

“Applications and future trends in polymer materials for green energy systems: from energy generation and storage, to CO₂ capture and transportation”

*United Technologies Research Center
East Hartford, CT 06108*



August 24, 2010

United Technologies

Business units

aerospace systems

Sikorsky



Hamilton Sundstrand



Pratt & Whitney



power solutions

UTC Power



UTC Fire & Security



building systems

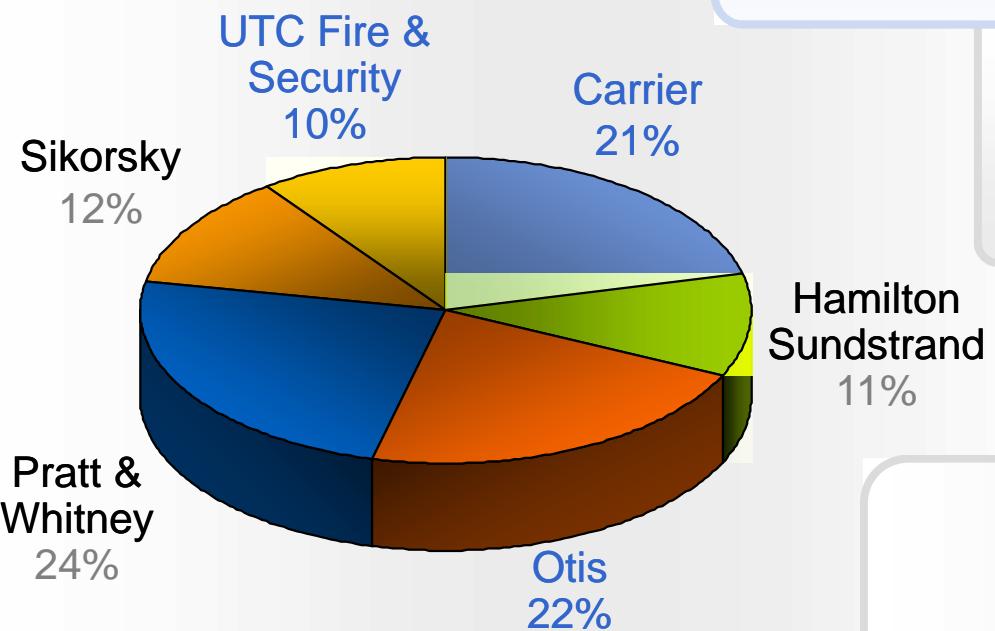
Otis



United Technologies

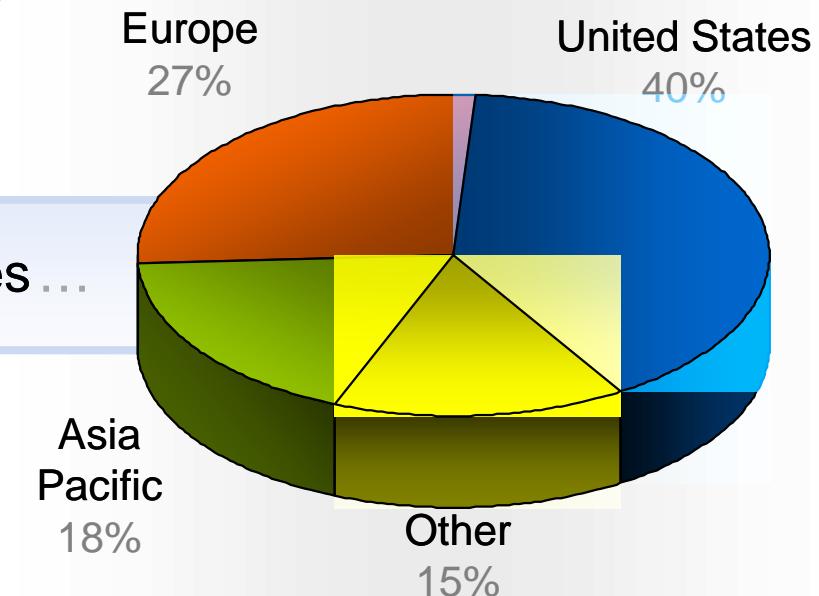
2009 Revenues: \$52.9 billion

Business unit revenues ...



Segment ...
58% Commercial & Industrial
42% Aerospace

Geographic revenues ...



UTRC...UTC's Innovation Engine

Defining what's next

- Define **new frontiers...**

UTC Fire & Security
intelligent security
and fire detection
systems



- Co-develop **new technologies...**

Otis Gen2
coated steel belt



- Solve **tough problems...**

UTC businesses
UTRC materials characterization
for failure analysis and relentless
root cause investigation

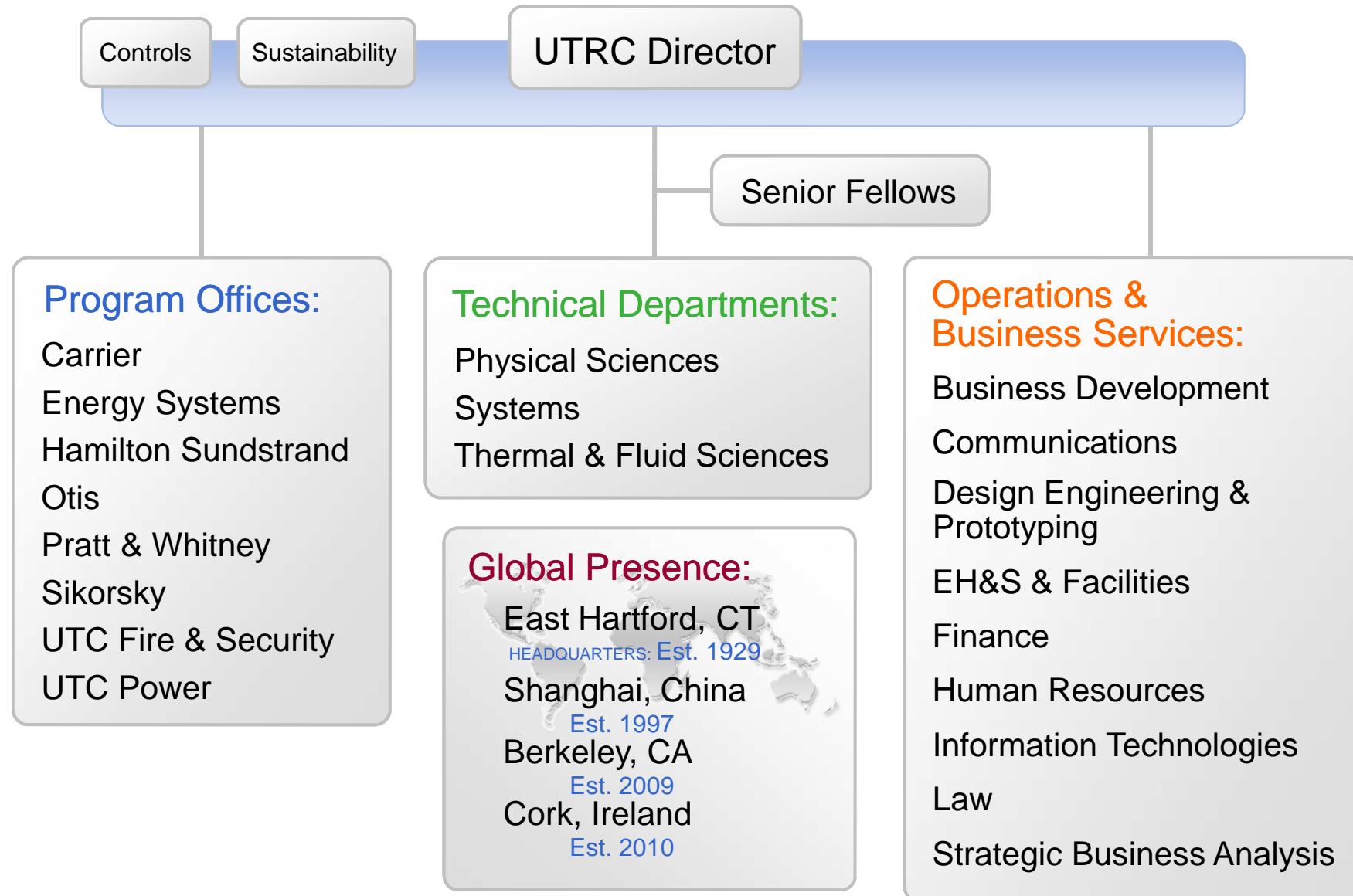


- Serve as hub for **technical interchange...**

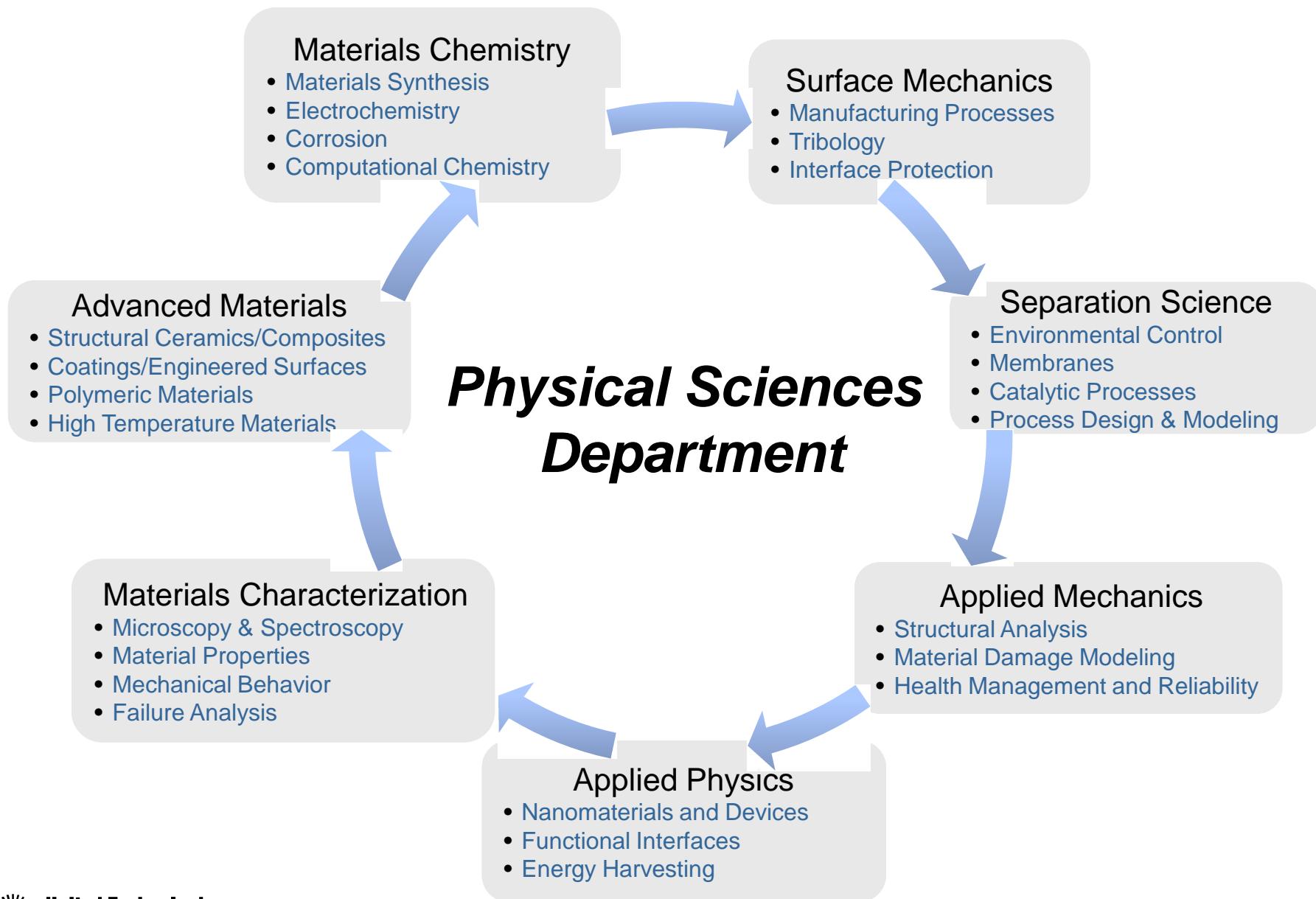
- Leverage **global network of innovation...**



UTRC Organization



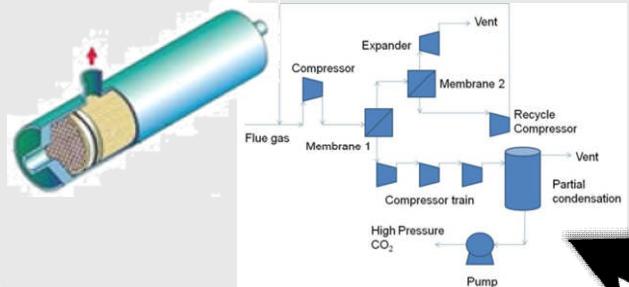
UTRC's Physical Sciences Department: Capabilities



UTRC: Selective Areas of Polymers Applications

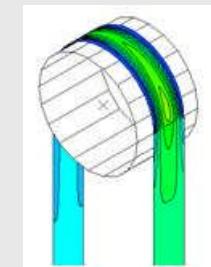
Hamilton-Sundstrand

*Novel Polymer Membrane
for CO₂ Separation*



OTIS

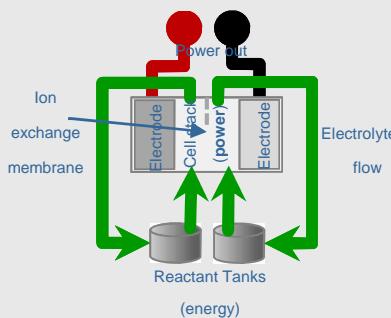
*Polymer Coated Elevator
Steel-Cord Belt*



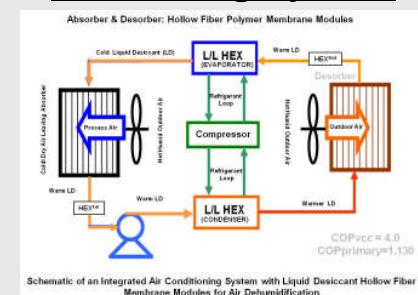
UTRC

P&W Rocketdyne

Electrochemical Flow Battery

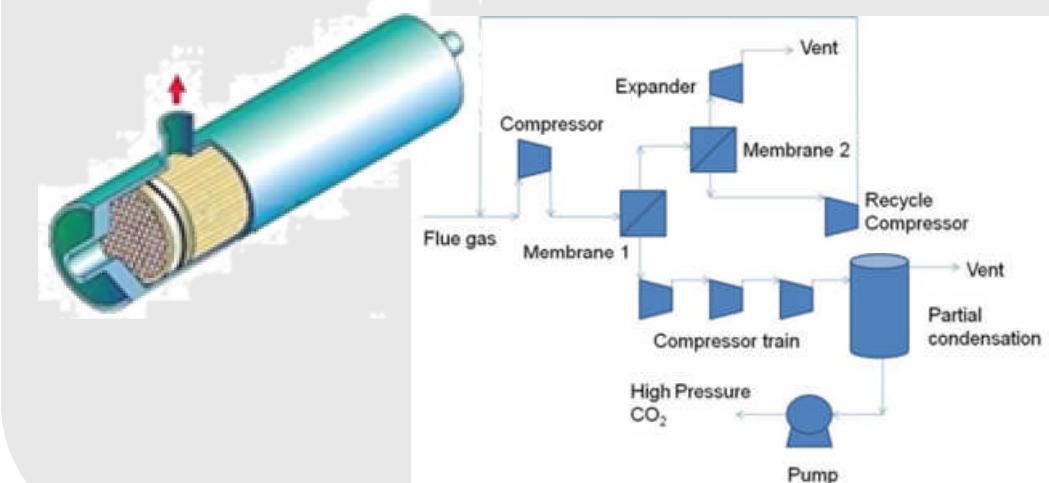


Carrier Dehumidification Air-Cooling System



Novel Polymer Membrane Application: CO₂ Separation

Novel Polymer Membrane for CO₂ Separation



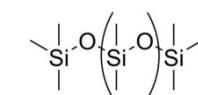
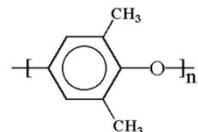
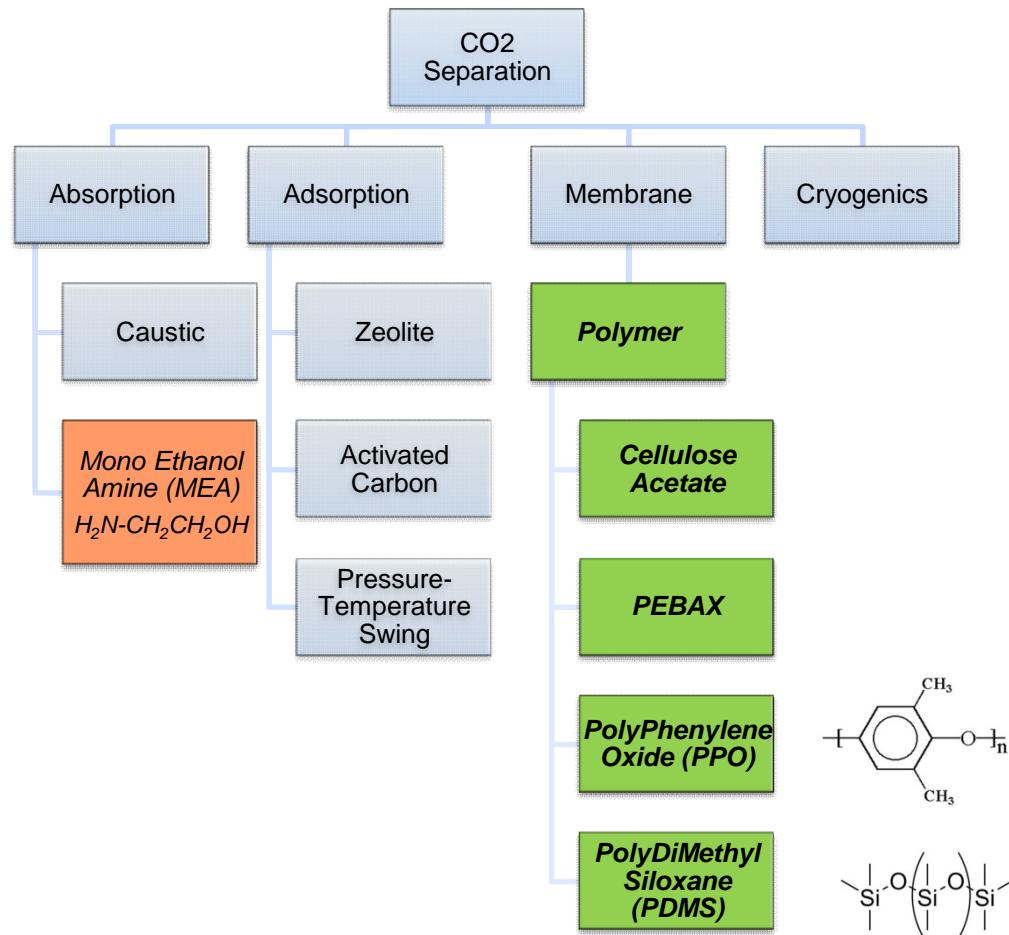
Funded by:



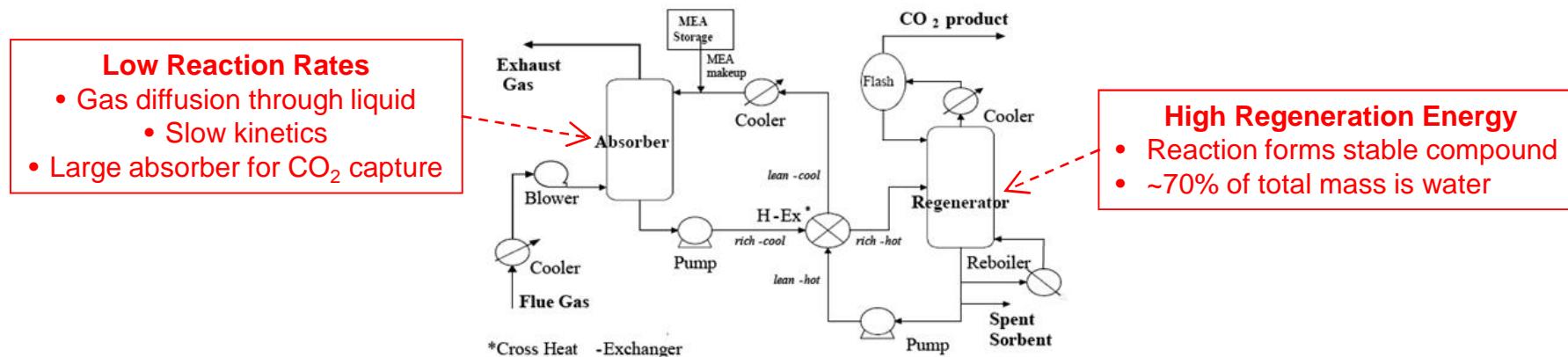
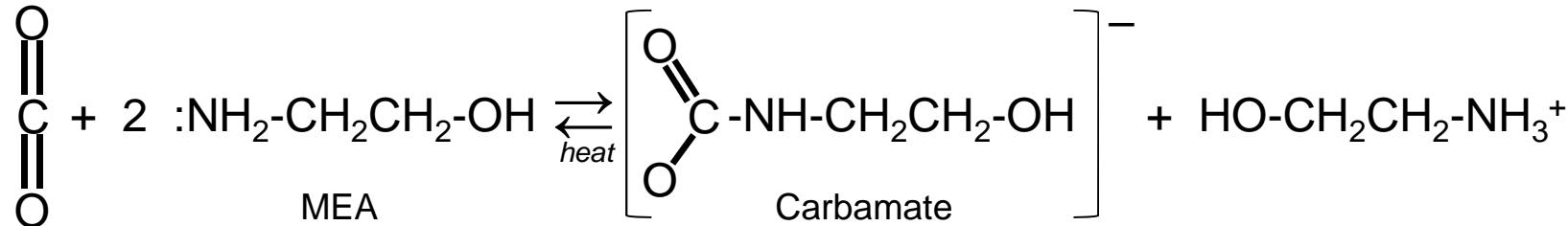
arpa-e

Main-Stream CO₂ Separation Technologies

2.8 billion tons CO₂ emitted per year from existing US coal-fired power plants



CO₂ Separation from Power Plant Flue Gas: Liquid Amine Process



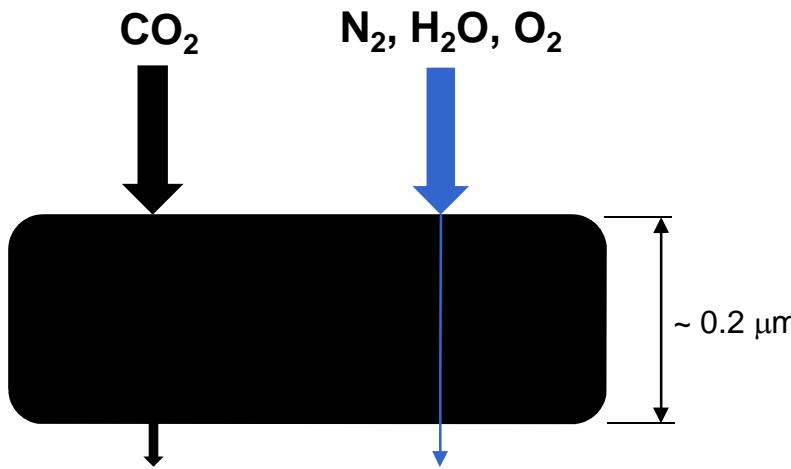
Disadvantages of Liquid Amine Process

- Deactivation of MEA sorbent due to flue gas impurities (SOx) forming stable salts
- Corrosion issues leading to high capital costs
- **Energy Penalty: \$50/ton CO₂ captured → 80% increase in cost of electricity**

Limitations in liquid amine chemistry lead to high operating & capital costs

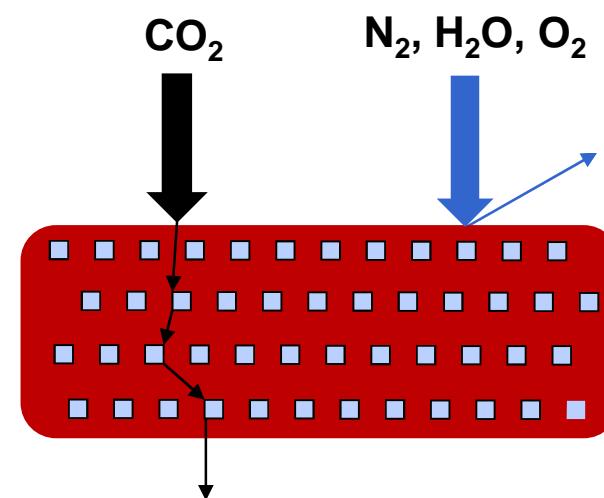
CO₂ Separation Membrane

Facilitated transport could improve performance of current membranes



Current Membranes

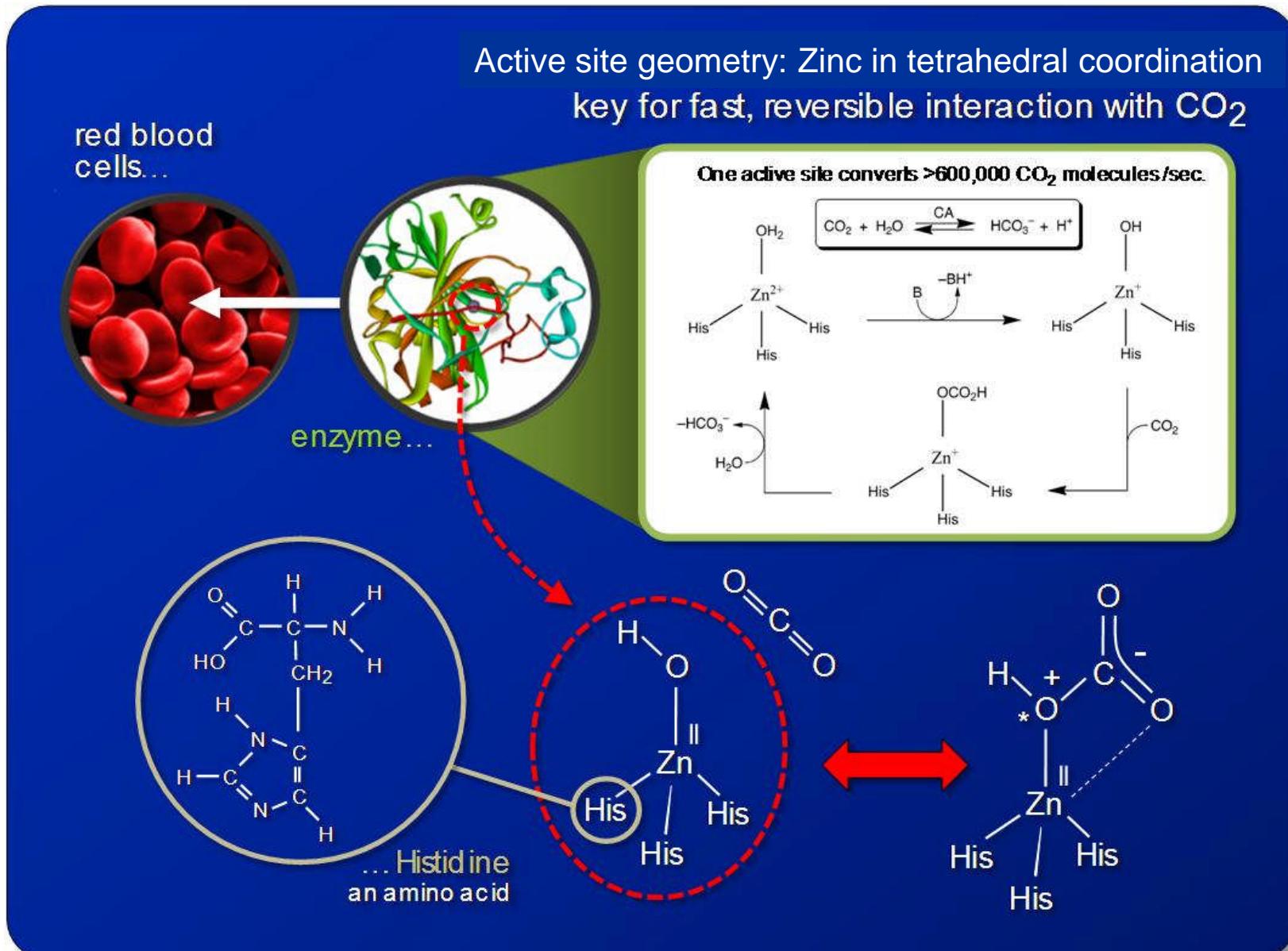
- Thin, dense polymer films with more affinity for CO₂ than for other gases
- Low selectivity for CO₂ (barely competitive with amines)



Desired Membrane

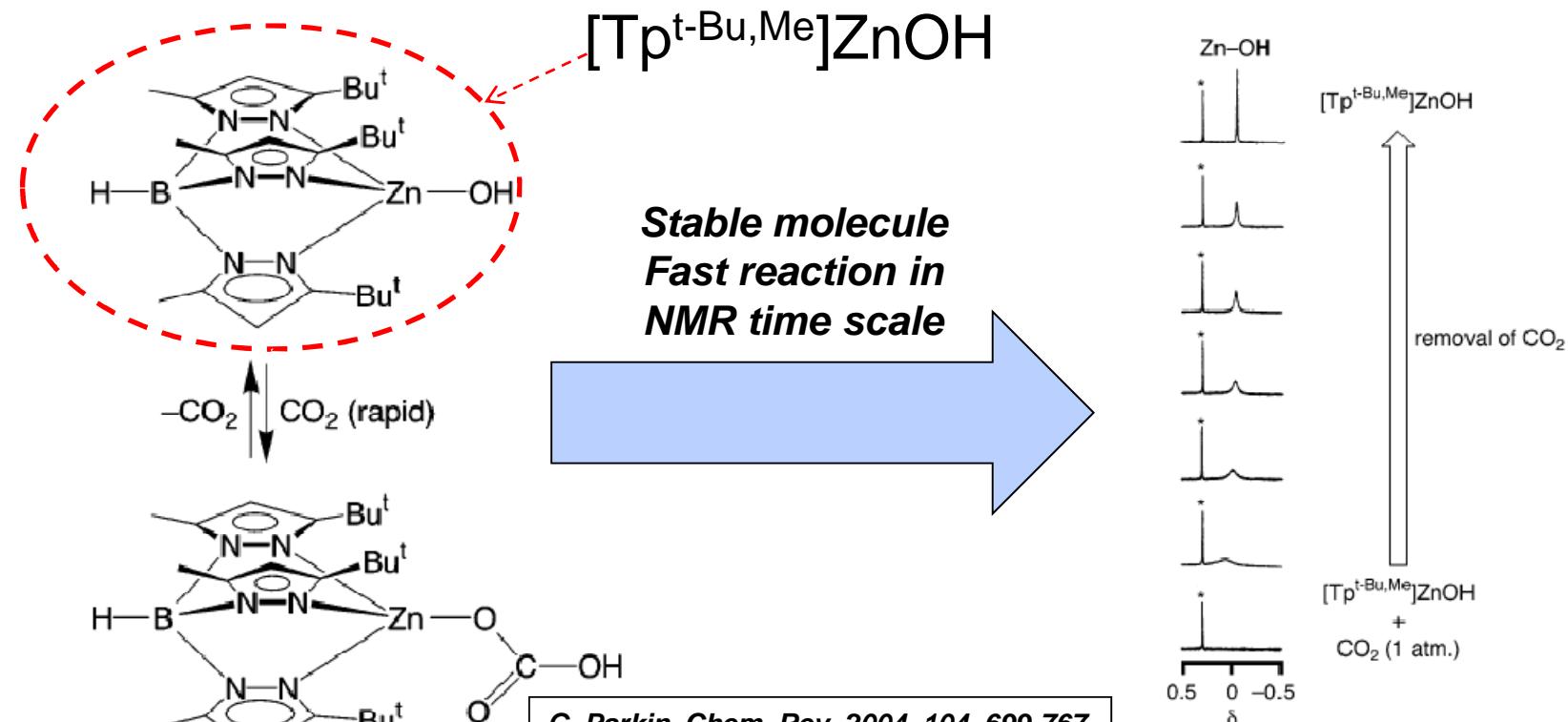
- CO₂ transport is facilitated by specialized “carriers” within a barrier film
- Requires sites exhibiting *fast* and *reversible* interaction with CO₂

Carbonic Anhydrase: Nature's Solution



tris(pyrazolyl)borate $[\text{Tp}^{\text{t-Bu,Me}}]\text{ZnOH}$: CA Synthetic Analogue

CA... Carbonic Anhydrase

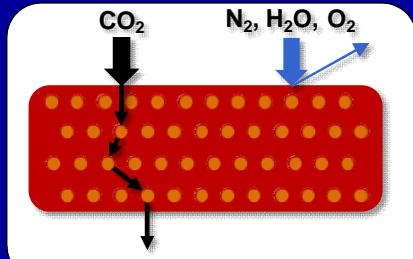


 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Fast & reversible interaction of the Synthetic Analogue with CO_2 demonstrated

Approach: Incorporation of Synthetic Analogue in the Polymer

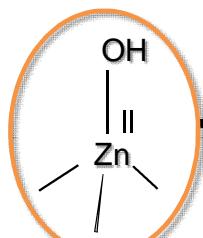
CO₂ transport facilitated by carriers mimicking enzyme active site



Taylor-Designed Membrane

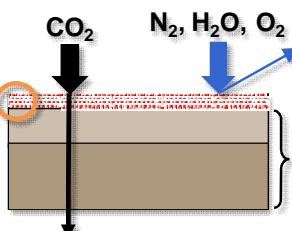
- CO₂ transport facilitated by selective carriers within the barrier film
- Requires sites exhibiting fast and reversible interaction with CO₂

Approach: Synthesize & Incorporate into Polymer Synthetic Analogue of CA



Thin polymer film containing zinc hydroxide in tetrahedral coordination, mimicking CA's active site

CA ... carbonic anhydrase



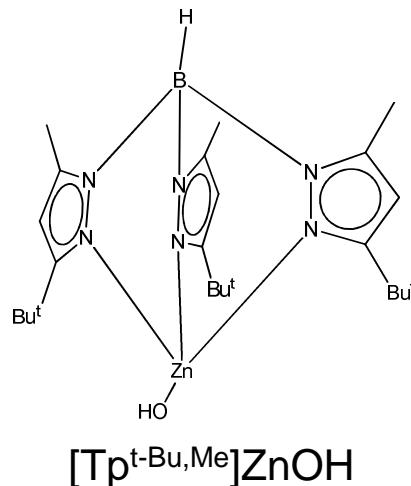
Polymeric microporous substrate (commercial)

- 30% lower CO₂ capture cost compared to liquid amines (current technology)
- Modular, skid-mounted configuration, with no moving parts
- No consumables, toxic chemicals or offensive odors
- Flexibility to start with smaller system and gradually increase to 90% CO₂ capture

Synthetic Analogue Modification for Grafting

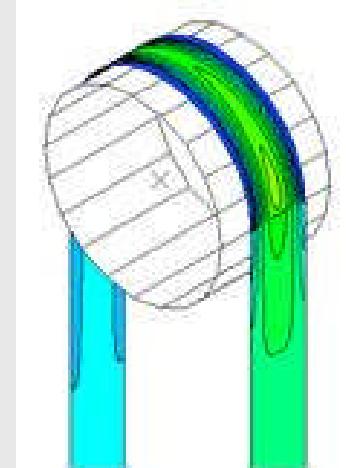
Parallel approaches pursued

- Functionalization of the $[\text{Tp}^{\text{t-Bu,Me}}]\text{ZnOH}$ (CA synthetic analogue) to graft onto the polymer backbone:
 - Carboxylic functionalization
 - Unsaturated functionalization

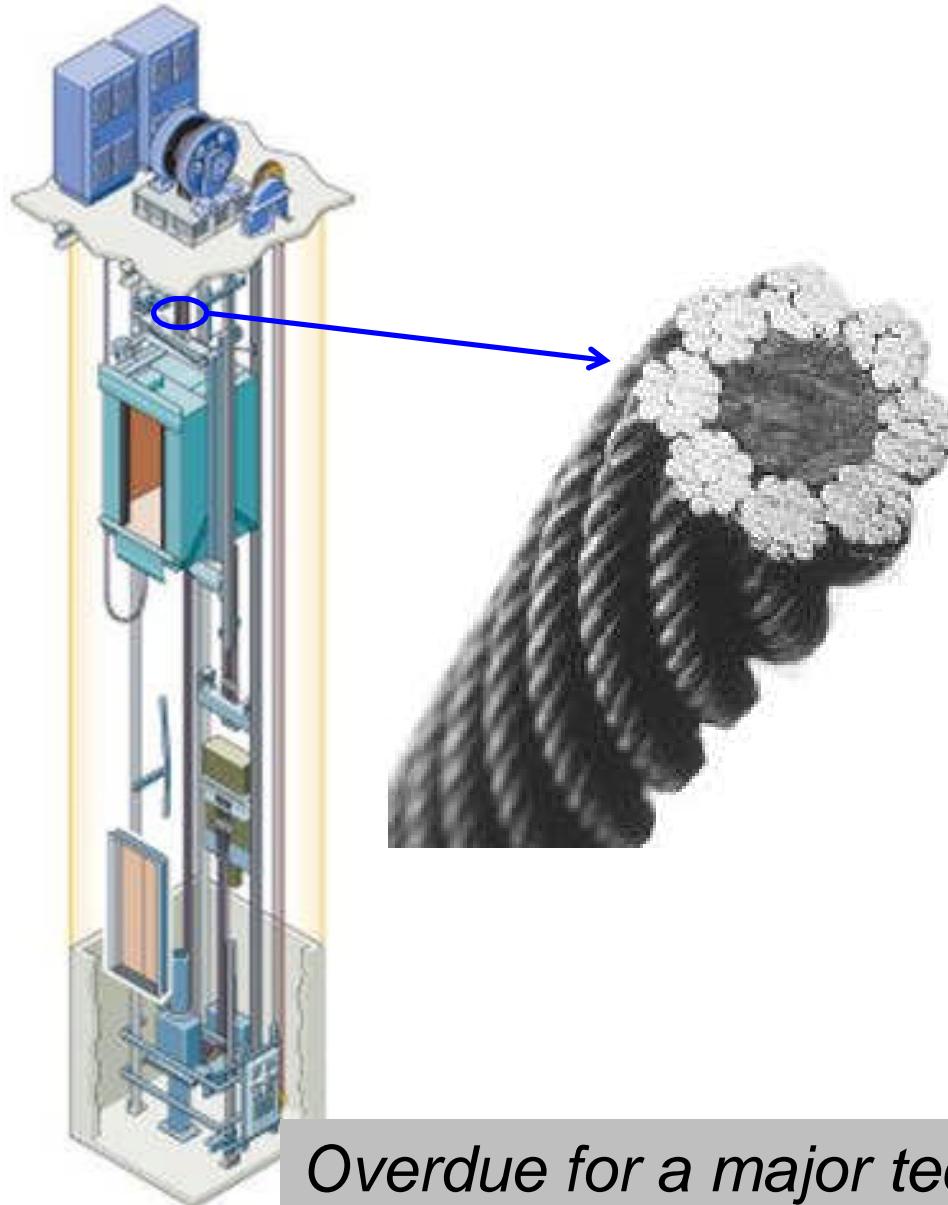


OTIS Elevator Polymer Coated Steel Cord Belt (CSB)

OTIS Elevator Polymer Coated Steel Cord Belt



Steel Cables: Old Technology

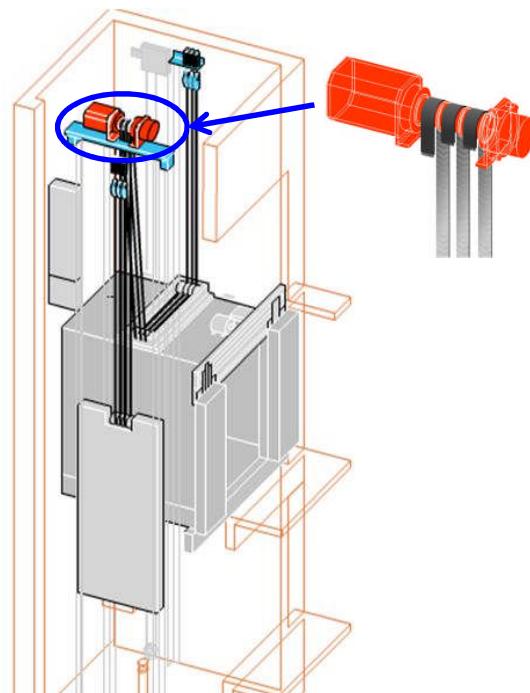
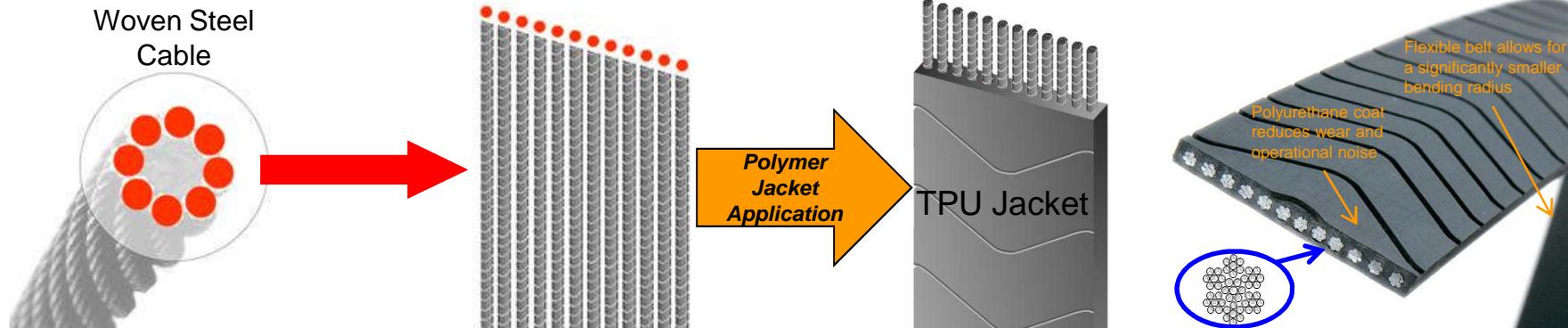


- Had been the industry standard since the 1800's:
 - Steel cables wound around a flexible core
 - Attached to the top of the elevator and the counterweight at the other end
 - Wraps around the drive sheave
- Heavy, excess weight
- Large motor
- Power waste
- Noisy, bumpy ride
- Dedicated machine room requirement

Overdue for a major technology breakthrough

New Industry Standard: OTIS Polymer Coated Steel Cord Belt

Flat TPU Coated Steel Cord Belt



Coated Steel Belt Advantages

- First Generation Belt commercially introduced in 2000's
- Reduction in bending stiffness allowing use of smaller diameter pulleys and motors
 - Allow use of smaller VF gearless machinery and sheaves
 - Elimination of costly machine room need
- 20% weight reduction vs. steel cables
 - Equally strong and more durable, flexible and space-saving than steel cables, even though only 3 mm thick x 30 mm wide
- **Allows for up to 50% power need reduction!!**
- Step change in ride quality and noise reduction
- Higher reliability due to fewer machinery moving parts
- Environmentally friendly operation – no lubrication needed

Over 150,000 Coated Steel Belt OTIS elevators in use to date worldwide

Jacket Polymer Critical Performance Properties

Behavior at low and high operating temperatures:

- Mechanical and tear strength
- Coefficient of friction
- Wear performance

Property retention after long-term exposure to:

- High humidity/high temperature operating environment
- Humidity/temperature cycling

Typical Manufacturing Processes

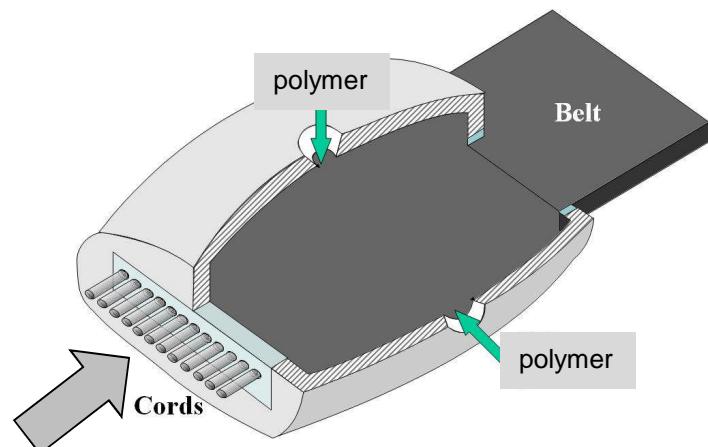
Linear Extrusion

Advantages

- High production speed
- Better polymer penetration

Risks

- Dimensional control



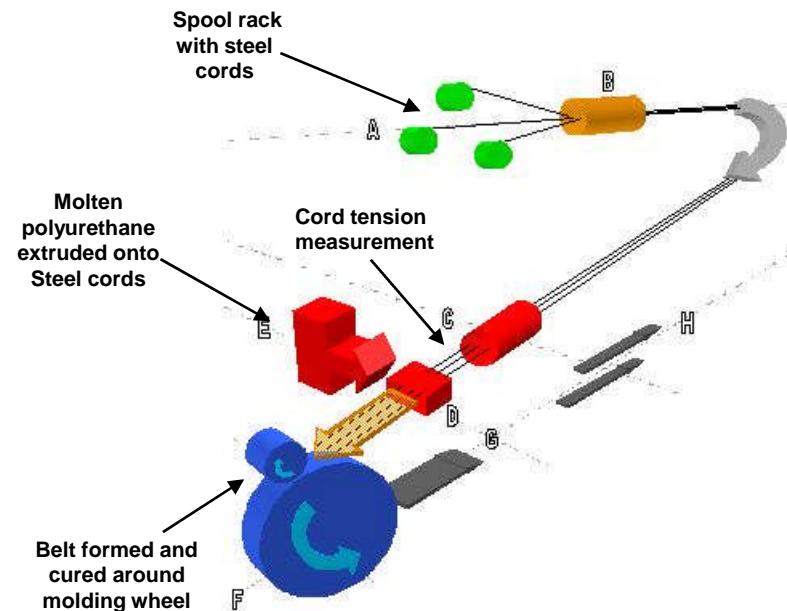
Mold Wheel

Advantages

- Better dimensional control
- More mature process

Risks

- Lower production speed



NextGen Polymer Coated Steel Belt

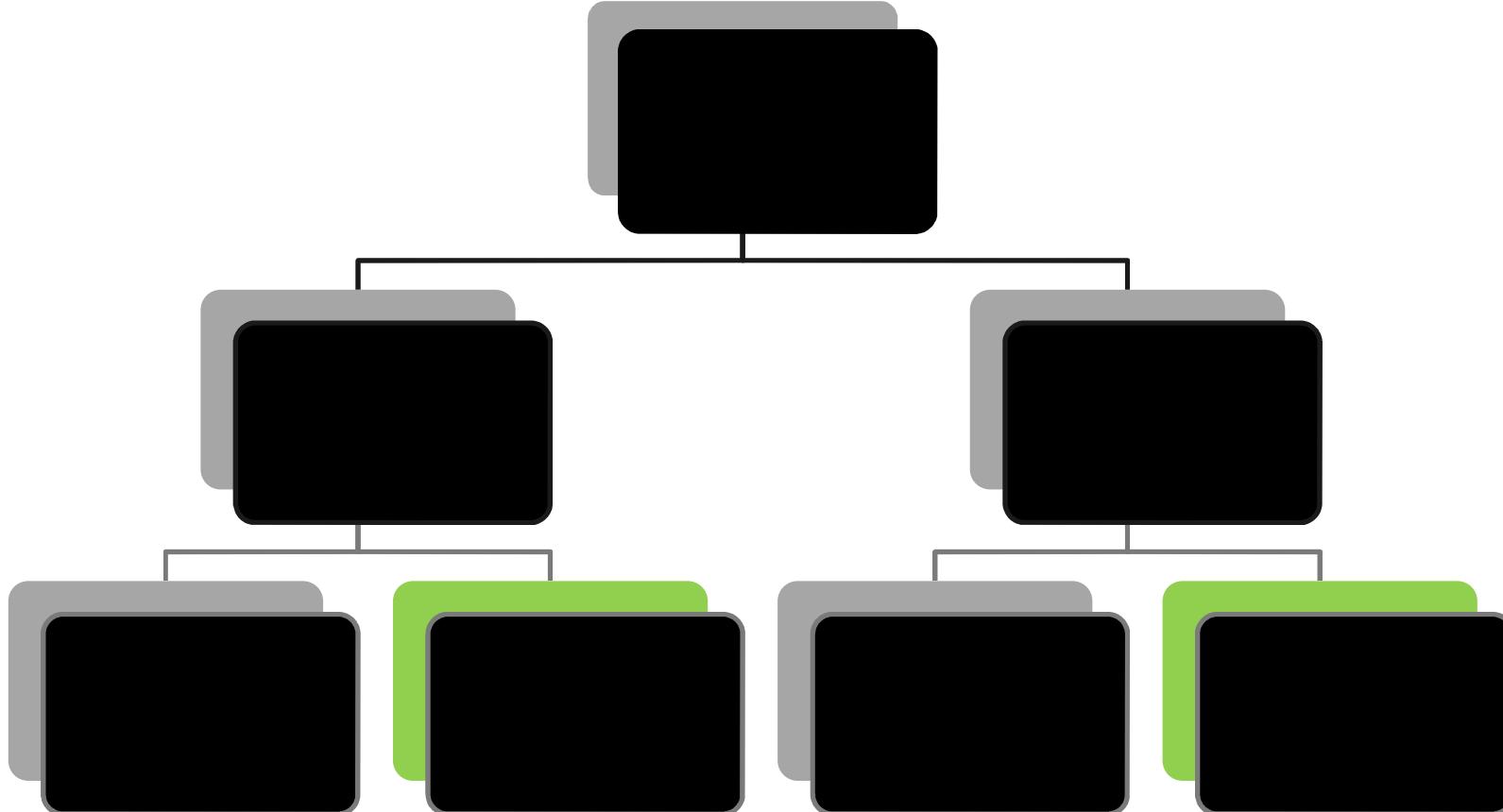
NextGen Belt Requirements

- Further ride quality improvement
- Process and material improvements allowing higher product performance and customer satisfaction

Polymer & Process Candidates

- Alternate TPU or thermoplastic elastomer materials
- New belt jacket design for further ride quality improvement

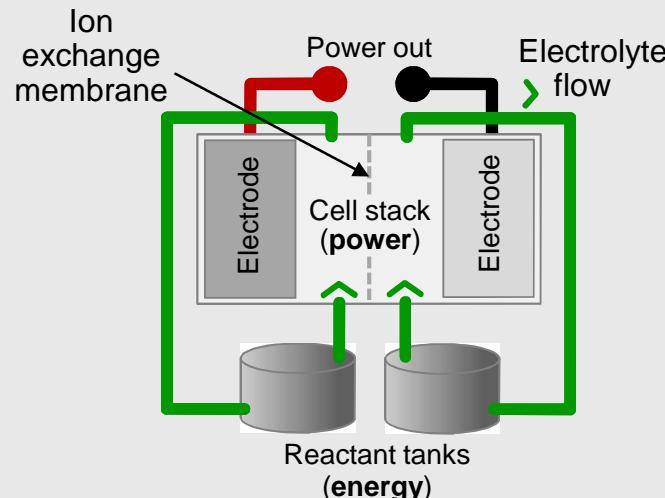
NextGen Polymer Coated Steel Belt: Material & Processes Trends



Higher product performance & customer satisfaction

Electrochemical Flow Battery

Flow Battery System



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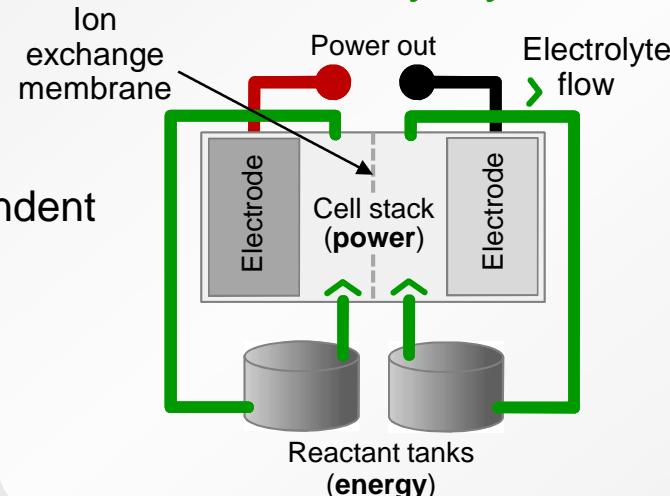
Flow Batteries are essentially rechargeable fuel-cell systems

Combine the best attributes of rechargeable batteries and fuel cells

Cell stack attributes

- Energy and power independent
- Long life cycle
- Low self-discharge rates

Flow Battery System

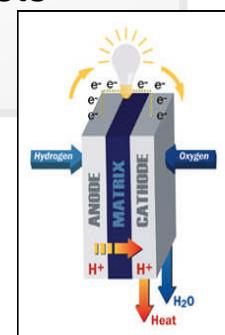


Battery attributes

- Rechargeable
- High round-trip efficiencies
- No precious-metal catalysts

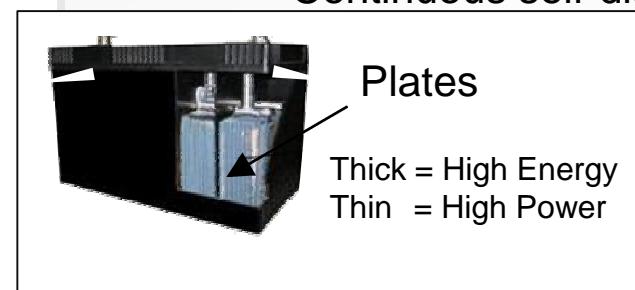
Fuel cell issues (for energy storage)

- Low round-trip efficiencies
- Precious-metal catalysts
- Hydrogen storage



Conventional battery constraints

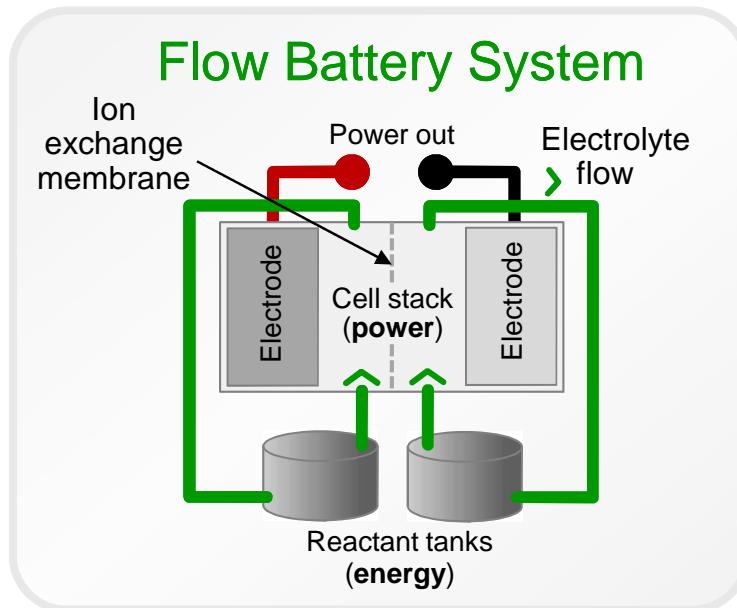
- High power OR High energy
- Limited life cycle
- Continuous self-discharge



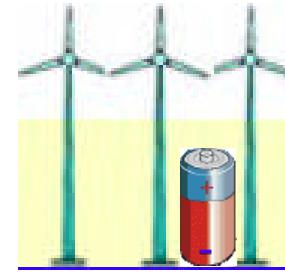
Large-Scale Electrical Energy Storage

Improve energy efficiency and emissions, reduce need for peaker plants

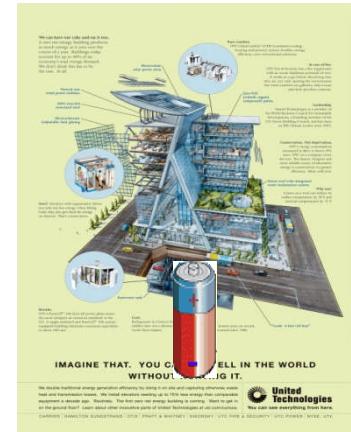
Technology



Applications



Renewable Energy
Smoothing & time-shifting



Commercial Buildings
Bill reduction & UPS



Remote & Off Grid
Minimize fuel usage



Transmission & Distribution
Infrastructure deferral

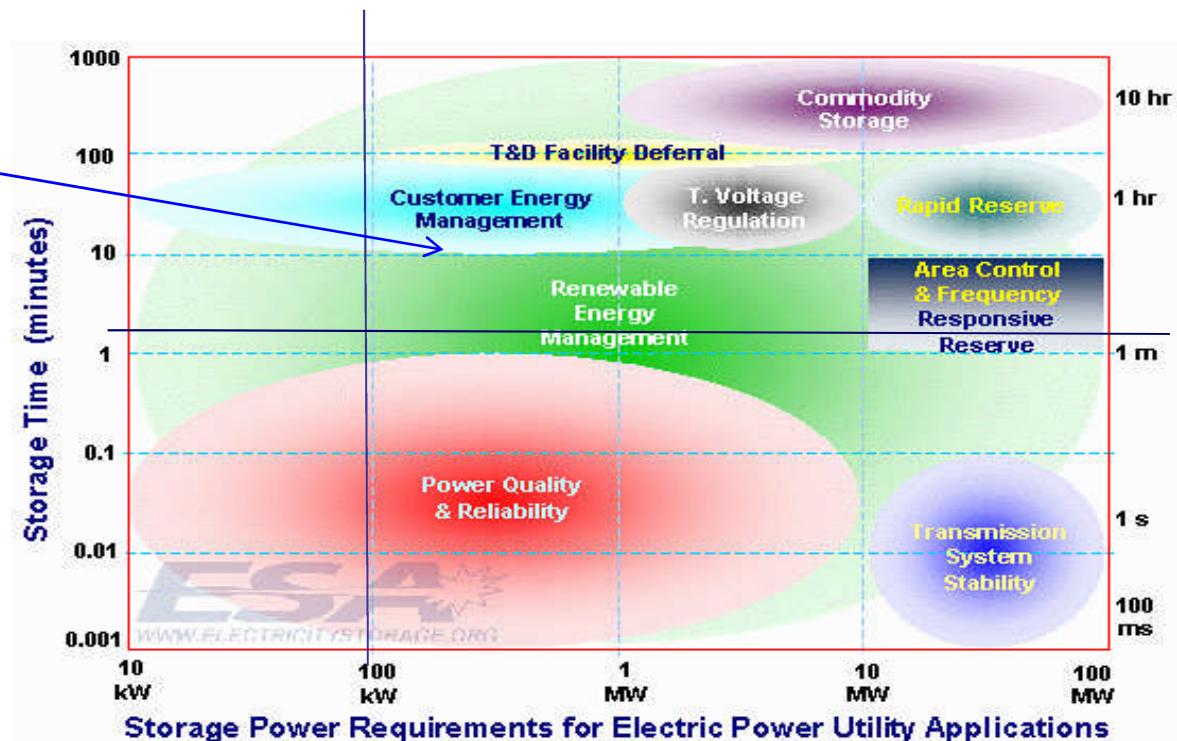
Electrical-Energy Storage Market

Large potential market (> \$1B/y); need is growing due to multiple factors

- Many potential applications for EES; provides means to balance fluctuating power consumption & generation
- FBS is advantageous for applications that require multiple hours of run time

■ Flow Batteries Space

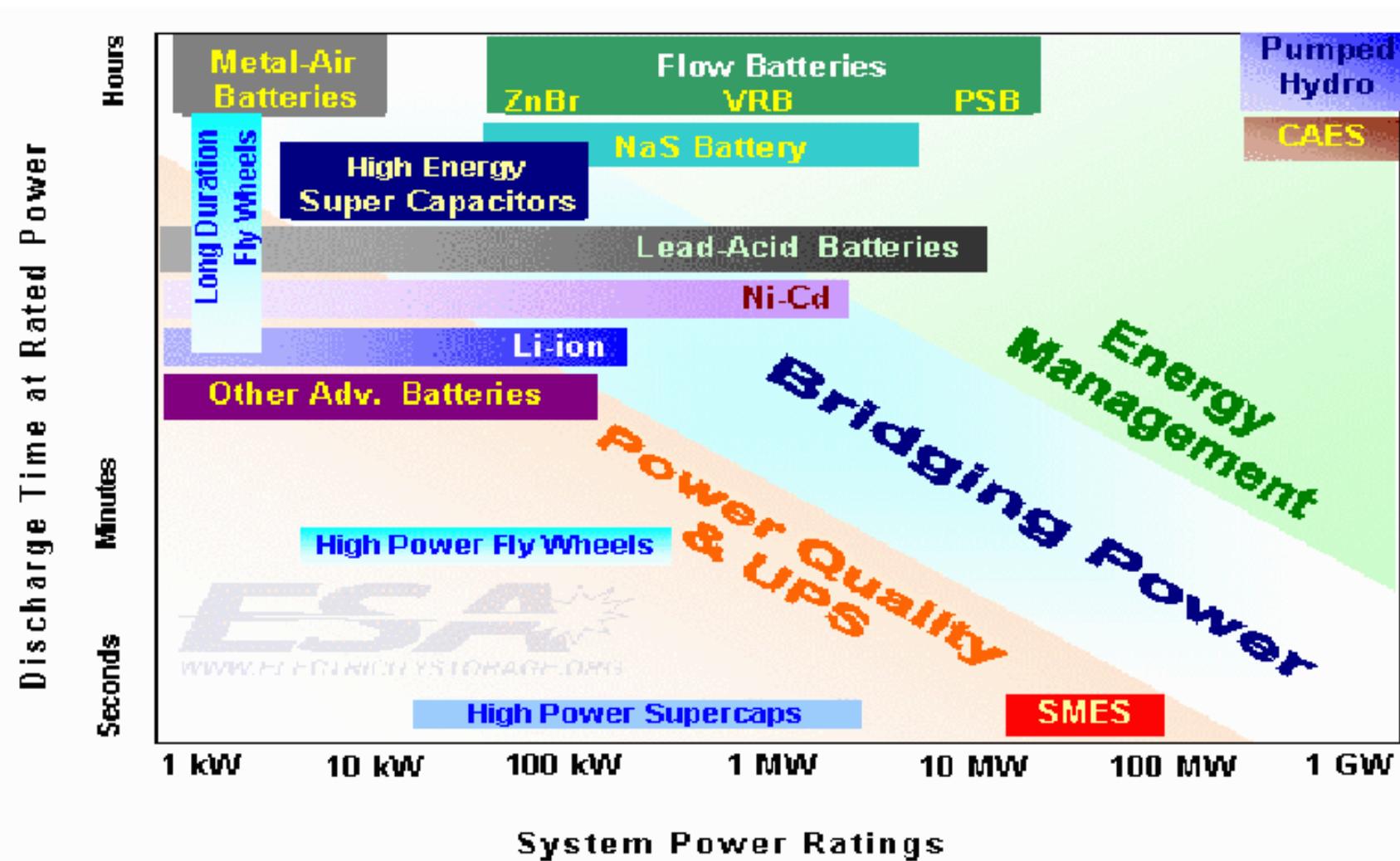
- Multiple hours of run time
- > 100-kW peak power capacity
- Applications:
 - Customer Energy Management
 - Renewable Energy Management
 - T&D Facility Deferral



Data from Sandia Report 2002-1314

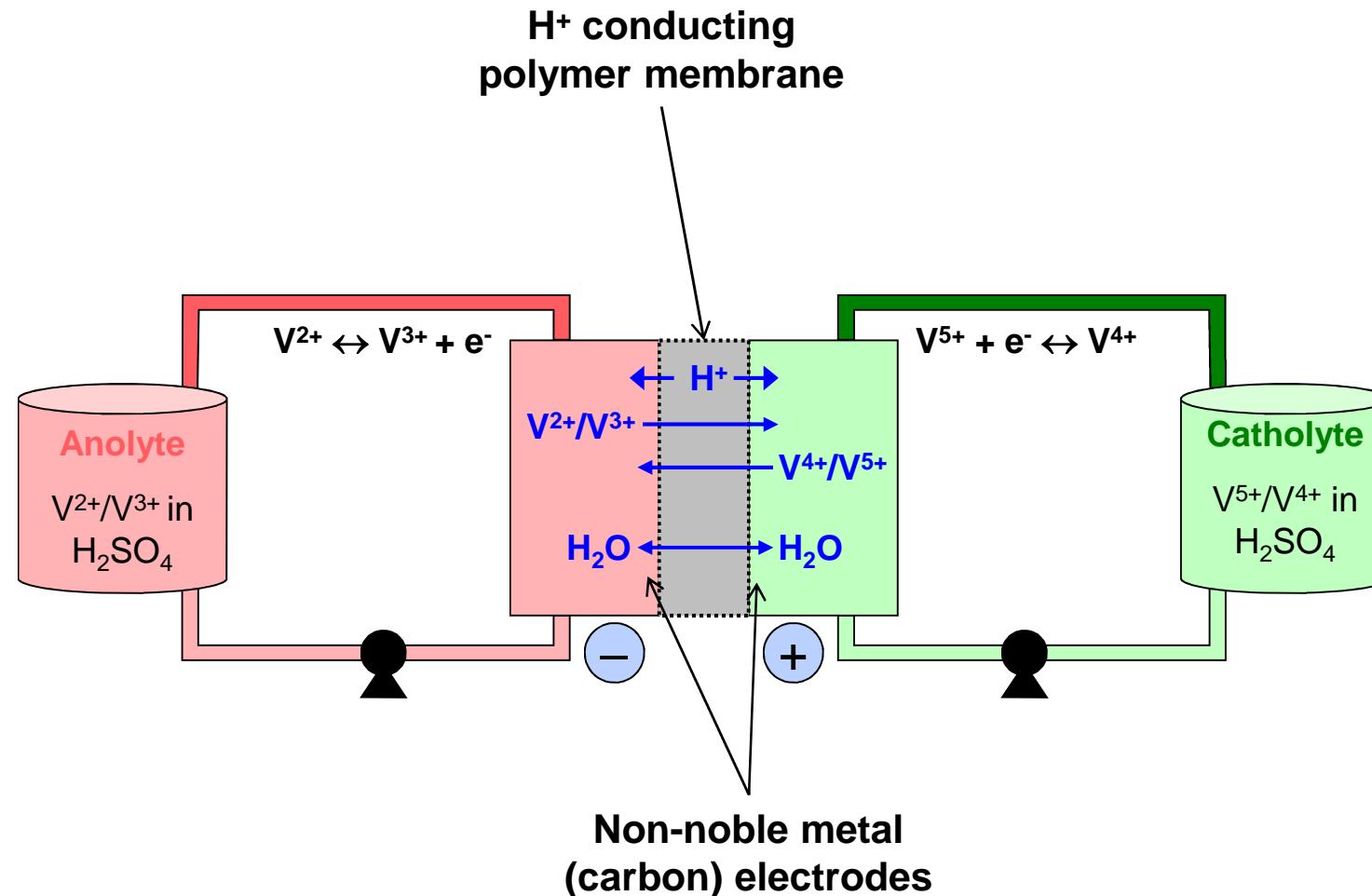
EES Technologies

Limited options in area of interest (multiple hours of run time at > 100 kW)



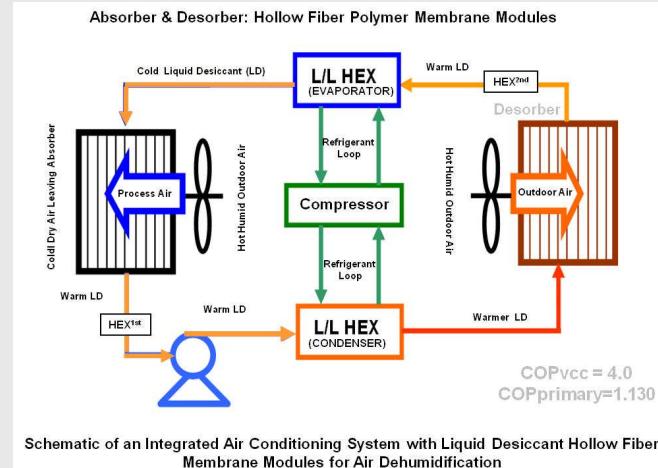
Source: Courtesy of Energy Storage Council - www.energystoragecouncil.org

Flow Battery Chemistry



Nano-Engineered Hollow Fiber Polymer Membranes for Liquid Desiccant Dehumidification HVAC System

Dehumidification Air-Cooling System



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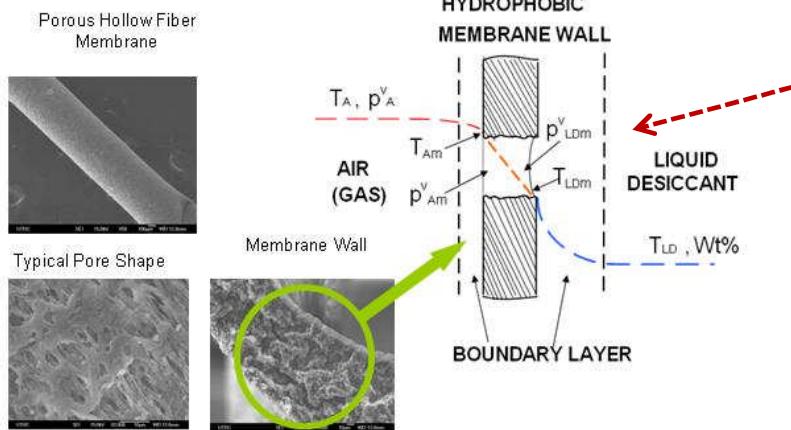


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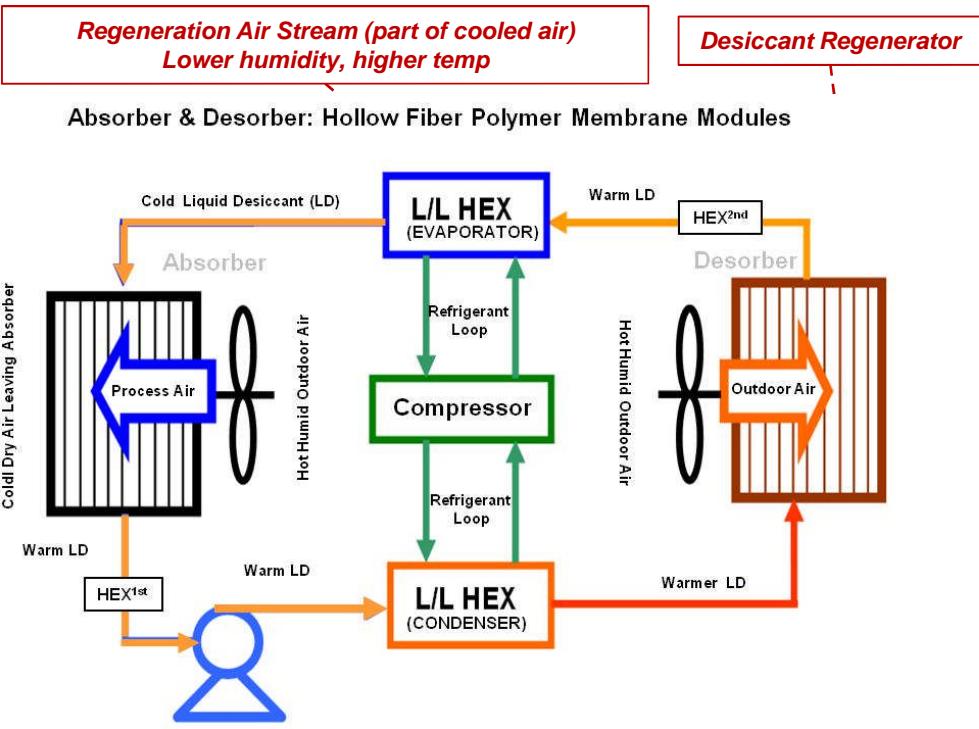
Hollow Polymer Fiber Membrane Dehumidifier

Polymer Hollow-Fiber Membrane

- PVDF preferred membrane material
- High flux membrane (at least 3X current state of the art) for high efficiency



Humidity mass transport mechanisms in hollow fiber membrane heat and moisture exchangers



Schematic of an Integrated Air Conditioning System with Liquid Desiccant Hollow Fiber Membrane Modules for Air Dehumidification

Operation Concept

- Liquid Desiccant: LiCl aqueous solution
- Air humidity transfer thru hollow fiber membrane to liquid desiccant solution
 - Temp increases and LiCl concentration decreases
- Warm liquid desiccant stream gets cooled and stripped of water in the regeneration & evaporator step

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Harry Cordatos – Novel CO₂ Separation Polymer Membrane
- Dr. John Wesson and Dr. Gopal Krishnan – Polymer Coated Elevator Belt
- Dr. Michael Perry and Dr. Rachid Zaffou – Flow Battery
- Dr. Zidu Ma, Dr. Zisis Dardas, and Dr. Tim Wagner – Liquid Desiccant Dehumidification System

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