# HyMARC: Hydrogen Carriers R&D Activities for Bulk Hydrogen Storage & Transport



Tom Autrey and Mark Bowden *Project ID*: ST204 Annual Merit Review May 21, 2020











# What we do at PNNL

At PNNL, we use a top-down integrated approach driven by engineering feasibility and collaboration with HyMARC partners to explore the applications of LOHCs for end uses of varying scales



Liquid Organic H<sub>2</sub> Carriers





# City Gate Steel Cement





### **Scaling End Uses**

# **Far from perfect: Defining an ideal LOHC**

Low MP (<–30 °C). High BP (>300 °C): H<sub>2</sub> purification by simple condensation

High hydrogen storage capacity (>56 kg/m<sup>3</sup> or >6 wt%)

Low heat of desorption (42–54 kJ/mol-H<sub>2</sub>): low dehydrogenation temperature 1 bar  $P_{H2}$ (e.g., <200 °C)

Long cycles of selective hydrogenation-dehydrogenation (This area needs a lot more development)



Compatible with existing infrastructure for fuels



Low production costs and good technical availability



Toxicological and eco-toxicological safety during transportation and use



# **Relevance** Moving the bar forward for H<sub>2</sub> carriers

- HyMARC is working to identify off-board scenarios that will benefit from solid and liquid phase carriers of hydrogen.
- Our approach to move the bar forward is to address a defined set of questions for a series of applications
- (i) what is a minimum footprint for each H<sub>2</sub> carrier
- (ii) Are known catalysts capable of providing a sufficient rate of H<sub>2</sub> release;
- (iii) is the power (W/I) and energy (Wh/I) for a given H<sub>2</sub> carrier sufficient to meet the demand.



### Engineering feasibility

Technoeconomic analysis







# HyMARC is working to identify off-board scenarios that will benefit from solid and liquid phase carriers of hydrogen

- Concepts
  - Identifying use case scenarios
    - ✓ Transport of H₂ from production facility to city gate
    - ✓ Transport of H<sub>2</sub> from city gate to refueling station
    - $\checkmark$  Backup power for data centers
    - ✓ Microgrid energy storage
    - ✓ Passenger ferry, train, bus
  - Identifying materials
  - Identifying approaches
    - $\checkmark$  One way carriers
    - ✓ Round trip carriers
    - $\checkmark$  H<sub>2</sub> carriers without generating hydrogen
- Engineering feasibility
  - minimum footprint for each H<sub>2</sub> carrier
- Technoeconomic analysis
  - Collaboration with LBL
  - Adapting, evolving

Concepts

### Engineering feasibility

Technoeconomic analysis







## Evolution of HyMARC from CoE to H<sub>2</sub> carriers

- Identify promising use cases (refueling station, city gate, emergency backup, ...)
  - Define power and duration requirements
  - Identify benefits and challenges to put use case into practice
- **Identify promising** *carriers* (formates, formic acid, ethanol)
  - Compare promising carriers to compressed hydrogen
  - Identify benefits and challenges to put *material* into practice
  - Use information from the literature when available, when not available
    - Use theory, experiment, modeling

### Utilize Engineering analysis to provides methods of comparison

- Energy: Compare round trip efficiency
- Cost: Estimate operating costs
- Size: "Kristone" Plots
- Benefits: Chemical Compression

### Utilize Technoeconomic Analysis

- Operating and capital costs
- Insight into ancillary benefits
- Insight into research areas to reduce cost

### **Bottom line – develop metrics for a set of achievable use cases**







# Relevance

H<sub>2</sub> <u>carriers are scalable</u> and have the potential to *store*, *transport* and produce *usable* hydrogen

equivalent volumetric density of H2 carriers relative to comp H<sub>2</sub> gas



Bottom line – ethanol provides a <u>storable</u>  $H_2$  density equivalent > 500 bar compressed  $H_2$  gas





# Approach Identifying promising H<sub>2</sub> carriers (liquid phase)

	Example	e: EtOH t
•	<ul> <li>Is the gravimetric/volumetric density greater than 250 bar H<sub>2</sub>?</li> <li>what is the volumetric footprint of the system</li> </ul>	35 g
•	<ul><li>What 'use case' are you targeting?</li><li>How much hydrogen carrier is needed?</li></ul>	Micro
•	<ul><li>What is the enthalpy release on regen?</li><li>extra needs for heat management?</li></ul>	37 k.
•	<ul> <li>What temperature is required to reach 1 bar H<sub>2</sub> (T = △H/△S)?</li> <li>Minimum required energy input for release of H<sub>2</sub></li> </ul>	100 9
•	<ul> <li>What is ∆G<sub>(350 C, 5 bar)</sub> H<sub>2</sub> release?</li> <li>are extra compressors needed?</li> </ul>	7 kJ/
•	<ul> <li>What is ∆G<sub>(400 C, 200 bar)</sub> H<sub>2</sub> uptake?</li> <li>Regeneration possible under moderate conditions?</li> </ul>	-15 k
•	<ul> <li>Are catalysts currently available to yield 1 kg H<sub>2</sub>/minute?</li> <li>How much catalyst is needed? What flow rate of carrier is needed?</li> </ul>	TBD
•	<ul> <li>What is the selectivity for H<sub>2</sub> release?</li> <li>How pure is the H<sub>2</sub>? What separation processes are required?</li> </ul>	> 99
•	<ul><li>What is the viscosity, melting point, vapor pressure at the release temperature?</li><li>Are there special needs for pumping or separations?</li></ul>	0.98





### o EtOAc H<sub>2</sub>/liter

- ogrid (5 MT  $H_2$ )
- J/mol H<sub>2</sub>
- °C
- $/mol H_2$
- kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub>
- %
- cP, -114 C, 53 kPa

# Approach Focus on high impact use cases

- Mobile Distributed (Refueling at City Gate, Transportation)
  - Benefits vs. Current Technology: Store stranded power, Environmental Concerns
  - Benefits vs. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>: Reduced volume and tankage cost
- Stationary Back-Up (Power Outage, Seasonal Storage)
  - Benefits vs. Current Technology: Store low cost electricity, Reliability vs. diesel, Size vs. batteries
  - Benefits vs. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>: Less hazardous and reduced volume

			Mobile [	<b>Distributed</b>	Power				
use case	footprint	Duration hrs	Power MW	Energy MWh	MT[H2] /day	days	rate Kg H2/min	transport	ancillary considerati
								miles to last	
city gate	large	25	4	100	50	365	35	mile	
ferry	medium	4.2	1.6	6.72	4.2	365	1.92		
long haul	small	20	0.24	0.84	0.06	365	0.73		
			Stationa	ary Back-Up					
	-	Duration	Power		MT[H2]	-	rate Kg		
use case	footprint	hrs	MW	Energy MWh	/day	days	H2/min	transport	ancillary considerati
								transport or	
steel mill	extreme	TBD	146		205	365	143	on site	
								on site	
data center	large	72	20	1440	28	3	19.6	generation	fraction of base line
								on site	
hospital	medium	168	0.586	99	0.83	7	0.57	generation	
								transport or	
microgrid	small	1000	0.065	65	0.112	180	0.078	on site	sell product
								on site	
Relion backup	smaller	TBD	0.0029	0.49	0.004	7	0.0028	generation	

Reduce to Reasonable Number Categorize Applications to





# Approach Accelerating progress through collaboration





### **Engineering Feasibility**

Round Trip Efficiency Chemical compression

# Collaboration

Leverage and share broad experience through monthly conference calls with Hymarc partners and seedling projects

- DOE HyMARC
- WSU Hongfei, Tom, Kat
- USC Travis, Sam, Tom
- SNL Vitalie, Mark, John, Tom
- NREL Wade, Gennett, Tom, Abhi
- NREL Hawaii Gennett, Steve, Noemi, Jensen, Tom, Ba, Mark
- LBNL Hanna, Katarina, Kriston, Mark, Abhi, Ba
- LBNL Ji, Jinghua, Tom
- LLNL Brandon, Tom, Sam, Kat
- MSU, Nick, Abhi, Mark

Sundo	ау	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	1	2	3 WSU H2 carriers 1-2 PM	4	5	6
Week 2	8	9 USC H2 carriers 1-2 PM	10 SNL H2 carriers 11-12 PM	11 NREL H2 cariers 11-12 PM	12 NREL/Hawaii 3-4 PM	13 LBNL TEA 11-12 PM
Week 3	15	16	17 LBNL 3-4 PM	18 LLNL Catalysis 11-12 PM	19	20
Week 4	22	23 MSU 1-2 PM	24	25	26 Hawaii H2 carriers 3-4 PM	27



# Collaborations

multiply projects involving experts on focused concepts





determining volumetric foot print and minimum rate required for H<sub>2</sub> release for targeted use cases

- A city gate will need to store 50,000 kg/H<sub>2</sub>/day (equivalent to 800 MWh) requiring 1,000,000 liters (LOHC) ca. 1000  $m^3$ 
  - To generate 50,000 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day at a city gate requires a H<sub>2</sub> release rate of 35 kg  $H_2$ /minute (i.e., 1440 minutes/day) from a  $H_2$  carrier
- A refueling station that requires 1,500 kg  $H_2$ /day needs to store 30,000 liters LOHC/day and release H<sub>2</sub> at an average rate of 1 kg H<sub>2</sub>/min (i.e., 1440) minutes/day)
  - To generate 1,500 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day a day from a H<sub>2</sub> carrier at a refueling station requires a H<sub>2</sub> release rate at an average rate of 1 kg  $H_2$ /min.

Bottom line – H<sub>2</sub> carriers are <u>scalable</u> – to accommodate a wide range of use cases







Concept (defining storable, transportable, usable capacity): Hydrogen Carrier Based on Formate/Bicarbonate Cycle

# $NaHCO_2 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_2 + NaHCO_3$

 $\Delta_r H^0 = 20.4 \text{ kJ/mol}, \ \Delta_r G^0 = 1.4 \text{ kJ/mol}, \ \Delta_r S^0 = 59.9 \text{ J/mol} \text{ K}$ 

Advantages:

- High volumetric H<sub>2</sub> density
- Water provides  $\frac{1}{2}$  the H<sub>2</sub>
- $\Delta G \sim 1$  for H<sub>2</sub> release and uptake
- Reversible at room temperature
- Low toxicity
- Provides >10 bar  $H_2$  pressure Limitations:
- Catalyst decomposition
- Slower reaction kinetics
- Dilution (due to low solubility of  $HCOO^{-}/HCO_{3}^{-}$  in solvents)



### Bottom line – the formate / bicarbonate cycle operates at moderate temperature and pressure



netric density, g H <sub>2</sub> /L ution at max.				
ility at 30 °C	Pure			
-	53.4			
31.4	41.7			
19.6	56.5			
29.7	45.4			
21.4ª	40.3			
9.6	11.5			

Concept (un-catalyzed release of H<sub>2</sub>):

Hydrogen Carrier Based on Formate Hydrothermal Decomposition

# $2\text{HCOONa} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2 + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{CO}_2$

 $\Delta_r H^0 = 68.3 \text{ kJ/mol}, \ \Delta_r G^0 = 17.15 \text{ kJ/mol},$  $\Delta_r S^0 = 164.8 \text{ J/mol K}$  T1bar = 412 K (140 C)

### Advantages:

- High volumetric H<sub>2</sub> density
- Water provides  $\frac{1}{2}$  the H<sub>2</sub>
- Overcome challenges associated with limited solubility of formate/ bicarbonate
- Provides >10 bar  $H_2$  pressure ٠ Limitations:
- CO<sub>2</sub> byproduct
- Higher temperature reaction

- Pressure sensitivity: Proposed system can deliver high P hydrogen (>50 bar at 350 °C (<30 min) compared to the conventional LOHC (eg. In PDBT systems, to shift eq. from 90% dehydrogenation to 90% hydrogenation,  $H_2$ pressure has to be increased only by a factor of 2 or 3)
- Rehydrogenation: (a) Proposed system: 30-100 °C in the presence of a catalyst. (b) Conventional LOHCs: 100-300 °C in the presence of a catalyst.

Table 2 – En	for the chemical hydrides.				
Storage medium	Enthalpy of dehydrogenation [kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> ]	Typical temperatures for hydrogen release [C]	Boiling point of hydrogenated form [ C]	Enthalpy of evaporation (if gas phase during dehydrogenation) [kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> ]	Total heat which must be provided [kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> ]
Methanol	2.3	250	64.7 (100 for water)	4.4 <sup>a</sup> (1.8 for water)	6.7
Ammonia	4.2	>425	33.3	2.1	6.3
Formic acid	4.3	<100	100.8	-	4.3
MCH	9.7	350	101	1.5	11.2
DNEC	7.6	220	>220	-	7.6
PDBT	9.0	300	390	-	9.0

For steam reforming of methanol, one must evaporate both methanol and water. In a real case, a stoichiometric excess of water of approximately 50% is typically used; this excess ratio is used to generate the value above [163]

Int. J. Hydrog. Energy, 2019, 44, 11901-11919 Energy Environ. Sci., 2017, 10, 1652-1659 Green Chem., 2010, 12, 2214-2224

Bottom line – non-catalytic hydrothermal formate decomposition temperature is comparable to the conventional LOHCs that use noble metal catalysts (Ru, Pt etc) to release H<sub>2</sub>.



Concept: Dehydrogenative coupling provides a means to modify thermodynamics. Molecular catalyst that enables both H<sub>2</sub> release and uptake can provide an approach for microgrid technology



**Bottom line – the EtOH/ EtOAc cycle operates at moderate temperature and pressure** 



# Liquid phase calculation



# Accomplishments Concepts: (i) Formation of H<sub>2</sub> carriers without H<sub>2</sub> (ii) Engineering approach to catalyst reactivation)



- Investigated potential for regeneration of H<sub>2</sub> carrier, formate, by electrochemical process
- Screened multiply Pd-supported catalysts (commercially available and from collaborators)
- Confirmed catalyst reactivation by washing with water
- Demonstrated ability to generate 3-4 bar  $H_2$ backpressure (at the formate/bicarbonate equilibrium)

Bottom line – (i) The formate / bicarbonate cycle provides an opportunity to regenerate H<sub>2</sub> carriers without needing a discrete step to make  $H_2$ . (ii) Use double reactor to regenerate catalyst



# Approach

## Engineering feasibility: Developing Ragone plots of Energy vs Power for multiply H<sub>2</sub> carriers

### A data center may need 10 MW Power for 100 hours (1GWh)

The interpolation from Ragone plot for liq.  $NH_3$  PEM FC provides an estimate of the system 'foot print'

Power 10 W/liter (10 MW/10 W/liter = 1,000,000 liters) Energy 1000 Wh/liter (1 GWh/1000 Wh/liter = 1,000,000 liters)

Liq  $NH_3 = 0.17$  kg  $H_2$ /liter \* 20 kWh/kg  $H_2 = 3.4$  kWh/liter  $(1 \text{ GWh}/3400 \text{ Wh}/\text{liter NH}_3 = 300,000 \text{ liters of lig NH}_3)$ 

Power ~ combination of volume of FC and BOP Energy ~ volume of 'fuel' and tank

What does the footprint look like for a: passenger ferry, bus, train, city gate, refueling station, microgrid, ... using formic acid, formate salt, EtOH, methylcyclohexane, ...

Also need to consider a material and system capable of delivering 10 kg H<sub>2</sub>/minute for the data center backup



(b) Volumetric density of fuel cell systems with various logistic fuels.

Figure 3 from A review of fuel cell systems for maritime applications. L. van Biert, M. Godjevac, K. Visser, P.V. Aravind. Journal of Power Sources 327 (2016) 345-364

**Bottom line – Ragone/Kristone plots provide a means to compare physical footprints** for different H<sub>2</sub> carriers for different sets of use cases





TEA of Formate regeneration from Bicarbonate suggests water removal most costly step

> Electrochemistry enables regeneration of H<sub>2</sub> carrier 'without hydrogen'



**Bottom line – initial EF and TEA suggests** water removal is the expensive step. Need to think about special use case where heat is cheap (nuclear) or develop catalysts that work under more concentrated conditions

Microgrid 5 MT H<sub>2</sub> Annual Storage 5 tanks 8 M NaHCO<sub>2</sub> 300,000 L 11' ID x 22' tall

### Preliminary TEA suggest water removal is great expense







Materials are inexpensive. non-flammable and non toxic (KHCO<sub>3</sub> is used as a deicer)

TEA analysis suggests efforts are needed to perform regeneration at higher concentrations or a use case with cheap source of heat, e.g., nuclear reactor

Engineering feasibility optimizing the temperature for H<sub>2</sub> release can provide initial stage of chemical compression





# Bottom line – chemical compression can reduce the needs of physical compression.



- \$0.054/kWh electricity
- \$0.02/kWh natural gas

Engineering Analysis using Kristone plot shows footprint of Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate Cycle







from seasonal storage, to data centers to a passenger ferry.



# **Bottom line – Ragone plots provide** insight into the physical footprint for **EtOH for multiply use cases ranging**

# Summary of HyMARC accomplishments for H<sub>2</sub> carriers

### Concepts

- Dehydrogenative coupling to alcohols (35 g H<sub>2</sub>/liter)
  - $\checkmark$  modify  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  to obtain  $\Delta G$  in range of 4-8 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub>.
  - $\checkmark$  One pot reversible release and uptake of H<sub>2</sub> with a molecular catalyst
  - $\checkmark$  condensed phase thermodynamics of alcohols are substantially different then gas phase thermodynamics
- Formate / bicarbonate cycle (30-50 g H<sub>2</sub>/liter)
  - $\checkmark$  Synthesis of H<sub>2</sub> carriers without making H<sub>2</sub> in a discrete step electrochemical regeneration
  - $\checkmark$  Regeneration of formate from bicarbonate under moderate conditions (5 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 40 C)

### Engineering feasibility

- Ragone plots to determine the volumetric footprint
  - $\checkmark$  EtOH for a microgrid (5 Mt H<sub>2</sub>)
  - $\checkmark$  NH<sub>3</sub> and lig H<sub>2</sub> for a Data Center (1 GWh)
- Analysis of chemical compression to enable initial compression step
  - $\checkmark$  Formic acid (xxx bar H<sub>2</sub>)
- Compiled list of existing catalysts that can provide >1 kg H<sub>2</sub>/min
  - ✓ from formate xx kg Pd
  - ✓ formic acid xx kg Pd

### Technoeconomic analysis

- electrochemical regeneration of formate from bicarbonate
  - ✓ removal of water most costly step



# Back up slides



# Task 3.D.2. Porous liquids as hydrogen carriers

## Relevant technical targets

- Volumetric better sorbent packing
- Desorption Time alleviate mass transport issues in monoliths
- Heats of Adsorption
  - **Decreasing** high Q<sub>ST</sub> when coupled with illumination strategy
- 'Trapping' gas from low Q<sub>ST</sub> sites and *increasing* desorption temps. Project success
  - 'Fluid' monolith with improved volumetric capacity and fast desorption times
  - 'On demand' H<sub>2</sub> delivery when coupled with illumination strategies







**COF** Monolith

Enhanced Gas Uptake & Influence on Desorption Temp.



**Modeling Porous** Liquid Dynamics



can pack well, & can be efficiently illuminated



Tethered groups stabilize colloids against irreversible aggregation, enhance solubility



ic Northwest



## Approach:

Synthesize COF colloids so they stay suspended,

> Use Size-excluded solvent w/ no vapor pressure for lubrication/fluidity





# Task 3.D.2. Porous liquid Accomplishments





4. Enhanced Gas Uptake Demonstrated for Porous Liquid



# 3. Colloids Used to Synthesize Monolith



400 m<sup>2</sup>/g, ~0.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

### CO<sub>2</sub> data indicates near 100% of theoretical pores remain open for gas binding

CH<sub>4</sub> data indicates dramatic uptake in gas relative to solvent (>20 fold increase), also dramatic effect on desorption temperature

# 3f:9 Plasmon interactions for on-demand hydrogen release in hydrogen carriers



# Developing a mechanistic understanding



- charge transfer from Au, Mg or nonexcited TiN

surfaces is thermodynamically disfavored.





# for Methanol dehydrogenation



# Background



- 1. High gravimetric H<sub>2</sub> density. (~12%)
- 2. Low cost
- 3. Easy handleability and transportation
- 4. Being manufactured from a variety of renewable sources



Figure. Methanol decomposition over nickel supported on silica at 250 °C. [1]

Note:

- 1. Noble-metal-based catalysts: high activity, exorbitant price, low abundance.
- 2. Transition-metal-based catalysts: Lower price, low selectivity and low reactivity.

[1] Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical 152 2000. 157–165.

### Zhuolei Zhang, Jeff Urban









# Modulation of Electronic Metal-Support Interaction for Catalysis



Ultrasmall Nickel Nanoclusters deposited on defective BN nanosheets as the Catalyst



Figure. Schematic illustration of the formation of defective BN nanosheets and further deposition of Ni nanoclusters. The smaller nanoparticles (~1.5 nm) possess the capability of more localized electronic states for charge transfer. The defects help improve the binding energy of reactants at the surface of Ni nanoclusters, facilitating the catalytic reaction.

Zhuolei Zhang, Jeff Urban









Figure. (a) Hydrogen productivity of Ni/BN nanocomposite with various Ni nanocluster sizes. (b) Temperature-dependent hydrogen productivity of Ni nanoclusters on various substrates. (c) Catalytic performance compared with that of some other catalysts. ALS 🔽 ADVANCED LIGHT SOURCE



H₃OH
etal h <sup>-1</sup> )
7.6
5.1
270 °C)
.3
.9
5
.8
.4
1.1



# Task 3: Single-Site Catalyst for Efficient Hydrogen Generation with Alcohols



- In direct methanol dehydrogenation, the reaction rate of atomic Pt could reach 12000-14000 mol<sub>methanol</sub>/mol<sub>pt</sub>/hour: 40 times that of Pt nanoparticles of 2.5 nm diameter, and more than 800 times that of 7nm Pt NPs.
- Furthermore, the atomic Pt catalyst has a high reaction stability (**120 hours**).

li Su Gahor Somoriai









JACS **141**, 17995 (2019)









Ji Su, Somorjai, Liu, Guo, Prendergast, Klebanoff, Stavila, Allendorf





# **Reversible Hydrogen Generation/Storage Process Development:** with Cyclohexane/Benzene and Single-Sites Catalyst (Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub>)





- Ji Su and Gabor Somorjai (MSD/LBNL): Catalytic process development
- Mark Allendorf and Vitalie Stavila (SNL): Catalytic materials development
- Yi-Sheng Liu and Jinghua Guo (ALS/LBNL): XAS characterization
- Pragya Verma, David Prendergast (TMF/LNBL): DFT calculations
- Tom Autrey (PNNL): H<sub>2</sub>-carriers

### **Single Pt sites catalyst VS Pt NPs Reaction condition:**

1 atm, 350°C, 100 mg catalysts; Gas flow: N<sub>2</sub> 30ml/min.

Cyclohexane Dehydrogenation





## Manuscript for Nature Catalysis

### Target: produce 1 kg H<sub>2</sub>/min from cyclohexane

Catalyst	Reaction conditions	Catalyst Required	Pt lo
		(for 1 kg H <sub>2</sub> /min)	
Pt <sub>1</sub> /CeO <sub>2</sub>	Cyclohexane 0.05 ml/min	121 kg	181
(0.15 wt %)	Conversion: 29.7 %		
Pt <sub>1</sub> /CeO <sub>2</sub>	Cyclohexane 0.02 ml/min	113 kg	169
(0.15 wt %)	Conversion: $\sim 80 \%$		
Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Cyclohexane 0.05 ml/min	434 kg	217





