Industrial challenges of alkaline electrolysis

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3èmes Rencontres académie-industrie du CNC





McPhy | A leading low-carbon H₂ Equipment Manufacturer





Pan-European Pure Player

McPhy pressurized alkaline technology

Stack is at the heart of H₂ production, but needs a full industrial platform around



Main market driver: Green H₂ industrial applications...

Estimated Cumulated Installed Electrolysis Capacity [in GW]



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... to abate 2% of worldwide CO₂ emissions

Estimated Cumulated Installed Electrolysis Capacity [in GW]

Grey H₂ production = 100 Mt/year = ca. 800 Mt/year of CO₂ = ca. 2% of world GHG emissions

1 MW of electrolysis = 18 kg H₂/hour = 140 t H₂/year (at 90% average load) / Grid connected = 80 t H₂/year (at 50% average load) / Renewable Energy

50 GW = 4-7 Mt H₂/year = 25-50 Mt CO₂ emission saved (70-90% saved)



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Answering large industrial needs

McPhy building blocks of 4 x 4 MW stacks with 16 MW EPUs



for large capacity industrial applications

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The different challenges for large-scale deployment

| A mix of chemical, physical & engineering challenges

Chemical challenges at the cathode level

- 3 industrial technologies: (1) NiS, (2) microporous Ni, (3) Pt-based electrodes
- Many emerging technologies
- The heart of electrolysis
- The most expensive part



The different challenges for large-scale deployment

| A mix of chemical, physical & engineering challenges

Chemical challenges at the **cathode** level Physical challenges at the **cell** level

- Flow of electrolyte as homogeneous as possible
- Ohmic losses brought by hydrogen bubbles





The different challenges for large-scale deployment | A mix of chemical, physical & engineering challenges

Chemical challenges at the **cathode** level Physical challenges at the **cell** level Engineering challenges at the **stack** level

- Automatization of stack production
- Polymer vs. metal frames
- Electronic conduction at the electrodes level
- Safety management of internal pressure



The different challenges for large-scale deployment | A mix of chemical, physical & engineering challenges

Chemical challenges at the **cathode** level Physical challenges at the **cell** level Engineering challenges at the **stack** level Process safety challenges at the **EPU** level

• Explosive & self-igniting mixture 4+% O₂ in H₂





The different challenges for large-scale deployment

| A mix of chemical, physical & engineering challenges

Chemical challenges at the **cathode** level

Physical challenges at the **cell** level

Engineering challenges at the **stack** level

Process safety challenges at the EPU level

Digital challenges at the multi-stack platform level

• Optimization management of 100+ stacks to cope with constantly changing electrical load





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