

# Resource Tracking Model Updates and Trade Studies

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**The Resource Tracking Model has been updated to capture system manager and project manager inputs. Both the Trick/General Use Nodal Network Solver Resource Tracking Model (RTM) simulator and the RTM mass balance spreadsheet have been revised to address inputs from system managers and to refine the way mass balance is illustrated. The revisions to the RTM included the addition of a Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly (PPA) to recover hydrogen from Sabatier Reactor methane, which was vented in the prior version of the RTM. The effect of the PPA on the overall balance of resources in an exploration vehicle is illustrated in the increased recycle of vehicle oxygen. Case studies have been run to show the relative effect of performance changes on vehicle resources.**

## Nomenclature

<i>ARS</i>	=	Air Revitalization System
<i>BPA</i>	=	Brine Processing Assembly
<i>BRIC</i>	-	Brine Residual in Containment
<i>BSTA</i>	=	Brine Storage Tank Assembly
<i>CDRA</i>	=	Carbon Dioxide Removal Assembly
<i>CDS</i>	=	Cascade Distillation System
<i>CH<sub>4</sub></i>	=	methane
<i>CHX</i>	=	Condensing Heat Exchanger
<i>CO<sub>2</sub></i>	=	carbon dioxide
<i>EAM</i>	=	Exploration Augmentation Module
<i>EC</i>	=	Crew and Thermal Systems Division of NASA Johnson Space Center
<i>ECLSS</i>	=	Environmental Control and Life Support System
<i>ER</i>	=	Automation and Robotics Division of NASA Johnson Space Center
<i>EVA</i>	=	extravehicular activity
<i>GUNNS</i>	=	General Use Nodal Network Solver
<i>HAB</i>	=	Habitation
<i>HIDH</i>	=	Human Integrated Design Handbook
<i>HMC</i>	=	Heat Melt Compactor
<i>HyPA</i>	=	Hydrogen Purification Assembly
<i>H<sub>2</sub></i>	=	hydrogen
<i>H<sub>2</sub>O</i>	=	water
<i>ISS</i>	=	International Space Station
<i>JSC</i>	=	Johnson Space Center
<i>N<sub>2</sub></i>	=	nitrogen
<i>OGA</i>	=	Oxygen Generation Assembly
<i>OGS</i>	=	Oxygen Generation System

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$O_2$	=	oxygen
<i>PCS</i>	=	Pressure Control System
<i>psia</i>	=	pounds per square inch absolute
<i>PPA</i>	=	Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly
<i>PPCO<sub>2</sub></i>	=	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
<i>PPO<sub>2</sub></i>	=	partial pressure of oxygen
<i>RLS</i>	=	Regenerative Life Support
<i>RR</i>	=	Rest Room
<i>RTM</i>	=	Resource Tracking Model (for Regenerative Life Support)
<i>SPE</i>	=	Solid Polymer Electrolyzer
<i>SR</i>	=	Sabatier Reactor
<i>SysML</i>	=	System Modeling Language
<i>TCCS</i>	=	Trace Contaminant Control System
<i>UPA</i>	=	Urine Processing Assembly
<i>Visio</i>	=	a diagramming and vector graphics application; part of the Microsoft Office family
<i>WHC</i>	=	Waste and Hygiene Compartment
<i>WPA</i>	=	Water Processor Assembly
<i>WPS</i>	=	Waste Processing System
<i>WRS</i>	=	Water Recovery System
<i>WSTA</i>	=	Water Storage Tank Assembly
<i>WTA</i>	=	Waste Tank Assembly (of the UPA)
<i>WWTA</i>	=	Waste Water Tank Assembly (of the WPA)

## I. Introduction

**M**OST exploration mission and habitat designs take advantage of the mass savings and efficiency of operations that a Regenerative Life Support (RLS) system will provide. The interaction between RLS subsystems involves many interdependencies both within and between subsystems. An integrated model of the architecture and the interconnections of components was needed to understand such interdependencies in a vehicle using a RLS. The Resource Tracking Model (RTM) (documented in the 2015 ICES paper<sup>1</sup>) was developed to model an integrated RLS to provide the capability of tracking the need, use, and regeneration of resources in an exploration vehicle during a simulated mission.

The capability to track the water (H<sub>2</sub>O) resources during operation of a vehicle is needed to ensure that plans for an exploration mission provide adequate resources for the crew to accomplish mission objectives. The exchanges of resources between subsystems need to be coordinated so that adequate resources for one process are available when needed in another process.

Since the summer of 2015, the RTM has been refined in several key ways to add capabilities and to more closely match evolving plans for exploration vehicles. The major areas that have been refined are: 1) the way components interface with one another (reflected in the edited schematic) to reflect the exploration Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) team plans for ECLSS (as documented in an AIAA Space 2015 paper<sup>2</sup>); 2) the operation of the Oxygen Generation Assembly (OGA) (to continuously provide oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) to match crew metabolic use); 3) carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) collection systems to continuously collect CO<sub>2</sub> and provide the CO<sub>2</sub> needed to match the hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) provided to the Sabatier Reactor (SR); 4) SR operations to operate at a ratio that reacts all CO<sub>2</sub> entering the SR; 5) the addition of new simulations of equipment that will process methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) generated by the SR to recover and reuse the H<sub>2</sub> in the CH<sub>4</sub> (the Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly (PPA))<sup>3</sup> to break down the waste stream of gases from the SR and the Hydrogen Purification Assembly (HyPA)<sup>4</sup> to separate the H<sub>2</sub> from the PPA stream and make it available to be used in the SR. Interesting findings on the PPA and HyPA integration are provided in a trade study.

In order to completely simulate the processes that affect resource use during exploration life support use, the processes that use resources during Extravehicular Activities (EVA) have to be included. Simulation of the EVA systems addresses the need for O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, and nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) and for the processing of other consumables such as wipes. Subsystems that conserve cabin and/or airlock air during depress operations will affect the resources needed and thus need to be included. To address the EVA simulation need, meetings with the exploration EVA community are planned to ensure that RTM simulations of EVA processes are in concert with exploration planning. The RTM includes a simplified EVA airlock and cabin resources simulation. The EVA simulation will be added to a future version of the RTM.

The RTM is viewed as the next step toward integrating technologies into an exploration vehicle because it starts to consider implementation of technologies into a functional system and initiates the consideration of operational plans. It uses performance information from technology testing combined with the sizing of reservoirs and an operational approach for the sequential operation of RLS equipment. The RTM was developed to be a tool for assessing the interactions between RLS technologies that can lead to better planning of mission operations.

It is expected that the current version of the RTM will be used to study options for how to operate the RLS equipment and how changes in the mission plan will change the way in which the variety of systems interact. The RTM also enables changes in the compliment of RLS equipment to be made easily so that alternative architectures can be assessed. Several trade studies have been conducted with the RTM to illustrate how the model can be used to assess the resources required when different operational scenarios or different technology performance is employed.

This modeling effort was initiated in support of the NASA Advanced Exploration Systems project for study of an Exploration Augmentation Module (EAM).

Additionally the RTM offers compatibility with vehicle simulators that provides the capability to have ECLSS (via RTM) integrated with all other vehicle systems to conduct mission simulations.

## II. Resource Tracking Model Features

Features of the RTM include easily captured system architecture, Object Oriented Programming, easy integration into higher-level simulators, and the ability to keep the level of simulation high so that the integrated functions of the RLS can be run quickly and the RTM can be integrated into other simulations.

### A. Modeling Data Sources

The RTM models the performance of a set of ECLSS equipment based on component operational or test data. Performance of the equipment is established based on operational data from the International Space Station (ISS) or on the most current data on advanced technologies.

A SR with performance based on ISS processes is assumed to recover O<sub>2</sub> from CO<sub>2</sub>. Cabin air humidity removal is done via a Condensing Heat Exchanger (CHX), with performance defined via the ISS CHX. Cabin CO<sub>2</sub> removal and performance is simulated via an ISS Carbon Dioxide Removal Assembly (CDRA). H<sub>2</sub> for the SR is provided via the O<sub>2</sub>-producing OGA, with performance as in ISS OGA specification.<sup>5</sup> The ISS approach to operating the OGA assumes that the OGA is started when the cabin pressure requires O<sub>2</sub>, and operates continuously thereafter at a rate that matches the Pressure Control System (PCS) needs for O<sub>2</sub>. O<sub>2</sub> is introduced directly into the cabin from the OGA. The resulting H<sub>2</sub> is provided to the SR at a low rate. No storage of H<sub>2</sub> is included (similar to how the ISS ECLSS functions to interact with the SR commercial demonstration test objective).

Supporting functions of food processing, handling food wastes and human wastes are simulated according to operations representative of exploration missions. The amount of trash to be processed is defined in the habitation team logistics model<sup>6</sup> for trash products that are expected to be generated during a long-duration Mars mission. The function of the toilet is based on ISS toilet and operations technology to collect solid and liquid waste products, and to pretreat urine.

New technologies are simulated for urine processing and recovery of water from cabin waste products based on promising Cascade Distillation System (CDS)<sup>7</sup> and Heat Melt Compactor (HMC)<sup>8</sup> technologies. Water recovery from brine is included based on the Brine Residual in Containment (BRIC)<sup>9</sup> technology development. Each of those components is viewed as a generic capability to distill urine, recover water from brine, and recover water from habitation wastes; however, the specific performance of those components is based on the CDS, BRIC, and HMC technologies. Trash that contains water is assumed to be processed by the HMC. The Water Processing Assembly (WPA) filtration and ion removal system of the ISS is assumed for producing potable water.

Interaction with system managers for ECLSS led to changes in the RTM simulation presented in the 2015 ICES paper to reflect the system architecture planned by exploration ECLSS managers.<sup>2</sup> That system configuration is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 also includes new components for technologies that completed demonstration testing during the fall of 2015. Those address recovery of H<sub>2</sub> from the CH<sub>4</sub> produced in the SR to improve the recovery of the O<sub>2</sub> from the CO<sub>2</sub> that the crew produces. A PPA and a HyPA are modeled to simulate recovery of H<sub>2</sub>, which is then used in the SR to supplement the H<sub>2</sub> from the OGA and thus enable reacting more of the CO<sub>2</sub> produced to recover more of the O<sub>2</sub>.

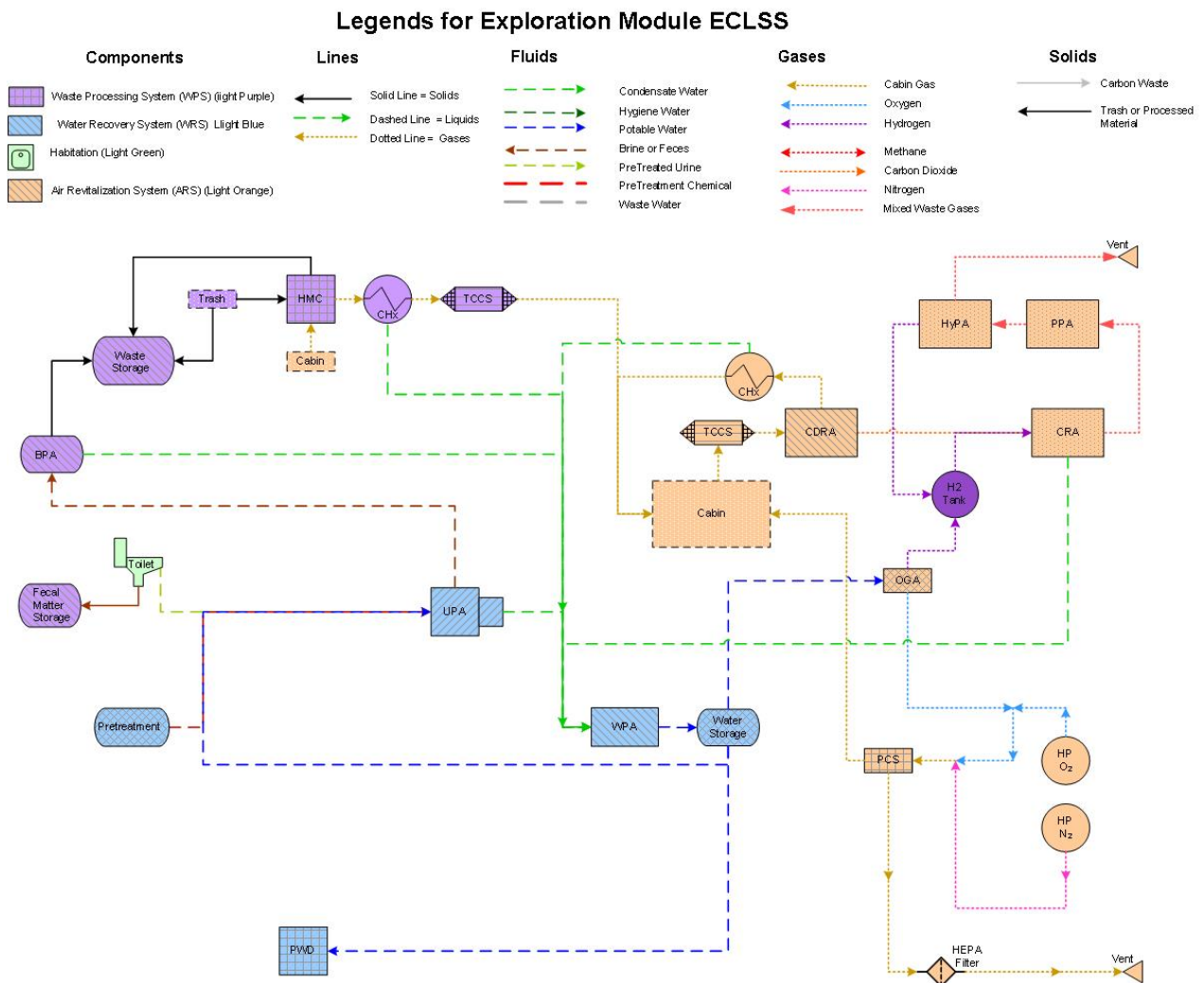
The RTM simulates crew functions using the Human Integrated Design Handbook<sup>10</sup> (HIDH)-defined metabolic rates and processes combined with the exploration logistics database for crew needs such as food and packaging that results in trash waste products. Interaction with NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) experts resolved a small mass imbalance when using Human Systems Integration Requirements data directly. That led to understanding that the

HIDH-required food is not equal to the food that the crew consumes – a portion of that food is discarded with packaging and a portion is not wanted by a crew member (i.e., he or she doesn't eat the full portion).

Condensate water is provided directly to the WPA from the CDS, BRIC, HMC, and SR. SR water was thought to be very pure and thus compatible with the potable water supply system; however, system managers pointed out that the SR product water will have a significant gas content and will not be treated with biocide. The SR water is routed to the inlet of the WPA for processing to address those concerns. WPA product water is used for drinking and toilet flush, and to provide water for electrolysis in the OGA (as is done on ISS currently).

## B. Functional Schematic Development

The RTM schematic establishes how RLS components interact with fluid/gas streams. Although many subsystem processes are addressed, the schematics do not show the many reservoirs that several subsystems employ. Redundancy was not included in the RTM since the basic functions could be modeled without the complexity of failure simulations that would employ redundant components.

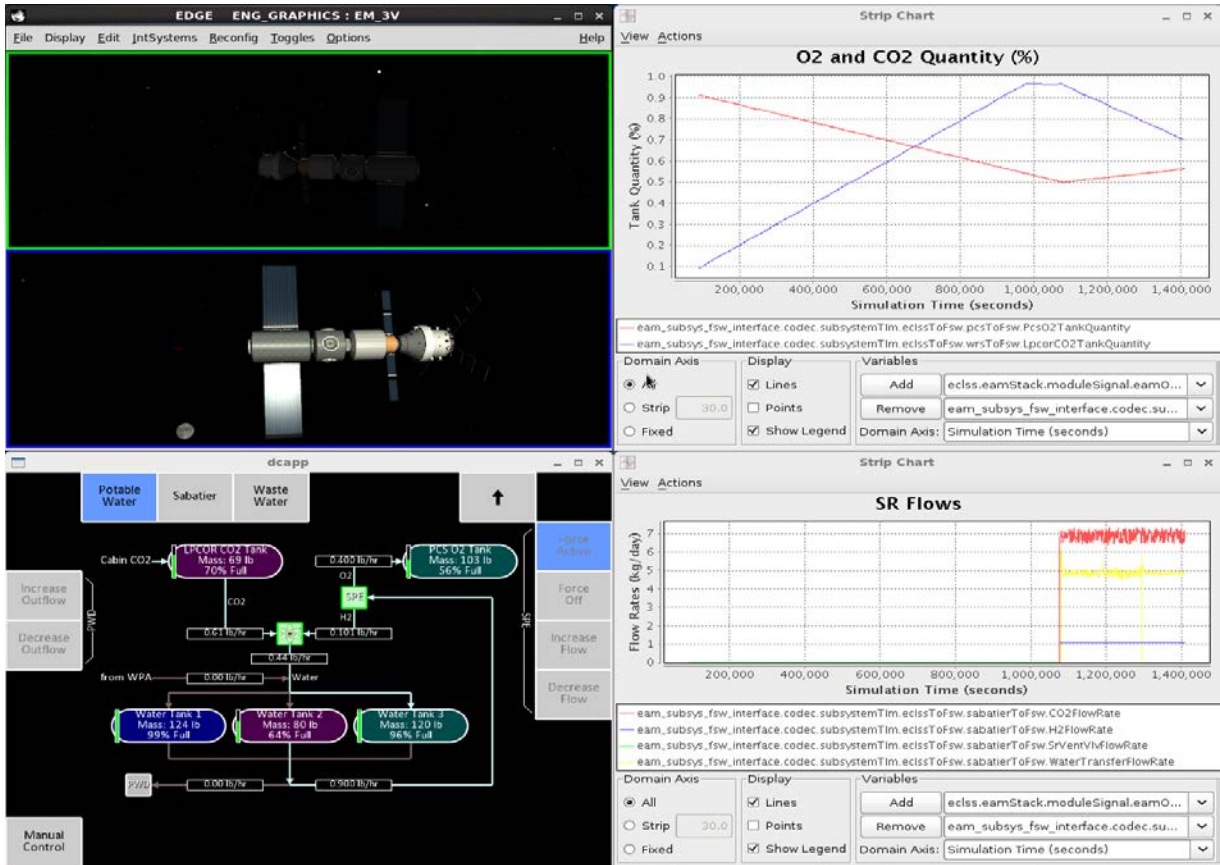


**Figure 1. Integrated RLS used in the RTM.**

Life support provided information to include in the Trick/General Use Nodal Network Solver (GUNNS) simulator. The NASA JSC robotics team implemented the performance and operational logic in the RTM to operate the RTM to simulate exploration missions.

The RTM is also used in integrated vehicle simulations to simulate operation of the EAM in real time and is connected to displays and control system simulators to provide the capability to “fly” the EAM (as illustrated in Figure

2). The simulation applications range from laptop and desktop computer trainers to full-scale robotics hardware-in-the-loop facilities and virtual reality systems. Trick provides a data-driven real-time scheduling executive, input processing, data recording, and automatic code generation that is open source and freely available at <https://github.com/nasa/trick>.



**Figure 2. Displays and controls for RTM when run within an integrated deep space vehicle simulation.**

In the case of the RTM, the fluid aspects of GUNNS were primarily used. This included fluid properties tables and often-used fluid system component models such as pumps, fans, valves, pipes, and tanks. Development of the RTM utilized System Modeling Language (SysML) schematics of Regen-ECLSS as a source of system information when developing the GUNNS-compatible Visio drawings.

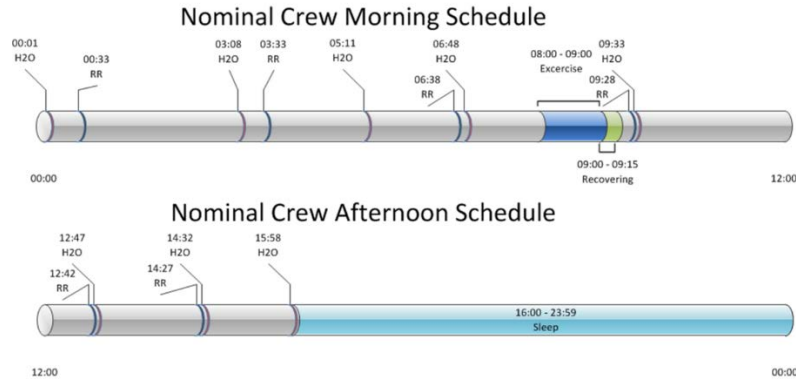
### III. Environmental Control and Life Support System Performance Information and Mission Operations

The RTM has simulated the integrated functions of an advanced regenerative ECLSS for an exploration mission scenario. This required establishing a mission timeline that includes the general functions of the crew, and the operation of each of the regenerative ECLSS components.

The test scenario consisted of crew activities and equipment operations envisioned for a nominal 60 days of a deep space mission, and was the scenario that was discussed in the 2015 ICES paper.<sup>1</sup>

A basic day of operations was defined to test the RTM. A simulation provides insights into the normal exchange of fluids (and gases) that will take place during an exploration mission. The basic day shown in Figure 3 establishes the crew routines for daily activities including: sleep, nominal activities, exercise, and use of the commode (Rest Room (RR)), consumption of food and drinks (H<sub>2</sub>O), and generation of trash. A representative timeline of activities was developed for the crew to time processes (Figure 5). The timeline shown starts with crew wakeup at 0.0 hours.





**Figure 3. The crew timeline of activities for a basic day of exploration operations.**

### A. Logic for Operating the Exploration Vehicle Regenerative Life Support

All the operations involving the RLS of an exploration vehicle are included in the way the water, waste, air, and human logistics are sequenced during each of the 60 simulated days.

#### 1. Logic for Heat Melt Compactor Operations

The logic for the HMC recognizes that compatible wastes will be processed over a 22 hour period. After that time the crew will unload the HMC and reload it with accumulated trash, and will start the process again.

#### 2. Logic for Operating the Commode, Urine Processing Assembly and Brine Processing Assembly

The timing of the operation of the commode is based on the crew timeline. Each use results in a mixture of urine, urine pretreat, and flush water being pumped via an air/fluid separator to flow into the Urine Processing Assembly (UPA) waste tank assembly. The UPA is operated when the Water Tank Assembly (WTA) reaches a fill level and is stopped when an empty level is reached. Performance data for the UPA are based on testing of the CDS technology.

Brine is pumped to the Brine Processing Assembly (BPA) tank via pitot pumping in the UPA. The BPA is operated when the brine tank reaches a set fill level and continues over a long period to process all the brine. Performance data for the BPA are based on the BRIC technology. Other brine processing technologies are in work. The performance data from those technologies are expected to be used in future RTM simulations.

Distillate is pumped to the WPA Waste Water Tank Assembly (WWTA) during BPA operations. This routing is different than in the 2015 RTM paper<sup>1</sup> reflecting the system manager input that the distillate from the BPA will be compatible with the quality needed for the WPA.

#### 3. Logic for Water Processor Assembly Operation

Operation of the WPA is the same as in the 2015 RTM paper.<sup>1</sup> Operation of the potable water tanks is sequenced to provide one receiving tank, one supply tank, and another that is in reserve. If the tanks are completely filled, additional water storage is assumed to be available and the amount of water stored in other tanks is tracked.

#### 4. Air Revitalization System Processes that Affect the Exploration Augmentation Module Water Balance

Air Revitalization System (ARS) components that affect the water balance include: the CHX, which condenses water from the cabin atmosphere; the PCS that requires water to produce O<sub>2</sub> (via electrolysis); the CDRA, which removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the cabin and provides CO<sub>2</sub> (to recover O<sub>2</sub>) for use in the SR, which combines CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> to create water and CH<sub>4</sub>.

CH<sub>4</sub> was vented in the prior version of the RTM but is now processed by the PPA<sup>3</sup> and HyPA<sup>4</sup> to recover H<sub>2</sub> for reuse in the SR. Simulation of the operation of the SR now includes use of the H<sub>2</sub> from the HyPA in addition to the OGA-produced H<sub>2</sub>. To simulate the functions of the OGA, SR, PPA, and HyPA, the constituent flows of H<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, hydrocarbons, and H<sub>2</sub>O had to be addressed and included because those constituents affect the operating efficiency of those processors. An assumption for the goal of SR operations was made for the molar ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> to H<sub>2</sub> to simulate the mix of constituent gases. That molar ratio was used to calculate the efficiency of the SR processor and predict the resulting outlet flows from the SR. The condensed liquid water is pumped to the WPA WWTA via the liquid/gas separator of the SR.

Outlet gas constituents are routed to the PPA. Moderate temperature cooling was assumed for the SR, which led to the dew point temperature of the SR outlet gases. PPA efficiency was used to simulate PPA processing of the combined CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, unreacted H<sub>2</sub>, and unreacted CO<sub>2</sub>. Products of the PPA were simulated based on performance curves provided in the 2015 ICES paper on development of the PPA.<sup>3</sup> The PPA products were then processed by the HyPA and, based on Fall 2015 testing of the HyPA,<sup>4</sup> an 85% recovery rate of H<sub>2</sub> in that stream was achieved for the

HyPA stream. The HyPA will probably process for a period of time to accumulate H<sub>2</sub>, and will be regenerated by thermally releasing the H<sub>2</sub>. An average rate of H<sub>2</sub> recovery will be used as a simplification of the recovery process in the RTM simulation. The recovered H<sub>2</sub> will supplement the H<sub>2</sub> produced by the OGA to increase the rate of H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> reaction in the SR, thereby increasing the recovery of O<sub>2</sub> from the CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the crew. Other gases in the HyPA stream are to be vented to space and are thus lost from the vehicle RLS.

At present, the RTM does not include a H<sub>2</sub> storage tank to accumulate H<sub>2</sub> from the OGA and HyPA. The need for such a device may be established via RTM simulations.

The CHX and CDRA are operated in the RTM to maintain cabin humidity and keep partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PPCO<sub>2</sub>) below 2.0 millimeters of mercury. The water separator not only separates condensate from air, it pumps CHX-collected water to the WPA WWTA. The rate of humidity and CO<sub>2</sub> removal vary based on crew metabolic rates and the assumption that the thermal control system will provide adequate cooling to operate the CHX.

CDRA operations are assumed to be nominal for collecting CO<sub>2</sub> from cabin air, thus maintaining CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure within limits. As CO<sub>2</sub> is added to the cabin by the crew, it is removed by the CDRA and is sent to a CO<sub>2</sub> storage tank via a compressor. Compressed CO<sub>2</sub> is sent to the SR when O<sub>2</sub> is being generated by the OGA. The CO<sub>2</sub> tank has been sized to be an ISS standard 50 kg capacity tank.

If the CO<sub>2</sub> tank is full but SR operation is required, CO<sub>2</sub> is vented until O<sub>2</sub> generation is required. If O<sub>2</sub> generation is required but no CO<sub>2</sub> is available, H<sub>2</sub> would be vented if the H<sub>2</sub> tank is full.

## **B. Test Mission Definition**

To test the RTM, a nominal EAM mission lasting 60 days of operations was assumed, starting with crew arrival and occupation of the DSH. That period is adequate to establish the nominal operation of RLS equipment and cycling of RLS processes. The crew timeline of water and food consumption, exercise, trash, and metabolic waste generation (shown in Figure 5) was assumed.

Crew metabolic functions are defined via HIDH<sup>10</sup> data shown in Table 1 and via the timeline of nominal crew activities that describes when the crew would drink, eat, exercise, use the commode (Figure 3), and load the HMC with trash. The per crew information in Table 1 is used to calculate the crew metabolic inputs into the cabin considering the number of crew and a daily timeline of crew activities. The waste water tanks are filled and the potable water tanks are depleted based on those nominal daily and weekly activities (Table 2). That data establishes the capacity and initial loading of each of the tanks so that simulations can be initialized and the logic to address how to operate the tanks results in realistic system operations.

Automation of the rest of the RLS functions is assumed as related to the fill of tanks and the depletion of water and O<sub>2</sub> resources. The RTM simulation calculates the quantities in each consumable container as a function of time related to the metabolic rates and the operation of the RLS equipment.

## **C. Water Processing Components of the Regenerative Life Support**

The HMC operation has been simulated based on top-level estimates of the amount of waste that the HMC can process and the amount of water contained in that waste. The portion of water reclaimed by the HMC via evaporation then condensation is based on the HMC performance data from testing.<sup>7</sup> HMC water is pumped to the WPA WWTA.

### *1. Water Recovery System (WRS) Operations*

The Commode (or Waste and Hygiene Compartment (WHC)) performance is based on ISS WHC performance data. The ISS WHC mixes urine with 50 mL of condensate water (potable water on ISS) and 3 mL of pretreat for each use. Each use is estimated to take around 10 minutes, during which time the fan/separator is operating (it is assumed to operate for 20 minutes when used during defecations).

Use of the new pretreat for urine is assumed, thereby resulting in no need for the Urine Processing Assembly Precipitation Prevention Project Ion Exchange Column (included in the 2015 RTM paper<sup>1</sup>).

## **D. Air Processing Components of the Regenerative Life Support**

The cabin pressure control relies on N<sub>2</sub> from the PCS system, when required, and uses PCS O<sub>2</sub> only for contingencies in which the OGA is not available. The OGA operations are assumed to start with crew ingress at 0 hours and continues at a rate approximately equal to crew consumption of O<sub>2</sub> to maintain cabin partial pressure of oxygen (PPO<sub>2</sub>). OGA operation is simulated to introduce O<sub>2</sub> directly into the cabin, and H<sub>2</sub> goes directly to the SR.

**Table 1. Crew Metabolic Rates (from HIDH)**

Parameter	Rate	Breakdown	Units
Consumption Rate H2O	2.9		kg/crew/day
		2	kg/crew/day drinking
		0.5	kg/crew/day for food rehydration
		0.4	kg/crew/day for hygiene
Production Rate H2O Vapor	1.85		kg/crew/day
Production Average Rate Urine	1.696		kg/crew/day
		1.63	L of water/crew/day
		0.066	L of solids/crew/day
Fecal matter average	150		grams (by mass)
Average two defecations per day	2		
		150	mL (by volume) /crew/defecation
			ml of water /crew/day (50 ml /crew/defecation)
Feces will have an average		100	
Consumption Rate O2	0.82		kg/crew/day
Production Rate CO2	1.04		kg/crew/day
Total food required	1.83		kg/crew/day
Food Consumed		1.5189	kg/crew/day
Food not consumed (rejected or waste)		0.3111	kg/crew/day
Water in food consumed		0.701	kg/crew/day

**Table 2. Capacities and Initial Fill of the WRS and PCS Tanks**

Subsystem	Component	Function	Acronym	Capacity		Starting	Starting mass	
				LB	KG	% Full	LB	KG
WRS	WPA	Waste Water Tank	WWTA	125	56.81	0	0	0
				Potable water tanks				
		WSTA1	125	56.81	95	118.75	53.97	
		WSTA2	125	56.81	95	118.75	53.97	
		WSTA3	125	56.81	80	100	45.45	
	Pretreat tank	Pretreat Urine	5	L				
	CDS	Waste Storage	WSTA	32.3	14.7	0	0	0
			Brine Storage					
			BSTA	32.3	14.7	0	0	0
			Distillate Storage	DSTA	32.3	14.7	0	0
Solid Waste	HMC	No storage only recovery of water and compaction of waste products						
Pressure Control System	O2 Tanks		Tank 1	15.2	83.2	95	37.4	78.19
				Tank 2	15.2	83.2	95	37.4
	N2 Tanks		Tank 1	15.2	94	95	42.7	94
				Tank 2	15.2	94	95	42.7

The H<sub>2</sub> flow into the SR from the OGA is limited to that produced when O<sub>2</sub> is supplied to the cabin at metabolic rates. Thus, there are two factors limiting the operation of the SR: the H<sub>2</sub> supply rate, and the CO<sub>2</sub> supply rate. The H<sub>2</sub> flow rate limits the amount of H<sub>2</sub> that can be used to react with the CO<sub>2</sub> in the SR. The new approach to recovering the O<sub>2</sub> from cabin CO<sub>2</sub> involves recycling the H<sub>2</sub> by processing the SR outlet stream of gases to separate the H<sub>2</sub> from compounds and return the recovered H<sub>2</sub> to the SR. The recirculated H<sub>2</sub> enables reacting more of the CO<sub>2</sub> and thus recovery of more O<sub>2</sub>.

SR operations are very efficient when the molecular ratio of H<sub>2</sub> to CO<sub>2</sub> is 4.5:1. The simulation of SR operations that uses the 4.5:1 ratio results in a waste gas stream that contains no residual CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the waste gas stream will contain unreacted H<sub>2</sub> and residual water in addition to the CH<sub>4</sub>.

Dr. Jeff Sweterlitsch/NASA JSC was consulted and provided insights that were essential in translating the chemistry of molecular ratios into the kg/hr flows used in the RTM. Assumptions used were a crew of four for rates of CO<sub>2</sub> generation and O<sub>2</sub> consumption; a moderate temperature (65°F (18°C)) cooling used in the SR CHX (to calculate the condensation rates and predict the amount of residual H<sub>2</sub>O in the SR outlet gas stream). Those calculations are shown below:



Assumptions:

- 1) Flow rate of H<sub>2</sub> entering the Sabatier is 1.09 kg/day (based on a crew of four and the O<sub>2</sub> flow needed to match metabolic use of O<sub>2</sub>)
- 2) Chemical reaction assumes 4.5 moles of H<sub>2</sub> per mole of CO<sub>2</sub> with no excess CO<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>4</sub> stream
- 3) Occurs at ambient (101325 Pa)
- 4) 18°C (65°F) dew point of H<sub>2</sub>O = 2126.8 Pa pp H<sub>2</sub>O (Sweterlitsch's equation)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1.09 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{day}}}{0.002 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{mol H}_2}} &= 545 \frac{\text{mol H}_2}{\text{day}} \text{ supplied} \\ \frac{1 \text{ mol CO}_2}{4.5 \text{ mol H}_2} \times 545 \frac{\text{mol H}_2}{\text{day}} &= 121.1 \frac{\text{mol CO}_2}{\text{day}} \text{ supplied} \\ 121.1 \frac{\text{mol CO}_2}{\text{day}} \times 0.044 \frac{\text{kg CO}_2}{\text{mol CO}_2} &= 5.33 \frac{\text{kg CO}_2}{\text{day}} \text{ supplied} \\ \frac{2 \text{ mol H}_2\text{O}}{1 \text{ mol CO}_2} \times 121.111 \frac{\text{mol CO}_2}{\text{day}} &= 242.2 \frac{\text{mol H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \text{ generated} \\ 242.2 \frac{\text{mol H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \times 0.018 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{mol H}_2\text{O}} &= 4.36 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \text{ generated} \\ \frac{2}{1 + 2 + 0.5} &= 0.571 \frac{\text{mol H}_2\text{O}}{\text{mol products}} \\ 0.571 \frac{\text{mol H}_2\text{O}}{\text{mol products}} \times 101325 \text{ Pa} &= \text{ppH}_2\text{O} = 57900 \text{ Pa} \\ \frac{57900 \text{ Pa} - 2126.8 \text{ Pa}}{57900 \text{ Pa}} &= 96.3\% \text{ H}_2\text{O condensed} \\ 4.36 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \times 96.3\% \text{ H}_2\text{O condensed} &= 4.20 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \text{ condensed} \\ \frac{1 \text{ mol CH}_4}{1 \text{ mol CO}_2} \times 121.1 \frac{\text{mol CO}_2}{\text{day}} &= 121.1 \frac{\text{mol CH}_4}{\text{day}} \text{ generated} \\ 121.1 \frac{\text{mol CH}_4}{\text{day}} \times 0.016 \frac{\text{kg CH}_4}{\text{mol CH}_4} &= 1.94 \frac{\text{kg CH}_4}{\text{day}} \text{ generated} \\ \frac{0.5 \text{ mol H}_2}{4.5 \text{ mol H}_2} \times 1.09 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{day}} &= 0.12 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{day}} \text{ unreacted in methane stream} \\ 4.36 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \times (100\% - 96.3\%) \text{ H}_2\text{O uncondensed} &= 0.16 \frac{\text{kg H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} \text{ in methane stream} \end{aligned}$$

Overall mass balance:

$$5.33 \frac{\text{kg CO}_2}{\text{day}} + 1.09 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{day}} = 1.94 \frac{\text{kg CH}_4}{\text{day}} + 4.20 \frac{\text{kg liquid H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} + 0.16 \frac{\text{kg vapor H}_2\text{O}}{\text{day}} + 0.12 \frac{\text{kg H}_2}{\text{day}}$$

In testing of the PPA<sup>3</sup> it was found that the performance of the PPA is affected significantly by the amount of gases other than CH<sub>4</sub> in the outlet SR gas stream. Dr. Morgan Abney reported on PPA development results in 2015<sup>3</sup> and provided results for a pure CH<sub>4</sub> stream and a stream from a SR that is most representative of expected exploration vehicle operations. The results of that study have been used to simulate the operation of a PPA unit with a crew of four. The outlet conditions of the PPA are calculated using the SR constituent gas flow and molecular ratios to simulate PPA performance. Only the CH<sub>4</sub> is expected to be reacted in the PPA, thus the other gases in the SR stream are simulated as passing through the PPA unreacted. Downstream, the gas stream will contain unreacted CH<sub>4</sub>, the H<sub>2</sub> resulting from the PPA reaction of CH<sub>4</sub>, the H<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the inlet stream.

The HyPA processes that stream and, based on testing done in the fall of 2015<sup>4</sup>, will recover 85% of the H<sub>2</sub> in that stream. The HyPA will recover H<sub>2</sub> by absorbing the H<sub>2</sub> from the gas stream, then desorbing it during a regeneration process. For the RTM simulation, the recovery of the HyPA-absorbed H<sub>2</sub> will be simulated as a continuous process. In reality, the desorption process will be performed over a short duration. That process is approximated via the RTM

through the continuous flow of  $H_2$ . The need to have a process that provides somewhat continuous  $H_2$  flow may force the inclusion of a  $H_2$  storage tank.

The goal of the PPA and HyPA recovery of  $H_2$  is to increase the amount of  $CO_2$  that can be reacted and thus increase the  $O_2$  recovery rate. However, a balance is not assured since the  $H_2$  flow rate is restricted by the OGA need to provide  $O_2$  at metabolic rates, and the  $CO_2$  is available at the rates generated by the crew. If an imbalance results in more  $CO_2$  being collected than can be reacted in the SR, then excess  $CO_2$  will have to be stored or vented. Similarly, if more  $H_2$  is available than needed to react with the metabolic  $CO_2$ , then  $H_2$  would need to be vented.

In the HyPA, the gases that are not absorbed are to be vented. That vent flow will contain some  $H_2$  (not absorbed), some  $CH_4$  (that was not reacted in the PPA), some residual  $H_2O$ , and other by-products of the PPA reactions. The RTM and related spreadsheet track the mass of those vented gases as the residuals that are not recovered in the  $H_2$  absorption process.

The SR reaction of  $H_2$  and  $CO_2$  will use  $H_2$  provided by the OGA and  $H_2$  provided by the HyPA to react as much of the  $CO_2$  as possible. The water generated by the SR flows to the WPA to be processed into potable water that can then be used to generate  $O_2$  in the OGA.

#### IV. Test Case Results

The 60-day test case was simulated using the RTM model configured with information to define the RLS system modeled, the mission data for a nominal day of operations, and the component performance data. Crew operations are the same as documented in 2015, so inputs from metabolic processes and waste generation is the same, except that food is simulated as that actually consumed (as opposed to the required food, which includes rejected food and food that is lost in packaging).

With the OGA providing the  $O_2$  needed to control cabin  $PPO_2$ , NASA identified the need to control the OGA rates to address fluctuations in cabin  $PPO_2$  associated with nominal, then exercise, then sleep metabolic rates. Oscillations in cabin  $PPO_2$  resulted without controls on the OGA rates using a constant rate combined with the small (relative to the ISS) volume of the exploration module. The RTM solution was to develop a control strategy that changed the OGA  $O_2$  generation rate (via changing the inlet water flow rate) to keep the cabin  $PPO_2$  within a narrow control band that did not require the PCS to supplement  $O_2$  flow. That control and is illustrated in the cabin  $PPO_2$  and other pressures shown in Figures 4 and 5.

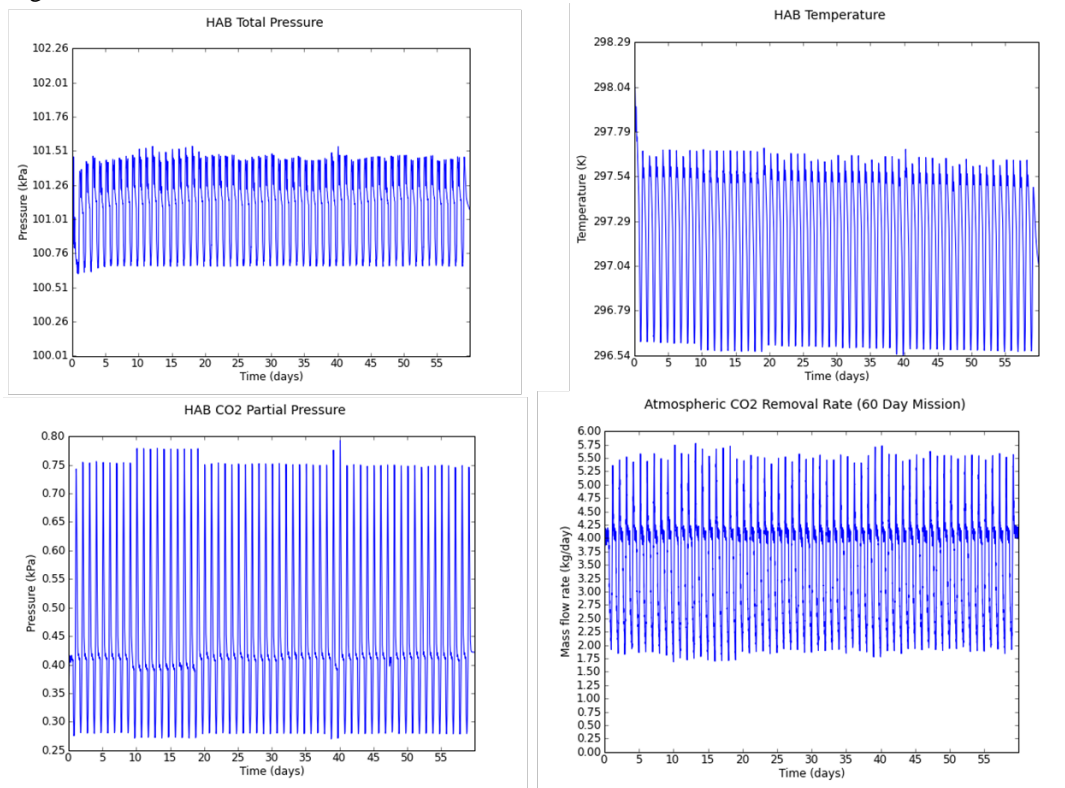
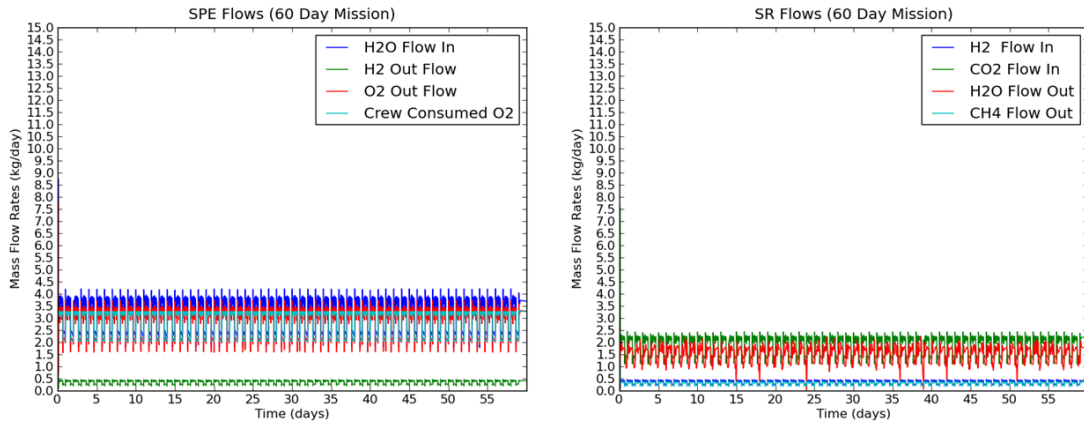


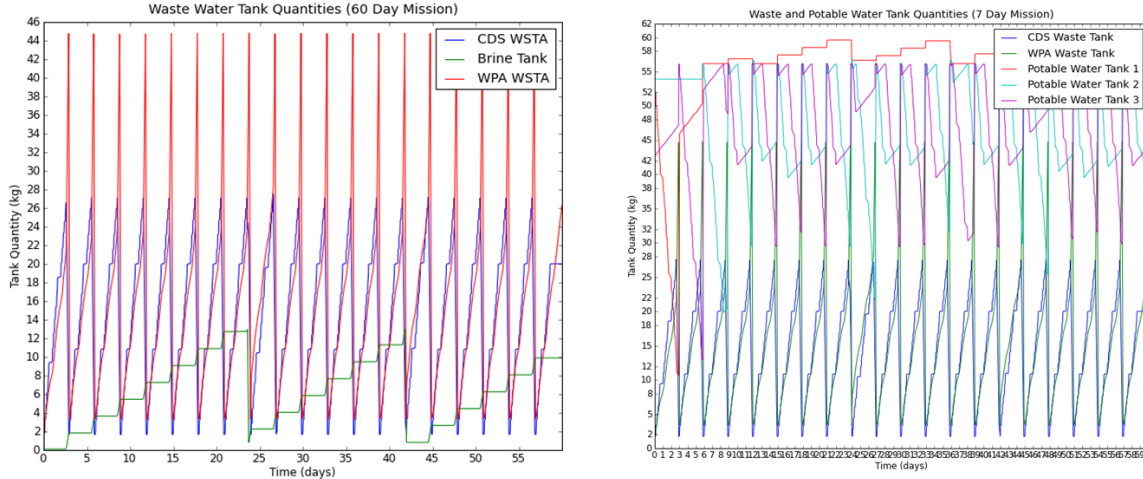
Figure 4. RTM 60-day mission. Habitation (HAB) module pressure, temperature,  $PPCO_2$ , and  $CO_2$  removal rate.



**Figure 5. RTM 60-day mission. O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> tank quantities, SR flows, and Solid Polymer Electrolyzer flows.**

The changes of water routing that have distillate flowing to the WPA is reflected in the rates that water accumulates in tanks, as illustrated in Figure 6. Those profiles are very similar to those presented in the 2015 RTM paper.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the changes in water routing did not change the amount of water recovered by the RLS. The recovered water is shown in Figure 7.

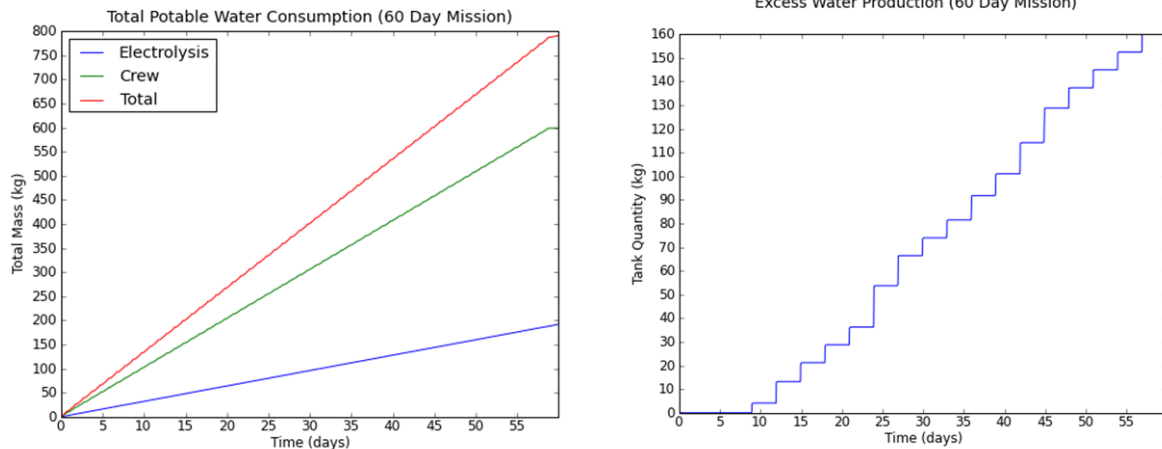
The lower plots of Figure 7 show the quantity variations of the three potable water tanks. In the event all three tanks are full, the WPA water is flowed into an overflow tank so that the model can keep track of the excess water production. This trend can be observed in the last plot in Figure 7.



**Figure 6. RTM 60-day mission. Waste and potable water tank quantities.**

Figure 6 shows the CDS, Brine and WPA waste water and the related WPA and potable water tank quantities. The quantity of water produced during the 60 day EAM mission totals of more than 1000 kg of water that is reclaimed.

An excess of water (lower-right plot of Figure 7) is predicted of around 160 kg when those quantities are compared to the potable water used by the crew and by the Solid Polymer Electrolyzer (SPE) for electrolysis (lower-left plot). The excess is a result of the water content in food and the HMC trash processing that is not removed via the Potable Water Dispenser.



**Figure 7. Waste and potable water production/consumption, and excess potable water production.**

### A. Mass Balance of Water and Oxygen during Operation of the Exploration Augmentation Module

Viewing the balance of H<sub>2</sub>O for the vehicle requires considering all the potential H<sub>2</sub>O processes because H<sub>2</sub>O will shift from one process to another during the operation of the vehicle. Additionally, the crew use of H<sub>2</sub>O has to consider several factors, including drinking H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>O consumed via food, and H<sub>2</sub>O recovered in trash products. Movement of H<sub>2</sub>O around the vehicle will depend on operation of H<sub>2</sub>O collection in the commode via urine, condensate in the CHX, and the HMC. Additionally, H<sub>2</sub>O used in the OGA to create O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O produced via the SR will move resources. Automated controls driven by logic for how to operate the equipment will determine when each of the recovery components operates based on tank quantities and related processes. That movement of water and related resources has been illustrated in the RTM plots for the simulated 60 days of mission time just presented.

The RTM calculates where the inventory of H<sub>2</sub>O is at any time and illustrates how the H<sub>2</sub>O resource flows from the variety of components and storage tanks during the operation of the vehicle.

A set of logic has been developed to check the mass balance based on the performance of the variety of components included in the RTM. The logic is implemented in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that uses component performance data to calculate the flow through each component and how much of the resource is used or created during operation of the component. To check the mass balance, the spreadsheet tracks the flows through each component based on the length of time the component is operated.

In a RLS, each of the subsystems balances inputs and outputs during the time it is operating. For example, Table 4 shows how the SR and SPE inlets balance the outlets. The same balance is achieved for each of the RTM components.

The spreadsheet version of such checks shows that during this 60-day mission, the SPE (OGA) constrains SR use because the amount of H<sub>2</sub> available via the OGA and the PPA-HyPA is not enough to react all the CO<sub>2</sub> that is metabolically produced.

A vehicle mass balance must assess the inlets into the RLS and the outlets from the RLS.

Products entering the RLS are:

- 1) food,
- 2) trash (that is processed by the HMC), and
- 3) urine pretreat.

Products that exit the RLS are:

- 1) unused trash,
- 2) stored feces,
- 3) brine solids,
- 4) vented gases (unreacted CH<sub>4</sub> and unreacted H<sub>2</sub> and other PPA and HyPA products),
- 5) CO<sub>2</sub> (from CO<sub>2</sub> storage), and
- 6) atmosphere that is leaked from the cabin.
- 7) Water that is stored

The ARS inputs are shown in Table 3, whereas the new SR ARS processes are shown in Table 4. The new information for the PPA and HyPA plus the mission results are shown in Table 5. The color coding legend has been added to visually show the system the information relates to (via color) and the nature of the data being shown. This data shows the nature and the values used in calculations of the functions or the RLS equipment.

**Table 3. ARS Inputs for the RTM**

Air Revitalization System Processes (for those that affect water)		Time of Print	=	3/16/2016 9:27		
Components that address recovery or use of water are entered here to capture the inputs from the Crew and products that each component provides						
<b>Components included are:</b>						
CHX, OGA, CDRA, Sabatier Reactor, Vents						
<b>Mission parameters</b>						
Mission length	60 Days	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Purple = Waste Processing
Number of Crew	4 #	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Blue = Water Recovery
<b>Metabolic Crew Products</b>						
H2O vapor	1.85 kg/crew/day	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Green = Habitation
H2O vapor produced	444.00 kg	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Tan = Air Revitalization
CO2 Production Rate	1.04 kg/crew/day		Changed from 2015 ICES paper version			
CO2 Produced	249.60 kg		New Information			
CO2 Removed by CDRA	249.60 kg		Assume all CO2 Produced is removed by the CDRA			
<b>O2 Provisions</b>						
O2 consumption rate	0.82 kg/crew/day					
O2 Consumed	196.80 kg					
<b>OGS Operational Rates (Specification Requirement)</b>						
Water use rate	9.82 kg/day					
O2 Generation rate	8.73 kg/day					
H2 Generation rate	1.09 kg/day					
<b>OGS Operations to equal O2 use rate</b>						
O2 Generation rate	3.28 kg/day					
H2 Generation rate	0.41 kg/day					
OGS time operated during the mission	60 days					
<b>OGS Water use</b>						
Water used during OGS operation	221.40 kg					
Tank O2 Capacity	78.19 kg					
<b>OGS Mission Parameters</b>						
Oxygen generated during the mission	196.80 kg	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Purple = Waste Processing
H2 Produced by OGA	24.60 kg	Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Blue = Water Recovery
		Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Green = Habitation
		Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Tan = Air Revitalization
		Input	From Link	Calculated Total	Calculated Total	Vehicle level
<b>CO2 Storage tank</b>						
CO2 tank capacity =	50.00 kg		New Information			

The mass balance spreadsheet considers all inputs and outputs to calculate the balance. The summary page of the mass balance spreadsheet is shown in Table 6. Data from the summary show that 365 kg of food is consumed, HMC-related trash produces 68 kg of distillate and 4kg of pretreat and 50 kg of stored CO<sub>2</sub> or 661 kg of RLS inputs. Out of the RLS, 175 kg of trash is sent to storage from the HMC, 58 kg of waste solids (fecal matter, solids in urine and BRIC solids), 137 kg of gases are either vented or leaked for a total stored or vented, and 280 kg of water is stored for processing for a total of 664 kg of outputs from the RLS. The small difference of 3 kg shows that mass is conserved.

Other pages of the mass balance spreadsheet address:

- 1) Mission parameters – to define the mission in length, the compliment of equipment used, reservoir sizes
- 2) Crew data – all the functions relating to crew consumption and production of resources
- 3) ARS processes – ARS functions related to water balance, PCS, CHX, SPE, SR operations
- 4) WRS processes – processes that provide potable water and those that recover H<sub>2</sub>O
- 5) Atmospheric leakage – to calculate how much of each constituent is lost
- 6) HMC parameters – to establish quantities of waste that are processed to recover H<sub>2</sub>O

The use of a RLS minimizes the loss of consumables, which must be addressed via provisions taken on exploration missions. Food, H<sub>2</sub>O, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and many other consumables will be provided at the start of each mission. The amount will be determined based on crew size, mission length, and technologies used in exploration vehicles. Simulation of missions using RTM will help in establishing the amount of each resource that must be provided to carry out each mission. Steady-state assessments with programs such as the Advanced Life Support Sizing Analysis Tool will also aid in establishing the total of each consumable that will be needed.



The RTM provides estimates of where the major resources are within a vehicle using RLS. That information enables mission planners to monitor the fill state of the variety of systems in the vehicle to assess the overall operation of the vehicle. Thus, the balance of the processes employed by the vehicle can be monitored.

The mass balance of the integrated operation of the RLS components of the exploration habitat module is illustrated, and it shows that the flows of water in and out of components and the crew is balanced even though the logic of operations shifts the water resource from one part of the vehicle to another over the week of nominal operations

**Table 4. Sabatier Data to Calculate Constituent Flows**

Specification	Sabatier Reactor Operations		Limited by Molar ratio below	Sabatier Specification rates in English units
	CO2 Use Rate	2.58 kg/day		In flow rate of CO2: 0.63 lb/hr
	H2 Use Rate	0.41 kg/day		In flow rate of H2: 0.10 lb/hr
				Out flow rate of CH4 (vented or processed): 0.32 lb/hr
				Out flow rate of H2O: 0.41 lb/hr
<b>Sabatier Reactor Calculation of Outlet Flows (from Jeff Sweterlitsch 10/28/2015)</b>				
	H2 : CO2 molar ratio	4.5	Molecular Ratio of H2 to CO2	
	<b>Total H2 inlet flow rate - added the HyPA H2 flow to the OGA H2 Flow</b>	<b>0.5974 kg/day</b>	298.700 mol/day	<b>Added HyPA outlet H2 flow</b>
	system pressure	14.7 psia	101356.500 Pa	
	exit temperature	65 °F	291.483 K	
	saturated ppH2O at exit temperature		2126.843 Pa	
	H2O generated		132.756 mol/day	
	mole fraction H2O generated		0.571	
	theoretical ppH2O generated		57918.000 Pa	
	CO2 inlet flow rate	2.921 kg/day	66.378 mol/day	<b>Use total H2 flow</b>
	H2O liquid outlet flow rate	2.302 kg/day	127.881 mol/day	
	<b>Outlet Methane Stream Constituents</b>			
	CH4 outlet flow rate	1.062 kg/day	66.378 mol/day	
	CO2 outlet flow rate	0.000 kg/day	0.000 mol/day	
	H2 outlet flow rate	0.133 kg/day	33.189 mol/day	
	H2O vapor outlet flow rate	0.962 kg/day	53.447 mol/day	<b>Changed H2 flow to total into SR</b>
	<b>Total flow in Methane Stream of SR</b>	<b>2.1569 kg/day</b>		
	% condensed H2O	0.963	Fraction	
<b>Assume SR runs at low rates for whole mission (if OGS constrains SR operation) 4.5:1 Mol Ratio implies no CO2 in outlet stream</b>				
	Time of SR operation = OGS time	60.00 days		
	H2 from OGA used during mission	24.6000 kg		
	H2 from HyPA used during the mission	11.2391 kg		
	<b>Total H2 used by SR during the mission</b>	<b>35.8391 kg</b>		
	Liquid H2O produced during mission	138.1110 kg		
	CH4 Outlet from SR	63.7227 kg		
	<b>Total Outlet Methane Stream flow mass during the mission</b>	<b>129.4112 kg</b>		
	<b>SR CO2 use</b>			
	CO2 produced by crew during the mission	249.6000 kg		
	CO2 used by SR during the mission	175.2373 kg		PPA Mass Balance
	CO2 stored during the mission	50.0000		Total gases in = 129.4112
	CO2 Vented	24.3627		Total gases out = 129.4112

**Table 5. PPA and HyPA Component Calculations and ARS Mission Masses**

Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly (PPA) simulation (based on ICES -2015-120)								
4 crew Conversion efficiencies			2/16 = Mol ratio of H2 versus CH4					
Power	760 W			Input	From Link	Calculated	Total	Calculated Total
CH4 conversion efficiency	66 %			Input	From Link	Calculated	Total	Calculated Total
H2 Recovery efficiency	46 %							Purple = Waste Processing
Amount of CH4 reacted	0.7009 kg/day							Blue = Water Recovery
H2 converted from CH4	0.0876 kg/day			Input	From Link	Calculated	Total	Calculated Total
H2 flow from PPA	0.2204 kg/day		0.33	Input	From Link	Calculated	Total	Calculated Total
Other Gases from PPA	1.9365 kg/day		0.415	Input	From Link	Calculated	Total	Calculated Total
								Green = Habitation
								Tan = Air Revitalization
								Vehicle level
<b>Hydrogen Purification Assembly (HyPA) simulation (based on Fall 2015 MSFC Testing)</b>								
4 crew Conversion efficiencies								
H2 Recovery efficiency	85 %							Changed from 2015 ICES paper version
H2 captured by the HyPA (available for SR operation)	0.1873 kg/day							New Information
H2 recovered by PPA and HyPA during the mission	11.2391 kg							
								HyPA Mass Balance
								Inlet gas stream = 129.41
								Outlet H2 to SR = 11.24
								Outlet vented gases = 118.17
								<b>Total HyPA outlet gases = 129.4112</b>
<b>Manually iterate using estimates of the outlet HyPA H2 flow until the estimate matches the calculated outlet HyPA H2 flow</b>								
	The balance is achieved with a HyPA outlet H2 flow of 0.1873 kg/day							
<b>Products of combined CDRA, OGA, SR, PPA and HyPA operation during the mission</b>								
	OGA Operational time	60.00 days						
	SR operational time during mission	60.00 days						

**Table 6. Mass Balance Spreadsheet Results for a 60-day Mission**

Resource Tracking Model Mass Balance			Date printed =	3/16/2016 9:48	
	Value	Units			
Mission Duration =	60	Days	Data Entry Legend/System Color Scheme		
Number of crew =	4	#			
<b>Crew related masses</b>			<b>Input</b>	<b>From Link</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>
H2O consumed (Drink+Hydration of food + Hy)	600	kg	<b>Calculated Total</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	Purple = Waste Process
Food consumed	365	kg	<b>Calculated Total</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	Blue = Water Recovery
Water in food	168	kg	<b>Calculated Total</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	Green = Habitation
<b>Total H2O consumed</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>kg</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	Tan = Air Revitalization
			<b>Calculated Total</b>	<b>Calculated Total</b>	Vehicle level
O2 Consumed	197	kg			
CO2 Produced	250	kg			
Urine produced	407	kg			
Feces produced	58	kg			
Water in Feces	24	kg			
<b>ARS via CHX, OGA, CDRA, SR, PPA, HyPA</b>			<b>Lost or vented consumables</b>		
Net H2O Used	83	kg	Cabin Leakage - Constituent Mass Leaked		
Net CO2 Used	175	kg	N2		2 kg
Net O2 Produced	197	kg	O2		1 kg
			H2O		0 kg
Net H2 Vented	2	kg	CO2		0 kg
HyPA CH4 and other gases Vented	118	kg	<b>Total Leaked</b>		<b>3 kg</b>
CO2 Stored at the End of the Mission	50	kg			
CO2 Vented during the Mission	24	kg	Net H2 vented		2 kg
			CO2 Vented during the Mission		24 kg
			HyPA CH4 and other gases Vented		118 kg
			<b>Total Lost/Vented products related to</b>		<b>148 kg</b>
<b>WRS processes</b>			<b>RLS Mass Balance</b>		
CDS Distillate produced	451	kg	<b>Inputs</b>	Food Consumed	365 kg
HMC Distillate produced	68	kg		HMC trash (processed)	242 kg
Condensing HX Distillate produced	444	kg		Urine Pretreat Used	4 kg
Total distillate to WPA	963	kg		CO2 stored during the Mission	50 kg
Total Potable water produced	963	kg		<b>Total Inputs</b>	<b>661 kg</b>
<b>Total Water Consumed</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>kg</b>	<b>Balance to</b>	<b>4.9917</b>	
<b>Total Water Recovered</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>kg</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	HMC trash returned (pucks)	175 kg
Total water stored at mission start	153	kg		Feces stored	58 kg
Total water used from potable storage	683	kg		Brine Solids	4 kg
Total water to potable storage	963	kg		Net H2 vented	2 kg
Change in H2O in Potable storage	280	kg		CO2 Vented during the Mission	24 kg
Potable water remaining at mission end	433	kg		HyPA CH4 and other gases Vented	118 kg
				Gases leaked	3 kg
				<b>Sum Outputs</b>	<b>384 kg</b>
<b>Waste products to storage</b>				<b>Change in stored water</b>	<b>280 kg</b>
Fecal Matter	58	kg		<b>Total Outputs + Stored Water</b>	<b>664 kg</b>
H2O in fecal matter	24	L (or kg) of water			
Solids in Urine	16	L of solids			
BRIC solids	4	kg of solids			
<b>Total H2O related products to storage</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>kg</b>			
			<b>Difference in Total Inputs matches Total Outputs + Stored Water =</b>		<b>-3</b>
			Percent difference		<b>-0.47%</b>

### V. Trade Studies

The RTM has been used for several trade studies as an example of the types of assessments that the RTM can support. The RTM can show how the transient behavior of the integrated RLS changes with performance changes in the variety of components. It can also show how the trends change when alternate technology is used for a particular function.

The RTM spreadsheet can be used to quickly address the overall mission resource use for changes in a technology performance or architecture. The spreadsheet can address how the overall mission resources are used, but it cannot establish the trends in resource use across the RLS.

#### **A. Study of the Changes Associated with the Addition of the Post Sabatier Reactor Processing of the Integrated Methane Stream**

The initial trade study focused on the benefits of the addition of the PPA and HyPA assemblies for reusing H<sub>2</sub> to recover more of the O<sub>2</sub> from metabolic CO<sub>2</sub>. The recovery of the O<sub>2</sub> increases the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> reacted, thus reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and other SR waste gases that have to be vented. It also increases the amount of water generated in the SR, thus reducing the net amount of water required for the SR and OGA operations. The data in Table 7 shows that the changes are significant over the 60 days of mission time assessed. The benefits would continue for the length of an exploration mission. The trade of the development cost versus the benefits in achieving better closure would need to consider an actual mission and the cost of resources.

This trade shows that while the O<sub>2</sub> produced and the H<sub>2</sub> provided by the OGA is the same, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> used increases by 55 kg and the net water used drops from 127 kg to 83 kg. The net gases vented increases by 9 kg (related to increased CO<sub>2</sub> use).

The overall gain achieved by recovering H<sub>2</sub> from the CH<sub>4</sub> waste stream of the SR is 33 kg for the 60 day mission. That is a significant gain and the gain would be greater if the mission to be flown is longer.

### **VI. Overview and Conclusions**

The refinement of the RTM involved changes to reflect plans for routing fluids and the inclusion of new ARS components to more completely recover the O<sub>2</sub> from metabolic CO<sub>2</sub>.

The refined version of the RTM was used to predict the balance of the variety of RLS fluids and gases for a simulated 60-day period of nominal exploration vehicle operations. The inclusion of a PPA and related HyPA provides added closure of the RLS. However, even including those components, recovering the H<sub>2</sub> from SR wastes, and reusing the H<sub>2</sub>, there is still not enough H<sub>2</sub> to completely recover the O<sub>2</sub> from crew-generated CO<sub>2</sub>. Recovering and reusing the H<sub>2</sub> in the SR outlet stream improves closure by using 55 kg more of the CO<sub>2</sub> and reducing the net water used in the ARS from 79 kg to 24 kg.

**Table 7. The Mission-Level Effects of Recovering H<sub>2</sub> from the SR CH<sub>4</sub> Stream**

Using a PPA and HyPA to recycle H <sub>2</sub>				ARS resources when venting the Sabatier waste Gas Stream			
<b>Sabatier Reactor Calculation of Outlet Flows (from Jeff Sweterlitsch 10/28/2015)</b>				<b>Sabatier Reactor Calculation of Outlet Flows (from Jeff Sweterlitsch 10/28/2015)</b>			
H <sub>2</sub> : CO <sub>2</sub> molar ratio	4.5	Molecular Ratio of H <sub>2</sub> to CO <sub>2</sub>		H <sub>2</sub> : CO <sub>2</sub> molar ratio	4.5	Molecular Ratio of H <sub>2</sub> to CO <sub>2</sub>	
<b>Total H<sub>2</sub> inlet flow rate - added the HyPA</b>				<b>Total H<sub>2</sub> inlet flow rate</b>	<b>0.4100</b>	<b>kg/day</b>	<b>205.000</b>
<b>H<sub>2</sub> flow to the OGA H<sub>2</sub> Flow</b>	<b>0.5974</b>	<b>kg/day</b>	<b>298.700</b>	<b>mol/day</b>			
system pressure	14.7	psia	101356.500	Pa	14.7	psia	101356.500
exit temperature	65	°F	291.483	K	65	°F	291.483
saturated ppH <sub>2</sub> O at exit temperature			2126.843	Pa			2126.843
H <sub>2</sub> O generated			132.756	mol/day			91.111
mole fraction H <sub>2</sub> O generated			0.571				0.571
theoretical ppH <sub>2</sub> O generated			57918.000	Pa			57918.000
CO <sub>2</sub> inlet flow rate	2.921	kg/day	66.378	mol/day	CO <sub>2</sub> inlet flow rate	2.004	kg/day
H <sub>2</sub> O liquid outlet flow rate	2.302	kg/day	127.881	mol/day	H <sub>2</sub> O liquid outlet flow rate	1.580	kg/day
<b>Outlet Methane Stream Constituents</b>				<b>Outlet Methane Stream Constituents</b>			
CH <sub>4</sub> outlet flow rate	1.062	kg/day	66.378	mol/day	CH <sub>4</sub> outlet flow rate	0.729	kg/day
CO <sub>2</sub> outlet flow rate	0.000	kg/day	0.000	mol/day	CO <sub>2</sub> outlet flow rate	0.000	kg/day
H <sub>2</sub> outlet flow rate	0.133	kg/day	33.189	mol/day	H <sub>2</sub> outlet flow rate	0.091	kg/day
H <sub>2</sub> O vapor outlet flow rate	0.962	kg/day	53.447	mol/day	H <sub>2</sub> O vapor outlet flow rate	0.968	kg/day
<b>Total flow in Methane Stream of SR</b>	<b>2.1569</b>	<b>kg/day</b>			<b>Total flow in Methane Stream of SR</b>	<b>1.7876</b>	<b>kg/day</b>
% condensed H <sub>2</sub> O	0.963	Fraction			% condensed H <sub>2</sub> O	0.963	Fraction
4.5:1 Mol Ratio implies no CO <sub>2</sub> in outlet stream							
<b>Assume SR runs at low rates for whole mission (If OGS constrains SR operation)</b>				<b>Assume SR runs at low rates for whole mission (If OGS constrains SR operation)</b>			
Time of SR operation = OGS time	60.00	days		Time of SR operation = OGS time	60.00	days	
<b>H<sub>2</sub> from OGA used during mission</b>	<b>24.6000</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>H<sub>2</sub> from OGA used during mission</b>	<b>24.6000</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>H<sub>2</sub> from HyPA used during the mission</b>	<b>11.2391</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>H<sub>2</sub> from HyPA used during the mission</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Total H<sub>2</sub> used by SR during the mission</b>	<b>35.8391</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Total H<sub>2</sub> used by SR during the mission</b>	<b>24.6000</b>	<b>kg</b>	
Liquid H <sub>2</sub> O produced during mission	138.1110	kg		Liquid H <sub>2</sub> O produced during mission	94.7866	kg	
CH <sub>4</sub> Outlet from SR	63.7227	kg		CH <sub>4</sub> Outlet from SR	43.7333	kg	
<b>Total Outlet Methane Stream flow mass during the mission</b>	<b>129.4112</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Total Outlet Methane Stream flow mass during the mission</b>	<b>107.2560</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>SR CO<sub>2</sub> use</b>				<b>SR CO<sub>2</sub> use</b>			
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> produced by crew during the mission</b>	<b>249.6000</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>CO<sub>2</sub> produced by crew during the mission</b>	<b>249.6000</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> used by SR during the mission</b>	<b>175.2373</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>CO<sub>2</sub> used by SR during the mission</b>	<b>120.2667</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> stored during the mission</b>	<b>50.0000</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>CO<sub>2</sub> stored during the mission</b>	<b>50.0000</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Vented</b>	<b>24.3627</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Vented</b>	<b>79.3333</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly (PPA) simulation (based on ICES -2015-120)</b>				<b>Plasma Pyrolysis Assembly (PPA) simulation (based on ICES -2015-120)</b>			
4 crew Conversion efficiencies				4 crew Conversion efficiencies			
Power	760	W		Power	760	W	
CH <sub>4</sub> conversion efficiency	66	%		CH <sub>4</sub> conversion efficiency	66	%	
H <sub>2</sub> Recovery efficiency	46	%		H <sub>2</sub> Recovery efficiency	46	%	
Amount of CH <sub>4</sub> reacted	0.7009	kg/day		Amount of CH <sub>4</sub> reacted	NA	kg/day	
H <sub>2</sub> converted from CH <sub>4</sub>	0.0876	kg/day		H <sub>2</sub> converted from CH <sub>4</sub>	NA	kg/day	
H <sub>2</sub> flow from PPA	0.2204	kg/day		H <sub>2</sub> flow from PPA	NA	kg/day	
<b>Other Gases from PPA</b>	<b>1.9365</b>	<b>kg/day</b>		<b>Other Gases from PPA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>kg/day</b>	
<b>Hydrogen Purification Assembly (HyPA) simulation (based on Fall 2015 MSFC Testing)</b>				<b>Hydrogen Purification Assembly (HyPA) simulation (based on Fall 2015 MSFC Testing)</b>			
4 crew Conversion efficiencies				4 crew Conversion efficiencies			
H <sub>2</sub> Recovery efficiency	85	%		H <sub>2</sub> Recovery efficiency	85	%	
H <sub>2</sub> captured by the HyPA (available for SR op	0.1873	kg/day		H <sub>2</sub> captured by the HyPA (available for SR operation)	NA	kg/day	
<b>H<sub>2</sub> recovered by PPA and HyPA during the r</b>	<b>11.2391</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>H<sub>2</sub> recovered by PPA and HyPA during the mission</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>kg</b>	
H <sub>2</sub> in vented gases from the HyPA	0.0331	kg/day		H <sub>2</sub> in vented gases from the HyPA	NA	kg/day	
<b>Gases vented from the HyPA</b>	<b>118.1721</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Gases vented from the HyPA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Products of combined CDRA, OGA, SR, PPA and HyPA operation during the mission</b>				<b>Products of combined CDRA, OGA, SR, PPA and HyPA operation during the mission</b>			
OGA Operational time	60.00	days		OGA Operational time	60.00	days	
SR operational time during mission	60.00	days		SR operational time during mission	60.00	days	
<b>Water Used by OGA</b>	<b>221.40</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Water Used by OGA</b>	<b>221.40</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>O<sub>2</sub> Produced by OGA</b>	<b>196.80</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>O<sub>2</sub> Produced by OGA</b>	<b>196.80</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>H<sub>2</sub> Produced by OGA</b>	<b>24.60</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>H<sub>2</sub> Produced by OGA</b>	<b>24.60</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>H<sub>2</sub> Recovered by the PPA-HyPA</b>	<b>11.24</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>H<sub>2</sub> Recovered by the PPA-HyPA</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>SR H<sub>2</sub> used</b>	<b>35.84</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>SR H<sub>2</sub> used</b>	<b>24.60</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>SR CO<sub>2</sub> used</b>	<b>175.24</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>SR CO<sub>2</sub> used</b>	<b>120.27</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>SR H<sub>2</sub>O produced</b>	<b>138.11</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>SR H<sub>2</sub>O produced</b>	<b>94.79</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net O<sub>2</sub> Produced</b>	<b>196.80</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net O<sub>2</sub> Produced</b>	<b>196.80</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net H<sub>2</sub>O Used</b>	<b>83.29</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net H<sub>2</sub>O Used</b>	<b>126.61</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net CO<sub>2</sub> Used</b>	<b>175.24</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net CO<sub>2</sub> Used</b>	<b>120.27</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net H<sub>2</sub> vented</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net H<sub>2</sub> vented</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net HyPA gases Vented</b>	<b>118.17</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net SR gases Vented</b>	<b>107.26</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>Net CO<sub>2</sub> Vented during the Mission</b>	<b>24.36</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>Net CO<sub>2</sub> Vented during the Mission</b>	<b>79.33</b>	<b>kg</b>	
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Stored at end of mission</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>kg</b>		<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Stored at end of mission</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>kg</b>	

## VII. Future Plans

The RTM was established as a tool that can be used to simulate the transient operation of a vehicle using RLS technologies. It can simulate mission scenarios using exploration vehicles employing RLS technologies to conserve limited resources.

The RTM will be used for the variety of simulation needs that technology developers and mission planners develop for exploration missions.

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