

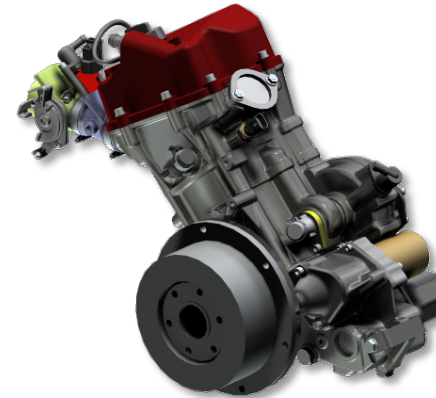
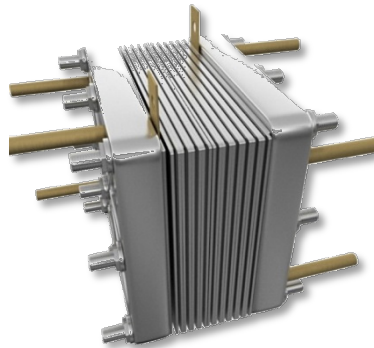
Chemical Energy Converter (CA A2)

Coordination: Christian Bach, Felix Büchi

2nd Annual SCCER Mobility Conference
26th of August 2015

Capacity Area A2: **Chemical Energy Converter**

Chemical Energy Converter (CA A2)



Topic A2.1

Fuel Cell Systems

Cost reduction (thermo-neutral system)

Topic A2.2

Internal Combustion Engines

Renewable fuels (Methane, H₂-blending, DME)
Efficiency increase (combustion, gas exchange)
Zero pollutants (thermal management)



Fuel Cell Systems
and Diagnostics
Felix Büchi

Combustion Research
Laboratory
Ionnis Mantzaras



Institute of
Computational Physics
Jürgen Schumacher



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Lab for Aerothermochemistry
and Combustion Systems
Konstantinos Boulouchos

Institute for Dynamic
Systems and Control
Chris Onder



Materials Science & Technology

Internal Combustion
Engines Lab
Christian Bach

Roadmap

Topic A2.1: Fuel Cell Systems

- *Short term:* Understanding 2-phase flow and phase change processes for evaporative fuel cell cooling (thermo-neutral operation)
- *Medium term:* Demonstration of the potential of thermo-neutral operation concepts
- *Long term:* Proof of concept, demonstration of high power density, low complexity thermo-neutral fuel cell system in a vehicle of an industrial partner

Topic A2.2: Internal Combustion Engines

- *Short term:* Ignition/flame kernel formation and combustion studies on gas and DME operated engines on state-of-the-art combustion processes
- *Medium term:* Demonstration of key-technologies for new, efficient and renewable energy based combustion process
- *Long term:* Proof of concept of new, renewable operated, 25% more efficient internal combustion engine in a typical load profile

Topic A2.1: Fuel Cell Systems in Mobility

...separate presentation from Felix Büchi

Topic A2.2: Internal Combustion Engines



Investigation of gas-engine **ignition phase**
(ETH-LAV, Empa-APTL)

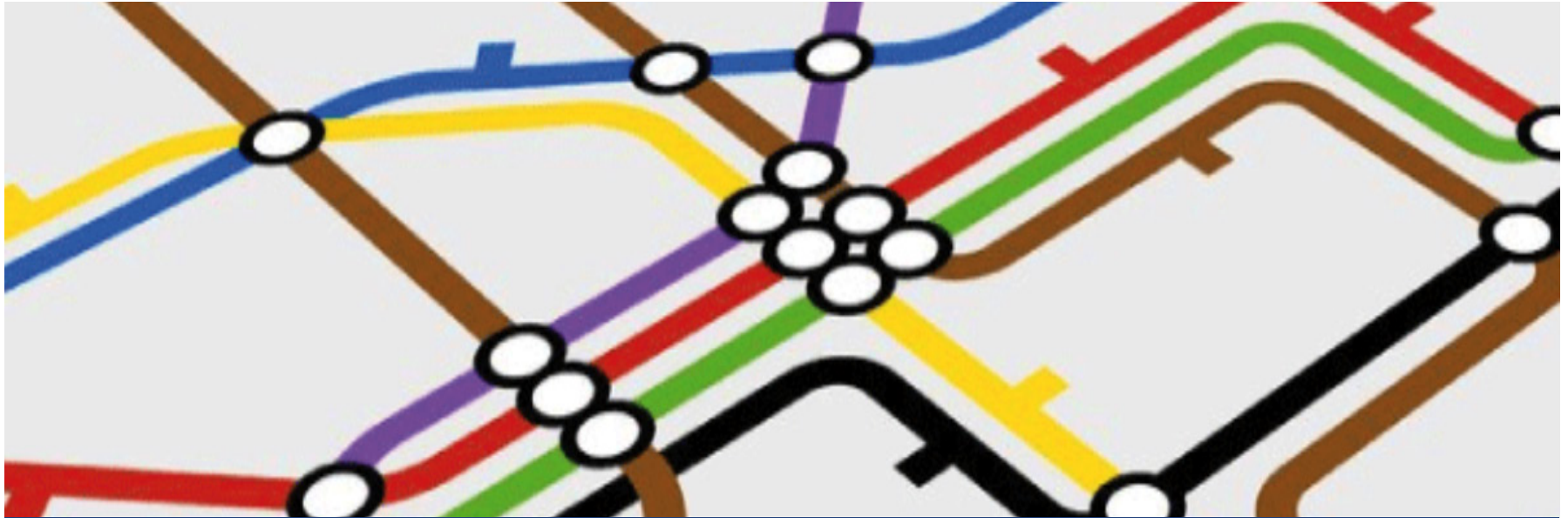
Understanding **combustion process** by detailed
simulation (ETHZ-LAV)

Combustion control of gas-engines (ETHZ-IDSC)

Synthetic fuel/gas engine combustion process
(ETHZ-LAV, ETHZ-IDSC, Empa-APTL)

Hybridization (ETHZ-IDSC, Empa-APTL)

Synthetic gaseous fuel production
(Empa-APTL)



SwissTrolley+, CNG engines

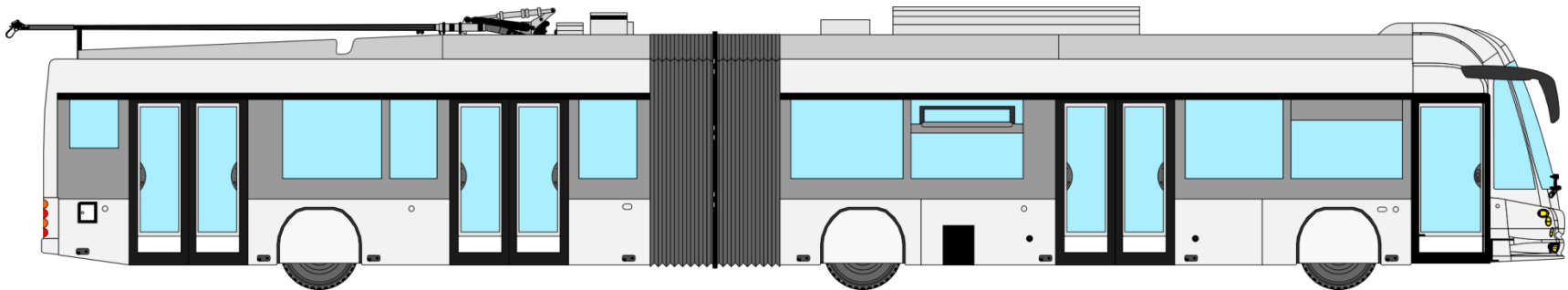
Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control (IDSC)

Prof. Dr. Christopher Onder

ETH Zürich

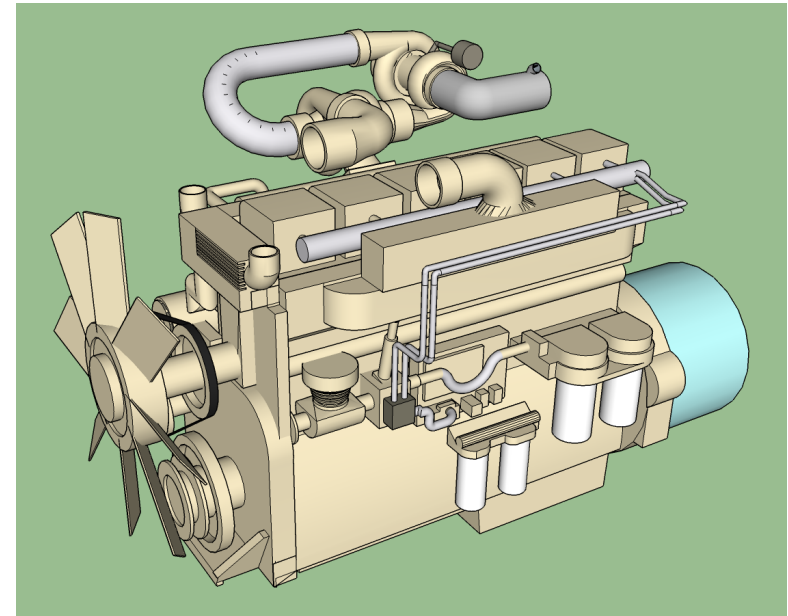
SwissTrolley+

A battery-assisted trolley bus



SwissTrolley+

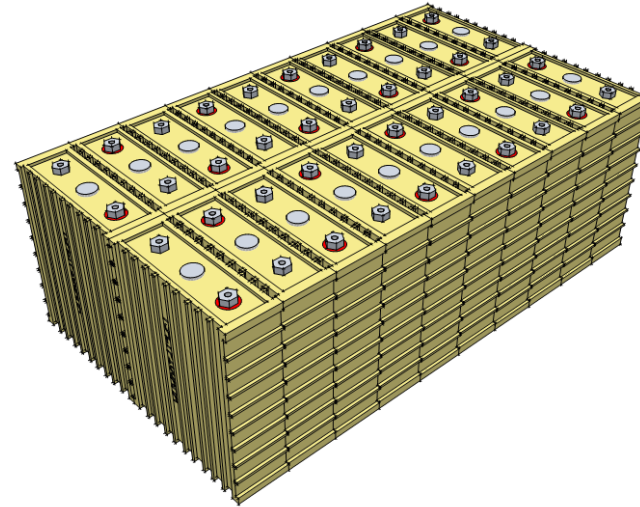
- State-of-the-art: 50kW Diesel-generator
 - Depot maneuvering
 - Outage of electricity
 - «Dead Weight» ~0.5t
 - Local emissions
 - Noise
 - ...



SwissTrolley+

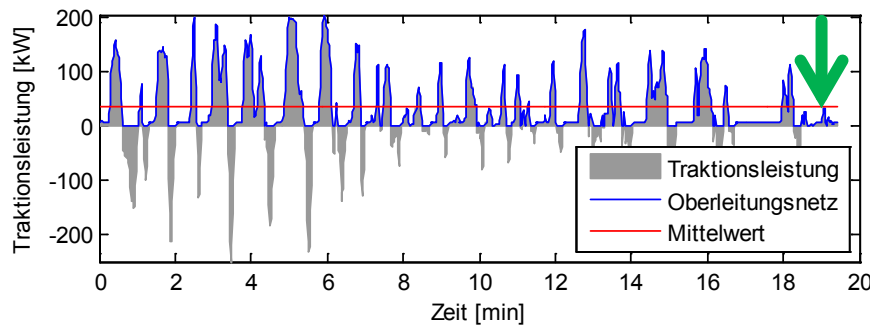
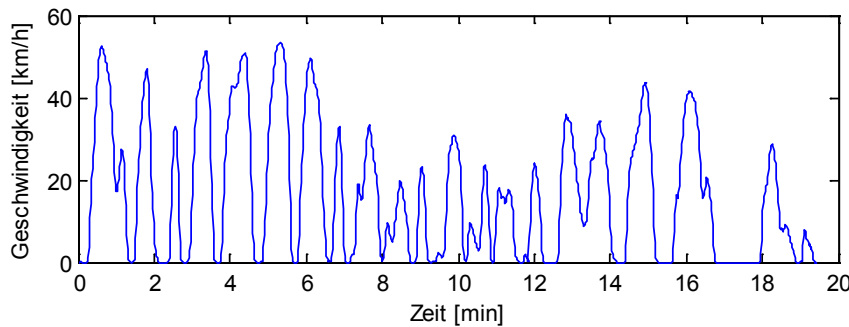
- New: traction battery
 - 30 kWh
 - ~0.6 t

- Benefits
 - Recuperation: ~-15% energy savings
 - Pure battery-electric range >10 km
 - Extension of existing trolley-lines
 - Removal of overhead wires in city centers
 - Zero local emissions and noise
 - Peak-load reduction in electricity grid



SwissTrolley+

Grid load of a standard trolley bus without traction battery

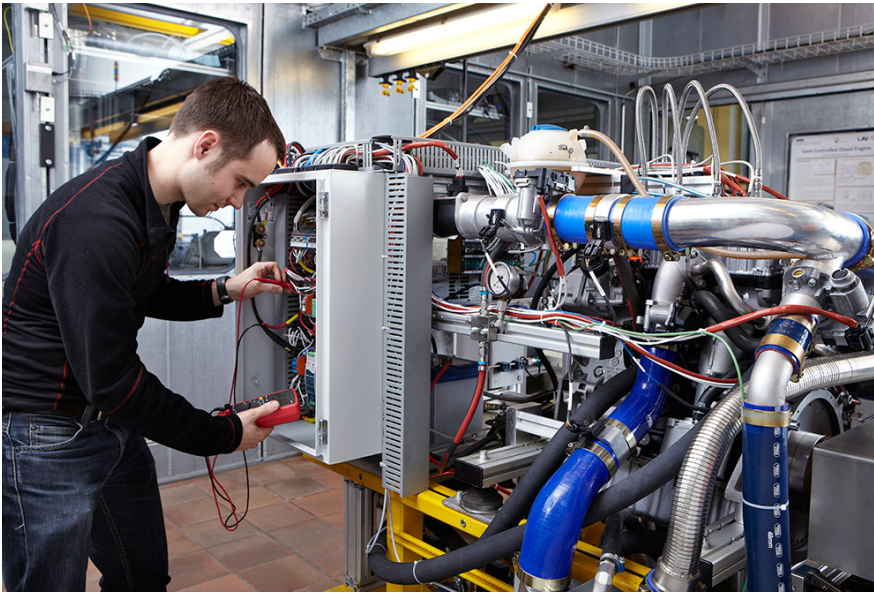


Reserved power plant capacity ≈ 200 kW

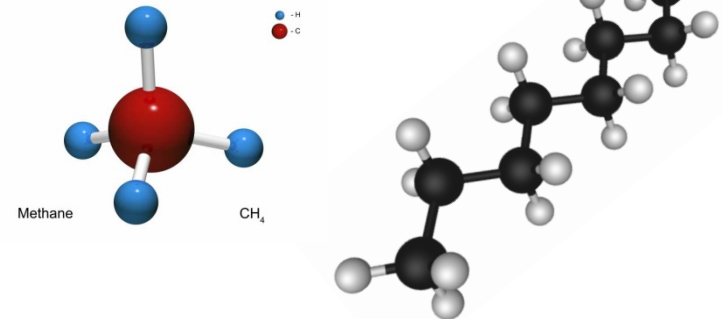
Average load ≈ 35 kW

Idea: use battery to reduce peak load

Natural Gas Engines



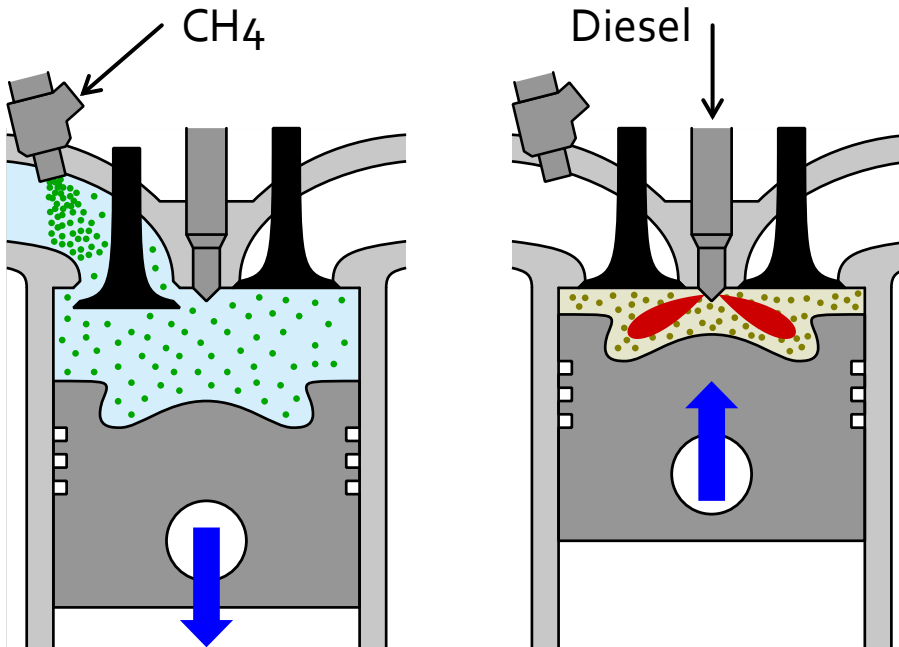
CNG contains less carbon atoms per unit energy



-> less CO_2 emissions

NextICE

A Diesel-ignited high-efficiency natural gas engine



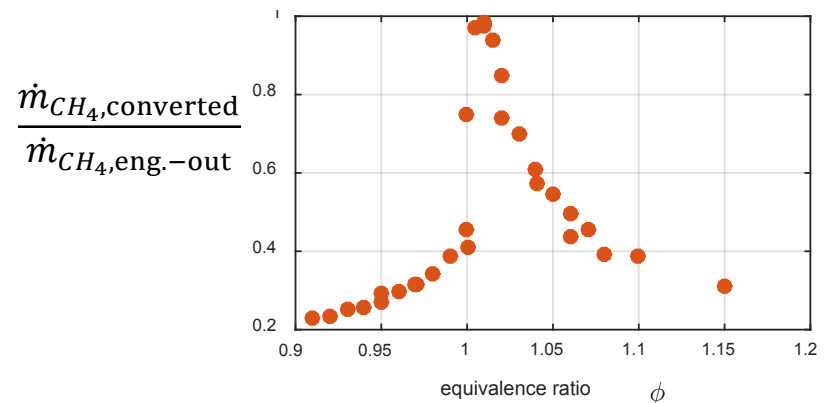
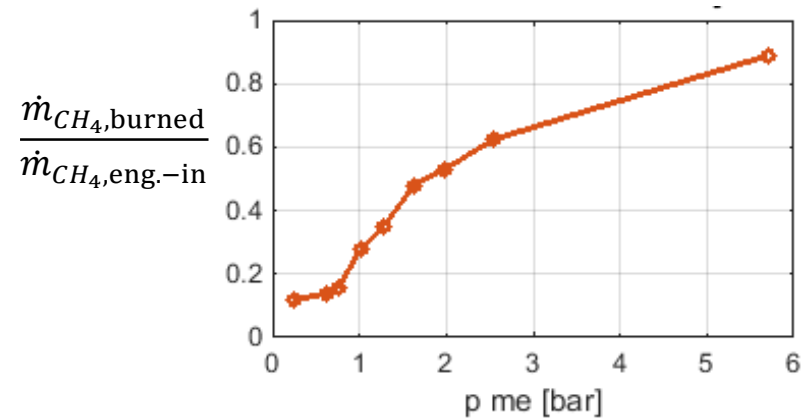
ETH Zürich



NextICE

Challenge:

- CH₄ very stable
 - Lean conditions
 - incomplete combustion
 - CH₄ engine-out emissions
-
- State-of-the-art three-way catalysts have poor CH₄ conversion efficiency
 - motivation for development of CH₄-catalysts

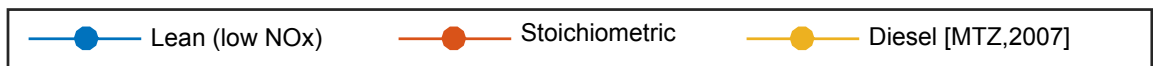
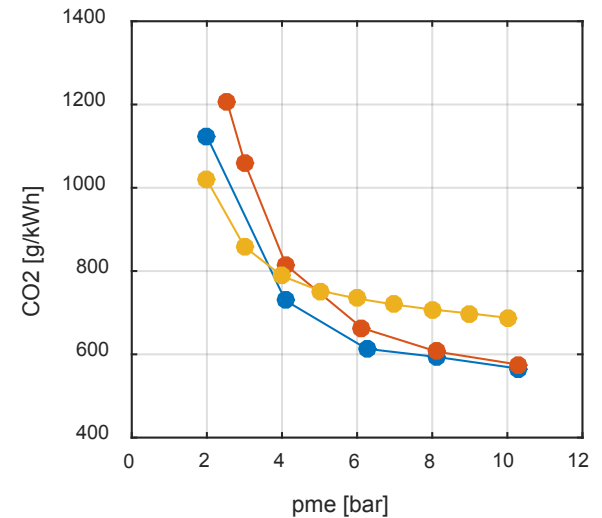
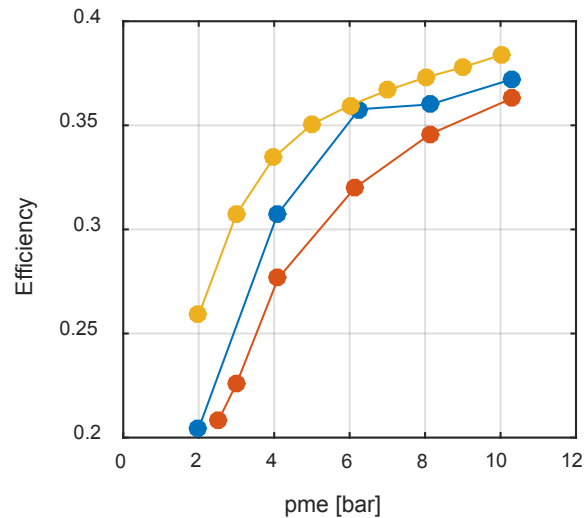


NextICE

Motivation to investigate operating modes:

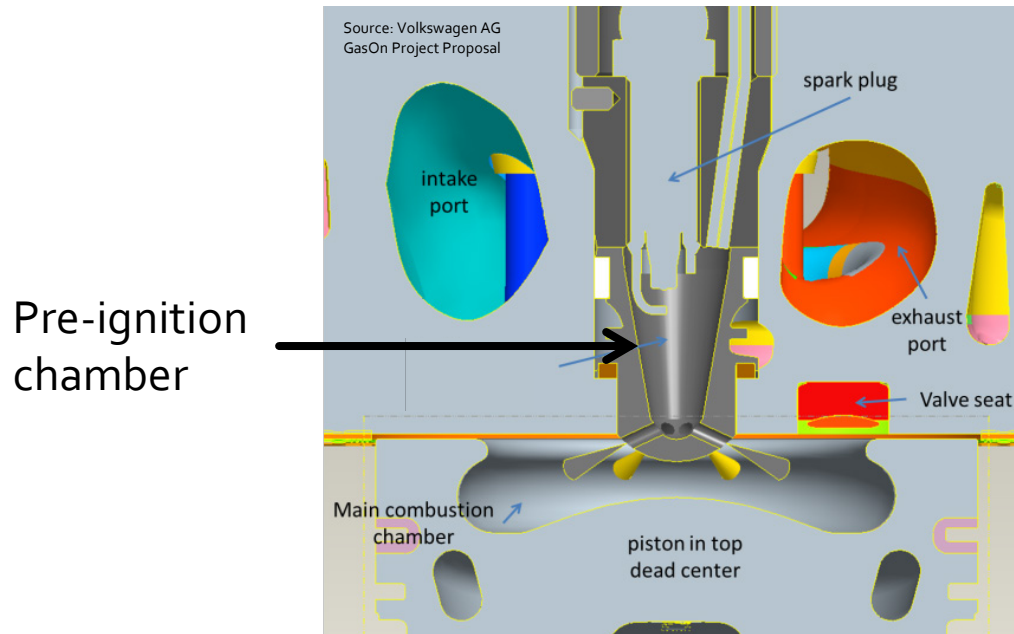
CO₂-optimal:

- "Diesel only" for low load
- "Lean" or "stoichiometric" for high load



GasOn

Development of a *pre ignition chamber* for a lean-burning high-efficiency natural gas engine

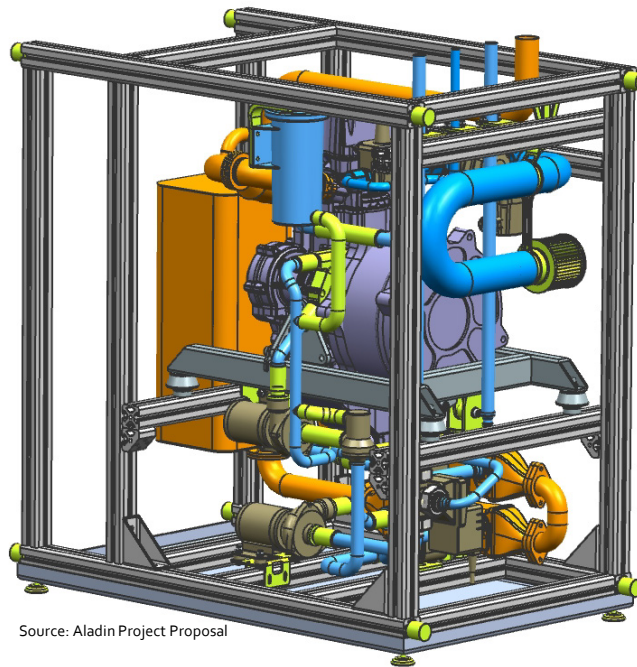


Materials Science & Technology



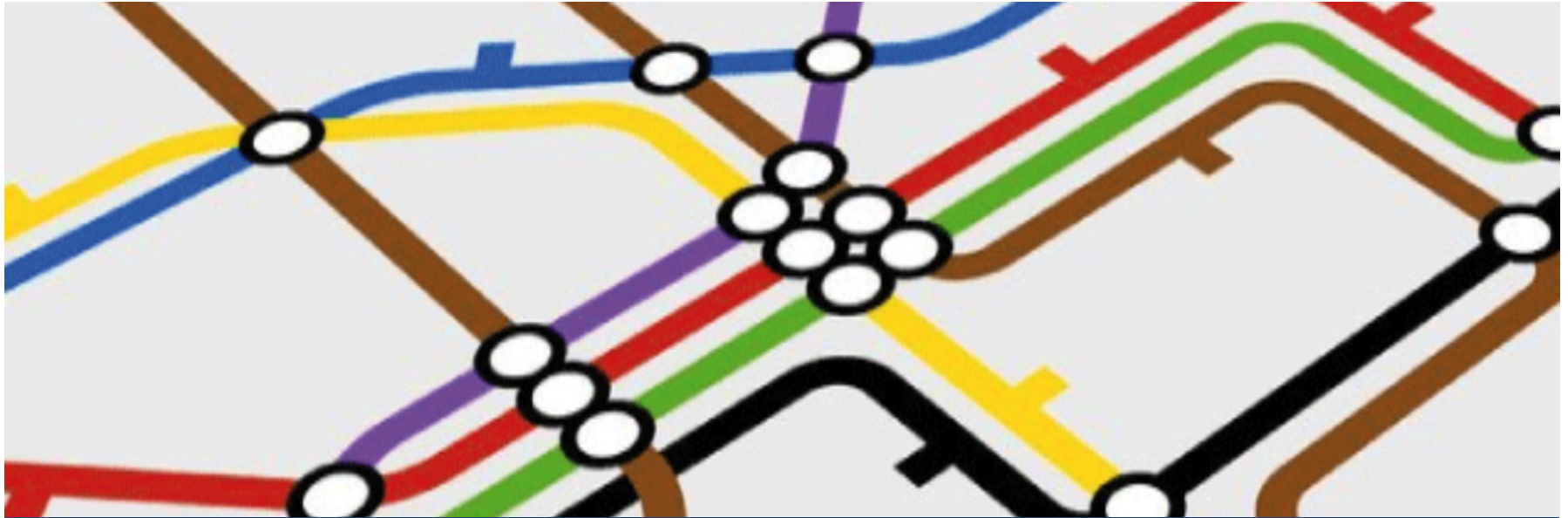
Aladin

A very small CNG “combined heat and power” unit



Source: Aladin Project Proposal





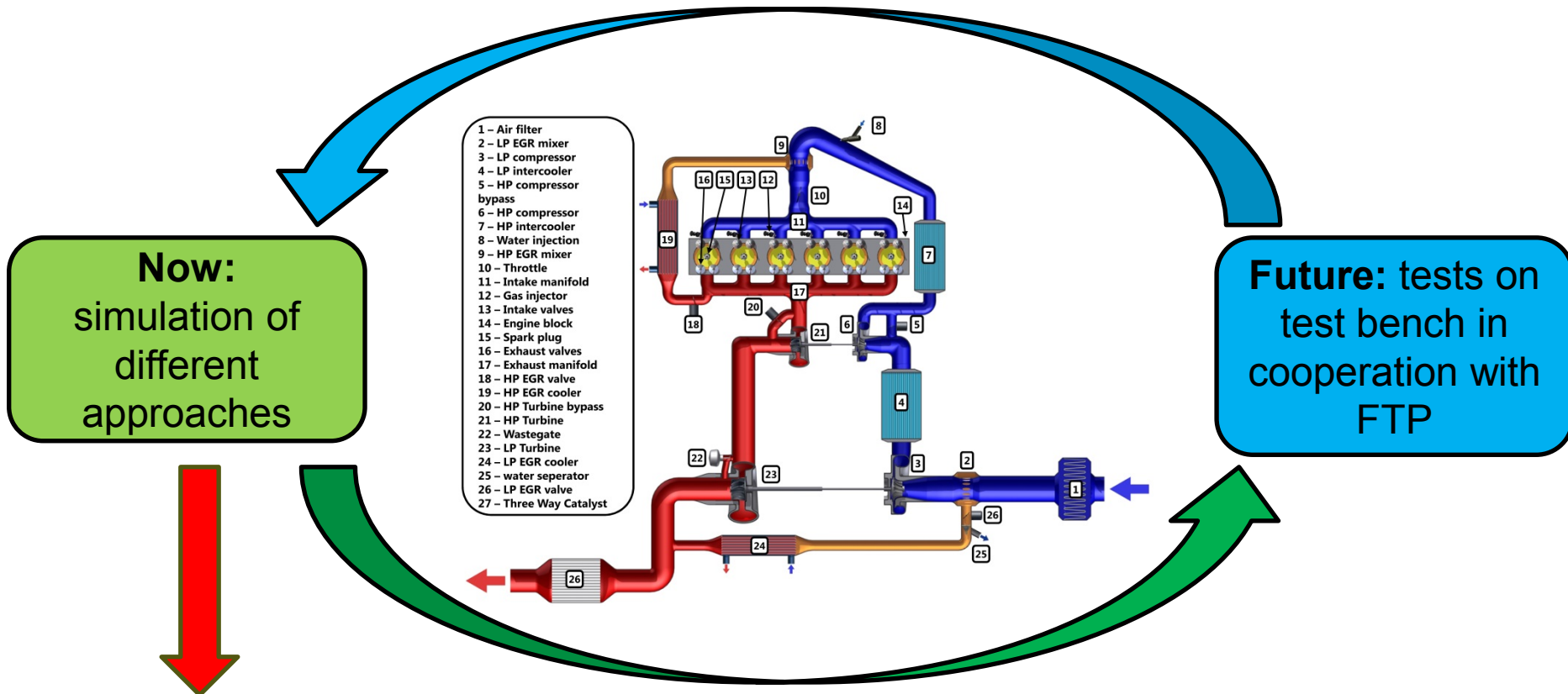
CNG engines, engine process, renewable fuels

Automotive Powertrain Technologies Laboratory (APTL)

Christian Bach, Dr. Patrik Soltic, Dr. Jakub Rojewski

Empa Duebendorf

HD CNG engine simulation



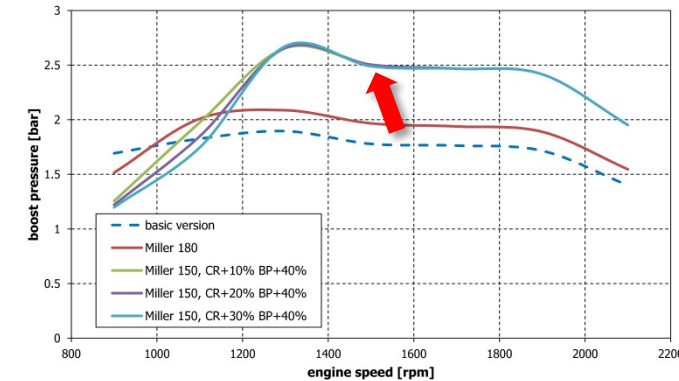
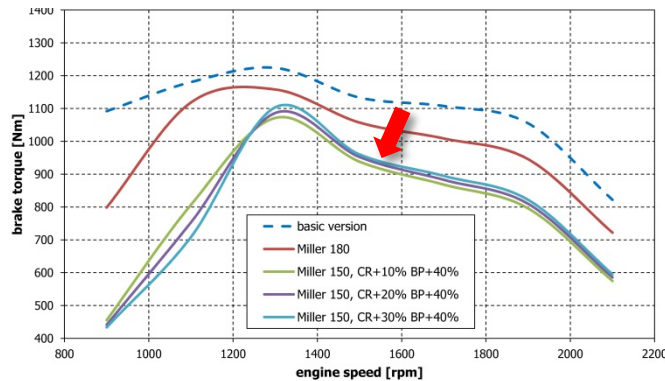
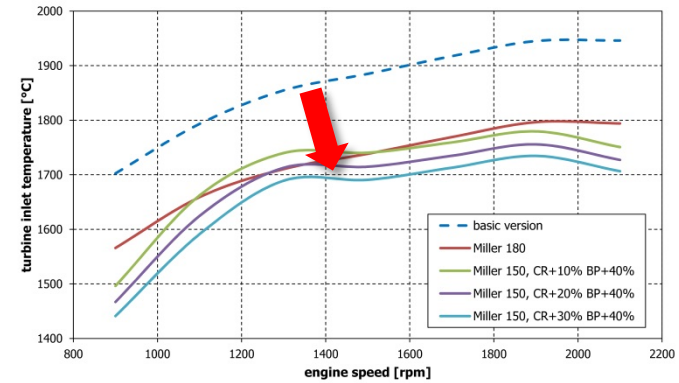
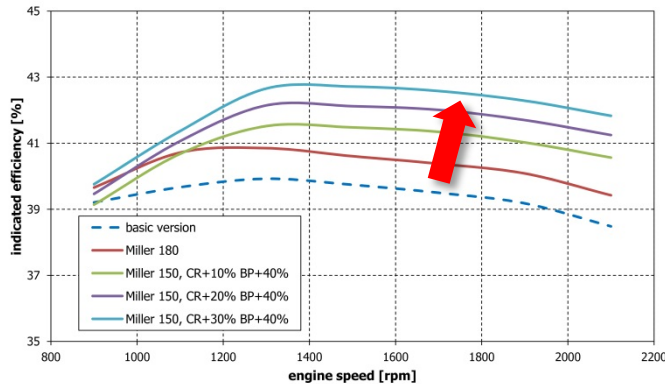
Now:
simulation of different approaches

Future: tests on test bench in cooperation with FTP

On-going simulations (2015):

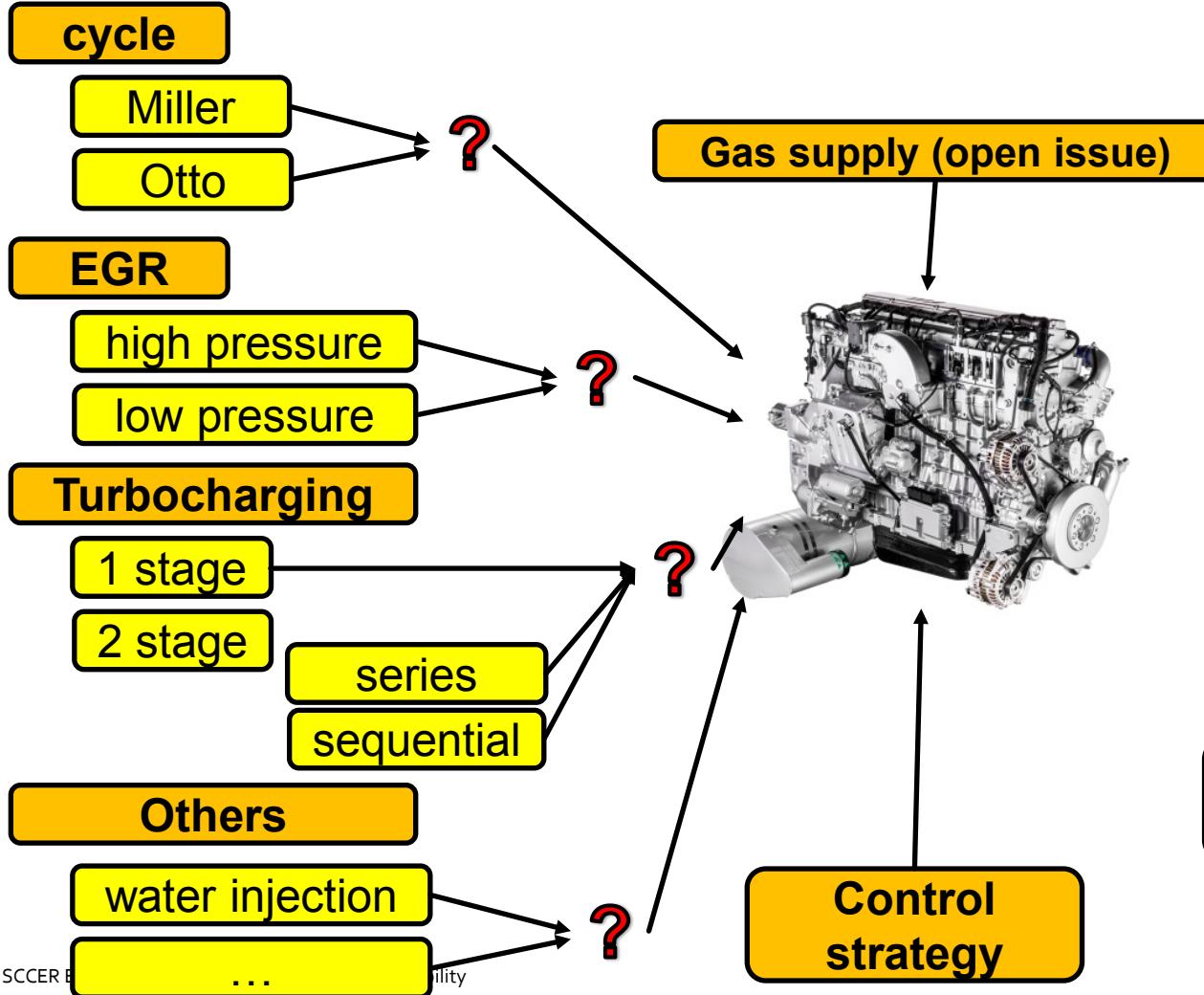
- Otto and Miller valve timing
- single and double stage turbocharging
- high and low pressure EGR loops

HD CNG simulation: first results (1D simulation)



Utilization of a 10% energetic potential is possible by adapting the turbocharging system

HD CNG engine testing



modernized test bench (2015)

Move: Future Mobility Demonstrator

Construction of a **Power-to-Stored Electricity/Gas** plant to demonstrate different pathways of utilizing renewable excess electricity in the mobility sector.

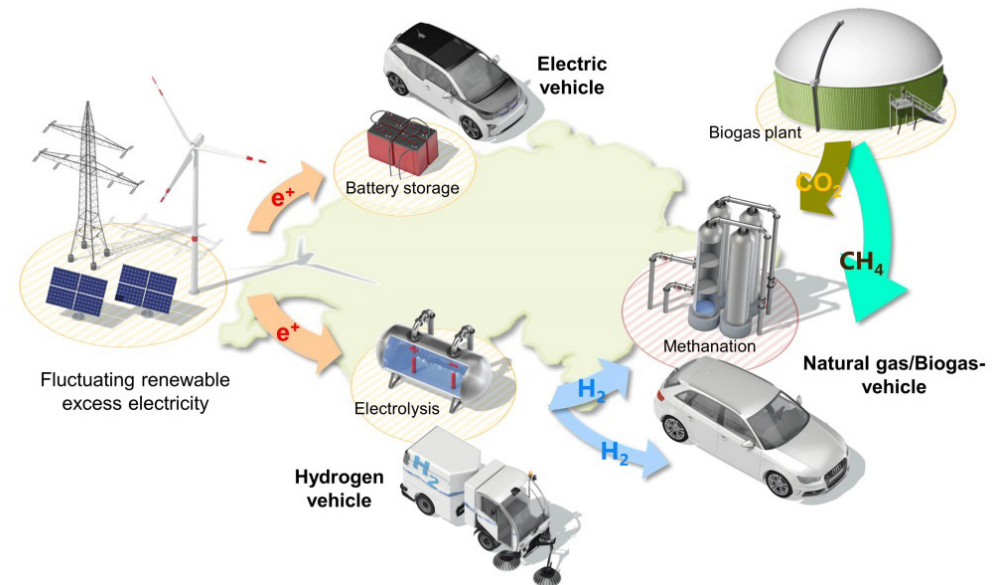
Funding partner:



Industrial partner:



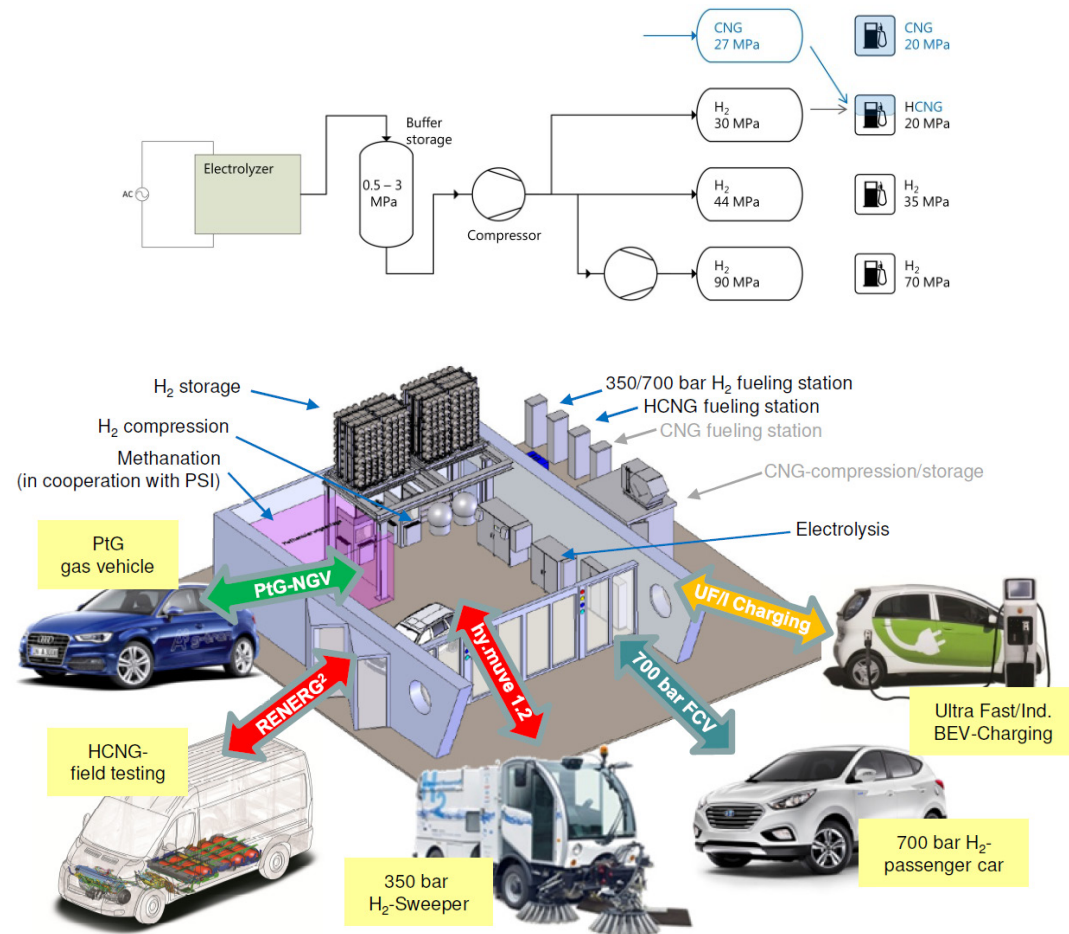
Scientific partner:



3 possible pathways for future mobility

Move: Future Mobility Demonstrator (1st phase)

- Realization of a Power-to-Gas plant including refueling station for vehicles running on alternative fuels (CNG, HCNG, H₂)
- Monitoring and evaluation of the plant's operation as well as its components
- Development of strategies to optimize operation of the plant regarding energetic as well as economic aspects (using models)
- Build a platform for various research endeavors pursued by Empa but also by industrial partners
- Provide an informative demonstration site to introduce the Power-to-Gas technology to relevant stakeholders, politicians as well as the public

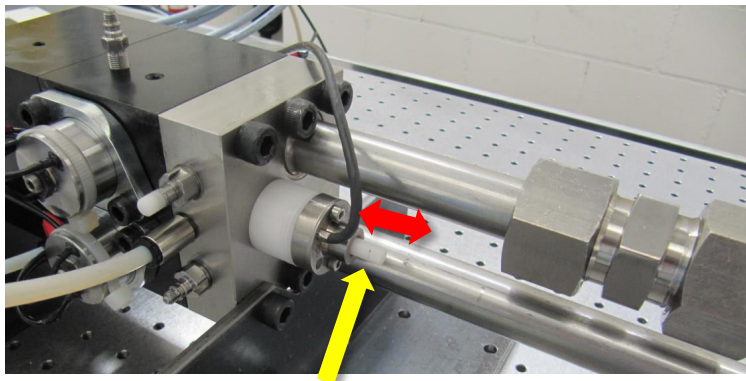


nextICE: variable valve actuation (idea)

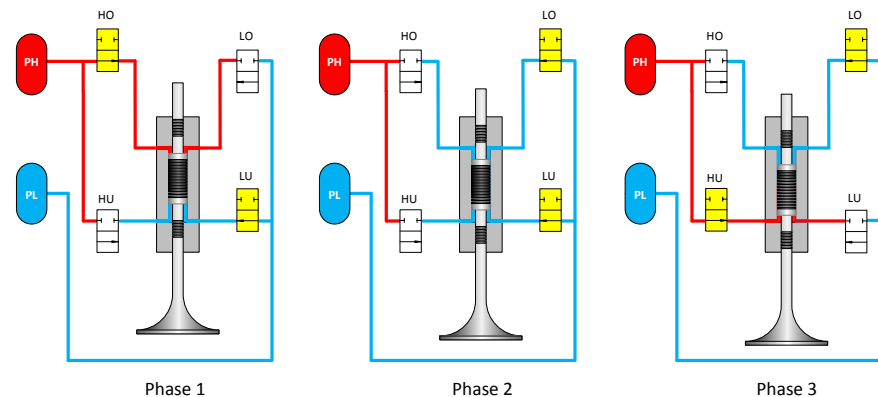
Invent, simulate and realize a variable valve actuation system for a spark ignition engine with the main specifications

- Dissipation not larger than for mechanical valve actuation
- Cost efficient layout
- Flexible (from cycle to cycle)
- Easy to control

problems of known systems (>500 patents on this topic)



Demonstrator with moving mass



Patented recuperating valve actuation

nextICE: variable valve actuation (next step)

- Functional model has been built
- Technical goal: realize a 9mm lift of the intake valves (open and close) within 5 ms with minimal dissipation (-> efficient hydraulic recuperation)

