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# **Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Program at FuelCell Energy Inc.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual SECA Workshop  
Pittsburgh, PA  
July 14-16, 2009**

**Hossein Ghezel-Ayagh**



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Versa Power  
Systems

# Presentation Outline

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## ■ Introduction:

- FCE SECA program and team members

## ■ SECA Coal-Based SOFC Program Outline

## ■ Stack Metric Testing

- 10 kW Metric Test Results
- 30 kW Stack Testing

## ■ MW-class Module Demonstration Unit Development

## ■ Baseline (500 MW) System Design and Cost Analyses

- Integrated Gasification Fuel Cell (IGFC) System Configuration
- Baseline Power Plant Cost Estimate

## ■ Conclusions



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# FuelCell Energy (FCE)

- Premier developer of stationary fuel cell technology
- Headquarters in Danbury, CT (USA), with 65,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Torrington, CT (USA)
- Delivering Ultra-Clean Direct FuelCell power plants to commercial and industrial customers
- Developing multi-megawatt coal power plants based on planar SOFC
- Established commercial relationships with major distributors in the Americas, Europe, and Asia



Danbury, CT – Headquarters,  
R&D, Stack Conditioning



Torrington, CT -  
Manufacturing Facility



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# FCE's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1969-2009)



1969 – Led by Dr. Bernard Baker, Energy Research Corp is established as a subsidiary of Consolidated Controls in Bethel, CT to conduct research in fuel cells and high energy batteries



1976 – First carbonate fuel cell tested



1992 – ERC becomes a public company with \$6.5 million IPO



1993 – First 2' x 3', 8kW field demonstration stack shipped to Elkraft (Denmark)



1993 – Production of stacks for 2MW proof of concept demonstration project begins



2008 – Began shipments of advanced DFC1500 and DFC3000 power plant design with MW-class module



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# SECA Coal Based Program

## Program Objectives

**Development of large scale (>100 MWe) coal-based SOFC systems with:**

- At least 50% overall efficiency from coal (higher heating value)
- Performance to meet DOE specified metrics for power output, degradation, availability, and reliability
- Factory cost <\$400/kW (2002 USD)
- Greater than 90% of carbon capture from coal syngas for sequestration
- Reduced water consumption as compared to the existing coal power plant technologies

## Program Status

- ❖ FCE team successfully completed Phase I of the Coal Based SECA Program in December 2009.
- ❖ Phase II work has been initiated to further the development of an affordable, multi-MW size SOFC power plant system to operate on coal syngas fuel, with near zero emissions.



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# Phase II SECA Coal-Based Team

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The FCE team is comprised of diverse organizations with expertise in key functional areas:

## **FuelCell Energy Inc. (FCE), Danbury, CT**

- Manufacturing and commercialization of fuel cell power plant systems in sizes ranging from 300kW to Multi-MW.



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## **Versa Power Systems Inc. (VPS), Littleton, CO**

- Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC) development and manufacturing technologies.



## **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, WA**

- SOFC cell and stack computational modeling.



## **WorleyParsons Inc. (WP), Reading, PA**

- Design of the power plant, including: integration with gasifier and syngas clean-up technologies, system level costing, and system performance analysis.



**WorleyParsons**

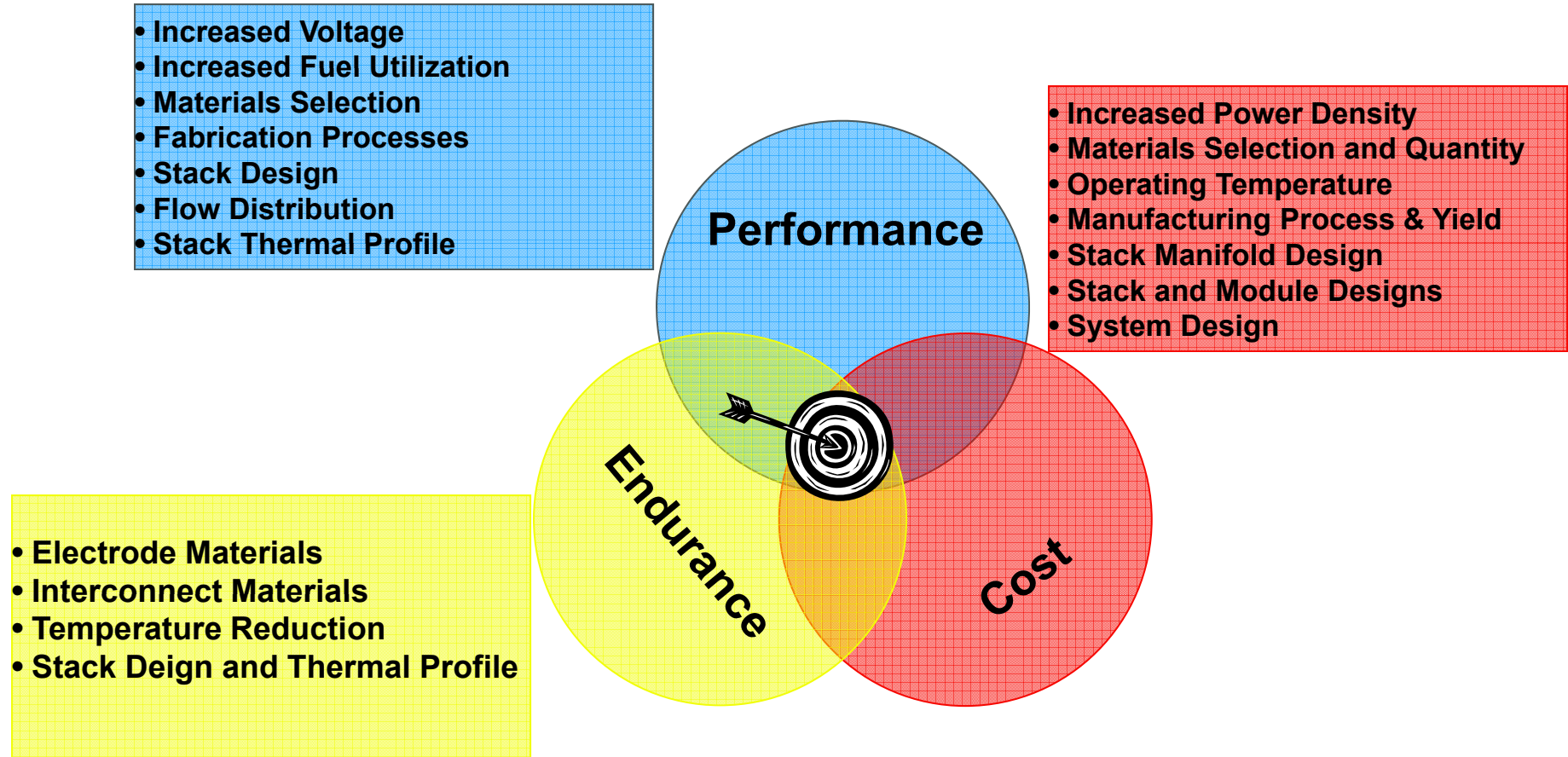
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# Progress Towards Achieving Project Goals



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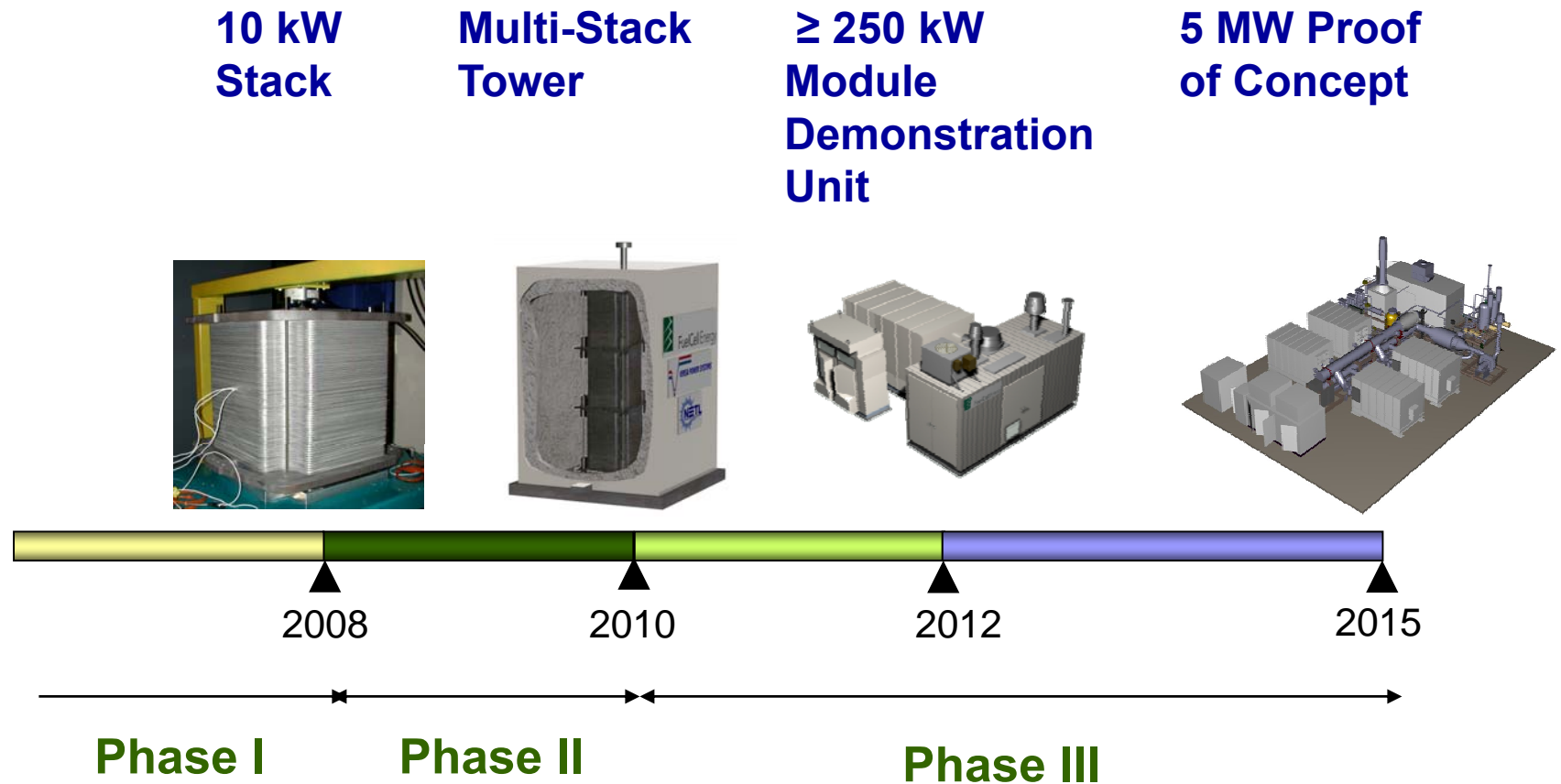


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# SECA Coal Based Multi-Phase Program Plan



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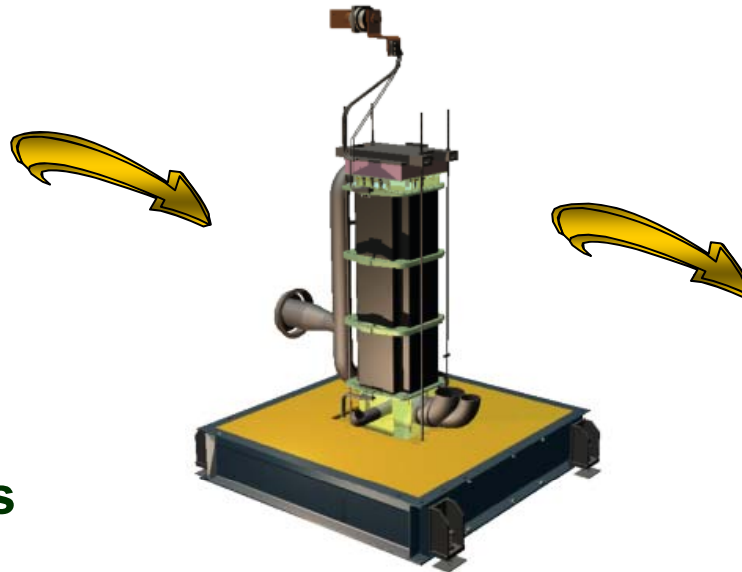
# Building Block Approach

## 10 kW Stack



Building block  
for stack towers  
30-50 kW

## Stack Tower



Building block for  
stack modules of  
 $\geq 250$  kW

## Stack Module



Building Block for a  $\geq 100$  MWe  
Integrated Gasification Fuel  
Cell (IGFC) system



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# Phase I Metric Tests

PHASE I Metric Test SECA Coal-Based Systems	
DELIVERABLE POWER RATING	$\geq 10\text{kW}$
STEADY STATE TEST (Normal Operating Conditions)	5000 hours
	$\Delta \text{ Power} < 4.0\% \text{ degradation/1000 hours}$
TEST SEQUENCE	1) Start-up 2) Peak Power Test 3) Steady State Test 4) Shut-down
FUEL TYPE	Simulated (subject to DOE concurrence, up to 25% CH <sub>4</sub> , dry basis)
MAINTENANCE INTERVALS	Design aspects should not require maintenance at intervals more frequent than annually.

➔ **Successful Phase I Project** was predicated upon operation of a >10 kW SOFC stack for at least 1500 hours with a degradation of <4%/ 1000hr, followed by additional tests in Phase II for a total of 5000 hours.



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# 10 kW Stack Block for Metric Tests

- ➔ Two 10 kW Stack Blocks Met Phase I Metric Test Minimum Requirements.



	Normal Operating Conditions – BOL
Fuel Utilization (system)	61.5% (80%)
Air Utilization (system)	10 to 18% (35%)
Stack Current	200 A (364 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Cathode Outlet Temperature	730-750 °C
Gross DC Electrical Power	~10,000 W

- 64-cells
- 550 cm<sup>2</sup> active area
- 0.313 W/ cm<sup>2</sup> Peak Power Density @ 11 kW



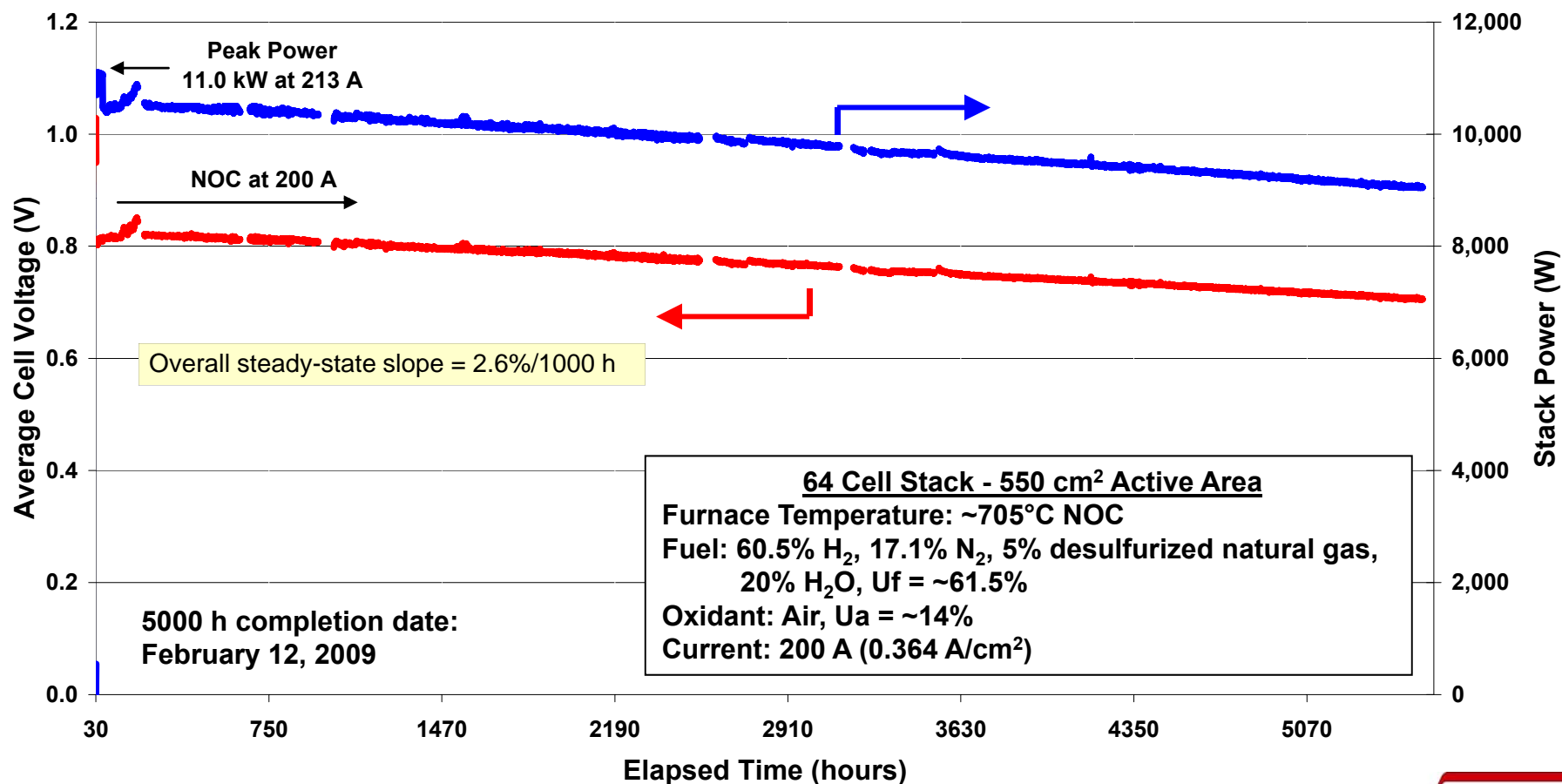
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# 64-cell Stack (GT057382-0002)

## Long Term Testing

GT057382-0002  
64-cell Stack Block  
Average Cell Voltage and Stack Power



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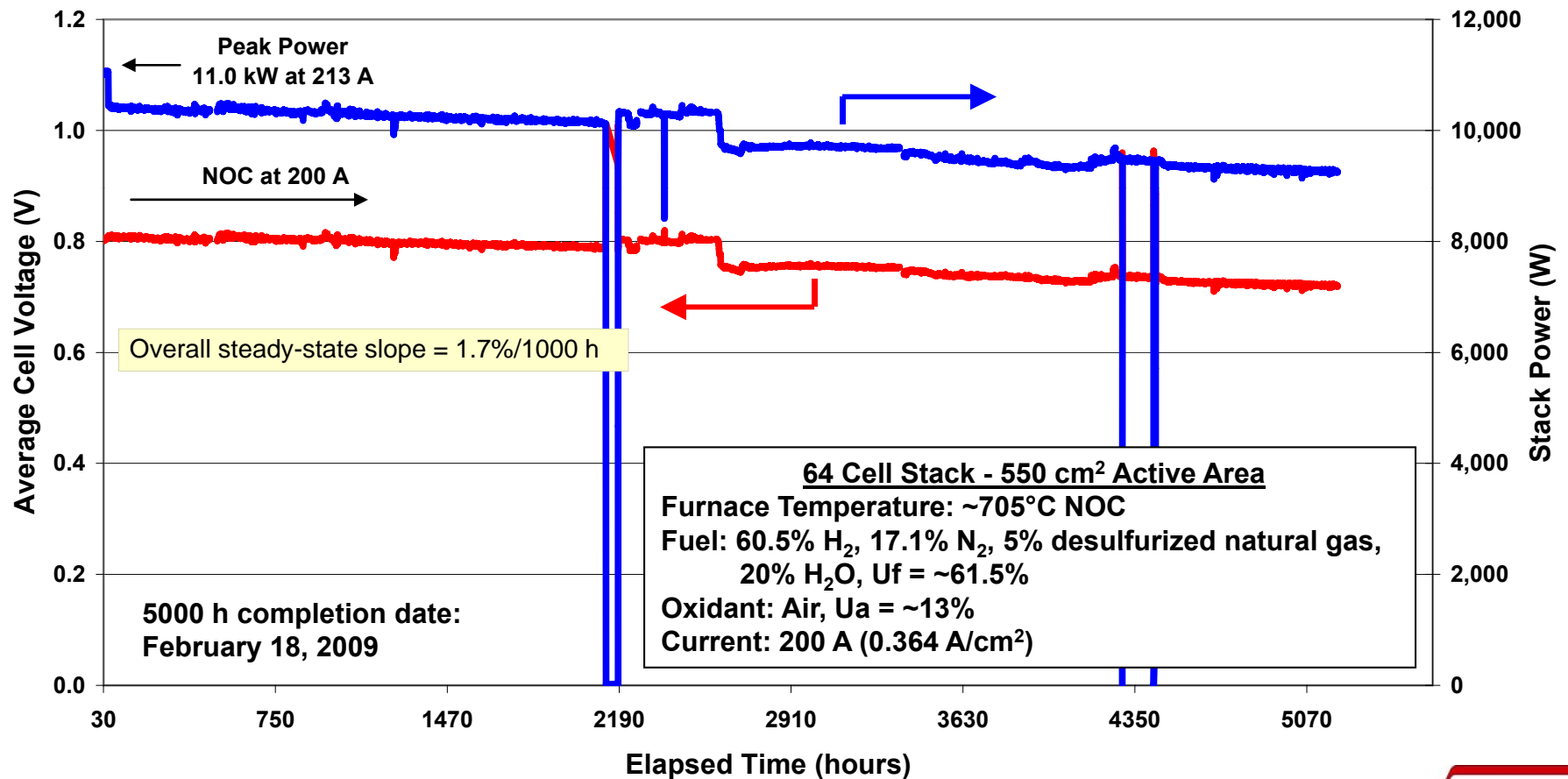




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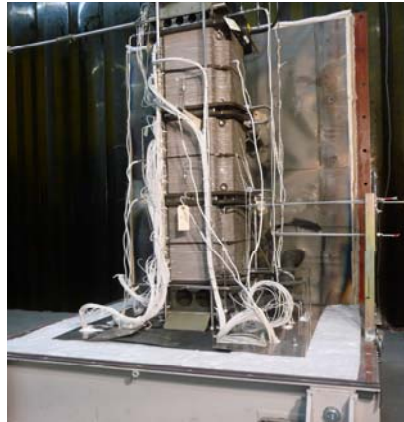


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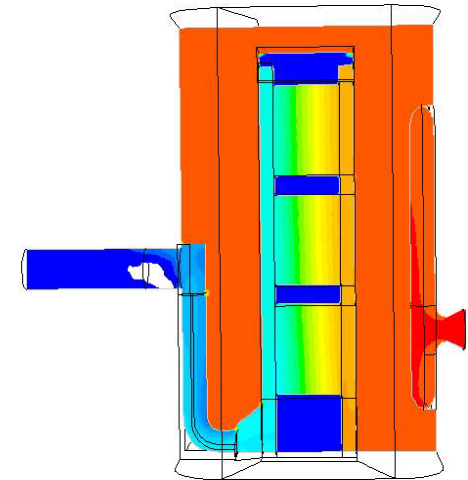
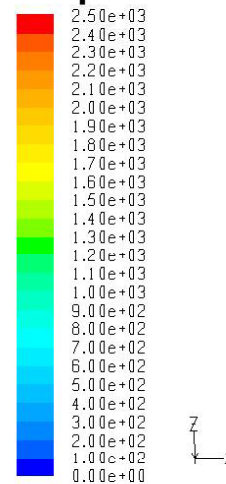


# 30 kW Stack Tower Design Development

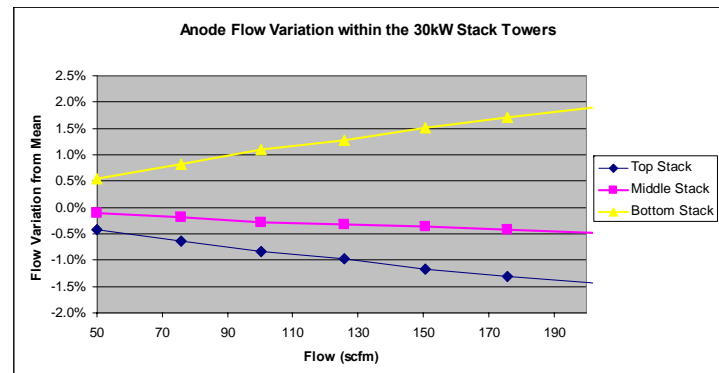
- Design and integration of 3 stack blocks of 10kW each into 30kW stack module was completed.



- CFD modeling of the 30kW stack tower confirmed flow distribution and pressure map are acceptable.



- Cold-flow testing of stacks proved excellent flow distribution among the stack blocks resulting from design of manifolds and flow fields.



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# 30 kW Stack Tower Tests



➔ Next step is demonstration of 30 kW stack tower operation in a simulated power plant environment



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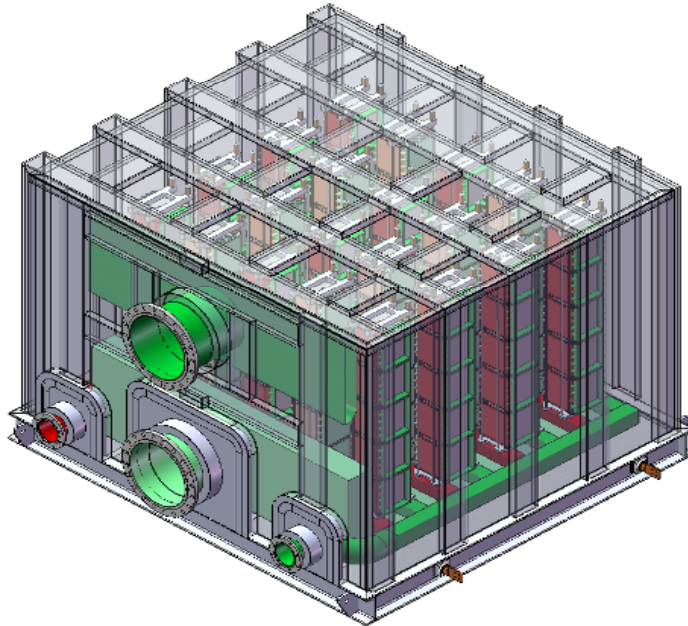


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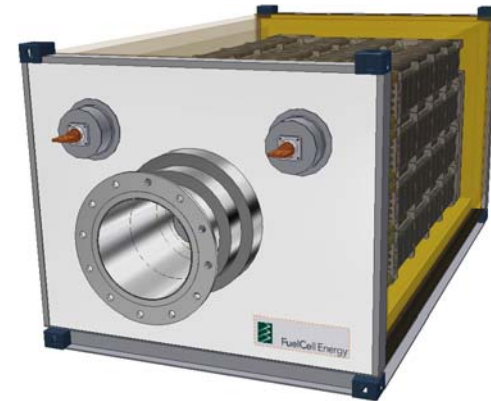


# MW-Scale SOFC Stack Module

## ➤ 2008 Design



## ➤ 2009 Improved Design



Design Parameters		
	2008 Design	2009 Design
Towers/ Module	20	16
Cells/ Tower	320	~400
Module Volume	2400 ft <sup>3</sup>	780 ft <sup>3</sup>
Module Power Output	1.1 MW	1.3-1.6 MW



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# Improved Coal-Based SOFC System with Catalytic Gasification

## POWER GENERATION SUMMARY

	kW	% Q input	% MW gross
Fuel Gas Expanders Gross Power @ 20 kV	52,307	5.15%	8.49%
Fuel Cell Inverter AC Gross Power @ 20 kV	515,126	50.76%	83.57%
WGPU Off Gas Expander Gross Power @ 20 kV	9,361	0.92%	1.54%
Steam Turbine Gross Power at Generator Terminals @ 20 kV,	39,599	3.90%	6.42%
<b>Total Gross Power Generation @ 20 kV</b>	<b>616,393</b>	<b>60.74%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Load</b>	<b>56,152</b>	<b>5.53%</b>	<b>9.11%</b>

<b>Net Power Output at 230 kV</b>	<b>560,241</b>	<b>55.21%</b>	<b>90.89%</b>
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## Net Efficiency Excluding CO2 Compression & Thermal Input

As Fed Coal feed, lb/h	291,667		
HHV (AF), Btu/lb	11,872		
Thermal Input, kWth	1,014,809	100.00%	164.64%
<b>Net Plant Efficiency (HHV)</b>	<b>55.21%</b>		

➔ Combined with high methane producing gasification, coal based SOFC systems are capable of achieving ~ 55% efficiency and 98% carbon capture.



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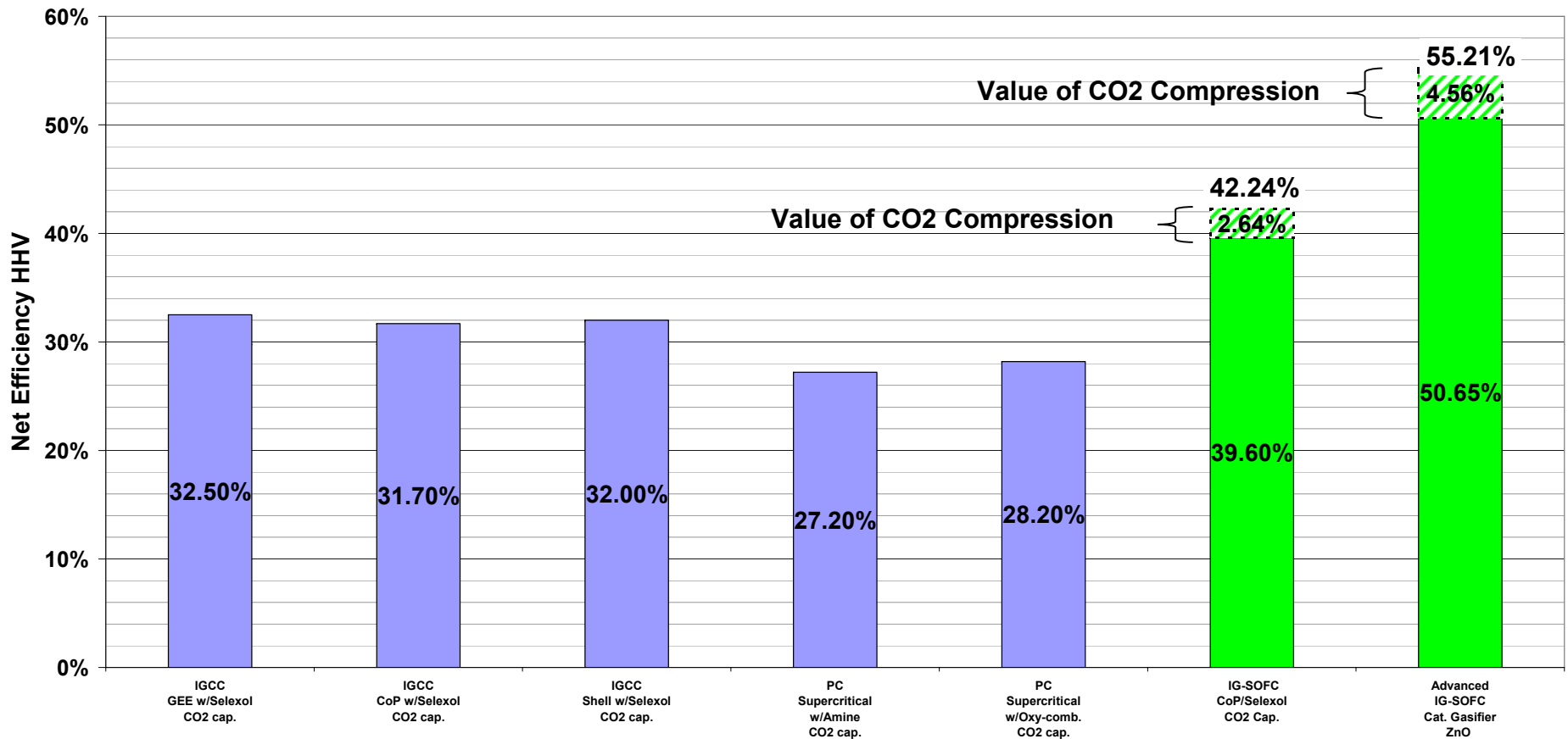


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# Baseline SOFC Power Plant Efficiency vs. Competing Technologies



➔ **Baseline coal based SOFC system is >18 percentage points more efficient than IGCCs and Pulverized Coal (PC) Steam plants.**

References for Competing Technologies:

\* Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants, Volume 1 - Bituminous Coal and Natural Gas to Electricity, DOE/NETL-2007/1281, Revision 1, August 2007

\*\* Pulverized Coal Oxycombustion Power Plants, Volume 1 - Bituminous Coal to Electricity, DOE/NETL-2007/1291, Final Report, August 2007



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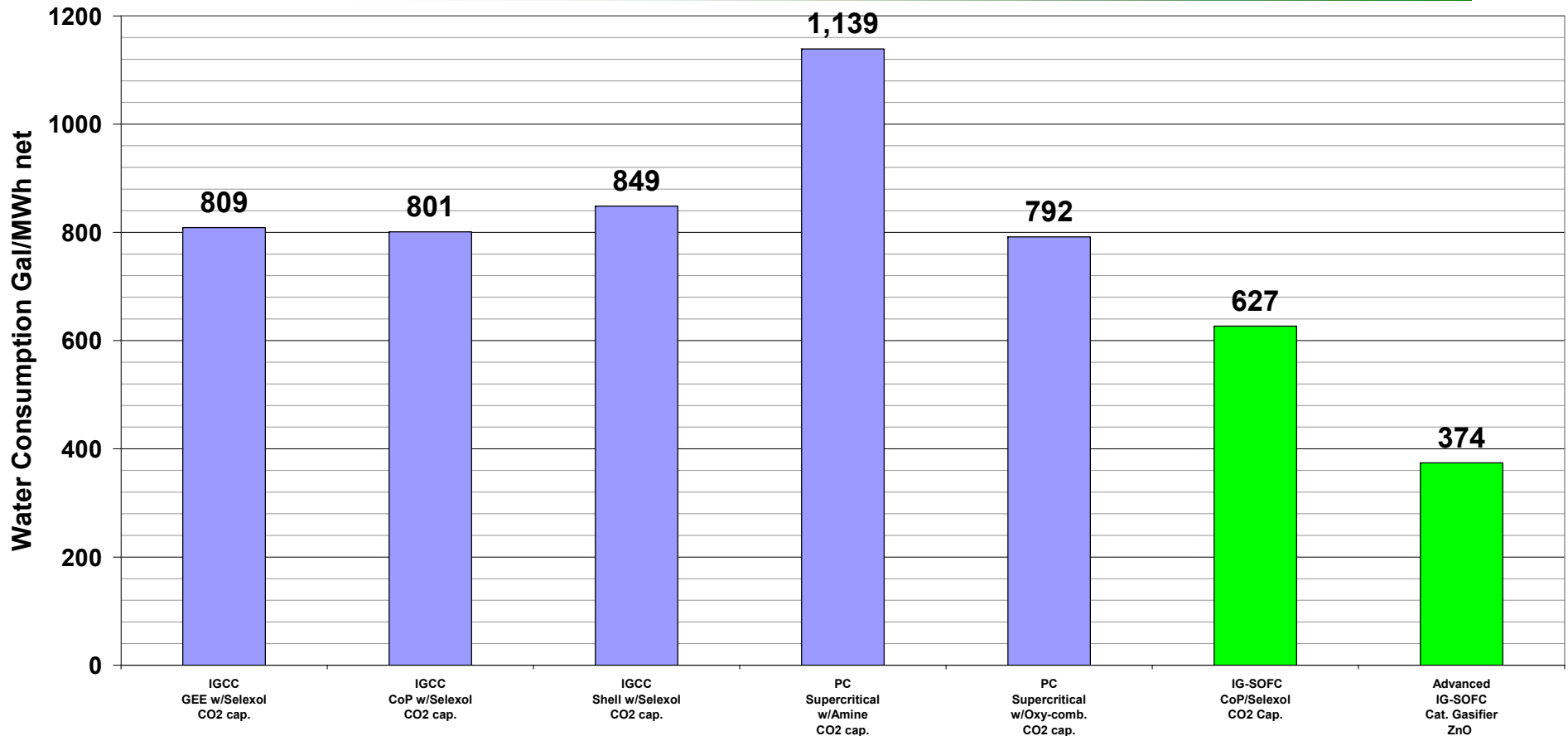


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## Baseline SOFC Power Plant Water Consumption vs. Competing Technologies



➔ **Baseline coal based SOFC system requires significantly less water than IGCCs and Pulverized Coal (PC) Steam Turbine Power Plants.**

References for Competing Technologies:

\* Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants, Volume 1 - Bituminous Coal and Natural Gas to Electricity, DOE/NETL-2007/1281, Revision 1, August 2007

\*\* Pulverized Coal Oxycombustion Power Plants, Volume 1 - Bituminous Coal to Electricity, DOE/NETL-2007/1291, Final Report, August 2007



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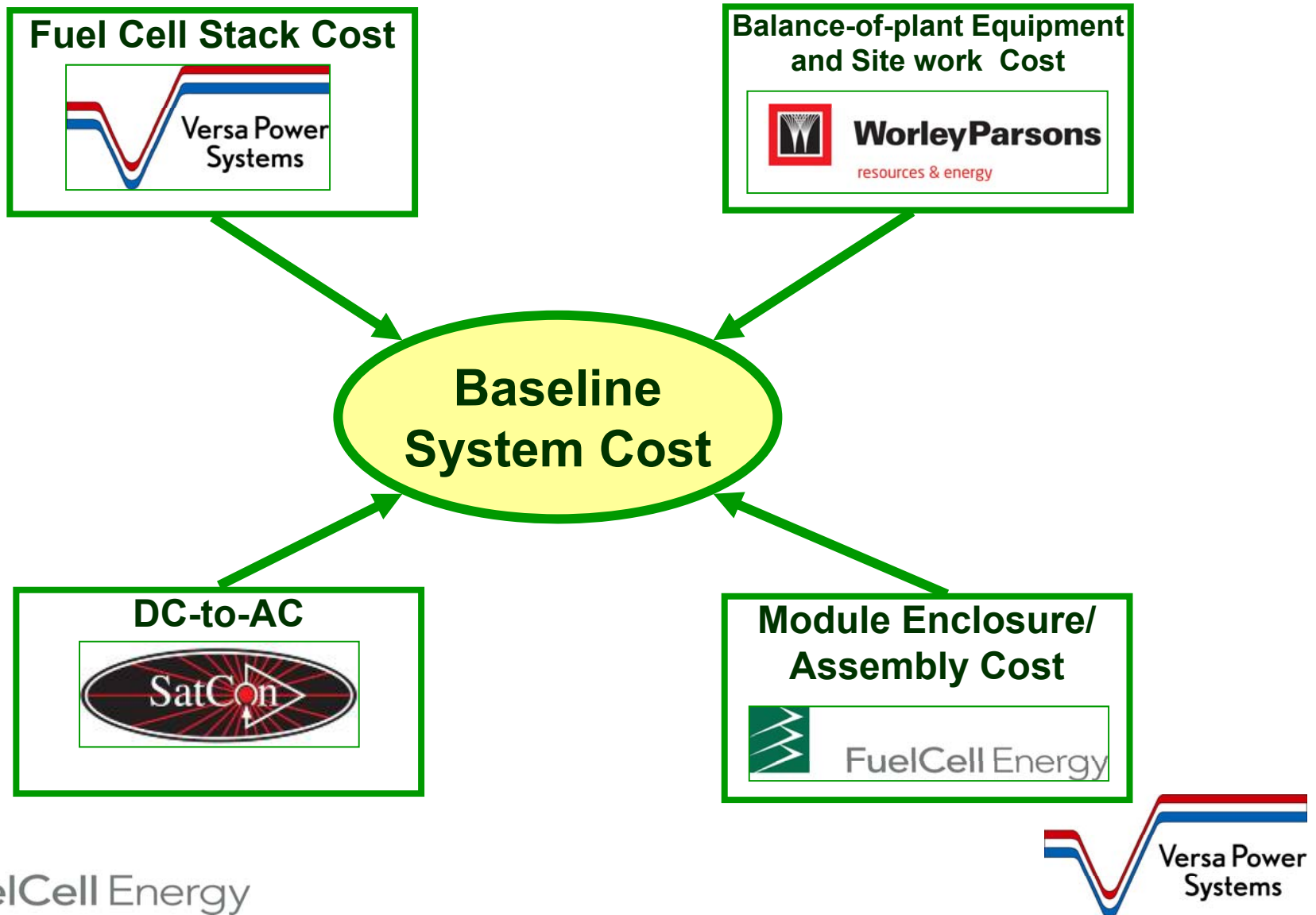


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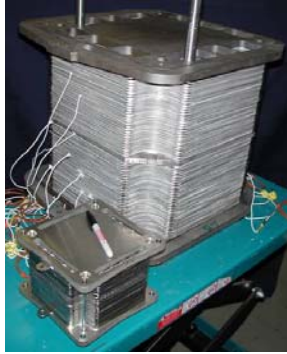
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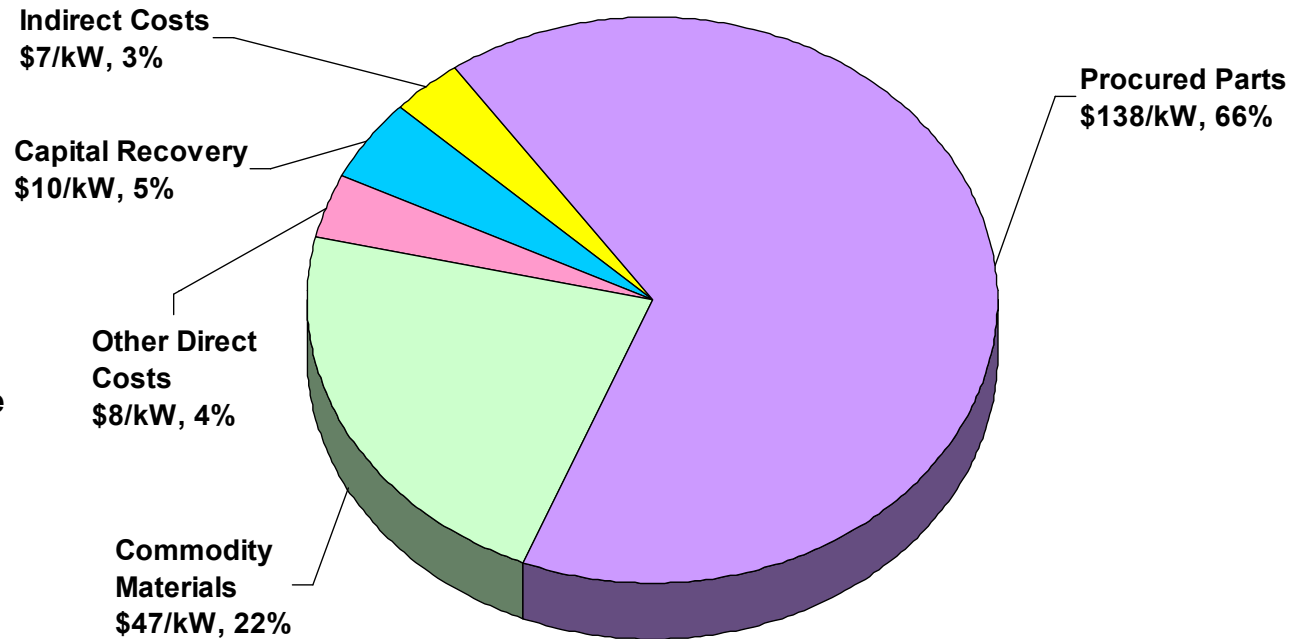
# Baseline Power Plant Cost



# Stack Cost by Category



- **64-cell stack, 11 kW**
- **Cell dimensions**
  - > 550 cm<sup>2</sup> active area
  - > 645 cm<sup>2</sup> cell substrate
- **1003 MW/yr production volume**
  - > 91,200 stack blocks
  - > 5,836,800 cell repeat units
  - > 376,600 m<sup>2</sup>
  - > 1,885,000 kg, cells



- Cost shown are in \$/kWdc based on 11kW dc peak power rating.
- The majority of stack cost is driven by cost of materials.
- The relatively low labor cost is attributed to cell and stack simple and automated manufacturing processes developed at VPS.
- Cost analysis audited by independent consultant.



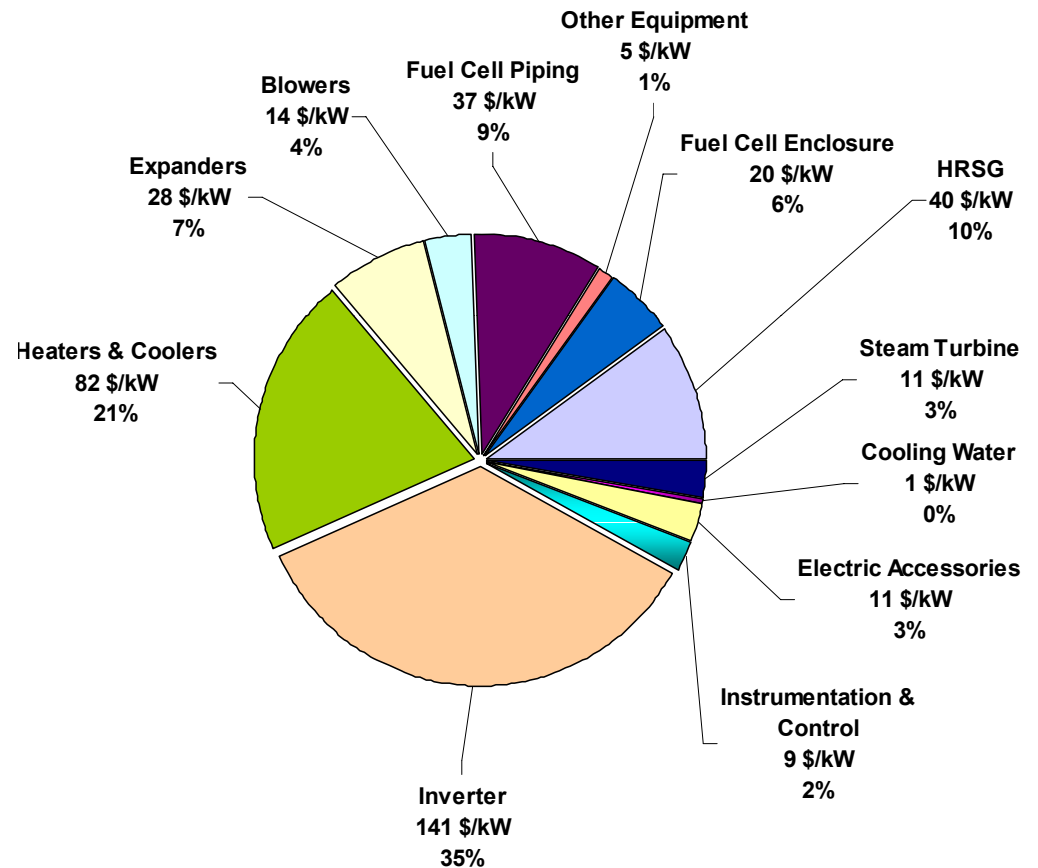
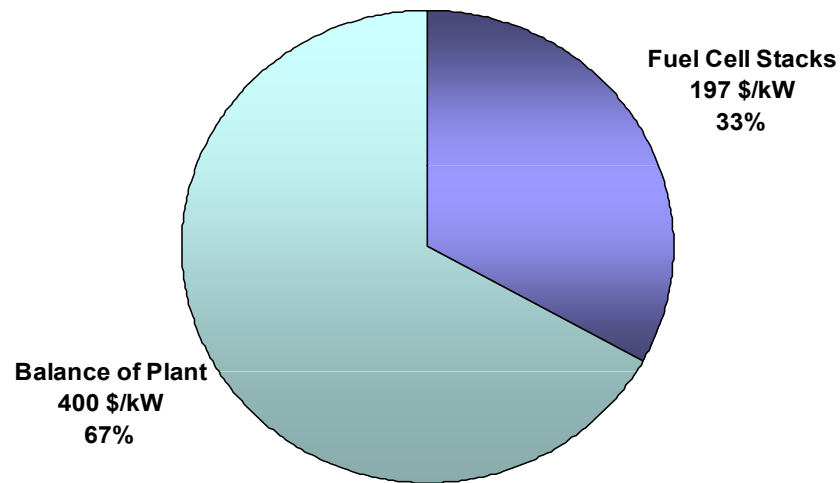
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# Factory Equipment Cost Estimate

Total BOP Cost (2002 USD) = 400 \$/kW

Total Factory Equipment Cost (2002 USD) = 597 \$/kW



➤ Cost estimation, based on two nominal 500 MW power plants manufactured per year, established that system equipment factory cost of < \$600/kW is achievable.



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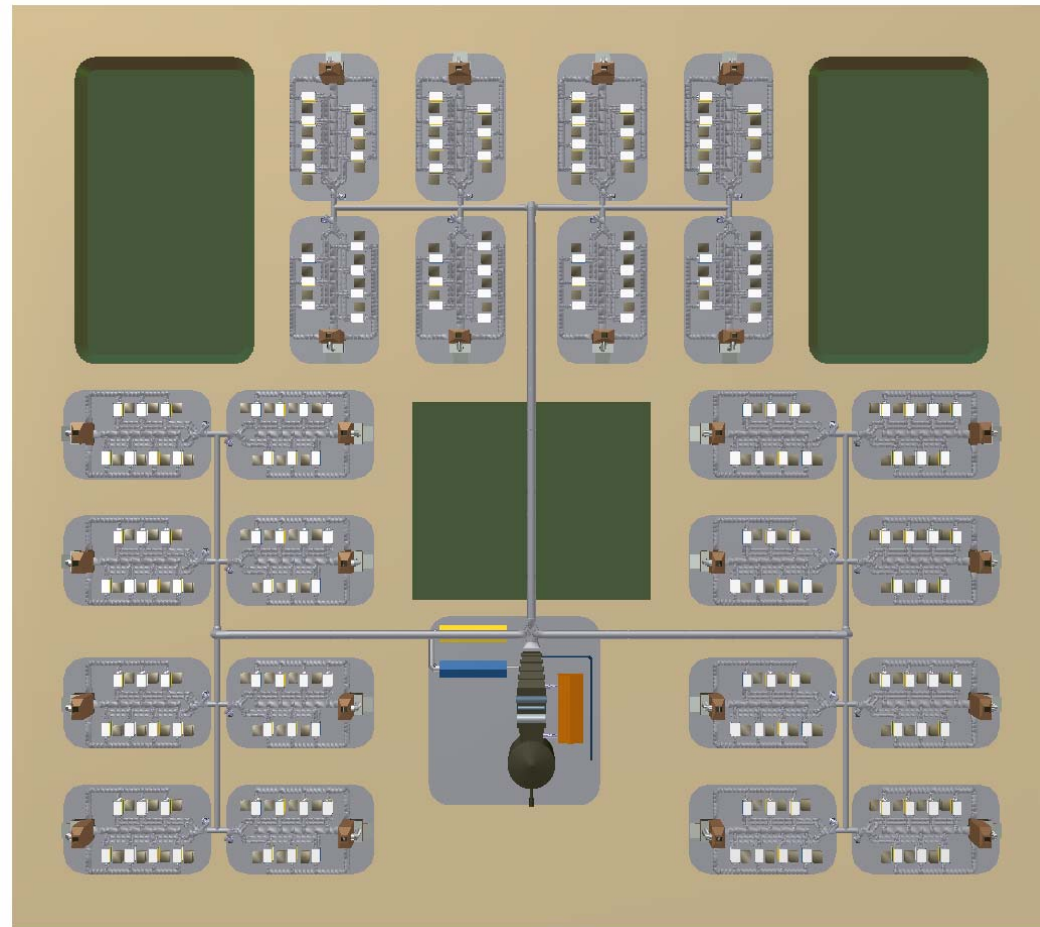
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# Baseline SOFC Power Island



- ➔ SOFC power island includes 24 clusters of 14 MW-scale fuel cell stack modules and a steam bottoming cycle for a net power generation of 500 MWac.



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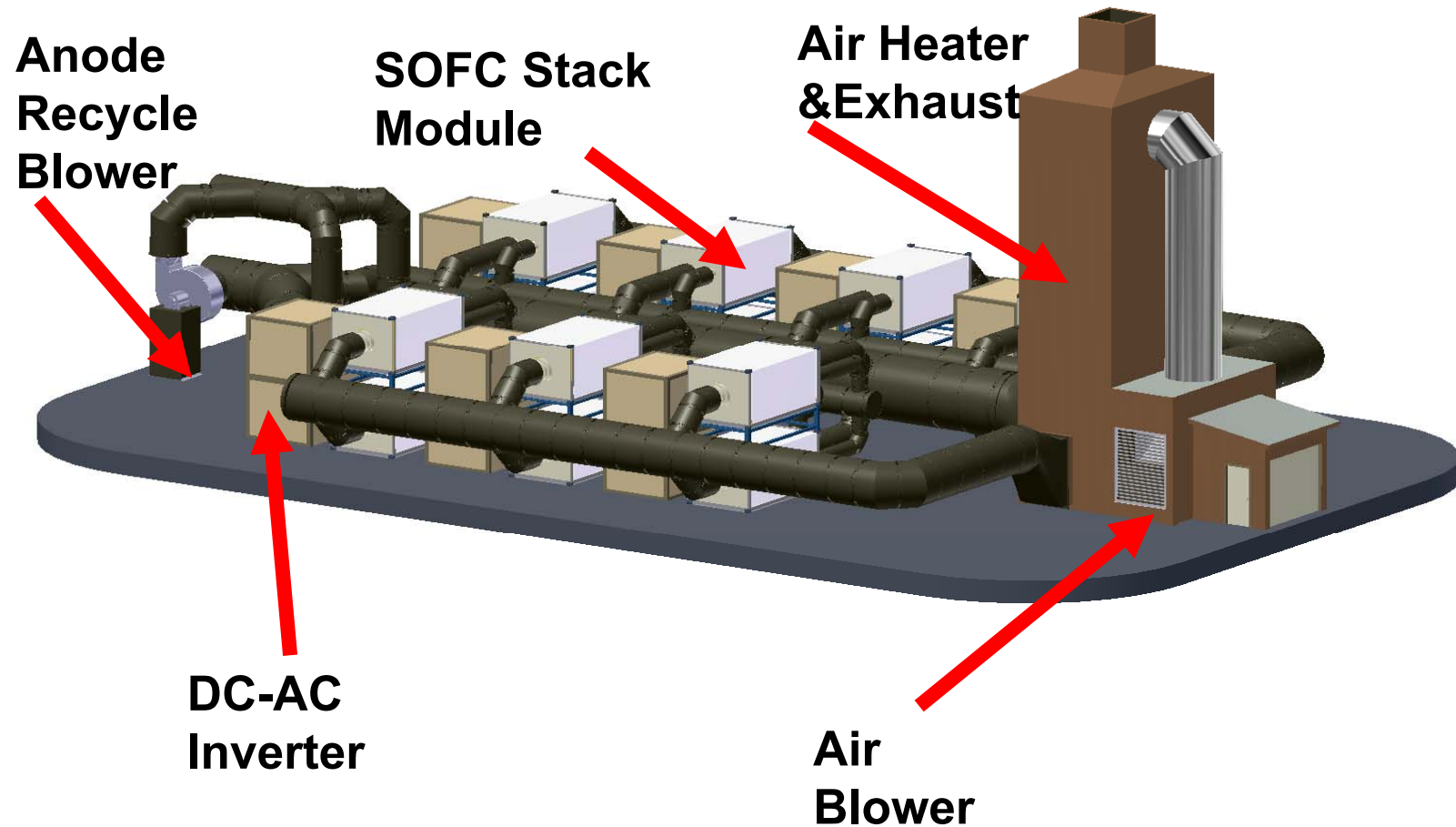
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# Layout of 14-Module SOFC Cluster



➡ SOFC cluster design takes advantage of modularity of fuel cells.



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# Summary of Recent Achievements

## ⇒ Cell Technology:

- Advanced cell components with significant improvement in endurance over the baseline cells and reduced cell degradation rate by more than 50%.
- Enhanced cell performance, especially at lower operating temperature, by greater than 10%.
- Fuel cell manufacturing processes were developed to support the new scaled-up baseline cell (25 cm x 25 cm). The processes for stack manufacturing capacity of 500 kW/year and cell manufacturing capacity of 1,000 kW/year were implemented.

## ⇒ Scale-up of stack size to 10kW:

- Manufacturing of the scaled-up 10kW stack blocks was accomplished to establish the building block for multi-MW power plants.
- Improved stack design and component advancements to meet the Phase I targets of performance and endurance criteria were developed.
- Phase I metric tests were completed by two 10kW stacks, in accordance with SECA Minimum Requirements of >5000 hours of operation, with degradation of <2.6%/1000 hours.

## ⇒ Baseline IGFC System:

- Baseline Systems with Catalytic Gasifier were developed which could achieve efficiency (HHV) of 55% and be able to remove greater than 98% carbon from syngas.
- Baseline 500MW power plant layout and Factory Cost Estimates were developed resulting in a cost estimate of \$597/kW (in 2002 dollars) for the SOFC power block.



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# Acknowledgements

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- **Support for FCE's SECA Coal Based Program provided by the US Department of Energy (DOE) through the co-operative agreement DE-FC26-04NT41837**
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