

One Inch Supercritical CO2 Micro Turbine Performance at 100 C, 300 C, 500 C, and 700 C

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Performance study of a one inch supercritical CO2 turbine. Estimated shaft power in kilowatts and heat rates in BTU per kilowatt are provided for four turbine inlet temperatures.



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Overview

Supercritical CO2 (sCO2) micro turbines offer compact, high-density power at small scales. This article presents a sizing study of a purpose-designed one inch diameter sCO2 radial inflow turbine. Power output estimates are given at four turbine inlet temperatures, along with heat rates expressed in BTU per kilowatt.

Design Basis

Turbine outer diameter: 25.4 mm (1 inch)
Inlet annulus height: ~0.5 mm
Inlet pressure: ~150 bar
Turbine isentropic efficiency: ~70 percent
Whole cycle (turbine + recuperator + generator + compressor) derating: ~30 percent
Heat sink: ~40 C (104 F)

Estimated Shaft Power Output

Based on flow area, density, and enthalpy drops across typical stage pressure ratios, the one inch turbine could deliver:

100 C inlet: ~6 kilowatts net 300 C inlet: ~7 kilowatts net 500 C inlet: ~8 kilowatts net 700 C inlet: ~8.5 kilowatts net

Heat Rate in BTU per Kilowatt

Heat rate is the amount of heat input required per unit of power output. Conversion uses 1 kWh = 3412 BTU.

100 C source, 40 C sink Practical efficiency ~6 to 12 percent Heat rate ~28500 to 57000 BTU per kilowatt

300 C source, 40 C sink Practical efficiency ~20 to 30 percent

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