

# Overview of Cranfield University's Hydrogen and Fuels Cells Roadmap



**Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Showcase**

**Professor Upul Wijayantha**

20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

[www.cranfield.ac.uk](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk)



## [About the University \(cranfield.ac.uk\)](https://www.cranfield.ac.uk)

**88% Research**

- **World-leading**
- **International Excellent**

**Six-time winner**  
of the prestigious  
**Queen's Anniversary Prize**

**TOP 50** 2022  
Engineering Mechanical  
Aeronautical & Manufacturing

 **WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS**  
BY SUBJECT

**5th**  
**in the UK**  
for Engineering –  
Mechanical, Aeronautical  
and Manufacturing  
*QS World Rankings 2021*











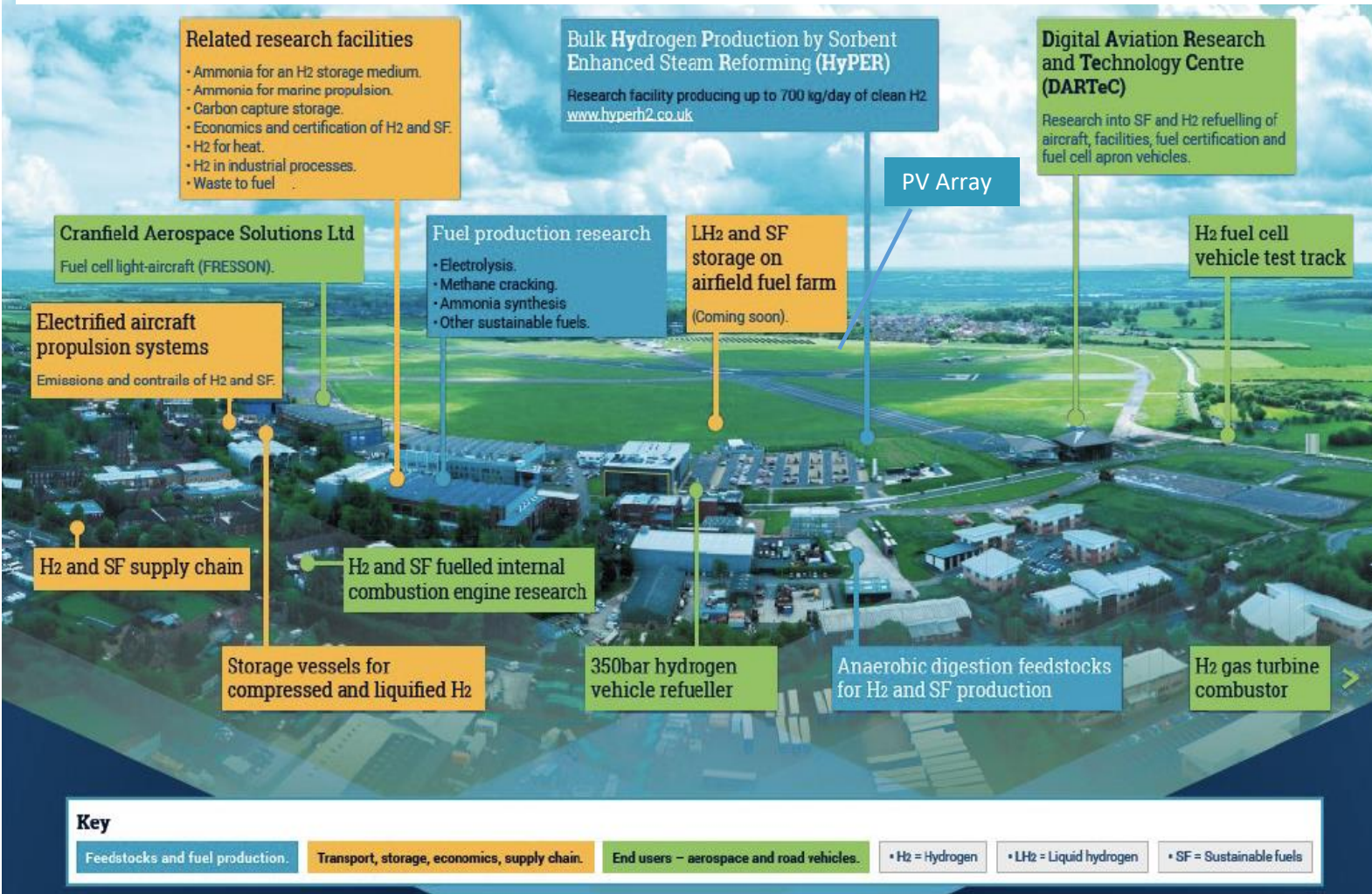


# Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>, liq.H<sub>2</sub> and SFs research across Cranfield aligned to the UK Government's 10-point plan



## The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

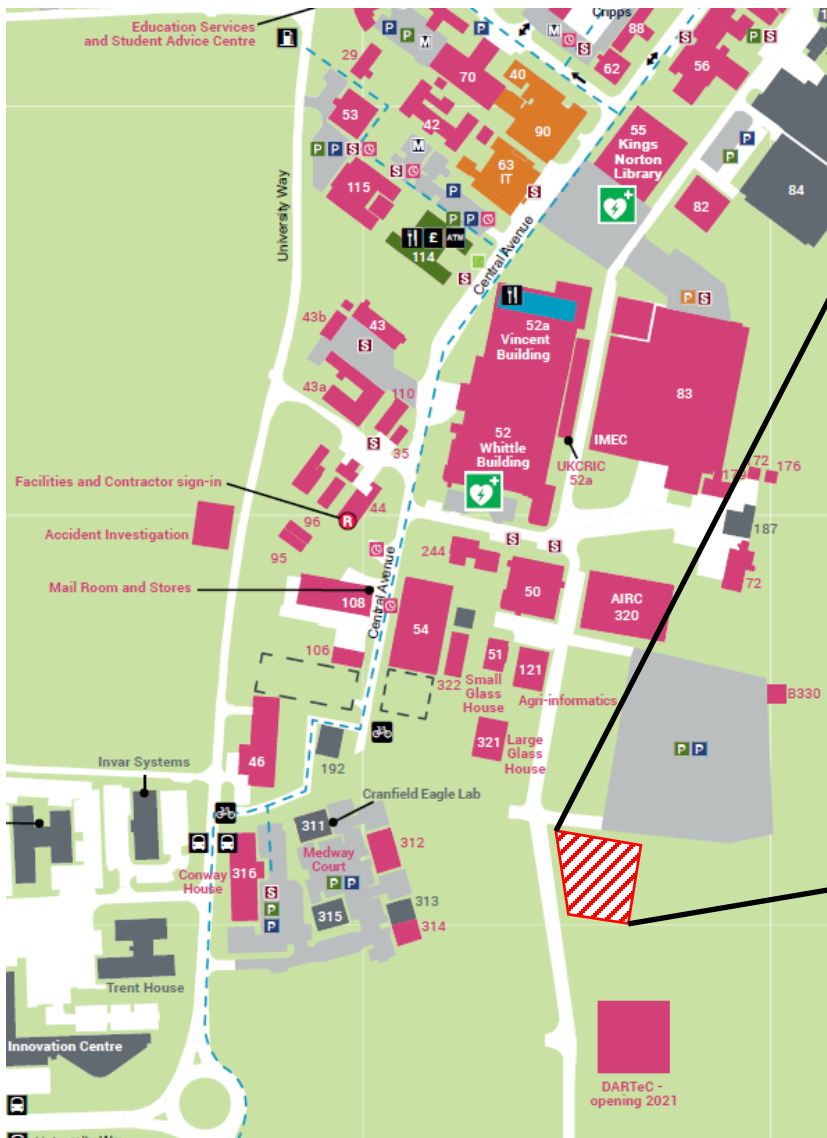
-  **Point 1**  
Advancing Offshore Wind
-  **Point 2**  
Driving the Growth of Low Carbon Hydrogen
-  **Point 3**  
Delivering New and Advanced Nuclear Power
-  **Point 4**  
Accelerating the Shift to Zero Emission Vehicles
-  **Point 5**  
Green Public Transport, Cycling and Walking
-  **Point 6**  
Jet Zero and Green Ships
-  **Point 7**  
Greener Buildings
-  **Point 8**  
Investing in Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage
-  **Point 9**  
Protecting Our Natural Environment
-  **Point 10**  
Green Finance and Innovation





# Blue H<sub>2</sub> (HyPER)

## Hydrogen Production by 'Sorbent Enhanced' Steam Reforming



Construction is ~80% completed  
Operational by mid January 2023

Operating range = 4-16 bar

At 4 bar, capacity = 0.3 MWth H<sub>2</sub> = 200 kg/day (LHV H<sub>2</sub>)

At 16 bar, capacity = 1 MWth H<sub>2</sub> = 700 kg/day (LHV H<sub>2</sub>)



# Blue H<sub>2</sub> (HyPER)



## Bulk Hydrogen Production by 'Sorbent Enhanced' Steam Reforming

**Phase 1 – Feasibility**

**May – September 2019**

**Phase 2 – Demonstration**

**January 2020 – January 2023**

**Phase 3 – Extended Testing**

**April 2022 – January 2023**



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



### Current Consortium

**Cranfield University**

**Project Lead and Technology Development**

**Doosan Babcock**

**Engineering Partner**

**Gas Technology Institute**

**Technology Owner and Techno-economics**



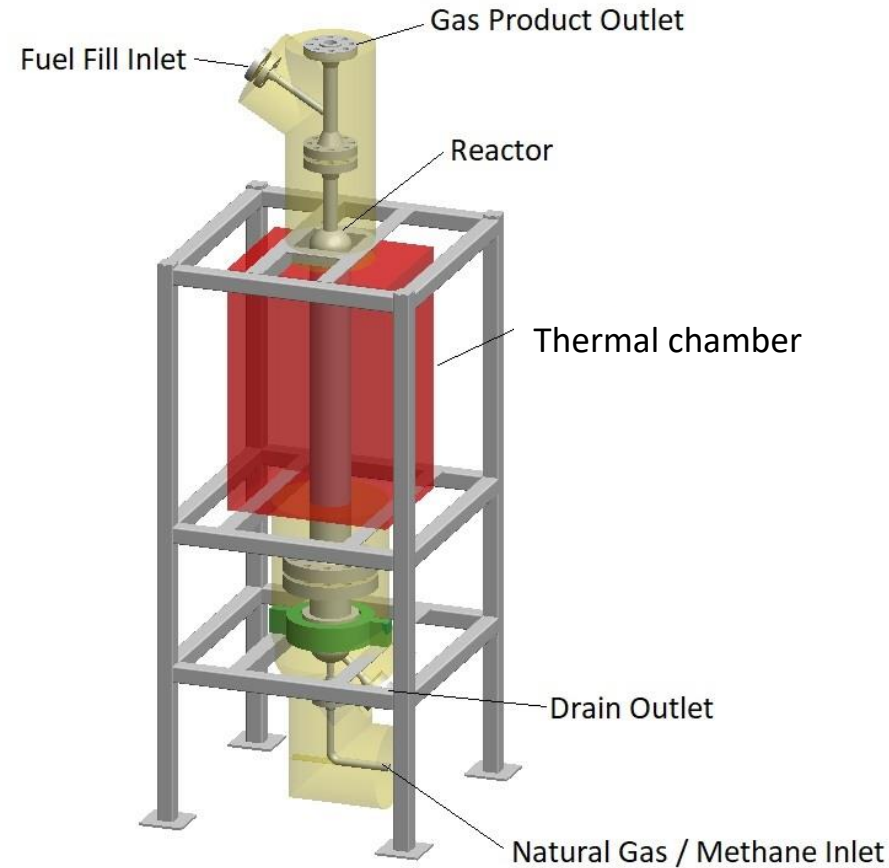
# Blue H<sub>2</sub> (HyPER)



## Compared to SMR+CCS or ATR+CCS, SE-SMR technology can achieve:

- ~25% lower Levelised Cost of Hydrogen
- >50% reduction in CAPEX with similar OPEX
- ~97% CO<sub>2</sub> capture rates with equivalent H<sub>2</sub> purity
- <40% lower carbon footprint
- Smaller physical footprint due to integrated nature of the SE-SMR process

# Turquoise H<sub>2</sub> Pilot (HyDEX)

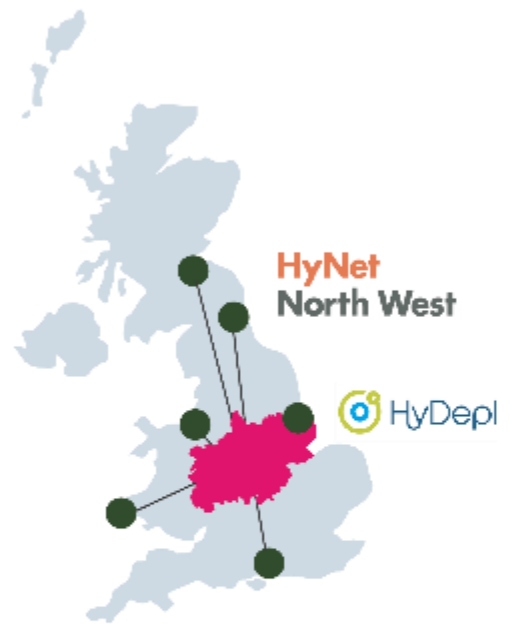


**At 1 bar, = 14 kg/day (LHV H<sub>2</sub>)**

**Operational in spring 2023**







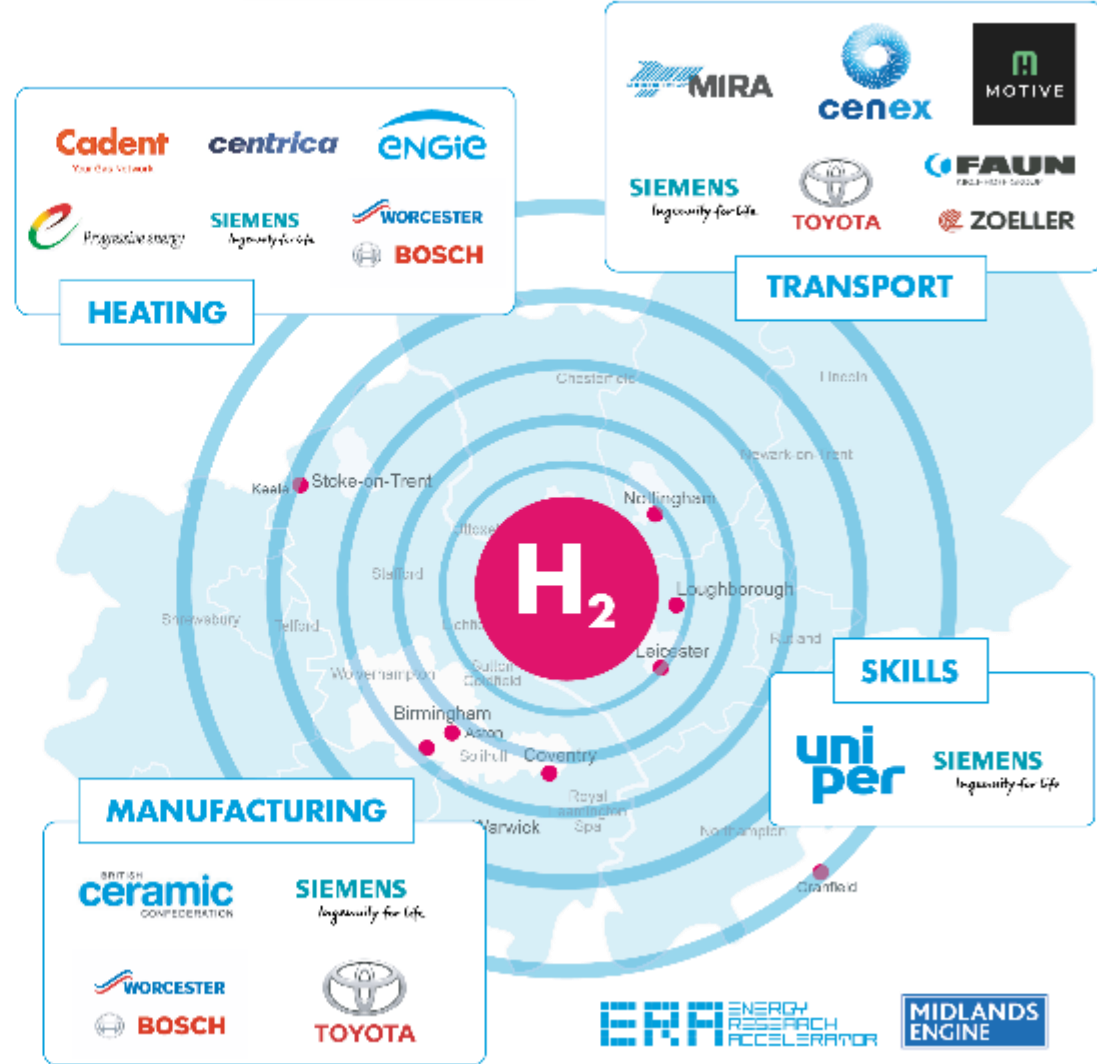
- Demonstrators

- New products development

- Skills

Regional focus, national impact, internationally networked

International academic partners



# Reducing the cost of Turquoise H<sub>2</sub>: Potential Routes



11 - 15 kWh/kg H<sub>2</sub>

Electrolysis: ~ 55 kWh/kg H<sub>2</sub>

|             |                 |   |    |   |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|---|----|---|-----------------|
| Equation:   | CH <sub>4</sub> | → | C  | + | 2H <sub>2</sub> |
| Moles:      | 1               |   | 1  |   | 2               |
| Molar Mass: | 16              |   | 12 |   | 4               |

Every **kg** of hydrogen produced gives **3kg** of carbon



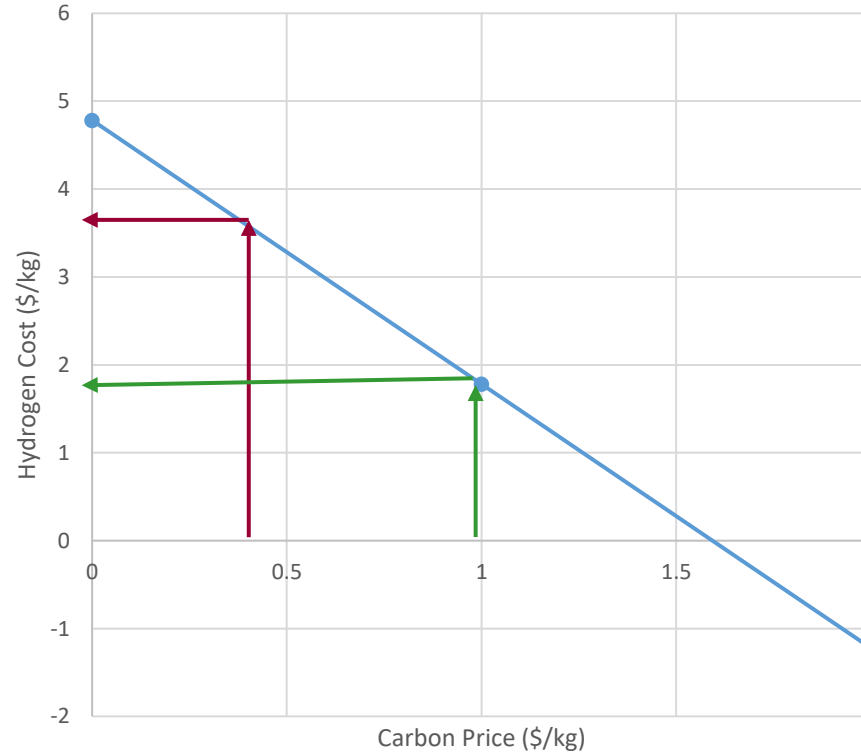
**Use waste heat**



**Add Value to Carbon by-product**

# Adding value to the Carbon in Turquoise H<sub>2</sub> : How?

- Cost of lower grade carbon ranges from **\$0.4 - 1/kg**
- Cost of special grade carbon can go up to **\$2/kg**



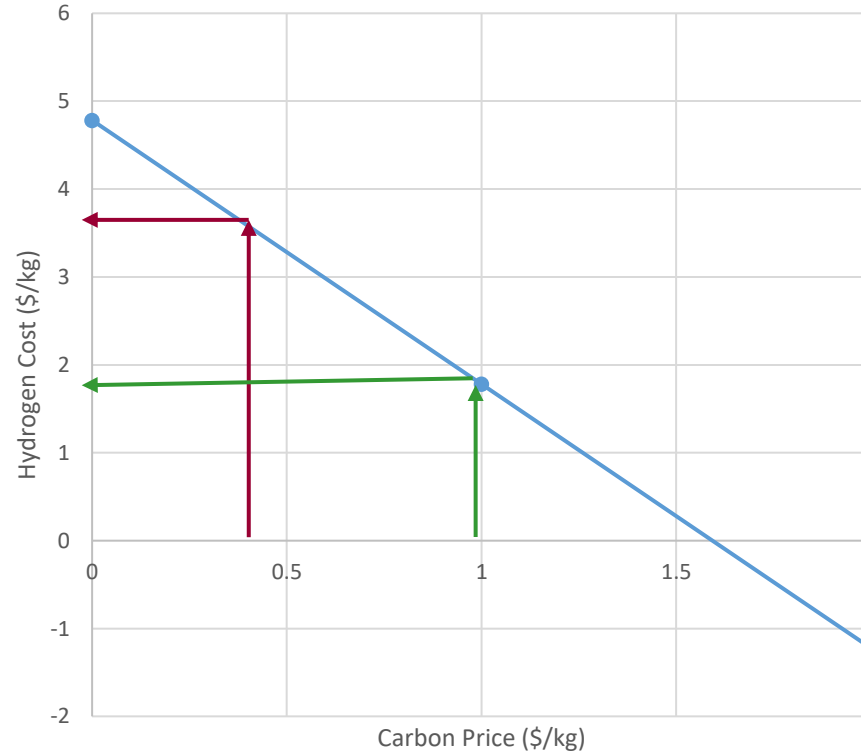
Carbon Steel  
 Supercapacitors  
 Batteries  
 Tyres  
 Air/water purifications  
 Road infrastructures  
 Wind Turbines  
 Mobile Phones  
 Soil amendment (biochar)  
 Cosmetics

- US DoE target for cost of hydrogen at **\$1/kg by 2030**



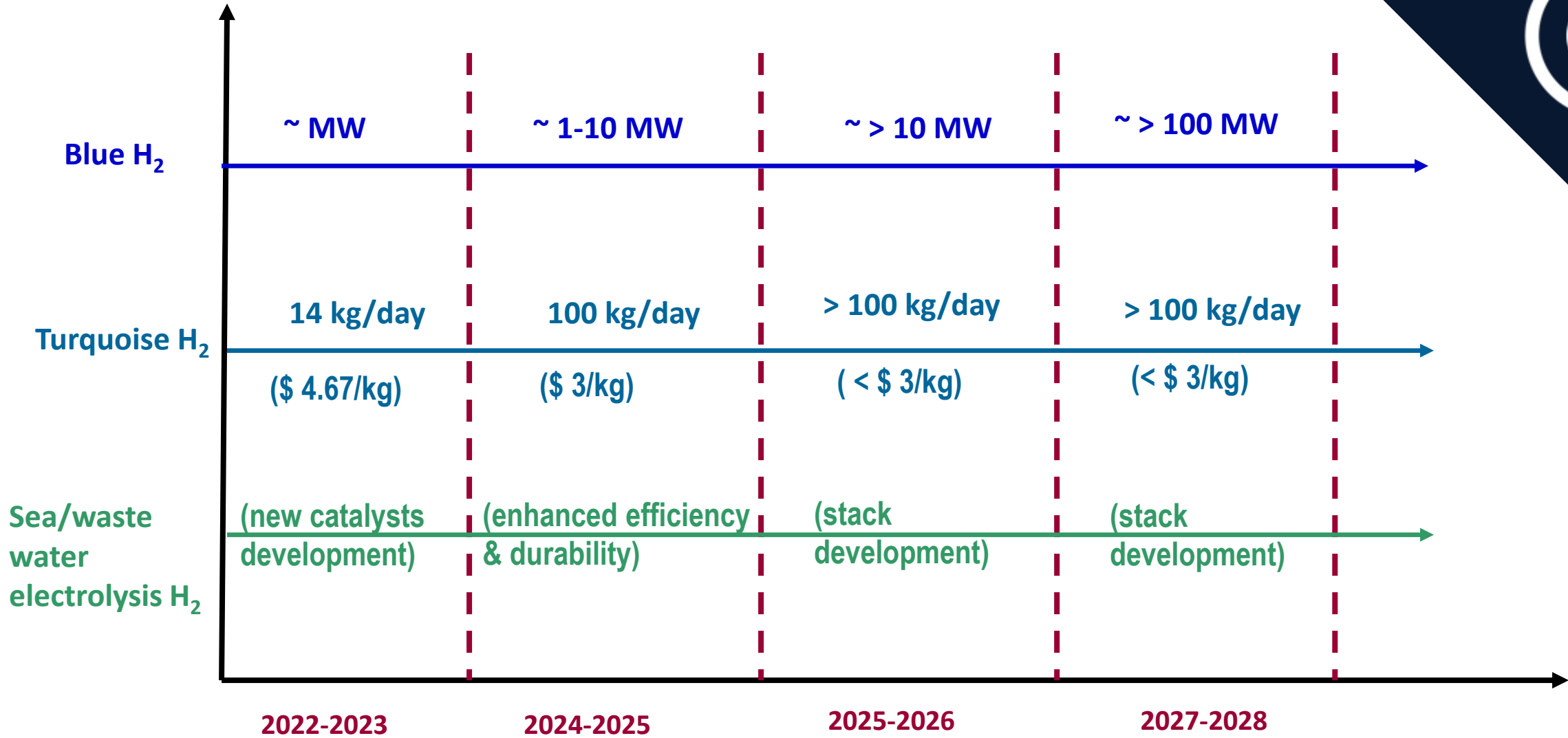
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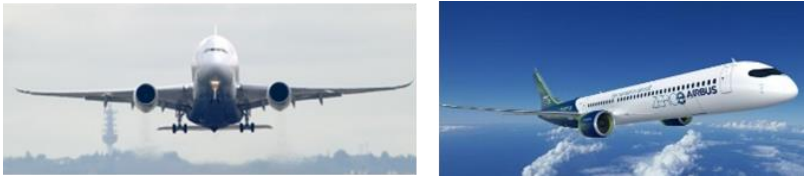




# LH<sub>2</sub> – Fuelled Aircraft: CU Thought-leadership Example

## Innovation Waves to Accelerate Decarbonisation

**Innovation Wave 1**  
**10-15 Years**  
**Focus: Certification**



**Innovation Wave 2a**  
**20+ Years**  
**Focus: Efficiency**



**Innovation Wave 2b**  
**20+ Years**  
**Focus: FC Certification**



**Innovation Wave 3**  
**30+ Years**  
**Focus: Turbo-cryo-electric**



<https://www.airbus.com/en/innovation/zero-emission/hydrogen/zeroe>

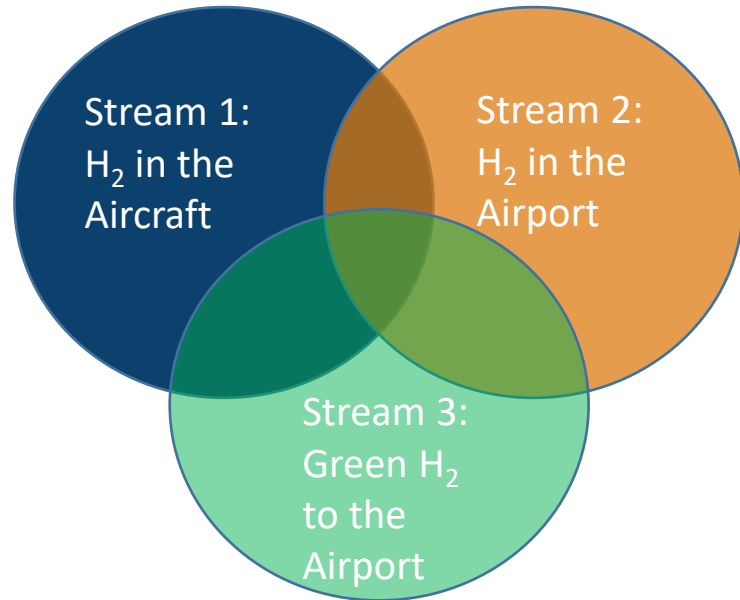
<https://www.ati.org.uk/flyzero/>





# UK-ARC H<sub>2</sub> Group Scope:

## Thematic Areas and Mapping of Expertise and Ambitions



| H <sub>2</sub> in the Aircraft  |
|---|
| H <sub>2</sub> aircraft design and performance analysis   |
| H <sub>2</sub> propulsion system design, integration, and performance analysis (gas turbines (including advanced cycles – intercooling, recuperation, pressure rise combustion etc.), fuel cells, hybrid and turboelectric + distributed propulsion). |
| LH <sub>2</sub> tank design, manufacturing, and aircraft integration  |
| LH <sub>2</sub> tank fluid movement modelling (sloshing), sensors and gauging   |
| LH <sub>2</sub> fuel system thermal management and control (fuel supply system from tanks to “consumer” (either fuel cell or gas turbine))  |
| Solid state storage   |
| Aircraft engine and combustion noise  |
| Low NO <sub>x</sub> H <sub>2</sub> Combustion   |
| Contrails modelling and aircraft trajectory optimisation for contrail avoidance (incl. trade-offs with mission fuel burn).  |
| Hybrid/Dual/Blended-fuels   |
| Technoeconomic Environmental Risk Assessments (TERA) (Mission level and over the life cycle) & Pathways towards decarbonising aviation  |
| Materials and Manufacturing   |
| Certification   |





# LH<sub>2</sub> – Fuelled Aircraft: CU Thought-leadership Example

## Strong Industry Collaboration – e.g. ENABLEH2

### Project Consortium



### Industry Advisory Board










# Civil Aviation Sustainability: CU “Aerospace” Sustainability Development Goals


## “H<sub>2</sub> in the Aircraft” Research Track Record (Examples)

**H<sub>2</sub>** Projects involving H<sub>2</sub> / LH<sub>2</sub> R&D

 Projects targeting improvement in engine propulsive efficiency


 Projects targeting improvement in engine thermal efficiency

 Projects targeting the improvement in aircraft engine integration

 Projects investigating the use of alternative fuels for civil aviation

**NO<sub>x</sub>** Projects targeting reductions in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions

FZ – Tanks/Prop  
H<sub>2</sub> 

FZ – Consult.  
H<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub> 

easyJet  
 

NASA TEDP N3-X  
H<sub>2</sub>  

AECC  
NO<sub>x</sub>

RE Policy Fund  
H<sub>2</sub>  NO<sub>x</sub>

RRUK ATI\*3  
H<sub>2</sub>  NO<sub>x</sub>

NEDO, RR  
H<sub>2</sub>




NEWAC  
  NO<sub>x</sub>

CLEAN SKY SGO-ITD  
   NO<sub>x</sub> 

DEMOS  
 

UTOPEA  
  H<sub>2</sub> 

ZEST1  
H<sub>2</sub> 

CRYOPLANE  
  H<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub> 

DREAM  
   NO<sub>x</sub> 

LEMCOTEC  
 NO<sub>x</sub>

ULTIMATE  
  NO<sub>x</sub>

ENABLEH2  
H<sub>2</sub>    NO<sub>x</sub>

MINIMAL  
  NO<sub>x</sub> H<sub>2</sub>



2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025

# Enabling H<sub>2</sub> research Integration at Cranfield

## Cranfield's Hydrogen Integration Incubator and Research Centre (HIIRC)



**CU HIIRC will integrate research & developments in hydrogen production, storage, SF, ammonia and hydrogen refuelling for mobility and zero-aviation.**

## **Hydrogen Integration Incubator and Research Centre**

**Upgrade CU Global Research Airport to drive net zero mobility and 'Jet Zero' using Cranfield's UKRIC 'Living Laboratory' campus.**

**Upgrade CU hydrogen gas turbine combustor testbed.**



**We are keen to work collaborate with industry to  
maximise the benefit for industry through the  
Hydrogen Integration Incubator and Research Centre.**

**Please contact: [upul.Wijayantha@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:upul.Wijayantha@cranfield.ac.uk)**

**Thank you**