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Novel Temperature Sensors and Wireless Telemetry for Active Condition Monitoring of Advanced Gas Turbines DOE Award: DE-FE-0026348

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# Deployment of Advanced Sensing Systems Enables Operational Based Assessment



- Harsh environment instrumentation provides critical information regarding component condition
- Such information provides data for:
  - Test engine evaluation
  - Design model validation
  - Engine performance
  - Engine diagnostics
  - Conditioned based assessment
- Improvements over existing instrumentation is required to obtain long life data from fleet engines.
- Enables a paradigm shift in engine operation



### Advanced sensor systems enable a paradigm shift

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# Anatomy of a Smart Component

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Thermal spray processes enable cost-effective, integrated sensors deposited on thermal barrier coatings (TBCs)



# **Current Blade Measurement Methodology**

#### **Current method of blade instrumentation**

- Wires from blade rings down entire length of rotor
- Time consuming 3-6 months per validation
- Expensive \$2-3 Million per validation
- Damages rotor; costly replacement





# **Paradigm Shift for Engine Monitoring**

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#### Ultra high-temperature wireless telemetry and advanced sensors

- Direct measurement of engine and component operating conditions
- Engine performance is directly determined based on measurements
- Component life predictions are calculated based on measured data
- Direct monitoring via minimally invasive high temperature wireless telemetry
- Key enabler for long life performance and condition monitoring





#### Current indirect gas path monitoring

- Indirect monitoring from gas path temperature sensors
- Engine performance indirectly calculated from available models
- Component life predictions are hours-based
- Monitoring of component integrity is practically non-existent
- Instrumentation, when used, is destructively invasive

#### **Increasing Engine Reliability and Availability**

# **Benefits If Successful**

#### **Online Condition Based Monitoring**

- Multi-Thousand Hour Lifetime
- Reduce component-life-based shutdowns
  - \$1-2 Million savings
  - Machine on time increased 1-2% annually
- Online Engine Operation for Efficiency Gains

#### **Feedback for Design Optimization**

- Online Blade Condition more widespread
- No wires → higher accuracy
- Blade temperatures at critical locations

#### Summary

- Higher engine on-time
- More design feedback
- Multifunctional circuitry capabilities
- Online feedback  $\rightarrow$  Operational optimization  $\rightarrow$  higher engine efficiency
- Push forward extreme high temperature electronics







# **Novel Sensors- Wireless Telemetry System Team**



The technical team is strong and has been working together for 12 years

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# **Progressive Development Approach**

# -High Temperature -Torch Tests Spin Tests -Bench Tests -TC Furnace -Circuit Tests Large Engine Validation Testing **Rig Qualification** Risk reduced via testing systems with increasing complexity System Bench Testing **Element Lab** Testing

Rigorous testing and validation based on a thorough understanding of failure modes and improving final system performance

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-Large Scale IGT Engine Tests

# **Thick Film Sensor Deposition via Thermal Spray**



Sensors may be incorporated with minimal component and performance modifications.

Specimen configuration tested.



# Thermocouple deposited on a furnace cycle test button.





### Ceramic thermocouple offers high signal to noise ratio and no impact on TBCs

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# Isothermal Testing of ITO-LaSrCoO TC



# Isothermal heating with 2 TCs evaluation for reproducibility.



**Calibration curve** 

- Possibility of reactions between the 2 ceramic compositions that might be resulting in 60% increase in emf over 5 cycles.
- A stable ceramic composition is sought that doesn't reaction with the ITO leg. While we have a stable n-type thermocouple composition in Indium tin oxide, a very stable p type composition (Samarium-Calcium-Cobalt-Oxide) was produced.

## Continued search of stable P-type ceramic composition





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# Isothermal Testing of ITO-SmCaCoO TC



Isothermal testing upto 1100C

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- 170 mV @1100C output
- No reactions or increase in emf observed with thermal cycles

### 4 TC bars show consistent emf output and correlation to Type S TC over 2 hours

New ceramic TCs show consistent emf output and correlation to Type S TC over 5 thermal cycles

Next steps:

- Long term testing at 1400C planned
- TC bar sent to Wolfspeed for integration to wireless telemetry board



## Very consistent response from ITO-SmCaCoO TC, long term testing underway

# **Structure of a Wireless Telemetry System**



- Hardwiring rotating parts through rotor is expensive and time consuming.
- Wireless telemetry has been used for many years, but not uncooled at high ambient temperatures.
- Antennae, circuit board, and electrical run materials, die attach and wire bond processes all must be optimized for functionality and stability at elevated temperatures and high g-loads.
- The active devices used on the circuit board must be capable of operation at high temperatures (devices such as SiC, AIN, etc. are required).
- A source of power must be provided to the circuit at high temperature.

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# **Design Challenges**

#### **Electronics Boards**

- Operating temperature 200+ °C higher than silicon technology can survive
- Thermal expansion and 16,000 g load make electrical connections very difficult
- · Vibration and g-load cause cracking of ceramic boards
- Thermal cycling causes metal trace delamination
- Bond wire failures (breaking and g-load flexing)

#### **Rotating Antenna**

- Must receive ~1 watt; only 10 cm long; 20mm gap
- Surrounded by grounded metal
- No metal enclosure (magnetic receiver)
- Metal-ceramic interfaces high vibration and g-load
- Magnetic properties vary greatly over 0-400 °C range

#### **Stationary Power Inducing Ring**

- Magnetic materials infeasible too much variation in field strength over temperature
- Thermal expansion and vibration make electrical connections very difficult
- Mounted on grounded metal
- Ceramic/metal interface in high vibration environment
- Need 400 °C, high frequency cables







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## **Wireless Telemetry System**



Antennae, circuit board, and electrical run materials, die attach and wire bond processes all being optimized for functionality and stability at 550C and high g-loads



# **Multi-Channel Signal Conditioning Design**



Multi-channel signal processing a must for multiple sensors on a turbine component



# Circuit and Components tested to 550 ° C



- Components with CMOS from Raytheon UK provided much better performance with a DC input voltage
- Raytheon shut their fab down, Team had to start from scratch making circuits on two separate fab lines

# Further Optimization needed to maintain Current gain Siemens AG 2016. All rights reserved

## SiC Integrated Circuits – Process BJT (KTH Stockholm)

- Fabrication started on four wafers, out of eight wafer slots
  - Rest of the wafers are kept for second fabrication run
- UARK reticle size was 10 mm by 5 mm
  - All circuits were designed using 40  $\mu$ m by 15  $\mu$ m emitter width NPN devices
  - Reticle was diced into 5 mm by 5 mm dies
  - I/O PAD size was 100 μm by 100 μm
- Characterization for the devices were performed over temperature
  - Current gain dropped from 105 at 25 °C to 47 at 450 °C.



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# SiC Integrated Circuits – Process CMOS (Fraunhofer)





Fabricated PFET Device (W=7Fabricated NFE $\mu$ m, L= 1.5  $\mu$ m) $\mu$ m, L= 1.5  $\mu$ m)

- Reticle size was 20 mm by 15 mm
  - Characterization on the devices were performed over temperature
- Wafer resolved the poly patterning issue
  - NFET showed acceptable I-V characteristics
    - VTH drops significantly over temperature
  - PFET provided poor I-V results
    - Due to higher P+ contact resistance



## **Optimization of PFET with new Reticle sizes**

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# SiC Signal Conditioning Block: Circuit Testing - OPAMP



**OPAMP** Schematic

- Opamp input base current equals 5 μA at 25°C
  - At 450°C base current increases to 10 μA
- Input resistance of the opamp equals 9 kΩ (needs to be in MΩ)

Test Method:

• Device was placed on the Signatone<sup>™</sup> thermal chuck

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- DC power supply provided VCC and VEE, which were 10 V and -4V respectively
- Inverting input (N\_IN) was set to 0 V and noninverting input (P\_IN) was fed from a function generator
  - 1 kHz 50 mV<sub>Pk-Pk</sub> sinudoidal-signal
  - Input signal offset set to 0 V
- Opamp output was observed from oscilloscope with 13 pF capacitance



OPAMP Output at 25°C and 450°C

# SiC Signal Conditioning Block: Circuit Testing -Regulator



Test Method:

- Device was placed on the Signatone™ thermal chuck
- Applied voltage on the INP node varied from 20 to 40 V

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- Applied reference voltage was 4.5 V
- Output load current varied from 0 mA (no load) to 18 mA (full load) using potentiometer
- Output was measured using multimeter

Temperature (°C)	Regulator output @ No Load (V)	Regulator output @ 18 mA load (V)	Load Regulation (in V/mA - low is better)
25	9.13	8.46	0.037
450	9.72	8.79	0.0517

Load Regulation at 25°C and 450°C

# **Acceptable Load Regulation**



Regulator Die on the Chuck at 450°C

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# **SiC Signal Conditioning Block Testing**

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- The TC provides 1  $\mu\text{A}$  but leaks from BJT based working circuit need to be addressed
- Increasing the opamp input impedance would resolve this issue by lowering the base current
- The opamp has high negative swing when INV node is higher. Currently, redesigning the output stage of the opamp

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## **Revised Power System**



Room Temp Prototype

> 550 ° C Prototype

Improved system results in > 10X in power transfer due to increased quality factor of the resonant system, and enhanced coupling efficiency of the induced power setup.

# **Engine Test Preparation**



#### Old design:

Complex wound magnets, Heavy magnetic holders Many insulated windings next to each other; shorting ruins a whole section.

Insulation of windings was stiff ceramic coating

Insulation of outside-to-inside cables was not vibration resistant



#### New design:

No magnets, A single cable, wound in a circle twice Rests inside insulating fixture, doesn't touch so won't short ZERO electrical connections inside turbine Mass of "holder" is much, much lower, comprised of CMC Power transfer is 8x higher, and very temperature independent Tests up to 650 °C show good power transfer (Aerodyne spin rig)



#### Design efforts initiated for engine test insertion of row 1 blade/vane for June 2020

# **Operational Based Assessment**



damage mechanisms

120000

100000

Prognostic health monitoring system comprises (a) instrumented components with relevant sensors, (b) telemetry for data acquisition/transmission to electronics for processing sensor signals, and (c) system architecture for analyzing sensor data, perform statistical prediction analyses for health forecasting.

#### **Onset of Failure modes**

Demonstration of EBH calculation methods

60000

time

80000

45000

40000

30000

25000

20000

15000 10000

5000

hours 35000

base

Equivalent

Creep

HCF

Hot corrosion

Oxidation

20000

40000



### Utilizing Engine Feedback to Materials design/life forecasting

# **Stochastic Methods for Turbine Component Life Estimation**

#### **Surrogate Model based Probabilistic Analysis**



Close the loop on using service data for design improvements

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# **Operations-based Predictive Analytics (use case: Life Estimation)**

#### From Probabilistic Design Life Assessment to Operations-Based Remaining Life Prediction



- Collect/Organize Maintenance Records
- Visualize and Analyze Failure Events
- Probability Distribution & Reliability Metrics
  (MTTE \* MTRE etc.)
  - (MTTF & MTBF etc.)
- Fleet-wide metric cannot be individualized



- > Identify & Collect Historical/ Real-time Data
- Visualize & Define Baseline Patterns
- Integrated Life Consumption Calculations from Meta-models
- Remaining Life Estimation
- Stochastic Prediction of Future Life for userdefined Operations (What-if scenarios)

Design of strategic architecture to assess the current state of the machine and predict the future state based on predicated continued operation

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# Case Study of TBC Life for Row 1 Blade

Challenging market situation requires a competitive design life. Current lifing approach is based on assumed single design points (Baseload hot and iso conditions for the full life time), not based on fleet operational data.

Each existing engine's operation conditions and operation hours (OH) in service have been analyzed and summarized into an operational profile by two parameters: normalized power load (MW%) and compressor inlet temperature (T1C)



## Summary

 Siemens and its partners are developing Smart Component systems to provide real-time information for stationary and rotating components to enable a transition to condition-based maintenance.

 Ceramic thermocouple comprising n-type Indium tin oxide and p-type Samarium-Calcium-Cobalt-Oxide) has demonstrated excellent sensor functionality and repeatability. Long term and high temperature testing underway.

Wireless team had to re-invent SiC IC designs with in two different IC technologies, SiC CMOS at Fraunhofer IISB, and SiC BJTs at KTH Stockholm due to shutdown of Raytheon UK chip manufacturing

 The telemetry board substrate has been migrated to a 'high temperature co-fired ceramic' (HTCC) board, increasing the strength of the substrate by 2x over the former LTCC based board

 Since the power and telemetry are both integrated on the same substrate, the method for mounting the board had to be completely re-imagined.

 Initial insights into duty cycle life assessment utilizing operational profiles for turbine components