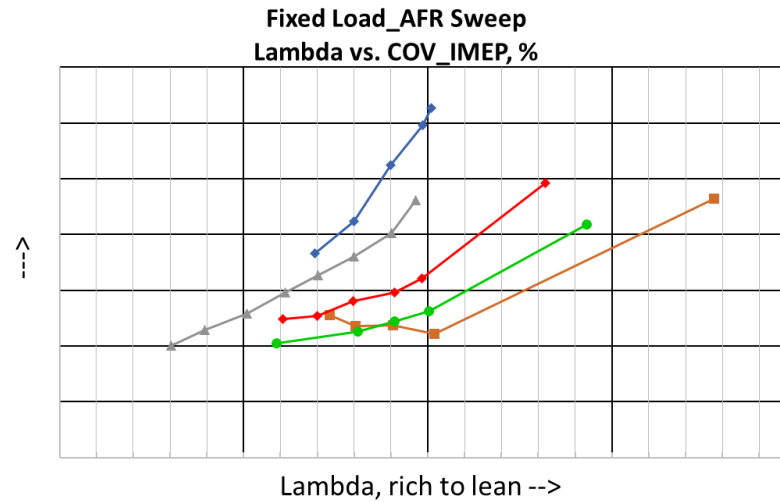
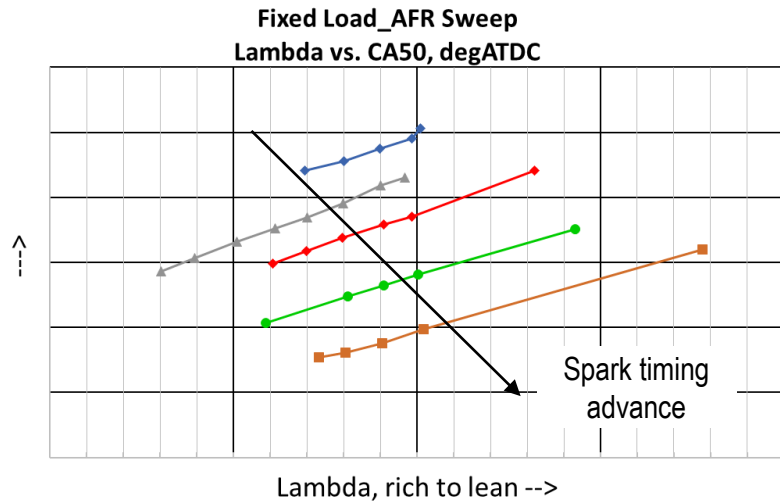


- Preliminary testing
- Faster combustion with increase in hydrogen conc., as shown by CA50 advance
- In order to maintain same NOx level as NG, spark timing retard required to keep same CA50, when running with hydrogen
- At a given spark timing, leaner AFR required with H2+NG vs with NG alone
- Similar, high BTE with NG+H2 blends as with NG alone



# G3501 Flex-fuel Engine Performance with 100% Hydrogen

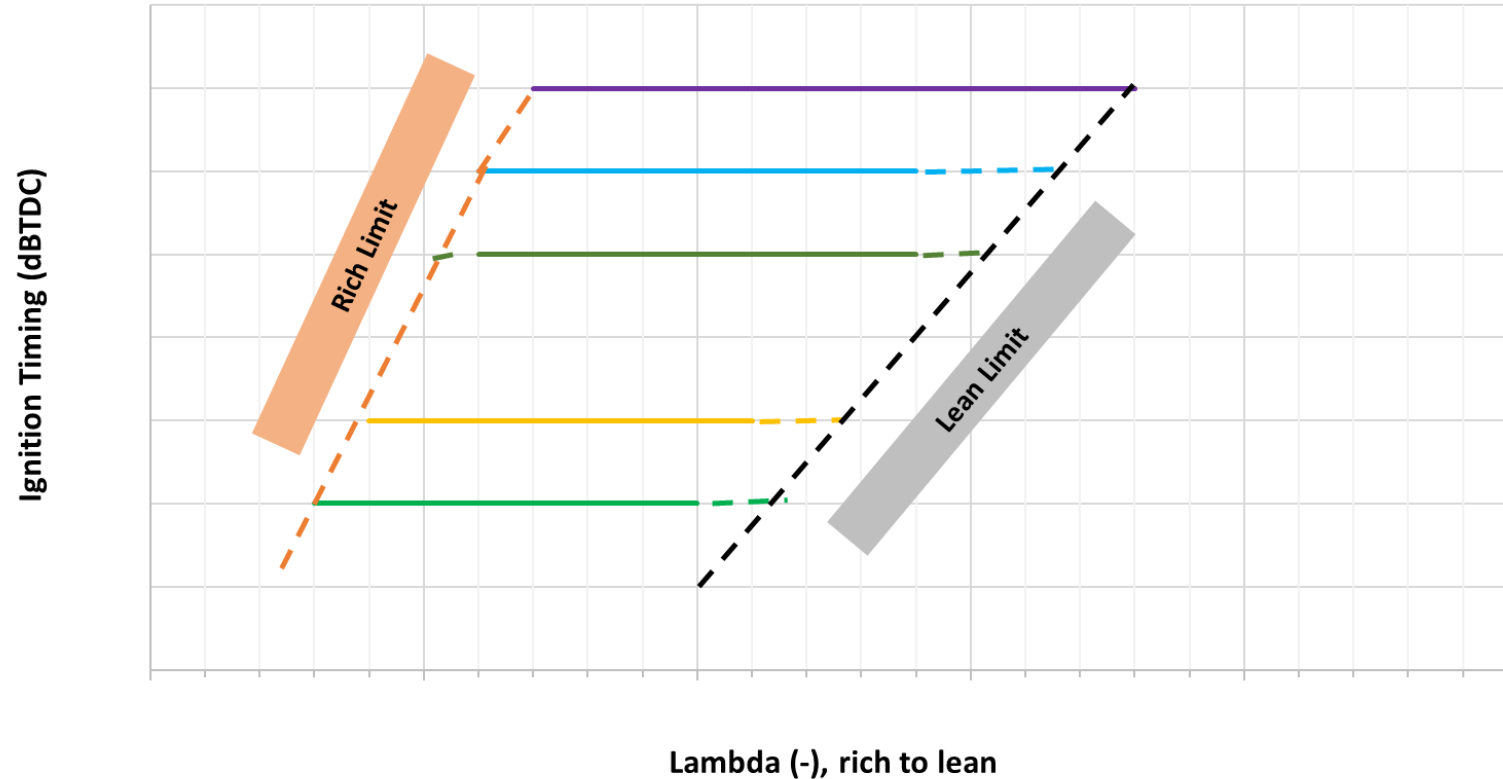
*Fixed load AFR (or Lambda) sweep at various spark timings*



- Faster combustion with richer lambda, as shown with CA50 advance and shorter 10-90 burn duration
- 10-90 burn duration trends down with richer lambda, but not always w/retarded ST
- More stable combustion with richer AFR and advanced spark timings
- Higher BTE, as with more advanced spark timing, is possible with retarded spark timing and richer AFR, to some extent

# G3501 Hydrogen Engine Performance with 100% Hydrogen

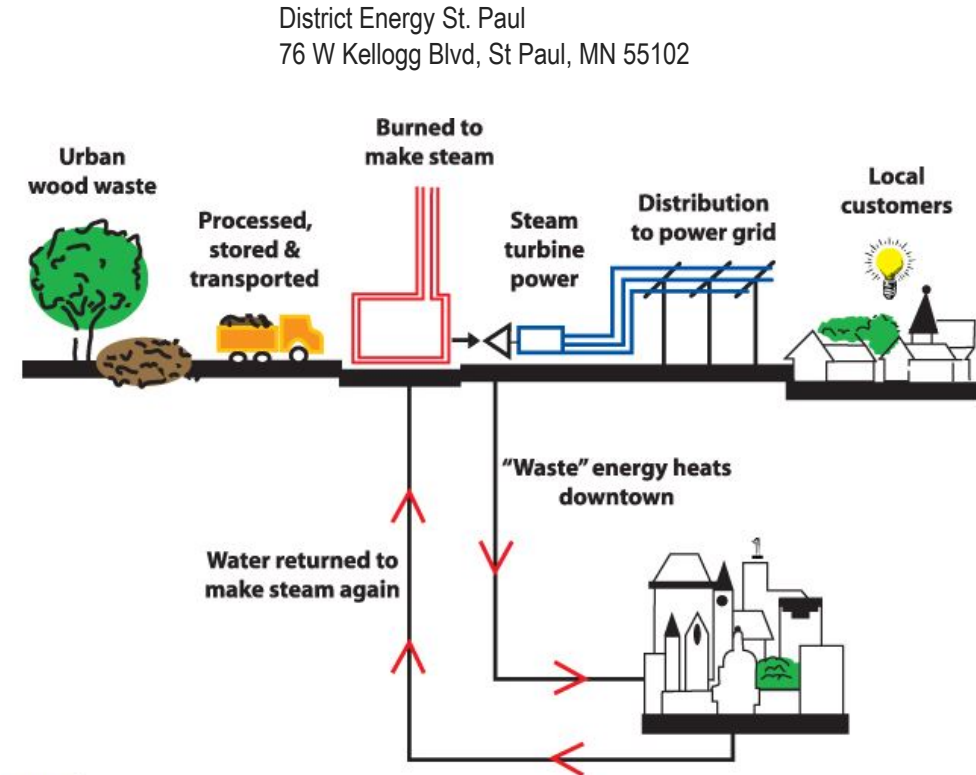
100% H<sub>2</sub> Engine Testing: Lambda Range vs Timing  
(Fixed Engine Load)



- Engine operating space mapping has been done, or operating boundaries have been defined based on detailed single-cylinder engine testing
- Rich and lean limit boundaries are shown here for various engine operating conditions of spark timings and lambda (or AFRs) at a given engine load

# Demo Site: District Energy St. Paul (DESP)

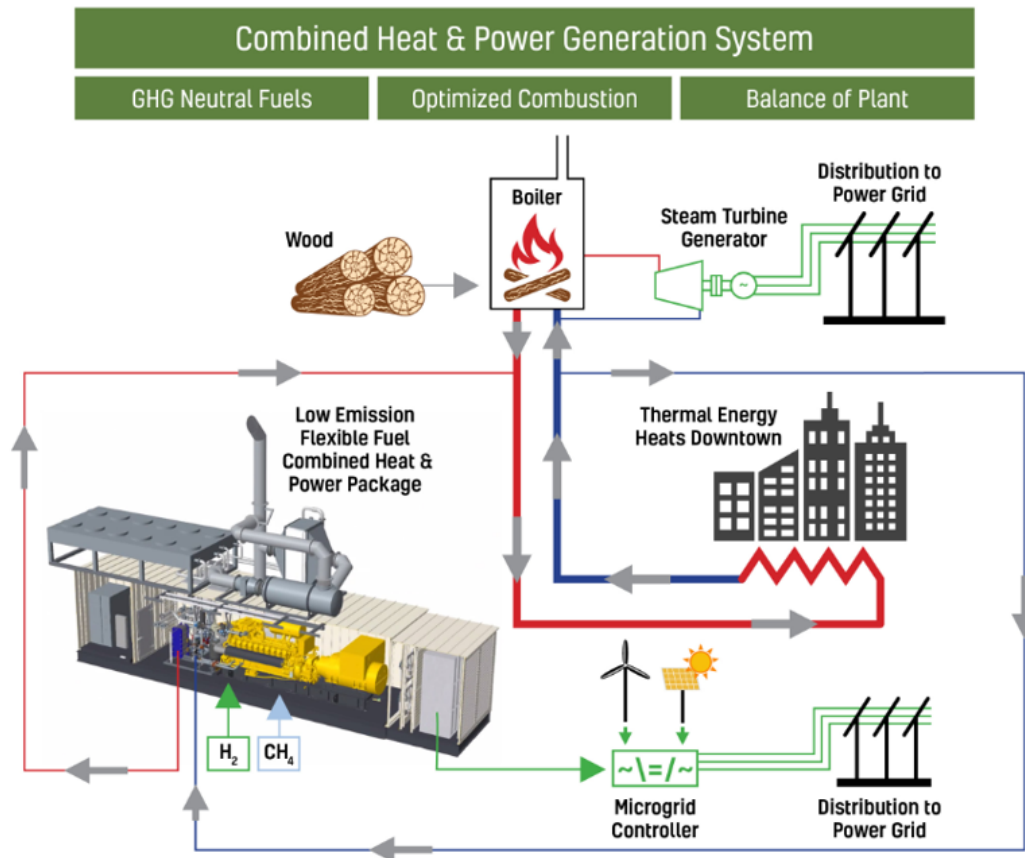
- Nonprofit utility, country's best-known district energy systems
- Biomass-fired CHP, and solar thermal
  - Tree waste from over 115 communities in 22 counties - 260,000 tons of wood chips/year
  - Produces approximately 33 megawatts of electricity and up to 65 megawatts of heat
  - Helps avoid 100,000 tons of carbon each year
- Currently cools 119 buildings and heats 200 buildings and 398 single-family homes in downtown Saint Paul and adjacent areas through a network of hot and cool water distribution pipes
- The district heating network uses medium temperature (180 degF to 250 degF) hot water (typical hot supply at 210 degF & return 140 degF)



# District Energy St. Paul, Demo Config: Integrated Cat® DOE CHP-H2 System

Technology • Economics • Safety

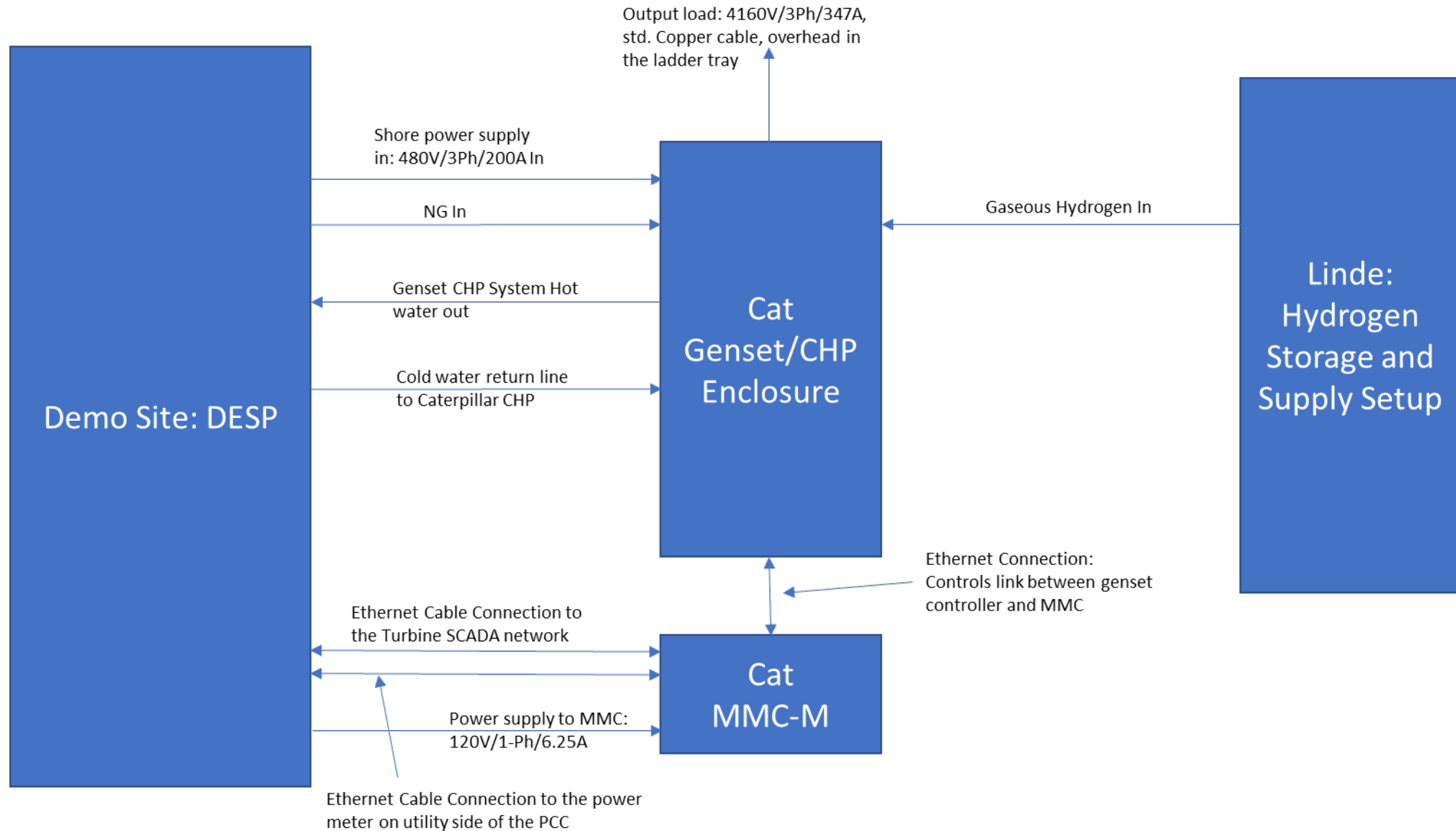
Emissions Reduction • Efficiency • Forecasting Tools • Renewable System Integration • Logistics & Scalability • Fuel Availability/Economics



Energy Resiliency • Cost Effective • Efficiency • GHG Reduction

- 2.0 eMW flex-fuel (hydrogen and natural gas) genset and CHP system in an enclosure (aka CHPH2 system)
  - CHPH2 system will connect to the same power and heat network as the existing wood fired steam turbine
- Site load will be able to accept all the power and heat we can deliver from the CHPH2 system, even in summer months

# Cat<sup>®</sup> DOE CHPH2 Demo Site High-level Schematic

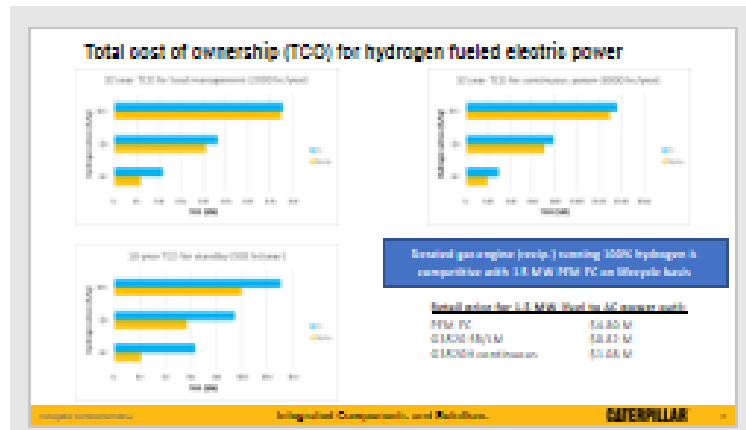
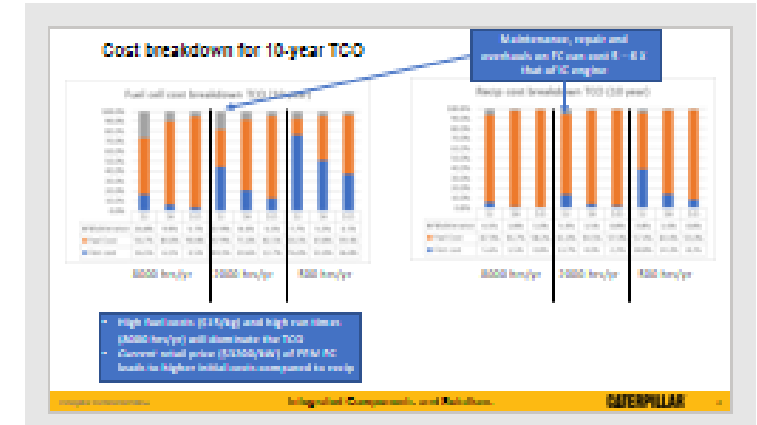




# Preliminary Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Analysis: Hydrogen PEM Fuel Cell vs. Reciprocating Engine (Recip.)

## Inputs for TCO Analysis

- The total cost of ownership (TCO) over 10 years for hydrogen fueled electric power are estimated:
  - Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cell (FC)
  - G3520 long stroke engine with modifications (Recip)
- Customer requirement of zero GHG emissions at point of generation
- Hydrogen fuel price range: \$2/kg (futuristic) - \$15/kg (current production)
- Electric power applications:
  - Continuous power (8000 hours/year)
  - Load management (2000 hours/year)
  - Standby (500 hours/year)
- Waste heat recovery is not considered in this initial analysis and not suited for PEM FC
- Current PEM fuel cell prices are high and are projected to decrease to < \$400/kW
- TCO comparison for both technologies (PEM FC, recip) will continue to mature throughout the DCPEM and CHPH2 programs



## Summary of Findings

- The gas engine modified for running on hydrogen (40% derate) is **competitive** against the **current** PEM FC from a TCO perspective
- Buying decisions are not solely driven by TCO. Other influences could be driven by regulatory requirements.
- TCO comparison for both technologies (PEM FC, recip) will continue to mature throughout the DCPEM and CHPH2 programs

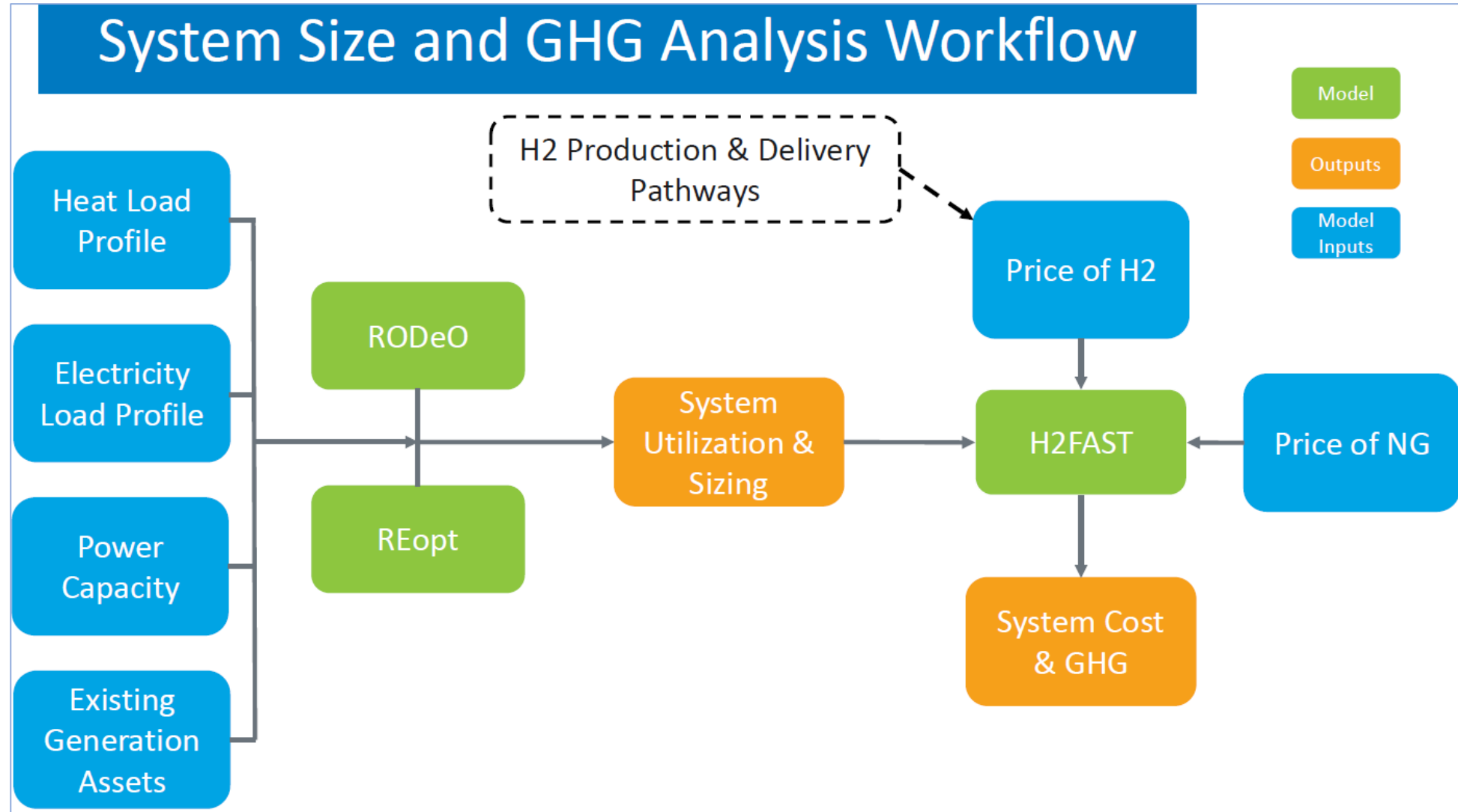
# National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) Proposal For The Technoeconomic & GHG Impact Analysis (TEA/GHG)

- The TEA will focus on the economic and environmental benefits of a flexible fuel (NG/H2/mix) combustion engine with several infrastructure options including Combined Heat & Power or CHP, renewable power sources, energy storage system (ESS), renewable hydrogen production & storage, fuel cells, micro-grid, etc.
- Analysis will encompass the system sizing, economics and emissions impacts of different system designs and operation modes.

## Specific aspects that the analysis will include:

- Regionalized analysis of wind/solar resources and impact on H2 production
- Regional and seasonal variation of natural gas prices, high/low spark spread
- Impact on operation and costs with different NG/H2 blends
- Performance and reliability of onsite infrastructure and power production to meet targeted load profiles
- Potential for grid auxiliary services on top of primary demands
- Cost optimization to minimize total system cost and maximizing GHG reduction

# System Sizing & TEA/GHG Analysis Workflow w/various Required Inputs & Tools



# Significant Results To-date

## Following Subtasks and Milestones Have Been Completed:

- Single cylinder test cell upgrades and testing with hydrogen
- Design and development of Port Fuel Injection (PFI) for hydrogen
- Prototype engine hardware preparation and procurement
- Multi-cylinder Test Cell upgrades for hydrogen
- Initial H<sub>2</sub>/NG combustion controls logic developed for use on both single- and multi-cylinder prototype engine

# SOPO Tasks: Plan for Rest of 2022

**We plan to work on following tasks to accomplish other goals of the program:**

- Single cylinder engine testing on NG and NG+H2 blends
- Engine Controls Dev for hydrogen/natural gas/and blends
- Prototype flex-fuel engine/genset build and instrumentation
- Flex-fuel genset development - steady state and controls work
- Genset Transient/Controls work
- Power electronics and Controls sub-systems development for the demo unit
- Get permits for the demo site
- Define various CHP scenarios, develop tools for TEA



**THANKS!**