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# COAL-BASED IGFC PROJECT PHASE I

FC26-08NT0003894

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**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) Workshop**

July 26-28, 2011

Sheraton Station Square Hotel

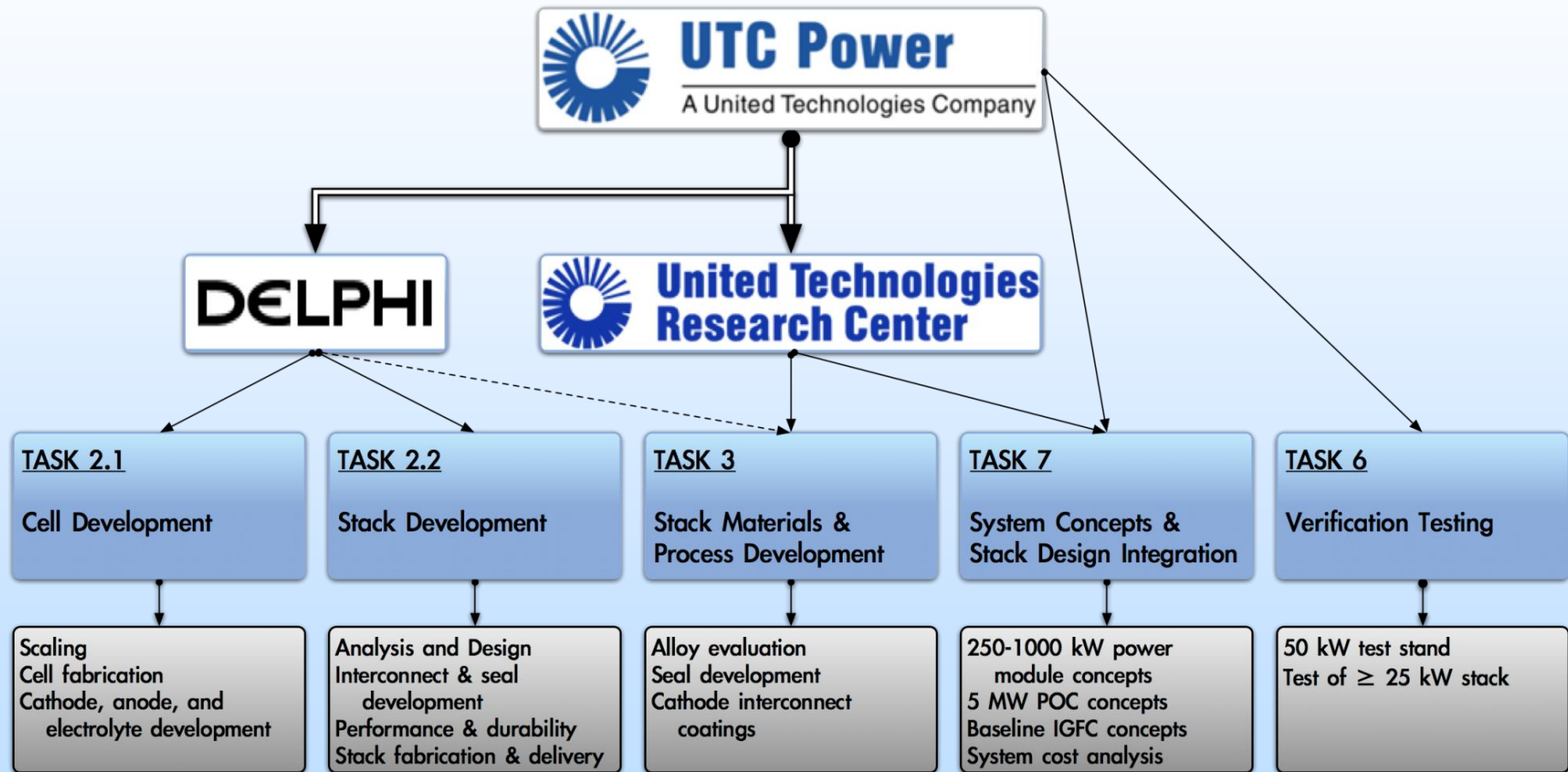
Pittsburgh, PA

# SECA OBJECTIVES

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- Reduce SOFC-based electrical power generation system cost to  $\leq \$700/\text{kWe}$  (2007 dollars) for a  $>100\text{MW}$  Integrated Gasification Fuel Cell (IGFC) power plant, exclusive of coal gasification and  $\text{CO}_2$  separation subsystem costs
- Achieve an overall IGFC power plant efficiency of  $\geq 50\%$ , from coal (HHV) to AC power (inclusive of coal gasification and carbon separation processes)
- Reduce the release of  $\text{CO}_2$  to the environment in an IGFC power plant to  $\leq 10\%$  of the carbon in the coal feedstock
- Increase SOFC stack reliability to achieve a design life of  $>40,000$  hours

# SOFC TEAM



# OUTLINE

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## Stack

- Summary Highlights
- Cells
  - Scale up
  - Cost Reduction
- Gen 4 Stack performance
  - Electrochemical performance of Gen 4
  - Comparison of Gen 4 performance data to Gen 3 data
  - Gen 4 max power performance on SECA coal gas blend
- Durability
  - Constant current
  - Stack tested with actual hydrocarbon fuel reformat
  - Thermal cycling of Gen 4 stack
- Modeling
  - Scale up to larger power systems

## Systems

- 50kW Test Stand
- 1500hr Stack Module Endurance Testing
- Power Module
- IGFC Systems

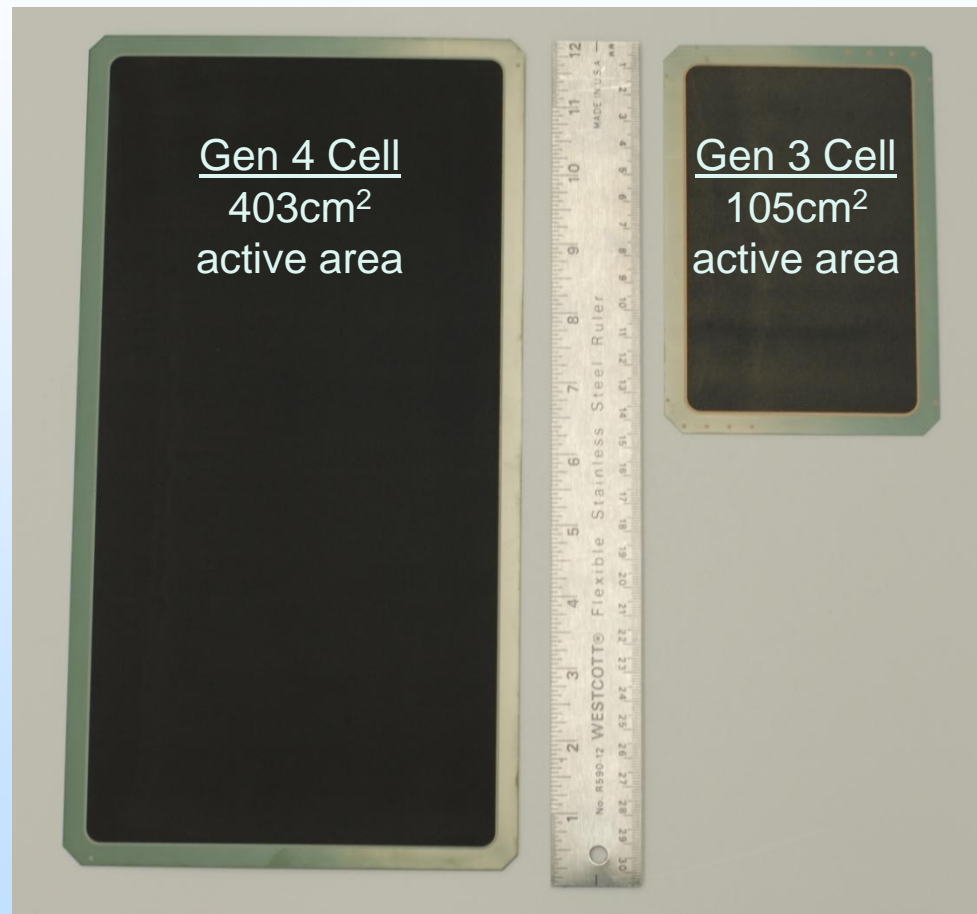
# SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS - STACK

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- Scaled up cells from 105 cm<sup>2</sup> (active area) cells to 403 cm<sup>2</sup> for Gen 4 stacks
- Expanded cell and stack fabrication and testing capability for large footprint Gen 4 stacks
- Developed low cost, high volume manufacturable processes for Gen 4 stack components. Fabricated and tested more than 40 Gen 4 stacks.
- Demonstrated maximum power of 6.4 kW on a 40-cell Gen 4 stack with SECA simulated coal gas blend
  - Power density of 398 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - Average cell voltage of 0.7V
- Demonstrated up to 9,700 hours continuous durability on Gen 3.2 stack. Demonstrated 3,000 hours on Gen 4 stack.
- Completed 60 full thermal cycles on Gen 4 stack, with less than 5% voltage degradation

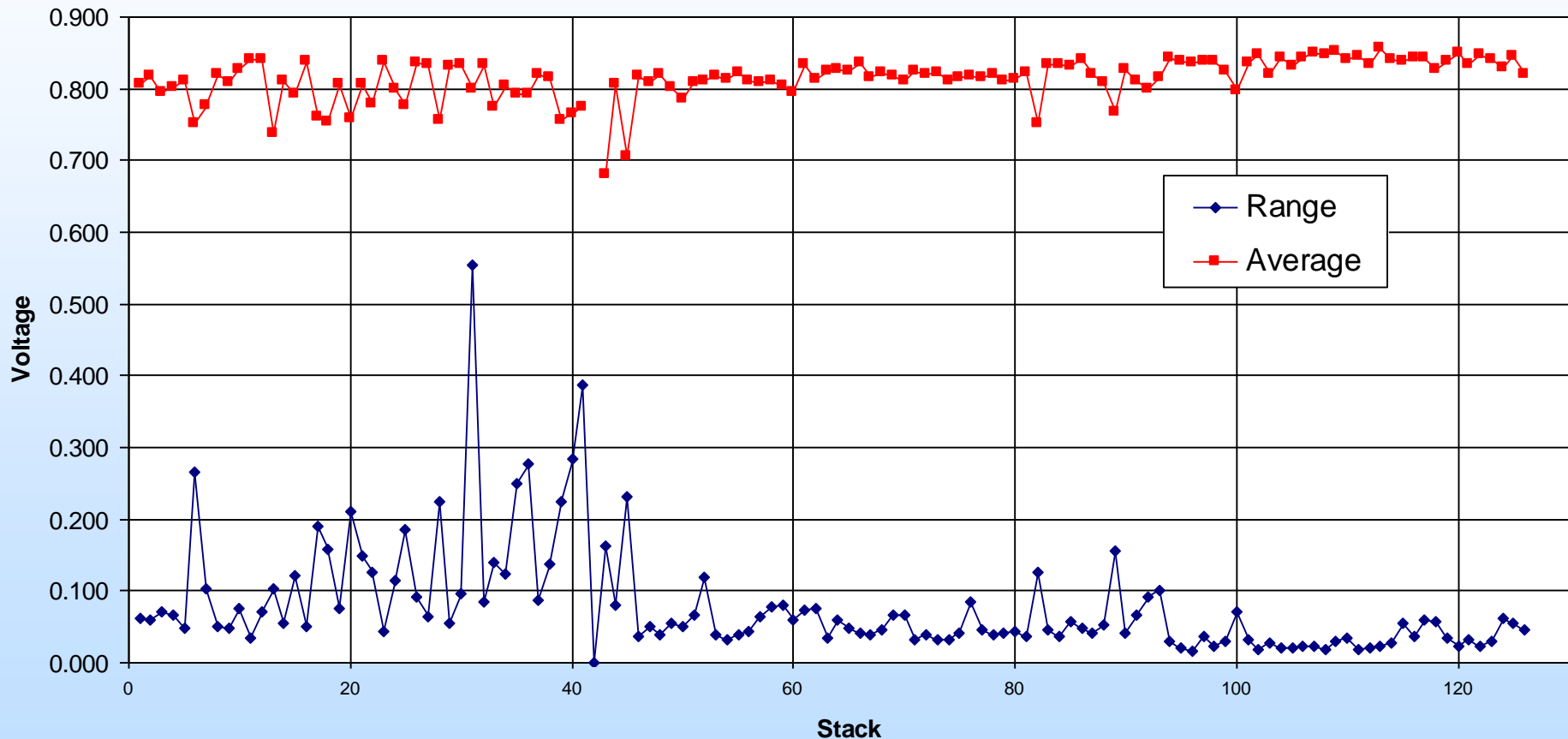
# CELL SCALE-UP

- Scaled up to a larger cell without increasing cell thickness
- Gen 4 stacks being fabricated with the large footprint cell



# STACK MANUFACTURING

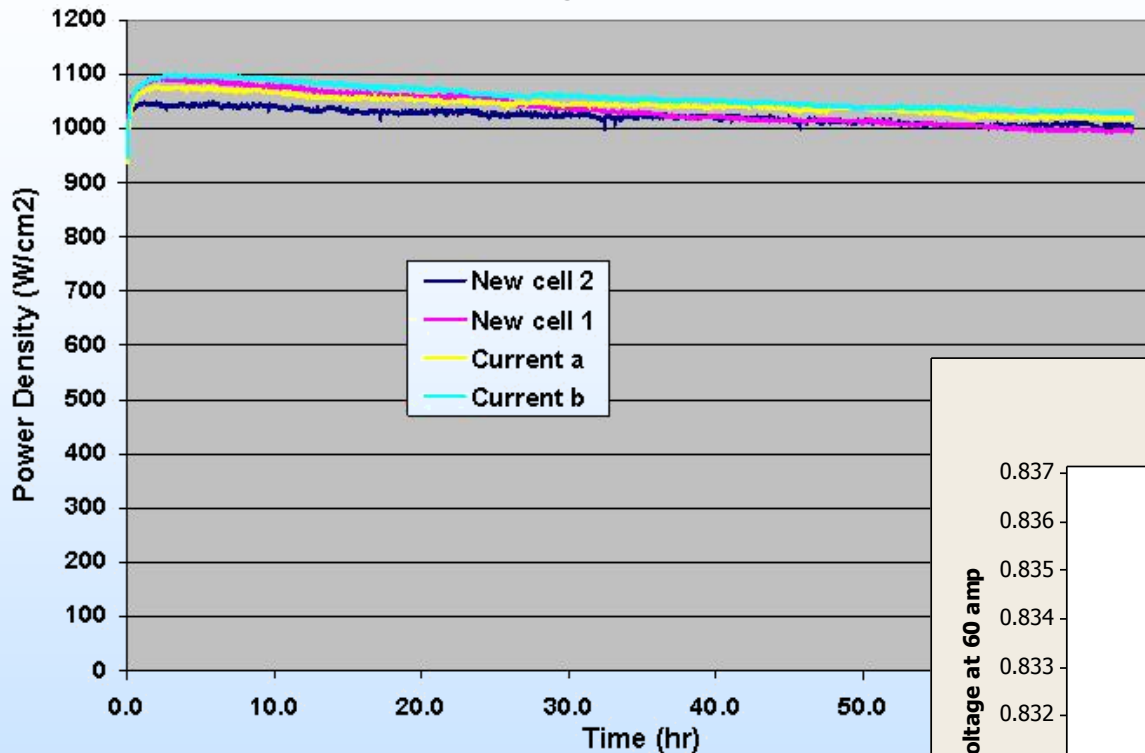
- Delphi manufacturing system design processes reduce stack build variation



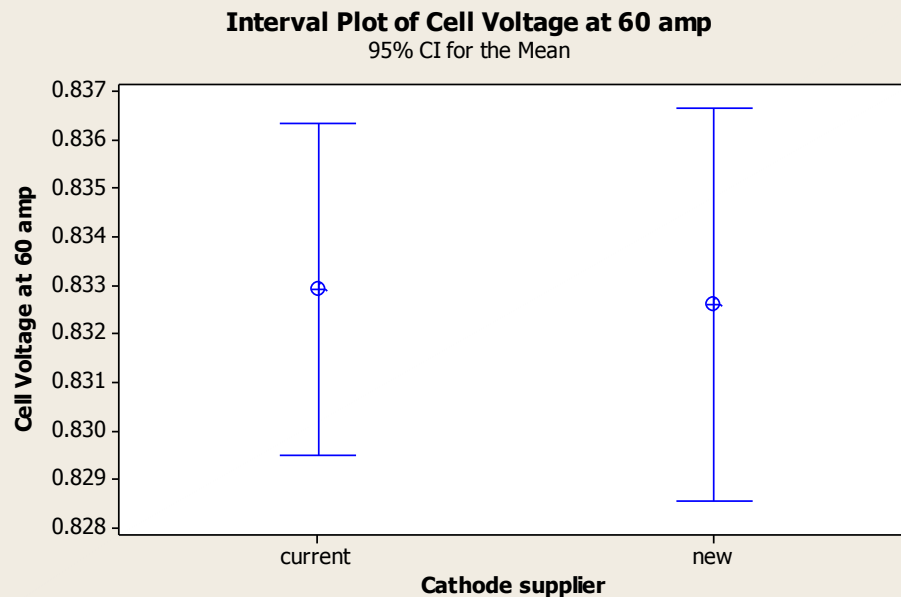
Gen 3.2 is baseline platform for evaluation of technology and components to scale up into Gen 4

# COMMERCIAL, LOW COST CATHODE SUPPLY

Button Cell Results @ 750C/0.7V/502:50N2



Stack Results @ 750C/60A/50H2:47N2: 3H2O

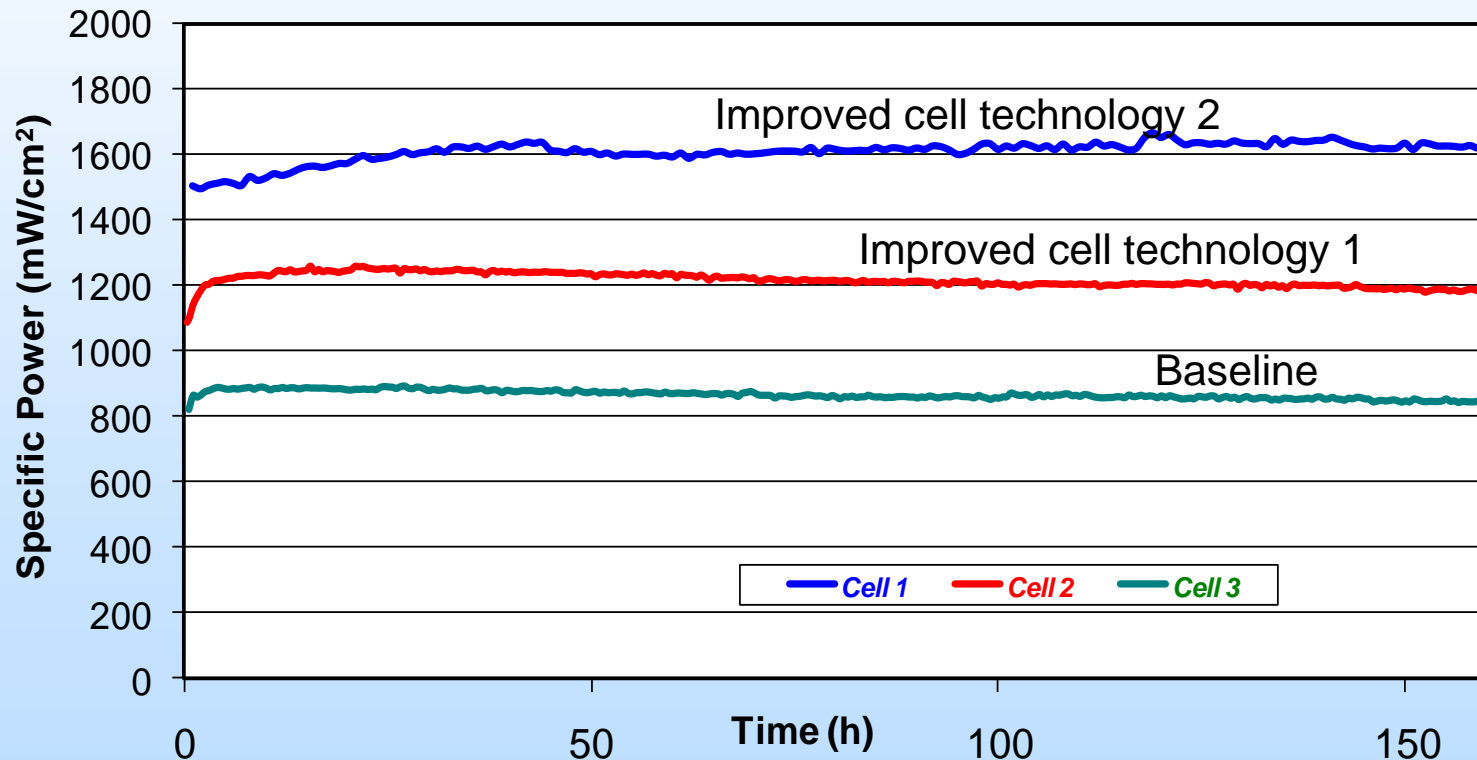


Cells fabricated with a low cost supply of cathode powder have statistically the same electrochemical performance as cells made from current cathode powder



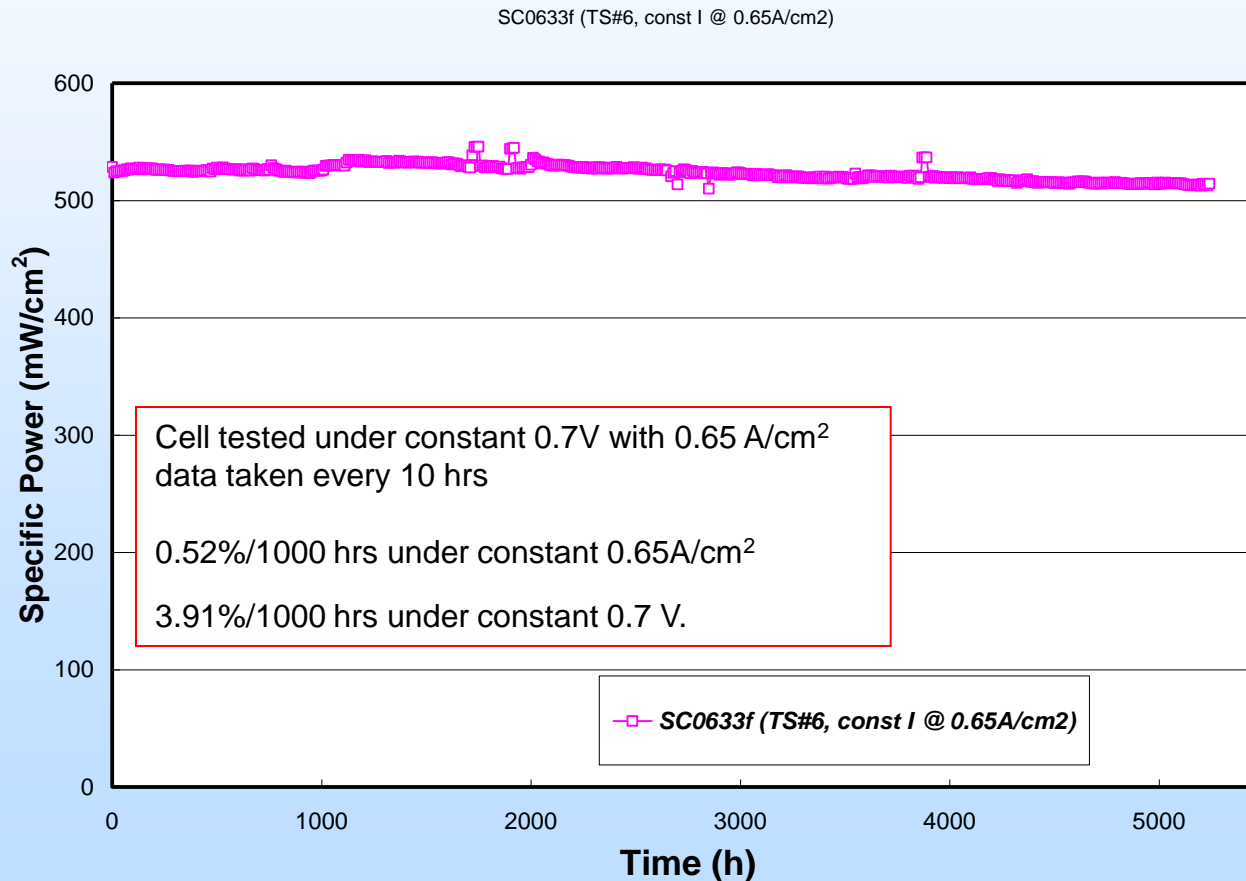
# CELL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS

- Cathode and anode materials development have demonstrated improved power density in button cell tests
- Further testing ongoing at a stack level



# DURABILITY OF LSCF CATHODE

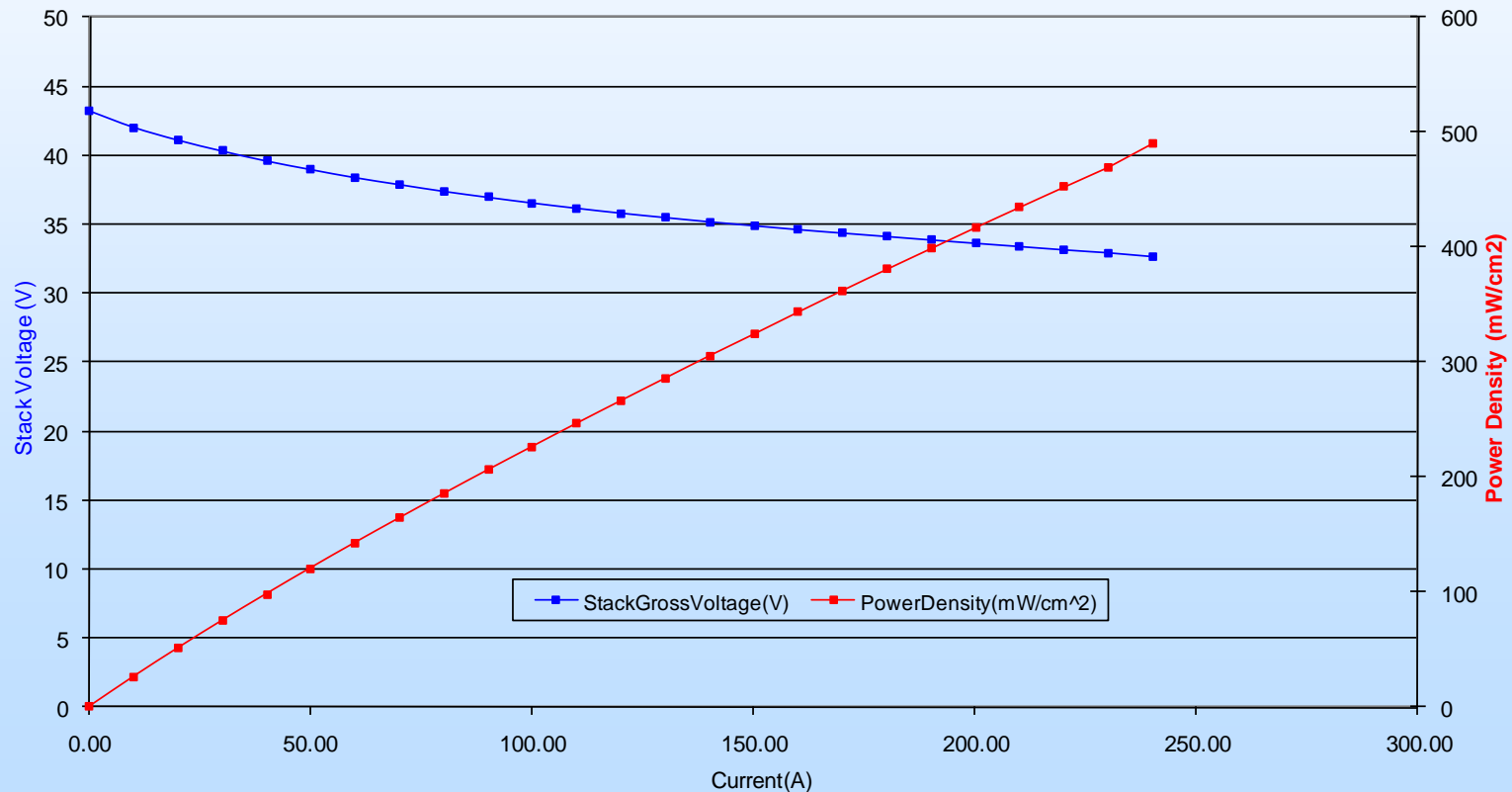
- Data from button cell durability test of current cells with LSCF cathode -demonstrating stable performance
- Greater than 5000 hours of test



# GEN 4 STACK ELECTROCHEMICAL PERFORMANCE

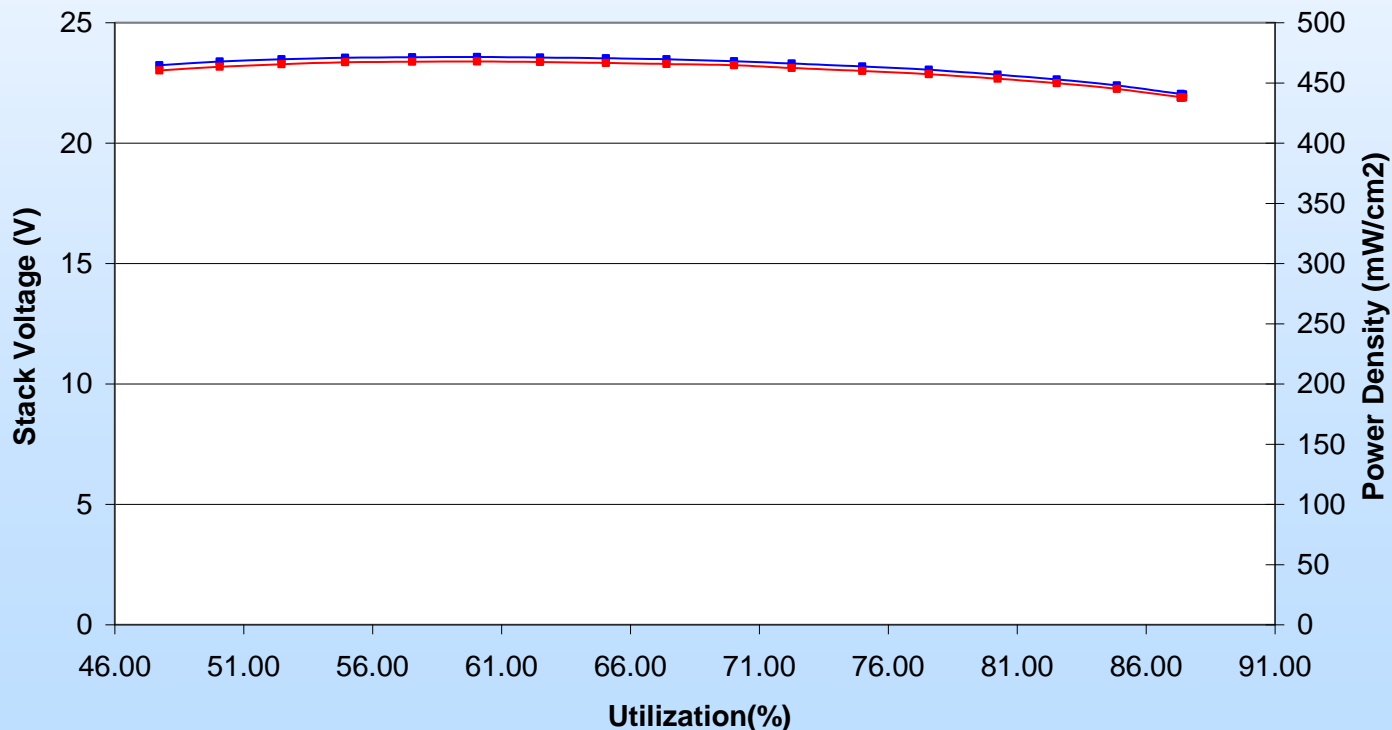
- Recent 30-cell Gen 4 stack performance
- Produced 5.76 kW (476 mW per cm<sup>2</sup>) @ 0.80 Volts per cell with 48.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O, rest N<sub>2</sub>

Fuel: 48.5%H<sub>2</sub>-48.5%N<sub>2</sub>-3%H<sub>2</sub>O Flows: 399.2(A) 697(C)  
Stack Voltage and Power Density for Polarization Test



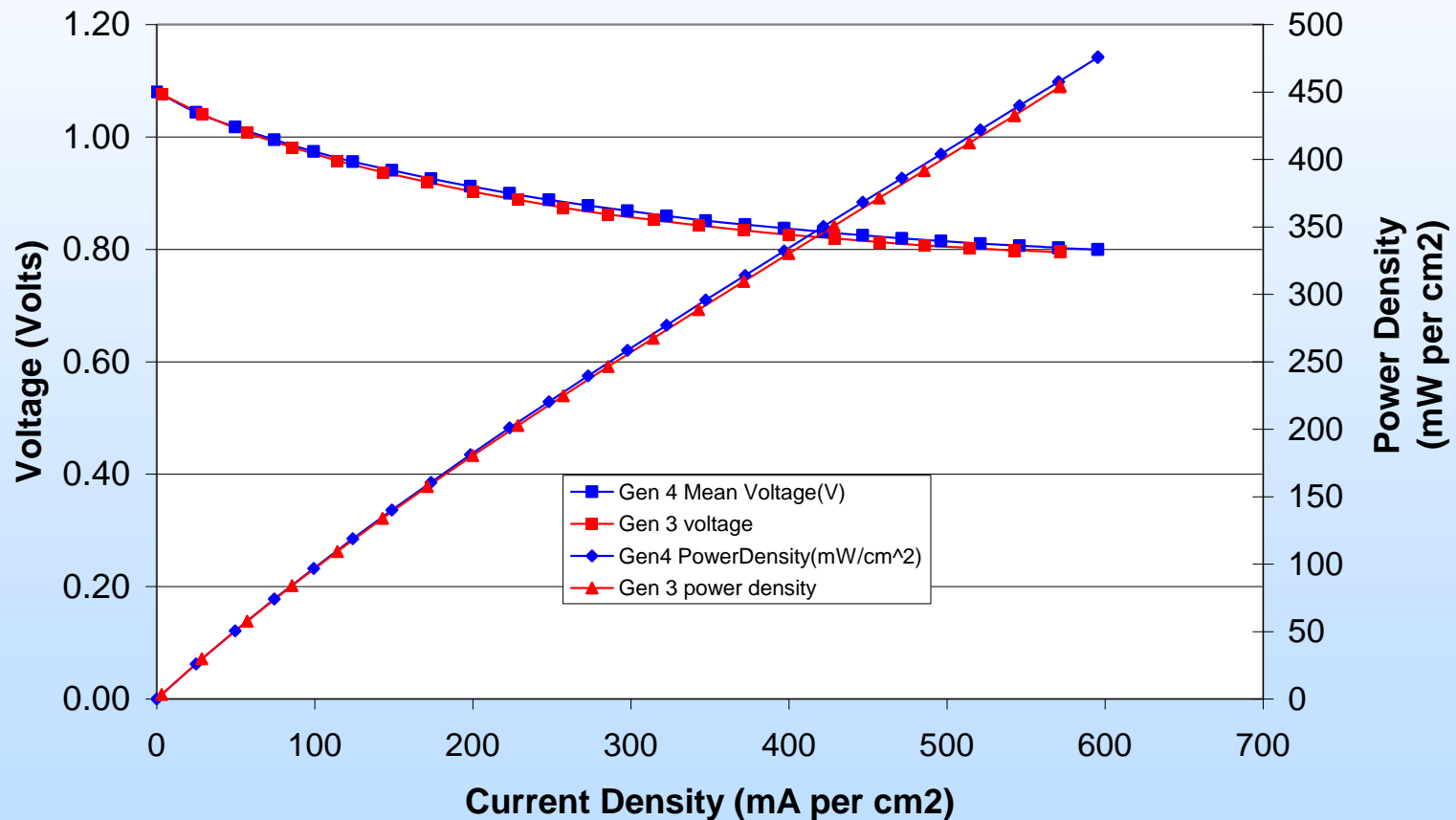
# GENERATION 4 STACK PERFORMANCE

- Recent Gen 4 stack fuel utilization
- Current density of 600 mA per cm<sup>2</sup>
  - Minimal lowering of power density up to 85% utilization (Fuel 48.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O, rest N<sub>2</sub>)
  - Power density of 460 mW per cm<sup>2</sup> at 70% fuel utilization



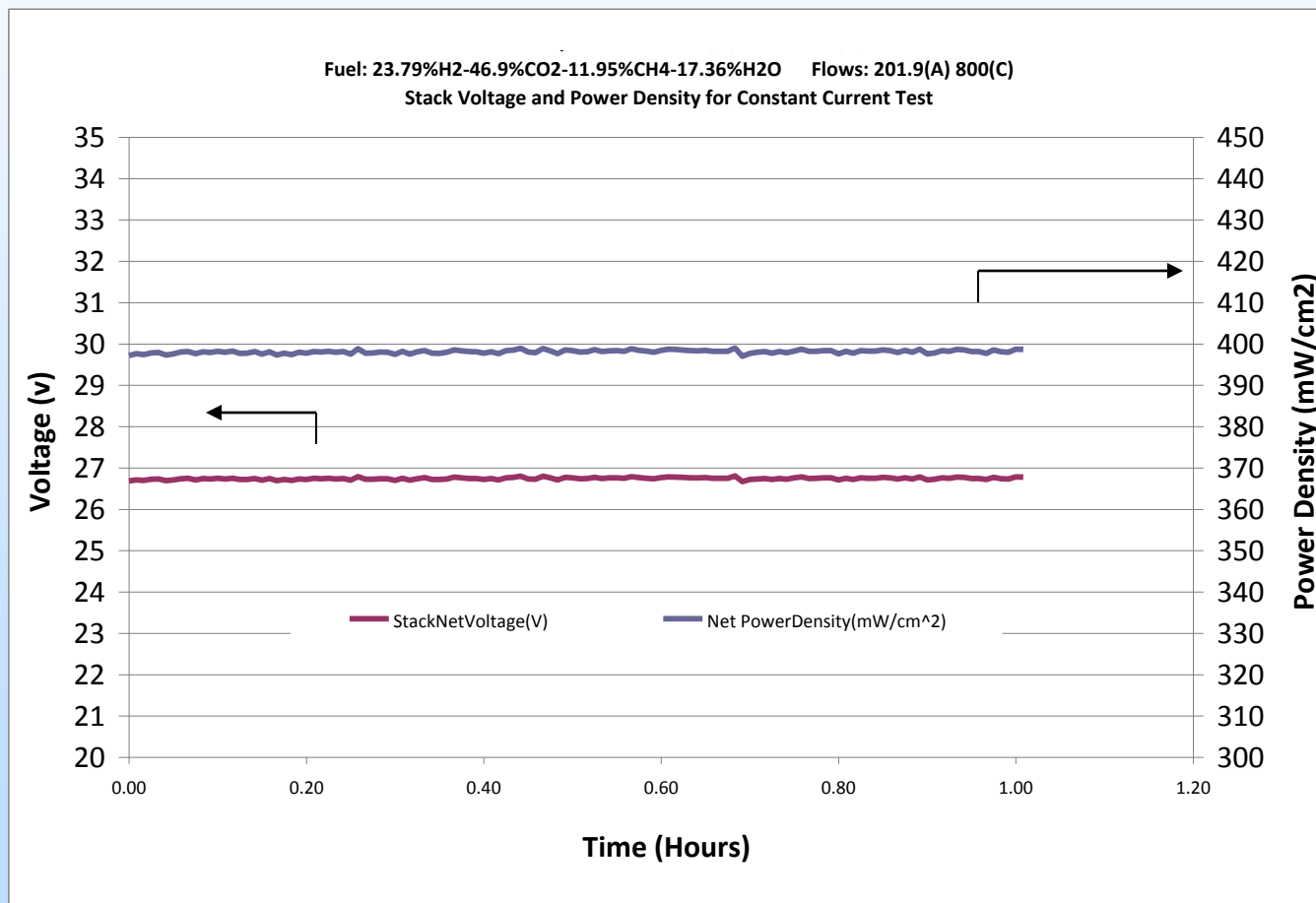
# GENERATION 4 VERSUS GEN 3 STACK PERFORMANCE

Gen 4 30-cell stack vs Gen 3 30-cell stack comparison

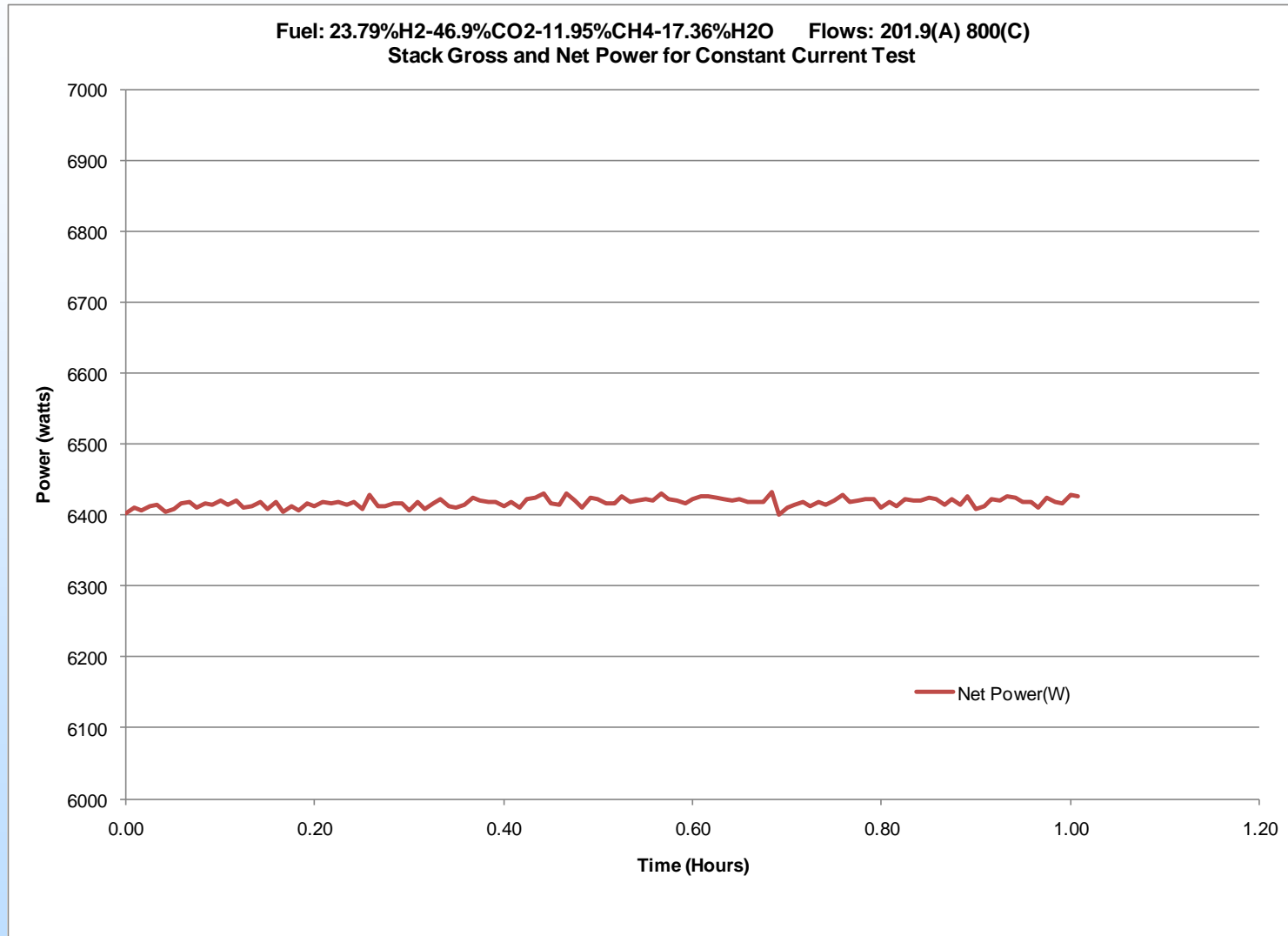


## GEN 4 STACK TESTED WITH SIMULATED COAL GAS REFORMATE- SECA MAX POWER TEST

- Generation 4 40-cell stack evaluated with simulated coal gas reformat – one hour steady state at maximum power
  - Produced a power density of 398 mW per cm<sup>2</sup> (6.4 kW per 40-cell stack) at an average voltage of 0.7 Volts per cell

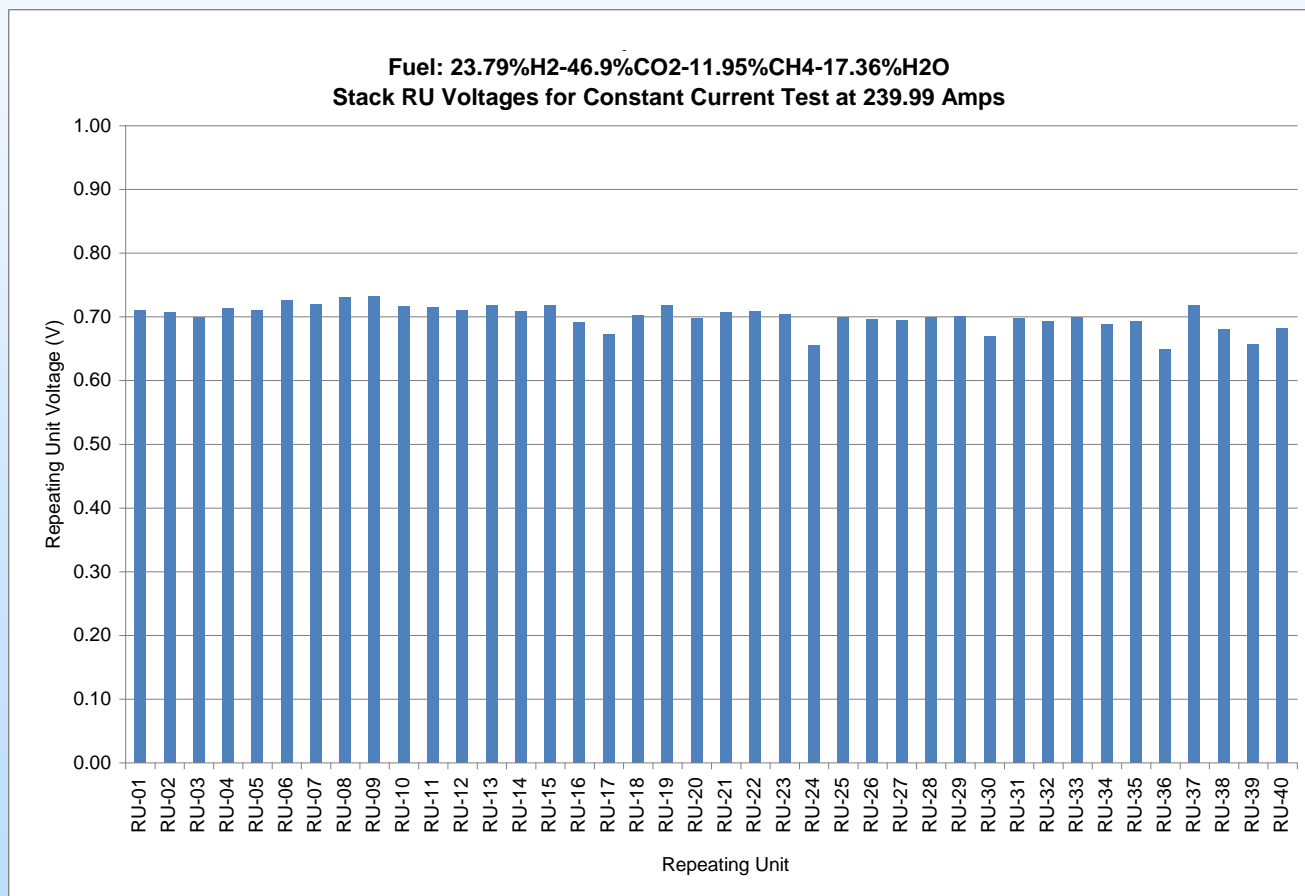


# GEN 4 STACK MAX POWER ON SECA COAL GAS BLEND



# GEN 4 STACK TESTED WITH SIMULATED COAL GAS REFORMATE- SECA MAX POWER TEST

- Generation 4 40-cell stack evaluated with simulated coal gas reformat – one hour steady state at maximum power output
- Minimal Cell to cell voltage variation (0.08 V) under max power conditions

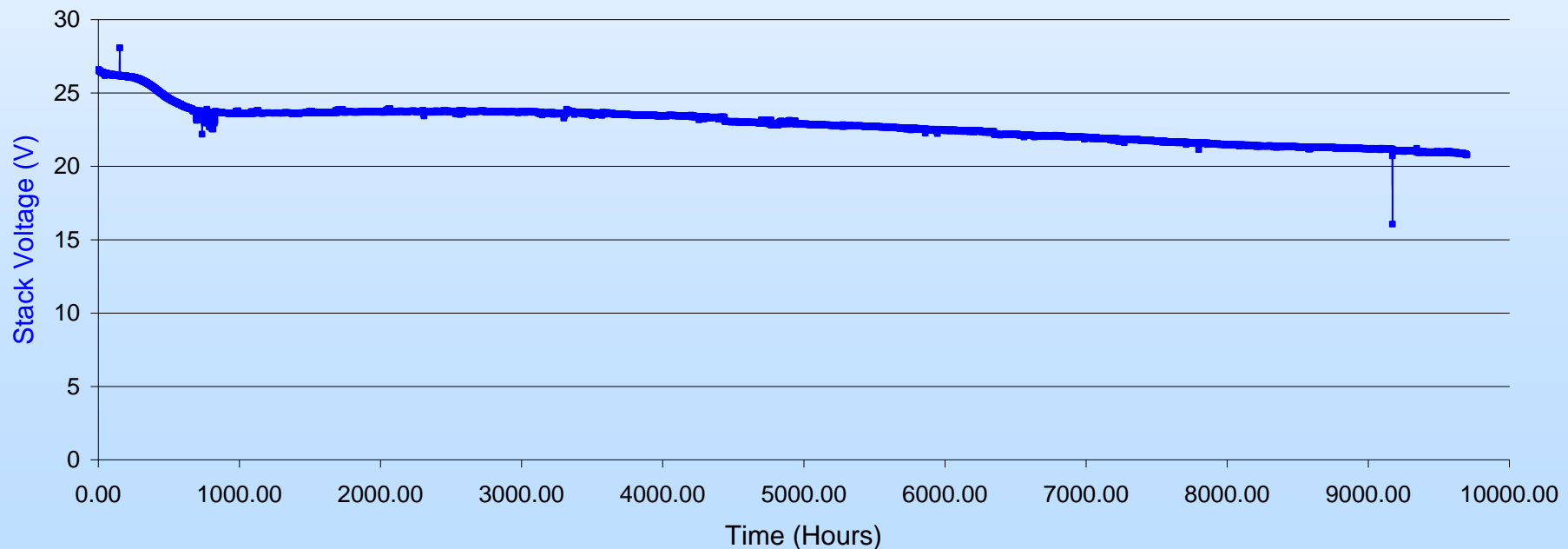




# GENERATION 3 30-CELL STACK DURABILITY

- 9700 hours of durability test on Generation 3 30-cell stack
  - Fuel = 48.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O, rest N<sub>2</sub>; current = 333 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - Total degradation is 1.12% per 500 hours
  - Degradation mechanism during initial 1000 hours and after 5000 hours is understood and technology solutions are being implemented
  - Test stopped due to facility failure

Fuel: 48.5%H<sub>2</sub>-48.5%N<sub>2</sub>-3%H<sub>2</sub>O    Flows: 32.5(A) 148(C)  
Stack Voltage and Power Density for Constant Current Test

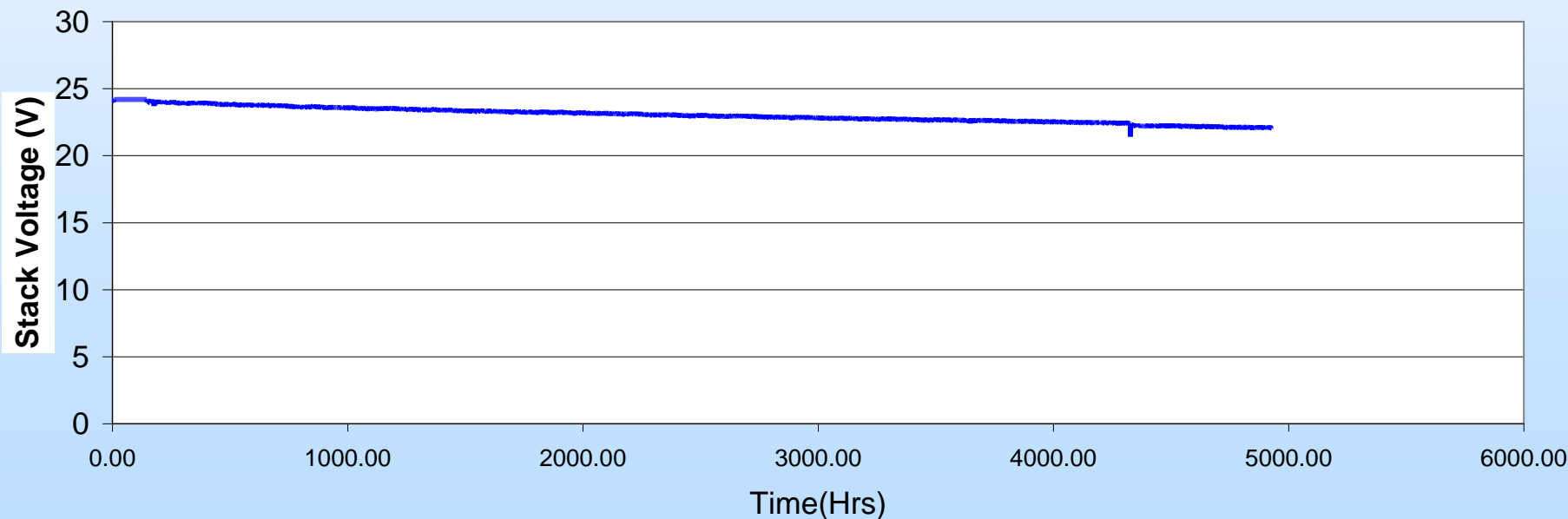




# GENERATION 3 30-CELL STACK DURABILITY WITH IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY

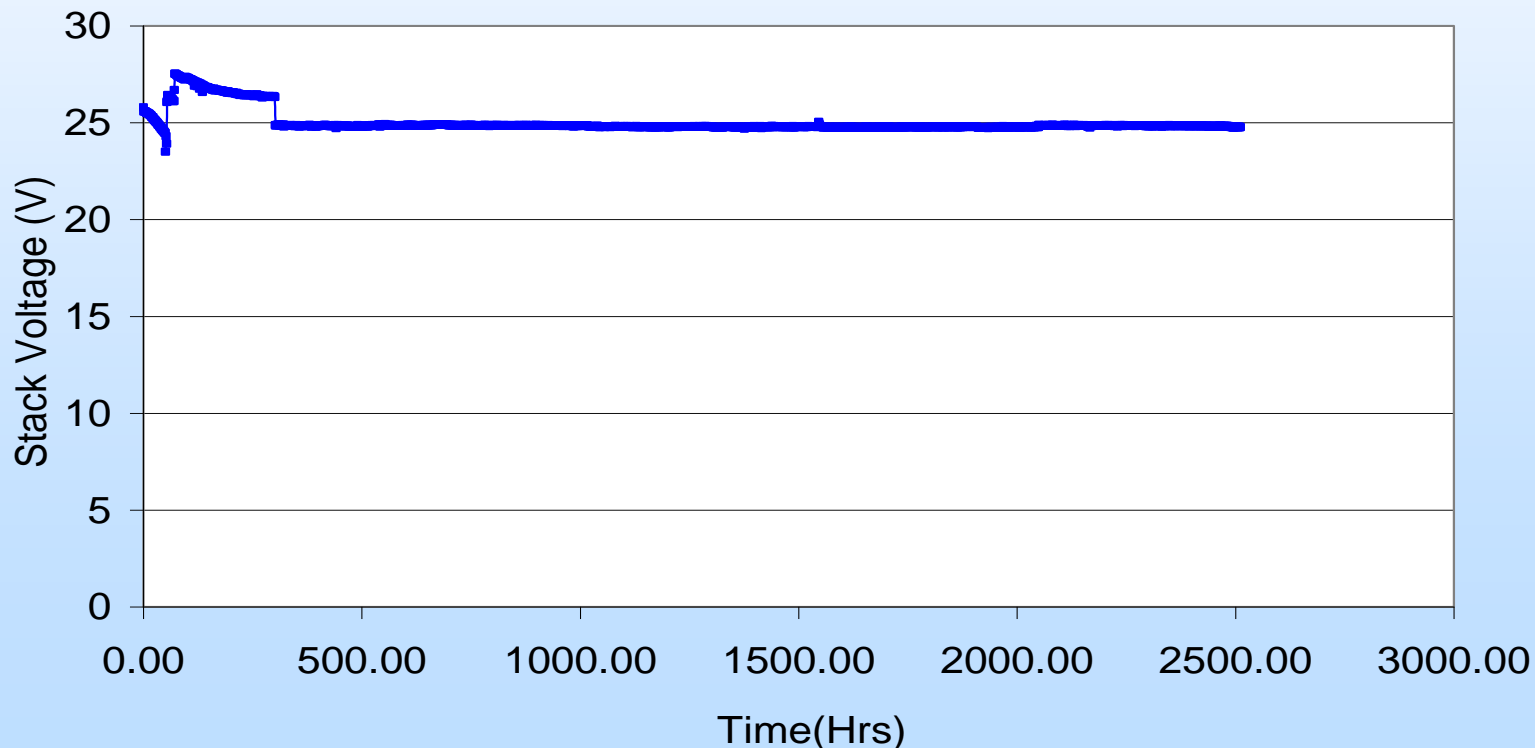
- Ongoing durability test with improved technology solutions show minimal initial degradation in the first 1000 hours
  - Fuel = 48.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O, rest N<sub>2</sub>; current = 570 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - 5000+ hours completed, test continuing
  - Total degradation is 0.88% per 500 hours

Fuel: 48.5%H<sub>2</sub>-48.5%N<sub>2</sub>-3%H<sub>2</sub>O    Flows: 55.8(A) 149(C)  
Stack Voltage and Power Density for Constant Current Test



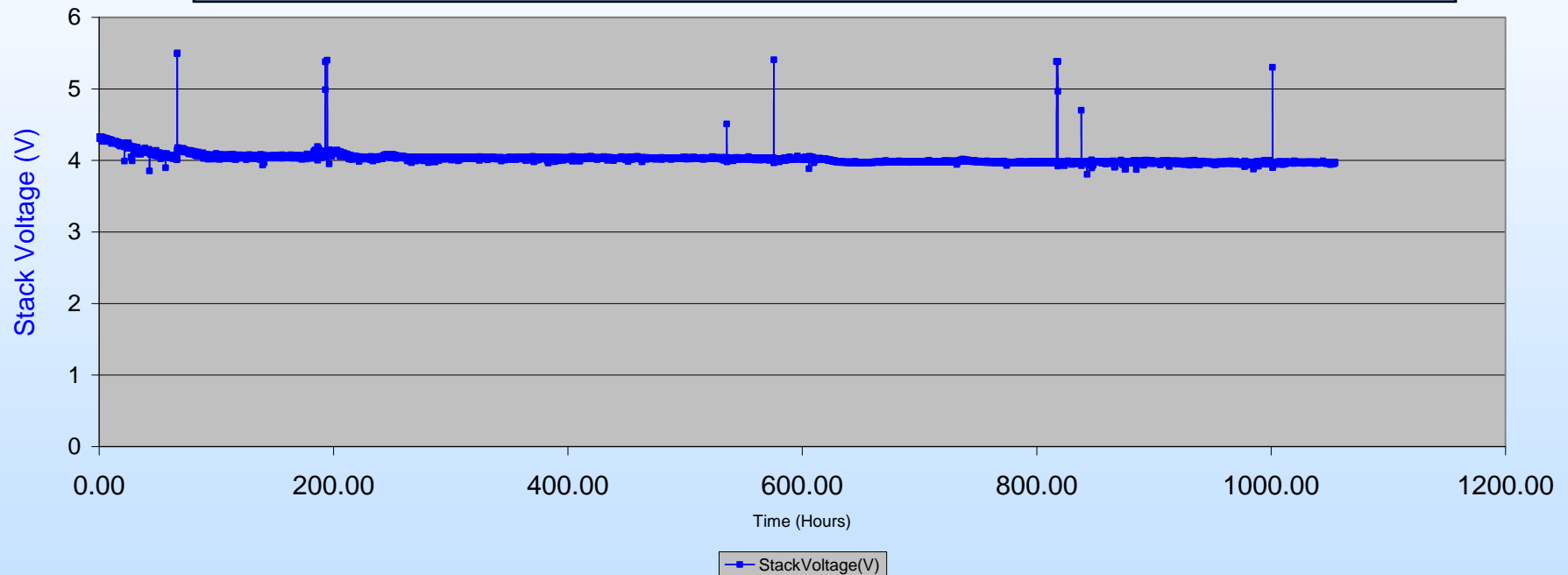
## GENERATION 4 30-CELL STACK DURABILITY TEST

- Ongoing durability test with Gen 4 30-cell stack
  - Fuel = 48.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O, rest N<sub>2</sub>; current = 153 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - After the first 300 hours (4% degradation), minimal degradation rate observed (less than 0.5%)
  - 2500+ hours completed, test continuing

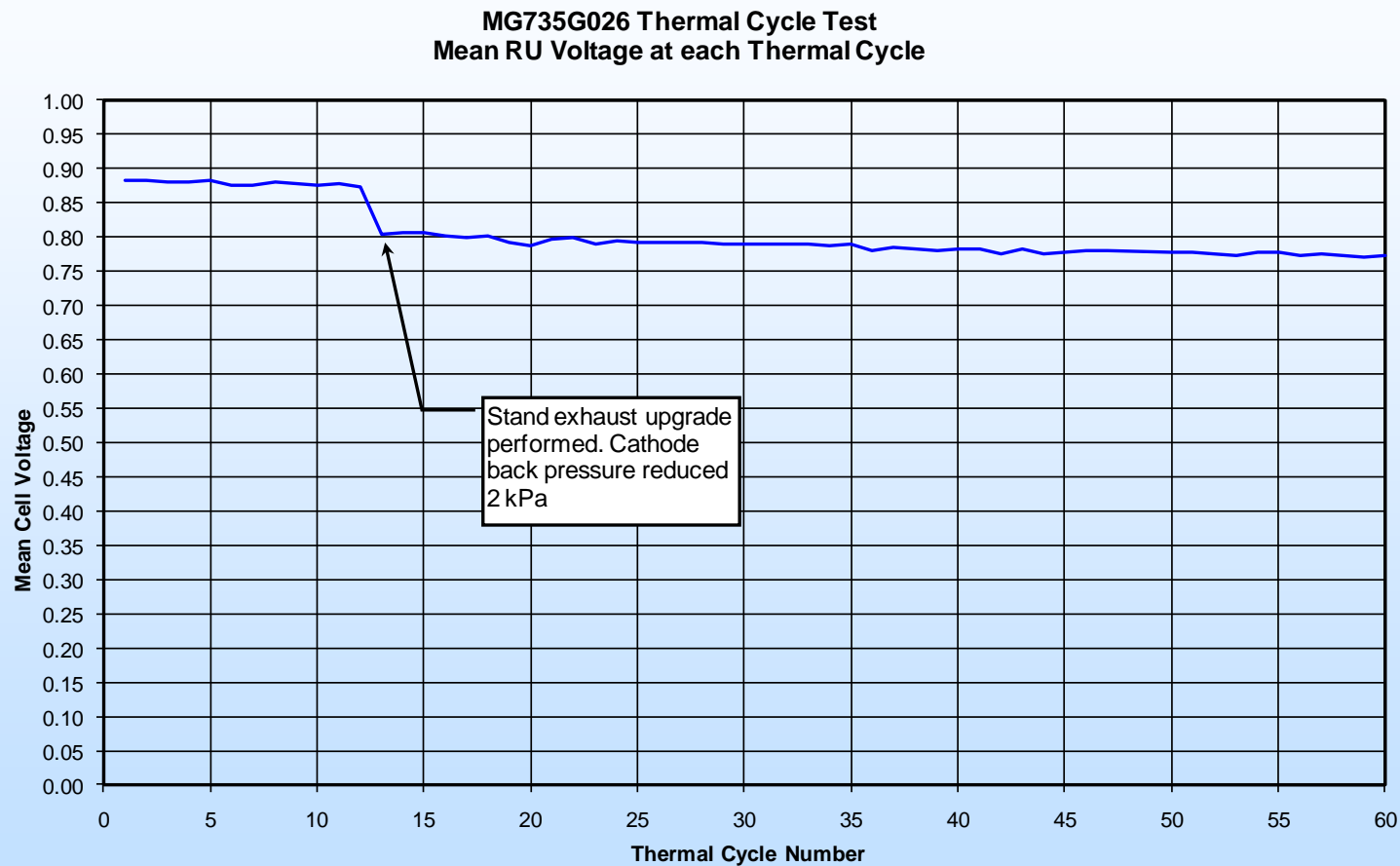


# STACK TESTED WITH REFORMATE

- Gen 3.2 5-cell stack evaluated with hydrocarbon fuel reformat
- 1000 + hours of stable performance (voltage and pressure)
- Initial degradation due to sulfur in hydrocarbon fuel



## 10-CELL GEN 4 STACK COMPLETED 60 DEEP THERMAL CYCLES

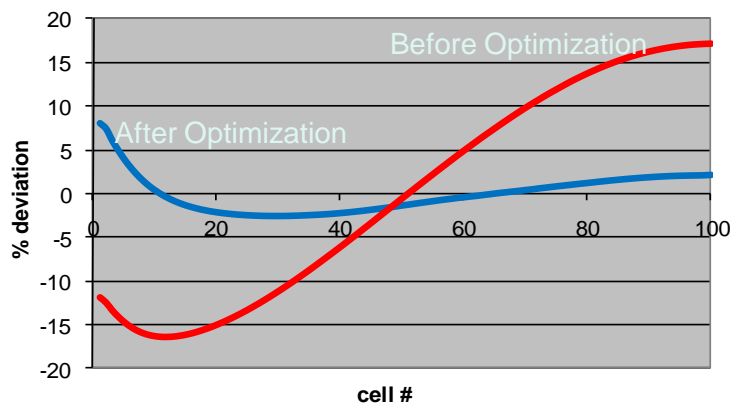


# CFD MODELING OF GEN 4 STACK

- Detailed CFD modeling of Gen 4 stack completed to optimize for 100 repeating units
  - Detailed geometry of Gen 4 repeating unit captured in computational mesh
  - 30-RU to 100-RU stack model developed
  - Pressure drop analyzed for Gen 4 with varied fuel and air flow rates
  - Pressure drop prediction validated with actual Gen 4 stack flow data
  - Robust engineering project completed to optimize stack design for robustness to mass flow distribution between cassettes in 30 to 100 RU stacks
    - $\pm 0.5$  slpm for fuel,  $\pm 1.0$  slpm for air

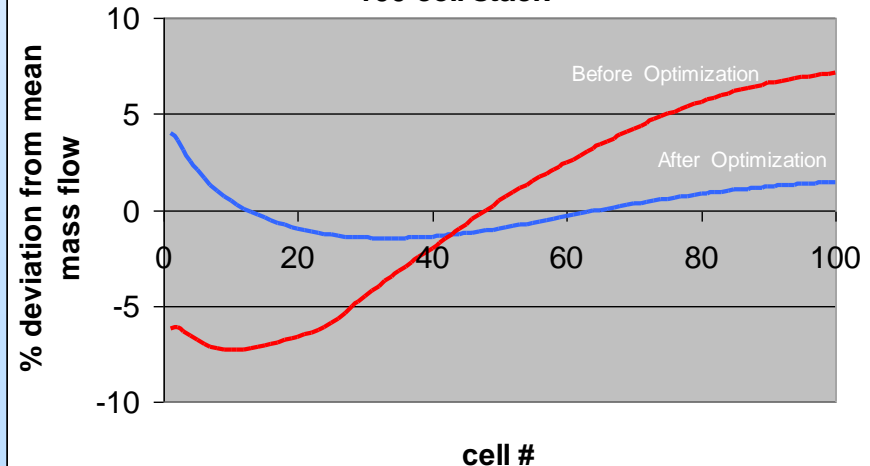
## Cathode Flow Optimization

29.2 SLPM/RU air flow -  
100 RU stack



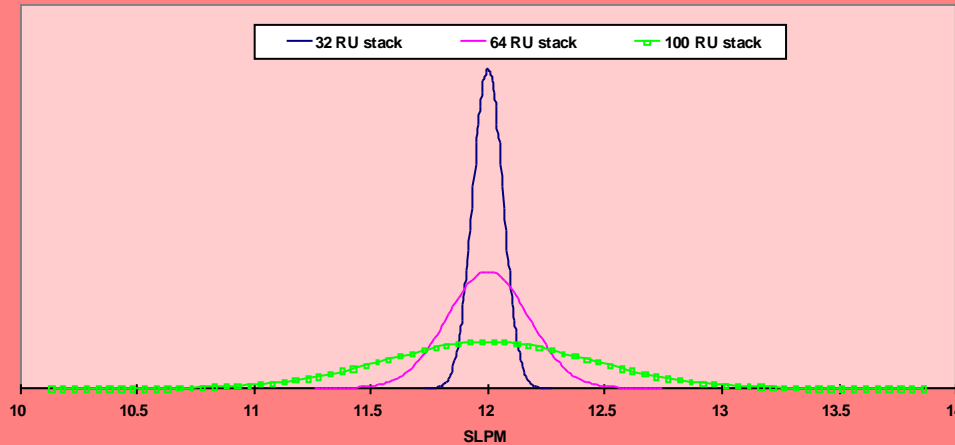
## Anode Flow Optimization

12 SLPM / RU  
100 cell stack



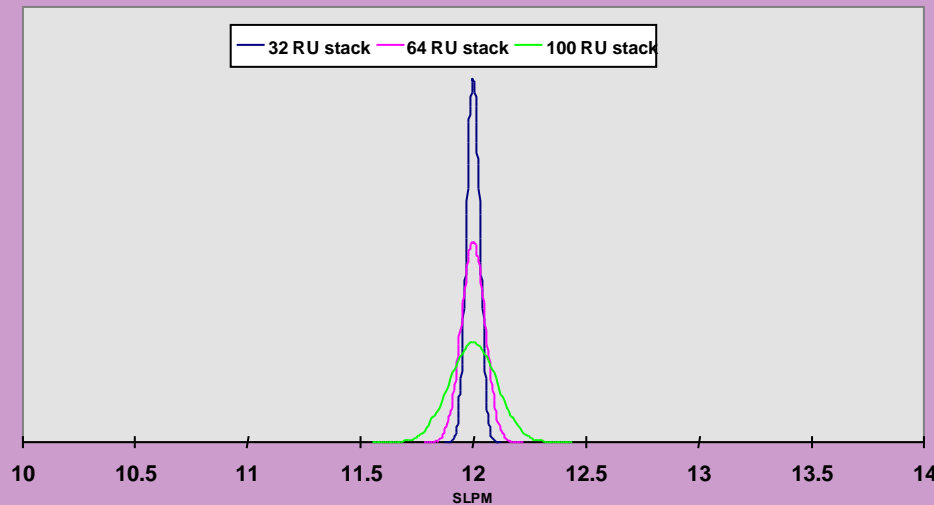
# STACK MASS FLOW DIST. OPTIMIZED FOR FUEL FLOW

Baseline Design (12 slpm/RU)



32 RU - 100 % within limits  
64 RU - 100% within limits  
100 RU - 38% within limits

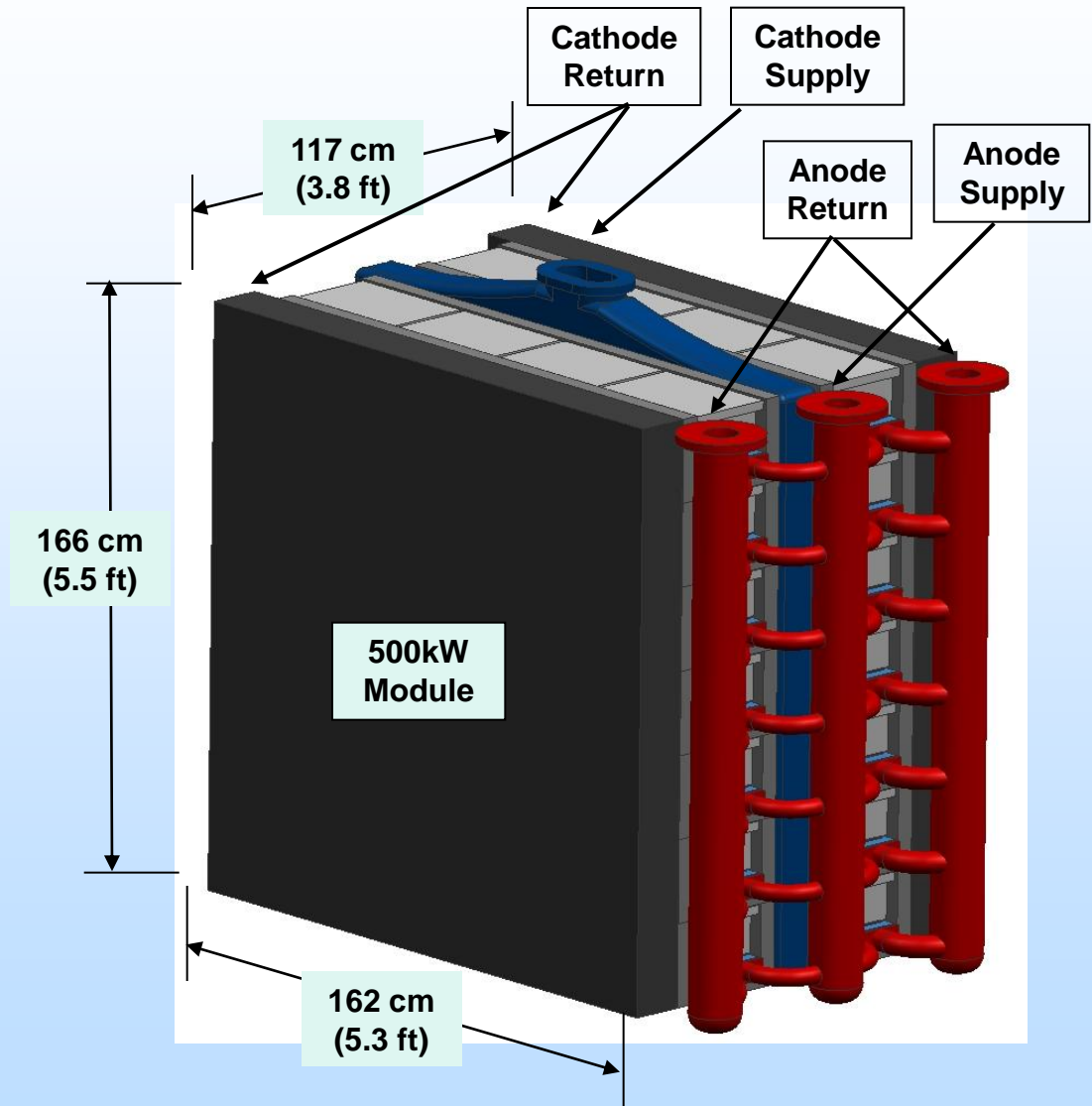
Optimized Design (12slpm/RU)



32 RU - 100% within limits  
64 RU - 100% within limits  
100 RU - 100% within limits

## STACK ASSEMBLY FOR STATIONARY POWER PLANTS

- ◆ Modular array design
- ◆ Simplified fuel manifolding
- ◆ Plenum Air Supply and Return
- ◆ Volume ~ 111ft<sup>3</sup> (500kW)





# PHASE I ACHIEVEMENTS - SYSTEMS

- Commissioned the 50 kW capable test stand at UTC Power.
- Started 1500 hr endurance testing of stack module.
- Developed multiple Power Module concepts for 400 kW net AC and  $\eta \geq 60\%$  (LHV).
- Developed multiple IGFC designs for  $> 100$  MW net AC power,  $\eta \geq 50\%$  (HHV), and  $\geq 90\%$  carbon capture.

# TASK 6

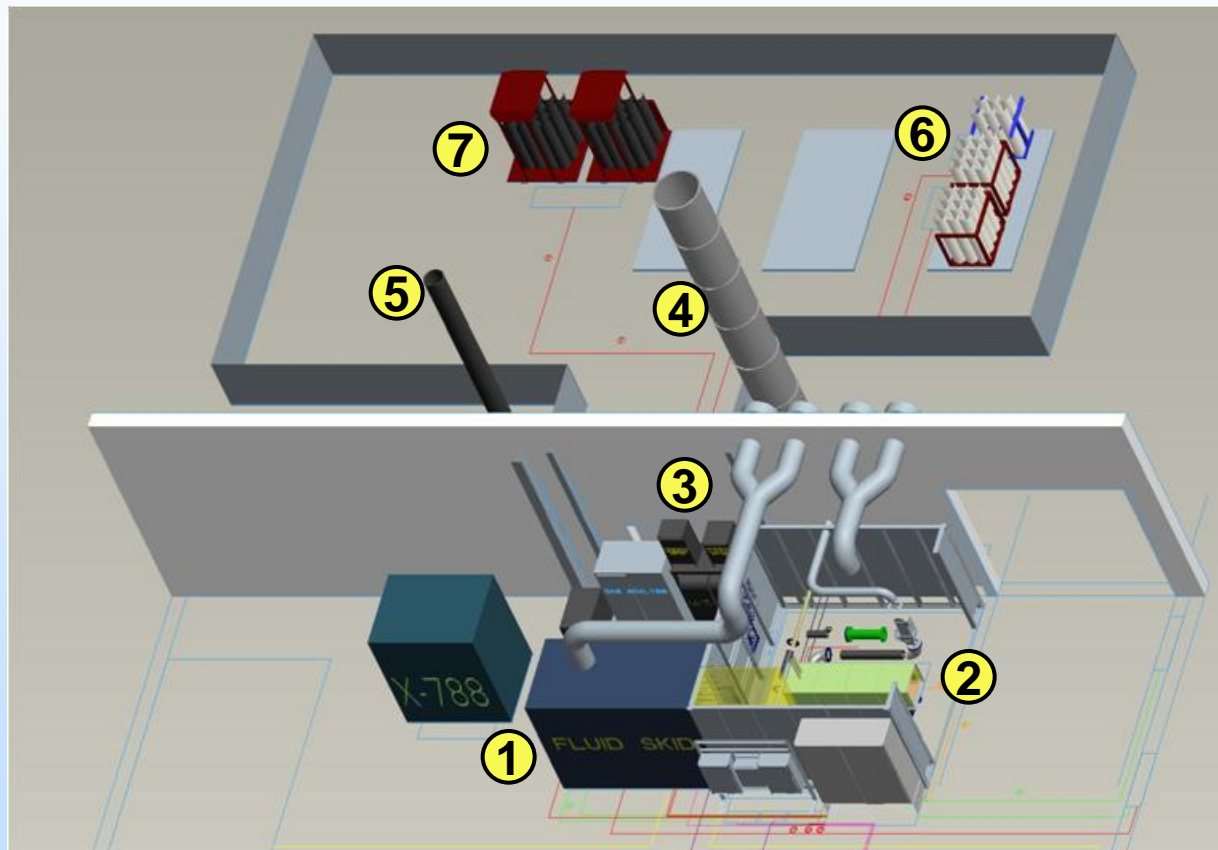
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## 50kW Test Stand

- Automated operation
- Provide anode/cathode gases
  - Forming gas, 50%/50% H<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>, Coal syngas
  - 750°C-775°C process gas temperature
- Provide loads up to 50kW
  - 400 amperes/600 volts
- Tested/commissioned in Q2, 2011 using extensive testing on debug stack
- Currently testing Delphi stack module for 1500 hr endurance

# 50KW TEST STAND

## Test Facility



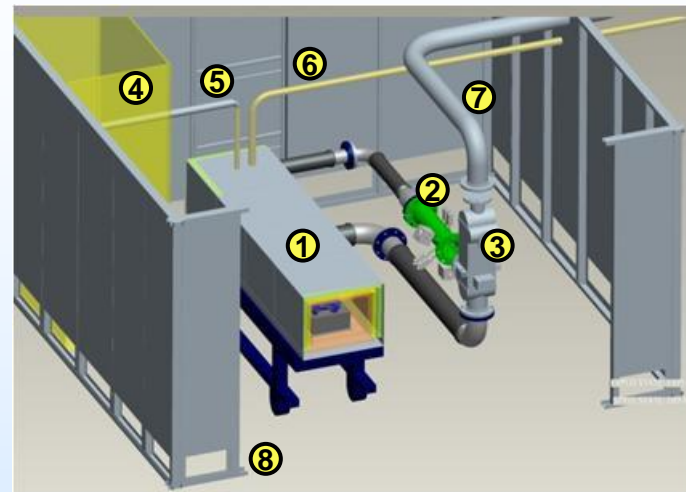
Piping, heat exchanger  
and heater insulation not  
shown

- ❶ Fluid Management Skid
- ❷ Test Room
- ❸ Load Bank
- ❹ Afterburner
- ❺ Cathode Exhaust
- ❻ Emergency air, 4% $H_2$  bottles
- ❼ Methane Bottles

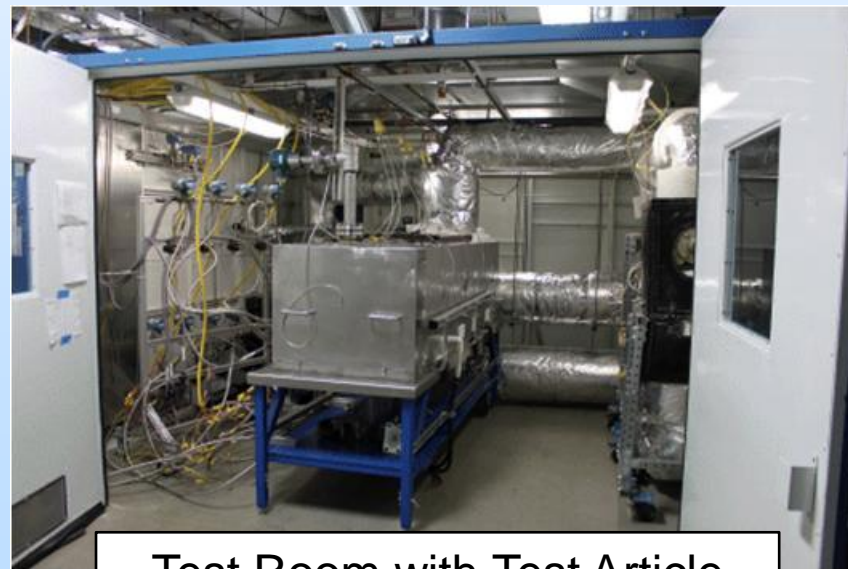
# 50KW TEST STAND

## Test Room

- ❶ Test Article (in Hot Box)
- ❷ Cathode Heater
- ❸ Cathode Recuperative Heat Exchanger
- ❹ Anode Constituent Heaters
- ❺ Anode Supply
- ❻ Anode Exhaust
- ❼ Cathode Exhaust
- ❽ Test Article Room



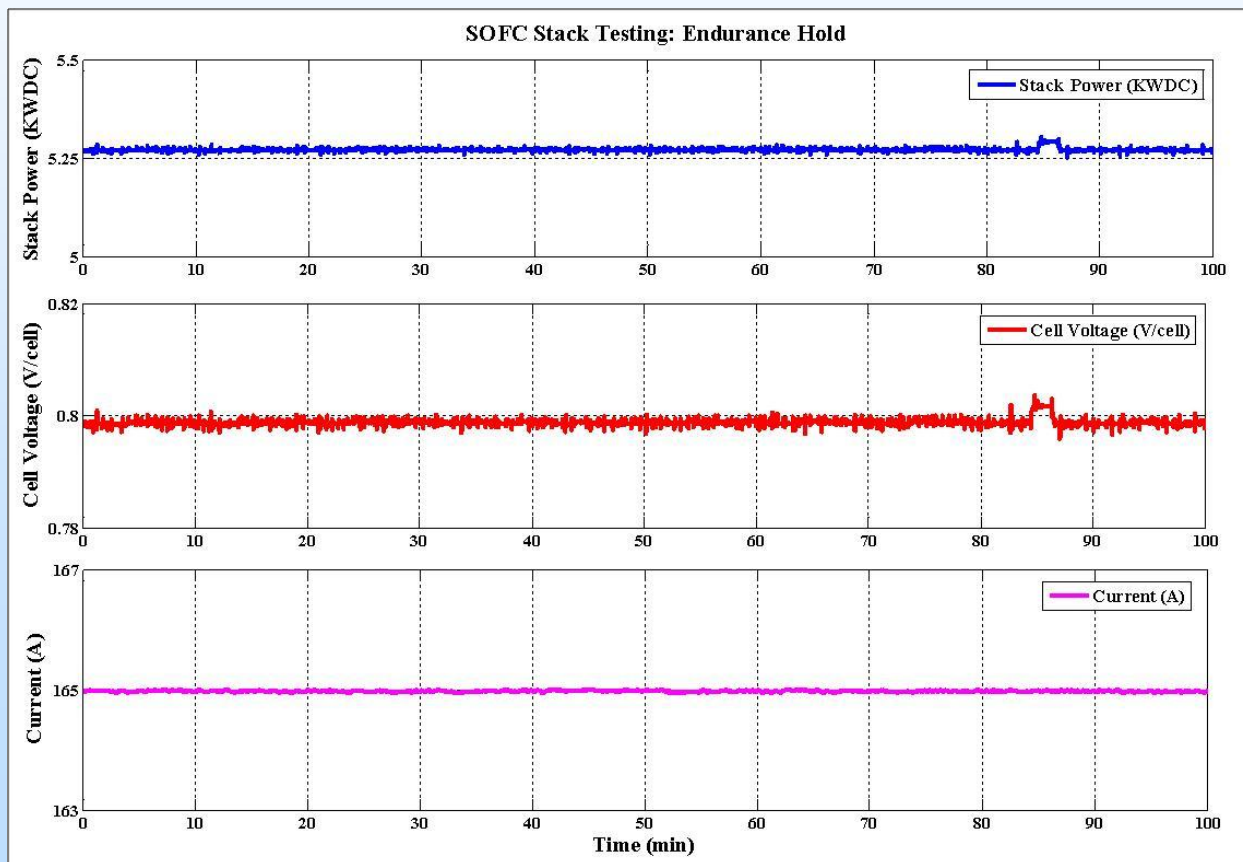
Test Room



Test Room with Test Article

# 1500 HR ENDURANCE HOLD

- Started 1500 hr endurance hold with 2-stack module
  - Coal gas: (23.79% $\text{H}_2$ -46.9% $\text{CO}_2$ -11.95% $\text{CH}_4$ -7.36% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
  - NOC point: 0.8V/cell at 165A & 5.2kW
  - Stack performance stable



# TASK 7

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## Power Module Design

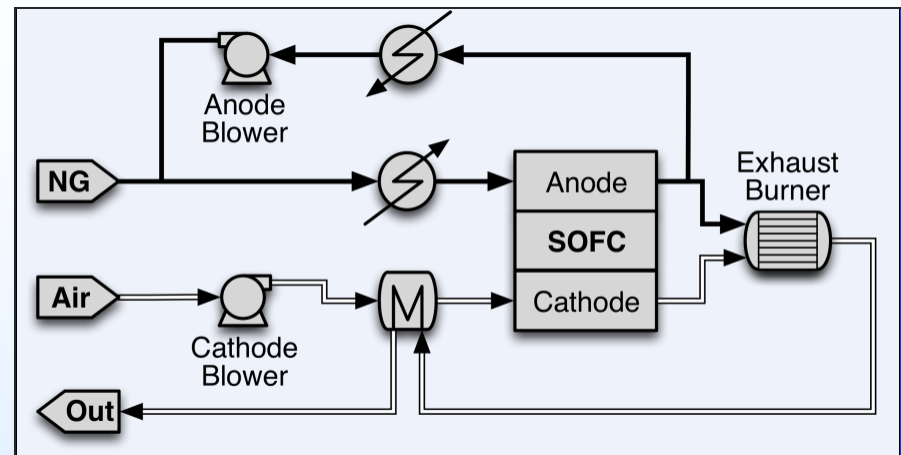
- **12 systems designed and analyzed**
  - Categorized into 4 groups
- **All systems designed for 400 kW net AC and  $\eta \geq 60\%$  (LHV)**
- **Heat-up and power ramp studies were performed**
- **Conceptual design decisions based on**
  - Customer value drivers: **C**ost, **E**fficiency, **R**eliability, **O**perability
  - Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for critical components: Blowers, HEX, Desulfurizer
- **Design decisions driven by**
  - System design simplification
  - Component interface conditions: Lower recycle blower inlet temperature, Improve desulfurization step, Meet stack interface conditions



# COAL-GAS POWER MODULE

## Design Features:

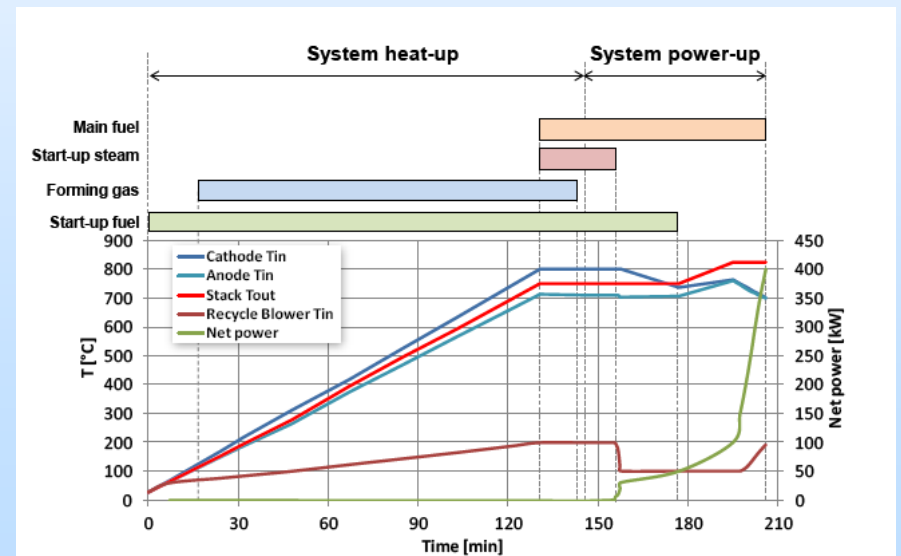
- Simplified FPS
- Fuel recycle for efficiency and fuel pre-heat
- Anode HEX for lower blower temp, pre-heat coal gas
- Cat burner for emissions management and air pre-heat



**Coal-gas (CG) Power Module concept**

Net AC power	400	[kW]
System electrical efficiency (LHV of CG)	60.3	[%]
Cell voltage	800	[mV]
Stack inlet temperature	700	[°C]
Stack outlet temperature	825	[°C]
Single pass fuel utilization	80.0	[%]
Overall fuel utilization	90.0	[%]
Steam/Carbon at anode inlet	2.0	[-]
Anode exhaust recycle ratio	55.8	[%]
Recycle blower inlet temperature	193	[°C]
Stack oxygen utilization	27.1	[%]

## Key Power Module Requirements



**Simulation results of CG system start-up**

# POWER MODULE CONCEPTS

## Preliminary Concept Down-select

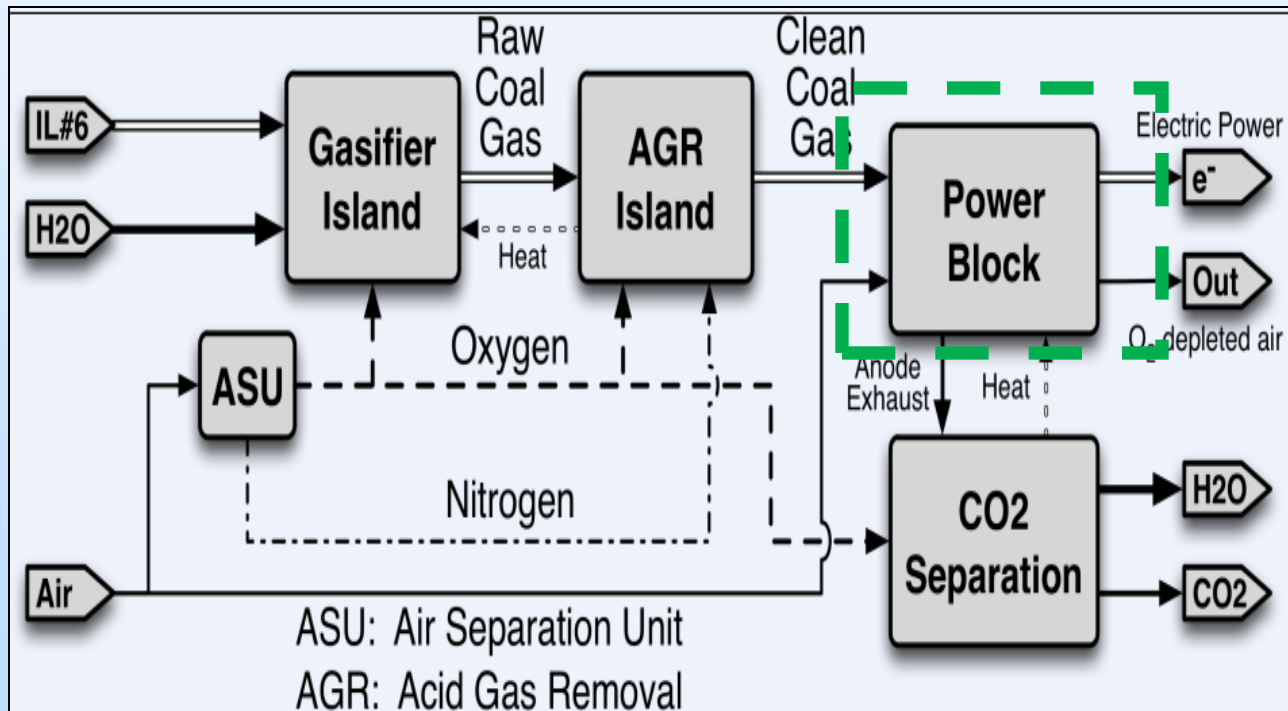
<div>Concepts</div> <div>Metrics</div>	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	Concept 4
	Integrated FPS-CB with Anode Recycle	Integrated APS-CB with Anode Recycle	Integrated APS-CB with Anode and FPS Recycle	Integrated APS-CB-Boiler with Anode and FPS Recycle
<b>Efficiency</b> ( $\eta \geq 60\%$ (LHV))				
<b>Reliability</b> (Relative Scale)				
<b>Operability</b> (Relative Scale)				
<b>Cost</b> (<700 \$/kWe)				
<b>TRL</b> (> TRL6)				

FPS – Fuel Processing System; APS – Air Processing System; CB – Catalytic Burner



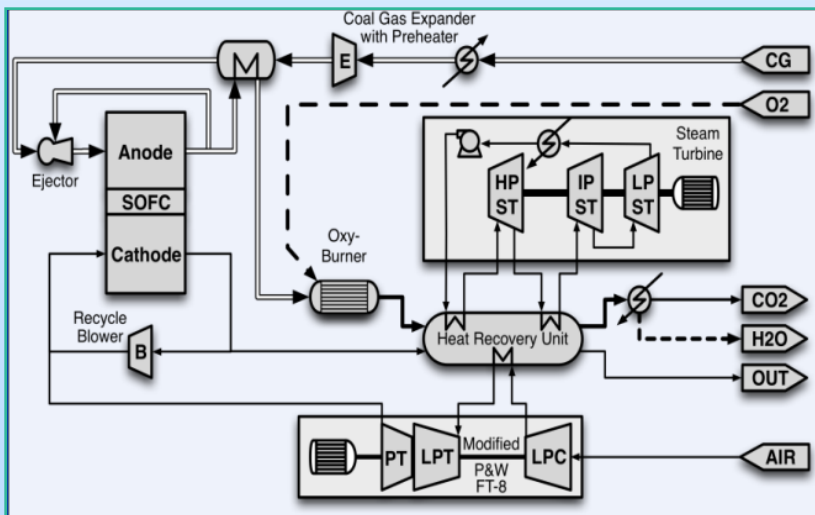
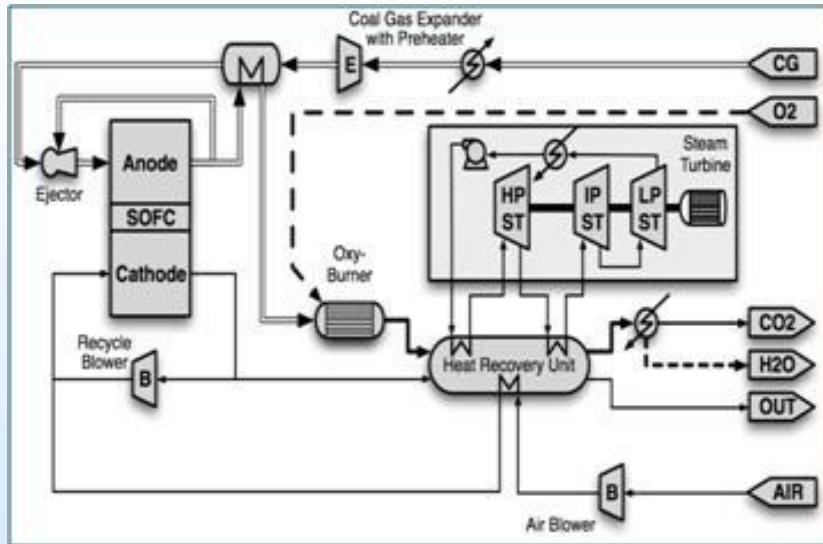
# IGFC SYSTEM DESIGN

- **3 system concepts designed and analyzed**
  - Atmospheric SOFC/ST system with air blower
  - Atmospheric SOFC/ST system with gas turbine
  - Pressurized SOFC/ST system with gas turbine
- **All concepts designed for 100 MW net AC power,  $\eta \geq 50\%$  (HHV), and  $\geq 90\%$  carbon capture**



# IGFC POWER BLOCK DESIGN

## Atm. SOFC/ST/GT - Performance Comparison



	Atmospheric	
	SOFC/ST $U_{f,p} = 80\%$	SOFC/ST/GT $U_{f,p} = 80\%$
<b>Net Efficiency* [% , HHV]</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>57.0</b>
<b>Net AC Power [MW]</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>122.0</b>
SOFC AC [% gross]	87.7	80.0
Steam Cycle [% gross]	9.0	5.7
Coal-gas Expander [% gross]	3.3	3.2
Gas Turbine [% gross]	—	11.1

### Model Assumptions

Cell voltage= 0.8V/cell

Per pass fuel utilization = 80%

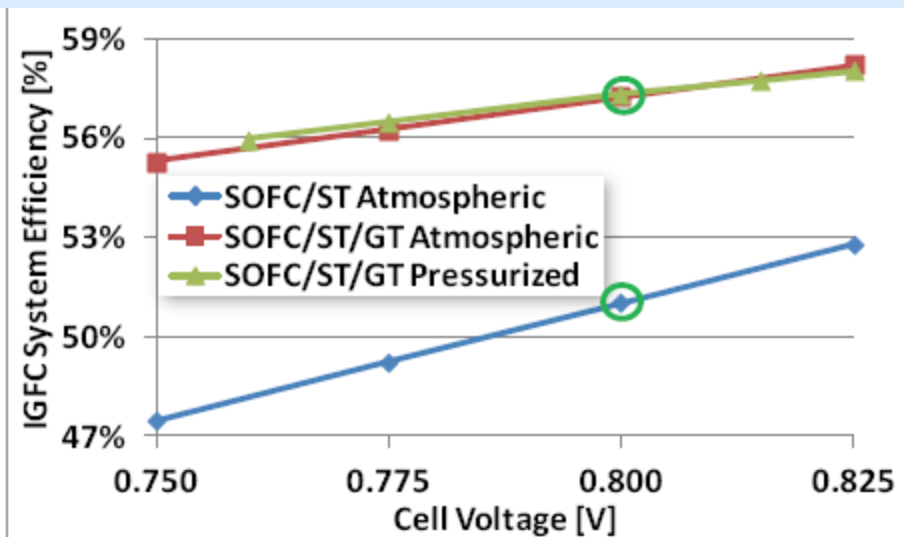
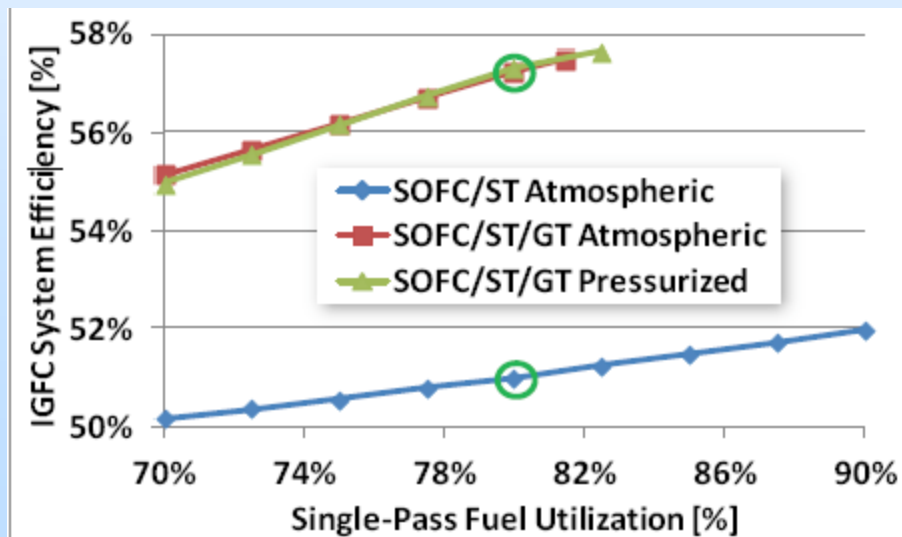
Overall fuel utilization = 90%

Inverter efficiency = 97%

# IGFC POWER BLOCK DESIGN

## IGFC Performance – Sensitivity Analysis

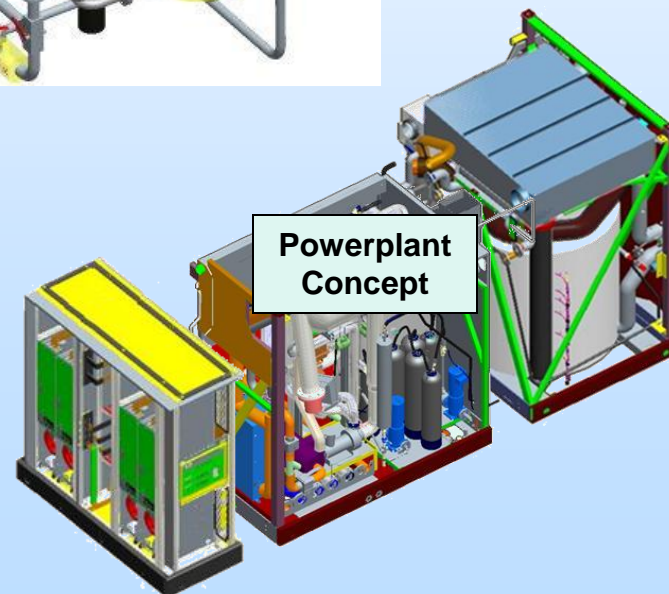
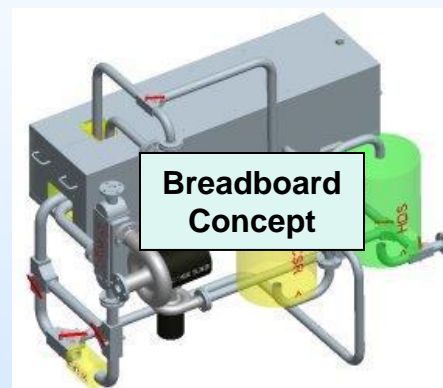
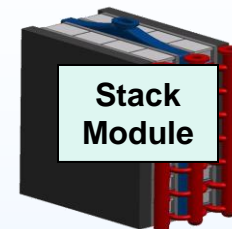
- 1-D sensitivity analyses performed with key system parameters
- 3 IGFC designs meet DOE requirements over broad range of parameters
- Studied operating variables to be modified to maintain performance



# FUTURE WORK

## Phase II

- Continue cost reduction of stack and power plant components
- Design high power stack module utilizing results of stack array testing
- Focus on system development leveraging existing stationary platforms
- Develop breadboard to test power plant components at 25 kW scale
- Demonstrate scalable 100+ kW power plant



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Battelle**



Thanks to Shailesh Vora, Joe Stoffa, Briggs White, and Heather Quedenfeld of the DOE for their support and technical guidance

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# BACKUP SLIDES

# PHASE I OBJECTIVES

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## Task 6

- Design, build and commission a test stand capable of testing SOFC stacks up to 50 kW
- Complete 1500 hours of stack module operation

## Task 7

- 250-1000kW power module design
- 5MW proof of concept design
- IGFC system development

# GEN 4 STACK MAXIMUM POWER CELL PERFORMANCE

