

Materials for Ultra-Supercritical Steam Power Plants

Increased cycle efficiency is the key to the cleaner use of coal for generating electricity. As efficiency increases, less coal is burned, and thus, less CO₂ is produced per megawatt of electricity. Improving efficiency will require increasing the maximum steam temperature and thus will require improved materials and components

- In the Rankine cycle, efficiency is related to the difference between the steam temperature at the condenser and at the high-pressure turbine inlet.
- Steam conditions of state-of-the-art European and Japanese plants:
 - 600°C/600°C/600°C/300 bar
 - EU Goal:
 - 700°C/720°C/720°C/375 bar
 - US Goal:
 - 732°C/760°C/345 bar (current US norm : 540°C/566°C/241 bar)
 - Efficiency gain of >5 percentage points (~13% relative efficiency increase)

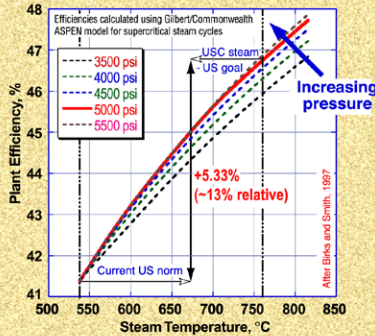
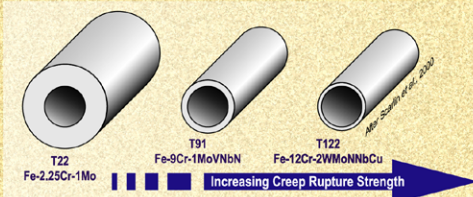


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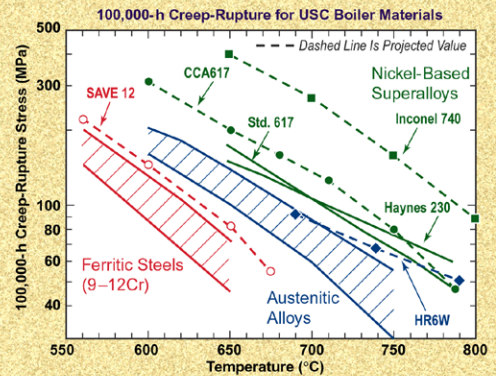
Materials Issues

- In an integrated power supply system, all fossil-fueled power plants will be required to load-cycle
 - need alloys with adequate strength to allow the use of tube wall thicknesses thin enough to minimize the thermal fatigue problem
 - criterion of creep strength of 100 MPa for 10⁵ h at service temperature

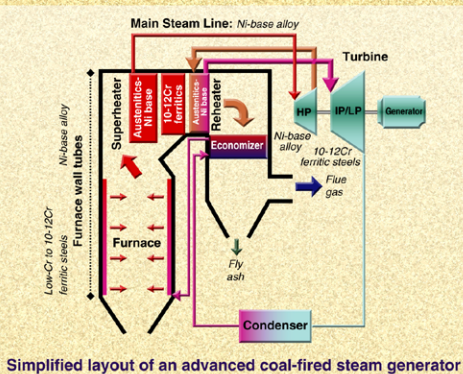


- Resistance to fireside corrosion from sulfur and alkalis in the coal (rapid tube thinning)
- Resistance to steamside corrosion (rapid tube thinning, scale exfoliation, tube blocking, turbine erosion)

Alloy Classes

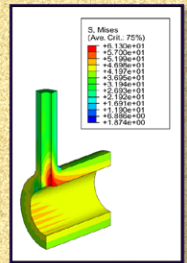
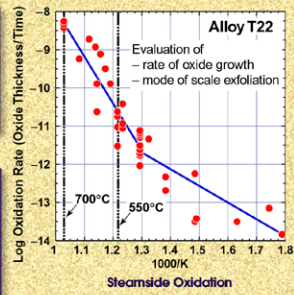


Schematic of a Steam Power Plant



Simplified layout of an advanced coal-fired steam generator

- Code design approaches
- Mechanical properties of advanced alloys
- Fabricability
- Welding development
- Fireside corrosion resistance
- Steamside oxidation resistance
- Coatings



Funding Agencies

U.S. Consortium on Materials for Advanced Steam Boilers

Research and Development Team

