

Creating a world
fit for the future

The background image shows a vast solar farm in the foreground with rows of dark blue photovoltaic panels stretching towards the horizon. In the middle ground, two white wind turbines stand on a grassy hill overlooking a blue sea under a clear sky.

New opportunities in electrofuels for shipping

Environmental Defense Fund workshop
“Navigating towards zero-carbon future”

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8 November 2019

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Ricardo Energy & Environment's Vision:



We want to create a world where everyone can live sustainably



Breathe Clean Air



Access Clean Water



Use Clean Energy



Travel
Sustainably



Conserve
Resources

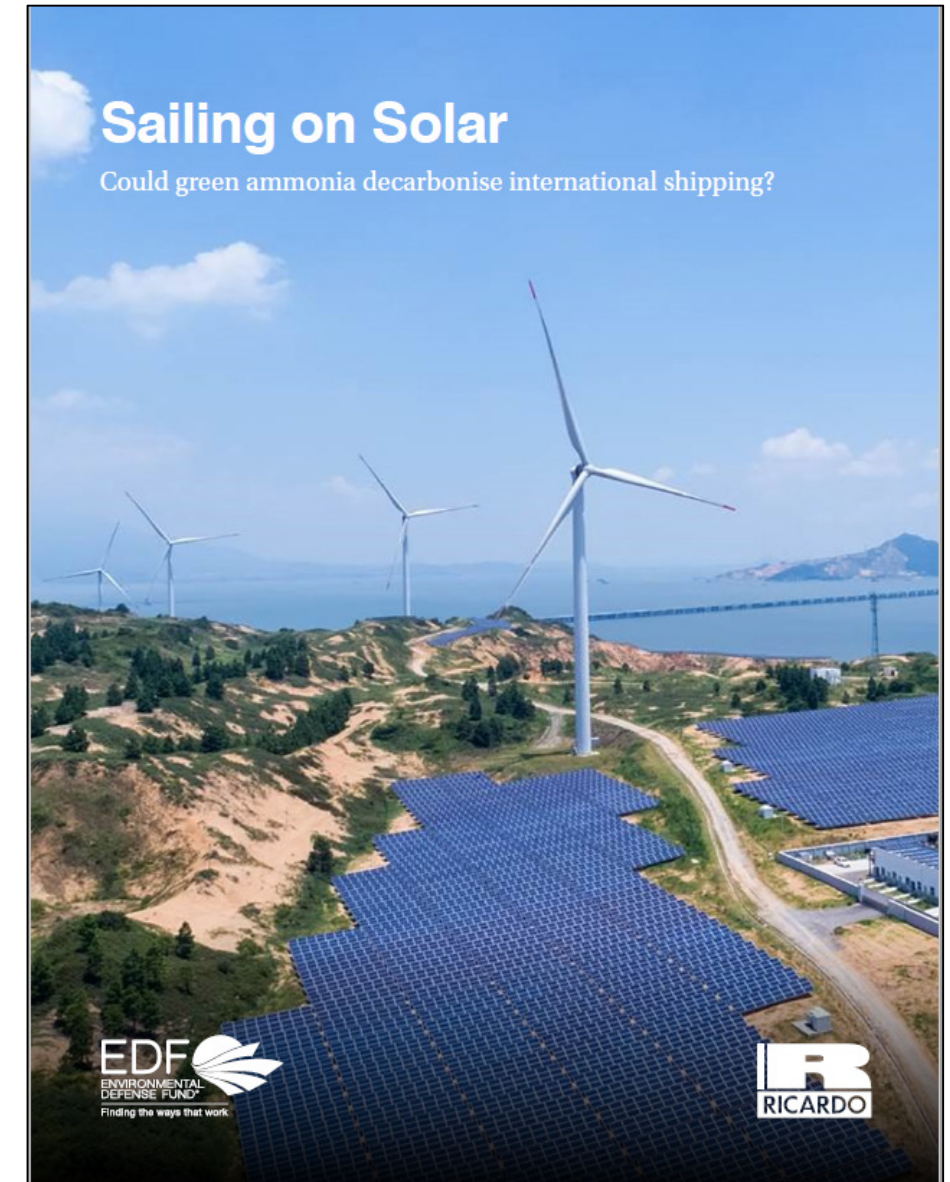
Our Mission:

Solving the world's most pressing energy and environmental challenges

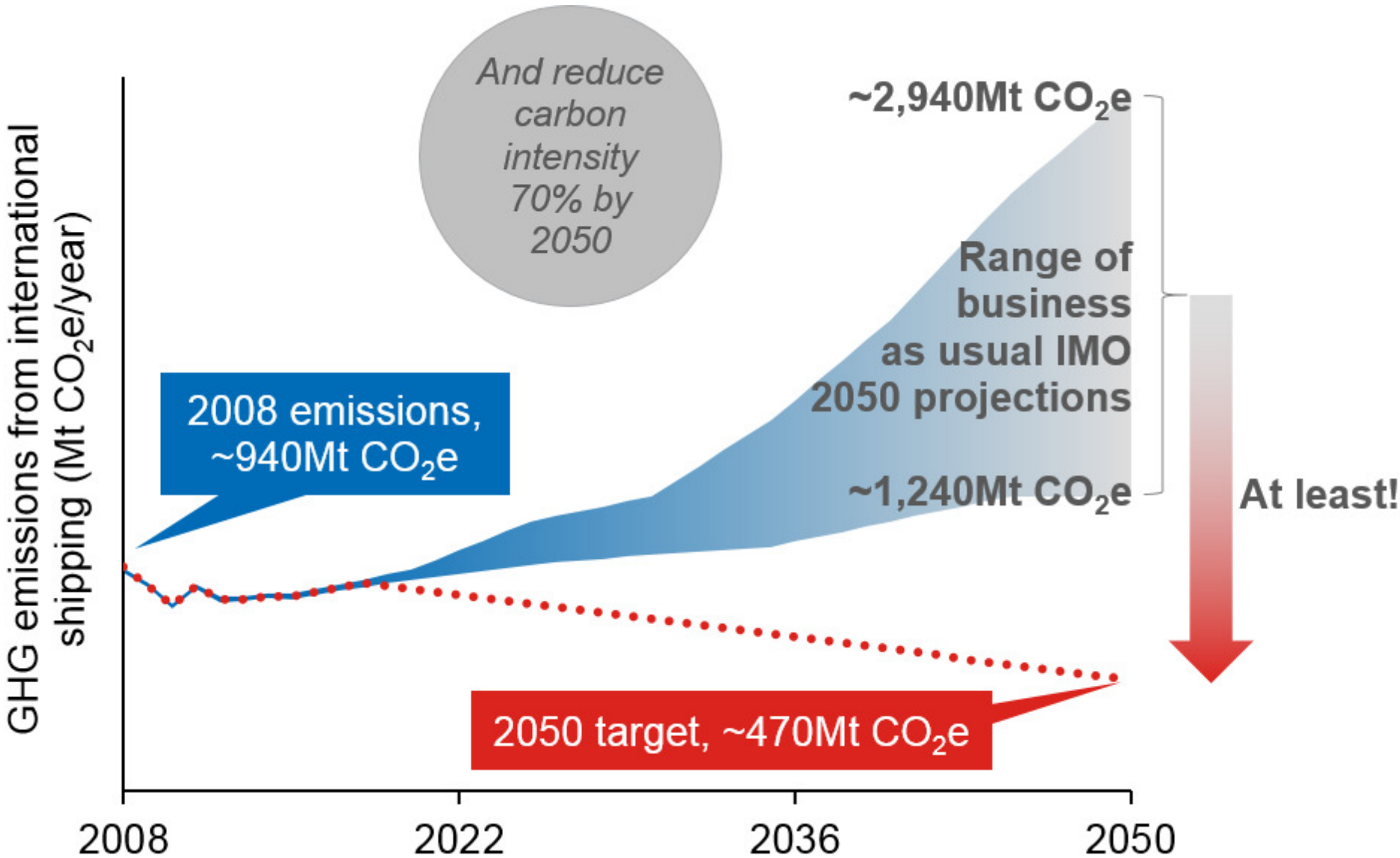
This presentation draws on a Ricardo report “Sailing on Solar” for Environmental Defense Fund Europe



- Ash, N. and Scarbrough, T., ‘Sailing on solar: Could green ammonia decarbonise international shipping?’, Environmental Defense Fund, London, 2019.
 - images reproduced in this presentation © EDF, used with permission
- Available for download:
<https://europe.edf.org/news/2019/02/05/shipping-can-reduce-climate-pollution-and-draw-investment-developing-countries>
- A follow-up report on green electrofuels (hydrogen, ammonia and methanol) will be published soon



Efficiency gains will be insufficient. Zero carbon fuels are required to meet and exceed the 2050 decarbonisation target



“a 50% total cut by 2050 can realistically only be achieved with the development and widespread use, by a large proportion of the fleet, of zero CO₂ fuels”
– International Chamber of Shipping, 2018

What are “green” electrofuels?

“Electrofuels” (or e-fuels) are a type of synthetic fuel that rely on electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen. Other molecules can be added to the hydrogen to create different fuels.

The prefix “green” indicates that they are produced using renewable energy rather than derived from fossil fuels.

A focus on 3 electrofuels for long distance shipping



Biogas /
Flue gas /
Seawater /
Air



CO₂

Green methanol
(CH₃OH)

Water



H₂

Green hydrogen
(H₂)

Green ammonia
(NH₃)

Air



N₂

Renewable electricity is required for these fuels to be “green”



Solar PV

Nitrogen production (air separation unit)

Desalination

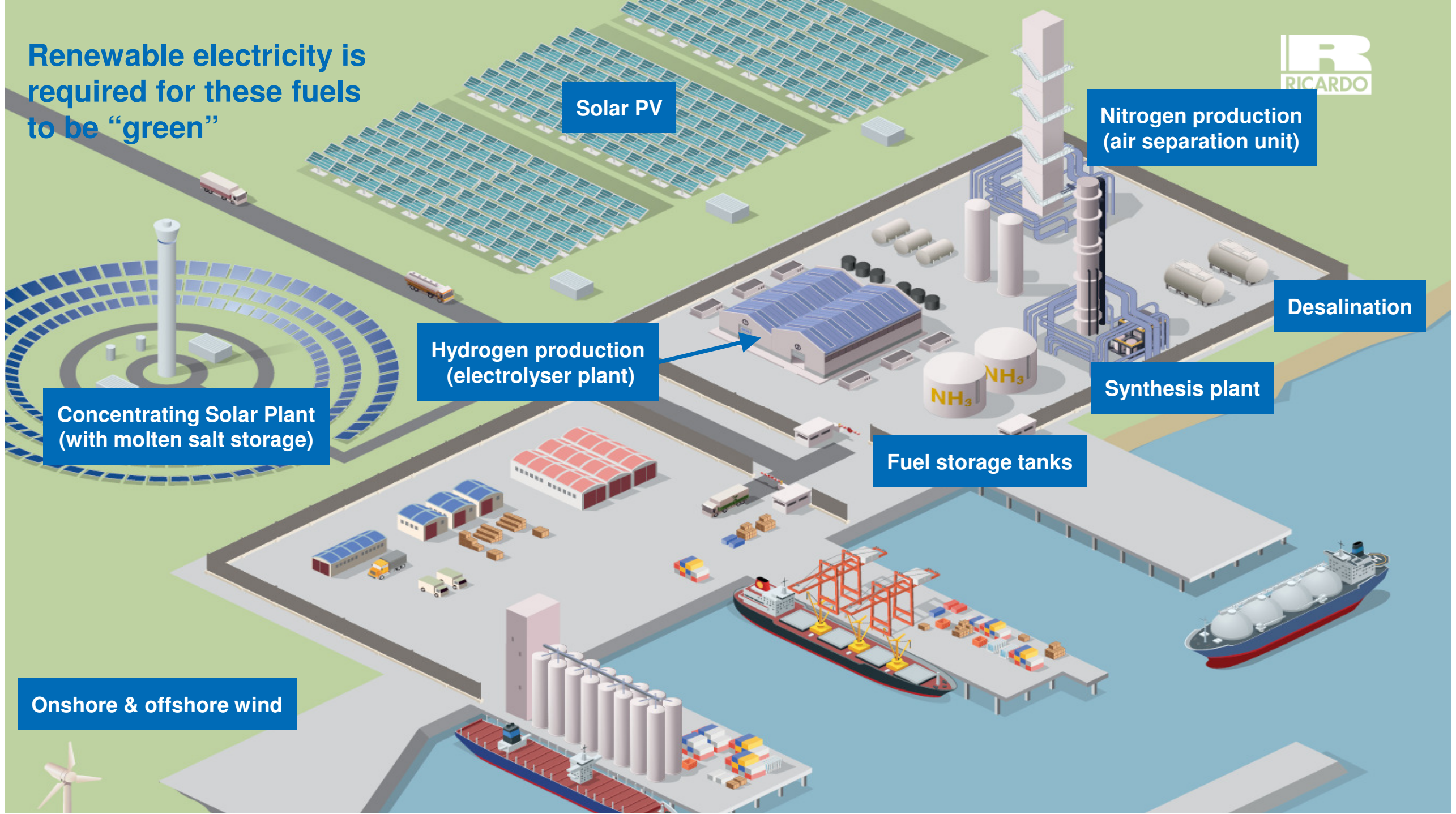
Hydrogen production (electrolyser plant)

Synthesis plant

Concentrating Solar Plant (with molten salt storage)

Fuel storage tanks

Onshore & offshore wind



Each of the electrofuels has its pros and cons



	Green Hydrogen	Green Ammonia	Green Methanol
Carbon-emitting	No	No	Yes
Temperature for liquid storage	- 253 °C	- 33 °C (or 10 bar)	Ambient
Compatibility with existing bunkering infrastructure	Low (requires refrigerated tanks)	Low (requires refrigerated tanks)	Minor modifications required
Electricity required to produce enough fuel for one day's sailing of a Panamax container vessel*	1.3 GWh	1.4 GWh	1.6 GWh (biogas source)
			1.7 GWh (flue gas source)
			1.8 GWh (seawater source)
			2.0 GWh (air source)

■ Best performing
 ■ Acceptable
 ■ Problematic

* Electricity consumption based on Ricardo calculations with CO₂ capture consumptions from Van-dal & Bouallo (2013)

Each of the electrofuels has its pros and cons (cont.)

	Green Hydrogen	Green Ammonia	Green Methanol
Storage volume compared to marine gas oil for a fixed energy content*	x7.6	x4.1	x2.3
Requires co-firing with liquid fuel in compression ignition engines	Yes	Yes	Yes
Requires co-firing with another fuel in spark ignition engines	No	Yes – hydrogen or liquid fuel	No

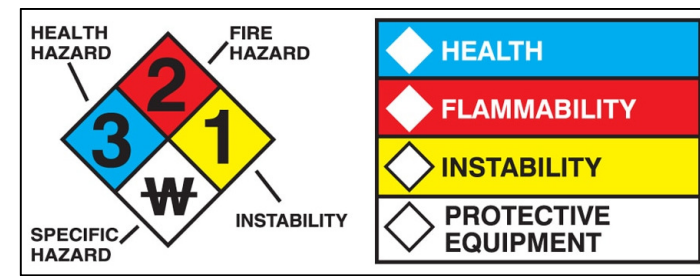
■ Best performing
 ■ Acceptable
 ■ Problematic

***Tank volumes for ammonia, hydrogen account for insulation (“system-level” densities).**

Ammonia: Ricardo calculations based on expected design of ammonia storage tanks (inner tank, insulation, outer)

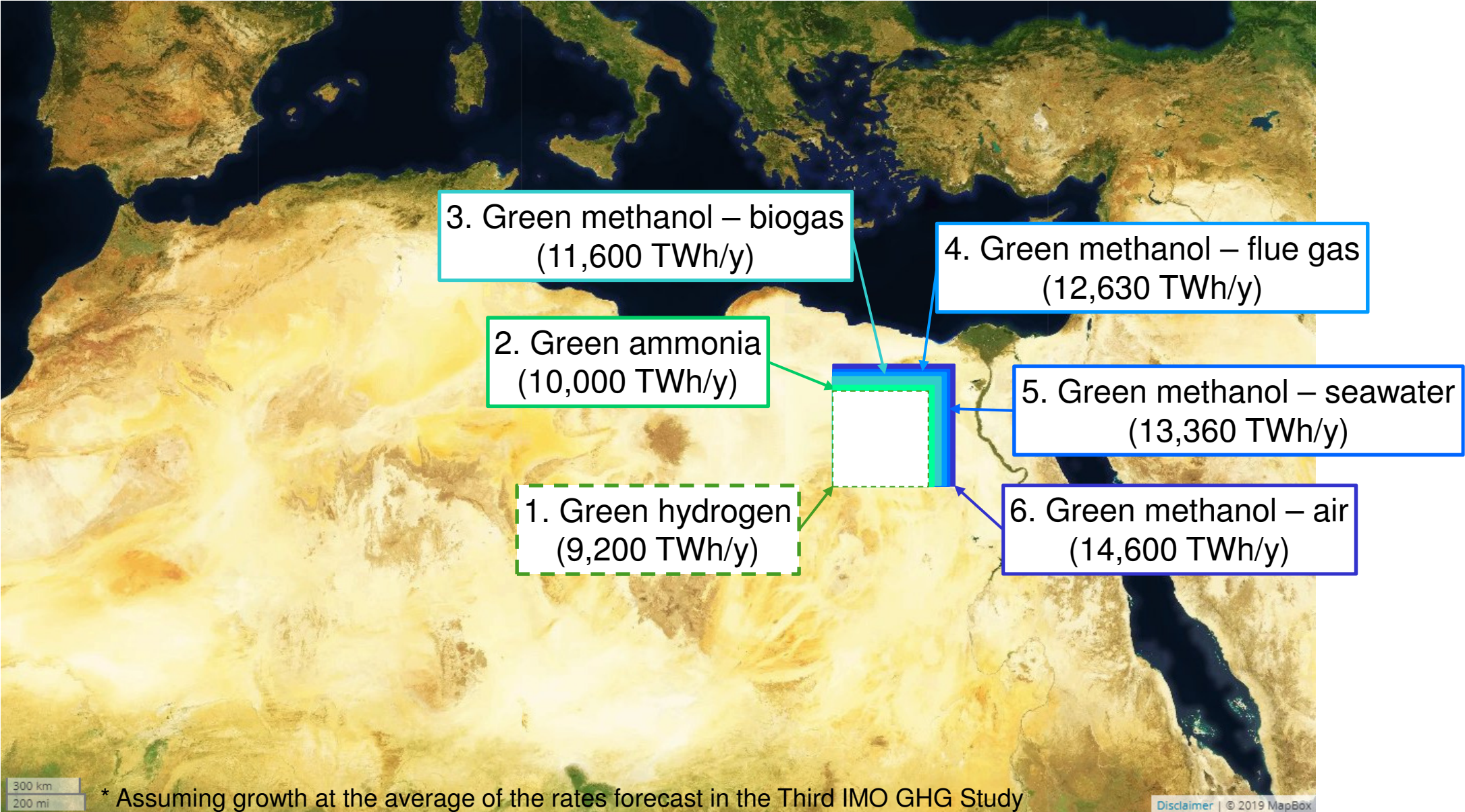
Hydrogen: Minnehan and Pratt (2017), Comer (2019)

All fuels are hazardous, but the types of hazard vary



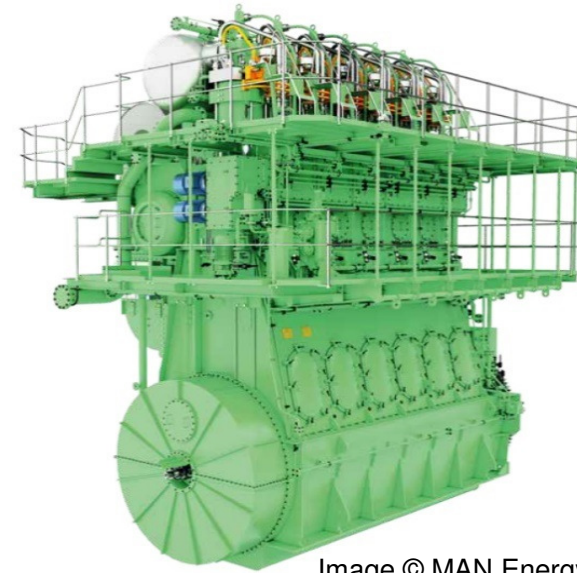
	MGO	LNG	Green Methanol	Green Ammonia (liq.)	Green Hydrogen (liq.)
Physical hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flammable (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flammable (4) Gas under pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flammable (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flammable (1) Gas under pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flammable (4) Gas under pressure
Health hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute toxicity Aspiration hazard Skin corrosion Carcinogenic Organ toxicity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute toxicity Specific target organ toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute toxicity Skin corrosion 	
Env. hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxic to aquatic life 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxic to aquatic life 	
Summary US NFPA704					

The land area required for solar electricity to produce green electrofuels for the international shipping fleet in 2050* is not excessive



Four co-benefits of decarbonising shipping with green electrofuels

1. Electrofuels could drive investment in renewables



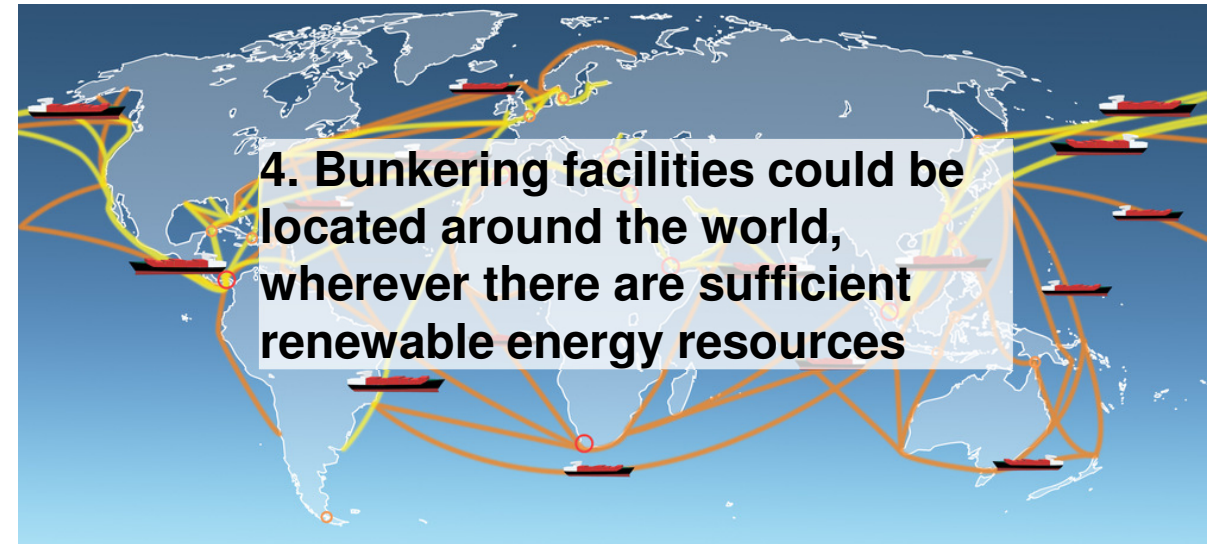
2. The deployment pathway can begin using existing and familiar technologies (i.e. internal combustion engines)

Image © MAN Energy Systems. Used with permission.

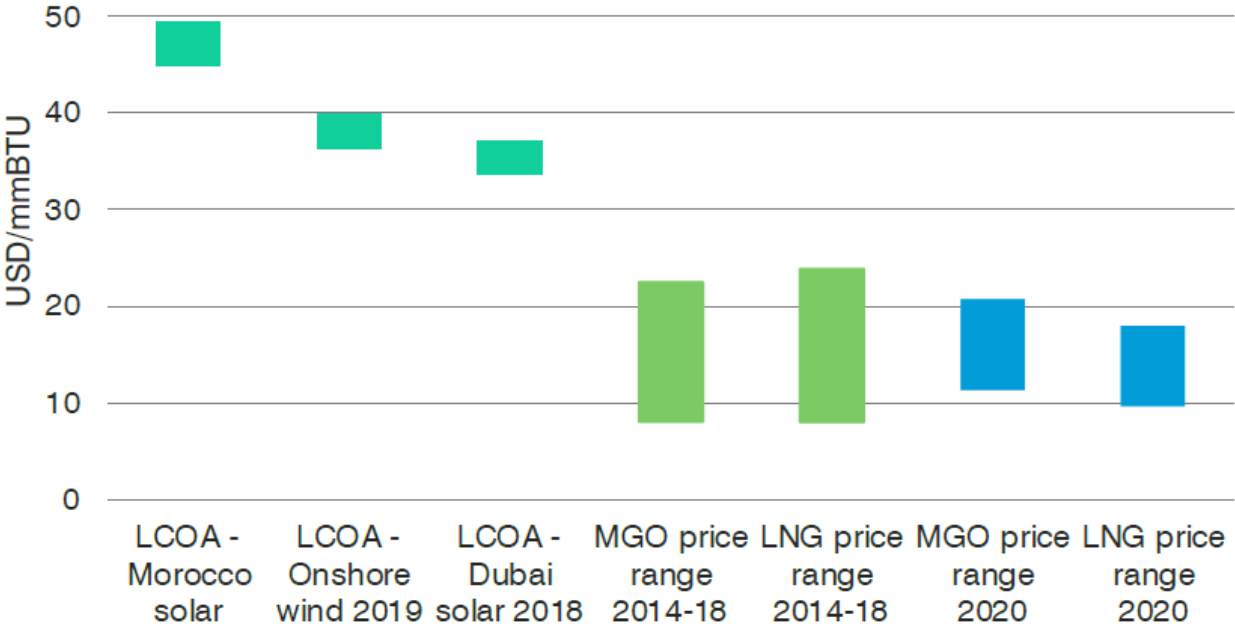
3. There are established safety protocols for storing and transporting the fuels



4. Bunkering facilities could be located around the world, wherever there are sufficient renewable energy resources



Topics for further discussion



Electrofuels are not currently cost competitive with the status quo shipping fuels

Incentives, taxes, levies to achieve price parity with fossil fuels

Encouraging research and development

Certification of *green* electrofuels to differentiate from fossil-derived synthetic fuels

Chicken/egg – Sufficiently distributed infrastructure

Retrofit options – Including where to put the fuel tanks

Pathway to regulatory approval and ship certification

Thank you



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