

Current Status of the KIT Coaxial-Cavity Long-Pulse Gyrotron and its Key Components

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Abstract

Today's performance requirements for future DEMO gyrotrons are an operating frequency > 200 GHz and an output power of 2 MW. A total gyrotron efficiency of better than 60 % must be achieved. Multi-purpose/multi-frequency operation and frequency step-tunability are required also. It has been shown earlier, that the coaxial-cavity technology is a promising candidate [1] for future fusion power plants. In [1] a world record RF output power at 170 GHz of 2.2 MW has been presented in short-pulse operation (~ few milliseconds). However, it has to be proven that the coaxial-cavity technology can be used in steady-state operation. That shall be achieved by upgrading the existing 2 MW 170 GHz short-pulse prototype with a cooling system and the implementation of advanced Magnetron Injection Guns (MIGs) [3]. Both, the advanced MIGs as well as the long-pulse gyrotron will show the way towards a possible solution for DEMO with a significantly higher output power at higher operating frequencies.

Bake-out Procedure

After the significant modification, the gyrotron was baked-out in the in-house oven up to 300 °C. All the components have been designed for a bake-out procedure of more than 400 °C. Especially the solder connections withstand a local temperature of more than 600 °C. In order to record the temperature, 12 thermocouples are connected to the mirror box. The complete bake out procedure has been controlled by a special control system to which a scenario has been programmed. The bake-out scheme consists of three major phases. In the first phase the temperature in the oven is stepwise increased up to the nominal bake out temperature of 300 °C. In the present case, 7 days were spent for the first phase. In the second phase the temperature is kept constant at the nominal value of bake-out for further 7 days. Subsequently, in the third phase, the heating of the oven is switched off and the temperature is decreasing slowly in order to avoid stresses in the components due to different thermal expansions.

The usually occurring event is the increase of vacuum pressure during the ramp-up process. If the pressure exceeds a value of more than $p1 = 1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ mbar the temperature is kept constant until the pressure becomes less than $p2 = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}$ mbar (marked in Fig. 1 with event 1). If the pressure is

smaller than $p2$ the oven increases the temperature again. If the pressure is exceeding the pressure level $p3 = 5.0 \times 10^{-5}$ mbar the control stops immediately the heating process and shuts down the oven in a controlled manner (marked in Fig. 1 with event 2).

During the bake-out process the vacuum pressure could be reduced from 2×10^{-7} mbar down to 1×10^{-8} mbar, which is the lower limit of the vacuum turbo pump.

Alignment of the Coaxial Cavity Insert

The effective gyrotron operation requires an exact alignment of the mechanical gyrotron axis. I.e. the axis of the electron gun, the axis of the resonator and the axis of the insert with respect to the axis of the magnetic field. Therefore the alignment of the gyrotron axis relative to the axis of the magnetic field has to be satisfied in order to guarantee a concentric electron beam with respect to the cavity and insert. Due to the very tight tolerance requirements it is very important to measure the accuracy of the mentioned gyrotron components at the nominal operation condition, and, if necessary to correct them. The measurement of the electron beam position relative to the insert and cavity wall can be done by the help of the dipole coils of the Oxford Instruments gyrotron magnet at KIT. These coils offers the possibility to shift the electron beam in the xy plane.

In order to measure the position of the hollow electron beam relative to the insert the compression of the magnetic field has to be increased. In this case the electron beam radius is decreasing and moving

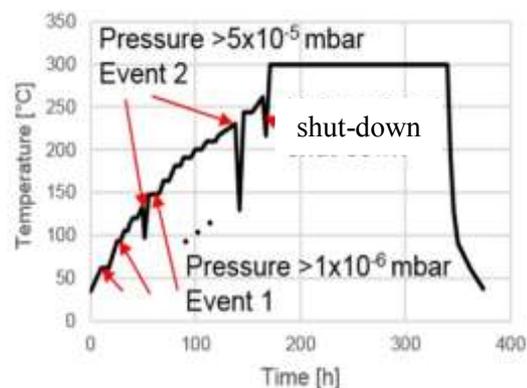


Fig. 1: Temperature profile during tube bake-out.

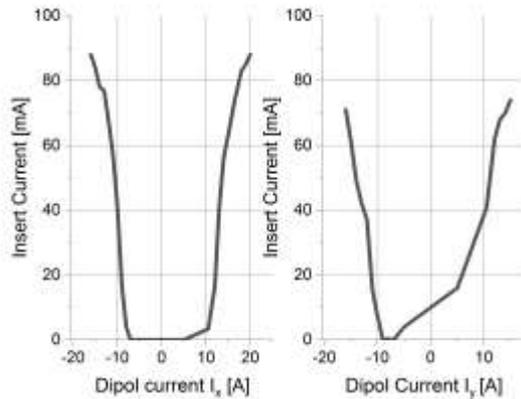


Fig. 2: Measurement of the insert current at different excitations of the dipole currents in xy-plane.

closer to the insert. By the use of the dipole coils the electron beam is touching the insert locally. The current to the insert, measured versus the dipole current, is shown in Fig. 2. In order to prevent damages at the insert, the measurement was done with reduced electron beam parameters. The beam current was 0.335 A with an acceleration voltage of 1 kV. The measurement of the insert current versus the dipole currents in x- and y- directions are shown in Fig. 2. Based on the results the deviation between the axis of the electron beam and the axis of the insert is in x-direction 0.036 mm, while the displacement in y-direction is 0.032 mm. The relation between dipole current and shift of the electron beam Δr_{beam} is given by: $\Delta r_{\text{beam}} = 0.012 I_{X,Y/A}$ [mm]. The misalignment, mentioned above, of the insert is negligible and therefore a stable gyrotron operation can be expected.



Fig. 3: The coaxial-cavity long-pulse gyrotron in the Oxford Instruments superconducting magnet with the calorimeter for the RF power measurement.

Experimental Verification of the Long-Pulse Coaxial Cavity Gyrotron

After the bake-out procedure and conditioning of the gyrotron the completely in-house manufactured and assembled components have to be verified and compared with the pre-prototype 2 MW 170 GHz short-pulse coaxial-cavity gyrotron. For a better comparison, it was decided to use the configuration of the new long-pulse gyrotron with the already existing MIG of the pre-prototype short-pulse gyrotron. This has the advantage that the performance uncertainty of the MIG can be excluded and the focus can be concentrated to the cavity and RF beam forming components.

In Fig. 3 the coaxial-cavity long-pulse gyrotron [3] is shown in the superconducting magnet (SCM). The measurements and analysis of the RF signal has shown that the gyrotron is operating absolutely stable at a single frequency and therefore in only one cavity mode. The measured mode series is in agreement with the calculated prediction.

At ~85 kV a mode switch from the nominal mode $TE_{34,19}$ at 169.86 GHz to the neighboring mode $TE_{33,19}$ at 167.79 GHz takes place. The maximum measured output power at the nominal mode is 2.1 MW with an efficiency of ~30 %, which is in conformance with the simulation results. With increasing magnetic compression the pitch factor is increasing and therefore the transverse kinetic energy of the electrons and the RF output power are also increasing. This effect was experimentally verified and the maximum measured RF output power is 2.2 MW with an efficiency of 33 %. A further RF power increase is not limited by the gyrotron technology itself. The main limitation is the capability of the SCM and power supply. The new longer-pulse gyrotron has a similar performance as the short-pulse pre-prototype gyrotron, however the efficiency is 3 % higher.

Acknowledgements

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References

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