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Developing A Sensing System for the Measurement of Oxygen Concentration in Liquid Pb-Bi Eutectic: Quarterly Progress Report (Aug. 01 – Oct. 31, 2002)

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Quarterly Progress Report

(Aug. 01 – Oct. 31, 2002)

Developing A Sensing System for the Measurement of Oxygen Concentration in Liquid Pb-Bi Eutectic

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Developing A Sensing System for the Measurement of Oxygen Concentration in Liquid Pb-Bi Eutectic

Introduction

After two month intensive work in LANL, some preliminary sensor calibration curves have been obtained. Further data analysis shall be performed to assess the theoretical and measured data. Also, a new experimental apparatus shall be designed and located in UNLV to continue the left work.

Personnel

Principal Investigators:

- Dr. Yingtao Jiang (Electrical and ComputerEngineering)
- Dr. Bingmei Fu and Dr. Woosoon Yim (Mechanical Engineering)

Students:

- Mr. Xiaolong Wu, Graduate Student, (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Mr. Ramkumar Bhavani Sivaraman (Electrical and Computer Engineering) (On a TA since September)

Note:

One graduate assistantship was offered to a student. Due to visa problem, he was unable to join our team.

Management Progress

- Expenditures incurred during this quarter are within the target amount allocated.

Management Problems

No problems have been encountered.

Technical Progress

- A set of calibration curves of voltage vs. temperature ranging from 300⁰C to 500⁰C under various oxygen concentrations in liquid LBE for the YSZ oxygen sensor has been obtained and has been reported in one paper.
- A meeting with LBE committee and other faculty members in AAA projects was organized to discuss our new experimental apparatus design.
- We have identified the major components/parts to be incorporated in our sensor experimental apparatus, and we have finalized the geometries of some of the parts. This newly-designed system shall be accommodated in HRC center.
- We started to use FEMLAB free version to do simulations for oxygen concentration distributions in our setup due to stirring.

Technical Difficulties

- Consistent memory overflow problems were encountered during FEMLAB simulations. The reason of these problems remains unknown and further study on this software thus is necessary.

Plans for the Next Quarter

- We need to consult Drs. N. Li and W. Hang to finalize the design of the new experimental apparatus. Modifications to our current design may be necessary after the scheduled meetings taking place on Nov. 8 and Nov. 25.
- In particular,
 - We need to contact Zircoa company about ordering and installation issues.
 - We need to continue to contact VWR to finalize the geometry of the stainless beaker.
 - In the end, we will make the decision in the geometry of the flange.
 - After selecting the stainless steel beaker, we can finalize the design of the heat jacket.
 - We will add a watch window into our design.
 - We will continue oxygen concentration simulations using FEMLAB
 - We will make final decision on the motor and shaft.
- Once the design is completed, we shall contact various vendors and manufacturers to order the parts.
- We will continue the oxygen concentration simulations using FEMLAB.