

# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

Clean, green ammonia engines for maritime

## The Feasibility of an Ammonia Split Cycle Engine - Answering the Right Questions

MariNH<sub>3</sub> conference - 26 June 2024  
Angad Panesar, Elisa Wylie

Chris Lenartowicz, Robert Morgan,  
Nick Owen, Guillaume De Sercey, Steven Begg

Fuel Definition

Advanced Cycles

Combustion Mode Fundamentals

Spray Visualisation



Ask questions  
online



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Part 1 Shipping Headlines

Part 2 NH<sub>3</sub> Fuel (SWOT, Properties, LCA)

Part 3 Right Questions (Beyond 2030, Disruptive)

Part 4 Combustion Approach (Conventional?, Split cycle, Dependent → Independent)

Part 5 Answering Right Questions (Learning from tests, Achieving homogeneous cool combustion)

Part 6 Method & Chemistry (Compared CH<sub>4</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>O%, Chemkin-Pro NH<sub>3</sub>, Flammability limit)

Part 7 Headline Findings (BSEC MJ/kWh, Parametric IVC, Initial °C, Bar)

Part 8 Take home message (What did we answer)

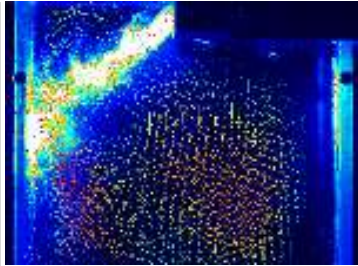
# Advanced Engineering Centre @ University of Brighton

Established record in energy & transport with industrial impact

Our story, T minus 20 years to now in 2024

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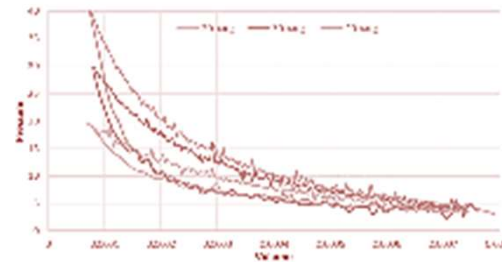
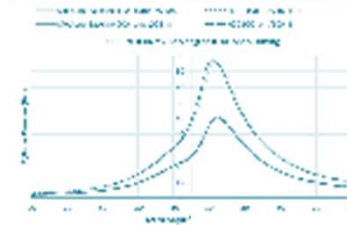
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Optical Engine



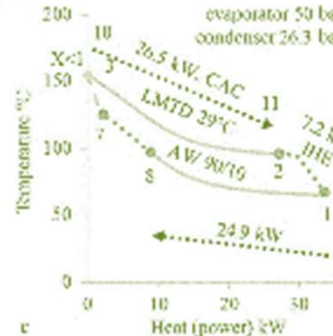
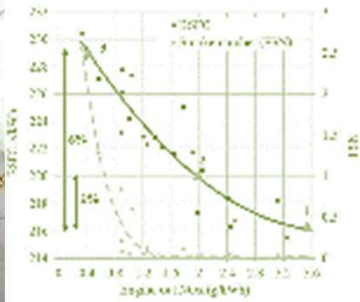
CH4 - H2 Engine



Liquid air energy storage sub-system



Euro 6 Diesel Engine



Waste Heat Recovery, Incl. NH<sub>3</sub> - H<sub>2</sub>O



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## Part 1 Shipping Headlines

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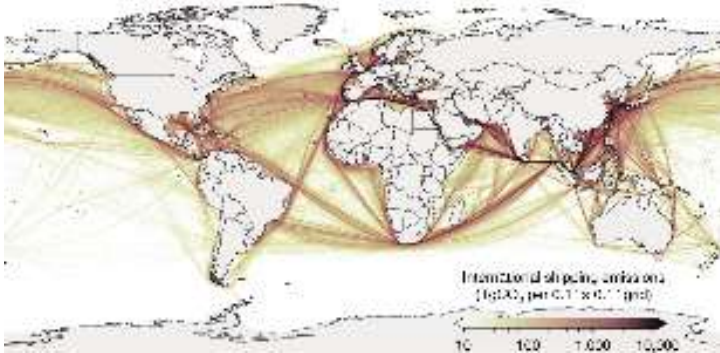


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# Shipping Headlines When electric can't provide solution for heavy loads!

Global shipping 5 mbpd of carbon fuel (45 bathtubs/sec),  
Carbon free NH<sub>3</sub> at 35-60% estimated market share by 2050



CH<sub>4</sub> 28x GWP, Methane slip 1.5%  
assumed vs.7% reality



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CH<sub>3</sub>OH also needs CCS



# Shipping Headlines When electric can't provide solution for heavy loads!

# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

Champaign of energy, liq. H<sub>2</sub> (<-250°C) pilot project, Heat↓,  
Very energy intensive, Without carbon



NH<sub>3</sub> 4-Cyl. 5MW R&D 2023, Sail 2026

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NH<sub>3</sub> or H<sub>2</sub> = Cargo space reduction, 3x storage Vol. to CH<sub>4</sub>



NH<sub>3</sub> with Diesel pilot, Lower calorific value, Large fuel injectors



# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

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engines for maritime

Part 1 Shipping  
Headlines

Part 2 NH<sub>3</sub> Fuel  
(SWOT, Properties,  
LCA)

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# Fuel Definition SWOT Summary

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- NH<sub>3</sub> carbon free at use, 2<sup>nd</sup> most used chemical, \$73B market, ≈200 Mt/year commodity, stored at moderate pressures with long term stability
- Increasing experience as dual fuel, possibility as pilot with gas (need energy for ignition), or higher cetane fuel (self-ignition), e.g. SIP JST (Japan), 100% NH<sub>3</sub> co-firing with CH<sub>4</sub> 50kW in 2015

## Strengths

S W

- Lower combustion intensity? (Higher ignition temp., Slow burning speed, Narrow flammability range). But, laminar burn velocities ↑↑ NH<sub>3</sub> with H<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>, near linear increase for 20%, exponential afterwards - **This is where we come in!**
- Handle by trained professionals, Dangerous to health > 300 ppm, Hydrophilic, Ammonium Hydroxide, Dissolves flesh, Corrosive to common materials

## Weaknesses

## Opportunities

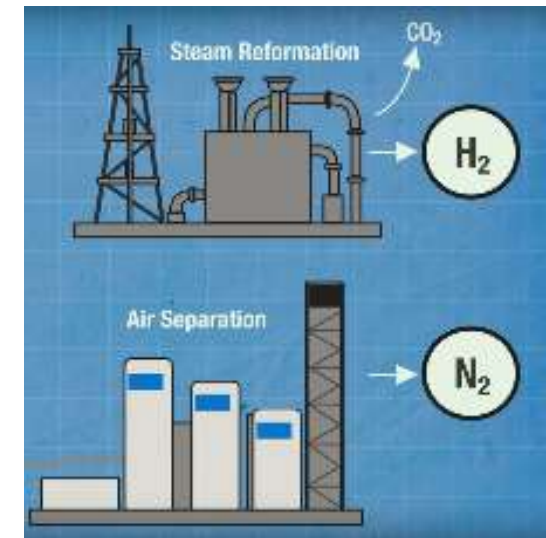
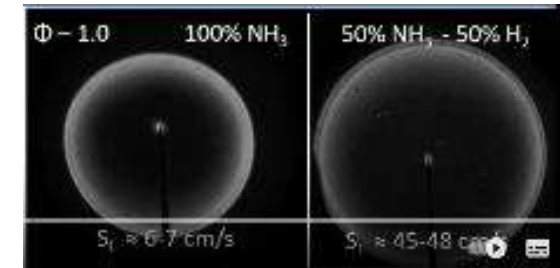
O T

- NH<sub>3</sub> can decarbonise shipping, H<sub>2</sub> density (17.8% wt.). Liq. NH<sub>3</sub> stores H<sub>2</sub> at higher densities than liq. H<sub>2</sub> (121 vs. 70.8 kg-H<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>). So, is NH<sub>3</sub> a better H<sub>2</sub> carrier, than H<sub>2</sub> itself for same volume?



## Threats

- New can of worms, SMR 3% of world energy, H<sub>2</sub> ready! EU only <1% is green H<sub>2</sub> electrolysis
- Currently 3x cost, but still cheaper than CH<sub>3</sub>OH
- Nitrogen content may exacerbate NO<sub>x</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> slip - **This is where we come in!**





# Fuel Definition Chemical & Physical Properties Summary

# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

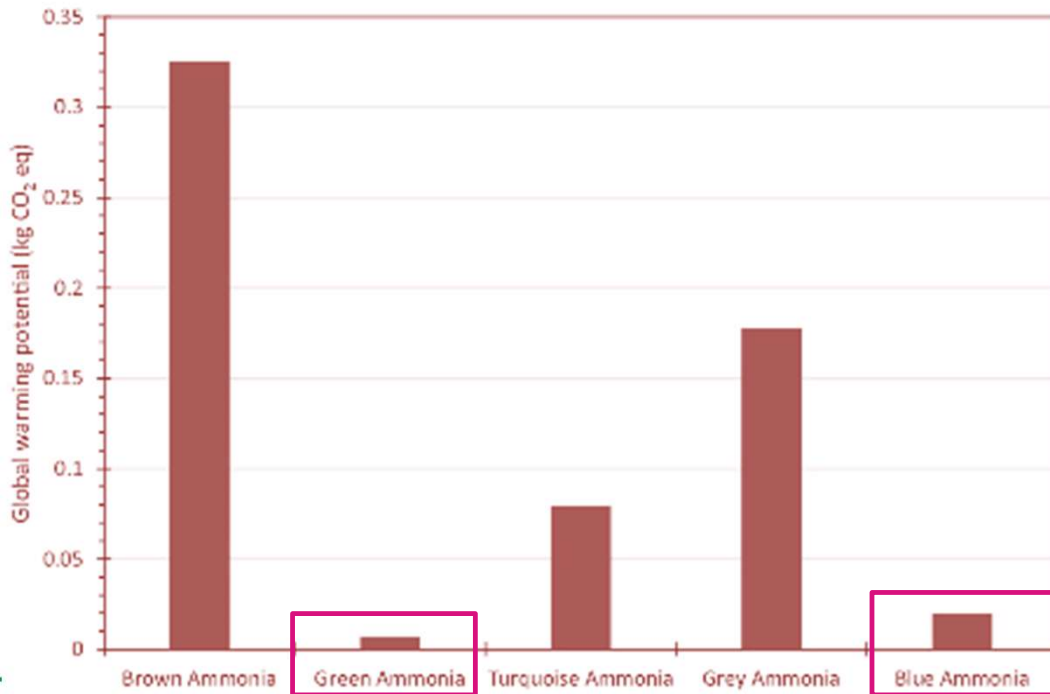
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Properties	Gasoline	Diesel	LPG	CNG	Gaseous hydrogen	Liquid hydrogen	Ammonia
1 Storage method	Liquid	Liquid	Comp. Liquid	Comp. Gas	Comp. Gas	Comp. Liquid	Comp. Liquid
2 Storage temperature (°K)	298	298	298	298	298	20	298
3 Storage pressure (kPa)	101.3	101.3	850	24,821	24,821	102	1030
4 Costa (US\$/l)	0.58	0.65	0.72	0.57	0.14	0.18	0.24
5 Formula	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>18</sub>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>23</sub>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>
6 Ratio Carbon:Hydrogen	0.44	0.52	0.38	0.25			
7 Lower heating value (MJ/kg)	44.5	43.5	45.7	38.1	120.1	120.1	18.8
8 Flammability limits min., gas in air (vol. %)	1.4	0.6	1.81	5	4	4	16
9 Flammability limits max., gas in air (vol. %)	7.6	5.5	8.86	15	75	75	25
10 Flame speed (m/s)	0.58	0.87	0.83	8.45	3.51	3.51	0.15
11 Autoignition temperature (°C)	300	230	470	450	571	571	651
12 Minimum ignition energy (MJ)	0.14					0.018	8
13 Flash point (°K)	230.3	346.8	185.3	88.6			239.6
14 Octane	94		112	107	130	130	110
15 Fuel density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	698.3	838.8	1898	187.2	17.5	71.1	602.8
16 Energy density (MJ/m <sup>3</sup> )	31,074	36,403	86,487	7132	2101	8539	11,333
17 Latent heat of vaporization (kJ/kg)	71.78	47.86	44.4	104.8			1369

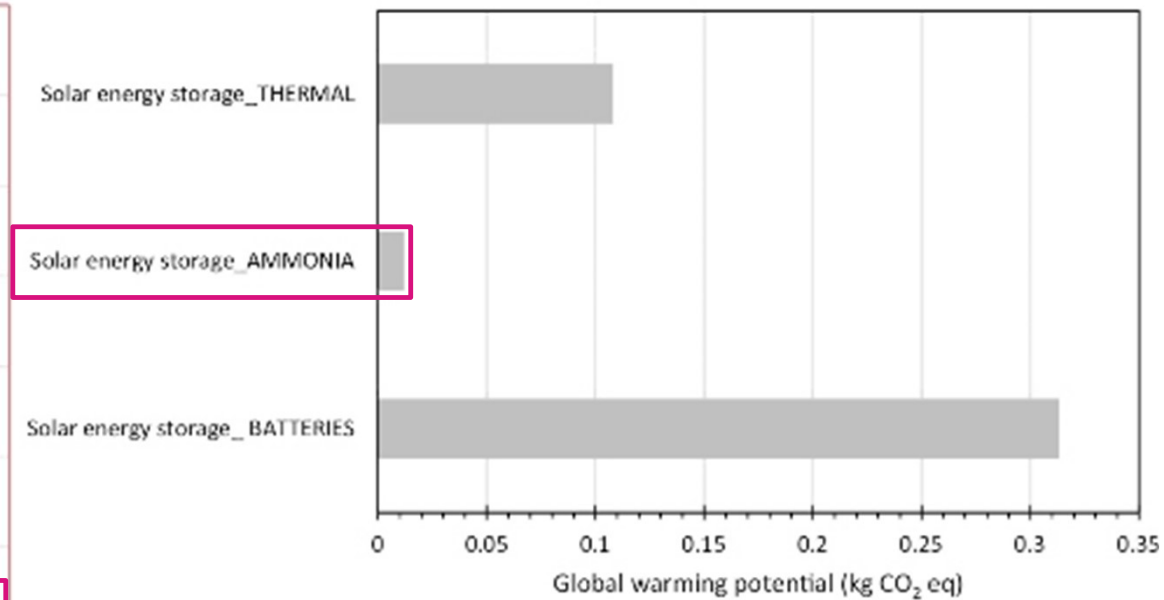
# Fuel Definition NH3 Life Cycle Summary

Learning from Road Transport Study (Production, Storage, GWP, Cost)

## GWP for NH3 production methods using spectrum of hydrogen colour



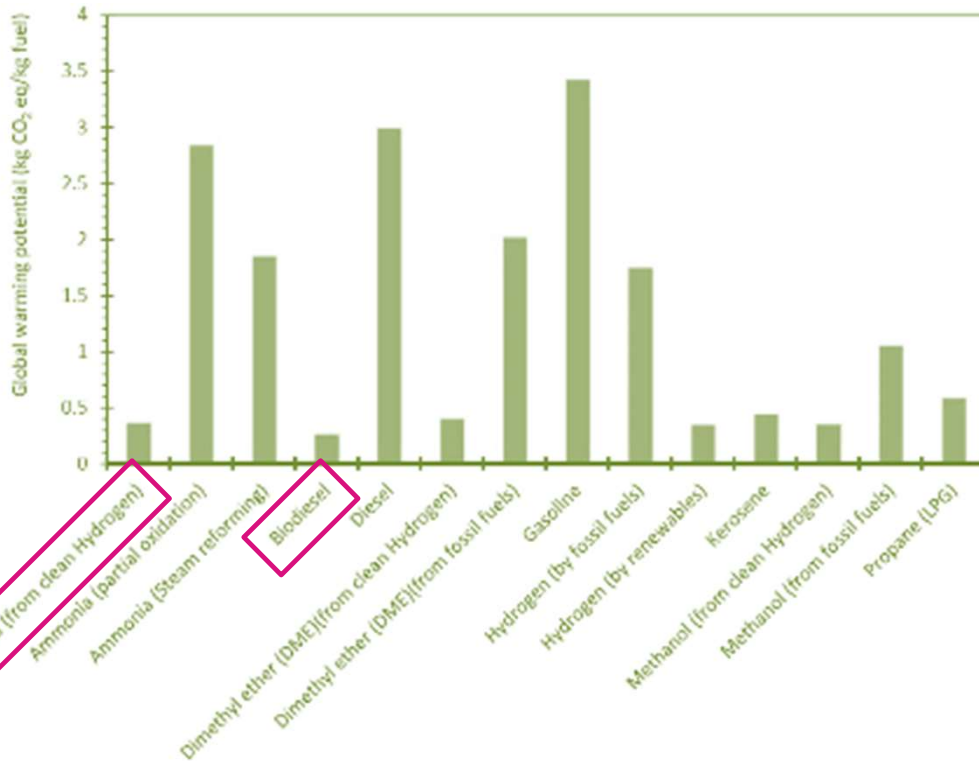
## GWP potential in renewable energy storage



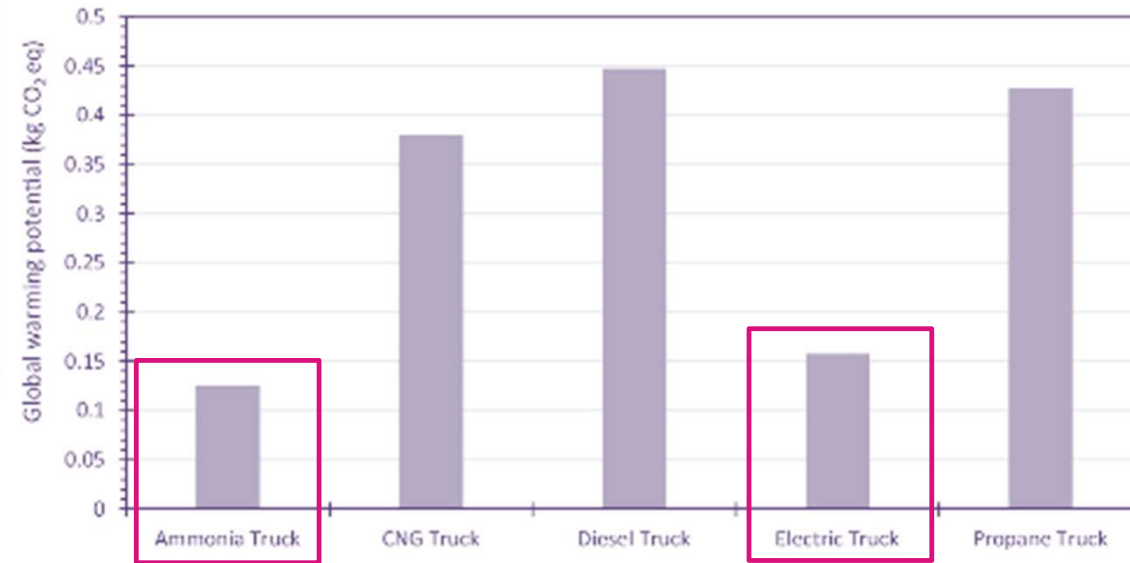
# Fuel Definition NH3 Life Cycle Summary

Learning from Road Transport Study (Production, Storage, GWP, Cost)

## GWP of various fuels



## Impact assessment for GWP in road freight-transportation



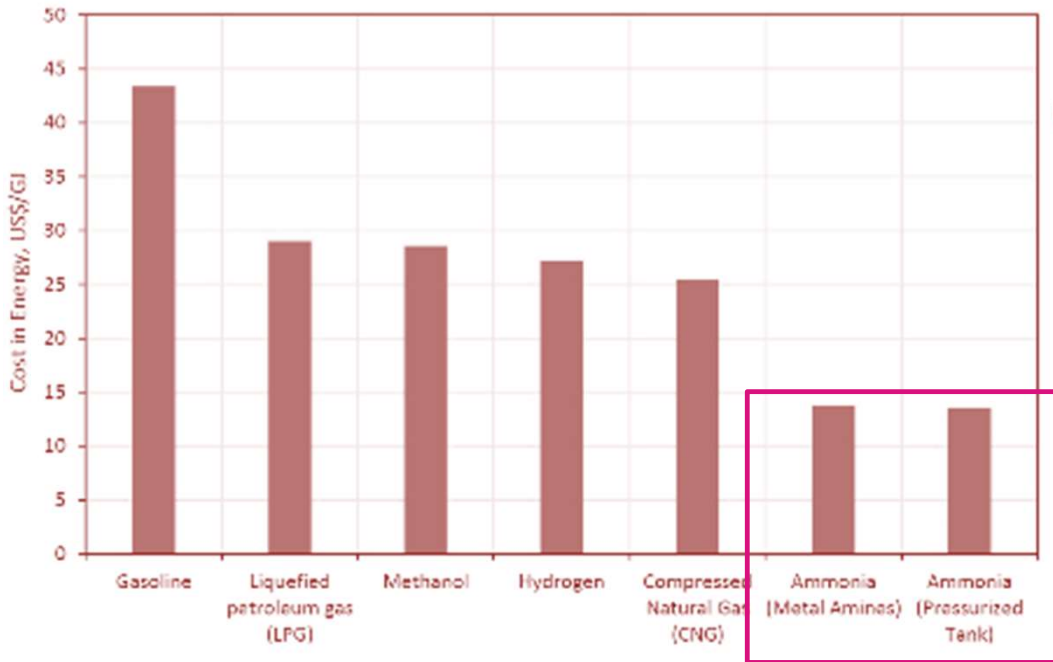
# Fuel Definition NH3 Life Cycle Summary

Learning from Road Transport Study (Production, Storage, GWP, Cost)

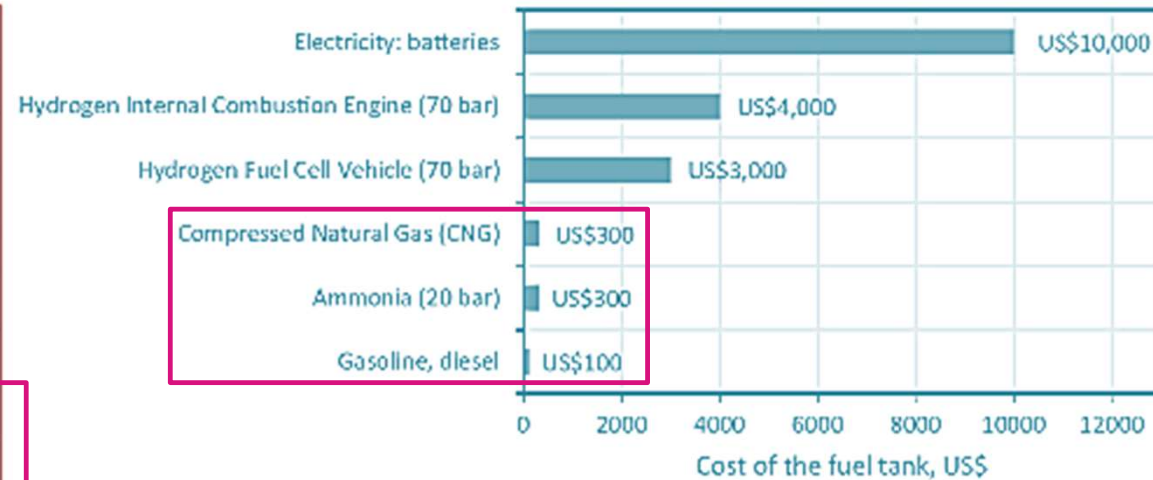


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## Comparison of the cost per gigajoule of energy for different vehicle fuels



## Costs of on-board storage tanks for different types of fuelled vehicles



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Part 2 NH<sub>3</sub> Fuel  
(SWOT, Properties,  
LCA)

Part 3 Right Questions  
(Beyond 2030,  
Disruptive)

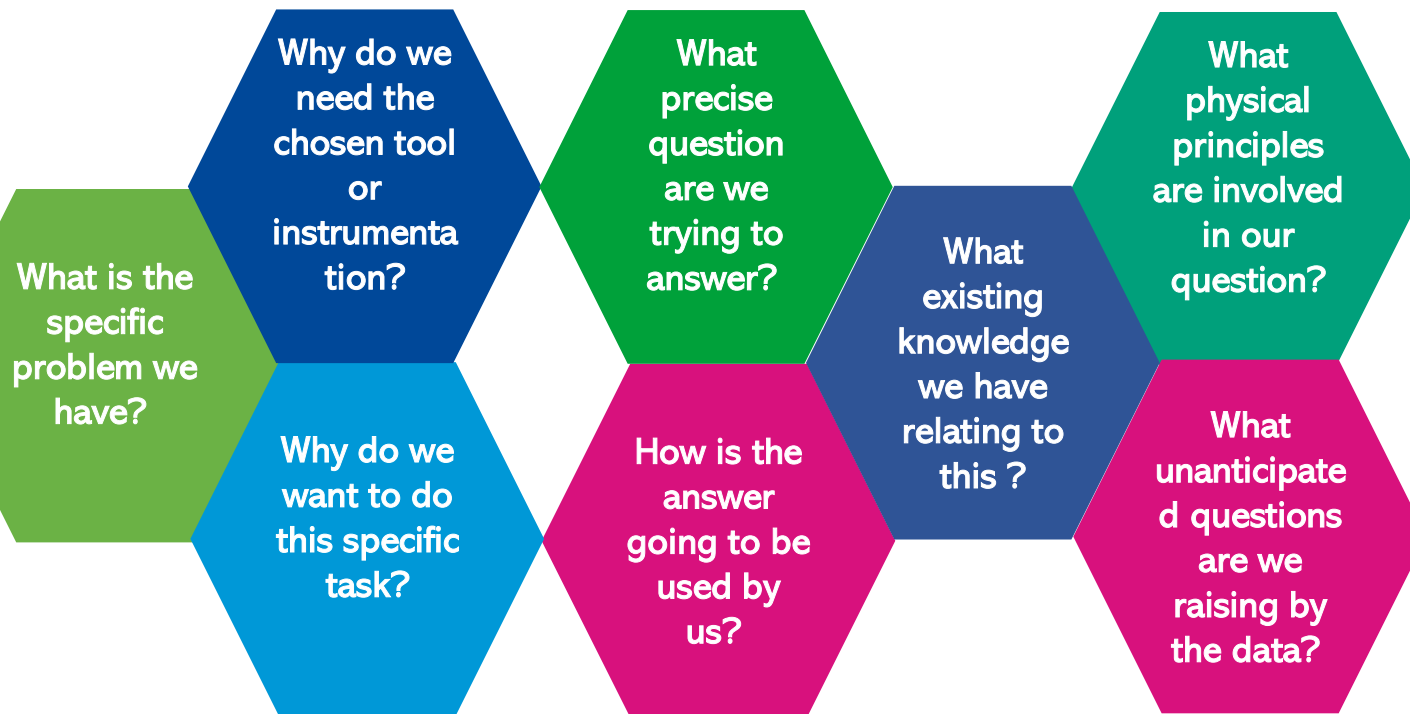
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# Asking the Right Questions for Efficient Carbon Free Fuelled Engines Beyond 2030



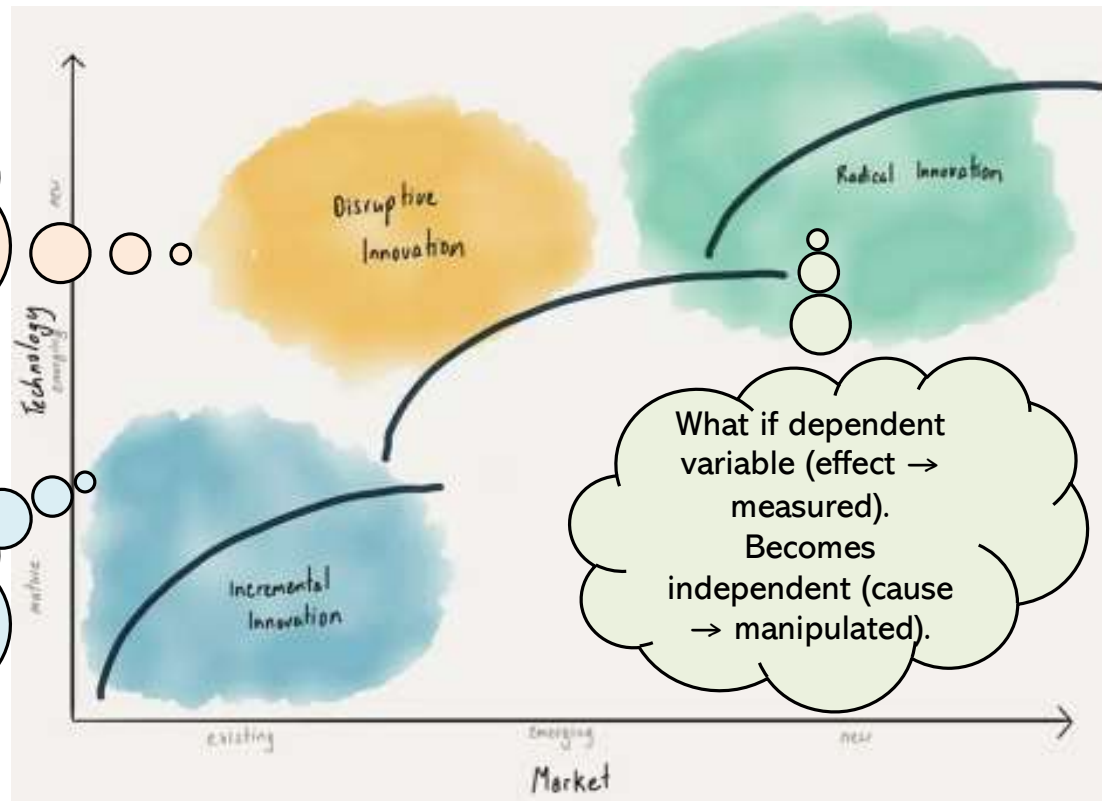
## Solution Focused Approach $\Delta$

- 30 questions to answer
- With 3 varied perspectives
- Incremental, Disruptive, Racial

# Asking the Right Questions for Efficient Carbon Free Fuelled Engines Beyond 2030

If I agree with you.  
We would both be  
wrong.

You can't expect  
the right answers.  
If you don't ask the  
right questions.



## Solution Focused Approach $\Delta$

- 30 questions to answer
- With 3 varied perspectives
- Incremental, Disruptive, Radical

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Clean, green ammonia  
engines for maritime

Part 3 Right Questions  
(Beyond 2030,  
Disruptive)

Part 4 Combustion  
Approach  
(Conventional?, Split  
cycle, Dependent →  
Independent)

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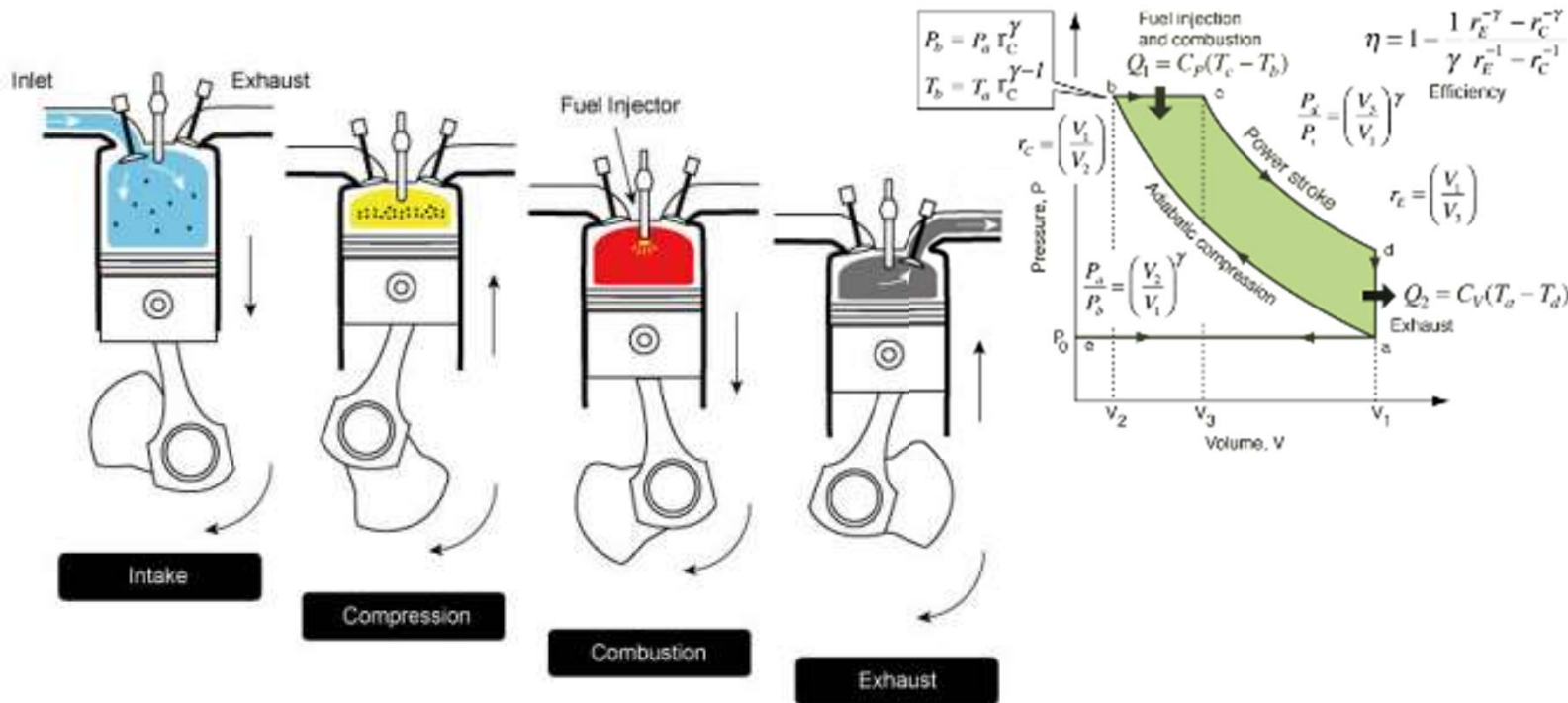


# Combustion Focused Approach $\Delta$

Is this engine cycle really optimal for NH3?

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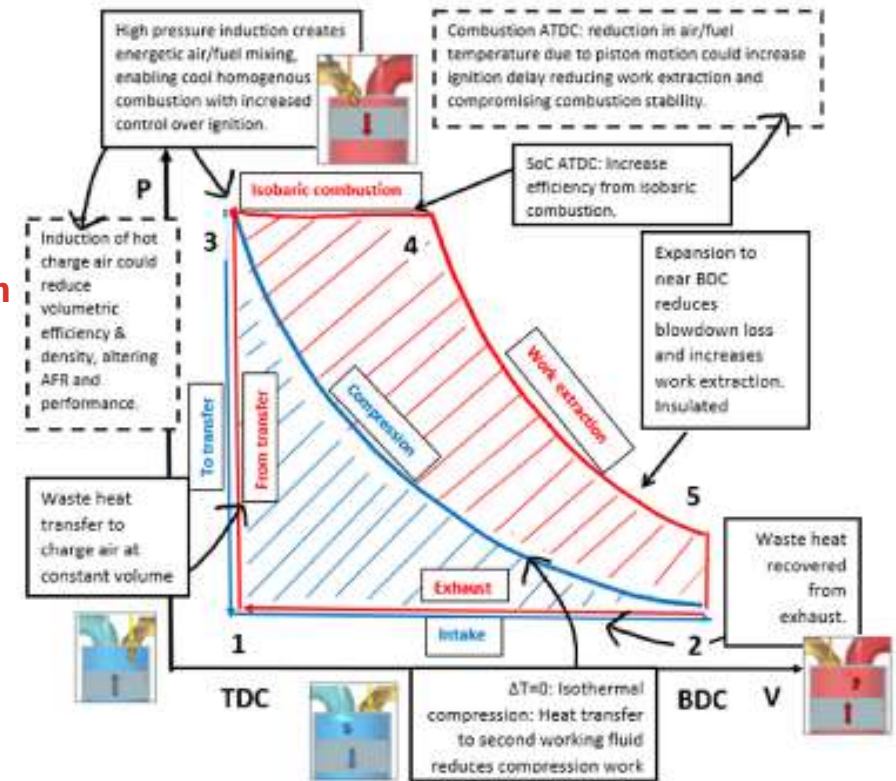
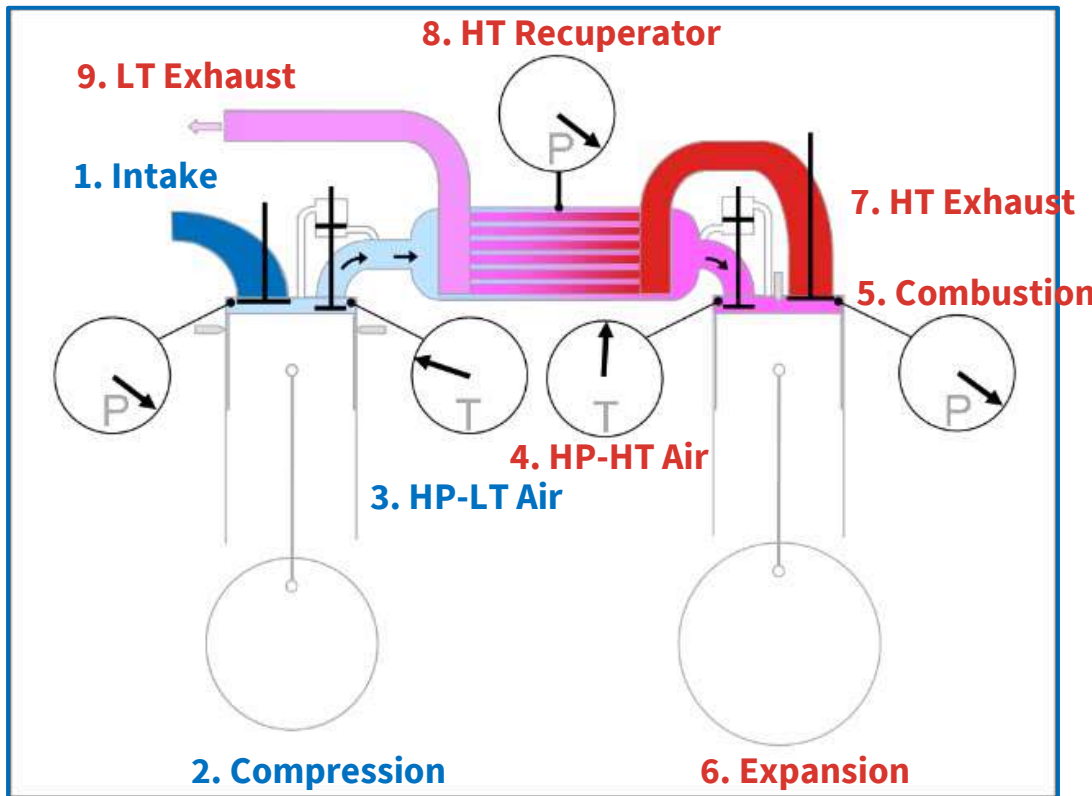
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- Intake manifold NH3 gas injection, may sound tempting for homogeneity, but this will be impractical, likely a non-starter
- Its crucial to maintain high pressure liquid deliver, but still somehow, enable homogeneous ignition, with added control of peak temperature

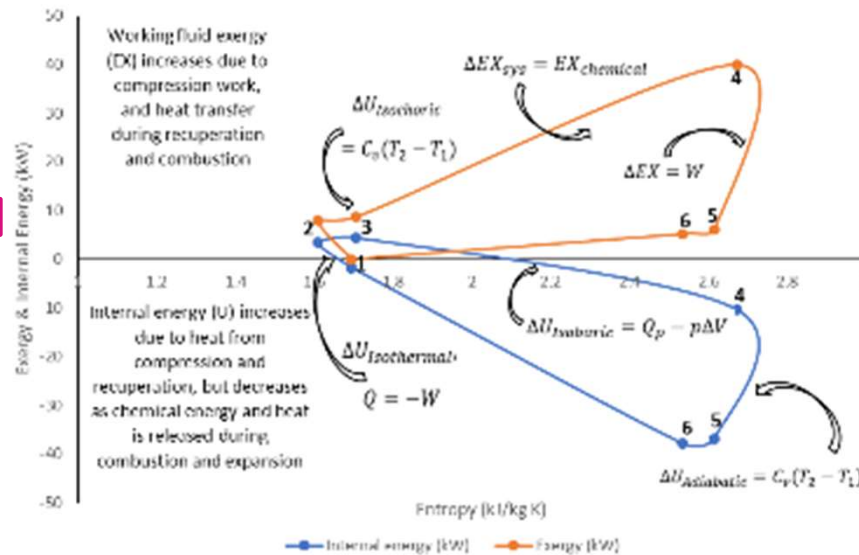
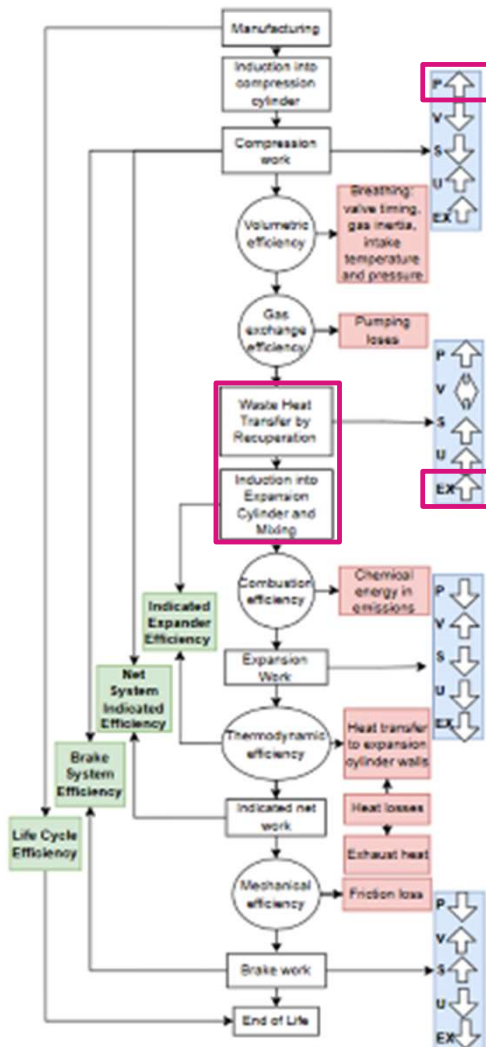
# Combustion Focused Approach $\Delta$

How can recuperated split cycle engine offer new possibilities?



## Combustion Focused Approach $\Delta$

### How can recuperated split cycle engine offer new possibilities?



- Split cycle, new propulsion technology, allows questioning, what if, dependent variable (effect → measured) turn into independent (cause → manipulated)
- Near isothermal compression controls start of combustion temperature
- EVC to Sol, offers 40°C CA, to demonstrate feasibility of enhanced NH<sub>3</sub> combustion