CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BRUSH SEALS

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Photograph of an Annular Brush Seal

Illustration and Nomenclature of a Typical Brush Seal
Brush Seal Development Program
U. S. Air Force - Sponsored Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology (IHPTET) - PRDA-II

• OBJECTIVE: DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY FOR BRUSH SEALS USING:
  - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FROM ENGINE MANUFACTURER
  - EXPERIMENTAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SEAL DESIGN AND TRIBOLOGICAL PAIRS

• GOALS:
  - SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER LEAKAGE THAN LABYRINTH SEALS
  - SEAL LIFE CONSISTENT WITH MAN-RATED MISSION REQUIREMENTS
  - INVESTIGATE SINGLE AND MULTIPLE STAGED BRUSH SEALS
  - TEMPERATURE - up to 1200°F
  - SURFACE SPEED - up to 900 FPS
  - PRESSURE - $\Delta P$ ACROSS THE SEAL, 50 PSID

• PROVIDE:
  - COMPREHENSIVE SEAL DESIGN GUIDE
  - BRUSH SEAL FOR TEST IN A DEMONSTRATOR ENGINE

Brush Seal Development Program
U. S. Air Force - Sponsored Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology (IHPTET) - PRDA-III

Started: October 1992 Will complete: 1995

• OBJECTIVE: DEVELOP DESIGN METHODOLOGY FOR ADVANCED BRUSH SEALS
  - SIMILAR METHODOLOGY TO PRDA-II EXCEPT:
    MORE EXTENSIVE CFD-BASED MODEL BEING DEVELOPED AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

• TECHNICAL GOALS
  - 1400 FEET PER SECOND - SURFACE SPEED
  - 1400°F
  - 150 PSID PER STAGE

• PROVIDE:
  - COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN GUIDE
  - BRUSH SEAL FOR TEST IN AN IHPTET DEMONSTRATOR ENGINE
Brush Seal Testing at EG&G Fluid Components
Technology Group Research and Development

PRDA-II 1990-1993
- Baseline Testing 12 seals 184 hours
- Tribological Evaluation Ring-on-ring samples and 9 small (2") brush seals
- Characterization Testing 17 seals 484 hours
- Design Selection Testing 8 seals 280 hours
- Performance Testing 3 seals 101 hours

PRDA-III 1992-1995
Characterization Testing to date
4 seals - 76 hours
Projected - 20 seals for characterization and performance
» 350 hours more testing

Other Brush Seal Programs
- Various seals 120 hours

Brush Seal Testing at EG&G Fluid Components
Technology Group Research and Development

1990 to 1993

Maximum Conditions of Testing - to date

- Tested 9 inch diameter seal with 4.5 mil of runout and applied radial excursions of up to 19 mil for 765 cycles, Leakage acceptable for the application

- Highest temperature - 1200°F

- Highest surface speed -14 inch I.D. seal - 1,080 FPS

- Highest Δ P across seal  60 psid
Brush Seal Testing at EG&G Fluid Components Technology Group Research and Development

• Test Rigs used for brush seal programs

  – High Speed - High Temperature Tribology Test Rig
    » 60,000 rpm, small samples, 1200°F

  – Gas Seal Test Rig
    » 16,000 rpm, 2000 psi, 600°F, up to 4 inch diameter runners

  – Aerospace Test Rig
    » 24,000 rpm, 200 psi, 1000°F, up to 20 inch diameter runners
    » Can set in desired continuous runout and can induce excursions of up to .030 inches (radial) during dynamic testing. Excursions done by moving the seal housing.

Experimental Procedure

Radial Excursion
Dynamic Test

30 mils
Brush Seal Development Program

IHPTET - PRDA-II

• Major Results
  – Developed new design to alleviate "bristle hysteresis" effect
  – Developed tribological pair, bristle material and coating combination, that performs well at required speed and temperature goals
  – Delivered brush seal acceptable to engine manufacturer for test on demonstrator, anticipated to test December 1993
  – Design Guide has been published, U.S. Air Force publication

Note: Copies of AIAA Propulsion Conference papers:
"Hysteresis and Bristle Stiffening Effects of Conventional Brush Seals"

and

"Tribological Evaluation of Brush Seal Applications"

are available in the back of the room.

Brush Seal Development Program

IHPTET - PRDA-III

• Where we are
  – Completed initial series of "wear pattern tests"
  – Have new designs for higher pressures being fabricated
  – Have started tribopair work

• What next
  – Test higher pressure designs
  – Investigate ceramic brush seal bristle possibilities, as we go to higher temperatures
Test Results

* Bristle Stiffness versus Pressure

* Dynamic Test Leakage Data
  - Concentric Rotor
  - Eccentric Rotor
  - Radial Excursion

Flow Parameter, \( \Phi = \frac{m \sqrt{T}}{p_u D_i} \)

**Test Results**

**Bristle Stiffness versus Pressure**

![Graph showing Bristle Stiffness versus Pressure](image-url)
**Test Results**

Dynamic Test with Concentric Rotor

- Conventional Seal

\[
\Delta P = 30 \text{ psid}
\]

Chamber de-pressurized completely and then pressurized

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**Test Results**

Dynamic Test with Concentric Rotor

- Low Hysteresis Seal

\[
\Delta P = 30 \text{ psid}
\]
Dynamic Test with Radial Excursion

Flow Factor

$\Phi_L$  $\Phi_H$  $\Phi_H^*$

Before Radial Excursion  After Unidirectional Radial Excursion  Sweeping Radial Excursion

Test Results

Dynamic Test with Radial Excursion

Conventional Seal

Flow Parameter, $\Phi \times 1000$

Excursion Cycles

45-25 psid
450 °F
22000 RPM
Test Results
Dynamic Test with Radial Excursion

Low Hysteresis Seal 1

30-25 psid
450°F
22,000 RPM

Flow Parameter, $\phi \times 1000$

Excursion Cycles

Low Hysteresis Seal 2

27 psid
550°F
17,000 RPM

Flow Parameter, $\phi \times 1000$

Excursion Cycles
Conclusions

* Conventional Brush Seals
  - Hysteresis : Leakage
  - Bristle Stiffening : Life

* "Low Hysteresis" Brush Seal
  - Above Effects Considerably Reduced
  - Low Leakage over Operating Cycles
  - Potential for Longer Life