



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL OF  
AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATIONS

# Engine Technology Development to Address Local Air Quality Concerns

Will Dodds, GE Aviation

International Coordinating Council of  
Aerospace Industries Associations



# Overview

- Summary of material presented by manufacturers at March 2006 ICAO/CAEP Long Term Technology Goals (LTTG) review – next review will be in 2009
- Complete presentations are available on the CAEP Secure Web Site (WG3 – LTTG):
  - Combustion Fundamentals (R.McKinney - Pratt & Whitney)
  - Recent Engine Certifications (P.Madden - Rolls-Royce, D.Sepulveda - P&W, W.Dodds - GE, D.Allyn - Boeing)
  - Prospects for Middle Term Technology (W.Sowa - P&W, H.Mongia - GE, P.Madden, O.Penanhoat - Snecma, A.Joselzon - Airbus)
  - Emissions Tradeoffs (P.Madden)
  - Technology Transition (W.Dodds)

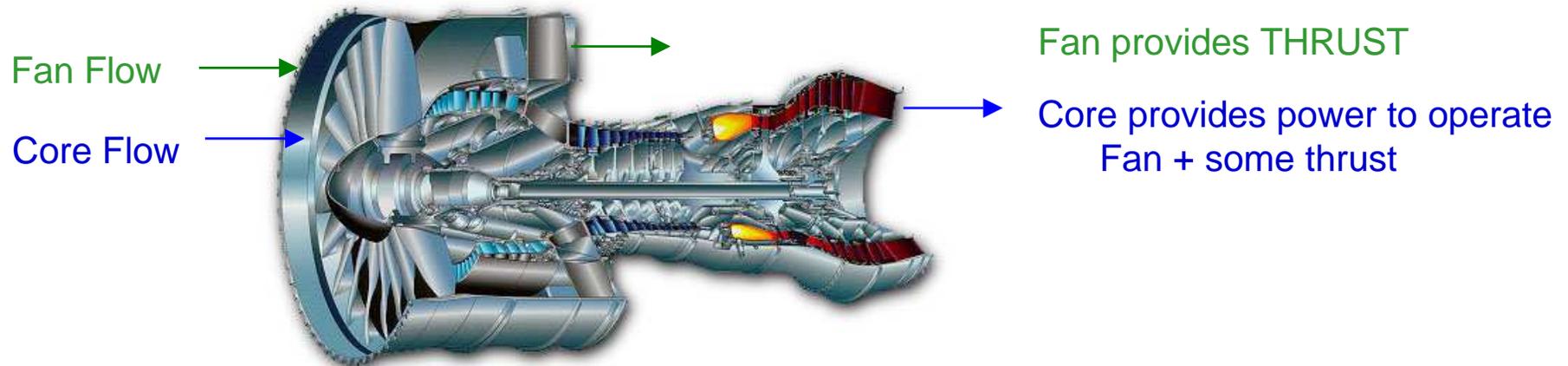


# Technology Focus

- Focus for combustor emissions technology has been NO<sub>x</sub>
- Recent work by FAA is investigating contribution from PM
  - Primary PM – elemental carbon, organic carbon
  - Secondary PM from NO<sub>x</sub>
  - Secondary PM from fuel sulfur
- Developing a data base of PM in harsh measurement environment is challenging
  - We are working with PM measurement teams
- With a good data base, we can investigate effective mitigation options
  - Combustor technology for NO<sub>x</sub>?
  - Alternative fuels for sulfur?
  - Both for primary PM?
- Internationally, ICAO/CAEP is pushing both increased NO<sub>x</sub> stringency and improved PM measurement capability



# The Combustor Adds Heat to the Core Flow of a Gas Turbine



- The combustor is the hottest part of the engine
  - Inlet temperature and pressure can approach 700C (1300F) and 45 atm.
  - Temperature within combustor can exceed 2200C (4000F)
  - Temperature at combustor exit can approach 1650C (3000F)
- Metals melt at ~1350C (2500 F), so making the combustor survive is a major challenge!
- NO<sub>x</sub> is formed in high temperature regions of the flame



# Combustor Must Meet Engine Performance, Operability, Weight and Cost Requirements

## Engine Requirement

- Optimize fuel consumption
- Meet ICAO and customer emissions requirements
- Wide range of thrust, rapid acceleration/deceleration, steady operation in extreme rain and hail
- Ground start, altitude relight
- Turbine durability
- Combustor durability
- Low Weight and Cost

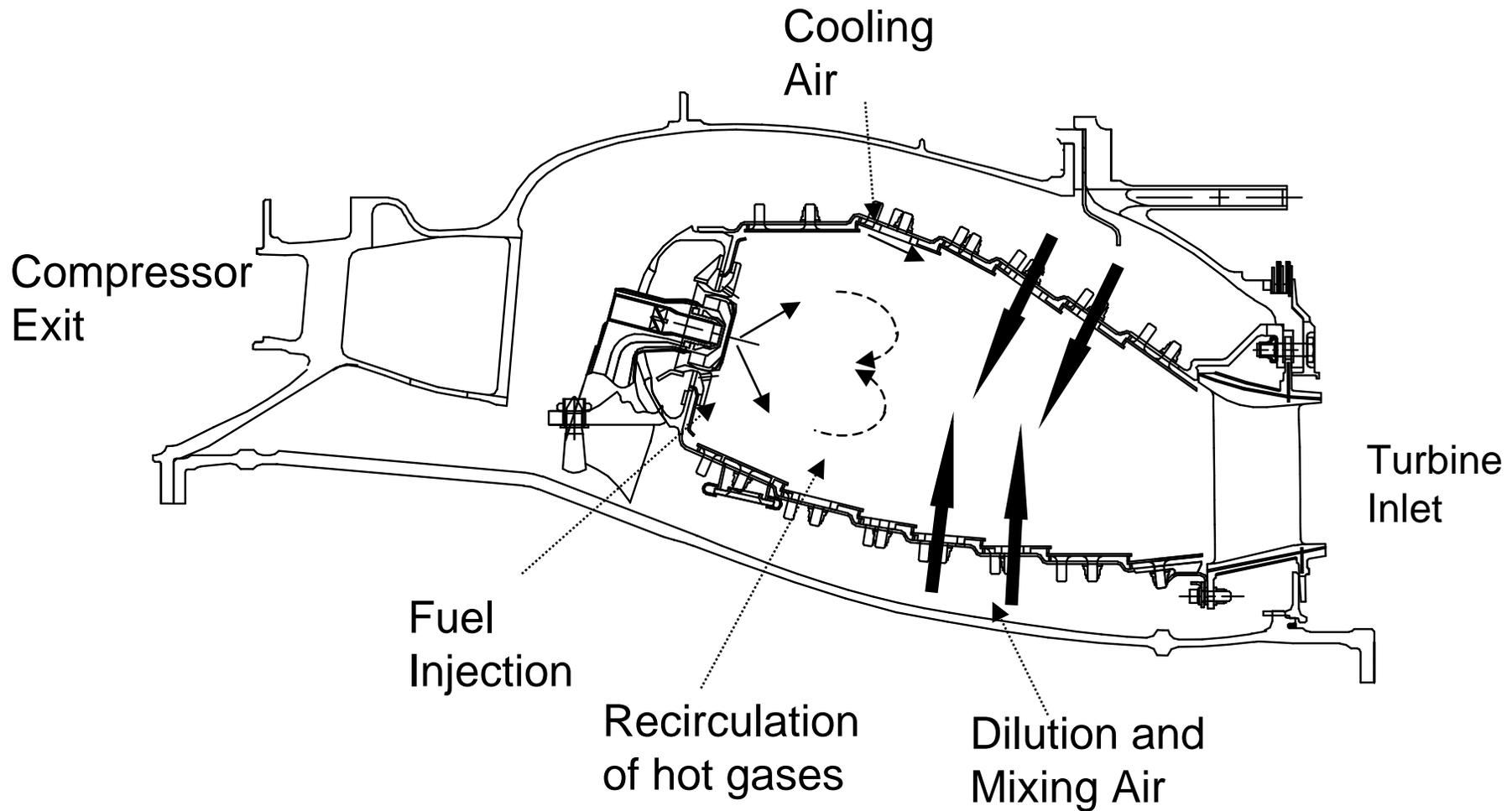
## Combustor Property

- High combustion efficiency (>99.9%) and low pressure loss
- Minimize emissions and smoke
- Wide stability/operability limits
- Sustain flame during water and hail ingestion
- Reliable and smooth ignition
- Good temperature distribution at exit
- Low metal temperatures
- Coke-free fuel system
- Fit within engine envelope

**Safety is the Highest Design Priority!**



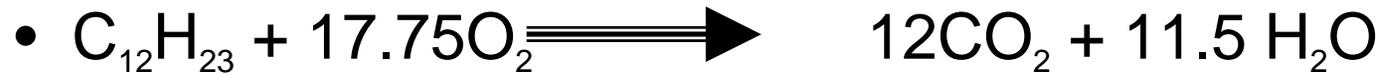
# Continuous Flow Combustion with Aerodynamic Stabilization



Current Combustor Designs Balance All Requirements



# Combustion of Jet Fuel - Fundamentals



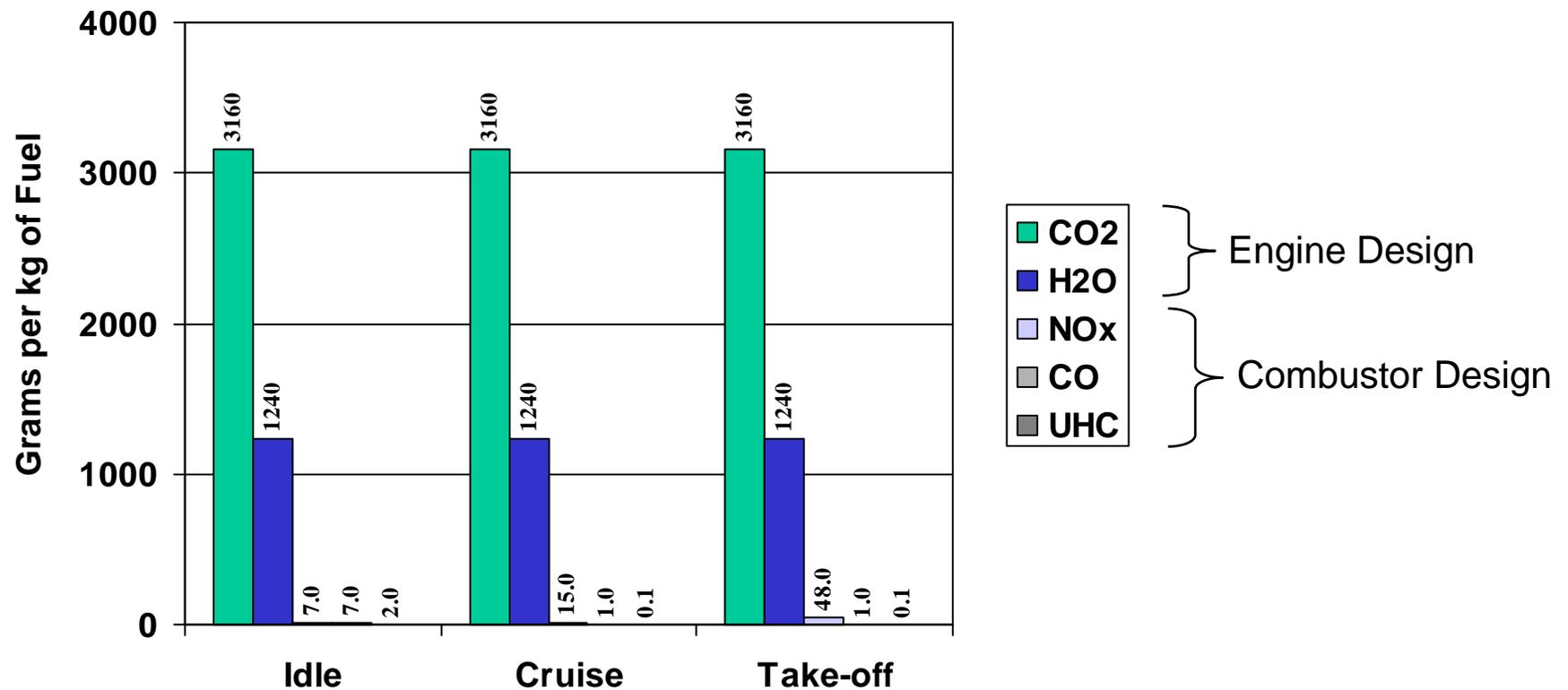
- Fuel + Air react to form:

- Excess Oxygen ( $O_2$ )
- Excess Nitrogen ( $N_2$ )
- Carbon Dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) Product of Combustion
- Water Vapor ( $H_2O$ ) Product of Combustion
- Sulfur Oxides ( $SO_x$ ) Sulfur from fuel
- Carbon Monoxide ( $CO$ ) Incomplete Combustion
- Unburned Hydrocarbons ( $HC$ ) Incomplete Combustion
- Oxides of Nitrogen ( $NO_x$ ) High Temp. Air Reaction
- Smoke/Soot PM Local High Fuel levels



# Combustion of Jet Fuel - Quantified

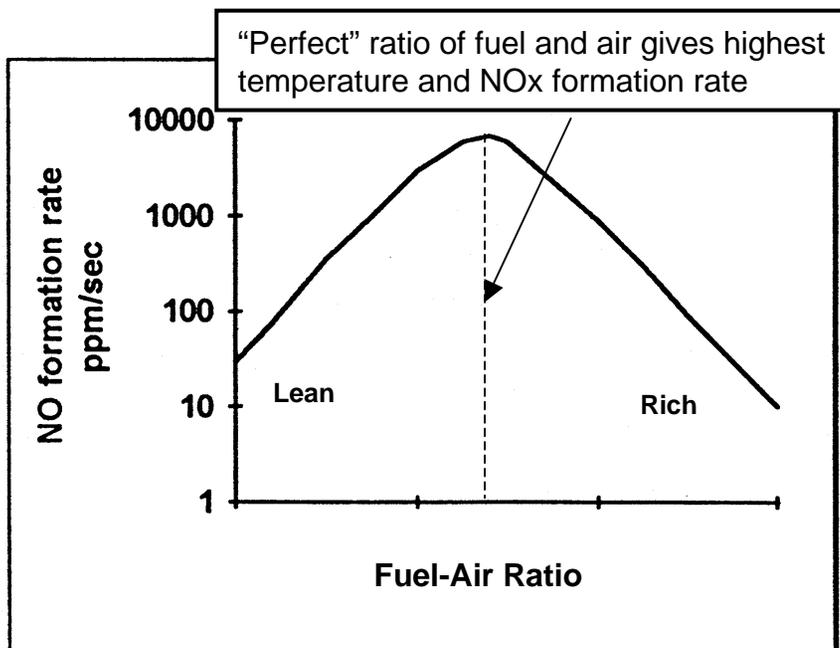
- A typical engine produces the following mass of products for each kilogram of fuel burned:





# NOx Formation

- NOx primarily formed through thermal combination of Nitrogen and Oxygen



- Formation rate is a function of:
  - Fuel-Air Ratio
  - Temperature & Pressure
- Total NOx formed depends on:
  - Formation rate
  - residence time
- NOx formation can be reduced by:
  - Burning rich (RQL)
  - Burning lean (lean-staged)
  - Reducing combustor volume



## Recent Engine Certifications

### **Recent engine certification results were reviewed to indicate capability of current technology...**

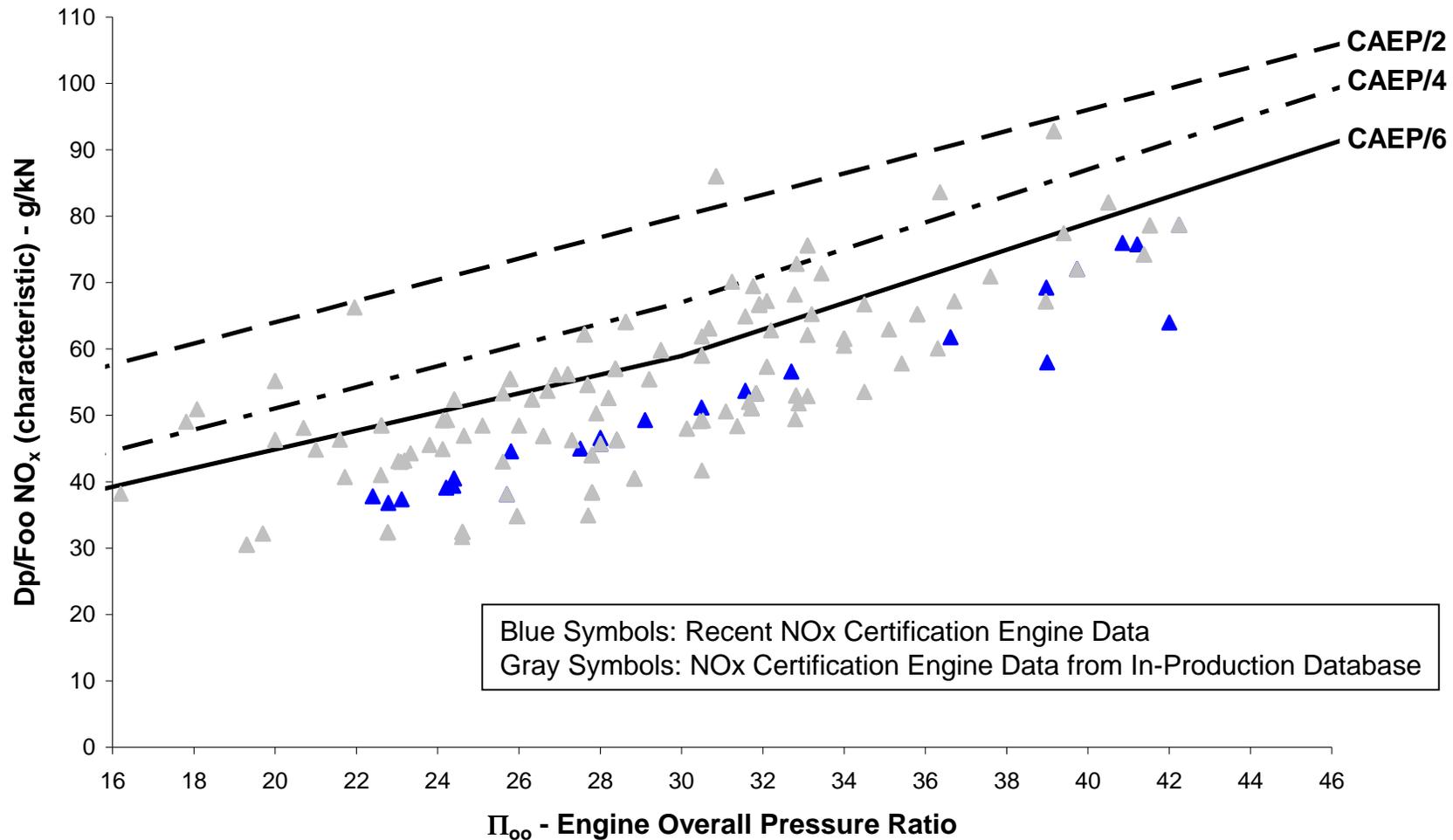
- Recent data covers ten engine families that have reached TRL8 or 9 since CAEP/6 “Current Production” emissions data base was published in 2003

- Thrust: 75 to 514 kN
- Pressure ratio: 21.4 to 42.9

- All recent combustors use modified RQL combustor NOx reduction technology
- NOx emission reduction may be enhanced due to improved engine performance (lower fuel consumption)



# Recent Certification Emissions Relative to Standards



All recent engines meet CAEP/6 requirements with small margin,  
and are towards lower end of current production



## Middle Term Technology Prospects

### Current R&D and technology transition projects were reviewed to inform middle term goals...

- Full annular rig and factory engine test data (TRL 5 and 6) on new combustor configurations that are being developed for potential introduction into service within the next ten years
- Middle term approaches include further development of both RQL and Lean-Staged technologies





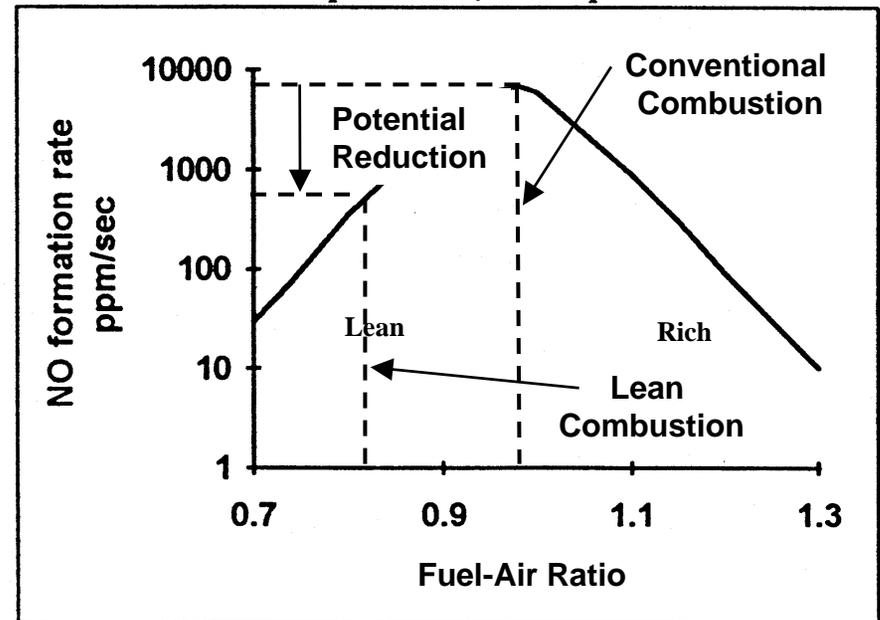
# Principles of Lean-Staged Combustion

## Principles

- Flame temperature is reduced with lean fuel-air mixture
- Significant theoretical NO<sub>x</sub> reduction at high power with complete fuel vaporization and uniform fuel-air premixing
- A combustor designed for lean combustion at high power will not light well or burn stably at idle operating conditions:
  - One solution is a “pilot zone” for low power operation. All fuel goes to the pilot zone at low power (fuel staging)

## Design challenges:

- Smooth control of staging
- Complexity (cost, weight)
- Fuel coking
- Fuel pre-ignition
- Dynamic pressures





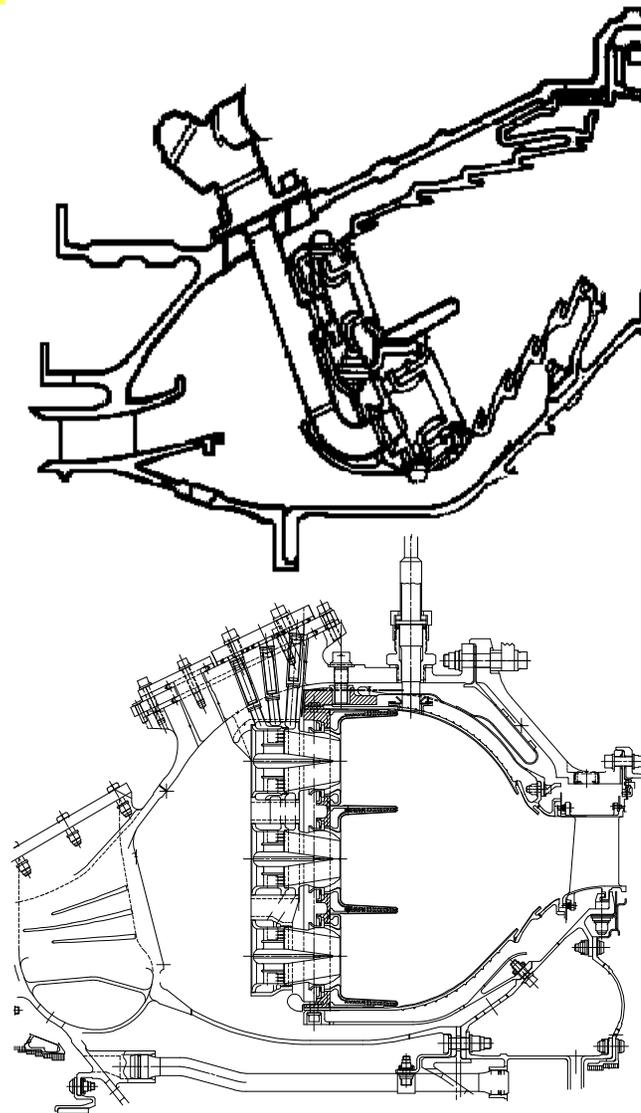
# Related Background on Lean-Staged Combustion

## Aviation Engines

- CFM56 DAC:
  - NO<sub>x</sub> ~30% below baseline combustor
  - ~375 Engines
  - ~5M Flight Hrs.
  - ~3.3M Cycles

## Industrial Engines

- Lean staged combustors in wide service
- More than 90% NO<sub>x</sub> reduction capability has been demonstrated in industrial applications
  - Natural gas fuel
  - Slow acceleration and deceleration
  - Expanded combustor envelope
  - No airstart requirement
  - No weight or size limitations
  - No interference with fan stream

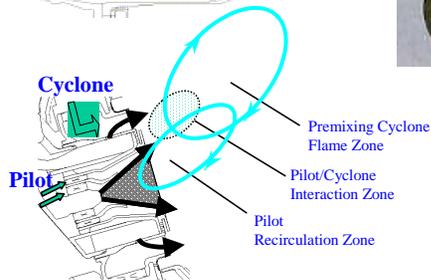
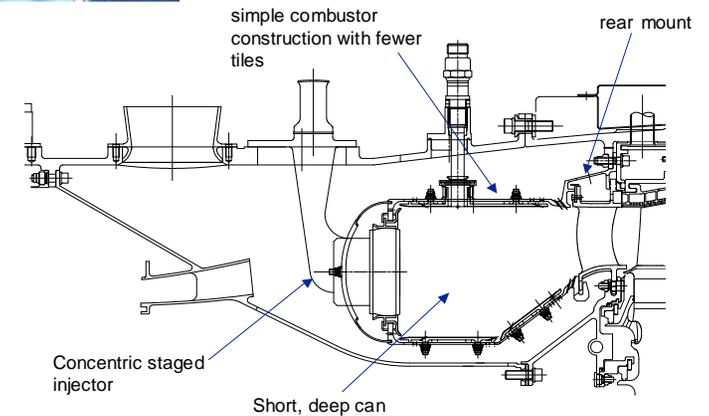




# Current Lean Staged Combustor Development



**R-R Lean Burn Combustor**



**GE TAPS Combustor**

## Lean Staged Combustor Development Experience

- ~900 hours factory testing in 30 OPR engine
- 200 hours at the maximum rated thrust
- Performance, Emissions, Noise, Dynamics, Thermal and Mechanical Surveys
- Starts, Throttle Burst-Chop Transients.
- 4,000 LCF cycles
- 2,000 fuel nozzle staging cycles
- Full range ground operation 40 OPR engine



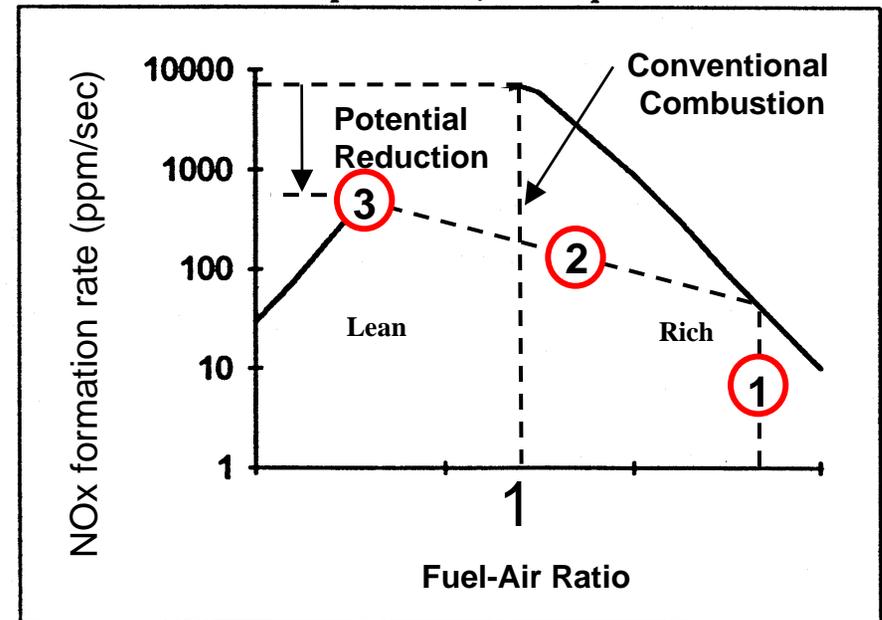
# Principles of RQL Combustion

## Principles

1. Fuel and small part of air react in rich stage. Mixture reconstituted to CO, H<sub>2</sub> and heat. Very low NO<sub>x</sub> formation rate due to low temperature and low concentrations of oxygen
2. Additional air rapidly added to produce lean mixture. Fast fuel-air mixing is critical to minimize NO<sub>x</sub> formation
3. Lean mixture reacts at reduced flame temp.

## Design challenges

- Avoiding front-end non-uniformities
- Reducing wall cooling
- Rapid quench mixing to minimize NO<sub>x</sub> production during mixing
- Balancing high/mid/low power emissions





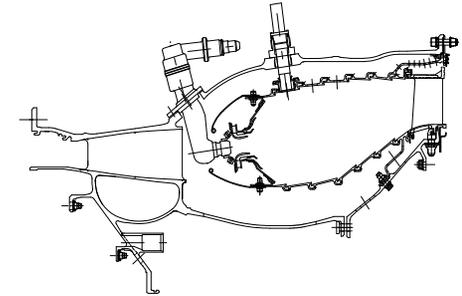
# Related Background on RQL Combustion

## Aviation Engines

- TALON (PW), Phase 5 (RR) and LEC (GE) combustors in all current products use RQL NOx reduction technology

## Advanced Research Programs

- Significant NOx reductions demonstrated in NASA HSR, AST and QEET Programs



GE "LEC" Combustor

### PW RQL Combustor Development (1997-2005)

#### TALON II Combustor (through 1/2006)

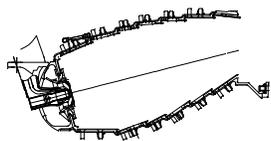
- PW4158 (EIS 2000), PW4168 (EIS 2001), PW6000 (EIS 2005)
- 856,378 hours / 286,111 cycles
- 1 unscheduled engine removals
- **No** in-flight shutdowns
- **No** delays and cancellations
- Further Reduced NOx

#### TALON I Combustor (retired)

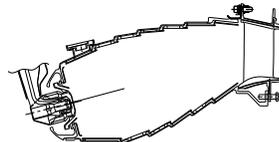
- PW4098 (EIS 1999)
- 145,435 hours / 37,761 cycles
- **No** unscheduled engine removals
- **No** in-flight shutdowns
- **No** delays and cancellations
- Reduced NOx

#### Conventional Combustor

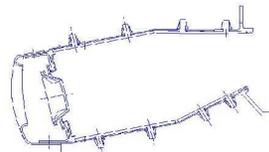
- PW4090 (EIS 1997)
- Baseline NOx



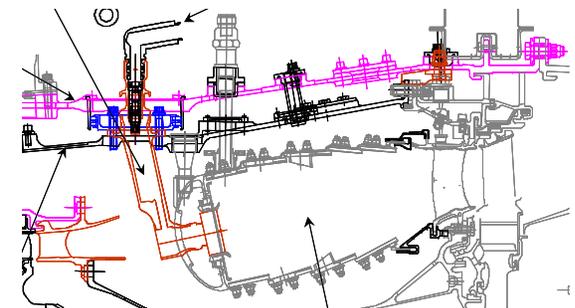
PW4090



PW4098 TALON I



PW6000 Talon II



RR "Tiled Phase 5" Combustor



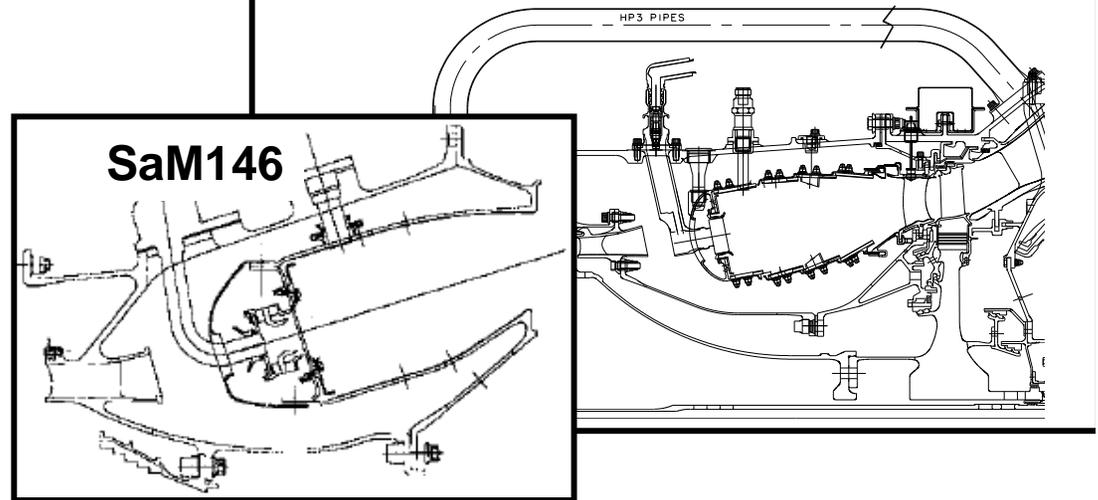
# Current RQL Combustor Development

Advanced Trent and SaM146 are expected to achieve significant margin to CAEP/6 in near-term

- Certification planned for 2008

## Trent 1000 Combustion System

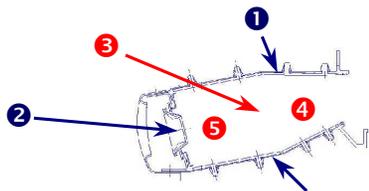
Derivative low emissions design based on previous Trent experience.



## TALON X NOx Reduction Methodologies

*Blue parent technologies TRL/6 or higher*

- **Advanced Impingement Film Floatwall**
  - Equiax cast Floatwall segments
  - In production
- **High Shear Fuel Injectors**
  - In production



Talon II cross-section

*Red technologies < TRL/5*

- **Local Residence Time Adjustments**
- **Quench (Lean) Zone Mixing Optimization**
  - Shaped / directed / tailored quench holes
  - NOx reduction via reduced mixing scale, elimination of high NOx formation (stoichiometric) zones
- **Rich Zone Uniformity**
  - Fuel injection quality / distribution
  - Smoke reduction via elimination of fuel-rich pockets
  - NOx reduction via stoichiometry uniformity

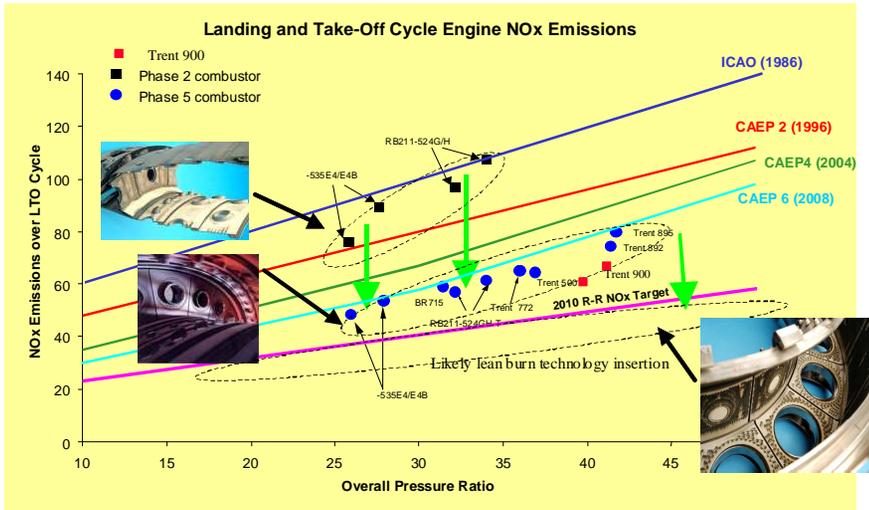
TALON X development aims for substantial NOx reduction in middle term:

- Annular rig test – 2006
- Engine test - 2006
- Potential EIS in 2012-2013



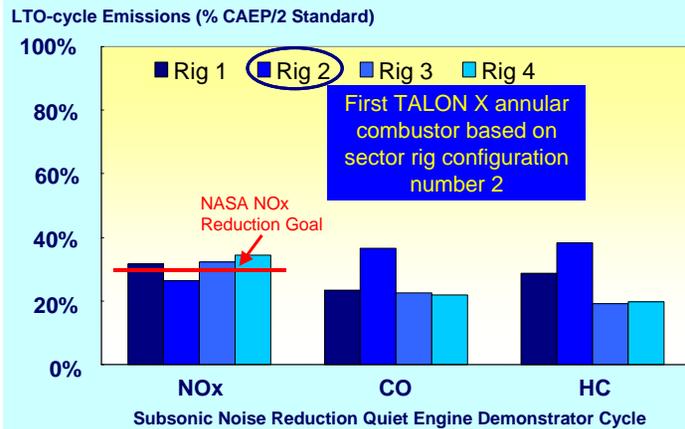
# Middle Term Technology Progress

## R-R Lean Burn Combustor Emissions Status

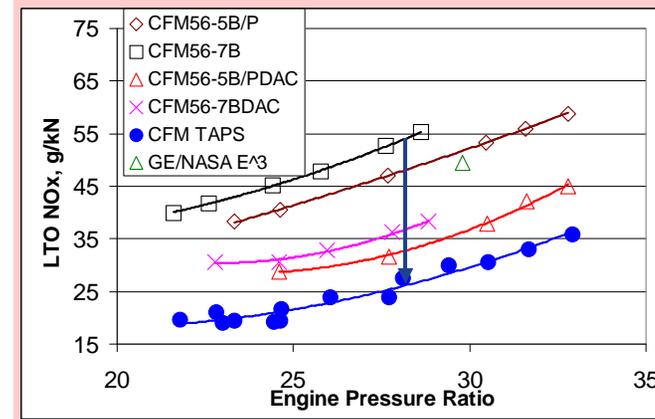


Prototype tests of revolutionary RQL and Lean Staged combustors show potential for considerable NOx reduction

## PW TALON X TRL-4 Sector Result Surpasses NOx Goal



## GE TAPS NOx



Based on LTTG review, current TRL is 5-6. Flight test data still needed to demonstrate airworthiness



# Engine and Combustor Design Tradeoffs

## **Emissions tradeoffs were considered at length during the LTTG review...**

### Engine Cycle Trades

- Continuing trend toward higher pressure ratio reduces CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, HC and enables noise reduction, but increases NOx.

### Combustor Trades

- Rich reaction zone reduces NOx formation but tends to increase soot
- Leaner reaction zone reduces NOx and soot formation, but tends to increase CO and HC. Also reduces combustion stability
- Reduced combustion chamber volume reduces NOx, but tends to increase CO and HC. Also tends to reduce altitude relight capability

**Scientific Advice is Needed to Properly Balance Tradeoffs**



# Overall Summary

- Recent engine certifications demonstrate continuous transition of technology to products – All meet CAEP/6 standards
- All manufacturers have R&D projects aimed at significant middle term NOx reductions with revolutionary RQL and/or Lean-Staged combustor concepts. All projects were considered in setting middle term goals
- Each combustor concept has inherent environmental tradeoffs – scientific understanding is key
- Timely transition of technology from R&D to product without loss of emissions performance will be challenging

Initial CAEP Goals are Consistent with Manufacturers' Aims...  
...Future Reviews Will Monitor Progress and Adjust Goals



# Questions?