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INNOVATION OUTLOOK RENEWABLE AMMONIA



19 May 2022









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Dolf Gielen

Director – Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA



Trevor Brown

Executive Director – Ammonia Energy Association

Setting the scene presentation – The Role of Green Ammonia in the Energy Transition





Dolf Gielen

Director – Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA

IRENA's comprehensive framework to scale up green hydrogen and its derivatives

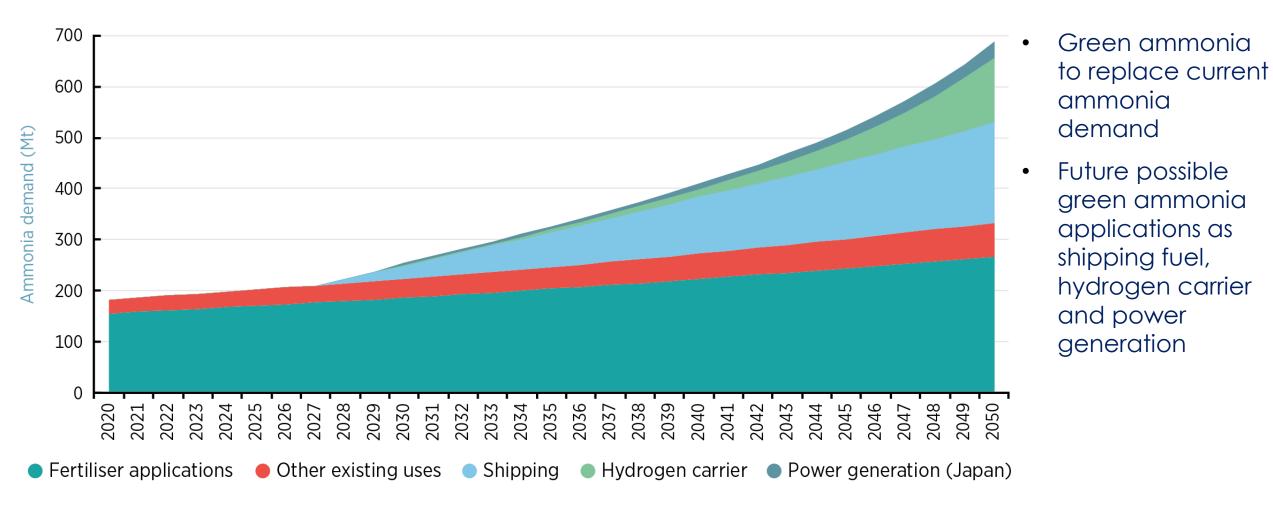




Ammonia market status and prospects – demand side

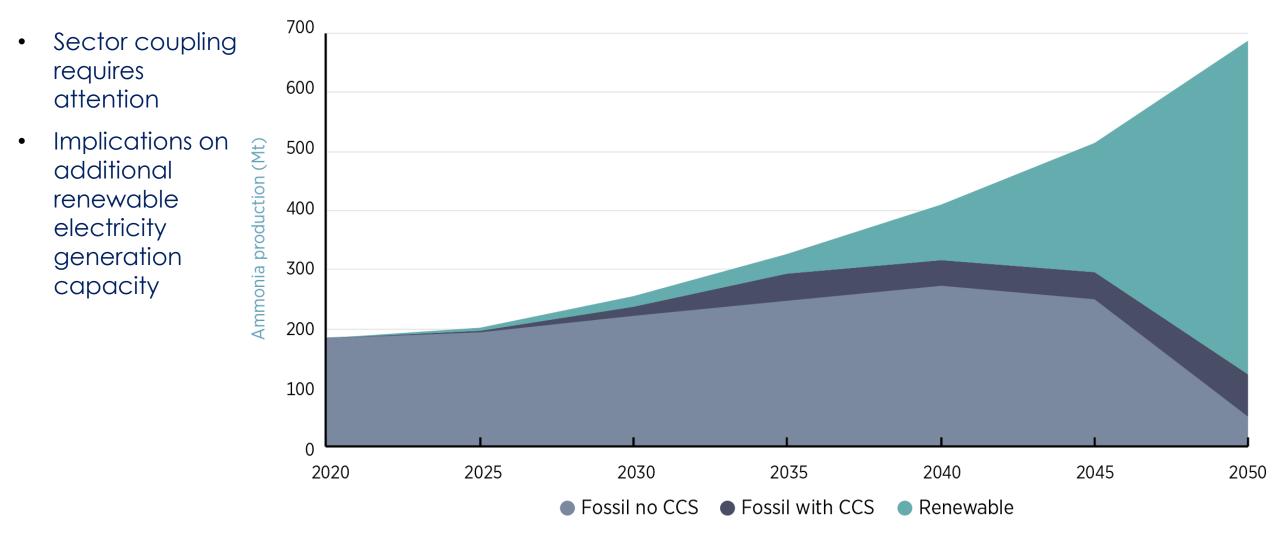


Expected ammonia demand up to 2050 for the 1.5°C scenario



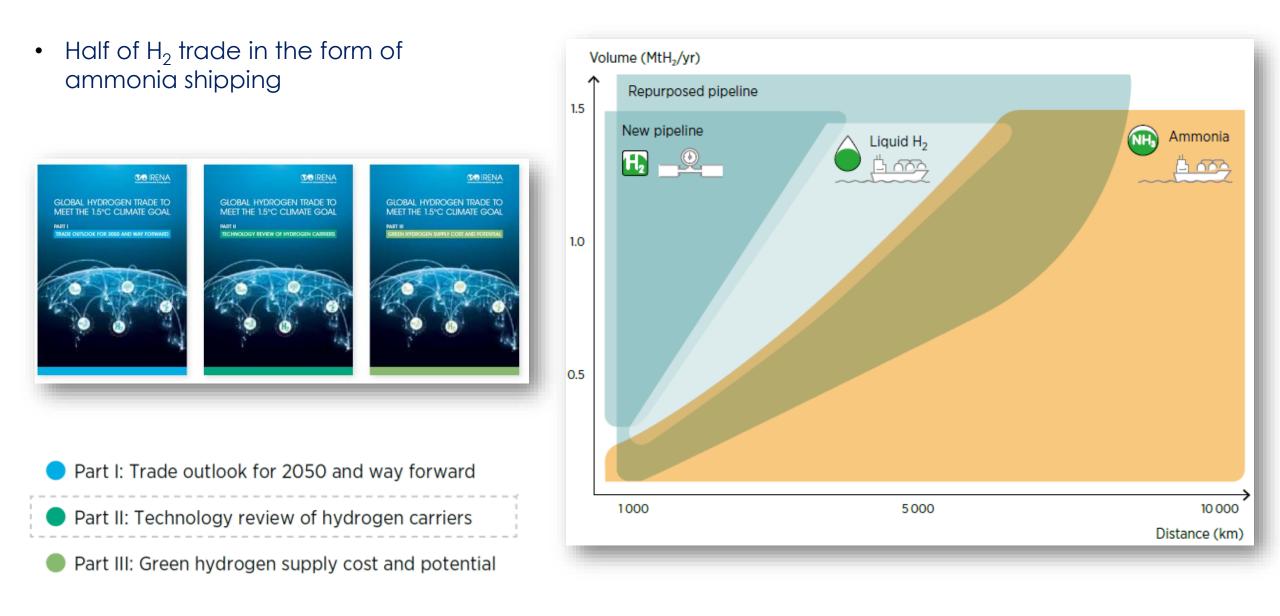


Expected ammonia production capacity up to 2050 for the 1.5°C scenario.

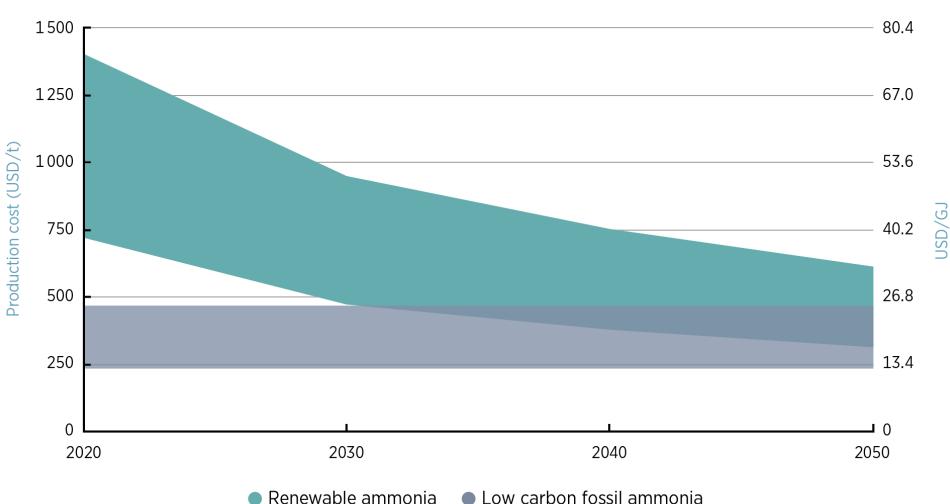


Ammonia is emerging a key part of a future global hydrogen trade flow









Current and future production costs of renewable ammonia

Note: Compared with production cost range for low-carbon fossil ammonia (USD 2-10/GJ)

 Green ammonia already competitive in Europe versus Natural Gas ammonia

Policy recommendations to close the cost gap



- **Establish a realistic carbon levy** 60-90 USD/t CO2 for fossil-based ammonia with CCS and up to 150 USD/t CO2 to bridge the gap between fossil-based and RE ammonia.
- **Translate political will into policies** strong, stable, and sustained regulatory measures for fuel standards and RE quotas or mandates.
- **Fund value chains rather than lone technologies -** support deployment by connecting \bullet the value chain across production, distribution, and utilization.
- Develop trade strategies and supply chains by encouraging international co-operation i.e. between project developers, ammonia production companies, and ammonia users, to create jobs and foster competitive new industries for renewable ammonia. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- **De-risk investment capital via financial instruments** e.g., enable grants, investments, loans, or loan guarantees, intermediate secured buyer of auctioned projects, etc. 10

Final remarks



- A transition to renewable ammonia is essential to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5C and bringing CO2 emissions closer to net-zero by the mid-century.
- The decarbonization of various sector depends on renewable NH3 i.e. chemical, agricultural, energy, and transport sectors.
- Under a 1.5° C aligned scenario, this transition would require to increase production by nearly four times. With growth driven by new energy uses that exceed current uses.
- Cheap H2 is the driver to achieve costs competitiveness.

RE ammonia is coming. We need to be ready to seize the opportunities.

Setting the scene presentation – Renewable Ammonia Technology Outlook





Kevin Rouwenhorst

Technology Manager – Ammonia Energy Association

Ammonia Energy Association



- The Ammonia Energy Association is a global industry association that promotes the responsible use of ammonia in a sustainable energy economy.
- **Supply**: decarbonize ammonia production.
- **Demand**: adopt ammonia in energy markets.
- Members: global and cross-sectoral.



MEMBER LIST — May 2022

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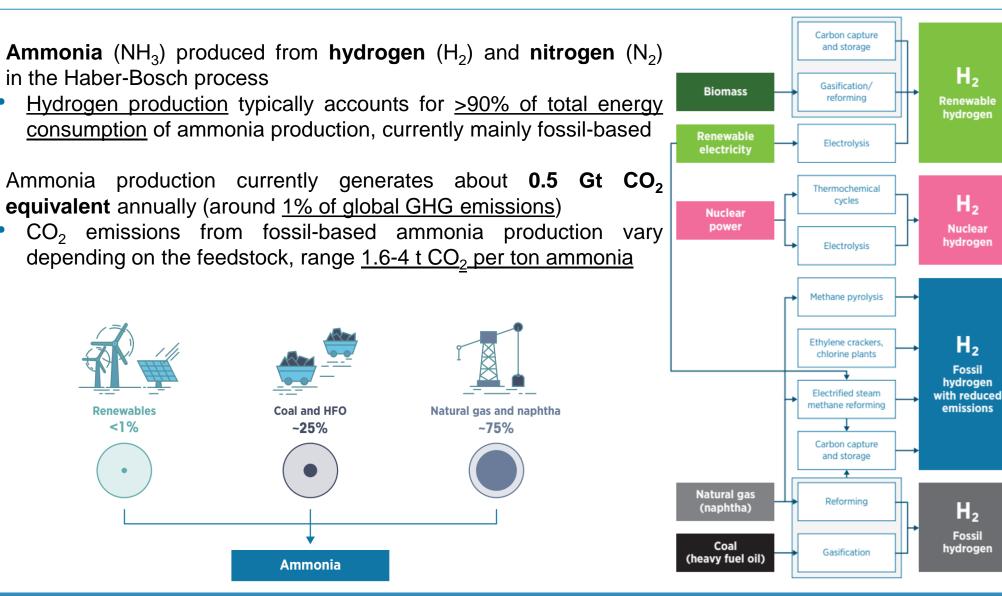
Activities Ammonia Energy Association





Ammonia production pathways





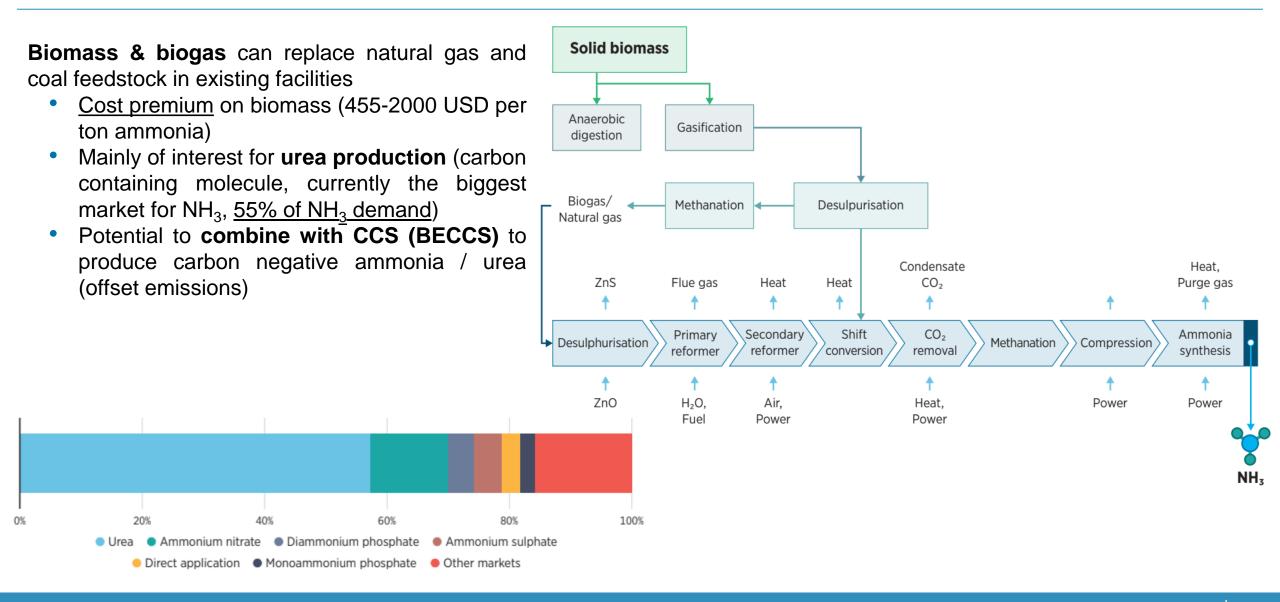
NH₃ Certification

required to account for carbon

N₂

Renewable ammonia production: biomass



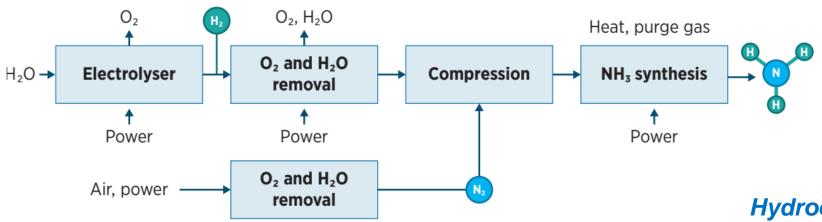


Renewable ammonia production: electrolysis



Ammonia can also be produced from **electrolysis-based hydrogen** with **low-carbon electricity**

- <u>Electrolyser</u>: Water (H₂O) converted to hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) with electricity
- <u>Low-carbon electricity</u>: Renewables (solar PV, wind, hydropower), nuclear power, low-carbon grid
- <u>1920s</u>: renewable ammonia commercial, based on alkaline electrolysis and hydropower (replaced by natural gas reforming due to cost)
- Nowadays shift to <u>solar PV and wind</u> (low electricity cost <u><20 USD/MWh</u> in best locations)



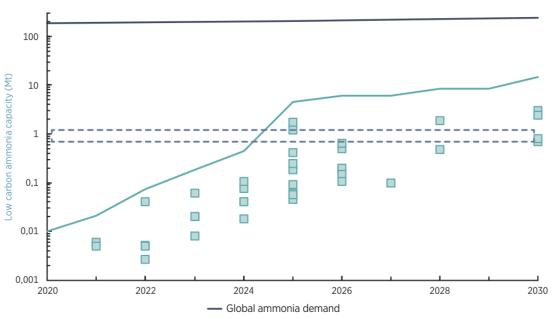


Hydroelectric ammonia plant in Cusco, Peru



Deployment of renewable ammonia:

- **2020-2025**: scale-up of renewable ammonia plants to GW scale
- After 2025: Numbering up of renewable ammonia plants



⁻ Projected global renewable ammonia capacity - Natural gas-based ammonia plant capacity

Announced renewable ammonia projects

- 2014: Wind to ammonia demonstrator (University of Minnesota)
- Location: Morris, MN (USA)
- Type: Newbuild
- Capacity: 0.03 kt-NH₃/y
- Market: fertilizers



2022: Solar PV revamp of existing ammonia plant (Fertiberia)

- Location: Puertollano (Spain)
- **Type**: Revamp (partial)
- Capacity: 6.1 kt-NH₃/y



• Market: fertilizers

2025-2026: World-scale renewable ammonia plant (NEOM)

- Location: NEOM (Saudi Arabi)
- **Type**: Newbuild (under construction)
- Capacity: 1200 kt-NH₃/y
- Market: Fuel or hydrogen carrier

نيوم NEOM

2035: Renewable energy hubs (Intercontinental Energy)

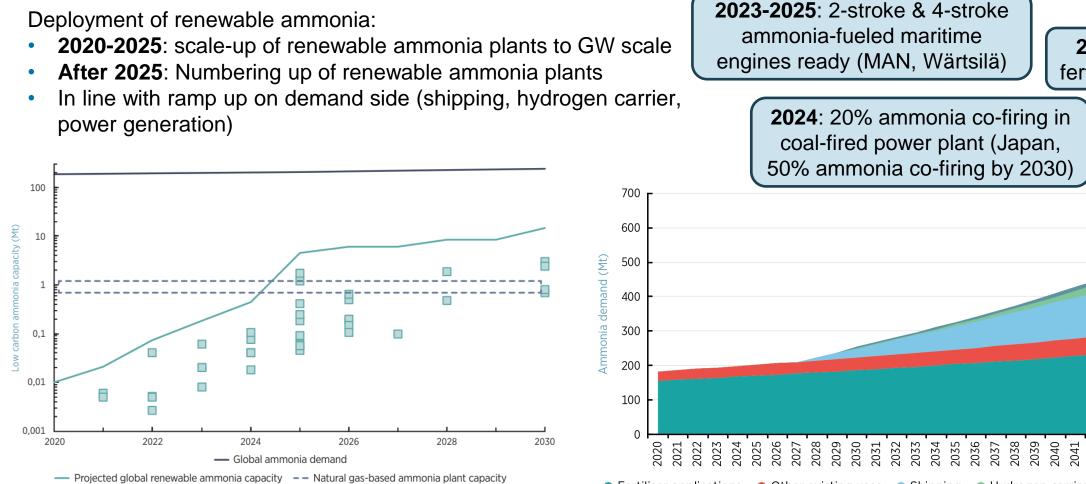
- Location: Pilbara (Australia)
- Type: Newbuild
- Capacity: 9900 kt-NH₃/y
- Market: Fuel or hydrogen carrier





2023: Fossil-free

fertilizers in Sweden



Announced renewable ammonia projects

Fertiliser applications
 Other existing uses
 Shipping
 Hydrogen carrier
 Power generation (Japan)
 Projected ammonia demand (1.5°C scenario)

Conclusions: Industrial scale-up and technology readiness



The market for ammonia reaches <u>688 Mt</u> by 2050 (1.5 °C scenario)
Fuel for maritime: 197 Mt
Fuel for power generation: 30 Mt (only counting Japan)

- Hydrogen carrier: 127 Mt
- In the long-term, renewable ammonia likely the main commodity for transporting renewable energy between continents

Demand side, technology demonstrations will be complete by 2025:

- <u>Ammonia-fuelled vessels</u> will be operating at sea, with two- and fourstroke engines available for new-builds and retrofits
- 1 GW power plant will be <u>co-combusting ammonia with coal</u>, with ammonia gas turbines, furnaces, and fuel cells available
- <u>Fossil-free fertilizers</u> will be commercially available by 2023

Industry is shifting towards renewable ammonia production:

- <u>15 Mt announced capacity</u> by 2030 (~8% of current market, <u>54 projects</u> <u>announced</u>, first projects already operational or under construction)
- **Project pipeline**: <u>71 Mt by 2040</u> (pending investment decisions)
 - >10% of the capacity that would need to be operational by 2050
- Renewable ammonia expected to <u>dominate all new capacity after 2025</u>





Panel Discussion

Opportunities and challenges for Green Ammonia



Moderator

Panellists









Roland Roesch

Deputy-Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre

Alicia Eastman

President, InterContinental Energy

Ahmed El-Hoshy

CEO, OCI NV

Trevor Brown

Executive Director – Ammonia Energy Association





Dolf Gielen

Director – Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA



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