### Overview of Engineering Design and Analysis at the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center

Jared Congiardo, Justin Junell, Richard Kirkpatrick and Harry Ryan NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS, 39529, USA

Mississippi Engineering Society Winter Meeting Jackson, MS February 27, 2007



### **SSC Regional Map**





### **Complete Suite of Test Capability and Expertise**

E-1 Stand

High Press., Full Scale Engine Components





E-2 High Press. Mid-Scale

& Subscale



E-3 High Press. Small-Scale Subscale



A-1 ... Full Scale Engine Devt. & Cert ... A-2



B-1/B-2 ... Full Scale Engine/Stage Devt. & Cert

Components ... Engines ... Stages



### **SSC Support Facilities**



Cryogenic Propellant Storage Facility Six (6) 100,000 Gallon LOX Barges Three (3) 240,000 Gallon LH Barges



High Pressure Gas Facility (HPGF) (GN, GHe, GH, Air: ~ 3000 to 4000 psi)



#### High Pressure Industrial Water (HPIW) 330,000 gpm Delivery System

#### Additional Support

- Laboratories
  - ✓ Gas and Material Analysis
  - ✓ Measurement Standards and Calibration
  - ✓ Environmental
- Shops
- Utilities



# Propulsion Testing at the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC)

Video



# **NASA SSC Design & Analysis Division**



#### **Organization Goal:**

- Develop and maintain propulsion test systems and facilities engineering competencies
  - Unique and focused technical knowledge across respective engineering disciplines applied to rocket propulsion testing. e.g.,
    - Materials selection and associated database management
    - Piping, electrical and data acquisition systems design for cryogenic, high flow, high pressure propellant supply regimes
    - Associated analytic modeling and systems analysis disciplines and techniques
    - Corresponding fluids structural, thermal and electrical engineering disciplines



### **Integrated Facility Simulation and Analysis**

- To Support Propulsion Testing, SSC Has Developed & Implemented Analytic Modeling & Simulation Tools
  - Rocket Propulsion Test Analysis (RPTA) Model (FORTRAN) Used to Simulate Propulsion Test Facility Systems (e.g., LOX Run System)
    - ✓ Heritage of Model Dates to Pressurization and Propellant Systems Design Tasks for Space Shuttle and X-33
    - Model Adapted, Validated and Currently Used at SSC to Simulate Facility Pressurization and Propellant Systems
  - Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Used for Select Propulsion Test Situations
  - Have Experienced Analysis Team that Routinely Solves Pressurization and Propellant System Problems
- Integrated Facility Simulation and Analysis Has Led to Substantial Project Cost and Schedule Savings



### **Integrated Facility Simulation and Analysis**

- Analytic Tools Available for Propulsion Test Facility Modeling & Analysis
- Comprehensive Propellant System Thermodynamic Modeling & Test Simulation





## **Rocket Propulsion Test Analysis (RPTA) Model**

- Temporal Transient Thermodynamic Modeling of Integrated Propellant Systems
- Thermodynamic Control Volume Solver Model Accurately Models High-Pressure Cryogenic Fluids and High-Pressure Gaseous Systems. Model Features Include:
  - High-Fidelity Pressure Control Valve (PCV) & Closed Loop Control System Model
- RPTA Model Validated Through Test Data Comparisons
  - IPD Fuel Turbopump, RS-84 Sub-Scale Pre-Burner, RS-83 Pre-Burner Cold Flows, SSME Flowliner Activation & IPD Engine System



#### Pressure Control Valve (PCV) Model Developed & Validated

A Significant Advantage of the RPTA Model is the Coupling of Control Logic (Electro-Mechanical Process) with Thermodynamic Processes



### **Recent LOX/Methane Testing at E-3**

15 klbf Advent Engine Test Program – Nov 06





### **Comprehensive & Rapid Piping System Design & Analysis Capability**





### Recent Project: Methane Technology Testbed Project (MTTP)

- MTTP provides portable, small-scale propulsion test capabilities
  - Can support gaseous methane, gaseous oxygen, liquid methane and kerosene-type propellants
  - Capable of supporting engines up to 1000-lbf thrust
- Tested 50-lbf thruster (right)
  - Plume diagnostics
  - Gained methane experience





Night firing of MTTP thruster



#### MTTP Test Skid

#### Exhaust spectrum for GOX/GM combustion <sup>12</sup>



### Recent Project: 14" Valve Test Description of Test Objectives

### **Test Objectives**

- Collect Data Needed to Support a Decision to Install a 14" Valve (26,000 lb) on the E-1 Test Stand as the High Pressure (8,500 psi service) LOX Tank Isolation Valve
- Determine the Behavior of the Valve in Simulated Operating Conditions
- Determine the 14" Valve Bonnet and Body Steady State Temperatures

### **Test Details**

- Conducted Valve Chill Down Test at the E-2 Test Stand
- Used Liquid Nitrogen (LN) to Chill Down the Valve
- Instrumented Valve with Multiple Thermocouples on the Valve Body and Stem
- During Chill Down Operations, the Valve was Cycled Multiple Times to Test Proper Valve Operation at Low Temperatures





### 14" Valve Test Results

Picture of Frost Line After 23 Hours of Chilling

#### **Test Results**

- Test Lasted About 24 Hours
- About 6500 gal of LN Was Used for the Valve to Reach a Steady State Condition
- Boil Off Results Were Used to Calculate the Steady State Heat Load of the Valve

#### **Analytical Accomplishments**

- Identified Issue with Asymmetric Bonnet Wear at Cryogenic Temperatures
- Verified Analytical Predictions for the Heat Load of the Valve
  - Determined the Valve Heat Load
  - Determined the Valve Chill Down Time Constant
  - Test Results Will Be Used to Guide Bonnet Re-Design



Thermal Image of Valve After Test

### 14" Valve ANSYS Workbench Thermal Simulation





# **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Modeling**

#### Employed CFD Code to Model E-1 High Pressure LOX Flow Capability

 CFD Investigations Indicate Pressurizing Gas Diffuser Flow Significantly Limits Flow Duration for High Flow Rate Cases

#### **Analysis Boundary Conditions**

- HP LOX Tank at E-1 Test Stand
- Flow Case Assessed
  - 2500 lb/sec LOX Discharge Rate
  - 8400 psi Tank Pressure Maintained During Propellant Discharge

#### **Results & Observations**

- GN Convective Mixing with LOX Propellant is Substantial
  - Only 50% Loaded LOX is Useable (<~2% N<sub>2</sub> Concentration)
- LOX Propellant Supply at Assessed Flow Rate & Pressure Limited to Approximately 4 seconds (vs an Estimated 10 seconds Determined Using Nominal Facility Pressurizing Gas & Propellant Supply Limits)



# NASA

# **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Modeling**

• Understanding a Valve's Flow Capacity  $(C_v)$  as a Function of Valve Stroke is Critical When Calculating the Propellant Flow Rates to a Test Article





### **Thermal Fatigue Considerations**

- The Goal of This Investigation Was to Simulate the Thermal Environment During Tank Chill Down and Apply What Was Learned in the Specimen Testing to Improve the Reliability of Analytical Model Calculations
- Performed Laboratory-Scale Testing

#### Test Specimen

- 5 Thermocouple & Strain Gage Pairs - 4 on 8" dia Spaced at 90°, 1 at Center. Typical on Both Top & Bottom Surface.
- Total of 20 sensors





**Dye Penetration Testing** 

#### **Test Procedure**

- Subject Top of Test Specimen to LN
- Record Strain & Temperature Data
- NDE Dye Penetration Test Performed for Crack Detection
- Testing for Crack Initiation Made After Each Thermal Cycle for the First 15 Cycles
- Subject Test Specimen to Greater Than 100 Cycles



### **Thermal Fatigue Considerations**

#### **Top Center Temperature & Compensated Strain**



#### Lab-Scale Specimen Exposed to LN



### Summary

- SSC has Developed a Suite of Effective Analytic Modeling and Analysis Tools Providing High Fidelity Assessment of Test Stand Performance
  - Rocket Propulsion Test Analysis (RPTA) Model, a 1-D Propellant System Analyzer
  - CFD Applied to Select Propulsion Test Situations
  - Finite Element Analysis (ANSYS/CFX)
- Analytic Tools Exercised Regularly on a Variety of Propulsion Test Projects by Experienced Analysts
  - Active Test Facilities (1.0 to 1.5 Mlbf Thrust, 8500 psi LOX/LH/RP-1 Supply)
  - Active Test Projects (e.g., J-2X PPA, J-2X at PBS, TGV)
- We are Planning to Augment our Staff
  - Fluid Mechanics/Systems Modeling & Analysis
  - Thermal Analysis

#### *For Additional Information/Discussion Please Contact :* David Coote 228-688-1056, Email: David.J.Coote@nasa.gov

Kerry Klein 228-688-7554, Email: David.J.Coote@nasa.gov Kerry Klein 228-688-7554, Email: Kerry.D.Klein@nasa.gov Harry Ryan 228-688-2757, Email: Harry.M.Ryan@nasa.gov



Stennis Space Center Engineering and Test Directorate



Arnold Association of Professional Societies (AAPS) Luncheon Tullahoma, TN



January 21, 2009





### **SSC Regional Map**





# **Facilities & Operations**



SSC's ETD (Engineering and Science Directorate) manages, develops, and operates SSC Rocket Propulsion Test (RPT) capabilities and facilities



### **Complete Suite of Test Capability and Expertise**

E-1 Stand

High Press., Full Scale Engine Components



L-∠ High Press. Mid-Scale & Subscale



E-3 High Press. Small-Scale Subscale



A-1 ... Full Scale Engine Devt. & Cert ... A-2



B-1/B-2 ... Full Scale Engine/Stage Devt. & Cert

Components ... Engines ... Stages



### **Component and Engine Testing (E-1)**





- High Pressure (Long Run) Capabilities
  - LOX/LH/RP ~ 8,500 psi
  - GN/GH ~ 15,000 psi
  - GHe ~ 10,000 psi
- State-of-the-Art DAC Systems
- E-1 Cell 1
  - Primarily Designed for Pressure-Fed LOX/LH/RP & Hybrid Test Articles
  - Thrust Loads up to 750K lb<sub>f</sub> (horiz.)
- E-1 Cell 2
  - Designed for LH Turbopump & Preburner Assembly Testing
  - Thrust Loads up to 60K lb<sub>f</sub>
- E-1 Cell 3
  - Designed for LOX Turbopump, Preburner Assembly & Engine Testing
  - Thrust Loads up to 750K Ib<sub>f</sub>



### NASA-SSC CFD Modeling Activities NASA-SSC Test Facilities – A Complex

#### **Grade Engine Development & Certification**

- Saturn V 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage J-2 engine (1.15 M-lbf cluster of 5 LH<sub>2</sub>/LOX J-2 engines)
- SSME (375 K-lb LH<sub>2</sub>/LOX) development, flight acceptance, & 65kft altitude (A-2)
- X-33 Aerospike





### NASA-SSC CFD Modeling Activities NASA-SSC Test Facilities – B Complex

#### Vehicle Stage & Full-scale Engine Testing

- SATURN V (7.7 M-lbf cluster of 5 RP-1/LOX F-1 engines)
- SSME MPTA (1.1 M-lbf cluster of 3 LH<sub>2</sub>/LOX SSME)
- Delta IV Common Booster Core (650 K-lbf LH<sub>2</sub>/LOX RS-68 engine)





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# **D&A Capability Development**

#### Strengthening Engineering Competencies

- Structural Analysis
- Control Systems design/development
- Thermal Analysis/Heat Transfer
- Fluid Mechanics specific to RPT

#### SSC Design & Analysis Division

- RPTA Model
- CFD Crunch/FDNS
- MathCad/Excel Models

#### **Data Analysis Process Improvements**

- Design & Data Management System
  - Record Retention System
  - Drawing Tree Development
  - Pro/E model MSK capability
    - A CM enhancement opportunity
- Wider access to analytic models
  - PSME Project
    - GUI
    - Server Access
- Internal Technical Reviews

#### Analysis Tool Suite Growth

- Structural Analysis
  - ANSYS/CFX
- Purge systems design and analysis
  - Flowmaster
- Structural Heat Transfer/Thermal Analysis
  - SINDA
- Piping system modal analysis
  - Autopipe

#### Comprehensive Test Site Engineering Support

- A,B & E Stand Modeling & Analysis
  - J-2X, A3, Subscale Sim, Steam Gen Projects
- Operations Support
  - Test stand activation & test
- Facility Operations Support, e.g.,
  - LO2 Barge Impeller Structural Margin Def.
  - A1/A2 LH2 Vent Duct Rupture Invest, and Resolution
  - HPGN system redesign
  - HP Air System Contamination
  - LH2 Sphere Bypass Design
  - UT inspection of B Stand HP Water Deluge Sys

#### Expanding Beyond SSC E-Complex

- Ares US Propellant Tank Operations Performance Analysis Support to MSFC
- PBS B2 Test Stand Design
- RS-68 Test vs Flight Performance
- LSAM (JSC) & CEV SBT (GRC/NESC)



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### **Comprehensive & Rapid Piping System Design & Analysis Capability**





### **Recent LOX/Methane Testing at E-3**

15 klbf Advent Engine Test Program – Nov 06



### 14" Valve ANSYS Workbench Thermal Simulation



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# Advanced CFD Capability

- Employ CFD Techniques to Support Propulsion Testing in the Following Areas:
  - Cryogenic Propellant Delivery Systems (e.g., Run Tanks, Piping)
  - Cryogenic Control Devices (e.g., Valves)
  - Plume Modeling
- Dedicated Computational Cluster (48 Dual Processors) at NASA SSC



Computational Results of Conceptual Ares 5 Stage Test at SSC B-2 Test Stand



Computational Results of J-2X Altitude Diffuser Simulation (300 K-lbf)

### **NASA-SSC CFD Modeling Activities** MTTP Plume Simulations – CFD Model Validation

• CFD data was used to support parallel efforts in the experimental plume diagnostics and line-by-line spectral radiation analysis.





### Summary

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  - CFD Applied to Select Propulsion Test Situations
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- Analytic Tools Exercised Regularly on a Variety of Propulsion Test Projects by Experienced Analysts
  - Active Test Facilities (1.0 to 1.5 Mlbf Thrust, 8500 psi LOX/LH/RP-1 Supply)
  - Active Test Projects (e.g., J-2X PPA & Engine, A-3, Chemical Steam Generator)

#### For Additional Information/Discussion Please Contact :

David Coote 228-688-1056, Email: David.J.Coote@nasa.gov Harry Ryan 228-688-2757, Email: Harry.M.Ryan@nasa.gov



### Liquid Propellant System Modeling



NASA Stennis Space Center (SSC) Engineering & Test Directorate (ETD) Design & Analysis Division January 21, 2009





### Liquid Propellant System Modeling

#### Summary



#### Background

- The Rocket Propulsion Test Analysis (RPTA) Model Is an Effective Analytic Modeling and Analysis Tool Providing High Fidelity Assessment of Propellant System Performance
  - RPTA Adapted From a Model Originally Developed for Shuttle & X-33 Propellant System Performance Analyses
  - RPTA Model Application :
    - Used Extensively for
      - SSC Propellant System Analysis (e.g., Test Project (e.g., J-2X PPA, A-3, Chemical Steam Generator (CSG)) Facility Development, Activation
      - Test and Facility Maintenance and Upgrades Investigations, Studies and Trades
    - Recently Used for Systems Sizing and Operations Performance Analysis of the LOX and LCH4 Tanks for the Lunar Surface Ascent Module Team Study (May 2007)
    - Currently Being Employed to Evaluate Propellant Load Operations and Performance of the Ares I LOX & LH Tank for MSFC Team (January 2009)
  - A Graphical User Interface (GUI) Developed for the RPTA Model to Allow Ease of Use of the Model

#### Benefits

- Propellant System Modeling Allows For A Timely & Cost-Effective Assessment of the Propellant System Performance
- Integrated Performance Modeling Capabilities Has Translated to Efficient Test Facility Design, Activation & Test Operations



### **Integrated Facility Simulation and Analysis**



- Analytic Tools Available for Test Facility/Project Modeling & Analysis
- Comprehensive Propellant System Thermodynamic Modeling & Test Simulation





# **Rocket Propulsion Test Analysis (RPTA) Model**



- Temporal Transient Thermodynamic Modeling of Integrated Propellant Systems
  - Thermodynamic Control Volume Solver Model Accurately Models Cryogenic and Storable Propellant and High-Pressure Gaseous Systems.
    - Includes High-Fidelity Pressure Control Valve (PCV) & Closed Loop Control System Algorithms
- Model Validated Through Numerous Test Data Reconstructions
  - J-2X PPA-1A, IPD Fuel Turbopump, RS-84 Sub-Scale Pre-Burner, RS-83 Pre-Burner Cold Flows, SSME Flowliner Activation & IPD Engine System

#### Pressure Control Valve (PCV) Model Developed & Validated



A Significant Feature of the RPTA Model is the Coupling of Control Logic (Electro-Mechanical Process) with Thermodynamic Processes



### **RPTA Model GUI Development**



#### Background

- The RPTA Model provides focused and detailed analysis of a propellant system, from a single propellant tank to an integrated propellant system that includes
  - Propellant Tank
  - Facility Propellant Storage Tank
  - Pressurant Supply and System Control
  - Propellant Feed System
  - Test Article Simulation
- Requires a substantial amount of data defining boundary and initial conditions that requires esoteric knowledge of the model's data file structure and the model's code not required of the typical user
  - Following is a quick view of the model parameter data sets involved

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# Propellant Systems Modeling Environment







#### **GUI interface Significantly Simplifies Model Set-up**







### **Provides Access to All Configuration Data**



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LDV=F	Conditions Tractory MCM Admin
LTGE=F	Data
POW=0.33.0.33.0.8.0.8.0.33.0.33.0.8.0.33.	
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### **Model Execution & WinPlot Results**





01/21/09



### Propellant Systems Modeling Environment Model Library & Configuration Editor



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67

### **Propellant Systems Modeling Environment**



#### Gas Model Support Scheduled in Early 2009





Exit



### SSC Engineering & Test Directorate (ETD)







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