

# Ammonia

## an Energy Buffering Solution for the Future

Anish Patil

Proton Ventures, Netherlands

*NH3 Conference San Antonio, 2012*

# Today's talk...

- We start with a quick introduction of Proton
- Ammonia as an energy buffering solution
  - Not just as a fuel, but in fact as a *Working Fluid*
  - There are many experts here in this room, who can do a better job than I while talking about combustion characteristics of ammonia, engine control systems, emissions, etc.
  - But at Proton we see great potential in ammonia as a fuel, due to the **flexibility** it offers when compared to other alternative fuel choices.

# Today's talk...

- Yesterday we had a presentation, which was quite interesting, where the presenter spoke about ammonia not just as a chemical  $\text{NH}_3$ ,
  - with chemical reactions, combustion characteristics, exhausts... Etc.
  - But  $\text{NH}_3$  as a fuel... with subsequent interactions with society
- At Proton we find it is important to see ammonia as a fuel, but as part of society.
  - Not just the combustion characteristics are important but equally important is the understanding of the System within which it operates
- What comes first – ammonia, ammonia engine, laws, rules, standards... Top – down or bottom – up?
- Hence we are looking at the entire supply chain – from Well to Wheels if you may, from production to usage, to study how Ammonia as a fuel system will look like

# Today's talk

- This will be discussed w.r.t two projects Proton is part of





# Today's talk

- This will be discussed w.r.t two projects Proton is part of

Maasvlakte 2 Project  
in the Netherlands



# Proton Ventures



# Proton Ventures

- Recently completed Projects: Ammonia Terminal, Estonia
  - EPC
  - Turnkey solution





# Proton Ventures

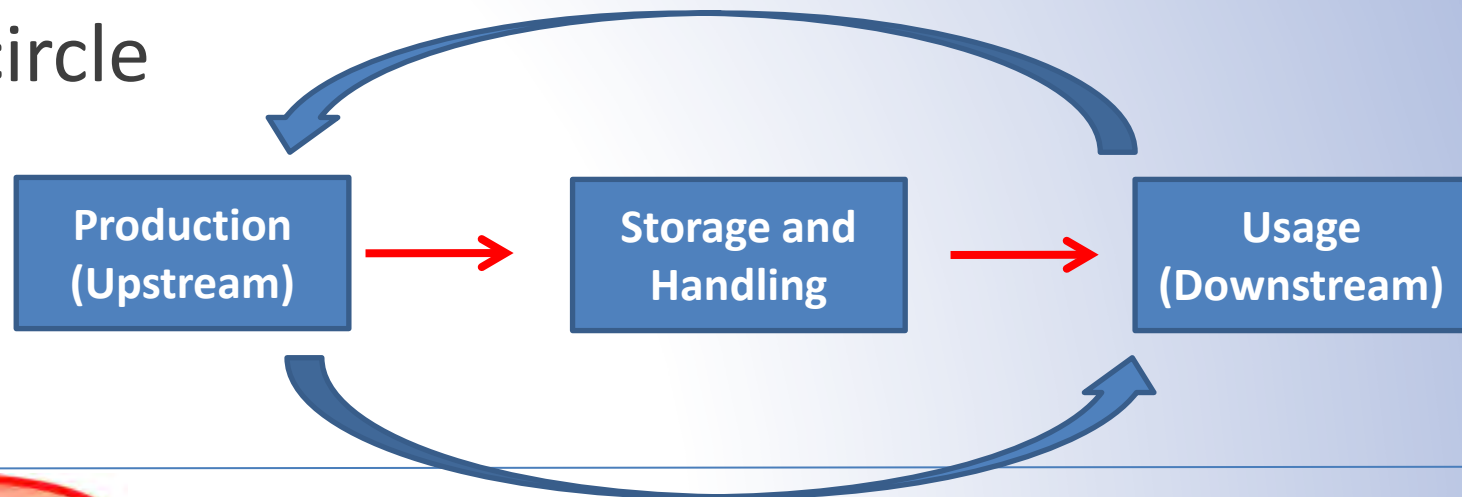
- Recently completed Projects: Cooling Towers, Netherlands
  - Outsourcing utilities
  - Design, Build, Own and Operate





# Proton Ventures

- Proton's New ammonia terminal is coming up in Bulgaria
- So far our focus was on Ammonia storage and handling
- Now we are moving towards completing the circle



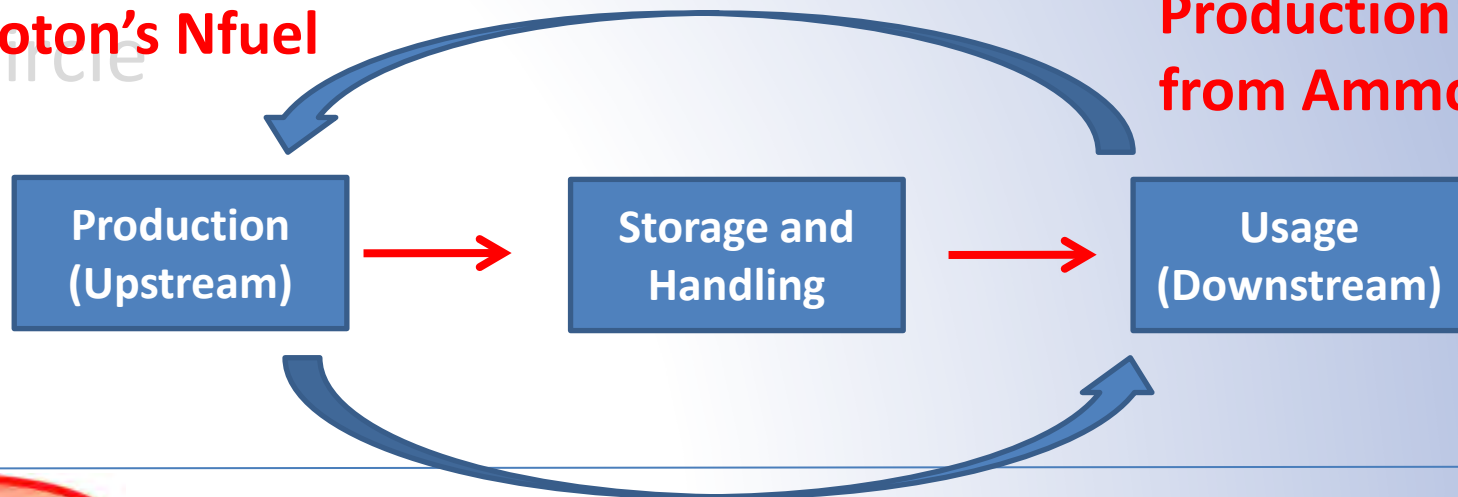
# Proton Ventures

- Proton's New ammonia terminal is coming up in Bulgaria
- So far our focus was on Ammonia storage and handling

**Decentralized**

**Ammonia production via Proton's Nfuel units**

**On demand Production of Power from Ammonia**



# Why Ammonia

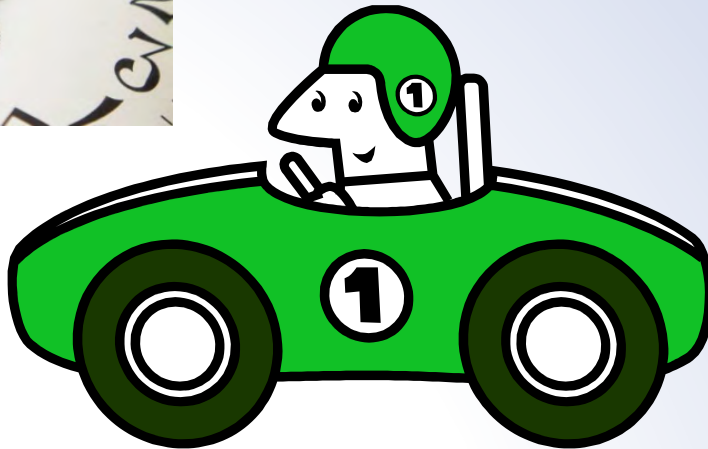
- Its strength is its Flexibility potential
  - Fertilizers
  - Nox capture
  - Industrial chemical
  - Fuel
- Infrastructure is available
  - No need to reinvent the wheel
  - Build on existing competencies
- Yesterday's presentation by Bill Leighty spoke about Alaska's stranded energy islands.
  - Why have 3-4 supply chains for different fuels/fertilizers/energy carriers...
  - Why not just 1 that does address all the society's needs.
  - Ammonia is not just an energy carrier. But a working fluid.



# Ammonia as a Fuel just seems a Smart Option

- No other working fluid has the depth and reach that ammonia has already.

# Fossil fuels



# A Big Problem ...

## One day the oil will end





# Status quo

- Currently fossil fuels cater to about 80% of the World's primary energy demand, and the remainder of 20% demand is catered by alternative energy resources
  - Wind is an option
  - Solar is an option
- But the problem is fluctuations!!
- Problem is Handling and Transport losses
- Problem is buffering these thin resources that fluctuate

# Fluctuations

- Affect availability
  - Demand side has peak-offpeak or seasonal fluctuation



# Fluctuations

- Affect availability
  - Production of renewable energy is characterised by fluctuations





# Grid imbalance

- Fluctuations lead to grid imbalance
  - Leading to energy wastage
  - Curtailment issues
  - Power shortage



Source: Nationalgeographic.com

# Energy shortage

- Personally I do not think we have a shortage of energy,
  - but rather problem with logistics
  - We have inefficient transportation systems, where losses can be avoided.
  - There are losses, theft, corruption, rules, laws, etc

# Example of India

- 50% of the power is unpaid for
  - Reaches where it shouldnt
  - Leading to Power shortage/frequent power cuts

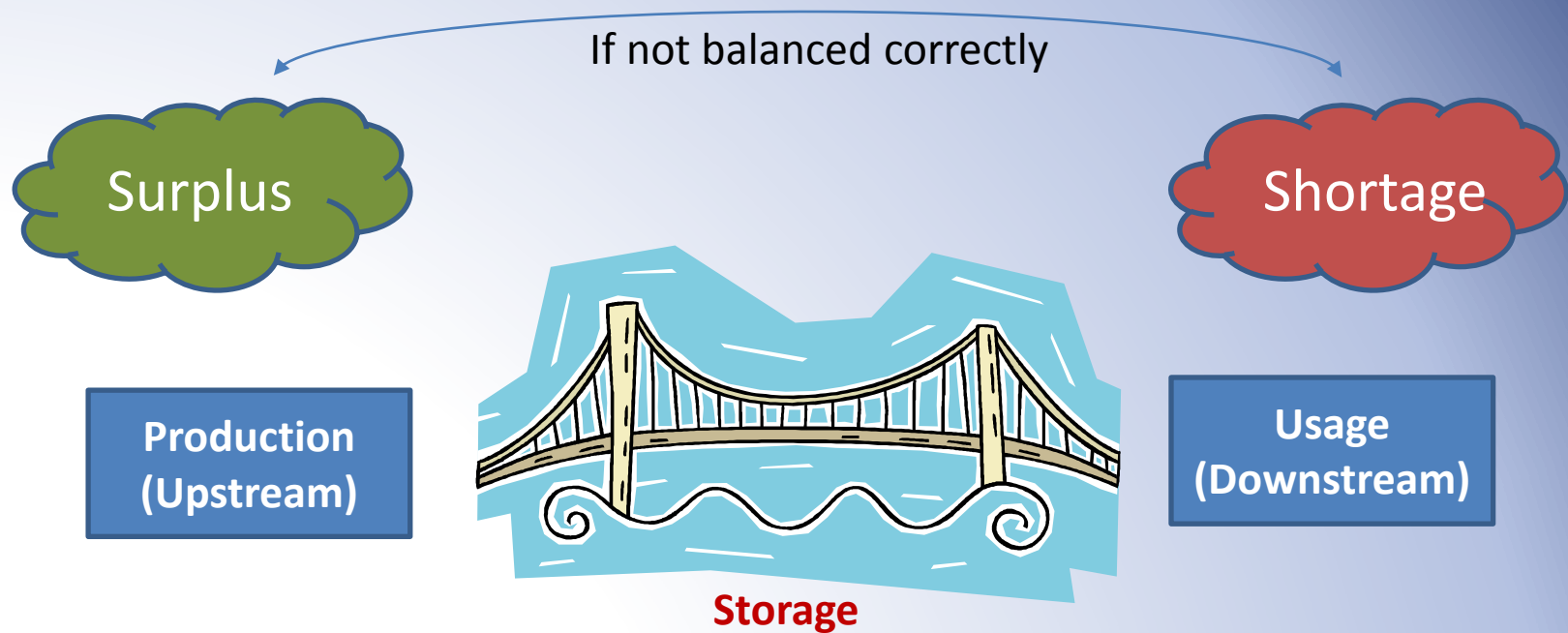




# What is the solution to our energy problem?

- Reduce our energy usage
  - That's not gonna happen
- Maybe Recycle, Reuse...
- Bridge supply and demand in a better way

# Bridge the energy balance



Most important thing about Energy is that it should be **available** when it is needed.

# Lightning has tremendous energy content,

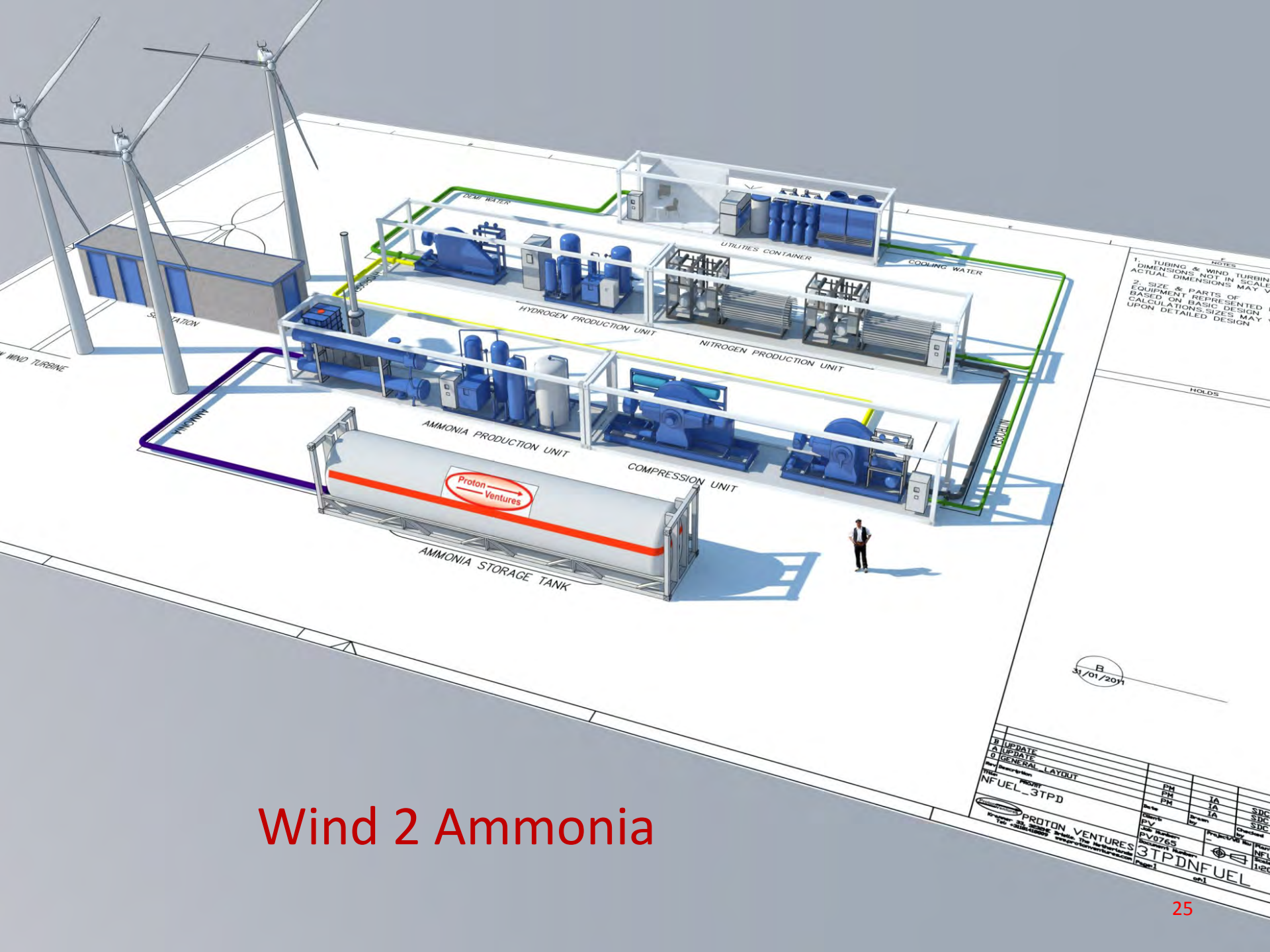


However, it cannot be stored and made available when needed? Then what's the use?

It would be great if we could harness it... But we are not there yet. Until then we have an option

# Proton's NFuel concept

- NFuel concept is based on decentralized production of Ammonia from (decentralized) energy sources to **store** RENEWABLE ENERGY
- And use this ammonia to produce power on demand.



NOTES  
1. TUBING & WIND TURBINE  
DIMENSIONS NOT IN SCALE  
ACTUAL DIMENSIONS MAY VARY  
2. SIZE & PARTS OF  
EQUIPMENT REPRESENTED  
BASED ON BASIC DESIGN  
CALCULATIONS. SIZES MAY VARY  
UPON DETAILED DESIGN

HOLDS

B  
31/01/2021

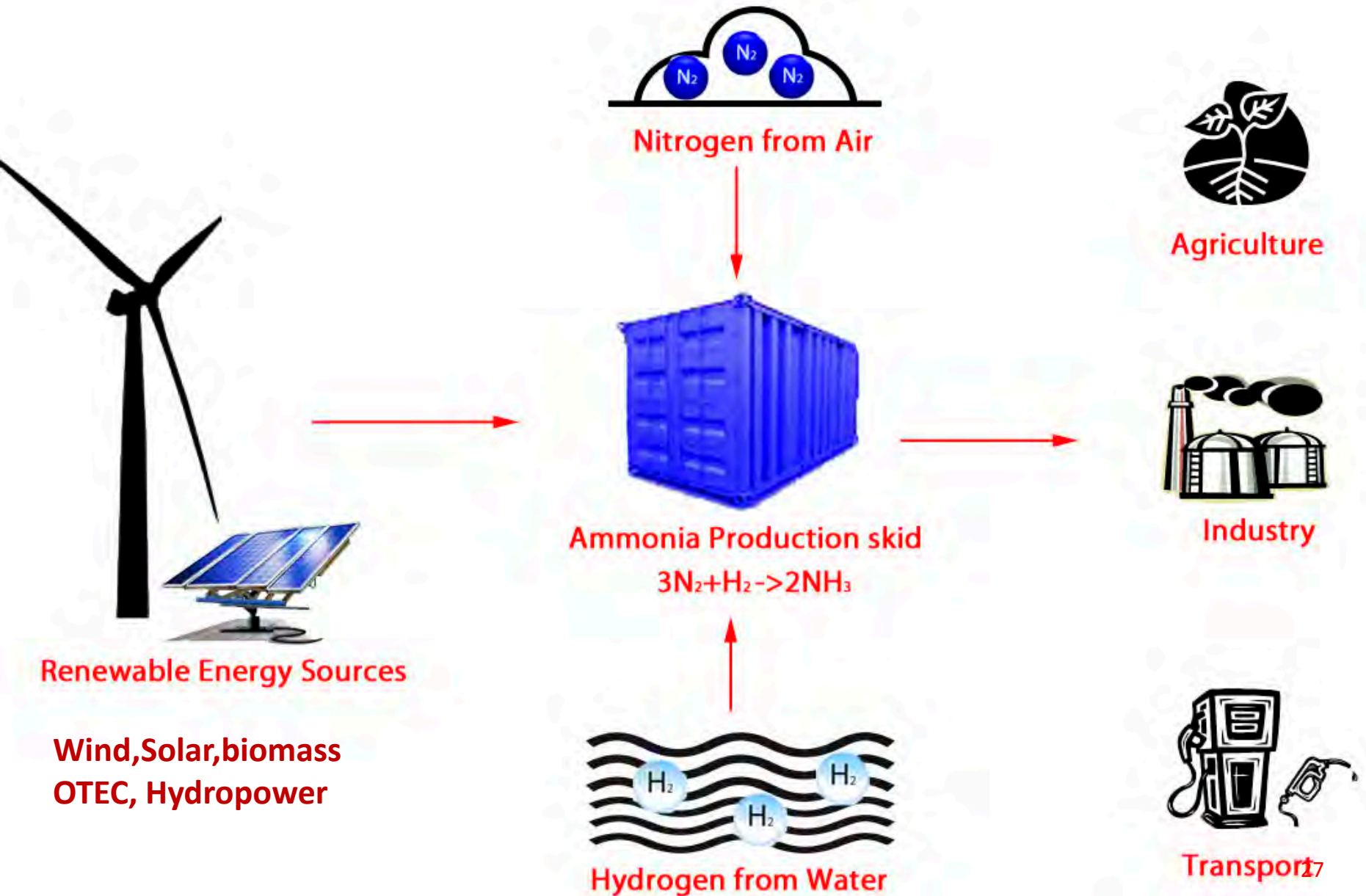
REV	DATE	BY	CHKD	APPD	DESCRIPTION
0	31/01/2021	PH	JA	SDC	GENERAL LAYOUT
1		PH	JA	SDC	
2		PH	JA	SDC	
3		PH	JA	SDC	
4		PH	JA	SDC	
5		PH	JA	SDC	
6		PH	JA	SDC	
7		PH	JA	SDC	
8		PH	JA	SDC	
9		PH	JA	SDC	
10		PH	JA	SDC	
11		PH	JA	SDC	
12		PH	JA	SDC	
13		PH	JA	SDC	
14		PH	JA	SDC	
15		PH	JA	SDC	
16		PH	JA	SDC	
17		PH	JA	SDC	
18		PH	JA	SDC	
19		PH	JA	SDC	
20		PH	JA	SDC	
21		PH	JA	SDC	
22		PH	JA	SDC	
23		PH	JA	SDC	
24		PH	JA	SDC	
25		PH	JA	SDC	
26		PH	JA	SDC	
27		PH	JA	SDC	
28		PH	JA	SDC	
29		PH	JA	SDC	
30		PH	JA	SDC	
31		PH	JA	SDC	
32		PH	JA	SDC	
33		PH	JA	SDC	
34		PH	JA	SDC	
35		PH	JA	SDC	
36		PH	JA	SDC	
37		PH	JA	SDC	
38		PH	JA	SDC	
39		PH	JA	SDC	
40		PH	JA	SDC	
41		PH	JA	SDC	
42		PH	JA	SDC	
43		PH	JA	SDC	
44		PH	JA	SDC	
45		PH	JA	SDC	
46		PH	JA	SDC	
47		PH	JA	SDC	
48		PH	JA	SDC	
49		PH	JA	SDC	
50		PH	JA	SDC	
51		PH	JA	SDC	
52		PH	JA	SDC	
53		PH	JA	SDC	
54		PH	JA	SDC	
55		PH	JA	SDC	
56		PH	JA	SDC	
57		PH	JA	SDC	
58		PH	JA	SDC	
59		PH	JA	SDC	
60		PH	JA	SDC	
61		PH	JA	SDC	
62		PH	JA	SDC	
63		PH	JA	SDC	
64		PH	JA	SDC	
65		PH	JA	SDC	
66		PH	JA	SDC	
67		PH	JA	SDC	
68		PH	JA	SDC	
69		PH	JA	SDC	
70		PH	JA	SDC	
71		PH	JA	SDC	
72		PH	JA	SDC	
73		PH	JA	SDC	
74		PH	JA	SDC	
75		PH	JA	SDC	
76		PH	JA	SDC	
77		PH	JA	SDC	
78		PH	JA	SDC	
79		PH	JA	SDC	
80		PH	JA	SDC	
81		PH	JA	SDC	
82		PH	JA	SDC	
83		PH	JA	SDC	
84		PH	JA	SDC	
85		PH	JA	SDC	
86		PH	JA	SDC	
87		PH	JA	SDC	
88		PH	JA	SDC	
89		PH	JA	SDC	
90		PH	JA	SDC	
91		PH	JA	SDC	
92		PH	JA	SDC	
93		PH	JA	SDC	
94		PH	JA	SDC	
95		PH	JA	SDC	
96		PH	JA	SDC	
97		PH	JA	SDC	
98		PH	JA	SDC	
99		PH	JA	SDC	
100		PH	JA	SDC	

# Wind 2 Ammonia





# NFUEL UNIT: Concept



# Highlights of mini-ammonia

- Fully automated process, design & control logic based on safe operation
- Power 2 ammonia or Gas 2 ammonia as per customer requirements
  - If hydrogen or nitrogen streams available as byproduct can be integrated in the system for ammonia production
  - Plug and play system
- Decentralised operations, hence no need for transport and logistics
- Units are skid based, hence easily transportable. Hence, if needed can be relocated if need be
- Skid based system offers an opportunity to replicate and keep cost per unit down

# 2 Projects – Ammonia System

- PAKRI in Estonia
- Maasvlaakte 2 in Netherlands
- Current focus on
  - Ammonia as an energy buffer
  - Power to Ammonia
  - Ammonia to Power
    - Stationary applications
    - Opportunity for heat capture
    - Constant load



# PAKRI

- **PAKRI Science and Industrial Park (PAKRI) for renewable energy.**
  - Renewable energy related R&D, testing, education and incubators for new companies and start-ups.
  - [www.pakri.ee](http://www.pakri.ee)
- For that the PAKRI has signed a development agreement with Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol and NN Arendus.

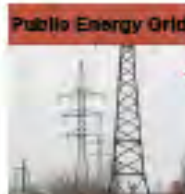


# PAKRI Project

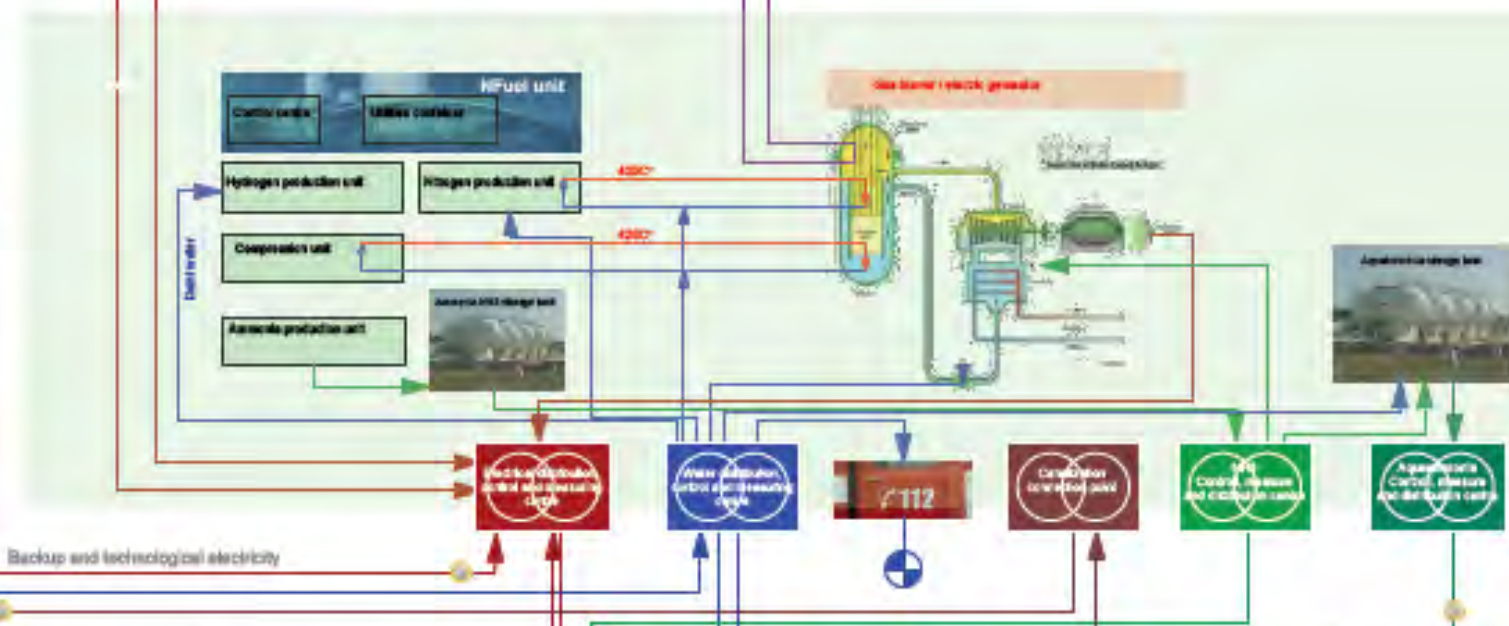
- Smart grid at PAKRI
  - Integrating various renewables, to produce ammonia. Ammonia can be further sold or converted into power.
- Upstream: Ammonia Production
  - With our partnership with NN, we would like to develop the technology that integrates the usage of renewables of renewables (wind, solar and geothermal) to power mini-ammonia units to produce ammonia.
- Downstream: Ammonia Usage
  - This ammonia can be converted back to electricity to satisfy PAKRI energy grid needs, and any extra ammonia can be supplied to other interested customers to be used for other applications.

# PAKRI Energy Grid ( EG )

Rohelise energia tootmisühikud / Green energy production units



LNG Gas



PAKRI EG client's are: PAKRI Science and Industrial Park - housing brutto area ca 680 000m2 and PEAK - housing brutto area ca 160 000m2











# Maasvlaakte 2

- *God created the Earth, but the Dutch created the Netherlands.*
  - A large part of the land is reclaimed from the sea



Maasvlakte2.com



# Maasvlakte 2

- Maasvlakte 2 is a major civil engineering project in the Netherlands, constructing a new port and supporting infrastructure on reclaimed land adjoining the Maasvlakte.
- Approximately 2000 hectares will be reclaimed
- Infrastructure planners dream – a blank slate
- Focus on sustainability
  - Design
  - Operations
  - Cositing



Project	Projectleader
1 Simulation of cluster development of Maasvlakte 2	Rob Stikkelman
2 Flexibility in port development and management	Michiel Nijdam
3 Development and greening of a syngas infrastructure	Rob Stikkelman
4 3D Spatial Data	Sisi Zlatanova
5 Dubrovnik	Larissa van der Lugt
6 Asset Life Cycle Management	Telli van der Lei
7 Masterplan+	Lori Tavasszy
8 Apps development in Port of Rotterdam	Wout Hofman
9 Industrial capture of surplus wind energy	Rob Stikkelman
10 Benegrids	Pieter Bots

Next Generation Port Infra, powered by Maasvlakte 2 is a four year alliance between Projectorganisation Maasvlakte 2 (PMV2) and researchprogramme Next Generation Infrastructures (NGInfra). The goal of the alliance is valorisation of NGInfra's excellent knowledge on infrastructural systems together with expertise of the Port of Rotterdam, focussed on a sustainable and efficient port. It is mainly focussed on infrastructural systems which will be part of the development, realisation and establishment of 'Maasvlakte 2' and an optimal exploitation of the port area. PMV2 and NGInfra are working together in projects to gain and expand knowledge. The financial scope of this alliance is 2 million Euros.



# 9 INDUSTRIAL CAPTURE OF SURPLUS WIND ENERGY

- Flexibility
- Business case model
- Smart industrial grid



The production of wind energy varies. Surplus amounts may occur and will remain unused until extra demand is created. In this project we explore the opportunities within the Rotterdam harbor industrial cluster to create additional flexible demand.

Examples are the production of green chemicals and the charging of automated guided vehicles. We have an eye for technology, economics, sustainability and stake holders.

Our final goal is to describe show cases for improving the environmental footprint of the Port of Rotterdam by using wind energy.



NEXT  
GENERATION  
INFRASTRUCTURES

Next Generation Port Infra, powered by Maasvlakte 2

**PROJECT TEAM** E-on Benelux NV: Sander Fijn van Draat, Daniel Lauwen, Menno Ros TenneT TSO BV: Hans van Hooijdonk Proton Ventures BV: Hans Vrijenhoef, Anish Patil PoR: Nicole van Klaveren-Pleumeekers, Wilco Van der Lans TU Delft: Rob Stikkelman, Kas Hemmes  
**PROJECT LEADER** Rob Stikkelman, r.m.stikkelman@tudelft.nl

# Project and deliverables

- Project Summary: Storing variable wind energie in the form of ammonia,
  - Greening of industrial processes
  - Making a value added product such as hydrogen or ammonia (hydrogen vector)
  - Prevent potential wastage of energy
- Project Partners:
  - TU Delft, HbR, Proton Ventures BV, E.oN, TenneT TSO B.V.
- Develop an integrated concept
  - Technology
    - Options, Chemicals and Cost/benefits, Smartgrid
  - Actors
    - Multi-actor analysis
  - And Institutional
    - Institutional analysis



# Wrap-up

- We offer mini-ammonia units for stranded locations
  - To begin with the ammonia can be used as a fertilizer, as this is the established market
  - Over time as ammonia engines develop, farmers can use ammonia as a fuel
  - We are developing ammonia engines and generator sets to complete total supply chain.
- Advantages of decentralized fuel production fits the bill of a transportation fuel
  - Multiple points of production scattered around, but at strategic location, which will act as fuel stations for the future
  - Reduced costs and time for handling and transportation of fuel

# Thank you

[info@protonventures.com](mailto:info@protonventures.com)