ADVANCED GAS FOIL BEARING DESIGN FOR SUPERCRITICAL CO, POWER CYCLES

Foil Bearings

- Spinning shaft rides on thin film of process fluid
- No petroleum oil or grease
- No rotating parts
- Uses high lubricity coating for start/stops
- Transient overload capacity
- High speeds without rotordynamic instability



Why Foil Bearings for Supercritical CO₂?

- No wear during steady-state operation
- No lubricant, so no contamination issues or lube support systems
- Can tolerate high pressure & temperature
- Permits hermetic sealing
- No maintenance
- Base technology proven since 1960's

Supercritical CO₂ as a working fluid



Anticipated envelope for sCO2 power cycles in the multi-MW class

Blower

Solar Chiller

Blower



Design Innovations Required to Apply Technology

1. Hydrostatic Boost

- and stiffness

- 2. Coatings
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Pin-on-Disk Test Samples **Top Foil Test Sample**



Injects process gas into bearing Greatly increases load capacity Compliant foil minimizes hydrostatic gas leakage Provides direct cooling Enabled by innovative inner/outer foil design





Standard foil coatings good to 230°C Foil coatings tested to 650°C Testing 1000°C "chameleon coatings"

Start-Stop Test Samples