

Design of a 1 MW Direct Fired Oxy-Fuel Combustor for sCO₂ Power Cycles

Introduction

Advantages of a direct-fired sCO₂ power cycle

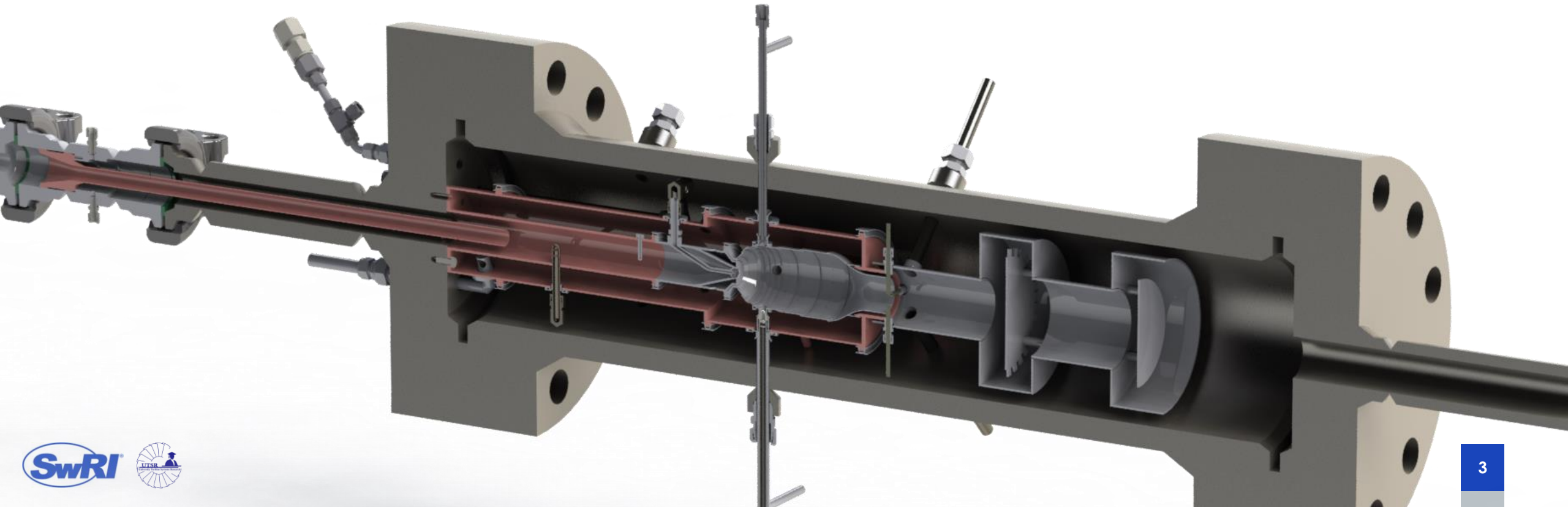
- Compact hardware
- Greater heat-addition efficiency
- Nearly 100% carbon capture

Challenges

- Lack of validated combustion modeling techniques
- High pressure and temperature

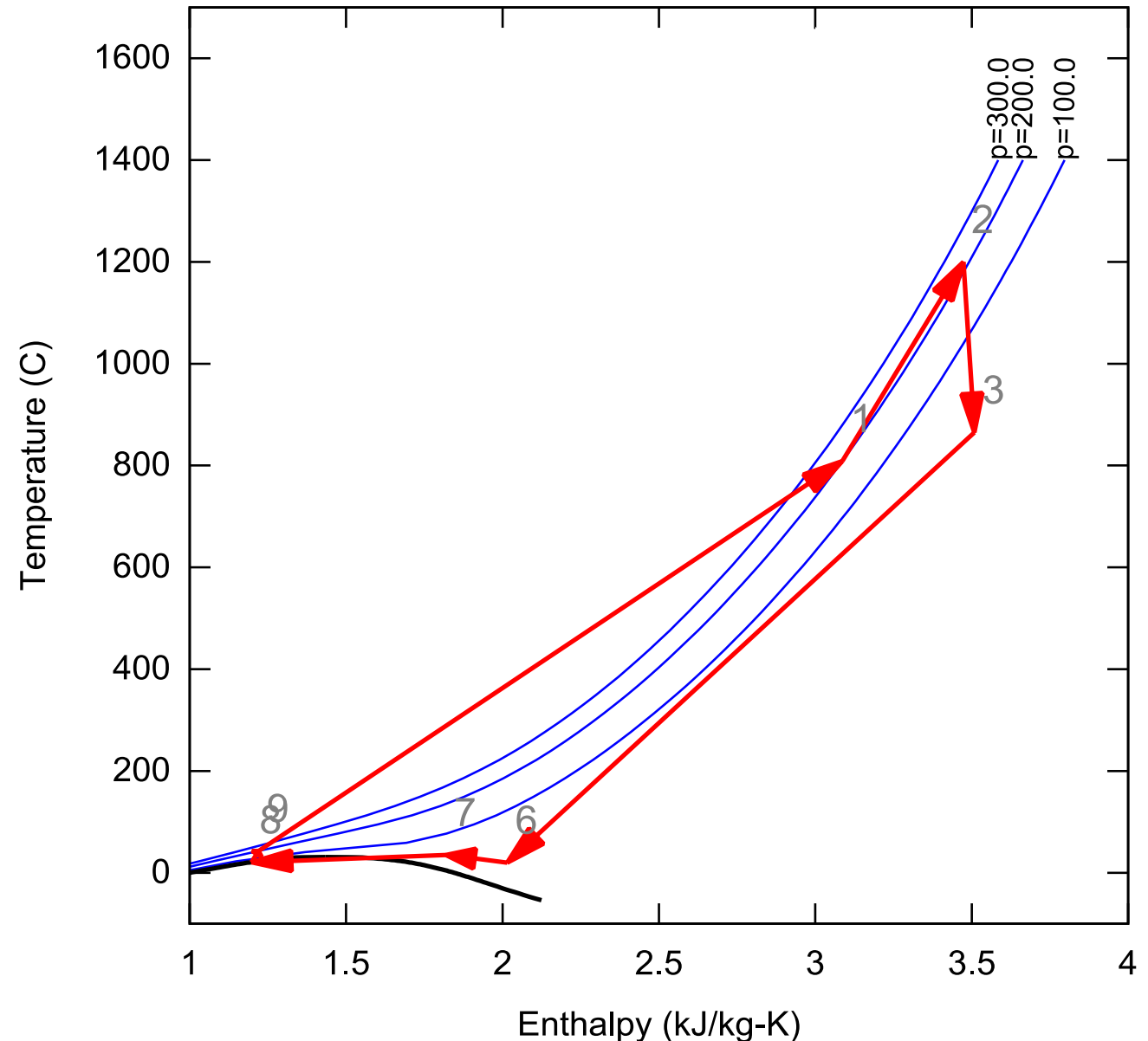
Project Objectives

- Design a 1 MW thermal oxy-fuel combustor capable of generating 1200°C outlet temperature
- Manufacture combustor, assemble test loop, and commission oxy-fuel combustor
- Evaluate and characterize combustor performance using optical access for advanced diagnostics



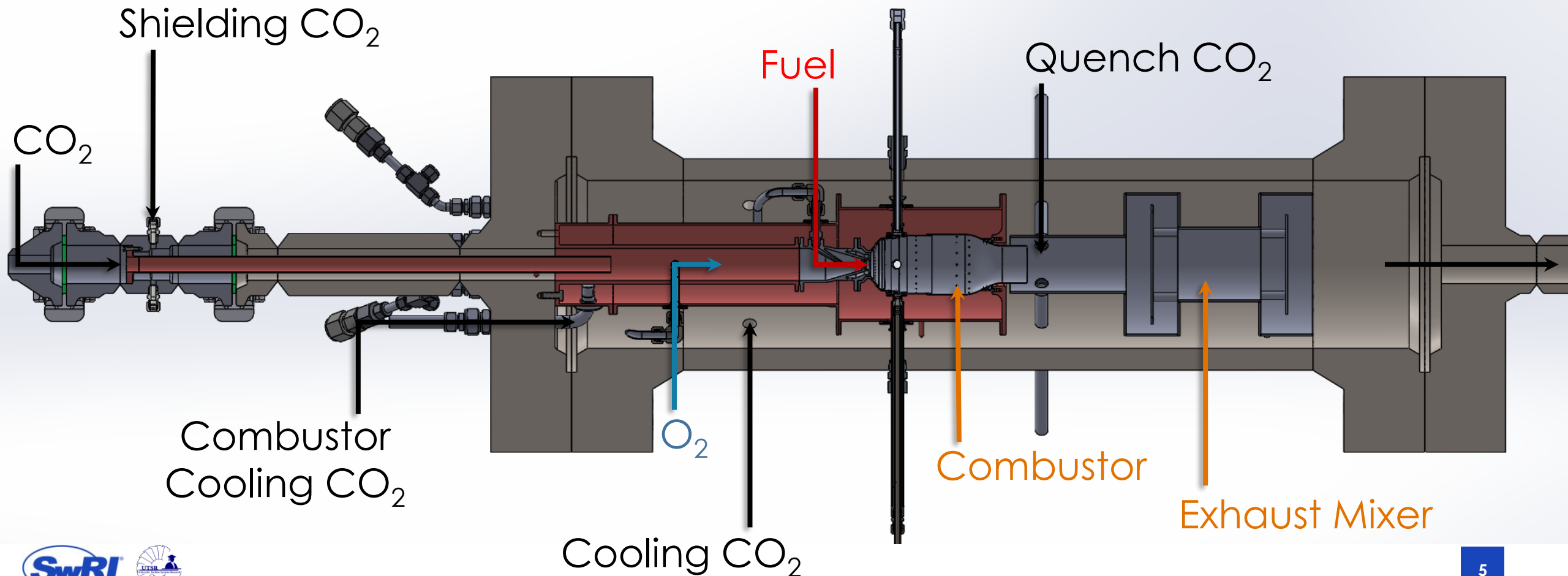
Cycle Conditions

- Combustor Inlet and Outlet temperatures dictated by reviewing previous cycle modeling work done at SwRI
- Combustor inlet temperature: 700°C at 200 bar
- Combustor outlet temperature: 1200°C
- Achieves a plant efficiency comparable to a NGCC power plant

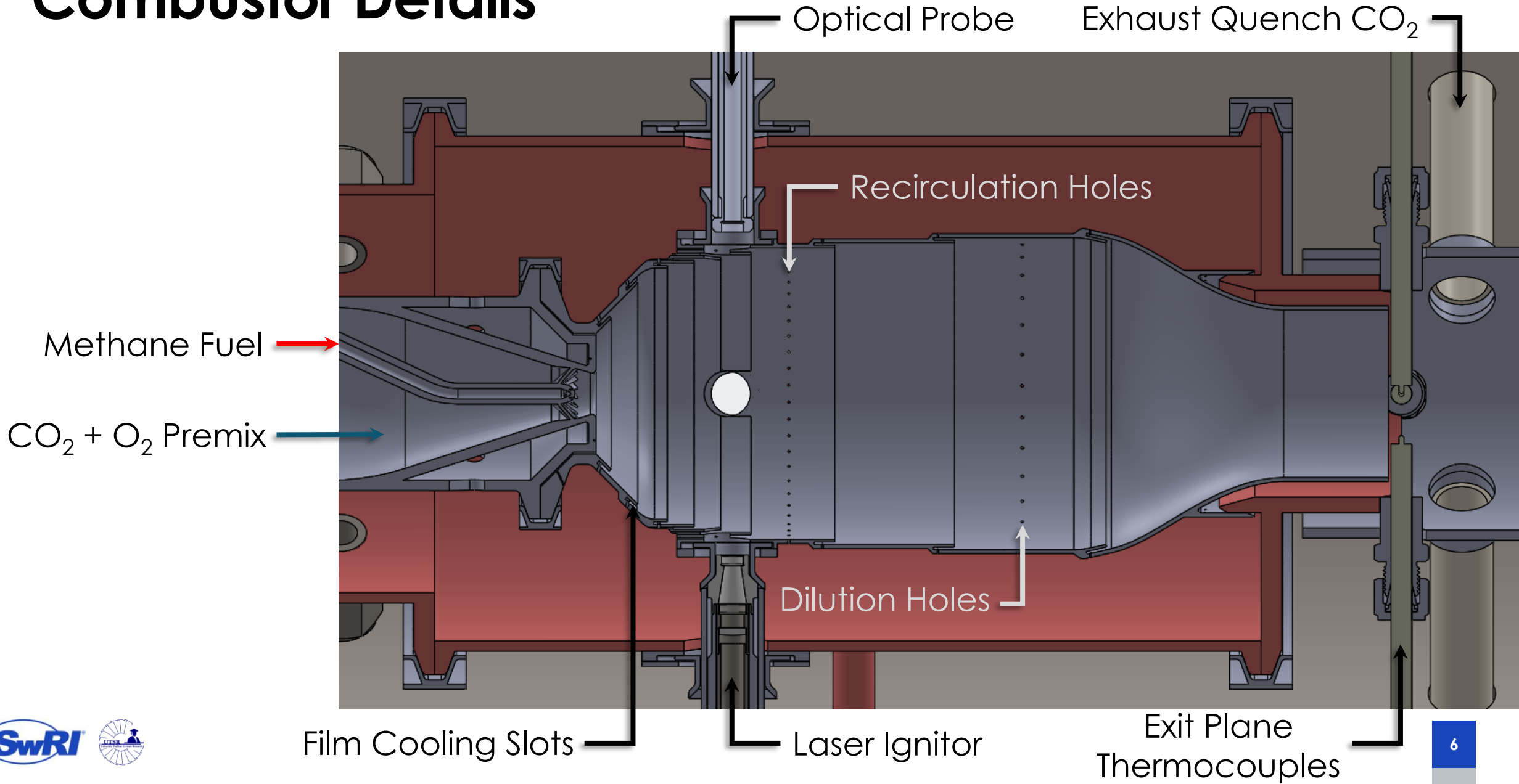


Combustor Schematic

Line	Temp (°C)
Main CO ₂ Line	700
Shielding/Quench CO ₂	90
Combustor Cooling CO ₂	350
Fuel/Oxygen	ambient
Combustor Exit	1200
Casing Exit	415

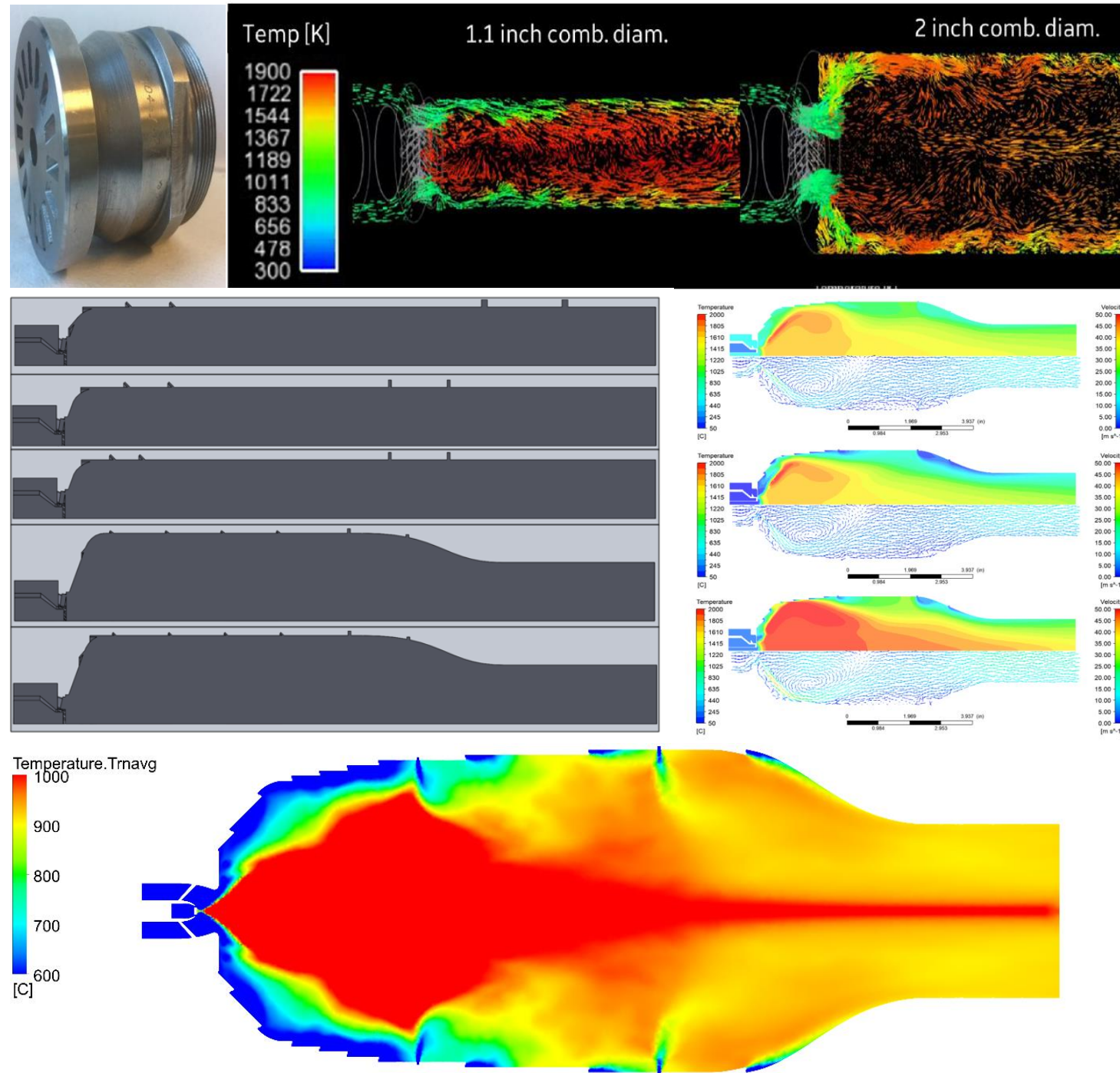


Combustor Details



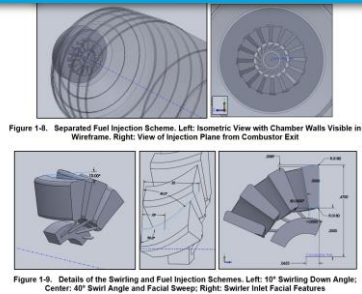
Combustor Design

- Design work began in conjunction with GE-GRC using a heritage swirler
- Design maturation focused on flame holding and film cooling
- Final combustor design uses film cooling slots, recirculation holes and dilution holes

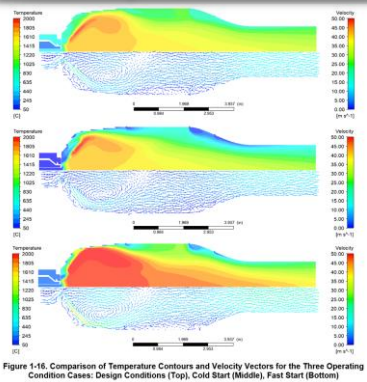


CFD Design

Injection and Swirl

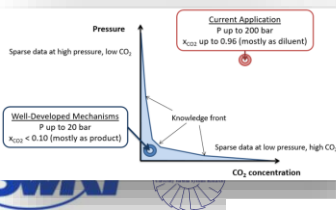


Startup Conditions

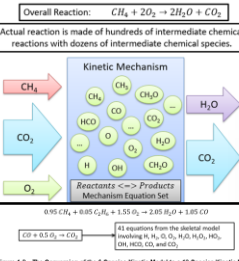


Chemical Kinetics

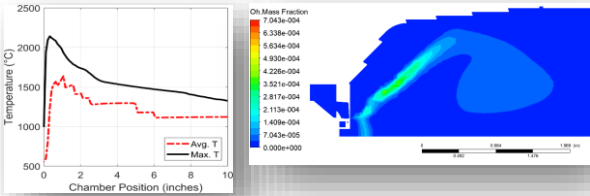
Kinetics Knowledge Base



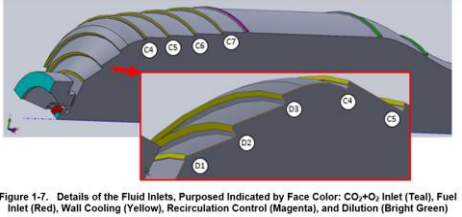
Chemical Reaction Kinetics



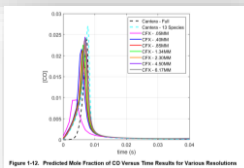
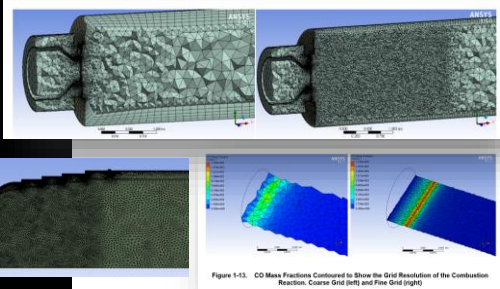
Heat Release And Flame Holding



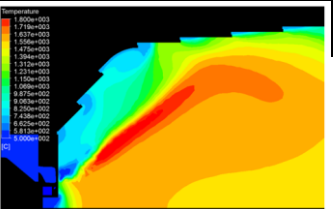
Cooling/Recirculation Schemes



Mesh Sensitivity



Wall Temperatures



Equation of State and Turbulence

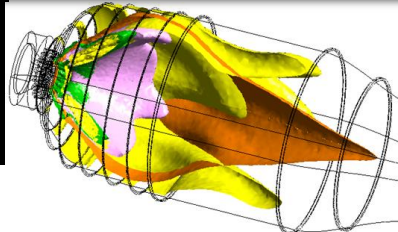
$k - \omega$
RANS

Pseudo-Steady State

ANSYS FLUENT

Ideal Gas vs Cubic EOS

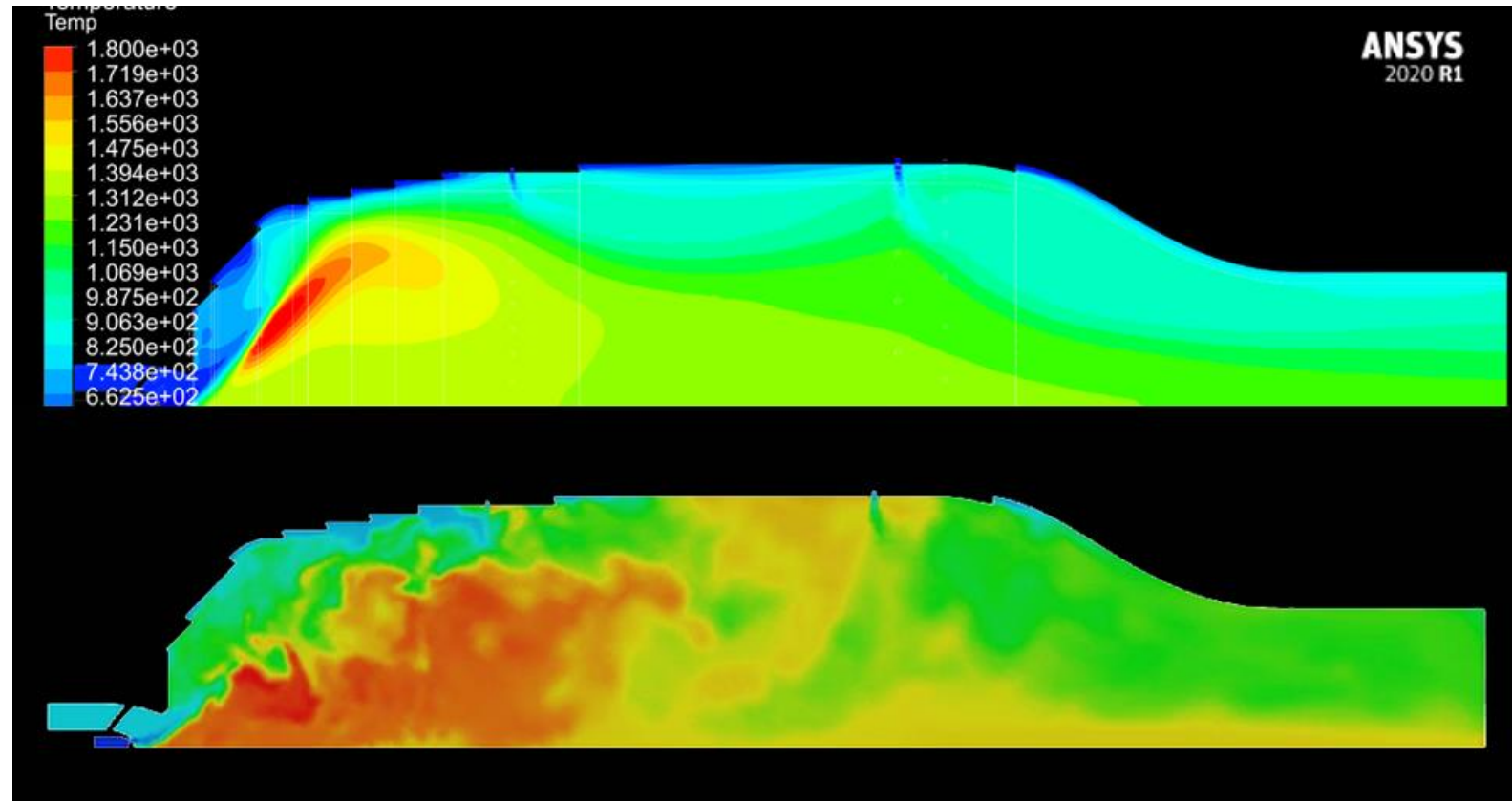
Unreacted Products



Combustor Design

The design process to this point has employed pseudo steady-state analysis using RANS simulations and realizable k- ϵ turbulence modeling. In an effort to improve the prediction of combustor hot spots, unsteady analysis was performed using the Delayed Detached Eddy Simulation (DDES) model

RANS Simulation



DDES Simulation

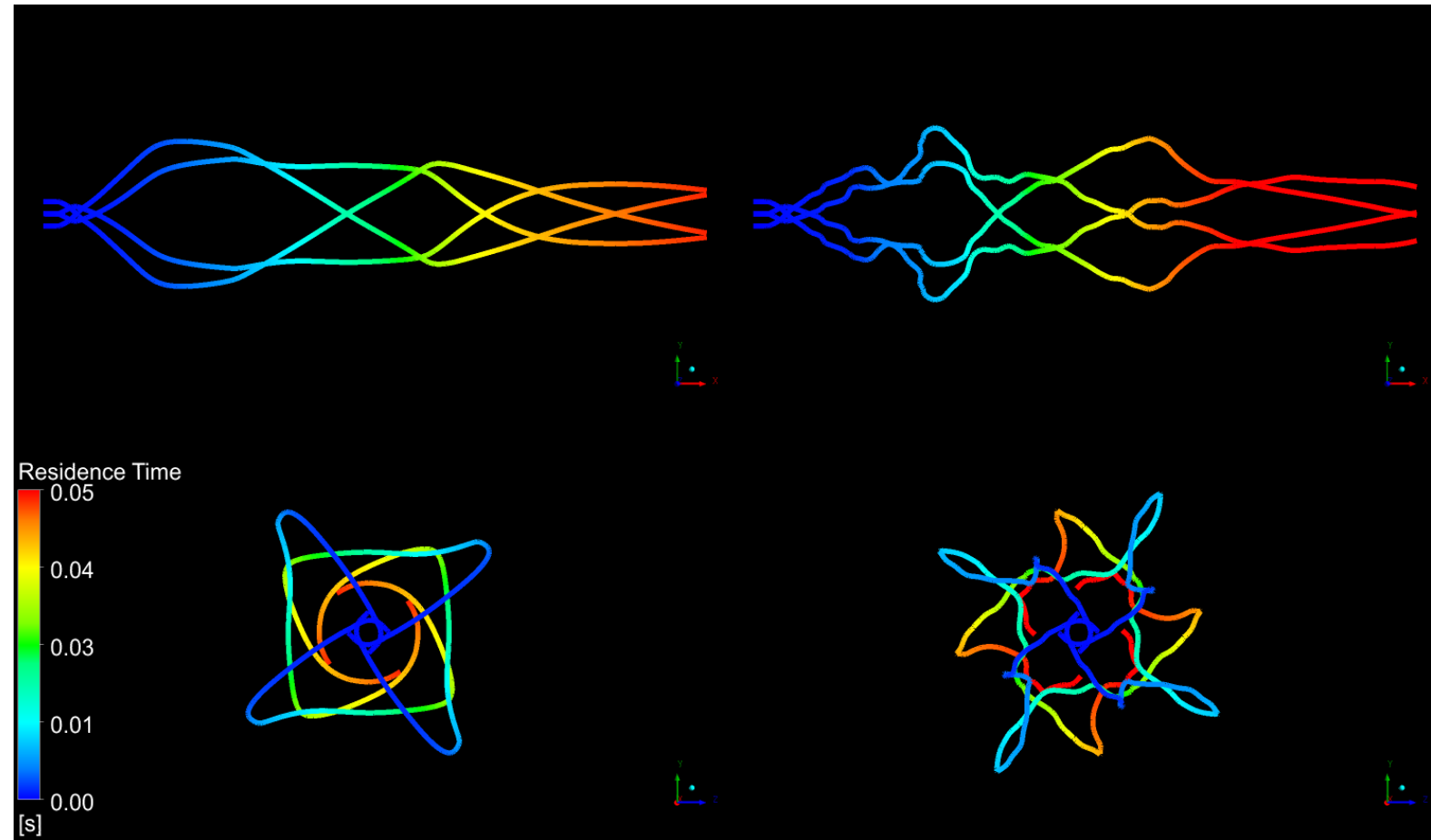
Flowfield Comparison

Combustor Design

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RANS Simulation

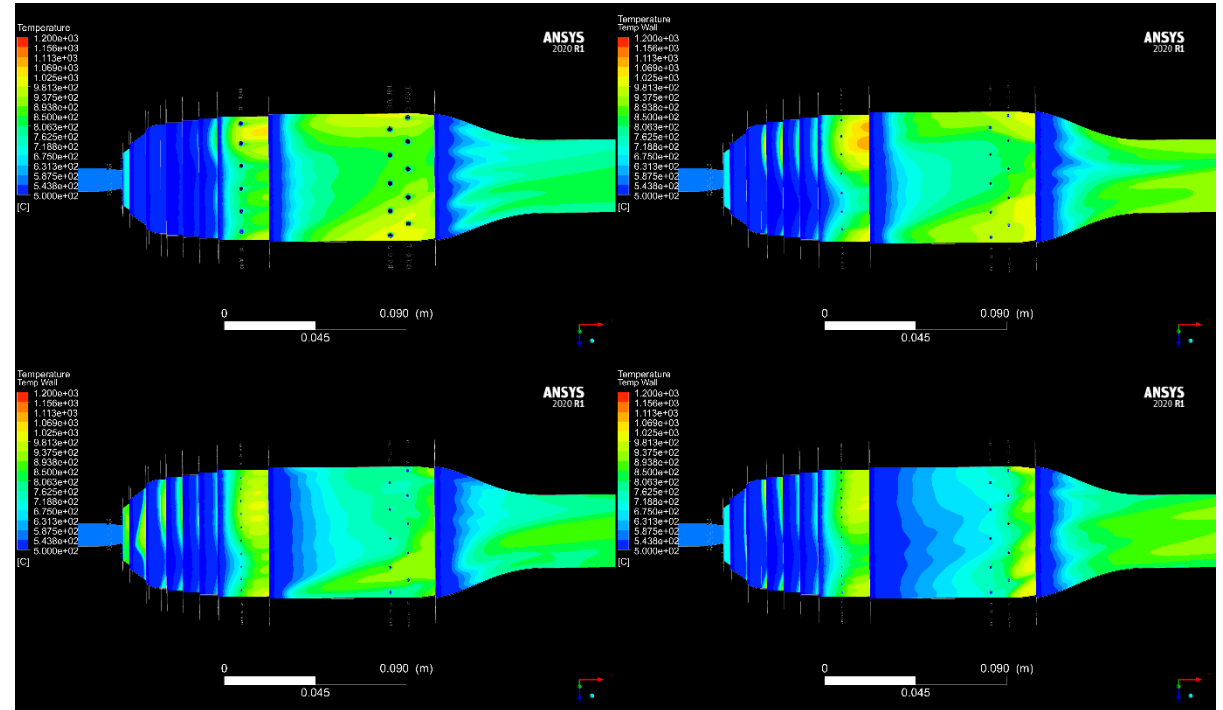
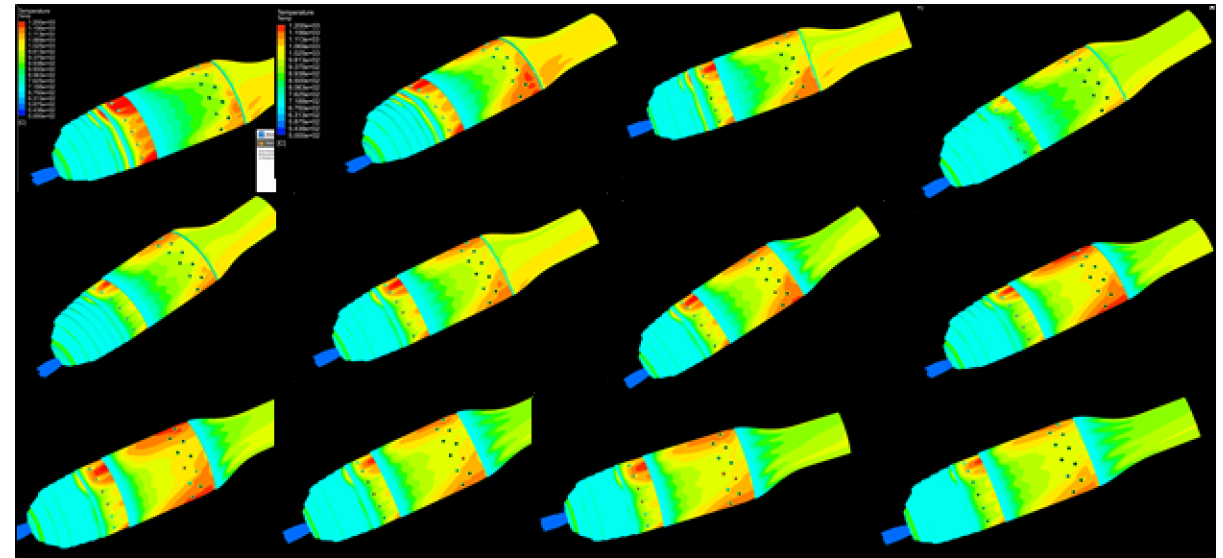
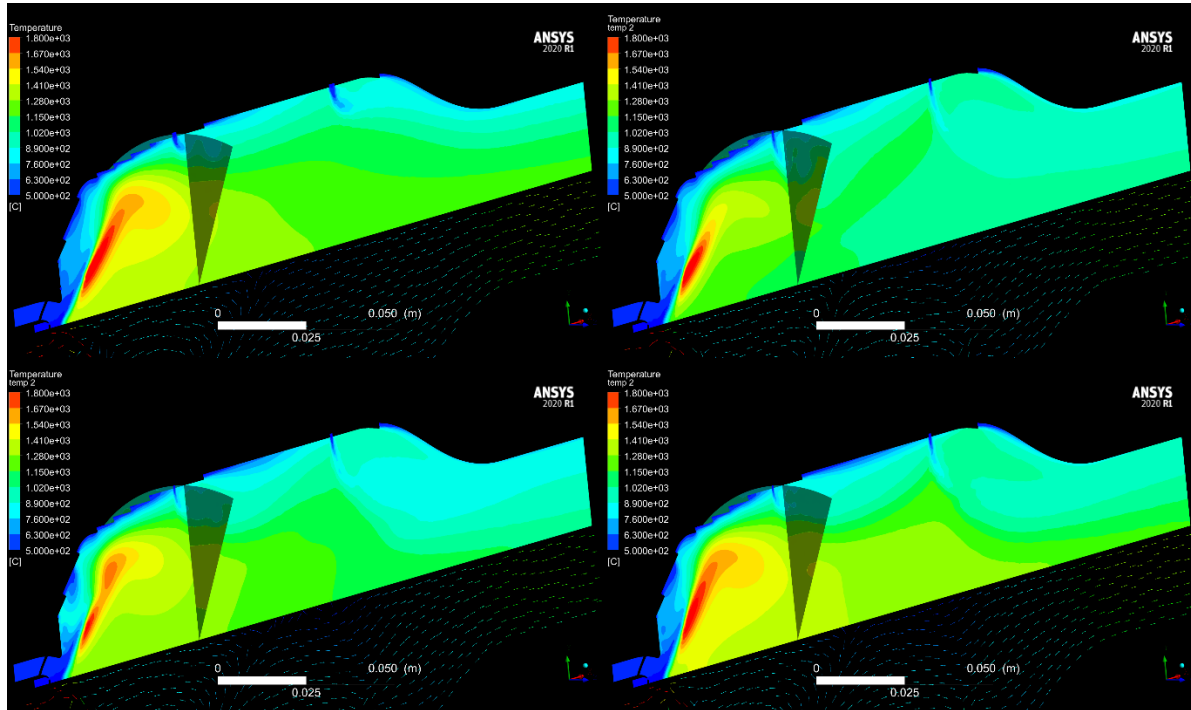
DDES Simulation



Streamlines Comparison

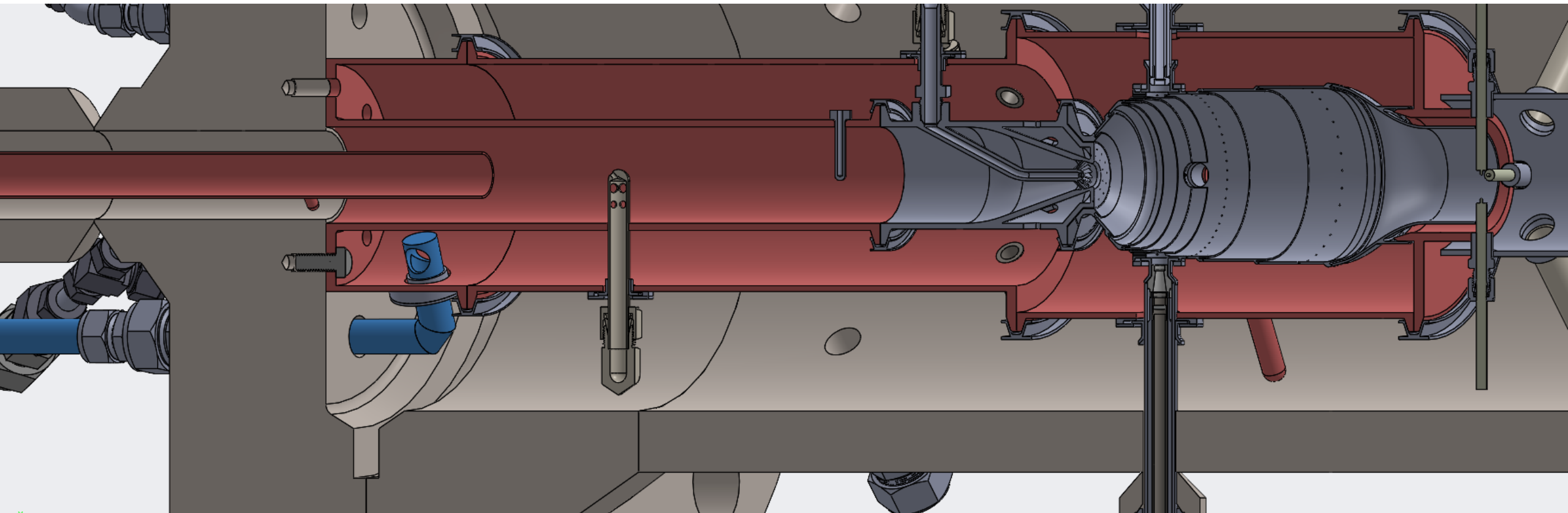
Combustor Design

- Recent work includes dozens of iterations to film cooling geometry to minimize hot spots



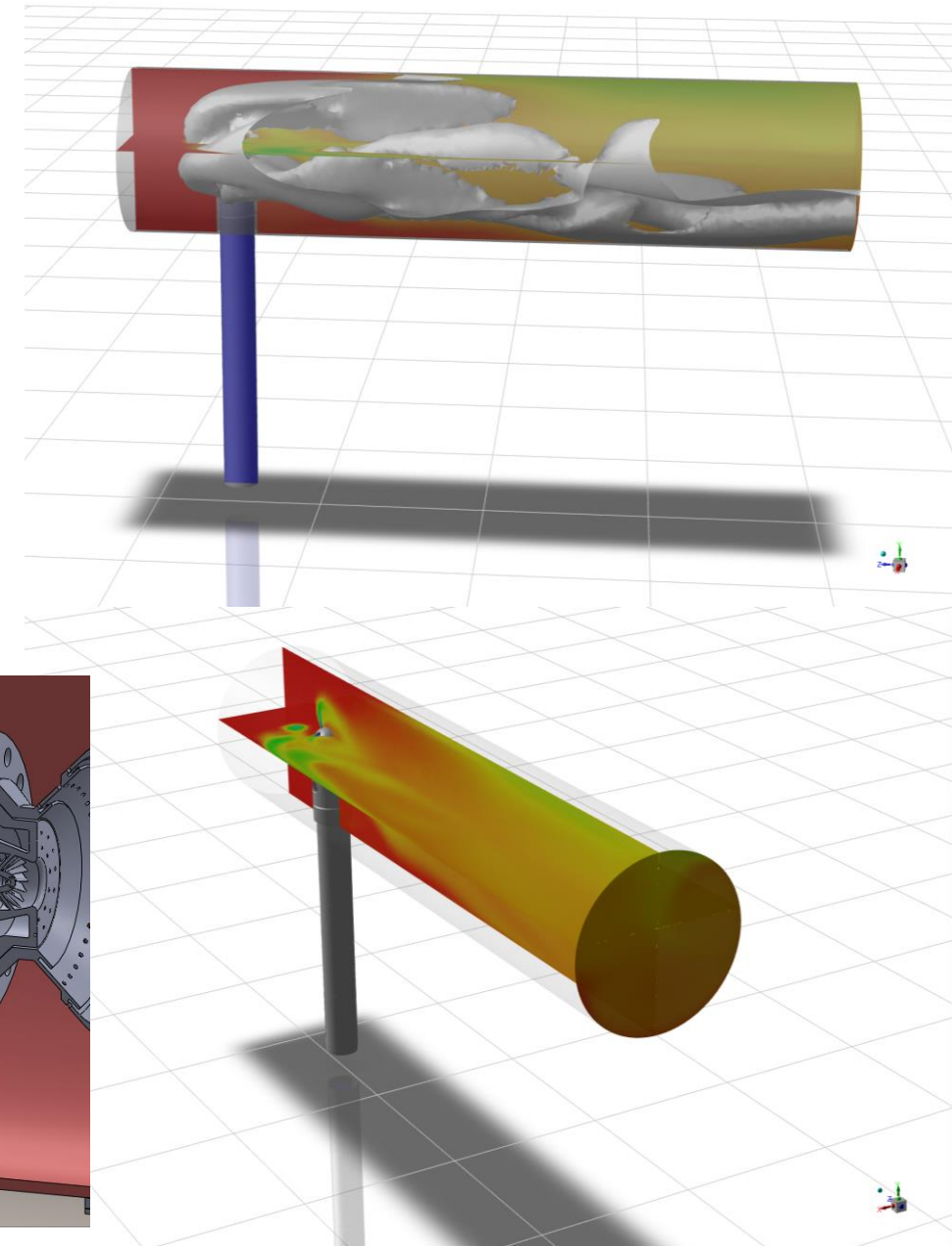
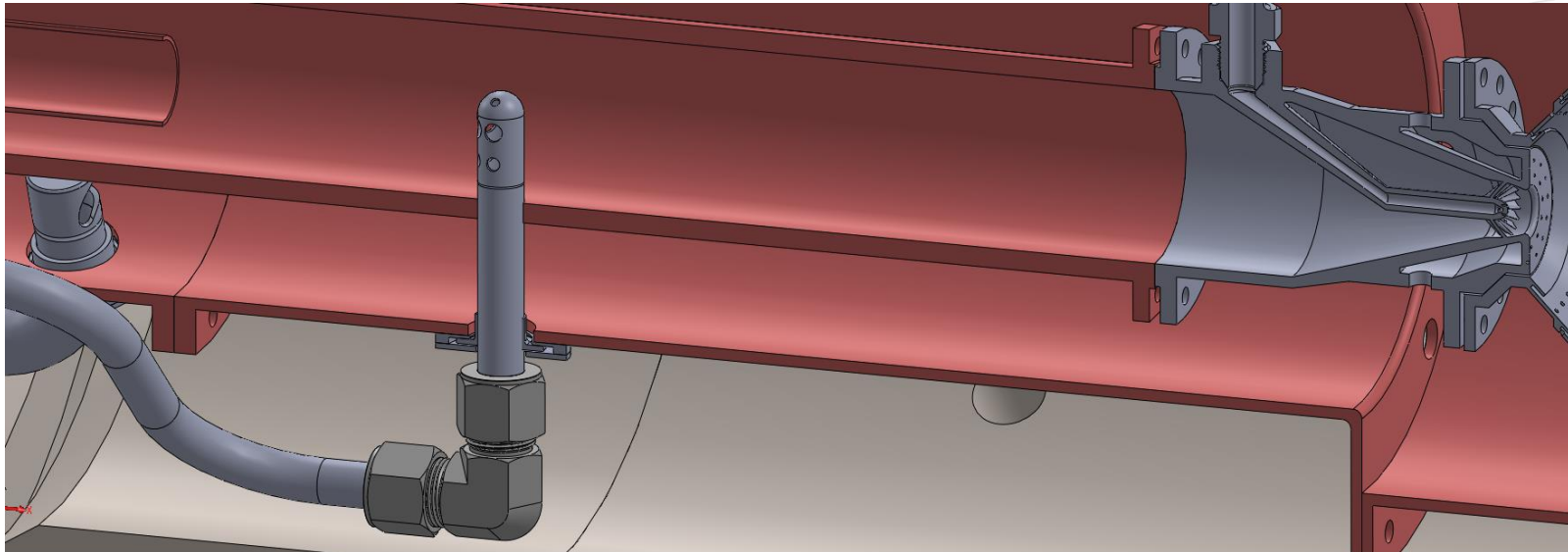
Combustor Cooling

CO₂ bypass gas enters annulus from a dedicated line (highlighted in blue) with flow control, allowing remote manipulation of combustor liner temperatures

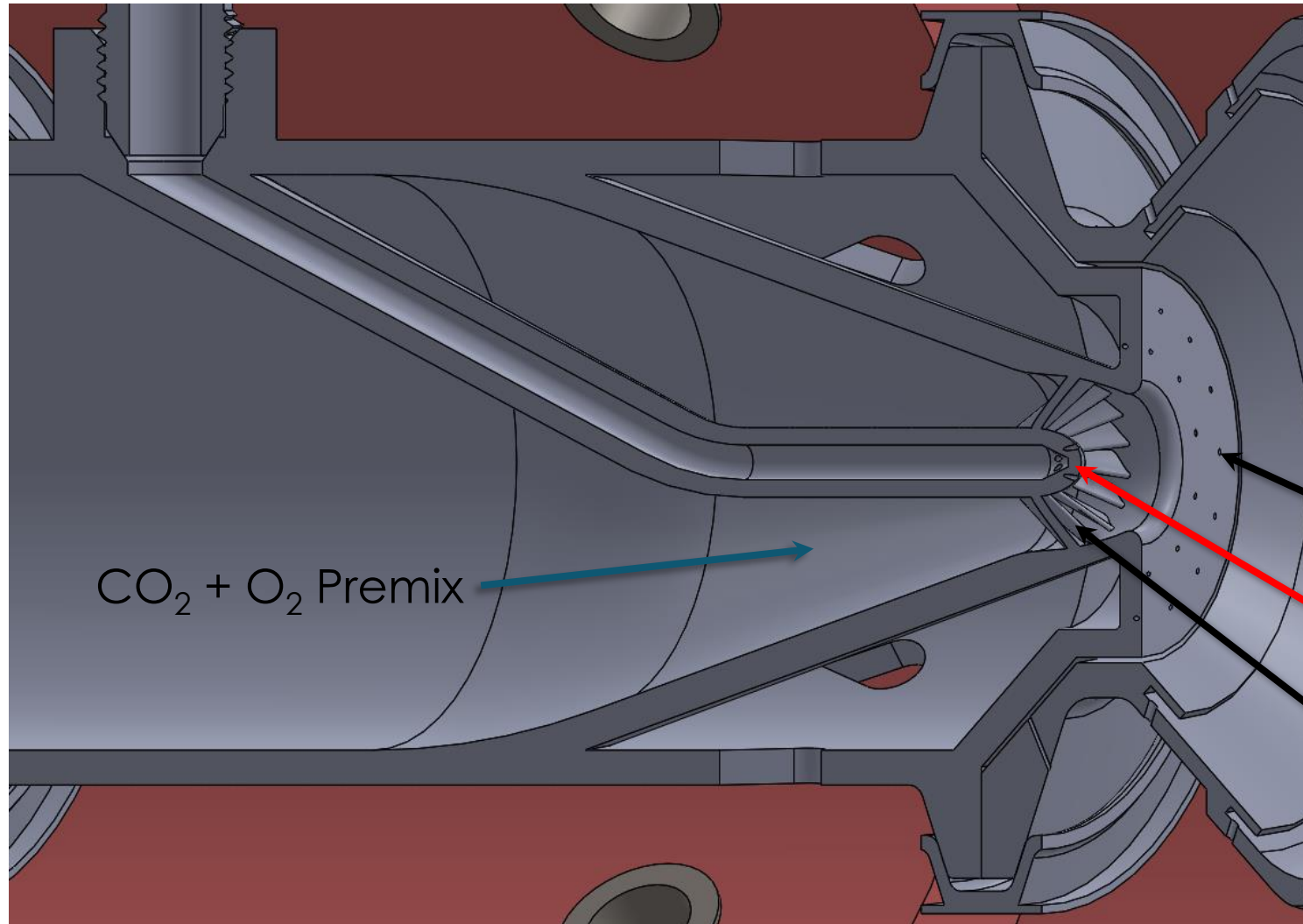


Oxygen System

- Guidance from personnel at NASA Stennis and White Sands, review from project partner Air Liquide
- LOX tank with cryogenic pump and ambient vaporizer
- Oxygen injection upstream of fuel injector



Fuel Injector



- Additively manufactured Haynes 282
- 32° swirl angle of inlet vanes chosen after literature review and CFD simulations

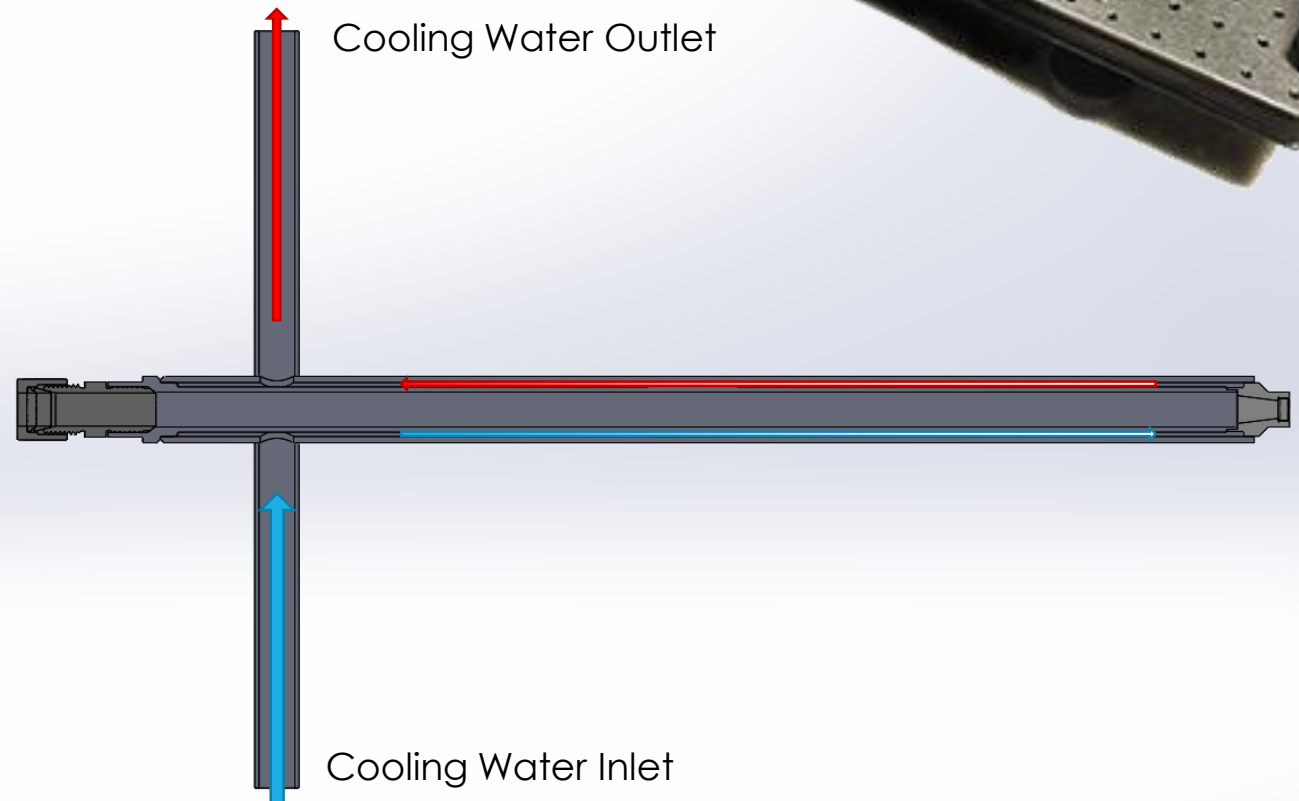
CO₂ Face Cooling

Methane Fuel Injection Point

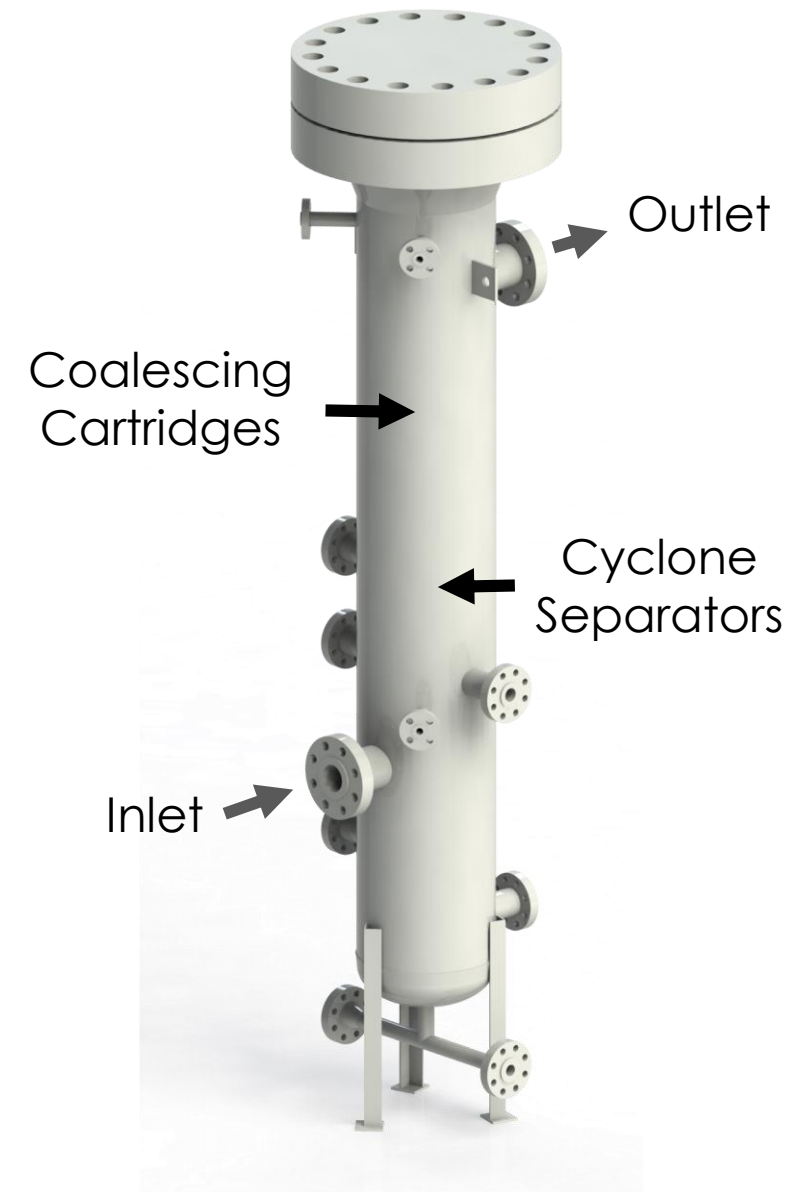
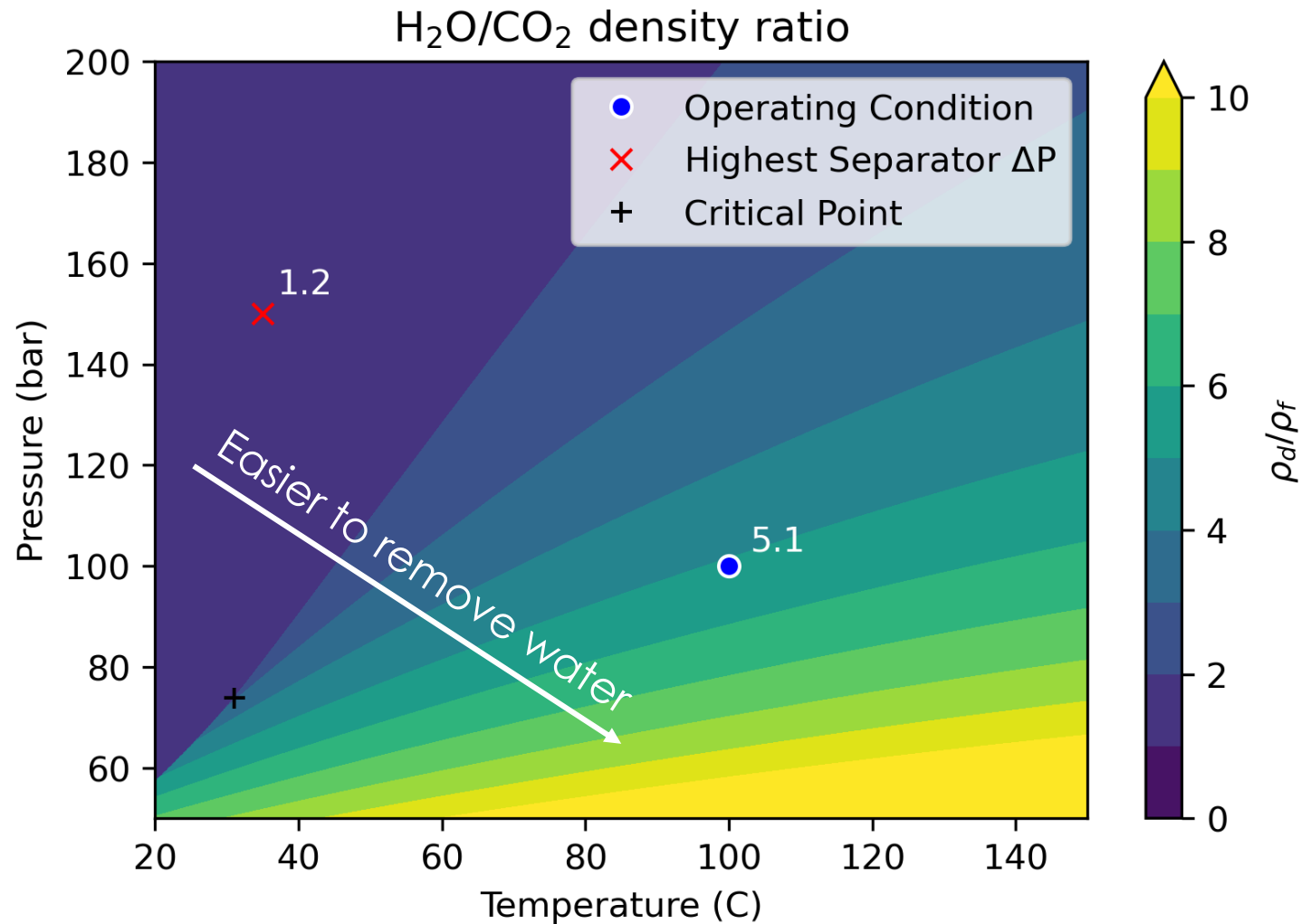
Swirling Vanes

Laser Ignition System

- Class 4 Quantel Qsmart Twins
 - 2x380mJ @ 532nm, 10Hz
- Water cooled probe allows access to the combustor and keeps focal lens temperature low
- Laser system has been tested on a bench scale combustor rig



Water Separator



Project Status

- Laser Ignition system commissioned
 - Water Separator fabricated and installed
 - Combustor and Fuel Injector design complete and sent out for quote
 - CO₂ piping design complete and sent out for quote
 - Oxygen Supply system nearing final review
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- CO₂ Loop and Combustor assembly expected to be complete in January 2022
 - Commissioning to begin in February 2022
 - Combustor Testing scheduled through December 2022



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Questions

