







# PROSPECTS AND IMPEDIMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HYDROGENBASED ENERGY SYSTEM

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#### **CONTENT:**



- 1. Motivation: Energy Problems
- 2. History: vision of a hydrogen economy
- 3. A survey of hydrogen technologies
- 4. Costs & economics of hydrogen
- 5. The colour of H2: Environm. benignness
- 6. Scenarios & technol. learning
- 7. Policy strategies
- 8. What if it is not feasible?
- 9. Conclusions



#### 1. INTRODUCTION



#### **Motivation:**

- \* Paris agreements reducing GHG emissions
- \* Urgent needs for clean energy carriers
- \* It is not possible to force variable renewables into the system -> storage needed
- \* Hydrogen is seen as such a clean energy carrier since decades, yet so far it has not delivered



#### **Core objectives**

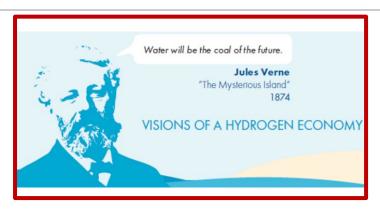


- To analyze the prospects and impediments of a H2-based energy system
- to identify the role of hydrogen to integrate even larger amounts of renewables into the electricity system
- To analyze how efficient technical solutions based on hydrogen can be
- To investigate the economic prospects
- To identify environm benignity of various "colours"



#### ergy 2. HISTORY: VISIONS OF HYDROGEN





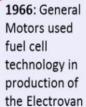
The vision of the hydrogen economy is very old. Still, in 1874 Jules Verne in his work "The Mysterious Island" said:

"I believe that water will one day be employed as fuel, that hydrogen and oxygen which constitute it, used singly or together, will furnish an inexhaustible source of heat and light, of an intensity of which coal is not capable."











1993: The first PEMFC car

2013: > 4000

2011:

> 100 fuel cell buses worldwide





2019: The global FCV stock ~13000



hydrogen fuel cell powered tramcar



1958: The first PEM fuel cell

1959: The first

powered by an

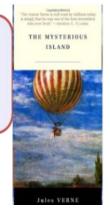
alkaline fuel cell

farm tractor

fuel cell vehicle -

1838: Discovered fuel cell effect

1766: Hydrogen was first identified as a distinct element 1874: Vision of hydrogen economy







#### The vision of a hydrogen "society"



### H2 from Nuclear (Germany, 1984)



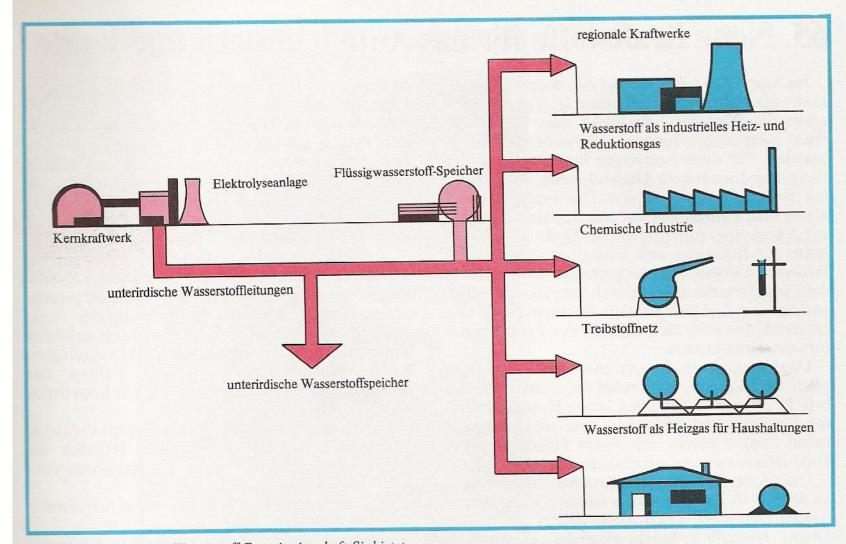


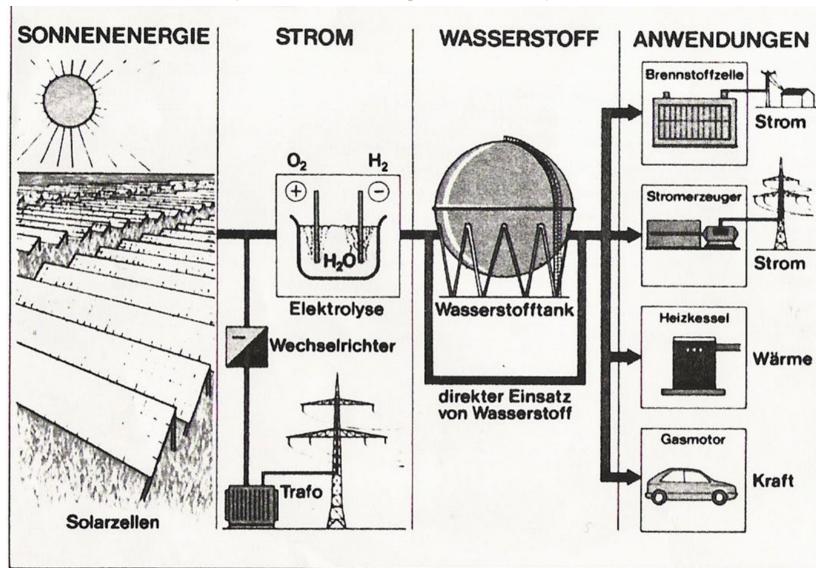
Bild 1 Schema einer Wasserstoff-Energiewirtschaft. Sie bietet neben der Nutzung der Sonnenenergie zum Beispiel die Möglichkeit, Großkernkraftwerke mit allen Anlagen zur Brennstoff- und Abfallbehandlung an einem Ort zu konzentrieren,



### Finergy H2 from Solar energy in the desert



(Germany, 1986)





#### Jeremy Rifkin: "The Hydrogen economy" (2002):

The road to global security," writes Jeremy Rifkin, "lies in lessening our dependence on Middle East oil and making sure that all people on Earth have access to the energy they need to sustain life. Weaning the world off oil and turning it toward hydrogen is a promissory note for a safer world." Rifkin's international bestseller **The Hydrogen Economy** presents the clearest, most comprehensive case for moving ourselves away from the destructive and waning years of the oil era toward a new kind of energy regime. Hydrogen-one of the most abundant substances in the universe-holds the key, Rifkin argues, to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable world

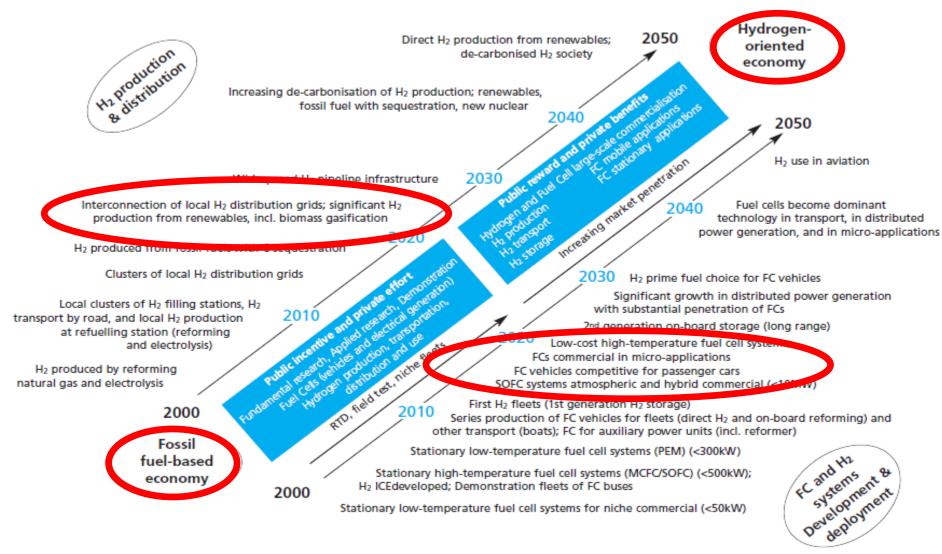


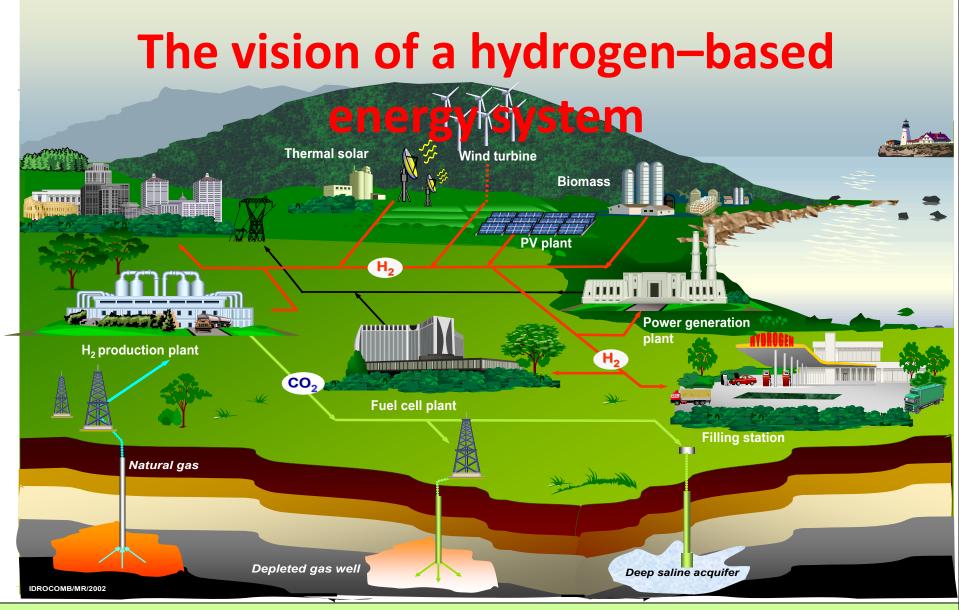
#### **EU-Roadmap H2**



(2003)

A challenging European hydrogen vision





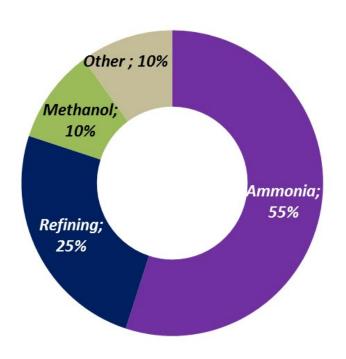
This is how an integrated energy system of the future might look – combining large and small fuel cells for domestic and decentralised heat and electrical power generation. Local hydrogen networks could also be used to fuel conventional or fuel cell vehicles.

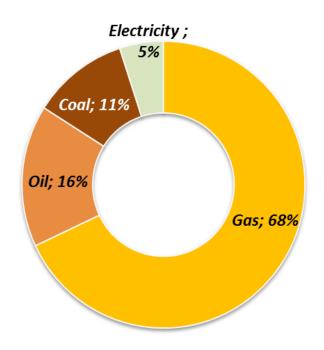
Source: EU, 2003



#### Global hydrogen use and production









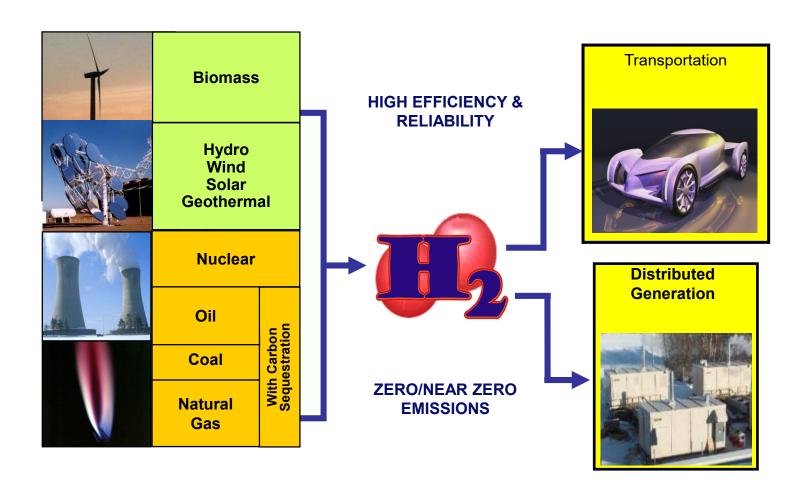
### 3. A survey of hydrogen technologies





#### Hydrogen supply chains







#### Hydrogen supply chains







H2-transport & storage



Service (e.g. mobility)

#### Major hydrogen production processes

Primary Method	Process	Feedstock	Energy	Emissions	Stage of Development
	Steam Reforming	Natural Gas	High temperature steam	Some emissions. Carbos sequestration can mitigate their effect.	Developed commercial technology
	Thermochemical Water Splitting	Water	High temperature heat from advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactors	No emissions	Fundamental research
<u>Thermal</u>	Gasification	Coal*, Biomass**	Steam and oxygen at high temperature and pressure	Some emissions. Carbos sequestration can mitigate their effect.	*Developed commercial technology **Proven technology
	Pyrolysis	Biomass	Moderately high temperature steam	Some emissions. Carbos sequestration can mitigate their effect.	Proven technology

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#### Major hydrogen production processes



Primary Method	Process	Feedstock	Energy	Emissions	Stage of Development
	Electrolysis	Water	Electricity from wind, solar,hydro and nuclear	No emissions.	Developed commercial technology
<u>Electrochemical</u>	Electrolysis	Water	Electricity from coal or natural gas	Some emissions from electricity production.	Developed commercial technology
	Photo- Electro- chemical	Water	Direct sunlight	No emissions.	Fundamental research



#### Major hydrogen production processes

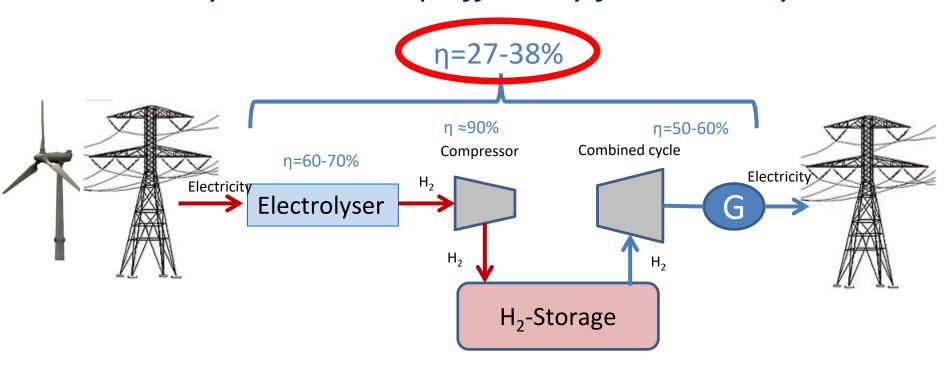
Primary Method	Process	Feedstock	Energy	Emissions	Stage of Development
	Photobiological	Water and algae strains	Direct sunlight	No emissions.	Fundamental research
<u>Biological</u>	Anaerobic Digestion	Biomass	High temperature heat	Some emissions.	Fundamental research
	Fermentative Microorganisms	Biomass	High temperature heat	Some emissions.	Fundamental research



#### Hydrogen as storage



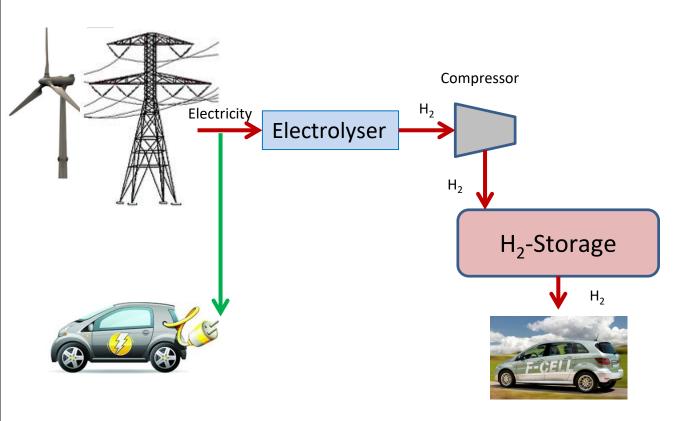
#### Very low roundtrip efficiency for electricity!





#### Hydrogen: storage and fuel



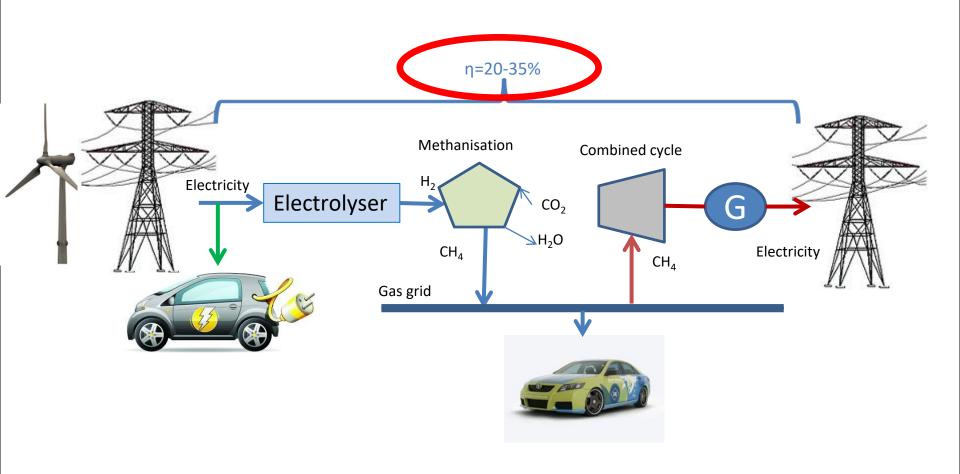


Energy supply chains: Storage and/or use of RES for mobility



#### Methanisation of hydrogen





Energy supply chains: Methane for mobility



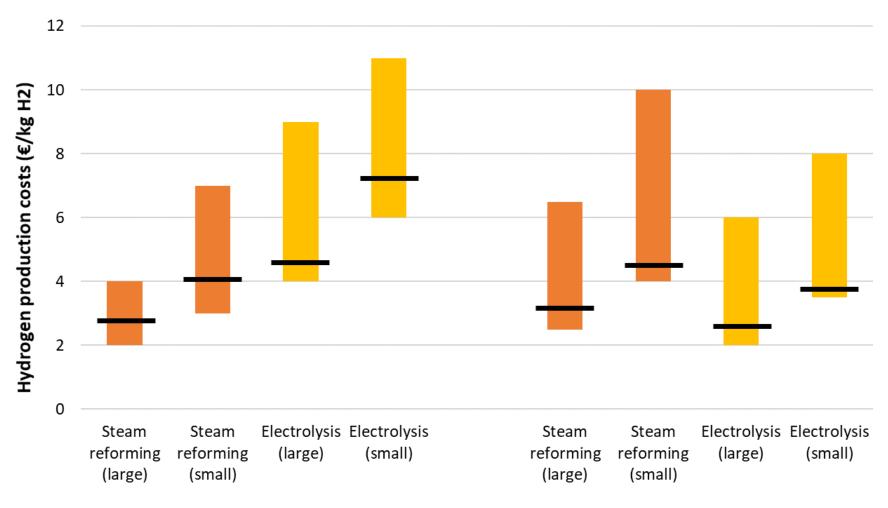
#### Energy 4. The economics of hydrogen





### 4. The costs of hydrogen (production)





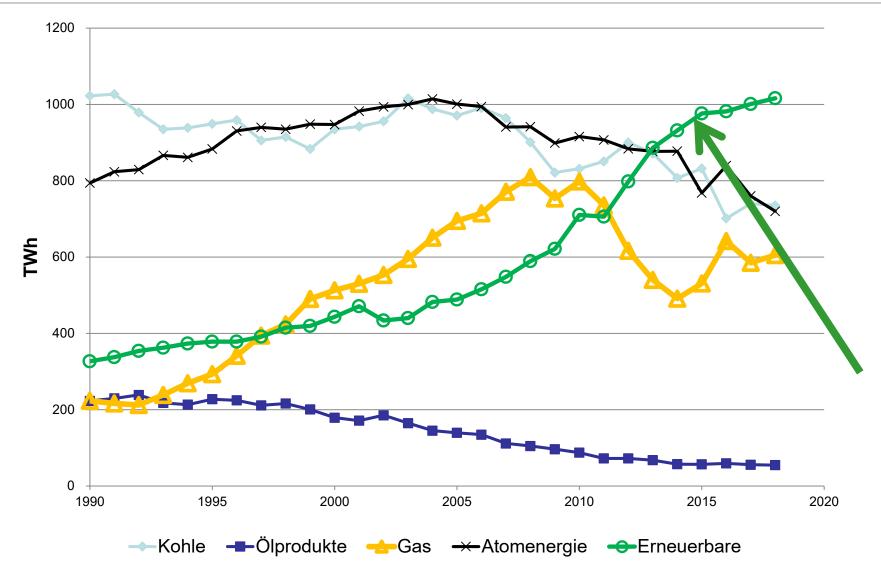
Current

**Future** 



#### **Electricity generation EU-28**

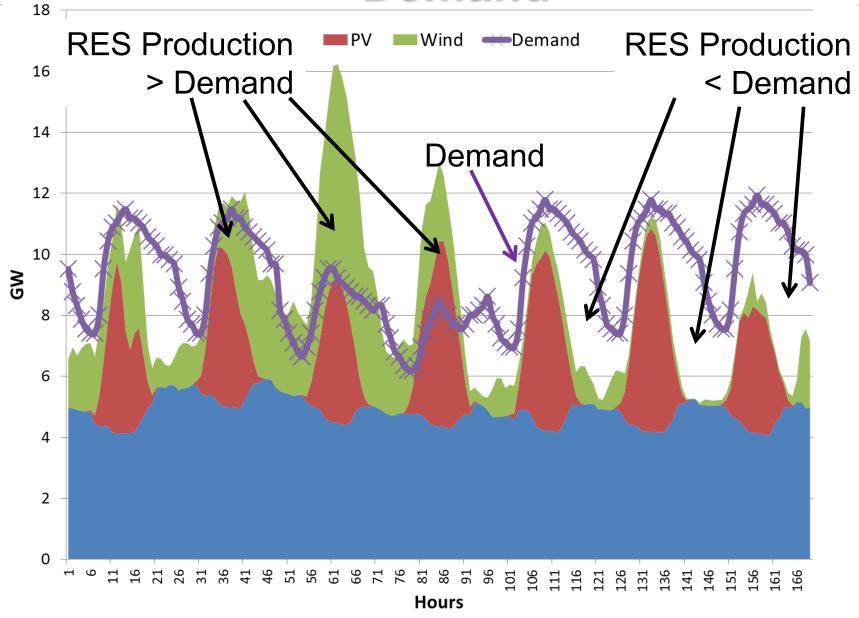






### Example: Supply and Demand



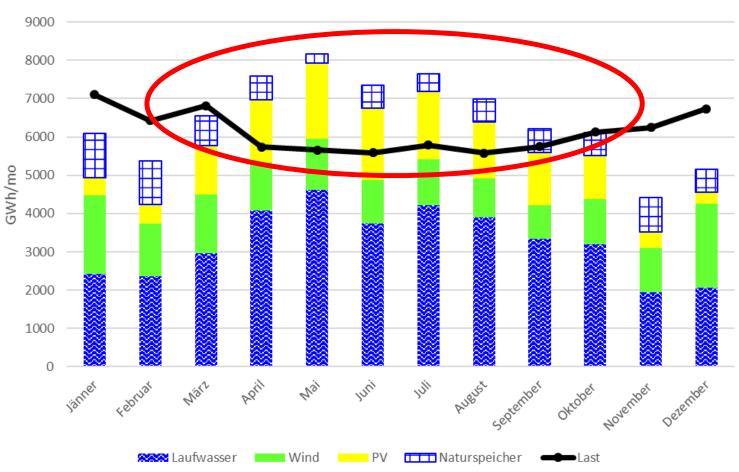




#### **Monthly 2030**



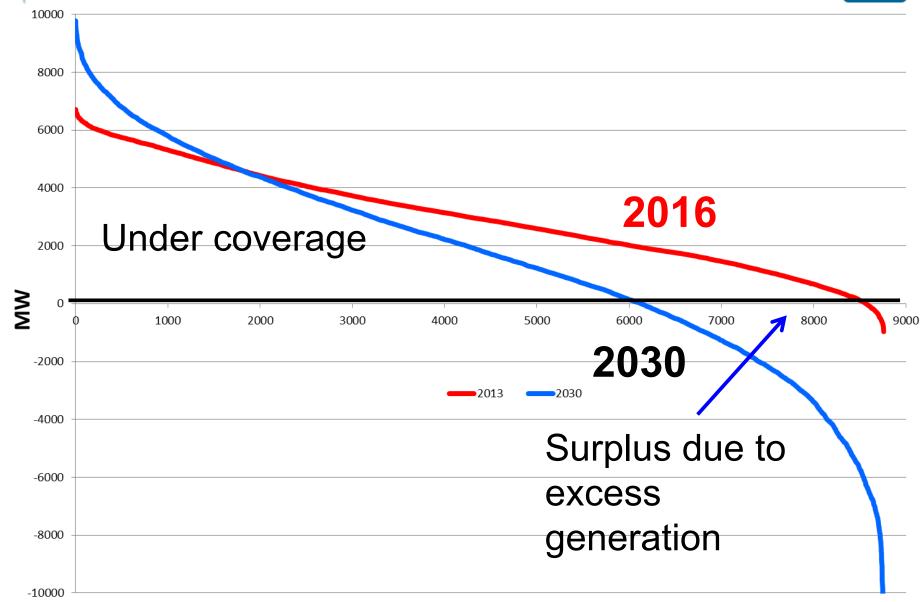






#### Classified residual load

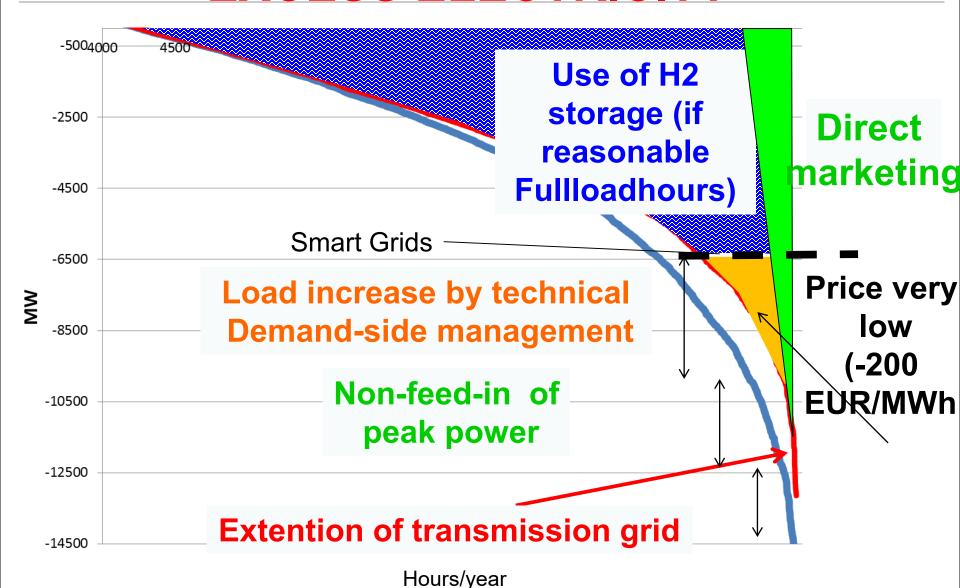






### FLEXIBLE USE OF EXCESS ELECTRICITY

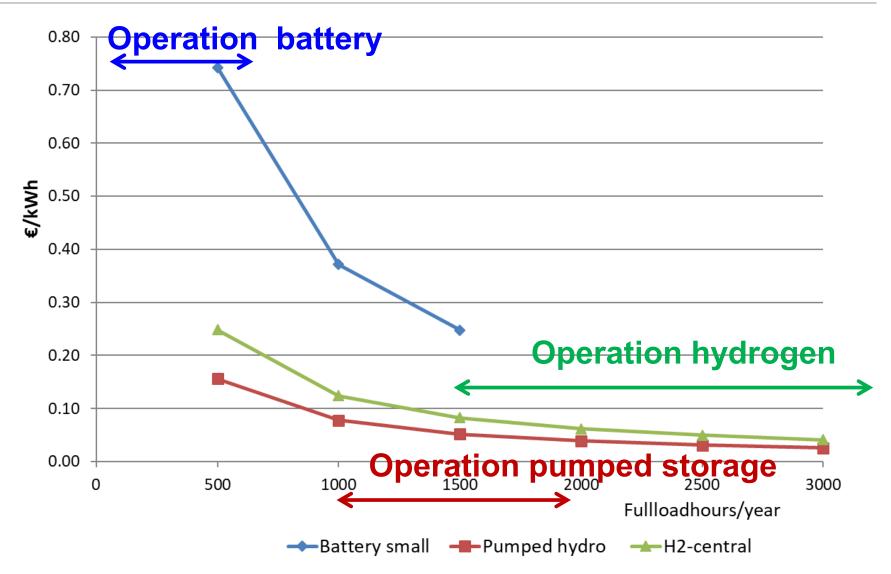






#### **Fullloadhours and costs**

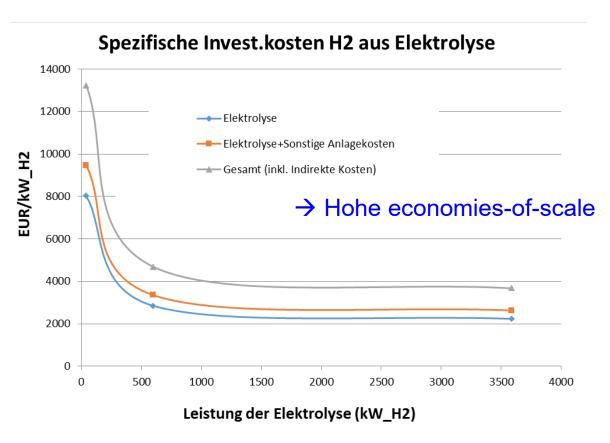








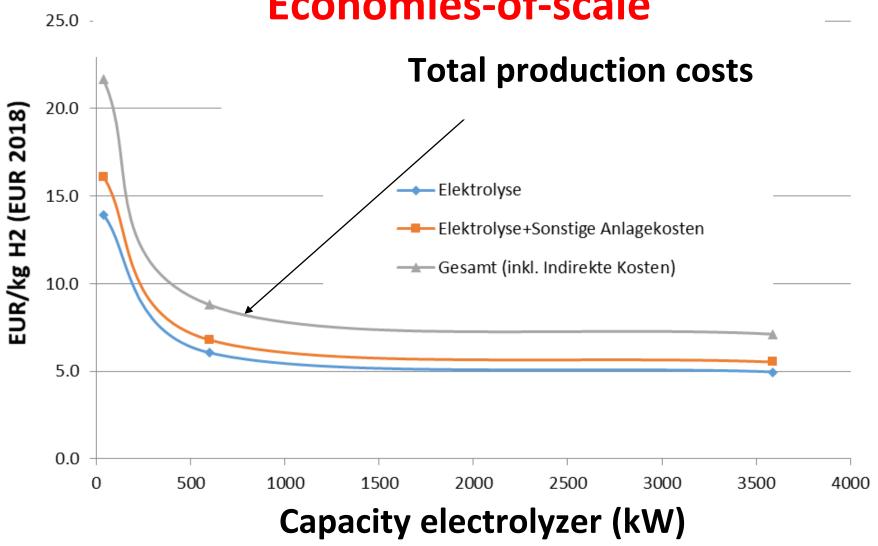
#### der Wasserstofferzeugung







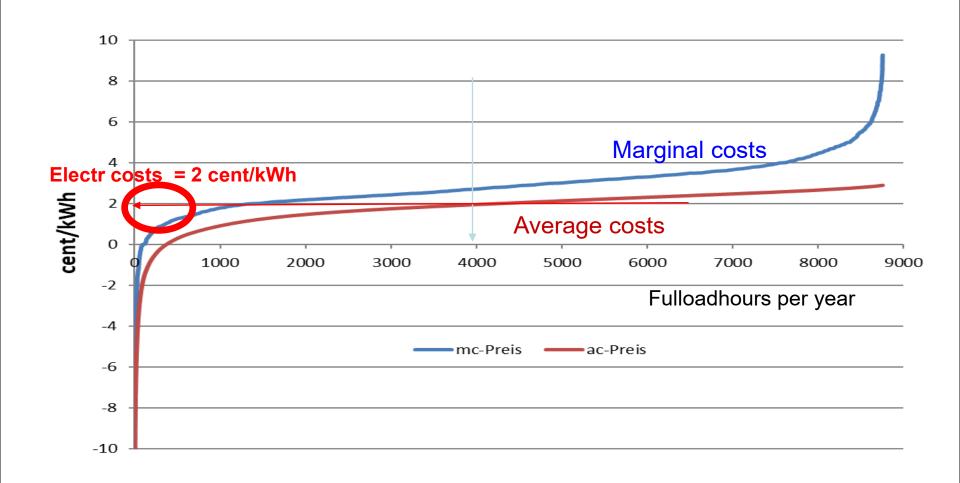
### Costs of hydrogen production – Economies-of-scale





#### **Electricity prices and costs**

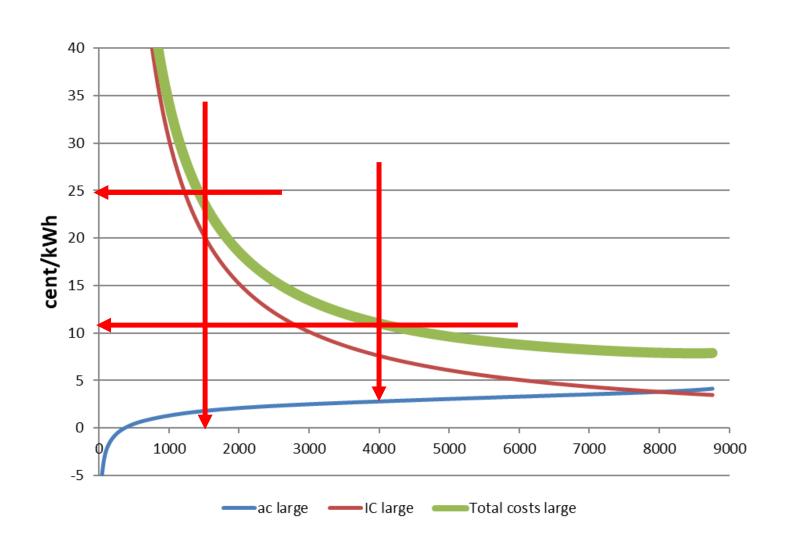






#### **Optimal Fulloadhours 2 MW plant**

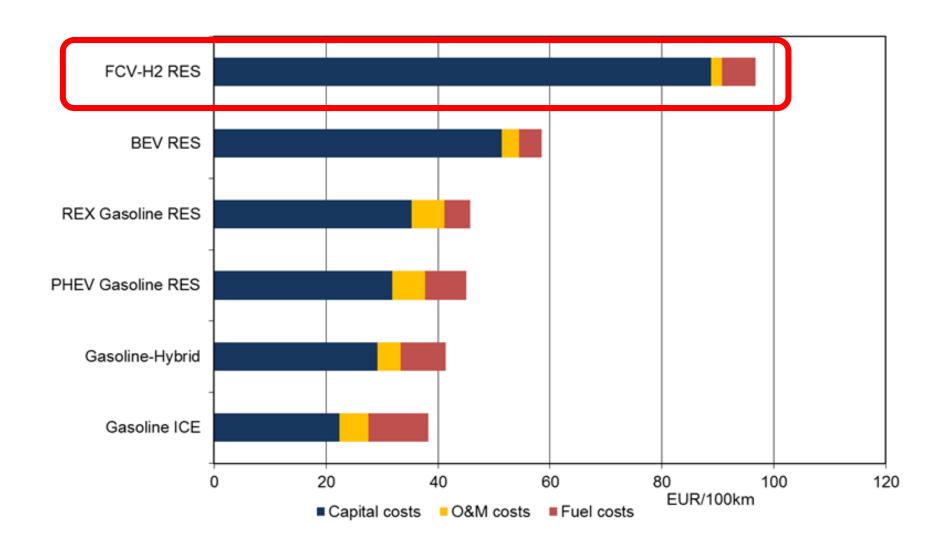




### **CURRENT ECONOMICS IN PASSENGER**

#### **CAR TRANSPORT**





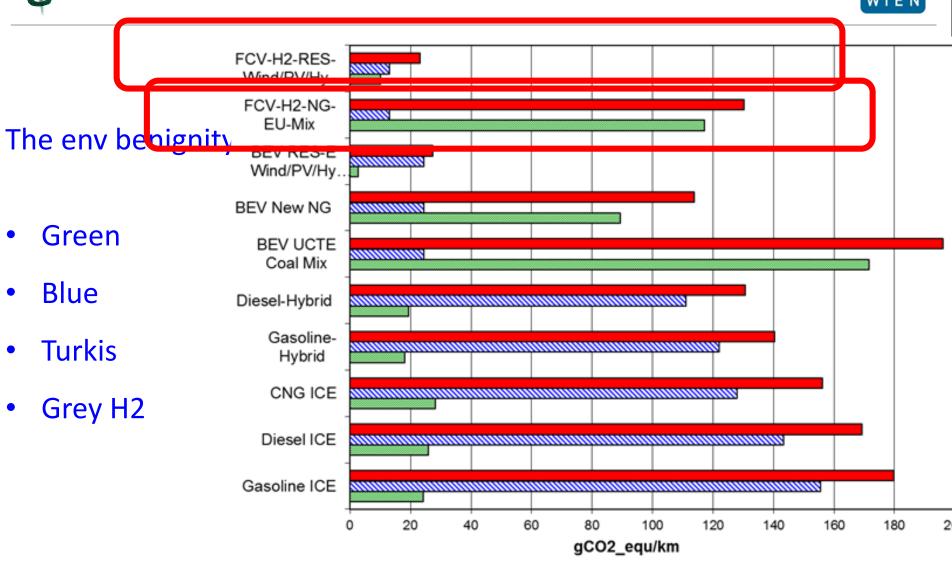


#### 5. WHICH COLOUR OF H2?



■ WTT fuel

TTW fuel + car



■WTW Fuel+car



#### **EXAMPLES**

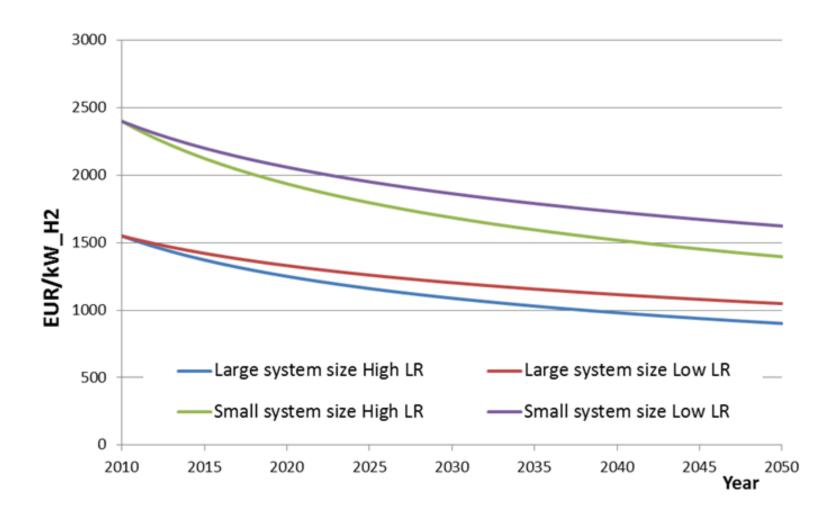


- ➤ Largest electrolysis plant is currently built in Hamburg → 100 MW, 2 tons H2/hour
- > H2- Busses
- ➤ H2 locomotives
- $\rightarrow$  H2 ships?



#### **6. SCENARIOS : TL EXPECTED**

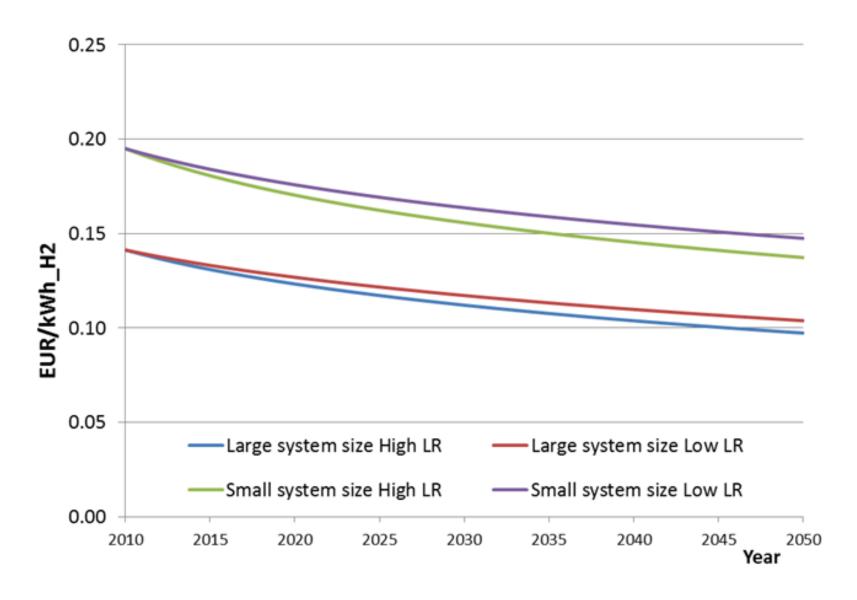




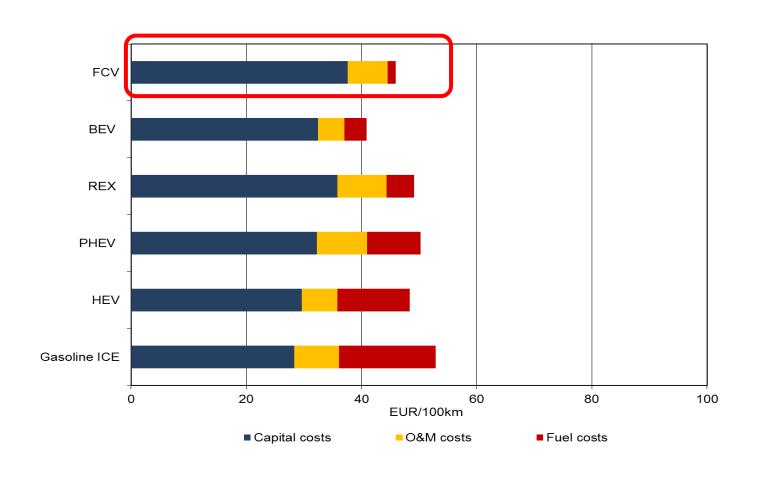


#### **SCENARIOS: TL EXPECTED**





### SCENARIO: ECONOMICS IN PASSENGER CAR TRANSPORT in 2050







## 7. POLICIES WHAT ARE PROPER POLCIES? WHICH POLICIES ARE SUITABLE?

### CURRENT POLICY STRATEGIES, TARGETS VARIOUS COUNTRIES



Which strategies and targets exist in different countries?

> EU: H2-strategy launched 10 June 2020.

In the first phase (2020-24) the objective is to decarbonise existing hydrogen production for current uses

China: In 2019 a H2 strategy was launched with a focus on hydrogen busses and trucks.....

The country intends that hydrogen will account for 10% of the Chinese energy system by 2040

- ➤ USA: Since the 1970(!)s H2-strategies and targets exist
- Germany: in June 2020 a budget of € 9 billion was launched for the promotion of H2 ... coop with Morocco



#### 8. WHAT IF NOT?



- What are finally the ultimatively, the lasting advantages of H2 over electricity expected?
- So far H2 has not delivered. What if electricity or technology surprise turns out to win?
- technologies are not really mature or not even available
- conversion efficiencies are over-all moderate
- environmental benignity only under specific conditions
- over-all costs are high
- economics still to be proven



#### 9. CONCLUSIONS



- Are the technologies ready? On the production as well as application side? How far?
- How to produce the huge quantities of renewable electricity? Or will Western countries rely on H2 imports? From which countries?
- Can H2 survive in a competitive energy market? Or is it necessary that the regulators interfer?
- How will the Infrastructure be provided? Will the existing one for natural gas be used?
- "Energy transition": a broad portfolio of supply- and demand-side technologies → is "Picking Winners" justified ?
- What are finally the ultimative lasting advantages of H2 over electricity?