

# *High Density Hydrogen Storage System Demonstration Using $\text{NaAlH}_4$ Complex Compound Hydrides*

**D.L. Anton**

**D.A. Mosher**

**S.M. Opalka**

United Technologies Research Center  
E. Hartford, CT

**F.E. Lynch**

HCI, Inc.  
Littleton, CO

**C. Qiu**

**G.B. Olsen**

QuesTek, LLC  
Evanston, IL

Merit Review

Philadelphia, PA

May 24-27, 2004

Rev. B

---

*United Technologies Research Center*

*This presentation does not contain any proprietary or confidential information*

# Objective

To assist DoE in the development of an in-situ rechargeable hydrogen storage media and systems technologies for automotive transportation applications.

- Develop an engineering data base for catalyzed  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  materials.
- Develop an understanding of the safety testing protocols and engineering design requirements for utilizing alanate materials.
- Develop, scale-up, build, bench demonstrate **an *in-situ* rechargeable 1 kg system and deliver a 5 kg  $\text{H}_2$  capacity hydrogen storage system** suitable for operation of a PEMFC powered mid-size auto application based.

# *Budget*

**Funding:** \$2.45M (28% cost share)

**FY '04:** \$939,000

**Duration:** 4 years

**Start:** May 1, 2002

# Technical Barrier & Targets

Metric		Units	2005 DoE Goal	2010 DoE Goal	UTRC GO/NoGo	Metric		Units	2005 DoE Goal	2010 DoE Goal	UTRC GO/NoGo
H <sub>2</sub> Storage Density	Capacity	kg		5		Hydrogen Delivery	Max. H <sub>2</sub> Delivery Temp.	°C	100		
	Gravimetric	kWh/kg	1.5	2	1.00		Min. H <sub>2</sub> Delivery Temp.	°C	-20	-30	
	Volumetric	kWh/l	1.2	1.5	0.55		Min. Full Flow	g H <sub>2</sub> /sec.	3.0	4.0	0.30
Cost	Total life cycle (15 yr/150k miles)	\$(03)/kWh	6.00	4.00			FC Min. Pressure	kPa/bar	250/2.5	250/2.5	
	Fuel (gasoline equivalent)	\$(01)	3.0	1.3			ICE Min. Pressure	kPa/bar	1000/10	3500/35	
	Marginal Fuel Cost (Ref. \$1/kWh for H <sub>2</sub> )	\$(03)/kgH <sub>2</sub>	NA	1.5			Purity	% (dry)	99.9	99.9	
Operating Temperature	Min.	°C	0	-30		Transient Response	0-90%	sec.	0.5	0.5	
	Max.	°C	50	50			90-0% start to full flow @20°C	sec.	4.0	0.5	
Cycle Life	Cycle Life (0.25-100%)	N	500	1000			start to full flow @-20°C	sec.	8.0	4.0	
	Mean	%	N/A	90		Refueling Rate	kg H <sub>2</sub> /min.	0.5	1.5	0.30	
	Confidence	%	N/A	90		Loss of Useable H <sub>2</sub>	g/hr kg H <sub>2</sub>	1.0	0.1		
						Permeation & Leakage	scc/hr	Federal enclosed-area safety standard			
						Toxicity	Meets or exceeds applicable standards				
						Safety	Meets or exceeds applicable standards				

# *Approach*

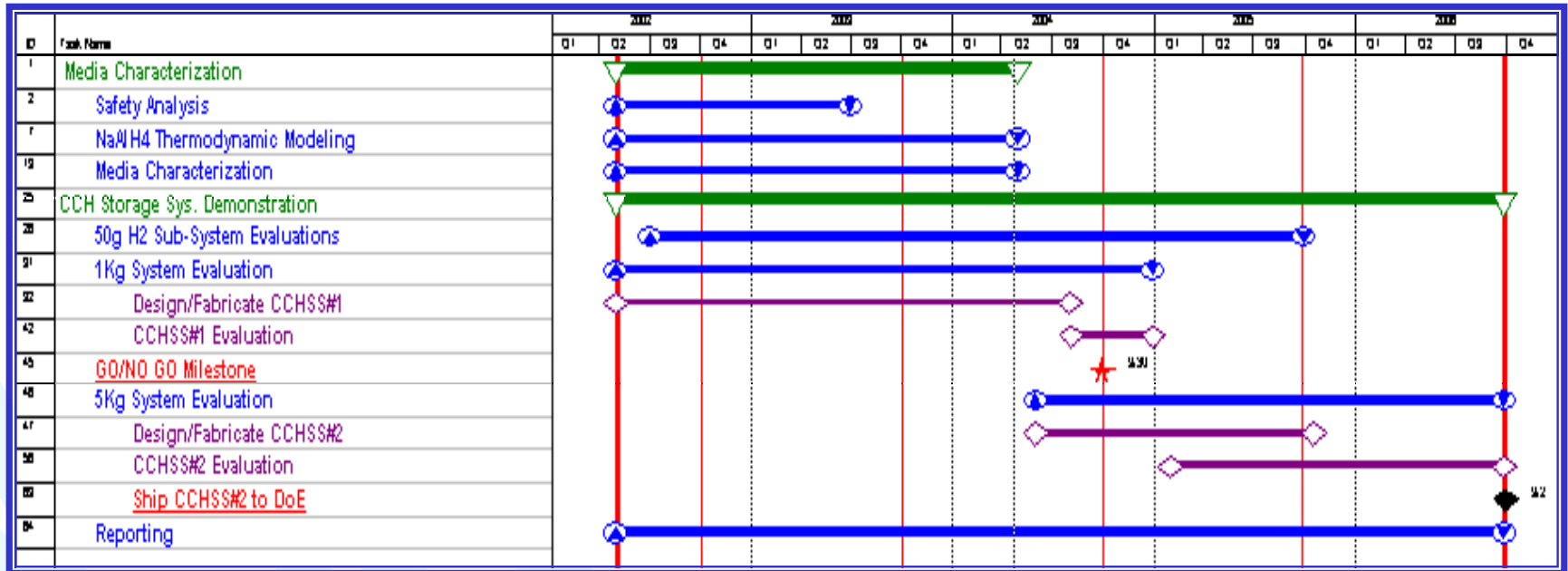
Design a low pressure hydrogen storage system initially utilizing catalyzed  $\text{NaAlH}_4$ , but capable of being altered to use “*any*” reversible chemical hydride having the higher gravimetric and/or volumetric hydrogen storage densities with minimal redesign. Characterize  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  both empirically and analytically to obtain the highest performance composition.

**This is a challenge to the hydrogen storage community to develop a material superior to  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  in (i) gravimetric capacity (ii) charging rate at  $\leq 100\text{bar}$  & (iii) discharge rate at  $\leq 90^\circ\text{C}$ .**

# *Safety*

- Quantification of the safety risks associated with utilization of catalyzed  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  materials.
- Identification of safety vulnerabilities and risk mitigation strategies in:
  - (i) testing laboratory quantities of  $\text{NaAlH}_4$ ,
  - (ii) large scale production and handling of catalyzed  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  materials,
  - (iii) building and loading of a system utilizing up to 25 kg of catalyzed  $\text{NaAlH}_4$ , and
  - (iv) building a testing system for evaluating the performance of an alanate hydrogen storage system with a 1 kg  $\text{H}_2$  capacity.
- Organizing IEA Task XVII break out session on alanate safety procedures & lessons learned.

# Timeline



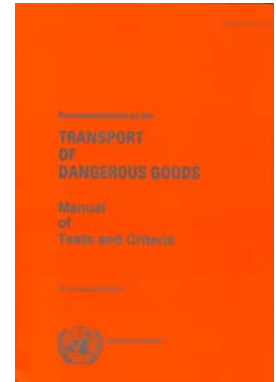
- **Phase I – Media Characterization**

- Safety Analysis
- Thermodynamic Modeling
- Media Characterization
  - Kinetics
  - Cyclic Stability

- **Phase II – System Demonstration**

- 50g H<sub>2</sub> Subsystem Evaluations
- 1 kg H<sub>2</sub> System Design/Evaluation
- 5 kg H<sub>2</sub> System Design/Evaluation
- System Modeling

# Safety Analysis



DOT/UN Doc., *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria, 3<sup>rd</sup> Revised Ed. (1999).*

- **Flammability**

*Flammability Test  
Spontaneous Ignition  
Burn Rate*

- **Water Contact**

*Immersion  
Surface Exposure  
Water Drop  
Water Injection*

- **Dust Explosion**

*$P_{max}$  &  $(dP/Dt)_{max}$  (ASTME1226)  
Min. Exp. Conc. (ASTM 1515)  
Min. Ignition Energy (ASTM 2019)  
Min. Ignition Temp. (ASTM 1491)*

CCH#0: 2m%TiCl<sub>3</sub>

1. Fully Charged, CCH#0-100: *(NaAlH<sub>4</sub>)*
2. Partially Discharged, CCH#0-33: *(Na<sub>3</sub>AlH<sub>6</sub>+2Al)*
3. Fully Discharged, CCH#0-0: *(NaH+Al)*

- **Class 4.3, Packing Group II: No change from uncatalysed material.  
Spontaneous combustion with water, pyrophoric in air**
- **Class St-3, Highly Explosive**

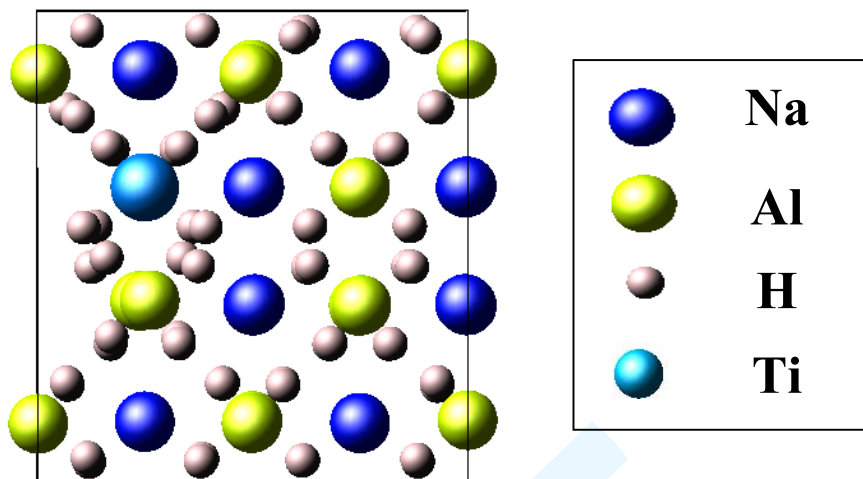


# Dust Explosion Testing

	Test Materials		Reference Materials	
	NaAlH <sub>4</sub> + 2% TiCl <sub>3</sub>	NaH+Al + 2% TiCl <sub>3</sub>	Pitt. Seam Coal Dust	Lycopodium Spores
P <sub>max</sub> bar-g	11.9	8.9	7.3	7.4
R <sub>max</sub> bar/s	3202	1200	426	511
K <sub>st</sub> bar-m/s	869	326	124	139
Dust Class	St-3	St-3	St-1	St-1
MEC g/m <sup>3</sup>	140	90	65	30
MIE mJ	<7	<7	110	17
T <sub>c</sub> °C	137.5	137.5	584	430

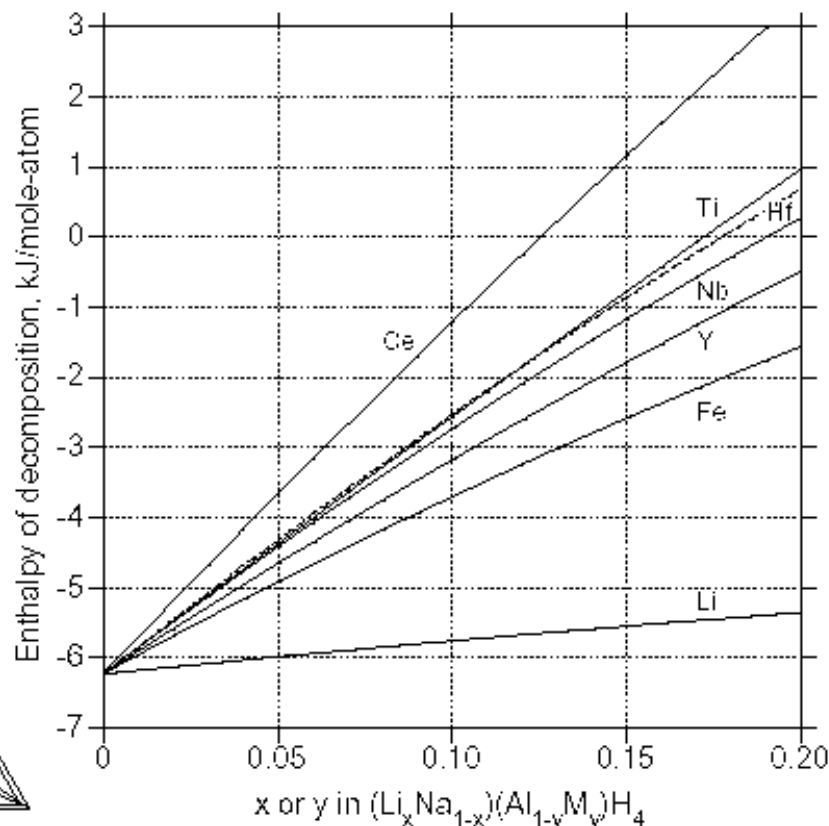
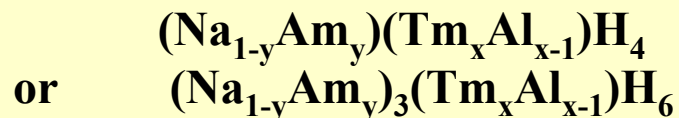
P<sub>max</sub> = maximum explosion pressure, R<sub>max</sub> = pressure rise maximum, K<sub>st</sub> = maximum scaled rate of pressure rise,  
 MEC = minimum explosive concentration, MEI = minimum spark ignition energy, T<sub>c</sub> = minimum dust cloud ignition temperature

# Calculated Dissociation Pressures



$\text{Na}_{16}\text{TiAl}_{15}\text{H}_{64}$  Supercell

• Combined Atomistic and Thermodynamic modeling predicts relative activity of catalysts and site substitution as:



**QUESTEK**  
 INNOVATIONS LLC

# Kinetics

## Materials

---

### Starting Materials

- Commercial purity  $\text{NaAlH}_4$
- High purity  $\text{H}_2$  (99.995 pure)  
Primary impurities  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  
 $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

### Compositions

- 6%  $\text{TiCl}_3$
- 4%  $\text{TiCl}_3$
- **New catalyst/method method**
- 4%  $\text{CeCl}_3$
- 6%  $\text{TiF}_3$

## Testing

---

### Isobaric Absorption

- **150°C/vac/24hrs**
- T = 80, 100, 120 & 140°C
- P = 68 bar

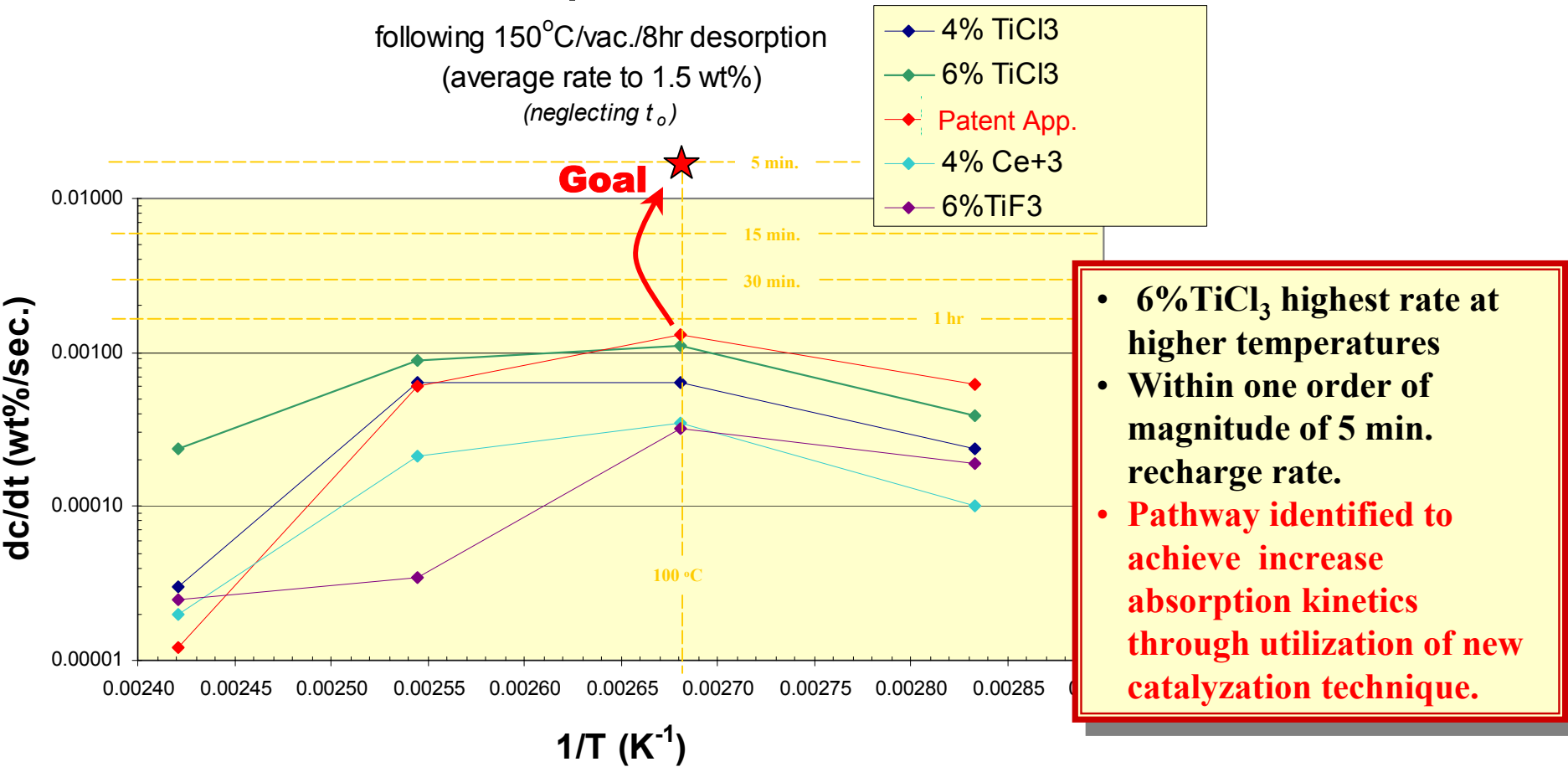
### Isobaric Desorption

- **120°C/68bar/16hrs**
- T = 70, 80, 90, 100, 110 & 120°C
- P = 1 bar

### Isothermal Absorption

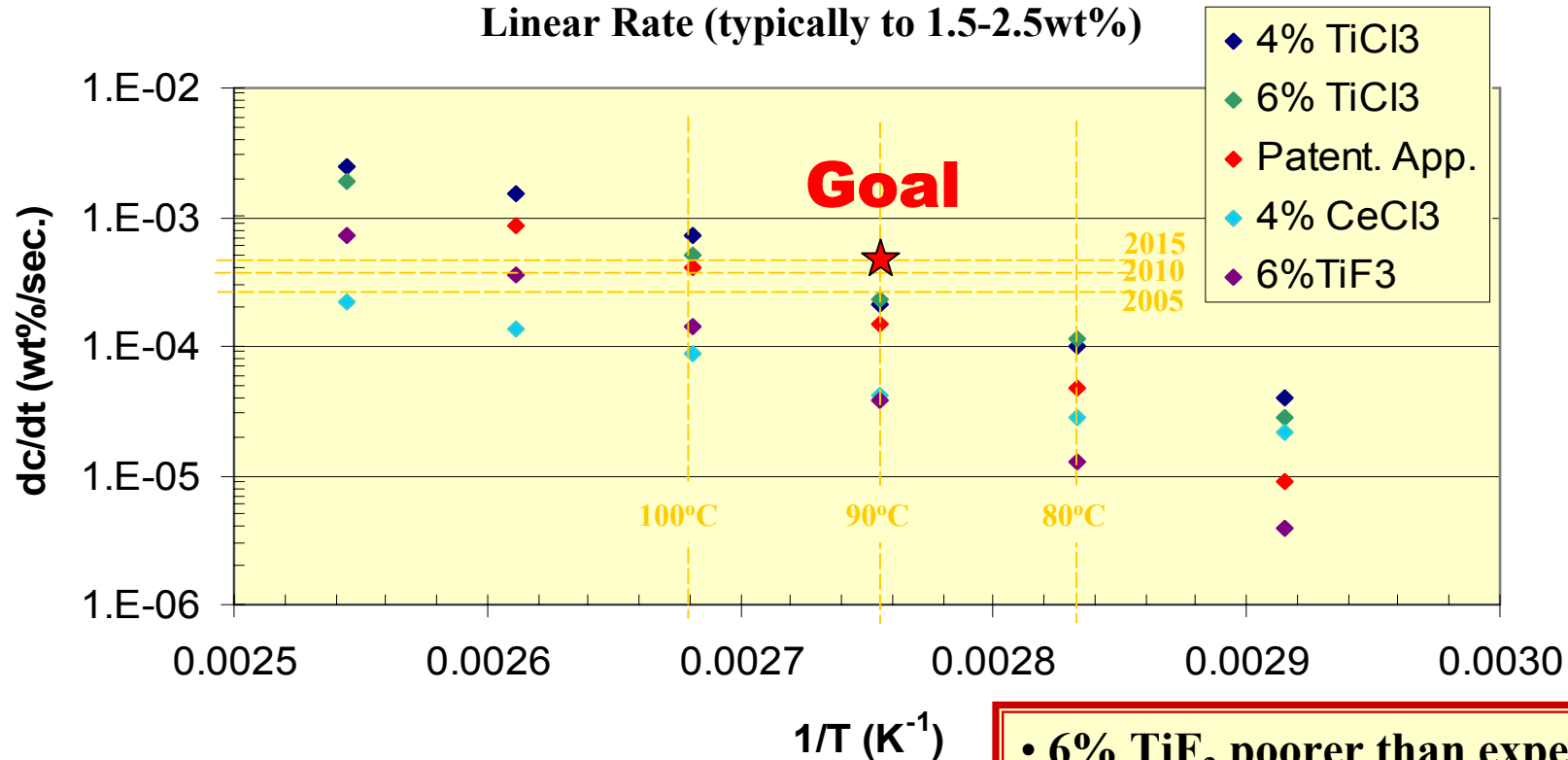
- **150°C/vac/24hrs**
- T = 120°C
- P = 50, 68, 90, 110 bar

# Charging Kinetics



# Discharge Kinetics

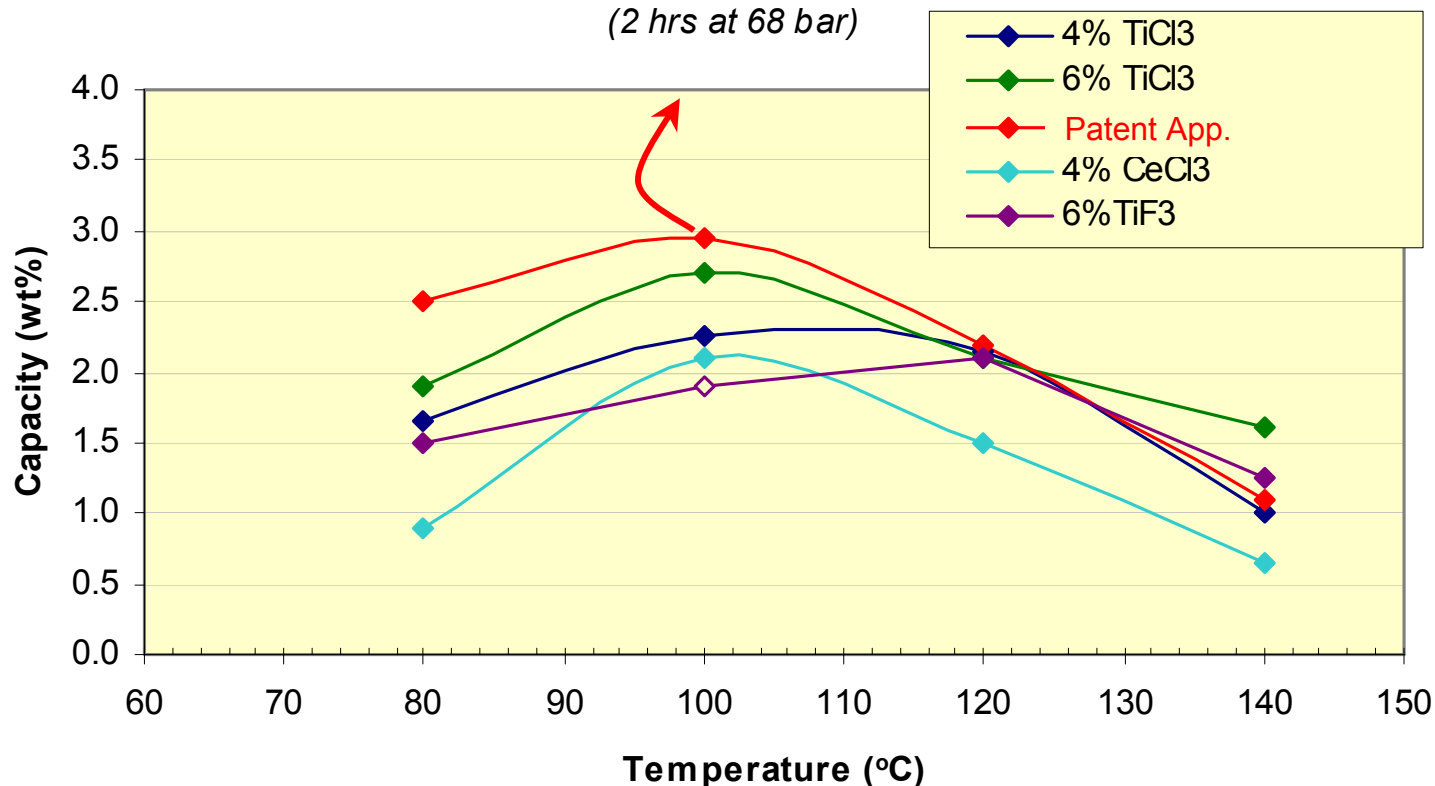
## NaAlH<sub>4</sub> Discharge Kinetics Linear Rate (typically to 1.5-2.5wt%)



- 6% TiF<sub>3</sub> poorer than expected
- 4% CeCl<sub>3</sub> poorer than expected
- 4 & 6% TiCl<sub>3</sub> comparable at all T's

# Charging Capacity

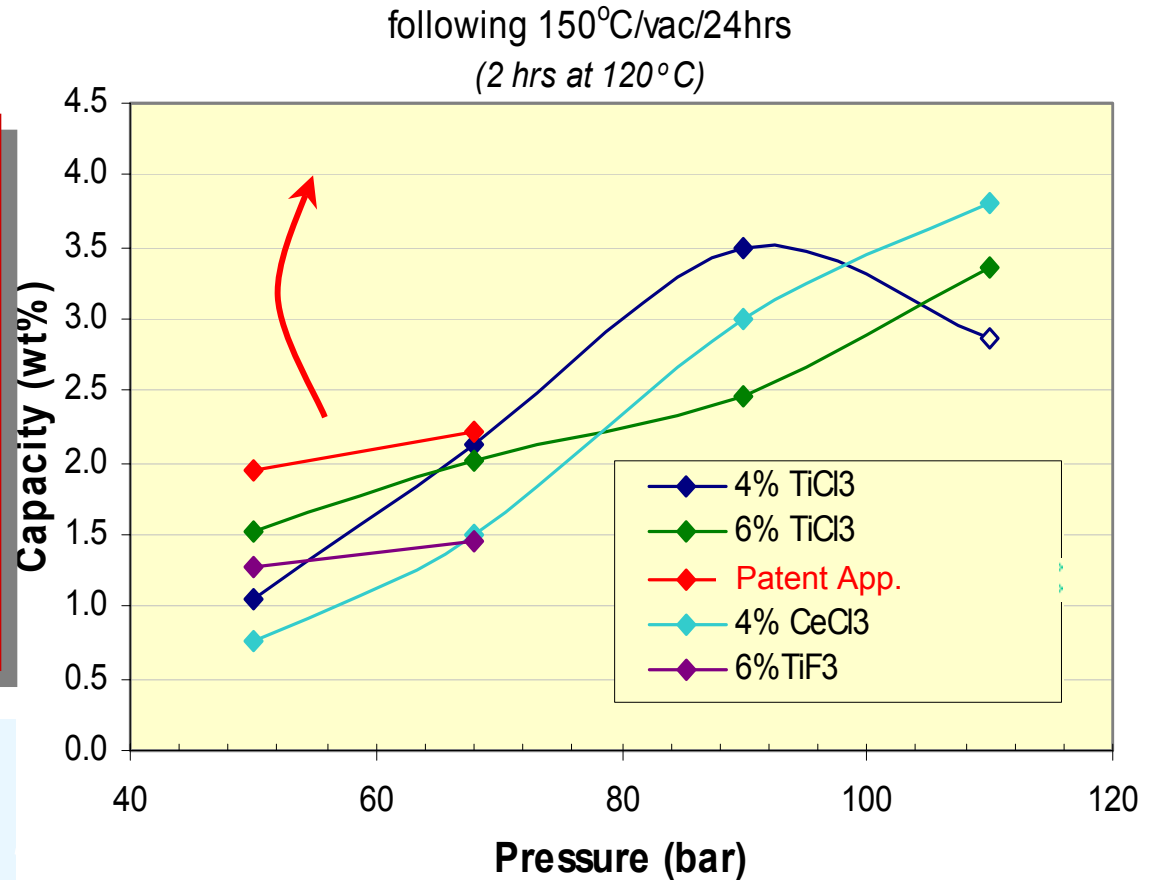
following 150°C/vac/24hrs  
(2 hrs at 68 bar)



- 6% TiF<sub>3</sub> and TiCl<sub>3</sub> comparable
- Pathway identified to increase NaAlH<sub>4</sub> capacity to ~3.7% or greater if it can be made effective in Na<sub>3</sub>AlH<sub>6</sub> desorption.

# Pressure Dependence

- Isochronal evaluations of capacity used as quantification measure
- 4%  $MCl_3$  have highest pressure dependence (*lower  $P$  to max capacity*).
- **New Pathway identified to increase low pressure  $NaAlH_4$  capacity**



# Cyclic Stability

## Hydrogen gas impurity effects

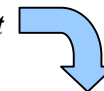
Commercial Purity NaAlH<sub>4</sub>

50g NaAlH<sub>4</sub> + 6m%TiCl<sub>3</sub>

Com. Purity Gas: 99.95% H<sub>2</sub>

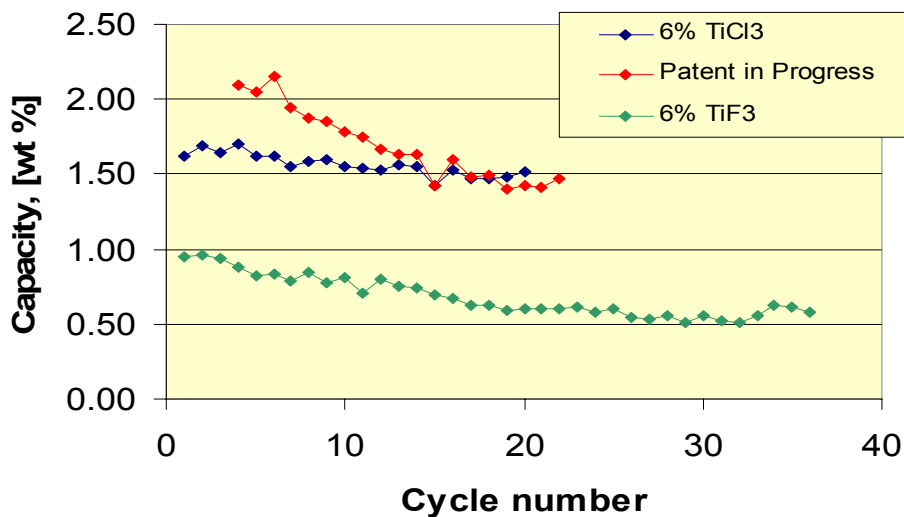
(typical contaminants: <20ppm  
N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, CO, CO<sub>2</sub> & CH<sub>4</sub>)

Automated  
Equipment  
Limitation



	Pressure (bar)	Temperature (°C)	Time (hrs)
Charge Cycle	100	100	4
Discharge Cycle	2	100	8

- Relatively low capacities are artifacts of isothermal testing constraints.
- 10-50% decrease in capacity attributed to H<sub>2</sub> gas impurities.
- No oxides/hydroxides identified by XRD after cycling.





# System Overview

## Conventional Metal Hydride ( $\text{LaNi}_5$ ) vs $\text{NaAlH}_4$

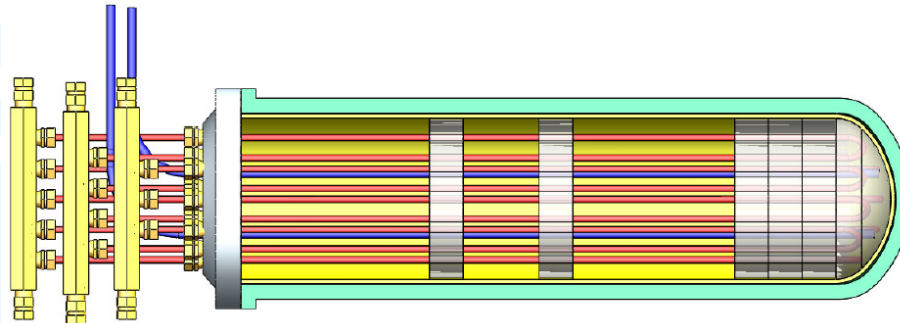
	$\text{LaNi}_5$	$\text{NaAlH}_4$
Charging pressure	10 atm	50 to 100 atm
Media volumetrics	50 kg $\text{H}_2$ / $\text{m}^3$	25 kg $\text{H}_2$ / $\text{m}^3$ **
Gravimetric goal	(~1%)	6%
Expansion forces	High	Low
Fabrication environment	Air $\Rightarrow$ activation	Glove box
Powder loading	Controllable	Challenge
Water reactivity	Low	High

} Composite vessel

} Fully open end

— Oil HT fluid

\*\* 50% powder relative density, 4%  $\text{H}_2$  media capacity



1st prototype design - can be disassembled

# Heat Transfer Optimization

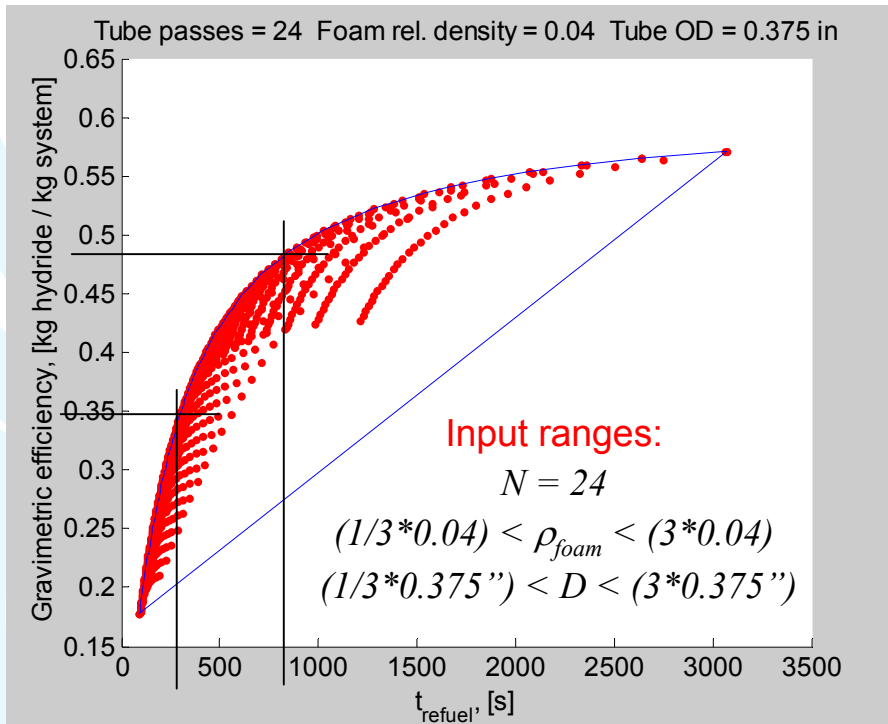
## Design inputs

- $N$ : number of tubes
- $D$ : tube diameter
- $\rho_{foam}$ : aluminum foam relative density

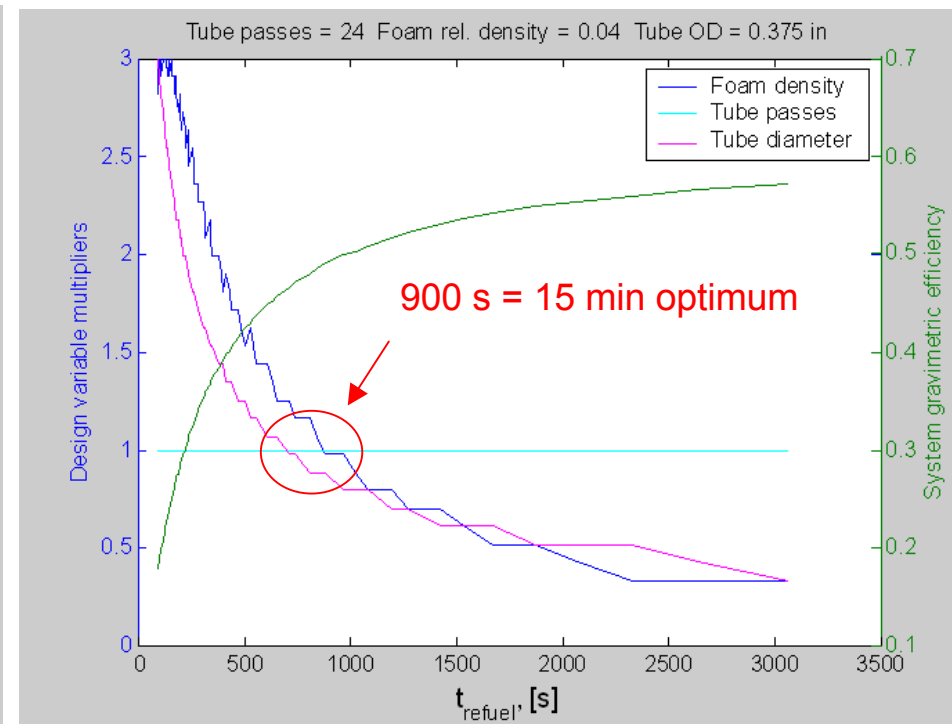
## Performance outputs:

- $\rho_{grav}$ : gravimetric efficiency
- $t_{refuel}$ : refueling time

## Optimal points - convex hull

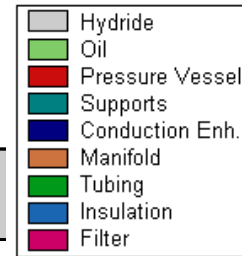
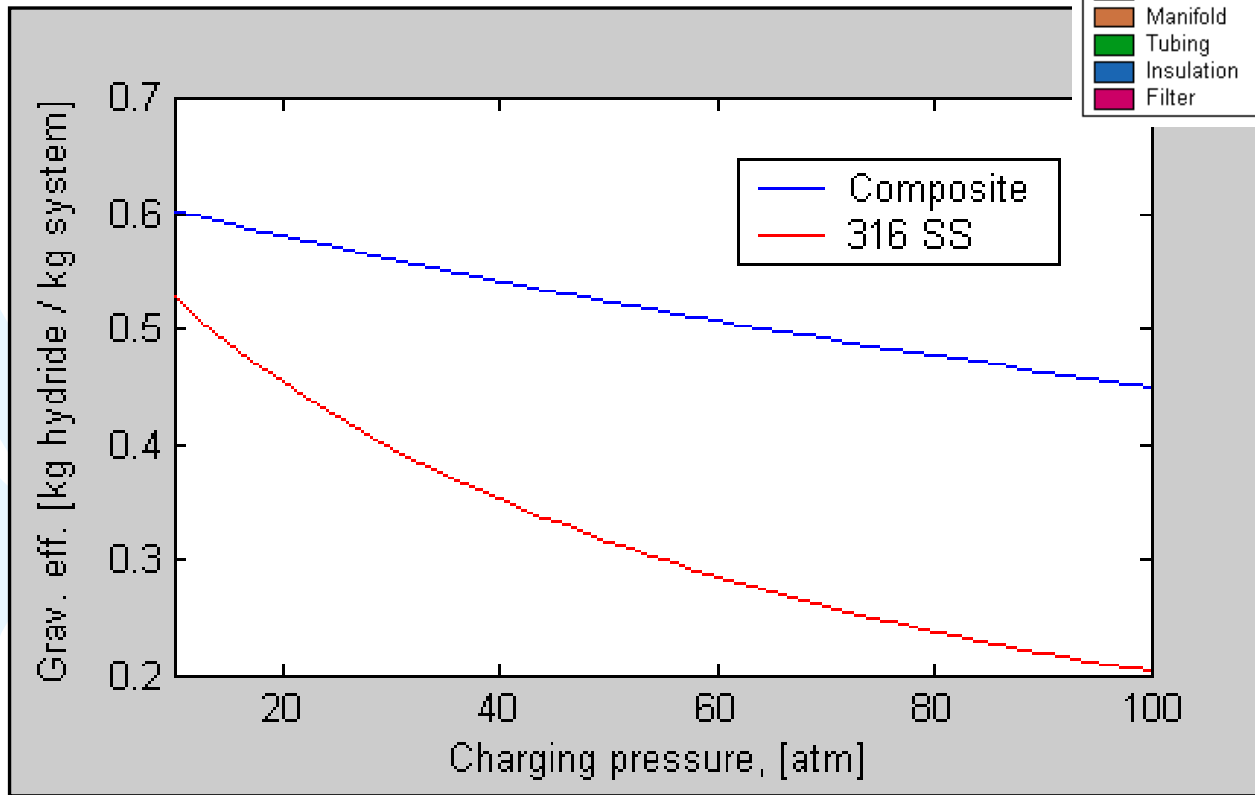


## Design variables along convex hull

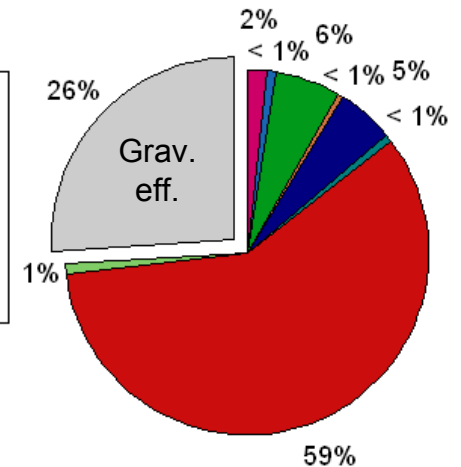


**Optimal design: 24 tubes of 3/8" diameter with 4% dense aluminum foam**

# Gravimetric Efficiency

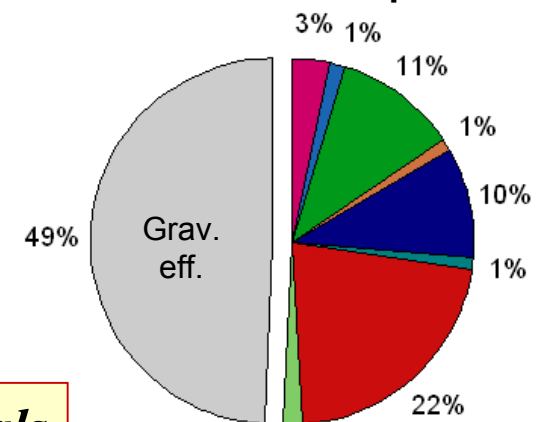


## 316 Stainless steel



350 Wh / kg    500 Wh / L

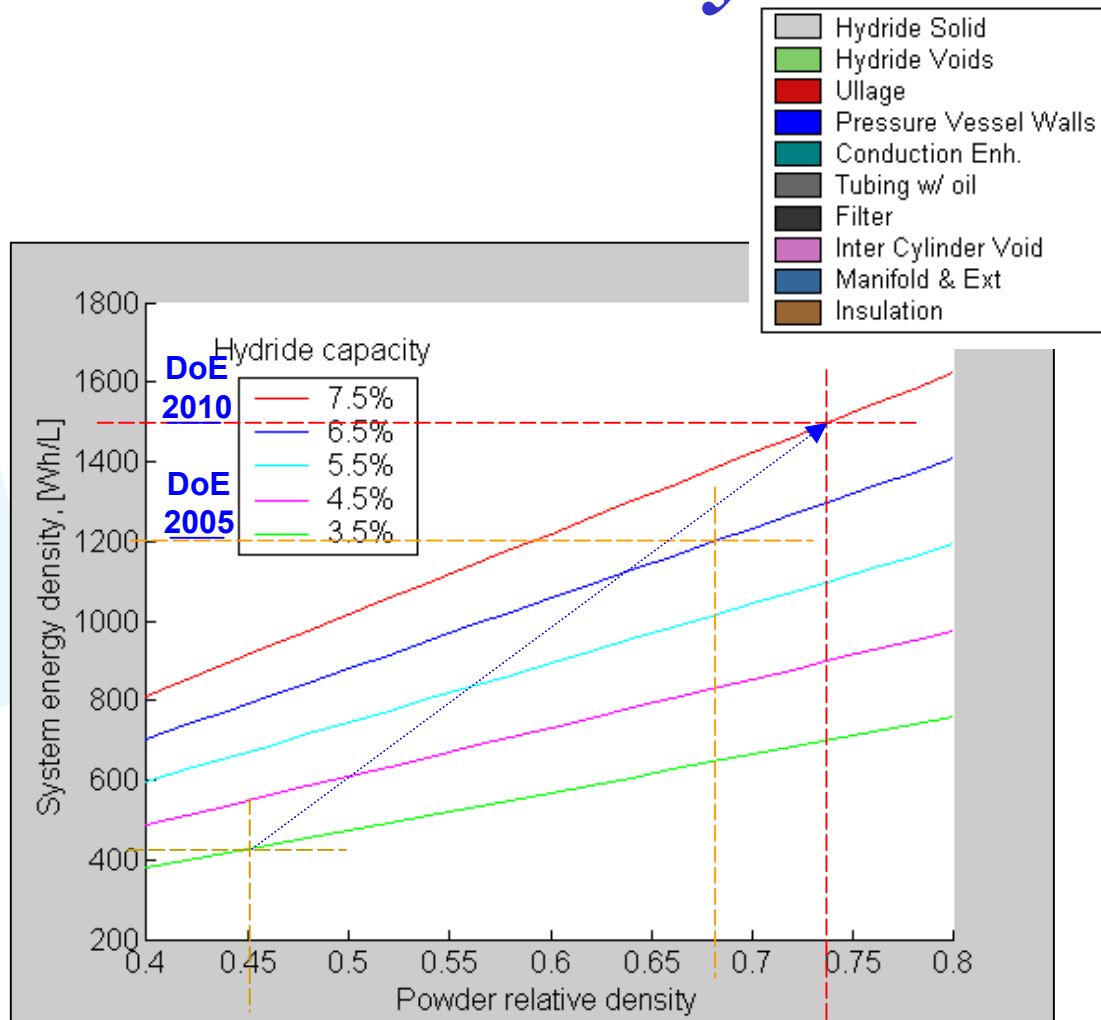
## Carbon fiber composite



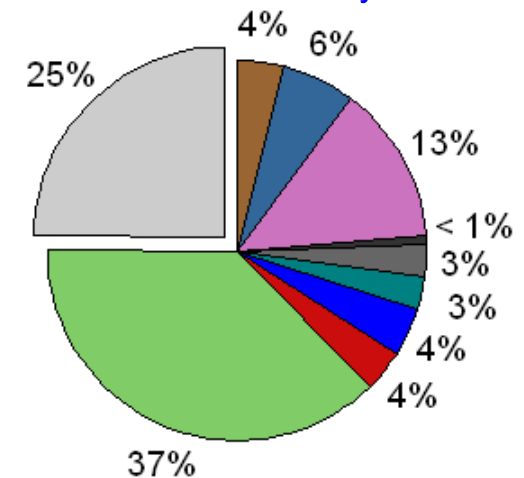
60 Wh / kg    530 Wh / L

- *Composite vessel necessary to approach gravimetric goals*
- *Mass of heat transfer structures motivates optimization*

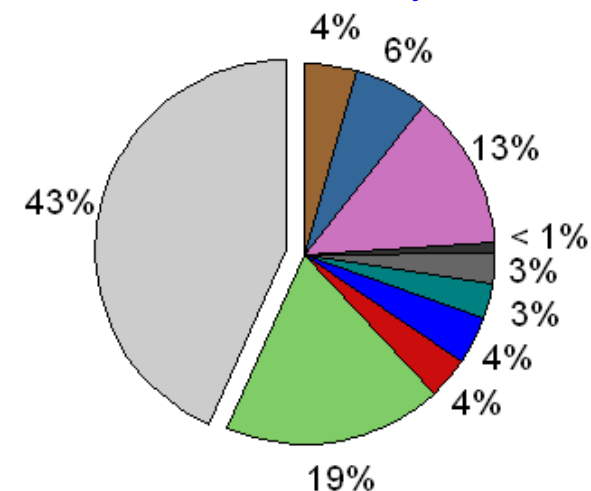
# Volumetric Density



Powder relative density = 0.4



Powder relative density = 0.7



- **Volumetric density is driven by:**
  - Powder packing density
  - Gravimetric density

# Composite Vessel

## Specifications:

- **250°C**: high temperature resin
- **100 atm** working pressure
- **40"** length, **9.5"** inner diameter
- **Stainless steel** liner
- Parr Instruments **stainless steel lid** for easy removal and inspection after evaluation.
- Designed to meet **ASME section 10** pressure vessel code
- **FEM analysis** performed to insure safety factor at design pressure.

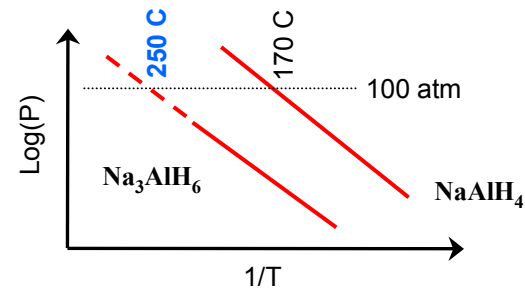
## Vendor:



Spencer Composites Corporation

- Custom design & fabrication
- Specialty production
- Full open, closed one end & high temperature design and fabrication experience
- Supplier to aerospace and petroleum industries

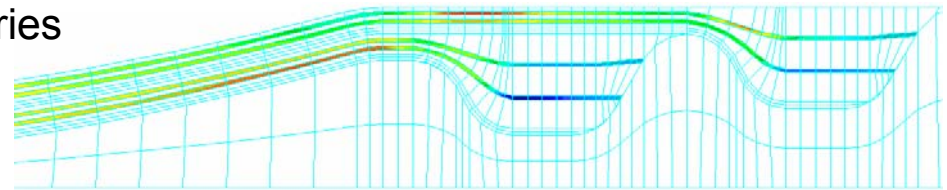
Safety is top concern in all designs and evaluations



filament winding



Flange - composite interface



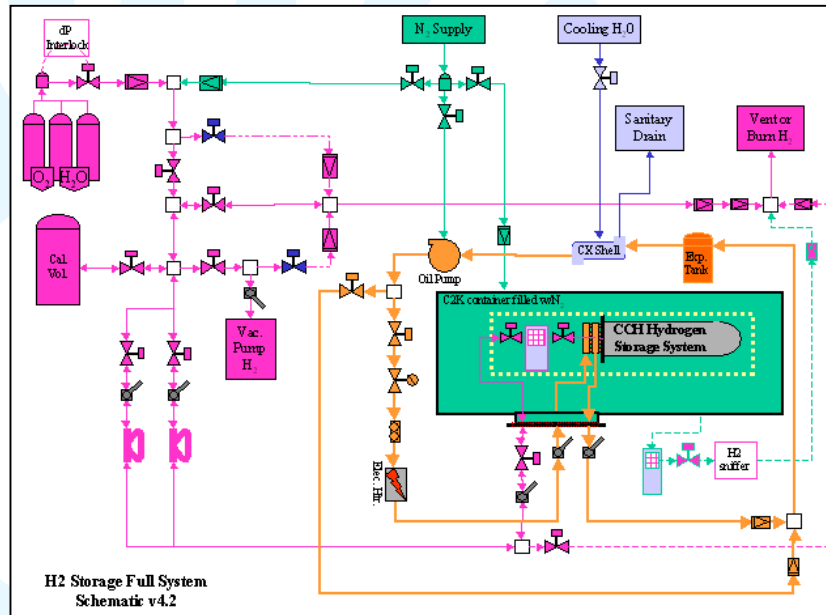
United Technologies Research Center

# 1 kg System Testing

Testing will utilize UTRC's Combustion research facility

- 18" thick reinforced concrete walls and ceiling
- Sheet metal directed blow-out back wall
- Secondary pressure vessel within test cell
- External control & monitor station

Test apparatus design complete



Hosted DoE Hydrogen Safety Review Committee on May 5, 2004.

**Safety is top priority in testing of first prototype.**

# System Level Modeling

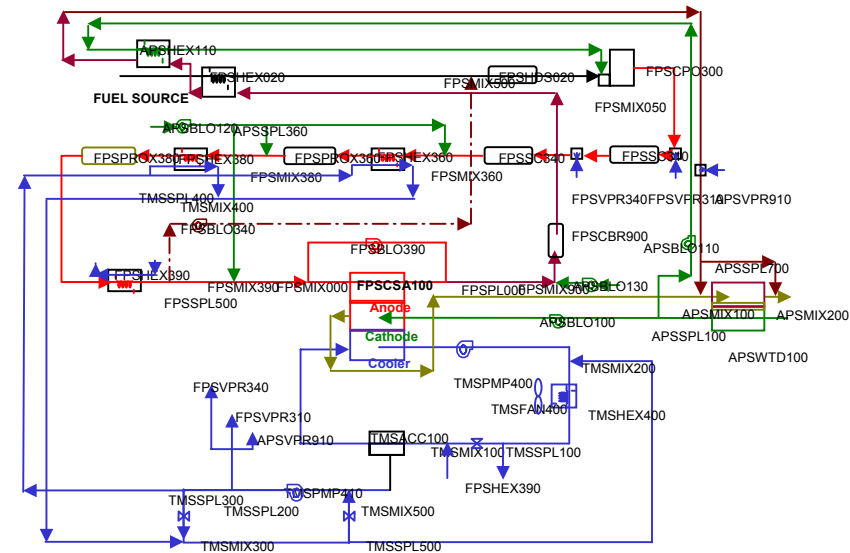
## gPROMS

- Steady state modeling
- Detailed reactor simulation

## DYMOLA

- Dynamic system modeling
- Control logic implementation

## FPS/Cell Stack Integration



## Status

- System models constructed and base line performance quantified.
- System integration concepts and preliminary models have been generated.
- Results are considered sensitive IP.

# System Projections

optimized NaAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.5wt% improvement)

## Hydrogen Storage System Predicted Performance Metrics

New material discovery or full NaAlH<sub>4</sub>  
(1wt% improvement)

Symbol	units	CCHSS#1	CCHSS#1.1	CCHSS#2	DoE	DoE	UTRC
Media		4m%TiF <sub>3</sub>	improved NaAlH <sub>4</sub>	5/5% media - '05	2005 Goal	2010 Goal	2004 Goal
Media Density	$\rho^m$ g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.28	1.28	1.28			
Media Gravimetric Density	$\rho^m_g$ wt%	4.0% →	4.5% →	5.5%			
Media Volumetric Density	$\rho^m_v$ kgH <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>3</sup>	51.2	57.6	70.4			
System Gravimetric Density	$\rho^s_g$ wt%	2.4%	2.9%	4.4%	4.5%	6.0%	3.0%
"	$\rho^s_g$ kWh/kg	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.50	2.00	1.00
System Volumetric Density	$\rho^s_v$ kgH <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>3</sup>	15.4	20.6	35.9	36.0	45.0	16.5
"	$\rho^s_v$ kWh/l	0.51	0.69	1.20	1.20	1.50	0.55
Media Charging Rate	$r^m_c$ wt%/hr	14.3	16.2	33.0			
Media Discharging Rate	$r^m_d$ wt%/hr	0.9	1.1	12.0			
System Charging Rate	$r^s_c$ wt%/hr	14.3	16.2	33.0			
System Discharging Rate	$r^s_d$ wt%/hr	0.9	1.1	12.0			
Gravimetric Engineering Efficiency	$E^g$	0.6 →	0.65 →	0.8			
Volumetric Engineering Efficiency	$E^v$	0.5 →	0.55 →	0.68			
Powder Packing density	$\rho^m_p$	0.6 →	0.65 →	0.75			
Heat Transfer Coefficient	$\kappa^s_f$	1.0	1.0	1.0			
System Capacity	$C^s$ kgH <sub>2</sub>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5	5	5
System Charging Rate	$R^s_c$ kgH <sub>2</sub> /hr	17.9	18.0	30.0	30	90	18
System Discharging Rate	$R^s_d$ kgH <sub>2</sub> /hr	1.18	1.22	10.91	10.8	14.4	1.2
Media Mass	$m^m$ kg media	125.0	111.1	90.9			
System Mass	$m^s$ kg sys.	208.3	170.9	113.6			
Media Volume	$v^m$ m <sup>3</sup>	0.10	0.09	0.07			
System Volume	$v^s$ m <sup>3</sup>	0.195	0.158	0.104			
System Volume	$v^s$ gal.	51.6	41.7	27.6			
media							
system							

improved HX design (5 pt savings)

improved fill method (5 pt savings)

new design (5 pt savings)  
system approach (10 pt. savings)

new fill method (10 pt savings)



# Going Forward Plan

- Safety Analysis
- Atomistic/Thermodynamic Modeling
- 50g H<sub>2</sub> Prototype System
- Media Kinetic Characterization
- Media Kinetic Modeling
- Heat/Mass Transfer Analysis
- High Temp. Composite Tank Development
- **1kg H<sub>2</sub> Prototype/Evaluation**
- ~~5kg H<sub>2</sub> Prototype/Evaluation~~
- ~~5kg Prototype Delivery~~

## 1kgH<sub>2</sub> CCHSS#1.1

System Design

*New filling & HX method*

New NaAlH<sub>4</sub> catalyst method

*Higher capacity within P & T*

## 1kgH<sub>2</sub> CCHSS#2

System Design

*2-end semi-closed composite tank*

*New mfg. method*

*New filling method*

*Metalized polymer liner*

System Modeling

Improved NaAlH<sub>4</sub> catalysts

*Lower charging pressure*

# Partners



- **UTPower: Automotive PEMFC requirements & system models.**



- **Hydrogen Components Inc.: F.L. Lynch – safety testing, system design and fabrication.**



- **QuesTek: Prof. G. Olsen & Dr. C. Qiu – thermodynamic modeling.**



- **Albemarle: Dr. J. Powers – NaAlH<sub>4</sub> properties, handling, and impurity content effects.**



- **U. Hawaii: Prof. C. Jensen – Consultation on NaAlH<sub>4</sub> properties and capabilities.**



- **IFE: Dr. O.M. Lovvik – Atomistic simulations.**



- **Spencer Composites, LLC: B. Spencer – High temperature & pressure graphite reinforced composite tank design and fabrication.**

# *Previous Year's Comments*

- **Comment**

“Weakness is that this will not meet low goals.”

*We are designing and building the best possible hydrogen storage system possible with existing materials to learn fundamental concepts in utilizing alanate materials and in anticipation of future materials invention.*

- **Comment**

“Maintain sufficient latitude in the design to accommodate other reversible H<sub>2</sub> sorbents ...”

*This is the stated strategy.*

# *Future Work*

- Complete fabrication of 1 kg H<sub>2</sub> system, CCHSS#1.
- Complete evaluation of CCHSS#1 under charging, discharging and conditions.
- Tear down CCHSS#1 to evaluate system deterioration.
- Design/evaluate advanced HX concepts for integration into CCHSS#1.1
- Design/evaluate new composite fabrication technologies into CCHSS#2

# *Complex Hydride Compounds with Enhanced Hydrogen Storage Capacity*

**D.L. Anton, S.M. Opalka**

**X. Tang & D.A. Mosher**

**United Technologies Research Center**

**E. Hartford, CT**

**R. Zidan**

**T. Motyka**

**SRTC**

**Aiken, SC**

**B. Hauback**

**H. Brinks**

**O.M. Lovvik**

**IFE**

**Kjeller, Norway**

**Merit Review**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**May 24-27, 2004**

**J. Strickler**

**F.-J. (Robert) Wu**

**J.E. Boone**

**Albemarle Corp.**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

Rev. A

---

*United Technologies Research Center*

*This presentation does not contain any proprietary or confidential information*

## *Objective*

To assist DoE in the development of **new complex hydride compounds capable of reversibly storing hydrogen to a capacity of  $\geq 7.5$  wt %** and regeneration for 500 cycles with 100 % recovery.

## *Approach*

**Discover new reversible high hydrogen content complex hydride compounds,  $\text{Na}_y\text{M}^{+i}_x(\text{AlH}_4)_{y+ix}$ ,** in the quaternary phase space between sodium hydride (NaH), alane ( $\text{AlH}_3$ ), transition metal or rare earth (M) hydrides ( $\text{MH}_z$ , where  $z = 1-3$ ) and molecular hydrogen ( $\text{H}_2$ ) utilizing Solid State Processing (SSP), Molten State Processing (MSP) and Solution Based Processing (SBP).



# *Budget*

**Total Funding: \$2.9M (27% cost share)**

**FY '04: \$569,000**

**SRTC CRADA: \$150,000**

**Duration: 3 years**

**Start:**

**Signed: March 17, 2004**

**UTRC anticipatory: December 1, 2003**

# Technical Barrier & Targets

Metric		Units	2005 DoE Goal	2010 DoE Goal	UTRC GO/NoGo	Metric		Units	2005 DoE Goal	2010 DoE Goal	UTRC GO/NoGo	
H <sub>2</sub> Storage Density	Capacity	kg		5		Hydrogen Delivery	Max. H <sub>2</sub> Delivery Temp.	°C	100			
	Gravimetric	kWh/kg	1.5	2	2.00		Min. H <sub>2</sub> Delivery Temp.	°C	-20	-30		
	Volumetric	kWh/l	1.2	1.5			Min. Full Flow	g H <sub>2</sub> /sec.	3.0	4.0		
Cost	Total life cycle (15 yr/150k miles)	\$(03)/kWh	6.00	4.00			FC Min. Pressure	kPa/bar	250/2.5	250/2.5		
	Fuel (gasoline equivalent)	\$(01)	3.0	1.3			ICE Min. Pressure	kPa/bar	1000/10	3500/35		
	Marginal Fuel Cost (Ref. \$1/kWh for H <sub>2</sub> )	\$(03)/kgH <sub>2</sub>	NA	1.5			Purity	% (dry)	99.9	99.9		
							0-90%	sec.	0.5	0.5		
Operating Temperature	Min.	°C	0	-30			Transient Response	90-0% start to full flow @20°C	sec.	4.0	0.5	
	Max.	°C	50	50				90-0% start to full flow @-20°C	sec.	8.0	4.0	
Cycle Life	Cycle Life (0.25-100%)	N	500	1000				Refueling Rate	kg H <sub>2</sub> /min.	0.5	1.5	
	Mean	%	N/A	90		Loss of Useable H <sub>2</sub>		g/hr kg H <sub>2</sub>	1.0	0.1		
	Confidence	%	N/A	90		Permeation & Leakage	scc/hr	Federal enclosed-area safety standard				
						Toxicity		Meets or exceeds applicable standards				
						Safety		Meets or exceeds applicable standards				

7.5 wt% media is required for a 2kWh/l system!



# Mixed Complex Hydride Candidates



**Table I**

**Known Alanate Compounds**

CAS No.	Composition	Mol. Wt.	wt.%H2	x *
123951-44-C	Be(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	71.04	<b>8.45</b>	2
17300-62-8	Mg(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	86.33	<b>6.95</b>	2
16941-10-9	Ca(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	102.11	<b>5.88</b>	2
43736-89-6	Sr(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	149.65	<b>4.01</b>	2
16853-85-3	LiAlH <sub>4</sub>	37.95	<b>7.91</b>	1
13770-96-2	NaAlH <sub>4</sub>	54.00	<b>5.56</b>	1
16903-34-7	KAlH <sub>4</sub>	70.10	<b>4.28</b>	1
19414-22-3	RbAlH <sub>4</sub>	116.68	<b>2.57</b>	1
16961-92-5	CsAlH <sub>4</sub>	171.13	<b>1.75</b>	1
56508-67-9	Ti(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	171.95	<b>8.14</b>	2
62866-04-0	Y(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	181.95	<b>5.50</b>	2
26042-21-7	Nb(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	185.95	<b>5.92</b>	2

**Table II**

**Proposed Alanate Compounds**

Composition	Mol. Wt.	wt.%H2	x *
V(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	175.00	<b>8.57</b>	1
Cr(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	238.08	<b>9.66</b>	1
Mn(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	241.02	<b>9.13</b>	2
Fe(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	148.89	<b>8.06</b>	0
Co(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	151.97	<b>7.90</b>	0
Nb(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	247.98	<b>7.66</b>	1
Mo(AlH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	282.02	<b>7.80</b>	2

**Start Here!**  
**Year #1**

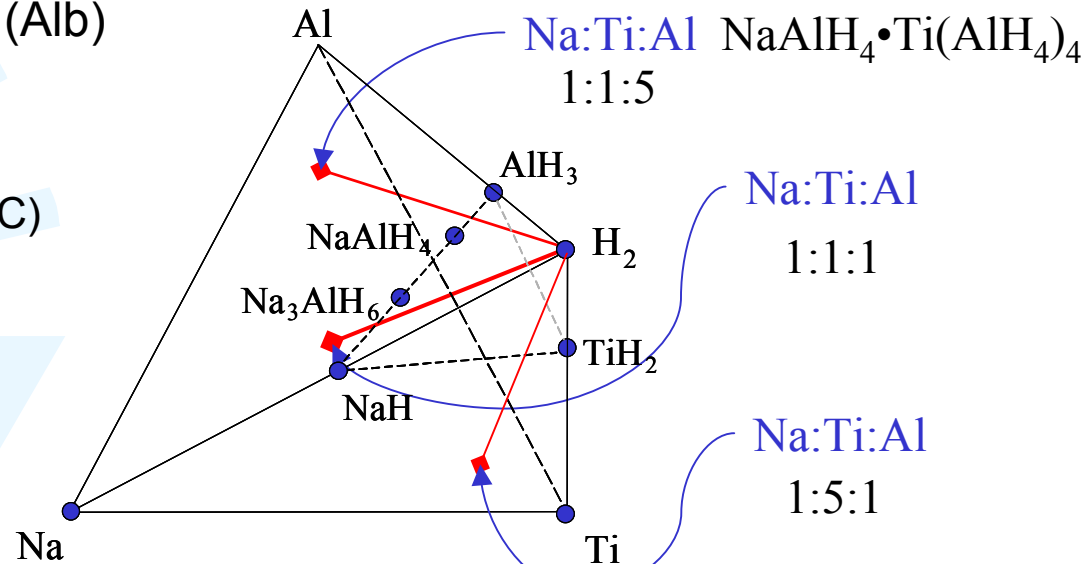
**If Unsuccessful**  
**Move on!**  
**Year #2**

# Program Outline

- First Principals Modeling (UTRC)
  - Known Alanate Structures
  - Known  $\text{NaAlH}_4$  Catalysts
  - Compound Prediction
- Synthesis
  - Solid State Proc.(UTRC)
  - Molten State Proc. (SRTC)
  - Solute Based Processing (Alb)
- Analysis
  - Structure
    - XRD (all), TRXRD (UTRC)
    - ND (IFE)
  - Calorimetry (Alb)
- Performance
  - Van't Hoff (UTRC)
  - Kinetics (UTRC)
- Cyclic Stability (UTRC)
- Scale-Up (Alb)
- Business Analysis (UTRC, Alb)



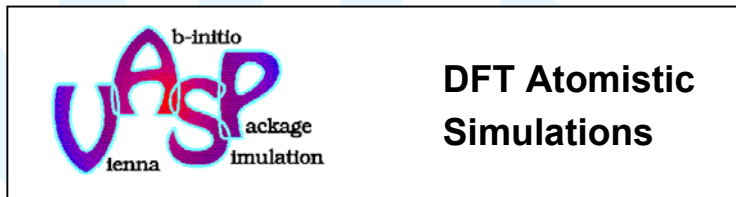
## Initial Composition Approach



# *First Principals Modeling*

## OBJECTIVE:

Understand the atomistic and thermodynamic principals of complex hydride materials.  
Use this understanding to predict new high hydrogen capacity complex hydride phases.



Conduct atomistic simulations to screen and identify high hydrogen capacity quaternary complex hydride phases at 0K.



Predict temperature dependant thermodynamic properties.

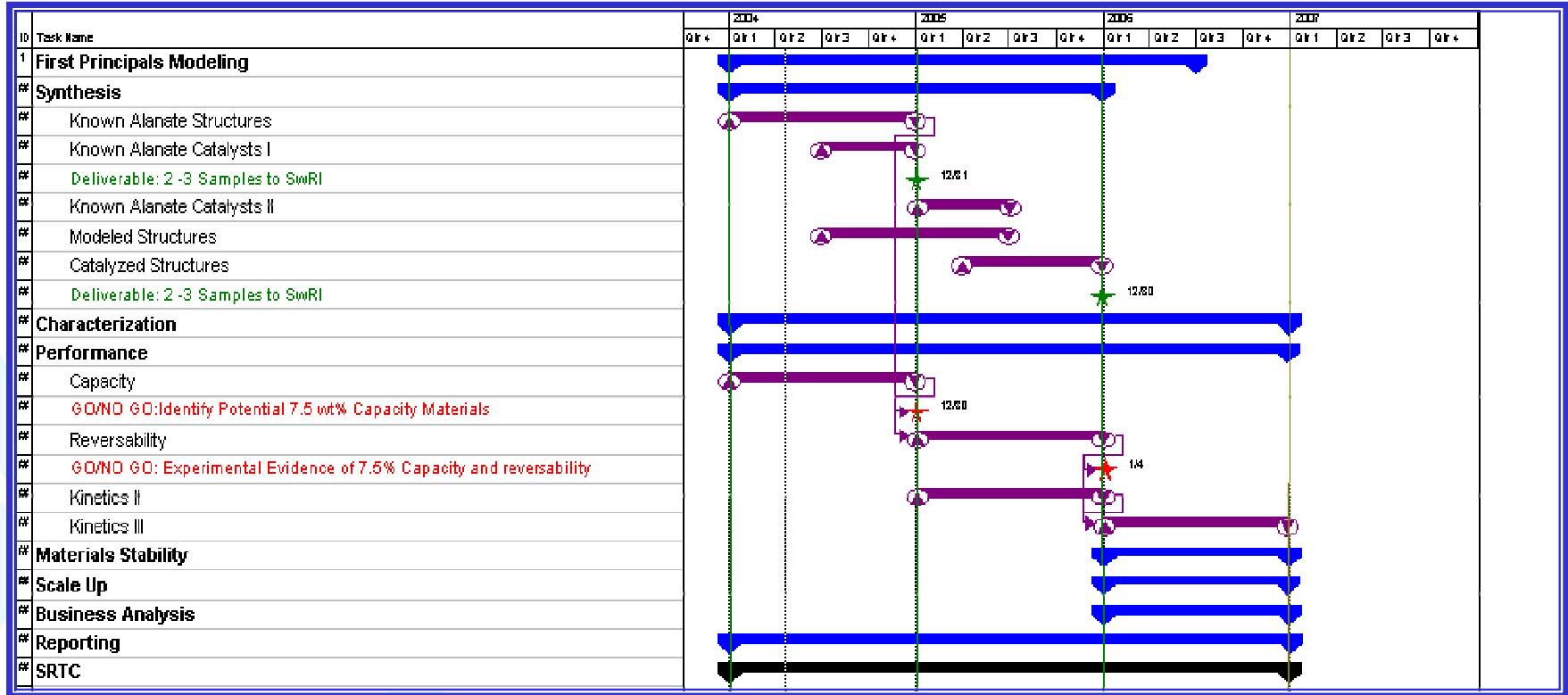


Conduct thermodynamic calculations to predict phase relationships in selected phase fields and pressure-composition isotherm relationships.

# *Safety*

- Quantification of the safety risks associated with synthesis, storage and testing of high hydrogen containing compounds and their associated powders and solvents.
- Identification of safety vulnerabilities and risk mitigation strategies in:
  - Synthesis, characterization and testing of laboratory quantities of  $\text{AlH}_3$ ,  $\text{Mg}(\text{AlH}_4)_2$  and similar compounds
  - Scaled up to 1 kg quantities of promising compounds via most cost effective processing route.

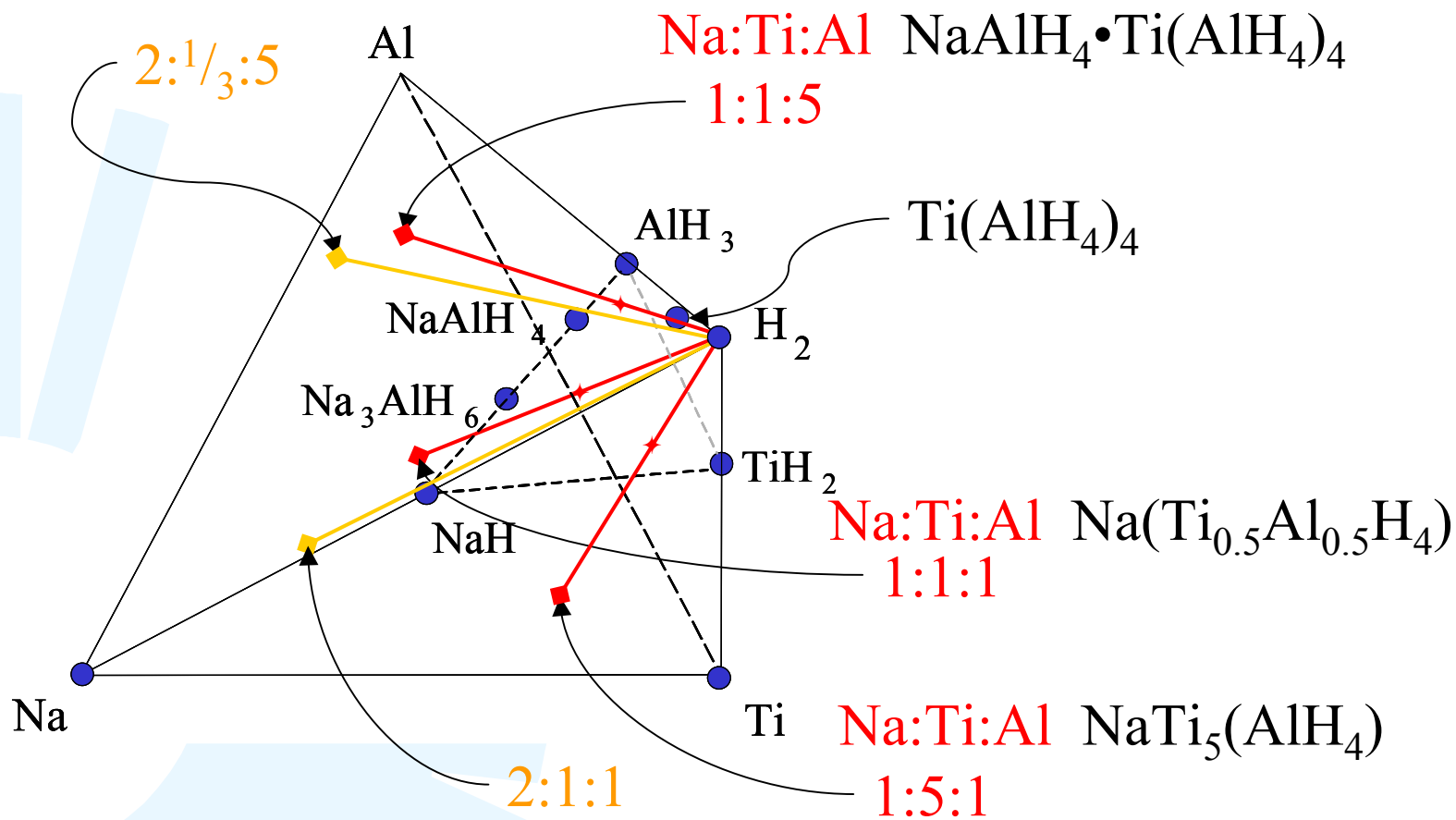
# Timeline



- Modeling
- Synthesis
- Characterization
- Performance

- Stability
- Scale-Up
- Business Analysis

# Composition Ratios



# Possible Sources of Cations

Need to select 2-4 candidates for future experiments.

Complete
In Process
Planned
Possible
Deferred

Metal + Hydrides		
NaH	Ti	Al
NaH	TiH <sub>2</sub>	Al
NaH	Ti	AlH <sub>3</sub>
NaH	TiH <sub>2</sub>	AlH <sub>3</sub>

Hydride + Chloride		
NaH	TiH <sub>2</sub>	AlCl <sub>3</sub>
NaH	TiCl <sub>2</sub>	AlH <sub>3</sub>

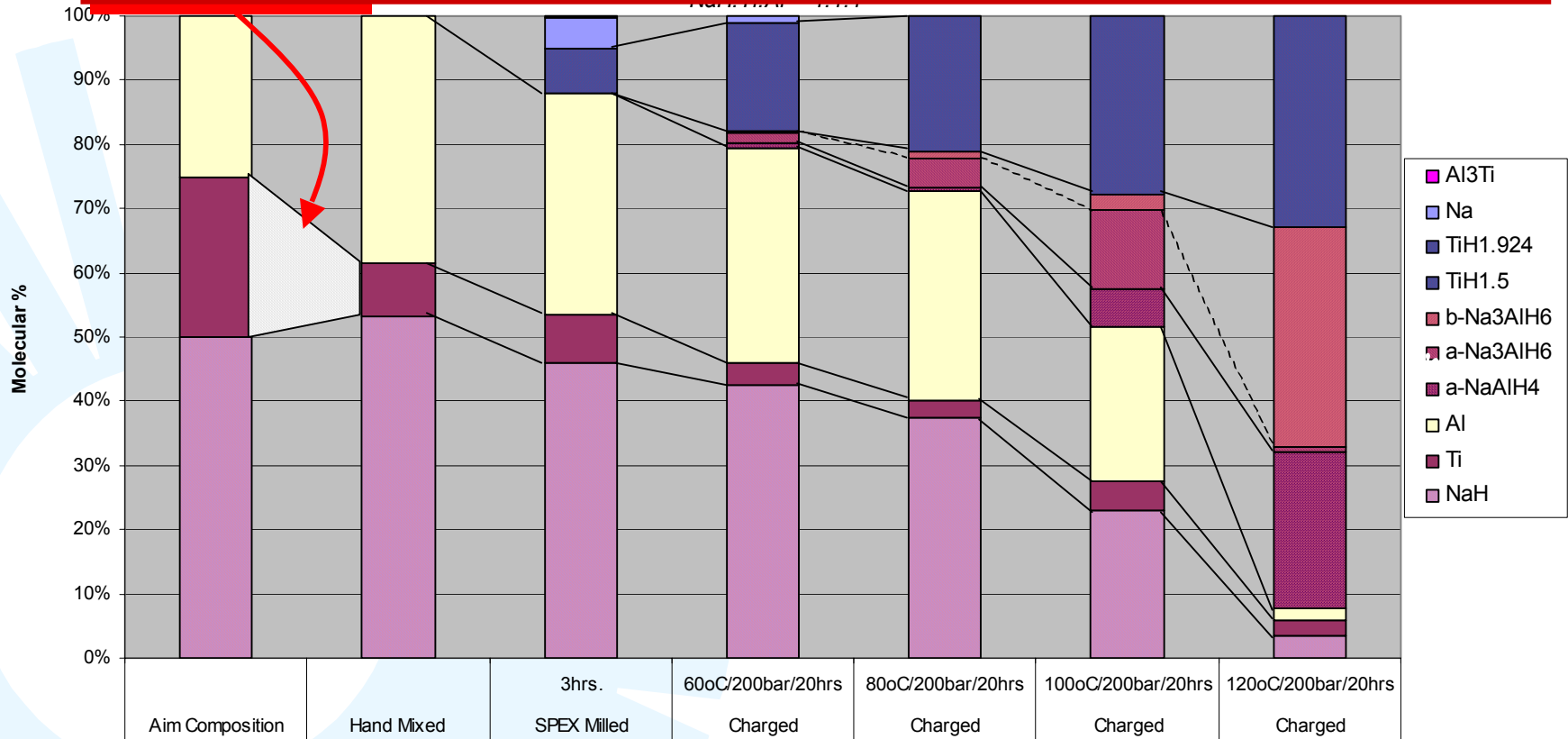
Intermetallic	
NaH	xTiAl <sub>3</sub> +yTi <sub>3</sub> Al

Metal + Chlorides		
NaH	TiCl <sub>2</sub>	Al
NaH	TiCl <sub>2</sub>	AlCl <sub>3</sub>
NaH	Ti	AlCl <sub>3</sub>

Organometallic		
NaH	Ti(OBu) <sub>4</sub>	Al
NaH	Ti(OBu) <sub>4</sub>	AlH <sub>3</sub>
NaH	Ti(OBu) <sub>4</sub>	AlCl <sub>3</sub>
...	...	...

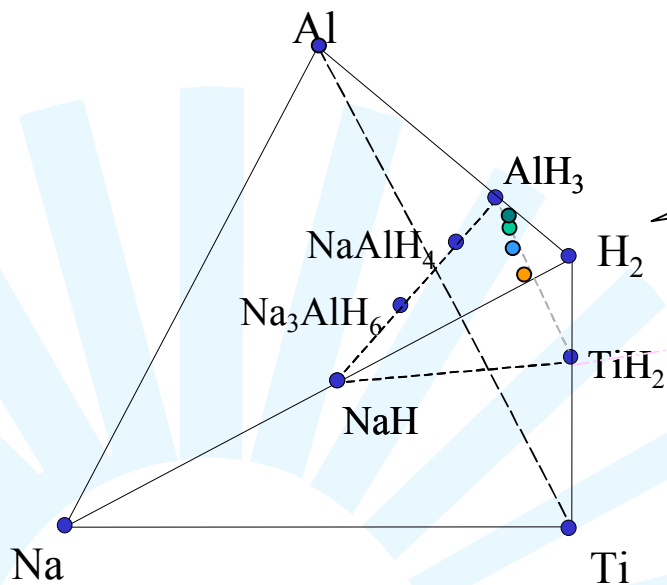
# 2:1:1 (NaH:Ti:Al) XRD Results

- Ti concentration is significantly diminished after only hand mixing, due to absorption. *Partial answer as to: Where is the Ti?*
- $TiH_x$  strongly bound and not participatory in alanate formation.





# Atomistic Screening of High Capacity Na-Ti-Al-H Analogs



## Structural Analogs

Wt.% H<sub>2</sub>



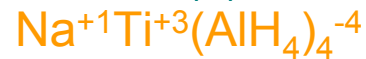
7.2



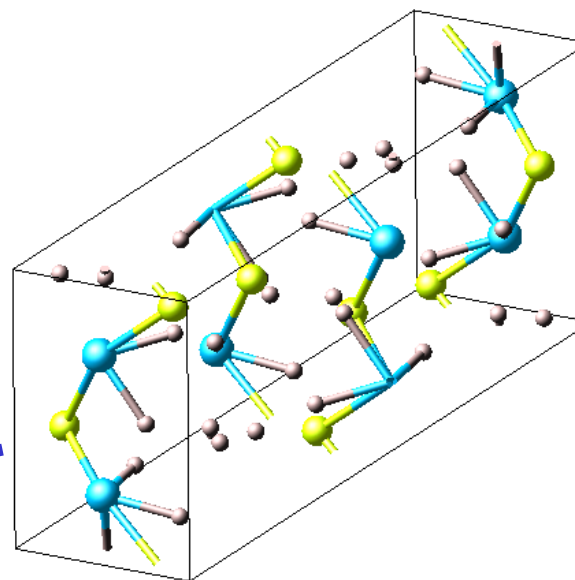
8.6



9.4



8.2



Atoms

Ti

Al

H

**Thermodynamic  
Predictions  
Screening Criteria  
Phase Mapping**

Output Structure:  $\text{Ti}(\text{AlH}_4)_2$  C2/c

*United Technologies Research Center*

# *Interactions and Collaborations*



- **Albemarle:** Drs. J. Strickler, F.-J. Wu, J.E. Boone, – solute based synthesis, scale-up, safety and business analysis.
- **IFE:** Drs. B. Hauback, H. Brinks & O.M. Lovvik – Neutron Diffraction, High Resolution XRD & Atomistic simulations.
- **SRTC:** R. Zidan & T. Motyka - high pressure/high temperature synthesis & characterization.



# PDC Laboratories

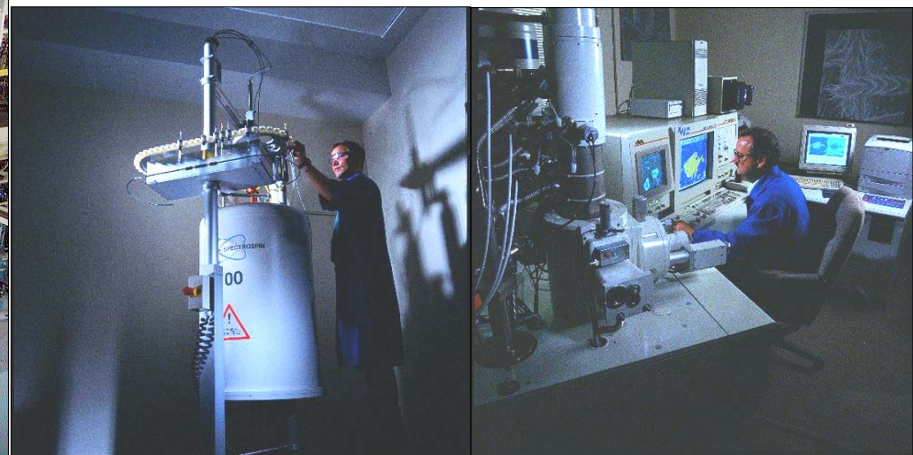
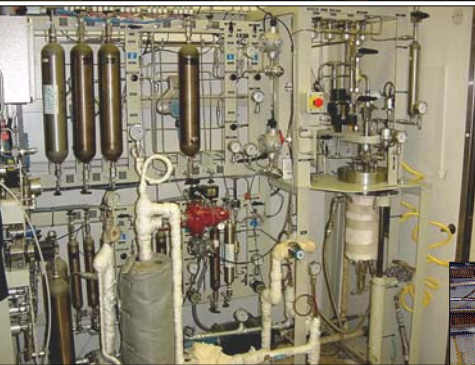


## Capability

- Bench-scale inert atmosphere process labs
- High-pressure laboratory with 1-10 gal autoclaves
- Reaction calorimeter
- NMR, Mass Spec.
- Pilot plant facilities with 50-300 gal. reactors

## Yr 1 Plan

- Literature Review
- Define target compositions
- Develop wet chemical synthesis methods
- Perform preliminary structural characterizations
- Deliver novel ternary alanate samples for evaluation

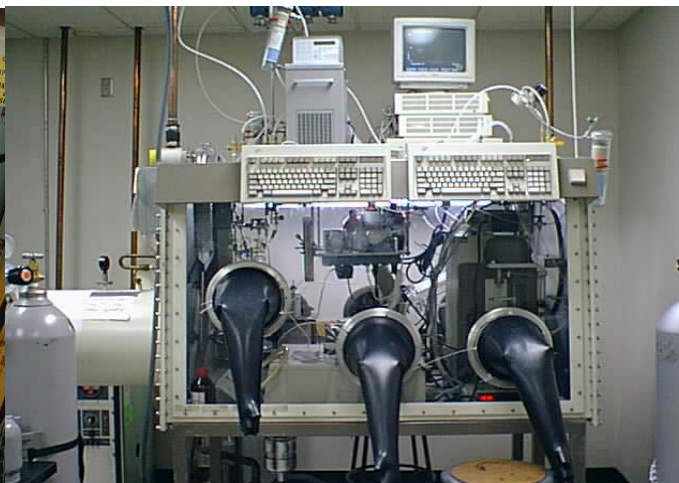


## Capability

- High Pressure Synthesis
- Inert Atmosphere TGA, DSC
- Alanate Purification

## Yr 1 Plan

- High pressure/temperature synthesis of new complexes
- Enhancement of H<sub>2</sub> sorption kinetics.
- Thermodynamic and energetic calculations and characterization.
- Spectroscopic study of surface and bulk structures.



# *Future Work*

- Complete Na/Ti/Al, Na/Li/Al & Na/Mg/Al and initiate Na/Tm/Al quaternary phase determinations utilizing combined atomistic/thermodynamic modeling approach.
- Complete Na/Ti/Al, Na/Li/Al & Na/Mg/Al and initiate Na/Tm/Al quaternary phase determinations utilizing Solid State Processing (SSP).
- Initiate similar Molten State Processing (MSP) at SRTC.
- Initiate similar Solute Based Processing (SBP) at Albemarle.