



# Beyond Batteries: Diverse “Potential” Energy Storage Solutions for Long-Duration Energy Storage

**MODERATOR:** Frank Brown, Bonneville Power Administration

**PANELIST:** Erik D. Spoerke, Sandia National Laboratories

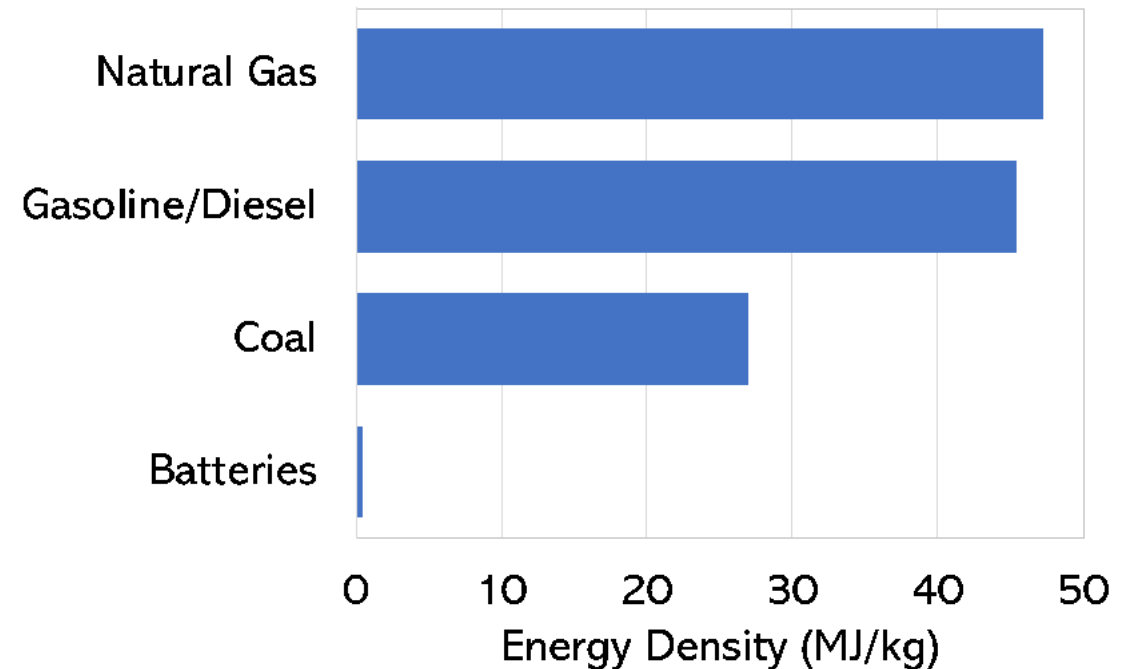
# The Challenge of Large Scale Energy Storage

*How can we replace high energy density fossil fuels, not just for generation, but for storage?*



greengroundswell.com

Coal-based energy storage





## Long Duration Storage Shot



Reduce storage costs  
by **90%\***...

\*from a 2020 Li-ion baseline



...in storage systems  
that deliver **10+** hours  
of duration

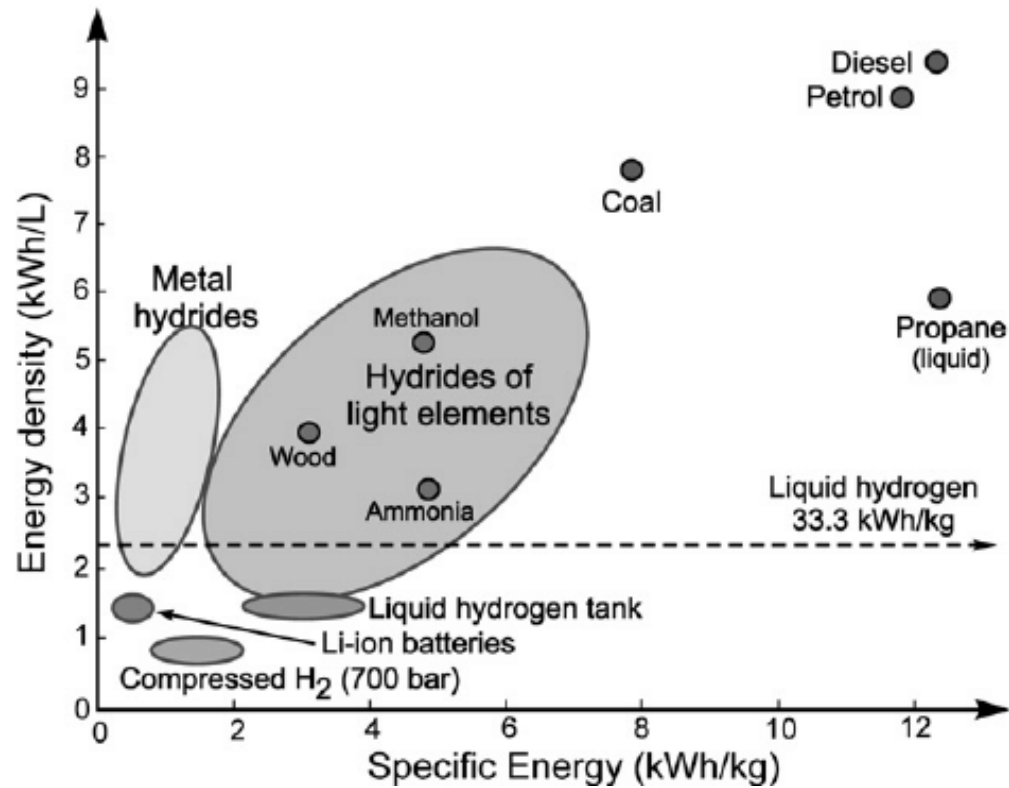


...in **1** decade

Clean power anytime, anywhere.

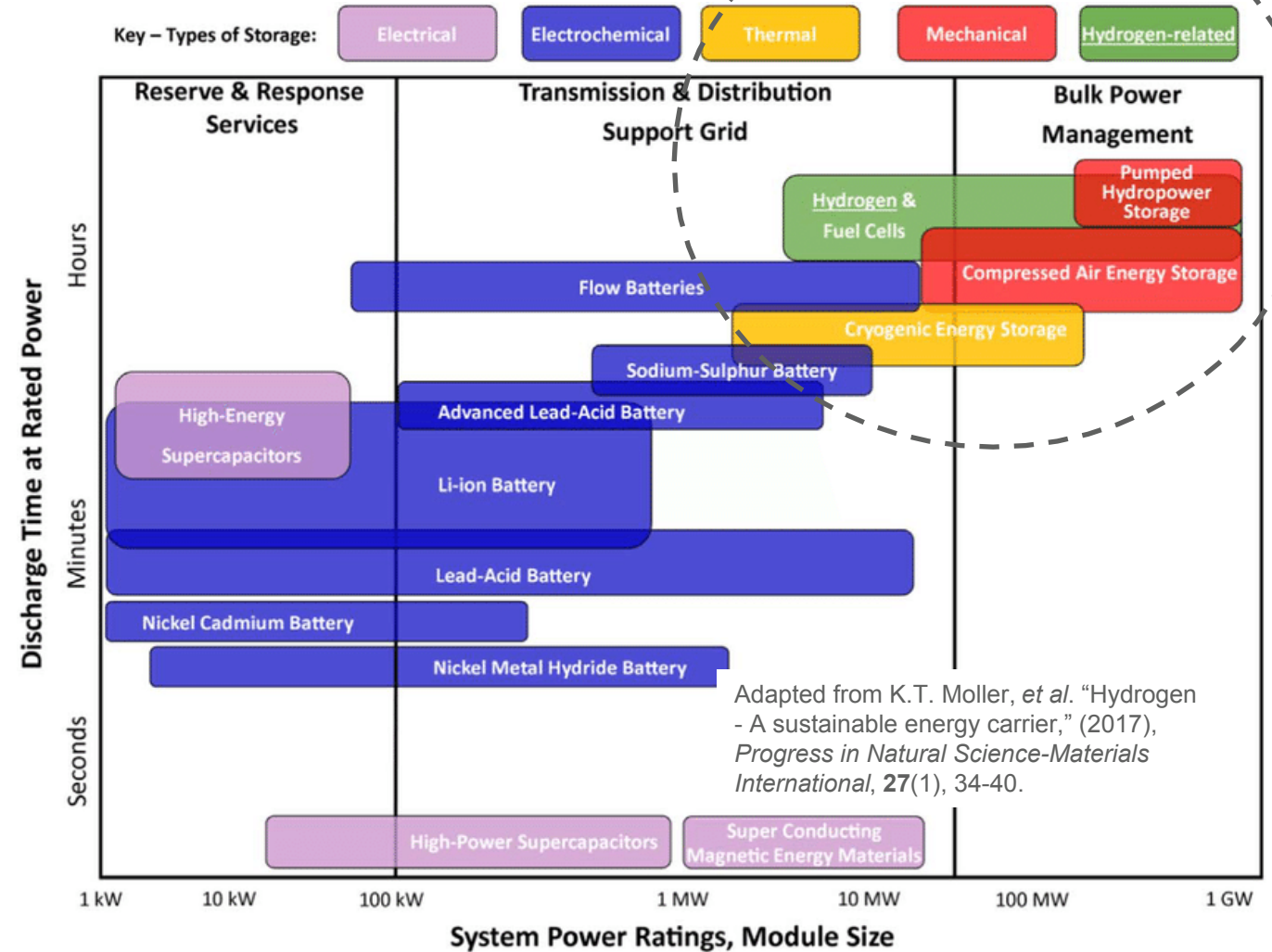
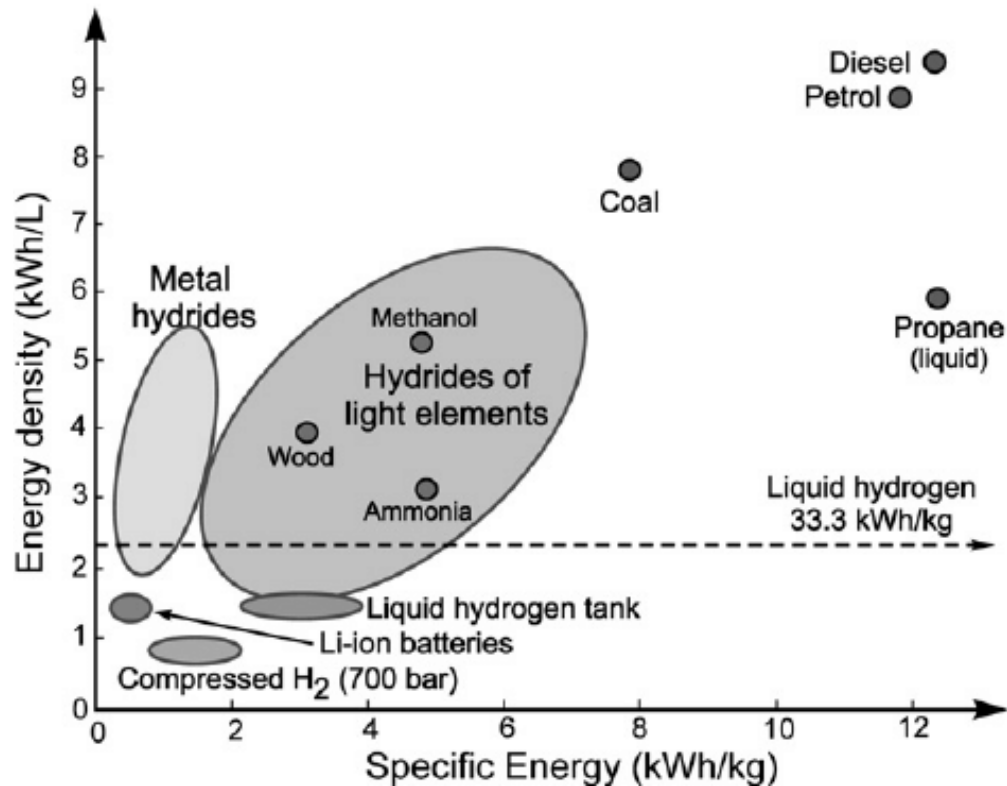
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/long-duration-storage-shot>

# What Are Our Options?



Adapted from A. Sartbaeva, A. *et al.* "Hydrogen nexus in a sustainable energy future.", (2008) *Energy Environ. Sci.* **1**, 79-85.

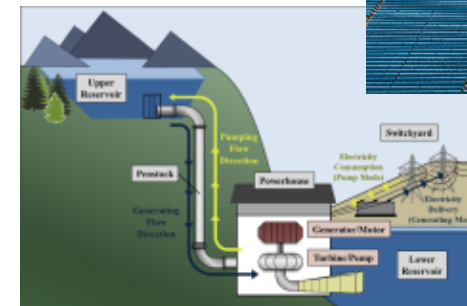
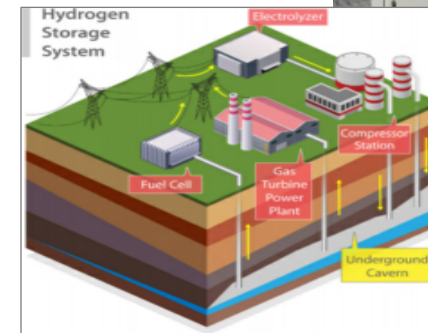
# What Are Our Options?



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# Technology Menu

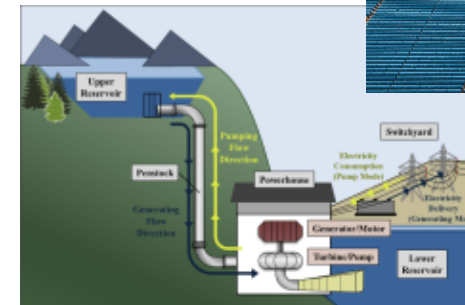
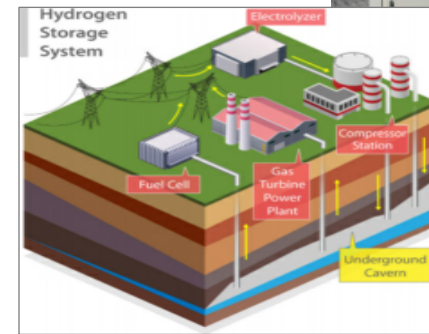
- Electrochemical (Batteries) Storage
- Hydrogen and Chemical Storage
- Thermal Storage
- Gravity-Based/Mechanical Storage



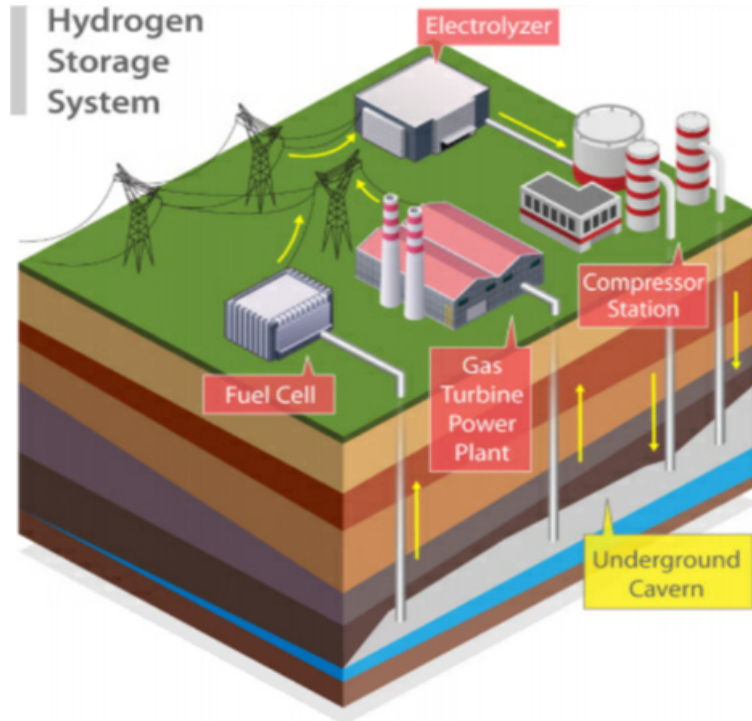


# Technology Menu

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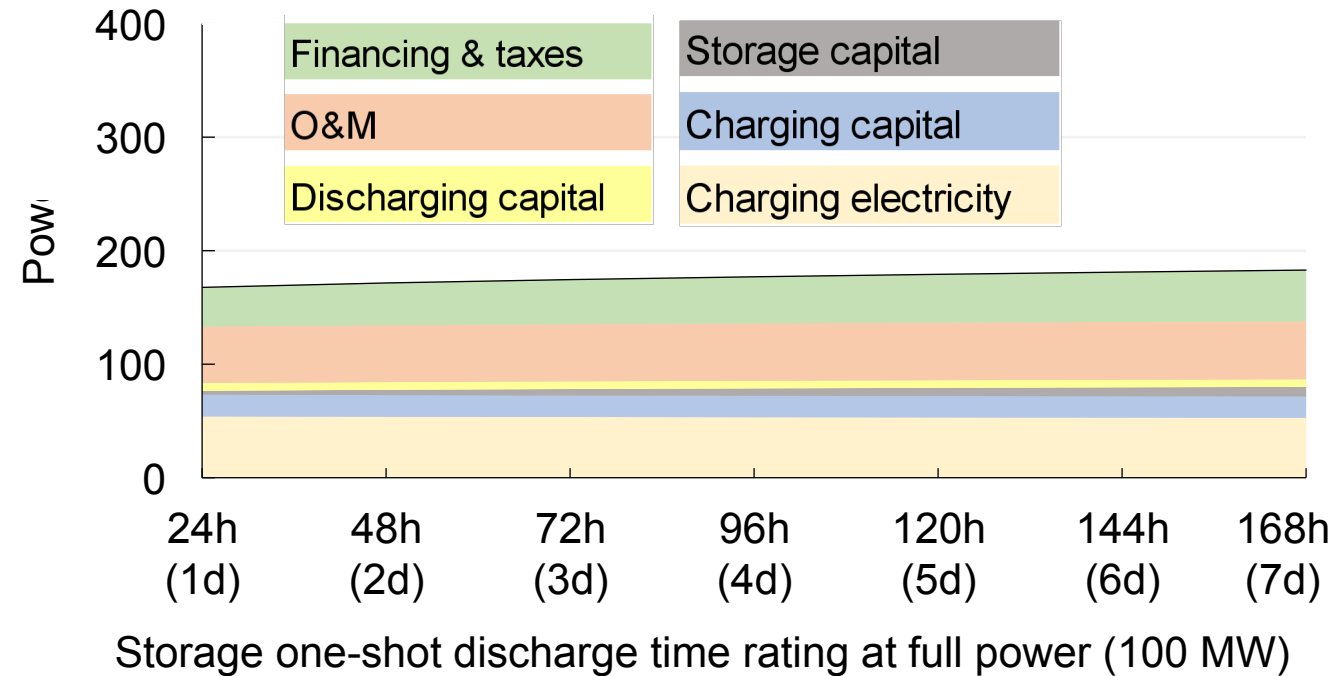


# Hydrogen Storage



Hydrogen energy storage involves use of an electrolyzer, bulk storage (e.g. cavern or underground pipe), and fuel cell or turbine.

## Hydrogen Energy Storage in Geologic Caverns



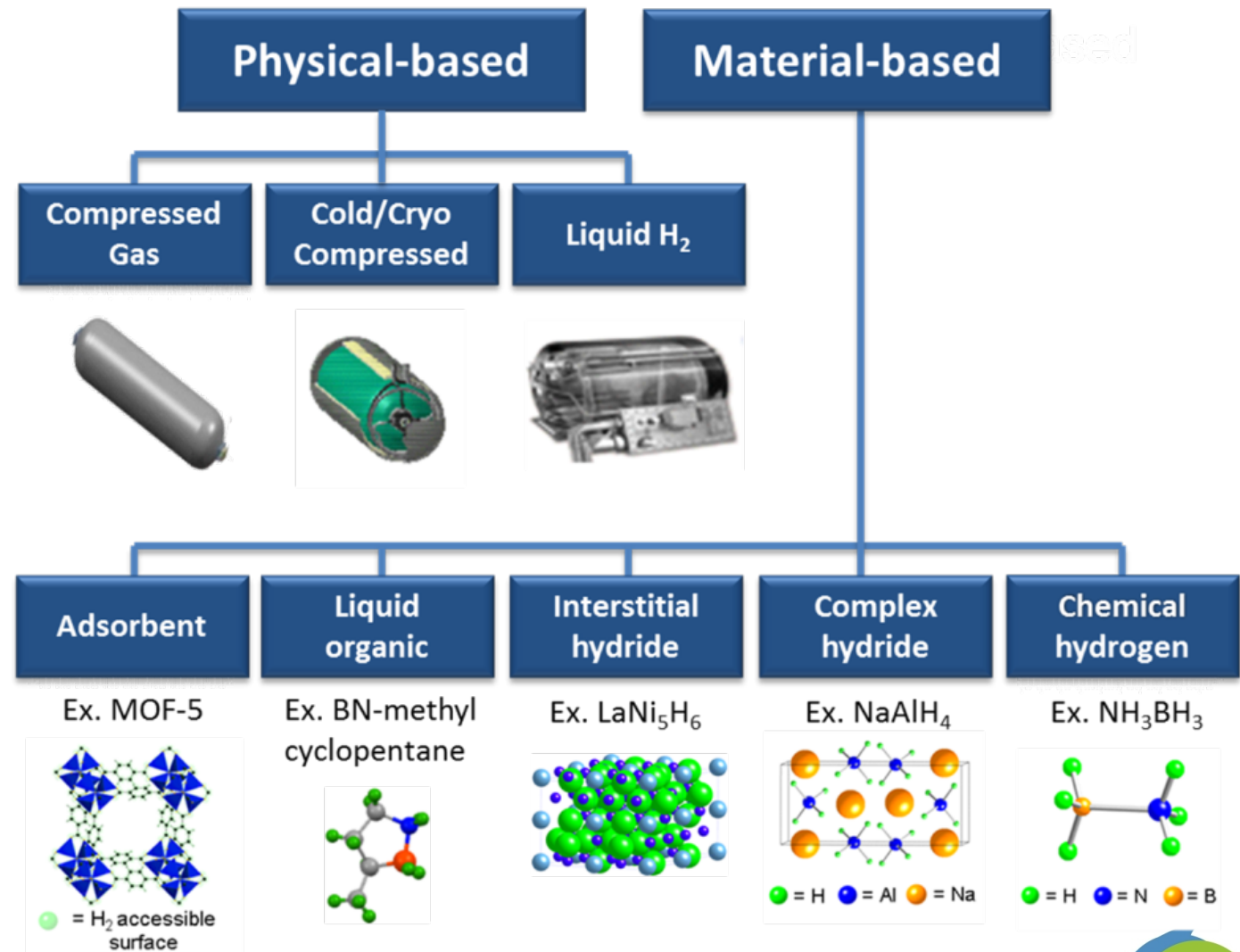
Hydrogen energy storage is competitive at long durations due to the low cost of each additional hour. Value proposition can be enhanced through RD&D that improves efficiency and reduces capital cost.

Source of Images: (Left) "The Four Phases of Storage Deployment: A Framework for the Expanding Role of Storage in the U.S. Power System." 2021. NREL. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/77480.pdf>, and (right) Hunter, et. al., in press. 2021. [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3720769](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3720769)



# How Is Hydrogen Stored?

Once generated from electrolysis (or another process), hydrogen can be stored in gaseous, liquid, or “bonded” forms.



Source:  
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/hydrogen-storage#:~:text=On%20a%20volume%20basis%2C%20however,based%20on%20lower%20heating%20values.>

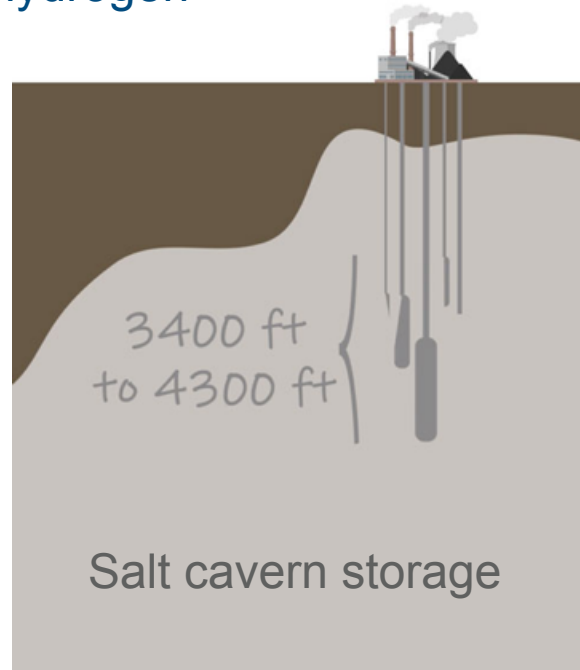
# Large-Scale Hydrogen Storage

## IPP-Renewed

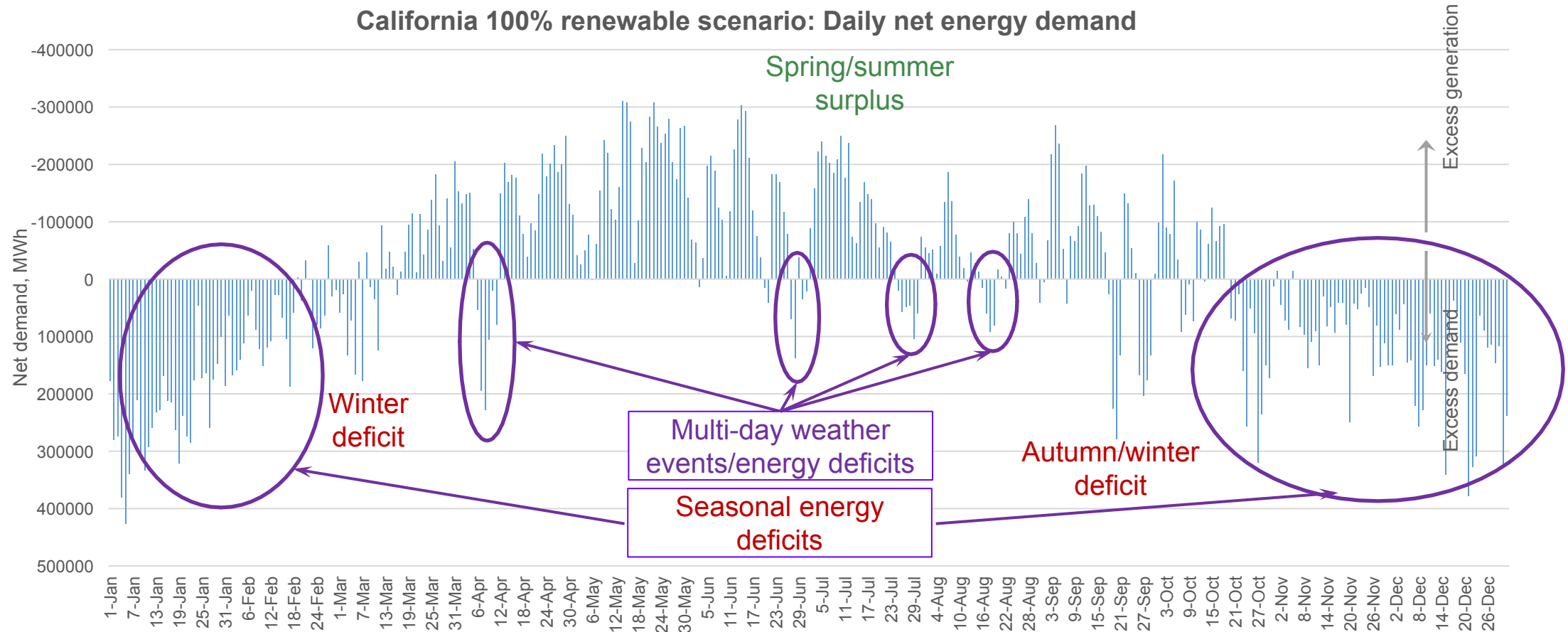
- **Intermountain Power Project (IPP)** provides regional power, including to Southern California, through the Southern Transmission System

“**Renewed**” will ‘update’ IPP for increased transmission of renewables and base load generation via hydrogen

- Gas turbines (840 MW): 30% H<sub>2</sub>+NG starting in 2025, 100% H<sub>2</sub> by 2045
- Salt caverns will provide long-term storage (up to 500M kg H<sub>2</sub>)



# A Large-Scale Challenge for Storage...Today!

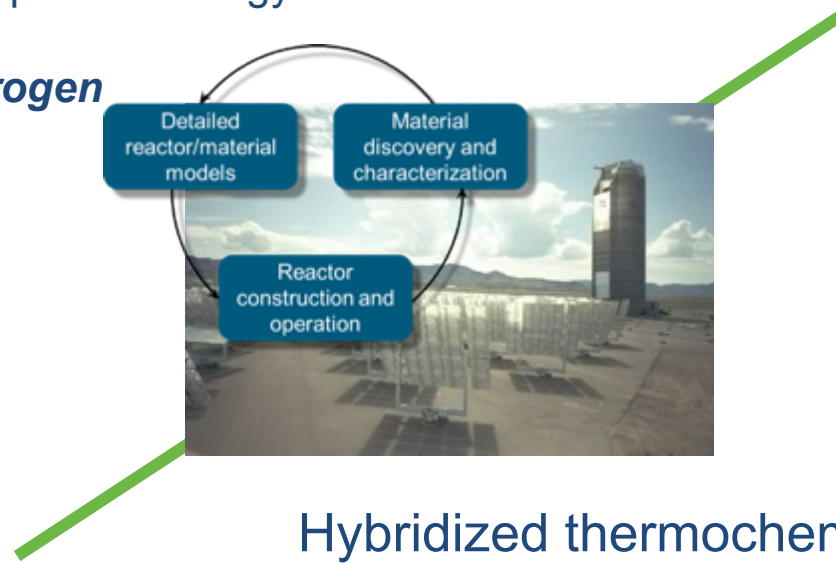
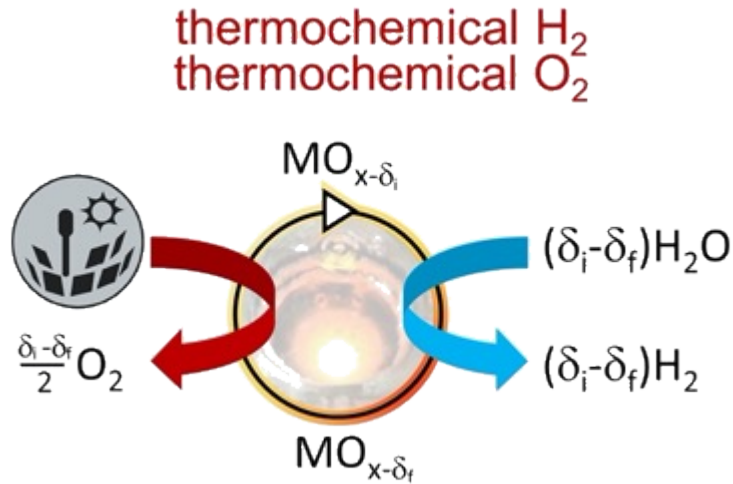


# Solar Thermo-Chemical Hydrogen Production

## Two-step thermo-chemical water-splitting cycle

MW scale concentrating solar power facilities provide energy for

1. Metal oxide **thermal** reduction
2. Oxidation with water **producing hydrogen**

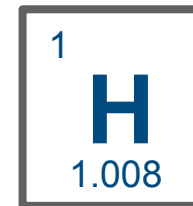
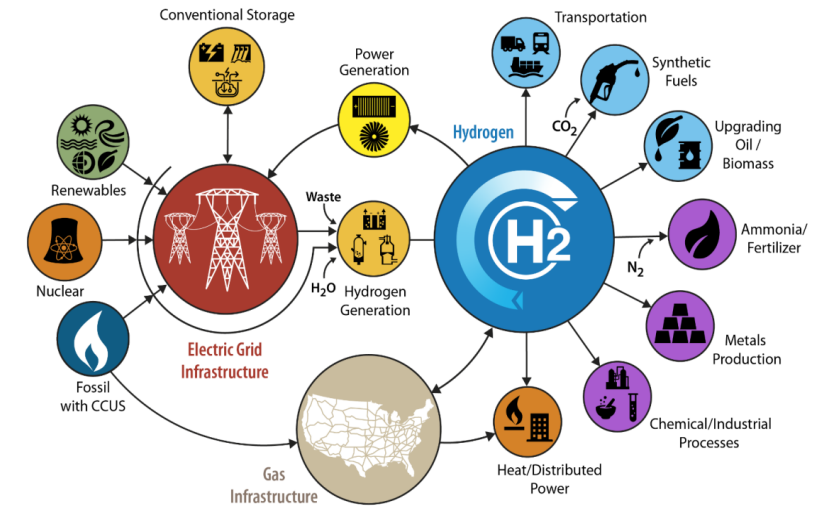


- Hybridized thermochemical water-splitting cycle  
MW scale concentrating solar power facilities provide energy for
1. Metal oxide **electrolytic** reduction
  2. Oxidation with water **producing hydrogen**

**The challenge: develop efficient and scalable solar-powered reactors up to 100,000 kg/day**

# Benefits of Hydrogen

- Produced from water and electricity (electrolysis)
  - Many other production schemes in development
- Produces electricity w/ high efficiency (fuel cell)
- Can be produced and consumed on-demand on very short time scales (or stored)
- Can be burned for high-quality heat
- Carbon free
- Excellent reducing agent
  - Replaces carbon in manufacturing
- Highest specific energy of any fuel
- Non-toxic, does not 'pool' or pollute



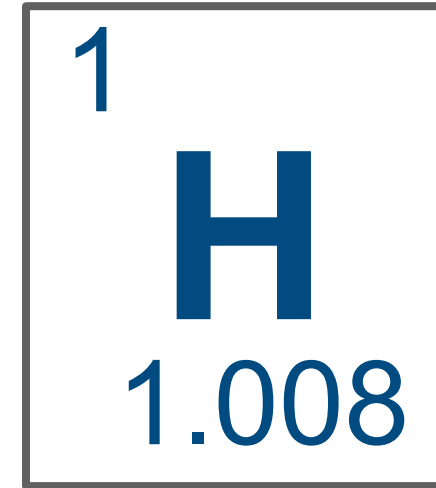
=

- simple
- clean
- flexible



# Challenges for Hydrogen

- **Non-industrial (green) hydrogen is too expensive**
  - Supply chain for non-industrial use is nascent
  - Infrastructure at scale cannot be replaced/developed overnight
    - Gas network is estimated to be valued at >\$1,000B
    - Over 150,000 gasoline stations in US (value ~\$100B)
- **Energy efficiency is a challenge**
  - Energy to get hydrogen in and out of solid state materials
  - Life-cycle energy efficiency is a challenge for chemical hydrides
  - Energy of compression and liquefaction must be considered for bulk storage
- **Durability of storage systems is not adequate or is not well-understood (e.g. leakage, fatigue)**
- **Safety: Hydrogen is managed as chemical, not as energy/fuel**
  - We need '*non-hardhat*' relationship with hydrogen
- **Codes and Standards needed to implement safe commercial storage systems and interface technologies have not been established**
- **Full life-cycle cost and efficiency analyses are lacking**



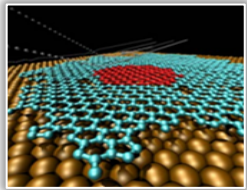
# Sandia Research to Provide a Scientific Basis for...



**Materials** – for hydrogen production, storage, delivery and utilization  
**Safety** – risk analysis and the creation of risk-informed standards



## Hydrogen Production



Discovery of advanced water-splitting materials for large-scale H<sub>2</sub> production



## Hydrogen Delivery

Assessing technology conversion for hydrogen distribution



## Systems Engineering

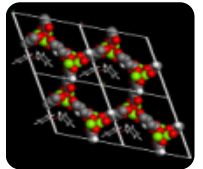
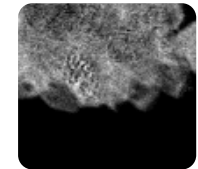
Hydrogen for marine, rail, and aviation



Discovering the behavior and performance of solid storage materials

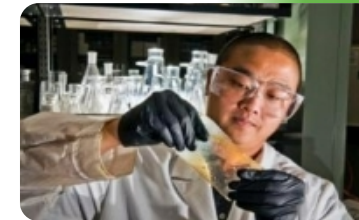


## Hydrogen Storage

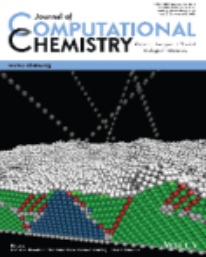


## Fuel Cells

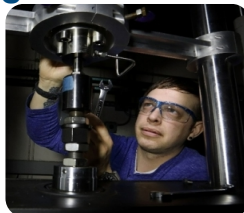
Develop new membrane systems for enhanced electrochemical performance



## Materials Compatibility

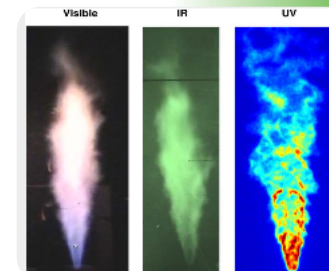


Elucidation of hydrogen embrittlement phenomena across length scales



## Safety, Codes & Standards

State-of-the-art characterization of thermophysical & thermochemical behavior of H<sub>2</sub> integrated with Bayesian theory



# Hydrogen

## Hydrogen Shot Summit Proceedings

Access presentation slides and video recordings from the opening plenary, closing plenary, and breakout panel sessions at the Hydrogen Shot Summit.



1 Dollar



1 Kilogram



1 Decade

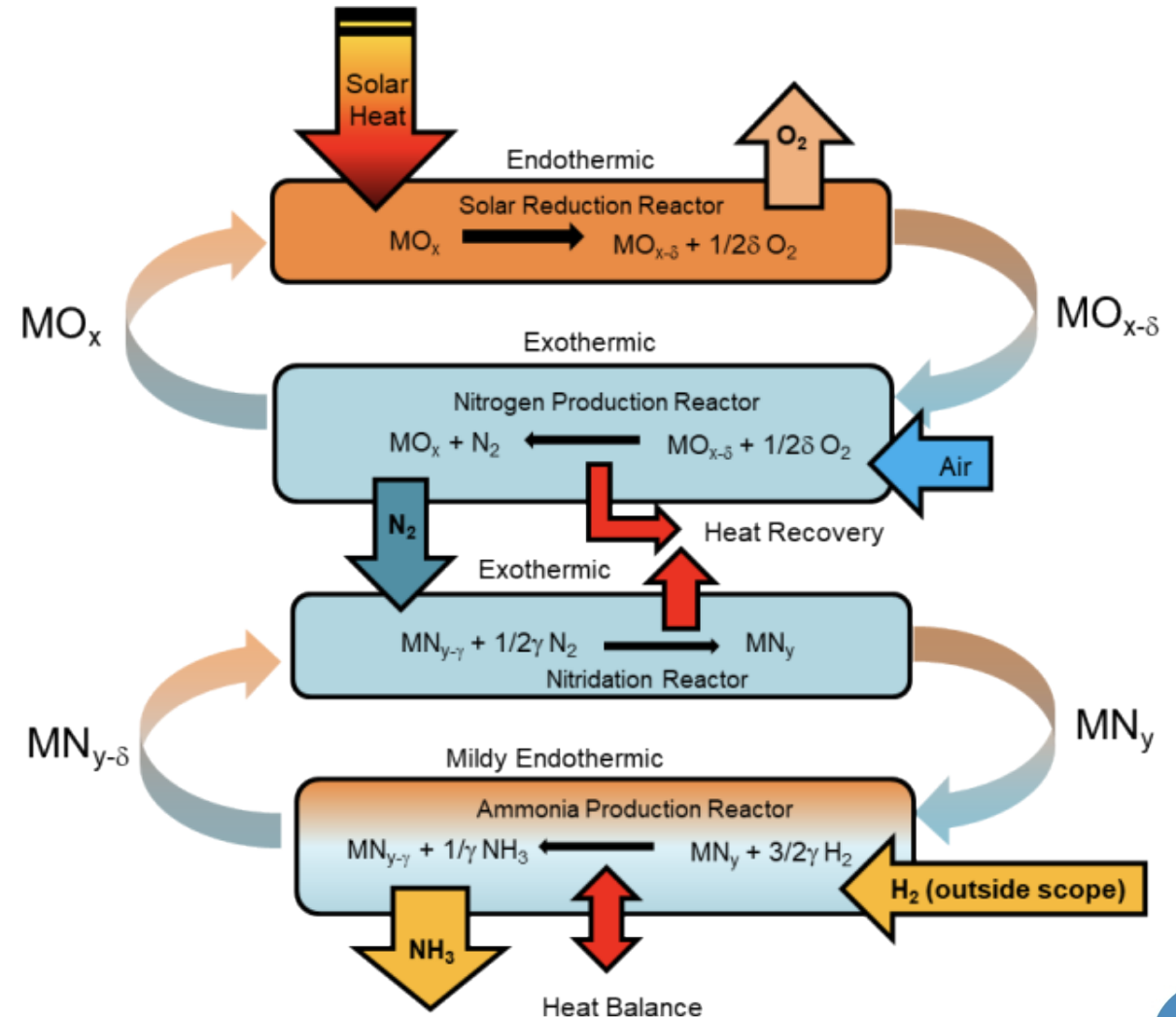
- **Opening Plenary**
- **Breakout Panel Session 1: Electrolysis**
- **Breakout Panel Session 2: Thermal Conversion with Carbon Capture and Storage**
- **Breakout Panel Session 3: Advanced Pathways**
- **Breakout Panel Session 4: Deployment and Financing**
- **Closing Plenary**

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/hydrogen-shot-summit>

# Hydrogen's Cousin: Solar Thermal Ammonia Production

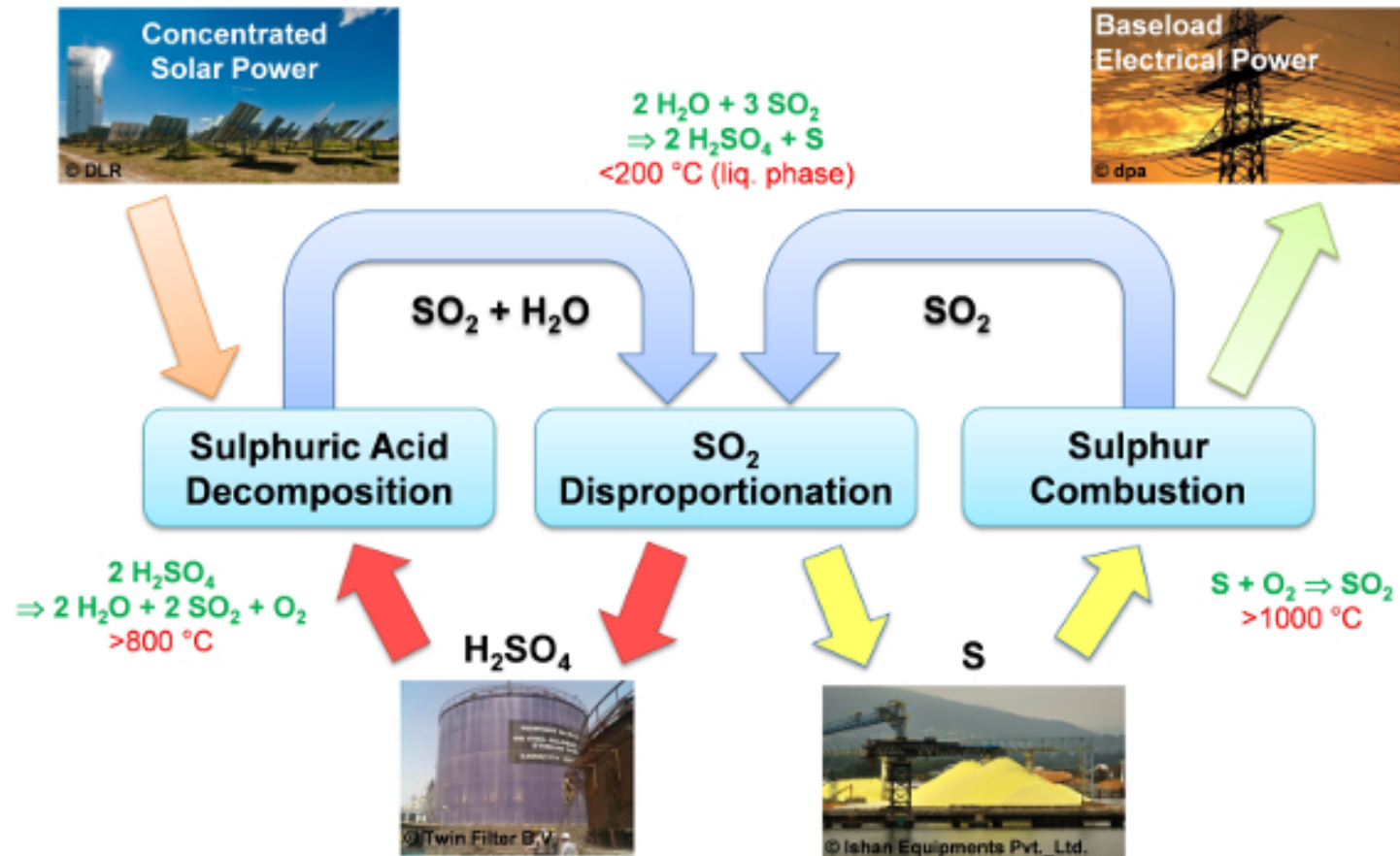
Use solar thermal energy to produce nitrogen feedstock for subsequent ammonia production

- Inputs are sunlight, air, and hydrogen; the output is ammonia
- Significantly lower pressures than Haber-Bosch
- Greatly decreases or eliminates carbon footprint using renewable H<sub>2</sub>
- The process consumes neither the oxide nor the nitride particles, which actively participate in the reactions, cyclically



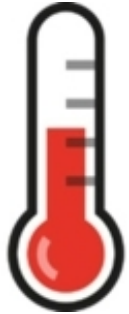
# PEGASUS: Sulfur-Based Chemical Storage

Renewable PowEr Generation by Solar PArticle Receiver Driven Sulphur Storage Cycle





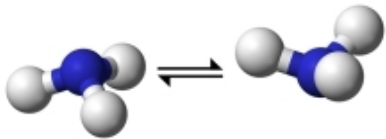
# Thermal Energy Storage



- Sensible (single-phase) storage
  - Use temperature difference to store heat
  - Molten salts (nitrates  $< 600\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; carbonates, chlorides  $700 - 900\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - Solids storage (graphite, concrete, ceramic particles),  $> 1000\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



- Phase-change materials
  - Use latent heat to store energy (e.g., molten salts, metallic alloys)



- Thermochemical storage
  - Converting thermal energy into chemical bonds (e.g., decomposition/synthesis, redox reactions)



Molten-salt storage tanks at Solana CSP plant in Arizona. Credit: Abengoa



Falling particles for direct solar heating Sandia National Laboratories

# Sensible Thermal Energy Storage

## Molten Salt Storage

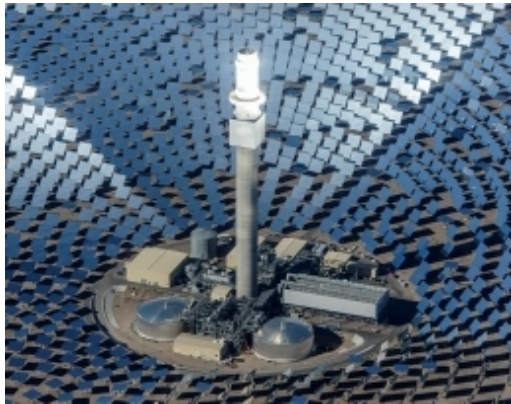


photo credit: Mary Grikas, Wiki commons, 10/9/15  
Crescent Dunes CSP, Nevada  
100 MW/1 GWh

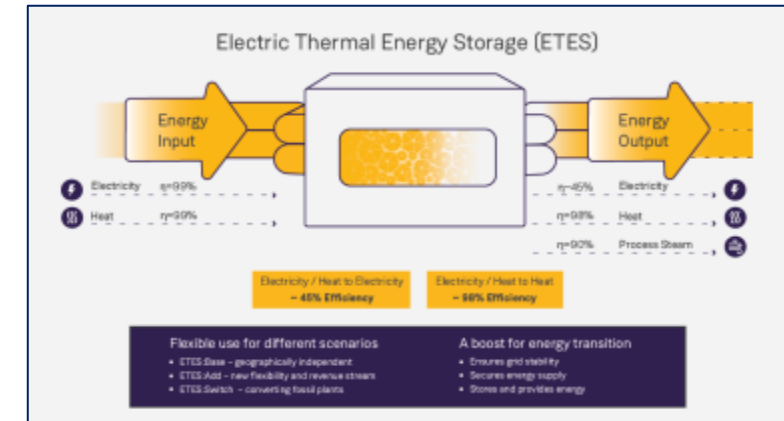


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solana\\_Generating\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solana_Generating_Station)

Solana CSP, Arizona  
280 MW/1.7 GWh

## Fixed Rock-Bed Thermal Storage

Range from MW to GW scale  
Nominal Power: >30MW  
Capacity > 130MWh  
Storage for discharge up to 24 hours



Hamburg, Germany  
1000 tons of rock at  $750^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Using steam turbine,  
generator will produce 24  
hour storage at 1.5MW

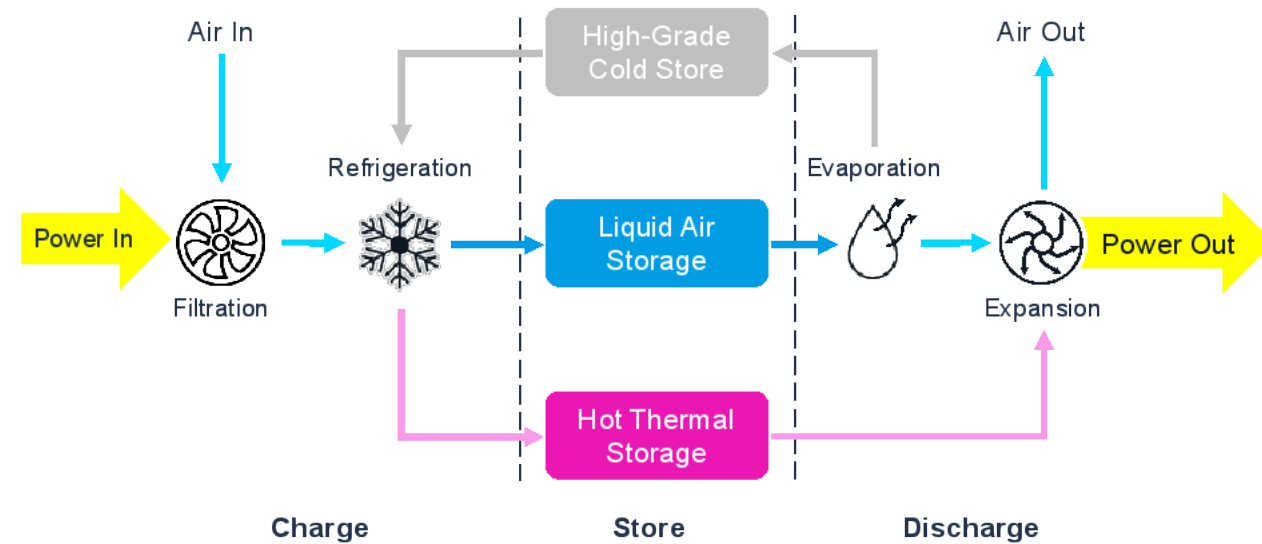
Siemens-Gamesa

# Latent Thermal Storage

## Azelio TES.POD<sup>®</sup>



- Electrically-generated heat stored in a recycled aluminium phase change alloy at the melting point of 600°C.
- Heat transferred to stirling engine to provide power.
- Residual heat available (55-65C).
- Each unit has 13kW power for 13 hours
- 0.1MW to 100MW



Images: Highview Power



Highview Power Liquid Air Energy Storage  
50 MW/400 MWh  
(Vermont - planned)



# Thank you!

## Questions?

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Sandia National Laboratories

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*Thank you to Drs. Clifford Ho and Chris San Marchi for select presentation content.*



# EFFICIENCY EXCHANGE CONFERENCE





The logo for Efficiency Exchange, featuring a stylized blue and green circular graphic with the text "efficiency exchange" in white lowercase letters.

Efficiency Change

**2022  
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**  
APRIL 14-15, 2022