

Electrolysis and Material Storage of Hydrogen Gas



## Team Members











#### What Embry-Riddle Has



**Wind Tunnel Robotics Lab Propulsion Lab Propulsion Lab** 



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#### Embry-Riddle Needs Hydrogen Energy Demonstrators

# Develop Energy Labs

# Create Interest in the Energy Track

# Viewable Demonstrations for Visitors

















#### Generate and Store Hydrogen

ERH2's purpose is to create an energy demonstrator to generate and store hydrogen.



Embry-Riddle's Fuel Cell

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## Hydrogen Storage Applications

Personal Vehicles (Toyota Mirai) Commercial Vehicles (Toyota) Maircraft (Airbus)



Storing hydrogen at high pressures and cryogenic temperatures is dangerous and heavy



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#### System Requirements

#### Produce Hydrogen

1.1.1 The system must produce enough hydrogen to get the fuel cell to steady state and then run for 10 minutes at 1 watt.

1.2 The storage method must run the fuel cell for a minimum of 5 minutes

Store

Hydrogen

1.4 The system must interface with the Embry-Riddle fuel cell.

Run Fuel Cell

1.3 The system must fit into a 45"x25" box.

1.1.2 The system must be able to determine the rate of hydrogen gas produced.

1.2.1 The system must measure the amount of hydrogen stored.

1.4.1 The system output must be a ¼" PTFE tube.

#### Energy Demonstrator

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#### Process Flow Diagram



**Simplified PFD** 



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#### The ERH2 System



Standard utility cart, 45"x25" top shelf



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#### Concept of Operations

Turn off electrolysis, disconnect pipe from valve, remove and weigh the capsule

Reinsert capsule into pipe using loading rod

Turn on electrolysis and flush pipe until light turns on

Let fuel cell light turn off, close both valves and turn on heating element

Once at 300C, slowly open exit valve to power fuel cell













Step 1: Weigh the material storage capsule using scale and record mass.



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Step 2: Insert the material storage capsule using a loading rod to ensure the capsule is in the heating zone.



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#### Step 3: Attach stainless steel pipe to Yor-lock valve until wrench tight.



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Step 4: Ensure all valves are open, turn on the electrolysis machine, and run until the fuel cell light comes on.



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Step 5: Continue running electrolysis and close the valve connecting the material storage to the fuel cell.



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Step 6: Continue to run electrolysis until the pressure reaches maximum.

















Step 7: Turn off electrolysis, disconnect pipe from valve in a ventilated area, and remove capsule to weigh again.





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Step 8: Re-insert capsule by repeating step 2.



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Step 9: Repeat step 4 and then turn off electrolysis.



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Step 10: Once fuel cell light turns off, close both valves, and turn on the heating element.



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Step 11: Once the thermocouple reaches 300 degrees Celsius, slowly open the valve to the fuel cell and start timer to measure how long the fuel cell light stays on.



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#### Electrolysis



#### Electrolysis Overview

1.1.1 Will produce hydrogen

3.1 Will be able to be dissembled

3.2 Hydrogen and oxygen will not mix

3.3 Components are hydrogen resistant

3.4 Amperage must be controlled

















#### ERH2's Electrolysis System



Model of ERH2's planned Electrolyzer

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#### Alkaline Water

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Made from Potassium hydroxide (KOH)



Our system will use a solution of 32%

Typical solution is 32% to 50% in strength [6]



320g KOH into 1 Liter of water

















#### Alkaline Water Electrolysis

Cathode: 
$$
2H_2O + 2e^{-\frac{yields}{\longrightarrow}}H_2 + 2OH^-
$$

Anode: 
$$
2OH^{-\frac{yields}{2}}\frac{1}{2}O_2 + H_2O + 2e^{-}
$$



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## Mesh Section-View



*Requirement 3.2* "The hydrogen and oxygen produced in the electrolysis system must not mix."

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#### Power Requirements



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# Estimate of Hydrogen Needed

 $Power$  wanted(kW)  $\cdot$  time(sec.) Percent Eff of fuel cell  $\cdot$  Lower heating value  $\left(\frac{KJ}{K\sigma}\right)$  $\overline{Kg}$  $=$  Amount needed(g  $H_2$ )

$$
\frac{.001kW \cdot 60 \ (sec.)}{0.25 \cdot 120,000 \left(\frac{KJ}{Kg}\right)} = \boxed{.002 \ (g\ H_2)/min}
$$



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#### Faraday's Law of Electrolysis Rate of H2 Production

$$
\frac{Max\ theoretical\ Current}{Value} \cdot Molar\ weight\ of\ H
$$
  

$$
\frac{20 (C)}{1 (s)} \cdot \frac{60 (s)}{96,485 \left(\frac{C}{mol\ e^{-}}\right)} \cdot \frac{1 (mol\ H_2)}{2 (mol\ e^{-})} \cdot \frac{2.007 (g\ H_2)}{1 (mol\ H_2)} = 0.0125 (g/min\ H_2)
$$

*Requirement 1.1.1* "The system must produce enough hydrogen to get the fuel cell to steady state and then run for 10 minutes at 1 watt."

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.0125  $(g H_2)/min > .002$   $(g H_2)/min$ Production Consumption

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#### Electrolysis Verification



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#### Material Storage


# Material Storage Overview

1.2 The storage method must run the fuel cell for a minimum of 5 minutes

4.2 The storage material must be fully contained within the system.

4.3 The storage material must be at the end of the hydrogen flow.

4.4 The storage material must have a minimum hydrogen density of 2%wt.





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300°C will break the bonds to allow the hydrogen to escape.

Hydrogen Atoms

**Molecular Level**

 $Li<sub>2</sub>$ 

 $Li<sub>2</sub>$ 

 $H_2$ 

Lithium Atoms

 $Li<sub>2</sub>$ 

 $H_2$ 

Graphitic Carbon Nitride

 $H_2$   $H_2$ 

 $H_2$   $H_2$ 

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 $(H_2)$   $(H_2)$ 



## Material Capacity

"…it was found that the gravimetric and volumetric densities of hydrogen in both  $Li_2C_4N_3$  and  $Li_2C_4N_4$  were greater than 10 wt% and 100 g/L respectively" [1].

Needed: 1 g  $Li_2C_4N_3$ 

$$
m_{H_2 3 stored} = m_{final} - 1
$$

$$
\%_{w t H_2} = \frac{m_{H_2 3 tored}}{m_{final}} \cdot 100
$$

At 2% wt Hydrogen, the material will store 0.02 grams of hydrogen the amount needed to run the fuel cell for a maximum of 10 minutes.

*Requirement 4.4* "Material must store hydrogen with at least 2% weight of hydrogen gas."

*Requirement 1.2* "The material storage must run the fuel cell for a minimum of 5 minutes." CIPET ਸ਼ਿੰਸ

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### Material Storage Benefits



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### Material Integration

*Requirement 4.2* "The storage material must be fully contained within the system."

*Requirement 4.3* "The storage material must be at the end of the hydrogen flow."



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## Material Storage Verification

1.2 The storage method must run the fuel cell for a minimum of 5 minutes.

• Material will store at least 0.02 grams of hydrogen, which will run the fuel cell for at least 5 minutes.

4.2 The storage material must be fully contained within the system.

• The material is in a sealed capsule using a 1-micron mesh press fit.

4.3 The storage material must be at the end of the hydrogen flow.

• Material area closed by valves to restrict flow

4.4 The storage material must have a minimum hydrogen density of 2%wt.

• Material has a potential capacity of 10%wt.



















### Piping Overview

# 5.2 The system must withstand temperatures up to 350°C.

5.3 The temperature at the valves must not exceed 50°C.



















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Smooth-Bore Seamless 304 Stainless Steel Tubing, 3/4" OD, 0.035" Wall **Thickness** 

Length, ft. 3 6

**Temperature Range** 

-425° to 1500° F

 $1500^{\circ}F = 815^{\circ}C > 350^{\circ}C$ 

*Requirement 5.2* "The system must withstand temperatures up to 350°C."

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To keep the valves below 50°C, what is the pipe's required length?



# Determining Heat Transfer Model

Steel pipe vs. hydrogen gas:

How much energy will each material release over a 350°C to 50°C temperature drop?

$$
\frac{Q}{l} = \rho A_c c_p \Delta T
$$

Where:

 $Q/l$  = Energy per unit length, (J/m)  $\rho$  = Density, (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  $A_c$  = Cross-sectional area, (m<sup>2</sup>)  $c_p$  = Specific heat, (J/kg\*K)  $\Delta T$  = Temperature change = 300°C





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### Steel Dominates Thermally



Steel/hydrogen energy ratio:

$$
\frac{(Q/l)_{steel\ pipe}}{(Q/l)_{hydrogen\ gas}} = \frac{53,410(J/m)}{77(J/m)} = 690
$$

Thermal energy in hydrogen is negligible compared to thermal energy in steel.

Valve temperature depends primarily on the pipe temperature.

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Heat transfer is due primarily to convection between the pipe and air.  $\dot{Q}_{convection} \propto \Delta T$ 

$$
\Delta T_{hot\ side} = 330^{\circ}C \gg \Delta T_{cold\ side} = 30^{\circ}C
$$

$$
\dot{Q}_{hot\ side} \gg \dot{Q}_{cold\ side}
$$

Treat the system as a fin with an adiabatic tip.



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# Equations for Adiabatic-Tipped Fins

 $T(x) - T_{\infty}$  $T_b-T_\infty$ =  $cosh(m(L - x))$  $cosh(mL)$  $m=$  ${\bm h}{\bm p}$  $kA_c$ [8]

 $(\text{ERH}_2)$ 

$$
x = L: \quad \frac{T_L - T_{\infty}}{T_b - T_{\infty}} = \frac{\cosh(m(L - L))}{\cosh(mL)} = \frac{\cosh(0)}{\cosh(mL)} = \frac{1}{\cosh(mL)}
$$

Where:

 $L =$  pipe length  $D =$  outer diameter  $d =$ inner diameter  $T_L$  = tip temperature  $T_h$  = base temperature  $T_{\infty}$  = air temperature  $p =$  external perimeter  $A_c$  = cross-sectional area  $k =$  thermal conductivity of steel  $h =$  convection coefficient



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 $D = .75"$   $T_b = 350°C$   $T_L = 50°C$  $L=$ ?  $D = .75"$ <br>--  $d = .68"$ 



Needed: convection coefficient



 $|h|$  $k_{air}$ Nu  $\overline{D}$ 

[8] 
$$
Nu = \left(0.6 + \frac{0.387Ra_D^{1/6}}{(1 + (0.559/Pr)^{9/16})^{8/27}}\right)^2
$$

 $Ra_D \leq 10^{12}$ 

Nusselt Number for *isothermal* horizontal cylinders experiencing natural convection

Evaluate at T=350°C and T=50°C, see which case requires the longest pipe

Needed: Rayleigh Number

Where:

D

 $Nu =$  Nusselt Number  $k_{air}$  = air thermal conductivity  $Ra_D$  = Rayleigh Number  $Pr =$  Prandtl Number  $T_s$  = surface temperature  $T_{film}$  = film temperature

 $T_{\infty}$ 

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### Finding Rayleigh Numbers

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$$
Ra_D = Gr_D Pr = \frac{g\beta (T_s - T_\infty)D^3}{v^2} Pr
$$

\*Air properties evaluated at film temperature:  $T_{film} = \frac{1}{2}$  $\frac{1}{2}(T_s-T_\infty)$ 

Where:

- $Pr =$  Prandtl Number
- $g$  = gravitational acceleration =  $9.81(m^2/s)$
- $\beta$  = coefficient of volume expansion
- $v =$  kinematic viscosity
- $D =$  outer diameter = 0.019 (m)
- $T_{\infty}$  = bulk temperature = 20°C

$$
\frac{T_s = 350^{\circ}C}{T_{film} = 185^{\circ}C}
$$
  
\n
$$
\beta = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-3} (1/K)
$$
  
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$$
Pr = 0.70
$$
  
\n
$$
v = 3.3 \cdot 10^{-5} (m^2/s)
$$
  
\n
$$
Ra_D = 2.4 \cdot 10^4
$$

$$
\frac{T_s = 50^{\circ}\text{C}}{T_{film} = 35^{\circ}\text{C}}
$$
\n
$$
\beta = 3.1 \cdot 10^{-3} (1/K)
$$
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$$
Pr = 0.73
$$
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$$
v = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-5} (m^2/s)
$$
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$$
Ra_D = 1.7 \cdot 10^4
$$



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### Finding Required Length

Equations 
$$
Nu = \left(0.6 + \frac{0.387Ra_D^{1/6}}{(1 + (0.559/Pr)^{9/16})^{8/27}}\right)^2
$$
  $h = \frac{k_{air}Nu}{D}$   $m = \sqrt{\frac{hp}{kA_c}}$   $L = \frac{1}{m}\cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{T_b - T_{\infty}}{T_L - T_{\infty}}\right)$ 

$$
\frac{T_b - T_{\infty}}{T_L - T_{\infty}} = \frac{350^{\circ}C - 20^{\circ}C}{50^{\circ}C - 20^{\circ}C} = 11 \qquad p = \pi D = \pi 0.75(in)^{\frac{0.0254(m)}{1(in)}} = 0.06(m)
$$
  

$$
k_{steel} = 20(W/mK) \qquad A_c = \frac{\pi}{4}(D^2 - d^2) = \frac{\pi}{4}(0.75^2(in^2) - 0.68^2(in^2))\frac{0.0254^2(m^2)}{1^2(in^2)} = 5.1 \cdot 10^{-5}(m^2)
$$

$T_s = 350^{\circ}C$	$T_s = 50^{\circ}C$	
$Ra_D$ = 2.4 · 10 <sup>4</sup>	$Ra_D$ = 1.7 · 10 <sup>4</sup>	
$Nu = 5.4$	$Nu = 5.0$	$Ra_D$ = 1.7 · 10 <sup>4</sup>
$k_{air} = 0.037 (W/m \cdot K)$	$k_{air} = 0.026 (W/m \cdot K)$	$Re(a)$
$h = 10.4 (W/m^2K)$	$h = 6.8 (W/m^2K)$	"The temp must n
$m = 20.1 (1/m)$	$L = 6.0 (in)$	"The temp must n

*Requirement 5.3* erature at the valves not exceed 50°C."

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## Chosen Design

[4]

Smooth-Bore Seamless 304 Stainless Steel Tubing, 3/4" OD, 0.035" Wall **Thickness** 



Extreme-Temperature Teflon® PTFE Semi-Clear Tubing for Chemicals, 1/4" ID, 5/16" OD

Length, ft. [4] 5





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## Piping Verification

5.2 The system must withstand temperatures up to 350°C.

# •Steel withstands 815°C

5.3 The temperature at the valves must not exceed 50°C.

•Heat transfer analysis



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### Extraction



### Extraction Overview

# 4.1 Must heat to 300°C and not exceed 350°C



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### Extraction System



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# Heating Element – Nichrome Wire



Target Temperature for  $H_2$  Release: 300°C

Wire Resistance: 2.1Ω/ft.

#### 2in. Heating zone = 10ft of wire

Heater control and Verification

- Power supply
- Thermocouples







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### Heat Transfer Rates

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Equation  $\dot{Q} = \sqrt{h p k A_c} (T_b - T_\infty) \tanh(mL)$ 

Constant Values	$k = 20(W/mK)$	$A_c = 5.1 \cdot 10^{-5}(m^2)$	$p = 0.06(m)$	$L = 17(in) = 0.43(m)$
-----------------	----------------	--------------------------------	---------------	------------------------

[8]

$$
\frac{T_b = 300^{\circ}\text{C}}{\dot{Q} = 12.9(W)}
$$
\n
$$
\dot{Q} = 15.4(W)
$$
\n
$$
\dot{Q} = 15.4(W)
$$

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# Heat Loss & Required Power

Power Required ( $P$ ), 10ft. of wire @ 300°C: 12.9W 350°C: 15.42W Heater Resistance  $(R)$ : 2.1  $\Omega$  $ft.$  $\cdot$  10 $ft = 21\Omega$ 

$$
V = \left(\frac{P}{R}\right)^{.5} \qquad I = (P \cdot R)^{.5}
$$

300°C Minimum Voltage: **16.464V** Amperage: **0.784A** 350°C Maximum Voltage: **17.995V** Amperage: **0.857A**





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### Thermal Insulation



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### Extraction Verification

### 4.1 Must heat to 300°C and not exceed 350°C

• Thermocouple – Adjustable by power supply



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# Instrumentation

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### Instrumentation Overview

### 1.1.2 Determine rate of hydrogen production

### 1.2.1 Measure amount of hydrogen stored

### 6.1 Instrumentation system must be self-reliant

















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### Thermocouples

2 thermocouples Integrated at Electrolysis and PTFE interface

> Integrated under insulation in heat zone (high temperature insulated probe)







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# Governing Equations





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### Mass Measurement



Chemistry lab scale to measure storage system mass



±0.0001 accuracy, 220 g Max

Storage capsule is about 20 grams

*Requirement 1.2.1* "The system must measure the amount of hydrogen stored."





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### Instrumentation Verification

1.1.2 Determine rate of hydrogen production

• Verified with the pressure gauges and thermocouples using the Ideal Gas Law

1.2.1 Measure amount of hydrogen stored

• Verified with the chemistry scale

6.1 Instrumentation system must be self-reliant

• All instrumentation is self-contained (analog pressure gauges, battery powered thermocouple reader, battery powered scale) <u>alıl</u>







### Interfaces



### Interfaces - Valves



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#### Interfaces – Tee Fittings



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#### Interfaces – Electrolyzer Fitting

9/16"<br>Hex

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1/4 NPT Pipe Size, 18 Threads Per Inch, 0.40" Thread Engagement





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# Fuel Cell Integration















#### Detecting Leaks

ERH2 will follow ASHRAE Bubble Method under Chapter 29.9 Leak Detection in the 2017 edition ASHRAE Handbook.



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# Drawing Tree





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#### ERH2 Assembly







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#### Electrolyzer Assembly









# Storage Capsule Assembly



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#### Test Matrix



















#### Risk Analysis

















#### Budget and Schedule



#### Budget

- Total: \$1530.69
- \$230.69 over budget
- [Bill of Materials](https://myerauedu.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/H2Migos/Shared%20Documents/General/Finances/Budgeting.xlsx?d=wfe674d4c40394e0e948071370aebfa24&csf=1&web=1&e=HR8U59)





- Extraction
- **Interfaces**
- **Piping**
- **Instrumentation**



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- Test Plans and TRR prep
- **Testing**

Final Report





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#### References

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- [8] Heat Transfer Textbook









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Questions?





# Additional Slides

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# Generation - Natural Gas

Methane **Resource**  • Methane is collected from a source (usually from natural gas)

Steam-Methane **Reforming** 

• High temperature steam (at 700-1,000 °C) is added to the methane gas

Hydrogen Extraction • Hydrogen gas is extracted from the steam-methane mix from an added catalyst

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# Generation - Photobiological

















# Generation - Microbial Biomass Conversion

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# Storage – Physical Storage



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# Storage – Material Storage

Adsorbtion

Hydrogen is Stuck to the Compound's Surface

Absorption

Hydrogen is Encased by the Compound



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#### Equations – Area of Mesh

 $64 (in^2) * 0.66 = 42.24 (in^2)$ 



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# Equations – Max Current

$$
\frac{0.084 (A)}{1 (cm^2)} * \frac{1 (cm^2)}{0.155 (in^2)} * 42.24 (in^2) = 22.89 (A)
$$



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# Equations – Rate of O2 Production

#### $22.89(C)$  $1(s)$ ∗ 600 96,485 ∗  $1 (mol O<sub>2</sub>)$  $4 (mol e^-)$ ∗ 31.998 ( $g O<sub>2</sub>$  $1 (mol O<sub>2</sub>)$

 $= 1.139 (g O<sub>2</sub>)$ 



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# Schedule of Project

#### • [Date tracking Gantt ERH2 \(version 1\).xlsb.xlsx](https://myerauedu-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/spillerh_my_erau_edu/Ef0DbHX812ZEpwhR6JwEFS0BcjY0EP1JyzZN7UaDBy9eVA?e=ftt8dR)

 $W$  T F





M T W T F S

**Preliminary Design Review** 



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M T W



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**AND** 

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#### Ideal Gas Law

 $PV = nRT$ 

Where:

- $P =$  Absolute pressure of the gas (KPa)
- $V =$  Volume of the gas (L)
- $n =$  Amount of the gas (g)
- $R =$  Ideal gas constant (KJ/Kg\*K)
- $T =$  Absolute temperature of the gas  $(K)$

**[Calculations](https://myerauedu.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/H2Migos/EZZKvZwX7l1CsxF4yR4J3tEBTUDfqyXwJ3raW9Y4FYBq2w?e=atMZ78)** 

















# Heat Loss / Required Power





















#### Vessel Pressure

- Maximum Vessel Pressure: 40.43psia
	- Champagne Bottle: 90psia
	- Soda Can: 30psia









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**Allie** 







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#### Risk Matrix – Before Mitigation











