

**2<sup>nd</sup> Joint European Summer School on  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technology  
Crete, 17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**

## **An introduction to Fuel Cells**

- Status and applications of fuel cell technology**
- Competing technologies  
& the market place**

Prof. Dr. Robert Steinberger-Wilckens  
Centre for Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Research  
University of Birmingham





# Overview

- Motivation
- Fuel cell introduction and overview
- Status of Fuel Cell technology today
- Challenges in bringing SOFC to the market



# An Introduction to World Energy Issues

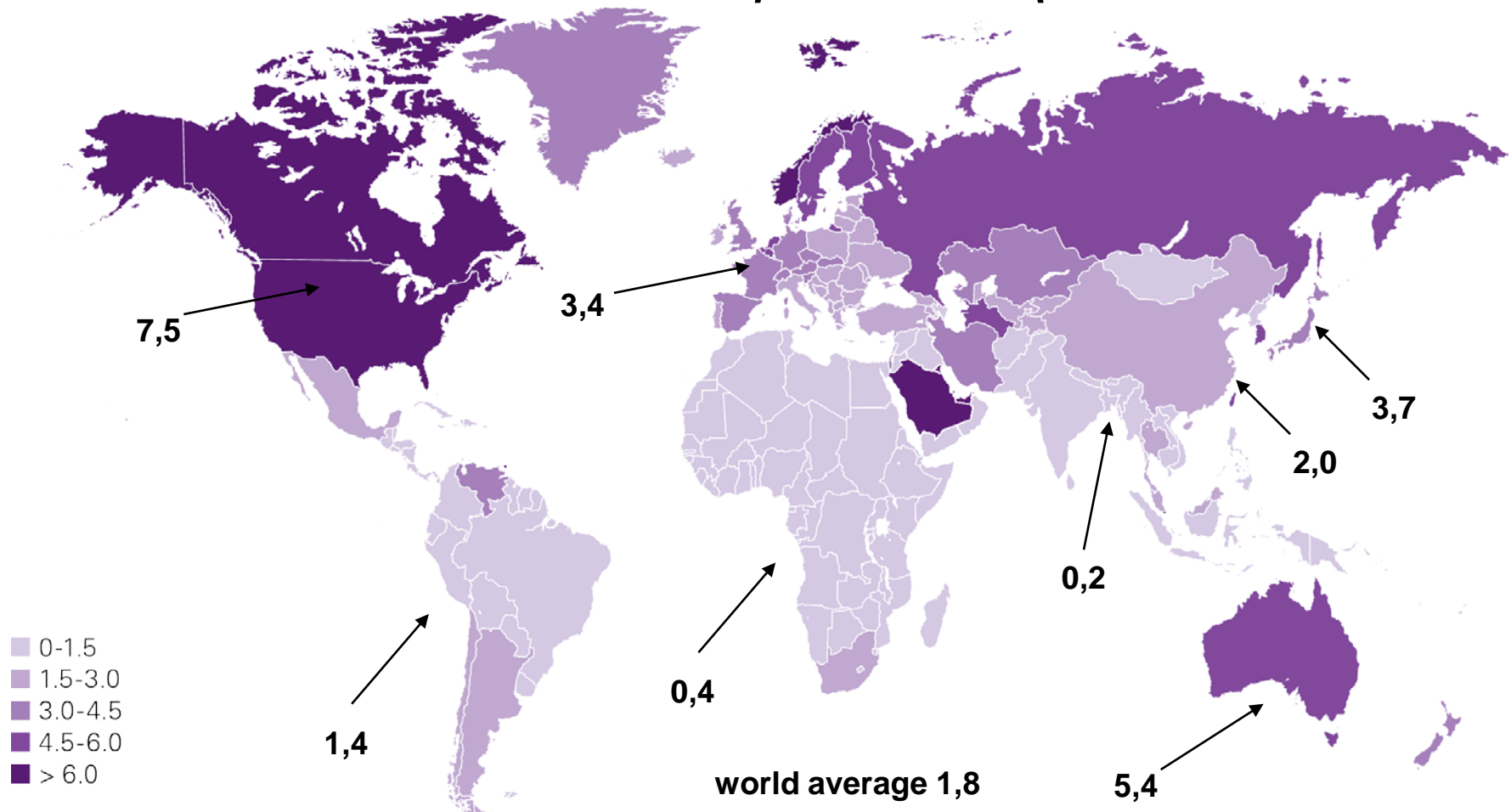


# The World Needs Energy

## Primary Energy Consumption per Capita 2011

Tonnes oil equivalent

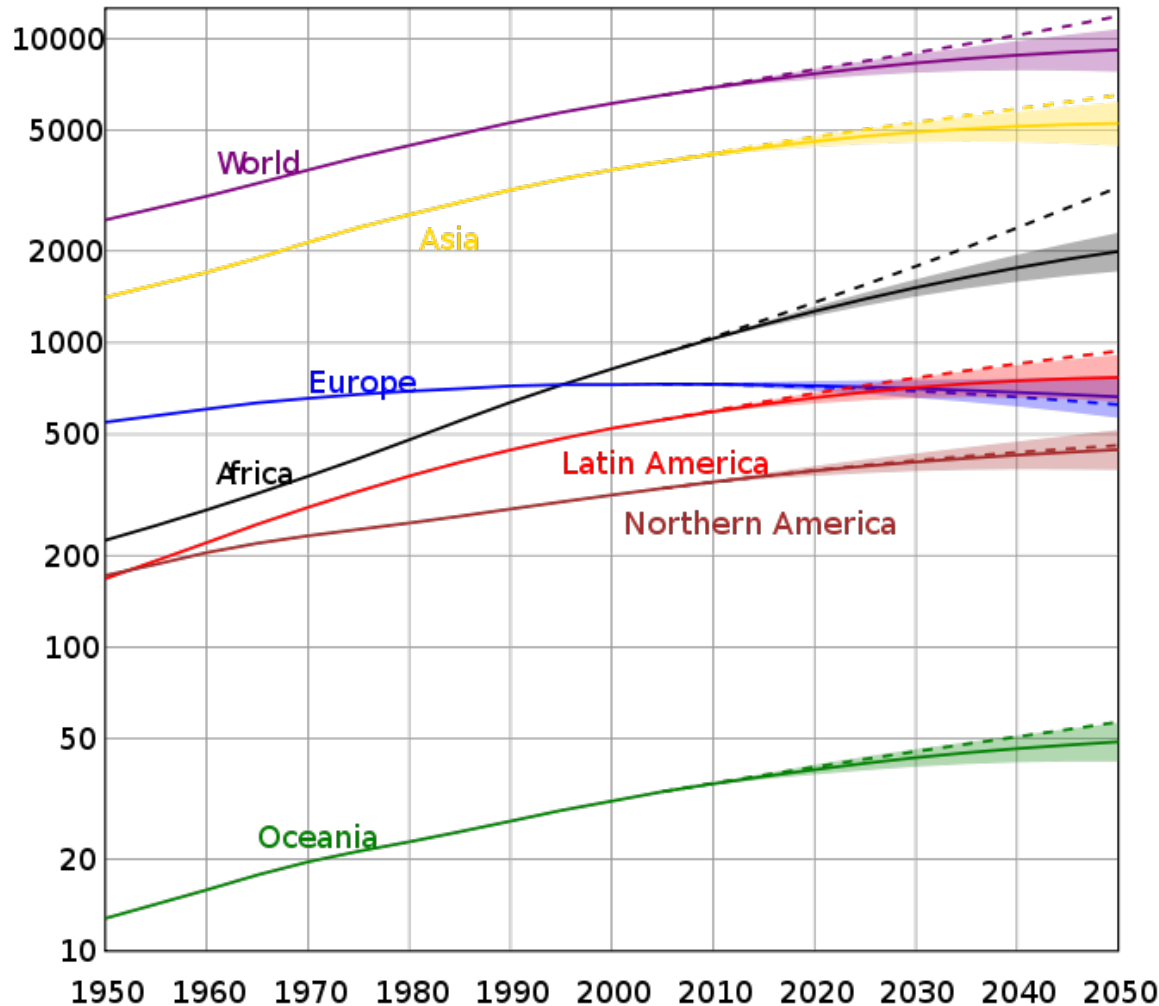
1 toe = 12 MWh = 43,2 GJ



Source: BP

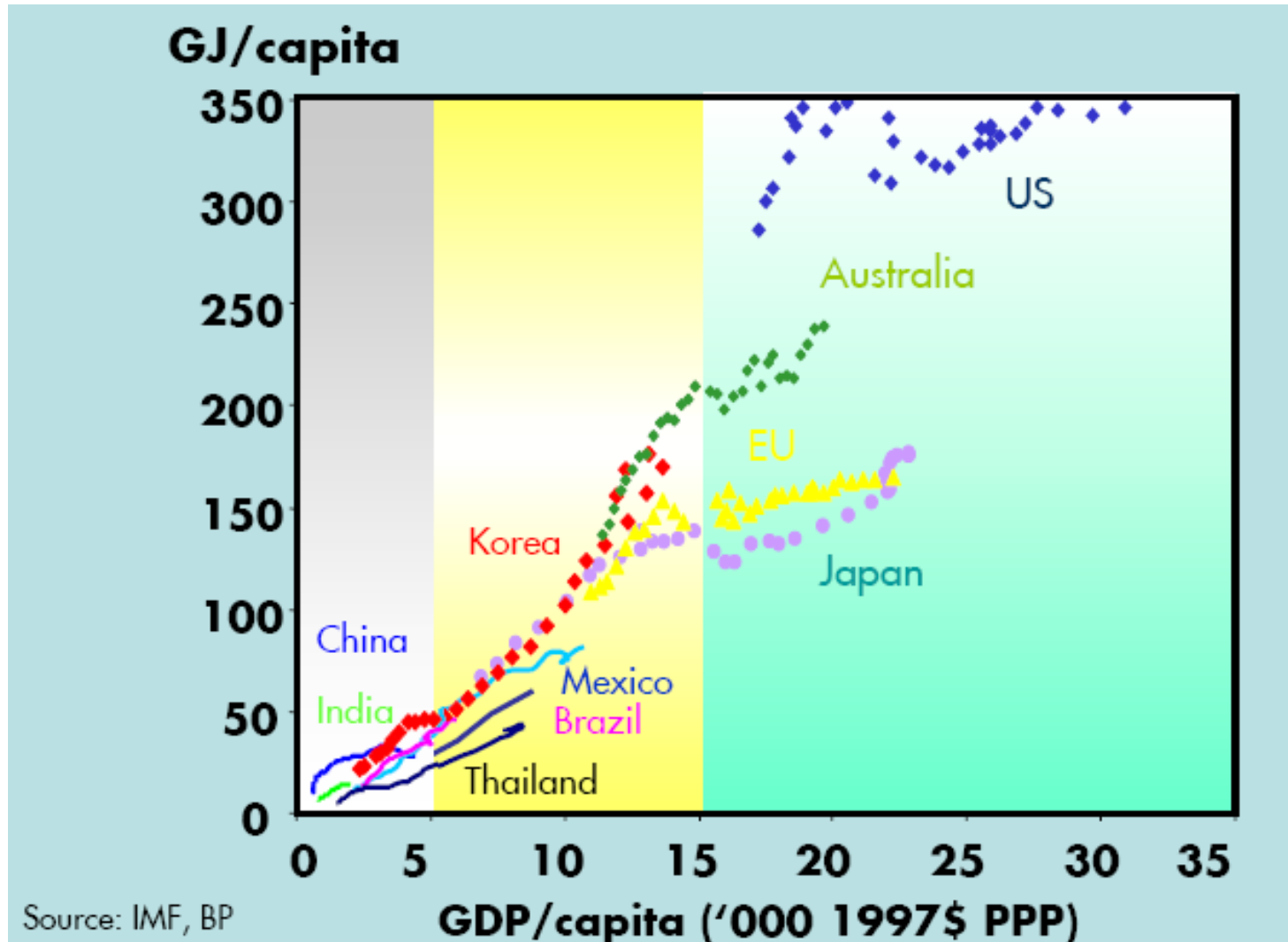


# World Population Growth



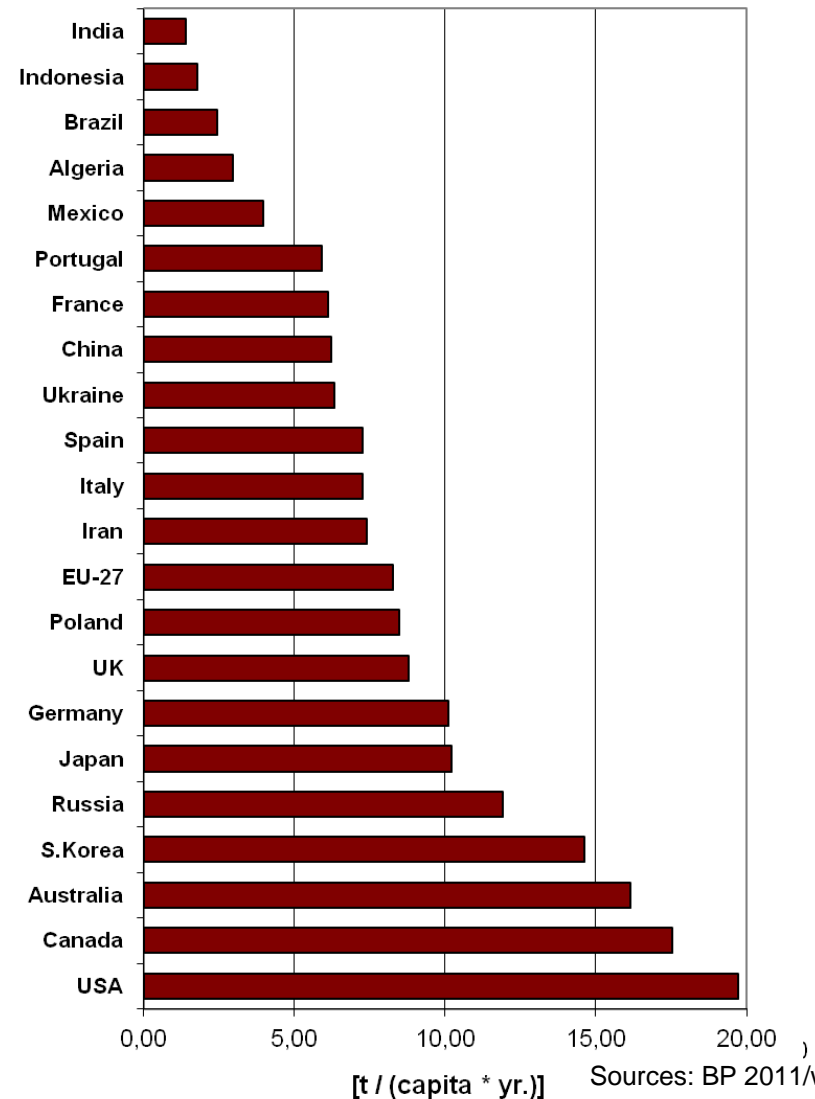
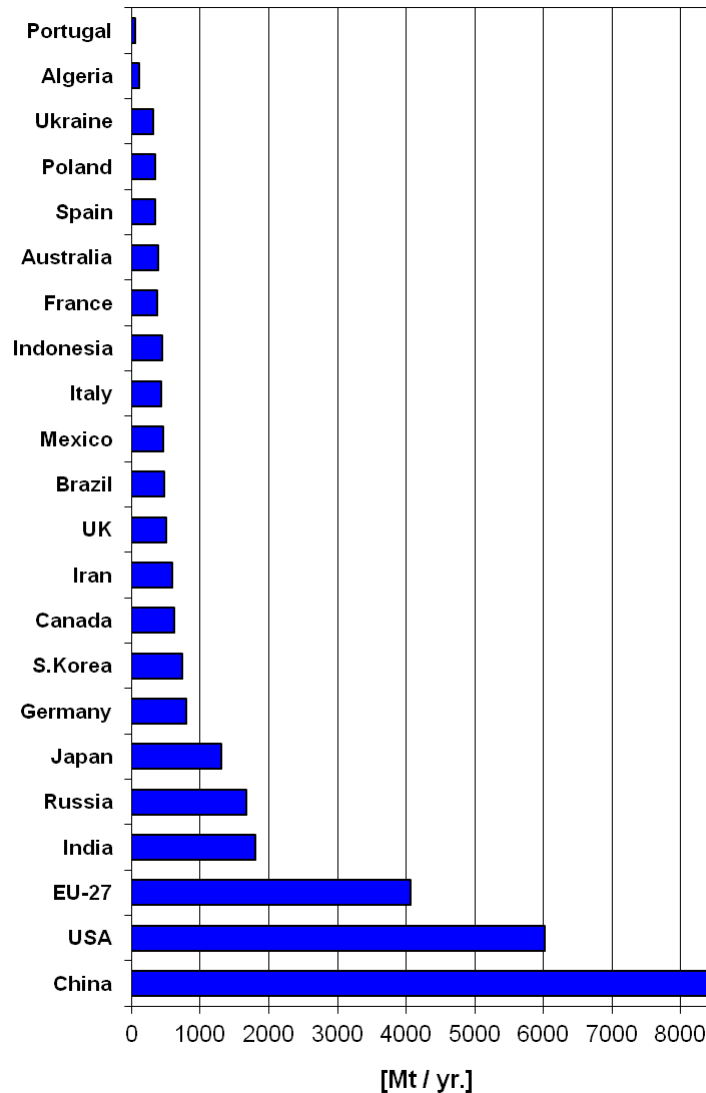
Source: UN-PP, World Population Prospects 2010

# GDP and Energy Consumption





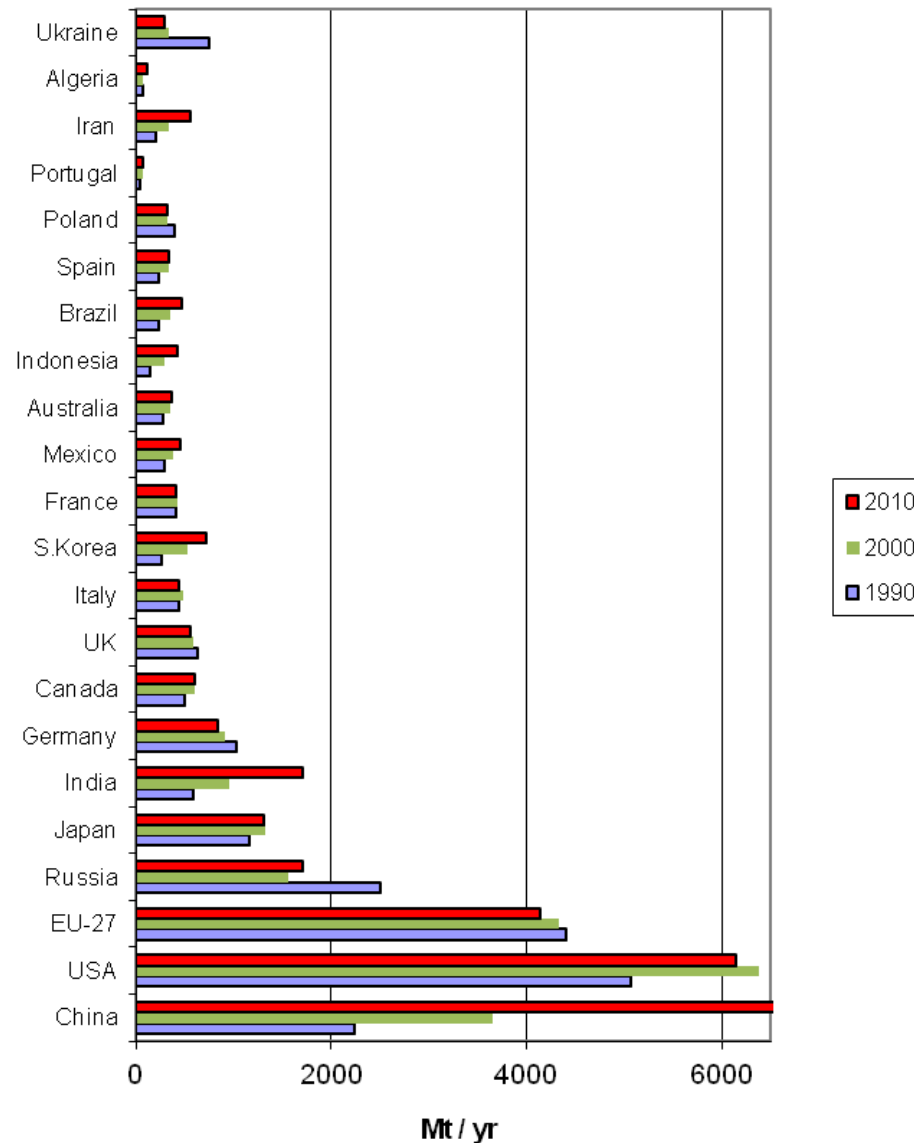
# World CO<sub>2</sub> Release (2011, per country)



Sources: BP 2011/wikipedia



# World CO<sub>2</sub> Release (1990 to 2010)



Data sources: BP 2011/wikipedia

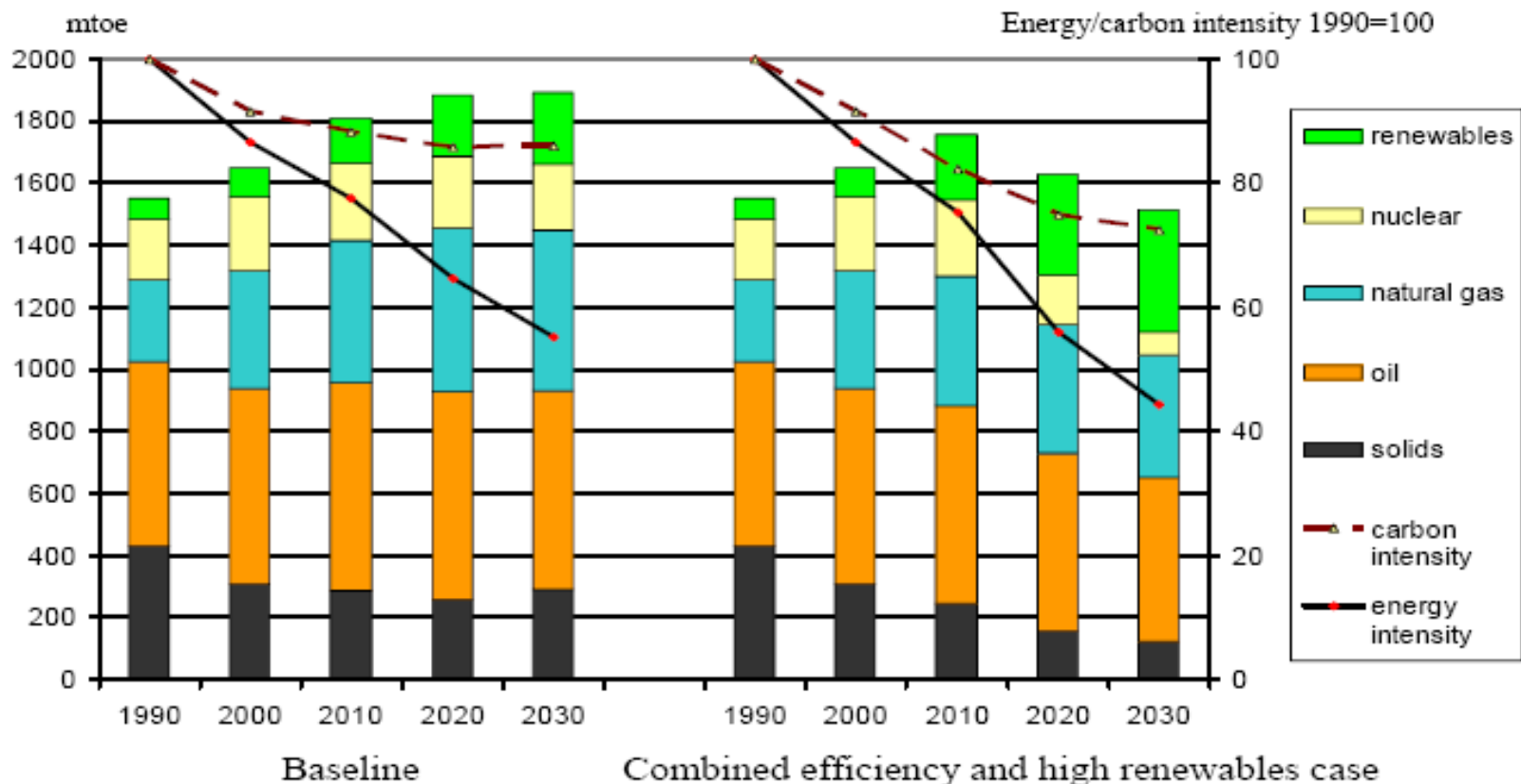
Slide 8/82

JESS 2 / 2012



# Future Scenarios of World Energy Demand

Gross energy consumption by fuel and energy and carbon intensities:  
Combined energy efficiency and high renewables case versus Baseline

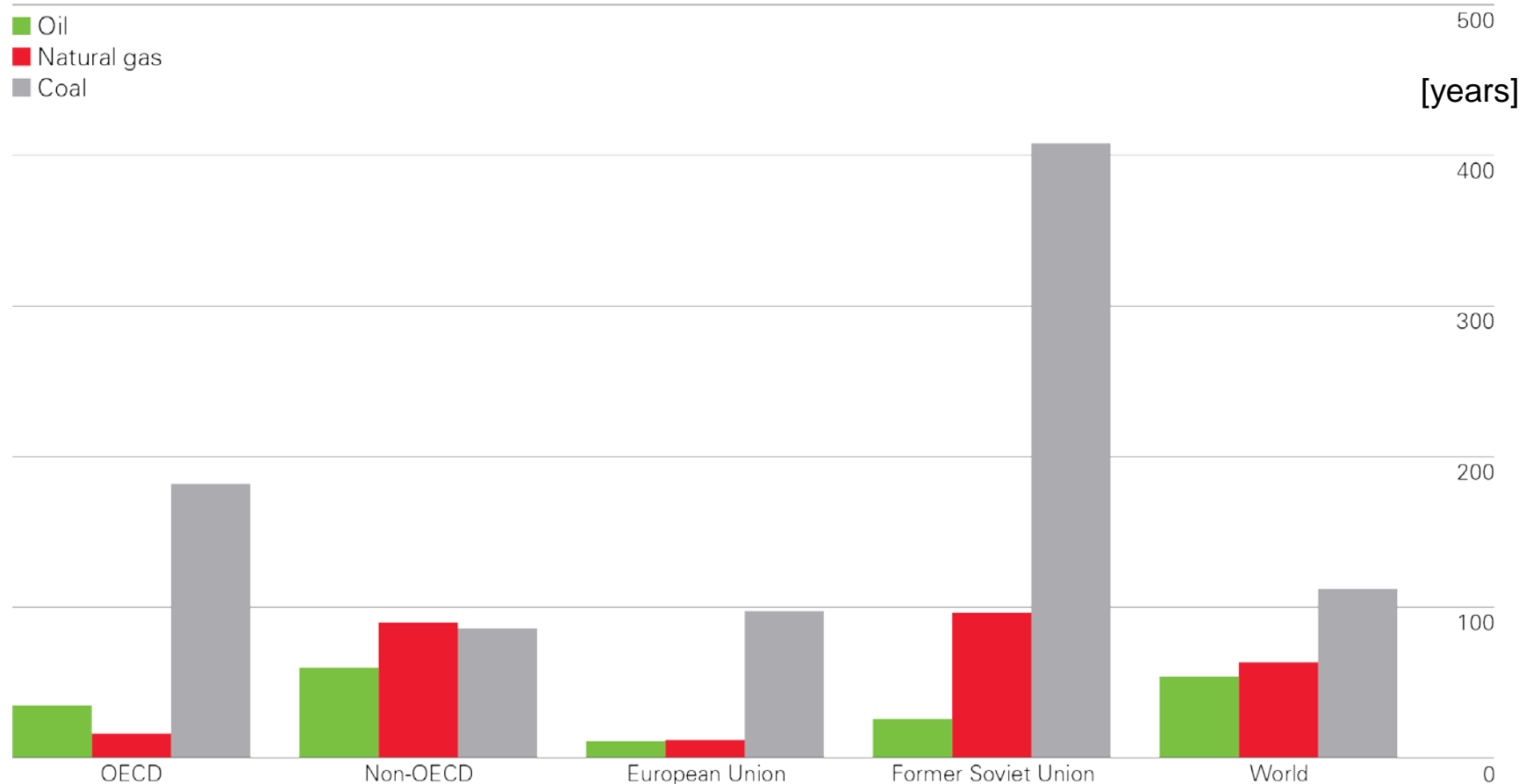


Source: EU Scenarios, 2006



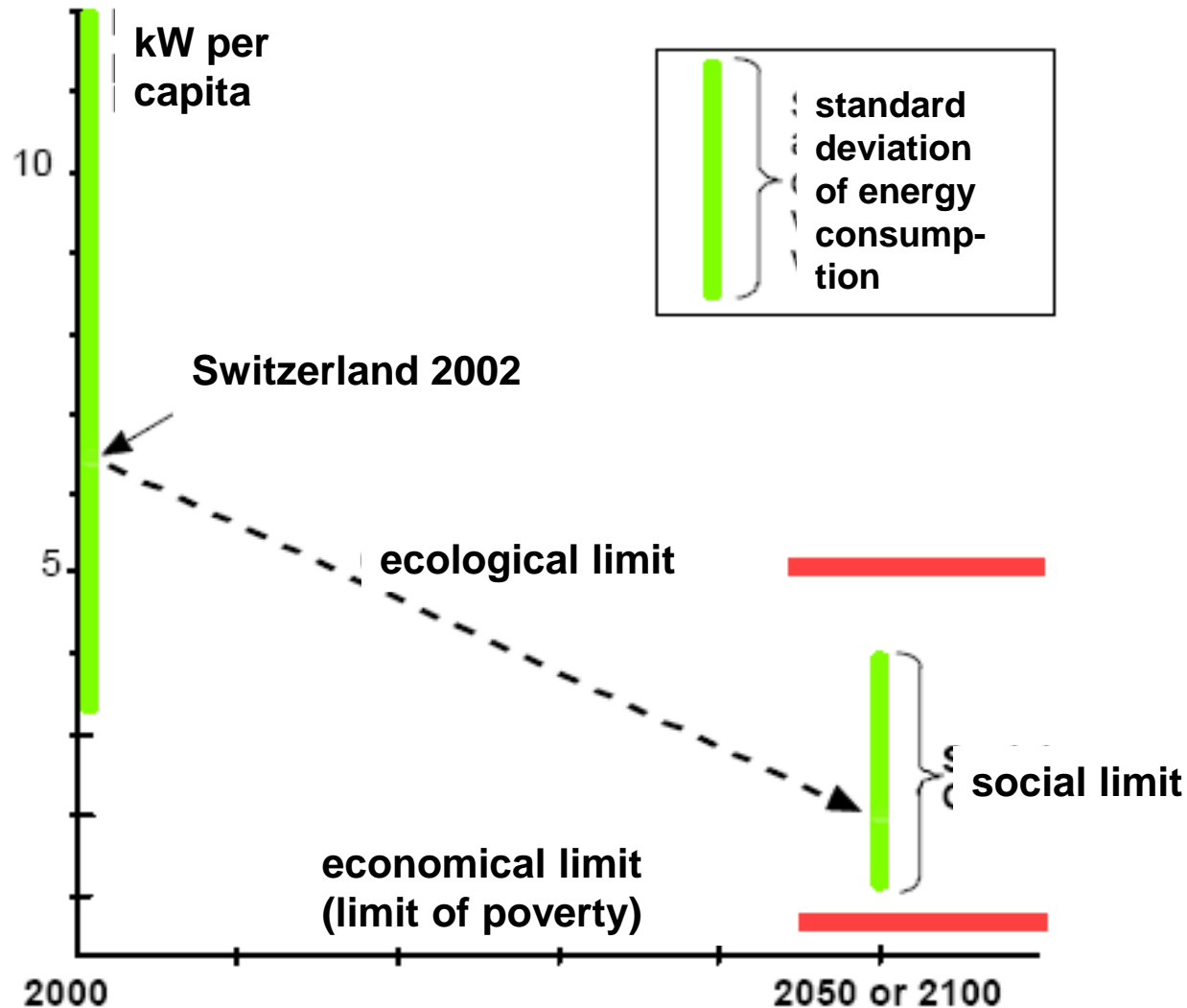
# Fossil Fuel Reserves to Production Ratio (2011)

reserves:  
known and economically  
retrievable



Source: BP 2012

# The 2-kW-Society



Source: CEPE, 2002

# Finding more efficient ways of supplying energy

improves the world situation under the aspects of

- climate change (GHG abatement)
- avoiding (or postponing) depletion of resources
- securing regional growth by avoiding expenses for energy import
- political stability by avoiding import dependencies





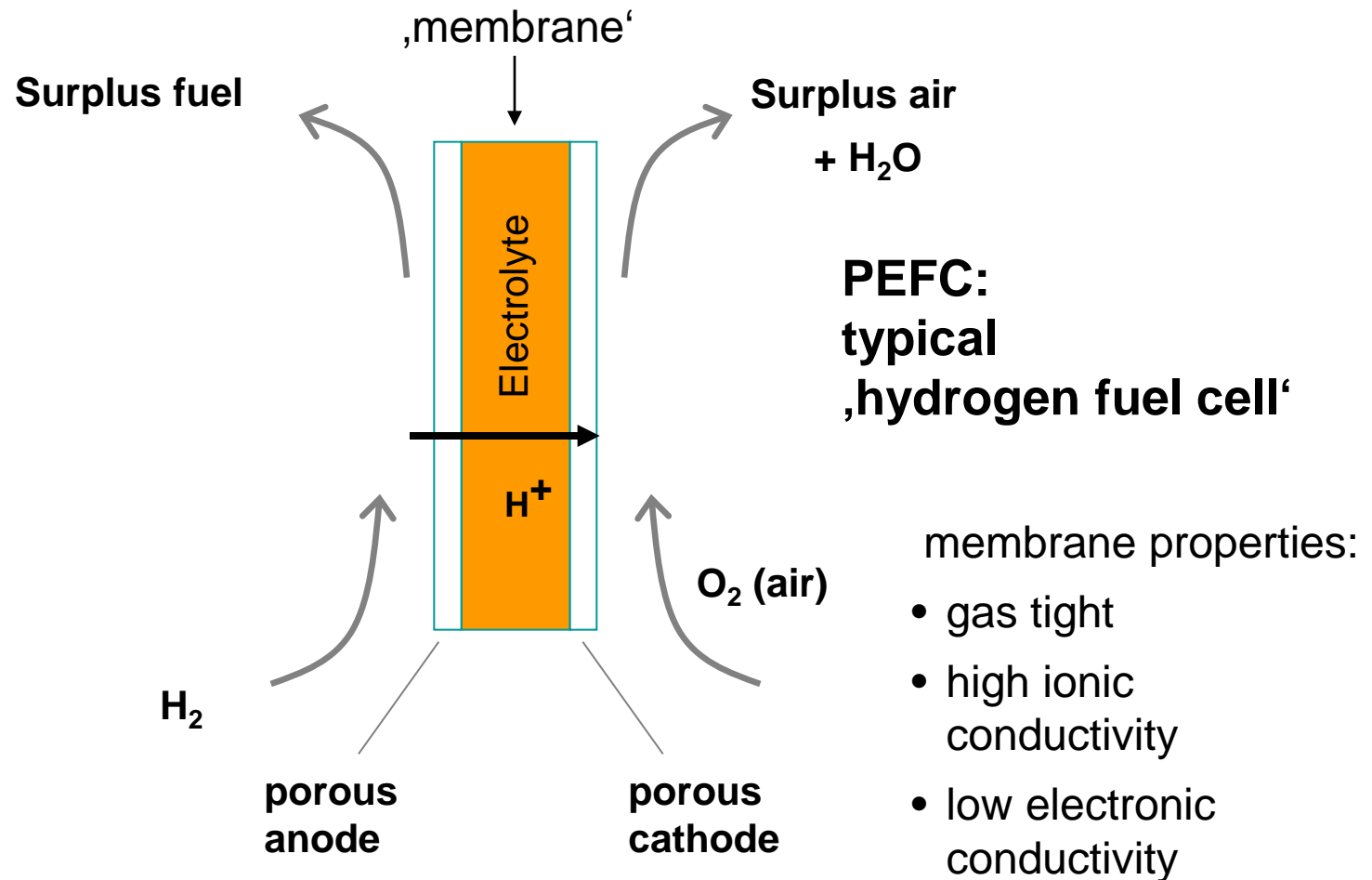
## The possible roles of fuel cells and hydrogen:

- more efficient energy conversion
- lower emissions
- flexibility in fuel choice, including fuels from renewable sources
- increased flexibility in the energy supply system



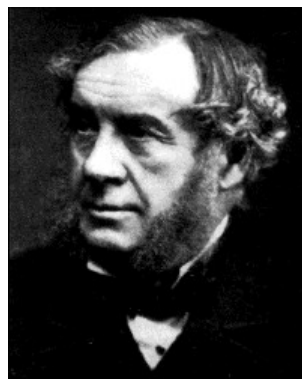
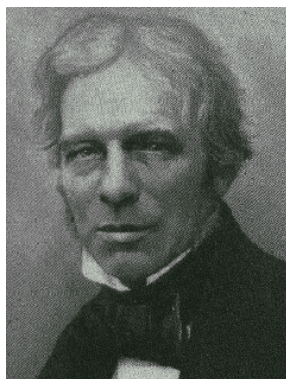
# What is a ,Fuel Cell‘?

# Fuel Cell Principle



# FC History

- Definition of terms 'electrolyte', 'electrode' etc. and various electrochemical processes by Michael Faraday (1791-1867)
- Reverse electrolysis first realised by Sir William Grove 1839 (1811-1896) on basis of his own and Friedrich Schönbein's (1799-1868) research
- Major contributions to electrochemistry theory by Wilhelm Ostwald (1853-1932)
- First technical developments and patents ca. 1902-1913 (VARTA)
- Slow progress due to insufficient understanding of reaction kinetics and materials' issues







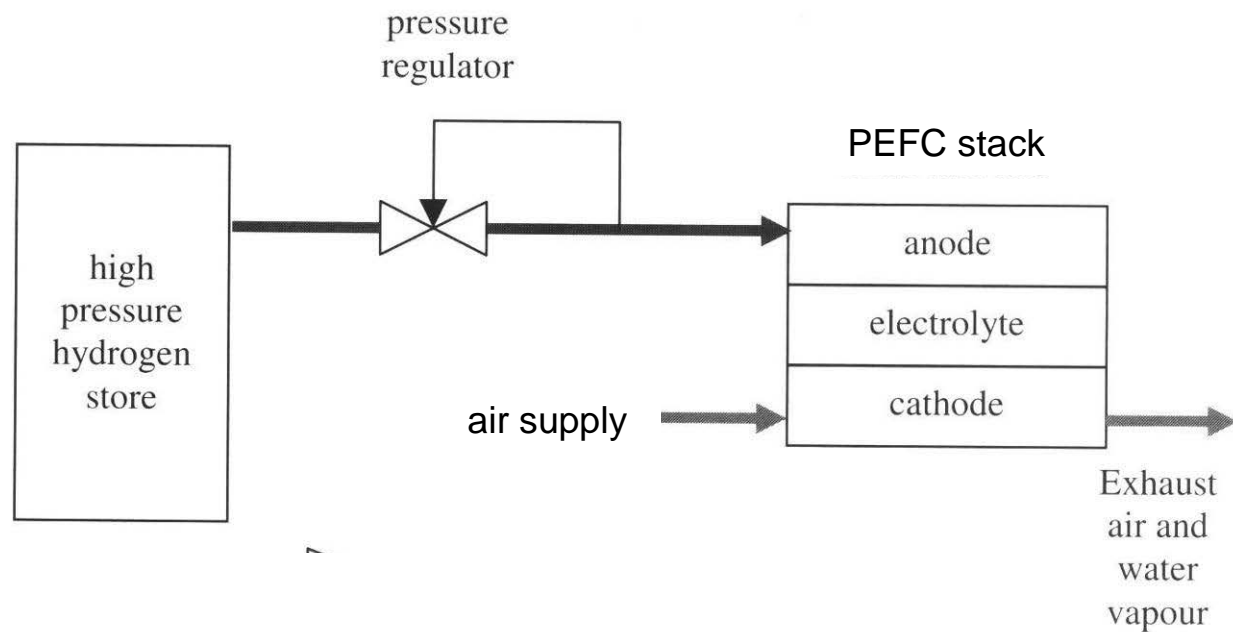
## Some Fuel Cell Principal Properties

1. not limited by Carnot efficiency ( $\sim (T_1 - T_2)/T_1$ ), only by electrochemical, kinetic and ohmic losses
2. modular
3. low (no) noise
4. exhaust emission predominantly water (and maybe  $\text{CO}_2$ )
5. no moving parts

ergo:

- efficient and low-emission energy conversion technology

# The Beauty of Simplicity



Source: adapted from Larminie/Dicks



# Fuel Cells could replace

- Internal combustion engines (ICE)
  - in vehicles
  - in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units
- GenSets (mobile power)
- Batteries
- Combined Cycle Power Stations
- On-board Electricity Generation  
(Auxiliary Power Units, APU)

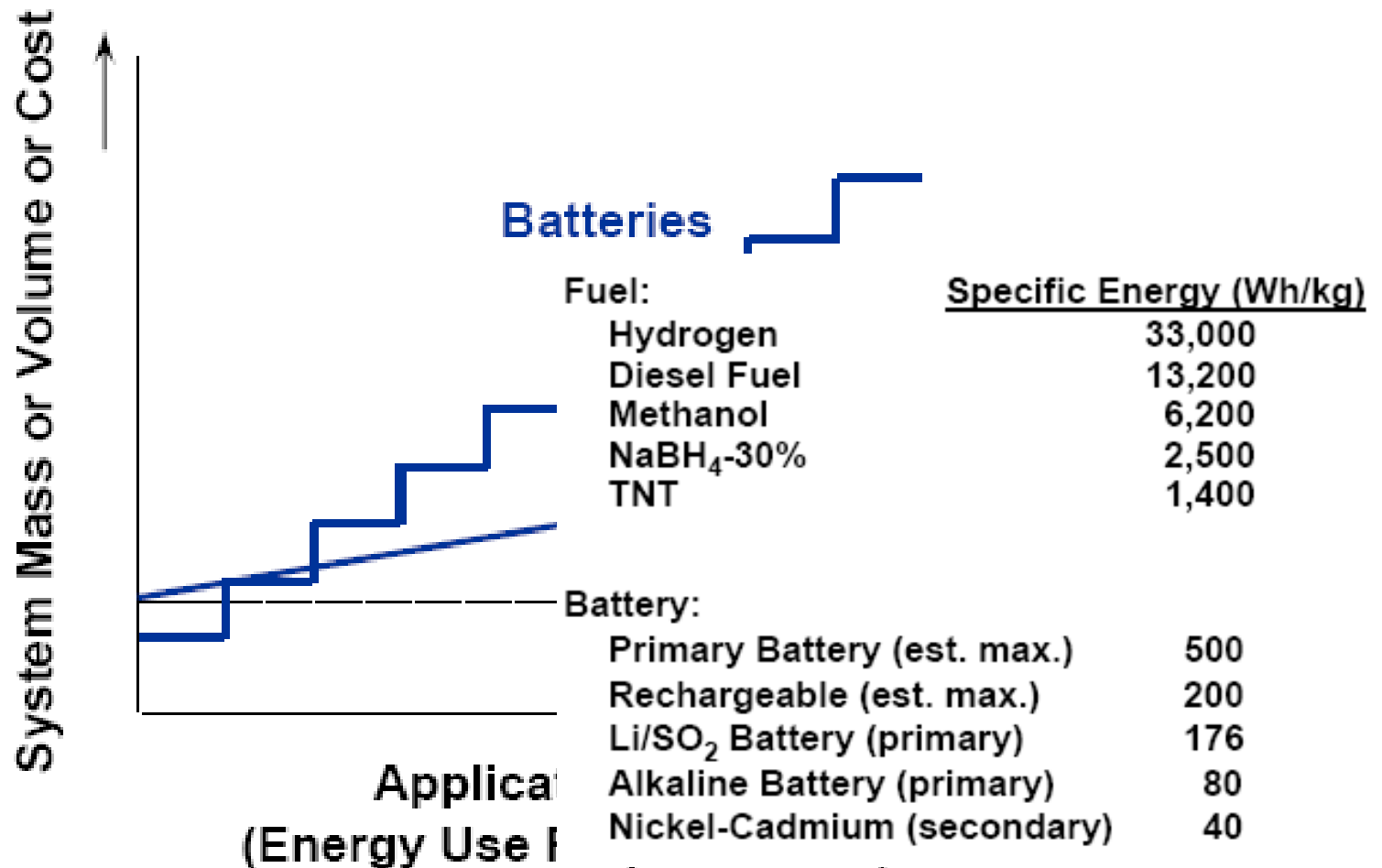
and supply decentralised or grid-independent power  
anywhere at any scale



# Fuel Cells in Comparison to Their Competitors

	battery	CHP	ignition engine	fuel cell
el. Efficiency	n.a.	~ 30-40%	n.a.	25 to 55%
Noise	++	-	--	+
Modularity	++	--	-	++
Weight	--	n.a.	o	+
Range	--	n.a.	+	o
Costs	--	o	+	--
Emissions	n.a.	o	-	++
Overall Efficiency	n.a.	~ 95%	12 to 18%	~ 90%

# Competing with Batteries

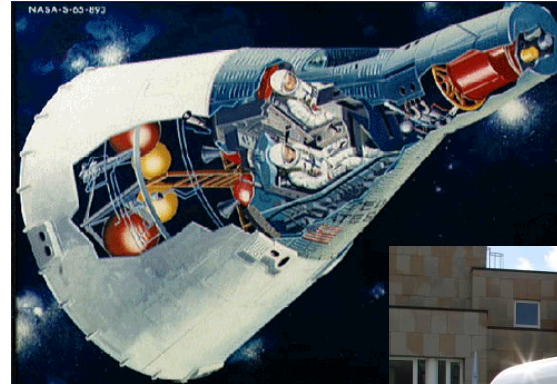


Source: AZ State Univ

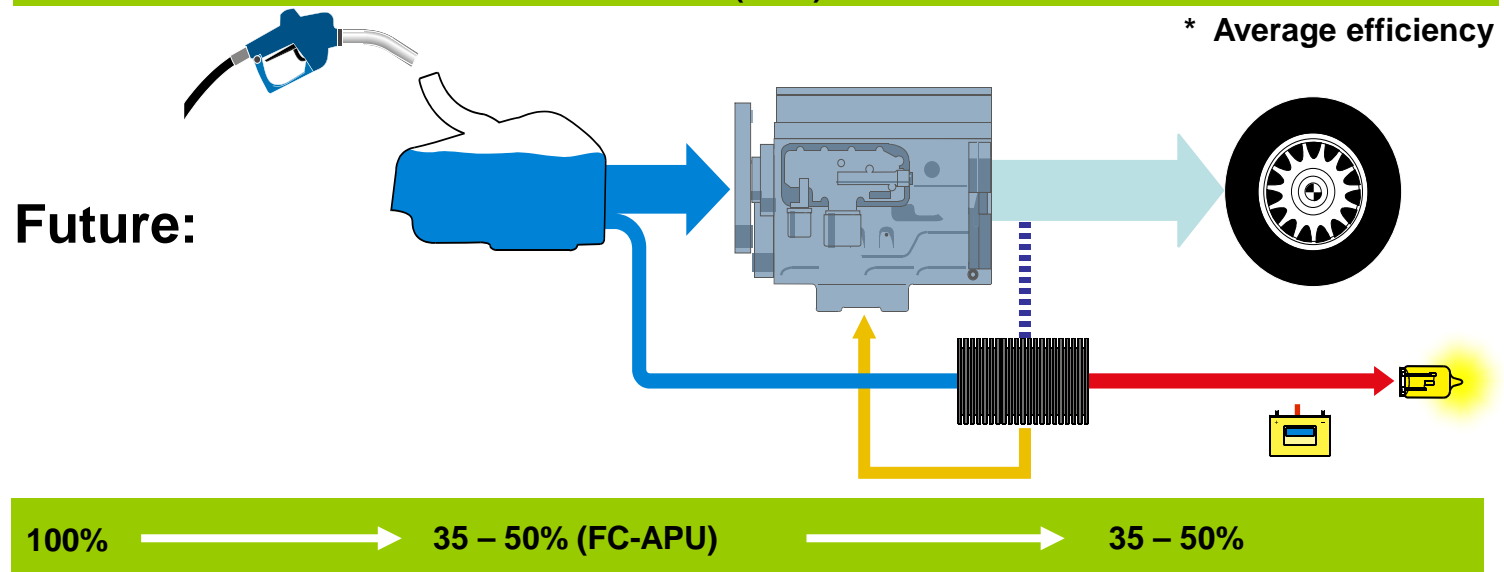
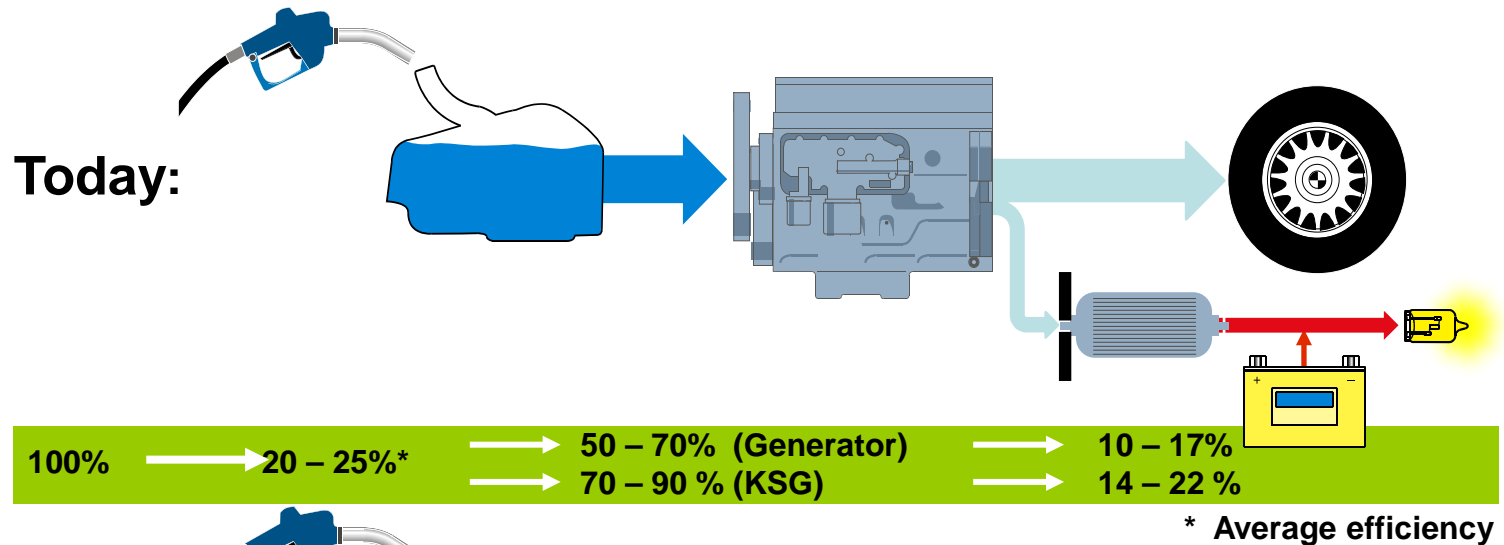


# Applications of Fuel Cells: Mobile

- FC vehicles
- special craft
- off-road
- APU



# On-Board E-Power Generation



Graph:  
BMW



# APU in Ships and Aircraft

## Aircraft Power Sources:

- Bleed Air power (e.g. for cabin air conditioning, main engine start)
- Electrical power (e.g. for lights, cabin entertainment)
- Hydraulic Power (e.g. flight controls)



**Ram Air Turbine (RAT)**  
Emergency hydraulic and  
electrical power (AC)

**~ 25 kW**



**Aircraft Batteries**  
Electrical power (DC)

**~ 3 kW**

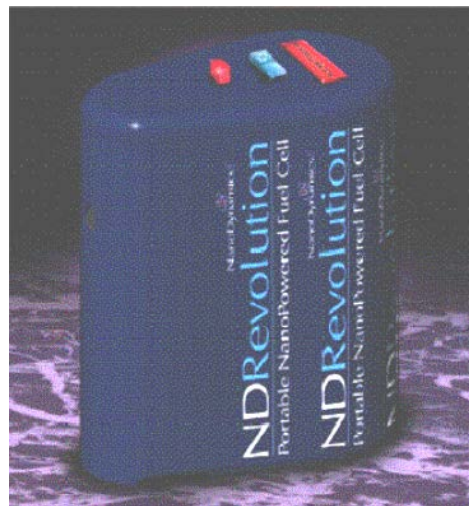
- emission control
- efficiency
- safety





# Applications of Fuel Cells: Portable

- battery replacement
- battery charger
- gen-set

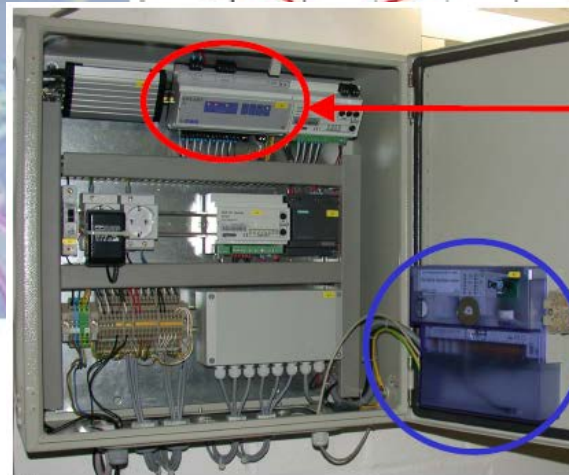
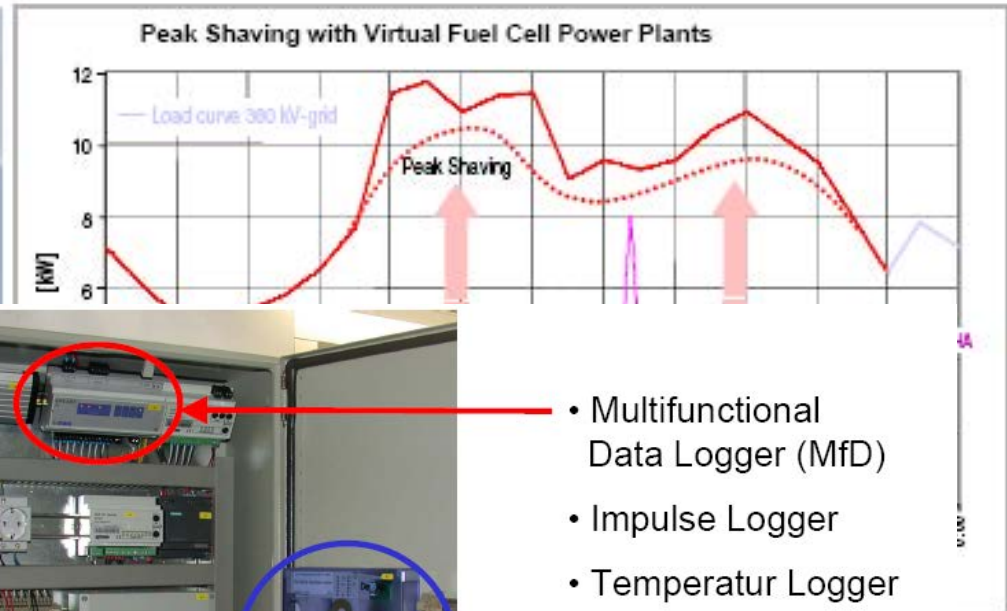
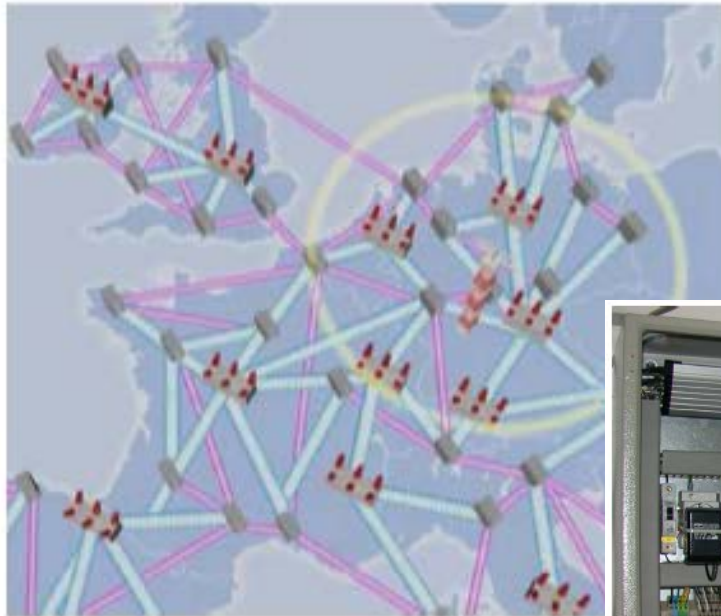


# Applications of Fuel Cells: Stationary

- residential
- industrial and commercial scale CHP
- power generation
- uninterruptible power supply



# Vaillant Virtual Power Plant Project



- Multifunctional Data Logger (MfD)
- Impulse Logger
- Temperatur Logger
- **Radio Ripple Control Receiver**
- Modem

Two motivations:

- elimination of grid losses
- build-up of generation capacity for electricity distributors

Source: Vaillant

# Overview Fuel Cell Types

	Low temperature			High temperature	
	AFC	PEFC	PAFC	SOFC	MCFC
<b>Electrolyte</b>	Alkaline	Polymer	Phosph.acid	Ceramic	Molten carbonate
<b>Temperature</b>	80-200°C	80-100°C	200°C	700-1000°C	650°C
<b>Fuel</b>	H <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> /CO/CH <sub>4</sub>	(H <sub>2</sub> )/CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /CH <sub>4</sub>
<b>Oxidant</b>	O <sub>2</sub> /(air)	O <sub>2</sub> /air	O <sub>2</sub> /air	O <sub>2</sub> /air	O <sub>2</sub> /air
<b>Efficiency (*)</b>	50-60%	40-45%	40-45%	50-55%	50-55%
		DMFC	HT-PEFC	LT-SOFC	
		80-100°C	120-180°C	500-650°C	
		MeOH	H <sub>2</sub> (CO)	H <sub>2</sub> /(CO)/CH <sub>4</sub>	
		25-30%	40-50%	50-55%	

(\*) LHV

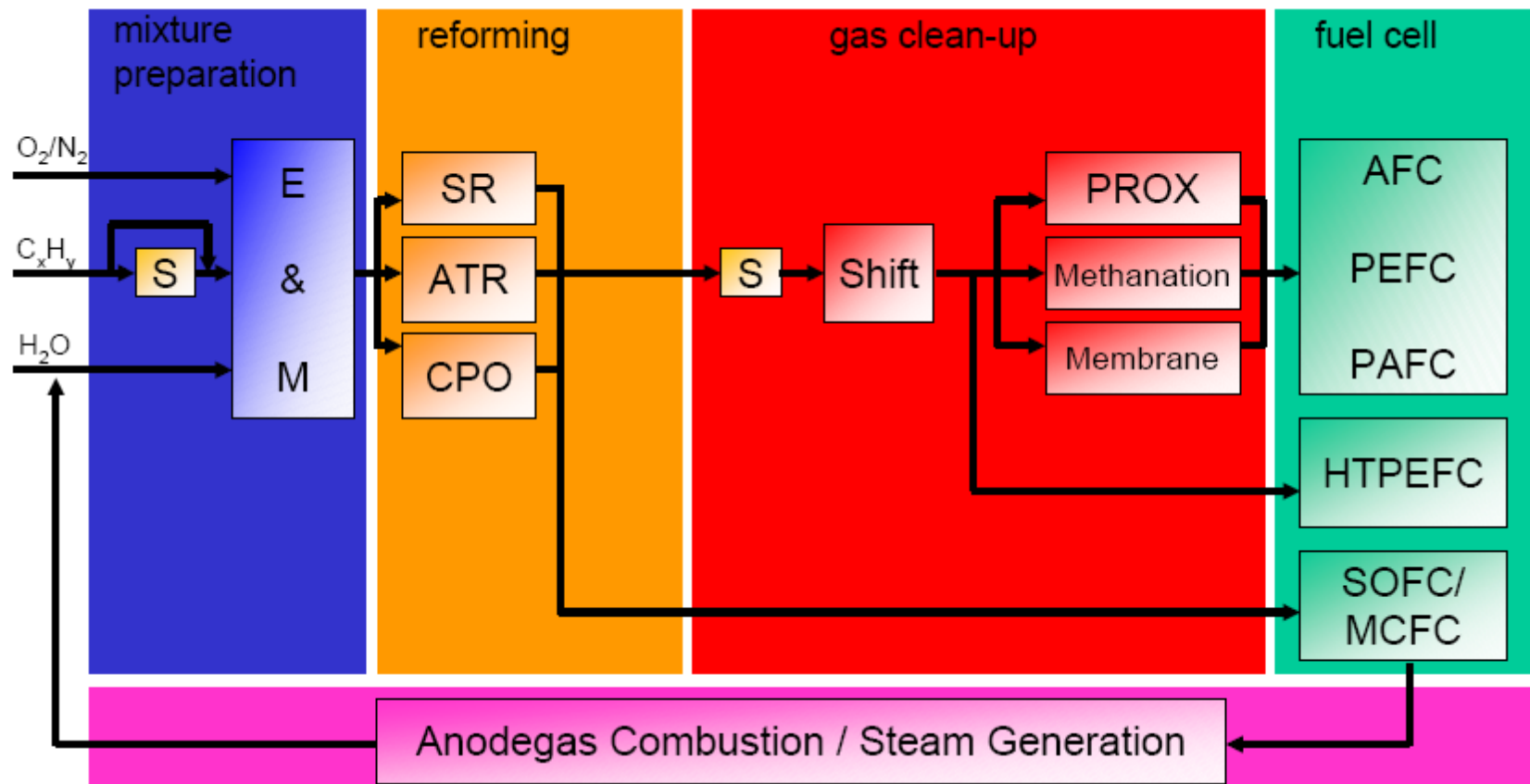


# Fuel Purity Requirements

Requirements for fuel purity with various FC types

Type	CO	CO <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> S	Cl	Particles
PEFC	<10 ppm	tol.	tol.	0	<0,05 ppm	0
PAFC	<2%	tol.	<2%	<50 ppm	<1 ppm	<1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
MCFC	tol.	tol.	tol.	<0,1 ppm	<1 ppm	<1 µm
SOFC	tol.	tol.	tol.	<1 ppm	<1 ppm	<1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

# Fuel Processing Effort





# Fuel Cells compared

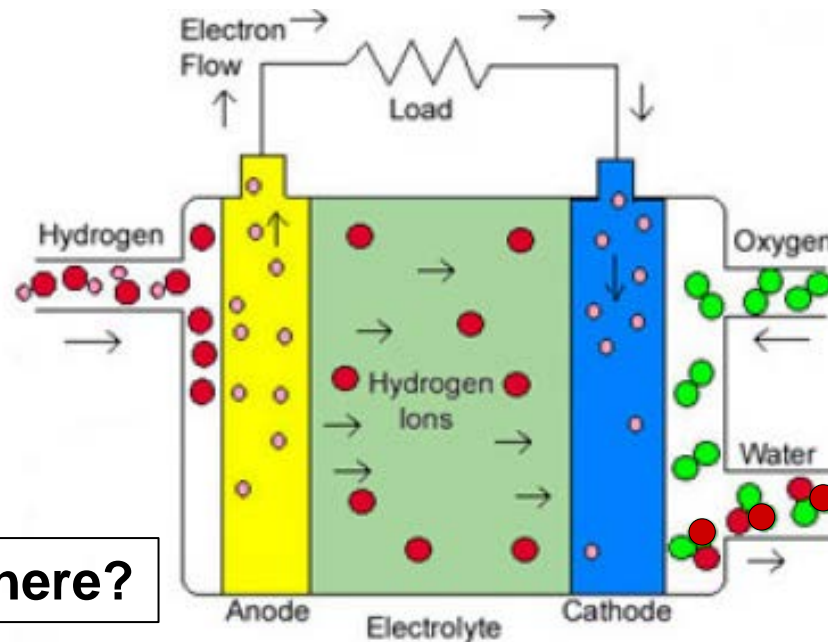
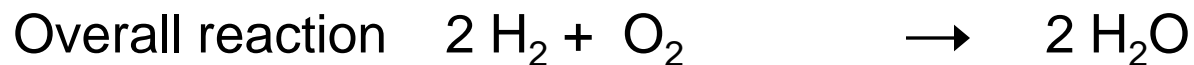
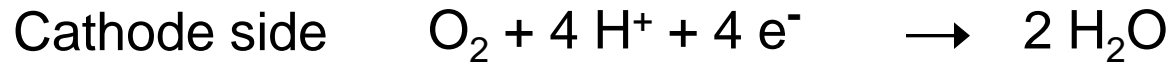
Low Temperature Fuel Cells (PEFC, AFC, PAFC):

- hydrogen fuel
- typically mobile and portable applications
- stationary with reformer unit (on-site hydrogen production)
- predominantly lightweight materials (plastics, graphite etc.)

High Temperature Fuel Cells (MCFC, SOFC):

- hydrogen fuels, natural gas, hydrocarbons
- typically stationary applications
- mobile as APU
- predominantly heavyweight materials (steels, ceramics etc.)

# The Hydrogen Fuel Cells: PEFC & PAFC



what's wrong here?



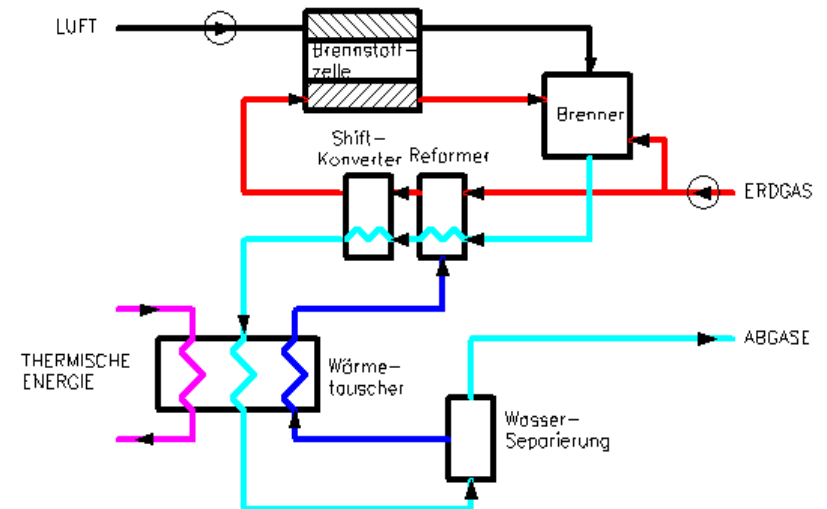
# ONSI/UTC stationary power 1990 - 2000

Dimensions:

PC25A: Width (3 m), Length (7,3 m), Height (3,5 m)

PC25C: Width (3 m), Length (5,5 m), Height (3,0 m)

Electrical Power Rating:	200 kW
Useful Thermal Power:	110 kW
Electrical Efficiency:	ca. 40%





# Light Passenger Vehicles

DaimlerChrysler  
f-cell A & B class



Opel Zafira



VW Touran HyMotion



Ford  
FC Hybrid



Honda Clarity



Musashi 1990



Ford / Th!nk

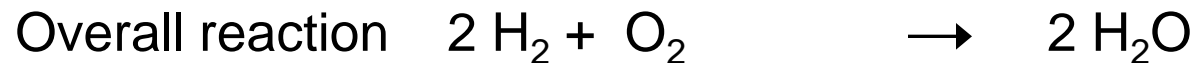
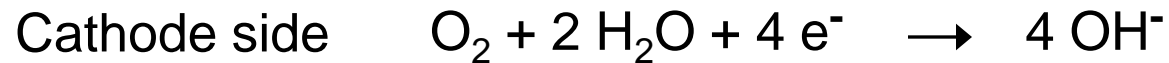


Toyota RAV4L V

Sources: various

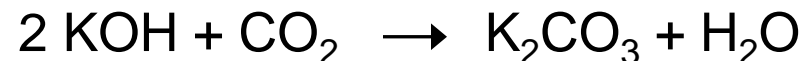


## Alkaline Fuel Cell (AFC): Reaction

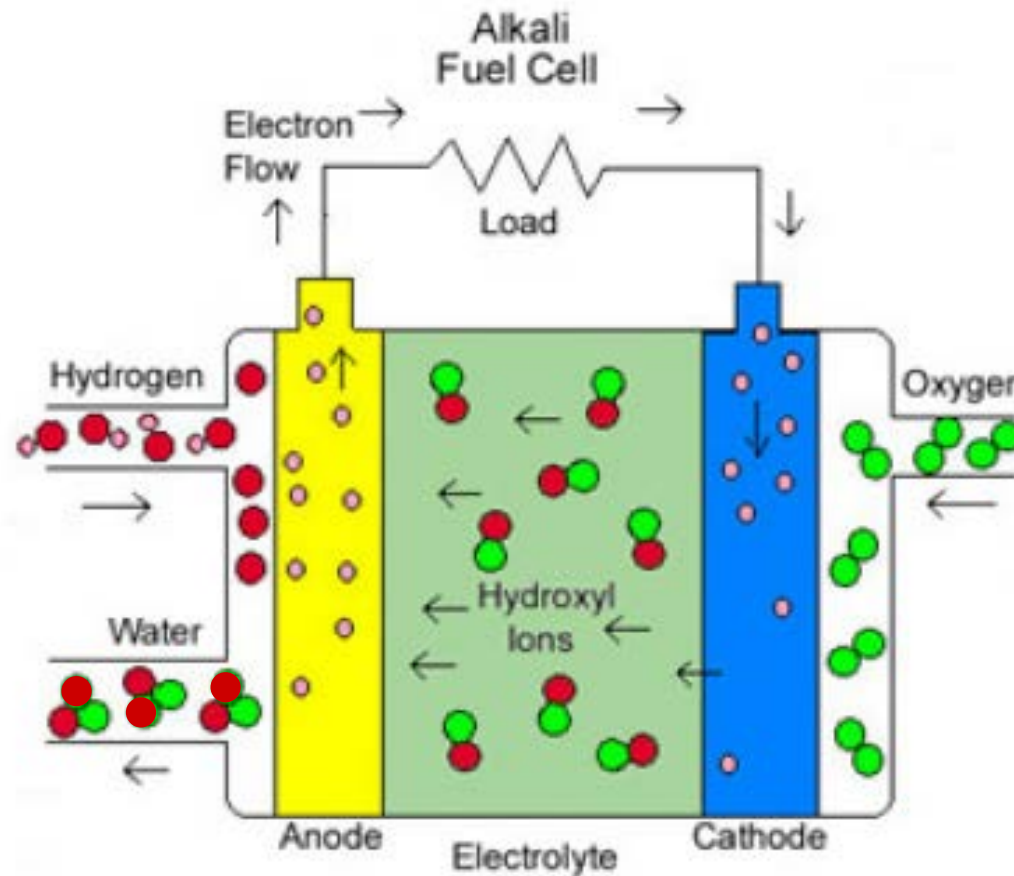


Reverse of typical electrolysis process.

Undesired reaction:



# AFC cell principle





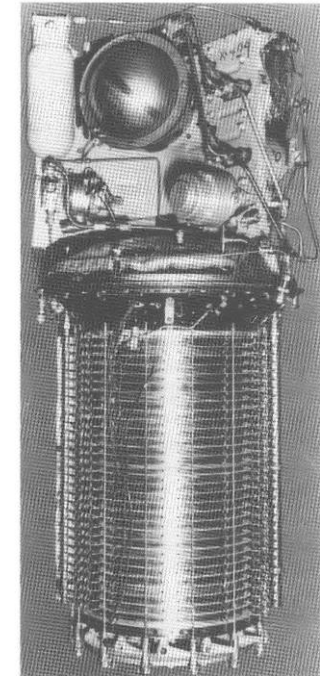
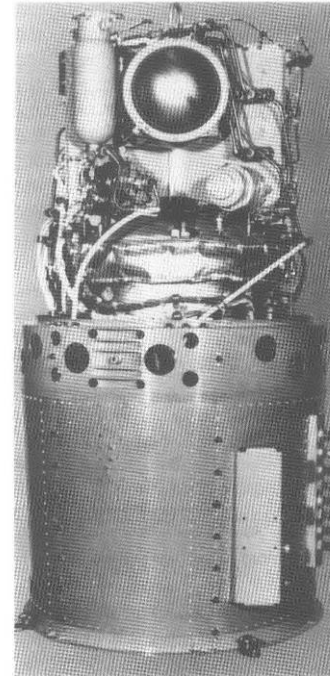
# AFC History



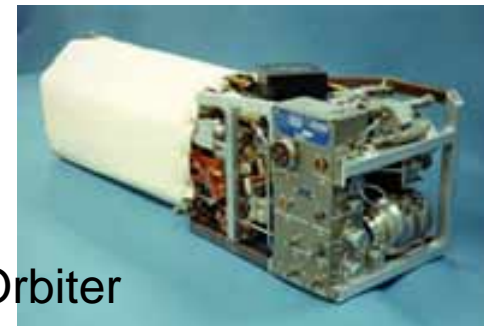
Kordesch Austin 1970



ZevCo Taxi Mk.2, 1998/99



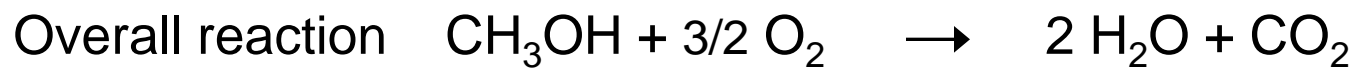
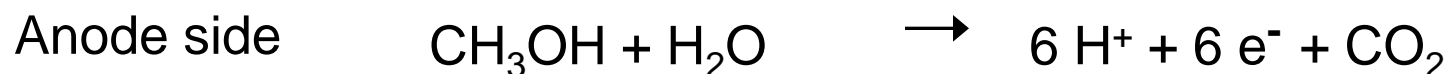
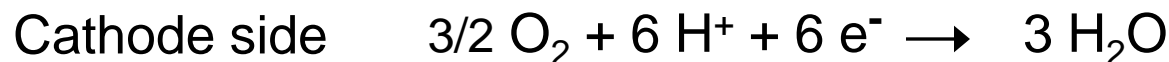
Apollo mission 1964



Lunar Orbiter



## Reaction DMFC



Reaction temperature

70 to 80°C

Issues

catalyst loading and  
methanol drag



# DMFC for portable und small mobile Applications



**Vectrix  
small vehicles**



**battery  
replacers**



**JuMove  
,scooter'**



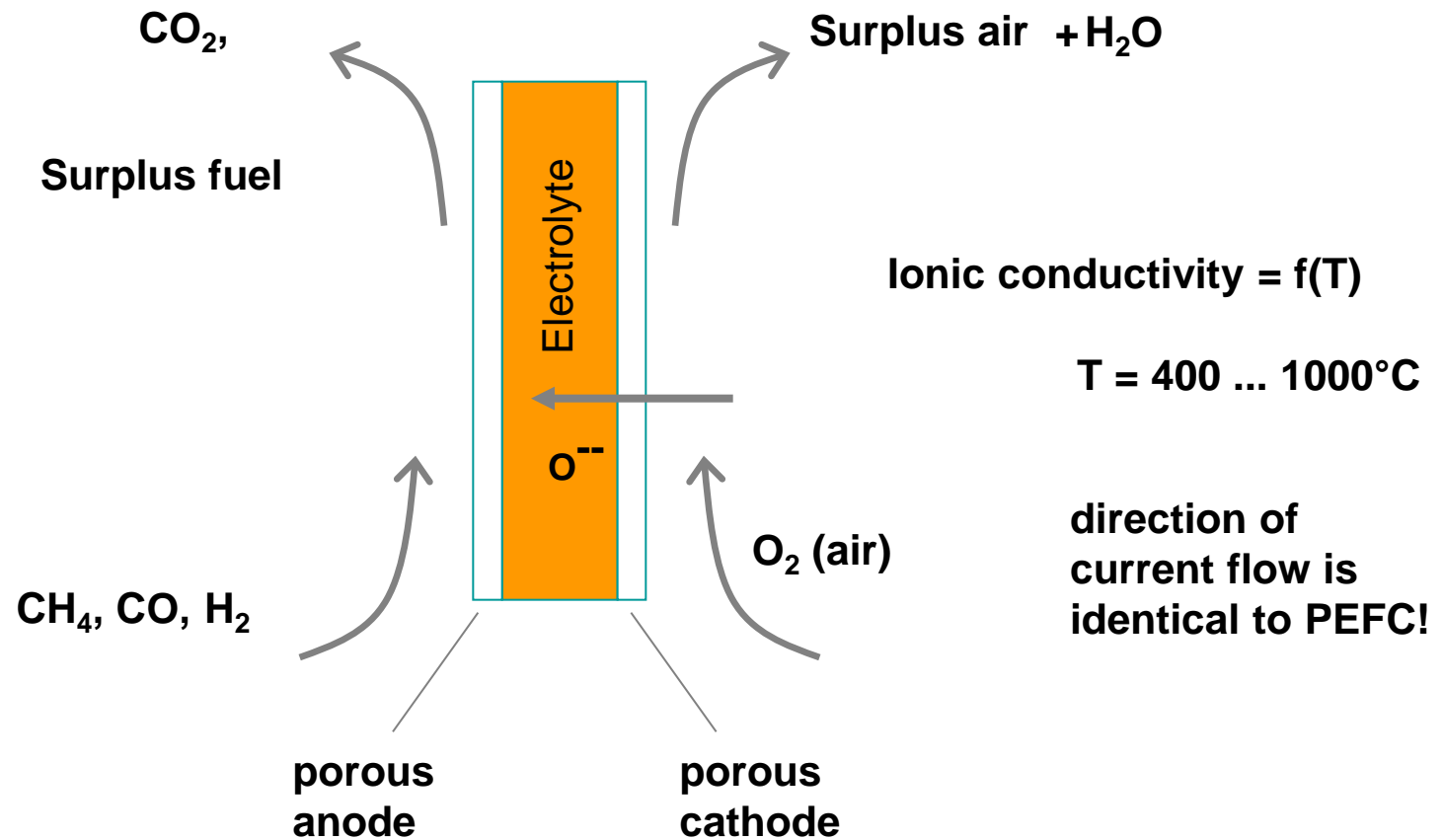


# SOFC Development History

- 1890s - description of ion conductivity in  $\text{ZrO}_2$  by W.Nernst
- 1937 - E.Baur/H.Preis build first Solid Oxide Fuel Cell
- from mid 1960s development of high temperature FC's in U.S. (Westinghouse) and Japan (Tokyo Gas, MHI etc.)
- Siemens acquires Westinghouse (-> SWPC) and shuts down own SOFC development in Germany in 1996
- 1998: SWPC starts first tests with 100 kW-size system
- 1999: SulzerHexis starts field tests with 1 kW residential system

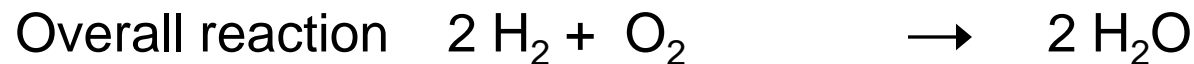
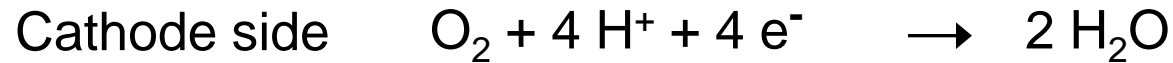


# Solid Oxide Fuel Cell

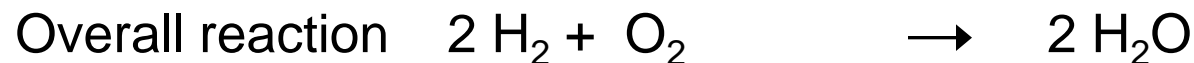
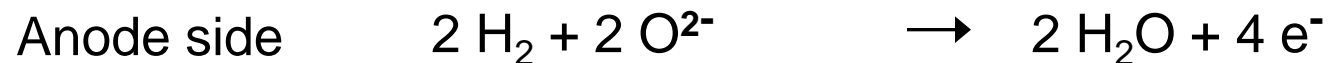
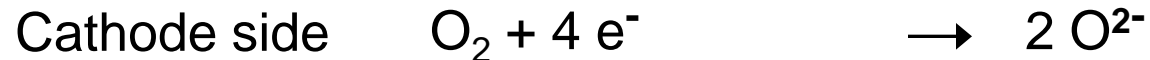




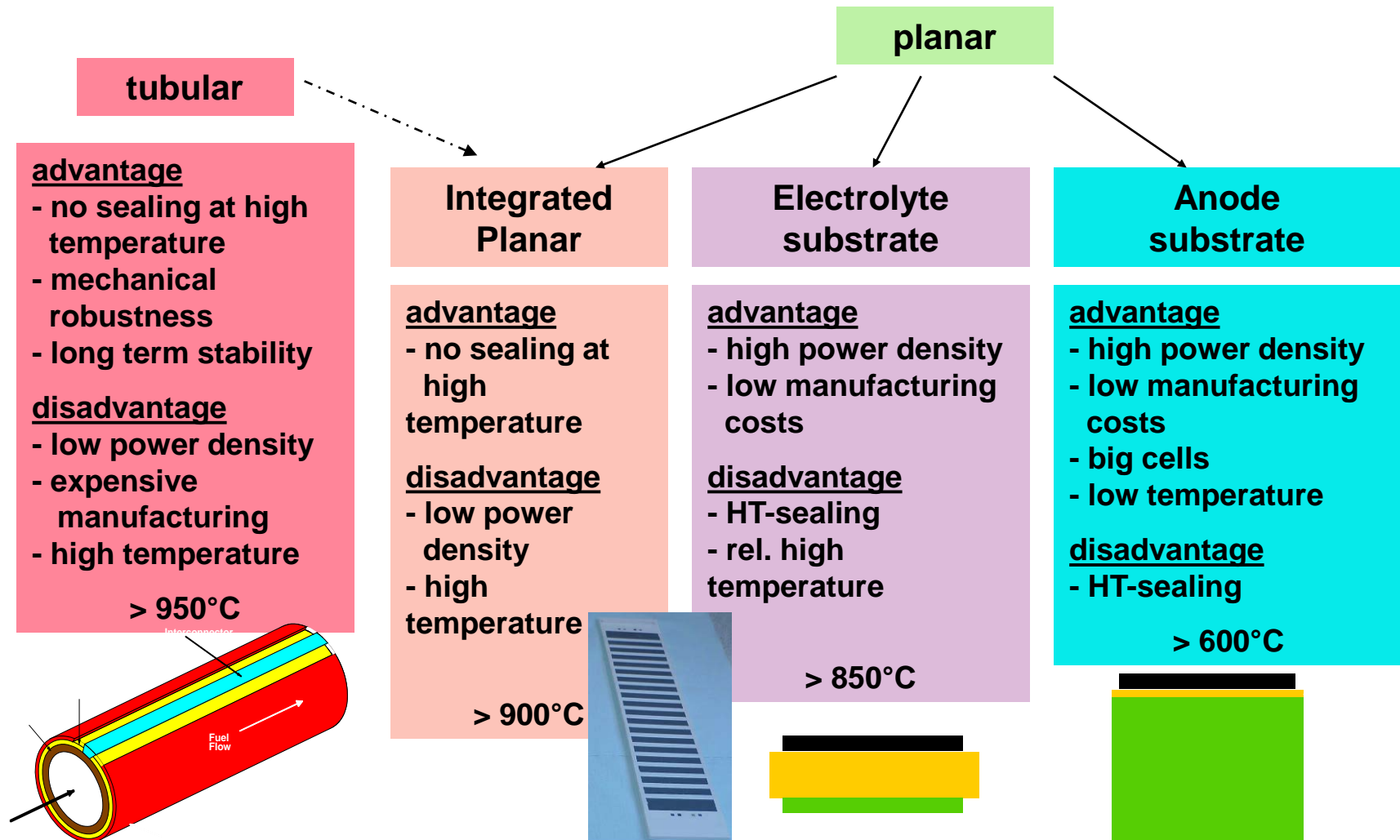
## Reaction PEFC



## Reaction SOFC



# SOFC Design Concepts



# Applications of SOFC

## Portable, Mini and Micro: < 500 W

- military
- gen-set (disaster control, roadworks etc.)
- battery recharger



## APU: 5 to 25 kW and > 100 kW

- passenger vehicles
- lorries, building machines, earth movers
- ships, aircraft



## Small Scale CHP: 1 to 100 kW

- residential
- industrial (hospitals, polygeneration etc.)

## Power Generation: > 1 MW

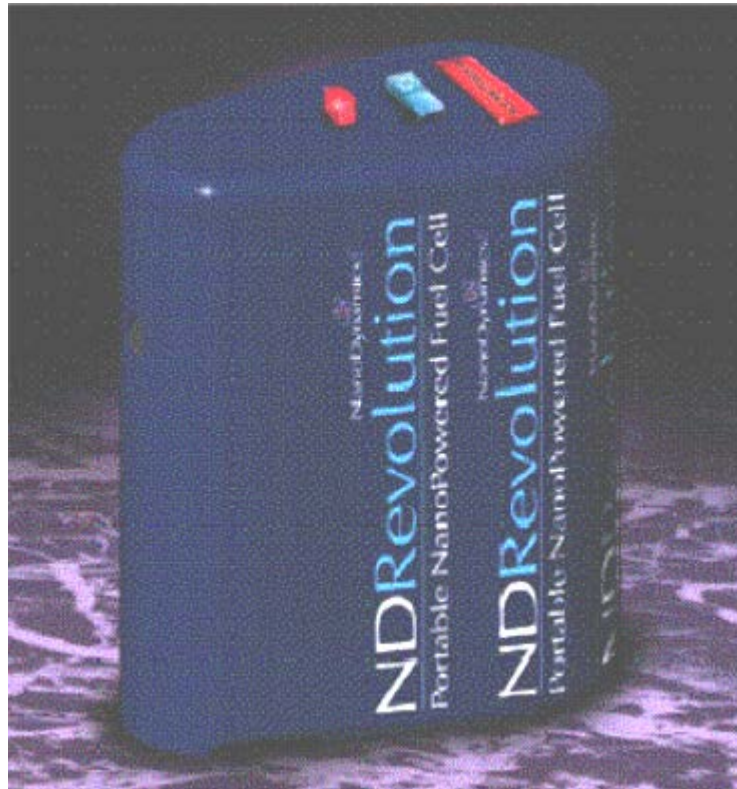
- including gas turbine hybrid plants

## Vehicle Propulsion: 5 to 25 kW

- hybrid vehicles?



# Miniaturised SOFC Developments

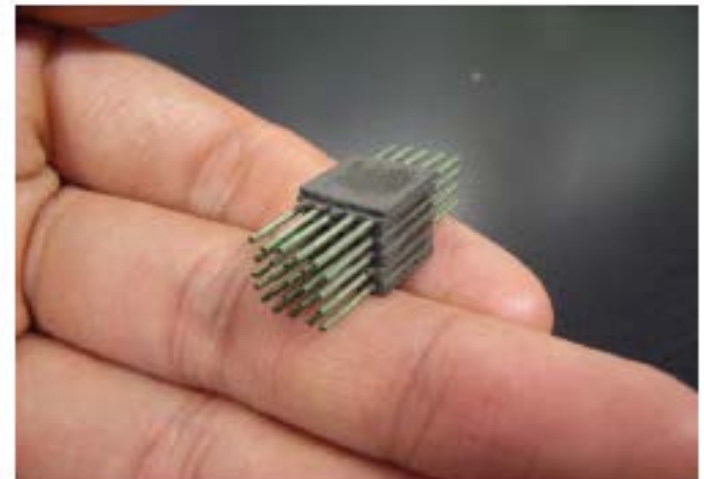


## Military: Nanodynamics

- mini-tubes
- limited lifetime required
- cost and efficiency less important
- operation on military fuels

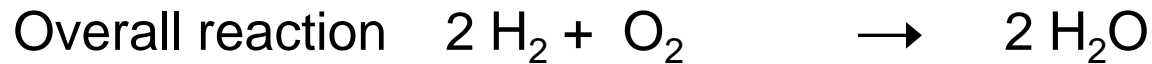
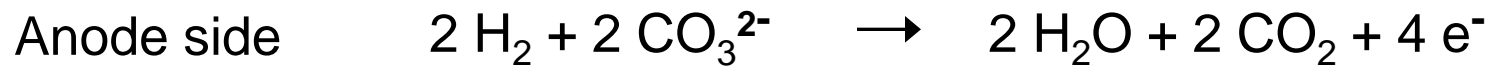
50 W miniature SOFC

AIST 'sugar cube' stack



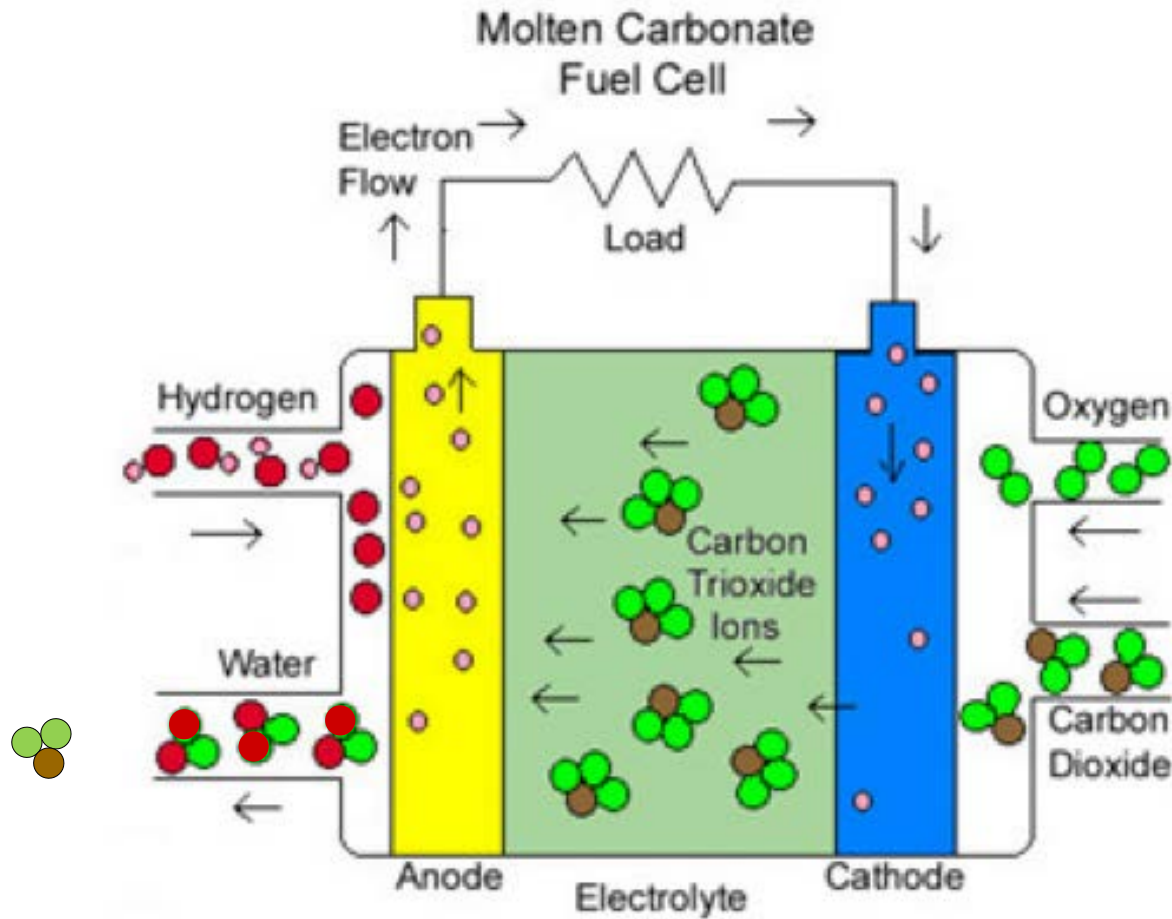


## Reaction MCFC - hydrogen case



note:  $\text{CO}_2$  supply necessary on cathode side

# Reaction MCFC



here's another mistake ...

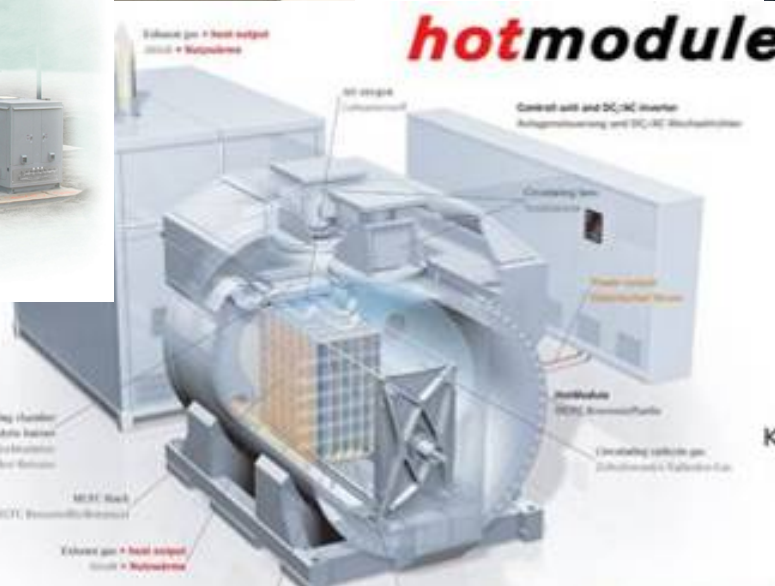


## 50 units worldwide



**Ansaldo:  
biomass syn-gas  
operation**

**MTU:**  
**17 in total**  
**7 still in operation**  
**250 kW / unit**



material copyright FCE, MTU, AFC



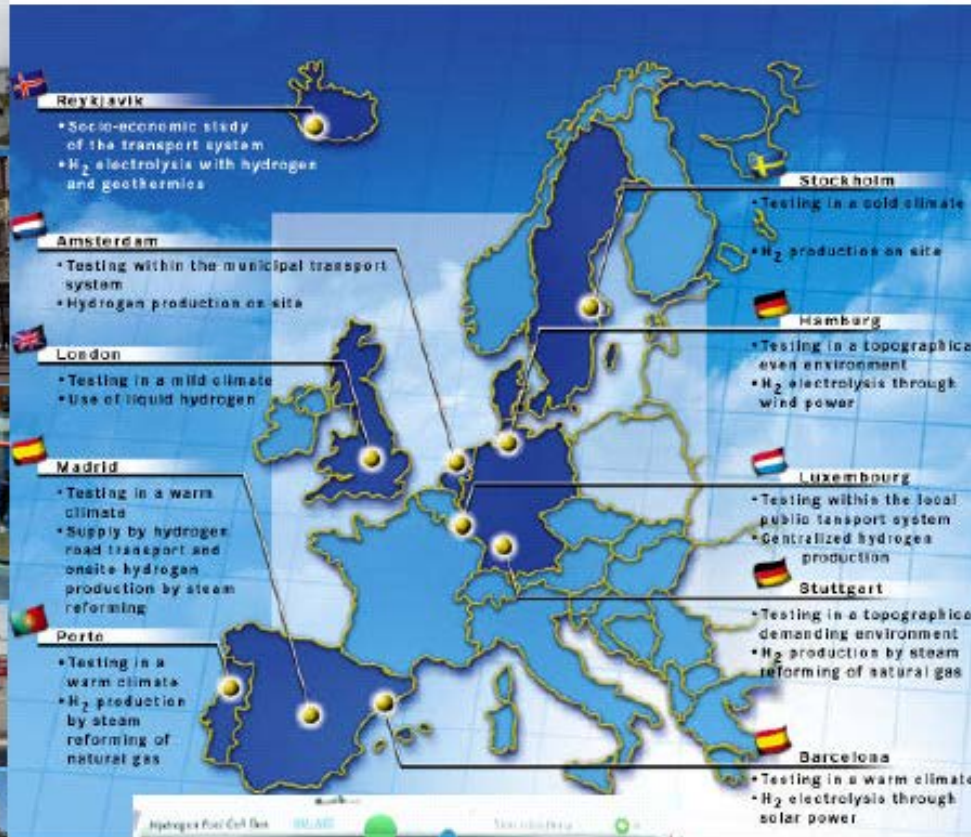


# Technology Status of Fuel Cells & Hydrogen applications

# Clean Urban Transport for Europe - CUTE



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

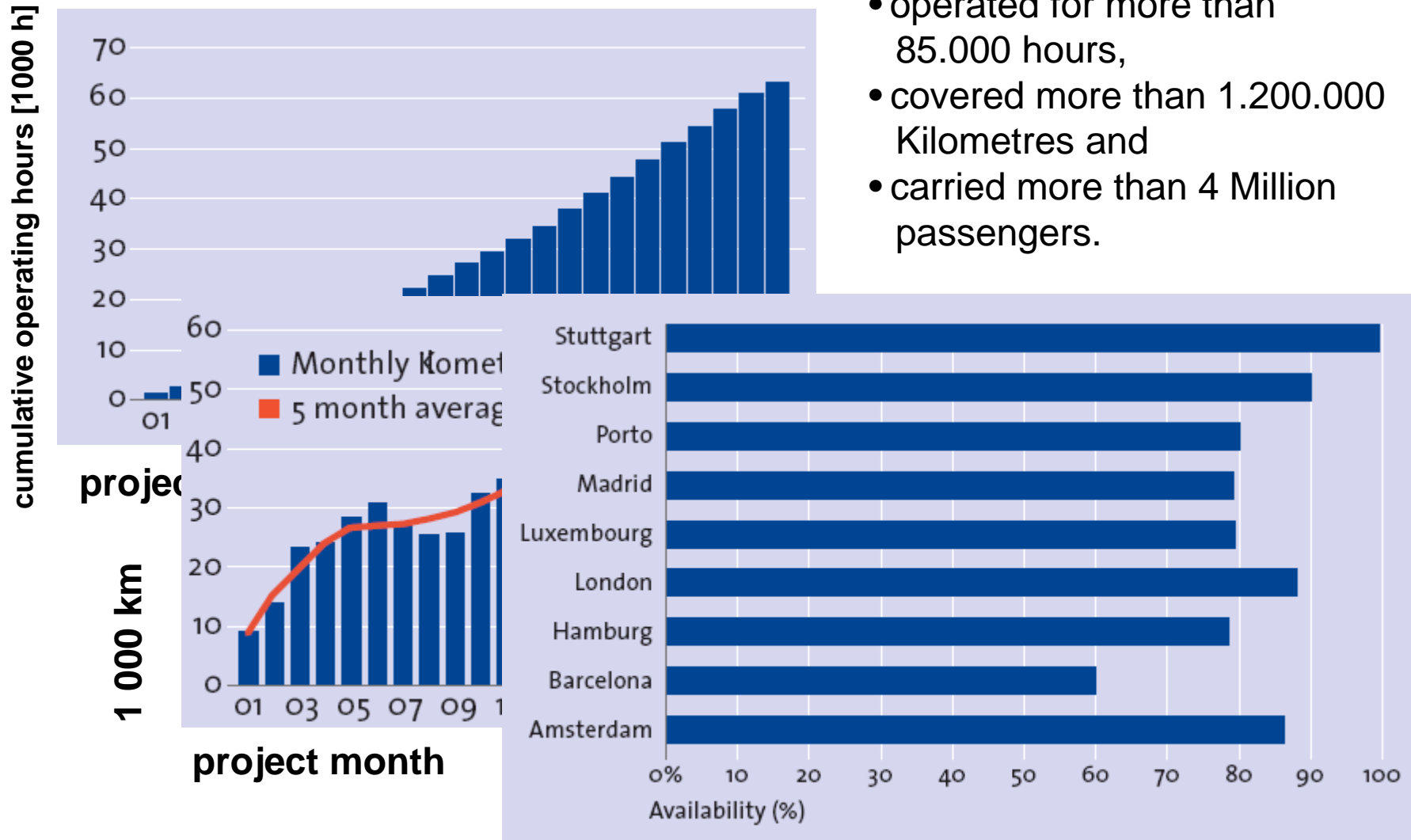


Perth, Australia

source: CUTE



# CUTE Results





# CUTE: Hamburg Filling Station



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM





# Hydrogen Applications and Markets

- Ammonia production
- Petroleum refining
- Methanol production and Industrial chemicals
- Hydrogenation of fats and oils (food industry)
- Metallurgy
- Electrical power generation
- Electronics industry

H<sub>2</sub> world market size is comparable in volume with European natural gas market ( ~500 x 10<sup>9</sup> Nm<sup>3</sup> per year)

# Existing Hydrogen Distribution Pipelines



Courtesy Air Liquide

# Daimler f-cell Concept

60 built and operated in worldwide clusters (DE, SP, JP, US, etc.)

3.650.000 km (Nov. 2007)

100.000 km with one car (within ~3 years)

## Generation 2 F-Cell Car:

- 40% more power
- 100% additional driving range (400 km)
- Improved lifetime of the FC stack (2000 h)
- Higher reliability
- Freeze start ability
- Li-Ion battery



## F600 Hy<sup>Genius</sup> Research Car:

- Technology carrier for advanced components (intended for serious production)
- Air supply: turbo charger with turbine
- Compact fuel cell stacks with metallic bipolar plates and improved MEA-technology
- Freeze-start ability as low as -25°C



Source: Daimler FCSem 07



# PEFC ,Freeze' start

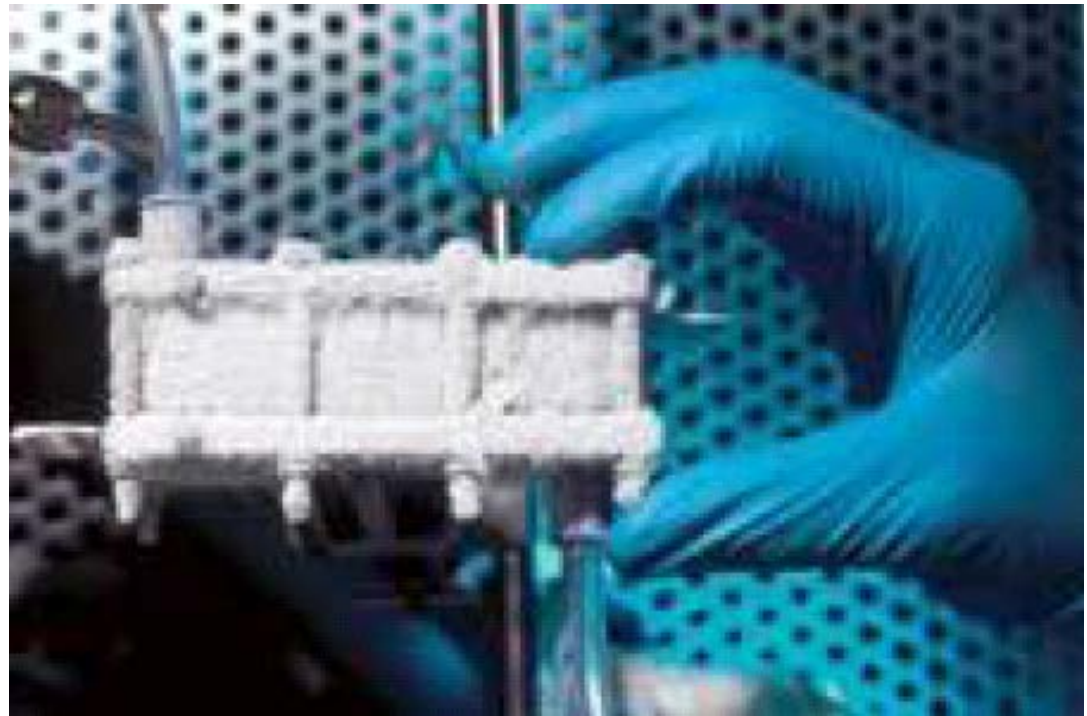
15 W

freeze-proof to  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$

operational up to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$



developed in cooperation  
with FhG-ISE







# PEFC Products and Near-market Developments



**Proton Motor**



**Nedstack**

Intelligent  
Energy



**Heliocentris**



**Voller Energy**

photographs copyright Nedstack, Int.En., Th.N., P.M., VE

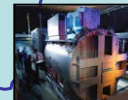
# MCFC HotModule European Sites

- total number 17
- 7 still operating
- electrical efficiency 47%
- accumulated operating time > 170.000 h
- incl. bio-fuels and trigeneration

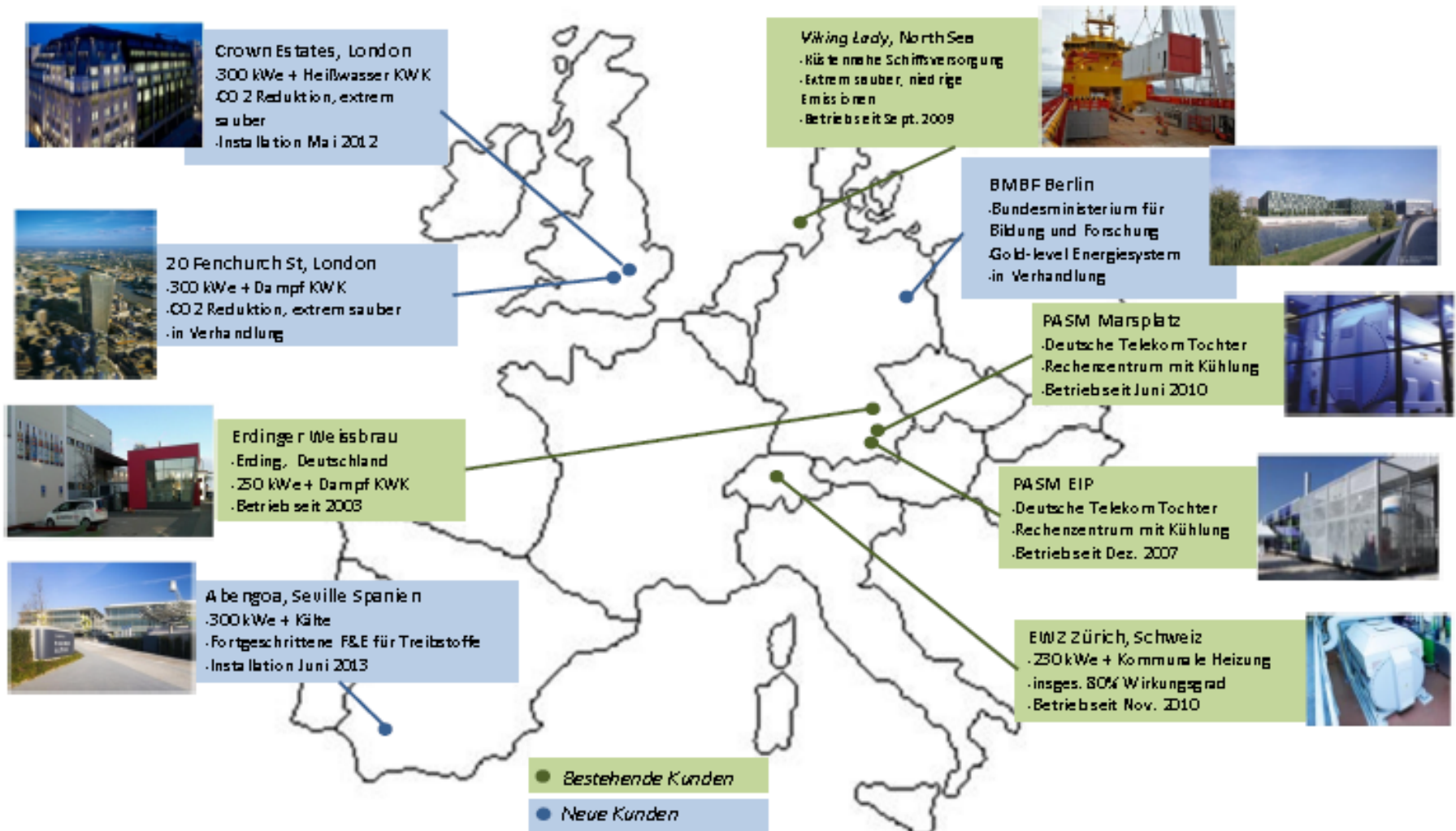
Cartagena/Spain



24.211 h

Grünstadt  
24.856 hEssen  
26.523 hBielefeld  
16.000 hKarlsruhe  
23.849 hBad Neustadt  
21.600 hBad Berka  
21.434 hMagdeburg  
30.018 hMünchen  
25.477 h

# MTU – FCE – IKTS Cooperation

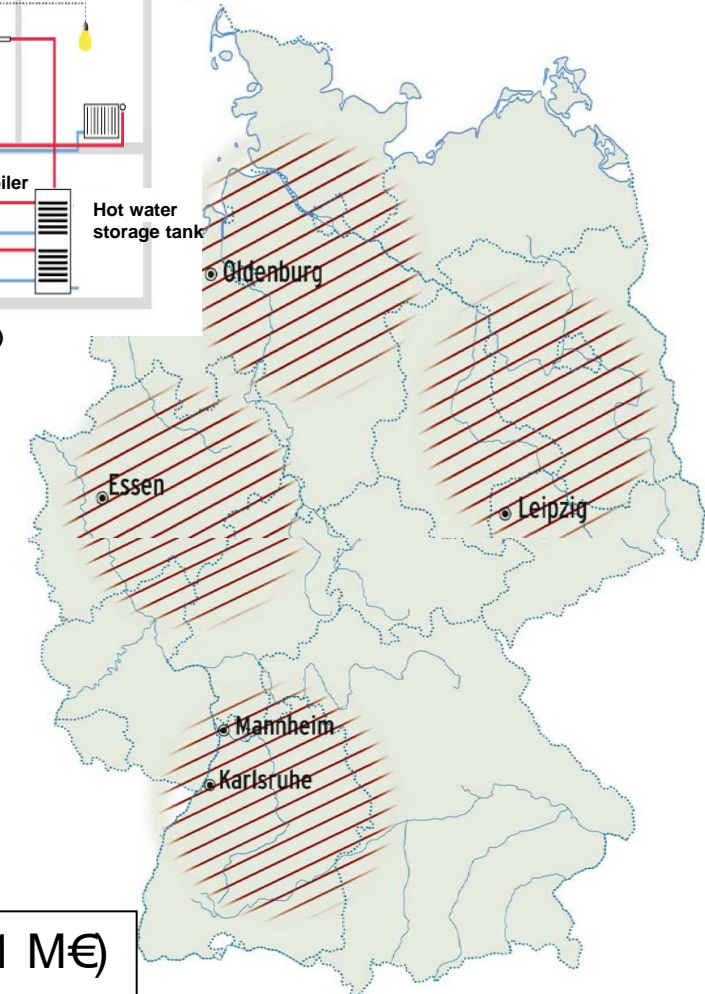
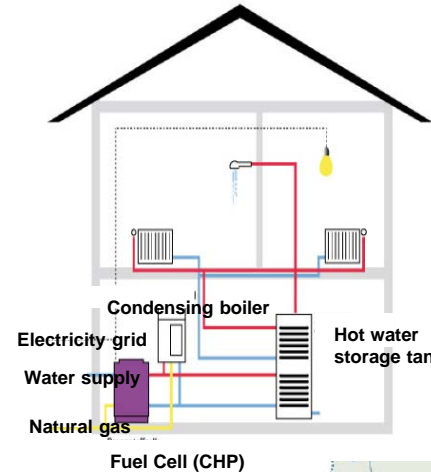
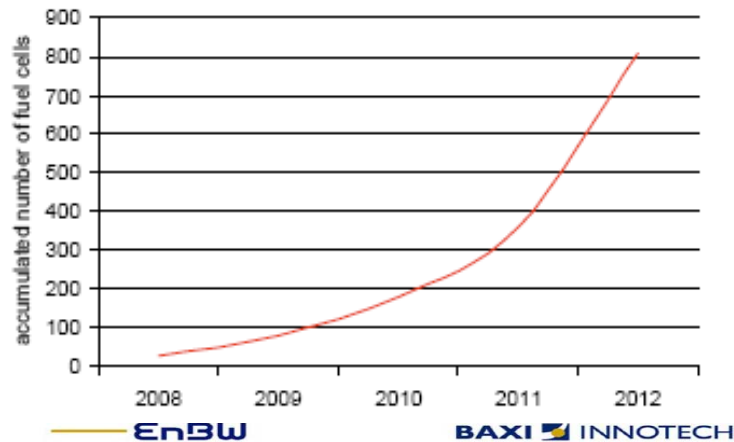


source: FES

Slide 59/82  
JESS 2 / 2012

# CALLUX Project: Field Testing Germany 2008-2012

## Scheduled number of fuel cells



e-on | Ruhrgas

HEXIS

EWE

Vaillant

MVV · Energie

ZSW

Verbundnetz  
Gas AG

Total budget 86 M€ (funding 41 M€)  
Total installations: >600



# CALLUX Project Installations



**BAXI PEFC**  
 $1 \text{ kW}_e / 1.7 \text{ kW}_{th}$   
 $\eta_{el} = 32\%$   
Integrated boiler



**HEXIS SOFC**  
 $1 \text{ kW}_e / 2 \text{ kW}_{th}$   
 $\eta_{el} = >30\%$   
Integrated boiler



**Vaillant SOFC**  
 $1 \text{ kW}_e / 1.7 \text{ kW}_{th}$   
 $\eta_{el} = 30\%$   
external boiler

# Japan: ENE FARM FC Demonstration



- subsidised residential systems, 700W
- original cost ~28 000 EUR (2.6 MYen)  
(~20% cost reduction to 2009), subsidy ~9 000 EUR
- 20 000 units to be sold in 2012, prevalently PEFC
- 10 year warranty, 80 000 hours lifetime (PEFC)
- 6 companies / development groups
- sales goal for 2030:  
2.5 Mio. units p.a.



Kyocera

Introduction



Nippon  
Oil



TOTO

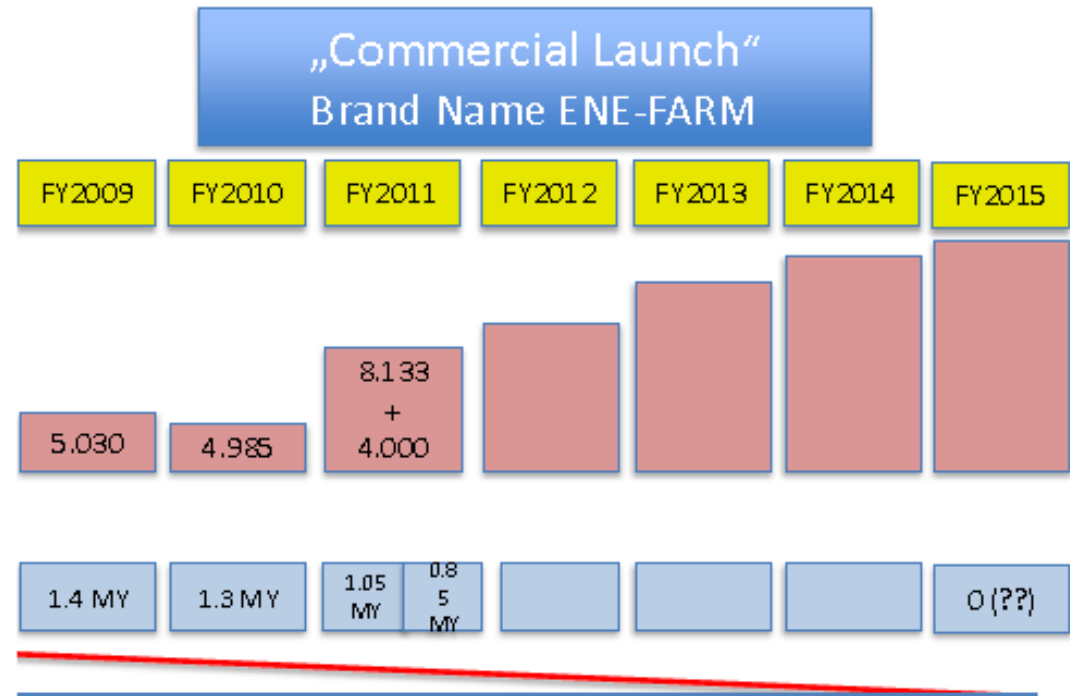
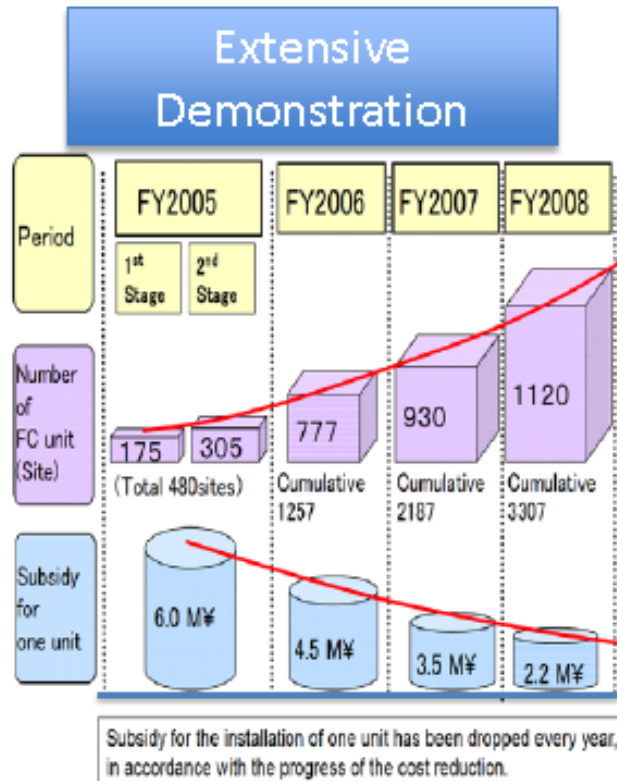
SOFC unit  
0.7kW



Toyota/Aisin

Hot Water  
Tank unit

# Japan: Installations & Subsidies Scheme





# Japan: Demo Requirements

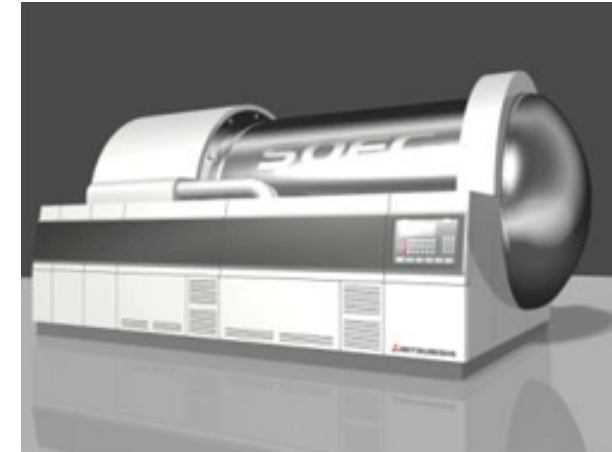
## PEFC

	2010	2015	2020	2030
Electric Efficiency (HHV/LHV)	33% / 37%	33% / 37%	33% / 37%	36% / 40%
Durability	40,000 hour	60,000 hour	90,000 hour	90,000 hour
System Cost / unit	2.0–2.5 Mil. Yen (19,000 Euro)	0.5–0.7 Mil. Yen (5,000 Euro)	0.4–0.5 Mil. Yen (3,750 Euro)	under 0.4 Mil. Yen (3,000 Euro)

## SOFC

	2010	2015–2020	2020–2030
Electric Efficiency (HHV/LHV)	40% / 45%	40% / 45%	50% / 55%
Durability	20,000–40,000 hour	40,000 hour	90,000 hour
System Cost / kW	9 Mil. Yen (75,000 Euro)	0.5–1.0 Mil. Yen (6,000 Euro)	under 0.4 Mil. Yen (3,000 Euro)

## Japan: Test Lab & 100 kW class CHP



Mitsubishi Heavy  
Industries  
system mock-up of  
prototype run in 2006,



# Direct Methanol Fuel Cells



Product SFC A50



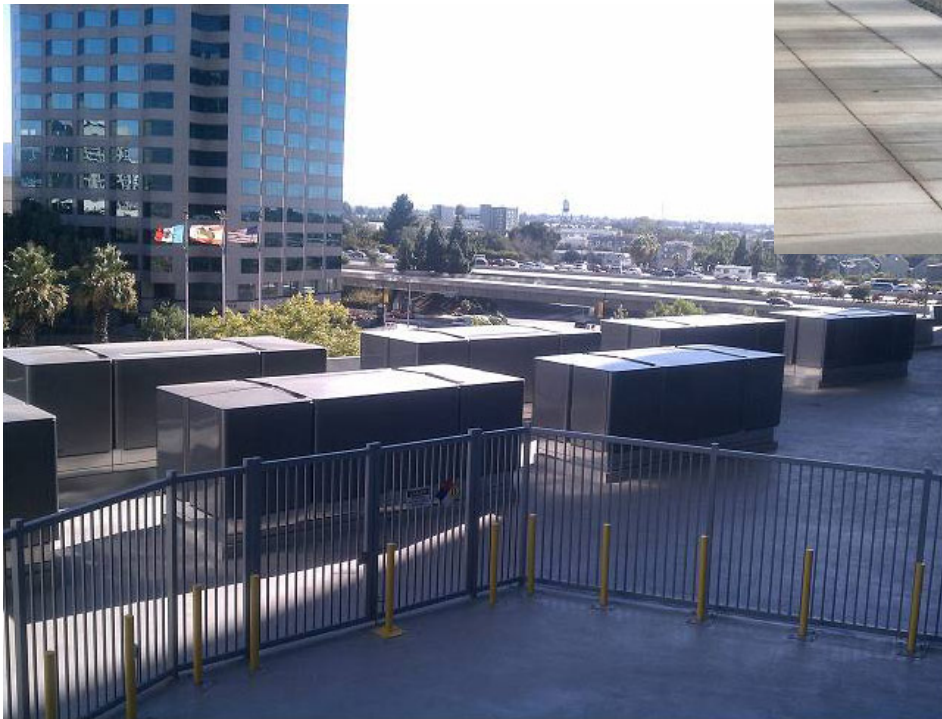
Product SFC A25





# Bloom Energy: Adobe, e-bay & Wal-Mart

- 100 kW units
- 70 installed (partly in 'clusters')
- decentralised electricity generation, grid stabilisation & backup
- partly running on bio-fuels







# Bringing Fuel Cells & Hydrogen to the Market(s)



# Fuel Cell Steps to Market Entry

Problem:

How to establish a new technology in an existing and well developed market?

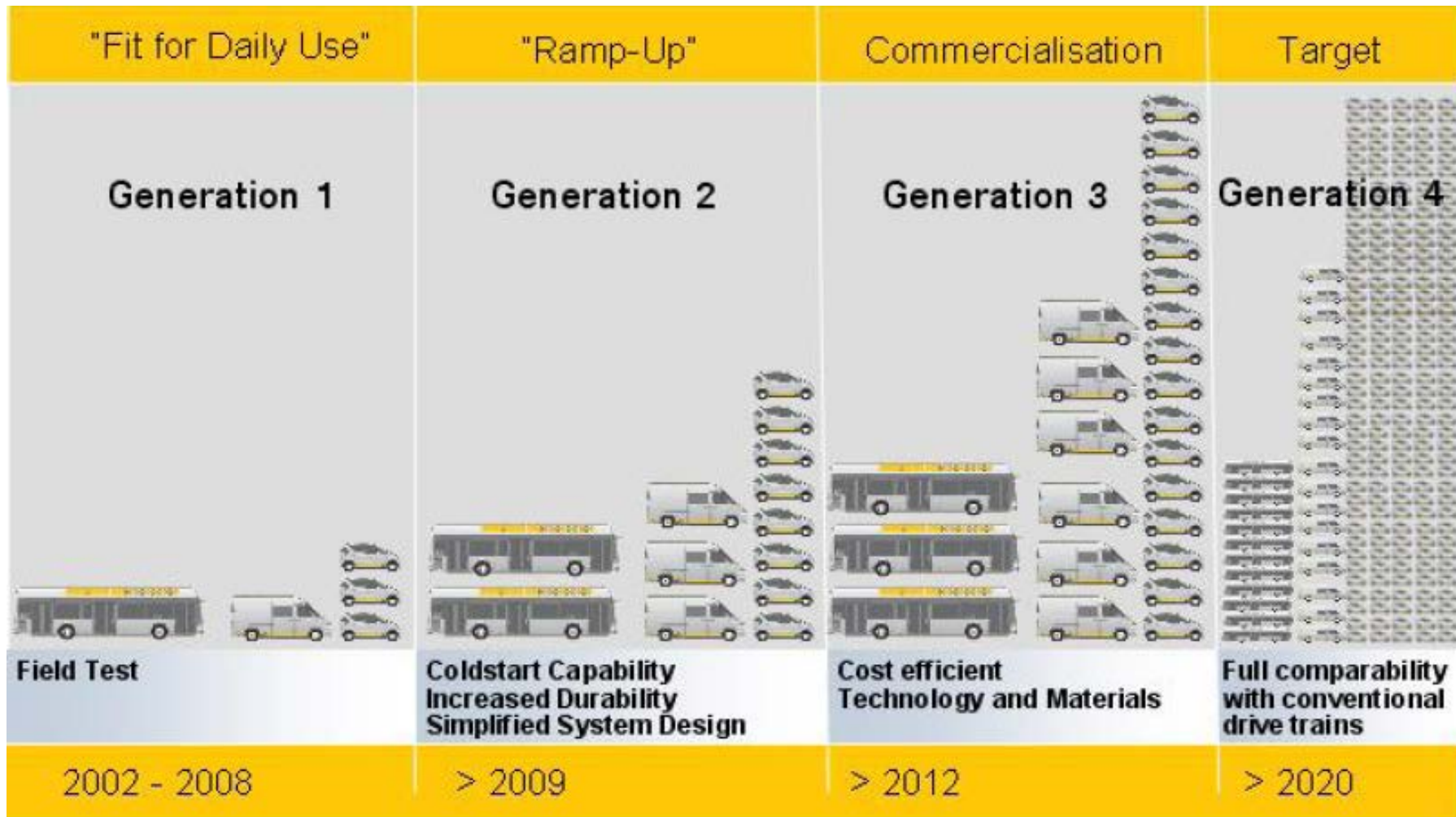
„Disruptive‘ technology versus continuous improvement of existing technology

Market entry costs

Customer attractivity (desireability)

Technological supremacy

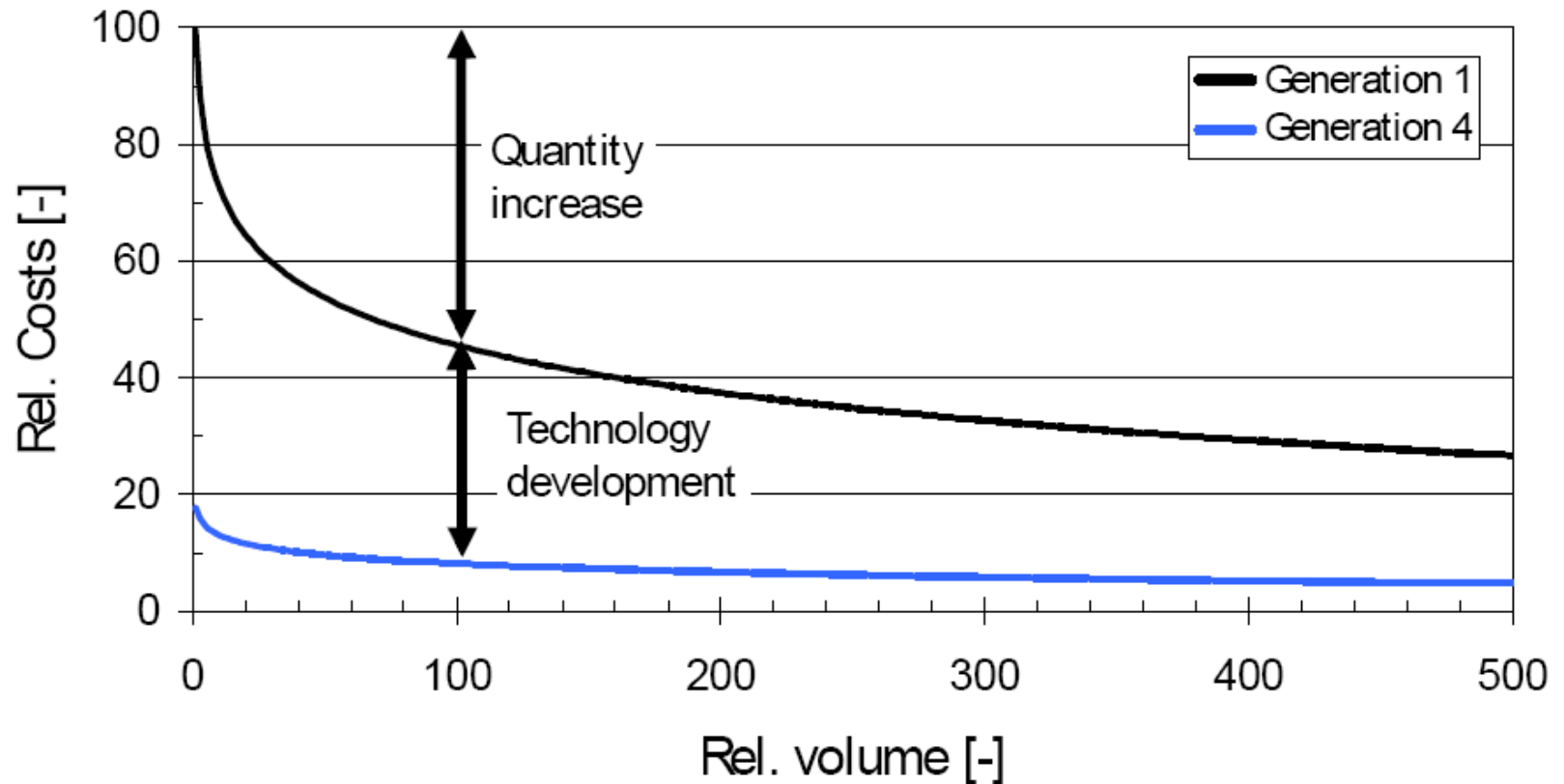
# Daimler Development Time Table



Source: Daimler, FCSEM 2007

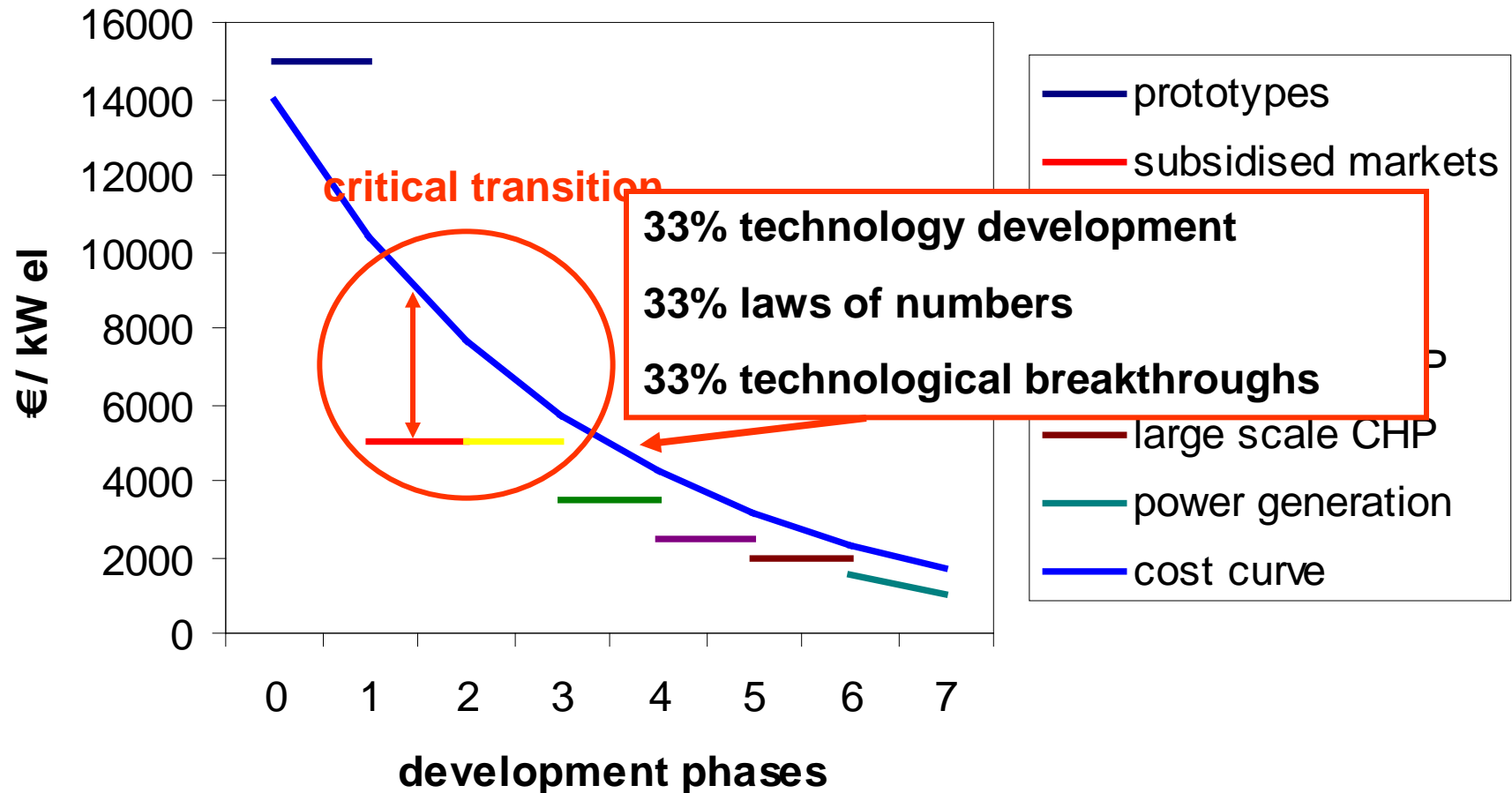


# Daimler Cost Learning Curve

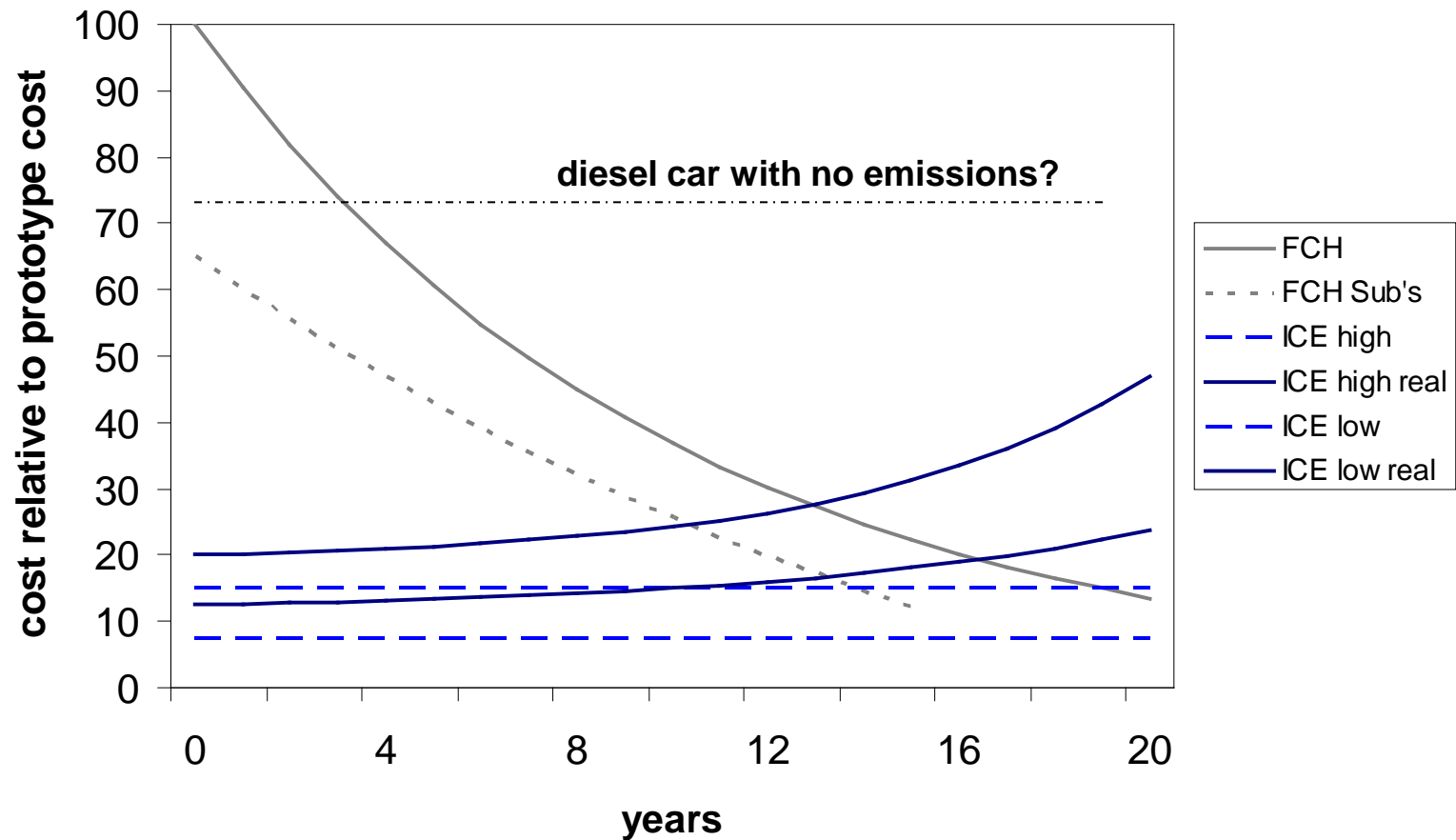


Source: Daimler, FCSem 2007

# Cost Development Curve vs. First Markets



# Cost Projections – Moving Targets



free market vs. regulatory vs. subsidy approach



# What Can We Learn From History?

New technologies have been permanently introduced to the markets with varying success. All the problems of costs and market introduction have existed before.

Examples:

mobile phones

mineral oil

photovoltaics

green electricity

unleaded fuel



# The Concept of 'Added Value'

Consumers will pay a price above the market price for a service or consumable, if they gain some additional performance compared to 'conventional' equipment.

This could be:

improved performance (power, size, other technical data)

improved handling

improved utilisability

prestige

fun & recreation



# Marketing Products: APU's for RV's

Pro

**HYMER**



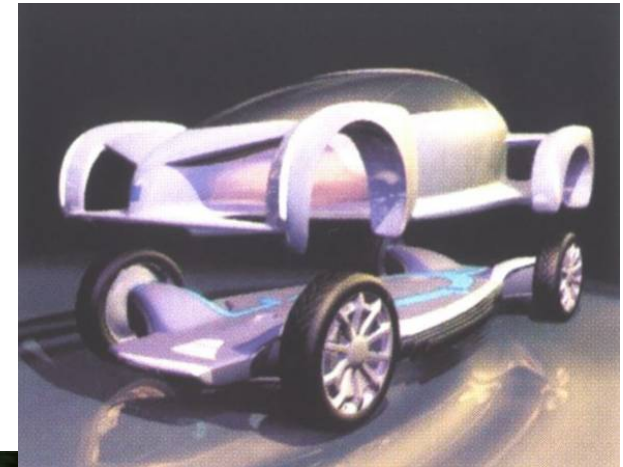


# Electric / Fuel Cell Vehicle Concepts

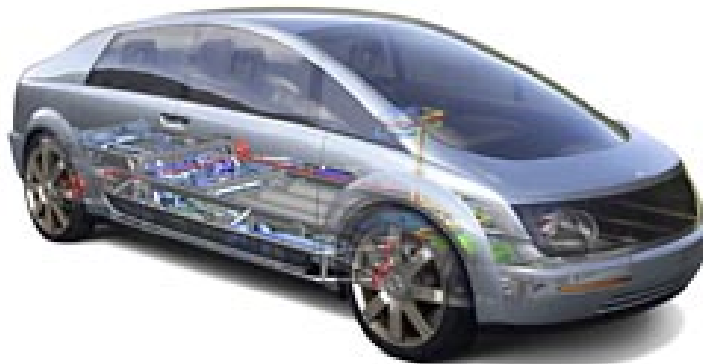
GM Autonomy  
concept



Toyota study



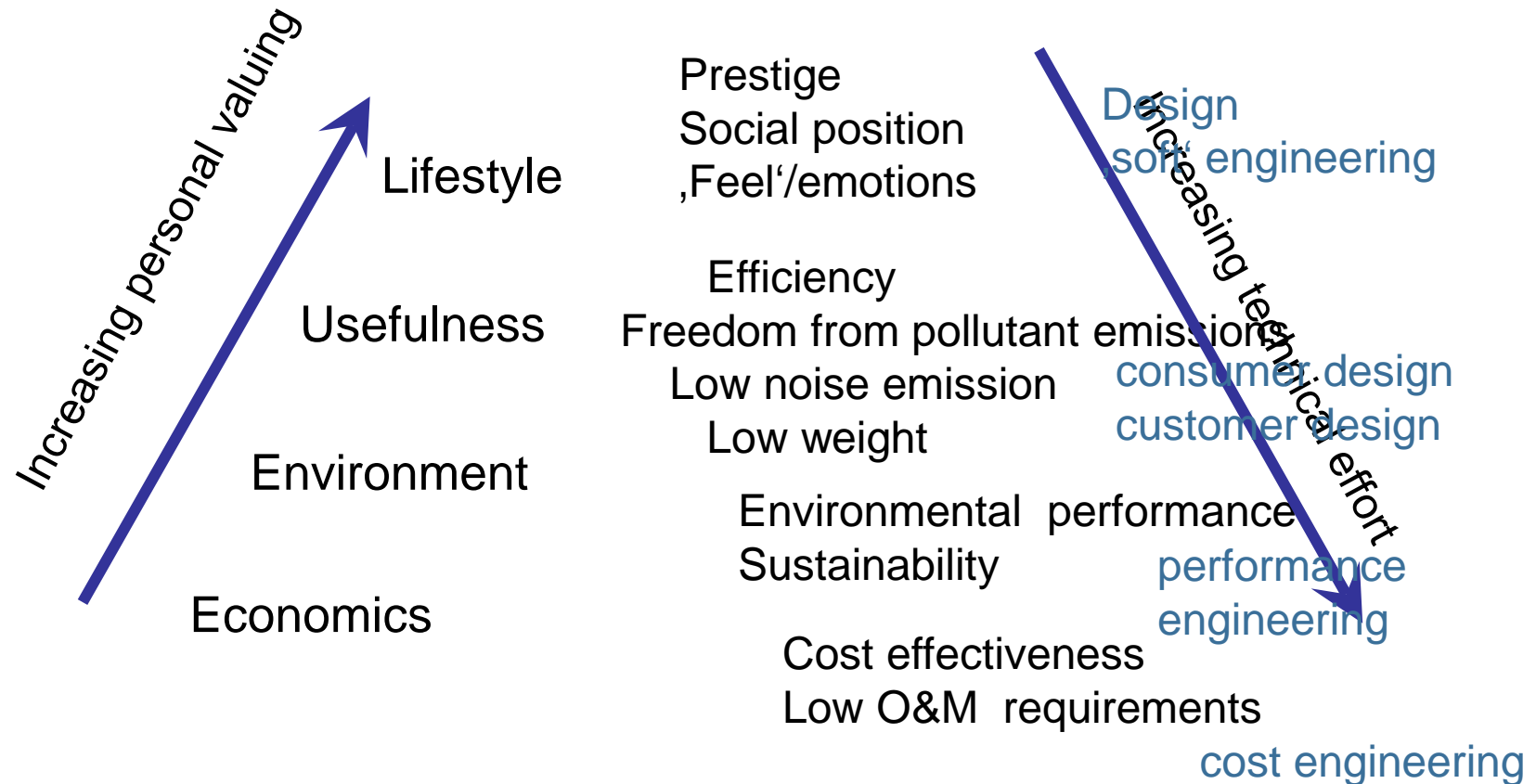
GM HyWire



Sources: various



# Engineer's Frustration Ahead .....





# Fuel Cells Will be Immediately Competitive When ....

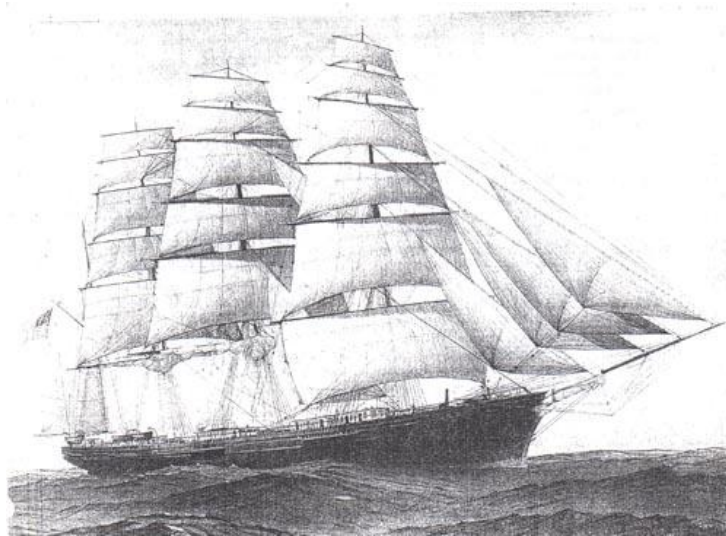
- carbon dioxide emissions are taxed
- fossil energy resources are depleted
- energy inefficiency is taxed (or constrained)
- hydrogen becomes abundant

or

- harmful emissions are considered vile by society
- noiseless and exhaust-free operation becomes desirable
- they supply power for otherwise unserved locations
- they are ,in‘



# The Sailing Ship Effect



The advent of the steam ship in the early 19th century spurred new developments in sailing ship technology



# Safety surprises ...



Photo 8 - Time: 2 min, 40 sec - Driver's side rear tire rupture sends debris out the passenger side of the vehicle.

Photographs courtesy of Swain, U Miami



**Thanks for your Attention!**

**Any Questions?**