

# Vehicular Thermoelectrics: A New Green Technology

John W Fairbanks  
Vehicle Technologies Program  
US Department of Energy  
Washington, DC

Presented at  
DEER 2011  
October 5, 2011  
Detroit, Michigan

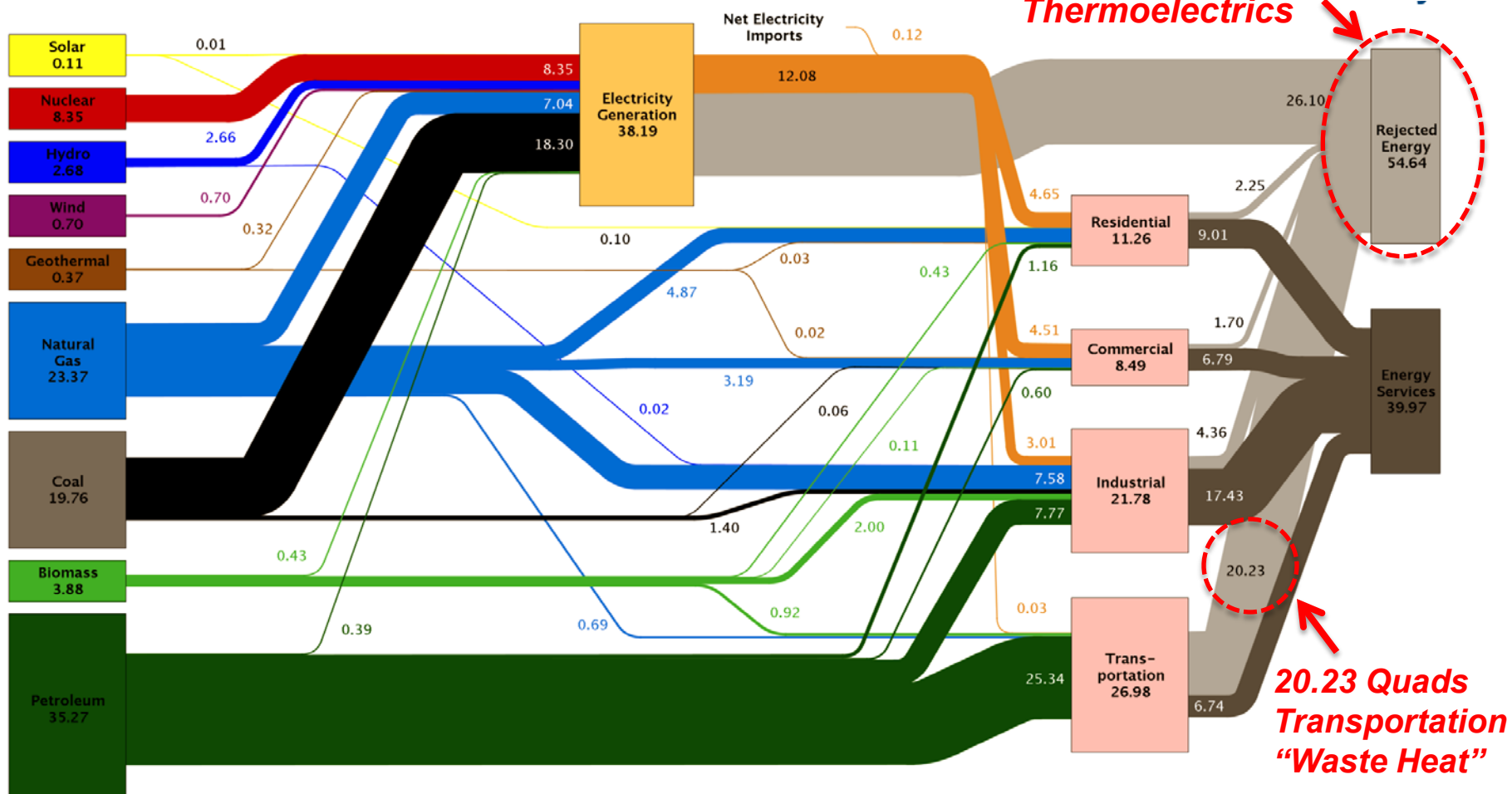


“Our country needs to act quickly with fiscal and regulatory policies to ensure widespread deployment of effective technologies that **maximize energy efficiency and minimize carbon emission.**”

Steven Chu

# Opportunities for Low Grade Heat Harvesting Using Thermoelectrics

## Estimated U.S. Energy Use in 2009 ~ 94.6 Quads



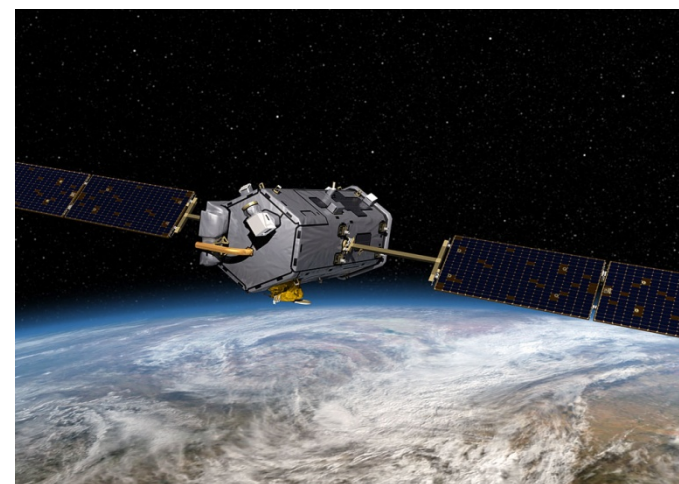
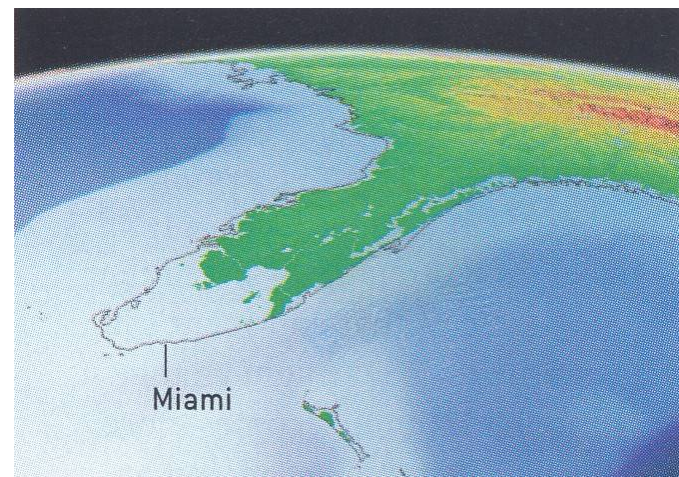
Source: LLNL 2010, data from DOE/EIA -0384 (2009), August 2010.

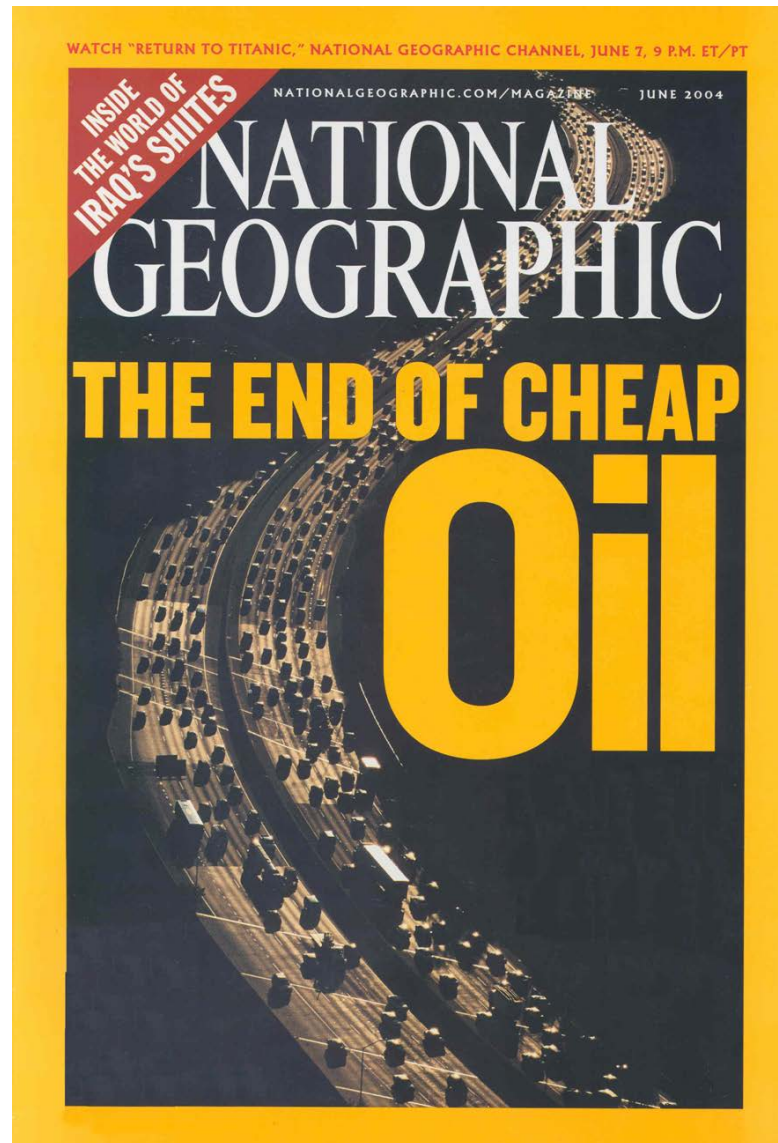
- ❑ The Supply and Demand for Petroleum is Accelerating Prices and Eventually Will Affect Availability
- ❑ Global Climate Change Issues
- ❑ How Do Thermoelectrics Contribute to Mitigating the Effects of These Challenges?

- ❑ Engine Waste Heat Generator (TEG)
- ❑ Air Conditioner / Heater (TE HVAC)
  
- ❑ Pre-start Engine Oil and Transmission Fluid warm up.
- ❑ Battery Thermal Management
- ❑ Beverage Cooler/Warmer
- ❑ Computer and Radar (Collision Avoidance) Cooling



- ❑ Global Climate Change is Happening
  - **Is there a man-made contribution?**
- ❑ NASA's Carbon Observatory Satellite Program should provide relevant data
- ❑ **Prudent approach: limit "Greenhouse Gas Emissions" with economic considerations until issue is settled**









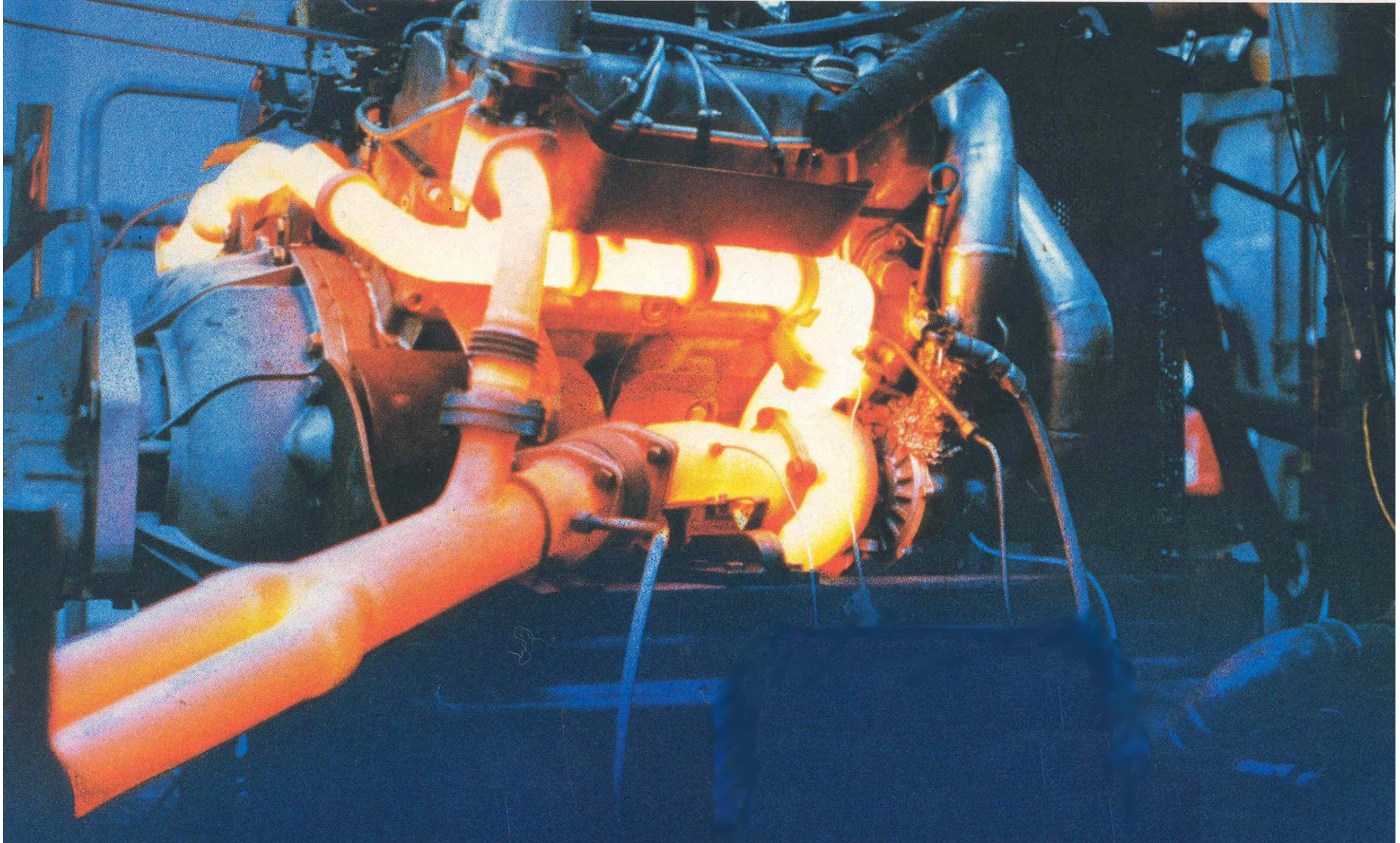


- Generate Electricity without Introducing any Additional Carbon into the Atmosphere

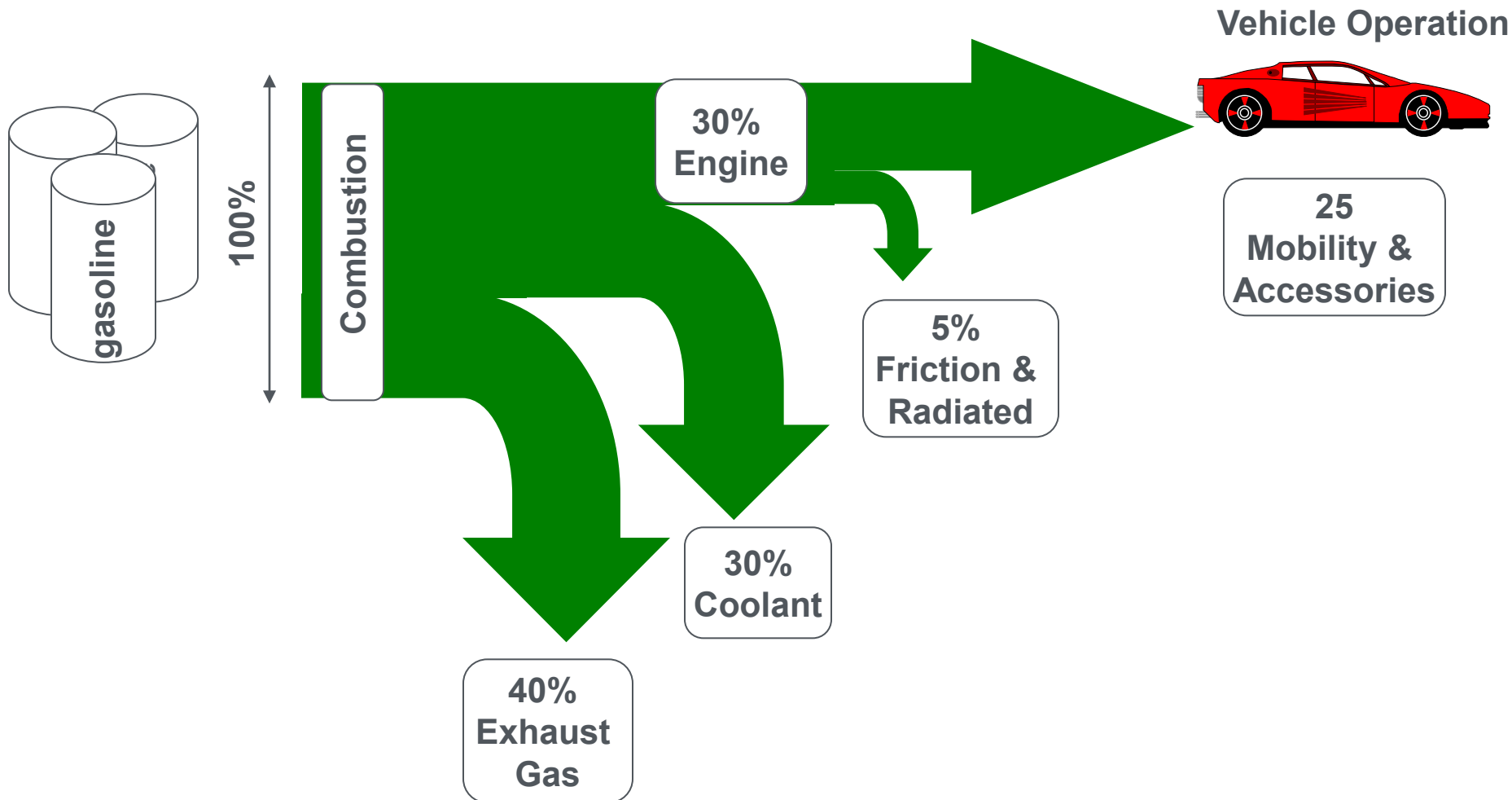
# Automotive Internal Combustion Engine Waste Heat Energy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



# Typical Waste Heat from Gasoline Engine Mid Size Sedan



# Combustion of Hydrocarbon Fuels Releases Carbon

Gasoline  $C_7H_{16}$

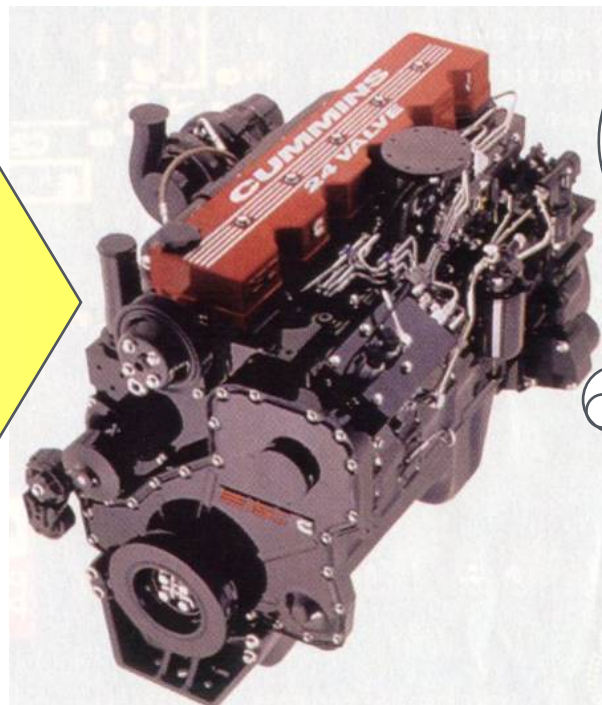
Diesel  $C_{18}H_{30}$

Methanol  $CH_3OH$

Ethanol  $C_2H_5OH$

Natural Gas (Primarily  
Methane,  $CH_4$ )

Propane  $C_3H_8$



Carbon

■ PM

■ HC

Unburned Fuel,  
Lube Oil

■ CO

■  $CO_2$

- ❑ **Fleet Average Carbon Emission Regulations**
  - 130 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km in 2012
  - 95 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km in 2020
  
- ❑ **Fine 95€ per g CO<sub>2</sub>/km per vehicle**
  - Fines could be over \$3,000/vehicle if enforced

## □ Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2016</u>
Passenger Cars (MPG)	27.5	37.8
Light trucks (MPG)	23.5	28.8

- Penalty: \$5.50 per 0.10 mpg under standard multiplied by manufacturers total production for US market
- The White House announced an agreement with thirteen major automakers for car and light truck fuel economy average 54.5 mpg by 2025
  - Agreed upon by Ford, GM, Chrysler, BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar/Land Rover, Kia, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota, and Volvo
  - Together account for over 90% of all vehicles sold in the United States



# TEG Direct Conversion of Automotive Gasoline Engine Waste Heat to Electricity

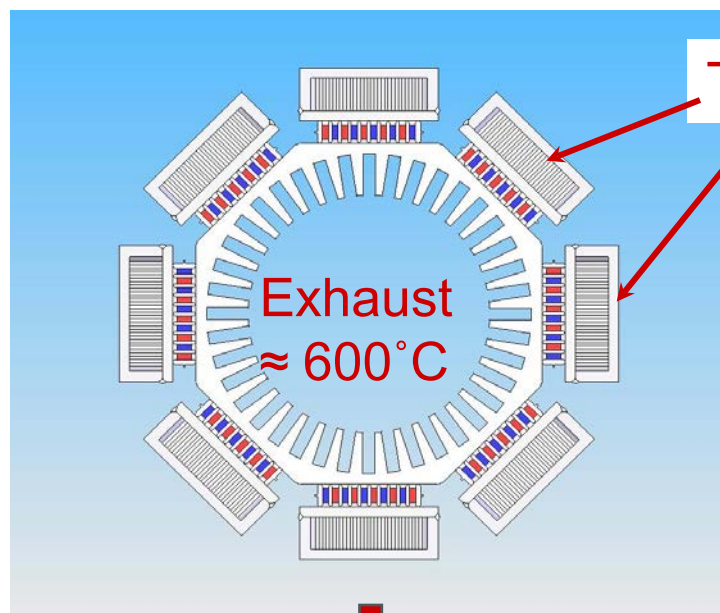
Heat Rejection  
Waste Heat > 60%

$$T_H \approx 600^\circ\text{C}$$

$$T_C \approx 110^\circ\text{C}$$

Carnot Efficiency

$$\eta_C = \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H}$$



TE Devices

TE Efficiency

$$\eta = \left( \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H} \right) \left( \frac{\sqrt{1 + ZT} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + ZT} + T_C/T_H} \right)$$

Waste Heat Recovery  
Goal > 5% Increase in Fuel Economy

# TE Materials Performance: Figure of Merit (ZT) [Oregon State]

Electrical conductivity

Seebeck coefficient or thermopower ( $\Delta V/\Delta T$ )

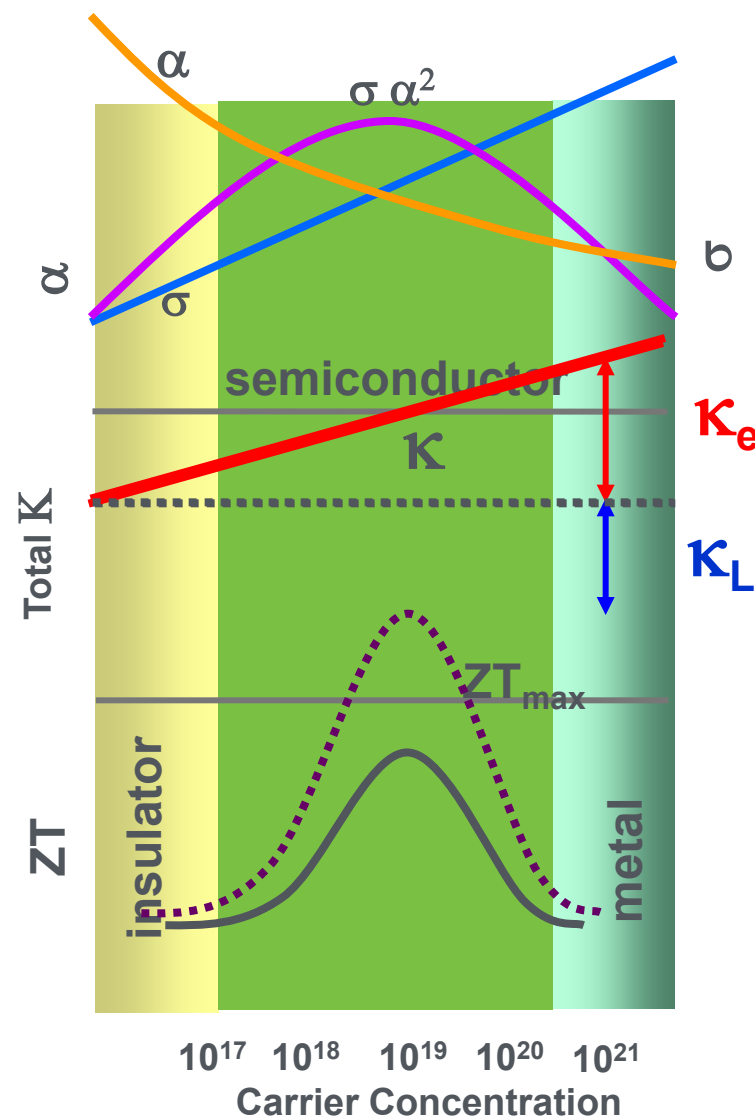
$$ZT = \frac{\sigma \alpha^2}{(\kappa_e + \kappa_L)} \cdot T$$

Total thermal conductivity

$\sigma \alpha^2 =$  Power Factor

$\sigma = 1/\rho =$  electrical conductivity

$\rho =$  electrical resistivity



# Nanoscale Effects for Thermoelectrics (courtesy of Millie Dresselhaus, MIT)

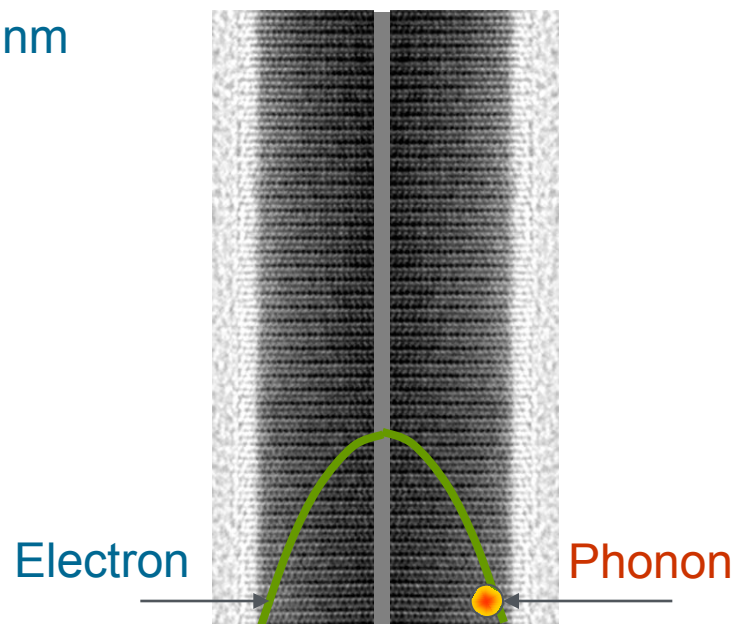
## Interfaces that Scatter Phonons but not Electrons



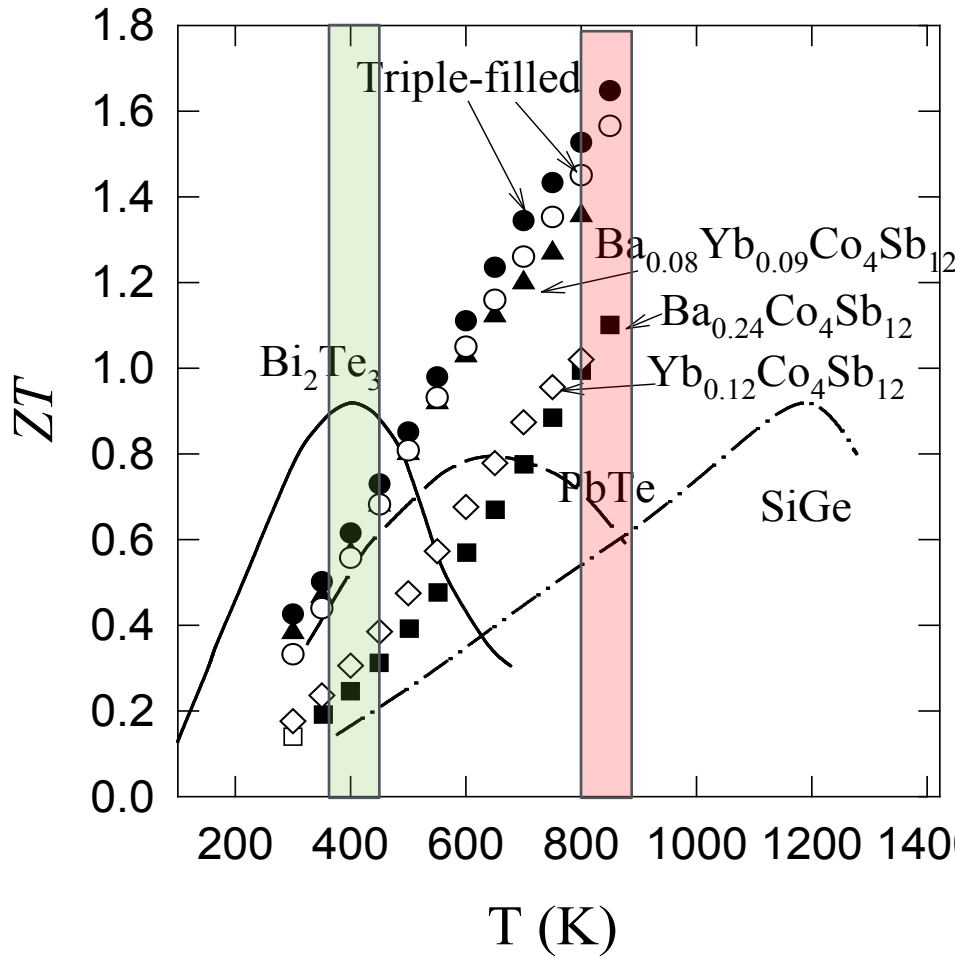
Electrons  
 $\Lambda=10-100$  nm  
 $\lambda=10-50$  nm

Phonons  
 $\Lambda=10-100$  nm  
 $\lambda=1$  nm

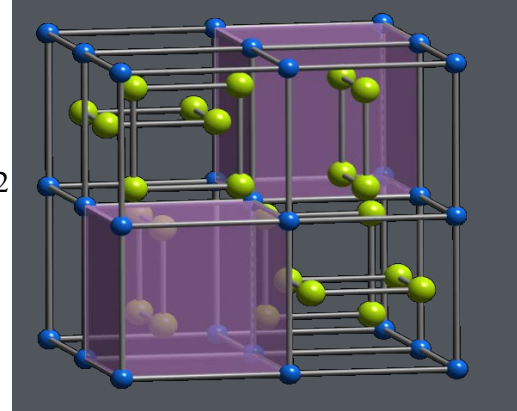
Mean Free Path  
Wavelength



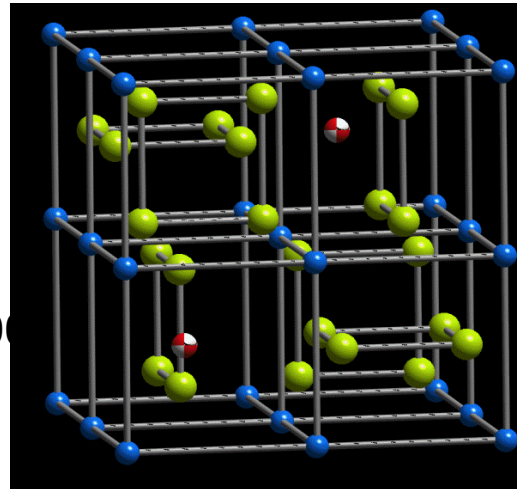
# Highest ZT Achieved with Triple-filled Skutterudites (GM and U of Michigan)



- $\bullet$   $\text{Ba}_{0.08}\text{La}_{0.05}\text{Yb}_{0.04}\text{Co}_4\text{Sb}_{12.05}$
- $\circ$   $\text{Ba}_{0.10}\text{La}_{0.05}\text{Yb}_{0.07}\text{Co}_4\text{Sb}_{12.16}$

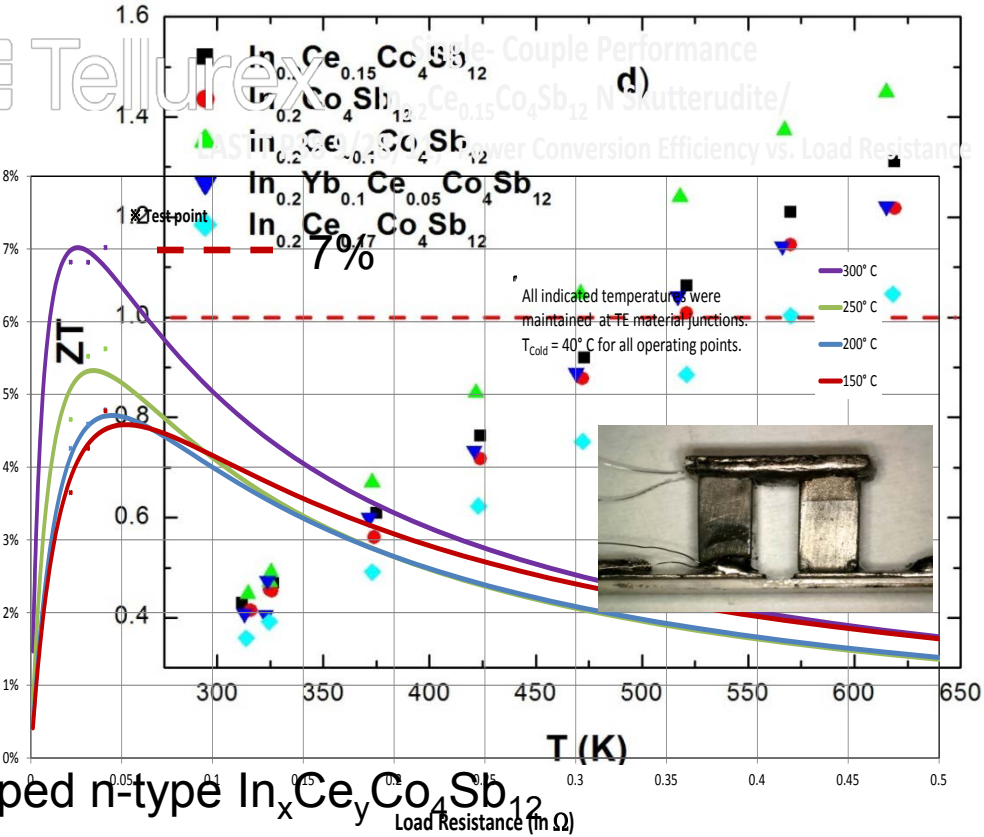
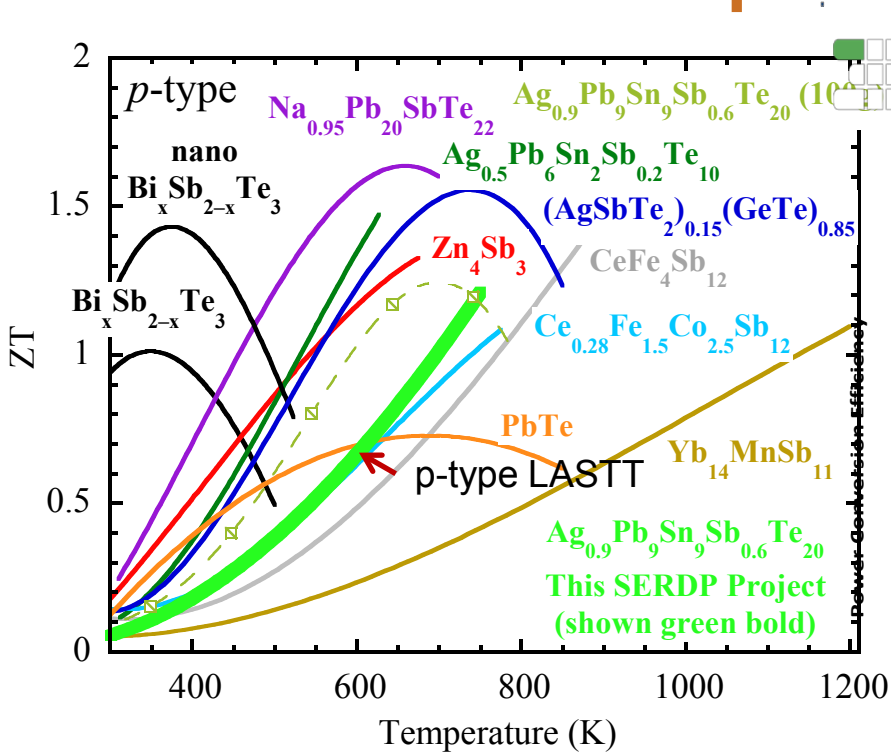


*Atoms can be inserted into empty sites. Atoms can "rattle" in these sites – scatter phonons and lower the lattice thermal conductivity.*



1. X. Shi, et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 92, 182101 (2008)
2. X. Shi, et al., submitted (2009)

# PNNL/Tellurex/OSU – Latest Excellent n-type Skutterudite TE Couple Results



- PNNL, Tellurex, & Oregon State Developed n-type  $\text{In}_{0.2}\text{Ce}_{0.15}\text{Co}_4\text{Sb}_{12}$ 
  - TE Properties Characterized
  - Structural Properties Characterized
  - Thermal Cycling Enhancement Effects Discovered and Quantified
- New TE Couples Fabricated and Tested (p-type LASTT/n-type  $\text{In}_{0.2}\text{Ce}_{0.15}\text{Co}_4\text{Sb}_{12}$ )
- Test Results: 7% TE **Couple** Conversion Efficiency at  $T_h = 573\text{ K}$  &  $T_c = 313\text{ K}$ 
  - New TE Couple Capable of  $T_h = 673\text{ to }723\text{ K}$

**Contact:** Dr. Terry Hendricks, PNNL,  
E-mail: [terry.hendricks@pnl.gov](mailto:terry.hendricks@pnl.gov)

**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

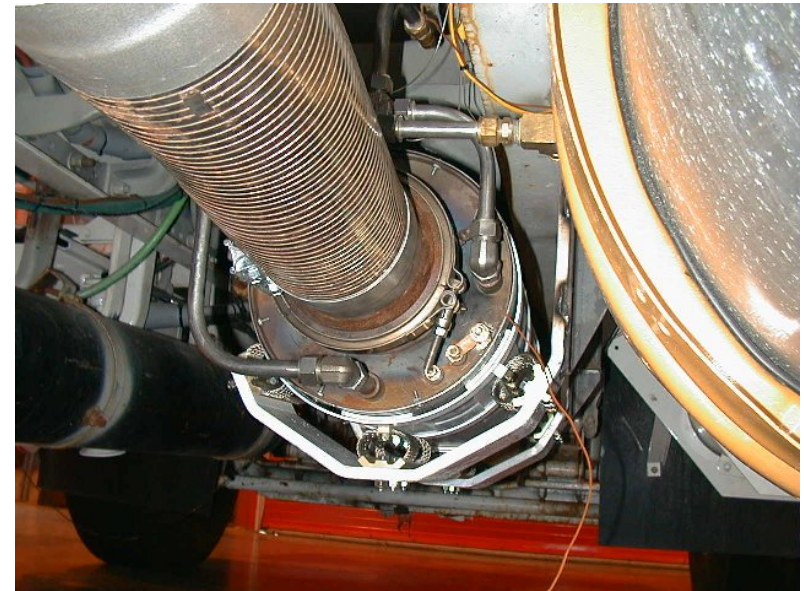


Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965

# First Thermoelectric Generator Test on Vehicle (DOE/VT, Hi-Z/Paccar, 1994)



Front View



Rear View

# 550 HP Heavy-Duty Truck Equipped with TEG (1994)

Engine – Caterpillar 3406E, 550 HP

PACCAR's 50 to 1 test track

(Note speed bumps and hill)

Standard test protocols used for each evaluation

Heavy loaded (over 75,000 lbs)

TEG installed under the cabin



**Results, together with advances in thermoelectric materials,  
provided impetus for further development for vehicle applications**

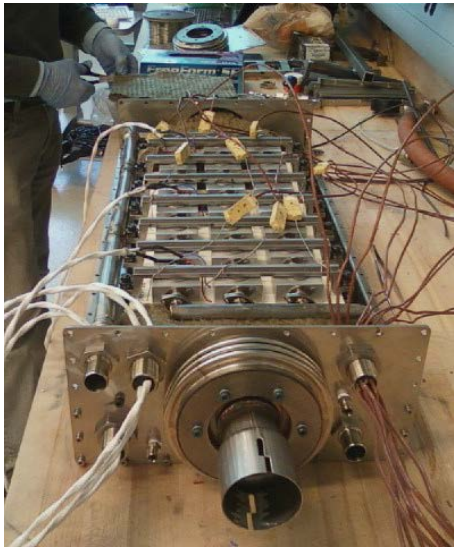
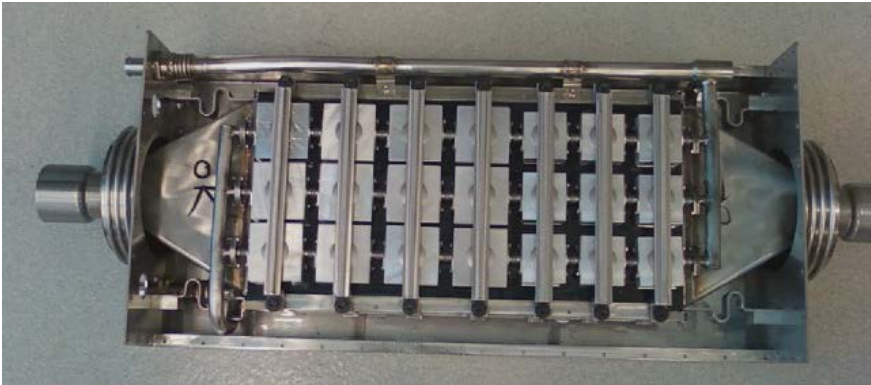
- ❑ Use Thermoelectrics to generate electricity for powering auto components
  - (lights, pumps, occupant comfort, stability control, computer systems, electronic braking, drive by wire etc.)
- ❑ Reduce size of alternator (target: 1/3<sup>rd</sup> reduction in size)
- ❑ Improve fuel economy (targets: 5% to 6%)
- ❑ Reduce Regulated Emissions and Greenhouse Gases



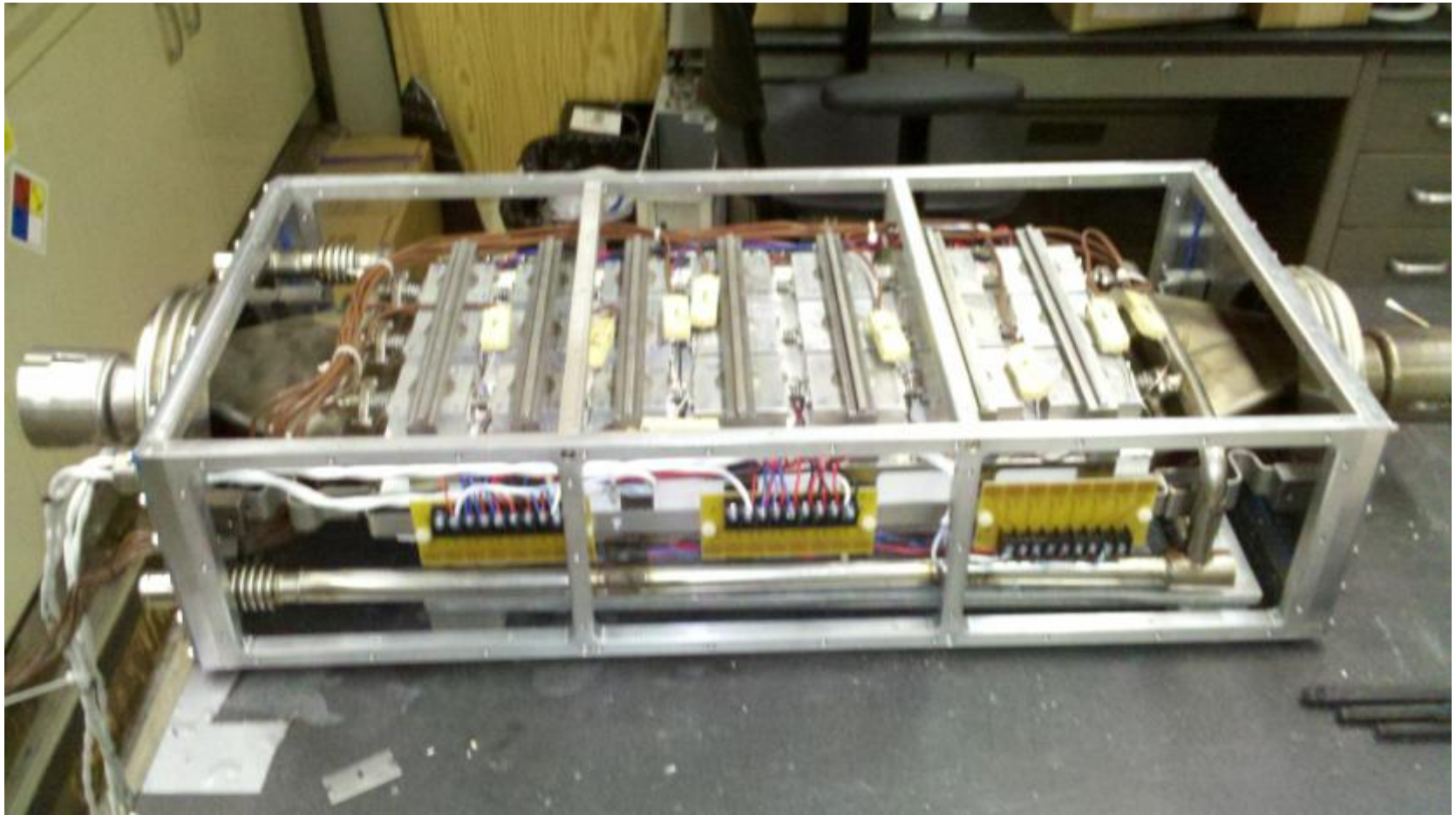
# DOE/NETL Vehicular Thermoelectric Generator Projects

Awardees	Team Members
General Motors and General Electric	University of Michigan, University of South Florida, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Marlow Industries
BSST, LLC	Visteon, BMW-NA, Ford, ZT Plus, Faurecia
Michigan State University	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Cummins Engine Company, Tellurex, Iowa State

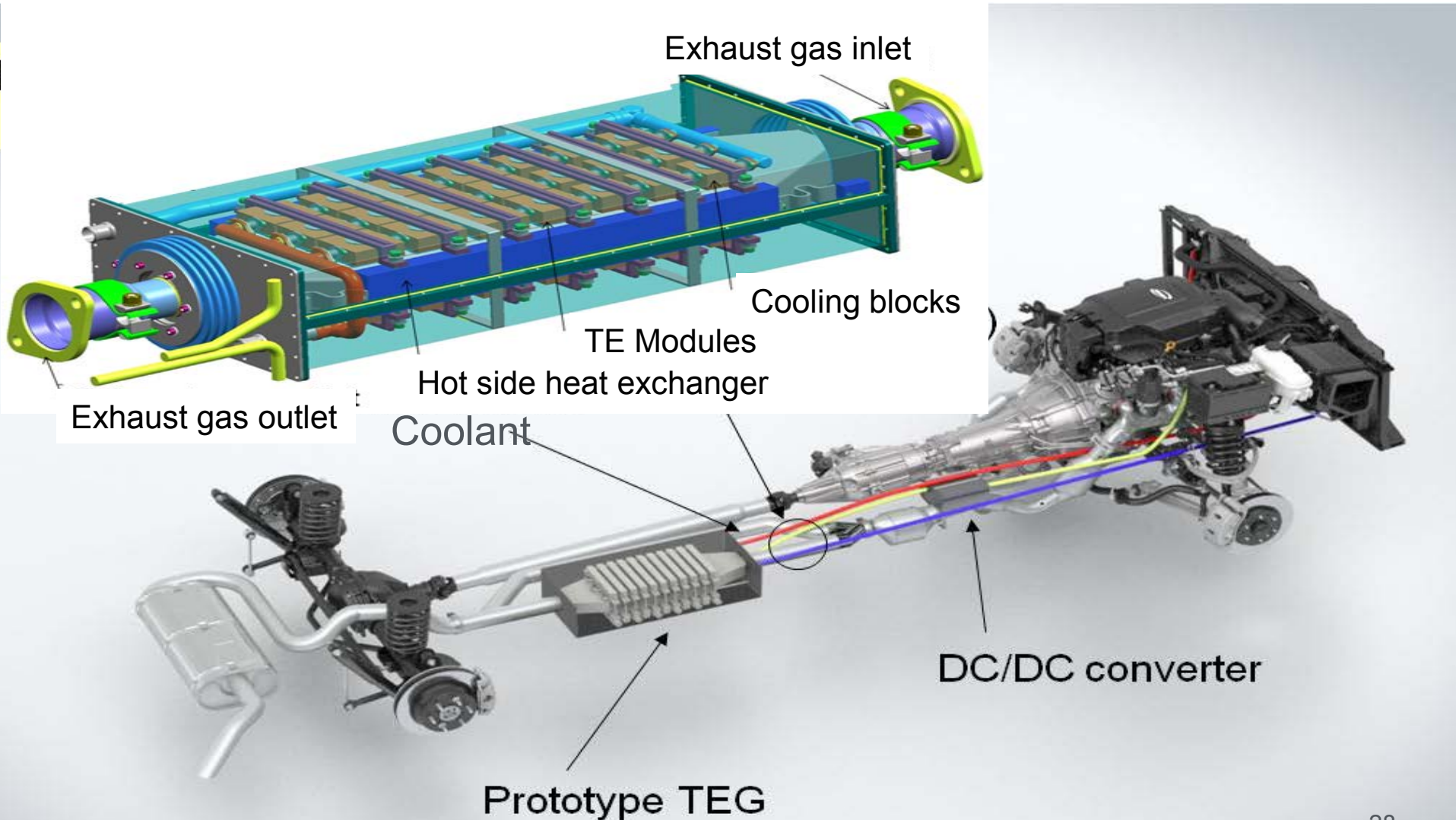
# GM Prototype TEG Fabrication



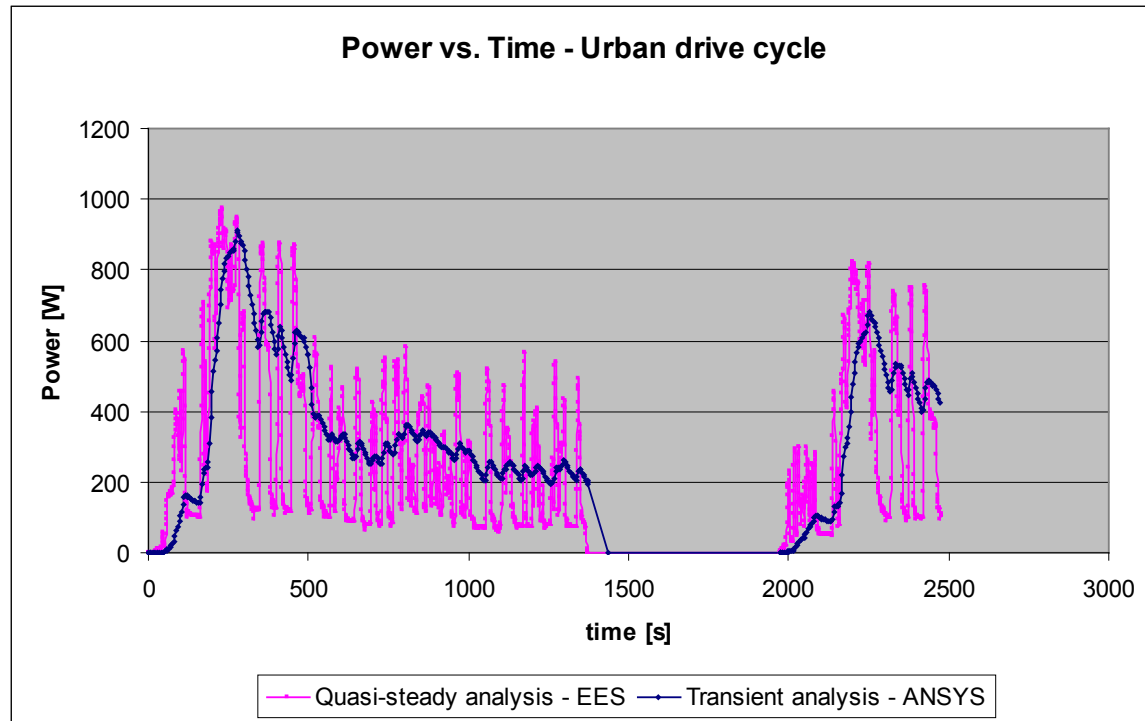
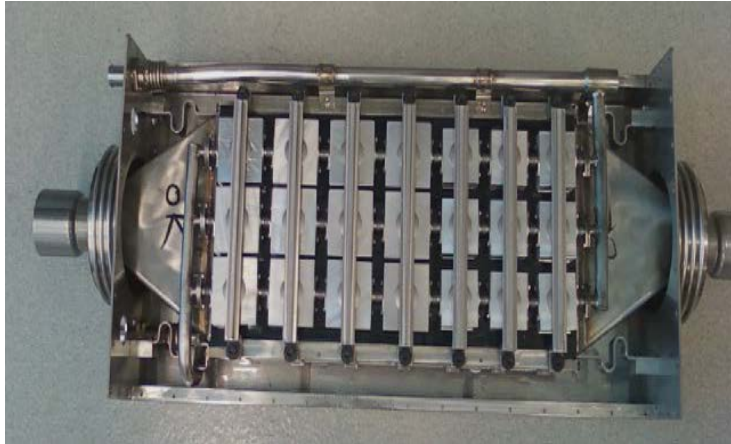
# TEG #3 Skutterudite + Bi-Te modules



# GM Prototype TEG Installation in a Chevy Suburban Chassis

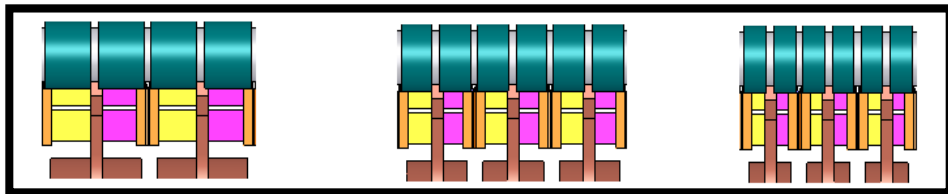


# GM TEG Performance in Chevy Suburban



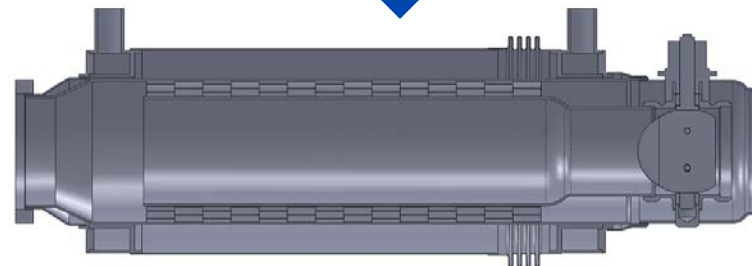
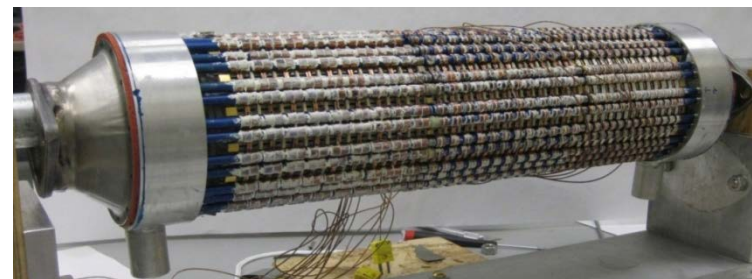
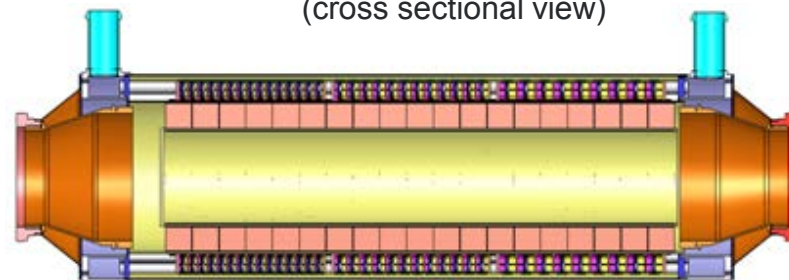
- ❑ ~ 1 mpg (~ 5 %) fuel economy improvement on FTP Driving Cycle
  - > 350 Watts City
  - > 600 Watts Highway

# TEG for Ford Lincoln MKT and BMW X6

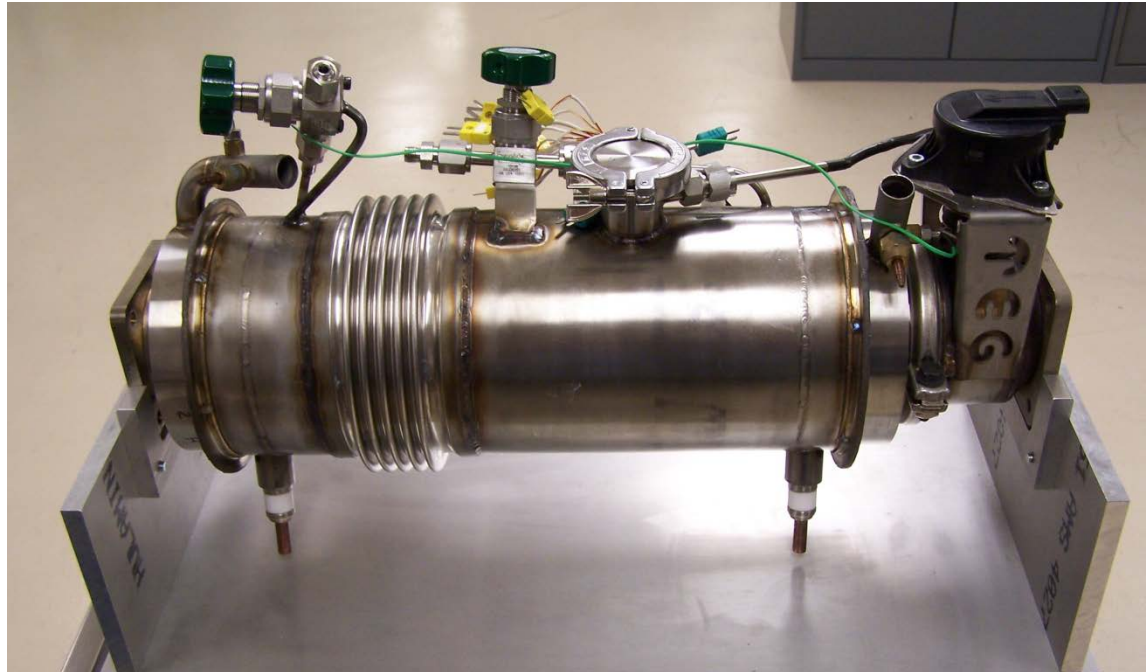


- ❑ Designed for 500 watt output driving at 75 mph (120 kph)
- ❑ Weights 22.4 lbs (10.2 kg)
- ❑ 5 percent improvement in fuel economy on-highway
- ❑ Improved performance anticipated with technologies in development

Pre-production Waste Heat Recovery TEG  
(cross sectional view)

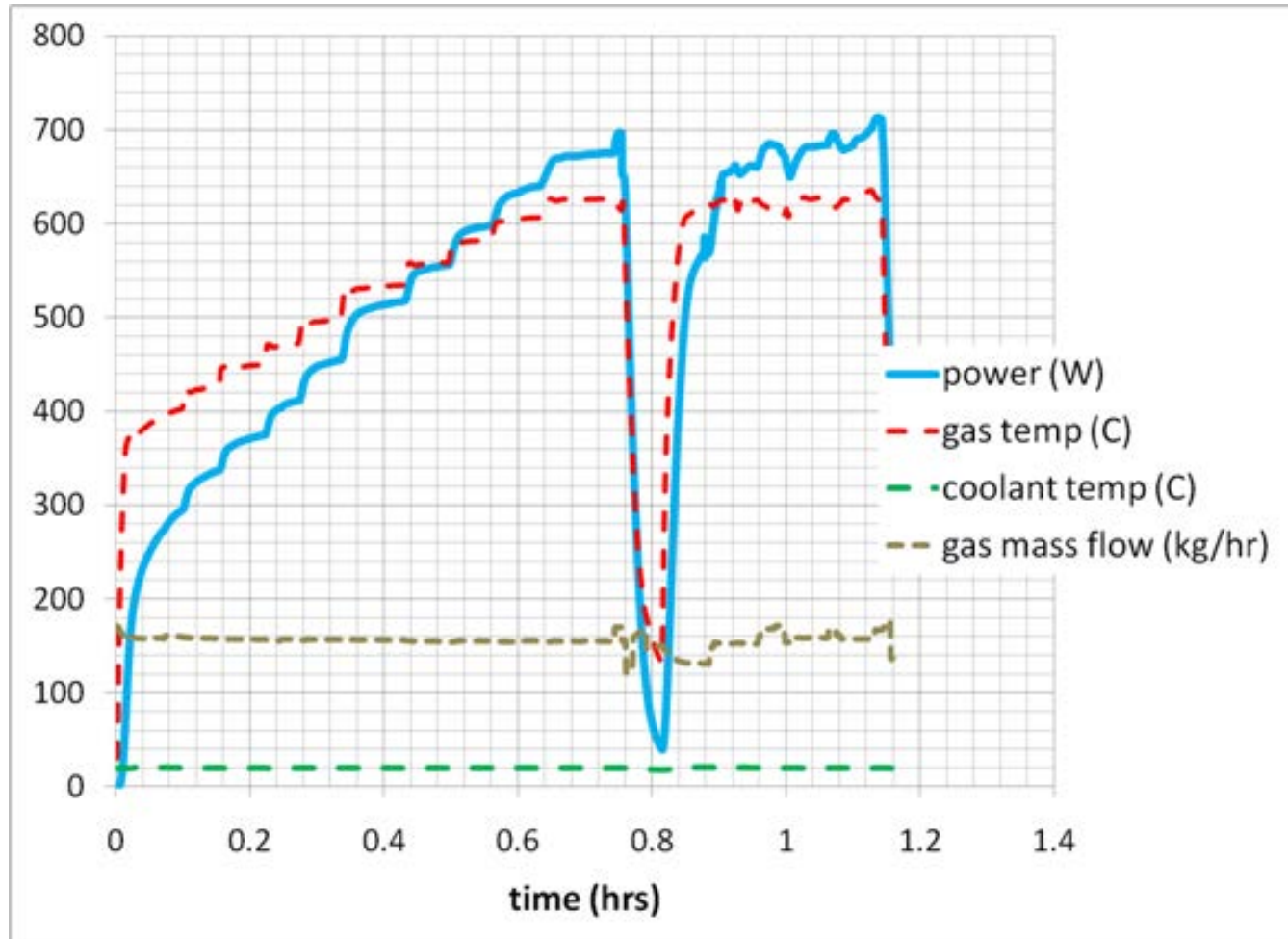


# Bench Test of Amerigon's Cylindrical TEG for Ford and BMW



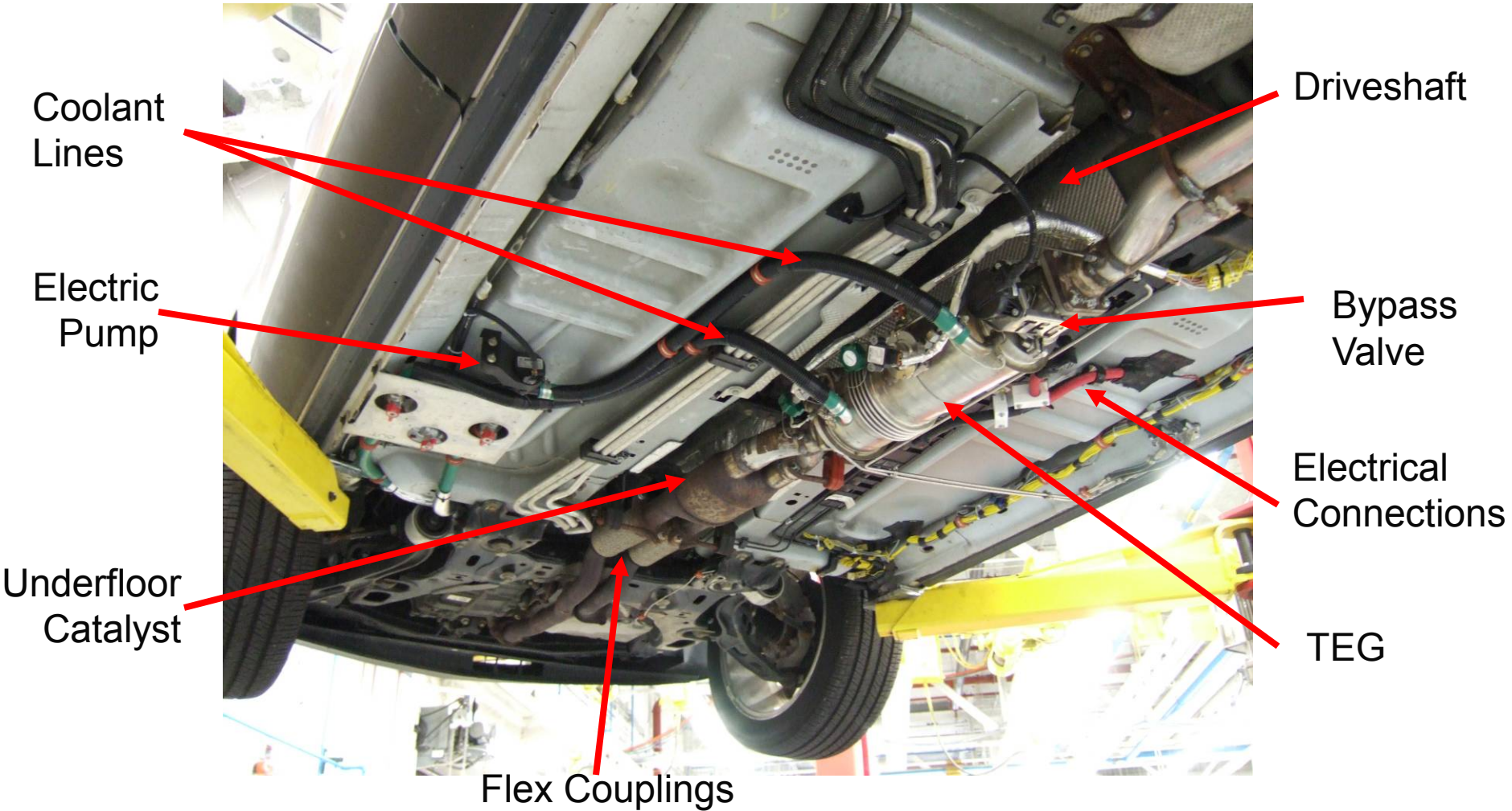
- ❑ Exceeds 700W power generation.  
Hot Air 620° C Cold side 20° C

# Amerigon's Cylindrical TEG Bench Test

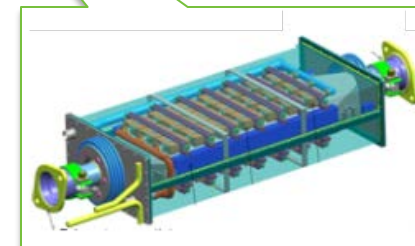
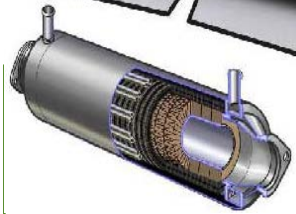
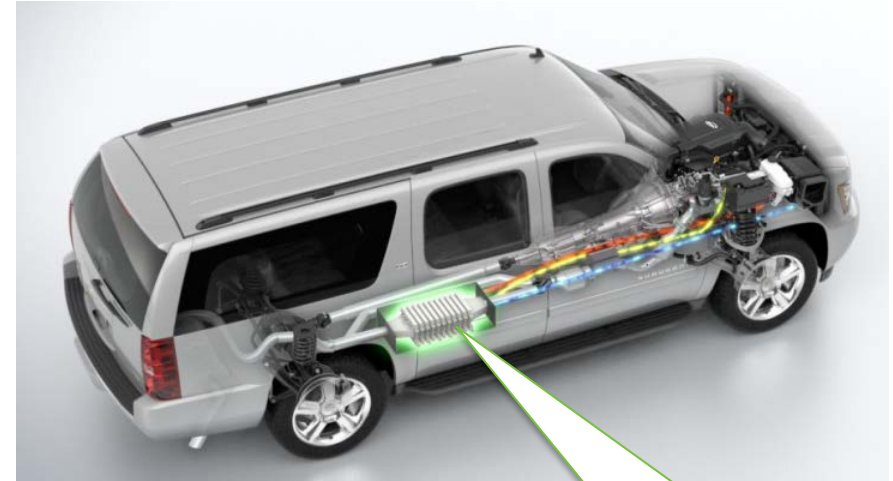




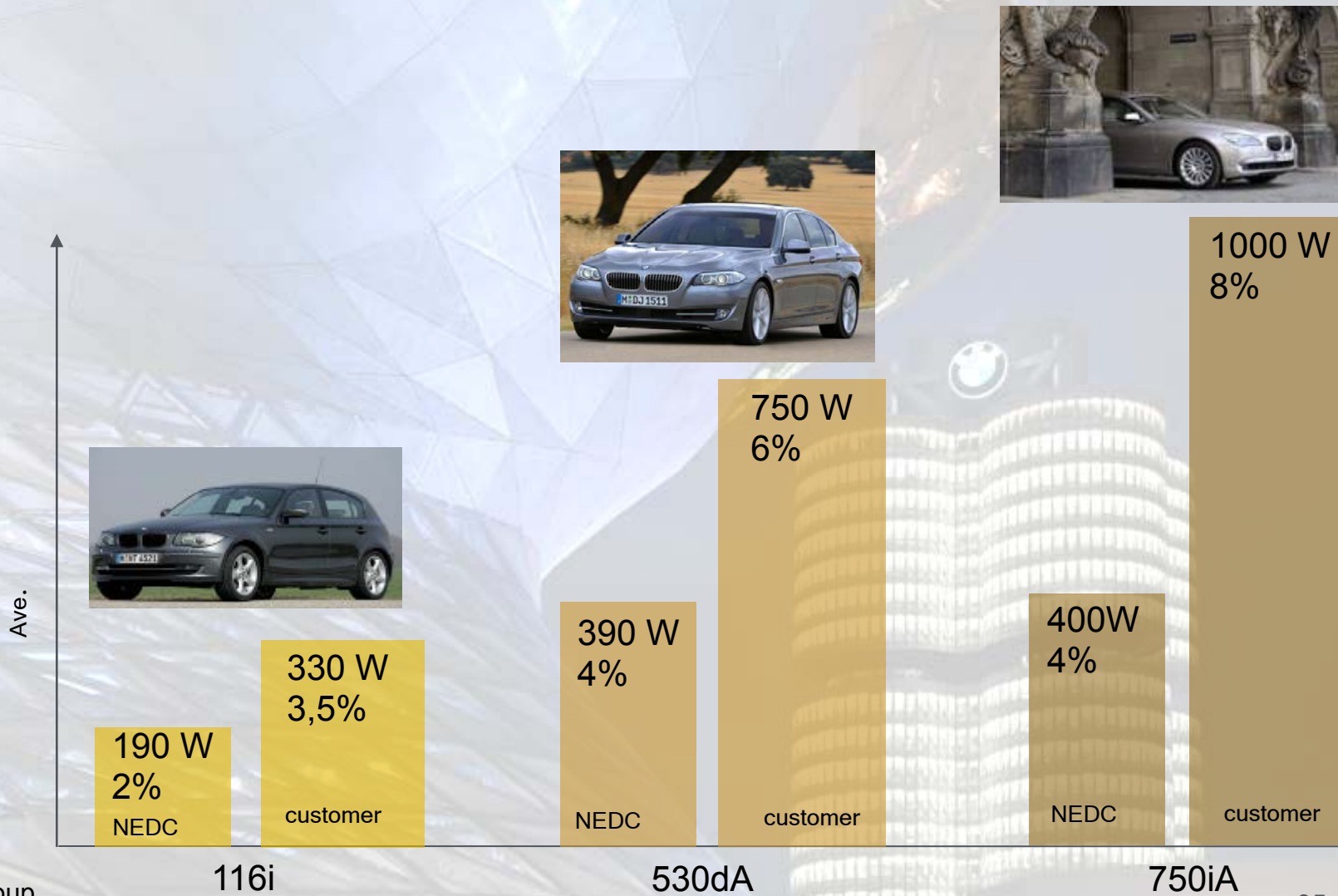
# TEG & Exhaust System in Lincoln MKT



# Prototype TEG's In Ford Lincoln MKT, BMW X6 and Chevy Suburban- DOE Programs



# Thermoelectric Power Generation – Analytical Projections for BMW Sedans



Source: BMW Group

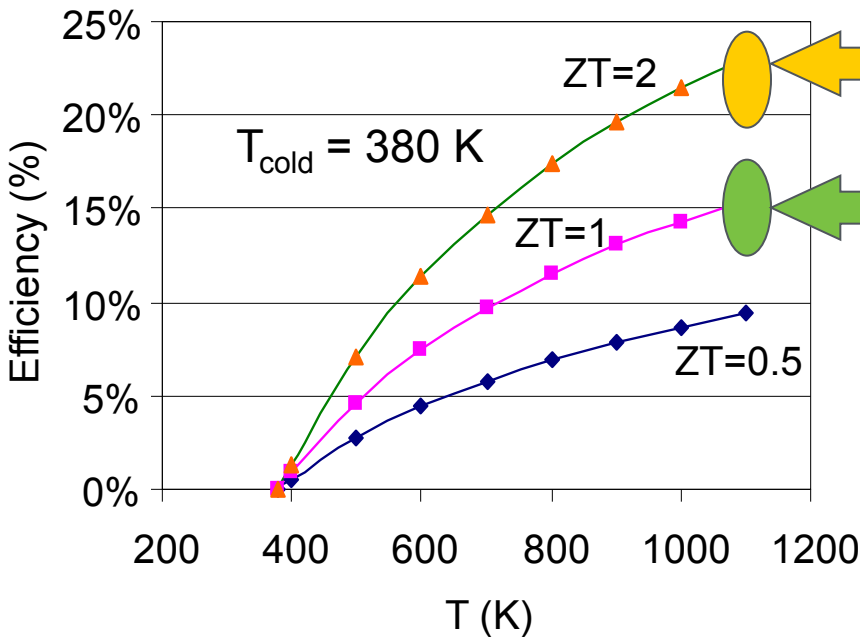
116i

530dA

750iA

35

TE conversion efficiency as a function of hot junction temperature and ZT



Second Generation

First Generation

TE Materials for Vehicular TE Generators

$$\eta_{\max} = \frac{T_{ht} - T_{cdl}}{T_{ht}} \frac{\sqrt{1+ZT} - 1}{\sqrt{1+ZT} + \frac{T_{cdl}}{T_{ht}}}$$

Carnot      TE Materials

- ❑ Commercially viable thermoelectric modules
  - $ZT_{avg} = 1.6$
  - Temperature range 350 - 900K
  
- ❑ Eliminate the alternator
  
- ❑ Large volume commercial introduction in vehicles

# Concept of Zonal Thermoelectric Air Conditioner/Heater (HVAC)



Zonal TE units located in dashboard, headliner, A&B pillars and seats/seatbacks

- Energy Requirements (Analytical):
  - Zonal Concept cools/heats each occupant independently
  - **630** Watts to cool single occupant
  - Current A/C's **3,500 to 4,500** Watts cool entire cabin

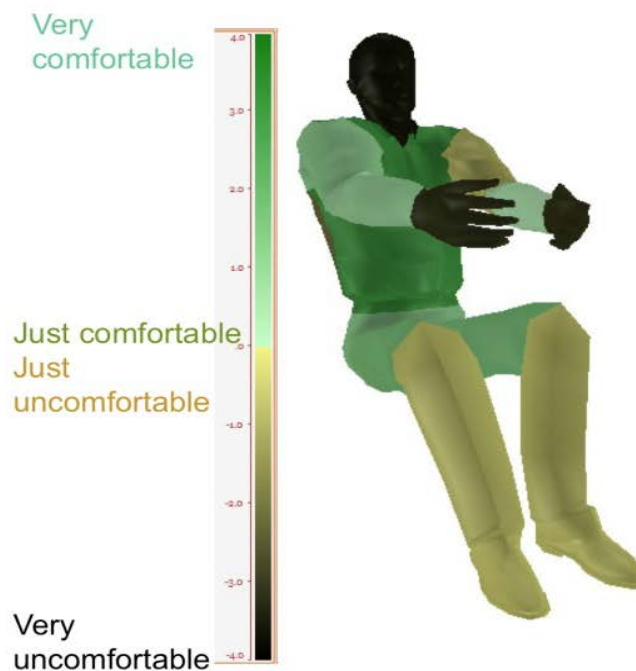
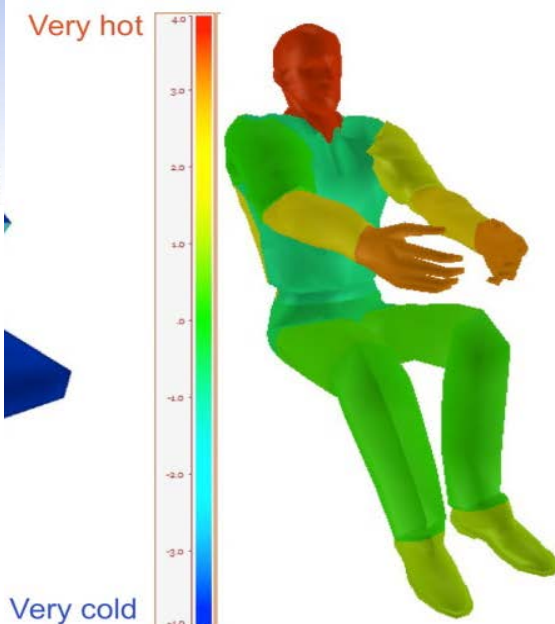
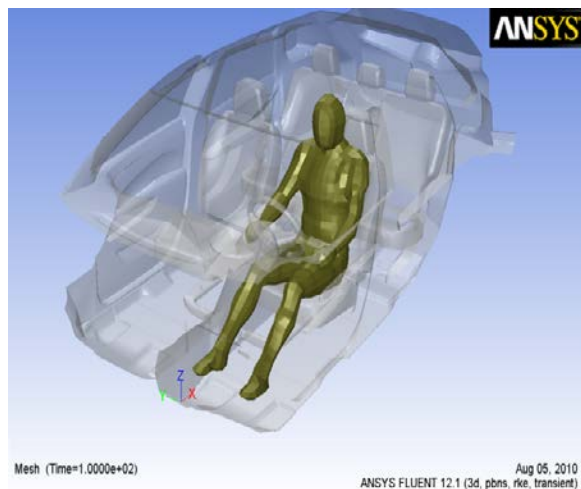
## Defining Vehicle Occupant Comfort



# UC Berkeley Thermal Mannequin Evaluation Detailed Localized Comfort Measurements



# Human Thermal Comfort Model for Localized Cooling and Heating

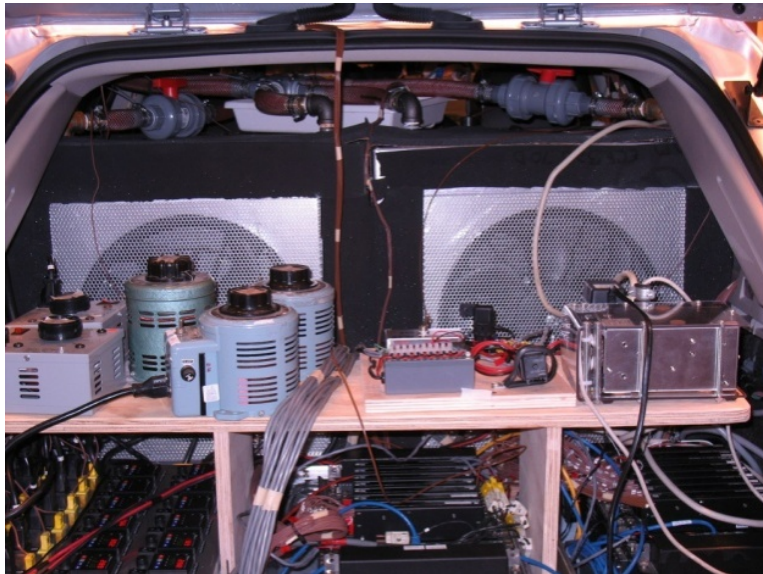


- ❑ Correlates well with 16 segment thermal mannequin vehicle evaluations

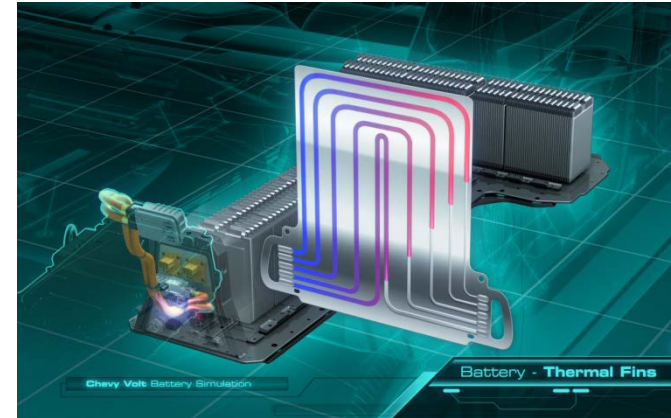
# Delphi's Climatic Wind Tunnel Testing to Emulate Local Spot Cooling



UC-B thermal mannequin and human subjects used to evaluate spot cooling



# Chevy Volt Battery Temperature Impacts Performance and Service Life .....24/7



Battery temperature impacts vehicle performance, reliability, safety, and life cycle cost

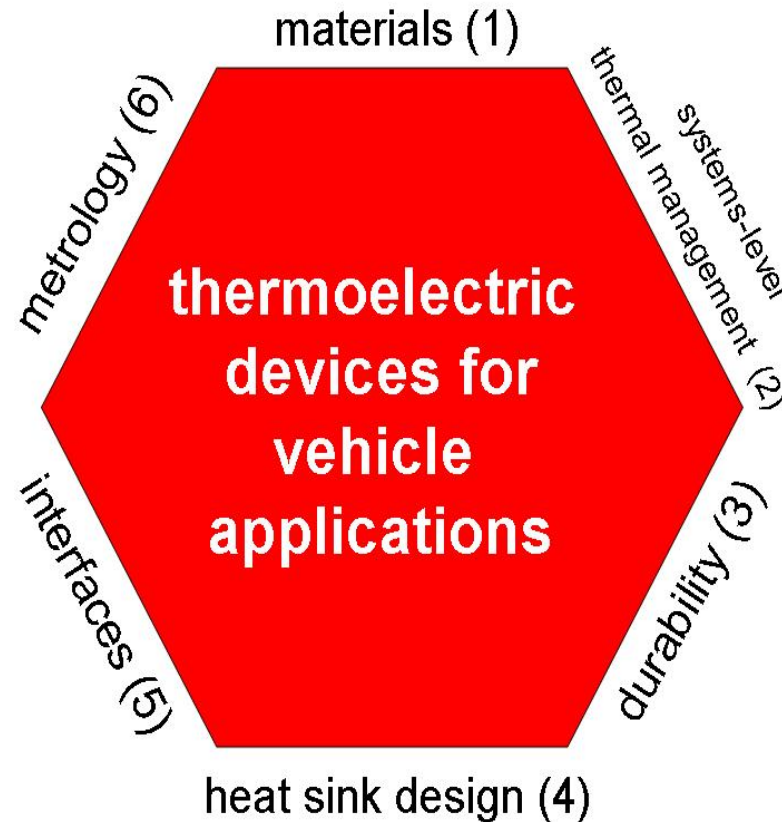


## Main HTML functions in thermoelectric research

- ❑ Transport properties measurements
- ❑ Thermomechanical properties and reliability
- ❑ Advanced materials characterizations:
  - **Atomic resolution microscopy (STEM)**
  - **X-ray and neutron scattering**
- ❑ HTML is leading a thermoelectric characterization program via the International Energy Agency (IEA) – Advanced materials for Transportation (AMT)
  - Annex VIII on thermoelectrics led by ORNL
  - **Participating countries: USA, Canada, Germany, Japan, China and South Korea**
  - **Participating labs: more than 10**



University/industry collaboration,  
\$9M/yr over 3 years



- ❑ An integrated approach towards efficient, scalable, and low cost thermoelectric waste heat recovery devices for vehicle - Scott T Huxtable (VT)
- ❑ Automotive Thermoelectric Modules with Scalable Thermo- and Electro-Mechanical Interfaces - Kenneth E Goodson (Stanford)
- ❑ High-Performance Thermoelectric Devices Based on Abundant Silicide Materials for Waste Heat Recovery - Li Shi (UT-Austin)
- ❑ Inorganic-Organic Hybrid Thermoelectrics - Sreeram Vaddiraju (TAMU)
- ❑ Integration of Advanced Materials, Interfaces, and Heat Transfer Augmentation Methods for Affordable and Durable Devices - Yongho Ju (UCLA)
- ❑ High Performance Thermoelectric Waste Heat Recovery System Based on Zintl Phase Materials with Embedded Nanoparticles - Ali Shakouri (UCSC)
- ❑ Project SEEBECK-Saving Energy Effectively by Engaging in Collaborative research and sharing Knowledge - Joseph Heremans (Ohio State), Mercuri Kanatzidis (Northwestern)
- ❑ Thermoelectrics for Automotive Waste Heat Recovery - Xianfan Xu (Purdue)
- ❑ Integrated Design and Manufacturing of Cost Effective and Industrial-Scalable TEG for Vehicle Applications - Lei Zuo, SUNY-Stony Brook

## Objectives

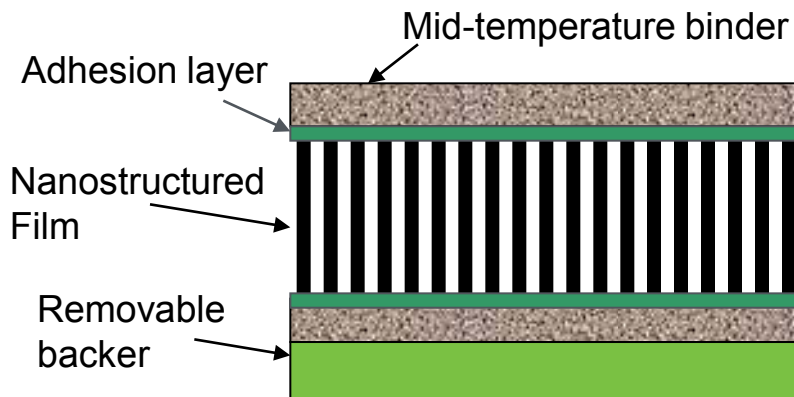
- ❑ Develop, and assess the impact of, novel interface and material solutions for TEG systems of particular interest for Bosch.
- ❑ Explore and integrate promising technologies including nanostructured interfaces, filled skutterudites, cold-side microfluidics.
- ❑ Practical TE characterization including interface effects and thermal cycling.



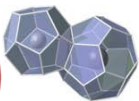
Bosch  
Prototype TEG in exhaust system

## Approach

- ❑ Multiphysics simulations ranging from atomic to system scale.
- ❑ Photothermal metrology including pico/nanosecond, cross-sectional IR.
- ❑ MEMS-based mechanical characterization.
- ❑ System design optimization by combining all thermal, fluidics, stress, electrical and thermoelectric components.



Panzer, Goodson, et al., Patent Pending (2007)



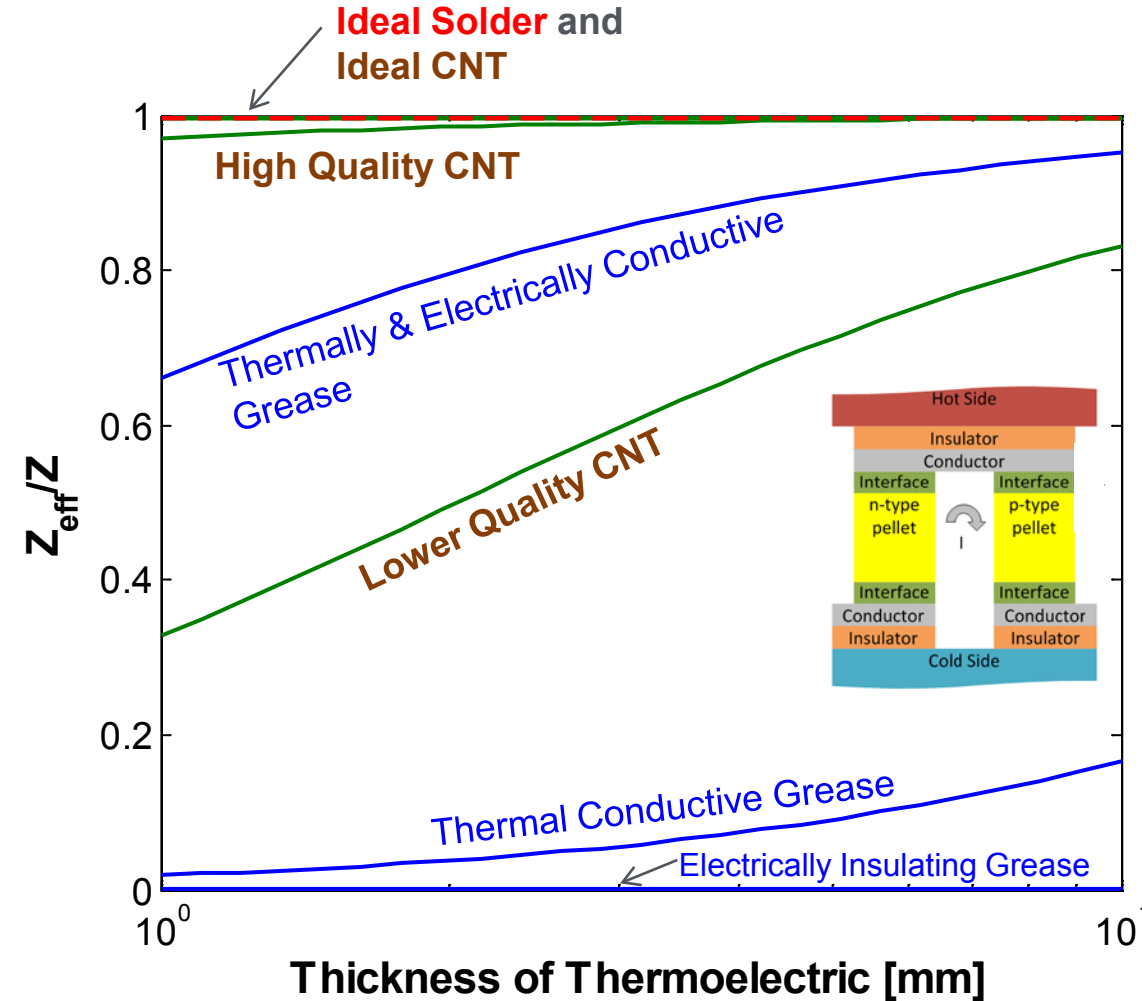
NOVEL MATERIALS LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



**BOSCH**



# Effect of Interface Resistances on Thermoelectric Device Properties



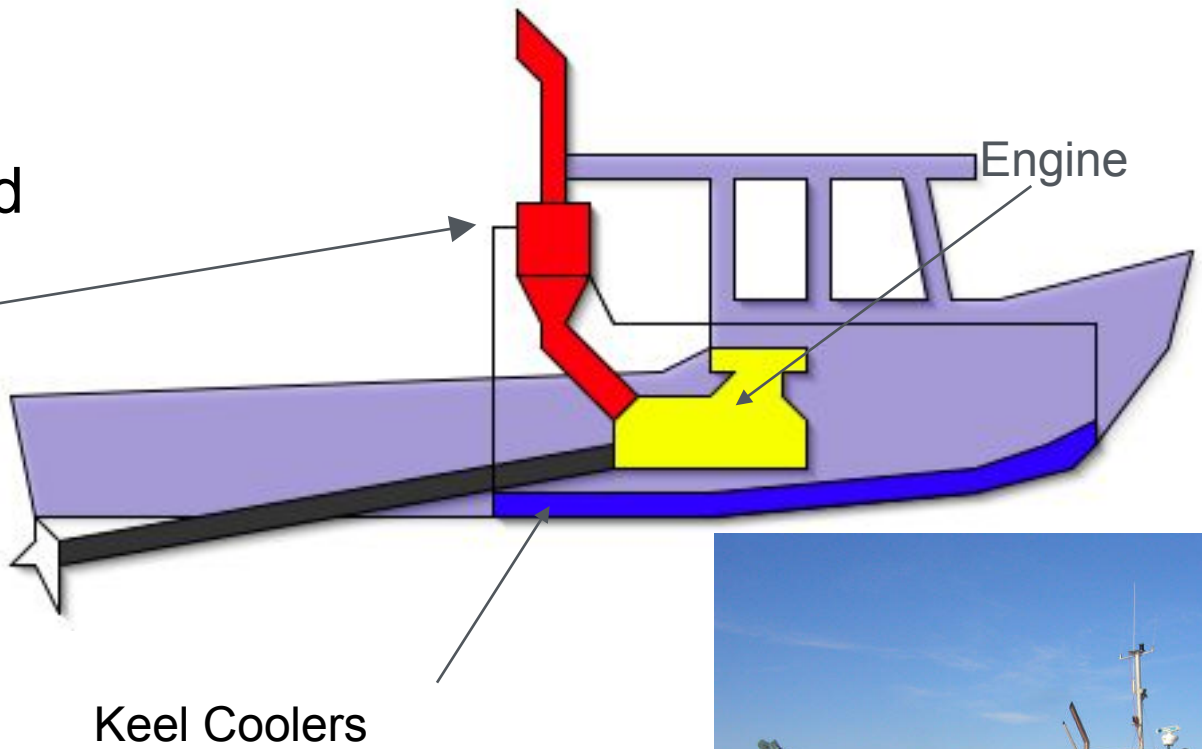
Using model of Xuan, *et al.* International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer 45 (2002).

Interface Material	$R''_{th}$ [W/m <sup>2</sup> /K]	$R''_e$ [ $\Omega$ m <sup>2</sup> ]
<b>Solders And Ideal CNT</b>	$\sim 10^{-7}$	$\sim 10^{-12}$
<b>High Quality CNT</b>	$\sim 10^{-6}$	$\sim 10^{-10}$
<b>Lower Quality CNT</b>	$\sim 10^{-5}$	$\sim 10^{-8}$
<b>Thermally &amp; Electrically Conductive Grease</b>	$\sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 3 \times 10^{-9}$
<b>Thermal Conductive Grease</b>	$\sim 8 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 3 \times 10^{-7}$
<b>Electrically Insulating Grease</b>	$\sim 8 \times 10^{-6}$	$> 10^{-5}$

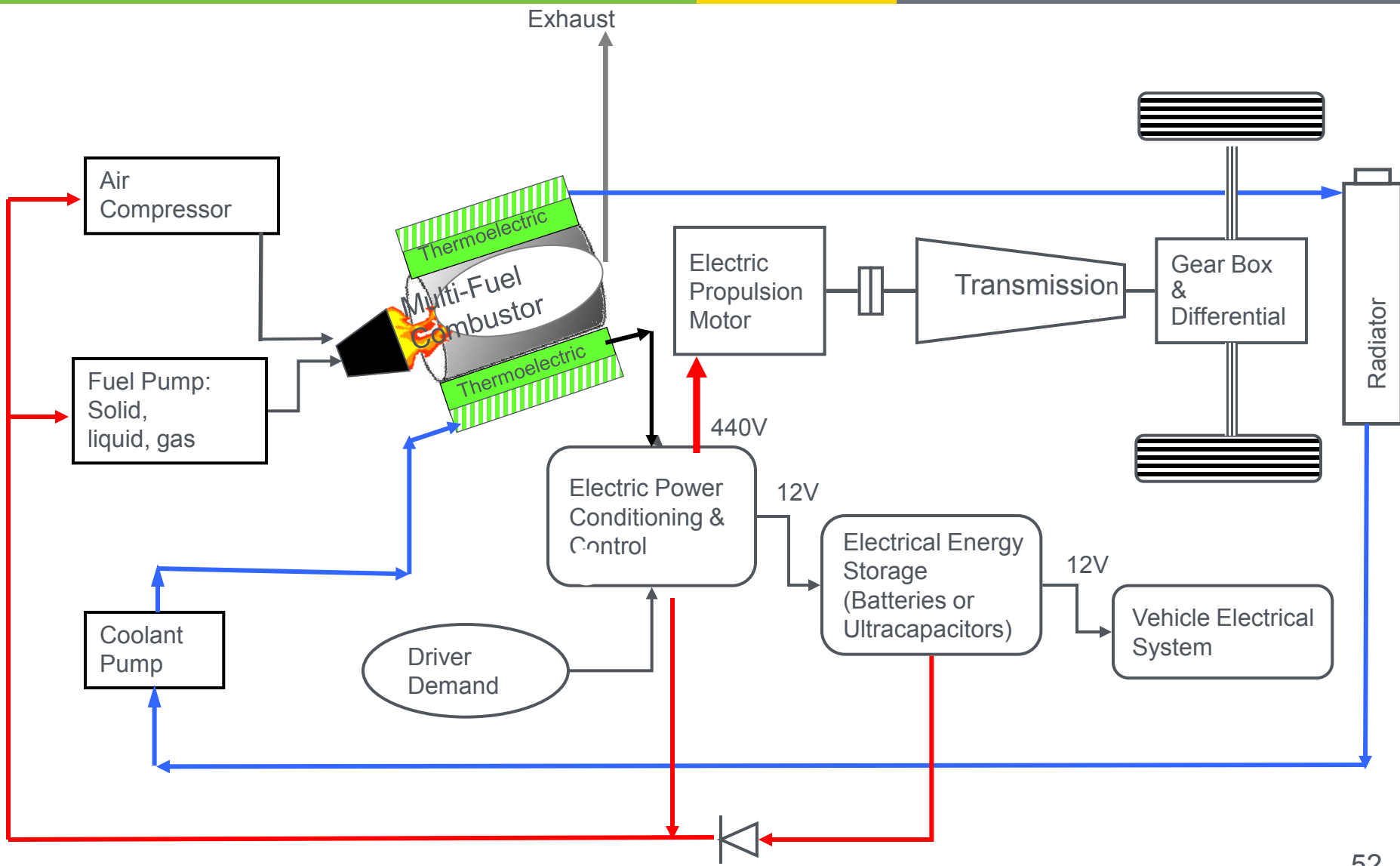
- ❑ **Where:** Annapolis, Maryland (Nearest airport: Baltimore/Washington International, BWI)
- ❑ **When:** January 18-20, 2012
- ❑ **Cost:** No Registration Fee
- ❑ **Sponsors:** Needed
- ❑ **Abstracts:** Submit Directly to:  
[john.fairbanks@ee.doe.gov](mailto:john.fairbanks@ee.doe.gov)

# Maine Maritime Academy

Seawater Cooled Exhaust Stack  
TE Generator



# Vehicular Thermoelectric Hybrid Electric Powertrain Replacing the ICE



- ❑ Fuel Economy Requirements and Emissions Regulations
- ❑ Increasing Gasoline/Diesel Prices
- ❑ Automotive Industry Continually Wants “New and Improved” Technology
- ❑ Dramatic Increase in Demand for Large Quantity Thermoelectric Materials
- ❑ Historically Semiconductor Costs Decrease with Volume
  - Thermoelectrics Should Follow this Trend

- ❑ Automakers in Russia
  - GM, Ford, VW, Fiat, Mercedes-Benz, Suzuki, BMW, Renault-Nissan, Toyota, AvtoVAZ/Magna
- ❑ Under decree 166, OEM's Must:
  - Achieve 60% local content within 6 years**
- ❑ Equip > 30% of vehicles with locally-sourced engines and/or transmissions
- ❑ Rusnano (government) and a VC built and equipped thermoelectric clean room manufacturing facility
  - Currently 149 workers, projected → 333 by 2015

# Thermoelectrics Production: Russia

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



# Thermoelectrics Production: Russia





# Typical Transportation Entering The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- ❑ **Stage coach**
  - **6 Passengers**
  - **4 Horsepower**  
**(quadrupeds)**
  - **Drive by Line**
  - **Fare - 6¢/mile**
- ❑ **Bio-mass derived fuel**
- ❑ **➢ Minimally processed**
- ❑ **➢ Stable fuel cost**
- ❑ **➢ Fuel infrastructure in place**
- ❑ **Emissions**
  - **Equine methane**
  - **Agglomeration of macro particles**
    - **Minimally airborne**
    - **Recyclable**



# Evolution of Personal Transport

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



**1900**



**2011**

- ❑ **From the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century**
  - **Reduced fuel consumption and emissions by 75%**
- ❑ **Renewable bio-mass fuel**
  - **Stable fuel prices**
- ❑ **Velocity Enhanced Ambient Air Conditioning**
  - **Solar Heating**
- ❑ **Drive by Line**



- ❑ All-electric vehicle
- ❑ Advanced batteries
- ❑ Inductive-charging
- ❑ Lightweight materials
- ❑ No emissions
  
- ❑ **Thermoelectrics**
- ❑ TE Air Conditioner/heater
- ❑ TE thermal management of batteries
- ❑ TE-cooled collision avoidance system and computers
- ❑ TE-cooled/heated beverage holders
- ❑ TE-regenerative braking



Thank You.....Questions?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



**THERMOELECTRICS:  
THE NEW GREEN  
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY**