

National Carbon Capture Center Technology Testing Update (FE0022596)

Tony Wu
Southern Company
August 12, 2021

U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Carbon Management and Natural Gas & Oil Research Project Review Meeting
Virtual Meetings August 2 through August 31, 2021



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



NC
NATIONAL CARBON
CAPTURE CENTER

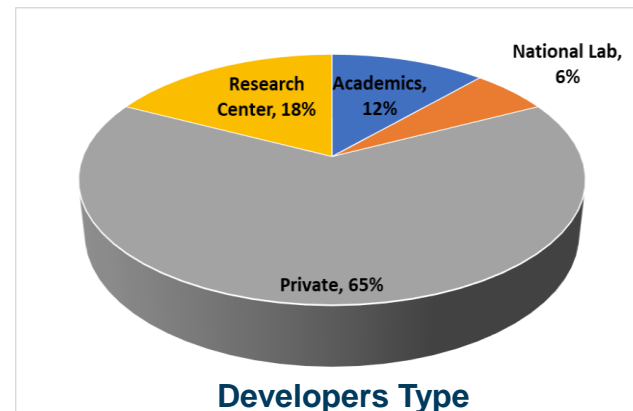
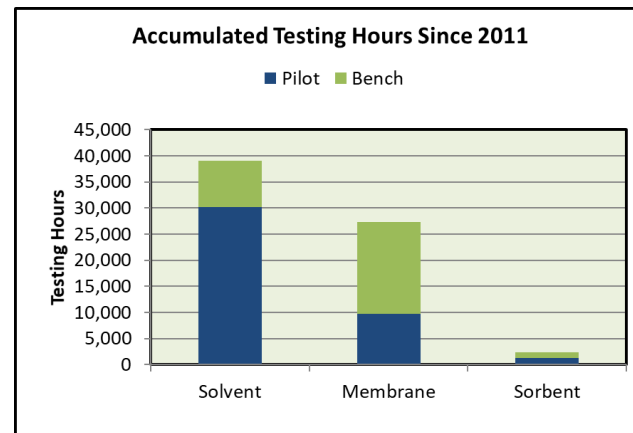
Nation Carbon Capture Center (NCCC)



- A **centralized test facility** providing comprehensive support for technology testing and evaluation
 - Process, engineering, operational, analytical, troubleshooting and maintenance
- Goal: **accelerating** technology development, scale-up, cost reduction and commercialization
 - CO₂ capture, utilization and removal
- Sponsored by **DOE/NETL, research and industrial partners**; managed by Southern Company
 - Coal, utility, research, oil & gas, policy
 - Project period: 2014-2025 (Current BP6)
 - Total \$348MM (DOE \$253.4MM / Non-DOE \$94.6MM)

NCCC by Numbers (2011-2021)

- **68,000+ hours** of performance data collected
 - Post-combustion capture and CO₂ utilization
- **46 technologies** from **33 developers** tested or planned
 - Solvent, membrane, sorbent & hybrid-based capture technologies
 - Chemical, fuel, concrete and algae-based utilization technologies
 - 65% are private companies
- **8 technologies** scaled up (or ready) to 10+ MW
 - Aker, Carbon Clean Solutions, ION Clean Energy, Linde, MTR, RTI, Shell Cansolv and UT Austin
- International testing collaboration: **7 countries**
 - Canada, China, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, UK



NCCC – Technical Program



CO₂ Capture

- Capture from coal-fired power plant since 2009
- Added capture from NG-derived flue gas in 2020
- Solvent, membrane, sorbent, hybrid technologies

CO₂ Utilization

- Added in 2020
- CO₂ to value-added products like building materials, fuels, plastics, chemicals & algae
- Evaluate additional infrastructure needed

CO₂ Removal - DAC

- Added in 2020
- Evaluate additional infrastructure needed
- Look to collaborate w/ national labs, universities and other research institutions

DAC: Direct Air Capture

NCCC – Facility Infrastructure

Plant Gaston: Host Site

- Coal flue gas
 - 35,000 lb/hr slipstream from U5 (890 MW supercritical)
 - Exhaust gas returns to Gaston
- MP/LP steam, water (demin, potable, filter-treated), IA and power
- Wastewater returns to Gaston for treatment and disposal

NCCC

- Test equipment, test bays and infrastructure
- NG flue gas from package boiler (new 2021)
 - 40,000 lb/hr flue gas
 - Exhaust stack
- LP steam, N₂ and cooling water



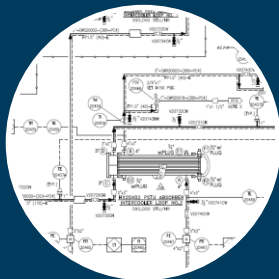
Located Inside APCo's E.C. Gaston Steam Plant

Project Development and Implementation

Safety First

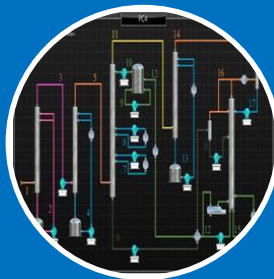
Contract

- Screening
- NDA/TCA
- Onboarding



Project Scope

- Process
- Modification
- Integration



Design

- Mechanical
- Instrument
- Control
- Electrical
- Civil



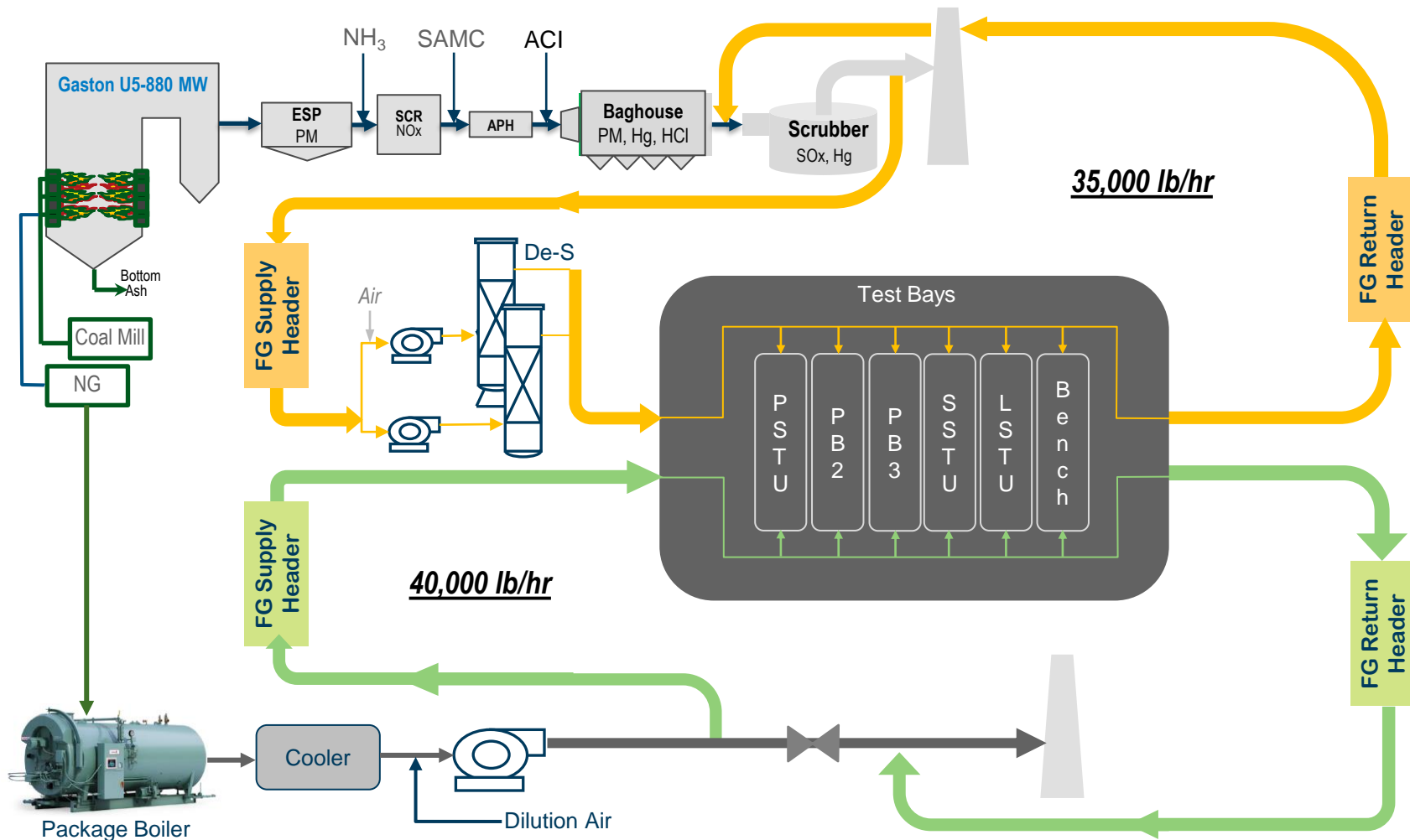
Construction

- Foundation
- Flue Gas
- Utilities
- Installation
- Interconnection



O&M

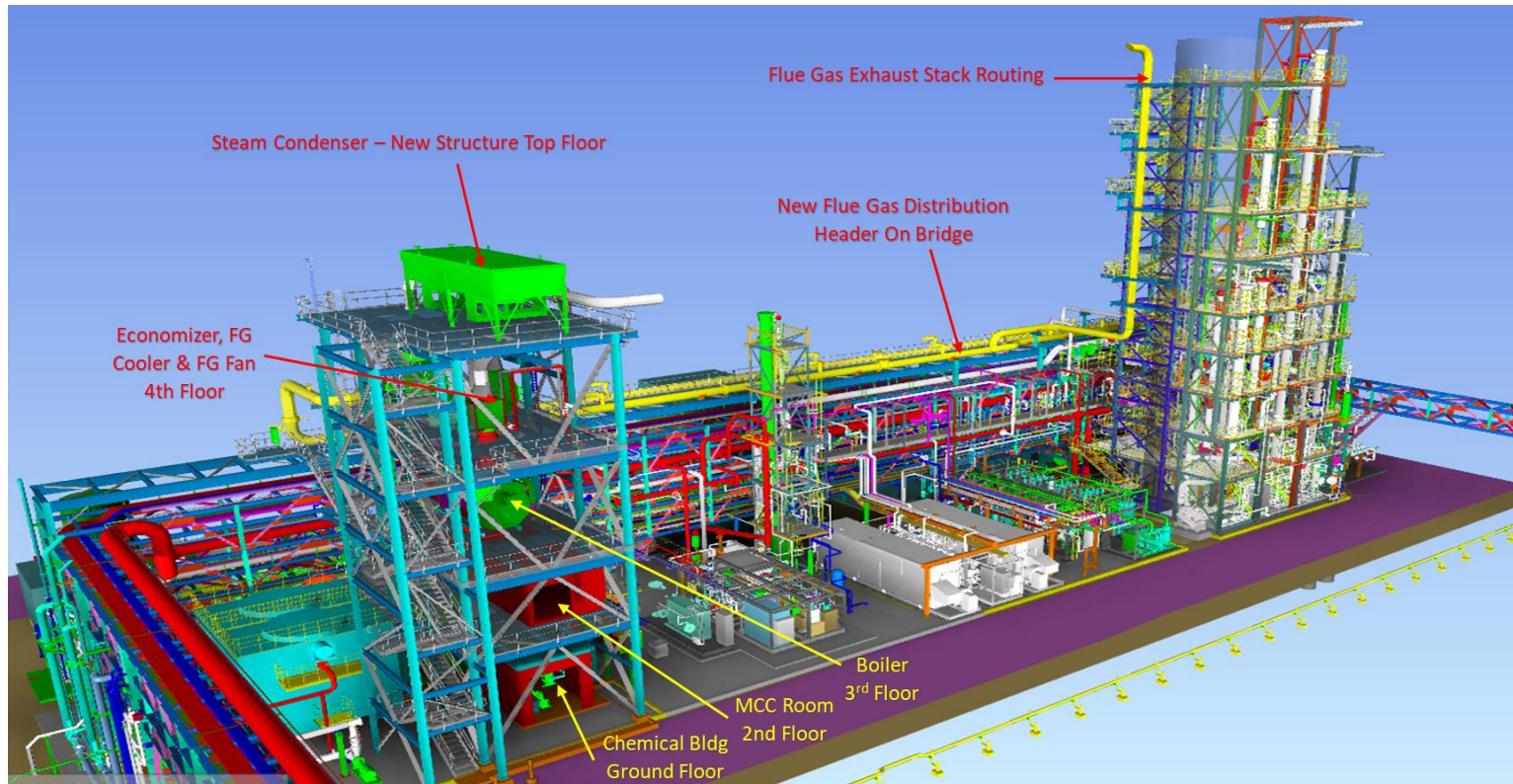
- Operate
- Test Support
- Analysis
- Troubleshoot
- Repair



**Coal FG Config
2011-**

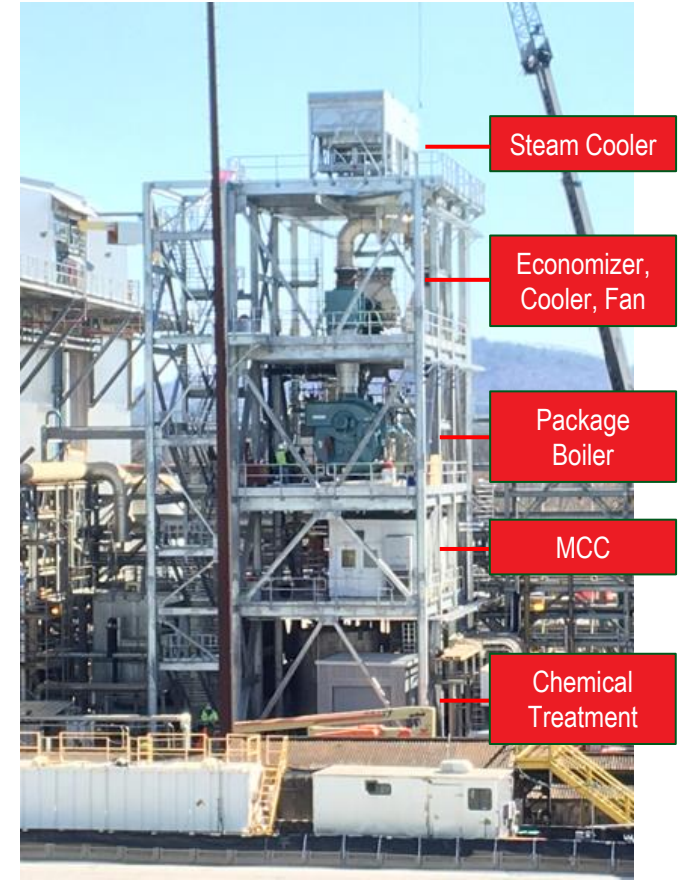
**NG FG Config
2021-**

Model View of NG Flue Gas Infrastructure

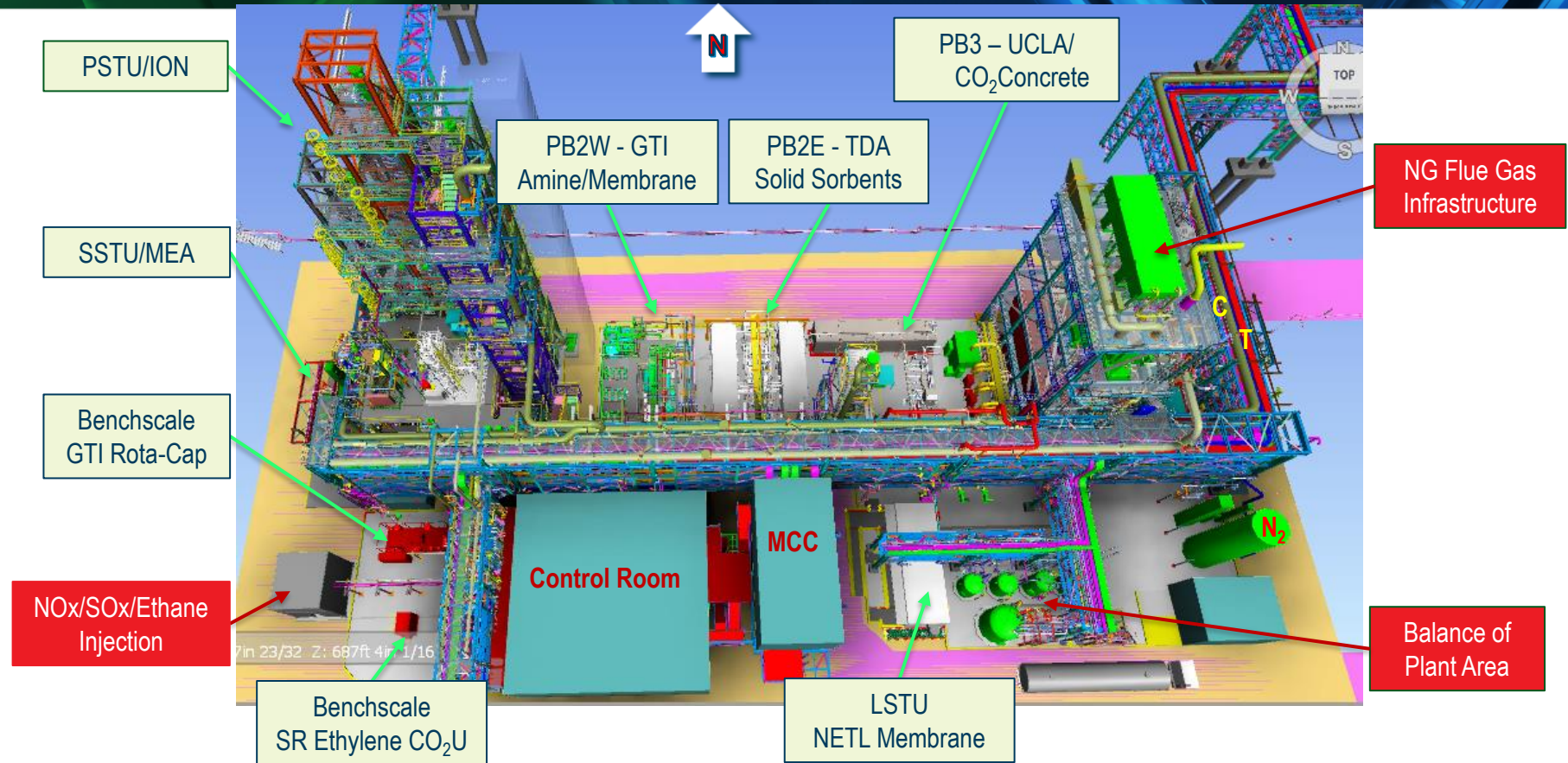


NG Flue Gas Infrastructure Project

- Project
 - Jan 2018: Started conceptual design
 - Apr 2019: Began construction
 - Nov 2020: Completed construction (after pandemic delay)
 - Mar 2021: Placed system In service to support technology testing
- Flue Gas Conditions
 - Boiler flue gas CO₂ ~ 8.5 vol%
 - Air dilution to simulate flue gas from NGCC (CO₂ ~ 4 vol%)
- Operation
 - Independent from plant Gaston U5 (coal)
 - Each test bay controls type of flue gas to receive
 - Swap between coal and NG flue gas with minimum interruption



Model View of Current Test Bays Layout



Test Bays and Equipment

Pilot Scale



Lab/Bench Scale

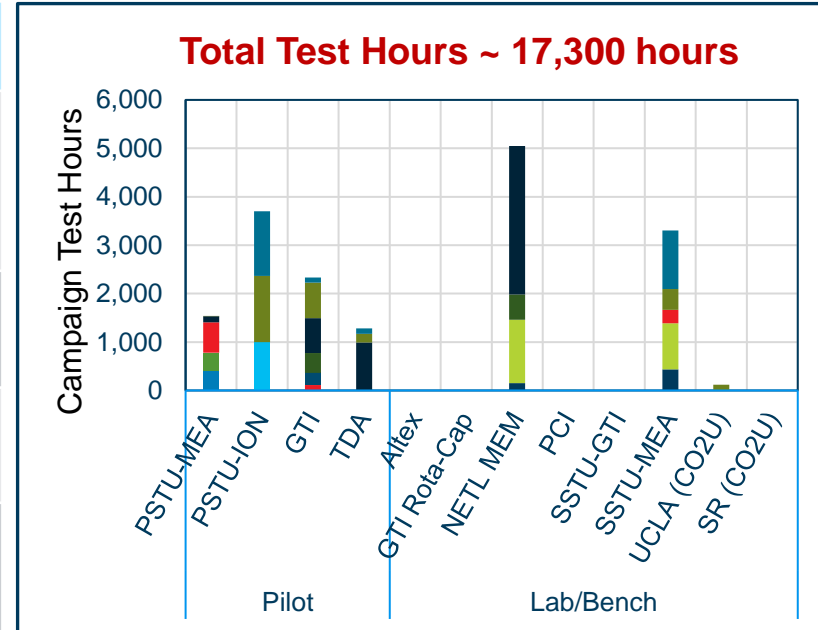


Benchscale



Current Technology Testing Portfolio

	Test Campaign (2021)	
Tech Areas	Pilot	Lab/Bench
Solvent/ Contactor	PSTU ION PSTU MEA (re-baseline) GTI HFM Contactor	SSTU MEA (re-baseline) SSTU GTI/CCSL GTI Rota-Cap
CO ₂ Membrane		NETL
Sorbent	TDA Sorbents	Altex Sorbents PCI Sorbents
CO ₂ Utilization		SR- Ethylene UCLA- Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



2021 Test Campaign- Solvent & Contactor

ION Solvent (FE0031727)

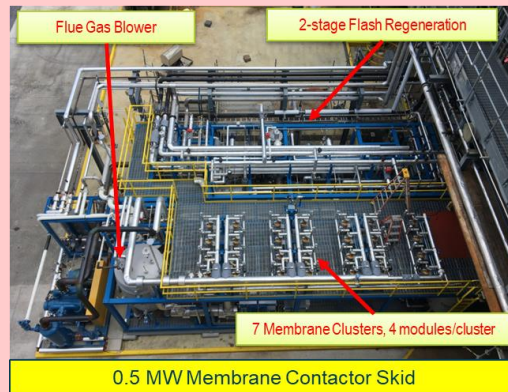
- Amine-based (ICE-31)
- Excellent chemical stability in the presence of O_2
- Excellent specific reboiler duty
- Validate model in ProTreat[®]
- **Test started in Mar 2021 and is ongoing**



Pilot Solvent Test Unit (PSTU)

GTI HFM Contactor (FE0012829)

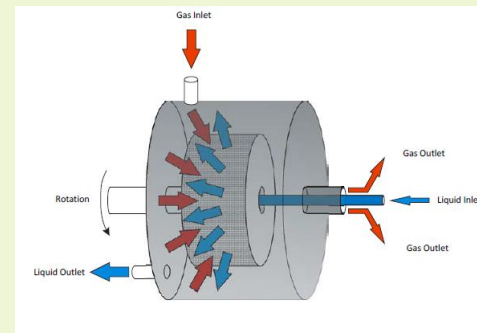
- High surface area HFM contactor
- Installed in 2017 & operated 2,330 Hours on coal flue gas
- Skids modified based on field test experiences
- Membrane performance declines upon cycling - investigation continues
- **Testing w/ NG flue gas completed in July 2021. Data is being analyzed.**



0.5 MW Membrane Contactor Skid

GTI Rota-Cap (FE0031630)

- CCSL intensified solvent (APBS-2) → reduce E & equipment size
- GTI rotating packed bed (RPB) absorber & regenerator → improve mass transfer → volume reduction
- Skids fabricated and test is ongoing at GTI
- **Skid delivery targets in Sep 2021**



2021 Test Campaign- Sorbents

PCI (SC0017221)

- Nano-sorbents on tailorable mesh substrate (Microlith®)
- High surface area, heat & mass transfer rates
- Lower ΔP vs. pellet sorbent, and comparable ΔP vs. monoliths
- Tested at NCCC briefly in Mar 2020
- **Return in Oct 2021 for additional testing**



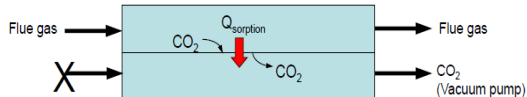
Nano-sorbents coated on Microlith mesh

Altex (SC0013823)

- Intensified Sorbent Process-sorbents coated on both sides of HX
- Low cost and compact Microchannel Heat Exchanger (MCHEX) wash-coated w/ PSU Molecular Basket Sorbents (MSB)
- **Skid delivery targets Oct 2021**



Double-Sided Absorber – Combined Sorption and Desorption Cycles
Integrate heat of sorption with heat of desorption.



TDA (FE0012870)

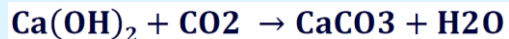
- Alkalized alumina adsorbent- Low cost & heat of ads
- Near isothermal op at 150 °C
- Installed in 2017 & operated 1,280 hours
- Achieved >90% CO₂ capture @ >95% CO₂ purity
- Sorbents reprocessed in 2018 and replaced in May 2021
- **Test resumed in July 2021**



2021 Test Campaign- CO₂ Utilization

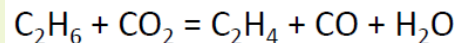
UCLA (FE0031718)

- CO₂ mineralization for concrete production
- X-PRIZE winner
- 3/2 – 3/25, 2021 test completed using both coal and NG flue gas
- Produced 5,000+ blocks
- Achieved >75% CO₂ utilization
- Blocks met industrial standard
- Will return in 2022 for more test (FE0031915)



SR (FE0031713)

- Thermocatalytic process - 150 °C, lower op T than steam cracking
- Use nano-engineered catalyst
- High ethylene selectivity and productivity
- Ethane/SO₂ gas injection system installed and commissioned
- Commissioning started in July 2021



Confirmed Future Technology Tests

Program	Technology	Pilot Scale	Lab/Bench Scale
CO ₂ Capture	Solvent/Contactor	CERI (non-DOE) UT PZAS EPRI/PNNL	
	CO ₂ Membrane		GTI MTR OSU SUNY Buffalo
	Sorbent		SUNY Buffalo
	Others		Carbon America (cryo)
CO ₂ Utilization	Algae		Helios-NRG
	Concrete		UCLA (2 nd Project)
DAC	Sorbent		SSEB/Global Thermostat

Acknowledgements



Nationalcarboncapturecenter.com

Special
Thanks to
NETL/DOE

Andy O'Palko
Dan Hancu
Lynn Brickett
Amishi Kumar



Acknowledgement & Disclaimer

Acknowledgment: "This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Number(s) DE-FE0022596."

Disclaimer: *"This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof."*