

Advanced Percussive Drilling Technology for Geothermal Exploration and Development

Geothermal
Exploration
and Development



Advanced Percussive Drilling Technology for Geothermal Exploration and Development

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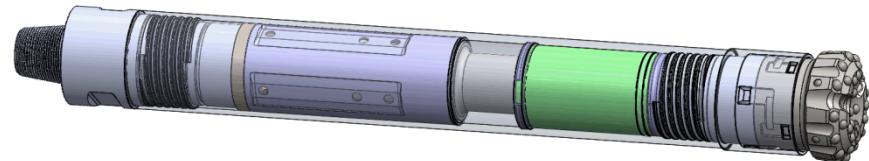
Atlas Copco Secoroc

Atlas Copco Partnership

- Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden
- Industrial group with products and services for mining and construction
 - Compressed air and gas equipment
 - Industrial tools and assembly systems
 - Down the hole hammers suited for geothermal environments
- Production facilities in more than 20 countries
- \$~12 B revenue in 2016



- Prior SNL DARPA work showed promise for hammers in harsh environments
 - Efficient at drilling hard rock
 - Very durable
 - Low weight on bit and torque requirements
- Current work result of competitive bid process for DOE Funding Opportunity Announcement
 - Funded separately by DOE
 - Atlas Copco has cost share
- Established a broader CRADA including others at Sandia
- Synergy between other Sandia work and Atlas Copco needs

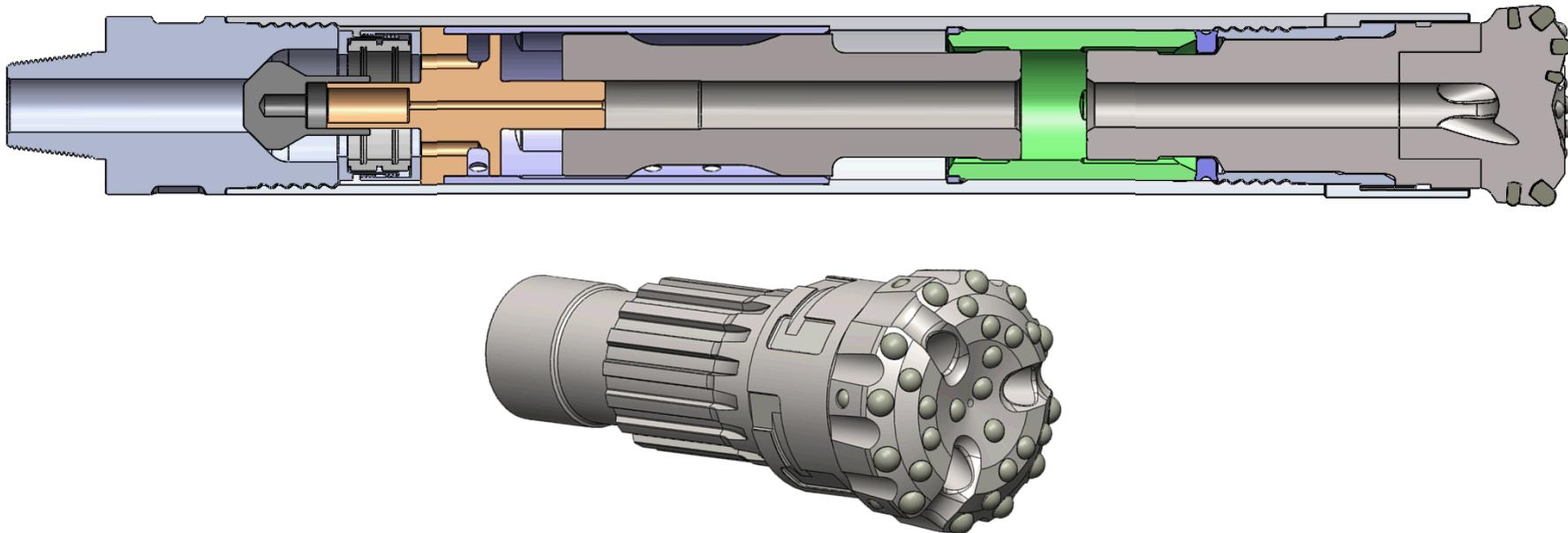


Project Objectives

- To construct the conceptual definition of a High Temperature (HT) pneumatic percussive hammer.
- Identification, testing, evaluation and qualification of constituent materials for this hammer.
- Perform computational modeling of the available power delivery of conceptual designs.
- Provide Proof-of-Concept (POC) validation via laboratory testing of representative design features.
- Implement prototype hardware development of a high temperature pneumatic percussive hammer.
- Conduct laboratory drilling tests to validate performance of prototype hardware at conventional temperatures.
- Perform laboratory drilling tests to validate performance in a high temperature test cell simulating a geothermal drilling environment.

Proof of Concept Hammer

- Valveless cycle
- No polymeric or elastomeric parts or seals
- No fluid lubrication
- Performance comparable to current commercial DTHH

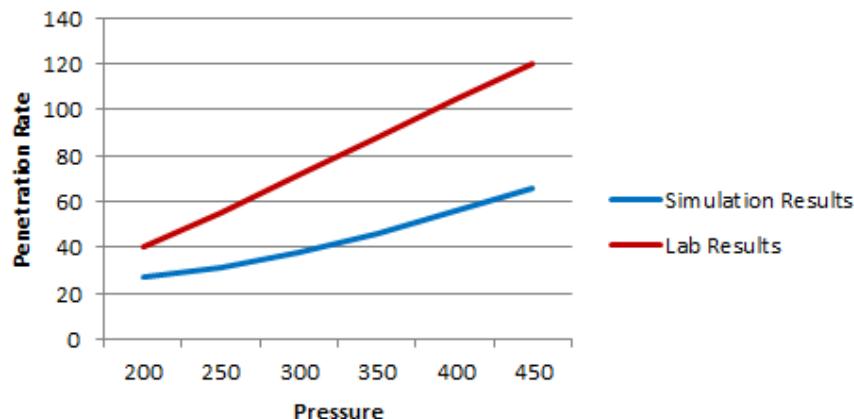


Scientific/Technical Approach

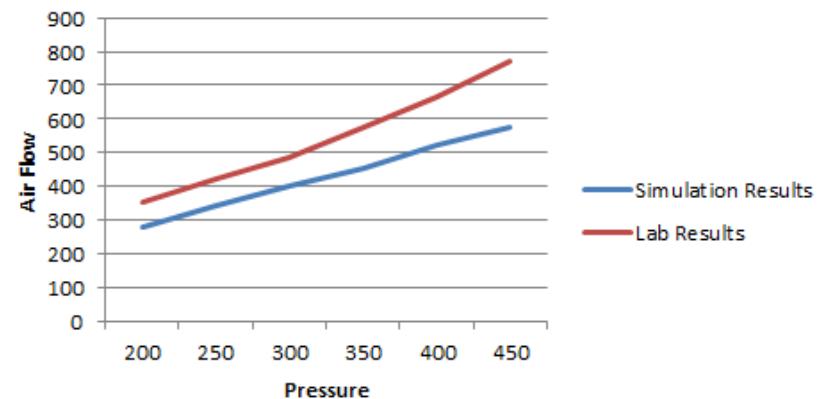
- Phase 1: Proof of Concept
 - Requirements definition for operating conditions
 - Thermodynamic cycle computational modeling of proposed DTH cycles
 - Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of structural components and systems
 - Systems solution and configuration definition
 - HT percussive hammer design, analysis and evaluation
 - Materials selection, qualification and testing along with review of technical literature for identification of potential materials and/or processes
 - Coupon level environmental coatings and bulk property testing
- Phase 2: Component and System Level Testing
 - Establish baseline prototype hammer performance at the Atlas Copco Roanoke test facility
 - Provide Proof-of-Concept (POC) validation via laboratory testing of representative design features.
 - Build full-scale prototype hammers based on design and material selection from Phase 1
 - Test and characterize prototype hammers under ambient conditions at the Atlas Copco Roanoke test facility
 - Design, build and test high-temperature test facility
 - Validate performance of prototype HT hammer at temperatures up to 572 F on the high-temperature facility

Simulation vs Prototype Results

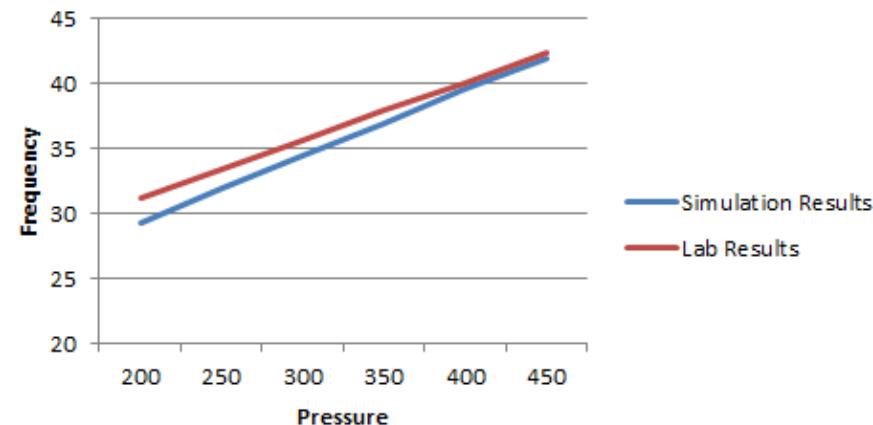
Penetration Rate (ROP)



Air Flow



Frequency

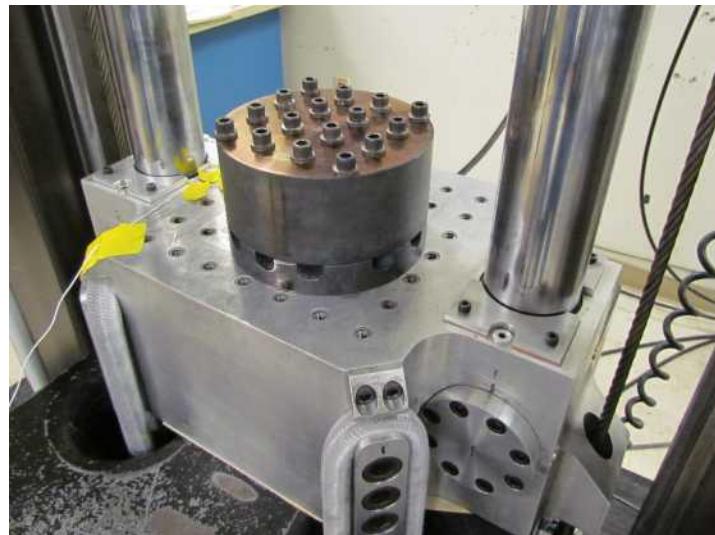


Internal Sealing

- Initial testing showed internal leakage between the Air Distributor and Cylinder dramatically limited hammer performance
- Low temperature testing using a conventional Buna –N o-ring showed that effective sealing would correct the problem
- Alternatives for High Temperature sealing
 - Interference fit
 - Permanent joining of Air Distributor and Cylinder
 - High temperature, graphite filled valve packing seal
 - High temperature elastomer
- Evaluated valve packing and Kalrez o-ring
 - Valve packing provided fair sealing performance, more development is necessary
 - Kalrez o-ring is a drop in replacement for standard elastomers and is fully capable of performing satisfactory in the target environment (Max. temperature rating 327 C)

Button Retention Testing

- Impact testing up to 12,000 g
- Varying interference fits to simulate button hole expansion due to temperature
- Two buttons with the least interference began shifting at 10,000 g
- All other buttons remained in place up to 12,000 g
- Conclusion: current interference fit is suitable to retain buttons in a bit, up to 600 F

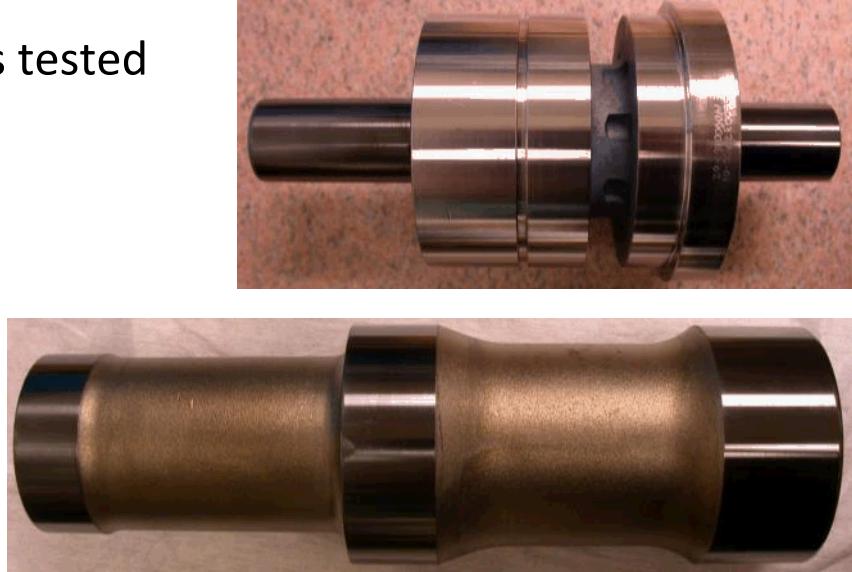


Material Selection

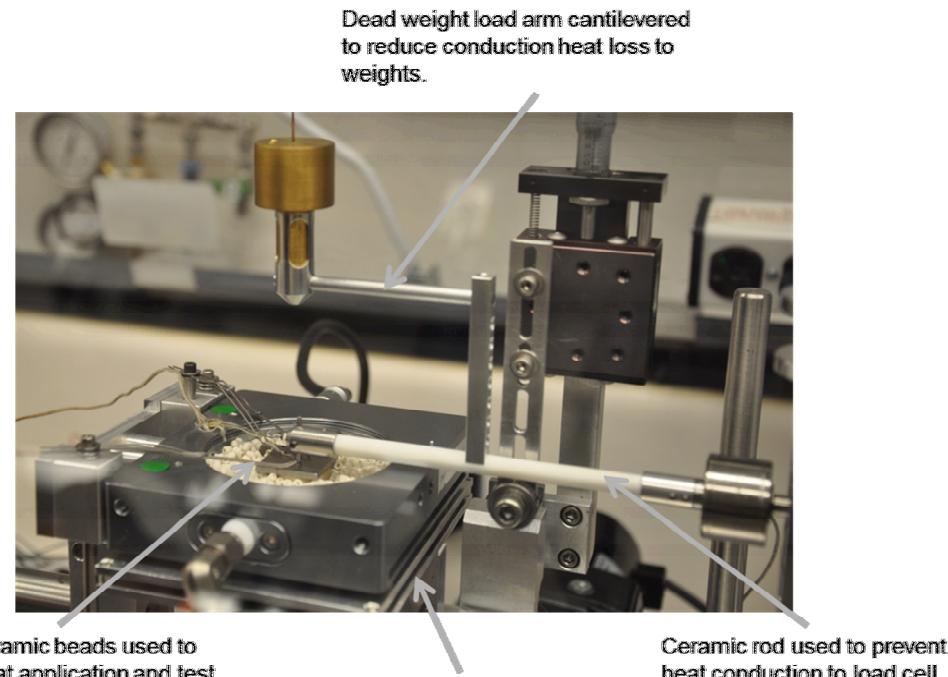
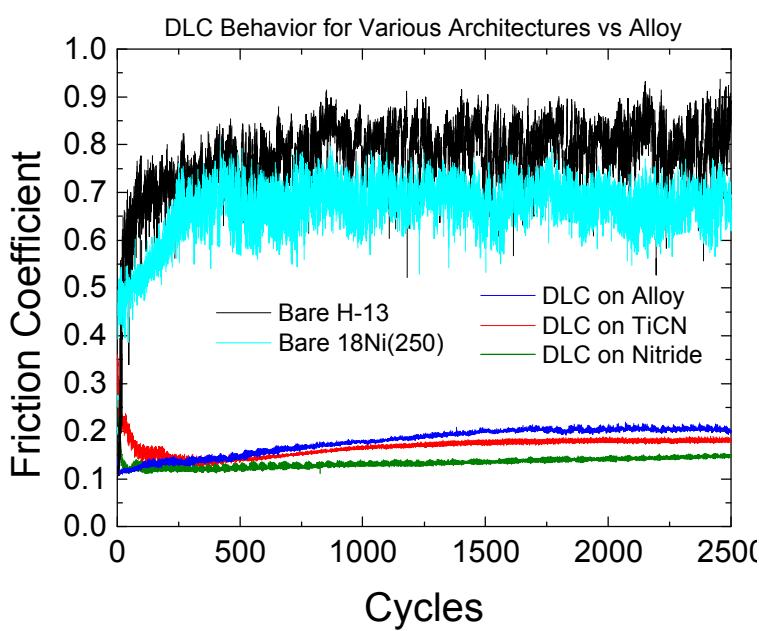
- Focus on Casing, Air Distributor, Piston, Bearing
 - Conventional parts are tempered below the target geothermal operating temperature
 - Fatigue resistance is a key property
 - Corrosion resistance is important
- Selection Process
 - Literature search to determine properties of current materials and identify candidate materials with good physical properties at 300 C
 - Qualification testing of candidate material, including
 - Tensile strength
 - Charpy impact toughness
 - Fatigue
 - Abrasion resistance
 - Friction and wear characteristics
- Results
 - No candidate material showed better properties than the existing casing material. Surface hardening will be omitted from part specifications
 - A precipitation hardening stainless steel was selected for the piston
 - A hot working tool steel was selected for the Air Distributor and Bit Bearing

Lubricious and Wear Resistant Coatings

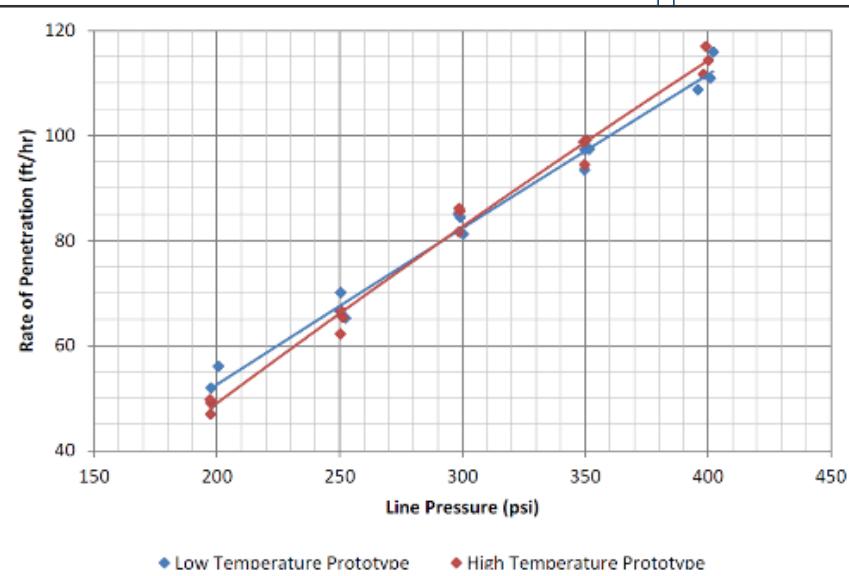
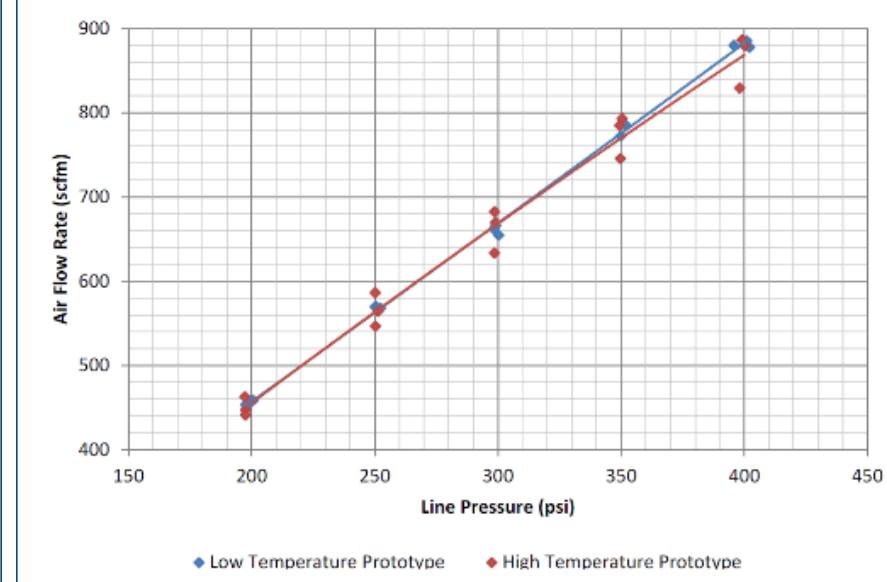
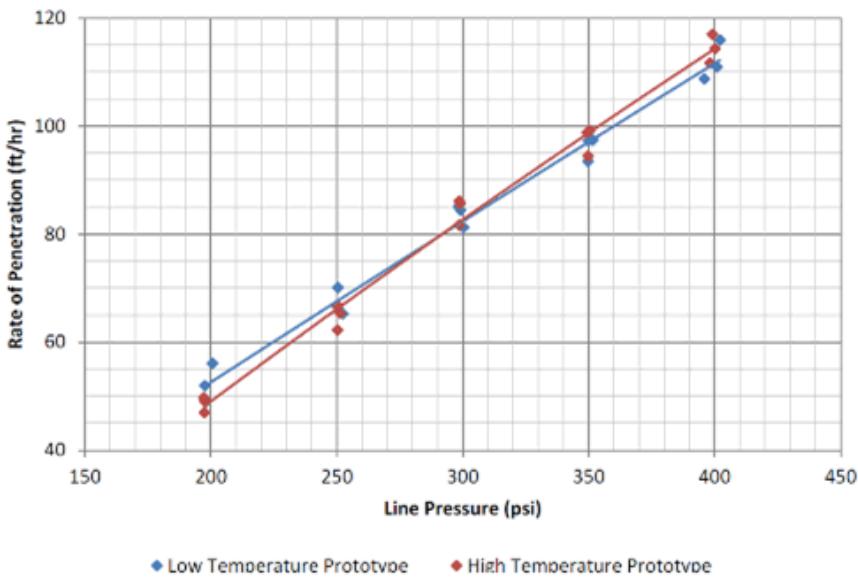
- Thermal Spray Coatings
 - Four (4) commercially available coatings tested
 - Testing Conducted:
 - Hardness
 - Abrasive wear
 - Friction
 - Tensile adhesion of coating
 - Impact fatigue resistance
- Vapor Deposition Coatings
 - Two (2) candidate coatings evaluated
 - Diamond-like carbon (DLC) with ceramic barrier level
 - DLC with multiple barrier layers (nanolaminate and ceramic barrier layer)
 - Tested for friction and wear properties at 300 C
 - Multiple layer sample developed cracks and delaminated
 - DLC with single barrier layer showed good friction resistance and no delamination



Coatings Friction and Wear Testing



Baseline Results



Conducted at A-C test cell

High Operating Temperature Facility

- Capacities
 - Weight on Bit (WOB) – to 6000 lbf
 - Rotation speed – up to 60 rpm
 - Rotation torque – up to 2500 ft -lbf
 - Hammer heater – up to 300 C (9kW heater)
 - Process gas heater – up to 300C (190 kW heater)
- Features
 - Remote operation
 - Automated drilling
 - Automated rock positioning
 - Closed-loop control of drilling parameters
 - Cuttings collection system with dust washdown
 - Two-stage air filtration



Preliminary HOT Facility Testing

- Validate DAQ
- Verify control system
- Shakedown system



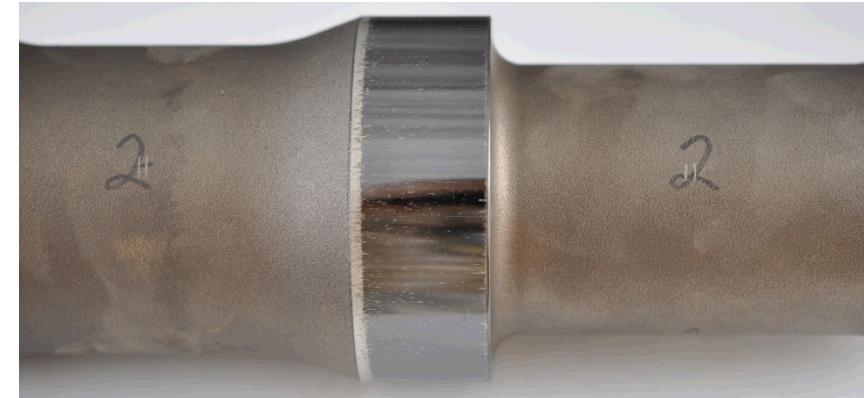
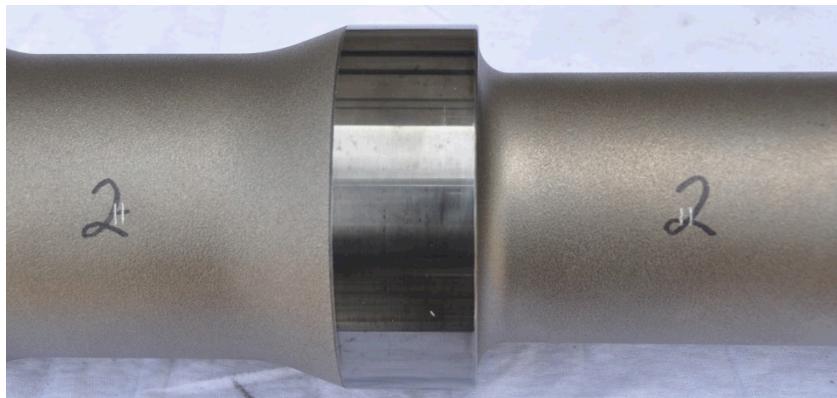
Residual assembly lube after heating to 400°F

Piston #1 (HT Material Candidate)

New



After ~39 ft

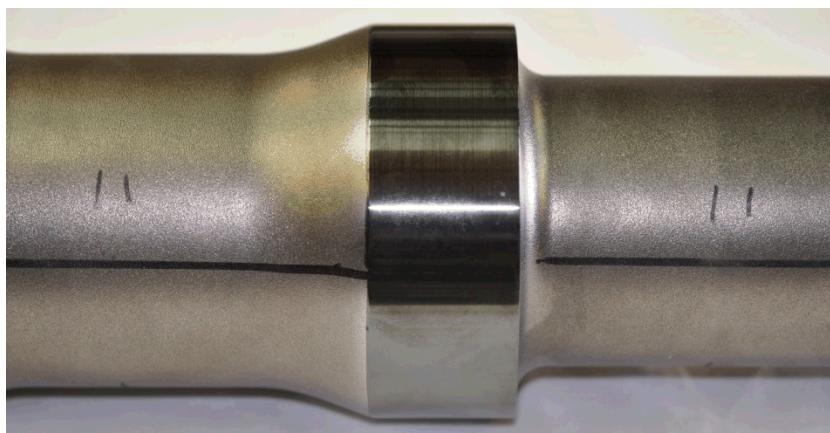


Piston #2 (Alternate Material)

New

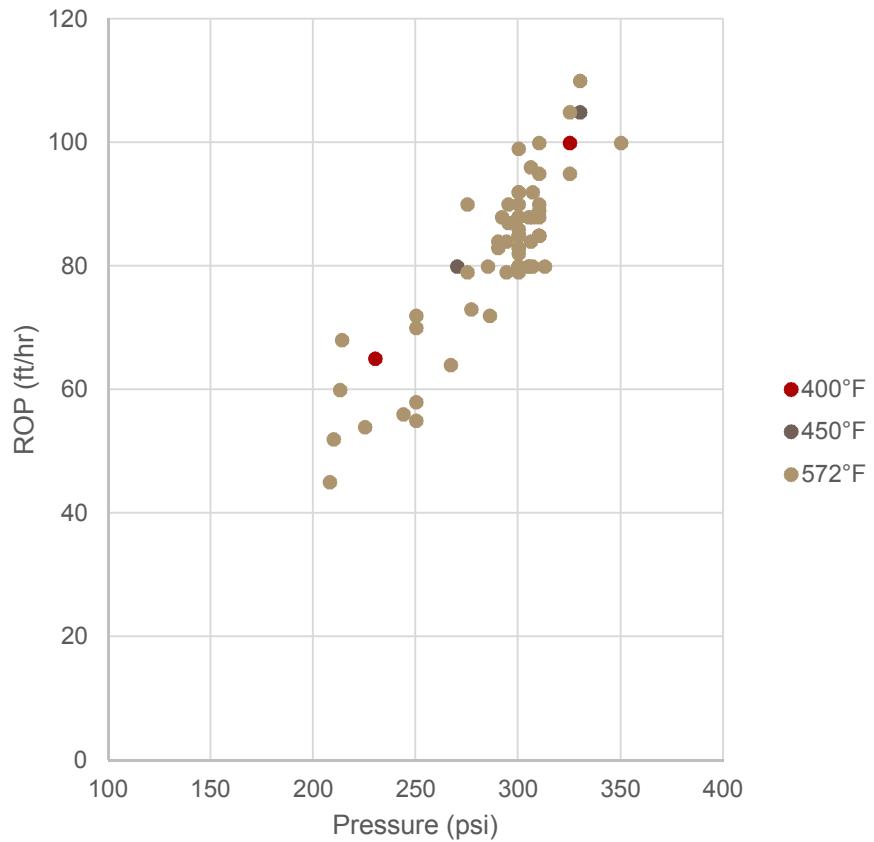


After ~200 ft

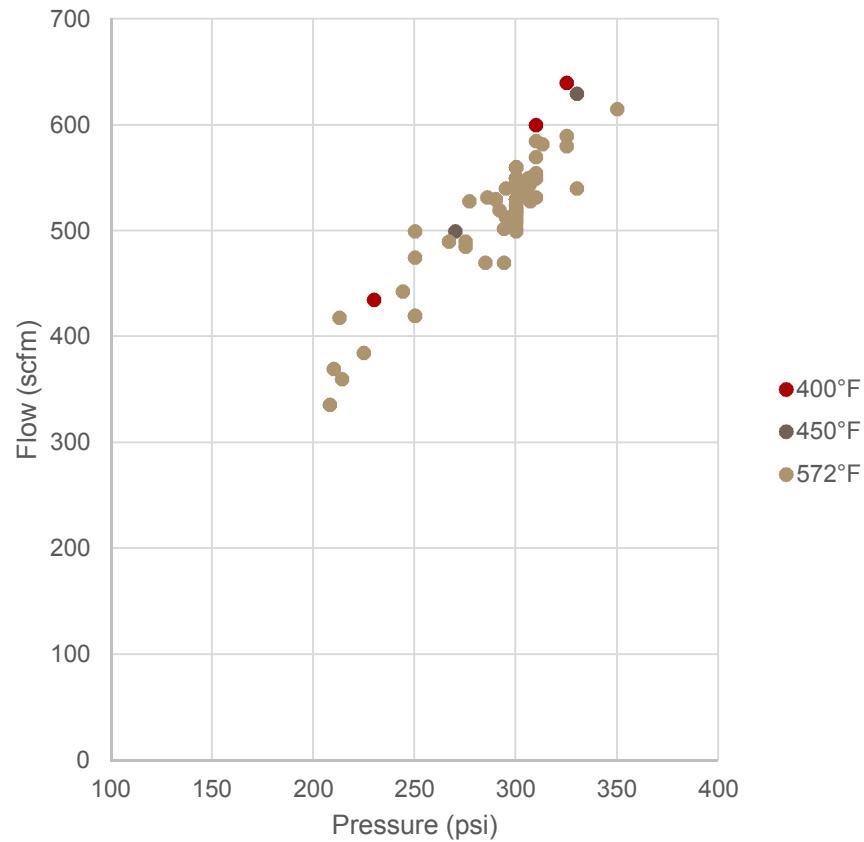


Overall HT Performance

ROP vs. Pressure



Flow vs. Pressure



Results

- Validated HOT Facility performance with Atlas-Copco Roanoke test facility
- Drilling performance evaluated at temperature (~300 C)
- Drilling performance in line with expectations
- Achieved target rate of 100 ft/hr at temperature
- Over 200 ft drilled at temperature in lab environment
- Gradual progression of wear on piston stem
- Seeking opportunities to conduct additional field testing

Acknowledgements

- Sandia National Labs
 - Doug Blankenship, Jeff Greving, Elton Wright, Dennis King, Anirban Mazumdar, Dennis King, Anirban Mazumdar, Steve Buerger, Rand Garfield, Lisa Deibler, and Carlos Medrano
- Atlas Copco
 - Michael White, Paul Campbell, Ron Boyd, Kelly Ferguson, and Trevor Jones
- DOE Geothermal Technologies Office
 - Michael Weathers, Alexandra Prisjatschew, and Eric Hass

Questions?

