



AVL H₂ INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

The AVL Hydrogen Race Engine

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Public

AVL HYDROGEN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

Current Global H₂-ICE activities: OEMs and Suppliers



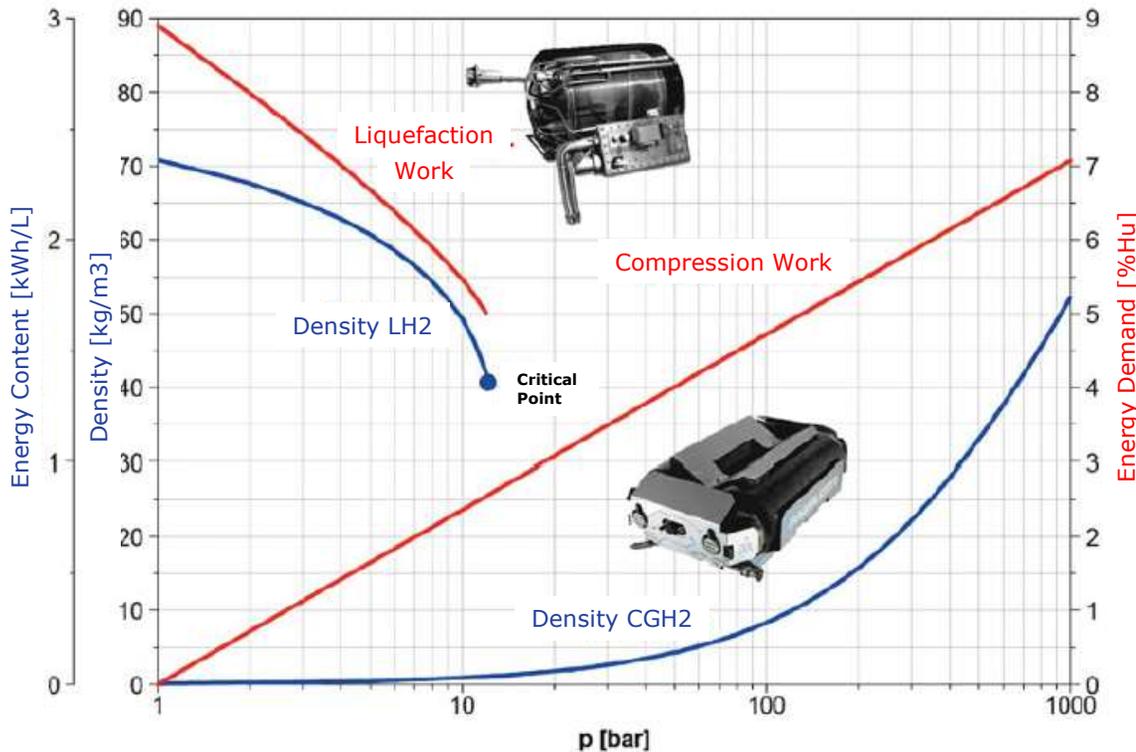
	US	Europe	India	China	Japan
PC H ₂ -ICE	No activities	Growing interest (esp. HP/Race)	No activities	Advanced projects	Advanced projects
Bus & Truck H ₂ -ICE	Strong increase in interest in H ₂ -ICE activities	Global epicenter of H ₂ -ICE (11-13l engines) Fleet-CO ₂ reduction as driver (-30% in 2030)	First H ₂ -ICE activities on OEM side ARAI starting to investigate H ₂ -ICE	Growing interest in H ₂ -ICE technology Still focus on CH ₄ /Methanol	As hydrogen is a major pillar in future energy policy strong interest in H ₂ -ICE
NRMM H ₂ -ICE	No activities	High interest	No activities	No activities	High interest

Increasing Interest in H₂ Engines also for Passenger Cars and Racing Applications



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Hydrogen Storage – CGH₂ vs. LH₂ – Density & Compression/Liquefaction Work



- Density of liquid hydrogen (LH₂, 2–4bar) is at least 50% higher compared to compressed gaseous hydrogen (CGH₂, 700bar)
- maximum storage density
 - CGH₂ (700bar): **1.3kWh/dm³** (T_{Ambient})
 - LH₂ (2–4bar): **2.3kWh/dm³**
 - Gasoline (1bar): **8.8kWh/dm³** (T_{Ambient})
- Ideal processes assumed for liquefaction & compression work
- actual technical process efficiencies are even lower leading to considerable energy demand
- **LH₂ holds an advantage over CGH₂**
- **both are far away from standard gasoline**

Source: Krell, M.; Eichseder, H.; Trattner, A.: „Wasserstoff in der Fahrzeugtechnik – Erzeugung, Speicherung, Anwendung“, ATZ/MTZ technical book, 4th edition, Springer/Vieweg, ISBN 978-3-658-20446-4

Storage: LH₂ holds an advantage over CGH₂ – both are far away from standard Gasoline

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Hydrogen as a Fuel for Internal Combustion Engines

Pros

- **High grav. Energy Content**
 - 120 MJ/kg gravimetric
 - ~ 3 times higher than gasoline
- **Wide Operation Limits**
 - $\sim 1 \leq \lambda \leq 4$
 - excellent lean burn & dilution capability
- **Low Ignition Energy**
 - easy to ignite
- **High Flame Speed**
 - suited for high speed



Contras

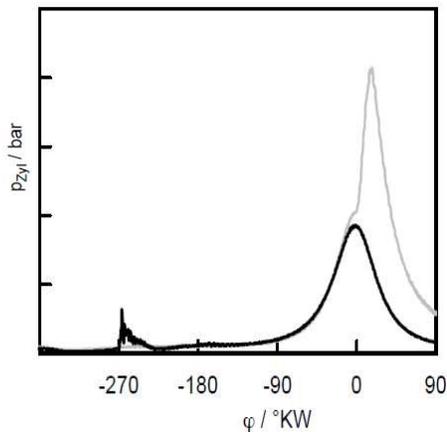
- **Low Density**
 - ~ 10 times lower than CNG
- **Low vol. Energy Content**
 - weak energy content in engine
- **Reactive Molecule**
 - prone to combustion anomalies
- **Low Quenching Distance**
 - burns close to surroundings
 - high wall heat loss

H₂ Offers Unrivalled Combustion Features but is tricky to Handle / Control

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Operation Challenges @ Hydrogen Engine Operation & Development

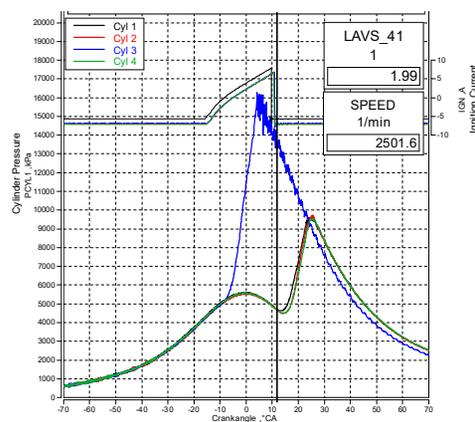
Backfire



Backfire into suction path

- inflammation during suction phase on hot sources
- occurring for PFI concepts

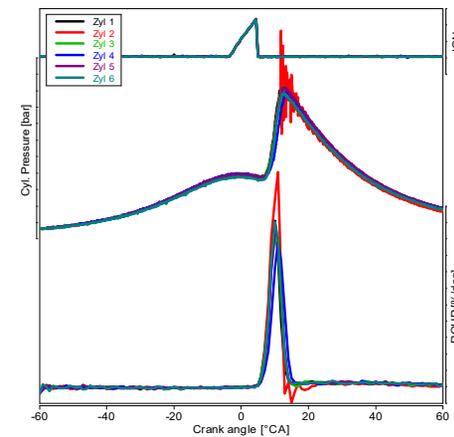
Pre-Ignition



Pre-Ignition

- H₂ molecule highly reactive
- weak ignition sources may trigger irregular combustion

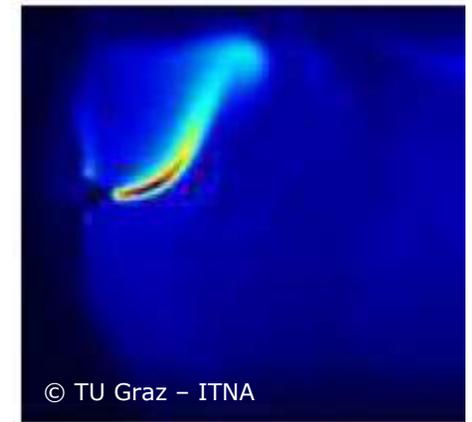
Knocking



Knock

- H₂ molecule highly reactive
- especially prone to knocking in stoichiometric conditions

DI Injector Leakage



Hydrogen DI Injector Leakage

- small H₂ molecule
- no lubrication capability
- issue for DI inj. tightness/lifetime

Source: "CO2 reduction in commercial vehicles - the AVL hydrogen engine"

Mitigation of Combustion Anomalies is tricky with Hydrogen

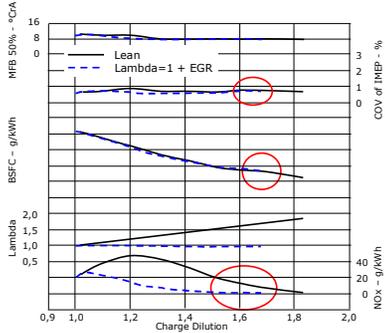
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H₂-ICE Basic Operation Concepts for Passenger Car

I. Pure Lean Operation

- $\lambda \approx 2.5$ for lowest NO_x
- Very high boost pressure
- NO_x aftertreatment with or w/o SCR

Example: 2500rpm/6 bar BMEP; Lean vs Lambda=1 + EGR



H₂-ICE Operation Concepts

II. Lean + EGR

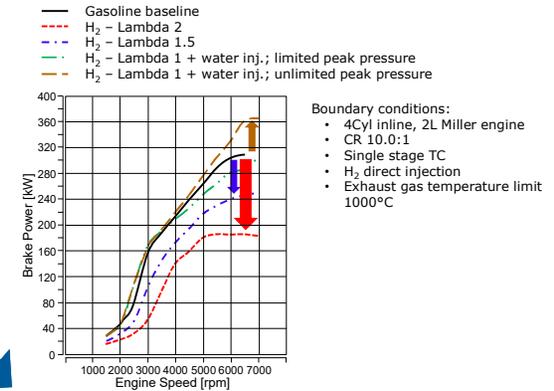
- Slightly lower boost pressure
- EGR reduces NO_x
- NO_x aftertreatment with or w/o SCR

Highest Power!

IV. $\lambda=1$ + combustion moderator

Moderate boost pressure

- Water inj. and/or EGR to handle IRC!
- NO_x aftertreatment with TWC



III. $\lambda=1$

- Lowest boost pressure
- $\lambda=1$ most prone to IRC!
- NO_x aftertreatment @ HL/FL w. TWC

H₂ can be operated lean, but also at Lambda=1 plus Combustion Moderator

AVL HYDROGEN RACE ENGINE DEMONSTRATOR

Project Motivation & Partners



Project Motivation & Partners

- AVL RACETECH governed project
- Purpose: Demonstrate power potential with H₂ Fuel
- Why: Strong interest in carbon-neutral / carbon-free ICE based motorsport
Motorsport will not use BEVs everywhere
- Partner: HUMDA



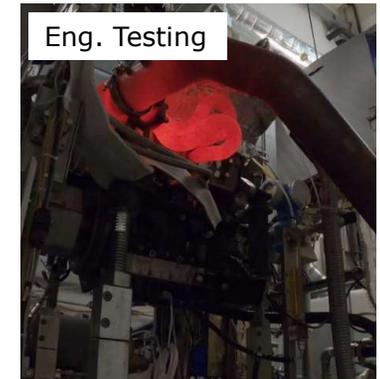
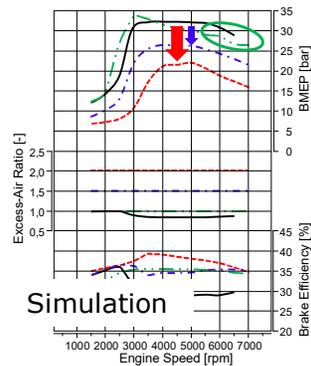
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Engine Description & Power Targets



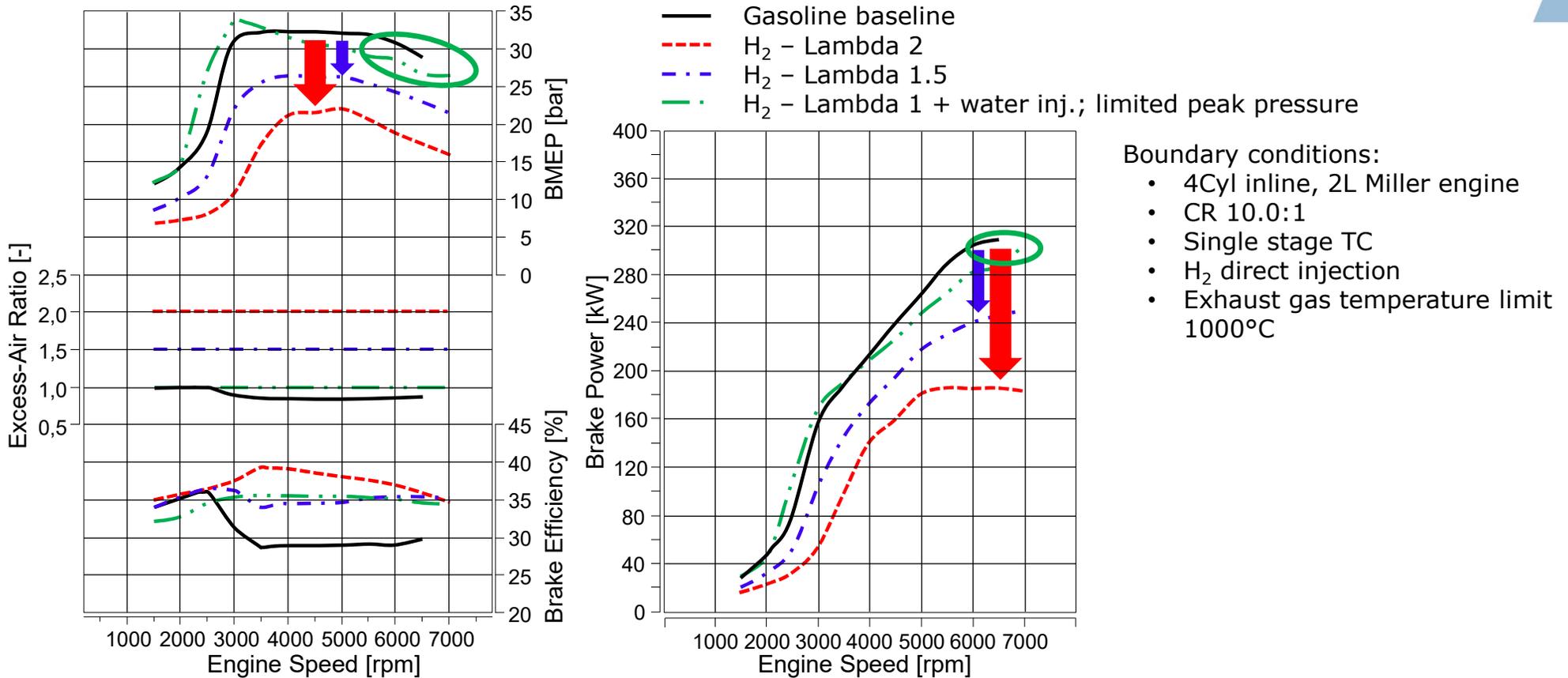
AVL H₂ Race Engine Demonstrator

- 2.0L in-line turbocharged 4-Cyl. Engine
- Hydrogen Single Fuel Operation
- Hydrogen Direct Injection (H₂-DI)
- Targeted Power Density: 150kW/l
- $\lambda \approx 1$ Operation + PFI Water Injection for Combustion Moderation
- Air & Exhaust Flow Optimization



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1D Performance Simulations

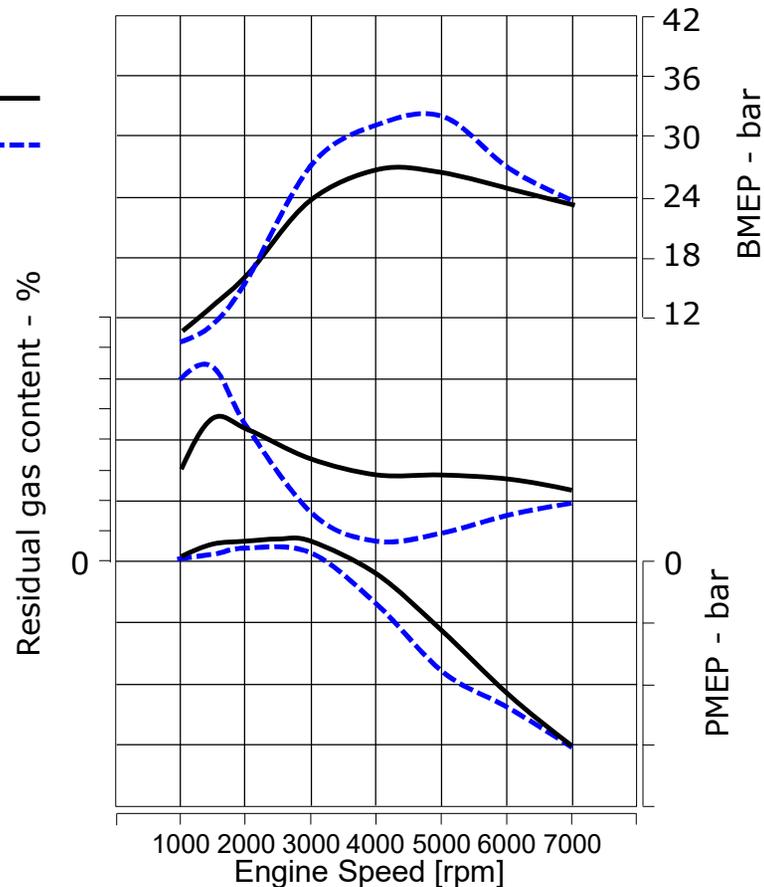


Highest Power / Torque can be Achieved by Combining - Lambda=1 plus Water Injection

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1D Performance Simulations

Baseline —
Optimised - - -



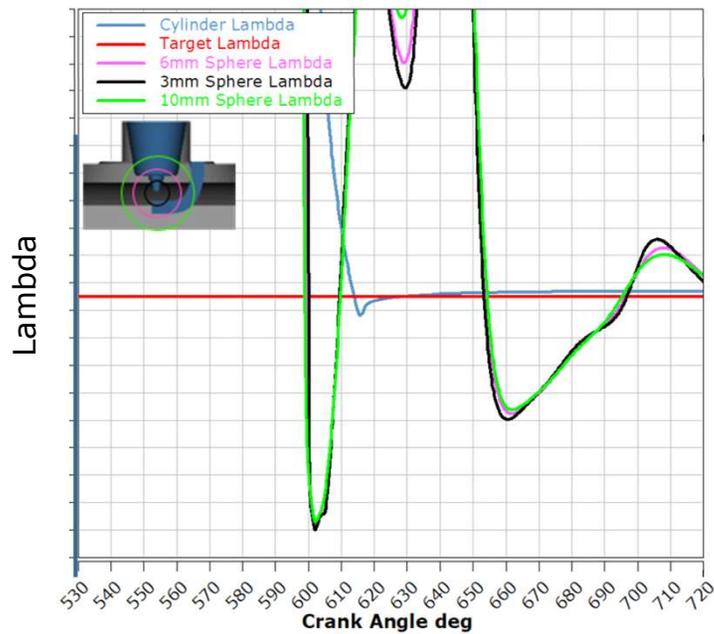
The specific gas dynamic layout allows low pumping work and very low (hot) residual gas content in the combustion chamber. This reduces knock, preignition and the need for high boost pressure.

A Specific Gas Dynamic Layout Allows Lowest Residual Gas Content

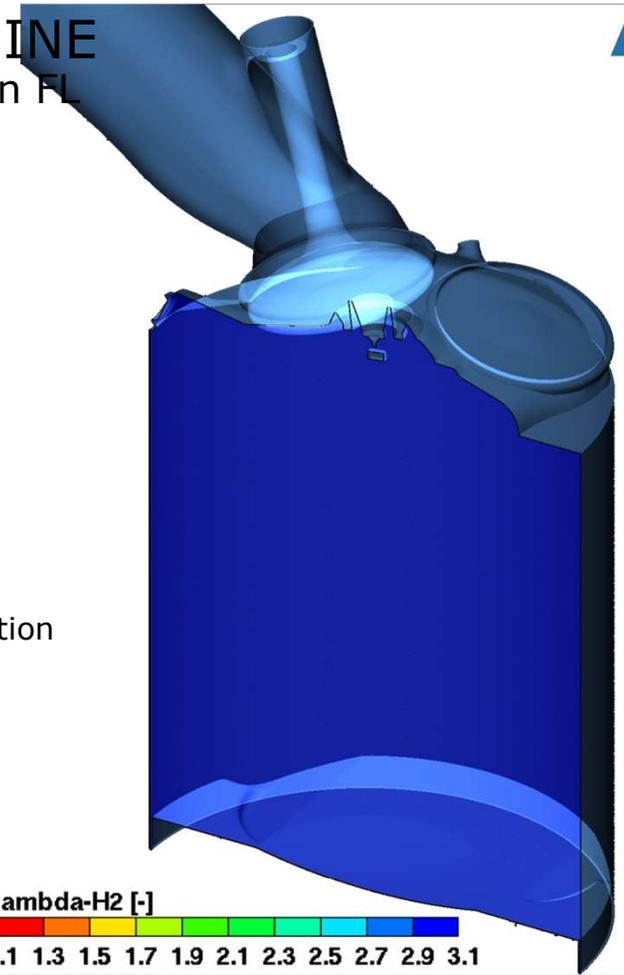
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CFD Simulation – Example: Mixture Formation Process @ Lean FL

530 deg CA



Despite late injection
sufficient homogenization
can be achieved



Late Injection Allows Increase in Power and Still Homogeneous Mixture

AVL HYDROGEN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

Parts Considerations – Engine Upgrades for Hydrogen Demonstrator

Parts Considerations – Engine Adaption for AVL H₂-ICE Race Engine Demonstrator – Overview*

Component	Action
Intake Manifold	Adaption (aluminum part recommended)
H₂-DI Injectors, H₂ Rail & Inj. Oiling Sys.	Addition (need to be H ₂ specific)
H₂ Pressure Regulator	Addition (2-stage tank & engine)
Water Injection (WI) System	Addition (for combustion moderation)
Spark Plugs	Adaption (need to be very cold; ensure good heat transfer)
Ignition Coils	Adaption (no residual charge - preignition)
Turbocharger	Adaption (acc. boost pressure requirement)
Exhaust Camshaft & Cam Train	Adaption (for proper gas exchange and speed potential)
Exhaust Manifold & Downpipes	Addition/Adaption (for high power output & low back pr.)
Valve Seat Rings, Valves, Valve Guides	Adaption (wear)
Crankcase Ventilation & Oil Separation	Adaption (low H ₂ concentration, water)
Pistons, Piston Rings, Conrods	Adaption (wear)
Cylinder Head	Adaptions (PFP, SP & inj. cooling)
Engine block	Adaptions (PFP, cooling)
Crankshaft	Adaptions (PFP, cooling)

bold ... demonstrator level
(reliability discounted)

- scope of change required depends on the base engine, H₂-ICE requirements and operation concept (here: $\lambda = 1 + WI$)
- especially the weak lubrication capability of hydrogen (even worse than CNG) will require mechanical development for friction partner reliability especially with focus on series production and/or racing application durability
→ mech. improvement & durability testing required

not considered in engine demonstrator project
➤ might be needed in next steps for durability and PFP increase

Hardware Adaption was chosen for H₂-ICE Demonstrator

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Engine Preparation & Setup



Considerable Effort was put into:

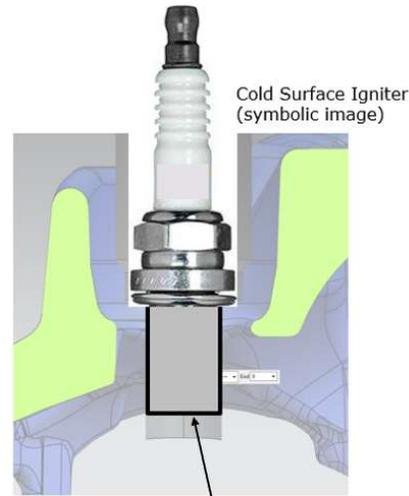
- Component Selection
- Valve Lift Curve Adaption & Lash Adjustm.
- Aero System Layout
- etc. ...



Ventrex © EPR



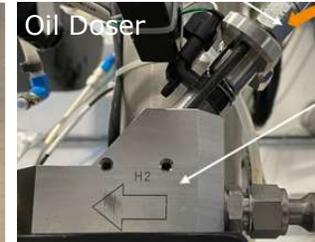
Weissgerber Engineering © H₂-ready Ignition Coils



Cold Racing Spark Plug



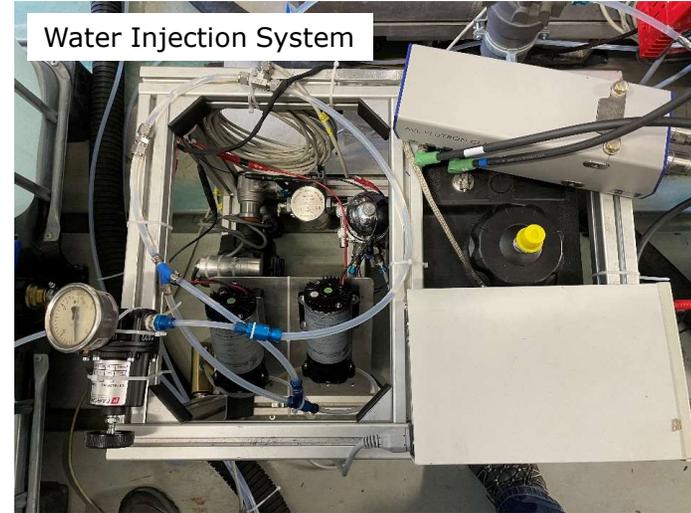
Phinia © H₂-DI Inj.Sys. + Oiling



M&H © H₂-DI Fuel Rail

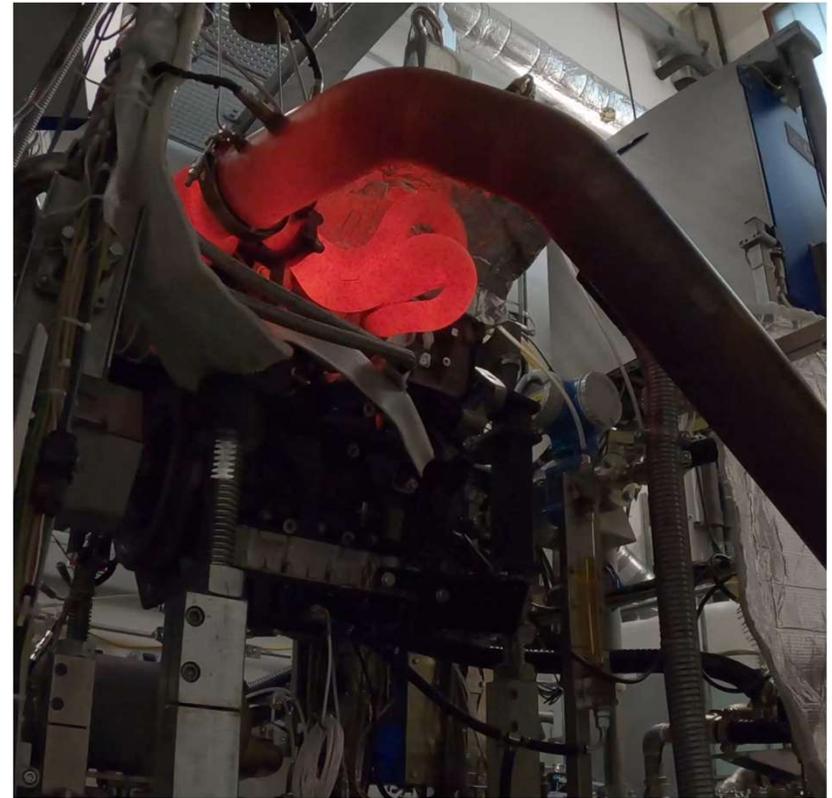
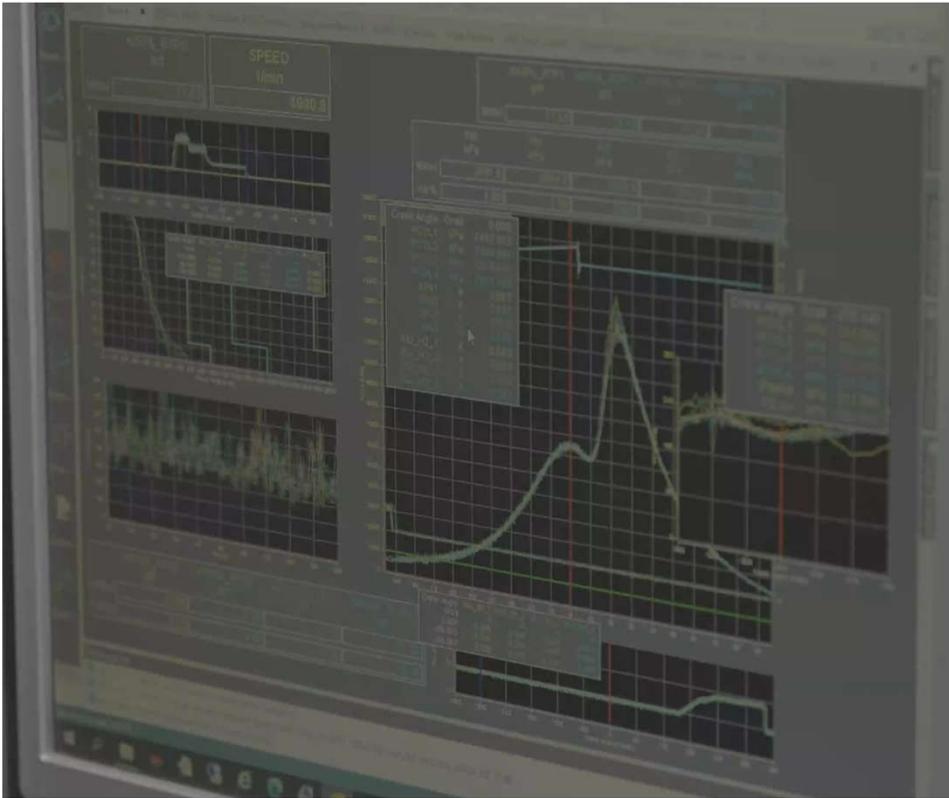
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Engine Setup on AVL H₂-ICE Test Bed



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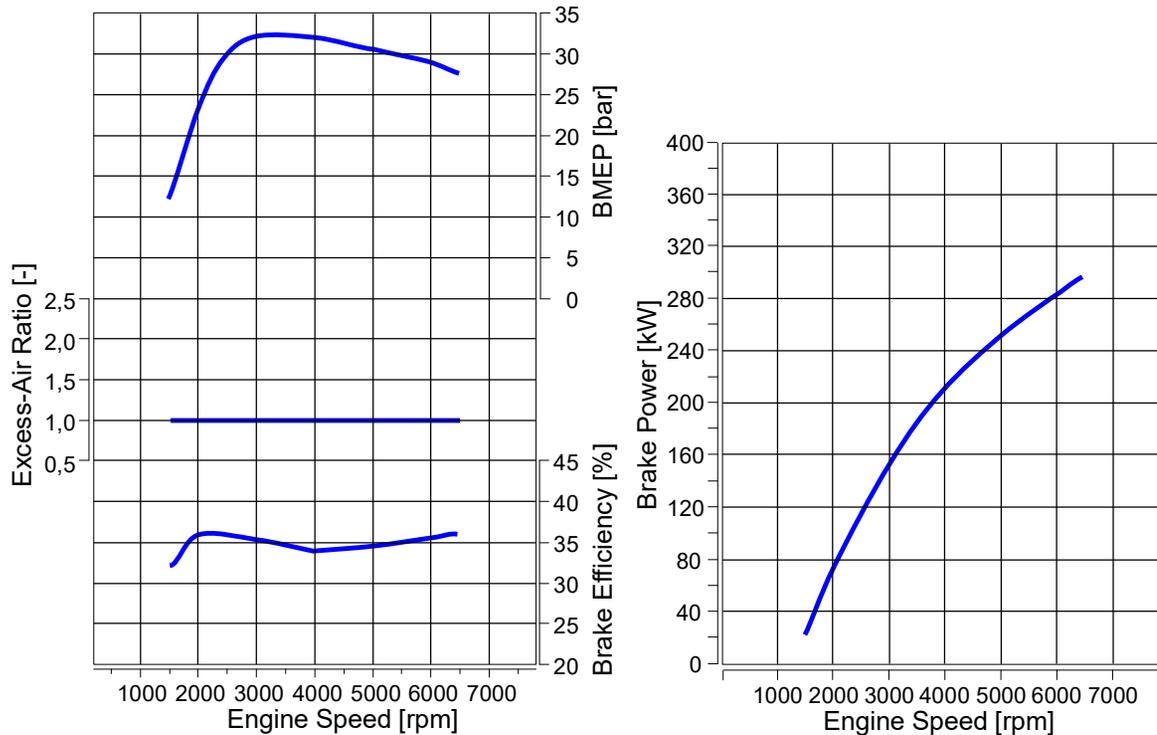
Testing – Engine running on AVL H₂-ICE Test Bed – The Fun Stuff



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Testing – Engine running on AVL H₂-ICE Test Bed – Target Achievement

Measured on AVL H₂-ICE Testbed



Achievements

- Power: 300 kW @ 6500rpm
150 kW/l Power Density
- Torque: 500 Nm @ 3000 - 4000rpm
- BMEP: 32 bar @ 3000 - 4000rpm

N	MD	BMEP	PWR
3000.0 1/min	501.93 Nm	3179 kPa	157.69 kW
N	MD	BMEP	PWR
4000.0 1/min	504.51 Nm	3195 kPa	211.33 kW
N	MD	BMEP	PWR
6500.0 1/min	443.36 Nm	2808 kPa	301.79 kW

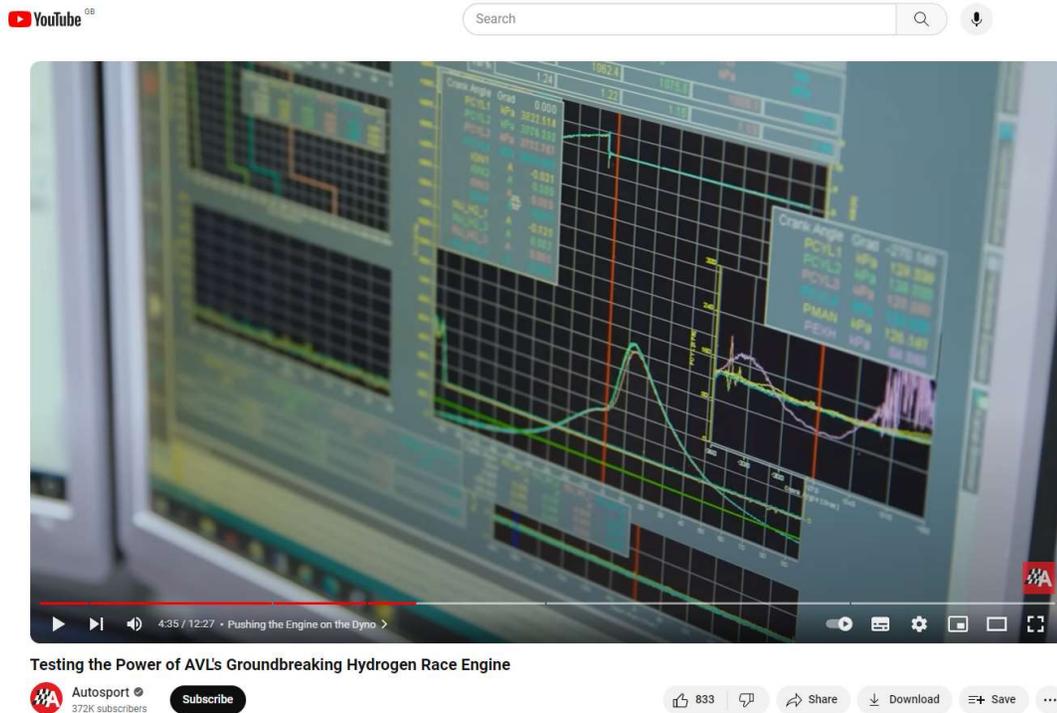
Targets achieved according to initial Press Release

AVL HYDROGEN RACE ENGINE DEMONSTRATOR

Testing – Engine running on AVL H₂-ICE Test Bed – Target Achievement – The Proof

Measured on AVL H₂-ICE Testbed

Search YouTube "AVL Hydrogen Race Engine" to see the team and the engine running



Achievements

- Power: 300 kW @ 6500rpm
150 kW/l Power Density
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Targets achieved according to initial Press Release

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Next Steps

- **Engine Dismantle** (started as we speak)
 - Engine has endured testing → check required for improvement potential
- **Potential Engine Upgrade**
 - Engine Reinforcement towards higher PFP capability
 - Reliability requirements to be defined after engine analysis
- **Strategy Adaption to reduce Water Moderation Requirement**
 - potentially moderately lean operation + Water Injection
- **Increase Power Output**
 - There's never enough ...
- **Step into Race Car Application**
 - Test Bed is nice – Real Driving is nicer ...



AVL is looking for Partners for next Steps – Ideas/Projects highly welcome !

Thank you



www.avlracetech.com