

# Hydrogen technology, fuel cells and electrolysis

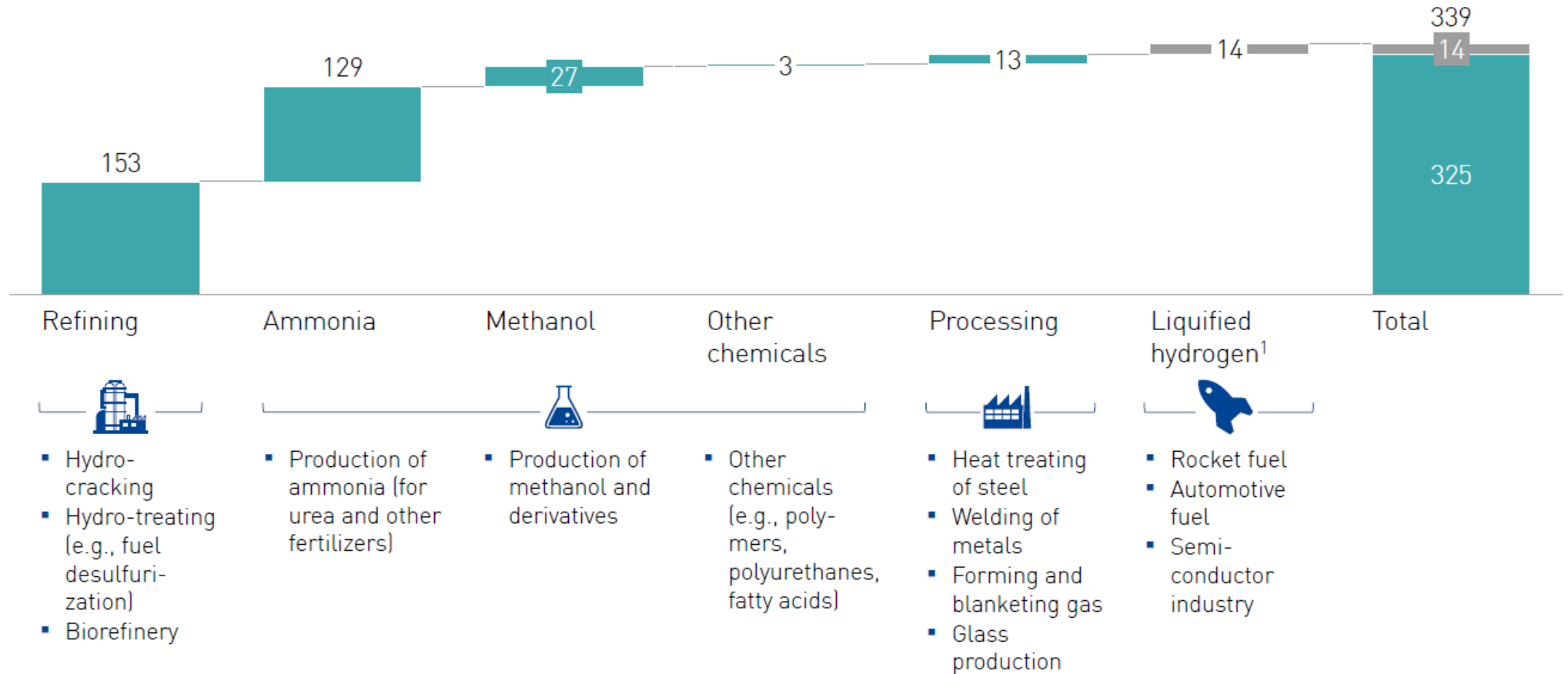
Technologies for a sustainable, climate friendly environment

**Bernd Oberschachtsiek**

Essen, May 2023

# Hydrogen – Use of H<sub>2</sub> today

Total hydrogen use in the EU, in TWh



<sup>1</sup> Counted in transportation segment

# (Why) Hydrogen – Technologies for a sustainable and eco-friendly world

## ENABLE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM



## DECARBONIZE END USES

Enable **large-scale renewables integration** and **power generation**



**Distribute** energy across sectors and regions



Act as a **buffer** to increase system resilience



Help decarbonize **transportation**



Help decarbonize **industrial energy use**



Help decarbonize **building heat and power**



Serve as renewable **feedstock**



Nadine van der Schoot

## KEY FACTS

- Applied research and development: fuel cells, hydrogen and electrolyzer technology
- Focus on industry demand - Independent service provider and R&D partner
- GmbH/ltd. as daughter of University of Duisburg-Essen
- ~ 150 full time employees + ~30 student researchers
- Limited institutional funding by state of North-Rhine-Westphalia

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DUISBURG  
ESSEN

*Offen im Denken*



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European Regional  
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Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Industrie, Klimaschutz und Energie  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Ministerium für  
Kultur und Wissenschaft  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen





## INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.200 m<sup>2</sup> laboratory areas  
(chemical laboratories, reactor testing labs)
- High end media and material analytics
- 500 m<sup>2</sup> technical center / production technologies
- Modern CAE & Simulation tools
- ~ 1.000 m<sup>2</sup> hydrogen testfield

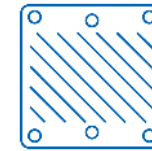
## Laboratory 2023: HyTechLab4NRW



# ZBT – The hydrogen and fuel cell center

## ... application oriented:

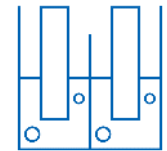
- Research
- Development
- Demonstration
- Transfer



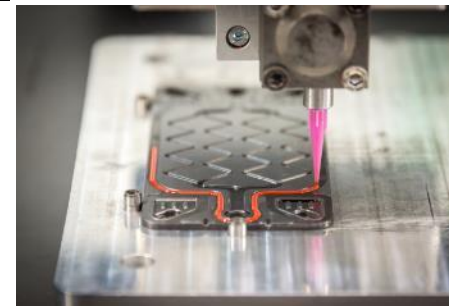
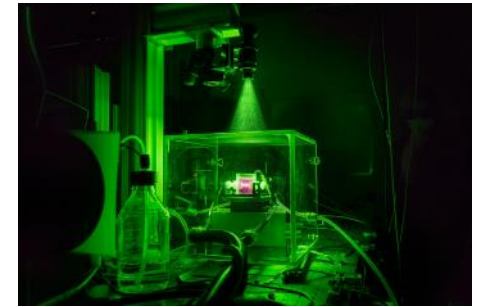
Fuel Cells



Hydrogen



Electrolysis

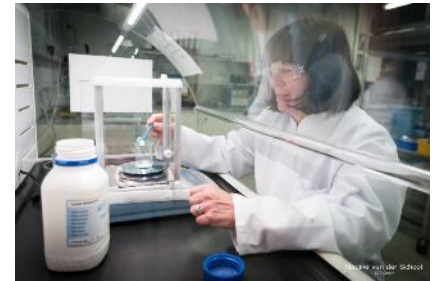




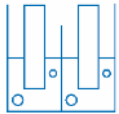
# ZBT – The hydrogen and fuel cell center

## ... skills:

- Component and product design
- Analytics and quality testing
- Component testing and controls
- Production technologies

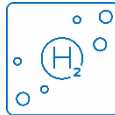


# Our portfolio



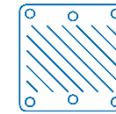
## Electrolysis

- Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)
- Anion Exchange Membrane (PEM)
- ✓ Component development
- ✓ Cell development
- ✓ Small scale test cells and stacks
- ✓ Material & component characterization
- ✓ Stack testing



## Hydrogen technologies

- CHG infrastructure
- ✓ Hydrogen distribution
- ✓ Hydrogen refueling
- ✓ Hydrogen quality
- Green ammonia synthesis, cracking and systems
- SNG synthesis and reforming
- ✓ Material characterization
- ✓ Reactor design
- ✓ System development
- ✓ Testing



## Fuel cells

- Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)
- ✓ Component development
- ✓ Cell development
- ✓ Stack development
- ✓ Production technologies
- ✓ Material characterization
- ✓ Material validation



# Development of test stations

# Electrolysis





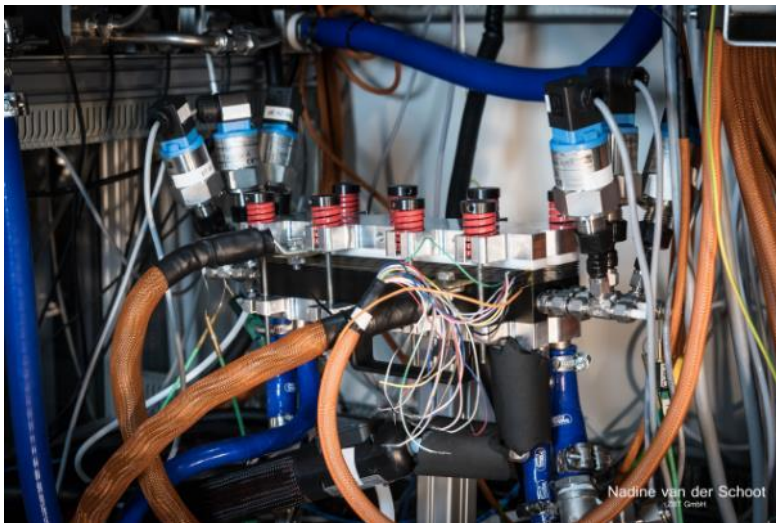
# Fuel Cells



Nadine van der Schoot  
ZBT GmbH



Nadine van der Schoot  
ZBT GmbH



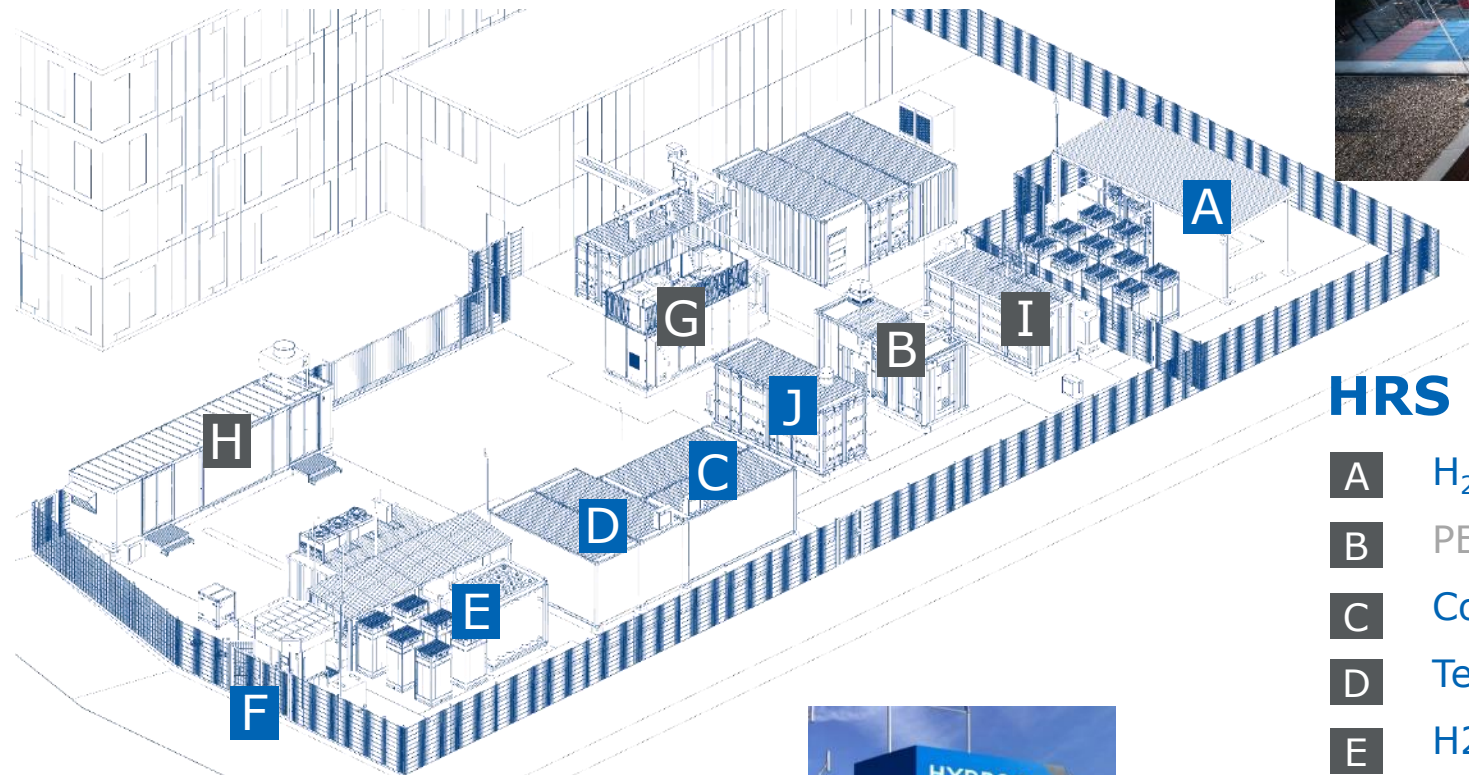
Nadine van der Schoot  
ZBT GmbH



Nadine van der Schoot  
ZBT GmbH



# HYDROGEN TESTFIELD



## HRS test station

- A** H<sub>2</sub> Storage (200 bar)
- B** PEM-Electrolyser (10 m<sup>3</sup>/h)
- C** Control Room
- D** Test Room
- E** H<sub>2</sub> Storage (480, 500 & 900 bar)
- F** Main Dispenser (350, 500 & 700 bar)
- G** PAFC (100 kW)
- H** Direct Air Capture
- I** Methanation (10 kW)
- J** Electro-chemical compressor (tbb)



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 aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages

EUROPÄISCHE UNION  
 Investition in unsere Zukunft  
 Europäischer Fonds für regionale Entwicklung

# Selected projects

# Hydrogen refuelling for heavy duty application



## PRHYDE - Protocol for heavy duty hydrogen refuelling

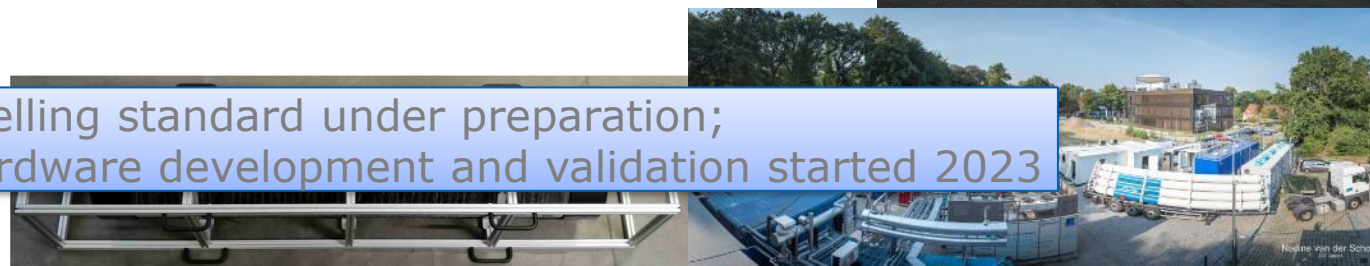
– Jan 20 / 3 years / H2020 / grant agreement No 874997

– Goals:

- Determine relevant requirements for HDV fuelling
- Determine limitations and gaps of current fuelling hardware capability (for HDV)
- Develop concept(s) for HDV fuelling protocol(s)
- Validate the impact of HDV fuelling protocol(s) concept(s) on achieving key metrics (temperature and pressure) on the vehicle side **through experimental validations on fuelling of tank(s) at station(s).**
- Formulate recommendations for HDV fuelling protocol(s) for use in relevant standardization forums –with the aim of a globalized **standardization.**



Impact: European truck refuelling standard under preparation;  
Follow-up project for HRS hardware development and validation started 2023





# Hy-Lab

Impact: today > 50 HRS qualified by ZBT in Europe

## Development of two independent laboratories for H2 quality measurement according to international standards

Partner: ZBT (coordination), ZSW & CEP (ass.)

- Analysis of hydrogen quality according to ISO 14687
- Optimization of the actual sampling method
- Analysis of hydrogen from different sources (HRS etc.)
- Support of normative activities in Germany and EU

## Goal: ZBT future independent partner for the hydrogen quality management at HRS

HYDROGEN QUALITY CONTROL THROUGHOUT EUROPE



Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur

Koordiniert durch:



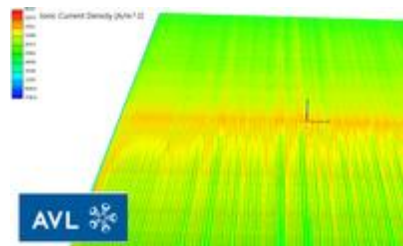
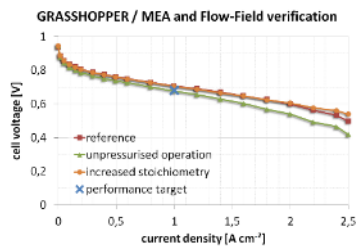
Nationales Innovationsprogramm Wasserstoff- und Brennstoffzellentechnologie



# Stationary Stack Development GRASSHOPPER (EU H2020)

(GRid ASsiSting modular HydrOgen Pem PowER plant)

- FCH-02-07-2017: Development of flexible large fuel cell power plants for grid support
- Start / duration: Begin 2018 / 4 years
- Goals:
  - create a cost effective, flexible, MW-size FCPP unit
  - implementing newly developed stacks and MEA's
  - New control concept for grid stabilisation capability
  - Using by-product hydrogen from chlorine production
  - Installation at the AkzoNobel site in Delfzijl, the Netherlands.



**Nedstack en ZBT werken samen aan de ontwikkeling en industrialisatie van brandstofceltechniek**

Duisburg (Duitsland) 3 februari, 2023

[www.grasshopperproject.eu](http://www.grasshopperproject.eu)

Impact: IPCEI project on stack production by NEDSTACK, European production plant in preparation

# Standardized contact resistance measurement

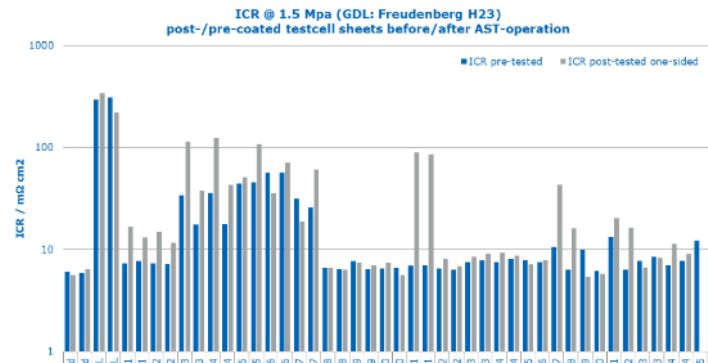
## ZBT reference project BePPel

### BePPel: Development of standardized measurements for physical parameters of bipolar plates

- Electric contact resistance and conductivity
- Thermal conductivity
- Mechanical properties

### Partners:

- DLR-Institut Vernetzte Energiesysteme
- Fraunhofer ISE
- Fraunhofer ICT
- FZJ IEK
- ZSW
- ZBT



### Duration:

01.04.2017 – 31.03.2020

Impact: ~ 1000 materials by commercial and scientific partners qualified  
Standard test equipment sold to >4 commercial customers  
German standard in preparation





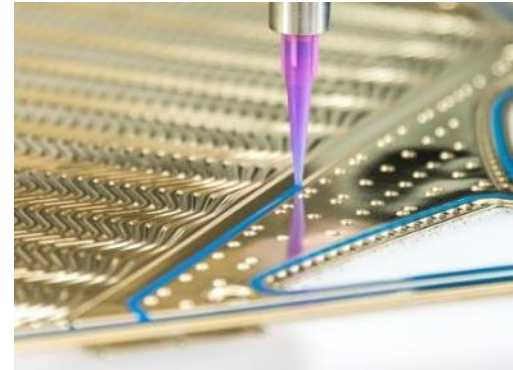
# References ZBT sealing solutions: Sealing development for the German Aerospace Center DLR

- Design development support for a dispenser optimized bipolar plate design
- Integrated, very compact sealing contour design:
  - Optimized stack power density
  - Prevention of liquid water accumulation around the media ports
  - Optimized compression force distribution active area/seals
- Sealing application process development and production of initial samples for stack evaluation
- Sealing application on > 1.000 BPP

Impact: ~ 20.000 plates sealed for different customers  
Production licensed to 2 commercial companies

*"Thanks for the great cooperation – especially for the technical support regarding the design of the seals for our bipolar plates and the sealing application. We would be glad to work together again in future projects"*

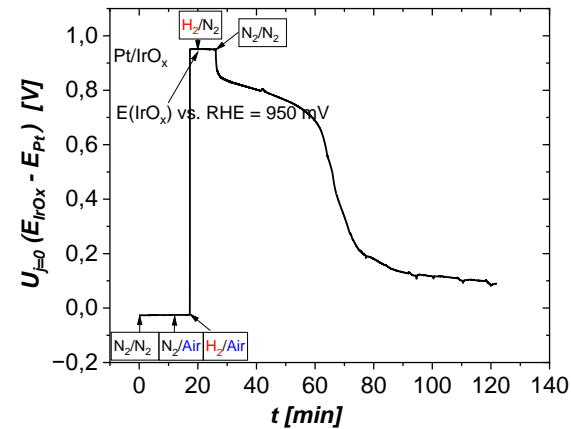
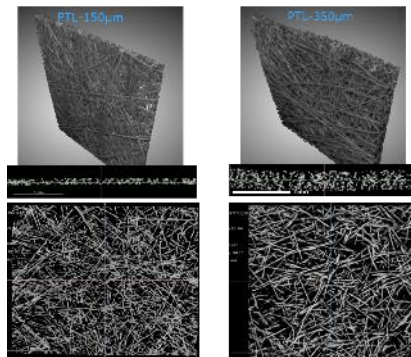
T. Knöri (DLR)



# H2Giga PEP.IN

## Sub project ZBT: Method development for quality assurance in series production

- Investigation / identification of possible measurement methods for quality assurance
- Proving of identified methods
- Definition of limits for quality control
- Validation of quality criteria



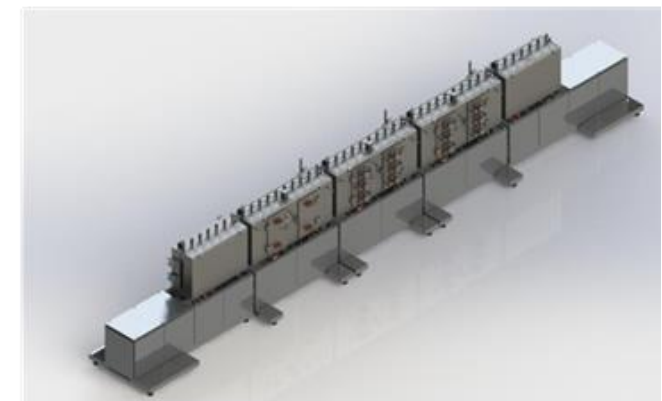
# EFRE.NRW: BipolarPilot

## Set up a pilot plant for coating of bipolar plates for fuel cells

**Funding: EFRE - 0500144**

**Project duration: 01.06.2021 – 31.03.2023**

- Scale-up of coating system for metallic bipolar plates
- Design and evaluation of process scale-up series production
- Optimization of coating layer
- Characterization of prepared layers concerning corrosion stability and electrical conductivity



**Abb. 1:** Scale-up from Lab to pilot plant

Die Landesregierung  
Nordrhein-Westfalen



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Leitmarkt  
Agentur.NRW

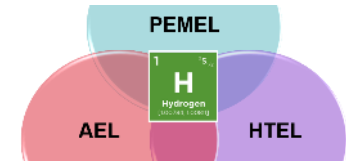
2014 EFRE.NRW  
Investitionen in Wachstum  
und Beschäftigung



# H<sub>2</sub>Giga - QT 2.1: Degrad-El3

## KI-gestützte Lebensdauervorhersage für PEM-Elektrolyse

### Artificial neural network based life-time prediction for PEM-Electrolysis



Stack testing – Data generation



Analysis of degradation trends



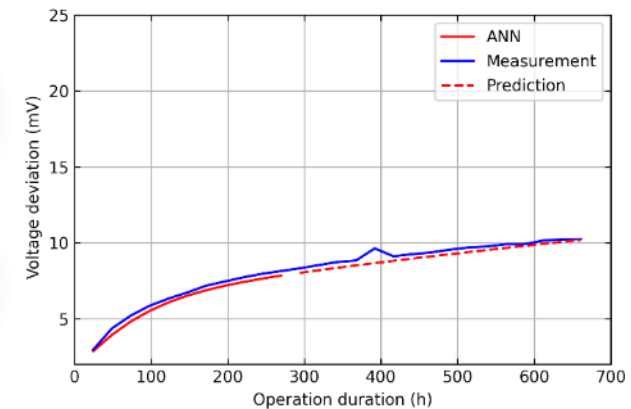
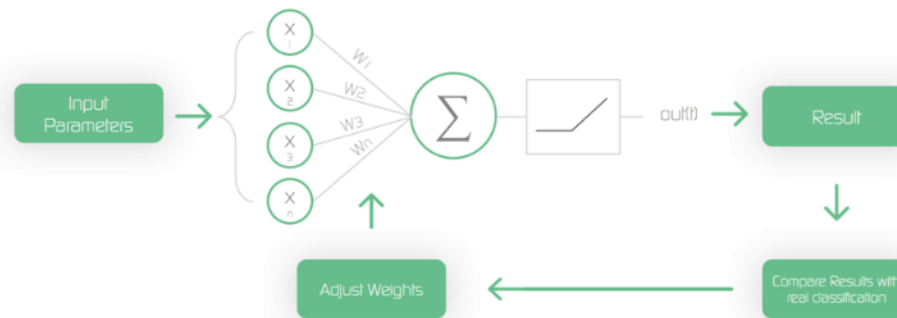
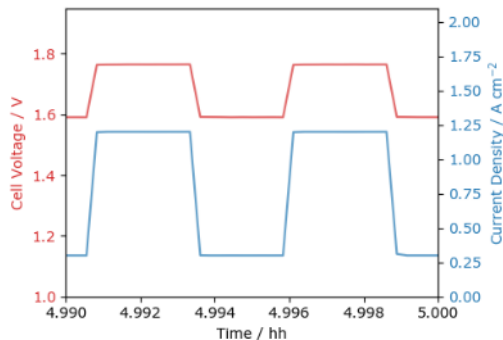
Machine learning - Supervised learning



GEFÖRDERT VOM

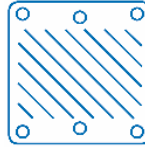
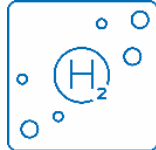
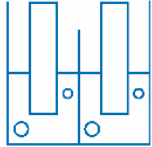


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**THE HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL CENTER**

**ZBT**



**Research, development, service**

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