





Disruptive pemfc stack with n**O**vel materia**L**s, **P**rocesses, arc**H**itecture and optimized **IN**terfaces

Overview of DOLPHIN: objectives and developments

(Joël PAUCHET, CEA, coordinator)





DOLPHIN Overview



Call year: 2018

Call topic: FCH-01-6

Game changer fuel cell stack for automotive applications

Project dates: 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2022

FCH-JU max. contribution: 2 962 681 € Partners contribution: 218 750 €

Overview of DOLPHIN







7 partners: 4 industries + 3 RTO 7 countries: 6 in Europe + USA

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Validate disruptive technologies for 100 kW light-weight & compact fuel cell stack designs, with high power density and enhanced durability (under automotive application conditions), and compatible with large scale/mass production of full power-stacks.

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Main KPIs	Int. SoA 2017 (AutoStackCore)	DOLPHIN (~ FCH-JU 2024 targets)
Weight-specific power density (kW/kg) at nominal power	3.4	≥ 4.0 (≥ +18%)
Volumetric power density (kW/l) at nominal power	4.1	≥ 5.0 (≥ +25%)
Area-specific power density (W/cm ²) at 0.66 V	1.13	2.0 (+75%)
Cost (€/kW) at 100 000 units/year	36.8	< 20 (-45%)
Durability (hours)	3,500	6,000 (+70%)
Stack max operating temperature (°C)	95	105 (+10°C)



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5 kW demonstrator (CEA, ZSW) with improved materials/processes



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Single Repeat Unit



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Electrical and Fluidics Core

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5 kW demonstrator (CEA, ZSW)

Technical Developments



with improved materials/processes	Single Repeat Unit		Thinner metallic plates (SYM) Thinner carbon-based plates (HEXCEL) Treatments of plates (SYM, CEA)	Electrical and
		New (ZSW, CEA, SYM) Flow Field design with downsized rib/channel pitch by printing (CEA), molding (HEXCEL), stamping (SYM), additive manufacturing (DMG-MORI), laser milling (ZSW)	Fluidics Core	
		Thin GDL substrate (HEXCEL), with MPL and treatments (CEA)	Interface	
		Or only MPL coated onto AL (ZSW, CEA)		
		Thinner (<10 μm) or beyond PFSA membrane (CHEM) with SLG coating (UoM)	JoM) Electrochemica	
			2D toutured esthede AL (CEA) with	Core
			improved ionomers (CHEM)	

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Example of potential final designs



'Lower' risk approach : downsized components, alternative materials and processes, membrane protection



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Example of potential final designs

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'Lower' risk approach : downsized components, alternative materials and processes, membrane protection







Reduce mass, volume Increase performance, durability

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Contribution to the targets



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Main	KPIs	Int. SoA 2017 (ASC)	DOLPHIN	Developments	
Area-speci density (W/cr	fic power n²) at 0.66 V	1.13	2.0 (+75%)	 Downscale rib-channel dimensions (EFC) Thinner GDM (or remove GDM) and thinner membrane (<10 µm, EC) In-plane gradients (EC) 	
Weight-spee density (k nominal	cific power W/kg) at power	3.4	≥ 4.0 (≥ +18%)	 Increase W/cm² Reduce sheet thickness down to 50 µm (EFC) Replace metallic sheets by carbon sheets (EFC, ITP) Remove GDM, lighter ITP 	
Volumetric po (kW/l) at nor	ower density ninal power	4.1	≥ 5.0 (≥ +25%)	 Increase W/cm² Reduce sheet thickness down to 50 µm (EFC) Replace metallic sheets by carbon sheets (EFC, ITP) Remove GDM Thinner ITP 	
Cost (€/kW) units/	at 100 000 'year	36.8	< 20 (-45%)	Reduce quantity of materialsNew manufacturing processes	
Durability	/ (hours)	3,500	6,000 (+70%)	 Replace metallic sheets by carbon sheets (remove welding, EFC) In-plane and through-plane gradients (EC, EFC) SLG coated membrane 	
Stack max temperat	operating ture (°C)	95	105 (+10°C)	New membrane (EC)SLG coated membrane (EC)	
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Structure of the project





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DMG MORI