

# DEVELOPMENTS ON REDUCING THE IR CONTENT IN ELECTROLYSERS

# WIC MEETING MARCH 2023

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### **OBJECTIVES TODAY** WHAT TO EXPECT THE NEXT 20 MINUTES?

### Who is TNO?

Roadmap Next generation PEM electrolyser technology

Why Ir reduction is relevant?

Ir reduction technology



# **'INNOVATION FOR LIFE'**

TNO CONNECTS PEOPLE AND KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE INNOVATIONS THAT BOOST THE COMPETITIVE STRENGTH OF INDUSTRY AND THE WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY. THIS IS OUR MISSION AND IT IS WHAT DRIVES US, THE OVER 3,400 PROFESSIONALS AT TNO, IN OUR WORK EVERY DAY!





Source: TNO strategy 2022 - 2025: connect, change, accelerate (link)

# TNO INNOVATES WITH PARTNERS IN THE H2 SUPPLY CHAIN COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL TO ACCELERATE



Sources: NewSOC (link), Supercell (link), HyScaling (link), PosHYdon (link), Sustainable Hydrogen Integrated Propulsion Drives (SH2IPDRIV) (link), Hy3 (link), HyDelta (link), HyUSPRe (link), Take-Off (link), H2-Future (link), Voltachem (link), Holst Centre (link) Electrolyser Makersplatform (link), North Sea Energy (link) Growthfund NextGen High-tech (link), Growthund Groenvermogen NL (link)





# BASED IN THE NETHERLANDS

### **INTERNATIONAL FOCUS**





### **TNO Holst Centre**





Spatial Atomic Layer Deposition (sALD) Equipment



Started in 2006 on initiation from Philips Research, named after Gilles Holst, first director of Philips Research Located at the High Tech Campus in the heart of Brainport area, home of Dutch high tech industry

Aimed at fostering and orchestrating innovation with and between companies

# **TNO Holst Facilities**

TNO Materials Solutions Chemical labs Holst Centre Offices and electronic labs

**TNO Solar** Various labs

**PInS** Si-/MEMScleanroom

HC-Cleanrooms/labs Thin film transistors, spatial ALD HC-Cleanrooms/labs laser, batteries, OLED, S2S barrier

State of the art facilities in the High Tech Campus-Eindhoven

TFE manages  $\approx$  1500 m² labs and cleanrooms, and  $\approx 35~M €$  infrastructure

## ACCELERATE INNOVATION IN SHARED RESEARCH BROGRAMISNTRE









### Do a virtual tour in our new lab here >> (link)



IN STATISTICS.

# **HOW CAN WE ACCELERATE INNOVATION?**

## FROM PEM CELL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL SCALE

#### Rapid prototyping



Cell manufacturing

Accelerated life time validation and benchmarking



#### Industrial scale R&D stack







Source: TNO (2022) TNO PEM Electrolyser research facilities in Petten and Groningen (Netherlands)



## NEXT GENERATION PEM ELECTROLYSERS PARALLEL INNOVATION PATHWAYS REQUIRED FOR ACCELERATION







Source: TNO (2022) Shared Research Program 2<sup>nd</sup> generation PEM electrolysers (link)



## TOWARDS HIGH PERFORMANCE 2<sup>ND</sup> GEN PEM ELECTROLYZERS ENABLED BY NOVEL MATERIALS, READY FOR MASS PRODUCTION



Note: Figure does not provide a full overview of activities, but a number of representative examples



# **MARKET DEVELOPMENT FORECAST**



Source: IEA (2021), Global installed electrolysis capacity by region , 2015-2020 (<u>link</u>), Bloomberg, Hydrogen Economy Outlook – Key messages, March 2020 (<u>link</u>), adapted by TNO



# **CRITICAL MATERIALS IN ELECTROLYSERS: A SHOW STOPPER?**

Top producers of critical materials in electrolysers



Source: European Commission, 2020.

Irena (2020) Green hydrogen cost reduction: scaling up electrolysers to meet the 1,5 C Climate goal (link)



# LOWER USE OF SCARCE MATERIALS IN ELECTROLYSERS DIFFERENT STRATEGIES TO REDUCTION

% of CRM global annual supply used as a result of each strategy (base case is EU H2 production in 2050)

	CRM	Base case	R	eduction	Su	ubstitution	Higher productivity	Extended lifetime	Recycling
AEL PEM	Iridium	122%		6%		122%	81%	91%	122%
	Platinum	25%		0.1%		0%	1%	21%	24%
	Raney-Ni	0.4%		0%		0.8%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
	Nickel (class 1)	2%		2%		2%	0.6%	2%	2%
	Cobalt	0.1%		0.1%		0%	0%	0%	0.1%
	Strategy with most potential								

Source: TNO (2021), Part 1 - How raw materials scarcity can hinder our ambitions for green hydrogen and the energy transition as a whole (link), Part 2 - How we can prevent the scarcity of raw materials and achieve our ambitions for green hydrogen (link)

## A FACTOR OF 200 REDUCTION OF IRIDIUM CATALYST FOR PEM ELECTROLYSERS IS DEMONSTRATED TO BE POSSIBLE

Iridium demand in ton Targeted capacity in GW per year אפ Capacity in PEMWE 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7

#### Ir catalyst loading in g kW<sup>-1</sup>

- The contour lines represent levels of resulting iridium demand in tonnes. White box indicates the targeted production capacity per year required to obtain 40 GW electrolyser capacity in 2030.
- Iridium demand from catalyst loading and PEM electrolyser capacity on large industrial scale with catalyst loading of 0.67 g kW<sup>-1</sup> (2020 status with red dotted line) and catalyst loading below 0.01 g kW<sup>-1</sup> (white left dotted line).
- TNO developed an ultra low iridium technology with an Iridium use of much lower than 0.01 g kW<sup>-1</sup>. After 2,000 cycles of accelerated stress tests there was hardly no degradation in the lab. TNO have been the first to develop a method that will require 200 times less iridium while retaining a third of the performance with respect to state of art technology

TNO Patented PCT/NL2022/050406



Source: "Is Iridium demand a potential bottleneck in the realization of large-scale PEM water electrolysis?", C. Minke et al., Int. J. Hydrogen Energy 46 (2021) 23581-23590 (link); adapted by TNO

# **TNO Proof Points on Realizing Ultra- low Loading** WITH PARTNERSHIPS ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT & MARKET INTRO



TNO Patented PCT/NL2022/050406

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



## **OUR PROPOSITION:** MONOLITHICALLY INTEGRATED HIGH-TECH ELECTROLYSIS STACKS

### Membrane integration



Wet solution coating (e.g. Polyimide + Nafion) for membrane integration



Thin films



Thin film deposition of catalysts (Ir, Pt,.. ) for **performance increase** and **material reduction** 

Microstructures



Large-area, high-aspect ratio patterned structures (lithography, CVD, ...) to realize optimized microstructures for **performance increase** 

### Thin films SALD FOR IR/PT REDUCTION

#### sALD IrOx (anode catalyst)





#### sALD Pt (cathode catalyst)









#### sALD Process

# MICROSTRUCTURES FOR MASSIVE SURFACE AREA INCREASES

Conventional Electrolyser transport layer



Our proposal:

Using high-tech to create controlled microstructures which dramatically increase the surface area





And we can coat them with extreme precision and extreme conformality using thin-films





# NAFION MIXED WITH POLYAMIDE MEMBRANE AND IROX

We have done research on integrating Polyamide with Nafion for need properties

We have done research on integrating Iridium Oxide with Nafion for need properties with our partners SparkNano



Image provided by SparkNano





