

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Debendra Chandra Baruah, Department of Energy, Tezpur University for his constant inspiration, scholarly guidance and helpful suggestions throughout the course of this Ph.D. research. I will always remember his quick analysis, thoughtful solutions and critical reviews. I regard him as my personal as well as professional mentor.

I would like to thank Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University (Formerly, Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri; and at present Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain), for giving encouragement and beneficial advice throughout my research work.

Besides my advisor, I would like to thank the rest of my doctoral committee members: Prof. R. Kataki, Prof. D. Deka, Prof. R. C. Deka, and Prof. D. Dutta, for serving as my doctoral committee members and for their valuable advice, helpful suggestions, insightful comments and encouragement, but also for the hard question which helped me to widen my research from various perspectives.

I convey my sincere gratitude and thanks to Prof. D. Deka, Prof. R. Kataki, Dr. S. Mahapatra, Dr. P.K. Choudhury, Dr. B.K. Kakati, Dr. N. Sarmah and Dr. V. Verma of Department of Energy for their support, encouragement and valuable advice. Without their precious support, it would not be possible to conduct this research.

I am thankful to Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Tezpur University and staffs of Central Workshop for allowing and helping me during manufacturing of the prototype in the Central Workshop, Tezpur University.

I am thankful to the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Govt. of Assam, India for providing financial assistance to conduct my research works as well as Intellectual Property Rights support during Indian Patent submission.

It is my pleasure to offer gratitude and thanks to my colleagues Mr. Tapanjit Borah (Technical Assistant), Mr. T. Lahon, (Lab assistant), Mr. Chittaranjan Gogoi (Office Assistant) and Mr. Dinesh Bhuyan (Multi-Tasking Staff) of Department of Energy, Tezpur University for their co-operation and encouragement.

I thank my fellow lab mates- Sampriti, Rupam, Dipam, Barkhang, Trinakshi, and Bharat for the stimulating discussions in the last six years. I also thank other fellow research scholars of Department of Energy, Tezpur University for sharing a wonderful time during my research work.

Lastly, I would like to thank my parents, wife (Mrs. Bibha Boro) and brother whose faithful support, love, care and timely inspiration during my research work is so appreciated.

Biswajit Gogoi