

#### The Next Generation in Portable Power

#### **IEEE** February, 2004



# What are Fuel Cells?

- What are they good for?
- What are the challenges?
- What does Protonex do?



## **Fuel Cell Technologies**

- Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)
- Direct Methanol Fuel Cell (DMFC)
- Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC)
- Alkaline Fuel Cells (AFC)
- Molten Carbonate Fuel Cells (MCFC)
- Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cells (PAFC)



#### **Fuel Cell Animation**



# **Protonex Typical Stack Performance**





## **Typical PEM Stack**



More layers increases voltage
More area

increases current



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### **Fuel Cell Markets**





50 Watt 1000 Watt



### **Early Market Focus**

- Military (soldier power)
- Mobile Robots
- Portable Industrial / Medical
- Environmental Monitoring
- Remote Telemetry
- Traffic Systems
- Security



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#### NO ONE currently has product!

- Government or other large sponsor patronage
- Prototype sales
- Heavy development spending

#### Why?

- Wrong initial market focus (residential, automotive)
- Over focused on technology rather than product
  - Only address part of the solution
- COST



#### **Fuel Cell Dilemma**

#### Industry caught in paradox

- 'Fuel Cells will be affordable when produced in volume
- Fuel Cells will be produced in volume when they are affordable'



### Historical Fuel Cell Challenges

## Fuel source (storage, distribution)

## Cost

- Materials (historical focus)
- Manufacturing (Protonex focus)



# **Protonex**

## **Multiple Fuel Choices**

# Hydrogen PEM

- Compressed gas
- Metal hydrides
- Chemical hydrides
- Reformers
  - Methanol
  - Diesel
  - Propane
  - Gasoline

# Direct methanol

Fueling Choice is Application-Dependent



## **Typical PEM Stack**



- Many components Critical compression seals
- Sensitive to:
  - Compression
  - Impact
  - Particles
  - High skill assembly
- High precision parts
- Low mfg. yield
  - High cost



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10-50W (12V) < 200g 3.6 x 5.2 x 6.9 cm #1806BH 20-120W (12V) < 300g 4.5 x 6.5 x 6.9 cm #1812BH 50-250W (24V) < 520g 5.0 x 5.6 x 12 cm #3612BH



### Design for Manufacturability

## Protonex PEM stacks

- No compression seals (no gaskets)
- Requires minimal labor
- Low skill assembly
- Relaxed component tolerances
- Flexible design
- Designed for injection molding



## **Reliable Performance**

# Minimal system requirements Stable, reliable operation Ambient pressures

Little or no humidification



#### **Battery Comparison**

Power Source	W-hr/kg
Li Primary	175
Li rechargeable	100-200
Protonex*	425-906

#### Protonex fuel cell system in combination with Millennium Cell 'hydrogen on demand'

Soldier power system 30-50 watts



#### **More Information**

- http://www.h2fc.com/
- http://www.fuelcellstore.com/
- http://www.fuelcells.com/
- http://www.fuelcell-info.com
- http://www.fuelcellsworks.com/
- http://www.protonex.com/