

DESIGN AND HIGH POWER PROCESSING OF RFQ INPUT POWER COUPLERS*

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Abstract

A RF power coupling system has been developed for future upgrade of input coupling of the RFQ in the SNS linac. The design employs two coaxial loop couplers for 402.5 MHz operation. Each loop is fed through a coaxial ceramic window that is connected to an output of a magic-T waveguide hybrid through a coaxial to waveguide transition. The coaxial loop couplers are designed, manufactured, and high power processed. Two couplers will be used in parallel to power the accelerating structure with up to total 800 kW peak power at 6% duty cycle. RF and mechanical properties of the couplers are discussed. Result of high power RF conditioning that is performed in the RF test facility of the SNS is presented.

INTRODUCTION

Various RF coupling methods were used on RFQ structures [1][2]. A coaxial power coupling system for 402.5 MHz RFQ has been developed at SNS for full power operation in the future. The new coupling system developed and shown in this paper employs two loop couplers through a hybrid power splitter to feed the structure in parallel. Figure 1 shows the connection using a waveguide magic-T to deliver equal power to the loops with good isolation between the ports. The coaxial alumina ceramic window employed in this design is identical to the 81 coupler windows presently being used on the SNS SRF cavities operating at 805 MHz. [3][4]. The SRF couplers with electrically coupling antenna were successfully conditioned and tested for forward power of 650 kW peak, 8% duty cycle at 805 MHz. Operation of linac with the windows has shown excellent RF power handling capability and mechanical reliability.

The plan was to use the existing RFQ accelerating structure with no modification; the same coupler end dimensions of the coupler are needed. Using coaxial ceramic windows with a 10 cm diameter that is much greater than the 4 cm coupling port diameter requires a tapered coaxial transmission line section in the vacuum side of the coupler assembly. The RFQ in the SNS linac operates at 402.5 MHz with about 700 kW peak, 6% duty cycle pulsed RF power. Each coupler needs to be conditioned to about 400 kW. Modification of the inner and outer conductors was needed for impedance matching between the ceramic window and the loop. In the following, design, manufacturing, and RF power testing of the couplers are described.

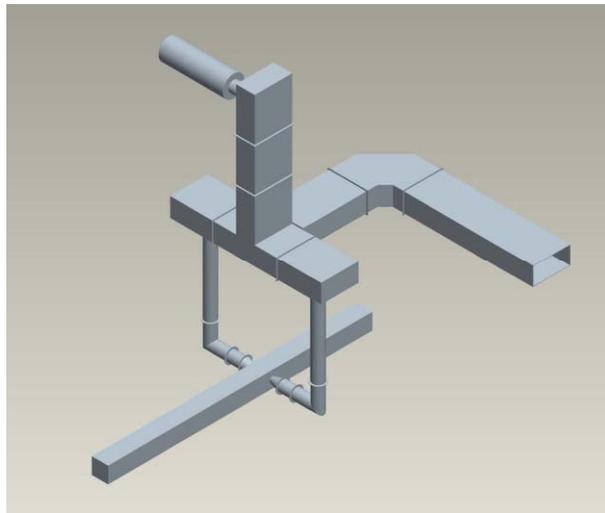


Figure 1: RF power coupling with two coaxial loop couplers to an RFQ structure. Magic-T waveguide power splitter is used to have isolation between the two ports.

DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING

Simulation and preliminary measurements showed that the window design can work well at around 400 MHz. Computer simulation was made to evaluate designs for the coupler consists of ceramic window, tapered transition, and coupling loop that resulted return loss > 30 dB and insertion loss < 0.05 dB at 402.5 MHz. The RF heating on the center conductor was estimated to be 0.37 W for 1kW average input power. Outside conductor that is dissipating only 0.15 W for 1kW average input power requires light cooling since the outer conductor is connected to the temperature controlled cavity body. The complete processing setup was also simulated with two couplers on a bridge waveguide.

Figure 2 shows the design of the coupler assembly. The center conductor of the loop antenna is built as a single piece with the center conductor of the ceramic window. A small water cooled copper piece connects the center conductor and the outer conductor at the end of the reduced diameter coaxial section to form a complete loop antenna. The loop carries an 1/8" cooling tube circuit that provides a flow of water at 1gpm through the outer conductor to cool the center conductor.

Two vacuum ports with 2-3/4" flanges placed directly in front of the ceramic window on the vacuum-side have RF shielding with axial slots on the outer conductor of the coaxial transmission line.

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Figure 6 shows the setup for RF processing in the RF test facility with complete vacuum circuit. Waveguide to coaxial transitions are used to connect to the klystron at the input and the water load at the output.



Figure 6: Couplers are mounted on the bridge waveguide for RF processing.

The bridge waveguide has an additional tuning mechanism that can deliver ± 3 MHz tuning range. Initially, the resonant frequency was higher but the frequency was brought down to the right frequency by adjusting the gap between the bridge and the waveguide bottom along with the vacuum pumping that added even more shift in the frequency.

Figure 7 shows the power deposited to the couplers during the high power conditioning. RF processing was done with a short pulse (~ 0.1 msec) at 10 PPS to reach 400 kW, the intended maximum power, and then the pulse width and the repetition rate were slowly increased to 1.0 msec and 60 PPS, respectively. When the full processing level was reached with constant power, the power was cycled between near zero and the peak power [4].

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The goal of this work was to construct an RF coupling system that is simpler and more robust for full beam power operation than the existing RFQ accelerating structure. Higher power rated couplers with proven electrical and mechanical reliability can improve system availability. Moving the couplers further down-stream and with a better vacuum system can improve the cavity vacuum and protection of the coupler windows. High power RF processing of the system has been performed successfully in the RF test facility at the SNS using 2.5 MW, 402.5 MHz klystron system that can run up to 8% duty cycle.

Each coupler needs to over-couple the bridge waveguide when two couplers are used in series. Vacuum and the electron current were monitored while the vacuum was directly used for inhibiting the RF power input to the klystron as an interlock. An arc detector and an electron probe were used near the window to monitor the vacuum activity and to interlock the RF with vacuum pressure to protect the ceramic window.

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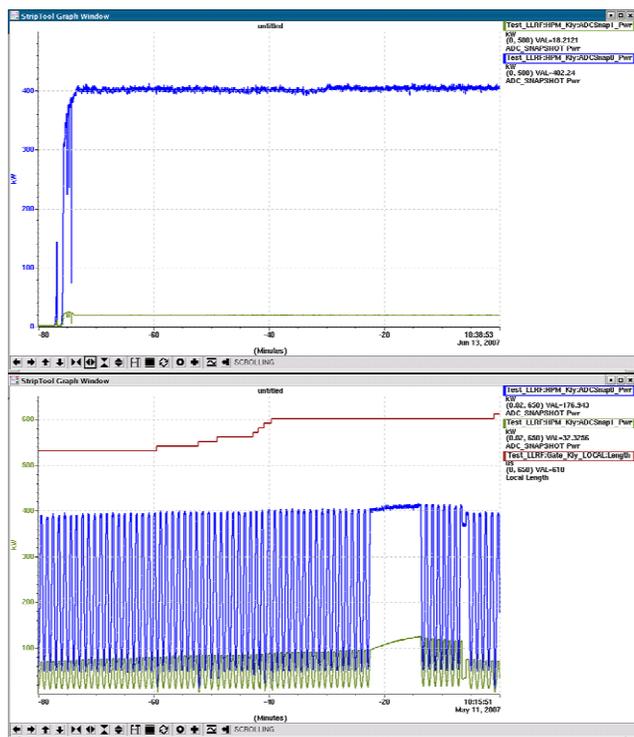


Figure 7: RF power deposited to the couplers during RF conditioning.