

# H2REF

Development of a cost effective and reliable hydrogen fuel cell vehicle refuelling system



**Programme Review Days 2019** Brussels, 19-20 November 2019



# **FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN** JOINT UNDERTAKING

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### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- **Call year: 2014**
- and systems for fuel cell vehicles
- Project dates: 01/09/2015 31/12/2019
- % stage of implementation 01/11/2019: 90 %
- Total project budget: 6 453 859 €
- FCH JU max. contribution: 5 968 554 €
- **Other financial contribution: -**





### Call topic: FCH-01.5-2014 Development of cost effective and reliable hydrogen refuelling station components

### Partners: CETIM (w/ UTC) (FR), Haskel (UK), Hexagon (Norway), H2Nova (FR), CCS (UK), LBST (DE)







# **H2REF PROJECT SUMMARY**

### Development of a cost effective and reliable hydrogen vehicle refuelling system

Focus: HRS compression and buffering function 



- fluid, metal hydride, electrochemical





Objectives: Advance a novel hydrogen compression method using hydraulic accumulators which should deliver greater performance and durability while lowering costs, from TRL 3 to TRL 6 Tackling hydrogen compression for refueling in a new way, next to other approaches - ionic







# **HYDRAULIC ACCUMULATOR BASED COMPRESSION** Taking mature technology beyond the state of the art



### Challenge 1 900 bar accumulator in carbon fiber composite

Challenge 2 Bladder resisting to H<sub>2</sub> pressure variations





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70 MPa dispensing of 5 kg of H2

H2 from trailer down to 70 bar

Two compression stages – one 75 kW motor

Banks od 4 x 75 l accumulators

Targets		
Throughput	30 kg/h "around the clock"	
Energy consumption	1.5 kWh/kg average	
Durability	10 y operation without part replacement	
Cost	300 k€ (50 syst./yr) [1.5 k€/(kg/d)*]	
	*for 200 kg/d nom. capacity	

Challenge 3 Process development and testing





# HYDRAULIC ACCUMULATOR BASED COMPRESSION Main advantages

- Implements serially produced components from mature industries (hydraulics and pressure vessels) minimizing Capex while providing excellent durability and reliability
- Scalable, thanks to the combined high scalability of hydraulics and carbon composite pressure vessels
- Flexible, thanks to the wide operating pressure ranges of the components
- Reduced energy consumption, thanks to taking advantage of varying pressure upstream
- Low noise, thanks to the location of the hydraulic power unit in an enclosure that does not require high ventilation













# CHALLENGE 1 – Accumulator qualified for service at 900 bar











# **CHALLENGE 2 – Bladder resisting to hydrogen pressure variations** A suitable elastomer was successfully identified



**Project start value** 

### Typically weak





#### Ex. material A – Negative results















> 600 bar ΔP

### 25%

### 50%

- First-of-its-kind analysis, using a unique test facility
- Over 20 tests performed

75%

A material offering good compromise wrt to performance and manufacturability was selected





# **CHALLENGE 3 – Process development and testing** A sequential approach was applied within a single system setup

Hydraulic skid







#### Gas skid sequential configurations





#### Gas skid

- Accurate control of the amount of hydraulic fluid injected/released
- Handling of the hydrogen migrating into the hydraulic fluid
- Detection of bladder failure
- Protection oil reservoir against risk of overpressurisation







# CHALLENGE 3 – Process development and testing (cont.) Multiple testing facilities for functional and endurance testing

**Project start value** 





Aerial view of hydrogen test area for full scale CBM testing in closed loop







**Bladder folding** behaviour testing

**Bladder accumulator endurance testing** 

+ Third party H2 purity analytical services









# **Risks and Challenges**

- A "Hydrogen Test Area" had to be developed at site of system construction, instead of using at third party test area, as this would not have been workable.
- addressed.







In addition to overcoming the up-front development challenges, numerous time consuming issues in relation to individual components had to be

One system with sequential configurations allowed to develop an industrial prototype in one shot, but added complexity.





### **Communications Activities**



### Web publications (ex.)

http://energie2007.fr/actualites/fiche/5714



#### Website





(H<sub>2</sub> Ref)

systems.

(EH),



#### http://hydrogentoday.info/news/2048



### CETIM 50 years event at hosted by French Ministry of Economy and Finance



Facebook

### Social media



Piloté par H2NOVA et le Cetim, le projet européen H2REF vise le développement d'une nouvelle génération de stations de distribution d'hydrogène. Ses premiers travaux débuteront

à Senlis.

Lire plus http://ow.ly/TZPxY

Trois ans pour développer et valider une station hydraulique de distribution d'hydrogène « Hote and pour development of and/or addation injudices of definition of hydrogenet hautes performances » de conception inédite. C'est le défique compte relever le projet H2REF (Development of a cost effective and reliable hydrogen fuel cell vehicle refuelling system), démarté en septembre dans le cadre de la deuxième phase de l'initiative européenne « piles à combustibles (PAC) et hydrogène » (Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Joint Undertaking – FCH JU 2). Cette initiative, soutenue par le programme Horizon 2020 de 'Union européenne et la Norvège, vise le déploiement commercial des solutions hydrogène et PAC pour l'énergie et le transport à travers le vieux continent.









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# **EXPLOITATION PLAN/EXPECTED IMPACT**

### **Exploitation**

- Bring accumulator based compression to TRL 7 through further optimization, functional, and endurance testing (incl. demonstration in a commercially operated fueling station)
- Support the further development of the required RCS framework (CEN standard)
- Develop and demonstrate accumulator based compression for high capacity dispensing (2 t/d)





### **Impact**

 Technical validation of a new approach to hydrogen compression that provides the durability and the scalability needed to enable mass deployment of hydrogen mobility







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