

PROTIUM-1500 OC

FUEL CELL SYSTEM

USER GUIDE V1.0-1.6



SAFETY, HANDLING & SUPPORT

WARNING: Read all the safety information below before using PROTIUM-1500 OC. Failure to follow these safety instructions could result in fire, electric shock, or other injuries, or damage to PROTIUM-1500 OC Fuel Cell System (PROTIUM-1500 OC) or other property.

Handling Handle PROTIUM-1500 OC with care. It is made of thin sheet metal, graphite, and plastic and has sensitive electrochemical membrane and components inside. PROTIUM-1500 OC is not designed for extreme conditions, rough handling, vibration, shock or drop. Keep PROTIUM-1500 OC away from heat, flame, strong sunlight, water, dust, soil or mud. Do not use a damaged PROTIUM-1500 OC.

Repairing PROTIUM-1500 OC is assembled under high compression. Do not disassemble or tamper with PROTIUM-1500 OC. Do not troubleshoot, repair or replace any component by yourself.

Hydrogen Use only high purity (99.999%) dry Hydrogen gas with PROTIUM-1500 OC. Hydrogen is a colorless, odorless and highly flammable gas. It is non-toxic but can cause asphyxiation. Follow all local rules and regulations for safe handling, storage and usage of Hydrogen gas. Do not smoke when operating PROTIUM-1500 OC.

Ventilation Operate PROTIUM-1500 OC in a well ventilated environment. Fresh air intake for the fuel cell oxidant blower, cooling air entry from the front of the protective mask, and hot air exit from the cooling fans shall not be obstructed or restricted.

Purging PROTIUM-1500 OC periodically flushes its anode during operation, releasing Hydrogen gas and water from the Hydrogen gas outlet. Do not block the Hydrogen gas outlet. Do not bring flame or electric spark close to the Hydrogen gas outlet. It is advisable to attach a longer gas tubing to the Hydrogen gas outlet connector and safely guide the purge exhaust far away from the fuel cell.

CAUTION: Always put the Hydrogen gas outlet tubing behind the cooling fan and never in front of the fuel cell stack. Purged Hydrogen mixed with air intake into the fuel cell's cathode channels may cause fire and irreversible damage to the fuel cell.

Connectors, ports and buttons Never force a connector into a port or apply excessive pressure to a button. If the connector and port do not join with reasonable ease, they probably do not match. Check for obstructions and ensure that the connector matches the correct port.

Disposal and recycling As PROTIUM-1500 OC contains electronic components, it must be disposed of separately from household waste. When PROTIUM-1500 OC reaches its end of life, follow local laws and regulations for proper disposal and recycling options.

High-consequence activities PROTIUM-1500 OC is a customized system with pending safety tests and certifications. It is not intended for use where the failure of the system could lead to death, personal injury or severe environmental damage.

Disclaimer Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this manual is accurate. This manual serves to adequately recommend safe operating procedures, but shall not be treated as comprehensive. Do not use PROTIUM-1500 OC in any other way than the one recommended in this manual. Spectronik reserves the right to change system specifications, appearance or discontinue the product at any time.

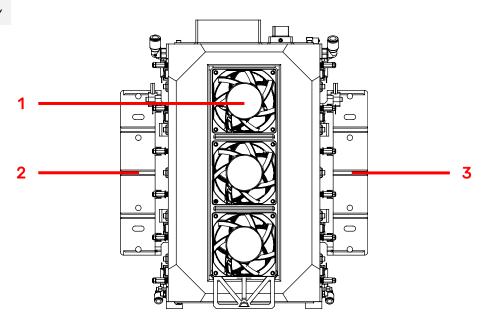
Warranty Spectronik warrants the included hardware product and accessories against defects in materials and workmanship for the first 30 days after delivery. Spectronik does not warrant against normal wear and tear, nor damage caused by accident or abuse.

To obtain service, contact hello@spectronik.com

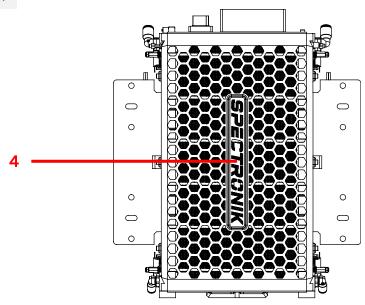
1 OVERVIEW

1.1 PROTIUM-1500 OC FUEL CELL

Back View



Front View

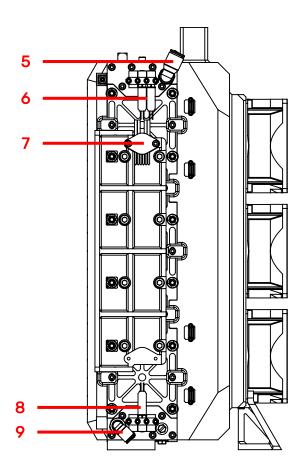


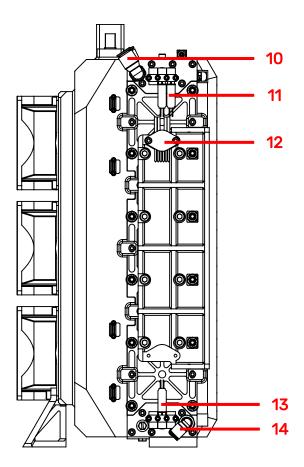
ITEM DESCRIPTION

- 1. Cooling fan (x6)
- 2. Mounting plate (right)

- 3. Mounting plate (left)
- 4. Protective mask

Right View Left View





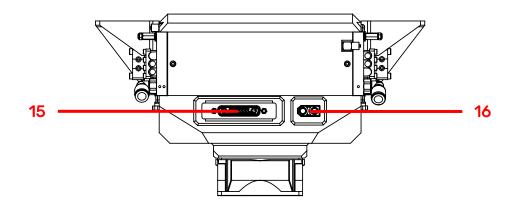
ITEM DESCRIPTION

- 5. H2 gas inlet connector (right)
- 6. H2 supply valves (right)
- 7. Gas pressure sensor 1
- 8. H2 purge valves (right)
- 9. H2 gas outlet connector (right)

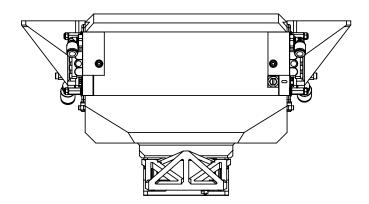
- 10. H2 gas inlet connector (left)
- 11. H2 supply valves (left)
- 12. Gas pressure sensor 2
- 13. H2 purge valves (left)
- 14. H2 gas outlet connector (left)

1.1 PROTIUM-1500 OC FUEL CELL

Top View



Bottom View



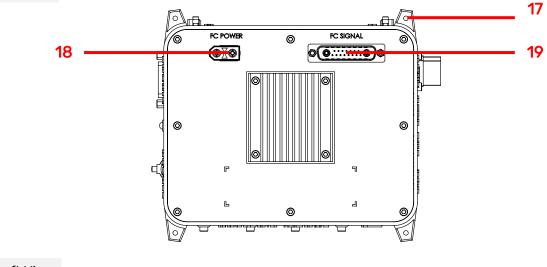
ITEM DESCRIPTION

15. Power/Signal receptacle

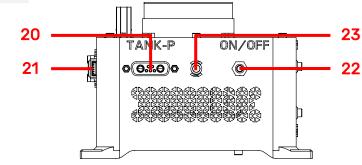
16. Stack power output (XT-90 female)

1.2 ELECTRONIC CONTROLLER

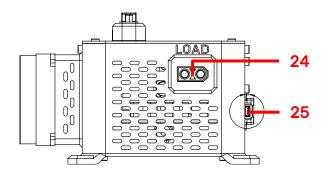
Top View



Left View



Right View



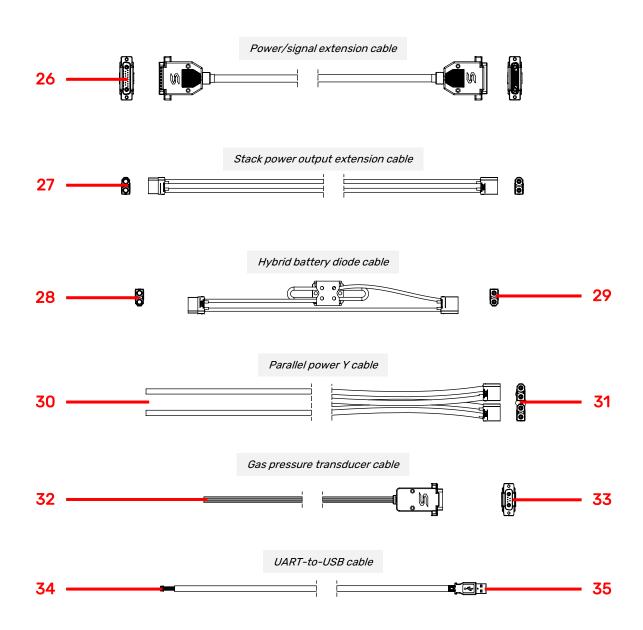
Mfr. Part No: 53047-0410 Designed for use with 51021-0400 Pin 1: +5Vin Pin 2: Ground Pin 3: TX Pin 4: RX

ITEM DESCRIPTION

- **17.** Mounting hole (x4)
- **18.** Stack power output (XT-90 male)
- 19. Power/Signal header
- 20. Gas pressure transducer receptacle*
- 21. Programming port (6-pin)

- 22. On/Off push button
- 23. Status LED
- 24. Load connector (XT-90 female)
- 25. Telemetry transmitter port (4-pin)
 - (Only used with purchase of Spectronik Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator)

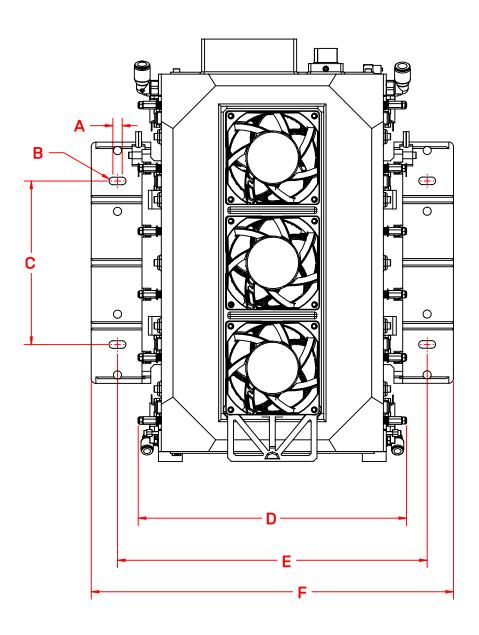
1.3 STANDARD ACCESSORIES



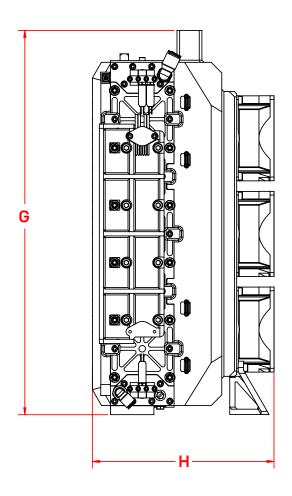
ITEM DESCRIPTION

- **26.** Power/Signal extension cable
- 27. Stack power output extension cable
- 28. Hybrid battery output (XT-90 female)
- 29. Hybrid battery input (XT-90 male)
- 30. Free-end wires for user's load

- **31.** Parallel power connectors (XT-90 male)
- 32. Gas pressure transducer signal wires*
- 33. Gas pressure transducer header*
- **34.** Molex connector to telemetry port
- 35. USB connector to PC
 - * (Only used with purchase of Spectronik Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator)

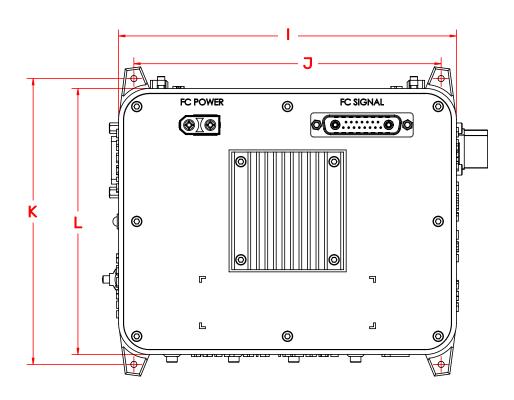


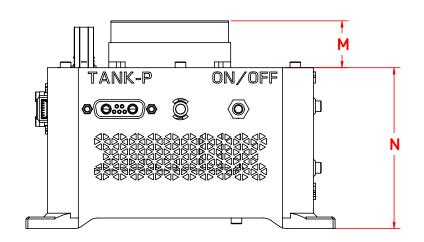
ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM			
Α	8.00	D	229.80
В	R3.25	E	265.20
С	140.00	F	310.20



ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM

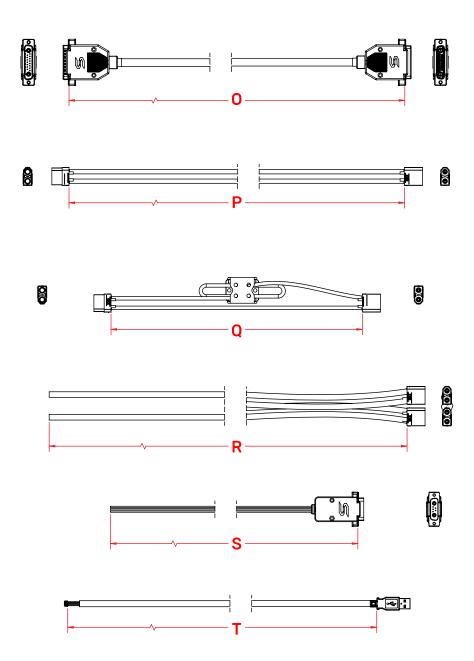
G 361.60 **H** 171.20



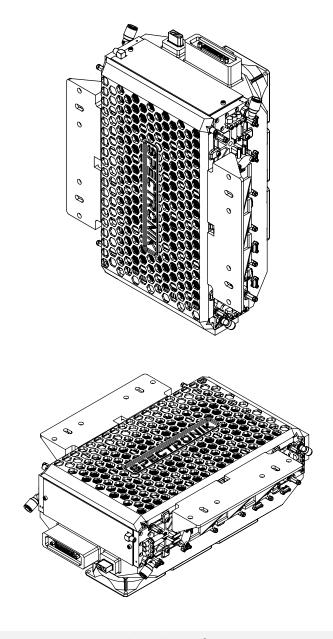


ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM			
I	174.80	L 137.80	
J	159.00	M 24.30	
K	148.00	N 83.50	

1.6 MECHANICAL DIMENSIONS - STANDARD ACCESSORIES



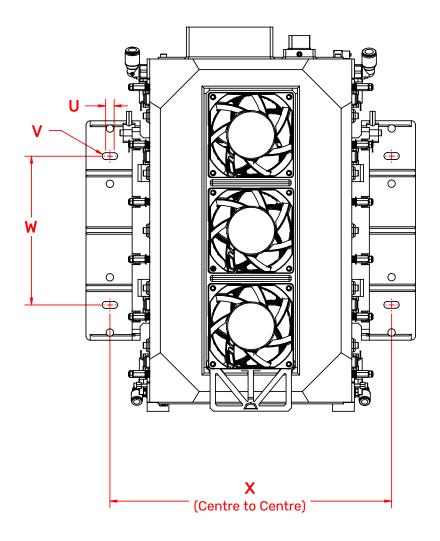
ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM			
0	1000.00	R	1000.00
Р	1000.00	S	500.00
Q	300.00	Т	1800.00



Recommended Orientations of PROTIUM-1500 OC

PROTIUM-1500 OC cannot be mounted in any orientation due to internal routings of the gas streams within the fuel cell stack. The stack should also be level to ensure water does not get trapped in the Cathode channels, obstructing the oxidant flow and causing potential performance drop and cell damage. Mount PROTIUM-1500 OC vertically upright with the protective mask facing you, or horizontally with the cooling fans blowing downwards.

For optimal oxidant and cooling airflows, it is also recommended that there is at least 15cm unobstructed clearance from the protective mask and oxidant air inlet, and 30cm unobstructed clearance from the cooling fans' outlet.



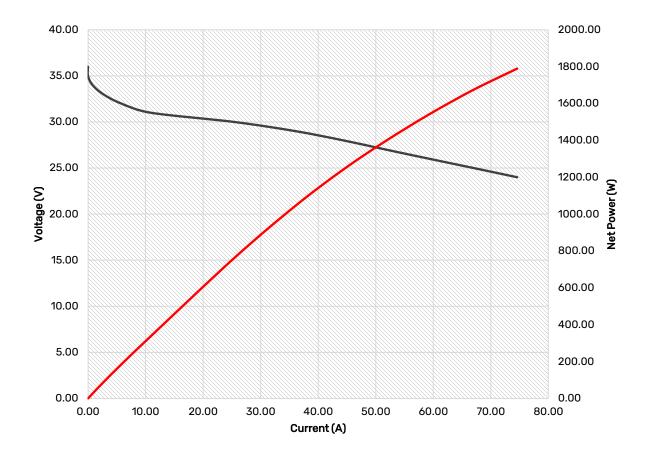
Dimensions of the mounting holes

ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM U 8.00 W 140.00 V R3.25 X 265.20

2.1 PROTIUM-1500 OC TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Fuel Cell	PROTIUM-1500 OC
Туре	PEM
No. of cells	40
Architecture	Open cathode
Coolant	Air cooled
Rated/gross power	1500/1800W
Rated/gross current	62.5/75A
Voltage output	24-36VDC
Start-up time	30s
Operating ambient temp.	[1,40]°C
Operating altitude without power derating	1500m AGL
System weight	5,200g
Max dimension	311 x 362 x 172mm
Fuel Supply	
Hydrogen gas	Dry, 99.999% purity
Delivery pressure	0.7bar (10 psig)
Fuel consumption @ rated power	19L/min
Gas tubing	PU, 8 x 5.5 (Gas supply inlets) PU, 6 x 4 (Gas purge outlets)
Supply & purge control	Solenoid valves with integrated pressure sensor
Stack leakage checks	Automated via integrated pressure sensors
Electronic Controller	
Processor board	WELTER V1.6
Weight (including casing)	970g
Output connector	XT-90 female (DC unregulated voltage)
Warning & protections	Low voltage, high/low temperature, high/low pressure, low battery, stack leakage
Communication	UART (USB cable for PC connectivity provided)
Data acquisition (DAQ) software GUI	PC app
Remote control	Fan speed, manual purge, remote on-off

2.2 VI CURVE



Nominal polarization curve for a fully conditioned PROTIUM-1500 OC at its Beginning-of-Life (BOL).

TEST CONDITIONS

• Ambient temperature: 24°C • Relative humidity: 60%

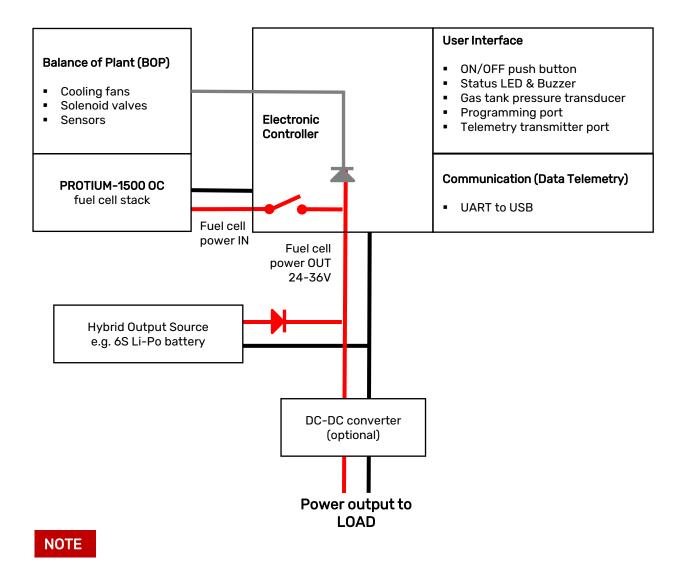
• H₂ supply pressure: 10psig

Dead-ended operation

• Balance-of-plant (BOP) powered by fuel cell

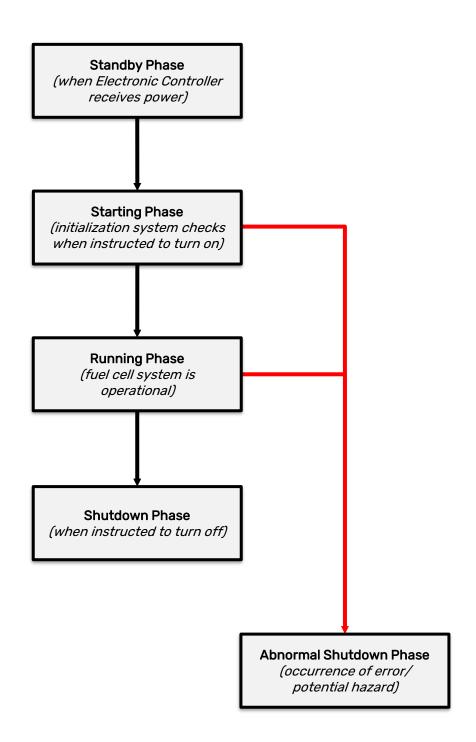
• T_{cell} at 1500W: 55°C

2.3 SYSTEM BLOCK DIAGRAM



- 1. A Hybrid Output Source is mandatory. We recommend 6S Lithium-Polymer (Li-Po) battery with at least a capacity of 5000mAh and 30C discharge rate.
- 2. The Hybrid Output Source serves several functions:
- To provide external power supply to the Electronic Controller during start-up.
- To provide external power supply to the Electronic Controller, fuel cell's balance-of-plant (BOP) and LOAD when the fuel cell stack carries out Current Pulsing*.
- To provide additional power output to the LOAD in a hybrid parallel configuration with the fuel cell stack output.

^{*}The fuel cell stack performs periodic Current Pulsing (once every 15-30s, for a duration of around 100ms) to rejuvenate its cell hydration and maintain optimal performance. During Current pulsing, power output from fuel cell stack to LOAD is momentarily cutoff for safety.



3 OPERATING PROCEDURES

3.1 SETTING UP PROTIUM-1500 OC

- 1. Mount PROTIUM-1500 OC securely in the recommended orientation. Ensure that there is nothing blocking the oxidant/cooling air inlet in front of the *protective mask (4)*, and sufficient unobstructed clearance from the *cooling fan (1)* outlets.
- 2. There are two Hydrogen gas purge tubing left and right of the fuel cell stack. Ensure that they are securely connected to the *H2 gas outlet connectors* (9) and (14). Caution: channel the purge tubing far away from the oxidant/cooling air inlet in front of the protective mask.
- 3. Connect PROTIUM-1500 OC to the Electronic Controller using the *Power/Signal extension cable (26) and Stack power output extension cable (27)*. For avoidance of doubt, fuel cell's *Power/Signal receptacle (15)* is to be connected to the Electronic Controller's *Power/Signal header (19)*, while fuel cell's *Stack power output (16)* is to be connected to the Electronic Controler's *Stack power output (18)*.
- 4. Prepare the Hybrid Output Source. We recommend 6S Li-Po battery with at least 5000mAh and 30C discharge rate. Connect your battery to the *Hybrid battery diode cable (29)*. The diode is to prevent the fuel cell from charging the battery.
- 5. The Hybrid battery and fuel cell are joined together in a parallel configuration using the *Parallel power Y cable*. Connect one of the *parallel power connectors (31)* to the *Hybrid battery output (28)* and another one to the *Electronic Controller's Load connector (24)*.
- 6. Connect the *Free-end wires (30)* of the Parallel power Y cable to your load. If everything is done correctly, you should see the Hybrid battery's voltage at your load. *Tip: check that the polarity is correct. It is also advisable to put an ON/OFF switch at your load and ensure that it is turned OFF at this time.*
- 7. PROTIUM-1500 OC has two *H2 gas inlet connectors* (5 and 10). Connect your Hydrogen gas supply to both inlets. Make sure that your Hydrogen gas supply is OFF at this stage. *Caution:* ensure that the gas is regulated to 0.5-0.7bar gauge.

Reminder: ensure that all gas tubing and electrical wire connections are firm and secure.

The setup is now completed and PROTIUM-1500 OC is ready to be turned on.

3.2 TURNING ON PROTIUM-1500 OC

- Connect the Molex connector (34) to the Telemetry transmitter port (25), and the USB connector (35) to a PC. Launch the Spectronik Data Acquisition Graphic User Interface (DAQ GUI) software. Choose the Com Port, set the Baud Rate (57600) and click the S logo. Tip: the latest DAQ GUI software and user manual can be downloaded from the PROTIUM-1500 OC product webpage.
- 2. A welcome message should appear in the GUI. Status LED (23) will blink at 10%. Once the Electronic Controller receives power, it will enter Standby Phase, awaiting instruction to initiate.
- 3. Click START. Alternatively, press and hold the *On/Off push button (22)* for more than 2s. PROTIUM-1500 OC will enter its **Starting Phase** and the message "Low H2 supply" should appear.
- 4. Turn on your H2 gas supply. *Caution:* ensure that the gas pressure is regulated to 0.5-0.7bar gauge. Insufficient delivery pressure may cause cell flooding and drop in performance, while excessive pressure may rupture the fuel cell membrane, causing dangerous gas leakage and irreversible cell damage. Ensure that your pressure regulator can provide Hydrogen gas flow rate of more than 19L/min at ≥0.5barg output pressure.
- 5. PROTIUM-1500 OC will do a series of gas purging and internal diagnostic checks. The cooling fans will turn on. If everything is normal, the system will enter its **Running Phase** indicated by the message in the GUI and a solid white *Status LED*. All system parameter values can now be seen in the GUI. If there is something wrong, the *Status LED* will flash and error message will appear in the GUI. Follow the basic troubleshooting guide in section 4.

PROTIUM-1500 OC is now ready to power your application.

NOTES

- Download the DAQ GUI PC app from PROTIUM-1500 OC product webpage and install it on your PC. Follow the instructions in its user manual. If you do not wish to use the DAQ GUI, you can turn on/off PROTIUM-1500 OC by using the physical *On-off push button*. However, you will not be able to monitor the performance nor access some functions.
- Tip: A good practice is to prepare a gas pressure regulator that can supply 2x PROTIUM-1500 OC's maximum Hydrogen consumption, i.e. around 40L/min at ≥0.5barg.
- Spectronik recommend the <u>Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator</u> which is designed to be compatible with PROTIUM-1500 OC.

3.3 POWERING YOUR LOAD WITH PROTIUM-1500 OC

- 1. Turn ON your load and draw power as per normal. *Caution:* never pull the fuel cell voltage below 24V or draw power beyond 1500W.
- 2. During Running Phase, the following live status of the fuel cell can be monitored from the GUI.

Parameters	Description
FC_V	FC voltage (V)
FC_A	FC current (A)
FC_W	FC power (W)
ENERGY	Energy delivered by the fuel cell during this operation (Wh)
FCT1	FC temperature at location 1 (°C)
FCT2	FC temperature at location 2 (°C)
FAN	Cooling fan duty cycle (%)
H2P1	H ₂ supply pressure (Barg)
H2P2	H ₂ pressure in FC (Barg)
Tank-P*	Gas tank pressure (Barg)
AuxV	Hybrid Output Source/Li-Po battery voltage (V)

^{*} only with purchase of Spectronik Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator.

- 3. During **Running Phase**, you may manually control PROTIUM-1500 OC by clicking commands in the GUI such as Purge and increasing/decreasing the cooling fan speed. *Caution:* manual control is recommended for advanced users only. For optimal performance, remember to reset to AUTO controls.
- 4. During operation, it is normal to see water coming out of the purge tubing. Ensure that water does not drip to any electrical components. *Caution:* there might be unreacted Hydrogen gas coming out of the purge tubing. Keep away from fire and electric spark. Ensure sufficient ventilation.

3.4 SHUTTING DOWN PROTIUM-1500 OC

- 1. Turn OFF your load. The cooling fans will turn faster to cool down the fuel cell, before returning to their minimum speed.
- In the GUI, click END. Alternatively, press and hold the On/Off push button for more than 2s.
 The message "Shutdown Initiated" will appear in the GUI and PROTIUM-1500 OC will enter its
 Shutdown Phase by carrying out a series of shutdown procedures such as turning off the gas
 supply valves and cooling fans.
- 3. The message "System OFF" will appear in the GUI. PROTIUM-1500 OC is now turned off. *Status LED* will blink at 60% on standby awaiting the next start-up command.
- 4. If you do not intend to restart the system soon, turn OFF your Hydrogen gas supply and remove the Hydrogen gas tubing from the *H2 gas inlet connectors*. *Caution*: some remaining gas in the tubing will be released into the atmosphere.
- 5. Remove the Hybrid Output Source. All the cables can now be disconnected.

PROTIUM-1500 OC is now ready to be kept for storage.

4.1 MANUALLY CONTROLLING THE PROTIUM-1500 OC

The PROTIUM-1500 OC comes with in-built firmware control that is optimized to bring out its best performance over the applicable ambient environment range. In normal use-case scenario, there is no need for user to fine-tune the parameters. For advanced user who wishes to control the fuel cell manually, the following commands can be entered via the GUI's keyboard function:

Command	PROTIUM-1500 OC action
start <enter></enter>	Starts the system
end <enter></enter>	Enters normal shutdown phase
ver <enter></enter>	Displays the firmware version
f <enter></enter>	Return to automatic cooling fan control
p <enter></enter>	Open the Hydrogen purge valve for 2s. This is useful to remove excess water if cell flooding is suspected due to decreasing power output.
= (equal)	Increase cooling fan speed by 5% (manual control)
- (hyphen)	Decrease cooling fan speed by 5% (manual control)
0	Increase cooling fan speed by 1% (manual control)
9	Decrease cooling fan speed by 1% (manual control)

Tip: you may also long press the *ON/OFF push button* by >2s to turn ON/OFF the system instead of entering "start" and "end" command via the GUI.

4.2 SYSTEM WARNING & PROTECTIONS

PROTIUM-1500 OC has several in-built protections. The LED will flash and error message will appear in the GUI. Follow the basic troubleshooting guide below. Most errors should be rectified once the suggested corrective action has been done and the system restarted.

If the error persists, contact hello@spectronik.com.

4.3 SYSTEM WARNING & PROTECTIONS - STARTING PHASE

Warning messages during Starting Phase:

Message	Meaning/ Corrective Action	
Gas Tank Not Detected *	Either the gas tank communication cable is not connected or the tank is empty.	
Gas Tank Pressure Low *	There is less than 20 Bar remaining in the gas tank.	
Gas Tank Insufficient Pressure *◉	There is not enough pressure in the gas tank to start.	
Low H2 Supply	Hydrogen supply pressure is low and the system will wait up to 1min for correction. Please check and correct the delivery pressure.	
Error: Low H2 Supply ●	Hydrogen is not correctly supplied within the stipulated time limit. Check and ensure sufficient Hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure. Restart the system.	
Over Pressure	Hydrogen supply pressure is too high and the system will wait for 1min. Reduce the delivery pressure.	
Error: Over Pressure ●	Hydrogen is not properly supplied within the stipulated time limit. Check and ensure sufficient Hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure. Restart the system.	
High Temperature	Stack temperature is too high and the system will wait for 1min.	
Error: High Temperature	Disconnect everything and wait for system to cool down and restart after 10min. If the problem persists, internal temperature sensor might have been compromised. Contact Spectronik.	
Error: FC Over Cooled ●	Stack temperature is too low. Wait for ambient temperature to increase and restart the system.	
FC Sealing Compromised	Possible stack leakage. Check and ensure all gas tubing and connectors are securely connected.	
Error: Low Voltage ⊚	Stack open circuit voltage is too low. Check and ensure sufficient hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure. Restart after 1 min.	
Purge Valve Error ●	The Purge Valves might not be activating. If the environment is cold, try heating it up.	
Supply Valve Error ®	The Supply Valves might not be activating. If the environment is cold, try heating it up.	
Gas Tank Outlet is Leaking *●	There has been an unwarranted pressure drop between Gas Tank and Supply Valves. Please verify gas line connections.	
Aux V supply, incorrect Voltage ●	Check that the correct Li-Po (6S) is connected, and that it is sufficiently charged. The voltage must be between 23.2V-25.8V.	
* with purchase of Spectronik Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator		

4.4 SYSTEM WARNING & PROTECTIONS - RUNNING PHASE

Warning messages during Running Phase:

Message	Meaning/ Corrective Action	
High Temperature ●	Stack temperature is too high. The fuel cell power output to load will be temporarily disconnected for 5s for system to recover. LED will blink. Reduce your load.	
Error: High Temperature ●	Stack temperature is too high. Disconnect everything and wait for system to cool down and restart after 10min. If the problem persists, internal temperature sensor might have been compromised. Contact Spectronik.	
Low Temperature ●	Stack temperature is low. LED will blink.	
Error: FC Over Cooled	Stack temperature is too low for operation.	
Low Voltage ●	Stack Voltage at minimum threshold of 0.6V/cell.	
Error: Low Voltage ●	Stack Voltage below safety threshold limit.	
Low H2 Supply ●	Hydrogen supply pressure is low and the fuel cell power output to load will be temporarily disconnected. LED will blink. Check and ensure sufficient Hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure.	
Error: Low H2 Supply ●	Hydrogen supply pressure is too low. Check and ensure sufficient Hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure. Restart the system.	
High H2 Supply Pressure ●	Hydrogen supply pressure is too high and the supply valve will be temporarily shut off. Reduce the delivery pressure.	
Error: High H2 Supply Pressure ●	Hydrogen supply pressure is too high. Check and ensure sufficient Hydrogen supply and correct delivery pressure. Restart the system.	
External Batt/ Power Supply Low •	The Hybrid Li-Po battery voltage is low. Prepare to end the operation.	
Gas Tank Running Low *●	The pressure in the gas tank is below 20 Bar.	
Gas Tank Depleting *●	The pressure in the gas tank is below 10 Bar.	
• Status LED flashing at 80% to alert warning during Running Phase		
* with purchase of Spectronik Miniature Gas Pressure Regulator		

4.5 SYSTEM WARNING & PROTECTIONS - LED STATUS & OTHER MESSAGES

LED Status:

Phase	Blink % (at 1Hz)	Meaning
Power ON/ Standby Phase	10%	5s after start-up power is provided into the Electronic Controller, LED will blink at 10%, indicating that the system is ready to receive its "start" command
Starting Phase	40%	Executing Starting Phase procedures
Running Phase	100%	System in normal Running Phase
Running Phase	80%	System warning during Running Phase
After shutdown	60%	System off due to normal shutdown and on standby for the next "start" command
Abnormal Shutdown Phase	0%	System off due to abnormal shutdown

Other messages:

Message	Meaning
Fan PWM auto	Cooling fans control is in auto mode
Fan PWM manual	User has manually changed the fan setting
Mileage	Cumulative Watt-Hour of the system
Shutdown Initiated	Entering normal Shutdown Phase
Abnormal Shutdown Initiated	Entering Abnormal Shutdown Phase due to an error
System off	System is turned off and ready to restart at the next command

5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

5.1 MAINTENANCE FOR PROTIUM-1500 OC

When not in use, Spectronik recommends that PROTIUM-1500 OC is reconditioned at least once a month.

- 1. Set up PROTIUM-1500 OC as per instructions in Section 3, using a DC electronic load in lieu of your regular load.
- 2. After the system enters "Running Phase", set constant voltage (CV) load of 24V and run the system for 1h. The fuel cell should recover to its maximum rated power output.

PROTIUM-1500 OC is now ready for usual operation or can be stored again for future use.

5.2 STORAGE

Keep PROTIUM-1500 OC in an open, cool (standard room temperature of 25°C) and dry place.