



Green Ammonia and H2@Scale: An Industry Perspective

Stephen Szymanski, Proton OnSite
May 23, 2017

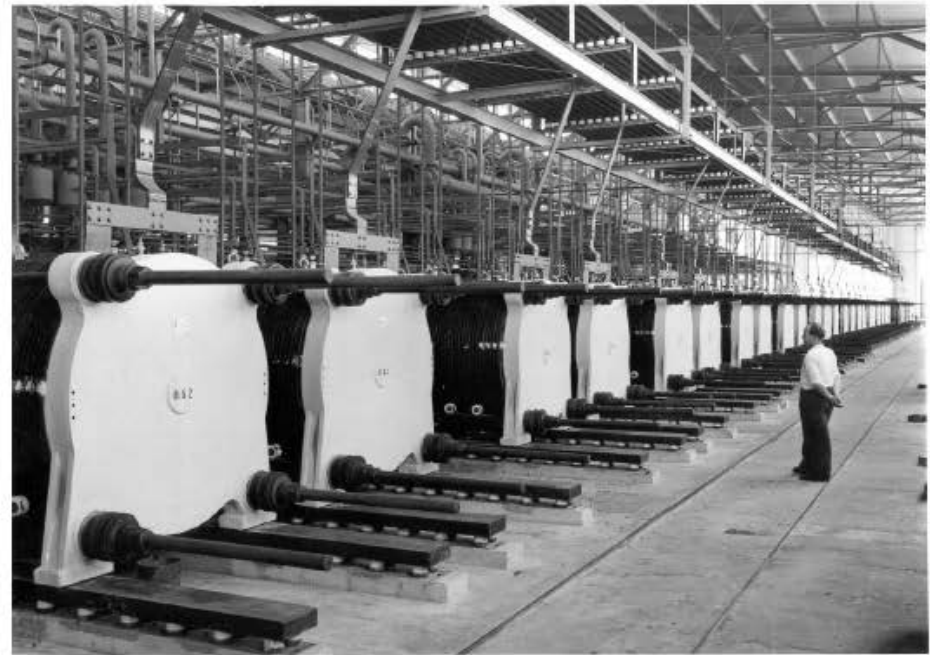
Presentation Outline:

- Introduction: the RH2 pathway to green ammonia
- Ammonia today: energy, environment, markets, and scale
- H2@Scale: the ammonia energy play
- Research Needs: production pathways and applications
- Key Takeaways

Renewable ammonia production yesterday...



Rjukan, Norway; 1927 – 1970's



Glomfjord, Norway; 1953 – 1991

- Two largest electrolyser plants worldwide
- Capacity: 30 000 Nm³/h each
- Energy consumption: approximately 135 MW each
- Supplied by renewable hydro power

...and new large industrial electrolyzer plants...



Company: Nitol Solar
Industry: Polysilicon
Start-up: 2011
Capacity: 1 940 Nm³/h
Energy: 8,8 MW
Source: Hydro Power



Company: Tokuyama
Industry: Polysilicon
Start-up: 2012 & 2013
Capacity: 2 500 Nm³/h +
3 000 Nm³/h
Energy: Total 25 MW
Source: Hydro Power

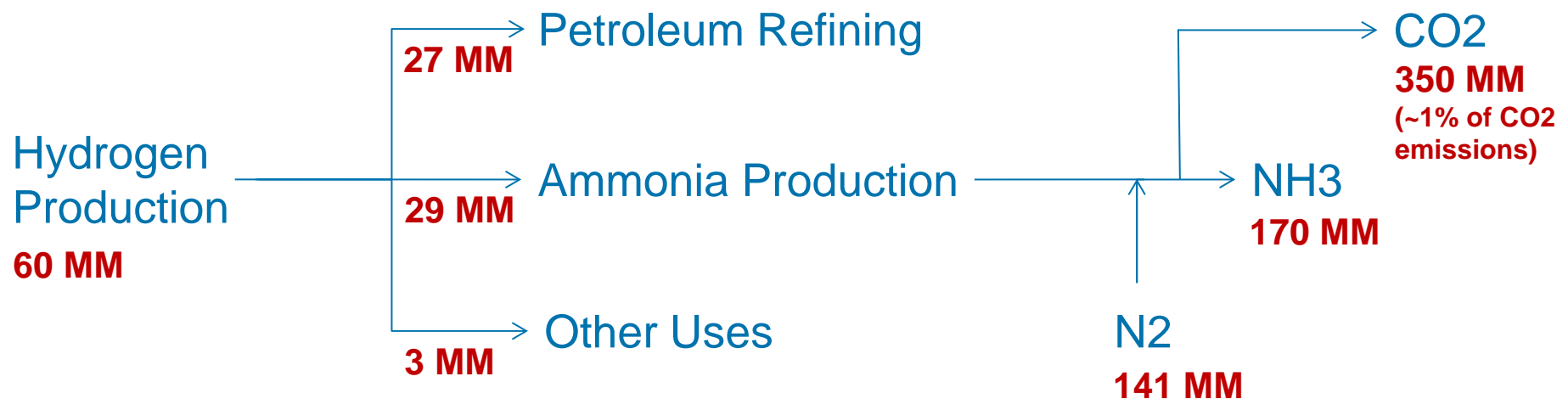
...and new pioneers on the NH₃ energy frontier



Mike Reese at the Wind to Ammonia Pilot Plant dedication, left, Jay Schmuecker's hydrogen/ammonia fueled tractor at ANL, right

Ammonia Today Is H₂- and GHG-Intensive

Global H₂/NH₃ Mass Balance (Approximate)
Metric Tonnes, 2017

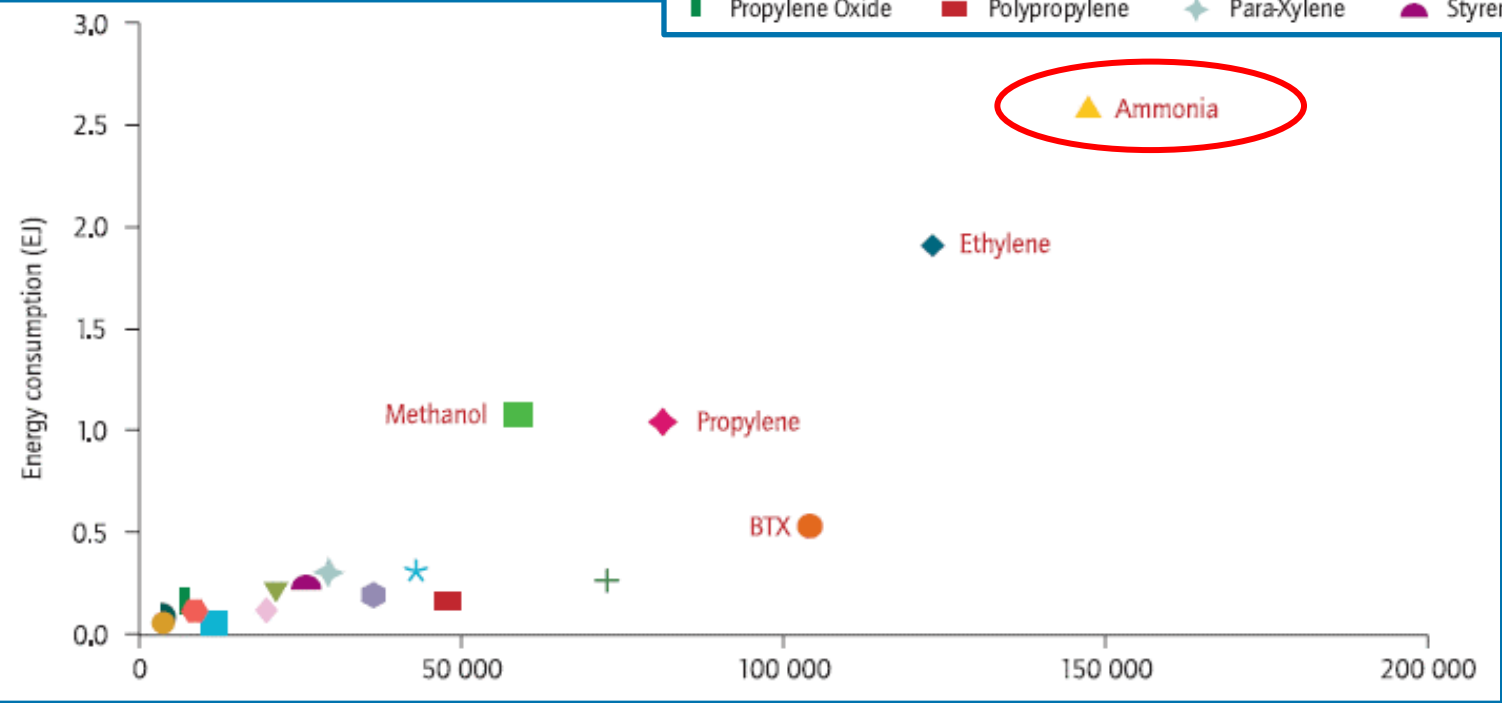
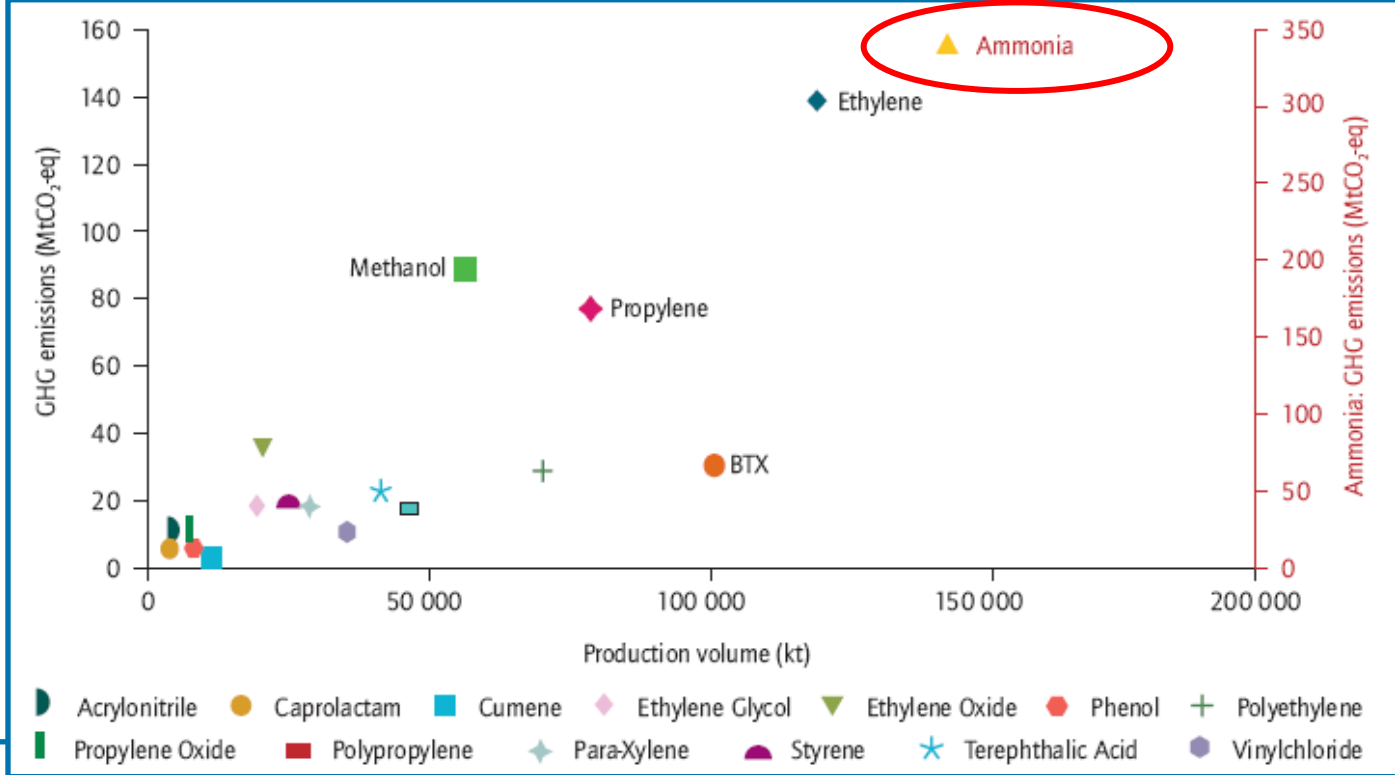


NH₃ is a major consumer of fossil energy (coal and natural gas). In the U.S., it accounts for about 4% of industrial NG consumption.

Sources: 1. Mass balance: analysis based on figures from International Energy Agency. 2. Text box: analysis based on Lawrence Livermore National Lab depiction of U.S. energy flows in H₂@Scale HTAC presentation, 4/6/16.

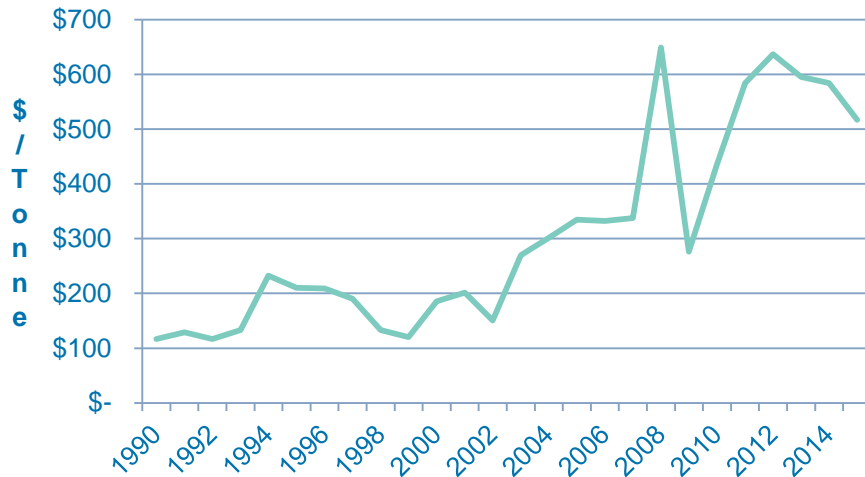
NH₃ Impact

Ammonia is #1 of 18 large volume chemicals for both energy use and GHG emissions, largely due to the H₂ reformation step from SMR

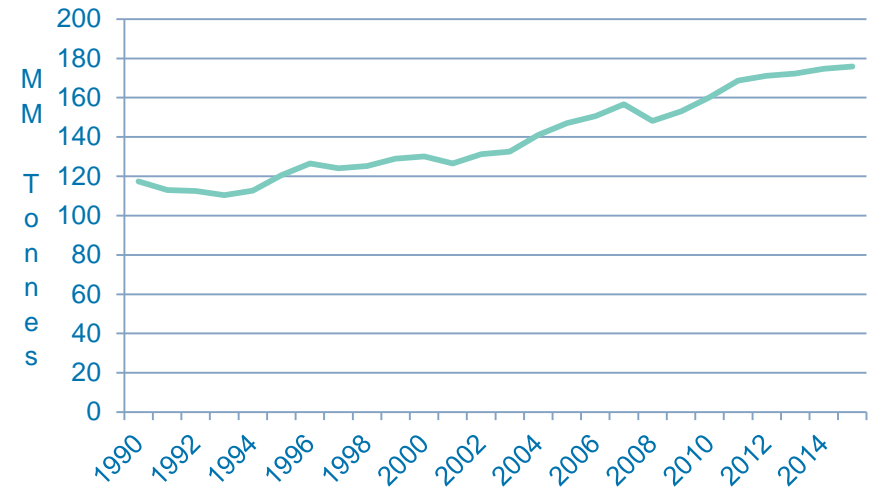


Ammonia Market Size and Growth

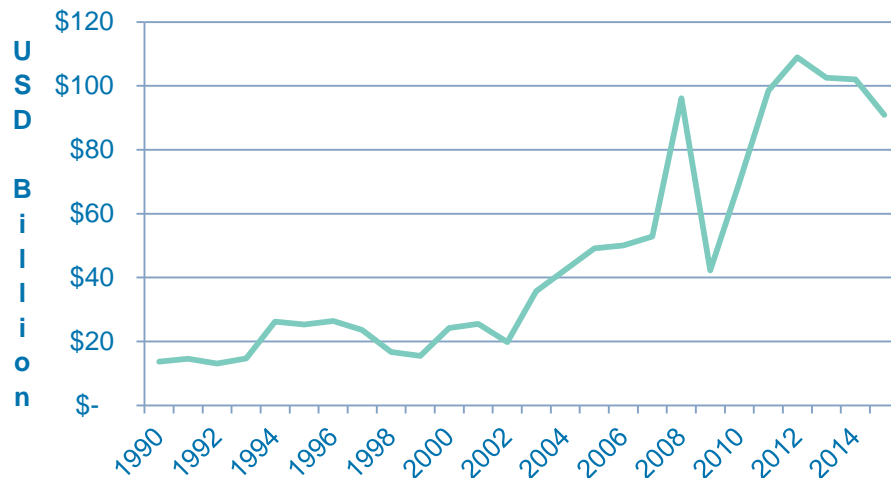
Price of Ammonia, F.O.B. U.S. Gulf Coast



Global Ammonia Production



Apparent Size of Global Ammonia Market



Growth Rates

CAGR Global Production 1990-2015: 1.6%

CAGR \$ Market Size 1990-2015: 7.9%

Projected CAGR Global Production 2016-2050: 1.3%

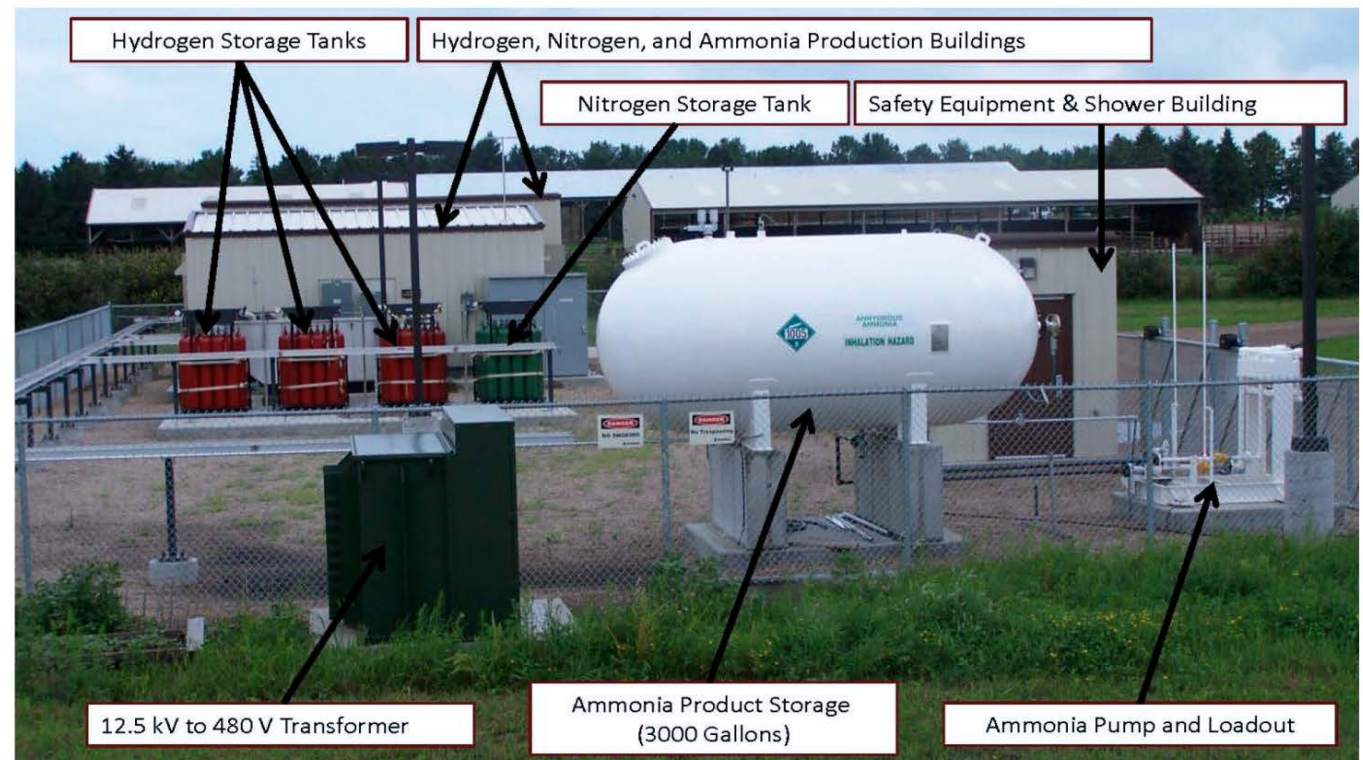
Source: "Nitrogen Statistics and Information", U.S. Geological Survey, 11/16; International Energy Agency

For H2@Scale, distributed ammonia production needs to be a significant application for RH2

- Distributed ammonia plants need to be scaled to available renewable energy resources.
- Example: UMinn's Zero-Emission Ammonia Pilot Plant, powered by an on-site wind turbine

Morris, MN Ammonia Pilot Plant

Scaled down conventional Haber-Bosch process, 25 ton/yr capacity



© 2015, Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved

13

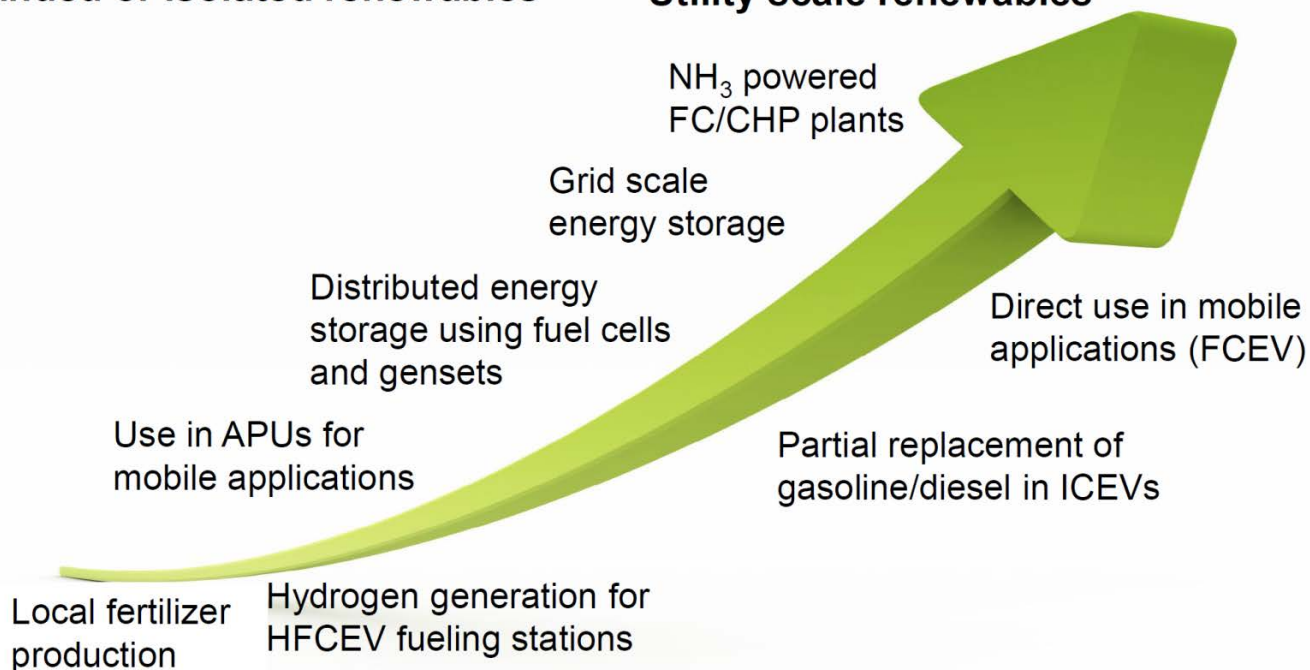
Sustainable Fertilizer Is Just the Beginning

- Systems analysis suggests that NH₃ could be the most affordable way to transport H₂ from site of production to site of use
- Think “H₂ vector” rather than just fertilizer or industrial commodity

Potential markets

Stranded or isolated renewables

Utility scale renewables

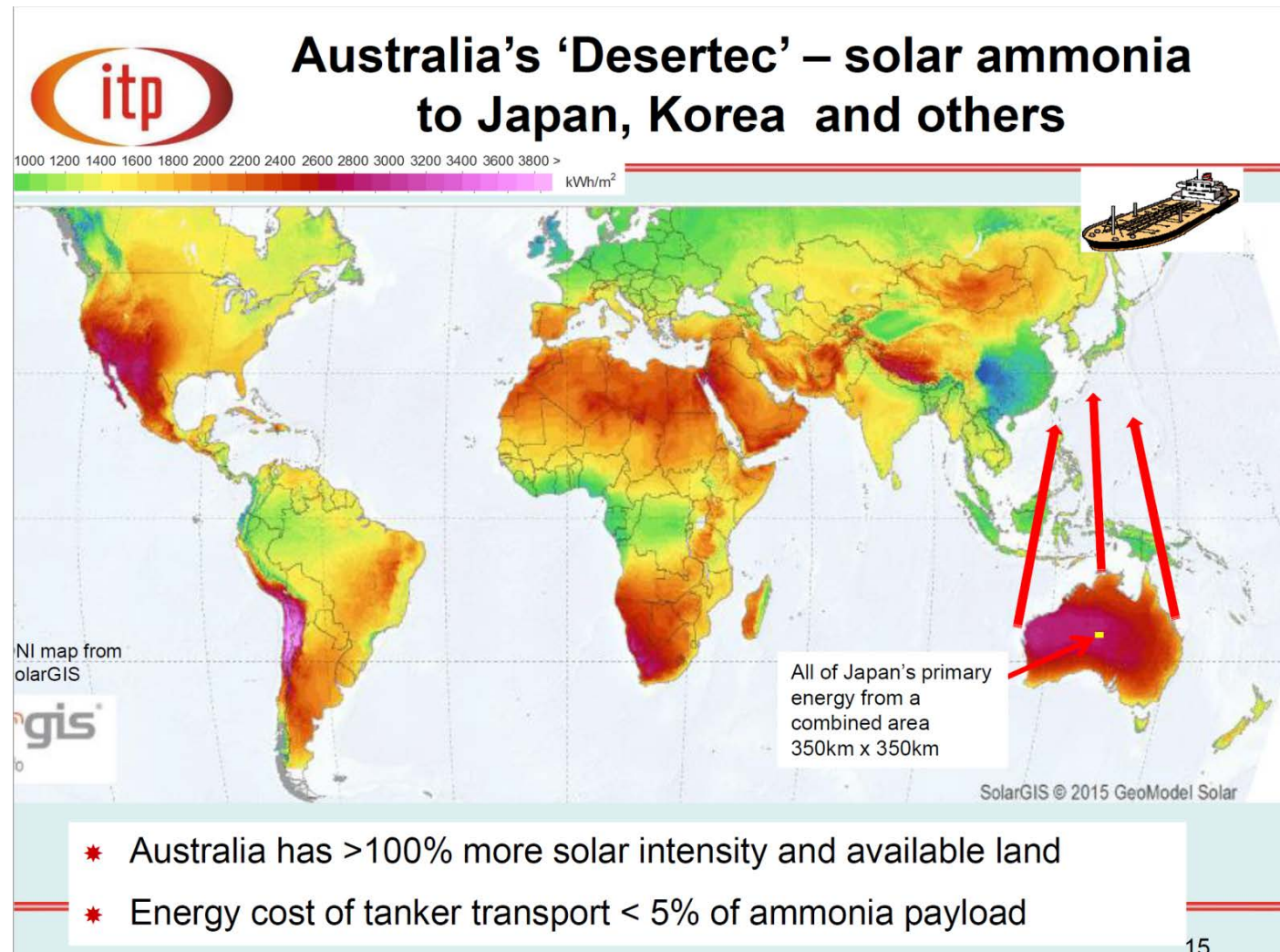


Transformational change in bringing more renewable energy to market

Source: Soloveichik, NH₃ Fuel Conference 2016.

Ultimately: New Global Energy Trading System

- In a remade global energy system, regions rich in renewables would be linked to energy markets in the way major oil exporting countries are today
- Japan and Australia are exploring this concept today



Source: Lovegrove, IT Power Group, NH3 Fuel Conference 2016

Ammonia provides smallest footprint and CAPEX

Energy storage comparison



30,000 gallon underground tank contains 200 MWh (plus 600 MMBTU CHP heat)

Capital cost ~\$100K

=

204 MWh NGK battery in Japan

or

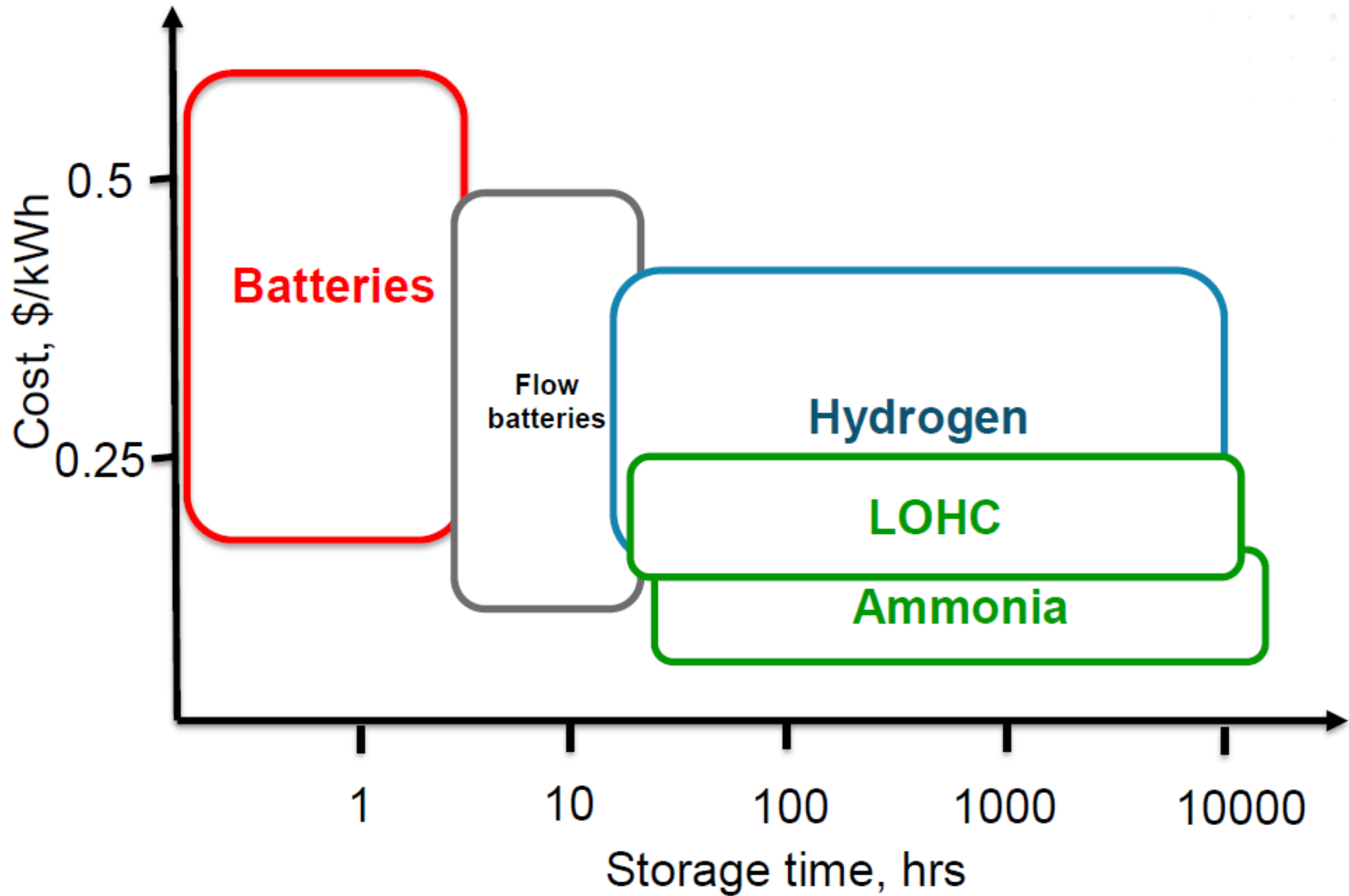
40 x



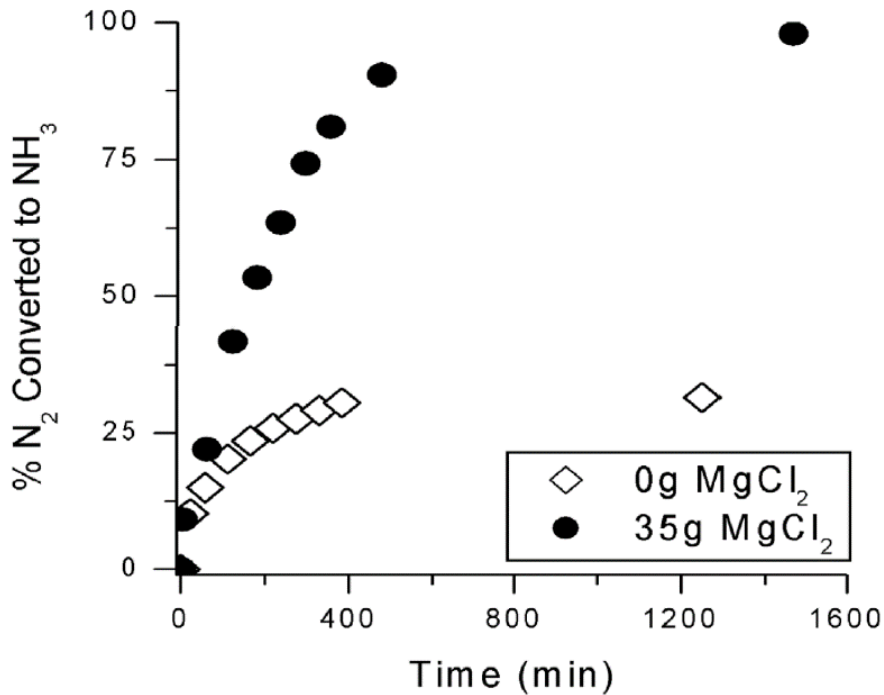
5 MWh A123 battery in Chile

Capital cost \$50,000 - 100,000K

Levelized cost of energy storage



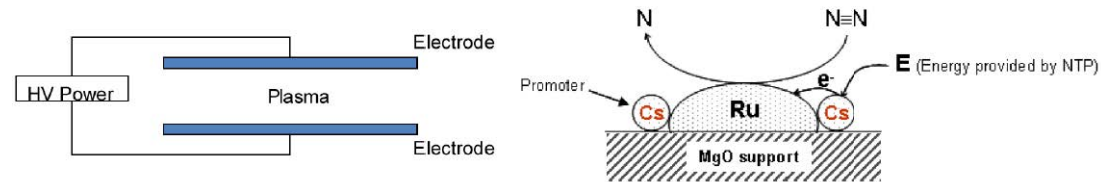
Research needs: improving ammonia production, via lower pressure and higher conversion efficiency



Non-Thermal Plasma Assisted Catalysis

- NTP - energized ions and highly reactive radicals made in *non pressurized* gas with electrical discharge
- Catalyst with Promoter: triple bond of dinitrogen weakened by passing electron into the anti-bonding orbital of N₂ through the d-orbital of Ruthenium

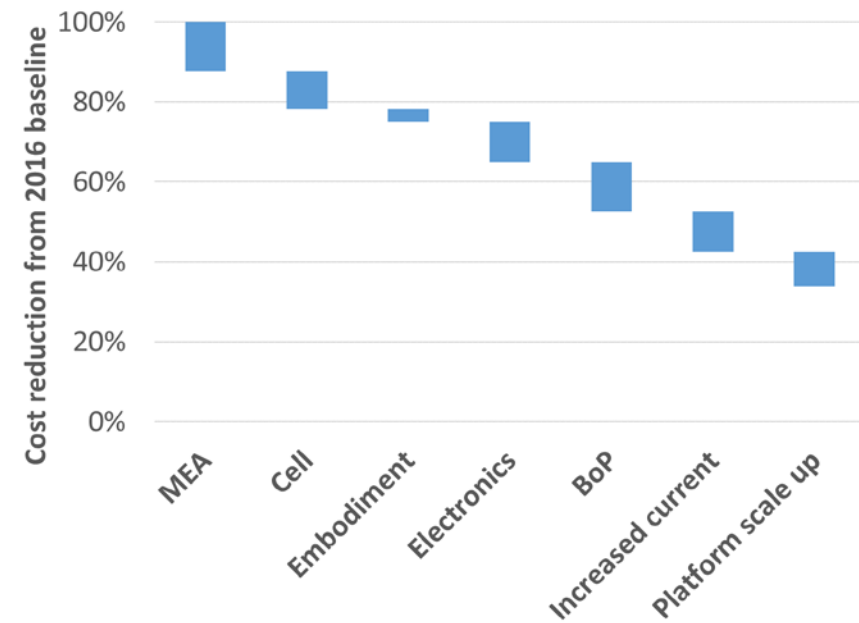
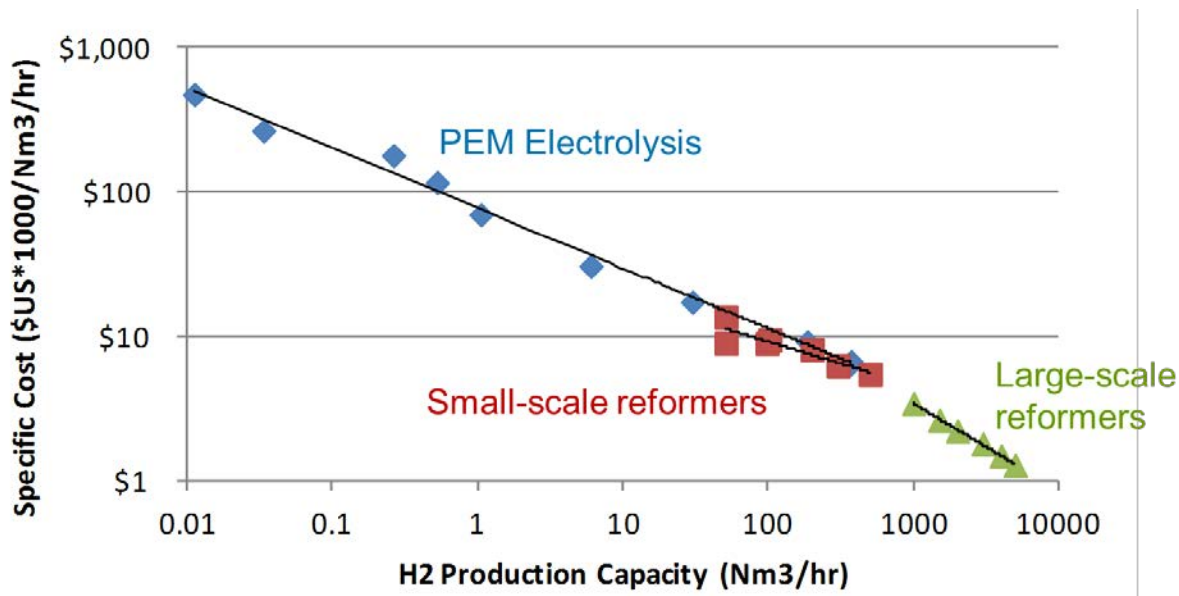
MgCl₂ Absorbent Enhanced Ammonia Synthesis



Source: McCormick, University of Minnesota, NH3 Fuel Conference 2015

Research needs: large scale, renewable H₂

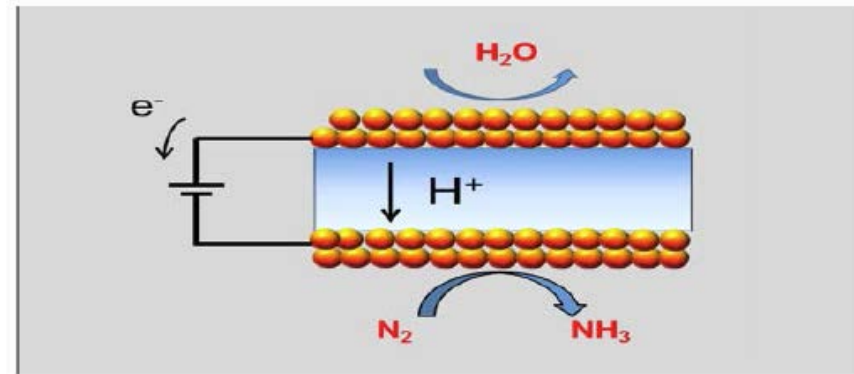
- Smallest HB reactors are 3-10 tons/day
- Larger reactors are currently more cost effective
- Distributed options will need advancements for both steps
 - H₂ production scale up; efficient scaled down HB
- Electrolysis shows capital cost pathway but work is needed across multiple areas



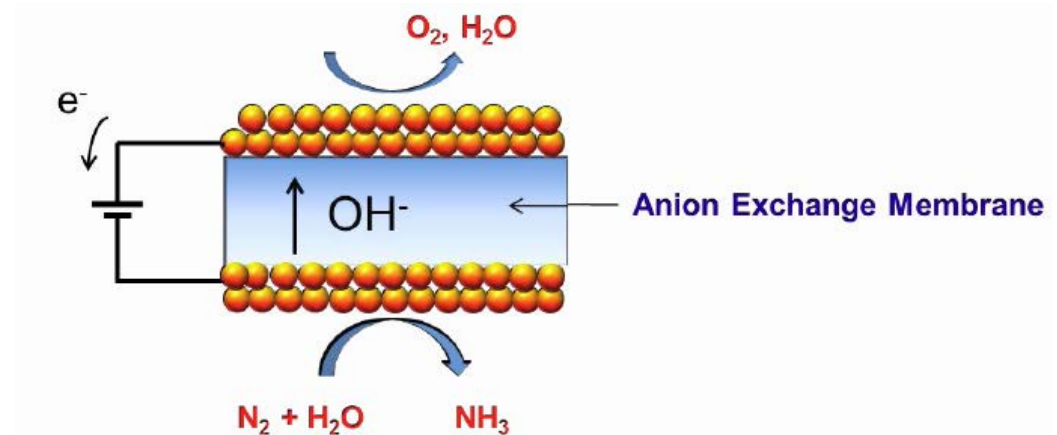
Research needs: electrochemical ammonia synthesis

Key Challenges:

- Selective catalysts
- Faradaic efficiency that competes with Haber Bosch
- Durability and stability of materials

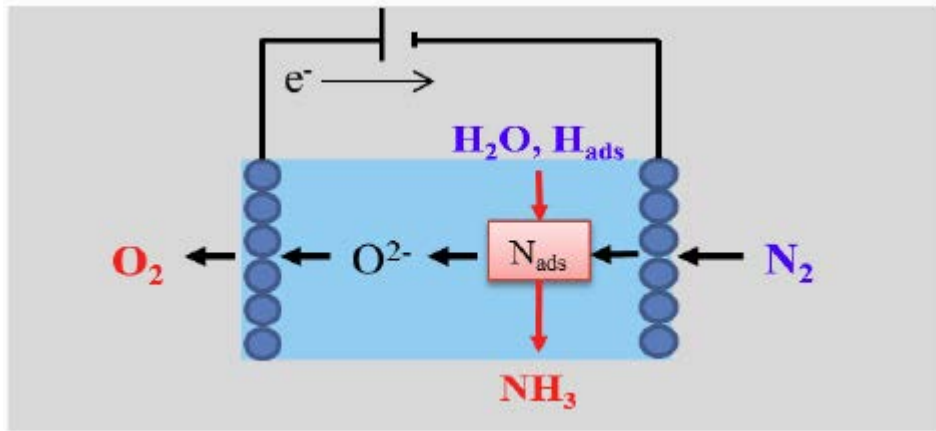


PEM synthesis cell



AEM synthesis cell

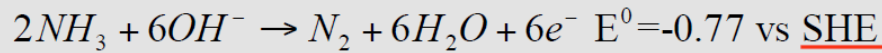
High temperature pathways exist for acid and base options as well



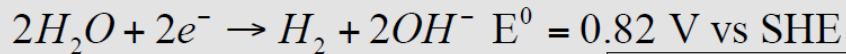
Liquid state synthesis cell

Research needs: efficient H₂ recovery through electrochemical & catalytic methods

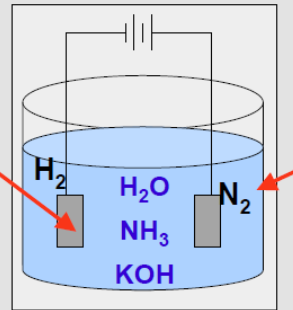
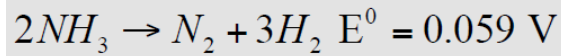
- Anode: Ammonia Oxidation



- Cathode: Water Reduction



- Overall Reaction



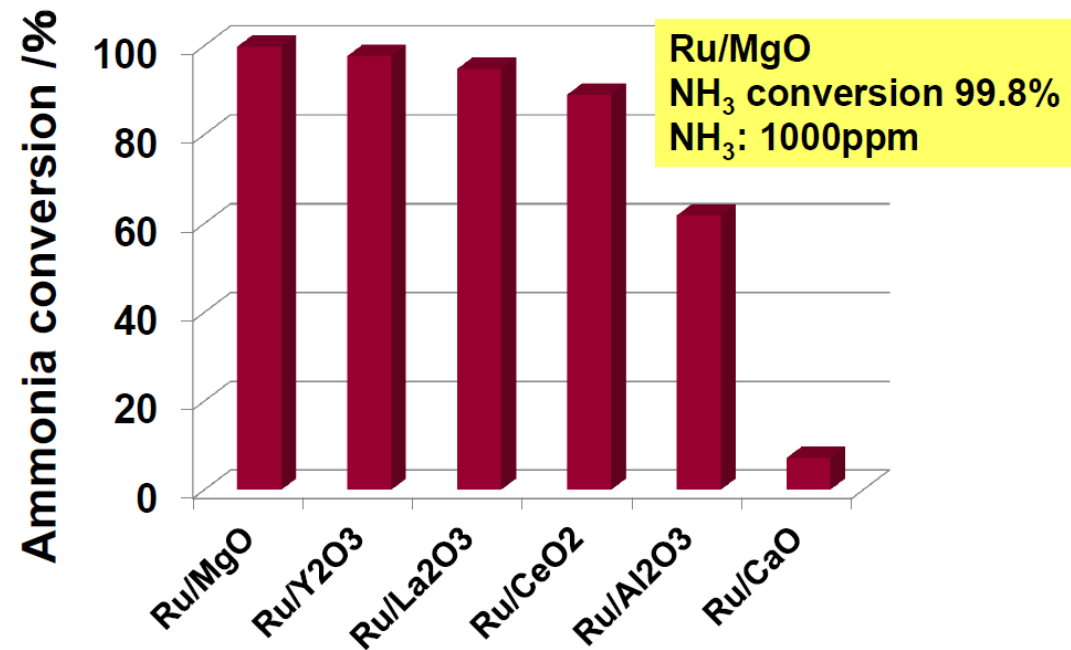
Electrolysis of NH₃ to H₂

Source: Botte, NH₃ Fuel Conference 2015

Breakthrough in cracking catalyst design

Source: Kojima, NH₃ Fuel Conference 2015

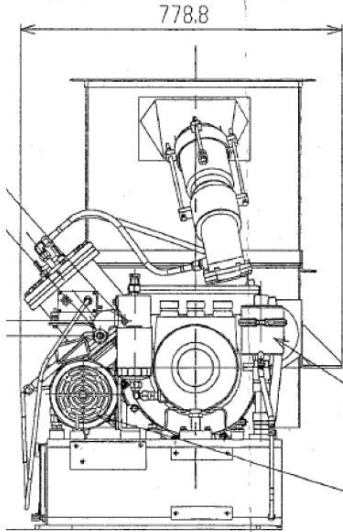
Catalytic activity of Ru-based catalysts at 500°C



Research needs: direct ammonia utilization

Base Micro Gas Turbine

- A 50kW class micro gas turbine was selected as the base engine of ammonia fueled gas turbine.
- This gas turbine was made by TOYOTA TURBINE AND SYSTEMS INC (TTS).



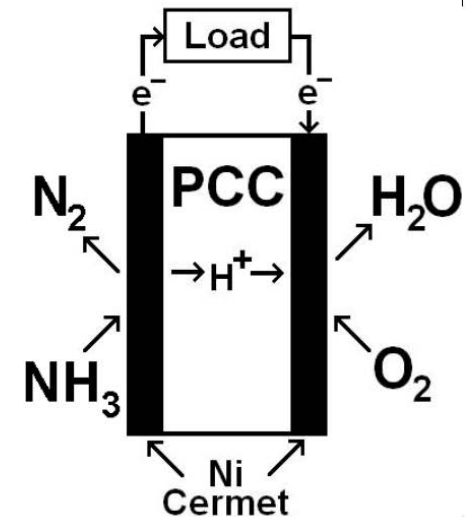
Specification of base micro gas turbine

Manufacturer	Toyota Turbine and System Inc. (TTS)
Cycle	Regenerative cycle
Shaft	Single shaft
Compressor	Centrifugal one-stage
Turbine	Radial one-stage
Rotating Speed	80,000rpm
Electric Power Output	50kW
Fuel	Kerosene
Combustor	Single can, Diffusion combustion

Ammonia fueled combustion

Source: Iki, et al, AIST, NH3 Fuel Conference 2016

- **Utilizes inexpensive base metal catalyst (Ni or Co)**
 - Operating temperature 450-700°C, depending on catalyst
 - Elevated temperature increases electrode kinetics
- **Complete ammonia conversion IS possible!**
- **Fuel not diluted by steam**
- **NO_x-free exhaust**



Direct ammonia fuel cell

Source: Ganley, Howard University

Key Takeaways

- Carbon free ammonia needs to be a significant contributor to the H2@Scale initiative.
- Renewable ammonia production will directly benefit from electrolysis technology and cost improvements in development.
- Ammonia can play a dual role as both a life sustaining commodity, as well as an efficient energy carrier and fuel.
- Distributed ammonia production can be located in areas with both high RE resources and high fertilizer demand.

