
Cold Spray Action Team Webinar

Cold Spray Field Equipment and Applications VRC Metal Systems

September 2026

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About VRC Metal Systems, LLC



- **US Veteran Owned Small Business – All equipment is proudly designed and assembled in the USA.**
- Manufacturing and technology company with a focus on high pressure cold spray and related processes
- Founded in 2013 to commercialize high pressure hand operated cold spray w/ ARL-SDSM&T
- Headquartered in Box Elder, SD, with several locations across the US



Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control
Exceptional Small Business Award 2023



Large Business of the year 2023



Small Business Exporter of the year

Working with our Government partners



Working with our Commercial partners



Working with our Research partners



VRC Locations



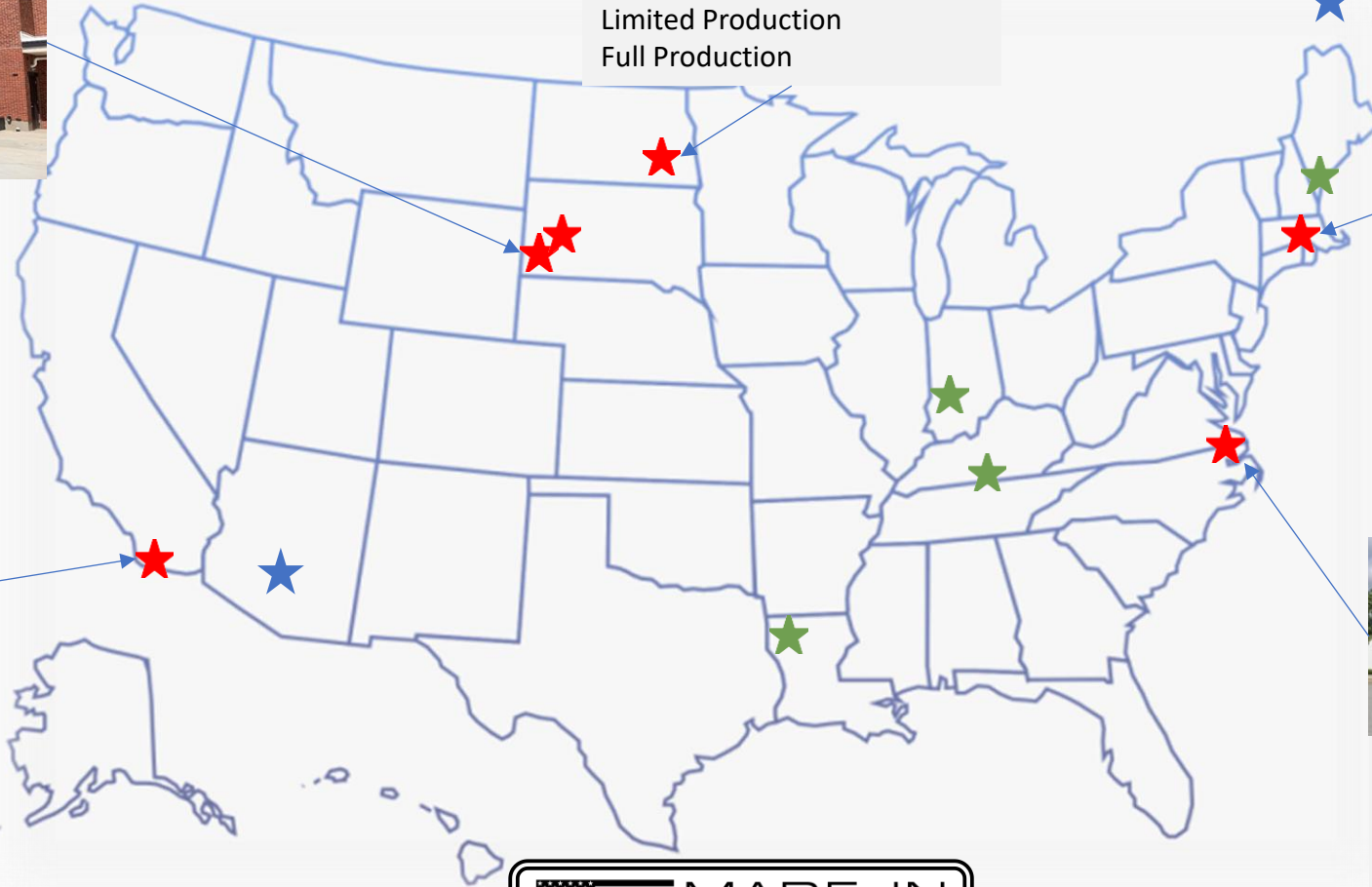
VRC HQ:
Box Elder, SD
Engineering
System Production
Process Development
Limited Production



Mid-America Aero:
West Fargo, ND
Process Development
Limited Production
Full Production



VRC San Diego (NPUC):
National City, CA
Process Development
Limited Production
Full Production



- ★ VRC Owned and Operated
- ★ Gov. Owned VRC Operated
- ★ Cust. Owned VRC Operated



VRC Webster:
Webster, MA
Materials Research
Cold Spray & Wire-DED
Process Development
Limited Production



VRC Chesapeake:
Chesapeake, VA
Process Development
Limited Production
Full Production



VRC – Full Service Cold Spray Provider



System Engineering & Manufacturing



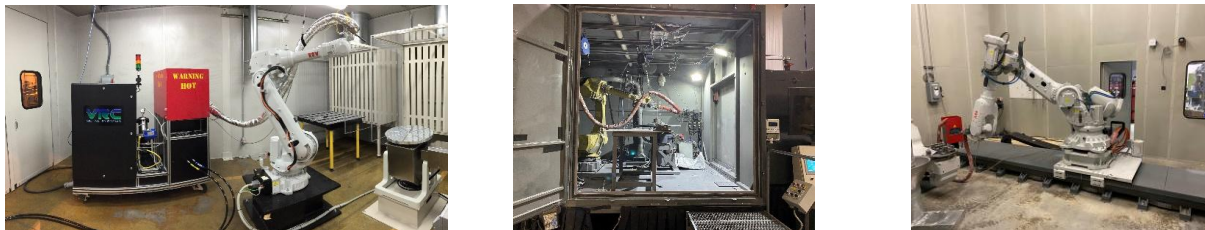
Cold Spray R&D/ Applications Development



Consumables Sales and Prototypes



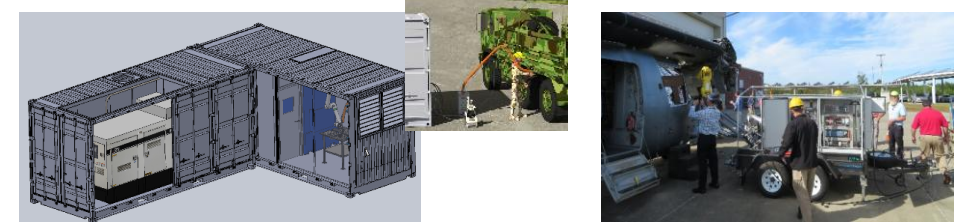
Automation/Booth Integration



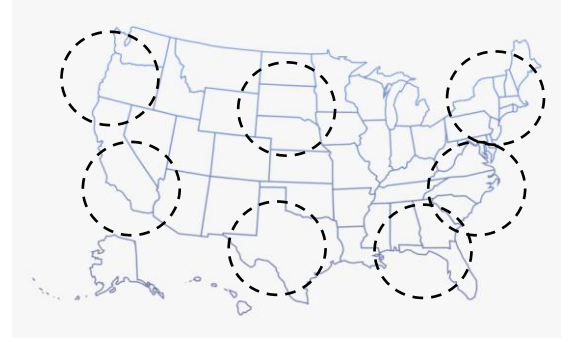
Fee for Service Work



On-site Repair/Modification

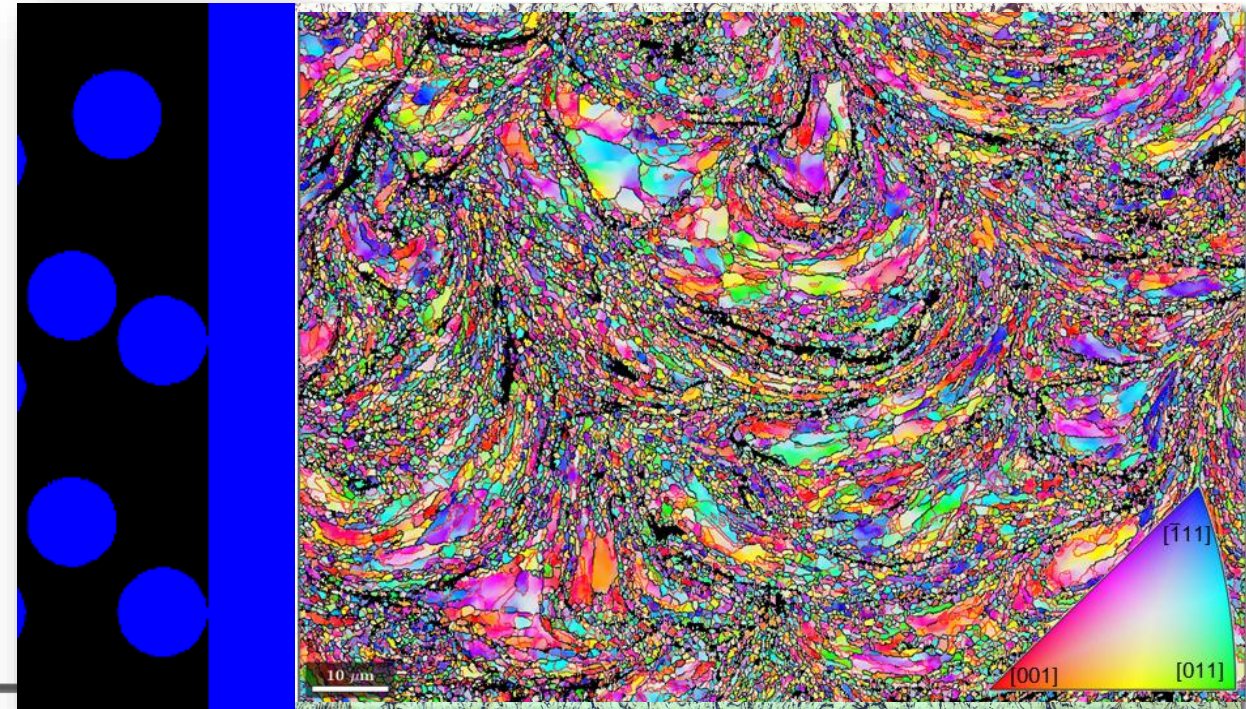
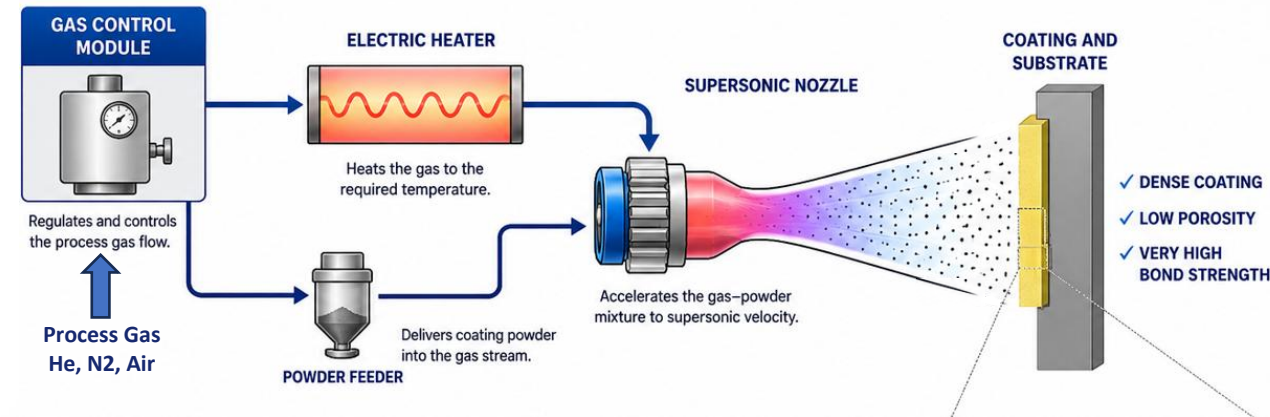


Cold Spray Operations or Regional Support



Cold Spray Overview

- Low Temperature, Solid State Process
 - No Heat Affected Zone
- Dense Coatings, High Adhesion
 - Less than 1% porosity and greater than 10ksi adhesion typical
- Can be applied with Compressed Air
 - Low Cost & Confined Spaces
- Etching Reveals Coating Microstructure
 - Severe Plastic Deformation & Particle Flattening
- EBSD Inverse Pole Maps
 - Highly Deformed, interlocked, sub-micron structures at Particle Boundaries
- Misorientation within grains
 - High compressive residual stress
- High Density of LAGBs
 - Crystal Structure Fracturing -> Dynamic Recrystallization -> Metallic Bonding



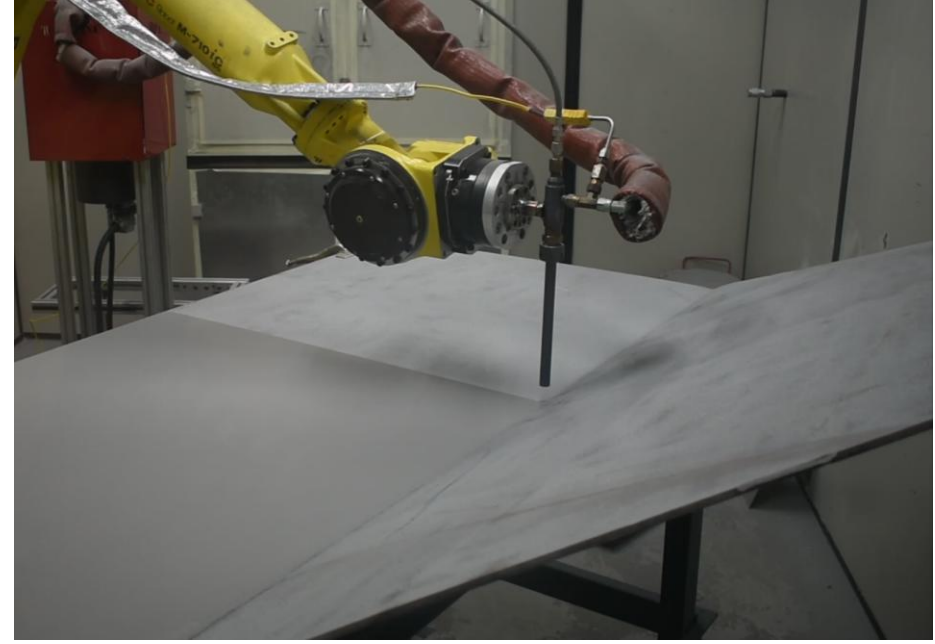
The Cold Spray Process



Titanium Spray



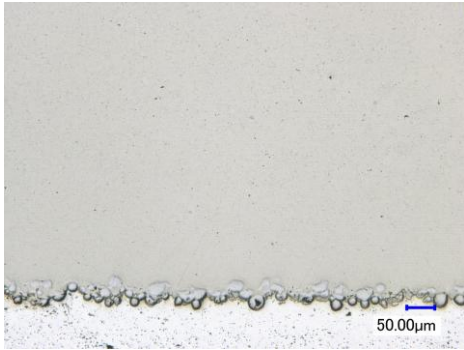
Aluminum Spray



Stainless Steel Spray

Example VRC Cold Spray Materials

Unblended N2 Sprayed Powders



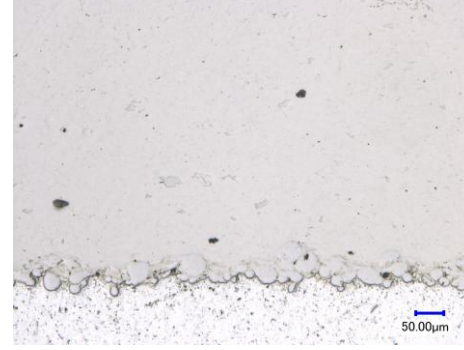
Pure Nickel



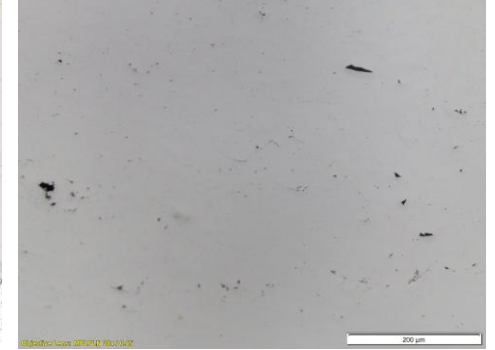
Pure Copper



F357 Aluminum

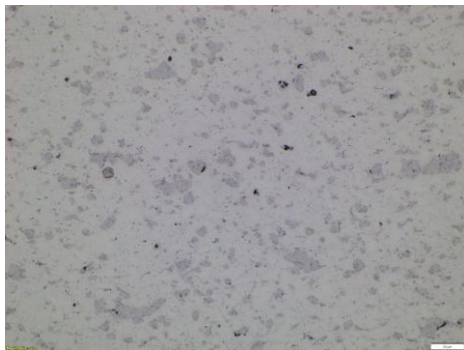


Stellite 6

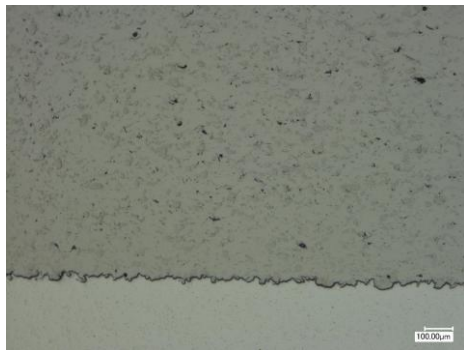


Inconel 625

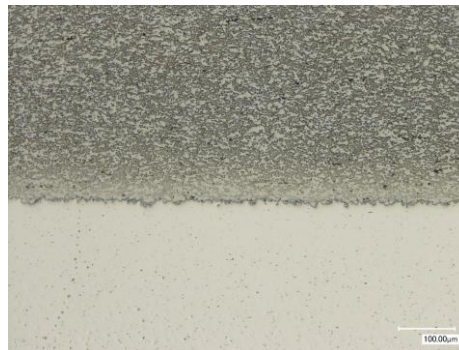
Blended N2 Sprayed Powders



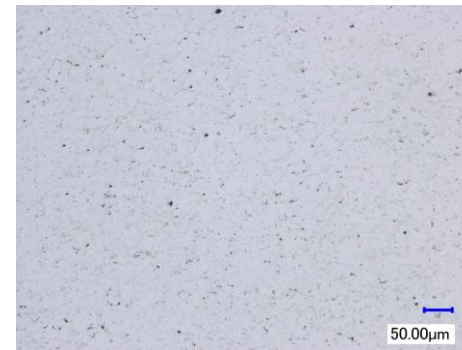
Ni-Chrome Carbide



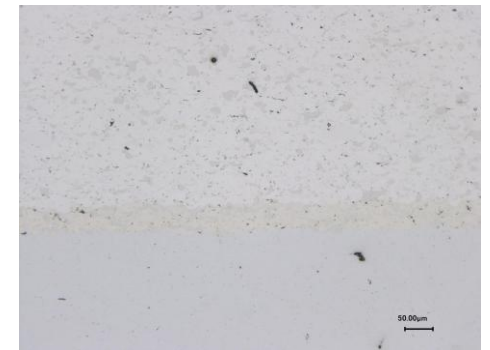
316SS Blend



Tungsten Carbide-Ni



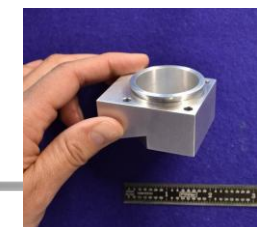
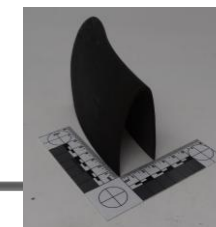
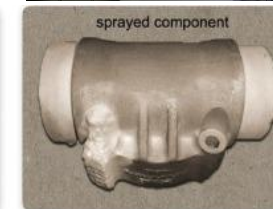
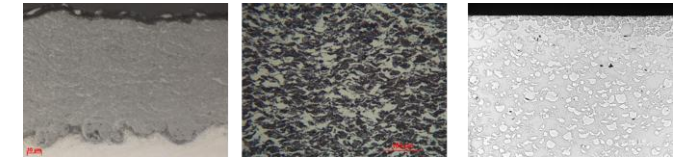
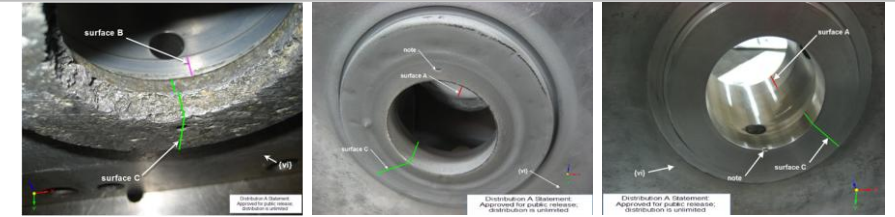
Stellite 21-Tribaloy T400



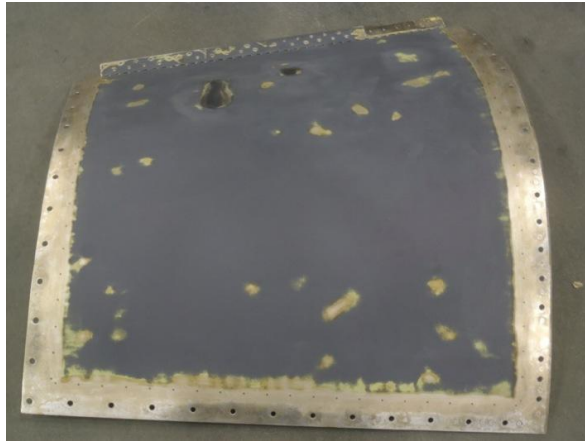
Specialized Bondcoats

Typical Cold Spray Applications

- Corrosion repair and mitigation
- Wear repair and mitigation
- Other surface enhancements
 - Appearance, Conductivity, Anti-microbial, extreme temps
- Feature addition for damaged parts
- Additive manufacturing of new parts



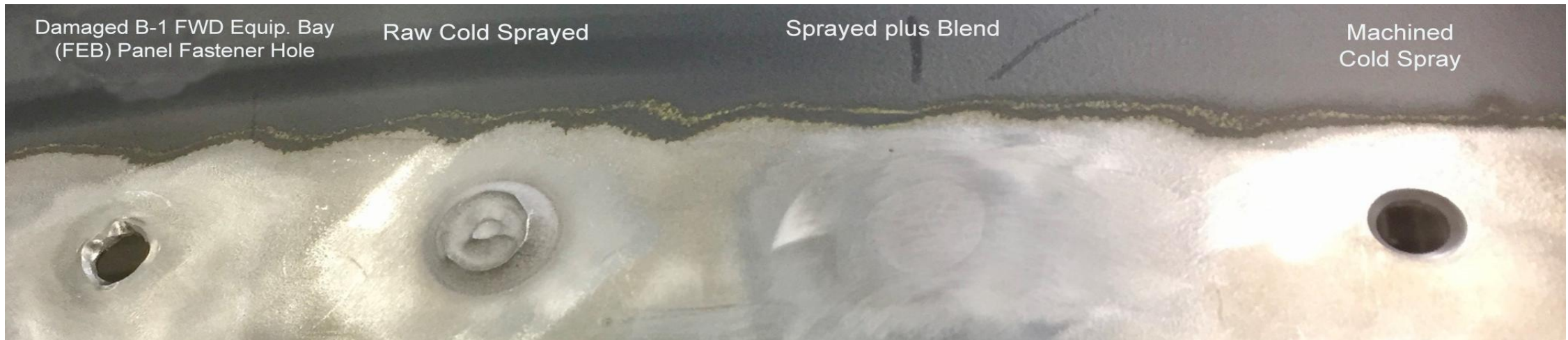
US DoD Applications - USAF



B1-B Forward Equipment Bay Panel fastener holes. Each plane has eight such panels that are removed between every flight for equipment inspection. Fastener holes become worn beyond spec. The panels have polymer composite stiffeners on the back. Their temperature sensitivity prevent melt-based metal repair methods.

Initially each replacement panel cost \$225K and had a 12-18 month lead time.

Repair cost is an order of magnitude less with a turnaround time of less than a month.

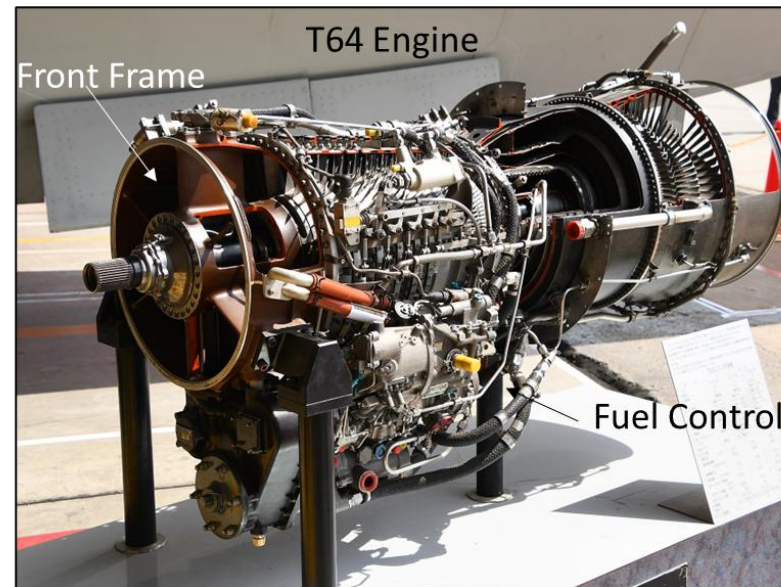


FEB panel temperatures did not exceed 100°C during cold spray process.

US DoD Applications - NAVAIR



T64 Engine Components for NAVAIR



- Cast aluminum housing repairs
- VRC developed helium and nitrogen solutions that exceeded baseline performance in fatigue
- Helium Sprays selected by NAVAIR to ensure optimum fatigue performance



US DoD Applications - NAVSEA



Bronze Repair of Nimitz Class Carrier Main Circulating Pump

Corrosion and pitting damage

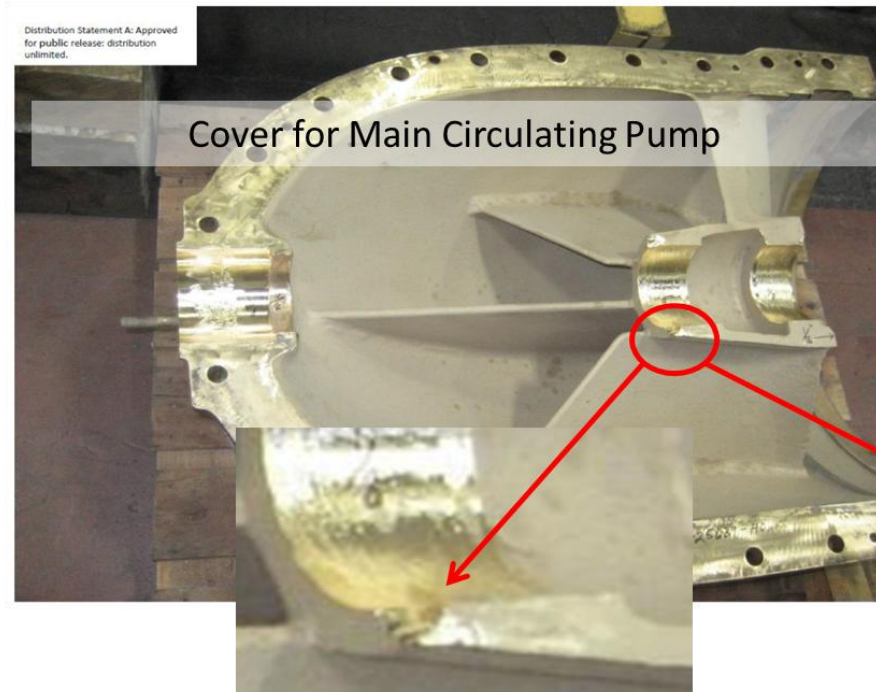
- 2 week turnaround on repair
- 30 lbs of material applied
- \$500K and 1 year lead time for new part saved



As Received for Repair

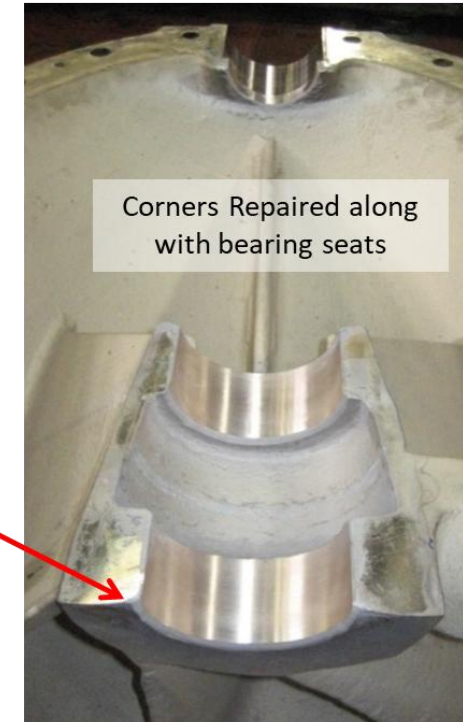


After Repair



Cover for Main Circulating Pump

Corners have been chiseled to remove samples for metallurgical testing



Corners Repaired along with bearing seats

Military Applications of Cold Spray

Bell AH-1W, AH-1Z, UH-1Y, or 214ST

- Support Assy, Bearing-Combining Gearbox
- Skid Tube

Bell V-22

- Case Set Assy - LH Proprotor Gearbox

Boeing AH-64

- Main Rotor Support Mast
- Tail Rotor Gearbox
- Intermediate Gear Support
- Main Gearbox Housing

Boeing AV-8B

- Molds for Composite Components

Boeing B-1

- FEB Panel

Boeing B-52

- Mechanical Output Housing

Boeing E-3A

- Input Housing

Boeing F-15

- Mechanical Drive A/D Housing
- Mechanical Drive Housing

Boeing KC-135F

- Electrical Housing

General Dynamics Electric Boat

Ohio Class Submarine

- MCW Throttling Valve Body
- MCW Throttling Valve Tailpiece

General Dynamics Electric Boat

Seawolf Class Submarine

- TD-63 Actuator

General Electric T-700 Engine

- Front Frame Particle Separator

Leonardo HC-27J

- Cuff Assembly

Lockheed Martin C-130

- Rear Half Barrel - 54H60 Propeller

Raytheon Patriot Missile System

- Pedestal
- Door

Sikorsky H-53

- Nose Gearbox Center Housing
- Tail Gearbox Center Housing
- Main Gearbox Housing

Sikorsky H-60

- Main Transmission Sump Housing
- Main Gearbox Housing



Commercial Applications of Cold Spray

Airbus A300/A330/A340

- Body Assembly
- Valve Body – Turbine Case Cooling Valve
- Flapper Assembly – LP Check Valve

Airbus Helicopter SA-366G1 (MH-65)

- Central Tube Assy

AgustaWestland AW139

- Pitch Control Lever
- Upper Scissor Lever

Bell 412

- Top Case Assy - Transmission

Bell 429

- Top Case Cover
- Cover Assy - Tail Rotor Drive Transmission

Bell 525

- Case Assy - Main Transmission Gearbox

Boeing 737 NG

- MLG Orifice Support Tube – Shock Strut

Boeing 747-8

- Inboard and Outboard Main Wheel Flange

Boeing 757

- Check Valve Body

Boeing 777-200/300

- APU Valve
- Valve Body – Turbine Case Cooling Valve

Boeing MD-11 or MD-10

- Inboard and Outboard Main Wheel Flats

Bombardier Challenger 300

- Upper Drag Brace

Bombardier Challenger 601/604

- Upper Link - Drag Brace Assembly

Columbia Helicopters Model 234 (Boeing CH-47D)

- Aft Transmission Accessory Cover
- Center Hook
- Heat & Vent Fan Rotor
- Heat & Vent Fan Casing
- Transmission Cooling Vane Axial Fan

Erickson (Sikorsky) S-64

- IGB Center Housing
- MGB Oil Cooler Blower Case
- MGB Oil Filter Support
- Rotor Brake Seal Housing

Rolls-Royce RB211

- Valve Body – Pressure Regulating and Shutoff Valve

Sikorsky H-61

- Sump Upper Housing Assy

Sikorsky S-76

- Retraction Brace
- Lower Bifilar Support
- Input Bevel Gear Housing Assy
- Center Housing Assy
- Cylinder Assy (Main Landing Gear)
- Axle Fitting (Main Landing Gear)
- Fork (Nose Landing Gear)

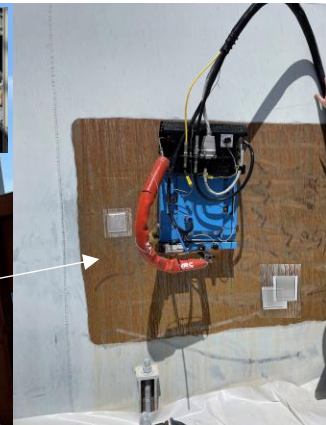
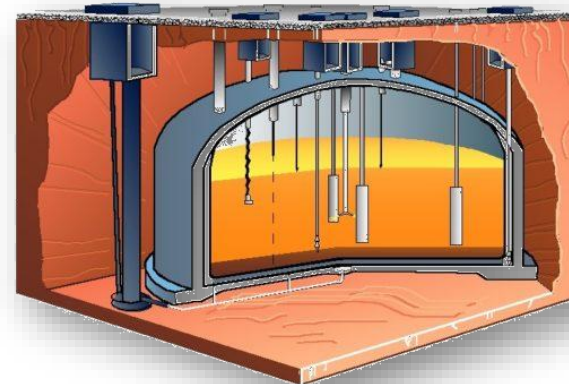
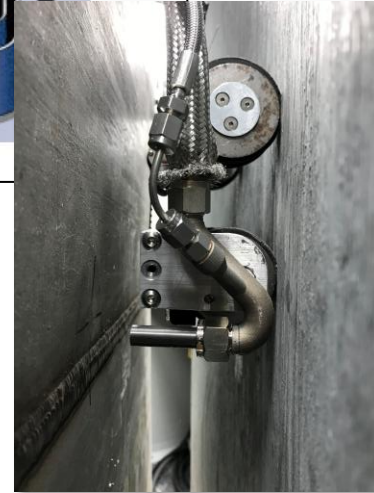
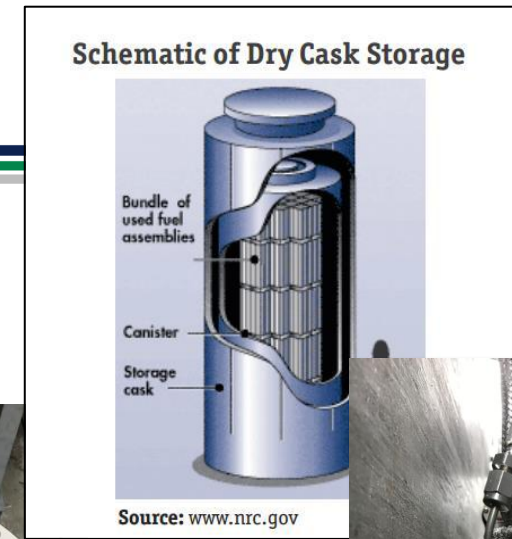
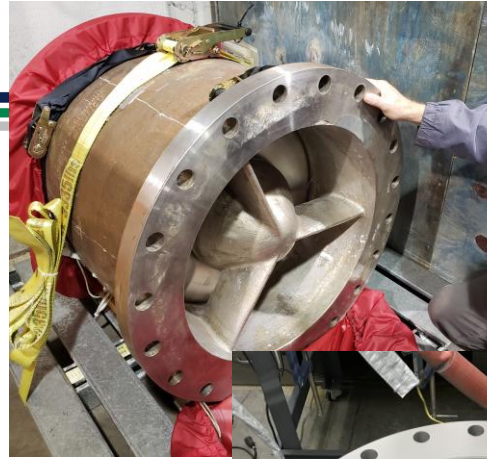
Sikorsky S-92

- #3 Backup Hydraulic Pump Housing
- Hub Assembly - Tail Rotor
- Main Gearbox Housing
- Oil Sump Housing
- Generator Cover Assy
- Droop Stop Pilot Assy
- Trunnion Assy (NLG Shock Strut Assy)



Nuclear Energy

- Corrosion Repair and Mitigation
 - Out-Of-Plant Repairs
 - Seawater Check Valve
 - Seawater Flow Element
- Commercial SNF DSC repair and mitigation
 - Concerns arise over stress corrosion cracking in the welds.
 - VRC has developed a cold spray solution that seals existing cracking (up to 75 micron) and prevents further cracking.
 - ASME Code Case in progress.
 - Deployed to and active ISFSI.
- Federal Nuclear Waste Tank Repair
 - Wall thinning in DSTs containing liquid waste
 - Developed cold spray solution and deployed in Hanford AN-farm.
- Secondary System Repair
 - Flow assisted Corrosion Repair
 - Must be completed in-plant



Portable Systems



VRC Cold Spray Systems

Gen IV – Stationary system with highest spray conditions, multiple feeders, advanced data acquisition and analysis



All systems support robotic or handheld operation

Raptor – Stationary or portable system with full high-pressure capability



Dragonfly – compact portable system with full high-pressure capability



FireFly – Most compact and portable medium pressure system



VRC Portable Cold Spray Systems

Common Specifications

- 1000 psi (69 bar)
- 900°C at the applicator (700°C with Flex Hose)
- Hand Operated or robotically controlled
- Air, Nitrogen Primary, Helium capable
- Heater Weight: < 17 kg (37 lb)



Dragonfly

- Modular, Hatchable Cold Spray system
- Ruggedized, shock-proof, NEMA 4X enclosures
- Capable of operation with the Applicator Heater (900 °C Capable)



Conventional Spray Booth



Handheld Operation



Portable Robotics



Raptor

- Ruggedized, Transportable, MIL-SPEC design.
- NEMA 4X enclosure and integrated lift and tie points.
- Precision control system, flexible HMI pendant interface, datalogging and alarms

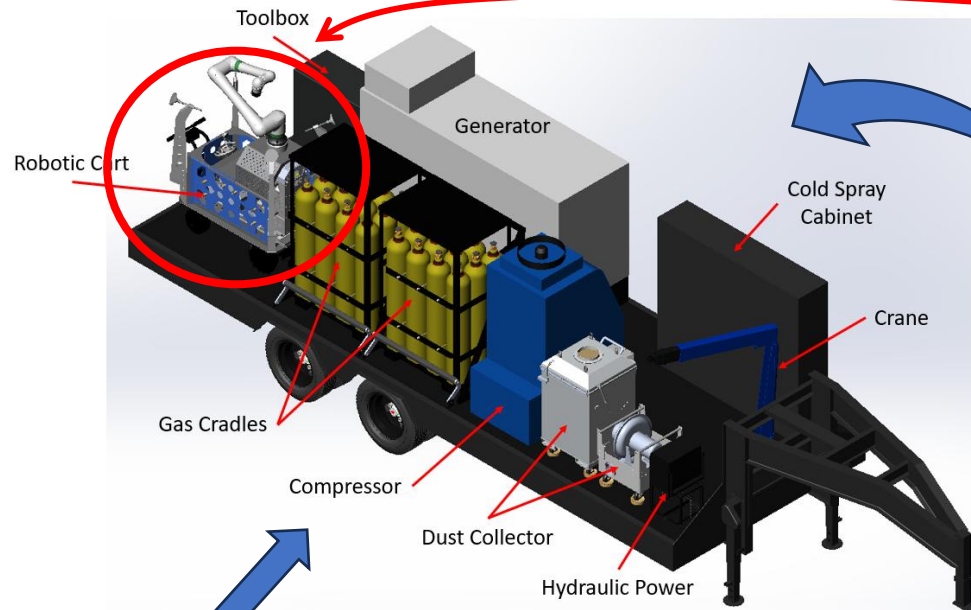
VRC Cold Spray Systems

VRC FireFly – Lightweight and Highly Portable Medium Pressure-High Temperature System

- 100 - 500 (6.9-35 bar) psi pressure
- 700°C temperature capable
- Air, Nitrogen Primary, Helium capable
- Cool-Touch applicator body <40°C
 - Multiple nozzle/applicator options
- Advanced powder feeder design
 - Feeding of very fine powders (down to 1-5 micron)
 - Simple cleaning
 - Reduced PF carrier gas (down to 25 SLPM)
- Operates on single phase 220/240V-30 Amp
- Hand or Robotic Operation (10 lb applicator)
- Special line of powders enabling deposition of advanced materials



Brolga-2 Expeditionary CS System



Mobile Robotic Cold Spray Cart

Fanuc CRX Collaborative Robot

20 kg payload, 1m/s speed

Ruggedized, self-propelled cart



CAMP Site Expeditionary CS Facility



Cold Spray
Advanced
Manufacturing
Portable
SITE™

C.A.M.P.
SITE™



 **MADE IN
U. S. A.**
★ **WITH DOMESTIC & GLOBAL PARTS** ★

Point of Need Repair



Point of Need Cold Spray



VRC has industry-leading field experience, delivering cold spray repairs to the point of need



Point of Need Repairs - DOD

On-Ship Shaft Repair

- Corrosion damage repaired in place on submarine with Ni based repair material
- Saved 5 months in drydock
- Hardware used
 - Dragonfly™ cold spray system
 - Vark™ Portable wet dust collector



Point of Need Rudder Shaft Repair

- First repair performed in customer facility spraying 126 kg of CuNi based powder in 28 hours to avoid additional 6 months of drydock time
- VRC hardware used
 - Raptor™ portable cold spray system
 - Vark™ Portable dust collector
- Second rudder repaired on ship 1 year later after failure noted during deployment



Onsite Mobilization and Training

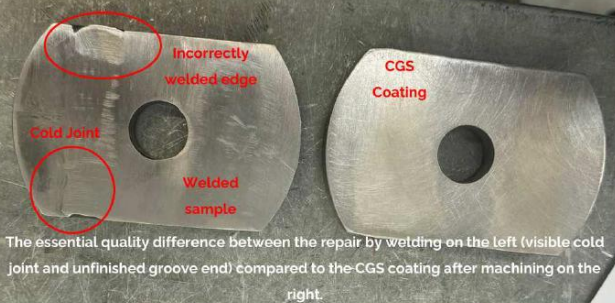
Navy Training at Port Hueneme, CA - SDTS

- Brought CAMP Site Pierside and demonstrated on site part repair
- Collaborated with other technology providers and university partners
- Taught hand operation of cold spray equipment
- Demonstrated robotic and hand repair in-dock and at-sea
- Took part in demonstrations devised on the spot to address ship needs



Point of Need Repairs - Nuclear

- Worked with VZU in Pilsen Czech Republic to repair steam lancing in a steam turbine parting face
- Multiple challenges overcome and CS was successfully qualified
- CS repair performed with VRC and VZU at Temelin power plant



Incorrectly welded edge

Cold joint

Welded sample

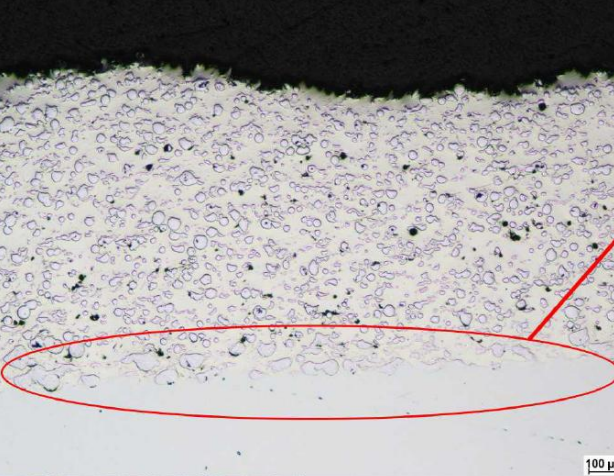
CGS Coating

The essential quality difference between the repair by wetting on the left (visible cold joint and unfinished groove end) compared to the CGS coating after machining on the right.

Repair of Dividing Plane of High-pressure Turbine Vessel (1000 MW NPP TEMELIN, Czech Republic, 2024)

VZU PLZEŇ

- Between October 22 and 26, a specialized repair was conducted on a damaged section of the dividing plane in the high-pressure component during the shutdown.
- Two test samples (shown on the left) were prepared to evaluate and select the optimal repair method, comparing the performance of traditional weld repair versus CGS spray technology.
- The repair process, illustrated from left to right, involved the following steps: defect identification, surface preparation, manual grinding using a turbine grinder, CGS spray application, and finishing to achieve the final surface.



100 µm

Mobile CGS technology

VZU PLZEŇ

Key Features:

- Exceptional adhesion with a gradient interface between the substrate and coating, avoiding sharp transitions.
- Enables part repairs with no limitations on coating thickness.
- Allows joining of materials that cannot be welded.
- Eliminates the formation of a heat-affected zone (HAZ).
- Induces compressive stress within the applied layer.

Technology principle

- Uses cryogenically compressed nitrogen up to 80 bar.
- Accelerates particles to velocities several times the speed of sound.
- Upon impact, particles convert kinetic energy into thermal energy, enabling material deposition.

Commonly used materials

- Fe, Ni based alloys
- Cu, Al, Zn based alloys
- Titanium



Identification of repair scope



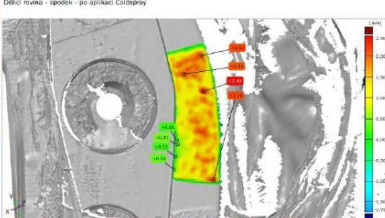
Hand preparation of coated area



Added material by CGS technology



Surface after finishing



Defect review - splicing - pre-application

- The repair procedure from left to right identifying the defect -> surface preparation - manual preparation with a turbine grinder -> actual CGS spraying -> final finishing by scraping.
- Key Benefits of CGS Technology:
 - Does not impact or alter the base material.
 - Allows for the application of coatings in any desired thickness.
 - Enables rapid repairs.
 - Eliminates the need for post-repair heat treatment or grit blasting.



THE COLD SPRAY PROCESS

VRC METAL SYSTEMS

SUPERSONIC PARTICLE DEPOSITION

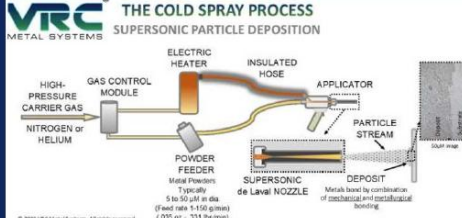
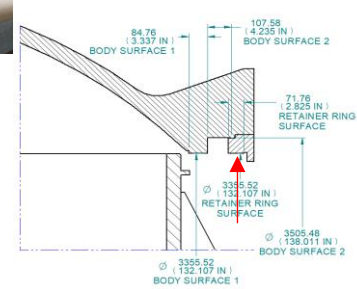


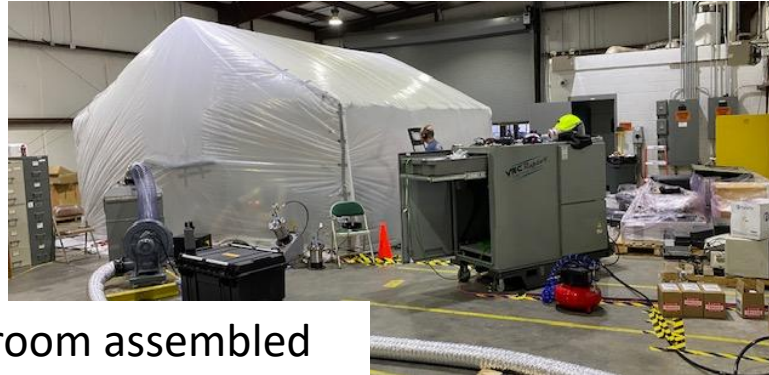
Diagram illustrating the Cold Spray Process (Supersonic Particle Deposition). The process involves a High-Pressure Carrier Gas (Nitrogen or Helium) entering a Gas Control Module, which feeds into a Powder Feeder (Metal Powders, typically 5 to 50 µm in size, feed rate 1-100 g/min, 0.05 to 0.15 bar). The gas and powder mixture passes through a Supersonic de Laval Nozzle, creating a Particle Stream. This stream is directed by an Applicator onto the workpiece, forming a Deposit. The deposit is a metal base by combination of mechanical and metallurgical bonding.

Point of Need Repair - Hydro

- Worked with PNNL and Voith Hydro Inc. to repair sealing surface for retainer ring with bronze material VRC CU₃



Temporary spray room assembled



Before
machining prep



Machined in prep for spray



Robotic spraying to achieve
.13 inches buildup

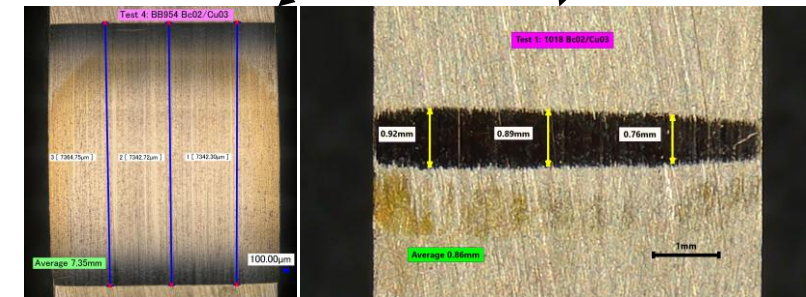
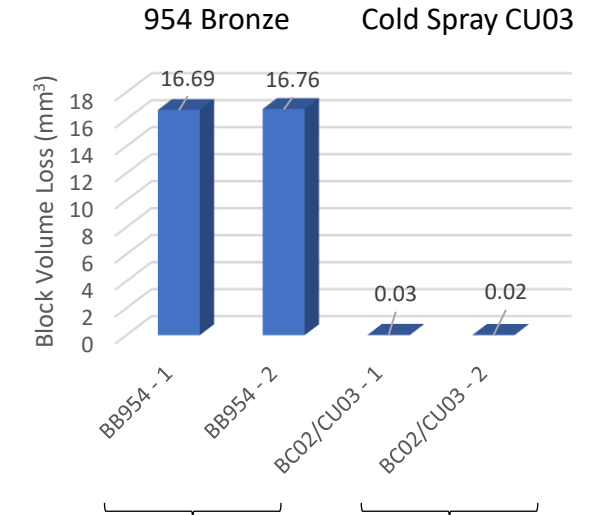
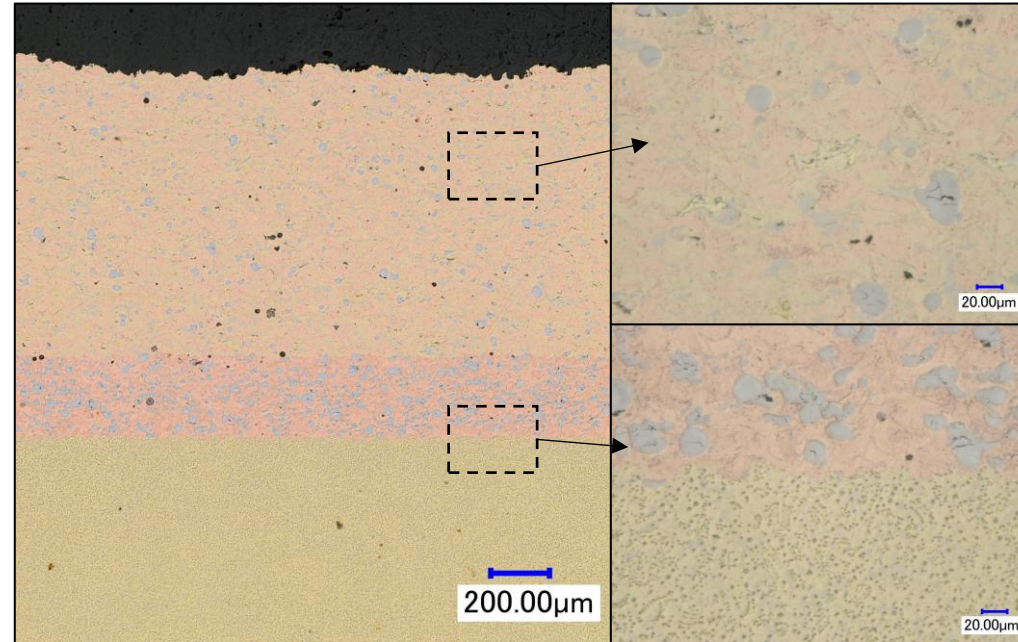
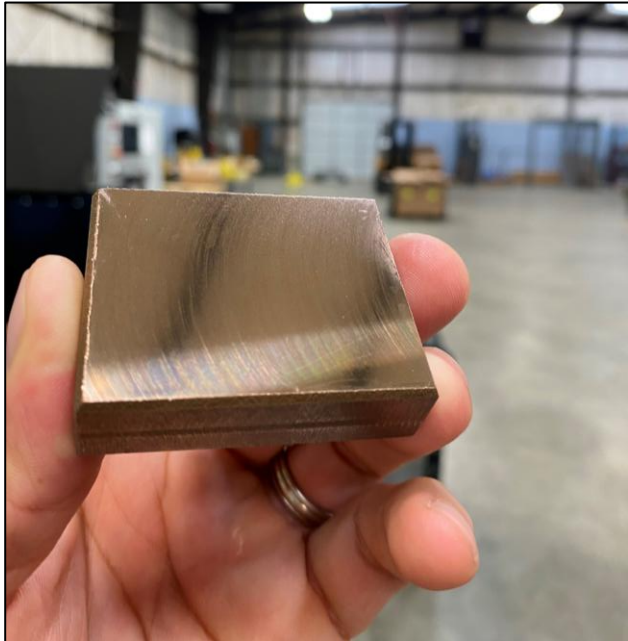


After spraying

Point of Need Repair - Hydro

• CU03 Bronze Cold Spray - Qualification Results Summary

- 11,912 psi Adhesion
- 0.42 % Porosity
- Ra = 16 μm
- 251.3 $\pm$ 11.9 HV
- Wear – >99% reduction vs. 954 Bearing Bronze



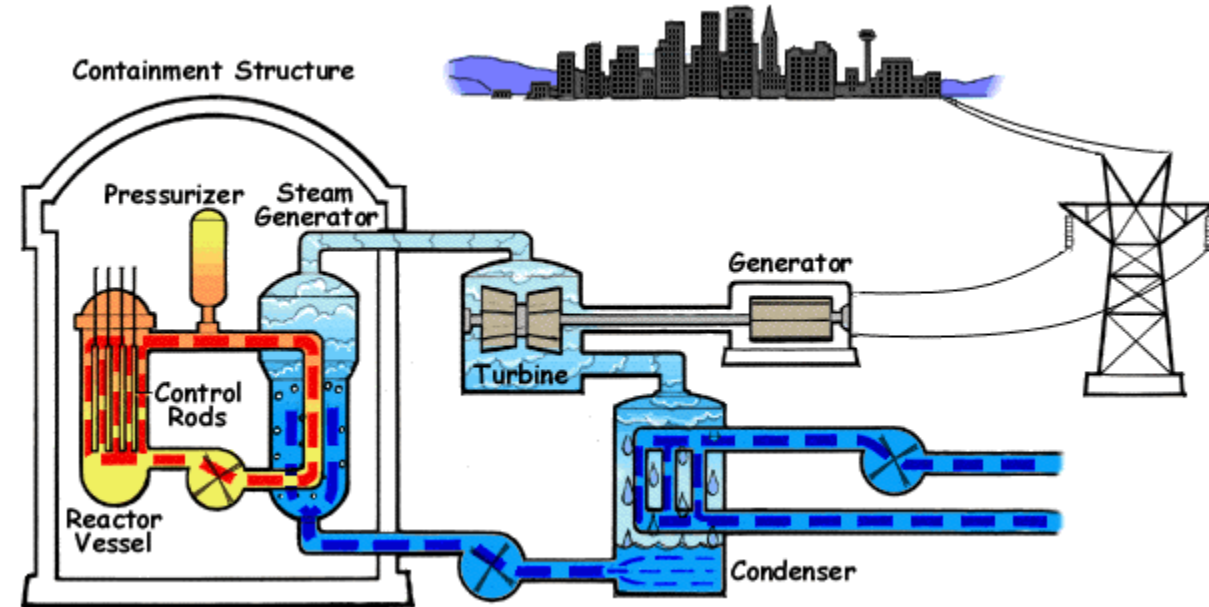
The cold sprayed CU03 met all acceptance criteria for application on 1018 Carbon Steel and 954 Bearing Bronze.

Point of Need Repair Case Study



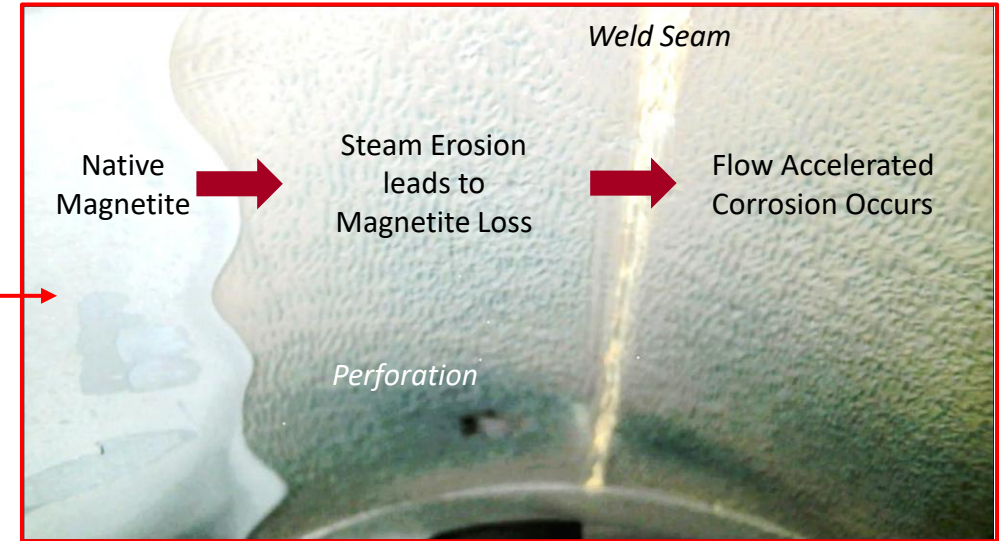
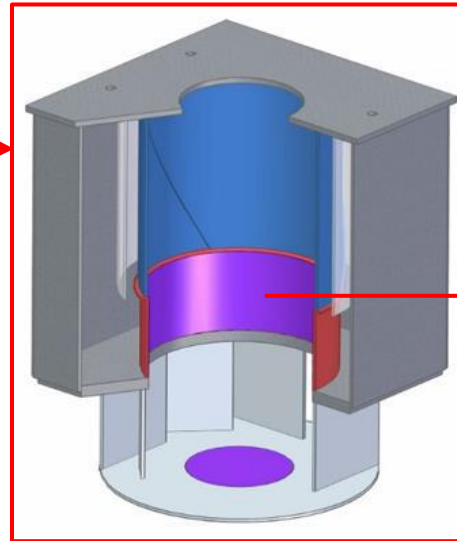
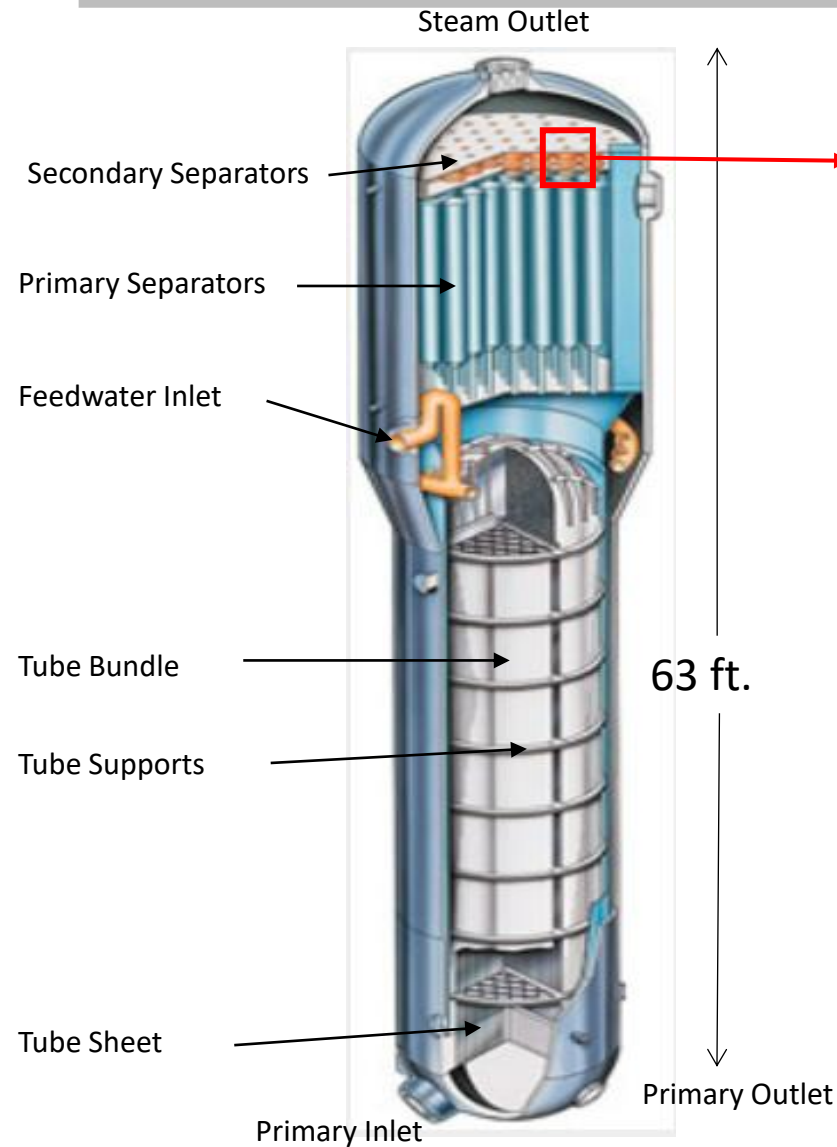
Background

- Pressurized Water Reactors
 - Most Common Reactor Configuration
 - Pressurized primary water contacts the fuel
 - Primary water is contaminated.
 - Heat is transferred to the secondary water in the Steam Generator
 - Secondary water is clean, pure, and contains no radioactive contamination.
 - This allows the remainder of the plant to remain clean
- Steam generators are tube bundle heat exchangers designed to boil the secondary water.
 - Internal structures are included to divert water droplets to increase steam quality
 - Generator structure and tube integrity are imperative to plant operation.
 - Leaks in the tube bundle can contaminate the secondary system, contaminating the plant.
 - Moisture carry-over can damage downstream components such as piping, valves and turbines.



<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/students/animated-pwr>

Problem Overview



- Babcock & Wilcox Steam Generator
 - Assembly contains 85 separators per Generator, 2 generators per unit.
 - SA36 and A36 Plate, A569 Piping / Tubing, Chromium content <0.01%
- Environment
 - Pure water, Very low oxygen levels, Contaminants in ppb levels (Na, Cl, SO₄)
 - ~300 °C Operating Temperature, mixed phase flow
- Problem after *40 years of operation*
 1. Liquid Droplet Impingement fractures and wears away native magnetite layer
 2. Exposed Steel suffers FAC from liquid layer on surface
 3. Corrosion produces perforations and liberates FOD, increasing moisture carry-over and tubing wear risk

Problem Overview

- Secondary moisture Separator Degradation
 - Baseplate degradation >90% through wall expected by 2026
 - Sidewall perforations in over 35% of secondary separator sidewalls
 - Currently no repair for sidewall degradation exists
- Risk to Plant Operation
 - Liberation of small pieces of moisture separator components
 - Pieces are most likely to fall into SG tube bundle
 - Pieces removed from SG during 2023 inspection are large enough to cause significant tube wear
 - Potential for SG tube leak
 - Continued increase in moisture carryover
 - Plant Data: Average MCO (Loop A & B) – 1.9% + 0.9%
 - Typ. SG Moisture Carryover Design Spec <0.1%



Figure 5: Pieces from PMS / SMS

Solution – Cold Spray

- Solution has been under development since 2020
- Qualification Plan developed with and approved by customer
- The overall solution was reviewed and approved by external nuclear engineering group / evaluation.

Deposition Efficiency	40 – 49%
Hardness	250 HV
Porosity	0.5 – 1.5%
Adhesion	8.5 ksi glue failure
Glueless Adhesion	17.08 ksi
Deposition Rate	0.004 per layer
Single SMS Coating Time	10 minutes
Cold Spray Gas	Compressed Air



✓ Adhesion, Porosity, Hardness

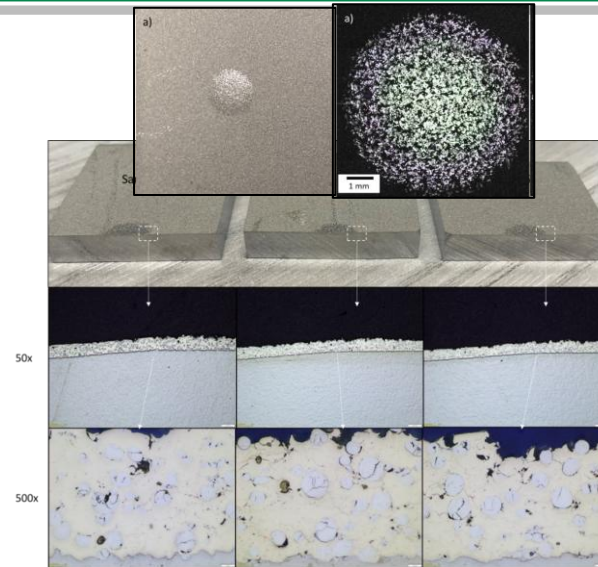


✓ Interfacial Shear Strength

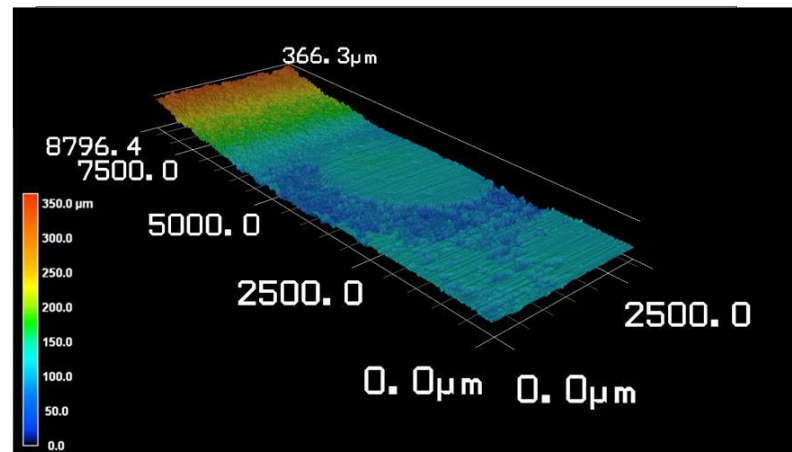
Solution – Cold Spray

- Additional Qual testing
 - Impact and Thermal Shock
 - 10 J impact with steel ball
 - Thermal shock testing from 287 °C to Room Temp using water quench
 - 100 cycles
 - Steam Erosion
 - 177 °C , 130 psi saturated steam (approx. 30% quality) jet impingement
 - 0.0625 DIA, 20-25 ft/s velocity
 - 20 day test time
 - Electrochemical FAC
 - 40 °C , 25 m/s jet impingement
 - Low dissolved oxygen and slightly acidic conditions using carbonic and acetic acid.
 - Simulates FAC in secondary system

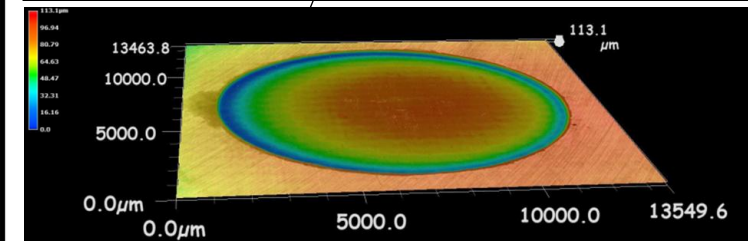
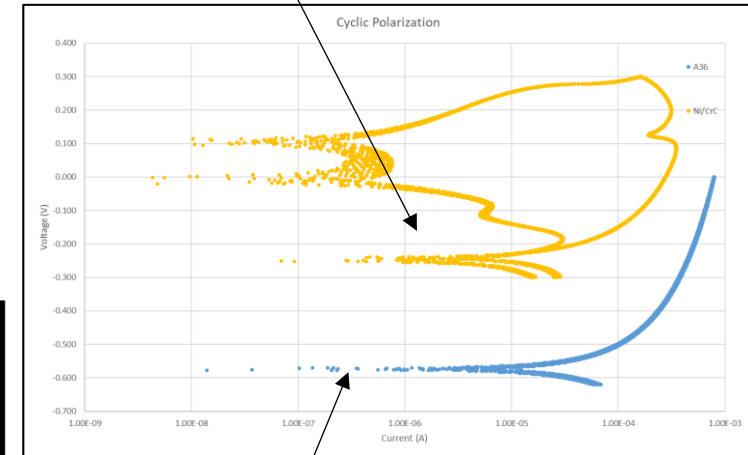
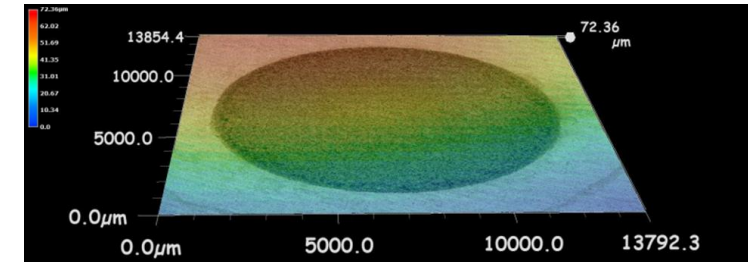
✓ Coating met Acceptance Criteria



✓ Impact & Thermal Shock



✓ Steam Erosion



✓ Electrochemical FAC

Example Qualification Process

- **Qualification**

- Test and Witness coupon material should be as relevant as possible.
- Spray Replicates using Raptor machine and portable robot
- Testing to include Adhesion, Porosity, Hardness
- Test to meet acceptance criteria with Raptor and Robot
- Establish critical process parameters and monitor limits
 - Process Gas Pressure and Flow, Powder Feed Rate and Flow, heater and applicator temperature

- **Mockup**

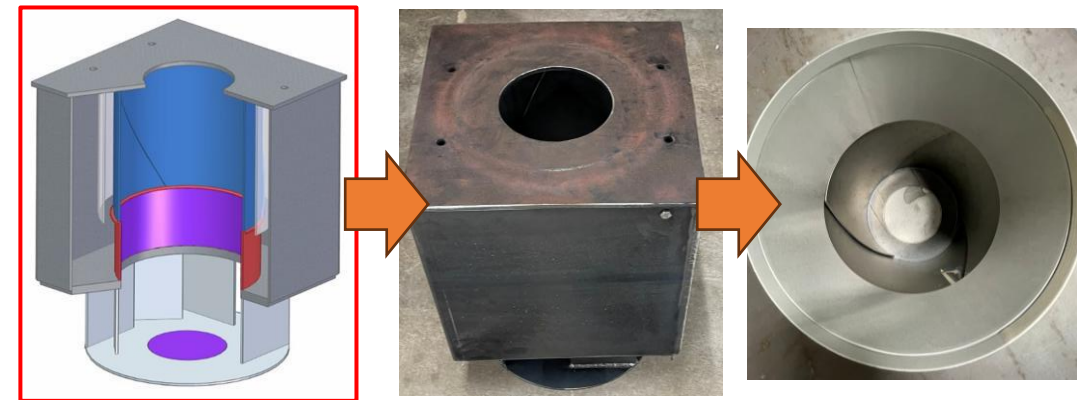
- Apply repair in relevant geometry on a relevant material (substrate)
 - Destructively test mockup to ensure appropriate coverage and performance
 - Visual, Mockup metallography, hardness

- **Quality Control**

- Real Time Critical process parameter monitoring and Post Spray data review
- Witness Coupon: coupon, sprayed before and after.
 - Onsite Testing: Visual, Thickness, Bend
- Witness Coupon destructive testing.
 - Adhesion, porosity, hardness testing

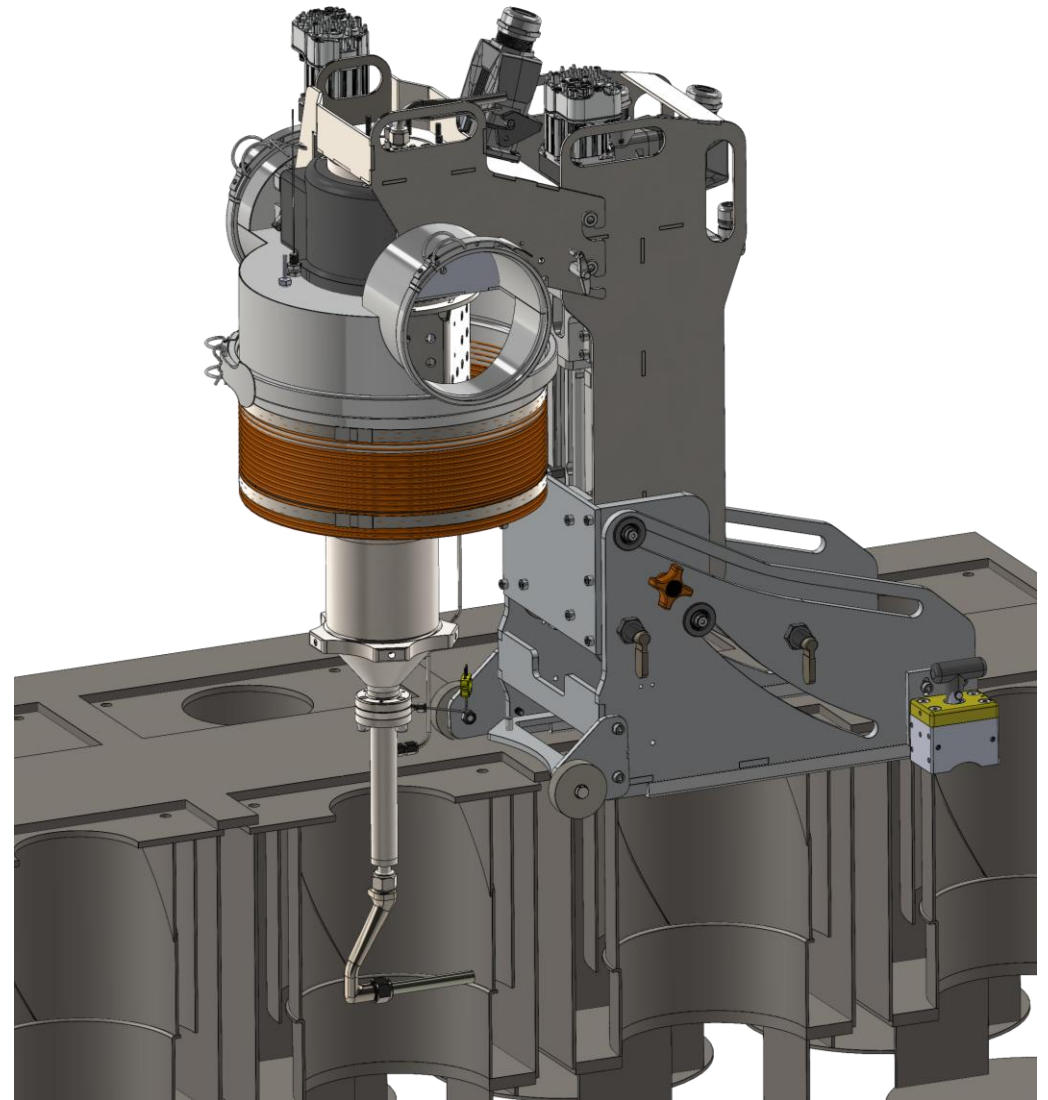
Example Qualification Matrix

Test	Replicates	Acceptance Criteria	Result
Adhesion	10	> 7,000 psi	Pass/Fail
Porosity	10	< 1.0 %	Pass/Fail
Hardness	10	> 300 HV	Pass/Fail
Bend	10	No Debond	Pass/Fail

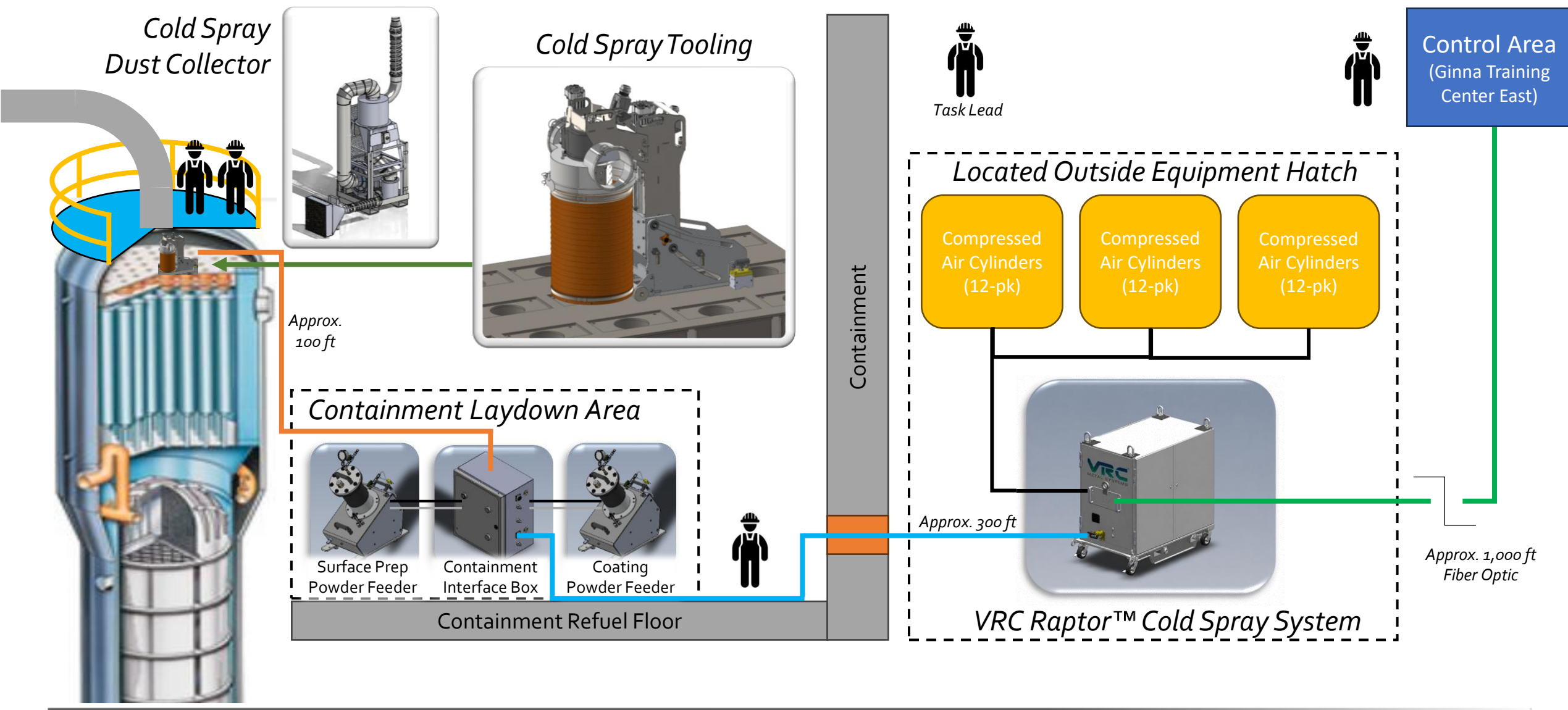


Cold Spray Tooling

- Rotary right-angle nozzle
 - Nozzle longer than steam orifice - kinematically constrained entry motion
 - Heater is located on the rotary portion
- Custom slip-ring and rotary union
 - 480 VAC, 30A w/ 10A Signal lines
 - 75 rpm, 50 lb payload, 1" eccentricity
 - Split gas rotary unions for process and powder feed. Seals robust to powder loading.
- Motion control System
 - Closed Loop linear and rotational motion
 - Synchronized with Raptor Cold Spray system for single-button process control
 - Magnetic attachment to deckplate
- Integrated Dust Collection
 - Multiple attachment points for 6" Duct
 - Removable Bellows with deckplate magnets



Implementation Process Overview (G1R46)





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0:01:12

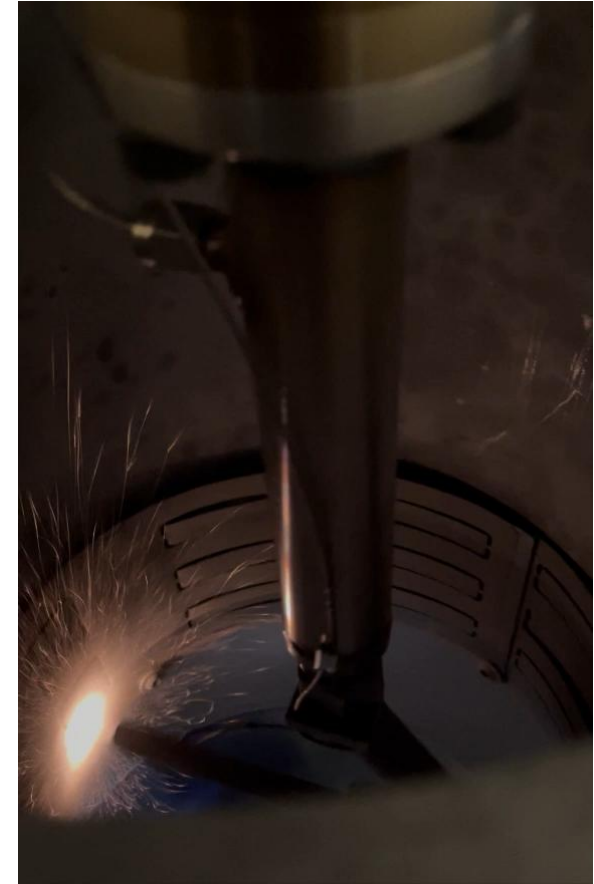
CONSTELLATION3



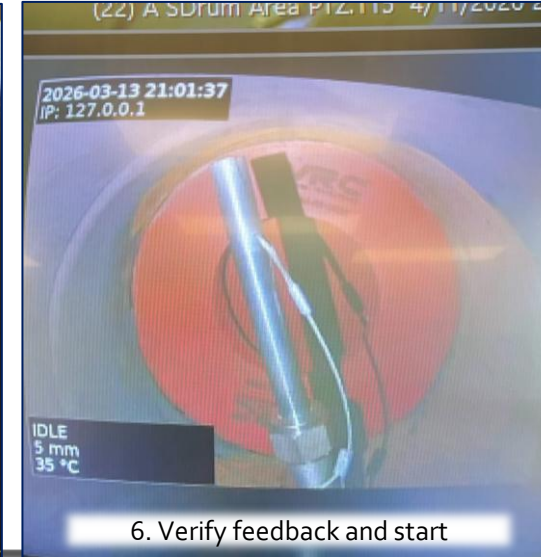
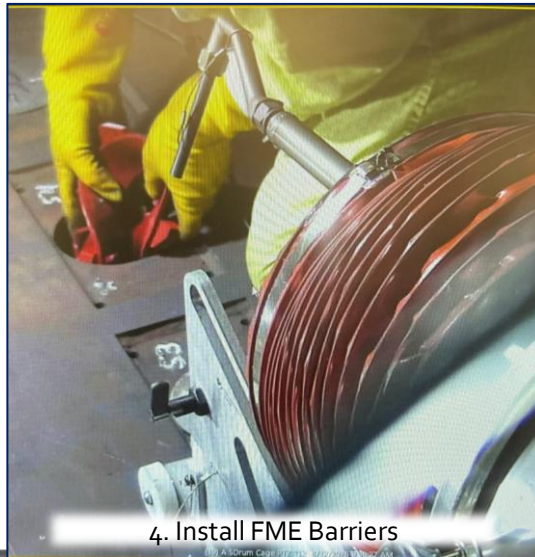
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Cold Spray Tooling

Video of Witness Coupon Spray



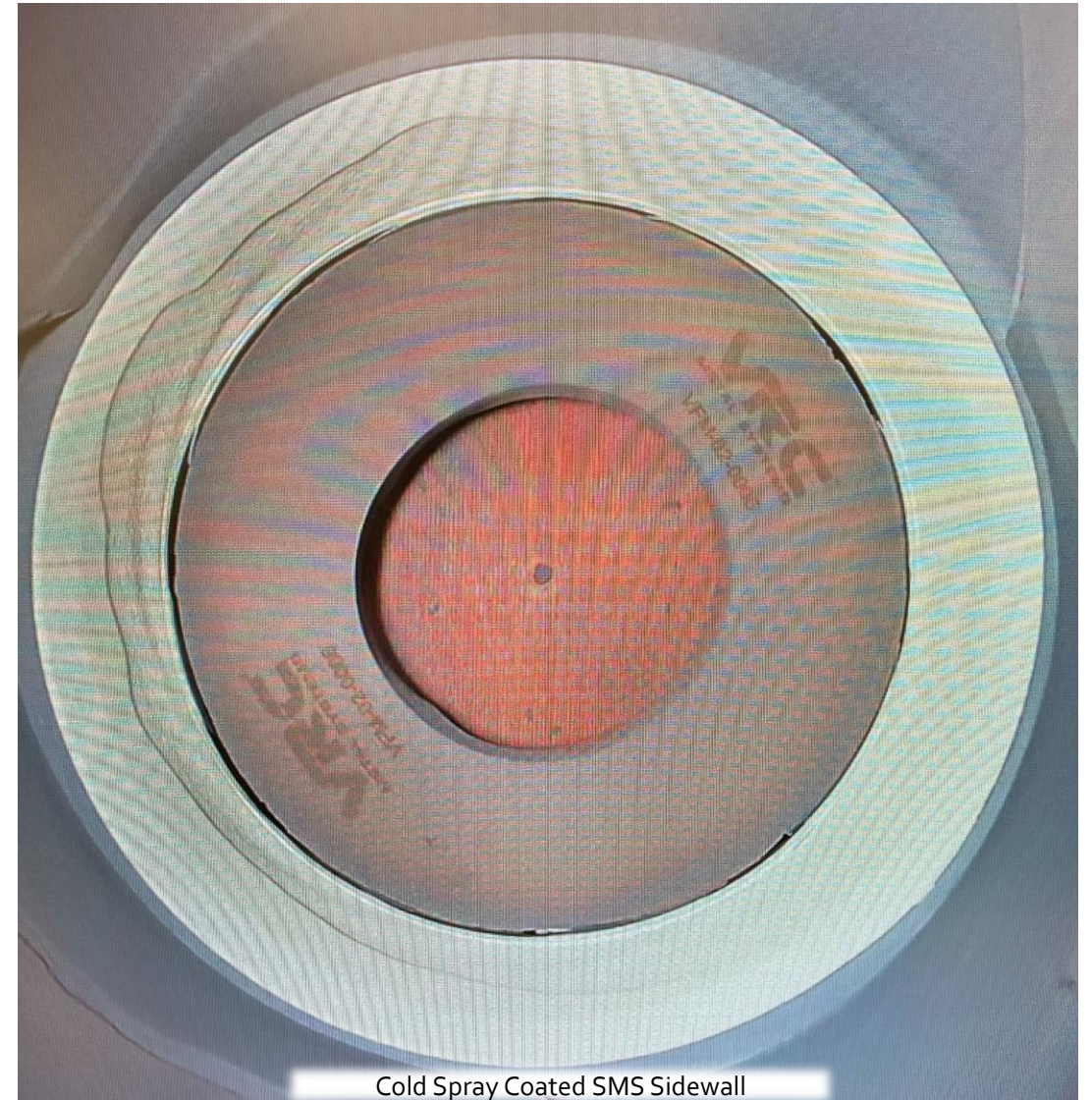
Outage Cold Spray Implementation



Outage Cold Spray Implementation



7. Monitor Process and Communicate with Team



Cold Spray Coated SMS Sidewall

Example Real Time Process Monitor Table

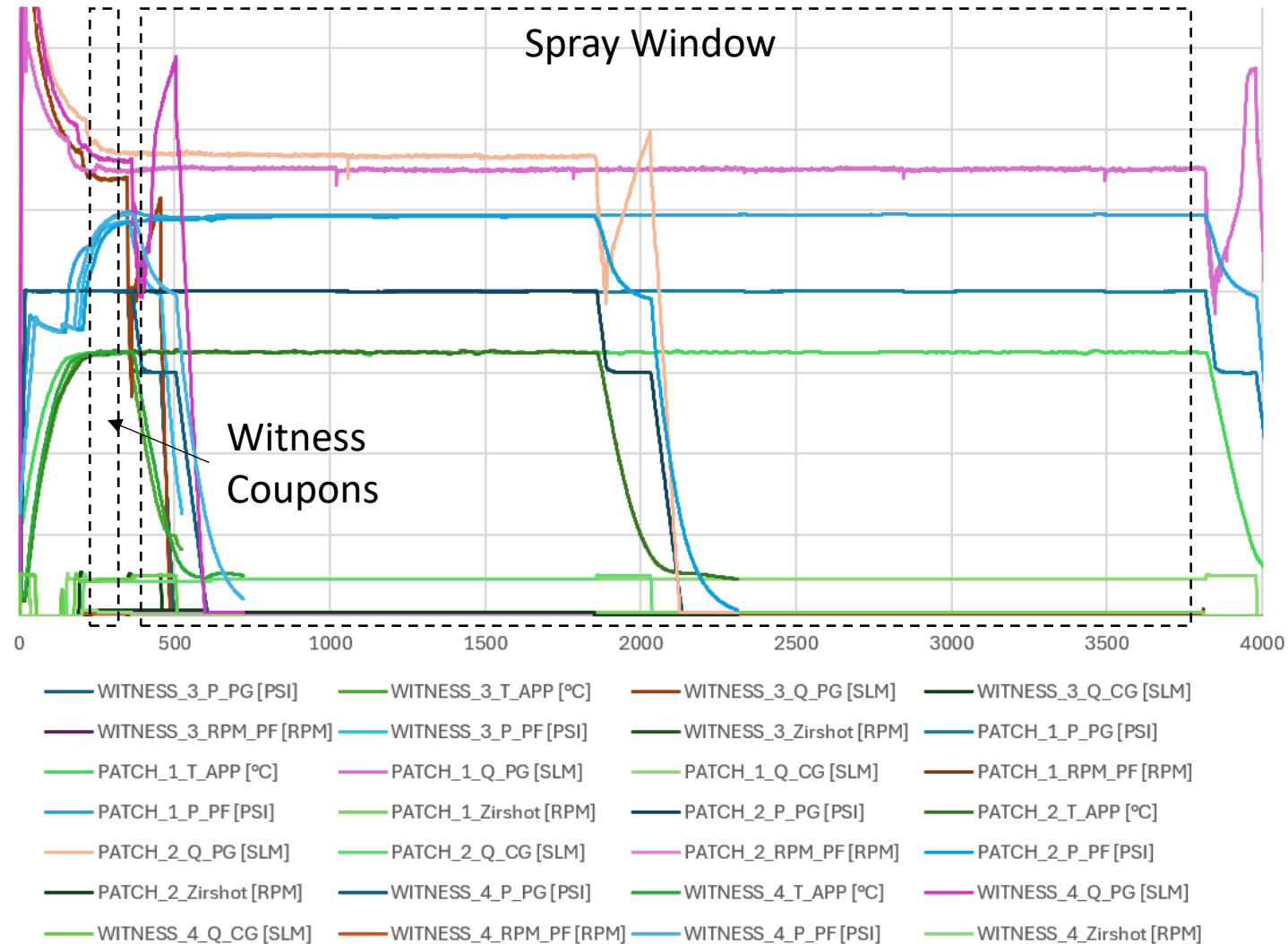
Critical Value	Control / Monitor	Example Tolerance	High Deviation	Low Deviation
Process Gas Pressure	Control	± 5 psi	Nozzle Clog. Stop Process.	Bottle pressure or equipment.
Powder Feeder Pressure	Monitor	± 35 psi	Clog in PF line. Stop Process.	Leak. Stop Process when safe to do so.
Heater Temperature	Monitor	± 100 °C	Higher than expected losses. Check for leaks.	Thermocouple failure. Stop Process when safe to do so.
Applicator Temperature	Control	± 10 °C	Overshoot. Stop process if heater >850 °C	Element failure. Stop Process.
Process Gas Flow	Monitor	± 350 slpm	High Pressure or Low Temp.	Nozzle Clog. Stop Process.
Powder Feed Flow	Control	± 10 slpm	Potential clog indicator.	Bottle pressure too low. Stop Process when safe to do so.
Powder Feed RPM	Control	± 1 RPM	Equipment issue.	Motor stall. Clean Powder Feeder.

Outage Cold Spray Implementation

- Working around the clock, the team executed the repair of two steam generators
 - 65 sidewalls repaired
 - 100 lbs of powder throughput
 - 38,000 ft³ of compressed air consumed
 - Average Cadence:
 - Day Crew: 25 /day
 - ✓ Night Crew: 33 /day
 - Number of Separators:
 - Day Crew: 32
 - ✓ Night Crew: 33



Outage Cold Spray Implementation



- Witness Cou
- Coupons ind
- ✓ Coatings m

coating
JIP-6320-901)
ness, and bend.

Thank You!

Contact Information:

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VRC Metal Systems LLC

Kyle.Johnson@vrcmetalsystems.com

701-367-8956

Useful Web Pages:

<https://coldspray.com>

<https://vrcmetalsystems.com>



VRC
METAL SYSTEMS

