Dish Stirling High Performance Thermal Storage

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Goal:
- Demonstrate the feasibility of significant thermal storage for dish Stirling systems to leverage their existing high performance to greater capacity
- Demonstrate key components of a latent storage and transport system enabling on-dish storage with low exergy losses
- Provide a technology path to a 25kW$_e$ system with 6 hours of storage

Innovation:
- Leverage high performance heat pipes to support feasible system layout
- Develop and test high temperature, high performance PCM storage
- Optimize storage configuration for cost and exergy performance
- Latent storage *and* transport matches Stirling cycle isothermal input[1]

Q2 Milestones:
- Downselect at least 1 salt and 2 metallic PCM's for in-depth evaluation and sample testing

[1]Andraka, C.E., Rawlinson, K.S., Siegel, N.P., "Technical Feasibility of Storage on Large Dish Stirling Systems," Sandia report SAND2012-8352 (2012).

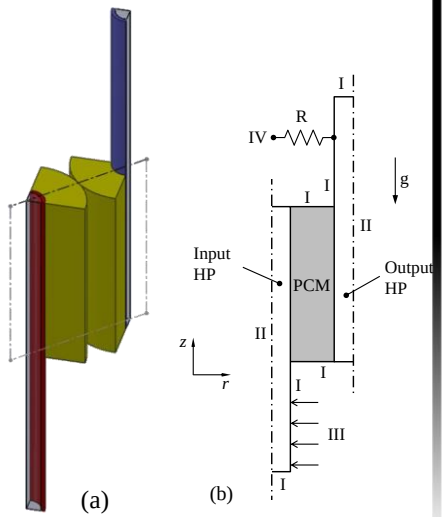
APPROACH

- PCM development and selection
  - Literature searches and modeling to develop candidate eutectics
  - Sample fabrication and characterization to develop properties
  - Modeling of compatibility with potential containment
  - Long-term testing of compatibility
- Storage optimization
  - Advanced modeling of PCM/heat pipe interfaces including free convection in combined solid/liquid states
  - Exergy and cost optimization
  - 2-D and 3-D models
- Heat Pipe
  - Felt wick enhancements for robust high performance
- Proof-of-concept hardware subscale demonstration

[3] Shabgard, H., Faghri, A., Numerical Simulation of Latent Heat Thermal Energy Storage (LHTES) Systems for Solar Steam Generation Applications, to be submitted to peer-reviewed journal (2013).
[4] Shabgard, H., Robak, C.W., Bergman, T.L., Faghri, A., "Heat transfer and exergy analysis of cascaded latent heat storage with gravity-assisted heat pipes for concentrating solar power applications," Solar Energy 86 (3) (2012) 816–830.

Q2 KEY RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- 2-D PCM model extended to include realistic heat pipe boundary conditions
- 2-D model temporal cyclic results generated for salt PCM
- PCM Down-selection to two metallics and two salts completed (milestone)
- One metallic PCM fabricated and tested to verify thermal properties.
- First cut analytical analysis (HSC) of containment compatibility performed on metallic PCMs
- Advanced heat pipe wick options narrowed through analytic and merit analysis



NEXT QUARTER

PCM candidate evaluation
- Fabricate and evaluate remaining metallic PCM
- Begin design of long-term compatibility test
- Evaluate methods for screening acute compatibility issues

2-D PCM model development
- Add turbulent natural convection features during melt
- Add gravity vector and density variation
- Prepare manuscript on 2-D model

Heat pipe advanced wick development
- Begin fabrication and testing of wick samples

Systems analysis
- Extend model based on findings of 2-D PCM model
- Extend model for probabilistic studies

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