

COMBUSTION WEBINAR

Burning metals for carbon-free power

Speaker: Prof. Jeffrey Bergthorson, McGill University

Time: May 28th 2022

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**COMBUSTION
WEBINAR**



Biography: Jeffrey Bergthorson is the Panda Faculty Scholar in Sustainable Engineering and Design, and a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, at McGill University where he leads the Alternative Fuels Laboratory. He received his B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba (1999), and his M.Sc. (2000) and Ph.D. (2005) in Aeronautics from the Graduate Aeronautical Laboratories of the California Institute of Technology. Prof. Bergthorson is a Fellow of the Combustion Institute and a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Prof. Bergthorson's research interests are in the broad area of the combustion and emissions properties of alternative and sustainable fuels, including biofuels, hydrogen, and the use of metals as carbon-free recyclable fuels.

Abstract: In order to address climate change, we must transition to a low-carbon economy. Many clean primary energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines, are being deployed and promise an abundant supply of clean electricity in the near future. The key question becomes how to store, transport, and trade this clean energy in a manner that is as convenient as fossil fuels. The Alternative Fuels Laboratory (AFL) at McGill University is actively researching the use of recyclable metal fuels as a key enabling technology for a low-carbon society. Metal fuels, reduced using clean primary energy, have the highest energy density of any chemical fuel and are stable solids, simplifying storage, transport, and trade. This presentation will overview the concept of using metals as circular carbon-free fuels and the methods to harness the chemical energy contained in the metal fuels. Metal particles can ignite and burn as sparks, which act as micro-diffusion reactors that release heat at discrete points. The rapid release of energy from ignited and burning particles leads to a new combustion regime, termed discrete flames, whose rate of propagation is independent of the heat-release rate and which are predicted to exhibit interesting propagation and quenching behavior.

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