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May 7-8, 2009

Portable & Micro Fuel Cells for Commercial & Military Applications

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Thursday, May 7, 2009

8:00 Registration, Exhibit Viewing/Poster Setup, Coffee and Pastries

9:00 **Organizer's Opening Remarks**

PLENARY SESSION

9:15 **U.S. Department of Energy's Fuel Cell RD&D Activities for Portable Power Applications**

Kevin McMurphy and Nancy Garland, PhD, Technology Development Manager, Fuel Cell Team, Office of Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Infrastructure Technologies, U.S. Department of Energy

This presentation will show the most recent results of the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) fuel cell research and development effort for portable power applications within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and compare these results to DOE's fuel cell targets for portable power applications. These results are from projects completed in fiscal year 2008. The presentation will also include an overview of recent awards by DOE in portable power fuel cell research, scheduled to begin in FY 2009.

9:45 **Combining Commercial Success With Leading-Edge Technology: SFC's Jenny Portable Fuel Cell**

Peter Podesser, PhD, CEO, SFC Smart Fuel Cell AG, Germany

SFC's commercially available Jenny fuel cell enables weight reductions of up to 80 percent compared to conventional battery systems for soldiers in the field, making it a vital part of portable energy systems for defense and paramilitary programs around the world. The presentation will discuss the features of Jenny and its application for the U.S. Army, the M-25, which won third and first places, respectively, in the U.S. DOD's Wearable Power Prize in 2008. The technology of these systems is based on SFC's successful EFOY series. SFC has sold more than 10,000 fuel cells globally.

10:15 **Adaptive Materials and Portable SOFCs: Integration, Applications, and Durability**

Aaron Crumm, PhD, President, Adaptive Materials Inc.

Adaptive Materials has made significant advances in its line of portable solid oxide fuel cell systems. However, the ability of military platforms and commercial products to leverage the potential of LPG fuel cell systems is hampered by a lack of integration experience with non-battery technologies. This paper presents the critical design issues that must be addressed in order to achieve successful application of fuel cell technology into unmanned aerial, ground, and maritime applications. AMI will present several examples of the integration challenges associated with hybridized fuel cell power systems for unmanned aerial and ground vehicles and soldier power applications. AMI's process of balancing the needs of the sensor, platform, fuel, and power management with the overall mission requirements has been refined through experience gained from integration efforts with the DARPA, the Air Force Research Laboratory, US Army's TARDEC, Special Operations Command, and US Army CERDEC. AMI will also present information on the environmental ruggedization and lifetime of portable solid oxide fuel cell systems.

10:45 **Durable, Low-Cost, Low-Weight Bipolar Plates for Elevated Temperature PEMFC Operation**

Paul Broker, PhD, and James M. Fenton, PhD, Director, Florida Solar Energy Center, University of Central Florida*

Development of commercial fuel cells for mobile uses requires that the fuel cell systems be lightweight, durable, and inexpensive. Although many components are present in fuel cell systems, the bipolar plates commonly are among the heaviest, and constitute a significant portion of the total cost. In order to withstand the corrosive environment of PEMFCs, bipolar plates are commonly made of graphitic carbon or plated metals. As a result, bipolar plates are relatively heavy due to their metallic construction or have considerable volume due to machined graphite. Carbon-based bipolar plates have been developed that show resistance to corrosion, are easily machined, and do not require expensive metals. Additionally, the porous nature of the carbon provides a reservoir for liquid electrolyte present in higher-temperature PEMFCs using phosphoric-acid-doped PBI membranes.*In collaboration with: R.Zaffou, H.R.Kunz, L.J.Bonville, and R.Parnas, University of Connecticut

11:15 Networking Refreshment Break, Exhibit/Poster Viewing

11:45 **FEATURED PANEL DISCUSSION**

Application Driven Small Fuel Cells Development:
From Outstanding Technology Breakthroughs toward New Horizons in Application and Commercialization

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

James M. Fenton, PhD, Director, Florida Solar Energy Center, University of Central Florida

12:30 Luncheon Sponsored by The Knowledge Foundation Technology Commercialization Alliance Membership Program

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DMFC AND DIRECT LIQUID SYSTEMS

2:00 Passive Water Recycling Technology for Compact DMFC Systems

Henry Voss, Vice President of Engineering, PolyFuel, Inc.

Achieving a compact DMFC power supply has been a goal of the consumer electronics industry for some time. The principal challenge has been the supply of the water that is required to complete the methanol oxidation reaction at the anode. Typically this requirement for water is met either by adding water to the fuel cartridge, which increases its size and weight, or by recovering water from the cathode exhaust, which requires a fan, condenser, water separator, etc., thus increasing system size, weight and complexity. Neither of these options allow for truly compact form factors. PolyFuel recently engineered a way to incorporate the water recovery capability into the membrane and MEA. Together these new materials allow the system to achieve controllable passive water recovery. The result is a very compact fuel cell system architecture. PolyFuel believes that this approach is ideal for applications where average power requirements are between ~10 watts and ~100 watts. PolyFuel developed a prototype 15 watt DMFC power supply weighing in at only 725 grams. The system occupies only 500cc of volume including a 150 ml pure methanol fuel cartridge, sufficient for its targeted 10 hours of runtime. The prototype system is integrated with a Lenovo T40 ThinkPad notebook PC, and is hybridized with a small lithium-ion battery to enable it to meet the notebook PC's peak system power requirements. PolyFuel will describe in detail the membrane and MEA characteristics that enable the achievement of passive water recovery and will demonstrate the notebook DMFC power supply and describe in detail how it operates without an air pump, condenser, water separator, etc. which are typically required in a conventional DMFC system.

2:30 A Novel Electrocatalyst for DMFC Anode: Oxygen-Sensitizing Methanol Oxidation Reaction

Minoru Umeda, PhD, Professor, Dept of Materials Science and Technology, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan

Methanol as a fuel for direct methanol fuel cells (DMFCs) should be kept away from oxygen gassing, which suppresses the methanol oxidation reaction (MOR). We developed a novel Pt-C electrode prepared by co-sputtering technique for the DMFC anode electrocatalyst. Methanol oxidation current was enhanced at the Pt-C electrode under the oxygen atmosphere. This phenomenon is not observed at Pt-loading carbon (Pt/C) powder electrocatalysts. Further, we will report oxygen sensitizing methanol oxidation at Pt-based ternary co-sputtered electrodes, which is much suitable for the MOR at the DMFC anode.

3:00 DMFC Inorganic-Nano-Fiber-Based Catalyst with Superior Performance and Lifetime

Jurgen Hofler, PhD, Vice President of Engineering, Nanosys, Inc.*

In this presentation we report on a novel, cost-effective fuel cell catalyst solution that meets performance as well as reliability goals for small and portable DMFC fuel cell applications. Our fuel cell catalyst technology is based on a silicon nano-fiber network decorated with Pt-alloy nano-particles. The nano-fibers have diameters in the 10s of nanometers and aspect ratios of ~100:1. The resulting large surface area, high chemical activity, and efficient electron and proton transport in the membrane electrode assembly (MEA) allow for high catalyst utilization at very high performance. Specifically, with a total Pt loading (anode and cathode) of less than 4mg/cm^2, we have demonstrated a performance of over 100mW/cm^2 at 0.35V, and very important for practical applications, the initial reliability tests show that our silicon nano-fiber-based catalysts have performance lifetime well in excess of 1000 hours. *In collaboration with: Y. Zhu, I. Stefan, B. Qian, J. Goldman, and J. Hartlove

3:30 Refreshment Break, Exhibit/Poster Viewing

4:00 Military Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Field Test and Validation

Henry Merhoff, Project Manager, US Army Operational Test Command, US Army; and

Peter Helbig, Senior Engineer, Bundeswehr Technical Center, Bundeswehr, Germany

The US Army Operational Test Command (USAOTC) required and contracted for a low-power, 250 Watt transportable Direct Methanol Fuel Cell (DMFC) to power operational test instrumentation in support of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) test and evaluation. This unit also has application by the German Bundeswehr (BWB/WTD 41) as a battery charging station and auxiliary power unit (APU). This paper will present the results of recent successful environmental tests of a 250 Watt DMFC conducted at test range facilities in Meppen Germany and Fort Hood Texas as a cooperative effort by USAOTC, BWB/WTD 41, and Smart Fuel Cell AG, manufacturer of the DMFC. It will also present preliminary data on life duration tests of the DMFC to validate a life expectancy in excess of 3000 hours and field tests of the DMFC in both the United States and Germany. Tests include power output to various applications, cold start test, temperature test, freeze and thaw test (at -10°C, system start after thaw to +10°C), static orientation test, shock and vibration test, drop test, spray water test, noise emission analysis, and an electromagnetic compatibility test.

4:30 High Power Density Liquid Fuel Cells Based On Porous Silicon for Portable Power Application in Air-Free and Air Quality-Limited Environments

J.J. Kingsley, PhD, Vice President of Technology, Neah Power Systems, Inc.*

Neah Power Systems has developed proprietary porous silicon (Si)-electrode based fuel cells that can provide renewable power generation in air-free and air quality-limited environments. Neah has demonstrated a working prototype of porous Si-based all liquid fuel cell with the power densities of >100 mW/cm^2 (at various operational temperatures). Neah has also successfully extended the application of this fuel cell technology to include

CONFERENCE AGENDA

multi-fuel mixtures and liquid oxidants (under regenerative and non-regenerative modes) in closed loop cell operation conditions. This presentation will include the results of Neah's Si based fuel cell technology, recent developments in the multi-fuel mixtures and a review of the benefits and drawbacks, cell design, stack fabrication and their closed loop operation. *In collaboration with: T. Cross and C. D'Couto

5:00 **Performance and Durability of Direct Oxidation Fuel Cells Fed with Neat Methanol**

Jim Prueitt, Vice President of Engineering, MTI MicroFuel Cells, Inc.*

A direct oxidation fuel cell utilizing a liquid fuel such as methanol has attracted worldwide attention for decades. Significant progress has been made thanks to a better understanding on the fundaments and the advancement in materials and system integration and operation. However, a paramount issue that challenges the commercialization of such a fuel cell system is the high decay rate. MTI Micro Fuel Cells Inc. develops direct methanol fuel cell systems that utilize neat methanol as the fuel. Such a system offers the highest possible energy density and the lowest achievable cost because it does not need to carry any liquid water and the entire system is much simpler. We have recently made a breakthrough in lowering the fuel cell decay rate significantly. The performance and decay rates of single cells and stacks will be presented during this Conference. *In collaboration with: G. Lu, C. Carlstrom, Z. Qi

5:30 End of Day One

Friday, May 8, 2009

8:15 Exhibit/Poster Viewing, Coffee and Pastries

PEM, HYDROGEN-ON-DEMAND, COMPONENTS

9:00 **The PM ™ Power Cell: Planar, Membraneless Microfluidic Portable Power**

Paul F. Mutolo, PhD, Associate Director, and Héctor Abruña, PhD, Cornell Fuel Cell Institute, Cornell University; and Laminare Technologies, Inc.*

Durability issues of many PEM fuel cells have prevented portable fuel cells from competing well with lithium-ion batteries, especially in the category of cycleability. Laminare Technologies, Inc. is commercializing a membraneless, microfluidic power cell platform that obviates durability issues of PEM fuel cells. The Laminare platform relies solely on thin film technology, which is much more robust than the complex polymer-particle interfaces required of PEMs. The design essentially turns the MEA "inside out": The heart of the cell is a wide microchannel bounded by thin film catalysts. Liquids flowing through the channel in a laminar flow condition carry oxidant and fuel to respective electrodes, and provide for charge transfer between them. Proprietary, passive transport-optimization technology enables high current and fuel utilization. Recently, we have demonstrated power density of 250 mW/cm^2 at 1V operation per cell, using a sodium borohydride based Laminare power cell. *In collaboration with: N. Da Mota, J.L. Cohen, D. Finkelstein, J. Kirtland., and A. Stroock

9:30 **Development and Characterization of Semi Passive PEM FCs**

Stefan Wagner, PhD, Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration - Fraunhofer IZM, Germany*

During the last few years, the development effort related to small, portable fuel cells has increased significantly. The main motivation underlying the development of micro fuel cells is the possibility to achieve higher energy densities compared to batteries. At Fraunhofer IZM the use of a variety of thin-film and printed circuit board substrates as a basis of flow field and current collector fabrication was investigated. The assembly technology for micro fuel cells based on electronics manufacturing and reel-to-reel processing for mass production was developed. *In collaboration with: R. Hahn, Fraunhofer IZM; S. Krumbholz, H. Reichl, Technische Universität Berlin, Center of Microperipherics

10:00 **Study and Development of Micro-PEMFC**

Audrey Martinent-Beaumont, PhD, R&D Engineer, Department of Nanomaterials, CEA/LITEN Grenoble, France*

This work outlines the results of eight years of our work toward development of hydrogen fuelled micro fuel cells with passive air-breathing conditions (natural convection). Proton exchange membrane micro fuel cell core consists of the superposition of several thin layers deposited on a silicon substrate while fuel is supplied using an innovative safe system capable of generating hydrogen as result from chemical hydride hydrolysis process. Fuel cell core miniaturization is achieved by employing various thin-film deposition techniques as well as printing processes. Micro fuel cell performance study revealed the major role of environmental parameters in overall micro fuel cell performance, and especially in the hydration of the membrane and water management of the fuel cell core. Nine of these micro fuel cells connected in series reported to generate in excess 2W power. *In collaboration with: P. Capron, V. Faucheux, A. Latour, and JY. Laurent, CEA Grenoble; N. Karst, STMicroelectronics, France

10:30 Refreshment Break, Exhibit/Poster Viewing

11:00 **Fuel-Cell Electrocatalysis - Issues Relating To Alloying, Nanoparticle Size, Etc.**

Barry MacDougall, PhD, Principal Research Officer, National Research Council of Canada, Canada*

The role of catalyst alloying in fuel cell reactions like oxygen reduction will be discussed. Variables such as "extent-of-alloying", degree of order/disorder in the catalyst structure,

CONFERENCE AGENDA

amount of unit cell lattice contraction, etc. will be examined, with selected examples from the vast literature on the subject as well as results from the author's laboratory. Important issues relating to nanoparticle size, especially in the <5nm range, will be shown to have potentially drastic consequences for X-ray analysis of the alloys if not corrected.
*In collaboration with: Christina Bock, NRC Canada

11:30 **Extending Lifetime of Micro Fuel Cell Systems by Easy Replacement of the Fuel Cell Assembly**

Anders Lundblad, PhD, CTO, myFC AB, Sweden

While studying the overall cost for a micro fuel cell system, the cost for the active fuel cell component, (MEA) is usually less than 30% of the overall cost. Nevertheless, system's lifetime is dependent on the fuel cell assembly which often is the component with the shortest life span. A PEM fuel cell may last several thousand hours, but for some applications, e.g. mobile phones, the lifetime requirements can be significantly higher. Therefore, it is advantageous to use low cost modular type fuel cell assembly which is easy to replace after its service life. This talk will focus on the technological, practical, economical and environmental benefits of low cost fuel cells that are easy to replace. myFC will present new developments in its modular FuelCellSticker™ technology, sharing data and roadmaps for 3, 10 and 20 W units.

12:00 **Micro and Nanoengineering of the World's Smallest Fuel Cell and a Novel Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA)**

Saeed Moghaddam, PhD, Research Associate, Dept of Mechanical Science and Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The world's smallest fully integrated fuel cell (3x3x1 mm^3) with a microfluidic passive control system has been developed. The device delivered an energy density of 254 W-hr/L and a peak power density of 200 W/L. Subsequent generations of this device can potentially reach an energy density of 1000 W-hr/L. In addition, a new membrane electrode assembly with a silicon-based proton exchange membrane (PEM) has been developed. The proton conductivity of the developed membrane is significantly higher than that of Nafion.

12:30 Lunch on Your Own

PEM, HYDROGEN-ON-DEMAND, COMPONENTS - II

2:00 **Progress toward a Commercial Chemical Hydride Hydrogen Storage Solution for Portable Power**

Allison M. Fisher, PhD, Senior Fuel System Scientist, Jadoo Power Systems, Inc.*

Direct hydrogen fuel cell (DHFC) technology has a number of advantages over direct methanol fuel cell technology, such as faster oxidation kinetics, higher energy conversion efficiency, lower catalyst loadings, clean emissions, and lower cost as a result of reduced balance of plant. The challenge which has so far prevented DHFC from becoming commercially competitive is the on-device storage of hydrogen. A low-cost, high energy density hydrogen-generating fuel system will unleash the potential of DHFC in the portable power arena. Jadoo Power is focused on developing an ammonia borane based hydrogen generation system exceeding 1000 Whr/kg suitable for a wide range of portable power applications. In this presentation we will describe our recent work toward these goals.
*In collaboration with: M. Knobbe, H. Nielson, and A. Petersen

2:30 **Air Breathing Portable Fuel Cells**

Renaut Mosdale, PhD, CEO, PaxiTech, France

PaxiTech Company develops hydrogen/air fuel cells for integration into electronic portable devices, ranging from one to few hundred Watts. Their unique planar architecture allows these fuel cells to work in a passive mode without any systems or auxiliaries. These fuel cells are running on pure hydrogen (dead-end mode) and air "breathed" from the surroundings. PaxiTech studies or develops different ways of storing or generating hydrogen, such as compressed hydrogen, metal hydrides and chemical hydrides.

3:00 Refreshment Break, Exhibit/Poster Viewing

NEW FUELS - INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

3:15 **Propane Powered Portable Fuel Cell System**

Inseob Song, PhD, Principal Engineer, Fuel Cell Group, Energy Lab., Samsung SDI Co., Ltd., Korea*

Propane powered portable fuel cell system for outdoor use will be presented. The nominal power of the system is 200W. The PEM stack shows very stable performance with minor humidification. The fuel processor inside is very compact and has very rapid start up within 10 minutes. And the authors would like to share the characteristics of portable fuel cell system showing that this technology moves one step forward to commercialization. *In collaboration with: T. Ichinose, W.C. Shin, and C. S. Lee

3:45 **A Novel Glucose Air Alkaline Fuel Cell**

Bor Yann Liaw, PhD, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, SOEST/University of Hawaii at Manoa

A novel glucose air fuel cell assembly with a single compartment, without any membrane or catalyst to oxidize glucose, will be presented to show its capability to generate sustainable power for portable power applications. This membrane-less and catalyst-less design offers high power density, sustainable operation, and low cost, presenting attractive potential to power portable devices.

4:15 **Selected Oral Poster Highlights, Concluding Discussion**

4:45 End of Conference

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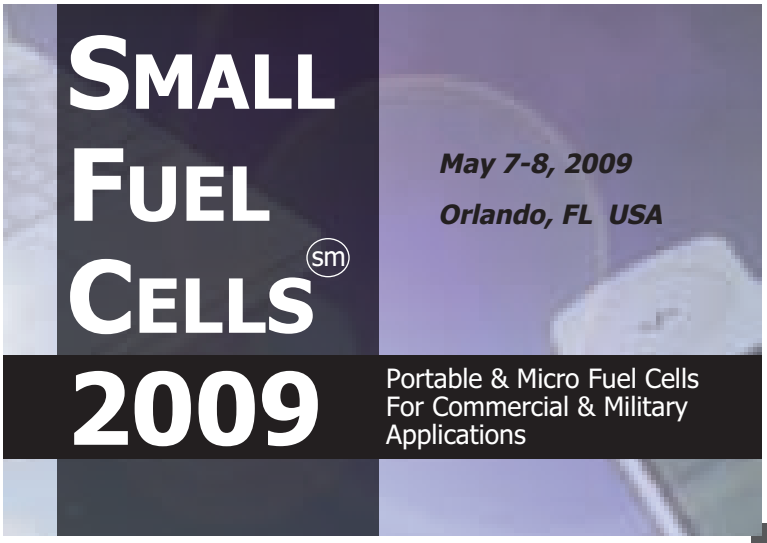

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