



UiO : **Department of Chemistry**  
University of Oslo

16th Asian SSI, 19th National SSI, 5th Asian SOFC  
Shanghai, August, 2018

## Proton ceramic cells for fuel cells, electrolyzers, and natural gas conversion

Truls Norby

*This work has received funding from the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreements No 779486/GAMER and 621244/ELECTRA. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, Hydrogen Europe and Hydrogen Europe research.*



Thanks to colleagues at CoorsTek MS AS,  
SINTEF, ITQ Valencia, CRI, Abengoa  
Hidrogeno, and UiO

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OF OSLO

Centre for Materials Science  
and Nanotechnology (SMN)



FERMiO  
Oslo Science Park



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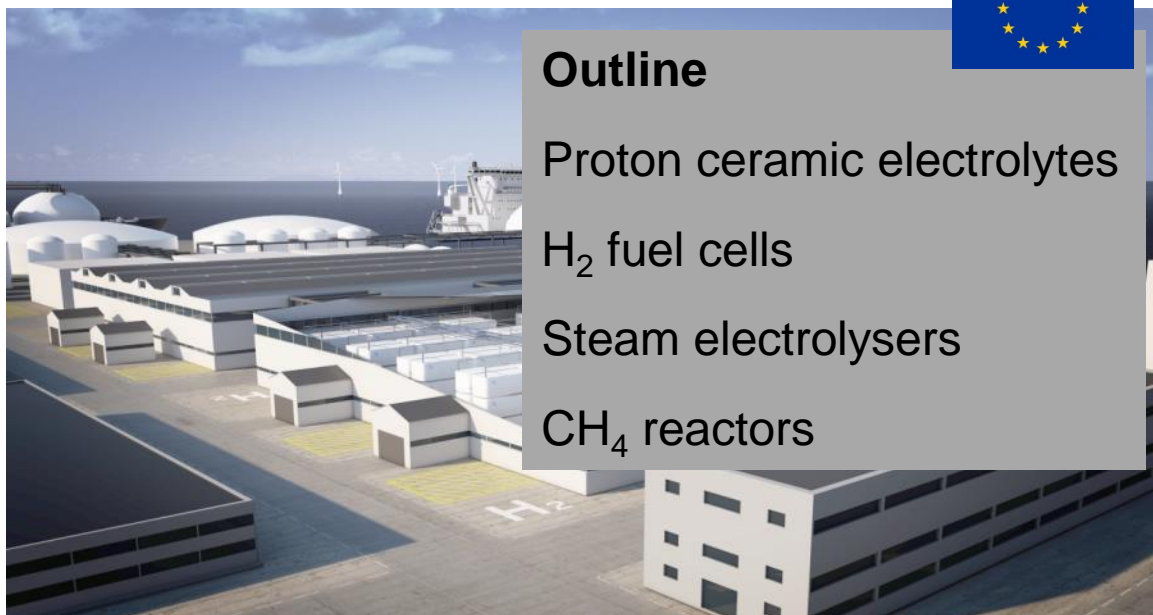
### Outline

Proton ceramic electrolytes

H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells

Steam electrolyzers

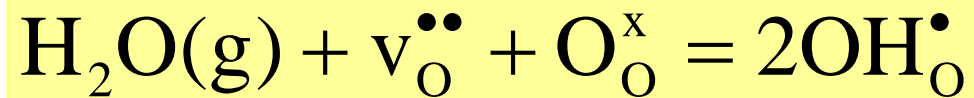
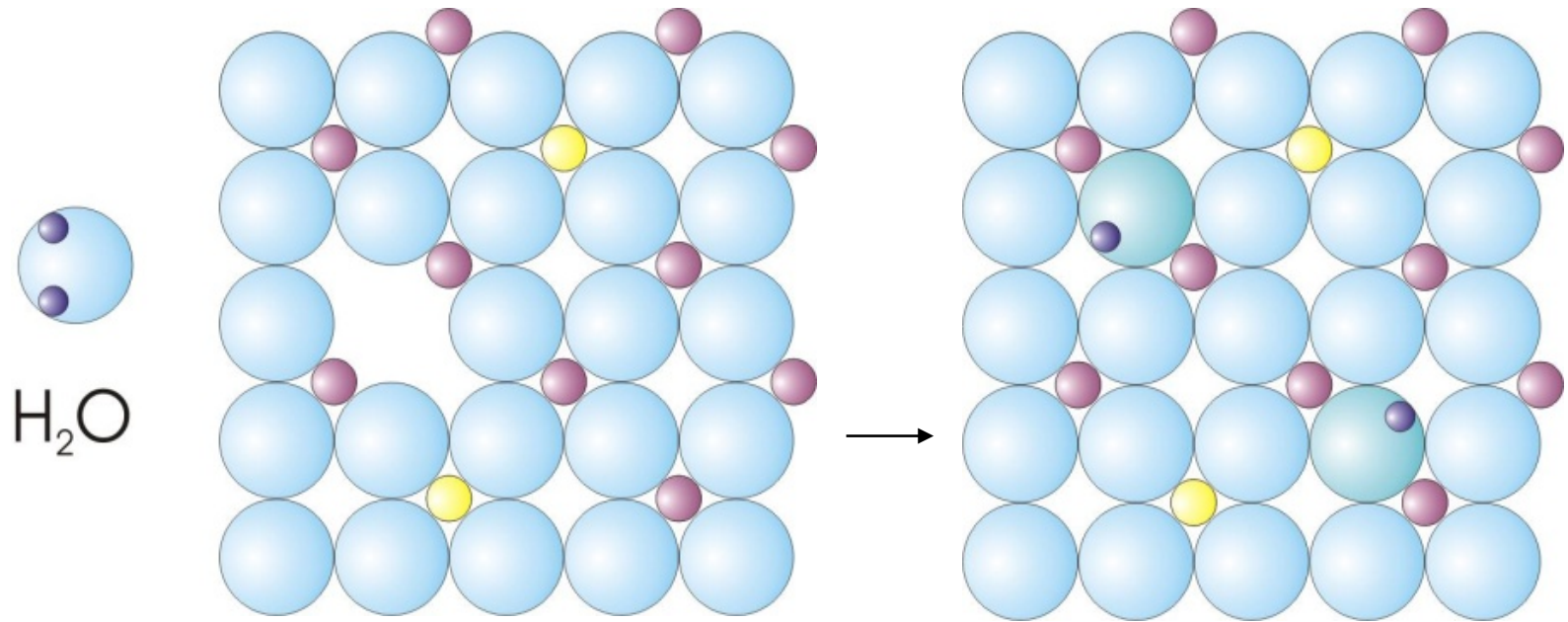
CH<sub>4</sub> reactors



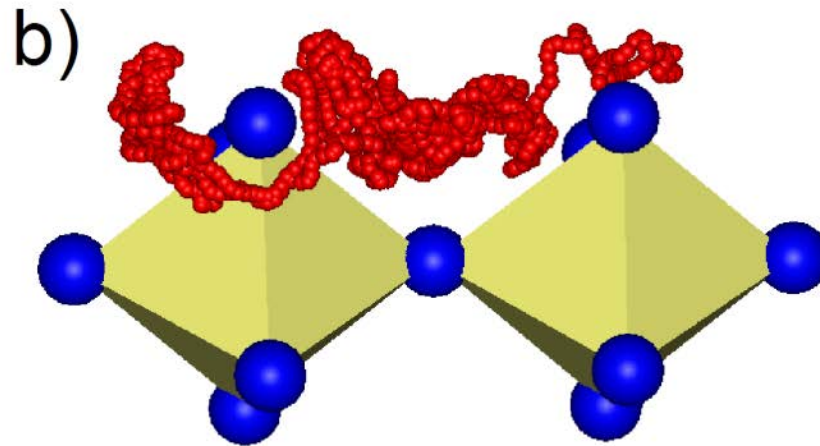
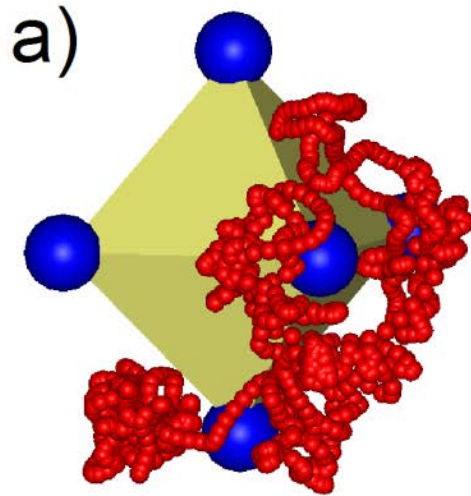
# Proton ceramic electrolyte



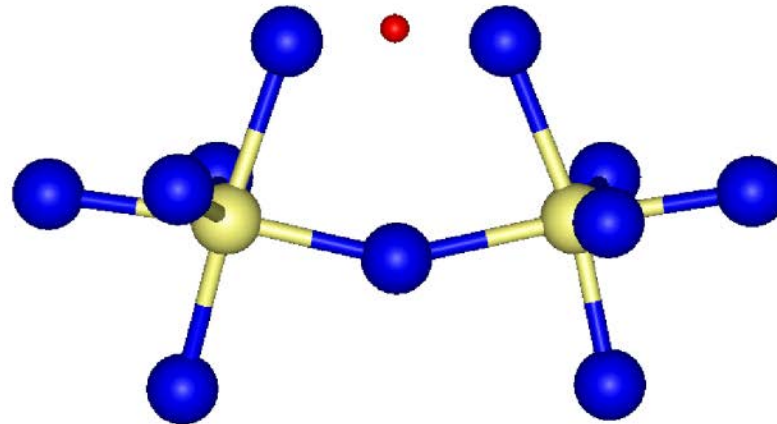
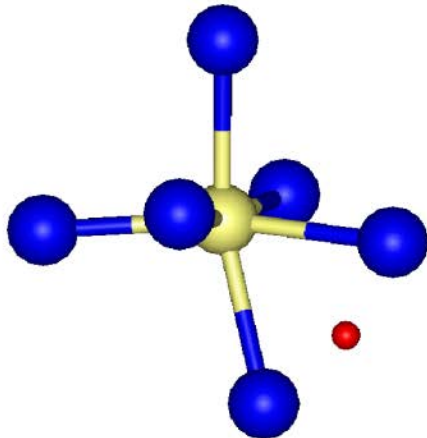
# Proton conducting oxides by hydration of oxygen vacancies



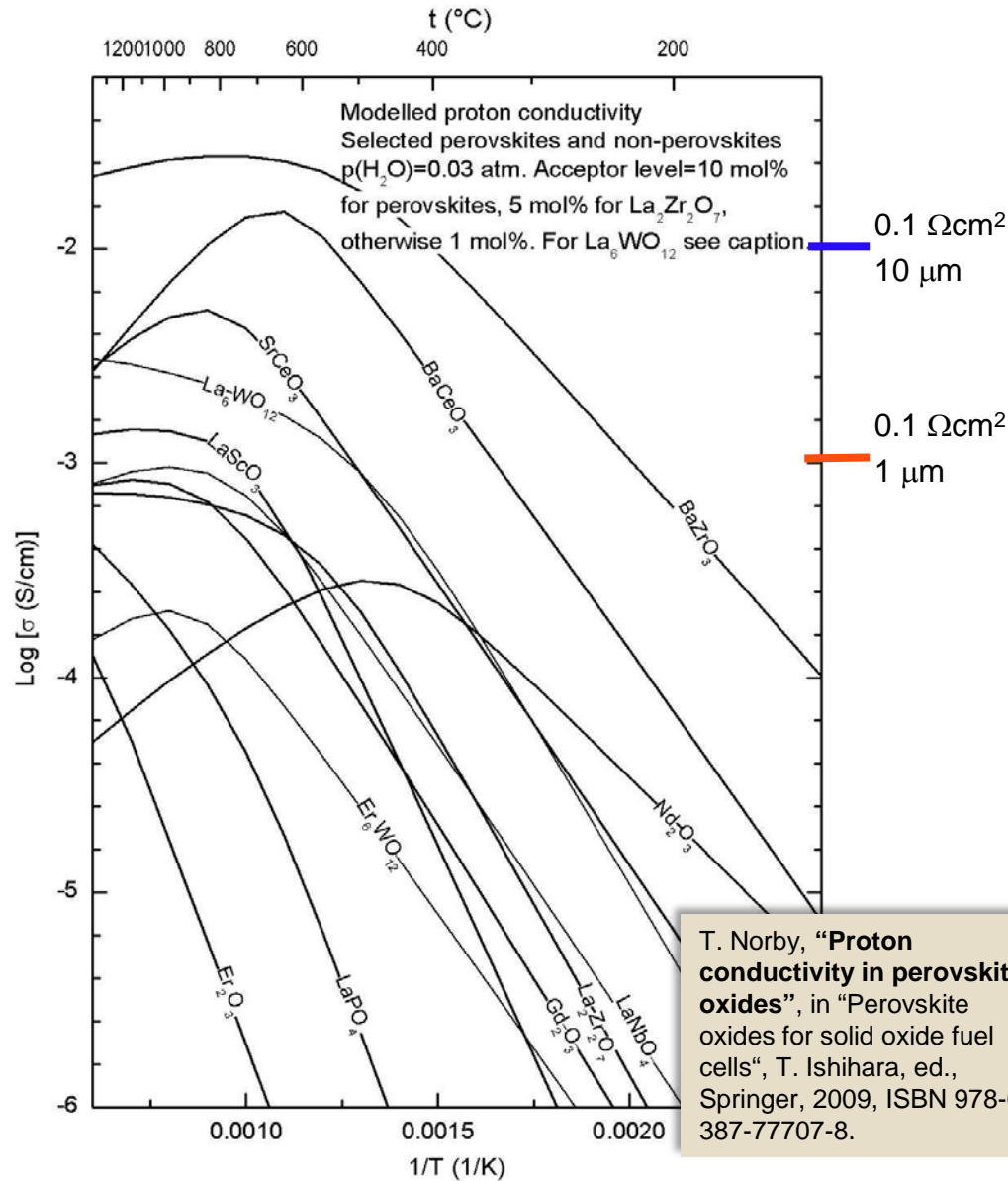
# Protons transport: rotation and hydrogen bond jumps



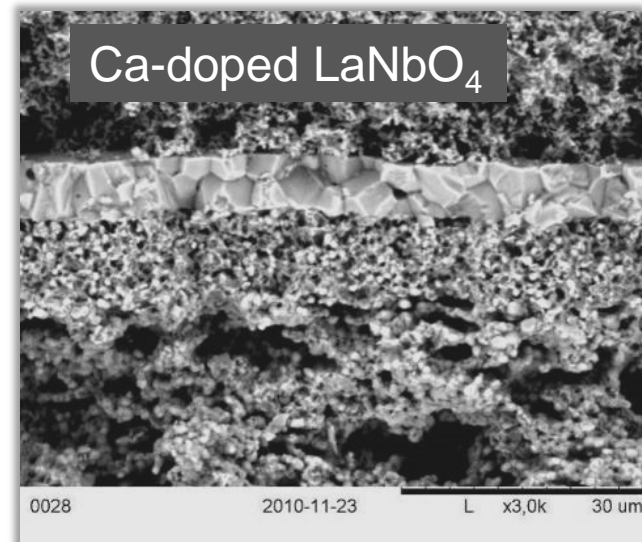
From K.-D. Kreuer, 2008



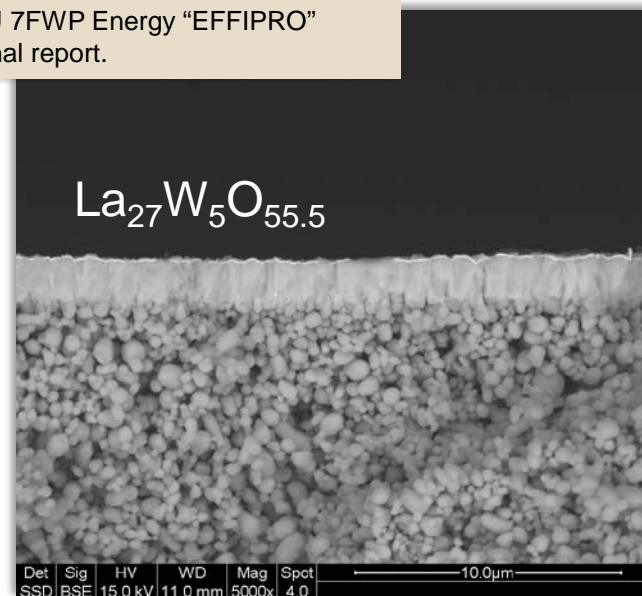
# Proton conductivity in acceptor-doped oxides



T. Norby, "Proton conductivity in perovskite oxides", in "Perovskite oxides for solid oxide fuel cells", T. Ishihara, ed., Springer, 2009, ISBN 978-0-387-77707-8.

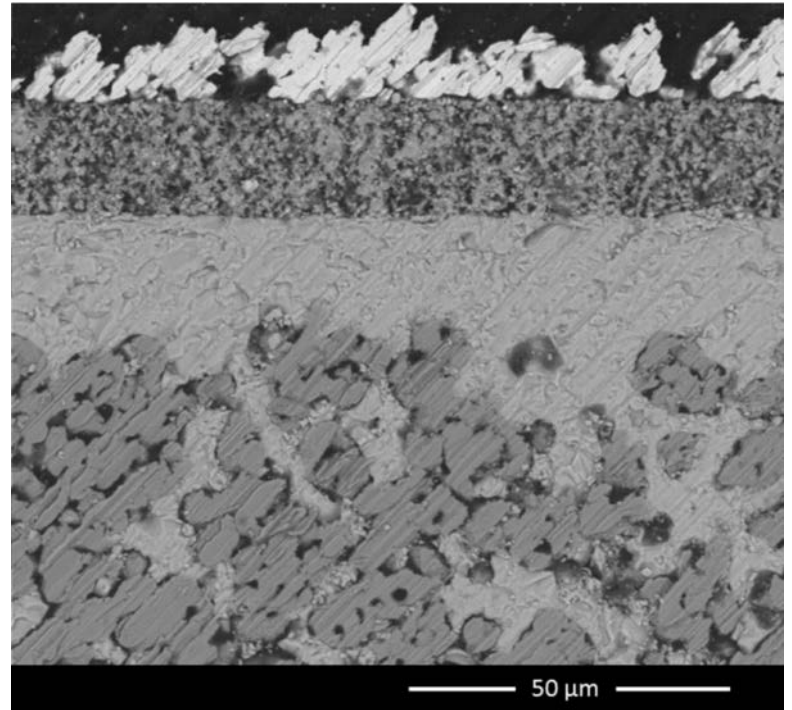


EU 7FWP Energy "EFFIPRO"  
Final report.



# BaZrO<sub>3</sub> vs ZrO<sub>2</sub>

- One more cation
  - Higher reactivity with electrodes, interconnects, seals
- Basic
  - Reactivity with CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Higher p-type electronic conductivity
- Dehydration
  - Maximum in proton conductivity
  - Oxide ion conductivity («co-ionic»)
  - Chemical expansion
- High sintering temperature
  - Add Ce and sintering aids. SSRS.
  - Evaporation of Ba
- Interfaces highly charged
  - Resistive grain boundaries
  - Space charge related electrode impedances?
- No good mixed protonic electronic mixed conductors (MPECs)?



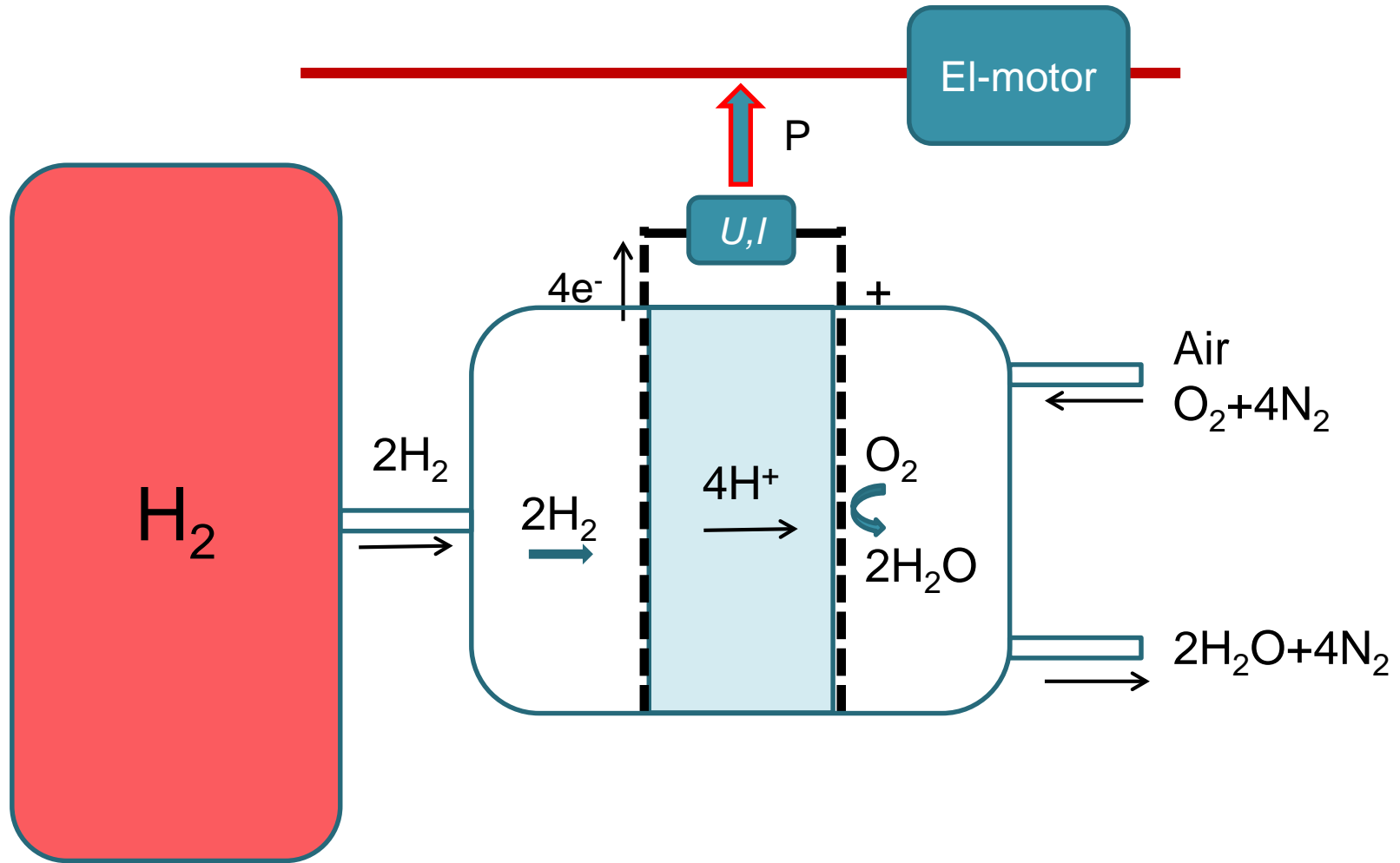
Proton ceramic fuel cells (PCFCs)

and

Proton ceramic electrolyzers (PCEs)

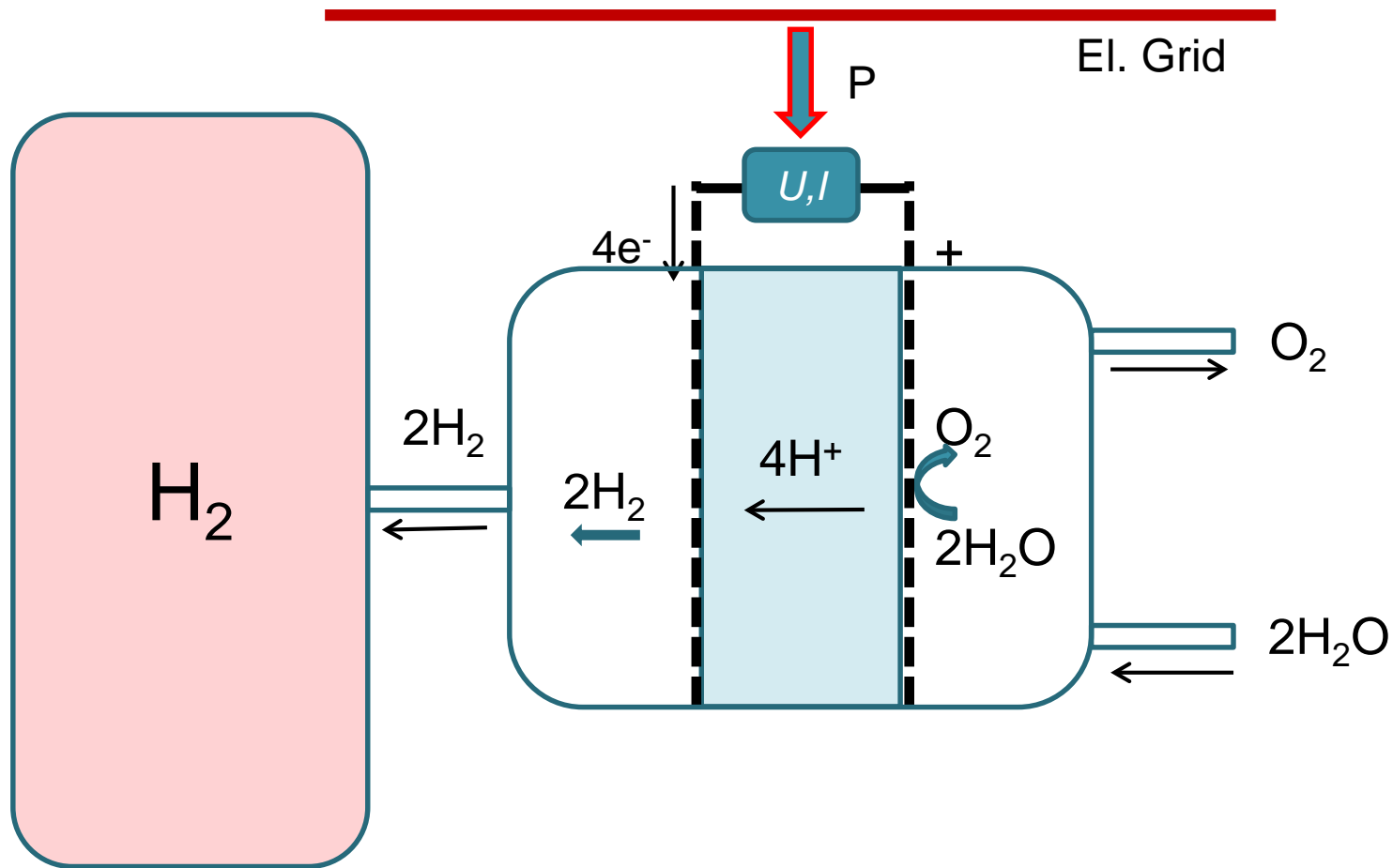


# Fuel cell





# Electrolyser and electrochemical compressor



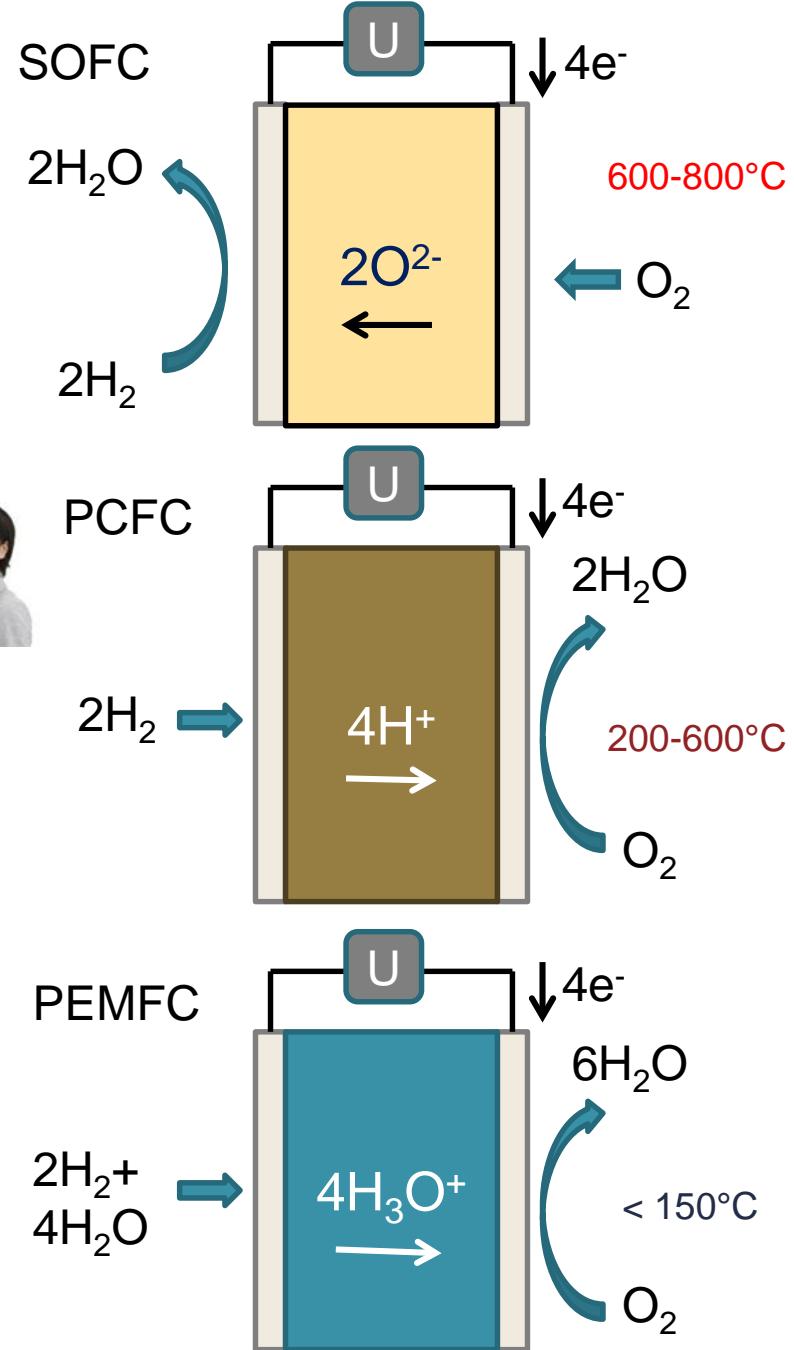
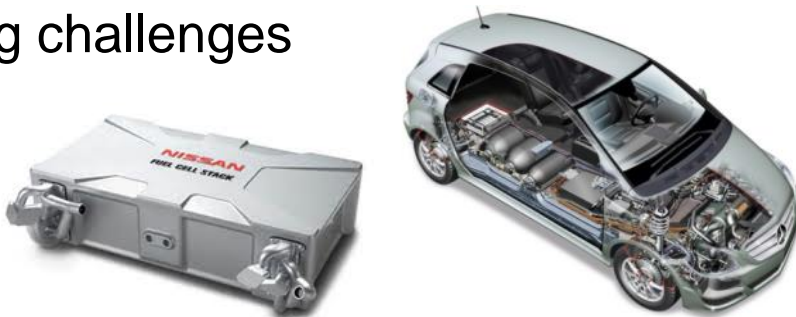
# Solid-state fuel cells

- Examples with  $H_2$  as fuel
- SOFC: High T, low fuel utilisation, anode oxidation



- PCFC: Intermediate T, high fuel utilisation

- PEMFC: Low T, water management, cooling challenges



# Some recent progress in PCFCs

- O'Hayre's group: Facile production and high performance

- Solid State Reactive Co-Sintering
- «Triple Conducting Oxide (TCO)» cathode

C. Duan *et al.*, *Science* (2015) 349, 6254, 1321-1326

- Haile's group: High performance PCFC cathode

- New perovskite formulation for enhanced MIEC (MPEC)
- Improved deposition and microstructure

C. Choi *et al.*, *Nature Energy* (2018). DOI: [10.1038/s41560-017-0085-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-017-0085-9)

- Merkle/Maier: Better cathodes - new understanding

- Model for interaction between holes  $h^+$  and protons  $H^+$
- $Zn^{2+}$  substitution on perovskite B site

R. Zohourian *et al.*, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2018**, 1801241

- O'Hayre's group: PCFCs for hydrocarbon fuels

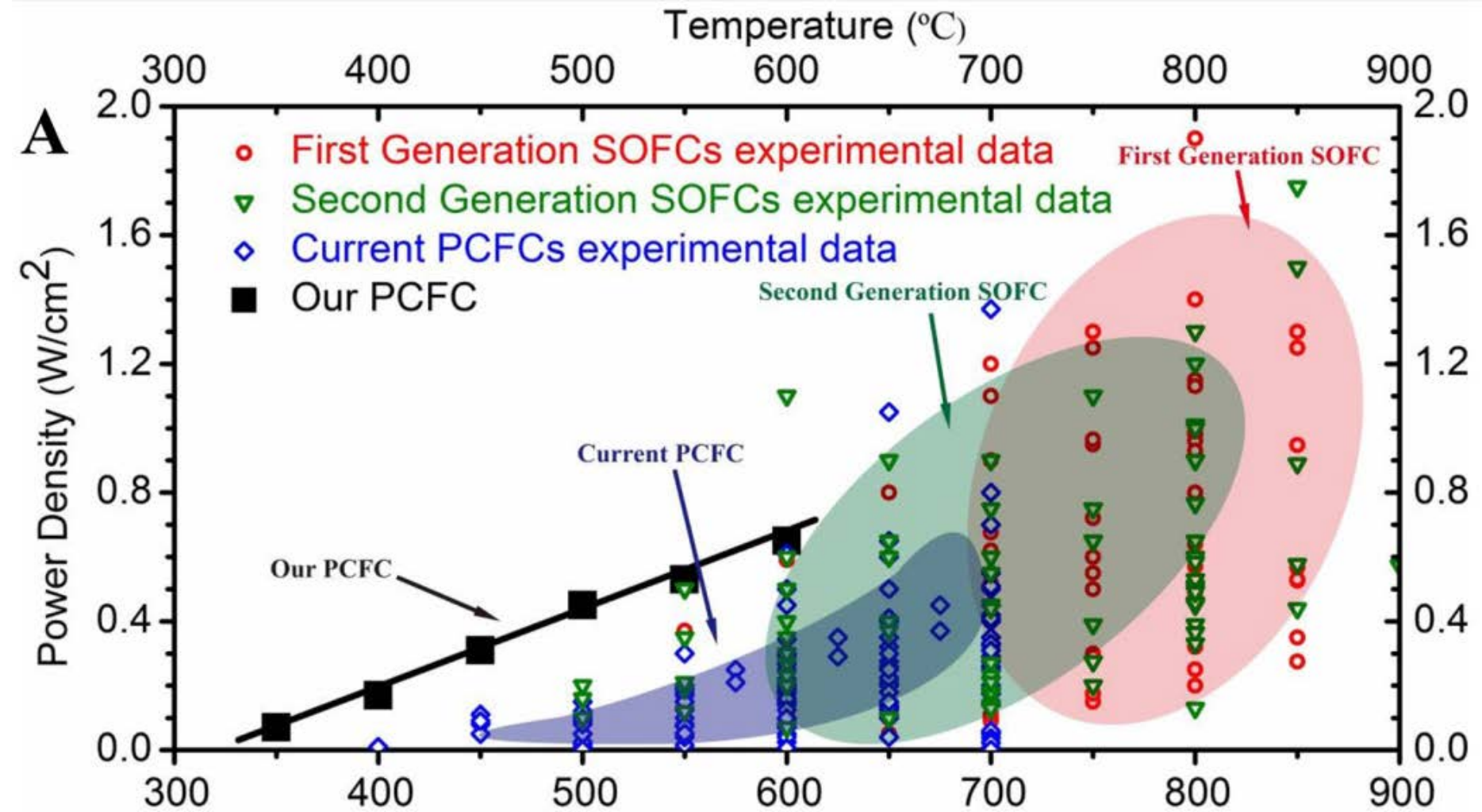
- Good stable performance
- Little coking on Ni-based anodes

C. Duan *et al.*, *Nature* **557** (2018) 217–222



# PCFC

C. Duan *et al.*, *Science* (2015) 349, 6254, 1321-1326

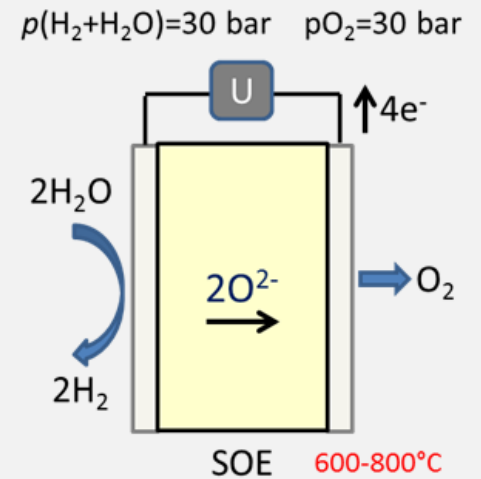
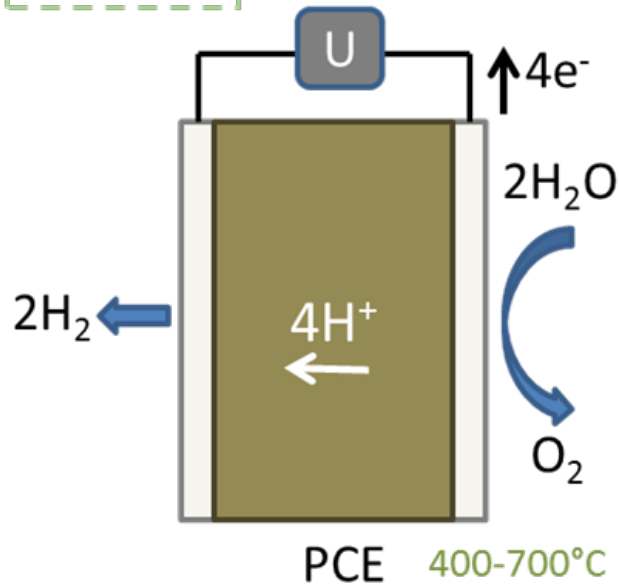
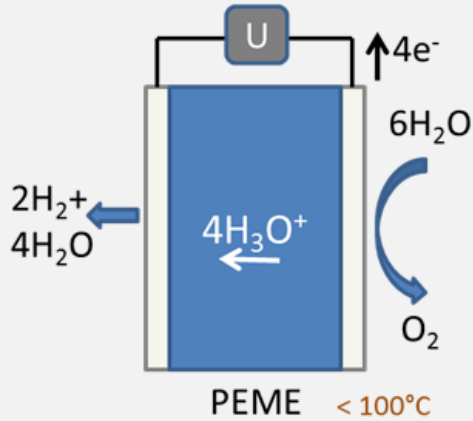


# Proton ceramic electrolyzers

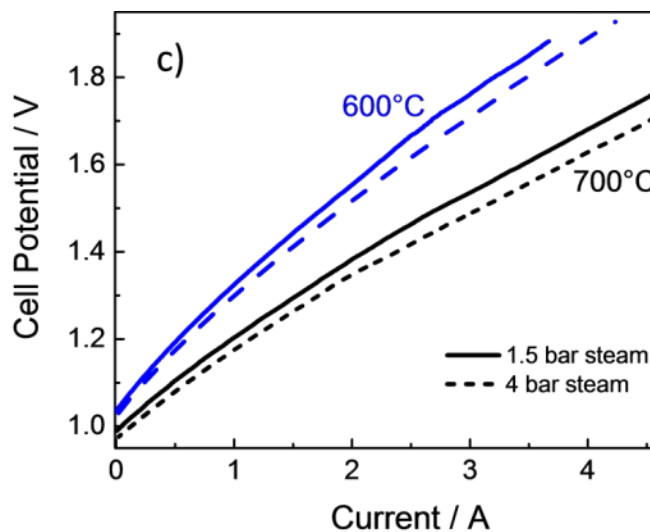
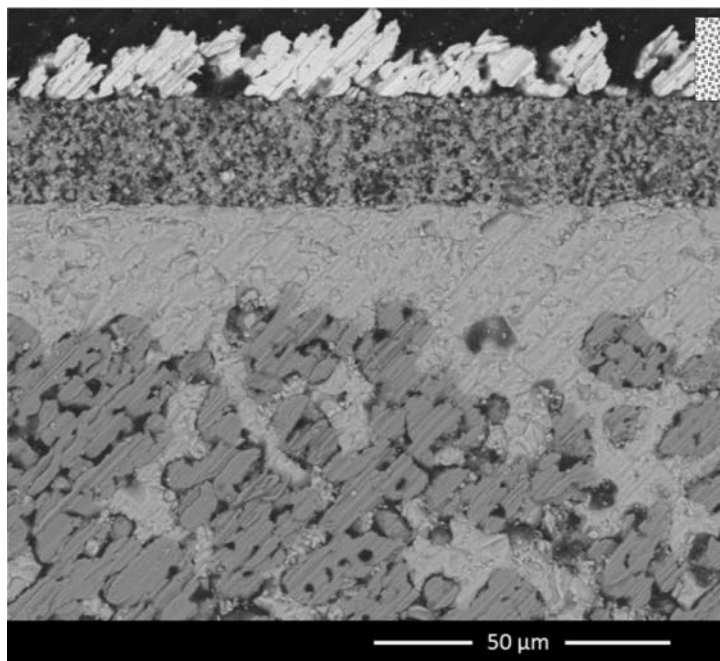
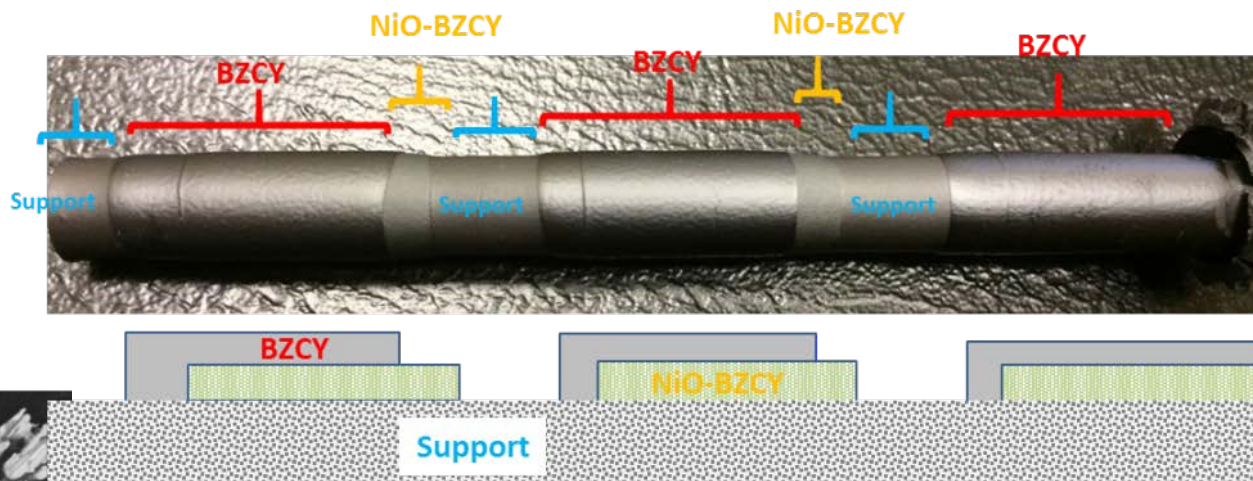


# Advantages of PCEs

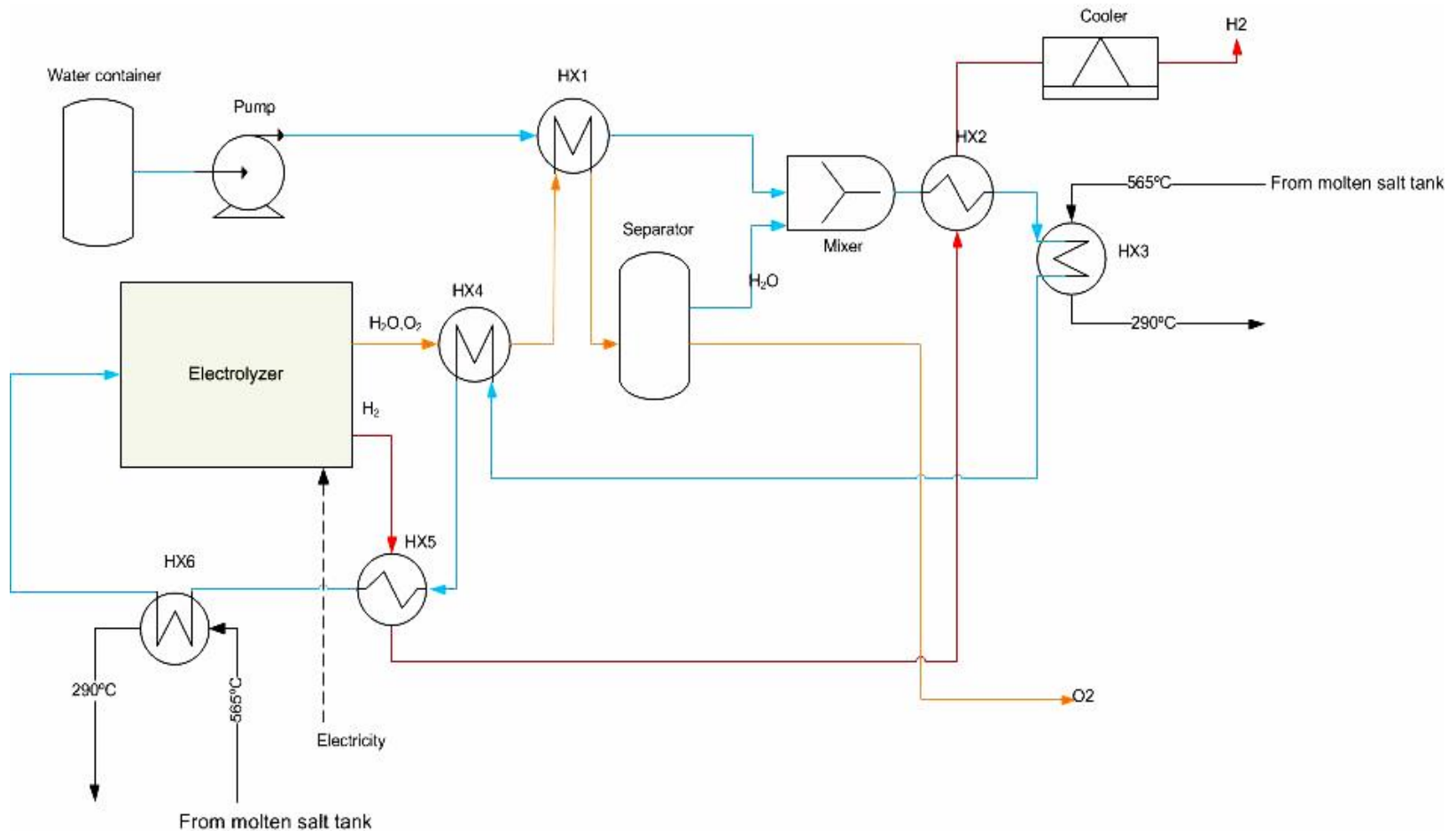
$p_{\text{H}_2}=30 \text{ bar}$   $p(\text{H}_2\text{O}+\text{O}_2)=30 \text{ bar}$



# High temperature electrolyser with novel proton ceramic tubular modules (2014-2017)



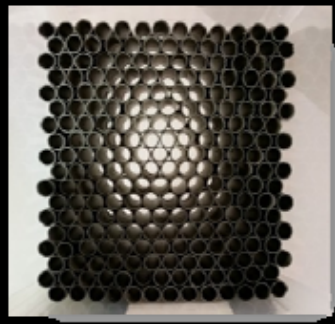
# Steam electrolysis coupled with thermal energy sources: Example of solar-thermal molten salt plant





# GAMER

Game changer in high temperature steam electrolyzers with novel tubular cells and stacks geometry for pressurized hydrogen production



Tubular cells  
(electrodes, electrolyte,  
current collectors)



Key enabling technologies  
for SEU assembly (seal,  
manifolds, interconnects)



Cells integration in SEU  
(pressurized vessels, gas  
and electrical connectors)



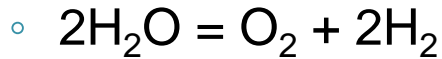
SEUs integration in hot  
box with required  
ancillary equipments

# Proton ceramic electrochemical reactors (PCERs) for natural gas

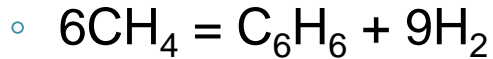


# 3 technologies for proton ceramics and H<sub>2</sub>

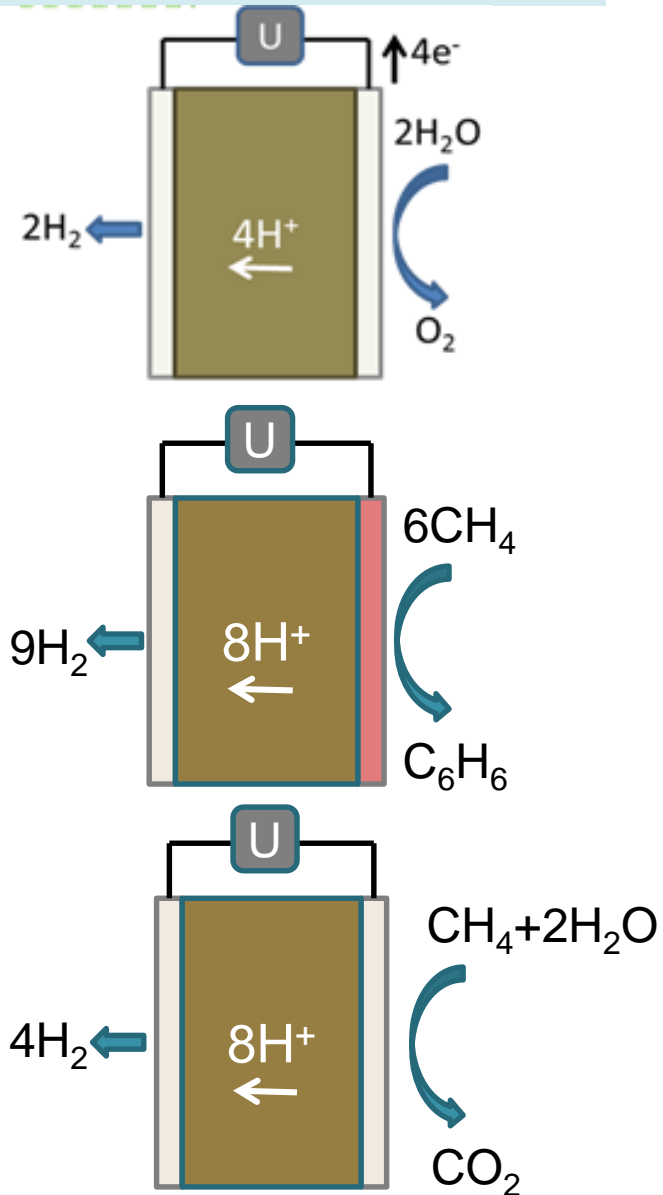
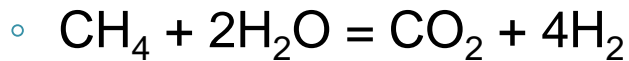
- Steam electrolysis and electrochemical compressor



- Methane dehydroaromatization (MDA); GTL



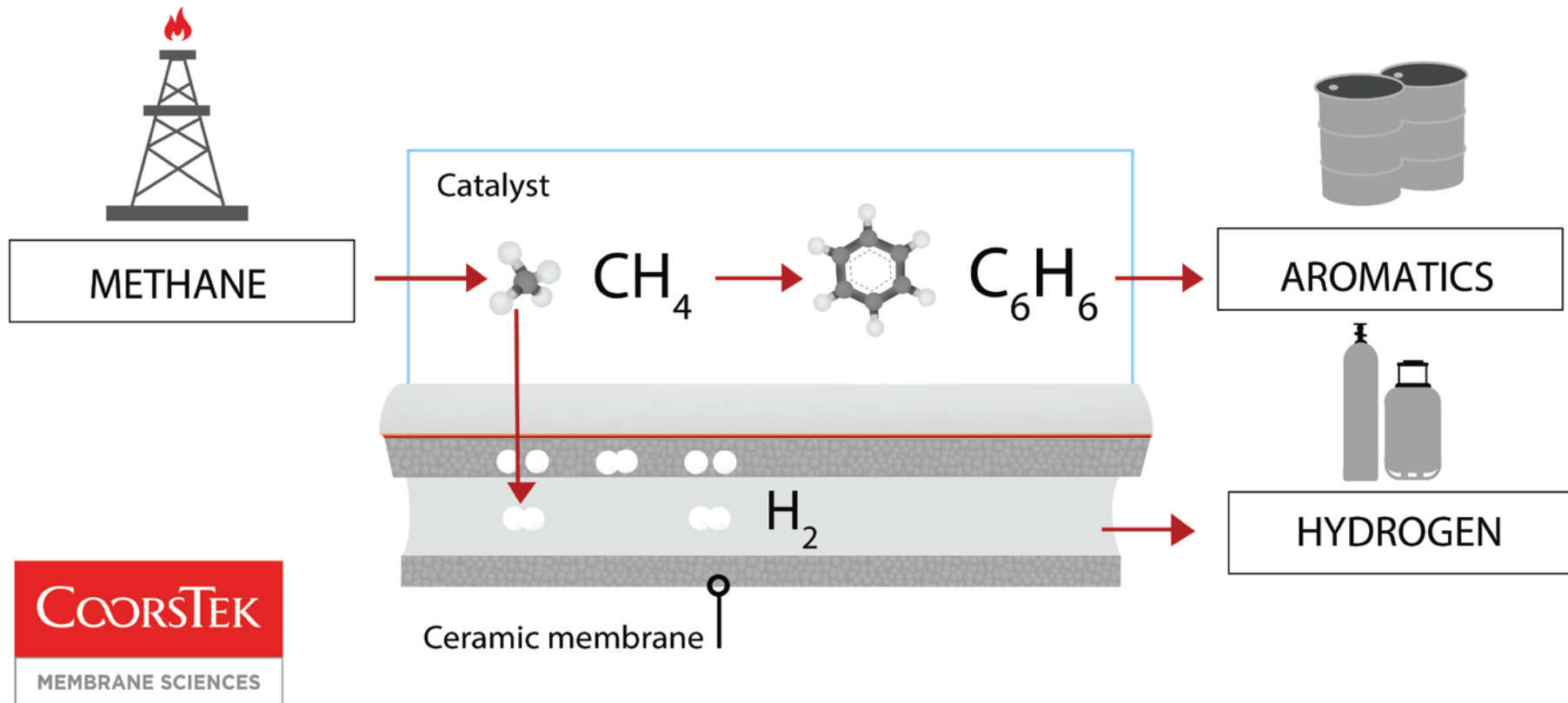
- Methane steam reforming shift electrochemical compressor



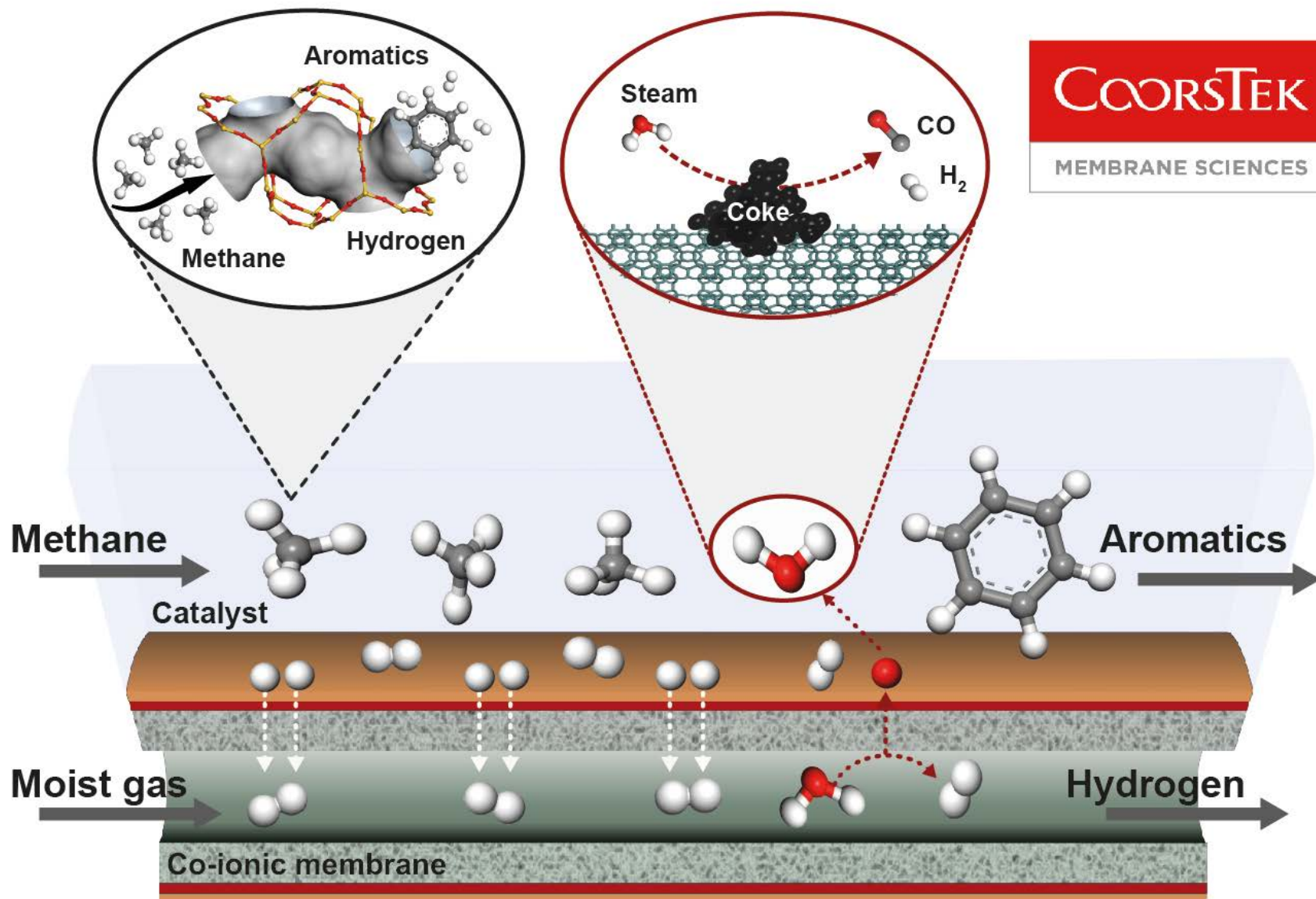
# Catalytic dehydroaromatisation of natural gas (GTL) using proton and co-ionic ceramics



# Catalytic dehydroaromatisation of natural gas using proton and co-ionic ceramics



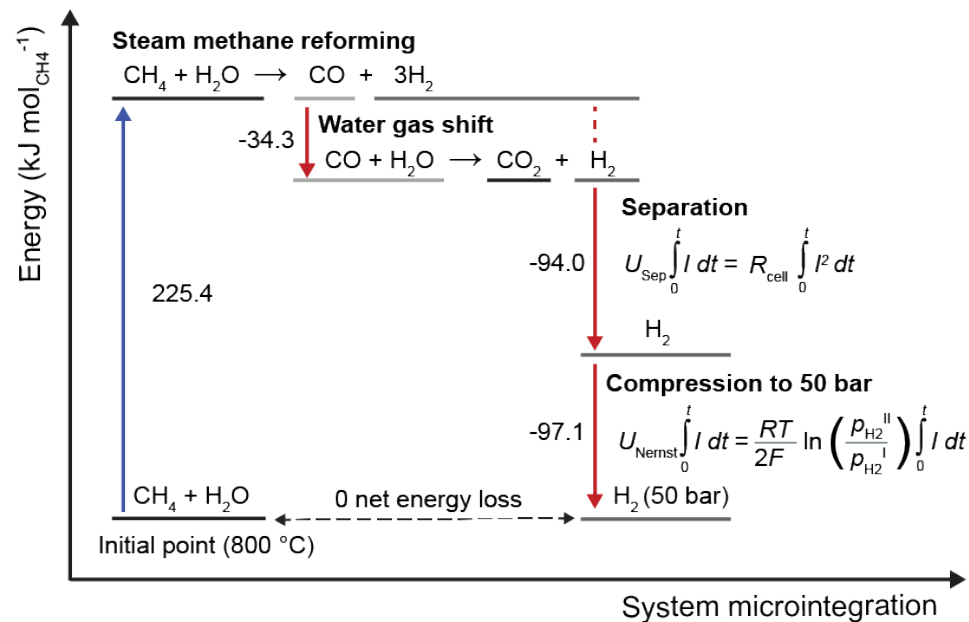
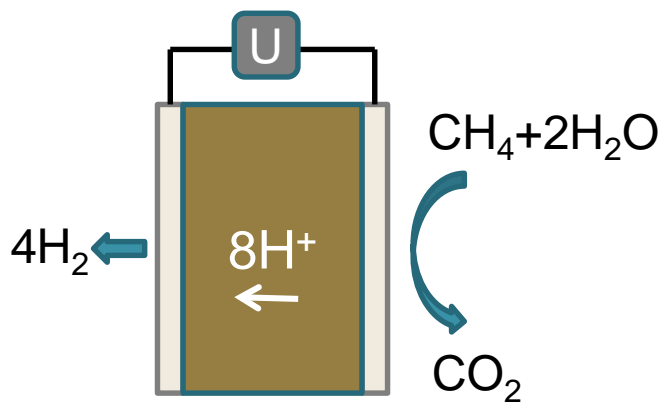
# Catalytic dehydroaromatisation of natural gas using proton and co-ionic ceramics



# Methane steam reformer shift electrochemical compressor



# Steam reforming and electrochemical extraction and compression of H<sub>2</sub> with thermal microintegration

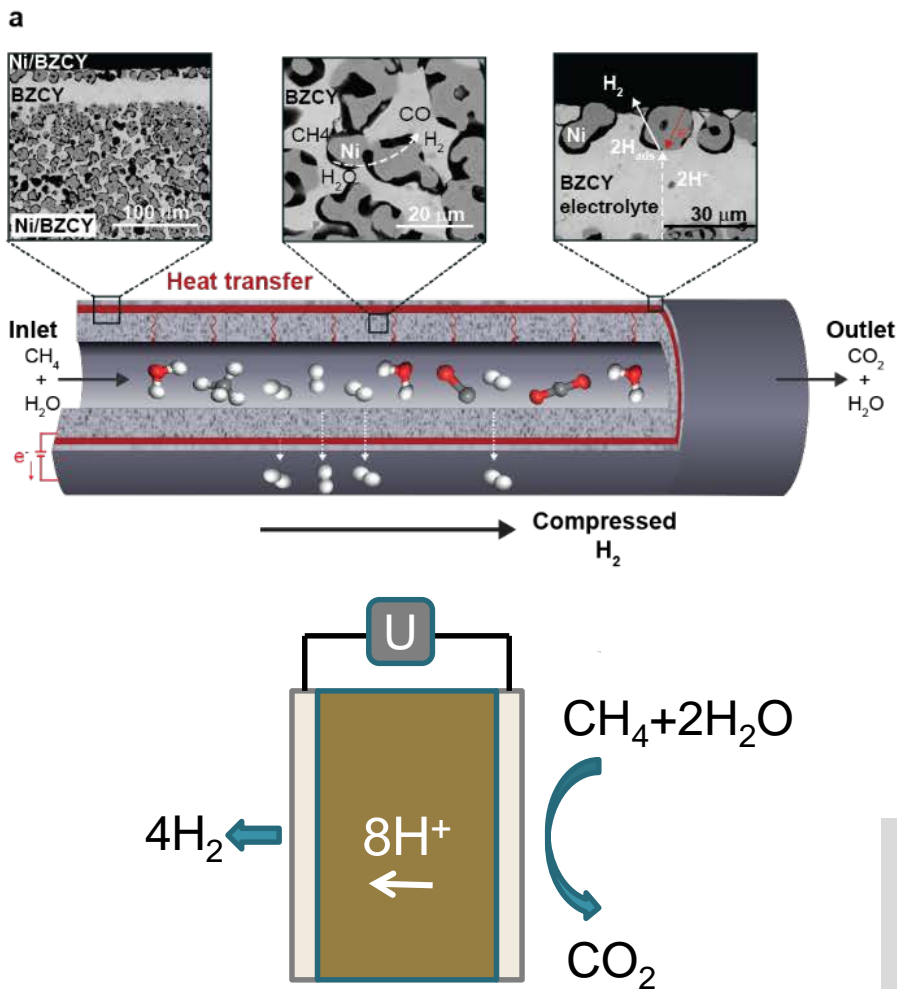


H. Malerød-Fjeld, D. Clark, I. Yuste-Tirados, R. Zanón, D. Catalán-Martinez, D. Beeaff, S.H. Morejudo, P.K. Vestre, T. Norby, R. Haugsrud, J.M. Serra, C. Kjølseth, “**Thermo-electrochemical production of compressed hydrogen from methane with near-zero energy loss**”, *Nature Energy*, 2 [12] (2017) 923.





# Steam reforming and electrochemical extraction and compression of H<sub>2</sub> with thermal microintegration

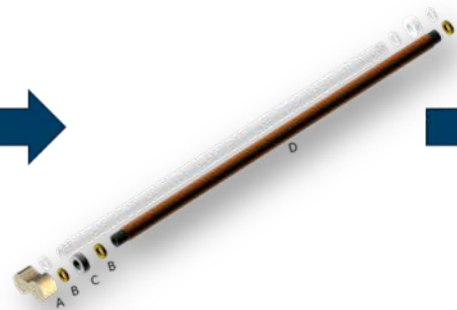


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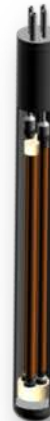
# Fabrication – modularity - scaling up



Tubular cells  
(electrodes, electrolyte,  
current collectors)



Key enabling technologies  
for SEU assembly (seal,  
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Cells integration in SEU  
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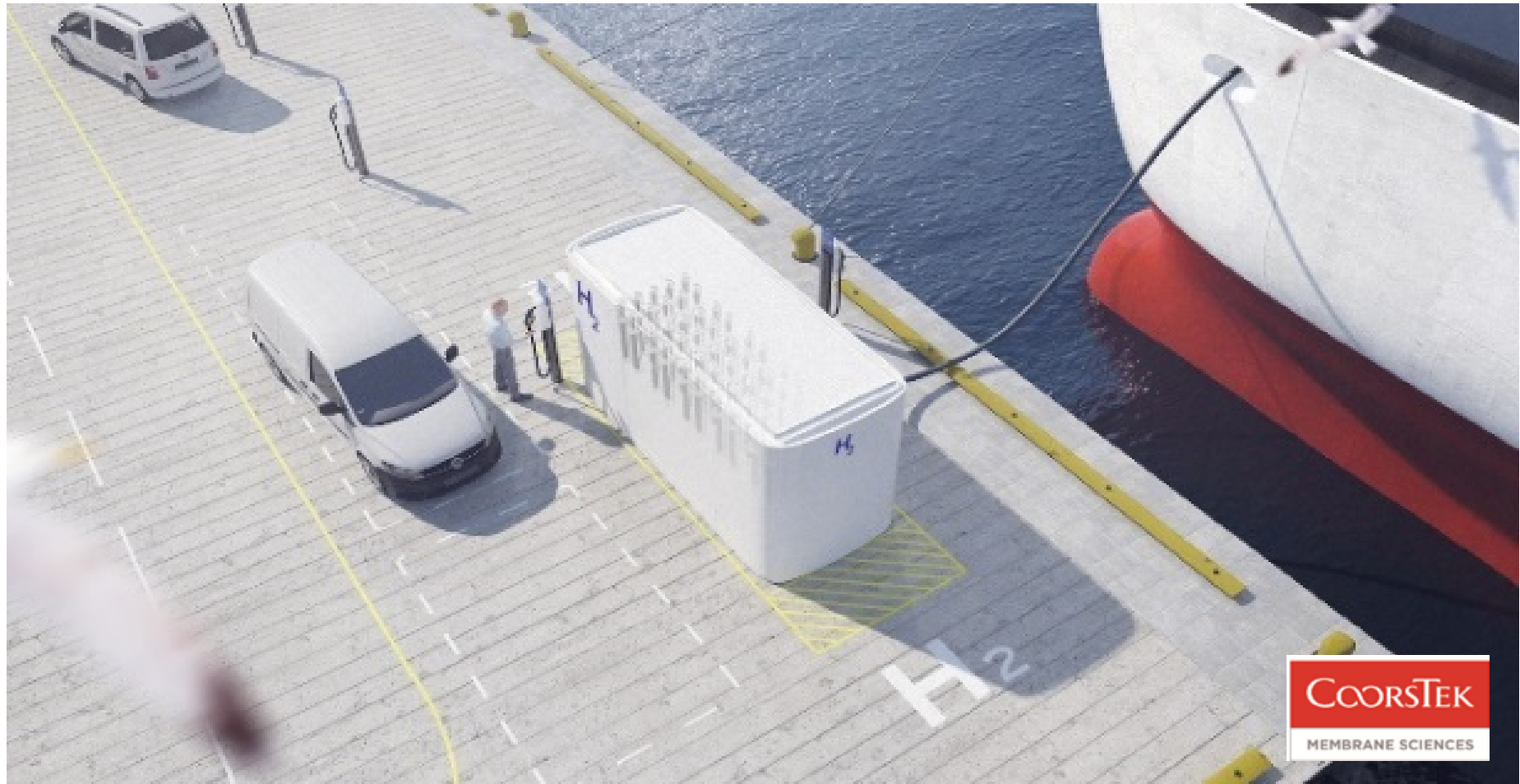


# Small scale – one SEU

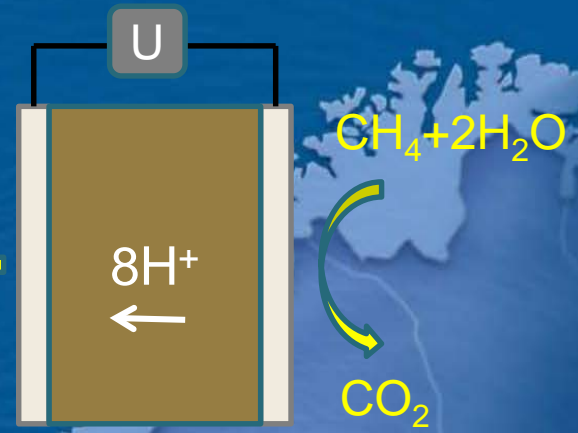
COORSTEK  
MEMBRANE SCIENCES



Larger scale:  
Vehicle fleets. Trucks. Trains. Marine. Industry.  
One or more «boxes»



# Areas where Norway can play a key role internationally within hydrogen and fuel cells



# Large scale

COORSTEK  
MEMBRANE SCIENCES



# Conclusion 😊

COORSTEK

MEMBRANE SCIENCES

$\text{CH}_4(\text{g})$  vs  $\text{C}(\text{s})$

