High-Efficiency, Low-Cost, Additive-Manufactured Air Contactor

Project Number DE-AR0001412

Mike Izenson
Creare LLC

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Program Overview

1. Funding: $784K DOE SBIR funding

2. Overall Project Performance Dates
   a. Two-year period of performance
   b. Start date: TBD (currently finalizing contract)

3. Project Participants
   a. Creare LLC: Contactor analysis, design, testing
   b. RTI International (RTI): Sorbent development and preparation
   c. Edare LLC: Contactor fabrication

4. Overall Project Objectives
   a. Demonstrate contactor fabrication
   b. Measure sorption performance
   c. Multi-scale CFD analysis
   d. Concept design for large-scale system
   e. Techno-economic analysis
Technology Background

1. DAC Concept
   a. Wind driven
   b. Additive-manufactured, modular, high-efficiency contactor
   c. Advanced amine sorbent coatings from RTI

2. Supporting Data
   a. Additive manufacturing for compact heat exchangers
   b. Sorbent performance under flue gas conditions

3. Advantages
   a. Low-cost contactors and sorbents
   b. Optimized for wind-driven operation

4. Challenges
   a. Scale-up
   b. Lifetime qualification
Technical Approach/Project Scope

1. Experimental Design and Work Plan
   a. Produce modular AM metal contactor core
   b. Develop and optimize sorbent coating
   c. Measure performance of contactor modules
   d. Analyze wind-driven installation and sorption processes in single channel using CFD
   e. Perform TEA based on test results and analysis

2. Key Milestones
   a. Phase I: Contactor performance and results of initial TEA
   b. Phase II: Performance and durability testing, large-scale system concept design, final TEA

3. Success Criteria
   a. Sorbent loading and cyclic sorption capacity
   b. Excellent durability for 10 to 100 cycles
   c. Estimated capture cost < $100 / t CO₂
Team and Facilities

Mike Izenson, Creare  Scott Phillips, Creare  Mustapha Soukri, RTI  Jeff Mecham, RTI

Creare General-Purpose Labs  RTI Lab 288
Progress and Current Status

1. Equipment to be Used/Built in the Project
   a. Contactor core fabrication and assembly facilities (existing)
   b. Contactor module performance test rig
   c. Computational models for wind-driven contactor
   d. Dendrimer sorbent synthesis (existing)
   e. Sorbent coating development and test capabilities

2. Significant Accomplishments and How They Tie to the Technology Challenges
   a. Prior work on modular AM heat exchangers – shows feasibility of low-cost manufacture of high-performance contactors
   b. Prior work on amine sorbents for CO$_2$ capture from flue gas – shows feasibility of high CO$_2$ cyclic sorption capacity at low operating temperatures

3. Current Status
   a. Project is just getting started
Opportunities for Collaboration

1. Synergistic Effects
   a. Accelerate large-scale demonstration
   b. Accelerate commercialization

2. Potential Areas of Complementary Work
   a. Scale up manufacturing processes
   b. Scale-up of CO$_2$ capture demonstrations