MAHLE Hydrogen Technologies FUEL CELL COOLING CIRCUITS Requirements – Challenges & Solutions

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MAHLE Multi-Path Approach





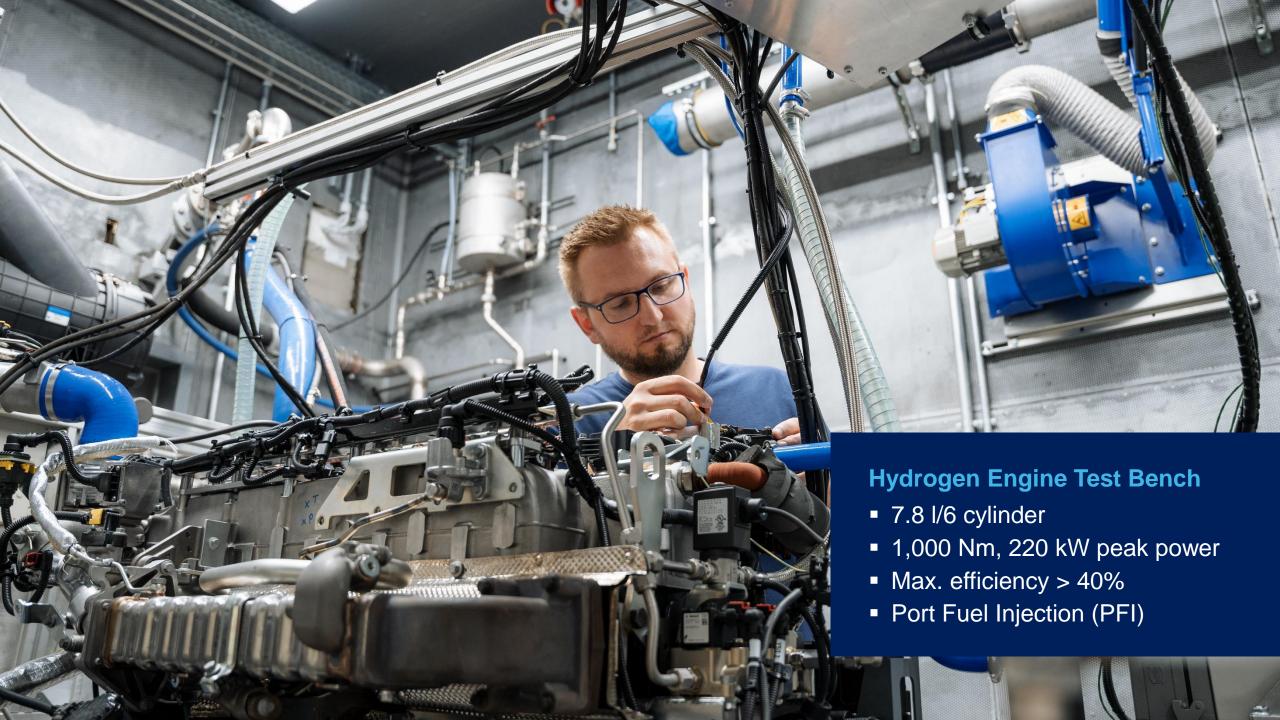
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Hydrogen Test Center at MAHLE Stuttgart



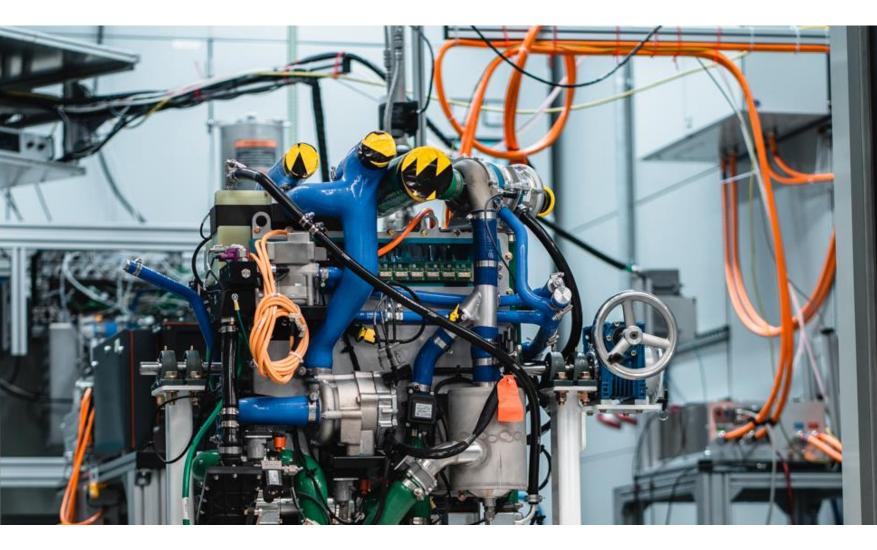








Fuel Cell Test Facilities – Stuttgart



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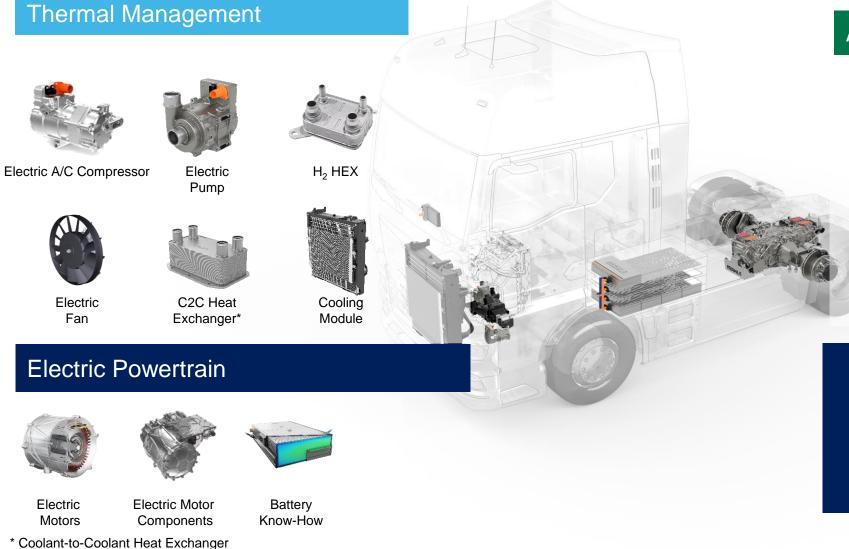
MAHLE testbench for fuel cell stacks and BoP components

Key features

- Up to 250kW net power
- Possibility to test multiple fuel cell modules
- Media conditioning
- Seamless hydrogen supply
- Approved safety concept



Overview MAHLE HYDROGEN Fuel Cell System Approach



Air Management





Air Filter

End Plate

Humidifier/Cathode Module

Charge Air Cooler



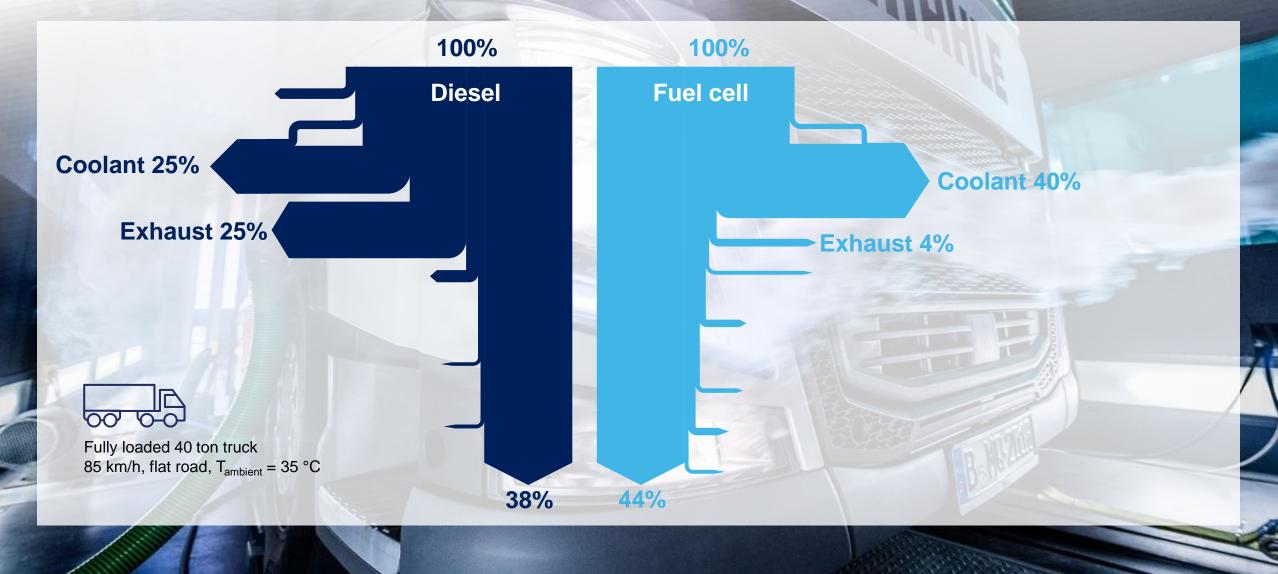
Ion Exchanger

Portfolio System Approach > MAHLE provides balance of plant components embedded in a strong system approach.



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Despite Higher Efficiency, Requirements for the Fuel Cell Cooling System Increase



Cooling Module

Complete cooling modules will provide thermal stability to FC Systems up to heavy duty sizes

- High maturity level through use of ICE-proven design and components
- Easy to integrate into existing vehicle architecture
- 3 Layer Cooling Module to cool fuel cell stack, E-Powertrain and brake retarder
- Based on existing series components
- Fuel Cell radiator passivated to achieve coolant conductivity requirements
- Specific application for FCEV

Multi-Layer Cooling Module

Modular concept with proven components facilitates the implementation of FC system in existing vehicle platforms





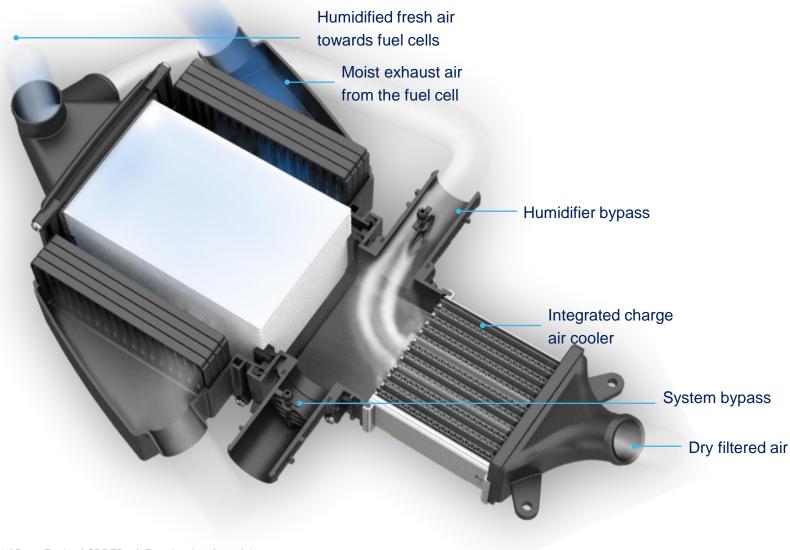


World Premiere: Fuel Cell Cooling Module with Evaporation Cooling for More Performance

Performance Cooling Module enabling high power heavy-duty fuel cell applications.

Evaporative Cooling Optional function to increase cooling performance by up to 50 kW.

Cathode Air Flow Module – Highly Integrated Design



Highly integrated design incl. charge air cooler, humidifier and water separation.

Up to 50% higher water transfer rate (compared to best competitor) enable increased operation temperature and lower fuel cell membrane degradation.

Maximum performance with 50% lower pressure losses results in +1% peak power and efficiency increase.



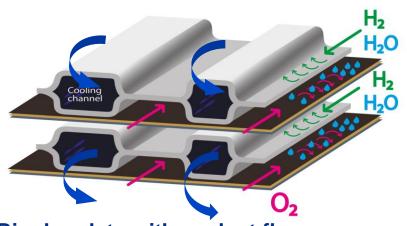
Challenges of the Fuel Cell cooling circuit

Requirements

- The coolant has direct contact to the electric Bi-Polar plate
 - →coolant conductivity must be stabile below 5µS /cm
 - No interaction with the inner surfaces of Aluminum Heat Exchanger and Bipolar plates → no Ion leaching
 - Water / Glycol mixture is mandatory due to heat capacity
 - High efficient (brazed) Aluminum Heat Exchanger needed due to low ΔT

Challenge for the Cooling circuit

- Aluminum and other metal surfaces can oxidize the glycol to highly conductive organic acids (activation temp. > 80°C)
- Residues from manufacturing (brazing) process must be washed out
- Ion leaching of the inner metallic surface must be barred



Bipolar plate with coolant flow



High efficient heat transfer fins

An inner passivation & coating for Aluminum Heat Exchanger is needed to ensure the coolant efficiency & quality



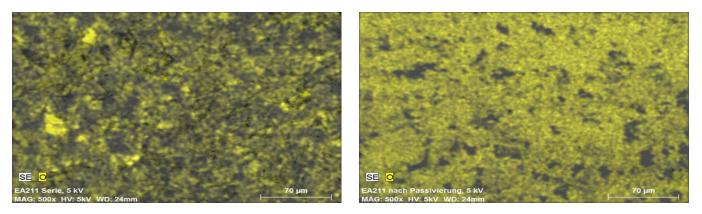
MAHLE solution for Functional Heat Exchanger Inner Surface Coating

In principle Aluminum ceramics like Aluminum oxide showing a good thermal flow and highly inert behavior

MAHLE developed a special conversion coating to create a nano scale ceramic-like layer direct from the inner metallic Aluminum surface

How it works

- First step: in special flow through process the inner Aluminum surface will be cleaned & activated with etching chemicals
 - → Complexing chemical compounds will be integrated in the surface
- Second step: an aqueous thermal process forms a new Aluminum-oxy- hydroxide layer
- Third step: a special heating process forms the inert layer
- → the increase of the oxygen content in the surface indicate the formed nanoscale Aluminum-oxid layer



EDX Oxygen mapping before and after surface treatment



Summary

MAHLE Heat exchanger fulfil the strongest cleanliness requirements for Fuel Cell cooling circuits More than 3000 heat exchanger are in function in global Fuel Cell mobility applications

MAHLE Fuel Cell components are suitable for series production

MAHLE is using its development and industrialization expertise to assist the fuel cell market breakthrough

