



# Free Piston Stirling Engine Based 1kW Generator

ARPA-E GENSETS Program Kickoff  
21-22 October 2015  
Rosemont, IL



# Sunpower's GENSETS Team

- **Sunpower, Inc.**

- Team lead, FPSE lead, controls lead, prototype system integrator
- Free Piston Stirling machine design , prototype, and low-volume production expertise
- Free Piston Stirling controls design and prototype expertise
- Prototype system and FPSE/combustor integration experience
- Successful licensing of technology and technology transfer

- **Precision Combustion, Inc. (PCI)**

- Combustor lead
- Combustor and recuperator design and prototype development expertise
- Combustor/FPSE integration experience

- **Aerojet Rocketdyne (AR)**

- High temperature materials lead
- Expertise in High Temperature (HT) materials selection, and testing
- Expertise in HT materials processing, joining, and fabrication
- Potential HT materials manufacturing capability

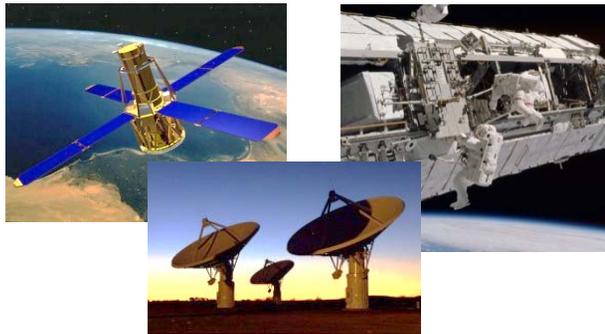
**Team has an established, working relationship through this and other successful development programs.**





# Sunpower Free-Piston Technology

Aerospace



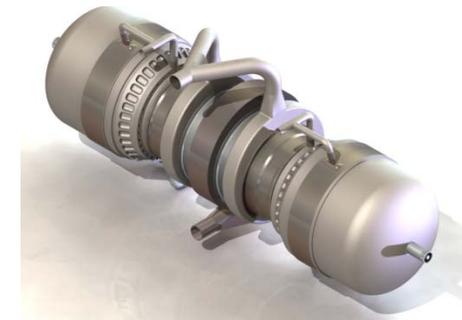
## Sunpower cryocoolers

- Space and terrestrial applications



## Advanced Stirling Converter

- 80W nominal output
- 40% average delivered efficiency



## Fission Power

- 12 kW nominal output
- 27% delivered efficiency

Commercial



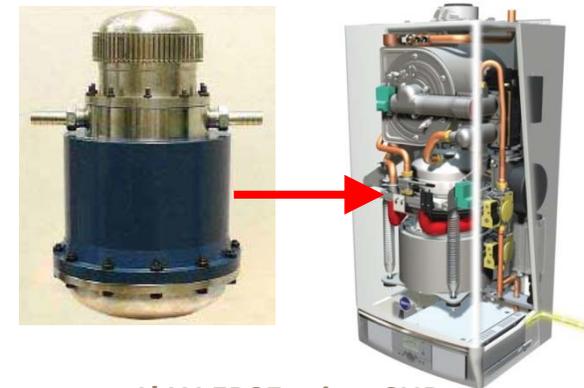
## Linear Compressors

- Licensed to LG Electronics
- Worldwide market penetration



## Sunpower cryocooler manufacturing

- Industry leading performance, size, cost
- Current volume of 1000 units per year



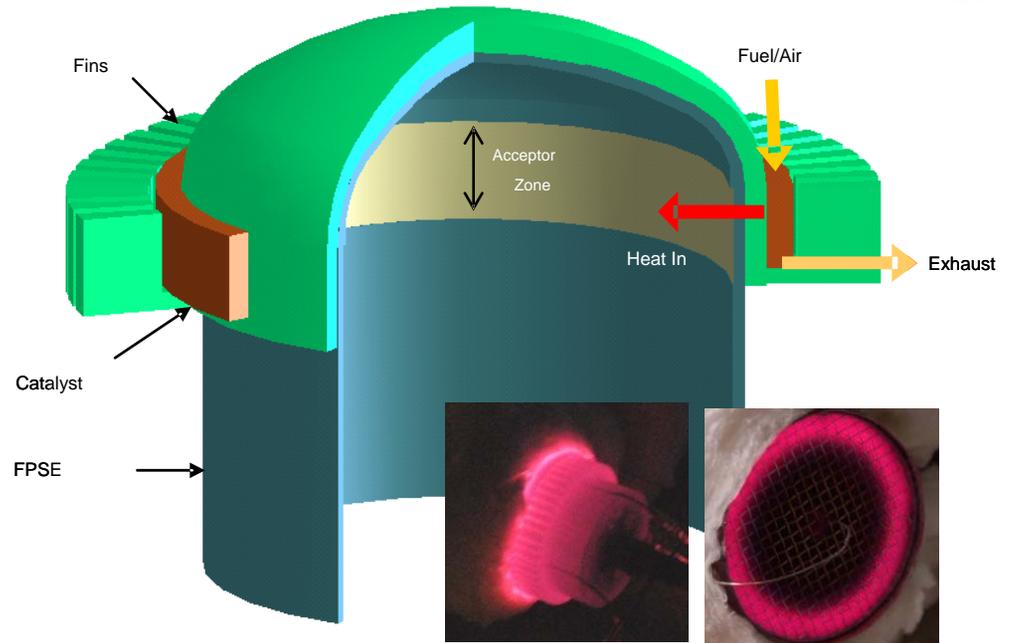
## 1kW FPSE microCHP

- SP P2a design produced by SP licensee
- Tech transfer and DFM support provided
- ~10000 units sold and installed

# PCI Combustor

## Burner Characteristics

- Flameless, catalytic design
- Integrated recuperator for high efficiency
- Low emissions and acoustics
- Glow Plug for fast startup
- >5k hr life demonstrated, poison resistant
- Significant IP protection



## Challenges:

- High-temperature acceptor operation
- Suitable high temperature material selection
- High heat flux via maximized heat transfer
- Effective recuperation for minimized waste heat
- Effective fuel-air mixing and flow distribution

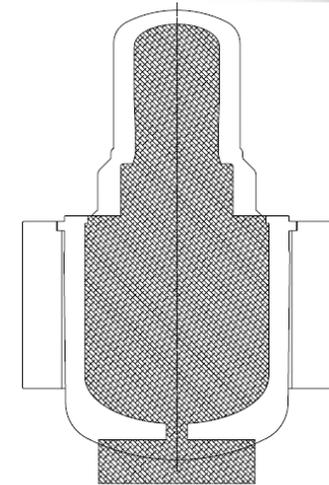


# Key Challenges To Achieving GENSETS Goals

- **Low cost while maintaining performance**
  - Increasing frequency reduces physical size and cost
  - Incorporate lessons learned from previous DFM experiences
- **Increase engine\*alternator efficiency**
  - High Temperature Head/Joining by Rocketdyne
  - Increase linear alternator efficiency
  - Engine improvements for efficiency
- **Increase Burner Efficiency**
  - PCI with materials/joining support from Rocketdyne
- **Market analysis and penetration**
- **High Efficiency Engine Controller**
  - Controls engine frequency and provides power to house or grid
  - Modified from existing controller architecture



Burner-Engine-Balancer Assembly  
(10"D x 22"H)



Proposed engine compared with commercial MEC engine



Wall-mounted GENSETS microCHP Unit



High Efficiency Controller