Integrated Vehicle Thermal Management – Combining Fluid Loops in Electric Drive Vehicles

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Overview

Timeline
Project Start Date: FY11
Project End Date: FY14
Percent Complete: 50%

Budget
Total Project Funding (to date): $1225 K *
Funding received prior to FY13: $750 K *
Funding for FY13: $475 K *
Partner In-Kind Cost Share: $300 K **

* Shared funding between VTO programs: VSST, APEEM, ESS
** Not included in total

Barriers (to EDVs)

• Cost – cooling loop components
• Life – thermal effects on energy storage system (ESS) and advanced power electronics and electric motors (APEEM)
• Weight – additional cooling loops in electric drive vehicles (EDVs)

Partners

• Interactions/ collaborations
  – Delphi
  – Halla Visteon Climate Control
  – Magna Powertrain - Engineering Center Steyr
  – Ford

• Project Lead
  – National Renewable Energy Laboratory
**Relevance - The PHEV/EV Thermal Challenge**

- **Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and electric vehicles (EVs) have increased vehicle thermal management complexity**
  - Separate coolant loop for advanced power electronics and electric motors (APEEM)
  - Thermal requirements for energy storage systems (ESS)
- **Additional thermal components result in higher costs**
- **Multiple cooling loops lead to reduced range due to**
  - Increased weight
  - Energy required to meet thermal requirements
Relevance

• **Support broad VTO efforts**
  o DOE VTO MYPP
    - “.....development of advanced vehicles and components to maximize vehicle efficiency .....”
    - This project seeks to maximize vehicle efficiency by developing combined cooling loop solutions to reduce parasitic power, improved battery temperature, and increase range.
  o President’s EV-Everywhere Grand Challenge
    - A goal of EV Everywhere is to have automobile manufacturers produce a car with sufficient range that meets consumer’s daily transportation needs.
    - This project is researching techniques to reduce vehicle thermal management power and improve range.

• **Task Objective**
  o Collaborate with industry partners to research the synergistic benefits of combining thermal management systems in vehicles with electric powertrains
  o Solve vehicle-level heat transfer problems, which will enable acceptance of electric drive vehicles
Approach/Strategy

• **Research benefits** of combining EV thermal management systems
• **Develop solutions** to combine vehicle-level cooling systems
• **Improve vehicle performance** (fuel use or EV range) and reduce cost
• **Reduce APEEM coolant loop temperature** (to less than 105°C) without requiring a dedicated system
Overall Approach

• Build a 1-D thermal model (using KULI software)
• Conduct bench tests to verify performance and identify viable hardware solutions
• Collaborate with automotive manufacturers and suppliers on a vehicle-level project
Approach/Strategy - Integration Between Vehicle Technology Programs

Hybrid Electric Systems
Dave Howell – Team Lead

Vehicle Systems
Lee Slezak
David Anderson

Energy Storage
Tien Duong
Brian Cunningham
Peter Faguy

Power Electronics & Electric Motors
Susan Rogers
Steven Boyd

Electric range and fuel consumption

Battery temperature and life

APEEM temperatures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month / Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Sept/12      | Milestone • Identified advantages of combining fluid loops and strategies for bench testing  
**Go/No-Go** • Based on the successful outcome of analysis of the thermal management system concepts, build a bench test facility to evaluate combined cooling loop strategies |
| Sept/13      | Milestone • Evaluate combined cooling loop system performance during cooling mode using bench testing  
**Go/No-Go** • Based on bench test results, design a vehicle-level test that can demonstrate vehicle system level performance using a combined cooling loop system |
Accomplishments

Improvements to Baseline Models (March/12 – March/13)

- **Improved air conditioning (A/C) compressor control**
  - Blower speed
  - Compressor rpm
  - The control state is determined by the ambient environment, target temperatures, and the component temperatures.
  - Developed control logic with anti-windup
- **Added inverter model (based on feedback from Electrical and Electronics Technical Team)**
- **Updated battery thermal model based on review with the NREL ESS group (battery properties and thermal performance)**
- **Added ability to heat battery coolant to improve warmup**
- **Created component models for cabin heater core and electrical fluid heater for cabin heating**
- **Built a cabin heating loop**
- **Added controls for battery temperature**
  - Pump speed
  - Valve position
  - Developed control logic with anti-windup proportional integrator controllers
EV Baseline Thermal Management System

- Multiple operating modes
EV Baseline Thermal Management System

• **Hot Cooldown**

- Battery or ESS cooled with chiller
- Cabin cooling provided with conventional A/C system
EV Baseline Thermal Management System

- **Mild Cooldown**

Vehicle Cabin

- Battery or ESS cooled with radiator
**EV Baseline Thermal Management System**

- **Cold Warmup**

  - Electric heater for cabin heating (5-7 kW for small vehicle)
  - Electric heater for battery or ESS heating (1 kW)
Baseline EV Thermal Management System

EV Test Case at Four Ambient Temperatures

- 24-kWh EV
- Environment
  - 43°C, 35°C, 30°C, 25°C
  - 25% relative humidity
  - 850 W/m²
- 0% recirculation
- US06 drive cycle
- Cooldown simulation from a hot soak
- ESS – cooling loop with chiller and low temperature radiator
- Waste heat load from FASTSim simulations
Baseline System

Total Vehicle Thermal Management Power Including Compressor, Fans, Blowers, Pumps

- Hotter ambient temperatures require more power.
- Power drops off when battery cell temperature reaches control level.
- Less power required with radiator cooling of the battery.
- A/C evaporator antifreeze control limits A/C compressor power.

Diagram: Graph showing the total vehicle thermal management power over time for different ambient temperatures and cooling methods.
Combined System
Combining APEEM and ESS Cooling Loops

WEG Coolant Loop Distribution System

Electric Drive WEG Cooling System

Power Electronics and Motor

Battery

Vehicle Cabin

Cabin Cooler

Cabin Heater

Electric Heater

WEG = Water/Ethylene Glycol
Combined System – Configuration 1
Combining APEEM and ESS Cooling Loops

- Enables use of APEEM waste heat for ESS heating

WEG = Water/Ethylene Glycol
Combined System – Configuration 2
Combining APEEM and Cabin Heating Loops

- Enables use of APEEM waste heat for ESS heating or cabin heating

WEG = Water/Ethylene Glycol
Warmup: Auxiliary Load Power

VTM Power Reduced by Using APEEM Waste Heat

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS)
Warmup: Auxiliary Load Power
VTM Power Reduced by Using APEEM Waste Heat

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS) and Configuration 2 (APEEM and Cabin Heating)

Baseline:
- 7-kW cabin heater
- 1-kW ESS auxiliary electric heater

APEEM and Cabin:
- 5.8-kW cabin heater
- 1-kW ESS auxiliary electric heater
- Cabin warmup supplemented by APEEM waste heat

APEEM and ESS:
- 7-kW cabin heater
- 1-kW ESS auxiliary electric heater off
- ESS warmup supplemented by APEEM waste heat

Bemidji Warmup: -18°C Ambient
Warmup: Cabin Heater Fluid Temperature

Cabin Heater Fluid Temperatures Are Very Similar

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS) and Configuration 2 (APEEM and Cabin Heating)
Warmup: Average Cabin Air Temperature

Cabin Air Temperatures Are the Same While Using Less Electrical Power

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS) and Configuration 2 (APEEM and Cabin Heating)

Passenger comfort was not degraded
Warmup: Battery Temperature

Battery Is Warmer with APEEM Waste Heat

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS) and Configuration 2 (APEEM and Cabin Heating)

Better battery performance
Warmup: APEEM Coolant Temperature

APEEM Coolant Temperature Is Under The Limit (<70°C) *

Configuration 1 (APEEM and ESS) and Configuration 2 (APEEM and Cabin Heating)

Bemidji Warmup: -18°C Ambient

Combined System – Configuration 3
Liquid Cooled Condenser

- Enables use of APEEM waste heat for ESS heating or cabin heating
- Reduces front heat exchangers from 3 to 1 using shared low-temperature radiator

WEG = Water/Ethylene Glycol
Combined System – Configuration 4
Refrigerant to Liquid Evaporator (Secondary Loop)

- Enables use of APEEM waste heat for ESS heating or cabin heating
- Reduces front heat exchangers from 3 to 1 using shared low-temperature radiator
- Single chilled-liquid loop
- Compatible with heat pump operation
- Compact refrigerant loop

WEG = Water/Ethylene Glycol
Cooldown: Cabin Air Temperature

Slightly Warmer Cabin Air (A/C Performance Not Significantly Impacted)

Configurations 3 & 4 (Liquid-Cooled Condenser and Refrigerant to Liquid Evaporator – Secondary Loop)
Cooldown: Battery Temperature

Slightly Warmer Battery (But Still a Reasonable Cooldown)

Configurations 3 & 4 (Liquid-Cooled Condenser and Refrigerant to Liquid Evaporator – Secondary Loop)

A reasonably sized front heat exchanger can handle the APEEM, cabin, and ESS heat loads.

Battery cooling performance is adequate with heat exchanger located downstream of the cabin cooling heat exchanger.
Cooldown: APEEM Coolant Temperature

Lower APEEM Coolant Because Refrigerant to Air Condenser Is Eliminated

Configurations 3 & 4 (Liquid-Cooled Condenser and Refrigerant to Liquid Evaporator – Secondary Loop)

Lower coolant temperature enables higher electric drive power
Accomplishments – Bench Test

- Developed preliminary combined cooling loop concept for testing
  - Maximizes operating configurations and total system energy efficiency while minimizing valves, pumps, and heat exchangers
  - Thermally conditions vehicle cabin, PE, EM, and ESS
  - Recovers PE, EM, and ESS waste heat when advantageous
  - Enables heat pump operation to reduce electrical resistance load

- Significance
  - Unique vehicle thermal system configuration that focuses on maximizing vehicle range, occupant comfort, and component lifetime
Accomplishments – Bench Test

- **Inventoried current testing capabilities to determine what can be achieved**
  - Maximized use of existing equipment and infrastructure
- **Designed preliminary bench test facility**
  - Simulation of vehicle cabin response via a mathematical model, which controls inlet air conditions to cabin heat exchangers
  - Replication of PE, EM, and ESS responses via mathematical models, which control component outlet coolant temperatures

**Significance**
- Initiated bench-testing phase of task while minimizing test facility upgrade cost
Collaboration and Coordination with Other Institutions

- **Delphi**
- **Halla Visteon Climate Control**
  - Data
  - Engineering support
- **Magna Powertrain – Engineering Center Steyr**
  - KULI software
  - Engineering support
- **Ford**
  - Electric Focus (loaned to NREL for the Electric Drive Vehicle Climate Control Load Reduction Task)
- **VTO Tasks**
  - Advanced Power Electronics and Electric Motors
  - Vehicle Systems
  - Energy Storage
Proposed Future Work

• **Remainder of FY13**
  – Finalize combined cooling loop design in conjunction with industry
    o Coordinate with Delphi and Visteon on configuration and components
  – Construct bench testing facility
  – Conduct bench testing to evaluate combined cooling loop system performance during cooling mode
  – Validate previously built KULI models of combined cooling loop

• **FY14**
  – Utilize existing bench testing facility and experimental system to conduct heating mode testing
  – Work with industry partners to design a vehicle-level test that can demonstrate vehicle system level performance when using a combined cooling loop system
  – Install experimental system and measurement equipment in a test EDV
  – Experimentally evaluate EDV performance to demonstrate the effect that the combined cooling loop has on electric vehicle range
Summary

- **DOE Mission Support**
  - Combining cooling systems in EDVs may reduce costs and improve performance, which would accelerate consumer acceptance, increase EDV usage, and reduce petroleum consumption.

- **Overall Approach**
  - Build a thermal 1-D model (using KULI software)
    - APEEM, energy storage, engine, transmission, and passenger compartment thermal management systems
    - Identify the synergistic benefits from combining the systems
  - Select the most promising combined thermal management system concepts and perform a detailed performance assessment and bench top tests
  - Collaborate with automotive manufacturers and suppliers on a vehicle-level project
  - Solve vehicle-level heat transfer problems, which will enable acceptance of vehicles with electric powertrains
Summary (cont.)

• **Technical Accomplishments**
  – Completed baseline EV thermal systems model
  – Investigated combined cooling loop strategies
  – Identified advantages of combining fluid loops
  – Identified strategies for bench testing

• **Collaborations**
  – Collaborating closely with Delphi, Halla Visteon Climate Control, Magna Powertrain - Engineering Center Steyr, and Ford
  – Leveraging previous DOE research
    o Battery life/thermal model
    o Vehicle cost/performance model
    o Lumped parameter motor thermal model
  – Co-funding by three VTO tasks demonstrates cross-cutting
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