



Safety in Testbeds for Fuel Cell Systems and H₂ICE

H2View Webinar

Speakers:

Ulla Krusch

Maria Santos

Harald Pongratz

Content



Intro

AVL H₂ & Fuel Cell Testing Technologies



H₂

The common denominator across various applications



Test beds

Applications Hydrogen ICE & Fuel Cell systems



Risks

Risk mitigation strategies and safety assessment measures

Conclusion



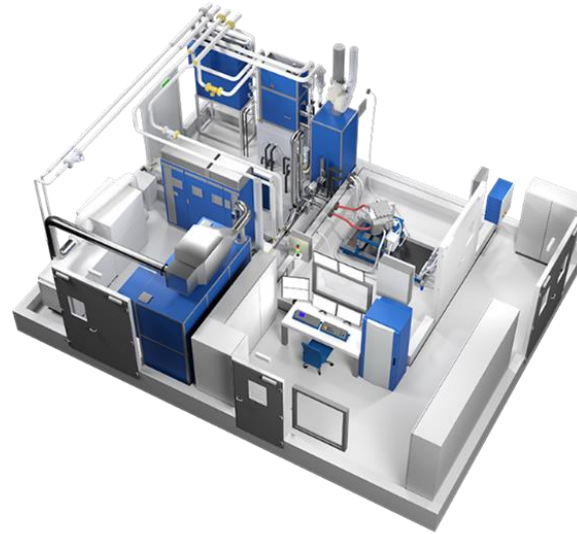
We Owe It to the Planet

It is our duty as an organization to contribute to the resolution of social, cultural and global issues – especially with regards to environmental protection, sustainability and global emission reduction.

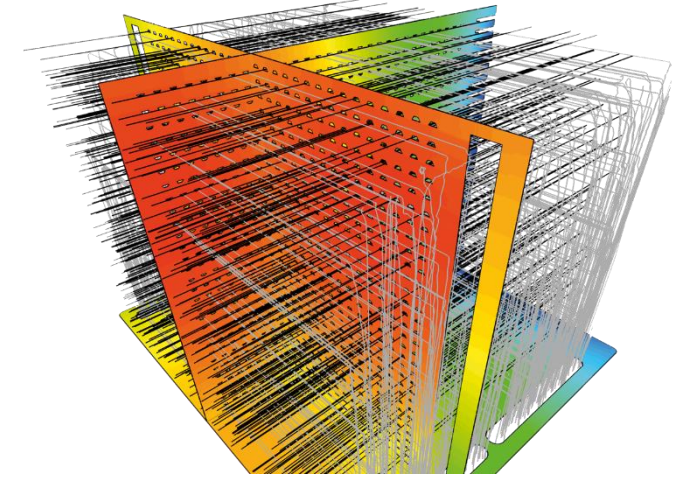
360° Hydrogen competence



ENGINEERING SERVICES (PTE)



INSTRUMENTATION AND TEST SYSTEMS (ITS)



ADVANCED SIMULATION TECHNOLOGIES (AST)



Locations

6



Experts

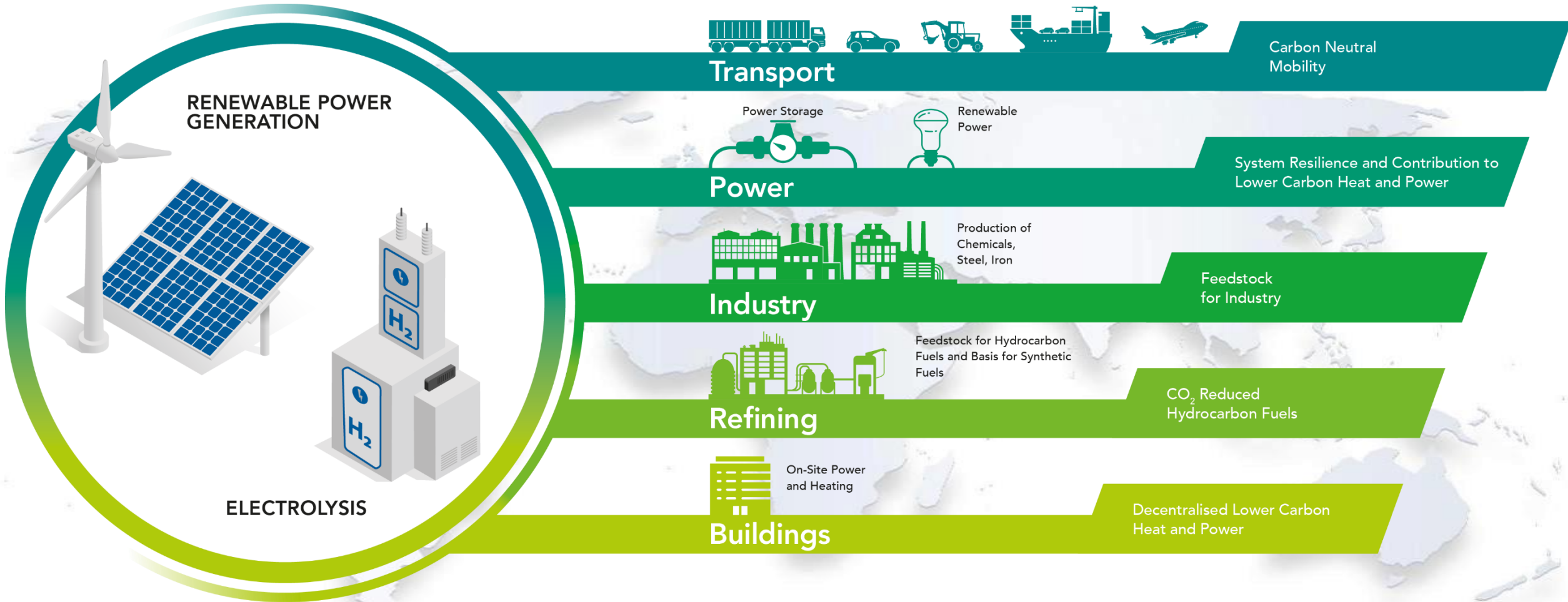
600



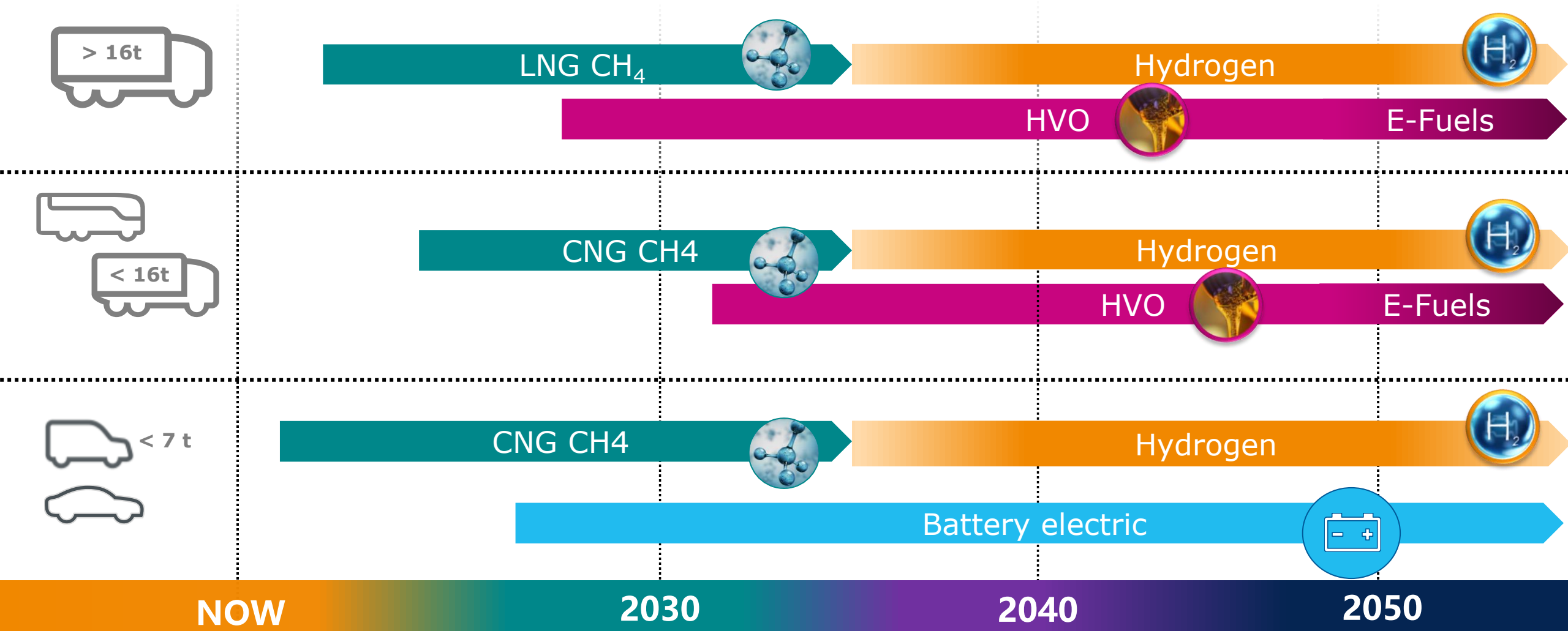
Patents

>200

Hydrogen - the Common Denominator across Industries



Alternative Fuel Scenario

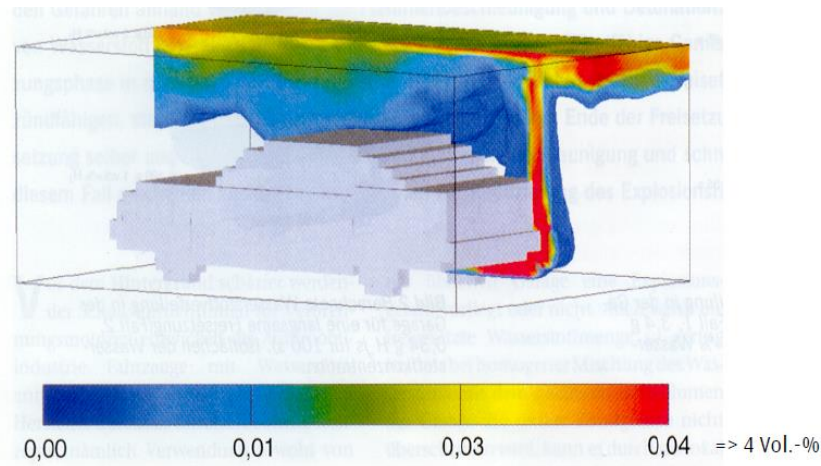


H₂ – Physical properties



Substance	Substance Name	Relative density gas [AIR = 1]	LEL Vol(%)	UEL Vol(%)	Ignition temp. (°C)	Temp. class	Min. Ignition Energy [mJ]	Gas class	Calorific energy [kWh/kg]
H ₂	Hydrogen	<u>0,0695</u> <u>(1/14)</u>	<u>4</u>	77	560	<u>T1</u>	<u>0,016</u>	<u>IIC</u>	<u>33</u>
C ₃ H ₈	Propane	1,55	1,7	10,8	470	<u>T1</u>	<u>0,24</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>13</u>
NH ₃	Ammonia	0,55	14	32,5	630	<u>T1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>5,2</u>

Values: GESTIS; TRGS 727

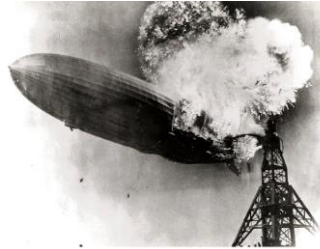


Danger potential hydrogen

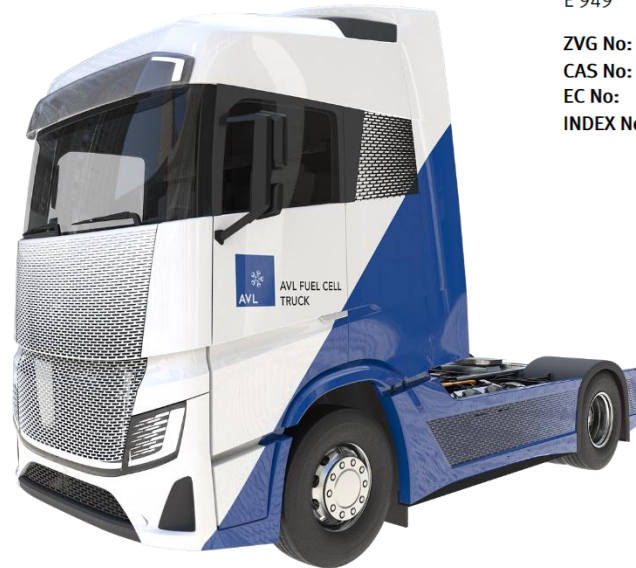


Potential sources of danger when handling hydrogen:

- Pressure
- Fire
- Explosion
- Embrittlement
- Temperature



KEYTECH4EV – AVL FC Car



AVL FC Truck

Hydrogen



Hydrogen



Identification | Characterisation | Formula | Physical and chemical properties | Occupational health and first aid | Safe handling | Regulations | Links | Literature register

IDENTIFICATION

Hydrogen
E 949

ZVG No: 7010
CAS No: 1333-74-0
EC No: 215-605-7
INDEX No: 001-001-00-9

[GESTIS-Stoffdatenbank \(dguv.de\)](https://www.gestis-stoffdatenbank.de)

Hydrogen Properties and Impact on the Test Cell



Diffusion

- High diffusion
- Risk of H₂ concentration in enclosures



Buoyance

- Mixture of hydrogen lighter than the air
- Hydrogen rises up



Explosion

- Highly Combustible
- Hydrogen alone cannot explode
- Needs oxidizer (air) and ignition source
- Keep H₂ concentration under LEL (< 4%)

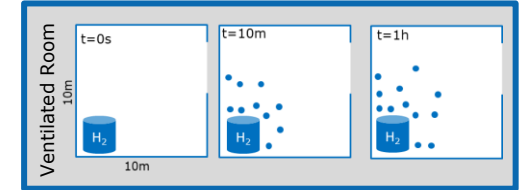
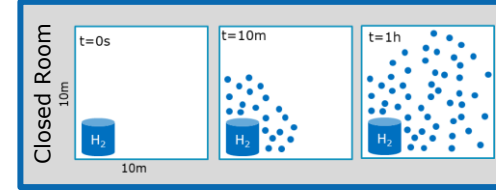


Others

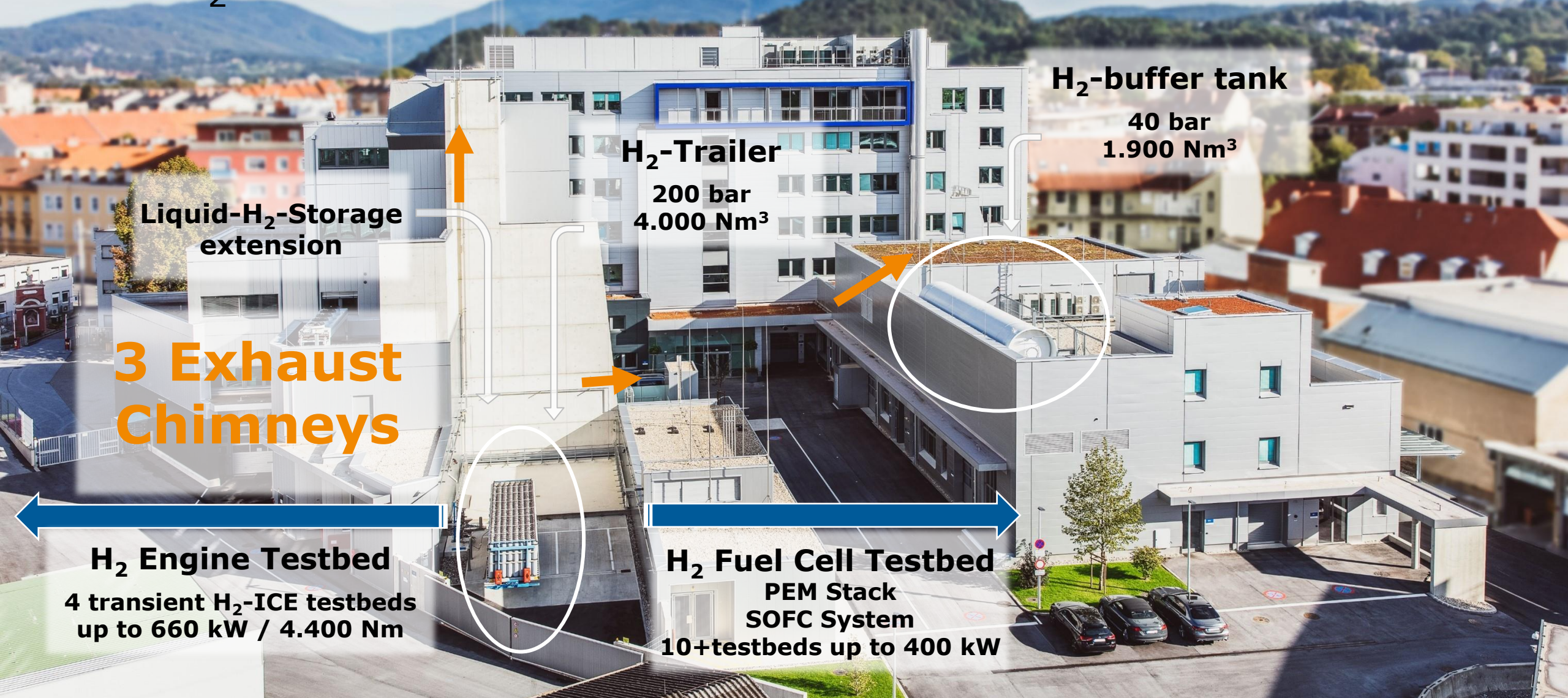
- Embrittlement
- H₂ is not smelly
- Can be displaced by other gases as N₂
- Need Certification

Facts

Impacts in test cell



AVL H₂ & Fuel Cell test center



H₂-buffer tank

40 bar
1.900 Nm³

H₂-Trailer

200 bar
4.000 Nm³

Liquid-H₂-Storage extension

3 Exhaust Chimneys

H₂ Engine Testbed

4 transient H₂-ICE testbeds
up to 660 kW / 4.400 Nm

H₂ Fuel Cell Testbed

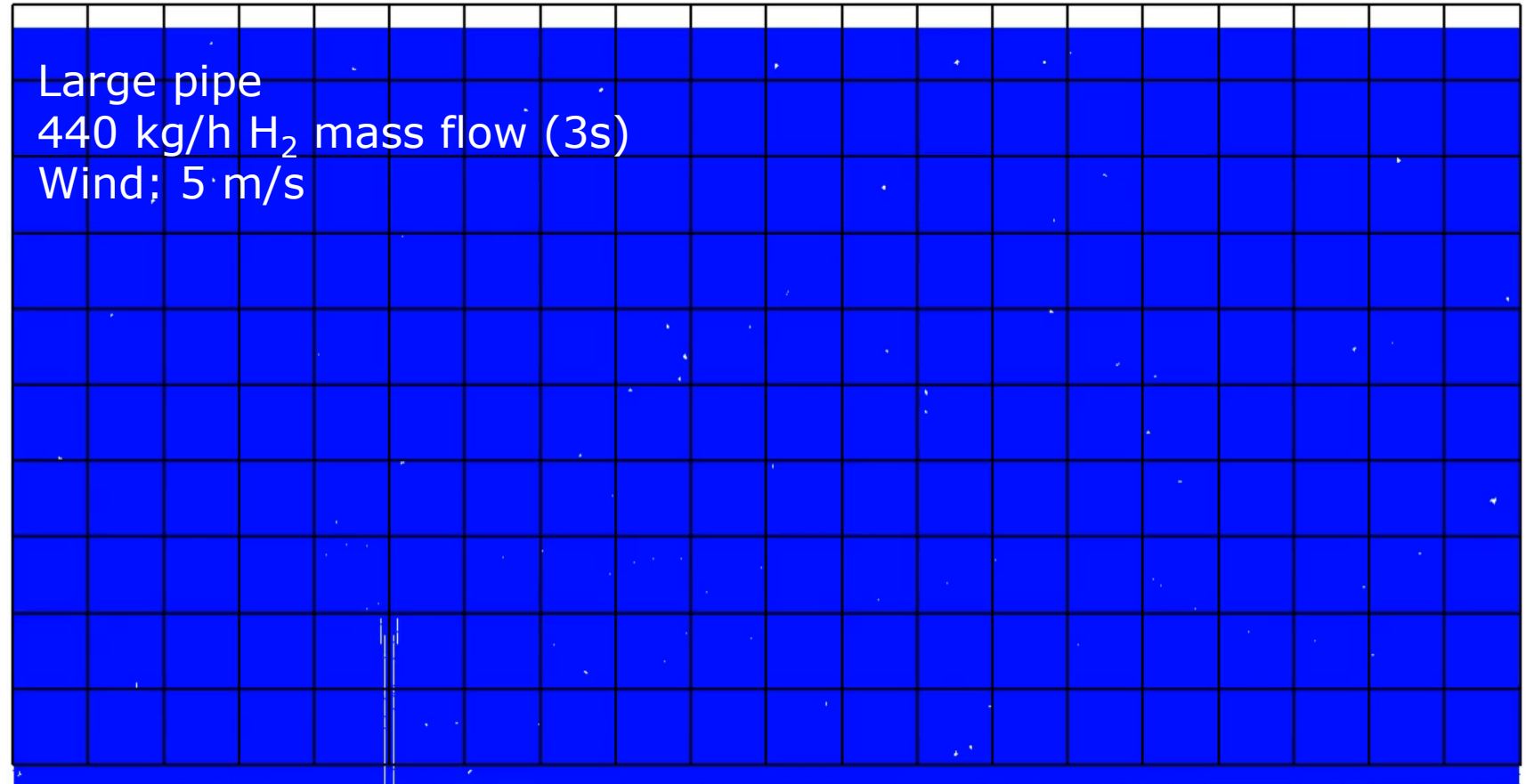
PEM Stack
SOFC System
10+ testbeds up to 400 kW

Simulation of Hydrogen Cloud

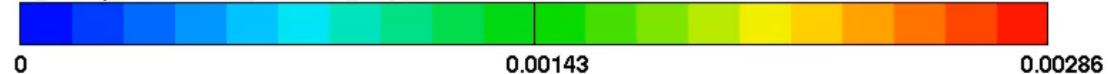
Break of a valve

Large pipe
440 kg/h H₂ mass flow (3s)
Wind; 5 m/s

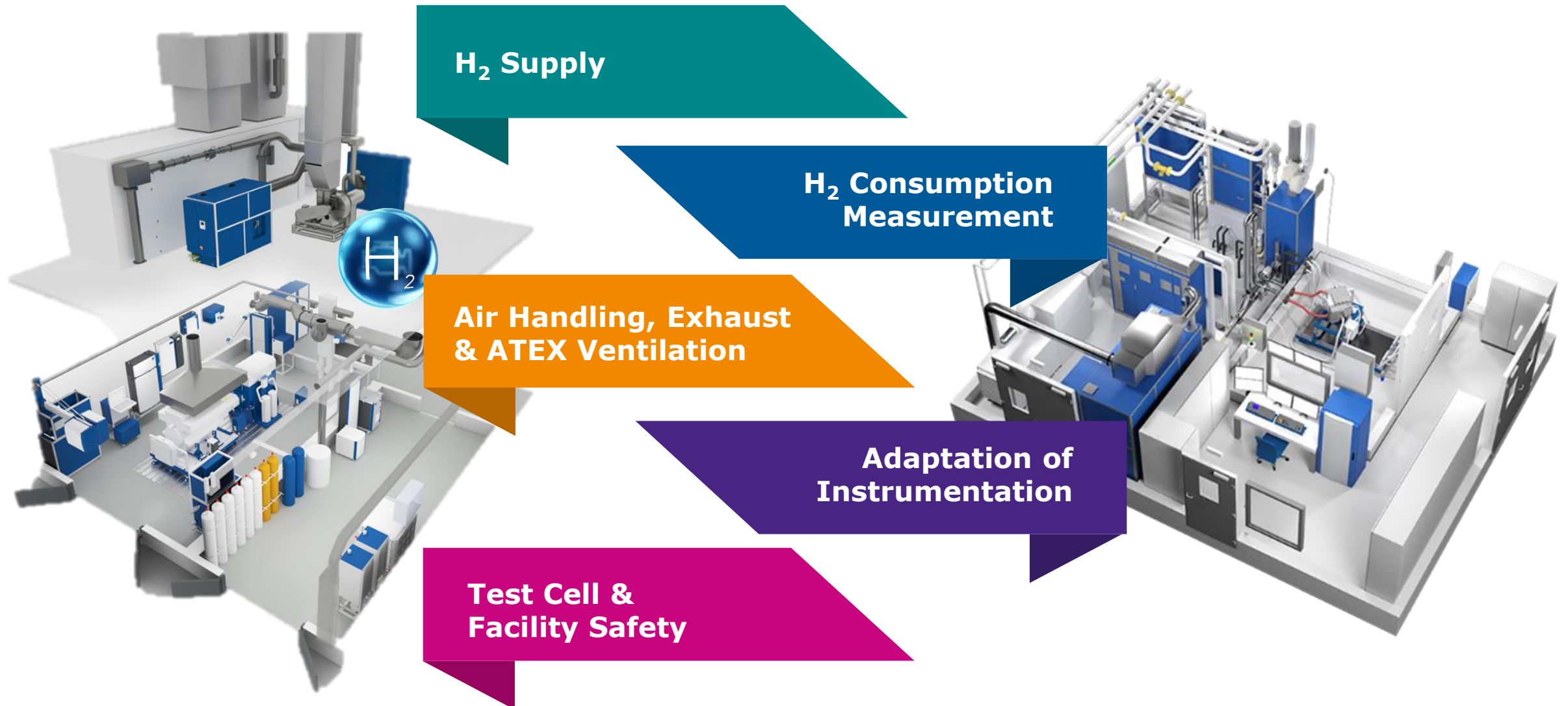
Black colour
indicates H₂ ignition
limit and above



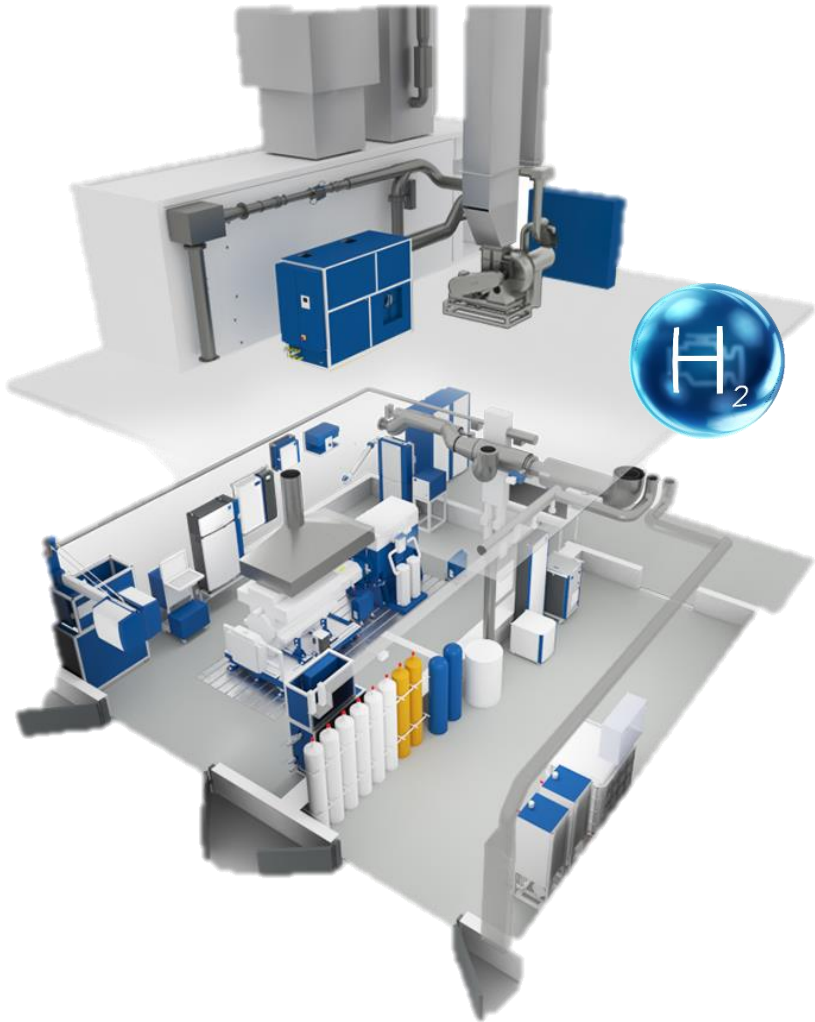
TI_0.0:Species:Mass_Fraction_H2[-]






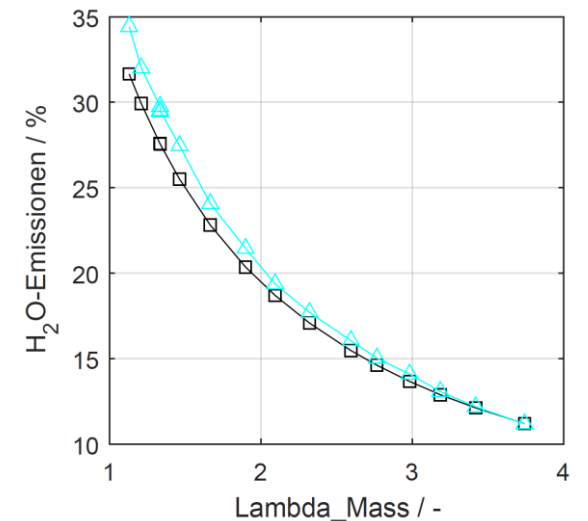
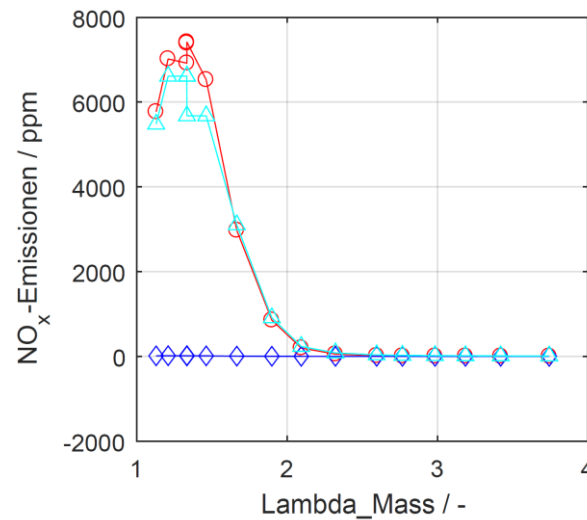
H2 Applications



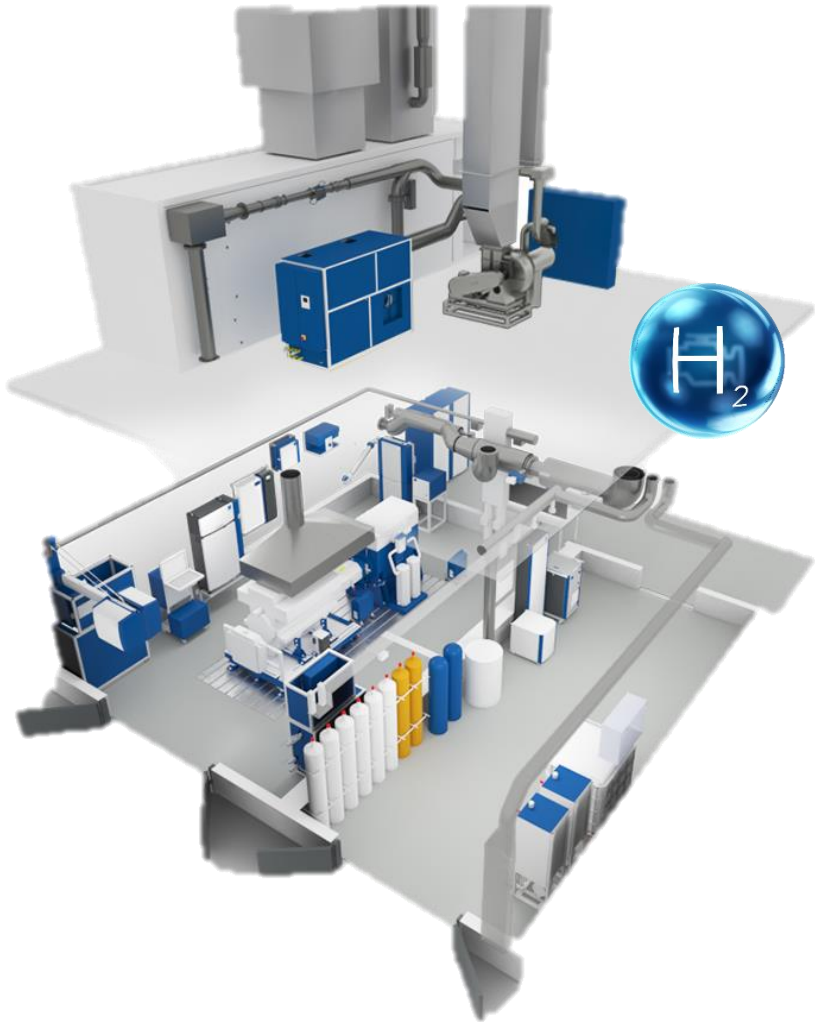
Application H2 ICE










Testbed Safety Challenges	
 Diffusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High diffusion • Risk of H₂ concentration in enclosures
 Explosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs air and ignition source • Keep H₂ concentration under LEL (< 4%)
 H₂ ICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO_x emissions control at low λ • High H₂O Concentration in Exhaust • H₂ Slip in Blowby and Exhaust



Application H2 ICE



Testbed Safety Challenges			
 Diffusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High diffusion • Risk of H₂ concentration in enclosures 		
 Explosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs air and ignition source • Keep H₂ concentration under LEL (< 4%) 		
 H₂ ICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO_x emissions control • High H₂O Concentration in Exhaust • H₂ Slip in Blowby and Exhaust 		
 H₂ Pressure	Multipoint Injection	LPDirect Injection	HPDirect Injection
	10-20 bar 	40-100 bar 	>200 bar 

Application H2 ICE

Diesel ICE Test Cell



Combustion air Meas. & Conditioning

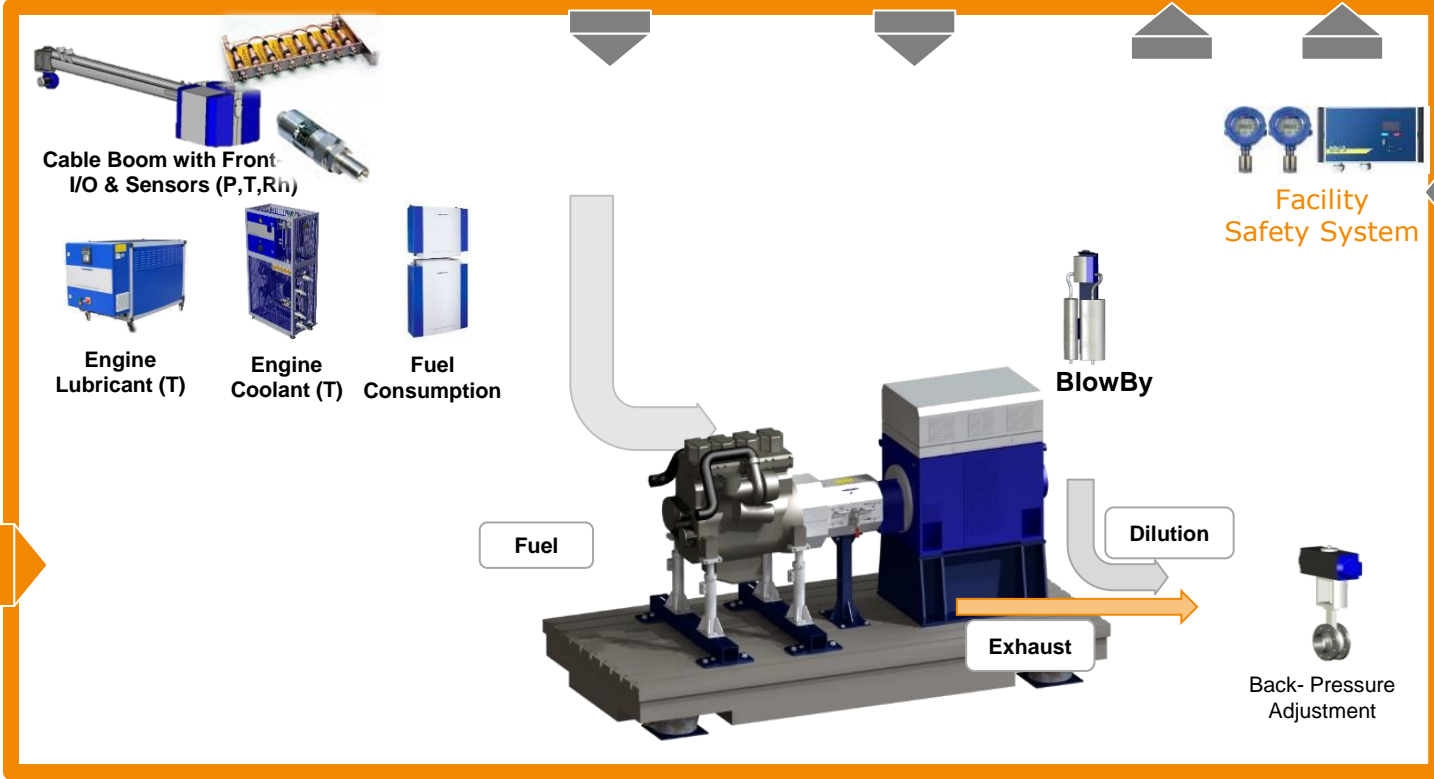
Test cell Ventilation / ATEX

Air Handling Unit ATEX Fan Exhaust Extraction

Emission Measurement

Gas Analyzer FTIR Gas Analyzer Mass Spectrometer

Particulate Number Particulate Sampling Soot Concentration Smoke Number Opacity



Automation System / Safety PLC

Automation IndiCom

Control Emission Automation

Calibration





Application H2 ICE

 **Check capability**

 **H₂ ICE Test cell**

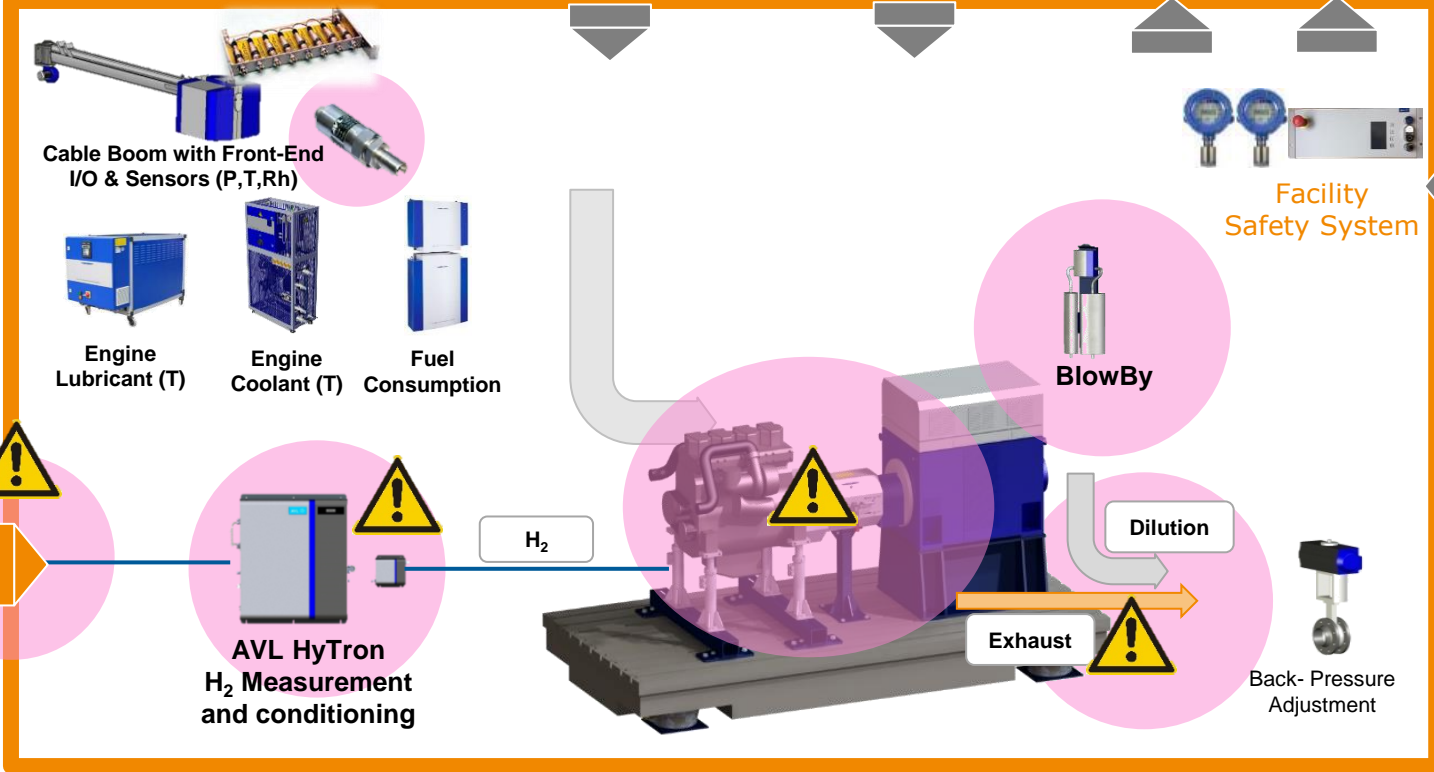
 **H₂ Releases**

Combustion air Meas. & Conditioning 

Testcell Ventilation / ATEX 

Handling Unit ATEX Fan Exhaust Extraction

AVL



Emission Measurement

Gas Analyzer FTIR Gas Analyzer Mass Spectrometer

Particulate Number Particulate Sampling Soot Concentration Smoke Number Opacity

Automation System / Safety PLC

Automation IndiCom

Calibration Control

Emission Automation 



H₂ Supply



Application H2 ICE

! Adaptation Safety

🔧 H₂ specific function

✓ Check capability

H₂ ICE Test cell

! H₂ Releases



Combustion air Meas. & Conditioning

Test cell Ventilation / ATEX

✓ Handling Unit **🔧** ATEX Fan **🔧** Exhaust Extraction

Emission Measurement

! **🔧**

Gas Analyzer FTIR Gas Analyzer Mass Spectrometer

Particulate Number Particulate Sampling Soot Concentration Smoke Number Opacity

AVL X-ion™ **🔧**

Combustion Analysis Pressure Transducer e.g. AVL GF11D **🔧**

Facility Safety System **!**

BlowBy **🔧**

Exhaust **!**

Back- Pressure Adjustment

Dilution

Cable Boom with Front-End I/O & Sensors (P,T,Rh) **🔧**

Engine Lubricant (T) Engine Coolant (T) Fuel Consumption

AVL HyTron H₂ Measurement and conditioning **!**

H₂

Automation System / Safety PLC

Automation IndiCom

Calibration Control

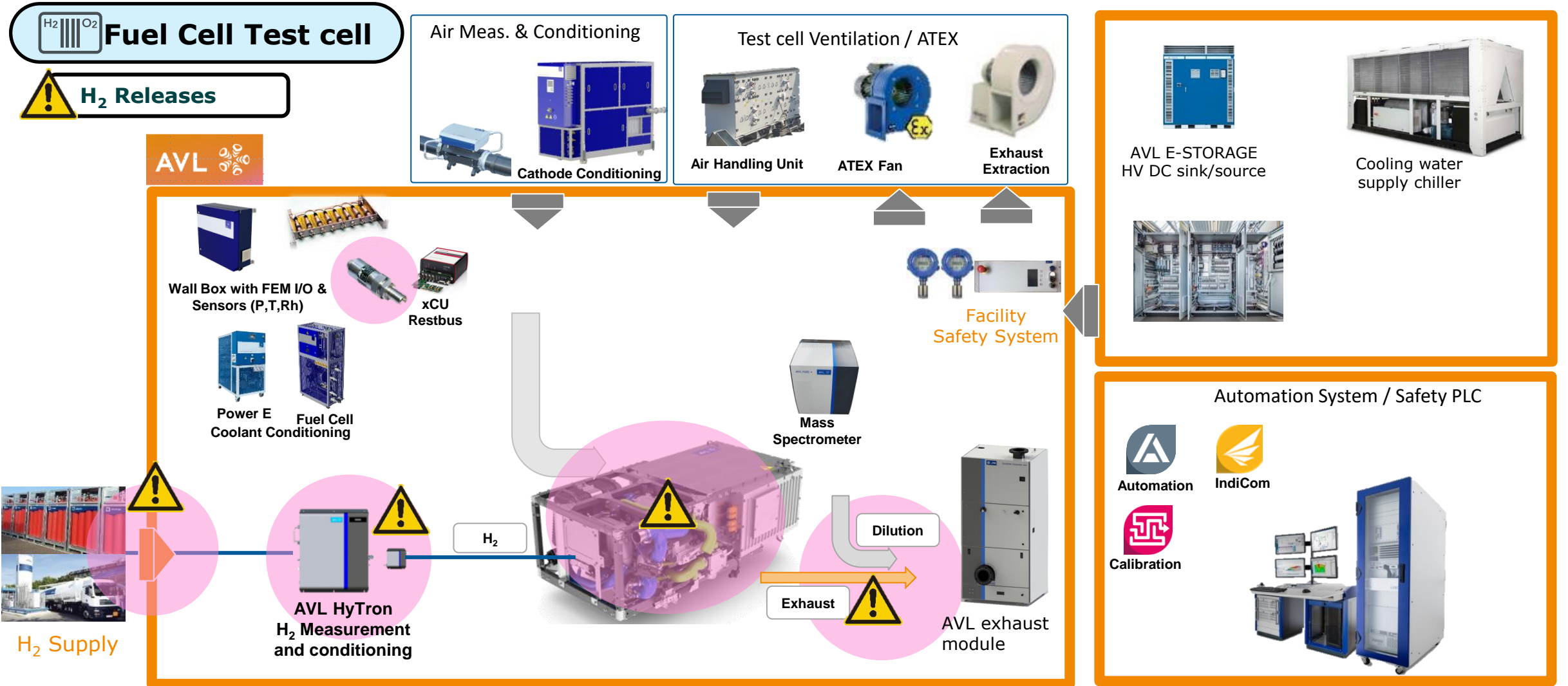
Emission Automation **!** **✓**



H₂ Supply



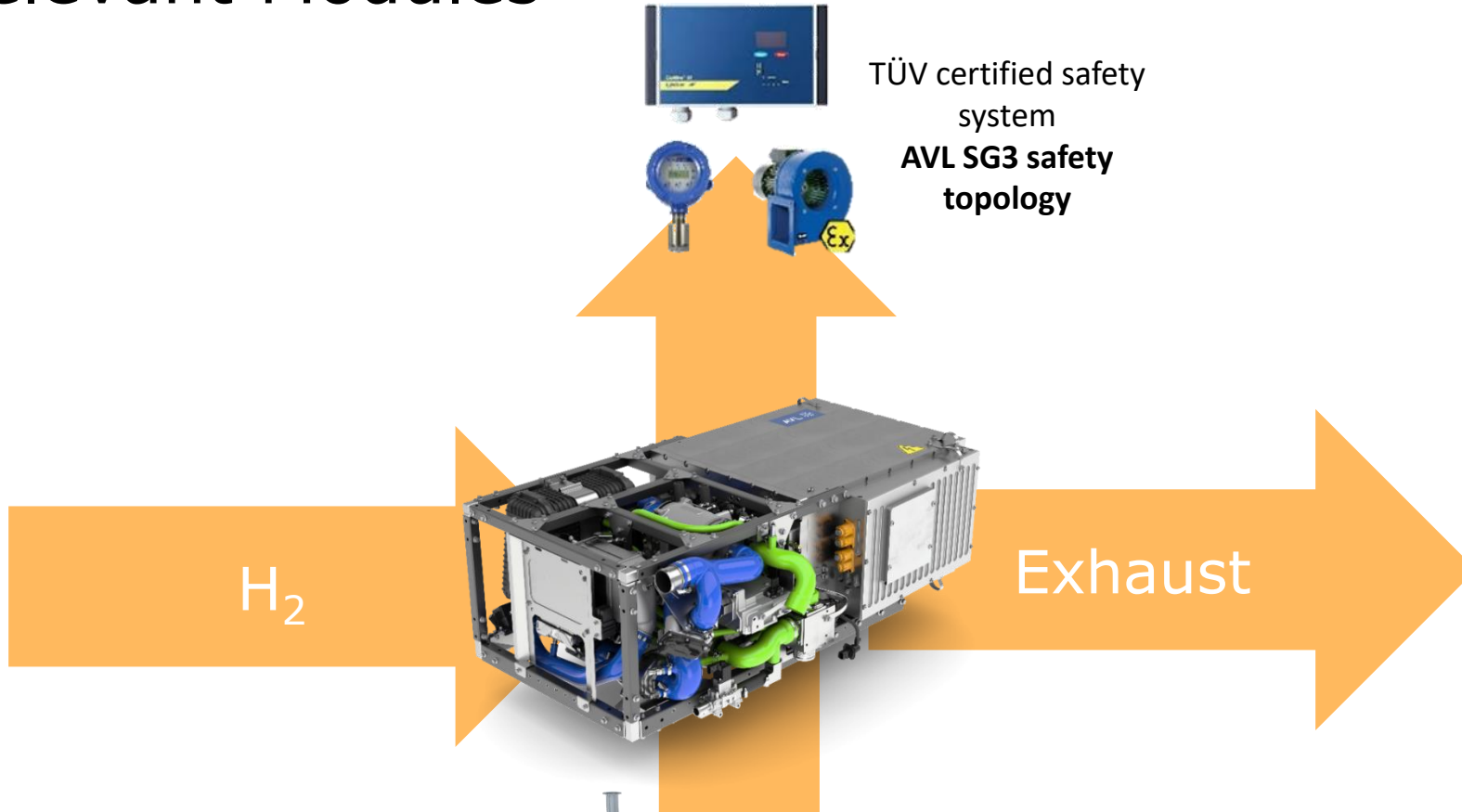
Application Fuel Cell - Hazardous Zones



Safety relevant Modules



Hydrogen supply and flow measurement
AVL HyTron™



TÜV certified safety system
AVL SG3 safety topology

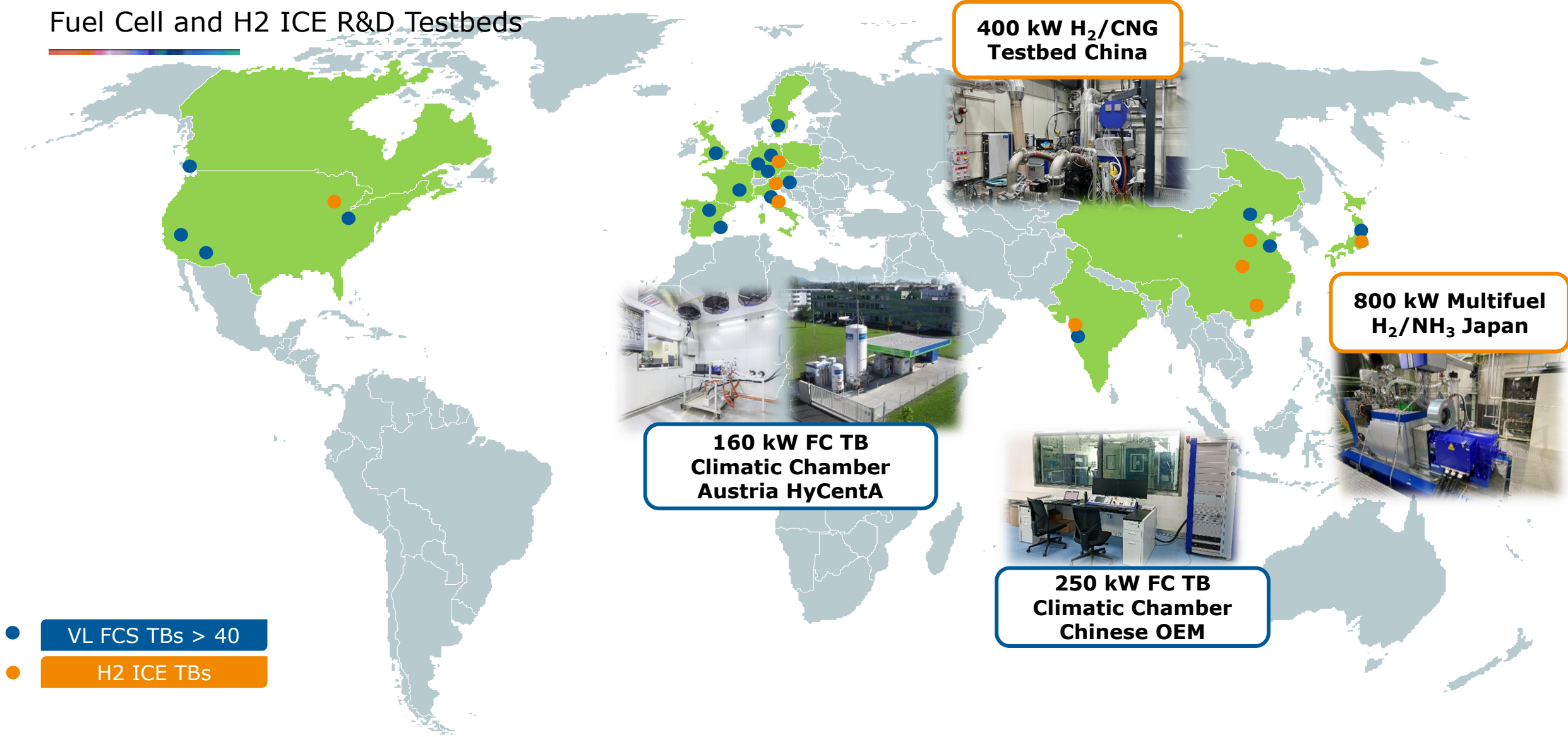


Removal of condensate to avoid hydrogen in the drainage system
AVL Exhaust Module



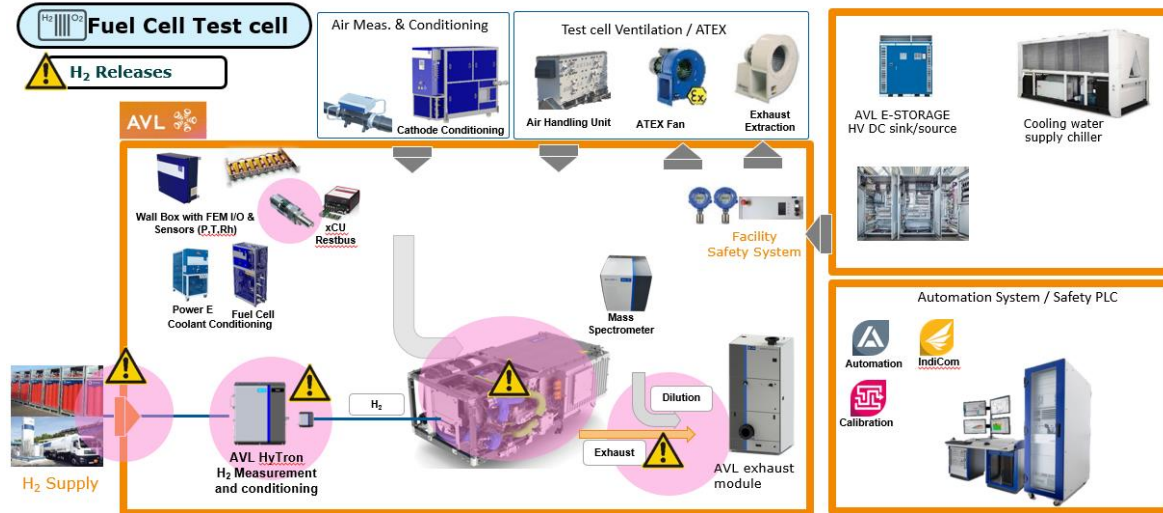
References

Fuel Cell and H2 ICE R&D Testbeds

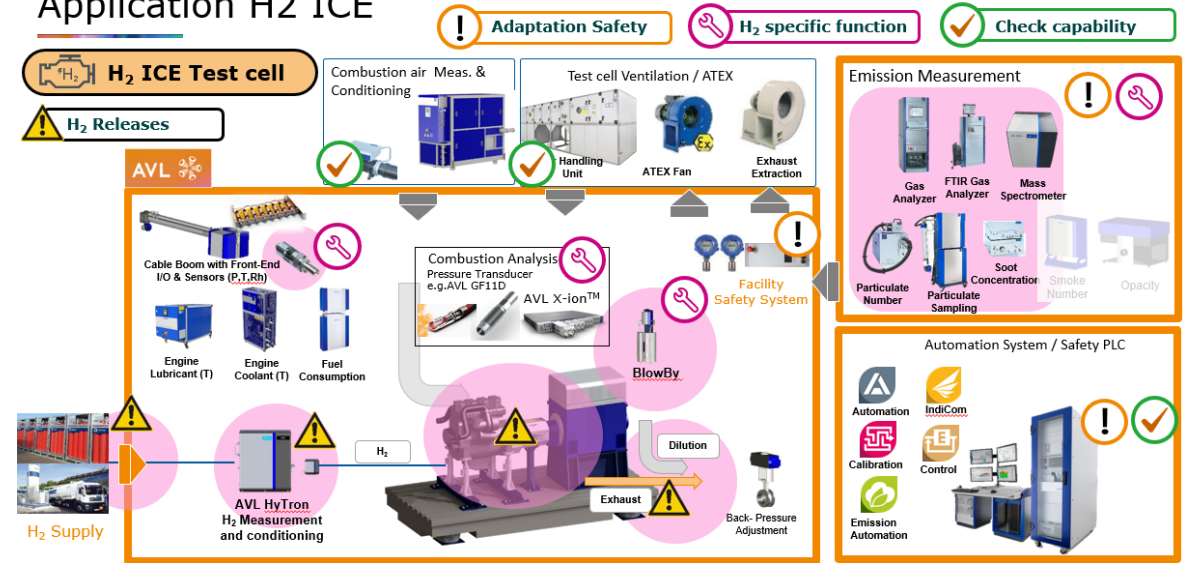


Risk reduction process

Application Fuel Cell

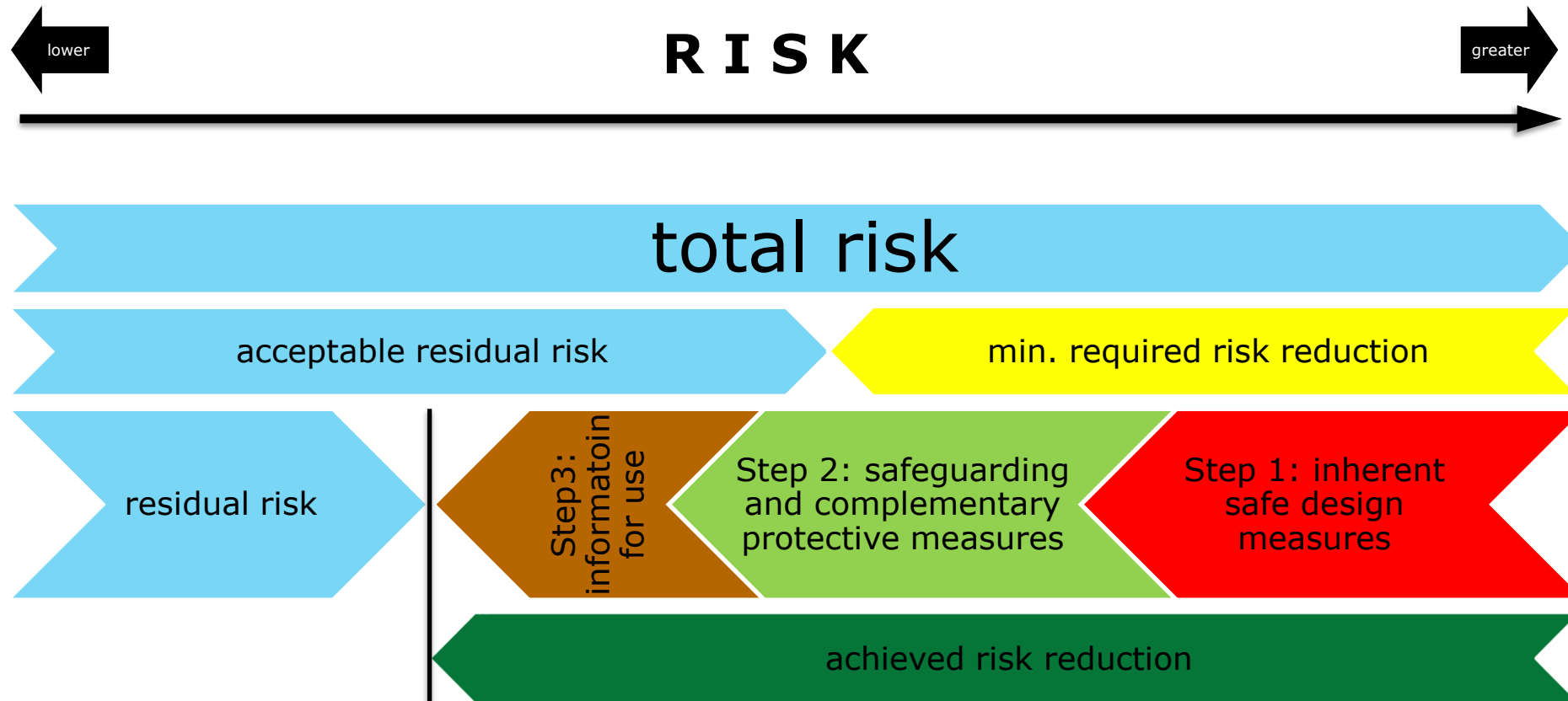


Application H₂ ICE



How do we minimize the risk?

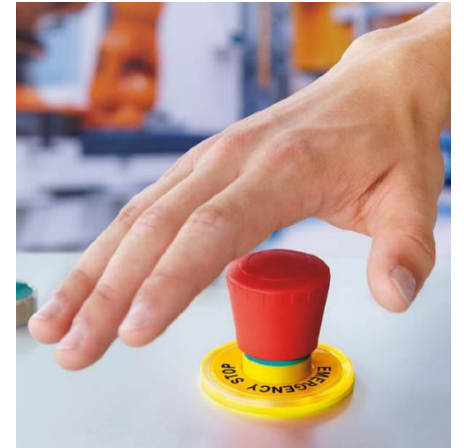
Risk reduction process acc. ISO 12100



Safety Engineering @AVL

Basic Engineering:

- Risk assessment
- Safety concept
- Selection of safety related components
- Interface engineering subsystems
- Interface engineering facilities



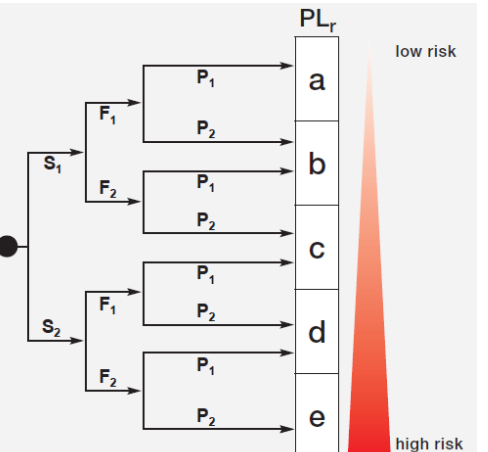
Detailed Engineering

- Calculation of functional safety
- Detailed schematics
- Safety matrix
- Validation of safety system
- System documentation

Risk estimation

To calculate the performance level required (PL_r).

S	Severity of injury
S1	slight (normally reversible injury)
S2	serious (normally irreversible injury or death)
F	Frequency and/or exposure to hazard
F1	seldom to less often and/or exposure time is short
F2	frequent to continuous and/or exposure time is long
P	Possibility of avoiding hazard or limiting harm
P1	possible under specific conditions
P2	scarcely possible



EXPLOSION PROTECTION



Explosion is a sudden oxidation or decomposition reaction with rise in temperature, pressure, or both at the same time.

Explosion protection is a branch of technology that deals with protection against the development of explosions and their effects.

Differentiation of an explosion in **Deflagration** and **Detonation**.

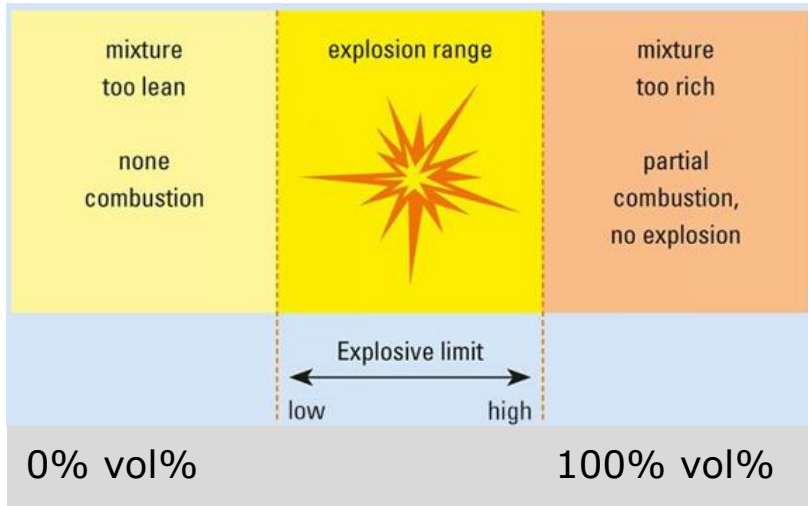
A **deflagration** has an explosion pressure of about 10 bar (Gas) to 14 bar (Dust), the propagation speed is about 1.000 m/s.

A **Detonation** has an explosion pressure of about 20 bar, the propagation speed is about 3.000 m/s.

Effect and impact of an explosion:

Damage to people:	Pressure, flames, flying debris
Environmental impact:	Emission of toxic substances
Damage to property:	Destruction of equipment and products
Financial damage:	Loss of production, compensation costs, forfeits
Damage to image:	Reporting in public

H₂ – Physical properties – Explosive limits



Substance	Substance Name	Relative density gas [AIR = 1]	LEL Vol(%)	UEL Vol(%)	Ignition temp. (°C)	Temp. class	Min. Ignition Energy [mJ]	Gas class	Calorific energy [kWh/kg]
H ₂	Hydrogen	0,0695 (1/14)	4	77	560	T1	0,016	IIC	33

Overview **explosion protection** Regulations

EU Directives

2014/34/EU
ATEX 114

1999/92/EU
ATEX 153

Manufacturer

Operator

Equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres.

National laws, regulations and provisions

LAW

International Standards / Rules

- Are advantageous as aids in addition to the nationally applicable technical regulations.
- Not legally binding but their presumption of conformity creates a legal certainty for manufacturers and operators.

EN 60079-10-1

Classification of areas.
Explosive gas atmospheres

EN 60079-14

Electrical installations design, selection and erection

EN 60079-17

Electrical installations inspection and maintenance

EN 1127-1

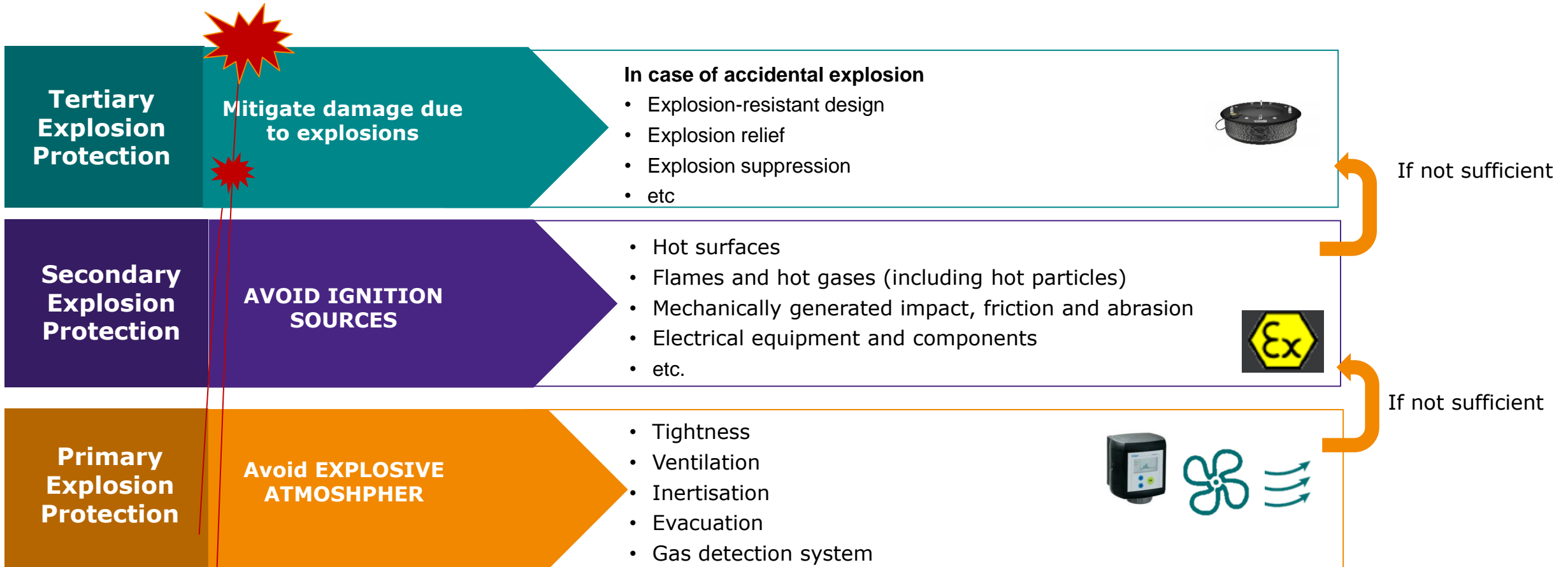
Explosion prevention and protection

TRGS, TRBS, NFPA
xxx

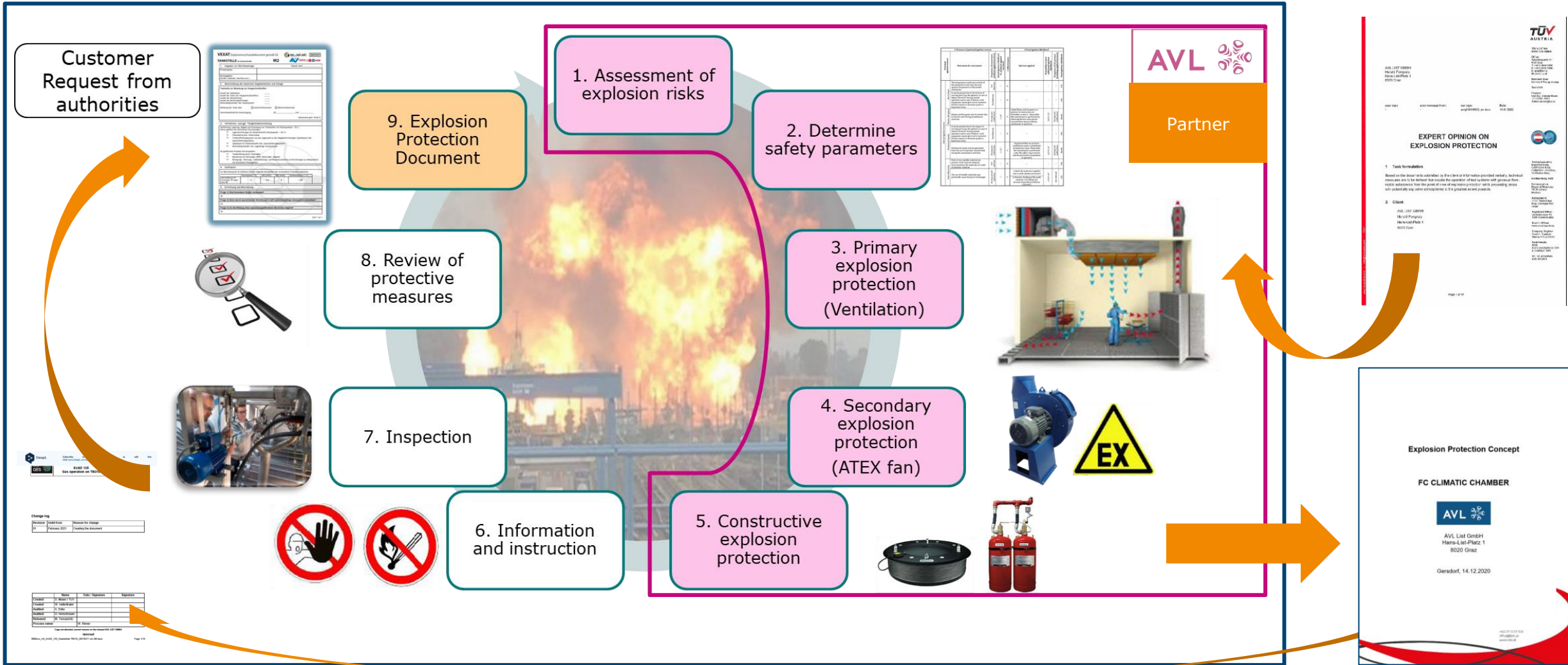
Technical Rules

State of the art

Explosion protection measures





H2 ICE / FUEL CELL Explosion protection concept



Primary Explosion Protection (ventilation requirements)

Leakage size selection / leak rate determination / Ventilation requirements (acc. to IEC 60079)

AVL Leak Calculation v1.0

AVL  **AVL Leak Calculation**  IEC 60079-10-1:2020

Introduction | Data Input

General data

Customer: CHIMMTRK
 AVL Technician: SHARIPANK
 Test Cell Name: H2ICE
 Comments:

Gas Leak

Use Default Values

Duct Pressure red.: 60
 Leak hole section: 0.025
 Discharge Coefficient (Cd): 0.99

1.0 Leakage Size Selection as per IEC 60079-10-1:2020

Table B.1 – Suggested hole cross sections for secondary grade of releases

Type of item	Item	Leak Considerations		
		Typical values for the conditions at which the release opening will not expand	Typical values for the conditions at which the release opening may expand, e.g. erosion	Typical values for the conditions at which the release opening may expand up to a severe failure, e.g. blow out
		S (mm ²)	S (mm ²)	S (mm ²)
Sealing elements on fixed parts	Flanges with compressed fibre gasket or similar	≥ 0,025 up to 0,25	> 0,25 up to 2,5	(sector between two bolts) × (gasket thickness) usually ≥ 1 mm
	Flanges with spiral wound gasket or similar	0,025	0,25	(sector between two bolts) × (gasket thickness) usually ≥ 0,5 mm
	Ring type joint connections	0,1	0,25	0,5
Sealing elements on moving parts at low speed	Small bore connections up to 50 mm ³	≥ 0,025 up to 0,1	> 0,1 up to 0,25	1,0
	Valve stem packings	0,25	2,5	To be defined according to Equipment Manufacturer's Data but not less than 2,5 mm ² and e
Sealing elements on moving parts at high speed	Pressure relief valves ^b	0,1 × (orifice section)	NA	NA
	Pumps and compressors ^c	NA	≥ 1 up to 5	To be defined according to Equipment Manufacturer's Data and/or Process Unit Configuration but not less than 5 mm ² and e

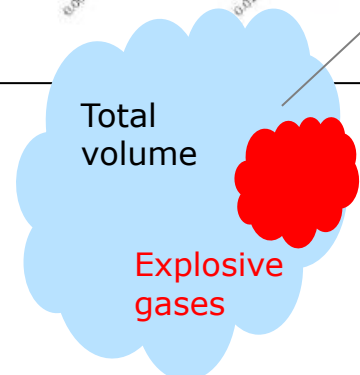
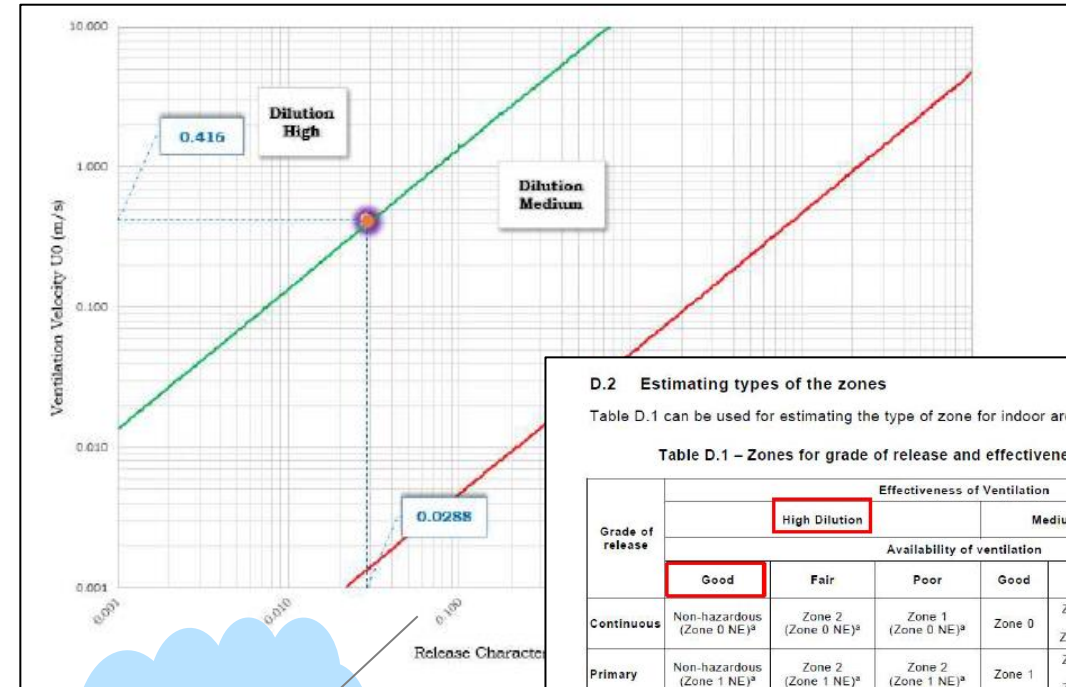
a Hole cross sections suggested for ring joints, threaded connections, compression joints (e.g. metallic compression fittings) and rapid joints on small bore piping.

b This item does not refer to full opening of the valve but to various leaks due to malfunction of the valve components. Specific applications could require a hole cross section bigger than suggested.

c Reciprocating Compressors – The frame of compressor and the cylinders are usually not items that leak but the piston rod packings and various pipe connections in the process system.

d Equipment Manufacturer's Data – Cooperation with equipment's manufacturer is required to assess the effects in case of an expected failure (e.g. the availability of a drawing with details relevant to sealing devices).

e Process Unit Configuration – In certain circumstances (e.g. a preliminary study), an operational analysis to define the maximum accepted release rate of flammable substance may compensate lack of equipment



D.2 Estimating types of the zones

Table D.1 can be used for estimating the type of zone for indoor areas and open areas.

Table D.1 – Zones for grade of release and effectiveness of ventilation

Grade of release	Effectiveness of Ventilation						
	High Dilution			Medium Dilution		Low Dilution	
	Availability of ventilation						
	Good	Fair	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Good, fair or poor
Continuous	Non-hazardous (Zone 0 NE) ^a	Zone 2 (Zone 0 NE) ^a	Zone 1 (Zone 0 NE) ^a	Zone 0	Zone 0 + Zone 2 ^c	Zone 0 + Zone 1	Zone 0
Primary	Non-hazardous (Zone 1 NE) ^a	Zone 2 (Zone 1 NE) ^a	Zone 2 (Zone 1 NE) ^a	Zone 1	Zone 1 + Zone 2	Zone 1 + Zone 2	Zone 1 or zone 0 ^d
Secondary ^b	Non-hazardous (Zone 2 NE) ^a	Non-hazardous (Zone 2 NE) ^a	Zone 2	Zone 2	Zone 2	Zone 2	Zone 1 and even zone 0 ^d

^a Zone 0 NE, 1 NE or 2 NE indicates a theoretical zone which would be of negligible extent under normal conditions.

^b The Zone 2 area created by a secondary grade of release may exceed that attributable to a primary or continuous grade of release; in this case, the greater distance should be taken.

^c Zone 1 is not needed here. i.e. small Zone 0 is in the area where the release is not controlled by the ventilation and larger Zone 2 for when ventilation fails.

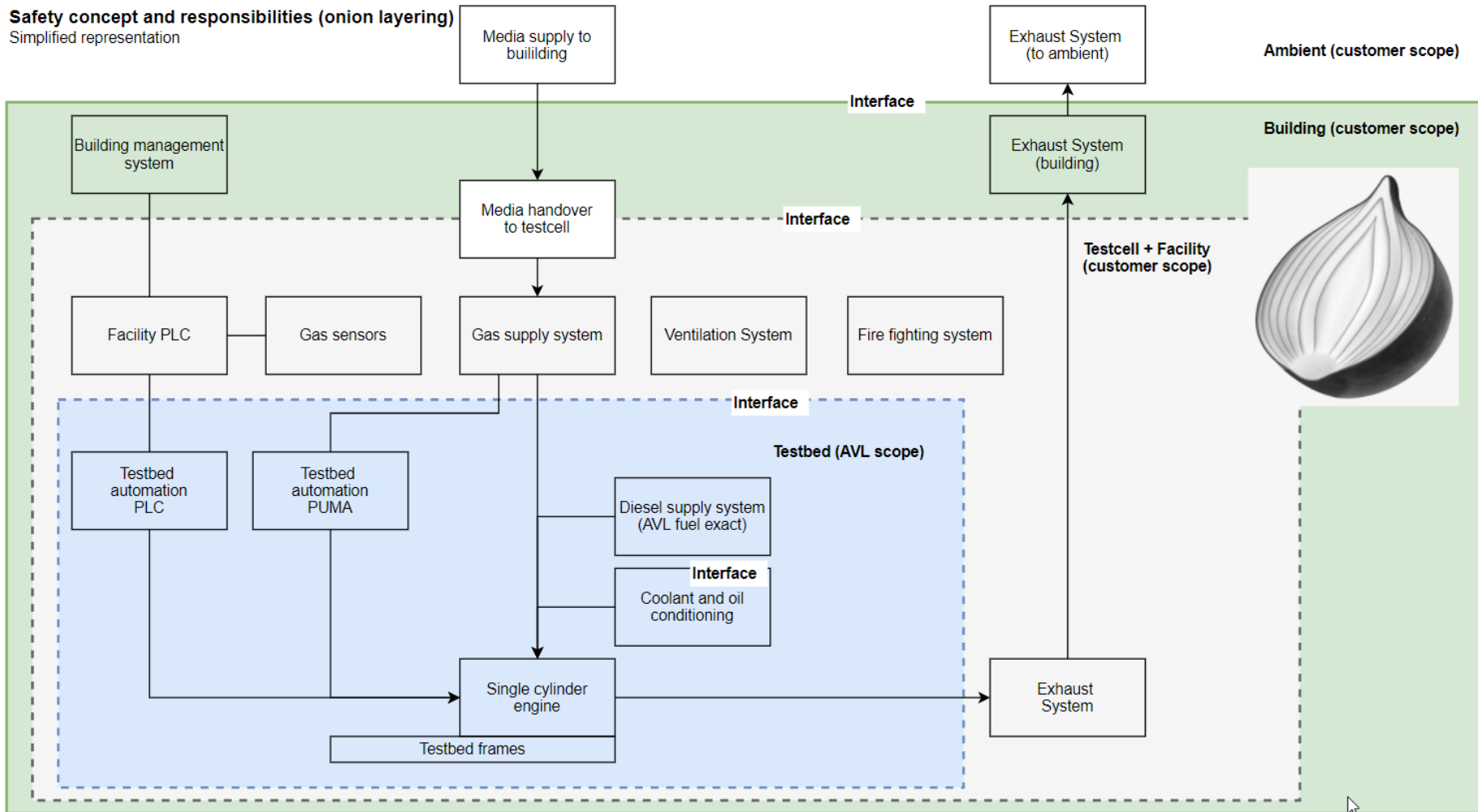
^d Will be Zone 0 if the ventilation is so weak and the release is such that in practice an explosive gas atmosphere exists virtually continuously (i.e. approaching a 'no ventilation' condition).

^e signifies 'surrounded by'.

Availability of ventilation in naturally ventilated enclosed spaces is commonly not considered as good.

Safety and control architecture

Safety concept and responsibilities (onion layering)
Simplified representation



Simplified layout of the safety and control system architecture.

Conclusion

Hydrogen is becoming the common denominator across various mobility applications and therefore needs to be considered in new testing infrastructures



Evolving standards and regulations require expertise and experience to plan the infrastructure changes efficiently



AVL as partner on your side can support from the risk assessment to complete test bed solutions to support your transformation



Test bed transformations are possible with approved modules for fuel cell & hydrogen ICE applications



Contact



LOCATION

AVL List GmbH
Hans-List-Platz 1
8020 Graz
Austria



PHONE

+43 316 787 - 4681



EMAIL

ulla-
valentina.krusch@avl.com



WEBSITE

www.avl.com

Let's transform the future together

