PureCell Model 400 Fuel Processing System (FPS)

The FPS converts pipeline-quality natural gas into hydrogen reformate – a hydrogen-rich gas that is delivered to the anode side of the fuel cell stacks. This module includes a condenser to recover water generated in the fuel cell reaction by condensing water vapor from the process exhaust. This eliminates the need for makeup water under most operating conditions. The recovered water is used in the steam reformation process. The main components of the FPS include the following:

Hydro-Desulfurizer

The desulfurizer system removes sulfur used as an odorant in natural gas, which is a poison to the catalysts used in the fuel cell systems. Sulfur is converted to zinc-sulfide, a non-hazardous waste, within the desulfurizer and remains there until an overhaul is required, nominally after 10 years. This system will also remove small amounts of oxygen in the gas.

Steam Reformer

Steam (H_2O) generated in the cell stack cooling loop of the TMS is combined in the reformer with methane (CH_4) in the natural gas to generate a gas composed of hydrogen (H_2), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO_2).

$2CH_4 + 3H_2O = 7H_2 + CO + CO_2$ *Equation 1*

Integrated Low-Temperature Shift Converter

The integrated low-temperature shift converter (ILS) generates additional hydrogen through a water-gas reaction in which CO and water is converted to hydrogen and CO_2. The reduced CO content minimizes its adverse effect on fuel cell stack performance.

$CO + H2O = H2 + CO2$ *Equation 2*

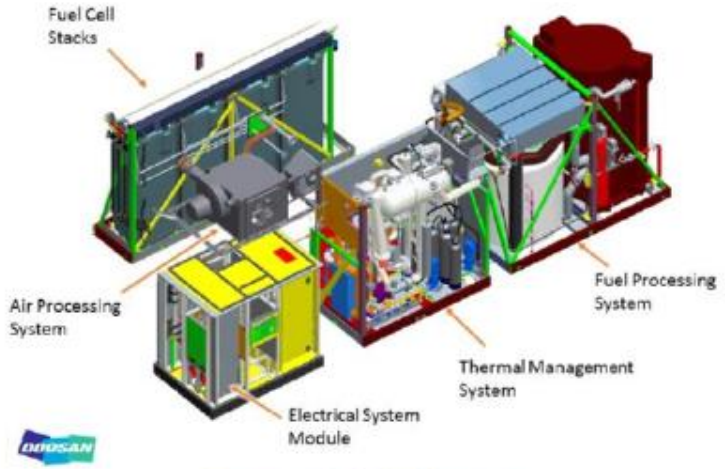

Figure 1. PureCell Model 400 Subsystems