



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

ORGANIZZATO DA



Bologna: un hub di ricerca per lo sviluppo
dell'idrogeno - 9 ottobre 2024

Progetto NICOLHy

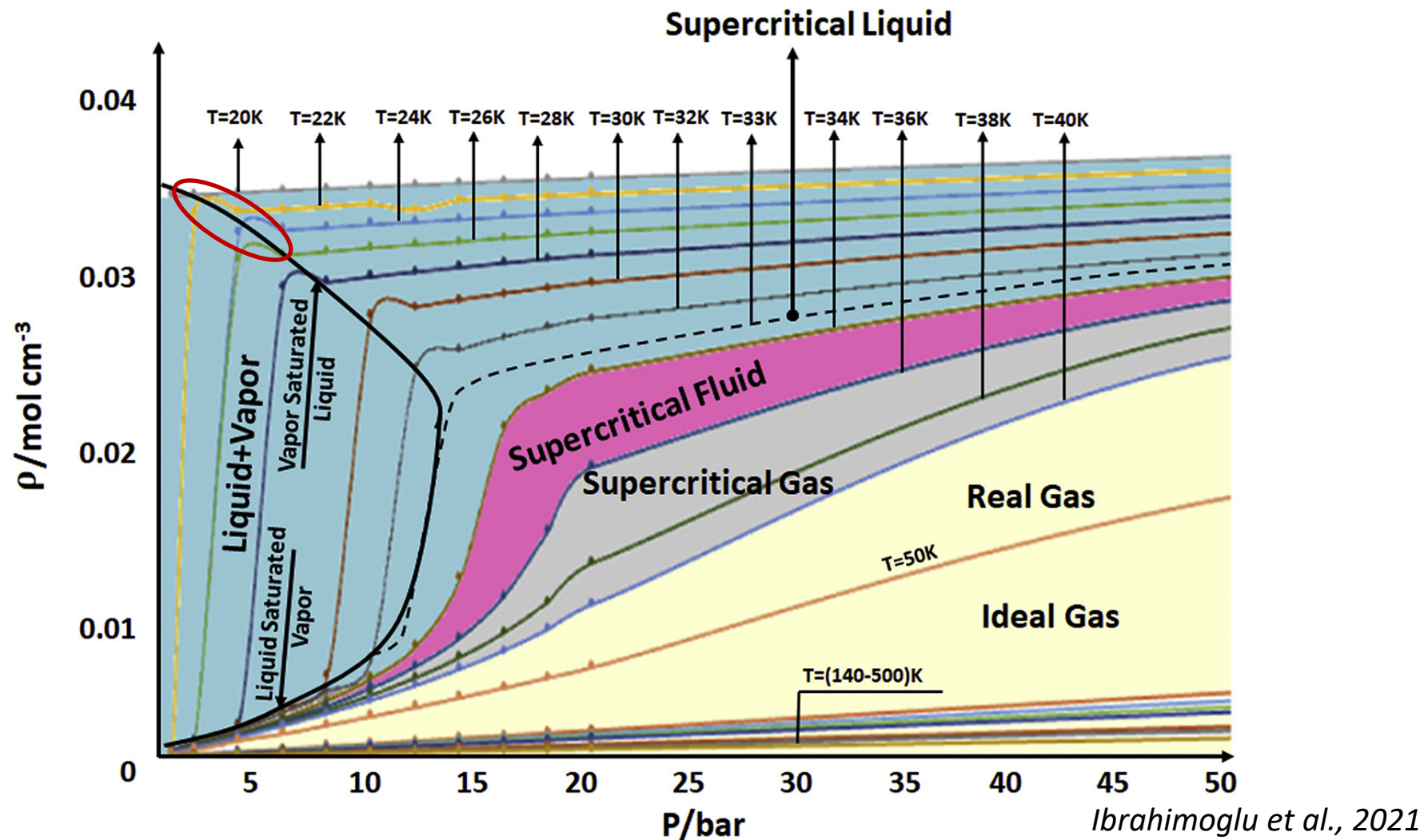
Storage di idrogeno liquido

Alessandro Tugnoli

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Chimica,
Ambientale e dei Materiali (DICAM)

BolognaFiere 9-11 ottobre

Liquid Hydrogen (LH2)

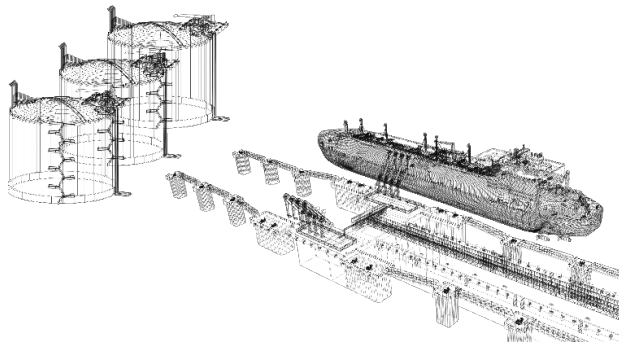


The markets for LH2

Mobile energy intensive applications



Large-scale transport which requires also storage

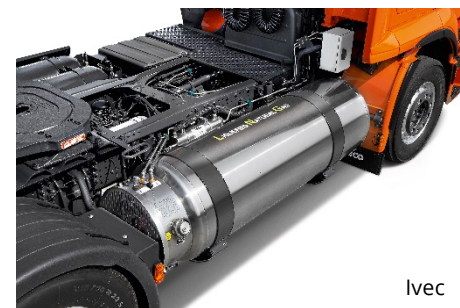


Large-scale and long-term storage



Expected size for storage

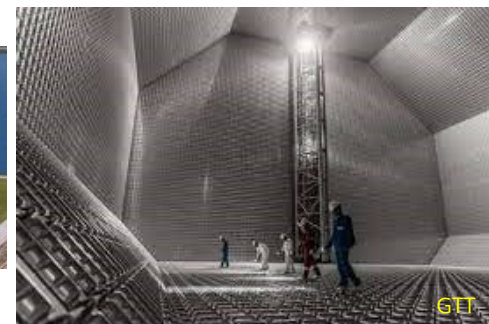
		LH2 Industry	LNG Industry
Ship tank	In application	1.250 m ³	65.000 m ³
	In design	40.000 m ³	
Storage tank	In application	5.000 m ³	180.000 m ³
	In design or construction	40.000 m ³	220.000 m ³



Iveco



DB



GT

Two times the volume of an LNG tank is required to store the same amount of energy with LH2



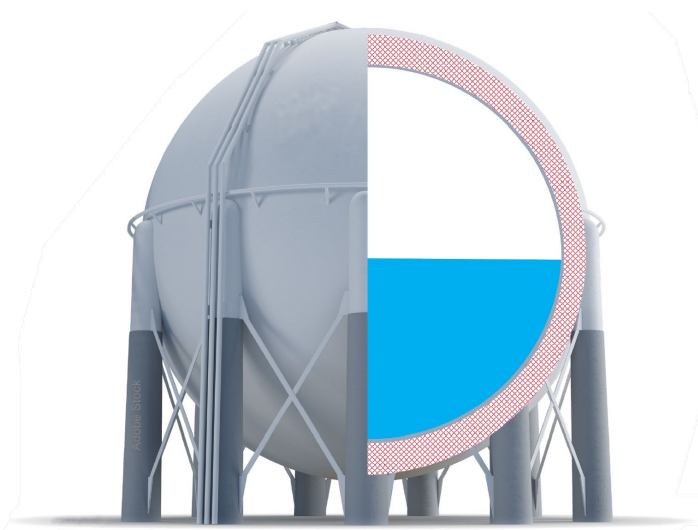
TG
E

Current LH2 storage technology

Small-scale tank



Large-scale tank



**Double
wall**

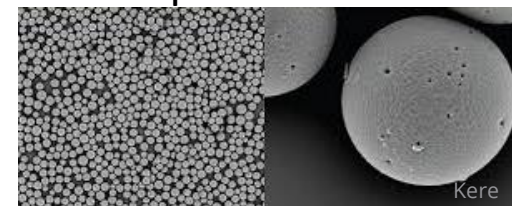
+

Vacuum

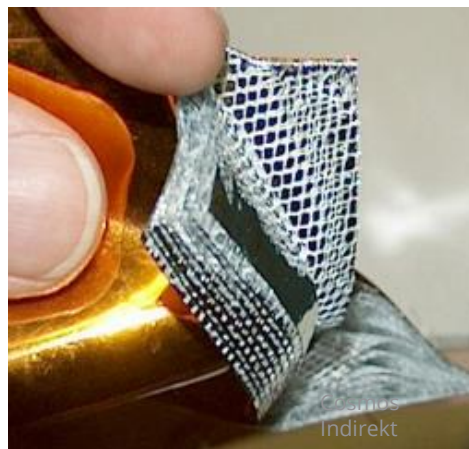
+

**Fill
material**

Microspheres



MLI



Perlites



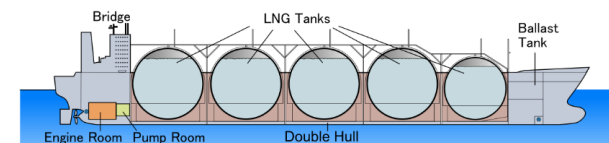
Limits of current technologies in LH2 storage

Advantages

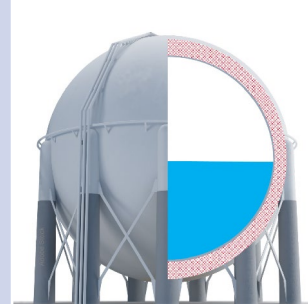
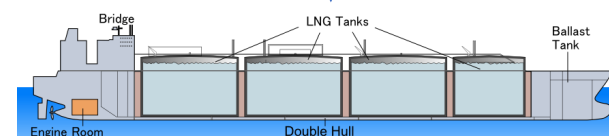
- ✓ Lowest surface / volume ratio
- ✓ proved manufacturability and process chain
- ✓ In use since > 50 years

Disadvantages

- ❖ Bad to install in technical applications
- ❖ Bad Process chain within production:
 - ❖ Time intensive (>36 Month)
 - ❖ Difficult for automation and parallelization or processes
 - ❖ High manpower fluctuations
 - ❖ Quality assurance is limited
- ❖ In case of an insulation failure:
 - ❖ Non multi-failure tolerance
 - ❖ Payload is lost
 - ❖ Long service time
- ❖ Upscaling is expensive as known from LNG industry



+100% ↓ payload

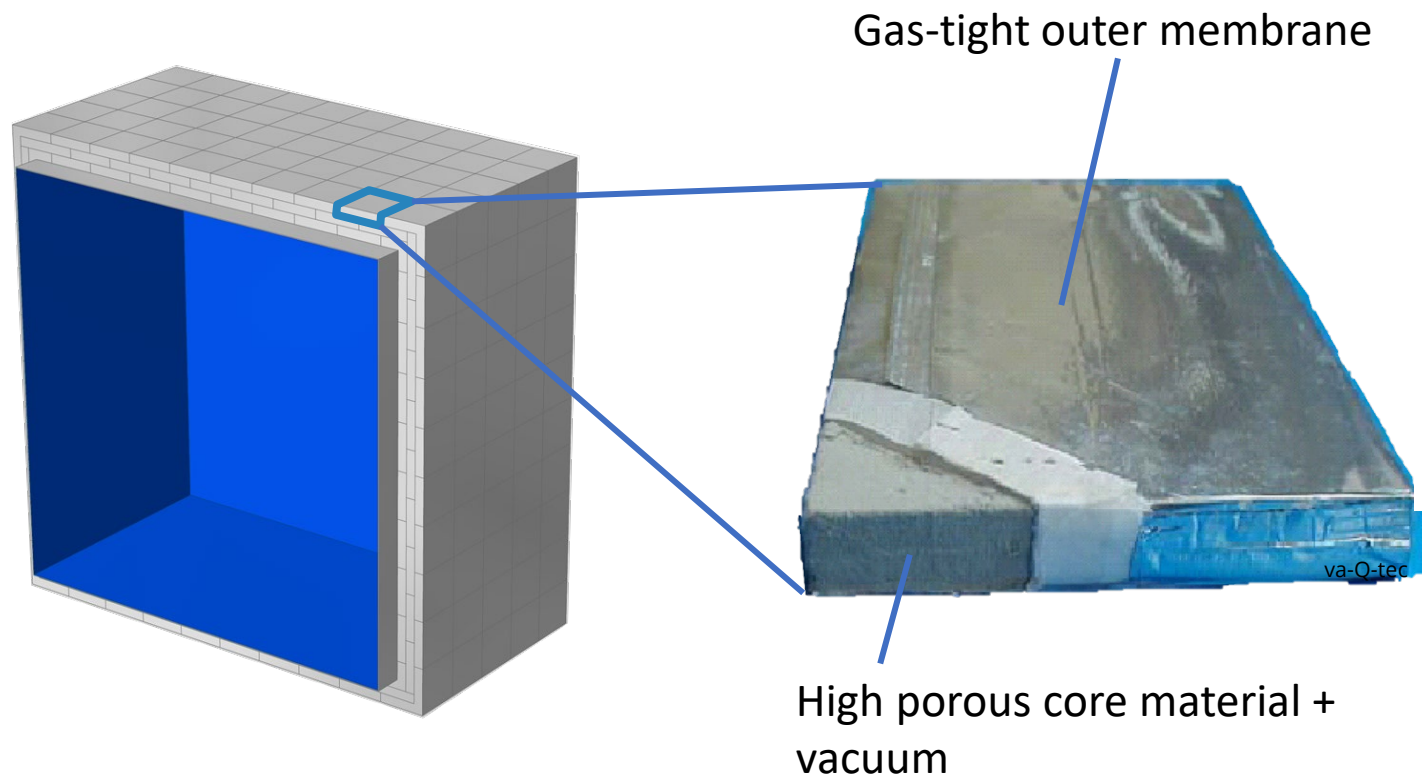


Adobe



NASA

Proposal: tanks insulated by Vacuum Insulation Panels (VIP)



VIP advantages

Insulation

- ✓ Industrial manufacturing in an industrial environment,
- ✓ Excellent quality control during the manufacturing process,
- ✓ Automation of manufacturing and quality control,
- ✓ Lower vacuum requirements of VIP (1 to 10^2 Pa) than e.g. MLIs (10^{-5} Pa),
- ✓ Parallelization of tank constructions.

Tank

- ✓ Flexibility in the selection of the tank shape due to the inherent stability of the insulation,
- ✓ Reduction of construction time and increase of plannability,
- ✓ Improved planning of manpower requirements during tank installation,
- ✓ Increased fault tolerance of the entire insulation system due to the high number of partial insulation elements (VIPs).



Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of VIP applications



Building industry (TRL9)



Transport of:

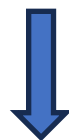
- Covid vaccines (TRL9)
- Human organs (TRL9)
- Large goods (TRL6)



Barriers and scope

Recent construction principles for VIP's don't fulfill the requirements:

- Temperature resistent up to -253°C ,
 - Long-life performance,
- Handling of thermal displacements,
 - Safety?



Need for research and new design principles to apply VIP's on LH2 storages with capacities of 40.000 m^3 to 200.000 m^3 LH2

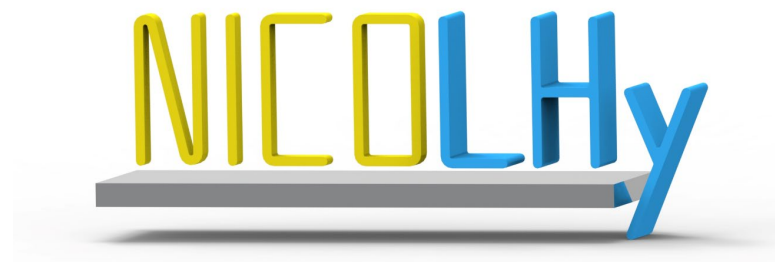
Project consortium

Partner

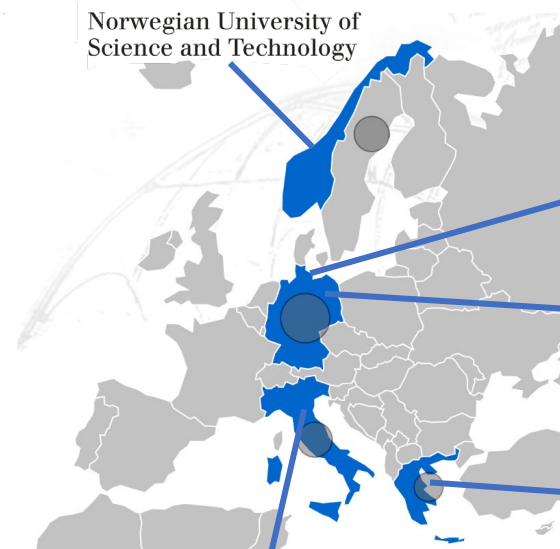
- ✓ BAM
- ✓ UniBo
- ✓ DLR
- ✓ NTNU
- ✓ NTUA

Theoretical
and practical
expertise in

- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Thermodynamics
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Integration
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ Sustainability



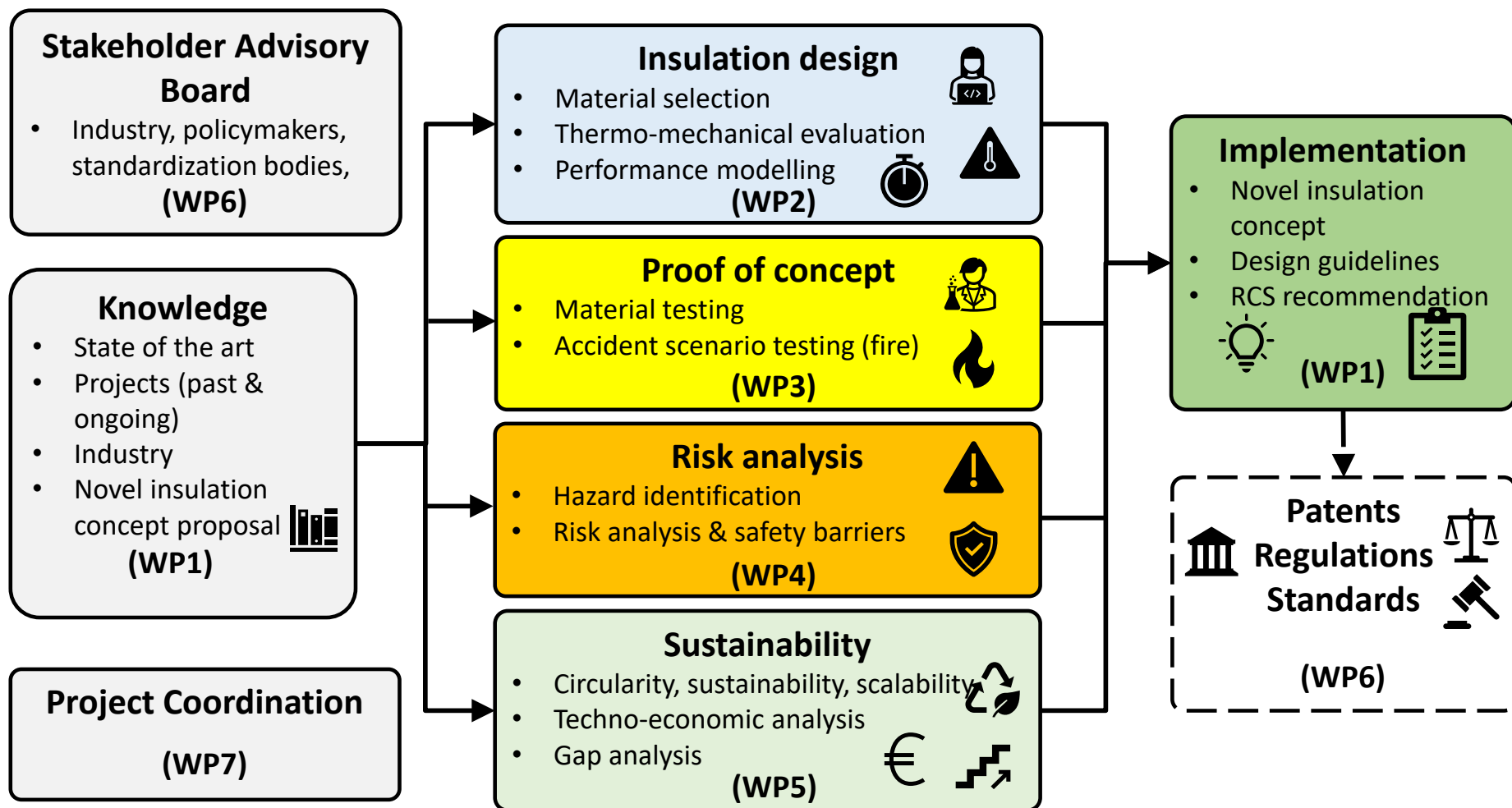
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



National
Technical
University
of Athens



Project structure



Design

Identification of reference schemes

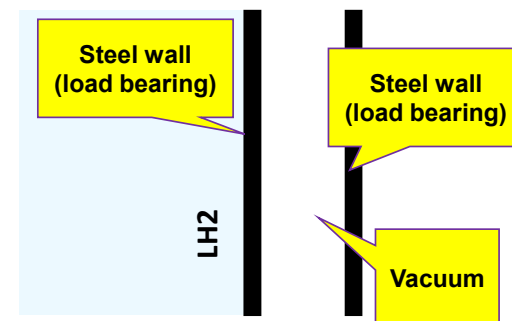
Reference schemes

CONVENTIONAL SYSTEM

SHAPE: Spherical tank

SIZE: 4'700 m³ (approx. D=22m)

INSULATION SYSTEM: vacuum gap

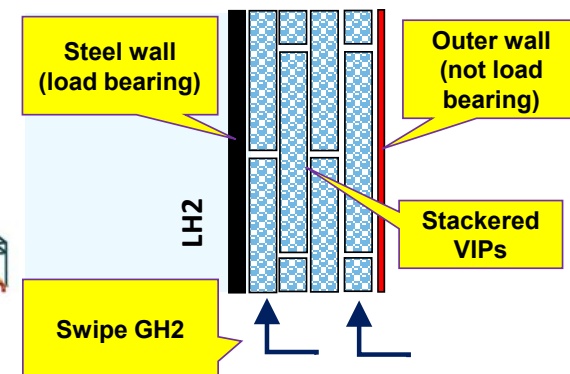
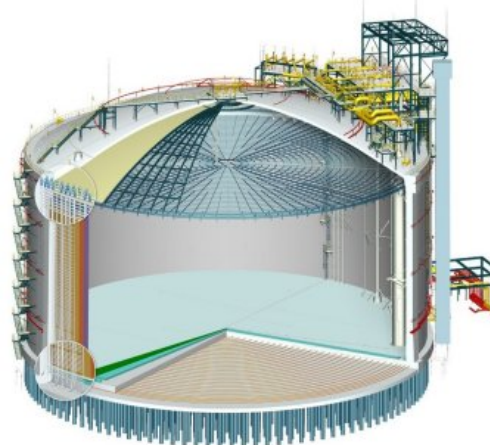


“NOVEL” SYSTEMS

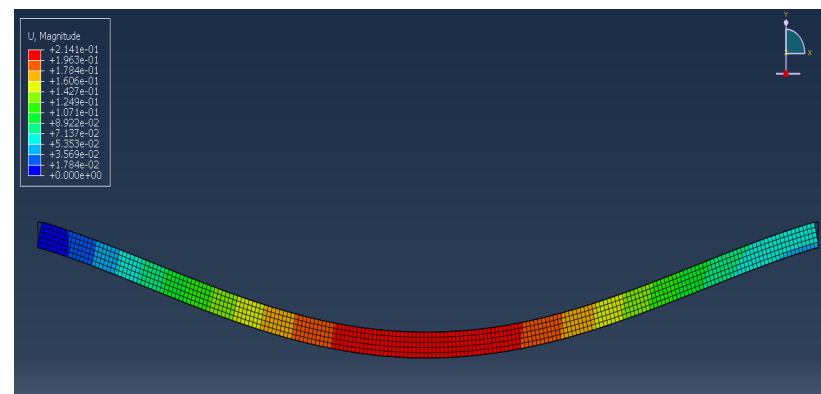
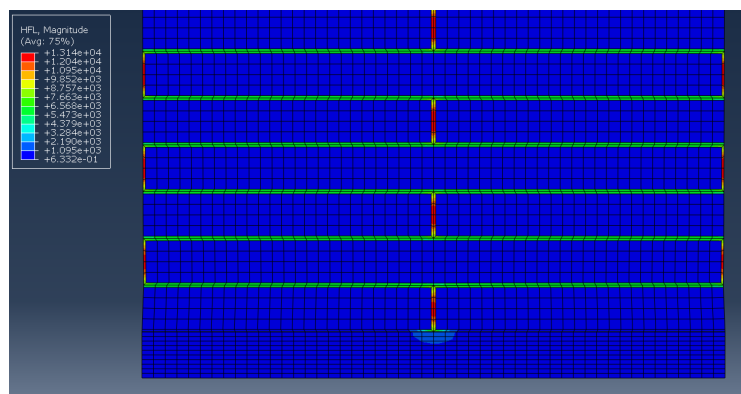
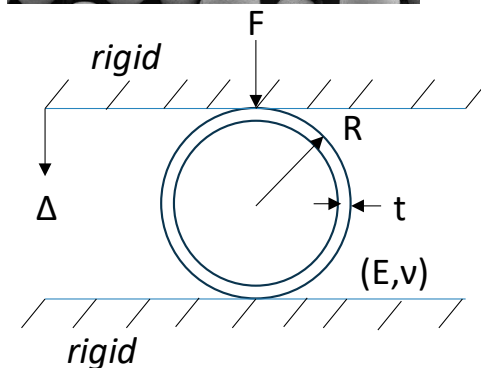
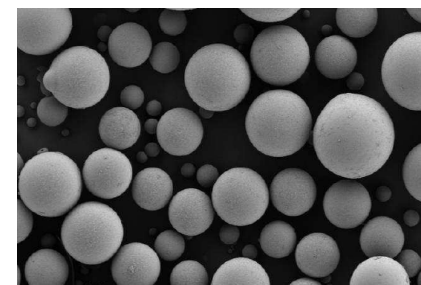
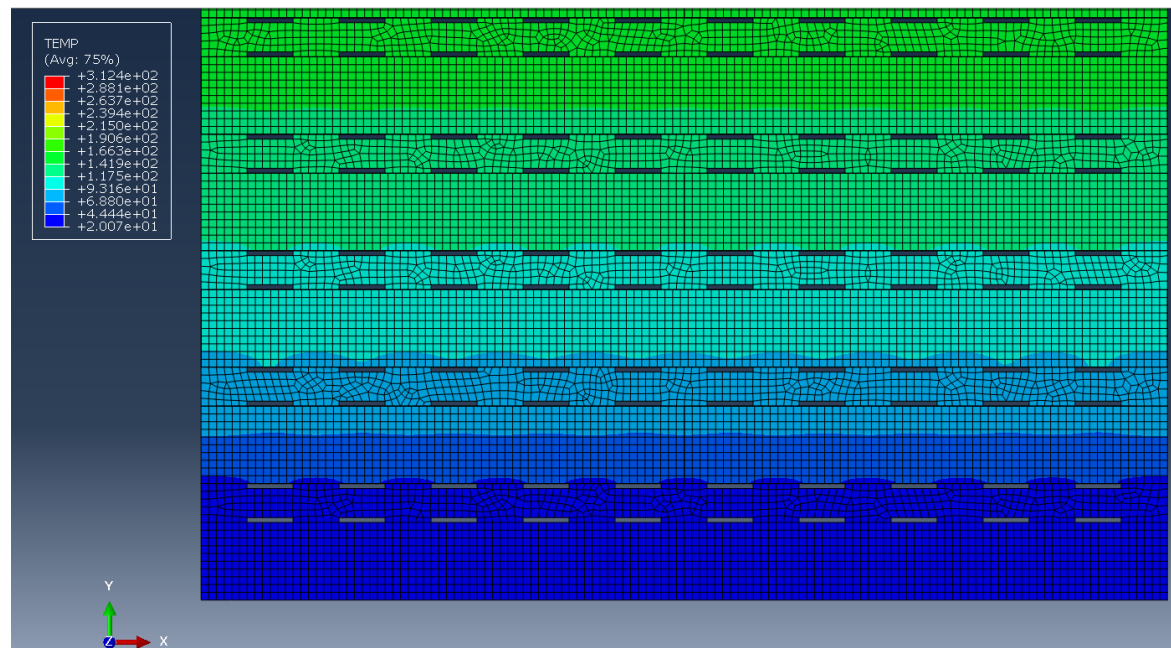
SHAPE: Cylindrical vertical axis

SIZE: 200'000 m³ (D=75m, H=60m)

INSULATION SYSTEM: stackered VIPs

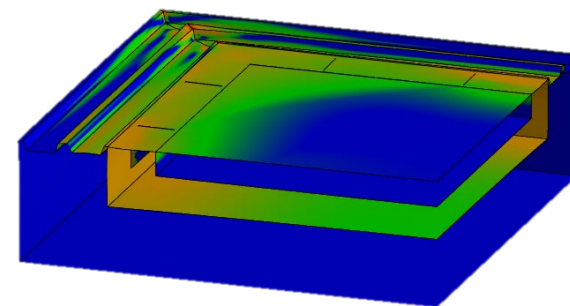
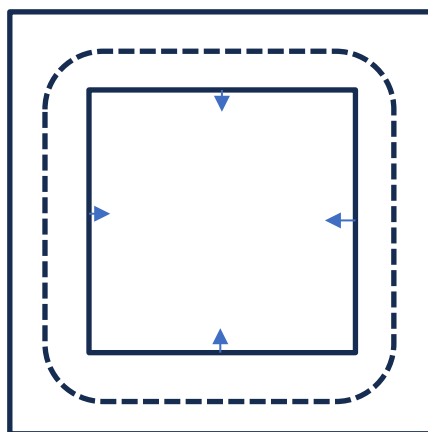
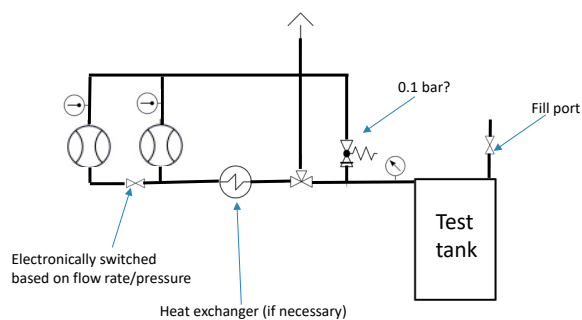
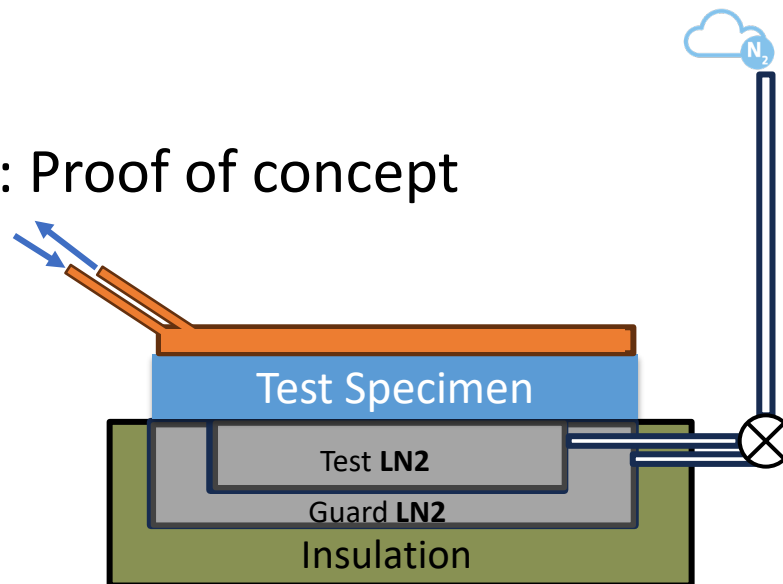
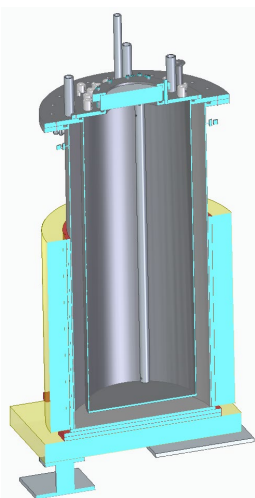


Thermal and Mechanical Modeling



Experimental tests

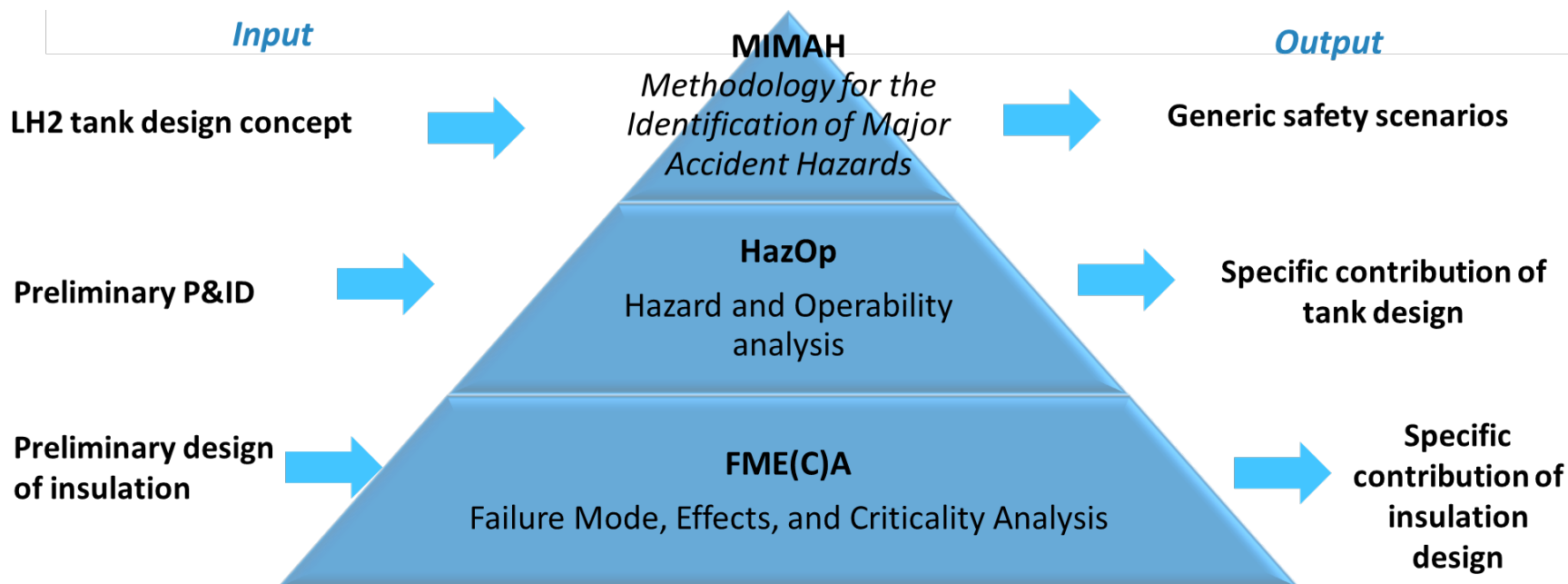
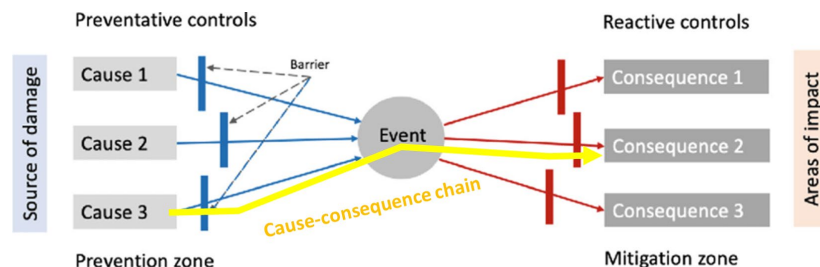
System level: Proof of concept



Risk analysis

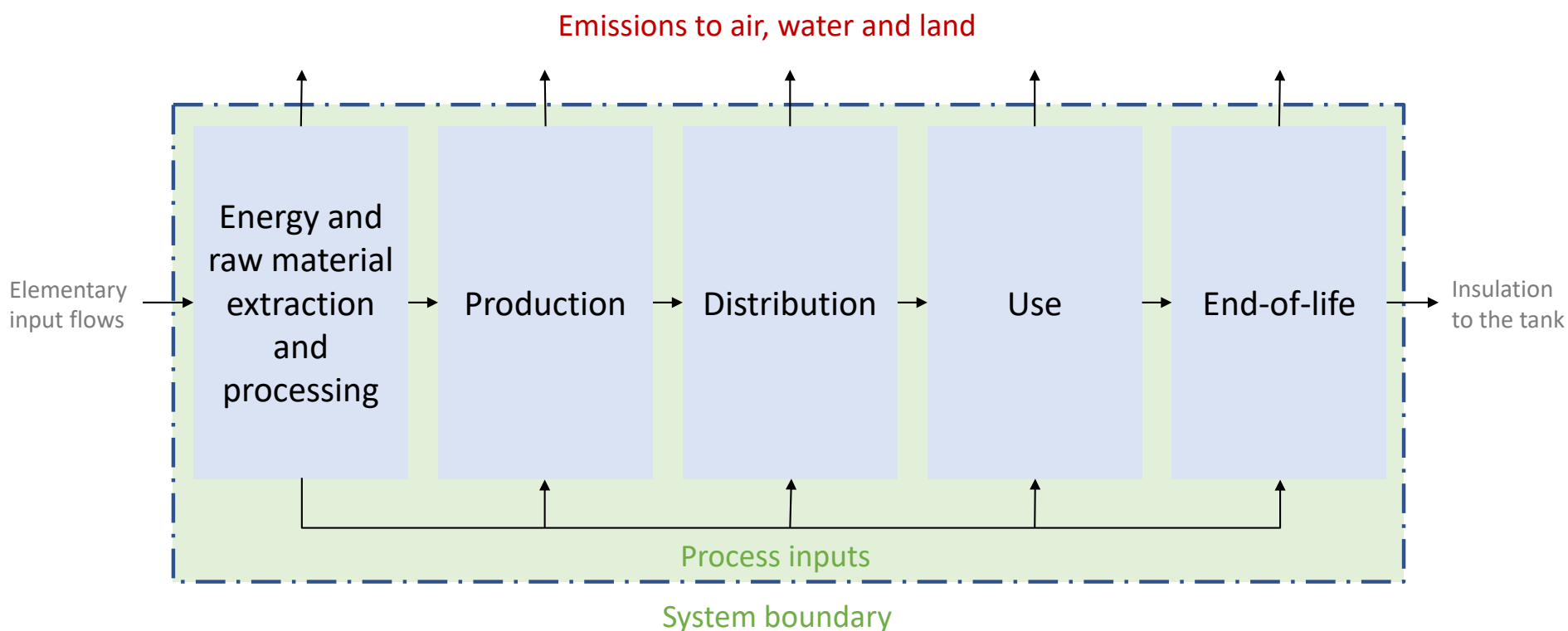
Identification of reference hazardous scenarios

Approach followed for preliminary hazard identification (bow-tie generation)



Life Cycle Assessment

Scope: Cradle-to-cradle LCA, assessing the potential environmental impacts associated with the use of VIPs for liquid hydrogen tank insulation over the full life cycle.





ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Bologna: un hub di ricerca per lo sviluppo dell'idrogeno - 9 ottobre 2024

Credits:

Alessandro Tugnoli

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Chimica, Ambientale e dei Materiali (DICAM)

a.tugnoli@unibo.it

BolognaFiere 9-11 ottobre

www.unibo.it