# Revolutionizing Turbine Cooling with Micro-Architectures Enabled by Direct Metal Laser Sintering

#### The Ohio State University Aerospace Research Center

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Turbine Cooling – "Where did we come from?"



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#### State-of-the-Art in Turbine Cooling – "Where are we now?"





#### State-of-the-Art in Turbine Cooling – "Where are we now?"



State-of-the-Art in Turbine Cooling – "Where are we now?"



#### **Current Manufacturing Process – Investment Casting**



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#### Current Manufacturing Process – Laser Drilling and plunge EDM







# **Critical Need**

Topic #3 from the 2015 UTSR FOA: "The key goal of this topic area is to support the development of advanced internal cooling strategies including advanced impingement for airfoil cooling and vanced near wall cooling techniques. ..... The increased turbin let tem likely required to achieve 659 hbin cycle efficien/ will further virin increase turbine compone t loa ven \_\_\_\_vanced, research is needed in this efficient, and **COO** ni es. ere **Utacturers** as they design hot can SU topic area th DC gas path com ent cooling capabilities." ents v **su** Where will thes savances come from...



## **Direct Metal Laser Sintering**

#### **DMLS Process**





3d Geometry model

layer of powdered material is applied to building platform Powdered material is solidified into a cross-section of a model with laser

Building Platform is lowered The next layer of powder is applied

The process repeats itself until the part is complete Unused powder is removed Finished Part









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## **Direct Metal Laser Sintering**

#### Can you fabricate a cooled turbine blade with DMLS?







Just how small can the features be?



## **Direct Metal Laser Sintering**

#### QUOTES FROM UTSR WORKSHOP – TUESDAY A.M.

**"To take advantage of additive manufacturing, you need to start with the design."** - Bill Brindley, Pratt & Whitney

"DMLS enables novel designs." - Karl Wygant, Samsung Techwin America

"Challenges become opportunities!" – David Teraji, Solar Turbines

"Additive manufacturing moving from nicety to necessity." - Boeing

"Manufacturing as an enabler rather than as a burden." - Sanjay Sampath, Stony Brook University

**"Ability to make macroscale parts with microscale features."** Suman Das, Georgia Tech



# **Objectives**

- Explore innovative cooling architectures enabled by <u>additive</u> <u>manufacturing techniques</u> for improved cooling performance and reduced coolant waste.
- Leverage DMLS to better distribute coolant through microchannels, as well as to integrate inherently unstable flow devices to enhance internal and external heat transfer.
- Demonstrate these technologies
  - 1. at large scale and low speed.
  - 2. at relevant Mach numbers in a high-speed cascade.
  - 3. finally, at high speed and high temperature.
- Complement experiments with CFD modeling to explore a broader design space and extrapolate to more complex operating conditions.



## **Research Team**

TEAM LEAD

Focus: Experimental Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer



**Dr. Jeffrey Bons** Professor Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Ohio State University Columbus, OH

**Co-PI** Focus: Computational Fluid Dynamics and Heat Transfer



**Dr. Ali Ameri** Research Scientist Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Ohio State University Columbus, OH

Robin Prenter PhD Candidate

Co-Pl

Focus: Experimental Fluid Mechanics, Fluidic Oscillator Development



**Dr. Jim Gregory** Associate Professor Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Ohio State University Columbus, OH



Arif Hossain PhD Candidate



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#### Sweeping Fluidic Oscillators for flow control



...and many other applications...

Active Flow Co actuator exit no

White dots are locations

for flow visualization tufts



Red dashed line shows region

where Active Flow Control

actuators are located



Sweeping film cooling yields higher midpitch film effectiveness. More uniform coverage.





Pulsed impingement cooling jet (Camci & Herr, JHT 1999)

- 40-60% heat transfer enhancement compared to steady jets for x/d<30</li>
- No external input required to produce oscillation

#### Pulsing Fluidic Oscillators (Gregory)



## **Potential Concerns with DMLS**





Figure 5. Image of the opening of a single channel of the M-2x-Co coupon a) digitally reconstructed from CT scan data and b) collected with a light microscope.

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#### Stimpson et al. (IGTI2015)

- Microchannel array additive manufacturing.
- Elevated roughness levels
- High pressure drop for same heat transfer augmentation
- Natural "roughness" obviates need for ribs.





## **Innovative Cooling Designs**



IR Images of Surface Temperature (Ameri and Shyam, unpublished 2015)

Calculation vs. Experiment (Li et al., Energy and Power 2013)



# **Innovative Cooling Designs**

#### Combine all promising technologies on single NGV.



(b) (Notional DMLS NGV Model)

**(a)** (Bunker, IGTI 2013)



## **Turbine Heat Transfer Facilities**

- For innovative concepts to be viable, must be vetted in facilities that simulate the real operating environment
- Graduated complexity
  - Low speed, large scale
  - High speed, smaller scale
  - High speed, high temperature, small scale



#### Low Speed Large Scale Tunnel



### **Transonic Turbine Cascade**



# **Transonic Turbine Cascade**



# **<u>Turbine Reaction Flow Rig</u>** (TuRFR)



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- Natural gas burning combustor rig
- Combustor exit flow accelerated in cone nozzle
- Transition from circular to annular sector
- Real vane hardware (industry supplied) installed in annular cascade sector
- Tt4 up to 1120°C (2050°F)
- Inlet Mach number ~ 0.1
- 300,000 < Re<sub>cex</sub>< 1,000,000
- Adjustable inlet temperature profiles
- Adjustable inlet turbulence profiles (through dilution jets)
- Film cooling from vane casing and hub (density ratio 1.6-2.0)



## **TuRFR II**





#### TuRFR I & II



#### **TuRFR II**









## **Optical Access**

#### **CAMERA IN LOWER POSITION**

#### **CAMERA IN UPPER POSITION**





# **PHASE 1: Concept Exploration**

- Use available literature to identify most promising cooling designs:
  - Pulsed fluidic oscillators for internal cooling of leading and trailing edges
  - Sweeping fluidic oscillators for external film cooling
  - Reverse flow film cooling from microchannel circuits for pressure surface
  - Microcooling circuits replace showerhead cooling
- Low-speed wind tunnel testing with scaled geometry
  - o Characterize cooling effectiveness and heat transfer
  - o Test variants of geometry to determine optimum
  - Test sensitivity of each design to manufacturing tolerances
- Develop computational models of each cooling design
  - o Generate flow solutions for each initial geometry
  - o Validate solutions with experimental data from initial geometry
  - Explore design space and aid in optimization of geometry for each design
- Determine most promising and feasible technologies for Phase 2 based on experimental and computational results



## **PHASE 2: Integrated SLA Vane**

- Implement most promising technologies into preliminary nozzle guide vane design
- Develop computational model of preliminary vane design in high-speed cascade
- Generate flow solutions at various operating conditions
- Modify preliminary vane design per computational results
- Fabricate properly scaled plastic vanes with stereolithography (SLA) using modified design
- Test fabricated vanes in high-speed cascade
  - Characterize flow and heat transfer at various operating conditions
  - o Determine compressibility effects
- Validate flow solution using experimental data
- Iterate back to low speed testing as necessary
- Generate flow solutions for final Phase 3 design at higher inlet Mach numbers and Reynolds numbers



# **PHASE 3: Fully Simulated NGV**

- Fabricate high-temperature alloy vane using DMLS (e.g. EWI)
- Coat vane in thermal barrier coating (TBC)
- Characterize surface roughness and tolerances due to manufacturing method
- Test full material system in the TuRFR turbine test facility
  - Characterize cooling performance and pressure drop at various coolant mass flow rates
  - o Characterize cooling performance at various main flow conditions
- Compare new vane design performance to conventional vane at same coolant and main flow operating conditions to determine improvement
- Develop computational model of coated NGV
  - o Generate and validate flow solution in context of TuRFR testing
  - Generate simulations at higher temperatures and pressures not possible in the facility



# **Motivation for CFD**

- CFD can be used to elucidate and complement experimental results and to inform the flow physics.
- Allows for extrapolation of flow outside the pressure and temperature limits of experiments.
- Understand unsteady and rotating frame of reference effects
- Allows exploration of the broader design space to find promising combinations of feasible variables for the application.
- CFD will be used at every stage of our research.



# **CFD Methods Utilized**

- CFD is a research tool not a goal.
- The CFD, as much as possible, will be validated by the experiments to ensure accuracy.
- Our team has demonstrated capability to use various CFD methods for solving fluid flow and heat transfer problems relevant to gas turbine flows.
- Any of RANS, URANS, DES or LES will be used, as needed, with structured or unstructured or meshless methods.
- Examples follow:






•Blade and Tip Heat Transfer

(Shyam and Ameri, 1998)





GARG

• Blade film cooling

(Garg, 1999)





computed

Grid

•Internal Heat Transfer

(Rigby and Bunker, 2002)





#### **Conjugate Heat Transfer**

wall temperatures



Conjugate Heat Transfer

(Heidmann, Rigby and Ameri, 2003)



#### Hot Streak Clocking Study





(Casaday, Ameri, and Bons, AIAA 2012)



#### **Unsteady Particle Tracking in Rotating Frame**



•2 Vanes per 3 Blades •Contours of Absolute and Relative Total Pressure



#### **Representative Mesh Topologies**









(Prenter and Ameri, 2013 - 2015)

# **Efficient Cooling**

- Will seek to improve cooling by using methods that are more coolant efficient.
- Using fluidic devices can reduce blow off and the sweeping action can improve spanwise uniformity .
- Fluidic devices can be made to film cool by sweeping or impingement cool by pulsing.
- Reverse blowing may be an effective way of film cooling at high blowing-ratios.
- Internal micro-channels are shown to be capable of being more effective than impingement cooling.



# **CFD - Conclusions**

- Validated CFD will be used, side by side, with bench top and more physically realistic configurations to extend the design space and explore more realistic physical conditions.
- We have the availability and have developed the expertise and gained the experience to perform such analyses using various steady and unsteady CFD methods to fulfil this task.



# **Accomplishments to Date**

- Literature Search
- CFD Study
- Fluidic Oscillator development/preliminary study
- Reverse film cooling preliminary study



# **Preliminary CFD Studies**



# 777 Hole – A DES Simulation

Tool development and validation: shaped hole film cooling via DES



# **Fluidic Devices - Simulation**



# Preliminary Testing Oct. 2015

### **Reverse Film Cooling**



#### **Test Conditions and Scaling Parameters:**

$$L_{h,model} = 1.625m \qquad Re_{d,model} = \frac{u_{\infty}D_{model}}{\nu} \cong 5800$$

$$D_{model} = 1.75cm \qquad Re_{L,model} = \frac{u_{\infty}L_{h,model}}{\nu} \cong 4.5e^{5}$$

$$u_{\infty} = 4.5m/s \qquad \frac{Re_{L,model}}{Re_{L,turb,exit}} = \frac{4.5e^{5}}{1e^{6}} \quad (45\% \text{ of total chord length})$$

**Boundary layer:** 

$$\frac{\delta}{D} = 1.4$$

Η

$$=\frac{\delta^*}{\theta}=1.38$$
 Suggests turbulent boundary layer



#### **Experimental Facility**



Freestream conditions:

 $u_{\infty} = 4.5$  m/s (can increase to 20 m/s)

 $T_{\infty} = 22^{\circ}$ C (can be heated up to 60°C)

Coolant conditions:

$$M = \frac{\rho_c u_c}{\rho_\infty u_\infty} = 0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.4$$

$$DR = \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_\infty} \approx 1.065$$

Infrared camera: Cedip SILVER 480M

- 320x256 pixel Indium Antimonide (InSb) sensor
- Accuracy: ± 1°C
- Sensitivity: ± 0.02°C
- Max frame rate: 400Hz

#### Analysis – η (steady state test)



$$\begin{split} \eta = & \frac{T_{\infty} - T_f}{T_{\infty} - T_c} \approx \frac{T_{\infty} - T_{aw}}{T_{\infty} - T_c} \\ \eta_{\min} = & 0 \\ \eta_{\max} = & 1 \end{split}$$

- $T_{_{\! \! \! \infty\! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! }}$  (Freestream temperature) Measured with thermocouple
- $T_{_{\! \rm c}}$  (Coolant temperature) Measured at exit of film cooling holes with thermocouple.
- $T_{\rm aw}$  (Surface temperature) Measured using infrared camera.



#### Analysis – h (transient test)



#### Boundary conditions (semi-infinite solid)





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#### Results – Conventional Blowing (P/D = 3, $\alpha$ = 30°)











#### Results – Reversed Blowing (P/D = 3, $\alpha$ = 30°)





#### **Results – Comparison M = 0.5**



**Centerline Traces** 



- h/h<sub>0</sub> is likely augmented
- Compare to more representative geometries (e.g. 777 Hole)
- Effects of higher FST levels
- Effects of pressure gradient



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### **Oscillating Impingement Jets**



### **Initial Design:**

- Geometry from literature (Raman et al., 1999)
- $D = d_h = 4.5$ mm



- AR = w/h = 0.82
- Fabricated test article from acrylic using CNC





#### **Fluidic Oscillator Characterization:**

- Determine frequency-mass flow rate relationship
- Place microphone outside of the hydrodynamic field
- Use FFT to determine frequency of oscillations at different mass flow rates



**Fluidic Oscillator** 



#### Fluidic Oscillator Characterization:

- Determine frequency-mass flow rate relationship
- Place microphone outside of the hydrodynamic field
- Use FFT to determine frequency of oscillations at different mass flow rates





#### **Fluidic Oscillator Characterization:**



#### **Fluidic Oscillator Characterization:**



#### Schlieren of oscillator operating at 430Hz



design

#### **Impingement Heat Transfer**

- Initial testing includes:
  - Fluidic oscillator vs. straight jet
  - A single mass flow rate
  - x/D = 1.5 and 2.0
- There are several parameters to explore:
  - Jet aspect ratio
  - x/D

  - Mass flow rate oscillator
  - Pressure drop





### **Initial Results:**

- Mass flow rate: 2.96 g/s •
- *f* = 480 Hz  $\bullet$

 $\theta = \frac{T_{\infty} - T}{T_{\infty} - T_c}$ 

For oscillating jets, lacksquareaugmentation of *h* may be the real advantage







## **Preliminary Testing – Backward Blowing**



## **Next Steps**



## **Eventual Integration of Promising Designs**

#### **Reverse Cooling on PS:**

- Fed by upstream microchannel
- Better surface coverage with lower massflow?

#### Fluidic Oscillator Impingement Cooling on LE:

- Eliminate showerhead
- Lower massflow required?
- Microchannel exhaust





#### **Sweeping Fluidic Oscillator in TE:**

- Improved coverage with lower massflow required?
- Lower pressure drop than pedastels?

#### Sweeping Fluidic Oscillator Film Cooling:

- Improved coverage with lower massflow required?

![](_page_69_Figure_16.jpeg)

![](_page_69_Figure_17.jpeg)

VS.

VS.

![](_page_69_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_69_Picture_21.jpeg)

## **Manufacturing Challenges with DMLS**

- Surface finish could...
  - Enable technology

![](_page_70_Picture_3.jpeg)

naturally roughened microchannel

### Or disable technology

![](_page_70_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Picture_7.jpeg)

- DMLS is still on a steep learning curve.
- Design for "tomorrow's" level of improved geometric tolerance.

## **Gantt Chart**

![](_page_71_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Picture_2.jpeg)

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