

# Ethanol to Hydrogen Pilot Plant

7th edition of the cross-disciplinary International Summer School INFIERI series

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Julio R Meneghini and Thiago Lopes



Research Centre for  
Greenhouse Gas Innovation

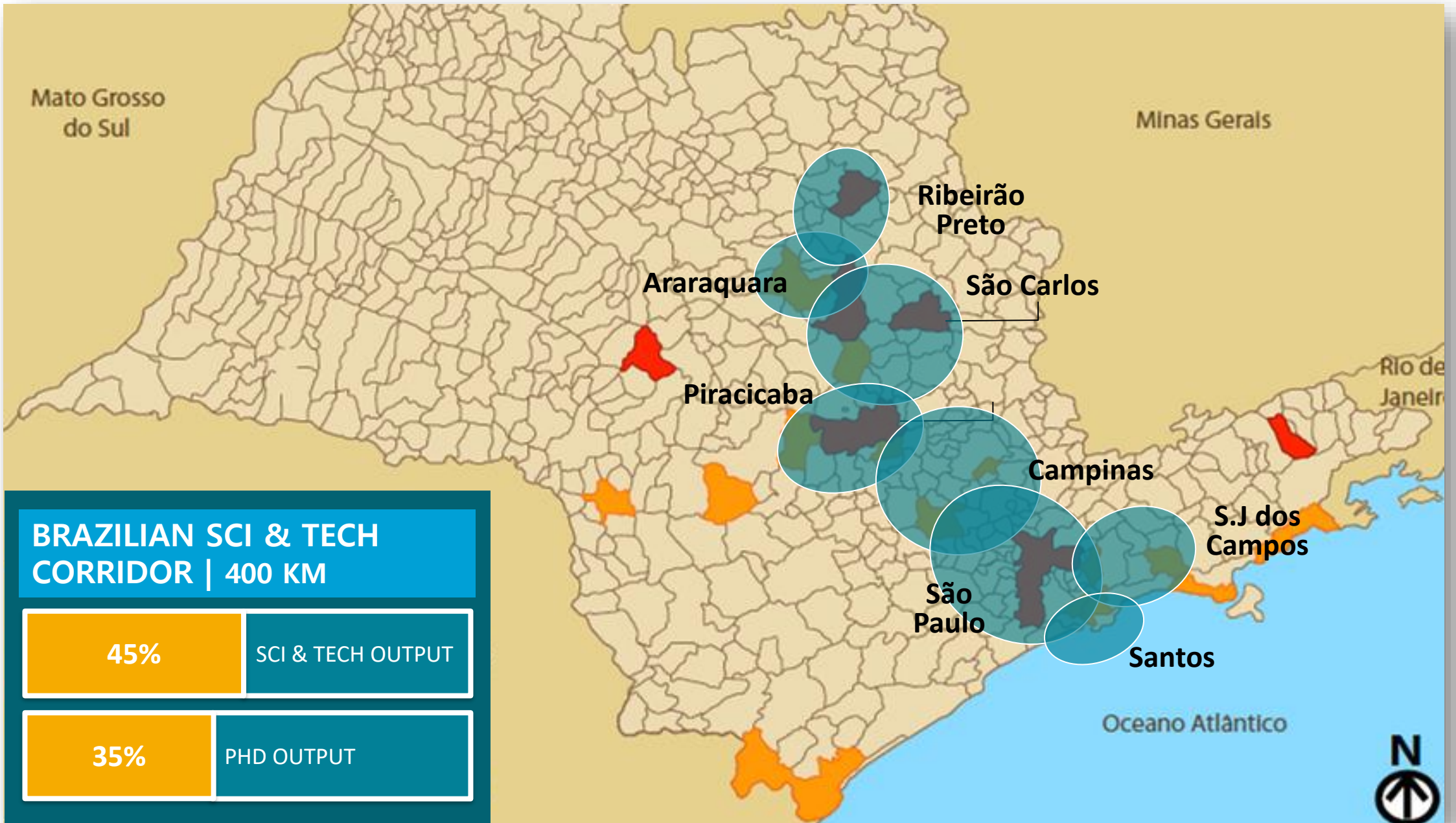


Research Centre for  
Greenhouse Gas Innovation

# RCGI

- ✓ Focus on the reduction of GHG emissions
- ✓ Supporting Brazil to achieve its NDCs through Research and Innovation



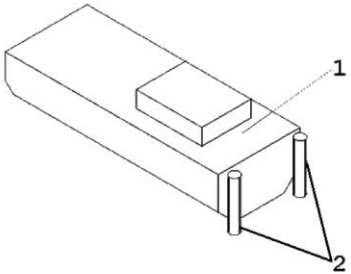
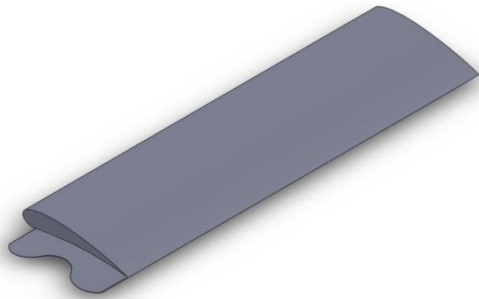
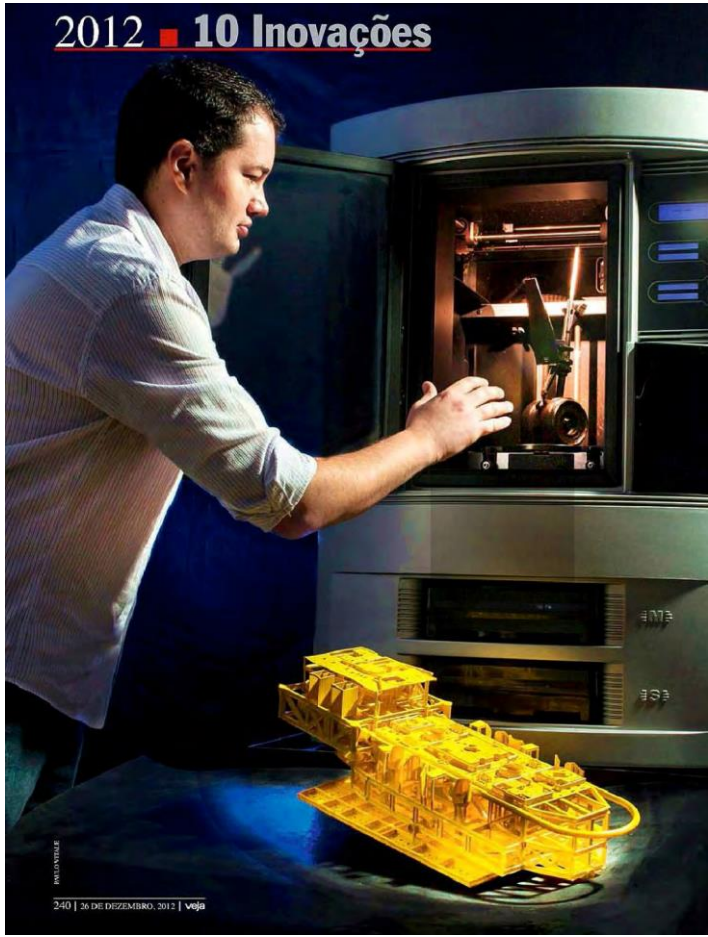
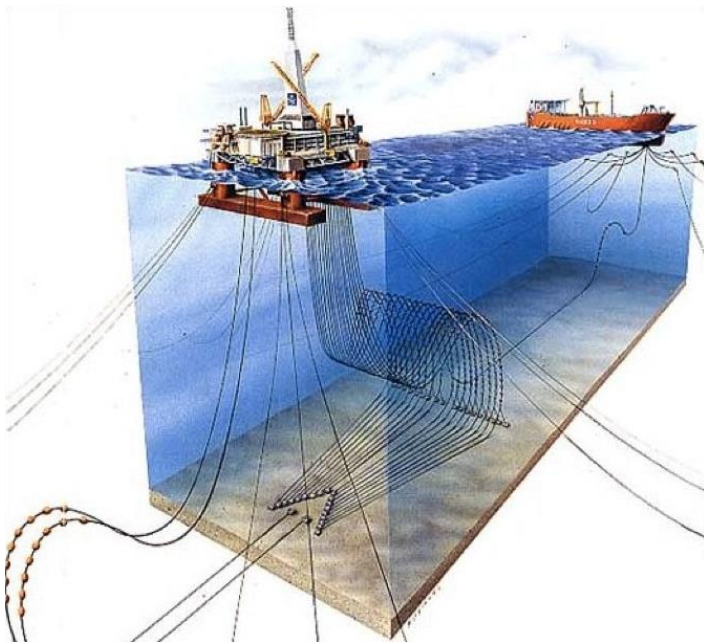


**BRAZILIAN SCI & TECH CORRIDOR | 400 KM**

45% SCI & TECH OUTPUT

35% PHD OUTPUT

# Importance of Public/Private Partnerships in Research, Development and Innovation



I. Korkischko, J.R. Meneghini / Journal of Fluids and Structures 34 (2012) 259–270

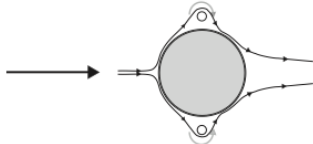


Fig. 8. Schematic of the flow around the circular cylinder with MSRC.





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Founding Sponsors



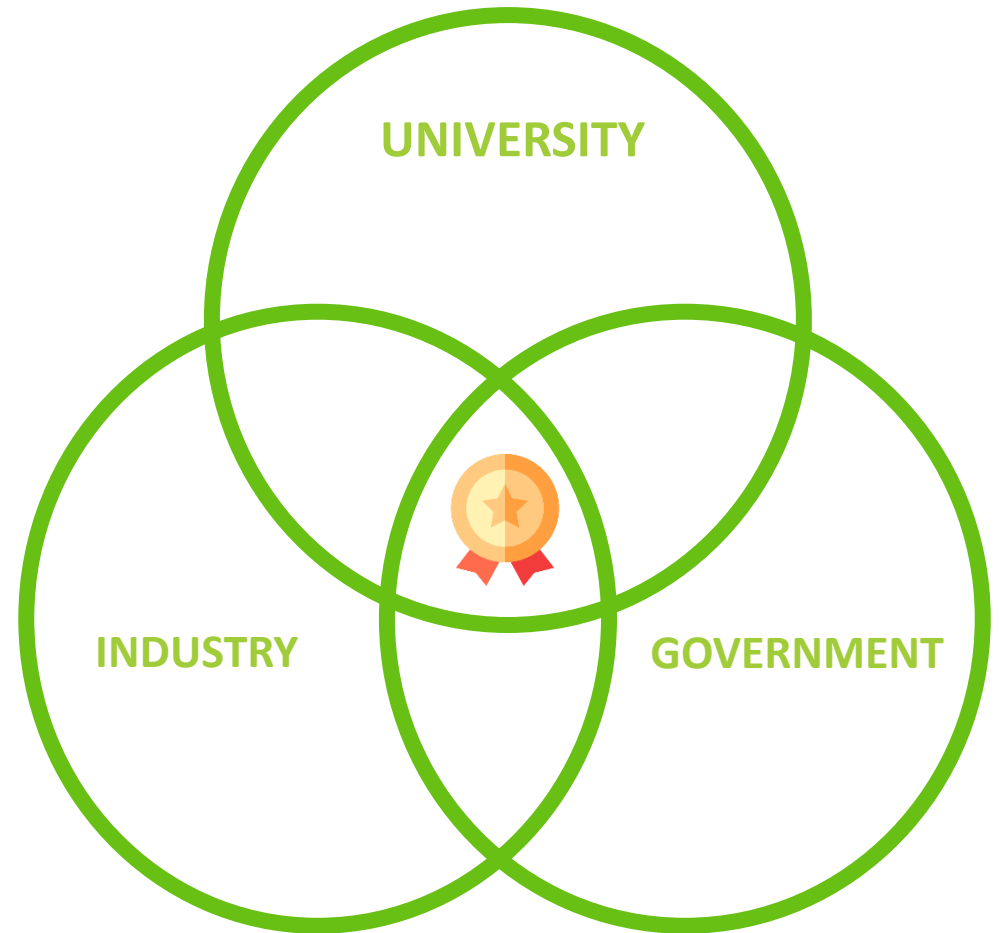


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# Triple Helix Strategic Interactions

NEW PRODUCTS IDEAS  
INNOVATIONS

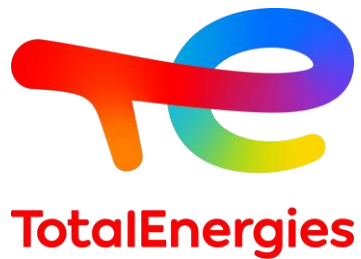
FUNDING AND  
STRATEGIC DEMANDS



## Founder Sponsors:



## Sponsors:





# Partner Institutions:



# International Collaborations: Centre to Centre (C2C)

SGI-Imperial: Sustainable Gas Institute

Nacional Science Foundation (NSF) and FAPESP Centre to Centre Collaboration:

POETS (<https://poets-erc.org/>) - RCGI ([www.usp.br/rcgi](http://www.usp.br/rcgi))

CISTAR (<https://cistar.us/>) - RCGI ([www.usp.br/rcgi](http://www.usp.br/rcgi))

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and FAPESP Collaboration:

Under creation/submission (2022)



# RCGI IN NUMBERS



**+530** Researchers



**+170** Events hosted



**28** Laboratories



**5** Awards received



**4** Patent filings



**3** Startups



**+480** Papers in journals



**+506** Papers in conference



**+150** Book chapters



**40** National partners



**57** International partners



# BRAZIL ROUTES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

# BRAZIL ROUTES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

## Onshore

Favourable energy mix

New renewable sources

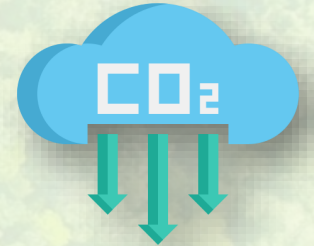
Nature-Based Solutions

Forestry, Agriculture, Pasture

Bioenergy, Biofuels

Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage

Heavy Industry & Transport



## BRAZIL ROUTES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

### Offshore

Oil & Gas

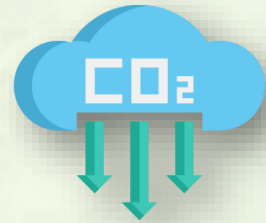
Maritime transportation

Ocean renewable energy

Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage

Hydrogen

Gas to products



# BRAZIL ROUTES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

## Onshore + Offshore

Brazil has a real chance of becoming **GHG neutral**



# Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Innovation Programmes



## **NBS**

How to **incorporate** Nature Based Solutions to abate CO<sub>2</sub>?



## **BECCS**

How to **achieve** negative carbon intensity biofuels?



## **CCU**

How to **create and deploy** value chains that unlock novel carbon products?



## **GHG**

How to **develop** new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?



## **Advocacy**

How to **unlock** CO<sub>2</sub> abatement technologies with the support of standardization, regulation and social acceptance?



## **InnovaPower**

How to **construct** long-term solutions centered on the decarbonization of electrical power systems?



## **Decarbonization**

How to **contribute** with technologies that focus on a decarbonized future?



## **Centre 2 Centre**

How to **establish partnerships** between centres around the world concerned with solutions to improve our environment?

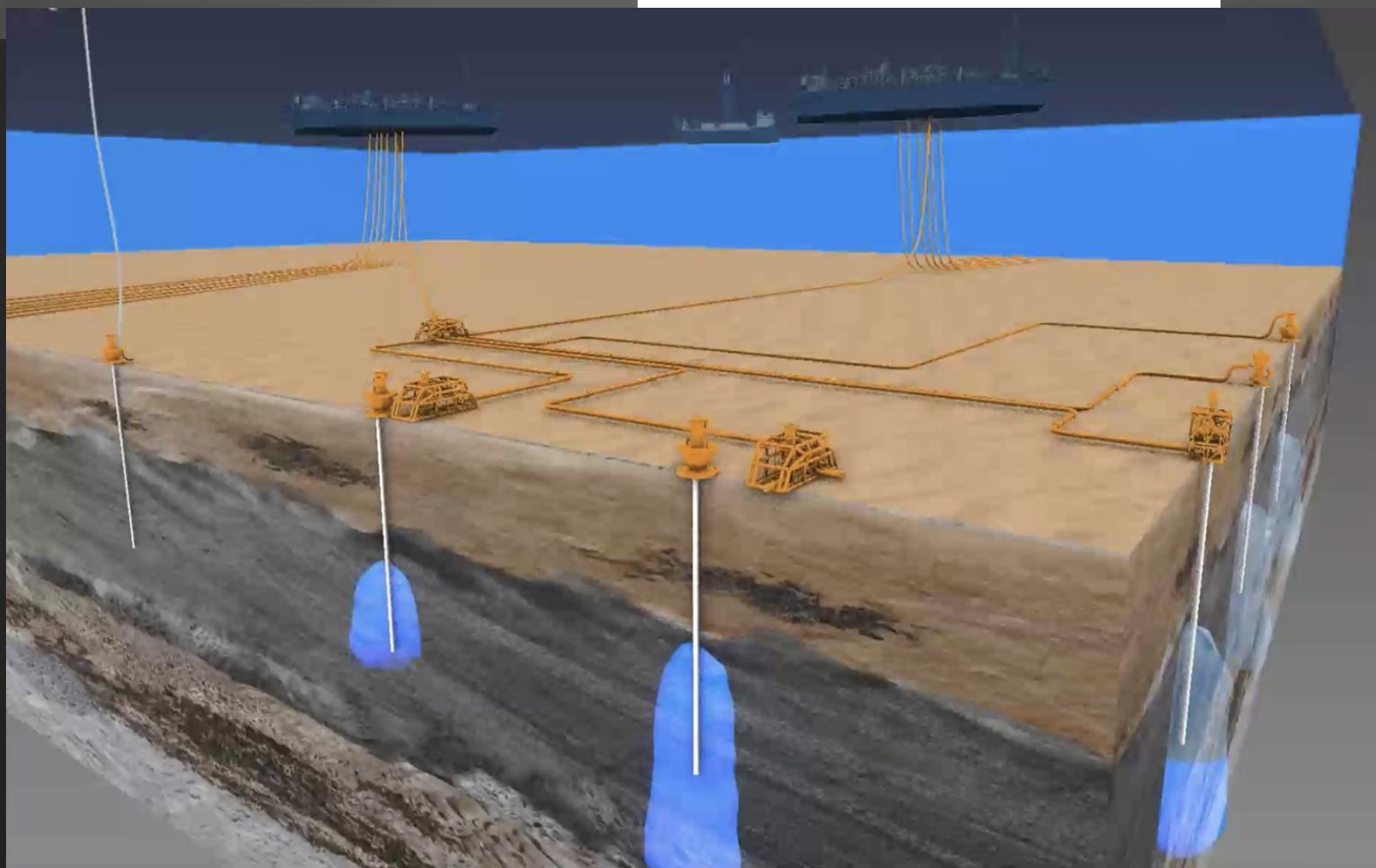




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NET  
ZERO

RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION  
FOR CARBON  
NEUTRALITY



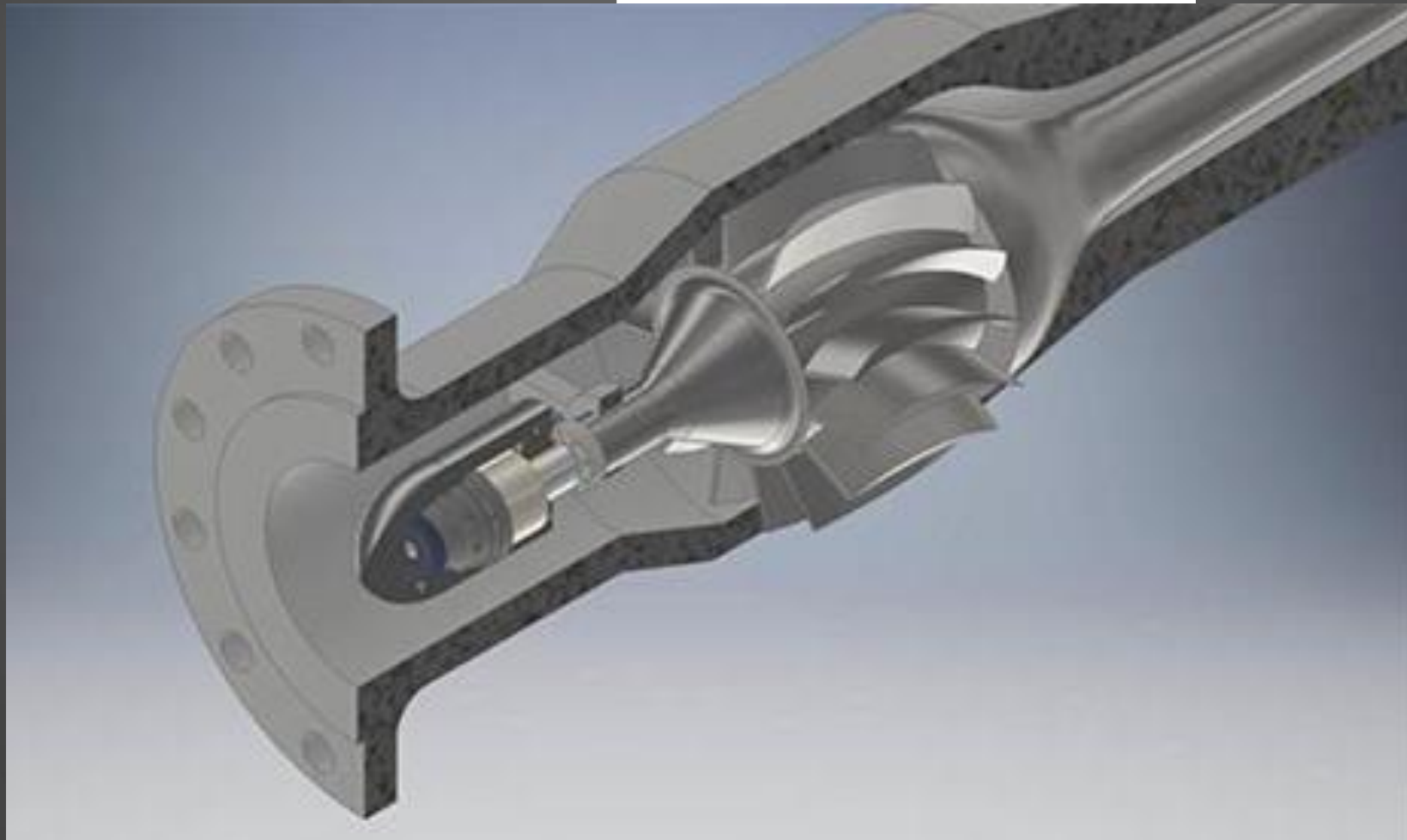
USP



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RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION  
FOR CARBON  
NEUTRALITY



USP

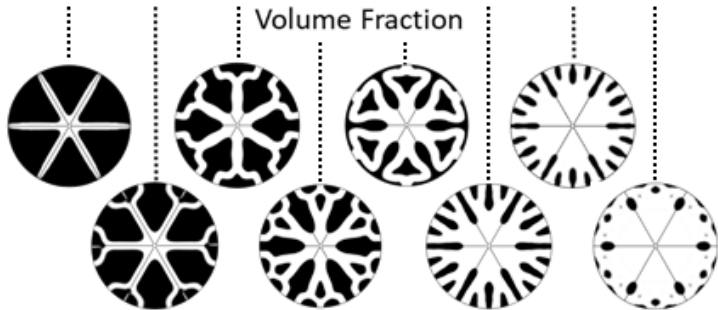
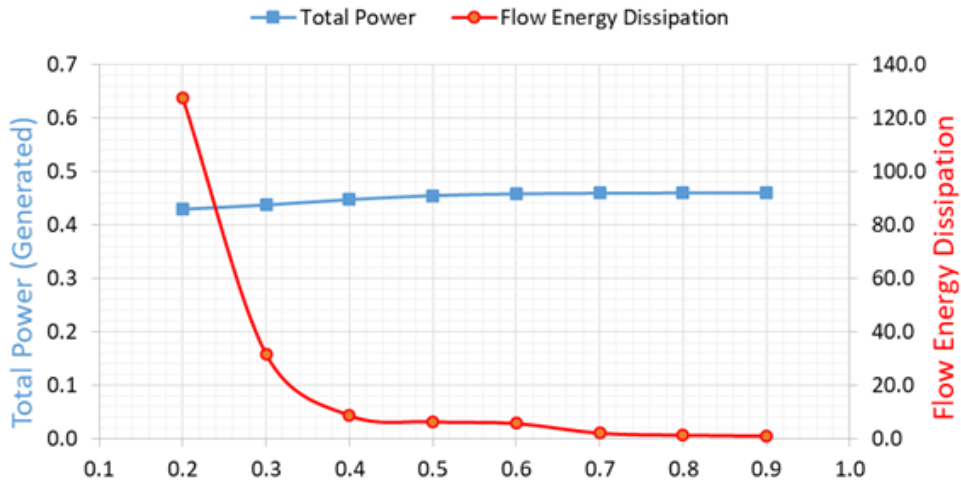


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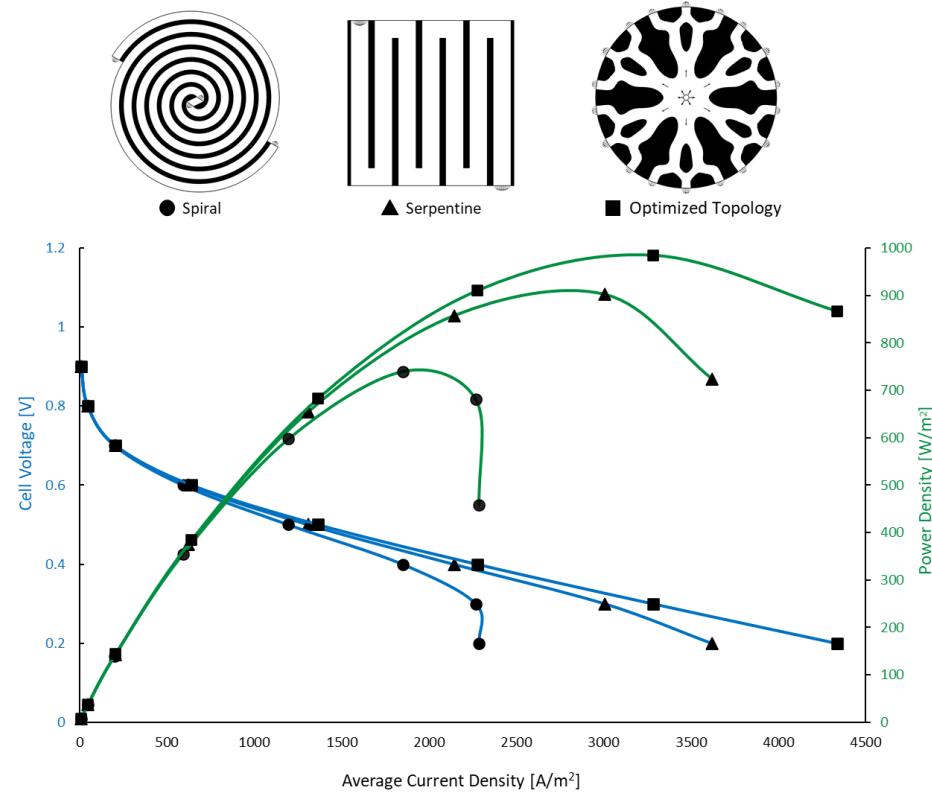
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RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION  
FOR CARBON  
NEUTRALITY

Cell Total Power and Energy Dissipation vs Volume Fraction

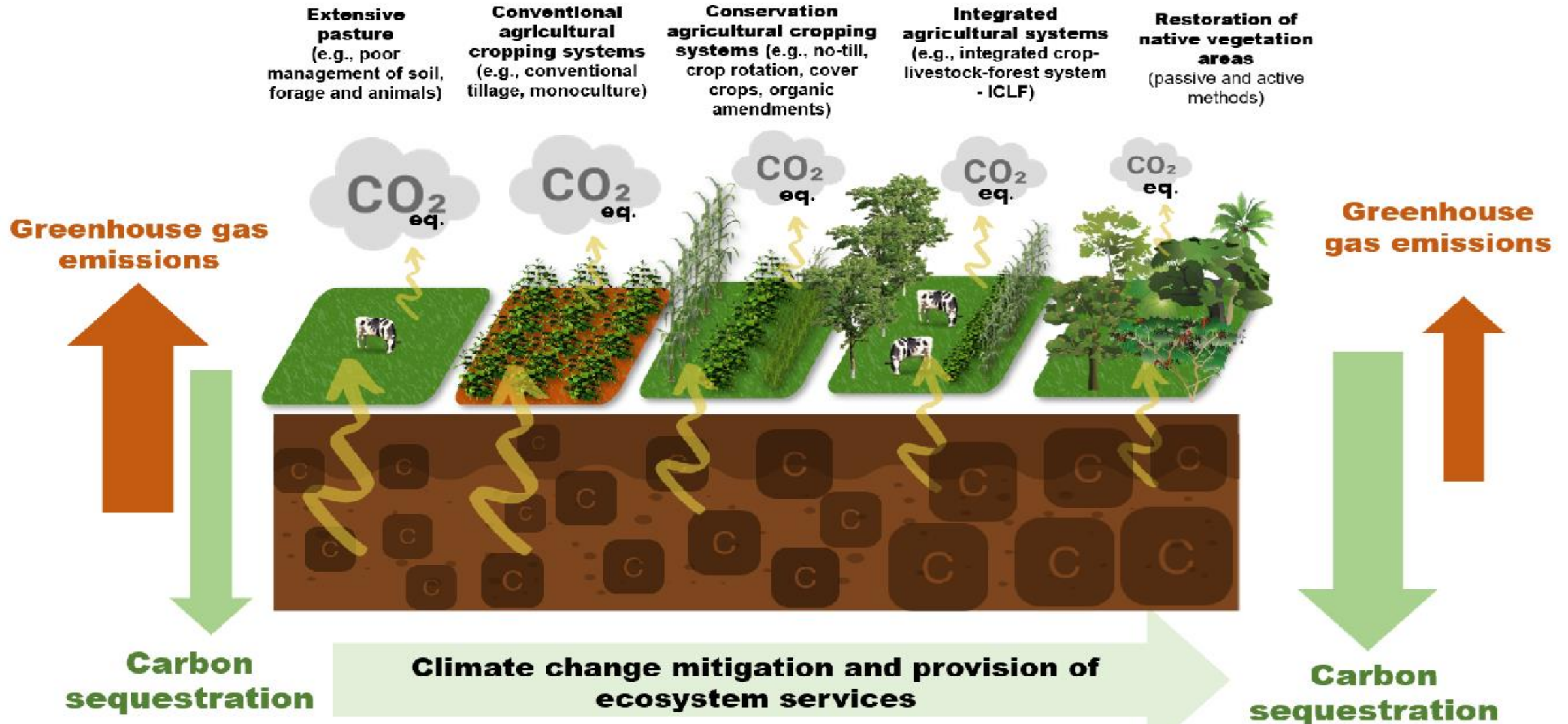


Polarization Curves and Power Density Curves of Different Flow Fields



# Nature Based Solutions

## Pathways for intensification and diversification of agricultural systems and restore native ecosystems in Brazil

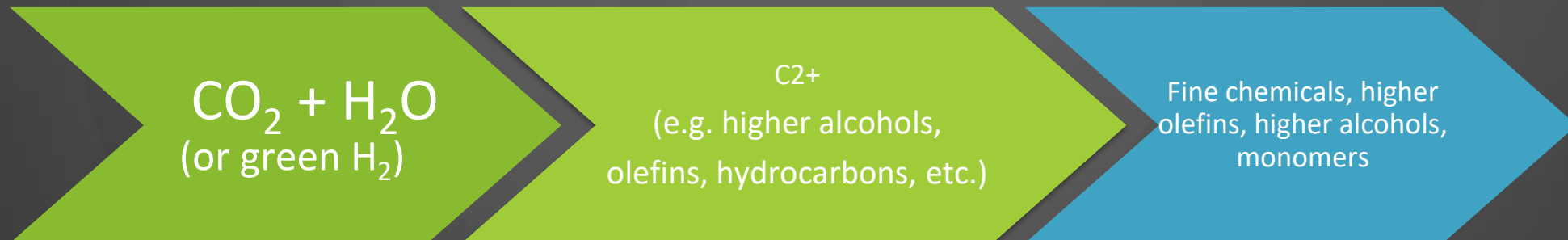


# Carbon Capture and Utilization Program

The CCU program goal is to *create value from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions* through the design of integrated processes for carbon capture and conversion to tackle climate change. In this circular carbon economy concept, **CO<sub>2</sub> is considered a valuable C1 building block to CO<sub>2</sub>-derived chemicals**, such as intermediates, monomers, building materials and fuels.

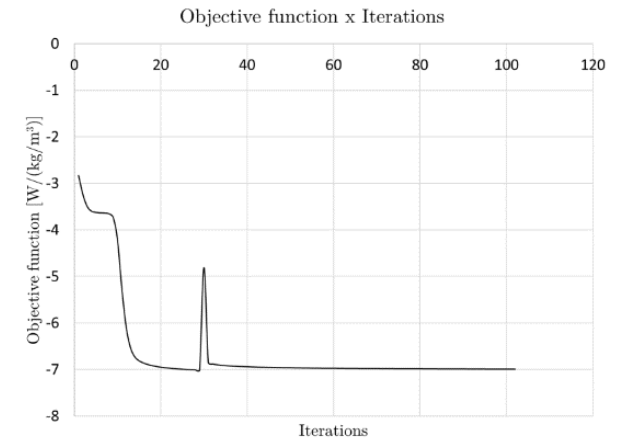
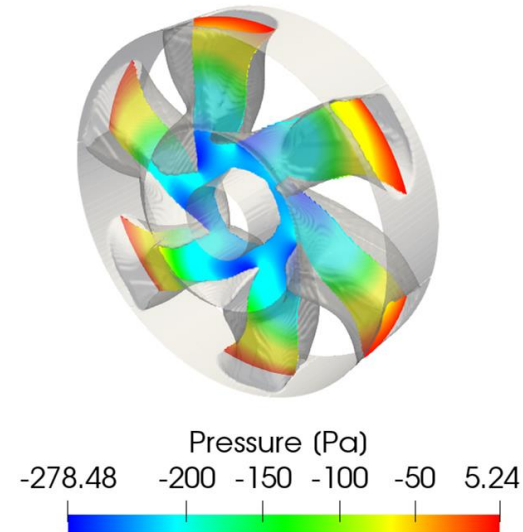
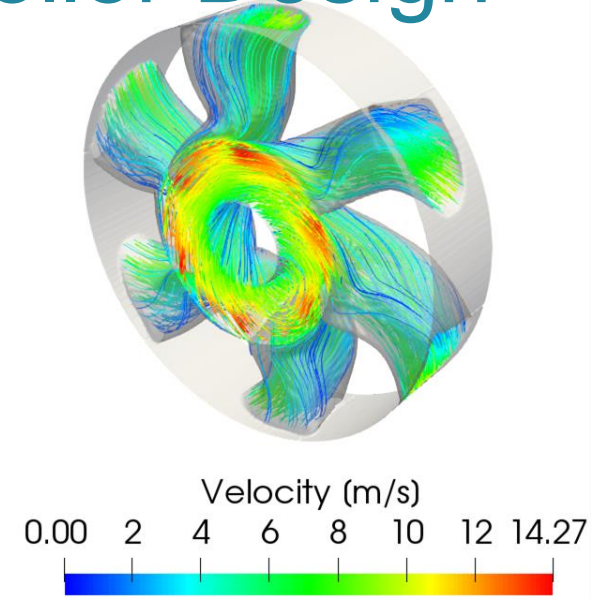
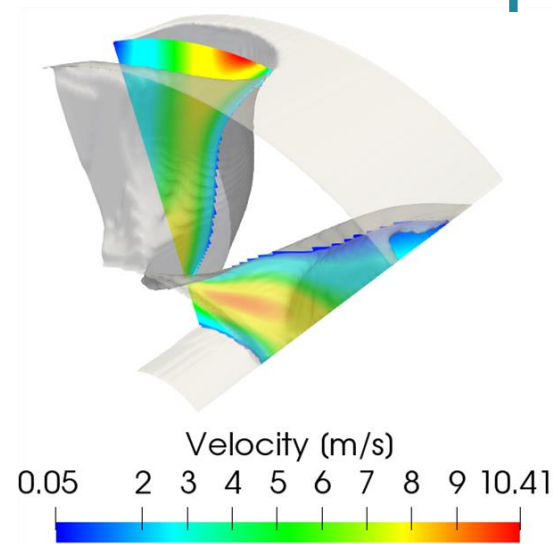
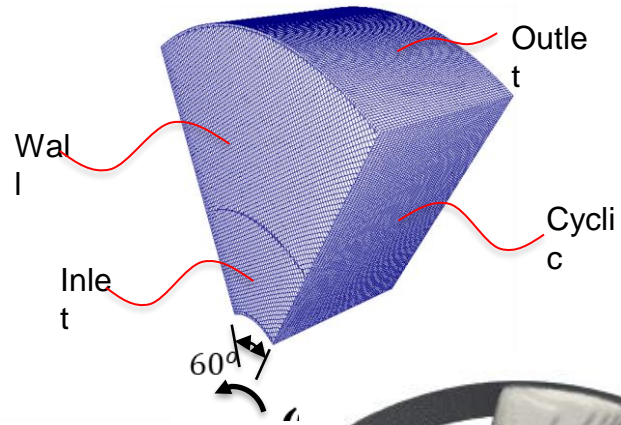


Areas of expertise: Photocatalysis and/or electrocatalysis and/or bioconversion and/or chemical catalysis



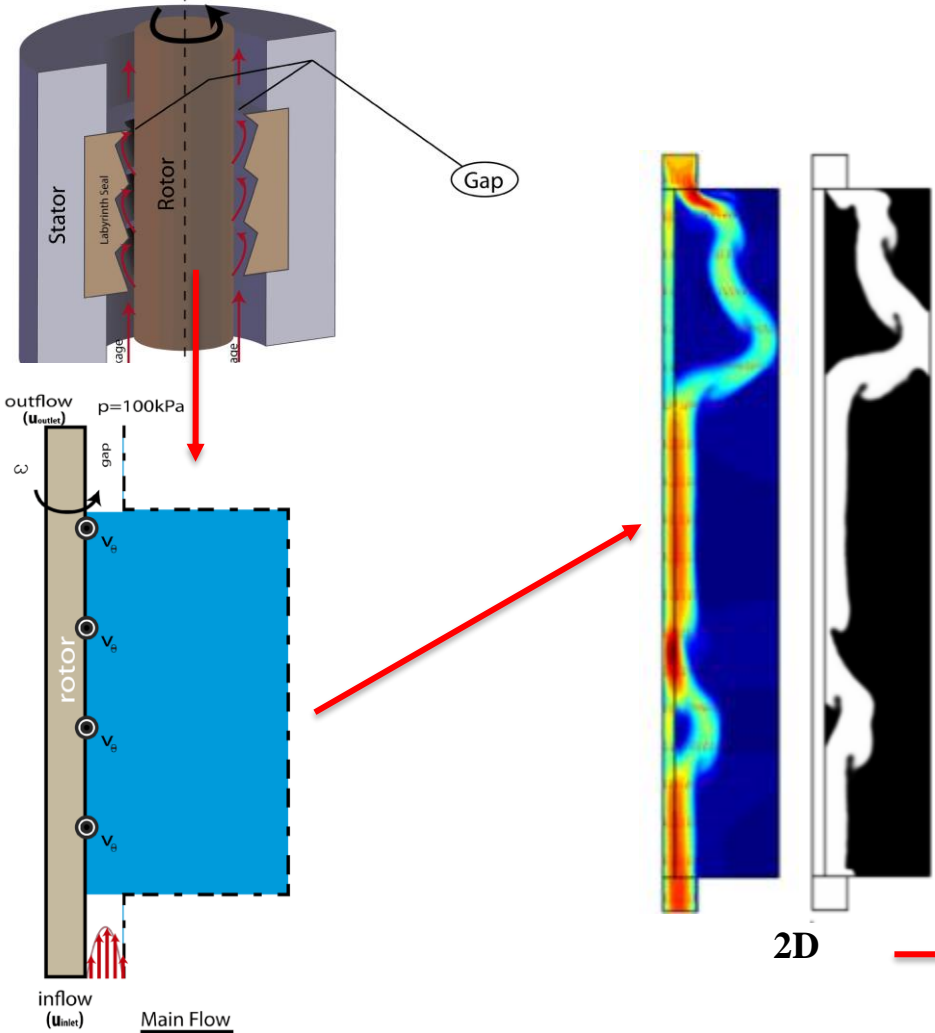
# Topology Optimization for Fluids – Impeller Design

Numerical examples:  $60^\circ$  sector + 50% volume constraint + 1000 rpm



# LABYRINTH SEAL DESIGN

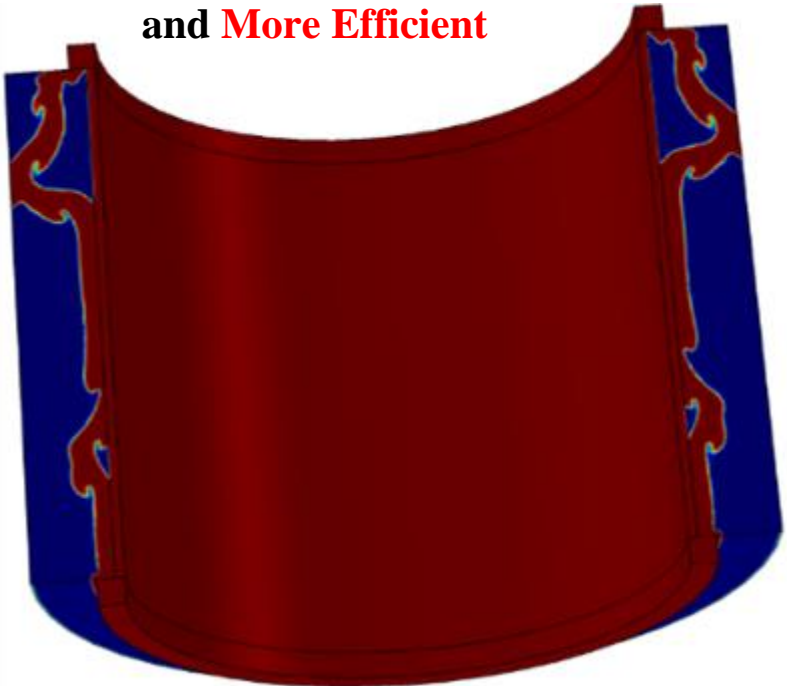
Topology optimization Procedure



Labyrinth seal design for Methane Compressors Application

Objective function Diodicity

Compared to Traditional Model:  
**Less Leakage up to 50%**  
**and More Efficient**

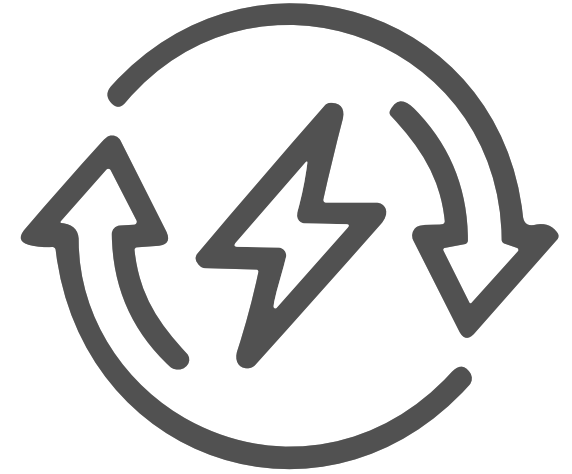


2D → 3D

Rotation = 3000 rpm  
Volume Constraint < 0.3

# Power Systems Innovation Hub - InnovaPower

The Power Systems Innovation Hub (InnovaPower) aims to develop innovative and sustainable solutions focused on the decarbonization of electrical power systems. This program addresses several aspects such as environmental impact assessment, eco-efficient materials, increased availability and efficiency of electricity production, optimization of distributed energy resources and integration with agriculture. These initiatives contribute to the transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy system, in line with the challenges of global decarbonization and United Nation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



## Program Goals:

1. Develop innovative and sustainable solutions for the decarbonization of electricity systems.
2. Increase the efficiency of electricity production and optimize the integration of renewable energy resources.



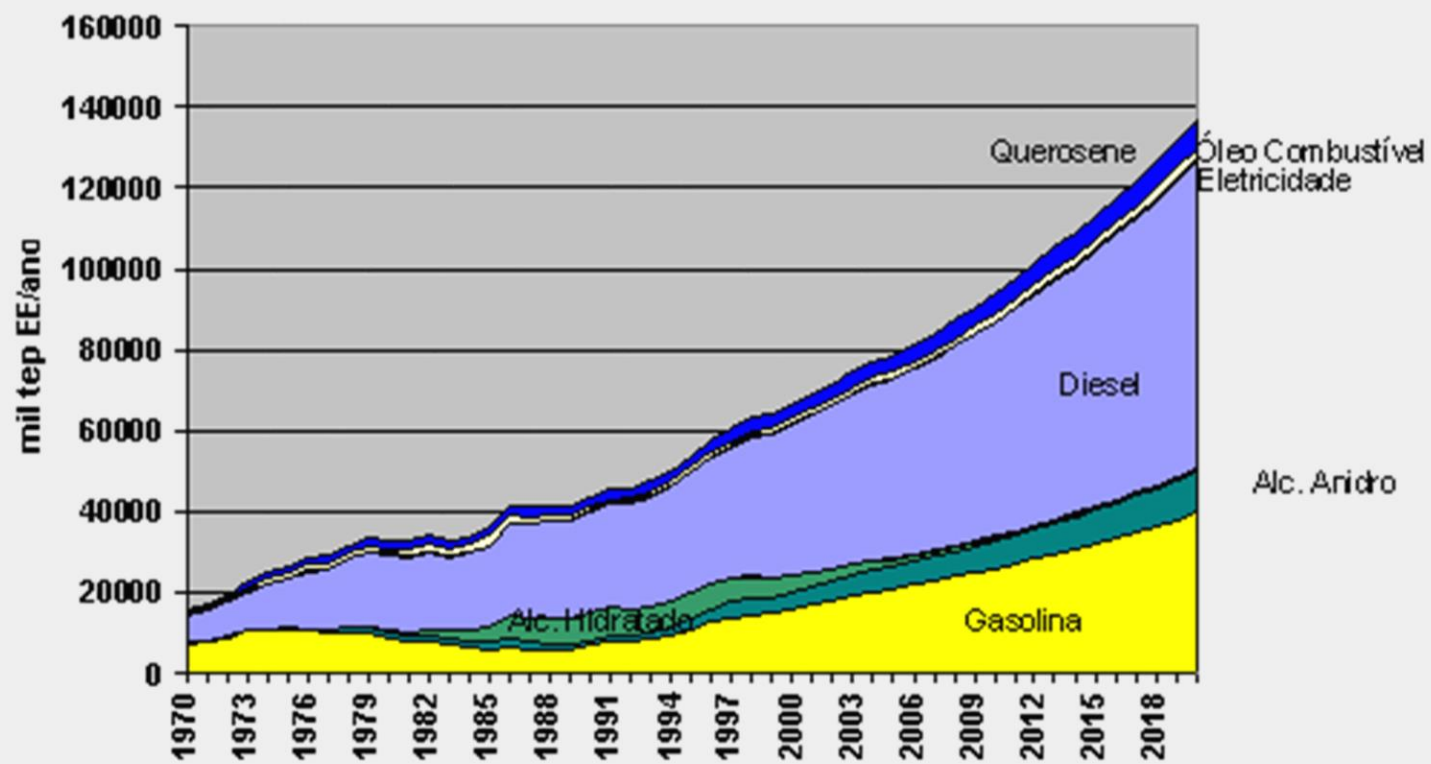
# Ethanol to Hydrogen Pilot Plant

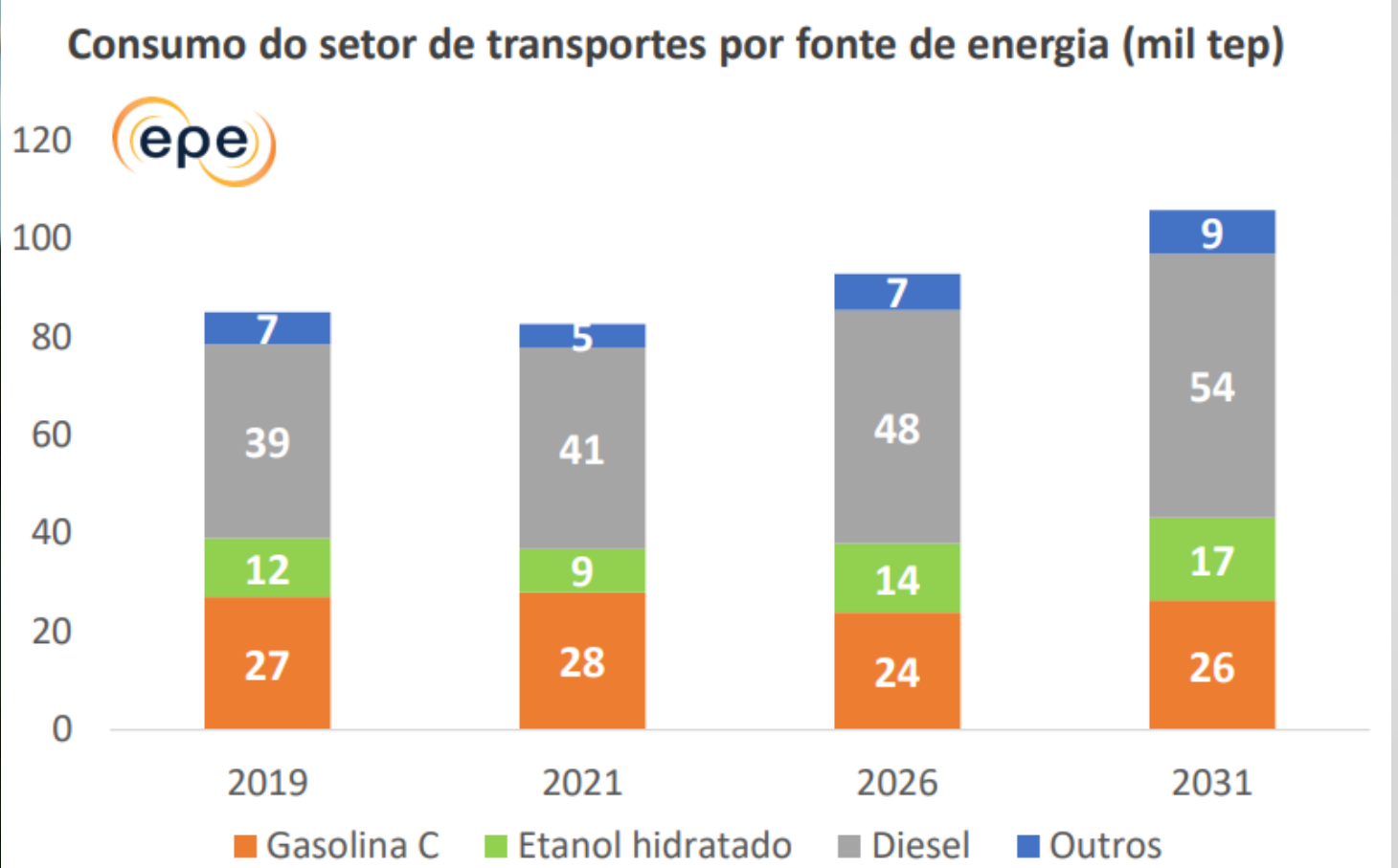


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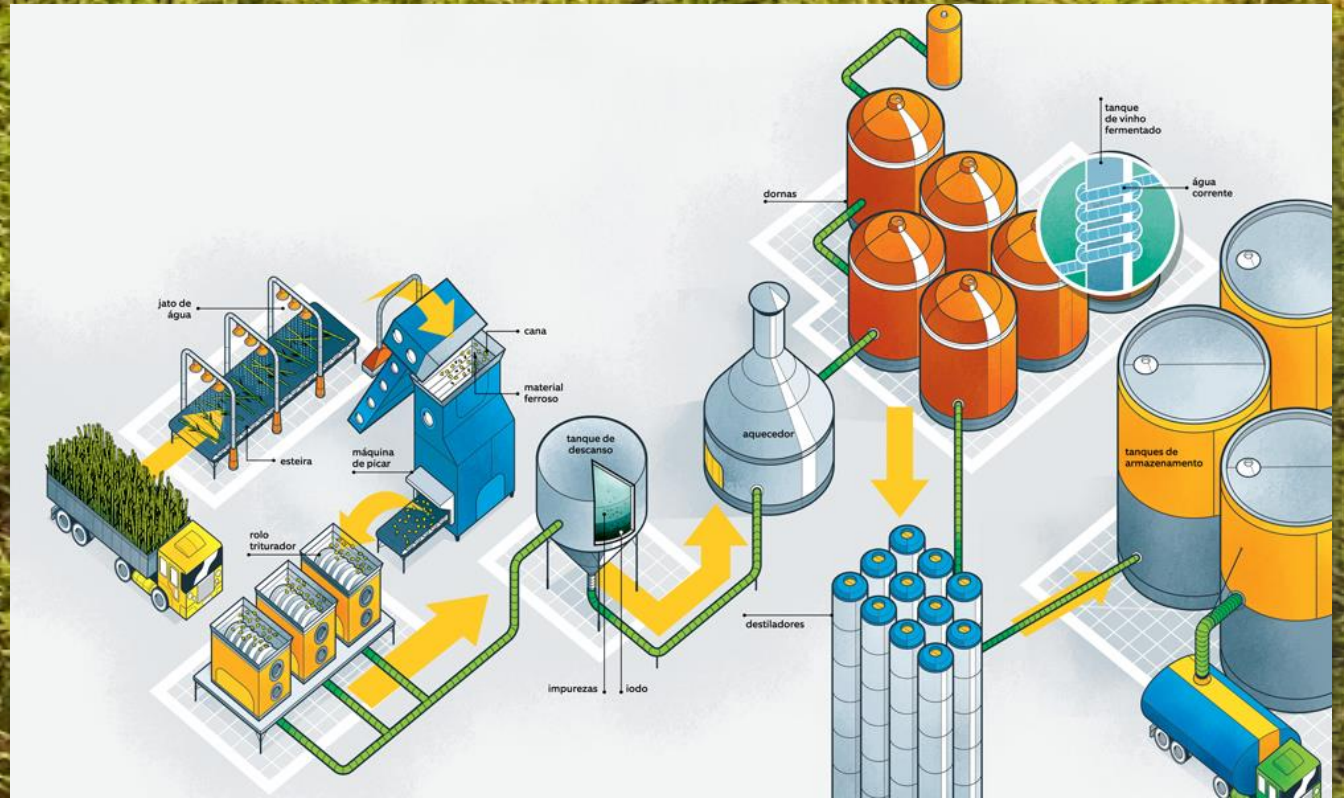


### Energia Equivalente no Setor Transporte por Combustível





# Ethanol cycle with CCUS: efficient point-source capture



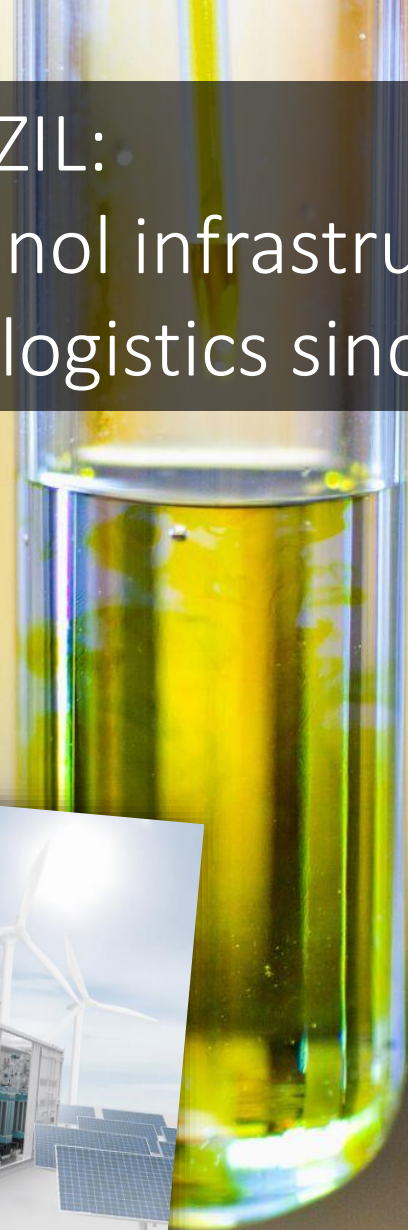


# HYDROGEN FROM ETHANOL



A BRAZILIAN VOCATION

BRAZIL:  
Ethanol infrastructure  
and logistics since 1975



# No more diesel buses in São Paulo city

The city has banned new diesel buses. The current fleet will be replaced in 10 years.

Today the city has about 14,000 buses (only 2% electric).



**CIDADE DE  
SÃO PAULO**







# USP



# LINHAS DE ÔNIBUS



HRS



Terminal do Metrô Butantã, São Paulo/SP  
Foto: José Euvilásio Sales, 01/08/2017

600,000 trips per month



## Marcopolo Viale BRS

Hydrogen fuel cell, electric motors  
Regenerative braking system

Autonomy: 200km

Capacity: 70 passengers

Air conditioning

Wide ailes

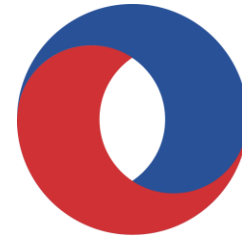
Wheelchair accessible



PARTNERSHIP



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EMTU







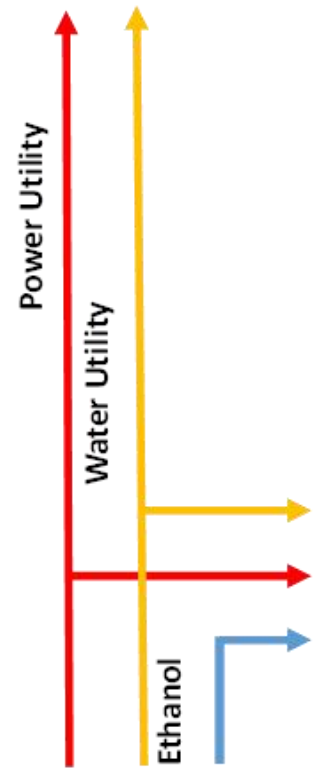
Hytron



raízen

# TECHNOLOGY

- Electricity 
- Hydrogen 
- Ethanol 
- Water 



Ethanol Reformer (2<sup>nd</sup> Gen)

Including the Topologically Optimized Ethanol Steam-Reforming Reactor

Compressor

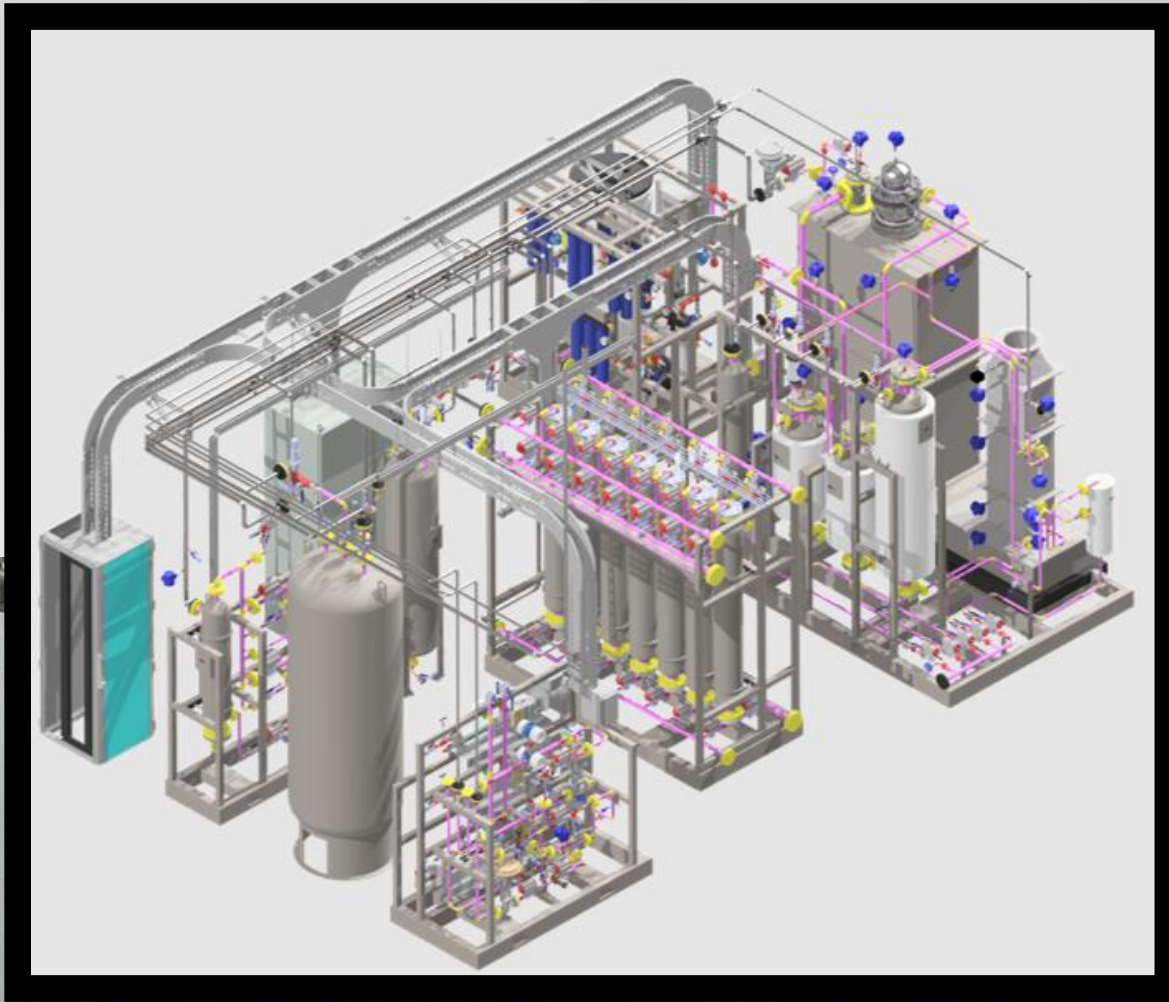


Hydrogen Storage

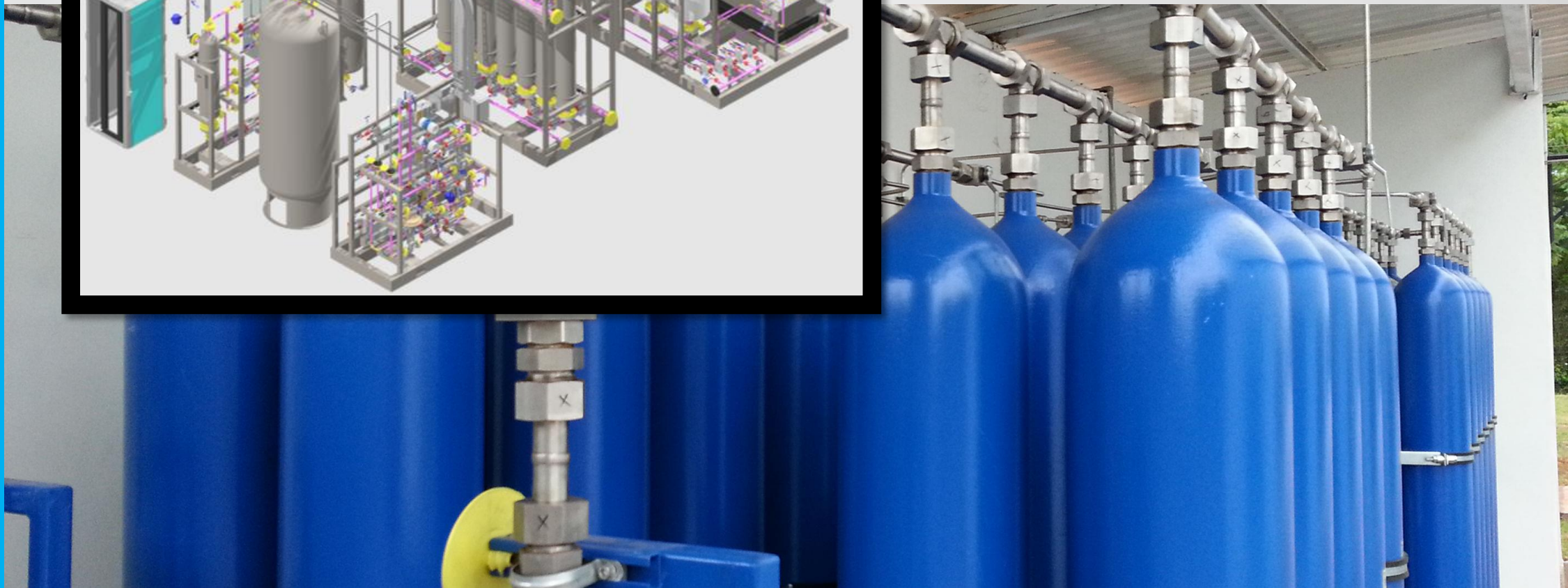


H<sub>2</sub> Dispenser

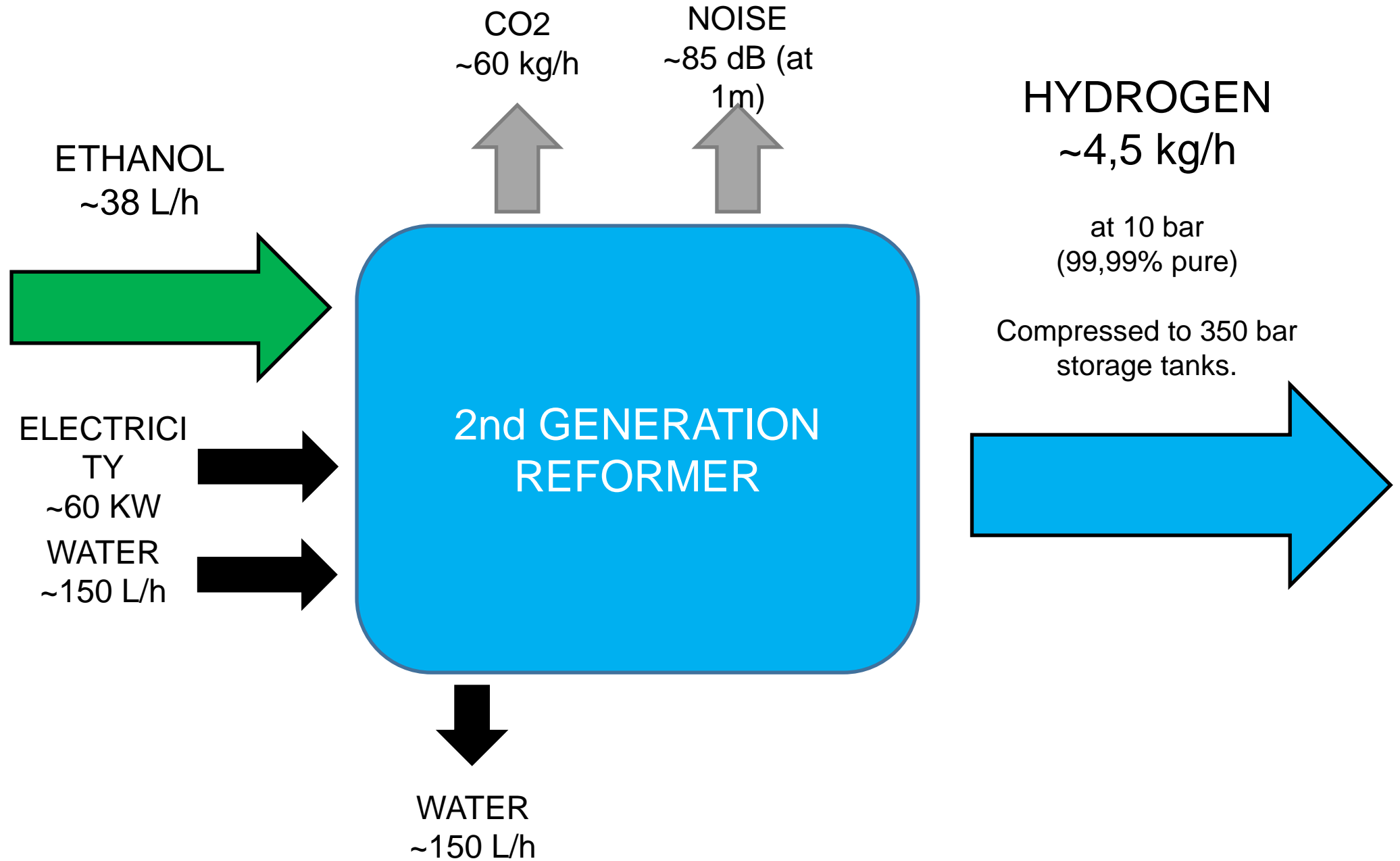
# TECHNOLOGY



## 2nd Generation Ethanol Reformer



# TECHNOLOGY





## HRS Hydrogen Refuelling Station

Operational for 18 hours per day

Hydrogen production rate: 4,5kg/h

Hydrogen storage at 350 bar

Feedstock storage: 10,000 litres of Ethanol in suspended tanks (no underground tanks).

Bus load of 30kg of Hydrogen (approx. 200km)

Future station: 45kg/h at 350 bar





h2

h<sub>2</sub>



GOVERNO DO ESTADO  
DE SÃO PAULO

METROPOLITANO  
EMTU

# NEAR FUTURE

# USP

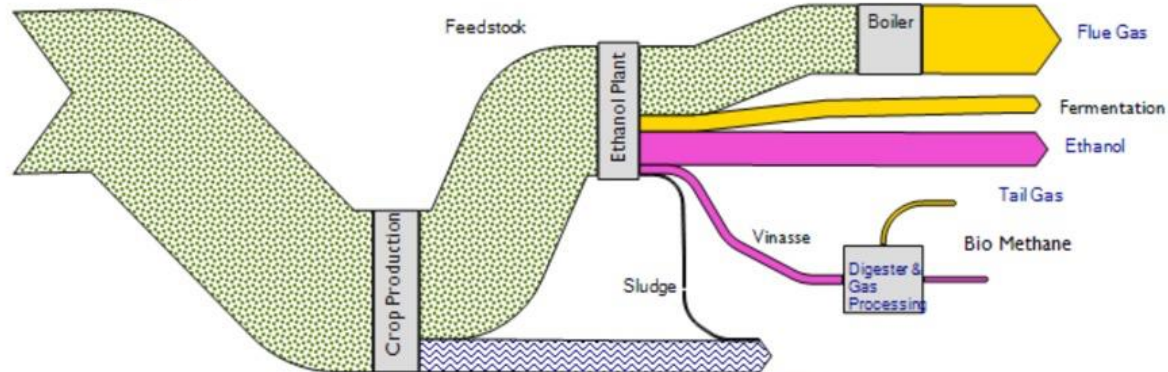




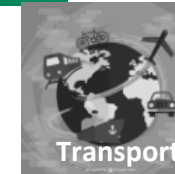
# EtOH Sink ---- H<sub>2</sub> Abatement



Carbon Uptake



Source: California Ethanol and Power Carbon Balance, Life Cycle Associates, 2013.



Sink

Abatement



Sources: California Polytechnic, IPCC

# EtOH Sink ---- H<sub>2</sub> Abatement

BR E1G: 24.8 g CO<sub>2</sub>/MJ<sub>fuel</sub>  
 Source: JEC 2014



BR E1+2G: 17 g CO<sub>2</sub>/MJ<sub>fuel</sub>  
 Calculated based on Wang 2014



*possible*



CA: -25.7 g CO<sub>2</sub>/MJ<sub>fuel</sub>  
 Calculated based on California Ethanol and Power  
 Carbon Balance, Life Cycle Associates, 2013.

Only sinks can solve cumulative emissions

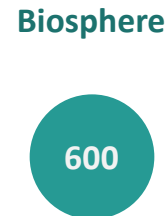
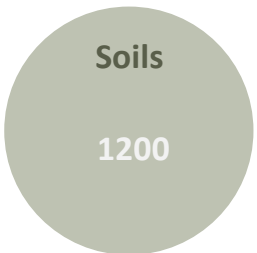
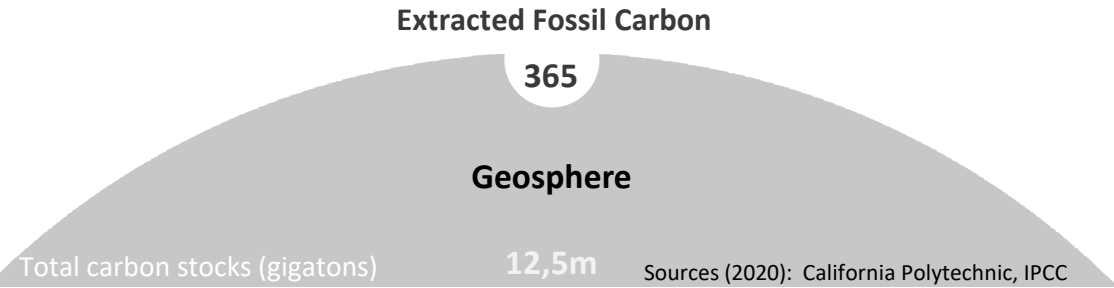


14.61 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq  
 Source: Our World in Data

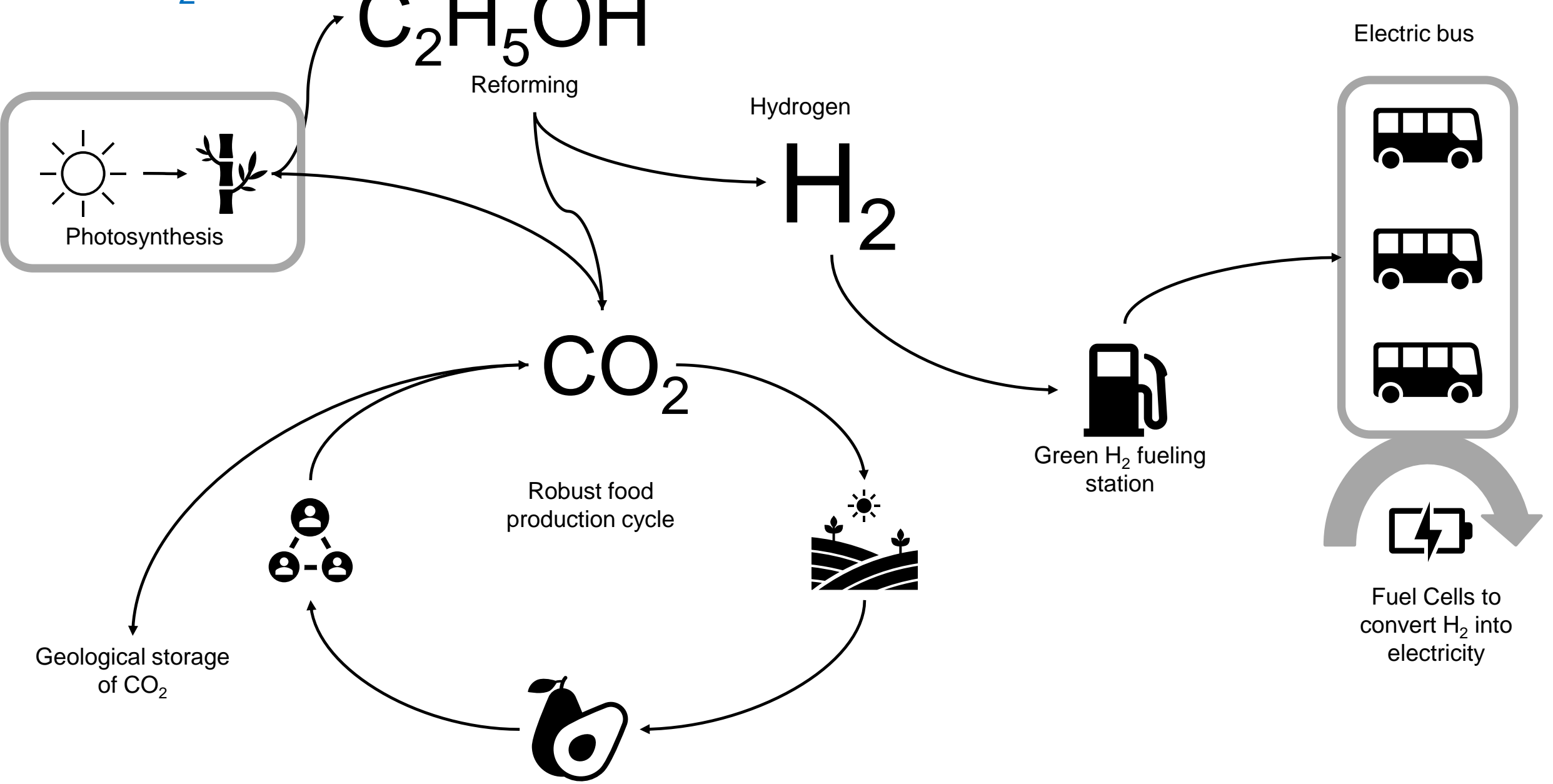
... speeded up if with abatement

## Sink

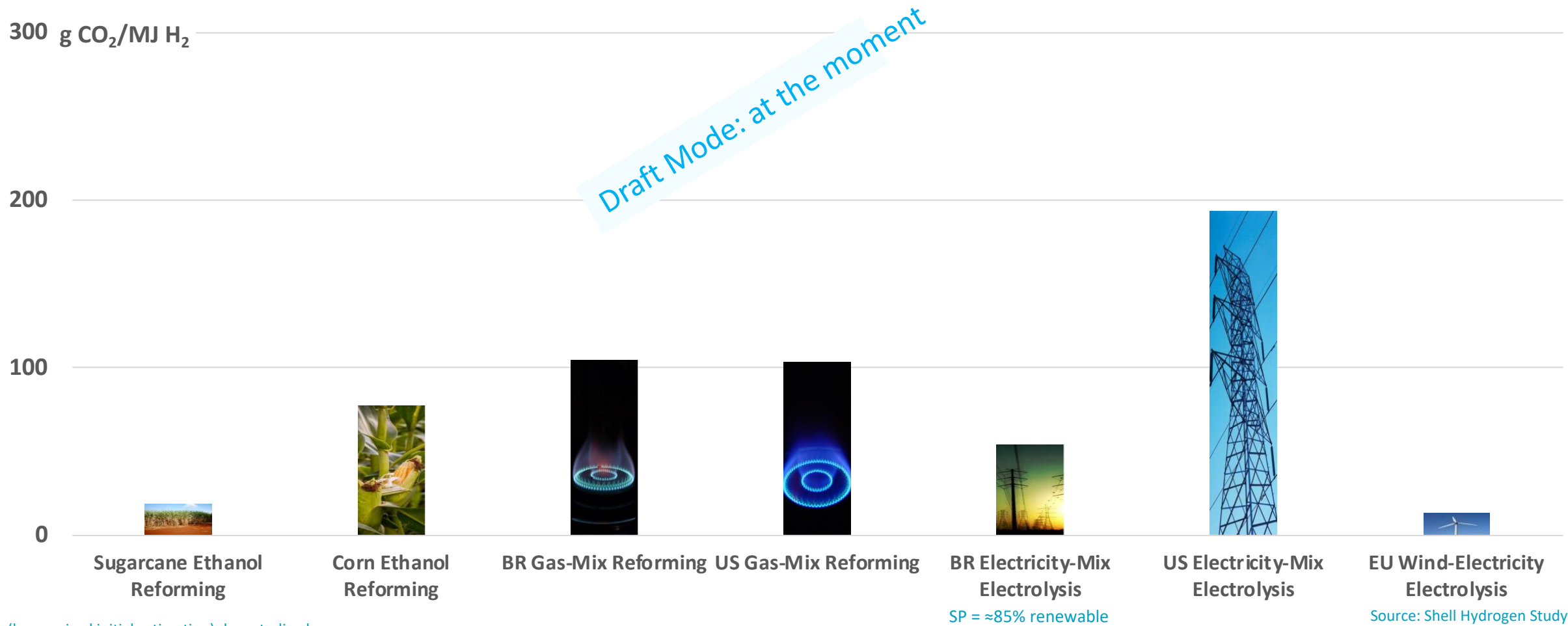
## Abatement



# Green H<sub>2</sub> at USP

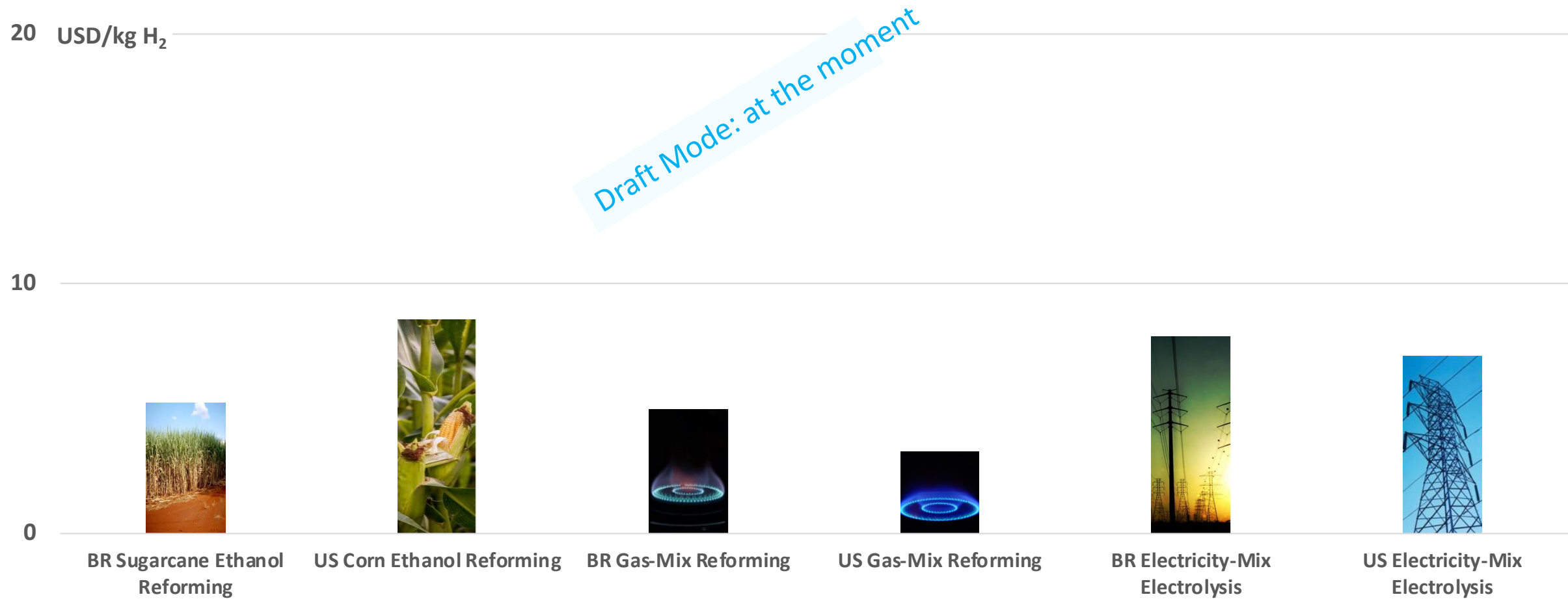


# HRS Bridging the Gap: GHG emissions





# HRS Bridging the Gap: costs



# Electricity or H<sub>2</sub> from Ethanol

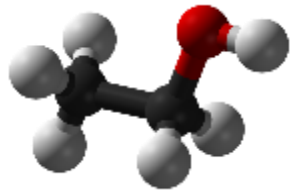
## *Fundamental studies*

Micro-kinetic description:  
experiments, modeling and  
numerical simulations

## *(basic and) applied research*

Proton Exchange Membrane  
Electrolysis Cell & Fuel Cell  
(25-80 °C)

Solid Oxide Electrolytic Cell &  
Solid Oxide Fuel Cell  
(600-800 °C)

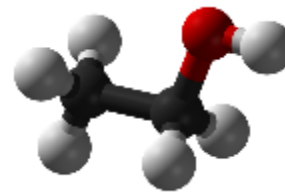


+



O<sub>2</sub>

Fuel Cells Mode

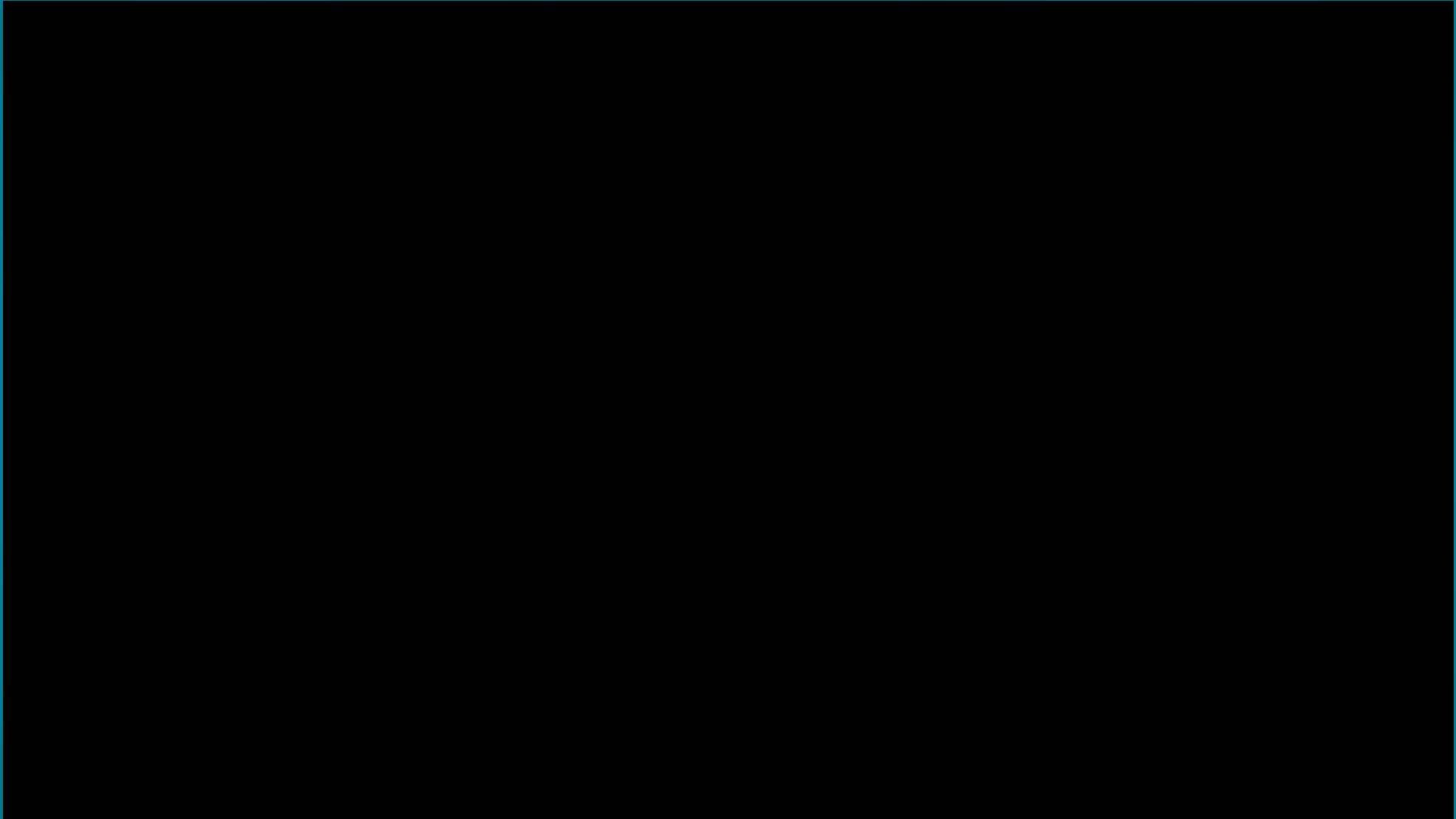


+



H<sub>2</sub>

Electrolysis Mode (electrochemical  
reform of Ethanol)



# Thank you!

[www.usp.br/rcgi](http://www.usp.br/rcgi)



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