Carbon Fiber and Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels: Techno-economic Analysis



2022 DOE Manufacturing Automation and Recycling for Clean

Hydrogen Technologies Experts Meeting

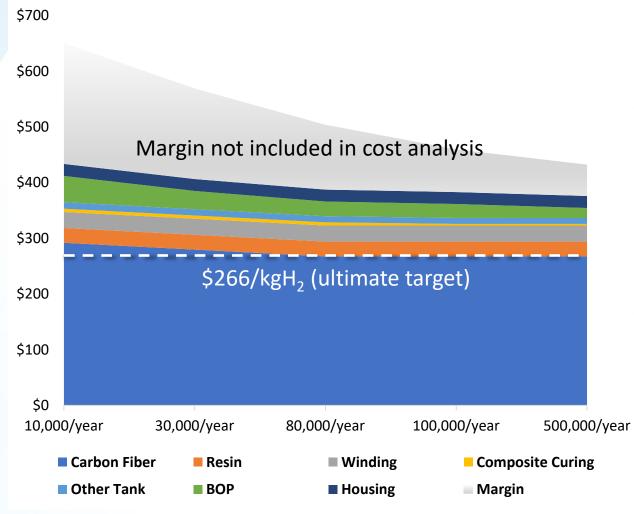


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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

COPV Cost Considerations

700 bar Type 4 Hydrogen Storage System Projected Costs Frame-Mounted Class 8 Truck with 60 kgH₂ Usable Capacity

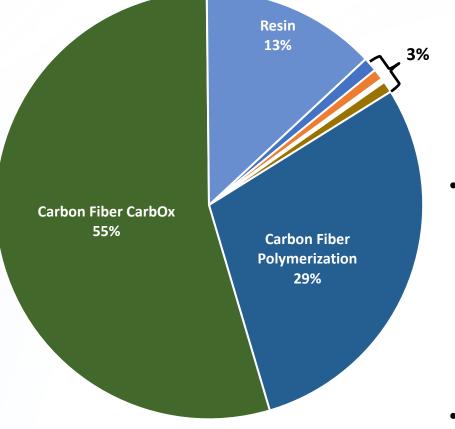


- Manufacturing cost reductions
 - We don't see a path to significant storage system cost reduction that doesn't include carbon fiber cost and weight reductions
 - Turnkey COPV manufacturing lines can reduce time to bring new plants online
- Carbon Fiber
 - Several projects are currently underway to reduce precursor and carbonization/oxidation costs
 - Codes and standards can be relaxed to reduce required stress ratio, reducing CF mass
 - New fiber chemistries not currently covered by SAE could limit innovative COPV designs
- Margins
 - Shown for illustration purposes, not included in reported costs
 - Explicitly excluded in our cost models
 - New design qualification can be costly, raising costs for smaller manufacturers and in early markets
 - Qualification of new fibers

COPV Embodied Energy Considerations

• Embodied energy

Embodied Energy Breakdown 60kgH2 Frame-Mounted 700 bar Type 4



- 30 MWh per system (2 tanks, 60 kgH₂ capacity) not accounting for the embodied energy of fossil feedstock extraction and processing to produce acrylonitrile
- Under the worst-case scenario of a coal fired power plant, that's 30 tonnes of CO₂
- Note that CF tank has a small impact on GHG emissions compared with diesel under worst case scenario (30gCO₂/mile over 1M miles vs. ~1kgCO₂/mile at 10 mpdge)

Carbon Fiber

- The message for reducing embodied energy is the same as cost: carbon fiber intensity needs to be reduced
- Several projects are currently underway to
 - Use alternative precursors
 - Improve material utilization
 - Reduce energy intensity
- **Recycling** should be part of a long-term strategy to reduce carbon fiber utilization

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Conclusions and Thoughts for Discussion

- Carbon fiber
 - Dominates both the cost and energy intensity of COPV manufacturing
 - Recycling is needed to extend the useful life of carbon fiber
- Are there ways to reduce the COPV design cycle?
- Are there non-obvious ways that long cycle time winding and curing operations should be accounted for?