
Cost break down and analysis of PEM electrolysis systems for different industrial and Power to Gas applications



Tom Smolinka

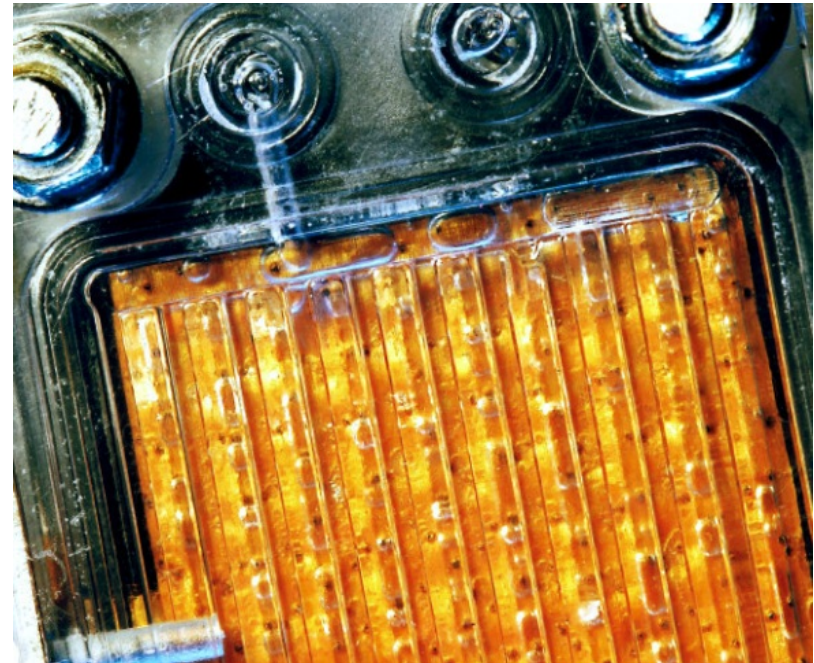
Fraunhofer-Institut für Solare
Energiesysteme ISE

World of Energy Solutions

Stuttgart (DE), October 12, 2015
www.ise.fraunhofer.de

Agenda

- Hydrogen Technologies at Fraunhofer ISE
- Coupling Renewables with hydrogen
- Cost break down of a 5 MW and 100 MW electrolysis system
- Hydrogen production cost
- Summary



Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE

Development of H₂ technologies for more than 25 years.



Hydrogen production by water electrolysis

- PEM electrolysis: cell, stack and system development
- Power to Hydrogen
- Hydrogen refuelling station



PEM fuel cell systems

- Fuel cell systems: cell, stack and system development
- Component and system characterisation
- Accelerated aging



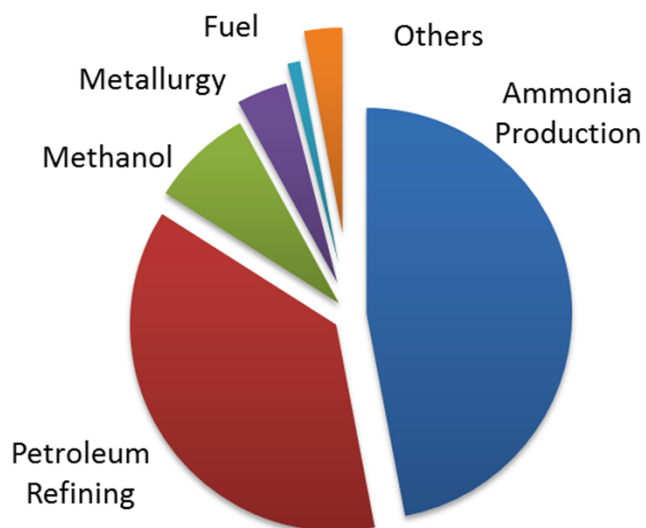
Thermochemical conversion of hydrocarbons & alcohols

- Residue free evaporation of fuels
- Power to Liquid
- Biomass for Materials

Coupling Renewable Energies and Hydrogen

Today's industrial hydrogen production.

- Global hydrogen production: 600 Bill. Nm³/yr
- Mostly steam reforming
- Less than 1 % by water electrolysis (!)

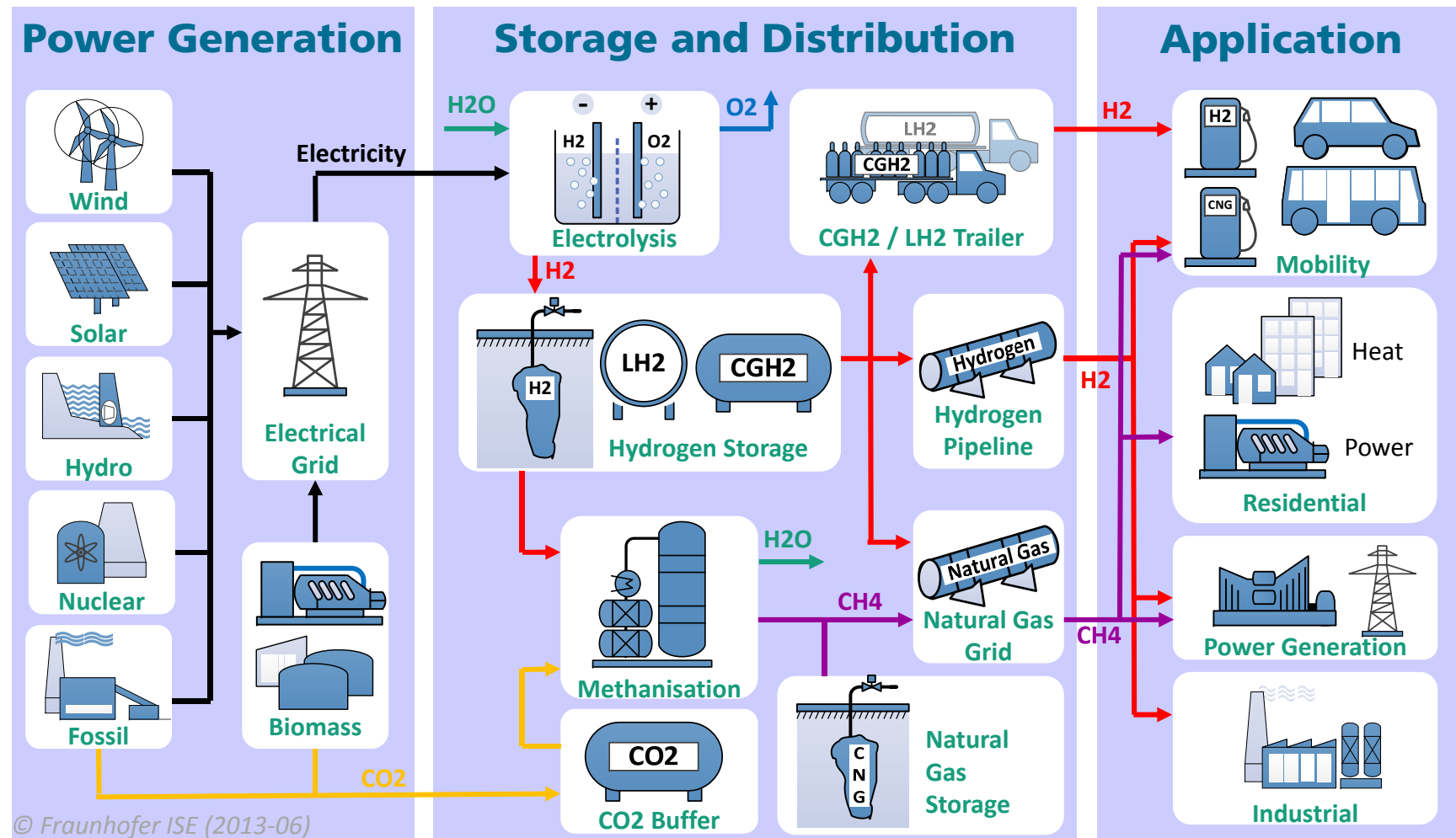


Industrial application	Typical size electrolyser
Jewellery, laboratory and medical engineering	5 - 500 NI/h
Generator cooling in power plants	5 - 20 Nm ³ /h
Feed Water Inertisation (BWR water chemistry)	10 - 50 Nm ³ /h
Float glas production (protective atmosphere)	50 - 150 Nm ³ /h
Electronics industry	100 - 400 Nm ³ /h
Metallurgy	200 - 750 Nm ³ /h
Food industry (fat hardening)	100 - 900 Nm ³ /h
Military und aerospace	< 15 Nm ³ /h

Source: DWV brochure (2006)

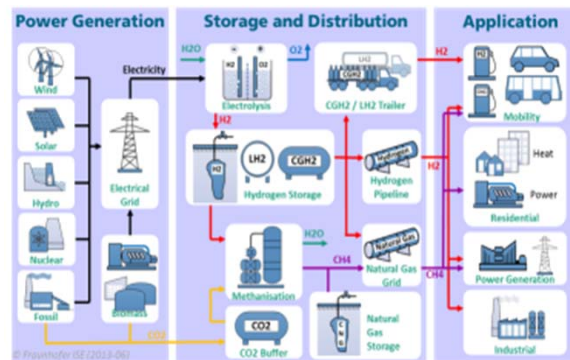
Coupling Renewable Energies and Hydrogen

New market opportunities for electrolyser



Coupling Renewable Energies and Hydrogen

New market opportunities for electrolyzers



Application	Typical EL size
Industrial hydrogen	1 – 20 Nm ³ /h
Hydrogen for processing industry	50 – 1.000 Nm ³ /h
Hydrogen filling station type S / M / L	~ 60 / 160 / 360 Nm ³ /h
Renewable energy storage	100 – 20.000 Nm ³ /h

- **Grid service:** Operating reserve / balancing power for the electrical grid
 - demand site management, load balancing
 - **Power to gas:** Hydrogen production (and methanisation)
 - as fuel for FCEV / for industrial applications / large-scale storage systems
 - **Power to liquid:** Valorisation of hydrogen with carbon dioxide
 - liquid fuels for transportation / other secondary feedstocks
- ➔ Cumulative deployment of electrolyzers in GW scale is expected/demanded by 2030

Coupling Renewable Energies and Hydrogen

Technology development and cost reduction are required!

- European view: Multi-annual implementation plan (MAWP) of FCH JU
- Targets defined through key performance parameters (KPI)

- ➔ Analysis of cost structure is essential to identify main cost drivers and to develop cost reduction strategies
- ➔ Hydrogen production cost is another topic

		State-of-the-art	2017	2020	2023
KPI 1	H2 production electrolysis, energy consumption kWh/Nm ³ rated power	5.40 @100kg/d	4.95 @500kg/d	4.68 @1000+kg/d	4.50 @1000+kg/d
KPI 2	H2 production electrolysis, CAPEX @ rated power including ancillary equipments and commissioning	3,200 €/kW	1,620 €/kW	920 €/kW	720 €/kW
KPI 3	H2 production electrolysis, efficiency degradation @ rated power and considering 8000 H operations / year	2% - 4% / year	2% / year	1,5% / year	<1% / year
KPI 4	H2 production electrolysis, flexibility with a degradation < 2% year (refer to KPI 3)	5% - 100% of nominal power	5% - 150% of nominal power	0% - 200% of nominal power	0% - 300% of nominal power
KPI 5	H2 production electrolysis, hot start from min to max power (refer to KPI 4)	1 minute	10 sec	2 sec	< 1 sec
	H2 production electrolysis, cold start	5 minutes	2 minutes	30 sec	10 sec

Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

Study Plan-DelyKaD: Overall goals

- Analysis of technical and economical requirements for large-scaled „Power to Hydrogen“ systems relevant for the energy sector
 - Water electrolysis as key technology (5 → 100 MW)
 - PEM electrolysis (Fraunhofer ISE)
 - Alkaline electrolysis (DLR)
 - Caverns as large scale storage (KBB)
 - Techno-economic simulation of the integrated overall system (LBST, DLR)
 - Study of possible markets for hydrogen (DLR)

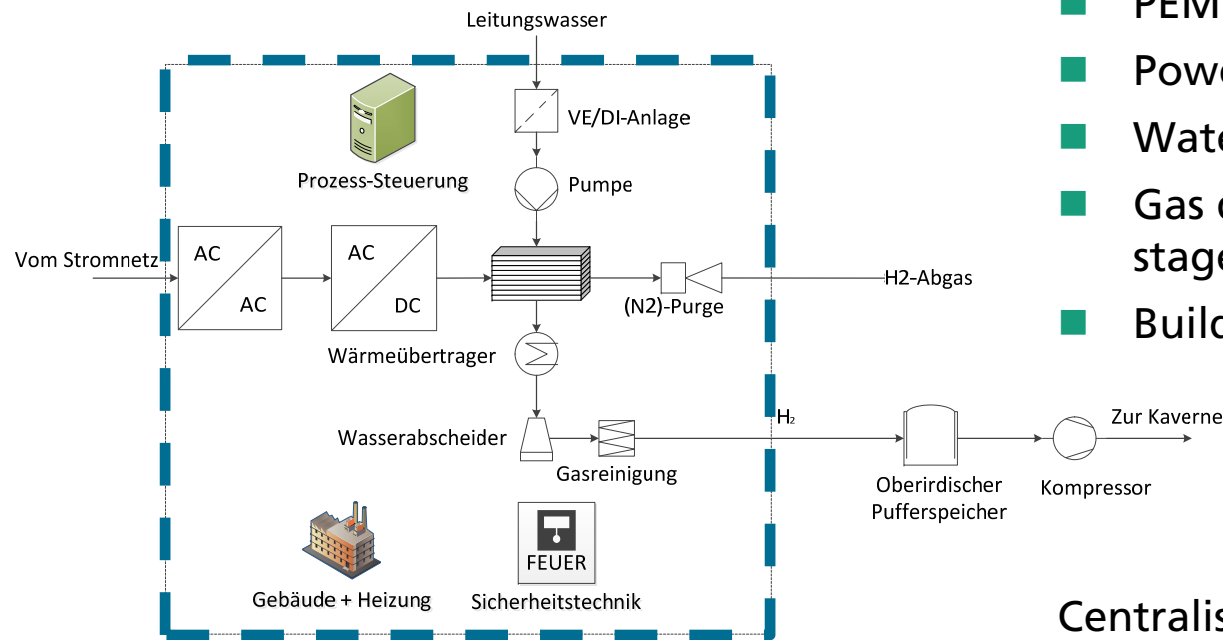


- Final report available (only in German):

<http://edok01.tib.uni-hannover.de/edoks/e01fb15/824812212.pdf>

Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

Study Plan-DelyKaD: System boundaries



Electrolysis system consists of

- PEM electrolysis stacks
- Power transformer and rectifiers
- Water purification system
- Gas drying and fine purification stages (dew point 30 °C)
- Building and safety installation

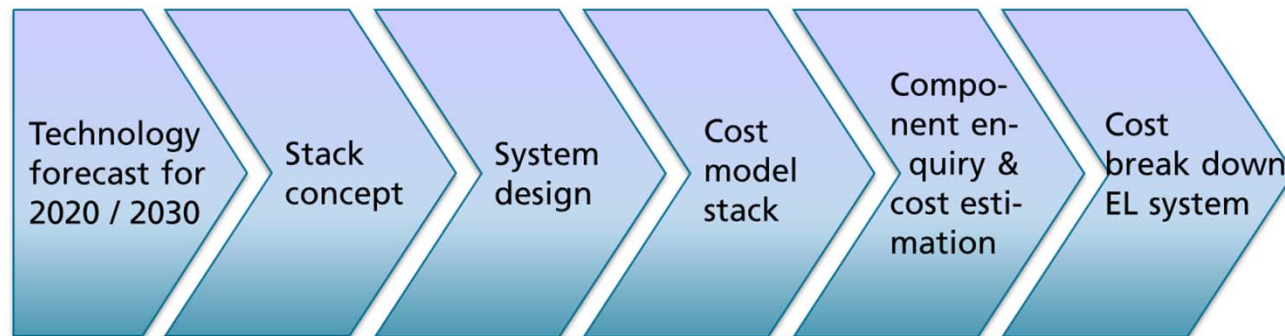
Centralised subsystems

- Gas compression / buffer
- Recooling unit

Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

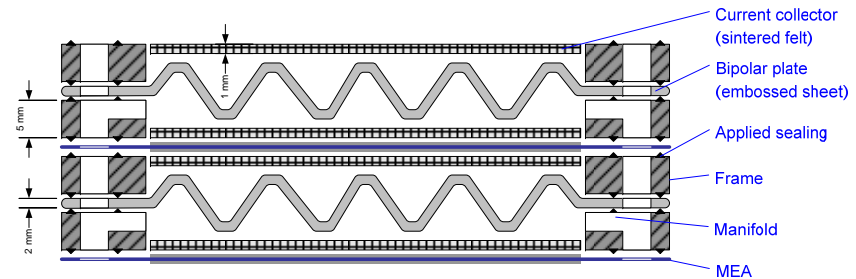
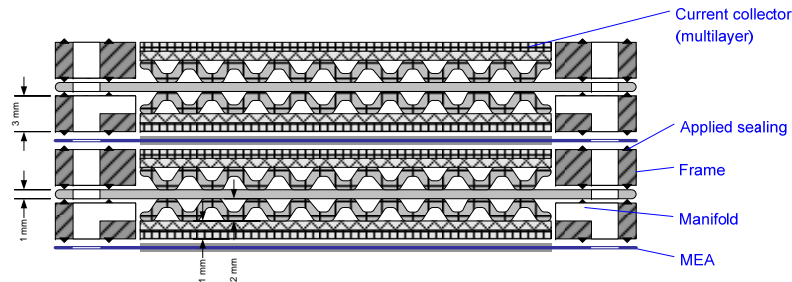
Methodology

- Stack size and performance based on technology forecast for
 - Year 2020: 5 MW system with 4x stacks à 1.25 MW → **low risk**
 - Year 2030: 100 MW system with 10x stacks à 10.3 MW → **high risk**



Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

Stack designs for different systems



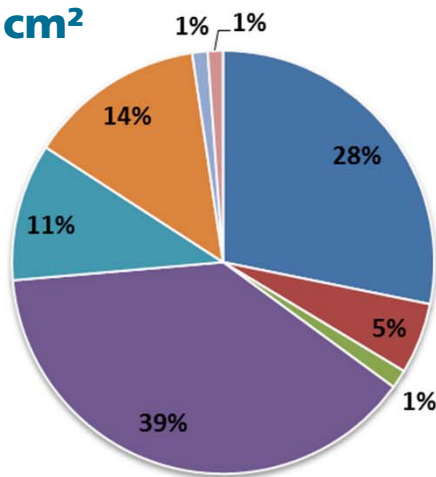
5 MW system		100 MW system
1.500 cm ²	Cell area	10,000 cm ²
1.90 V / 1.50 A/cm ²	Operating point	1.65 V / 2.50 A/cm ²
290	Cells per stack	250
1,240 MVA	Nominal DC power stack	10,300 MVA
265 Nm ³ /h H ₂	Stack production capacity	2.542 Nm ³ /h H ₂
4	Number of stacks	10
4.96 MVA	Nominal DC power system	103.0 MVA

Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

Cost drivers in a stack: Ti current collectors and MEAs

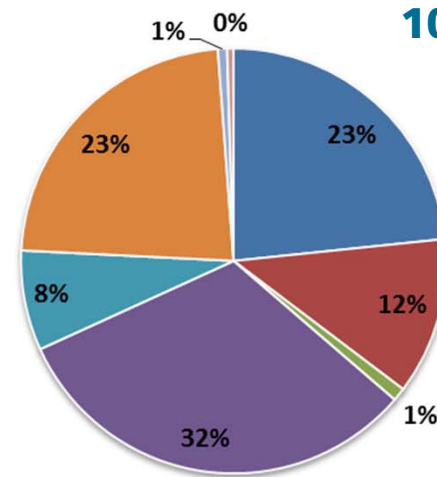
- Required quantities and specific costs of materials/components in a stack provide data input for cost break down model developed at Fraunhofer ISE

1,500 cm²



Production volume: 40 stacks (10 systems)

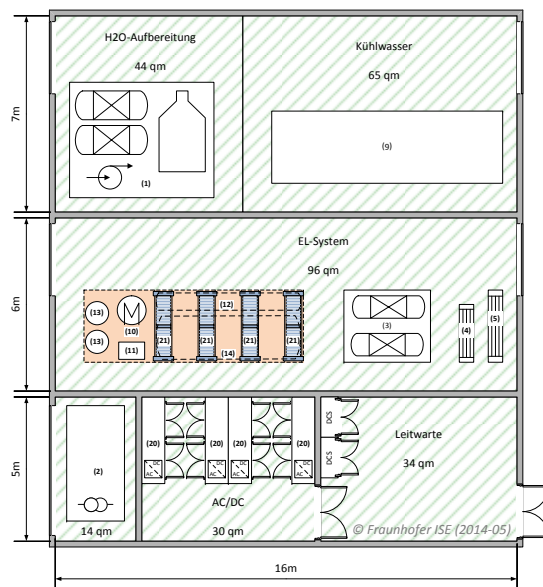
10,000 cm²



Production volume: 10 stacks (1 system)

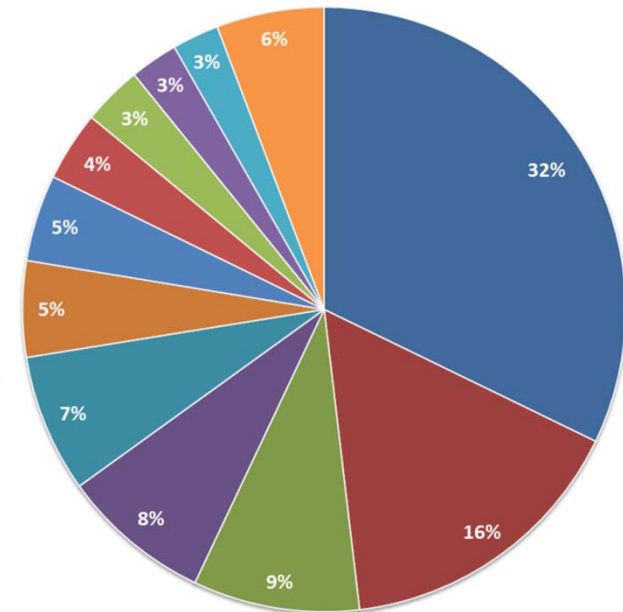
Cost break down for 5 MW PEM EL system

On system level power electronics and stacks are dominant.



~ 285 m²

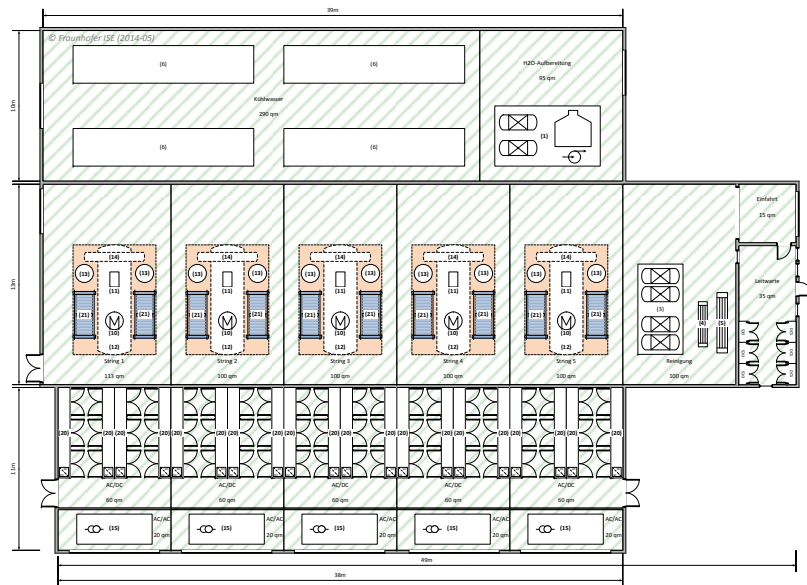
- PEM EL stack (4 pieces)
- Rectifier (4 pieces)
- Piping
- Fitting / Instruments
- Building
- Engineering / Planning
- Hydrogen purification
- Medium voltage transformer
- Cooling unit
- Steel construction
- Condenser
- Miscellaneous



- Cost model of system based on plant layout with energy and mass balances and cost input from manufactures of main subsystems
- Cost estimation for planning, piping, construction etc. by Diamond Lite SA (CH)

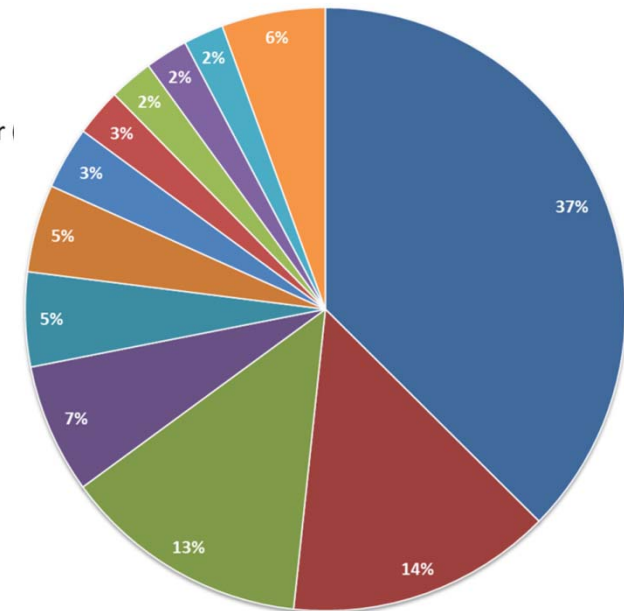
Cost break down for 100 MW PEM EL system

On system level power electronics and stacks are essential.



~ 1.450 m²

- PEM EL stack (10 pieces)
- Rectifier (10 pieces)
- Medium voltage transformer
- High voltage transformer
- Building
- Engineering / Planning
- Hydrogen purification
- Piping
- Steel construction
- Fitting / Instruments
- Cooling unit
- Miscellaneous



■ Comparison with 5 MW system

- Cost share of stacks increases with larger systems
- Power electronics has a similar share as stacks

Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

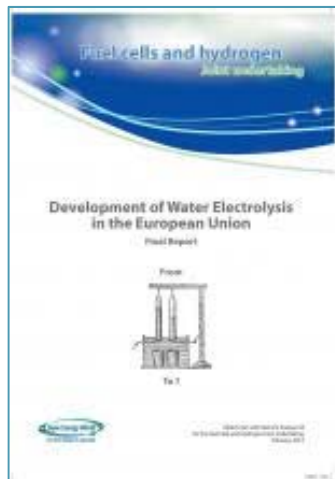
Summary of key performance indicators

	5 MW system	100 MW system
Power BoP	390 + 20 kW	2,300 + 110 kW
Power Stand by	77 kW	1,667 kW
Efficiency @ nominal power	69 % _(HHV)	84 % _(HHV)
Efficiency @ overload	64 % _(HHV)	77 % _(HHV)
CAPEX stack	370 k€ (1.24 MW)	1,310 k€ (10.3 MW)
Stack overhaul	186 k€	581 k€
CAPEX system	4.8 Mio. €	35.7 Mio. €
with overload capacity (30 min)	5.2 Mio. €	40.7 Mio. €
Spec. CAPEX system	960 €/kW	350 €/kW
with overload capacity (30 min)	1,030 €/kW	400 €/kW

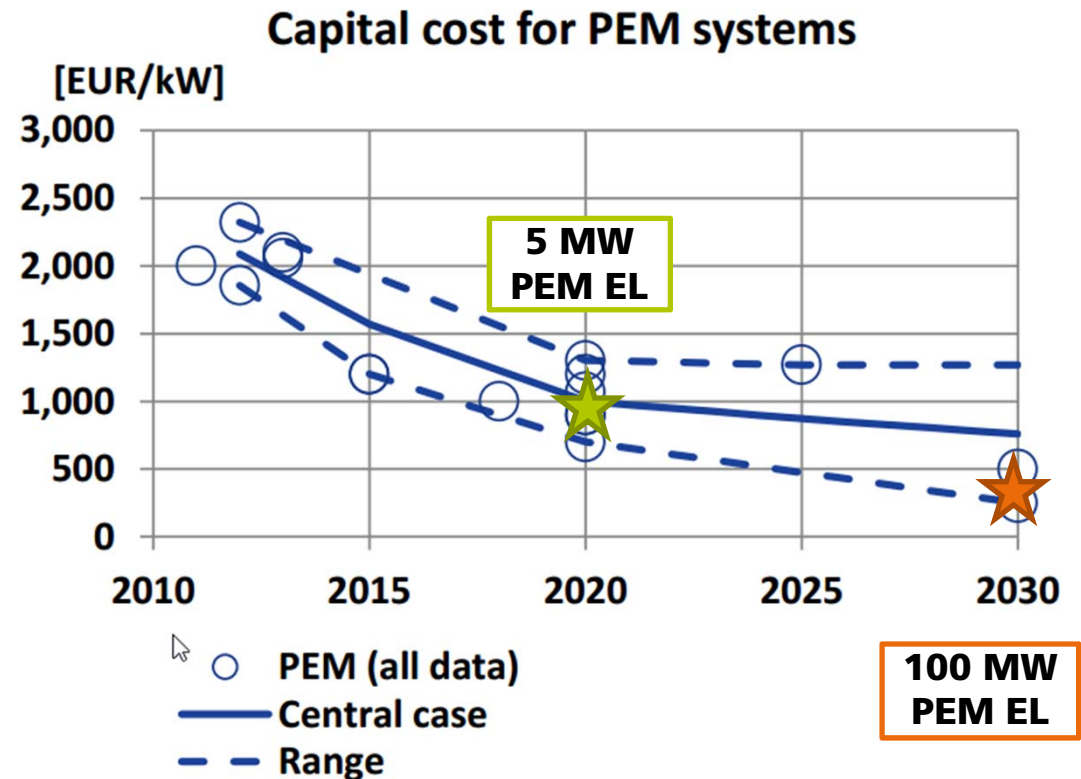
Cost break down for 5 MW & 100 MW PEM EL system

Comparison with data from literature

- Study on development of water electrolysis in the EU
 - published in 2014-02-07
 - E4tech / element energy
- Data sources included literature and interviews with stakeholders

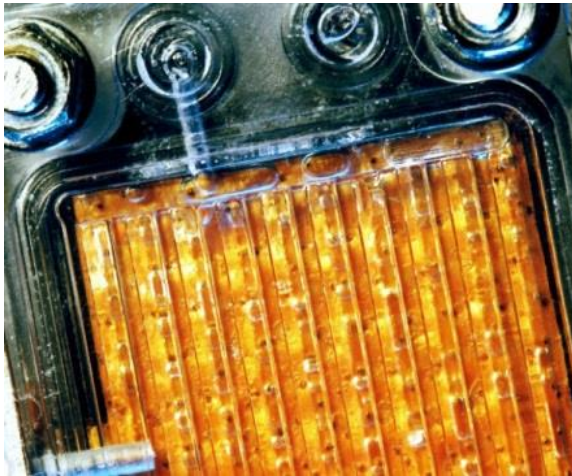


http://www.fch.europa.eu/sites/default/files/study%20electrolyser_0-Logos_0_0.pdf



Hydrogen production cost

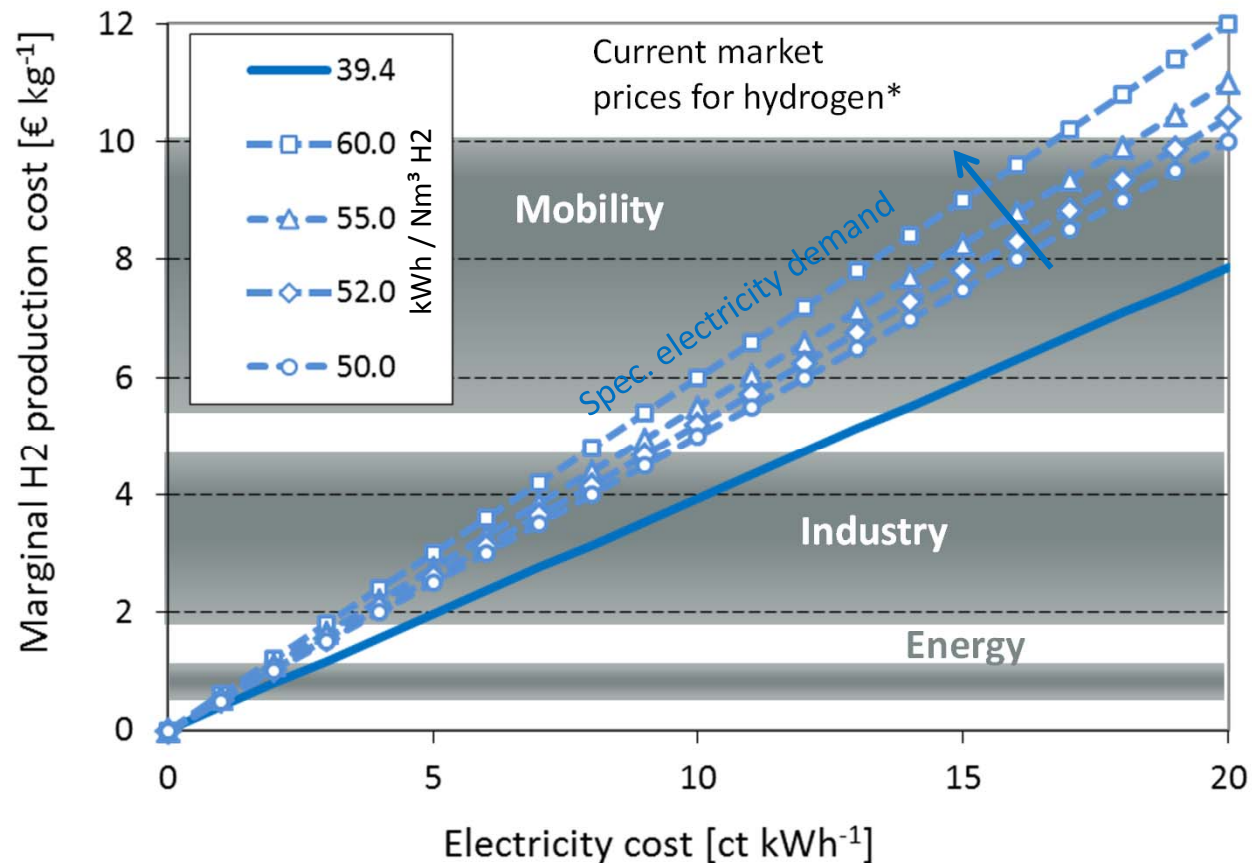
Focus only on CAPEX is not enough!



- Main shares in hydrogen production cost:
 - investment cost / capital expenditure (CAPEX)
 - electricity cost to run the electrolysis process
 - remaining operational expenditure (OPEX)
 - Water and operating resources
 - Service and maintenance
 - overhaul, rental charges etc.
- Storage, transportation and distribution are NOT included
- ➔ economical evaluation against other hydrogen production technologies (e.g. steam reforming)

Hydrogen production cost

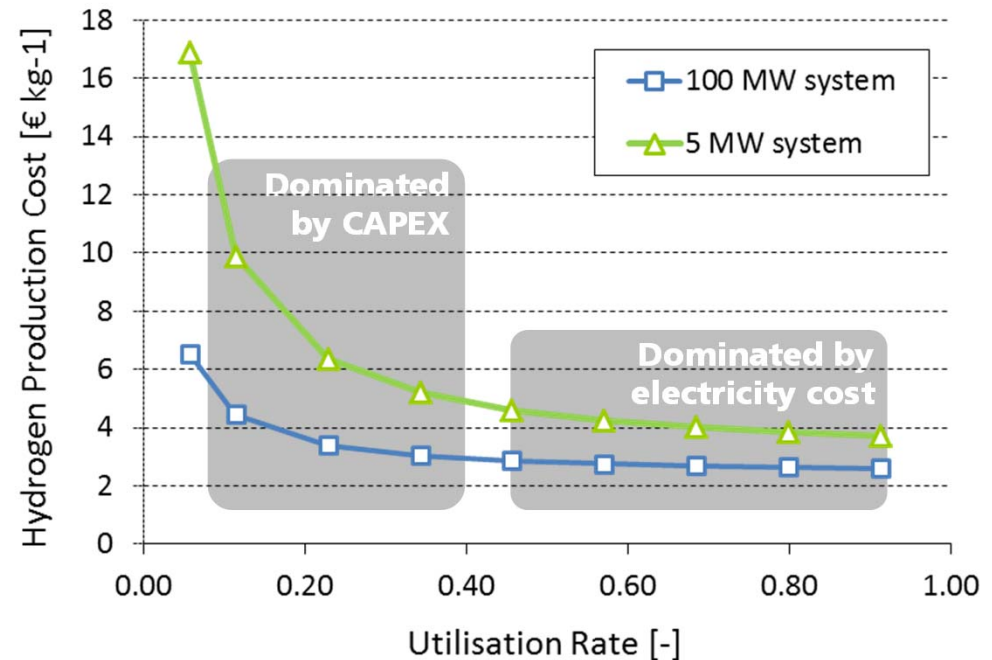
Cost on purchased electricity and efficiency are dominantly



Hydrogen production cost

Utilisation rate defines the importance of CAPEX

- Hydrogen production cost mainly depends on electricity cost, operational hours and CAPEX
- Low utilisation rate
 - CAPEX important
 - Rather larger systems
- High utilisation rate
 - Electricity cost and efficiency important
 - Rather smaller systems



Assumption

- Recovery period: 20 years / interest rate: 5 %
- Electricity cost: 50 €/MWh
- 5 MW: 69 %_{HHV} / 960 €/kWh
- 100 MW: 84 %_{HHV} / 350 €/kWh
- plus 10% planing & 4% maintenance (incl. overhauling)

Summary and Results

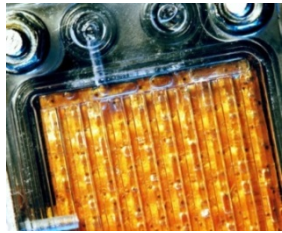
Cost break down

- Substantial cost reduction for PEM electrolysis stacks is possible by
 - Scaling up of PEM cells
 - Technical progress for cell components
 - Economy of scale
- Investment cost < 500 €/kW for PEM electrolysis systems are possible if specifications of technology forecast can be met in the future

Hydrogen production cost

- CAPEX is sufficiently high that high utilisation rate is required for cost-effective deployment of EL systems
- Hydrogen production cost is dominated by cost of electricity (for business cases with high utilisation rate)

Acknowledgment



- Hans Vock / Diamond Lite SA
- Christopher Voglstätter / Fraunhofer ISE

The research leading to these results has received funding from:

- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
(Study Plan-DelyKaD - grant agreement n° 0325501)
http://forschung-energiespeicher.info/wind-zu-wasserstoff/projektliste/projekt-einzelansicht/74/Wasserstoff_Kraftstoff_aus_Elektrolyse
- Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking
(Project Megastack - grant agreement n°621233)
<http://www.fch.europa.eu/project/megastack>



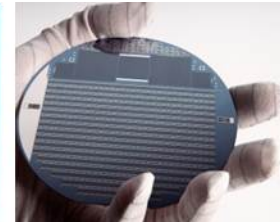
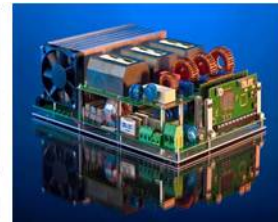
Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie



FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN
JOINT UNDERTAKING

Thanks a lot for your kind attention!

Fotos © Fraunhofer ISE



Fraunhofer-Institut für Solare Energiesysteme ISE

Dr. Tom Smolinka

www.ise.fraunhofer.de

tom.smolinka@ise.fraunhofer.de