

Experiences and key learnings in demonstrating fuel cells in shipping

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VTT in numbers

Creating impact over 80 years

284 M€

operating income

2,355

employees

450

patent families

50+

start-ups*

45%

of the net turnover
from abroad

1,135

customers

488

scientific articles

75

Net promoter
score (NPS)

VTT Marine portfolio



Funded by
the European Union

VTT



MARANDA

H₂+PEMFC based hybrid powertrain system is developed and validated for marine applications



SHIP-AH₂OY

Demonstrate safe and scalable solution for zero-emission shipping using LOHC and FC technology.

2017

2026



Co-funded by
the European Union



FLAGSHIPS

Development and deployment of two commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.



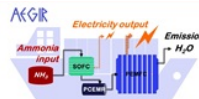
RH₂IWER



Deployment of six commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.
Standardization of H₂&FC containers

To Be
Announced
!

Plus many more...



05/11/2025



FLAGSHIPS

The **FLAGSHIPS** project demonstrates zero-emission waterborne transport with two commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.



H2 BARGE 2
ROTTERDAM,
THE NETHERLANDS

ZULU 06
PARIS,
FRANCE





Inland waterway transport is one of the most efficient transport modes → why not make it zero emission?



ROTTERDAM

DUISBURG

H2 Barge II

110m/12m

200 TEU capacity

CGH2 300 bars/450 kg

1.2 MW of FC power

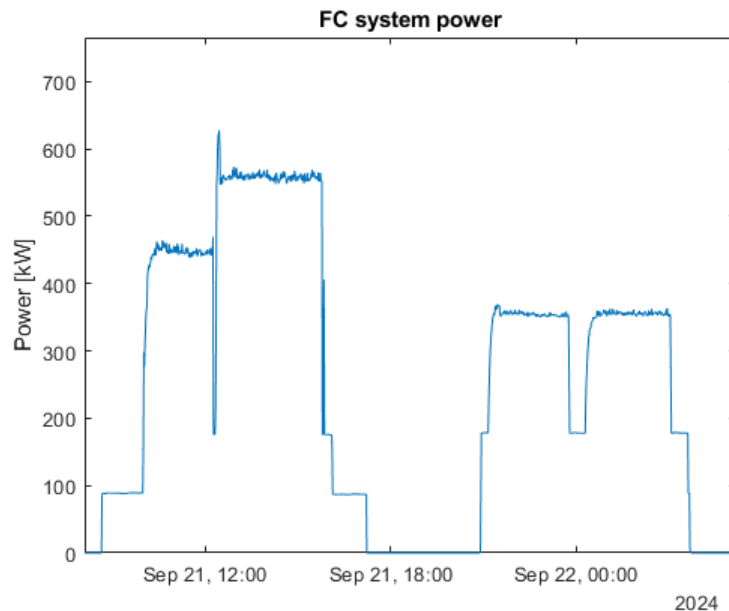
Operating since 05/2024



H2 Barge II - Fuel Cell Data Analysis

- Data from the fuel cell vessel H2 Barge 2 analysed for a 12 month operational period
- FC system efficiency estimated at 50%
- Around 1500 tonnes of CO2 emissions saved
- Availability estimated at 83%

Example data:





Urban distribution along the river offers an option to roads which are lacking capacity



 COMPAGNIE FLUVIALE
DE TRANSPORT


Zulu06

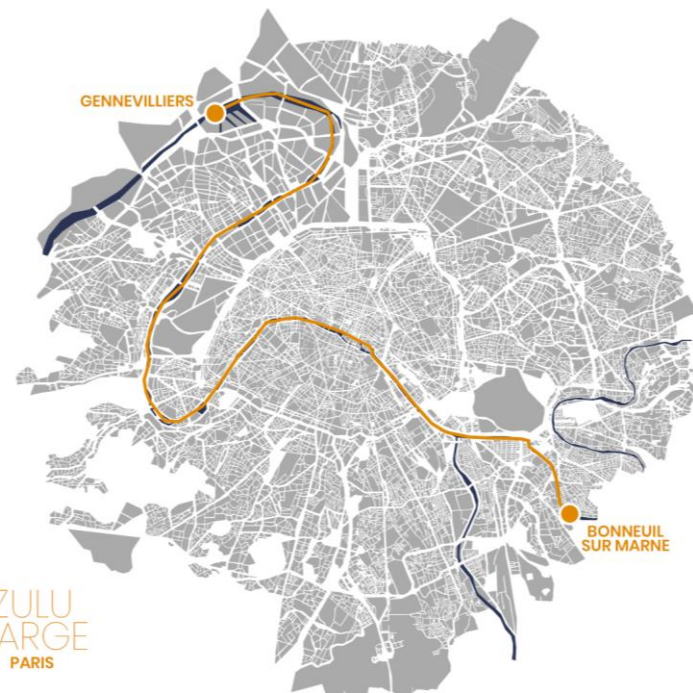
55m/8m

CGH2 300 bars/300 kg

400 kW of FC power

About to commence
operations

ZULU
BARGE
PARIS



Ship-aH₂Oy

Safe and sustainable power for ships with **fuel cells** and **LOHC**

The goal is to enable **zero-emission operations** in the growing **offshore renewables** sector

In **Ship-aH₂Oy**, we will develop a first-of-its-kind maritime power unit based on **LOHC** and **fuel cell** technology

We will demonstrate the solution onboard an **offshore wind vessel (CSOV)**



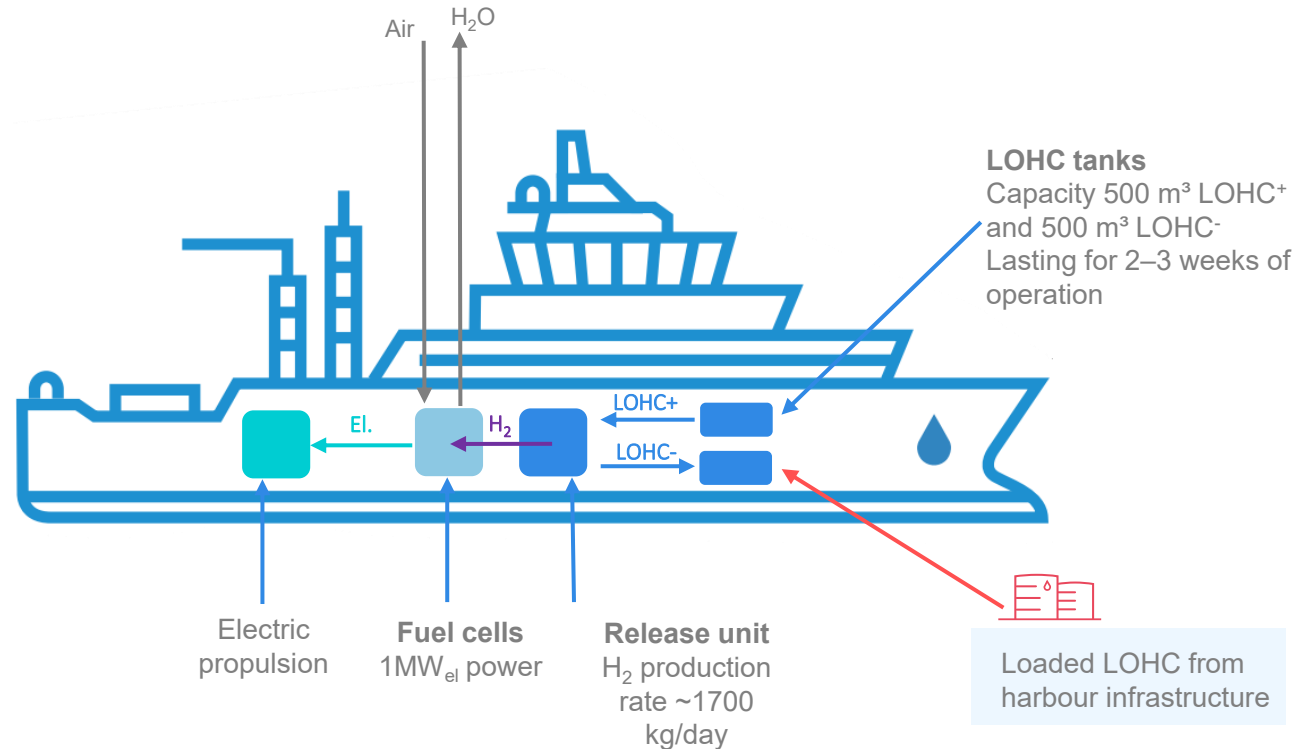
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Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier or LOHC offers a safe and scalable option for enabling hydrogen as shipping fuel

- H_2 is chemically bound to a carrier (= LOHC)
- LOHC can be stored and transported at ambient conditions within existing fossil fuel infrastructure
- Diesel-like liquid
→ Fast and familiar bunkering process
- Non-explosive and hardly flammable liquid
→ Increased safety
- Minimal amount of H_2 molecules onboard





RH2IWER | Renewable Hydrogen² for
Inland Waterway Emission Reduction

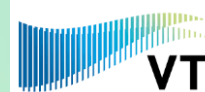
Demonstration of 6 inland waterway vessels

- MW-scale, 3 vessel types, 1-2 year demo times

Standardisation of FC and H₂ solutions



Co-funded by
the European Union



The project is supported by the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking and its members Hydrogen Europe and Hydrogen Europe Research. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

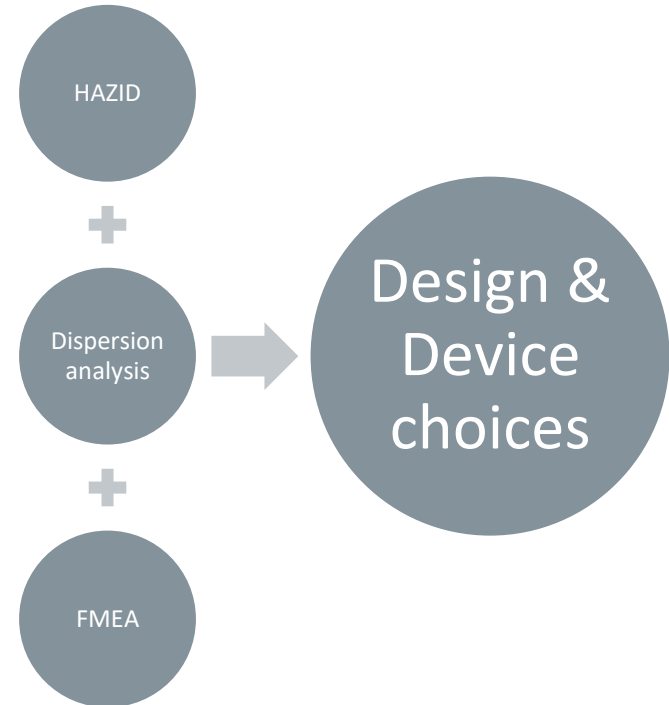
Lessons learnt

Fuel Cell Shipping: Navigating a Turbulent Global Environment

- Global Energy Market Volatility
 - Rising energy prices and uncertainty in energy supply chains.
 - Geopolitical tensions.
- Infrastructure Bottlenecks
 - Slow progress on global hydrogen hubs and bunkering facilities.
- Regulatory & Safety Constraints
 - Unclear rule base for new technologies - alternative design process needed.
 - Compliance costs and delays in certification.
- Economic Pressure
 - High capital expenditure for hydrogen shipping projects.
 - Uncertain demand outlook due to global economic slowdown.

Risk based design as priority in hydrogen system integration

- Iterative process in collaboration with approving authorities



Early engagement of approving authorities is extremely important for successful deployment of these technologies

Maritime: IMO MSC.1 Circ 1455



Inland waterway: Derogation process



Ecosystems around the hydrogen infrastructure are needed!



Public support and incentives are needed to speed up the deployment of zero emission solutions in waterborne application

- CAPEX
- OPEX



Key takeaways

- H2 and Fuel Cells are ready to go
- Ecosystems around H2
- Engagement of stakeholders from early on
- Public support and incentives still needed



Acknowledgments

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