

# Innovative uses of Hydrogen in Steelmaking

**JAYSON RIPKE, PH.D.  
MIDREX TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

**FOR PRESENTATION AT:  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S  
H2@SCALE WORKSHOP**

**MAY 23, 2017**

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – HOUSTON, TX**



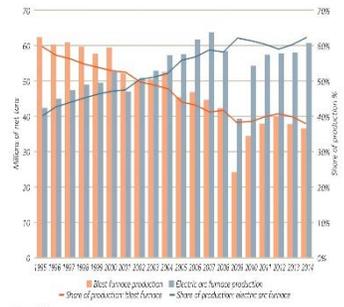
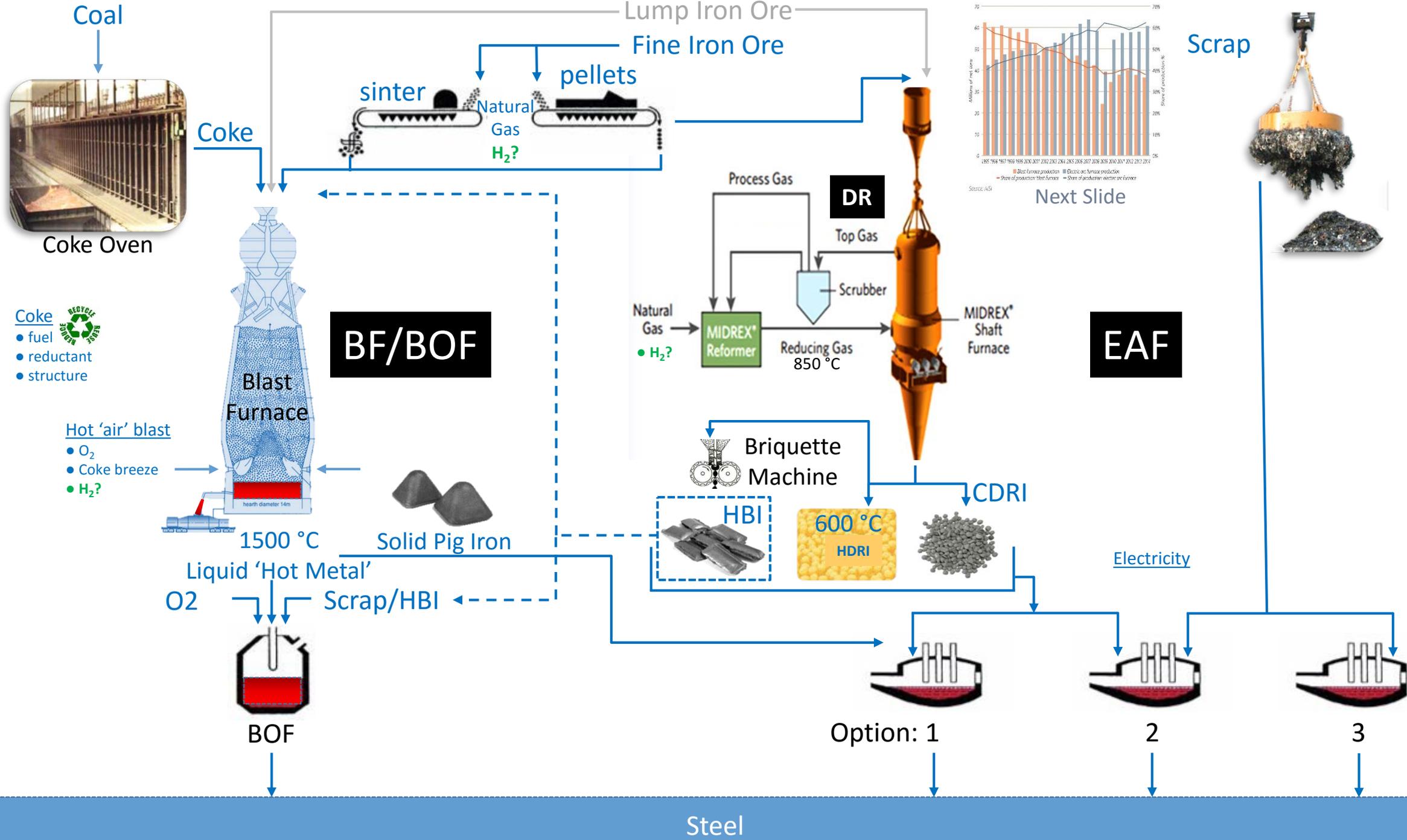
# Outline

## I. The 2 Routes to Steelmaking

- I. Blast Furnace -> Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF/BOF)
- II. Electric Arc Furnace (EAF)
  - I. Scrap
  - II. Scrap Supplements
    - I. Pig Iron, Direct Reduced Iron (DRI)

## II. RD&D Needs for H<sub>2</sub> Steelmaking

- I. Emerging Routes
- II. Existing Routes: BF or EAF



Next Slide

- Coke**
- fuel
  - reductant
  - structure

- Hot 'air' blast**
- O<sub>2</sub>
  - Coke breeze
  - H<sub>2</sub>?

Electricity

Steel

# DRI, HBI, & Pig



**Direct Reduced Iron:** DRI is typically produced in pellet form and can be loaded directly into an EAF, Blast Furnace, or Basic Oxygen Furnace. It contains a very high iron content (typically >90%). DRI exits the DRI module at a high temperature, and can be fed directly into furnaces as a means to reduce energy costs.

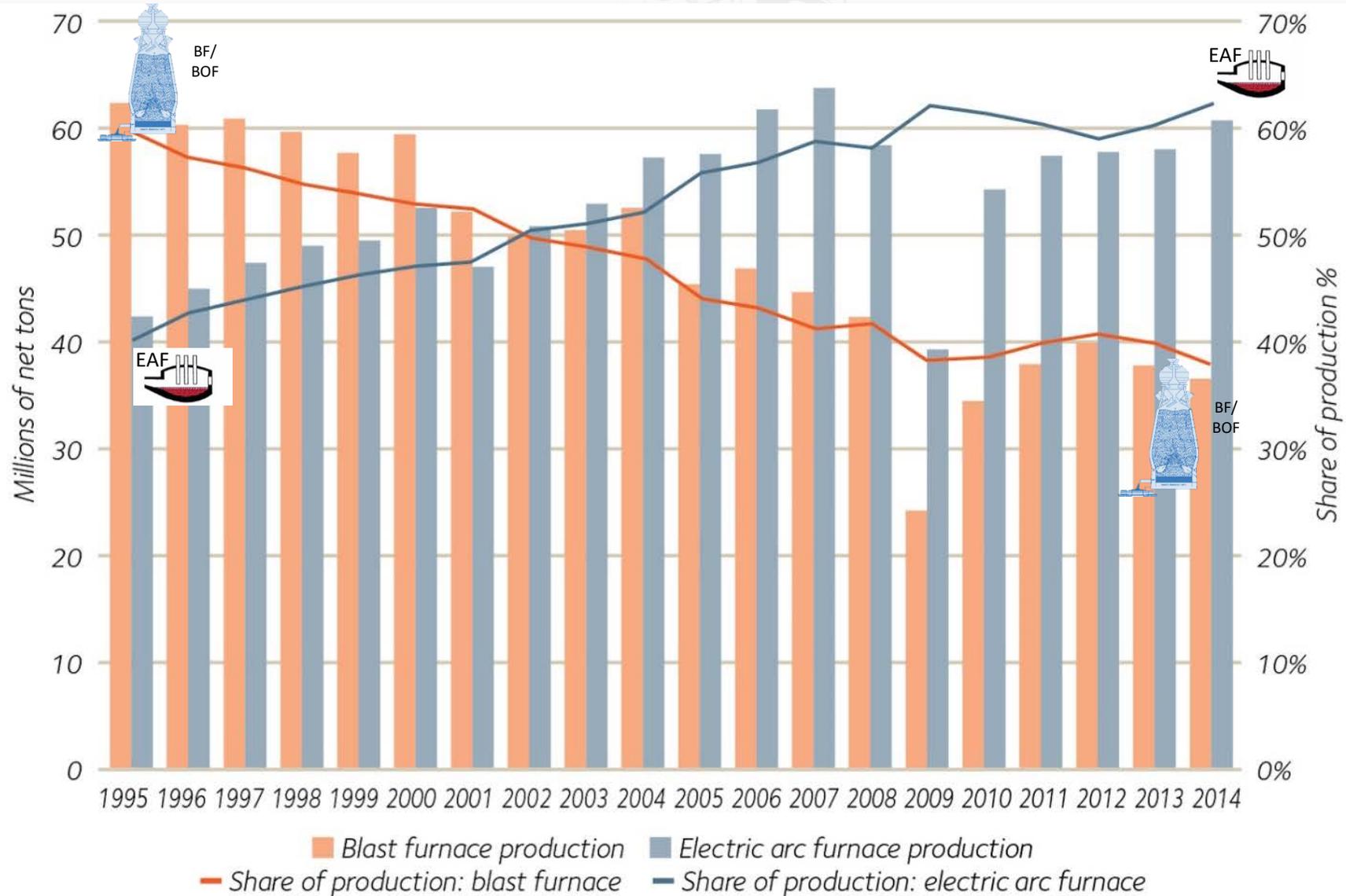


**Hot Briquetted Iron:** HBI is a compressed form of DRI that facilitates easier transportation and handling. HBI is formed as DRI exits the module, and it compressed while still hot. DRI reacts more easily with water and requires tighter standards for shipment; HBI is less reactive and ships easier.



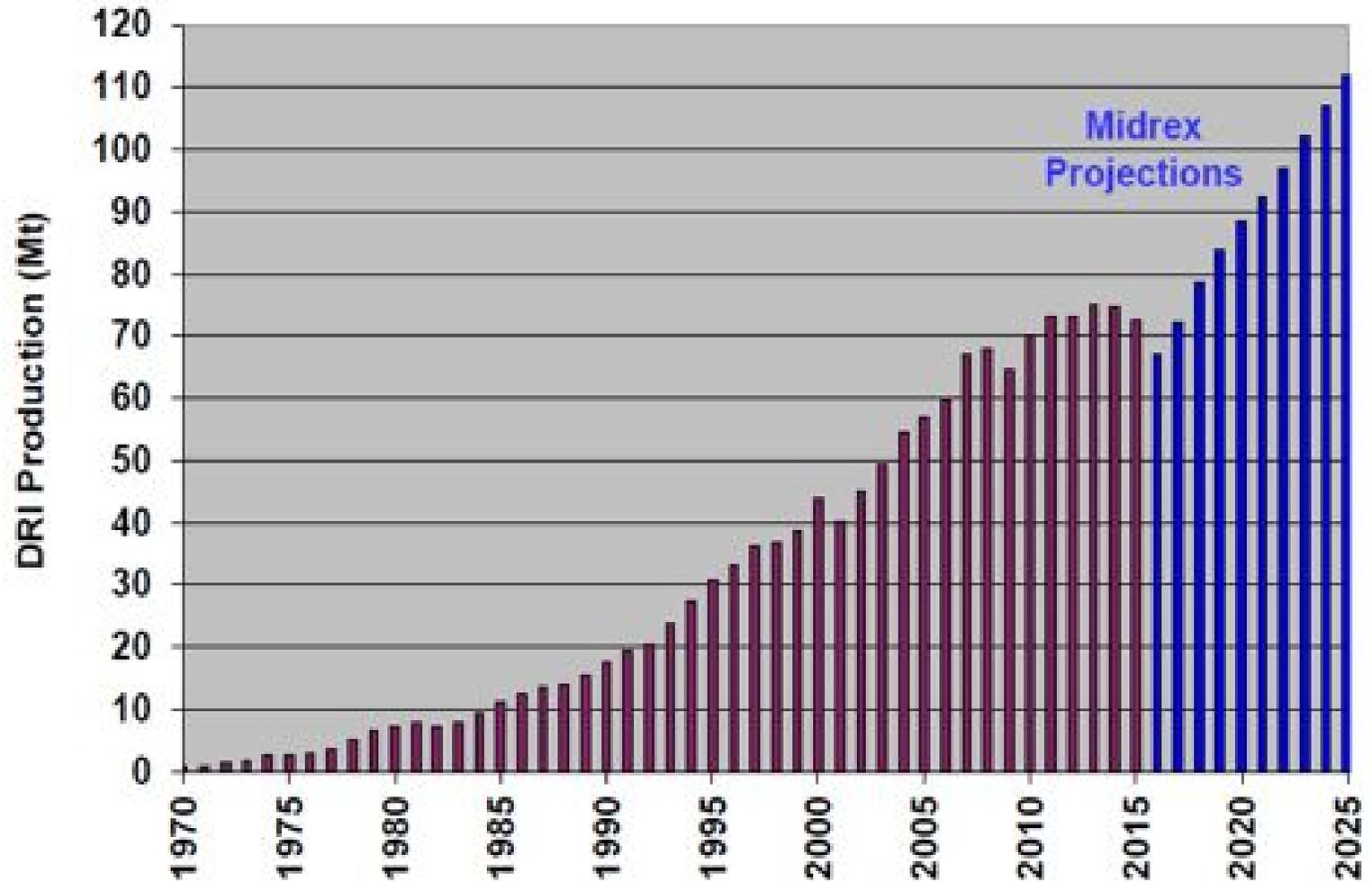
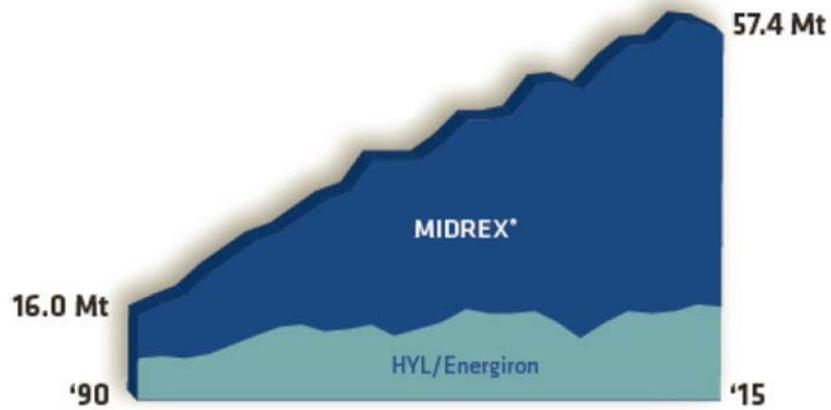
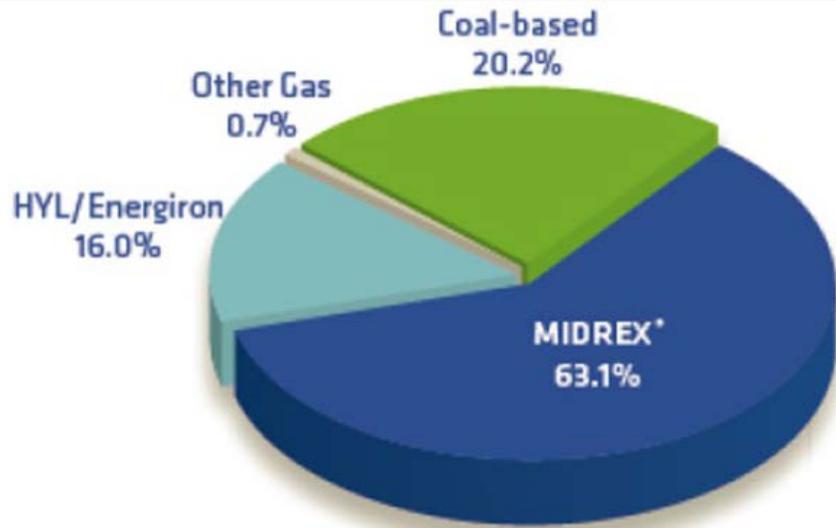
**Merchant Pig Iron:** MPI is produced in a blast furnace and cast into small "pigs" suitable for transportation. MPI has a higher iron content (around 96%) and less slag elements than DRI or HBI, and will typically sell at a premium. That said, MPI, HBI, and DRI are all substitutes for one another.

# U.S. Shifting from BF/BOF to EAF/DRI Steelmaking

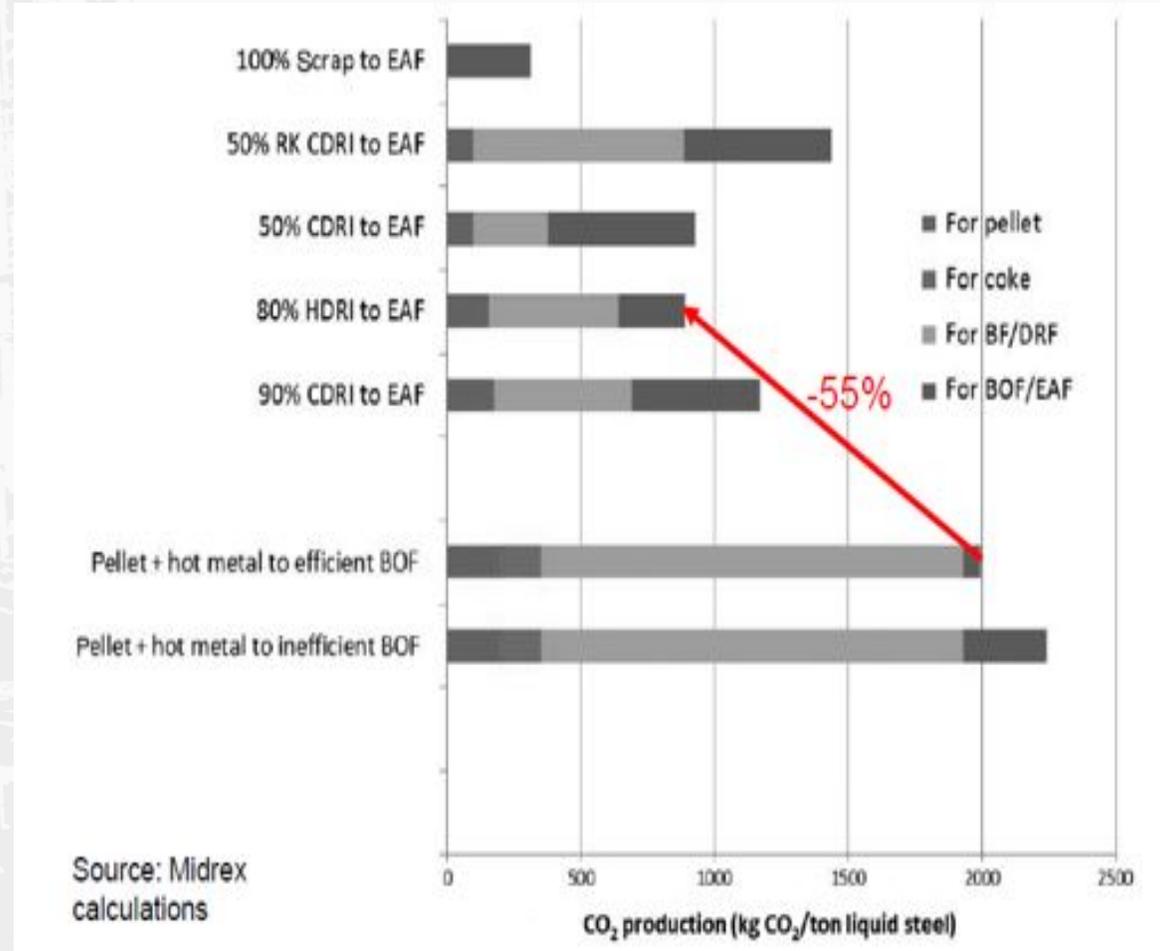
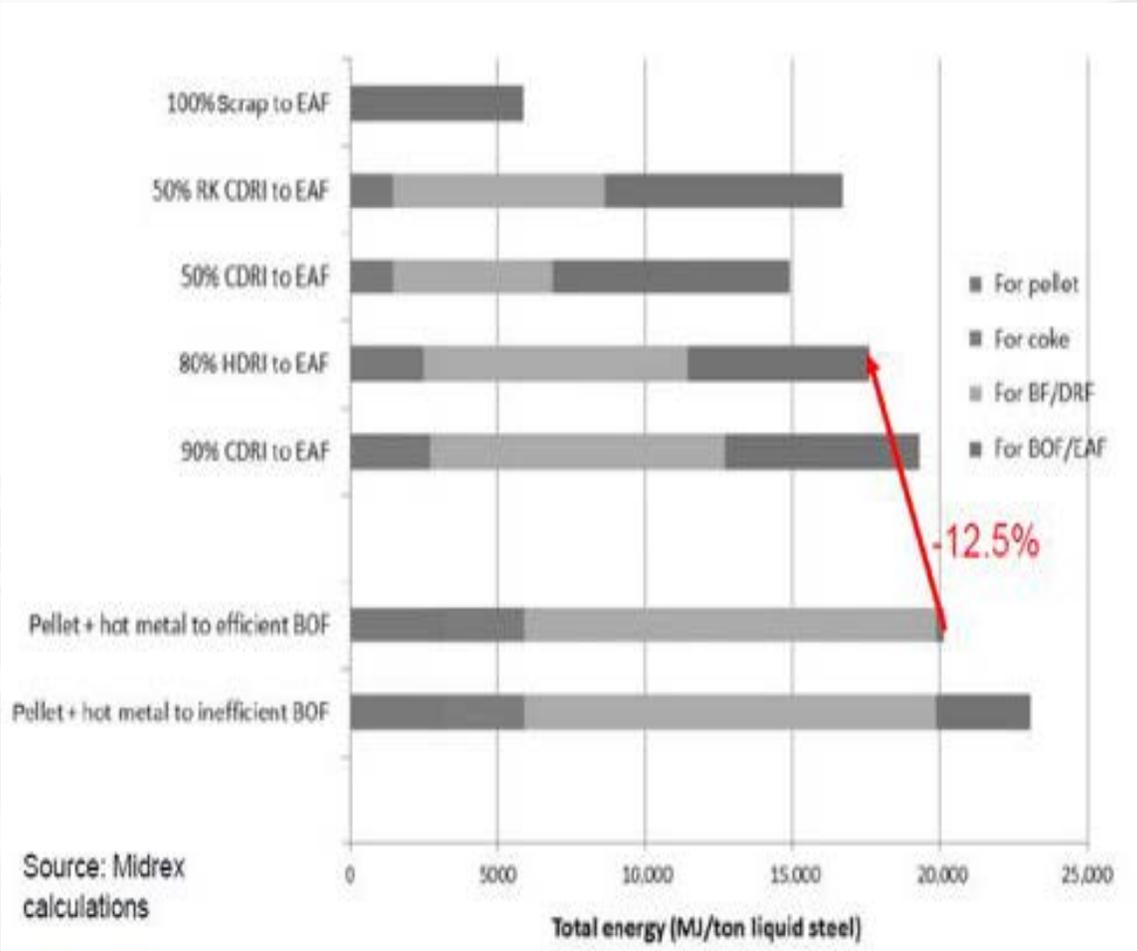


Source: AISI

# DRI: Current & Projected Production



# Energy Efficiency & Emissions EAF/DRI vs. BF/BOF



**MIDREX**

voestalpine's MIDREX NG<sup>®</sup> DR  
plant: Corpus Christie, TX



# RD&D Needs for H<sub>2</sub> Steelmaking

## Emerging Routes / Low CO<sub>2</sub> Steelmaking

- Hybrit (LKAB and SSAB)
- va PEM
- FIT (Sohn) - AISI
- ULCOS - Ultra-Low CO<sub>2</sub> Steelmaking – 45 Europe, 48 groups/15 countries; aim: 50%↓ CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - HIsarna (Coal, sub bio or H<sub>2</sub>)
  - ULCORED (DR w/Pox)
  - ULCOWIN (electrolysis of Fe<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>)
- MEFOS
- Steelanol (PRI, AM)
  - recycle CO<sub>2</sub> into bioethanol
- Carbon2chem
- CDA
- Salzgitter
- China Steel
- Baowu
- Course50
- POSCO (nr 2009)
- CIRCORED (historical, not emerging)

# RD&D Needs for H<sub>2</sub> in Steelmaking

## Existing Routes: BF or EAF

### EAF

- H<sub>2</sub> for iron ore pelletizing?
  - S, Q, E, R, CAPEX/OPEX, equipment
- H<sub>2</sub> replace/supplement R-NG<sub>(CO+H<sub>2</sub>)</sub>
  - DRI/HBI product Quality
    - ✦ Physical: H<sub>2</sub> embrittlement, CCS, tumble, fines, sticking/cluster
    - ✦ Metallurgical: reducibility, metallization, carbon
  - Mass & Energy Balance
    - ✦ Flowsheet
    - ✦ Energy Efficiency
    - ✦ Production Rate
  - CAPEX/OPEX
  - Equipment (embrittlement)

### BF/BOF

- H<sub>2</sub> for iron ore pelletizing?
  - Any  $\Delta$  S, Q, E, R in BF/BOF vs. EAF?
- Supplement coke by H<sub>2</sub>
  - Fuel, reductant, structure
  - Steel Quality
- Mass & Energy Balance
  - Flowsheet
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Production Rate
- CAPEX/OPEX
- Equipment (embrittlement)

S = Safety, Q = Quality, E = Efficiency, R = Rate (throughput)

Thank You

