

Hydrogen Usage in Gas Turbines – Impact on Enclosure Safety

Irfan Siddiqui – CFD Consultant

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SYSTEMS AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY



1. Frazer-Nash Introduction
2. Current Safety Approach for Hydrocarbon Fuels
3. Challenges for Hydrogen Fuel Mixtures
4. HYFLEXPOWER Demonstrator

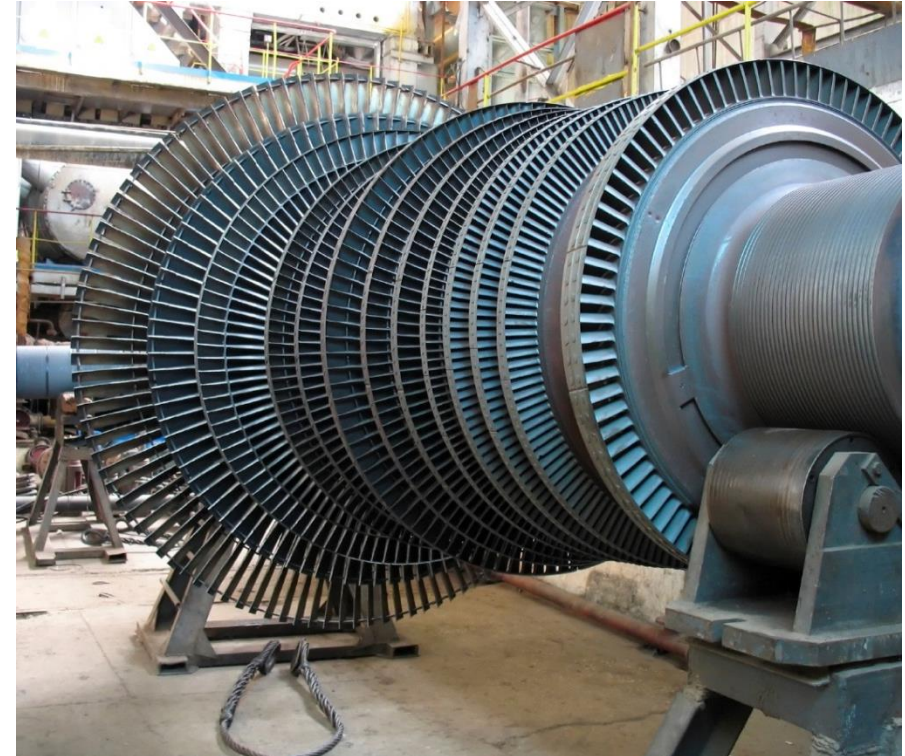


Frazer-Nash Introduction

Frazer-Nash - ATEX Compliance and Thermal Management

Our Experience:

- ▶ Frazer-Nash has been providing expertise in the design and analysis of gas turbine systems for **over 25 years**.
- ▶ We have modelled **over 100 gas turbine enclosures** for a wide variety of clients.
- ▶ We use our **extensive experience to** help our clients comply with operational regulations, and to develop enhancements that maximise the life and efficiency of their products and facilities.
- ▶ Frazer-Nash was a member of the **Steering Group for the UK Health and Safety Executive led Joint Industry Project (JIP) in 2004** on gas leaks in gas turbine enclosures in order to satisfy the **European ATEX Directive**.
- ▶ The guidelines and best practice generated from this project (HSL CM/04/09) are now part of the ISO 21789 standards.



Current Safety Approach – Hydrocarbon Fuels

Gas Turbine Safety Requirements

BRITISH STANDARD

Gas turbine
applications — Safety

BS ISO
21789:2009

ICS 27.040

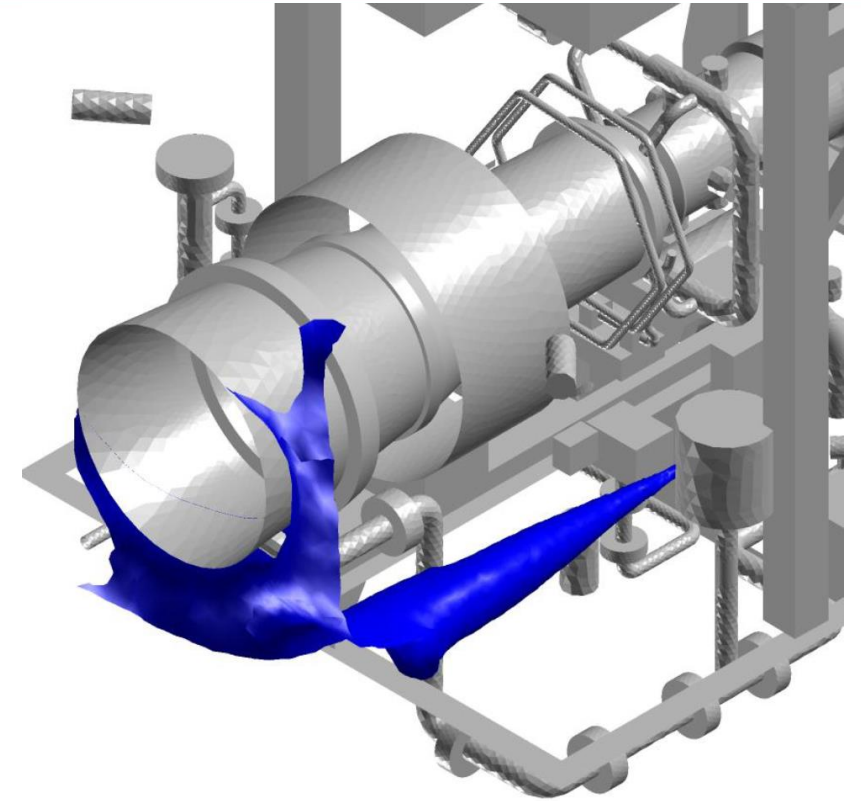
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BSI
British Standards

- ▶ Conventional ATEX approach cannot be used as ignition sources cannot be eliminated.
- ▶ The current basis of safety in the event of a gas leak is **dilution ventilation**:
 - ▶ Ventilation flow disperses leak flow and carries it to the outlet where it is detected by infra-red gas detectors.
- ▶ **ISO 21789:2009** (Gas turbine applications – Safety):
 - ▶ CFD modelling or other quantifiable techniques should be used to ensure adequate dilution of a gas leak is achieved.
 - ▶ Maximum undetected flammable gas cloud size criteria, based on methane explosion overpressure tests (**0.1% enc vol**).

Gas Turbine Safety Requirements

- ▶ CFD identifies stagnant regions in proximity to leak and ignition sources.
- ▶ A number of worst-case credible gas leak scenarios are modelled.
- ▶ Demonstrate that gas clouds, larger than 0.1% of the net enclosure volume are detected.
- ▶ In the event of ignition of an undetected gas cloud (less than 0.1% of the net enclosure volume), the overpressure created by the explosion will not exceed 10mbar.
- ▶ The enclosure must then demonstrated to withstand a 10mbar overpressure.



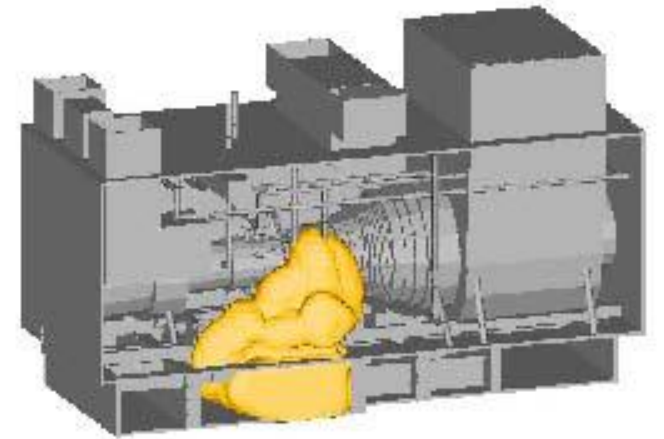
Challenges – Hydrogen Fuel Mixtures

Challenges – Hydrogen Fuel Mixtures

- ▶ Due to the differences in hydrogen properties, there are three key challenges that must be addressed:
 1. There are currently no standards which address hydrogen in gas turbine enclosures
 2. Practical issues with gas detectors
 3. The current CFD approach needs to be reassessed

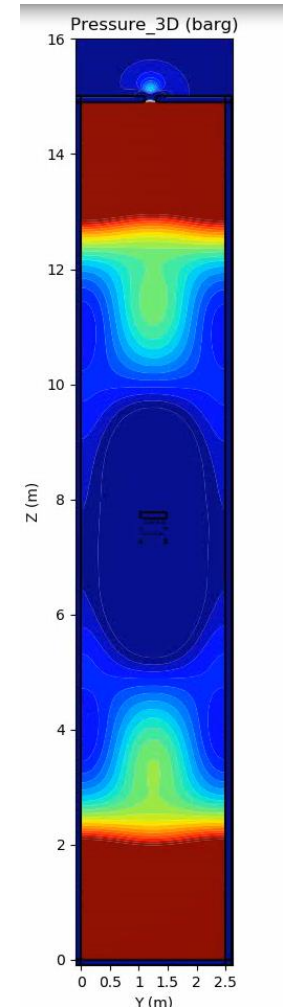
Hydrogen Challenges - Standards

- ▶ The current ISO 21789 standard is not intended for use with hydrogen fuels. Upcoming revisions do not address hydrogen.
- ▶ The current safety criteria are not applicable for hydrogen fuels:
 - ▶ HSE tests are based on methane overpressures
 - ▶ 0.1% vol criteria is not valid for pure hydrogen or mixtures
 - ▶ Hydrogen explosion overpressures are significantly higher than for methane
- ▶ Deflagration to detonation transition:
 - ▶ Additional requirement to demonstrate no detonation potential



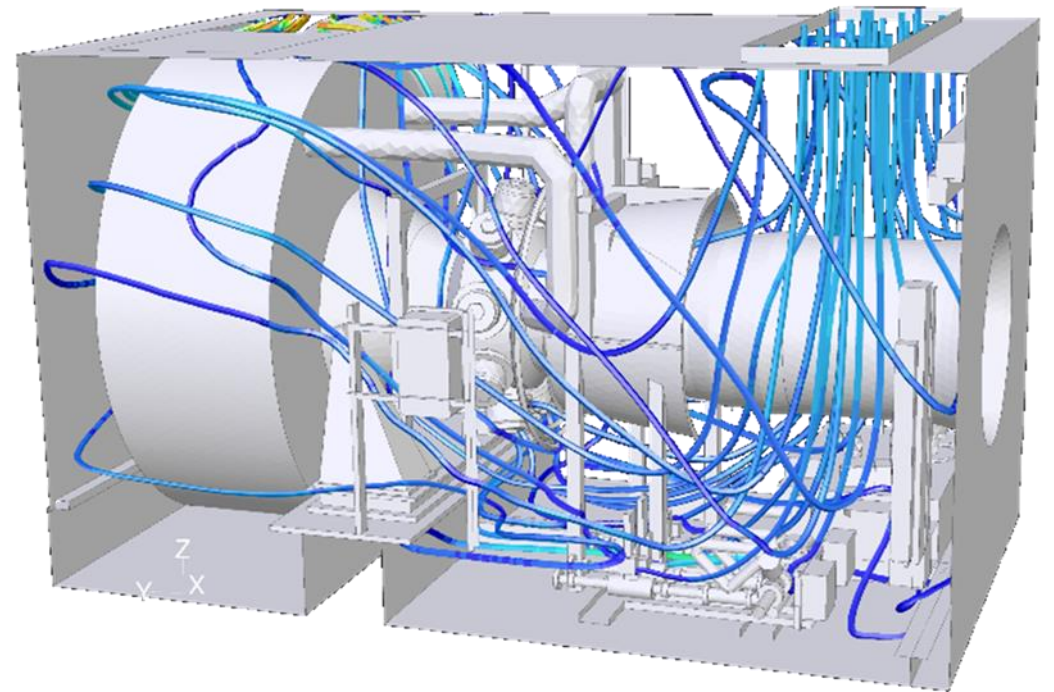
Hydrogen Challenges – Practical Issues

- ▶ Current infra-red gas detectors do not work for hydrogen
 - ▶ Increasing fuel hydrogen content reduces ability of infra-red gas detectors to detect leaks
 - ▶ Current thresholds need to be reassessed
- ▶ At higher hydrogen concentrations additional or alternative catalytic detectors will be needed:
 - ▶ Performance, detection speed, reliability in GT environment, maintenance requirements
- ▶ Higher explosion overpressures may require further reductions in gas detector thresholds
 - ▶ Operational issues with spurious trips
- ▶ Flame detectors may be ineffective at higher hydrogen concentrations due to clear flame
- ▶ Hydrogen leak propensity - Fuel system design or at least some components to be modified
- ▶ ATEX Zone 2, Gas Group IIC – requirement to replace some components



Hydrogen Challenges – Updated CFD Approach

- ▶ HSE tests are based on methane overpressures
 - ▶ 0.1% vol criteria is not valid for pure hydrogen or mixtures
 - ▶ Hydrogen explosion overpressures are significantly higher than for methane
 - ▶ Lower allowable gas cloud volume?
 - ▶ Outlet detectability demonstration more challenging
 - ▶ Mitigated to some extent by the lower air fuel ratio
- ▶ Hydrogen properties lead to:
 - ▶ Different leak flow rates and leak jet behaviour
 - ▶ Different gas cloud dispersion behaviour
- ▶ Hydrogen leak propensity:
 - ▶ Additional leak sources to be considered





HYFLEXPOWER

- ▶ HYFLEXPOWER is the world's first power-to-hydrogen-to-power industrial scale technology demonstrator, part funded by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 framework
- ▶ Frazer-Nash are currently completing a project for Centrax to:
 - ▶ Assess the suitability of the current methane safety criteria for a range of hydrogen fuel mixtures and define a new set of criteria if required
 - ▶ Assess the ventilation performance of the CX400 enclosure against the new criteria
- ▶ The results will be presented at the 2021 HySafe Conference



Irfan Siddiqui, CFD Consultant

Email: i.siddiqui@fnc.co.uk

www.fnc.co.uk