



Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology for Ships From Feasibility Studies to First H₂ Vessels

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*Sandia HQ:
Albuquerque NM*



Livermore CA, (SF Bay Area)

- Sandia is the largest National Lab in the U.S.
 - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) ~15,000 employees
 - ~ US \$4.4B/yr from DOE, other federal agencies, and private industry
 - H₂ Program in Livermore, CA (SF Bay Area)
- Hydrogen program: 70+ years of work, in a wide range of areas (H₂ storage, production, delivery, development of regulations, **market transformation**), which we apply to enable impactful clean energy solutions
- **Market Transformation: Zero Emission H₂/Fuel Cell Maritime Program:**

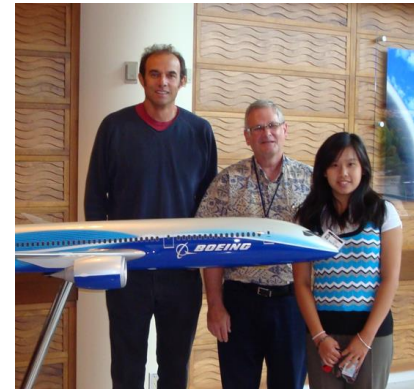
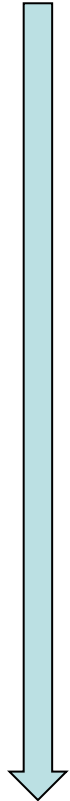


We Have Been Evaluating the Feasibility of Using H₂ Fuel Cells in Different Applications -- "Fuel Cell Market Transformation"

I founded the Sandia Fuel Cell Market Transformation Program in 2005.

2003

- (2003) Served on Governor Schwarzenegger's H₂ HWY Team
- (2007) H₂ Fuel Cells at Emergency Power System for Commercial Aircraft (Boeing)
- (2008) Modular Fuel Cell Power for Airplanes (Boeing)
- (2010) H₂ Mobile Lighting System (Boeing and DOE)
- (2010) H₂ Fuel Cells for Auxiliary Power on Airplanes (DOE)
- (2011) Man-portable H₂ Fuel Cell Applications (DOE)
- (2012) Fuel Cell Range Extender for Electric Work Trucks (DOE)
- (2016) Feasibility of a Fuel Cell High Speed Ferry (DOT/MARAD)
- (2017) Feasibility of a Fuel Cell Coastal Research Vessel (DOT/MARAD)
- (2022) Feasibility of a H₂ Hybrid Research Vessel (DOT/MARAD)
- (2022) H₂ Gas Dispersion Studies for a Fuel Cell Vessel (DOT/MARAD)
- (2024) Exploring LH₂ Tank Technology for ZE Fuel Cell Vessels (DOT/MARAD)
- (2024) Advanced Vent Mast Designs for H₂ Fuel Cell Vessels (DOT/MARAD)



Joe Breit, Boeing



California Department of Transportation



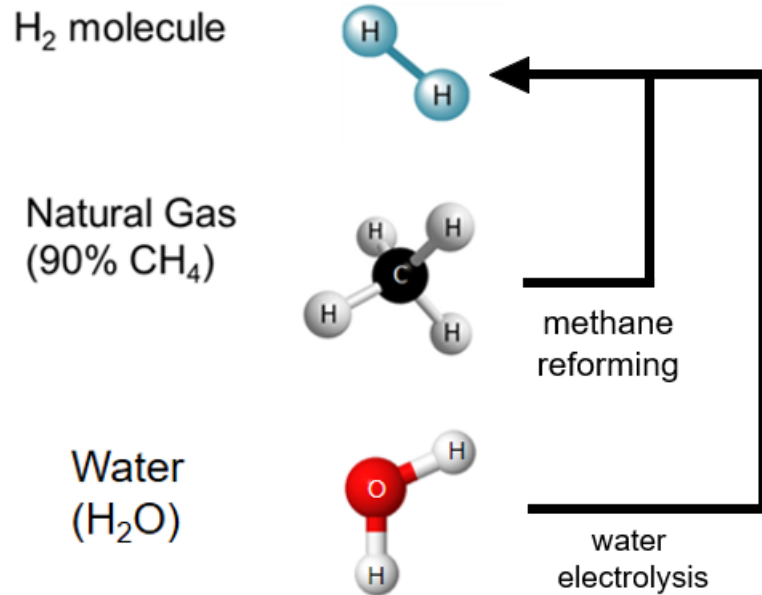
Joe Pratt, ZEI



Scripps, Glostén and Hydrogenics (Cummins)

2024

Properties of Hydrogen

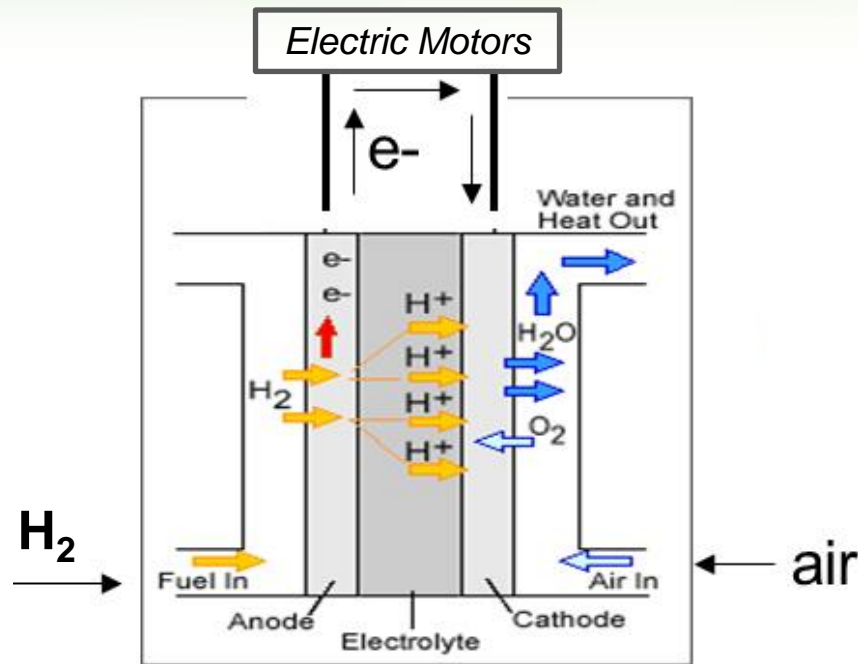


- Is typically a gas, but can be a liquid (LH₂) if made very cold (20 K).
- LH₂ evaporates very fast (4,000 gallons will evaporate in ~ 7 seconds).
- Is more buoyant than helium, will go straight up at ~ 40 mph if released.

L.E. Klebanoff, J.W. Pratt and C.B. LaFleur, *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* **42**, 757 (2017).

- ✓ Overall, H₂ is very similar to natural gas (which is ~ 90% methane, CH₄)
- ✓ H₂ is not a direct greenhouse gas (GHG), but its photolytic properties are being studied.
- ✓ If spilled, LH₂ evaporates from the water leaving no residue.
- ✓ H₂ can be ignited given an ignition source and a combustible H₂/air mixture (4 – 75% mix with air).
- ✓ Hydrogen safety follows the same approach as natural gas: eliminate ignition sources and H₂ leaks.

When hydrogen is used in a *Fuel Cell* it produces ZERO pollution or greenhouse gas at point of use



- commercially available
- more energy efficient than diesel generators
- eliminates emissions at the point of use
- eliminates fuel spills, greatly reduces noise
- emissions can only arise from H₂ production/delivery



Photos Courtesy Ryan Sookoo, Hydrogenics

Going In:
H₂ and air

Going Out:
Electricity
Waste Heat
Warm humidified air

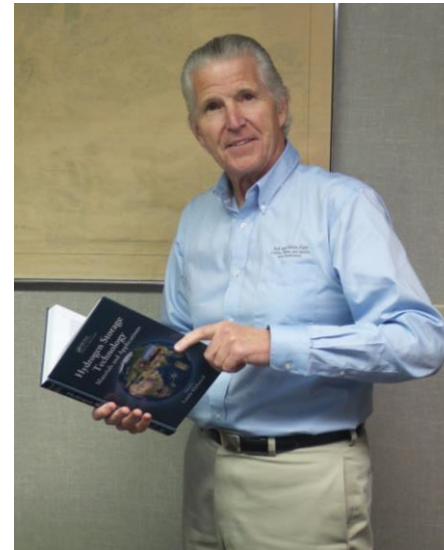
The Sandia Work on H₂ Vessels Originated with Tom Escher of the R&W Fleet in 2015

A forward-thinking maritime passenger transportation company offering sightseeing cruises, ferries and charter service in San Francisco.

The R&W Fleet is concerned about the effect of their vessels, and that of all maritime vessels, on the environment and on human health.

Tom approached Sandia with the question: Can H₂/fuel cell technology reduce vessel emissions to zero? What would be involved?

Our initial answer was:
We don't know, let's take a look at it!"



Tom Escher
President of R&W Fleet

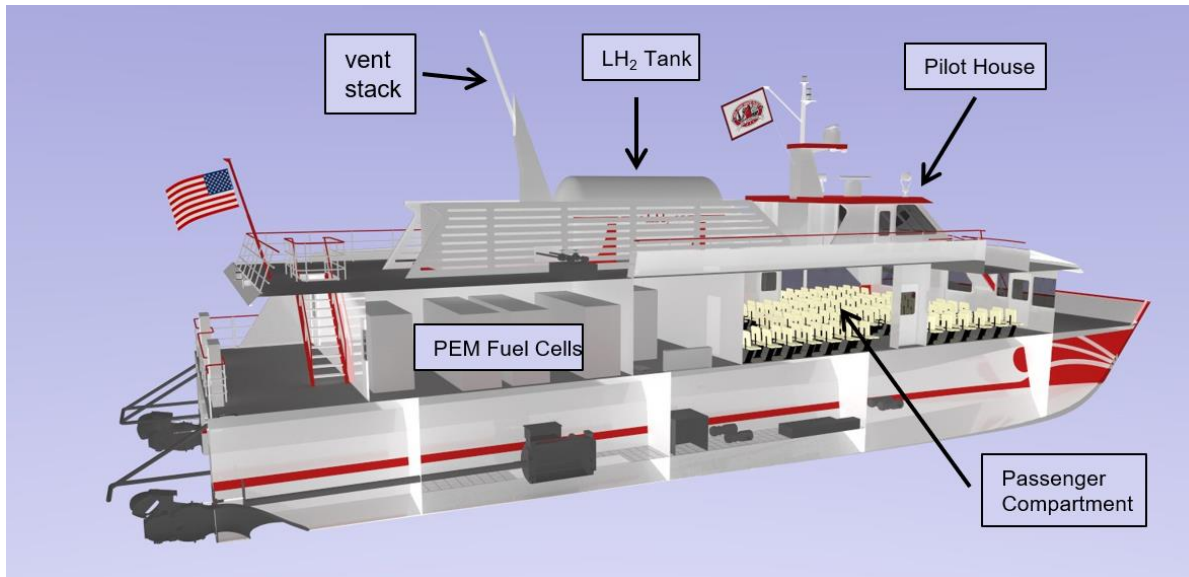


SF-BREEZE Feasibility Design (2016)



- Fuel: ~2,400 kg LH₂ per day
- Propulsion power 4.4 MW
- Total installed Power: 4.92 MW
- Passengers: 150
- Range: 100 nautical miles (nm).
- Service Speed: 35 knots
- Length 109' x Beam 33' x Depth 11.25'
- Full Load Draft ~ 4.6'

Report: www.maritime.sandia.gov



Funded by DOT/MARAD's META program

Status: SF-BREEZE vessel still a concept, but this work informed the design of the “Sea Change,” to be discussed. The SF-BREEZE also encouraged building the MF Hydra vessel in Norway!

The SF-BREEZE Project Led to the Zero-V Hydrogen Fuel Cell Research Vessel

Overall Feasibility Question: Is it technically and economically possible to create a zero-emissions H₂ fuel cell research vessel that meets or exceeds the requirements of such vessels operating along U.S. coastlines?



Gerd Petra Haugom (L) and Hans-Christian Wintervoll
DNV GL



Bruce Appelgate
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

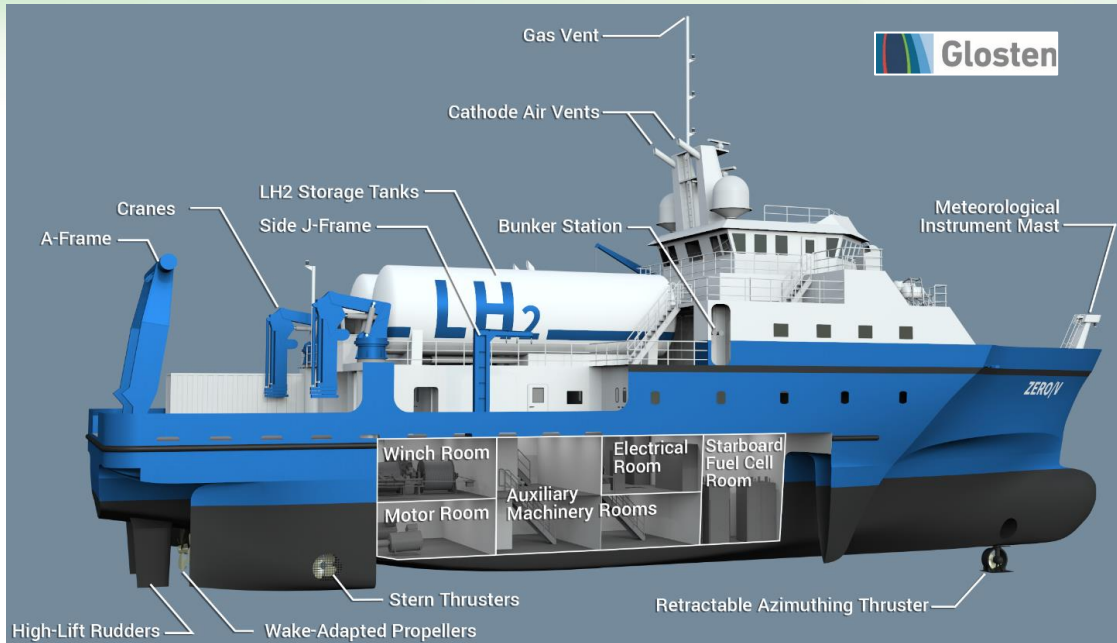


Zoltan Kelety
Scripps Institution of Oceanography



(L-R) Ian McCauley, Sean Caughlan, Robin Madsen and Catherine Farish, Glosten.

(2018) A Zero-emission Research Vessel is Feasible



- All H₂ Coastal Research Vessel.
- 10 kts speed, 2400 NM range, 2-week endurance.
- 10,900 kg of consumable LH₂.
- 1.8 MW PEM fuel cell power.
- All-electric propulsion: **Quiet!**
- **FEASIBLE** with existing technology.
- Outstanding scientific capabilities.
- Advanced instrumentation.
- Designed for California's educational and R&D needs.



Work Funded by DOT/MARAD's META program.

Status: Zero-V still a concept vessel. Scripps is interested in raising money to build it. Funding TBD.

R.T. Madsen, L.E. Klebanoff, et al.,
International Journal of Hydrogen Energy **45**
(2020) 25328-25343.

The zero-emission research vessel (Zero-V) concept vessel has a range of 2,400 nm, speed of 10 knots, with berths for up to 20 scientists. Anticipated cost to build: \$80 M.

(2020) What if H₂/Fuel Cells Provide Partial Vessel Power, in a Hybrid Arrangement? What Would That Look Like?



R/V Robert Gordon Sproul

Scripps's coastal/local research vessel, the *R/V Robert Gordon Sproul*, is nearing the end of its service life and will soon require replacement. We compared three potential “variants” for an *R/V Sproul* replacement vessel (SRV): a Baseline SRV consisting of a traditional diesel-electric powertrain, a Battery Hybrid SRV (battery/diesel-electric) and a Hydrogen Hybrid SRV (hydrogen fuel cell/diesel-electric).



Hydrogen Hybrid Sproul Replacement Vessel
Work Funded by DOT/MARAD's META Program.

- LH₂ Storage: 733 kg
- Diesel Engines: ~ 1200 kW; Fuel Cells: ~ 800 kW
- Capital Cost: ~ \$34M
- ~ 27% annual reduction in GHG emissions (renewable LH₂).
- 75% of the Sproul Missions can be performed on H₂ alone.
- H₂ Fuel Cells are 9X better energy density than Li-ion batteries

Status: H₂ Hybrid Vessel served as the basis for a proposal to the State of CA for funding, which was successful, to be discussed.

L.E. Klebanoff, et. al.,
International Journal of Hydrogen Energy **46** (2021) 38051 – 38072.

(2022) Sea Change: First Commercial H₂ Ferry in the US!



Out of the shipyard
(2022)



First H₂ fueling
(2023)



At Pier 9 in San Francisco
(2024)

The first hydrogen fuel cell vessel in the U.S.

- Aluminum catamaran
- 70' long
- 80 passenger (reconfigurable)
- 13 knot top speed
- 242 kg of 250 bar H₂, up to 2 full days of operation
- 360 kW of H₂ PEM fuel cells
- Has passed USCG Sea Trials, is on the San Francisco Bay!



Status: About to enter service with the San Francisco Ferry Fleet, carrying passengers from the Ferry Building to Fisherman's Wharf

SF-BREEZE and Zero-V Projects Inspire the MF *Hydra* in Norway

Hjelmeland, Norway



Email from Camilla Rohme, funder of the MF *Hydra* on 10/28/22 to L.E. Klebanoff

“And I also must thank you for your great work on the San Francisco Ferry. The meeting with you at DNV late 2016 or early 2017 and the sharing of your report gave me a good basis and lots of needed courage to take on the responsibility to procure the hydrogen ferry that ended up as Hydra.... Your presentation in Florø made Edvard Sandvik believe a hydrogen ferry was possible.”

July 23, 2021: Scripps Announces \$35M in Funding of the H₂ Hybrid by the State of California



UC San Diego



Bruce Appelgate, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at Press Conference



Length overall	49.9 m (164 feet)
Beam	11.0 m (36 feet)
Range (hydrogen)	400 nm
Range (diesel)	6,500 nm
Range (methanol)	2,400 nm
Endurance	11 days
Cruising speed	10 knots
Azimuthing thruster power	Two L-Drives, 500 kW each
Crew berths	7
Scientist berths	16 (on overnight trips)
Students	40 (on day trips)
Stationkeeping	Dynamic positioning
Main crane	2,400 lbs SWL
Stern A-Frame	21,000 lbs SWL
Side Frame	10,000 lbs SWL
Winches	Trawl, CTD/Hydro
Scientific instrumentation:	sonar suite, GPS, motion reference, satcom broadband, network



- ✓ Hydrogen Capacity: ~ 2100 kg LH₂
- ✓ 5-Year Design/Build/Qualify Program
- ✓ Project began October 2021
- ✓ 75% of all missions can be run entirely on H₂
- ✓ Initial operation H₂/diesel, but designed to readily convert to H₂/Methanol when appropriate.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography

UC San Diego



H₂ Hybrid Research Vessel (CCRV)

- ✓ Funding from the State of CA: \$35M.
- ✓ Funding from ONR: \$4M.
- ✓ Pending funding from ARCHES H₂ Hub.
- ✓ 5-Year Design/Build/Deploy Program.
- ✓ Project began October 2021.



CCRV project timeline

Detailed engineering, design, review, and construction preparation

- 2021: Scripps issued RFI and RFP for design
- 2022: Development of detailed vessel engineering and design
- 2023: Engineering review, HAZID workshop and regulatory Approval In Principle

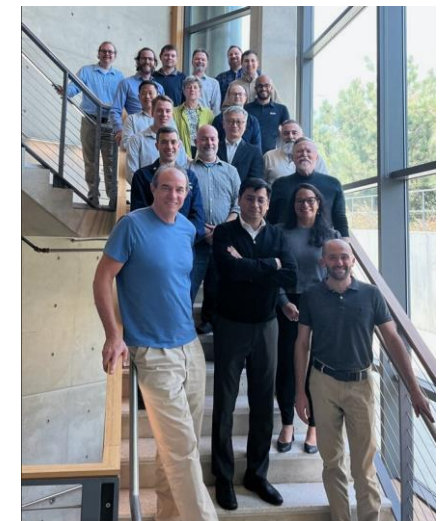


Construction

- 2024: Shipyard selection and preparation
- 2025: Keel laying, begin construction
- 2026: Construction

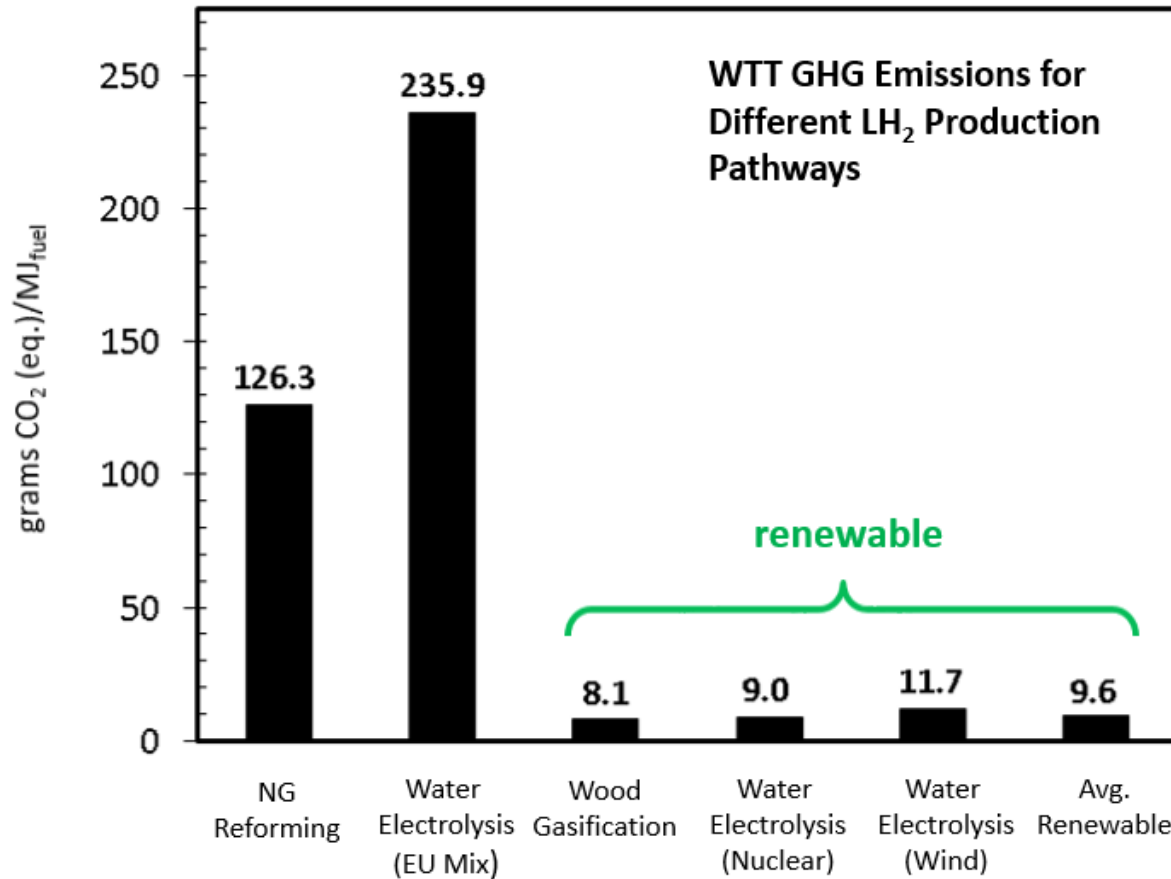
Commission and operate

- 2027: Commissioning & science verification trials
- 2028: Operational for science missions
- 2033: Convert alt fuel from diesel to methanol



*HAZID Workshop at Scripps with USCG Sector San Diego, USCG HQ
December 11, 2023*

The GHG Reduction from Using H₂ technology REALLY Depends on How the H₂ is Made

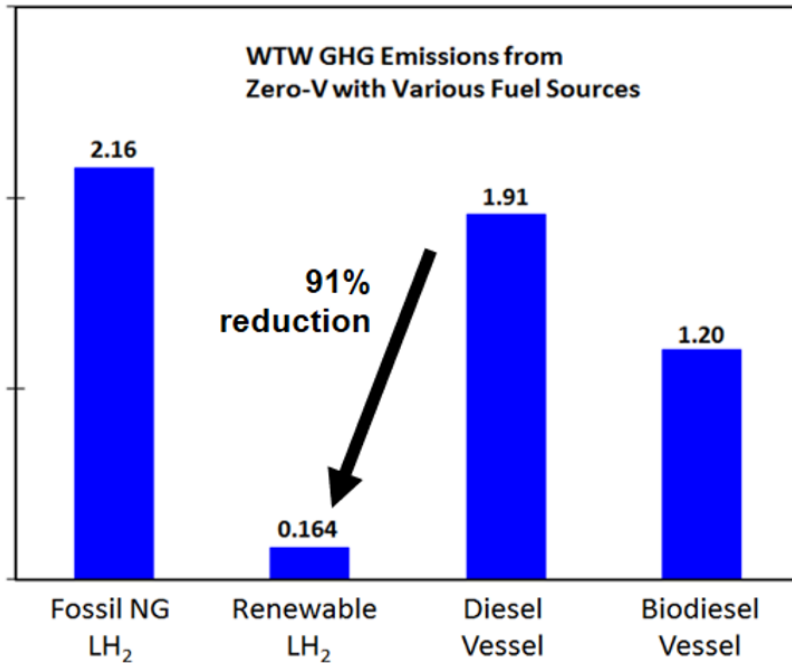


-- the equivalent GHG emissions for diesel fuel is 87.4 grams CO₂ (eq.)/MJ_{fuel}

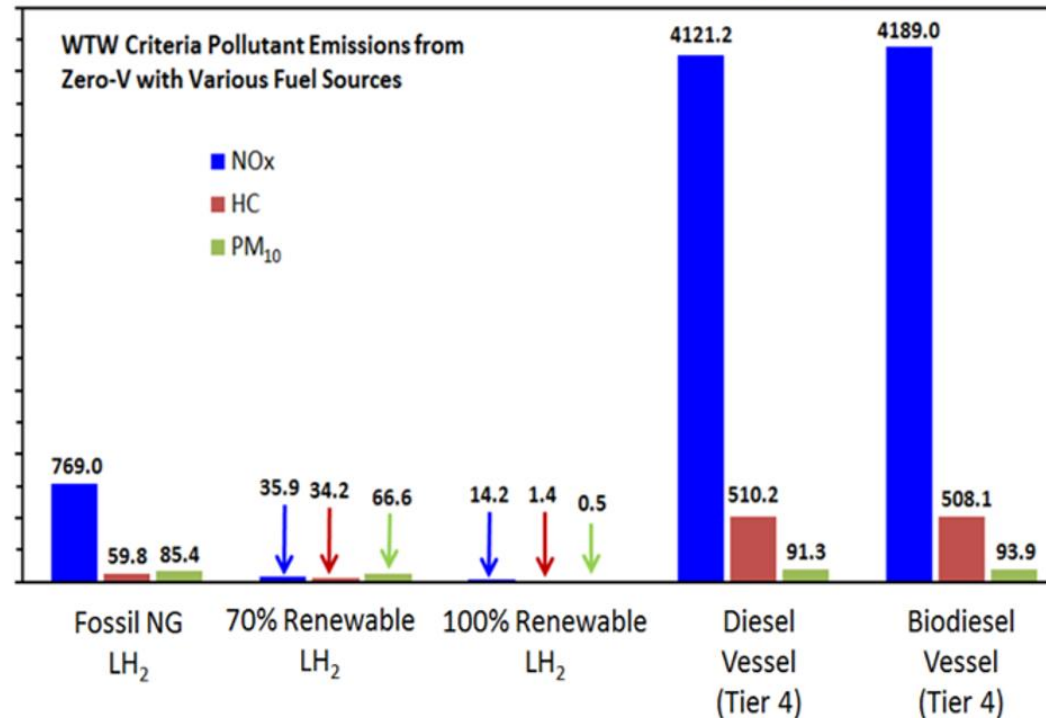
More information on the calculation of GHG emissions from H₂ fuel cell technology can be found in: [L.E. Klebanoff, J.W. Pratt et al., Transportation Research D 54, 250 \(2017\).](#)

Well-to-Waves Emissions from the Zero-V (LH₂ fuel)

Well-to-Waves Greenhouse Gas Emissions
(1,000 MT CO₂ equivalent / year)



Well-To-Waves Criteria Emissions (kg / year)



Note: Tier 4 specifies the most stringent regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on criteria pollutant emissions from diesel engines.

Using H₂ from any source, dramatic reductions in criteria pollutants below Tier 4 are provided. Using renewable hydrogen, a 91% reduction in CO₂ (eq.) emissions is obtained. Dramatic reductions are needed to survive growth in the fleet.

R.T. Madsen, L.E. Klebanoff, et al., International Journal of Hydrogen Energy **45** (2020) 25328-25343.

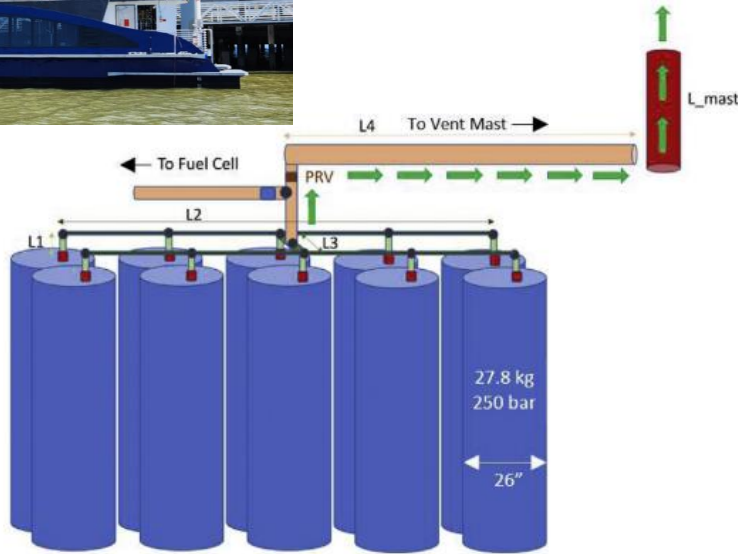
Sandia H₂ Gas Dispersion Studies for H₂ Vessel Releases

Vent Mast Releases

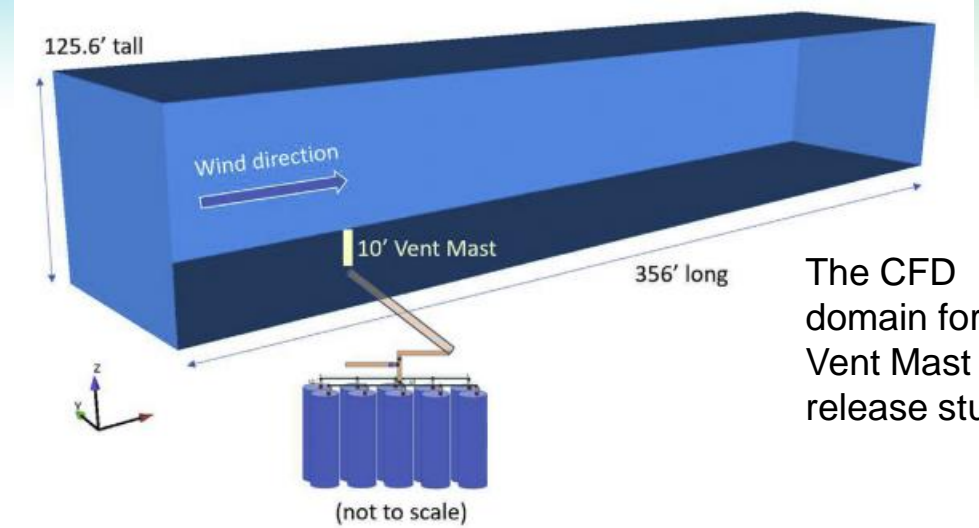
Work Funded by DOT/MARAD's META Program



- 1/4-turn Valve
 - Connection
 - Regulator/Mass Flow Controller
 - Pressure Relief Valve
- L1 = 6"
 L2 = 110"
 L3 = 29"
 L4 = 20' to Vent Mast
- ID1 = ID2 = ID3 = 0.194"
 ID4 = 3.5"
 ID_Mast = 7"



Layout of a 10-tank assembly similar to that on the Sea Change. Tanks are based on Type IV Hexagon Purus tanks with capacity 27.8 kg and 250 bar each.



The CFD domain for the Vent Mast release study.

CFD Studies by Myra Blaylock, Sandia



H₂ release with a constant 30 mph hydrogen exit velocity in a 5-knot cross wind. The white color encompasses H₂ concentrations from 4 – 75% (the flammability range).

Sandia H₂ Gas Dispersion Studies for H₂ Vessel Releases

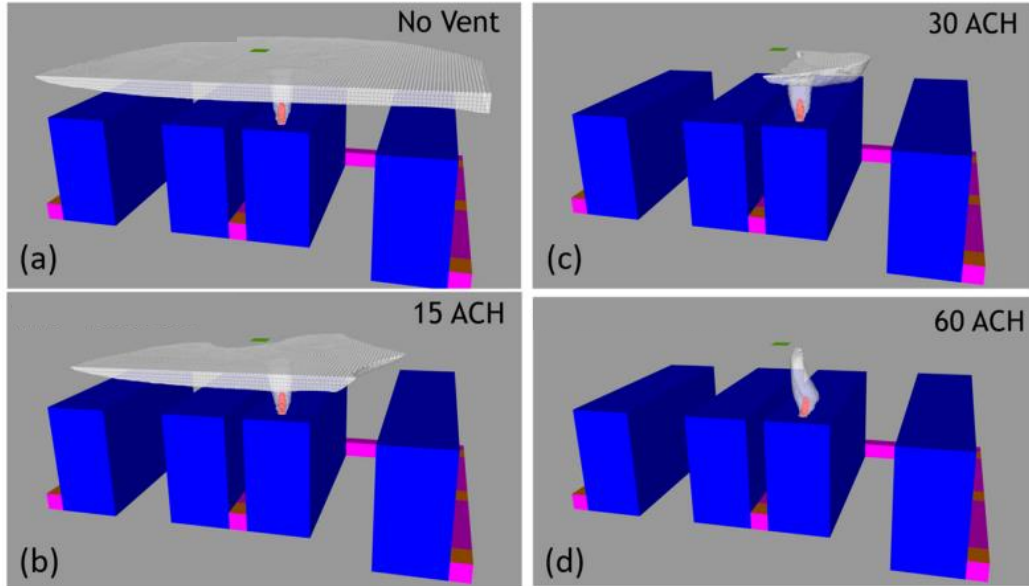
Fuel Cell Room Releases

Work Funded by DOT/MARAD's META Program

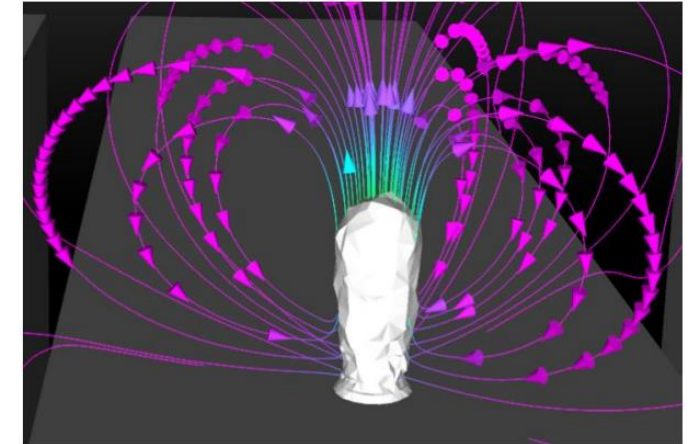
150 s into the leak, 3×10^{-5} kg/s
 White = detectable H₂ by a H₂ alarm (0.4 – 4%)
 Red is flammable (4 - 75%)

150 s into leak, 3×10^{-5} kg/s
 White = flammable (4 – 75%)

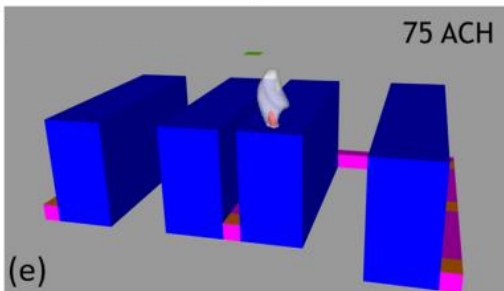
CFD Studies by Kevin Gitushi,
 NC State University



Leak	0 ACH
1.0×10^{-5} kg/s (Leak 2)	
3.0×10^{-5} kg/s (Leak 3)	



For short times, the flammable H₂ envelope is self-limited, even in the absence of ventilation.



These results indicate it might be a mistake to over-ventilate, as you want to be able to detect a sub-flammable leak in the Fuel Cell Room. 15 ACH looks good, not the typically recommended 30 ACH.

K.M. Gitushi, M.L. Blaylock and L.E. Klebanoff, *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* **47** (2022) 21492 - 21505.



Summary: H₂ Vessel Feasibility Questions Encountered and Passed

- Will they float? ✓
- Can they go fast enough, up to 35 knots? ✓
- Can they carry a decent number of people (~150)? ✓
- Do they have sufficient range before needing refueling? ✓
- Can the hydrogen suppliers provide 2500 kg of LH₂ per day? ✓
- Can the hydrogen suppliers provide renewable LH₂? ✓
- Can they be refueled fast enough for commuter service? ✓
- Would the technology be supported by SF Bay Area Ports? ✓
- Are there deep cuts in well-to-waves (WTW) GHG emissions? ✓
- Are there deep cuts in WTW criteria pollutant emissions? ✓
- Can they satisfy regulatory requirements to gain an Approval in Principal? ✓
- Would the U.S. Coast Guard find any “show stopping” issues? ✓
- Would it be commercially attractive? **TBD**
- Can suitable refueling sites be found for these vessels? ✓
- Would there be support from local government (City Hall, others)? ✓

Acknowledgements



**Sujit Ghosh, MARAD
(retired)**



Bryan Vogel, MARAD



Pete Devlin, DOE

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Red and White Fleet: Tom Escher and Joe Burgard

North Carolina State University: Kevin Gitushi



For more information on H₂/Fuel Cell Maritime Projects
visit: <https://maritime.sandia.gov>

- Past and current maritime projects
- Download reports

Thank You!

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