

Solid Oxide Fuel Cell System Development and R&D Needs

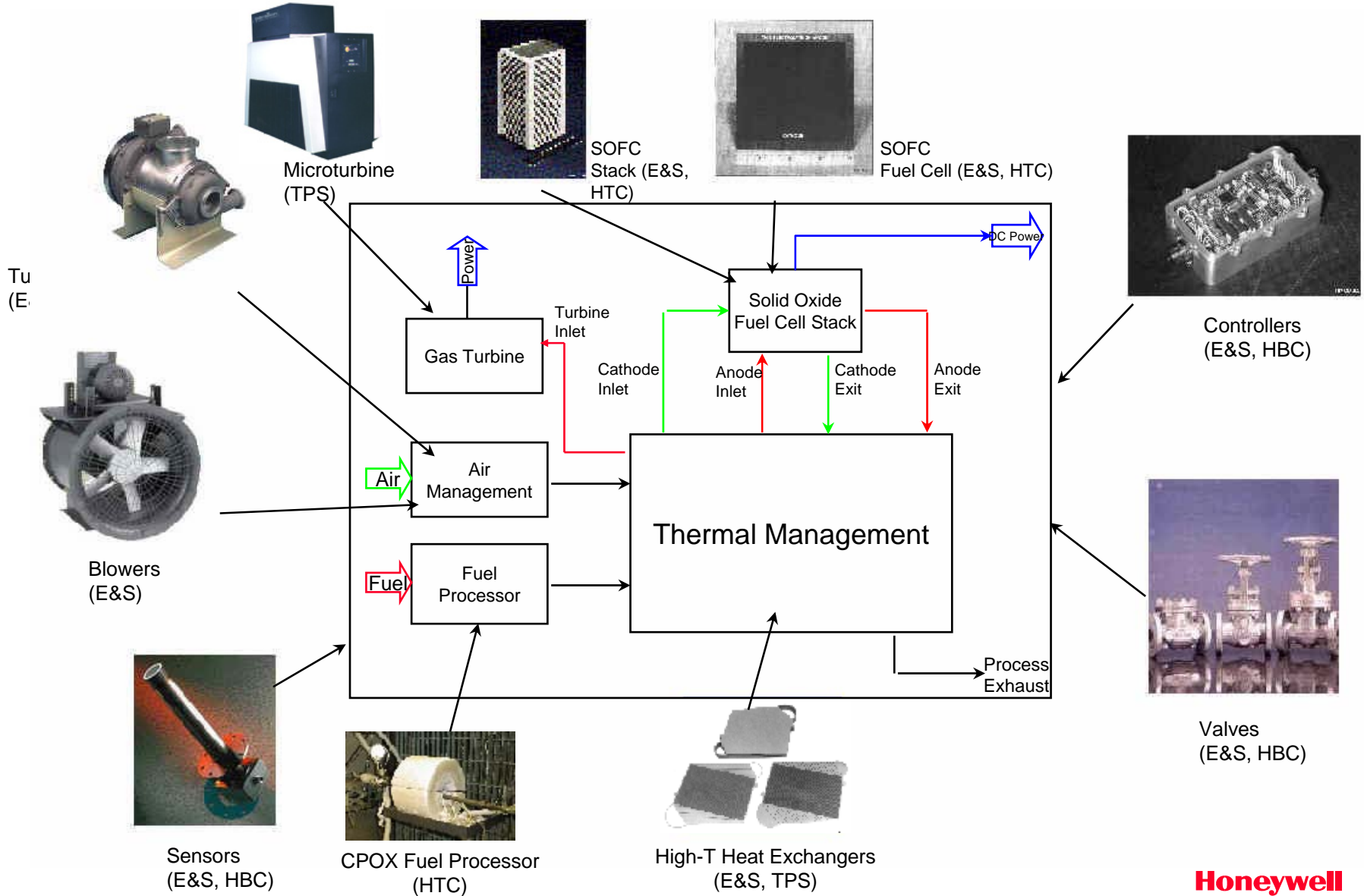
Nguyen Minh

SECA Core Technology Program Planning Workshop

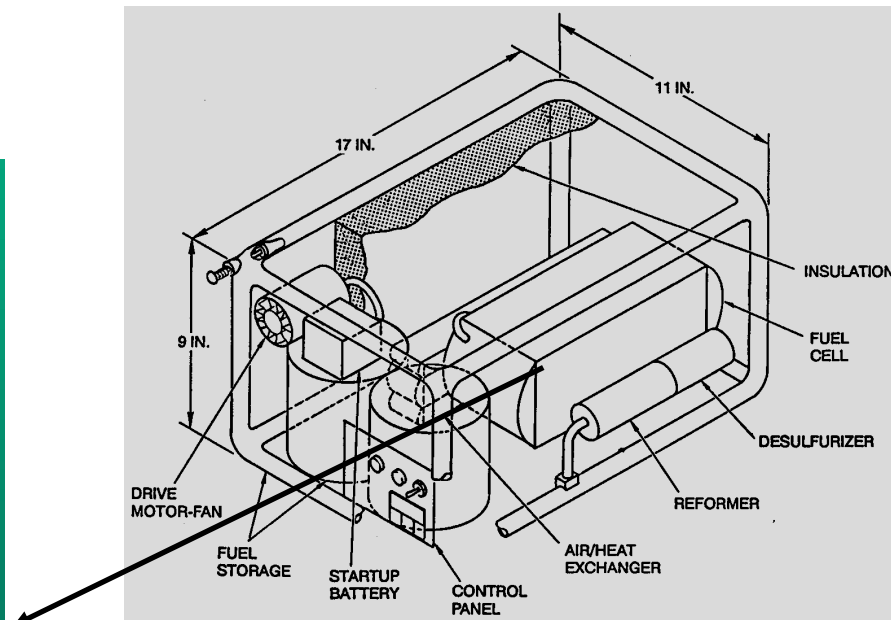
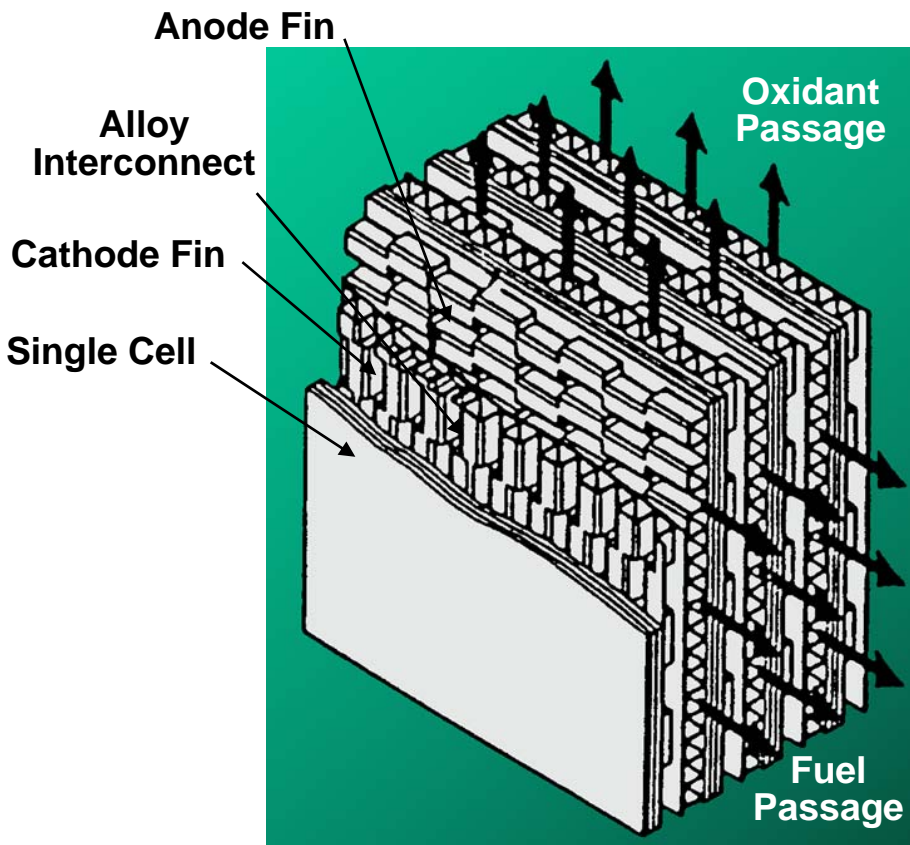
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Simplified SOFC System & Components



Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Battery Charger



500-W SOFC Battery Charger - Characteristics

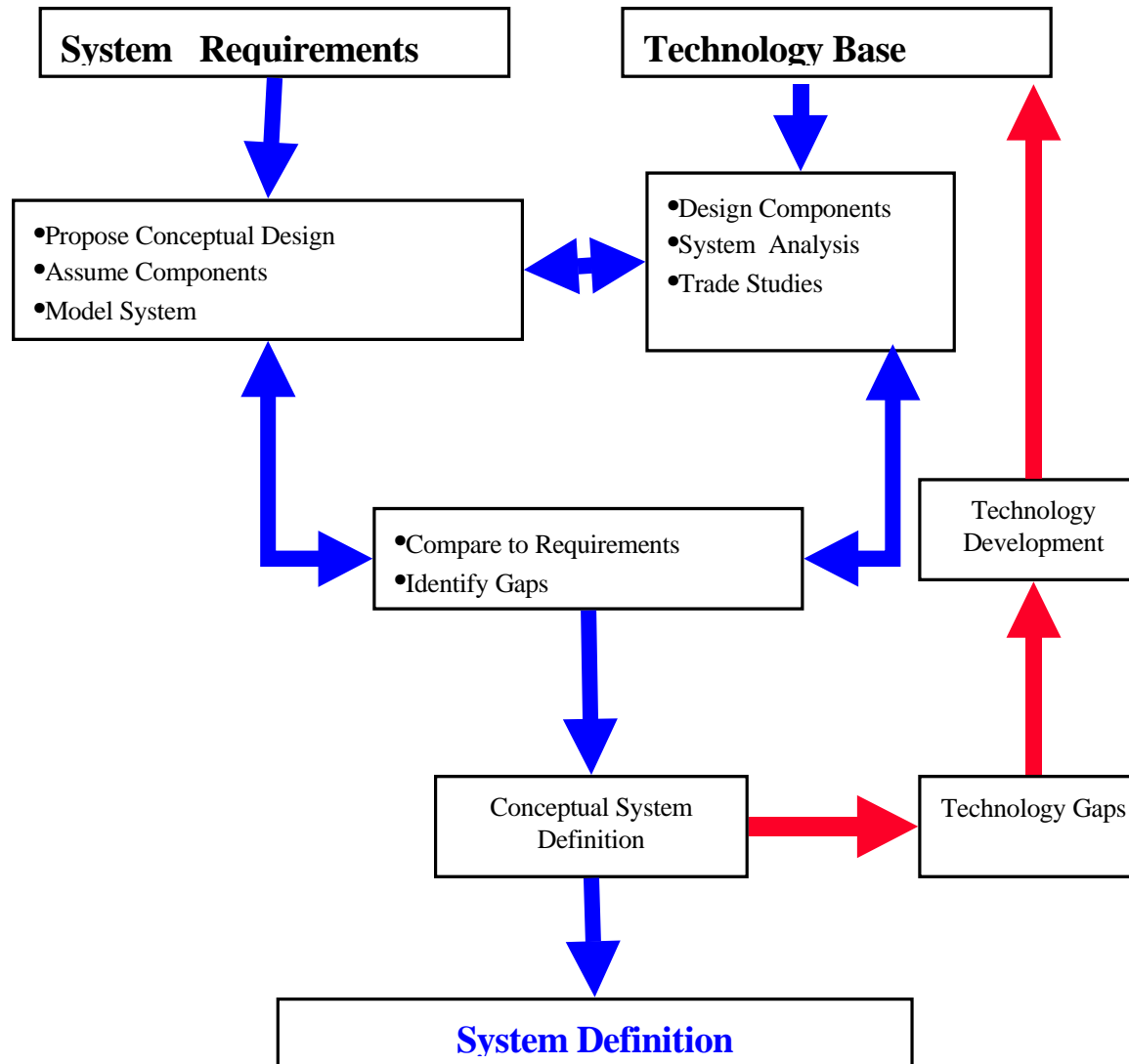
- **Targets**

- Weight = 7 kg
- Voltage = 28 VDC
- Operation on logistic fuels (JP and diesel)
- Portable

- **Key technologies**

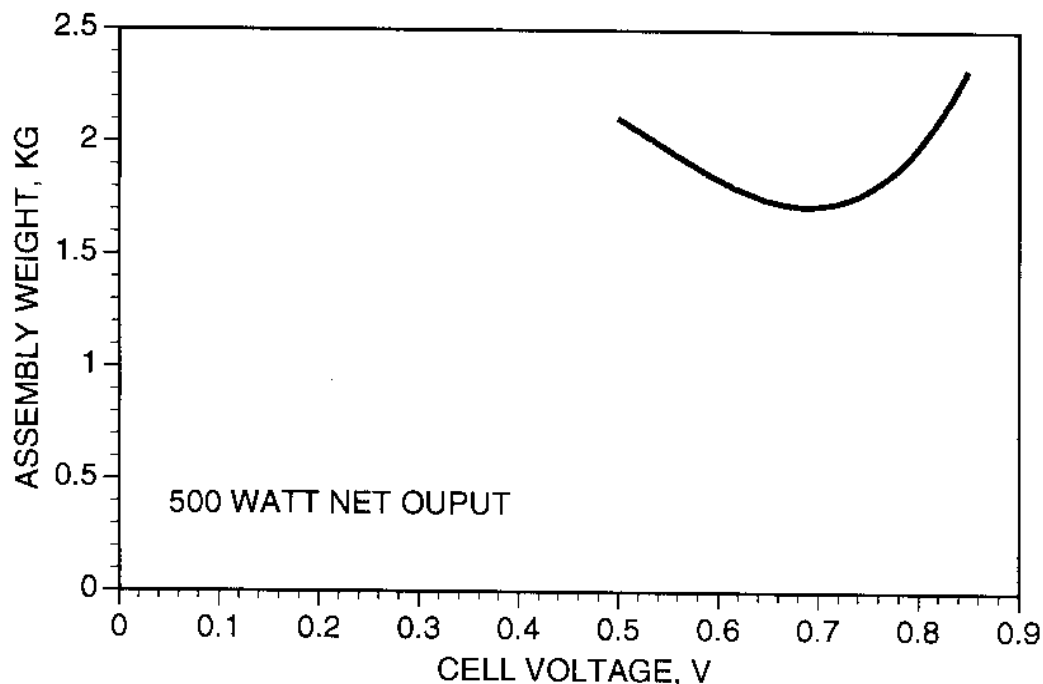
- Reduced-temperature solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) for power generation
- Catalytic partial oxidation (CPOX) for processing logistic fuels

System Design Methodology



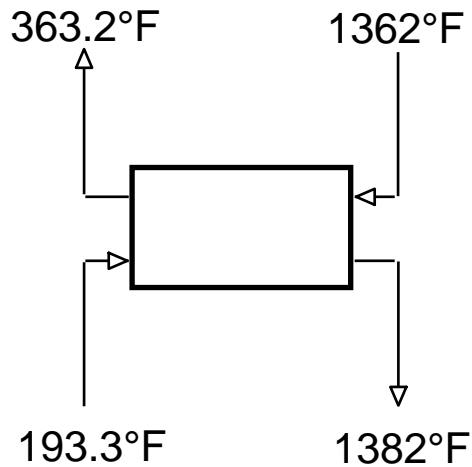
Fuel Cell Assembly Weight Optimization

- 500 Watt; 28 Vdc Output
- Hydrogen Utilization: 0.8
- Inclusion of Manifolds
- Inclusion of Insulation of Exposed Surface Areas ($T_{\text{surface}} 140^{\circ}\text{F}$)

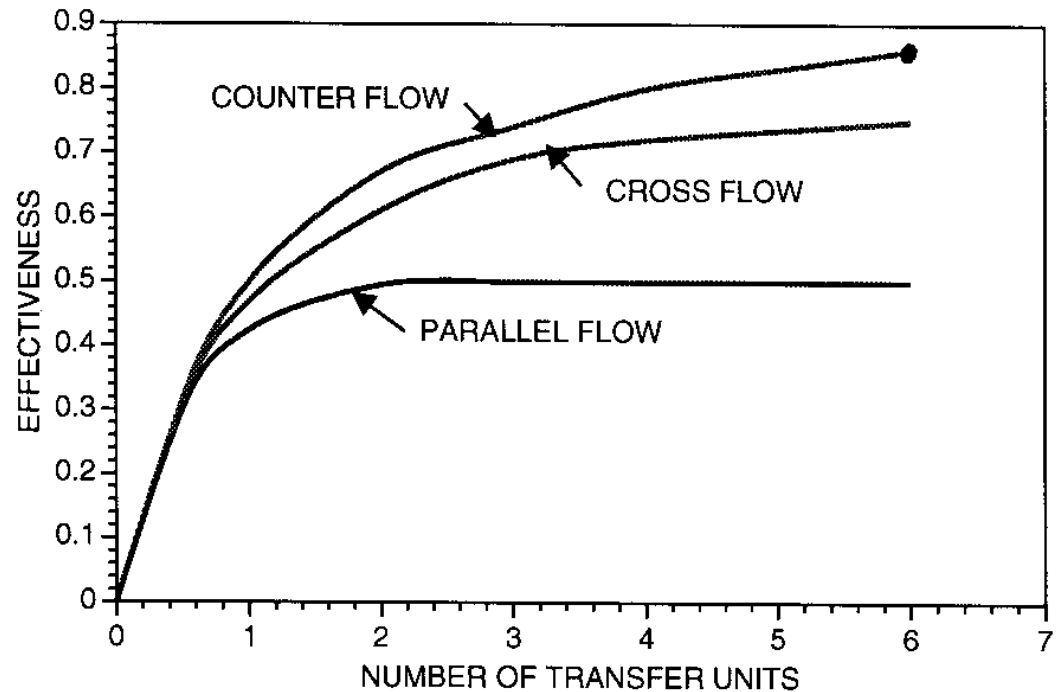


Air-to-Air Heat Exchanger Requirements

- High Temperature Effectiveness Impose Counter Flow Design

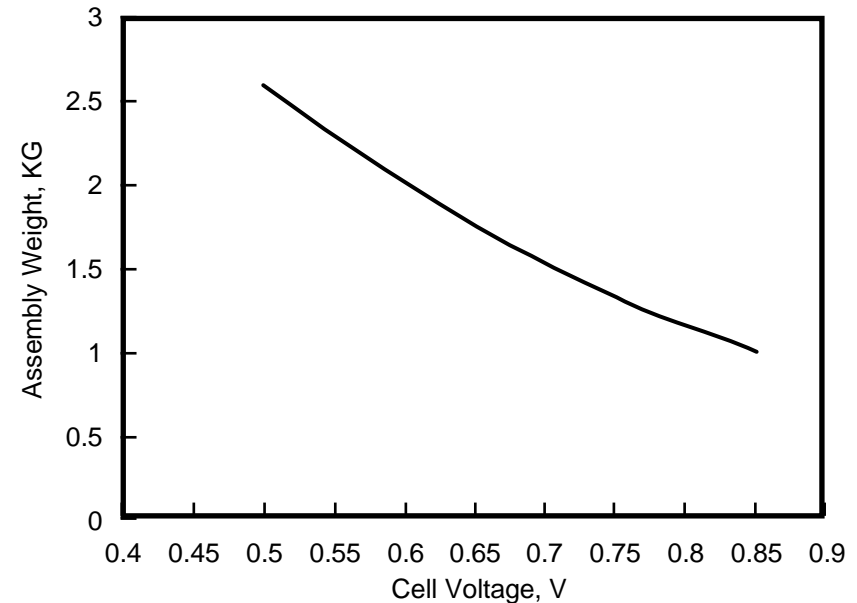
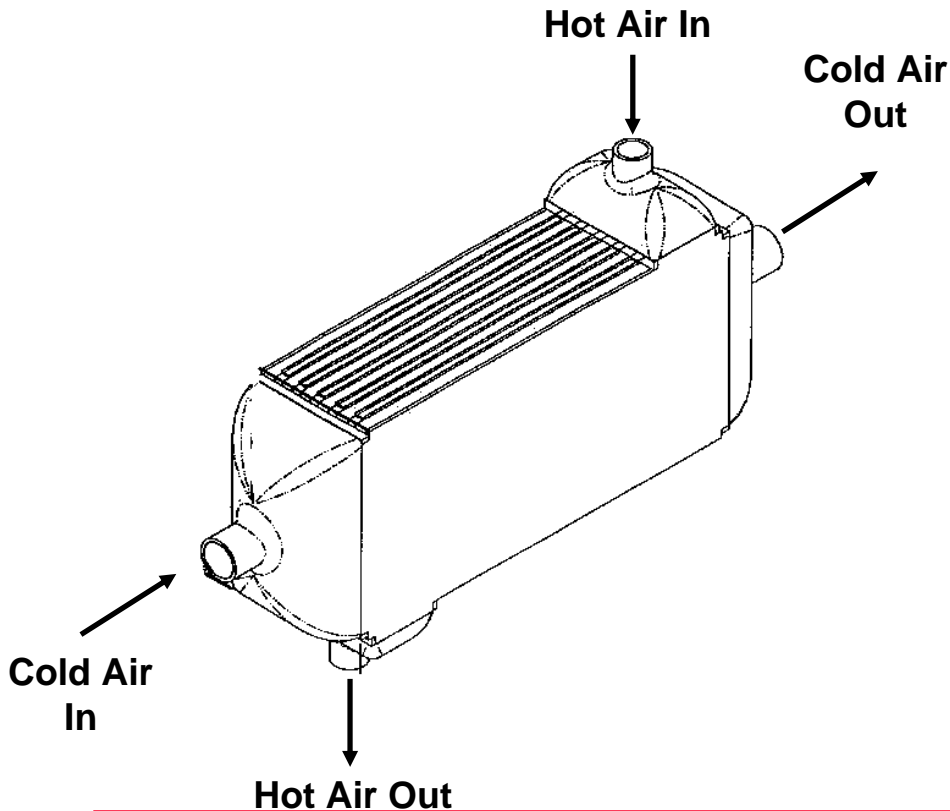


$$\epsilon_{\text{HOT}} = \frac{1562 - 363.2}{1562 - 193.3} = .875$$



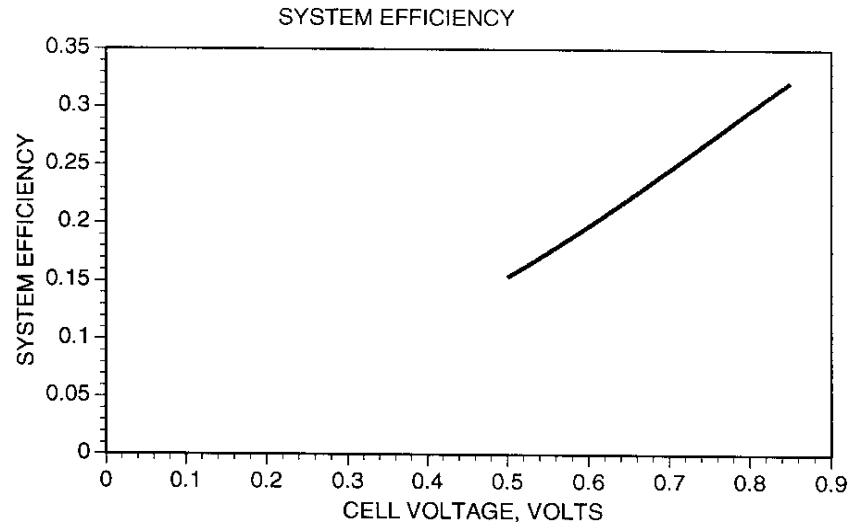
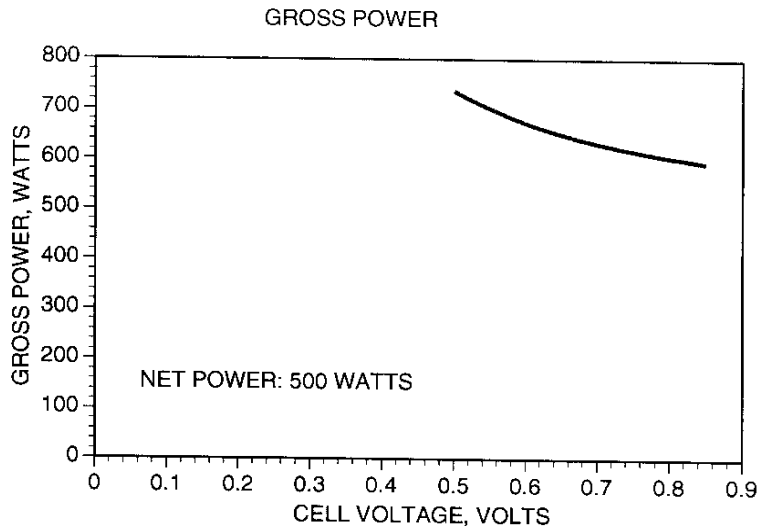
Air to Air Heat Exchanger Performance

- Alloy Construction
- Fin: 16R-.125-1/8 (0)-.004



System Performance Characteristics

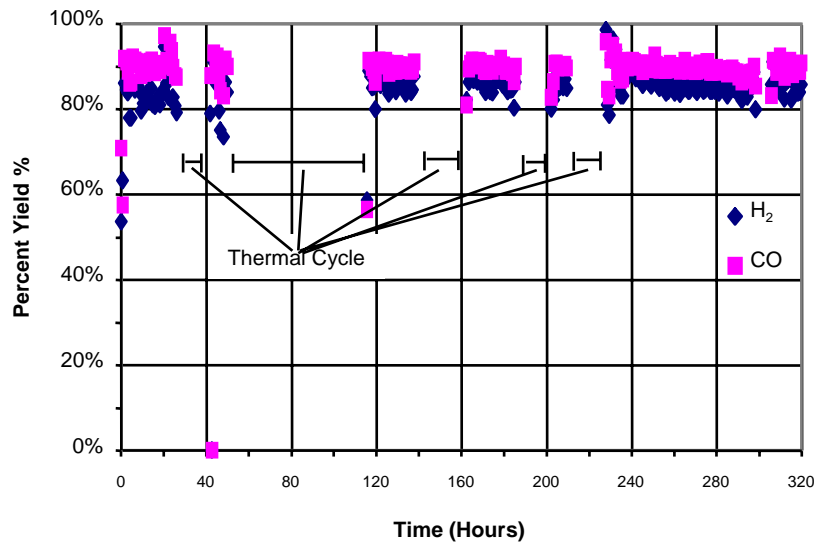
- Hydrogen Utilization: 0.8



Fuel Cell Performance Characteristics

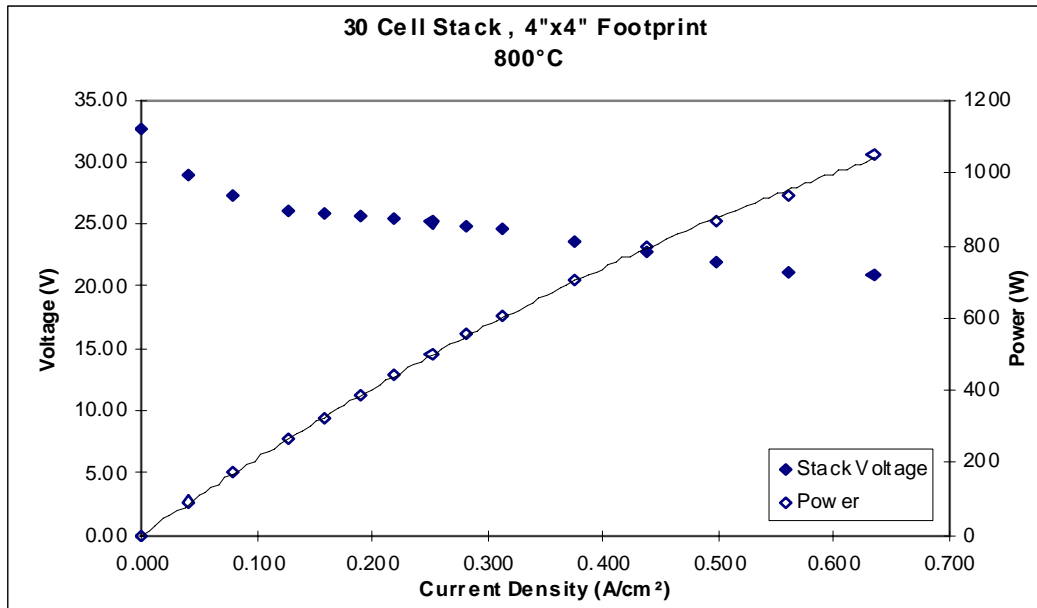
	<u>Cross Flow</u>	<u>Radial Flow</u>
• Cell Voltage	0.65	0.65
• Hydrogen Utilization	0.84	0.84
• Fuel Flow, lb/hr	0.361	0.361
• Air Flow, lb/hr	40.7	43.3
• Gross Power, W	584.9	587.3
• System Efficiency, %	25.07	24.91

CPOX Performance Metrics



- Duration: 700 hours to date
- Thermal Cycles: 10
- Sulfur Tolerance: 1000 ppm dibenzothiophene in JP-8
- Yield: 70-80% of LHV in JP-8

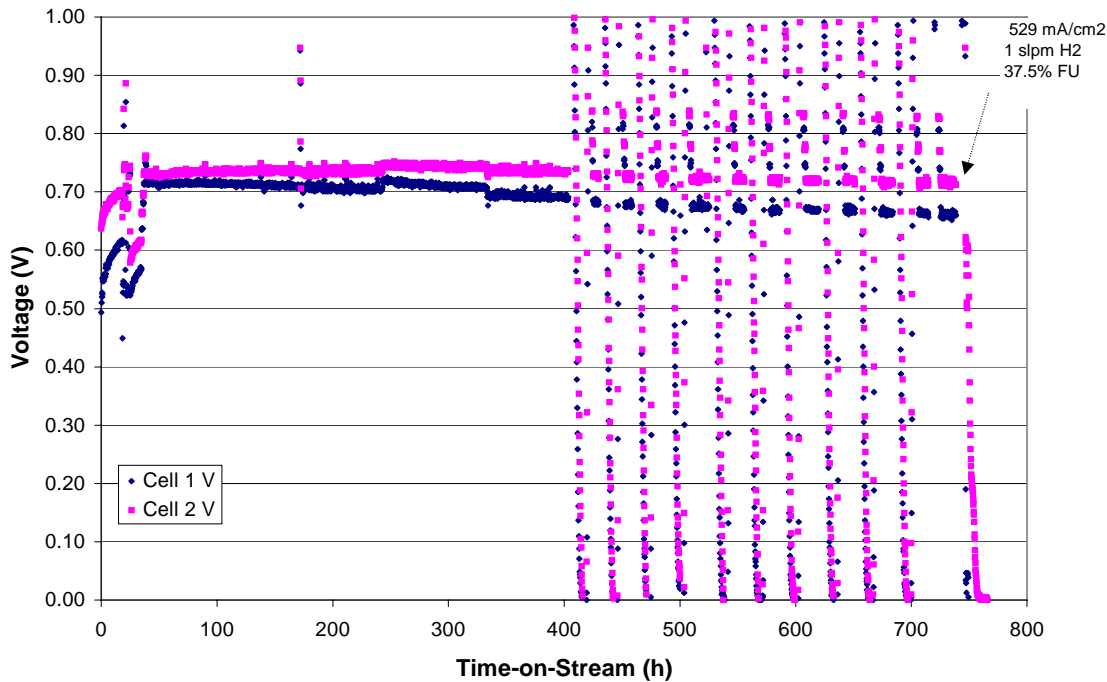
SOFC Stack Metrics



- 10 cm x 10 cm footprint
- 800°C operation in hydrogen and air at ambient pressure
- Power:
 - 1.1 kW at 0.7 V / cell
 - 1.4 kW at peak power
- Power density:
 - 0.42 W/cm² at 0.7 V/cell
 - 0.6 W / cm² at peak power
 - 0.7 kW / kg, 0.7 kW / L at peak power
 - 0.53 kW / kg, 0.53 kW / L at 0.7 V/cell

Thermal Cycling

Performance at 800°C in H₂



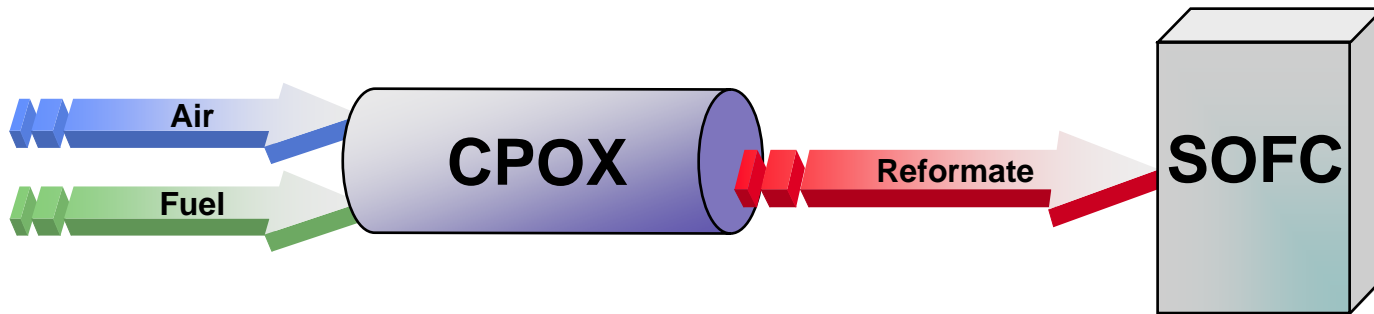
- Multiple thermal cycles without significant performance degradation
- Minimal change in open circuit voltage and voltage under load between cycles

SOFC stacks are being engineered for thermal cycling capability

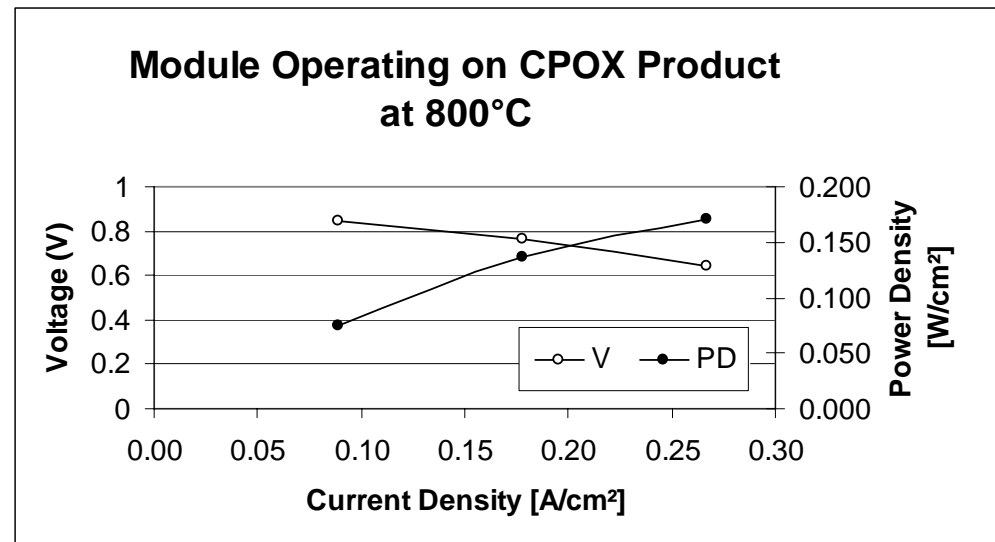
CPOX/SOFC Integration - Key Parameters

- **Start-up and shut-down procedures**
- **Range of operating parameters**
- **Pressure drop**
- **Thermal management**
- **Transient characteristics**

Integrated CPOX-SOFC Operation



CPOX	
Input	Output
JP-8	17.3% H ₂
Air	21.0% CO
	0.7% CO ₂
	11.0% H ₂ O
	50.0% N ₂



Demonstration of multicell SOFC operation on JP-8 syngas

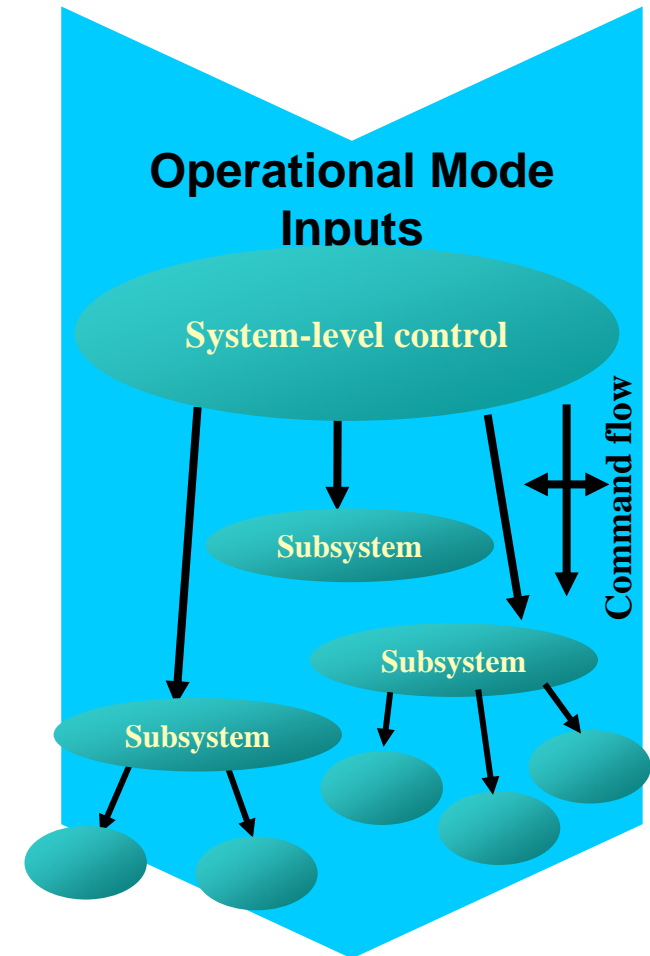
50 W Demonstration Unit



- **Demonstration of key component integration**
 - Integration of system components, especially CPOX fuel processor and SOFC stack
- **Self contained operation**
 - Startup
 - Thermal integration
 - Propane fuel

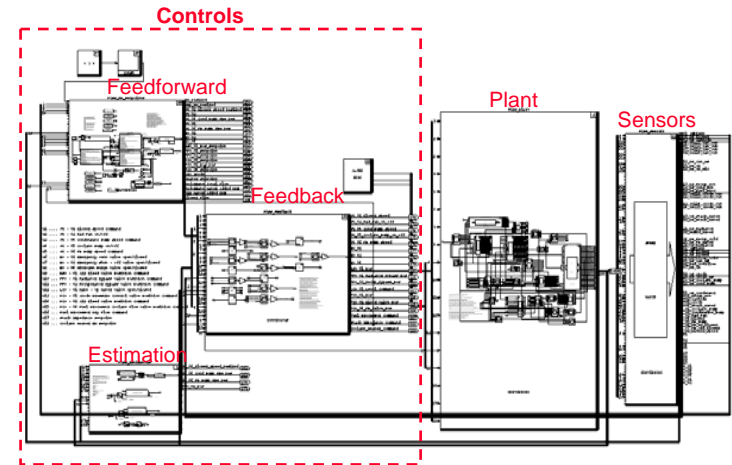
Control System Functions - drives integration

- **Coordinate subsystems for shared resources and efficient operation**
- **Regulate yet be responsive over a wide operating range**
 - Flow / Composition
 - Temperature
 - Pressure
 - Power
- **Provide safe system operation through built-in test**
- **Perform process and component health monitoring for improved life cycle**
- **Provides user interface and automated system operation**
 - Startup/ Shutdown
 - Scheduled operation
 - Status indicators/alarms

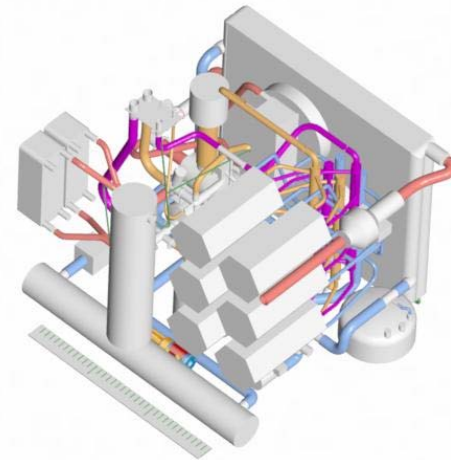


Control Development Approach

- Develop dynamic system models and design control through simulation.
- Rapid prototyping capabilities allows quick evaluation of controls designed in simulation.
- Advanced control and sensing techniques can be investigated through simulation trade studies and prototyping. The most promising approaches implemented in product.



Rapid Prototyping



SOFC System - R&D Needs

- **System Analysis and Modeling**
- **System Thermal Management including**
 - Thermal cycling
 - Startup
- **Fuels and Fuel Impurities**
- **Controls/Sensors**
- **Power Electronics**

System Analysis and Modeling R&D Needs

- **System Steady-State Models**
 - Component models
 - System performance
- **Dynamic System Models**
 - Component models
 - Transient performance
- **SOFC Design and Performance Analysis**
 - Thermal
 - Stress
 - Performance

Thermal Management R&D Needs

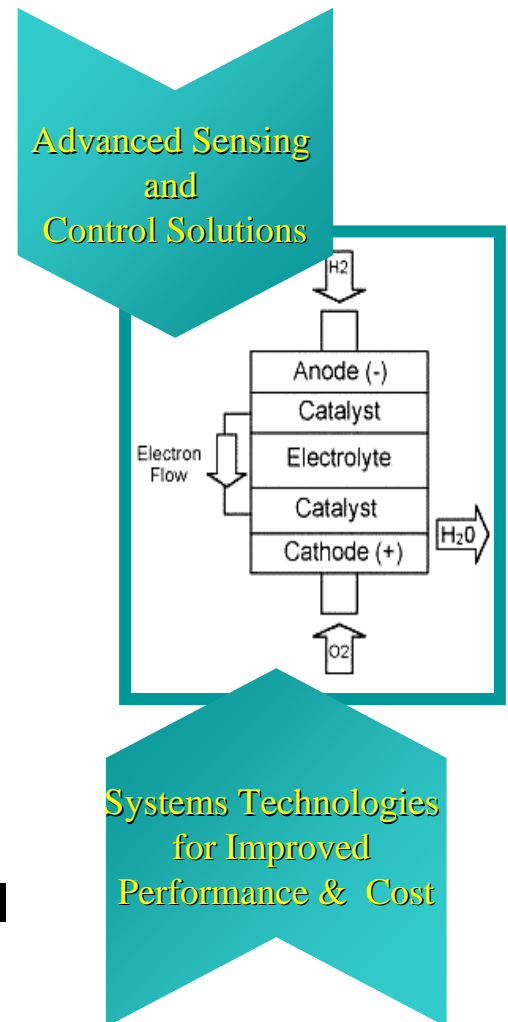
- **Heat Exchanger and Insulation**
 - Low-cost high-temperature alloys/composites
 - Oxidation resistant coating for low grade metals
 - Low-cost insulation materials/methods
- **Thermal Cycling**
 - Models to predict thermal cyclability of SOFC stacks
 - Modifications of material coefficient of thermal expansion
- **Startup**
 - Methods to minimize startup times
 - Thermal shock resistant materials/components

Fuels and Fuel Impurities R&D Needs

- **Influence of Fuels on SOFC and Fuel Processor Operation**
 - Performance
 - Fuel flexibility
- **Impurity Effects**
 - Performance degradation
 - Tolerance level
 - Life
- **Methods to Remove Sulfur from Hot Gases**

Control & Sensing R&D Needs

- **Advanced sensing and control technology - improved performance/cost**
 - Advanced control and optimization technologies
 - Integrated embedded system implementations
 - Fuel composition and carbon monoxide (CO) sensors
- **Advanced modeling for control development and information processing - address critical control challenges at component and system levels**
 - System-subsystem-component dynamic modeling for control development
 - Bridging sensing and control: information-from-data technologies for control, safety, & system health
- **Advance sensor development - address critical sensing challenges**
 - Advanced sensing technologies for high temperature, flow and composition sensing



- **Fuel Cell/Power Inverter Interface**

- Interface impedance calculation method for maximizing efficiency of fuel cell systems

- **Power Conversion Architecture**

- Modeling and analysis of various architectures of power conversion systems (PCS)
- Optimization of PCS architectures for various applications