FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN
JOINT UNDERTAKING

EIS HEALTH CODE

Real operation pem fuel cell HEALTH-state monitoring and diagnosis based on DC/DC COnverter embeddeD Eis

Programme Review Days 2018

Brussels, 14-15 November 2018

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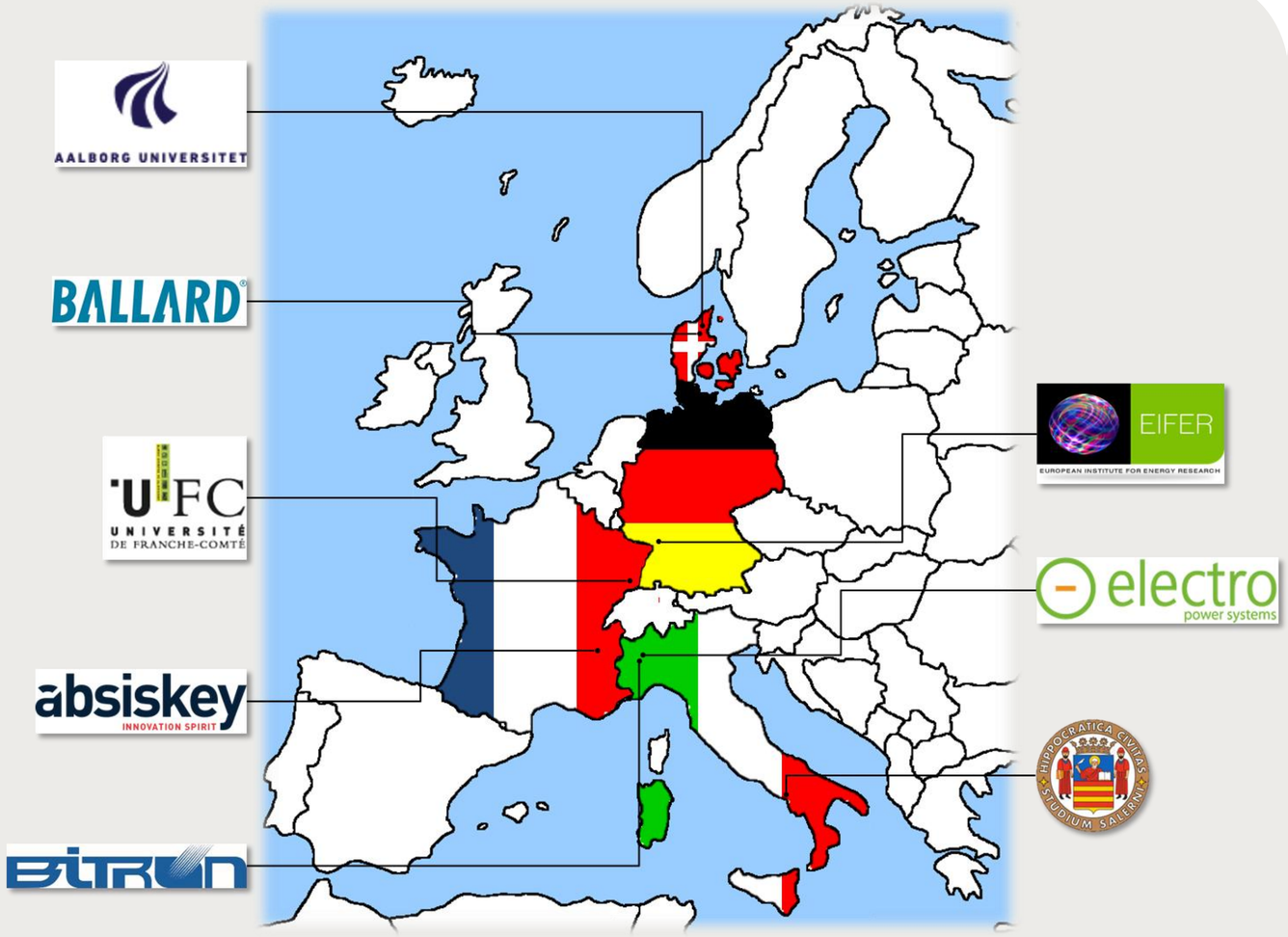
PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Call year: 2014**
- **Call topic: FCH-02-3-2014**

  Stationary fuel cell system diagnostics: development of online monitoring and diagnostics systems for reliable and durable fuel cell system operation
- **Project dates: 01/09/15 – 31/12/18**
- **Stage of implementation 01/11/2018: 95%**
- **Total project budget: 2,358,736€**
- **FCH JU max. contribution: 100%**

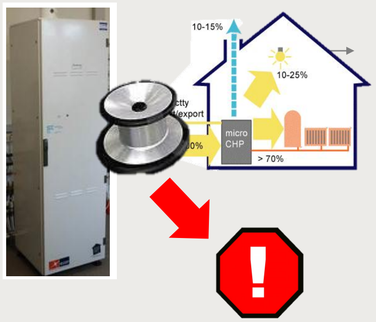


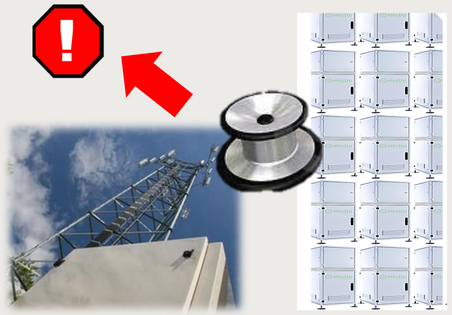
*Former Dantherm Power A/S.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Enhancement of **EIS-based diagnosis for embedded on-line applications**;
2. Development of a monitoring and diagnostic tool for **state-of-health assessment, fault detection and isolation** as well as degradation level analysis for **lifetime inference**;
3. EIS-oriented experimental analysis for **5 failure modes**: i) fuel composition, ii) air starvation, iii) fuel starvation, iv) sulphur poisoning, v) flooding & dehydration;
4. **EIS scaling-up** algorithm to reduce **time and costs of new stack characterization.**

Performance, Durability, Availability





Reduce OPEX

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Embed the tool for Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) for advanced Fuel Cells Monitoring & Diagnosis.

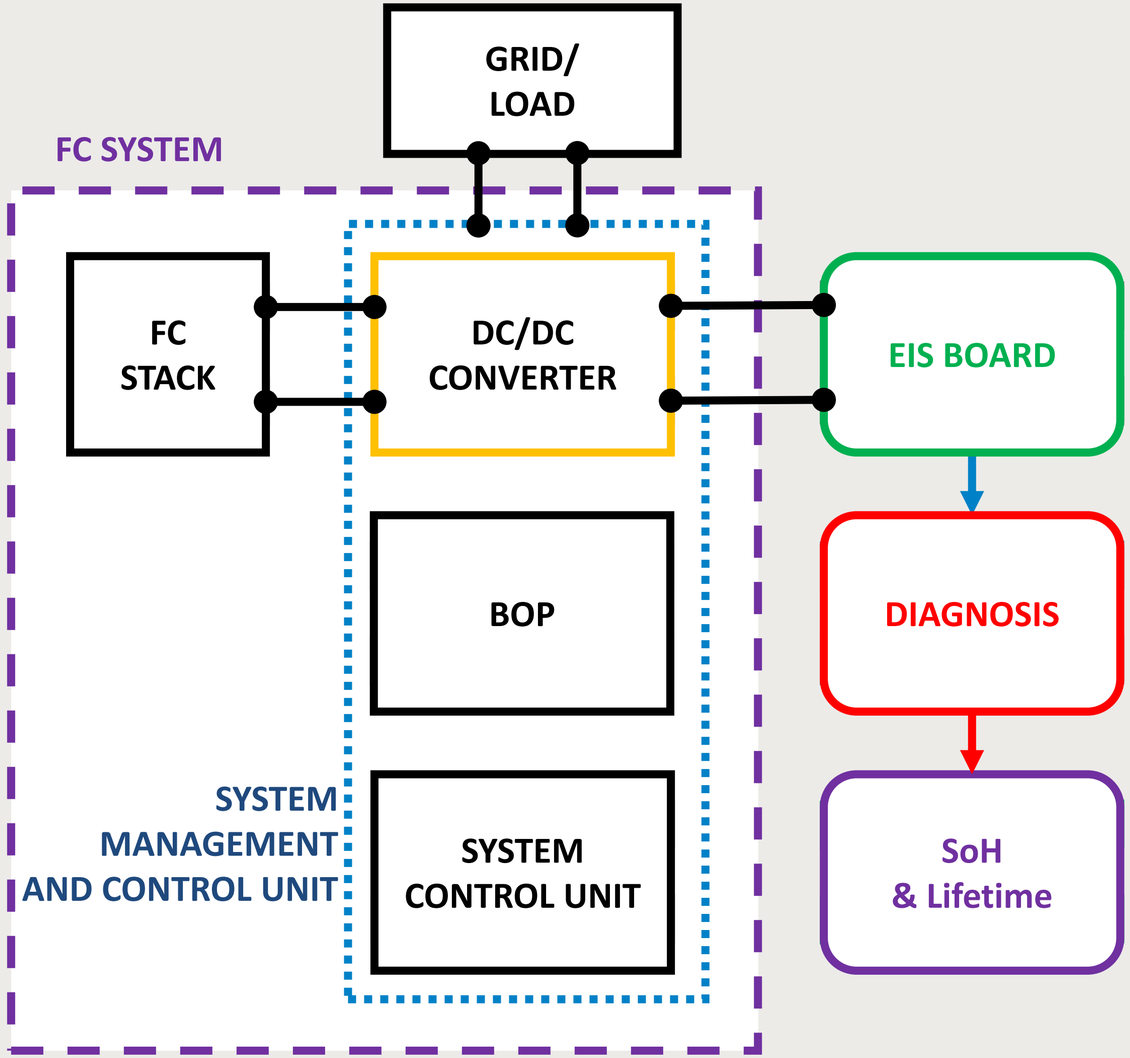
The tool performs **EIS-based** condition monitoring of FC stacks and **isolates 5 stack faults**.

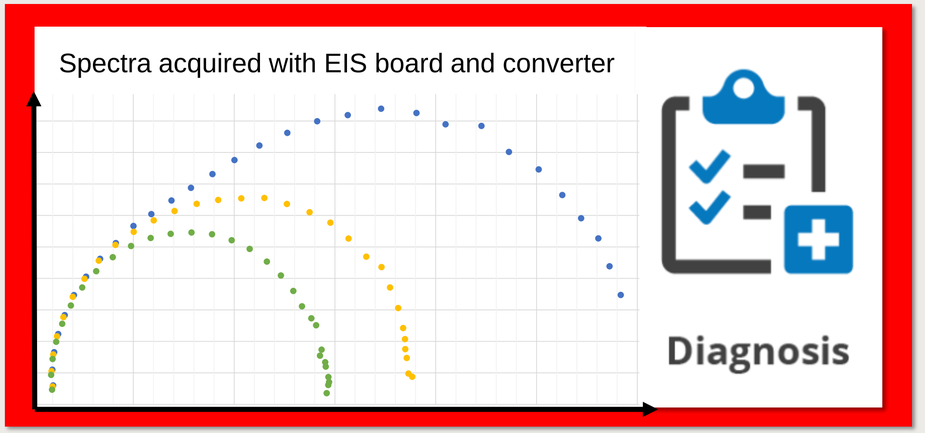
Advanced knowledge **(Air+Ref./O_2+H_2 -fed stacks) 2200+ EIS spectra**; New device **(EIS Board)**; HW enhancement and interfacing **(Converters)**, Monitoring & Diagnostics **(Algorithms)**.

EIS board (TRL 6)	Converter (TRL 6)	Algorithms (TRL 5)
EIS board has been prototyped (proto 2) ready to be engineered for system embedding.	Conventional HW is modified/re-engineered to allow flexibility and multiple market choice for manufacturer strategies.	Detection and Isolation of 5 faults in stacks fed with Air+Reformate / O_2+H_2.

EIS board cost < 500€ (3% of Total Cost of Ownership)

PROJECT CONCEPT





PROJECT PROGRESS & ACTIVITIES

Activities completion

95% 100%

Activities

- **Experiments**
- **EIS Board**
- **DC/DC converters**
- **Diagnostic algorithms**
- **System integration**

Experiments: Air-fed (µ-CHP) and O2-fed (backup) stacks fully tested in both nominal and faulty conditions (fuel starvation, air/O2 starvation, flooding, drying, CO contamination and Sulphur poisoning); final system testing under completion.

EIS board: final version of EIS board completed and verified in relevant environment (EIS measurements performed with DC/DC converter connected).

DC/DC converters: modified EPS converter and BPSE new converter completed and tested.

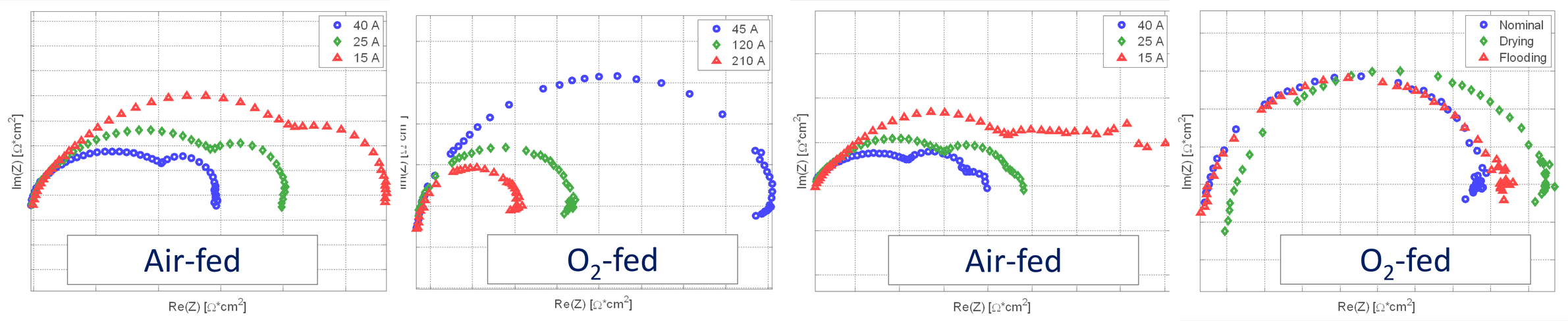
Diagnostic algorithms: all algorithms trained and tested on all the performed EIS measurements (algorithms benchmarking); characterization on FC system to be finally assessed.

System integration: FC systems (BPSE µ-CHP and EPS backup) integrated with DC/DC converters and BITRON final EIS board; algorithm on-board implementation done for final algorithm verification (ongoing).

EIS SPECTRA MEASURED ON SHORT AND FULL STACKS

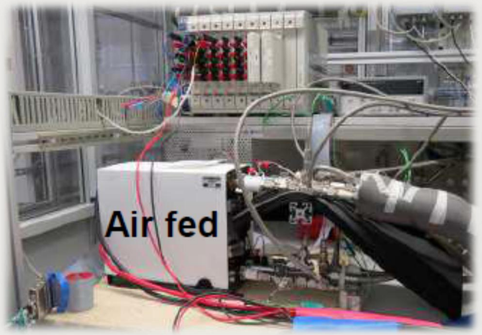
2200+ EIS spectra for stacks (10%) and cells, **25% in nominal** and **75% in faulty operations**

- Nominal spectra set the monitoring reference
- Faulty ones drive the setting of faults isolation algorithm



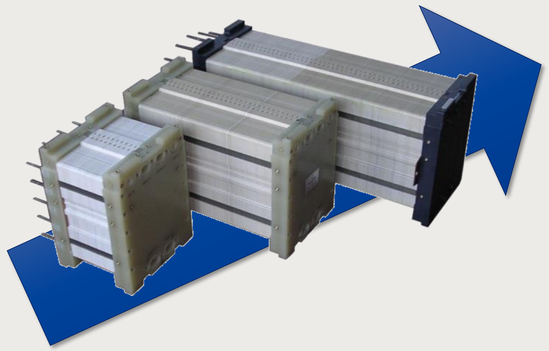
Faults

- **fuel starvation,**
- **air/O2 starvation,**
- **flooding/drying,**
- **CO contamination**
- **sulphur poisoning**

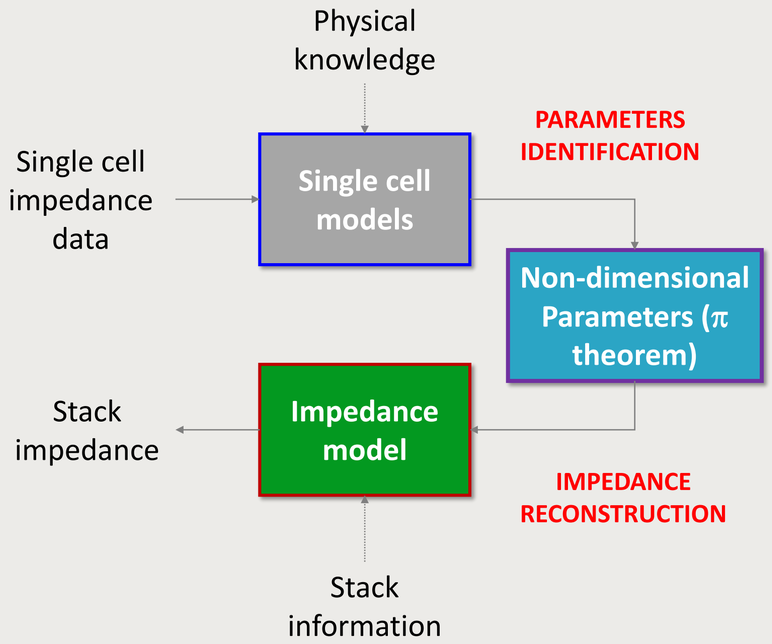


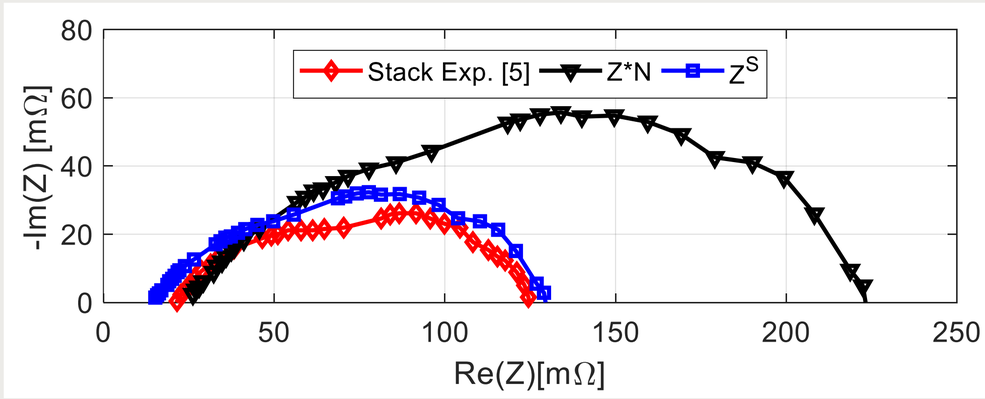
SCALING-UP

- **Reduce fuel cells (FCs) testing costs** providing a **scaling-up algorithm** able to extrapolate full stack performance and impedance behaviour from single cell and/or short stack (i.e. single repeated unit – SRU) data;
- Derive **stack faulty behaviour** from single cell tests performed under faulty conditions to **improve FC systems lifetime**.



Cell → Short stack→ Full Stack

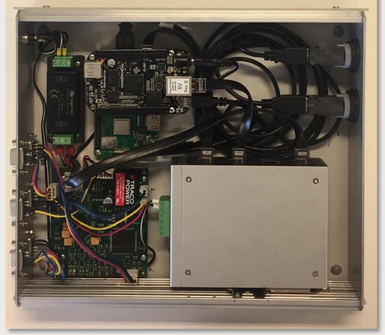


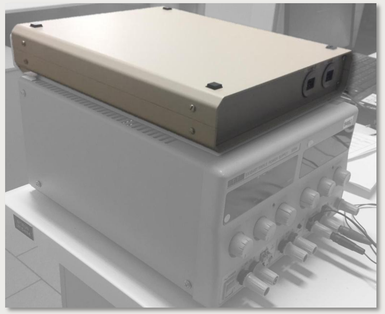


Russo et al. (2016) - Application of Buckingham theorem for scaling-up oriented fast modelling of Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell impedance, Journal of Power Sources 353, 277-286.
Polverino et al. (2018) - Generalized scaling-up approach based on Buckingham theorem for Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells impedance simulation10th International Conference on Applied Energy (ICAE2018), Aug 22-25, Hong Kong, China. (to be published on Energy Procedia – Selected for Applied Energy Special Issue submission).

EIS-BOARD & CONVERTER

2nd Generation PROTO 2

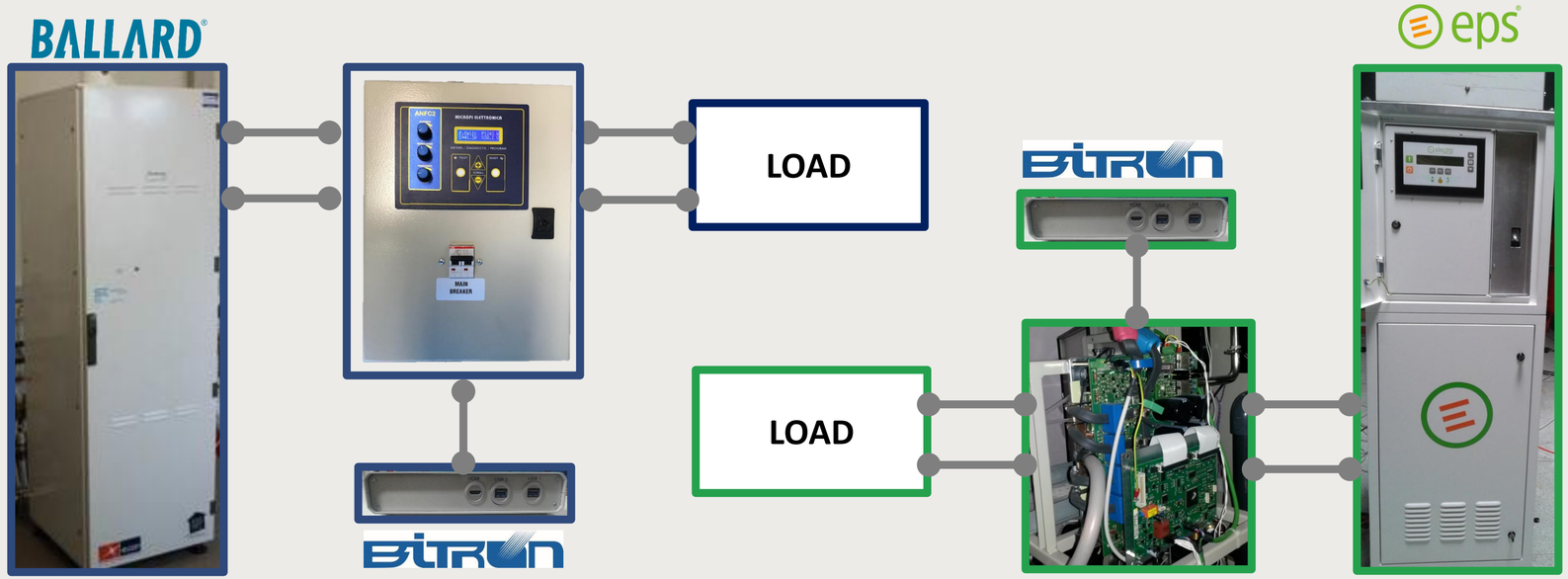




USEFUL GUIDELINES for companies

to implement the EIS board on industrial FC systems:

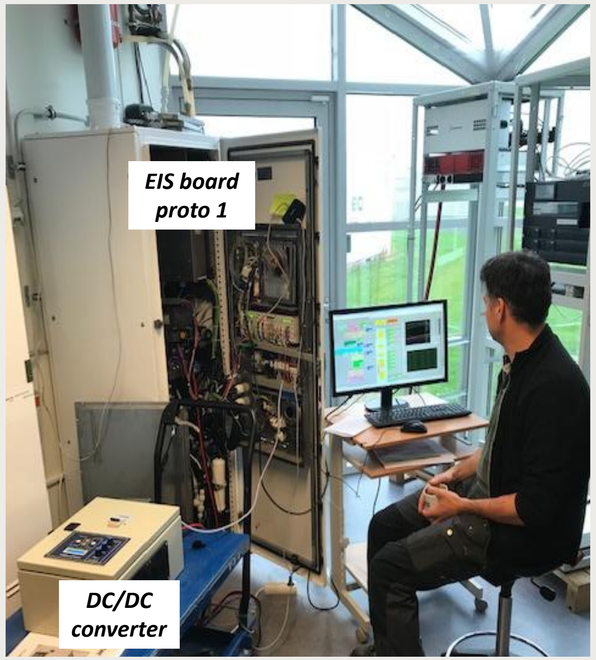
- **NEW DC/DC converter** (designed to interact with the EIS board)
- **ADAPT AVAILABLE converter** to allow the communication with the EIS board.



Sampling Frequency of EIS board up to about **18 kHz** to measure **up to 3 samples** per sinusoid @**6kHz** of injected disturbance.

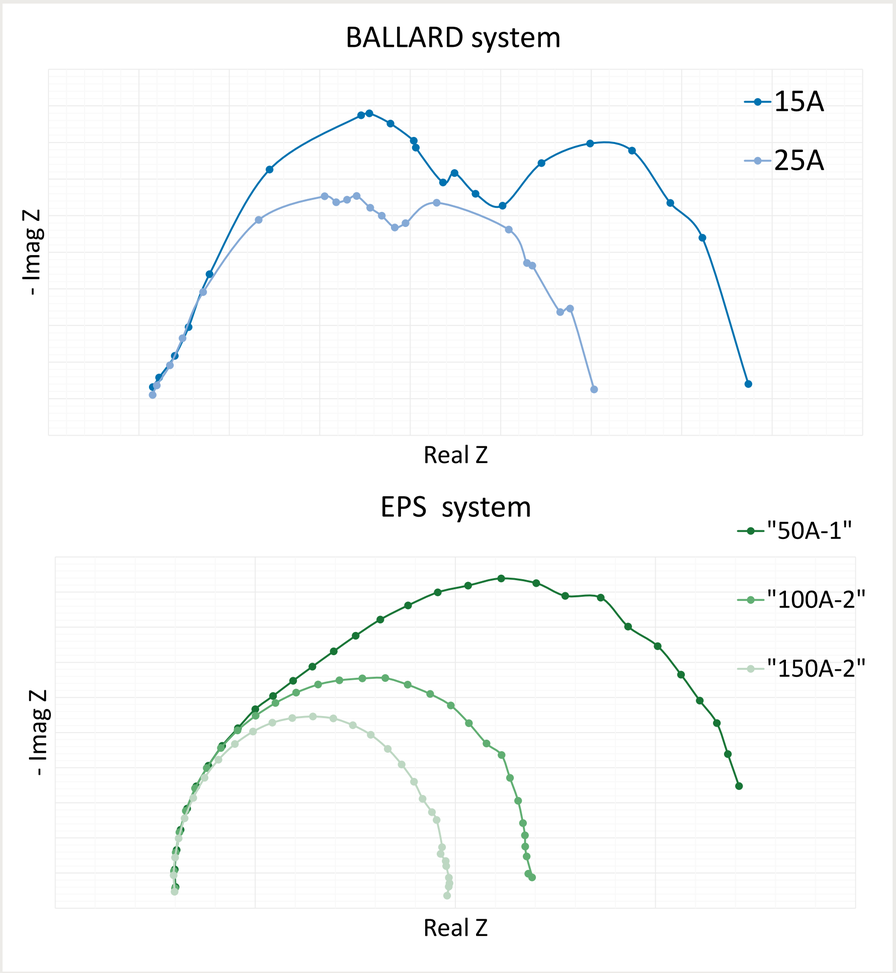
TESTED SYSTEMS

Ballard Europe µ-CHP system

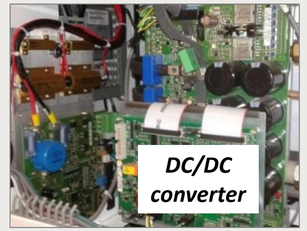


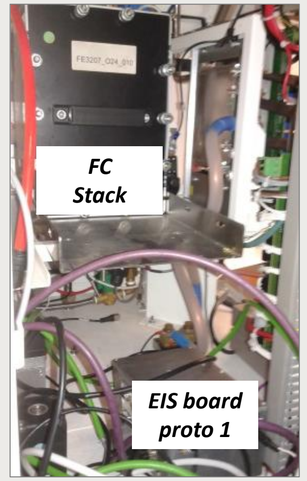
Power:	1.3 kW;
Cooling :	Water cooled;
Reactants:	**Air** & **Reformate**;
Applications:	Residential µ-CHP

ACQUIRED SPECTRA



EPS backup/energy system

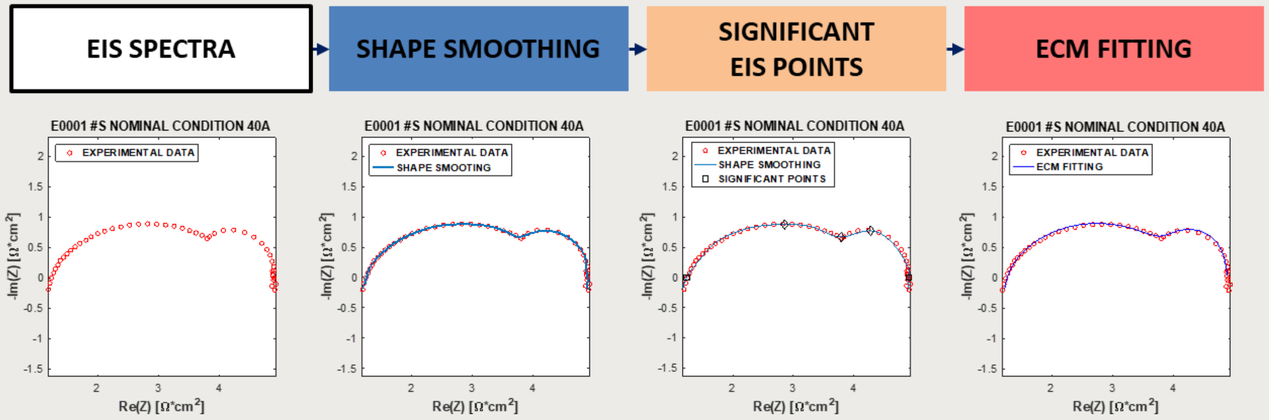




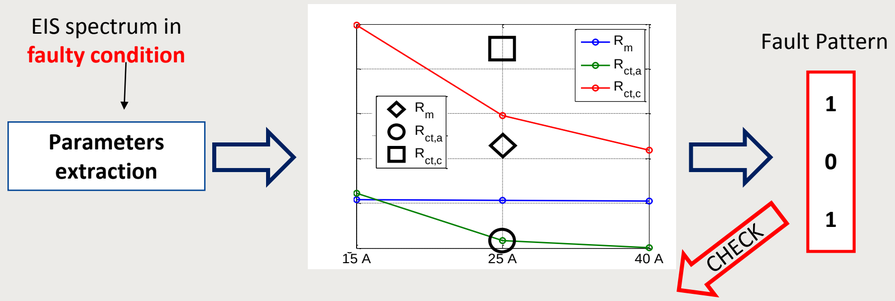
Power:	3 kW;
Cooling:	Water cooled;
Reactants:	**Oxygen** & **Hydrogen**;
Applications:	Backup electric power H_2 as energy buffer.

SW – ALGORITHMS AND TOOLS 1/2

Equivalent Circuit Modelling



Change detection with nominal behaviour

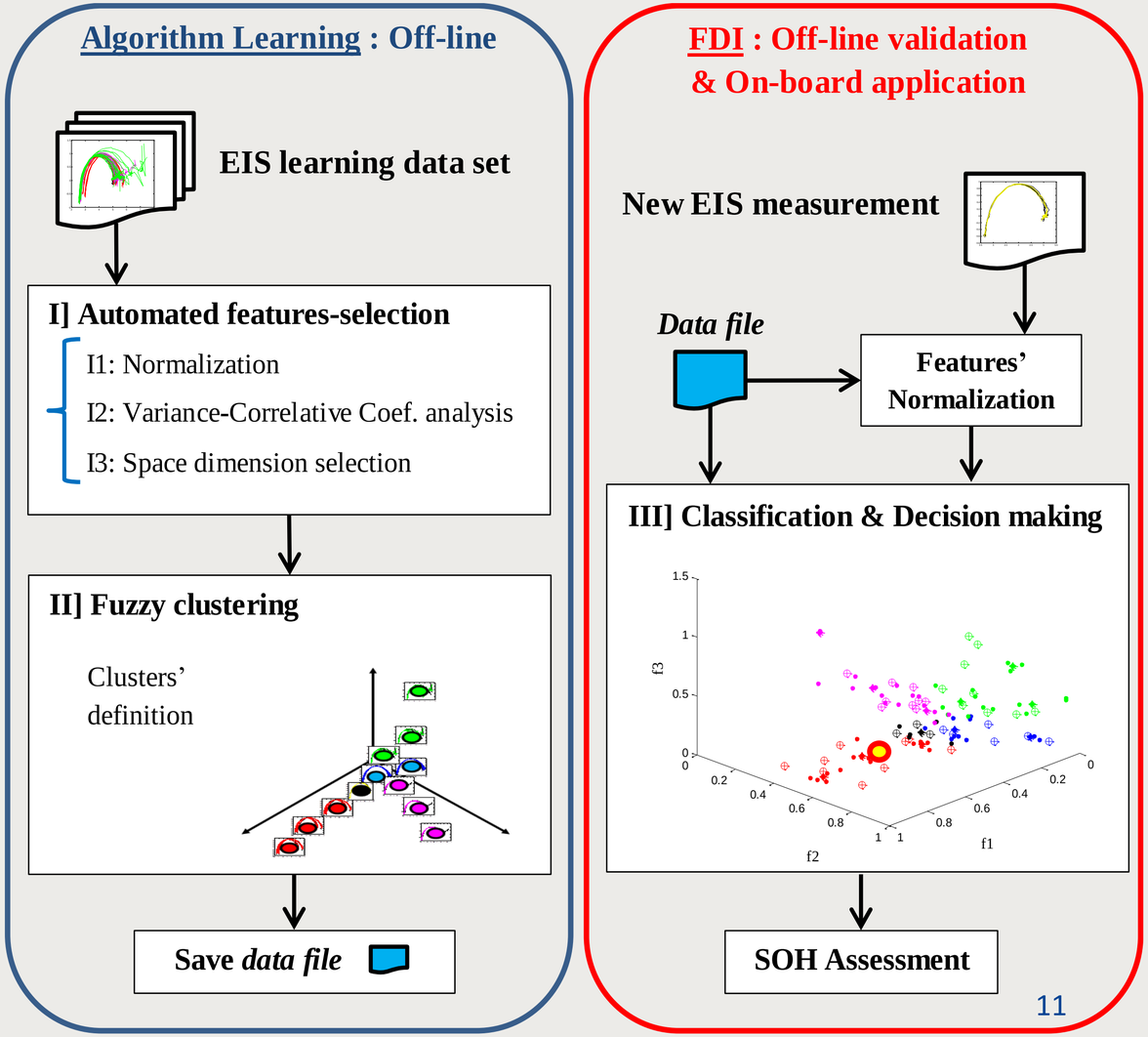


FSM

FAULTS	ECM PARAMETERS							
	R_m	$R_{ct,a}$	$R_{ct,c}$	C_a	Q	ϕ	R_d	τ
Flooding	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
Drying	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

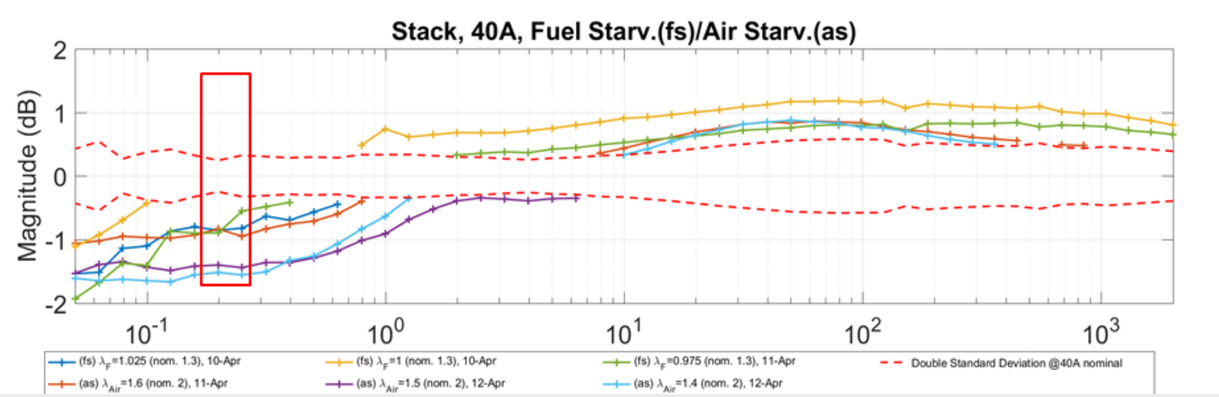
Patent implemented WO/2016/071801 (2016) – Method and apparatus for monitoring and diagnosing electrochemical devices based on automatic EIS.

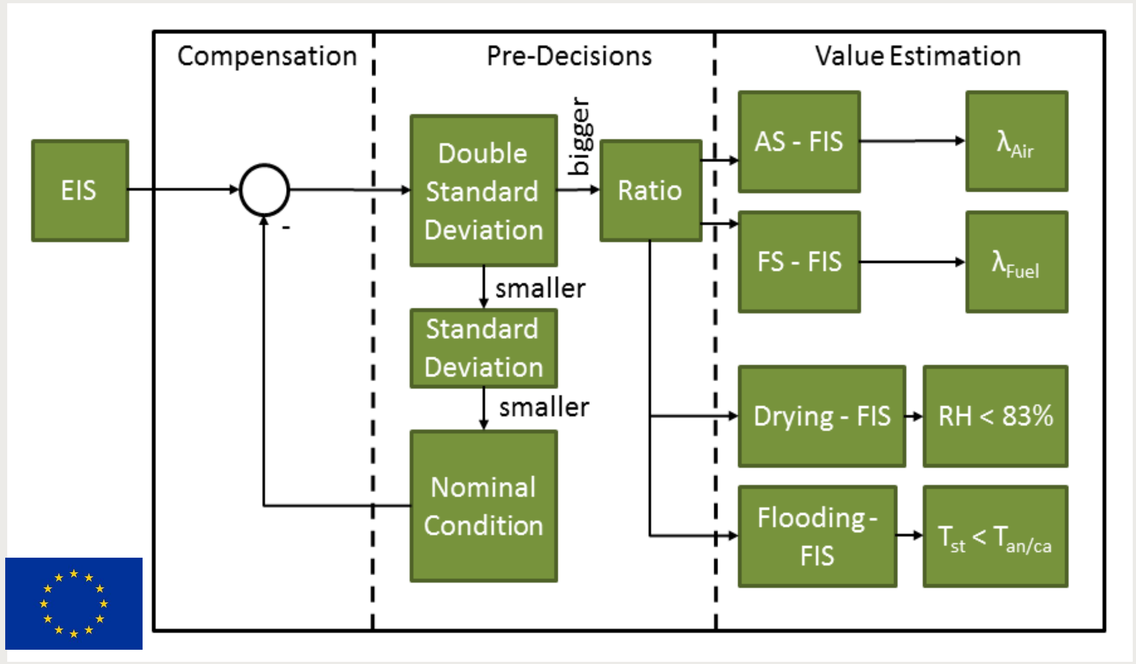
Fuzzy Clustering approach



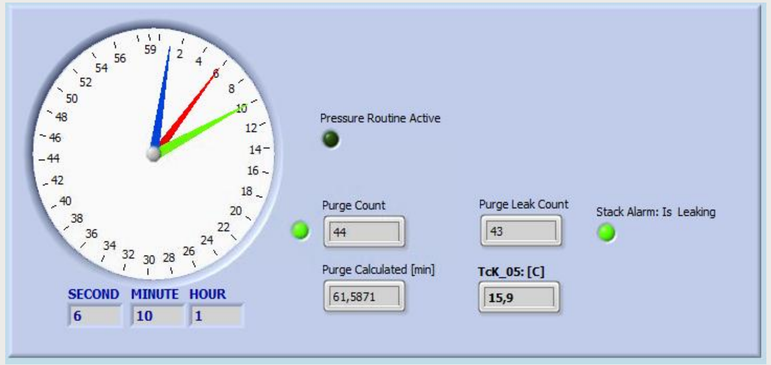
SW – ALGORITHMS AND TOOLS 2/2

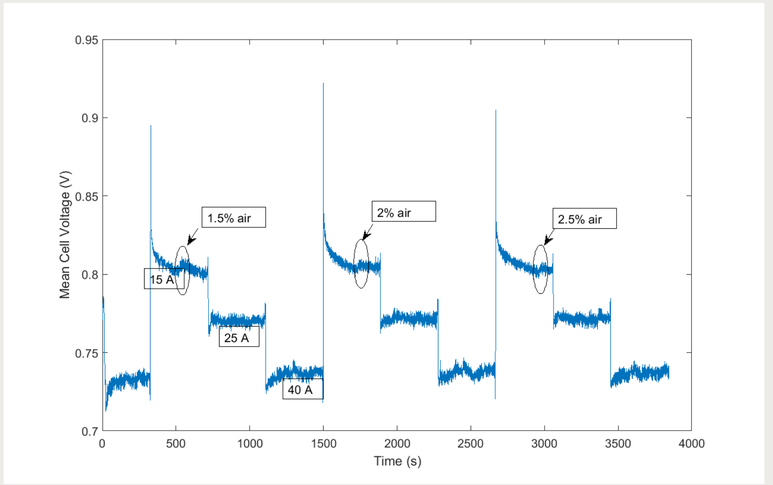
Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Inference System

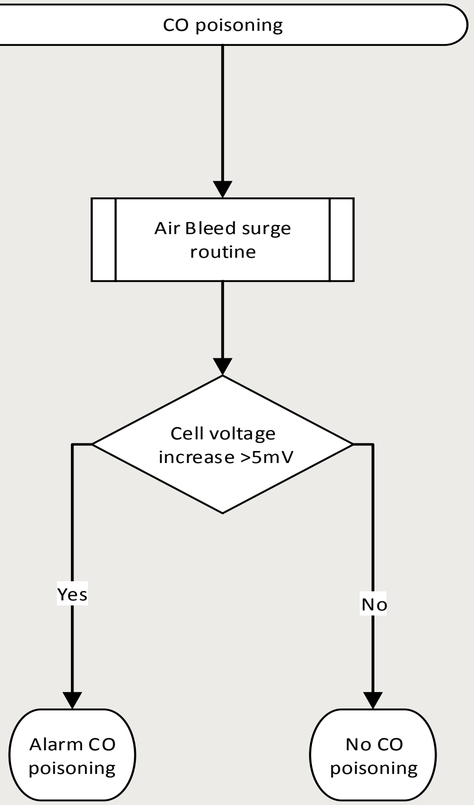




Active diagnosis

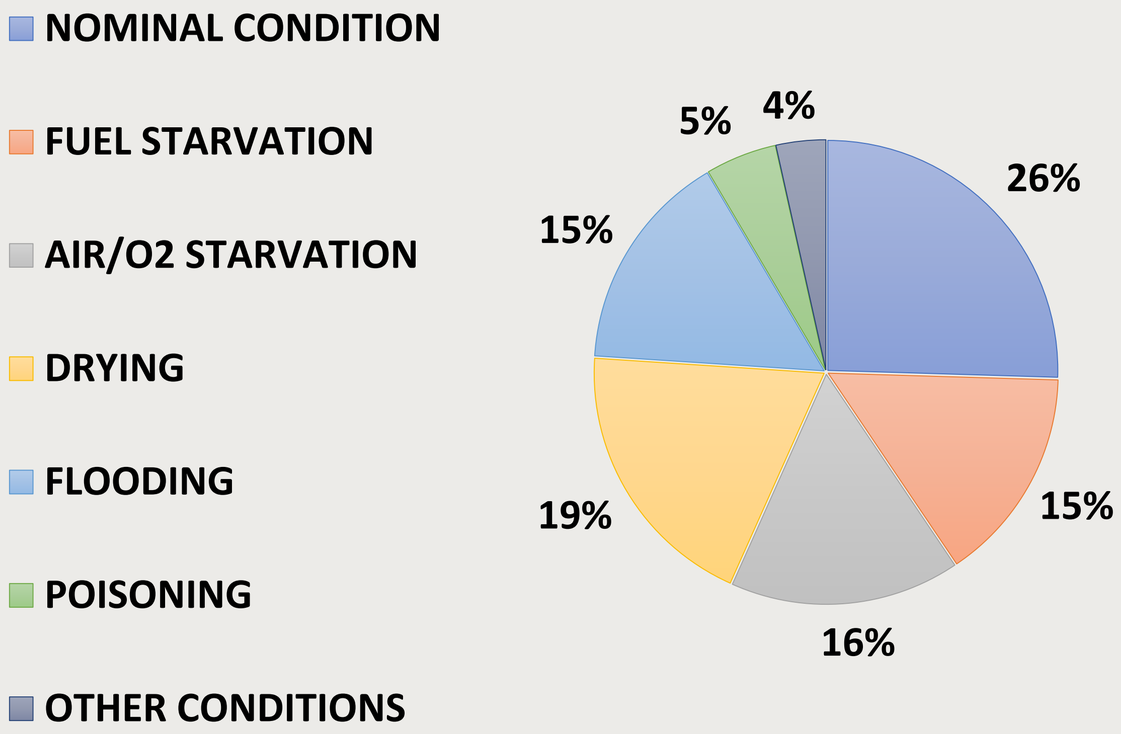






PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS ON DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

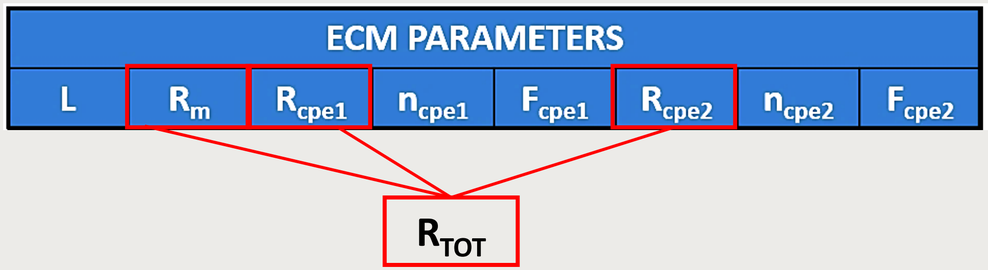
STACK SPECTRA

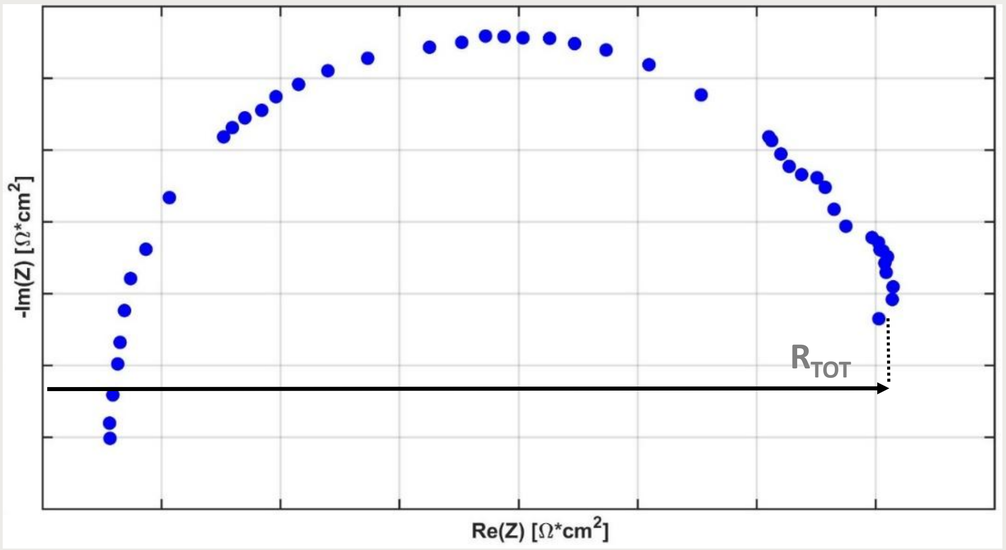


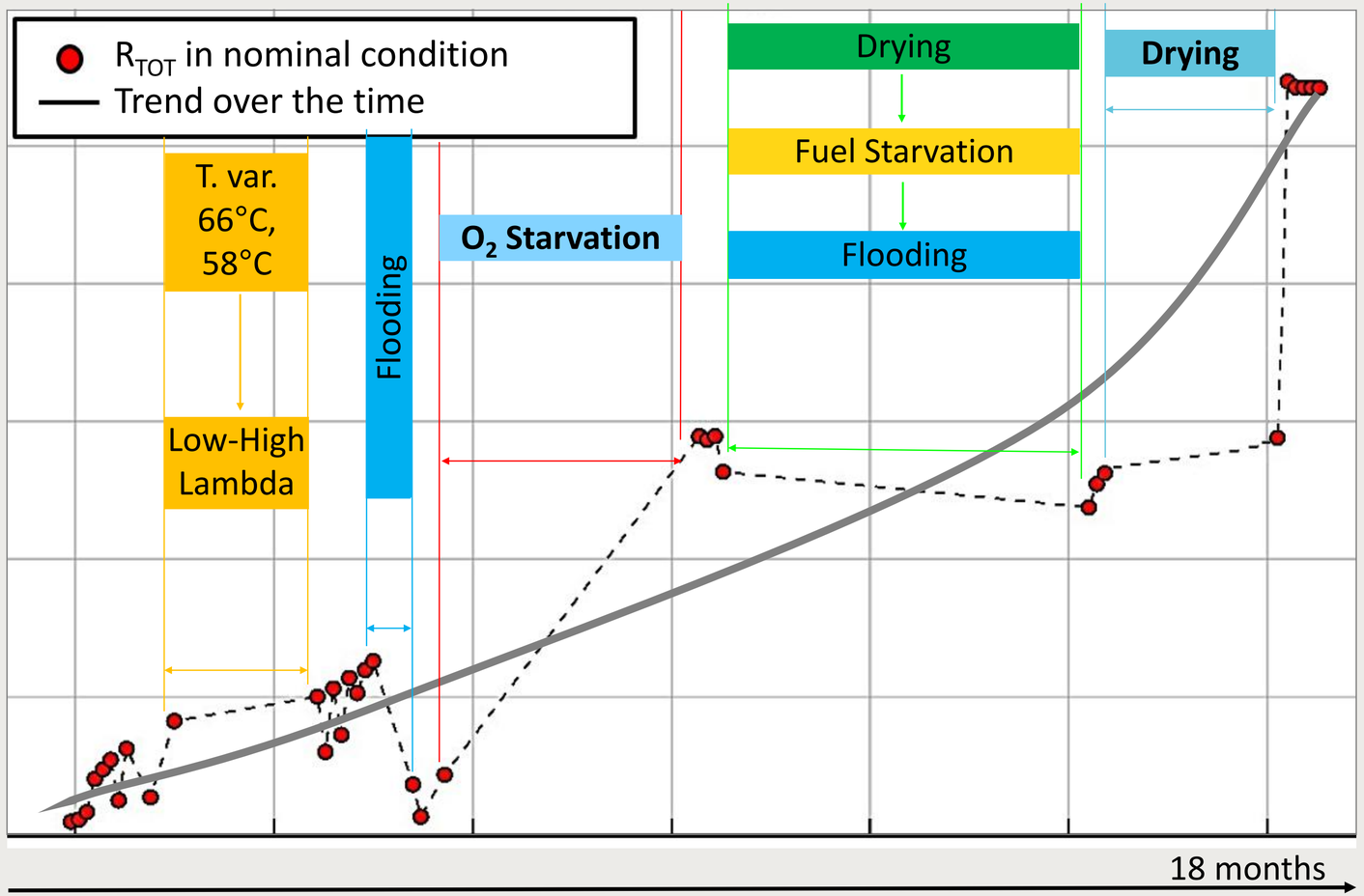
Diagnostic tools ver1	Ballard	EPS
Precision	87%	90%
Error	20%	20%

Version 1 of Diagnostic Tools
Version 2 is under assessment
(better detection and threshold evaluation)

LIFETIME INFERENCE







IMPACT

The implementation of HEALTH-CODE **outcomes** will:

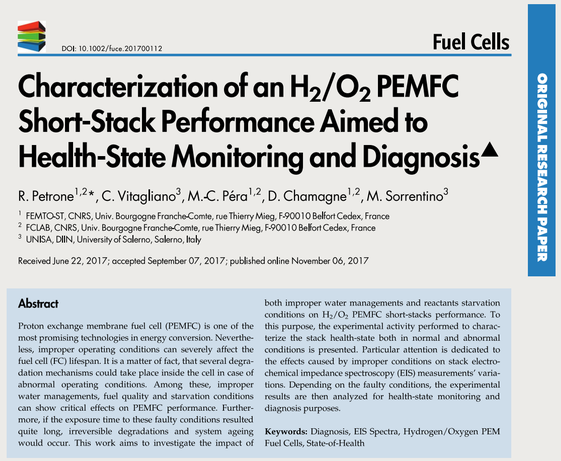
- help in increasing **electrical efficiency** and **durability** of the different fuel cells used for power production
- contribute to **reduce degradation** by implementing the monitoring and diagnostic tool
- lead to a reduction of total cost ownership (**TCO**) by increasing the FC system efficiency
- contribute to improve **grid stability** (with advanced monitoring) in the future by applying stationary fuel cells together with **energy storage**; the EPS backup system has grid interface for H_2 & O_2 production and can support grid balancing

Improvements **envisaged** by industrial partners BPSE and EPS are:

- **Lifetime** from B10-5 to B10-10 (BX-Y: X% of running systems will experience a fault in Y years)
- **Efficiency** from 32 to 36%
- **Availability** from 99.6% to 99.9%
- **Durability increase 30%**
- **Warranty condition** from 15000 h/1000 cycles to 20000 h/1500 cycles

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Papers (3 Published - 2 Under Submission)



DOI: 10.1002/fuce.201700112 Fuel Cells

Characterization of an H_2/O_2 PEMFC Short-Stack Performance Aimed to Health-State Monitoring and Diagnosis▲

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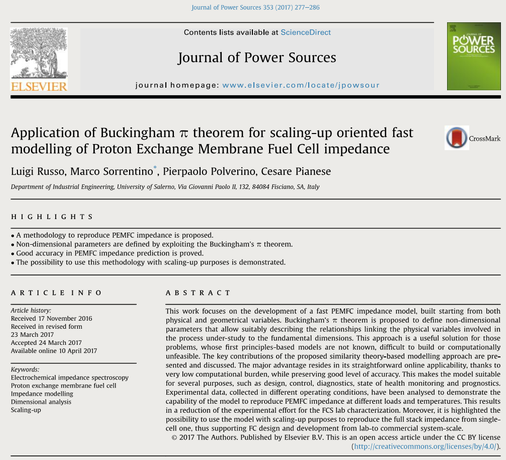
Abstract

Proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) is one of the most promising technologies in energy conversion. Nevertheless, improper operating conditions can severely affect the fuel cell (FC) lifespan. It is a matter of fact, that several degradation mechanisms could take place inside the cell in case of abnormal operating conditions. Among these, improper water managements, fuel quality and starvation conditions can show critical effects on PEMFC performance. Furthermore, if the exposure time to these faulty conditions resulted quite long, irreversible degradations and system ageing would occur. This work aims to investigate the impact of both improper water managements and reactants starvation conditions on H_2/O_2 PEMFC short-stacks performance. To this purpose, the experimental activity performed to characterize the stack health-state both in normal and abnormal conditions is presented. Particular attention is dedicated to the effects caused by improper conditions on stack electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements' variations. Depending on the faulty conditions, the experimental results are then analyzed for health-state monitoring and diagnosis purposes.

Keywords: Diagnosis, EIS Spectra, Hydrogen/Oxygen PEM Fuel Cells, State-of-Health

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER



Journal of Power Sources 353 (2017) 277–286

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jpowsour

Application of Buckingham π theorem for scaling-up oriented fast modelling of Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell impedance

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Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Salerno, Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132, 84084 Fisciano, SA, Italy

HIGHLIGHTS

- A methodology to reproduce PEMFC impedance is proposed.
- Non-dimensional parameters are defined by exploiting the Buckingham's π theorem.
- Good accuracy in PEMFC impedance prediction is proved.
- The possibility to use this methodology with scaling-up purposes is demonstrated.

ARTICLE INFO

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Keywords:
Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
Proton exchange membrane fuel cell
Impedance modelling
Dimensional analysis
Scaling-up

ABSTRACT

This work focuses on the development of a fast PEMFC impedance model, built starting from both physical and geometrical variables. Buckingham's π theorem is proposed to define non-dimensional parameters that allow suitably describing the relationships linking the physical variables involved in the process under-study to the fundamental dimensions. This approach is a useful solution for those problems, whose first principles-based models are not known, difficult to build or computationally unfeasible. The key contributions of the proposed similarity theory-based modelling approach are presented and discussed. The major advantage resides in its straightforward online applicability, thanks to very low computational burden, while preserving good level of accuracy. This makes the model suitable for several purposes, such as design, control, diagnostics, state of health monitoring and prognostics. Experimental data, collected in different operating conditions, have been analysed to demonstrate the capability of the model to reproduce PEMFC impedance at different loads and temperatures. This results in a reduction of the experimental effort for the FCS lab characterization. Moreover, it is highlighted the possibility to use the model with scaling-up purposes to reproduce the full stack impedance from single-cell one, thus supporting FC design and development from lab-to commercial system-scale.

- **Generalized scaling-up approach based on Buckingham theorem for Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells impedance simulation**. Polverino, P.; Bove, G.; Sorrentino, M.; Pianese, C - ICAE2018, published on Energy Procedia – Selected for Applied Energy Special Issue submission.

Under submission: 2 journal papers on the state of the art of diagnostics techniques and PEMFC faults.

Conferences and events

- 6th Int. European PEFC & Electrolyser Forum 2017
- Electrochemical Science and Technology Conference and Annual Meeting of The Danish Electrochemical Society 2017
- IEEE, Vehicle Power and Propulsion Conference, 2017
- Fundamentals & Development of Fuel Cells, 2017
- 7th EFC “Piero Lunghi” Conference, 2017
- FCH2JU Review Days 2016 – 2017 – 2018

Students involvement

- 2 PhD students
- 1 master + 6 bachelor students

COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

www.pemfc.health-code.eu

Joint workshop HEALTH-CODE-DIAMOND Luzern (July 2017) - 6th EFCF

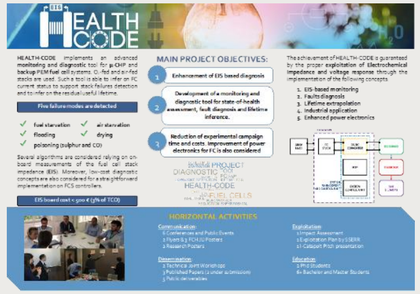
- 45+ Participants
- 16 presentations
  1 speech from industry
  1 special contribution
- 100+ Flyers distributed

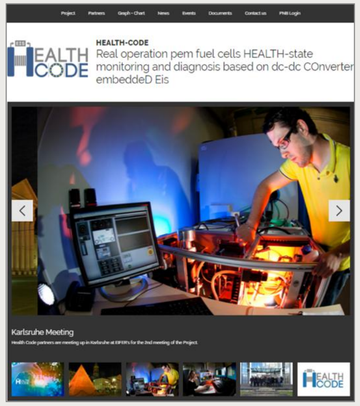
Joint workshop HEALTH-CODE-INSIGHT Brussels (November 2018) – PRD2018

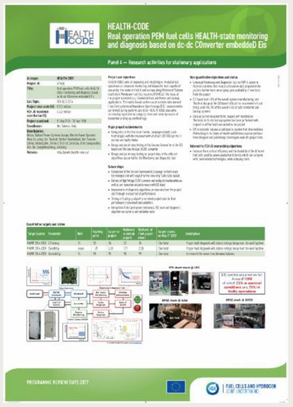
- 70+ Participants
- 12 presentations (4 speeches from industry)
- Future exploitation focus

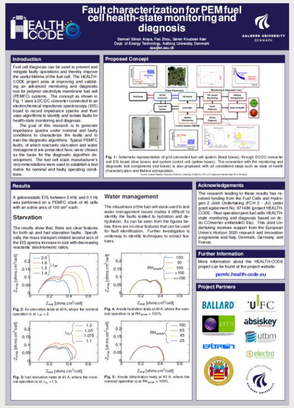
Communication materials

- 2 flyers & 3 FCH JU posters
- 3 posters
- 1 video (on-board EIS diagnosis) on the **website**







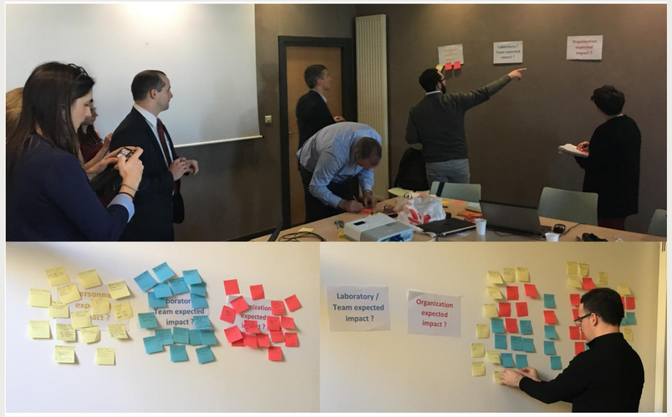


EXPLOITATION PLAN supported by

2+ potential industrial follow-up

SSERR
Support Services for Exploitation of Research Results

Inputs for Business Plan



M18 Impact assessment Belfort (FR)

I-CATAPULT 2018 EIFER innovation challenge

M37 SSERR exploitation Turin (IT)

"How to turn concept into Business"

The Lean Canvas | Health-Code project | 21-sep-2018 | Iteration #1 LABS

Problem	Solution	Unique Value Proposition	Unfair Advantage	Customer Segments
Top 3 problems Expensive, large and complex equipments Quality of measurments To many device	Top 3 features Algorithm (SW) B. board (HW) Converter (HW)	Providing data analysis autonomously and custom made for the FC sector	Can't be easily copied or bought Patent	Target customers University labs Company labs
AlternativeSolutions Impedance device manufacturers	Key Metrics Key activities you measure Time of processing Number of fails Accuracy index		Channels Direct contacts (IT, FR, DK, DE) Fairs Papers Expo. Within conferences Academic connections	End of Line (EoL) test rigs Early adopters Fuel Cell technicians Spin off
Cost Structure people distribution administration patents facilities IT HW Support			Revenue Streams Sell the device (HW) License the algorithm (SW)	

PRODUCT MARKET

FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN
JOINT UNDERTAKING

EIS HEALTH CODE

Real operation pem fuel cell HEALTH-state monitoring and diagnosis based on DC/DC COnverter embeddeD Eis

Programme Review Days 2018

Brussels, 14-15 November 2018

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Thank You!