

# Future Challenges for the ICE

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**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council



**ADVANCED  
PROPULSION  
CENTRE UK**

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON  
ICE Thermal Efficiency Spoke



**University of Brighton**

Advanced Engineering Centre

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- Introduction to the AEC
- High level challenges
- Auto Council Thermal Propulsion Roadmap
- The Split Cycle Engine
- Conclusions

- 1989-1994 Imperial College
  
- 1994-2005 Ricardo – Senior Manager,  
Technology Product Group
  
- 2005-2008 Ceres Power – Head of Engineering
  
- 2008-2013 Highview Power Storage – Chief Technical Officer
  
- 2013-  
University of Brighton – Reader  
Deputy Head of the Advanced Engineering Centre  
Director of the APC ICE Thermal Efficiency Spoke

# Advanced Engineering Centre

### Droplets and sprays



### Combustion



### Heat and mass transfer





ADVANCED PROPULSION CENTRE UK

The Propulsion Nation



ICE Thermal Efficiency University Of Brighton



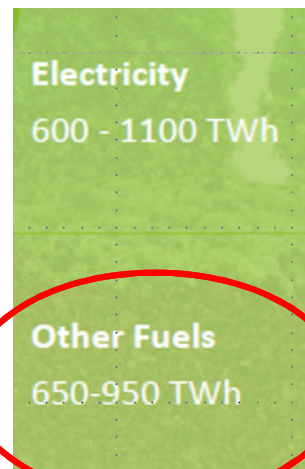
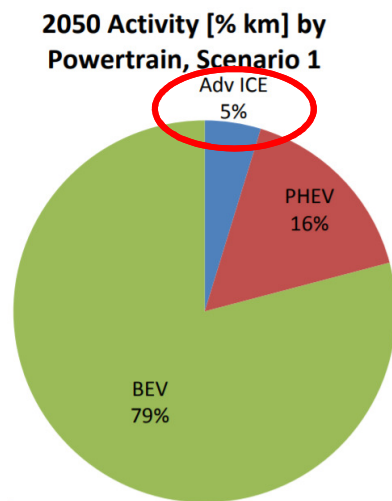
### World leading facilities



### Recent industrial collaborators



# Why do we need an efficient engine in an electric world?



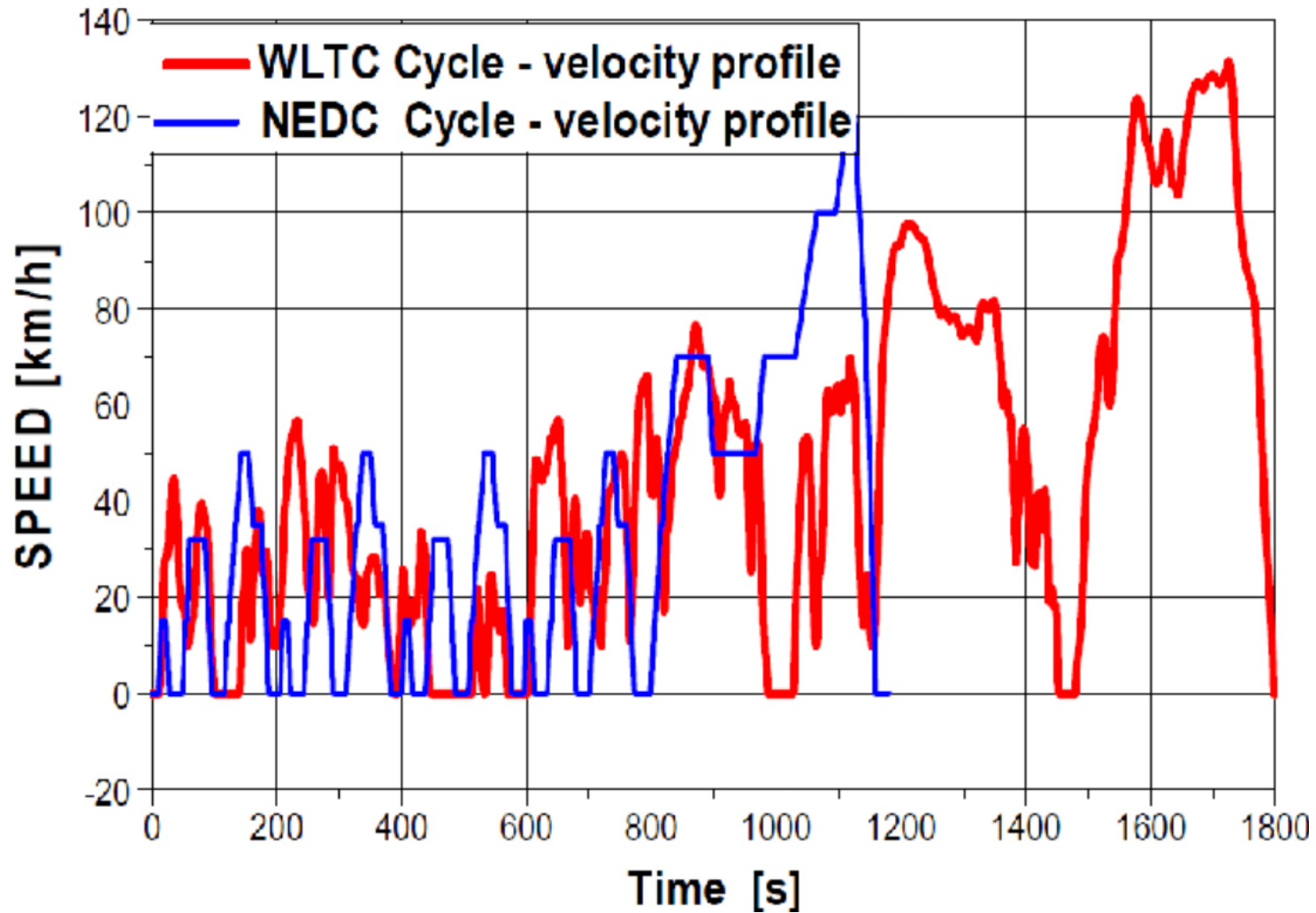
A computer-generated image of Rolls-Royce's remote-controlled cargo ship. Image: Rolls-Royce



*Improvements in powertrain efficiency are required to reduce the demand for sustainable fuels*

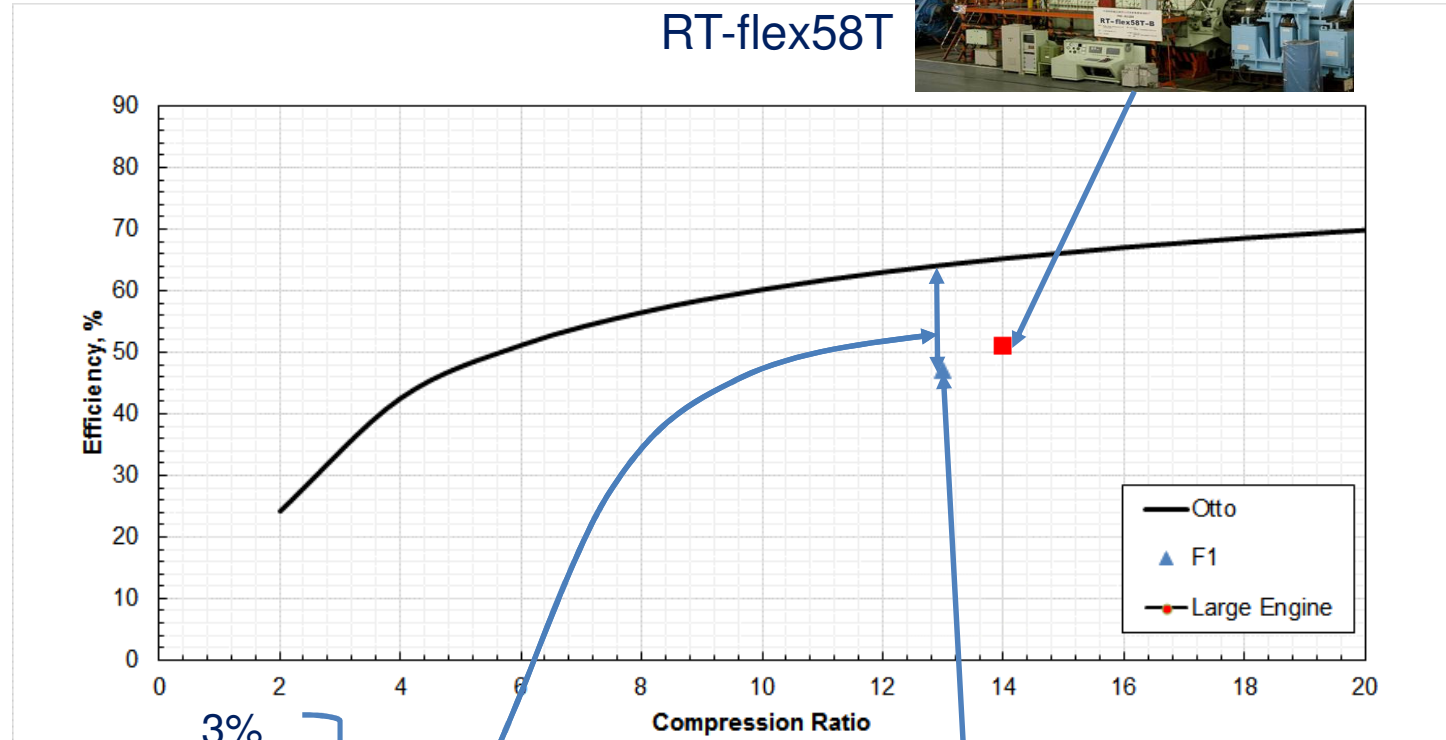
Source: Report from ERTRAC CO<sub>2</sub> integrated approach, [http://www.ertrac.org/uploads/images/3.%20CO2\\_Evaluation\\_Group\\_%20ERTRAC2017.pdf](http://www.ertrac.org/uploads/images/3.%20CO2_Evaluation_Group_%20ERTRAC2017.pdf)

# New emission cycle, tighter limits, RDE



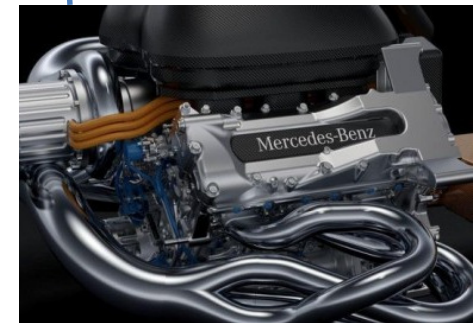
# Are we at to the end of the road with conventional engine cycles?

Wartsila RT-flex58T



- Mechanical losses 3%
- Finite combustion 3%
- Blowby 1%
- Cycle to Cycle variations 2%
- Gas exchange 2%
- Heat transfer 7%
- TOTAL 18%**

Mercedes F1





## Mass market adoption of increasingly hybridised vehicles drives challenging cost and performance targets for future thermal propulsion systems



### Drivers of change

- Incremental ICE innovation has provided steady improvements over a long period, but **bigger changes are required**.
- Ambitious **targets**, that are unobtainable with existing engine technology, have been set to drive significant innovation. These targets must be achieved without compromising customer demands of exceptional cost effectiveness, range requirements, power density and recyclability.
- Reducing **air quality and CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions challenges the current application of all ICE powertrains using conventional fuels. Future sustainable fuels and the associated engine technology are actively being developed; potentially near carbon neutral operation. Air quality and efficiency will remain key drivers.
- **Life cycle measures and materials security** will challenge all propulsion technologies, supporting the acceptability of ICEs with suitable performance against these metrics
- For **light duty** vehicles ICE will feature in all hybrid vehicles before the potential advent of fuel cell hybrids. Hybridisation implies a change in the nature of ICEs and offers higher efficiencies.
- For **heavy duty** the ICE remains core to future propulsion due to the absence of alternatives. Further improvements to efficiency and emissions are needed, including new fuel types and energy recovery.

Light Duty	2017	2025	2035
Engine System Brake Thermal Efficiency (%) <sup>1,2</sup>	42	48	53
Tailpipe NOx & Particulates (Mass & Number)	In line with legislated limits	Zero in emissions controlled zones <sup>3</sup>	
Heavy Duty	2017	2025	2035
Engine System Brake Thermal Efficiency (%) <sup>1</sup>	47	55	60
Tailpipe NOx & Particulates (Mass & Number)	In line with legislated limits	Zero in emissions controlled zones <sup>3</sup>	

1 - Peak efficiency values shown. Increasingly important to achieve high efficiency across a wider operating range, in keeping with testing cycles based on real world performance

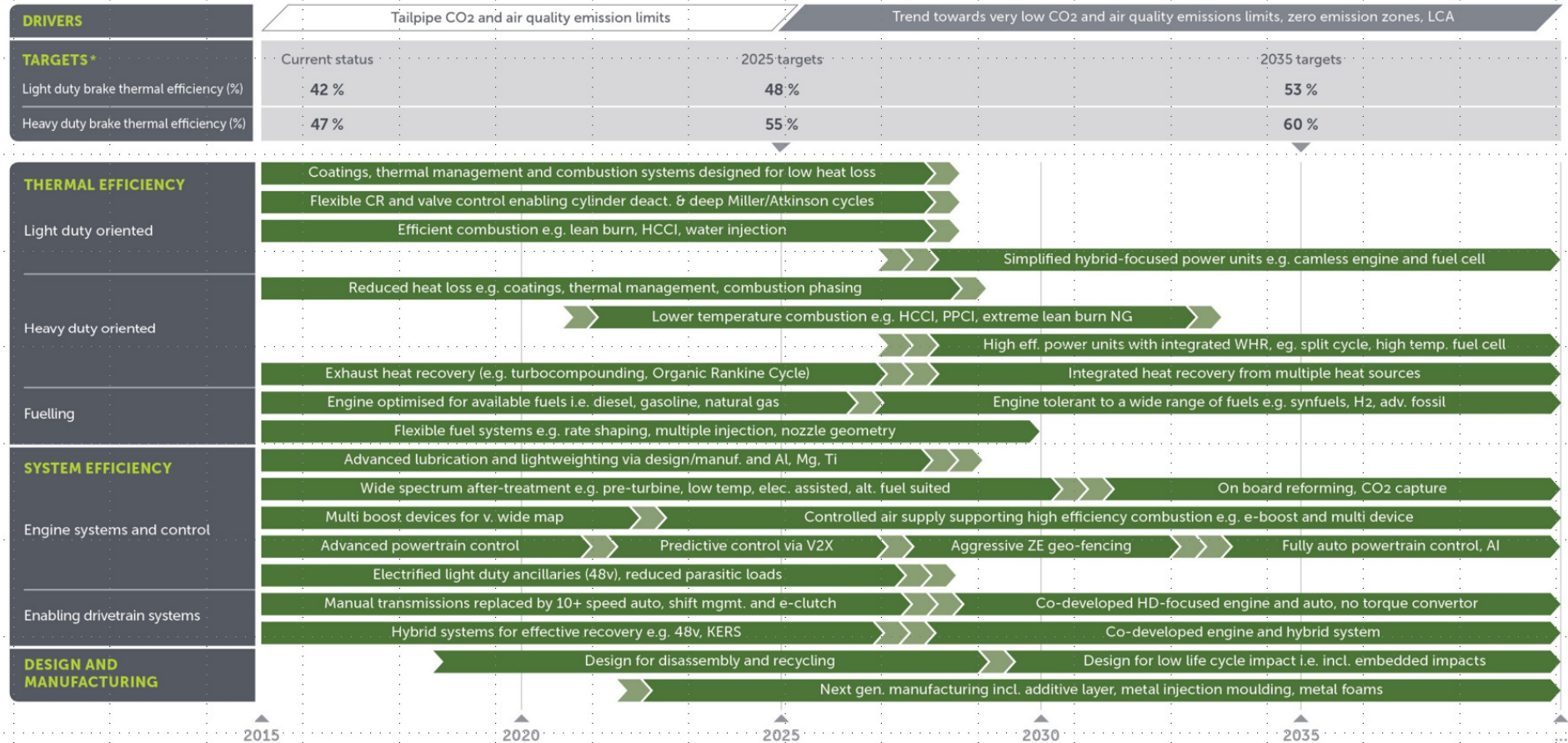
2 - Values reflect mid point between diesel and gasoline efficiency (current difference ~5%)

3 - Below measurable limits or below ambient (background) levels

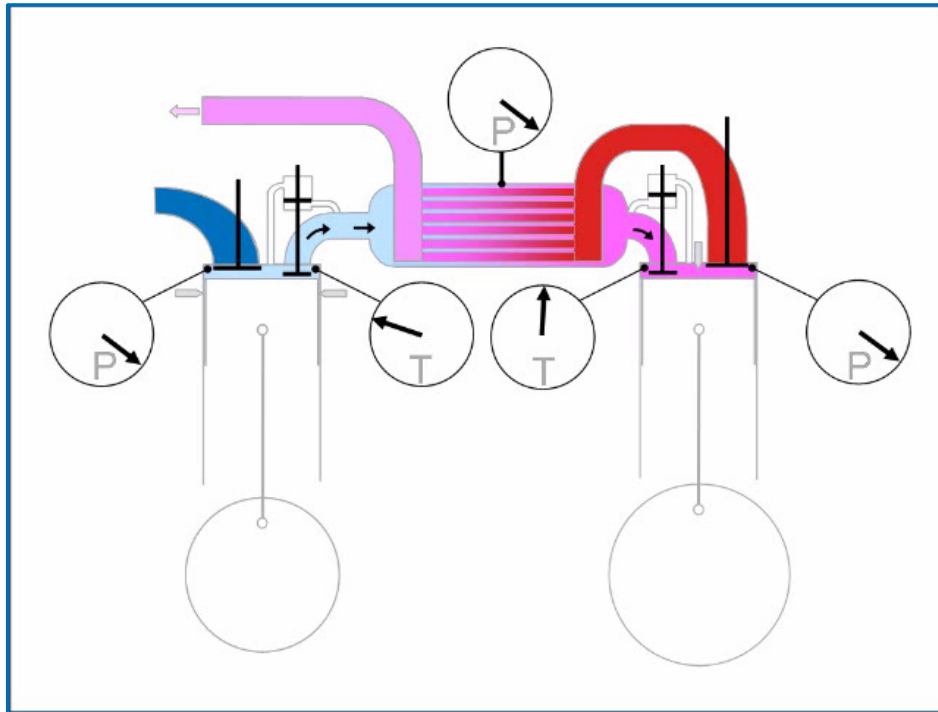


## TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP 2017: THERMAL PROPULSION SYSTEMS

Roadmap developed by the Automotive Council and the Advanced Propulsion Centre



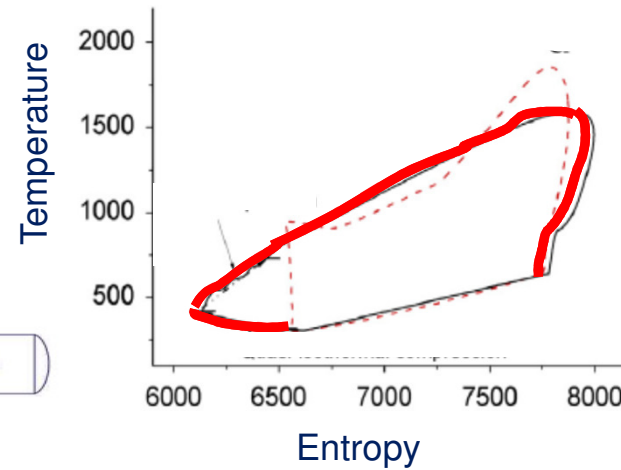
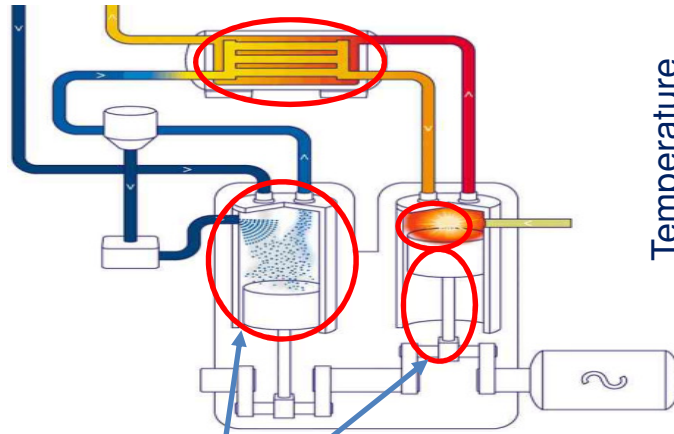
# How does the recuperated split cycle engine work?



## Key Facts:

- Twice as many cylinders *but* it's a two stroke cycle
- Compressor – combustor cylinders are in the ratio of 1 to 2 or 3
- Isothermal compression is critical to the cycle, and can be achieved in many ways
- Peak pressures are lower than in a conventional diesel engine
- Peak temperatures are also lower, but sustained for longer than in a comparable diesel engine

# What makes the cycle efficient?



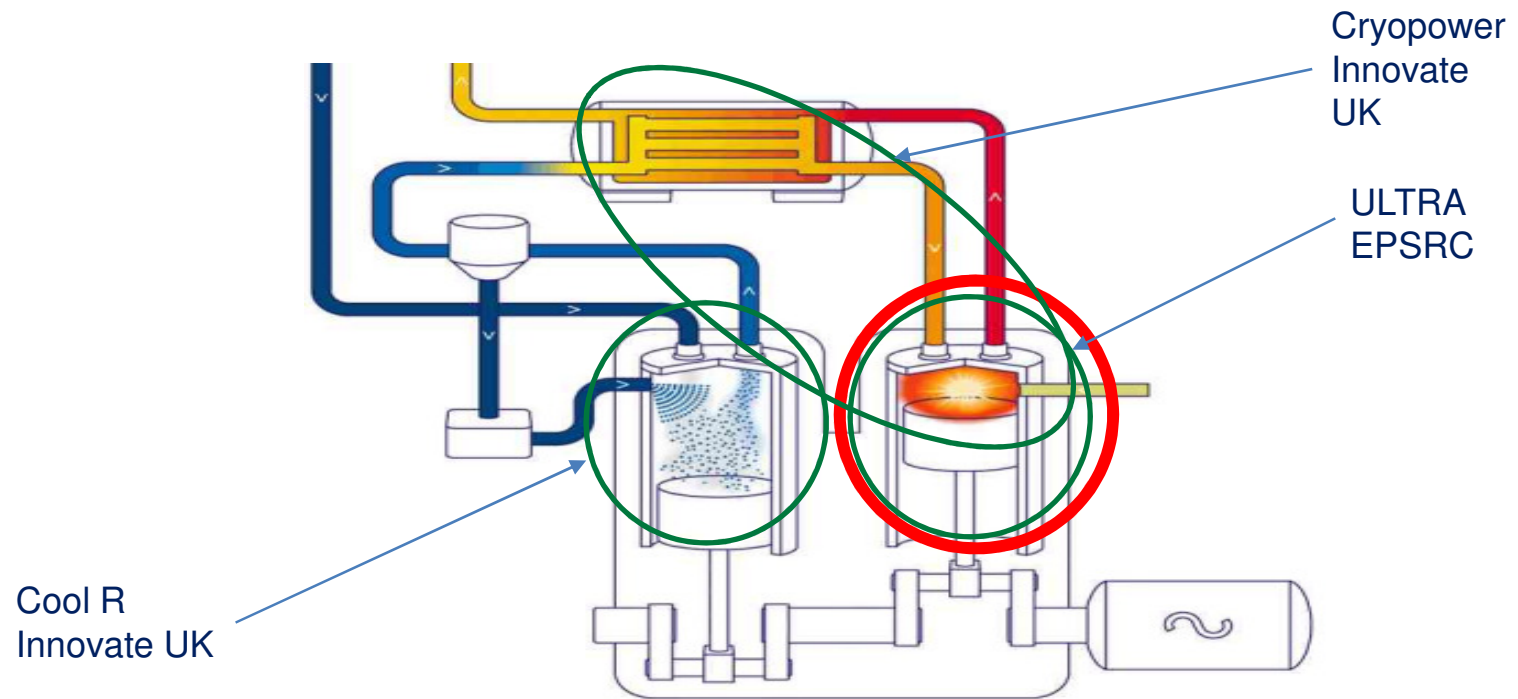
*Independent  
optimisation of the  
compression &  
expansion cylinders*

1. Isothermal compression
2. Isobaric heating
3. Mixed cycle heat addition
4. Expansion

*Less work of compression*

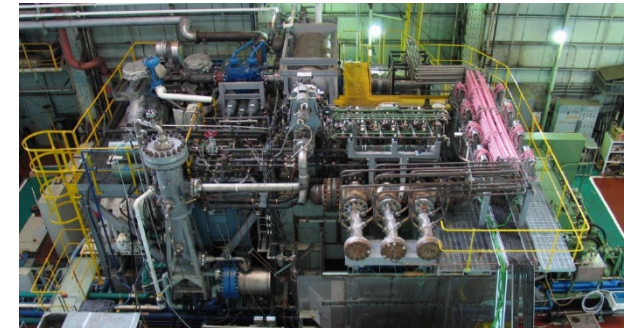
*Pre combustion waste  
heat recovery*

# Progress to date

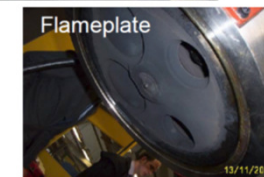
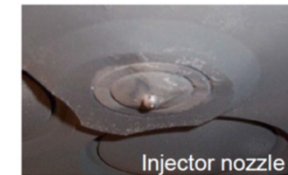
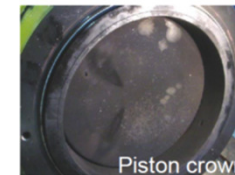


# Whats difficult about the implementation?

- Starting:
  - The exhaust and therefore recuperator are cold
  - The combustion chamber is also cold
- Combustion:
  - Very little time to get the air into the combustion chamber
  - Also not much time to get the air and fuel mixed
  - So very little time to get the fuel burnt!
- Hot end thermal load:
  - Although peak temperatures are lower than in conventional diesel engines, the high temperatures are sustained for longer
  - There is also no charge air cooling of the cylinder during induction
  - This results in higher thermal loading than in a conventional engine

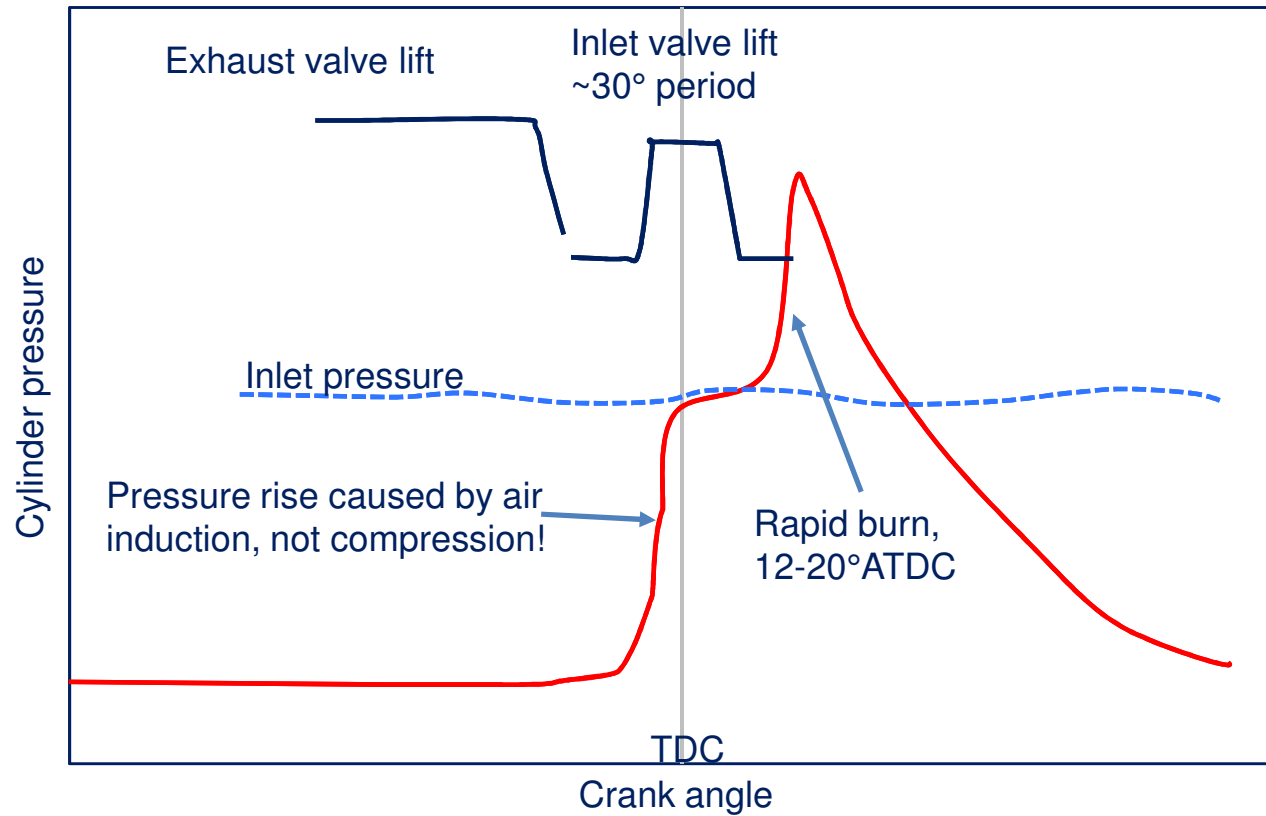


2004 "ISOENGINE"  
 Combustor Component Inspection  
 After first firing tests, November 2002



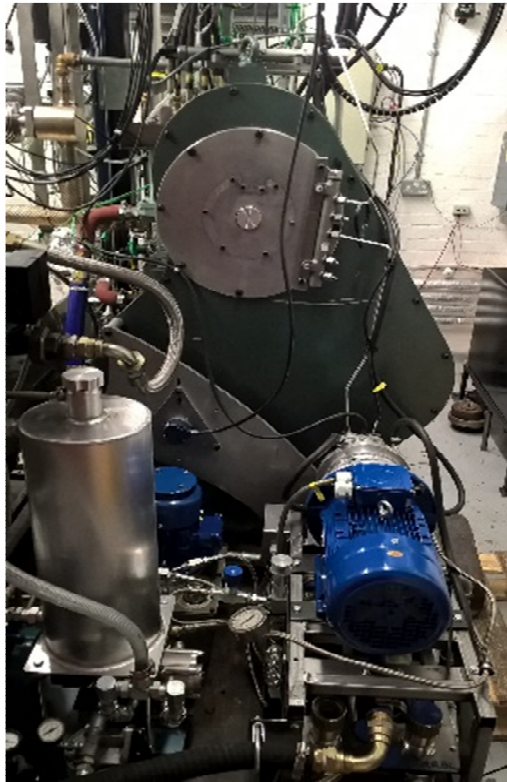
RWE Innogy • 20/11/2003

# What are we looking for?





# Split cycle test facility

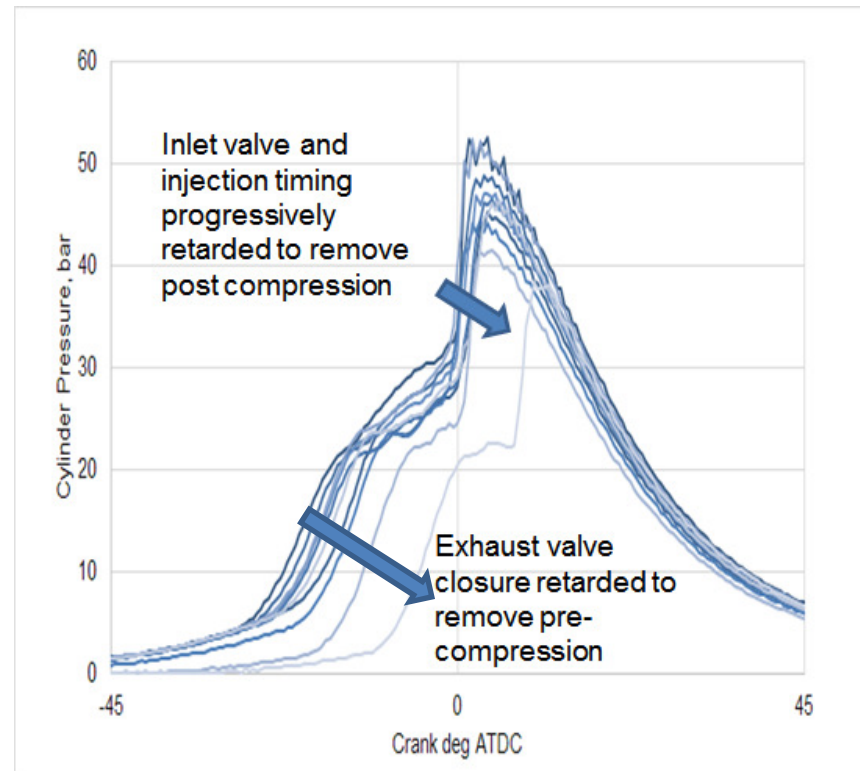


- One l/cyl. Single cylinder test rig, based on a Ricardo Titan engine
- Fully configurable hydraulic valves (research rather than production solution)
- Prototype recuperator, heated by a gas burner to replicate the exhaust
- High pressure gas supply in place of the isothermal compressor
- Two independent oil and three independent coolant circuits

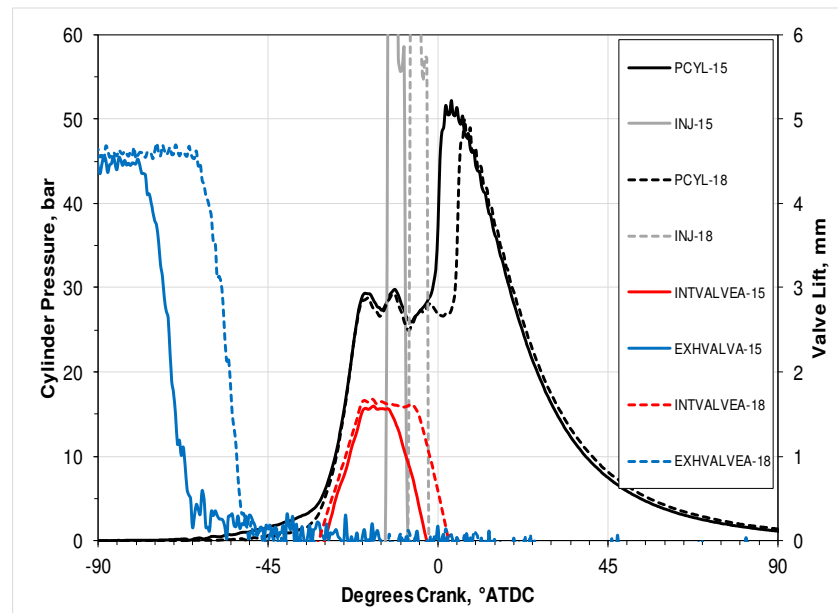


## Results - starting

- Starting is one of the biggest challenge in a split cycle engine
- Initial tests used high cetane fuel and compression of trapped residuals
- Advancing the inlet and exhaust valves was found to provide sufficient charge air heating to start the engine from cold
- The valves could be progressively retarded to the ideal split cycle timings

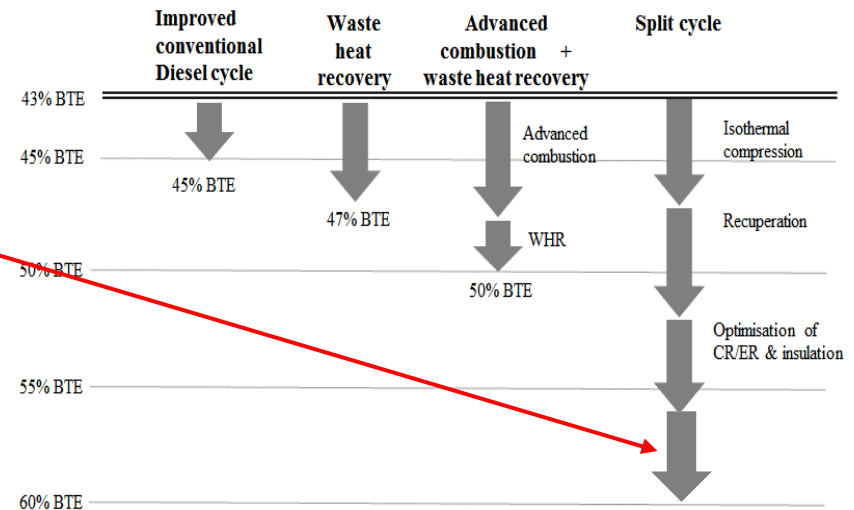
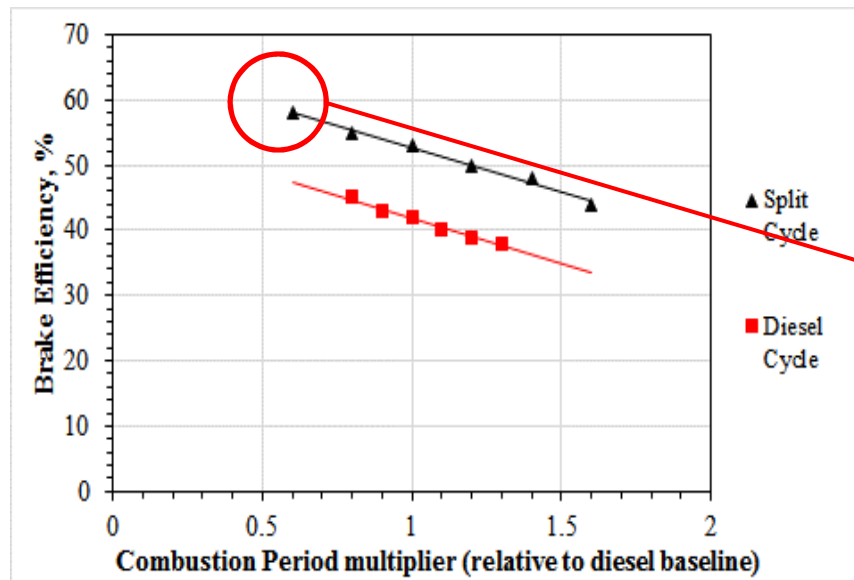


# Combustion results at 1200 rpm



- Fuel is injected together with the intake air
- Classical and CFD analysis show the air flow is choked across the inlet valve
  - Very high cross chamber air motion
- The air motion provides significant mixing energy and is thought to be why the fuel burns so quickly
  - Preliminary kinetic analysis suggests the fuel is burning highly premixed

# Efficiency walk



# Conclusions

- There is still a role for a chemically fuelled engine in an electric world
  
- Massive challenge in achieving high efficiency and zero emissions from an internal combustion engine
  
- What do we need?
  - Practical lean compression ignition compatible with RDE
  - New approaches to achieve >break efficiency