



# **Fuel Cells in Power Generation**

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A Rolls-Royce solution

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#### Vikram Jayanath



In his role at Rolls-Royce, Vikram is responsible for leading the Sustainable Solutions R&D and validation groups for the Americas with the goal of developing solutions for sustainable power generation that is emissionfree. Vikram began his career at Rolls-Royce and has over six years of experience in the Power Generation space.

He is currently a member of UL's Technical Committee for Energy Storage Systems and is the competency specialist at Rolls-Royce in regards to codes and standards on Energy Storage Systems (Battery, Fuel Cell, Electrolyzers...)





#### Building on a successful 110-year history



Wilhelm & Karl Maybach found "Luftfahrzeug-Motorenbau" GmbH



The company changes its name to "Motoren- und Turbinen Union" (MTU)



MTU becomes part of Tognum AG



Rolls-Royce & Daimler jointly acquire Tognum which is renamed to Rolls-

Royce Power Systems



2019

Power Systems starts rebranding; *mtu* brand as "a Rolls-Royce solution"



## 1910

Maybach AZ engine is used for the first time in Zeppelin LZ6



1996

The Series 4000 line is introduced – the first engine with common-rail direct fuel injection



### 2011

Power Systems enters the continuous gas market under its MTU Onsite Energy brand



## 2014

Rolls-Royce buys shares of Daimler and takes full ownership of Rolls-Royce Power Systems



### 2021

Business unit Sustainable Power Solutions for climate-friendly new technologies is set up





### Global market trends: Catalyst for change

Triggering demand for new solutions







Electrification



## Fuel Cells- What, Why and How?



- Electrochemical Device that convert Chemical Energy to Electric Energy
- High Efficiency and Low Environmental Impact
- Stacks consisting of multiple unit cells are combined electrically to form blocks with the desired capacity





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# **Types of Fuel Cells**







#### Overview

- Electrolyte | Hydrated Polymeric Ion Exchange Membrane
- Prime Cell Components | Carbon Based
- Charge Carrier | H<sup>+</sup>
- Catalyst | Platinum
- Interconnect | Carbon or Metal
- Operating Temperature | 40-80 °C

## Advantages/Disadvantages

### Advantages:

- Excellent resistance to Gas crossover
- Rapid startup due to lower operating temperature
- Capable of High Current Densities

### Disadvantages:

- Thermal management challenging due to narrow and low operating range
- Extensive fuel processing required for H<sub>2</sub>
- Sensitive to poisoning by trace level of contaminants due to Com sulfur and ammonia



#### Overview

- Electrolyte | Perovskites/Ceramic
- Prime Cell Components | Ceramic
- Charge Carrier | Oxygen
- Catalyst | Electrode Material
- Interconnect | Nickel, Ceramic or Steel
- Operating Temperature | 600-1000 °C

## Advantages/Disadvantages

#### Advantages:

- Solid Ceramic construction alleviates any corrosion problems in the cell
- Kinetics of Cell are relatively fast
- High Operating temperature allows for usage with CHP plants with improved efficiencies

#### Disadvantages:

- Potential Thermal Expansion mismatches amongst materials
- Material selection constraints due to high operating temperatures
- Thermal factors limit stack-level power density





#### Overview

- Electrolyte | Potassium Hydroxide(KOH)/ Sodium Hydroxide(NaOH)
- Prime Cell Components | Carbon Based
- Charge Carrier | OH<sup>-</sup>
- Catalyst | Platinum
- Interconnect | Metal
- Operating Temperature | 65-220 °C

## Advantages/Disadvantages

#### Advantages:

- Flexibility to used wide range of electro-catalysts
- Kinetics of Oxygen are relatively fast

#### Disadvantages:

- Sensitivity of electrolyte to CO<sub>2</sub> requires high H<sub>2</sub> purity
- Reformer requires a highly efficient CO and CO<sub>2</sub> removal system which impacts overall size and cost of the system





# Fuel Cell Power Systems





## **Fuel Cell Power Systems | Balance of Plant**

**SCADA** 



A Rolls-Royce solution

PCS(Inverter)

**Batteries** 

## Fuel Cell Power Systems | Hydrogen Ecosystem

ROYCI







# Where's the Market and What's Contributing to Growth of Fuel Cell Power Systems





# Fuel-cell adoption in Off-Highway | By 2050 market for Fuel Cell to reach 56 GW, mostly driven by Powergen applications



- Powergen will drive majority of Fuel Cell demand in Off-highway
  - based on least cost modelling of various technological options
  - improving availability and affordability of clean hydrogen beyond 2030
  - Fuel Cell technology will be available in scale by 2030 driven by onhighway mass production
  - regional decarbonization targets (US with net zero emissions from electricity sector by 2035, high ambitions in Europe, China's and India's carbon neutrality goals (2060, resp. 2070)
- In Marine, Fuel Cell ramp up around 2040 esp. within larger vessels when H2 gets cheaper
- Governmental with low penetration
- Mining, will see some individual mines using Fuel Cell machines
- In Rail, public funding will drive several decarbonization initiatives esp. in populated areas of Western markets



Fuel-cell adoption in Off-Highway | Uptake in FC market demand by end of decade; later than previously expected, before it eventually breaks through in 2030ies



- Global adoption of fuel cells is delayed driven by slower adoption within the on-highway applications
- Based on the current market drivers, we expect that adoption of fuel cell technology in Off-highway applications (RRPS target market) will be delayed to the 2030ies
- However, there is a major upside potential esp. within stationary markets, if:
  - Clean hydrogen becomes affordable and available prior to 2030
  - Fuel cell technology and serial production advances faster, which is mostly driven by high volume on-highway applications
  - Regional regulations (e.g. CO2 tax) and fuel cell adoption targets are set by governments (similar to electrolyzers)
  - Investor and climate activist urge operators for a faster net zero transition



## Fuel-cell adoption in Off-Highway | Modelling assumptions





• Stationary applications will deploy containerized products whereas Mobile applications use fuel cell modules



- Prices for clean Hydrogen are expected to fall significantly around the globe
- Regional variation in production costs is expected to level out in the long run









## THANK YOU

