

# ARPA-E Workshop on Small Engines Case Study: Marathon Engine Systems

Chicago, II. May 28, 2014





## **Background and History**

- 1984– **GRI** approached **Battelle** Columbus to design an engine driven NG heat pump.
- 1988—Triathlon prototypes were started w/ potential suppliers: York Intl, Briggs & Stratton, Honeywell, Copeland.
- Key <u>Marathon</u> engine specifications :
  - 4,000 hr oil change interval (11 liter sump. Equivalent to 160,000 miles)
  - Ten year life or 40,000 hr. (Equivalent to 1.6 million miles).
  - 7.5 hp, 272cc, 12.8/1 compression.
  - 1200-3600 rpm. Single cyl. No belts.
  - **York Intl.** marketed and sold units from 1992 to 1997. About 3,000 systems in place. Warranty issues caused demise.
- **1998--HyPro, Inc**. bought the engine and started MES for remote power application.
- **2001--Teledyne Brown** sold Minotaur for cathodic protection. MES bought that also.

# **Evolution of ecopower**



- 1998- Call to Briggs from ecopower Energy Solutions AG, Swiss venture backed company with a microCHP--new product in need of a long life engine.
- mCHP starting in Europe.
- Two engines were sold for testing. Worked well.
- 150 sold in Europe- but...
- 2002- ecopower AG--bankrupt,
- MES bought world rights and Vaillant (German boiler Co.) bought European rights-using the Marathon engine--until 2011– now use German engine.
- **MES** <u>tried</u> to market the ecopower in US but had no idea of the barriers.

# ecopower™ Microcogen Appliance



MARATHON ENGINE SYSTEMS

- Electrical output 2.2 4.4kWe/hr modulating
- Heat output is 20,000 -- 47,000 BTU/hr
- Maintenance interval: 4,000 hours –Oil, filters, spark plug
- Engine life 40,000 hours.

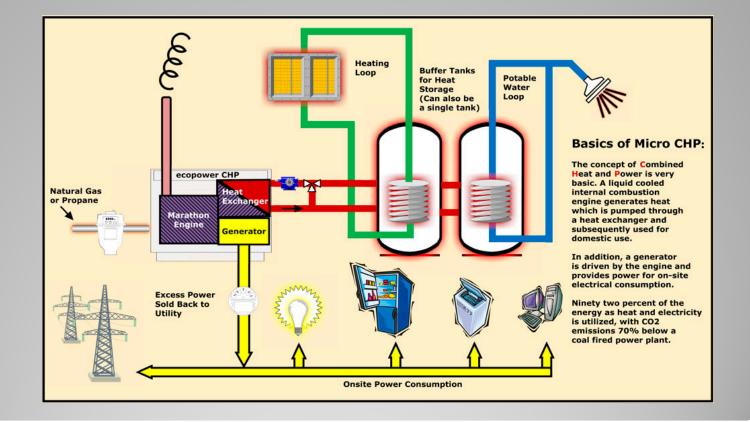


"Energy cannot be created or destroyed..

#### Only converted from one form to another"

First Law of Thermodynamics









#### Private Residence – Dover, Massachusetts

- 9,000 sq.ft.
- 28,000 gallon pool @ 85°F (Grandkids)
- Full in-floor radiant heating system in the house
- Geothermal system as backup.
- In 20 months of ecopower use -- generated 40 Mwh of electricity @ \$0.23/kWh savings of \$9,000



# **Multifamily Apartment**

Domestic hot water for a 56 Unit, LEED Platinum apartment building . Bronx, NY

- Two units: 9.4kWe and 78,000Btu/hr total.
- Installed August 2009
- Can generate: 6.5 Mwh/mo
- Current electric rate is \$0.25/kwh
- In the first 12 months 69Mwh.
- Savings of \$17,000 + per year in electrical costs.



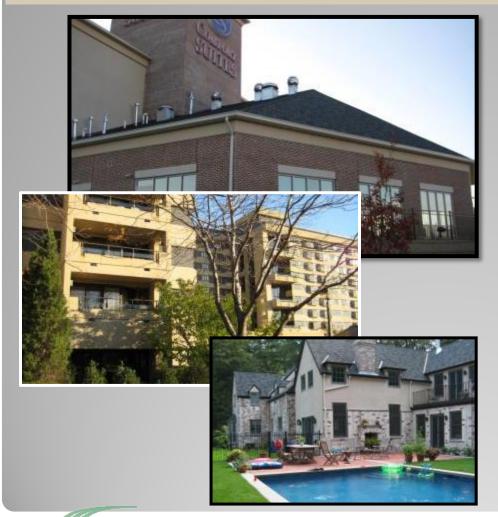


# **Commercial Hot** Water Applications

- LEED Platinum, 125 unit apt. in NYC.
- 3,000 gal buffer tank
- Units generate 9-12,000kWh
  per month
- Savings of up to \$2400/mo. in electric costs.
- Discounted gas
- YMCA swimming pool complex in Wisconsin
- New install awaiting data.

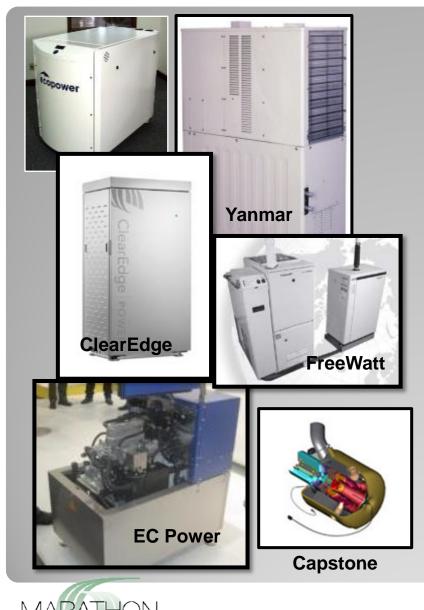


# Markets for mCHP



# Commercial Market is stronger and shows promise

- Multifamily apartments
- Nursing Homes/ Assist. Living
- Health Clubs
- School District Swim Pools
- Restaurants/ Truck Stops
- Medium Size motel
- Hydroponic farms
- Greenhouses
- Laundries
- Car Washes
- Large Building Reheat
- Larger Homes w/ pools.



#### Current MicroCHP Manufacturers Marketing in the US

- <u>Marathon Engine Systems</u>. manufactures and marketed the ecopower 4.7 kW(e) ICE
- <u>Yanmar</u> Two products in the market a 10kWe ICE unit and now a 5kWe .
- <u>ClearEdge</u>— Fuel Cell (5kWe) and is on hold. Recently filed for bankruptcy.
- <u>Climate Energy/ Freewatt</u>– Marketed by ECR but *now in a reorganization*. Most applications in the Northeast with 300 + installs. 1.2 kWe ICE (Honda)
- <u>Capstone Turbine-</u> a family of six units 30kWe to 1000kW. Sales worldwide.
- <u>EC Power</u> Danish ICE based system. Four sizes: 6, 9, 15, 20kWe. In Canada now, starting a US office 1Q2014.

#### Total Sales: Worldwide\* -- 212,000

- Japan ---155,000 units
- Europe--- 45,000 units
- Rest of the World --- 12,000
- US ~ 600 units

(\* Source: Delta-ee)

# **New Entrants in the Market**



- <u>Qnergy</u> an Israeli company has developed a 7.5kWe Stirling engine (FPSE) for use in the mCHP market as well as remote power. <u>Will</u> enter in 2015.
- Microgen- a consortia of companies have taken the 1kWe Stirling engine developed by Microgen and a number of them are <u>considering</u> the NA market. In addition <u>NRG</u> <u>Energy and DEKA</u> are set to market a 10-15kWe (6kWe)? Stirling.
- <u>Fuel Cells</u> a number of small fuel cell product mfgs (1-3kWe) are <u>looking seriously</u> at the NA residential market.
- <u>Thermal Acoustic/Electric Generators</u> are in development and could enter in the next two years.<3kWe</li>
- <u>M-Cogen---</u> Houston based company that has developed a Trigen system using an ICE and an *adsorption cooling system*. Heat, power and cooling. 6kW(e) and 5 tons of cooling.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of microCHP Technologies

		Usage in the World	Major Advantage	Major Dis- advantage	Electrical Efficiency	Overall Efficiency
	ICE	78% Now 66%*	Proven technology	Needs long life engine	20-30%	85-92%
	Stirling	18% Now 6%*	High heat Fuel Agnostic	Difficult to Manufact.	10-20%	Low 80's
	Organic Rankine	<2%	Low Cost Hi Heat	Poor Elect Efficiency	~10%	90+%
	Fuel Cell PEM	2% Now 25%*	Low Emissions	Hi Price Reformer?	30-35%	77-80%
	Micro- Turbine	<1%	Hi heat out Long life Multi- fuel	Hi press gas. Hi price	Mid 20's	80-92%
Delta ee * Change because of 23,000 FC sales in 2012 in Japan						

# **Future for MicroCHP\***

#### Drivers:

- Energy Costs
- System Costs
- Aging Grid
- Energy Awareness
- New Entrants and Competition

# **Opportunities**

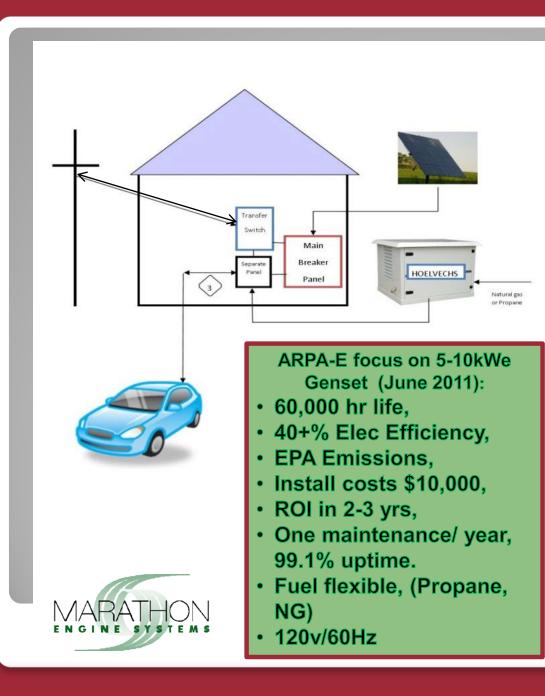
- Large Market
- Proven/positive track record
- Spark Spread is very favorable.
- Clean Emissions significantly less CO<sub>2</sub> NOx and SO<sub>2</sub>. Carbon Credits (?)
- Good Niches– Hot water apps.
- High Efficiency
- Leasing is becoming viable
- Backup power can be an option.
- Smart Grid / Demand Response
- Multiplexed for larger needs.

### **Barriers to Entry**

- Large Capex for install– High costs because of being an emerging technology. Can be \$3k-8,000/kW.
- Utility Reluctance. Slow to change
- Sales Channel-- can be difficult because of understanding new technology.
- Education of all parties-- customer, dealer, legislators, utilities
- Stigma-- because of not being renewable.
- Legislation-- is slow to change and inconsistent. Fifty sets of rules.
- Heat Driven therefore limiting to colder climes
- Cooling technology some exist but are expensive and not practical.

\* "I hate making predictions– especially if it's about the future " Lawrence Peter Berra





# HOELVECHS\* Concept Schematic

- Long life 5kW engine generator
- Capable of running 4,000 hours between maintenance needs.
- Natural gas or propane fueled.
- Electric vehicle charging capable –Level 1 & 2.
- Therefore, no grid strain
- Backup power capable for grid outages. May have a battery complement. (Optional)
- Is Smart Grid compatible, the 5kW would be dispatchable power and controlled by the utility.
- Ultimately will be vehicle to grid (V2G) capable

\*Home Electric Vehicle Charging System



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