

HIGH POWER ELECTRON ACCELERATOR PROTOTYPE *

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Abstract

The report describes a project of industrial electron accelerator prototype for electron energy up to 5 MeV and beam power up to 300 kW specially designed for use in industrial applications. On the one of stage of work for design of its accelerating system we shall use the existing generator designed for ILU-8 accelerator. It is realized on the GI-50A triode and provides the pulse power up to 3 MW and up to 20-30 kW of average power. In the report the basic concepts and a condition of the project for today are reflected.

INTRODUCTION

Currently some interest has been aroused in X-ray radiation technologies because of the high penetration ability of X-rays. This is of particular importance for pasteurization of wide spectrum of food products, disinfection of mail deliveries, and some other applications.

Since 1970, Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics SB RAS has been developing and manufacturing the ILU-type electron accelerators for the work in the research and industrial radiation-technological installations. Experience of development and maintenance of ILU accelerators has shown, that the single resonator systems with one accelerating gap can be effectively used for industrial accelerators with energies up to 5 MeV and average beam power up to 50 - 60 kW [1,2,3]. The increase of the electron efficiency of the accelerator evidently requires the use of systems with some accelerating gaps connected in series.

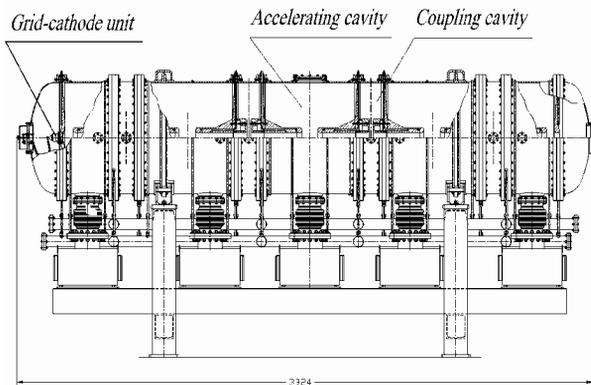


Figure 1: General view of accelerating structure.

New industrial accelerator with electron energy up to 5 MeV, and average beam power of up to 300 kW, and duty factor of 14 %, was designed basing on experience of work with the ILU accelerators [1,2,3].

The design of its accelerating system is shown in Fig.1. The accelerating structure consists of five modules and forms three complete accelerating cells, two accelerating half-cells and four coupling cells. The structure are made of oxygen-free copper (Fig.2). Pulse power supply and control system, standard for all ILU accelerators, are used for developing this model also. The new machine is relatively simple in its production and adjustment.



Figure 2: Disk of accelerating structure during manufacturing.

The electrons are accelerated in the low frequency multi-resonator standing wave structure with on-axis coupling resonators. This design makes it possible to decrease power losses in each resonator comparing with the single-resonator accelerator (at the same average beam power level) and to obtain the electron efficiency of the accelerator about 70%.

The electron beam is injected by triode RF gun formed by a grid-cathode unit and the first accelerating gap. Such design allows to sufficiently simplify the beam injection system. The report presents the accelerator prototype overview and status of the project.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACCELERATOR

The main accelerator elements are: accelerating structure, RF generator, triode electron gun, and X-ray converter (Fig.3). RF generator is a two-staged amplifier excited by a signal from the accelerating structure passed via phase shifter to provide the proper phase shift in the feedback circuit. TH628 diacode is planned to use in the power source final stage to obtain 3 MW of pulsed and 450 kW of average power. The diacode has been tested

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heater made of tungsten wire of 0.6 mm diameter heated by current of 20 amperes, the working voltage is 12–15 V.

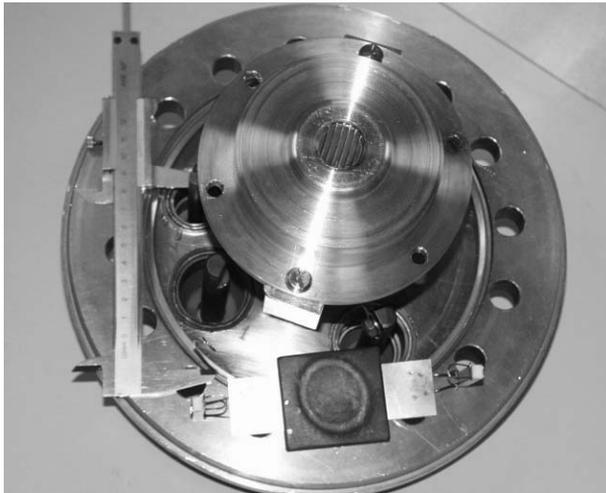


Figure 6: Grid-cathode unit.

As mentioned above, use of the internal injection, when the cathode with the control grid is placed directly at the accelerating gap entrance, is the intrinsic feature of the ILU-type accelerators. The opposite electrode of the cavity is used as an anode.

The grid-cathode unit operating in regime C will allow us to avoid additional grid heating because of impacts of the direct beam electrons and also to easily control the amplitude, duration and phase of the current. Here, the constant backing voltage on the cathode with respect to the grid will allow to control the average beam current. Applying an additional voltage at the main, or second, or third harmonic with the amplitude not higher than the constant bias, with the proper phase shift will allow us to select the optimal amplitude, duration, and phase of beam bunch injection into the accelerating channel. So, quantity of the back electrons, which pass the grid at unfavorable accelerating field phases and return to the cathode with noticeable energies, may be either come to nothing (the main and second harmonics) or significantly decreased (the third harmonic).

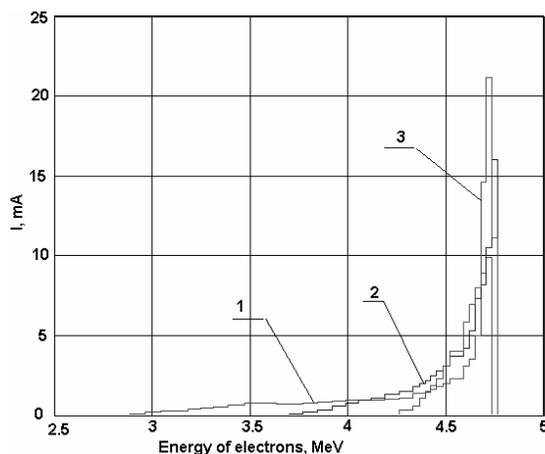


Figure 7: Experimental spectrum of beam electrons.

To check the possibility to correct the electron energy spectrum by applying the RF bias voltage to the cathode-grid gap the measurements were carried out on the existing linear RF accelerator ILU-10 [2] at energy of 5 MeV and beam power of 50 kW .

Experimental data obtained from beam spectral characteristics measurements at ILU-10 output at the constant grid-cathode bias (1) and with the use of the first (2) and third (3) harmonics are presented in Fig. 7.

CONCLUSION

At present, the status of process on the high-power industrial accelerator prototype creation is as follows:

- accelerating structure has been developed and is under manufacturing;
- cathode-grid unit has been developed, produced, and tested;
- beam internal injection and dynamics in the accelerator has been numerically modeled [5], effect of coupling slots on beam dynamics has been estimated [6];
- possibility to improve the beam energy spectrum has been experimentally proven;
- RF multipactor discharge has been experimentally suppressed for stand cavity with dimensions closed to a single accelerating cell of the prototype accelerating structure;
- the work is underway on development of TiN coating technology for inner surfaces of the accelerating structure units.

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