



# ***Center for Electromechanics*** ***The University of Texas at Austin***

## **Kinetic Energy Storage and Power Generation**

***Presented by Richard Thompson***

***November 16, 2005***

- **The Need – Structural composites with revolutionary strength and modulus increases**
  - Composite materials and relationship to inertial energy storage and power generators
- **Overview of application areas**
- **Example**
  - Large energy storage (GJ) for grid connection
  - Sizing using today's composites
- **Structured nanocomposites – Path to the future?**

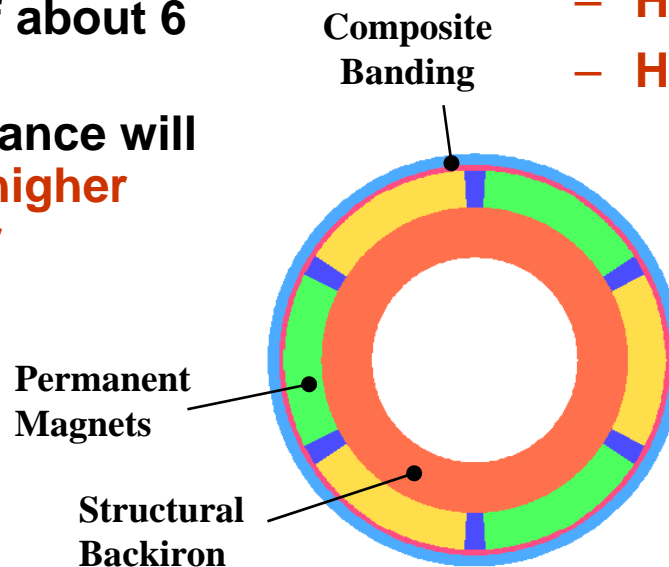
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## Composite Materials Relationship to Inertial Energy Storage and Power Generation

### Kinetic energy storage

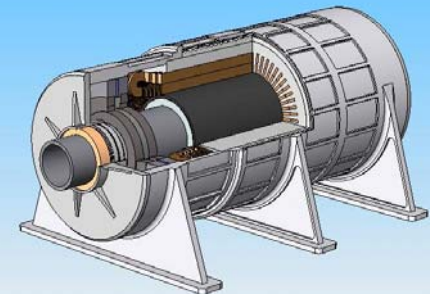
- Stored energy  $\sim J\omega^2$
- Specific Energy (wh/kg)
  - Proportional to  $\sigma_t/\rho$
  - Current composites offer a factor of about 6 over steel
  - Higher performance will be realized by **higher strength, stiffer composites**



### PM Generators

- PM generator's power can be described by  $P \sim D^2\omega$ , where
  - $D$  is mean air gap diameter
  - $\omega$  is shaft speed
- Higher performance machines require
  - **Increased  $D$  and  $\omega$**
  - **Higher strength composites**
  - **Higher stiffness composites**

### 5 MW PM Generator





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## Application Areas of Technology

### Space

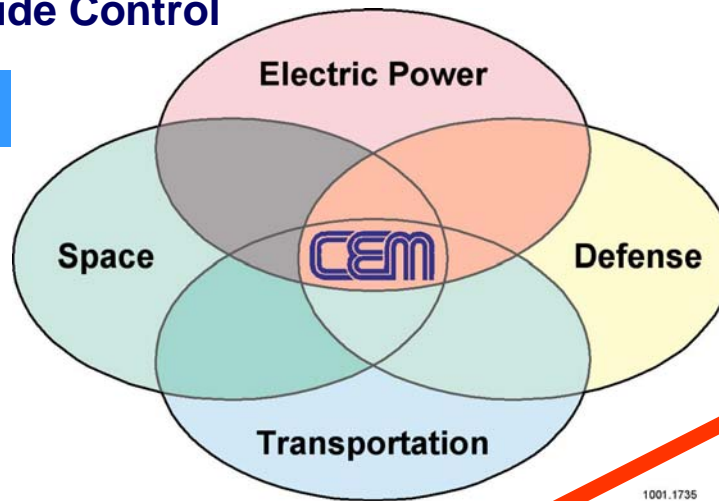
- Dual mode use
  - Space Power
  - Satellite Attitude Control

### Transportation

- Advanced Hybrid Trains
- Hybrid Passenger Cars

### Defense

- Advanced Hybrid Vehicles
- MW Class PM Generators for Directed Energy Systems



### Electric Power

- Advanced Generators for Distributed and Remote Power
  - MW class machines
  - PM generators with composite overwrap
- Large Scale Energy Storage for Power Generation

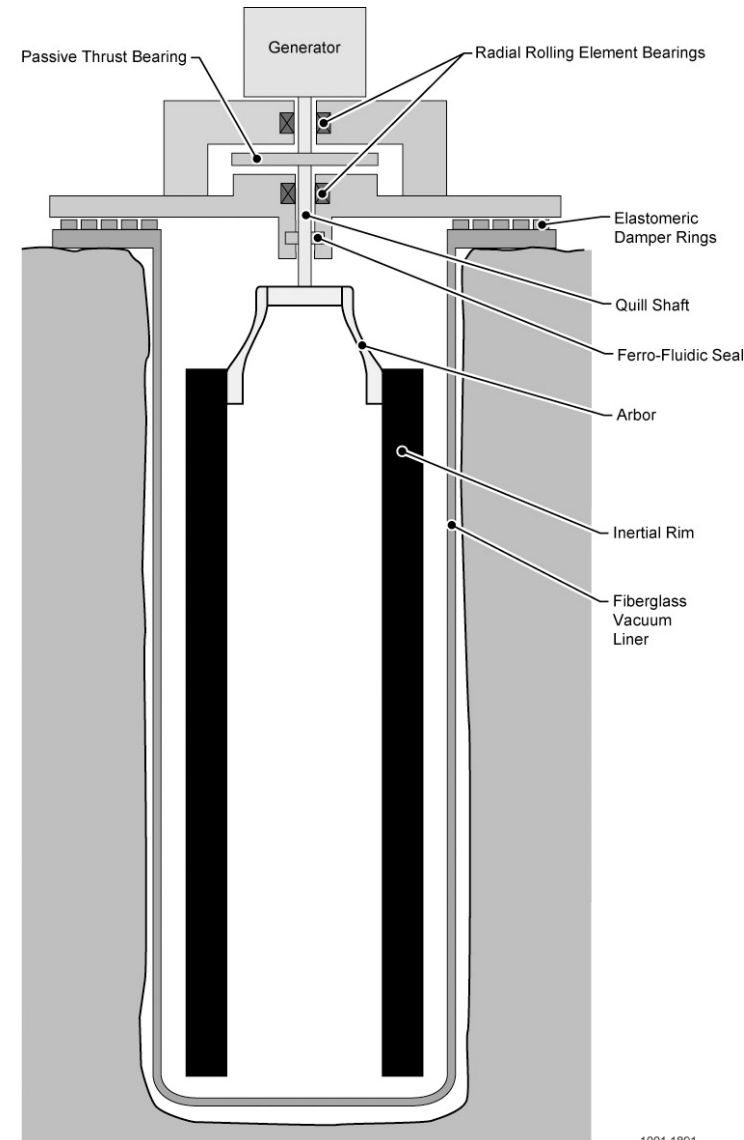
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## Example: Energy Storage for Grid Connection

- 8 GJ, 2.2 MW-hours stored energy
- Composite energy storage rim
  - Using today's materials
  - Rim weight is 65,000 lbs
- System performance/cost driven by
  - Cost of materials
  - Amount of materials needed ( $J\omega^2$ )
    - Operating speed dependence upon materials strength and modulus
- Performance vs cost improvement directly related to
  - Price of materials
  - Enhanced material properties





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## ***An Approach to Structured Nanocomposites (Sponsored Activity)***

- **Identify leading organizations developing**
  - **Fiber: Revolutionary property improvements**
  - **Matrix: Compatible with these new fibers**
- **Maturation Issues**
  - First set of milestones:**
    - **Demonstration of beneficial properties on R&D scale**
    - **Independent verification of properties**
  - Second Milestone:**
    - **“Out of the Lab” Processing**
    - **Material availability in a form useable for kinetic energy storage, power generators**



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## ***Summary of Initial Findings: Matrix (Literature Search)***

- **Matrix (Resin) fillers**
  - **Most widely used is montmorillonite, MMT (nanoclay)**
  - **Enhances both structural and thermal properties in neat resin (polymers)**
    - **Increased strength, impact resistance**
    - **Additional resistance to microcracking and increased  $T_g$**
  - **These resin enhancements translate into reinforced polymer composites, but on a reduced scale**



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## ***Summary of Initial Findings: Fiber (Literature Search)***

- **Fiber**
  - **Magellan's M5 fiber (incremental improvement)**
  - **Carbon nanotubes (revolutionary improvement)**
    - **Embedded CNT in thermosets has had mixed results**
      - **Problems with alignment, NT/matrix adhesion**
      - **Both surface treatments and alignment techniques are improving**
    - **Emerging technologies**
      - **Polymer wrapping**
      - **In-situ polymerization, or co-polymerization**

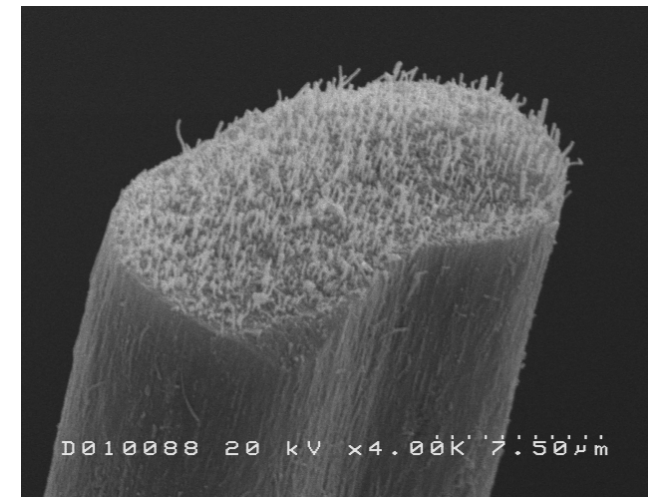
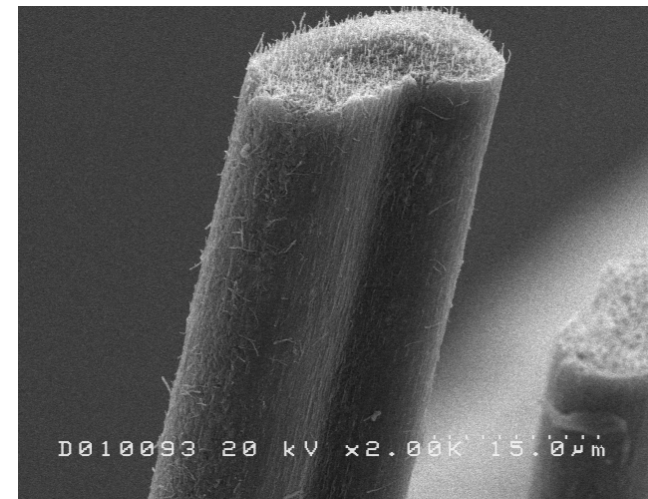


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## Fiber Technology: Carbon Nanotubes - In-situ polymerization

- NT embedded and aligned with PAN fiber precursor
  - Strong NT interfacial strength
- Two approaches are possible
  - Carbonize PAN precursor to produce PAN/NT fibril
    - Generate fibril roving
    - Impregnate with B-stage thermoset
    - Filament wind laminate structure
  - Carbonize PAN precursor to produce carbon/carbon NT structure
- **In-situ polymerization: Encouraging results**
  - **Tensile strength doubled over PAN fiber**
  - **Modulus strength doubled over PAN fiber**
  - Some development has begun
    - Army (AMCOM) is funding to develop light-weight, high-strength missile cases

### 20 wt% MWNT/Carbon Fiber







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## ***Path to the Future?***

- **What is the next enabling technology for structured composites?**
  - **Offers revolutionary improvements**
  - **Benefits kinetic devices and generators**
- **Need further understanding of technologies and maturation issues**
- **Begin direct communication with leading organizations**