



Energy Sources and Energy Conversion Processes for Sustainable Aviation

Dr. Ajay Misra
NASA Glenn Research Center

Presented at the 8th International Workshop on Aviation and Climate Change
Toronto, Canada, May 31, 2023

Different Energy Sources and Energy Conversion Processes



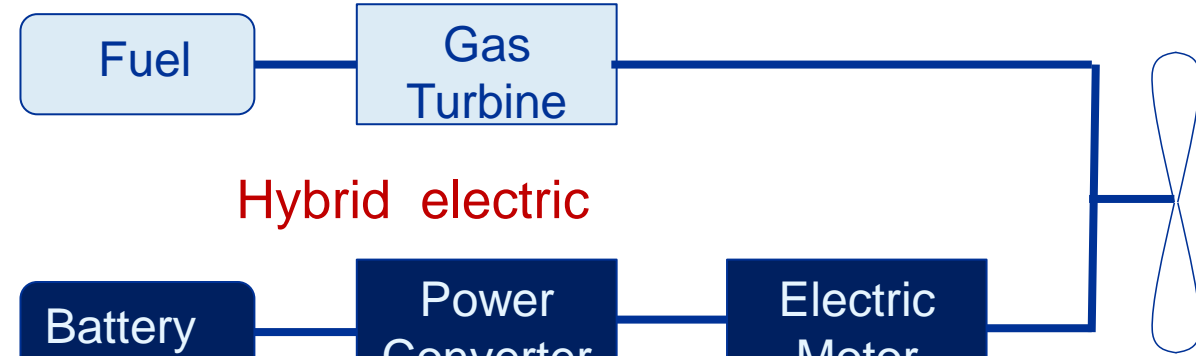
All electric

Hydrogen
Ammonia

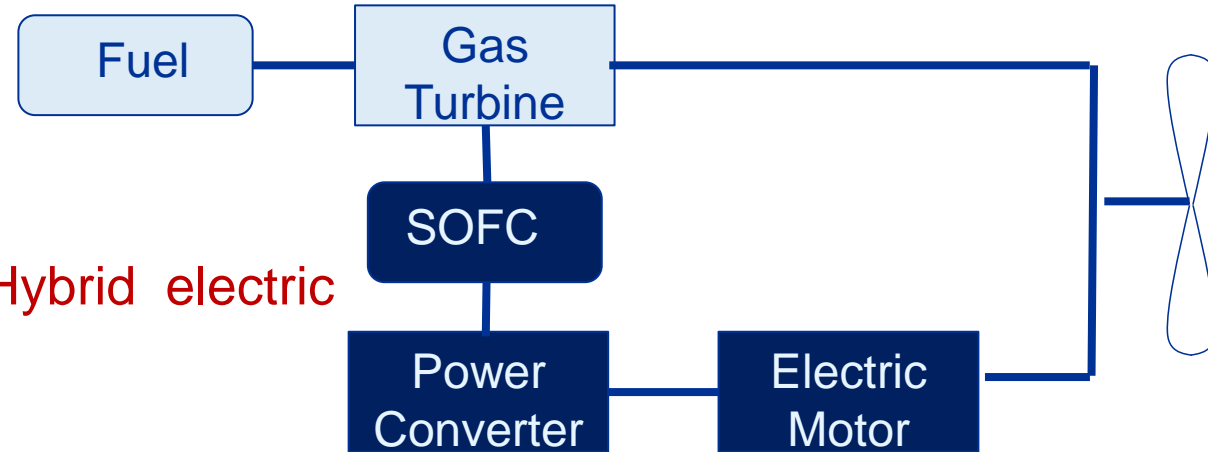


Conventional

- Jet fuel
 - SAF
- Fuel
- Hydrogen
 - Ammonia
 - Methane



Hybrid electric



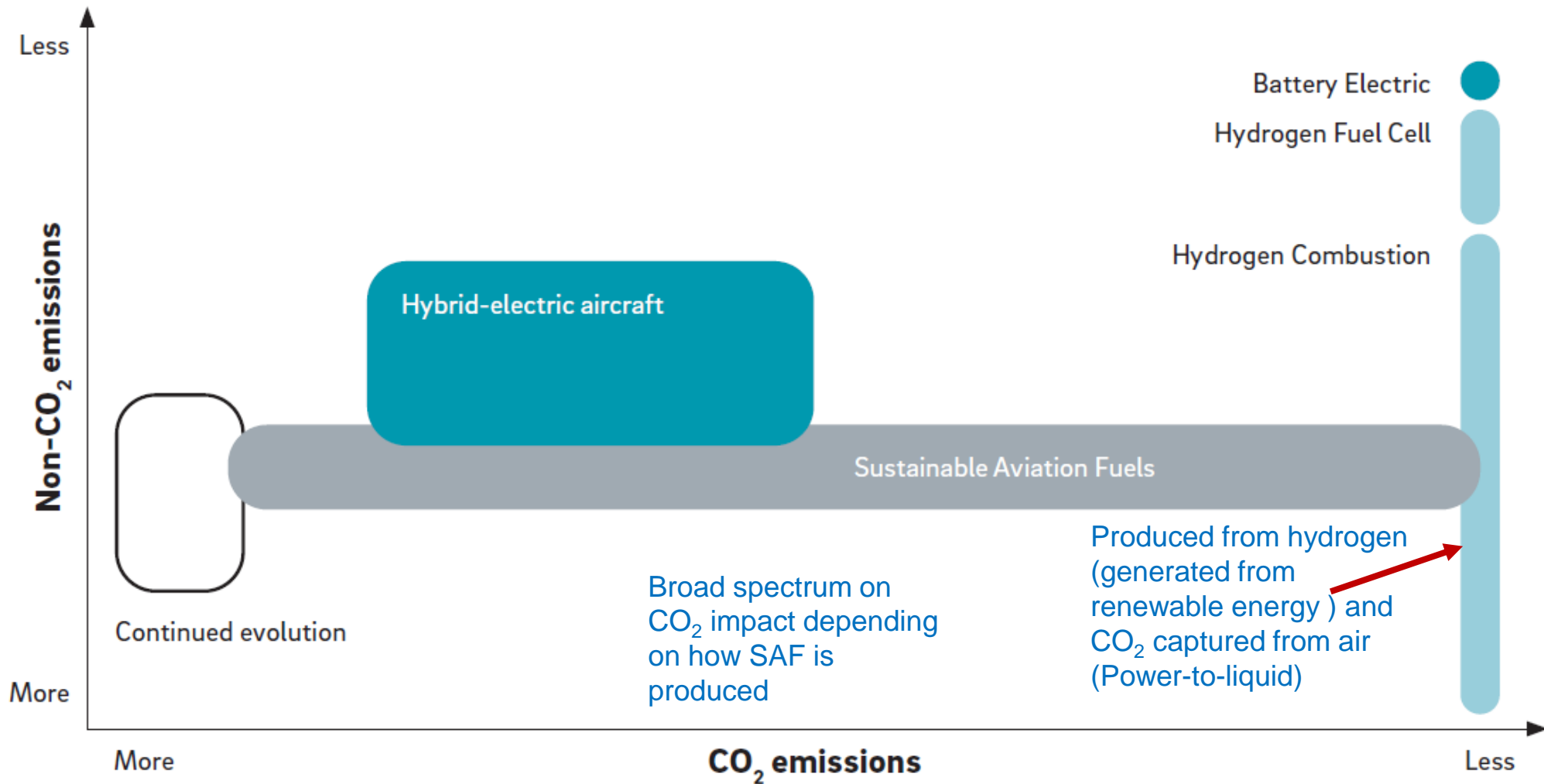
Hybrid electric



Turbojet

SAF – Sustainable aviation fuel
SOFC – Solid oxide fuel cell

Path for Decarbonization of Aviation

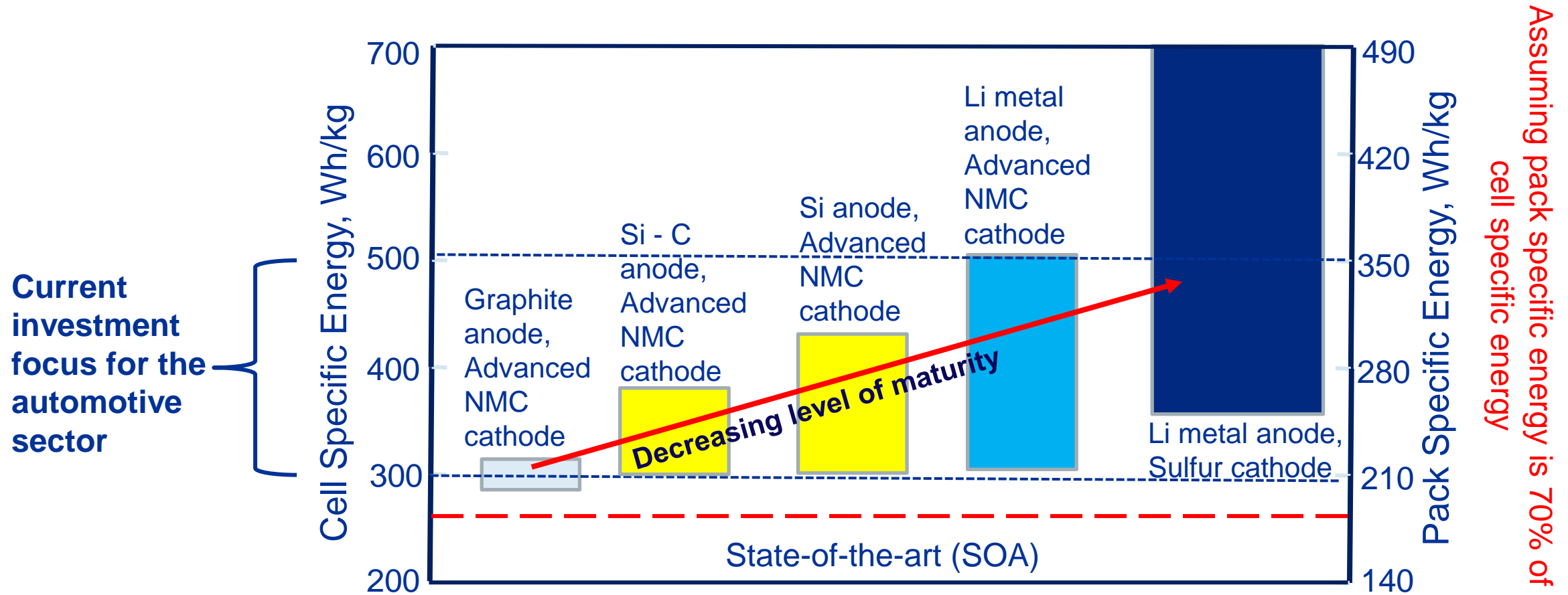


Evolution of All-Electric Aircraft with Advances in Battery Technology

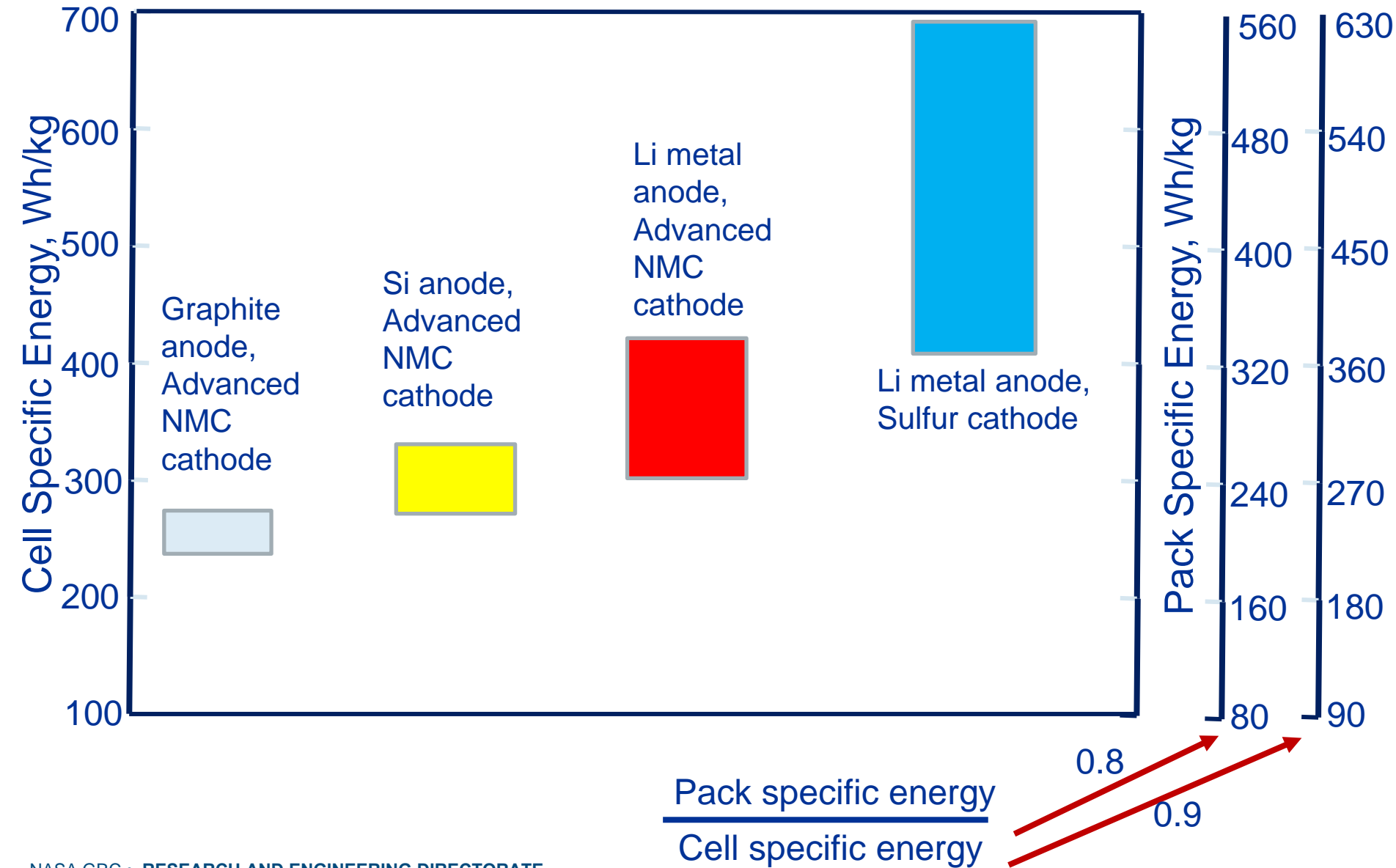
- Pack specific energy
- Notional specific energy for each class of aircraft



Progression of Specific Energy of Li Batteries with Liquid Electrolyte



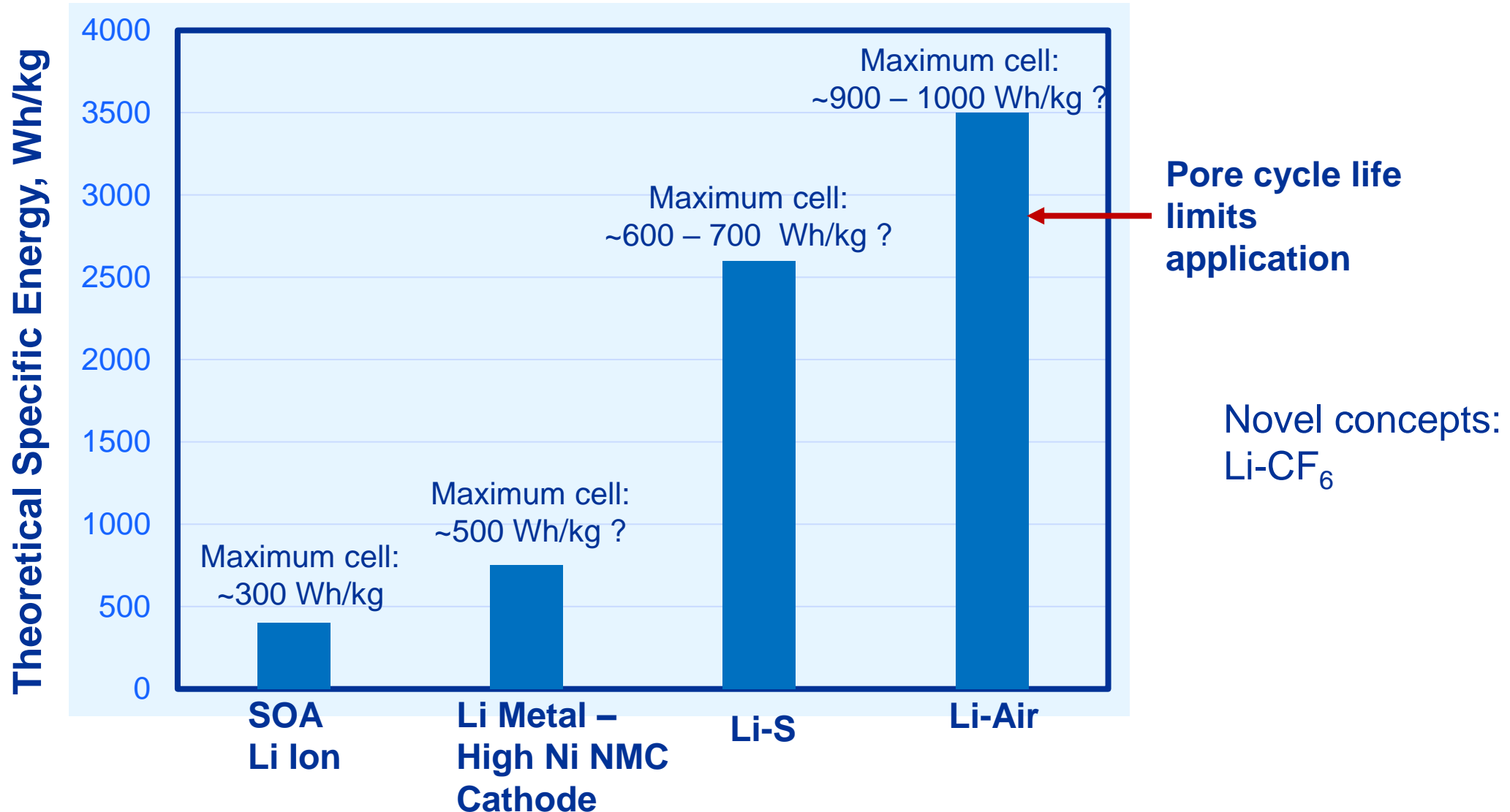
Progression of Specific Energy of All Solid State Li Batteries



Current Status:

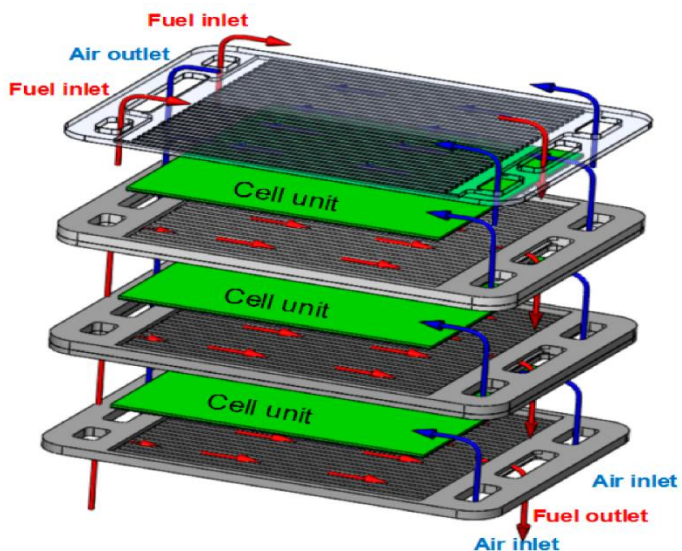
- Significant ongoing research – Challenging to achieve 400 Wh/kg at pack level
- Many claims of 300 – 400 Wh/kg specific energy at cell level
- Difficult to predict time horizon – longer-term prospects

Path to Achieving 500 Wh/kg or Higher Pack Specific Energy

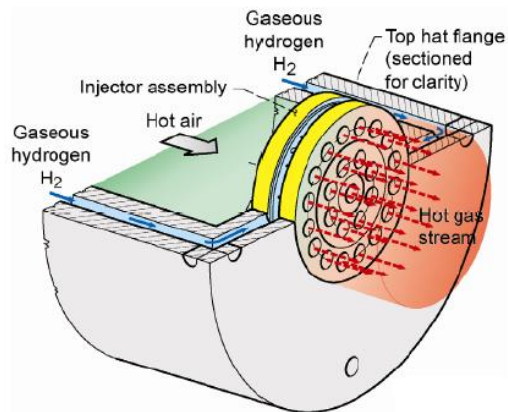


Challenges for Hydrogen Powered Aircraft

High power density PEM fuel cell system



Stable and low NO_x combustor



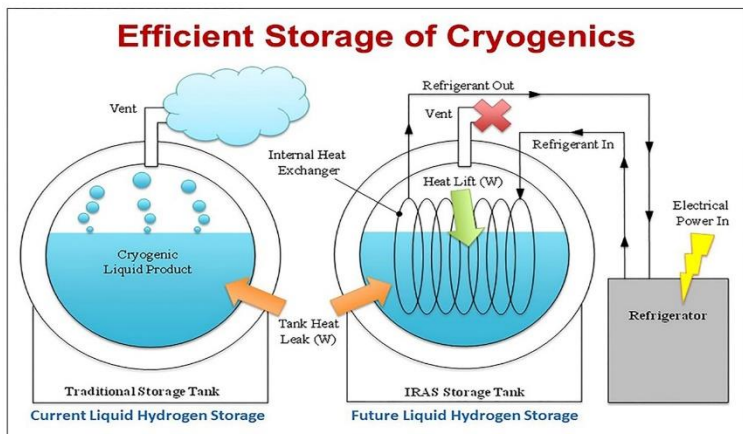
New aircraft concept



Hydrogen infrastructure



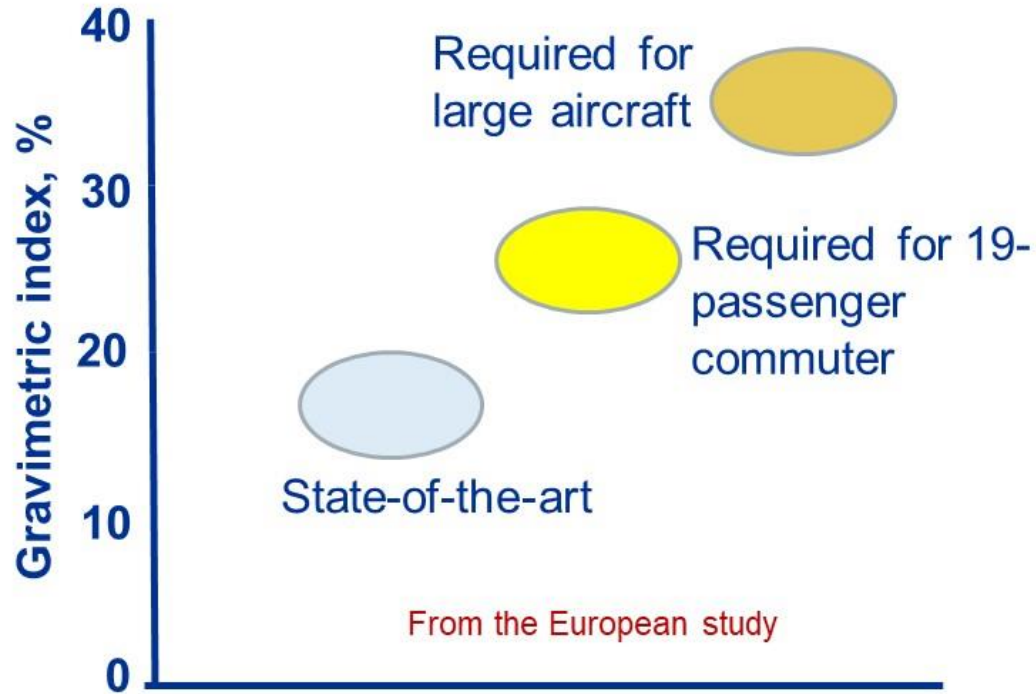
Handling of liquid hydrogen



Lightweight and low volume liquid hydrogen storage system

Technology Challenges for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Aircraft

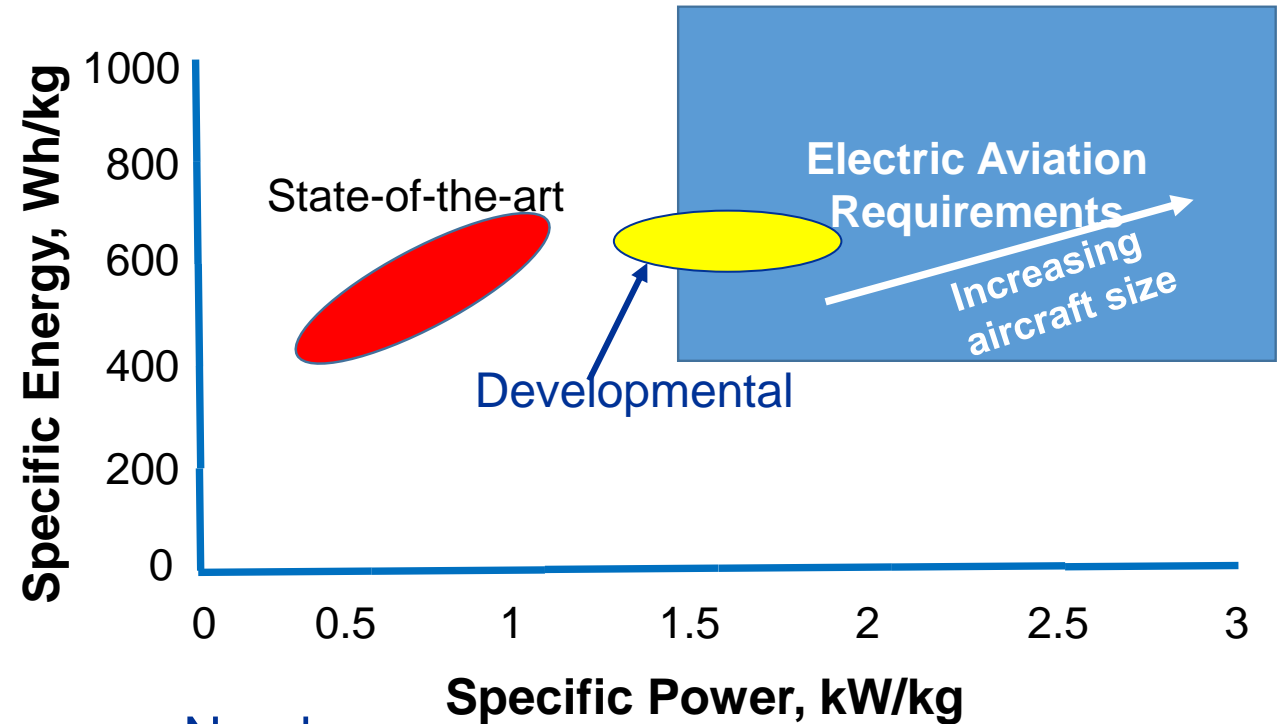
Liquid Hydrogen Storage System



Need:

- Lightweight materials and structural concepts
- Integration with aircraft

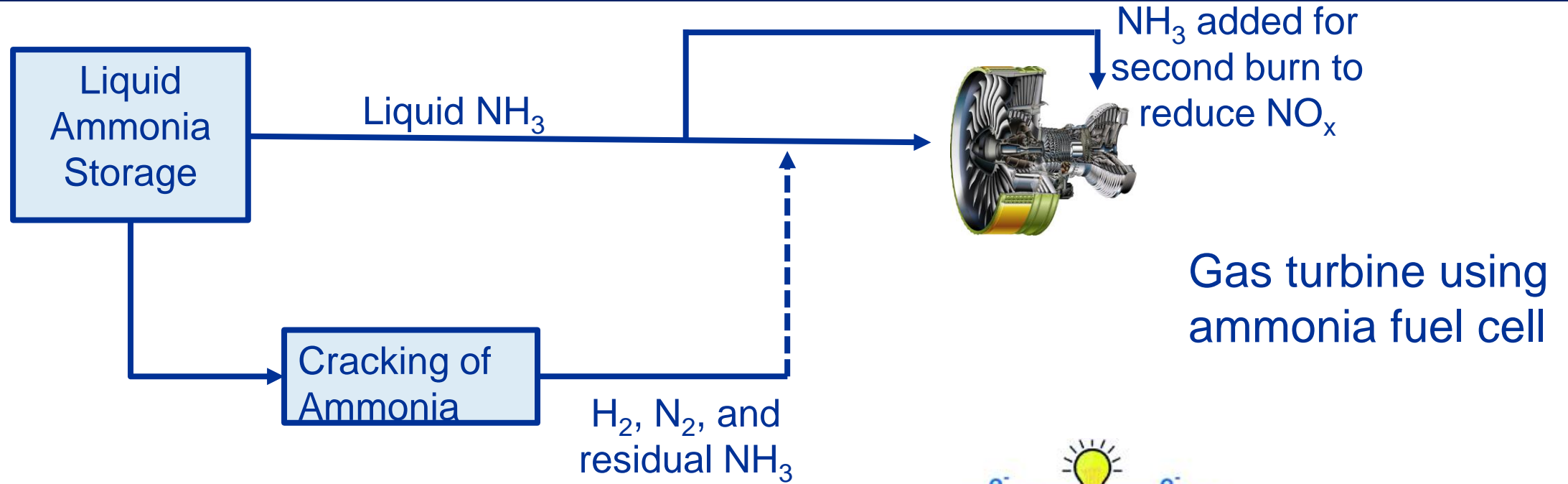
Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cell System



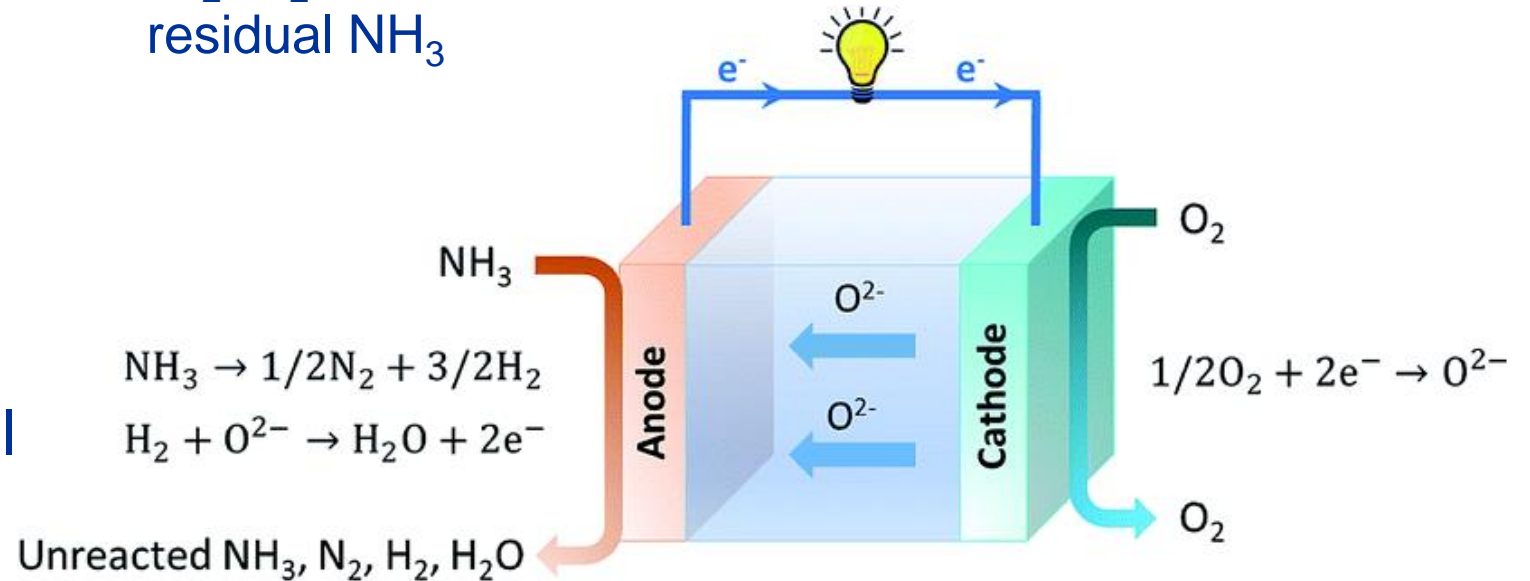
Need:

- PEM fuel cell with higher temperature capability (from SOA 80°C to 200°C or higher)
- Integrated, lightweight thermal management system

Use of Ammonia as a Fuel



Direct ammonia fuel cell



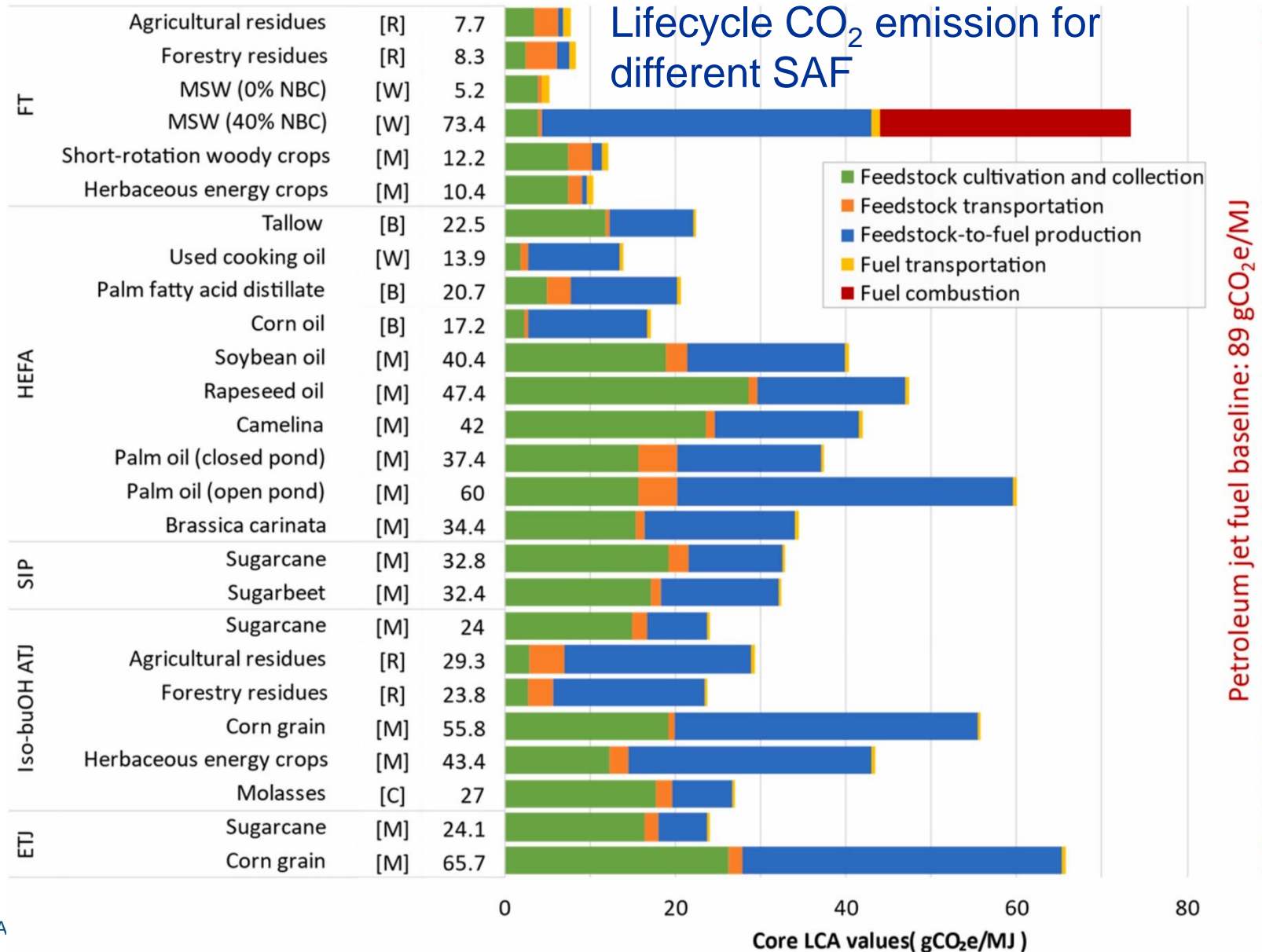
Potential Scenarios for Aviation Decarbonization

Aircraft	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
9-10 seat commuter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell
10 – 50 passenger, commuter/regional	SAF	Hydrogen fuel cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric (<30 PAX) Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell
50-100 passenger regional	SAF	SAF	Hydrogen fuel cell	Hydrogen fuel cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery electric Hydrogen fuel cell
100 – 150 passenger	SAF	SAF	Hydrogen combustion turbine	Hydrogen combustion turbine	Hydrogen combustion turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrogen combustion turbine Hydrogen fuel cell
150 + passenger medium haul	SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF	Hydrogen combustion turbine
150+ passenger long haul	SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF

Hydrogen and battery-electric aircraft projected to be up to a third of the aviation energy demand in 2050¹¹

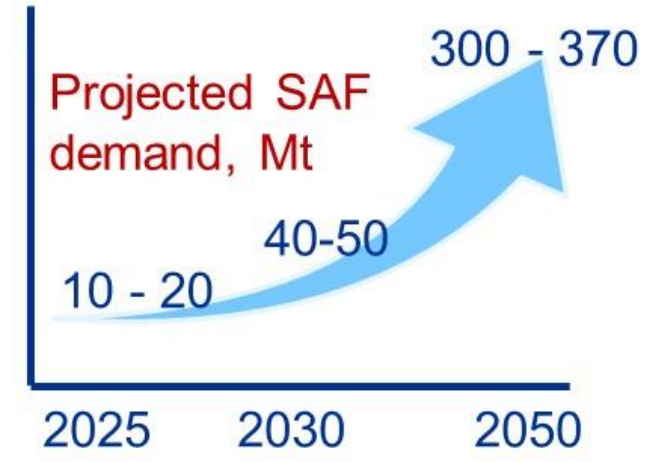
Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Lifecycle CO₂ emission for different SAF



Petroleum jet fuel baseline: 89 gCO₂e/MJ

- FT – Fischer – Tropsch
- HEFA – Hydrotreated esters and fatty acids
- SIP – Synthesized iso-paraffins
- ATJ – Alcohol-to-jet
- ETJ – Ethanol-to-jet
- MSW-Municipal solid waste
- NBC – No biogenic carbon content



[Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews](#)
Volume 150, October 2021, 111398

CORSIA: The first internationally adopted approach to calculate life-cycle GHG emissions for aviation fuels

Power – to - Liquid (PtL) Fuel



Renewable energy



Water



Electrolyzer



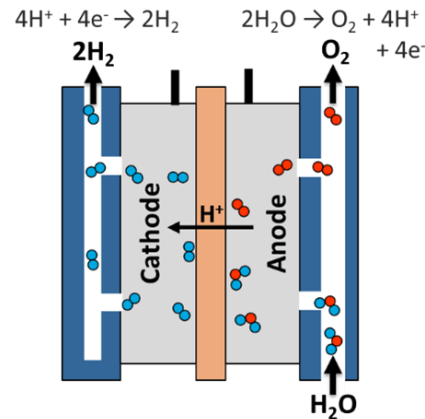
Green hydrogen



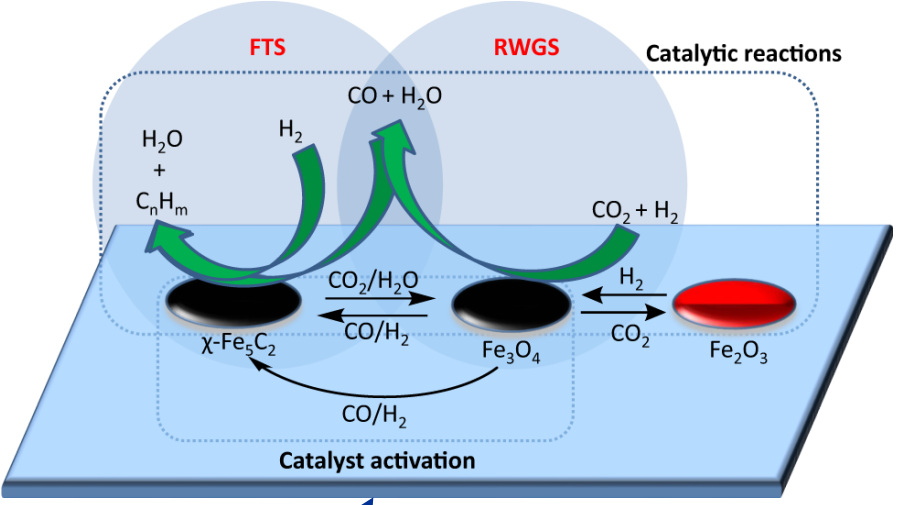
Reactor



Fuel



CO₂ from direct carbon capture and industrial exhaust



90 – 100 % CO₂ reduction

Power-to-Liquid Fuel Projected to be Cost Competitive Beyond 2040

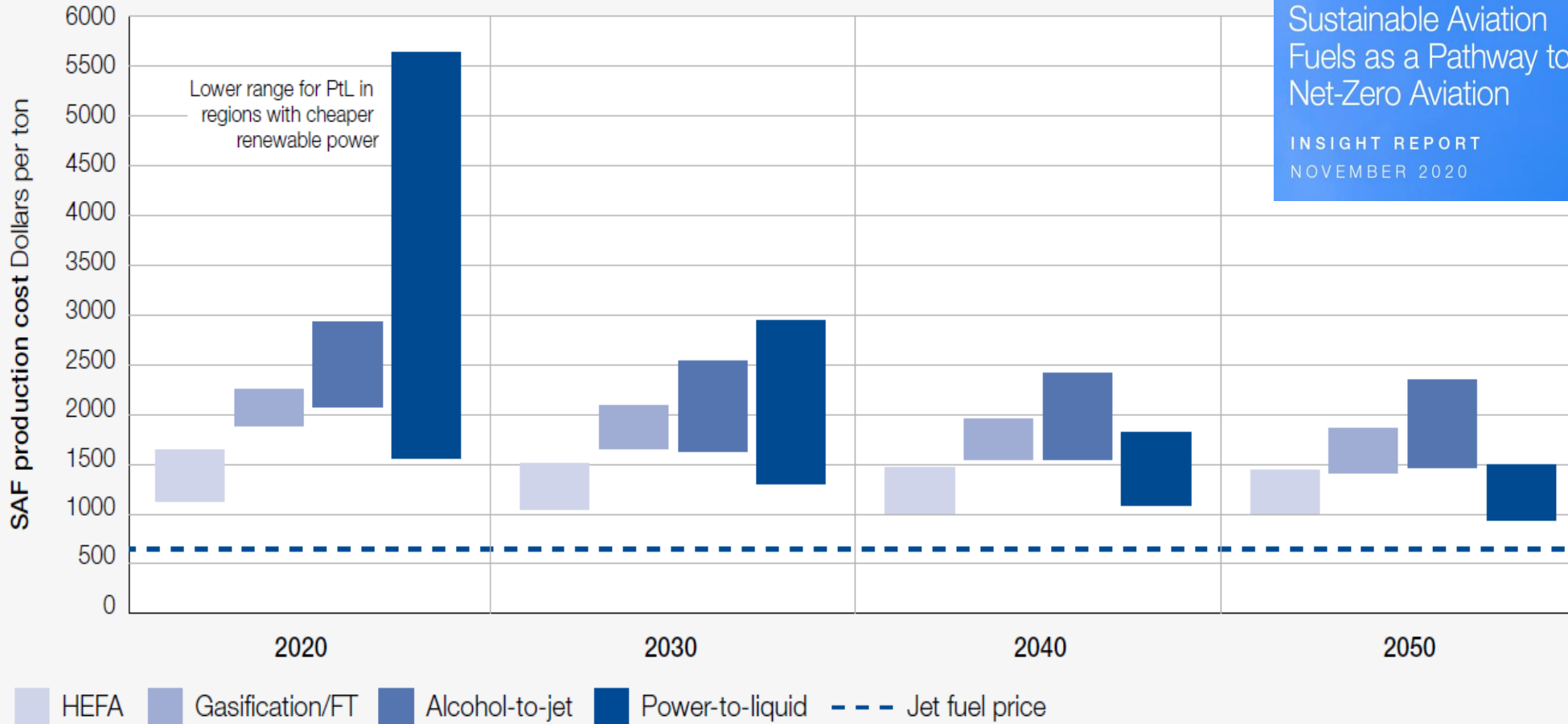
In Collaboration with
McKinsey & Company



Clean Skies for Tomorrow
Sustainable Aviation
Fuels as a Pathway to
Net-Zero Aviation

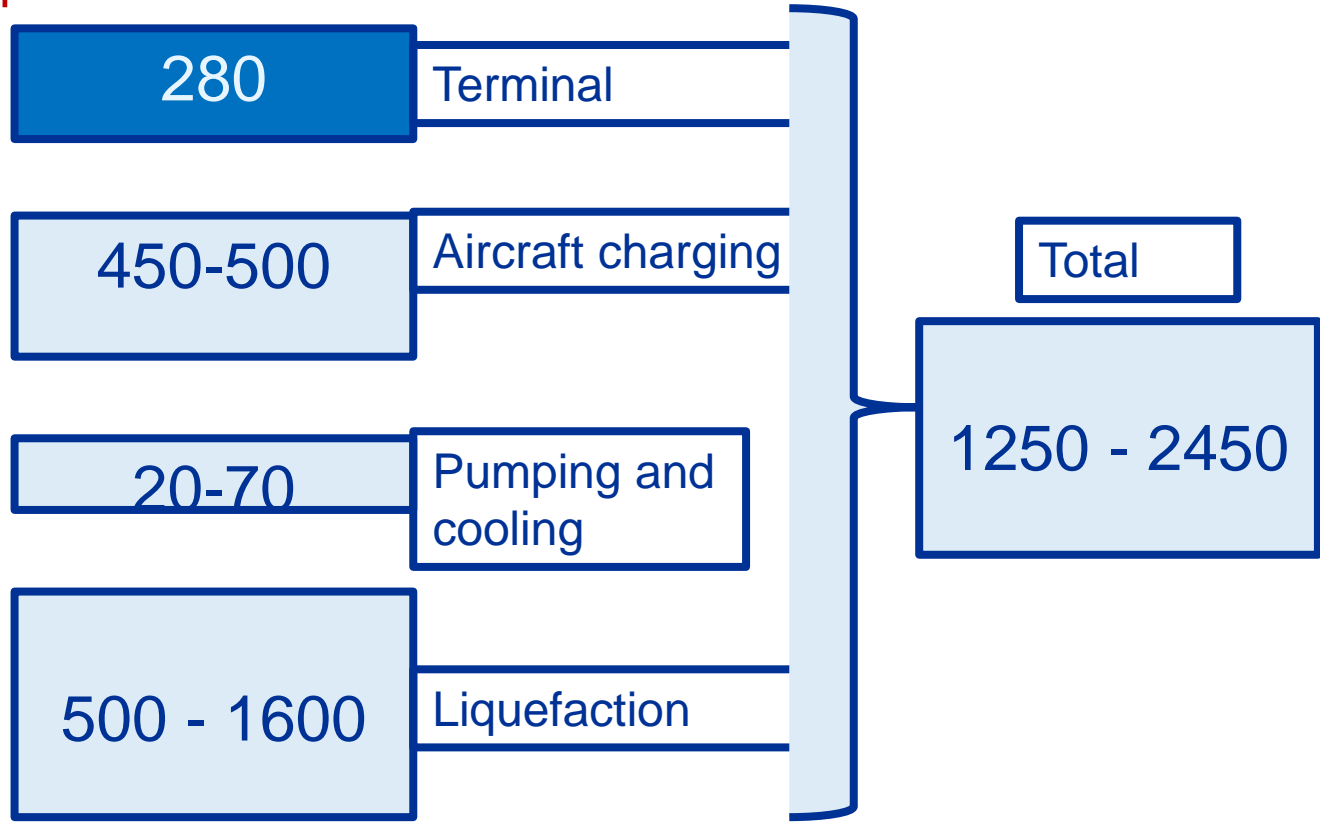
INSIGHT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2020

Global SAF production cost for selected feedstocks *Indicative*



Impact of Net-Zero Aviation on Energy Usage

Electricity consumption at a typical intercontinental hub, GWh/year



Today

Future with battery and hydrogen-powered aircraft

Projected energy need for net-zero aviation

By 2050, net-zero aviation could require an additional 5850 terawatt-hr (TWh) of renewable electricity (5% of the expected global demand), 95 million tons of hydrogen (0 – 20% of the expected global demand, and 12 exajoules of sustainable biomass (10-25% of the global expected global sustainable biomass availability)

Efforts to Increase Energy Conversion Efficiency and Reduce Energy Consumption for Propulsion Systems

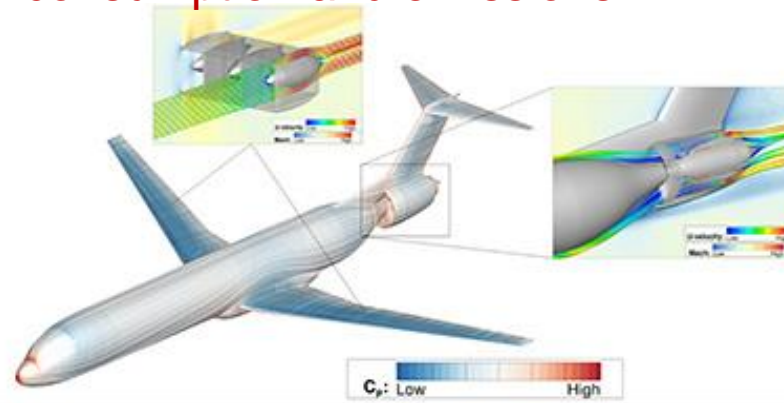
Single-Aisle Turboelectric Aircraft with Aft Boundary Layer Propulsion (STARC-ABL)



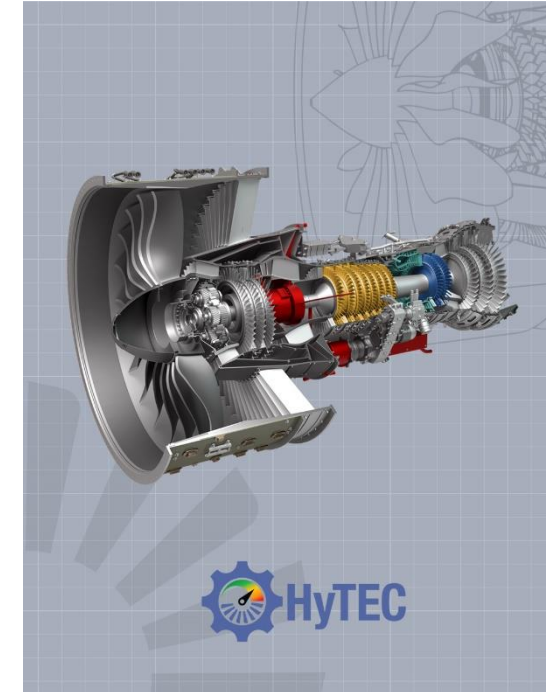
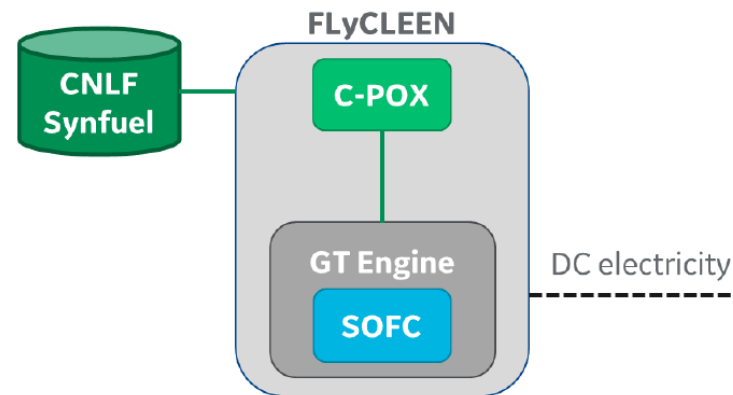
Hybrid electric propulsion



SUBsonic Single Aft eNginE (SUSAN) Electrofan, which shows great potential to reduce aviation energy consumption and emissions



Gas turbine – solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) hybrid system



Increasing energy conversion efficiency of gas turbine engines

Summary

- Multiple pathways, with no single clear alternative, for decarbonization leading to net-zero aviation in 2050
 - Battery-electric, hydrogen-powered, sustainable aviation fuel including power-to-liquid
 - Significant technology advances needed for using alternate energy sources for large aircraft
- Significant energy requirement for realizing net-zero aviation
- Infrastructure challenges remain for realizing net-zero aviation
- Gas turbine engine improvements and hybrid electric propulsion systems will be important for reducing CO₂ emissions in the near and mid-term