

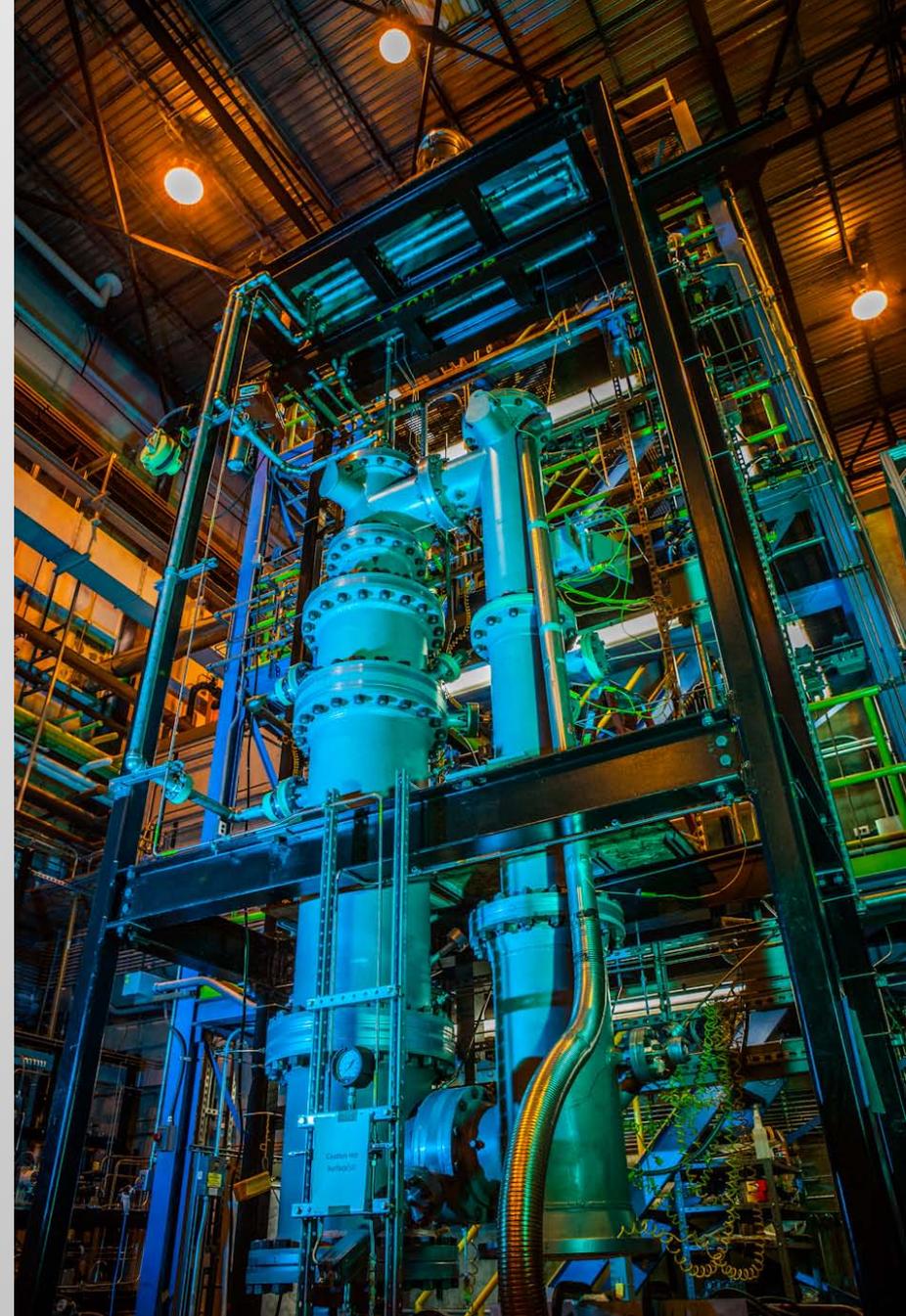


**Future Combustion Technologies:**  
**Chemical Looping Combustion**  
**Direct Power Extraction**  
**Pressure gain combustion**

**Geo. A. Richards**

Focus Area Leader, Energy System Dynamics  
NETL Office of Research and Development

2013 NETL CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Technology Meeting  
July 8 – 11, Pittsburgh PA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

**ENERGY**

National Energy  
Technology Laboratory

the ENERGY lab

# Industrial Carbon Management Initiative

## Innovative Options for Future Power

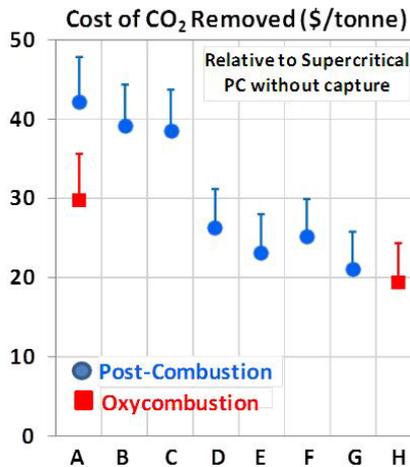
**Industrial boilers: smaller size enables early application of low-cost carbon capture.**

**Smaller CO<sub>2</sub> volume can be used in EOR, *future* enhanced gas recovery, or converted to niche chemicals with renewable/waste energy.**

### ICMI Research Areas

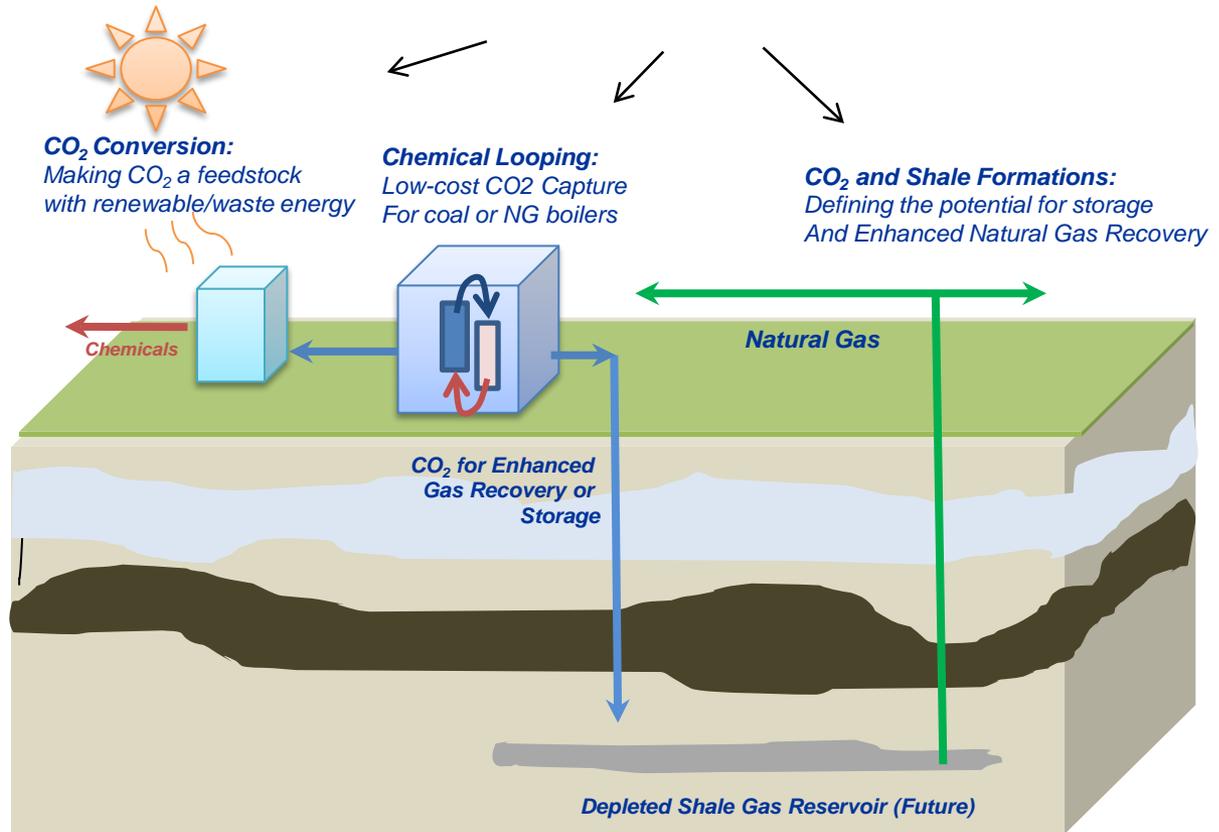
#### Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> capture costs

Chemical looping eliminates the need for air separation in oxy-fuel systems.

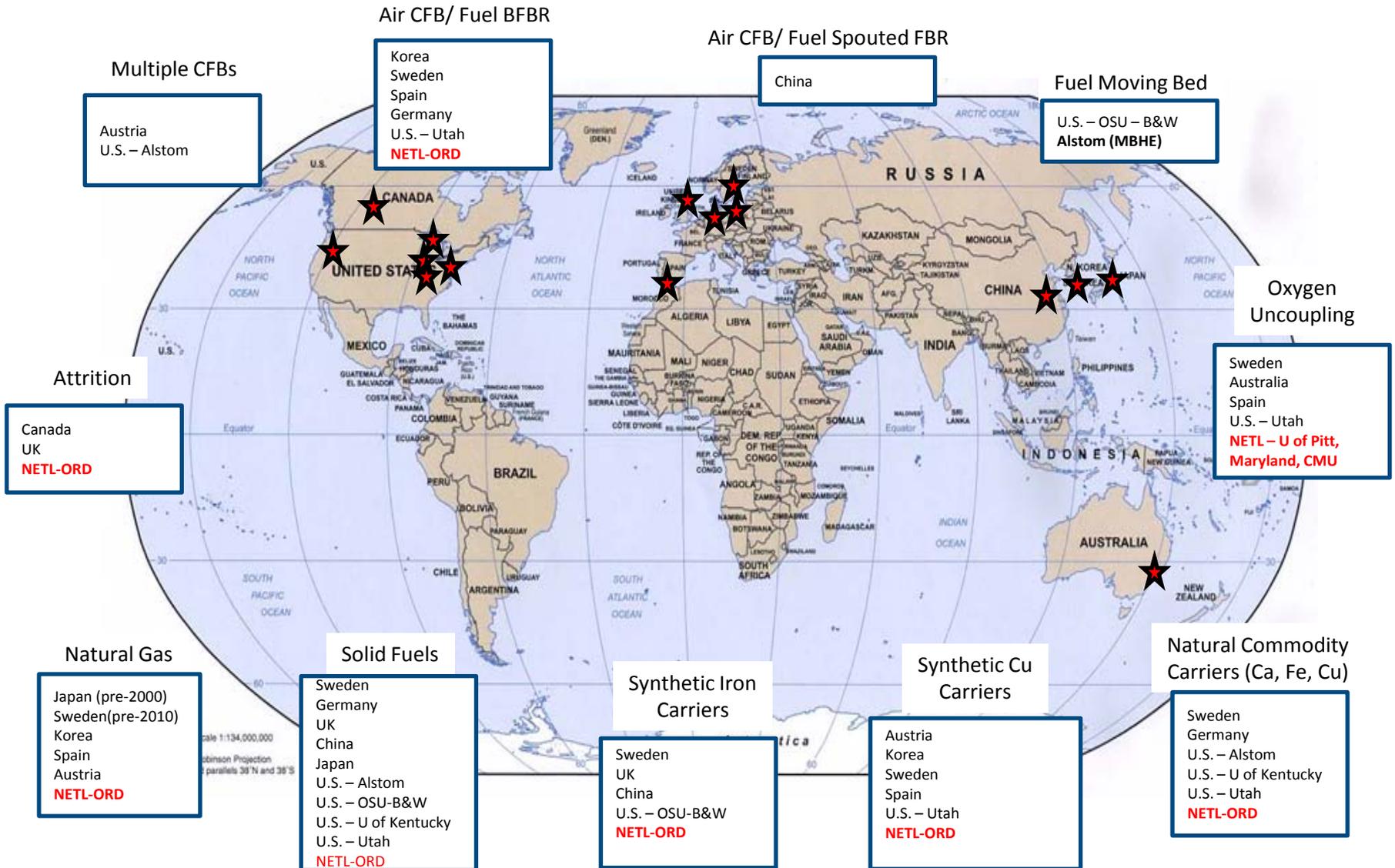


ICMI will quantify capture cost for industrial applications

- A – Supercritical PC w/Current Amine
- B – Ultrasupercritical PC w/Current Amine
- C – USC PC w/Amine + Adv. Compress
- D – USC PC w/Advanced CO<sub>2</sub> Sorbent + Adv. Comp.
- E – USC PC + Adv. CO<sub>2</sub> Membrane + Adv. Comp.
- F – Adv. USC PC + Adv. Sorbent + Adv. Comp.
- G – Adv. USC PC + Adv. Membrane + Adv. Comp.
- H – Advanced Oxycombustion Power Cycles

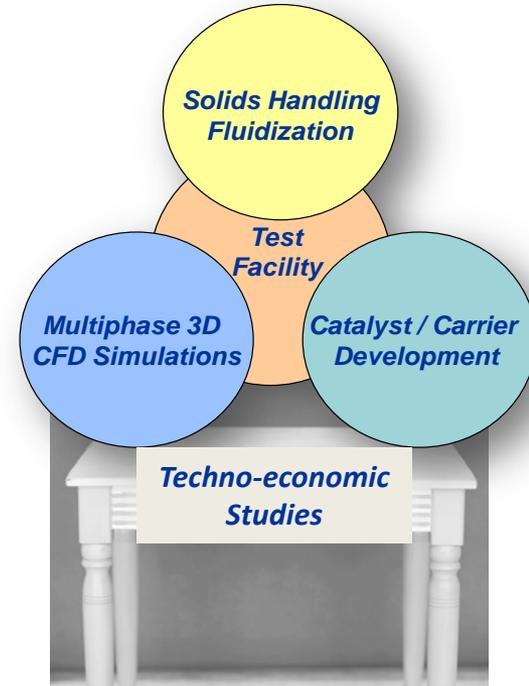


# CLC – Worldwide Interest



# Project Objectives

- **Develop simulation models that will be powerful tools to accelerate technology deployment**
  - Minimize deployment cost and risk
  - Identify gaps for further targeted research
- **Experimental data to calibrate simulation models**
  - Design, install, and operate chemical looping reactor (CLR) facility
  - Develop sensors and diagnostics
  - Develop kinetic database and improved carriers
- **Conduct techno-economic analysis to project costs and benefits of deploying technology developed in this initiative**

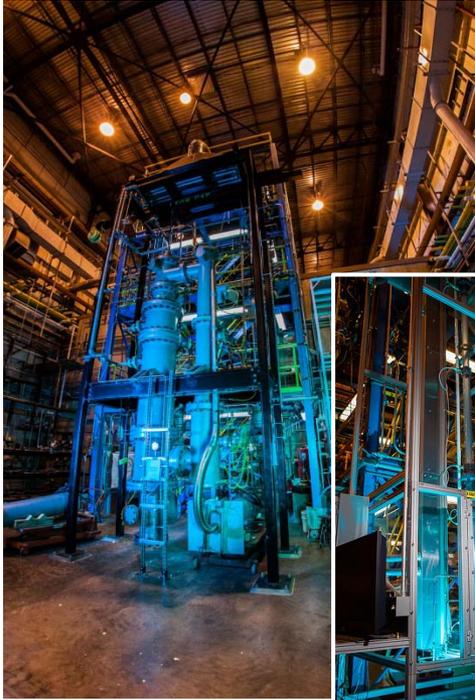


Supports DOE's goal of beginning widespread, affordable deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies within 8 to 10 years

# Technical Approach

## Combined Experimental/Modeling

Integrated Reacting Unit

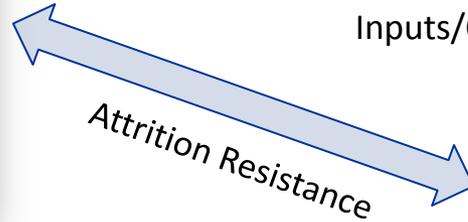


Fuel Conversion  
CO<sub>2</sub> leakage



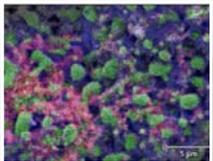
Solids Circulation Rates

Process Design  
Inputs/Outputs



Attrition Resistance

Cold - Flow  
Circulating  
Experiment



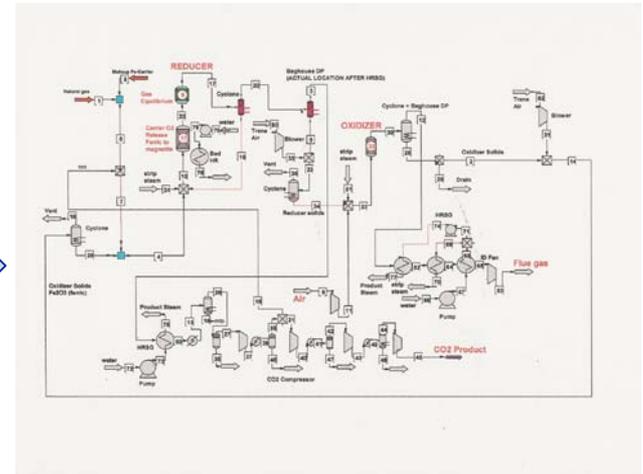
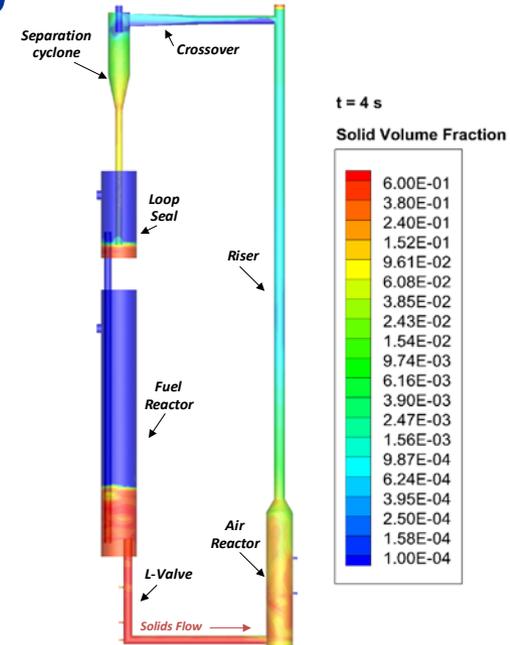
Oxygen  
carrier  
development  
and testing



Attrition  
Resistance

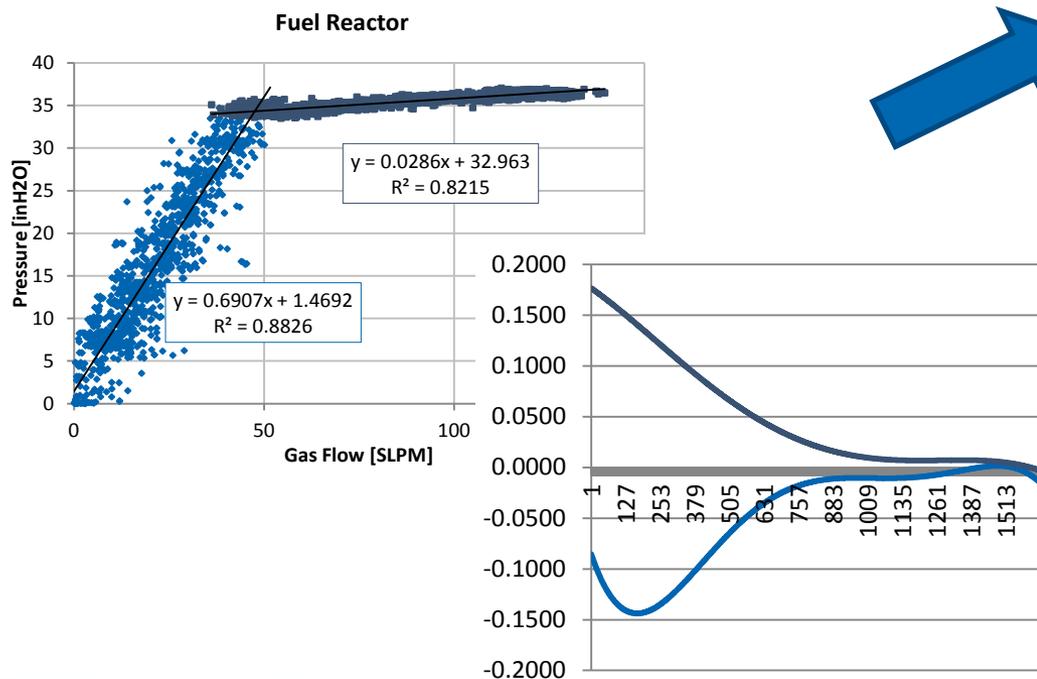


Attrition Test  
ASTM D5757



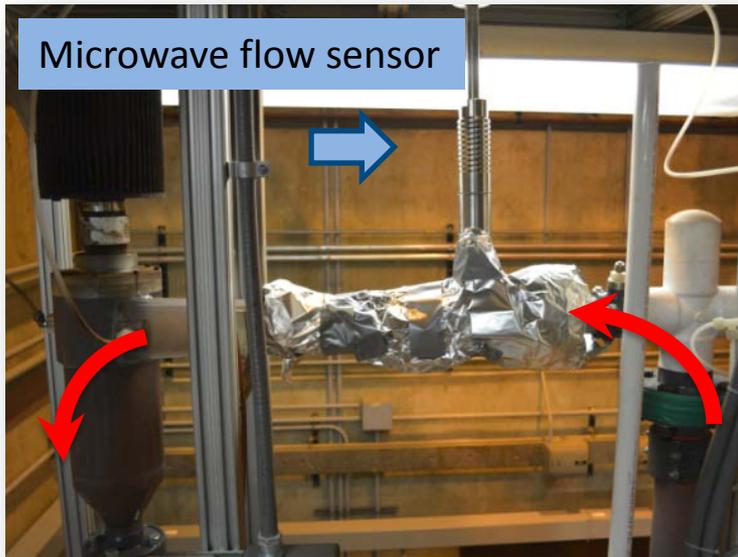
# Cold-flow hydrodynamics for chemical looping

- Minimum Fluidization
- L Valve Tests
- Provides information for Hot Flow

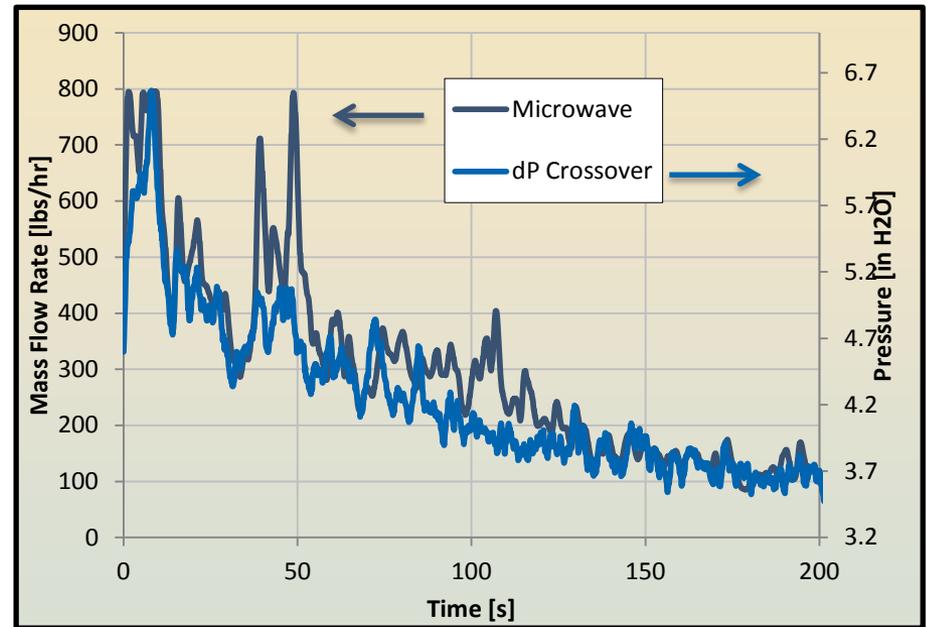


# Solid Circulation Rate Measurements

- **Three Techniques:**
  - Solids Cut-Off
  - Microwave
  - $\Delta P$  Crossover



Red arrows-  
solid circulation air to fuel reactor crossover



Measured solids flow rates (cold flow) are being used to validate model predictions.

Microwave sensor will be considered for hot reactive test.

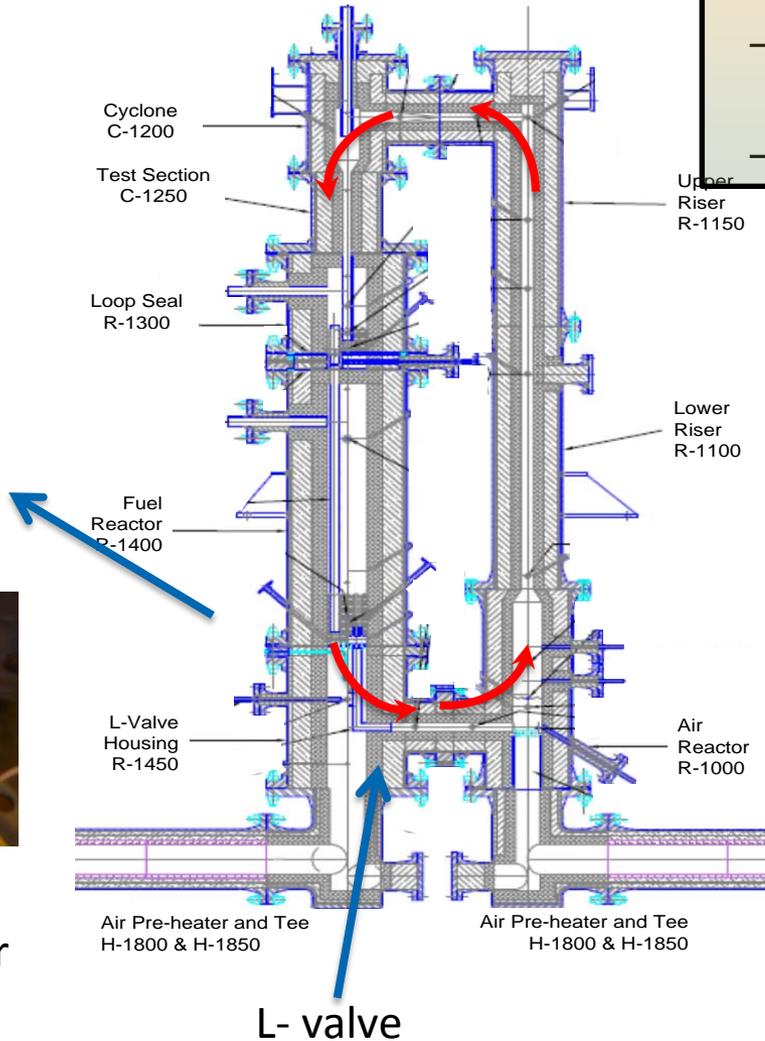
# Chemical Looping Reactor – status

50 kWth, 1000 C, electrically heated input flows, refractory insulated, currently near atmospheric pressure operation

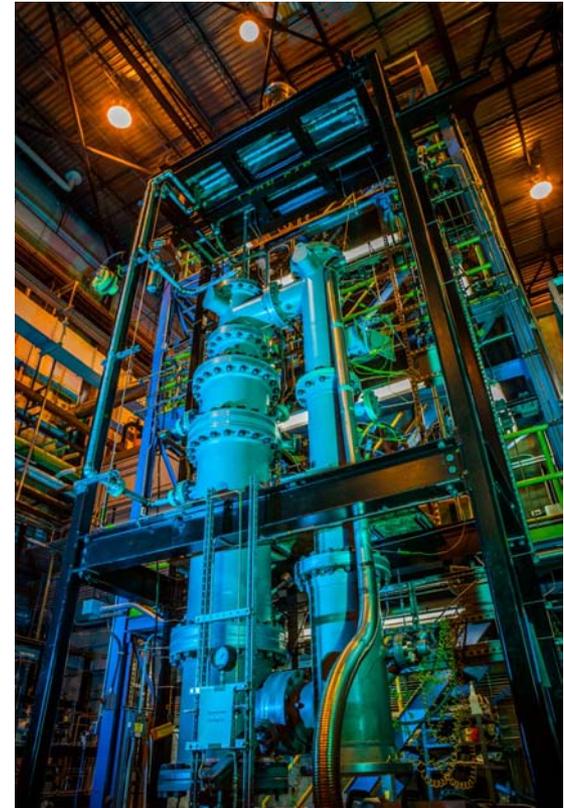
Red arrows- solids flow



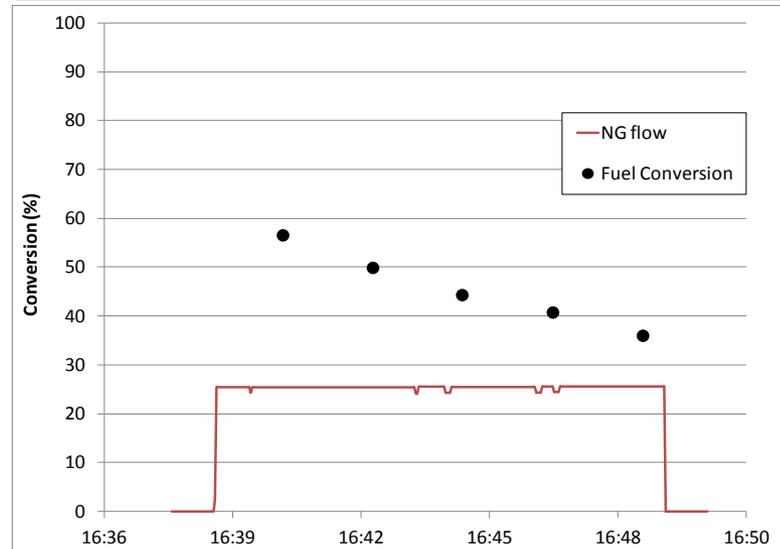
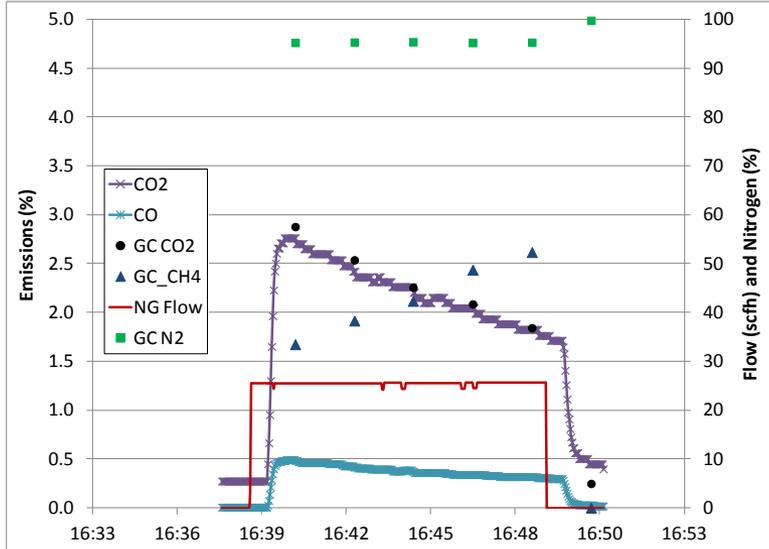
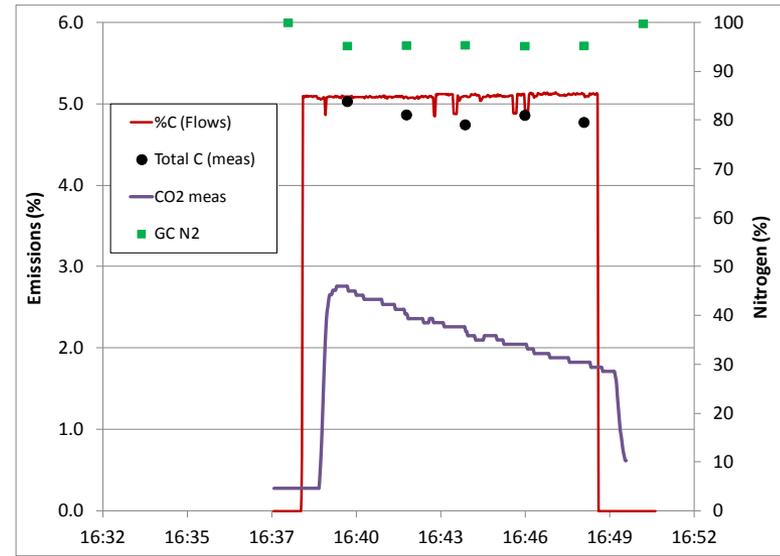
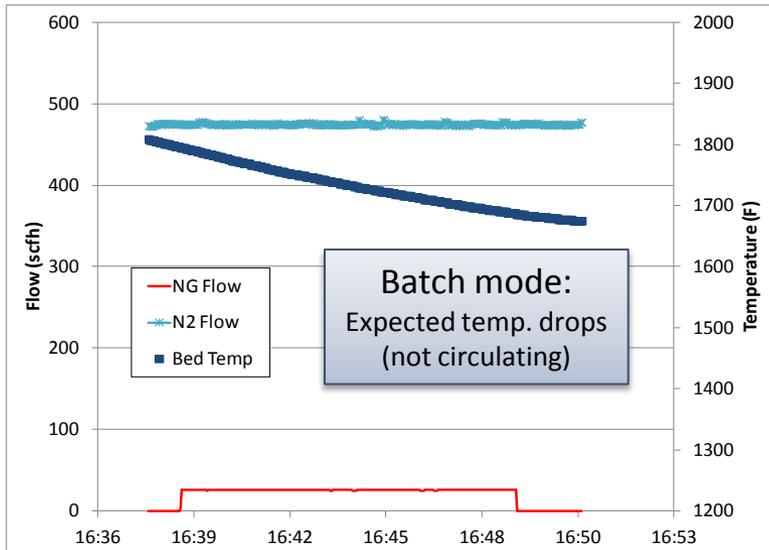
Deposits on fuel reactor distributor plate.



- Rig operational with excellent temperature control.
- Balky solids flow so far – carrier transport being improved.
- Batch mode testing data (next slide).

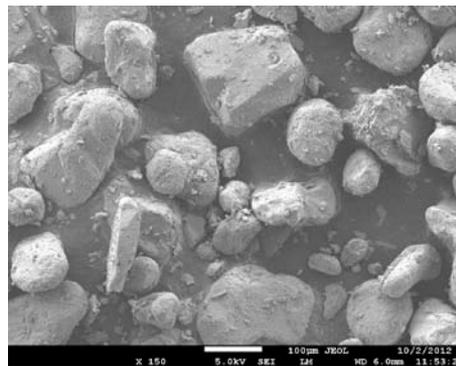
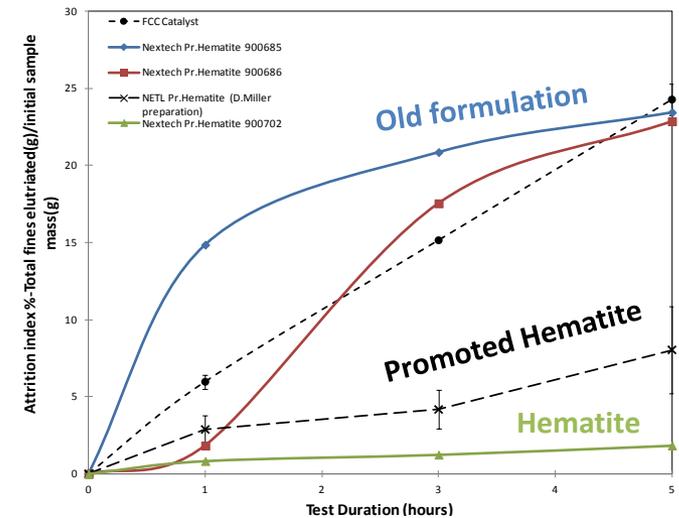
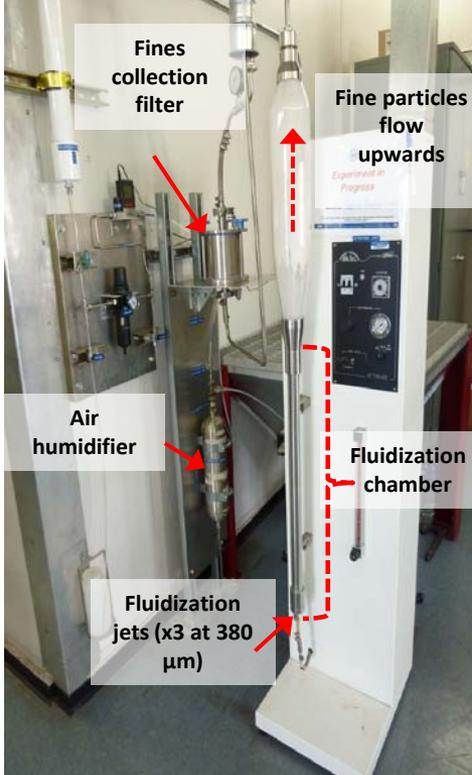
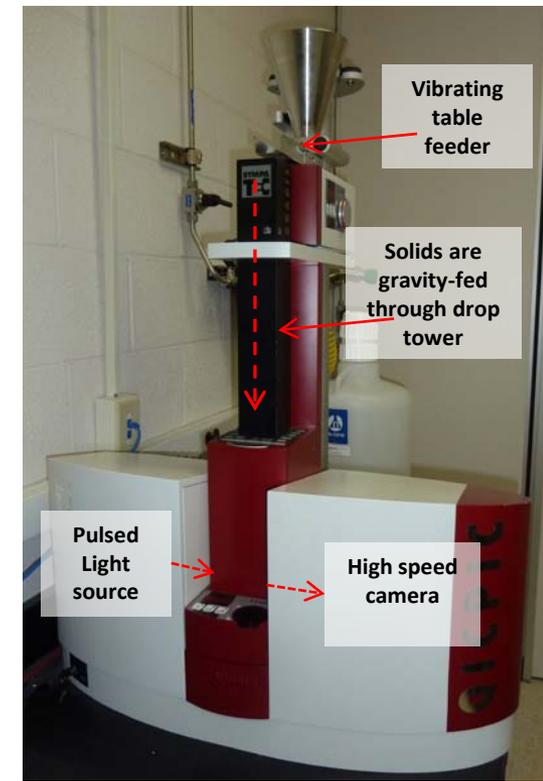


# Batch CLR Reactions (5% CH4/N2; 8" bed)

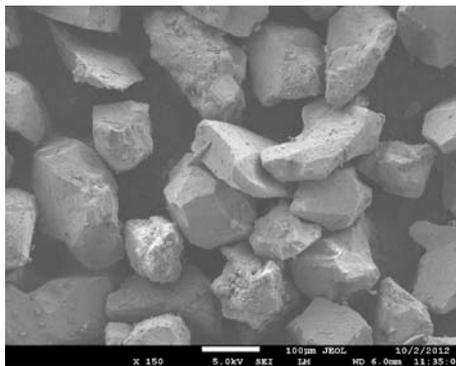


# Attrition Testing

- The ASTM 5757D standard has been identified and utilized for testing of materials.
- Post and Pre-analysis of shape and particle size distribution is carried out via SEM and QICPIC
- Hematite has shown a stronger attrition resistance than FCC catalyst in the unreacted state.
- The system has also been utilized to optimize the attrition resistance of other oxygen carrier materials.



Post-Attrition



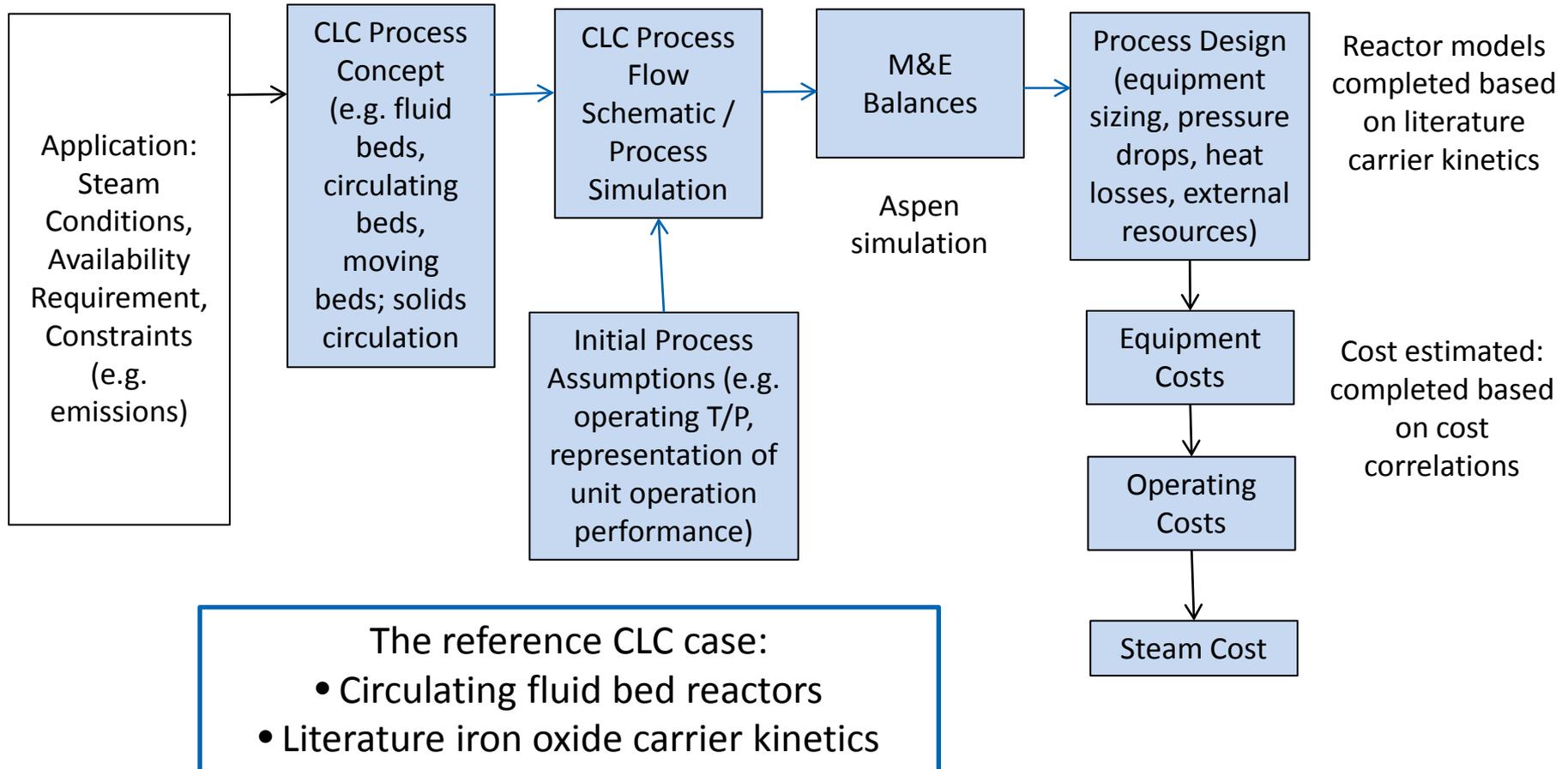
Pre-Attrition

Particle abrasion, evidence of fine particles after attrition testing

# CLC Techno-economic overview

## Natural Gas Steam Generator Capacity

- 27,500 lb/hr (~10 MW Thermal) and 275,000 lb/hr (~100 MW Thermal)
- 600 psi with 100°F of superheat steam



# Reference Plant Cost of Steam

	\$ /1000 lb steam	%
Fixed operating cost	0.5	2.8
Variable operating cost	2.5	14.3
water	0.3	
electricity	2.3	
oxygen carrier	0	
Capital Recovery	2.3	13.3
Fuel	12.3	69.6
Total cost of steam	17.7	100.0

# Perspective on Parameter Importance

assumes changes in parameters are within operating range

	Vessel Height	Vessel Diameter	Circ. Rate	Boiler Eff.	Auxiliary Power	CO <sub>2</sub> Capture	Equip. Cost	Cost of Steam
Carrier Reactivity (literature)	Large + = -				Small + = -		Small + = -	Small + = -
Carrier Loss (0 %) and Price (\$0/lb)								Medium + = +
Carrier Size (0.28mm) and Density (203 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	Small + = -				Small + = -		Small + = -	Small + = -
Carrier Conversion (from reducer 47%; from oxidizer 95%)	Medium + = +		Large + = -		Small + = +		Small + = +	Small + = +
Reactor Temperature (1700 F)	Small + = -	Small + = +			Small + = -		Small + = -	Small + = -
Reactor Velocities (reducer outlet 33.6 fps; oxidizer outlet 29.4 fps)	Large + = +	Large + = -			Small + = +		Small + = +	Small + = +
Natural Gas Conversion (97.5%)	Medium + = +			Small + = +	Small + = +	Large + = +	Small + = +	Small + = +
Oxidizer XS O <sub>2</sub> (3.6mol % in off-gas)	Small + = -	Small + = +		Small + = -	Small + = +		Small + = +	Small + = +

# Making Oxy-fuel an Advantage

Oxy-fuel combustion produces CO<sub>2</sub> concentrated flue gas – at a cost.

- Producing pure oxygen requires a lot of energy!
- If one could find a way to make significant extra power because of the available oxygen, oxy-fuel would be an advantage.
- Oxy-fuel already provides an advantage for process industries that benefit from high temperatures (e.g., glass making, steel).
- Oxy-fuel already provides advantages in propulsion (rocket engines)
- How can you make oxy-fuel an advantage for power generation?



Steel production



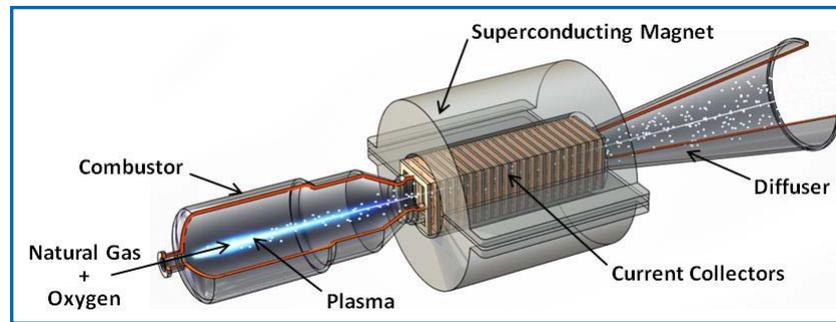
Space propulsion



Power generation

# “Direct Power Extraction” - making oxy-fuel combustion an advantage

- **Description: Extracts power using magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)**
  - Higher efficiency because it *uses* temperatures only possible with oxy-fuel.
  - Provides “capture-ready” feature of oxy-fuel; uses steam “bottoming” cycle.
  - Could be retrofit to coal steam plants (natural gas) – later converted back to coal



- **What is the R&D**
  - Develop durable electrodes, current control, and optimal hydrodynamics.
  - Validate simulation tools and predict optimal generator configurations.
  - Identify and test new approaches for power extraction.

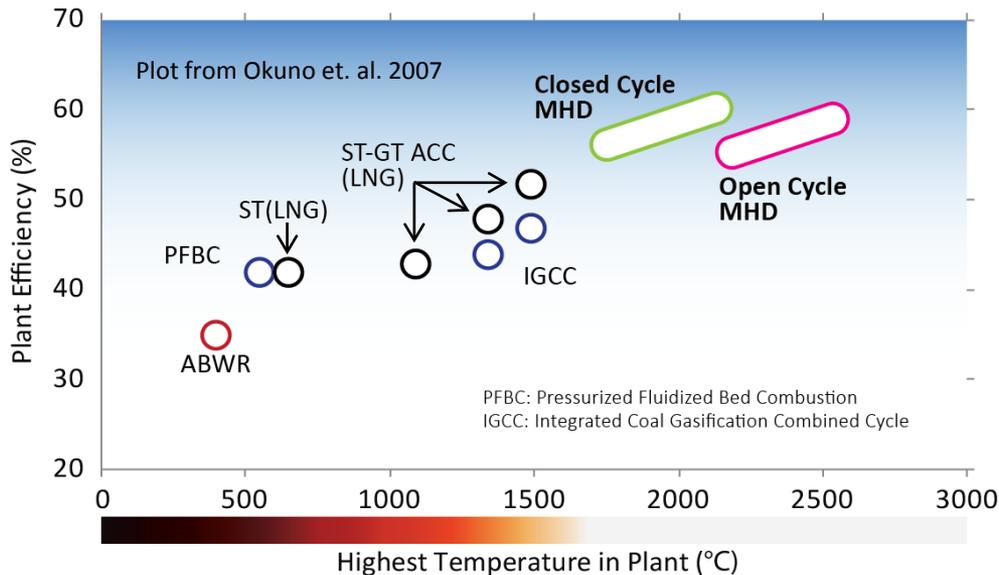
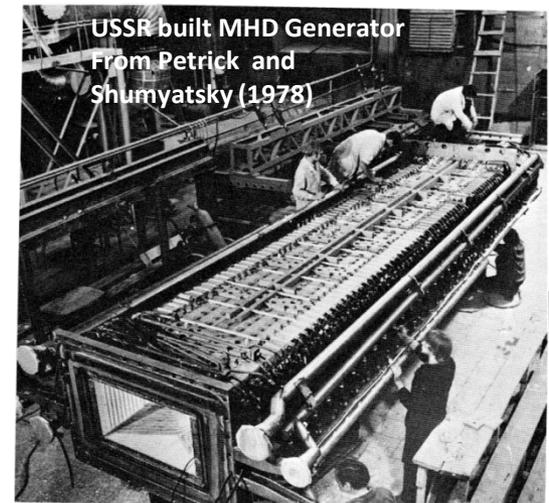
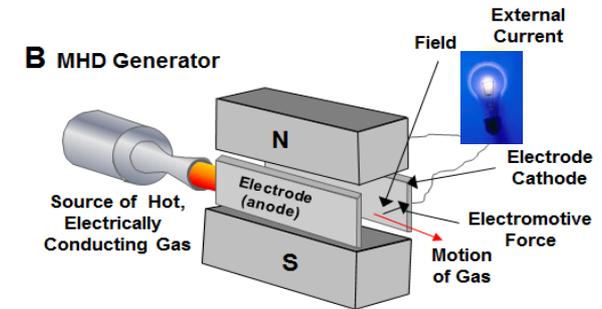
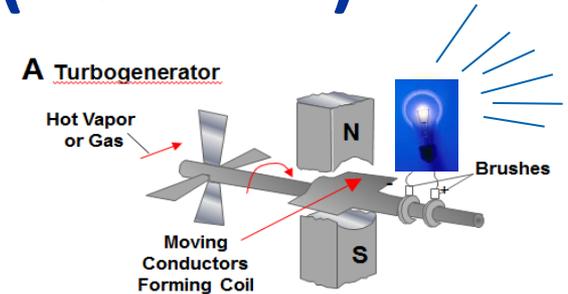
- **Benefits**
  - May allow retrofit of power plants with higher efficiency and carbon capture.
  - Potential spin-offs to other industries/ applications:
    - Electrically conductive ceramics, arc prevention/control (material processing)
    - Advanced propulsion and power (with DOD, NASA)

## MHD generator concept

High-temperature oxy-fuel combustion (with conductivity seed) accelerates through magnetic field to produce current. Hot exhaust used in conventional steam boiler.

# Direct Power Extraction (via MHD)

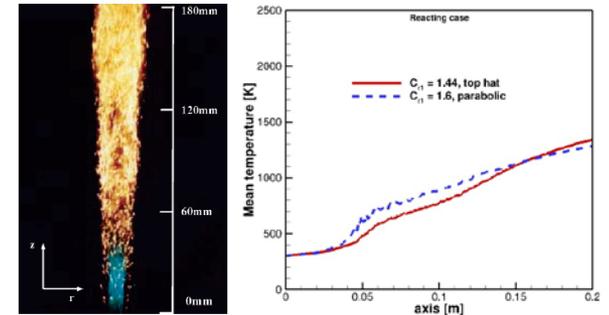
- **Magneto hydrodynamic (MHD) Power Generator:**  
Use a strong magnet and convert kinetic energy of conductive gases directly to electric power
- **Higher thermal efficiency via higher temperatures**
  - Need to use in combined cycle
  - Synergy w/ oxy-fuel for CCUS
- **MHD cycle: turns efficiency disadvantage (oxygen production) to efficiency advantage (power production)!**



*MHD generator concept proven in 1980s w/ grid transferred power in both U.S. and USSR*

# R&D Approach – Past & Present

- **Legacy effort (pre 1992) largely proof-of-concept.**
  - Expensive large-scale demonstrations.
  - Coal power generation only (in U.S.).
  - Did not consider CO<sub>2</sub> control.
  - Primitive simulation tools, magnets versus now.



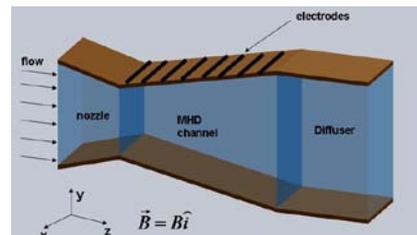
LES simulation for MHD flame conditions (D. Haworth, NETL-RUA, Penn State.)

- **Present effort: targeted on key technical issues, not demonstration**

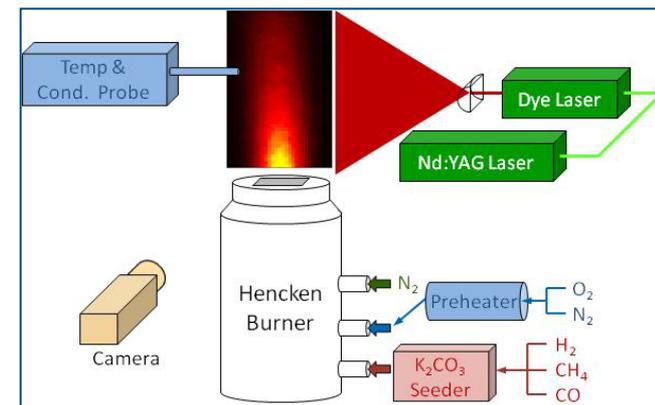
- Validated simulation to assess scale performance.
- Lab experiments on key challenge issues – build on legacy effort.
- New approaches to power extraction, generator geometry.
- New magnet technology, materials, and simulation.
- Identify “spin-off” technologies and synergies.

(Organize with gov’t agencies  
Industry, etc.)

Woodside et. Al (2012). Direct Power Extraction with Oxy-Combustion: An Overview of Magnetohydrodynamic Research Activities at the NETL-RUA, 2012 International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, October 15 - 18, 2012.



Simulation of MHD tube (I. Celik, NETL-RUA, WVU)



Measure of conductivity – NETL labs

# What is the advantage of pressure-gain combustion?

**Michael Idelchik, Vice President of Advanced Technologies at GE Research...  
*Research...Sept 2009 interview on Pulse Detonation for Technology Review  
published by MIT.***

“An existing turbine burns at constant pressure. With detonation, pressure is rising, and the total energy available for the turbine increases. We see the potential of **30 percent fuel-efficiency improvement**. Of course realization, including all the hardware around this process, would reduce this.

I think it (efficiency gains) will be anywhere from 5 percent to 10 percent. That's percentage points--say from **59 to 60 percent efficient to 65 percent efficient**. We have other technology that will get us close [to that] but **no other technology that can get so much at once**. It's very revolutionary technology.

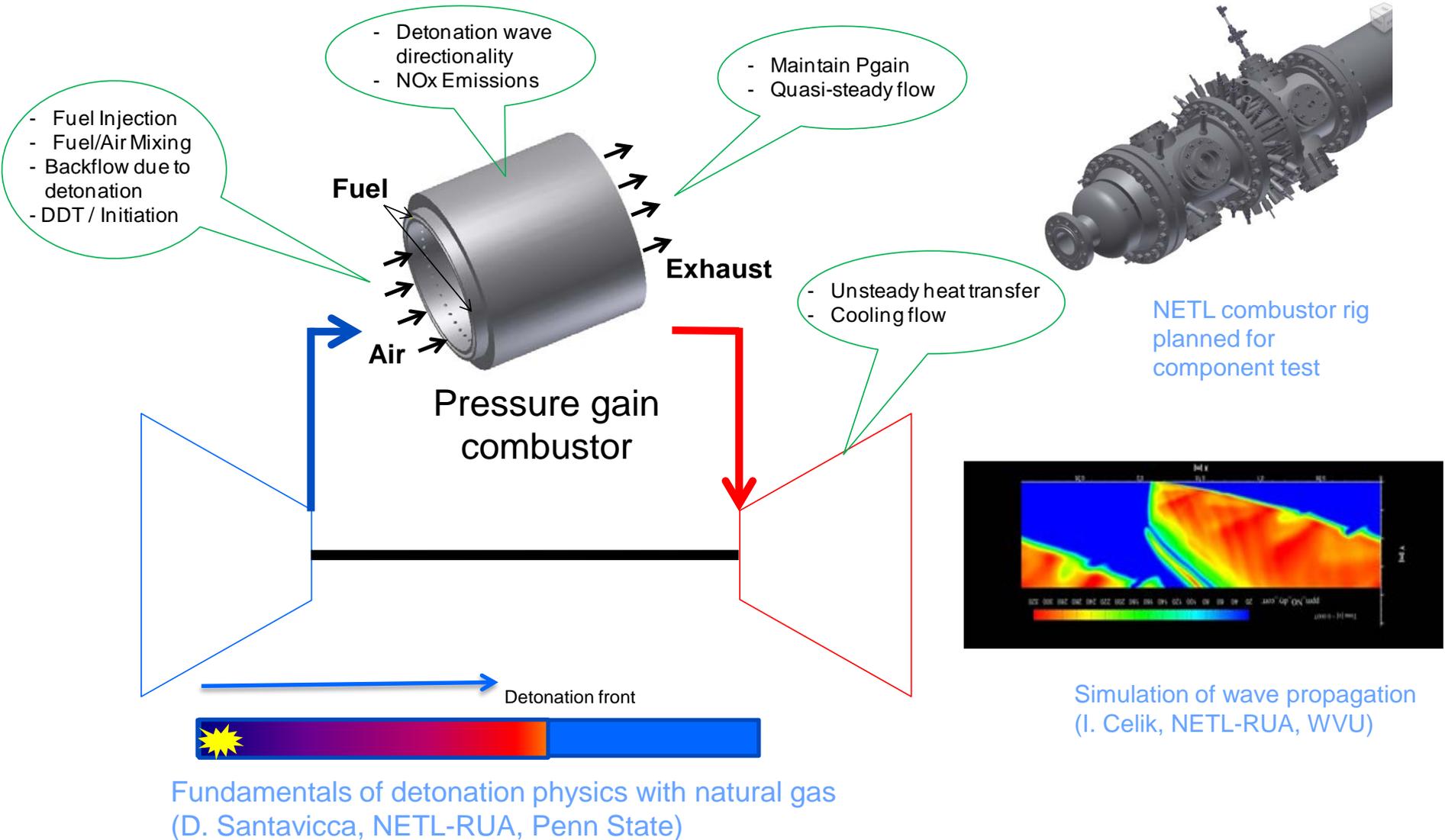
***The first application will definitely be land-based***—it will be power generation at a natural-gas power plant. “

**“If we can turn 5% pressure loss in a turbine into 5% pressure gain, it has the same impact as doubling the compression ratio” – Dr. Sam Mason, Rolls-Royce (2008)\***

*\* Quotation courtesy Fred Schauer AFRL*

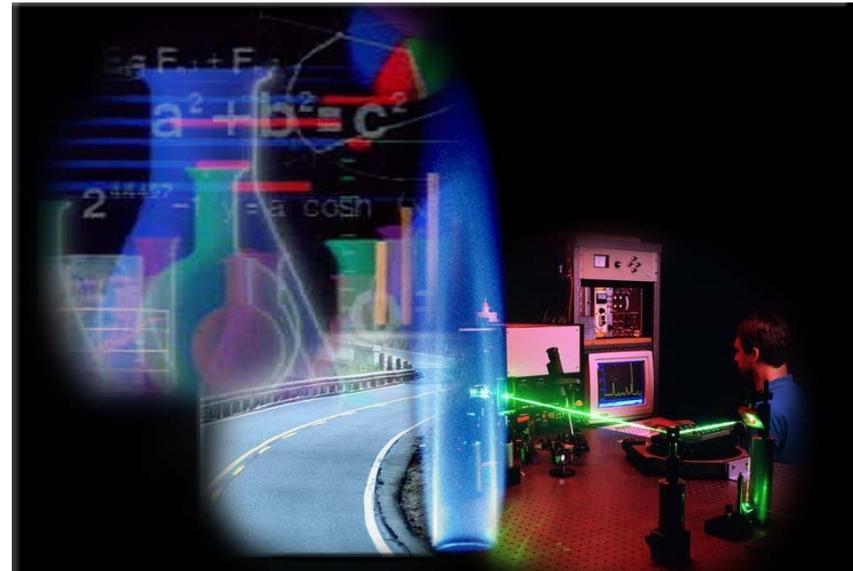
**NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY**

# Technical challenges & approaches



# Summary

- **Advanced combustion approaches may enable efficient carbon dioxide management:**
  - Chemical looping: inherent CO<sub>2</sub> separation.
  - Direct Power Extraction: making oxy-fuel an efficiency advantage.
  - Pressure-gain combustion: step change in generation efficiency for IGCC, NGCC could offset capture penalty.
- **Today's presentation:**
  - NETL-ORD Chemical Looping studies: development and validation in progress.
  - Overview of initial studies on direct power extraction.
  - Potential for pressure-gain combustion: experiments coming.



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