

# The role of hydrogen in the competition for sustainable energy carriers

Thomas Hamacher

Technical University of Munich  
TUM School of Engineering and Design  
Chair of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems (ENS)

St. Gallen, 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2024



# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

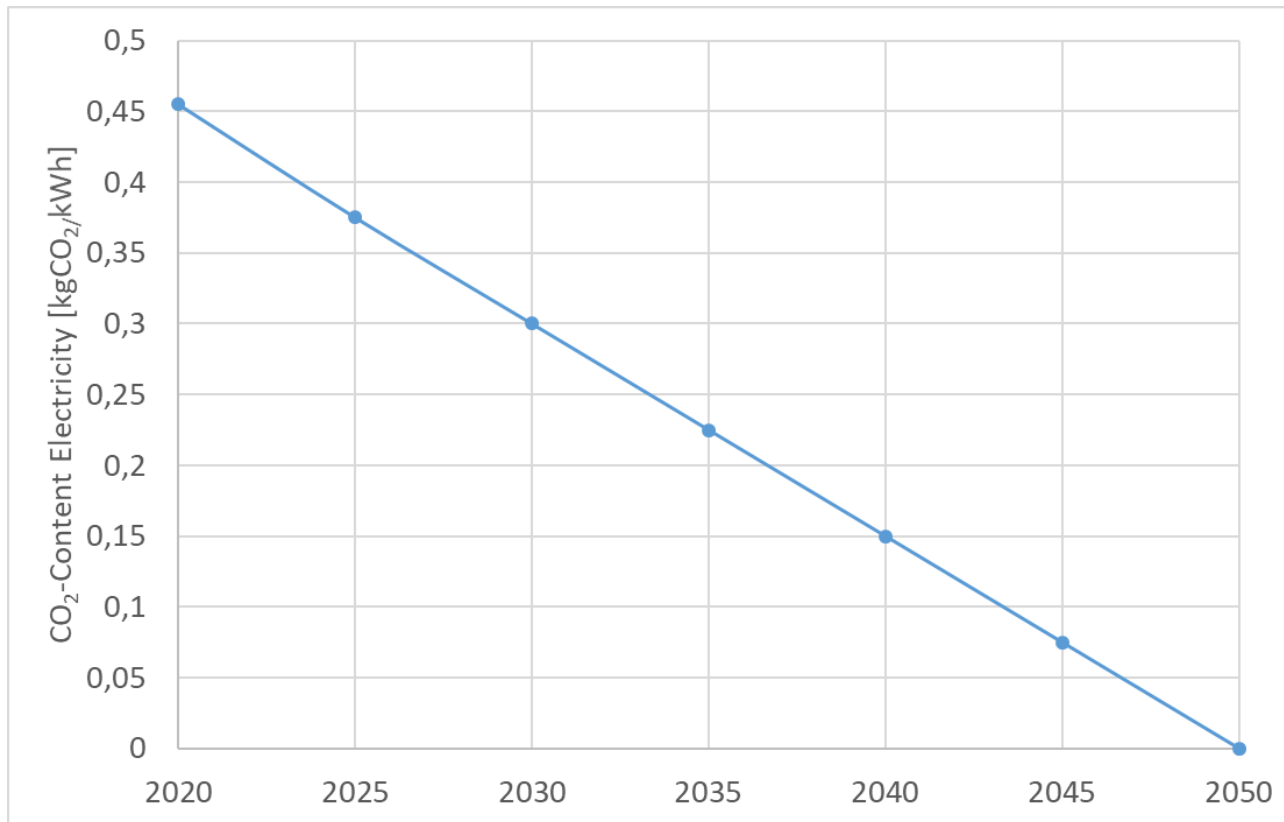
Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European Energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

# Energy Technologies and Efficiency

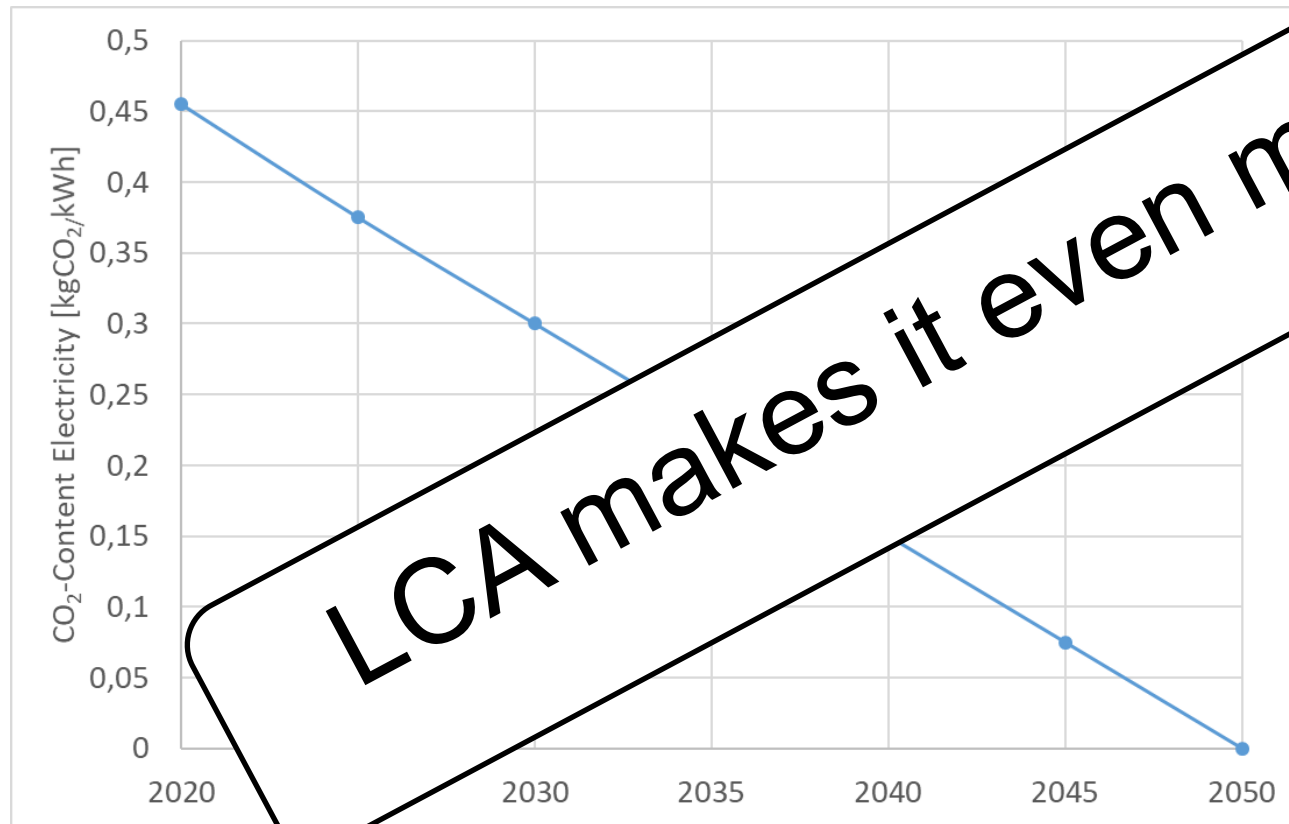


Heat pump: COP 3,  
 Specific Emissions at 450 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in  
 the electricity system:  
 150 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh

Electric Car: 20 kWh/(100 km),  
 Specific Emissions at 450 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in  
 the electricity system:  
 90 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km

Hydrogen:  $\eta = 70\%$   
 Specific Emissions at 100 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in  
 the electricity system:  
 143 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km

# Energy Technologies and Efficiency



**LCA makes it even more tricky**

Electricity system:  
450 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh

Electric Car: 20 kWh/(100 km),  
Specific Emissions at 450 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in  
the electricity system:  
90 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km

Hydrogen:  $\eta = 70\%$   
Specific Emissions at 100 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in  
the electricity system:  
143 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km

# Energy Technologies and Efficiency

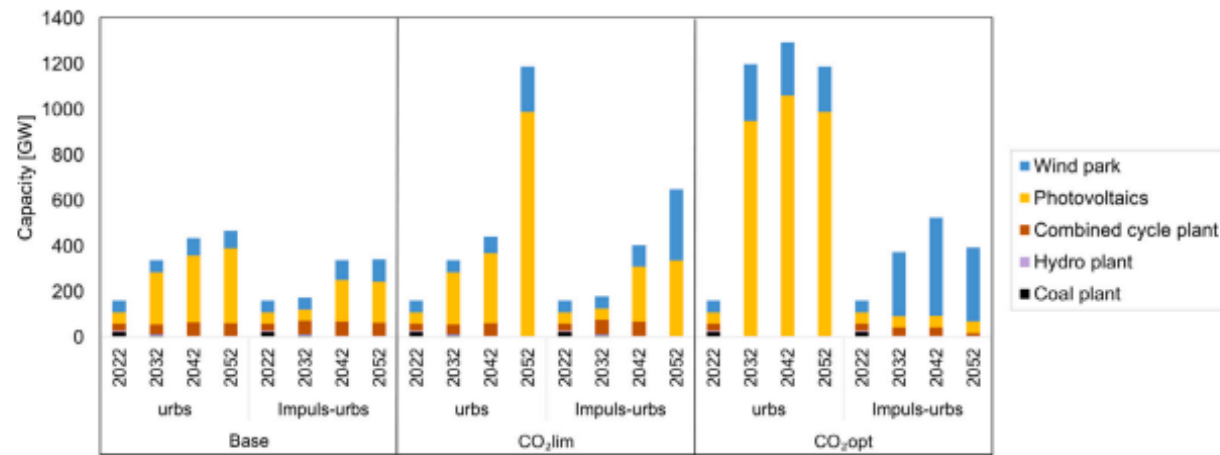


Fig. 7. System total installed capacity in all scenarios.

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 198 (2024) 114422

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/rser](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/rser)

ELSEVIER

RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY REVIEWS

Check for updates

**Impuls-urbs: Integration of life cycle assessment into energy system models**

Thushara Addanki<sup>\*</sup>, Andrea Cadavid Isaza, Cristina de la Rúa, Leonhard Odersky, Thomas Hamacher

Technical University of Munich, School of Engineering and Design, Department of Energy and Process Engineering, Chair of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems, Arcisstraße 21, Munich, 80333, Germany

# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European Energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

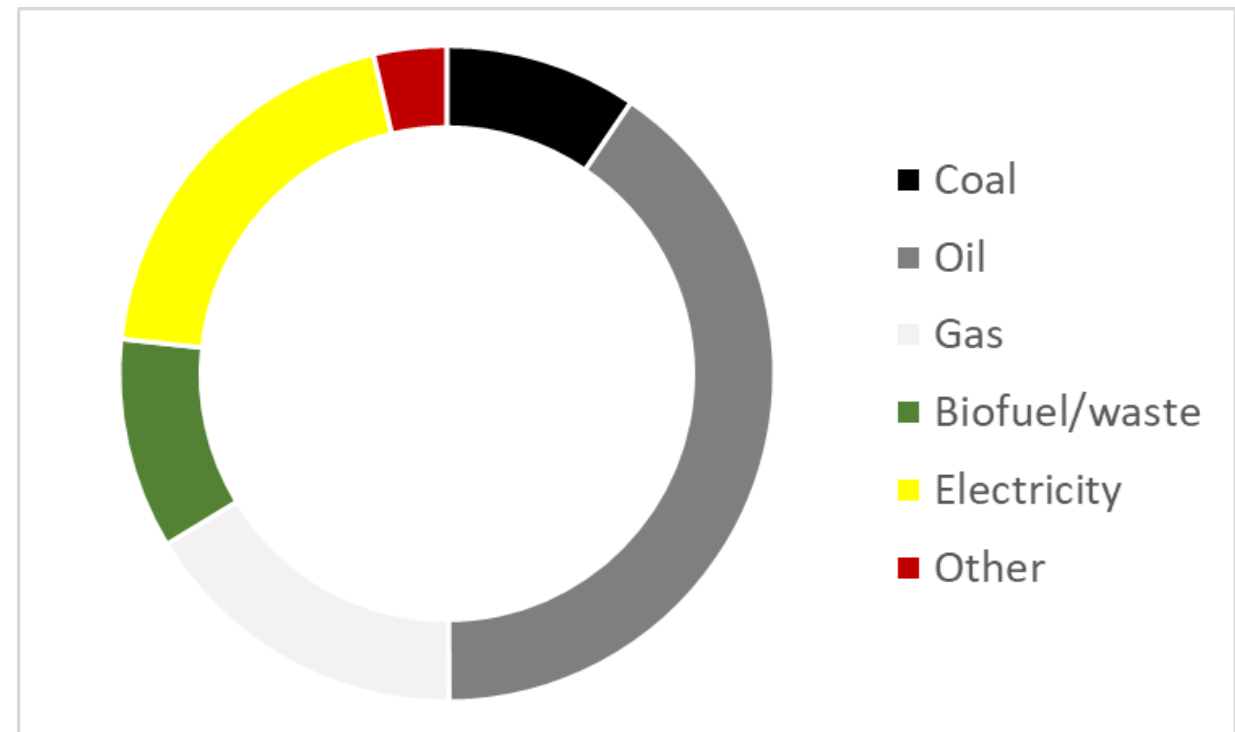
# The new role of electricity

Which fraction of final energy will be supplied by electricity?

Will electricity be able to become the dominant source?

This will be a major shift of the whole energy industry, with oil companies being since recently the biggest companies in the world.

Final Energy 2019: 418 EJ (116111 TWh)  
Source: IEA



# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European Energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook



# Hydrogen and synthetic energy carriers

Final Energy for  
ships, aviation,  
heavy track and  
trains

Feed stock for  
chemical and  
material industries

High temperature  
and reduction

Transport and  
storage

# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

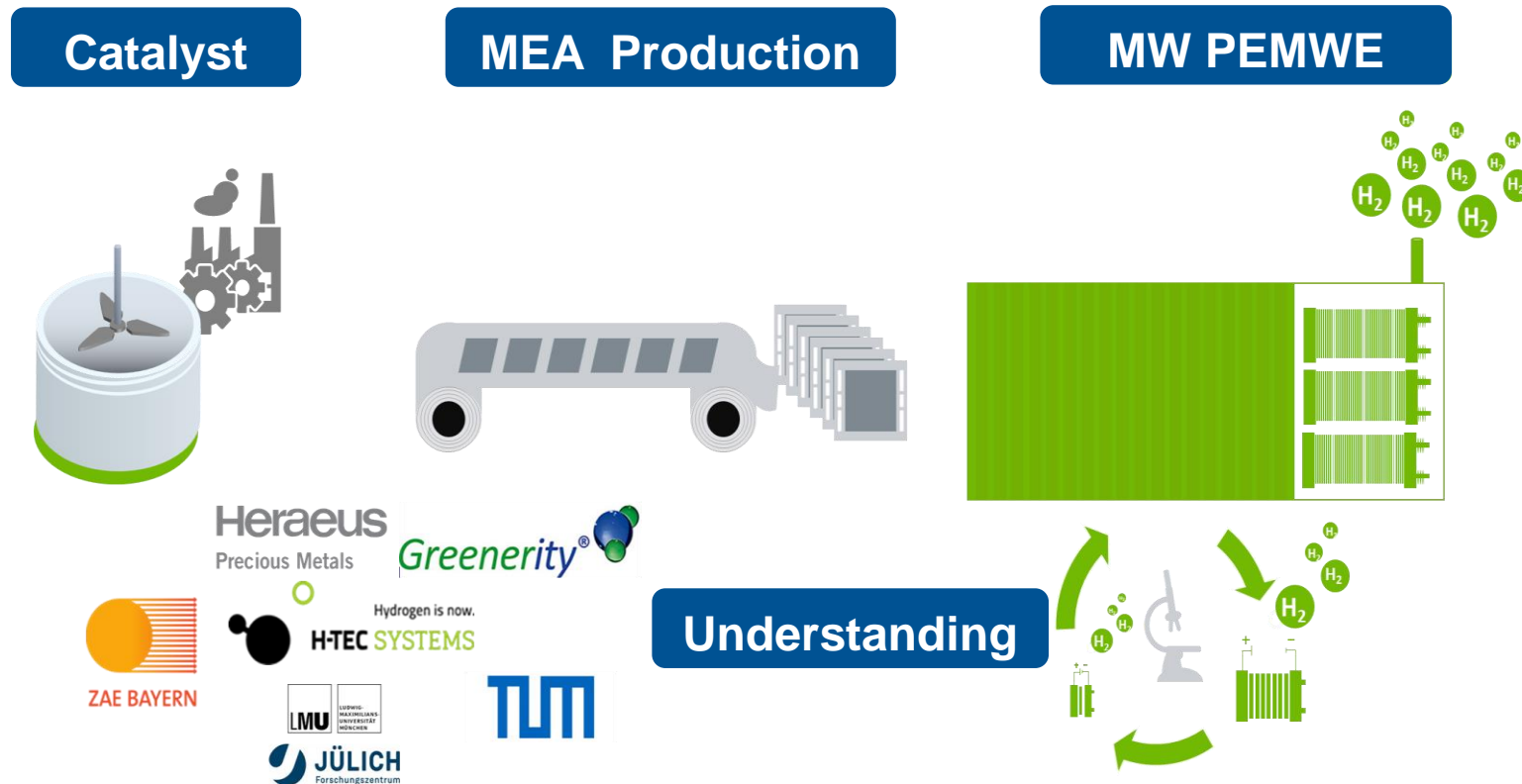
Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European Energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

# Iridios Consortium and Objectives



Investigation of low-IR electrodes on the relevant scales: **single-cell, short-stack and full-stack** using in- and ex-situ analysis

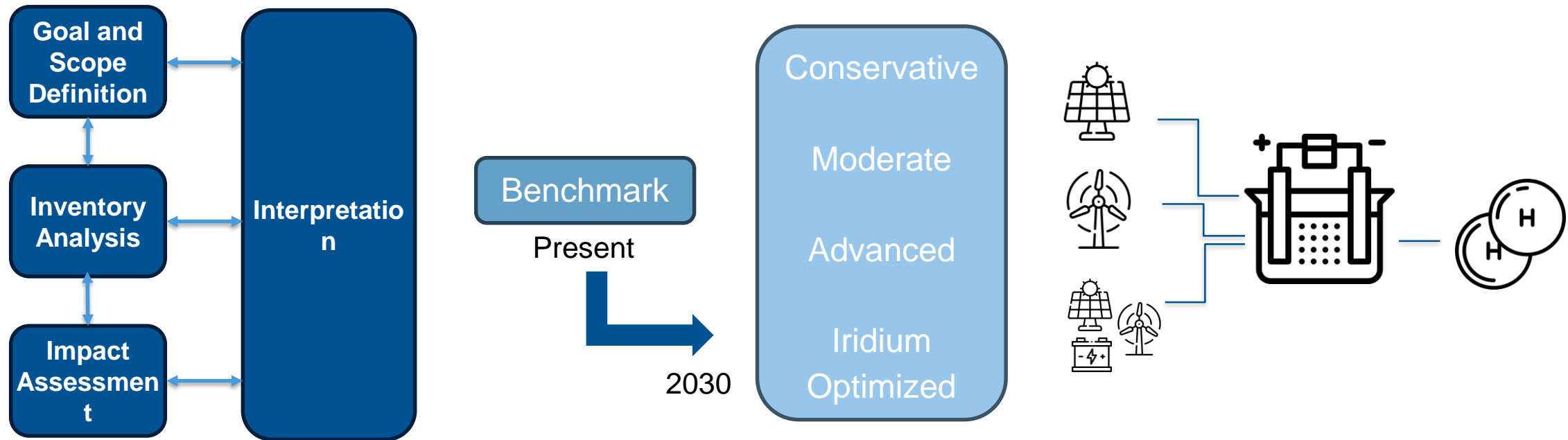
**Implementation** of catalysts from Kopernikus P2X, new membranes and PTL(Porous Transport Layer) concepts

**Scaling up** electrode production and implementation in **MW electrolysis systems**

**LCA** of all components during upscaling, evaluation of the impact of efficiency, service life and recycling (2nd Life)

# WP 6: Life Cycle Assessment of Upscaling

**Analysis of the upscaling of manufacturing processes to produce low Iridium PEM Electrolysis, as well as consideration of the ecological impact of the electrolyzer efficiency and lifetime**

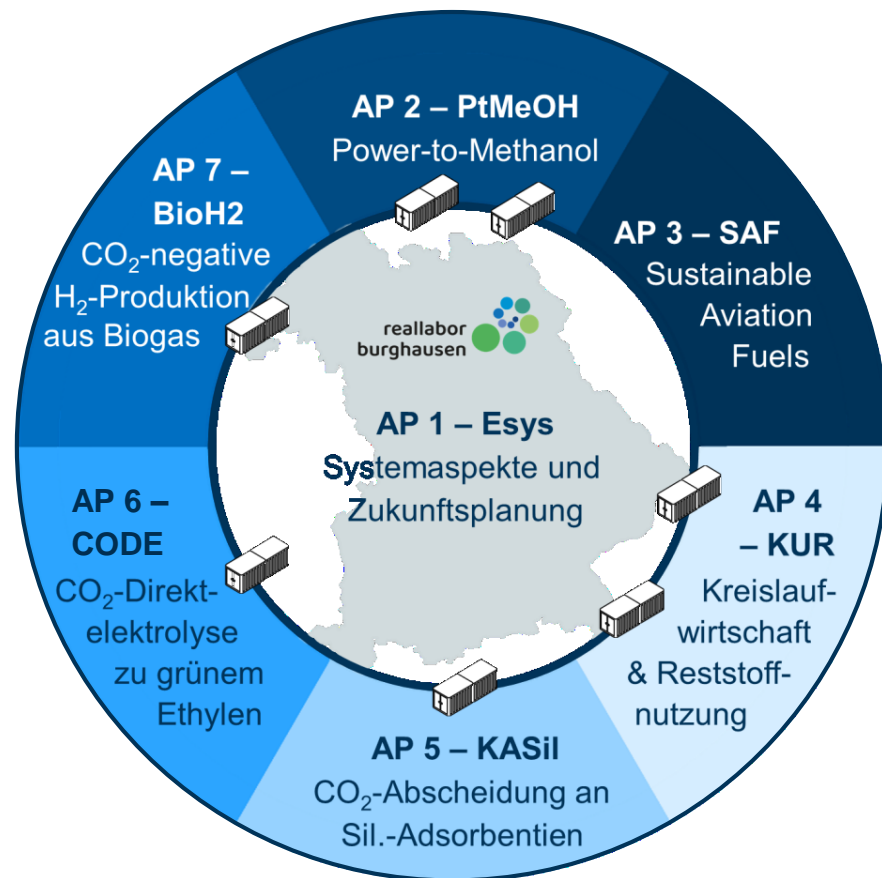


Assessing the environmental and social footprint and establishing the circularity measures for the end-of-life.

Analysis of different technology development levels by 2030 in comparison to the state-of-the-art PEM Electrolyzer.

Analysis of green hydrogen production under different electricity scenarios: PV, Wind or Optimized Wind-PV integration.

# Objective of the “H<sub>2</sub>-Reallabor Burghausen” is the creation of the research basis and initial technology demonstration



## “H<sub>2</sub>-Reallabor Burghausen” (regulatory sandboxe Burghausen):

- Investigation of sustainable processes for the provision of basic and specialty chemicals
- Analysis of energy and raw material requirements for the identification of acute supply gaps
- Identification of synergy effects within the site and opportunities for sector coupling
- Analysis of the medium and long-term coupling of the site to the overarching energy system
- Analysis of possible local and international value chains based on climate-neutral chemistry
- Summary of findings to secure the chemical industry in Germany and development of a roadmap for the transformation of the chemical industry

# In working package 1, the transformation to a climate-neutral chemical industry is analyzed through energy system modelling

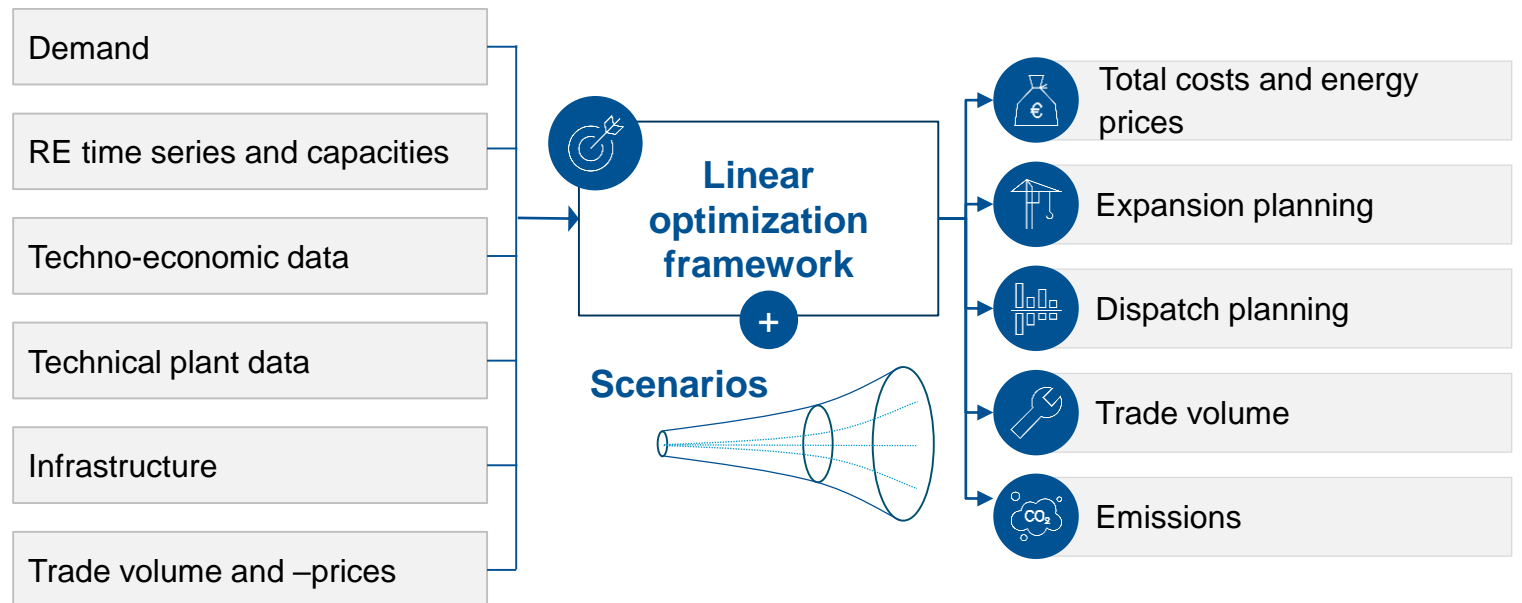
## Objective of WP1

**Identification of the requirements for the local energy and material system** for the transformation towards a completely climate-neutral chemical industry

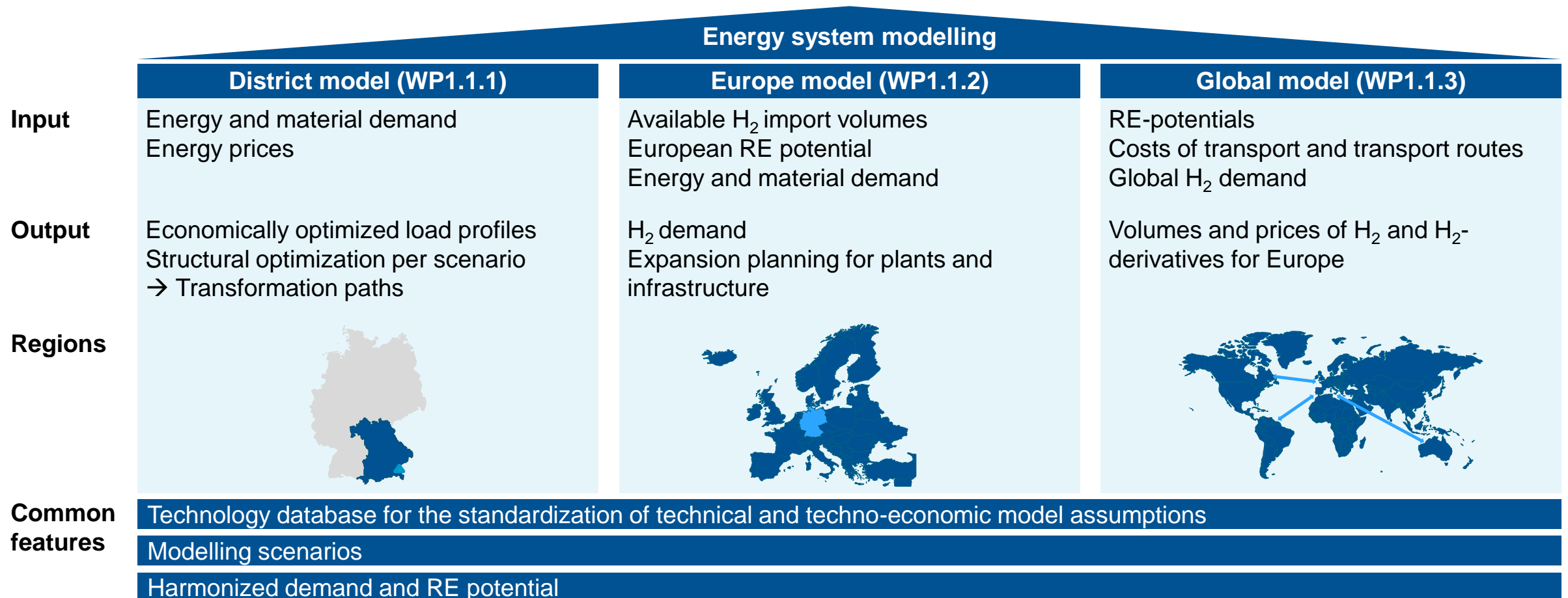
**Analysis of the influence of the European energy system** and investigation the implications of the **development of the global hydrogen market**

**Identification and evaluation of possible transformation paths** in varying scenarios

## Methodology



# The energy system modelling is performed in three interconnected models with varying regional resolution



# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

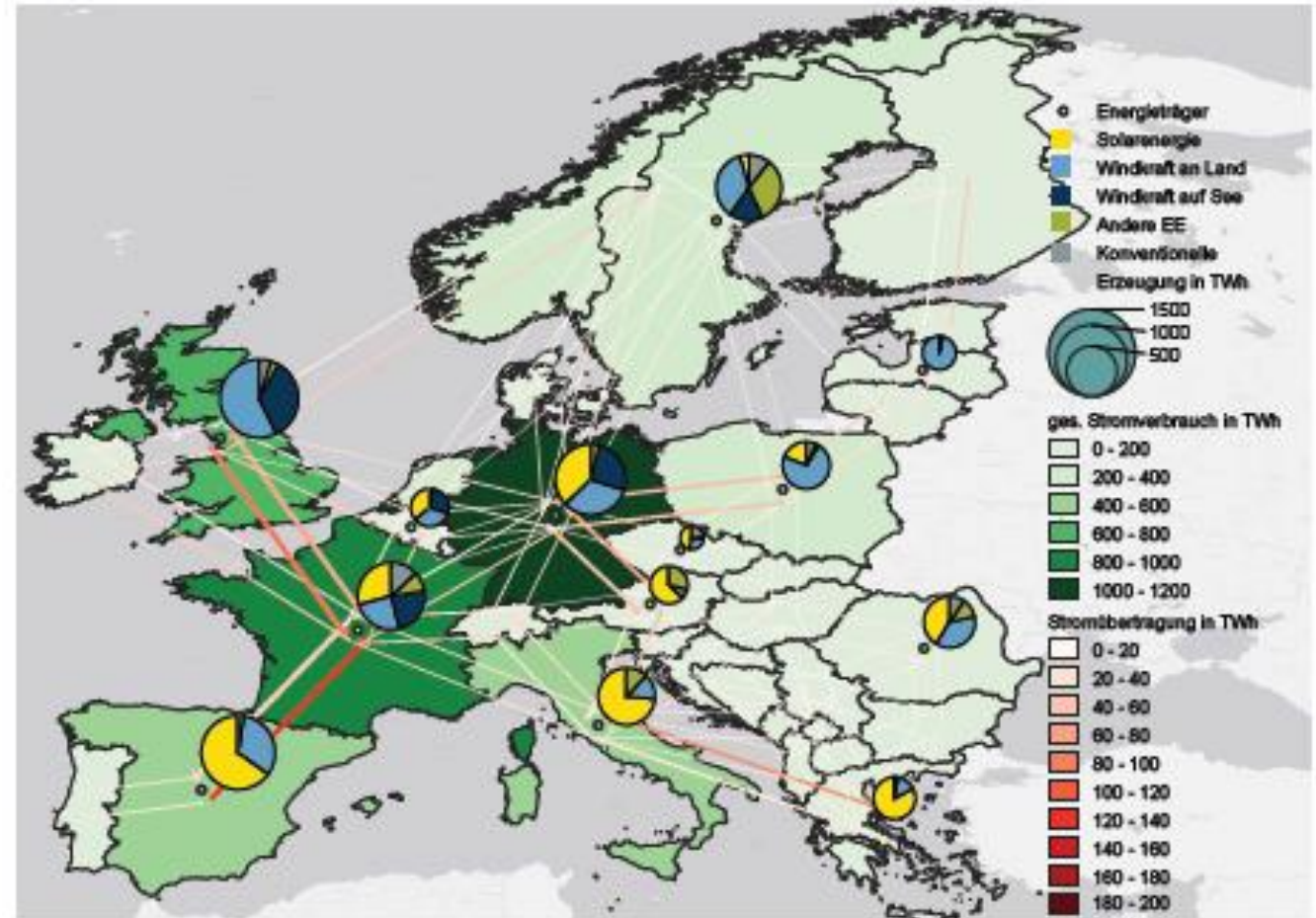
The role of a strong  
European Energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

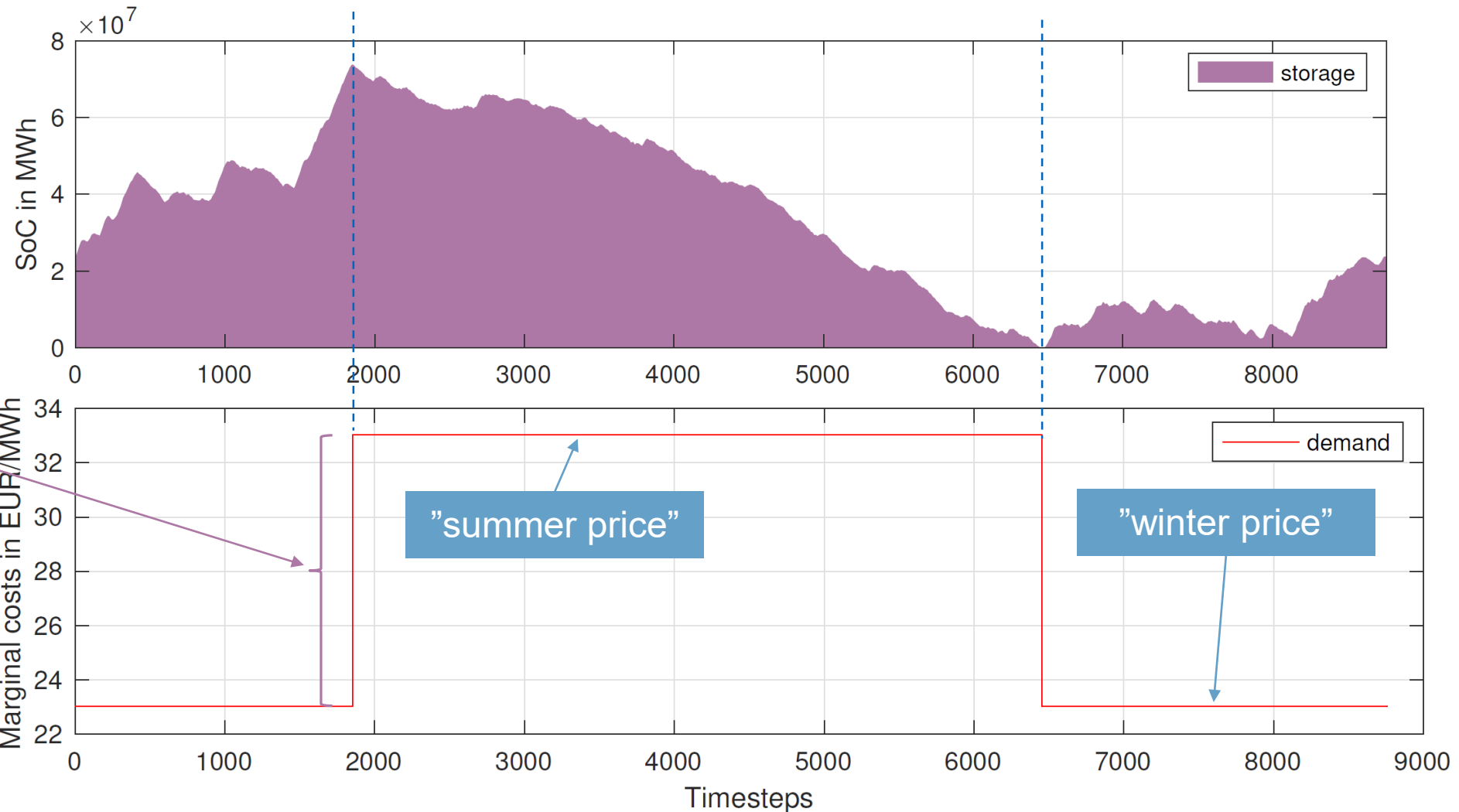


# European Model

- European Electricity and Hydrogen model
- Zero emissions in 2050
- Strong distributed generation within Europe
- Either strong power or hydrogen transport
- Seasonal hydrogen storage options used



# Scenario 3a – SoC and dual solution of demand equation



## Known observation

Economic dispatch makes no sense in renewable dominated system.

## Naive observation?

Investment costs are smoothed in a world with large hydrogen storages. Can they then be introduced into the market?

# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

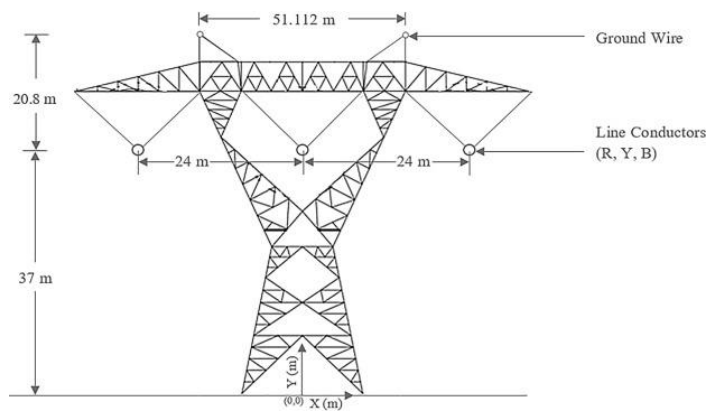
Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

# Strong European energy cooperation

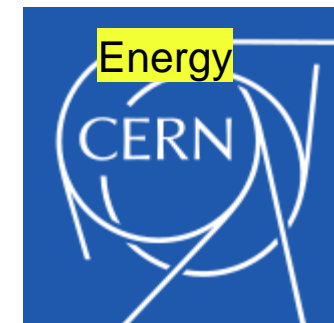
Strong European power grid a very high priority



Open for a renewable/nuclear mix



Common research and development on new synthetic fuel energy technologies and infrastructure



Source: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asej.2021.11.011>., wikipedia „Kraftwerk Temelin,

# Agenda

Energy Technologies  
and Efficiency

New role and  
challenges of  
electricity

Hydrogen and  
synthetic energy  
carriers

Hydrogen Projects at  
Technical University  
of Munich

Hydrogen and the  
electricity market

The role of a strong  
European energy  
cooperation

Conclusion and  
Outlook

# Conclusion

A stronger European cooperation is necessary:

A strong power grid is of high priority

Picking winners seems attractive to reduce risks but is not possible on a global scale and is misleading

Europe is still one of the most forward looking project after the Second World War. It requires all our energy to bring this back into our minds.

No European country alone will be able to withstand global power, Europe as a whole is.