# **Rutronik TechTalk Future Mobility** Not all EV's Need a Plug!



Many think that electric vehicles need a plug – but this is not always the case!

### Types of Electric Vehicle



BEV







Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (**PHEV**)

Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)



### How a Fuel Cell Works

Each cell generates a loaded voltage of 0.8 - 0.5V at a current that is proportional to the <u>area</u> of the cell. The maximum open circuit voltage is 1.22V (the Gibbs Energy Potential), but this voltage is reduced if air is used instead of pure oxygen and also by the Cathode Activation Potential:

> 1.2V 0.8V 0.5V 0.5V 0 Useable Area 0 0.5 1.0 1.2

Current Density (A/cm<sup>2</sup>)



### How a Fuel Cell Works

To get a useful amount of power, the individual cells are placed in series to make a stack. The thicker the stack, the higher the output voltage. The larger the stack area, the higher the output current. Each stack has a maximum power point (MPP) dependent on load, gas throughput and temperature.





Current Density (A/cm<sup>2</sup>)









R











Normal Start-up Sequence:



Start gas flow, contactors close, DC/DC input ramps up the output power as it tracks the cell voltage (non-linear start-up):





Source: LEMTA - University of Lorraine

Normal Shut-down Sequence:

Stop gas flow, DC/DC tracks the cell power down to zero,

DC contactors open (gradual shut-down)



Shutdown of the stack by venting gas is too slow, so DC contactors open <u>under</u> <u>full load</u>.

The DC/DC must handle massive surges and transients and self-discharge safely.







# Light Duty Fuel Cell DC/DC

**5kW** DC/DC for Hybrid Methanol Fuel Cell Systems:

- Range extenders
- Stand-alone refrigeration units for trailers
- Zero Emission off-grid power generation
  - Military, mining, construction
  - Emergency supply (telecoms)
  - PV/Battery/FC combi-systems



A hybrid methanol fuel cell system



#### 4.8 kW SD4008-X-24

Vin = 18-54VDC @ 200A max

Vout = 20-56VDC adj.

(24V @ 185A max / 48V @ 110A max)

95% efficiency

Reverse polarity + surge protection MPP tracking

Baseplate cooled (fanless)

Analogue or digital control



VIN-O-







#### 7 kW SD7008-X-48-2

Vin = 48V (30-70VDC) @ 220A max Vout = 48V (36-60VDC adj.) @ 190A max Buck/Boost with >97% efficiency Reverse polarity + surge protection MPP tracking VIN-C Liquid cooled baseplate CAN J1939 bus interface







### Heavy Duty Fuel Cells

Transport is Europe's biggest source of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. Vehicles over 3.5t are responsible for 27% of these emissions\*.

Therefore, zero-emission commercial trucks, buses and municipal refuse vehicles are of special focus for the EU:

"From 2025 onwards, new trucks and buses will emit on average 15% less CO<sup>2</sup>. And from 2030, they will emit 30% less CO<sup>2</sup>."

Elisabeth Köstinger, Bundesministerin





\*Source: European Environment Agency

# Heavy Duty Fuel Cell DC/DC

Applications:

- H<sub>2</sub> Range extenders for BEV trucks (e.g. 1 recharging stop Berlin – Munich)
- "Last Mile" ZE operation.

From 2025, diesel-powered vehicles will be banned from many urban areas.





## Heavy Duty Fuel Cell DC/DC

Applications:



 On-board electrical power for H<sub>2</sub> powered ICE ships, trucks and busses (e.g. China 2022 Winter Olympics will use a fleet of 655 ICE hydrogen vehicles suitable for operation at -20°C )





Source: China Daily.com.cn

# Heavy Duty Fuel Cell DC/DC



Applications:

- Stationary fuel cell power systems provide decentralised or emergency power, or can be used as ZE gridindependent generators.
- Typical stationary generator capacity is 25-70kW



Source: Wikipedia

#### 10-75 kW

- Vin = 25-280VDC @ 500A max
- Vout = 200-800 VDC
- >97% efficiency
- Reverse polarity + surge protection built-in
- MPP tracking
- Liquid cooled baseplate





# Summary

DC/DC converters for Fuel Cell Applications need unique features:



- 1: High voltage/high current capability (100's Amps and Volts)
- 2: Reverse polarity protection on both input AND output
- 3: Maximum power point tracking
- 4: Emergency stop / high surge capability
- 5: Datalink for system integration

