



VTT

bio-energy

BECCU

based CO<sub>2</sub>

for polyols

and fuels

26/08/2022 VTT – beyond the obvious

# WP1 Feedstock integration

## Hydrogen supply for BECCU concepts

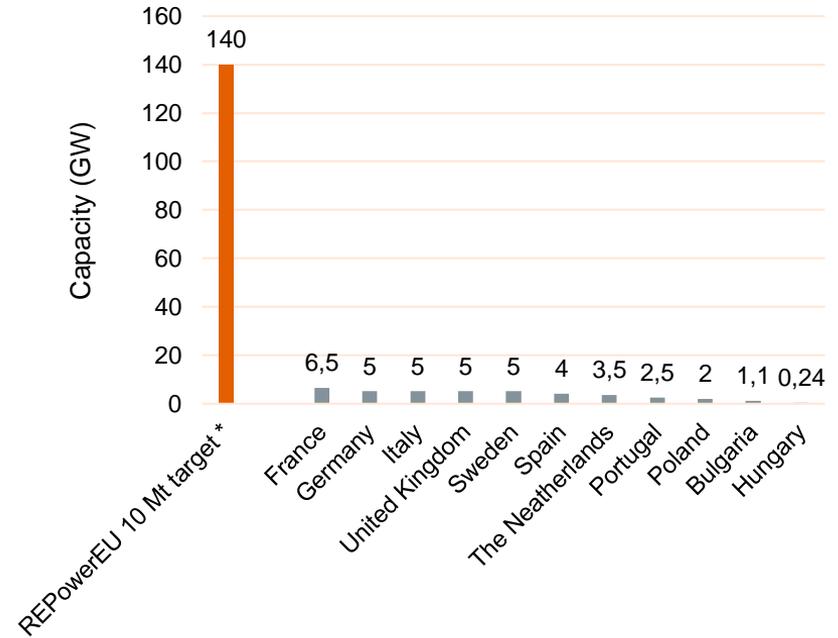
- 1** Mapping of state-of-the-art and near future water electrolysis developments
- 2** **By-product hydrogen from industrial sources**  
Possibilities and limitations for by-product hydrogen utilization in BECCU concepts
- 3** **Hydrogen assisted biogas upgrading is tested in co-operation with Metener**

# State of the art of water electrolyser technologies

# 1 Hydrogen production targets

- **REPowerEU** plan targets annual **10 Mt production** of renewable H<sub>2</sub> in the EU and additional **10 Mt imports** by 2030
- **Scale-up** in the green hydrogen production is needed to reach high targets and to achieve competitive price
- Several countries have released **National hydrogen strategies** and targets for electrolyser capacities by 2030

Electrolysis capacity target 2030 (GW<sub>el</sub>)



\* Electricity input, utilization factor 43 %, efficiency 70 %, LHV

# Scale-up of manufacturing

Company	Country	Technology	Production capacity
McPhy	France	Alkaline	300 MW/a 1 000 MW/a <a href="#">planned</a>
Nel hydrogen	Norway	Alkaline	500 MW/a potential to 2 000 MW/a
thyssenkrupp nucera	Germany	Alkaline	1 000 MW/a 5000 MW/a <a href="#">planned</a>
Green Hydrogen Systems	Denmark	Alkaline	75 MW/a 400 MW/a by 2023 <a href="#">planned</a>
John Cockerill	Belgium	Alkaline	200 MW/a 1 000 MW/a <a href="#">planned</a>
Teledyne Energy Systems	USA	Alkaline	N/A
Cummins (Hydrogenics)	Canada	Alkaline/PEM	PEM: 500 MW/a potential to 1 000 MW/a
GTT/Elogen (Areva H2Gen)	France	PEM	160 stacks and 40 electrolyzers
Siemens Energy	Germany	PEM	250 MW/a 1 000 MW/a <a href="#">planned</a>
MAN Energy (H-TEC Systems)	Germany	PEM	N/A
ITM Power	United Kingdom	PEM	1 000 MW/a (UK) Future: 1 500 MW/a (UK) + 2 500 MW/a (overseas)
NEL (Proton On-Site)	USA	PEM	> 50 MW/a
Plug Power (Giner elx)	USA	PEM	500 MW/a
Sunfire (IHT)	Germany	SOE/Alkaline (IHT)	Alkaline: 500 MW/a by 2023 1 000 MW/a <a href="#">planned</a>
Haldor Topsoe	Denmark	SOE	500 MW/a by 2023 <a href="#">potential</a> to 5 000 MW/a
Enapter	Germany	AEM	1 200 units/a x100 production <a href="#">planned</a> 2022

- Electrolyser production cost reduction through:
  - Manufacturing **volume increase**
  - Increased **automation**
  - **Stack design** and **assembly**
  - **Balance of Plant** cost reductions



1 [NEL Production capacity expansion](#)

2 [ITM Power Production capacity expansion](#)

Table lists western companies, but Chinese companies have large share of alkaline electrolyser production

# State-of-the-art and future electrolyser KPIs

	Alkaline		PEM		SOEC	
	SOTA	2050	SOTA	2050	SOTA	2050
<b>System electrical efficiency (kWh/kg H<sub>2</sub>)</b>	50 – 56	< 45	50 – 65	< 45	45 – 50	< 40
<b>Stack lifetime (h)</b>	60 000	100 000	50 000 – 90 000	100 000 – 120 000	< 20 000	80 000
<b>Operating temperature (°C)</b>	70 – 90	> 90	50 – 80	80	700 – 850	< 600
<b>CAPEX system (USD/kW<sub>e</sub>)</b>	500 – 1000	< 200	600 – 1400	< 200	> 2000	< 300

# By-product hydrogen for BECCU concepts

## 2 By-product H<sub>2</sub> for BECCU concepts

- Fischer-Tropsch (FT) synthesis and reverse-water-gas-shift reaction based on catalytic partial oxidation of H<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> feed (CPOX/rWGS)
  - Cl<sub>2</sub>/HCl and other chlor compound impurities need to be removed from the H<sub>2</sub> gas to avoid **catalysts deactivation** preferably < 0.1 ppm level
- Biogas upgrading
  - Anaerobic, oxygen free process requires < 1.5 vol-% O<sub>2</sub> concentration
  - **Low Cl<sub>2</sub> levels** are assumed to be required due to **inhibitory effect of chloride on the methanogenesis process**



Plant	Annual hydrogen production (estimate)	Annual hydrogen surplus (estimate)	Hydrogen production process
Äetsä NaClO <sub>3</sub>	6 000 t/a	1 500 t/a	Chlorate electrolysis
Joutseno NaClO <sub>3</sub> NaOH	8 500 t/a 2 000 t/a	2 200 t/a	Chlorate + chlor-alkali electrolysis

Impurity	Cl <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
Basic purification	< 2 ppm	2 – 3 %	Few 10s of ppm
Extra purification	< 0.2 ppm*	< 20 ppm	< 30 ppm

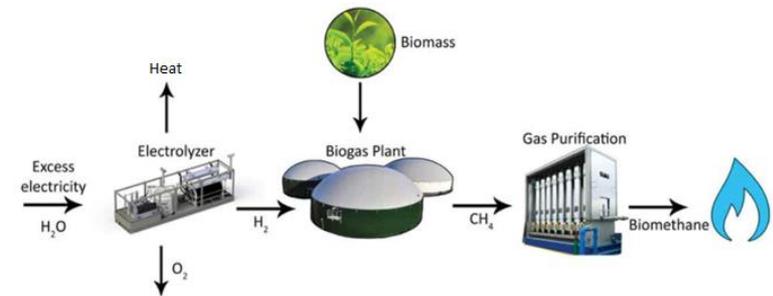
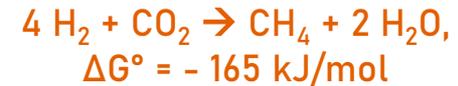
\* Cl<sub>2</sub> < 50 ppb possible

# H<sub>2</sub> supply for biogas in-situ upgrading

# Hydrogen assisted biogas upgrading

- Biogas upgrading into biomethane via **in-situ conversion** is process where microbial community **methanogens** utilize  $H_2$  and  $CO_2$  to produce  $CH_4$  under anaerobic conditions inside the biogas reactor
- Integration with **existing anaerobic digestion reactors** offers **low investment costs** but several barriers in the upgrading process need to be solved:
  - $H_2$  supply method for high conversion rate
  - Balancing the  $H_2$  feed amount to not disturb other microbial processes inside the reactor
  - Cost of green hydrogen

Biological methanation



# In-situ biogas upgrading experiments

- **Laboratory scale 60 dm<sup>3</sup> biogas reactor**
  - At optimal conditions, hydrogen injections increased methane yield by **factor of 1.5**
- **Full-scale tests in 720 m<sup>3</sup> biogas reactor**
  - Biomass height in larger reactor offered **longer residence time** and assumably **better conversion rate** than in smaller scale unit
  - Hydrogen **conversion rate of 83 %** was monitored, when the injected H<sub>2</sub> amount corresponded to around 20 – 30 % of product methane's energy content
  - Higher H<sub>2</sub> supply amounts would not convert to methane in sufficient rate leading to over 1 vol-% H<sub>2</sub> concentration in the product gas
  - Additionally, some **heavier hydrocarbons**, namely **propane**, was observed in the product biogas, which is assumably result of the in-situ upgrading as propane has not normally occurred in normal biogas process.

## In-situ biogas upgrading future steps

- Tests showed potential for the in-situ upgrading in larger scale reactor by **increasing the methane yield** in the product gas
- **CO<sub>2</sub> concentration remained relatively high** and therefore **biogas purification is still needed** to achieve required purity for biomethane applications. In addition, the hydrogen supply is likely to be intermittent if no storage capacity is available.
- On-site electrolyzers could additionally produce **heat and oxygen** for the **process heating** and **hydrogen sulfide removal**
- Follow-up is needed for **electrolyser system investment costs** in **smaller scale systems** for local hydrogen production or **hydrogen transportation cost** from centralized plants

# bey<sup>0</sup>nd

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