

---

# **STUDY P2X**

## **BY FRAUNHOFER IMWS AND FRAUNHOFER IGB BIOCAT**

---

### **Team IMWS**

Dominik Härle

Florian Krupsack

Karl Heinz Kuesters

### **Team IGB/CBP**

Lénárd-Istvan Csepei

February 11, 2019



# Agenda

- Introduction Fraunhofer IMWS and IGB/CBP
- Study P2X : Green Hydrogen
- Study P2X : Green Ammonia

# The Fraunhofer Gesellschaft at a glance

- Leading organization for applied research in Europe
- International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world



**2,3 Billion Euro  
Budget**



**25 527 Staff**



**72 Institutes and  
Research Facilities**

# Fraunhofer IMWS at a glance

## ■ Director:

- Prof. Ralf B. Wehrspohn

## ■ Locations:

- Halle (Saale)
- Schkopau
- Freiberg
- Soest
- Leuna (2019)

## ■ Key Figures:

- 284 Staff
- 20,4 Mio. € Budget
- 25,4 % direct industrial revenue
- Quality Management  
ISO 9001-2017



Fraunhofer IMWS Halle



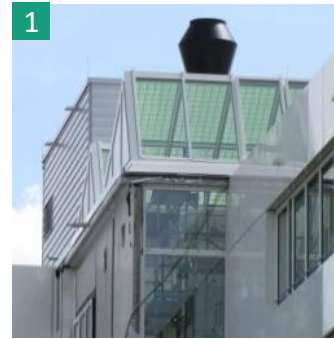
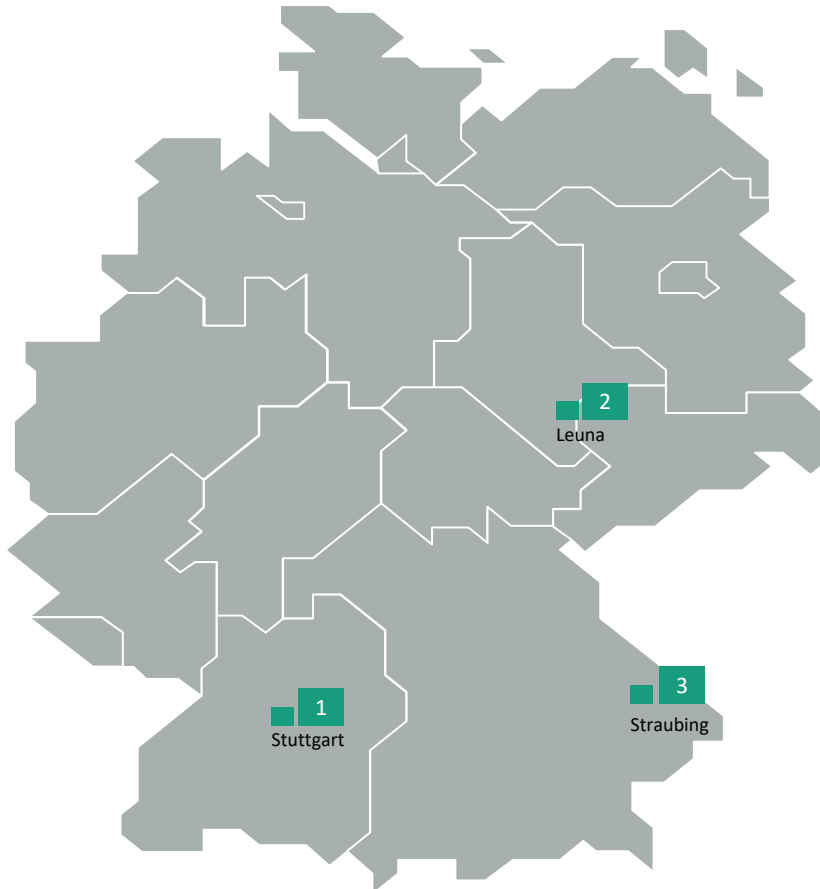
Fraunhofer IMWS Schkopau



Fraunhofer IMWS Soest

# Fraunhofer IGB

Director: Dr. Markus Wolperdinger



## Fraunhofer IGB Stuttgart (HQ)

Thermal storage  
Power-to-X  
Process engineering  
Wastewater treatment

TRL 1-5



## Fraunhofer CBP Leuna

Chem&Bio processes  
Power-to-X  
Upscaling of synthesis processes  
Biobased products

TRL 4-6

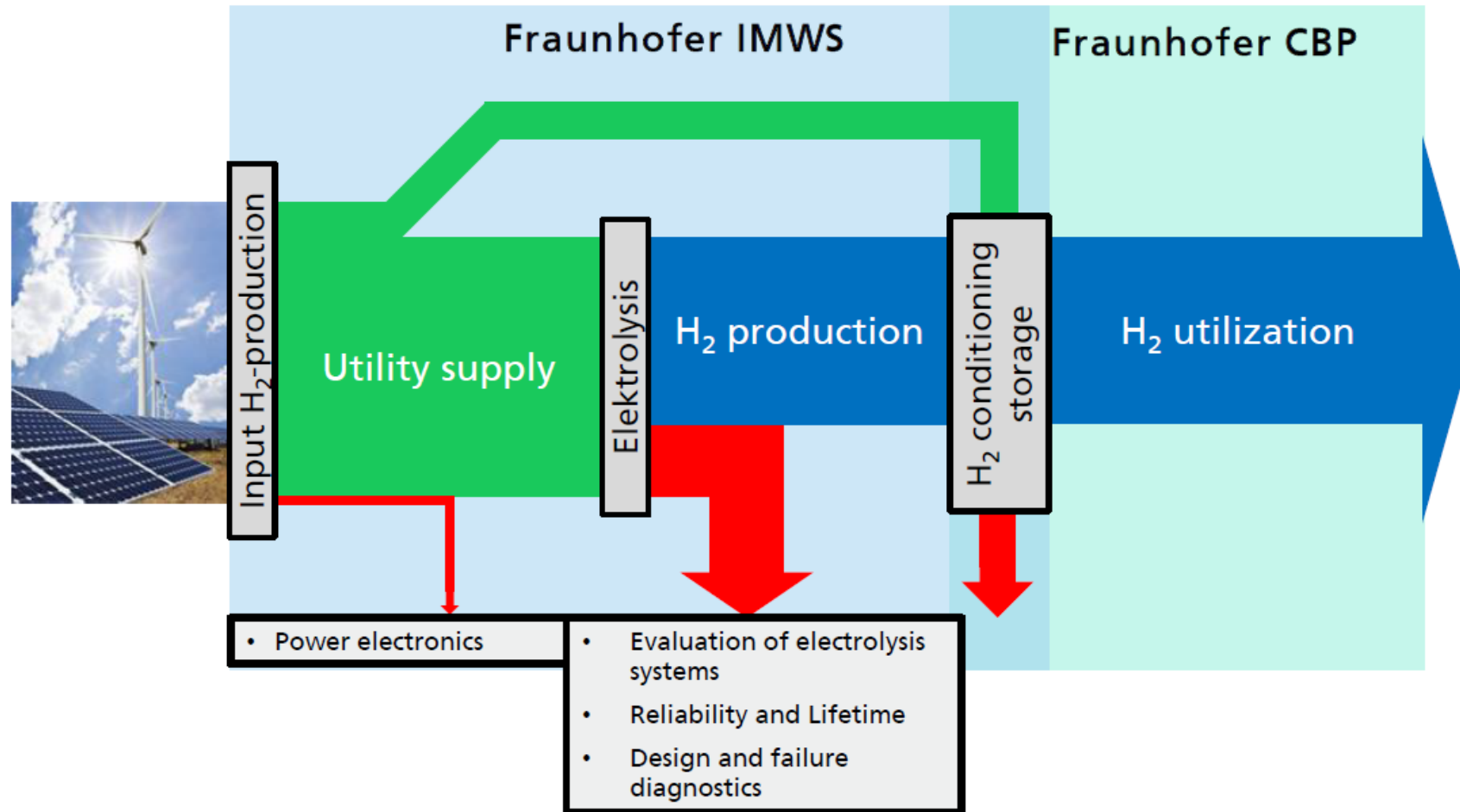


## Fraunhofer IGB BioCat Straubing

Power-to-X  
Chem&Bio processes  
Recovery of elements  
Biobased products

TRL 1-4

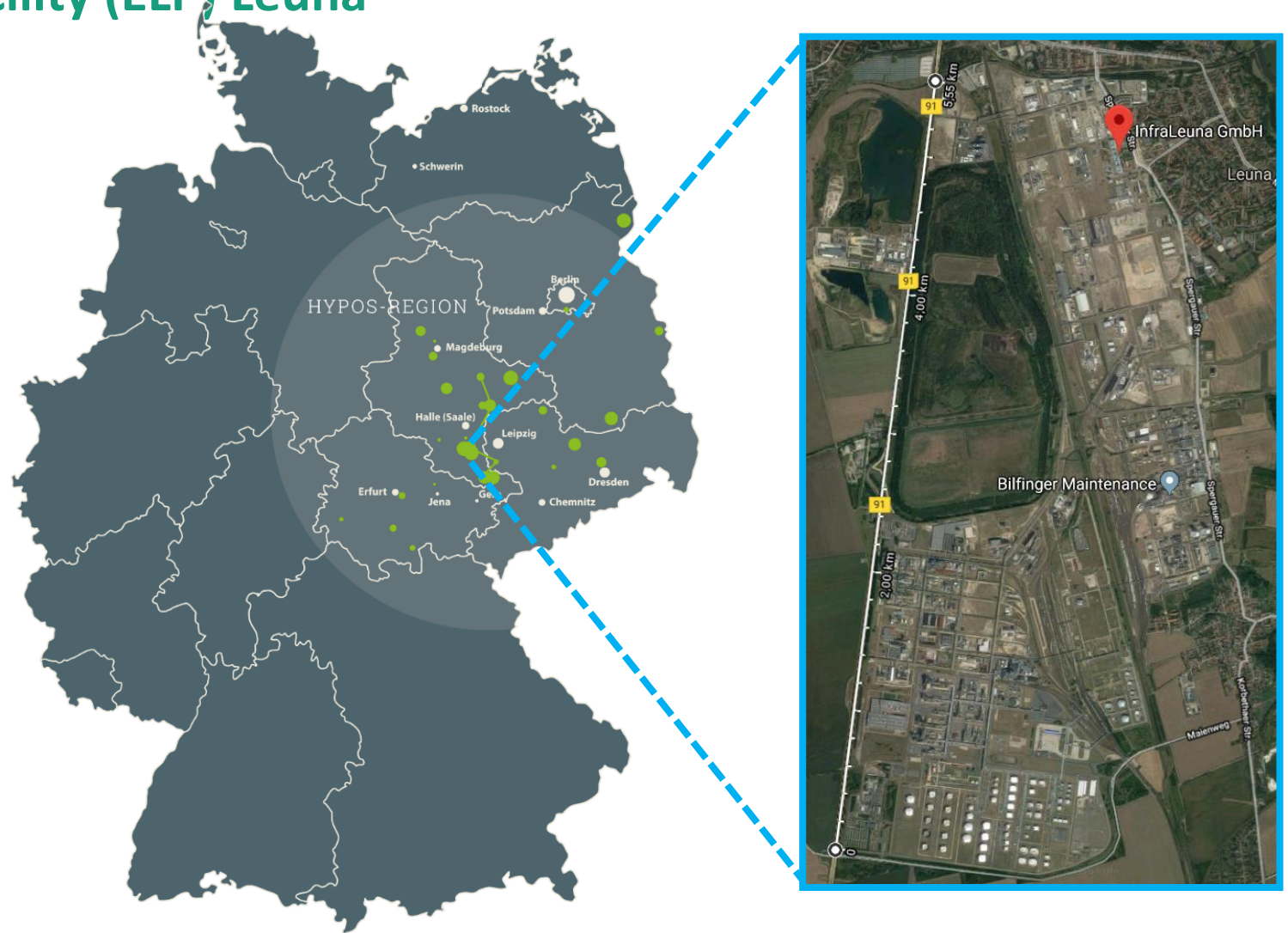
# Fraunhofer IMWS –CBP – workshare



# Fraunhofer IMWS Projects

## Electrolysis research and test facility (ELP) Leuna

- Leuna Chemical Park operated by InfraLeuna
- Facts and figures:
  - 1,300 hectares
  - More than 10,000 employees
  - 600 km of pipeline network
  - 90 km of rail network

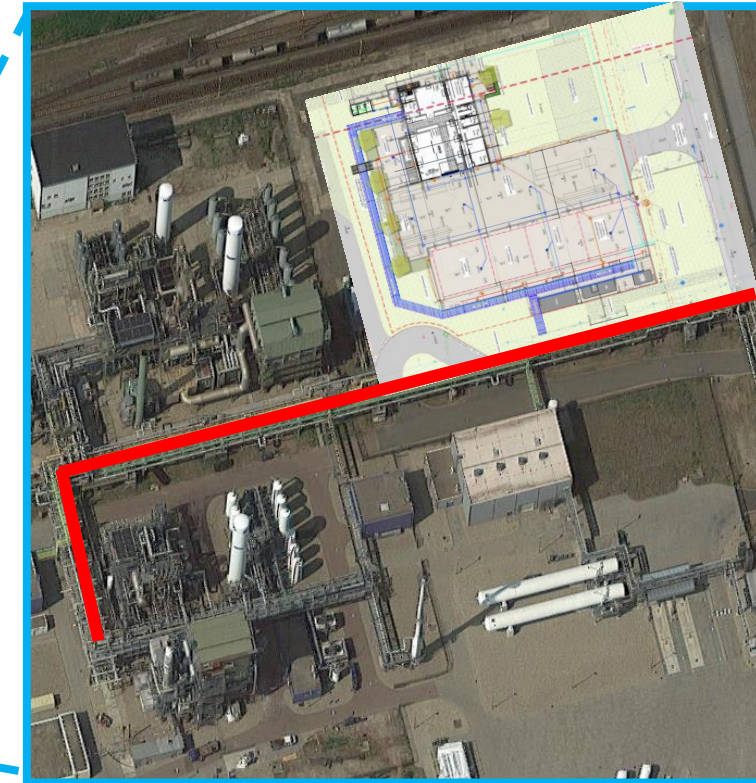
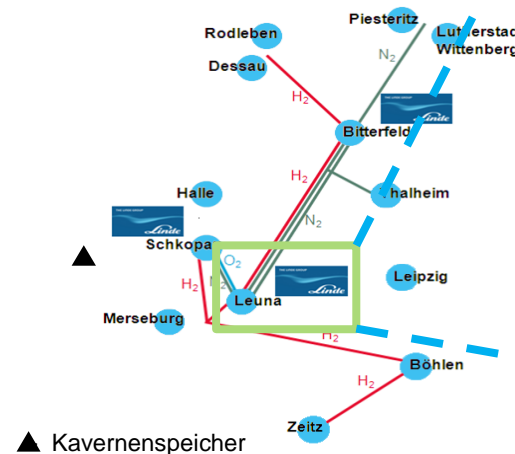




# Electrolysis research and test facility (ELP) Leuna

## Project outline

- Planned by the two Fraunhofer Institutes IMWS & CBP and co-financed by the State of Saxony-Anhalt
- Research infrastructure with laboratories, office space and technical center
- Outside test area for containerized electrolysis systems, each space with a max. capacity of 5 MW
- Integrated into the Chemical side and connected to a 150 km long hydrogen pipeline and Remote Operation Center both operated by LINDE AG
- Opened for all electrolysis technologies (alkaline, PEM and high temperature SOEC)
- Fully operational in 2020

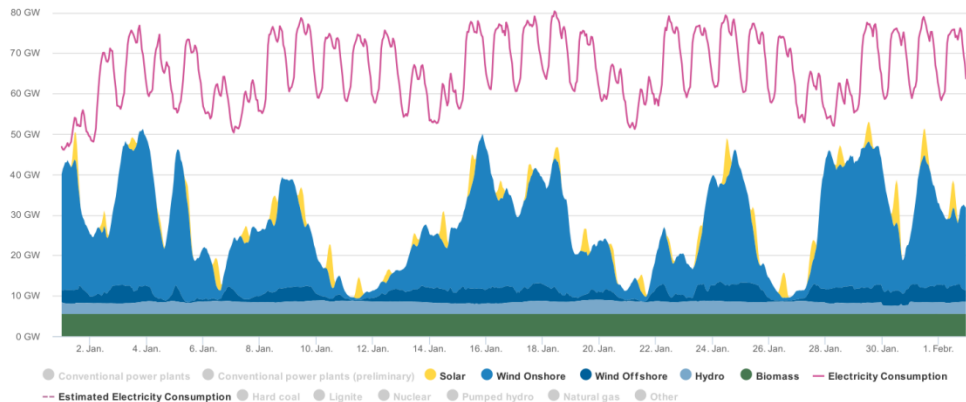




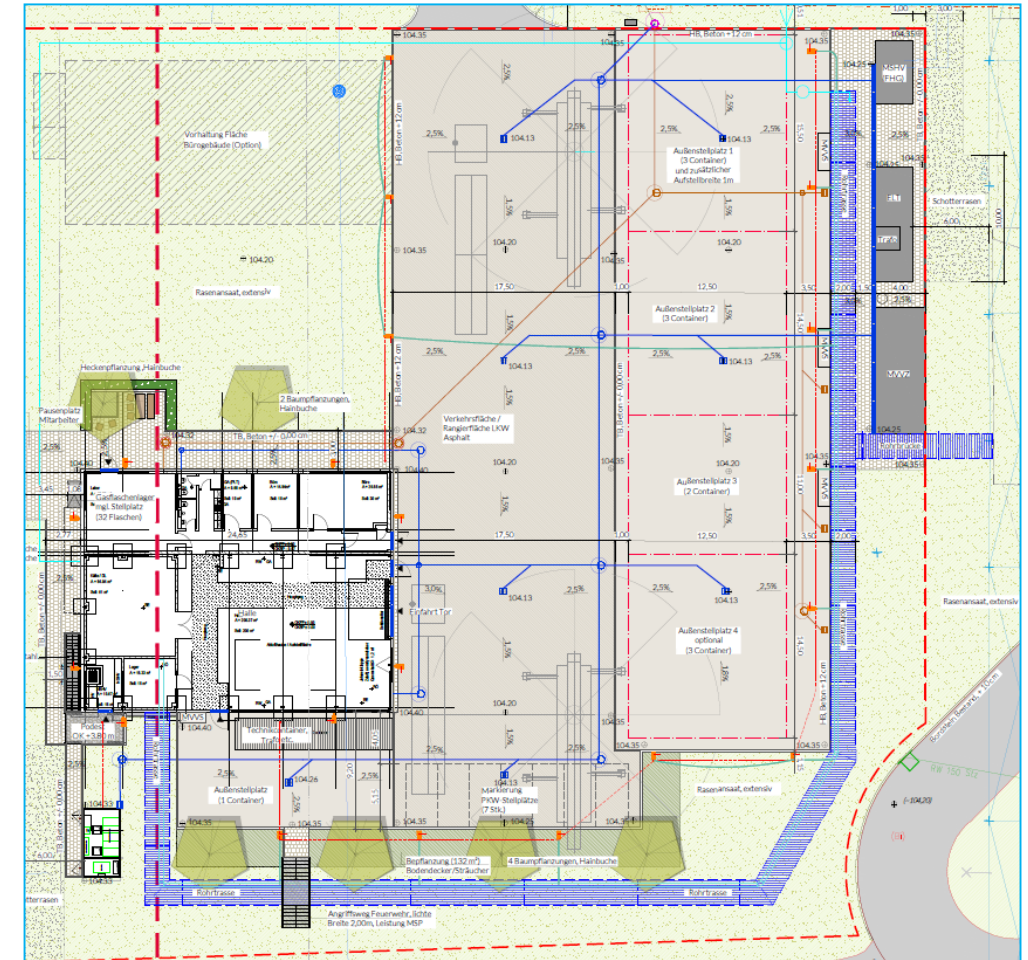
# Electrolysis research and test facility (ELP) Leuna

## Scope

- Testing and evaluation of electrolysis systems up to 5 MW
- Demonstration of downstream processes for the use of H<sub>2</sub> (e.g. methanol synthesis)
- Creating energy and material balances in correlation with load profile
- Price of H<sub>2</sub> based on load profile
- Determine future research focus based on gathered data



Agora Energiewende, Current to: 12.02.2018, 16:45



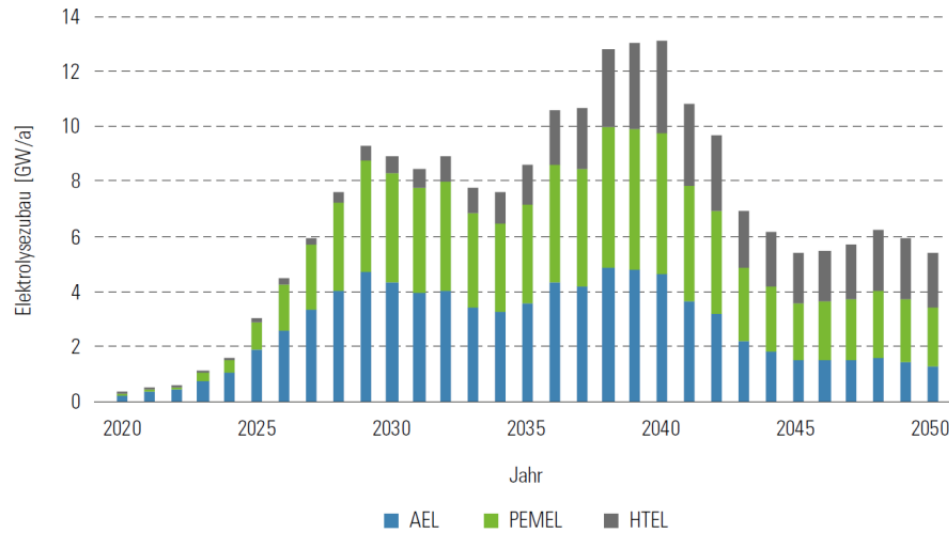
---

# AGENDA STUDY P2X : GREEN HYDROGEN

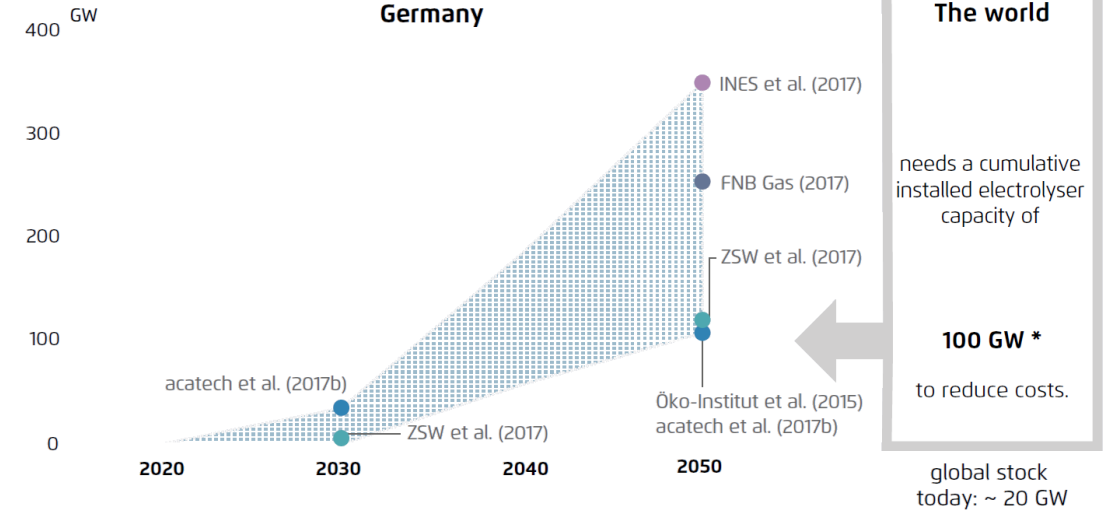
---

- 1) Market development: PtX / Green Hydrogen
- 2) Technology comparison
- 3) Efficiency
- 4) Economy: CAPEX / OPEX analysis
- 5) combination with renewable energy (RE)
- 6) Requirement for Pilot Installation

# Market



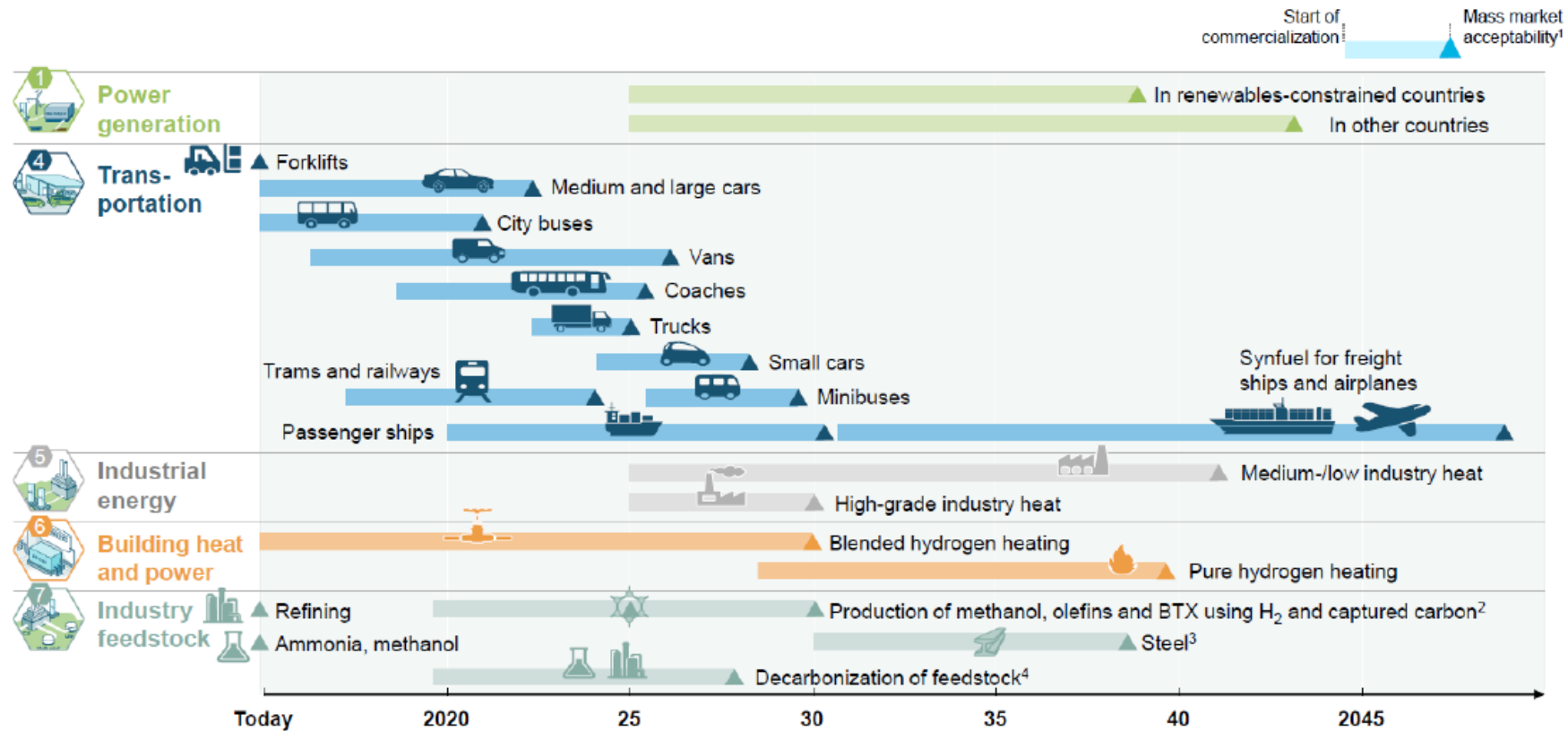
- 170 – 400 GW installed in 2050
- after 2030: 8 - 13 GW p.a. capacity increase



- 2050: capacity of 3000 - 6000 GW (including syn. fuels)
- Germany alone 100 - 350 GW

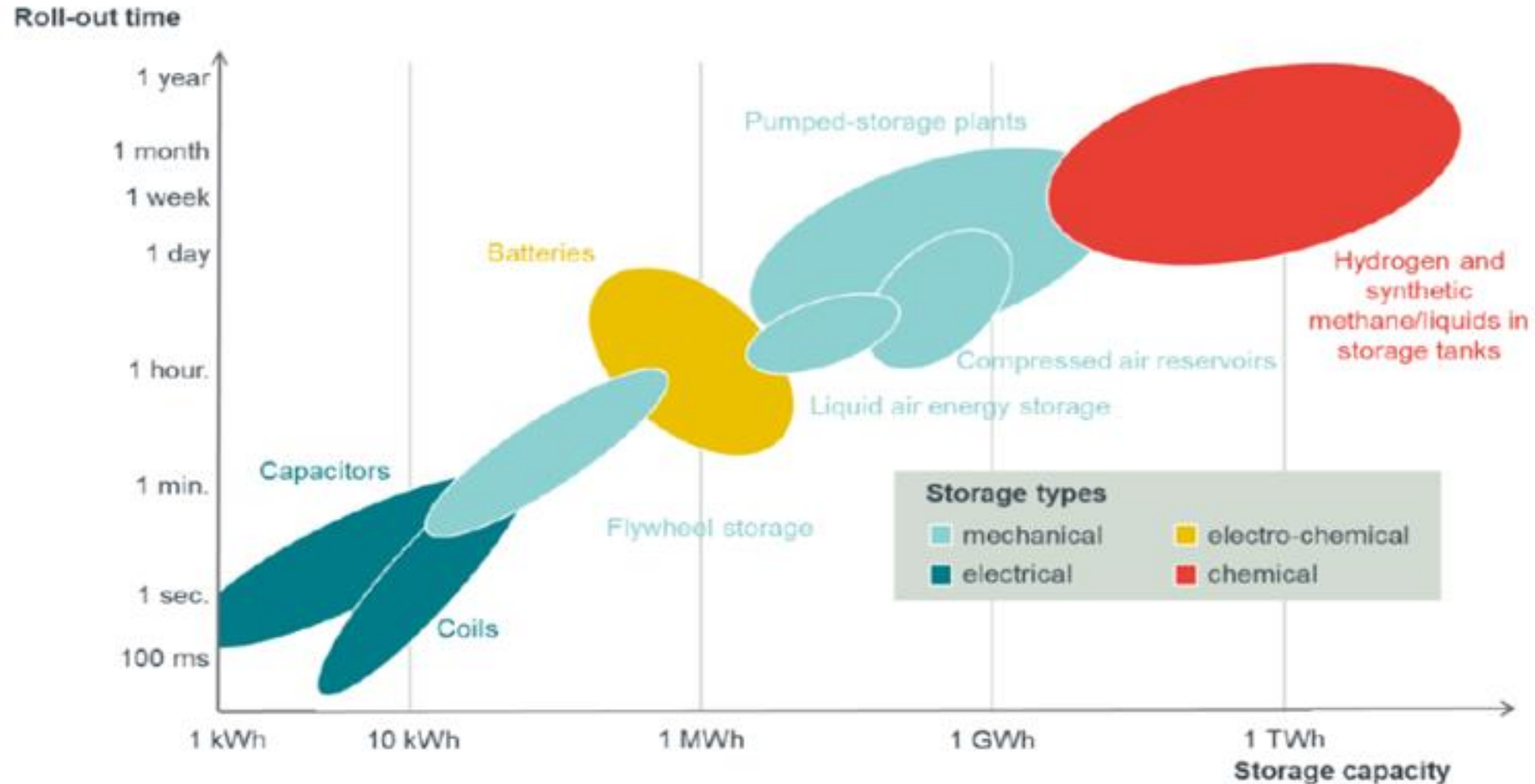
- PtX: multi GW technology in 2020-2030; significant variation of expected capacity
- Strongly dependent on applications (and regulatory framework in Germany)
- Hydrogen technologies in general and electrolysis are market ready
  - can be implemented into industrial applications

# Applications



- Applications in industry (Refining, Ammonia, ...) at initial phase
- Long term energy storage (>1 year): No technologies except hydrogen available

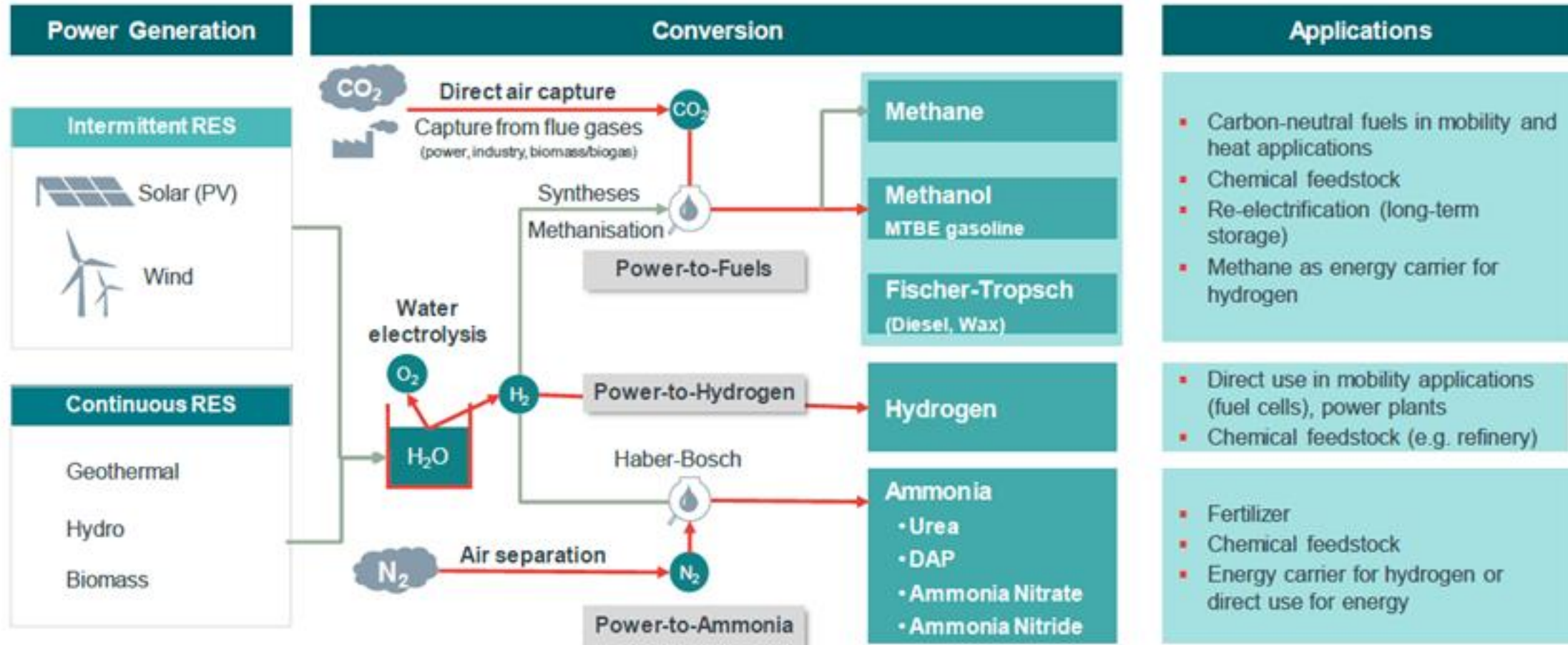
# Technologies to store energy





# Power-to-X:

## Conversion of renewable power into various forms of chemical energy carriers

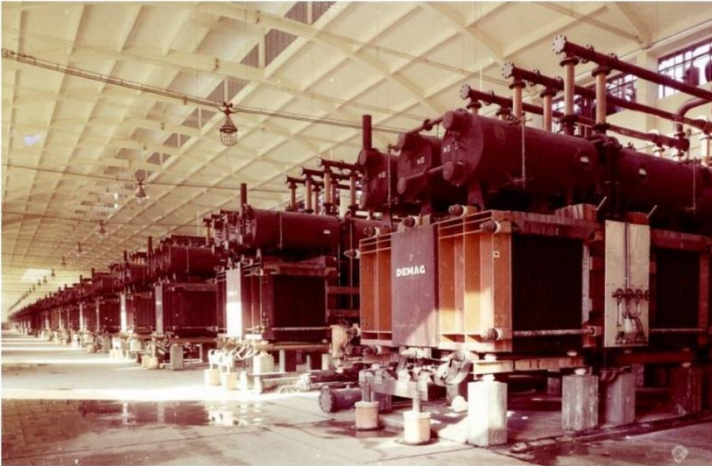




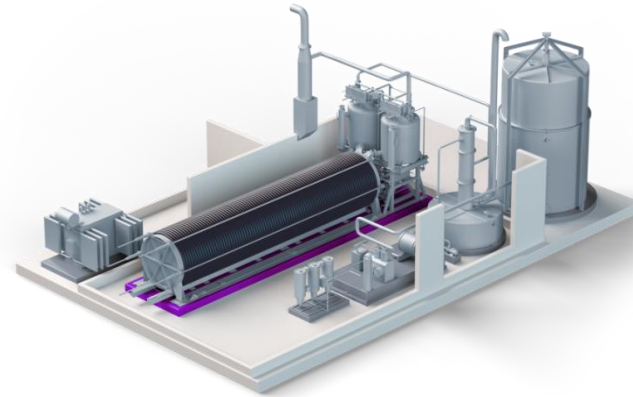
# Electrolysis

## Alkaline water electrolyzers atmospheric

- Liquid electrolyte KOH
- Atmospheric pressure
- Proven technology in industrial scale



156 MW<sub>el</sub> Hydrogen production for fertiliser plant completed in 1963 at the Assuan Dam in Egypt (source: ht-hyrotechnik)



NEL Hydrogen 485 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h  
Plans for 400 MW

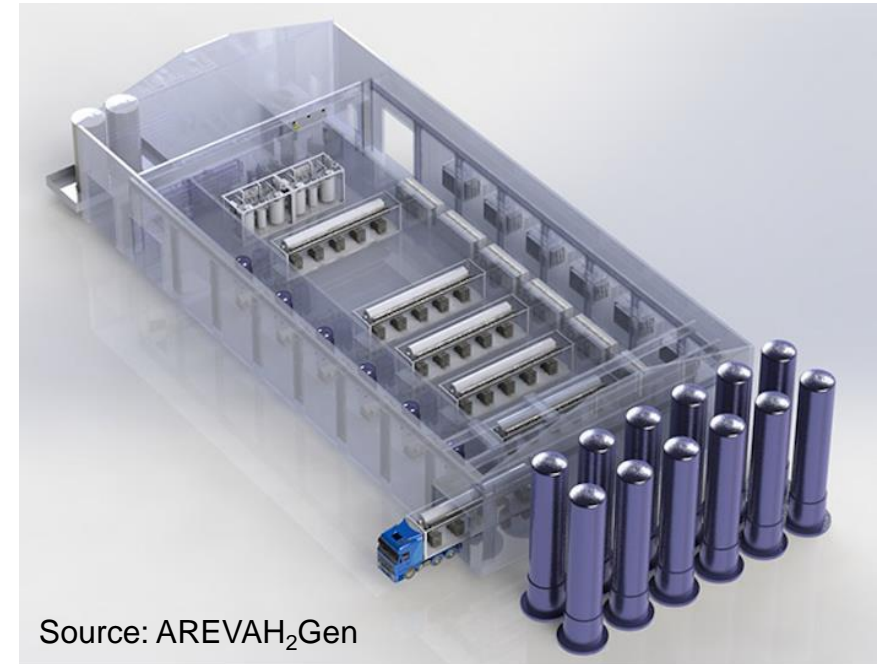


ThyssenKrupp from chlor-alkaline electrolysis to water electrolysis

# Electrolysis

## Proton Exchange Membrane electrolyser

- Membrane as electrolyte
- High current density
- Flexible from 0 – 200 %
- High pressure and atmospheric



Source: AREVAH<sub>2</sub>Gen



Source: Siemens  
Silyzer 300



Source: Giner Inc.  
Allagash  
2 MW 400 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h



Source: Hydrogenics  
HyLIZER 600  
3 MW 620 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h

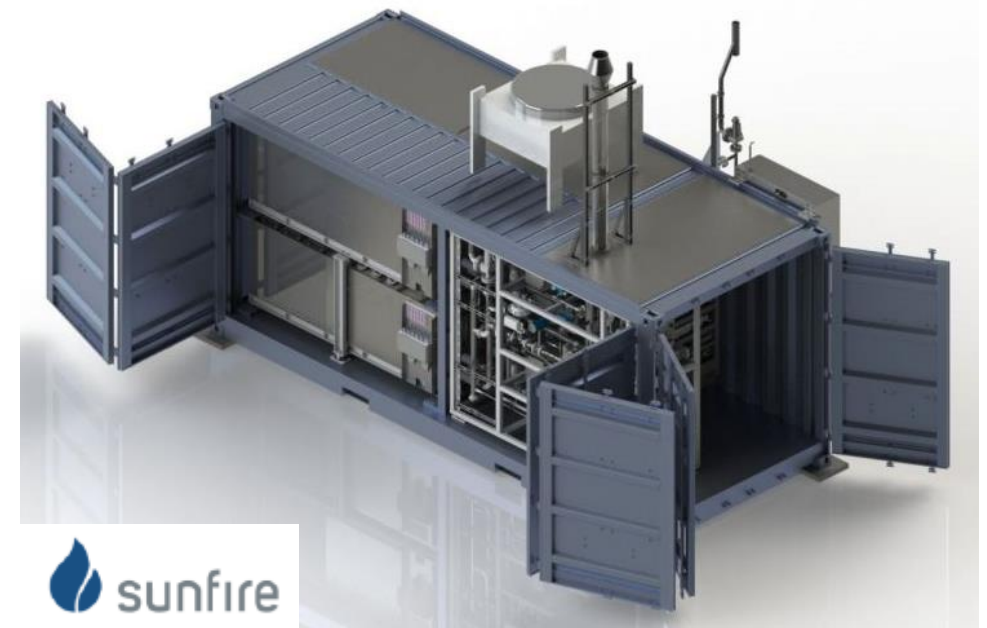
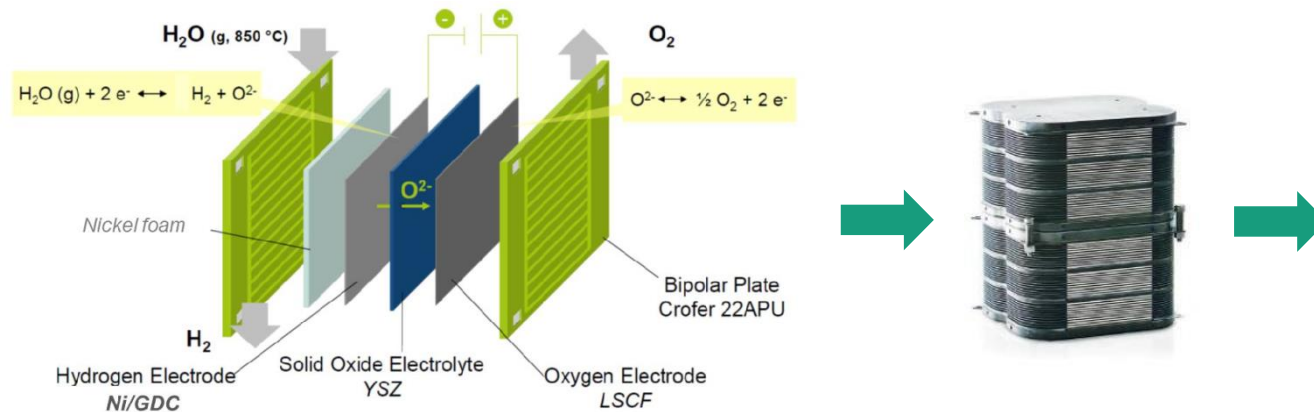


Source: Proton OnSite

# Electrolysis

## Solide Oxide electrolysis (SOEC)

- Solid Oxide as electrolyte
- High temperature process 750 – 1000 °C
- Steam as input media
- Reversible system possible



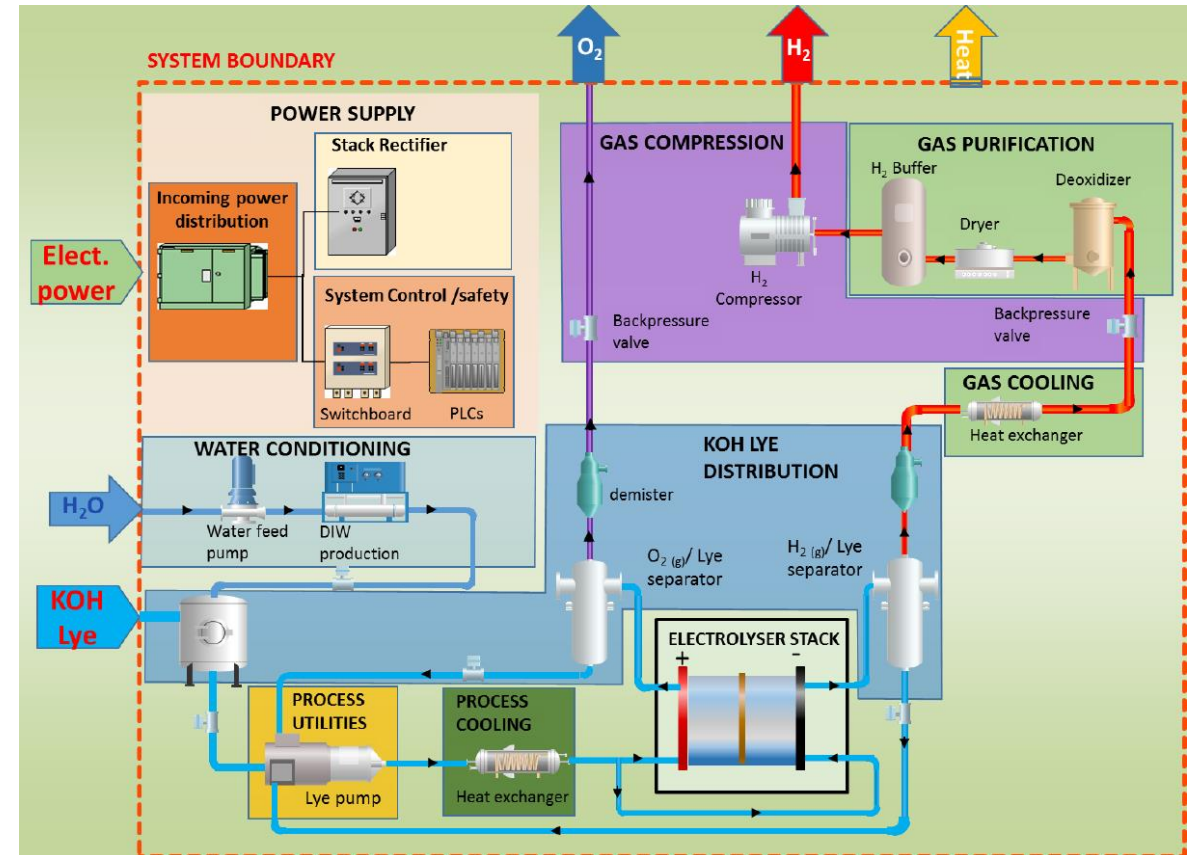
Source: Sunfire GmbH



# Technology

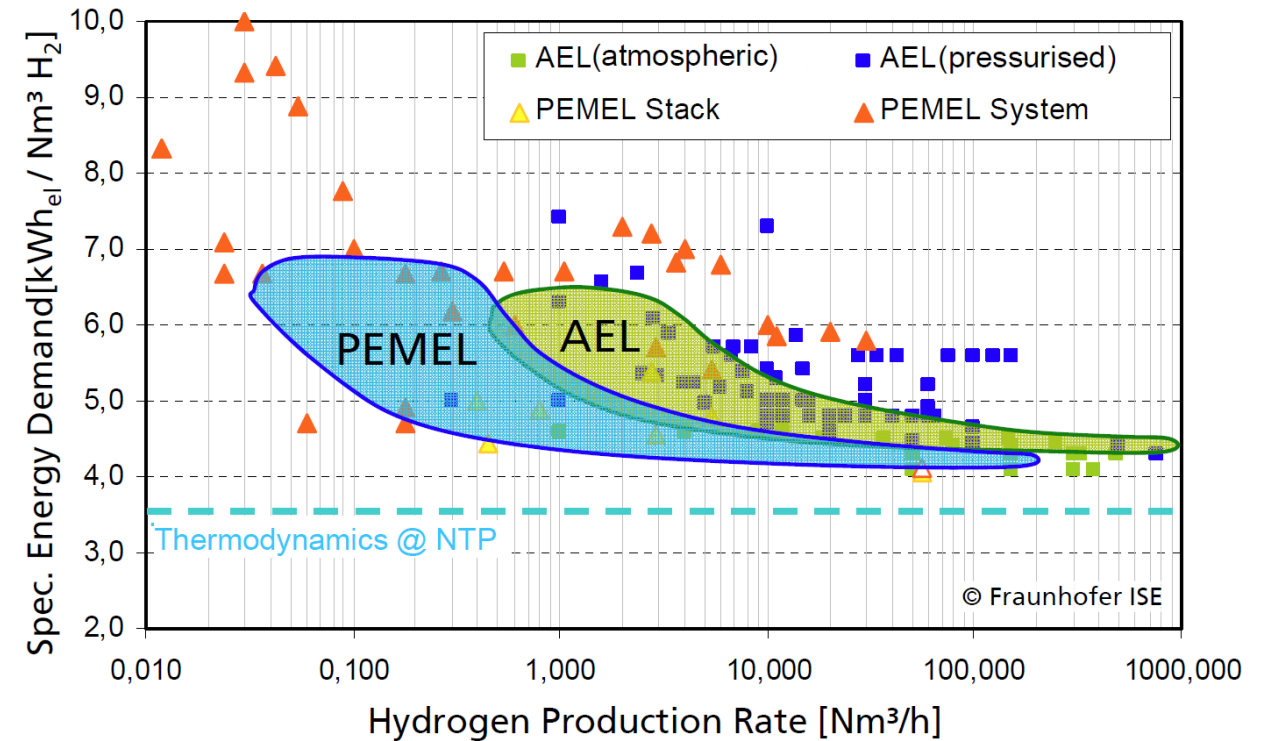
- electrolysis plant requires moderate complex system
- gaining experience of component interaction and system behavior essential for good plant management
  - especially for supply with RE
- significant part of total cost stems from system components besides electrolyzer stack

Example of alkaline electrolysis system

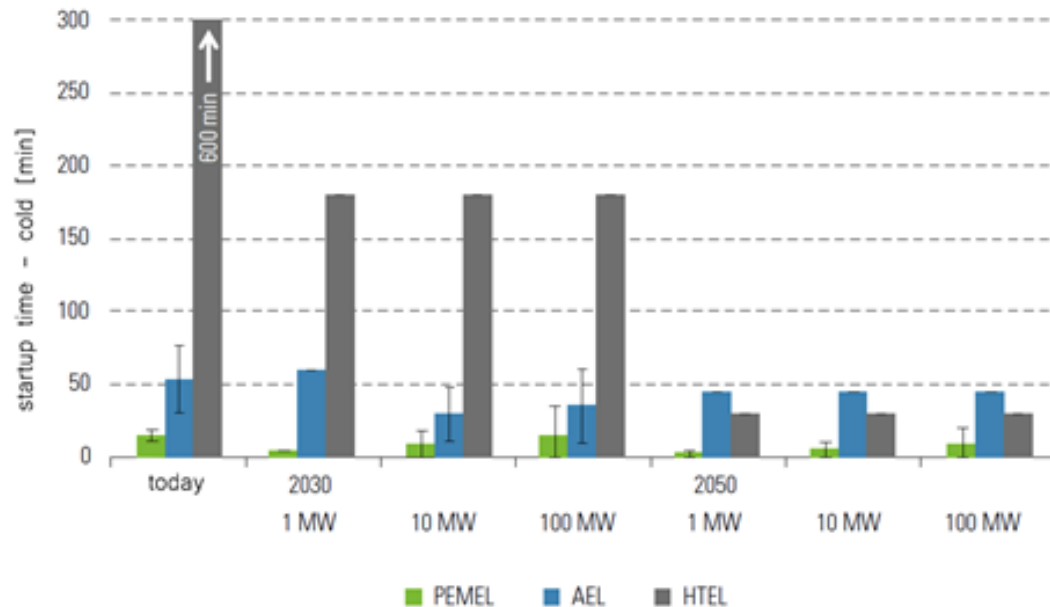


# Efficiency

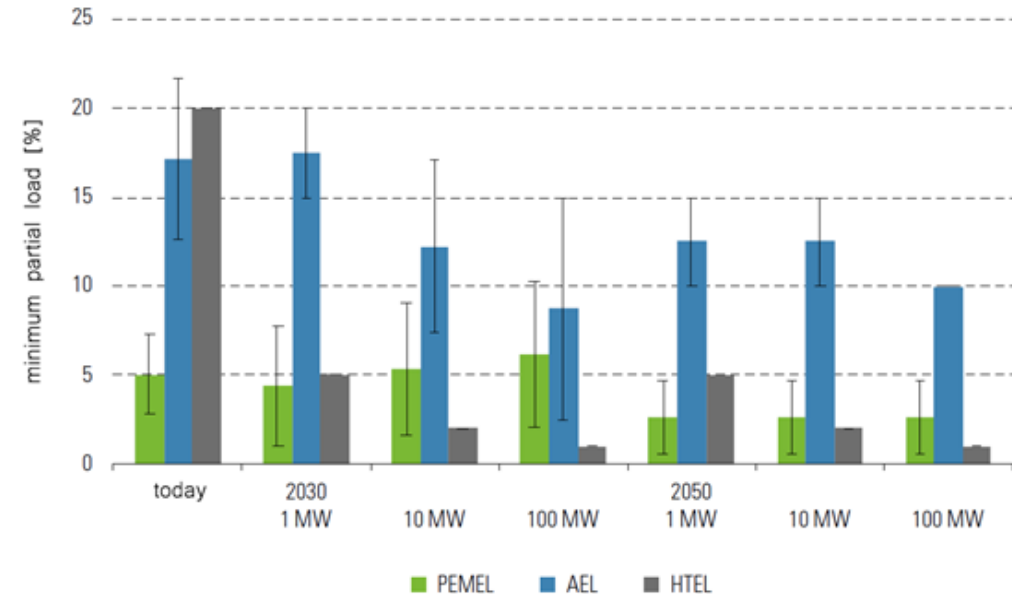
- Both technologies AEL and PEM at approx. same level of efficiency
- No significant future improvement of efficiency expected
  - technologies in pilot test, are also suitable for future production



# Parameters relevant for combination with fluctuating energy



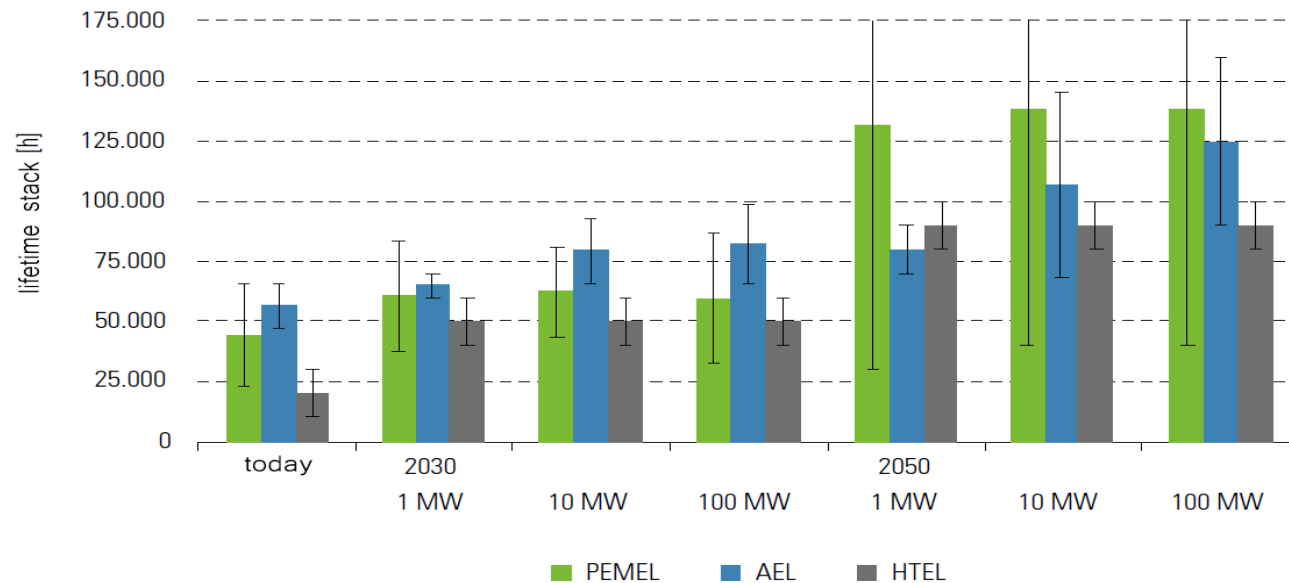
- time to start AEL and PEM from cold stack
- $PEM < AEL < HTEL$
- significant reduction for HTEL in future
- PEM is only technology with short start-up time



- capability of stack to run based on partial load
- today PEM lowest minimum partial load
- AEL & HTEL will lower current minimum values in the future



# Reliability based of electrolysis system

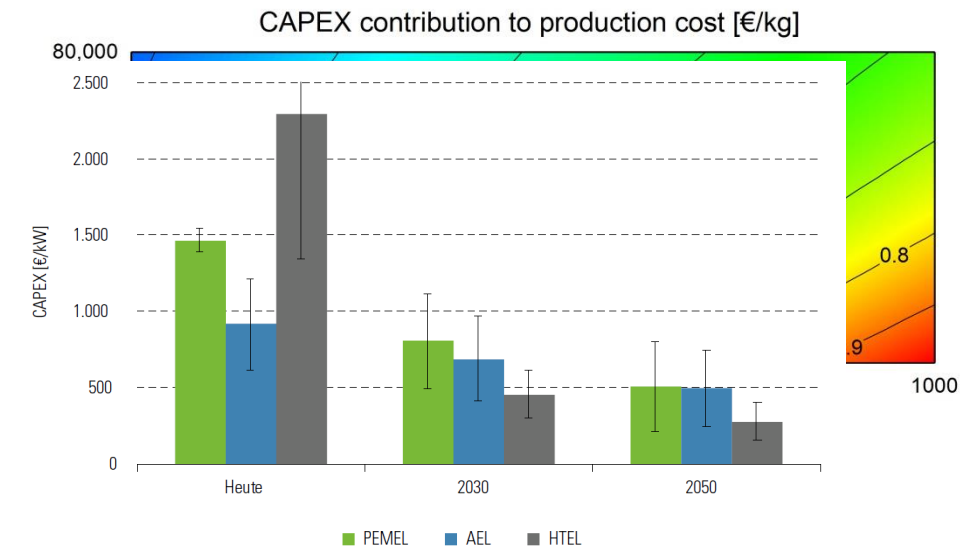
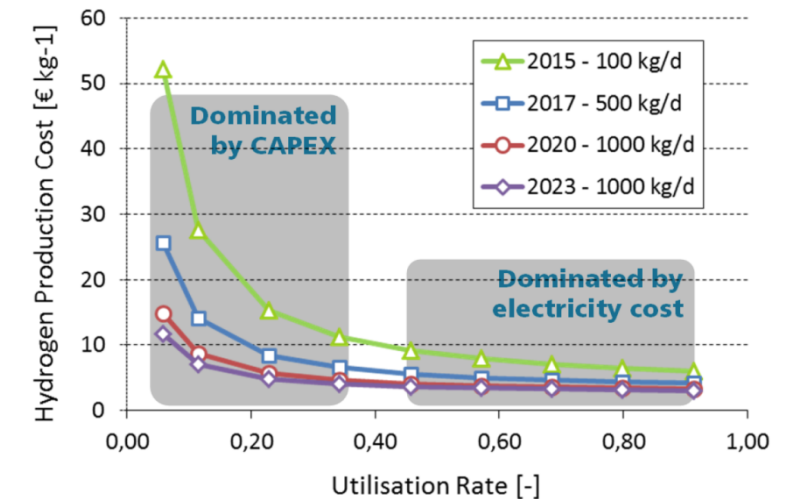


- currently AEL has highest lifetime
- 2030:
  - increase in lifetime for all technologies
  - nearly equal lifetimes for small scale systems in all technologies
- 2050:
  - AEL further increases lifetime for large scale systems
  - PEM may become technology with highest reliability on all scales (high uncertainty)

# Cost aspects - CAPEX

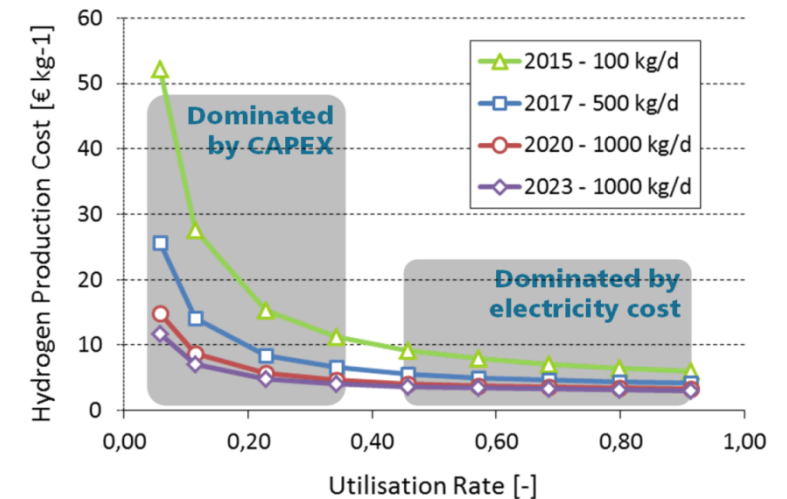
- CAPEX especially relevant for low utilization
- CAPEX today 900 - 1400 €/kW, expected minimum values of 500 €/kW (2020+, larger system)
- example calculation:
 

■ Energy for hydrogen production:	4.5 kWh/Nm <sup>3</sup>
■ Investment cost for a EL-system:	500 €/kW
■ lifetime of EL-system:	60,000 h
➤ CAPEX contribution to production cost	→ 0.42 €/kg
- CAPEX will decrease with further capacity build up / economy of scale



# Cost aspects - OPEX

- Main parameter: electricity cost
- Recent auction prices for RE:
  - Morocco: 4.8 ct/kWh (PV), 3 ct/kWh (wind)
  - Saudi-Arabia, Mexico: 1.8 ct/kWh
- calculation for hydrogen price (assuming 4.5 kWh/m<sup>3</sup> for energy need):

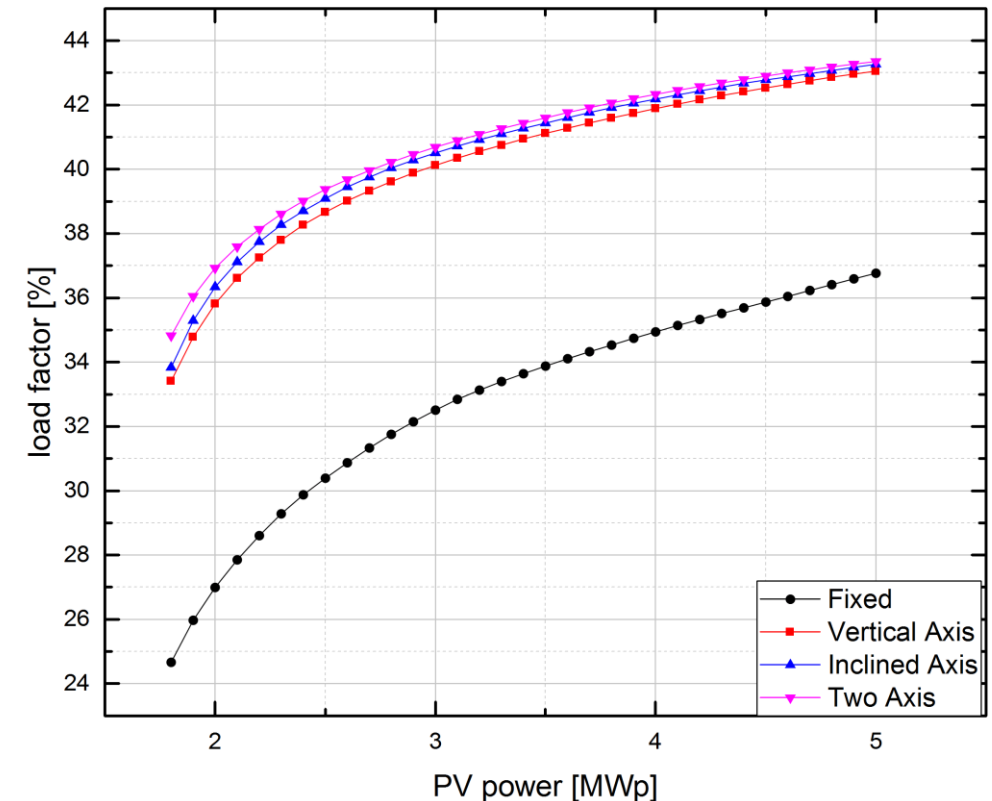


Power source	Electricity price [ct/kWh] [7]	Calculated OPEX [€/kg] Electricity
wind and PV in North Africa in 2020	5	2.5
PV in North Africa 2020	3.5	1.7
PV in North Africa 2050	2	1.0

- ➔ high load factor for the EL system is essential (PV alone will not suffice)
- ➔ complete system setup has to be considered

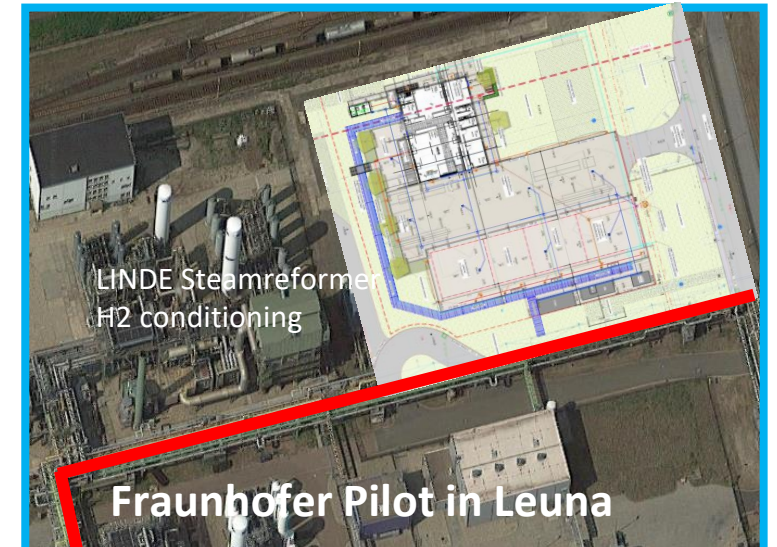
# Combination w. PV / renewable energy – a view on load factor

- economic operation requires high load factor
- simulation with PV data from [8] for Morocco (1.6 MW electrolysis plant)
- 1.6 MW PV (with tracking): load factor of ~34%
- combine PV and wind for more balanced power production throughout the day
  - wind power: prime energy source
  - PV plant serves as backup



# Advantage of pilot installation

- invest in pilot will ensure:
  - right time for scale-up can be taken
  - technology with highest ROI (return on invest) can be taken
  - IP situation is well understood and secured
  - combination with RE is controlled
  - skill build up before major invest
- Future decisions for invest based on experience instead of assumptions.
- Experience in combination of hydrogen generation by electrolysis based on RE: define the best setup of the energy system
- future situation of Morocco regarding energy system can be taken into account



# Opportunity for Morocco

- Morocco could have an excellent position in future P2X industry, based on availability of RE



## Hyped Potentials

- At centre of PtX debate in Europe with strong PtX potential
- Energy partnerships with Europe foster political support
- Potential to lead technology development; may depend strongly on solid political facilitation

### Morocco – the “hyped potential”

- Today: Strong RES potential identified by every study
- Short-term: Potential for larger-scale pilot projects
- Long-term: PtX development strong if politically facilitated

Snapshot of the world's strongest RES potentials





# Thank you for your attention!



## Fraunhofer Institute for Microstructure of Materials and Systems

M.Eng. Florian Krupsack

E-Mail: [florian.krupsack@imws.fraunhofer.de](mailto:florian.krupsack@imws.fraunhofer.de)

Phone: +49 345 5589-237

Dr. Karl Heinz Kuesters

E-Mail: [karl.heinz.kuesters@csp.fraunhofer.de](mailto:karl.heinz.kuesters@csp.fraunhofer.de)

Phone: +49 345 5589-5005

---

# AGENDA STUDY P2X : GREEN AMMONIA

---

- 1) Reviewing ammonia synthesis technologies
- 2) Catalysts, thermodynamics
- 3) Energy efficiency
- 4) Economy: CAPEX / OPEX analysis
- 5) Intermittent operation :combination with renewable energy (RE)
- 6) Requirements for plant installation

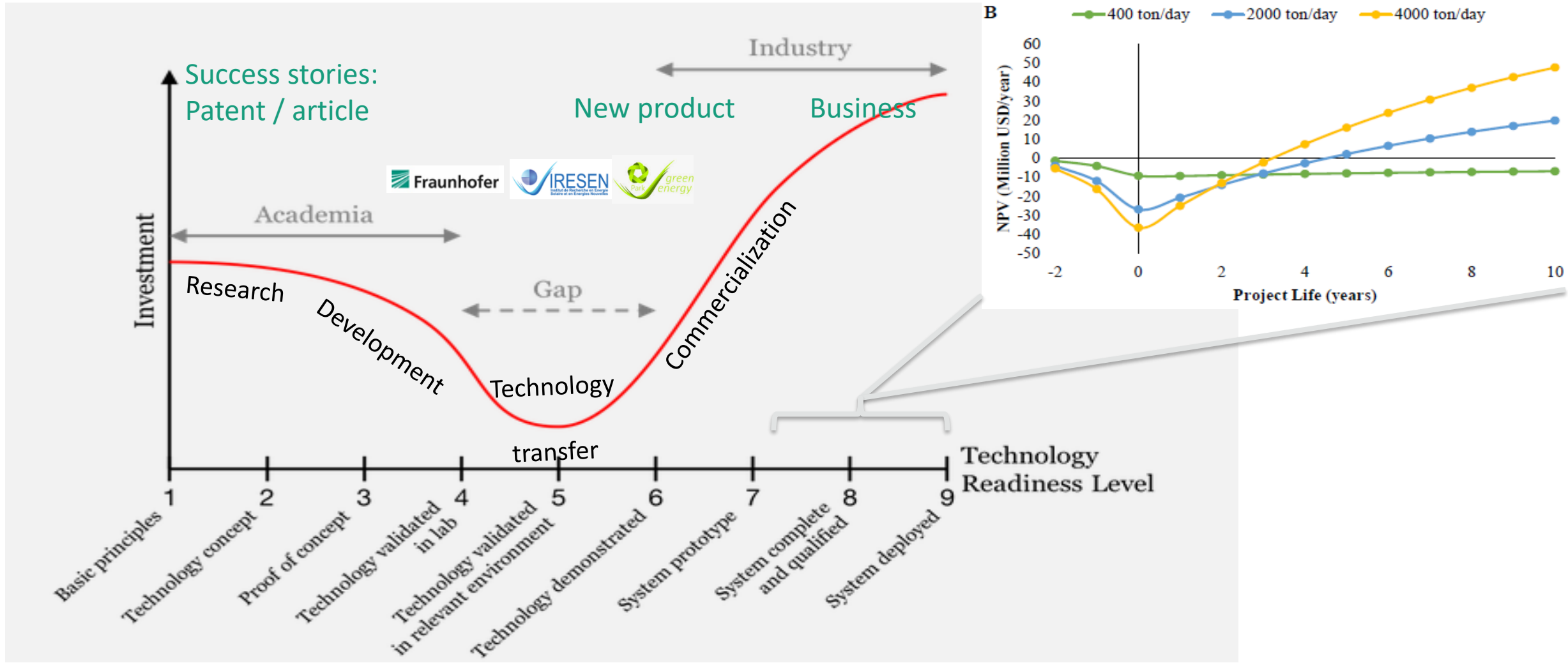
# Overview of ammonia synthesis technologies

- Haber-Bosch process
- direct electrochemical reduction of nitrogen to ammonia
- photocatalytic reduction of nitrogen to ammonia and
- plasma-enabled reduction of nitrogen to ammonia

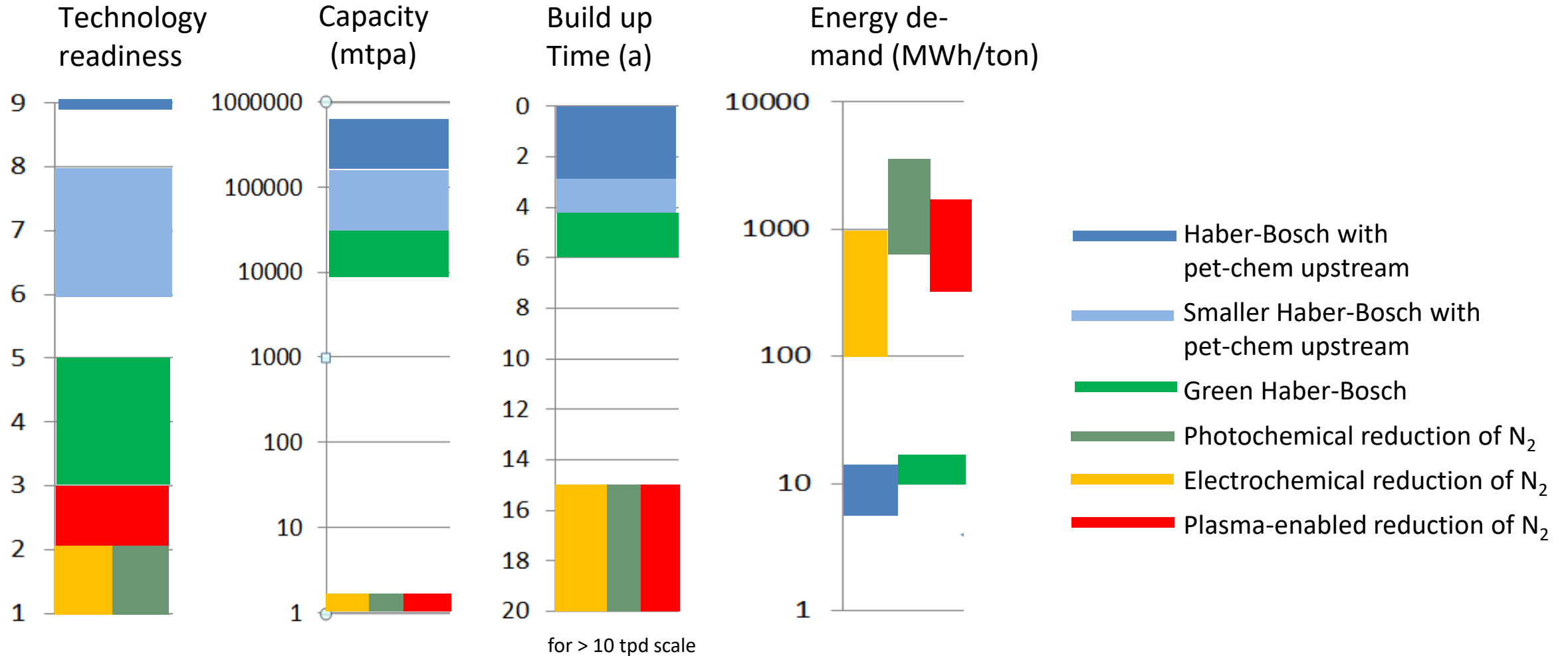
Reaction “drivers”	H <sub>2</sub> needed from external source	No H <sub>2</sub> needed from external source	Reaction “drivers”
Temperature, pressure catalyst	Haber-Bosch Synthesis	Direct electrochemical reduction of N <sub>2</sub>	Electrons, H <sub>2</sub> O, electrocatalyst
Non-thermal plasma, catalyst, (temperature)	Plasma-enabled reduction	Photochemical reduction of N <sub>2</sub>	Photons, H <sub>2</sub> O, photocatalyst

# The long way from lab experiments to successful business case

Technology readiness levels (TRL), investments and ROI



# Ranking of the technologies



# Catalysts for Haber-Bosch process

## Haldor-Topsoe

- KM-1: the magnetite based „industry benchmark“ with long lifetime, over 1200 charges delivered
- KM111: more performant than KM1, better energy efficiency
- KM1R and KMR111: faster plant start-up than with KM1 and KM111

## Clariant

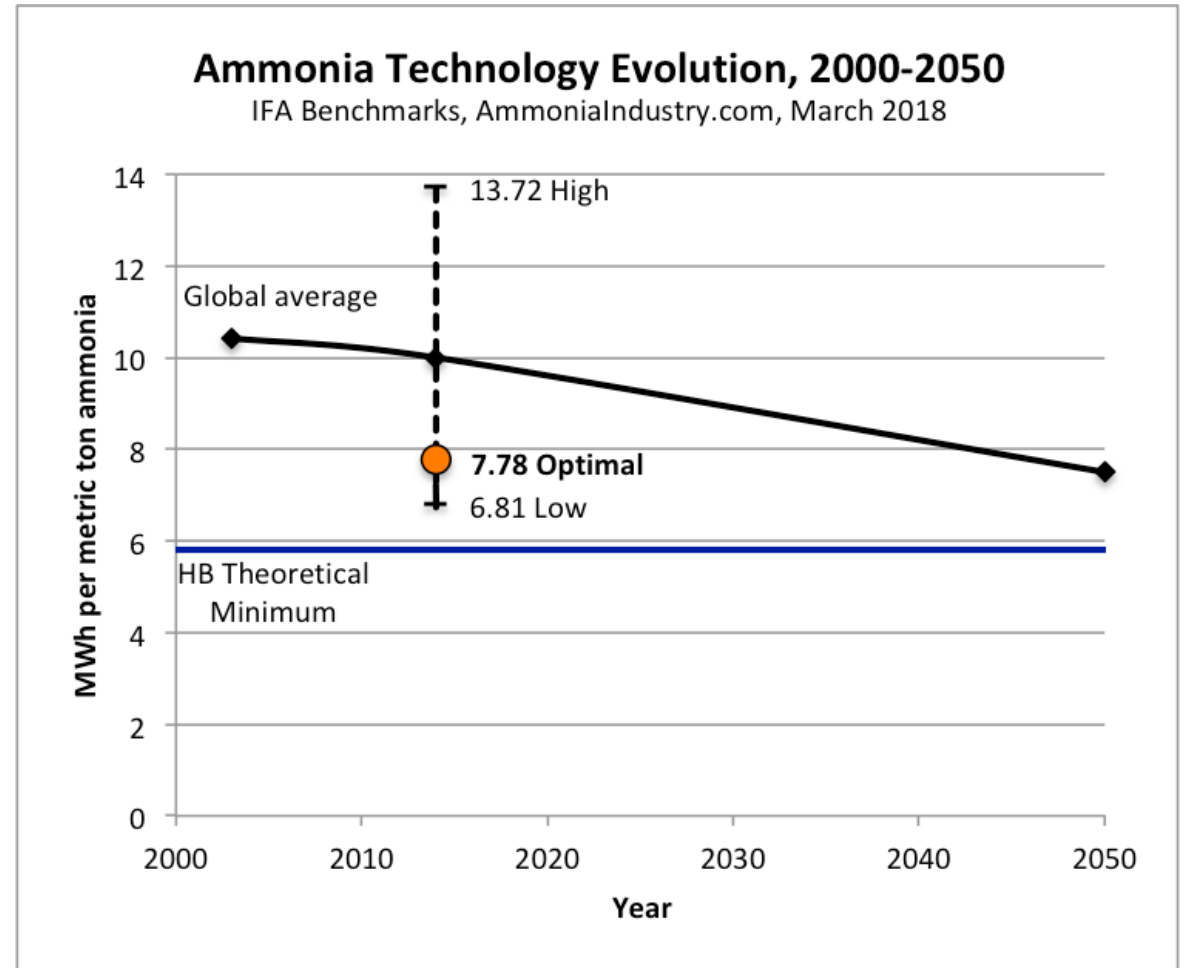
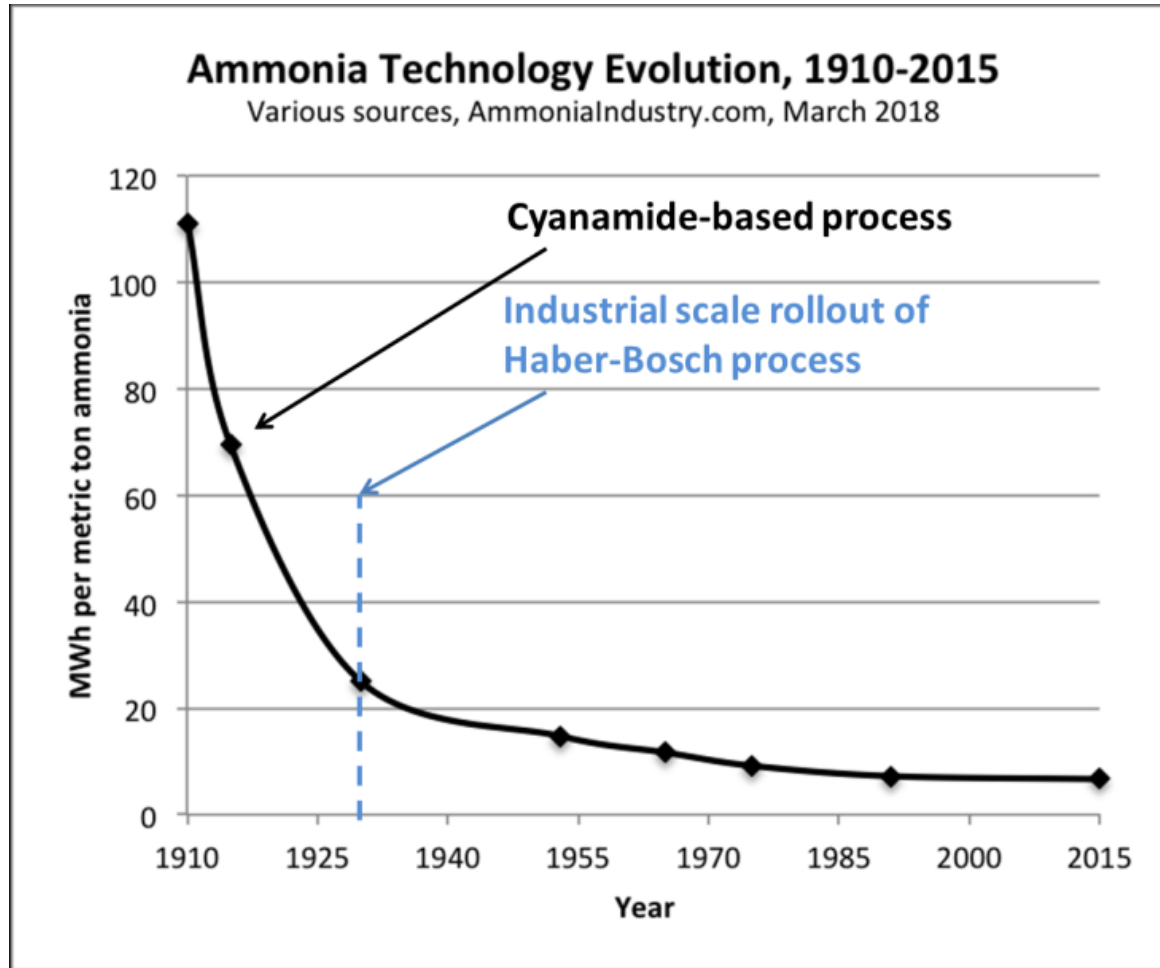
- AmoMax10: increased activity compared to magnetite-based catalysts

## Johnson Matthey

- Katalco35: long lifetime, high activity
- Katalco74 superior activity in particular between 80 and 120 bar



# Energy demand evolution of the Haber-Bosch process



# Plant size and economics

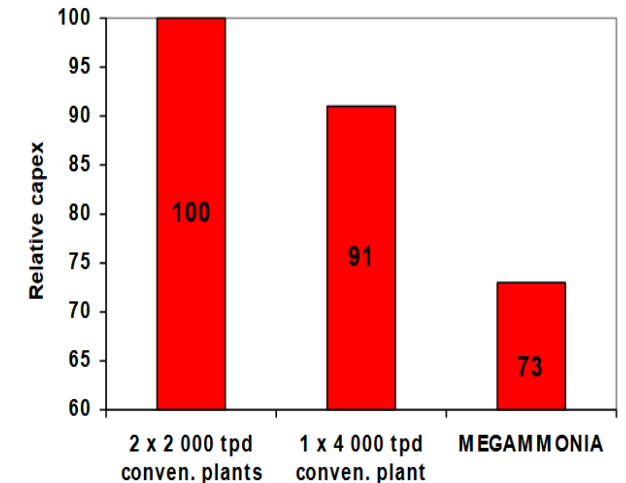
Company	Capacity (mtpa)	CAPEX (US\$)	CAPEX/t <sub>NH3</sub> /day (\$/t/day)	Type
Ammoni	715000	1,4 b	1958	Pet-Chem, greenfield
JV Yara&BASF	750000	600 m	800	H <sub>2</sub> from other process
J.R. Simplot	Ca. 200000	350 m	1765	brownfield
Fortigen	Ca. 33000	75 m	2275	greenfield

Assuming 10 years payback time on the plant, the specific CAPEX is in the interval between 80 and 227 \$/ton NH<sub>3</sub>

Modularity:

CAPEX comparison

2x2000 vs 1x4000 tpd

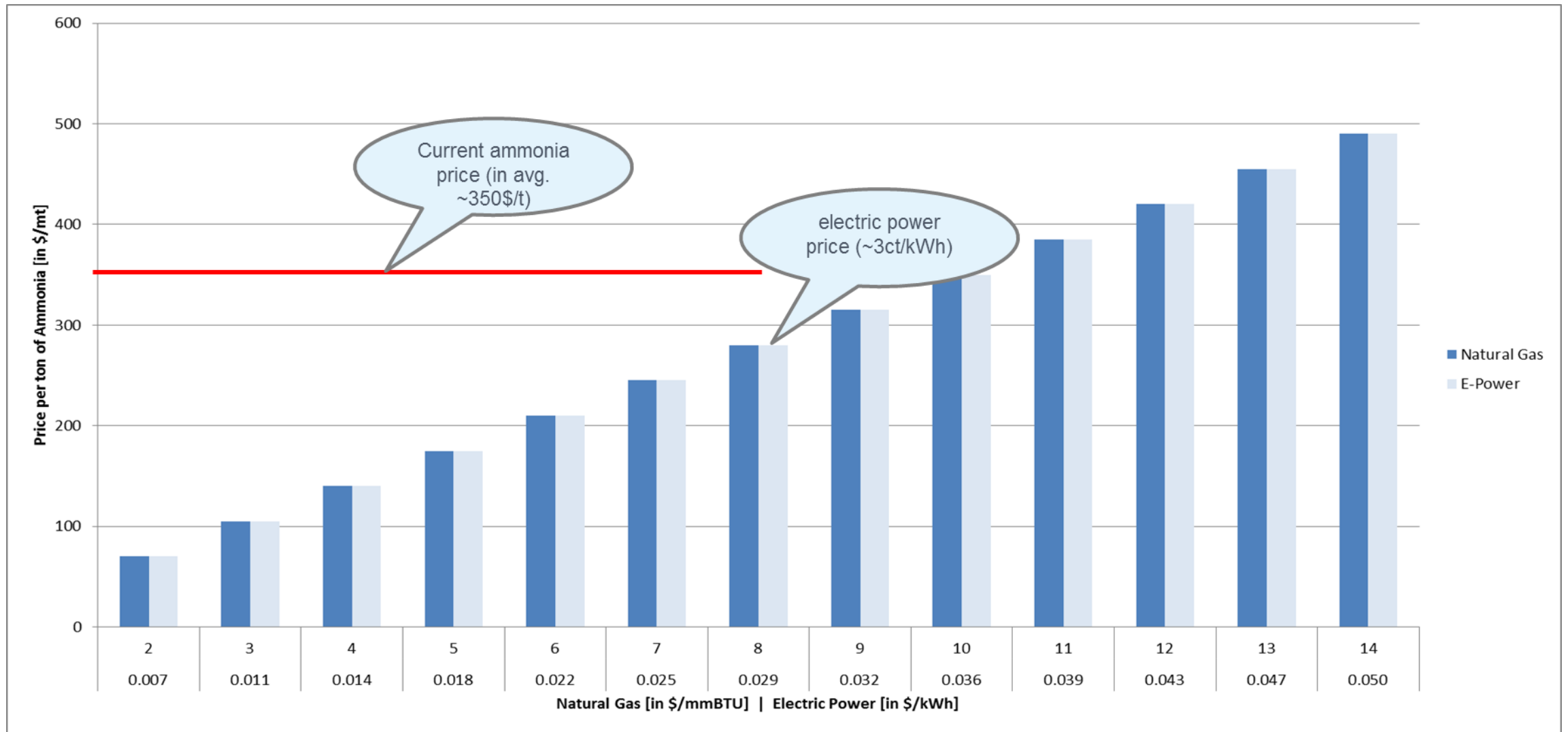


CAPEX Structure

MEGAMMONIA (Casale)

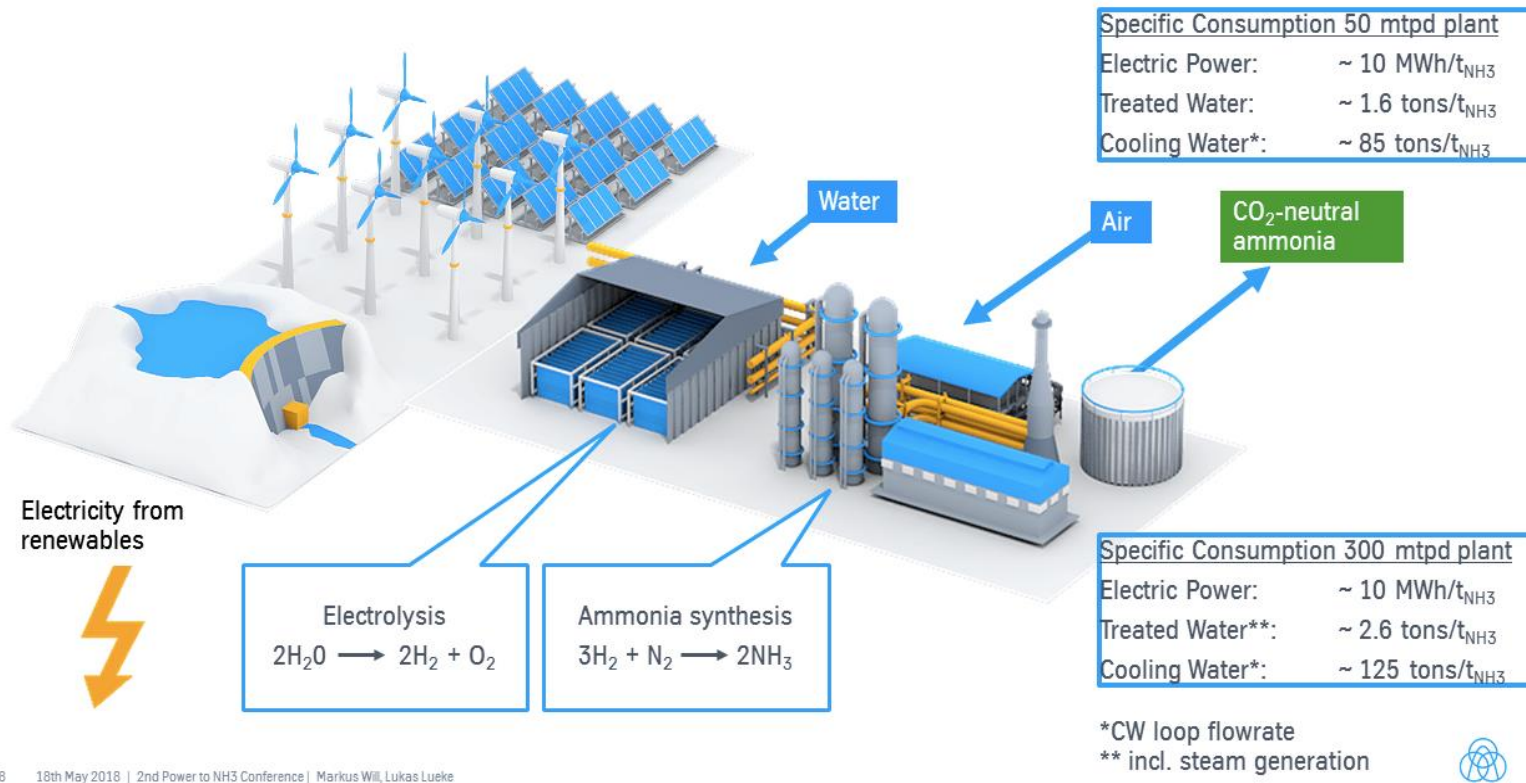
Process Plant	61 %
Utilities (including cooling tower)	15 %
Tank farm (40 000 t NH <sub>3</sub> )	7 %
Air Separation Unit	17 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>

# OPEX estimation (energy price)



# Green Ammonia plant by Thyssen-Krupp

Introducing renewable ammonia by thyssenkrupp



Location: Port Lincoln, AU

CAPEX: 90 m \$

CAPEX/t/day: 4931 *Aus*\$/t/d

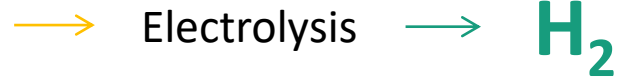
Target energy demand:

10 MWh/ton NH<sub>3</sub>

“one of the first ever commercial plants to produce CO<sub>2</sub>-free ‘green’ ammonia from intermittent renewable resources.”

# Intermittent operation of lone standing technologies

PV,  
Wind mill

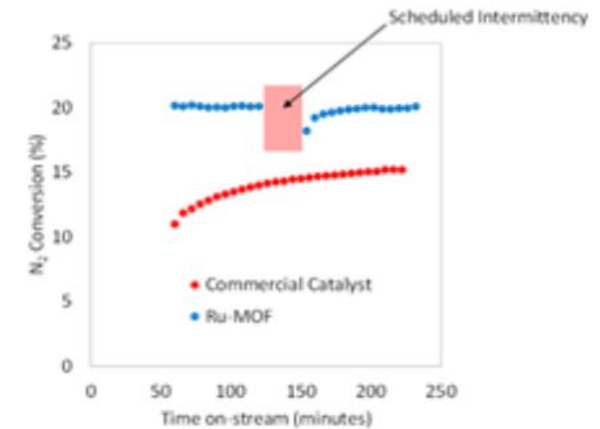


0-100% in  
10 s-50 min  
Role:  
valorizes peak  
energy

Pet-chem  
upstream → Haber-Bosch  
Synth. →



$\pm 1$ -10% in  
24 h -1 week  
Role:  
damps fluctuation  
in the demand  
Open question:  
0%-100%-0%  
cycles not proven



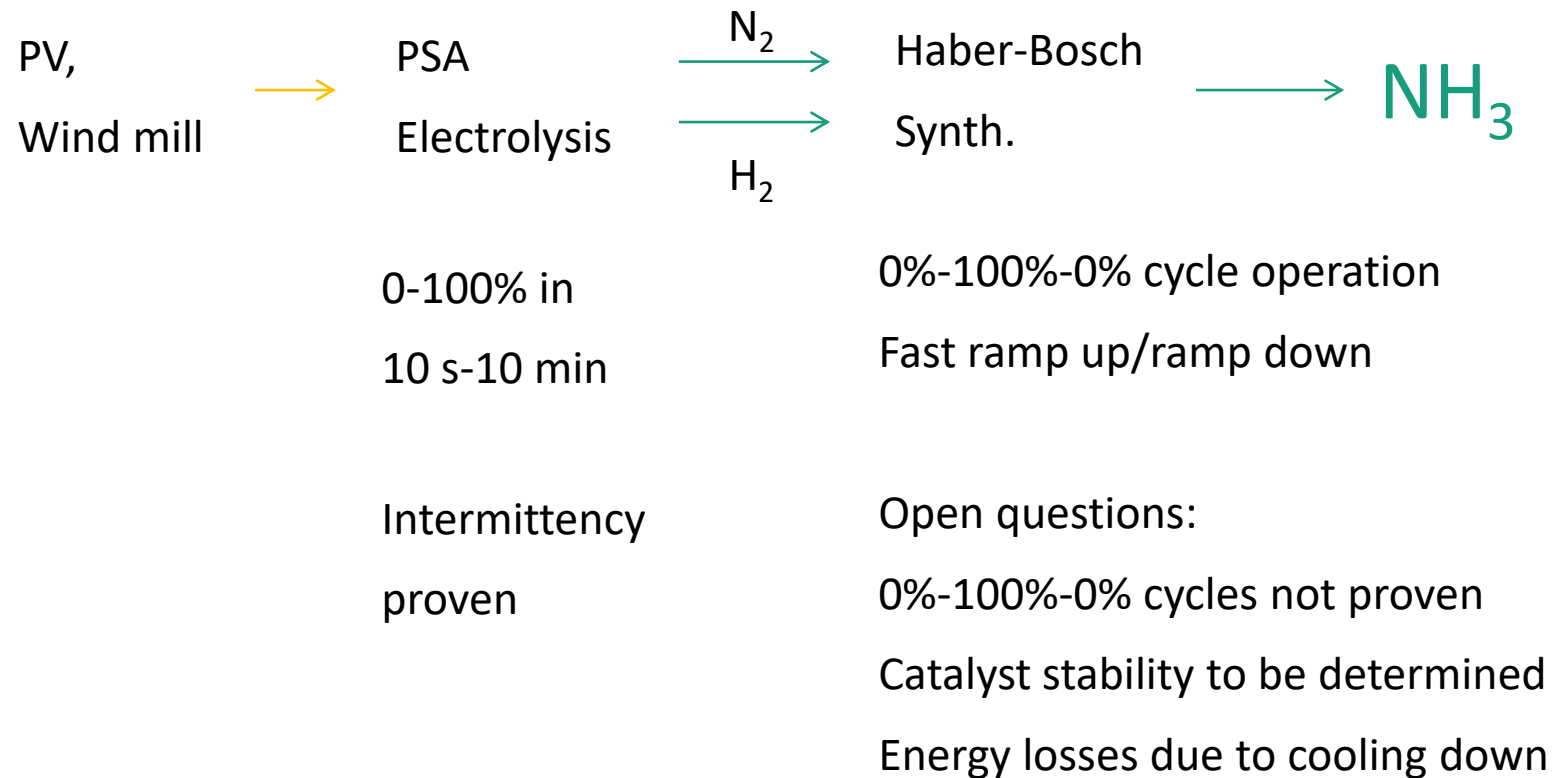
Lab-scale intermittency



# Addressing coupled intermittent operation on large scale

Scenario 1: Direct coupling of the electrolyzer and PSA with Haber-Bosch

Condition: The Haber-Bosch reactor has to follow quasi real time the intermittency of the electrolyzer.

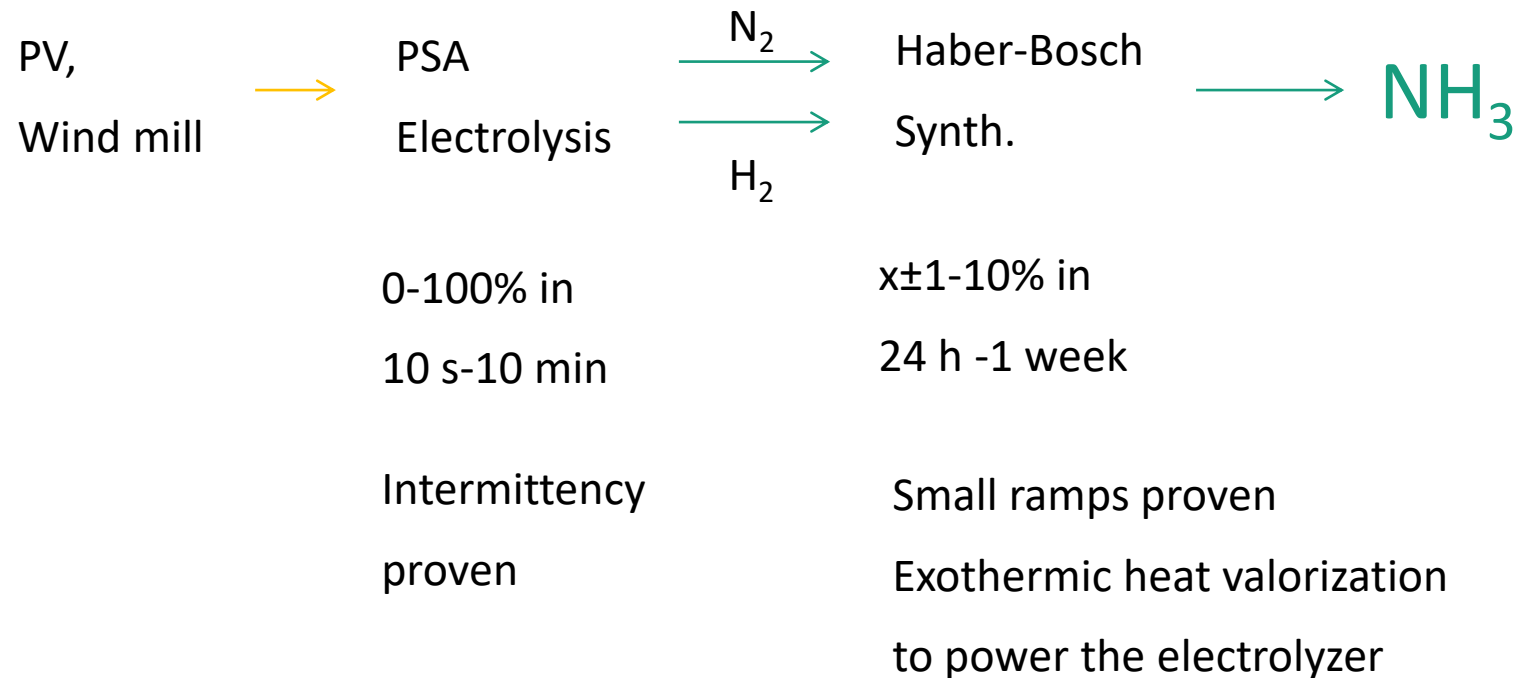


- Addressing the open questions in pilot plant
- Relatively high CAPEX
- Higher energy demand

# Addressing coupled intermittent operation on large scale

Scenario 2: Indirect coupling of the electrolyzer and PSA with Haber-Bosch

Condition: The Haber-Bosch reactor may be operated with loads >0 %.



Advantages vs. Scenario 1

- Possible to build larger plant
- Significantly less R&D needed
- Better energy efficiency
- Maintaining >0% load factor of electrolyzer by feeding it with electricity from exothermal energy from the Haber-Bosch

# Thank you for your attention!



Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology, Straubing branch

Dr. Lenard-Istvan Csepei  
E-Mail: [lenard-istvan.csepei@igb.fraunhofer.de](mailto:lenard-istvan.csepei@igb.fraunhofer.de)  
Phone: +49 9421 187364

# sources of information / literature

- [1] Study IndWEDe, Industrialisierung der Wasserelektrolyse in Deutschland: Chancen und Herausforderungen für nachhaltigen Wasserstoff für Verkehr, Strom und Wärme, BMWi Germany 2018, Nationale Organisation Wasserstoff- und Brennstoffzellentechnologie – NOW GmbH, Fasanenstraße 5, 10623 Berlin
- [2] Frontier economics, from World energy council 2018 (INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF A POWER-TO-X ROADMAP, A report prepared for the World Energy Council Germany
- [3] Hydrogen Council, McKinsey – Investor Day Presentation, 24.06.2018
- [4] Tsotridis, G., & Pilenga, A. (2018). EU harmonised terminology for low temperature water electrolysis for energy storage applications.
- [5] Smolinka, T., Water Electrolysis: Status and Potential for Development, Fraunhofer-institute for solar energy systems ISE, Water Electrolysis Day Brussels (BE), April 03, 2014
- [6] Cost break down and cost reduction strategies for PEM water electrolysis systems, Presentation held at 6th European PEFC & Electrolyser Forum, Lucern, Switzerland, July 5, 2017, Author(s): Smolinka, T.; Wiebe, N.; Thomassen, M.
- [7] Study by AGORA Germany Agora Verkehrswende, Agora Energiewende and Frontier Economics (2018): The Future Cost of Electricity-Based Synthetic Fuels., <https://www.agora-energiewende.de/>
- [8] [http://re.jrc.ec.europa.eu/PVg\\_tools/en/tools.html#PVP](http://re.jrc.ec.europa.eu/PVg_tools/en/tools.html#PVP)