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Simulated Coal Gas MCFC Power Plant System Verification

Technical Report
February 1998

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For
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fossil Energy
Federal Energy Technology Center
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880

By
M-C Power Corporation
8040 South Madison Street
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60521

MASTER

gpt

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This is the Technical Progress Report covering February 1998. All tasks have been completed, except for those discussed on the following pages. Unocal estimated the costs of dismantling and packaging the test facility for storage and shipment. The scope of work for the contract has been modified to accommodate the dismantling and packaging of the plant. An amendment to Sub-Contract No. MCP-9-UNO between M-C Power and Unocal has been executed which includes the Scope of Work in Unocal's cost estimate.

TASK 1. COMMERCIALIZATION

This task is complete.

TASK 2. POWER PLANT DEVELOPMENT

A draft report of the stack performance and post-test analysis has been prepared and is undergoing internal review.

TASK 3. MANUFACTURING FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

This task is complete.

TASK 4. TESTING FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Unocal continued maintenance of the 250-kW demonstration power plant and bid packages for plant dismantling have been prepared.

TASK 5. STACK RESEARCH

This task is complete.

TASK 6. ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

The individual final reports from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Texas A&M, and the University of Minnesota are being assembled into a complete final report.

Subtask 2.6 Power Plant System Test with Reformed Natural Gas

Objective:

To establish test goals, develop a power plant manual and operations plan, and conduct the 250-kW power plant test.

Discussion:

A draft report on the 250-kW stack performance and post-test analysis is undergoing internal review and editing for external distribution.

Subtask 4.2 Upgrading of Existing, U.S. Government-Owned, Test Facilities

Objective:

To upgrade the existing, government-owned 20-kW test facility to improve its reliability for long-term operation.

Discussion:

A work plan and estimate for dismantling and packaging the plant for further storage and ultimate shipment has been prepared by Unocal and is being reviewed by M-C Power and Bechtel. Initial comments on the bid package have been sent to Unocal for review.

Unocal has obtained vendor qualifications for possible bidders who are acceptable to M-C Power. They will distribute the revised bid packages after making the appropriate modifications. Disassembly activities will proceed upon review of the proposals and subsequent releasing of a disassembly sub-contract.

Subtask 6.2 Advanced MCFC Component Research

Objective:

To conduct research to resolve issues relating to the improvement of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the MCFC by improving the following: protection of the current collector plate from corrosion; reduction of cathode over potential losses; understanding the effects of electrolyte basicity and oxygen reduction kinetics to reduce cathode over potential; and measuring the wetting angles of various electrolytes to reduce the electrolyte loss/migration during the MCFC operation.

Discussion:

Final reports have been received from IIT, UMin, and Texas A&M. They are being assembled into a report for submittal to METC.