

Electromechanical aspects of a micro chip system

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Electromechanical aspects of a micro CHP system

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Introduction

In a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system a heat engine is coupled with an electrical generator with the goal of producing both electricity and useful heat (Figure 1).



Objectives

In order to make the CHP system cost-effective at such a low power, the efficiency of the thermal-to-electrical conversion needs to be raised beyond the state-of-the-art level.

The project is focused on performance of the electrical components of the system, particularly the high-speed generator and high-frequency converter (Figure 3). Analysis, modeling, improvements and tests of those components will be performed in order to maximize total efficiency of the electromechanical conversion within the micro-CHP system.



Figure 1 – Functional schema of the micro CHP system

The micro-CHP system developed at Micro Turbine Technology BV combines a gas turbine with a very-high-speed generator so as to provide 3 kW of electrical power for homes and small enterprises (Figure 2).





Figure 3 – Electrical components of the micro CHP system

Figure 2 – Micro CHP system in a building

Solutions

Efficient operation of the gas turbine imposes the demand for very high rotational speed of the generator – 240,000 rpm. The permanent magnet machine has been chosen as the generator type since this technology is the most promising for high-speed machines: it offers high efficiency and very high power density at low volumes. A high-frequency power converter is required to enable bi-directional power flow between the generator and grid.

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