High-Potential Working Fluids for Next-Generation Binary ORC

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GE Global Research Locations





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Program Overview

The DOE – Geothermal Technologies Program supports R&D and demonstration activities with industry, universities and national laboratories to improve performance and lower the cost of geothermal technology and expand geothermal resources.

Objective: Identify high-potential working fluids combined with advanced cycle for EGS application.

3-Phase, 3-year and \$3.75M effort

Phase 1: Screen high potential WF & develop performance model



Phase 2: Build economic model, EGS cost predications

> Phase 3: Down select high potential WF & advanced cycle to build a pilot scale rig



Fluid Selection and Validation

Selection Criteria

- Safety
 - Flammability
 - Toxicity
- Thermodynamics
 - T_{CRIT} & P
 - Boiling Point
 - MW, ρ, ν, *k*
- Environmental
 - GWP < 150
 - ODP
- Economics

Ranking

- Density
- Molecular Weight
- Number of atoms per molecule
- Thermal Conductivity
- T_{CRIT} and P_{CRIT}

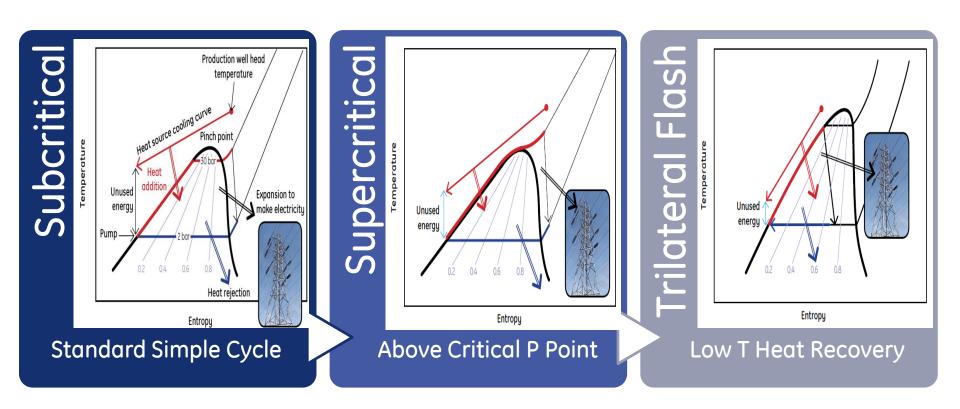
Validation

Compare Down
 Selected WF Fluids
 to Accepted
 Standards

Down Selected WF Fluids from 17,000 to 35



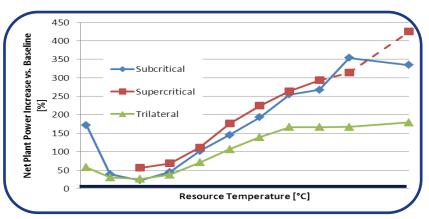
Cycles Evaluated

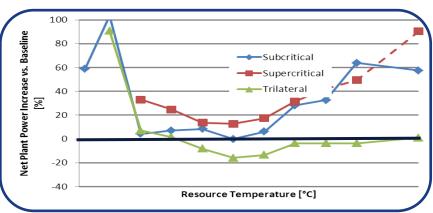


Organic Rankine Cycles

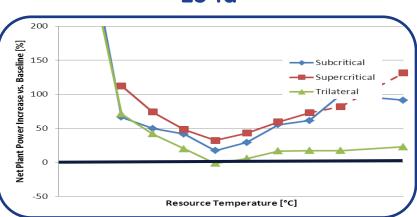


Cycle Comparison to Traditional Working Fluids

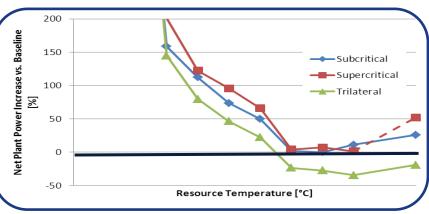








n-Butane



R245fa



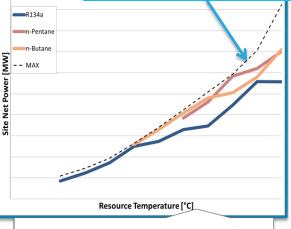


Fluid Performance Results

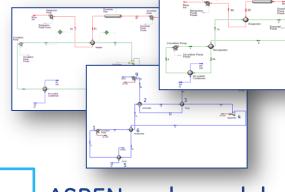
Max Net Power of **Highest Performing** Fluids R245fa n-Pentane Resource Temperature [°C] **Subcritical Site**

Net Power

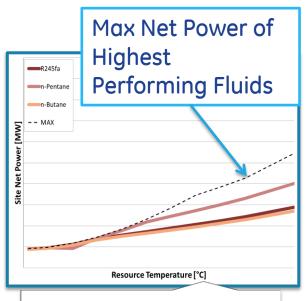
Max Net Power of **Highest Performing** Fluids



Supercritical Site Net Power



ASPEN cycle models



Trilateral Site Net Power



Overall Findings

- With a combination of WF and advanced cycle, performance can be improved 30-50%
- There is no single highest performance fluid for all resource temperatures or cycle

With the 35 high performing WF identified, the next step is to:

- Evaluate the economics
- Develop a Pilot Scale Rig

