



**Prof. Dr. Kurt Wagemann**

# Hydrogen Economy – Gamechanger for the Process Industry

2. Deutsch-Russische Wasserstoff-Tagung, 8. Dezember 2021

# Science and Industry in Dialogue

We shape the future  
with Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology



Chemistry



Pharmaceuticals



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Energy and Climate



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Resources

## Our Services for You:



Research and  
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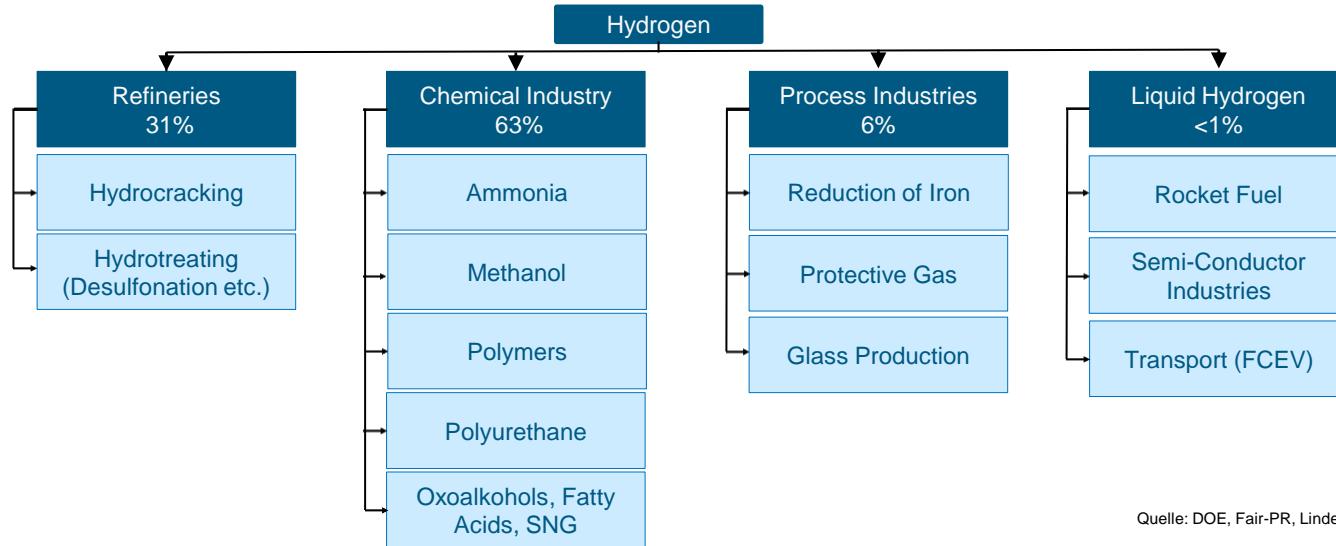


Databases



Event Management

# Current applications of hydrogen

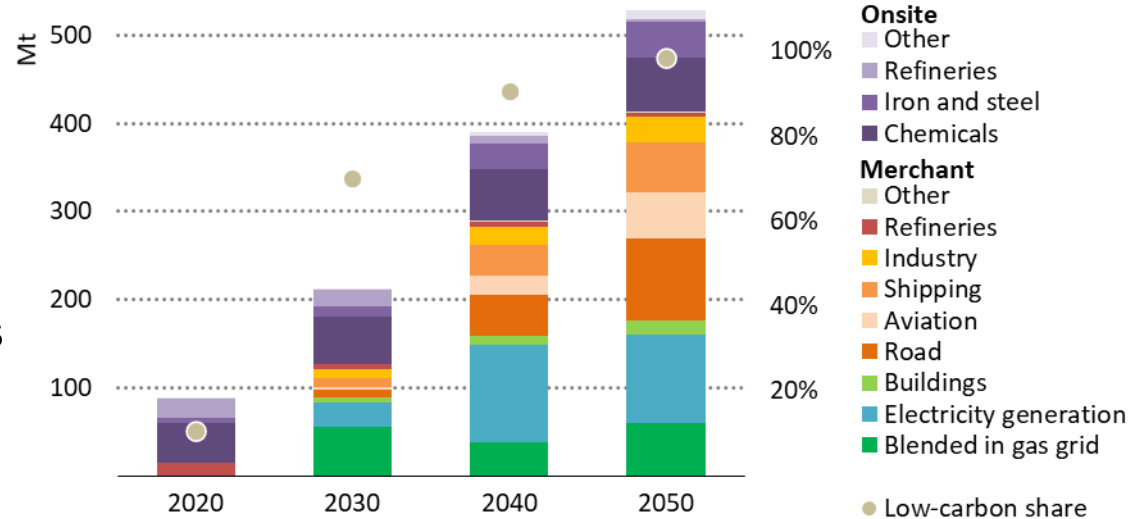


# Future Applications of Hydrogen in Different Sectors

- Electricity generation (compensation of fluctuating renewables)
- Industrial applications
  - Iron & Steel (DRI, substitute in BF)
  - Chemical industry  
(E-chemicals as alternative feedstock, plastics recycling)
  - High-T process heat (i. e. glass industry)
- Transport applications (fuel cells)
  - Road: heavy duty transport, vans, cars
  - Rail: Passenger trains, freight trains, ...
  - Marine transport
  - Aviation (short distances)
  - E-Fuels for combustion engines
- Household and commercial
  - Heating

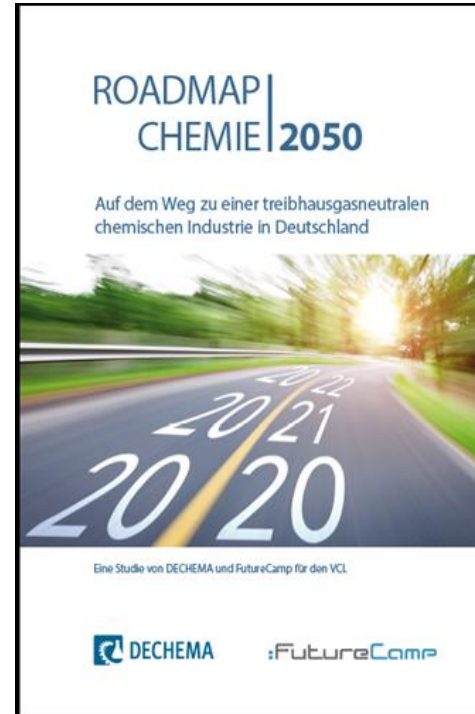
# Hydrogen - Great Expectations

- Use of hydrogen expands by factor 5
- New applications (steel, transport, fuels, electricity...)
- Initially easy to implement cases
- Finally in all sectors



International Energy Agency (2021), Net Zero by 2050, IEA, Paris  
Fig. 2.19 Global hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuel use in the NZE  
The initial focus for hydrogen is to convert existing uses to low-carbon hydrogen; hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuels then expand across all end-uses

## Towards a GHG neutral chemical industry in Germany



[https://dechema.de/dechema\\_media/Downloads/Positionspapiere/2019\\_Studie\\_Roadmap\\_Chemie\\_2050-p-20005590.PDF](https://dechema.de/dechema_media/Downloads/Positionspapiere/2019_Studie_Roadmap_Chemie_2050-p-20005590.PDF)

[https://www.future-camp.de/de/publikationen/Studie-Roadmap-Chemie-2050\\_VCI.pdf](https://www.future-camp.de/de/publikationen/Studie-Roadmap-Chemie-2050_VCI.pdf)

## Possible developments for the chemical industry in Germany

- **Complete accounting of carbon (emissions)**

**Scope 1:** Process-and energy-related emissions in the chemical industry

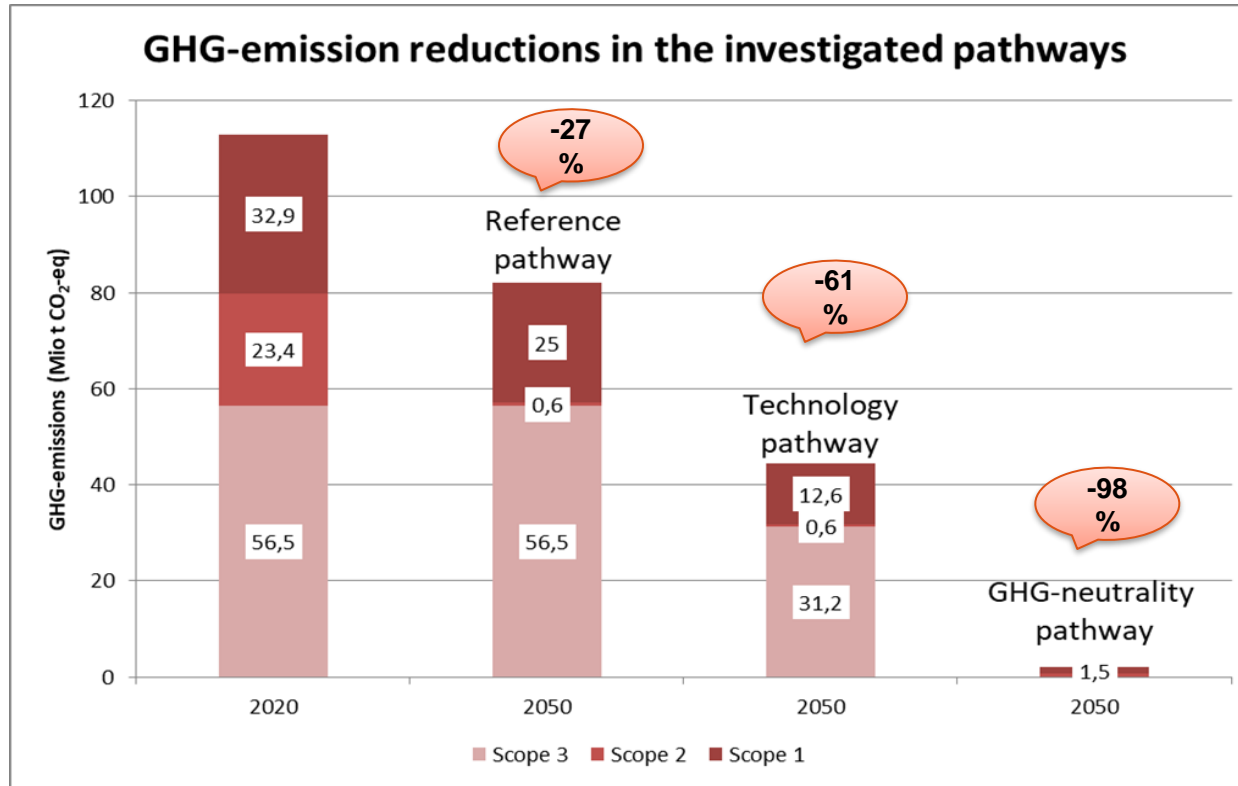
**Scope 2:** Emissions caused by external electricity and district heating

**Scope 3:** Emissions caused by carbon content of products  
**(NEW)**

- **Three transformation pathways**

- Reference pathway
- Technology pathway
- Greenhousegas-neutrality pathway

## GHG-emissions for the different pathways





## Technologies and technology options (TRL $\geq$ 6)

### Chlorine-alkaline electrolysis (Cl<sub>2</sub>)

### Hydrogen production (H<sub>2</sub>)

- Steam reforming of natural gas
- Electrolysis of water
- Pyrolysis of methane

### Synthesis of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)

- Conventional synthesis with natural gas
- Electrolysis of water and air separation
- Pyrolysis of methane and air separation

### Synthesis of urea ((NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO)

- With conventional ammonia synthesis
- With alternative ammonia synthesis and CO<sub>2</sub>-sources

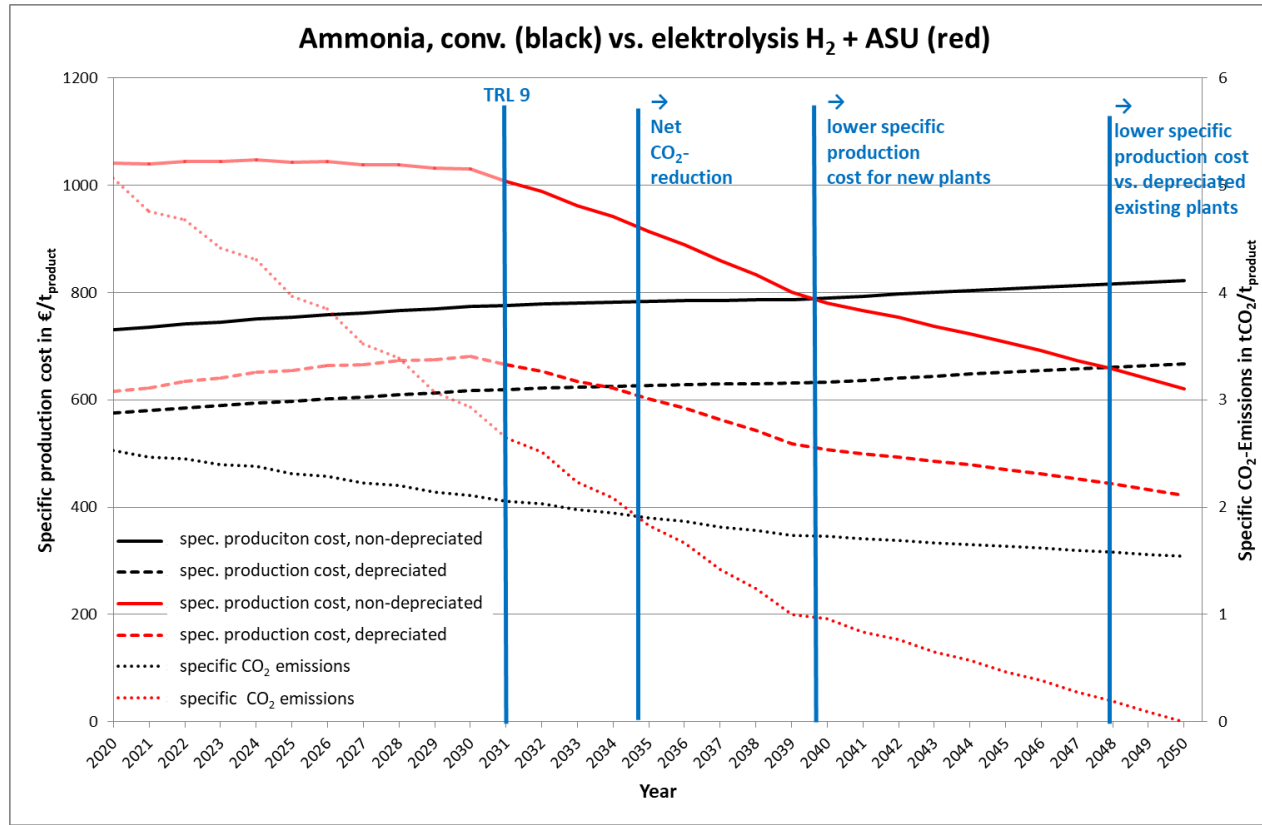
### Synthesis of methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)

- Conventional via synthesis gas and fossil fuels
- Electrolysis of water and CO<sub>2</sub>-sources
- Pyrolysis of methane and CO<sub>2</sub>-sources
- From biomass
- Electrical heating

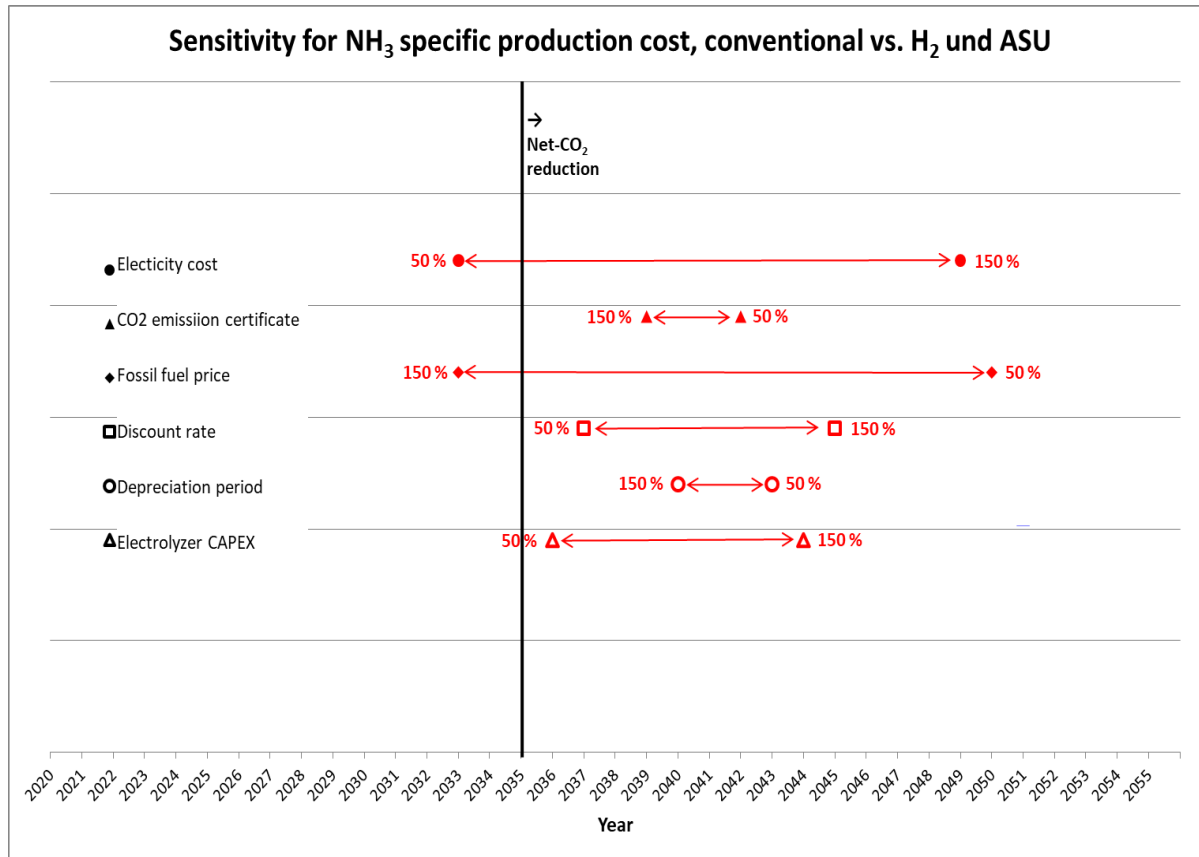
### Olefines and Aromatics (Cracker)

- Conventional from naphtha
- Electrical heating
- Synthetic naphtha
- Chemical recycling of plastics via pyrolysis or gasification

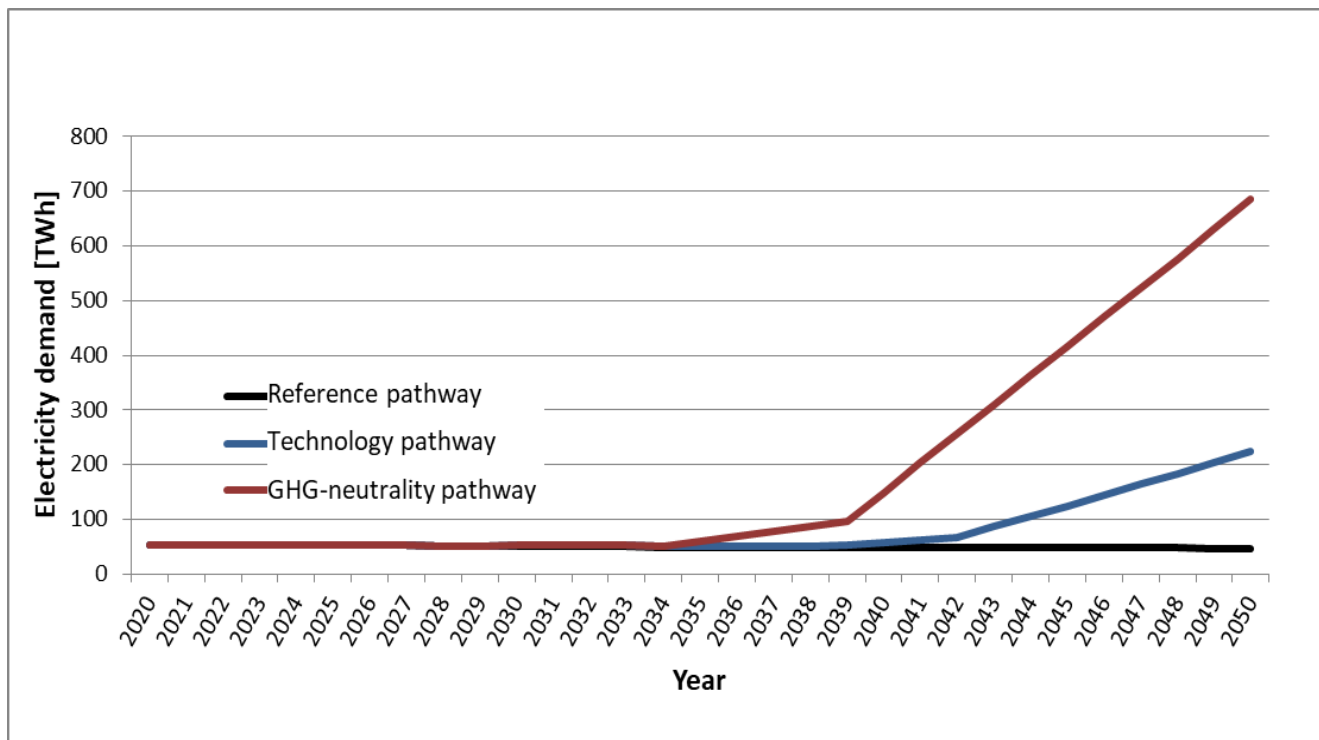
# Evaluation of new vs. conventional technology: Cost and CO<sub>2</sub>-parity



# Evaluation of new vs. conventional technology: Sensitivity analysis



## Comparison of pathways: Electricity demand



## Conclusions

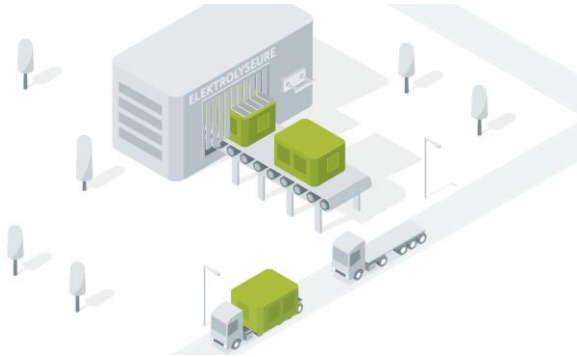
- A GHG-neutral chemical industry is possible
- Challenging conditions (low electricity price, CO<sub>2</sub>, ...)
- No silver bullet, all contributions necessary:
  - Quick shift to renewables for combined heat & power generation
  - Extensive mechanical and chemical recycling of plastics
  - Synthetic feedstock via CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> → large demand for renewable electricity (> 600 TWh)
  - High investment volumes from 2040 onwards required
  - Residual emissions need to be compensated
- New infrastructures required (electricity, H<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Significant GHG impact on budget comes late
- International competitiveness challenging, due to significantly higher cost for base chemicals compared to today

# Hydrogen for the Defossilisation of Industrial Sectors and Transport - Challenges

- Matching the volumes of hydrogen generation and application
- Availability of renewable energies  
(including social acceptance of wind parks)
- Import as most important option
- Large scale electrolyzers
- Efficient (direct) chemical conversion processes (for synthetic fuels and chemicals)
- High demand for precious and rare earth metals  
(wind turbines, PV, electrolyzers)  
Low carbon technologies = high metal dependency\*

\* Source: James Clark, Department of Green Chemistry, Centre of Excellence - University of York/UK

# The Hydrogen-Initiative of the German Government – Flagship Projects / Platforms



**H2Giga: Ramp-up production**  
(Ramp-up production capacities for electrolyzers towards gigawatt scale/ AE, PEM, HT-SOE)  
Budget: ~ 480 Mio. €

 **Wasserstoff**  
Leitprojekte  
Grün. Groß. Global.

**H2Mare: Offshore** (Integration of H<sub>2</sub> electrolyzer within offshore wind turbine/ offshore PtX processes)  
Budget: ~ 150 Mio. €



➤ **TransHyDE: Transport solutions for green hydrogen** (Pressurized, liquefied or via chemicals/via ship, pipeline or trailer)  
Budget: ~ 140 Mio. €

Pictures © Projektträger Jülich