



# **Coal-Based SECA Program - FuelCell Energy Inc.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual SECA Workshop  
Pittsburgh, PA  
July 27-29, 2010**

**Hossein Ghezeli-Ayagh, *FuelCell Energy, Inc.*  
Brian Borglum, *Versa Power Systems***



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# Presentation Outline

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## ■ Introduction

- FCE SECA program team members

## ■ SECA Coal-Based SOFC Program Outline

## ■ Progress in SOFC Technology

## ■ Stack Development

- Metric Tests

## ■ Module Demonstration Unit Development

## ■ Baseline 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 fuel cell technology for stationary power applications
- Headquarters in Danbury, CT (USA), with 65,000 ft<sup>2</sup> manufacturing facility in Torrington, CT (USA)
- Delivering Direct FuelCell power plants to commercial, industrial and utility customers
- Developing large-scale coal-based power plants as well as natural gas distributed generation (DG) systems utilizing planar SOFC
- Established commercial relationships with major distributors in the Americas, Europe, and Asia



Torrington, CT - Manufacturing Facility



MW-Class Fuel Cell Products



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# SECA Coal-Based Systems Program

## Program Objectives

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

- At least 50% electrical efficiency from coal (higher heating value)
- Performance to meet DOE specified metrics for power output, degradation, availability, and reliability
- Fuel cell power island factory cost <\$400/kW (2002 USD)
- More than 90% of carbon capture from coal syngas as CO<sub>2</sub>, 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 2008.
- ❖ Phase II work is focused on further development of cost-effective, 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 Program 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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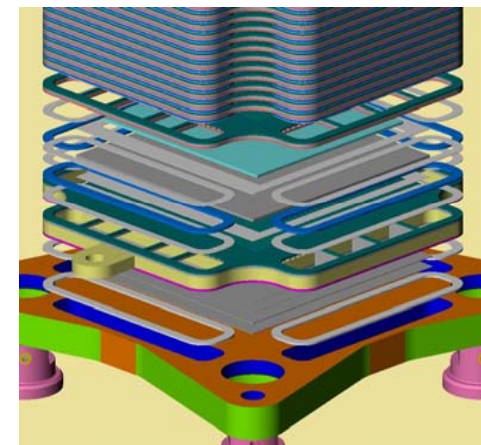
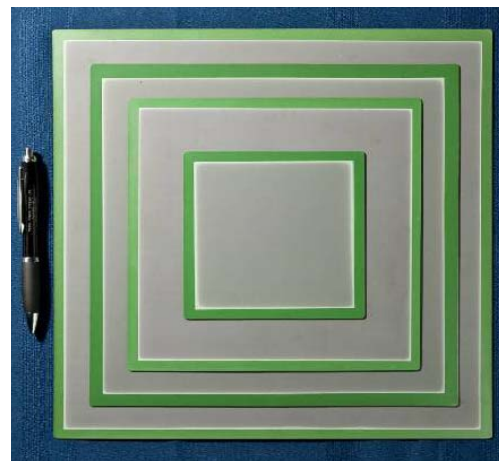
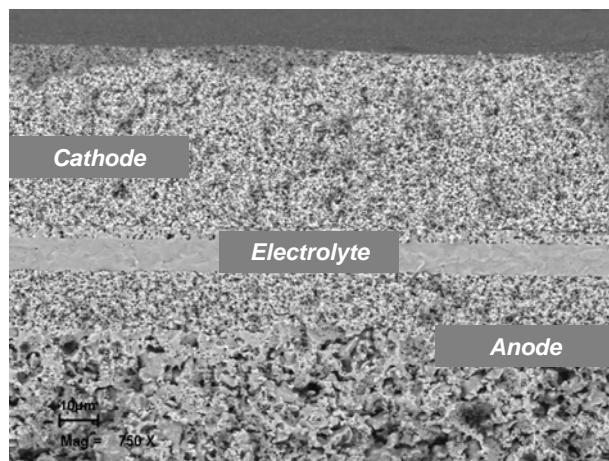


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# VPS Planar SOFC Cell and Stack Technology

- Anode supported cells (up to 33 x 33 cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Capable of operating from 650°C to 800°C
- Ferritic stainless steel sheet metal interconnect
- Cross-flow gas delivery with manifolds integrated into the interconnect but not through the cell
- Compressible ceramic gasket seals
- Standardized stack blocks configurable into stack towers for various power applications



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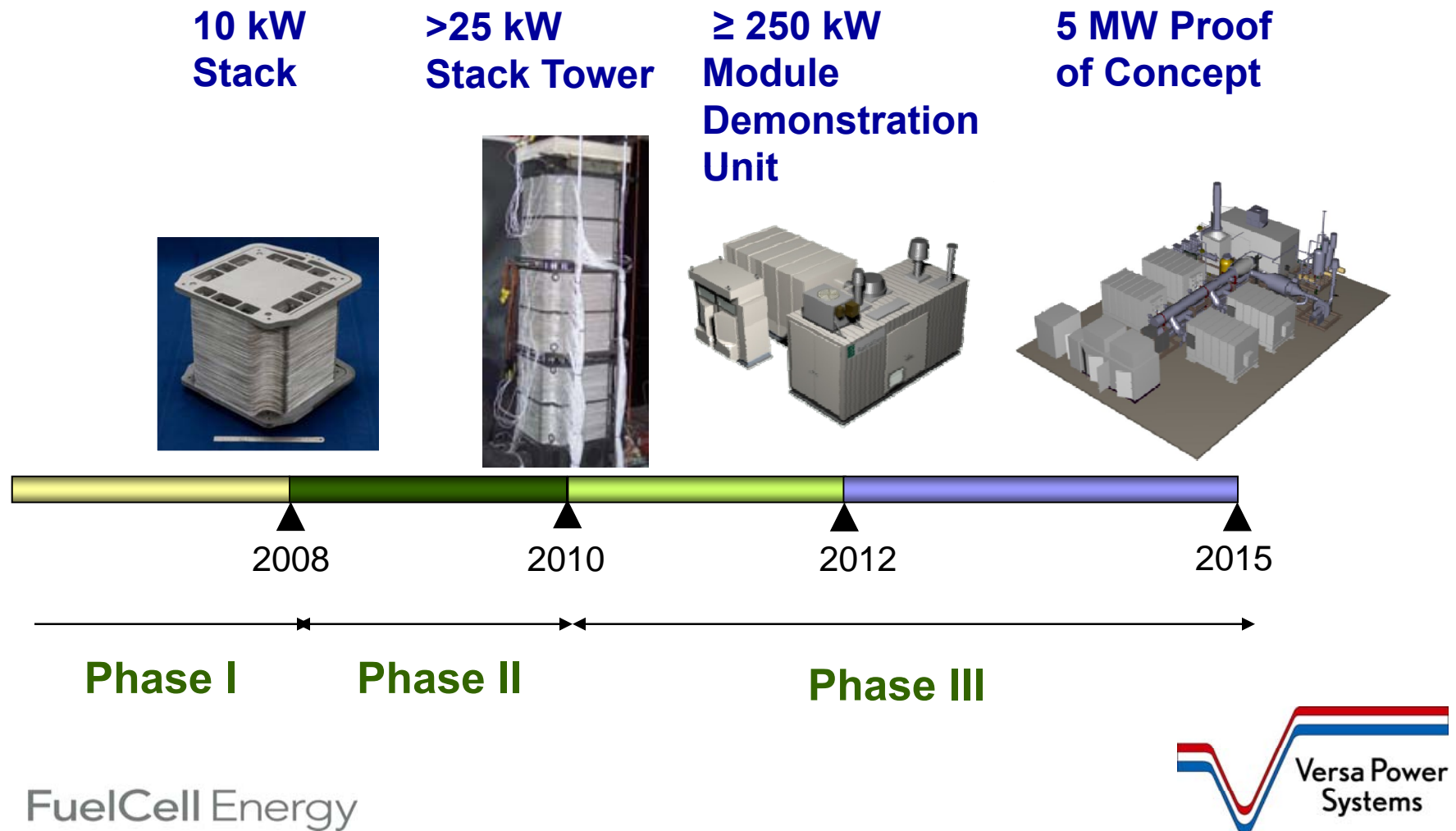


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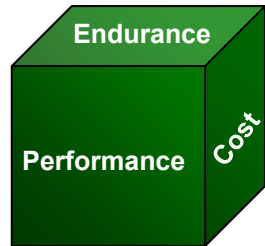
# SECA Coal Based Program Plan for IGFC Development

- FCE is currently engaged in development of stack tower and SOFC power module configurations suitable for large scale coal based power plants.

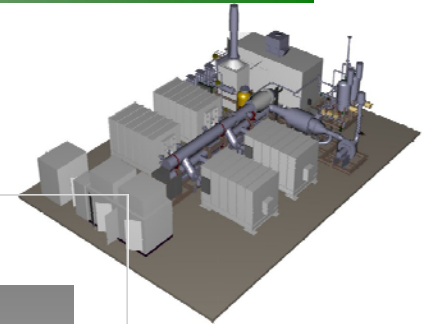




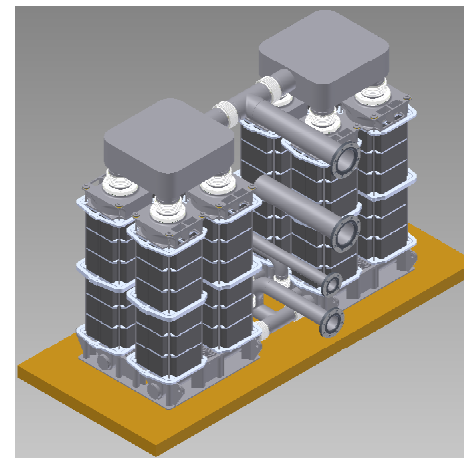
# SECA SOFC Development Path



*Develop SOFC stack technology that meets the performance & cost objectives, is scalable, and is used as the building block for assembling stack towers and large-scale power modules.*



*MW-scale Proof-of-Concept Plant*



*SOFC Stack Module*

**2010**

*Stack Tower*



**2008**

*10-20 kW Stack*



**2006**

*1 kW Stack*



Scalable

Modular



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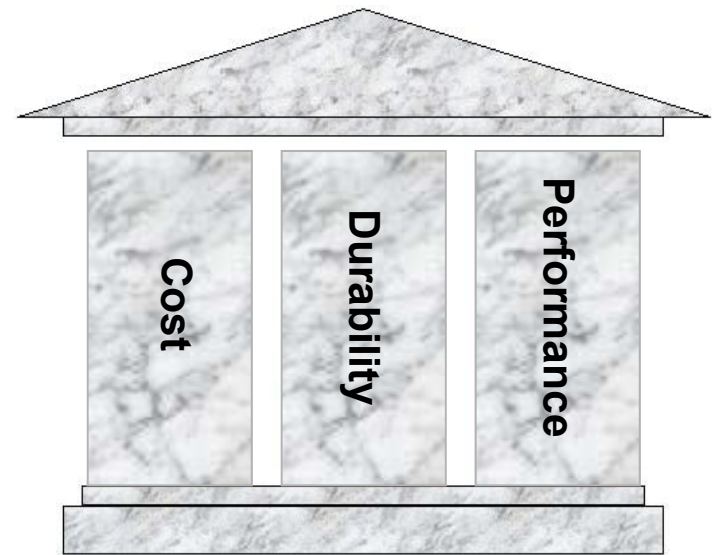


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# Cell Development Objectives

- **Performance:**
  - > High performance over a wide operating window
  - > Capability for in-stack reforming (DIR)
  - > Accommodation of load following
- **Durability:**
  - > Degradation rate of less than 0.2% per 1000 hours over a wide operating window (temperature, fuel utilization and current density)
  - > Robustness for thermal cycles and rapid load transients
- **Cost:**
  - > Scalability to facilitate large stack and power module
  - > Reduction of materials usage
  - > Improvements in cell fabrication process technology



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# Recent Achievements in Cell Fabrication Process



Tape Casting

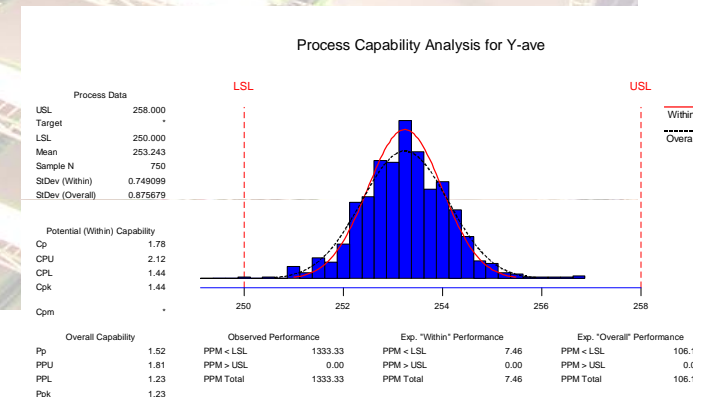
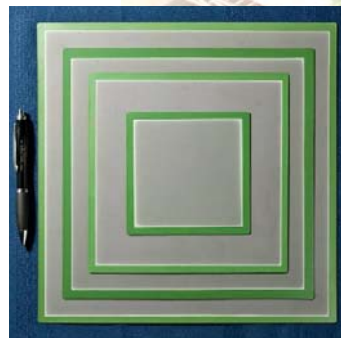


Screen Printing



Co-sintering

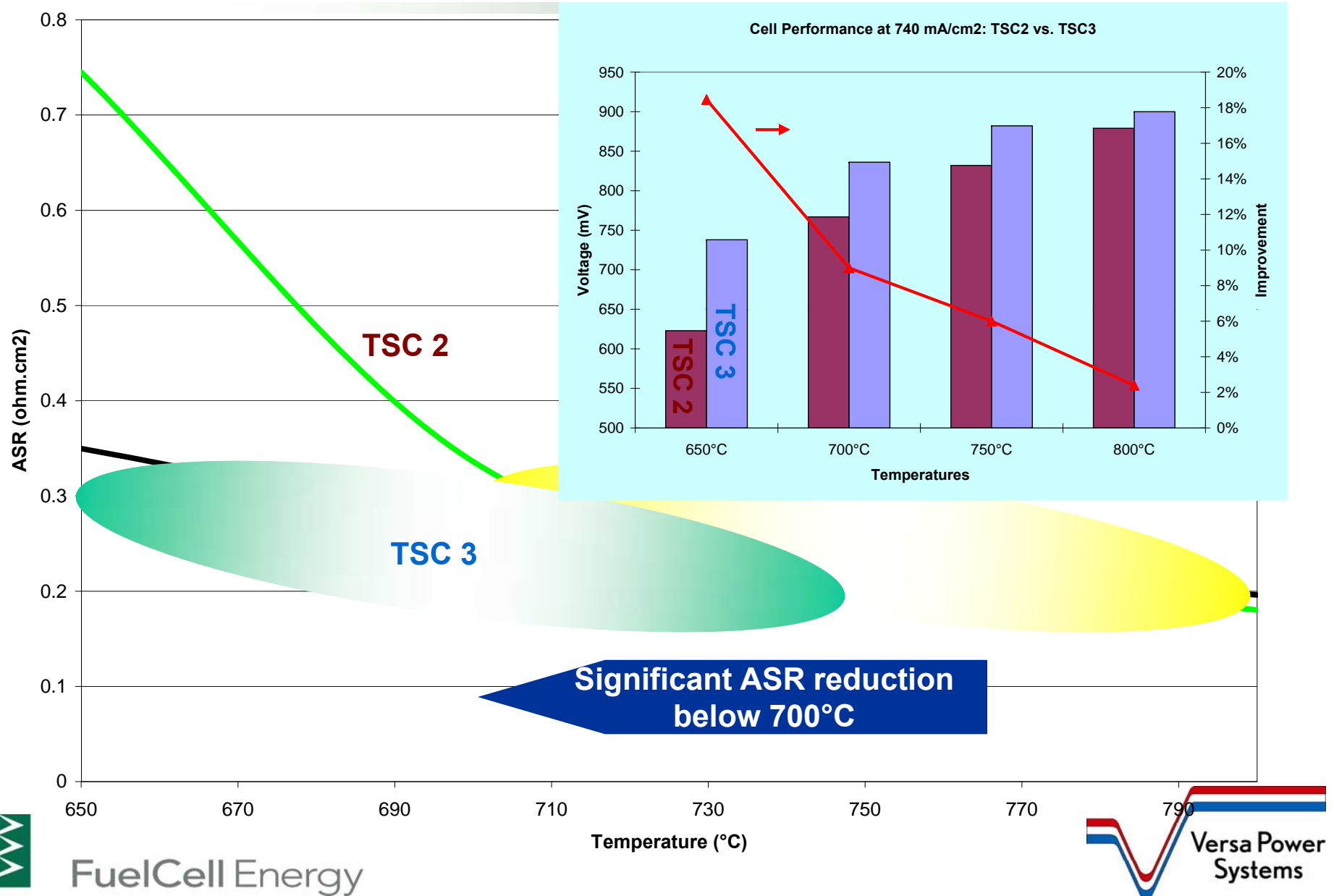
- Established fabrication process capabilities for large area cells
  - > Cells up to 1000 cm<sup>2</sup> (33 x 33 cm<sup>2</sup>) in size were produced using TSC cell manufacturing process
- Developed and implemented the next generation of cell fabrication processes
  - > Cell thickness was reduced by more than 40%
- Fabricated > 4000 cells (25 x 25 cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - > Production volume of 500 kW (annual) was established



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# Third Generation of Cell Technology (TSC-3)

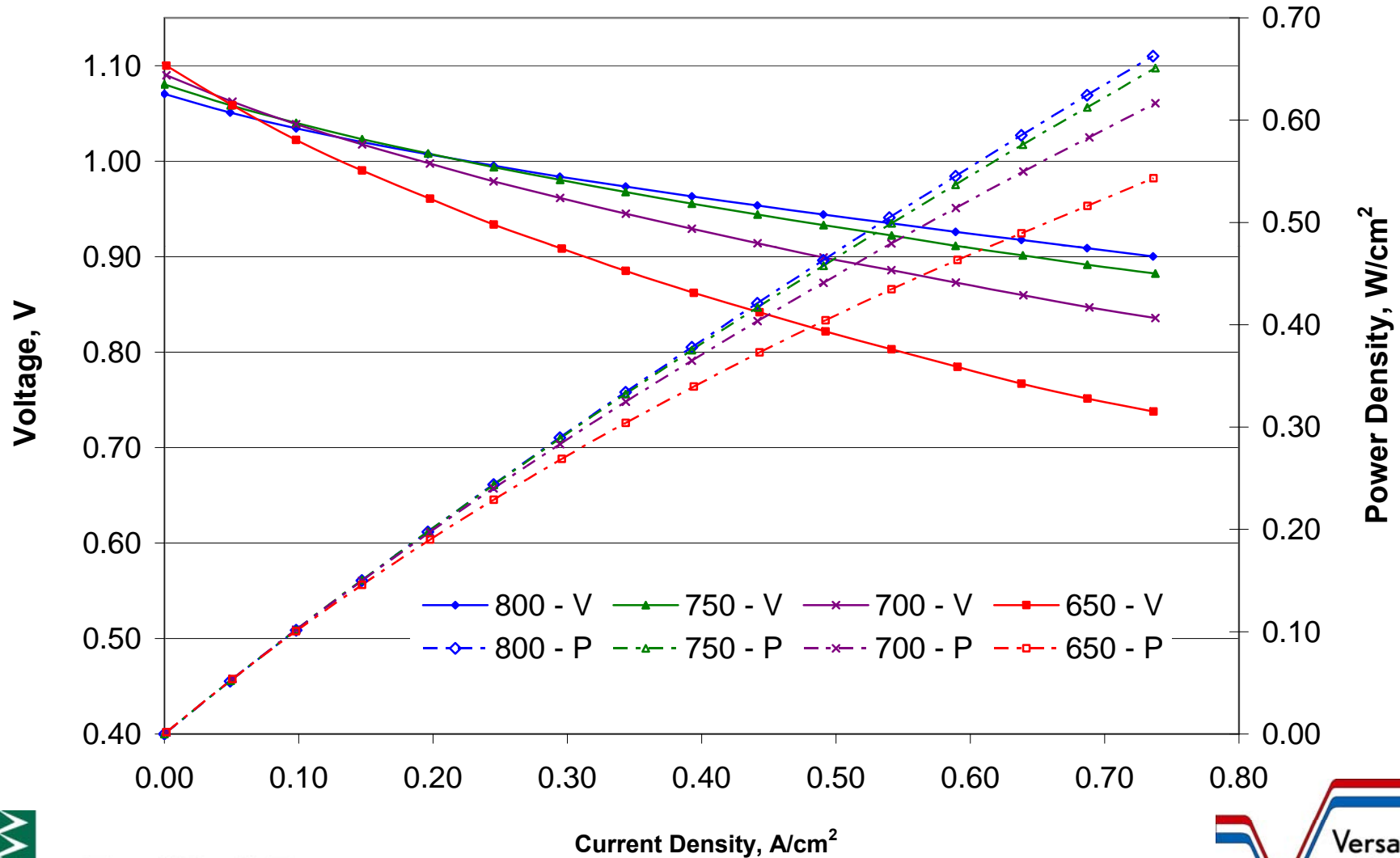


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# Single Cell Performance Enhancement

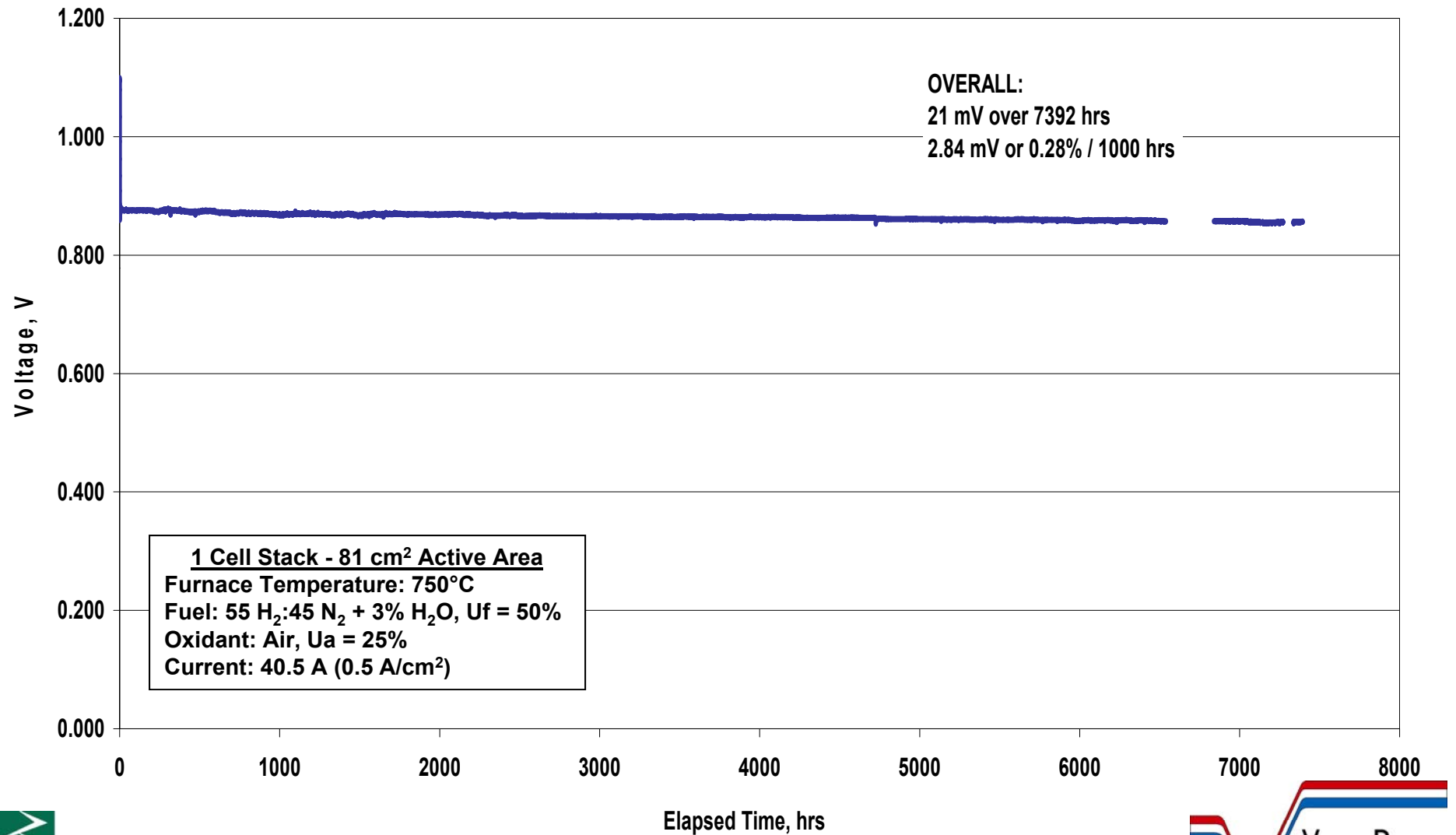
10 X 10 cm<sup>2</sup> Cell. Stainless Steel Current Collectors. Cross-Flow Gas Delivery.  
Fuel: H<sub>2</sub> + 3%H<sub>2</sub>O; Oxidant: Air, 650 – 800°C



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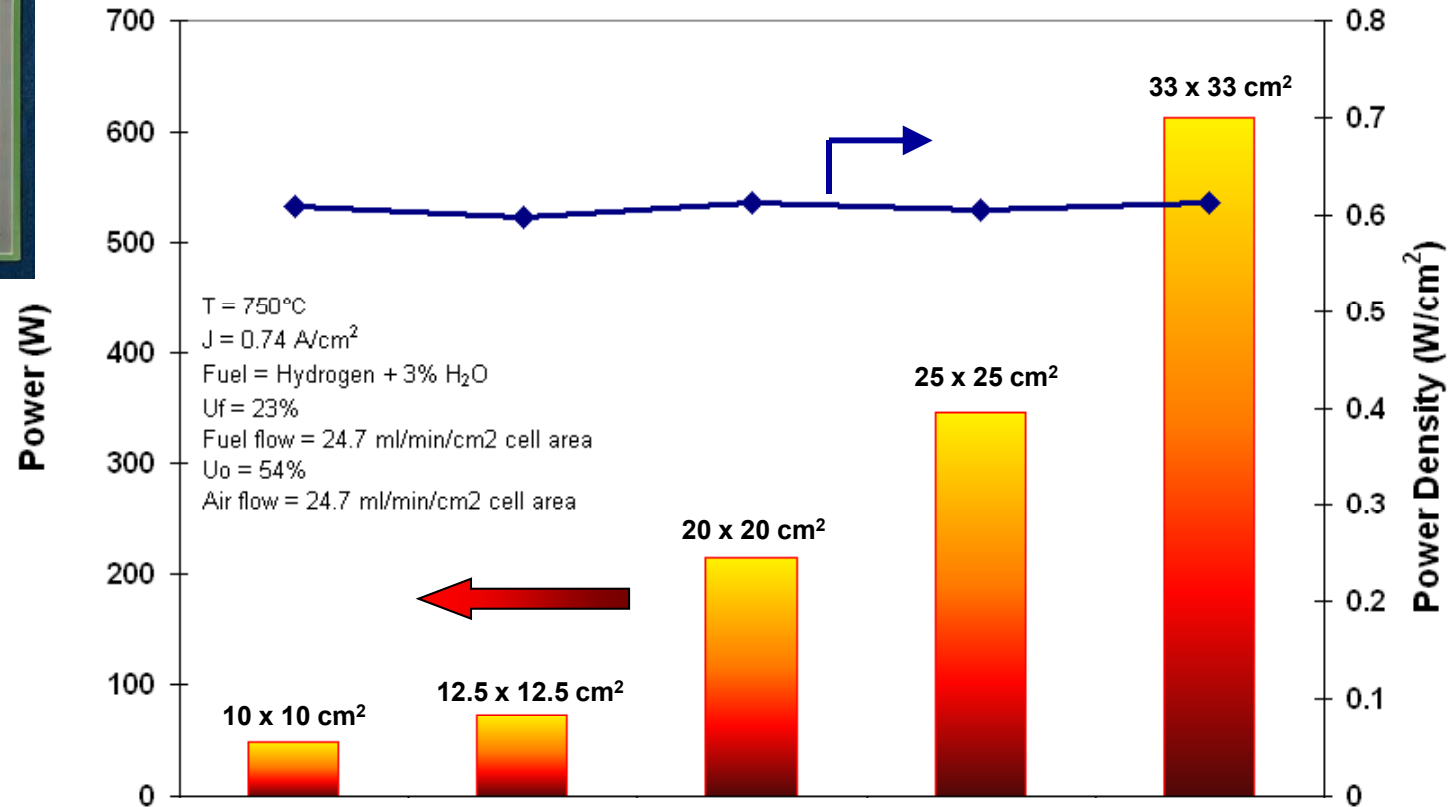
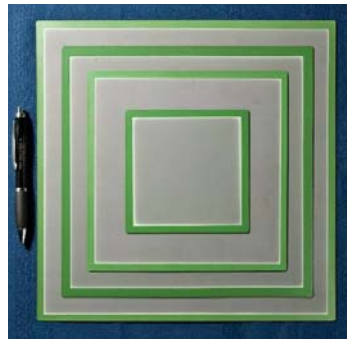
# Single Cell Stability Achievements



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# Progress in Cell Scale-Up



Power	49	72	214	346	612
Power Density	0.608	0.598	0.612	0.606	0.612



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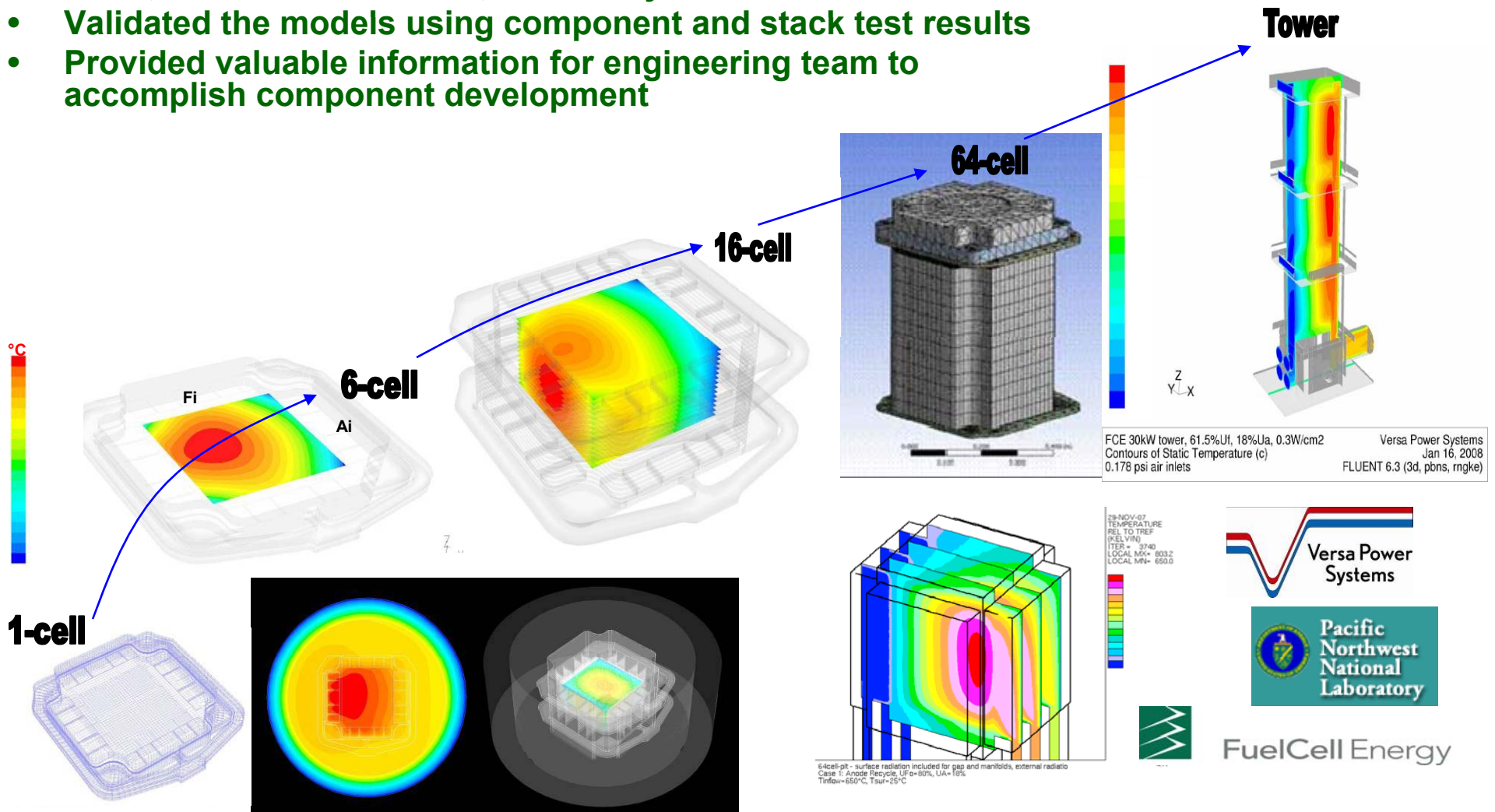


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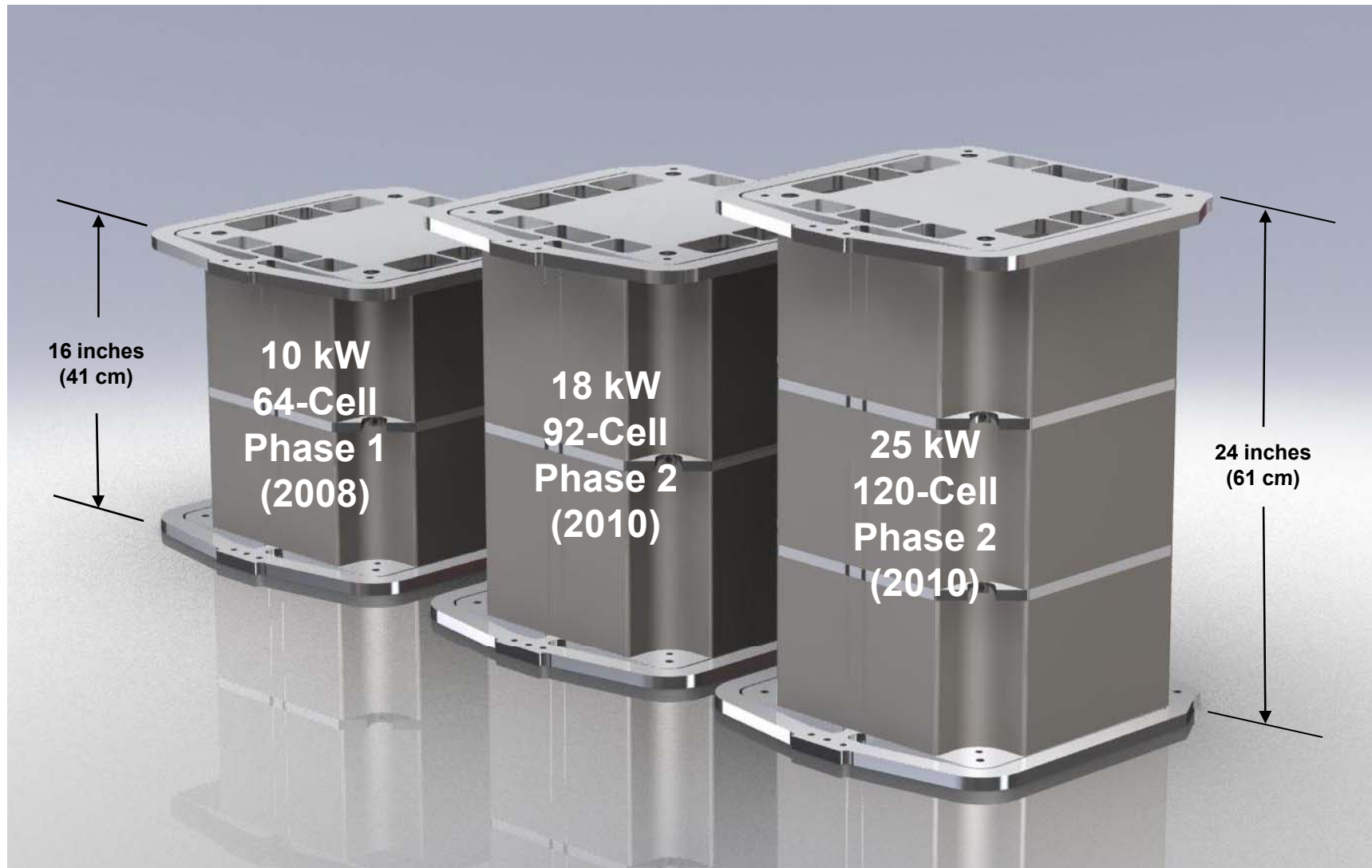


# Stack Design Approach

- Utilized a model-driven design approach using both CFD and FEA to resolve thermo-mechanical challenges
- Followed a progressive modeling path from single cell, short stack, full size stack block, and finally to stack tower
- Validated the models using component and stack test results
- Provided valuable information for engineering team to accomplish component development



# SOFC Stack Evolution



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# Stack Scale-up and Manufacturing Progression

Stack Size	Power (kW/stack)	Quantity	Total Power (kW)
6 cells	1	21	21
16 cells	2.5	18	45
64 cells	10	6	60
Total		45	126

**Phase 1**

10 kW  
64-cell

2.5 kW  
16-cell

1 kW  
6-cell

18 kW  
92-cell

25 kW  
120-cell

Stack Size	Power (kW/stack)	Quantity	Total Power (kW)
16 cells	2.5	42	105
32 cells	5	1	5
92 cells	18	7	126
120 cells	25	1	25
Total		51	261

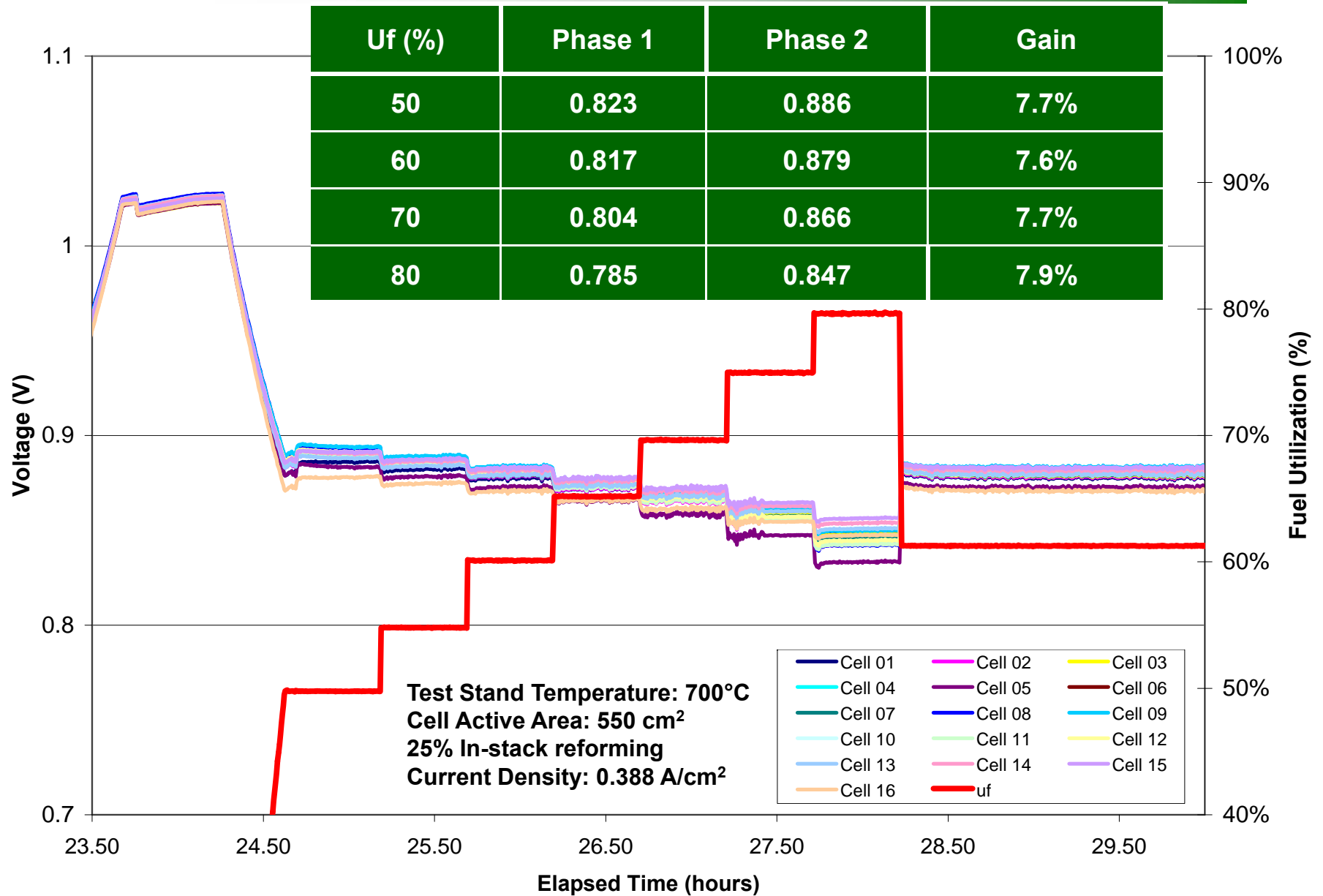
**Phase 2**



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# Stack Performance Enhancement 16-Cell Stack

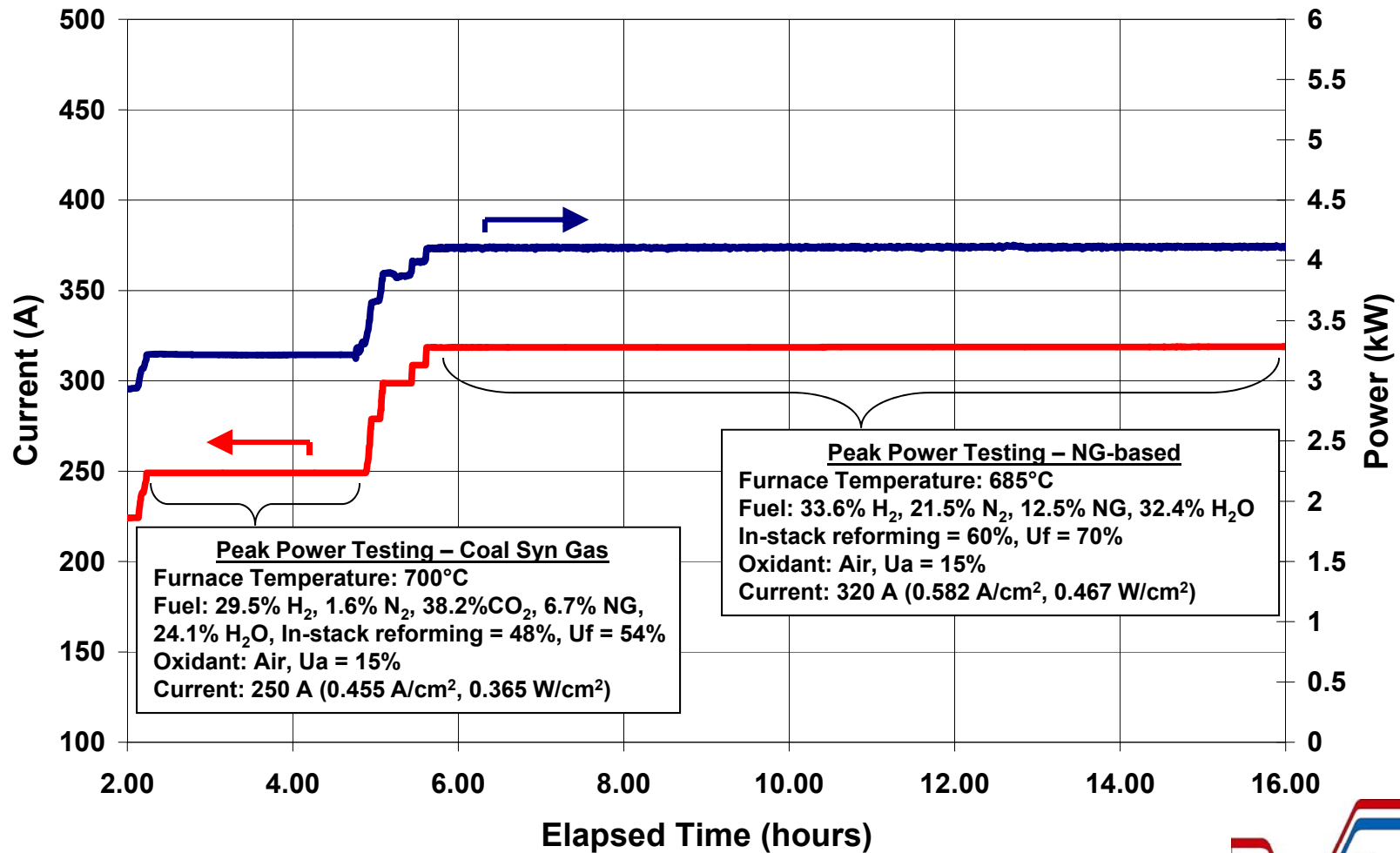


# Stack Peak Power Achievement

GT057235-0057 TC1

16-cell Stack

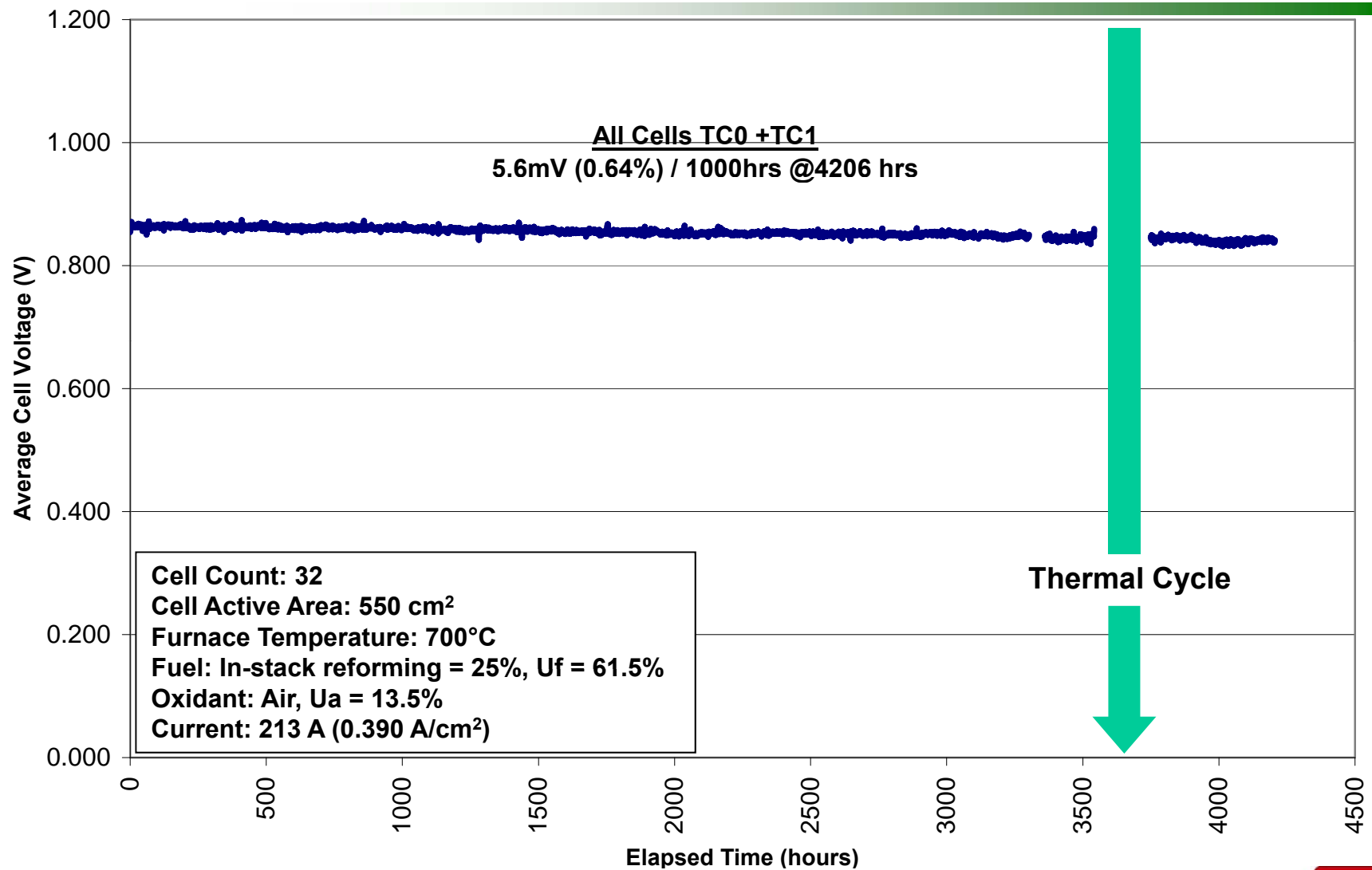
Cell Active Area: 550 cm<sup>2</sup>



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# Stack Endurance Achievement



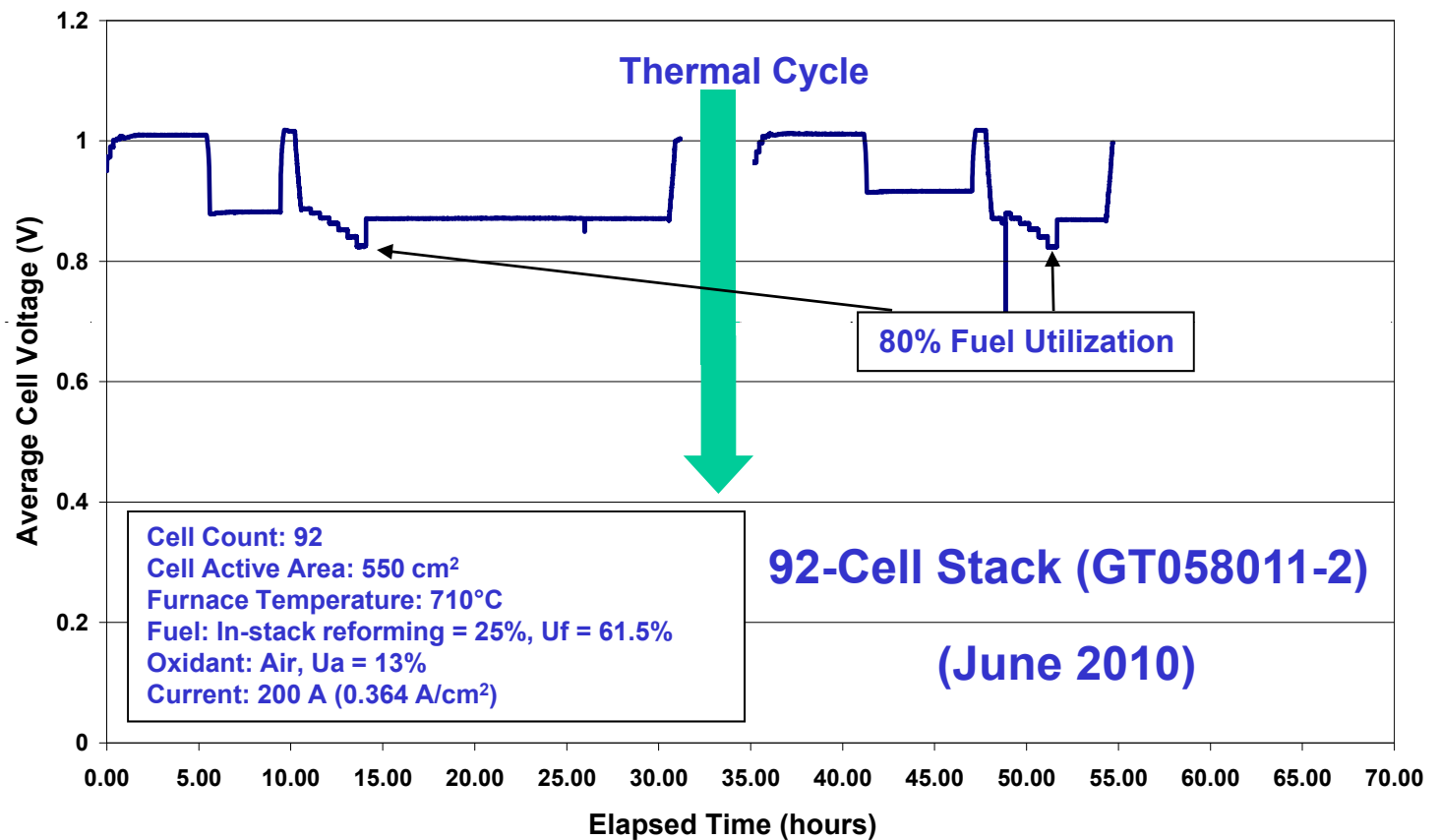
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## Stack Scale-Up Status (Phase II) 92-Cell Stack (GT058011-1)



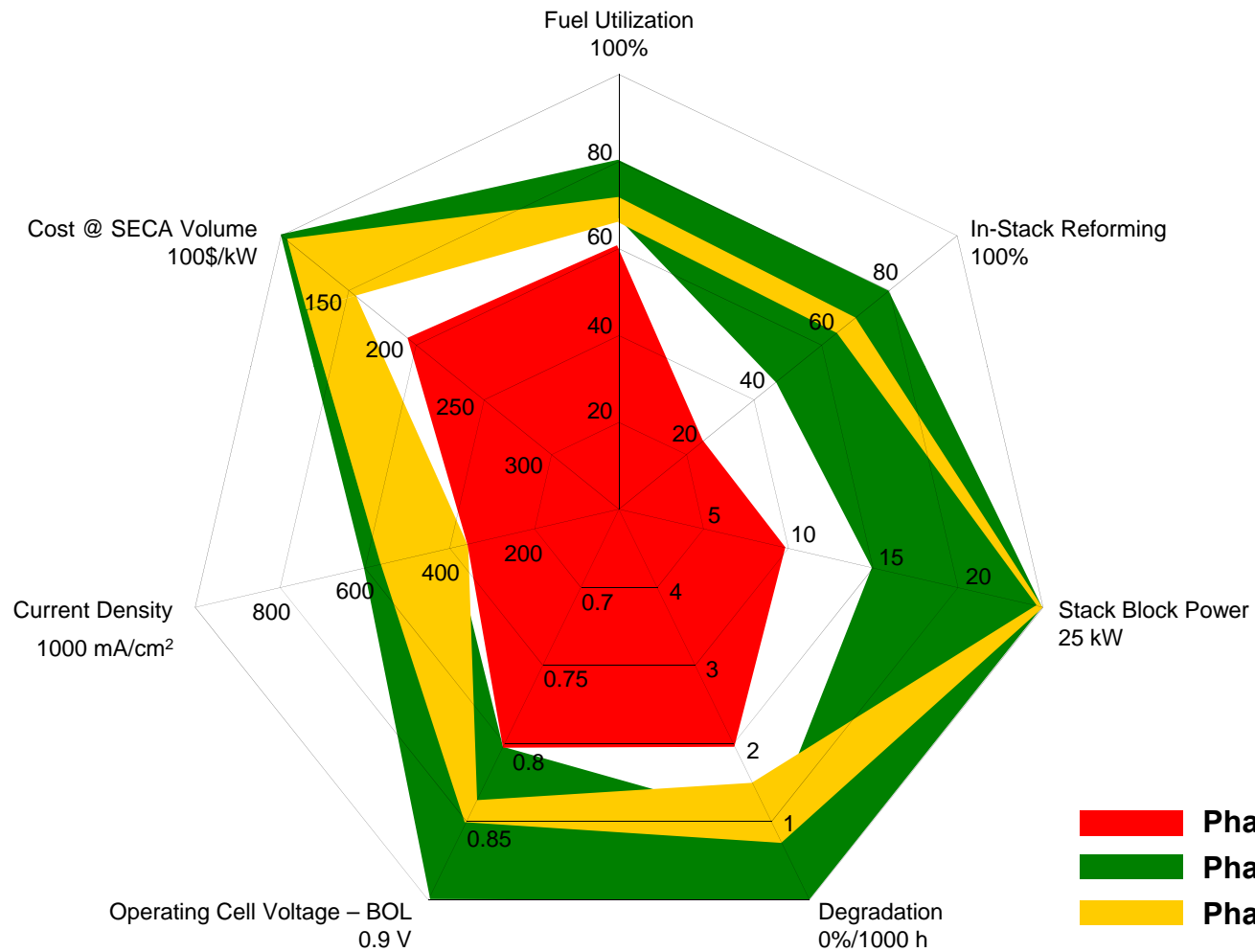
Cell Size	25 x 25 cm
Active Area	550 cm <sup>2</sup>
Number of Cells	92



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# Stack Development Status

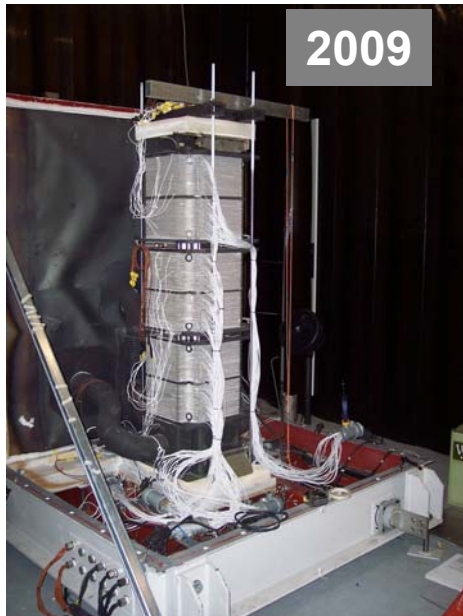


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# Stack Tower Testing

## 3 x 64-cell stacks



SO-30-1 Tower Assembly

## 2 x 92-cell stacks



SO-30-3 Tower Assembly

- Thermally self-sustaining test environment (gas preheated only)
- Provisions for simulated anode gas representative of both syngas and natural gas fueled systems
- Providing valuable lessons for future larger stack module designs

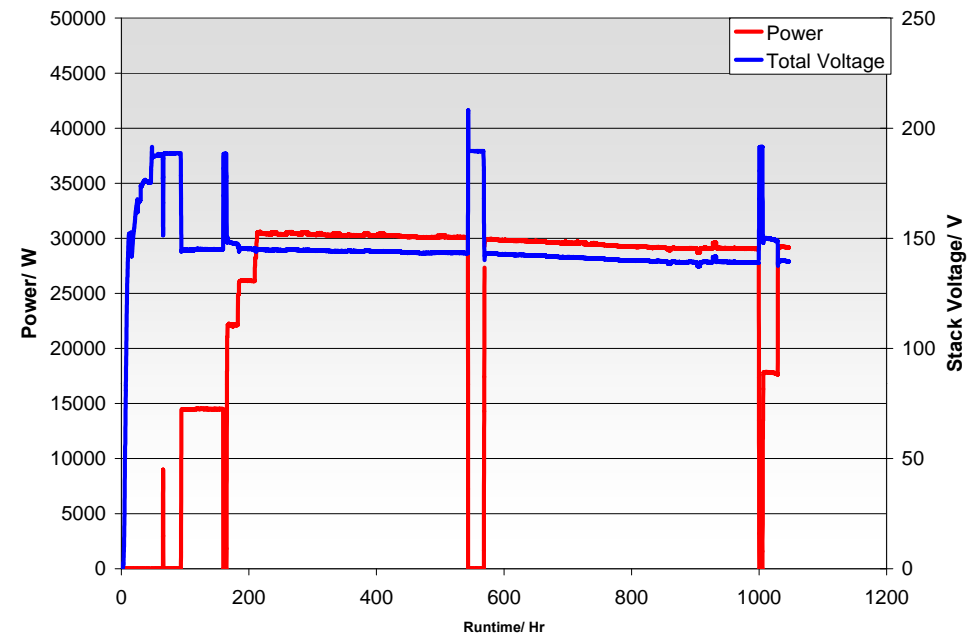


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# Stack Tower (SO-30-3) Test



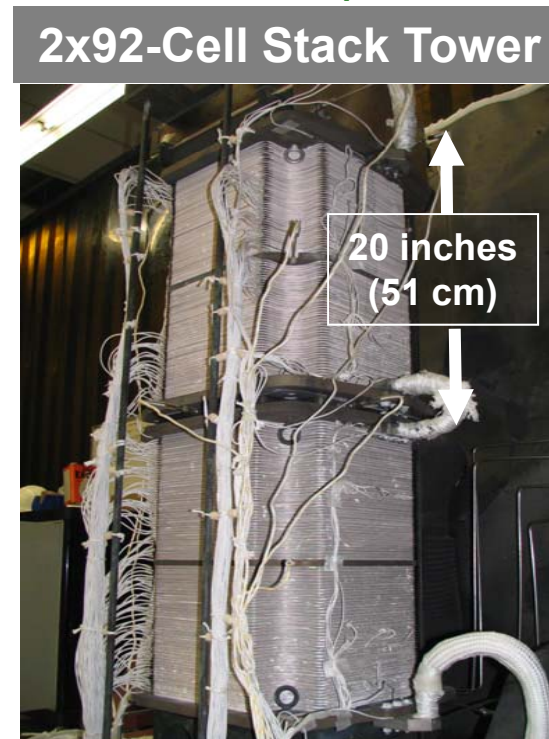
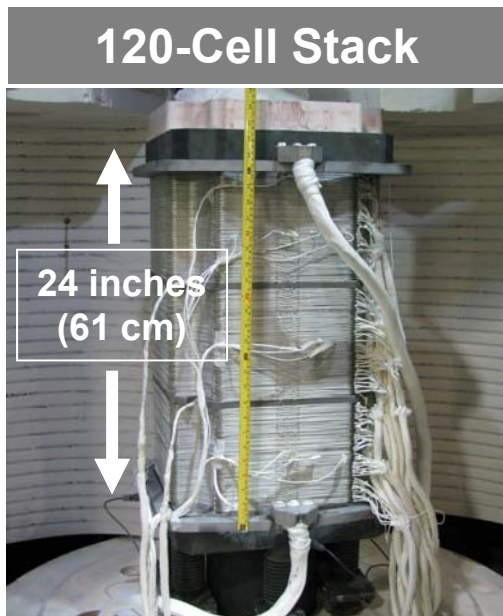
- **Demonstration of stack tower operation in a simulated power plant environment, using 2x92-cell stack blocks.**
- **A Power Rating of 30 kW was established during the operation.**



## Next Steps – Metric Tests

### SECA Phase II Metric Test Minimum Requirements:

- Stack power rating  $\geq 25$  kW
- Degradation rate  $< 2\%/1000$  hrs
- Endurance tests: 1,500h in Phase II plus 3,500h in Phase III (5000h total)



Two pronged approach:

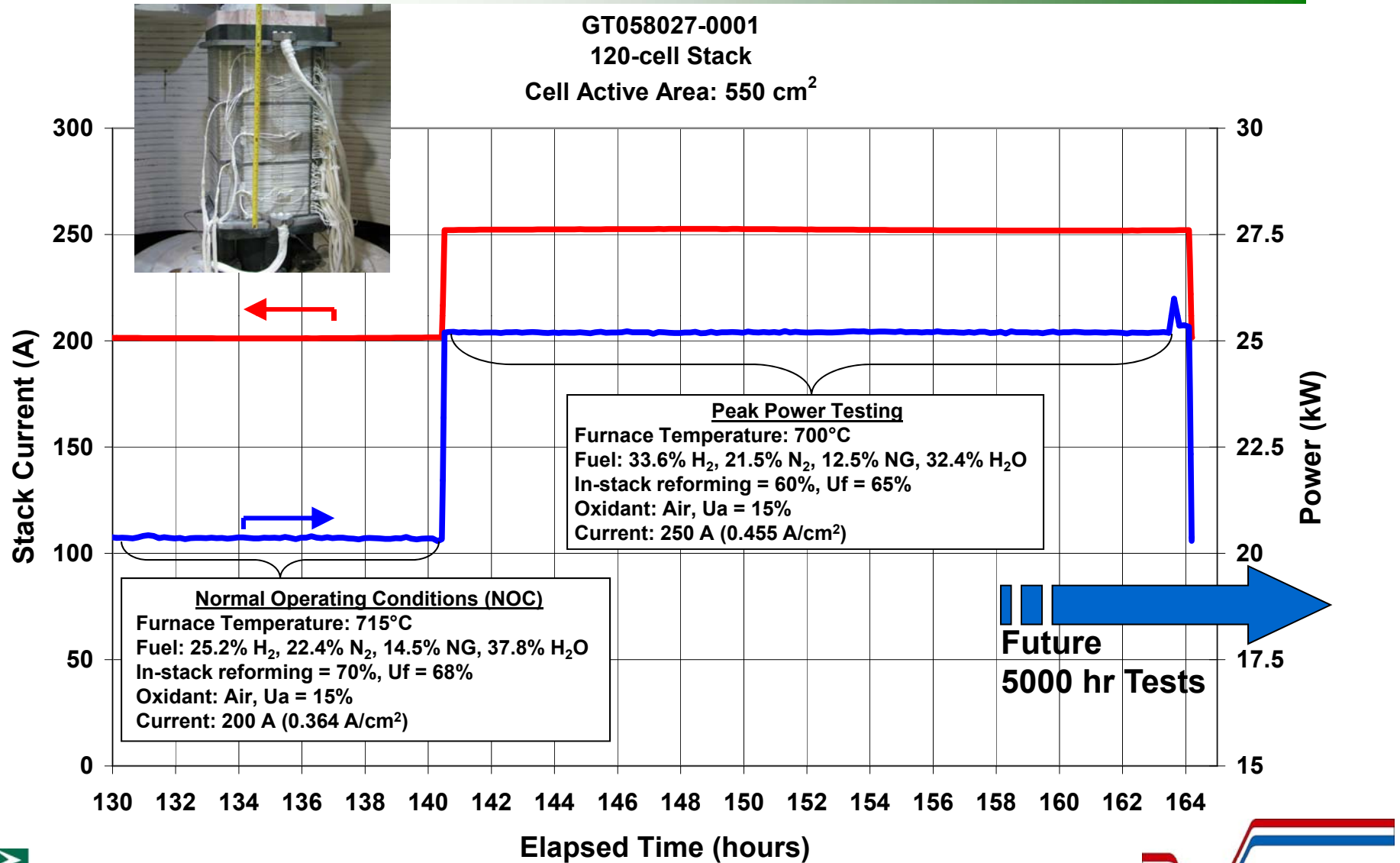
A 120-cell stack block at VPS and a 2x92-cell stack tower at FCE



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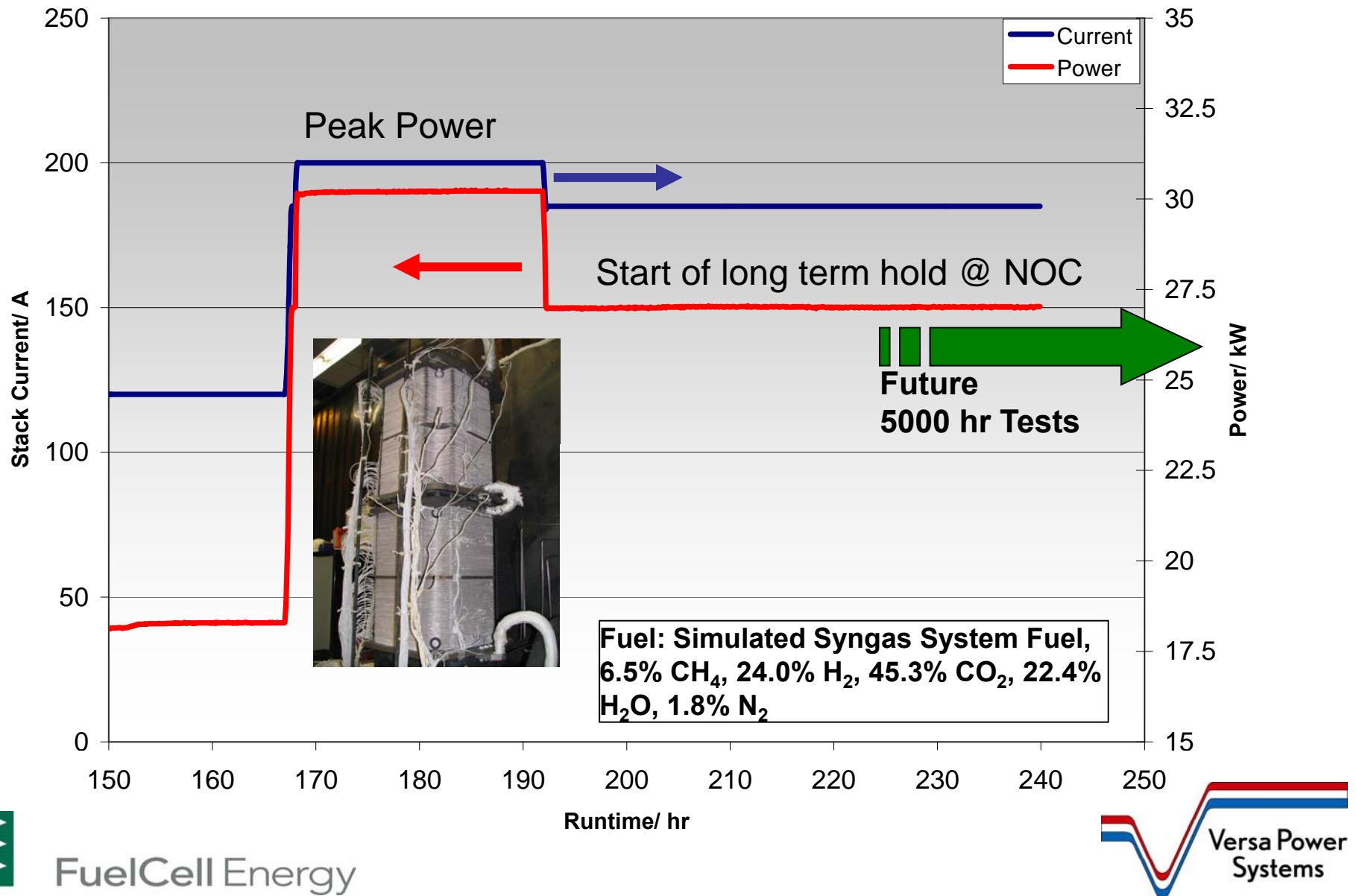
# Initial Performance (June 2010) 120-Cell Stack (GT058027-1)



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# Phase II Stack Tower Metric Test at FCE



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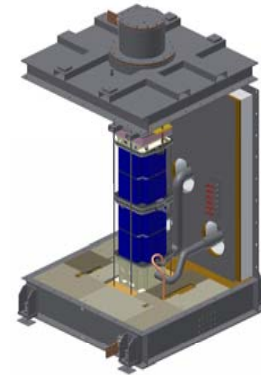




# SOFC Module Evolution

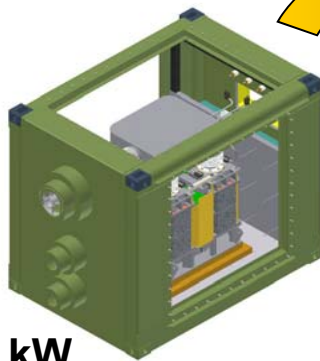
## 30-kW Tower Assembly (Phase II)

Stack Block

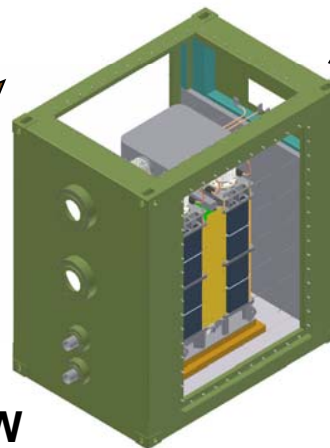


30 kW  
2-Stack Tower

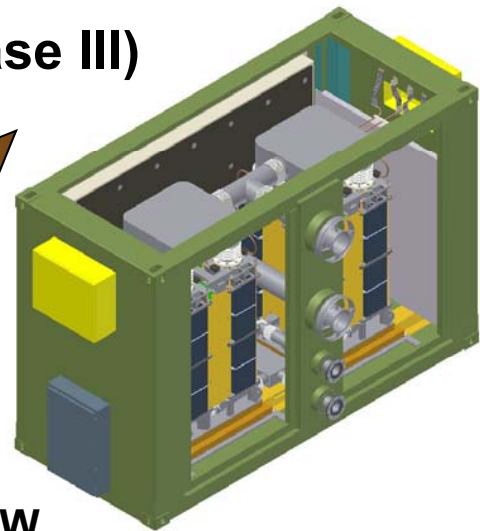
## SOFC Stack Modules Assembly (Phase III)



60 kW  
4-Stack  
Quad



125 kW  
4-Stack Tower  
Quad



250 kW  
2-Quad  
Module

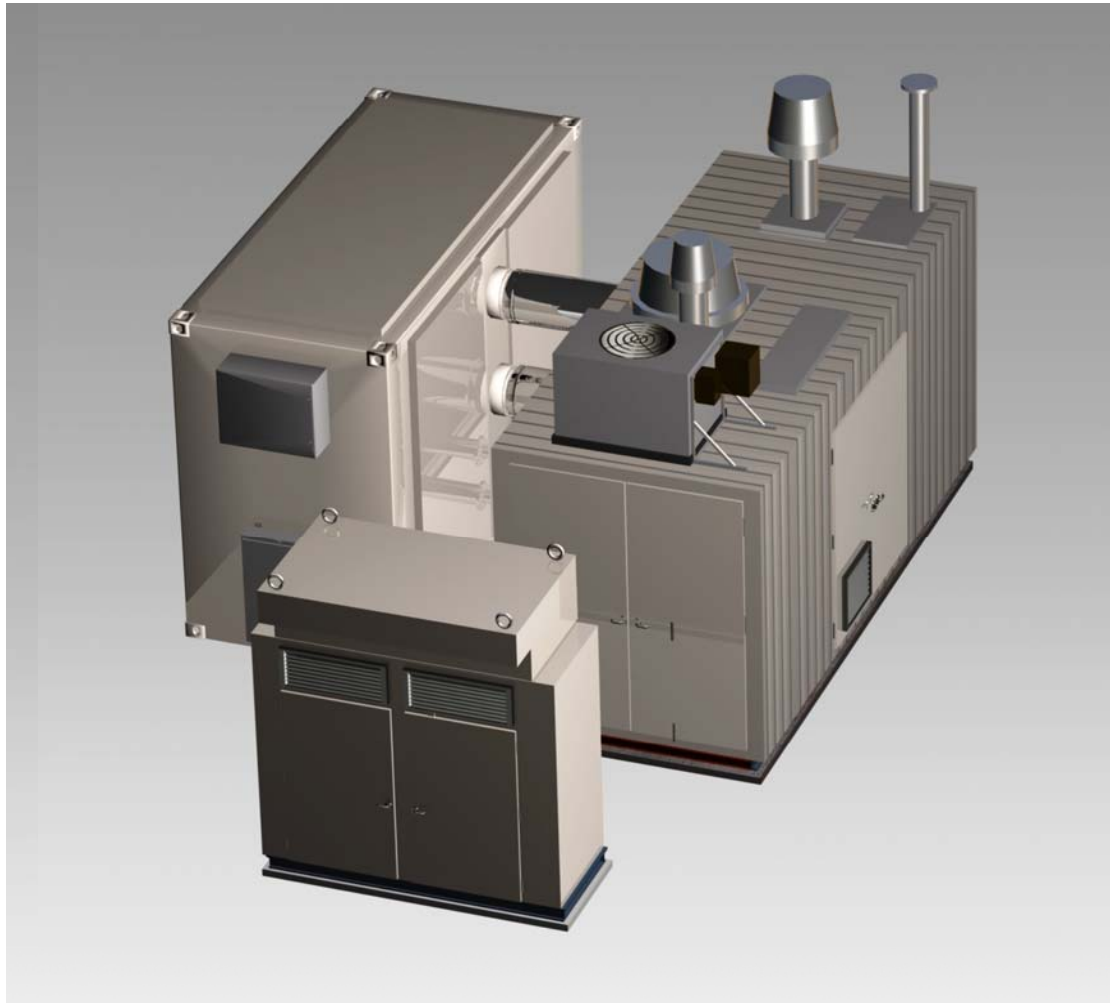


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## 250kW SOFC Power Plant



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# MW-Class SOFC Module Design

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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	49,750	7.04%	10.96%
Fuel Cell Inverter AC Gross Power @ 20 kV	362,134	51.28%	79.78%
WGPU Off Gas Expander Gross Power @ 20 kV	7,024	0.99%	1.55%
Steam Turbine Gross Power at Generator Terminals @ 20 kV,	35,019	4.96%	7.71%
<b>Total Gross Power Generation @ 20 kV</b>	<b>453,927</b>	<b>64.27%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Load</b>	<b>39,342</b>	<b>5.57%</b>	<b>8.67%</b>
<b>Net Power Output at 345 kV</b>	<b>414,585</b>	<b>58.70%</b>	<b>91.33%</b>
Net Efficiency Excluding CO <sub>2</sub> Compression & Thermal Input			
Coal feed, lb/h	202,980		
Coal HHV (AF), Btu/lb	11,872		
Coal Thermal Input, kWth	706,255	100.00%	155.59%
<b>Net Plant Efficiency (HHV)</b>	<b>58.70%</b>		

➔ Combined with high methane producing gasification, coal based atmospheric-pressure SOFC systems are capable of achieving ~ 59% efficiency and 99+% carbon capture.



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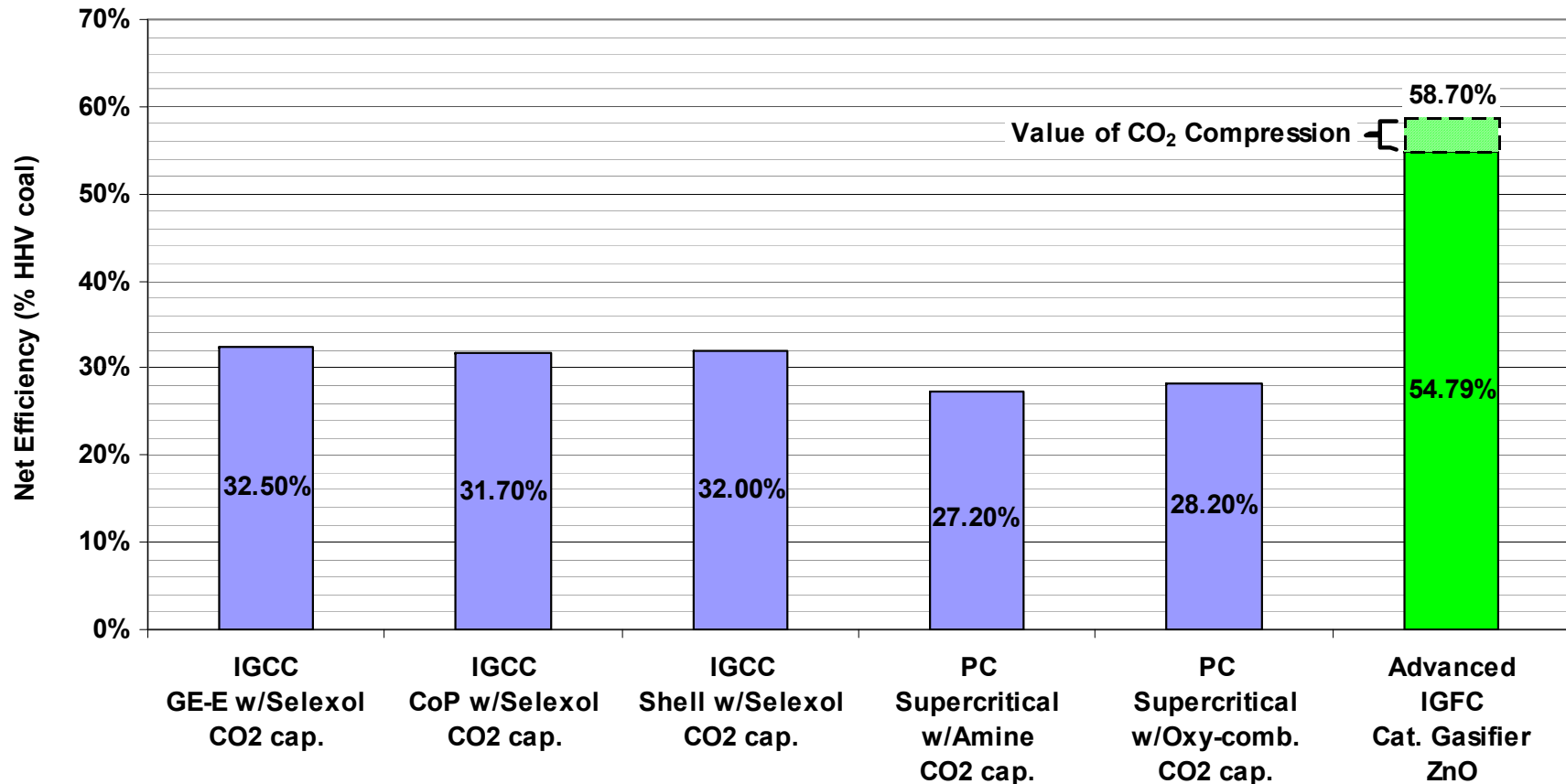
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# Baseline SOFC Power Plant Electrical Efficiency vs. Competing Technologies



➔ **Baseline coal based SOFC system is >22 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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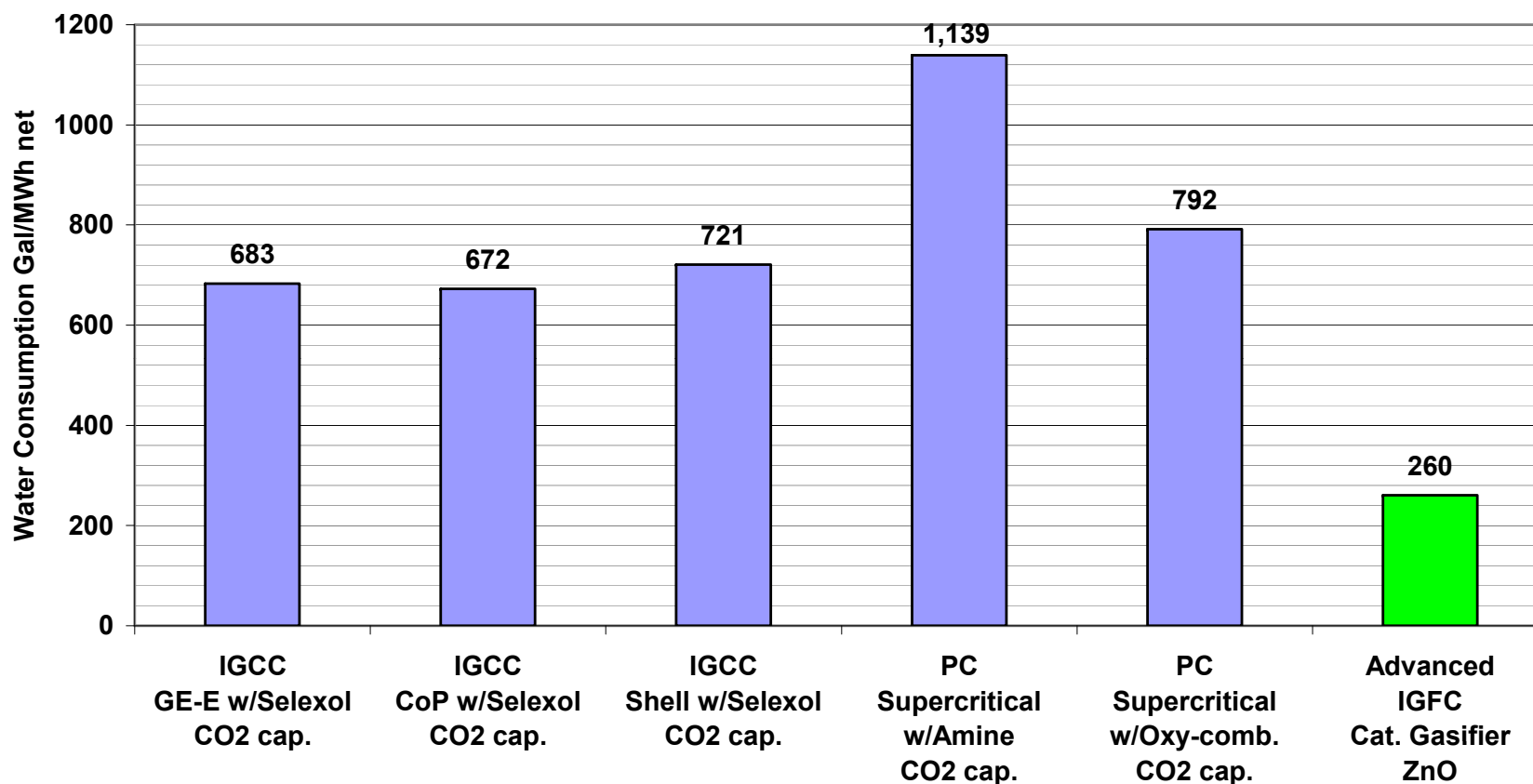


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## Baseline SOFC Power Plant Water Consumption vs. Competing Technologies



➔ **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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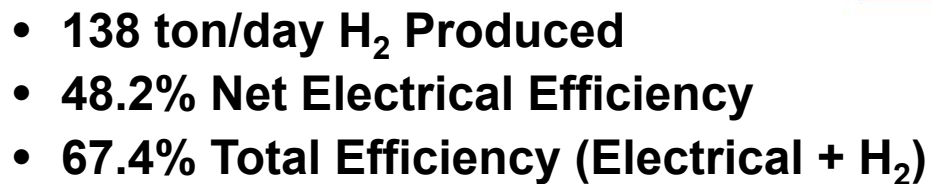


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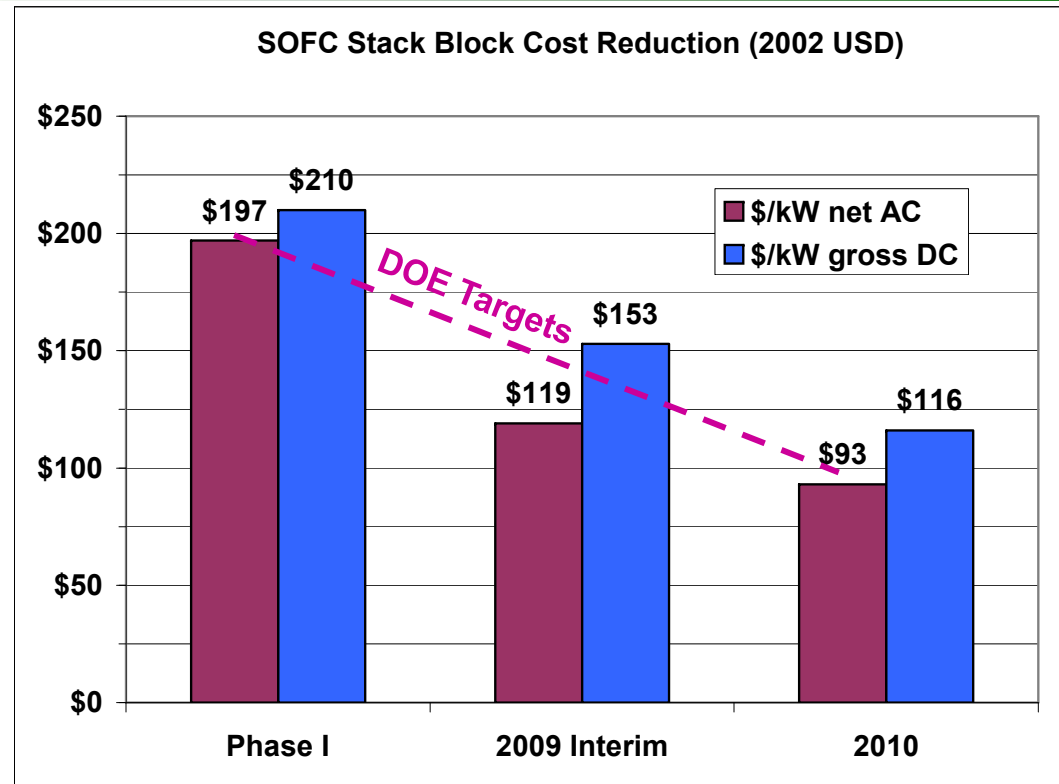
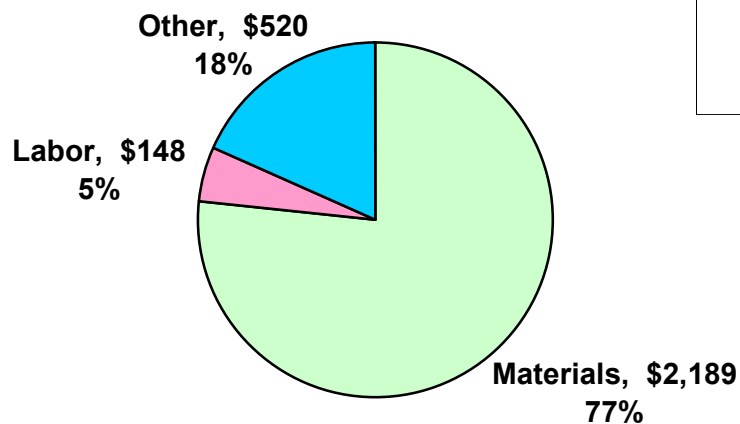
## H2 Co-Generation System Concept



# Stack Cost Reduction

**96-cell Stack:**

**\$2,857 (2002 USD)**



**Thin Cell Development**

**Stack Materials Reduction**

**Stack Block Scale Up**

**Power Density Improvements**

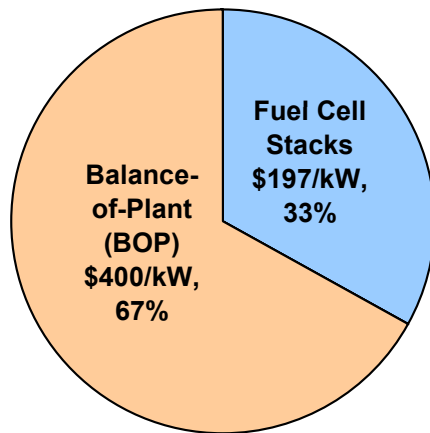


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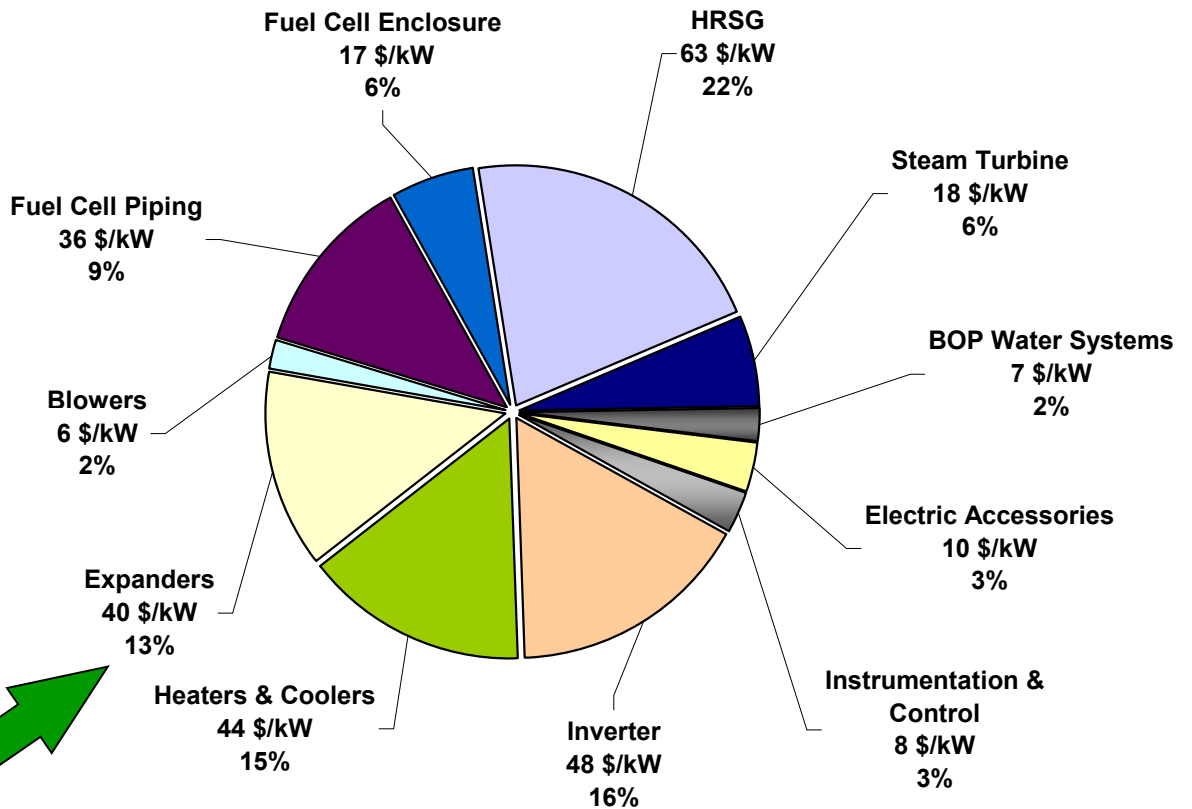
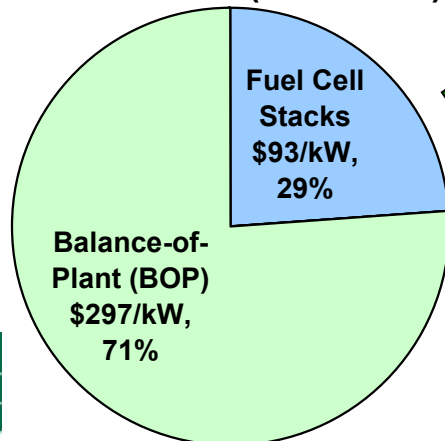


# Factory Equipment Cost Estimate

## Phase I Cost Estimate: 597 \$/kW (2002 USD)



## Phase II Interim Cost Estimate: 390 \$/kW (2002 USD)



- Cost estimation is based on two 570 MW nominal power plants manufactured per year (2002 USD).
- Estimate includes Factory Equipment costs for the Power Island, exclusive of gasification, syngas cleanup, and CO<sub>2</sub> separation/compression systems.



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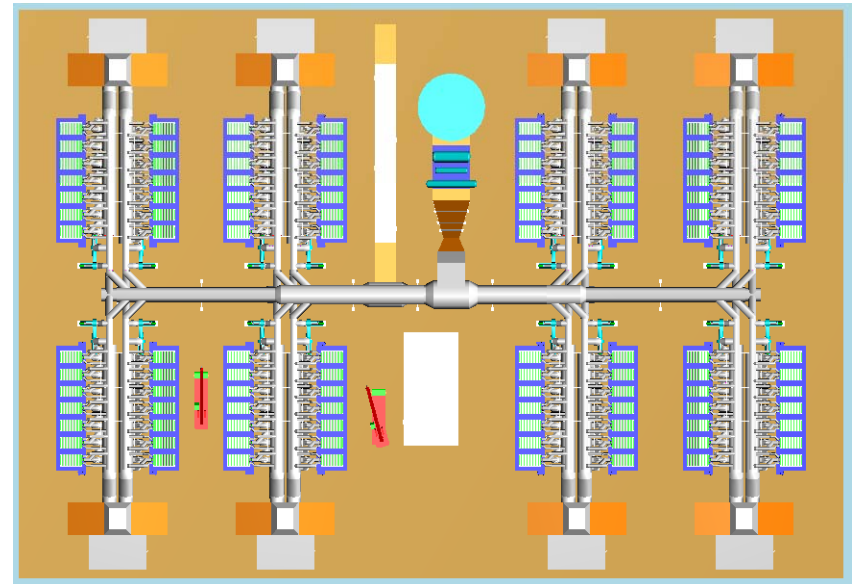
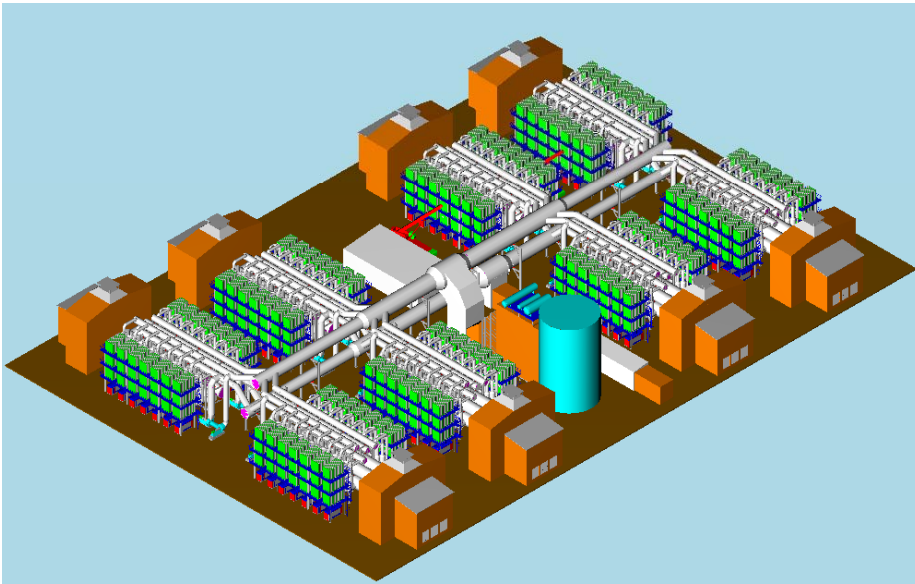
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# Baseline SOFC Power Island

- ➔ SOFC power island includes:
- > 8 Sections of 42 fuel cell stack modules
  - > Steam turbine
  - > Two syngas expanders



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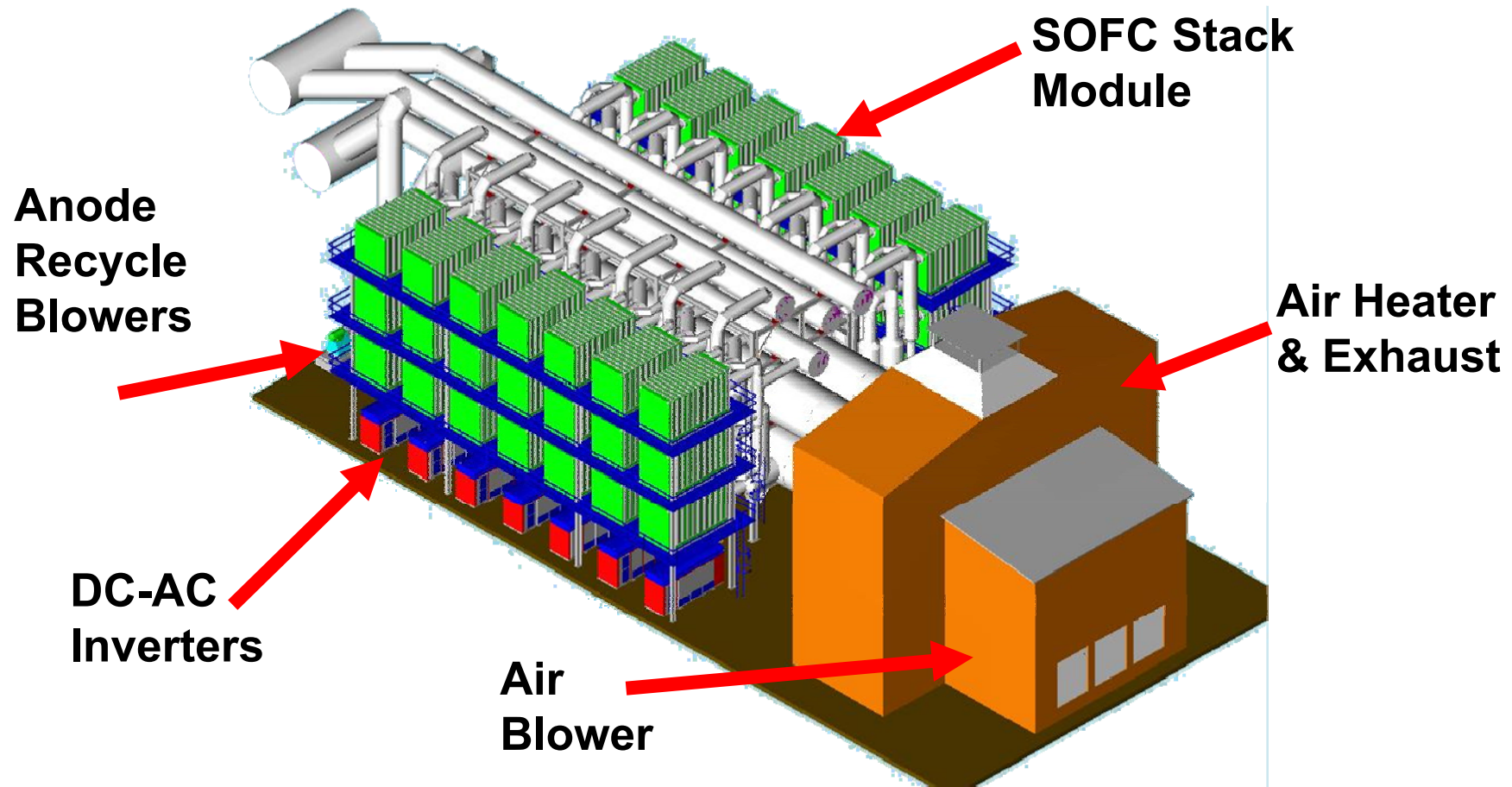
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## Layout of 42-Module SOFC Cluster



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



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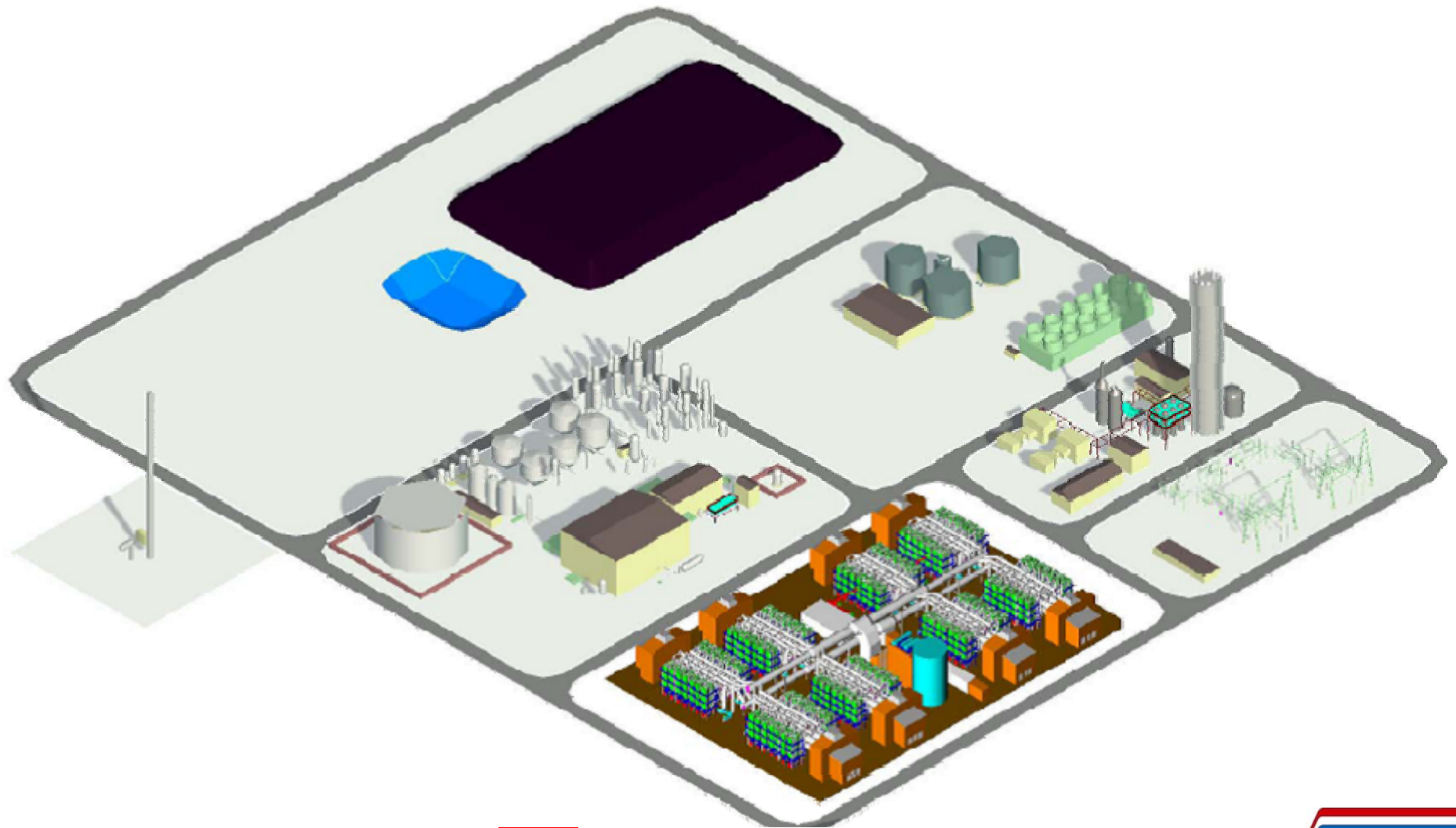


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# IGFC Site Layout



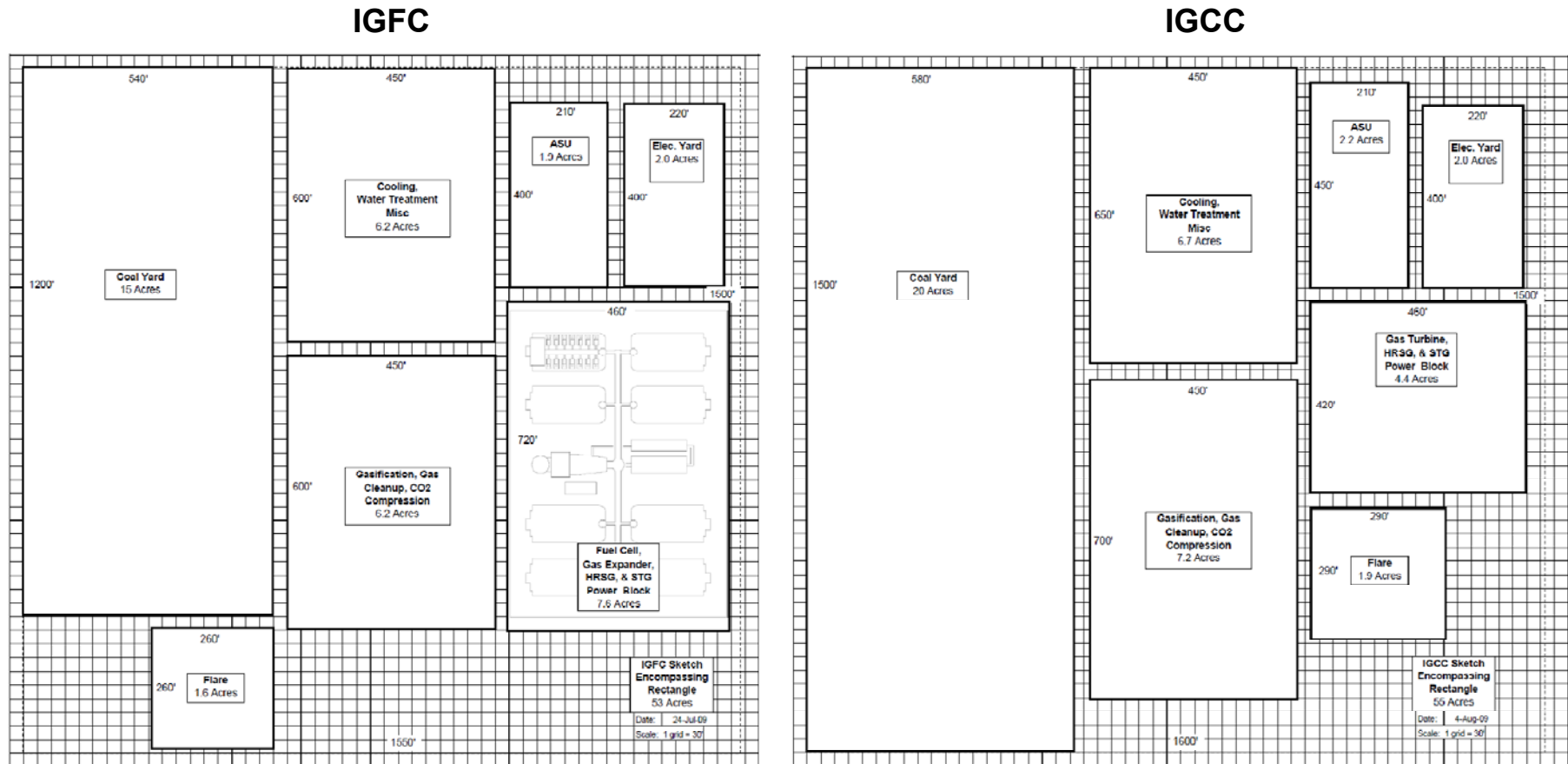
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## Representative Foot Print Comparison: IGFC & IGCC



- A similarly sized (MW) IGCC and IGFC will be comparable in real estate requirement.



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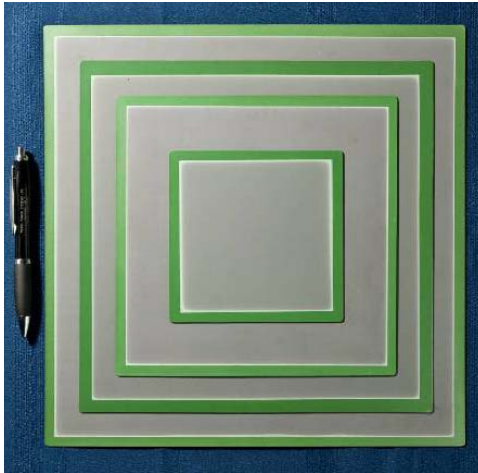


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# Summary of Recent Achievements



- Demonstrated new TSC3 cell with ASR less than  $0.35 \text{ ohm}\cdot\text{cm}^2$  at  $650^\circ\text{C}$  and a degradation rate of less than 0.3% per 1000 h at  $750^\circ\text{C}$  (on-going test of over 7,000 h)
- Established cell manufacturing processes for the new baseline TSC3 cell with an active area of  $550 \text{ cm}^2$  ( $25 \times 25 \text{ cm}^2$ )

- Demonstrated performance and endurance improvements in scaled up stacks with TSC3 cells
- Developed a 92-cell stack block that produces 18 kW and has been successfully tested in a 2 x 92-cell stack tower
- Demonstrated 25 kW from a 120-cell stack



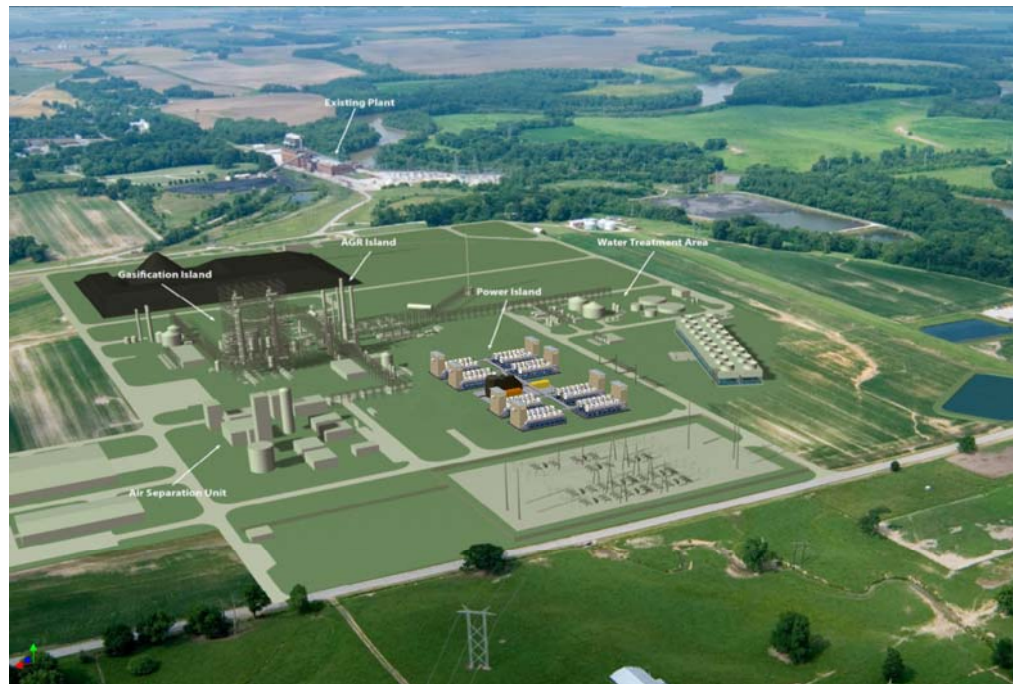
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# Summary of Recent Achievements

- **Baseline Systems with Catalytic Gasifier** were developed which could achieve electrical efficiency (HHV) of 59% and remove more than 99% carbon from syngas.
- **Baseline 400-600MW power plant layout and Factory Cost Estimates** were developed resulting in an interim cost estimate of \$390/kW (in 2002 dollars) for the SOFC power island.
- The developed IGFC system showed significantly lower water consumption as compared to IGCC and other coal fueled power plants.



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**Thank You!**



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