

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Performance in the Key Early Markets of Material Handling Equipment and Backup Power



2013 Fuel Cell Seminar and Energy Exposition

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

NFCTEC Analysis Approach

Analysis and reporting of real-world operation data



www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_tech_validation.html

Objectives



Assess the technology status in real world operations, establish performance baselines, report on fuel cell and hydrogen technology, and support market growth by evaluating performance relevant to the markets' value proposition

Assess technology

- Perform independent technology assessment in real world operation conditions
- Focus on fuel cell system and hydrogen infrastructure: performance, operation, and safety
- Leverage data processing and analysis capabilities developed under the fuel cell vehicle Learning Demonstration project
- Evaluate material handling equipment (MHE) and backup power
- Analysis includes up to 1,000 fuel cell systems deployed with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds

Support market growth

- Provide analyses and results relevant to the markets' value proposition
- Report on technology status to fuel cell and hydrogen communities and other key stakeholders such as end users











Backup Power Operation Summary 2009 Q1–2013 Q2





*Not all systems have detailed data reporting to NREL

Backup Power Fuel Cell Systems Deployed





Annualized Cost by Runtime





8-Hour Annualized Cost of Ownership





Analysis of Fuel Cell Backup Power Operation with U.S. Grid Outage from 01/2010 through 08/2013





74 MHE CDPs—Count and Category





MHE Operation Summary 2009 Q4–2013 Q2



Validation of MHE is based on real-world operation data from high-use facilities 1,859,616

Operation hours



490

Units in operation*

4.4

Average operation hours between fills



Hydrogen dispensed in kg



0.6 Average fill amount in kg

> **2.3** Average fill time in minutes

Study of FC Voltage Degradation Against 10,000 Hours





or c) removed from DOE program.

NREL cdp_mhe_97 3) Projected hours limited based on demonstrated hours.

Created: Sep-28-13 12:46 PM | Data Range: 2009Q1-2013Q2

Study of Infrastructure Usage by Daily Fills





Created: Sep-26-13 10:20 AM | Data Range: 2009Q4-2013Q2

Breakdown of MTBF by Key Delivered Hydrogen Infrastructure Categories







Infrastructure Reliability Analysis





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Breakdown of Failure Modes for Top Four Maintenance Categories for Infrastructure



There are many different failure modes for the top four categories and these modes provide insight for RD&D needs



Technical Summary—What We've Learned



Fuel Cell Backup Power

- Operating reliability in 23 states with 99.7% successful starts.
- Maximum continuous run time of 65 hours due to an unplanned grid outage.



Fuel Cell Material Handling Equipment

- Operating with an average availability of ~98% at eight end-user facilities.
- Most systems operate at least 6 hours a day.
- Cost of ownership comparison between fuel cell and battery MHE indicate significant cost savings for refueling labor and infrastructure space but much greater cost for hydrogen infrastructure and fuel.

Aggregated data showcase performance over the last two years in MHE and backup power.

Performance results address a need for published results on the technology status.

Data analyses develop as systems operate and based on the key performance areas in the markets.





Backup Slides



Cost advantage per unit is ~\$2,000/year for the average high-use facility with Class I and II fuel cell lift trucks analyzed by NREL

	Class I & II MHE Annualized Costs		
Battery / Fuel Cell Maintenance	\$20,000	\$19,700	
Lift Truck Maintenance	\$20,000	\$3,600	\$17,800
Cost of Infrastructure	1\$)		\$2,200
Warehouse Space	50 \$15,000	\$2,800	\$2,800
- cost of Electricity / Hydrogen	Cost	\$1,900	\$500
Labor Cost for Battery Charging & H2 Fueling	Annua \$10,000 -	\$4.400	\$2,400
Per Lift Cost of Charge/Fuel Infrastructure	er Lift	\$1,400	\$3,700
Amortized Cost of Battery / Fuel Cell Packs	\$5,000	\$1,400	\$2,600
Amortized Cost of Lift		\$2,800	\$2,800
	\$0 +	Battery Lift	Fuel Cell Lift

Key Findings

- Cost advantages dependent on deployment size and use (i.e., multi-shift operation per day)
- H₂ fuel cell cost advantages in maintenance, warehouse infrastructure space, and refueling labor cost
- H₂ fuel cell cost disadvantages in infrastructure and fuel cell cost and hydrogen cost

Report Sections

- Inputs, assumptions, and results for Class I/II and Class III
- Sensitivity study
- Intensive deployment scenario

MHE and Infrastructure Safety Report Analyses



Majority of MHE safety reports (217) are minor hydrogen leaks (4,480 stack hours per report)





Majority of infrastructure safety reports (82) are hydrogen leaks primarily from the hydrogen compressor and plumbing (3,587 kg dispensed per report)

