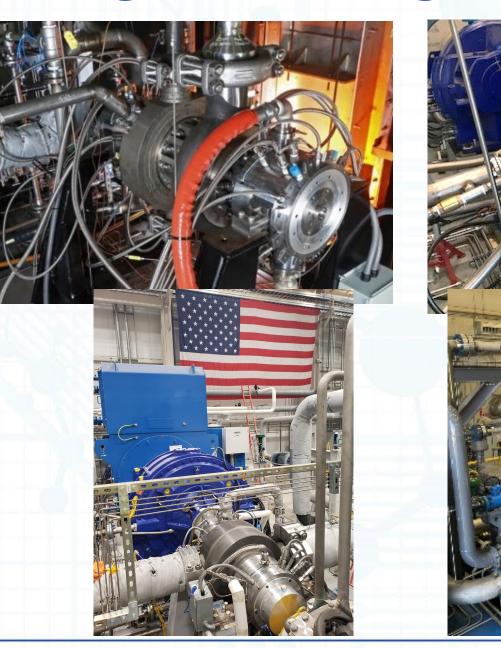
SCO₂ Turbomachinery Prototype Design, Manufacturing, and Testing

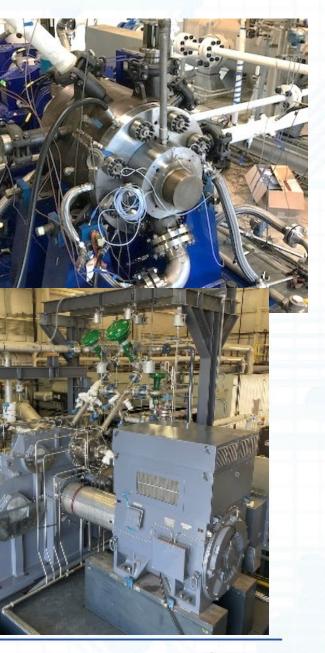
Jeff Moore, Ph.D.

Southwest **Research Institute**









SwRI is an Applied Research & Development Company

- Founded in 1947, based in San Antonio, Texas
- 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation
 - Internal Research
 - New Laboratories
- ~\$680M Annual revenue from contract work for industry and government clients
- Almost 3000 employees
- I,700-acre facility; 2.3 million square feet of laboratories & offices
- Flexible IP policy









swri.org

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Prototype Development

- SwRI has led the development of over 10 SCO₂ turbomachines and test rigs including test loop development
- SwRI has expertise in aerodynamics, rotordynamics, blade dynamics, heat transfer, combustion, machine design, materials, and manufacturing
- Significant hardware and test facility capability









MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

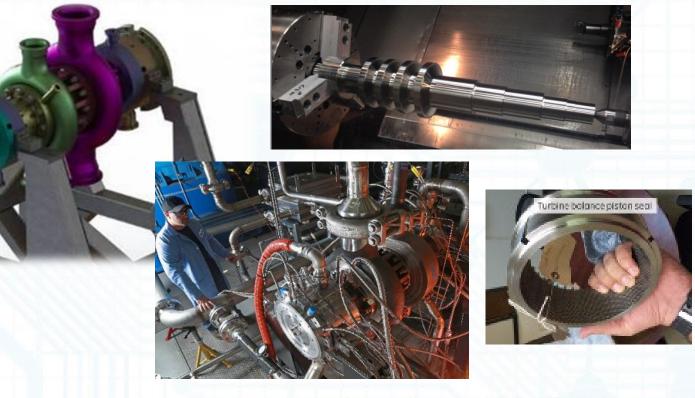
SunShot: Development of a High Efficiency 700°C SCO, Turbo-Expander

Innovation: This MW-scale sCO₂ turboexpander and heat exchanger are a critical step in increasing energy conversion efficiency to >50%, while reducing power block costs. GE with SwRI developed a 10 MWe-scale sCO₂ turbo-expander optimized for concentrating solar power plant duty cycle profile.

Thar developed a compact, high temperature recuperator.

SwRI Test Facility provided 1MWe sCO₂ flow at high temperatures and pressures to enable operating validation of the expander and recuperator performance.

Testing completed December 2018 demonstrating successful operation up to 715°C, 245 bar, and 27 krpm.



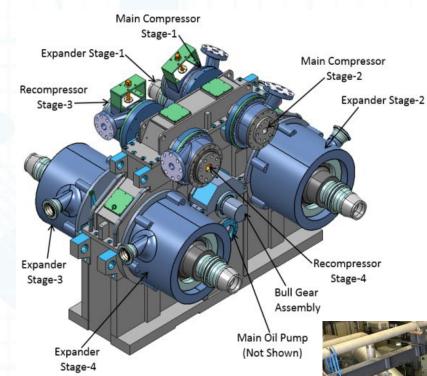




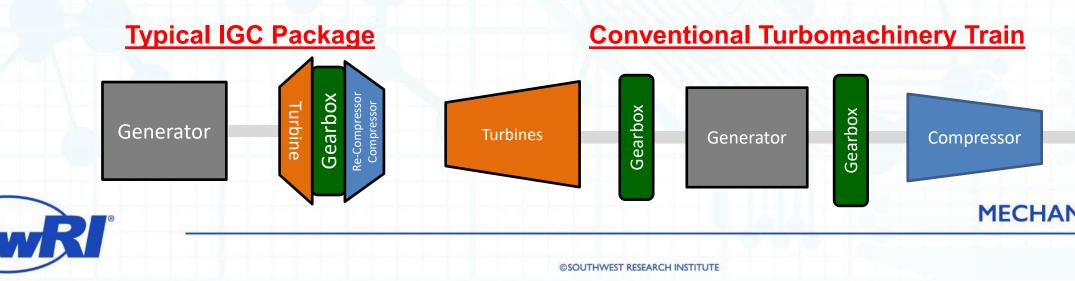
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Ultra High Efficiency Integrally-Geared sCO₂ Compander (SwRI, Hanwha for DOE EERE) Main Compressor

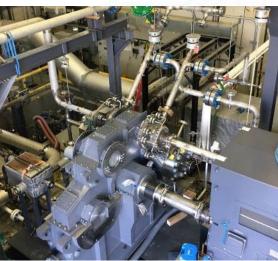
- Design a sCO₂ integrally geared compander (IGC)
 - Combining compression and expansion stages into a single integrally geared housing connected to a low speed motor/generator.
- Benefits:
 - Reduced footprint
 - Potential cost reduction up to 35% _
 - Utilizes a low speed commercially available driver/generator
 - Modular (Small Industrial [5MW] to Small Utility [50 MW]) _
 - High efficiency over a wide range of operating conditions _
 - Improved cycle controllability _
 - Reduced mechanical complexity → improved reliability and reduced maintenance
 - Achieved 280 bar and 720C



Compander Design







Compander in Test Loop Nov 2020



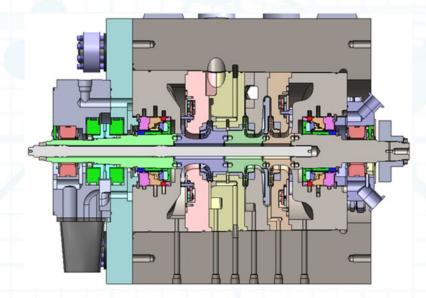
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org

GE-Apollo High-Efficiency sCO₂ Centrifugal Compressor Development (GE, SwRI for DOE EERE)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Develop high-efficiency sCO₂ compression system
 - Main Compressor Efficiency of 80%
 - Preliminary Design completion June 2016
- High efficiency centrifugal impeller
- Variable IGV/OGV
- Advanced aerodynamic design provided by GE will be implemented into the detail compressor design provided by SwRI.







- Full scale testing of a 10 MWe sCO₂ Compressors
- Extended flow range to accommodate swings in ambient temperature
- SwRI sCO₂ Test Facility will verify compressor mechanical and aerodynamic performance over a range of operating conditions
- Testing completed October 2020

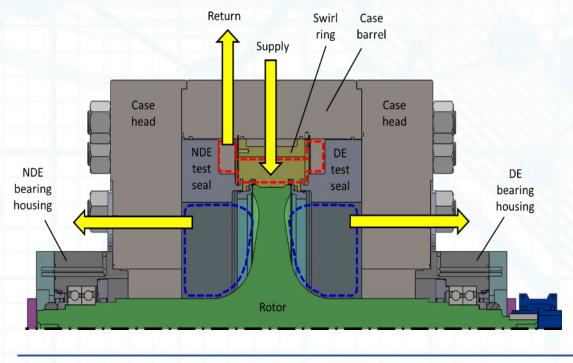




MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Testing of Shaft End Seals for Utility Scale sCO₂ Turbines (GE, SwRI for DOE NETL)

- Utility scale (450 MWe) sCO₂ turbines require ~24 in. end seals to seal ~75 bar
- Film-riding face seals vs. labyrinths increase cycle efficiency 0.6-0.8 points
- Seals at size, pressure do not exist





- GE developing large diameter face seal technology
- - heater
 - Leakage and thermal performance
- Testing completed 2023

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org



SwRI developing rig to test fullscale seal prototype with sCO₂ Utilize SunShot pump,

SCO2 Oxy-Fuel Turbine Development (SwRI, GE, Air Liquide, 8 Rivers, Purdue, UCF, EPRI for DOE NETL)

- Conceptual and detail design
- Turbine Inlet: 305 bar @ 1,150°C
- Turbine Exhaust: 30 bar
- Turbine Power: ~450 MW_{mech} (300 MWe Cycle)
- Cooling flow supplied to the turbine @ 400°C
- 3600 rpm direct drive to generator and compressor Internal Blade

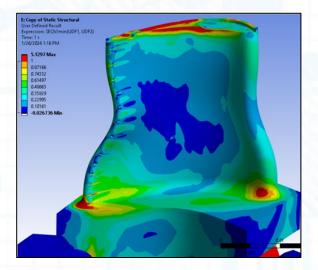
1150°C Autoclave

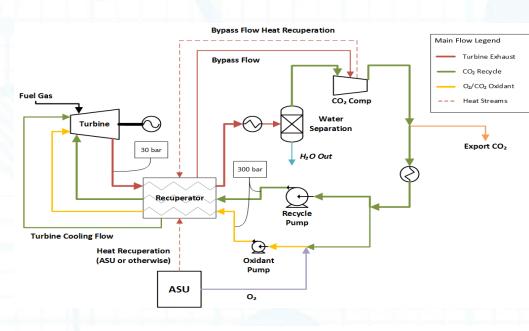


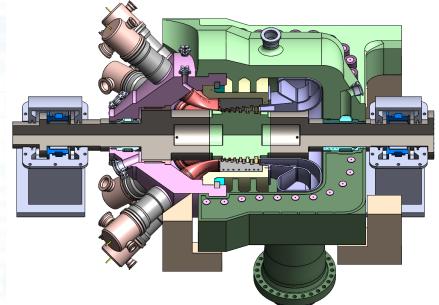


Cooling Heat

1150°C Cooled **Turbine Blade** Design



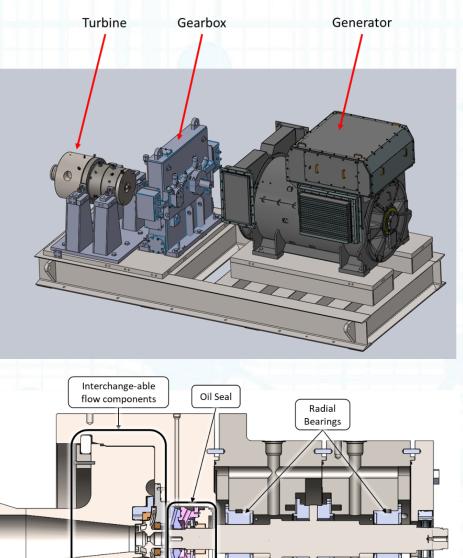




MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org

SCO₂ Geothermal Turbine



Thrust Bearings

Condition	Range
Power Output	0.5 to 3MWe Output
Operating Speed	22,000 RPM
Inlet Pressure	22.5 MPa max
Outlet Pressure	10 MPa max
Inlet temperature	175°C max







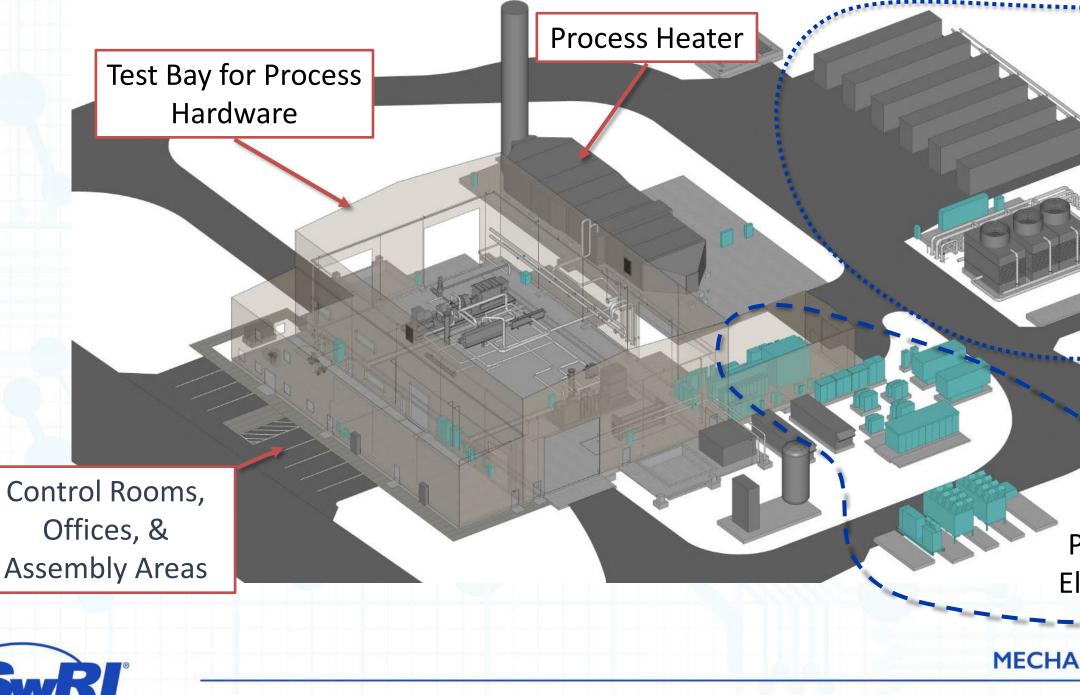
Jordan Nielson, Ph.D. **Group Leader** Southwest Research Institute

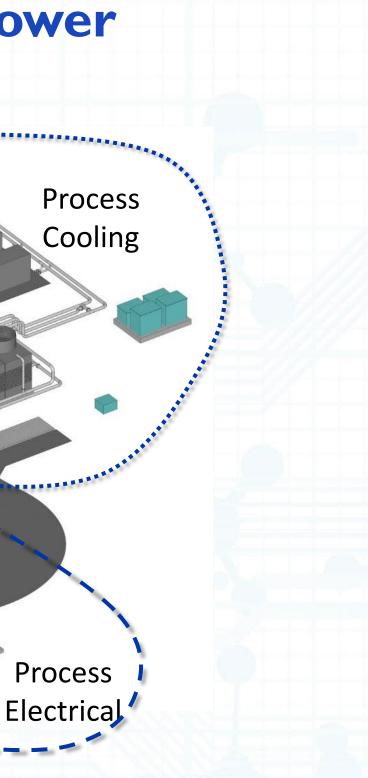
1988-2023

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org

Supercritical Transformational Electric Power (STEP) Pilot Plant Test Facility





MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org

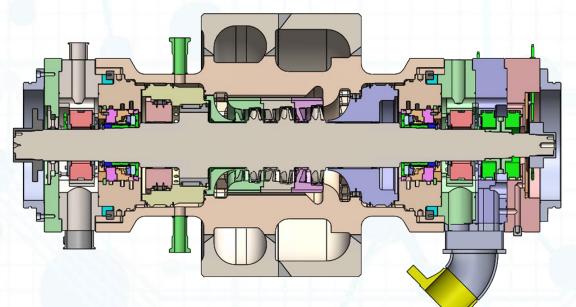
STEP Demo Turbine

- Advance Turbine from TRL 6 (Engineering) Prototype) to TRL 7 (Full Scale Prototype)
- Based on Sunshot Design
- 3 stages, monolithic nickel alloy blade/shaft
- 16 MW shaft power
- 26,650 rpm design speed
- Rotor weight = 85 kg
- Highest power density of any industrial turbine
- Inlet conditions: 265 bar, 715°C
- Fluid film bearings with SFD
- Dry gas seals
- Single Inlet / Single Outlet connections
- Fabricated Inconel 625 barrel style casing
- Assembled and first spin achieved December 2023
- 18,000 rpm at 200C turbine inlet conditions achieved to date









Marion, J., Macadam, S., McClung, A., Mortzheim, J., 2022, "The STEP 10 MWe sCO2 Pilot Demonstration. Status Update," GT2022-83588 Proceedings of the ASME Turbo Expo 2022, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, June 13-17, 2022



(38)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING