

**Solar Turbines**

*A Caterpillar Company*

**Powering the Future**



# Suitability of Liquid Biofuels in Solar® Turbines Incorporated DLE Industrial Gas Turbines

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# About Solar Turbines

World's Largest Manufacturer  
of Industrial Gas Turbines  
(1 to 23 MW)



Subsidiary of Caterpillar Inc.  
**Since 1981**

Installations in  
**100+**  
Countries



Direct  
End-to-End  
Sales and Service

 **65**  
Sales and Service  
Locations

**16,000+**  
Gas Turbines Sold

**6,500+**  
Gas Compressors Sold

Global Workforce  
 **8,000+**  
Employees

# Solar's Carbon Reduction Solutions



## Operational Efficiency



## Methane Abatement



## Fuel Flexibility



## Carbon Capture, Use & Storage

Available Now

- Upgrades & retrofits
- Condition based lifing
- Electrification
- Digital optimization
- Cogeneration

- Flare reduction
- Methane capture and recompression

- High-H<sub>2</sub>
- Renewable fuels
- Associated gases

- Supporting customer pilot projects

Developing

- Enhanced digital carbon reduction tools
- Super-critical CO<sub>2</sub>

- "Virtual" pipeline
- Leak detection

- High-H<sub>2</sub> dry low emissions
- Gas compressor readiness
- H<sub>2</sub> package readiness

- Exhaust recirculation
- Carbon Capture
- CO<sub>2</sub> Compression

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## AGENDA

- Motivation
- Objective of paper
- Test rig description
- Biodiesel properties and risks
- Biodiesel rig test results and discussions
- Conclusions

# Motivation

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- Bio-fuels for low carbon power generation
- B100 provides ~80% reduction in CO2 on its lifecycle basis
- Government mandates in power generation (eg. Indonesia, Malaysia)
- Renewable fuels incentives in the USA
- Carbon footprint reduction by university campuses

B20: 20% Biodiesel

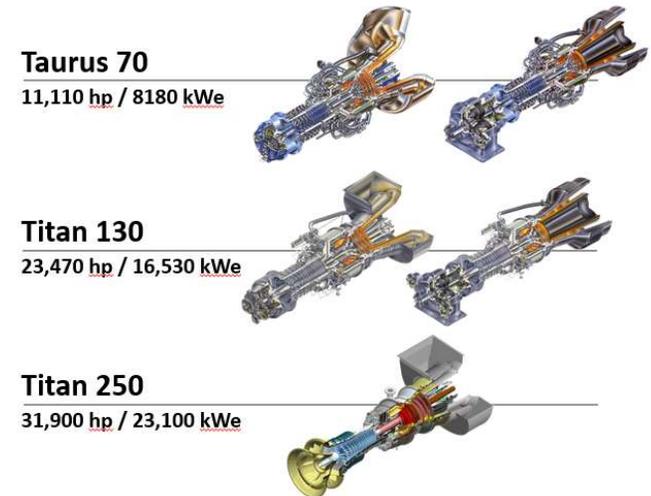
B50: 50% Biodiesel

B100: 100% Biodiesel

# Objectives

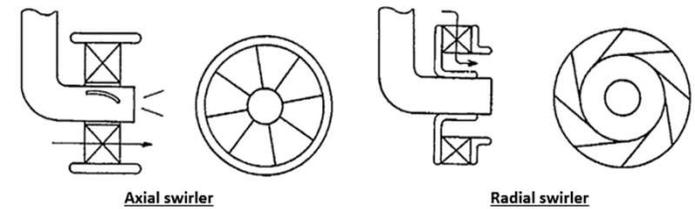
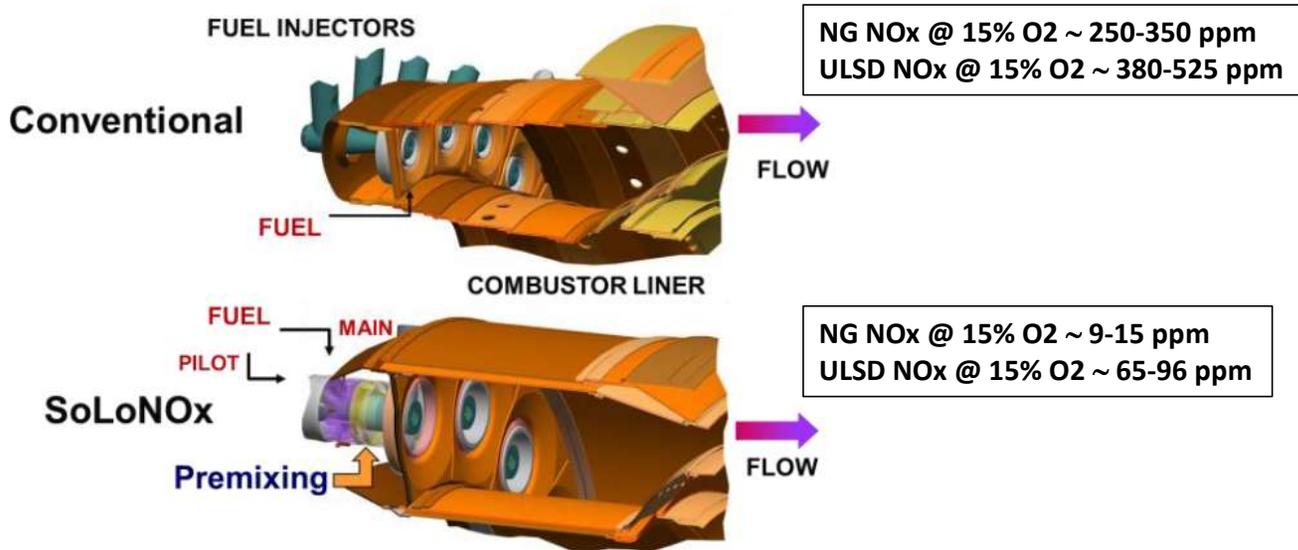
- Single injector tests in high pressure rig using B20 and B50 fuels.
- Tests with Titan™ 250 (radial flow), Titan™ 130 (axial flow), and Taurus™ 70 (axial flow) SoLoNOx™ injectors

	Compressor Discharge Pressure (psig)	Compressor Discharge Temperature (°F)
Titan 250	328.0	885.9
Titan 130	236.3	809.0
Taurus 70	219.4	807.7



- Emissions (NOx, CO, UHC, Smoke) and injector coking

# Combustion Systems



Schematics of axial and radial swirlers

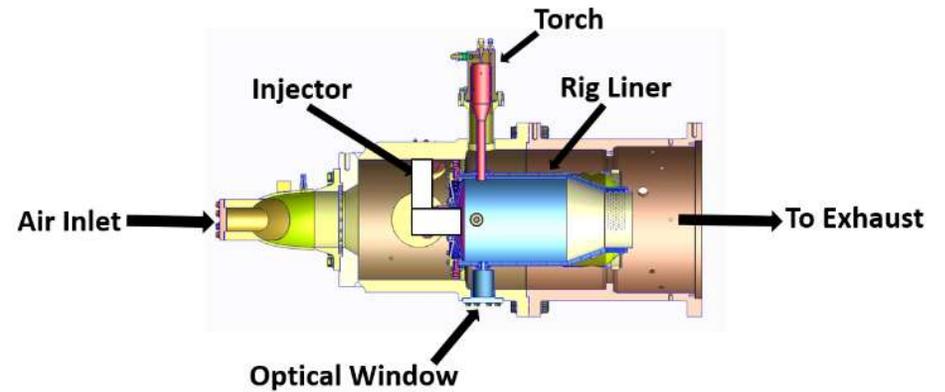
Comparison of Conventional and Dry Low Emissions (SoLoNOx) Combustion Systems

# Test Rig Description

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The single injector rig installation located at Solar Turbines combustion test facility.



The cross section of the single injector rig

- Rig tests conducted at simulated engine conditions

# Biodiesel Properties and Risks

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- Renewable Energy Group (REG) supplied BQ-9000 certified B20 and B50 fuels, where biodiesel used for blending complied ASTM 6751 and EN 14214 specs
- Small increase in density, viscosity, and distillation raises risk of poor atomization, vaporization and fuel-air mixing, potentially resulting in higher emissions
- Potential increase of carbon deposits in injectors due to Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAME)
  - Is biodiesel (FAME) quality sufficient for gas turbine needs?
- Startup Light-Off Risk
  - Negligible risk with B20 based on the comparison of DF#2 and B20 distillation temperature curves
  - B50 distillation curve slightly higher than B20

The above risks were addressed in the rig tests

# Biodiesel Properties and Risks

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Other biodiesel risks listed below were not investigated in the rig tests, but were evaluated based on the fuel properties

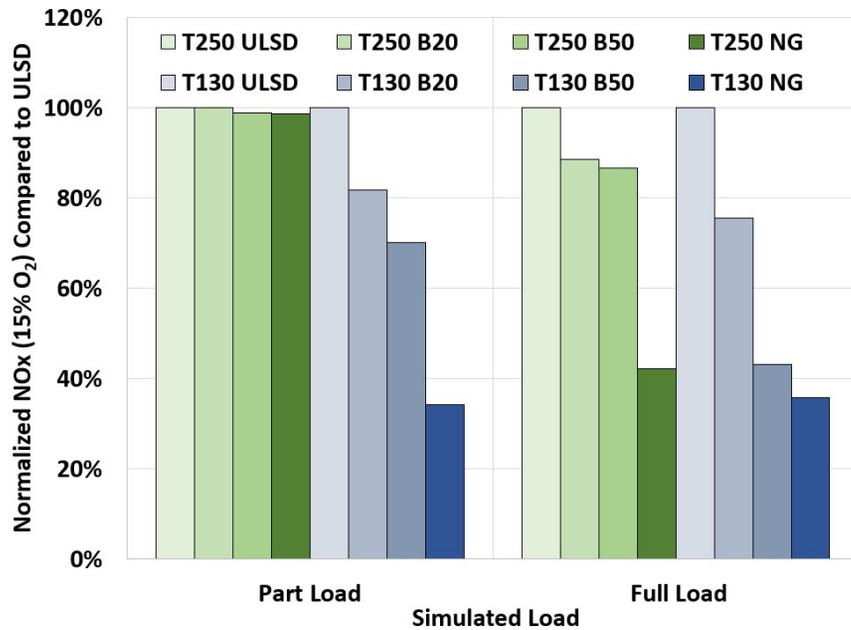
- Fuel degradation and microbial growth.
  - Oxidation stability. Limit on storage time or implement periodic monitoring.
- Material incompatibility (Copper, brass, bronze, lead, tin, zinc)
  - B20 poses negligible risk
- Solvent properties (elastomers, tank residues, filters)
  - Potential seal degradation. Will centrifuge be needed for particulates?
- Phosphorus present as phospholipids (bonded with HC).
  - Is biodiesel (FAME) phosphorous level sufficient for gas turbine needs?
- Free water and Na+K can cause hot corrosion
  - Is biodiesel water and Na+K level sufficient for gas turbine needs? Will centrifuge be needed?

The risks not investigated in the rig tests, but evaluated based on fuel properties

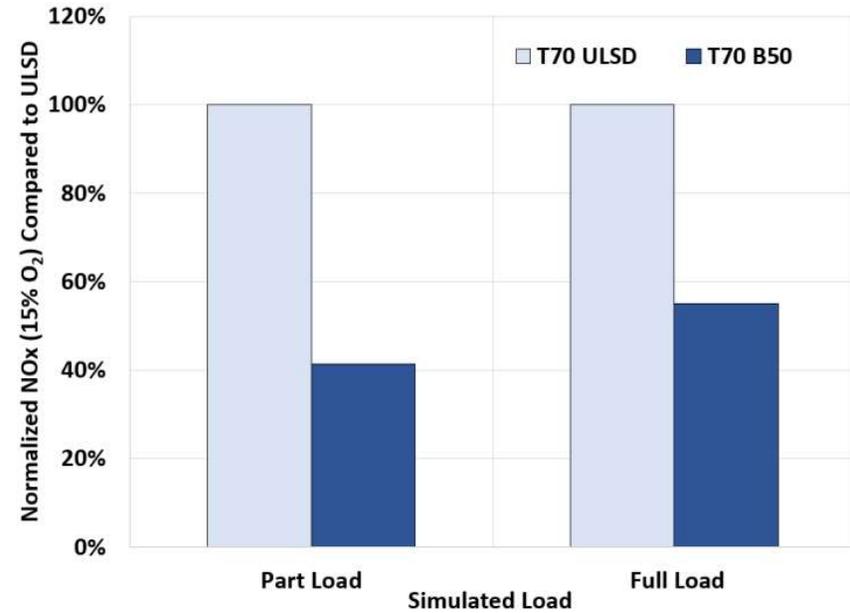
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# Impact on NOx Emissions



Titan 130 Part Load = 60% Load  
Titan 250 Part Load = 40% Load

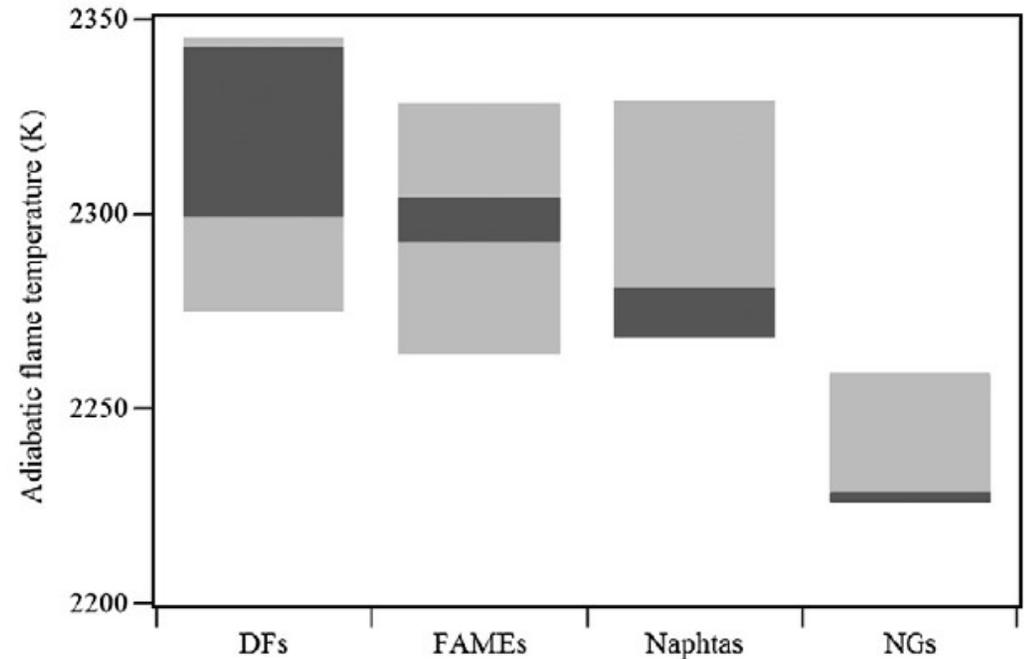


Taurus 70 Part Load = 65% Load

- Biodiesel blends produce fewer NOx than ULSD at similar conditions
  - NOx generation decreased from B20 to B50
  - T250S: Decrease in NOx within measurement uncertainty

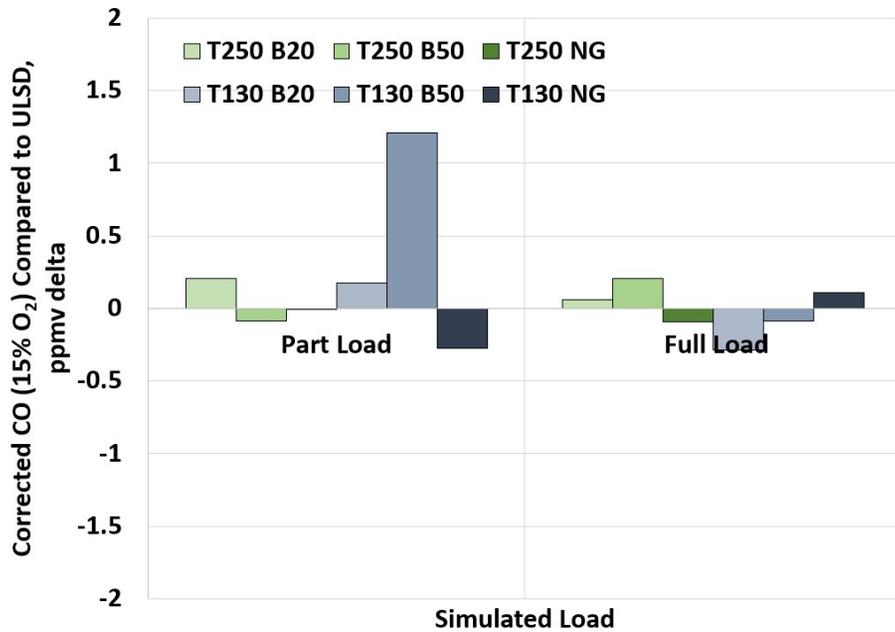
# Impact on NOx Emissions

- Adiabatic flame temperature of fuels at 300 K, 1 atm. (Light color represents  $T_f$  range covered by the complete set of species contained in each fuel, dark grey represents  $T_f$  range covered by the most abundant components.)
- Droplet diameter and vaporization temperature have an effect on  $T_f$  as well.

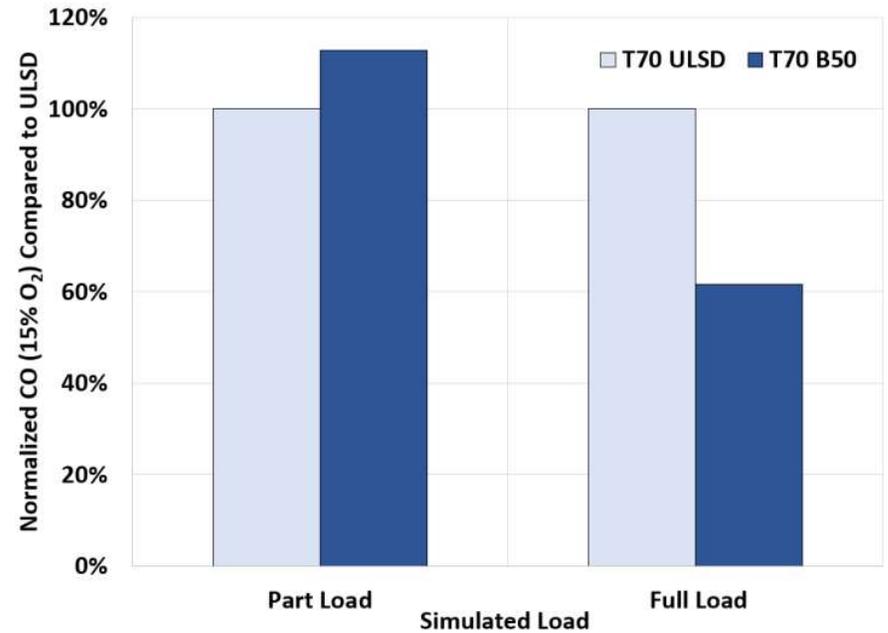


**Reference:** Pierre-Alexandre Glaude, René Fournet, Roda Bounaceur, Michel Molière, "Adiabatic flame temperature from biofuels and fossil fuels and derived effect on NOx emissions", Fuel Processing Technology 91 (2010) 229–235

# Impact of CO Emissions



Titan 130 Part Load = 60% Load  
Titan 250 Part Load = 40% Load

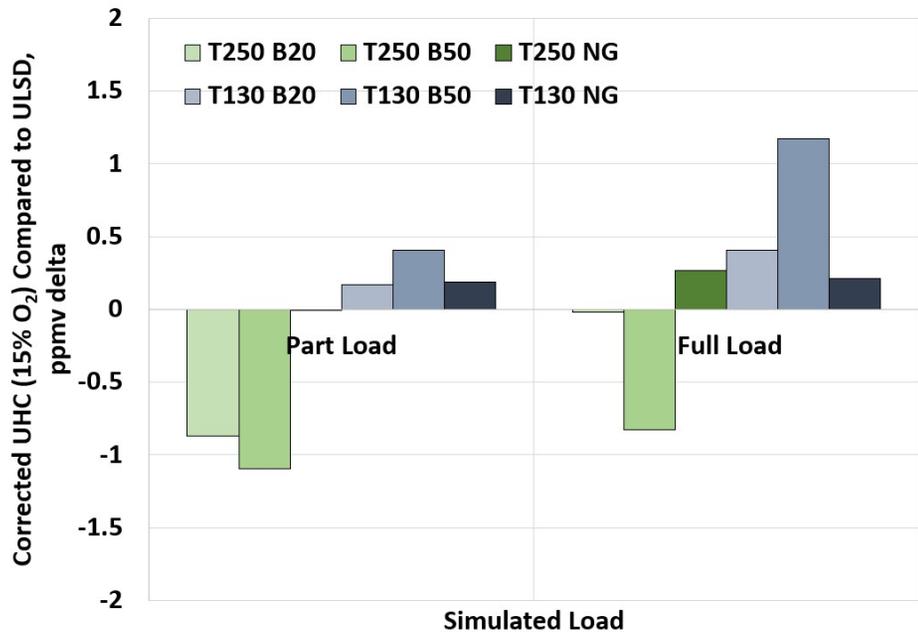


- CO below 5ppm across SoLoNOx range
- T130 and T70 Part Load CO increased (~1ppm) with biodiesel content within measurement uncertain  
Mitigation: Increase primary zone flame temperature at part load to counteract lower flame temperature

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# Impact on UHC and Smoke Emissions



- UHC remain low throughout SoLoNOx range
- Measurement uncertainty at <2ppm

ULSD 22401 5%	ULSD 22401 5%	ULSD 22401 5%	ULSD 22401 99%
HP A16	FL	HP A16	80% HP A16
		60% HP A16	IDLE
T130 B50	0	0	0
12/19	FL 50% P:1	80% 5% P:1	60% 8% P:1
		40% 14.5% P:1	20% 23.6% P:1
T250 B50	0	0	0
Dec 16	2250 100% 8% P:1	2550 100% 8% P:1	2600 40% 10% P:1
T708 B50	0	0	0
PL P:1 at 1/15	12% 2400F	12% 2500F	10% 2500F
			8% 2500F

- No smoke across SoLoNOx range on T70, T130, T250
  - 0 on Bacharach
- 2-3 smoke found at "Idle" loads on T130
  - Comparable to ULSD

# Impact on Injector Coking – Titan 250

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No significant carbon deposits observed

# Impact on Injector Coking – Titan 130

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No significant carbon deposits observed

# Impact on Injector Coking – Taurus 70

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No significant carbon deposits observed

# Rig Test Results – B20 & B50 Conclusions

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- **B20 vs ULSD**
  - Physical and Chemical Properties within Solar's fuel spec
- T130, T250
  - Similar or lower emissions
    - NOx, CO, UHC, smoke
  - Insignificant carbon buildup on T130, none on T250
- **B50 vs ULSD**
  - Physical and Chemical Properties within Solar's fuel spec
- T130, T250
  - Similar or lower emissions
    - NOx, CO, UHC, smoke
  - No significant carbon buildup
- Taurus 70
  - Similar NOx, UHC, smoke
  - Increased CO at part load

# Fuel Sourcing, Storage and Handling

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- **Fuel sourcing**
  - BQ9000 approved (ASTM D7467 & ASTM D6751)
- **Fuel storage**
  - Shelf life
  - Impact of additives on the engine performance and durability?
- **Fuel handling**
  - Centrifuge to reduce impurities
  - Pre-heating to prevent cold flow issues
  - Use compatible materials
  - Periodic fuel tests

# Future Work

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- Engine tests with B20 and B50
  - Actual emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, UHC) levels
  - Thermo-acoustic oscillations characteristics
  
- Rig and engine tests with B100

THANK YOU

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