Hydrogen Energy

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Editorial: in this work Studennikov and Kudymov develop the problem of hydrogen energy. Their electrical hydrogen generator (EHG) is realized as a prototype of 150 KWt heat power. The authors create an artificial gravitational field by means of rotation. With this they produce cheap hydrogen and electric input is very small. Really, we believe that the authors are modest, because effectiveness of their system is more than 100%. The excessive power produced by their generator is compensated by environmental heat.

Letter to editor

Dear Alexander Frolov!

Thank you for your complimentary estimation of our modest work. You are right we should have more publications. Let's publish our work. Lenin sometimes gave wise thoughts such as "Idea that got the control over people masses, is a material force".

Situation with hydrogen energy in Russia is very inauspicious. To make sure that it is right, let's try to brows for "hydrogen energy" in Alta Vista Internet search system. As a result you will find thousands of websites devoted to this problem. In Russia this problem is worked out only by Kurtchatovsky Institute and our Institute. Energy Department of USA spends 200 millions dollars annually to finance R&D work on this problem. We do all this work on our enthusiasm only. The most interesting fact that now we are in the vanguard of this research. Of course, we are not able to keep our positions for a long time. In this case a critical situation can appear in Russian economy, because it is based on the export of energy resources.

With regard,
Studennikov V.V.

Introduction

It became absolutely evident in the last decade that the further intensive development of modern energetics and transport lead humanity to the large-scale ecological crisis. A rapid reduction of fossil fuel resources on a background of natural annual growth of energy consumption constrains industrially developed countries to extend the system of atomic energy installations. These installations increase the damage of their exploitation in a higher extent. The problem of recycling of radioactive wastes is sharply increasing.

Taking into account this alarming situation, many scientists and experts support the more rapid search of alternative non-traditional energy sources and application of new energy resources in energetics and transport. In particular, they draw attention to hydrogen. Resources of hydrogen in the waters of World Ocean are inexhaustible. Besides, the indisputable advantages of this fuel are the comparative environmental safety of usage, acceptability for heat-engines without any considerable changes in their design, high calorie content, possibility of long-term storage, transportation by existing transport network, non-toxicity, etc. However, the essential problem to get over up to the present day is the problem of diseconomy of its production. More than 600 firms, companies, concerns, university laboratories and social scientific and technical organizations of Western Europe, USA, Australia, Canada and Japan are working hardly to make hydrogen cheaper (see the magazine "Avtomobilny Transport" /"Motor Transport"/, #4, 1992, p. 38). Successful solution of this problem will revolutionary change all world economy and will improve our environment.

Description

There are numerous known ways to decompose water. They are chemical, thermochemical, electrolysis and others, but all of them have one big shortcoming. A very expensive and high-grade energy is used in the technological process of hydrogen production. In its turn, to produce this energy we should spend the unprofitable fossil fuel (coal, natural gas, oil products) or electrical energy produced on electric power stations. Suffice it to say that during the traditional electrolysis in industrial conditions the electrical energy consumption to produce one cubic meter of hydrogen constitutes 18-21 MJ and total energy consumption (taking into account the production of electrical energy itself) exceeds 50 MJ. It makes hydrogen to be very expensive (about 2$/m^3).

At the same time, our planet literally bathes in the flow of heat energy, produced by the Sun, earth bowels and human activity. The problem is only to introduce this inexhaustible source of free low-grade heat to the industrial technology of hydrogen production. Now the hypothesis is developed and its theoretical scientific validation is given. According to this hypothesis there is a principal possibility to transform the heat of any origin directly to the potential chemical energy by means of water decomposition into hydrogen and oxygen in the solution of electrolyte placed in the strong artificial inertial field. ***Thereby, we can replace the traditional energy in the common energy balance of electrochemical process of water decomposition to the heat of external source and mechanical energy of inertial field.*** This natural physical and chemical phenomenon got the name of ***gravitational electrolysis***. An efficient device, electrical hydrogen generator (EHG) was designed and patented according to RST system (international application RU98/00190 of 07.10.97) to provide this electrolysis.

It is operated by mechanical drive and works with a common temperature in the mode of heat pump. This device absorbs the necessary heat from the environment through its heat exchanger or utilizes the heat wastes of industrial or transport energy installations. In the process of water decomposition the excessive energy applied to the drive of EHG can be transformed into electric energy on 80%. This energy then can be used in external active load. During this process from 20 to 88 energy units of low-grade heat are absorbed for every unit of consumed power. It depends on the given operation mode. This process compensates the negative thermal effect of water decomposition as a chemical reaction. In the generator of one cubic meter of operation volume (for the optimal mode with efficiency of 86-98%) we can produce 3,5 m^3 of hydrogen per second together with about 2,2 MJ of direct electric current. Unit heat power of EHG can vary from few tens Watt up to 1000 MWatt dependently of the technical task. Designed specific energy consumption to produce gaseous hydrogen constitutes 14,42 MJ/ m^3. Since we use only free heat in this process, the cost of production of 1 cubic meter of hydrogen decreases up to 0,0038$ and becomes 2,5-3 times cheaper than the total cost of production and transportation of equivalent volume of natural gas.

The wide range of control and nonordinary specific performance of this process allows applying the invention in big and small energetics with a guaranteed success. The application is possible in various kinds of transport, in agriculture, in municipal economy, in chemical, cement, pulp and paper, refrigeration, atomic and space industries, non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, for the water desalination, welding fabrication, etc.

Physical essence of the operating process of EHG is very simple and it is a logical development of the known physical experiments by Tolmen and Stewart made in 1916. It is known that electrolyte dissociate in ions, which are hydrated by molecules of water, during its solution. As a result, hydrated shells of different density are formed around them. Energy of interaction of hydrated unlike ions with each other sharply decreases and becomes closer to the energy of Brownian motion of water molecules (with 18^0C $Wk=3/2\ KT=6\cdot10^{-21}$J, where K is Boltzmann constant, T is an absolute temperature). If we place the concentrated solution of dissocated electrolyte having a significant difference of anion and cation masses to the strong artificial gravitational (inertial) field (for example, to rotate it into the EHG reservoir) and the effective rate of rotation for various electrolytes and parameters of the device is 1500-45000 rpm, then ions will begin partly separating.

Heavy ions influence each other with their electrical field and they will move to the periphery of the reservoir. With this their kinetic energy will be close to the energy of heat movement. For example, for the ion BrO3 having the mass of $m=21{,}26\cdot10^{-26}$kg and with the peripheral velocity $V=330$ m/s^{-1}(the inner diameter of the reservoir is 0,14 m, rate of rotation is 45000 rpm), kinetic energy will constitute $W=0{,}5m\upsilon^2=11{,}57\cdot10^{-21}$ J. The extreme ions will press to the inner surface and will create the spatial concentrated electrical potential. **With this the resulting centrifugal force acting on ions pressed to anode (anions) will destroy their hydrate shells as the weakest ones.** The light ions are less responsive to gravitation and they surrounded with more strong shells. That's why they cannot give their molecules of water to the heavy ions. Due to these circumstances they will concentrate above the heavy ions and in the area of rotation axis (near cathode) forming the electrical potential of the opposite sign. Free electrons in anode will move to cathode under the action of spatial (volumetric) anion charge (it is a known property of Faraday cage). For some minimal (threshold) rate of rotation with given electrolyte, i.e. for some critical value of electrical potentials on electrodes, the balance of charges will be broken. Electrons will leave cathode and will ionize the molecules of hydrated shells, and these shells will pass charges to cations. **In other words, the electric disruption of this electrolytic condenser will take place and discharge of ions will begin. During this process free hydrogen will form on cathode and oxygen and anodic gases (deposit) will form on anode.**

Thus, due to the action of natural principle of energy reversibility, gravitational filed will create an electrical field energetically adequate to it, which will overcome the energy of aquation and will provide an electrolysis. This process goes with the absorption of heat through the heat exchanger and it requires a constant dilution with water to get the initial concentration of the solution. Its principal energy scheme in many respects is similar to the scheme of traditional electrolysis, but in this scheme the external expensive electric current is not necessary. The environmental heat or other sources is used here.

Some formulas:

In the solution $HBrO_3 \rightarrow H^+ + BrO_3^-$

or , for example, $H_2O + SO_2 + 0{,}5\ O_2 \rightarrow H_2SO_4$

$H_2SO_4 \rightarrow 2H^+ + SO_4^-$

On cathode $H^+ + 2e \rightarrow H_2^-$

On anode $2BrO_3^- - 2e^- \rightarrow 0{,}5\ O_2^- + Br_2O_5$

or $SO_4 - 2e \rightarrow SO_2^- + O_2^-$

In the near-anodic space the reaction of deposit with hydration water

$Br_2O_5 + H_2O \rightarrow 2HBrO_3$

or $H_2O + SO_2 \rightarrow H_2SO_3$

$HBrO_3 \rightarrow H^+ + BrO_3^-$

$H_2SO_3 \rightarrow 2H^+ + SO_3^-$

Here we should note four very essential features of gravitational electrolysis.

First, the work of mechanical inertial field, which is spent to the precipitation of water molecules, light and particular heavy ions, is almost fully returned to the system. It is a kinetic energy of hydrogen, oxygen and anodic gases floating to the axis, because their density is smaller than the density of solution. As a result, the sum of angular momentum of initial and final products of electrolysis becomes close to zero, i.e. mechanical work of EHG drive is consumed mainly against frictional force. The anodic deposit and floated gases react again with water and oxygen to form the initial composition of the solution.

Secondly, intensive self-cooling of the solution provides the condition for the absorption of heat from environment or other sources to compensate the endothermic effect of decomposition reaction of water, i.e. the work in the mode of high-efficiency heat pump. Flora of the Earth have been used heat for hundreds millions years to decompose water and carbonic acid gas for built-up of hydrocarbon biomass. It is known from practice that this process goes in the conditions of full darkness, for example, in old mines, caves, cellars of houses or metro tunnels. Therefore, the spontaneous thermochemical process of transition or transformation of heat to the potential chemical energy is principally possible in nature. The second law of thermodynamics proves this fact and point out the increase of entropy of the system.

Thirdly, it is able to produce direct electrical current on the external load in the case, if the rotation frequency of the reservoir is more than minimal necessary (threshold) one. Then EHG shows the properties of electric generator with voltage-current characteristic of condenser type (voltage on the clamps is in direct proportion to the external load).

Fourthly, EHG simultaneously is an electrical generator of direct current and electrolyzer.

And at last, the use of free heat of environment, heat waists of industrial, energy systems or transport in the process of hydrogen production sharply decrease production cost of this gas. All this features provide incomparable higher efficiency of the gravitational electrolysis, and therefore, higher economy.

Application

The electric hydrogen generator is simple in construction and matches the assembling of various powered propulsion systems of transport, for example, automobile, bus, agricultural implement, diesel locomotive or tractor. It is good in unitizing with all these systems, with heat turbines in particular. Along with the solution of main technical and economic problem, a precondition to create the principally new, more perfect transport in near future is formed. It will be a mass electric vehicle with big fuel distance, working on the heat-mechanic source of current.

Application of EHG as a utilizer of heat on numerous compressor plants of gas-main pipelines will allow 2-2,5 time increasing of fuel efficiency of turbounits due to the utilization of their heat waists and heat emitting during compression of natural gas to produce hydrogen, which can fill up the consumption of hydrocarbon fuel in 60% and thus provide its tangible saving, i.e. to increase the sales volume without increase of production.

The idea to cool the cargo natural gas up to the minus temperature seems to be promising. It will allow applying the elevator (gas-static) principle of creation of additional excessive pressure in the gas-main (approximately in 6-8%) as well as to increase the throughput capacity and lifetime of the pipeline. Heat extracted from natural gas can be transformed and used to the needs of economic organizations, which are situated along the trace of gas pipeline…

Energy advantages of this method are evident, especially in the mountain conditions of gas pipeline laying. Equipment of drivers of road-building techniques and various self-propelled machines with EHG will 1,7-2 times decrease the consumption of diesel or gaseous fuel. It will entail the decrease of cost of construction work.

Conversion of railway transport to systems with EHG application promises a sharp decrease of exploitation costs on the technical service of electric mains and considerable saving of electric power.

EHG on the sea crafts and riverboats can use the heat of outboard water and it will give a chance to change the atomic energy installation. It will allow increasing the efficient tonnage and ecological safety of vessel exploitation with an actual unlimited autonomy of navigation. Together with this, instead of traditional screw we can use the direct transformation of chemical energy of burnt hydrogen and oxygen to the mechanical kinetic energy of the uniflow water-jet propellers. It will simplify the design of propulsion engine of the vessel. Floating mobile electrogas generator stations can provide big coastal settlements, industrial or agricultural objects with free heat and electrical power. Design value of production of 1 MJ of heat in Russia will constitute 0,00027-0,0004 $ and production of electrical power will be 0,0008 - 0,0011 $.

EHG can be applied for aircraft also. In this case heat exchangers additionally should include the onboard condenser of water steam of auxiliary gas turbo-prop engine, which works on pure hydrogen-oxygen mix. It will give a chance to multiple usage of minimal recycle water in the closed circle as well as to adequately provide the vehicle with electric power. Such design will entail the decrease of the flight weight due to decrease of fuel storage, and therefore, will increase the load capacity of aircraft.

EHG on the space stations can replace gyroscopes and traditional solar batteries as well as provide the space jet engines with effective, much more cheaper and safe fuel.

Utilization of excessive heat in coalmines liquidates a sharp problem of coal mining safety. Underground burning of coal remains in unpromising mines and using of the received heat to produce hydrogen fuel and electric power will decide social problems of coal-mining regions.

Various modifications of power range of EHG can be applied in small stationary and mobile energetics, particularly in the field of energy supply of remote settlements, military and industrial objects, expeditions, farms, drying machines, greenhouses, etc. In the last case the perennial gross production of crop production in the regions of cold climate will be possible. The energy source for EHG can be the heat of any reservoirs, industrial and household drains, heat from rubbish burning and organic wastes, inner or outer air (for example, from metro, mines, residential and public constructions), various industrial vapor and gases including those from metallurgy, chemistry and heat-and-power engineering, compost pits in agriculture as well as solar, wind and geothermal energy.

Application of this invention on the acting heat and nuclear power plants will substantially increase their profitability due to the effective use of heat losses.

There is a real possibility of conversion of heat power plants to use hydrogen as a fuel. This hydrogen is produced from the transformation of heat of nearby water reservoirs. In this case the cost of electric power production will 1,5 times decrease. In ferrous metallurgy hydrogen will replace the expensive and scarce coke. It will allow organizing more effective ladle process of steel production, to heat furnaces and apply oxygen, secondary emitted during the reaction of water decomposition, in convectors, but not produce it especially for this purpose. With this, tubes of metallurgical plants will stop to release the hundreds thousands tons of carbonic acid gas to the atmosphere.

This invention is the most interesting one for specialists, which work with the problems of separation of various inorganic materials, for example, with uranium enrichment. The suggested method allows dividing isotopes U235 and U238 continuously, simply and effectively, simultaneously extracting them from the water solution as a metal powder, i.e. to combine these two different processes in one high-performance and compact device.

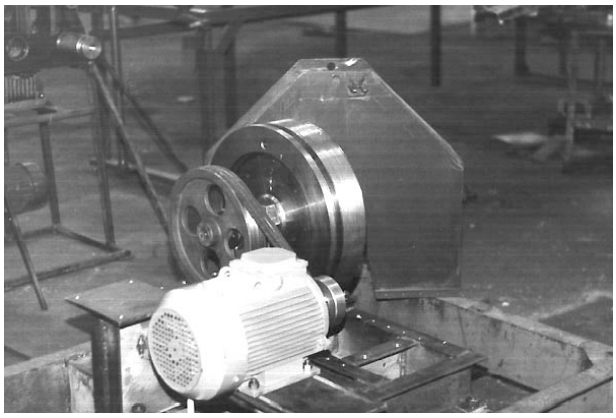
The simplicity of EHG design to the industrial plants gives a possibility to develop a production run of some the simplest modifications of this generator for needs of small energetics during few months and without any particular technical-organizational efforts and significant investments. Modernization of active freight automobile and bus parks in the country can be the first stage of a large-scale application of the invention on transport. Some more spending and time will be required to develop EHG for other kinds of transport and powerful energy complex. But final qualitative results will be much more higher here. With serial production run of the generator in specific Russian conditions the cost of production of this device is evaluated to be 25-28$/KWt of heat power. The estimated profitability of investment into the mastering of innovation constitutes more than 100% with the payback period of less then 1,5 years. The annual economic effect of application of the generator constitutes of about 87 $/KWt of its heat power.

Prototype

You can address the authors for the detailed scientific and technical validation of operation process of gravitational electrolysis, comments and references of scientific institutions as well as design documentation and see the prototype of the generator.

Main features of the prototype of electrical hydrogen generator.

1. Rotation frequency of the rotor, rpm	13000
2. Electrical drive capacity, kWatt	5
3. Productivity on hydrogen, liter per second	12,3
4. Heat power, kWatt	150
5. Mass, kg	143



Editorial: below there is an information on interesting organizing aspects in the deal of development of the "Gravitational Electrolysis" technology.

On January, 2002 Mr. Studennikov presented a press release about GenOil Inc. He claimed that deal between Hydrogen Solutions Inc. and GenOil Inc was illegal. The new company Hydrogen Solution Inc. was created without participation of Dr. Studennikov who was one of principal co-authors of the technology. This fact violates author's rights, which officially belong to EHG Technology L.L.C. (co-owners are Mr. Studennikov and Mr. Kudimov).

Dr. Studennikov has an intention to appeal against Hydrogen Solutions Inc.