

# Power Sector Decarbonization: Hydrogen's Potential Role

## Sacramento Municipal Utility District Board Meeting

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EPRI  
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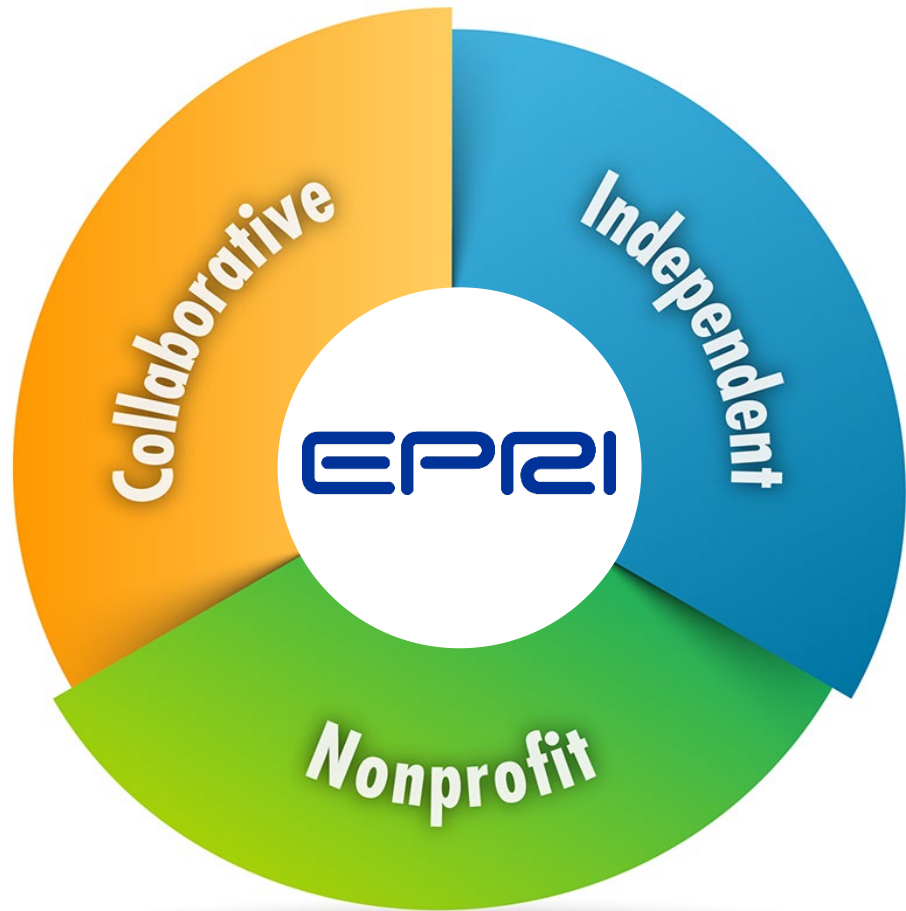


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Board Strategic Development Committee and Special SMUD Board of Directors Meeting



# Three key aspects of EPRI



## Independent

Objective, scientifically-based results address reliability, efficiency, affordability, health, safety, and the environment

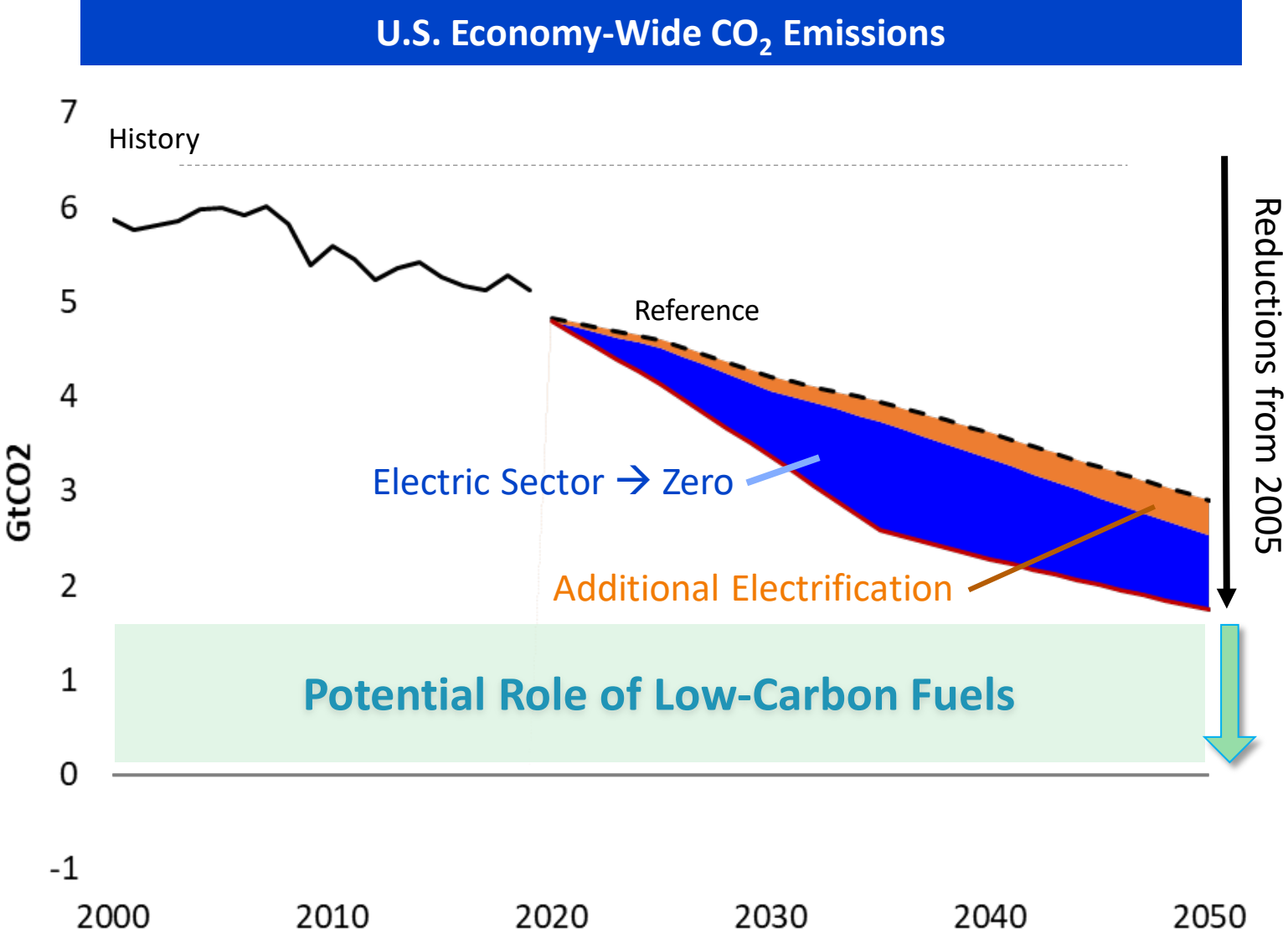
## Nonprofit

Chartered to serve the public benefit

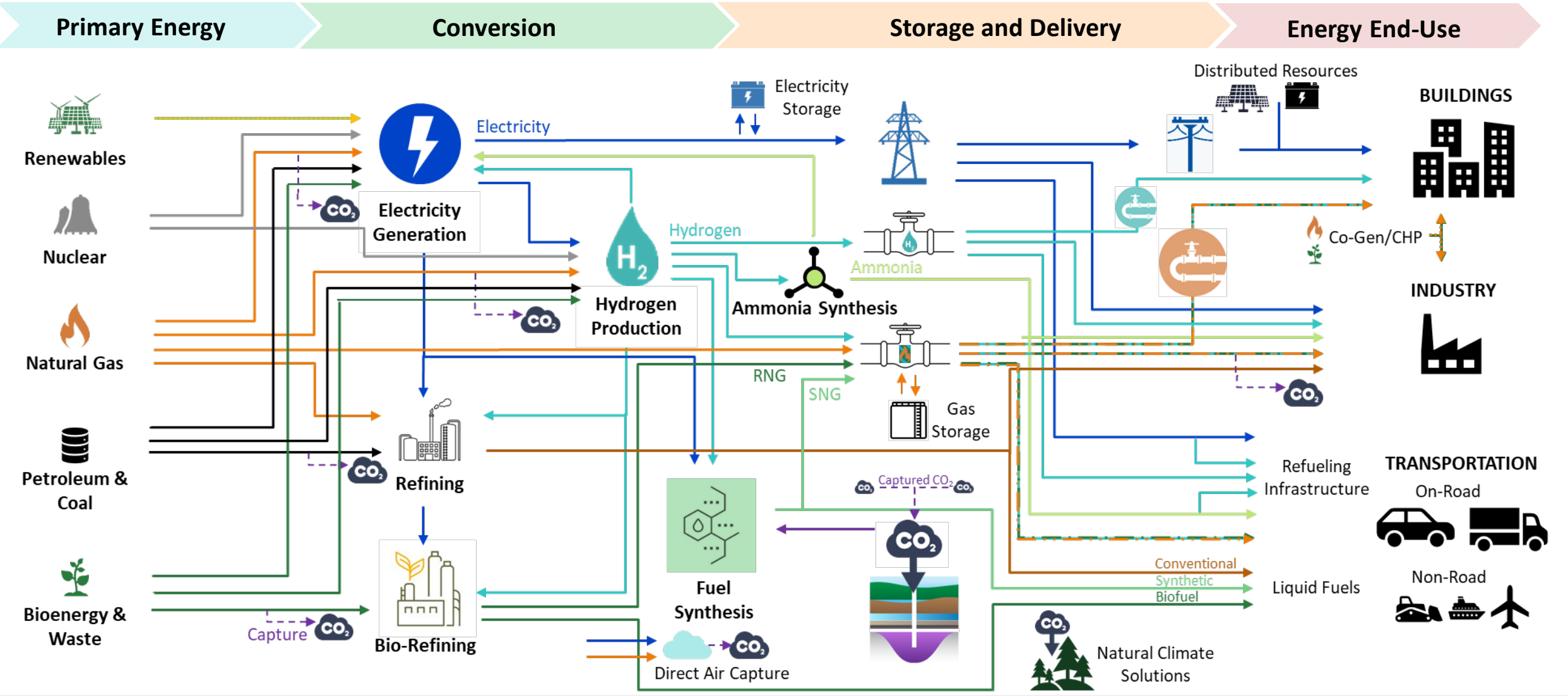
## Collaborative

Bring together scientists, engineers, academic researchers, and industry experts

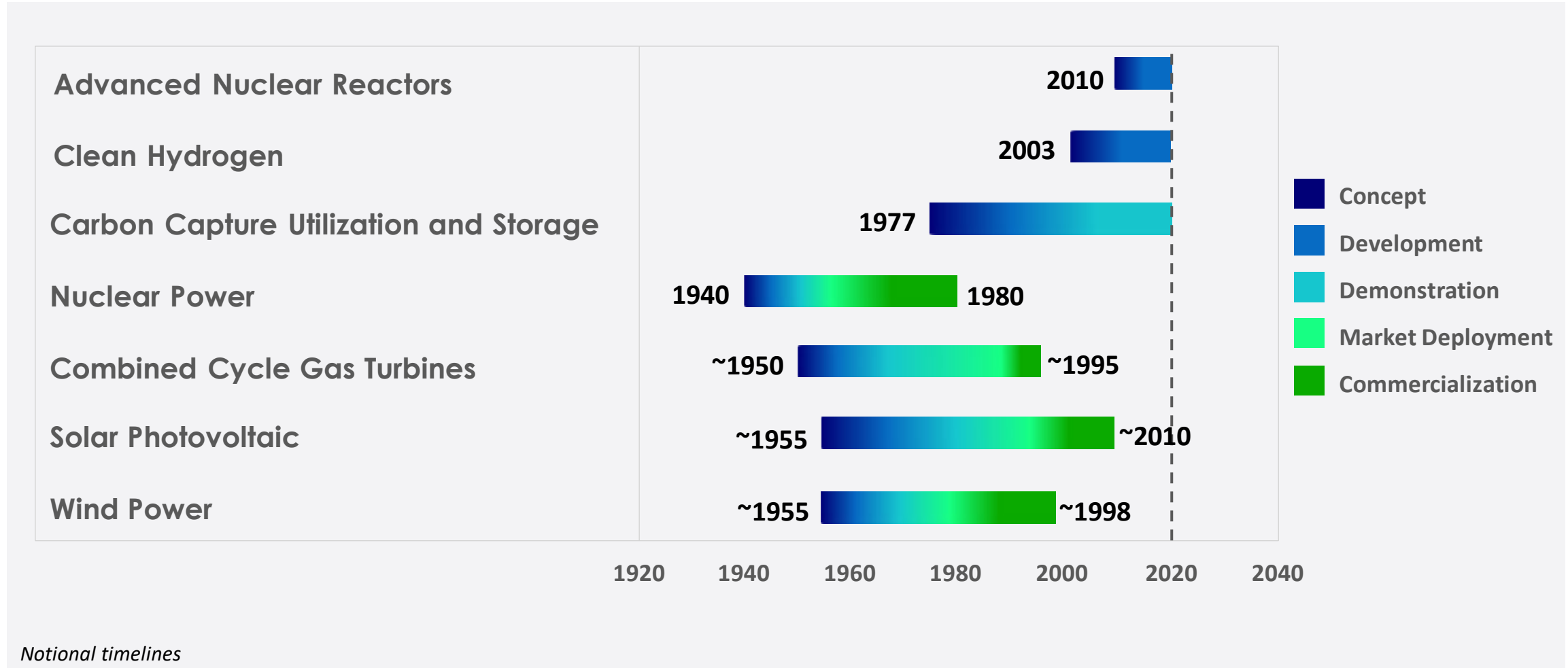
# Reducing economy-wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# Energy system is becoming more complex



# Concept to commercialization takes decades





# Low-Carbon Resources Initiative

## FOCUS

**Multiple options and solutions** to establish viable low-carbon pathways

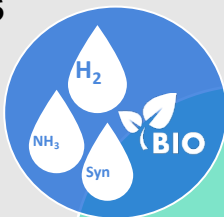
**Technologies for hard-to-decarbonize** areas of the energy economy

**Affordable, reliable, and resilient** integrated energy systems for the future

## RESEARCH AREAS

Hydrogen    Ammonia    Synthetic/  
Derivative Fuels    Biofuels

**Production Pathways**



**Integrated Energy Systems**

**Storage & Delivery**



**End Use Applications**

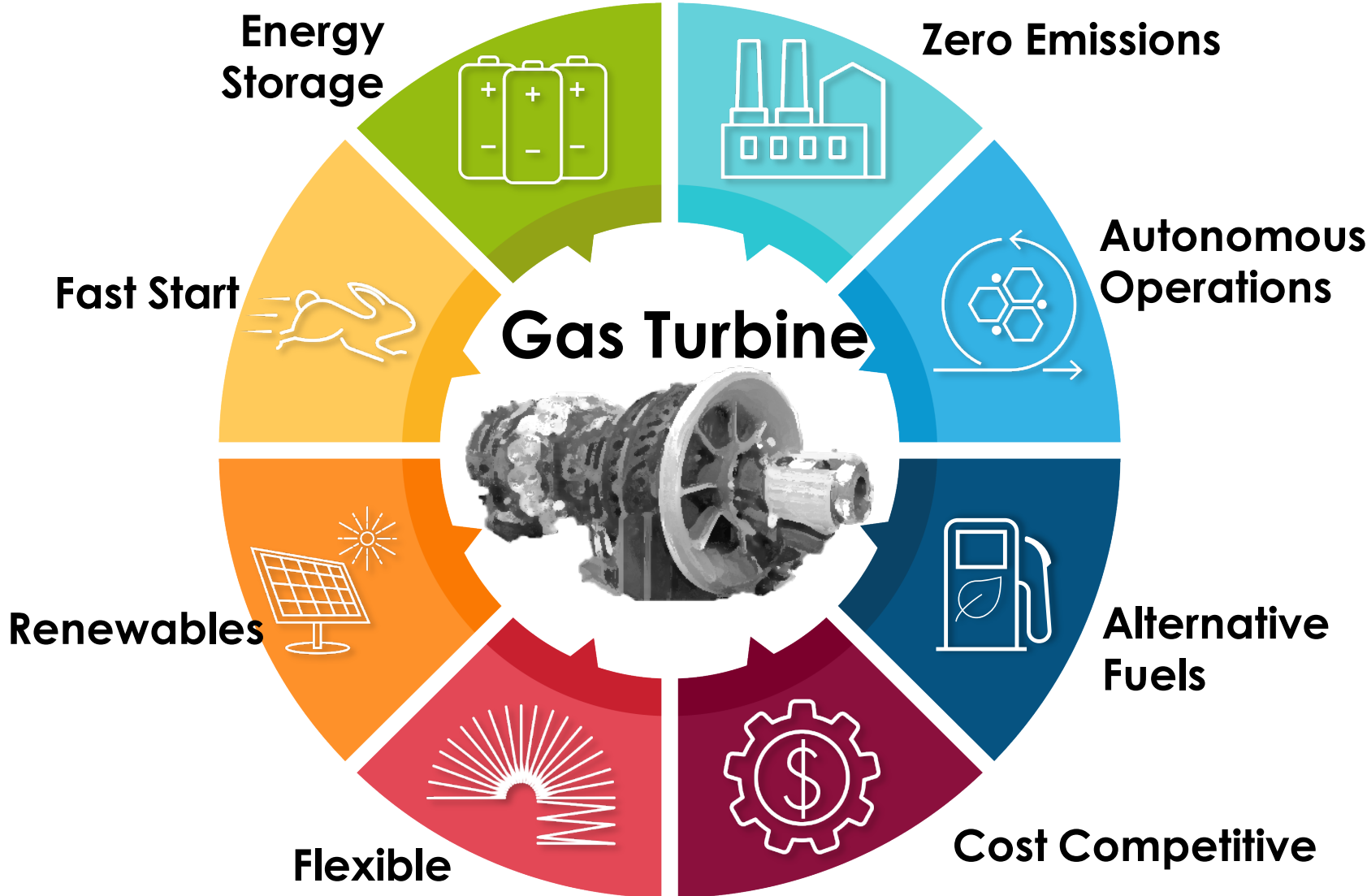
## VALUE

**Independent, objective research** leveraged by global engagement and collaboration

**Comprehensive approach** to low-carbon value chain and technology analyses

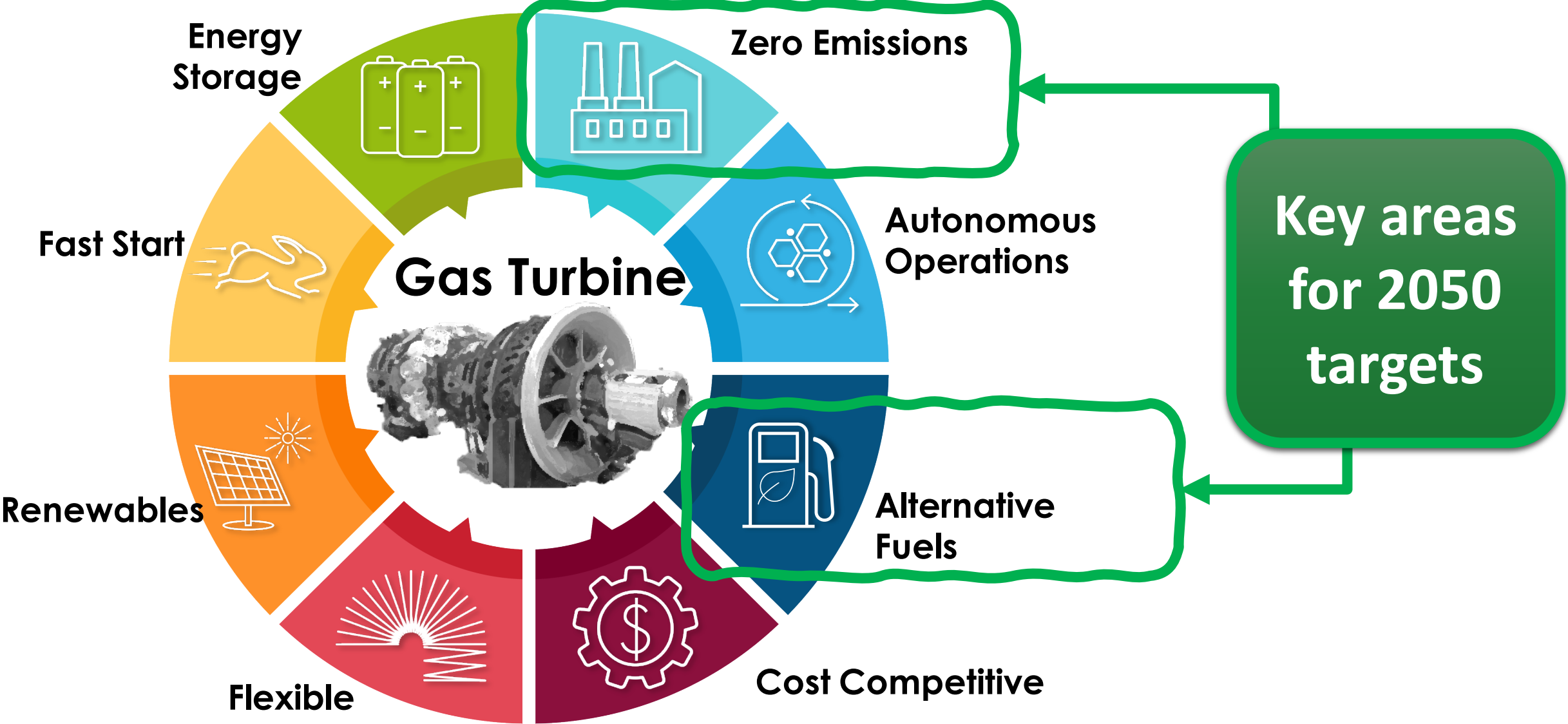
**High-impact results** from technology evaluations, and safety, environmental, and economic assessments

# Gas turbines in a decarbonized future





# Gas turbines in a decarbonized future





# Current gas turbine fleet: OEM literature

<i>OEM</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>TIT C[F] or Class</i>	<i>H<sub>2</sub> % (Vol)</i>
<b>MHPS</b>	Diffusion	N2 Dilution, Water/Steam Injection	1200~1400 [2192~2552]	up to 100
	Pre-Mix (DLN)	Dry	1600 [2912]	up to 30
	Multi-Cluster	Dry	1650 [3002]	up to 30
<b>GE</b>	SN	Single Nozzle (Standard)	B,E Class	up to 100
	MNQC	Multi-Nozzle Quiet Combustor w/ N2 or Steam	E,F Class	up to 100
	DLN 1	Dry	B,E Class	up to 33
	DLN 2.6+	Dry	F,H Class	up to 20
	DLN 2.6e	Dry	H Class	up to 50
<b>Siemens Energy</b>	DLE	Dry	E Class	up to 30
	DLE	Dry	F Class	up to 30
	DLE	Dry	H Class	up to 30
	ACE	Dry	HL Class	up to 50
<b>Ansaldo</b>	Sequential	GT26	F Class	up to 30
	Sequential	GT36	H Class	up to 50
<b>PSM</b>	LEC-III™	DLE	B, E Class	up to 50
	Current Flamesheet™	DLE	Frame 5, 6B, 7E, 9E, 7F, 9F, 501F, 701F	up to 60
<b>Baker Hughes</b>	DLN	Frame 6/7/9	Frame 6/7/9	up to 32
	Diffusion	Frame 6/7/9	Frame 6/7/9	up to 100

# Supported demonstrations of H<sub>2</sub> for power generation

## H<sub>2</sub> Demonstration Objectives

- Operate unit without major modifications
- Measure impacts on CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and unit performance
- Develop best practices for H<sub>2</sub> blending



**44%v | GE LM6000**  
(45 MWe - Aeroderivative)

[Executive Summary Report](#)



**20.9%v | Mitsubishi 501G**  
(265 MWe – Heavy Frame)

[White Paper Report](#)



**25%v | Wärtsilä RICE**  
(18 MWe - RICE)

[Executive Summary Report](#)



Egyptian Electricity  
Holding Company

**5%v | GE LM6000**  
(45 MWe - Aeroderivative)

[Press Release](#)

# Hydrogen as a gas turbine fuel

## Main technical or scientific challenges

### 100% hydrogen-capable gas turbines are not commercially ready

- EPA 30% vol. H<sub>2</sub> blend target by 2032 is feasible for most of the GT fleet
- EPA 96% vol. H<sub>2</sub> target by 2038 gives some flexibility for designs, but major changes probable (code compliance & new hardware)

### NOx emissions

- Hydrogen blending demonstration data sets above 44% vol. do not exist; lab research underway in LCRI to develop fundamental curves
- Demonstrations to date show no issues with maintaining NOx at lower blends across a variety of machines
- All OEMs are targeting constant NOx emissions from the GT prior to the SCR as part of future DLN design

**Availability of sufficient clean hydrogen and infrastructure is unclear**

## Costs today

- **Blending costs** are heavily attached to costs of H<sub>2</sub> production, transport, and storage
- **Current demonstrations** utilize existing hardware/ infrastructure with only H<sub>2</sub> metering added

## Main non-technical challenges

**Perception is a major issue involving safety, feasibility, & emissions**

- **Safety:** Hydrogen can be used in a safe manner and can be managed just as natural gas or other hydrocarbons
- **Feasibility:** H<sub>2</sub> currently does not have sufficient production/availability or infrastructure for power generation
- **Emissions:** With lack of 100% DLN H<sub>2</sub> engine data, NOx emissions assumed to be higher than natural gas; however, demonstration data proving otherwise

## Largest Demonstration / Commercial Projects

- **Several examples** of GTs using **off-gas from refineries**
  - Typically, older technologies/non-DLN
  - Can be done safely, consistently, and fuel flexibly
- **Southern Company McDonough** – 1<sup>st</sup> Advanced Class DLN Demo @ 20%
- **NYPA Brentwood** – @ 44% vol. blend and existing SAC hardware with consistent NOx emissions as natural gas
- **Coming soon** – @ 38% vol. blend on Advanced Class DLN
- **Long-term demo** (6 mo.) on small-scale GT *in planning*
- **ACES** project scheduled to start @ 30% vol. in 2025

# Hydrogen production, storage and transport

## Main Technical or Scientific Challenges

- **Production of hydrogen via electrolysis is a mature process; however, large-scale integration into the electric sector and understanding flexible operations** is still under development.
- Due to **variability of materials** used in existing natural gas transmission pipelines, **blending limits should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis**. Active studies ongoing and material analysis ongoing.
- **Underground storage of hydrogen in salt caverns is mature but geographically limited**. Storage in **depleted natural gas reservoirs offers the greatest potential** but still needs to be evaluated and demonstrated.

## Main non-technical challenges

- **Electrolyzer supply chains not yet at scale** to support deployment. Worldwide manufacturing capacity in 2021 (per IEA) ~8 GW/year.
- **Carbon accounting methods** remain uncertain.
- **Lower energy per volume with hydrogen** could reduce total energy flow if existing natural gas infrastructure is repurposed.
- Deployment of infrastructure could potentially **face regulatory and construction challenges** due to stakeholder opposition.
- **Natural gas derived hydrogen production with carbon capture** has been demonstrated but would face fossil fuel and CO<sub>2</sub> management obstacles and would need >90% capture rates to meet 'clean hydrogen'.

## Costs Today and Potential Incentives

### Levelized costs of hydrogen production

- Electrolysis: \$2 to \$20/kg
  - @50% CF and 0.05/kwh \$5.50 – \$12.50
  - @90% CF and 0.05/kwh \$4.50 - \$9
- Natural gas derived with CCS: \$1.5 to \$5/kg
- Biomass gasification with CCS: \$6 to \$12/kg
- Plastic waste gasification with CCS: \$6 to \$10/kg
- LCOHs driven by electricity/feedstock prices & capacity factors

### Infrastructure CAPEX estimates

- Hydrogen pipeline: \$20/MMBtu-day-mile
- Hydrogen underground storage: \$60/MMBtu
- Hydrogen delivery: \$2,600/MMBtu-day

### IRA Tax Credits

- 45V H<sub>2</sub> production \$0.6 to \$3/kg
- 45V credit dependent on life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> intensity & workforce requirements
- Fossil- and biomass-derived H<sub>2</sub> production with CCS has option to elect 45Q (\$85/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>) in lieu of 45V

## Largest Demonstration / Commercial Projects

### Electrolyzers

- Alkaline: Baofeng Energy 150 MW (27,000 tons H<sub>2</sub>/year, China); 260 MW plant under construction (mid-2023 COD)
- PEM: Air Liquide 20 MW (3,000 tons H<sub>2</sub>/year, Canada)

### Fossil derived H<sub>2</sub> with CCS

- 8 projects (4 natural gas, 3 coal/coke, 1 crude)
- Largest project: Shell Quest (328,500 Mt H<sub>2</sub>/year; up to 1.2 MMT tons/year CO<sub>2</sub> capture, Canada)

### Pipelines & storage

- 1,600 miles of H<sub>2</sub> pipeline (US Gulf Coast)
- 10 commercial subsurface H<sub>2</sub> storage facilities (3 US, 7 Global)



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