

# Solid State Materials for Hydrogen Storage

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*Enabling **twice the energy density** for onboard  $H_2$  storage*

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# Hydrogen-powered cars are now commercially available



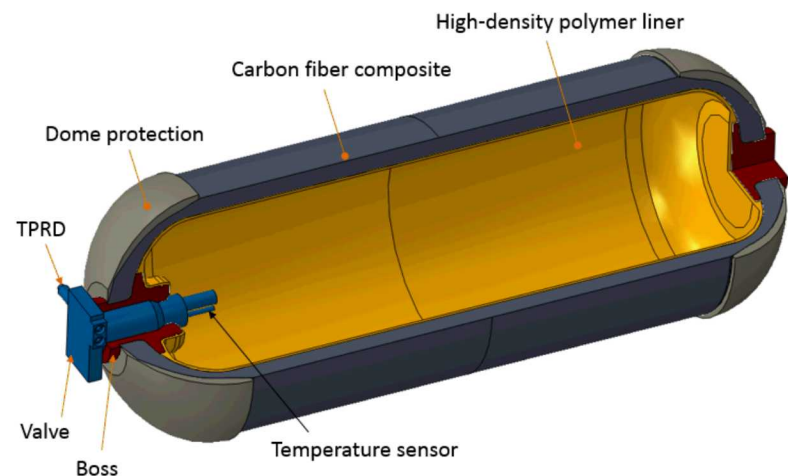
- 700 bar pressurized tanks
- 265 – 312 mile range
- Refueling stations being installed in some areas



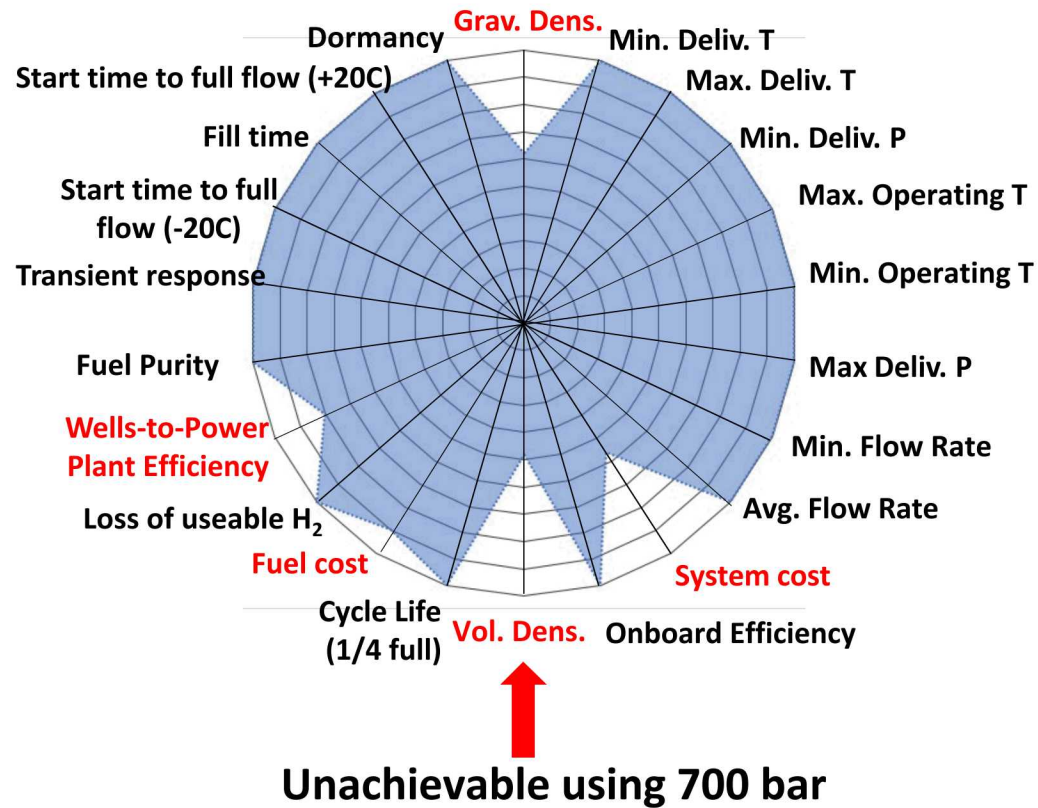


# Although fuel cell vehicles are now commercially available, compressed H<sub>2</sub> storage falls short of several DOE targets

## 700 Bar Compressed Gas (2015 record) vs. revised DOE Ultimate Targets

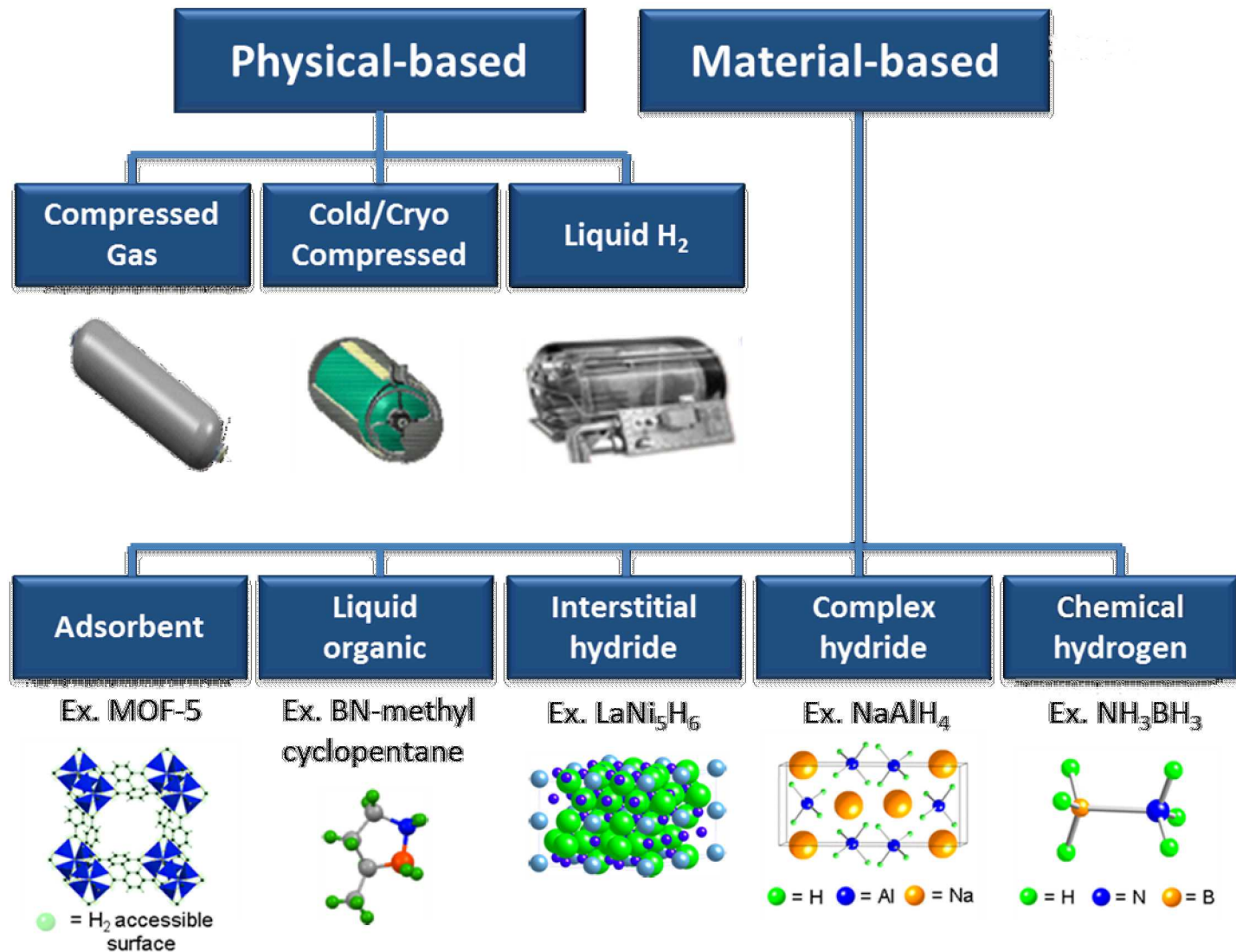


TPRD = Thermally Activated Pressure Relief Device  
Credit: Process Modeling Group, Nuclear Engineering Division, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)

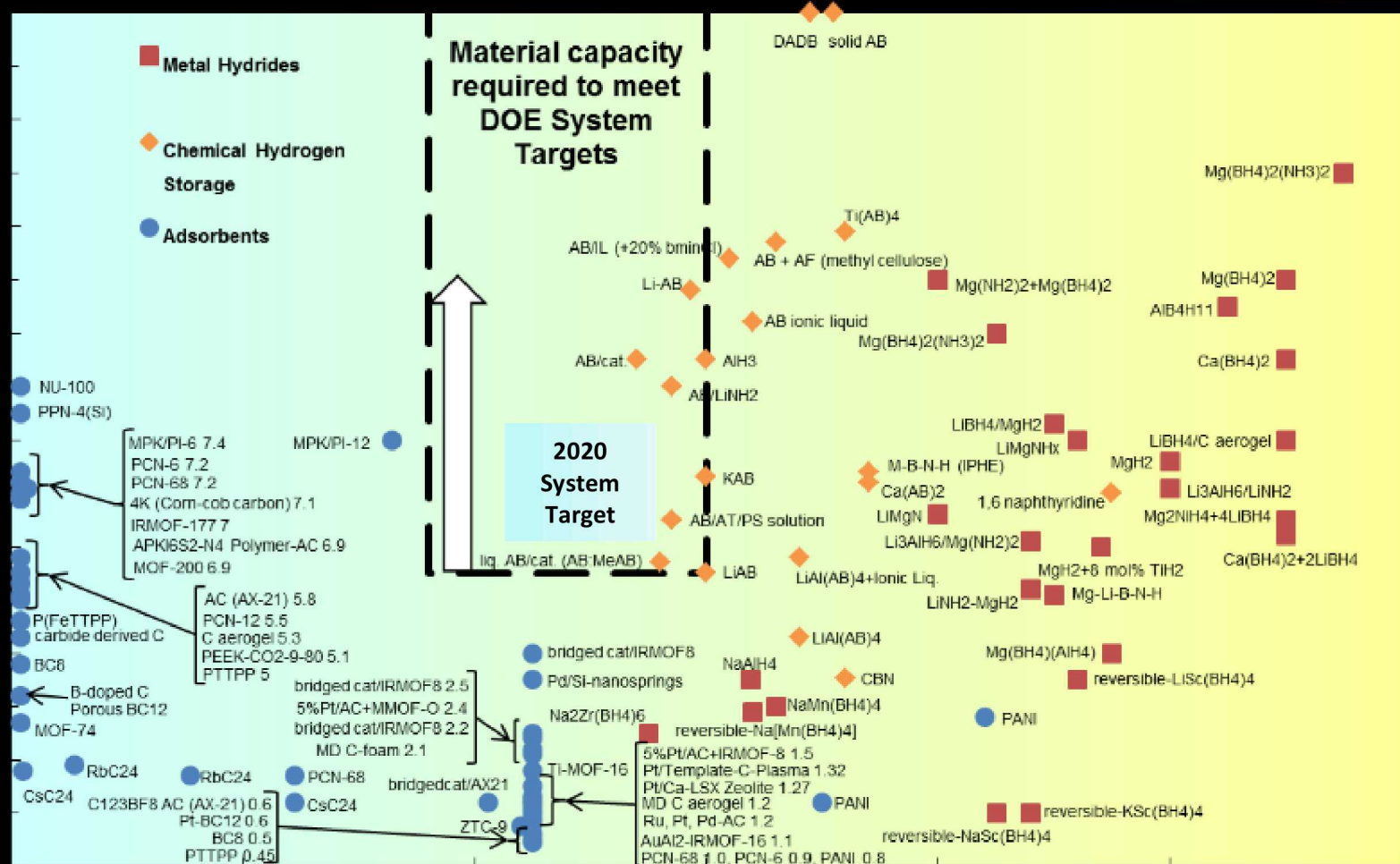


Unachievable using 700 bar

# How is hydrogen stored?



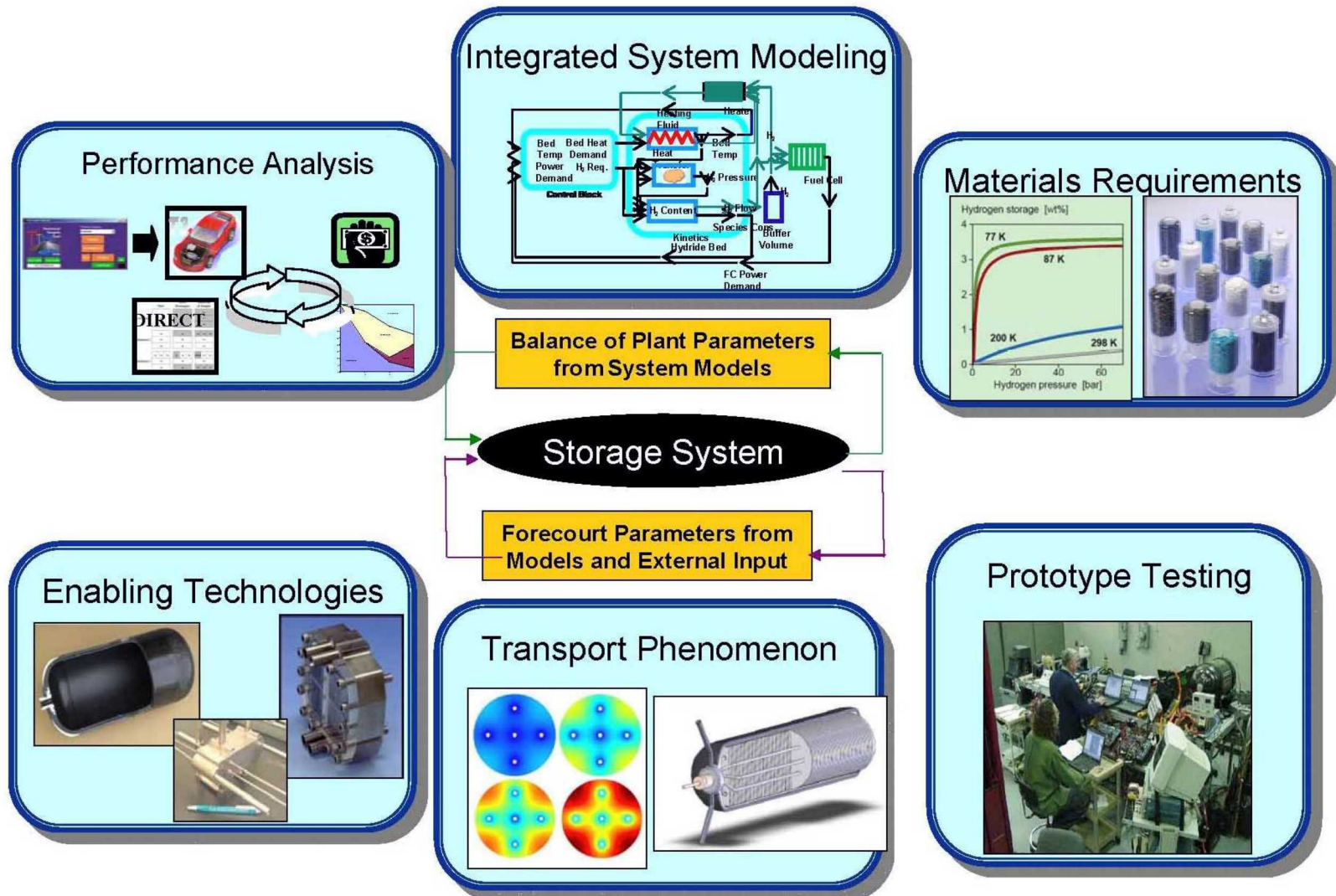
# 2005-2013: 3 DOE/EERE-funded Centers of Excellence focused on materials development



*Although many materials were investigated, none were identified that met all DOE technical targets*



# 2009-2015 Hydrogen Storage Engineering Center of Excellence



*HSECoE formed to address lack of knowledge concerning system and engineering aspects of complete materials-based hydrogen storage systems*

# Hydrogen Materials Advanced Research Consortium (HyMARC): highly coordinated capabilities to accelerate materials discovery

## HyMARC Phase 1:

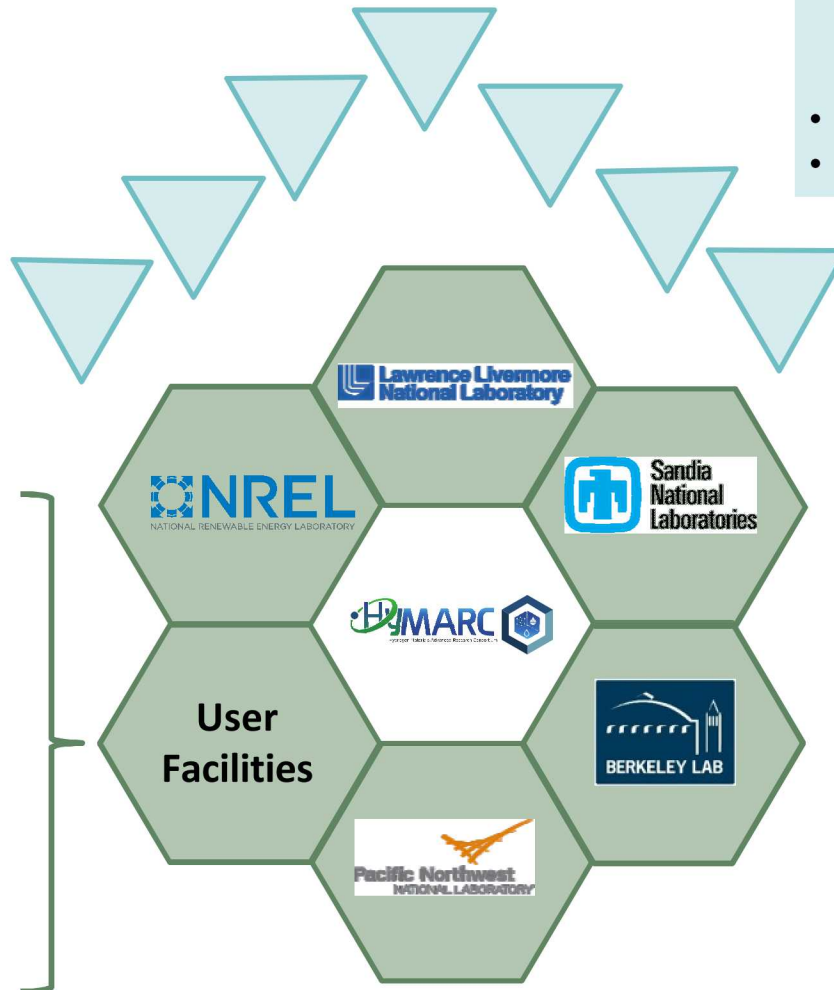
- FY16 – FY 18
- 3 DOE Labs
- Budget \$3M/yr

## HyMARC Phase 2:

- FY19 – FY22
- 5 DOE Labs
- Budget \$8 M/yr

## Seedling Projects

- Applied material development
  - Novel material concepts
  - High-risk, high-reward
- Concept feasibility demonstration
- Advanced development of viable concepts



- Foundational R&D
- Computational models
- Synthetic protocols
- Advanced characterization tools
- Validation of material performance
- Guidance to FOA projects
- Database development

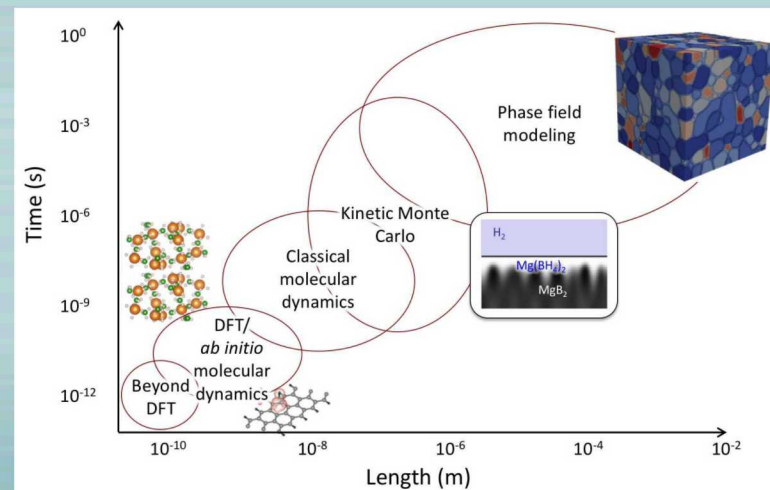


# HyMARC objective: accelerate discovery of breakthrough storage materials by providing capabilities and foundational understanding

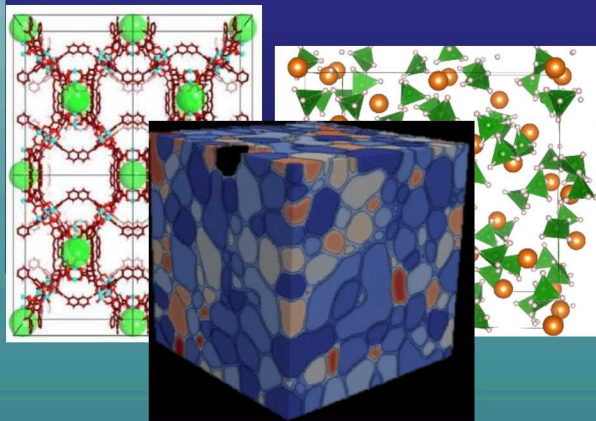
**Foundational understanding** of phenomena governing thermodynamics and kinetics limiting the development of solid-state hydrogen storage materials

HyMARC will deliver **community tools and capabilities:**

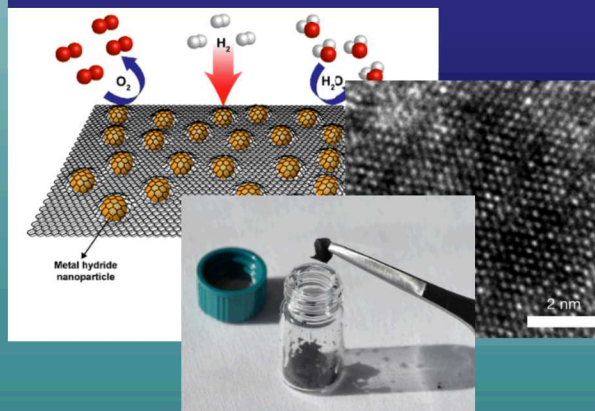
- **Computational models and databases** for high-throughput materials screening
- **New characterization tools and methods** (surface, bulk, soft X-ray, synchrotron)
- **Tailorable synthetic platforms** for probing nanoscale phenomena



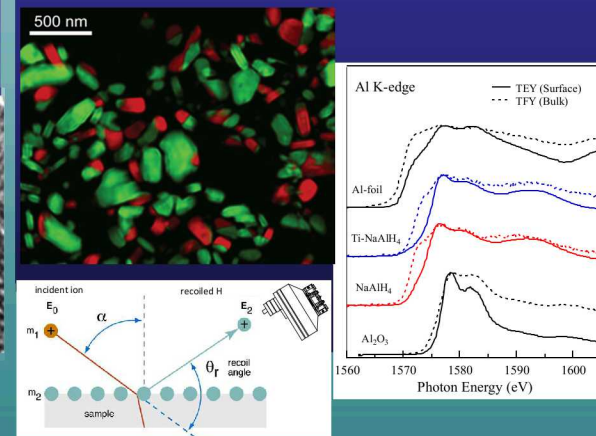
## Theory, simulation, & data



## Controlled synthesis



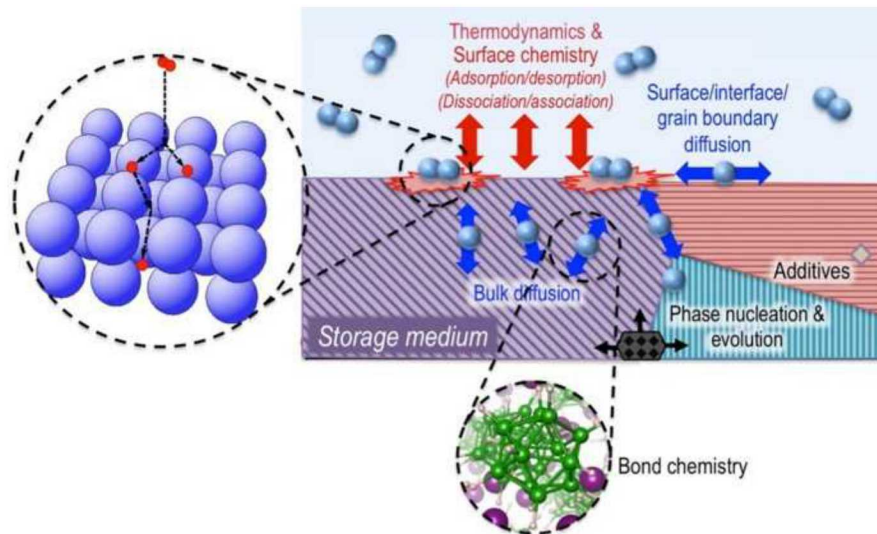
## In situ characterization



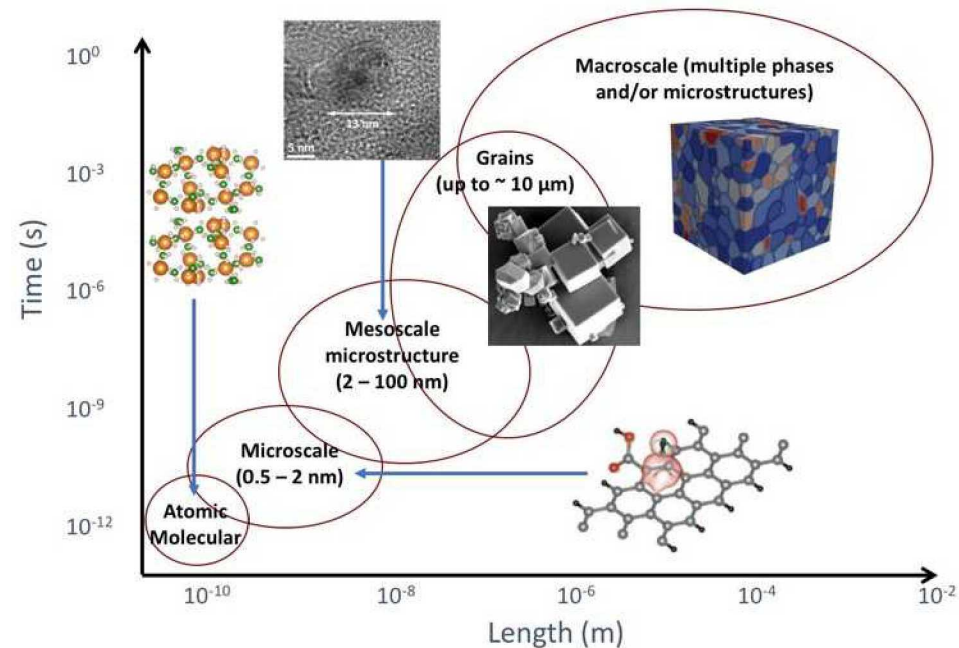


# Relevance: poorly understood phenomena at length scales from $< 1$ nm to $\mu\text{m}$ govern storage material behavior

Distinct chemical/physical processes affect the bulk properties of storage materials



Multiple length scales must be taken into account

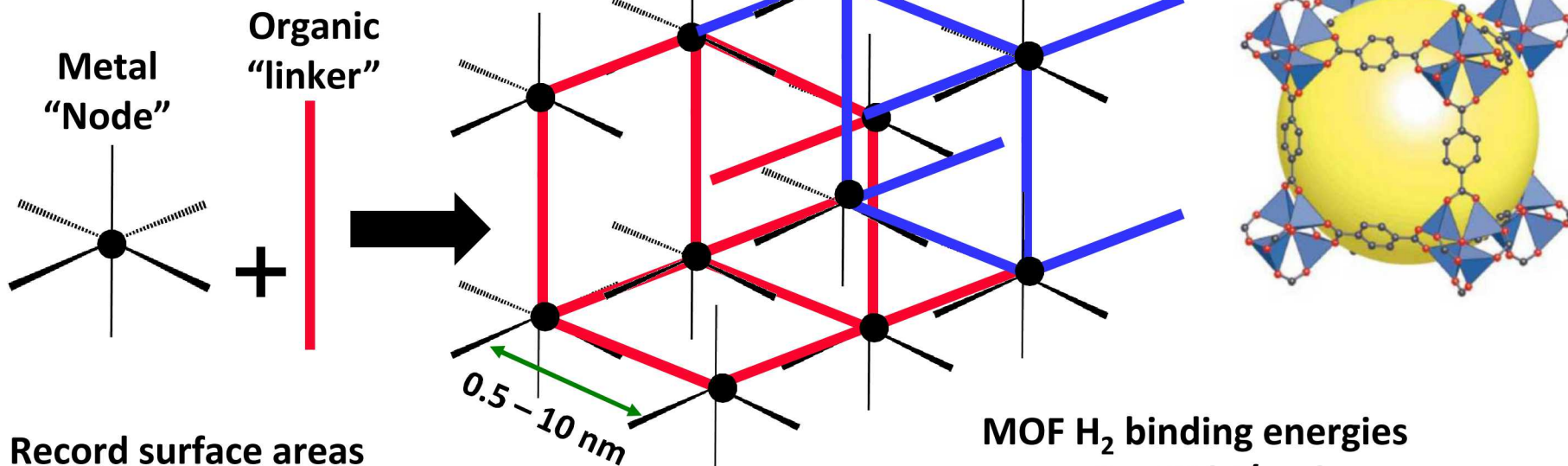


*“Design rules” are needed to guide materials discovery*

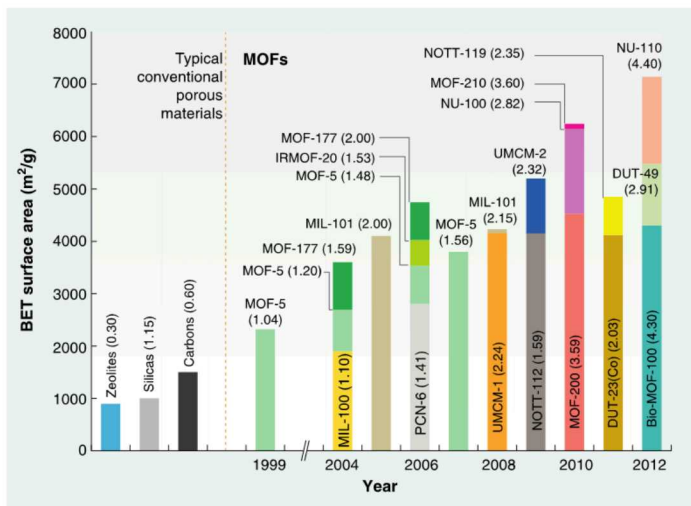
# Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) are among the most promising hydrogen sorbents

*Thousands of MOFs are now known*

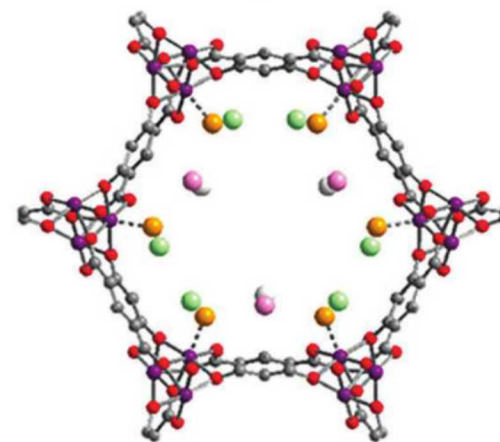
e.g. see Furukawa et al. *Science* 2013



## Record surface areas



**MOF H<sub>2</sub> binding energies**  
~ 2 – 33 kJ/mol

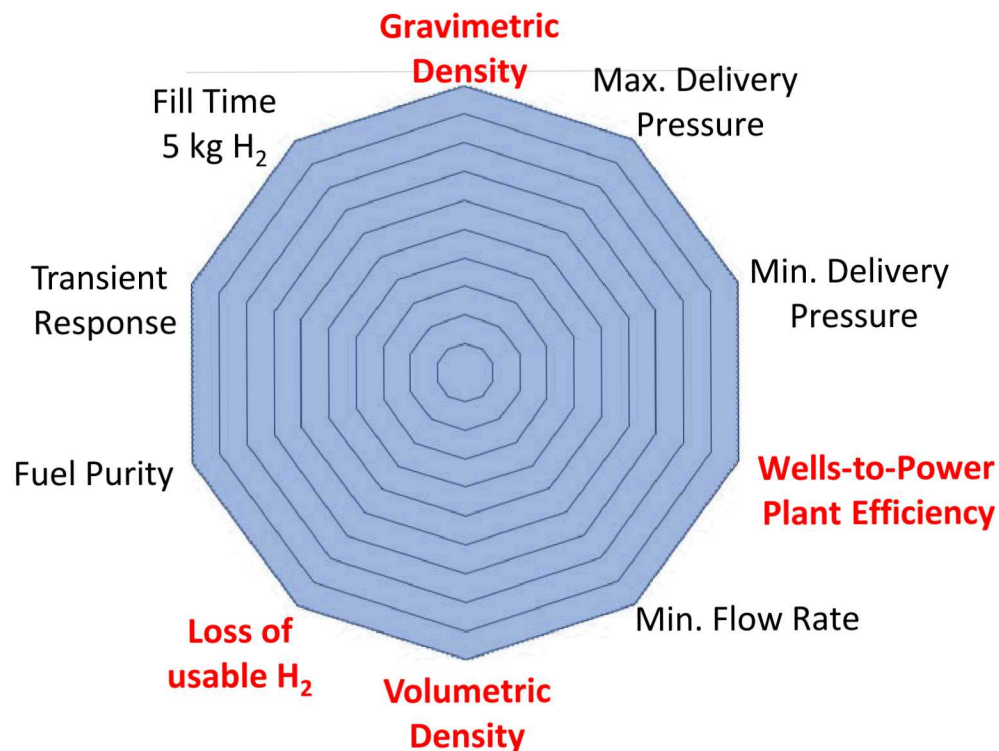
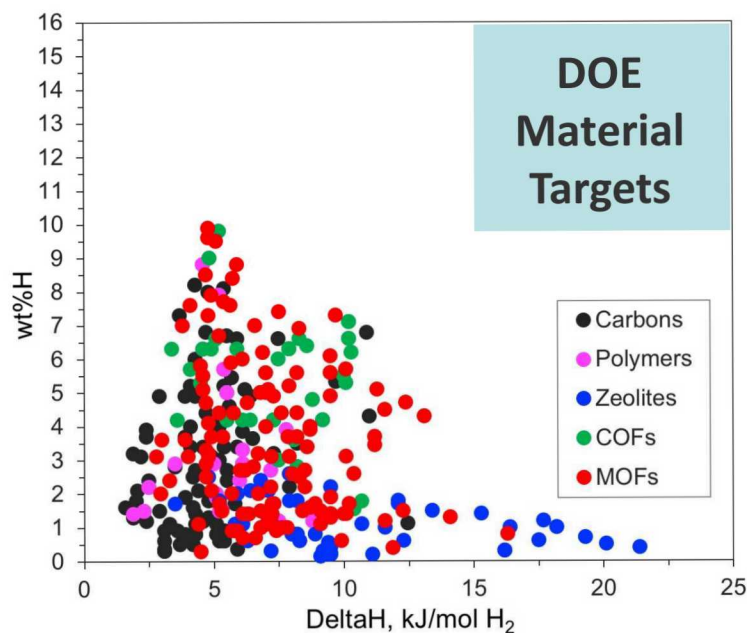


Co<sub>2</sub>(*m*-dobdc)

# No sorbent materials can meet all of the DOE targets

*H<sub>2</sub> binds too weakly to provide sufficient capacity at ambient temperature*

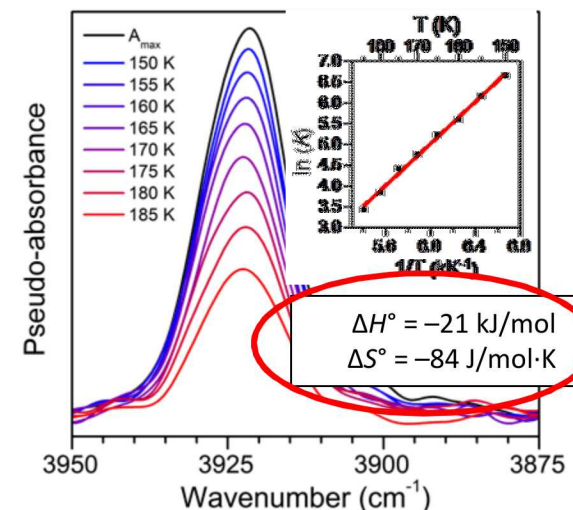
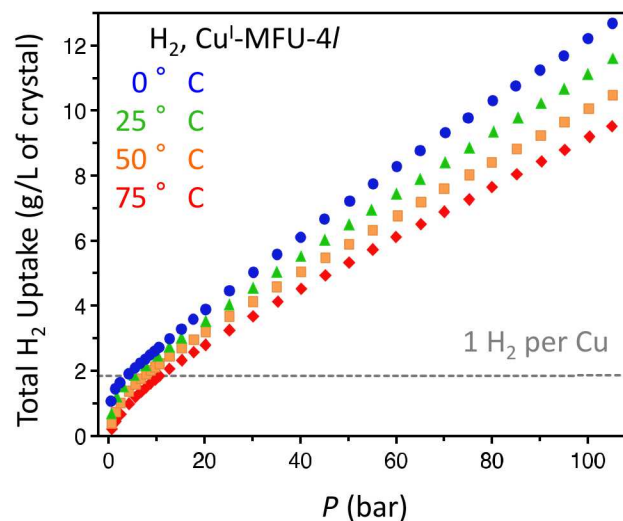
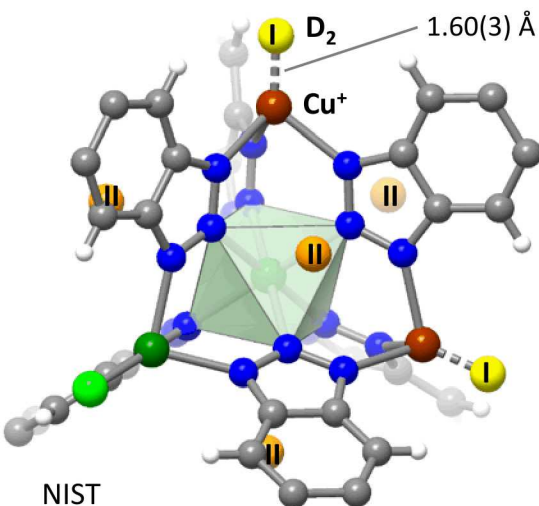
DOE Targets HyMARC is focusing on are in **red**





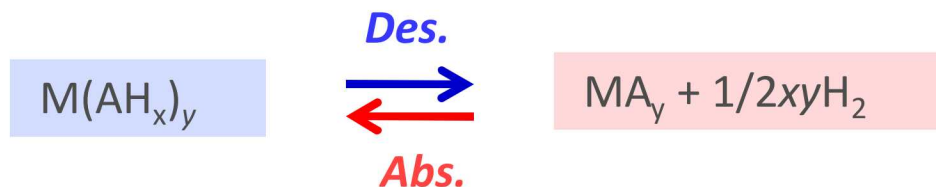
# Recent HyMARC research indicates H<sub>2</sub> binding energies can be increased in MOFs

Research of J. R. Long and coworkers

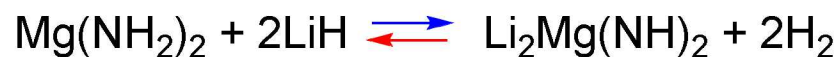


- ***In situ* powder neutron diffraction:** Extremely short Cu–D<sub>2</sub> distance observed in Cu<sup>I</sup>-MFU-4l by neutron powder diffraction. Corroborates strong binding enthalpy and large red-shift of u(H–H) observed from DRIFTS.
- **High-P adsorption:** Open Cu<sup>+</sup> sites saturate at relatively low pressures. Volumetric usable capacity for Cu<sup>I</sup>-MFU-4l surpasses Ni<sub>2</sub>(*m*-dobdc) at 75 °C.
- **DRIFTS in V<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2.8</sub>(btdd):** VTIR confirms high enthalpy of adsorption. Enthalpy–entropy relation distinct from M<sub>2</sub>(dobdc) family.

# High hydrogen capacity metal hydrides, but strong chemisorption and H<sub>2</sub> release/uptake are limiting



Bogdanovic *et al.* *J. Alloys Comp.* **1997**, 253-254, 1  
Bogdanovic, Schwickardi, *U.S. Patent* 6,106,801, **2000**



Cheng *et al.* *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 5828  
Luo *et al.* *J. Alloys Comp.* **2004**, 381, 284



Pinkerton *et al.* *J. Phys. Chem. C* **2007**, 111, 12881  
Vajo *et al.* *J. Phys. Chem. C* **2005**, 109, 3719



Soloveichik *et al.* *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy*, **2009**, 34, 916  
Severa *et al.* *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, 46, 421

high dehydrogenation  
temperatures

high pressure required  
for rehydrogenation

**Problems &  
Challenges**

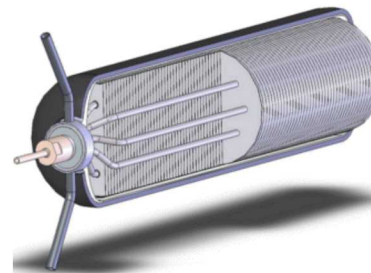
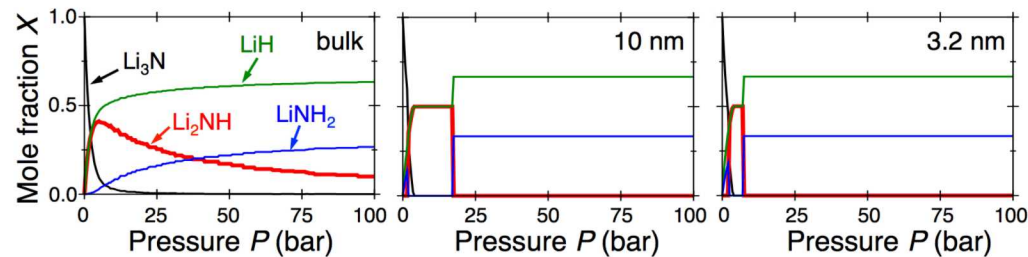
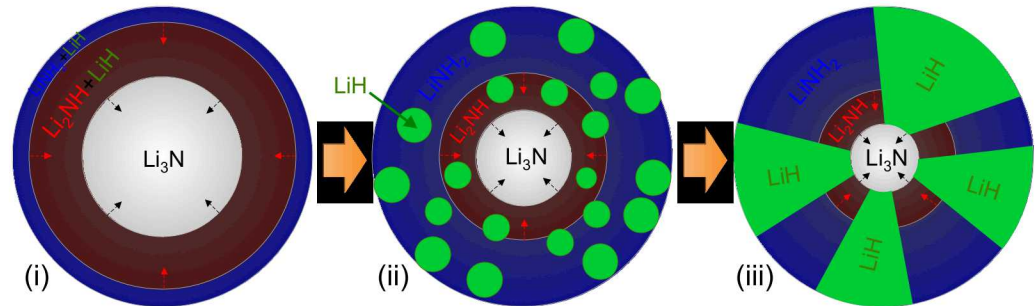
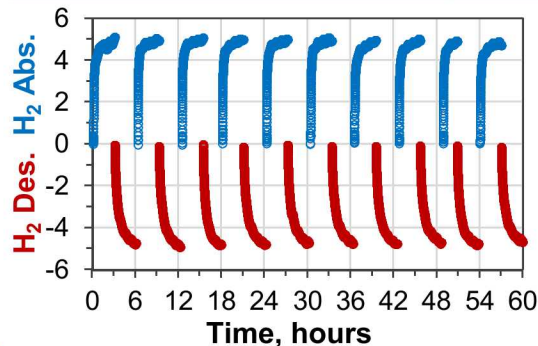
stable intermediates  
([B<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>, [NH]<sup>2-</sup>, etc.)

contamination of H<sub>2</sub> gas  
with impurity gases

loss of capacity upon  
cycling

# Nanoscale metal hydrides accelerates release kinetics

Design Parameters	bulk- $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$	KH-6nm- $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$
Reversible capacity, wt%	8.2	5.4
Thermal cond., $\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	1.0	9.6
Density of hydride bed, $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	710	760
Total system mass, kg	312	252
Total hydride mass, kg	112	116
Tank outer diameter, m	0.46	0.45
Tank length, m	2.21	2.19
System volume, $\text{m}^3$	0.256	0.227
% 2025 Gravimetric Target	33	40
% 2025 Volumetric Target	55	62



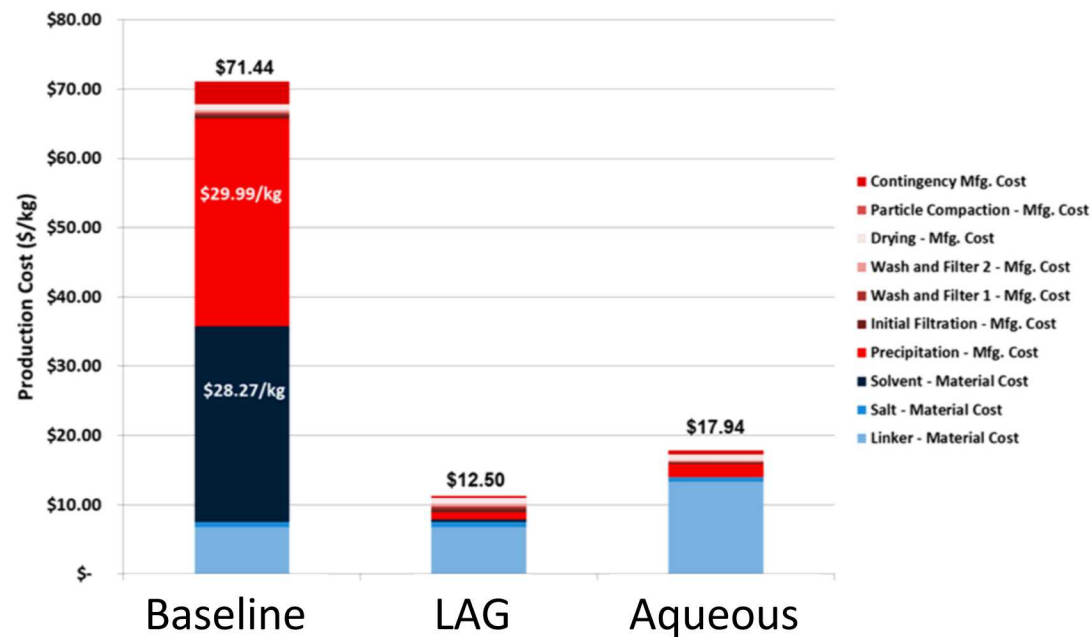
MHFE-SAH tank design

⇒ Used HSCOE Metal Hydride Finite Element model to reveal non-intuitive tradeoffs and benefits of using nanoscale metal hydrides in an operational H<sub>2</sub> storage tank



# Techno-economic analysis suggests large-scale production of MOF sorbents is economically feasible

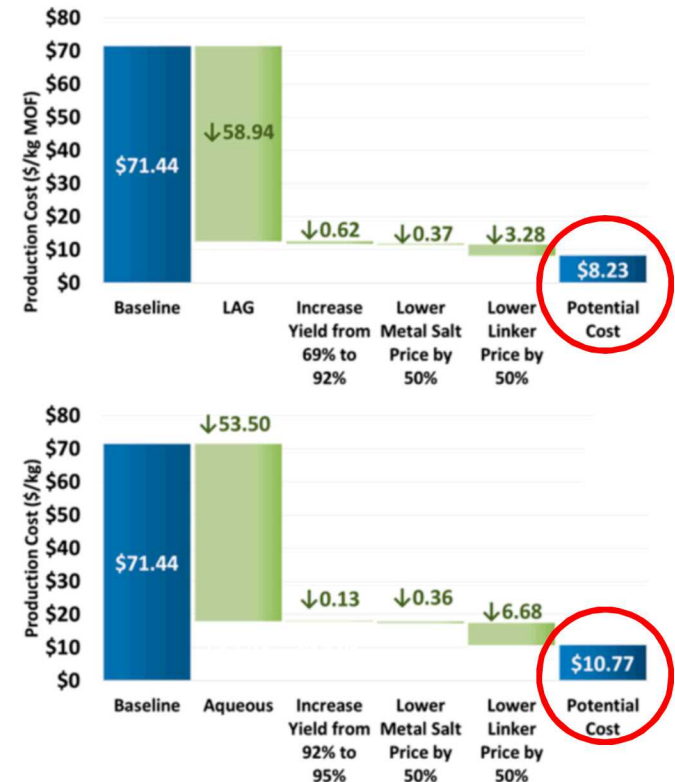
Production of 2.5 Mkg/year of  $\text{Mg}_2(\text{dobdc})$   
(dobdc4- = 2,5-dioxido-1,4- benzenedicarboxylate; Mg-MOF-74)



Baseline: solvothermal process

LAG: Liquid-Assisted Grinding

Aqueous: replace organic solvents with water



**Compressed gas (700 bar): physically impossible to meet DOE volumetric target**

**Solid-state materials have potential to meet DOE targets**

**HyMARC: a National Laboratory team focused on accelerating materials discovery:**

- Foundational research
- Development of advanced characterization tools
- Computational modeling across all relevant length scales
- Innovative materials synthesis and development
- Collaboration and assistance to Seedling projects

**In FY19, Research to develop *Hydrogen Carriers* was initiated (Tom Autrey, PNNL, lead)**

**We are grateful for the financial support of EERE/FCTO and  
for technical and programmatic guidance from  
Dr. Ned Stetson, Jesse Adams, and Zeric Hulvey**



***Enabling *twice the energy density* for onboard  $H_2$  storage***