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Autothermal Reforming of Methane to Hydrogen in a Stand-alone Reformer

<u>구정분</u>, 권현지, 김영애, 곽인섭, 신장식* RTI엔지니어링 (jangsiks@rtieng.com*)

Autothermal reforming includes the exothermic partial oxidation and the endothermic steam reforming under thermally neutral conditions. In this work, stand-alone autothermal reformer that is developed as 1kWe scale consists of two distinct zones; a start-up zone and an autothermal reforming zone. In the start-up zone, electrically heated converter(EHC) with partial oxidation catalyst-coated metal monolith helps in heating up the temperature above 700° C within two minutes. Accordingly, the autothermal reforming zone has a temperature between 550°C and 650°C. Autothermal reforming of methane is carried out at S/C ratio 1~2, O/C ratio 0.4~0.6,

and GHSV 10,000~20,000hr-1. Under this condition, methane conversion of 91.6%, hydrogen yield of 74.2% on dry basis can be achieved and 1 mol of methane can produce 2.7 mol hydrogen at equilibrium reformer temperature of around 600° C.