# **Oxygen Line Cleaning System**







Environmental Security Technology Certification Program

#### Aircraft Oxygen Line Cleaning System (OLCS)

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www.jgpp.com

#### Introduction

- Why We're Here
- Background-- Existing Procedures, History
- Program Objectives & System Features
- Testing Results
- Operational & Cost benefit
- Off Equipment Cleaning
- Facts to note and Transitioning
- Implementation Methods
- Summary

## Why We're Here...

#### Technology Transition

- •Project Near Completion
- •Over \$2M spent on technology development
- •Requirement of JG-PP and ESTCP process
- Reduce/eliminate dependence on ODC's
- •Reduce O&M costs

## **Existing Procedures**

- Alcohol Flush (Flammable, discontinued)
- **CFC 113** (stockpile dependent)
- HCFC-141b- hard to get, purity issues, supplies exhausting, production ceases this year! (Outlawed in Germany 5 Feb '02)
- Water solutions (Freeze and corrosion issues)
- No method <u>determined</u> cleanliness!
- Hard to reach lines reportedly ignored

# **Background/History**

- Predecessor Technology
  - Oxygen Converter Cleaner System (OCCS)
  - OLCS direct follow on of OCCS technology
  - OCCS Technology being upgraded as result of OLCS testing
  - Results will be shown later in presentation

## **OLCS Background**

- Initial development for B-1B Molecular Sieve Oxygen Generator (MSOG) system
  - MSOG failure dusted oxygen plumbing system with Zeolite particles
  - System dismantled, cleaned with CFC-113 (15 gal.)
    - \$1M work effort ~ 3 months + to complete
    - Extensive labor hours and systems check out
- Oxygen Systems-<u>No PDM cleaning cycle</u>
- We question the cleanliness of all weapon systems oxygen lines - we'll show you why! 7

# **Objective of Demonstration**

- Objectives of demonstration were to
  - validate oxygen line cleaning prototype
  - prove environmental acceptability
  - prove cost effective alternative to Freon 113
- Lab Testing on a full scale B1 oxygen line system.
  - Versar site near Tinker AFB
- Full scale demonstrations followed on B-1, F-15 and F-16 aircraft. Cleaned oxygen fill and cargo compartment line on C-130 aircraft



## Control System Features

#### OLCS will manage all operations.

- Store and pump the solvent.
- Control operational sequence.
- Measure cleanliness of oxygen line effluent.
- Leak test, wash, verify cleanliness, rinse, evaporate, dry, verify <u>less than</u> 40 ppm solvent in system and notify operator.
- Distill and recycle chemicals.

#### **Operation Phases**

- Systems Test: Pressure Test and Vacuum Test
- Wash & Rinse (HFE-7100)
- Cleanliness Verification: Particle Counters
- Solvent Removal and Verification: Vacuum Cycle & Air Purge, Halogen Detection

## **Technical Accomplishments**

- Versar, Inc. Data for cleaning:
  - 15-20 feet per second of Shear velocity is required for acceptable cleaning results (additional testing is being accomplished).
- System cleans very well, all aircraft dirtier than expected
- System enhancement throughout program

#### What We've Found

Known Contaminants

- •Teflon
- •Silicon
- •Stainless Steel Cuttings
- •Aluminum Cuttings
- •Brass Cuttings
- •High Chrome Steel (melted)
- •Plastic (rubbery)
- •"Red" Dirt (unidentifiable) (Iron Oxide?)

•Much of this was assumed to have been caused during manufacturing or subsequent servicing throughout life cycle.



Filter sock as received.



Large metal particles on inner sheath. B-1B Aircraft 03 Nov 01

#### **Blank Filter Patch**



25 mm ------



Blue filter membrane with fine gray Al-Silicate particles extracted from felt.

#### B-1B Aircraft 03 Nov 01



Filter membrane with fine gray Teflon particles, traces of metal and paint chips extracted from felt.



Filter patch with fine gray particles of Al-silicates and stainless steel extracted from filter sock.

## C-130 LOX Servicing Lines (N1159) Filter Patch



#### C-130 LOX Servicing Lines (N1159) Small Particles on Filter Patch (40X)



#### C-130 LOX Servicing Lines (N1159) Large Particles (20X)



← 1 mm→

#### C-130 O2 Supply Lines (N1160) Filter Patch



#### C-130 O2 Supply Lines (N1160) Small Particles on Filter Patch (40X)



#### C-130 O2 Supply Lines (N1160) Large Particles (20X)



## **OCCS** Converter



# Converter



# Lab Testing



Cpn 1.0 1/2" sTRT. Contam Test 37 MIL C 47220 & ARD Wt Before: 1.0843 Wt Contam: 1.1904

Cpn 1.0 1/2" Strt. After Test 3 MIL C 47220 & ARD Wt Before: 1.0843 Wt Contam: 1.1904 Wt After: 1.0849







# **Operational Benefits**

#### • User Friendly

- One Operator
- Touch Screen Technology
- Press Button to Start Operation
- Environmentally Friendly
  - Considered Non-hazardous (No Hazardous Waste)
  - Non-ODC (Closed Loop System)
- Fully Transportable (Highway, Air or Sea)

- Climatic Conditions from 40 F to 120 F

# Demonstration/Validation Steps

- Convey the OLCS to Demonstration Aircraft.
- Prepare Aircraft for Cleaning; check for leaks.
- Perform Automated Cleaning Procedure.
  - Takes 1-3 Hours.
  - Self-check for solvent (halides) and contaminants (particle counter)
- Laboratory examination if desired.
- Cost: \$5K/aircraft or \$10K/day at a base

**Updated Cost Savings Estimate** Return On Investment (ROL)

- Clean system to prevent oxygen regulator failure from particulate contamination damage
  - Return On Investment (ROI)
    - 6,746 regulators X  $0.20^* = 1,349 \otimes 1,500$
    - 1,349 X 1,500/regulator X  $0.5^{**} = 1,011,750$ year
  - \* [20% across board due to particulate contamination]
  - \*\* [assuming that only 50 % of regulator damage will be prevented due to this process (conservative estimate based on minimum savings) ]

# Updated Cost Savings Estimate ROI (Continued)

- Return On Investment (ROI)
  - Based on 3 Year Forecast
  - \$3,035,025-\$1,750,000 inv. = \$1,200,000\*
- %ROI =
  - \$1,012,000/\$1,750,000\*100 = >50% (1st year)
  - \* Catastrophic not included One cleaning would save the cost of 2 OLCS units!

# **Off Equipment Cleaning**

#### •Bench Top Individual Line Cleaning

- •Navy CHOC's System
  - •Uses NOC

#### •Northrop/B-2 bench top cleaner

•HFE-7100 or other suitable solvent

## Facts To Note...

- •No current Spec Technology didn't exist
- •No cleaning requirement Never cleaned!
- •Draft submitted for T.O. 15X-1-1
- •A New Technology, New Capability

•A change in maintenance philosophy!

- Reduce O&M costs
- •Reduce or Eliminate dependence on ODC's
- •Aircraft safer for aircrews and maintainers

#### **Transition Possibilities**

- Investigating Additional Applications:
  - oxygen carts fires and contamination (funded)
  - oxygen and other gas-containing tanks
  - oxygen lines in medical applications
  - other chemical applications
  - Any type lines can be cleaned with minor adaptations (hydrazine, hydraulic, etc.)



# Viable Implementation Methods

•Contract Service

- •Full CLS support on location/On Demand
- •Equipment Purchase
  - •Govt. owned Contractor maintained
  - •Contractor provided training
- Very expensive if standard AGE procurementCost prohibitive

#### **Action Required**

•Is there real interest in this technology???

•SPO or MAJCOM Involvement •direction needed *now!* 

•Specifications Initiated

•Technology and costs are time sensitive.

# Summary

- •Aircraft cleaned were surprisingly dirty
- •AF in need of ODC replacements
- •Reduce O&M costs
- •Large "Ground Swell" of support from field
- •Safer operation for aircrew and maintainers
- •New Technology available for implementation

•A new and better maintenance philosophy

#### **Points of Contact**

#### • HQ AFMC/LGP-EV

Mary Hayes (CTC Inc.) Project Manager

#### • USAF (Tinker AFB)

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