Hydrogen Storage System Modeling: Public Access, Maintenance, and Enhancements

Team: Matthew Thornton (PI), Sam Sprik, Kriston Brooks, and David Tamburello

DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program

2020 Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting

May 20, 2020 Project ID # ST008

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

Timeline

- **Start: October 1, 2015**
- **End: September 30, 2021***

Barriers

- **A. System Weight and Volume**
- **B. System Cost**
- **C. Efficiency**
- **E. Charging/Discharging Rates**
- **I. Dispensing Technology**
- **K. System Life-Cycle Assessment**

Budget

- **Total Project Funding: \$1,630,000***
	- o **FY16 Funding: \$336,000**
	- o **FY17 Funding: \$389,000**
	- o **FY18 Funding: \$375,000**
	- o **FY19 Funding: \$275,000**
	- o **FY20 Funding: \$255,000**

Partners

***Project continuation and direction determined annually by DOE.**

Collaborative effort to manage, update, and enhance hydrogen storage system models developed under the Hydrogen Storage Engineering Center of Excellence (HSECoE)

- Transfer engineering development **knowledge from HSECoE on to future materials research**.
- Manage the **HSECoE model dissemination** web page.
- Manage, update, enhance, and validate the **modeling framework and the specific storage system models** developed by the HSECoE.
- Develop models that will **accept direct materials property inputs** and can be measured by materials researchers.
- **Ultimate Goal: Provide validated modeling tools that researchers will use to evaluate the performance of their new materials in engineered systems relative to the DOE Technical Targets**.

Relevance – Addressing Barriers with Models

Relevance – Improving Model Utilities for Materials Researchers

Modeling Tools Available or In Progress

Framework Model with:

Accomplishments and Progress – Design Tools and Framework Estimate Allow Evaluation of Hydrogen Storage Systems

Capabilities:

- **Stand-alone design tools now available in Microsoft Excel for adsorbents, metal hydrides, chemical hydrogen storage, and pure hydrogen storage**
- Usable-H₂-mass-based and full storage-system**volume-based capabilities for each design tool**
- **Multiple kinetics/isotherm expressions available in the stand-alone tools and framework for each storage method**
- **All models allow material-specific property inputs measured by materials researchers to design materialspecific storage systems**

Accomplishments and Progress – Design Tools Flowchart

Accomplishments and Progress – Model Improvements

Excel-Based Chemical Hydrogen Storage Stand-Alone Tool

MS Excel-based tools allow universal availability without cumbersome downloads of MATLAB products

- Usable-H₂-mass-based and system-volume-based tools available
- **Downloads available for ammonia borane and alane can be downloaded and modified for other liquid/slurry-based chemical hydrogen storage materials**

Flag for volume- or usable- H_2 -constrained design

Excel-Based Metal Hydride Stand-Alone Design Tools

heat transfer only; no kinetics or mass transfer included

Excel-Based Cryo-Adsorbent Stand-Alone Design Tools

- **Separate tabs for Dubinin-Astakhov (D-A) adsorption theory isotherm and UNILAN isotherm**
- Models can evaluate mass-of-usable-H₂-constrained and system-volume-constrained design tools
- **Can evaluate materials at cryogenic, cold, and room-temperature conditions**

Accomplishments and Progress – Vehicle Framework GUI

Accomplishments and Progress – Adsorbent System

Accomplishments and Progress –Models Provide Input to Spider Charts

Accomplishments and Progress –Models Provide Input to Spider Charts

Information provided by Framework NaAlH₄ Estimates Model using available drive cycles

Accomplishments and Progress – Exercise Models

Accomplishments and Progress – Metal Hydride Materials Evaluation

MH Stand-Alone Design Tool Evaluates Promising Materials

Bulk Materials Nano Materials

Learning: **Nanoscale materials have higher system gravimetric and volumetric capacity** in spite of lower hydrogen storage capacity

- *Improved ΔH and ΔS result in significantly reduced operating temperature, reducing tank mass and hydrogen burned*
- *Improved thermal conductivity improves heat transfer during refueling and reduces the number of coolant tubes required*

Framework Model Compares Nanoscaled vs. Bulk Materials

Nano-Li₃N Results from Framework Model

Learning: Nanoscaled $Li₃N$ has fast enough kinetics and low enough temperatures to allow all drive cycles to be met; bulk $Li₃N$ does not

• *Bulk Li3N reaction does not initiate for any of the drive cycles*

MH Stand-Alone Design Tool Compares Two Forms of NaAlH $_4$

- HRL is evaluating NaAlH₄ milled with 0.03 TiCl₃ mixed 50:50 wt % with diglyme.
- This mixture has faster kinetics and reaches complete conversion sooner than the control without diglyme.

2nd: Assuming 20% diglyme and the higher usable $H₂$ capacity result in nearly the same tank size as Control 1st

• An assumed doubling of thermal conductivity reduces system mass and volume by 8.5%

Accomplishments and Progress – Metal Hydride Materials Evaluation

Framework Compares Two Forms of NaAlH₄, Maximum T = 160 $^{\circ}$ C

Enhanced material decreases the maximum possible operating temperature with the drive cycles by 5°–10°C

Accomplishments and Progress – Model Website Analytics:

Weekly Activity (April 1, 2019–March 30, 2020)

Activity almost every week; 85% of sessions were by new visitors

Accomplishments and Progress – Model Website Analytics: Web Flow (April 1, 2019–March 30, 2020)

• **1st interaction is mostly on Models page followed by Technology Areas; 2nd interaction is mostly on Models page**

Accomplishments and Progress – Model Website Analytics:

Locations (April 1, 2019–March 30, 2020)

Primary Dimension: Country City Continent Sub Continent

Activity by city shows global interest in countries and regions including China, Australia, Japan, EU, and others

24

Accomplishments and Progress – Model Downloads

(through March 30, 2020)

Most downloads are for *Tank Mass and Cost Model* **and** *Vehicle Simulator Model*

Collaboration and Coordination

 $\begin{smallmatrix}&&4\\2&3&4&5&6&8&8&8&8&8\end{smallmatrix}$

.

Proposed Future Work – FY20 Milestones and Next Steps

Any proposed future work is subject to change based on funding levels

Technology Transfer Activities – Updated HSECoE Model Website

HSECoE website:<http://hsecoe.org/>

On-Board Storage System The center is developing on-boom whicular hydropis storage system and components that will allow for last My reflicies capable of a driver ange comparatie to today's vi meadows commercial cost work labili responsents. This effect **Investigating empirisering** design, and system models required to

Objectives for the DDE and HySE

Classes of Storage Systems

optimize on-beard subsystems

To remen DOE Targets for Onto

rage Engineering (H.SE) is led by Sauantah River National Laboratory (SP/L) an stes, industrial corporations, and tederal laboratories tocated around the cisurer,

Modeling Efforts

As part of the H_SSEs modeling effort, it was found useful to develop smglified models that can quickly estimate optimal loading and discharge kinetics, effective hydrogen capacities, system dimensions, and heat removal requirements of various materials based hydrogen storage system designs. Parameters obtained from these models were then used as inputs into the detailed models to obtain an accurate assessment of system performance that includes more complete integration of the physical processes. In addition, to meet the objectives of the Center, there was a need to quickly and efficiently evaluate various materials based storage systems and to compare their performance against DOE light duty vehicle targets. To accomplish this task, a modeling approach was created that enabled the exchange of one hydrogen storage system for another while keeping the vehicle and fuel cell systems constant. As such a modeling "hamework" that was used for system evaluation and comparison by the Center was developed. The framework was used to implement the integrated vehicle, the power plant, and the storage system models. This framework tool was used across the engineering center to evaluate candidate storage system designs on a common vehicle platform with consistent set of assumptions.

It was felt, by DOE, that these models and the modeling framework could provide benefit to research efforts outside of the HSECoE and merefore should be made available to university and laboratory researchers working in this area. Below are select models, including the center modeling framework, that are available for download and use by the broad research community. Model descriptions, a user's manual and presentations. detailing the models validation are also available for download below. These models are open for use by material developers and storage system designers, but caution should be used when applying these models to materials and operating conditions that have not been validated. Please send any questions or comments to the technical assistance e-mail provided.

Click here to view our current publications and presentations.

Models

Hydrogen Vehicle Simulation Framework

The H2 Vehicle Simulation Framework is a MATLAB/Simulini tool for simulating a light duty vehicle powered by a PEM fuel cell, which in turn is fueled by a hydrogen storage system. The framework is designed so that the performance of different storage systems may be compared on a single vehicle, maintaining the vehicle and fuel cel system assumptions.

The Framework is composed of a vehicle module, a fuel cell module, and a hydroge storage module. The figure below shows these components and the main responsibilities and interfaces.

The vehicle module computes demand for a given drive cycle. Power demand is based on acceleration, aerodynamic crag, rolling resistance and component efficiences. The drive cycles are repeated until some failure condition is encountered. This could be that the hydrogen has been depleted, the flow rate is insufficient, or some components are undersized for the vehicle's demand

The fuel cell block's responsibility is to translate power demand from the vehicle into hydrogen demant to the storage system. It also manages thermal balance and makes waste heat stream available for harvesting by the storage system. Note that this is not a fuel cell sizing tool: The performance curve is chosen to match DOE targets for efficiency (50% at rated power, 60% at 20% of rated power).

The hydrogen storage system responds to hydrogen flow demands from the fuel cell system. It may also request auxiliary electrical power from the vehicle if needed, such as for heating and powering belance of plant components.

Remaining Challenges and Barriers

- Increase the use of the models by material developers
	- o *Expand the researcher base that uses the models*
	- o *Simplify the model use for nonmodelers*
- Increase the use of the models by systems engineers
	- o *Potential expansion of the model capabilities to other vehicle classes and system platforms*
- Demonstrate the models' utility to other researchers
	- o *Applying the models to their applications*
- Find available data to validate the models
- Reverse engineering—using the models to better inform materials developers of what properties are most important

Publications and Presentations

Brooks, K., D. Tamburello, S. Sprik, M. Thornton. 2018. "Design Tool for Estimating Chemical Hydrogen Storage System Characteristics for Light-Duty Fuel Cell Vehicles." *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* 43, no. 18 (May): 8846–8858.

Brooks, K., D. Tamburello, S. Sprik, M. Thornton. 2020. "Design Tool for Estimating Metal Hydride Storage System Characteristics for Light-Duty Fuel Cell Vehicles." *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, forthcoming (submitted January 2020).

Tamburello, D. 2018. "Cryo-Adsorbent Hydrogen Storage Systems for Fuel Cell Vehicles" (presented at the 70th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Augusta, GA, November 2, 2018).

Tamburello, D., B. Hardy, M. Sulic, M. Kesterson, C. Corgnale, D. Anton. 2018. "Compact Cryo-Adsorbent Hydrogen Storage Systems for Fuel Cell Vehicles" (POWER2018-7474*,* Proceedings of the ASME Power and Energy Conference, Buena Vista, FL, June 24, 2018).

Responses to Previous Year Reviewers' Comments

• *This project was not reviewed last year*

NREL/PR-5400-76602

This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fuel Cell Technologies Office. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paidup, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.