Natural Hydrogen

Task 49

Eric C. Gaucher (PhD)

Co-leader

Olivier Sissmann (PhD)

<u>Co-leader</u>

Technology Collaboration Programme

12

Technology Collaboration Programme



Task 49

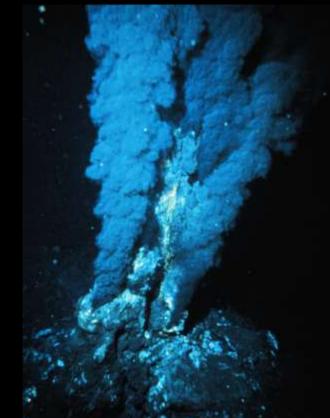
Natural hydrogen Progress, challenges and cases studies

Dr Eric C. Gaucher TASK 49 co-leader

CEO & H₂ explorer Lavoisier H₂ Geoconsult *www.lavoisierH2.com*

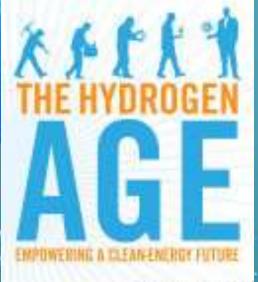


NW Eifuku volcano.



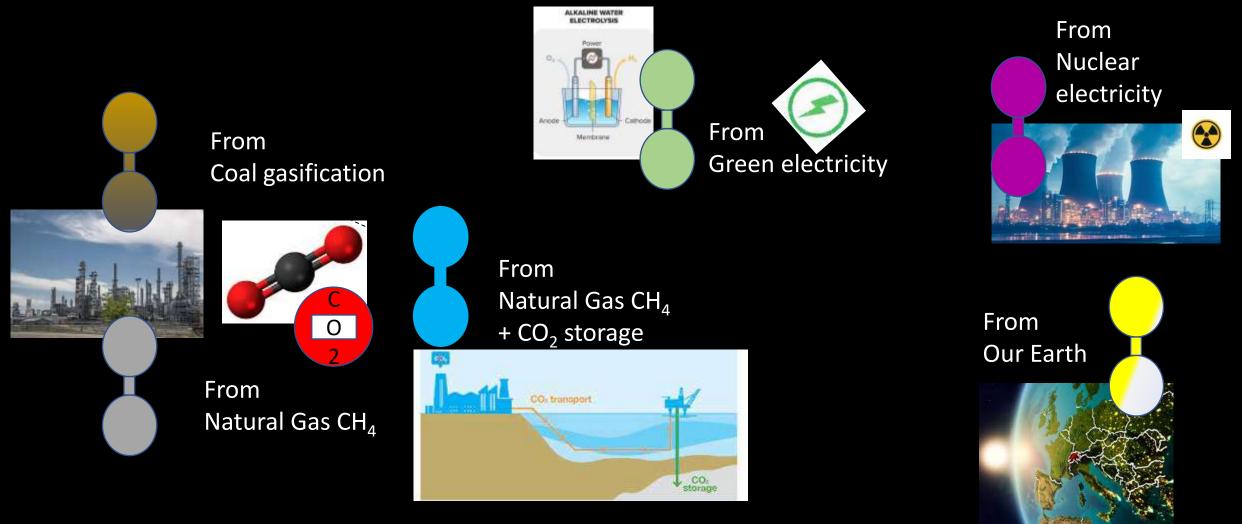
Black Smokers Mid-atlantic ridge

HYDROGEN Our future: The Hydrogen Age ? (Holland and Provenzano 2007)



Geoffrey R. Hollans" and James J. Proven

The Colors of Hydrogen – Brown, Grey, Blue, Green... And White/Gold



Howarth, R.W. and Jacobson, M.Z. 2021 How green is blue hydrogen? Energy Science & Engineering. And the newcomer: White/Gold/ Native/Natural/ Geologic/Geogenic

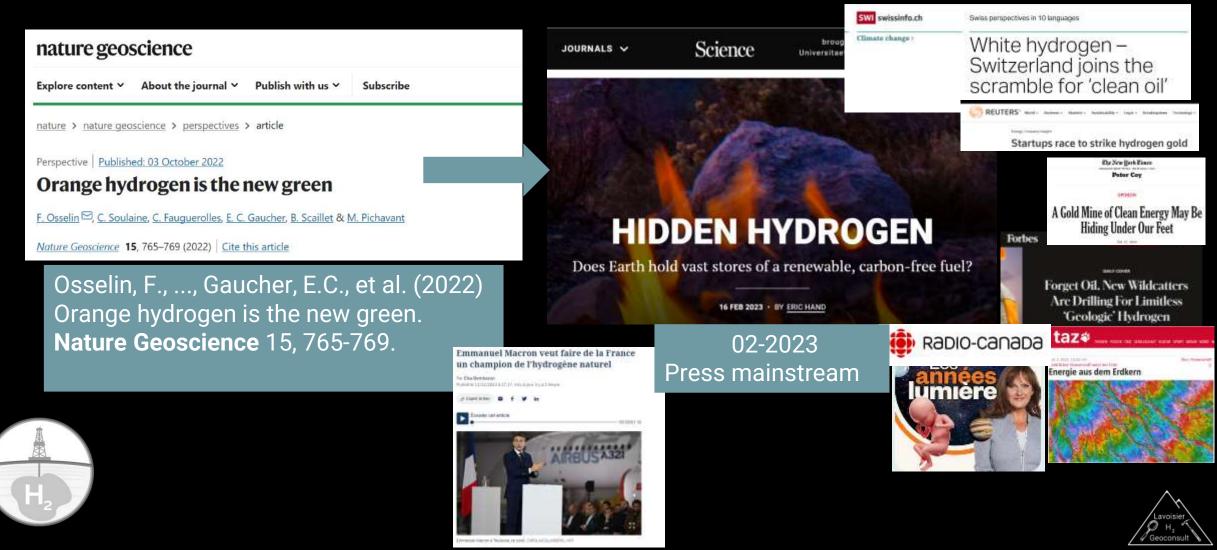
Produced by the Earth







Natural Hydrogen From Scientific Press to Main Stream Press

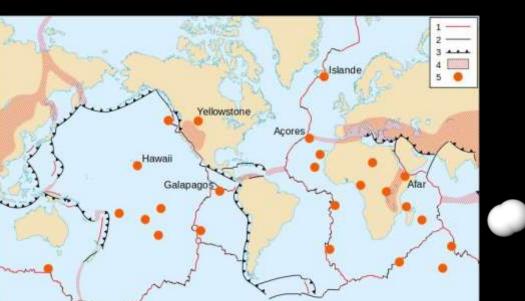


First discoveries

Black Smokers Midatlantic ridge

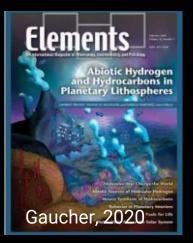
> Serpentinized rock chimney (in the 1990s)





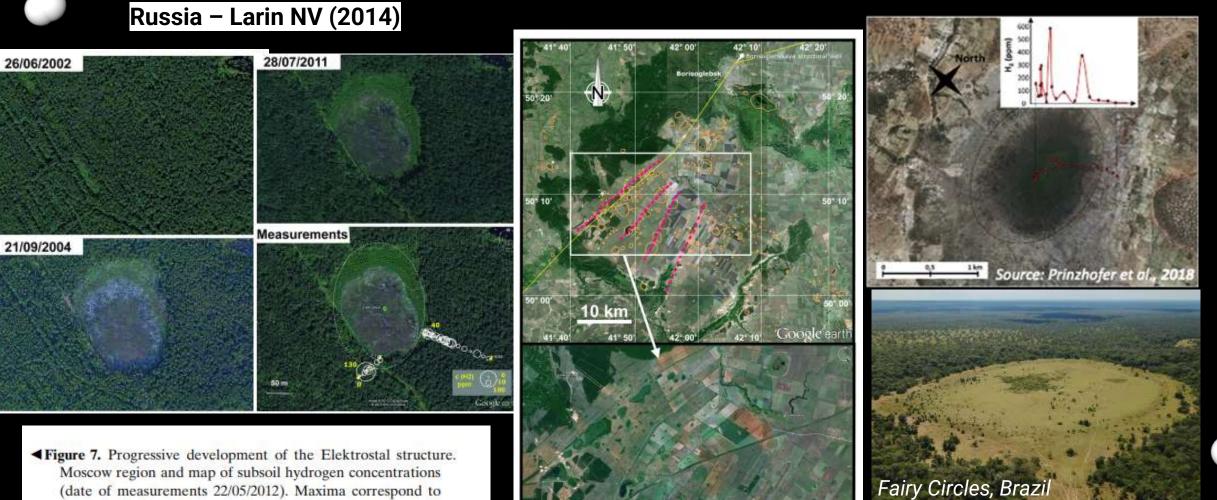
Galapagos

Welhan & Craig (1979) *Methane* and hydrogen in East Pacific Rise hydrothermal fluids. White chimneys at Champagne vent site, NW Eifuku volcano.

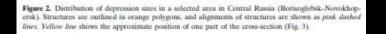




First discoveries



(date of measurements 22/05/2012). Maxima correspond to the limit of the structure. *Dashed line* in *blue* shows the limit of the area, which is invaded by water and where measurements were not possible.





Natural H₂ Produced by Rock/Water interactions

Serpentinization



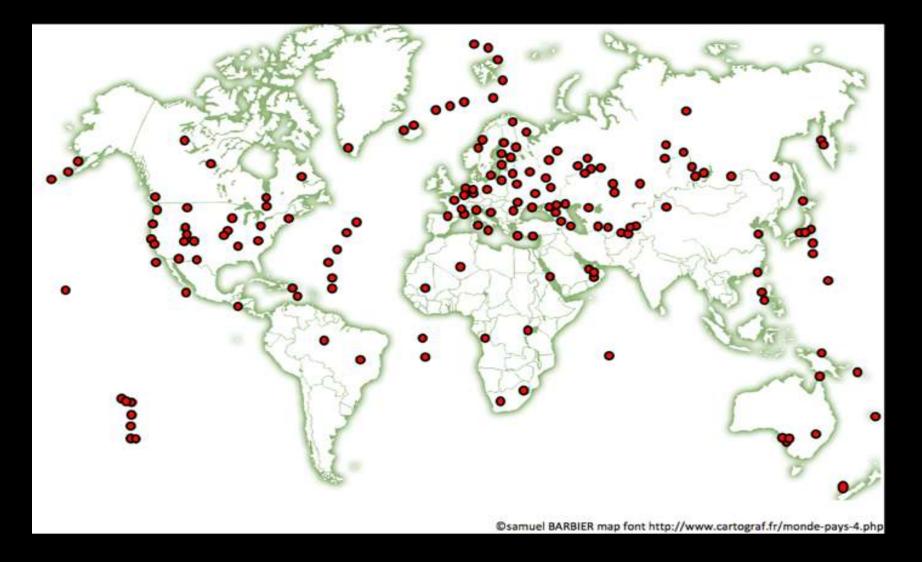
Production of abiotic CH_4 $H_2 + CO_2 => CH_4$ **Iron Oxidation**

 $2FeO + H_2O \Leftrightarrow Fe_2O_3 + H_2$

Natural Radiolyse

The water molecule is broken by radioactive radiations with a production of H₂





Barbier 2022 - Synthetic, non-exhaustive map of the main natural H2 emanation sites on earth, based on a generic synthesis of literature data. e.g. Zgonnik (2020), et Truche (2020).

EC Gaucher (2020) New Perspectives in the Industrial Exploration for Native Hydrogen. Elements 16, n°1; 8-9 Abiotic Hydrogen banetary Lithospheres

Elements



Mount Chimaera (Turkey) abiotic CH4 (87vol%) H2 (10 vol%)

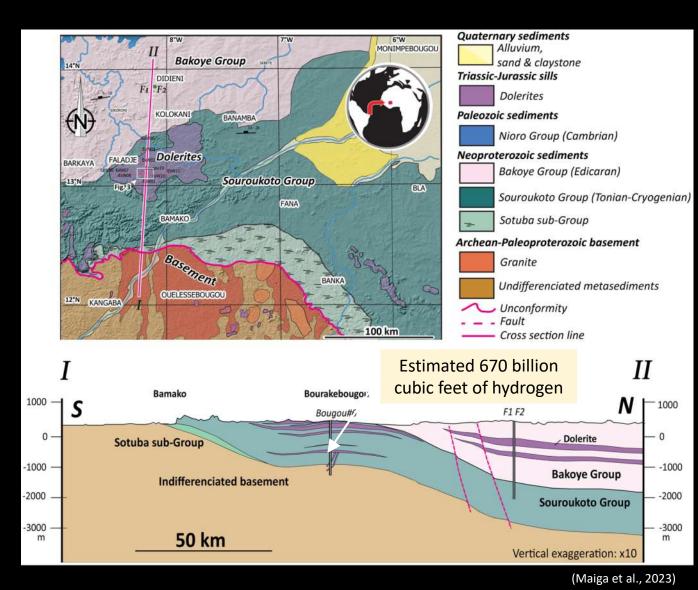
First natural hydrogen accumulation discovery

- 1987: Accidental discovery of flammable gas while drilling for water in Bourakébougou, Mali
- 2012: Petroleum company completes wells for gas production
- Gas is >97% hydrogen





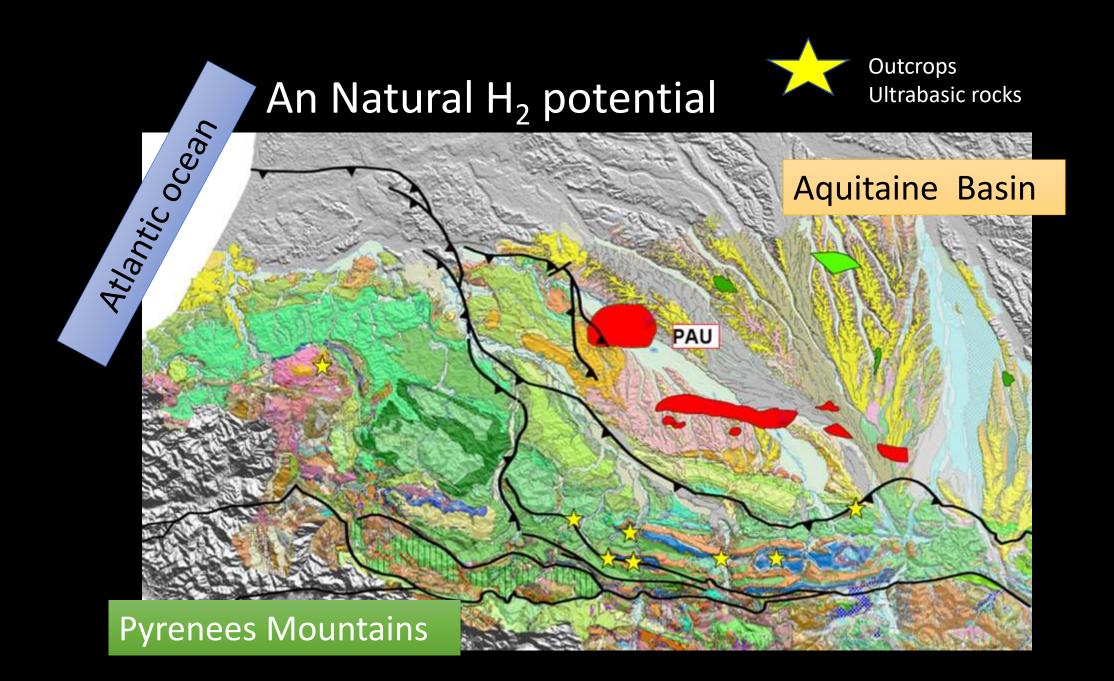




Why H₂ exploration in the mountains ?

- 1. Favorable Geodynamic and Structure
- 2. Access to Ultrabasic or Granitic rocks
- 3. Hydration of the deep rocks do to the high hydraulic gradients
- 4. Favorable "Kitchens" linked to Serpentinization &/or radiolysis &/or oxidation of Fe(II) Minerals

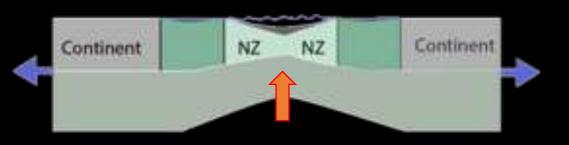
The Pyrenees Example

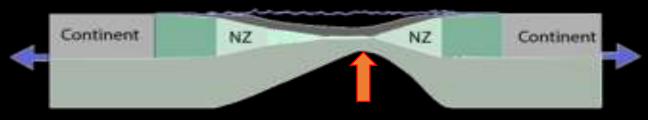


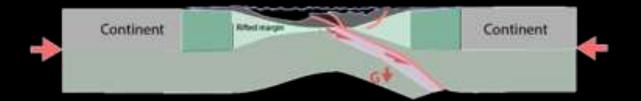
Tectonic Context

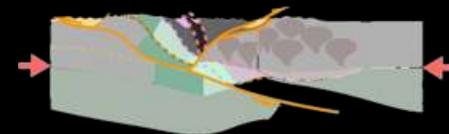
Orogenic context: Creation of Mountains

With a trapping of Mantle rocks in an abnormal high position in the crust

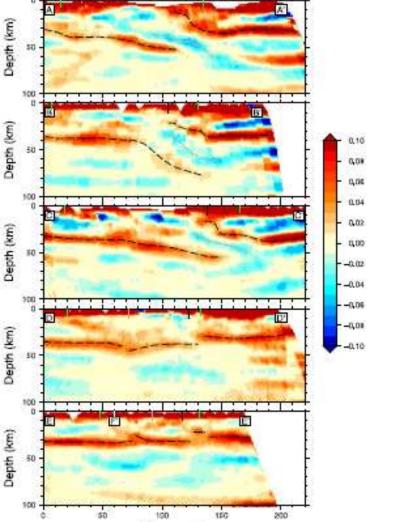








www.convergent-margins.com



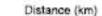


Figure 3. Common Conversion Point sections for (from top to bottom) transects (A-A'), (B-B'), (C-C'), (D-D') and (E-E') (see Fig. 1 for the localization of these transects). The Iberian and European Moho are represented with black dashed lines and the top of the subducting Iberian crust with a grey dashed line. The vertical lines show the positions of the SPFT and NPFT (green), the NPF (black, and of the Têt Fault (grey). The position of the crossing of transect (E-E') with transect (F-F') is also indicated.

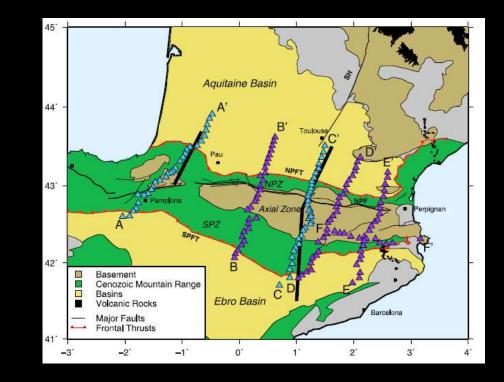
Scientific **Reports**

OPEN The non-cylindrical crustal architecture of the Pyrenees

: 26 March 2018

Sébastien Chevrot¹, Matthieu Sylvander ², Jordi Diaz ³, Roland Martin¹, Frédéric Mouthereau¹, Gianreto Manatschal⁴, Emmanuel Masini⁵, Sylvain Calassou⁵, Frank Grimaud², Hélène Pauchet² & Mario Ruiz ³

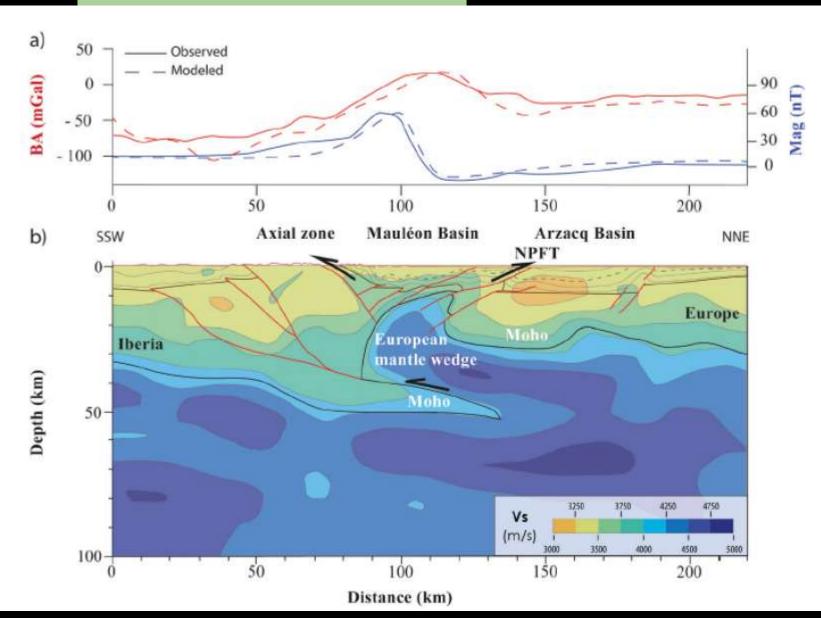
ECORS



The example of the Pyrenees

GEOPHYSICS

Godard et al, 2021 Chevrot et al, 2021 www.convergent-margins.com Presence of dense, magnetic body associated with high velocities



BSGF - Earth Sciences Bulletin 2021, 192, 47 O M. Lebujeur et al., Published by EDP Sciences 2021 https://doi.org/10.1051/bsgf/2021039



Special Issue Orogen lifecycle: learnings and perspectives from Pyrenees, Western Mediterranean and analogues ed. O. Lacombe, S. Tavani, A. Teixell, D. Pedreira and S. Calasson (Guest editors)

www.bsgf.fr OPEN @ ACCESS

Available online at:

Three-dimensional shear velocity structure of the Mauléon and Arzacq Basins (Western Pyrenees)

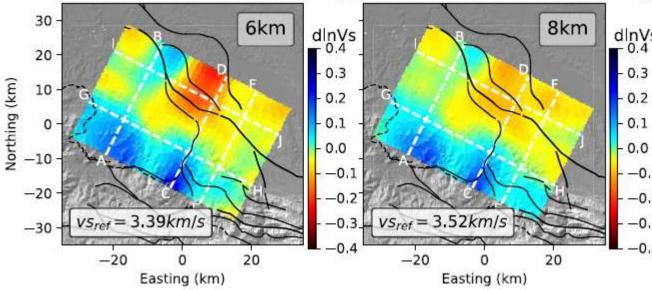
Maximilien Lehujeur^{1,2,5}0, Sébastien Chevrot¹0, Antonio Villaseñor³0, Emmanuel Masini^{4,5}0, Nicolas Saspiturry 60, Rodolphe Lescoutre 60, Matthieu Sylvander 90 and The Maupasacq Working Group *

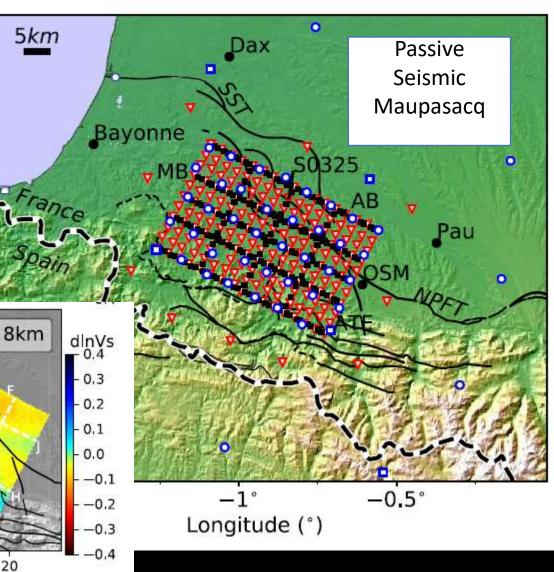


•

S

4





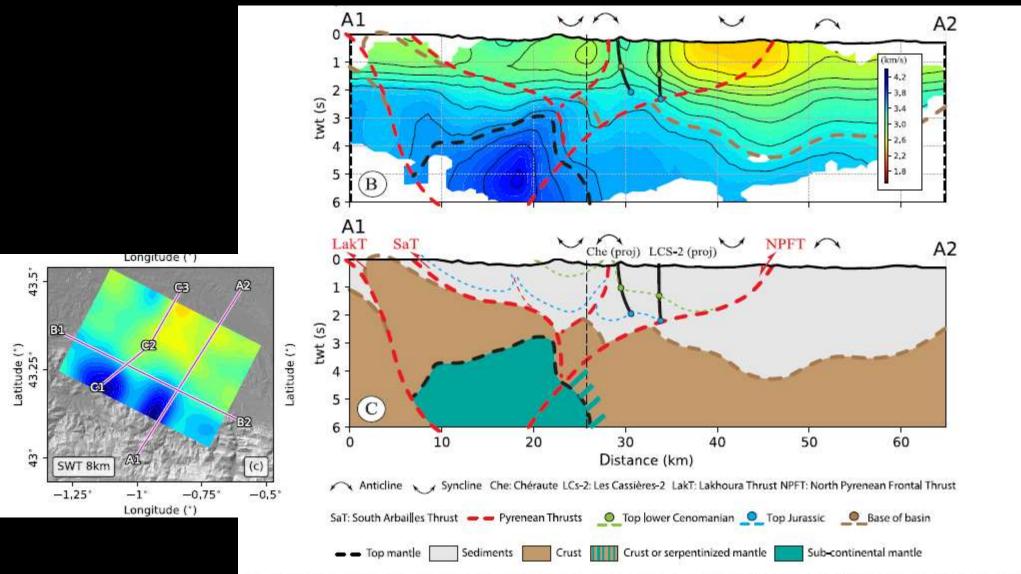


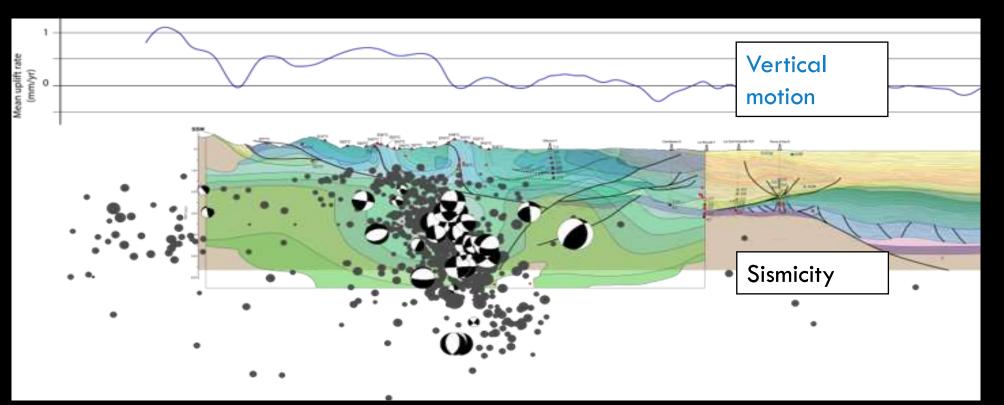
Fig. 14. SW-NE profile in the eastern Mauléon Basin showing the interpretation of the SWT (A) and LET (B) models. The final geological interpretation (C) is based on these models, the surface geology and boreholes. Location of axial traces of major anticlines and synclines are based on the geological map. The surface wave model successfully images the first-order basin architecture at shallow depth (syncline/anticline, faults) whereas the local earthquake tomography model provides information about the basement-sediment interface and the geometry of the high velocity body at depth.

The example of the Pyrenees

Presence of dense, magnetic body associated with an active sismicity :

Strong hypothesis of an **active** Serpentinization

After Maupazascq Data



GEOPHYSICS

Godard et al, 2021 Chevrot et al, 2021 www.convergent-margins.com

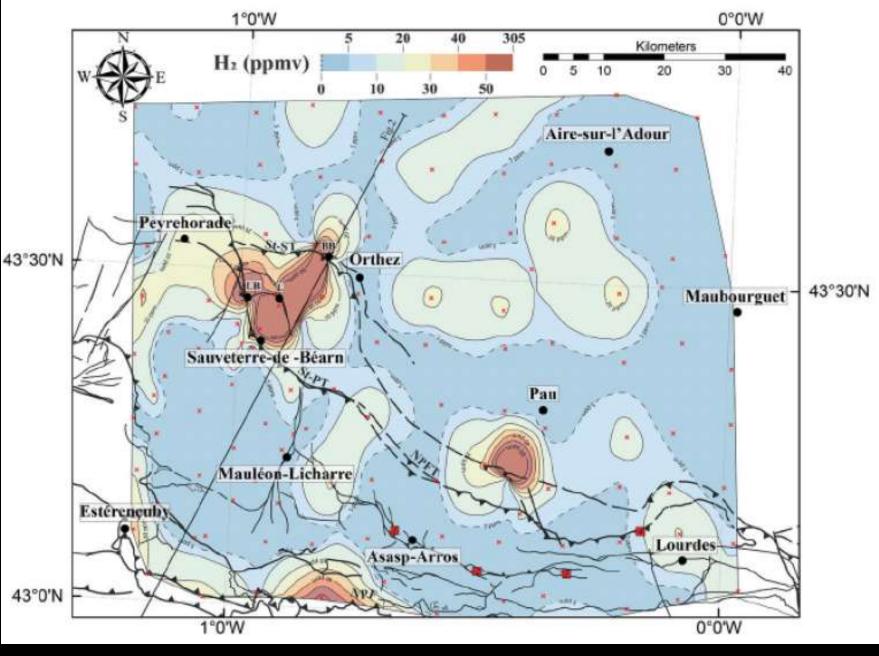
Exploration of H₂ Seeps in soils



The example of the Pyrenees

SOIL GAS ANALYSES

Lefeuvre, Truche et al, 2021 www.convergent-margins.com



Lefeuvre, N., Truche, L., Donzé, F.-V., Ducoux, M., Barré, G., Fakoury, R.-A., Calassou, S. and Gaucher, E.C. (2021) Native H2 Exploration in the Western Pyrenean Foothills. Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems 22, e2021GC009917.

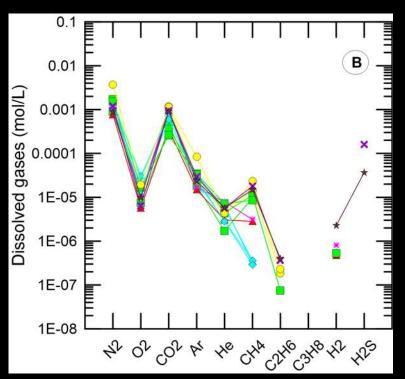
The example of the Pyrenees

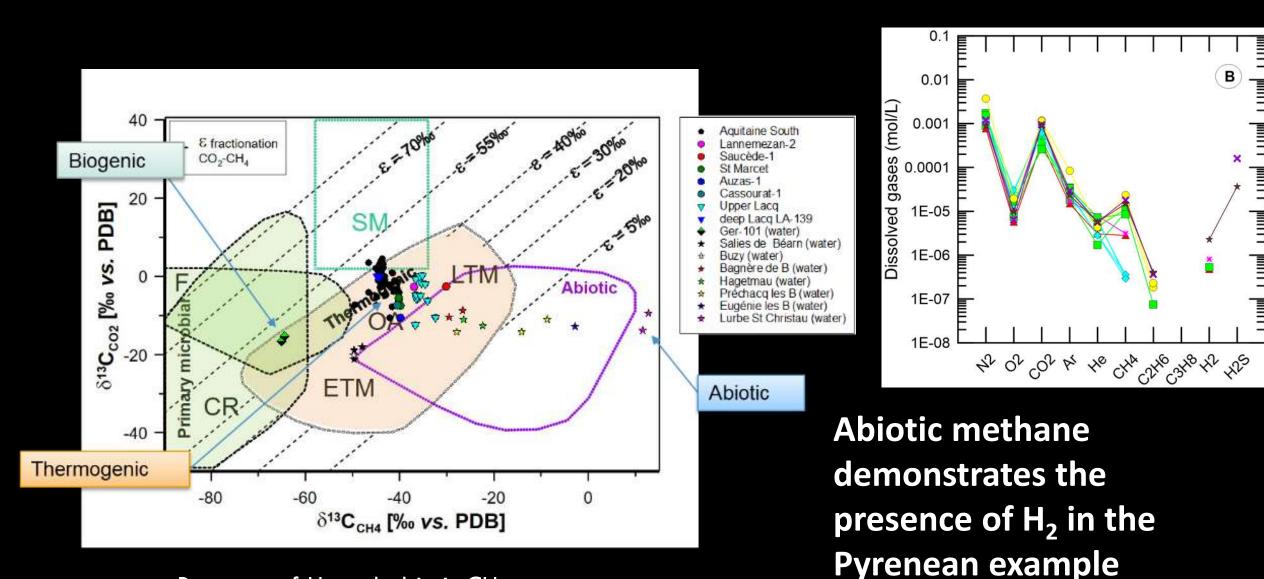
DEGASSING OF HYDROTHERMAL WATERS

DEEP AQUIFERS

Tremosa, Gaucher et al, 2021 <u>www.convergent-margins.com</u>







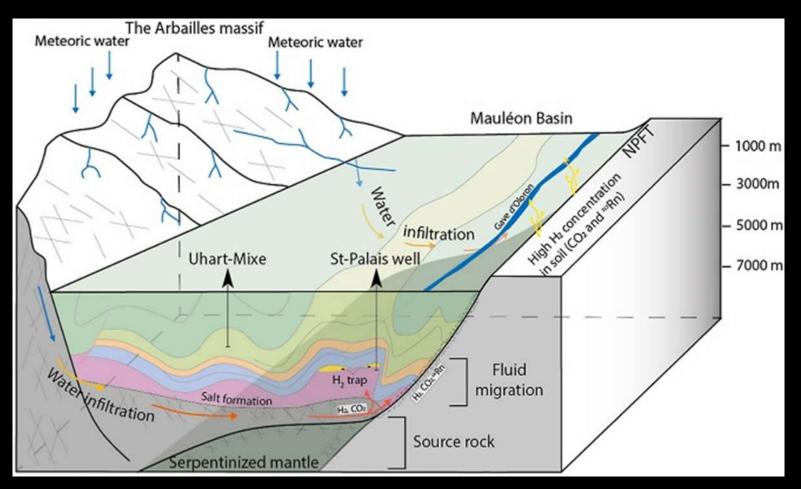
Tremosa et al, 2024

www.convergent-margins.com

Presence of H_2 and abiotic CH_4

 $CO_2 + 4 H_2 \rightarrow CH_4 + 2 H_2O$

The Pyrenean Model of H₂ Production



Lefeuvre, N., Truche, L., Donzé, F.V., Gal, F., Tremosa, J., Fakoury, R.A., Calassou, S. and Gaucher, E.C. (2022) Natural hydrogen migration along thrust faults in foothill basins: The North Pyrenean Frontal Thrust case study. Appl. Geochem., 105396.

Water infiltration Hydrothermal loop

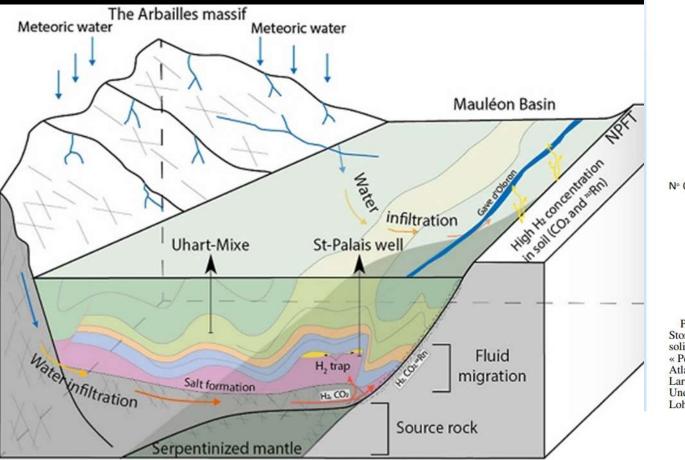
Temperature window for serpentinization 200/300°C

H₂ seepages along major faults

H₂ and abiotic methane in thermal waters

Two licences of exploration for natural H₂

The Pyrenean Model of H₂ Production



ANNONCES

Les annonces sont reçues à la direction de l'information légale et administrative

Demandes de changement de nom : téléprocédure sécurisée Fiche pratique disponible sur https://psl.service-public.fr/mademarche/pub-changement-nom/demarche

Autres annonces : annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr ou DILA, DIRE JOURNAUX OFFICIELS, TSA N- 71641, 75901 PARIS CEDEX 15

(L'Administration décline toute responsabilité quant à la teneur des annonces.)

CONCESSIONS DIVERSES

N° 03500

Préfecture des Pyrénées-Atlantiques

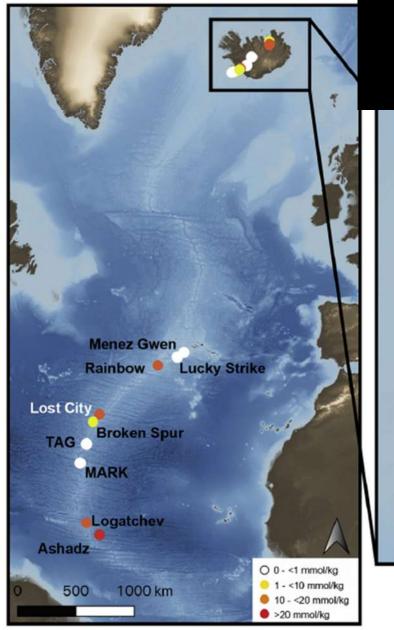
Avis de mise en concurrence

Demande de permis exclusif de recherches d'hydrogène natif et substances connexes dit « Permis de Grand Rieu » (Pyrénées-Atlantiques)

Par demande en date du 28 février 2023, les sociétés 45-8 Grand Rieu SAS (2, rue Myron Kinley, 64000 Pau) et Storengy SAS (12, rue Raoul Nordling, 92277 Bois-Colombes CEDEX) ont sollicité, conjointement et solidairement, un permis exclusif de recherches d'hydrogène natif et d'éventuelles substances connexes, dit « Permis de Grand Rieu », pour une durée de cinq années et portant sur une partie du département des Pyrénées-Atlantiques. Il est situé sur le territoire des communes d'Ainharp, Angous, Aren, Aroue-Ithorots-Olhaïby, Arrast-Larrebieu, Barcus, Berrogain-Laruns, Charre, Charritte-de-Bas, Chéraute, Dognen, Domezain-Berraute, Espès-Undurein, Esquiule, Géronce, Geüs-d'Oloron, Gurs, Jasses, Lay-Lamidou, Ledeuix, L'Hôpital-Saint-Blaise, Lohitzun-Oyhercq, Lucq-de-Béarn, Moncayolle-Larrory-Mendibieu, Moumour, Oloron-Sainte-Marie, Orin, Poey-

Two licences of exploration for natural H₂

Lefeuvre, N., Truche, L., Donzé, F.V., Gal, F., Tremosa, J., Fakoury, R.A., Calassou, S. and Gaucher, E.C. (2022) Natural hydrogen migration along thrust faults in foothill basins: The North Pyrenean Frontal Thrust case study. Appl. Geochem., 105396.



The Iceland example

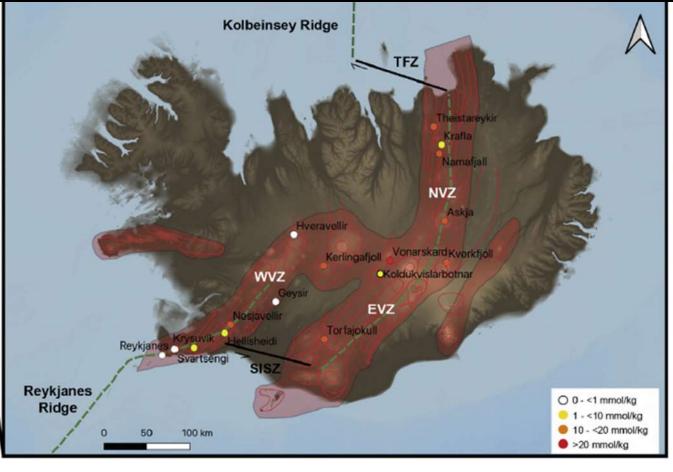
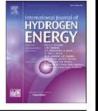


Fig. 1 – Geothermal systems along the mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) and in Iceland. WVZ, EVZ and NVZ are for West, East and North Volcanic Zone; SISZ is for South Icelandic Seismic Zone; TFZ is for Tjörnes Fractured Zone.



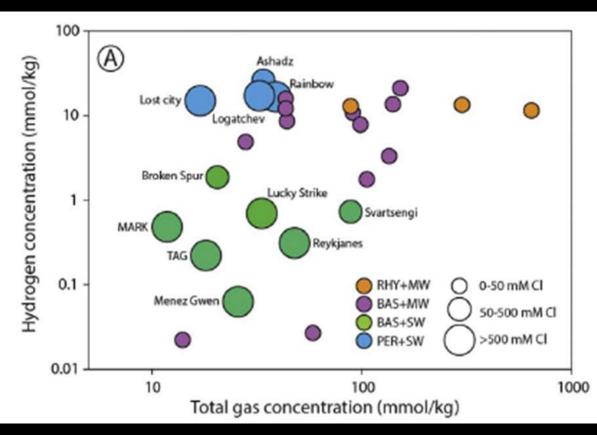
Available online at www.sciencedirect.com
ScienceDirect

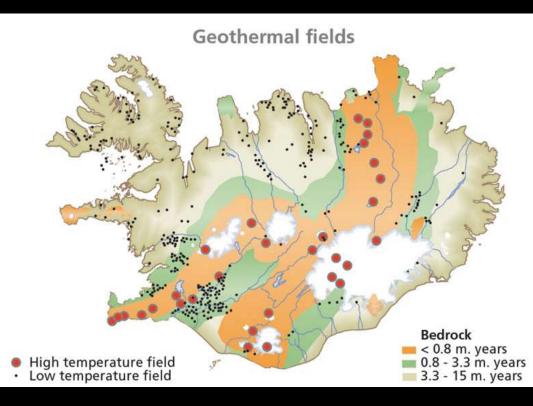


journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/he

Hydrogen emissions from hydrothermal fields in Iceland and comparison with the Mid-Atlantic Ridge

Valentine Combaudon^a, Isabelle Moretti^{a,*}, Barbara I. Kleine^b, Andri Stefánsson^b

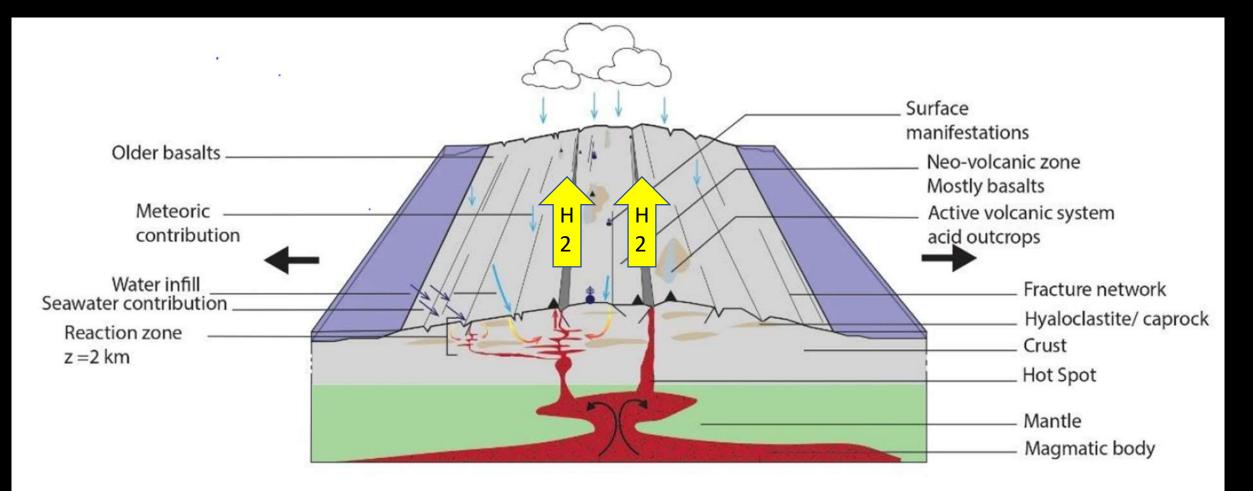






n

Geological Model of H₂ Production



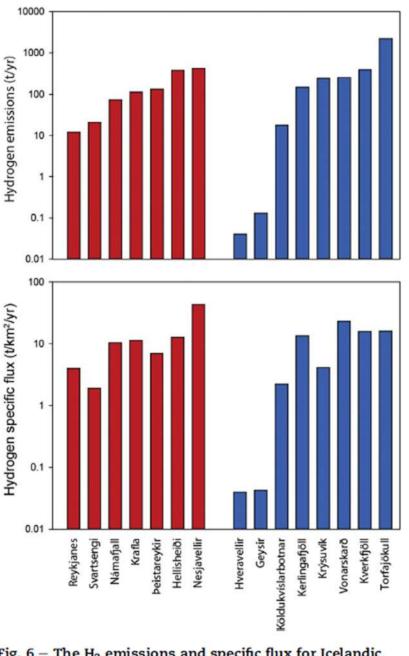


Fig. 6 – The H_2 emissions and specific flux for Icelandic geothermal fields.

Annual production of H₂ : 1.16 Kt in Geothermal Power Plants 3.40 Kt in others known Geothermal fields

Assuming an H_2 price of \$2 per kg, 1.16 kt of native hydrogen could represent a profit of \$2.3 million per year.

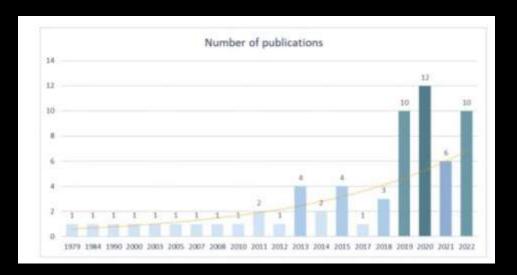
Given that investment is very limited thanks to the Hellisheidi plants already installed, investment would be limited to a gas separator and a storage and distribution system.

It should be noted that H₂ recovery is not optimized by this system.

Identify scientific clusters on natural hydrogen - Publications in the world

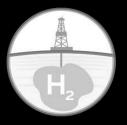
Repartition of H₂ publications by countries.

Figure 2: (a) Progress of the number of publications related to natural H₂ and (b) repartition of natural H₂ publications by country.



Scientific articles published that explicitly reference natural hydrogen

Gaucher and al, European Geologist Journal, 2023





Exploration phases / Costs

2024

2025

2026

2027



1M US\$ Data Mining, Soil Gas sampling Geological Model 2M US\$ Geochemical Monitoring Gravi/Mag/Seismic Acquisition

10M-20M US\$ On-shore borehole Demonstrating, Developing





Cost versus CO₂ /Kg H₂

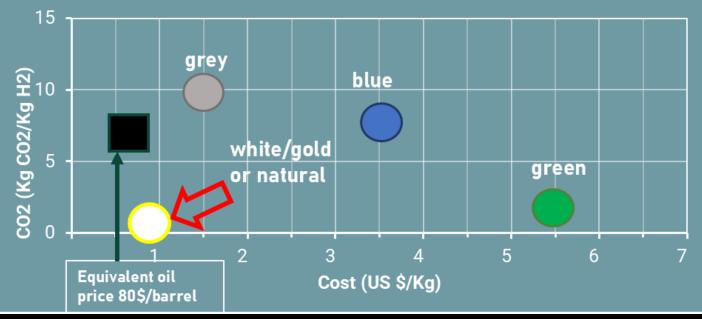
Manufactured hydrogen (black, grey, blue, green, etc.) vs. natural hydrogen: a major cost difference!



 \Leftrightarrow

~ 0,3 USD / kWh

H₂ Cost (\$) compared to the production of CO₂ (Kg)



Levin 2023 – Hnat Summit







TRL Natural H ₂ Exploration/Production	in the literature	Where?
0 Discovery of H_2 at the Earth surface	Done	Turkey, Oman, France Mali, New Caledonia, USA, Australia
1 Systematic research of H ₂ seepages in various environments	Done	On the 5 continents
2 Short time monitoring of sites	Done for 5 - 6 sites	Mali – France – Australia –Switzerland – USA – Brasil
3 Understanding of the origin of H ₂	Done for 2- 3 site	France – Mali – Australia - USA
4 Small Scale prototype of permanent H_2 fluxes / Numerical modelling of the H_2 permanent seepages / Global understanding of the Hydrogen system	In progress	In progress in Academia – France – USA - Australia
5 Median Scale prototype (1200 m) Perennial production of a demonstrator over several years	Done for 1 site - In progress	Mali – Hydroma – Australia Gold Hydrogen
6 First deep borehole (3000 – 5000 m)	In progress	USA - Natural Hydrogen LCC / Desert Mountain Energy
7 First Exploration plan at regional scale Several boreholes	In progress	Australia Santos – GoldH2 / USA KOLOMA
8 Prototype of Production of the first discovery	No	
9 Scaling-up / Commercial exploitation	No	

Mining Law

Exploration licenses = bottleneck

- Africa Mali (Licenses are open) Morocco (Mining law in prep.)
- Australia (South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia are open)
 - USA (Application of Oil&Gas laws) for instance, in the US, the Inflation Reduction Act offers 3 USD per kg premium on low-carbon hydrogen production.
- France: Additions of H₂ et He in mining law (04/2022)
 O 9 licenses requested, two of which have been awarded (TBH2 12/2023 and 45-8 Energy 05/08/2022 He, they add H₂)
- Some Eastern European countries (Kosovo, Poland Sept 2023)
- Spain (Aragon) : under discussion
- Colombia (A. Camacho, Minister of Mines and Energy says the law is ready, H-NAT Summit).
- Philippines (Bid Round for H₂ Nat)
- Canada: Quebec the administration works to fill the legal vacuum. Saskatchewan, the Oil&Gas and Helium regulation is used.
- Brazil: Process on-going for federal law



Present time situation

Regulation / permitting: France

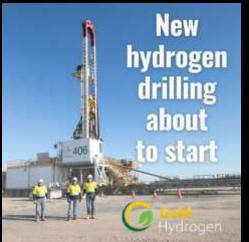


Regulation / permitting: the remarkable case of South Australia



An incentive law

- Over 40 PEL / H Nat applications since 02/2021
- One-stop shop (DEM-ERD) for assessing applications: Proposed licenses
- Native title agreement required before granting a License
- Efficient negotiation process in South Australia



A success story : Gold Hydrogen

1920s - 1930s: hydrogen discovered while drilling for oil 2020 : creation of Gold Hydrogen 2020-2022 : studies, modelling, project preparation, lobbying for changes to permitting regulations South Australia October 2023: "Ramsay-1" well drilled => H_2 & He ! November 2023: drilling of the "Ramsay-2" well => H_2 &

Regulation in Tasmania and Western Australia

Western Australia vote a Bill to enable exploration for naturally-occurring hydrogen through the concept of a regulated substance, which is an element that occurs naturally within a natural geological formation (May 2024).

MINERAL CATEGORIES

- I. Metallic minerals and atomic substances.
- 2. Coal, peat, lignite and oil shale.
- 3. Rock, stone, gravel, sand and clay used in construction, bricks and ceramics.
- 4. Petroleum products including natural hydrogen but excluding oil shale.
- 5. Industrial minerals, prescribed precious stones and prescribed semi-precious stones.
- 6. Geothermal substances

MAXIMUM SIZE OF LICENCES

The maximum size of an exploration licence is:

- 250 km² for category 1, 2, 3 or 5 minerals.
- 500 km² for category 6 minerals.
- 5,000 km² for category 4 minerals.



Boreham et al. 2021



Regulation in Philippines

The Philippines has auctioned the rights to explore for natural hydrogen in two areas located around 200 km from the capital, Manila, on the island of Luzon.

PDA n° 1 - 134,096 hectares PDA n° 2 - 96,439 hectares

The Philippines' 2024 tender is accepting bids from developers until August 27, with exploration rights to be awarded as early as November this year.

According to the government press agency, the launch of the PDA has already "attracted" Helios Aragón and other companies.



Philippines Government 2024



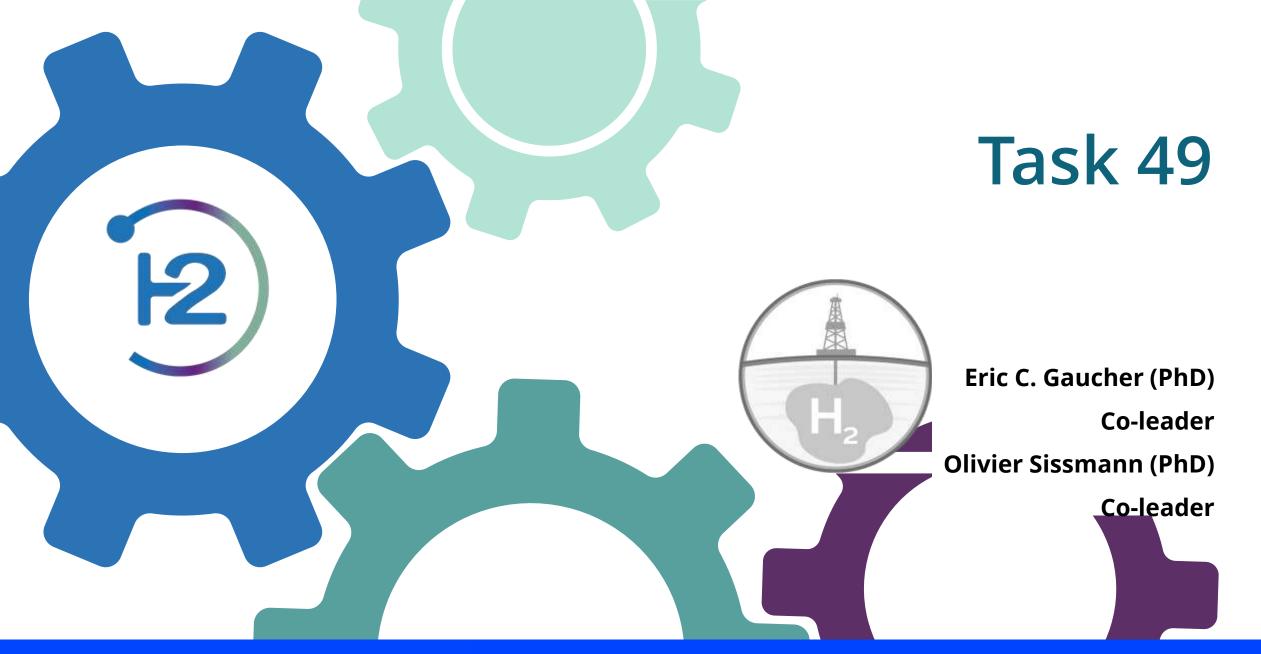
Conclusion

- Natural H₂ exists / The Earth produces massive quantities of it.
- This subject is currently in a pre-industrial phase with pioneering companies. France, USA, Australia...
- Exploration methods need to be reinvented on the basis of oil and gas technologies.
- Assessing reserves requires a major research effort.



<u>The place of natural hydrogen in the energy transition: A position paper</u> E Gaucher, I Moretti, N Pélissier, G Burridge, N Gonthier Eur. Geol., 5-9







Co-leaders

Dr Eric C. Gaucher Lavoisier H₂ Geoconsult

> Dr Olivier Sissmann IFPEN



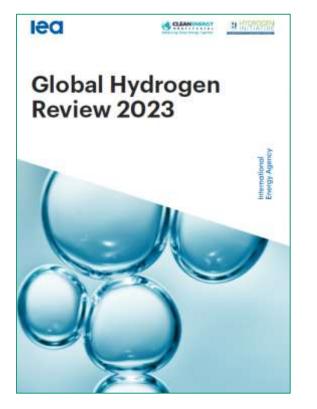


General Secretary

Dr Omid H. Ardakani Natural Resources Canada



Past Contributions



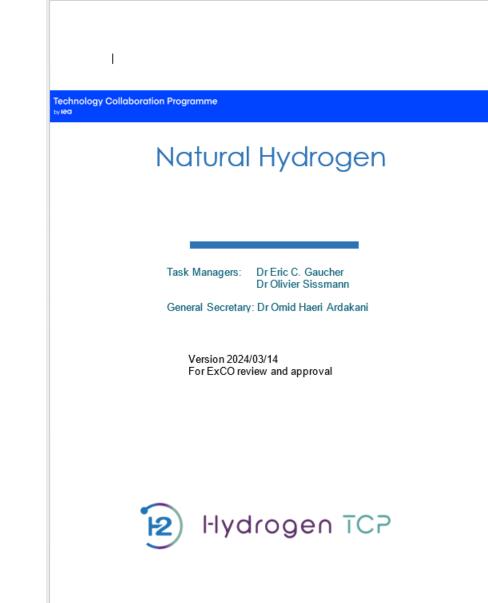
First contribution

Expert name:	Expert affiliation:	
Eric C. Gaucher	Institut für Geologie - Universität Bern	
TECHNOLOGY DETAILS	Value chain: Production	
Technology: Natural hydrogen extraction	Sub-sector or technology: Hydrogen Sector: Enlergy transformation Demand/Supply/Infrastructure: Supply	
TRL 2023:		
	alegy in 2022 was 2	
According to IEA criteria, the TRL of this technill your answer for 2023 has changed from last		
If your answer for 2023 has changed from last TRL 5: In the position paper Gaucher et al., (2023), TRLs 5 and 6 and 6 correspond to investments that processes are taking place. A TRL 5 or 6 can be as	year, justify why. we consider that, at least, the TRL 5 has been reached: "The will enable to access depths where active H2 production signed to the Bourakébougou site in Mali [10, 17], where h 12 wells showing its presence. However, the local company	

Second contribution



Workplan report Approved by the 97th EXCO **April 2024**





Last Contributions

lea

Global Hydrogen Review 2024 International Energy Agency

Third contribution



STRUCTURE OF THE TASK 49

- A.Bibliographic synthesis/state of the art (Science/web/journals)
- B.Writing a road map for Scientific research
- C.Observation of Exploration/Production economic sector
- **D.Development of Reserves Economic Evaluation**
- E.Policy recommendation
- H₂
- F.Public Acculturation / Risk Assessment
- G.Environmental impacts of Natural H₂
- H.Organization of Events



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TASK 49



H.BORDELEAU Geneviève - RISK David

Co-Leader: Dr Eric C. Gaucher Dr Olivier Sissmann **General Secretary:** Dr Omid H. Ardakani



Participants

Confirmed / active participants: 34 experts

Universities Research centers Major Oil/Gas companies Start-ups Consultants



Country Organization Lavoisier H2 Geoconsult FR IFPEN FR Instituo Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra (CSIC-IACT) ES Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) IT Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA) FR US Geological Survey US Glen Burridge & Associates UK H2Au UK **Helios** Aragon ES Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) CA CA St. Francis Xavier University **Geological Survey of Canada** CA Geoscience Australia AU CSIRO AU OMV AT HR Consulting Energy and Geosciences Ltda BR Enki GeoSolutions ; Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) CA Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) CA Ecopetrol CO Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) FL Stealth FR Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) DE Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) DE Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) JP **Dhow Energy** NL NORCE NW **Korea University** КΟ ES ES UK The University of Edinburgh UK University of Colorado at Boulder USA Texas Tech University USA Koloma USA

Participants

Interested parties: 16 countries



Country	Participants
Australia (AU)	2
Austria (AT)	1
Brazil (BR)	1
Canada (CA)	5
Columbia (CO)	1
United States (US)	4
Finland (FI)	1
France (FR)	5
Germany (DE)	2
Netherland (NL)	1
Italy (IT)	1
Japan (JP)	1
Norway (NO)	1
South Korea (KR)	1
Spain(ES)	4
United Kingdom (UK)	4



ON GOING PRODUCTION OF DELIVRABLES

- •Brief Update of the natural hydrogen position paper
- •Road map for Scientific research

H

h

- •Technology Insights to defined operation models of natural hydrogen licenses
- •Technology Insights to define reservoir models of economic natural hydrogen licenses.
- •Brief Analysis of the regulatory scope adopted and best practices in countries that have included natural hydrogen in the Mining Code.
- •Brief Review and mapping of Natural H2 Funding.
- •Brief for the best practice in the social acceptance of natural H2.
- •Roadmap for the evaluation of natural H2 environmental impacts.

Related topics

- Our group is exchanging views with the other hydrogen Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) groups:
- 1. Underground hydrogen storage (Task 42)
- Safety and RCS of Large Scale Hydrogen Energy Applications (Task 43)
- 3. Hydrogen Certification (Task 47)

• TCP on Greenhouse Gas R&D/IEAGHG are on-going.



Timeline 2024-2026



2023

- Task organization
- Expert recruitment
- New co-leader Olivier Sissmann

January - March 2024

- Writing of the workplan
- Finish Task organization
- Ask for approval
- Kick-off meeting March 2024
- In person meeting / Nov2024





2025-2026

- -Production of documents
- Final Report End of Task.



IEA Hydrogen Coordination Group

IEA Hydrogen TCP

Technology Collaboration Programme

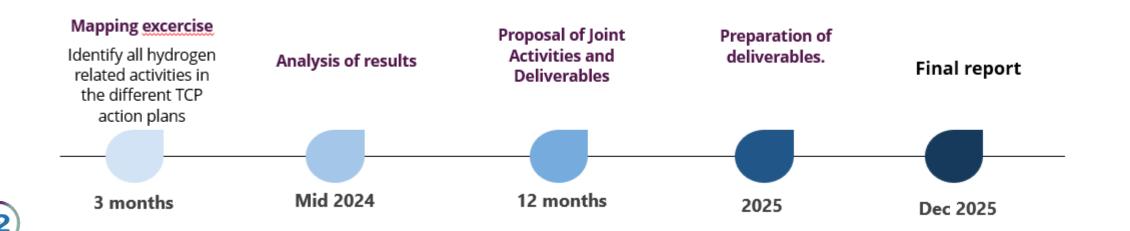
IEA Hydrogen Coordination Group

The Hydrogen Coordination Group was established under the IEA CERT (Committee on Energy Research and Technology) in 2024

To map and align all the hydrogen activities within the TCPs on the IEA.

Objective:

- Display="block-transform: synergies" between the different programmes.
- Organize joint activities across the TCP network but also together with Mission Innovation's Hydrogen Mission.



IEA Hydrogen Coordination Group

For 2025, three key outputs are proposed:

- 1. Global Report: An integrated view of hydrogen-related activities within the TCP network, organized by technical categories and cross-cutting issues. Topics in the Global Report will include key areas as transport, industry, energy systems, buildings, and cross-cutting issues.
- **2.** Synergians and Gap Analysis: Identification of cross-cutting topics, collaboration opportunities, and an assessment of gaps and overlaps in ongoing activities, with actionable recommendations for future work.
- **3. Expert Database:** Creation of a database of experts linked to the Global Report and the development of a taxonomy to classify expertise by scientific field, technology, and application/market, supporting the IEA, TCP network, and hydrogen sectors



