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**FreedomCAR & Vehicle Technologies Program**

# **The 60 Percent Efficient Diesel Engine; Probable, Possible, or Just A Fantasy?**

John W. Fairbanks  
FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
US Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C.

*Diesel Engine Emission Reduction Conference  
Palmer House  
Chicago  
August 24, 2005*



## POSSIBLE THERMOELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION APPLICATIONS

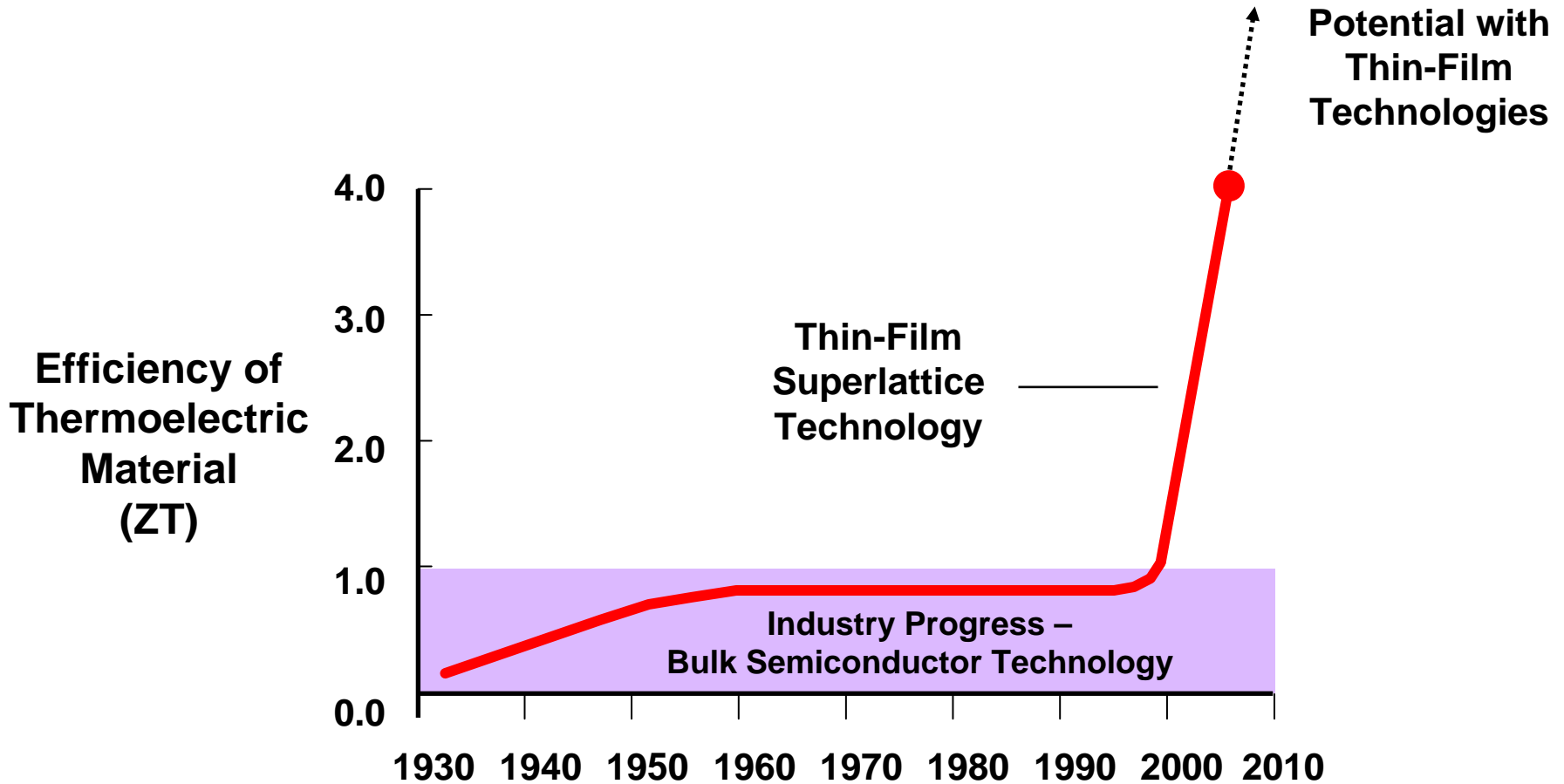
- > **Current Program:**
  - 10 Percent Gain in Diesel Fuel Economy**
- > **Follow-On Programs:**
  - 60 Percent Efficient Diesel**
  - Peltier HVAC (Air Conditioning)**
- > **Long-Term:**
  - Replace Vehicular ICE Propulsion Engine  
with Thermoelectric Generator**



- ❑ Discovered 1831
- ❑ 1831 – 1940: thermocouples and scientific curiosity
- ❑ 1940: IAFPE in Russia produced semiconductor thermoelectric generator ~ 3 percent efficiency
- ❑ 1950 – 1998: Figure of Merit  $ZT < 1$ ; 5 to 7 percent efficient
- ❑ 1996: analytically proposed low-dimensional thermoelectrics
  - Engineer electron and phonon transport in nanostructures
  - Quantum wells, superlattices, quantum wires, and quantum dots used to change band structures, energy levels, and density states of electrons
- ❑ 1997 – to date: several labs reported making thermoelectric specimens with  $ZT = 2$  to 4
  - Much of this work supported by DARPA and ONR
  - 300 percent improvement in thermoelectric efficiency
- ❑ 2005 – 2010: DOE program to assist moving thermoelectric technology from lab to
  - commercial scale up for production
  - develop devices to improve ICE fuel efficiency by 10 %

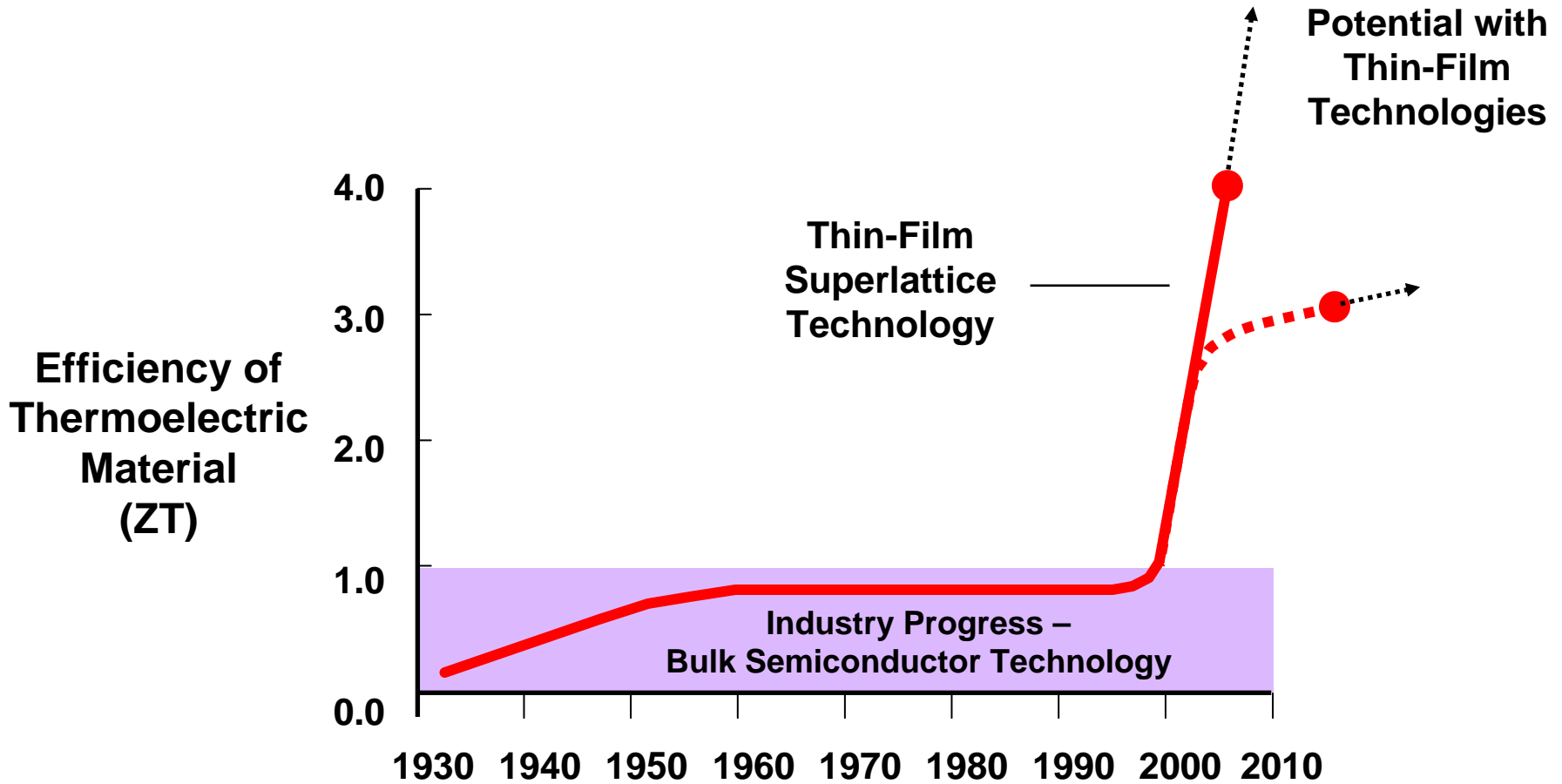


# Recent Breakthrough in Efficiency of TE Materials





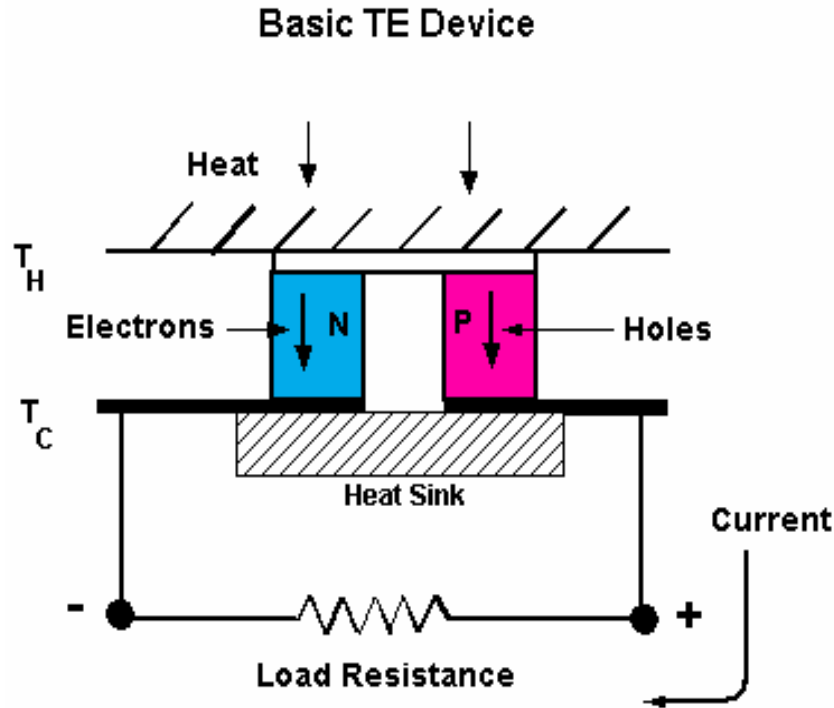
# Recent Breakthrough in Efficiency of TE Materials





# Thermoelectric (TE) Energy Conversion

## Hot Side (“Waste Heat”)



**Cold side**

Waste heat >> Electricity

Heat-to-electricity conversion efficiency depends on a figure of merit,  $Z$ , that is material-specific:

$$Z = S^2\sigma/k$$

$S$  = Seebeck Coeff =  $dV/dT$

$\sigma$  = Electrical Conductivity

$k$  = Thermal Conductivity

$$\eta = \frac{T_{hot} - T_{cold}}{T_{hot}} * \frac{\sqrt{1 + ZT_{avg}} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + ZT_{avg}} + \frac{T_{cold}}{T_{hot}}}$$

Carnot efficiency



- ❑ Heat transfer different for nanostructures
- ❑ Thermoelectric materials

Heat-to-electricity conversion efficiency depends on a figure of merit, ZT, that is material-specific:

$$\mathbf{ZT = S^2\rho T/k}$$

where: S = Seebeck Coeff =  $dV/dT$   
 $\rho$  = Electrical Conductivity  
k = Thermal Conductivity

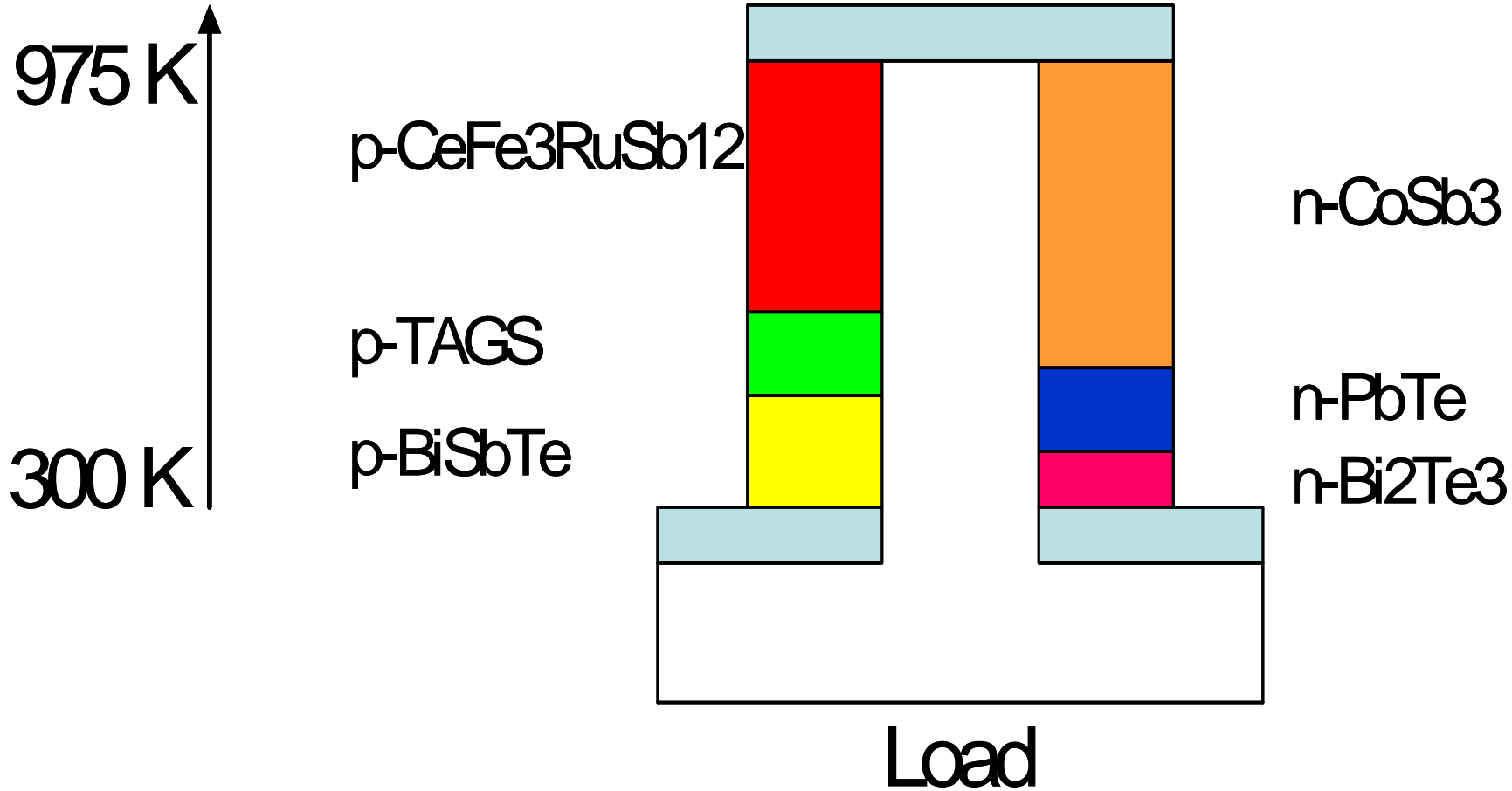
In macrostructures:  $\uparrow\rho \Rightarrow \uparrow k$

In microstructures:  $\uparrow\rho$  [increase electron mean free path]  
 $\downarrow k$  [  $k_{\text{phonons}} + k_{\text{electrons}}$  ]

- ❑ Low dimensional thermoelectrics need substrate support
  - High temperature capability, low k, strong and thin
  - Kapton is a candidate
- ❑ Increase  $\Delta T$  across thermoelectric generators
  - Improve cooling at the cold side



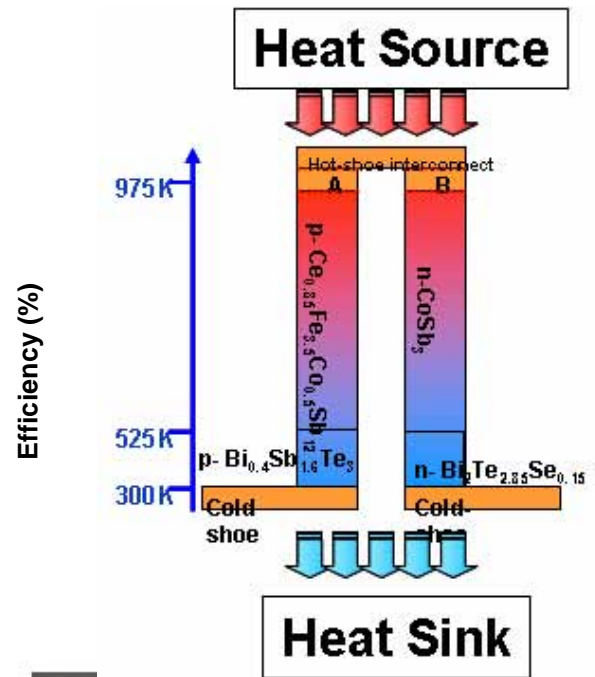
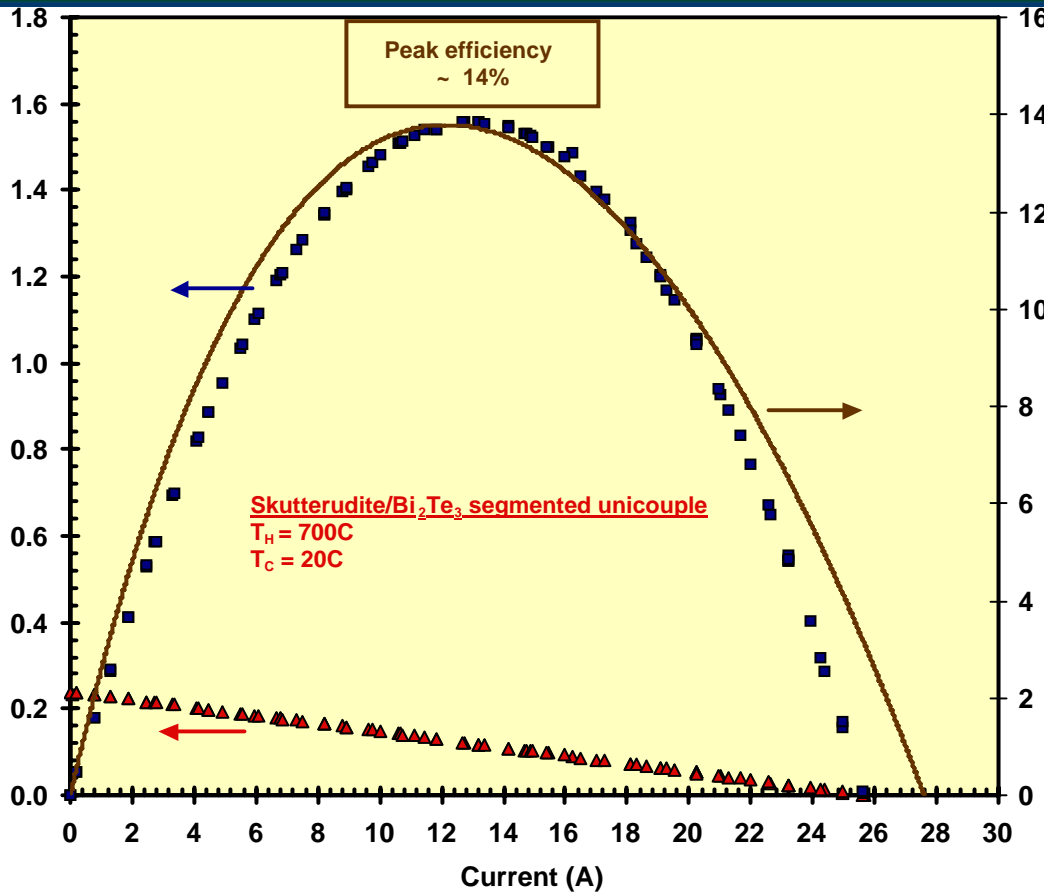
# Segmented TE Couple







# Thermal and electrical testing - Segmented unicouple



- ❑ Experimental I-V curves fully validate projected performance
  - Translate into ~ 14% efficiency for 975K-300K  $\Delta T$
- ❑ Results independently confirmed at the University of New Mexico



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# HETE Applications





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# Thermoelectric Watch



**CITIZEN**  
**Eco-Drive Thermo**  
**Watch**

- **Converts temperature difference between body and surrounding air into electrical energy**
- **No battery charge needed**
- **When not being worn, second hand moves in 10-second increments (non power generation mode)**
- **Number of thermocouples in semiconductor array: 1,242 pairs**
- **Operating time from a full charge: Approx. 6 months (approx. 16 months in power-saving mode)**





# Advanced Thermal Management for Tomorrow Soldier

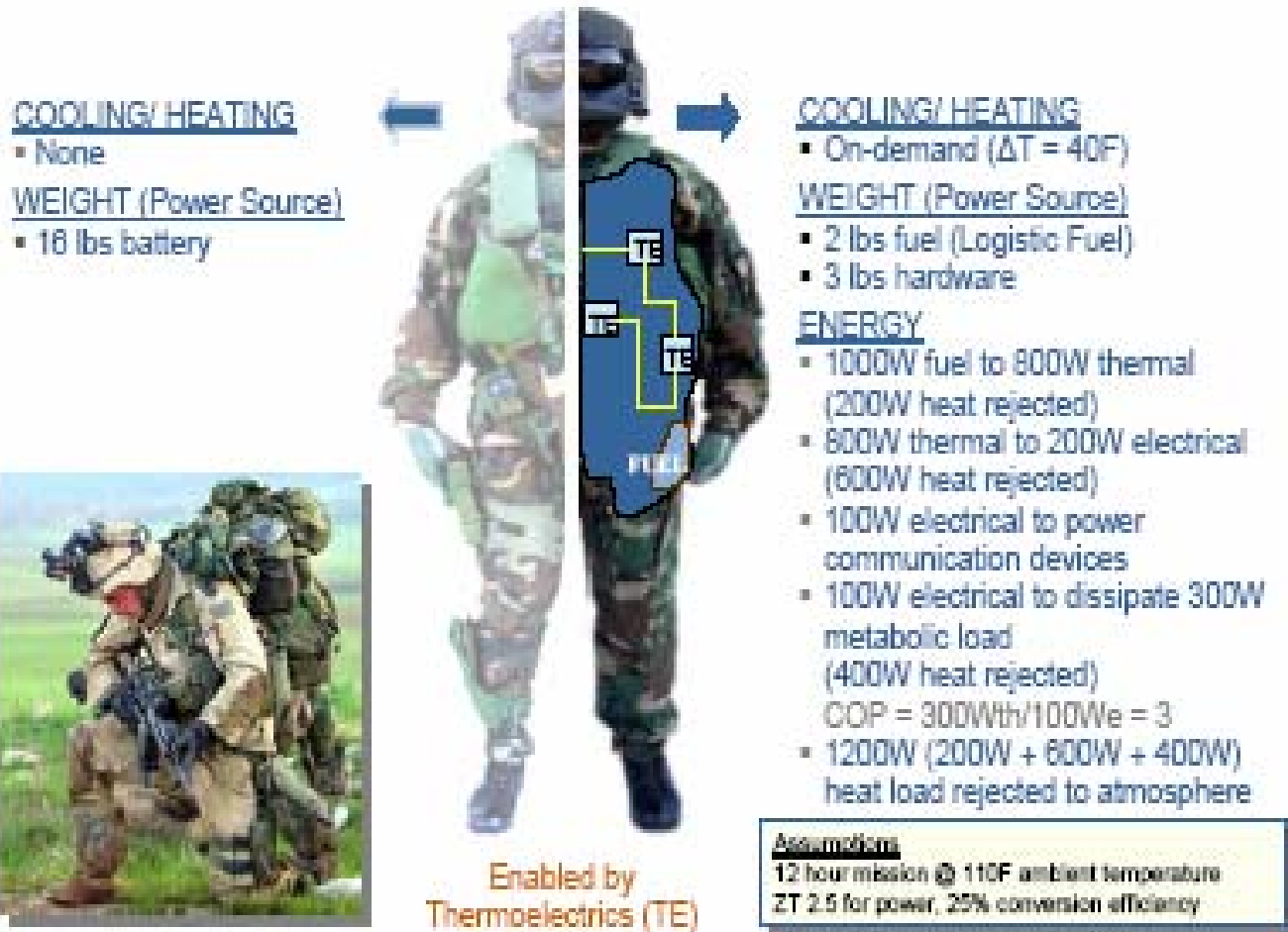


Figure 1. Today's soldier highlighting the lack of climate control and heavy battery weight compared to tomorrow's soldier which will provide a lightweight system of cooling, heating, flexible armor and portable power.



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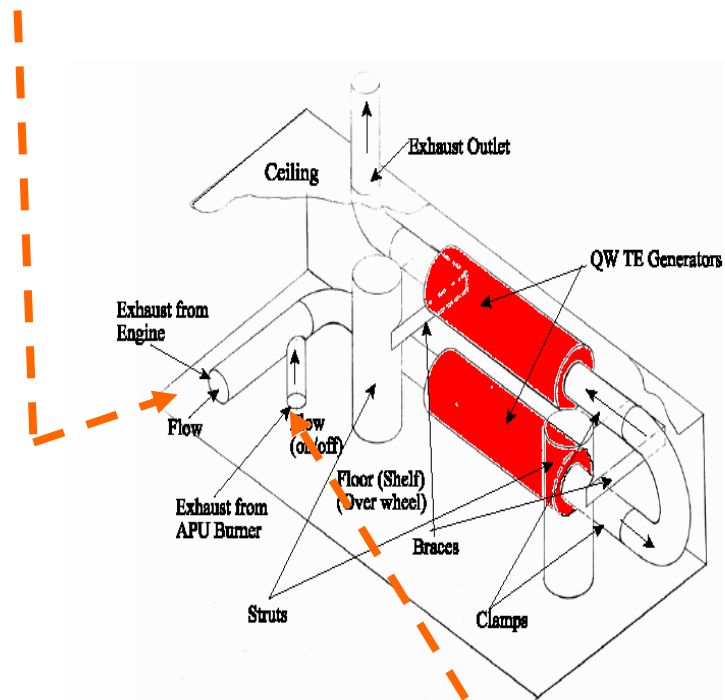
# Army Stryker Vehicle





# Stryker Vehicle Has Space for Under armor Quantum Well Thermoelectric Generators

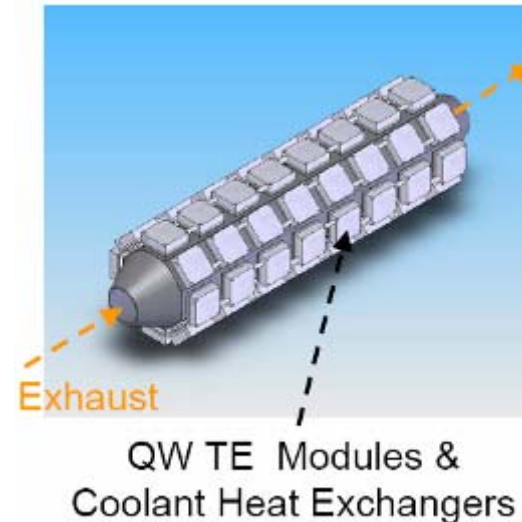
## 15% Efficiency Predicted with two 5 kW<sub>e</sub> QW TE Generators Driven by Vehicle Exhaust



When Parked APU Burner to  
Provide Power Using Same  
Thermoelectric Generator



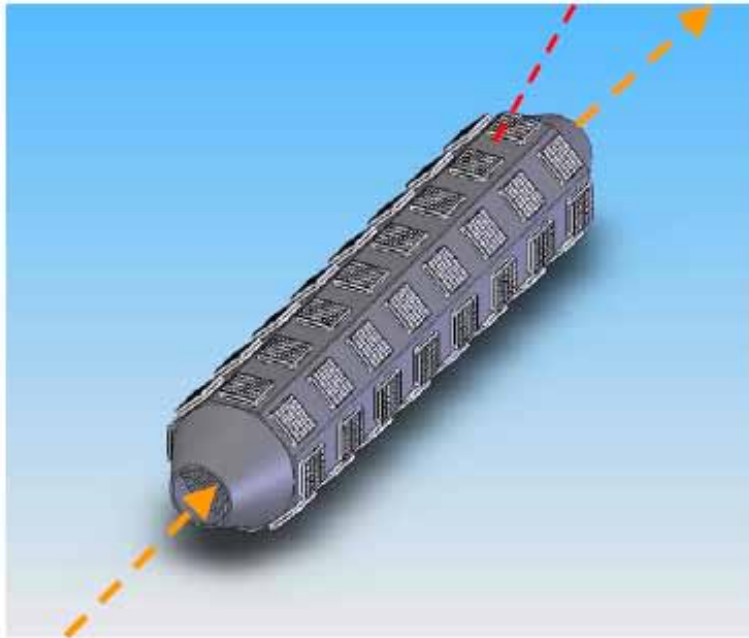
- **Contains 64 QW modules in octagonal arrangement**
- **Integrated coolant and QW module arrangement**
  - **Each QW module in compression**
- **QW generator provides 5X power of current Bi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub> module in same space**
  - **Fits in 27-in length and 10-in diameter with cover plate**





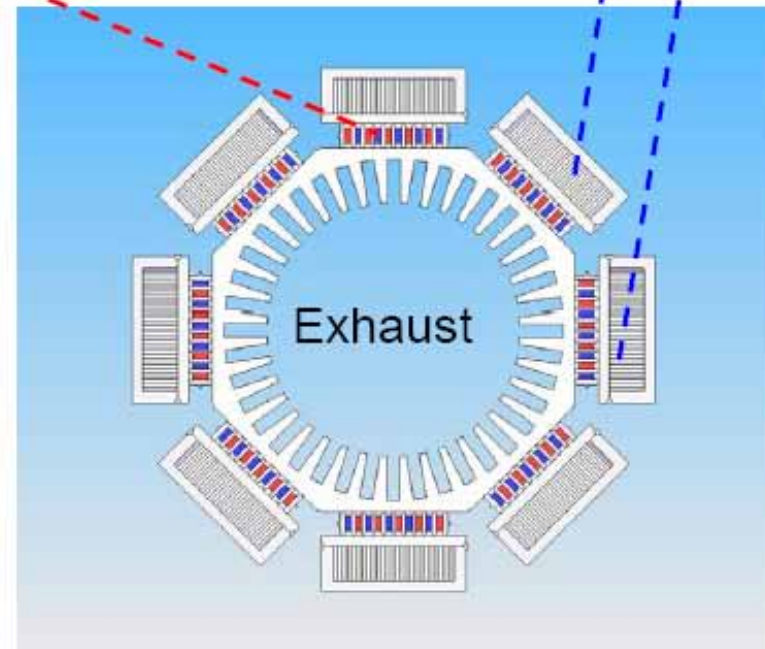
## Thermoelectric Modules and Assembly with Coolant Heat Exchangers

Quantum Well Thermoelectric Modules



Exhaust

Heat Exchangers







## Auto Air-Conditioning Refrigerant: R-134a, CO<sub>2</sub>, or Thermoelectrics

- ❑ U.S. probably will stay with R-134a
- ❑ Europe apparently going to CO<sub>2</sub>
  - R-134a has 1,300 greenhouse gas effect as CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Autos leak 10 to 70 g/yr of R-134a
- ❑ Japan and Asia still undecided
  - Toyota's decision will be the key
- ❑ Thermoelectrics
  - 1 million climate control seats ordered this year by GM, Ford, and Toyota
  - Auto air conditioning will depend on cost of high efficiency of thermoelectrics being developed for direct energy conversion
  - Requires COP of 2 to 3
    - Achieved in the laboratory



- ❑ R-134a has 1,300 times greater greenhouse gas impact than CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ❑ Use of thermoelectrics as Peltier Devices could reduce R-134a refrigerant usage, the most common working fluid in heating/cooling systems.
  - > Car air conditioning leaks 10 to 70 g/year
  - > 90 % personal vehicles in North America & Asia and 87 % European cars have A/C



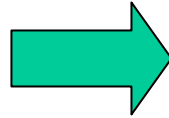
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# Thermoelectrics Replacing Gas Compressor Refrigeration ?

## TODAY



***Thermoelectric  
Hot & Cold Mini Fridge  
(1.5 ft<sup>3</sup>)***



## FUTURE ?



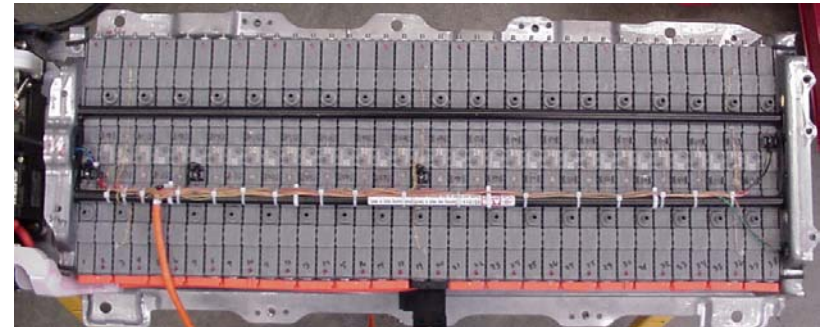
***Side-by-side  
Refrigerator/Freezer  
(27.5 ft<sup>3</sup>)***



# Battery Temperature Impacts HEV/EV

## Temperature affects battery operation

- > Round trip efficiency and charge acceptance
- > Power and energy
- > Safety and reliability
- > Life and life cycle cost



Battery temperature impacts  
vehicle performance,  
reliability, safety, and life  
cycle cost







# Beltless Engine

**Truck Electrification**  
**Turbocompound**  
 Electrify accessories  
 Decouple them from engine  
 Match power demand to real time need  
 Enable use of alternative power sources



### Modular HVAC

Variable speed compressor more efficient and serviceable  
 3X more reliable compressor no belts, no valves, no hoses leak-proof refrigerant lines instant electric heat



### Shore Power and Inverter

Supplies DC Bus Voltage from 120/240 Vac 50/60 Hz Input Supplies 120 Vac outlets from battery or generator power

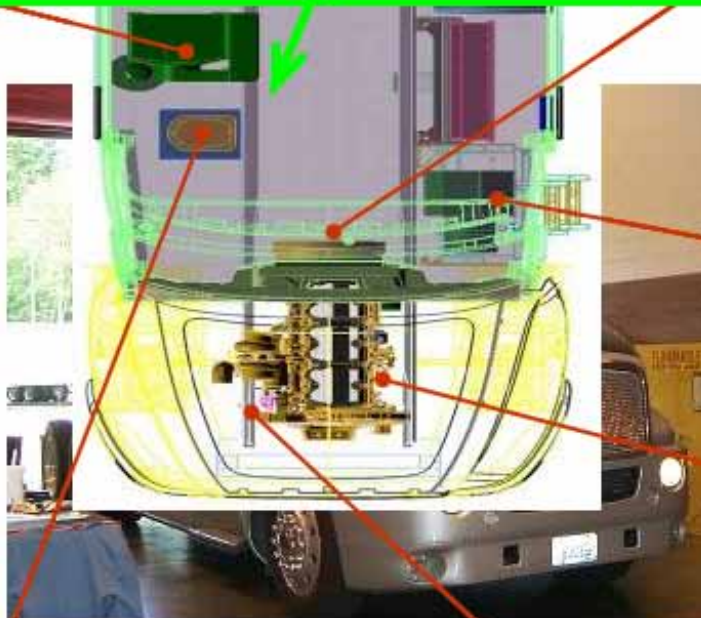


### Down Converter

Supplies 12 V Battery from DC Bus



**Compressed Air Module**  
 Supplies compressed air for brakes and ride control



### Electric Water Pump



Higher reliability variable speed faster warm-up less white smoke lower cold weather emissions



### Starter Generator Motor

Beltless engine product differentiation improve systems design flexibility more efficient & reliable accessories



### Auxiliary Power Unit

Supplies DC Bus Voltage when engine is not running - fulfills hotel loads without idling main engine overnight



### Electric Oil Pump

Variable speed Higher efficiency

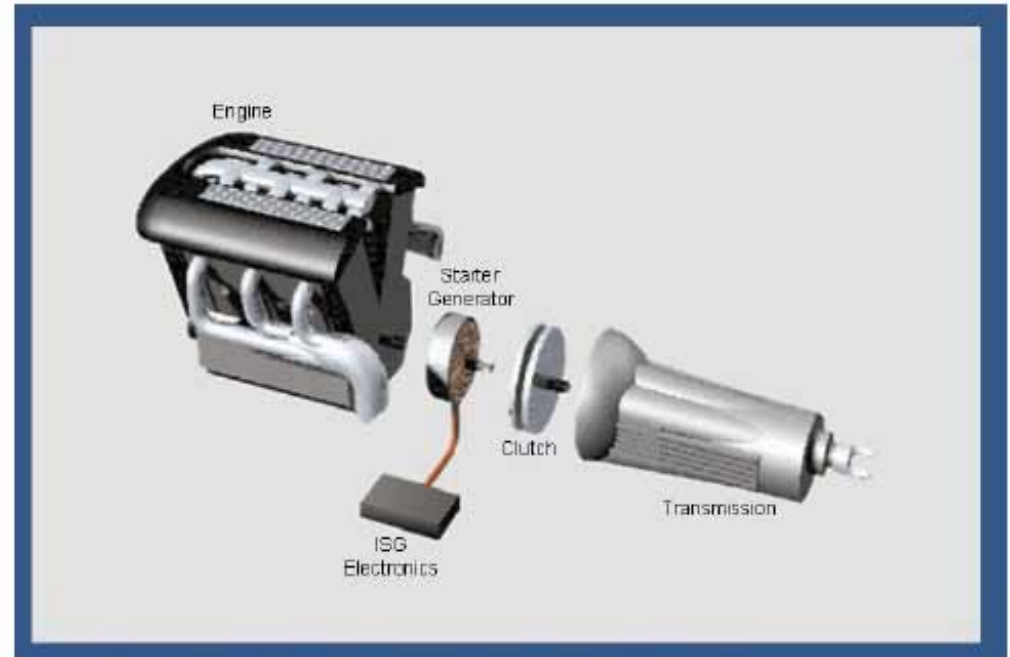
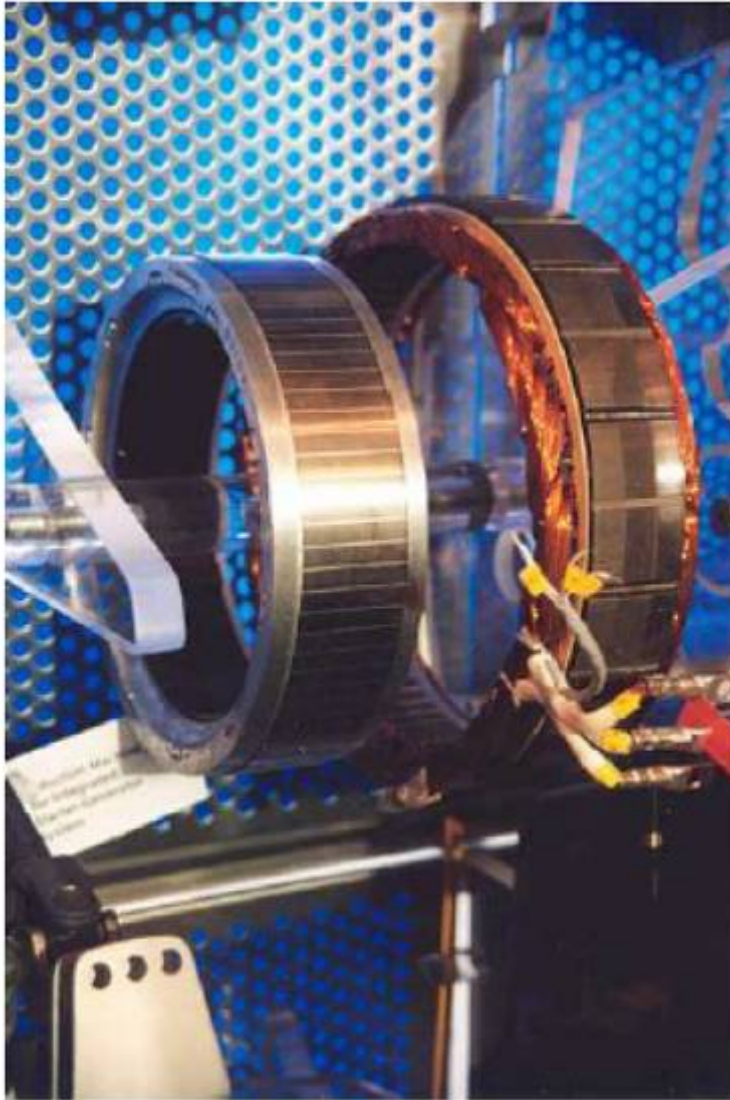




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## Integrated Motor/Alternator Starter







*2004 Jaguar XJ*

- ❑ **Use of aluminum results in a 500-lb weight reduction, with consequent fuel saving**
- ❑ **Currently, only luxury cars use aluminum frame and body, due to high cost**
- ❑ **If we can recover sufficient energy from the aluminum manufacturing process, it may become feasible to use it for mass-produced cars, due to reduced cost**



- ❑ Aluminum Content of Automobiles
- ❑ Rule of Thumb
  - 10 % weight reduction provides 6% to 7% improvement in fuel economy
- ❑ Aluminum Association Inc. Projects
  - Aluminum in North American cars
    - 2005 – 280 lbs.
    - 2008 – 300 lbs.
- ❑ European Cars: Jaguar, Aston Martin, and Audi A-8s
  - Aluminum frame and body
  - Saves 500 to 600 lbs.
  - BMW 5 series ~ 50/50 weight balance with steel
- ❑ DOE has initiated program to recover energy from Aluminum manufacturing process
  - Possible increase in aluminum use in mass produced cars





## *High Efficiency Thermoelectric Teams*

**General Motor Corporation  
and General Electric**

**MIT- Lincoln Laboratory, University  
of Michigan, University of South  
Florida, Oak Ridge National  
Laboratory, and RTI International**

**BSST, LLC.**

**Visteon, BMW-NA, and Teledyne**

**United Technologies  
Corporation**

**Pratt & Whitney, Hi-Z Technology,  
Pacific Northwest National  
Laboratory, and Caterpillar, Inc.**

**Michigan State University**

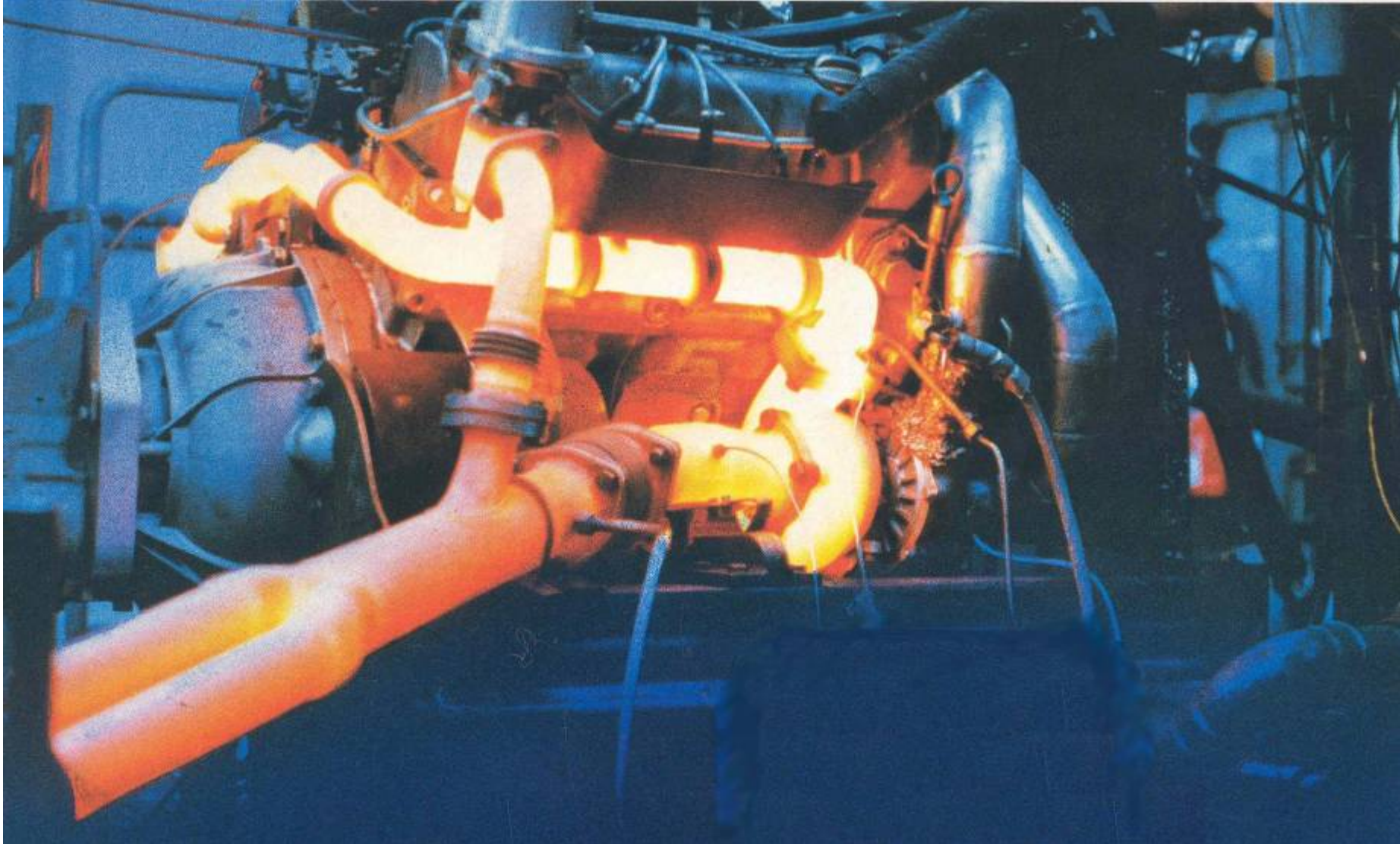
**Jet Propulsion Laboratory and  
Cummins Engine Company**



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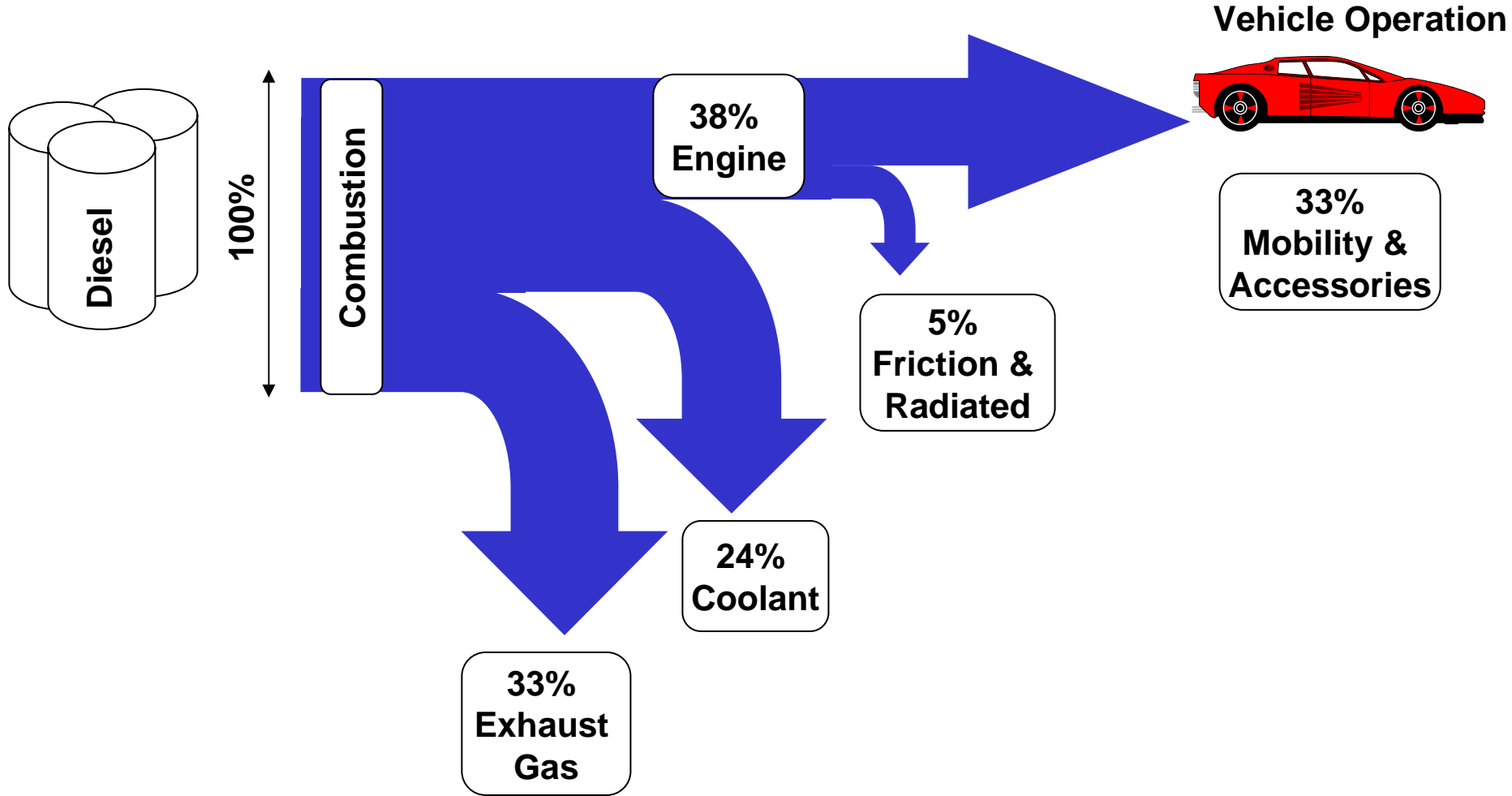
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# Available Energy in Engine Exhaust





# Potential Thermoelectric Heat Sources



***Diesel Engine (Light Truck or Passenger Vehicle)***



## □ Current 6-Team Program

- Define commercial viability of TEG and Electric Turbocompounding (ETC) for vehicles in the 2005-2009 time frame
  - Identify challenges for TE commercialization
    - target cost at \$0.15/watt ( not show stopper)**
    - Availability
    - Durability
    - Degradation
- **Follow-on 60% efficient diesel engine program start decision in 2008**
  - Convert waste heat to electricity from components with adequate Delta T
  - Power conditioning
  - Integrate with beltless engine concept

## □ Vehicular Peltier Thermoelectric Air Conditioning System Project being considered

- Requires a COP of 2.0 to 3.0

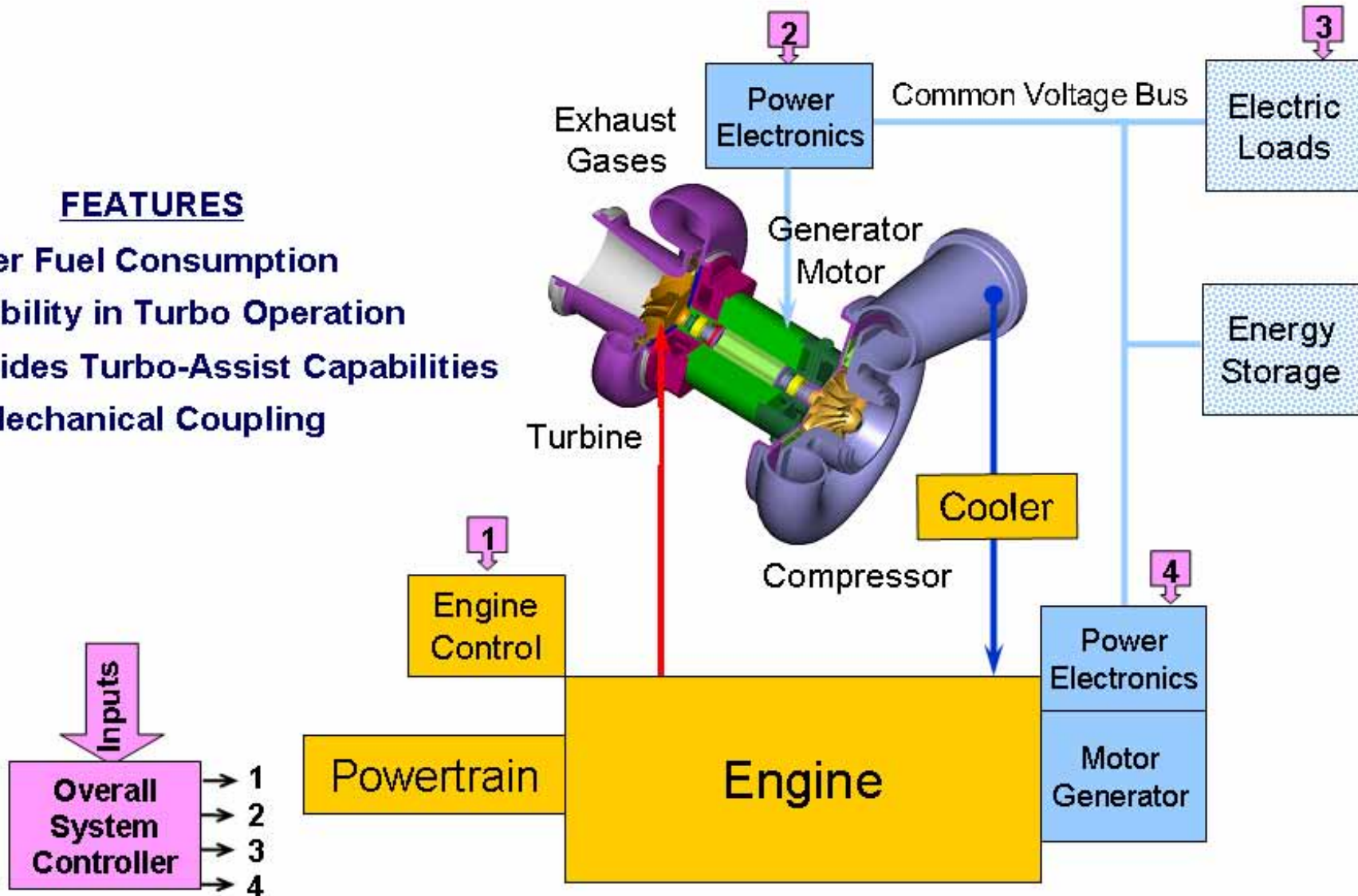




# Electric Turbocompound

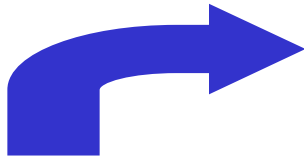
## FEATURES

- Lower Fuel Consumption
- Flexibility in Turbo Operation
- Provides Turbo-Assist Capabilities
- No Mechanical Coupling

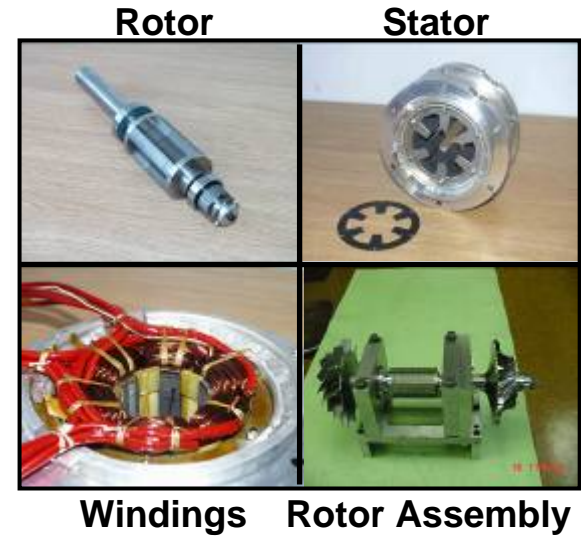




## Electric Turbocompound (ETC) Technology



Electric Turbocompound  
Turbocharger



Potential for 5 to 10 %  
Reduction in Fuel  
Consumption



# Thermoelectric ICE Efficiency Road Map

- Currently a 10% fuel economy gain is the objective being sought through the use of a Thermoelectric Generator converting ICE engine waste heat directly to electricity
- A follow on program using 6 Thermoelectric units could recover about 20 to 25 per cent of the powertrain's waste heat.
- This electrical energy would be routed through power conditioning equipment then integrated with the "beltless or more electric" engine concept or the integrated motor/alternator /starter.
- Theoretically this approach has the potential of achieving a nominal 60% efficiency



# Fuel Savings from Energy Recovery in Diesel Powered Vehicles

	<b>ISB Dodge Pickup</b>	<b>ISX Class 8 Truck</b>
<b>Emissions Useful Life</b>	<b>185,000 miles</b>	<b>435,000 miles</b>
<b>Typical Fuel Consumption</b>	<b>16 mpg</b>	<b>5 mpg</b>
<b>Fuel Consumed During the Useful Life</b>	<b>11,500 Gallons</b>	<b>87,000 Gallons</b>
<b>Fuel Consumed with Improved Efficiency</b>	<b>10,500 Gallons</b>	<b>79,100 Gallons</b>
<b>Fuel Saved</b>	<b>1000 Gallons</b>	<b>7900 Gallons</b>
<b>Money Saved (\$2.00 gallon)</b>	<b>\$2000</b>	<b>\$15,800</b>





## 10 % engine brake efficiency means:

- **100 million gallons of fuel saving per year for conventional vehicles**
  - using GM's 2003 NA model year volumes (2.0 million cars & 2.8 million trucks)  
and CAFE standards, assuming 15000 miles per vehicle per year
- **1.5 million gallons of fuel saving per year at 2010 for hybrids**
  - GM anticipate 50,000 hybrids per year (1% of GM's NA total sales).



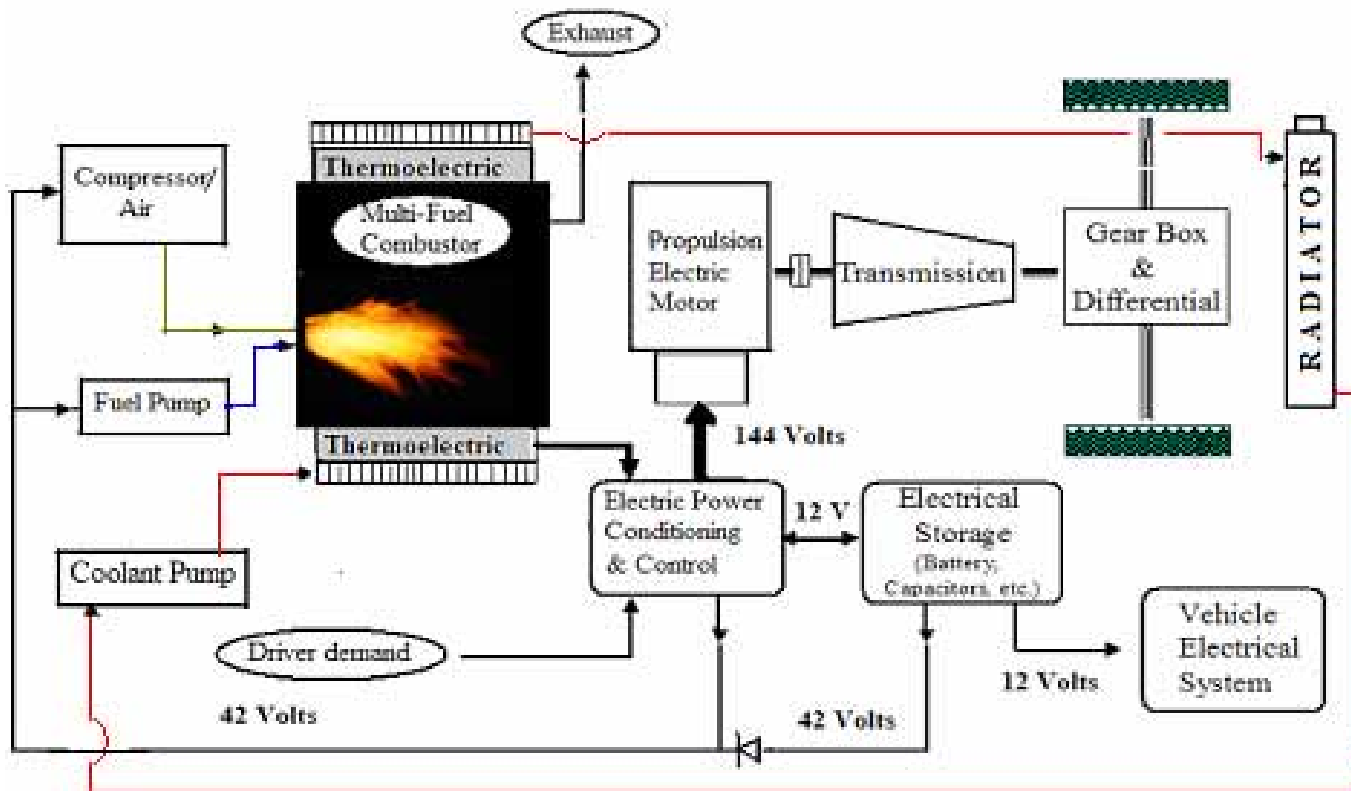
## 10 % engine brake efficiency means:

- **707,000 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from conventional vehicles (2010)**
- **550,000 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from hybrids (2010)**
- **Regulated emissions will be decreased proportionally to the reduction in fuel consumption**

Dr. Jhui Yang - GM



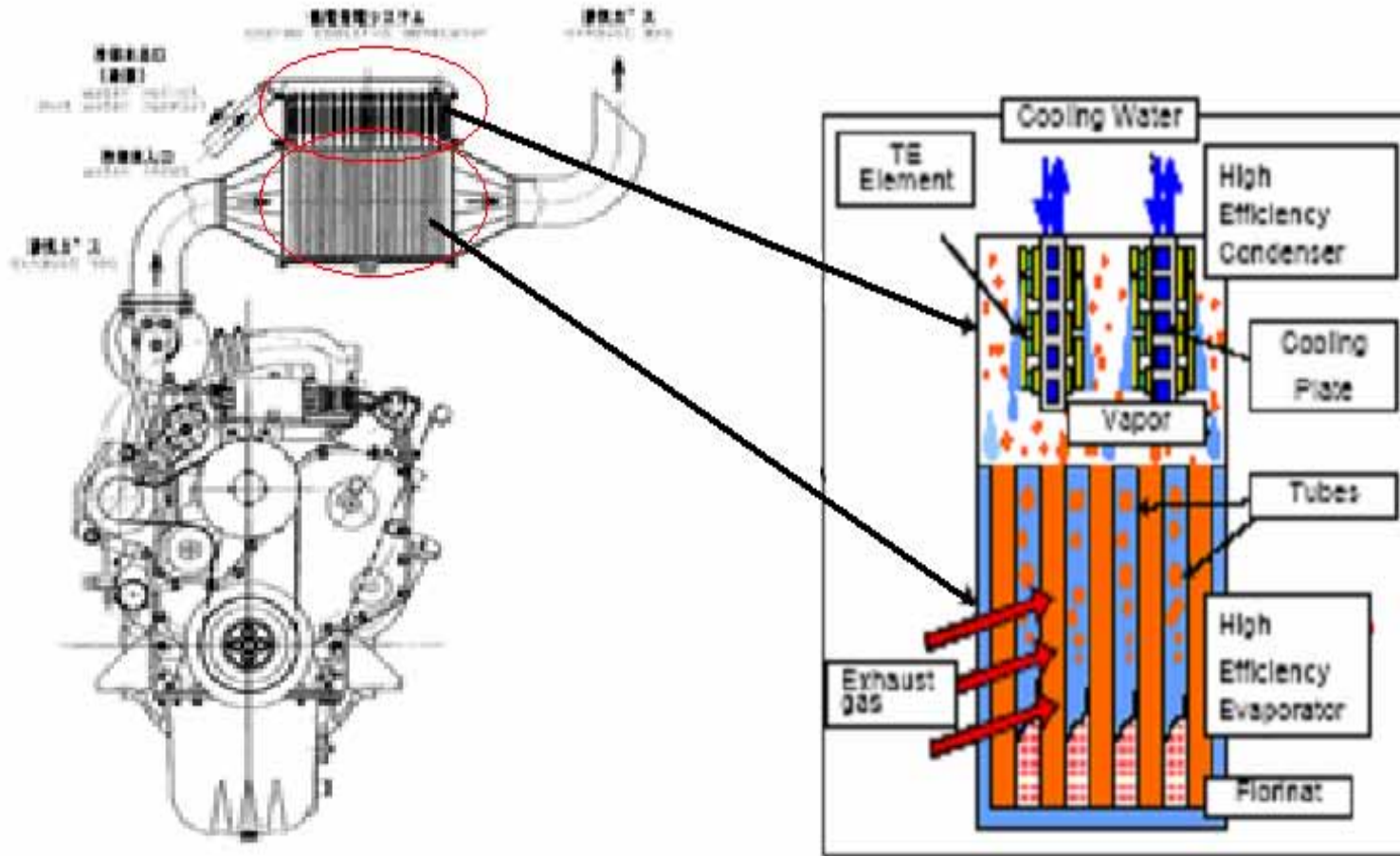
## Generic Concept for a Thermoelectric Automotive Propulsion Drivetrain





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# Japanese Diesel Engine Co-Generation Using Thermoelectric Generator



Courtesy of  
on Development for Advanced Thermoelectric Energy Conversion Systems

**This Project is funded at 2 times the level of DOE's 4 Team  
Thermoelectric Generator 10 % Fuel Economy Improvement Program**



# Typical Diesel Engine Waste Heat $\Delta T$ 's

Component	$\Delta T$
Radiator	$\approx 70^{\circ}\text{C}$
Lube Oil Sump	$\approx 70^{\circ}\text{C}$
Brakes	$\leq 350^{\circ}\text{C}$
Exhaust System	$\leq 400^{\circ}\text{C}$
EGR Loop	$\approx 250^{\circ}\text{C}$
Turbocharger Compressor (Output)	$\square \approx 33^{\circ}\text{C}$





- ❑ Objective: 60 percent efficient diesel engine powertrain
- ❑ Approach: recover electrical energy from waste heat
  - Integrate with beltless engine and/or integrated starter/motor-alternator
- ❑ Potential sources for TE generator  $\Delta T$ 's
  - Radiator
  - Lube oil sump
  - EGR loop
  - Turbocharger air discharge
  - Brakes
  - Exhaust gas
- ❑ Note: high efficiency TE generator will significantly reduce the water pump, radiator fan, intercooler pump loads
- ❑ Thermally managed diesel (TMD-60)
  - Integrate with other emerging technologies





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# Potential Thermoelectric Applications

FreedomCAR & Vehicle Technologies Program

**HVAC - Home and Industrial**  
**Fuel Cell Waste Heat Recovery**  
**Battery Thermal Control**  
**Industrial Process Waste Heat Recovery**  
**Ocean Thermal Thermoelectric Energy Conversion**  
**Geothermal Energy Recovery**  
**Power Plant and Industrial Process Waste Heat Recovery**  
**Wireless Sensors**  
**Computer Chip Cooling**  
**Personal Cooling/Heating Systems**  
**Marine Propulsion (Surface and Submarine)**  
**Vehicle Propulsion**  
**Vehicle and Building Air Conditioning/Heating**

# High Efficiency Thermoelectric Materials and Devices for Solid State Power Generation & Cooling



Dr. Mihal E. Gross  
Office of Naval Research

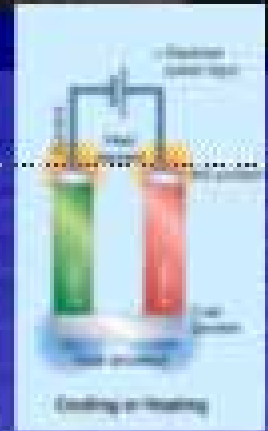
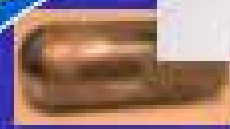
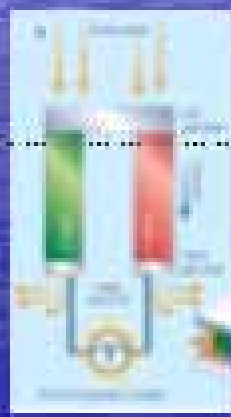
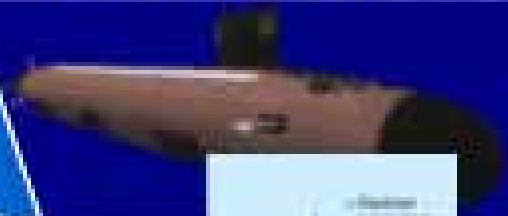
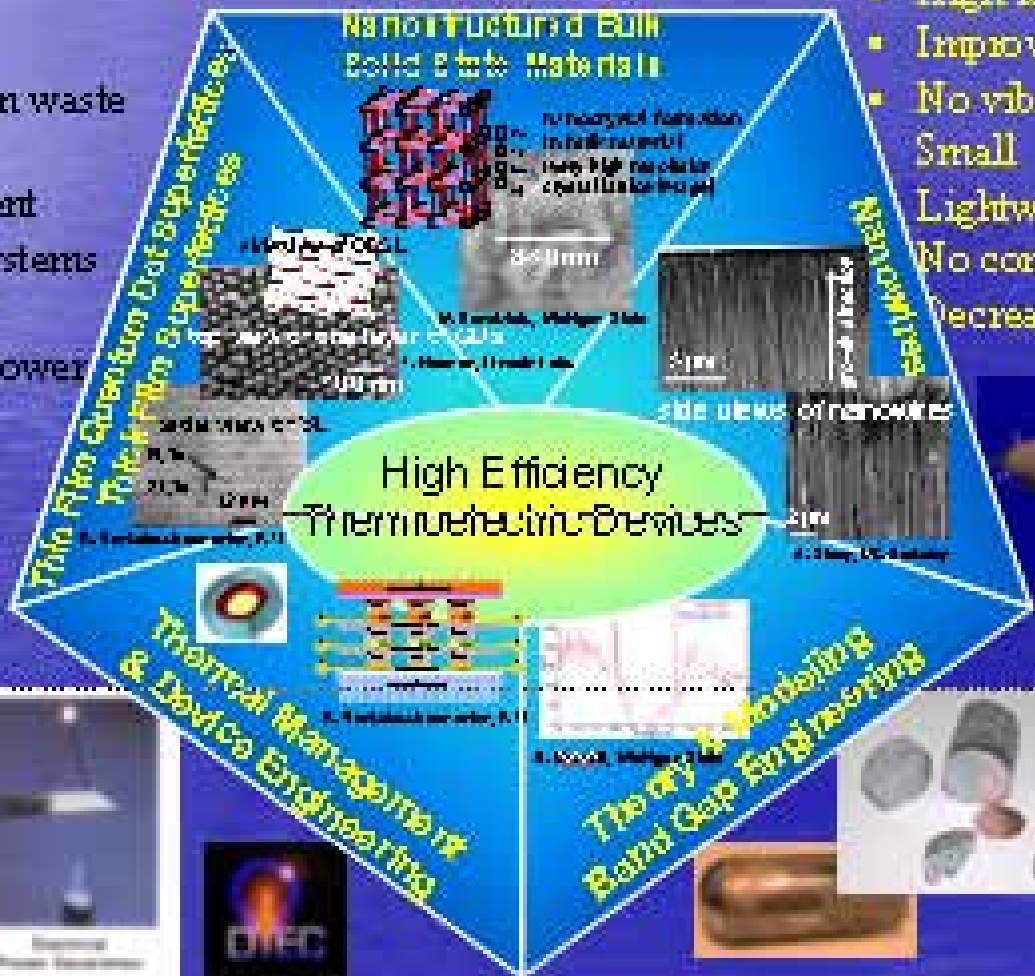
[www.onr.navy.mil](http://www.onr.navy.mil)

## Naval Applications

- Power generation
- Auxiliary power
- Energy recovery from waste heat
- Alternator replacement
- Distributed power systems
- Solid state cooling
- Unattended/remote power supplies

## Naval Benefits

- High reliability (>250,000 hrs.)
- Improved stealth Low noise
- No vibrations
- Small
- Lightweight
- No compressed gases/chemicals
- Decreased life cycle costs



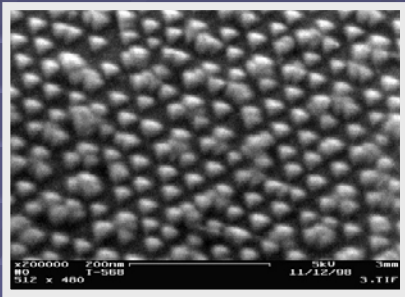


# DoD Investments in TE Technologies

1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

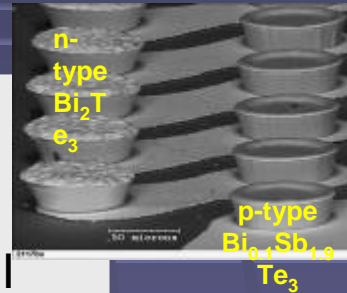
ONR 1994-1997

Quantum dots



DARPA/ONR  
1996-2002

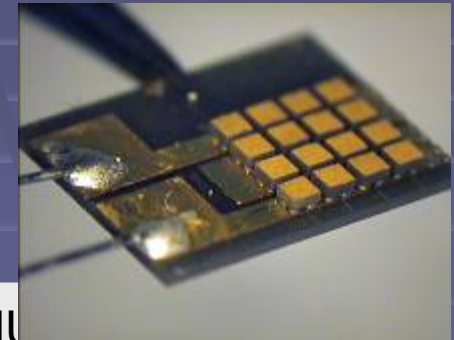
ONR MURI  
1998-2003



microdevices

DARPA/ARO  
Palm Power  
2001-2005

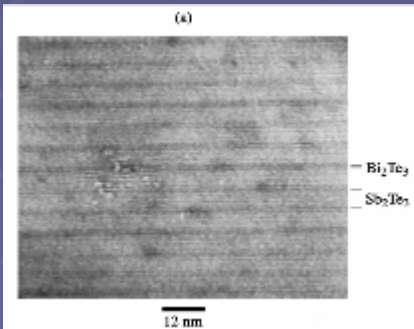
nanodevices



ONR MURI  
2003-2007

ONR/DARPA DTEC  
2003-?

ONR/OSD/ARO  
SBIRs  
2005-2007



superlattices

Bulk materials



# Direct Thermal-to-Electrical Energy Conversion



Dr. Mihal E. Gross  
Office of Naval Research

## ONR Program Participants

- Michigan State University
- UC Santa Cruz
- North Carolina State University
- Clemson University
- Harvard University
- MIT
- University of Michigan
- Purdue University
- UC Berkeley
- UC Santa Barbara
- University of Oregon
- University of South Florida
- University of Texas, Austin
- MIT Lincoln Labs
- Ames Lab
- RTI
- BSST
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrup Grumman/Newport News
- Pratt & Whitney/UTC
- Rockwell Scientific
- Tellurex
- MetaMateria



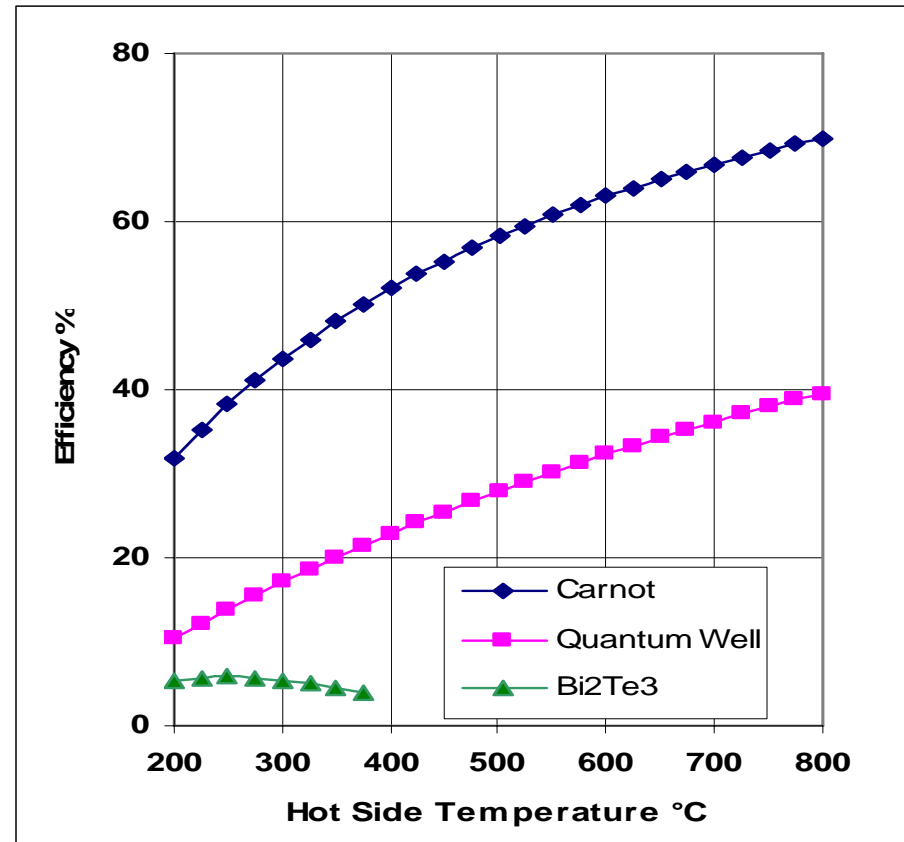
# **60% Efficient Vehicular Diesel Engine -**

## **Probable, Possible or Fantasy?**



## Predicted Efficiency of Quantum Well Thermoelectric Module

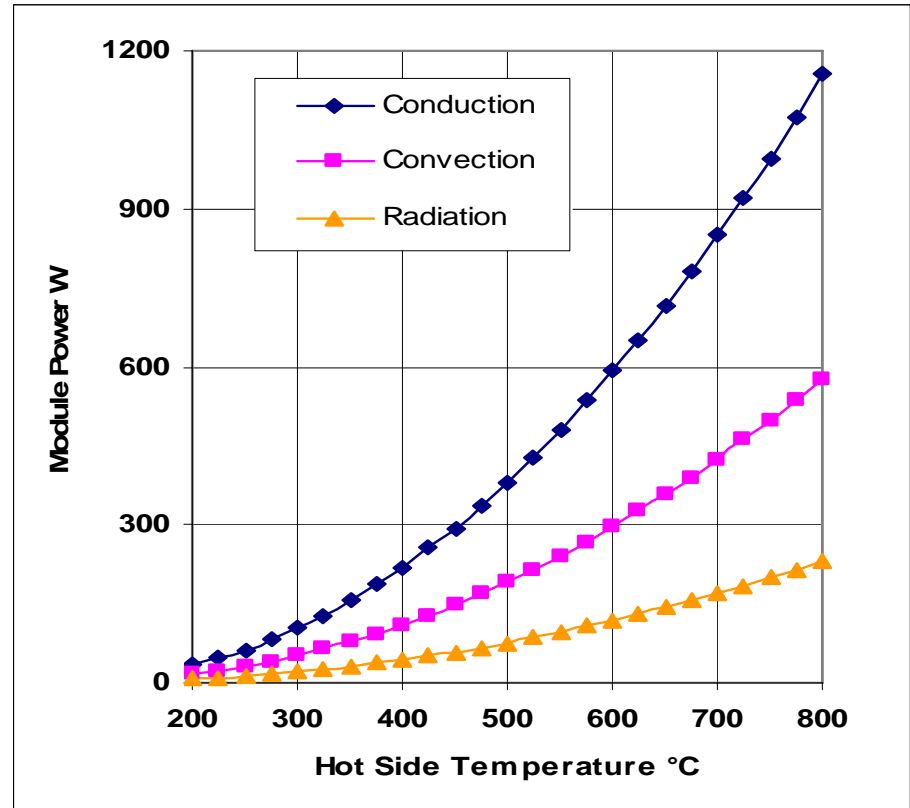
- ❑ N-Type Si/SiC & P-type B4C/B9C
- ❑ Cold side at 50°C
- ❑ Based on measured  $\alpha$  &  $r$ , and literature  $k$  (bulk thermal conductivity)
- ❑ Efficiencies compete with gasoline & diesel engines, & fuel cells.





## Radiation coupling is practical design for high temperature; conduction or convection higher power

- ❑ **N-Type Si/SiC & P-type B4C/B9C**
- ❑ **Cold side at 50°C**
- ❑ **Module is 2.5 x 2.5 in.**
  - **Thickness changed to match heat flux from source**
    - **Conduction**
    - **Convection**
    - **Radiation**
- ❑ **Based on measured  $\alpha$  &  $r$ , and literature  $k$  (bulk thermal conductivity)**
- ❑ **Requires high temperature eggcrate**

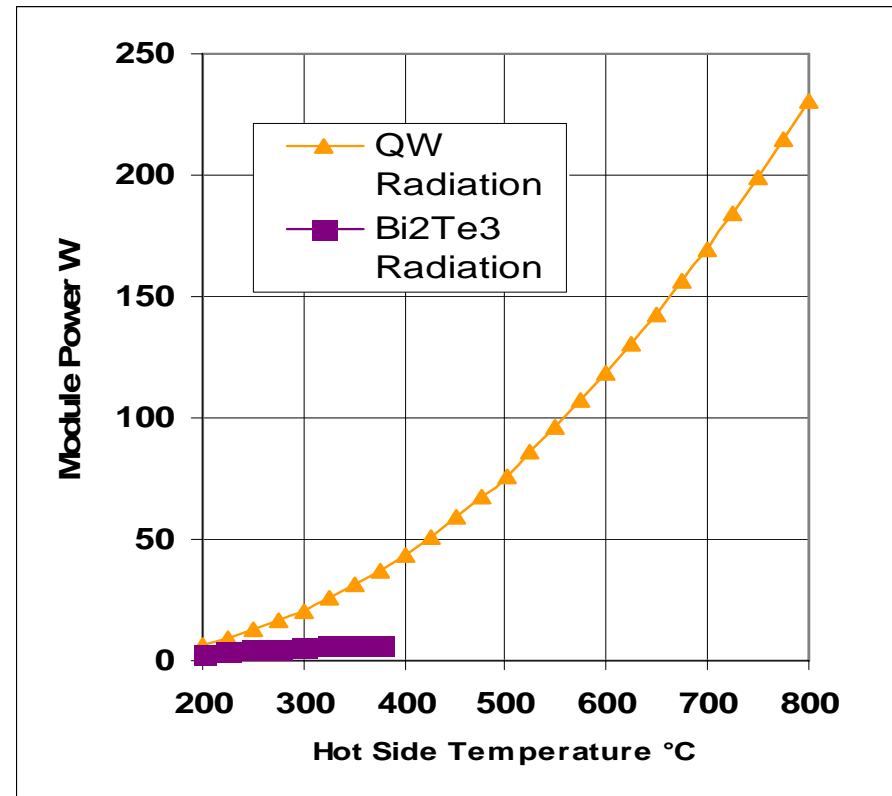






## Quantum Well delivers $5 \text{ W}_e/\text{cm}^2$ at $800^\circ\text{C}$ with thermal radiation from source to thermoelectric

- ❑ **N-Type Si/SiC & P-type B4C/B9C**
- ❑ **Cold side at  $50^\circ\text{C}$**
- ❑ **Represents practical design**
  - **Radiation coupling simplifies design and reduces thermal contact losses**
- ❑ **Based on measured  $\alpha$  &  $r$ , and literature  $k$  (bulk thermal conductivity)**





## Near Term (3-5 yrs)



- ❑ Thermoelectric Generator providing 10% fuel economy gain
- ❑ “Beltless” or more electric engine
- ❑ Integrated Motor/Alternator/Starter

## Mid Term (10-15 yrs)



- ❑ 5 Thermoelectric Generators mated diesel engine  $\Delta T$ 's
  - 60% efficient heavy duty truck engine
  - 55% efficient light truck (SUV's, Pick-ups, Mini-vans), auto
- ❑ Thermoelectric air conditioner/heater for vehicles
- ❑ Aluminum/Magnesium frame & body replacing steel (Process waste heat recovery)

## Long Term (15-25 yrs)



- ❑ 35% efficient Thermoelectrics with 500 °C  $\Delta T$ 
  - Replace Internal Combustion Engine
  - Combustor burns any fuel

## Very Long Term (40+ yrs)



- ❑ Radioisotope replaces combustor for vehicle propulsion
  - 30+ years life powertrain
  - Replace vehicle body periodically