

# Pilot Testing of a Highly Efficient Pre-combustion Sorbent-based Carbon Capture System (Contract No. DE-FE-0013105)



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**DOE/NETL Carbon Capture Meeting**

**Pittsburgh, PA**

**August 1, 2014**

**TDA Research Inc. • Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 • [www.tda.com](http://www.tda.com)**

# Project Summary

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- **The objective is to develop a new sorbent-based pre-combustion capture technology for Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power plants**
- **Demonstrate techno-economic viability of the new technology by:**
  - 1) **Evaluating technical feasibility in 0.1 MW<sub>e</sub> slipstream tests**
  - 2) **Carrying out high fidelity process design and engineering analysis**
- **Major Project Tasks**
  - **Sorbent Manufacturing**
    - **Performance validation via long-term cycling tests**
  - **Reactor Design**
    - **CFD Analysis and PSA cycle optimization with adsorption modeling**
  - **Fabricate a Pilot-scale Prototype for Demonstration**
  - **Evaluations at various sites using coal-derived synthesis gas**
  - **Techno-economic analysis**
    - **High fidelity engineering analysis and process simulation**

# Project Partners

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## Project Duration

- Start Date = January 1, 2014
- End Date = September 30, 2017

## Budget

- Project Cost = \$9,929,228
- DOE Share = \$7,943,382
- TDA and its partners = \$1,985,846

# TDA's Approach to CO<sub>2</sub> Capture

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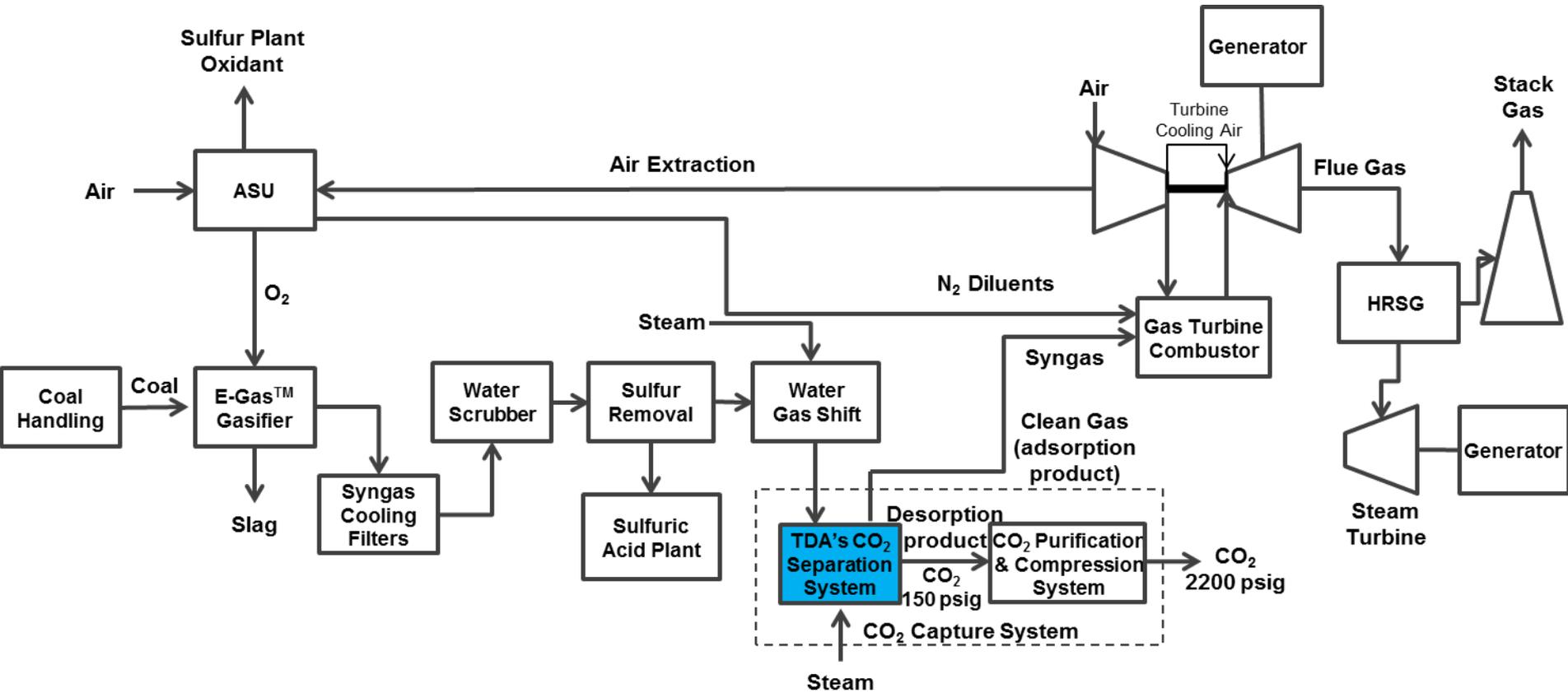
- TDA's sorbent consists of a mesoporous carbon modified with surface functional groups that remove CO<sub>2</sub> via strong physical adsorption
  - CO<sub>2</sub>-surface interaction is strong enough to allow operation at elevated temperatures
  - Because CO<sub>2</sub> is not bonded via a covalent bond, the energy input for regeneration is low
- Heat of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption is measured as **3.8 to 4.9 kcal/mol** for TDA sorbent
  - Selexol ~4 kcal/mol
  - Amine solvents ~14.4 kcal/mol
  - Chemical absorbents 20-40 kcal/mol (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> → NaHCO<sub>3</sub> 30 kcal/mol)
- Net energy loss in sorbent regeneration is similar to Selexol
  - A much better IGCC efficiency due to high temperature CO<sub>2</sub> capture above the dew point of the synthesis gas
  - Warm gas clean-up improves cycle efficiency 2 to 4%

# Benefits of Warm Gas Clean-up

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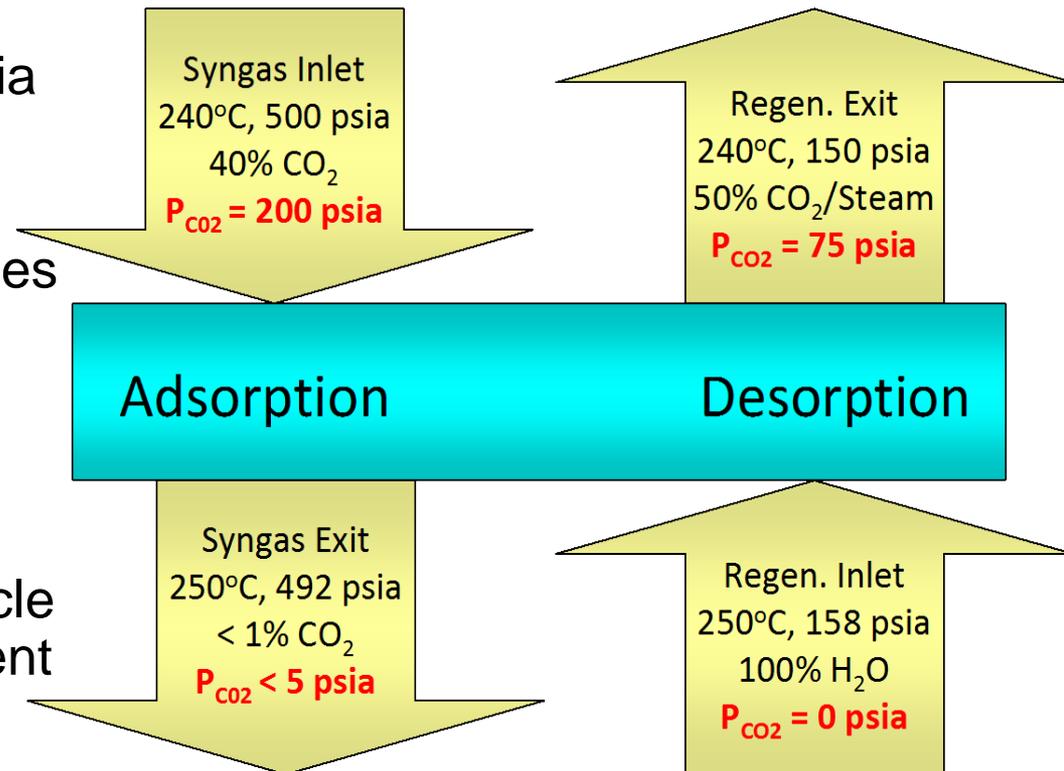
- **Warm gas CO<sub>2</sub> capture above the dew point of syngas results in more steam in the H<sub>2</sub> rich (CO<sub>2</sub> free) gas entering the gas turbine**
  - Higher mass throughput to the gas turbine
  - Lower gas turbine temperature
    - Significantly reduces the need for high pressure N<sub>2</sub> dilution in GT
    - Lower NO<sub>x</sub> formation
- **High steam content feed is also more suited for the next generation hydrogen turbines under development in the DOE/NETL H<sub>2</sub> turbine program**
- **Simpler process**
  - Elimination of the heat exchangers needed for cooling and re-heating the synthesis gas
  - Elimination of gray water treatment problem
- **Potential higher efficiency via integrated WGS/Carbon Capture Process**

# IGCC Power Plant with Integrated Warm Gas CO<sub>2</sub> Capture System



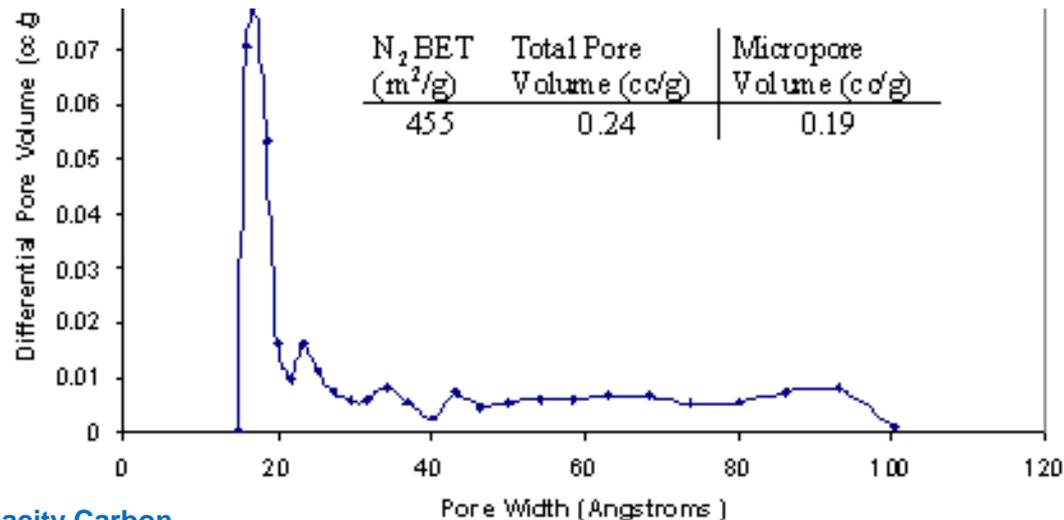
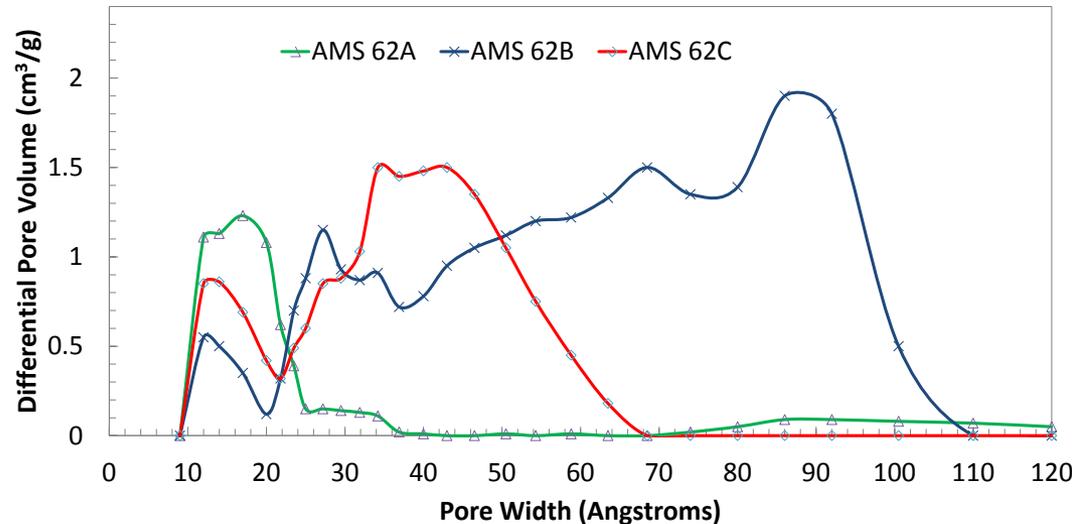
# Operating Conditions

- **CO<sub>2</sub> recovery via a combined pressure and concentration swing**
  - CO<sub>2</sub> recovery at ~150 psia reduces energy need for CO<sub>2</sub> compression
  - Small steam purge enables purity requirements
- **Isothermal operation eliminates heat/cool transitions**
  - Rapid cycles reduces cycle time and increases sorbent utilization
- **Similar PSA systems are used in commercial H<sub>2</sub> plants**



# TDA's Sorbent

- A mesoporous carbon is used to disperse the active sorbent phase
- Pore size can be finely tuned in the 10 to 100 Å range
- Mesopores eliminates diffusion limitations and rapid mass transfer, while enables high surface area
- The preparation process also enables us to introduce various surface groups active for removing different compounds

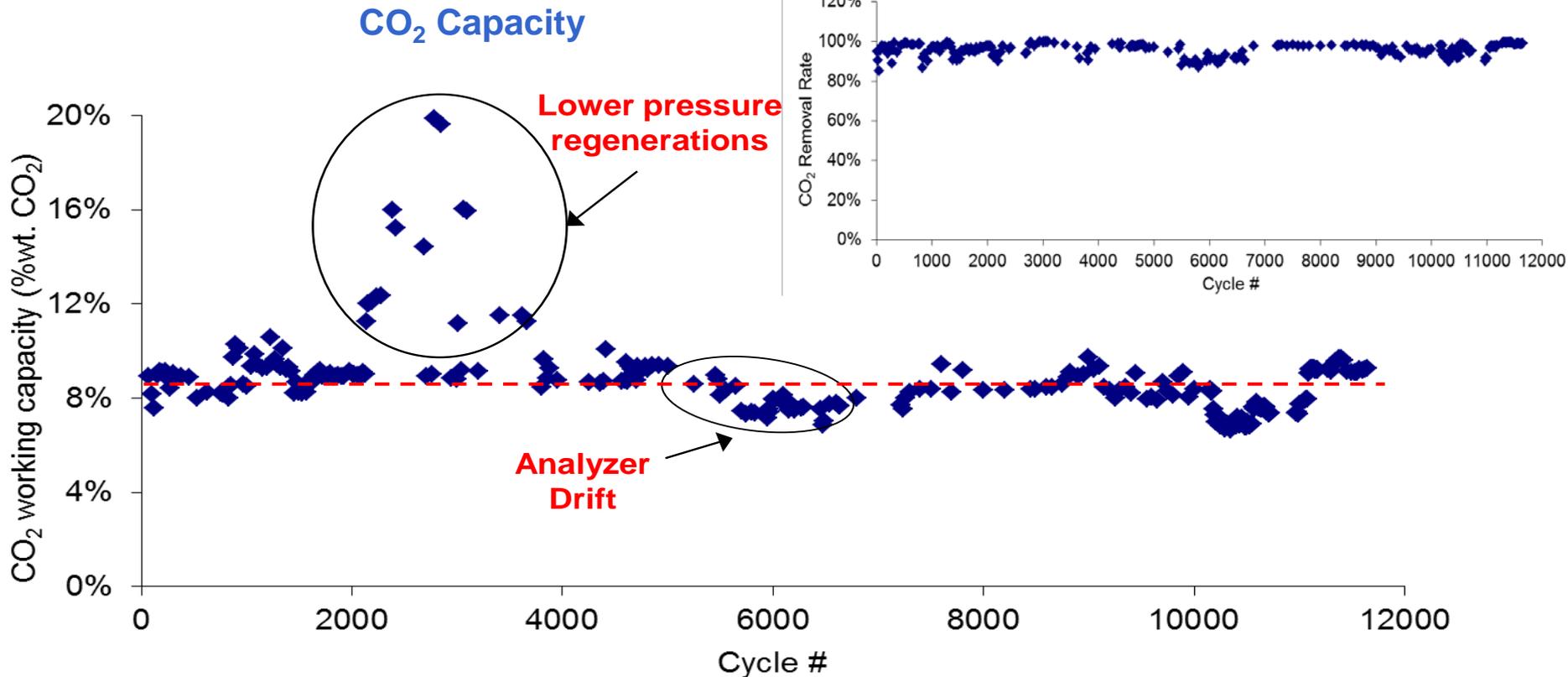


US Pat. Appl. 61787761, Dietz, Alptekin, Jayaraman "High Capacity Carbon Dioxide Sorbent"

US Pat. Appl. 61790193, Alptekin, Jayaraman, Copeland "Pre-combustion Carbon Dioxide Capture System Using a Regenerable Sorbent"

# Multiple Cycle Tests – Bench-scale

$H_2=32\%$ ,  $CO_2=40\%$ ,  $N_2=3\%$ ,  $CO=1\%$ ,  $H_2O=24\%$ ;  
 $T=240^\circ C$ ;  $P_{ads}=500$  psig;  $P_{des}=50-300$  psig



- Sorbent maintained its CO<sub>2</sub> capacity (8+%wt.) for 12,650 cycles

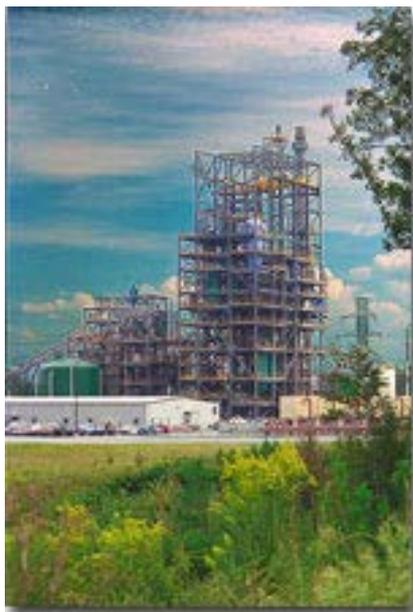
# Slipstream Demonstrations

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- Several for proof-of-concept tests were completed at two different facilities

## Wabash River IGCC Plant, Terre Haute, IN

- Demonstration carried out in September 2012
- Largest single-train Gasifier (262 MW)
- Oxy-blown E-Gas™ Gasifier
- Operates on petcoke



## National Carbon Capture Center, Wilsonville, AL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Demonstration carried out in November, 2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Demonstration carried out in April, 2012
- Pilot-scale air blown TRIG gasifier
- Operates on low rank coals

# Test Units – In NEMA-Rated Enclosures

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CO<sub>2</sub> Removal Skid



Gas Conditioning Skid



# Field Test Units Installed at NCCC

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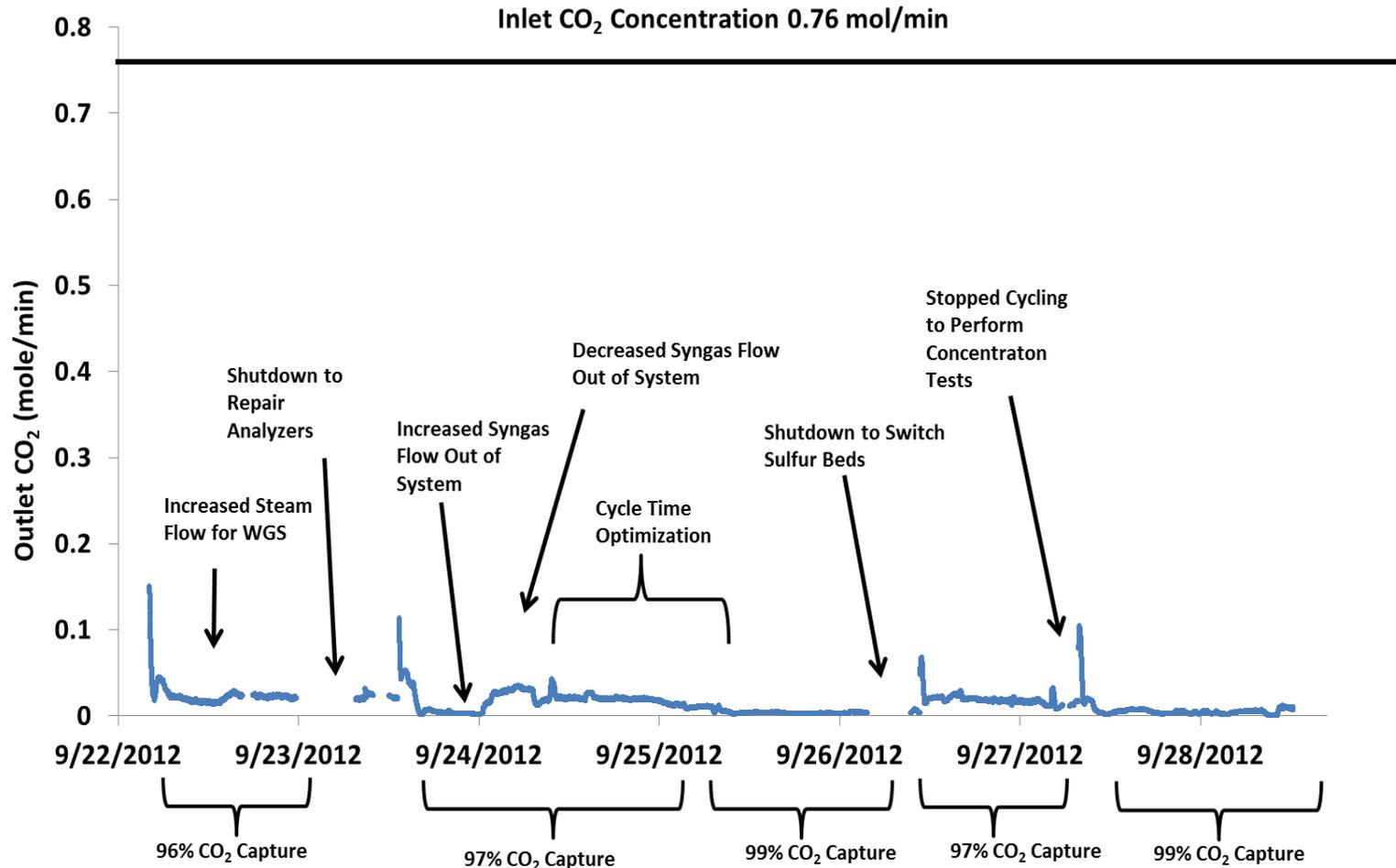


# Field Test Unit at Wabash River IGCC

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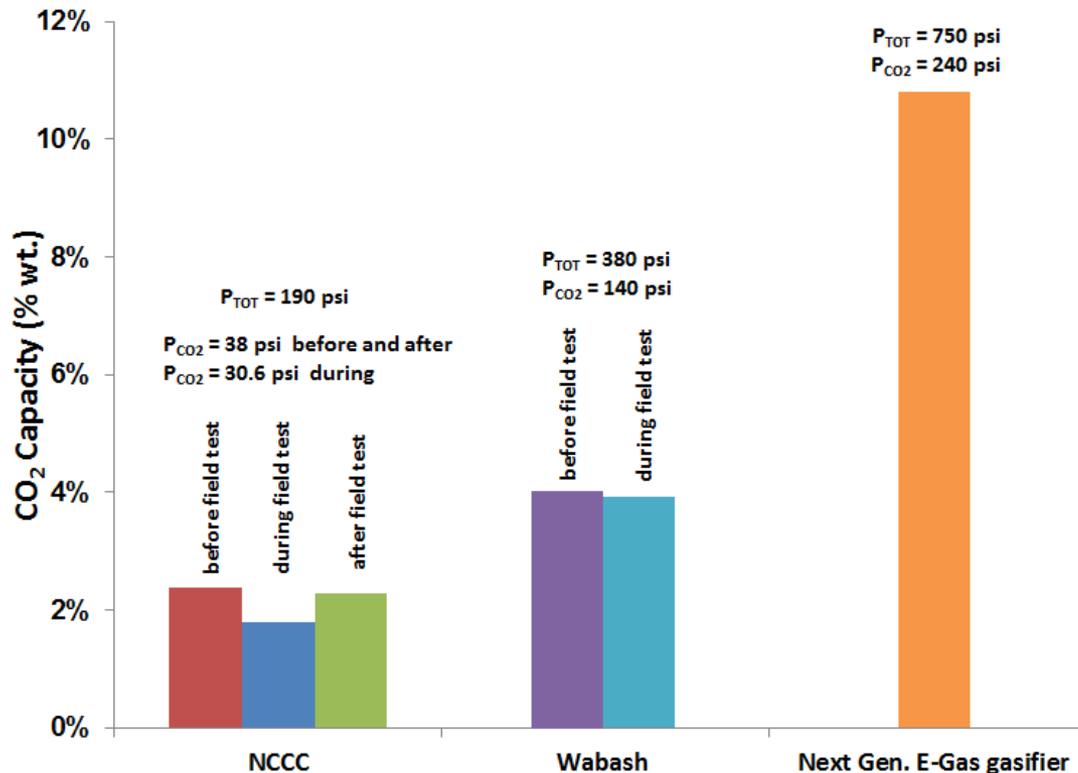


# Slipstream Demonstration – Wabash River IGCC Plant



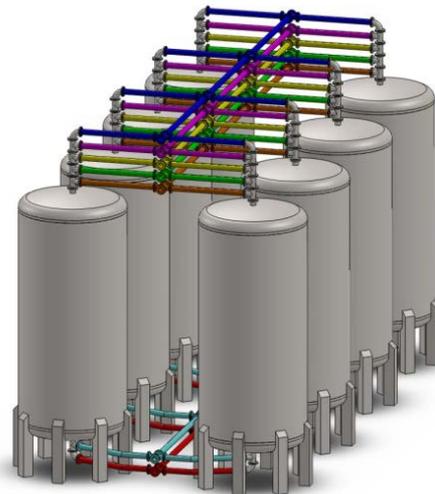
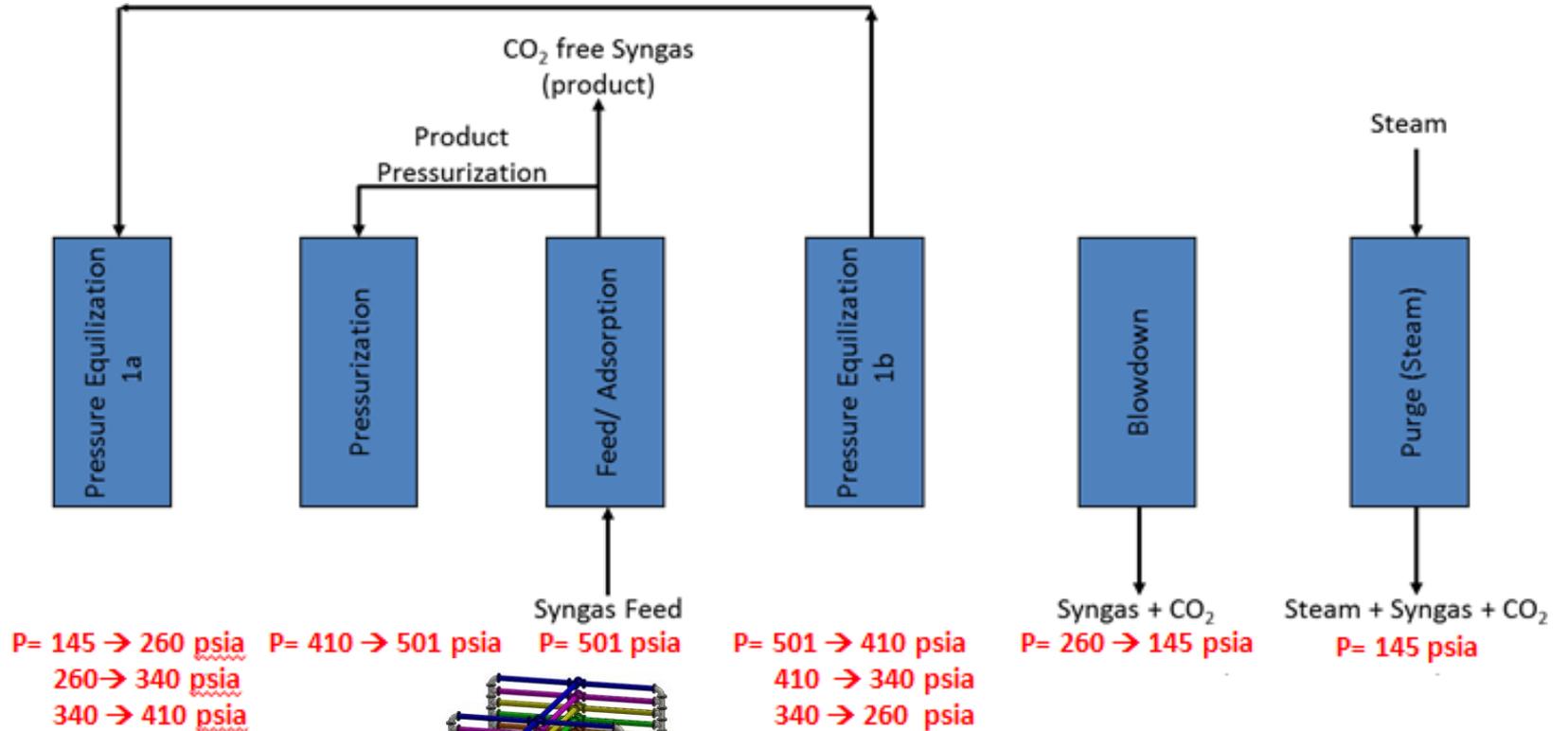
- Sorbent achieved ~4%wt. CO<sub>2</sub> capacity and 96+% removal efficiency

# Prototype Performance



- Sorbent achieved maintained CO<sub>2</sub> capacity before and after the field tests
  - 2.6% wt. CO<sub>2</sub> at P<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> = 38 psi
- At Wabash condition (P<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> = 140 psi) sorbent achieved 4.1% wt. CO<sub>2</sub> capacity
- Next generation E-Gas gasifier is expected to operate at 750 psi (P<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> = 240 psi) and capacity will exceed 10% wt. CO<sub>2</sub>

# PSA Cycle Design

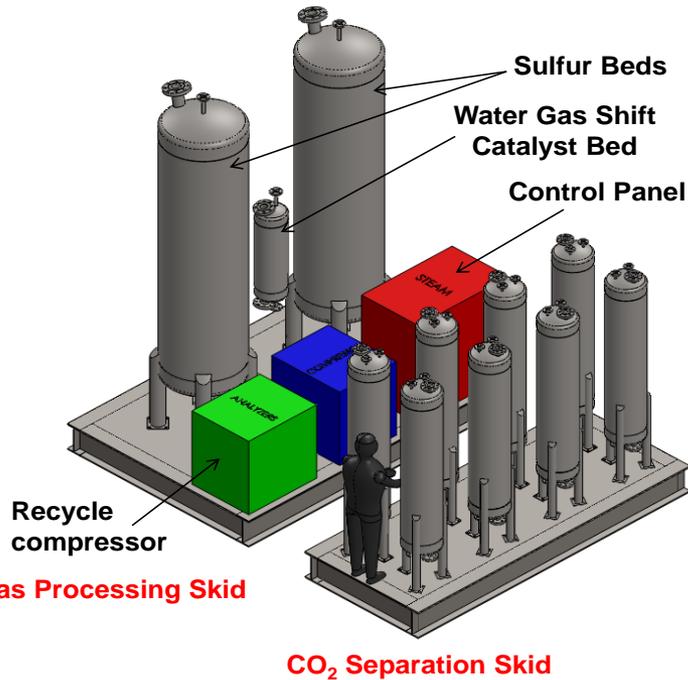


# System Analysis Results

	Cold Gas Cleanup Selexol™	Warm Gas Cleanup TDA's CO <sub>2</sub> Sorbent
CO <sub>2</sub> Capture, %	90.0	90.0
Gross Power Generated, kWe	691,247	733,028
Gas Turbine Power	464,000	464,000
Steam Turbine Power	227,247	269,028
Auxiliary Load, kWe	175,994	131,163
Net Power, kWe	515,253	601,865
Net Plant Efficiency, % HHV	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
Coal Feed Rate, kg/h	216,187	234,867
Raw Water Usage, GPM/MWe	11.8	11.2
Total Plant Cost, \$/kWe	2,754	2,418
COE without CO <sub>2</sub> TS&M, \$/MWh	99.8	87.8
COE with CO <sub>2</sub> TS&M, \$/MWh	<b>105.2</b>	<b>92.9</b>

- IGCC plant with TDA's CO<sub>2</sub> capture system achieves higher efficiency (34.0%) than IGCC with Selexol™ (31.6%)
- Cost of per tonne CO<sub>2</sub> avoided is \$31.1 for TDA's warm gas CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology compared \$49.5 for cold gas cleanup with Selexol™

# Specific Objectives



- Testing with high pressure syngas
  - Long-term performance
  - H<sub>2</sub> recovery/CO<sub>2</sub> purity
- 0.1 MW test with Sinopec (world class petcoke-IGCC or CTL plant)
- High fidelity system design and economic analysis

# Scope of Work – BP1

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## Budget Period 1 (BP1: 12/30/2013 – 12/31/2014)

- **Develop a Manufacturing Plan and Quality Assurance Plan**
- **Optimize the PSA cycle sequence for the sorbent technology**
- **Complete a detailed design of the sorbent reactors**
- **Develop a multi-component adsorption model and carry out CFD simulations to support the system design**
- **Complete the detailed design of the 0.1 MWe pilot-scale field test unit**
  - Provide the design package to test sites for approval (NCCC and Sinopec)
- **Provide DOE the full design package for the Pilot Scale CO<sub>2</sub> separation system including detailed vendor quotes**
- **Update process design and simulation**
  - Modifications in cycle sequence (gas flows, compression needs etc.)

# Manufacturing and QA Plans



Screw  
Extrusion



Continuous rotary kiln



Feeder

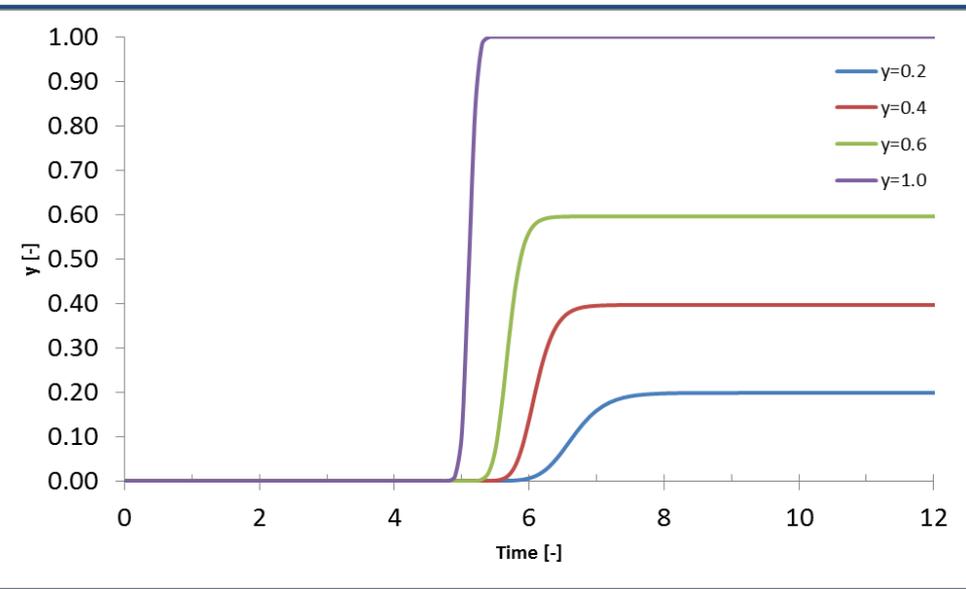


Exhaust gas  
treatment

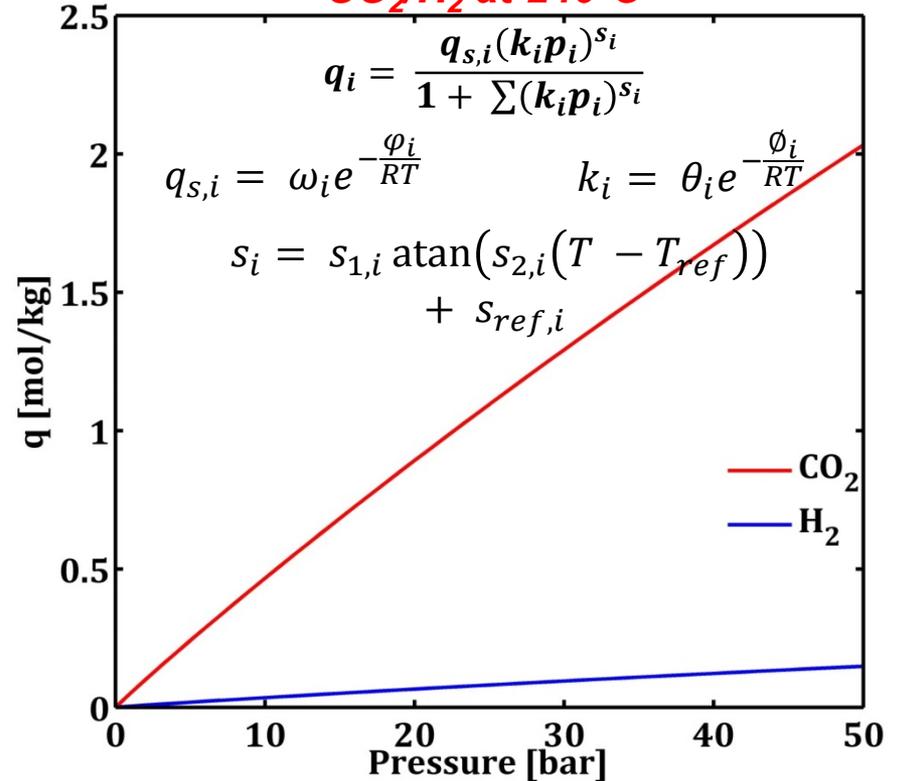
- Manufacturing plan was drafted based on high throughput pilot production equipment
- A continuous rotary kiln (with 12 lb/hr production capacity) was used in preparing 20+ batches
- Good agreement batch-to-batch and with-in-batch

# Adsorption Modeling – Cycle Design

Single Component Breakthrough Profiles (CO<sub>2</sub>) at 240°C



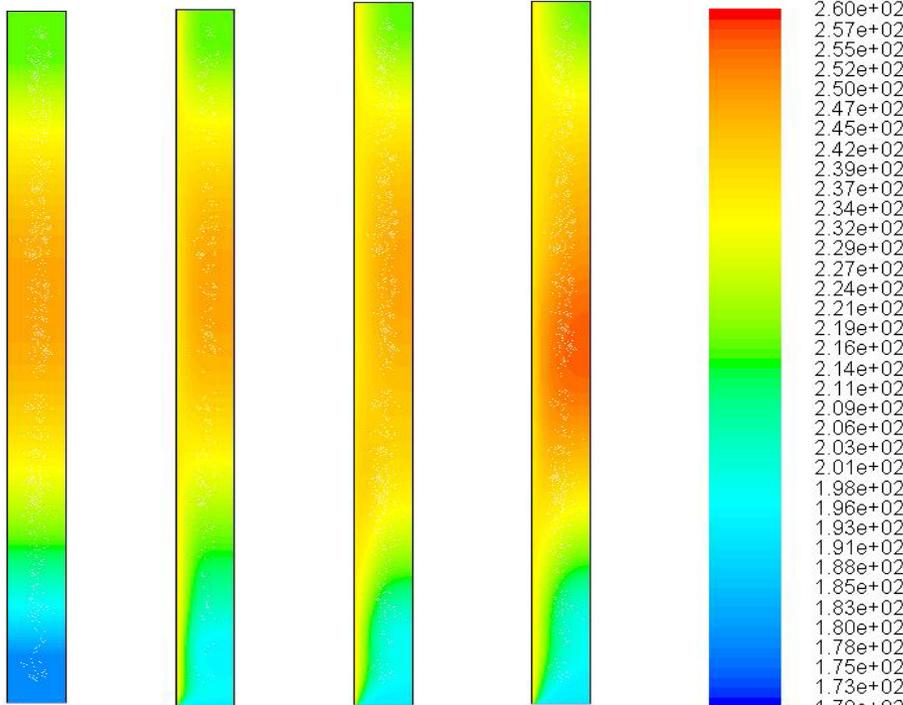
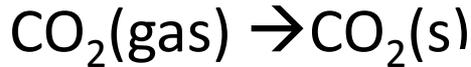
Binary isotherm for 40/60 mixture of CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> at 240°C



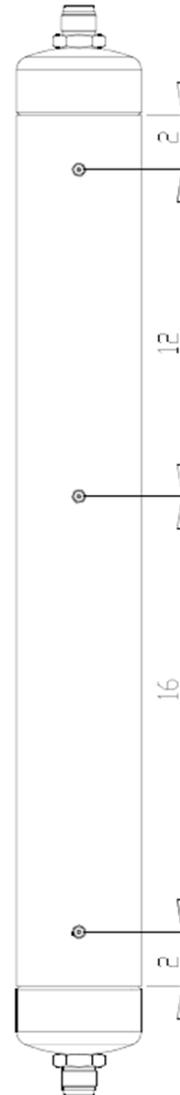
	$\omega_i$ (mol/kg)	$\phi_i$ (kJ/mol)	$\theta_i$ (1/Pa)	$\phi_i$ (kJ/mol)	$s_{1,i}$	$s_{2,i}$	$s_{ref,i}$	$T_{ref}$ (K)
CO <sub>2</sub>	3.74	-7.87	26.9x10 <sup>-09</sup>	-2.05	0.136	0.110	0.760	281
H <sub>2</sub>	6.6	0	0.70x10 <sup>-09</sup>	-9.83	0	0	0.956	273

# 2-D Model Validation - Adsorption

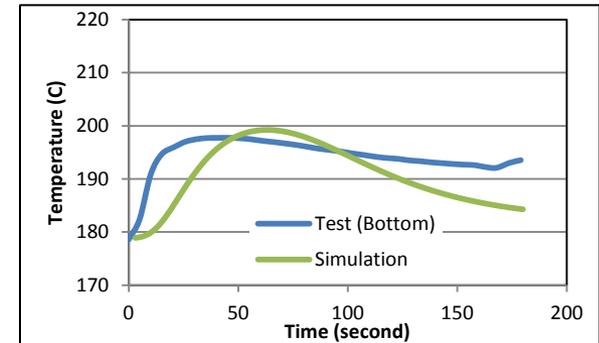
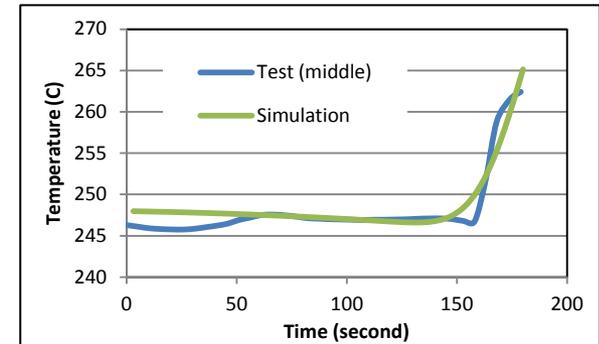
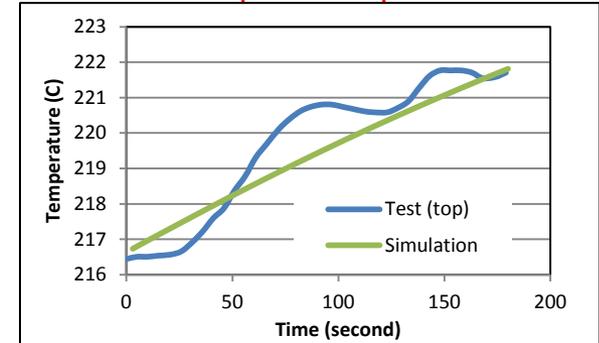
- Temperature simulation results are consistent with the testing results on the adsorption side



T=0 s    T=60 s    T=120 s    T=180 s  
(end of adsorption)

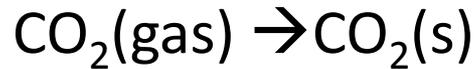


Bed temperature profiles

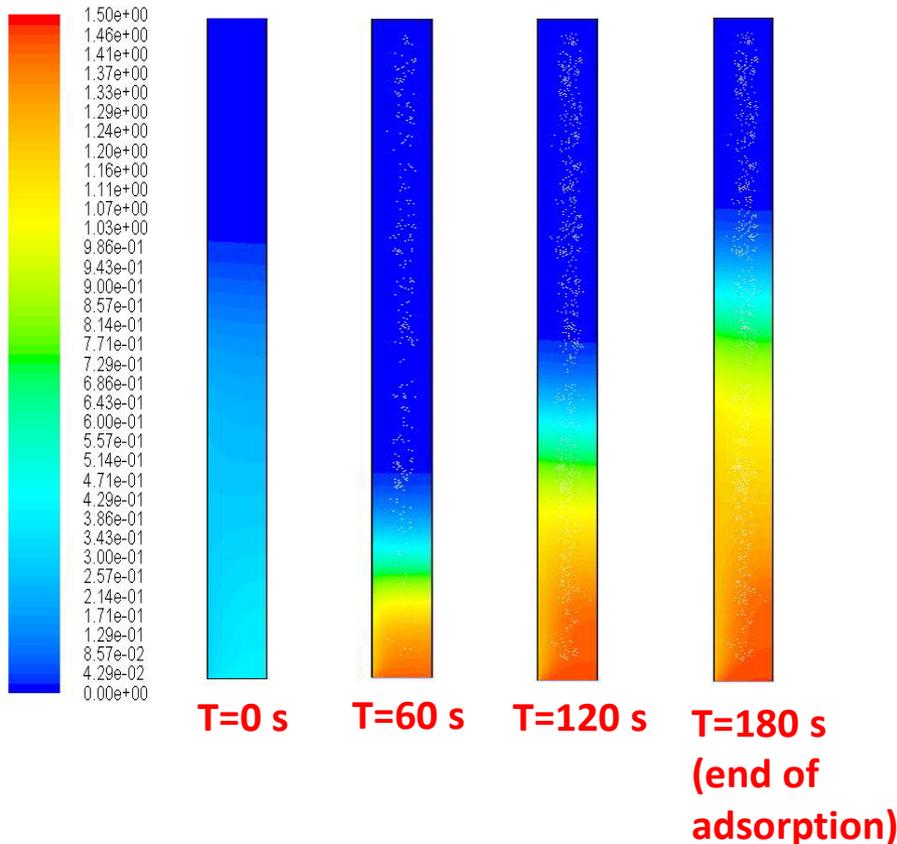


# 2-D Concentration Distributions

Adsorption process



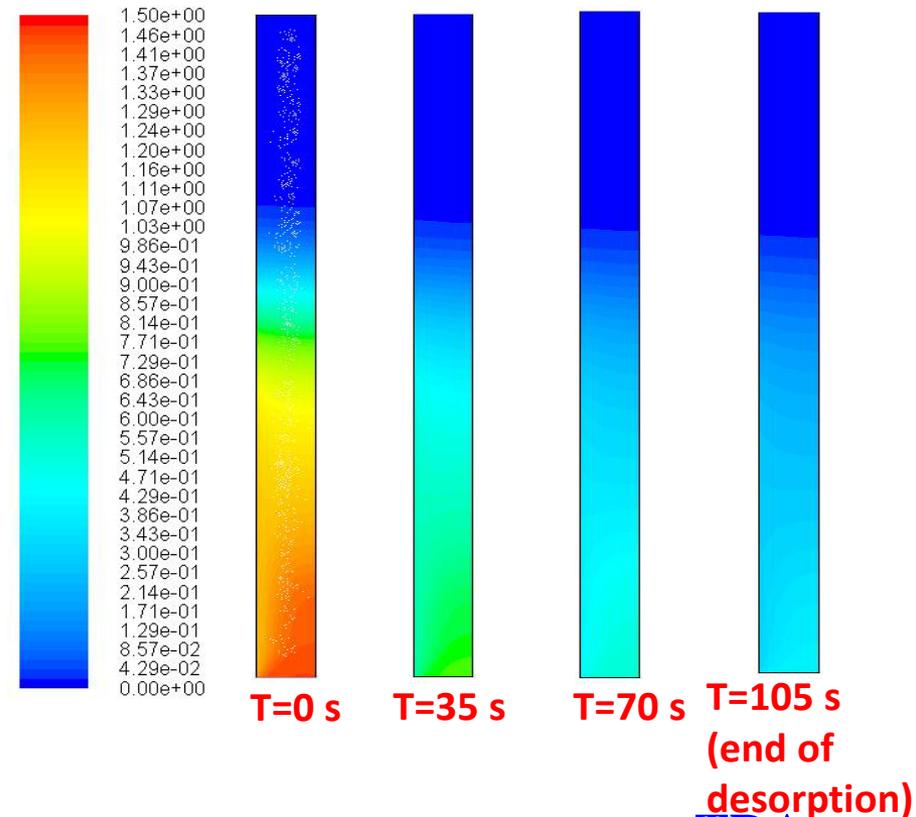
$\text{CO}_2(\text{s})$  distributions (mol- $\text{CO}_2$ /kg-sorbent)



Desorption process



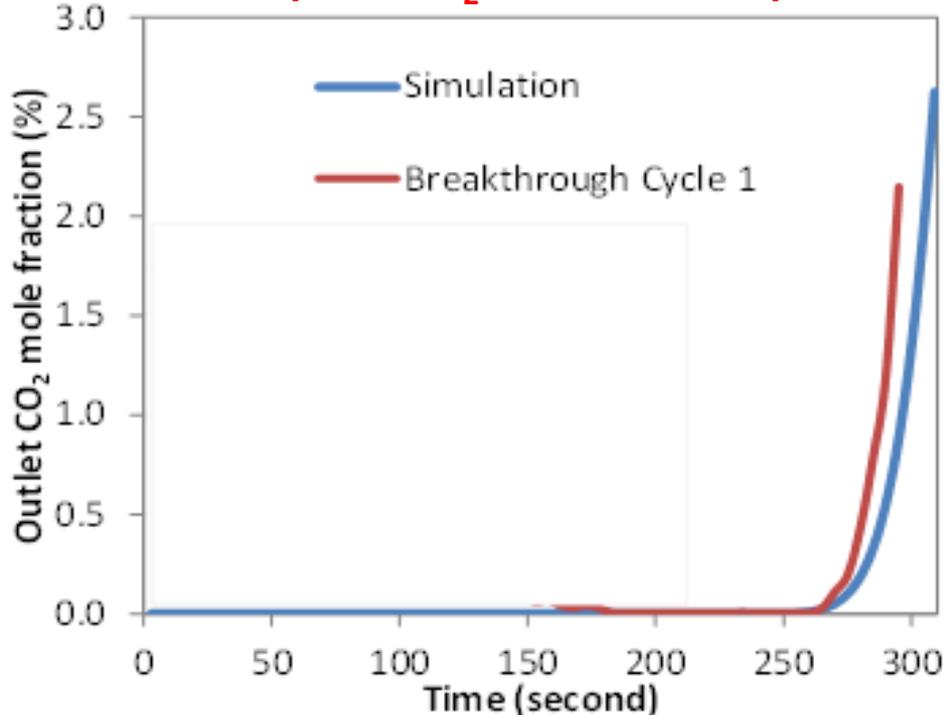
$\text{CO}_2(\text{s})$  distributions (mol- $\text{CO}_2$ /kg-sorbent)



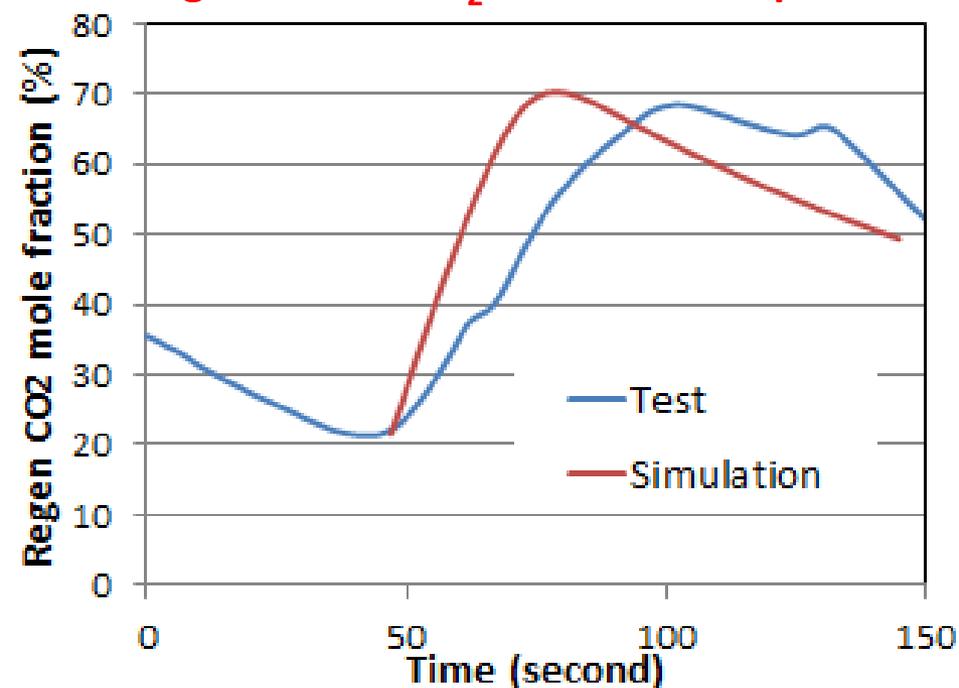
# 2D Model Validation – CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration

- Adsorption and regeneration stream CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are consistent with the testing results

Adsorption CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction profile



Regeneration CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction profile

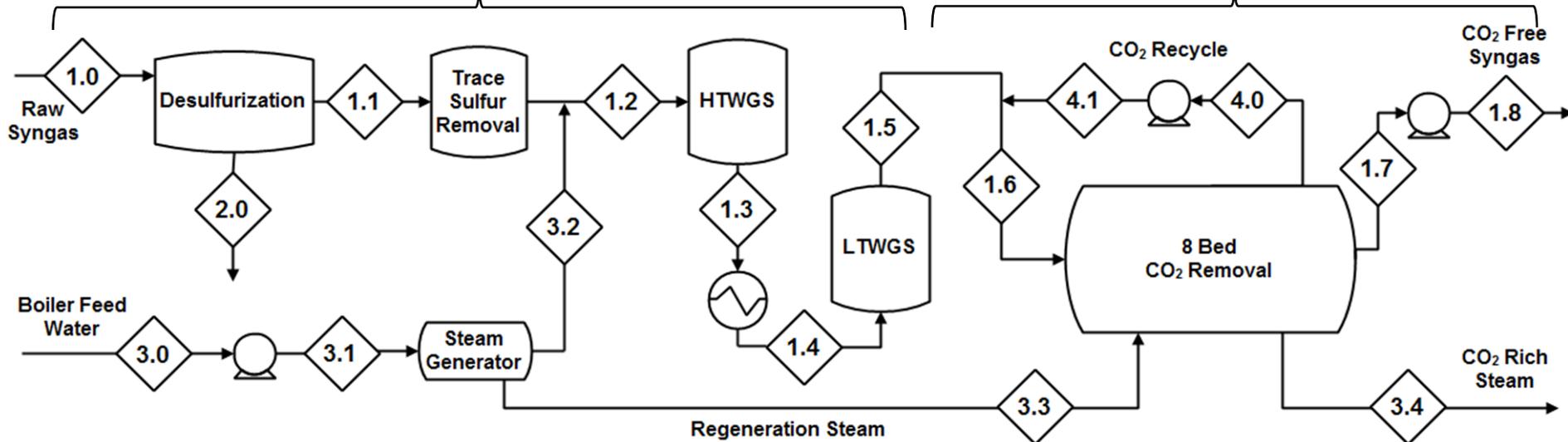


- 3-D model development validation is underway
- 4-bed demo unit was shipped to GTI data to support validation tests using coal-derived synthesis gas

# Design of the Pilot Testing Unit

## Gas Conditioning Skid

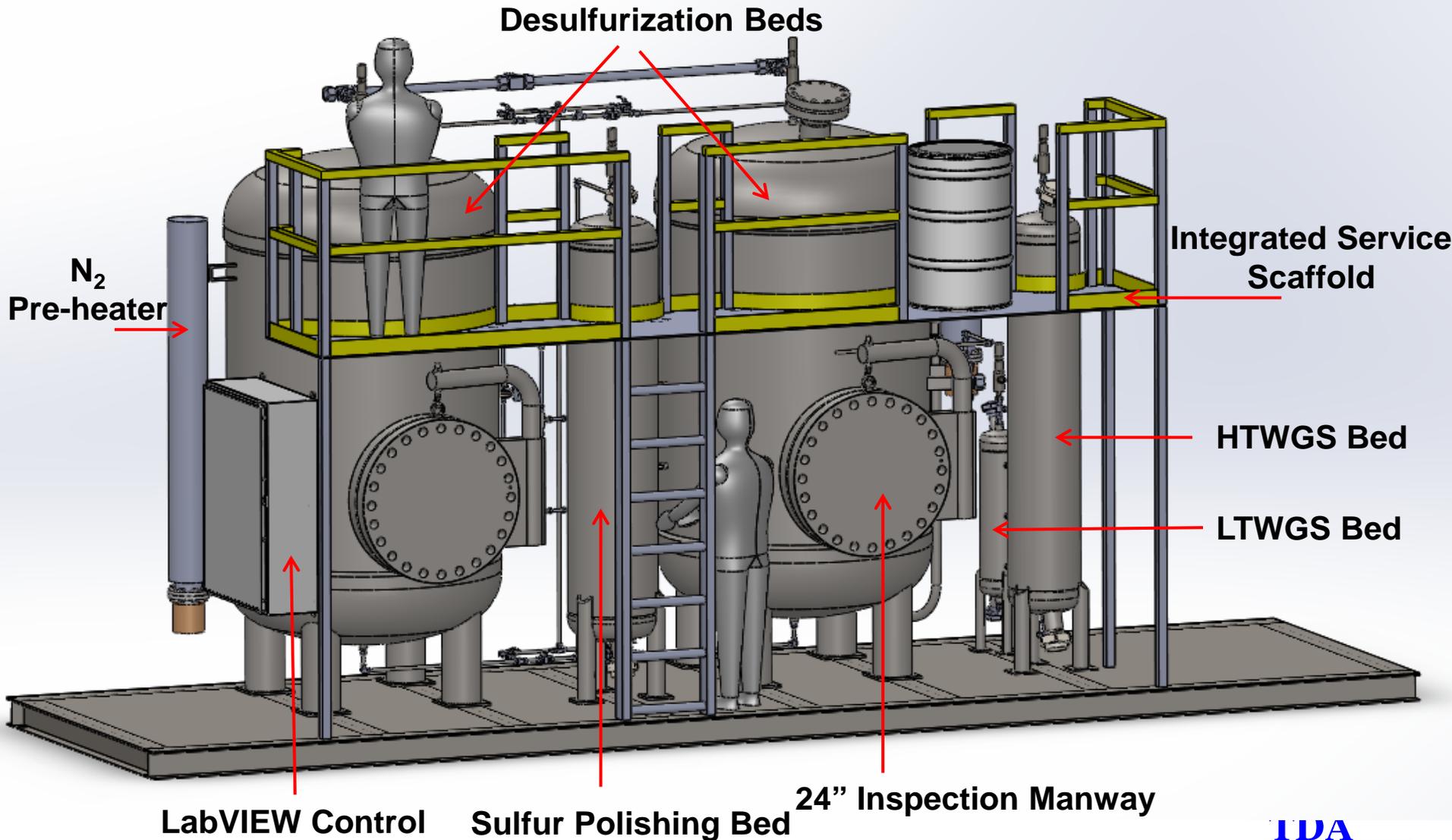
## CO<sub>2</sub> Separation/Capture Skid



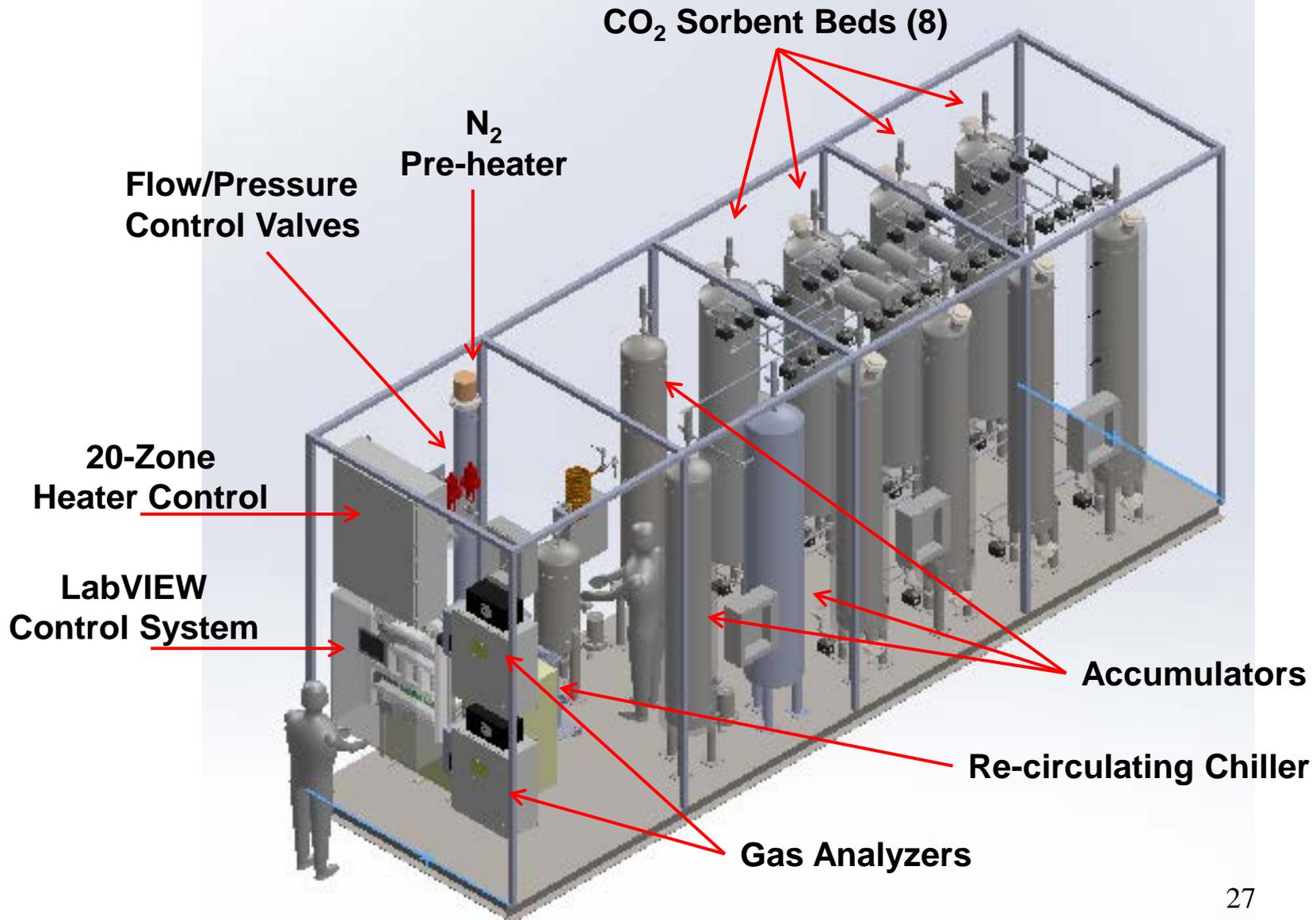
	Wabash River IGCC	NCCC - Wilsonville
Syngas flow into CO <sub>2</sub> Skid (scfm)	100	100
Syngas flow into DeS/WGS Skid (scfm)	66.3	91.4
Steam added for WGS (scfm)	34.6	8.6
Power Output (MWe)	0.13	0.047
CO <sub>2</sub> Captured (kg/hr)	105.5	52.1

- **Proof-of-concept evaluation of critical sub-system components (CO<sub>2</sub> purification system is excluded)**

# Gas Conditioning Skid



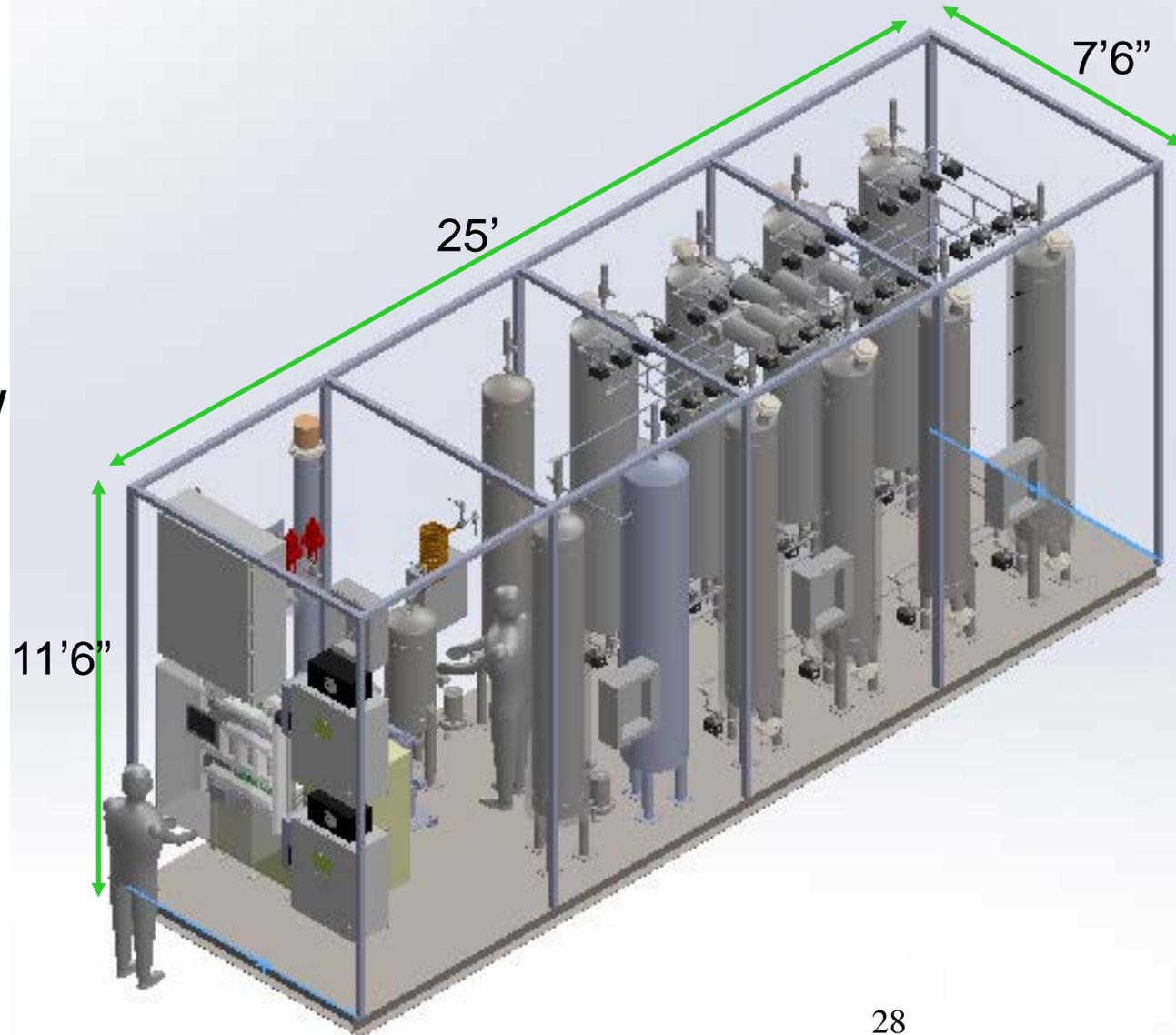
# CO<sub>2</sub> Separation Skid



# CO<sub>2</sub> Separation Skid



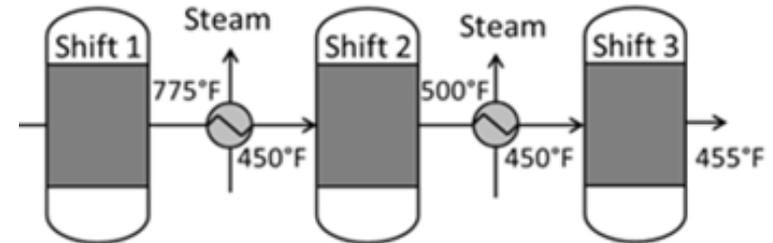
14" OD x 8ft  
200 L  
304 SS  
Rated 450°C/  
750 psig



# Process Simulation

- TEA is being updated based on the new Cost Guidelines provided by DOE
- TEA is being updated using the GE gasification technology
- Process improvements are under consideration
- Integrated WGS/CO<sub>2</sub> capture
  - DE-FE-00012048

Steam:CO ratio = 2.0  
3-stage WGS unit as described in the  
DOE/NETL-2007/1281



$H_2O + CO \leftrightarrow CO_2 + H_2$   
Steam:CO ratio = 1.15  
2-stage WGS unit

CO <sub>2</sub> Capture Technology	Cold Gas Cleanup Selexol™	Warm Gas Cleanup TDA's CO <sub>2</sub> Sorbent	
		PSA	WGS/PSA
CO <sub>2</sub> Capture, %	90.0	90.0	90.0
Gross Power Generated, kWe	703,700	720,322	767,147
Gas Turbine Power	464,000	464,000	464,000
Steam Turbine Power	239,700	256,322	303,147
Auxiliary Load, kWe	190,090	130,656	157,304
Net Power, kWe	513,610	589,665	609,843
Net Plant Efficiency, % HHV	<b>31.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>34.5</b>
Coal Feed Rate, kg/h	219,635	231,379	234,444
Raw Water Usage, GPM/MWe	11.3	10.8	10.3

\* DOE Study DOE/NETL-2010/1397 Rev2a

# Acknowledgements

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- **Dr. Francois Botha and Dr. Debalina Dasgupta, ICCI**