

An innovative concept for Power-to-X application in the South African Maritime Sector

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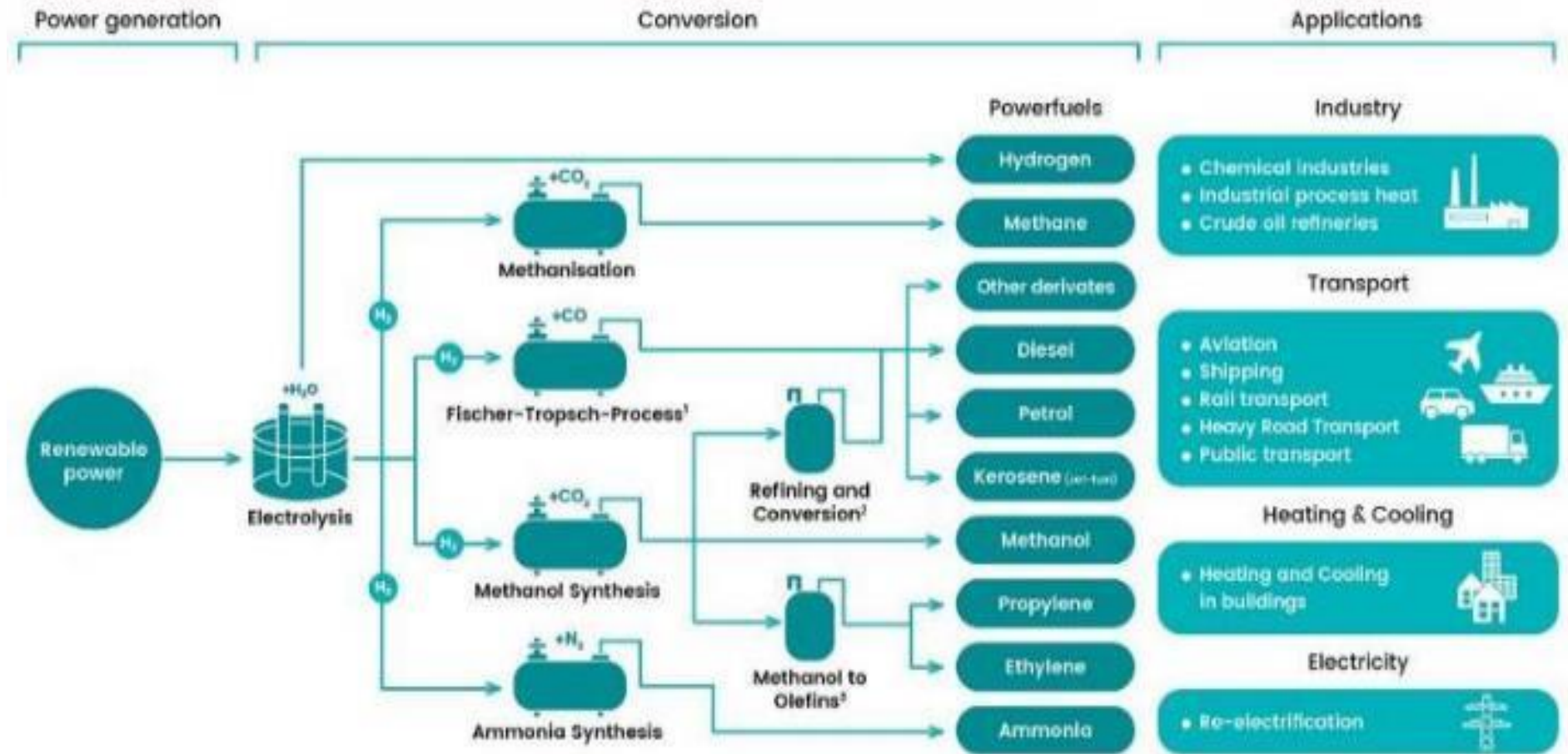
science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Recap: What is green hydrogen and PtX?

Fuel based on H₂ from electrolysis of water using renewable electricity



¹ Includes: Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, hydrocracking, isomerization and distillation.

² Includes: DME/OME synthesis, olefin synthesis, oligomerisation and hydrotreating.

³ Methanol-to-olefins process.

Starting point

Why is green hydrogen important?

1) Climate: regulatory and financing pressure

Global	EU	SA
Paris Agreement (keep warming well below 2 °C, preferably below 1.5 °C)	European Green Deal EU net zero by 2050	JETP \$8.5 bn
Finance activism (exit fossils, esp. coal)	CBAM	Donors: EU, US, DE, F, UK
IMO (2023 MEPC 80: net zero @ 2050)	6 products: NH ₃ / fertilizer, iron / steel, aluminium, cement, electricity, H ₂	Decarbonization, electric vehicles, GH ₂

2) Economics: Declining costs of RE in good areas - competitive since ~2014

3) Green electricity has limits: GH₂ is needed to decarbonize “hard-to-abate” sectors.....

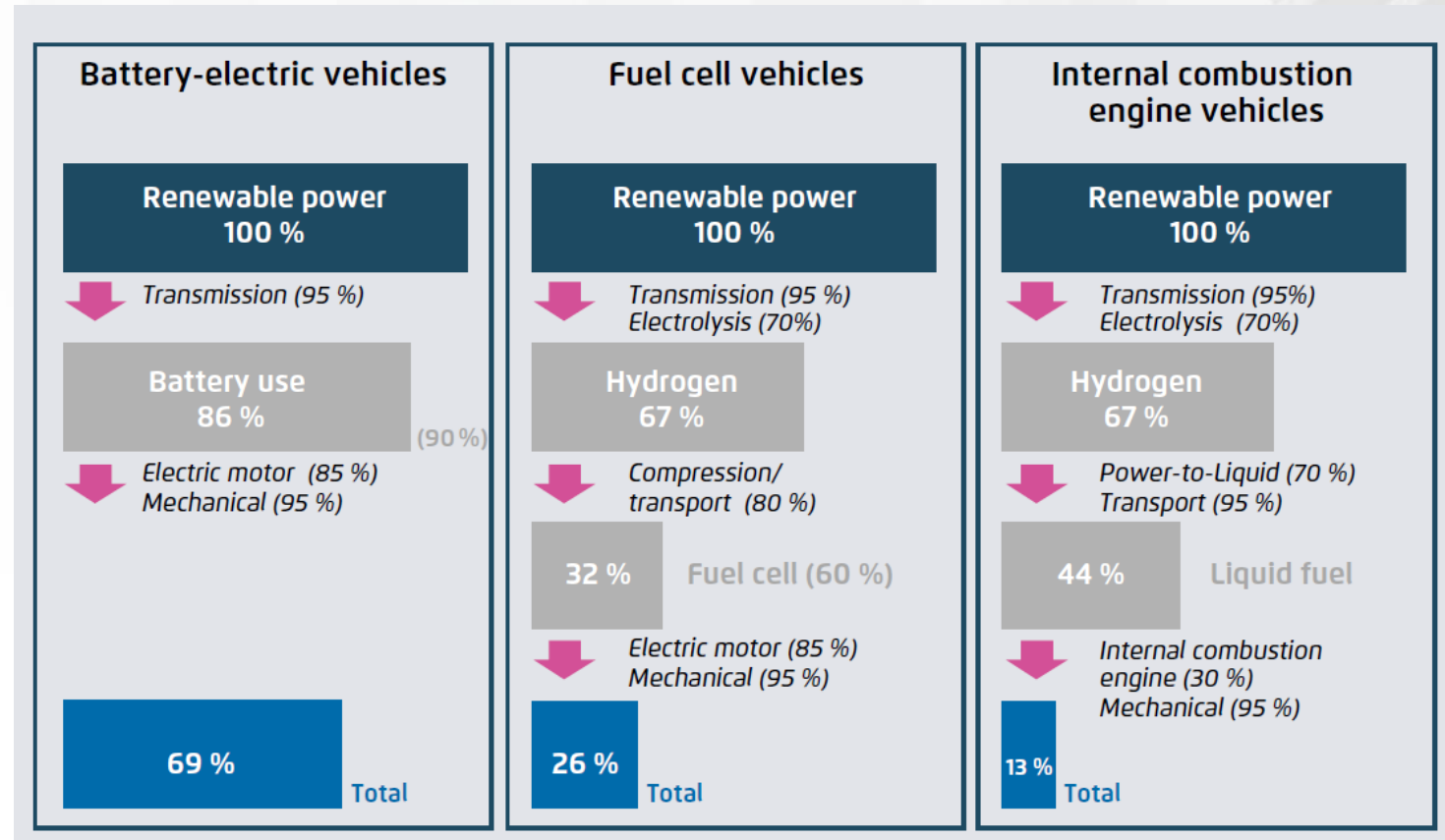
PtX: H₂ reality check

If alternatives exist, H₂ should not be the 1st choice, for reasons of efficiency and cost

Electrification with RE is always best decarbonisation choice: cheapest & most efficient

H₂ & PtX is 2nd best choice: more expensive & less efficient, but only remaining option for:

- RE-constrained territories (like Japan)
- “Hard-to-abate” sectors
 - Heavy-duty, long-distance transport:
 - Aviation
 - Shipping
 - Long-distance trucking
 - Rail*
 - Industry:
 - Iron for steelmaking
 - Cement
 - Ammonia
 - Plastics



Source: Agora, 2018

Starting point

Why is green hydrogen important?

1) Climate: regulatory and financing pressure

Global	EU	SA
Paris Agreement (limit to 1.5 °C)	European Green Deal EU net zero by 2050	JETP \$8.5 bn
Finance activism (exit fossils, esp. coal)		Donors: EU, US, DE, F, UK
IMO (2023 MEPC 80: net zero @ 2050)	CBAM 6 products: NH ₃ / fertilizer, iron / steel, aluminium, cement, electricity, H ₂	Decarbonization, electric vehicles, GH ₂

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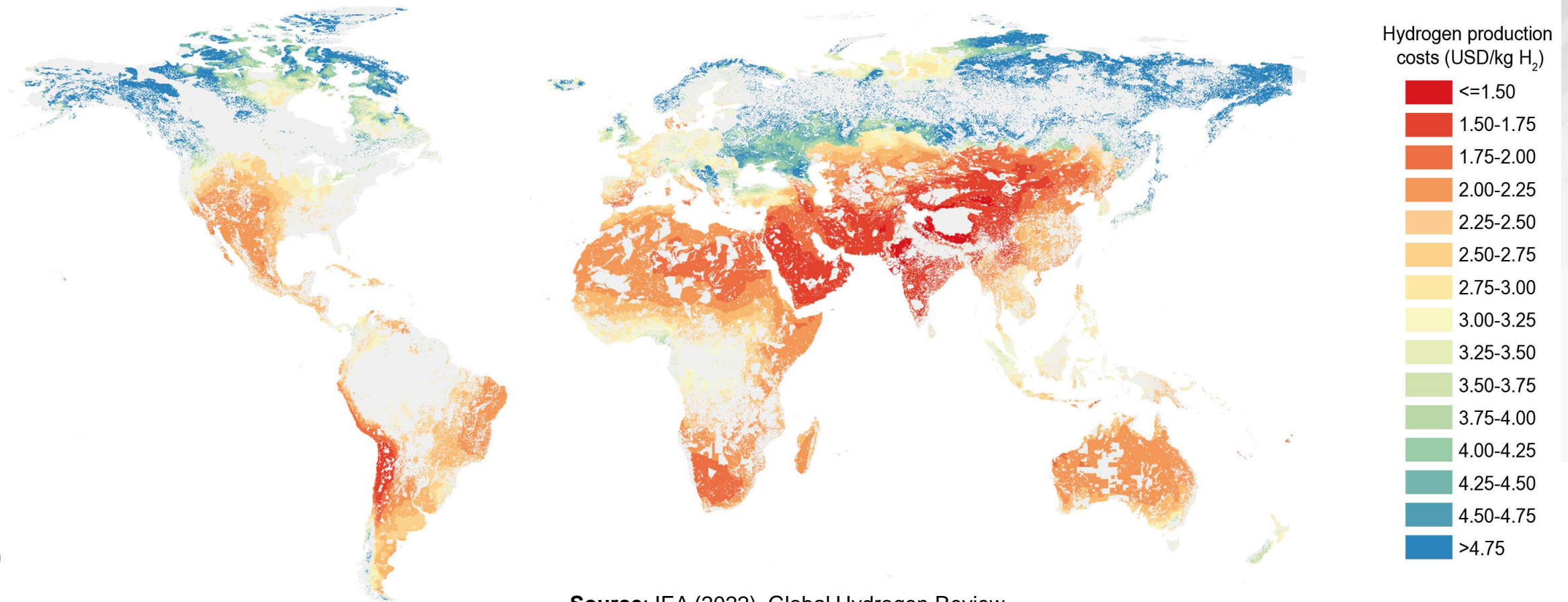
4) Public policy support for imports of PtX

- Japan: 300 kt/y from 2030, 5-10 Mt/y by 2050
- Germany: ~3 Mt/y by 2030, but only 420 kt/y in-country, remainder from RE-rich partner countries
- EU: Invasion of Ukraine: REPowerEU to reduce Russian gas, increase EU GH₂ imports by 10 Mt/y

South Africa can export sunshine and wind

Excellent solar & wind resources in Southern Africa → bulk GH₂ costs competitive to other coastal countries

Relatively few competitors, and the market is large



Source: IEA (2022), Global Hydrogen Review

3 classes of H₂ market for SA

Each with different characteristics

1) Export market: competing on price delivered in EU, Far East

2) Local market inland: who will pay the premium?

- Where costs are less important: Mining rather than classic logistics
- Where costs are competitive: Fertiliser?

3) Border market: Refuelling aviation and shipping calling at SA

- Aviation: PtL kerosene from FT infrastructure at Sasol & PetroSA. Carbon source an issue (RED II)!
- Shipping:
 - Market created by IMO MEPC 80 (July 2023) - Net-zero by 2050, 5% zero-carbon by 2030.
 - Large GH₂ Volumes: For 2018 port calls to be 100% green: 504 kt/y for SB + CT, 247 kt/y for PE + Coega
 - Saldanha Bay Green Corridor
 - being organized by Freeport Saldanha, Anglo American, Tata Steel, Engie, CMB, Vuka Marine
 - Ports can form H₂ hubs:
 - Export & Bunker fuel → HRSs → Heavy road transport, rail, & port equipment
- New Fuels for New engines & vessels:
 - Green Ammonia NH₃ (CMB)
 - Green Methanol CH₃OH (Maersk)
- Fuels for Existing fleet:
 - Green Fischer-Tropsch (Sasol and PetroSA)
 - Biofuels

PetroSA presents a very specific opportunity

1) It is a State-Owned Enterprise with an uncertain future

- The NG reserves of its ocean gasfield have become depleted, halting synthesis operations
- Approx 500 staff have been retrenched
- National Treasury has repeatedly made clear its reluctance to support distressed SOEs.
- Purchasing NG on the international market in dollar-denominated terms, converting it into product in a regulated terrestrial transport market is not attractive
- A future with electric vehicle uptake further threatens its business case

2) That said, it:

- Is an existing Fischer-Tropsch facility, located at the coast, in a region with good solar and wind resource, on a major shipping route
- Has a staff complement (current and recently retrenched) skilled at Fischer-Tropsch synthesis
- Is of convenient size for repurposing: at 45 000 bbl/d, it is smaller than the vast majority of refineries in Western Europe
- It has a 1000 bbl/day pilot plant, ideal for a starting green fuel pilot

3) If it were to switch to make green maritime fuel (e-diesel), it would

- Sell a green drop-in fuel to a very large potential customer base, requiring no ship modifications
- Move from a regulated to a premium market with no competitors

Uses for green FT bunker fuel

1) Its fuel could be blended with fossil-based bunker fuel

- This allows vessels to decarbonize progressively over time rather than all at once, easing price shocks
- It can be supplied by standard bunkering equipment and vessels

2) It can be used by existing vessels without modifying engines or vessels

- TNPA tugboats can decarbonize without affecting operations, safety or warranties. This gives DoT and TNPA an early win.
- Instead of less than 100 methanol-compliant vessels, the customer base is more than 500 000 legacy vessels worldwide
- In previous engagement session, a potential concept of cruise vessels using this fuel was proposed

3) Since it is the diesel fraction that is used, it leaves the kerosene fraction for aviation

The background is a dark blue gradient with a complex, abstract pattern of white and light blue geometric shapes, including circles, lines, and polygons, creating a technical or digital aesthetic.

Thank you