



FIVES NORTH AMERICAN COMBUSTION, INC.

North American CertiFire[™]

Automatic Combustion System Tuning for Furnace Uniformity Surveys

AISTech 2022 Ben Witoff, Justin Dzik, Tom Robertson



FIVES NORTH AMERICAN COMBUSTION

Company Overview



North American Combustion, Inc.

— Company Overview





Largest Combustion Catalog in the world

Strong Technical Knowledge

- R&D Team and Facility
- Engineering team consisting of Combustion Physicists, Mechanical Engineers, Chemical Engineers
- Service Team with on average over 15 years of experience in Thermal Processes
- ✓ 400,000 sqft facility
- ✓ National and International Sales offices
- ✓ Largest Combustion Lab in the industry







North American Construction, Inc.

— Company Overview





Integrated Single Source Provider

Life Cycle Support

Complete furnace rebuilds including demolition and replacement Refractory, structural and mechanical maintenance Combustion tuning Preventative Maintenance Schedules Thermal Imagine

Large In House Manufacturing and Equipment Assembly

- ✓ Construction and Field Erection
- Offices in IN and NC to be close to customers
- In house Engineering and Design for furnaces
- ✓ Turn Key Solutions for new and brown field plants





CertiFire[™] - AISTech 2022

Forging & Heat Treat



Forging & Heat Treat

- Proven track record of providing engineered solutions to the industry
- Wide range of burner and control technologies
 - Tempest® DMC Ultra Low NOx High Velocity
 - TwinBed™ II Regenerative System
- Industry best temperature uniformity
- Systems capable of Class I (+/-5°F) uniformity

Car Bottom and Moveable Hood Furnaces

- Fully engineered Design & Build Solutions
- Wide variety of offerings for heat treat and forging solutions
- Furnace can be fully assembled and tested at NACS facility, limiting on site assembly, installation and testing period

Tempest Fired Carbottom Tip Up Furnace



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TUS

Combustion system tuning and temperature uniformity surveys



PROCESS TECHNOLOGIES



Basic Furnace Geometry

- Center the work zone away from the walls and off the hearth with piers
- Burners fired high and low in opposite directions to circulate products of combustion
- Gap between piers allow gases to circulate
- Thermocouples placed in the corners and center of the work zone







Simple Burner Control

- High velocity nozzle-mix Tempest[®] burners
- Air/gas ratio regulator with vent cross-connected to main air line
- Coarse (zone) control with main air valve
- Fine (individual) control by manually adjusting the regulator's spring bias





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The Problem with Manual Tuning

- Coarse (main air valve) and fine (per-burner bleed valve) tuning is now in the PLC
- Technician tuning is still done manually
- Furnaces are multi-variable, nonlinear systems
- Tuning is a brute-force, recursive process





NORTH **AMERICAN** CERTIFIRE[™]

Automatic Combustion System **Tuning for Furnace Uniformity** Surveys

PROCESS



North American CertiFire[™] - Technology Overview

Patented Solution Algorithm

- Training the Furnace to Create the Model
 - ➤ The CertiFire[™] communicates with the PLC and modulates each burner in a controlled way, depending on the survey temperature and certification class.
 - The temperature response from each modulation is coded into a response matrix
- Using the Model to Tune to Convergence
 - > Use the **response matrix** created during the training phase
 - Tune the furnace by continuously solving a system of linear equations
 - Dampen the solution to slow the convergence approach to account for errors

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta t_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta t_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{11} & \cdots & k_{1r} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ k_{q1} & \cdots & k_{qr} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta u_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta u_r \end{bmatrix}$$



Burner	TC-1	TC-2	TC-3	TC-4	TC-5	TC-6	TC-7	TC-8	TC-9
1	0.55	0.21	1.00	0.24	0.81	0.92	0.25	0.61	0.18
2	0.20	0.56	0.25	1.00	0.80	0.26	0.91	0.17	0.60
3	0.75	0.10	0.68	0.35	0.61	0.74	0.49	1.00	0.11
4	0.43	0.35	0.82	0.82	1.00	0.95	0.96	0.39	0.41
5	0.10	0.74	0.34	0.69	0.62	0.49	0.73	0.12	1.00



North American CertiFire[™] - Technology Overview



Training Modulation

- Each burner modulation produces a unique temperature response
- Burners B6 and B7 shown on the right created measurably different thermocouple responses
- Thermocouple TC5 reacts significantly stronger to B6 than to B7
- Response matrix created on nine (9) burner furnace in under four (4) hours



Burner Bleed Valve Modulations





North American CertiFire[™] - Technology Overview







Tuning Results

- Tuning modulations started halfway through the graphs shown on the right
- Initial furnace temperature span of 28 °F \geq
- Temperature disparity reduced to a span of 9°F \geq in first thirty minutes
- Temperature disparity reduced to a span of 3 °F in a total of forty minutes
- \succ Furnace was trained and tuned in under six (6) hours
- Furnace certification class improved from AMS2750 Class 4 to Class 1

CertiFire[™] - AISTech 2022

North American CertiFire[™] - Furnace Test Data



CertiFire™ - AISTech 2022

PROCESS TECHNOLOGIES

North American CertiFire™ - Onsite Experience





CertiFire[™] TUS Solution

- Plug-and-play automation
 - > Shipped with your furnace pre-configured
- Independent of furnace geometry, combustion system, burner size, and burner type
- Potential to reduce survey time 10x
- Certify to tighter temperature tolerances
 - > Upgrade older hardware
 - > Upgrade your certification class
- "Smart" component provides tuning insights
 - > Predict failures, plot degradation, avoid outages

North American CertiFire[™] - Future of Forging



Evolution of Industry 4.0

- Data is becoming invaluable
- Push for greater insights into our technology
- Remote monitoring is now a necessity
- Certification standards will follow the technology innovations





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