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Hydrogen Production and Delivery Analysis

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Project Goal

- Conduct **technoeconomic analysis** to evaluate the cost to produce H₂ (\$/kg) through **various technological production pathways** (i.e. electrolysis or photoelectrochemical water splitting) by using Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA), heat & mass balance, and **H2 Analysis (H2A) models**.
- **Estimate the cost of H₂** based on state-of-the-art technology at distributed and **central production facilities** (1.5-50 tons per day) and **measure the cost impact** of technological improvements in $H₂$ production technologies.
- Evaluate the **cost drivers** and **recommend** to DOE **the technical areas needing improvement** for each technology.

Overview

Timeline

- \blacksquare Project start date: 10/1/2016
- Project end date: 9/30/2021
- Percent complete: ~90% of project

Budget

- Total Funding Spent
	- \sim \$780K SA (though Mar 2021)
- Total DOE Project Value:
	- \cdot ~\$900k SA
- Cost Share Percentage: 0% (not required for analysis projects)

Barriers

- Hydrogen (H_2) Generation by Water Electrolysis
	- **F: Capital Cost**
	- G: System Efficiency and Electricity Cost
	- K: Manufacturing

Partners

- **National Renewable Energy** Laboratory (NREL)
- **Argonne National** Laboratory (ANL)

Collaborators (unpaid)

■ 7 Electrolyzer companies and research groups (names not included in public documents)

Relevance and Impact Relevance and Potential Impact

- **Investigates production and delivery pathways selected/suggested by DOE that are relevant, timely, and of value to FCTO.**
- Supports selection of portfolio priorities through evaluations of **technical progress and hydrogen cost status.**
- **Provides complete pathway definition, performance, and economic analysis not elsewhere available.**
- **Provides analysis that is transparent, detailed, and made publicly available to the technical community.**
- **Results of analysis:**
	- **Identifies cost drivers**
	- **Assesses technology status**
	- Provides information to DOE to help guide R&D direction

Selection of Relevance and Potential Impact H₂ Production & Delivery Cases

- DOE selects cases that support the FCTO development mission
	- Advanced Water Splitting
	- Biomass-based processes
	- Waste recovery to $H₂$ processes
- Cases selected based on:
	- Highest priority cases with direct application to FCTO mission
	- Data availability
	- Ability to assist studies in providing relevant cost estimates
		- Beneficial for cases without cost estimates
		- Provide assistance for proper development of H2A cases

Approach **Electrolyzer Water Splitting Technology**

Project Objective

Conduct technoeconomic analyses of various methods of water splitting:

- 1,500 kg H₂/day distributed sites
- 50,000 kg H_2/day production sites (sometime larger systems)
- Two technology levels analyzed
	- Current: current technology at high-manufacturing rate
	- Future: future technology (2035) at high-manufacturing rate

Approach to data collection

- **Surveyed industry & research groups for key technical & cost parameters**
	- Data response was limited for some parameters which often left insufficient data for statistical analysis
	- Compared with previously modeled system H2A values and previous survey data
	- Various Responses received for each technology

• **Developed technical and cost parameters from multiple sources**

- Interview/Questionnaire responses Techno-economic system analysis based on PFD (incl. DFMA)
-
- Literature review **EXACCO FINCH COLL** Exarning Curves (for comparison to reported parameter values)
- Price quotes

Accomplishments and Progress **Preliminary AEM Electrolysis System Definition**

AEM Electrolysis Process Flow Diagram Recent AEM Advances

- Commercialized Enapter Systems
	- Commercial production of 1 kgH₂/day stacks:
		- approx. 23 cells, 125cm² active area
		- 500 NL/h, 2.2 kW, implies 1.82V/cell
	- Operation with 1M KOH
	- Non-PGM catalyst
	- Claimed 30kh lifetime and 0.25%/kh degradation rate (implies 5mV/kh @ constant current))
- Most research is focused on pure-water AEM systems
	- – Focus on advanced performance, durable membranes (>1A/cm2 current density at 1.8V/cell and 15mV/kh degradation)
	- Near-term advances to be expected
	- Maintenance advantage of pure water (no alkaline

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

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Preliminary AEM Electrolysis System Definition

AEM Key Technical and Cost Parameters (Distributed)

"Costs" are actually prices to H2 production facility. All dollar values are 2016\$. All kW are DC input to the stack.

9 **AEM Current Case is being revised to reflect recent advances.**

Preliminary AEM Performance Estimates

- Current System is being re-evaluated in light of recent advances.
- Future and Far-Future Cases based on pure-water AEM operation at pressure

AEM Far-Future Distributed

- Basic polarization curves postulated for each system for BOL and EOL
	- Current density/voltage parametrically varied within H2A model to determine operating point yielding lowest cost $H₂$
		- size (cost) and electricity usage This is a tradeoff between stack (cost)
- For projected sets of assumptions, cost-optimized operating point are:
	- Future:
		- \cdot 0.82A/cm² at 1.73V/cell
	- Far-Future:
		- 0.87A/cm2 at 1.64V/cell

AEM Future Distributed **AEM Future Distributed**

Approach: STCH Techno-economic analysis

Conceptual STCH platform used as a reference for techno-economic inputs

- ➢ Boundary case focusses on two aspects of solar-hydrogen production: 1) solar energy collection & 2) thermal-hydrogen conversion
- \triangleright An analysis gap is that without a working material specified, other system aspects cannot be definitively conceived
- \triangleright A general analysis approach was developed for the flexibility of assessing material candidates that are under development

- Sandia National Laboratory's CPR2 configuration
- University of Colorado's fluidized bed reactor
- NREL's planar-cavity receiver concept

Accomplishments and Progress \equiv 24% projected capital cost reduction lowers \$/kgH₂ estimate

Approach

Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting

• Four Types of PEC Considered: Two selected for investigation by DOE

- Type II: Particulate Bag System nanoparticle catalysts contained in a HDPE bag
	- HER and OER reactions occur in separate HDPE bags connected via ion bridges
- Type IV: Concentrated PV Panel A PEC receiver contained in a water/electrolyte with concentrating solar panels

13 **Advanced "baggie-on-baggie" Type II PEC concept is being modeled.**

Type II PEC Material Fabrication Accomplishments and Progress

- Nano-particle materials development is an active area of investigation, so cost approach is chosen for flexibility
- Solvothermal and hydrothermal are scalable synthesis pathways for bulk production of doped metal oxides
- Other pathways (e.g vapor deposition, pyrolysis, etc.) and coating options should be addressed as needed

Approach: analysis of potential raw material & syn. costs to assess cost range of nano-particles

Approach

Type II PEC Alternative Physical Designs/Structures Under Consideration

C: Flexible Tube Design

 $O₂$

D: Flexible D-Tube Design

 $H₂$

HER

Tube

- Working with UC Irvine and Univ. of Michigan to evaluate the feasibility of each design:
	- intermediaries The required ion bridge area and material for sufficient transfer of H+ ions and redox shuttle
	- • Passive mixing for greater number of reactions
	- • Light scattering and energy losses within the system

Manufact. & Assembly in Field for Flexible Tube Design (C)

1. Hot press flexible sheets together on long edges to form flexible tubes and roll

OER

- 2. Unroll tubes on bottom tarp and fasten to outer bed header and footer
- 3. Attach transparent cover to outer bed
- 4. Fill tubes and outer bed with electrolyte and water

15 Further Type II PEC concepts focus of discussions with UC-Irvine/Univ. of Michigan Research Teams

Preliminary Technical Specifications

- **PEC Operation is water splitting with direct solar energy**
	- Solar insolation rates are used to calculate the amount of active material needed
- – Separated Hydrogen Evolution Reaction (HER) and Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER)
• Separate Hydrogen and Oxygen beds in PEC Type II systems
	-
	- electrode in PEC Type IV System
- PEC typically has solar-to-hydrogen energy conversions below 20%
- A modular PEC design is envisioned in this analysis
	- Each module has a capacity of 1,000 kgH₂/day
	- $-$ Multiple modules strung together to reach desired H₂ production
- Preliminary system specs shown in tables to right

Module FTE =
$$
\frac{0.016 FTE}{1000 m^2}
$$
(Total Land Required) +
$$
\frac{3 FTE}{50 TPD}
$$
(Total Facility H2 Production)

Accomplishments and Progress

PEC Sensitivity Analysis

PEC Type II

• Case study suggests that the STH efficiency must be >6.5% with a particle lifetime of >1 years to achieve a target hydrogen price of \$2/kg

PEC Type IV

 STH efficiency >40% and will need the • Case study suggests that achieving a cost target of \$2/kg H2 will require an right combination of PEC material cost, lifetime, and concentration ratio

Conclusions, Remaining Challenges and Barriers

• **AEM Systems**

- – AEM systems are promising for their potential for non-PGM catalysts, low membrane cost, and use of stainless components (i.e. Titanium is not required)
	- They are currently divided into two categories
		- Supporting-electrolyte system (such as KOH) characterized by:
			- » improved durability, (currently) poor current density, and higher maintenance-cost/inconvenience due to the presence of an alkaline solution
		- Pure Water systems are characterized by:
			- » poor membrane stability but are an active research area with focus on the advanced membranes and non-PGM/low-PGM catalysts to improve performance and durability
- $-$ TEA analysis shows that due to lower \$/cm² stack costs, AEM can be operated at lower cell voltages (than PEM) to achieve higher efficiency

• **STCH**

- STCH system projections show reduced capital costs compared to the 2012 STCH analysis. This results in lower total H₂ cost (previously \$3.87/kgH₂, now \$2.54/kgH₂)
- System design for STCH pathway is difficult to define if working material is not clearly specified.
- **PEC**
	- PEC Type II (nano-particle) material durability remains a key challenge although starting material and material synthesis costs are not likely to be key cost drivers.

Response to 2019 AMR Reviewer Comments

- "The project team should evaluate more scalable systems for water splitting, such as particle-based systems and possibly PEC."
	- Response: PEC Type II system is currently under evaluation
- drive further research and development in the science and engineering communities." • "The project team should consider ways in which the results from these studies could affect and
	- Response: The team considers the impacts and seeks feedback on areas of interest from the R&D community such as through the DOE Water splitting workshop (March 2021).

Proposed Future Work Future Work Future Work

• **Complete AEM Analysis**

- System Cost analysis
	- Explore cost of the supporting-electrolyte in light of recent advances by Enapter
	- Preliminary cost results and sensitivity analysis to be reviewed by University of Delaware, NREL, & LANL
- Publish H2A Results in Case Study DOE Record

• **Publish STCH H2A Cost Results (based on NREL analysis)**

– H2A Documentation currently under final review for publication

• **Complete PEC H2A analysis**

- System Cost analysis
	- Continue dialog with UC Irvine and University of Michigan to refine Type II system design
	- Obtain feedback on final PEC material choice for Type II and IV
- Refine capital cost with feedback from researchers
- Conduct sensitivity analysis
- Publish H2A Results in Case Study DOE Record

Any proposed future work is subject to change based on funding levels.

Collaborations

Collaborators

Summary

• **Overview**

– Conduct technoeconomic analyses for various hydrogen production technologies

• **Relevance**

- Improve analysis models and increase understanding of areas demonstrating information deficiencies
- Technoeconomic analysis for $H₂$ Production:
	- Defines a complete production and delivery pathway
	- Identifies key cost-drivers and helps focus research on topics that will lower cost
	- Generates transparent documentation available to the community with relevant data for improved collaboration

• **Approach**

- Utilize various cost analysis methods for determining system cost: DFMA® and H2A
- Collaborate with NREL, ANL, DOE, and tech experts to model SOA and future systems

• **Accomplishments**

- H2A Model and Case Study Updates
- Analyzed three production system (AEM, STCH, PEC)

Technical Backup and Additional Information Slides

Technology Transfer Activities

Technology transfer does not apply to this analysis-type project

Progress Toward DOE Targets or Milestones

Accomplishments: TEA Comparison for STCH

- Sensitivity analysis of potential STCH material effects shows productivity and lifetime are more important than cost (material and heliostat) and Solar-to-H2 efficiency.
- Water recovery, usage, and cost also important factors

Preliminary System Model

Central system with multiple 1 tpd modules.

Optimal size of Central system to be determined (considering 10-50 tpd)

Hourly Refracted Irradiance - Horizontal + Window NREL Solar Radiation Data Manual, and SOLPOS Program

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Aspen Simulation Model for sizing/costing BOP Accomplishments and Progress **components for PEC Type IV**

Table of PEC II System Materials

Table of PEC II System Concepts

Publications and Presentations

- 1. Peterson, D., Vickers, J., DeSantis, D., "Hydrogen Production Cost From High Temperature Electrolysis – 2020", DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program Record # 20006, September 2020. <https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/pdfs/20006-production-cost-high-temperature-electrolysis.pdf>
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