



**Contact: Craig Kuhlman**  
**509/735-4700 or 509/430-7124**

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## **STC (NOW INFINIA) GENERATORS REACH MULTI-YEAR TEST MILESTONES**

**Kennewick, WA, August 23, 2004** – A 10-watt, Stirling cycle engine driven generator undergoing multi-year testing has achieved 10 years of continuous, maintenance-free operation, Stirling Technology Company (STC) announced today.

In addition, a similar 1,000-watt propane-fired Stirling engine driven generator has achieved 2 years of continuous, maintenance-free operation. In both cases the generators have operated with no degradation of performance.

“The excellent performance of these units under continuous, long-term tests validates the robustness of our systems and is consistent with our expectations,” said J.D. Sitton, STC president and chief executive officer.

“STC set out to design, build and commercialize a whole new class of extremely reliable, environmentally friendly engines and generators developed around our proprietary Stirling-cycle technology. These tests, together with progress being made by our licensees targeting European residential markets and our work with NASA suggest we are on the right path and are making good progress,” Sitton added.

The Stirling cycle is an engineering term referring to the continuous heating, expansion and cooling of a gas to drive a piston inside a closed cylinder using a heat source located outside of the cylinder. STC has developed very robust designs and components to convert the piston motion into electricity using a linear alternator. STC’s patented systems operate with no lubrication; no contact between moving and stationary parts and are maintenance-free. These systems are capable of operating continuously in virtually any environment for many years and can be adapted to a wide range of different applications.

**(more)**

6811 West Okanogan Place, Kennewick WA 99336 · USA  
509/735-4700 phone – 509/736-3660 fax  
<http://www.infiniacorp.com> – [info@infiniacorp.com](mailto:info@infiniacorp.com)

“The 10-watt test began in 1994, and as of this month has recorded 87,600 hours,” said Maury White, STC’s co-founder and chief technology officer. “The average life of an automobile engine is around 5,000 hours. Jet engines and gas turbines typically operate a few hundred hours between inspections and maintenance intervals. Even the average refrigerator motor accumulates only 98,000 hours over its service life. On this scale, 10 years of continuous operation is phenomenal,” White added.

“Our work with Lockheed, NASA and DOE on the next class of power systems for deep space exploration vehicles is bearing fruit. The need for verified reliability of these systems and the implementation of controlled design and production processes is helping to ensure that STC’s hardware remains best-in-class for both commercial and space applications” Sitton said.

Heat sources for STC’s Stirling cycle generators include multiple types of fuels – from any liquid fuel to natural gas, hydrogen, radioisotopes, and solar to biomass. STC’s 10-watt test engine uses a specially designed electric heater which simulates the characteristics of the radioisotope heat source to be used by NASA in STC’s space engines.

STC will deliver over 30 of its 10-watt, 55-watt and 110-watt Stirling cycle power generating systems to its partners over the coming 15 months. These systems will be used for a variety of purposes including customer testing and deployment.

STC presently employs over 80 people at its facilities in Kennewick, Washington.

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