

Renewable Hydrogen Production by means of Solar Energy as a Fuel for a Hybrid Vehicle based on a Fuel Cell System

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) 2nd Stakeholders General Assembly

Verónica Mesa – Hynergreen Technologies, S.A.

Brussels, 26th October

Hercules Project:

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Results
- Problems encountered
- Possibilities for future collaboration
- Follow up activities

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Hercules Consortium: 8 Spanish partners (4 Companies, 2 Research Organisations, 1 Public Agency)

- Hynergreen Technologies
- Abengoa Solar New Technologies
- Carburos Metálicos (Air Products)
- Santana Motor
- GreenPower Technologies
- INTA (National Institute for Aerospace Technology)
- AICIA (Association of Research and Industrial Cooperation of Andalusia)
- AAE (Andalusian Energy Agency)

Hercules Project financing:

Budget: 9 Million €

Hercules Project has been partially funded by 3 Spanish Public Organisations:

- Ministry of Science and Innovation
- Innovation and Development Agency of Andalusia
- Technological Corporation of Andalusia

Timescale: January 2006 – December 2009

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Hercules Project is divided into three main activities:

- **“Las Columnas”**: Design and development of a hydrogen filling station, including its production on site by means of solar energy
- **“El León”**: Design and development of a hybrid vehicle based on a fuel cell system that supplies 85 % of the whole electric power
- **“El Olimpo”**: Coordination and integration of the other activities (“Las Columnas” and “El León”), technology transfer and dissemination of the results obtained in Hercules Project

- Demonstrate the binomial renewable energy (solar energy) – hydrogen vector
- Generate a new technological market improving the Industrial knowledge in this area
- Improve the feasibility of developing a filling hydrogen station network in Spain
- Test an alkaline electrolyser to compare with other kind of electrolysers (PEM)
- Compare different solar technologies integrated in the plant to supply electricity to the electrolyser
- Optimize the electrical integration between the solar energy and the electrolyser

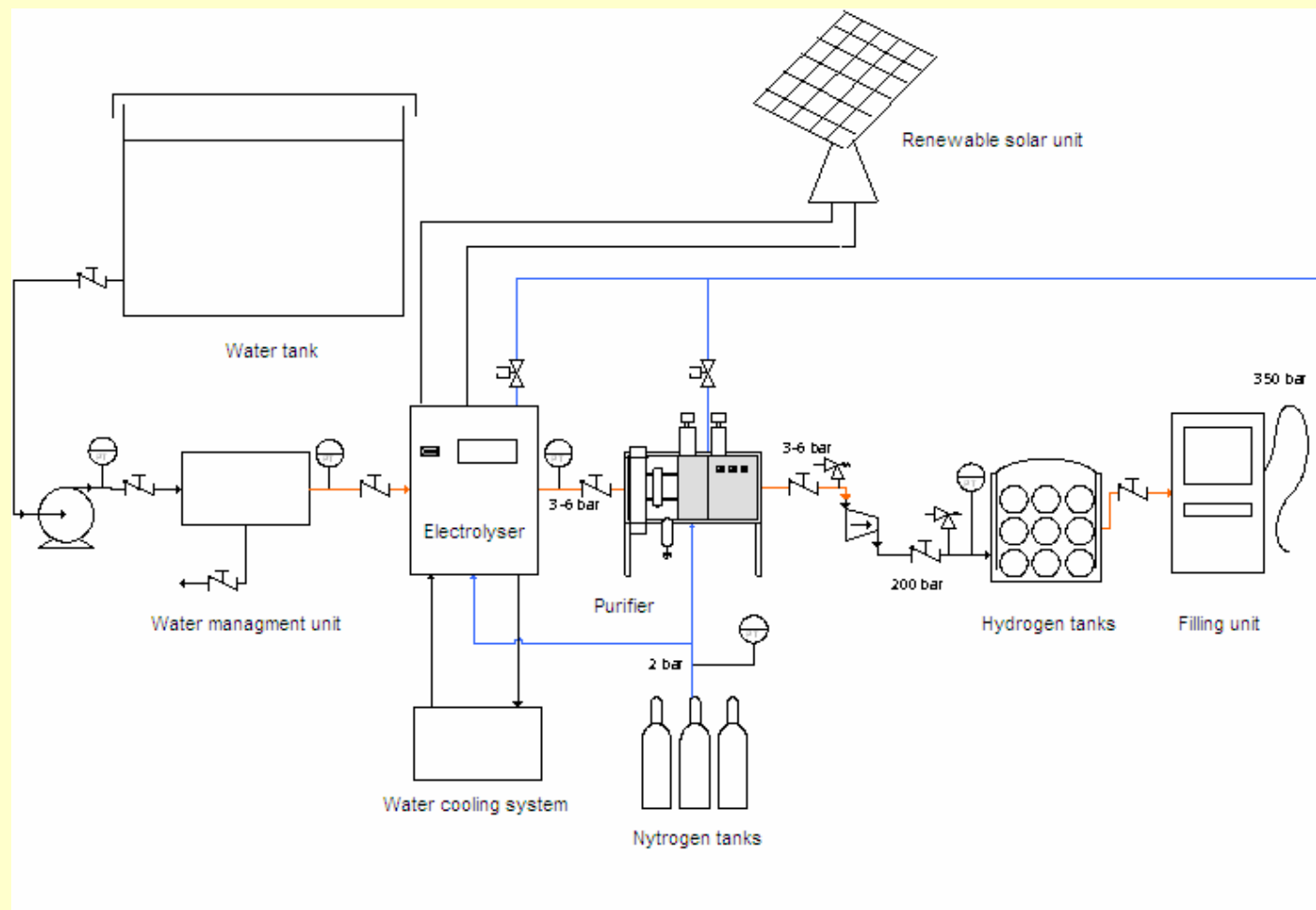
- Integration of new technologies in the transport sector to reduce the CO₂ emissions (hydrogen and fuel cell systems)
- Participation in the automation area of companies that work in other sector that can have an application in the transport (cooling system, compressed systems, instrumentations, control and power systems)
- Acquisition of knowledge in hybrid vehicle based on fuel cell systems
- Design and development of the Balance of Plant in the hybrid vehicle (power and control systems, electric motor, cooling systems and instrumentation)

- Guarantee a well managed project
- Participation in the definition of the hydrogen filling station and the hybrid electric vehicle
- Definition of the test protocols for the vehicle and the hydrogen station
- Evaluation and dissemination of the results obtained in the project
- Technology transfer
- Creation of an Hercules Project web-site (www.proyectohercules.es)

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Whole electric power of the solar plant: 65.6 kW

- Two axis tracking: 18.6 kW
- Fixed Structures: 22 kW
- CPV: 15 kW
- Stirling Dish: 10 kW



Maximun H ₂ produced	12.5 Nm ³ /h
Continuous H ₂ produced	10 Nm ³ /h
H ₂ out pressure	4 – 6 barg
Electric Consumption	67 kWh
Maximum water consumed	10 l/h



Maximun H ₂ pressure	10 barg
Maximun N ₂ consumed	2.5 Nm ³ /h
Maximum H ₂ purity	99.9995 %
Electric Consumption	1 kWh



Maximun H ₂ produced	12.5 Nm ³ /h
Maximun air compressed	2 Nm ³ /h
Maximun inlet H ₂ pressure	150 – 200 barg
Maximum outlet H ₂ pressure	350 barg
Electric Power Consumption	Only for electronic components

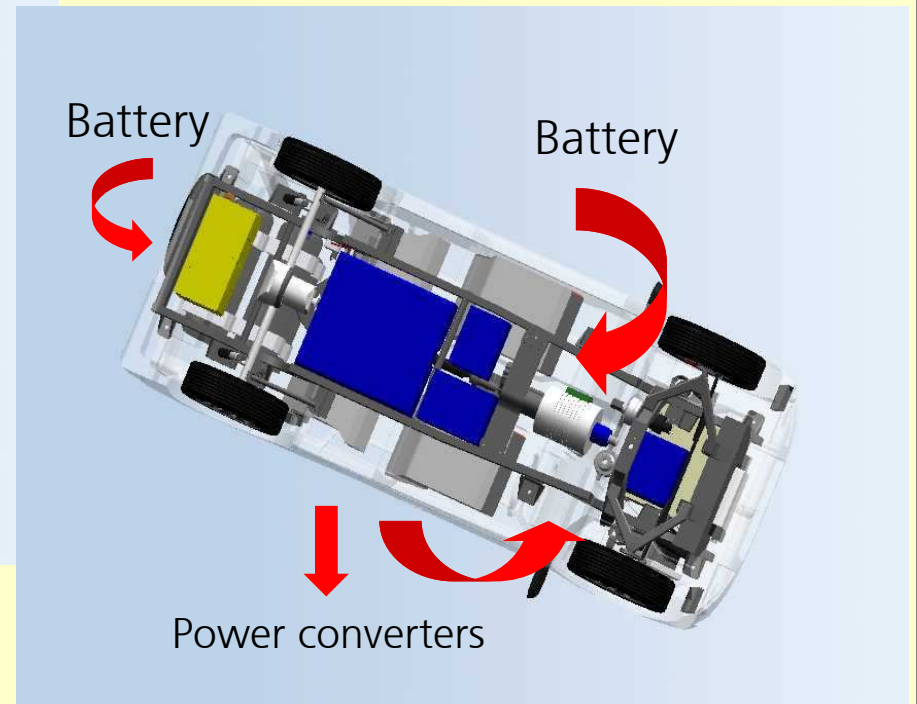
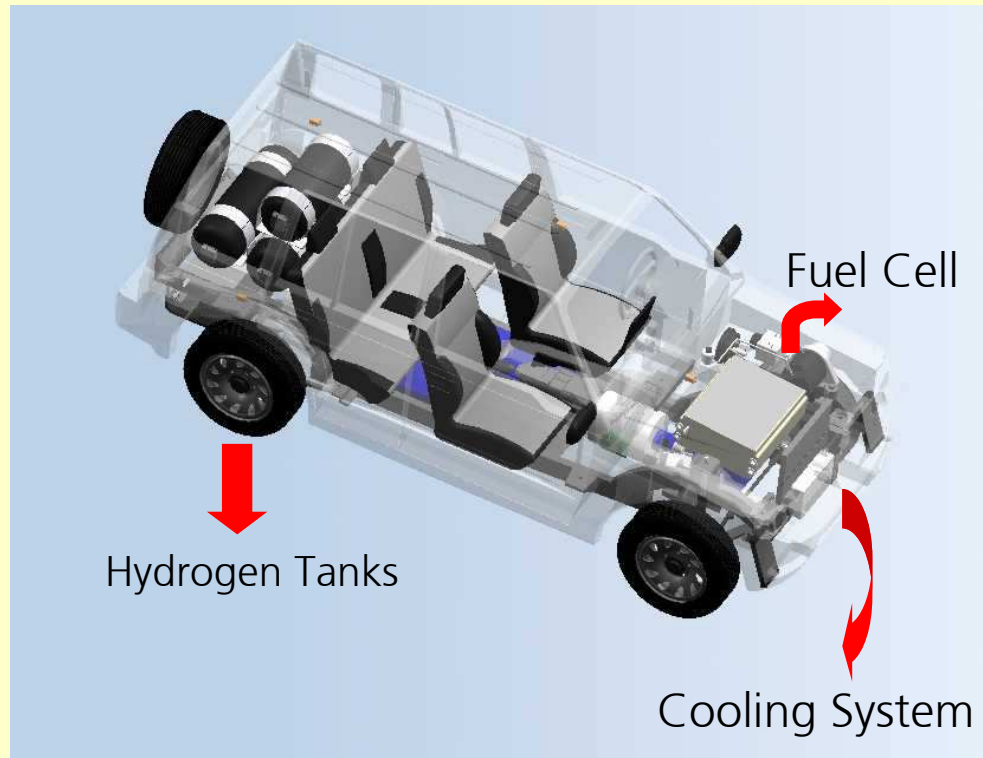


Maximum inlet H ₂ pressure	8 barg
Maximum air compressed consumed	4 - 6 Nm ³ /h
Maximum H ₂ pressure	150 – 200 barg





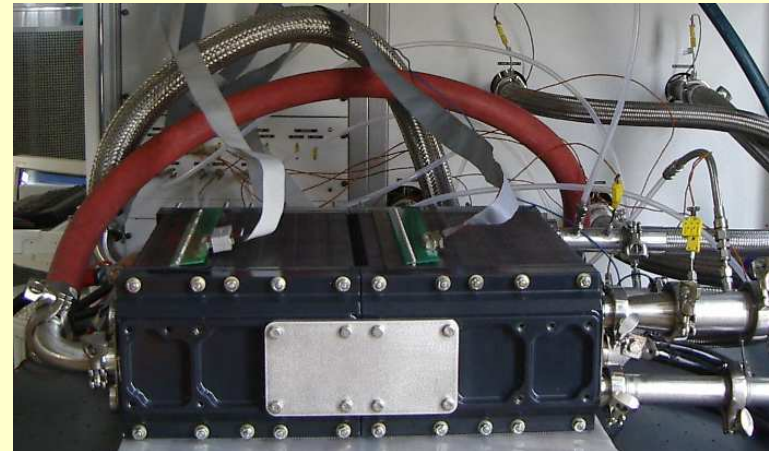




Characteristics of the main components in the vehicle:

Fuel cell (Nuvera):

- Nominal Power: 56 kW
- Maximum Current: 360 A
- Hydrogen recirculation for humidification
- Water cooling system (flow 97 lpm)
- Voltage Range: 150 – 247 V



Characteristics of the main components in the vehicle:

Three Tanks (2'46 kg of hydrogen):

- Hydrogen Capacity: 96 l
 - ❖ 2 x 34 l
 - ❖ 1 x 28 l
- Nominal Pressure: 350 bar



Characteristics of the main components in the vehicle:

Three Power Converters:

- Fuel cell converter:

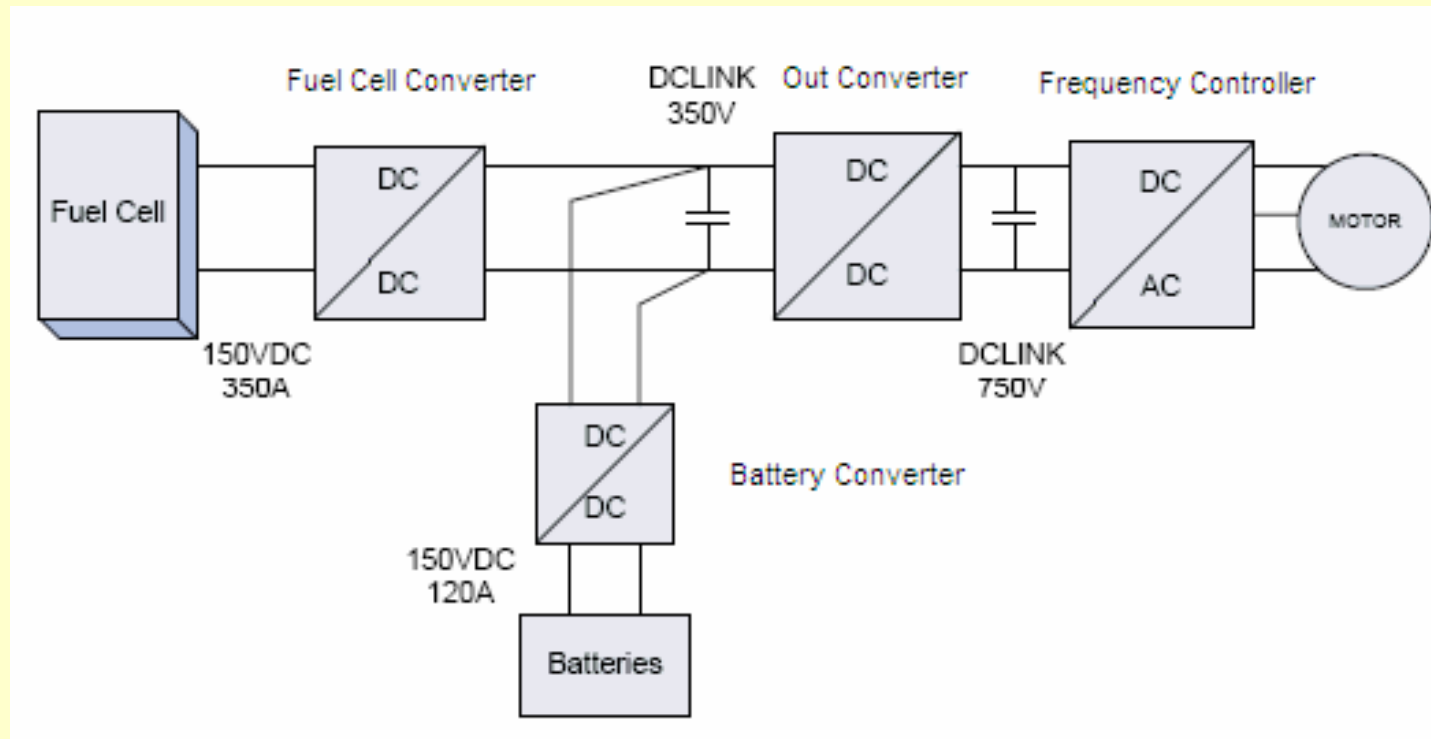
Increase the out voltage from the fuel cell (150 – 250 V) to 350 VDC

- Battery converter:

Increase the out voltage from the battery 150 VDC to 350 VDC

- Out converter

Increase the voltage from 350 VDC (battery and fuel cell) to 750 VDC
(Three-phase electric motor; 1 frequency controller)

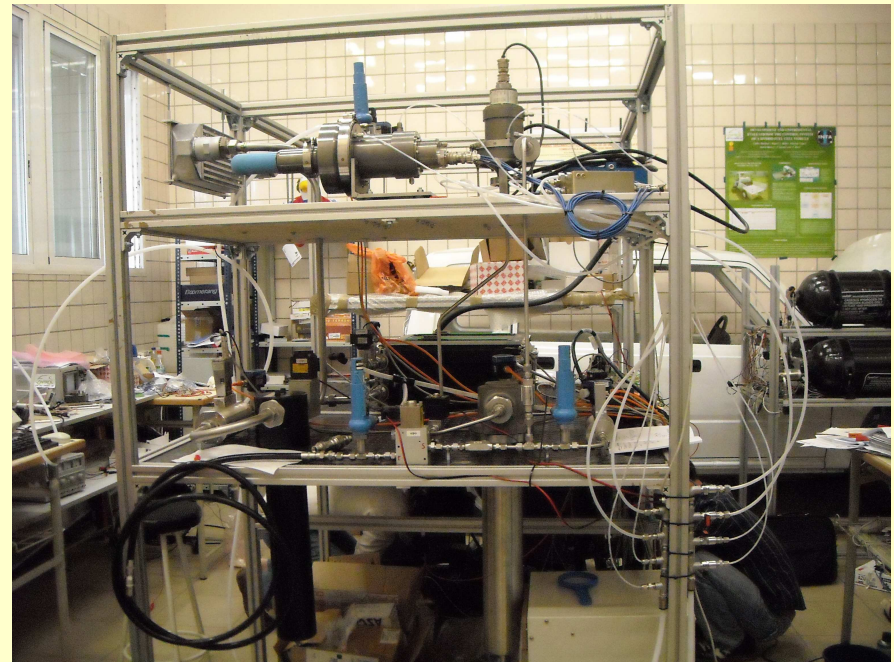
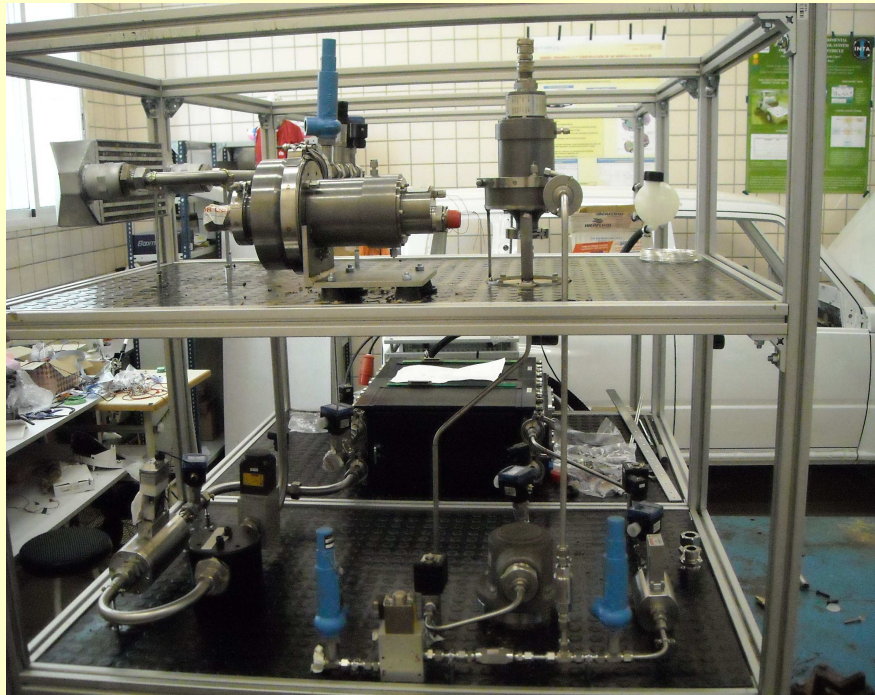


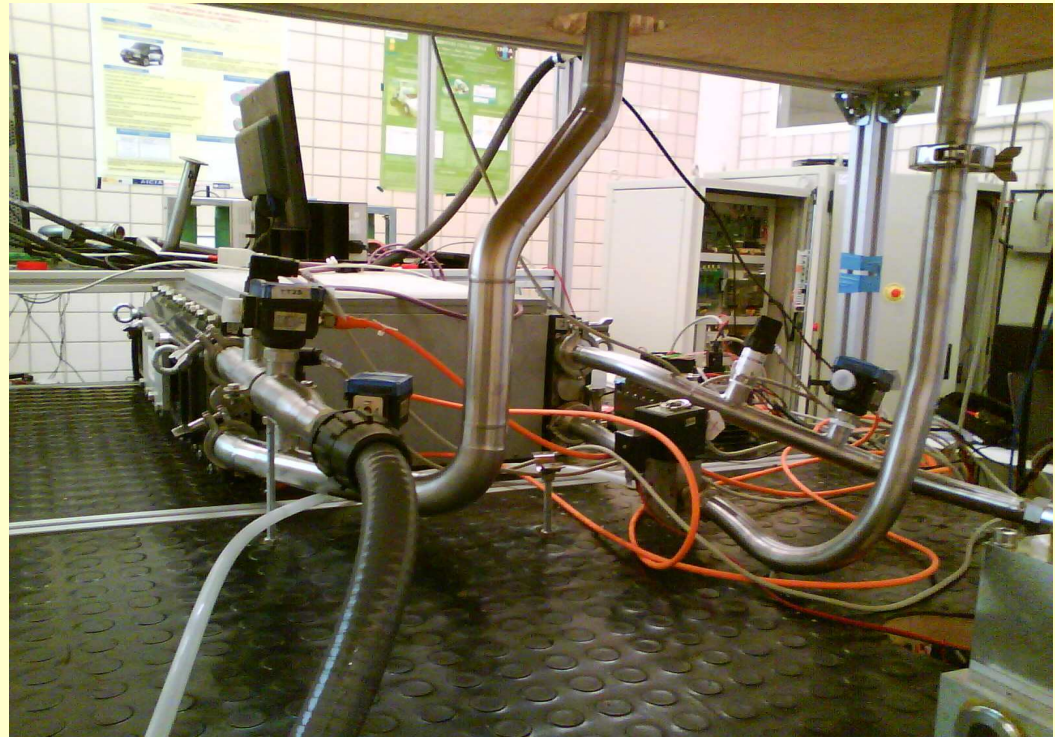
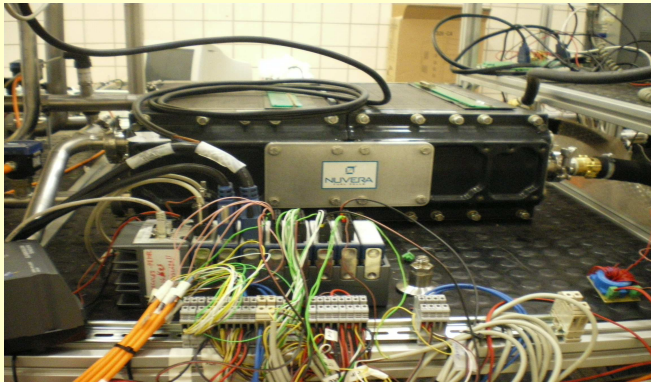
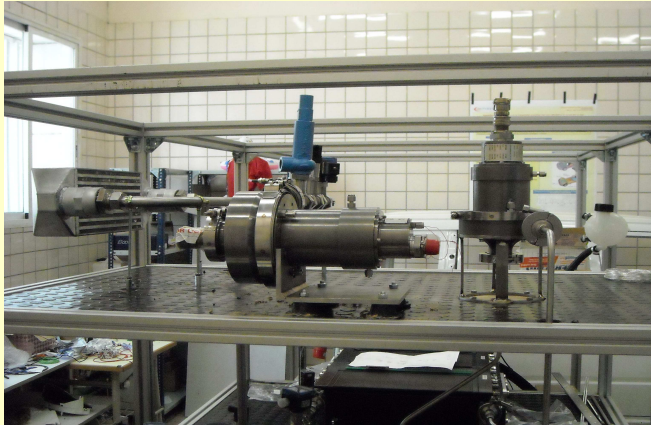
Characteristics of the main components in the vehicle:

Compression Units:

- Nominal air flow:
 - ❖ (flow, pressure) = (2,600 lpm, 650 mbarg)
- Nominal hydrogen flow:
 - ❖ (flow, pressure) = (1,000 lpm, 650 mbarg)







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Problems found in Hercules Project:

- Regarding the hydrogen station, the license management that has been needed to build and start up the hydrogen filling station has delayed the Project
- Electrical and control integration between the solar plant and the electrolyser
- For the vehicle it has been difficult to find some commercial devices that can be used in this application (for weight and volumen reasons)
- The choice of the most appropriate fuel cell (a few amount of fuel cell manufactures are able to comply with all the requirements: cost, power and experience)

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- Currently the vehicle is being assembled in Santana Motor (Vehicle manufacture partner). The evaluation in the test bench has finished but we have to evaluate the integration in the vehicle (final tests)
- Regarding the hydrogen filling station, the construction has just finished and in November we hope to start up the station (solar plant integrated with hydrogen devices)
- ❖ Hercules Project Consortium would like to implement the experiences learnt during the project in any activities related to hydrogen filling station and hybrid vehicle based on fuel cell systems

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- Hercules Project should be finished by the end of 2009 but due to the delay the time for the final test has not been enough. For this reason, the Consortium has decided to continue with the evaluation of the hydrogen station and the vehicle for a year (beyond the timetable)

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