

French strategy on H₂

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MINISTÈRE
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Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire

H₂ markets and applications

H₂ market is mainly industrial : Worldwide 61 Mt, France 900kT

■ Main uses

- Ammonia, fertilizers
- Chemistry
- Refinery

■ Produced from fossil fuels

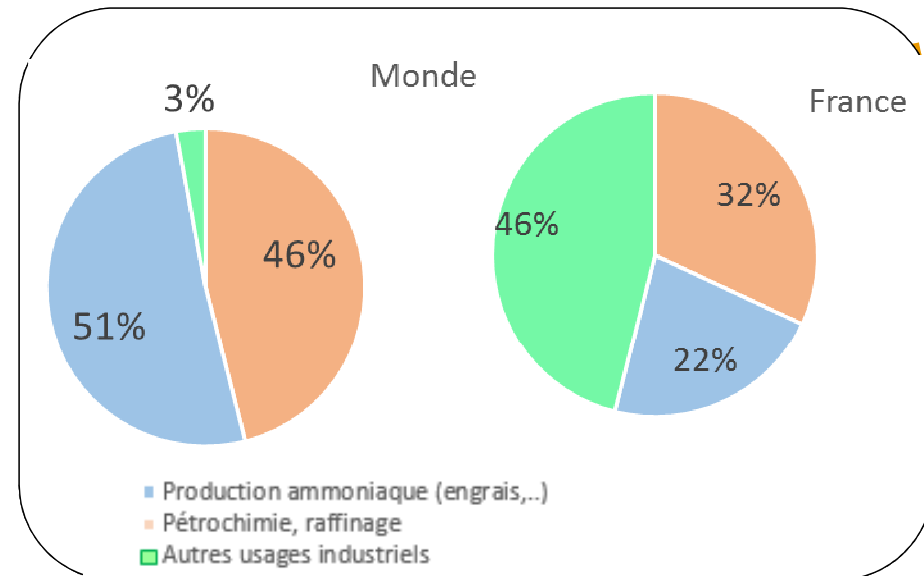
- From methane mainly
- But also coal and other oil products

■ CO₂ emissions :

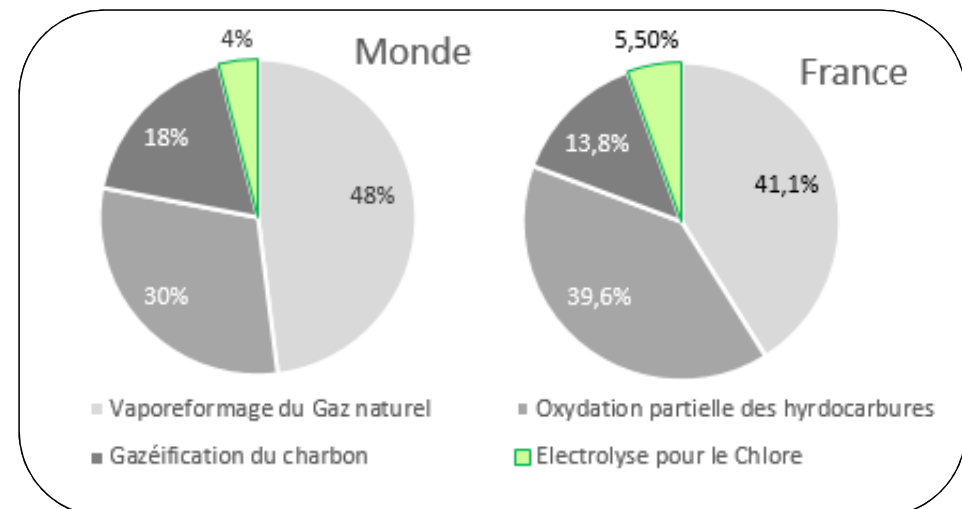
- 800 MtCO₂eq in the world, around 2% of the emissions
- 11,5 MtCO₂eq un France, around 3% of the national emissions

- Industrial H₂ production cost in France is between 1,5 et 2,5€/kg

Applications



Production



Context – in France

- Call for projects in 2016 : revealed a strong potential in France

39 «H₂ territories » labeled for about 100 projects candidates.
Twelve projects financed in 2017 by the State (+ financing by EU or local communities)

- In November 2017, the Minister launched a mission in order to define the French deployment strategy for low-carbon/green H₂

Around **50 stakeholders were interviewed** in December – January representing all the value chain and the applications of H₂

A report was submitted to the Minister in April 2018

- In June 2018, the Minister presented the French strategy on H₂
 Based on the report and containing several recommendation in order to start deploying H₂

Objectives :

Define the role of H₂ for the energy transition

Define the French strategy for the Multiannual energy Plan (2018-2028)



Main findings of the report

- **H₂ is an opportunity to accelerate the energy transition**
- From an economic perspective, costs of electrolysis systems have been rapidly decreasing over the last 5 years but scaling-up electrolysis production is needed in order to make it competitive
- H₂ is now the only storage technologies that can **provide inter-seasonal storage**
- Nevertheless, France has currently enough flexibility to integrate variable RES:
 - Studies suggest that the needs for inter-seasonal storage will arise when variable RES will reach 40-60% of the electric mix.
 - This will probably occur around 2035-2040 in France (mainland)
- H₂ also allows to decarbonize the gas sector **through direct feed-in of H₂ in the grid or through methanation (Power-to-gas)** and is one solution among others for **clean mobility**
- In the meantime and in order to allow for cost reductions, **other markets must be developed** :
 - Industrial H₂ (captive applications)
 - Mobility in the territories (intensive uses, heavy vehicles)
 - Grid services in French overseas (non-interconnected territories)



A plan for hydrogen

The hydrogen plan focuses on the 3 markets :

1

Industrial low-carbon H₂



Aim : Substitution of fossil H₂ by H₂ produced through electrolysis

→ **Main opportunity to create the volume effect needed for scaling up**

Challenges: price, logistics

Quantitative (indicative) objectives:

- **2023 : 10% of low-carbon H₂ in the industry**
- **2028 : 20 to 40%**

2

Clean mobility



Advantages : zero emissions, autonomy, short charging time complementarity with EVs and NGVs, ...

→ **Captive fleets and heavy vehicles are key for the business models of charging stations**

Challenges: distribution infrastructure, broadening of the range of heavy vehicles (trucks, buses, trains...)

Quantitative (indicative) objectives :

- **2023 :** 5 000 light commercial vehicles and 200 heavy vehicles (buses, trucks, train, boats) and 100 charging stations
- **2028 :** 20 000 to 50 000 light commercial vehicles, 800 to 2000 heavy vehicles and 400 to 1000 charging stations



3

Flexibility for the power grids and decarbonation of the gas grids (i.e. inter seasonal storage, electricity/gas interactions) :

Main challenges: long term needs, technical and economic conditions, security

Example of actions:

- Determine the conditions for H₂ fed in the gas grids
- Scaling-up power-to-gas demonstrators
- Pilot projects in French Overseas regions providing flexibility to the power grid

Call for projects are being launched in order to help financing the first H₂ deployment projects on the 3 main areas : industry, transport and energy

Proposals for H₂ deployment in France

■ Decarbonize industrial H₂ with electrolysis

For some applications, H₂ can reach 10 to 20 €/kg → there could be already profitable applications for electrolysis

Issues : reduce the cost for electrolysis systems (technology improvement, scale effects through mass production), electricity prices (value grid services ?)

→ **Need for investment aid allocated through a call for projects**

→ **Creation of a traceability system for H₂ by 2020 (guarantees of origin)**

→ **Taking into account the production source of hydrogen in Greenhouse gas emissions regulation (GHG audit)**

■ Development of H₂ mobility

Need for a regulatory framework for H₂ stations (security issues) → published during the summer

Focus on intensive uses : develop captive professional fleets (this model allows for the station to be profitable thanks to high utilization rates) with an investment aid

Broaden the range of vehicles : support through research programs in order to develop heavy vehicles (heavy trucks, boats, trains, ...), where hydrogen makes more sense



Proposals for H₂ deployment in France

■ **Support projects and local communities**

The French energy agency (ADEME) has a recognized expertise in this respect

The ADEME will be in charge of :

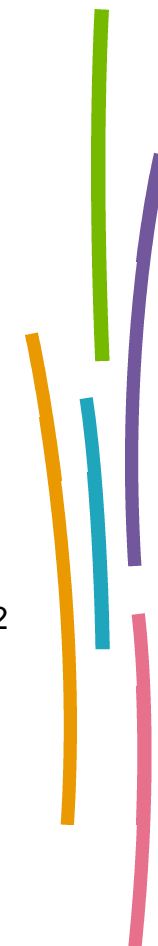
- Coordinating and assisting the communities and stakeholders with their H₂ projects
- Redirecting stakeholders to the relevant institutional partners (regulation, financing)

■ **Additional studies to prepare for the long term :**

- Prepare for power to grid : study to be managed by the gas TSO and DSOs for determining the injection conditions for H₂ (maximal %, security of installations)

■ **Ensuring the stakeholders involvement**

- “Green deals” will be elaborated with the stakeholders during 2018/2019



Thank you

