



# E-Fuels: Useful valorization of CO<sub>2</sub>

## From residue to raw material in ultra low carbon fuels for aviation and transport

**Aitor Arzuaga**

Director General

*Alba Emission Free Energy S.A. (Petronor)*



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**1**

CONTEXT

**2**

DEMONSTRATION  
PLANT

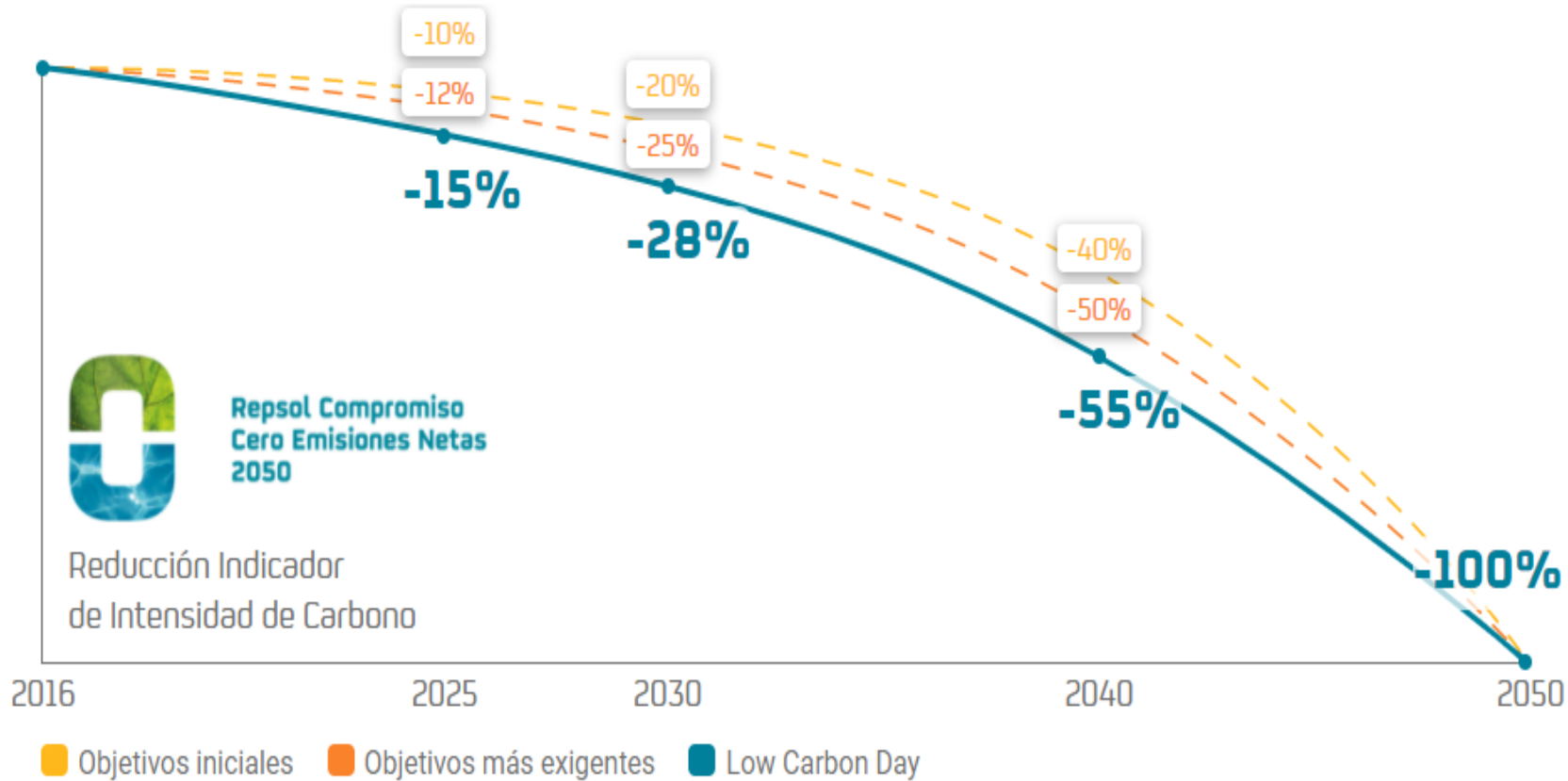
**3**

SCALE UP

# Context



Repsol Group: Public Commitment (late 2019) to become a net zero emission company by 2050 (Scope 1-2-3)



- Commitment of Net Zero Emissions by 2050

- <https://www.repsol.com/es/sostenibilidad/cambio-climatico/cero-emisiones-netas-2050/index.csh.html>

Public



The Repsol Commitment  
Net Zero Emissions  
by 2050

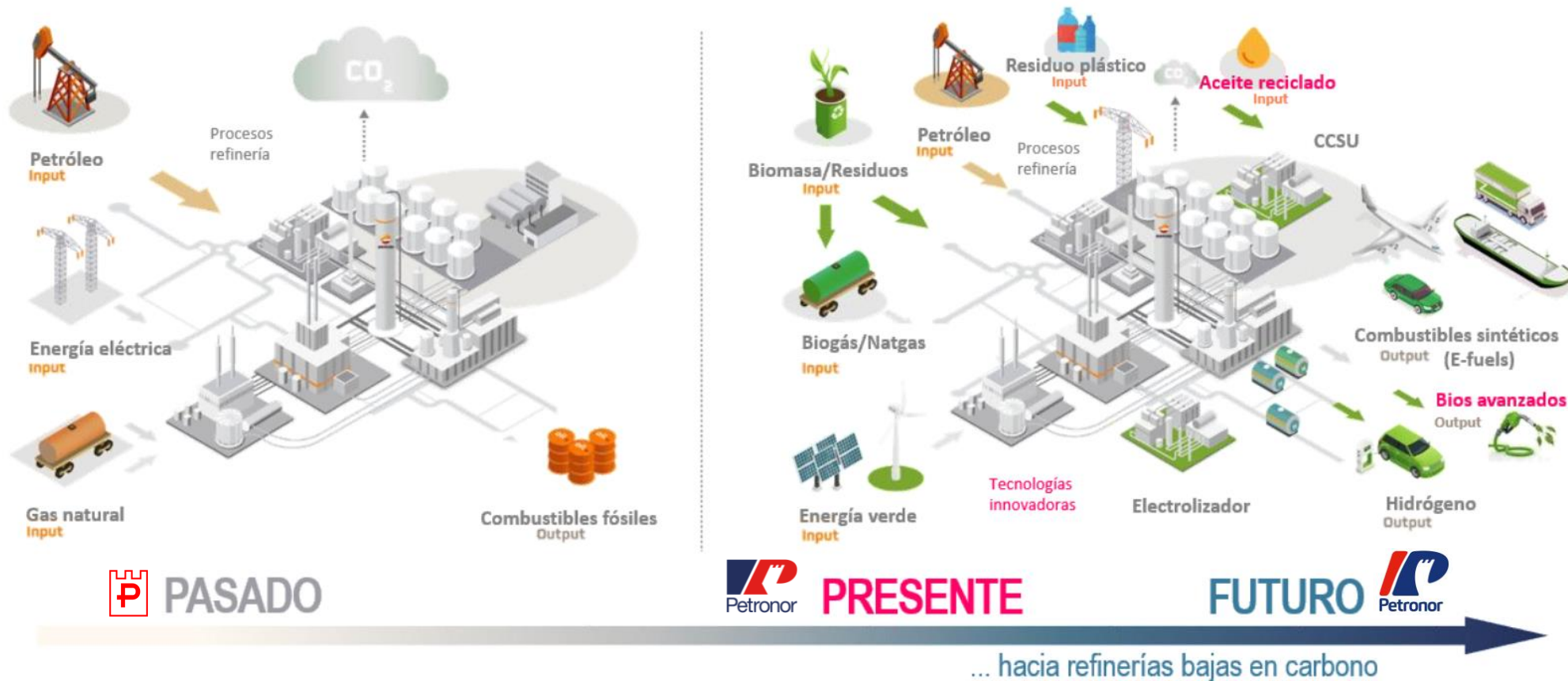
# Context



## Repsol Group: Transforming our business model towards decarbonization

Scope 1-2: Energy & Process

Scope 3: Raw materials



PASADO

PRESENTE

FUTURO

... hacia refinерías bajas en carbono

Public



The Repsol Commitment  
Net Zero Emissions  
by 2050

# Context

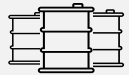
## Petronor key figures



1,015 employees



Production  
12 M tonnes/year  
220k bbl/d



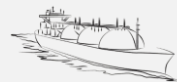
+ 6,200 indirect jobs



9.7 % of GDP in Bizkaia region



40% of vessel traffic through the Port of Bilbao



Petronor is the industrial leader of the



Is part of



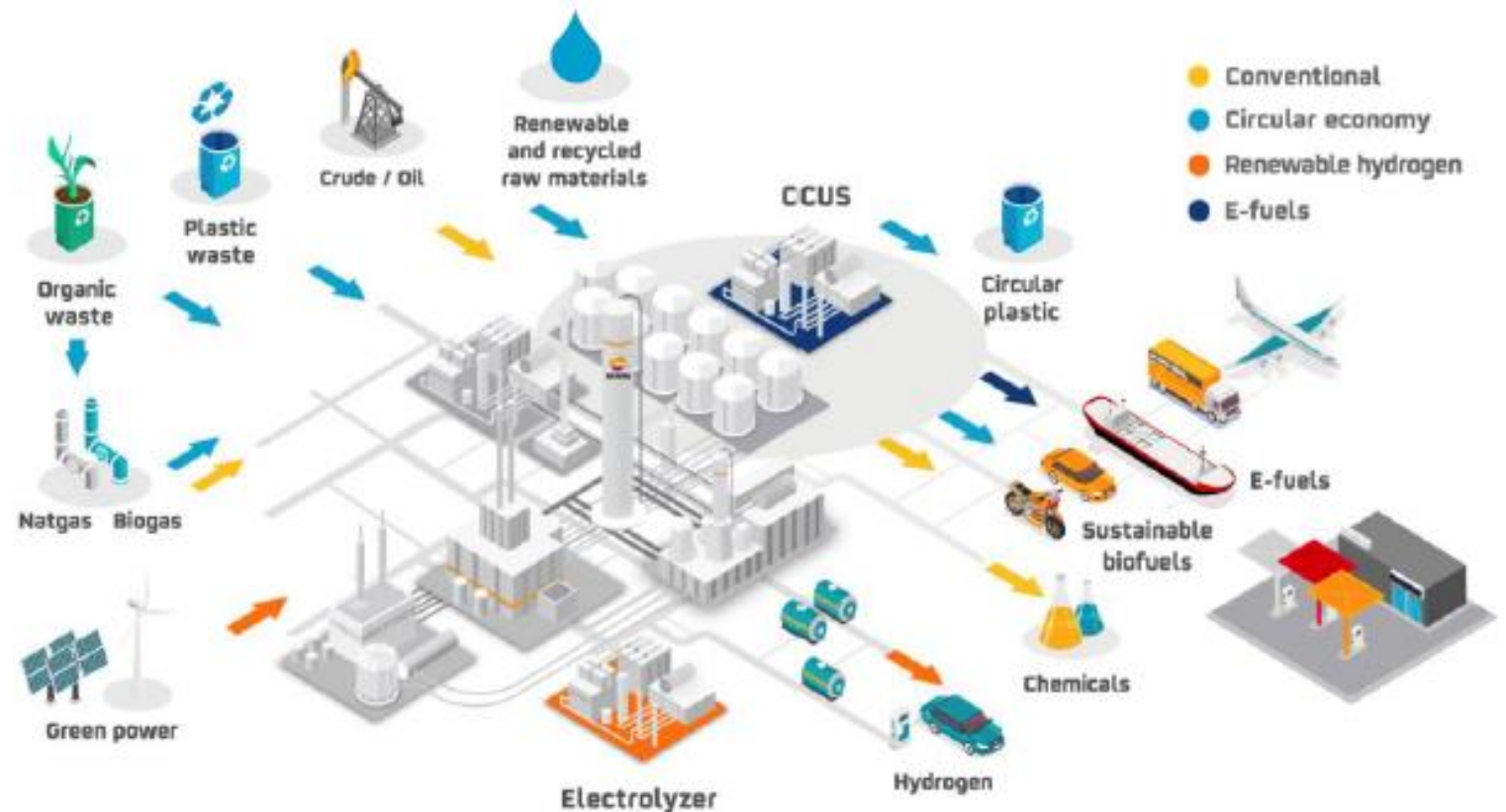
1<sup>st</sup>

company in the sector with the objective



REPSOL 2050 Net Zero Emissions Commitment

## Industrial transformation



# Context



Petronor has a history of constant evolution



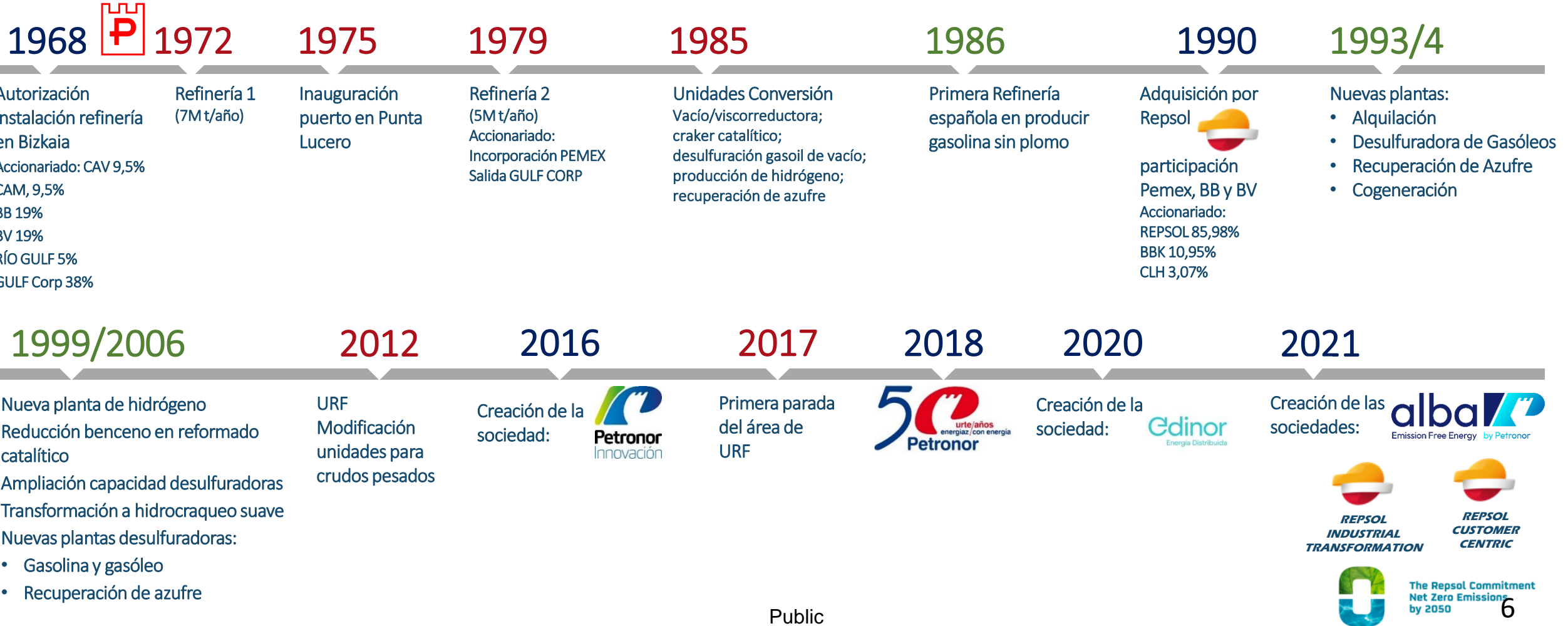
Hitos societarios



Hitos industriales



Hitos medioambientales



# Context

Petronor today



An urban refinery of 220 Ha (300 football fields) and refining capacity for 220kbd/day...

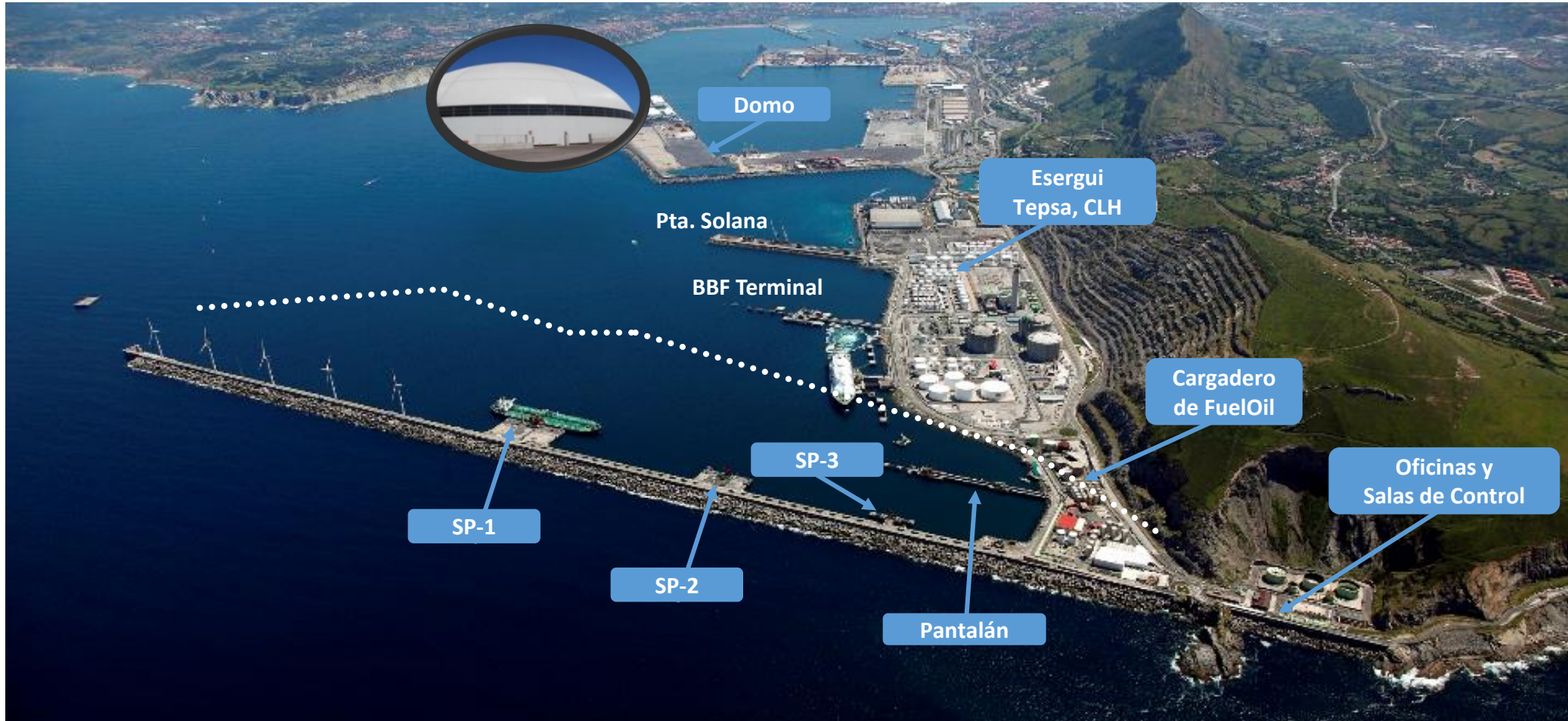
Public



# Context



Petronor today



... and deeply integrated with the Port of Bilbao (40% of the Port's traffic)

Public



The Repsol Commitment  
Net Zero Emissions  
by 2050



# Context



Renewable Fuels are a real and efficient solution to GHG emissions reduction in transport and important to achieve Net Zero in the sector

## SUSTAINABLE

- Net Zero Emissions in their use
- From 65% to 95% GHG reduction  
vs fossil fuels in a Well to Wheel analysis
- Audited by third parties in the whole value chain

## COMPATIBLE WITH...

- Existing Fleet
- Existing Infrastructure

## A SOLUTION FOR...

- Hard-to-abate sectors  
Heavy duty, aviation and marine transport  
Cement, Steel and other intensive industries
- Waste & Residue Management – Circular Economy

# Context

Renewable Fuels can be obtained through different Routes



Route

WASTE USED

TECHNOLOGY

MARKET

Lipidic



Used Cooking Oils and lipidic waste from agrifood industries

Hydrogenation

- Light Duty, Heavy Duty and Marine : HVO-renewable diesel
- Aviation: HEFA-SAF
- BioC3 y bionaphtha for the **petrochemical Industry and hydrogen** production

Biological



OF-MSW, Industrial Organic Waste



Agriculture and Livestock sector waste

Anaerobic Digestion and Fermentation

- **Biomethane** for heavy duty and marine, industry and residential.
- **Bioethanol** for gasoline production and SAF.
- **Fertilizers and biochar** as by-products

Thermochemical



Municipal Solid Waste



Agricultural and forestry waste

Gasification and Pyrolysis

- **Renewable diesel** for heavy transport and marine
- **Aviation:** FT and ATJ
- BioC3 and bionaphtha for the **petrochemical Industry and hydrogen** production
- **Renewable methanol** for marine and chemicals

E-fuel



CO<sub>2</sub>  
H<sub>2</sub>O  
Renewable electricity

E- fuels

- E-naphtha for gasoline and for the **petrochemical Industry**
- **E-diesel** for light and heavy transport and marine
- **E-jet for aviation**

Public

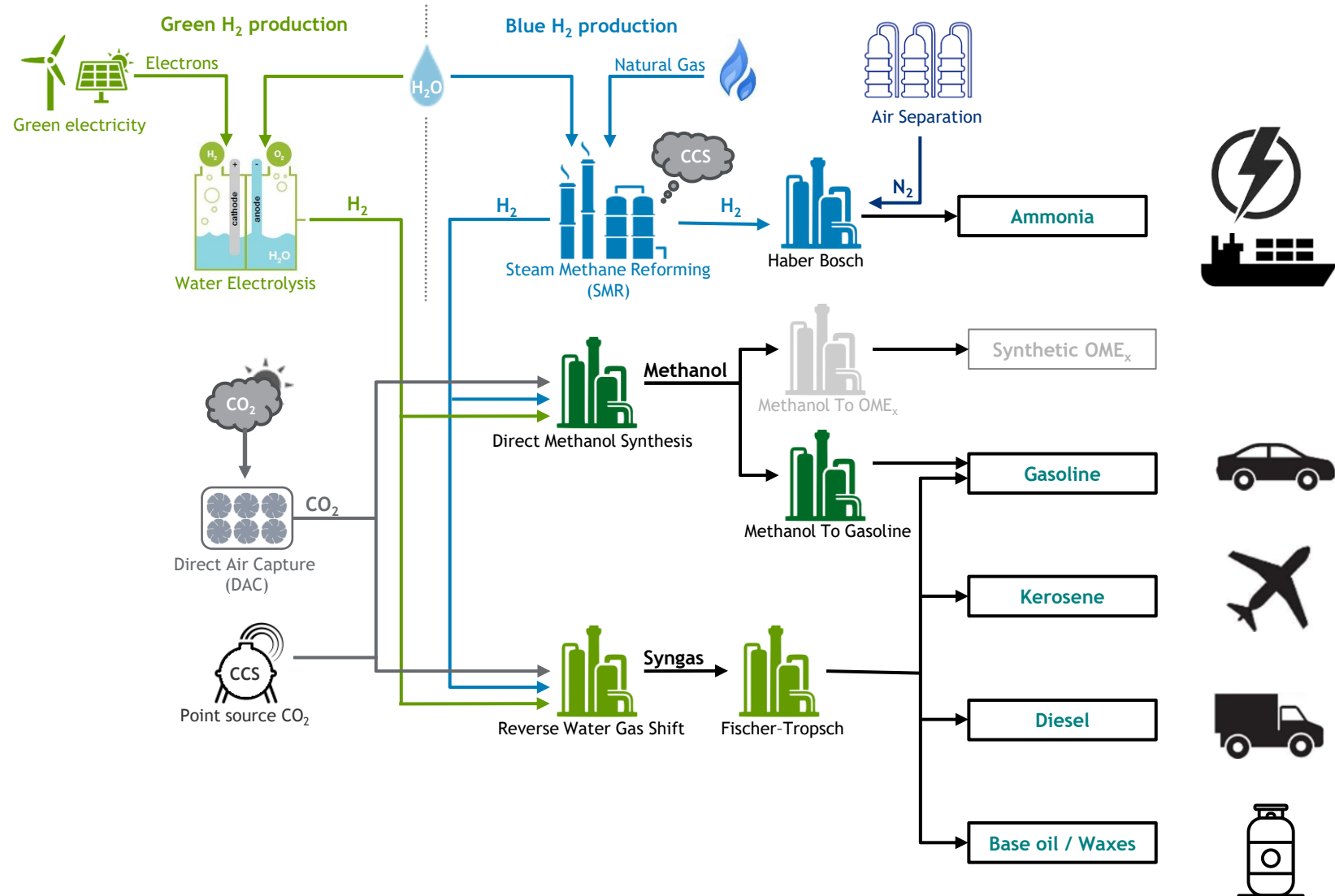
# Context

## What is “Power-to-Liquids” (PtL)

**e-Fuels are synthetic hydrocarbons**, resulting from the combination of **renewable hydrogen** and **CO<sub>2</sub> captured** either from concentrated (point) source or from the air (DAC).

e-fuels are also named as RFNBOs, power-to liquid (PtL), power-to-X (PtX) or power-to-gas (PtG) and synthetic fuels<sup>(1)</sup>.

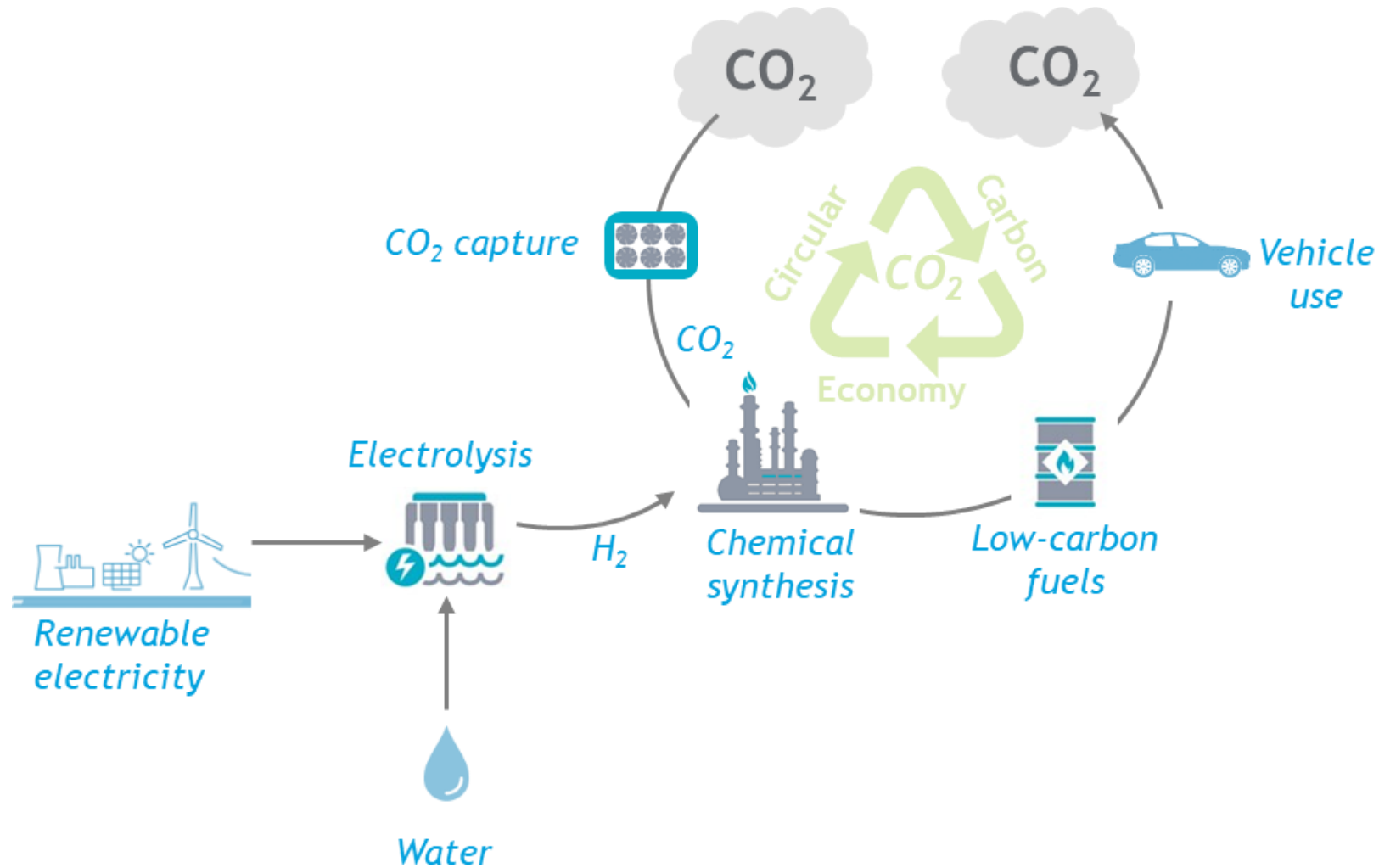
**Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBOs)** are defined as *“liquid or gaseous fuels which are used in the transport sector other than biofuels or biogas, the energy content of which is derived from renewable sources other than biomass”* (2)



(1) A look into role of e-fuels in the transport system in Europe (2030-2050). Concawe Review

# Context

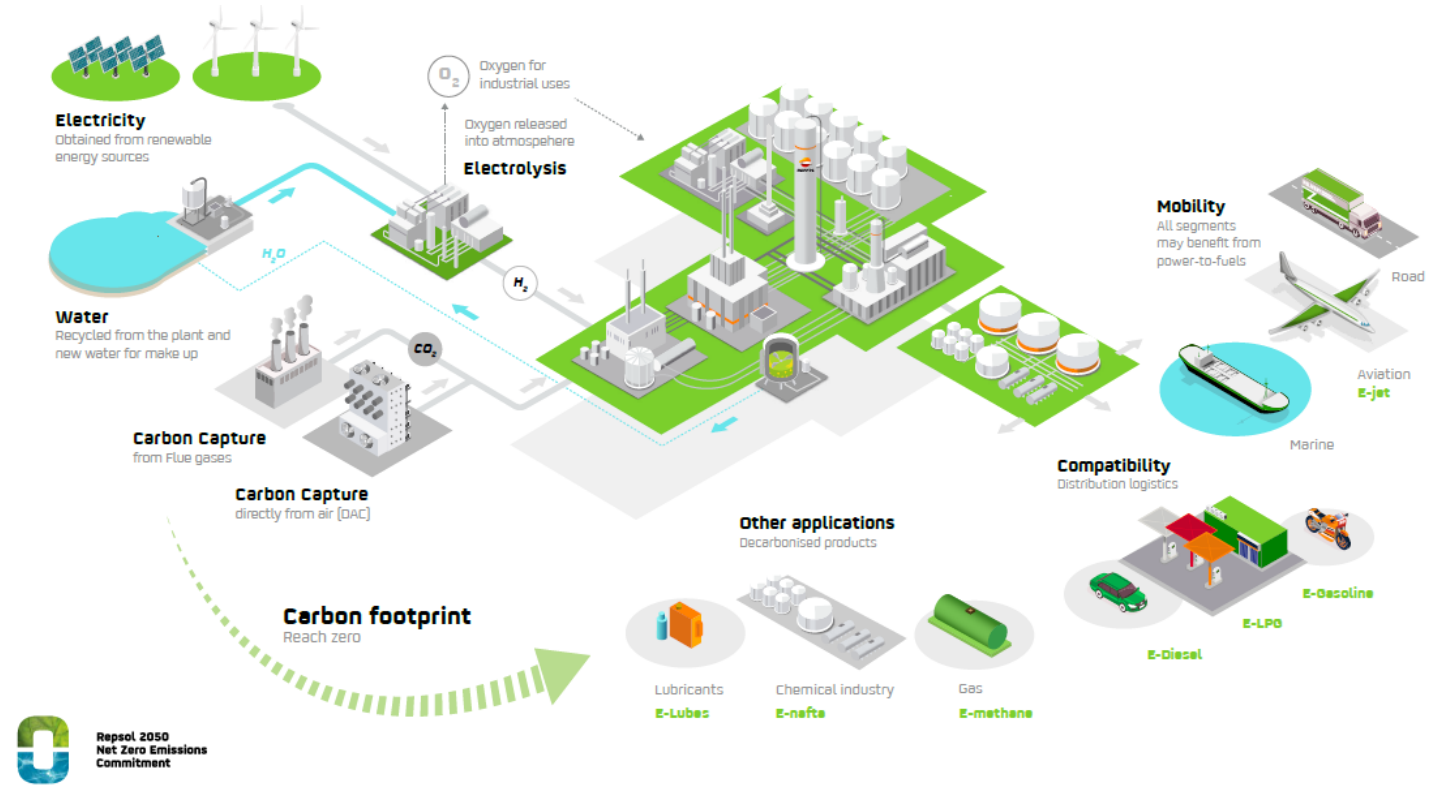
Towards a circular carbon economy: closing the loop in carbon cycle with e-fuels



# Context

## Why Power-to-Liquids

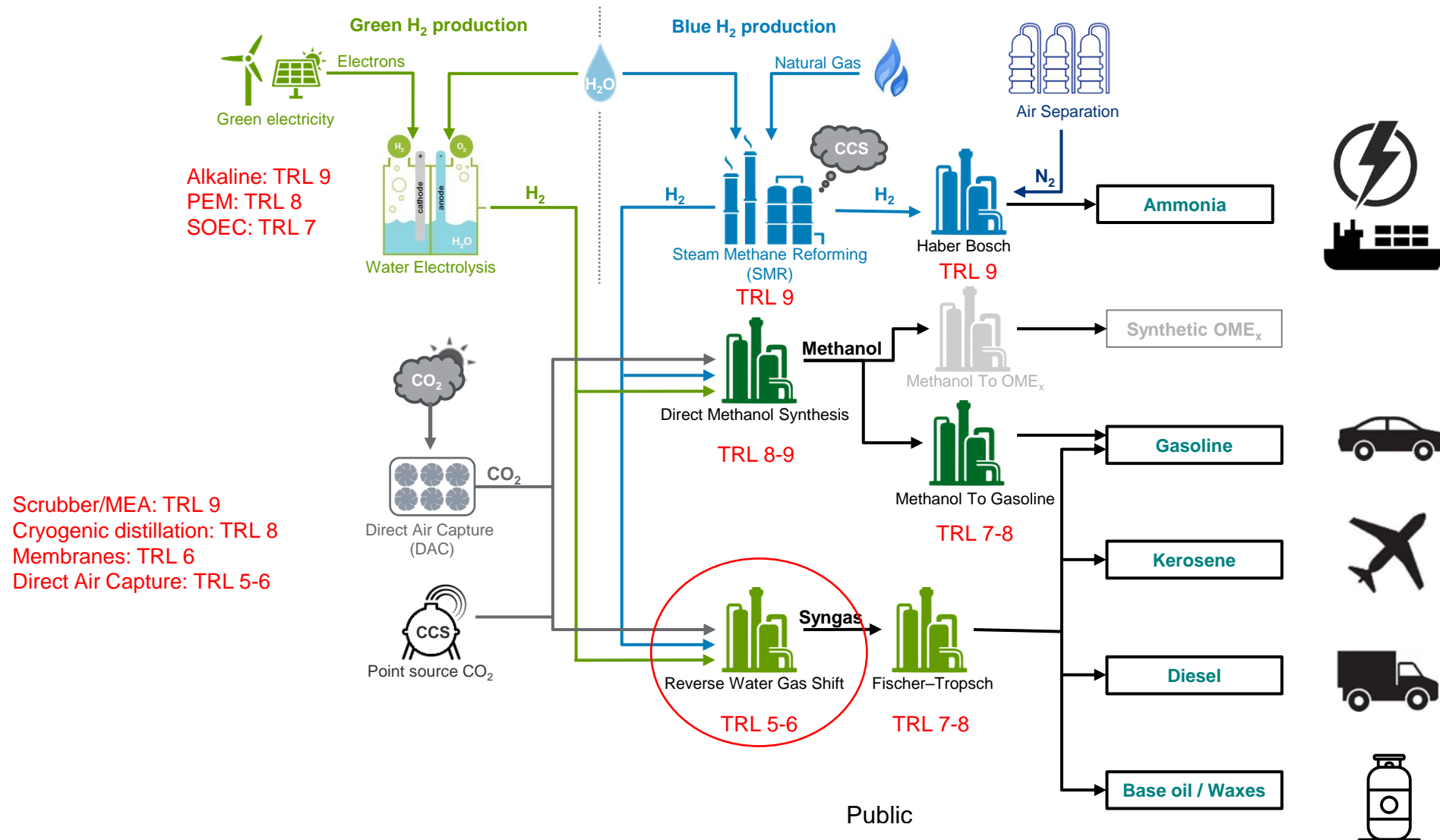
1. Significant decarbonization potential
2. Compatibility with existing infrastructure and fleet
3. Serving fuels to wide range of sectors
4. Scalability potential and low footprint
5. Alternatives for non-fuel products (e-chemical, e-lubes)
6. Renewable energy vector



# Context

## Drivers of PtL adoption. Technology readiness level

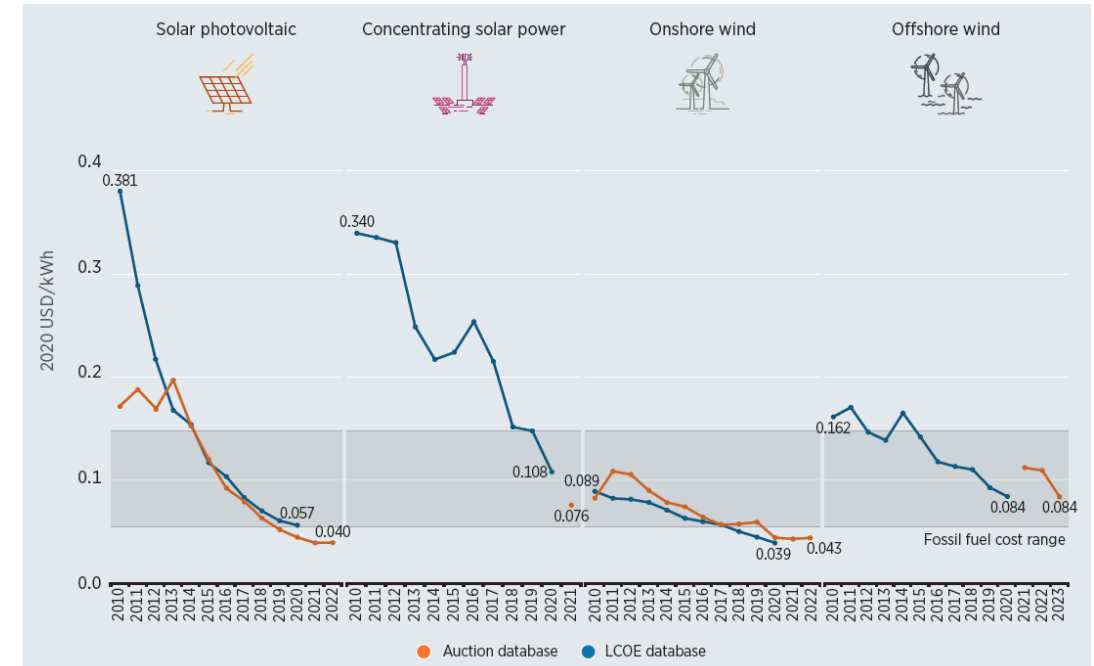
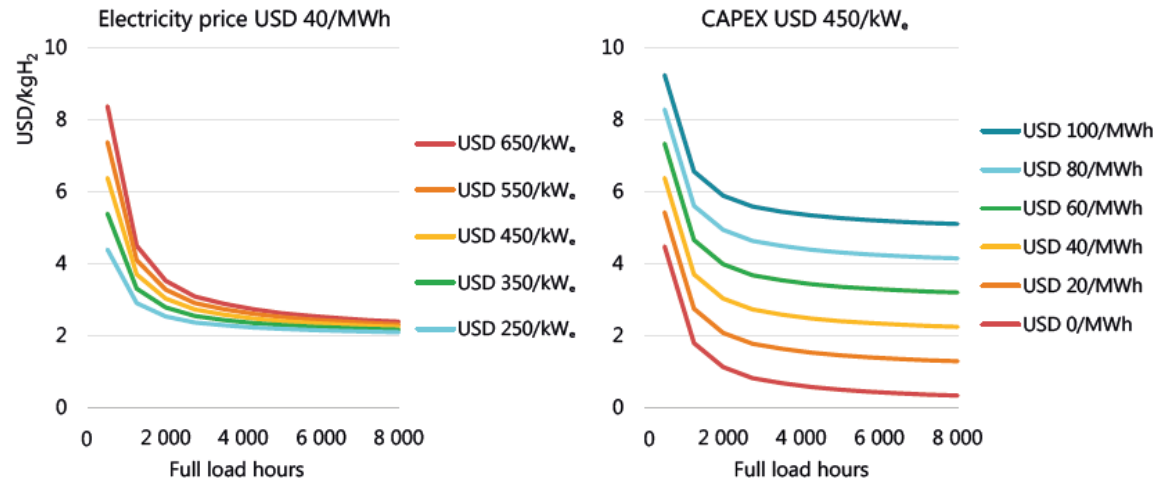
The production of e-fuels is in most cases a combination of proven technologies that through technology optimization and other cost reduction measures can make them commercially viable in coming years.



# Context

## Drivers of PtL adoption. Costs

The **key enabler** for a cost competitive e-fuels production is the price of **renewable hydrogen**, which is mainly driven by electricity cost.



Scale-up of electrolysers and automated production in combination with declining cost of solar PV and wind can lead to **significant CAPEX and OPEX reduction**.

[1] IRENA. Report: Renewable Power Generation costs in 2021 (2021)

[2] IEA. The Future of Hydrogen. Report prepared by the EIA for the G20, Japan (2019)

# Context

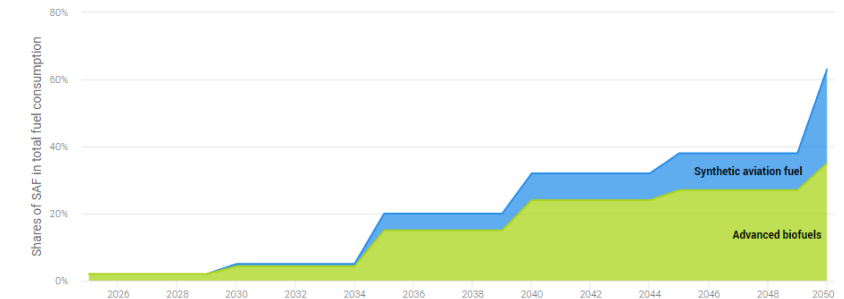
## Drivers of PtL adoption. Regulatory framework

**RED II. Renewable Energy Directive:** Legislation currently requires 14% of energy in transport fuels to come from renewable sources by 2030, with the final share consumption of advanced biofuels and biogas (Annex IX Part A) at least 3,5% of energy by 2030 and a specific target of 2,6 %e/e for RFNBO. New proposal on REDIII increase objectives to 16% GHG intensity reduction and at least 5,7% in 2030



**Fit for 55. RefuelEU Sustainable Air Transport:** Aircrafts departing from EU must have a **kerosene-SAF blend** from 2025 including **0,7% of e-fuel** starting 2030 under the ReFuelEU legislation, reaching **63% share of SAF in 2050**.

SAF mandate share targets (fuel %)



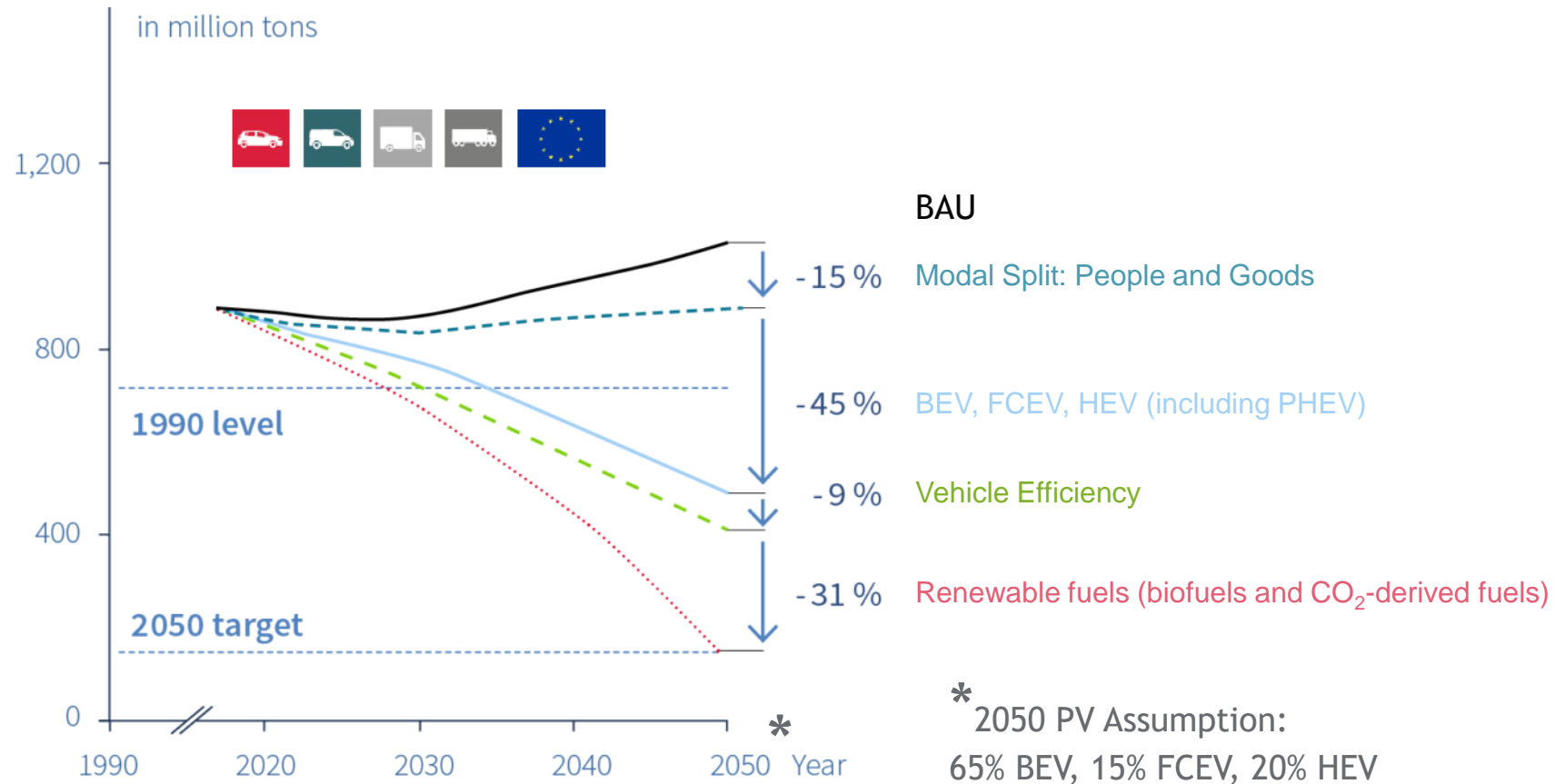
**FuelEU Maritime Initiative:** Initiative Launched to regulate low-carbon fuels in maritime transport, including RFNBO. MEPs adopted long-term limits on GHG reduction -20% as of 2035 and -80% as of 2050. A subquota of 2% renewable fuels by 2030 was introduced.

***Regulatory certainty, clarity, and stability are key requirements to encourage private and public sector investments in e-fuels for Europe***



# Context

## Drivers of PtL adoption. Regulatory framework

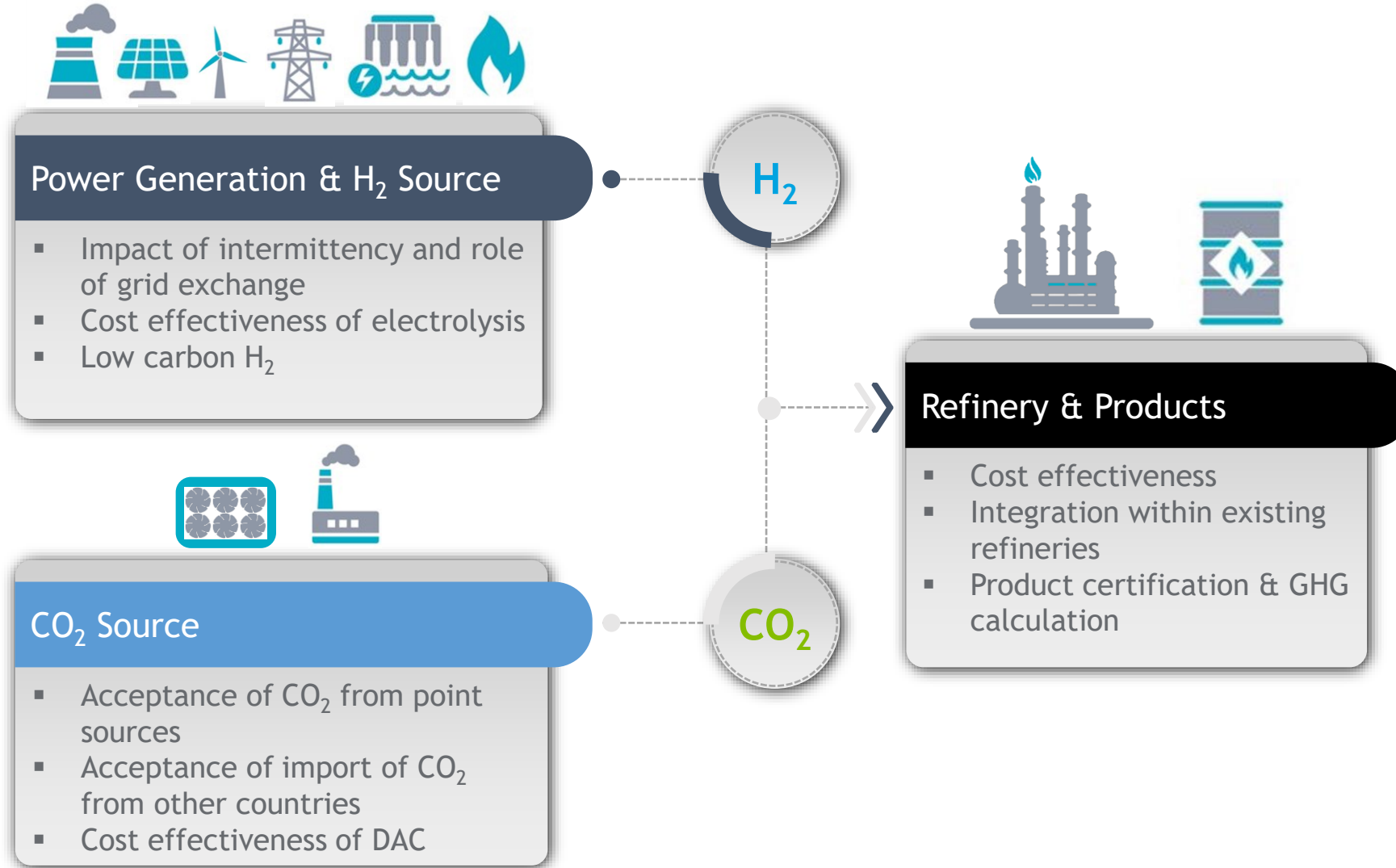


90% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction demands a mix of technologies, and low-carbon fuels play a significant role

[3] <https://magazine.fev.com/en/category/featured-article-en/>, FEV, May, 2020

# Context

## Drivers of PtL adoption. Regulatory framework



**1**

CONTEXT

**2**

DEMONSTRATION  
PLANT

**3**

SCALE UP

# Planned Demonstration Plant PtL

## Project plan details

### DEMONSTRATION PLANT



#### Operational date

2025 (Demo)



#### Project capacity

2,3 kton/y (Demo)



#### CO<sub>2</sub> abatement

6,9 Kton/y (Demo)



#### Renewable electricity

10 MW (Demo)



#### Objective

Planned development of **first of a kind e-Fuels plant** using captured CO<sub>2</sub> and green hydrogen\*.



#### Key insights

- **Drop-in** fuel that can be blended in existing engines in LDVs, HDVs, airplanes and ships.
- Demonstrate the **whole value chain of producing synthetic fuel** from CO<sub>2</sub> and renewable hydrogen.
- Perform **real fleet test** market/clients/partners.



#### Project overview

- **Synthetic fuel plant** consisting on RWGS + Fischer Tropsch unit and Upgrading unit with capacity to produce e-jet, e-diesel, e-gas, e-naphtha.
- **Flexibility scheme** to produce e-lubricants, e-paraffin wax or chemical feedstock.



#### Identified Partnerships

aramco



Project proponent and partner



Project proponent and partner



Operation and refinery integration



Technology partner



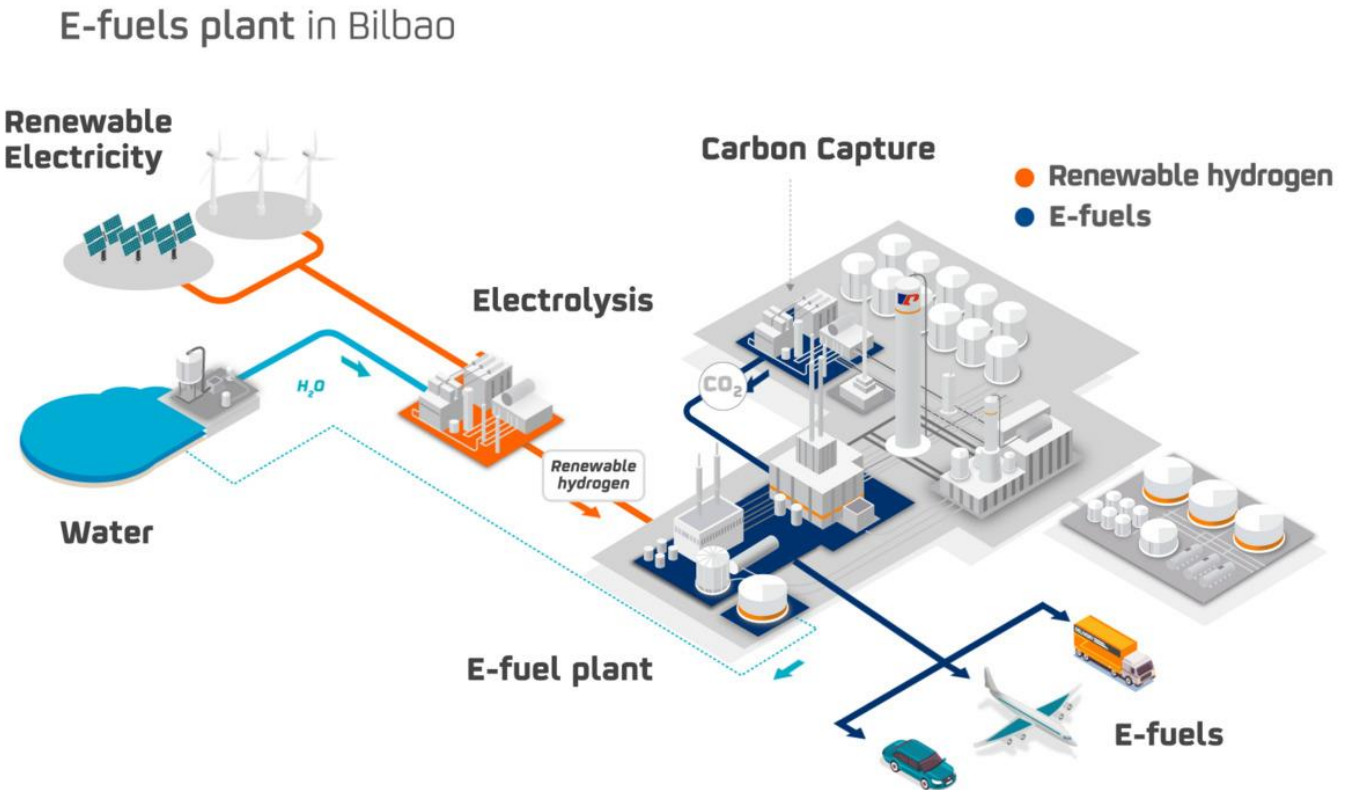
Technology partner

# Planned Demonstration Plant PtL

## Process Scheme and TRL

Demonstrate **technical and economical feasibility** of synthetic fuel production through Fischer Tropsch pathway, integrating and operating the technologies to produce (**e-Fuels**) from green hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> as raw material.

The Demo (**50 BPD**) located in Bilbao would allow reducing the risk on future scale up to industrial scale while producing e-fuel to homologate and perform fleet test in real conditions for target transport sectors (aviation, HD, Marine).

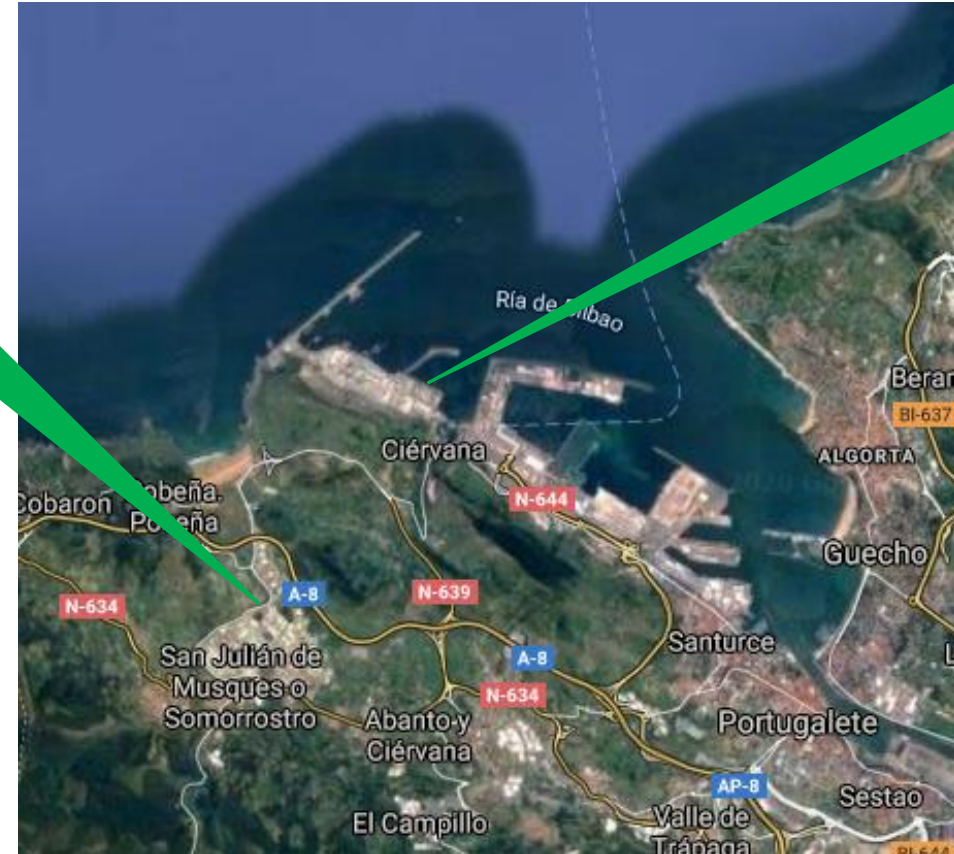


# Planned Demonstration Plant PtL

## Location



Petronor refinery



Demo Plant Project

The Demo plant project has been planned to be located at Bilbao's Harbor and fully integrated with Petronor Refinery by means of a reverse pipeline to share the following streams:

- **CO<sub>2</sub>** from refinery to Demo asset. CO<sub>2</sub> currently captured from SMR and future plan for replacement with DAC
- **Hydrogen** from the Demo asset to Refinery when efuels turndown, catalyst changes. This line is reversible to provide H<sub>2</sub> to the Demo in case of electrolyzer failure or turndown.
- **Off gas & Purges** from Demo plant to valorize as e-fuel in Refinery furnaces.

# Planned Demonstration Plant PtL

Location within the Port of Bilbao



**1**

CONTEXT

**2**

DEMONSTRATION  
PLANT

**3**

SCALE UP



# E-fuels Scale-up

## Challenges

Efuels are expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing the transport sector allowing to accomplish the goals established but it is still expected to face some **challenges to scale up the technology**. On the other hand **new opportunities and synergies** shall arise within industrial clusters.



### Business Challenges

- Cost and investment necessary for producing PtL.
- Policy framework
  - Obligation of synthetic fuel in transport sector. Fitfor55, Refuel EU Aviation.
  - CO<sub>2</sub> source origin
  - Hydrogen origin
  - GHG calculation
- Integration in current assets



### Technology Challenges

- Scale up pilot and demo scale technologies (TRL < 7)
  - RWGS
  - Electrolysis (SOEC)
  - DAC (Direct Air Capture)
  - ...
- Validation and integration the whole processes in a economically and steady operation. **First of a kind**
  - Optimization of operation
  - Integration & energy efficiency



### Engineering challenges

- Deployment of renewable Hydrogen infrastructure.:
  - Scale up of electrolyzer & grid connection
  - Scale up of biogenic Hydrogen
- Availability of pure CO<sub>2</sub> at scale.

# E-fuels Scale-up

## Opportunities

E-fuels are expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing the transport sector allowing to accomplish the goals established but it is still expected to face some **challenges to scale up the technology**. On the other hand **new opportunities and synergies** shall arise within industrial clusters



### Business Opportunities

- ReFuelEU legislation set up a minimum synthetic fuel in blended Kerosene SAF from 2030, and scaling up afterwards. Drop in fuel blended with conventional kerosene.
- PtL produce high quality products (low density, paraffinic) which would allow lower qualities streams when blending the finished products
- Potential opportunity to integrate e-fuels manufacturing within EU refinery complex by repurposing and reusing existing process units.
- Accelerating transport decarbonization enabled by e-fuels compatibility with existing vehicles and fueling infrastructure.

# Conclusions

- Reaching ambitious GHG goals requires a mix of energy sources and technology options
- A holistic framework for GHG accounting can encourage innovation and lead to a lasting impact on GHG emissions
- Synthetic fuels are technically feasible and commercially viable, especially in areas with affordable renewable power and water
- Synthetic fuel can foster H<sub>2</sub> economy and CO<sub>2</sub> recycling investments
- Supportive regulatory framework will be key to encourage investments in the e-fuels value chain.
- Integration within a refinery offers multiple optimization opportunities
- The planned Demonstration Plant at the Port of Bilbao aims to demonstrate the whole e-fuels value-chain, which will be key for any future commercialization efforts and for decarbonization of aviation.



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**Director General**

***Alba Emission Free Energy S.A.***

