



Renewable Energy That Makes Financial Sense



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THE COMPANY STORY

Overview. Proton Power, Inc. (PPI) has developed proprietary, patent-protected, clean renewable energy systems for the cost-effective conversion of a wide variety of feedstocks into diesel fuel, electricity, or hydrogen. All PPI systems produce a high quality, semi-activated carbon biochar product that produces significant enhancements to productivity and growth in agricultural plants, animals, and poultry, and it can be used as an effective filtration component in many industrial and agricultural applications. Also, research has revealed that graphene is present in large quantities in PPI biochar, and PPI has subsequently developed a proprietary process to upgrade the biochar into high-quality graphene products. In addition, the process water produced by PPI diesel production systems can be used in many agricultural applications. Importantly, PPI systems are financially viable at a relatively small scale making them easy to locate close to feedstock supplies. Finally, the PPI story wouldn't be complete without acknowledgment of the significant reduction in carbon footprint for PPI technology inherent to all of the system application types. Carbon savings range from a net negative carbon footprint to a slightly positive carbon footprint depending upon which system type is used and what is done with the biochar product. With any PPI system type, the carbon savings are substantial.

History. PPI began research in 2008 and is currently in approximately mid-stage product and technology commercialization. While initially focused on the production of a hydrogen-rich syngas from biomass feedstocks for the generation of low-cost electricity, subsequent Company advancements now greatly expand the capability of this technology to produce diesel fuel or hydrogen, high quality biochar, and high quality graphene. The technology is extremely flexible with regard to acceptable feedstocks. PPI has tested more than 120 varieties of feedstocks in its Lab that are acceptable for use by the PPI equipment – including Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) after appropriate pre-processing of the MSW.

The early focus of the company on hydrogen production led to the brand name of CHyP from the concept of "Cellulose to Hydrogen Power." Next, PPI developed the capability to use the syngas produced by its CHyP pyrolysis units to power natural gas gensets in order to produce electricity in a financially viable manner. In addition, over the past several years the CHyP system has been combined with PPI proprietary fuel conversion technologies leading to the ability to produce road-ready diesel fuel that meets ASTM D975 standards via a direct conversion process from feedstock to diesel fuel. Most recently, PPI has once again turned its sites to the

growing market for hydrogen, and recent system improvements have led to a dramatic increase in the yield of hydrogen while still producing the same excellent quality biochar. PPI systems achieve significant environmental benefits, and they produce valuable co-products such as a high-grade biochar and water.

Customer Interest: The Company initiated discussions with domestic and international customers in 2012, and customer interest has been high. From 2016 to 2018, for example, PPI hosted over 300 customer visits that were attended by almost 1000 prospective customers, and interest in the development of PPI systems remains high. These visits have resulted in multiple orders ranging from diesel to electricity to hydrogen to biochar-only systems.

Initial Demonstration and Commercial Facilities: In December of 2011 PPI obtained its first order for a commercial biomass-to-electricity system from Wampler's Farm Sausage (Wampler's). The system was designed to produce 500 net kW of electricity and is located at Wampler's sausage plant near Lenoir City, Tennessee. Work began on the plant in early 2012, and the plant was commissioned the following year. The electricity generated provides power to the customer's manufacturing process, and surplus electricity is diverted to the grid.

PPI, via a relationship with the University of Tennessee (UT), began investigations as to whether the syngas produced by CHyP units could ultimately be used to produce fuels. In 2011, UT purchased a single CHyP unit from PPI that it then used for experiments in this and other areas. PPI was allowed access to this unit, but access was not available 24/7 – which is how PPI prefers to develop products, so early in the development of the PPI biomass-to-diesel technology it was apparent that there is a need for a demo system that would enable PPI to conduct research and development (R&D) on a commercial-sized system on a round-the-clock basis.

To accommodate those needs, PPI constructed a demo system at a site that it had previously purchased near Rockwood, Tennessee. The initial demo system was commissioned and became operational in May of 2014. R&D testing was immediately initiated on a 24/7 basis to expedite the development of the PPI diesel technology.

In February of 2014, PPI signed a contract to sell the entire Rockwood site to a customer from Singapore whereby PPI was to ultimately build a system consisting of 6 production modules capable of producing a total of approximately 20,700 gallons per day from woody biomass arriving at the site in the form of whole logs.

The first production module was brought online in February, 2017, and the second module was completed in August, 2020. Ownership of that plant has changed a number of times over the years, including a recent change of ownership in July of 2021. At the time of this writing, the intentions of the new owner are unclear.

Subsequent to those initial projects PPI has built a solid pipeline of additional projects that are either already under construction or in the final phases of development.

Business Structure

Operations Model: The Company's current operating model for its systems business is to sell its equipment to end user customers as opposed to the Build, Own, Operate (BOO) model where PPI would own and operate the completed system. This allows PPI to direct available funds toward research and development (R&D) efforts – efforts that are ongoing on a 24/7 basis.

Sales Force: PPI has a network of more than 30 independent sales representatives with outreach to customers worldwide. Sales reps are selected for their existing C-level relationships in the private sector.

Field and Construction Partners: Overall project engineering and construction, including installation of the PPI equipment, is accomplished by teaming with a select number of qualified Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractors (EPCs) to enable global coverage. PPI is in the process of building this network of preferred providers. Also, PPI's diesel system has been tested and qualified by Aon, a major insurer that is able to offer a variety of backstop performance warranty insurance instruments on the PPI technology.

Ongoing System Operations and Maintenance: Similarly, operations and maintenance (O&M) required for installed customer systems are executed by either: 1) a network of qualified O&M contractors that contract directly with the customer, or 2) O&M done by the customer with training provided by PPI. PPI's intention is to support customer service needs via pre-qualified O&M contractors.

Patents: PPI has applied for 18 U.S. patents and all have been issued. PPI has applied for patents in 42 countries and 20 have been issued.

PPI TECHNOLOGY FOR HYDROGEN APPLICATIONS

The primary PPI proprietary technology that comprises the majority of the Intellectual Property (IP) contained in PPI hydrogen systems is the CHyP Pyrolysis Unit. This technological asset is strategic and provides a sustainable and defensible competitive advantage for PPI.

CHyP Pyrolysis Units

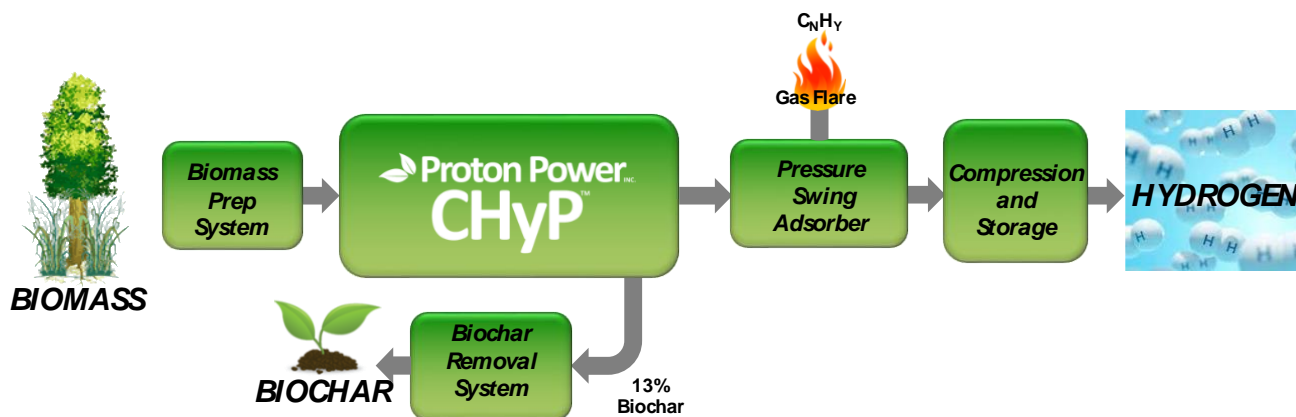
The CHyP pyrolysis unit is the primary technology component that is utilized in all system applications. It is also the component that makes PPI technology and systems unique due to its ability to process feedstocks at very high temperature – approximately 1100C or 2000F – compared to most pyrolysis or gasification units that operate in the 300C to 600C range. Operating at this high temperature enables different chemical reactions to happen which, in turn, cause the syngas produced by the CHyP unit to contain a high proportion of hydrogen molecules. Equally important, the high temperature at which the CHyP units operate is directly responsible for the significantly higher quality biochar that is produced by all PPI systems. While the operating parameters are different for each application, the CHyP unit platform is consistent across all applications thereby allowing PPI to obtain significant cost leverage and application flexibility.

The CHyP unit utilizes an unconventional form of pyrolysis to heat feedstocks in the absence of oxygen. While there are many manufacturers that build pyrolytic gasifiers, the PPI CHyP unit is different in many important ways:

1. Feedstock is fed through the reaction chamber using an auger instead of using a fluidized bed process that is common to other systems. This allows for more uniform heat transfer to the feedstock that, in turn, leads to more consistent results.
2. As noted previously, the CHyP unit operates at a much higher temperature range compared to other pyrolysis gasifiers. This allows for a fundamentally different chemical reactions to take place in the gasifier as the feedstock is broken down to form syngas.
3. PPI research has carefully selected unique reactor designs and special materials resulting in a higher energy syngas composition and enhanced system reliability.
4. The CHyP unit has been engineered to operate in a wide variety of applications. This flexible design enables manufacturing cost leverage and system reliability advantages that facilitate an attractive economic model. The PPI system can be financially viable at much smaller sizes compared to competitors' systems, and the modular design facilitates easy scale-up to larger applications.

The amount of high-quality biochar produced by a CHyP units depends somewhat upon the application, but it is generally in the range of 10% to 15% of the dry weight of the incoming feedstock. Because of the inherent process differences from other gasification technologies, the marketability and quality of the PPI carbon biochar is superior to that produced by other processes, thereby resulting in a significant positive revenue contribution to the overall financial performance of a PPI system.

Hydrogen Production Process



The flow diagram above shows a simplified view of the PPI process to convert biomass into hydrogen.

The first steps of the process are to ensure that the feedstock is properly sized and dried, if necessary, for optimized performance of the CHyP units based upon the type of feedstock and its condition as delivered to the project site. For a hydrogen system, the optimal moisture content (MC) of the feedstock is 25%. However, if drying is necessary, the heating load for the drying process can be furnished through the combustion of the tail gas that is produced as a co-product of the process.

Next, the properly sized and dried feedstock is introduced into the CHyP units for pyrolysis at 1100C. The operating setpoints of the CHyP units are set to optimize hydrogen output, so the syngas exiting the CHyP units is syngas that is a mixture of a high proportion of hydrogen molecules plus some light hydrocarbons. Immediately after the exit of the syngas from the CHyP units, the syngas goes through a simple proprietary upgrade step to further boost the yield of hydrogen.

A high quality biochar, suitable for upgrading to PPI graphenes, is produced by the CHyP units at this point in the process. The biochar is collected, cooled, and sent to a bagging station.

The syngas is then compressed to the operational pressure of the pressure swing adsorption (PSA) units (provided by others). The PSA units separate the hydrogen from the other molecules in the syngas, thereby producing purified hydrogen as an output to this step in the process. The exhaust gas leaving the PSA units consists of light hydrocarbons and is typically combusted in a thermal oxidizer for emissions control. Heat from the combustion process can be recovered and used to furnish the energy needed to dry the incoming feedstock, if necessary.

The hydrogen is then compressed to very high pressure and placed into final storage tanks (provided by others) to be distributed as required for its ultimate use.

Below are some design and capability highlights of the PPI hydrogen system that set it apart from other methods of hydrogen production:

1. PPI's CHyP technology results in a PPI hydrogen system that is scalable and financially viable across a wide range of configurations. The smallest system size with a design capacity of 4400 kg per day is functional and delivers excellent financial returns.
2. The footprint for a larger PPI hydrogen system is small – only 5 to 10 acres are needed for a 26,450 kg per day system. Locating the system near feedstock supplies reduces transportation costs and avoids a major pitfall of larger syngas facilities.
3. When the biochar is sequestered in a permanent application, the hydrogen produced by the PPI hydrogen system qualifies for the highest incentive credit as green hydrogen under the US Inflation Reduction Act.

4. The PPI hydrogen system can deliver hydrogen for production costs between \$1.24 and \$2.14 per kg depending upon system size, the cost of feedstock, local labor rates, and the cost of utilities, and other parameters.
5. In contrast to most feedstock conversion technology systems, the PPI CHyP units operate under slightly positive pressure and do not require infusion of other ingredients such as oxygen or chemical catalysts.

The combination of potentially two important revenue streams – hydrogen and high quality biochar – generate excellent financial returns.

PPI HYDROGEN SYSTEM BY THE NUMBERS

Below are some representative values for a 6 module PPI hydrogen system with a design capacity of 26,450 kg/day of hydrogen. These values assume a greenfield project located in Tennessee, USA, and can vary substantially based upon utility costs, biomass costs, biomass type/quality, labor costs, prices realized for the offtake products, and other local factors.

- Total estimated turnkey CapEx: US\$95M
- Annual Op-Ex: US\$10.2M
- Annual Gross Revenue: US\$88.2M (including incentives)
- Hydrogen production cost: US\$1.24/kg
- IRR: 85%
- Simple payback: 1.2 years
- Annual biomass required: 82,000 short dry tons (74,545 dry metric tonnes) delivered to CHyP units
- Annual electricity consumption: 33,250 MWh
- Annual green hydrogen production: 8.2M kg at 85% system uptime
- Annual biochar production: 10,650 short tons (9682 metric tonnes)

GRAPHENE

A recent business development opportunity that PPI is actively pursuing is the production of graphene.

Graphene is a substance that has many extremely positive attributes in the areas of strength of materials, electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity, and more. The issue that has limited graphene's use in the marketplace is its very high cost (initially up to \$500 per gram) due to very high production costs and small product yields.

The biochar produced by PPI's high-temperature process is composed of a very high proportion of graphene.

PPI has developed a proprietary process that produces a high-quality graphene (PPI calls it, "ProCene") from the biochar that is produced as a co-product from all PPI systems. PPI's process enables it to produce ProCene at very high volumes and at significant low production costs – a quantum improvement for the graphene market. It is noteworthy that an important key to making ProCene of consistently high quality is to start with the high quality biochar (PPI calls it, "Pro-C") that is only available from PPI CHyP units.

PPI has also perfected a process to convert PPI biochar to a medium grade graphene, called "ProCnano", that lends itself well to applications such as strengthening concrete, anti-corrosive paints and coatings and many other applications.

PPI intends to retain the intellectual property to produce ProCene and ProCnano. These products are, therefore, produced and distributed by PPI directly.

FACILITIES

PPI operations are headquartered in Lenoir City, TN, with manufacturing and office space totaling 89,000 sq. ft. across three locations on 50+ acres of land. Included in these three facilities is an 11,000 square foot laboratory facility dedicated to ongoing PPI research and development.

ABOUT PROTON POWER, INC.

Proton Power is a C corporation registered in the state of Tennessee as of October 3, 2005. Headquarters are located in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

For more information about the company, please contact Sam C. Weaver, CEO, at scweaver@protonpower.com or (865) 389-4713.

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