Melt Infiltrated (MI) SiC/SiC Composites for Industrial Gas Turbines

Krishan L. Luthra GE Corporate Research & Development Schenectady, NY 12301 Talk Presented at DER Meeting in Washington, DC on November 29, 2001



Outline

- Introduction
 - Opportunity
- Applications
- Payoff
- Pathway to Commercialization
- Summary



Ceramic Matrix Composite (CMC) Opportunity



- CMC's represent a game changing technology
- DOE had the vision to start the CMC program for gas turbines in early nineties



Applications



Stationary composites represent the best short-term opportunity



Payoff & Selected Applications

- Higher temperature capability of CMCs allows reduction/elimination of air needed for cooling metallic components
 - Improvement in fuel efficiency
 - Reduction in harmful emissions
 - Higher output of machines
- Applicable to all classes of gas turbines
 - GE gas turbines range 45 KW to 280,000 KW (simple cycle)
 - Most advanced are F-class & H-class machines used for power generation
 - F-class machines range 70-220 MW (simple cycle) & 120-350 MW (combined cycle)
 - Installed base in 1999: ~36 GW(US) & ~64 GW (worldwide)

DOE-CMC programs at GE focused on Combustors & Shrouds of F-class machines

- Technology would flow to other machines & other components



Payoff For All Stationary Components

- Up to 1.1% point increase in simple cycle efficiency and 3% increase in output
- Market growth of 6%/year and 20% market penetration for all gas turbines by 2020
 - US annual savings of ~290 Trillion BTU of energy, equivalent to ~0.29
 Trillion cubic feet of natural gas at a cost of ~\$960 Million (2001 dollars)
 - Annual savings of ~4.3 Million MTCE of CO_2 emissions
 - Annual savings of ~51,000 MT of NO_x emissions
 - Extra power generation worth ~1.3 Billion dollars per year, further reducing the cost of electricity to customers

Use of CMCs offers opportunity for fuel savings, reduction in emissions and reduction in cost of electricity to customers



Ceramic Matrix Composites - The path into Gas Turbine Engines





Silicon Carbide Fiber Reinforced M. I. Composites

Tensile Tests

Ballistic Damage





Entrance



CMCs offer high temperature strength along with damage tolerance



Rig Testing of Combustor Liners



310 Flame off Cycles 25 Hours Gas Temp. 1170^oc Over 300 Flame off Cycles Over 230 Hours Gas Temp. 1425- 1510°c



Shroud Rig Testing at 1500°C Gas Temperature





GE2 Shroud Testing at GE Oil & Gas



View aft looking forward

Blade Rub on Second Stage CMC Shroud

Engine Testing of MI Composites Shrouds Has Been Very Successful to Date



Summary

- CMCs represent a game changing technology for industrial gas turbines
 - 400° F+ improvement over metals
- CMCs offer opportunities for fuel savings, reduction in emissions, and reduction in cost of electricity to customers
- DOE's programs have taken lead in CMC material development for their applications in industrial gas turbines
- GE's efforts on DOE programs focused on shroud & combustor liners
 - Field test of first stage shroud in an F-class machine planned in 2002 at a customer site
 - Field test of combustor liners being planned

GE working with DOE in a risk-reducing, step-wise approach for developing CMCs for Industrial Gas Turbines

