

# **Sandia's Fuel Cell Interests and R&D Capabilities**

**Lennie Klebanoff  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Livermore, CA 94551**

**[lekleba@sandia.gov](mailto:lekleba@sandia.gov)**

***The Fourth BCA Fuel Cell Conference  
Mukilteo Washington***

July 23, 2009



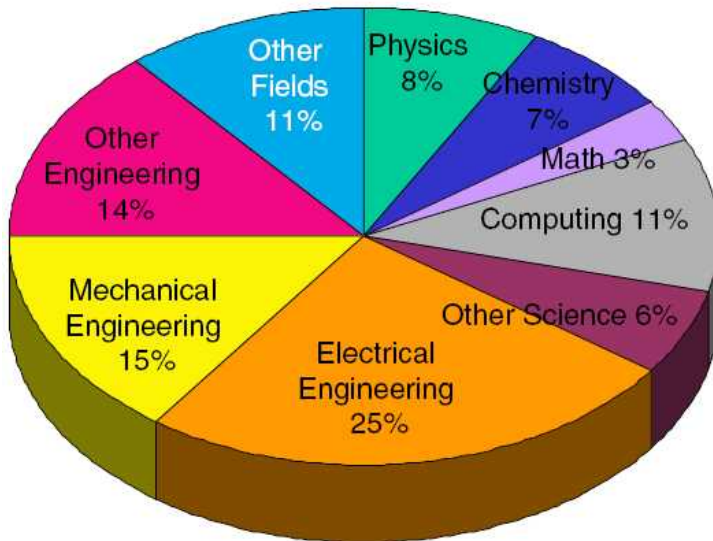
**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**

**“Exceptional Service in the National Interest”**

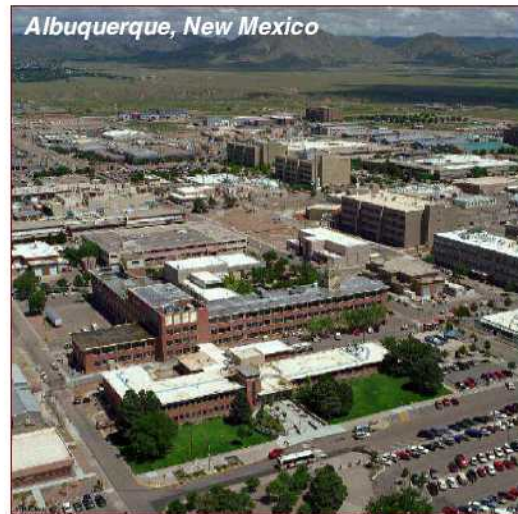
# Sandia National Laboratories



Sandia is a government-owned/contractor operated (GOCO) facility. Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin company, manages Sandia for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.



- ~ 8,300 employees
- ~ 1,500 PhDs; ~2800 MS/MA
- ~ 700 on-site contractors



# Sandia's National Security Missions



## Nuclear Weapons

- Ensure a safe, secure, & reliable nuclear deterrent



## Energy & Infrastructure

- Ensure clean, abundant & affordable energy and water



## Nonproliferation

- Reduce proliferation of weapons of mass destruction & threat of accidents



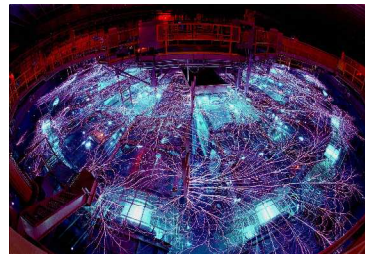
## Military Technologies & Applications

- Help maintain U.S. military weapon-systems superiority



## Homeland Security

- Help protect our nation against terrorism through advanced technology



## Science, Technology, & Engineering

- Conduct R&D programs to support all national security missions

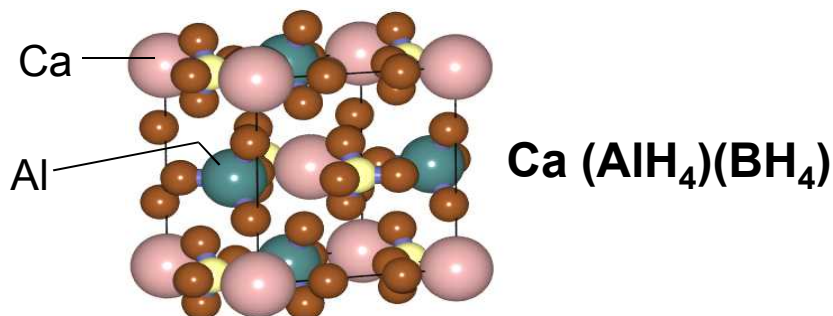
# Sandia's Hydrogen Program

Website: [www.ca.sandia.gov/hydrogen](http://www.ca.sandia.gov/hydrogen)

~ 50 Full Time Staff  
Involved



Combustion



H<sub>2</sub> Materials, Storage Engineering



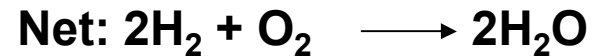
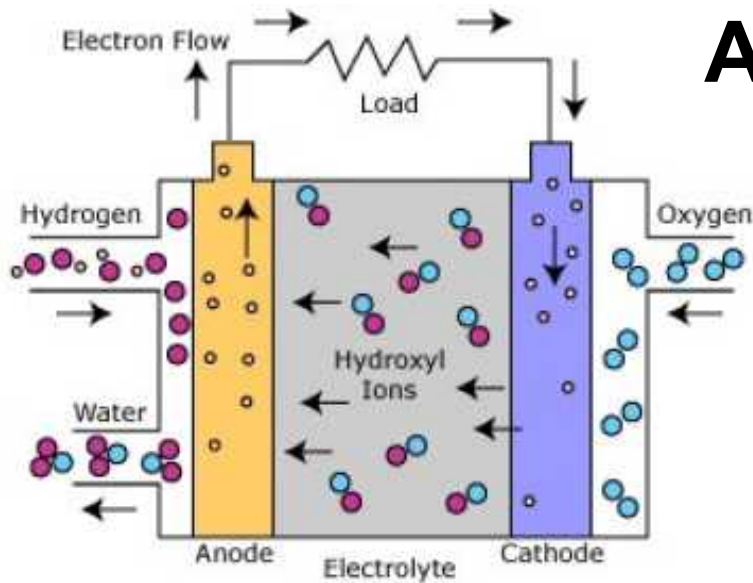
H<sub>2</sub> Safety



Infrastructure  
Modeling



# Alkaline Fuel Cells



- One of the first fuel cell technologies developed.
- Used in Apollo and Space Shuttle programs for power and water.
- Efficiencies near 60%
- Operating temperatures: 23 – 250 °C
- Electrolyte: 4-7 M KOH (immersed in a ceramic)



## Compared to PEM fuel cells

**Advantage:** Works with non-precious metal catalysts (Ni, Co, etc.)

**Disadvantages:** Corrosive liquid electrolyte (can leak out)

H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> must be very pure to avoid electrolyte precipitation due to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub> + 2KOH → K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O), so can't use air

*There has developed interest in Alkaline Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells (AEMFC) which do not contain liquid KOH (corrosive) and does not precipitate  $K_2CO_3$*

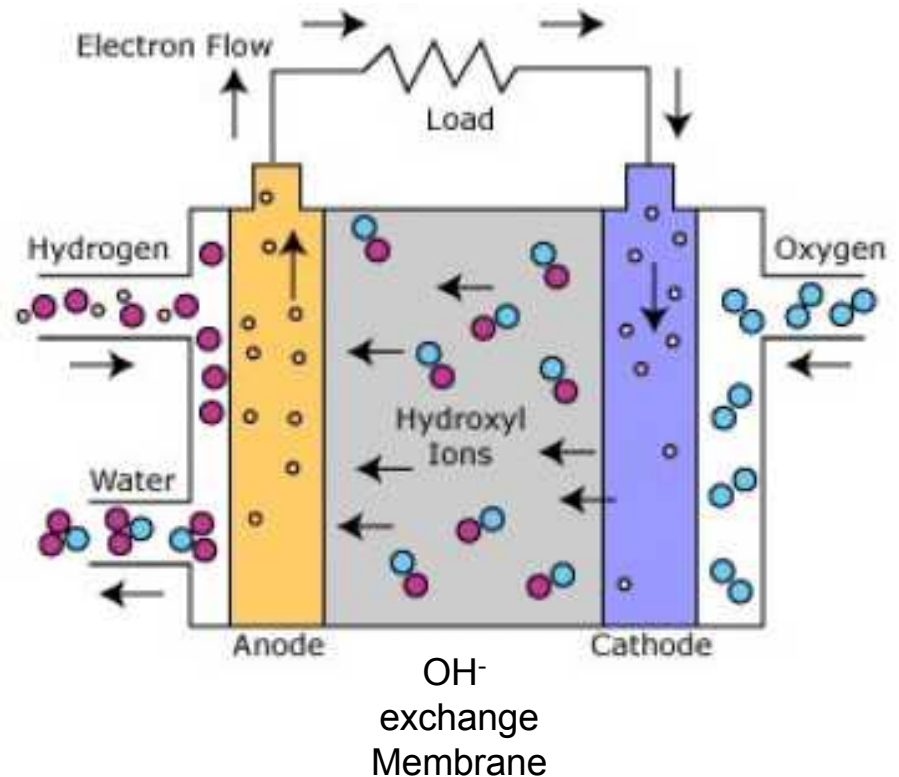
### **Advantages:**

- Enables the use of EtOH directly
- Can use air as the oxidant
- Non-platinum based catalyst can be used at cathode (Co, Ni)

### **Challenges:**

- Improve long term stability of membranes at higher T

- Increase membrane conductivity to improve fuel cell power.



-- a film which contains mobile OH<sup>-</sup> ions. Does not contain K, so no carbonate precipitation

**Sandia Contact:**

**Cy Fujimoto, Sandia-NM**

**Tel: 505-844-6432**

**Email: [chfujim@sandia.gov](mailto:chfujim@sandia.gov)**

# Analysis of Hydrogen Storage for a Fuel Cell Emergency Power System (FCEPS) for Commercial Aircraft

## Analysis of Hydrogen Storage for a Fuel Cell Emergency Power System (FCEPS) for Commercial Aircraft

*--A Study for The Boeing Company--*

Lennie Klebanoff and Chris Cornelius

Sandia National Laboratories  
Livermore, CA 94551

July 18, 2007

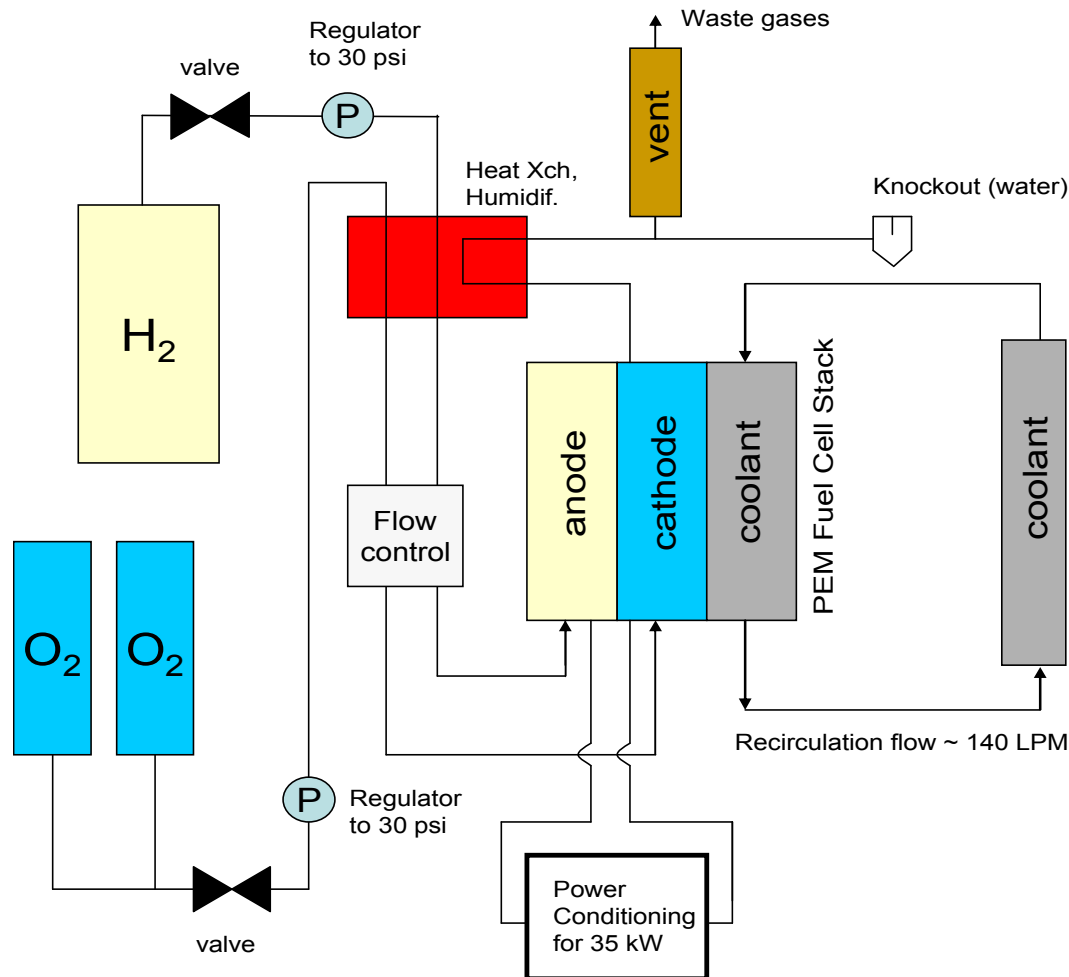


OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
May be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information  
Act (5 U.S.C. 552), Exemption 4: Proprietary Information  
Department of Energy review required before public release  
Name/Org: Lennie Klebanoff/008755 Date: 07/11/07

This technical data contains Boeing Proprietary Information  
furnished under contract or agreement between Sandia  
National Laboratories and Boeing for the controlled release  
of the information. Disclosure outside the Government is  
not authorized without prior approval of the originator, or in  
accordance with provisions of 48 CFR 862.227 and 6 U.S.C.  
562.

Further dissemination authorized to U.S. Government agencies only; other requests shall be  
approved by the originating facility or higher DOE programmatic authority.

# Overview of FCEPS Based On High P H<sub>2</sub> Storage



H<sub>2</sub> in 7000 psi  
composite tanks.

O<sub>2</sub> stored in two  
carbon steel cylinders



# Comparison of High-P H<sub>2</sub> FCEPS with Existing RAT Technology

Property	High-P FCEPS	Existing RAT Technology
Power (kW)	35	35
Mass (kg)	312.5	79.0*
Volume (L)	331.0	420.0*
Temperature	2 – 75 °C	- 55 – 70°C
Pressure (psi)	2 – 15.7	2 – 15.7
Safety	H <sub>2</sub> release, high-P concerns	Excellent
Reliability	TBD	Excellent

\*Extrapolated from  
25 kW RAT

***Conclusion: The High-P FCEPS can perform the mission, and be an isolated (easier) introduction of fuel cell technology onto the aircraft. However, the FCEPS is not technically competitive with current RAT technology in terms of mass, reliability and safety.***

# Fuel Cell Light Stand Project

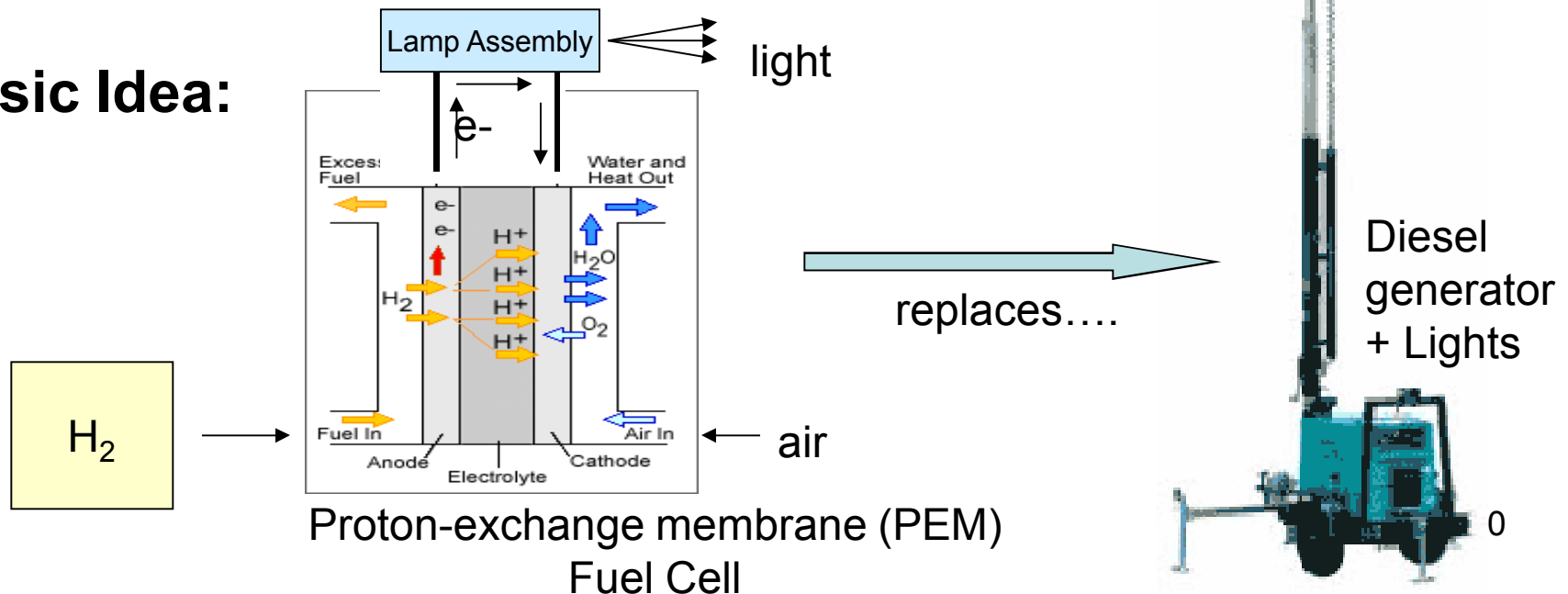
**3/1/2008:**

“We (Boeing) would like Sandia to lead an effort with us to bring hydrogen fuel cell technology to airport ground support equipment”

-- George Roe, Manager of Subsystems Technology,  
Boeing Phantom Works

**Initial discussions settle on a  $H_2$  fuel cell demonstration for mobile 5 kW aircraft maintenance lighting:**

**Basic Idea:**



# Why We Want to Do This

**The project brings clean energy technology (lighting, H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells) to the marketplace, testing the technologies, promoting H<sub>2</sub> infrastructure needs.**

*--an opportunity for users to gain experience with these technologies, and for a demanding field test of the technologies themselves.*

## **Great Performance Benefits:**

Greatly reduced noise with use of PEM fuel cell  
No diesel particulate emissions

} **Improved worker safety**

With one unit, we displace 2730 gallons of diesel fuel/year,  
eliminate 27.5 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub> if “green H<sub>2</sub>” is used

} **Good for the environment, GHG reductions**

## **Lots of Applications for the H<sub>2</sub>/Fuel Cell Light:**

Road work, emergency roadway lighting, aircraft/airport maintenance, film industry, disaster recovery -- **commercially attractive**

## **Broader Technology Implications:**

Improved efficiency stationary lighting for roadways, bridges, facilities  
Clean portable power for equipment, communications

# A Team Has Come Together to Bring This Technology to the Marketplace

---



## Partners

**Sandia National Laboratories**, Technical Lead, H<sub>2</sub>/Fuel Cell expertise

**Alteryx Systems (Folsom)**, Leading manufacturer of PEM Fuel Cells

**Multiquip Inc.**, Leading manufacturer of construction equipment, diesel light systems

**Caltrans**, Transportation Expertise, Field Testing

**Boeing**, Technology innovation, fuel cell technology for aviation

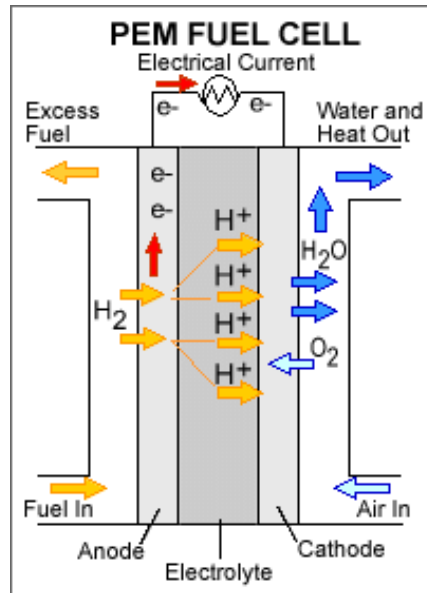
**Lumenworks/Luxim**, Advanced lighting technology and design

**Golden State Energy**, Energy technology analysis, project coordination

**California Fuel Cell Partnership**, Fuel cell technology expertise

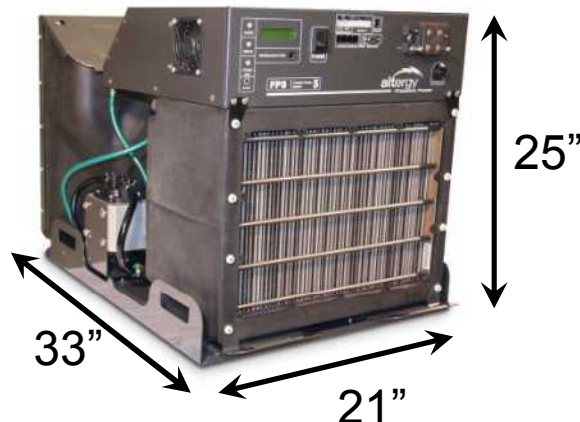
**San Francisco International Airport**, alternative energy and aviation

# PEM Fuel Cell



- High power density combined with low weight and volume
- Operate at ~80 °C; allows for fast start and better durability
- Requires pure H<sub>2</sub> from storage system
- Oxygen obtained from ambient air
- 43% efficiency, much better than 27% efficiency of existing diesel lighting
- No CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> or particulates emitted
- No moving parts, very quiet operation

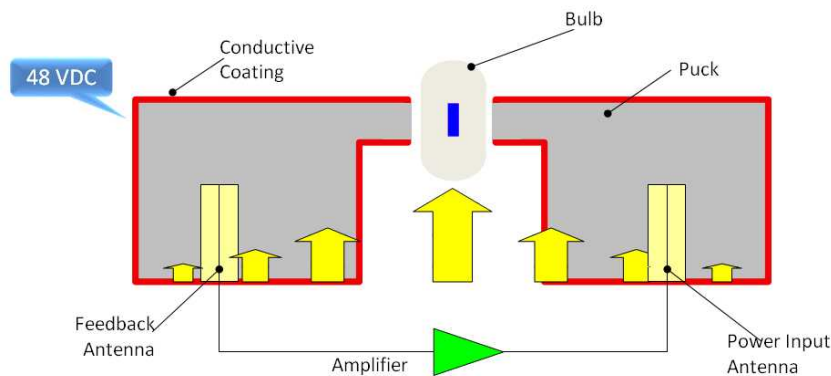
**Altery FPS-5 (5kW)**



**-- Technology can be used for portable power, remote operations for communication, data systems**



# New Lighting Technology: High Efficiency Plasma Light Source



- 1) Amplifier feedback circuit establishes electric field
- 2) Field ionizes gas and creates plasma ⇒ Purple glow emission
- 3) Plasma vaporizes the salts ⇒ Blue light emission



-- spatially localized source  
allows high-efficiency  
reflector design, increasing  
overall efficiency

*Luxim Corporation is donating lighting hardware and reflector design to this project as "in-kind" contribution*

High Efficiency – 120 lumens/watt

Long Life – 30,000 hours

Color Rendering up to 96 CRI

Dimmable to 20%

Instant On

Rapid Re-strike

Compact source size (1/4" x 1/4")

Directional Source

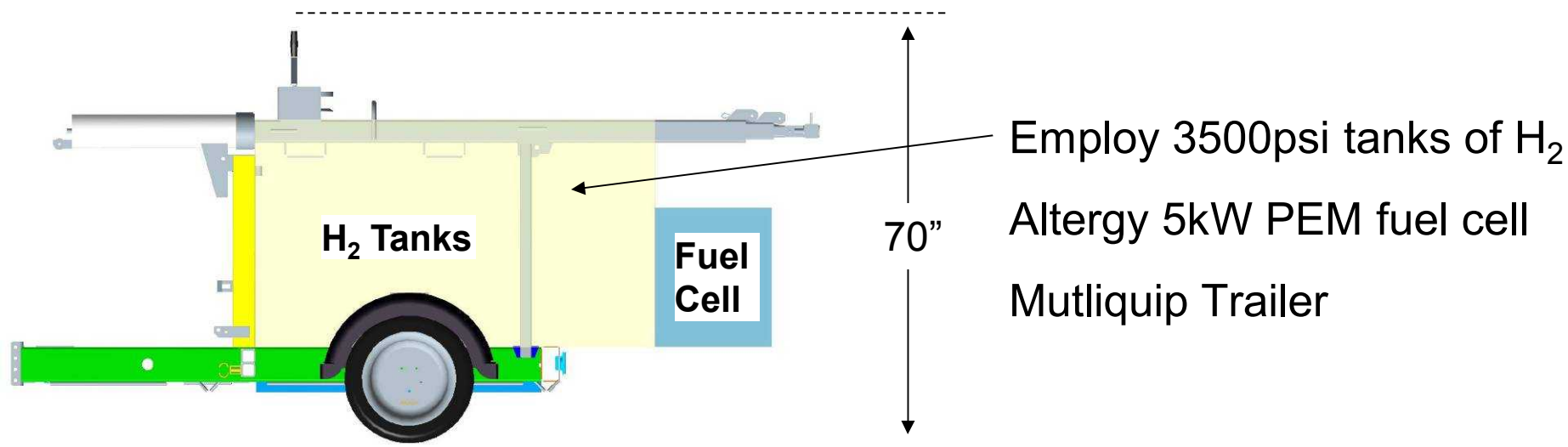
Operates in all Orientations

Programmable & Addressable

No Audible Noise or Flicker

# A 2-Prong (Alpha, Beta) Approach

Mutliquip, Altery are currently building a “alpha” system using basic technology to get early learning, and to field test if appropriate



- 5 kW of continuous power
- 10.5 kg of hydrogen
- 30 hour duration at continuous 5kW operation

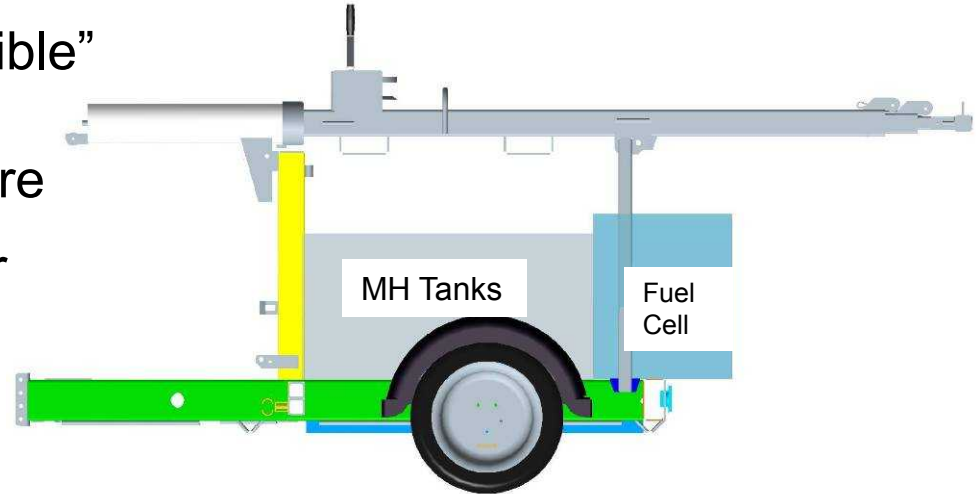
## Difficulties with Alpha System:

- Envelope larger than existing systems
- Run time less than current 48 hour standard
- Requires source of 3500psi H<sub>2</sub>
- Commercial viability not clear (size, duration, HP safety)

# A Metal Hydride “Beta” System May Be More Commercially Viable Unit (TBD)

Hydrogen concentrated in a “reversible” chemical compound  $ABH_2$ , requires half the volume, refuel at low pressure

Metal Hydride system would meet or exceed existing durations in a reasonable envelope, but increased weight (~3500 lbs)



**5 kW of continuous power**  
**10.5 kg of hydrogen**  
**Duration at 5kW = 30 hours**

Metal Hydride System would be an advanced “beta” unit:

- No systems commercially available, more expensive
- Sandia would integrate and test, with field testing at Caltrans, SFO

**Construction of Beta Unit Requires Securing External Funding (TBD)**

# Summary

---

Sandia is interested in improving fuel cell technology, and bringing this technology into mainstream use, including aviation.

We believe it is in the National Interest because H<sub>2</sub>/Fuel Cell technology can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and reduce our dependence on increasingly scarce and unstable foreign sources of petroleum.

***\*\*\* Sandia is interested in partnering with others to achieve these goals!***