

# Readiness of safety and environmental protection knowledge for a hydrogen energy economy

Technical  
Innovation



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Technical + Innovation  
Energy Institute



# Contents

- Energy Institute: overview
- Business overview for H<sub>2</sub> as an energy carrier across the value chain, from production through to use, from the perspective of a collaborative industry organisation:
  - What does the future look like vs. H<sub>2</sub> as an industrial gas?
  - What are the options and their readiness?
- Readiness of safety and environmental protection knowledge (research through to standards):
  - Knowns vs. unknowns
  - Who guards and is developing knowledge



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# EI overview

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## Our Purpose

The Energy Institute (EI) is the chartered professional membership body for people who work across the world of energy. We exist to create a better energy future for our members and society by accelerating a just global energy transition to net zero.

## We do this in three ways

1

Developing  
the future  
energy  
workforce

2

Bringing  
together  
expertise  
and  
advice

3

Enabling  
lower  
carbon and  
safe energy

**Engagement in the Technical + Innovation programme** will help accelerate the energy transition through member collaboration, dialogue with regulators, academia and wider stakeholders.

You will benefit from access to a wide range of standards and good practice materials to ensure industry operations are sustainable, efficient and safe.

# In numbers

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**One** 

single dedicated team  
supporting the global  
energy industry

A portfolio of

**750+**



titles, with 100,000+  
wider industry resources  
via the EI Knowledge  
Service

**120**



countries in which  
Technical Partners and  
Technical Company  
members are using EI  
technical content

**60+**



technical publications  
issued each year, more  
than one per week

Funding

**\$2.5M**



in technical research  
every year



**1,000+**

industry representatives

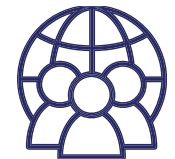
More than

**65,000**



users of our Toolbox  
Safety App each year –  
once every two minutes

**60+**



Technical Partners and  
Technical Company  
Members



# Technical Partners and Technical Company Members

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# We collaborate with

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Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**



GLOBAL WIND  
ORGANISATION



International Regulators' Forum  
GLOBAL OFFSHORE SAFETY



American  
Petroleum  
Institute



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
FOR STANDARDIZATION



International  
Association  
of Oil & Gas  
Producers



ASTM INTERNATIONAL  
Helping our world work better



Airlines for America®  
We Connect the World



THE CROWN  
ESTATE



IDRIC



Environment  
Agency



And many more

# At a glance

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The Technical + Innovation work programme can be broadly split into three overlapping areas:



## The energy transition

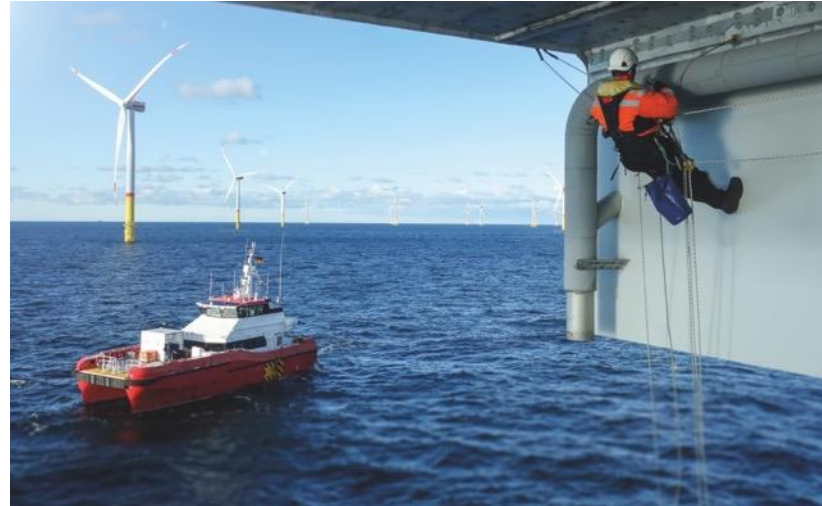
Carbon capture,  
utilisation and storage

Hydrogen

Power systems

Offshore wind

Onshore wind



## Health, safety and environment

Health

Human and organisational  
factors

Process safety

Asset integrity and  
life extension

Environment and sustainability



## Fuel quality and management

Aviation fuel handling

Fuels distribution

Hydrocarbon management

Test methods  
standardisation

Leading on hydrogen

Also working on hydrogen as well as other topics



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# Wider context

Net zero emissions (NZE) by (e.g.) 2050 target:

- Nations and organisations responding
- Energy system paradigm shift required in 25 years
- Rethink and deliver – generate, store, transmit, distribute and use energy
  - Comparison to first industrial revolution – 100 years
  - Incremental changes in last 25 years in energy: LNG, shale gas, biofuels, electrification, decommissioning – massive change expected
  - Some technologies will be winners; others not, maybe multiple solutions until system stabilises
  - Policy uncertainty
- Lots of H2 projects announced; only some have passed FID and have offtake markets
- Maintain existing assets
- Simultaneously address climate change (Natechs etc)
- Deliver H2 energy system at ramped up scale

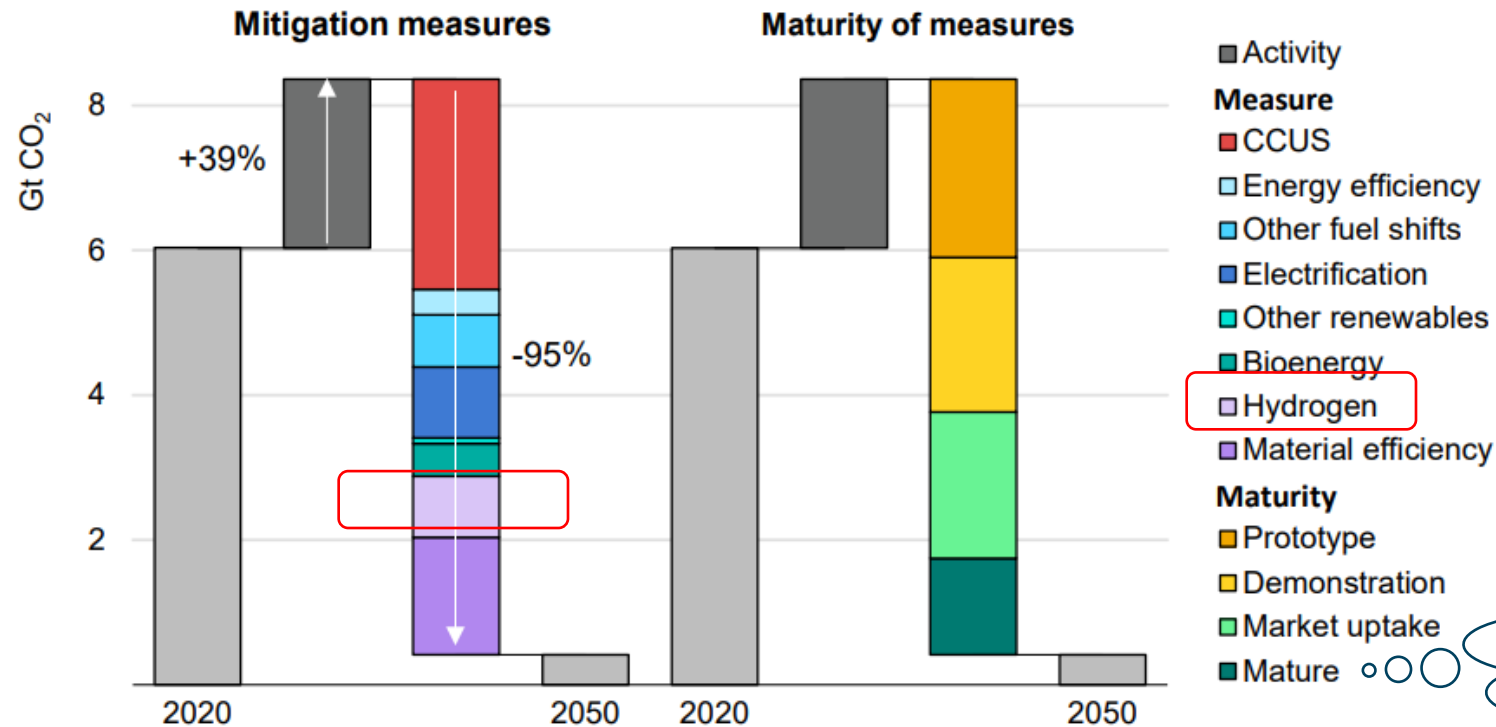


! Operate within uncertainty

! Asset integrity/PS leadership

# Example decarbonization options – heavy industries (e.g. steel and cement manufacture) in G7

Figure 1.6 Global direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions in heavy industries by mitigation measure and current technology maturity category in the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario



! Multiple technologies required – benign plants become MAH sites, several hazards?

But only some technologies mature – iterative deployment over decades?

IEA. All rights reserved.

# Example decarbonization options – cluster integration and build out from clusters

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Courtesy: HyNet <https://hynet.co.uk>

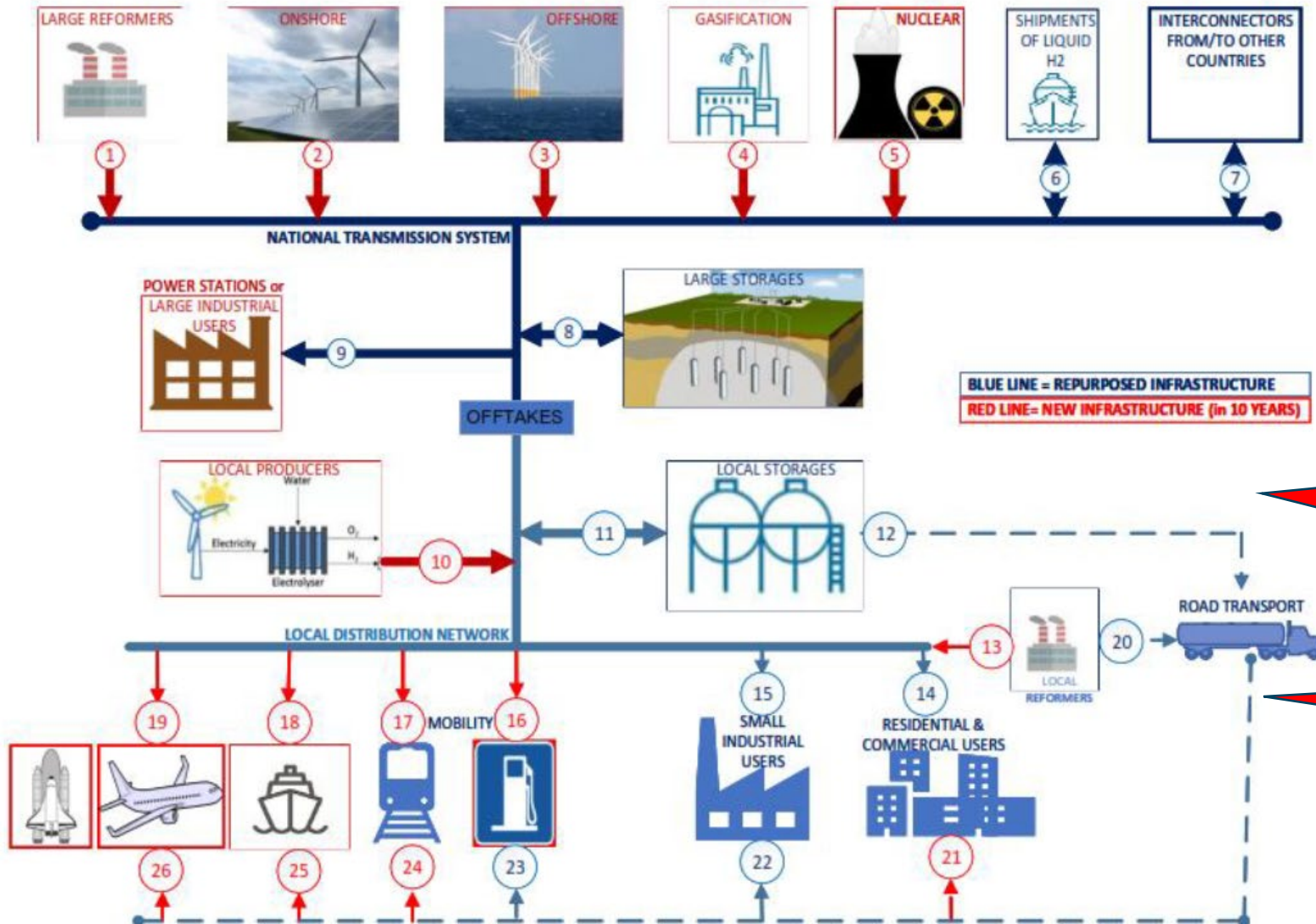
- TÜV Rheinland Process Safety Management Workshop and Conference  
‘What is Process Safety Leadership’s role in managing risk during the transition to net zero?’ (Edinburgh, November 2023):
- Multi-site hazard study development (interfaces in clusters)
  - Innovative technology engineering controls
  - Ensuring new companies use guidance

! Several PS issues



# Hydrogen value chain –national systems view

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H<sub>2</sub> energy value chain more complex, more interfaces than H<sub>2</sub> industrial gases value chain. Also, simpler value chain without pipelines, and another for LH<sub>2</sub>. We need to take a systems view, consider interfaces, as well as considering each value chain block.

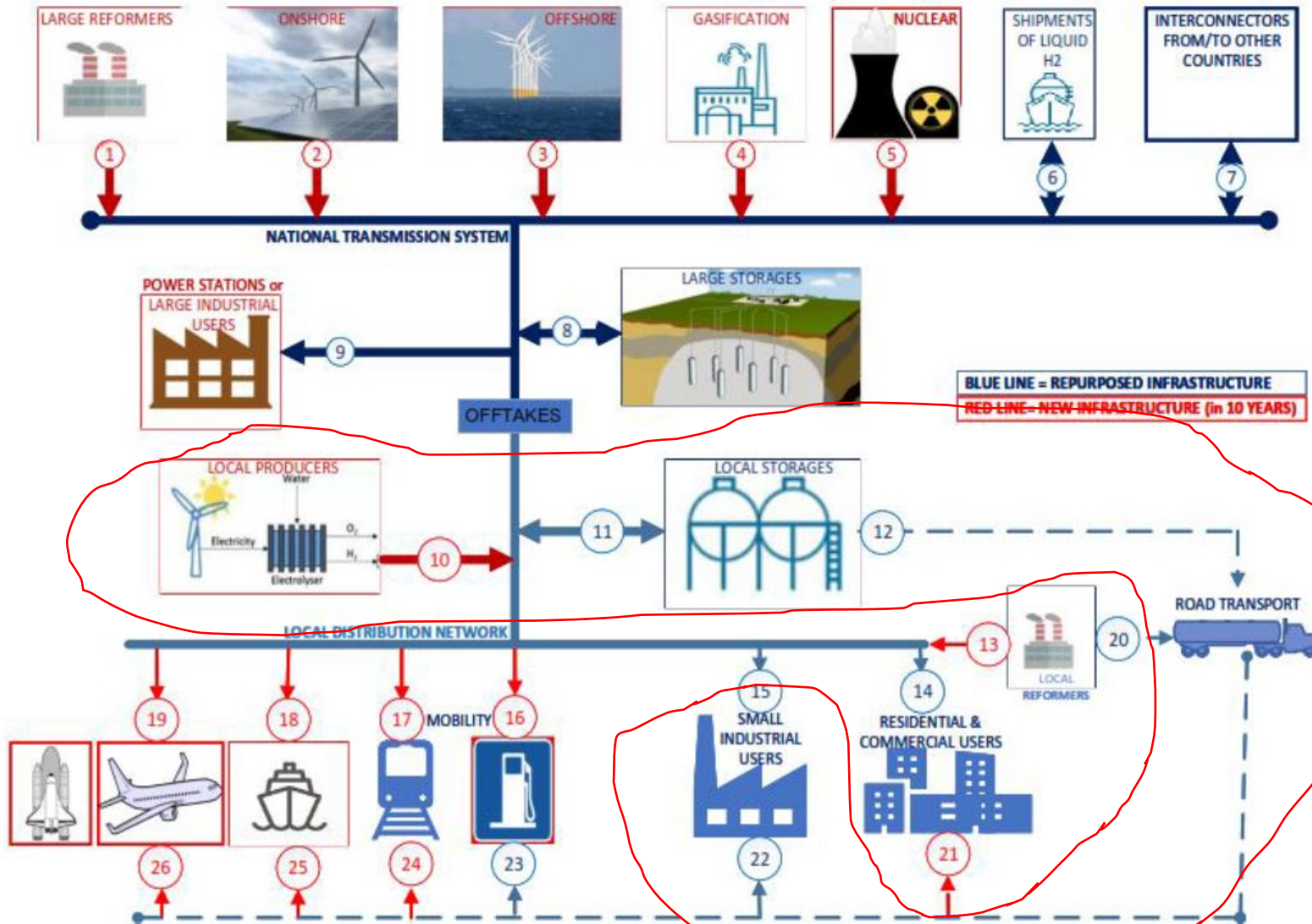
! New interfaces, new operators, new operations  
EU Hydrogen backbone ~130 MTe  
H<sub>2</sub> in pipeline network

! Graphic excludes some options, e.g. gold H<sub>2</sub> (natural subsurface)

From EI Research Report: *Hydrogen value-chain infrastructure integration: Interface analysis landscape review*

# Simple hydrogen value chain – simpler local cluster

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- Phase 1 'General Interface Assessment' identified issues around custody transfer compared to NG network operation
- Phase 2a (2025): Technology Maturity & Service Supply Chain Summary: Investigate key areas of weakness in elements of technology and service interfaces, e.g. infrastructural technology/hardware related services, isolation systems, pressure reducing systems with overpressure protection, leak detection/gas detectors, etc.

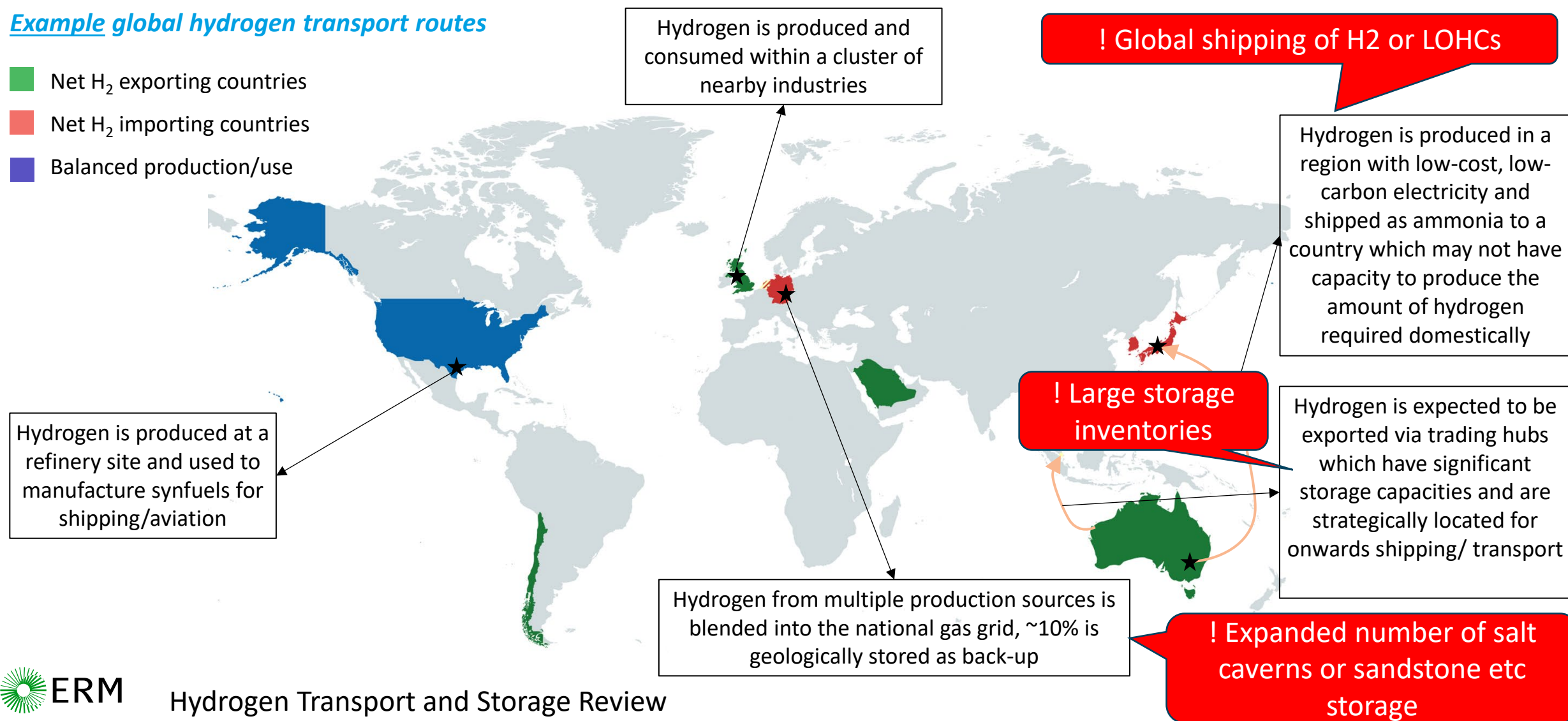
! Knowledge gaps with some safety systems

## Various forms and configurations of hydrogen transportation and storage infrastructure will be needed to link areas of production to demand

The majority of hydrogen is expected to be produced and used locally, however 20-50% could be transported internationally.

### Example global hydrogen transport routes

-  Net H<sub>2</sub> exporting countries
-  Net H<sub>2</sub> importing countries
-  Balanced production/use





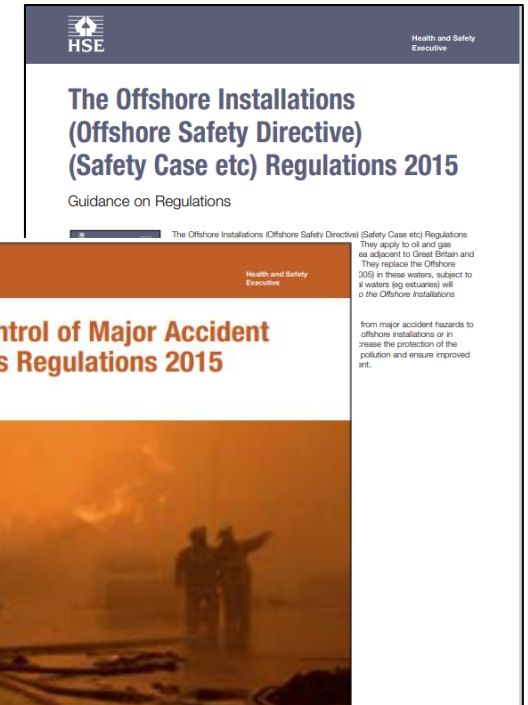
# Safety cases, on- and offshore – applicability of legislation etc

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- Offshore Safety Directive/SCR 2015 does not cover offshore hydrogen production but can be followed as a general framework for managing hazardous fluids
- Seveso Directive/COMAH Regulations apply to hydrogen (and associated substances, e.g. LOHC) for onshore facilities
- From EI *Research report: Review of directives/regulations relevant to the safe and environmentally compliant production, transportation and storage of hydrogen*

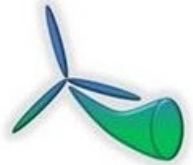
! Scope gaps with some legislation, etc (but general duties may suffice)





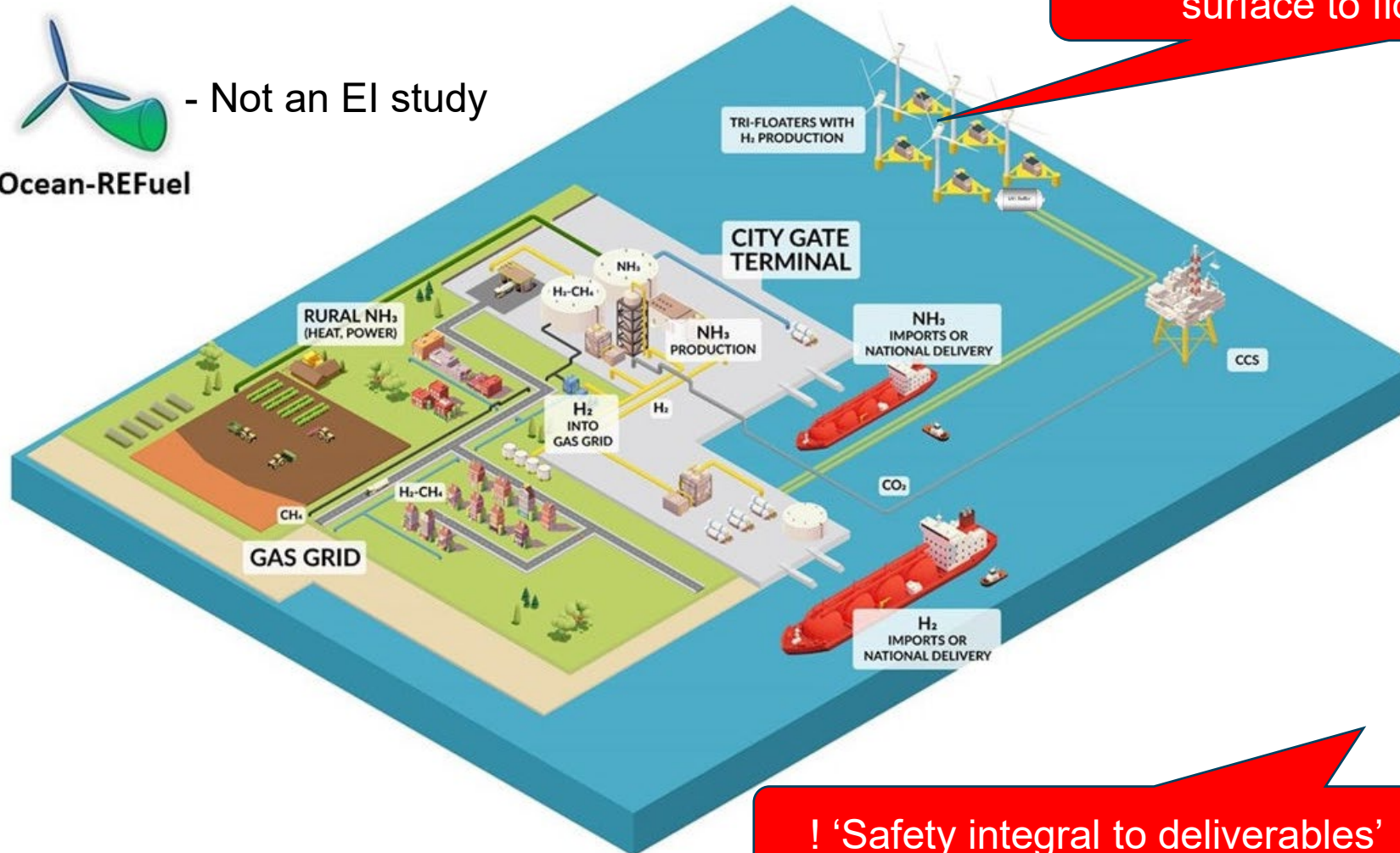
# Ocean REFuel research programme

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- Not an EI study

Ocean-REFuel



! Local electrolyzers and H2 storage sub-surface to floating wind tripods

‘Ocean REFuel programme will produce a blueprint for the first integrated ocean renewable fuel production facility.’ Research comprises:

- Simulating intermittent operation of electrolyzers for local offshore H2 production
- Simulating metocean conditions on electrolyser operation
- Testing seawater vs. desalinated water for electrolyser feedstock
- Land-based NH3 production for national export (investigating LCA benefits)

! ‘Safety integral to deliverables’

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# EI hydrogen programme

## Understanding and addressing technical challenges for the deployment of a hydrogen economy

Options to decarbonise the energy system include hydrogen and its derivatives (e.g., ammonia) as energy carriers. Our hydrogen work programme considers the value chain from the various means of hydrogen production through to its different uses.

We focus on independent technical and techno-economic research and good practice development. We bring together global operating companies, policy-makers, regulators, consultancies, service providers, academia, trade associations and like-minded stakeholder organisations.

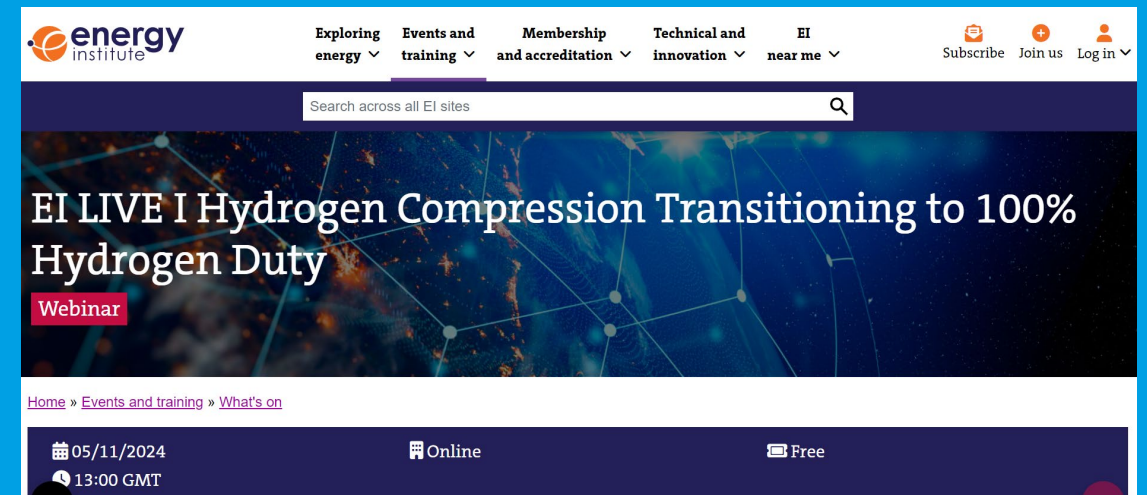
The work programme covers process safety, asset integrity, environmental assessment (lifecycle analysis), plant design (e.g., filling stations), quality determination (e.g., fuel cell quality) and quantity determination.

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### How we work:

- Stakeholder engagement, including collaborative funded projects
- Input workshops
- Publications (reports, guidelines, etc)
- Conference presentations
- Output dissemination workshops, webinars – e.g.:

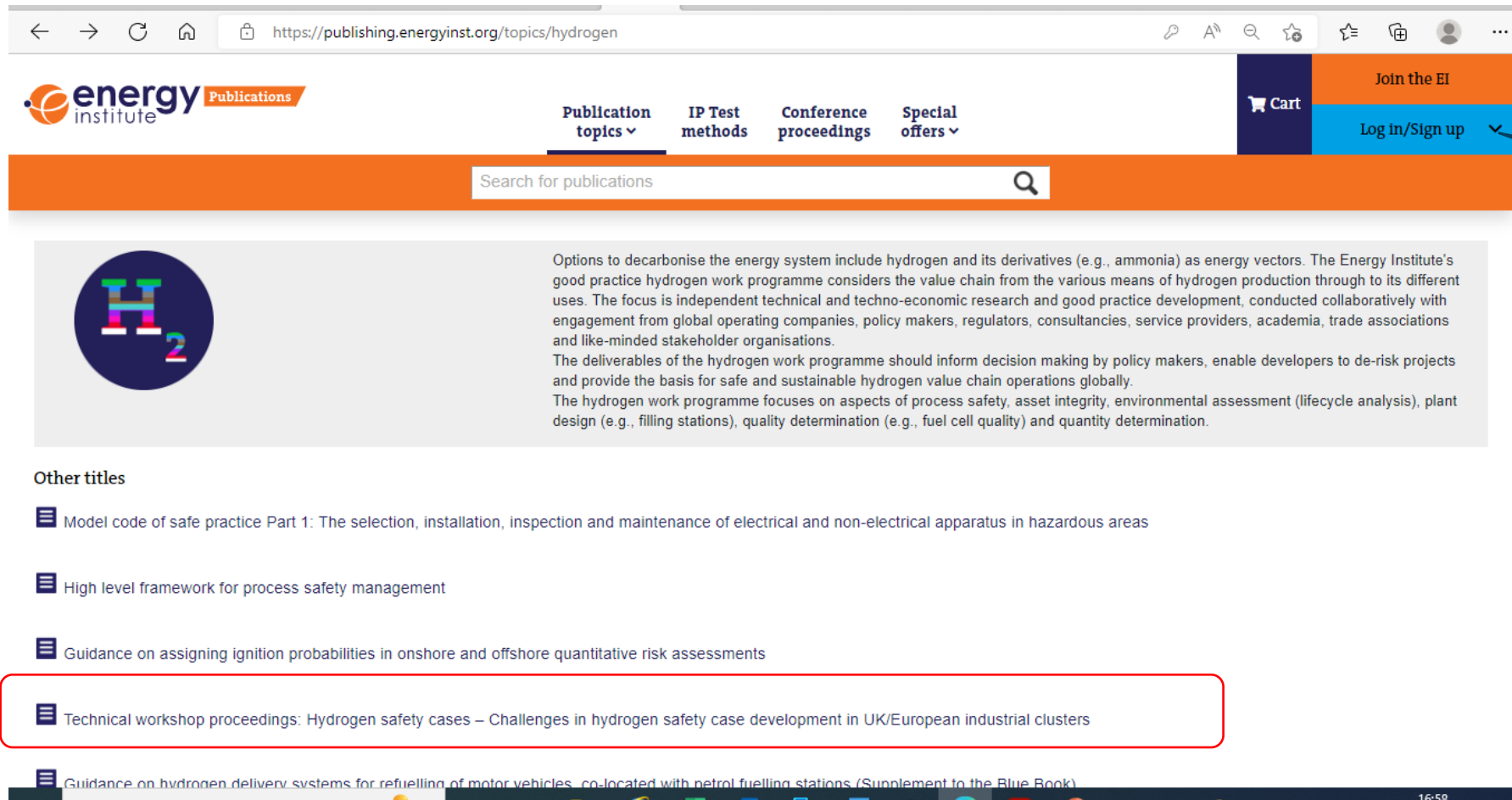


# Accessing EI Publications (reports, guidelines, etc)

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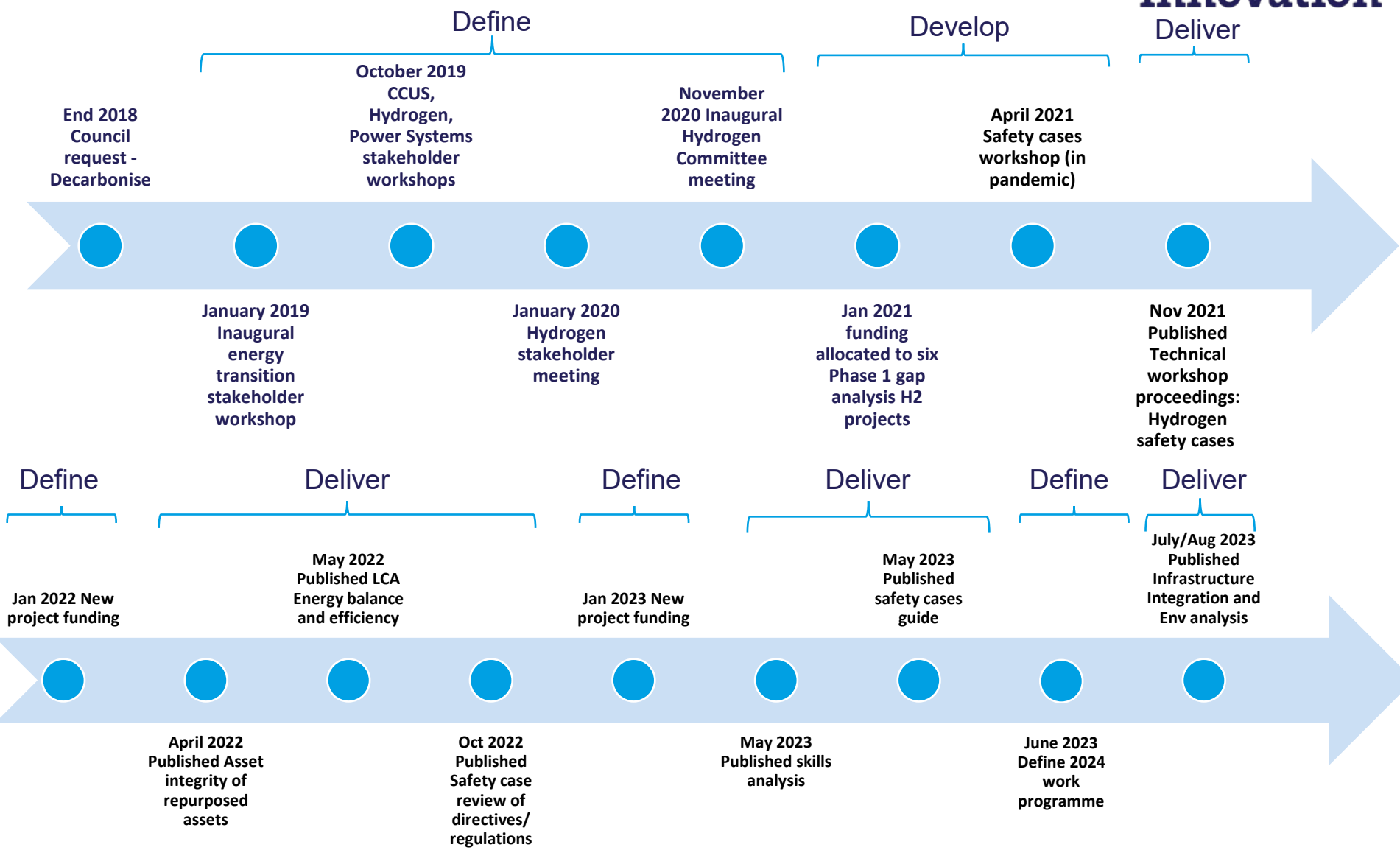
<https://publishing.energyinst.org/>

A screenshot of the Energy Institute Publishing website. The browser address bar shows 'https://publishing.energyinst.org/topics/hydrogen'. The website header includes the Energy Institute logo, a 'Publications' tag, and navigation links for 'Publication topics', 'IP Test methods', 'Conference proceedings', and 'Special offers'. On the right, there are links for 'Join the EI', 'Cart', and 'Log in/Sign up'. Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for publications'. The main content area features a large graphic with a stylized 'H2' molecule and a paragraph of text about decarbonising the energy system with hydrogen. Below this, under the heading 'Other titles', there is a list of publications. The fourth item in the list, 'Technical workshop proceedings: Hydrogen safety cases – Challenges in hydrogen safety case development in UK/European industrial clusters', is highlighted with a red rectangular box. The bottom of the page shows a taskbar with various application icons and a system clock displaying '16:58'.

Some regulators have a *gratis* publications licence (e.g. HSE, NOPSEMA, RIVM) – available to others on request



# Timeline for EI hydrogen knowledge development up to mid-2023

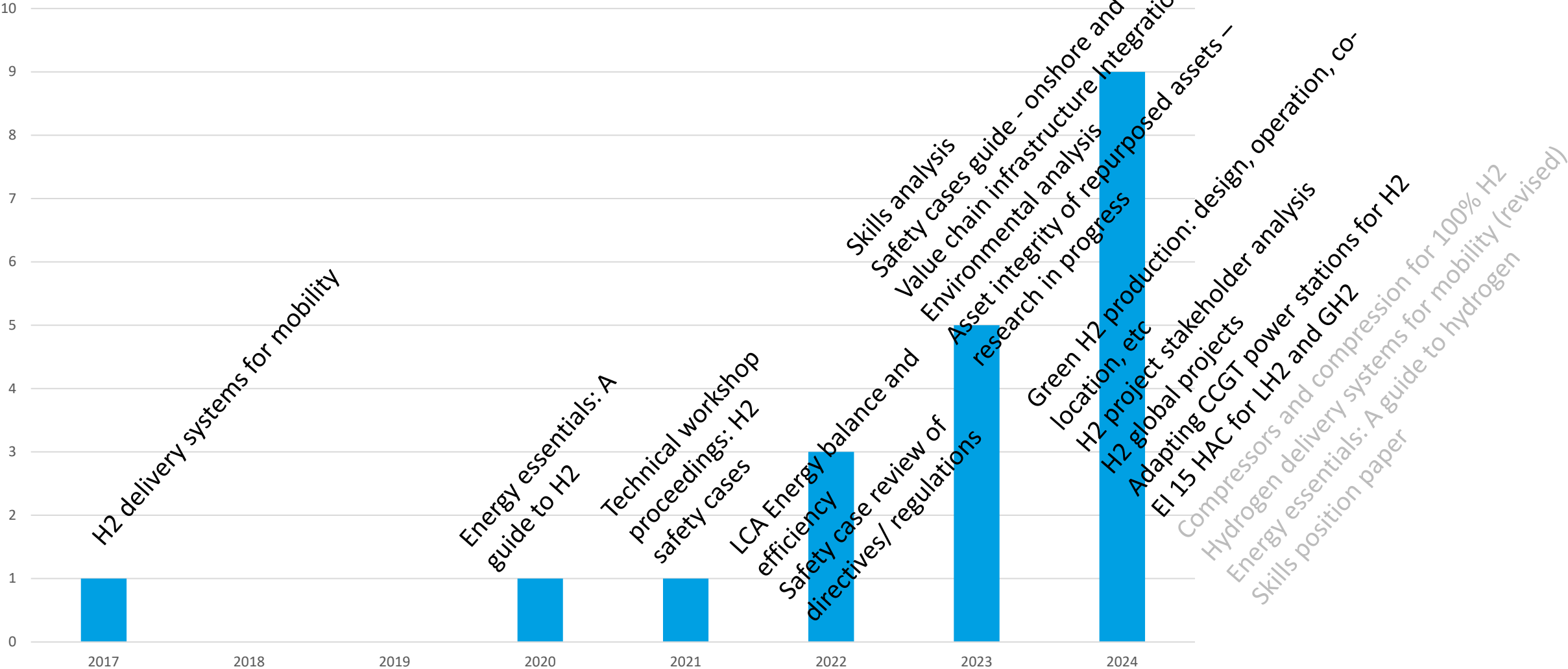


Cavern storage wellhead.  
Courtesy SABIC

Etc.

# EI knowledge development output (2024 grey titles 'in press')

No. of EI H2 publications per annum



# Understanding and addressing technical challenges for the deployment of a hydrogen economy

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## Key highlights 2023

- Published guidance on developing a safety case for hydrogen in the UK, which seeks to provide clarity on compliance with existing legislation, fill knowledge gaps and provide examples of developing the safety case for real world projects, both onshore and offshore. This work has been

Safety cases

- presented widely.
- Published a research report on hydrogen value-chain infrastructure integration, which outlines findings from interviews conducted with different stakeholders regarding 26 hydrogen infrastructure interfaces, addressing associated concerns and challenges.

Infrastructure integration

- Hosted a workshop on hydrogen competency and skills, bringing together stakeholders to understand the challenges facing industry, and to determine the EI's role in addressing these challenges.
- Hosted a workshop to convene and engage stakeholders and discuss the key issues around the

Skills and competency

development of a national energy storage network for hydrogen and liquid derivatives (LH2, NH3, LOHC, MCH).

! Implicitly, all these areas are knowledge shortfalls, until resolved

Storage

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## 2024 programme includes:

- Developing guidelines on the asset integrity management of change to enable repurposing of NG networks to H2 or H2/NG blends.
- Providing clear and quantitative risk-based guidance for determining safe separation distances associated with H2 storage and

Asset  
integrity

Separation  
distances

dispensing equipment, and the potential impact on surrounding activities. Complements IEA study for larger installations.

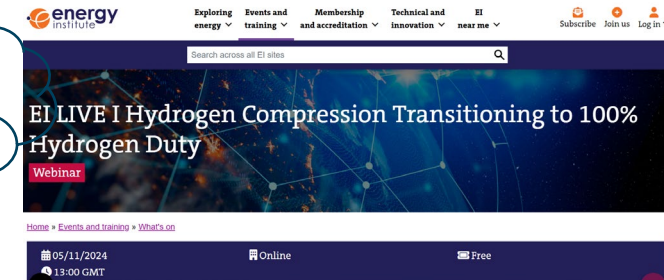
QRA  
data

- Supporting the SafeN JIP on H2 and NH3 (and CO2) loss of containment data availability for QRAs.
- Continuing to undertake research on large scale storage of H2 (and LOHCs).

- Drafting a position paper on the development of competence, skills and training for the transition to a H2 economy.
- Literature review on HSSE for NH3 (and MeOH) marine fuels (workshop 15 October 2024)
- Completing research on compression systems for 100% hydrogen operation

Skills and  
competency

Marine  
fuels



! Anecdotally,  
knowledge on  
compression systems  
poorly understood

Compression



# Understanding and addressing technical challenges for the deployment of a hydrogen economy

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## 2025 *provisional* programme includes:

- Continuing to undertake research on large scale storage of H2 (and LOHCs).
- Developing guidance on the management of corrosion and wider asset integrity management of facilities handling hydrogen.
- Literature review of requirements for the design and

construction of road tankers for the transport of GH2 and LH2 and NH3

Road tankers

- H2 Information Management Portal – Phase 1: Legislation, Regulations and Standards module

- Transition technologies (including H2) animation

- Evaluating the energy balance and efficiency of a whole

hydrogen-derivative energy system, from production to consumption

LCA

- Infrastructure Integration – Phase 2 Technology Maturity Assessment for H2 and H2/NG blends, e.g. infrastructural technology/ hardware related services, isolation systems, pressure reducing systems with overpressure protection, leak

detection/gas detectors, etc.

NH3  
PS

- NH3 process safety from production to end use in the emerging NH3 energy economy
- Process safety challenges in managing change when introducing low carbon technologies (including H2) to existing facilities

PS  
MoC

Corrosion management

Information management

Stakeholder 'explainer'

Infrastructure integration

# Wider adaptation of EI publications for the energy transition:

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EI has a portfolio of existing process safety standards (~75 No.), as well as for asset integrity and human factors ~50 No. process safety standards generic or reports – no amendment required for energy transition

Other 25 No. being adapted for energy transition. E.g., in process safety portfolio:

- EI 3015 ('EI 15'): hazardous area classification, now includes GH2 and LH2 – previously only 'refinery' H2
- EI 3314: PFP for BESSs, MoC for PFP suitability for low carbon fuels, including H2

But significant effort to revise all pertinent standards, and not all required research complete before codifying

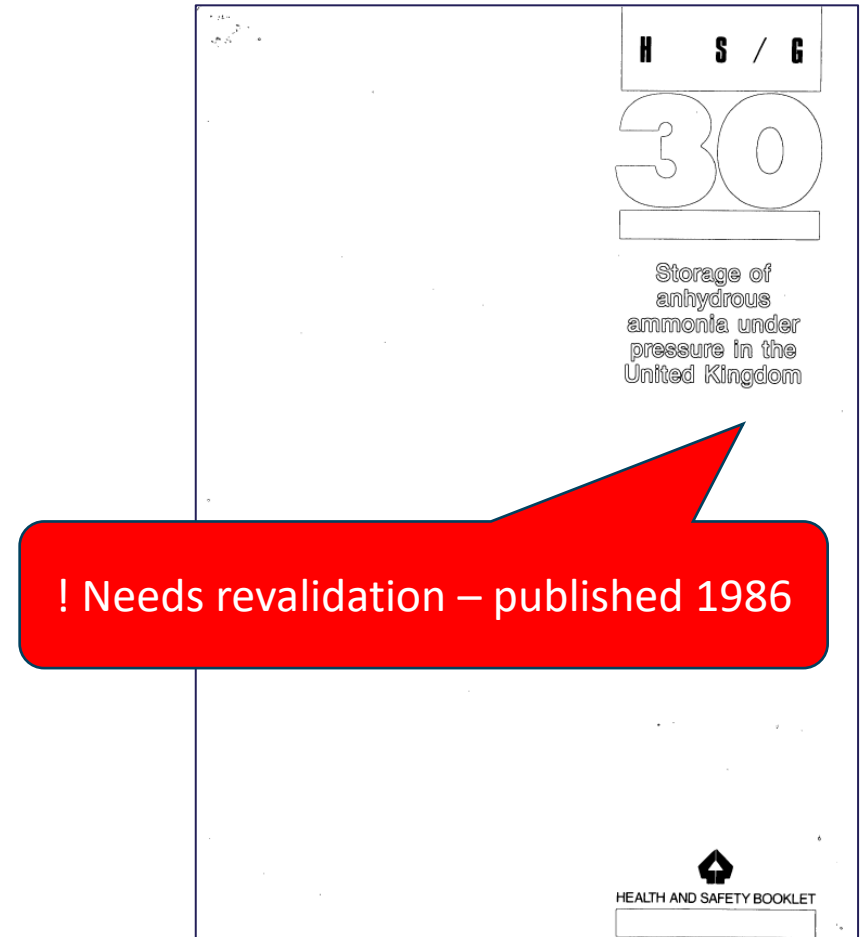


! Operate within uncertainty

# Who guards and is developing knowledge

A complex picture, with multiple organisations working in parallel and lacking high-level coordination. Some operate at different TRLs. They includes:

- Research councils, regulators (e.g. OFGEM) and governmental funding applied mainly to academia, academia hubs (e.g. Ocean RE-Fuel, IDRIC, Mari-NH3), consultancies and technology developers (e.g. Net Zero Technology Centre)
- Trade associations (H2 Council, EIGA, EEMUA, BCGA)
- Professional bodies (IGEM, EI)
- Standards Development Organisations (e.g. ISO TC/197 and TC/67)
- IEA for HAC and separation distances
- Skills bodies (e.g. Cogent, E&U Skills, ECITB, Opito)



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