

Power & Mobility (P&M)

GVSETS

GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
& ADVANCED PLANNING BRIEFING FOR INDUSTRY



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JP-8 Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle

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We create, develop, manufacture, and market sustainable solutions for energy and environmental sectors.



38,000 sq ft facility



- Located in North Haven, CT
- Privately-held small business; established 1986
- ~50 employees; 11 PhDs
- Focus on *innovation and product development*
- Core technologies: *Materials, Reactors, Systems*



From Concept to Fielded Prototypes



Extended Range, Silent SMET

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- SOFC replaces diesel generator
- Provides 10 kW (electric, steady state) for propulsion, export power
- MIL-SPEC power out (28 V DC, 120 V AC)
- Battery hybridized for peak loads
- Increased range & lower carbon footprint
- Low thermal & acoustic signature (~60 dB @ 1 m.)
- Demonstrated with F-24/JP-8
- Produces clean surplus water
- *Weight, efficiency & start-up time remain to be optimized*

Semi-autonomous, off-road, battery-hybridized electric vehicle demonstrated



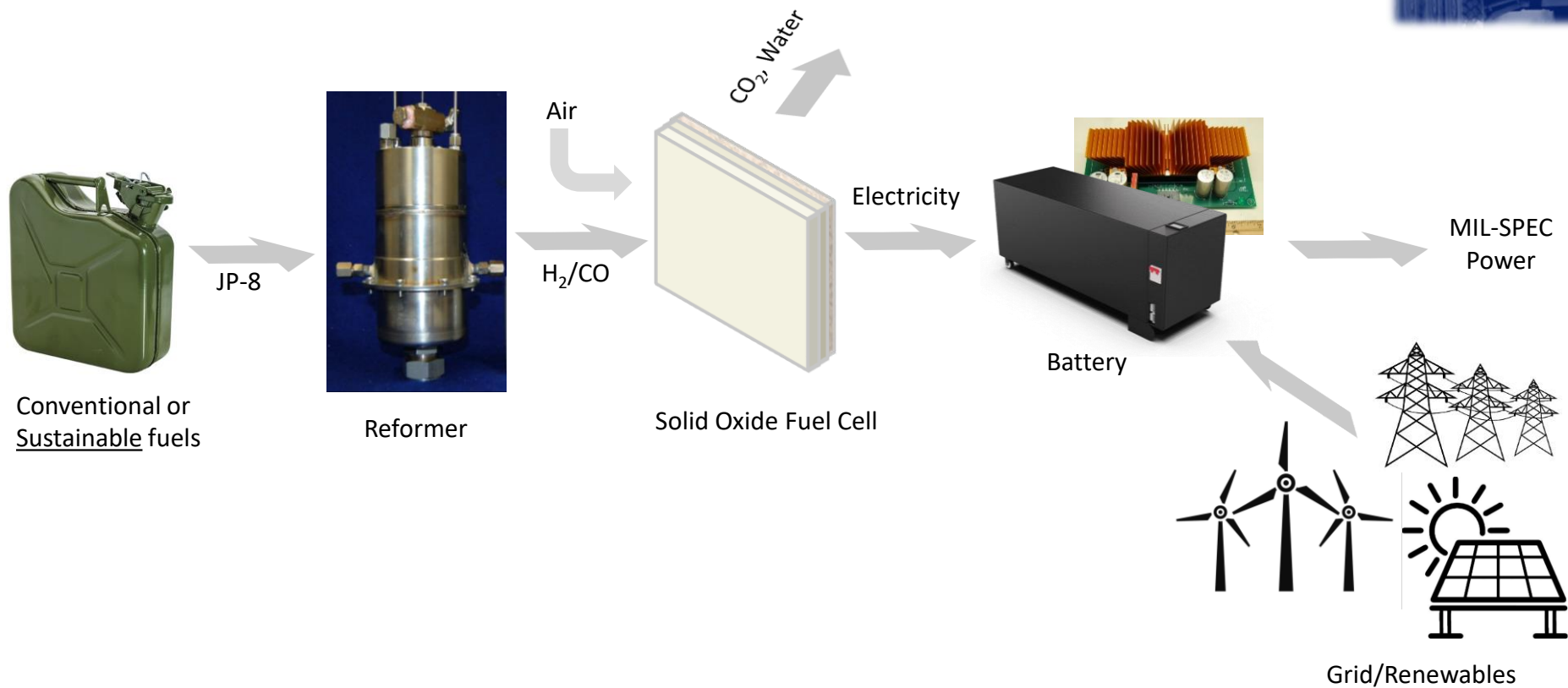
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Operating Concept

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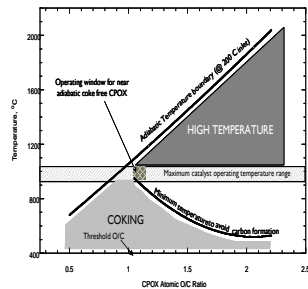
Concept being matured for DoD, Space, & Commercial applications



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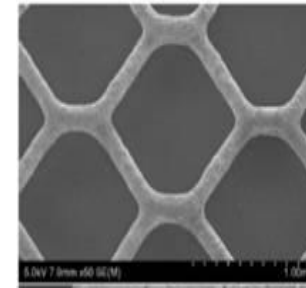
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Novel control algorithms to avoid coking (PCI Patent #US 8,337,757 B2 & others)



Low cost, Ultra-compact, efficient H₂ generator (PCI Patent #US 7,976,594 & others)



PCI's short contact time Microlith® catalyst (PCI Patent #US 5,051,241 & others)

Portfolio of patents on substrate, reactor, and systems



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and systems



(1) Reformer + (2) Sulfur Filter



Challenges:

- Reform Jet fuels and diesels w. sulfur
- Remove the sulfur in fuels
- Produce SOFC quality reformat
- In a small, lightweight package

Approach:

- Use PCI's patented catalysts & sorbents
- Use PCI's patented process-intensified reactor design
- Use PCI's patented sulfur removal approach



10 kW F-24/JP-8 Reformer



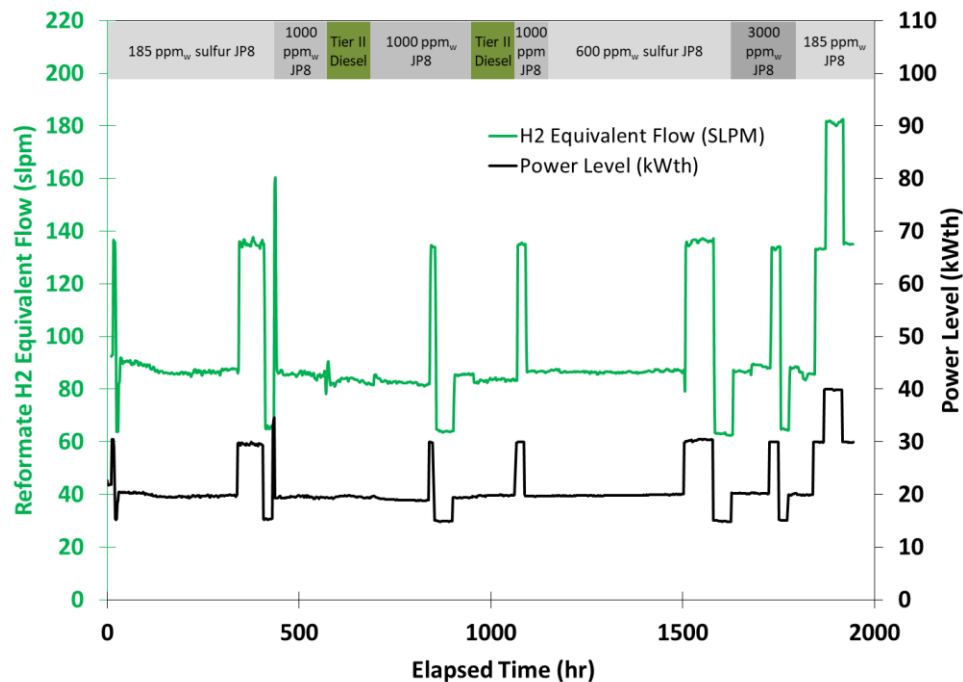
Sulfur filter

Experimentally Validated & Patented by PCI



(I) Reformer Performance

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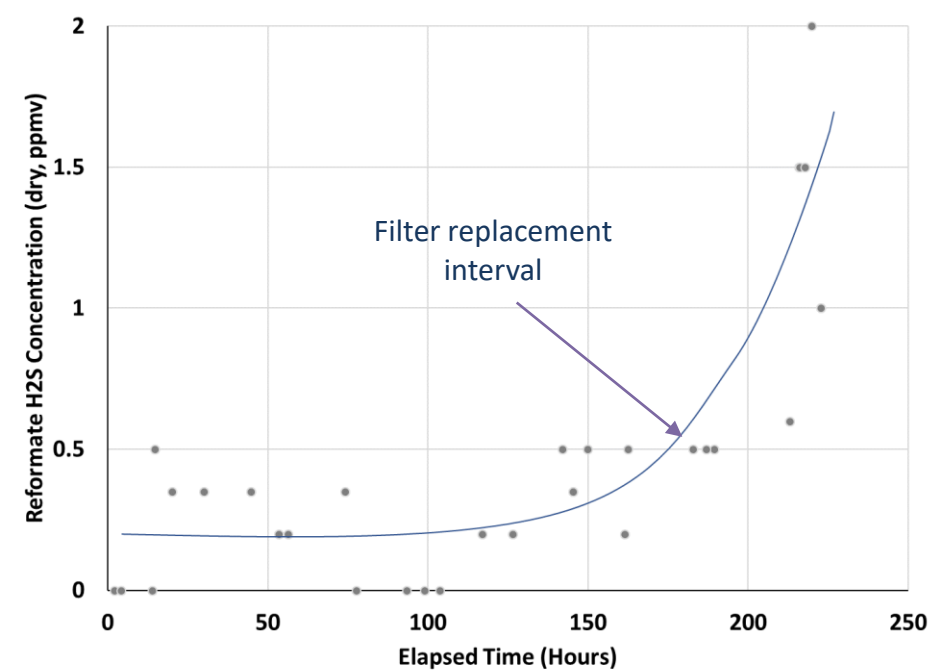
- 30+ thermal cycles
 - High fuel conversion >99.9%
 - Converts fuel-bound sulfur to H₂S
 - LHV-based reforming efficiency >80%
 - Equilibrium reforming efficiency >95%
- Reformer startup to steady state <15 mins
- Reformer successfully implemented in generators
- Degradation rate of <5% observed over 2000 hours
- 2000-hour test w. Jet fuels (w. 185, 600, & 3000 ppm_w Sulfur) & Tier II Diesel

2000-hour reformer durability with Jet fuels/Diesel demonstrated



(2) Sulfur Filter Performance

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Mesh-supported sorbent (PCI patented design) w. high capacity



Sulfur filter performance w. high bed utilization

Sulfur cleanup to <0.2 – 0.5 ppm_v with high sulfur Jet fuels

Ability to effectively remove sulfur demonstrated



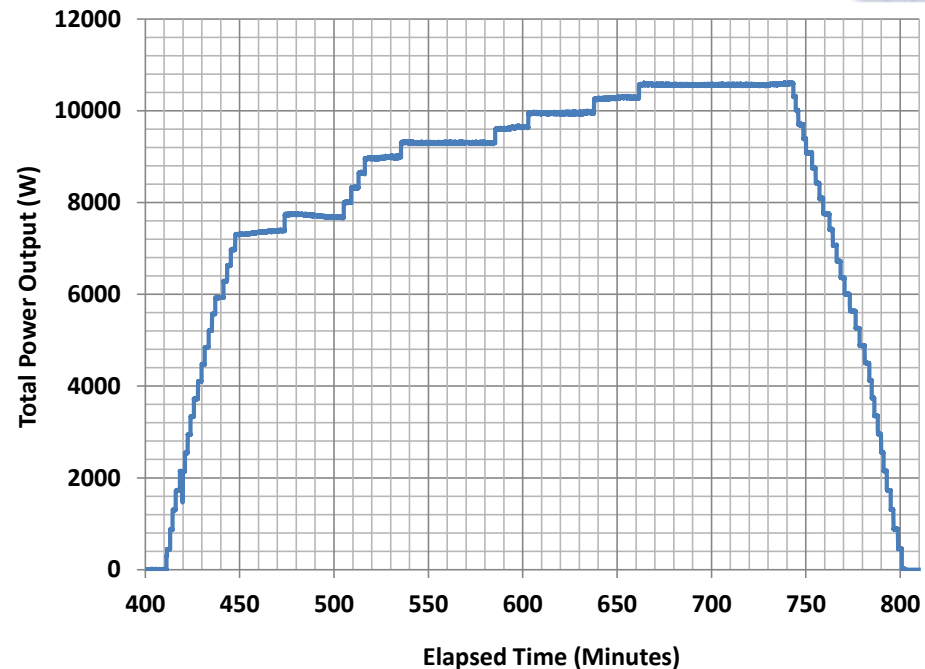
(3) Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC)

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- Robust and durable SOFC sourced from OEMs
- Stack examined for:
 - Repeatability
 - Performance & stability over time
 - Stability over multiple start/stop cycles
 - Low cathode air requirement for lower weight & parasitics
 - Manifolder cathode and anode for simplified integration
- We work closely w. stack OEMs to implement startup/transient/shutdown protocols



Stable SOFC operation in generator
SOFC related risks significantly mitigated



(4) Power Conditioning

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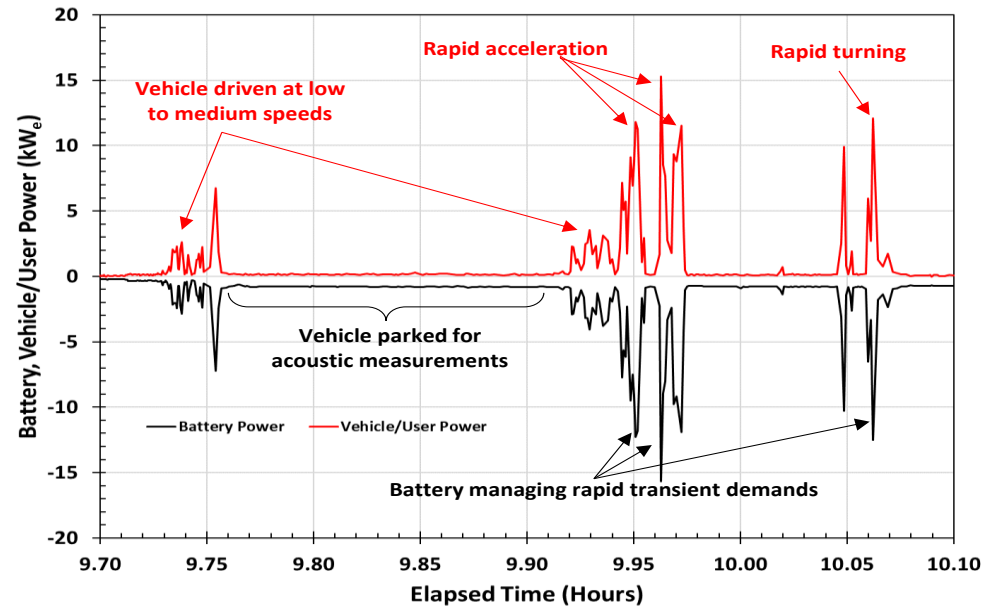


- Challenges:

- Convert stack voltage to 28 – 32 VDC (nominal)
- Meet power quality requirements
- Enable seamless hybridization with COTS batteries
- Load balancing to allowable SOFC *slew rate*
- Load shunting capability during down transients
- Implement SOFC protection protocols w. dynamic loads
- Minimize power conditioning losses
- PCB design for compact footprint
- Battery sizing to meet start, load requirements

- Approach:

- Designed and fabricated power conditioning system (in-house, with external PCB fabrication)
- Novel and simplified approach with built in safeties implemented
- Designed PCB with provisions for individual SM-Bus monitoring (track SOH of each battery)



*Power conditioning board designed and experimentally verified;
startup/transient/shutdown protocols implemented*



(6) Start/Tail-gas Burner

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- Challenges:

- Reliable start-ups with consistent temperature profile
- Single lightweight burner for startup (JP-8/F-24) and/or tail gas (H_2 + CO) combustion
- Integrate burner with heat exchangers to meet ΔP and ΔT requirements for SOFC



Single Burner design developed & implemented



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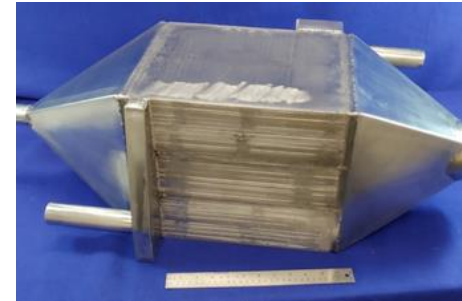
(7) HX: Performance Validation

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- Multiple Custom HEXs (including 3D printed) for:
 - Cathode/anode inlet/outlet
 - Reformer inlet
 - Steam generation, etc.
- Performance validated and tested



All HEXs met thermal performance & pressure drop targets



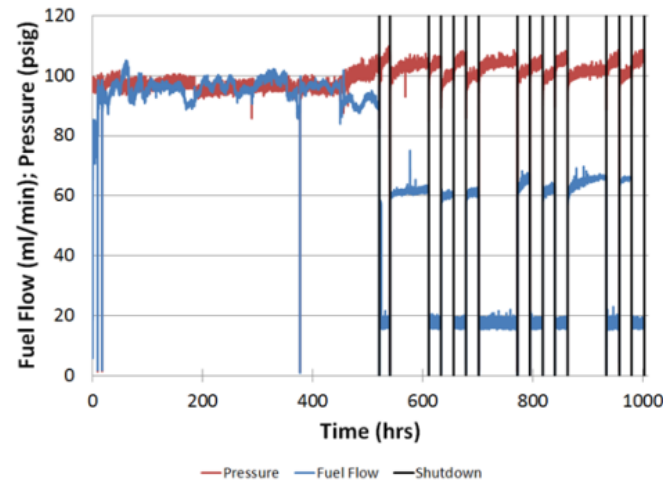
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(8) BOP (pumps, blowers, sensors)

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- All fuel/air pumps/blowers/sensors rigorously tested over 1000s of hours
- Availability, cost, weight, parasitic power, fuel-compatibility assessed
- Service life estimated based on performance
- Fuel delivery system test example shown

Rigorous performance and durability assessment of pumps, blowers, sensors



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(9) Controls: Data Acquisition & Feedback

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Challenges :

- Properly and safely operate the SOFC system:
 - All process parameters must be monitored
 - Temperatures, pressures, voltages, and a variety of other sensors to collect system information
 - Each parameter must be properly received and scaled
 - Control signals must be sent to the various BOP components to provide user-flexibility
 - Including pumps, valves, and other electronic relays
- All input and output variables are interrelated via a system of PID control loops
- Over 150 values are logged, graphed in real time, & examined



(10) System Integration & Packaging

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- Detailed P&ID of system created
- Detail CAD models created
- Components fabricated, tested, & assembled
- Controls & power conditioning implemented
- Performance tested w. target fuel
- Confirmed water neutrality, sulfur tolerance, power out, etc.
- MIL-SPEC power validated for communication equipment
- Weight, efficiency, start-up time remain to be optimized

Standalone prototype, inclusive of all components.

JP-8 fueled, SOFC + Battery hybridized system for Silent-Mobility, Silent-Watch, Export-Power



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- Fuel flexibility for increased resilience
 - Use scavenged fuels
 - Batteries can be charged via renewable/grid power
 - Can use future carbon-neutral sustainable-fuels for lower carbon footprint
- High efficiency
 - Reduced average fuel consumption
 - Lower GHG emissions and supports anti-idle technology
- Capability enhancement
 - Tactical vehicles as distributed power generators & microgrid compatible
 - Power other assets (SMETS, UAS, weapons, soldier needs, comms, payloads)
 - Minimal moving parts for long MTBF
 - Avoids compromises endemic with battery-only solutions
 - Provides more on-board electric output & produces clean surplus water
 - Low thermal and acoustic signatures enables full-time silent operation

Advances Climate & Operational Energy Strategy





- Smaller, lighter, more efficient, faster startup, MIL SPEC compliance
- Implement SOFC auxiliary power in Robotic Combat Vehicle
- Meet Key Performance Parameter associated with military systems
- Scale for target applications (mobility, soldier power, UAS)
- Examine microgrid compatibility
- Ongoing work for commercial applications
- Ongoing work for space applications (NASA, others)

Component & system development ongoing for broader utility



Thank You!

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These results were made possible through the dedicated efforts of the engineers & technicians at PCI.
We are grateful to the DoD, DoE, and NASA for supporting the development efforts.



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