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### NOVATIO

ENGINEERING, INC.

### NORA: PON-2014-001

### **Fuel-oil Conversion for Gas Burners**

NORA Technical Workshop 14 September 2016 NOVATIO Engineering, founded in 2008, is a small mechanical engineering firm providing technical consulting services and product development

- Staff of 8 engineers and technicians
  - Expertise in mechanical engineering and design
  - Expertise in fluid flow and heat transfer
  - Expertise and experience in prototyping mechanical systems
  - CAE expertise in Computational Fluid Dynamics Finite Element Analysis
  - Principal staff with engineering consulting experience at A.D.Little, TIAX, ENVIRON, and AMTI
- 5000 square foot facility in Waltham, MA
  - Prototype machine and fabrication shop
  - Electronics and battery testing capabilities
  - Testing and computational tools



**NOVATIO** capabilities include engineering design, analysis and prototyping services.



Fixture design and fab



CFD/Thermal analysis



**Combustion and fuels preparation** 



5000 square foot facility in Waltham MA



FEA /Dynamic analysis



FEA / Vibration Analysis



Machine/Prototype Shop

Novatio aerosol generator technology

Fuel conditioning for gas-burner applications

**Technology direction** 





- Capillary bundles are extremely small and can be integrated a valve or fuel existing fuel lines
- Aerosol fuels have been shown to behave like a gas

- Technology exploits a heater-driven flashvaporization scheme to provide fuel vapor/aerosol to the engine.
- Heaters are small, efficient and rapid-acting – full aerosol can be produced within milliseconds.
- Thousands of hours of operation have been achieved aerosolizing automotive diesel and JP8 fuel without signs of fuel build-up or clogging. Careful controls are required to avoid over-heating.



When integrated with a reliable and low cost automotive fuel injector, the aerosol generator can be integrated with appliances and metered to provide turn down capability





Assembly has been designed with a keen focus on thermal management of the valve, which is not designed off the shelf to handle extremely hot fuels.



As carburetor replacement for gasoline driven engines, system replaces carburetor function and injects metered, aerosolized mid-distillate fuel into throttle body

#### **Unmodified carburetor**



#### CAG/injector



#### Novatio kit



CAG/injector

Heaters

US Military has for years been searching for a practical power source in the 0-3000W range that can operate on JP8

Benefits of COTS gasoline inverter generators:

- Lightweight
- Low cost
- Proven engine and generator technology
- Anecdotal evidence: these are currently being used in the field with gasoline

Challenges of COTS gasoline inverter generators operating on JP-8 or DF-2:

- Operation on mid-distillate fuels
- Engine knock
- Partial load efficiency
- Cold-start without assist
- Oil dilution
- Endurance



46 pound 1600W generator



#### Lightweight JP-8 fueled military generators (co-funded by US Military)

Initial technology: fuel aerosolization technology



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Integrate technology into fuel supply stream of SI engine

- Concept generation
- Analysis and design
- Mechanical integration
- Electronics/batteries
- BOP integration
- Prototyping/fabrication
- High speed testing



#### Aerosol technology can be used with multiple fuels without change to hardware

Multi-fuel system set up to operate on DF2, JP8 or gasoline



Fuel type selector switch





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**Technology direction** 



## When coupled with gas burners, the aerosol generator has been shown to provide "Blue Flame technology" with mid-distillate fuels



Blue flame technology with Bunsen burner (firing automotive diesel)

#### Blue flame technology with Weber bar burner (automotive diesel)





#### **Operation of gas-appliances on JP8 for US Army**

#### 28,000 Btu/h



17,000 Btu/h



- Concept generation
- Analysis
- Proof of concept system design
- Proof of concept prototyping

### 9,000 Btu/h









## Can Novatio aerosol generator technology process fuel-oil for operation with gas appliance burners?

Advantages if successful:

- Fuel oil compatibility with low cost, high efficiency gas appliances
- Turn-down capability

Challenges compared to JP8 operation:

- Higher temperature operation
- Condensation of aerosolized fuel
- Electrical consumption
- Bio-fuels

Conversion of gas-fired instantaneous water heater and in-shot burners for furnaces chosen as first applications

#### **Proposal to NORA: oil-fired instantaneous water heat (IWH) using CAG-enabled** gas burners

#### Initial concept: as little change to existing IWH system as possible

A Navien IWH was chosen as an initial test bed for integration of the technology

- Condensing unit
- Punched plate burner, similar to bar burner
- 3 stages, with each stage firing rate in the range of existing processors
- Adequate space for air/fuel mixing and for integration
  of BOP



# One Stage of the Navien Model NR system has been fitted with CAG Technology, operating on DF-2



With current integration, we can fire up to 50% of rated firing rate before fuel condensation problems develop

Tortuous path for air fuel mixing difficult to overcome.

Where to go from here to advance instantaneous water heater development?

- Move away from stock burner and design in burner optimized for CAG/injector integration, i.e., one with less fuel/cold surface contact
  - Cylindrical mesh burner
  - In-shot burners
- Optimize mixing chamber and use same (punched plate) burner



- Used in condensing and non-condensing furnaces
- Advantageous geometry to develop CAG technology due to straightpath and minimal condensing surfaces
  - Disadvantages: designed-for air entrainment flow-field dependent























# Biodiesel has higher viscosity and higher boiling point fractions which exceed the range of experience to date with the CAG aerosol generator

Carbon Chain Length	Class	Boiling Point
7		Range.degree. C
C.sub.5-C.sub.10	Gasoline	37 – 175
C.sub.10-C.sub.15	Kerosene/Jet Fuel	175-275
C.sub.12-C.sub.20	Diesel	190-330
C.sub.14-C.sub.22	Fuel Oil	230-360
C.sub.20-C.sub.30	Lubricating Oil	>350
C.sub.22-C.sub.40	Petroleum Jelly	40-60 (m. pt.)
C.sub.25-C.sub.50	Paraffin Wax	50-65(m.pt.)
C.sub.50+poly cyclics	Tar/bitumen	> 400
C16-18	B100	320-360

- With B20 we expect the more volatile DF2 fractions to initiate significant boiling beginning at about 190C, well below the biodiesel fractions at 320-360C
- Actual B100 Analysis 4/12/16 Viscosity 4.05 mm2/sec @40F Density @60F 0.885 g/cm3, 90% recovery boiling @ 355C



#### Bench top testing of single CAG Injector on B20 vs DF-2

During the CAG initial heat up, the B20 aerosol appearance was identical to that of DF2, suggesting that the high-boiling fractions of B20 are not affecting flash atomization





#### Bench top testing of single CAG Injector on B20 vs DF-2

In-shot operation to ~8000 Btu/h similar on B20 and DF2 with exception of orange tint of flame. Shape of flame, power consumption, and firing rate limitations very similar for the two fuels.



Injector:2016-091 18% injector duty cycle Set point: 3.67, offset 517/516 0.055 g/s, 8200 Btu/h Power: 75W, Voltage 16.2 Blue cone more pronounced, yellow flickers



Injector:2016-091 18% injector duty cycle Set point: 3.68, offset 517/516 0.057 g/s, 8400 Btu/h Power: 78W, Voltage 16.2

Novatio aerosol generator technology

Fuel conditioning for gas-burner applications

**Technology direction** 



- CAG/injector a low-pressure device to provide turn-down capable aerosol
- System developed with army to enable gasoline replacement with JP8 in small engine applications
- Potential for development to replace gas with fuel-oil in gas appliances, taking advantage of economies of scale, cost and efficiency of gas appliances
- Aerosol quality demonstrated at greater than 5:1 turndown
- Gas appliance integration
  - Integration with gas-designed IWH burners at low (~50% design rating) firing rates achieved to date
  - Integration with in-shot burners indicates potential for "simpler" burner applications with less condensing potential
  - Potential for integration with cylindrical metal fiber burner for gas appliances

