

# Hydrogen for Aviation Webinar



INNOVATE · ACCELERATE · CHALLENGE



# Agenda & Presenter

## PRESENTER



**Olivier Saint-Esprit**

**Partner**

*Head of the Aerospace & Defense sector  
Expert on Hydrogen topics*



**Armin Morabbi**  
Manager

**MODERATED BY**

## AGENDA

**1. Introduction**

**2. Comparison of low carbon solutions for aviation: battery, fuel-cell and hydrogen propulsion**

**3. Field of use of hydrogen propulsion in civil aviation**

**4. The 4 challenges for the large-scale deployment of 100% hydrogen civil aviation**

**5. Q&A**

# WHEN will the first H<sub>2</sub> mid-range aircraft appear ?

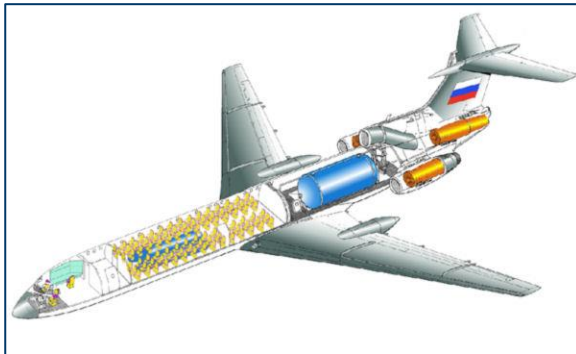
?

WHEN will an H<sub>2</sub> powered mid-range aircraft fly?

H<sub>2</sub> aviation is not Sci-Fi and ecological transition puts it back in the spotlight...

## TUPOLEV TU-155

- Switch to a single LH<sub>2</sub> engine during flight
- 1<sup>st</sup> LH<sub>2</sub> flight: April 15<sup>th</sup> 1988
- Cancelled: 1994



... But sector wide adoption of H<sub>2</sub> is a bigger challenge than flying a single aircraft

# Hydrogen is the only viable low emission option for commercial aviation



## Batteries Li-ion

### Unviable

*Very small planes only*

“Assuming for a moment that we’d be able to rely on **batteries 30 times as energy dense as that** [from 100wh/kg to 3000], an A320 would be able to fly with **half of its payload for one-fifth of its current range**, 500nm max. So, assuming a battery which today does not exist ... It doesn’t work, purely electrical will not work.”



Grazia Vittadini,  
Airbus, 2019



## E-fuels

### Viable mid term

*kerosene-equivalent performance*

*Interoperable with kerosene, but limitations due to energy consumption during production :*

- H2 production (electrolysis)
  - CO2 capture systems
  - Fuel synthesis systems
- High OPEX



## Fuel Cells with LH2

### Viable for limited range and performances

For an E175 aircraft (78 PAX)  
“With experimental fuel cell densities potentially as high as only 2.2 kW/kg, the fuel cell system would require about **19,800 kg of equipment to generate the 43.7 MW of power** output during the climb phase of the flight, **compared to the 2364 kg total for two CF34-8E turbine engines on the aircraft today**”



Ahmed F Ghoneim  
MIT: Center for Energy &  
Propulsion Research, 2019



## LH2 as propellant

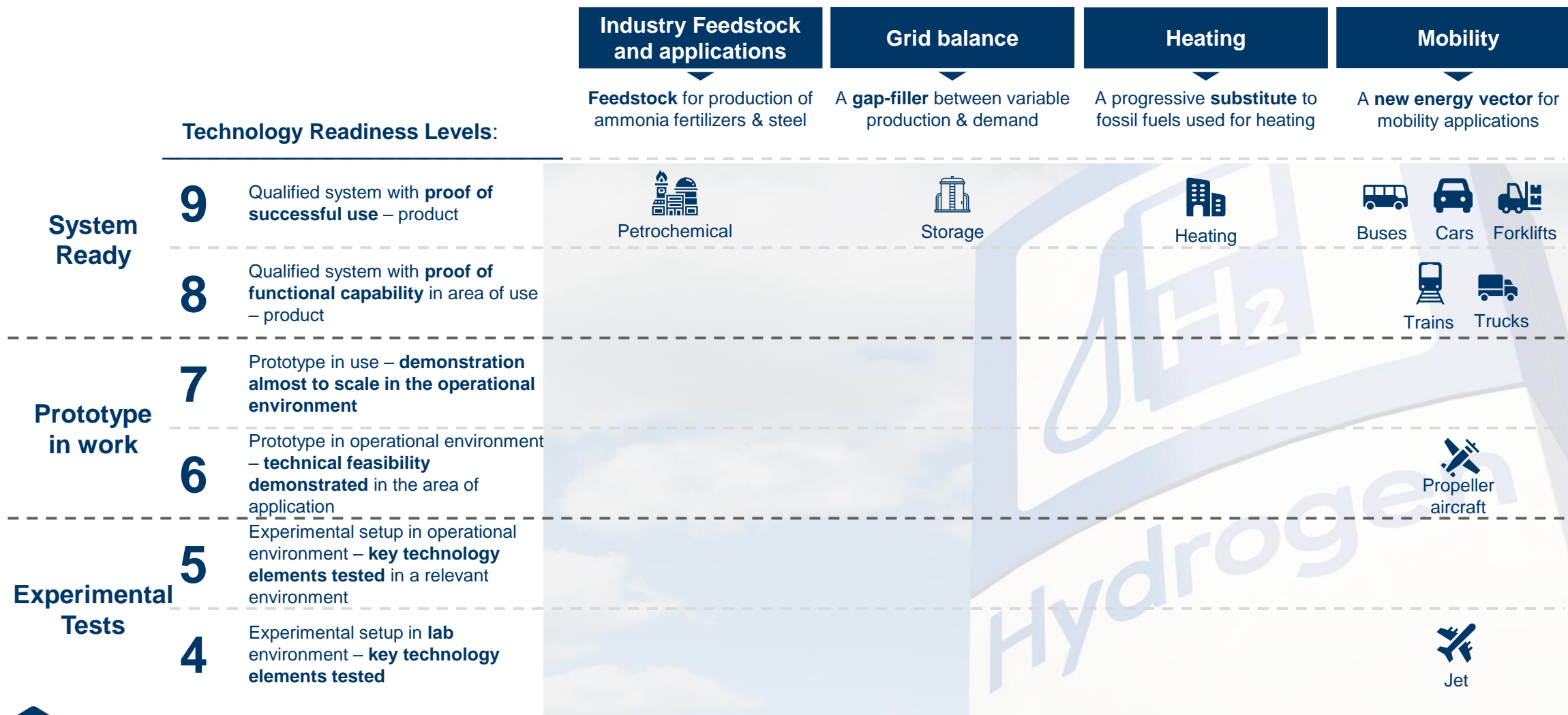
### Viable High ranges and performances

*Increased aircraft weight and volumes:  
For same energy*

**Fuel Weight / 2.8 vs kerosene**  
**Fuel Volume x 4 vs kerosene**

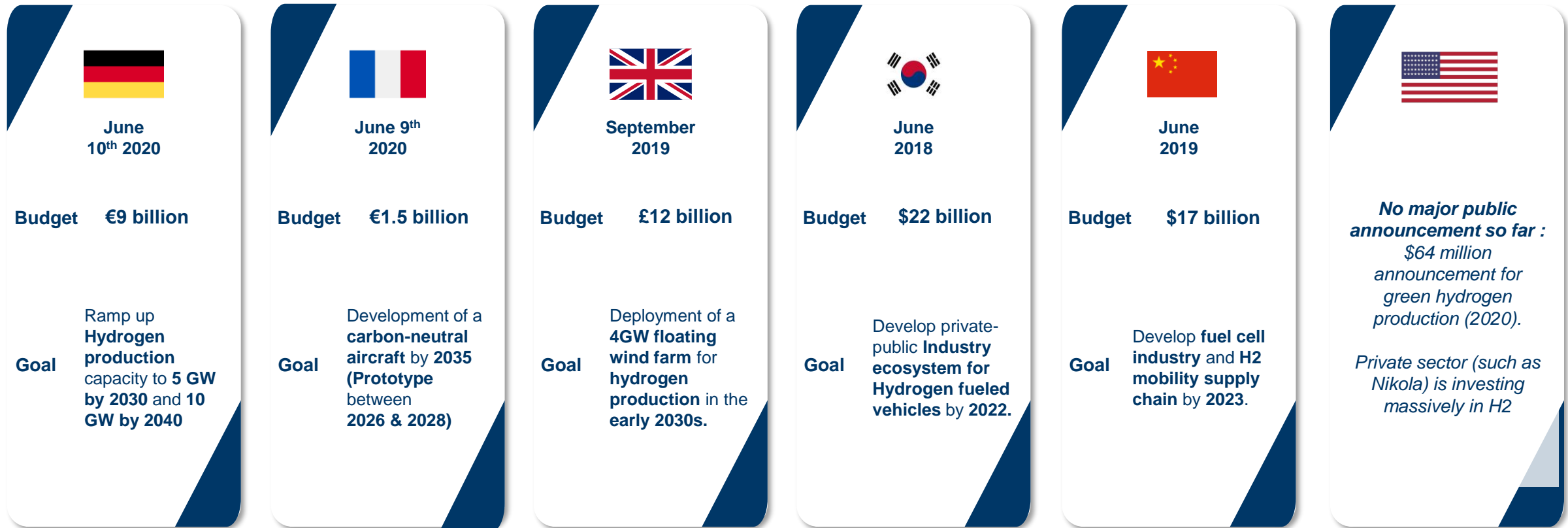
*High autonomy requires a significant increase in the aircraft volume for LH2 storage.*

# The interest of hydrogen & its use cases across its application segments





# Major public investments in H2 projects across the world



# 3 steps to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission using H<sub>2</sub>

2025 - 2030

2030s

2040s

## Synthesis Kerosene – E-Fuels

Synthesized from CO<sub>2</sub> and Hydrogen

No impact on the aircraft design

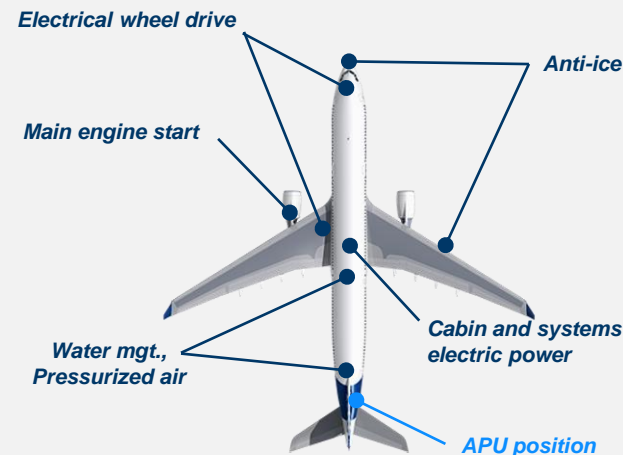
Compatible with current engines

Higher fuel cost than H<sub>2</sub>

Lower CAPEX, Higher OPEX

## Fuel cells as auxiliary power unit

Electrification of auxiliary systems by  
Hydrogen based fuel cells:



## Hydrogen fuel cells as propulsion

Existing small planes  
prototypes



ZeroAvia 6 seaters

► Radical rethink of the  
design for small aircraft  
(e.g. distributed electric propulsion)

Higher CAPEX, Lower OPEX

## LH2 for propulsion

Re-design of jet aircrafts

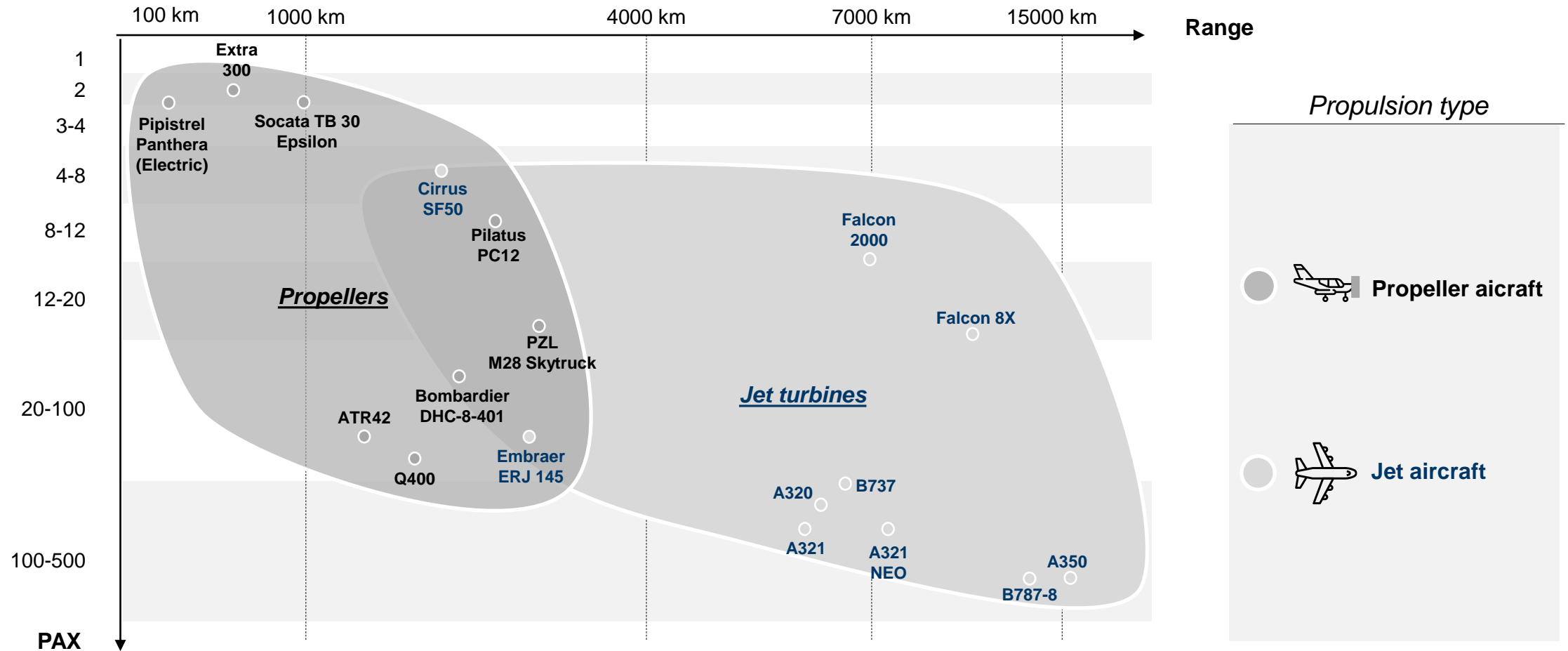


Early 2000 Cryoplane  
project

► Could appear earlier  
than fuel cells for mid-  
size carriers

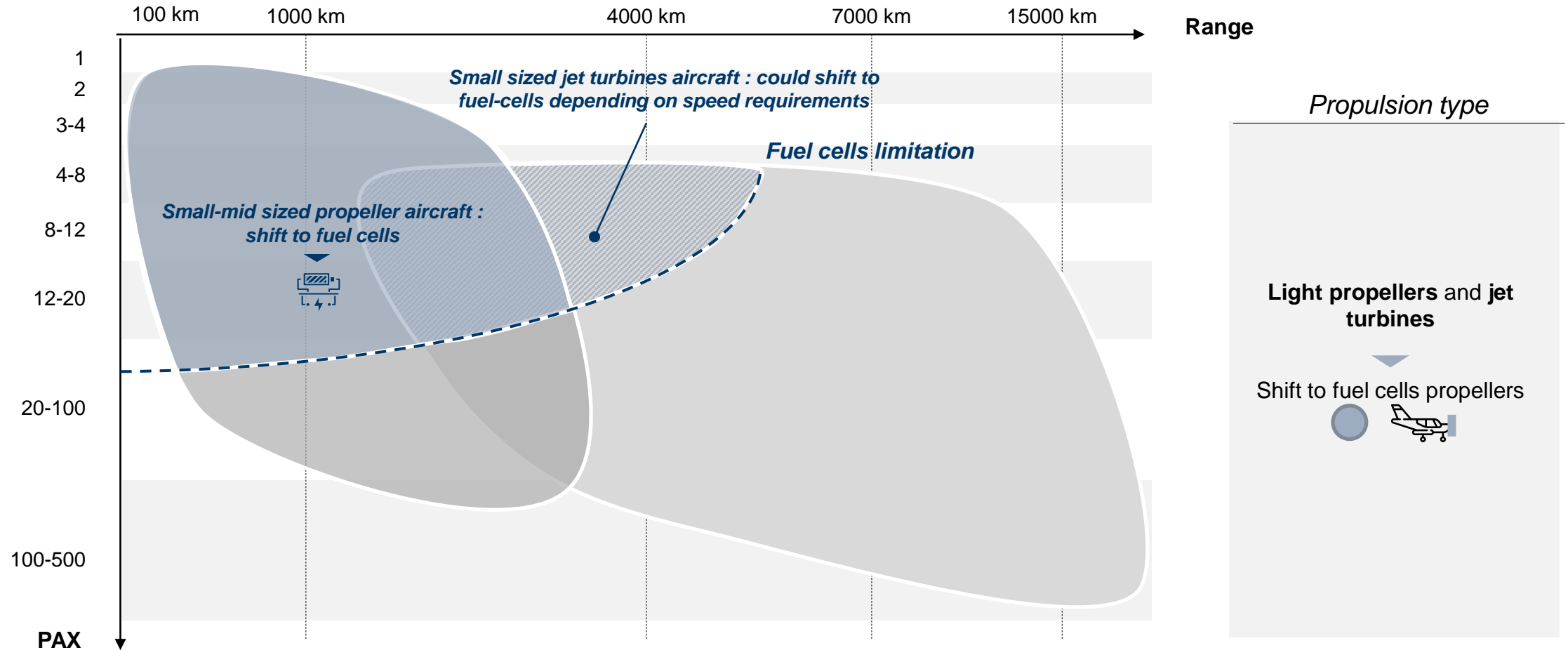
Higher CAPEX, Lower OPEX

# Mapping of civil aviation

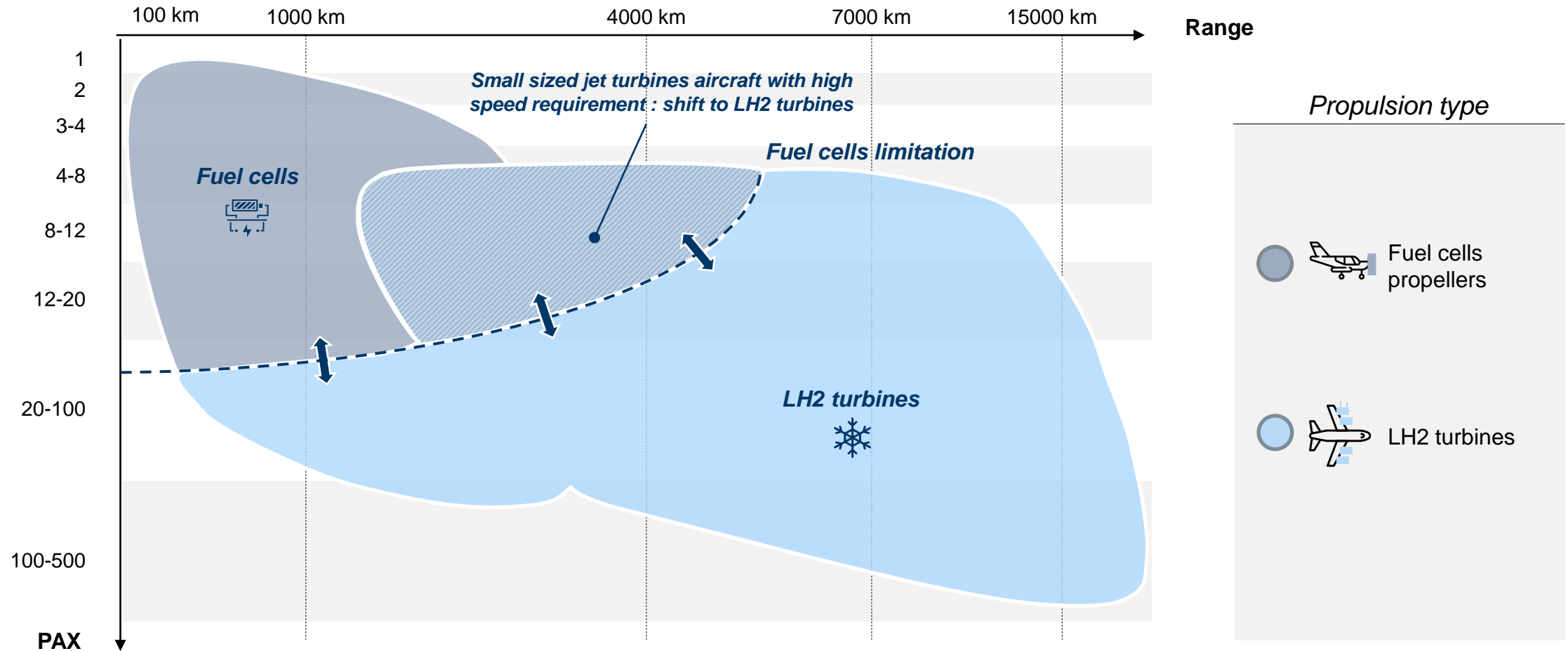




# Fuel cells are relevant to replace within a certain load and performance limit



# LH2 jet turbines are suited for larger aircraft and longer ranges



# 4 key challenges of large scale H<sub>2</sub> aviation

---



## **H<sub>2</sub> aircraft → New aircrafts have to be designed and certified**

*New, safe and robust solutions have to be developed including Storage tank, distribution, Venting, dispensing and purging*



## **Cost impact → Lower emissions come at a higher price**

*Cost increase has to be offset either by carbon taxes of ~500€/ton of CO<sub>2</sub> or supported by the passenger*



## **Electricity production → Widespread and sustainable H<sub>2</sub> requires more electricity supply**

*Full electrolyzed H<sub>2</sub> scenario requires a 35% increase of current global electricity generation*



## **Supply chain → Massive H<sub>2</sub> storage & delivery capacities must be developed**

*40,000 airports have to go through a major overhaul of their infrastructure while maintaining dual capabilities during a 30-year transition period*

# LH2 Aircraft

## What does the Liquid $H_2$ aircraft look like?



Current design



LH2 concept



### System

- **New Fuel System:** Tanks, Pipes, Valves, Pumps, Vents
- **New Fuel Control System:** Sensors, Control Box
- **Fire Protection features:** Sensors, Ventilation , Control Box



### Engine

- **High pressure Pump**
- **Heat Exchanger**
- **Fuel Flow Control Valve**
- **Combustion Chamber**
- **Control Box**
- **Oil Cooler**



### Airframe

- **Tank support**
- **Local strengthening fuselage**
- **Fairings fuselage stretch to accommodate increased payload strengthening of wing structure**



### Configuration

- **Integration of large cylindrical tanks, preferably above the passenger cabin**

# Cost Impact

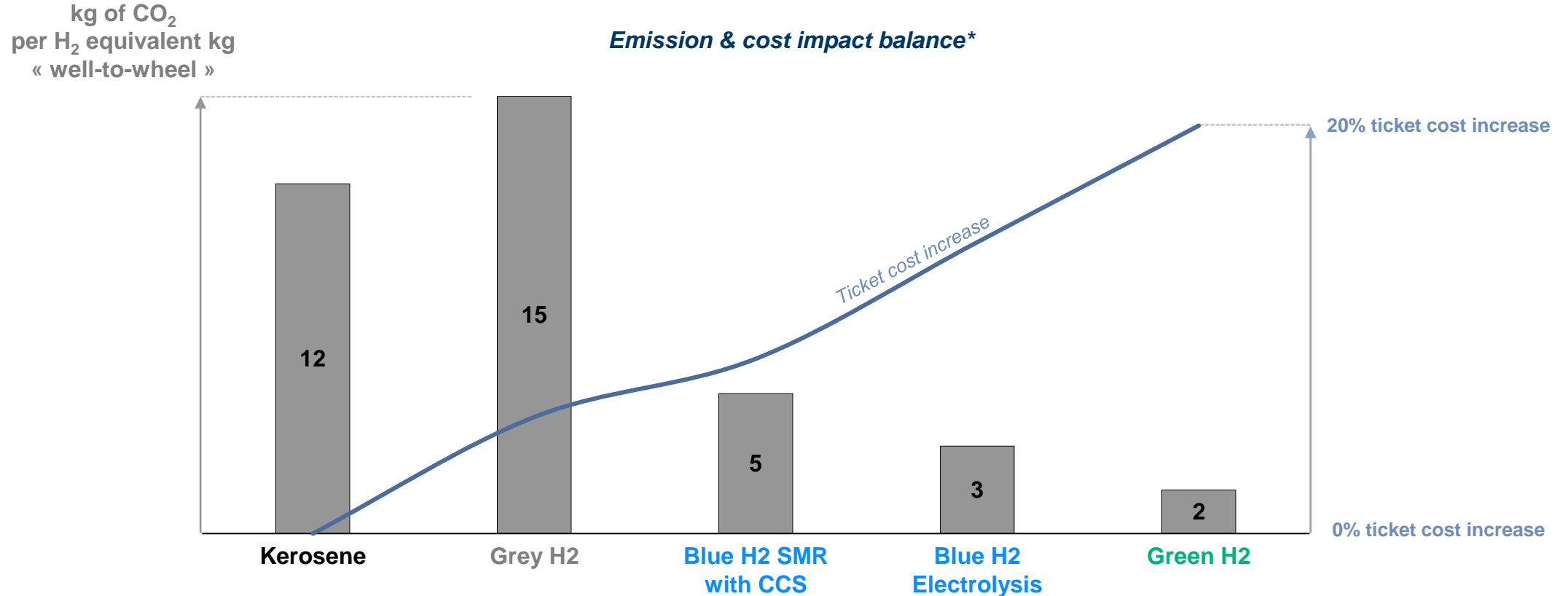
## First of all, 3 colors of Hydrogen



# Cost Impact

*Finding the right balance between emissions and cost*

## Almost CO<sub>2</sub>-free aviation is technically possible



- Calculation based on the French energy mix with 58 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kwh
- Cost impact on a Boeing 737 or A320 block-hour cost for a 3000km flight



# Electricity Production

Paris CDG airport turned 100% H<sub>2</sub> with state of the art technology

## Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport



**700**

Take-offs / day



Kerosene

H2 Propulsion



**4 200 t**

Kerosene need  
by day



**1 500 t**

H<sub>2</sub> need  
by day



**4 GW**

Power needed  
to produce H<sub>2</sub> by  
electrolysis

## What do these 4 GW represent?

NUCLEAR



EPR Flamanville 3: 1,65 GW

**2.5**

EPR reactors

**€9 bn**

Capex Cost\*

WIND POWER



Wind farm: 3 200 turbines spread  
over 2 000 km<sup>2</sup>

**3 200**

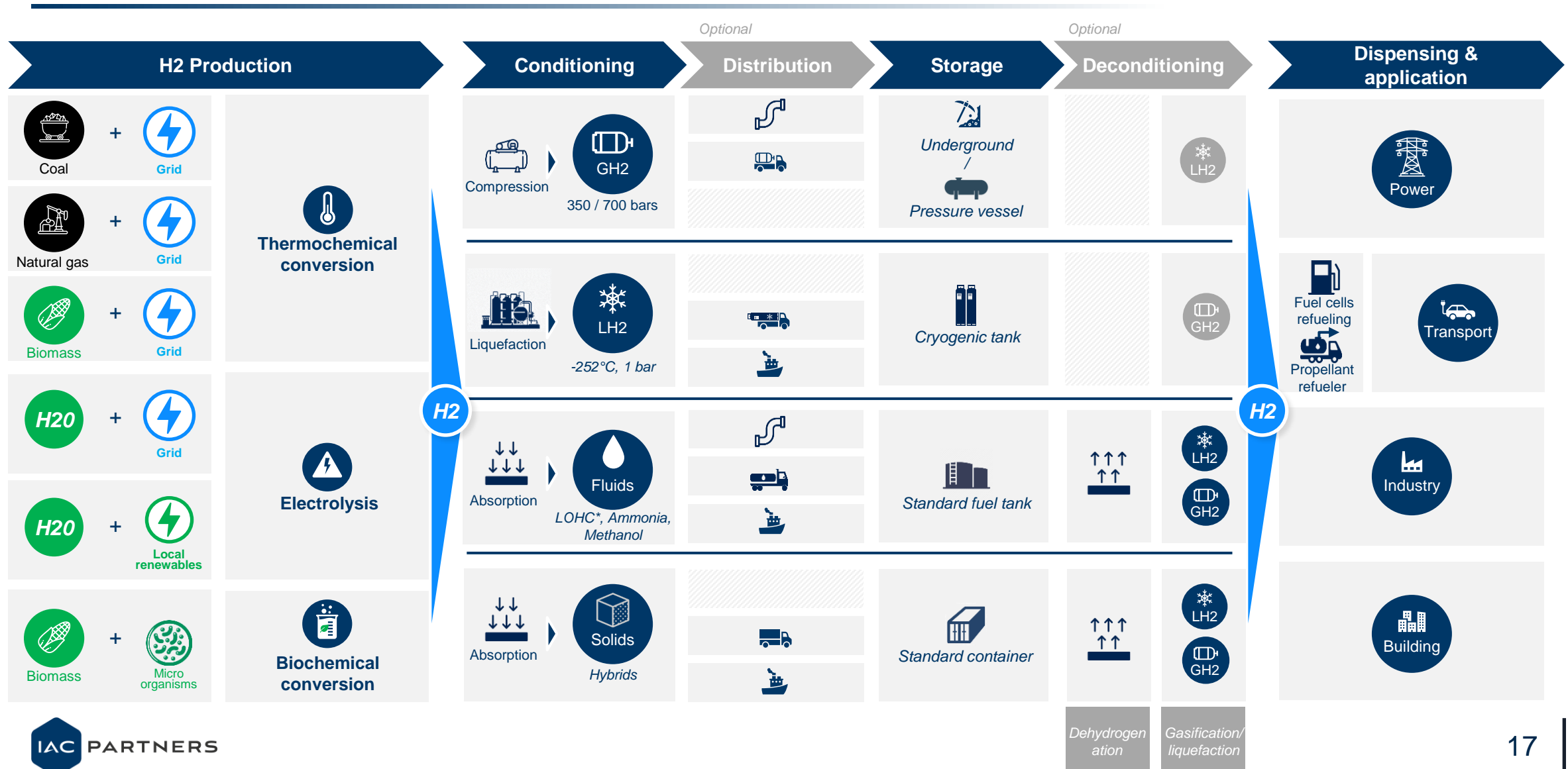
5MW-25% load  
factor Wind turbines

**€16 bn**

Capex Cost

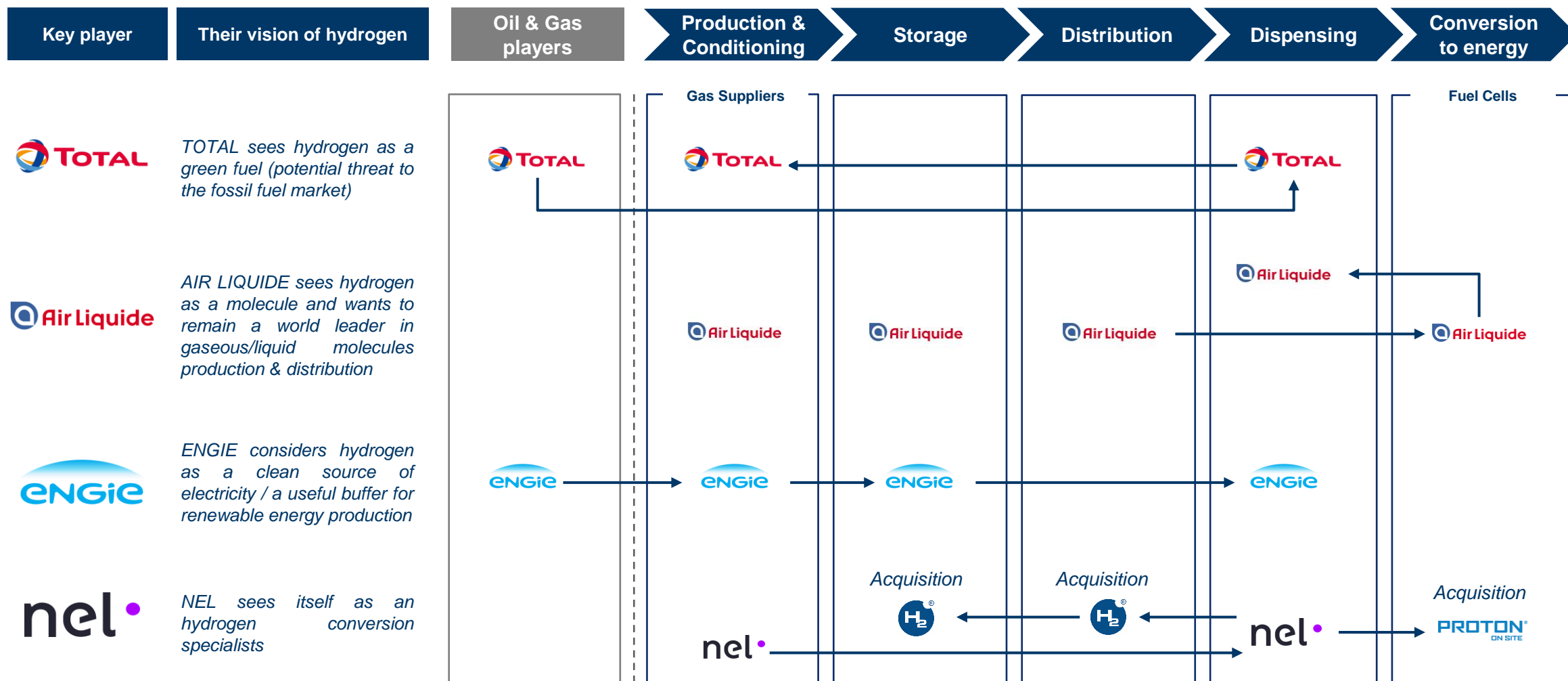
\*Based on initial cost estimation of €3.5 bn

# Hydrogen value chain – Multiple production and supply patterns



# Supply Chain

*Positioning of the main actors in H2 supply chain is beginning to take shape*



# Take aways, Q&A

---

1

**H<sub>2</sub> aircraft** has proved to be **feasible**, however a **long development and certification** phase is to be expected

2

**Zero-carbon aviation is technically achievable with H<sub>2</sub>**. Today, its production is mostly “grey” and more polluting than burning kerosene

3

**Immediate focus** should be **on infrastructures and supply**. An **H<sub>2</sub> airplane without refueling capabilities is useless**

4

**H<sub>2</sub> for aviation will benefit from a scale effect** as many regions and industries are investing heavily

5

**Production ramp up** will be a massive **challenge** since a large amount of energy will be needed to generate H<sub>2</sub>: **full H<sub>2</sub> scenario would need 35% of current worldwide electricity generation capacity**

6

**E-fuels might play a role as a short-mid term solution**, esp. for the already existing fleet, despite **significant production costs**

