

# H2FUTURE – Hydrogen Electrolysis

HYDROGEN MEETING FUTURE NEEDS OF LOW CARBON MANUFACTURING VALUE CHAINS

08.10. 2019

Hermann Wolfmeir



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FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN  
JOINT UNDERTAKING

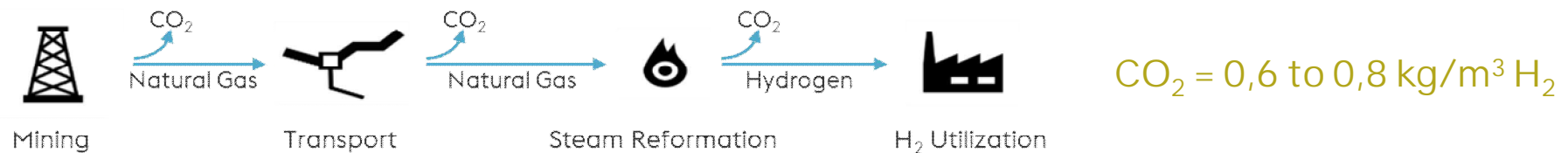
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# H2FUTURE PROJECT IDEA

- » TODAY: Hydrogen is produced via steam reformation from fossil fuels, mostly from natural gas. This leads to substantial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

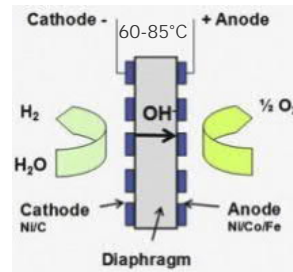
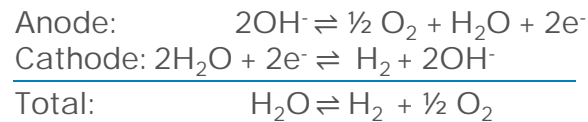


- » IN THE FUTURE: Water electrolysis via electricity from renewable energy sources will be the main source of **green hydrogen** with a minimal CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.



# TECHNOLOGIES READY TO THE MARKET

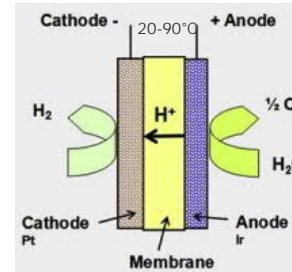
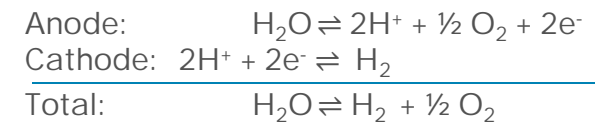
## Alkaline Electrolysis



- » More than 100 years of development history
- » Life time up to 40 years at stable operation
- » Up to 5 MW, high efficiency
- » Liquid electrolyte 20-25% KOH
- » Low dynamics
- » No partial load < 30%
- » Current densities 0,25 A/cm<sup>2</sup>



## PEM – Electrolysis (proton exchange membrane)



- » Solid electrolyte: perfluorosulfonated polymer membrane (e.g. Nafion®)
- » High current densities up to 2 A/cm<sup>2</sup>
- » High dynamics, load range 10 to 100%
- » Number of suppliers for plants > 1 MW modest
- » Life time ?



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Pictures:  
 Carmo et al.: A comprehensive review on PEM water electrolysis, Int. J. Hydrogen Energy, 38 (2013)  
 Friedrich : Zukunftspotenziale der Elektrolyse: Univ. Stuttgart

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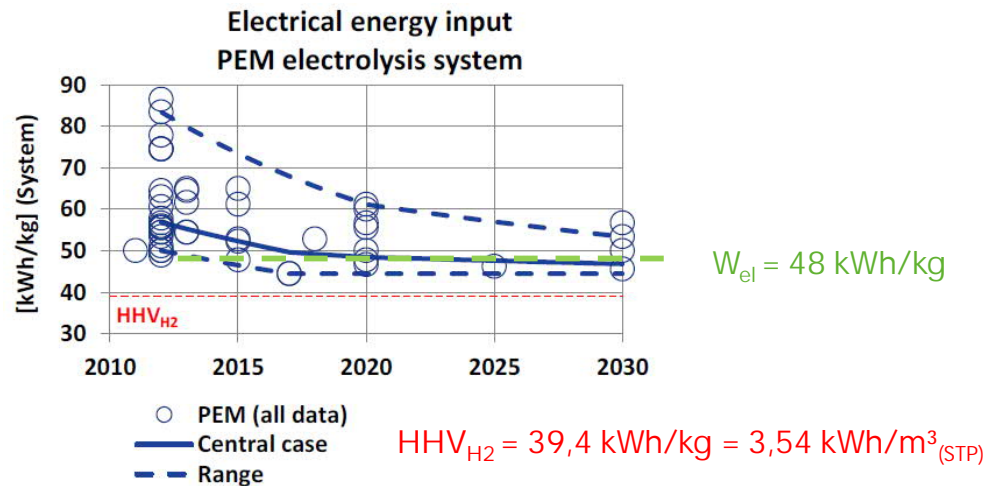
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# EU HORIZON 2020 CALL FOR TENDER: CALL FCH-02-7-2016

## SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES (1)



- » Design and installation of a **6 MW PEM** (1200m<sup>3</sup><sub>n</sub>/h) electrolyser system
  - » The hydrogen purity should meet the application requirements...
  - » Storage and compression are not in the scope of this topic



- » To demonstrate an energy consumption of **48 kWh/kg H<sub>2</sub>** for PEM technology at nominal power
- » Ambitious efficiency target
- »  $\eta_{System} = 82\%$

Source: Development of Water Electrolysis in the European Union FCH JU (2014)

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# EU HORIZON 2020 CALL FOR TENDER: CALL FCH-02-7-2016

## SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES (2)



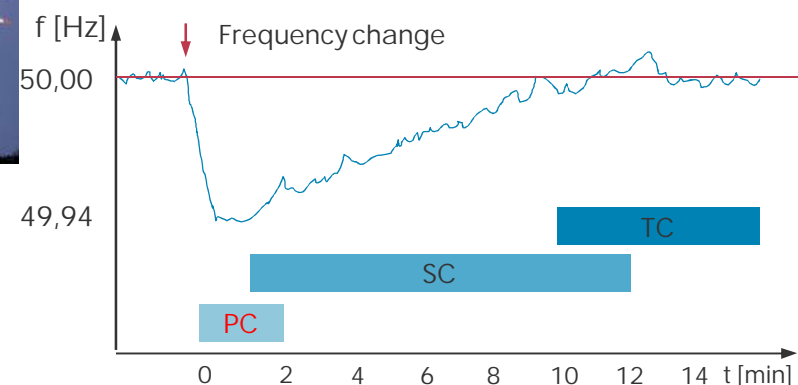
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- » Two year demonstration
- » To demonstrate a CAPEX for the of  $<1000 \text{ €/kW}$  for PEM technology
- » To develop a large scale electrolyser of sufficiently **rapid response time** (of the order of a few seconds), to participate in the existing primary and secondary grid **balancing markets**

Volatile generation and volatile demand



Impact and response



Primary Control (PC) ... Activation within 30 seconds after frequency change  
Secondary Control (SC) ... Activation within 5 min after set point signal  
Tertiary Control (TC) ... Activation within 10 min after web based call

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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One of the biggest forthcoming PEM electrolyser units in the world with 6 MW power and 1200 m<sup>3</sup>/h H<sub>2</sub> production at voestalpine Linz for full scale demonstration of H<sub>2</sub> production and grid balancing



Project Budget:	17,8 M€
Total EU Funding:	12,0 M€ (70% funding)
Project Duration:	4,5 years (2017-2021)

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# LOCATION SELECTION

## “BG 89 WASSERSTOFFANLAGE NORD”

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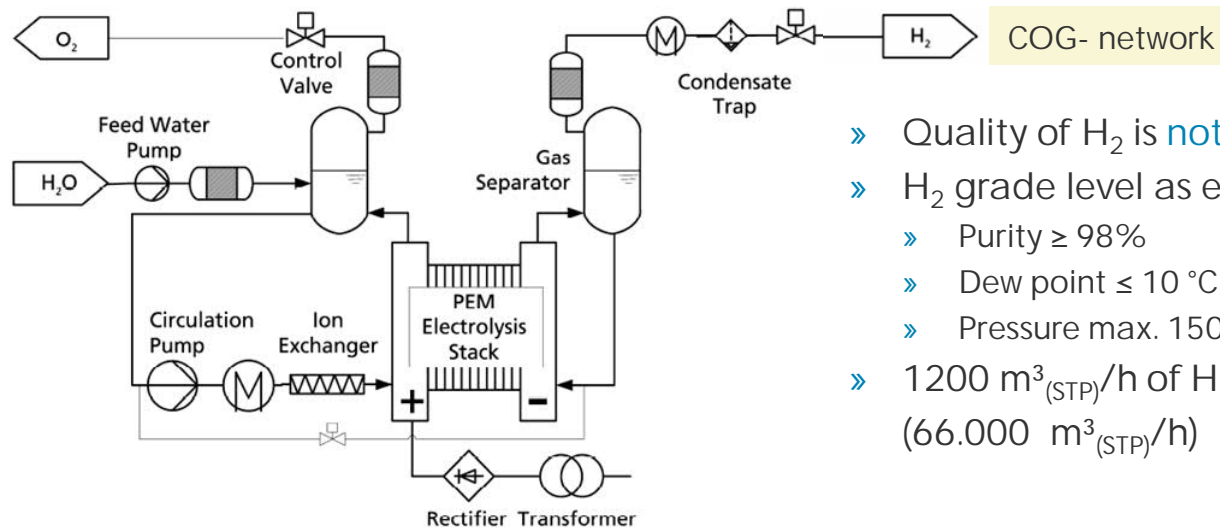


- » voestalpine is in charge of providing the infrastructure
- » Location next to power station ensures availability of
  - » Electricity
  - » Cooling water
  - » Deionized water
  - » Nitrogen
  - » Pressurized air
  - » Connection to COG-network



# BASIC & DETAIL ENGINEERING

## » Principal layout of PEM-electrolyser system



- » Quality of H<sub>2</sub> is **not comparable** to H<sub>2</sub> for fuel cells ...
- » H<sub>2</sub> grade level as energy carrier and reducing agent
  - » Purity  $\geq 98\%$
  - » Dew point  $\leq 10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - » Pressure max. 150 mbar
- » 1200 m<sup>3</sup><sub>(STP)</sub>/h of H<sub>2</sub> introduced into COG network (66.000 m<sup>3</sup><sub>(STP)</sub>/h)

Flow Chart: Smolink, PEM Water Electrolysis, Present Status of R&D, 18th world Hydrogen Conference, Essen, 18.05.2010

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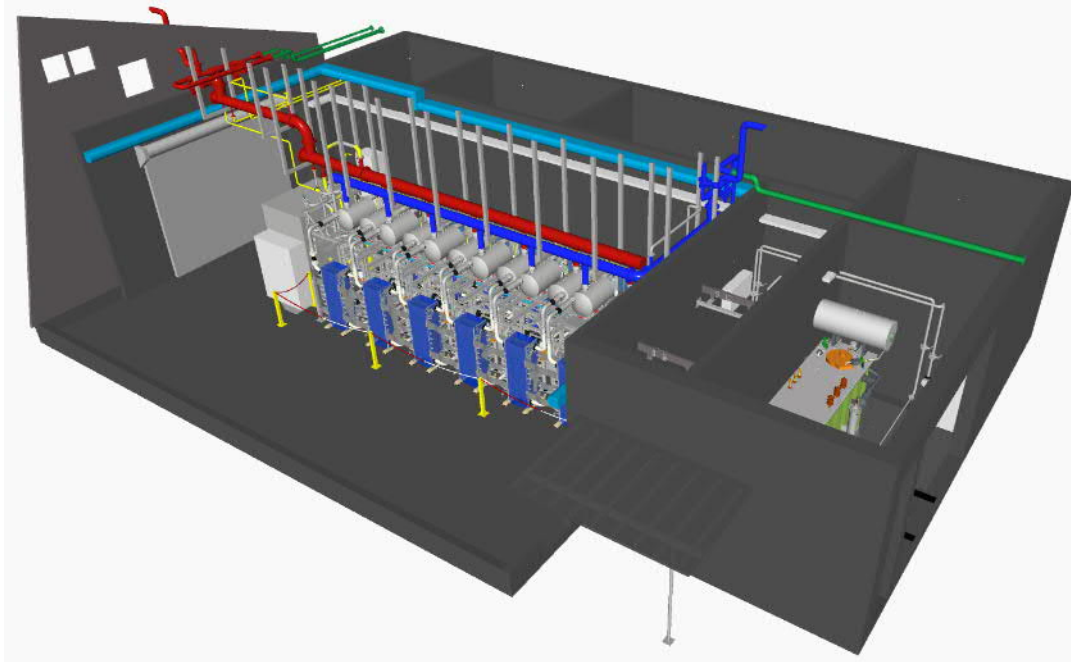
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# LAYOUT OF PEM ELECTROLYSER SYSTEM

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS



» Rated power	6 MW
» Hydrogen	1200 m <sup>3</sup> <sub>(STP)</sub> /h
» Oxygen	600 m <sup>3</sup> <sub>(STP)</sub> /h
» Cells	600 (12 x 50)
» Membrane	0,5 m <sup>2</sup> /cell
» Current density	1 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
» Current	5000 A
» Voltage up to	2 V/cell
» Cooling Water	350 m <sup>3</sup> /h
» Pressure	max. 150 mbar
» Purity	> 98 % H <sub>2</sub>
» Dew point	< 10 °C

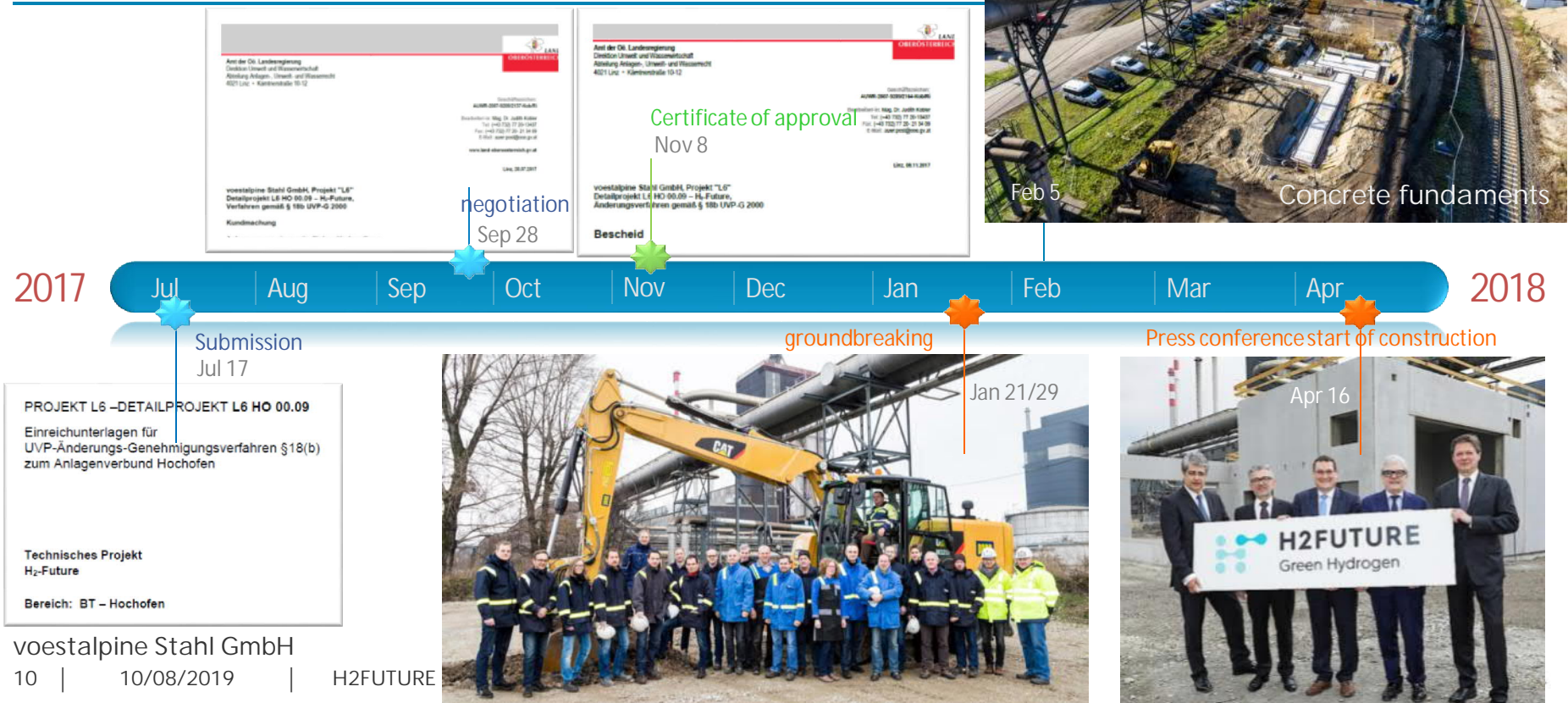
At least 170 comparable units for supplying a DR-plant like Texas necessary

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# SOME MILESTONES



# HYDROGEN STEELMAKING PROJECT STATUS H2FUTURE (2017-2021)

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15.03.2018



02.07.2018



07.08.2018

» August 2018: Finalization electrolyzer building, delivery of transformer

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## PROJECT STATUS H2FUTURE



September 2018:  
installation of ventilation  
and cooling system



October 2018:  
assembly works  
transformer and  
rectifier

29.10.2018



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## PROJECT STATUS H2FUTURE



30.01.2019

November  
2018 –  
February 2019

Installation of  
heat  
exchangers  
assembly  
works, final  
piping works  
completion of  
infrastructure



18.02.2019

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## PROJECT STATUS H2FUTURE



March / April 2019

Delivery of first 3 modules

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September 2019

Completion of first row

October 2&3 2019

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# R&D OBJECTIVES OF VOESTALPINE

## IS PEM ELECTROLYSIS A RELIABLE TECHNOLOGY?

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- » Systematic upscaling requires answers of following questions /topics
- » Operation of PEM electrolyser
  - a. operating range
  - b. Efficiency: Influence of dynamic operation, continuous and overload operation
  - c. Degradation of PEM due to ageing and poisoning
- » Durability considering the mode of operation
  - a. Maintenance intensity
  - b. Tightness
  - c. Corrosion
- » Quality of product and input reactant streams
  - a. Requirements deionized water
  - b. Quality of H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> dependent on operation mode
- » Influence of operation time



# Thank you! Questions?

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