

# The Decarbonisation Journey of the Aluminium Industry

## Opportunities and Challenges to Achieve Net-Zero

**Dr. Martin Iffert**

MARTIN IFFERT CONSULTING GmbH

EP ENERGY POOL GmbH

**Presented by: Dr. Martin Iffert**

# Martin's Bio

## Dr. Martin Iffert



Master Electrical Eng.  
(1993 RWTH Aachen)  
PhD Chemical Eng.  
(2007 UNSW Sydney)  
Executive MBA  
(2009 IMD Lausanne)

## The Networker for the Industry



French President  
Emmanuel Macron

German Chancellor  
Olaf Scholz

## Dr. Martin Iffert's Biography

- 30 years experience in Aluminium Smelting
- Former CEO of TRIMET and PdG TRIMET France
- Former President of German Association WVM
- Advisor for Policy Makers
- Advocate for Flexibility and Sustainability
- Founder of the Virtual Battery Concept



## MARTIN IFFERT CONSULTING GmbH

- Boutique Consulting Firm for Aluminium and Energy-Intensive Industries
- Operation, Leadership, Energy Politics, M&A



## EP ENERGY POOL GmbH

- Flexibilization of Energy-Intensive Industries
- Centre of Excellence for Aluminium Smelting

# Decarbonization...

Playing not to Lose



**...is a RISK**

Playing to Win



**...is an OPPORTUNITY**

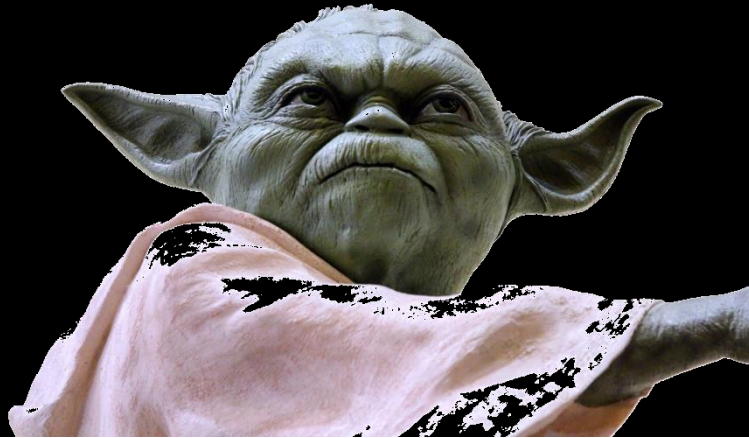
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**Fear is the path  
to the dark side...**

**Fear leads to anger.  
Anger leads to hate.  
Hate leads to suffering.**



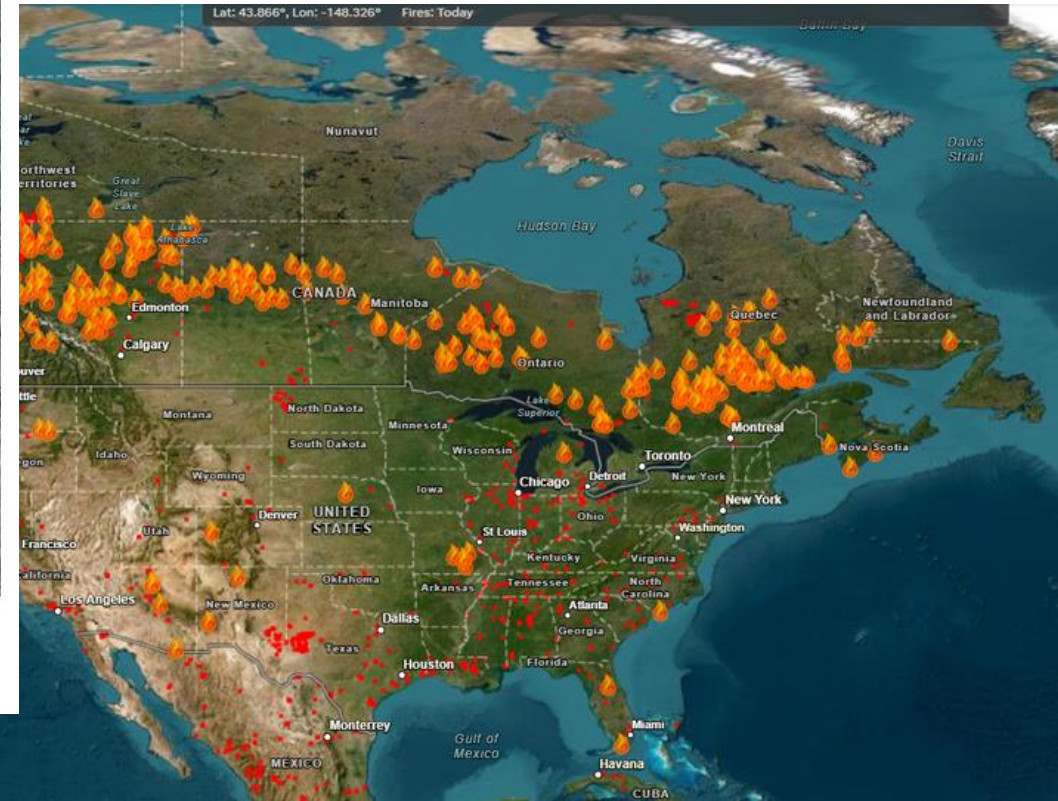
# The World on Fire

# Public View of Industry has Changed





# Wild Fire Canada - Quebec



This photo shows an overhead view of forest fires in the Sept-Îles area from June 2, 2023. On Tuesday, the evacuation order for the city was lifted. (Submitted by André Michel)

## Public View of Industry has Changed



# What is your License to Operate?



**When you look at  
the dark side,  
careful you must be.  
*For the dark side  
looks back***



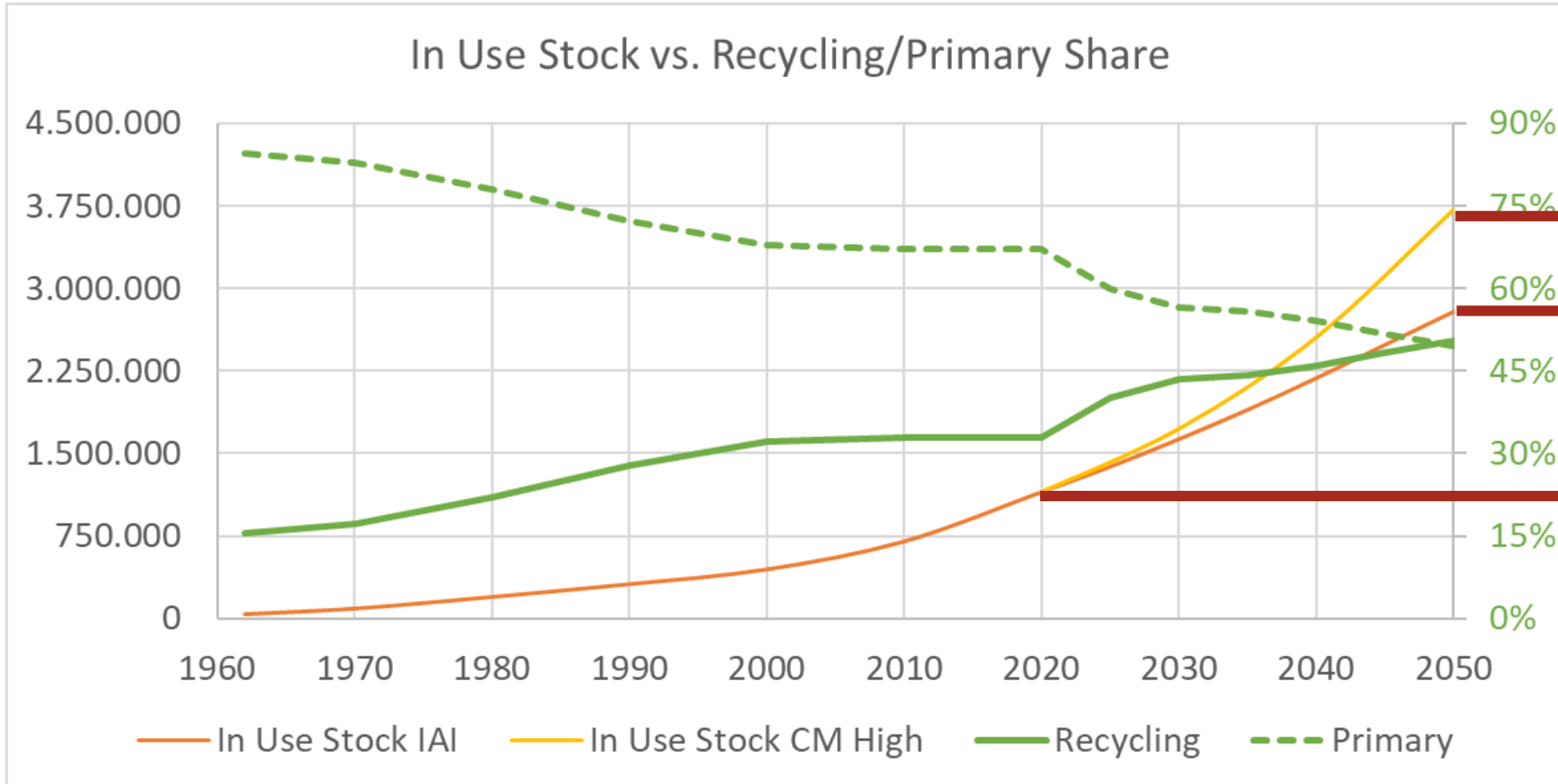
# Aluminium Demand with Strong Potential

# Aluminium Semis Demand in Sectors

- Strong growth in Transport, Electrical Equipment and Infrastructure is triggered by the energy transition with electrification of the society
- Aluminium can gain market share from competing materials due to its superior material performance and recyclability
- Long product life in many application require strong production from primary metal sources

	Product Lifetime	Steel	Copper	Plastic	Glas	Wood	2020 CRU	2030 CRU	2050 extra-polation
Construction	15 - 50 Years						21,3	25,9	38,7
Electrical & Mechanic	25 - 50 Years						20,2	28,3	42,3
Tranportation	10 - 30 Years						19,9	31,7	47,4
Packaging	6 - 12 Months						15,0	20,5	30,6
Others	10 - 15 Years						10,1	13,4	20,0
		<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>RISK</b>				86,5	119,8	179,0

# Aluminium In-Use-Stock – Actual & Projections



2050: 3,700 Mt

2050: 2,800 Mt

2020: 1,150 Mt



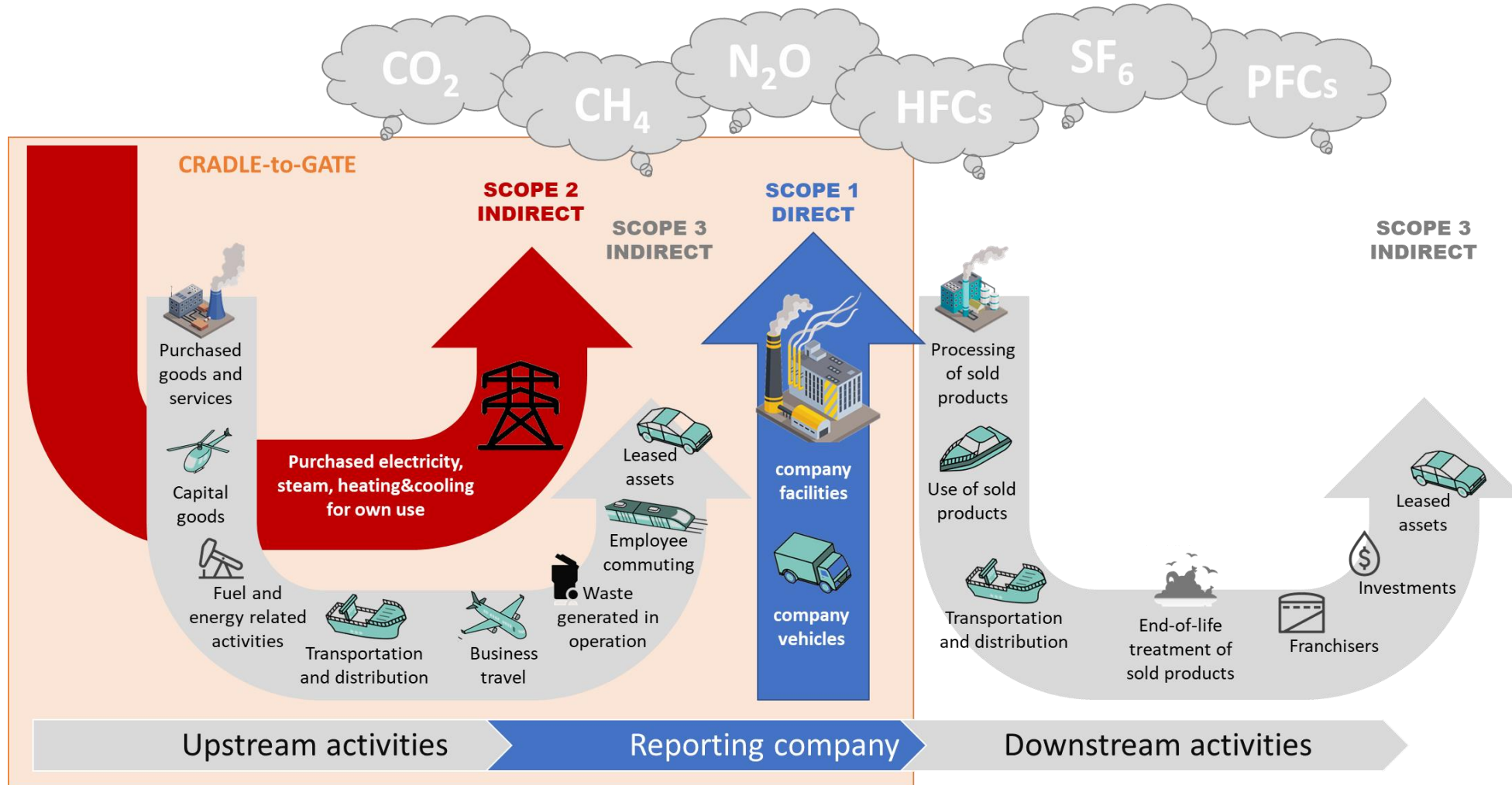
**TRUE, ON CLIMATE  
ACTION IT IS**

**“Do, or do not.  
There is no try.”**

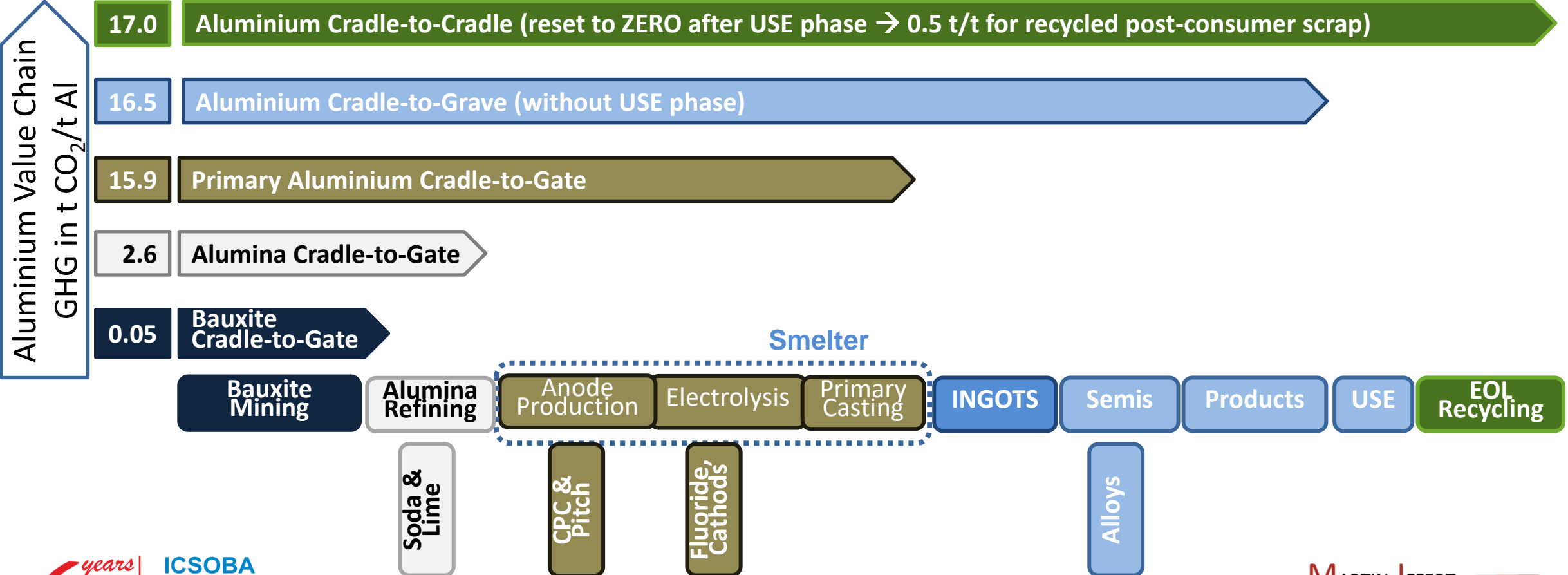


# Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Decarbonisation Scenarios

# Cradle-to-Gate Emissions - Scopes



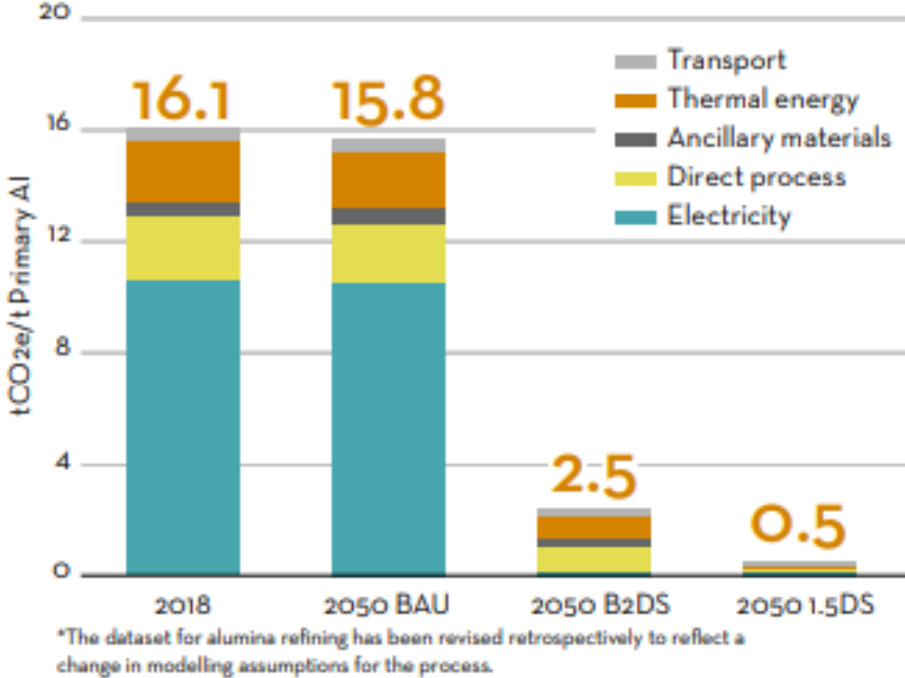
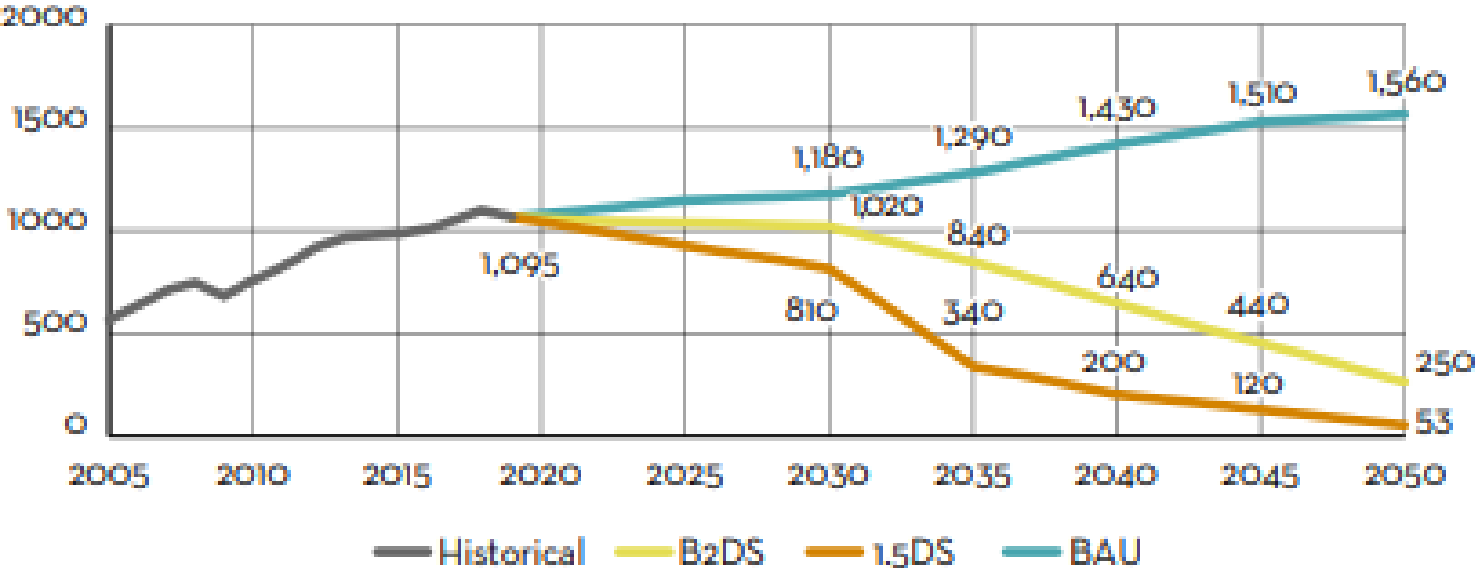
# AL Value Chain





# 2.0 & 1.5 DEGREES SCENARIO from IAI

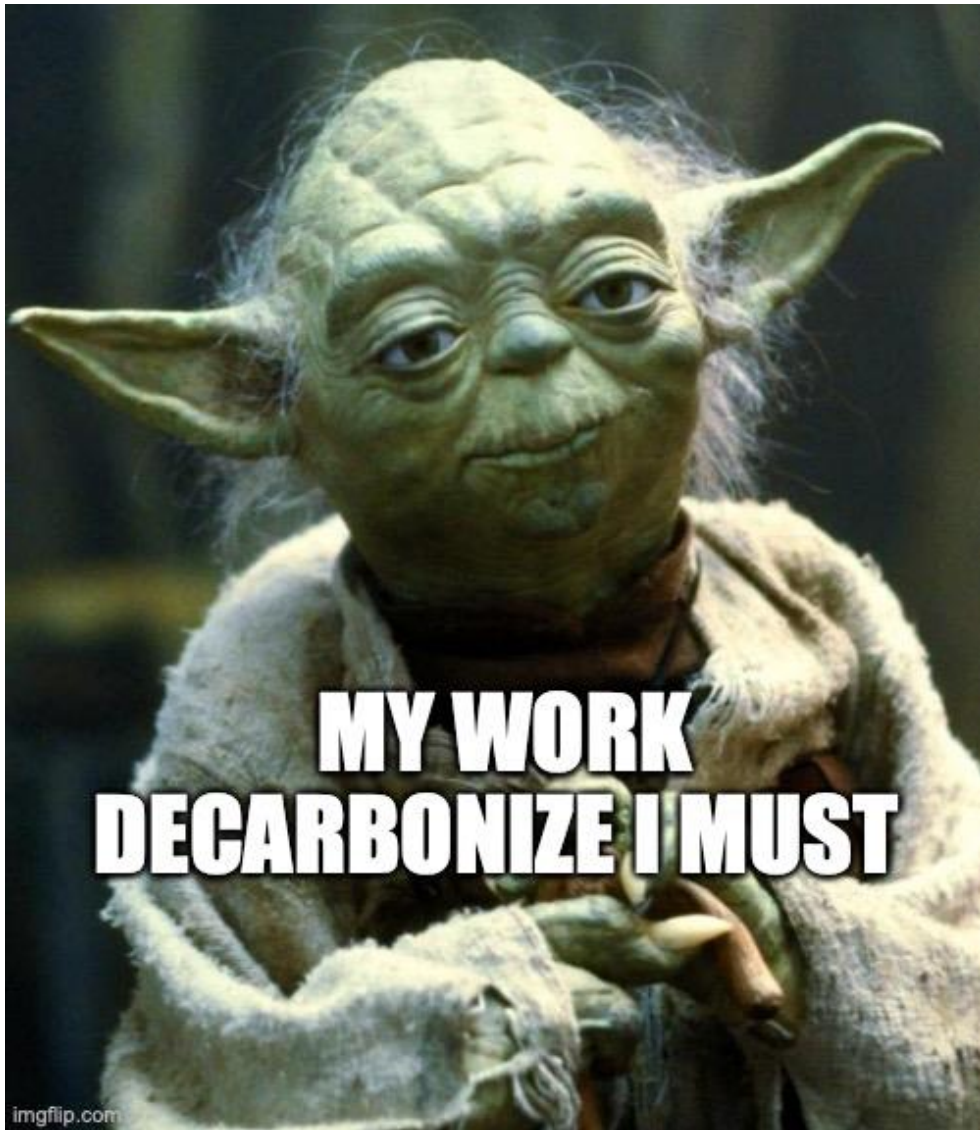
Aluminium Sector (million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)



# Categorization of Primary Aluminium Emission

<b>Global</b> (tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub> per tonne Primary Al)	<b>Total</b>	Bauxite	Alumina	Anode	<b>Electrolysis</b>	Casting	<b>Total</b>
Electricity-Indirect	10.6				65%		67%
Perfluorocarbon (PFC) - Direct	0.6				3%		3%
Process (CO <sub>2</sub> )-Direct	1.5				9%		10%
Ancillary Materials-Indirect	0.6		1%	2%	1%		4%
Thermal Energy-Direct/Indirect	2.1	0%	11%	1%		1%	13%
Transport-Direct	0.5		2%		2%		3%
Total-Cradle to Gate	15.9	0%	16%	3%	80%	1%	100%

Renewable Energies  
AI Process Control  
Carbon Capture



# Decarbonisation Strategies for the Aluminium Industry



# Smelter Decarbonization Race

CCS with x% Bio-Pitch-Coke is equal to Inert Anodes in terms of CO<sub>2</sub>



INERT  
ANODES

New Process with  
new supply Chain



CPC ANODES  
with  
CCS & CCU

De-Carbonization  
added after process



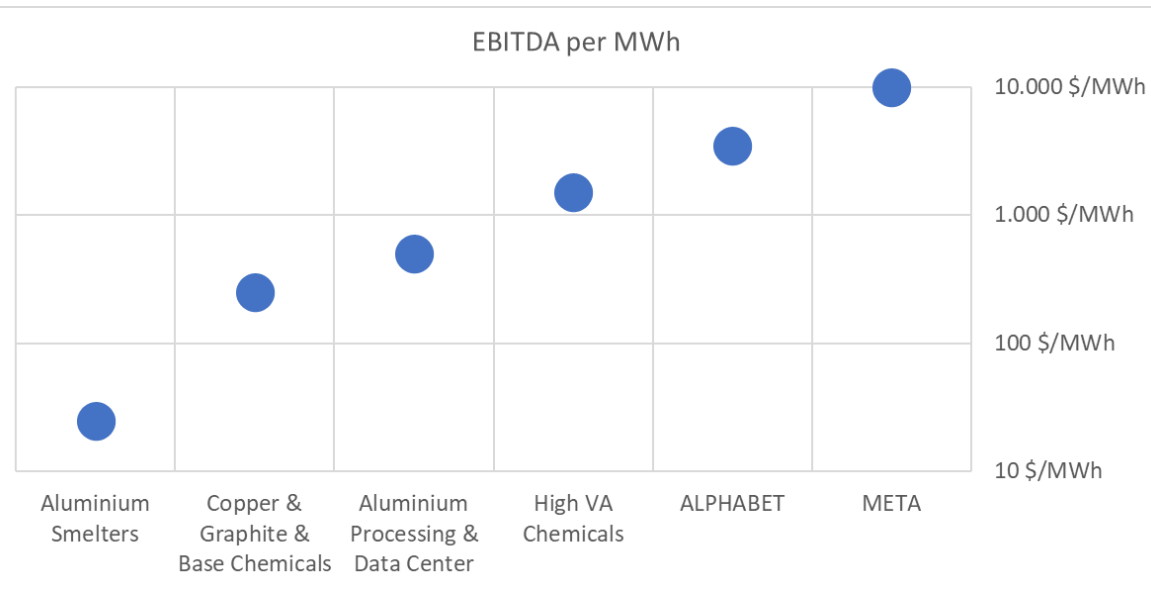
BIO-BASED  
ANODES

Exchange CPC with  
Bio-Mass



- All processes can decarbonise the production of aluminium
- A combination of BIO-BASED Anodes with CCS could even create a CO<sub>2</sub> sink → depending on sustainably produced bio-mass

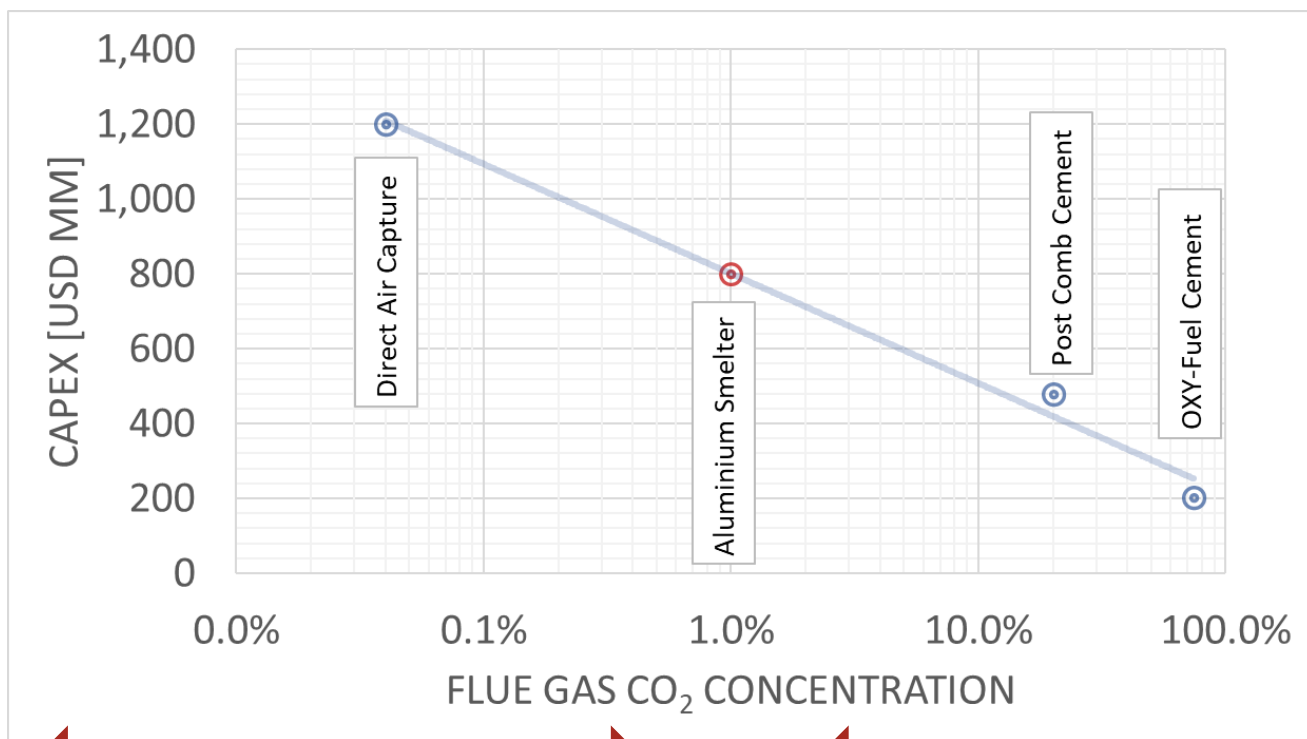
# Power Intensity of Industries



	EBITDA per MWh
<b>META</b>	<b>10.000 \$/MWh</b>
<b>ALPHABET</b>	<b>3.500 \$/MWh</b>
<b>High VA Chemicals</b>	<b>1.500 \$/MWh</b>
<b>Aluminium Processing &amp; Data Center</b>	<b>500 \$/MWh</b>
<b>Copper &amp; Graphite &amp; Base Chemicals</b>	<b>250 \$/MWh</b>
<b>Aluminium Smelters</b>	<b>25 \$/MWh</b>

- Aluminium Smelters are at the low end of the “**Electrical Food Chain**” → Smelters could be successful in stranded situation without electrical competition
- Grid connected smelters could be successful, if grid was populated with abundant cheap and dispatchable power (e.g. Canada, Norway)
- Hydrogen will compete with smelters for power, but likely even lower on the “Food Chain” → Hydrogen and Aluminium Smelters could be complimentary successful

# CCS in different Industries & Smelter



## Long-Term 2050 Potentials

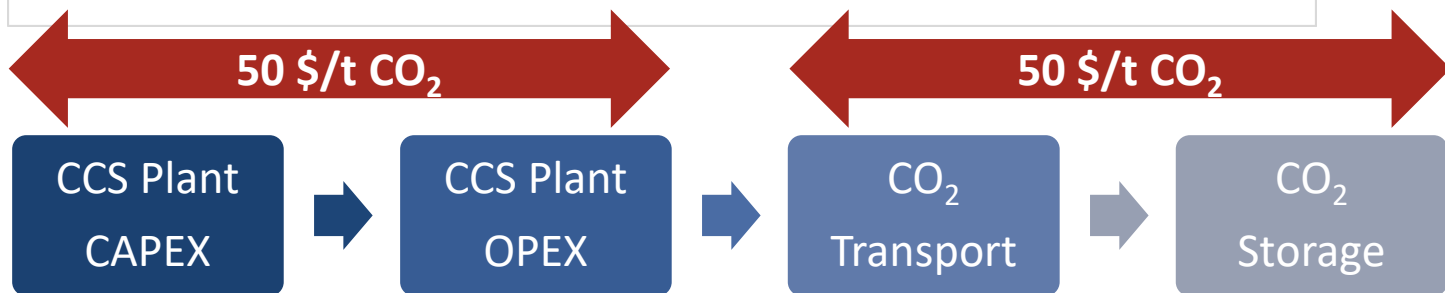
- Hooding Efficiency 99%
- Carbon Capture Target – 80%
- Anode Effect PFC + 5%
- ➔ Overall GHG Capturing 75%
- ➔ @25% Biomass = Net Zero Scope 1, 2
- ➔ @75% Biomass = Net Zero Scope 1, 2, 3

## MIC Estimates for 2040:

- CCS @ 100 \$/t → +150 \$/t Al
- 75% Biomass @ +200 \$/t → +75 \$/t Al
- ➔ +225 \$/t Al for Net Zero 1, 2, 3

Assuming remaining Scope 3 emissions in 2050, only 0.75 t/t

Assumption for 2040 with USD<sub>2022</sub>



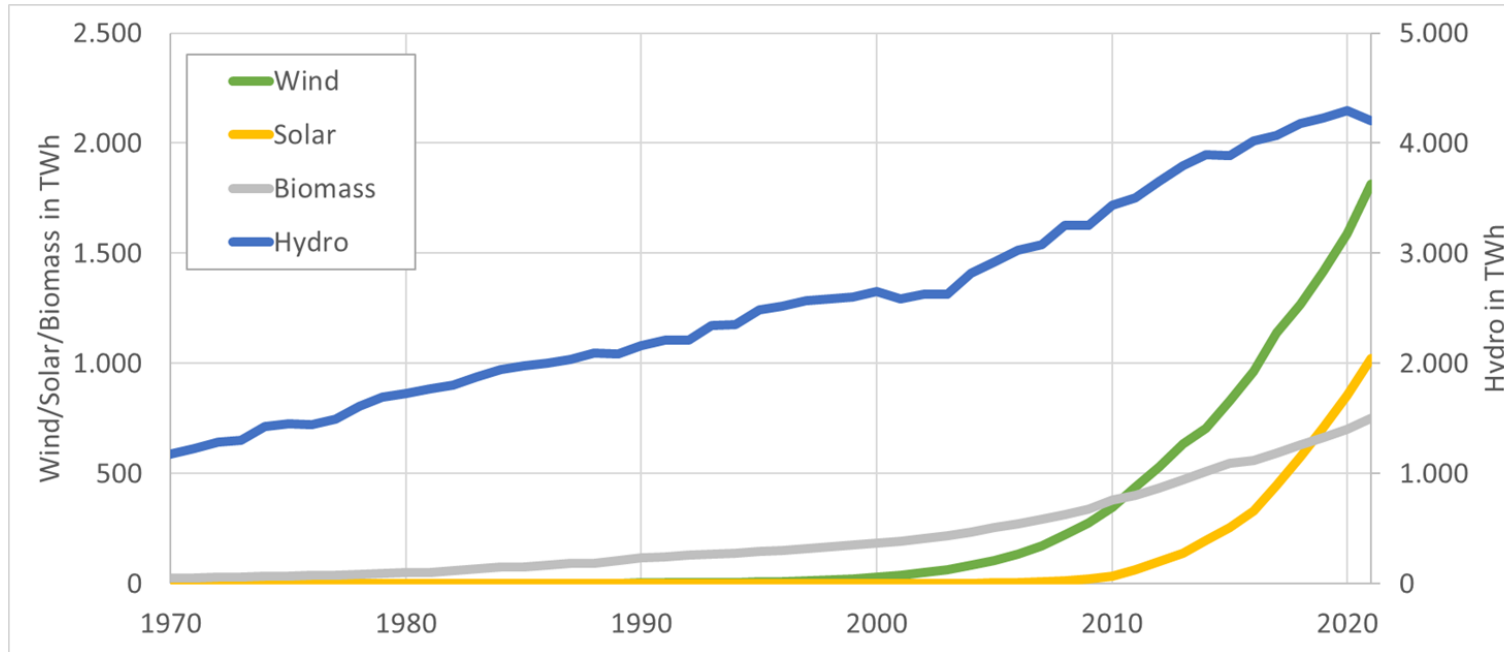


**A Jedi's strength  
flows from the  
Force**



**Aluminium is an  
Energy Carrier**

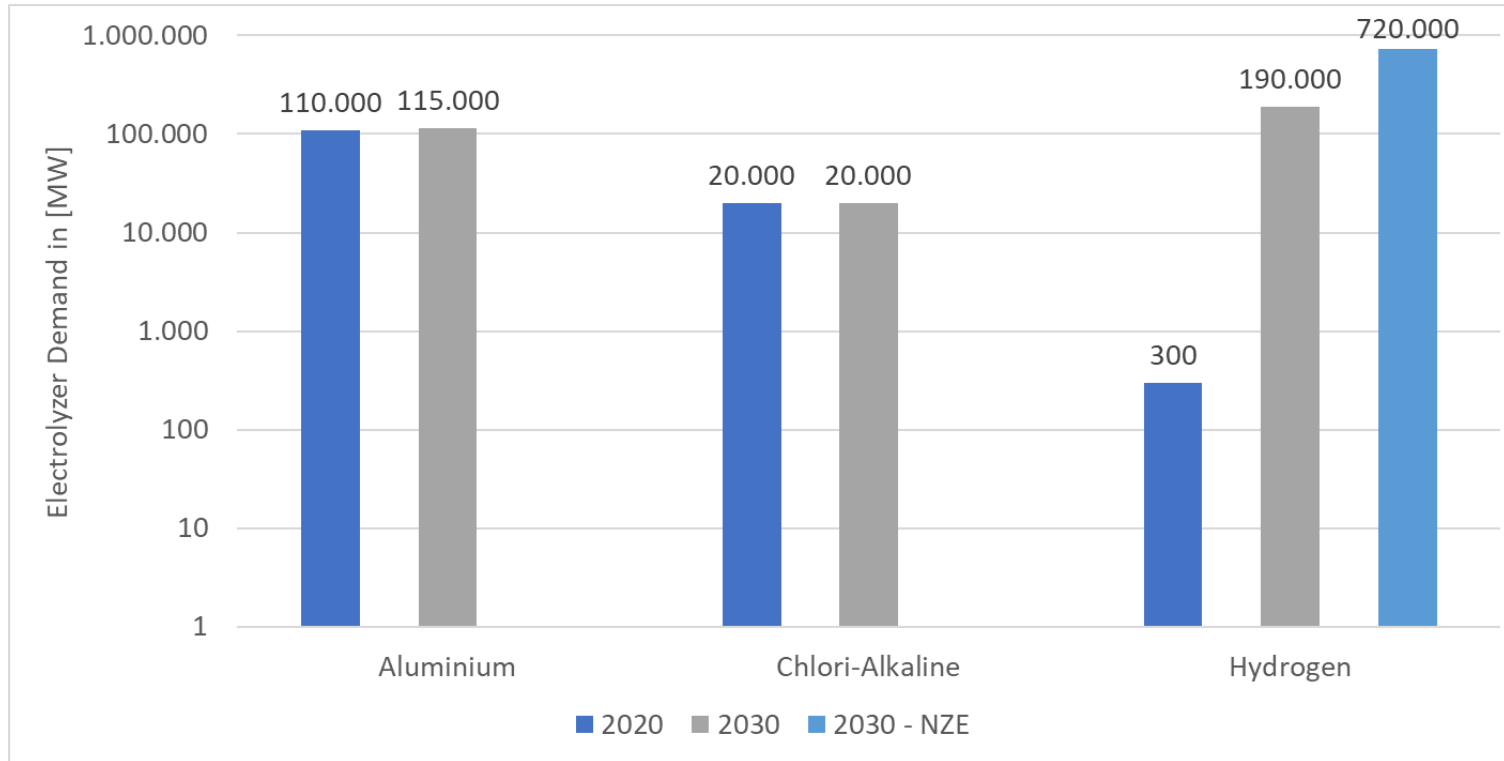
# World Renewable Energies



Electricity Ratios in 2021 out of a World Total Electricity Generation of 27,500 TWh: Hydro = 15.3% / Wind = 6.6% / Solar = 3.7% / Biomass = 2.7% →  $\Sigma 28.3\% = 7,800$  TWh

BNEF expects Electricity Generation to exceed 100,000 TWh by 2050 in a Renewable Intensive Scenario

# GREEN Aluminium vs. GREEN Hydrogen



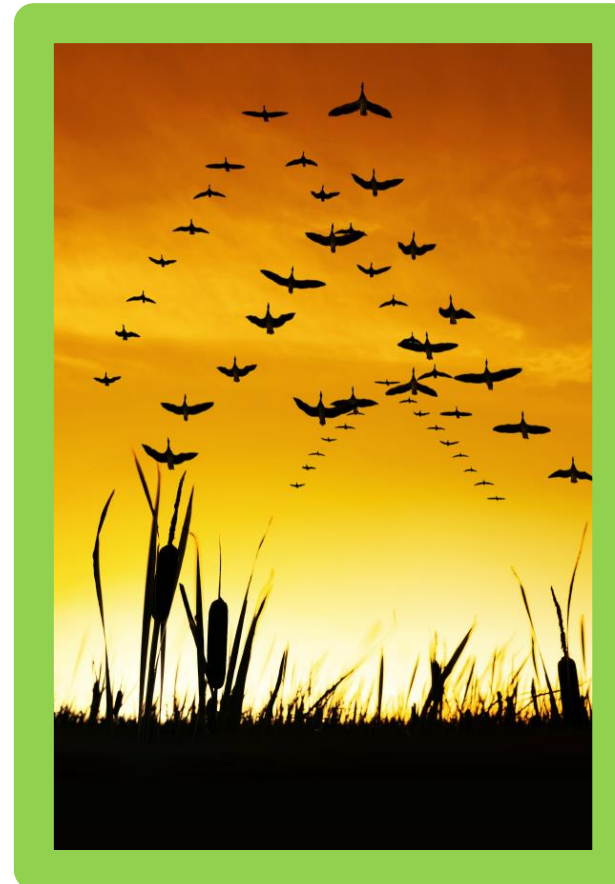
- Aluminium by far the biggest energy carrier today
- IEA forecast that hydrogen will be btw. 1.5x to 6x the size of aluminium by 2030
- Hydrogen and aluminium production are “twins”
- Aluminium smelter CAPEX @ 4 \$/W
- H<sub>2</sub> Electrolyser CAPEX @ 1 \$/W

Potential long-distance Green Energy Carrier are Hydrogen, Ammonia, Green Steel, Green Aluminium  
 50 MWh → 1 t H<sub>2</sub> → 12.5 MWh Power → 1 t Aluminium (without H<sub>2</sub> transport losses)

# What Direction to Take?



Seeking  
for Solutions  
that are  
**Affordable**  
and  
**Achievable**

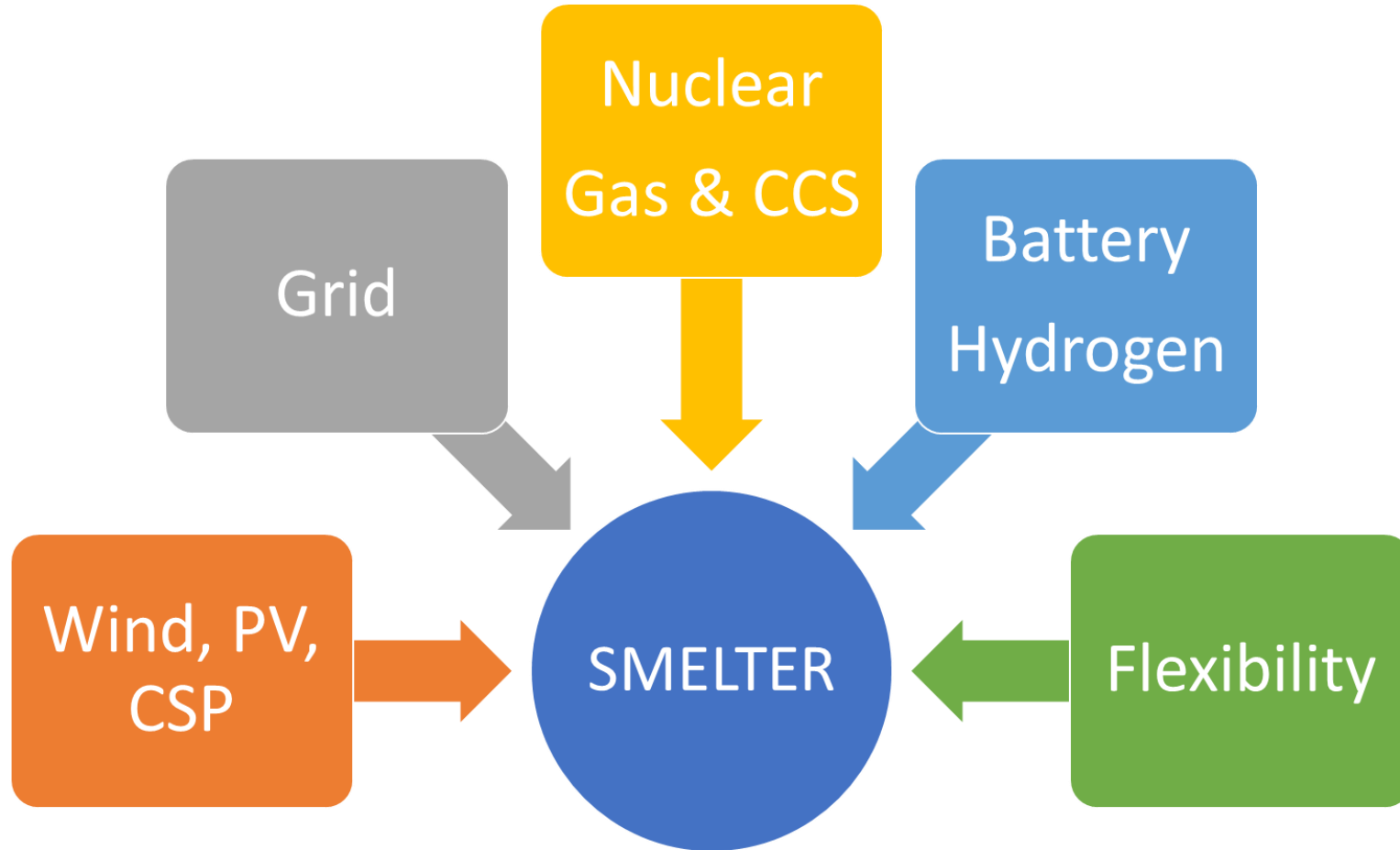


- **Achieve climate goals through renunciation**

- **Knowledge**
- **NetZero Technologies**



# Carbon Free Smelter Supply Options



Hydro and Geothermal Power are already essential base load supply options for smelters, but most resources have been exploited and won't fill the 70% supply gap

# Carbon Free Smelter Supply Options 1,750 MW

- Stranded Hydro was the most economical choice for smelters in the past
- Wind+PV+Hydrogen as baseload option
- Government subsidised nuclear and lignite gained market shares in the '70s, followed by stranded gas in the Middle East in the '80s
- Internalization of CO<sub>2</sub> costs is a very European Scheme (and smelters are compensated for the costs)

Power Plant Type	CAPEX Life	CAPEX	OPEX 25 years	Interest	CAPEX	O&M	Fuel @market	CO2 @100 \$/t	LCOE w/ CO <sub>2</sub>	LME Ratio @2,500 \$/t	LCOE w/o CO <sub>2</sub>	LME Ratio @2,500 \$/t
					\$/MWh	\$/MWh	\$/MWh	\$/MWh	\$/MWh	%	\$/MWh	%
Hydro	75 Years	USD 8 bn	USD 4 bn	5,0%	26	10			36 \$/MWh	22%	36 \$/MWh	22%
Gas CCGT	50 Years	USD 2 bn	USD 21 bn	7,5%	10	5	50	40	105 \$/MWh	63%	65 \$/MWh	39%
Coal	50 Years	USD 4 bn	USD 20 bn	7,5%	21	10	43	85	159 \$/MWh	95%	74 \$/MWh	44%
Nuclear	50 Years	USD 9 bn	USD 8 bn	10,0%	61	15	7		83 \$/MWh	50%	83 \$/MWh	50%
Wind/PV with Battery/Hydrogen	25 Years	USD 9 bn	USD 4 bn	5,0%	40	10			50 \$/MWh	30%	50 \$/MWh	30%

**Train yourself to let  
go of everything you  
fear to lose**



**Flexibility is the new  
Scarcity**

# New Locations for Energy Intensive Processes



BUSINESS | NAMIBIA

## Germany eyes Namibia's green hydrogen

Jasko Rust | Lisa Ossenbrink

12/02/2022

Namibia wants to become one of the world's leading producers of green hydrogen. Germany is interested in the project, but not everyone is cheering in Namibia.

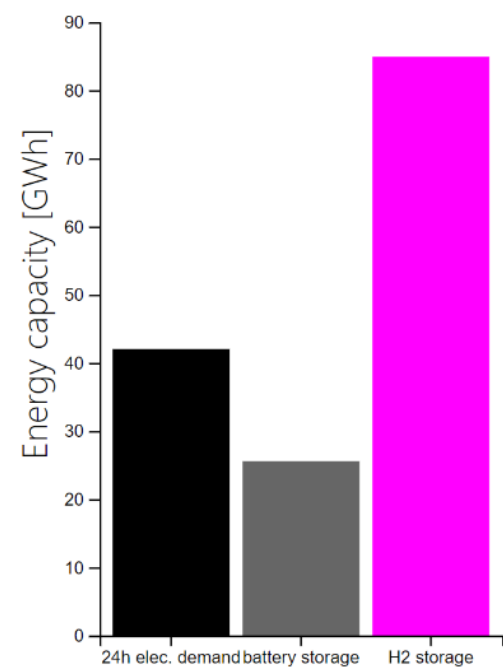
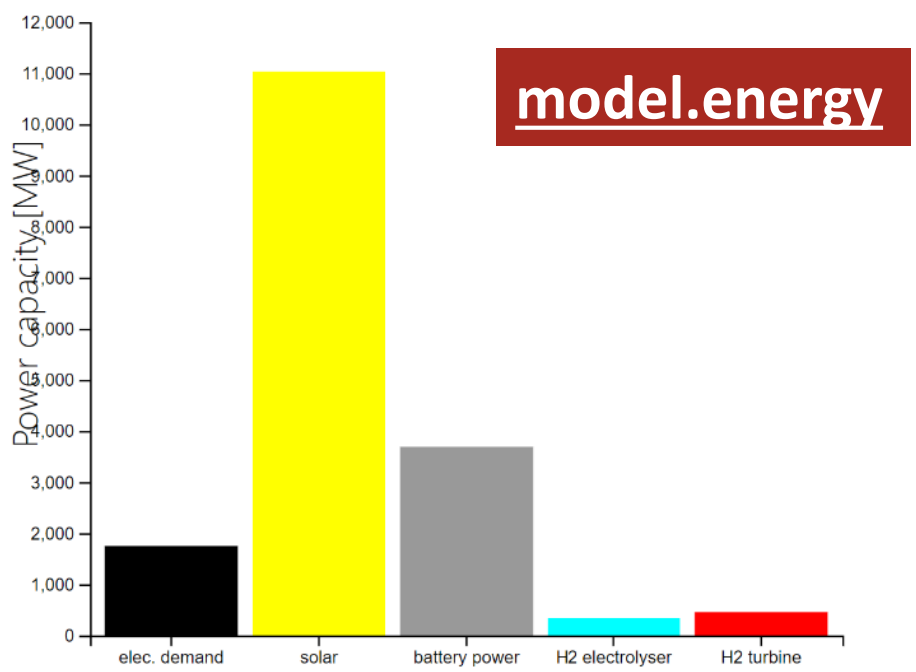
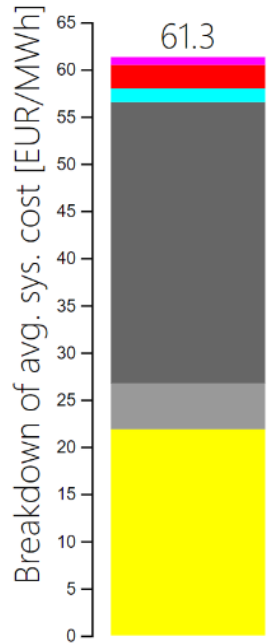
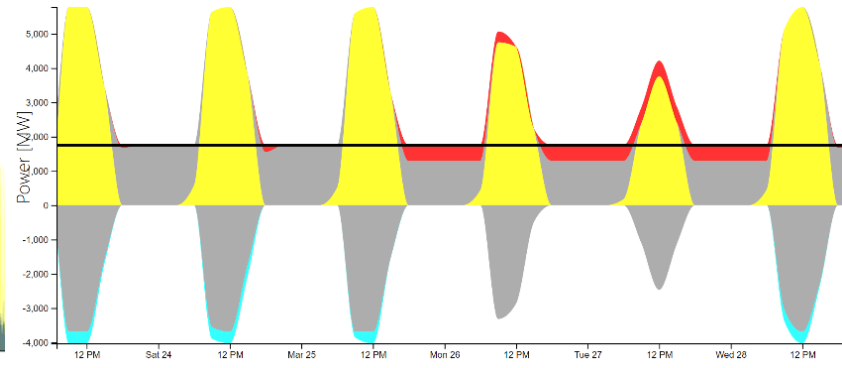
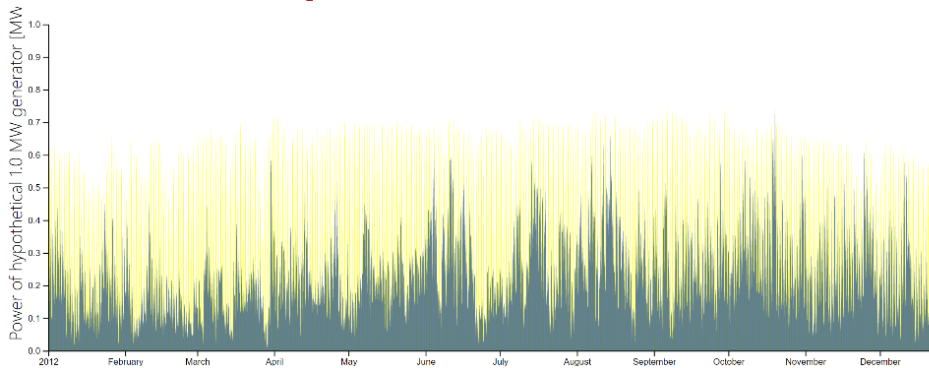
6 GW Renewables  
15 TWh Electricity  
3 GW Electrolyser  
USD 10 bn CAPEX  
300 kt/a H<sub>2</sub>

(could also power 1 Mt smelter)



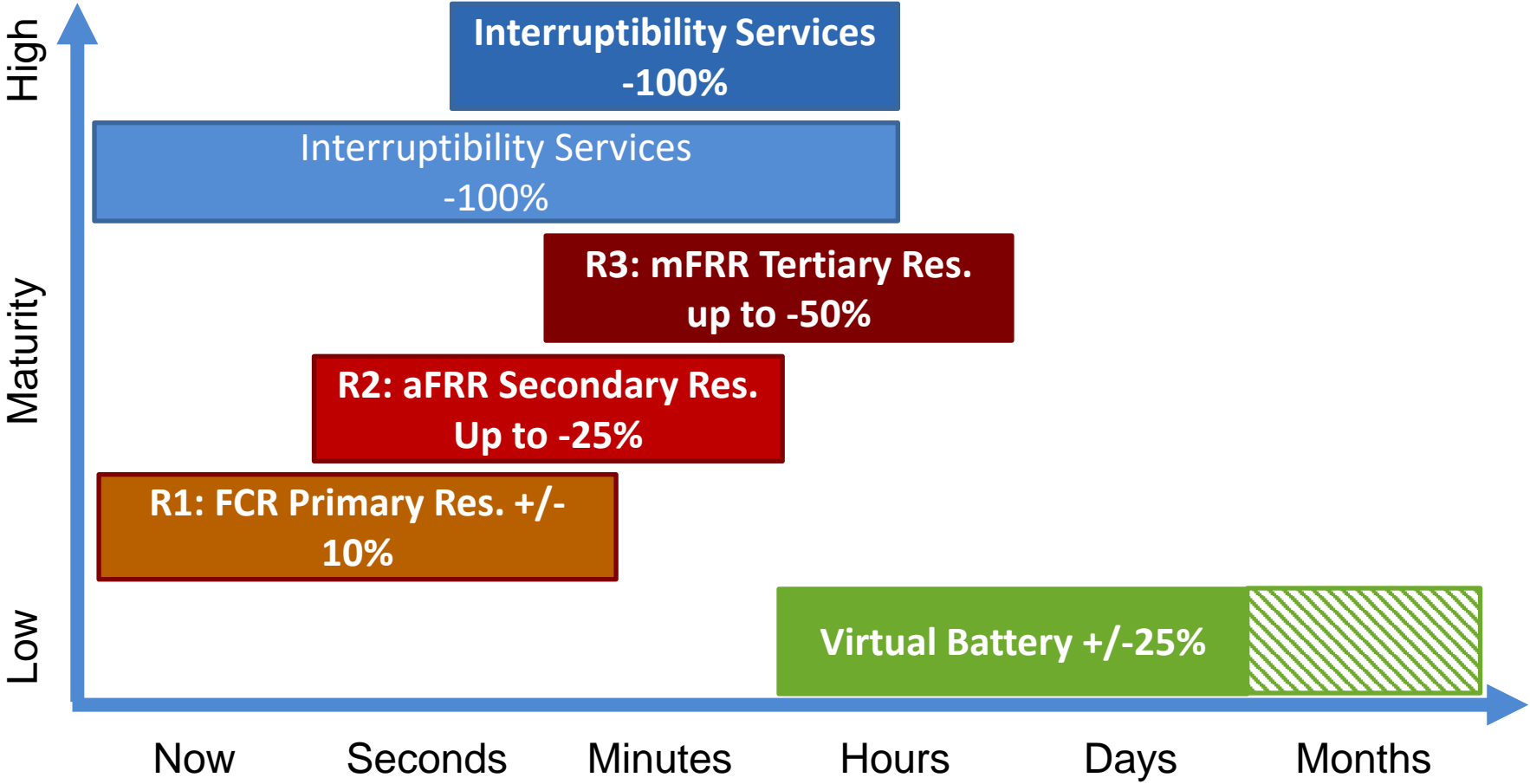
# Example: Namibia

## 1,750 MW Zero Carbon Base Load



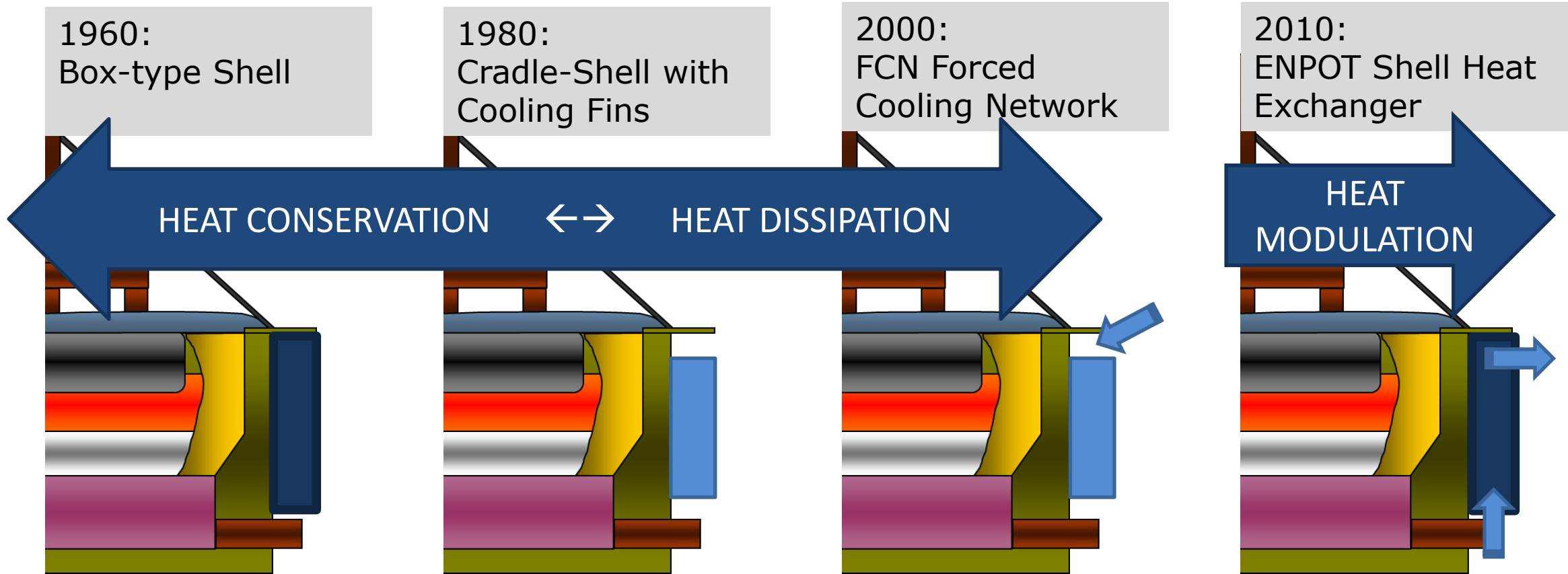
**@2,500 USD/t LME**  
 20 → 12% Ratio  
 40 → 24% Ratio  
 60 → 36% Ratio

# Balancing Services of Aluminium Smelters

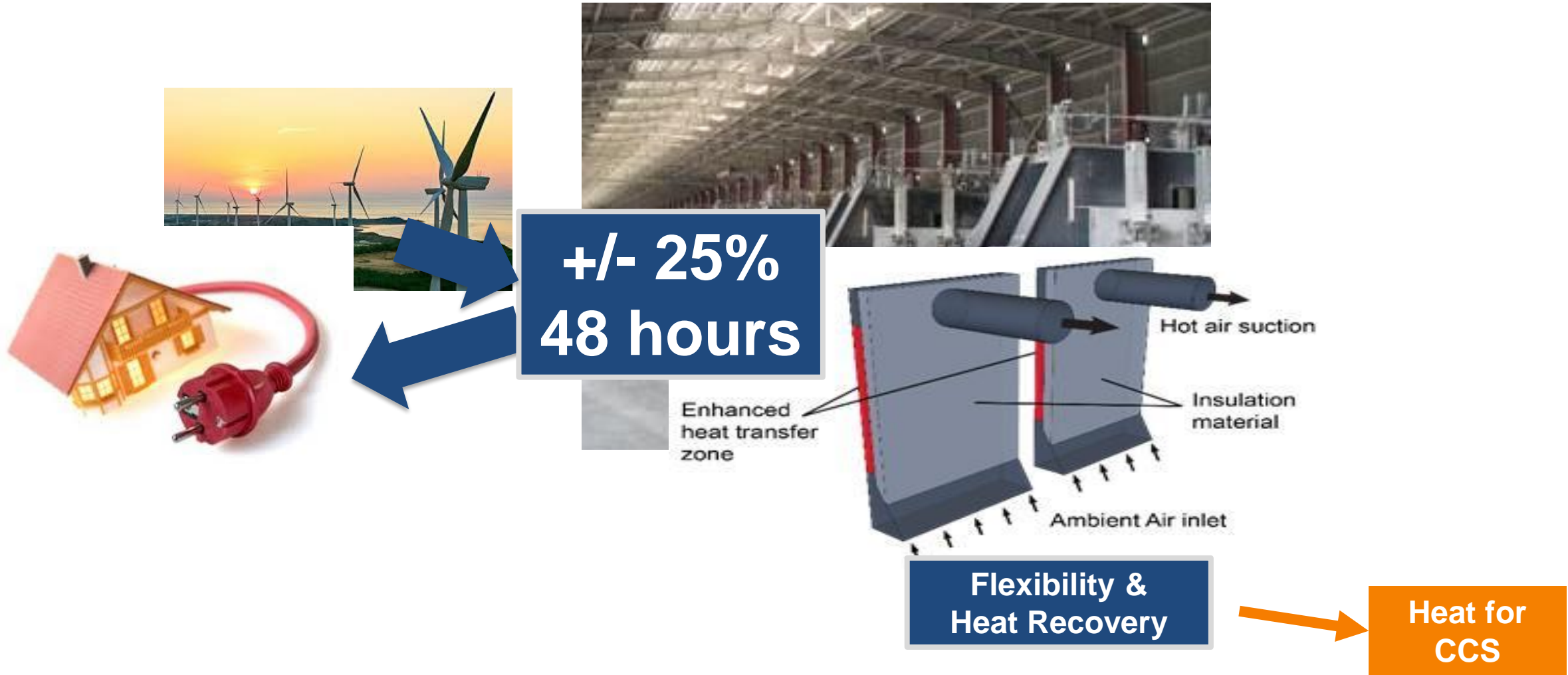


# Aluminium smelter: Development

## Side Wall Heat Loss Development



# VIRTUAL BATTERY Example





# Virtual Battery Components



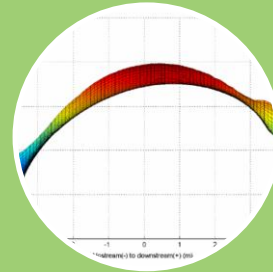
SHE

Modulating the Side-Wall Heat Loss from the Cell



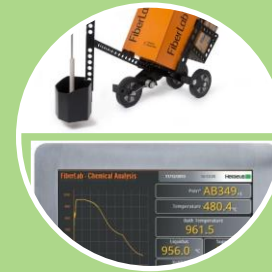
GTC Flex

Modulating the Top-Heat Losses from the Cell



Magnetic Compensation

Reducing Magnetic Effects & Metal Pad Heave



Flex Control

Adaptation of Process/Pot Control System



Energy Supply

Increase Responsiveness with Transducers

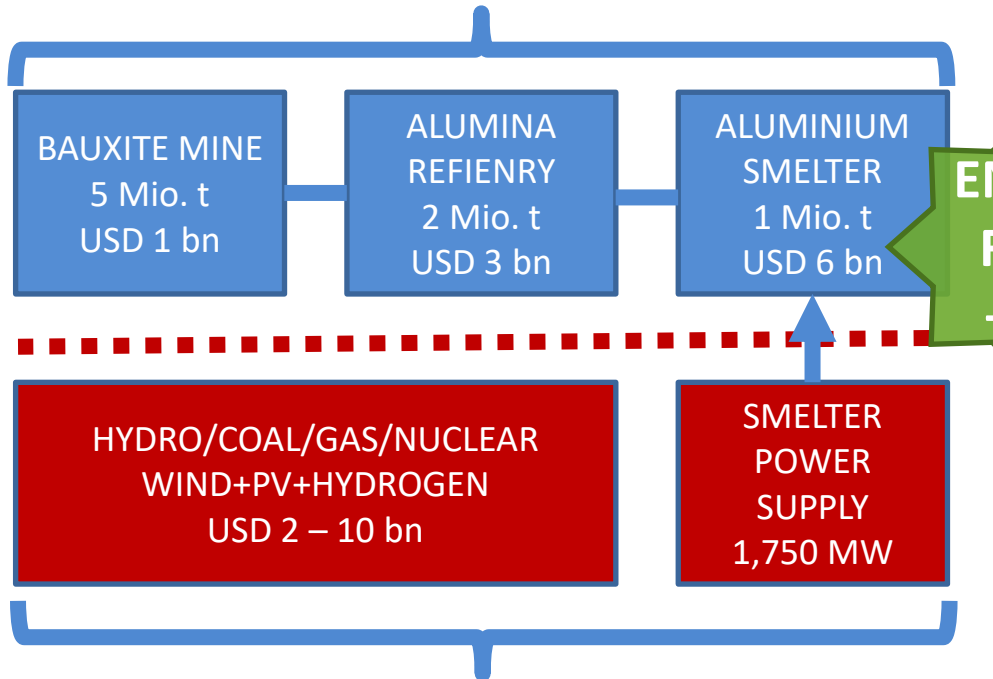
**Thermal Regulation**

# Aluminium Production Value Chain CAPEX

1 Million ton Smelter → 15 TWh Electricity

SMELTER

CAPEX USD 6 bn



1 Million Ton Smelter:

- USD 6 bn Smelter CAPEX  
Conventional incl. Anode plant and Casthouse
- plus additional 5% = USD 0.3 bn for Flexibility  
Magnetic Compensation, Auxiliary upgrade
- plus an additional 15% = USD 0.9 bn for Carbon  
Capture → Full CO<sub>2</sub> capture plant (amine-based)  
80-90% capture rate

- Flexibility Services plus Heat for CCS from ENPOT could save 100 – 250 MUSD (creating a payback period of less than three years)
- The value of the captured heat alone would save 25 MUSD per year → already, the heat for 12 years would pay the whole investment.

Baseload Renewable Energy Supply  
PV/Wind/Battery/Hydrogen USD 9 bn

# Investment Incentives

		<b>EBITDA per t Al</b>	<b>CAPEX per anual ton</b>	<b>Pay Back Period</b>
<b>Aluminium Smelter</b>	<b>LME+MB/MW = 2,500 USD/t</b>	<b>500 \$/t Al</b>	<b>6,000 \$/t Al</b>	<b>12 years</b>
<b>Carbon Capture</b>	<b>Green Premium = 250 USD/t</b>	<b>100 \$/t Al</b>	<b>900 \$/t Al</b>	<b>9 years</b>
<b>Flex + Heat</b>	<b>Power Discount 5 USD/MWh<sub>El</sub> Heat 16 USD/MWh<sub>th</sub></b>	<b>100 \$/t Al</b>	<b>300 \$/t Al</b>	<b>3 years</b>

Okay, we've achieved "Net Zero".  
Now what?



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

**NEAR ZERO ALUMINIUM** is achievable

It requires:

- No Accounting Loopholes and Greenwashing
- Combine Flexibility and Heat Recovery
- Green Premium of 10-20% of LME



**My boss told me to  
have a good day...**



**So I went home.**

# THANKS for your ATTENTION

