

Aluminium Smelters as Catalysts for the Energy Transition

Empowering Renewable Energy Transport and Advancing Grid Decarbonization

Dr. Martin Iffert



MARTIN IFFERT CONSULTING GmbH
EP ENERGY POOL GmbH



Key Takeaway Messages

1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM



Key Takeaway Messages

A brown donkey is shown from the chest up, facing forward. It is wearing a red collar with yellow and blue patterns. The donkey is heavily laden with supplies. On its back, there is a large white container, a green plastic crate, and several bags. The donkey is standing on a rocky path with mountains in the background.

1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM

Key Takeaway Messages

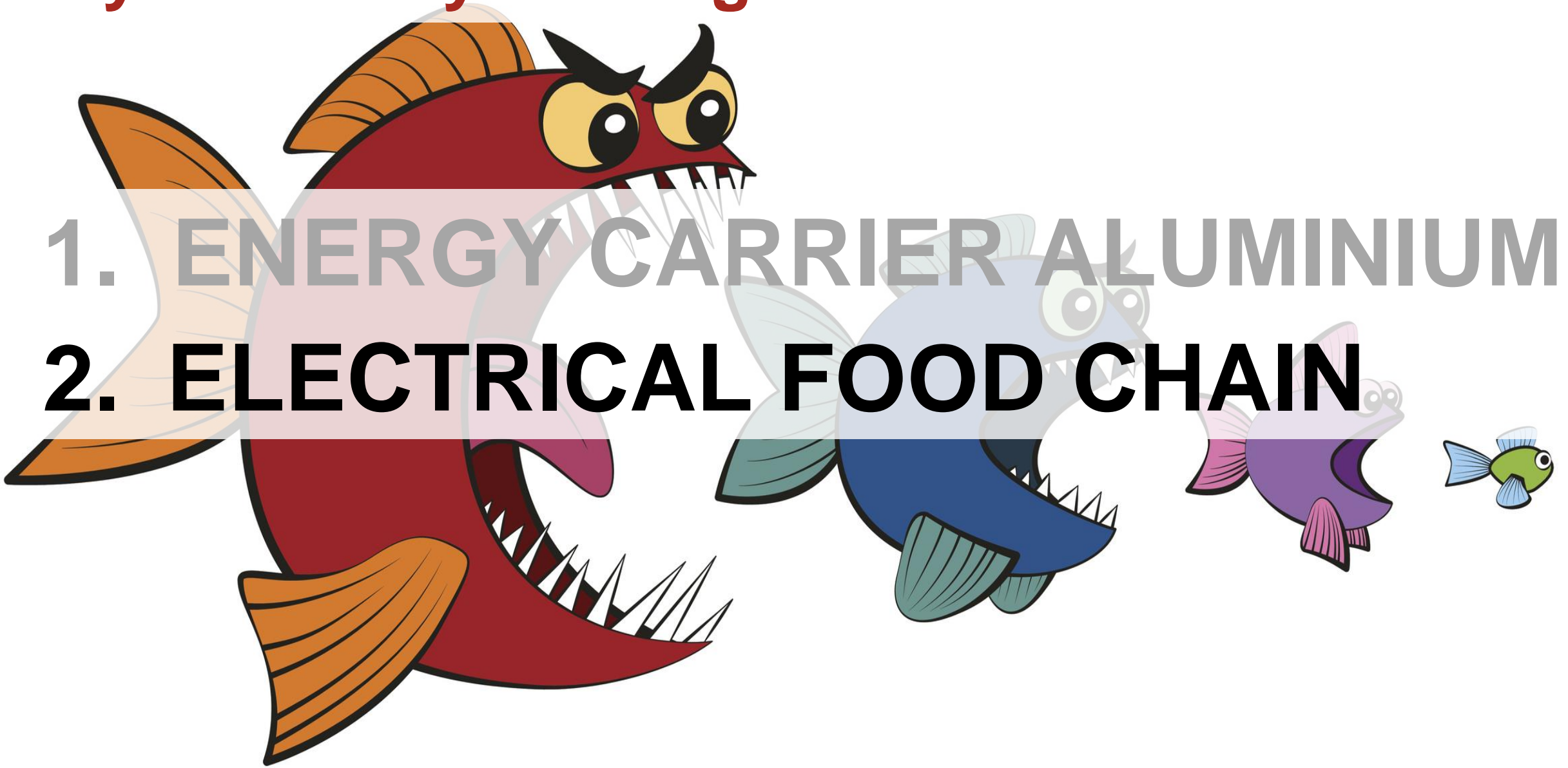
1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM
2. ELECTRICAL FOOD CHAIN



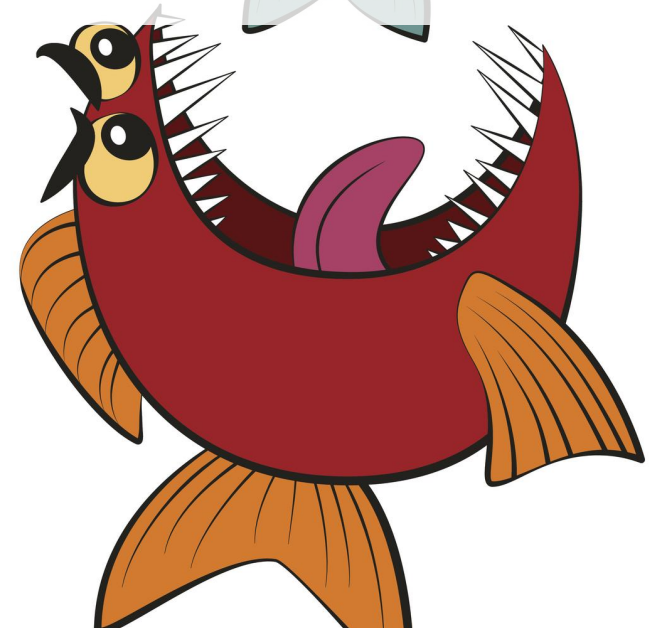
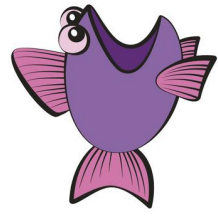
Key Takeaway Messages

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Key Takeaway Messages



1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM

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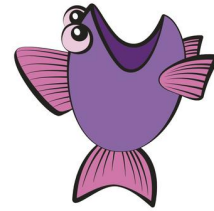


Key Takeaway Messages

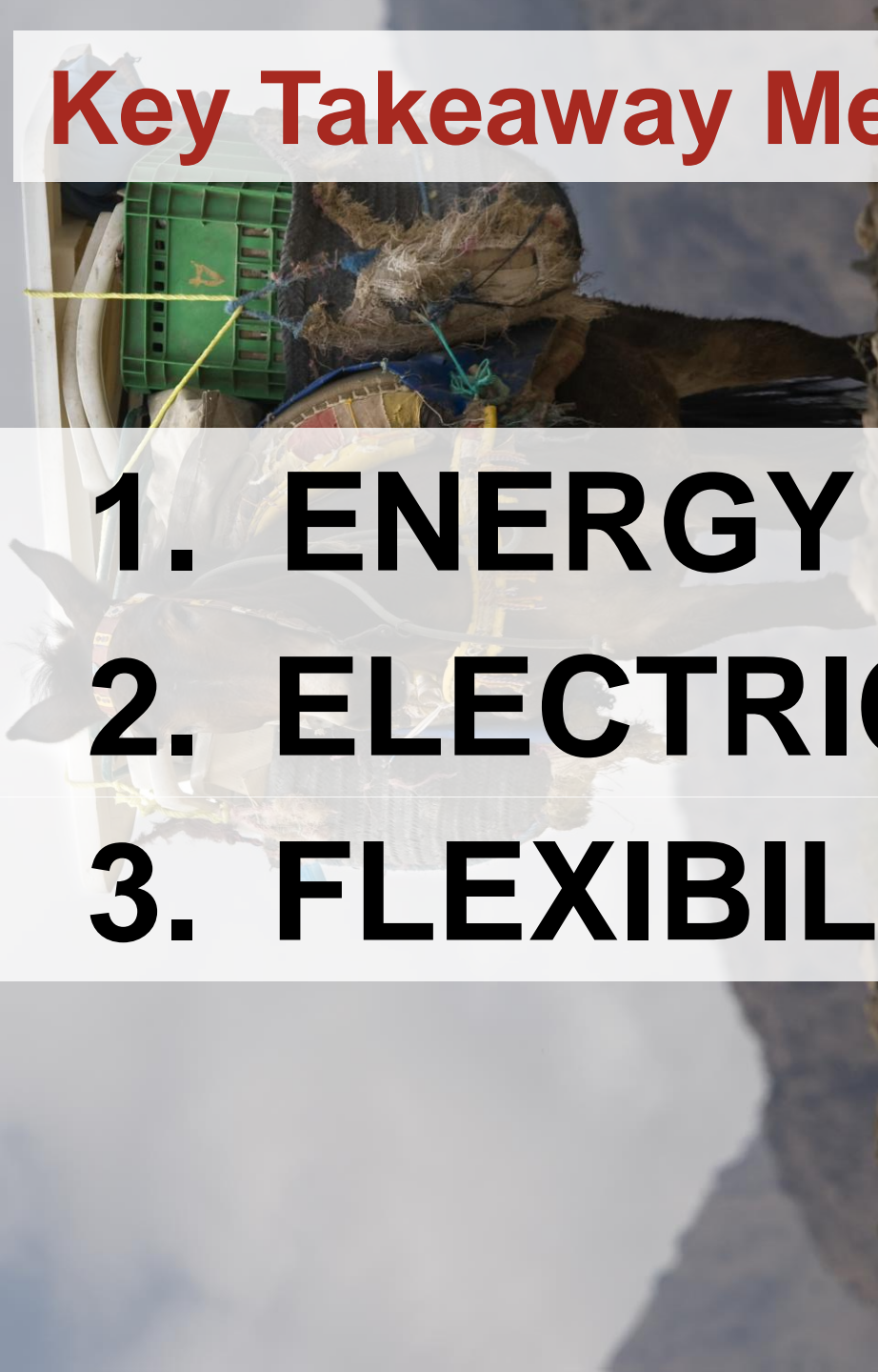


1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM
2. ELECTRICAL FOOD CHAIN
3. **FLEXIBILITY IS KING**

Key Takeaway Messages



- 1. ENERGY CARRIER ALUMINIUM**
- 2. ELECTRICAL FOOD CHAIN**
- 3. FLEXIBILITY IS KING**



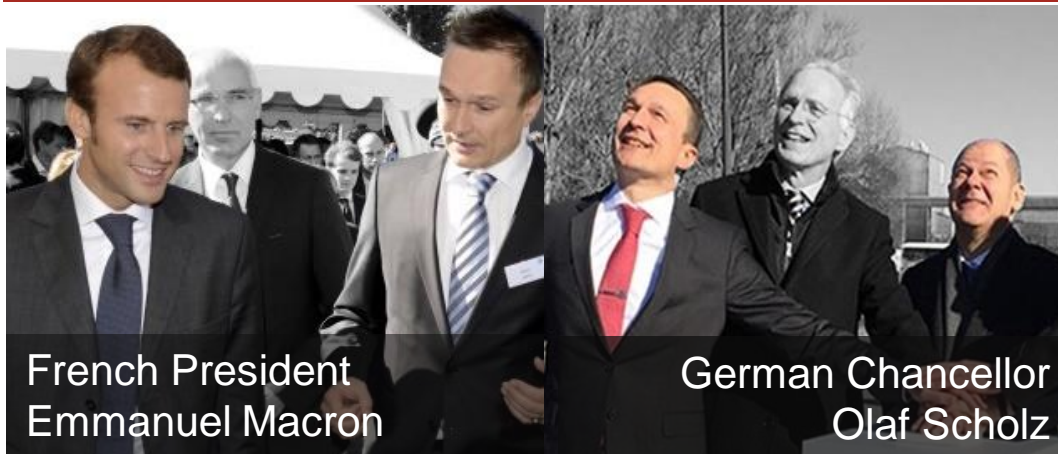
Martin's Bio

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



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

Fear leads to anger.

Anger leads to hate.

Hate leads to suffering.



The World on Fire



Wild Fires Canada Sept-1les



Wild Fires Canada



BUZZ

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Grid
d networks Green
Business Hydrogen m
Interne gy He
Grid exp
Reduce demand
Smart grids

side m
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side
Electrification

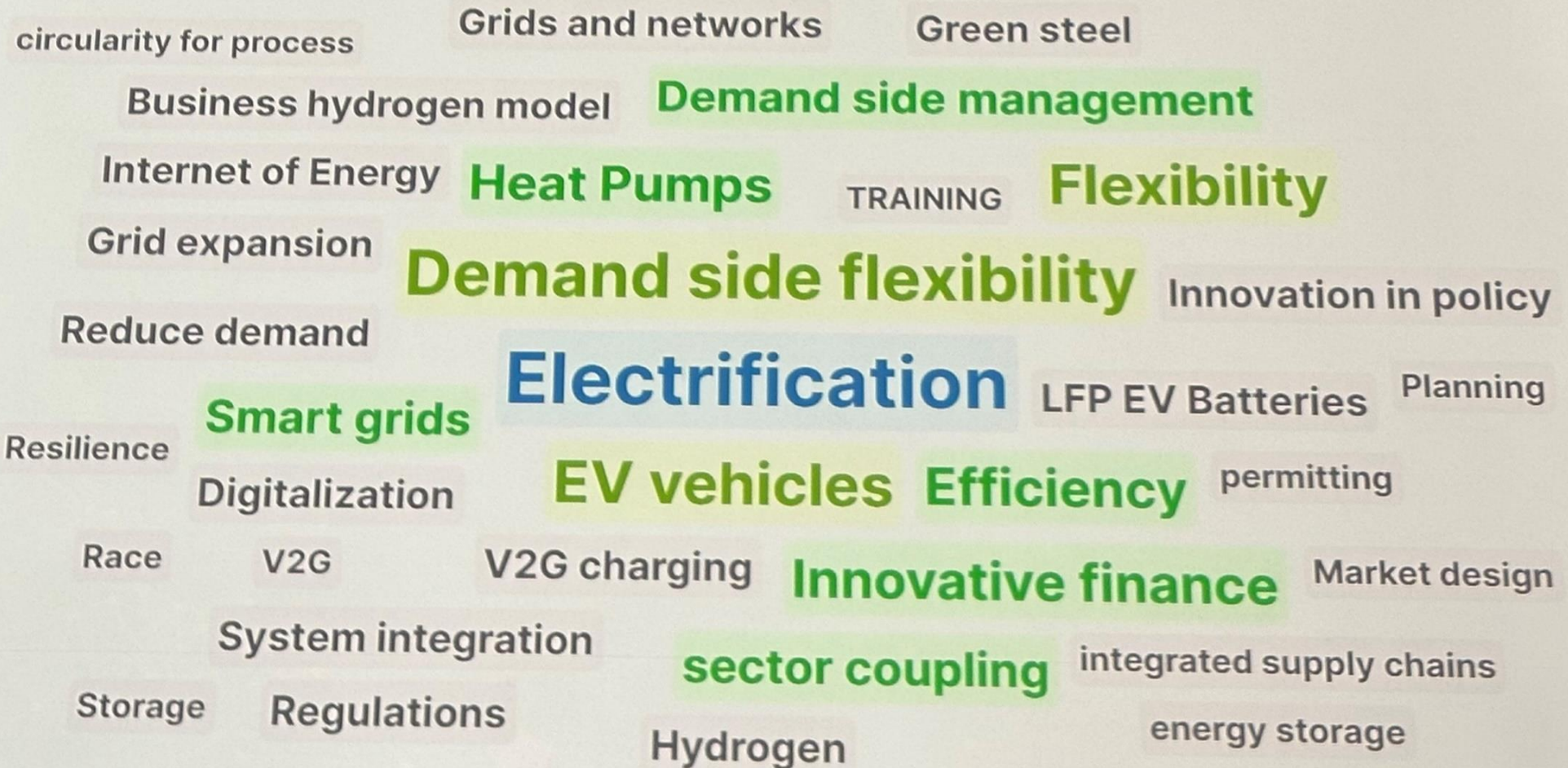
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Join at
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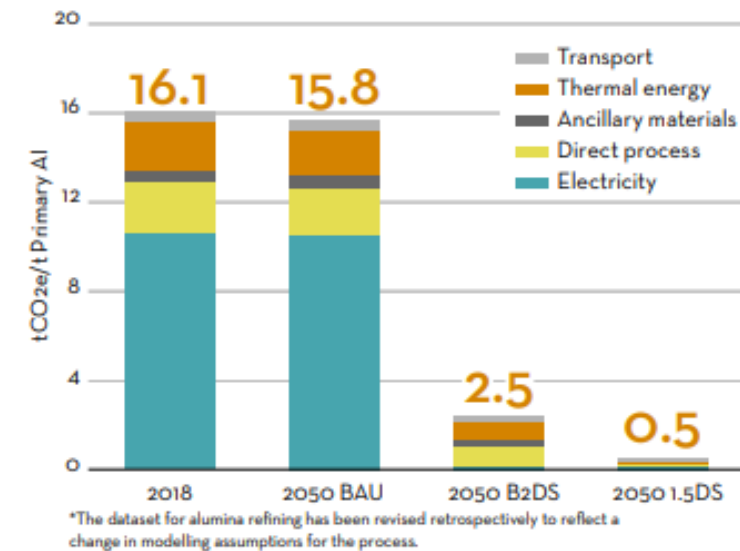
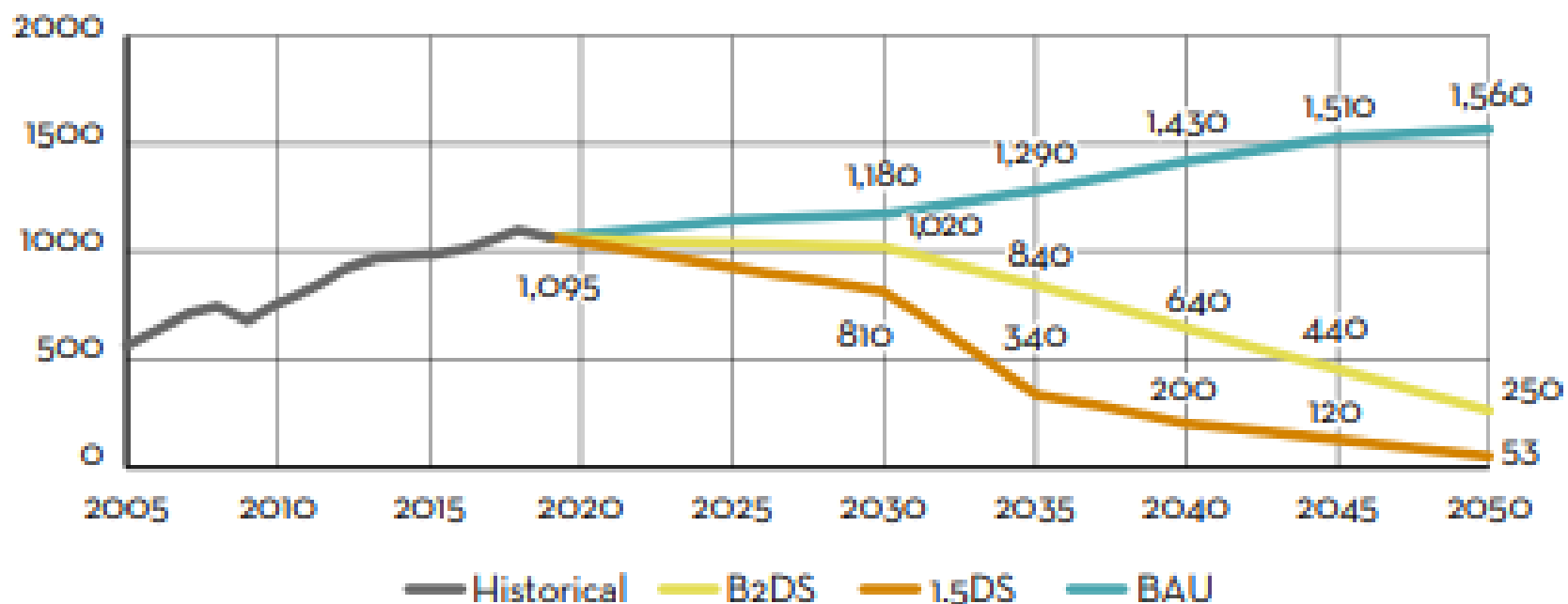


What are the top-3 innovations discussed during the event that would most accelerate the decarbonisation of end-use sectors?



How to achieve the 1.5 DEGREES SCENARIO

Aluminium Sector (million tonnes CO₂e)



- 60% related to Power Source
- 15% related to Carbon Anodes
- 25% related to other Scope 3

Decarbonization...

Playing not to Lose



Playing to Win



Decarbonization...

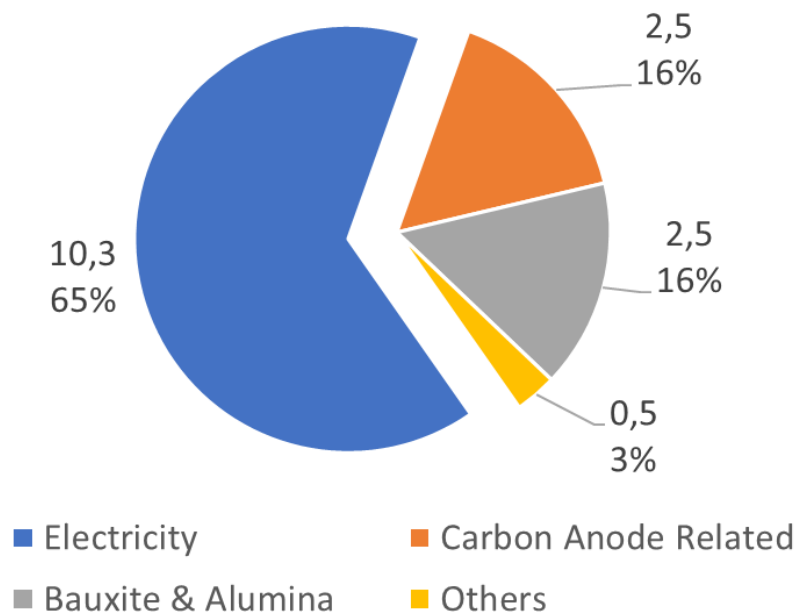
Playing not to Lose

Playing to Win

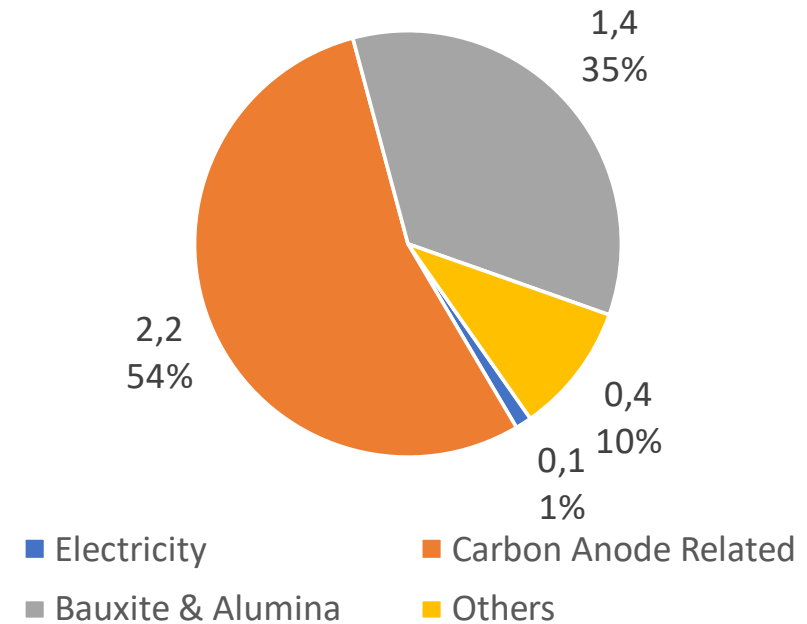


GHG – World vs. Best in Class, e.g. AAI

World Average GHG Emission: 16 t CO₂ per t Al



AAI Average GHG Emission: 4 t CO₂ per t Al

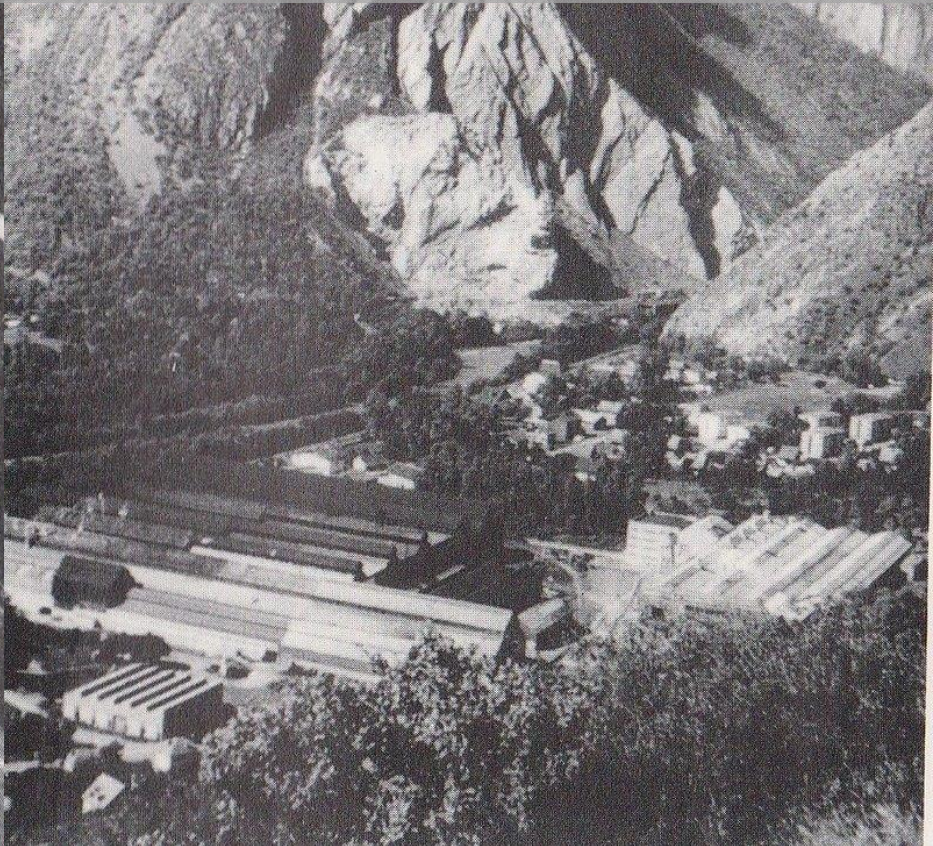
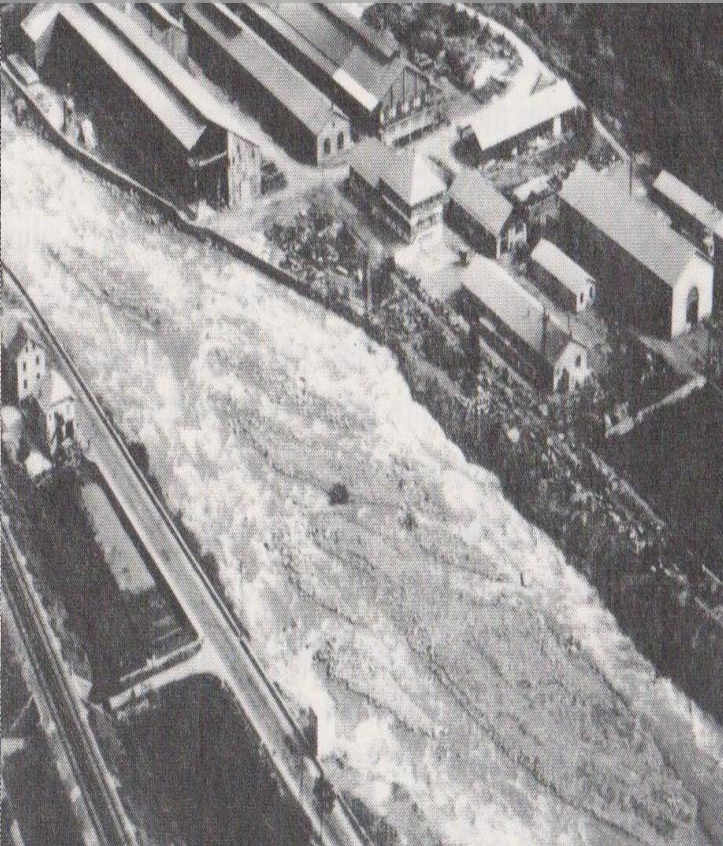
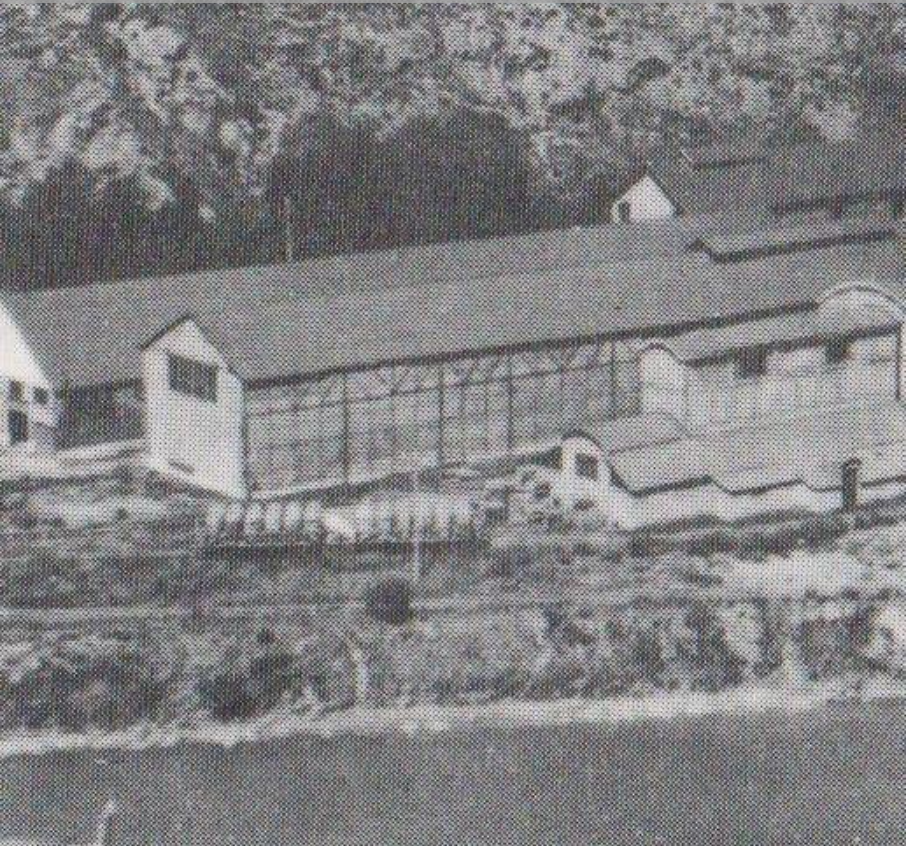


A Century of Energy Unlocking with Aluminum Smelters

Historical Overview of Aluminum Smelters



1892-1906: Maurienne Val 6 Aluminium Smelters



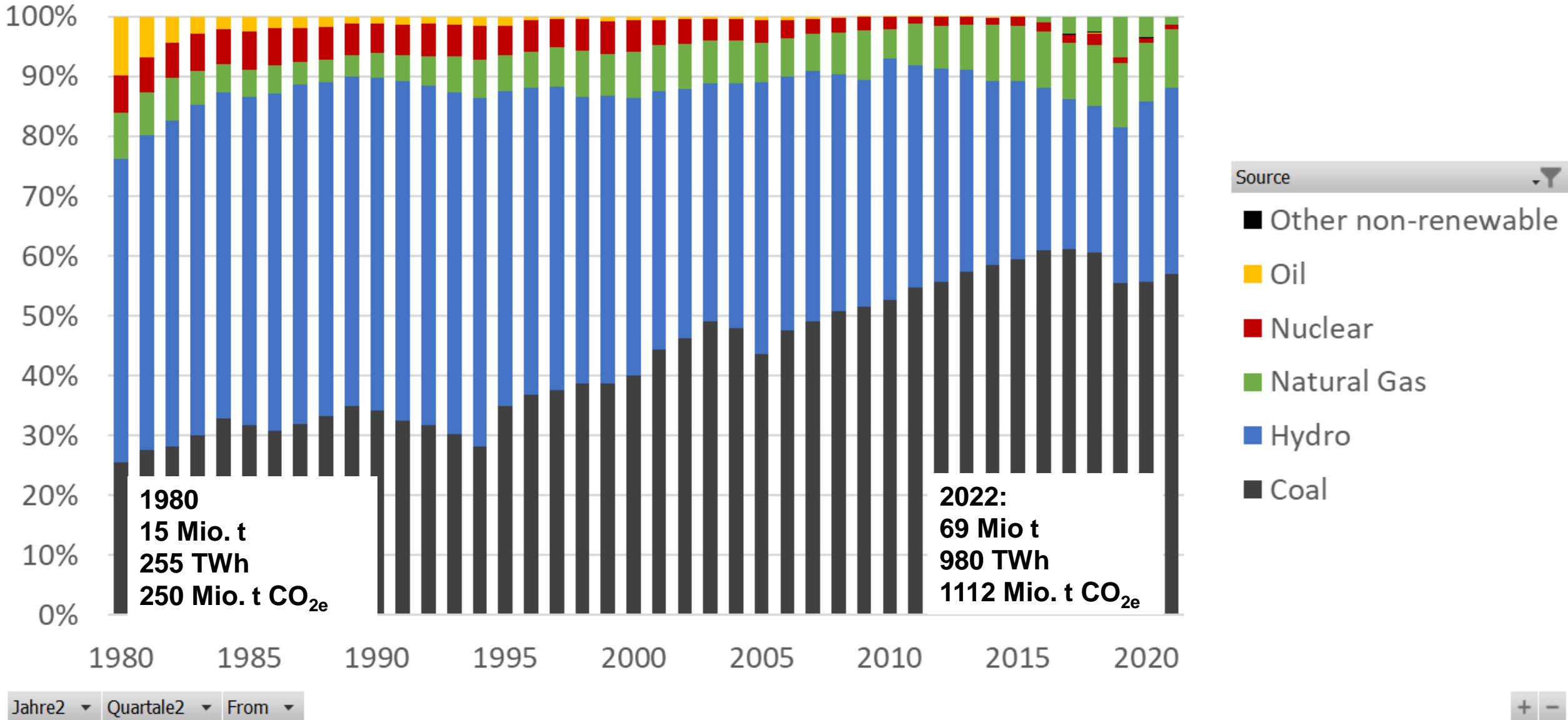
1906 to AP30/AP40



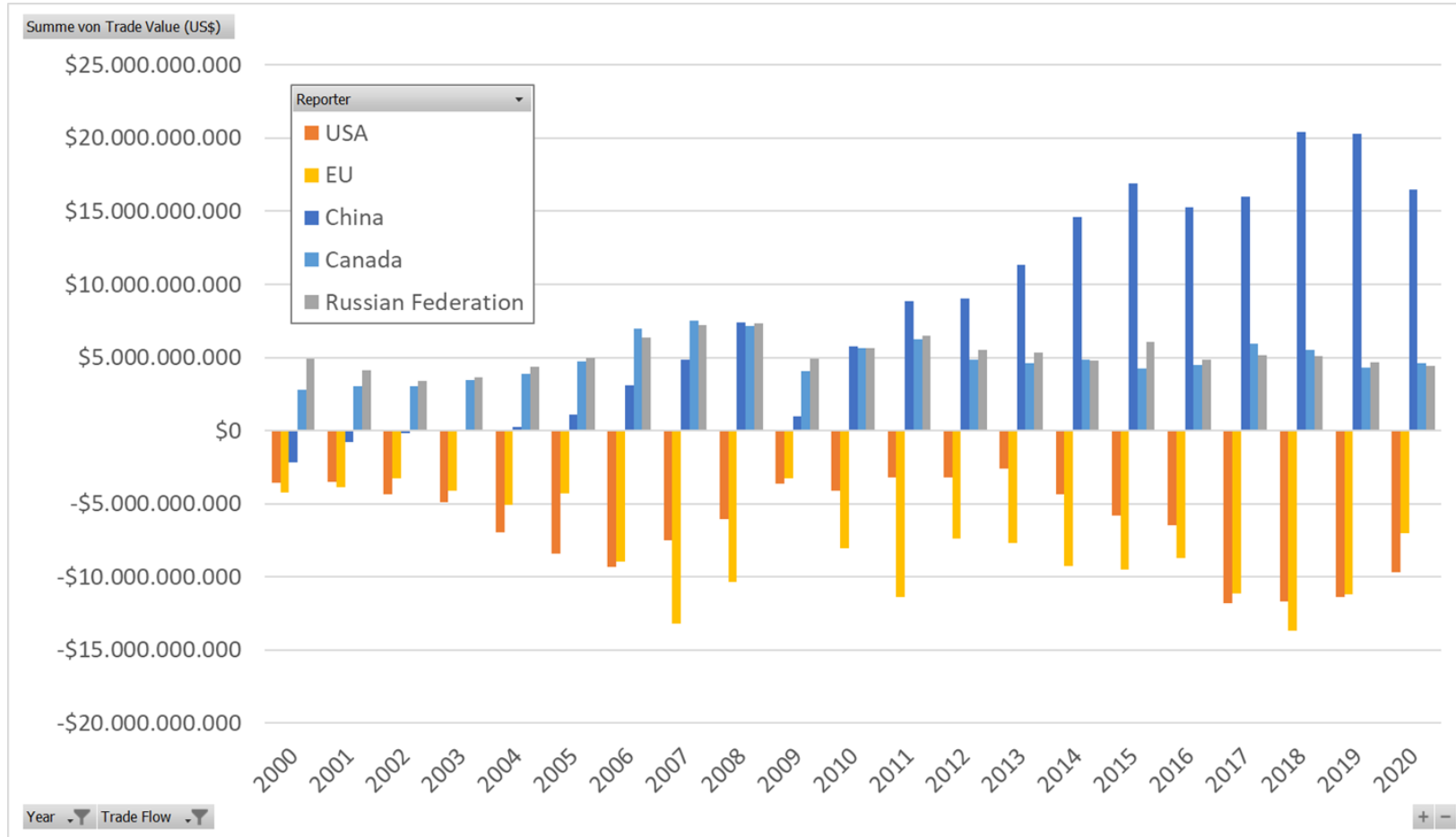
1906 to AP30/AP40



Past Energy Sources & Uses



Evolution of Aluminum as an Energy Carrier

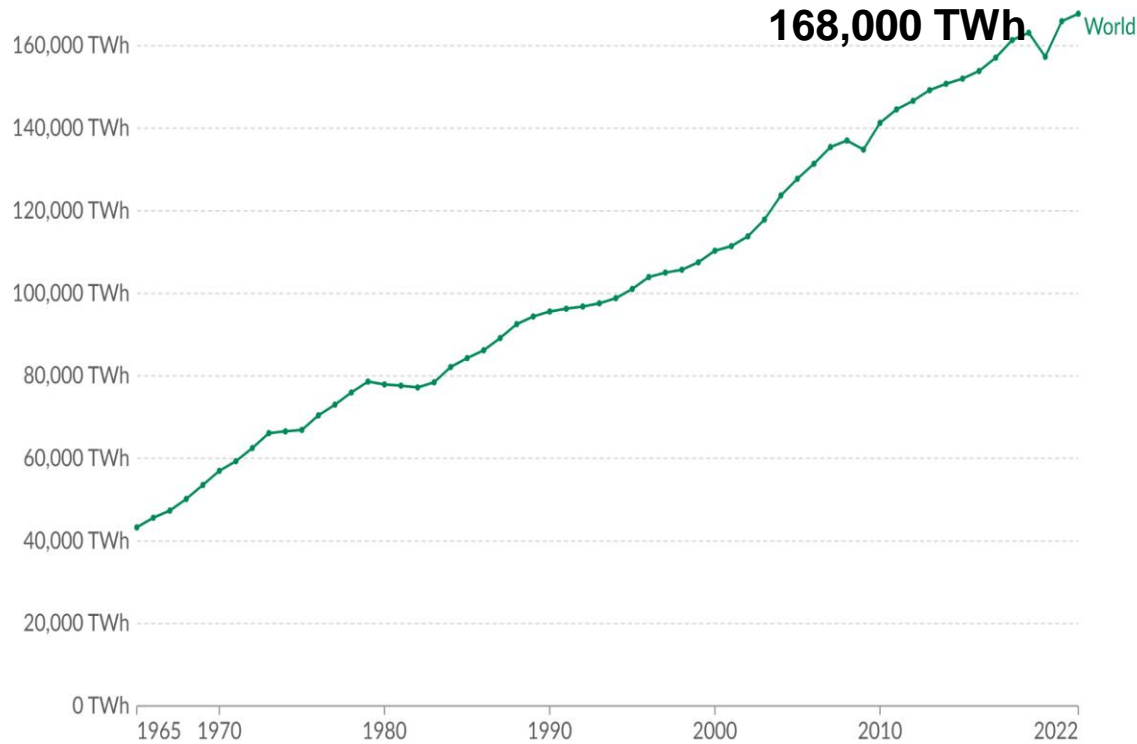


World Annual PE Consumption vs. EL Generation

Primary energy consumption

Primary energy¹ consumption is measured in terawatt-hours², using the substitution method³.

Our World in Data

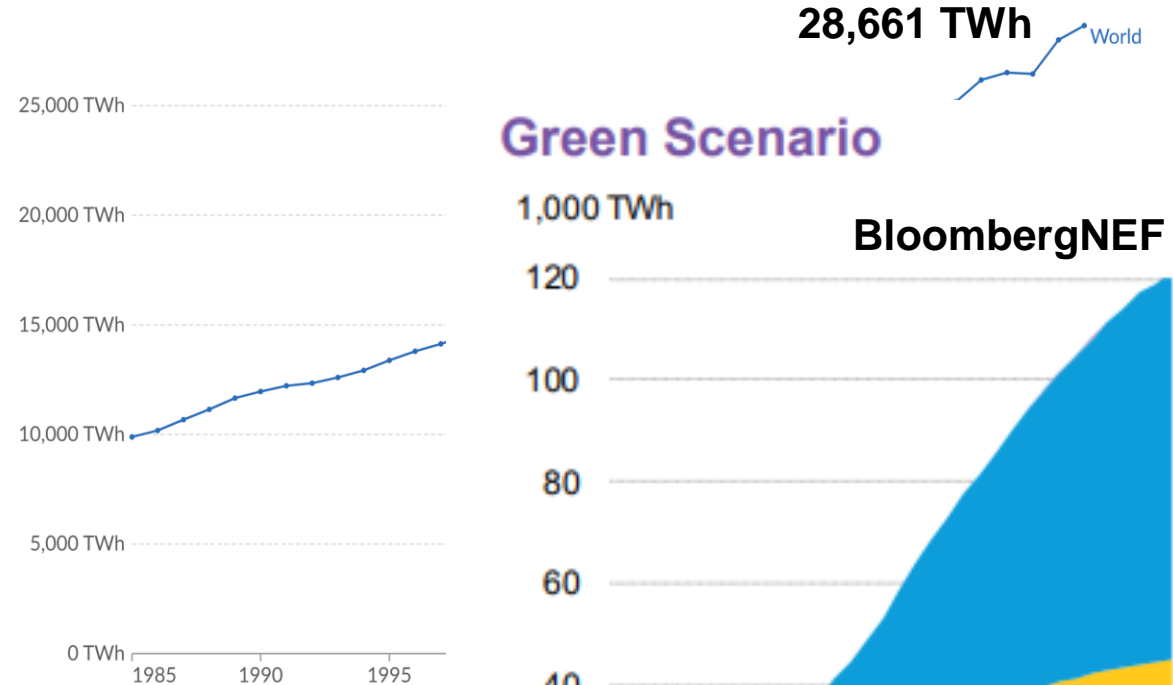


Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (2023); Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2023)
 Note: Data includes only commercially-traded fuels (coal, oil, gas), nuclear and modern renewables. It does not include traditional biomass.
OurWorldInData.org/energy/ | [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Electricity generation

Measured in terawatt-hours¹.

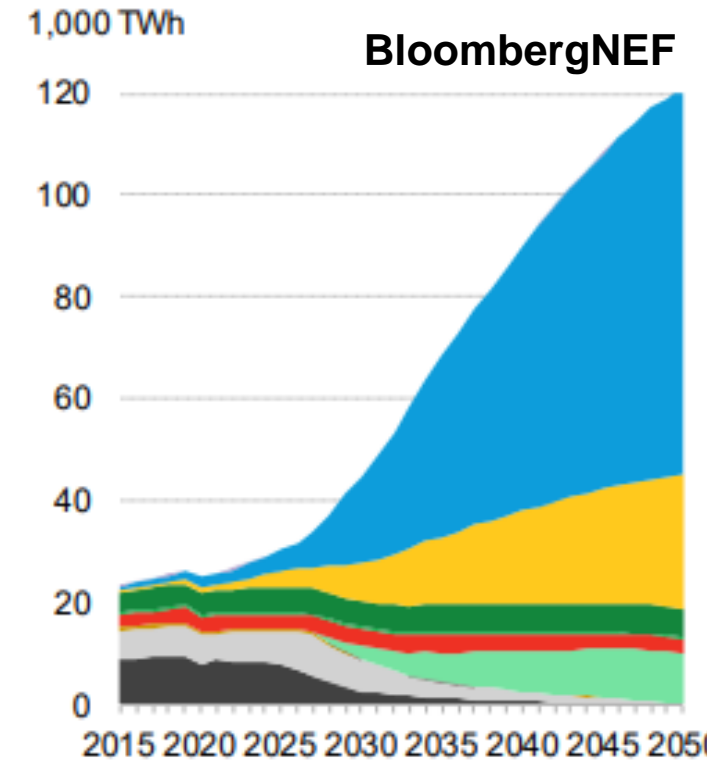
Our World in Data



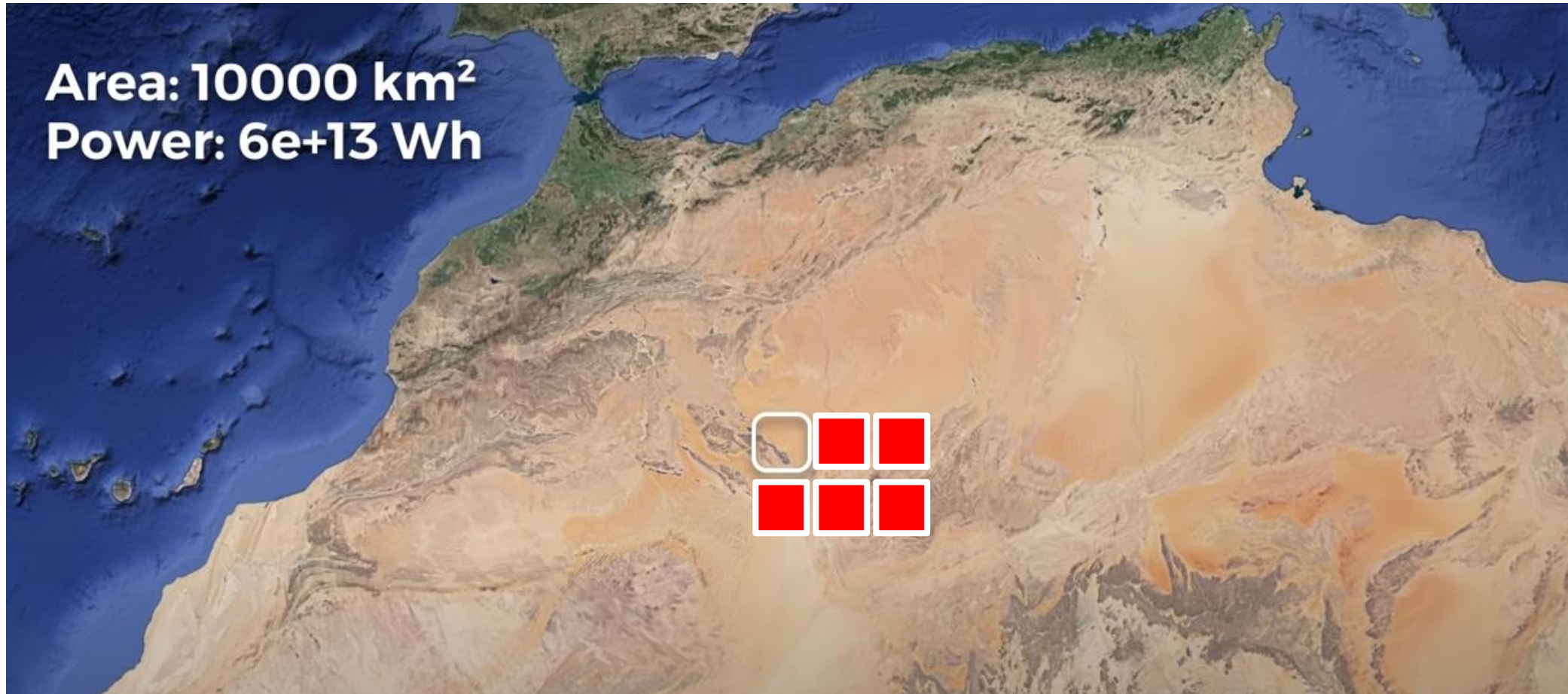
Data source: Ember - Yearly Electricity Data (2023) of World Energy (2023)
OurWorldInData.org/energy/ | [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

1. Watt-hour: A watt-hour is the energy delivered by one watt of power in one hour. A kilowatt-hour is equivalent to 3600 Joules of energy. Metric watt-hours. - Megawatt-hours (MWh), or a million watt-hours.

Green Scenario



All we Need – 79 TWh per day = 28,861 TWh per year

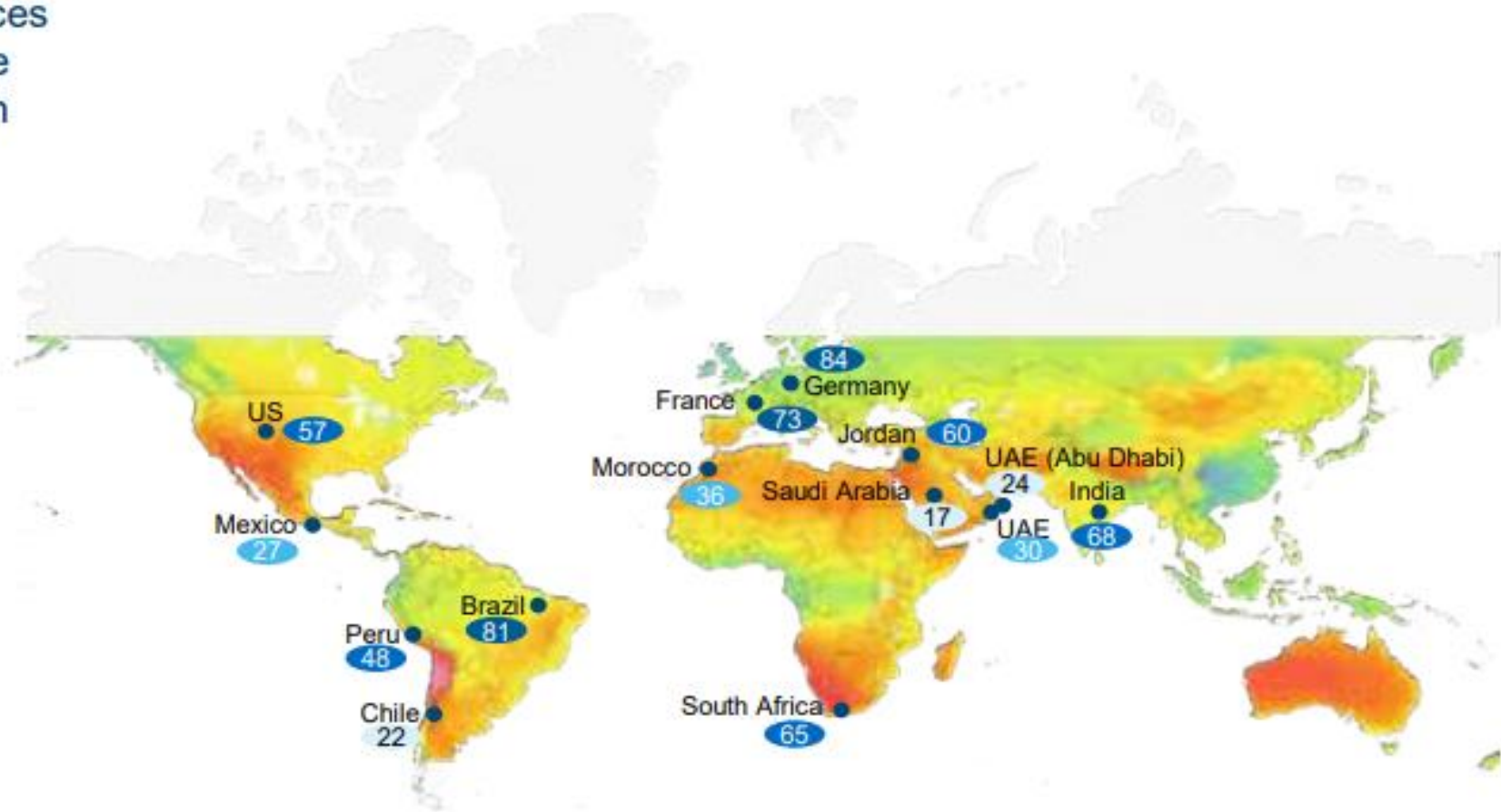


[The Problem with Solar Energy in Africa \(youtube.com\)](#)



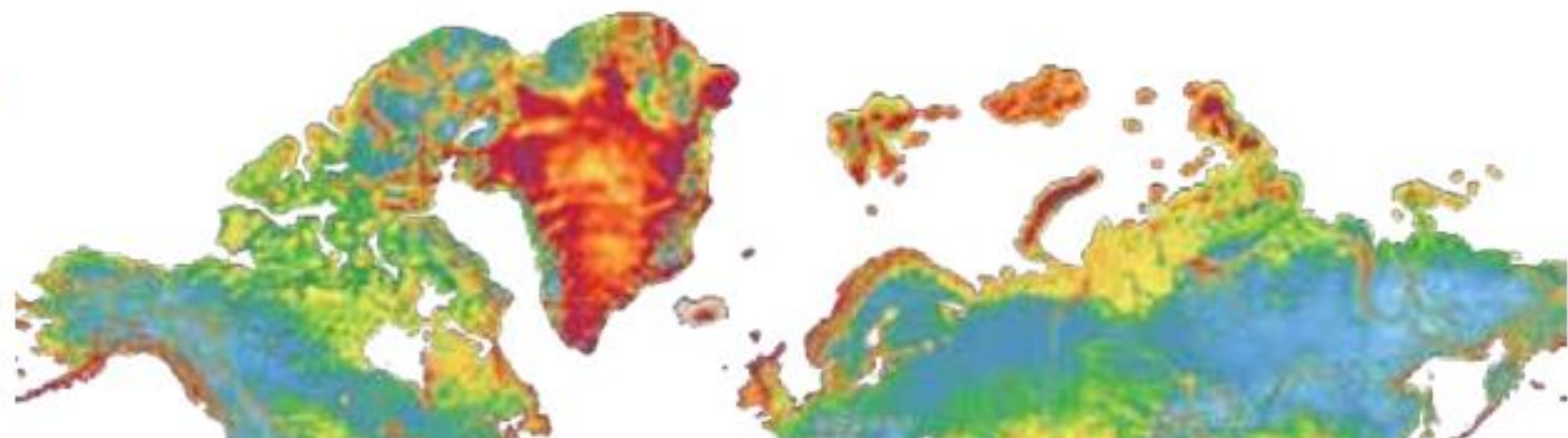
Very low electricity prices for solar PV energy are reached in regions with high insolation

SOURCE: WorldBank



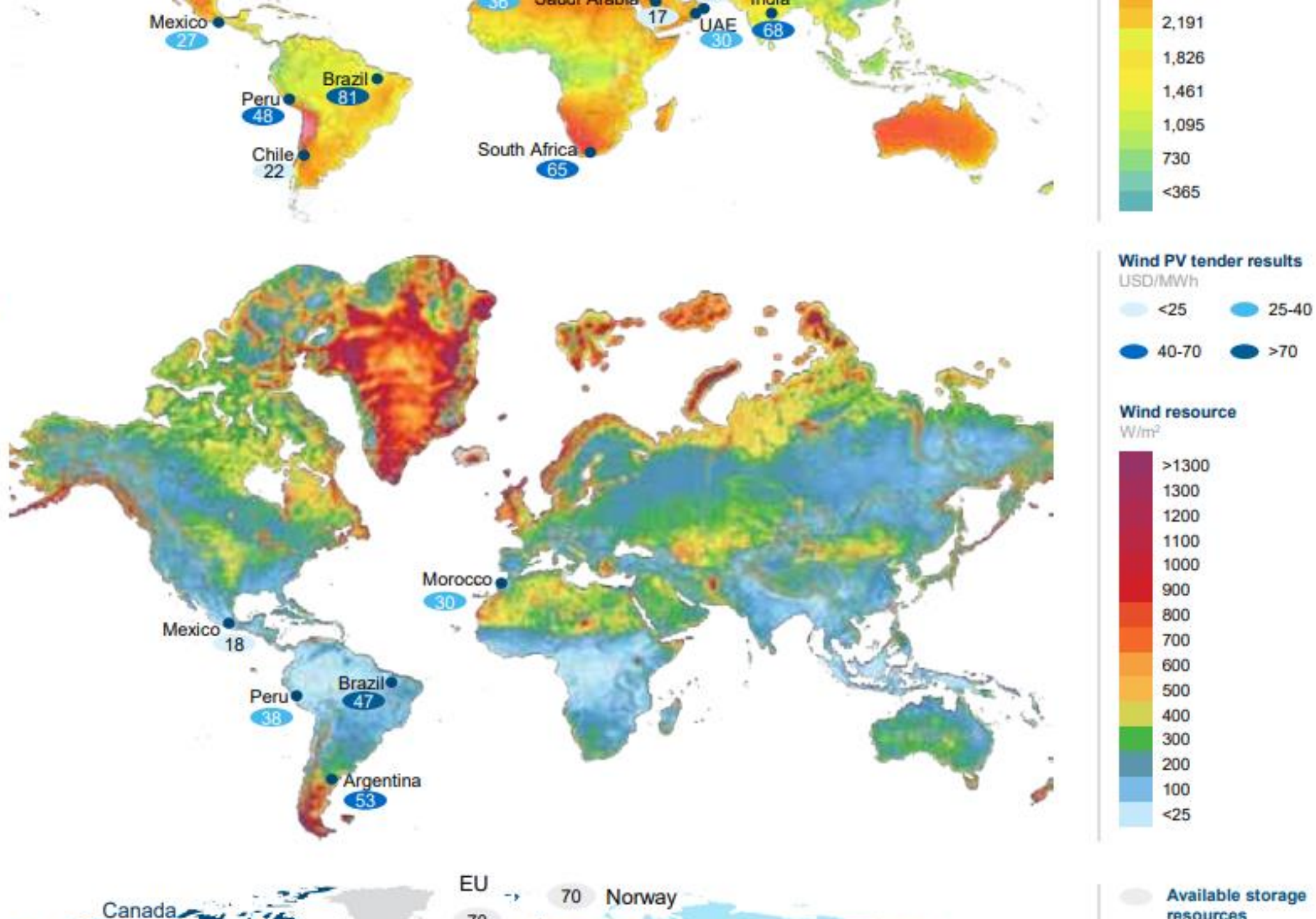
Very low electricity prices for wind energy are reached in highly specific locations

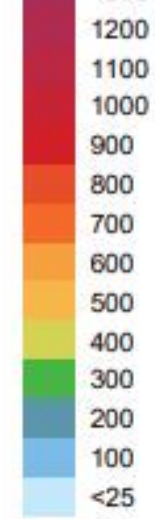
SOURCE: WorldBank



Very low electricity prices for wind energy are reached in highly specific locations

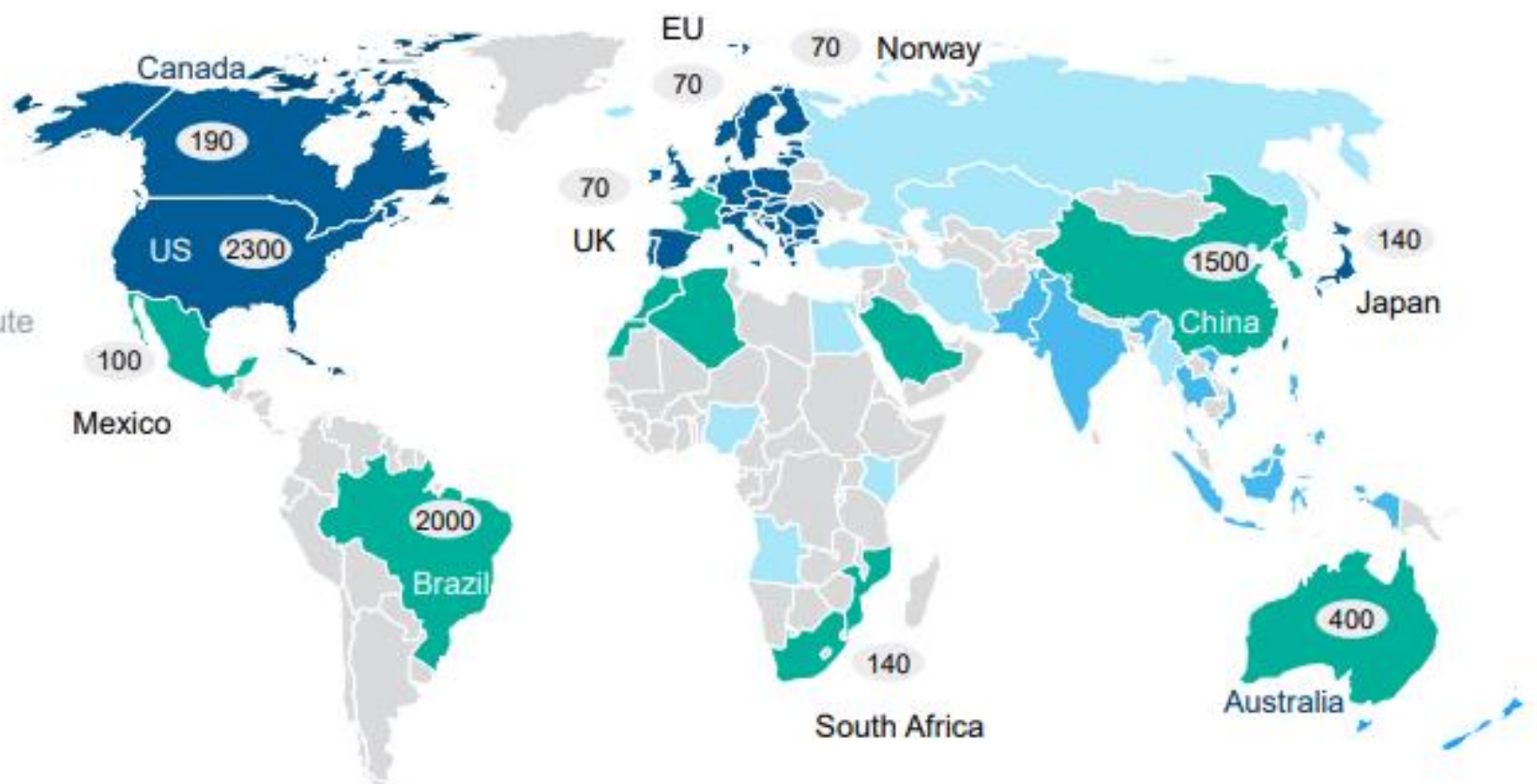
SOURCE: WorldBank



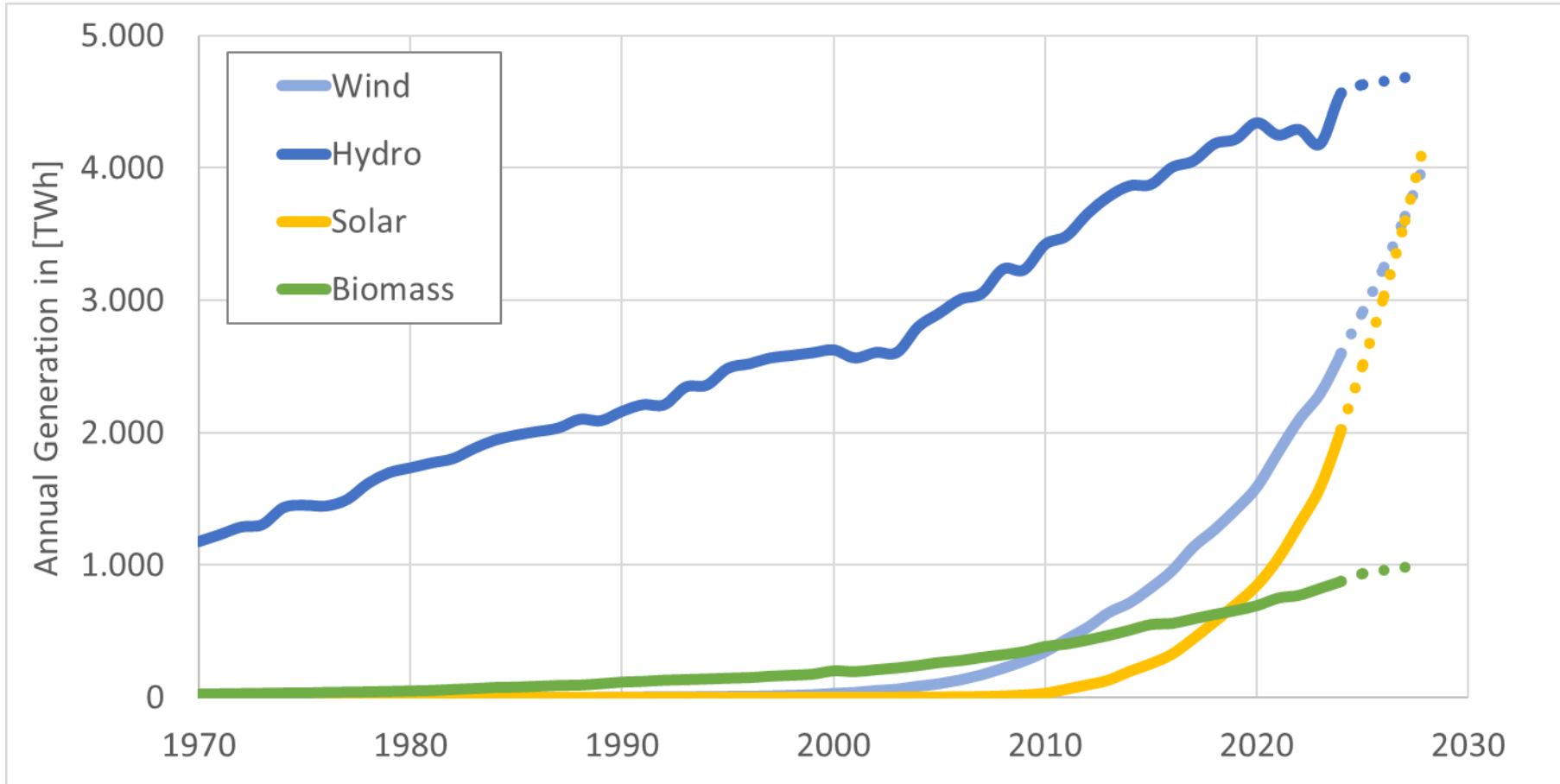


Availability of CO₂ storage resources differs locally

SOURCE: Global CCS Institute



World Renewable Energies

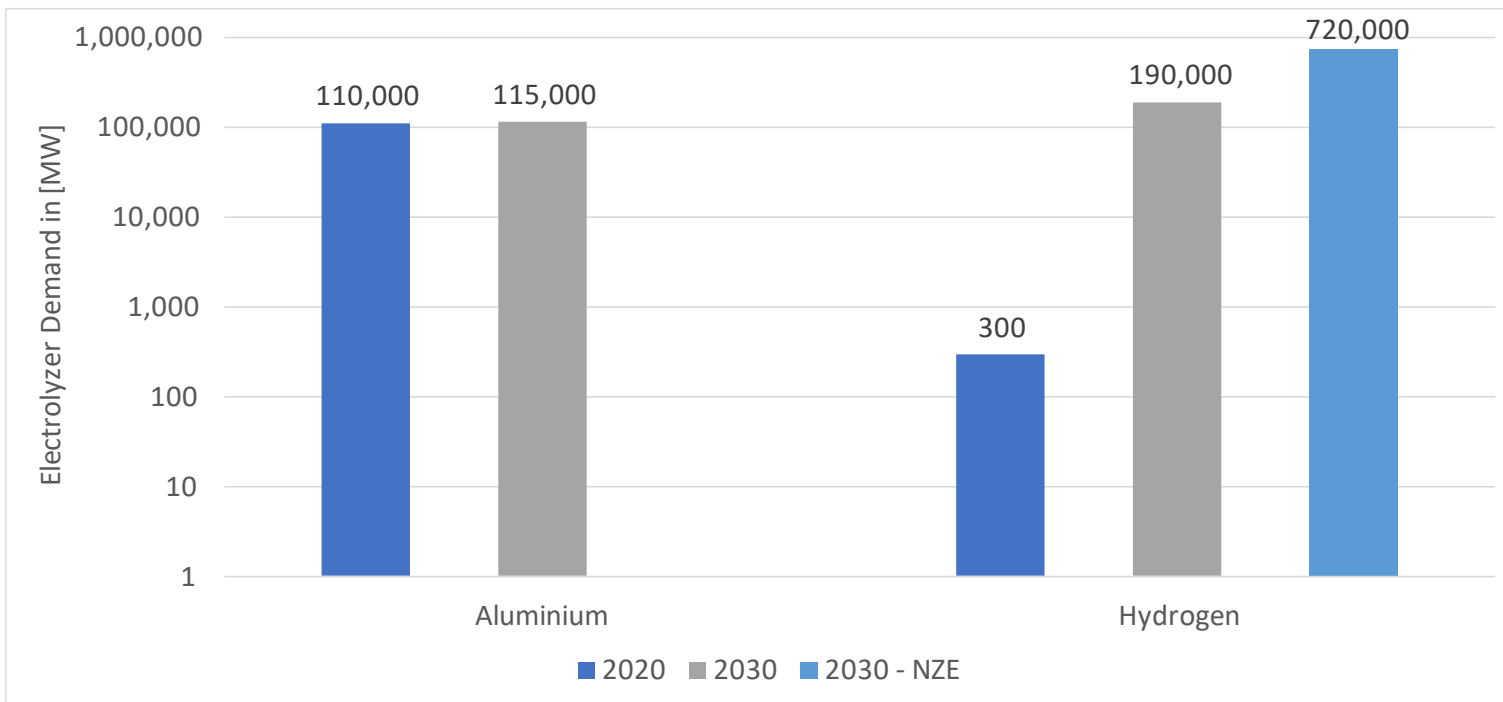


Electricity Ratios in 2022 out of a World Total Electricity Generation of 28,660 TWh:
 Hydro = 15.0% / Wind = 7.3% / Solar = 4.6% / Biomass = 2.7% → $\sum 29.5\% = 8,470$ TWh

[Share of renewable electricity generation by technology, 2000-2028 – Charts – Data & Statistics - IEA](#)



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
- H2 Electrolyser CAPEX @ 1 \$/W

Potential long-distance Green Energy Carrier are Hydrogen, Ammonia, Green Steel, Green Aluminium
 50 MWh → 1 t H2 → 12.5 MWh Power → 1 t Aluminium (without H2 transport losses)



Getting the Energy
Transition right
OR
Why Germany
should build an
Aluminium
Smelter in
Namibia



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.

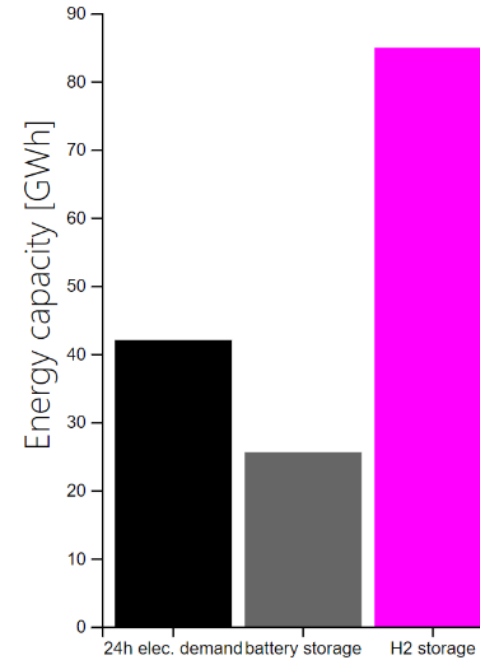
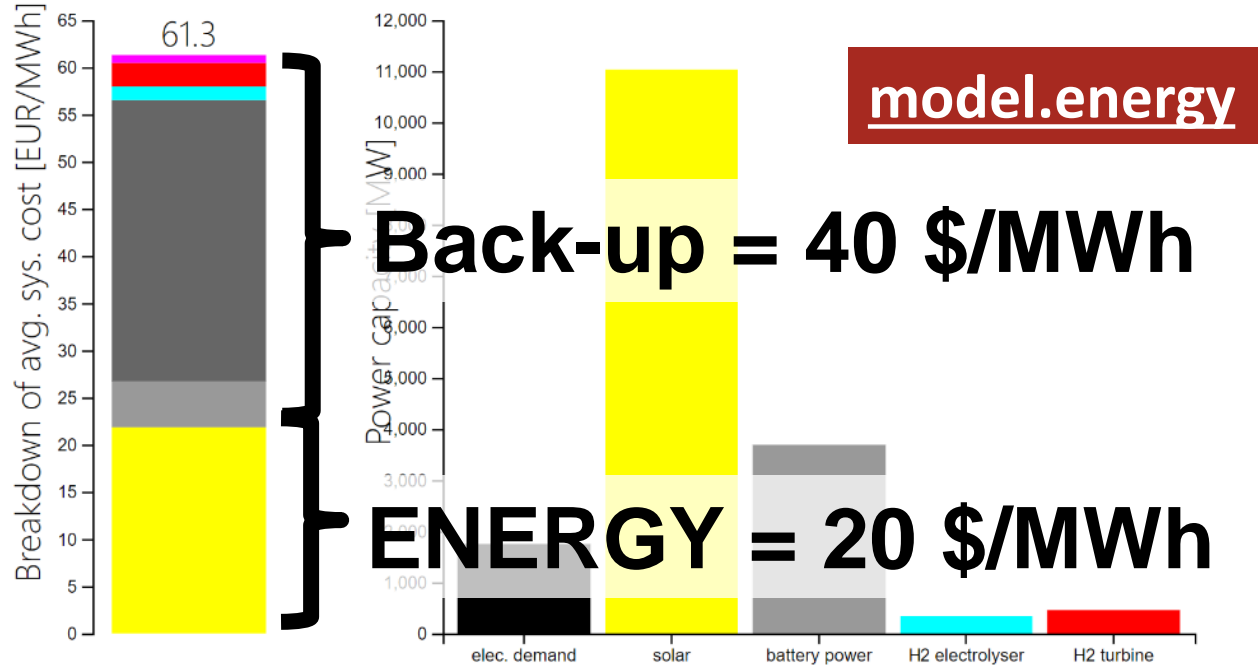
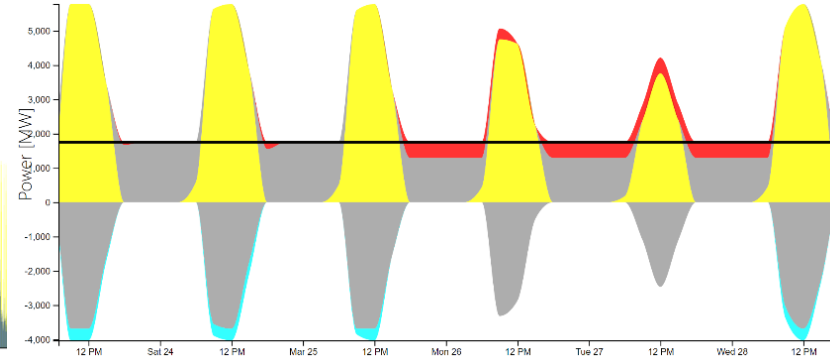
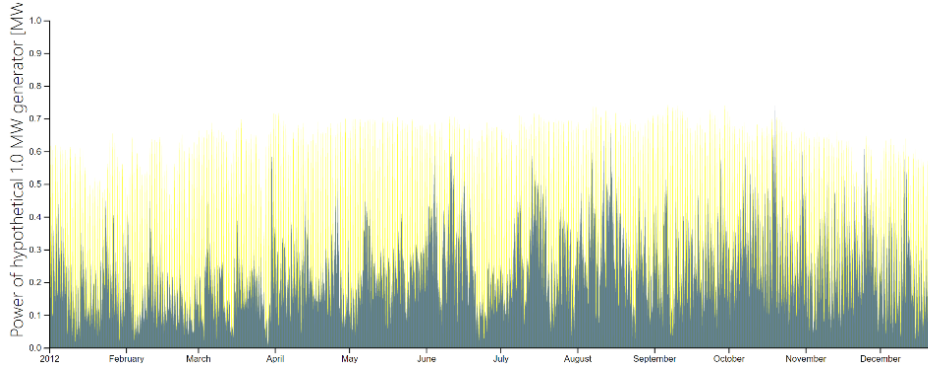
6 GW Renewables
15 TWh Electricity
3 GW Electrolyser
USD 10 bn CAPEX
300 kt/a H₂

(could also power 1 Mt smelter)



Example: Namibia

1,750 MW Zero Carbon Base Load



@2,500 USD/t LME

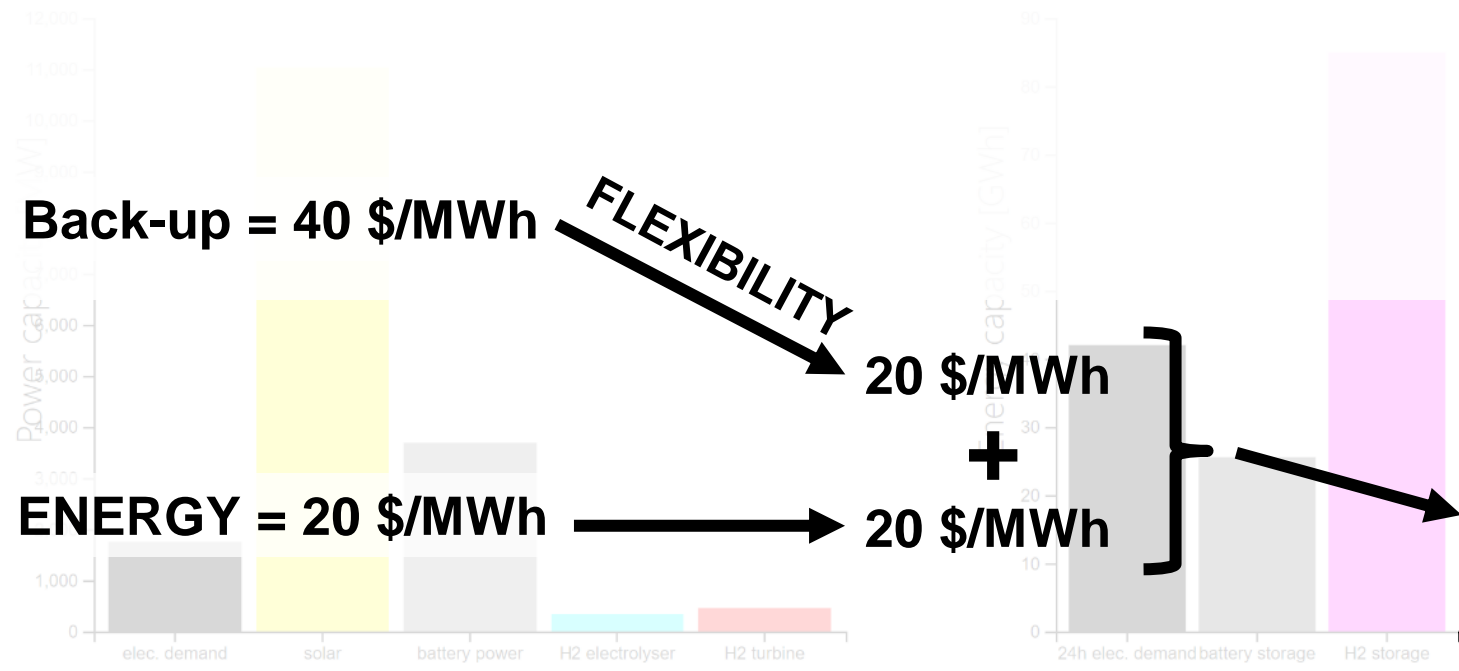
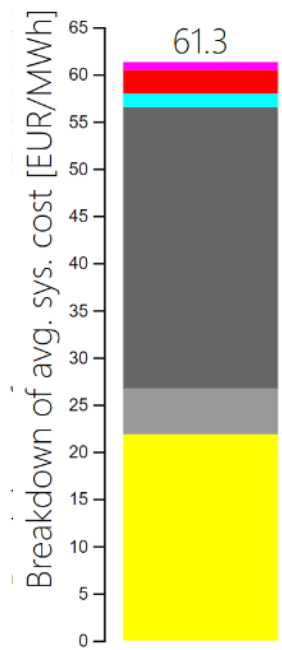
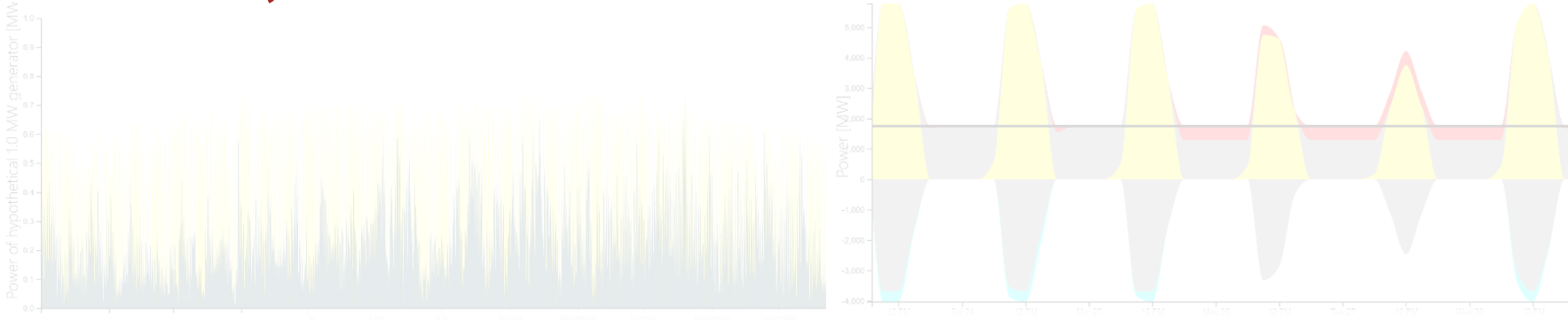
20 → 12% Ratio

40 → 24% Ratio

60 → 36% Ratio

Example: Namibia

1,750 MW Zero Carbon Base Load



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

Virtual Battery Components



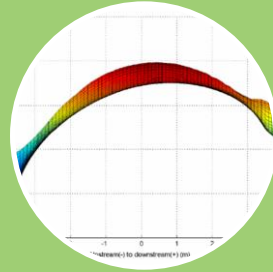
SHE

Modulating the Side-Wall Heat Loss from the Cell



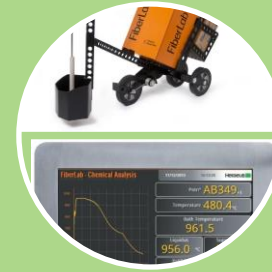
GTC Flex

Modulating the Top-Heat Losses from the Cell



Magnetic Compensation

Reducing Magnetic Effects & Metal Pad Heave



Flex Control

Adaptation of Process/Pot Control System



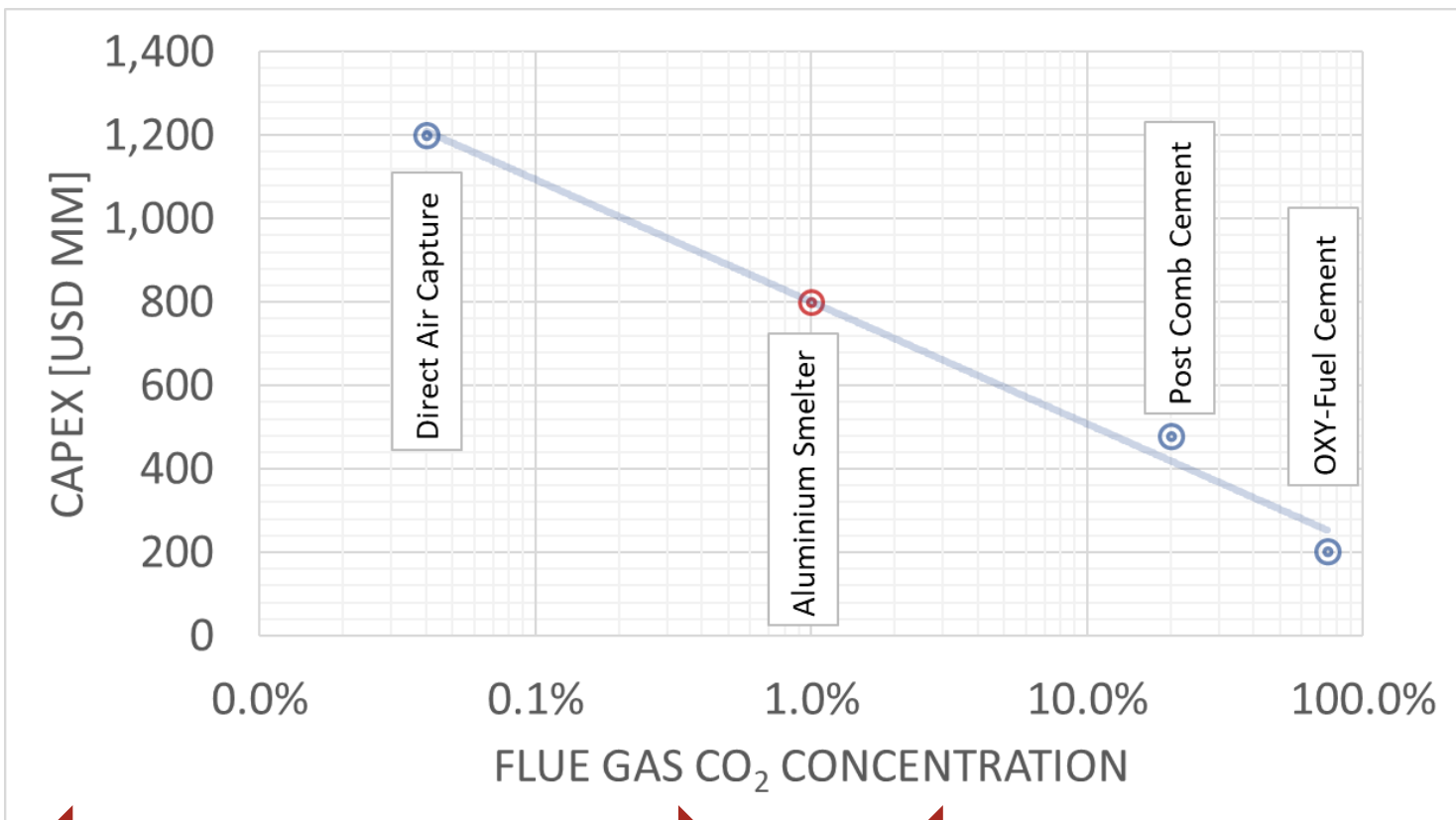
Energy Supply

Increase Responsiveness with Transducers

Thermal Regulation



CCS in different Industries & Al Smelter



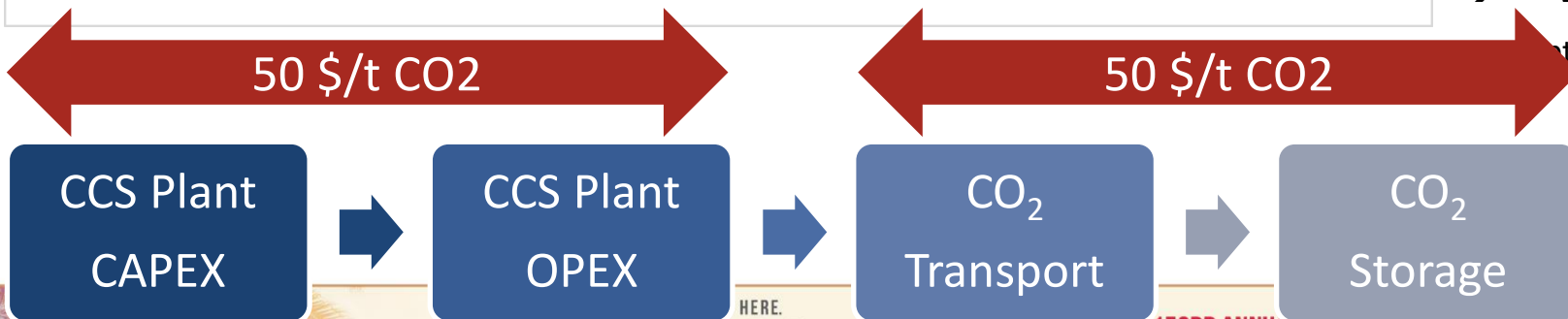
Long-Term 2050 Potentials

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

MIC Estimates for 2040:

- CCS @ 100 \$/t → +150 \$/t Al
- 25% Biomass @ +200 \$/t → +25 \$/t Al
- ➔ +175 \$/t Al for Net Zero 1, 2

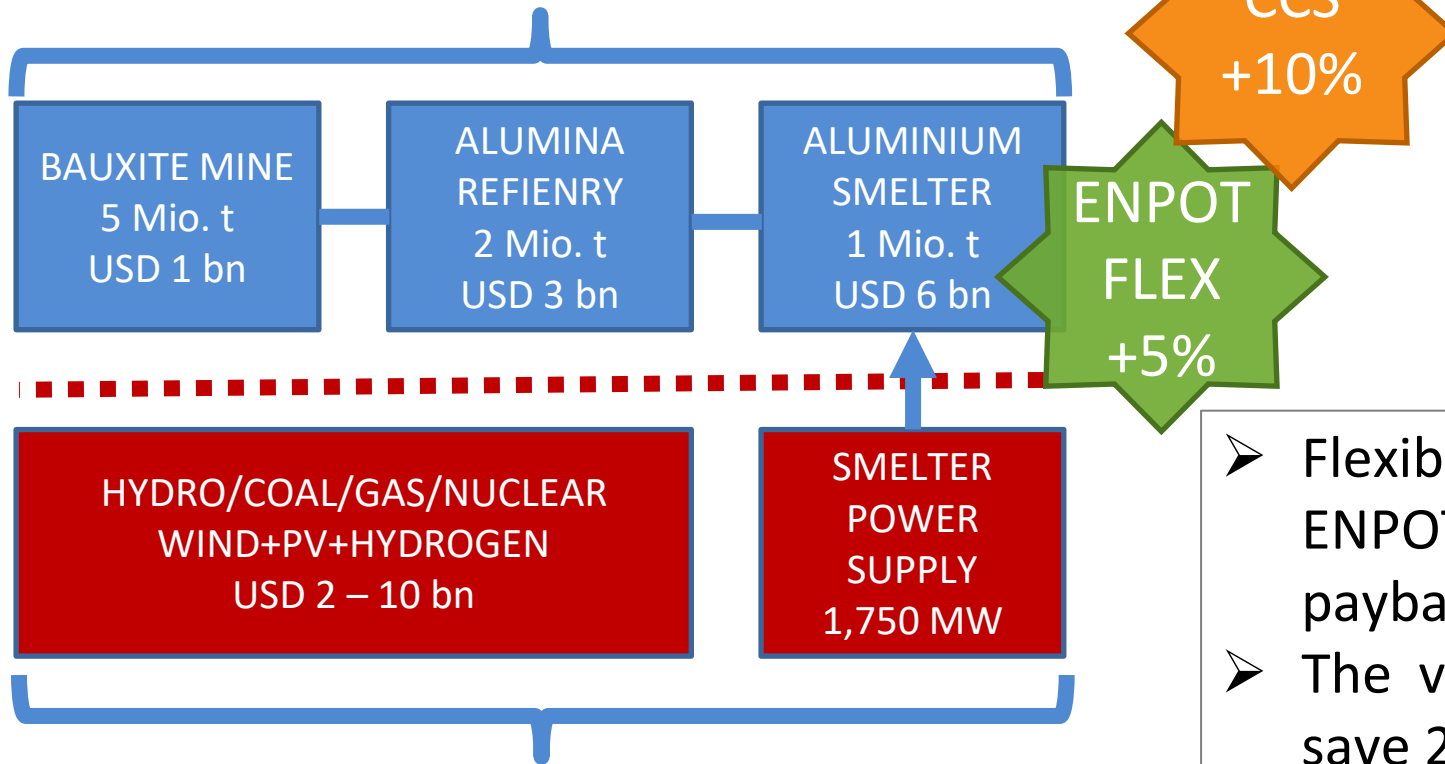
estimation for 2040 with USD2022



Aluminium Production Value Chain CAPEX

1 Million ton Smelter → 15 TWh Electricity

SMELTER
CAPEX USD 6 bn



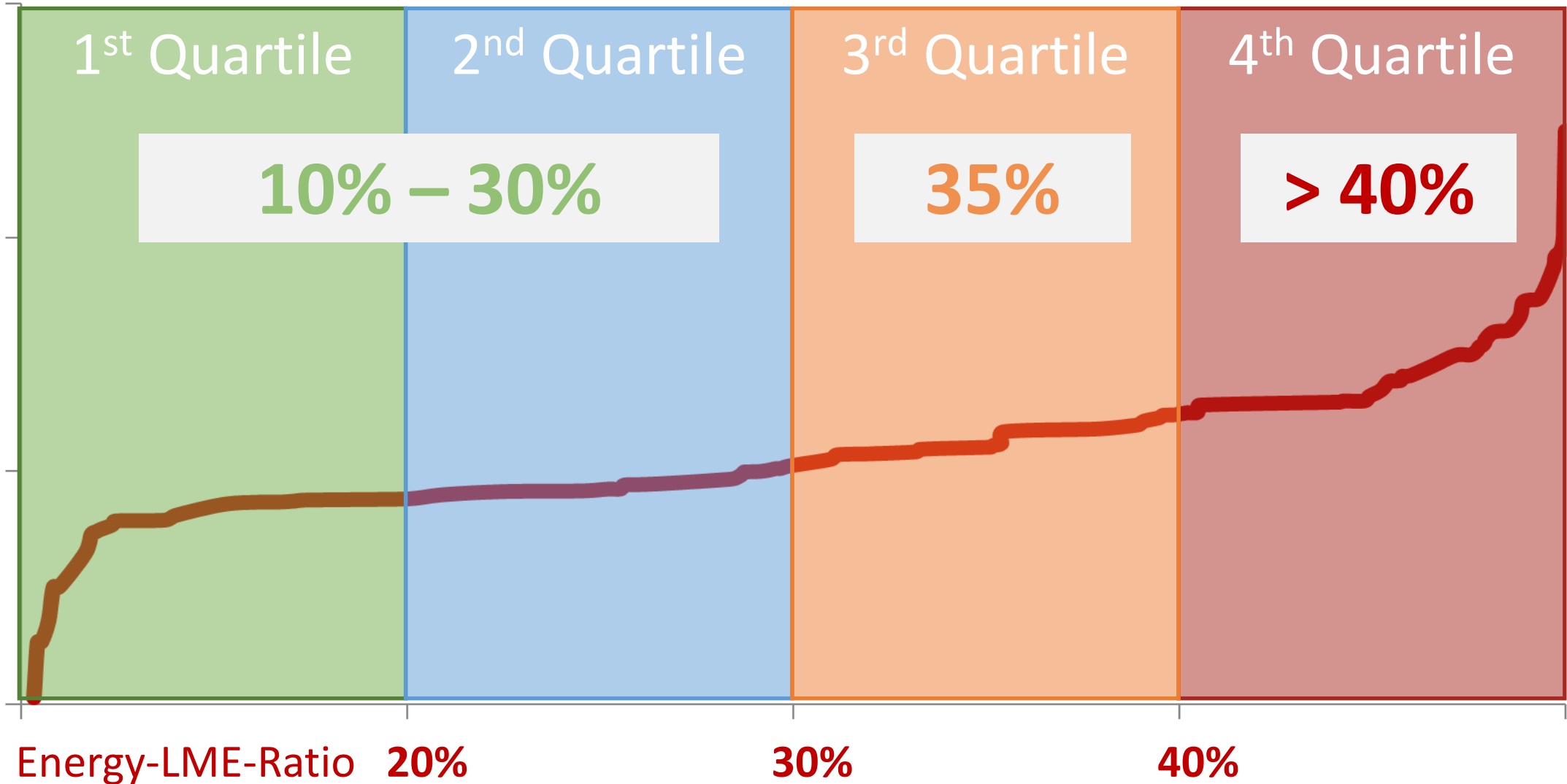
1 Million Ton Smelter:

- USD 6 bn Smelter CAPEX incl. Anode plant and Casthouse
- plus 5% = USD 0.3 bn for Flexibility Magnetic Compensation, Aux. upgrade
- plus 10% = USD 0.6 bn for Carbon Capture → Full CO2 capture plant (amine-based) 80-90% capture rate

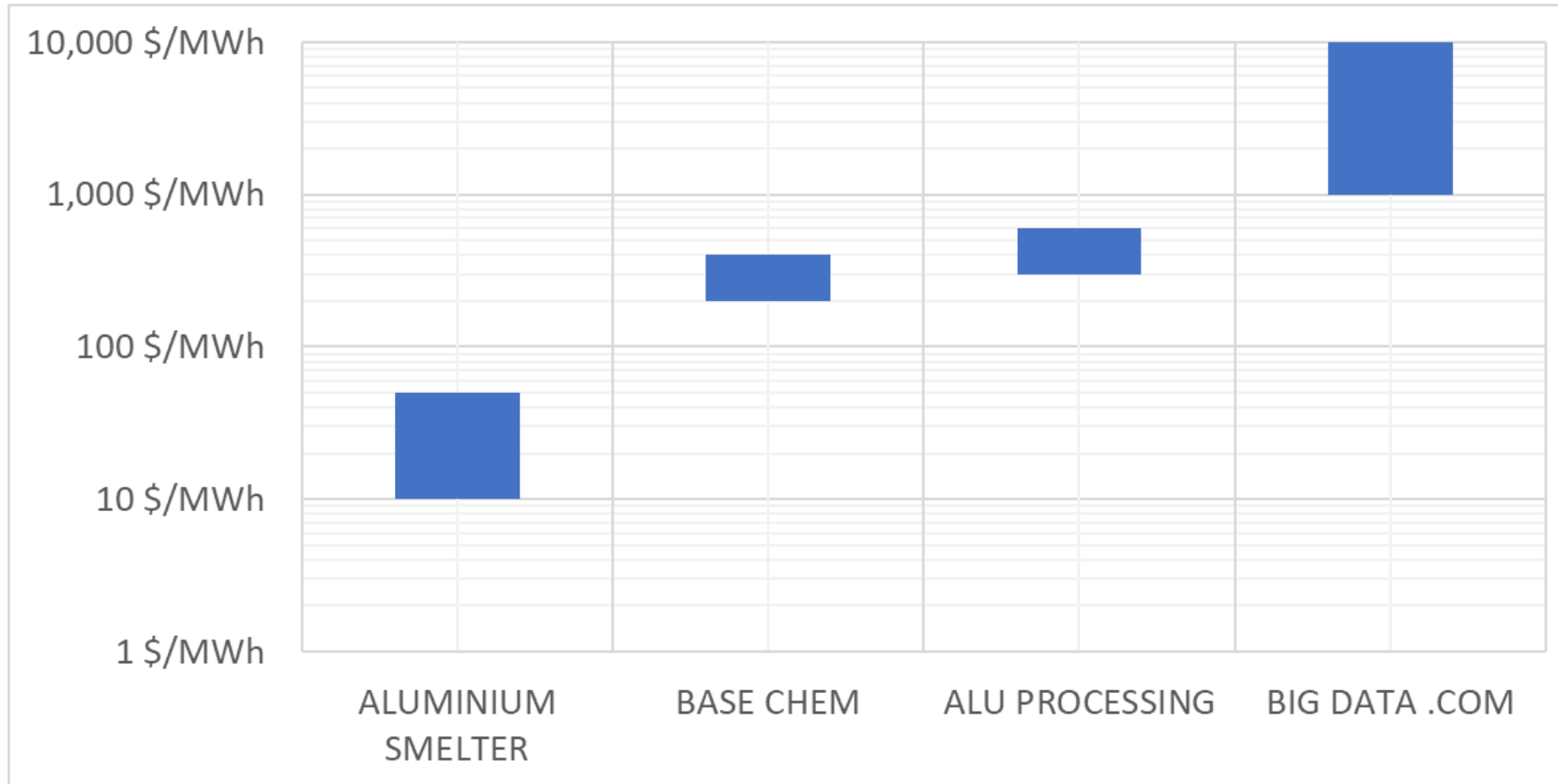
- Flexibility Services plus Heat for CCS from ENPOT could save 100 – 250 MUSD (creating a payback period of less than three years)
- The value of the captured heat alone would save 25 MUSD per year → already, the heat for 12 years would pay the whole investment.

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

GLOBAL PRIMARY ALUMINUM SMELTING OUTPUT COST



Electrical Food Chain – EBITDA in \$/MWh



10,000 \$/MWh

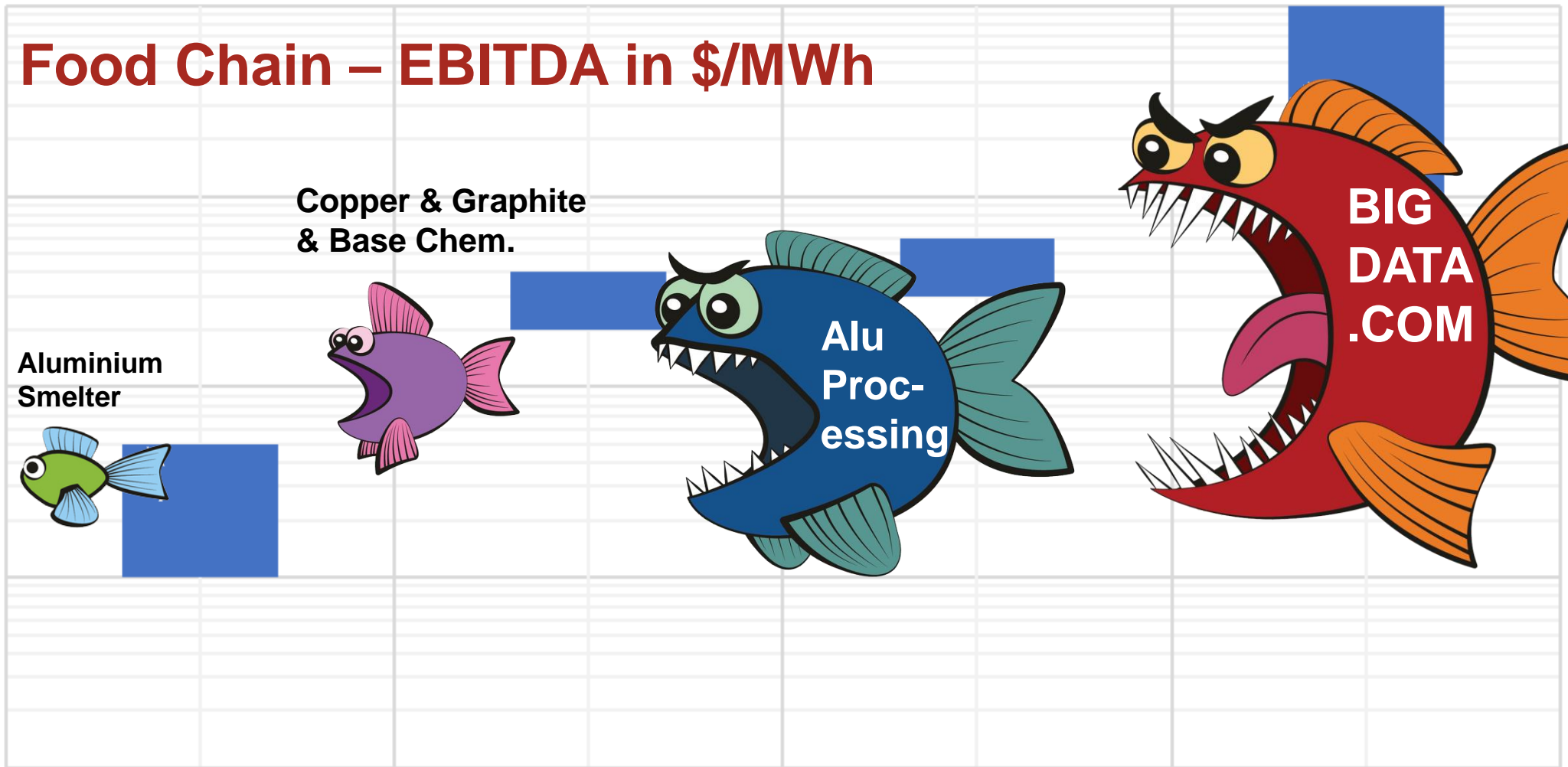
Electrical Food Chain – EBITDA in \$/MWh

1,000 \$/MWh

100 \$/MWh

10 \$/MWh

1 \$/MWh



Aluminium Smelter

Copper & Graphite & Base Chem.

Alu Processing

BIG DATA .COM

ALUMINIUM SMELTER

BASE CHEM

ALU PROCESSING

BIG DATA .COM



Transforming Power Grids



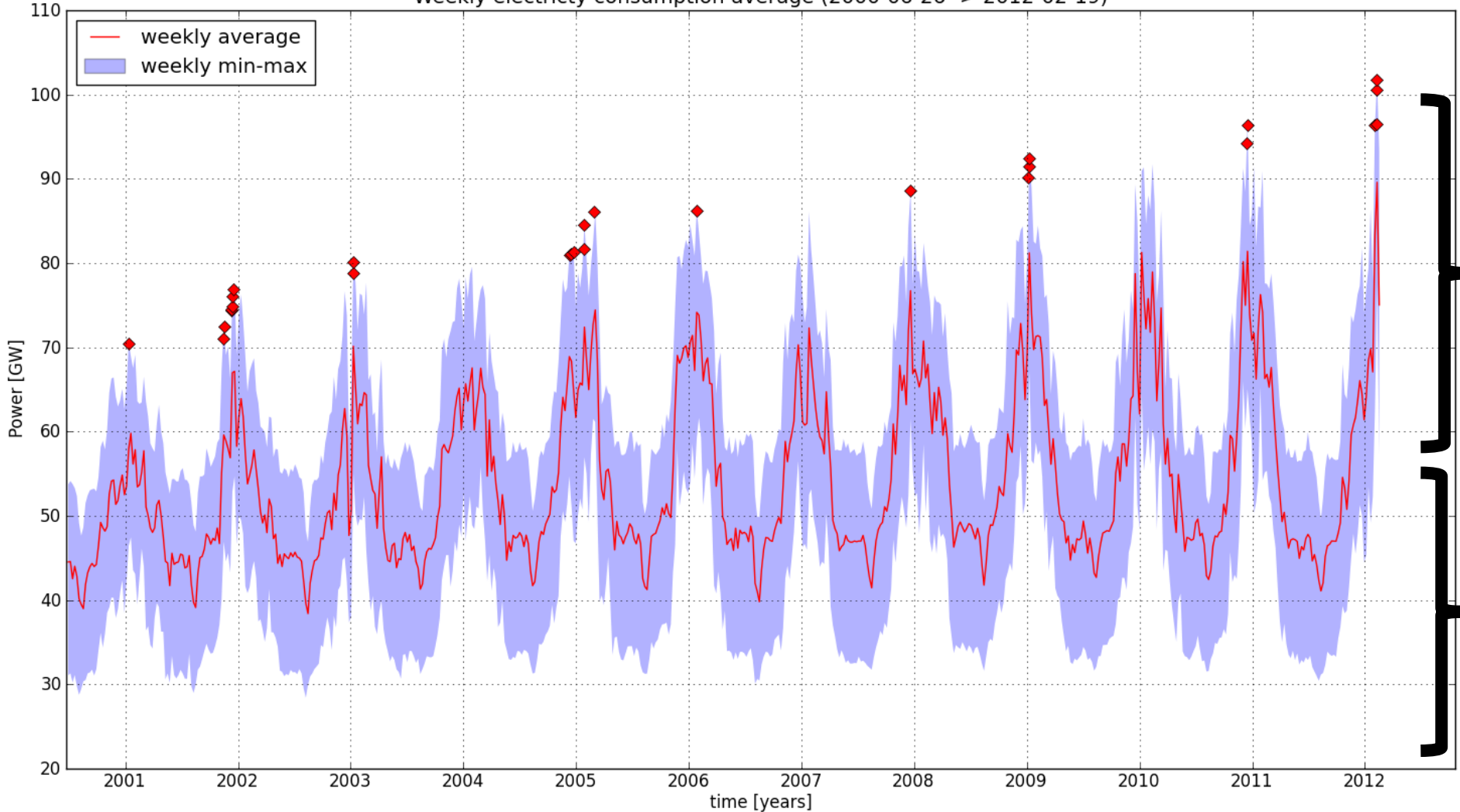


LOAD
SHEDDING



Grid Challenge in France

Weekly electricity consumption average (2000-06-26 -> 2012-02-19)

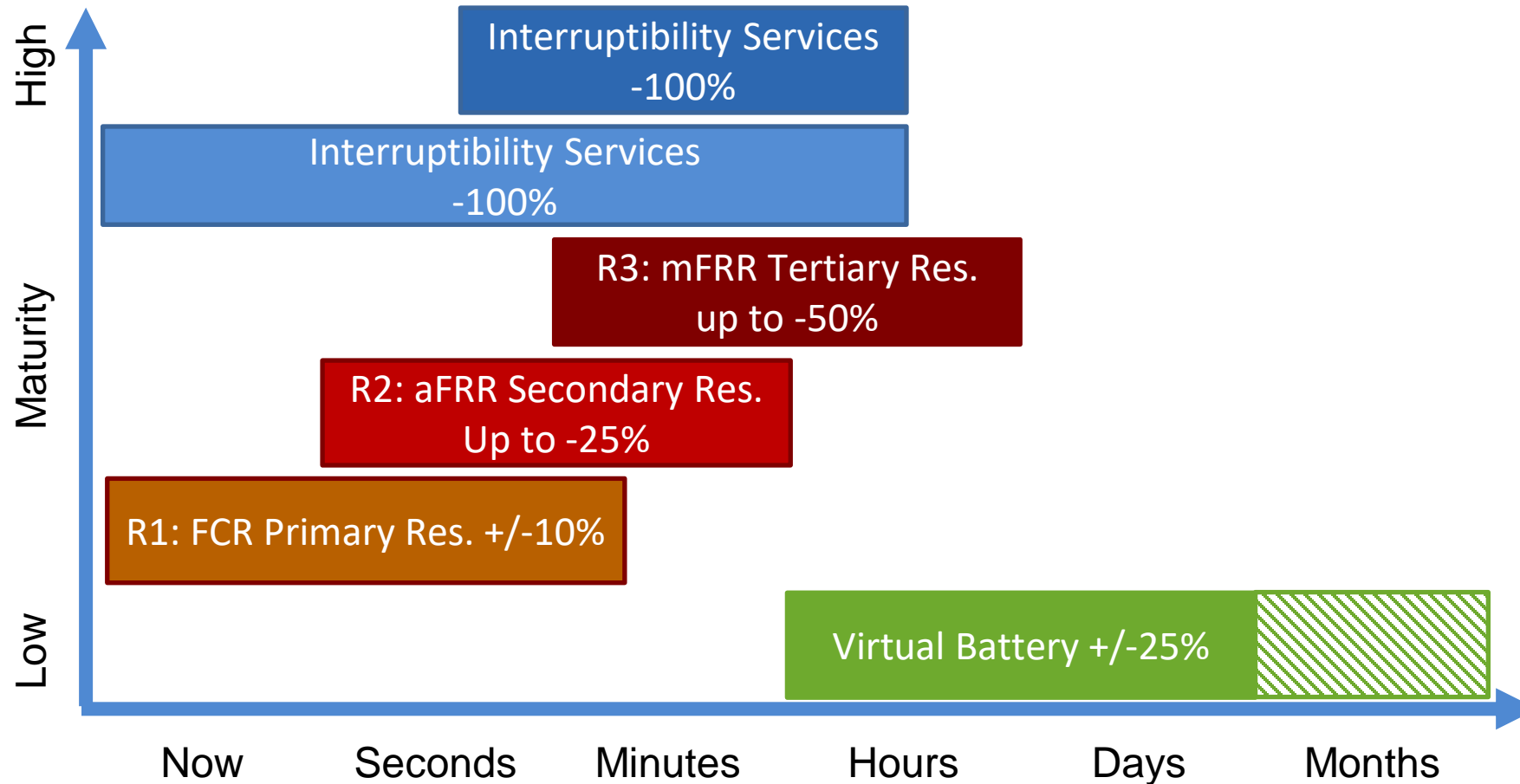


**Winter
= 50 MW**

**Summer
= 50 MW**



Balancing Services of Aluminium Smelters



FRENCH ALUMINIUM SMELTERS



AP3X Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne
150 kt – 250 MW

Interruptibility	230 MW
Primary Reserve	30 MW
Fast Reserve	60 MW



AP4X Dunkerque
280 kt – 450 MW

Interruptibility	430 MW
Primary Reserve	20 MW
Fast Reserve	60 MW

Push the Limits...

"If everything seems under control,..."



Mario Andretti



Push the Limits...

"If everything seems under control,...
...you're just not going fast enough."



Mario Andretti



Investment Incentives

		EBITDA per t Al	CAPEX per anual ton	Pay Back Period
Aluminium Smelter	LME+MB/MW = 2,500 USD/t	500 \$/t Al	6,000 \$/t Al	12 years
Carbon Capture	Green Premium = 250 USD/t	100 \$/t Al	600 \$/t Al	6 years
Flex + Heat	Power Discount 5 USD/MWh_{EI} Heat 16 USD/MWh_{th}	100 \$/t Al	300 \$/t Al	3 years



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

