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### NETL Overview and Interests in Ammonia

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Nate Weiland, Senior Fellow, NETL May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Solutions for Today Options for Tomorrow

# The National Energy Technology Laboratory

#### **Organization Snapshot**



#### MISSION

Driving innovation and delivering solutions for an environmentally sustainable and prosperous energy future:

- Ensuring affordable, abundant and reliable energy that drives a robust economy and national security, while
- Developing technologies to manage carbon across the full life cycle, and
- Enabling environmental sustainability for all Americans.

#### VISION

To be the nation's premier energy technology laboratory, delivering integrated solutions to enable transformation to a sustainable energy future.

#### **MAJOR INITIATIVES**

- Decarbonization & Carbon Management
- Environmentally Sustainable Supply Chains
- Integrated Energy & Industrial Systems
- Advanced Data & Computing Solutions for Applied Energy Challenges

#### **3 RESEARCH LABS & 2 STRATEGIC OFFICES**



- One of 17 DOE national laboratories
- One of three applied research national labs
- Government owned
  & operated
- **1000+** R&D projects in 50 states
- \$5.0B total award value
- **\$1.3B** FY23 budget

#### IMPLEMENTS R&D PROJECTS FOR DOE'S OFFICES OF:

- Fossil Energy & Carbon Management
- Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy
- Electricity
- Cybersecurity, Energy Security, & Emergency Response
- Manufacturing, & Energy Supply Chains
- Grid Deployment
- Clean Energy Demonstrations



# NETL Core Competencies



### CARBON MANAGEMENT • EFFICIENT ENERGY CONVERSION • RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY

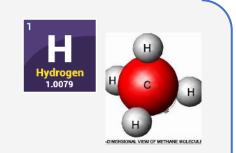
Computational Science & Engineering	Materials Engineering & Manufacturing	GEOLOGICAL & Environmental Systems	Energy Conversion Engineering	Strategic Systems Analysis & Engineering	Program Execution & Integration
High Performance Computing Multi-Scale Modeling Atomistic to Device Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	Structural & Functional Materials Design, Synthesis, & Performance Characterization	Geo-Analysis & Monitoring Reservoir Engineering Geochemistry	Reaction Engineering Design & Validation Thermal Sciences Advanced System Engineering	Energy Process & System Engineering Multi-scale Modeling, Simulations & Optimization Energy Markets Analysis	R&D Planning Technical Project Management Finance & Acquisition



### **Carbon Innovation & Solutions for Industrial Sector**

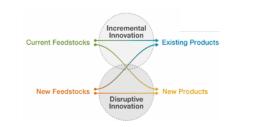


### The Center for Sustainable Fuels & Chemicals Technical Offerings



Developing Lower Carbon Footprint Feedstocks

Select **feedstocks** for a more agile supply chain.



Increasing Processing Efficiency

Enhance materials, conversion and separation, microwave matched with scale up.



CO<sub>2</sub> Management

Manage the engineering, integration, and policy to **economically transition.** 



Disposition & Recycling

Manage the product Life cycle to collect, move, disassemble and re-create.



Cross-Cutting Decision Making

Quantify emissions and evaluate benefits of investment options via **LCA**.



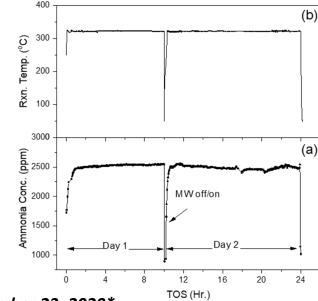
## Ammonia mWave Technology & Catalytic Processes



Durability test of mWave catalyst with daily shut-downs

Attractive alternative to traditional ammonia synthesis

- NETL's world-class expertise in microwave-assisted catalytic processes was applied to an alternative to traditional ammonia synthesis.
  - Utilized microwaves to develop a low temperature/pressure, economically viable modular scale version of the ammonia synthesis process by targeting specific catalytic ammonia reactions
  - Further demonstrated in an ARPA-E project to be capable of generating ammonia within a very short time after startup (on demand), allowing the process to be used for storing intermittent and renewable sources of energy as carbon neutral fuel.
  - This ammonia conversion is NOT Haber-Bosch and bypasses
    the syngas phase
  - Demonstrated ammonia production as carrier for hydrogen



#### November 23, 2020\*

NETL's pioneering Microwave Ammonia Synthesis (MAS) took home the 2020 IChemE Global Awards in the category of Research Project for its potential to aid in agriculture, energy production and other applications while also lowering costs and overall energy use.

https://www.icheme.org/about-us/press-releases



Microwave Ammonia Decomposition  $\tilde{\mu}Wave$ 



Quartz-+

Wool

Quartz

tube

Catalyst

5-8 cm

Gas

### **Cracking Ammonia Project using Microwave Enhanced Processing**

#### Value of Microwave Use

- Rapid direct heating
- Direct reaction routes
- ✓ Higher selectivity and product distribution
- ✓ Lower processing conditions

- Developing catalyst for ammonia decomposition below 500°C
  - Extensive experience with mw catalyst development
  - Preliminary results with Ru based catalyst show decomposition at 340 ° C
- Study underway on non-noble metal catalysts
  - Ru catalyst will serve as a baseline
- Target more than 70% decomposition under 500  $\degree$  C
- Understand microwave inputs vs other decomposition methods

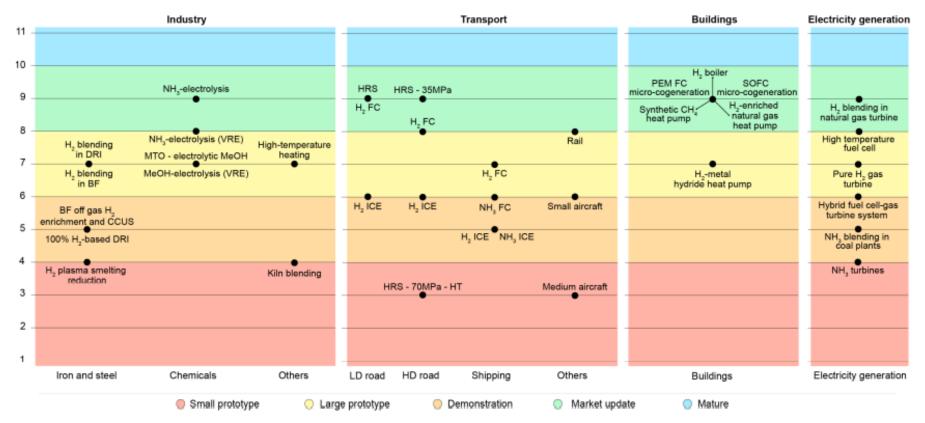


### Hydrogen & Ammonia Technologies



#### <u>Global Hydrogen Review 2021 – Analysis - IEA</u>

Technology readiness levels of key hydrogen end-use technologies



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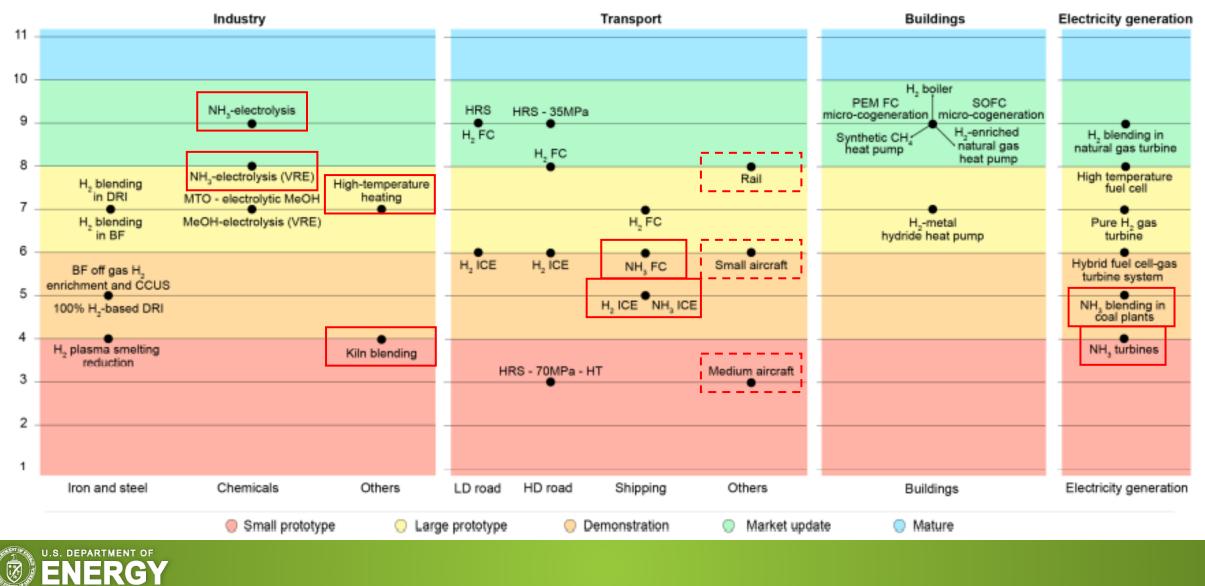
Notes: BF = blast furnace. DRI = direct iron reduction. FC = fuel cell. HRS = hydrogen refuelling station. HD = heavy-duty. HT = high throughput. ICE = internal combustion engine. LD = light-duty. MeOH = methanol. MTO = methanol to olefins. PEM FC = polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cell. SOFC = solid oxide fuel cell. VRE = variable renewable electricity. Co-generation refers to the combined production of heat and power. Technology readiness levels based on <u>Clean Energy Innovation (2020)</u>, p. 67. Source: IEA (2020), ETP Clean Energy Technology Guide.

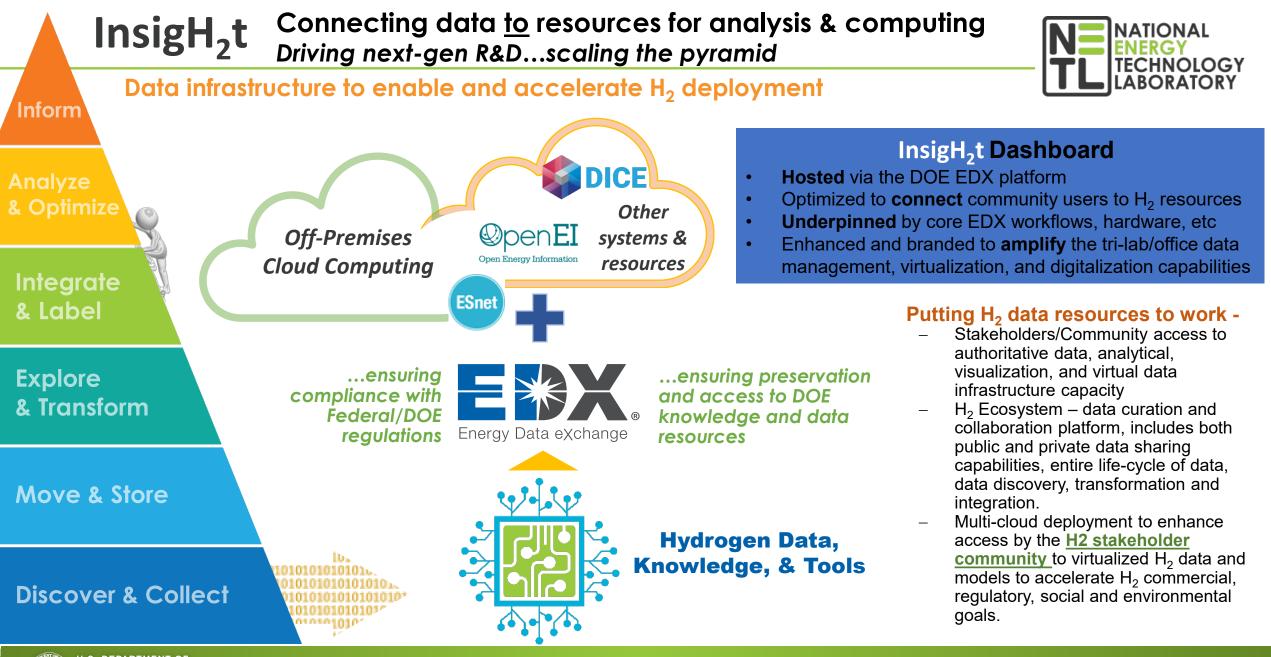


# Hydrogen & Ammonia Technologies

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

#### <u>Global Hydrogen Review 2021 – Analysis - IEA</u>





### ENERGY Consider as

Consider as a repository for Ammonia Combustion data and use