



# UK HyRES Future Perspectives

Solid Oxide Electrolysis for Green Hydrogen Production

Edinburgh 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**CLEAN ENERGY STARTS WITH CERES**

25 April 2023

Jon Harman



# Contents

- Overview of Ceres Technology
- SOEC System Development
- SOEC Applications

Technology

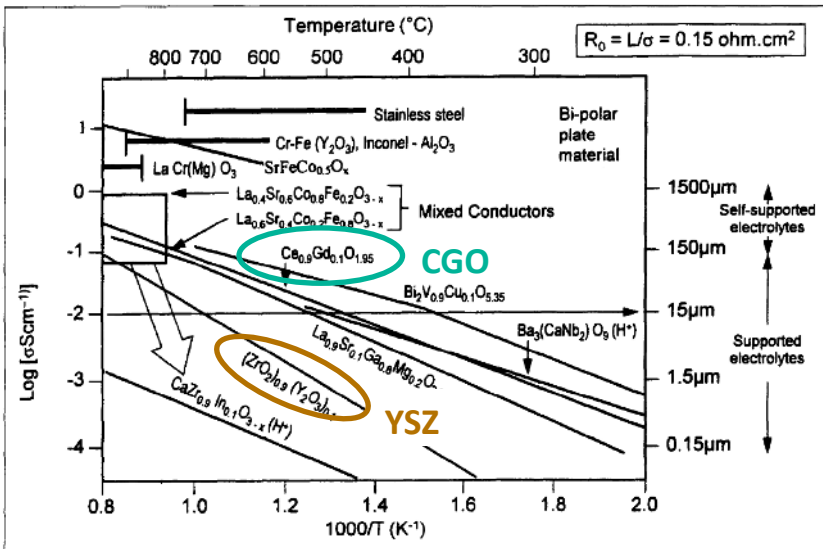
# The Ceres History and Origin

Credit: Imperial College



Professor Brian Steele worked in the Department of Materials at Imperial College for 37 years and was instrumental in the development of solid oxide fuel cells. He was also a founding member of spin-out company Ceres

- Brian Steele identified CGO as low temperature electrolyte in 1990's
- CGO has superior conductivity compared to other ion conducting ceramics at temperatures that enable low cost SOFC with metal support



Specific ionic conductivity values for selected ceramic ion conducting membranes as a function of reciprocal temperature.

## Ceramic ion conducting membranes Brian CH Steele

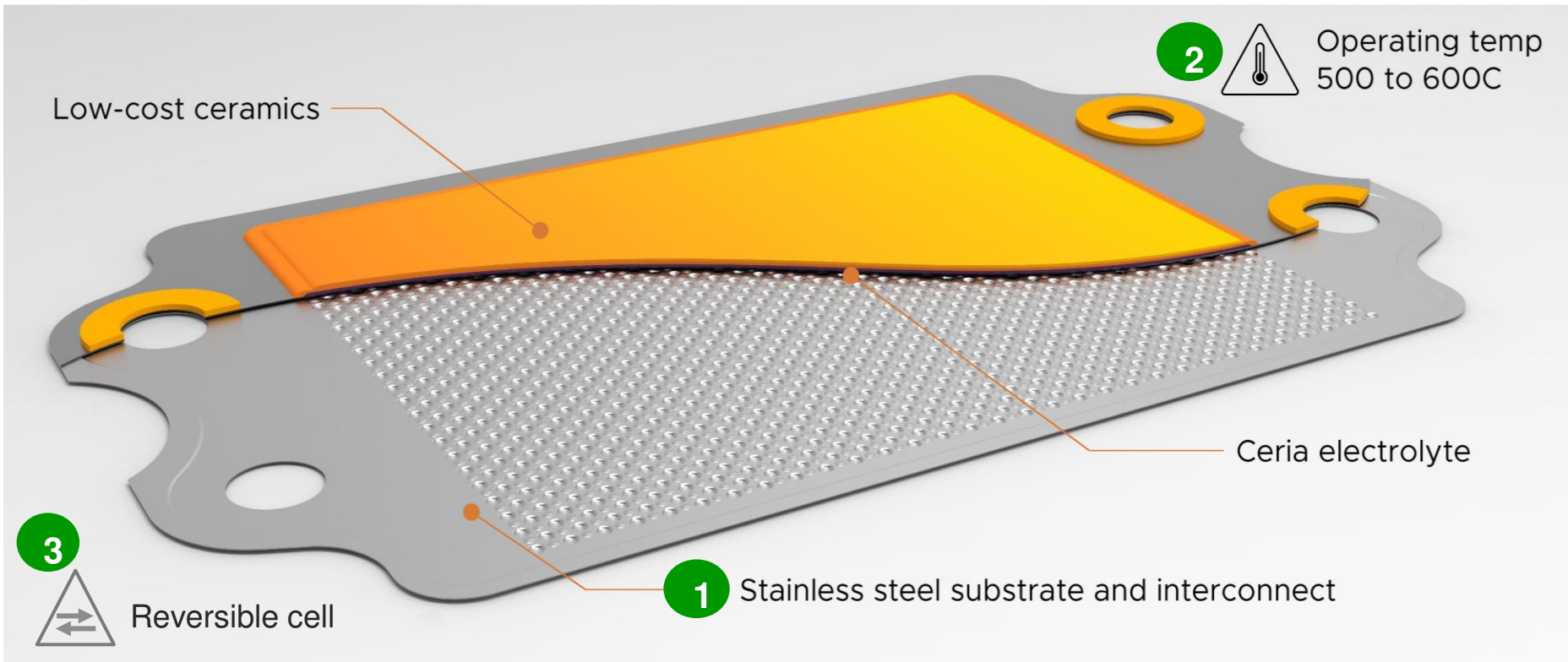
Ceramic ion conducting membranes are a generic group of materials with many potential large-scale applications in solid oxide fuel cells, oxygen generators and partial oxidation reactors. At present the transport and surface exchange kinetic characteristics are emphasized to maximize ionic fluxes. However, as the dense membrane is often fabricated in the form of a thick film on a supported porous structure there is an increasing realization that the available processing routes and thermomechanical behaviour will also strongly influence the selection of materials. Accordingly, increasing attention is now being given to the effect of the imposed chemical potential gradient upon thermochemical stability an structural integrity.



2001: Ceres Power Ltd spins out from Imperial College

1996: Paper written by Brian Steele on Ceramic ion conducting membranes

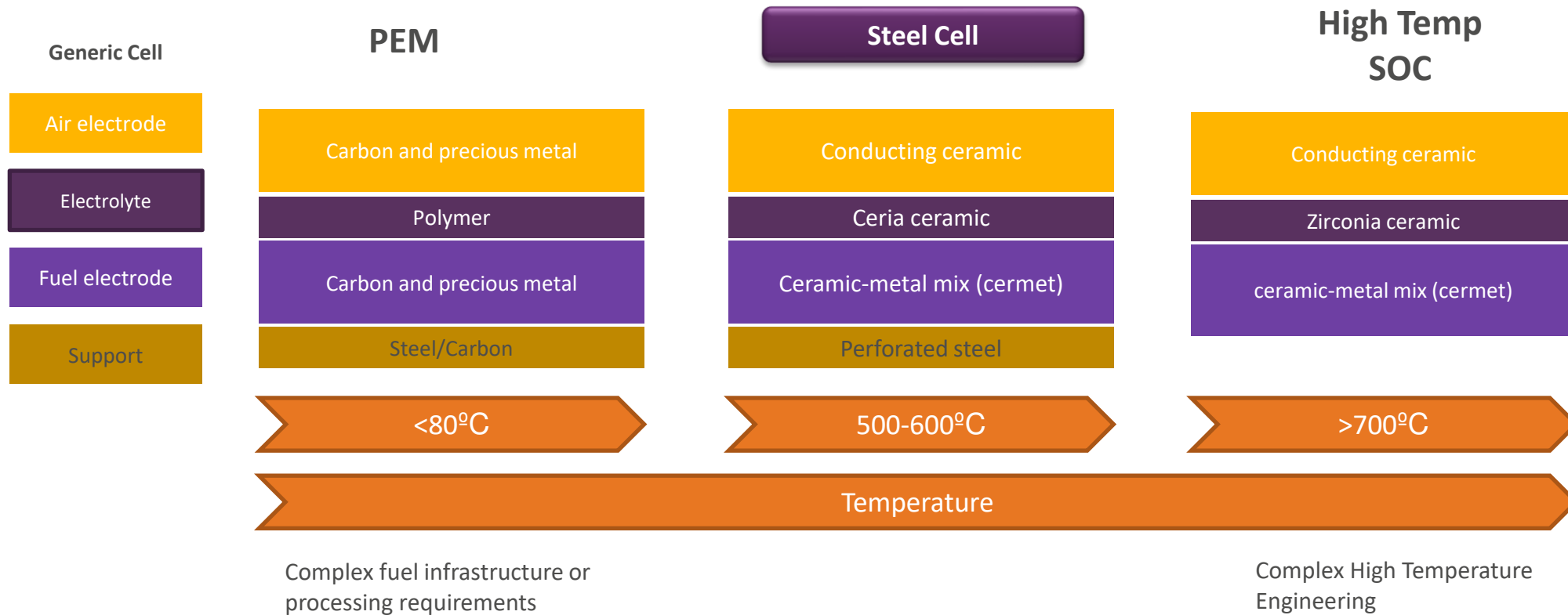
# Ceres SteelCell™ technology developed over 20 years, for power generation and hydrogen production



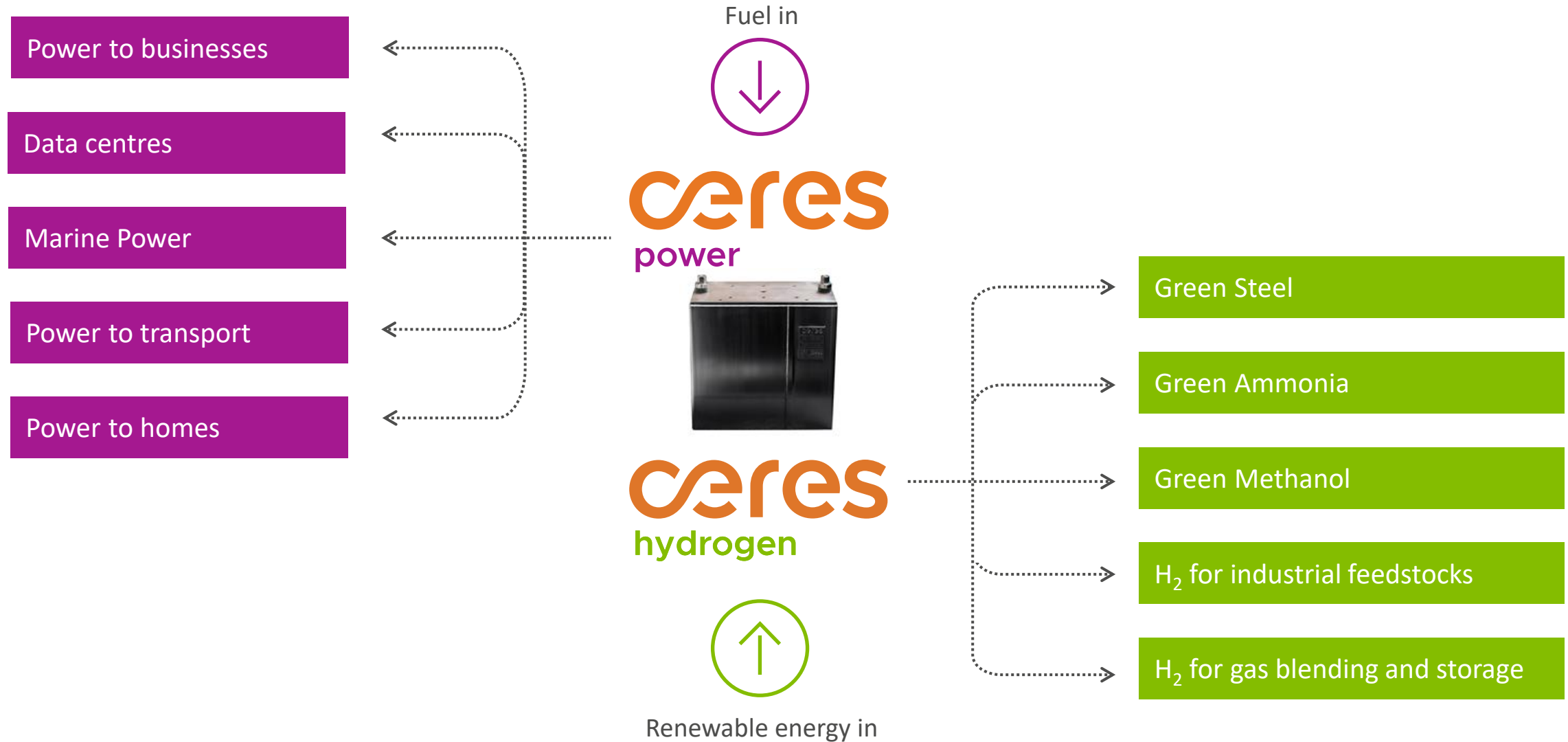
## Metal Supported Low Temperature - Solid Oxide Cell

- Low Cost
- Robust
- Efficient
- Reversible
- Manufacturable

# Ceres SteelCell<sup>®</sup> are a in a temperature sweet spot for performance, fuel flexibility, cost and robustness



# Fuel cells for power generation and electrolyzers for green hydrogen



## PEM

Grid balancing and  
refuelling stations

50 kWh/kg

Challenger:  
dynamic response

## Alkaline

Industrial / bulk production

48 kWh/kg

Most mature:  
lowest scale, lowest cost  
today

## SOEC

Industrial uses, steel and e-fuels

37 kWh/kg

Potential:  
highest efficiency due to lower electrical  
energy input

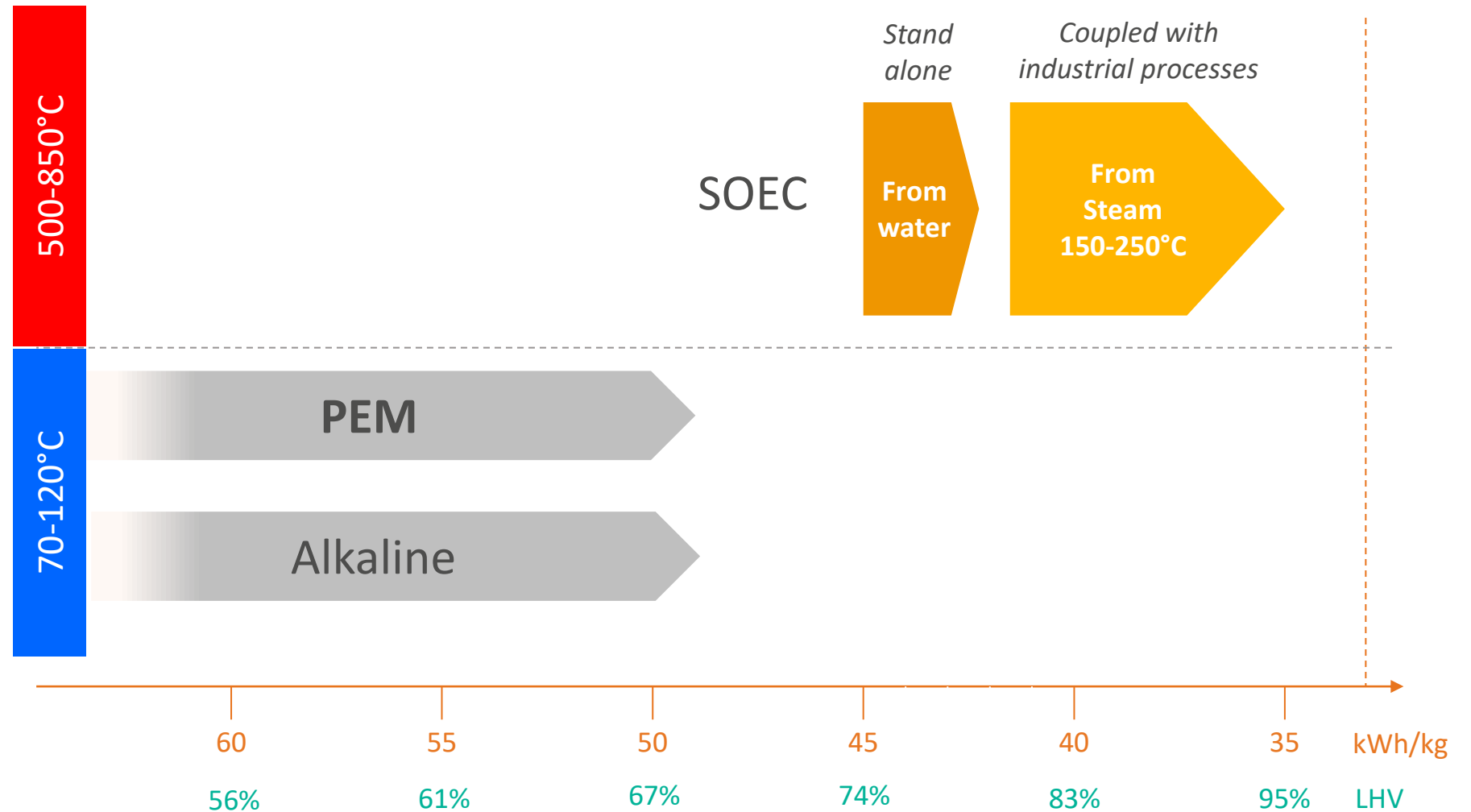
Solid oxide  
electrolysis  
is highly  
differentiated



SOEC has intrinsic efficiency advantage over low temperature electrolysis, when integrated with a steam source

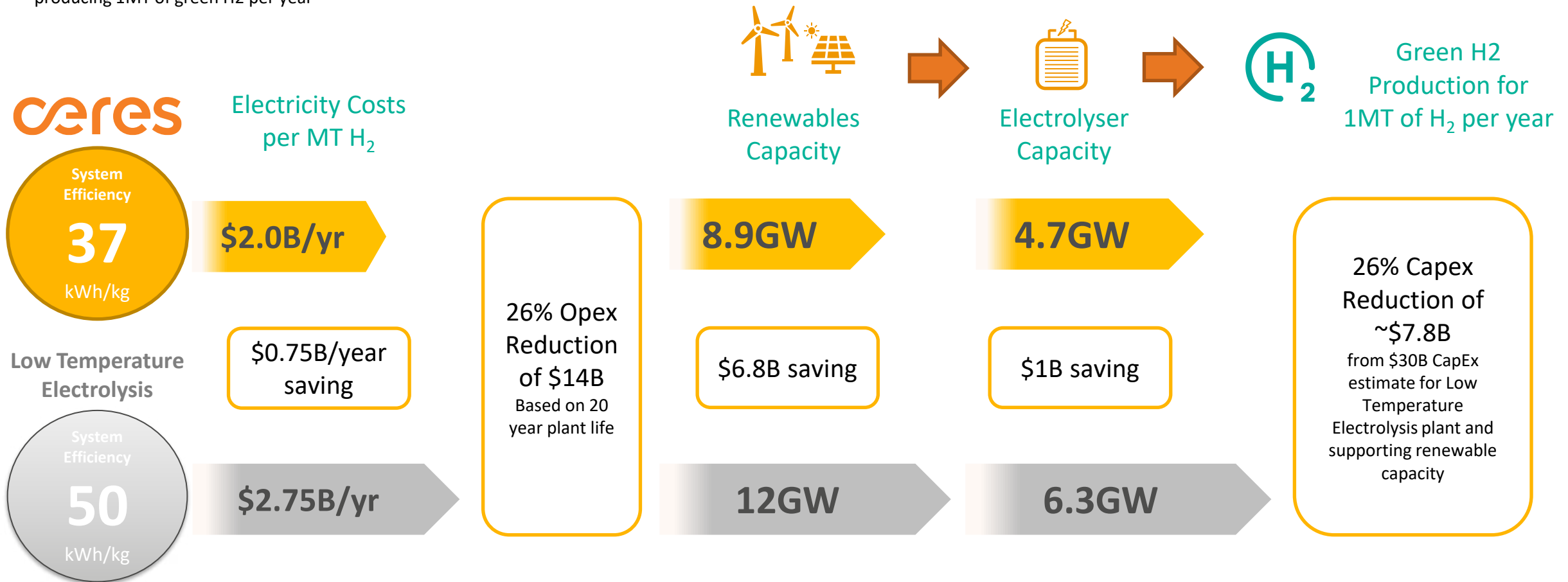
*Green Hydrogen Cost Reduction – Scaling up Electrolysers to Meet the 1.5°C Climate Goal*

International Renewable Energy Agency, 2020, Abu Dhabi



# Ceres SOEC enables 26% cost savings for Green Hydrogen Production

Illustration for an indicative project producing 1MT of green H<sub>2</sub> per year



**Assumptions used in calculations:** Electricity Cost: \$55/MWh; Electrolyser System Installed CapEx: \$600/kW; Offshore Wind Installed Cost: \$2858/kW; Solar Installed Cost: \$857/kW; Wind:Solar ratio: 67:33; Renewable Capacity factor: 53%; Electrolyser Capacity Factor: 90%;  
**References:** [Renewable power generation costs in 2021 \(irena.org\)](https://irena.org); [Green hydrogen cost reduction: Scaling up electrolysers to meet the 1.5C climate goal \(irena.org\)](https://irena.org)

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# The Ceres stack also enables lower system costs compared to other SOCs

Lower Operating Temperature

Redox Tolerance

Mechanical Robustness

Integrated Functions (in devt.)

- Lower cost balance-of-plant materials
- Less insulation
- Simpler gas and electrical seals
- No need for cover gas during shut-down and emergency stop (uncontrolled)
- Simpler handling and transportation
- Faster start-up time
- No external reformer
- No reforming water system
- Direct methanation

# SOEC System Development

# SOEC Progress



## Prototype 1MW system

## Future 100MW

Specification	Target Value	Future models
Electrical Power Input (AC)	~1MW	100MW
Hydrogen Production	~600kg / day	
System Efficiency	<40kWh/kg >80%, LHV, AC	37kWh/kg

## Measured

Module Efficiency  
**38**  
kWh/kg



## Prototype ECM Module

Specification	Target Value
Electrical Power Input	~100kW
Hydrogen Production	~65kg / day
Module Efficiency	38kWh/kg
Steam input	150°C



# First prototype system at 1MW – future plants at 100MW

Specification	Target Value	Future plant scale
Hydrogen Production	~600kg / day	>60tn / day
System Efficiency	<40kWh/kg	37kWh/kg



# Measured Efficiency 38kWh/kg

## Specification

## Target Value

Electrical Power Input

~100kW

Hydrogen Production

65kg / day

Module Efficiency

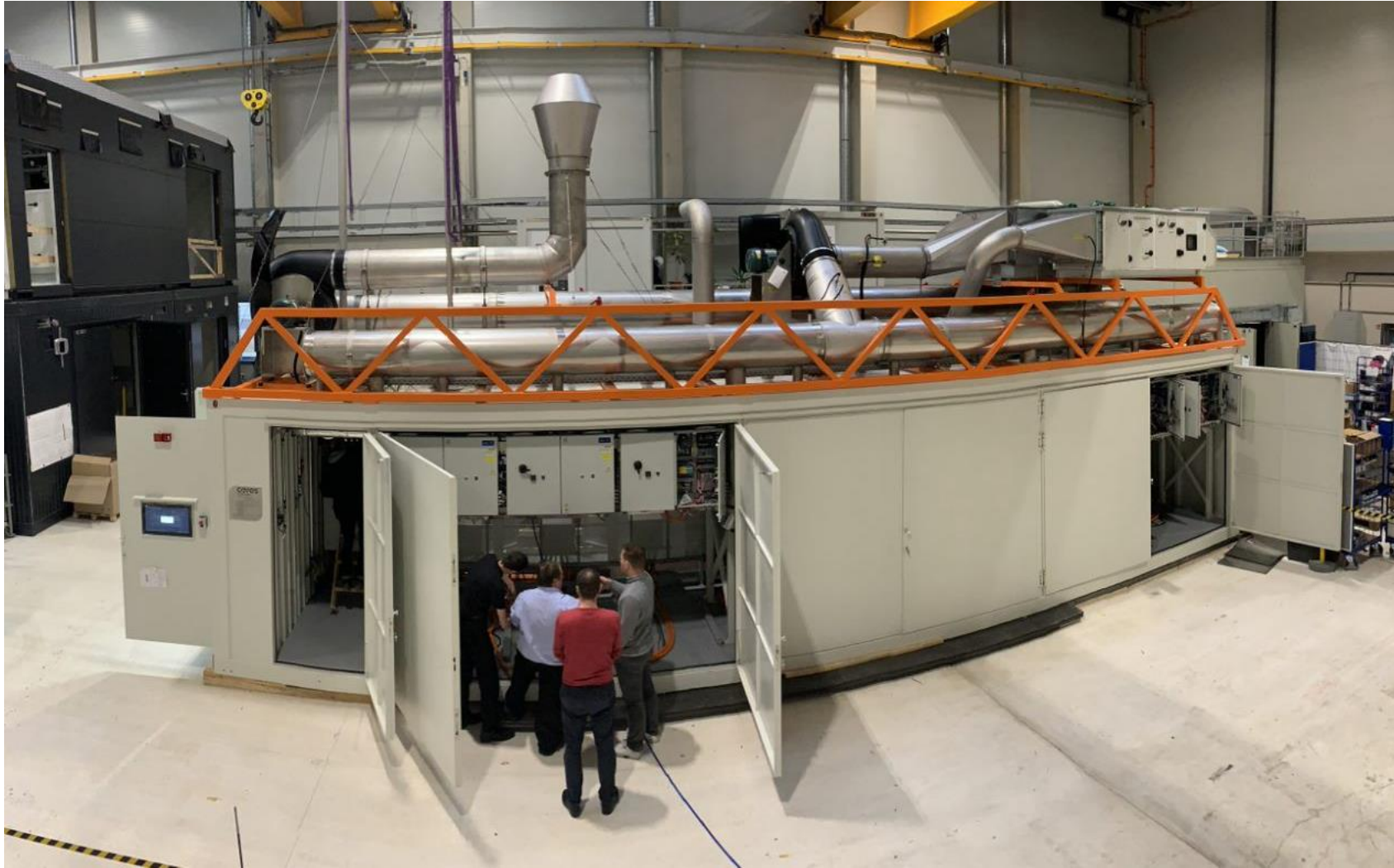
38kWh/kg

Steam input

150°C

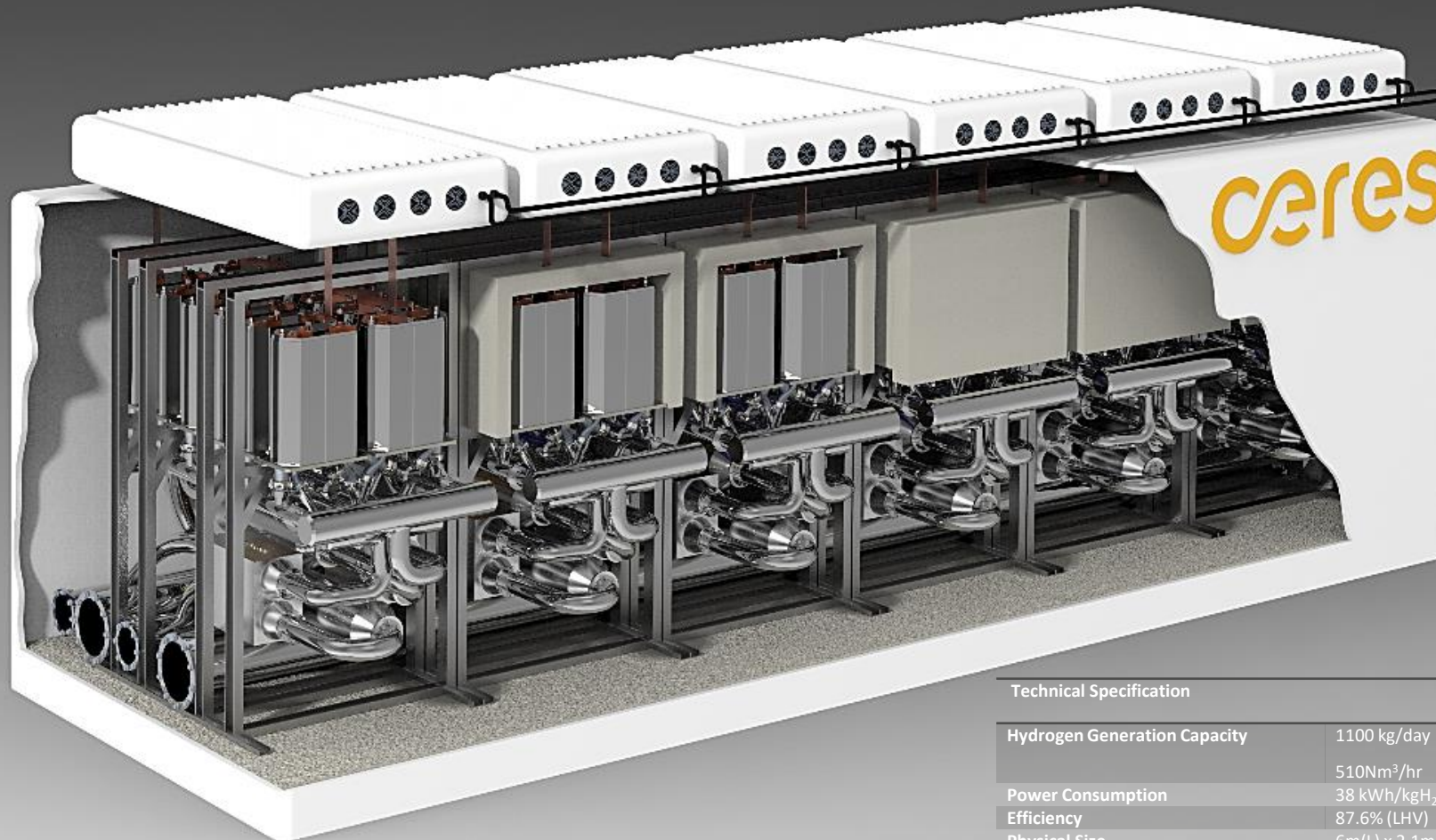


# 1MW-class SOEC System Demonstrator due to start testing shortly





# 2MW-class / 20ft Shipping Container SOEC Module Concept

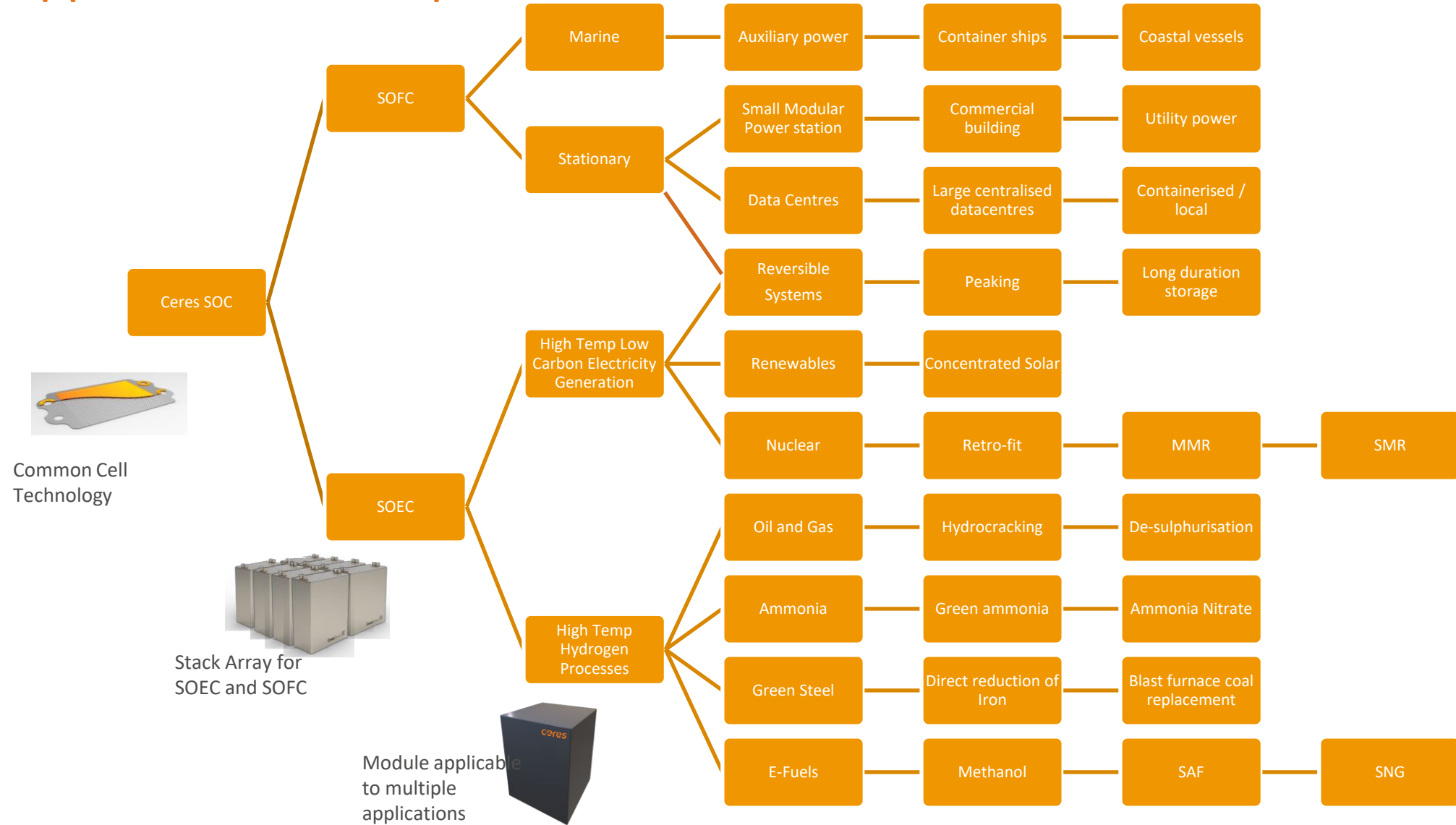


## Technical Specification

Hydrogen Generation Capacity	1100 kg/day
	510Nm <sup>3</sup> /hr
Power Consumption	38 kWh/kgH <sub>2</sub>
Efficiency	87.6% (LHV)
Physical Size	6m(L) x 2.1m(W) x 2.2m(H)
Operating Pressure	1 barg

# Applications

# SOC Application Landscape

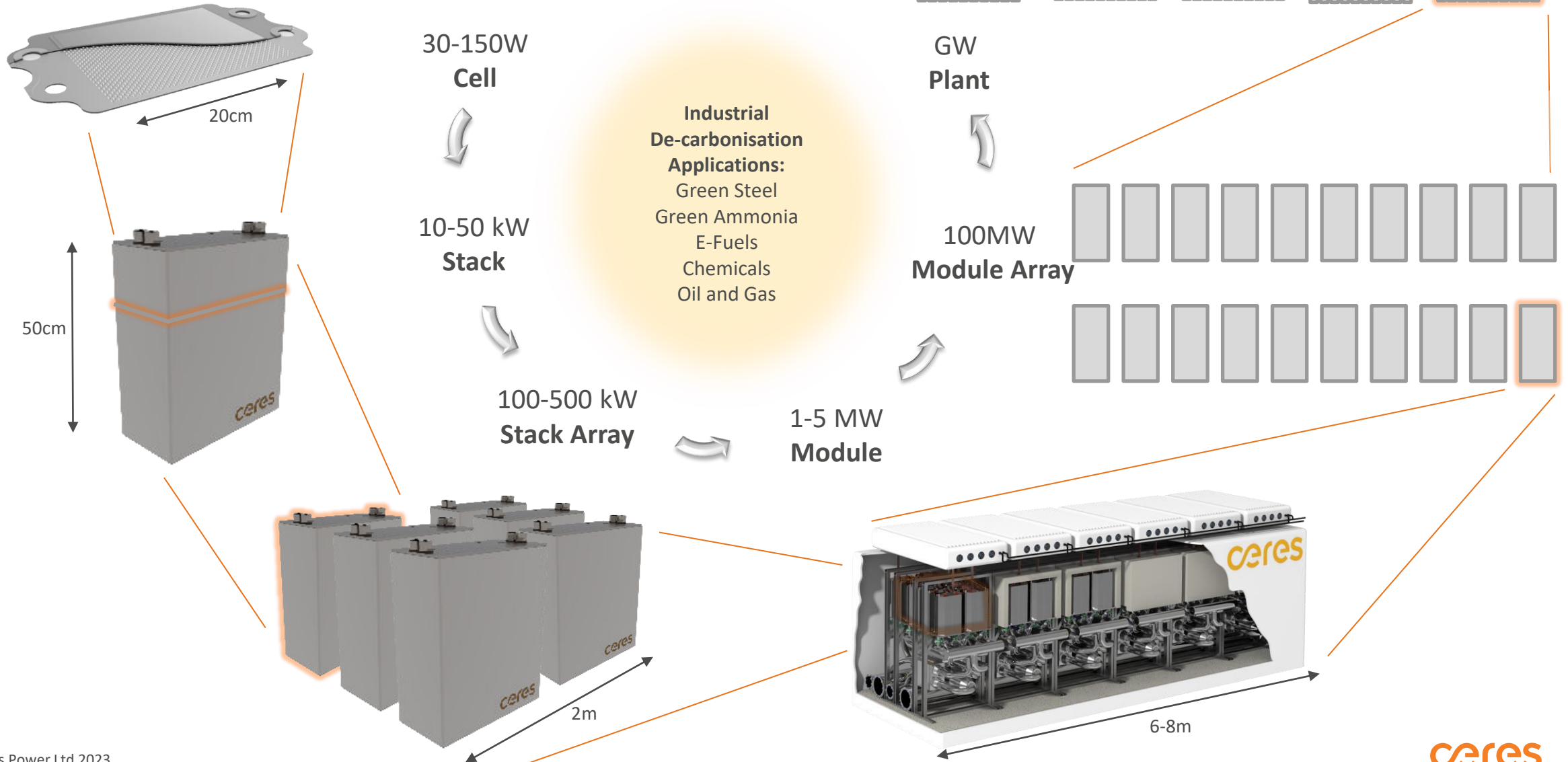


## Shell collaboration for green hydrogen in India

- Agreement to establish a 1MW technology pilot of Ceres' SOEC system at Shell's R&D centre in Bangalore, India
- Produce hydrogen at efficiencies around 20% greater than other technologies (80s to 90%) where it is possible to make use of waste heat in industrial processes to drive high efficiency
- Pilot start in 2023 and operate for >3 years – hydrogen will be used in industrial processes on site

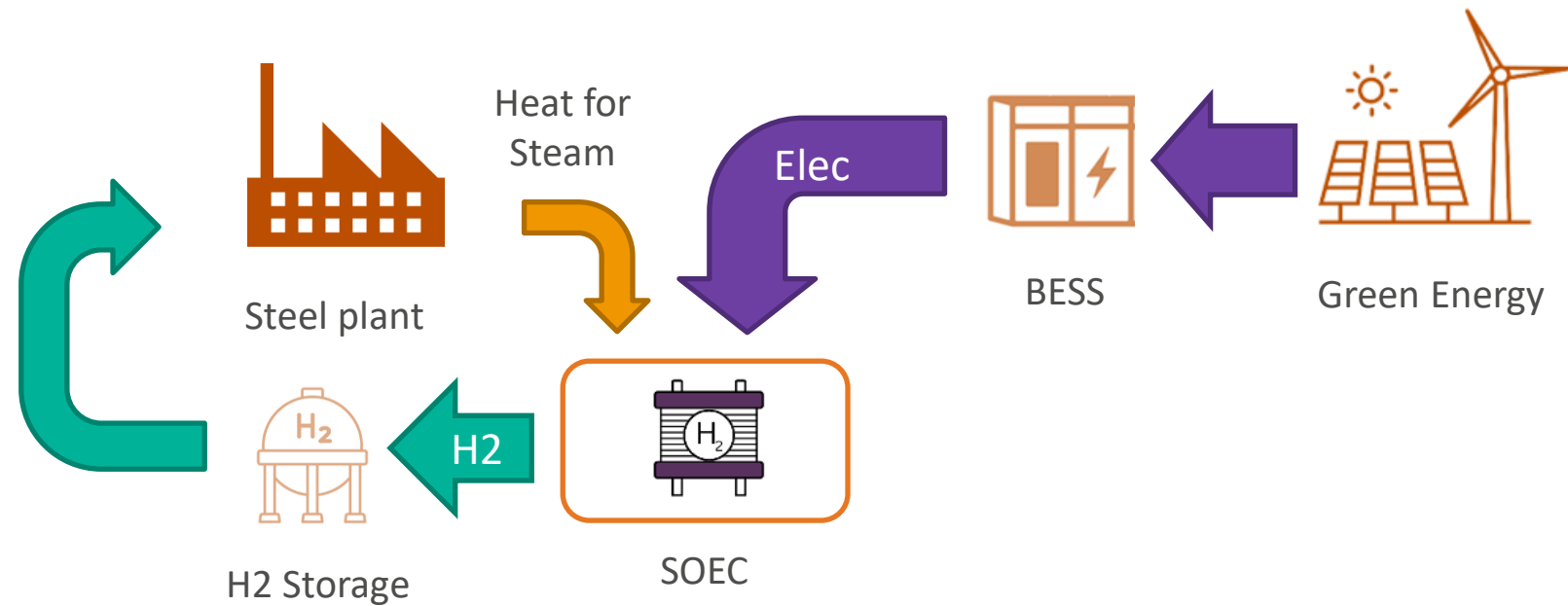


# SOEC Modular scale-up concept



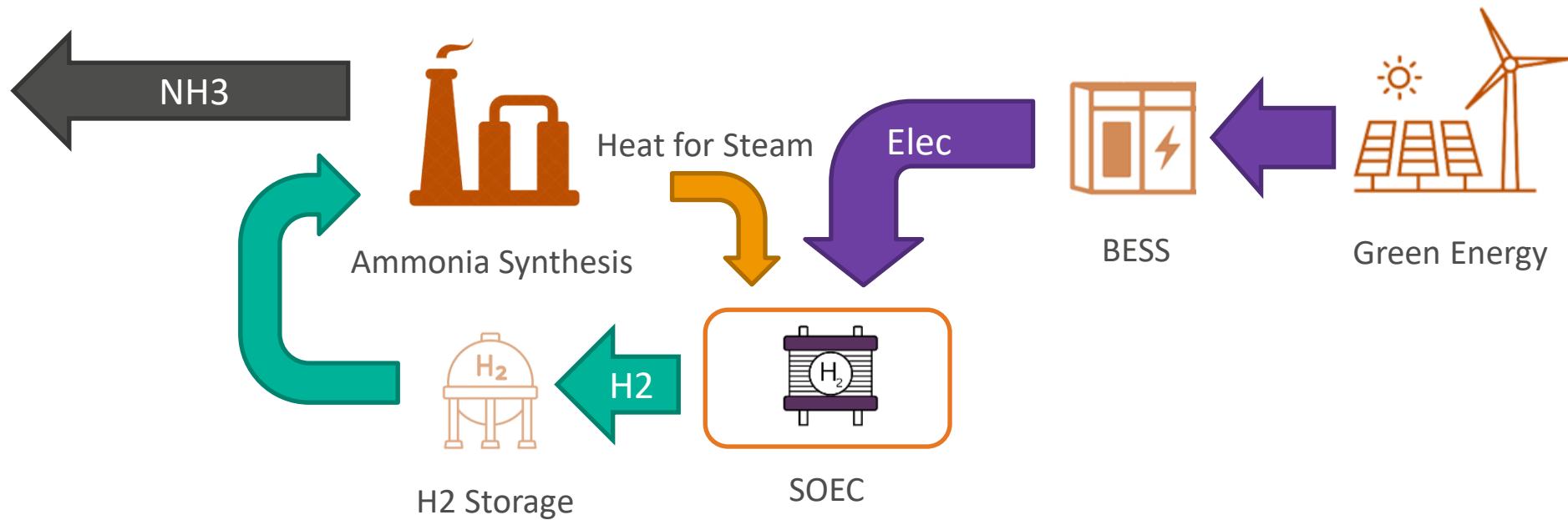
# Green Hydrogen for Green Steel

- Heat from steel production can be used to generate steam for SOEC
- Green hydrogen can be used in DRI process or as fossil fuel replacement in blast furnace



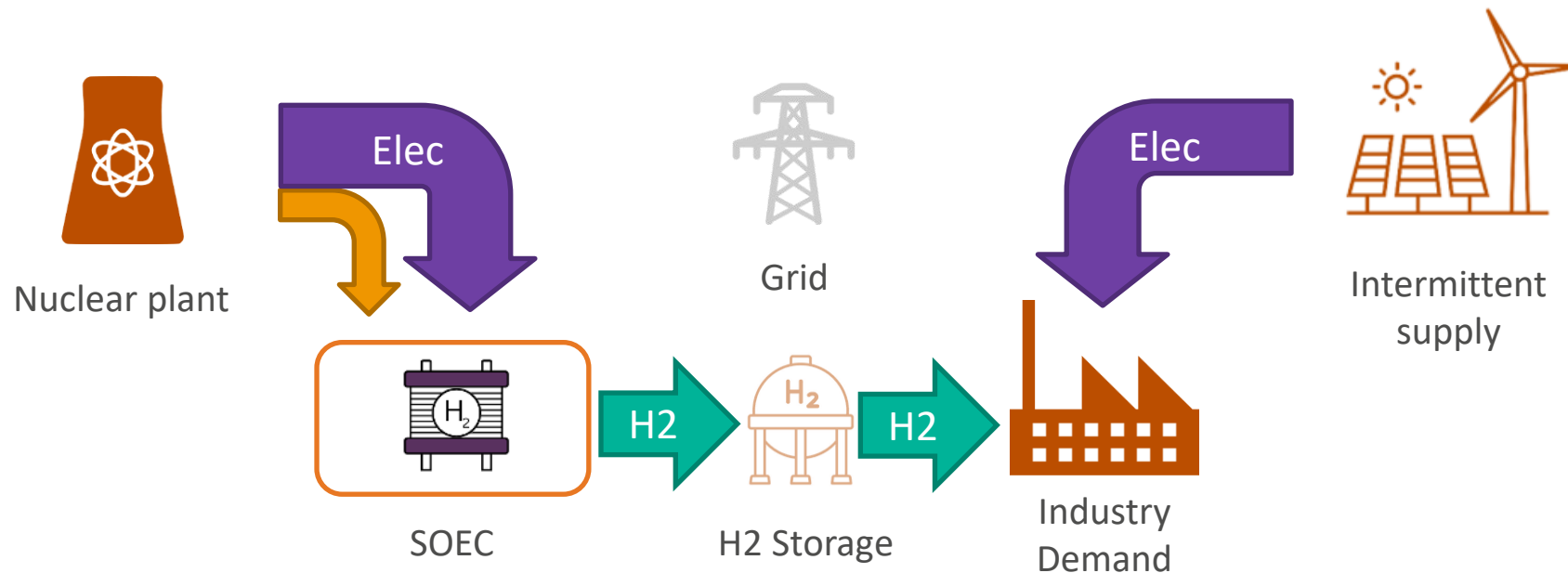
# Green Hydrogen for Green Ammonia synthesis

- Heat from NH<sub>3</sub> synthesis can be used to generate steam for SOEC



# Nuclear + SOEC can provide both low carbon hydrogen and flexible electrical power to industry

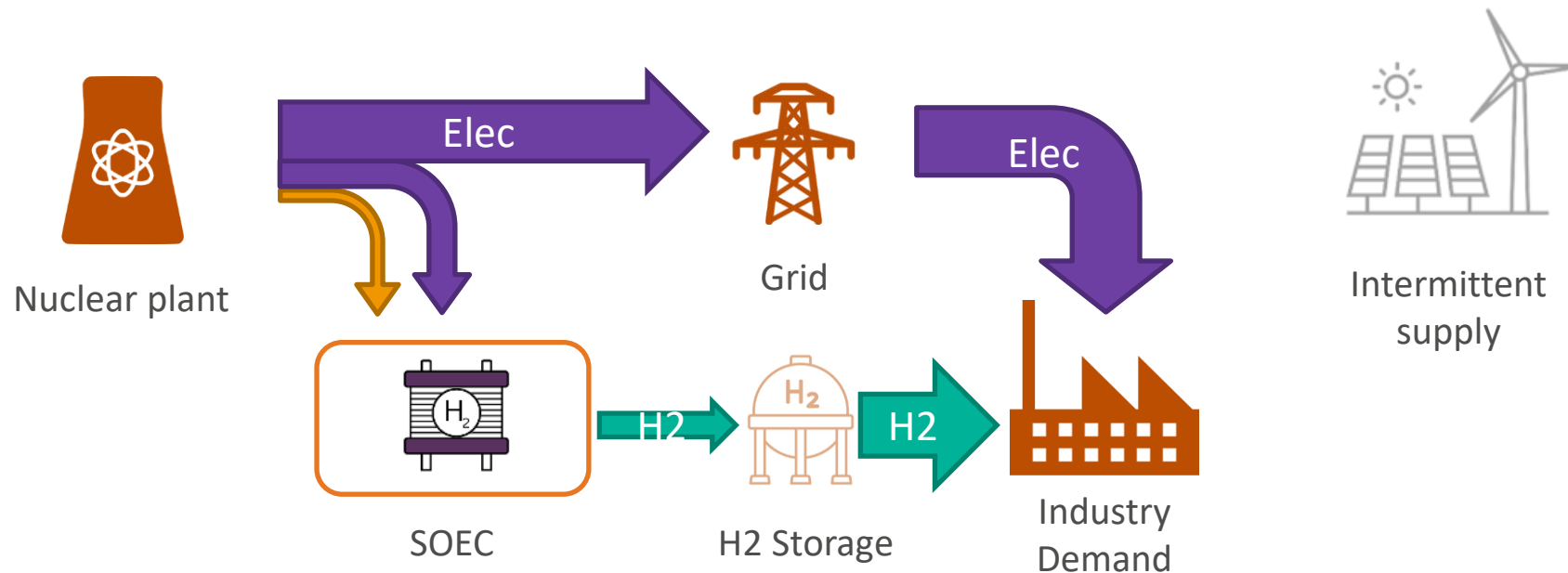
- A 1GW thermal Nuclear plant could deliver approx. 350MW of electricity to the grid
- OR it could produce 70-80kT/yr of hydrogen with SOEC making use of steam
- AND it could flexibly provide power to the grid by varying SOEC heat and power input





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- AND it could flexibly provide power to the grid by varying SOEC heat and power input





# THANK YOU

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