

Development of a Hydrothermal Spallation Drilling System for EGS

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Jared M. Potter, President
Potter Drilling, Inc.

Component R&D

Potter Drilling's GTP project:

– Timeline

- Initiated October 2009
- Completion Date: May 2012
- 20% complete to date

– Budget

- \$7.5 million total project budget with \$5 million from the DOE
- \$3.4M in project funding in FY 2010

– Barriers:

- Primary goal: improve Engineered Geothermal Systems (EGS) well construction capability
- Secondary goals: improve site characterization & EGS reservoir creation

– Partners:

- Professor Jefferson Tester, Cornell University: \$600k for laboratory studies of heating technology and mineral dissolution/precipitation

Project Objective:

- Build and demonstrate a working prototype hydrothermal spallation drilling unit that will accelerate commercial deployment of EGS as a domestic energy resource

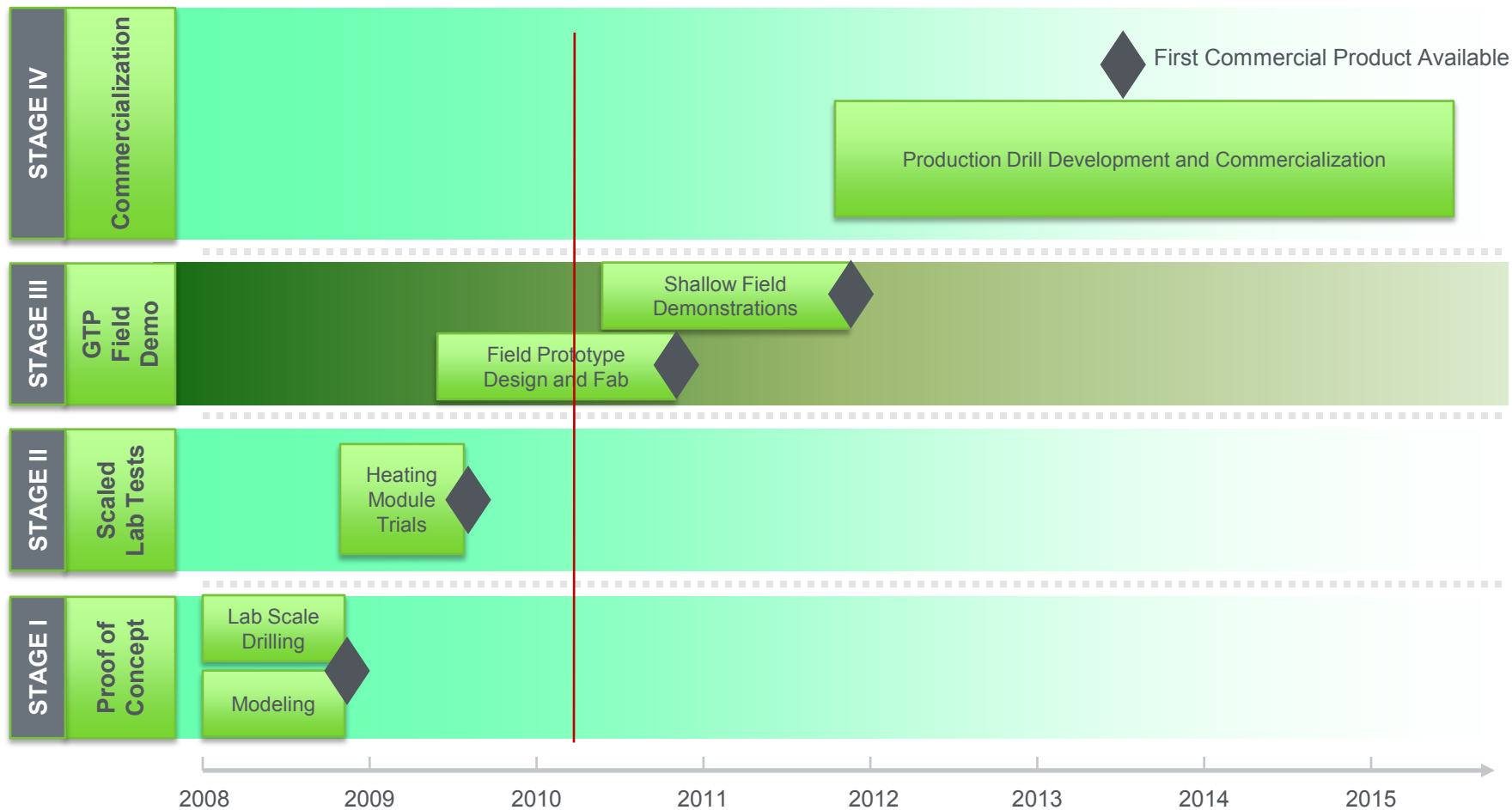
Why is this technology innovative?

- Greater ROP in hard rock: 30 ft/hr vs. <5 ft/hr using conventional methods
- Non contact: reduced bit wear and tripping
- No weight on bit: better control of trajectory
- Potential for greater well bore stability: fewer casing intervals
- Not depth limited: potential to drill to 30,000 feet with little or no performance degradation

This project will impact geothermal energy development by:

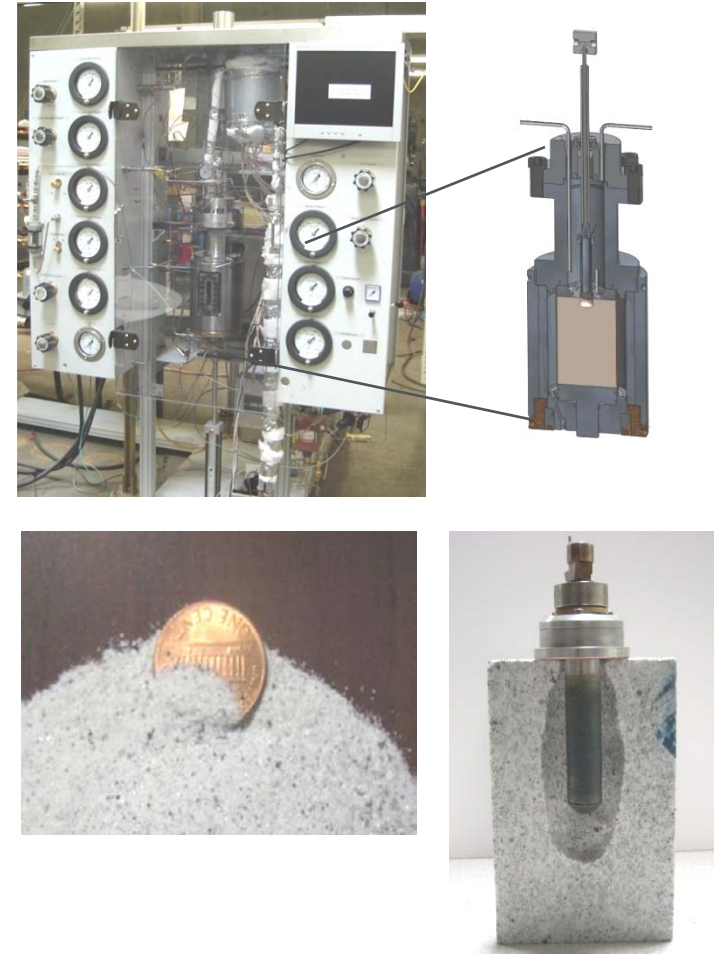
- **Reducing the cost and timeframe for constructing EGS wells by 15-20%:**
 - Improved ROP
 - Reduced tripping
 - Reduced casing and completion costs
 - Enable ultra deep drilling for universal EGS development
- **Improving geothermal reservoir performance by 50 – 200%:**
 - Capability to drill directional slim holes to access stimulated zones from the main wellbore in hydrothermal and EGS production wells
 - Thermal drilling/excavation methods to remove near wellbore impedance and skin damage
- **Establishing a new site characterization technology:**
 - High angle directional drilling for improved resource-fracture identification in hard rock

This Project is Stage 3 of a 4 Stage Development Approach



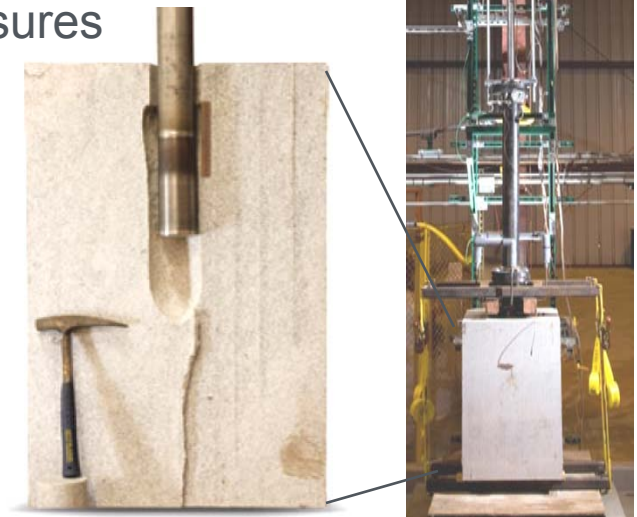
Stage I: Proof of Concept

1. Demonstrated that hydrothermal spallation drilling works on small scale core samples
2. Demonstrated the process over a range of borehole pressures and stresses
3. Evaluated nozzle designs, operating temperatures and flow rates
4. Evaluated the effectiveness in a range of different rock types
5. Quantified spall size and changes in rock properties
6. Created new heat flux and ROP models



Stage II: Scaled Lab Tests

1. Demonstrated that hydrothermal spallation works at low pressures (requirement for shallow surface testing)
2. Demonstrated that process scales to larger diameters (>4" borehole)
3. Developed new chemical heating system
 - All liquid
 - "Light-off" at ambient temperatures and pressures
 - Controlled, flameless, jet temperature
4. Demonstrated ability to clear spalls
5. Continued to refine heat flux and ROP models

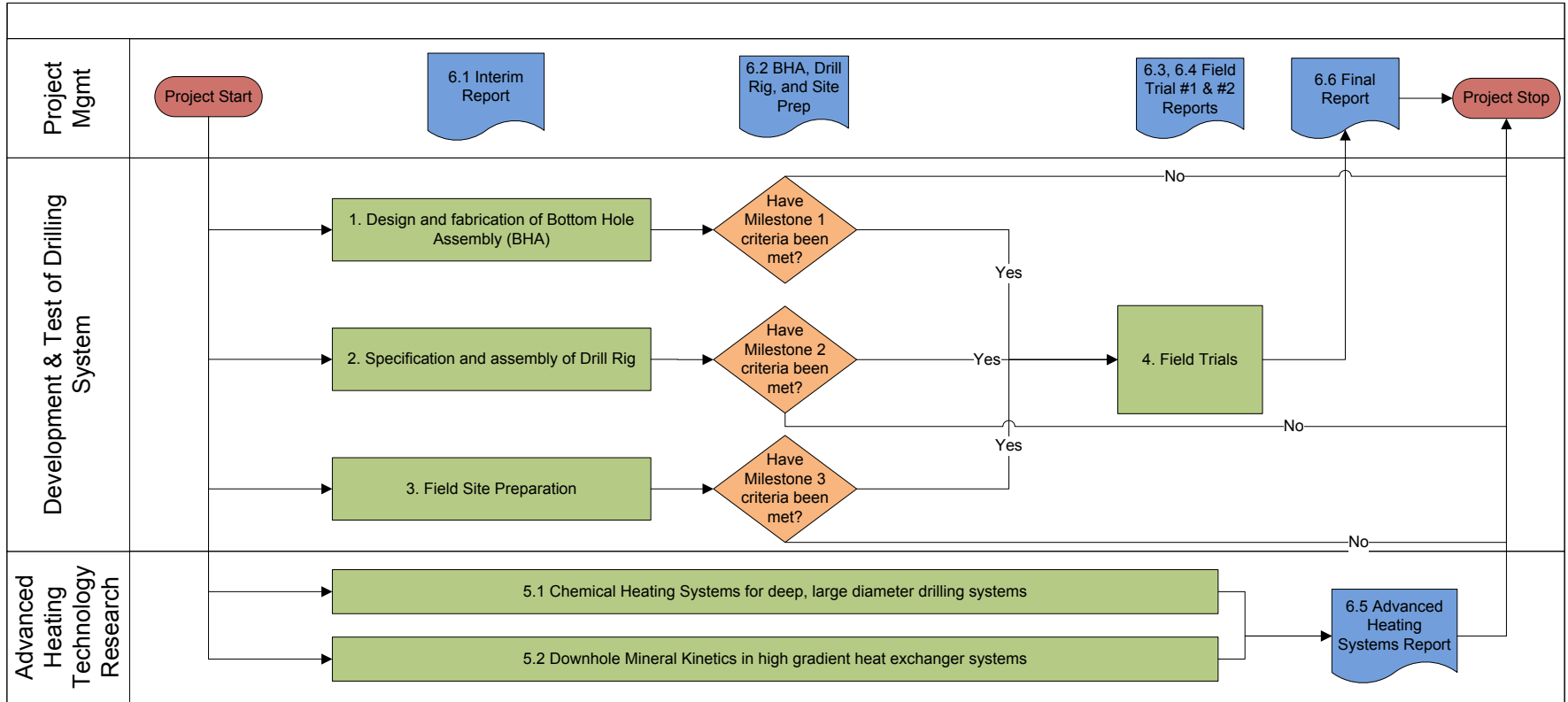


GTP Project Approach (Stage III):

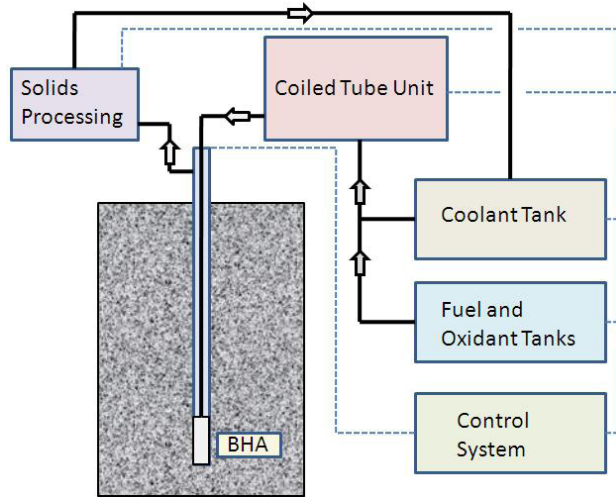
- **Task 1: Design and Fabricate Bottom Hole Assembly (BHA):** Fully integrated and tested tool with advanced downhole instrumentation.
- **Task 2: Coiled Tube Drill Rig and support equipment:** Integrate a modified CT unit with custom hardware and software control systems.
- **Task 3: Site Preparation:** Prepare three test boreholes at the target field site in Raymond, CA.
- **Task 4: Field Trials:** The three stage iterative field test sequence will allow Potter Drilling to update and modify elements of the prototype based on experiences learned in the field.
- **Task 5- Research on Advanced Heating Technologies:** Laboratory research in conjunction with Prof. Jeff Tester at Cornell University to improve knowledge of chemical heating systems and understanding of very high temperature mineral dissolution-precipitation.
- **Task 6- Project Management and Reporting:** Reports and deliverables relevant to each task and milestone.

FY 2010 Milestones and Go/No Go Decisions

- **Complete BHA design and fabrication with bench top testing: July, 2010**
 - Flow tests at elevated temperature
 - Survival of hardware in borehole conditions
- **Complete specification and assembly of drill rig and associated support systems: July, 2010**
 - Proper flow of chemical reactants and coolant
 - Proper operation of CT injection system
 - Ability to monitor BHA using data acquisition control system
- **Complete Field Site Preparation: July, 2010**
 - Completion of 300 ft boreholes (hammer drilled and cased to spec)
 - Pressure/level tests to determine if the fluid losses/gains while drilling are acceptable.
 - Camera logging and shut in pressure decline/increase monitoring for fractures



System Components



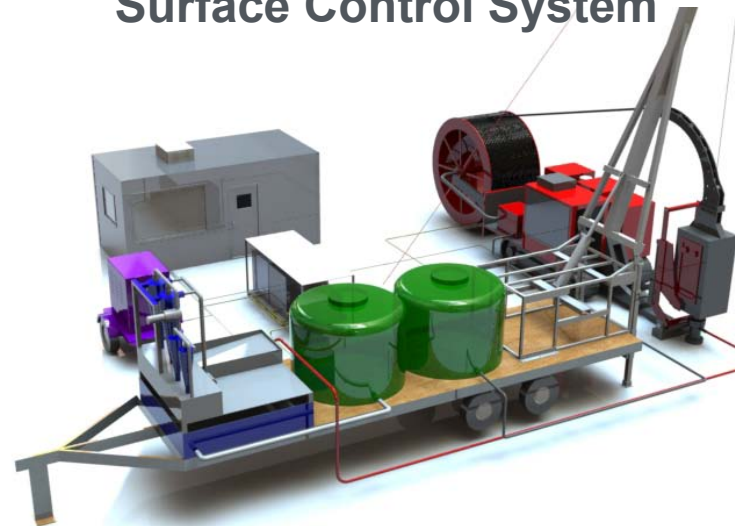
Field Site (Raymond, CA)



Bottom Hole Assembly



Surface Control System



Progress To Date:

- Completed hydrothermal spallation drilling system specification
- Completed modification and took delivery of coiled tubing unit
- Completed BHA component, sub-assembly, and electronics designs and initiated fabrication
- Completed field trial test site environmental reviews and approvals

- **Project Plan Summary**

- Phase 1 of work to be completed by July, 2010
 - BHA and subassemblies fabricated and wet tested
 - Drill rig and surface equipment prepared
 - Field site and starter wells prepared
- Phase 2: Field tests commence in August, 2010
 - First field trial scheduled for August, 2010
 - Work with Cornell University commences
- Field Trials completed in 2011
- Project completed in May, 2012

- **Financial Plan Summary**

- \$2.0M in resources expended on Phase 1 to date
- \$4.6 M in resources to be expended in FY 2010
- DOE ARRA resources will be completely utilized by April 2011

- Expected Project Outcome: Field proven prototype and performance data
- Future Development Strategy:
 - Near term: Commercialize system for hydrothermal and EGS well enhancement and field characterization
 - Long term: Develop deep drilling system for EGS
- FY 2010
 - Full prototype system designed and completed by July, 2010
 - BHA performance assessment milestone
 - Drill rig performance assessment milestone
 - Site requirements milestone
 - First field trial: August, 2010
 - Second field trial: late 2010
 - Commence laboratory research at Cornell University
- FY 2011
 - Analyze results of first and second field trial
 - Iterative design and modification of system based on trial results
 - Conduct one more field trial

- Hydrothermal spallation drilling is an innovative technology with significant performance advantages in hard rock
- Application of the technology will have a considerable impact on EGS and hydrothermal well construction, reservoir performance, and site characterization
- Potter Drilling is in Stage 3 of a 4 stage development program
- The GTP has contributed \$5M towards the field demonstration of our prototype drilling system
- We will have documented field test results within FY 2010