

The Bottleneck Killing SOFC at Scale

Ni-YSZ Anode Coarsening — A Research & Business Case

Sagar Panchal

sgrp97@gmail.com

31.2%

SOFC market CAGR
2025 – 2030

\$11.6B

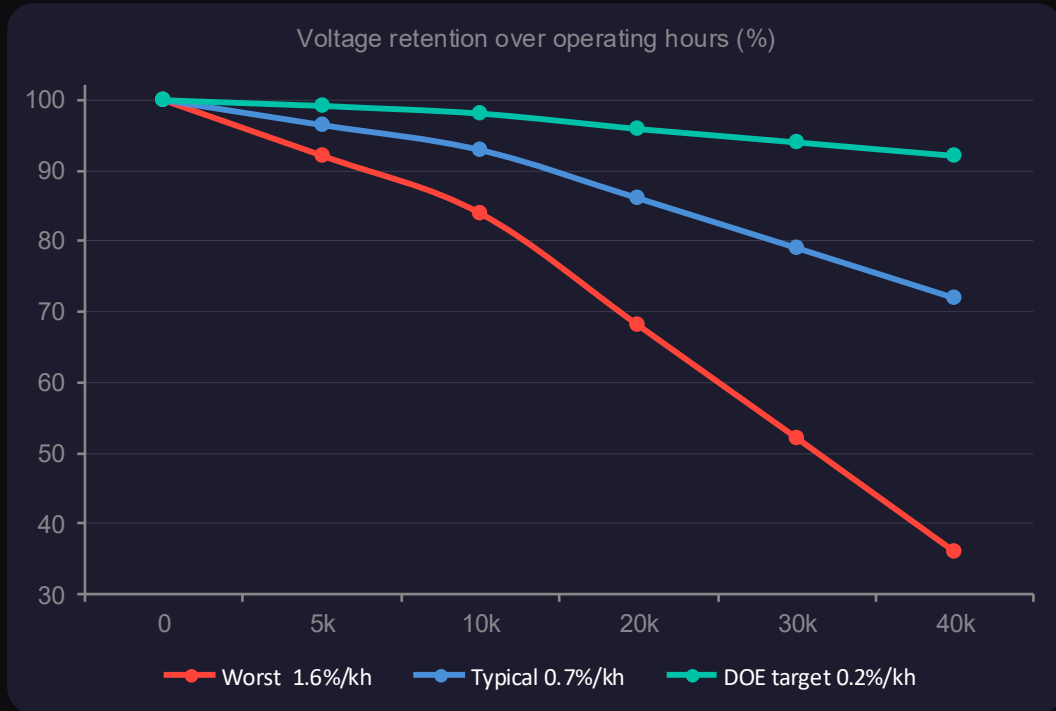
SOFC global market
by 2030

51–65%

Electrical efficiency
(field)

No Commercial Stack Has Hit the DOE Target Yet

Ni-YSZ coarsening is the primary performance bottleneck — the 0.7%/kh gap is solvable



Ni-YSZ Coarsening

~40%

Nickel particles grow → TPB area shrinks
→ electrochemical activity drops

Cathode Poisoning

~30%

Cr/Sr contamination blocks O₂ reduction
at cathode surface sites

Delamination

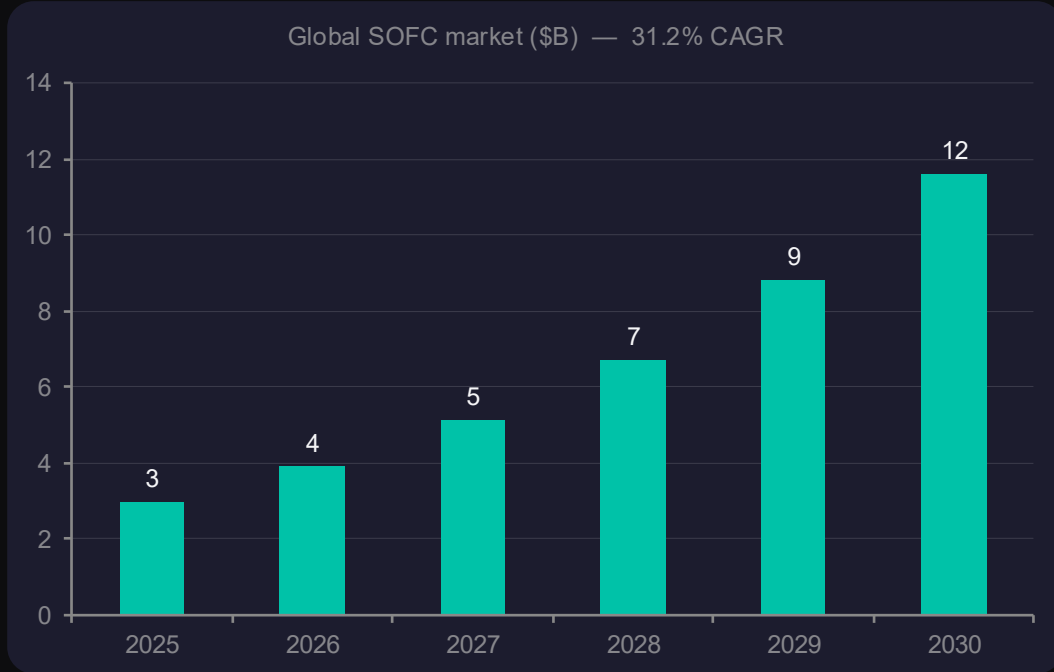
~20%

Thermal cycling stress causes electrode-
electrolyte interface failure

Solving coarsening alone closes ~40% of the degradation gap

AI's Energy Crisis Opens a \$11.6B Door for SOFC

Data centers need on-site, grid-independent power — SOFC delivers 2× the efficiency of alternatives



31.2%

CAGR 2025–2030

55%+

Stationary / data center share

×2

Data center power doubles by 2030 (IEA)

\$618M

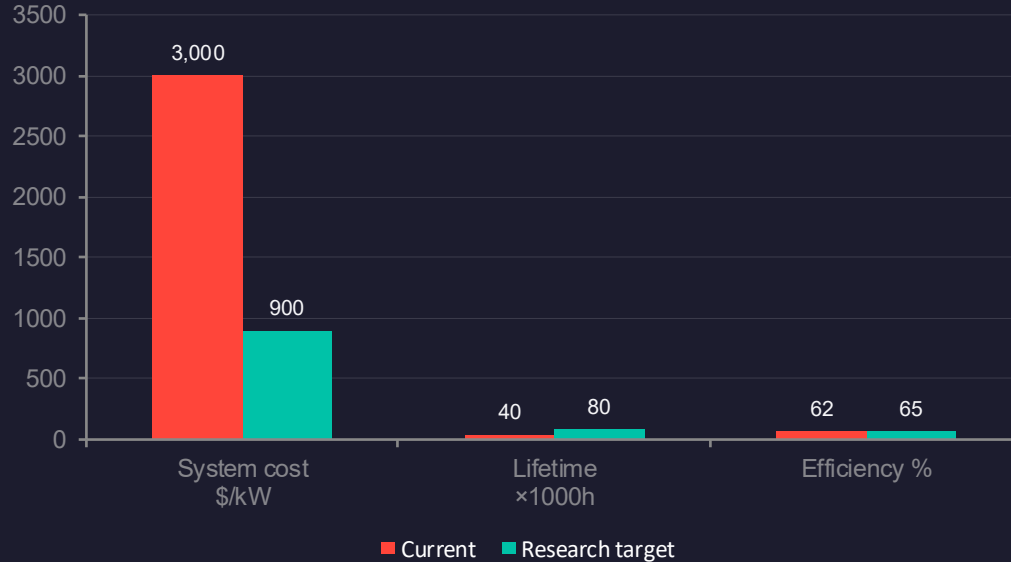
Data center SOFC segment by 2032

Bloom Energy (SOFC) +390% in 2025 · Customers: Microsoft, Google, Samsung

Solving Coarsening: Stack Lifetime $\times 2$ — System Cost $\div 3$

0.7%/kh \rightarrow 0.2%/kh: the research unlock that makes SOFC cost-competitive at data center scale

Current state vs research target



01

Model Ni-YSZ coarsening kinetics via Butler-Volmer + TPB geometry

02

Predict degradation pathways under real load cycling conditions

03

Identify optimal anode microstructure for long-term stability

04

Enable 40k \rightarrow 80k hour stack lifetime — halve replacement cost

\$750M+

US DOE since 1995

€218M

EU FCH-JU

\$30M

US Congress 2025

Let's Talk.

This research is the unlock for commercial SOFC at data center scale.

Email

sgrp97@gmail.com

More info

panchalsagar.in

Ni-YSZ Coarsening

TPB Degradation Modeling

SOFC Lifetime Extension

AI Energy Infrastructure