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Boeing Flywheel Energy Storage Technology

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Discussion Topics

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- Organizational context
- Flywheel technology background
- Synopsis of Boeing's ARPA-E Grid-Scale Rampable Intermittent Dispatchable Storage (GRIDS) Tasking

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Boeing Modular Flywheel Design

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Boeing Flywheel Basics

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Flywheel Energy Storage

 Stores Kinetic Energy in Rotating Mass (Thick wall cylinder)

 $E_k = \frac{1}{2} \cdot I \cdot \omega^2$ $I = \frac{1}{2}m(r_1^2 + r_2^2)$

 ω is the angular velocity, *I* is the moment of inertia, *m* is the mass, *r* is the radius

Best designs spin as fast as possible to take advantage of ω^2



Premier Boeing Technology is HTS Bearing

 Keeps kinetic energy in reserve by utilizing the Boeing patented low-loss high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnetic non-contact bearing system

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• The rotational kinetic energy of the flywheel can be converted into electrical power as needed by the load

The flywheel systems are similar to batteries except:

- Environmentally clean (green)
- No hazardous materials
- Long life expectancy (>20 yrs)
- Ideally suited to multiple power applications
- Can handle rapid discharge rates without degradation

Present day Boeing FW tip speed is 800 m/sec. World record on small test rotor is about 1,405 m/sec. FW tip speed is limited by material properties. Our plan is to develop new materials that would allow us to reach 3,000 m/sec.

Flywheels with Superconducting Bearings

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Flywheel Energy Storage

- Non-toxic and low maintenance
- Potential for high power density (W/ kg) and high energy density (W-Hr/ kg)
- Fast charge / discharge times possible
- Cycle life times of >25 years
- Broad operating temperature range



HTS bearings

- Simple passive system
- Very low frictional loss
- Very long lifetime
- Low cost and maintenance
- Lower tolerance for balancing of dynamic structures
- High speed capability (> 500,000 RPM)
- Adjustable stiffness and damping





Superconducting Bearings Offer Many Design & Operational Benefits Over Conventional Bearing Systems

Flywheel Electricity Systems

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VAULT

Boeing ARPA-E Flywheel Project Overview

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"Low-Cost, High-Energy Density Flywheel Storage Grid Demonstration"

Project Objective

- A combination of advanced fiber technology and superconducting bearings enables the development of a low-cost, extremely high energy-density, highefficiency flywheel energy-storage system. The superconducting bearings enable high efficiency and high spin rates. The new proprietary fiber enables high rotor tip speeds resulting in high energy density, with a projected cost of \$100/kWh for the flywheel system at utility scale and large-rate factory production
- The project will produce test quantities of the new fiber and provide proof-ofconcept performance data of the fiber properties. The prototype flywheel will be small enough (7 kWh/5kW) to facilitate rapid development with a design that is easily scalable to a utility-size unit (~100 kWh) and amenable to factory production to achieve low cost
- The vision for commercial production is that individual 100-kWh flywheels will be arrayed in a transportable container with a total storage of 2 MWh for utility applications

Energy Storage Technologies

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Capital Costs of Energy Storage Technologies



New Fiber Will Reduce Flywheel Cost

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Superconducting Bearings - Low Energy Loss

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Design for Lower Cost & Higher Efficiency

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- New composite material
- Automated rotor production
- Improved touchdown bearing
- Lower parasitic losses for vacuum system
- Optimized direct-cooled HTS bearing design no LN2
- Higher efficiency, lower cost AC to AC power electronics (GaN)
- Baseline: 480VAC 3Ø 60 Hz to 480VAC 3Ø 0-750 Hz
- Bi-Directional Power Flow

Standard Si Solutions	Round Trip	Generating	Motoring
Diode Rectifier/Inverter	83.6%	91.4%	91.4%
MOSFET Rectifier/Inverter	82.3%	90.7%	90.7%
Active Rectifier/Inverter	73.4%	85.7%	85.7%
Boeing GaN Solution	94.9%	97.4%	97.4%

Key Accomplishments

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- 100's of meters of new fiber produced
- All flywheel design completed
- All flywheel hardware analysis completed
- Most flywheel hardware ordered and some already received
- Composite rotor winding under way
- Higher efficiency, lower cost AC to AC power electronics (GaN) design in-work
- New more efficient motor/generator (patent pending) for wider operating speeds fabricated and in test
- Controller & power electronics designed and in fabrication

Questions?

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