



Transition from natural gas to hydrogen in the fired clay brick industry

Dr. Dobó Zsolt

Research Professor

University of Miskolc

Faculty of Materials and Chemical Engineering

Institute of Energy, Ceramics and Polymer Technology



MISKOLCI
EGYETEM
UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC

September 8, 2026.



Industrial environment



Reducing CO₂ emissions in brick industry

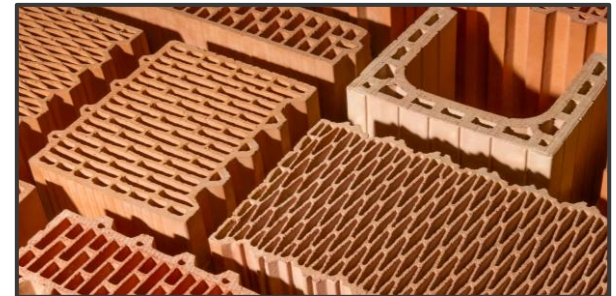
by introducing hydrogen-based technologies

Installed power: ≈ 10 MW

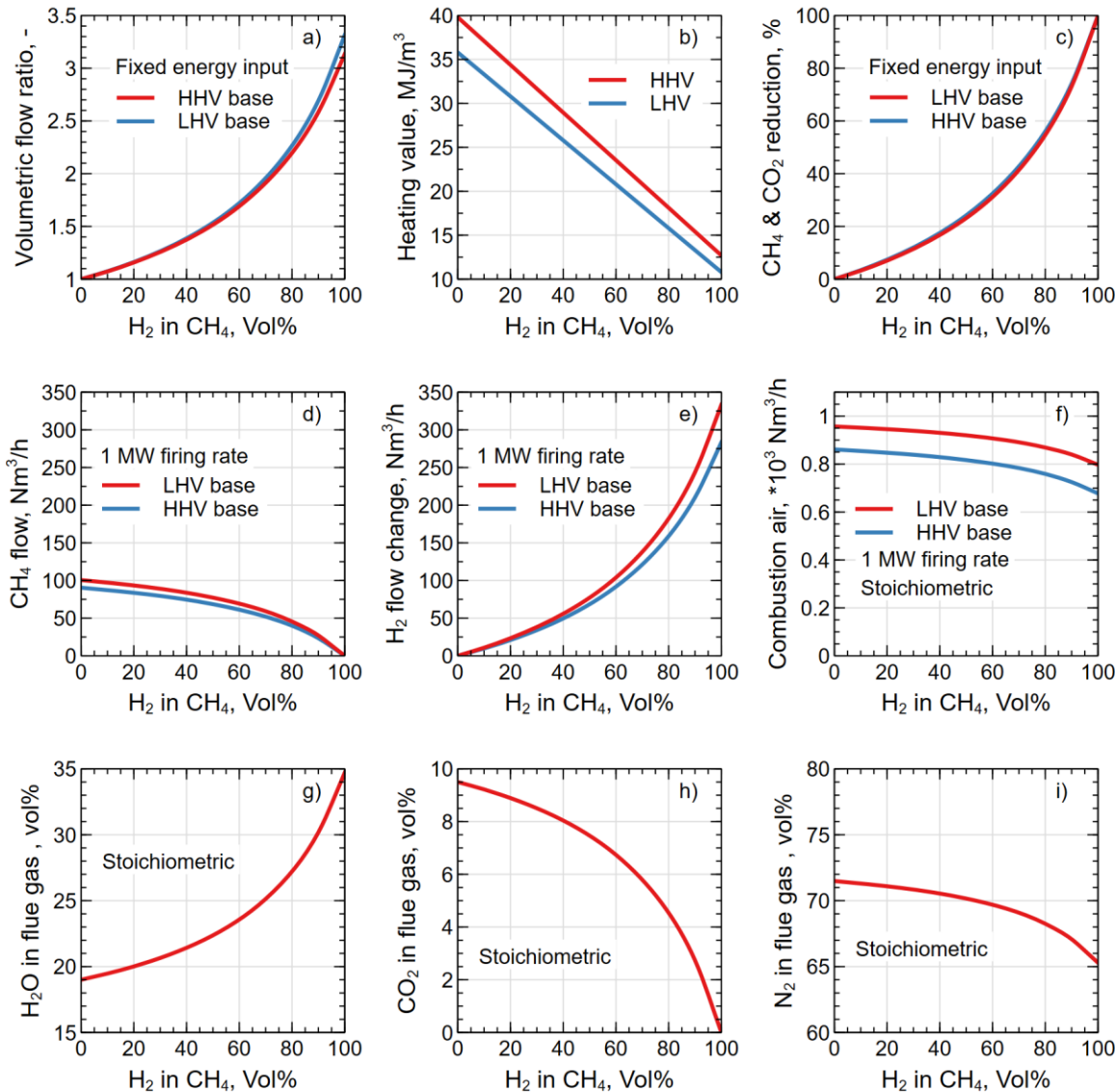
CO₂ emission: ≈ 8 kt/yr

Main fuel: natural gas

Goal: transition to 100% hydrogen
combustion maintaining recent productivity



Calculations



How do various parameters behave due to hydrogen addition?

What should we expect?
What models can we create?

How to control the combustion?

What are the different approaches to adding hydrogen to existing infrastructure?

Risks? Pros and cons?

Pilot for hydrogen combustion



- Pilot-scale combustion experiments to support upscaling
- Test different hydrogen blending approaches
- Experience, behavior, impact, borders
- Robust equipment capabilities (gas analyzers, MFCs, thermal camera, spectrophotometer, heat transfer, safety, etc.)
- Testing various burner types, burner prototypes



Methane hydrogen flames

5 kW, $n = 1.15 - 1.50$, $H_2 = 0 - 100$ vol%



0

25

50

75

100

1.15



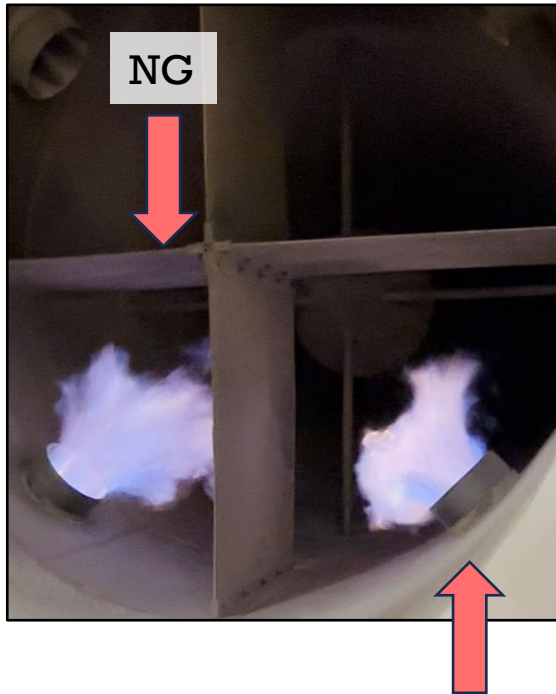
1.50



Industrial implementation – mixing platform

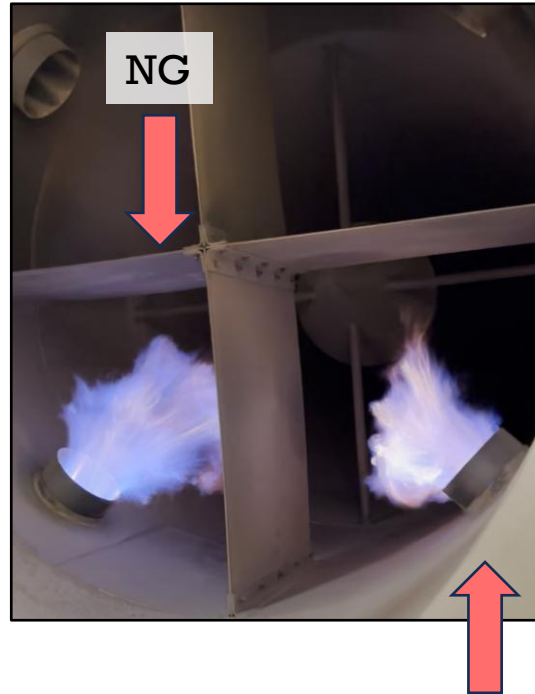


Hydrogen injection - Tiszavasvári



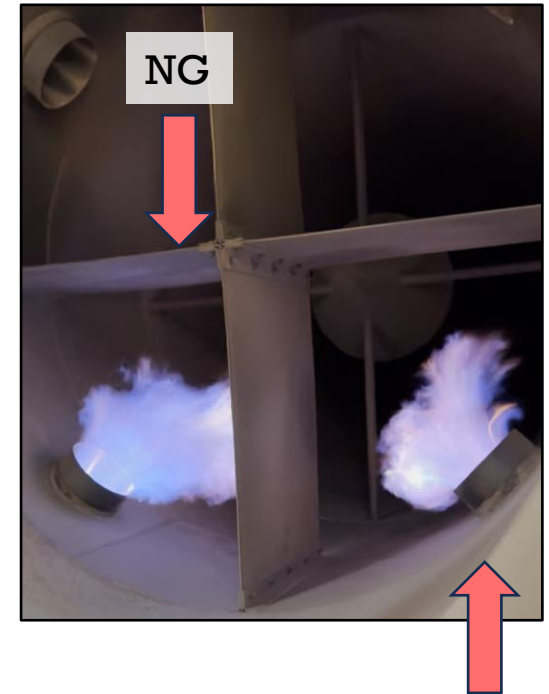
Hydrogen: 2 Nm³/h
Natural gas: 76.5 Nm³/h
Calc. conc: 2.6 Vol% H₂
GC: **2.9** Vol% H₂
P_{fuel}: 120 mbar

78.5 Nm³/h



Hydrogen: 10 Nm³/h
Natural gas: 72.0 Nm³/h
Calc. conc: 12.2 Vol% H₂
GC: **12.9** Vol% H₂
P_{fuel}: 120 mbar

82.0 Nm³/h



Hydrogen: 22 Nm³/h
Natural gas: 66.1 Nm³/h
Calc. conc: 25.0 Vol% H₂
GC: **25.4** Vol% H₂
P_{fuel}: 120 mbar

88.1 Nm³/h

100% H₂ - dryer

22 h

Total hydrogen
combustion time

Properties:

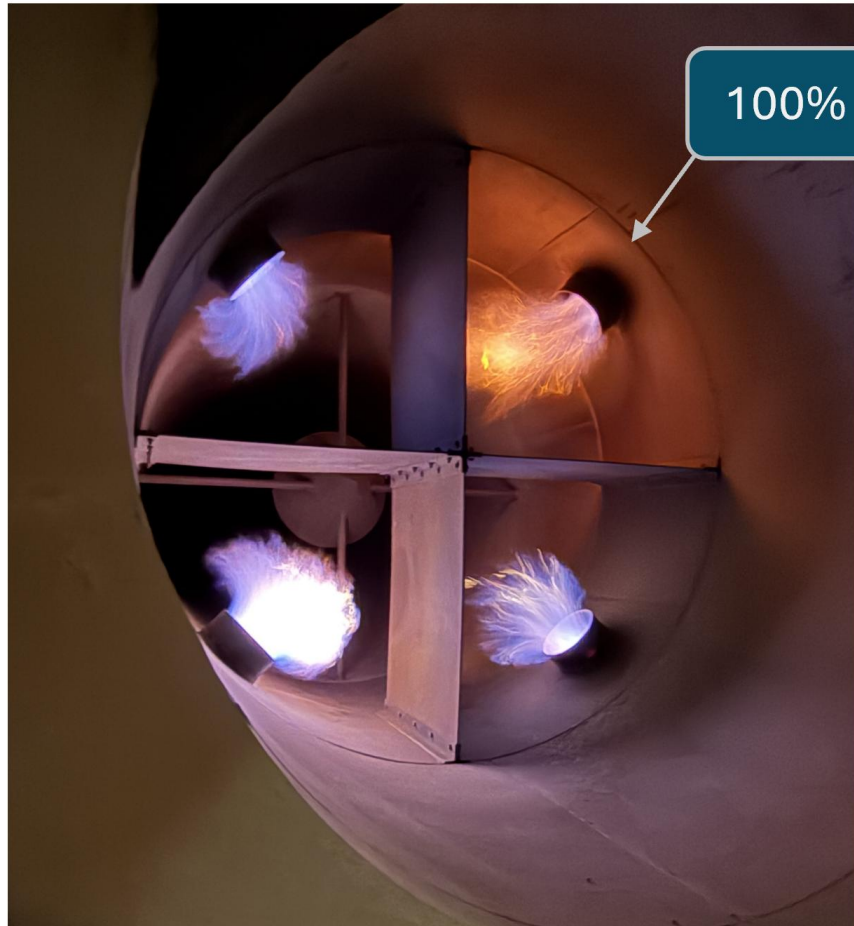
- One of four hydrogen burners running at 100% H₂
- Automatic power control of NG burners according to the drying process requirements
- Hydrogen supply from a truck
- Multistage pressure reduction – 200 bar → 100 mbar

Main conclusions:

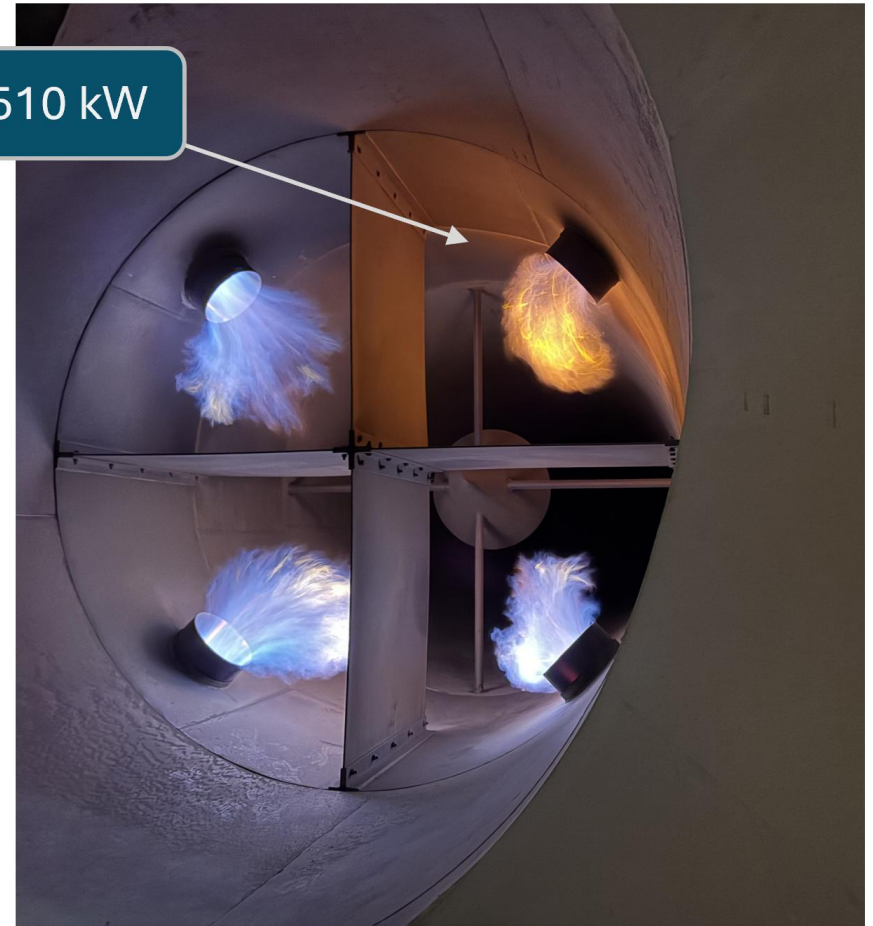
- Successful demonstration of H₂ utilization during clay brick drying
- No detrimental effects of H₂ on final brick properties were observed
- Long-term influences on infrastructure still need to be analyzed



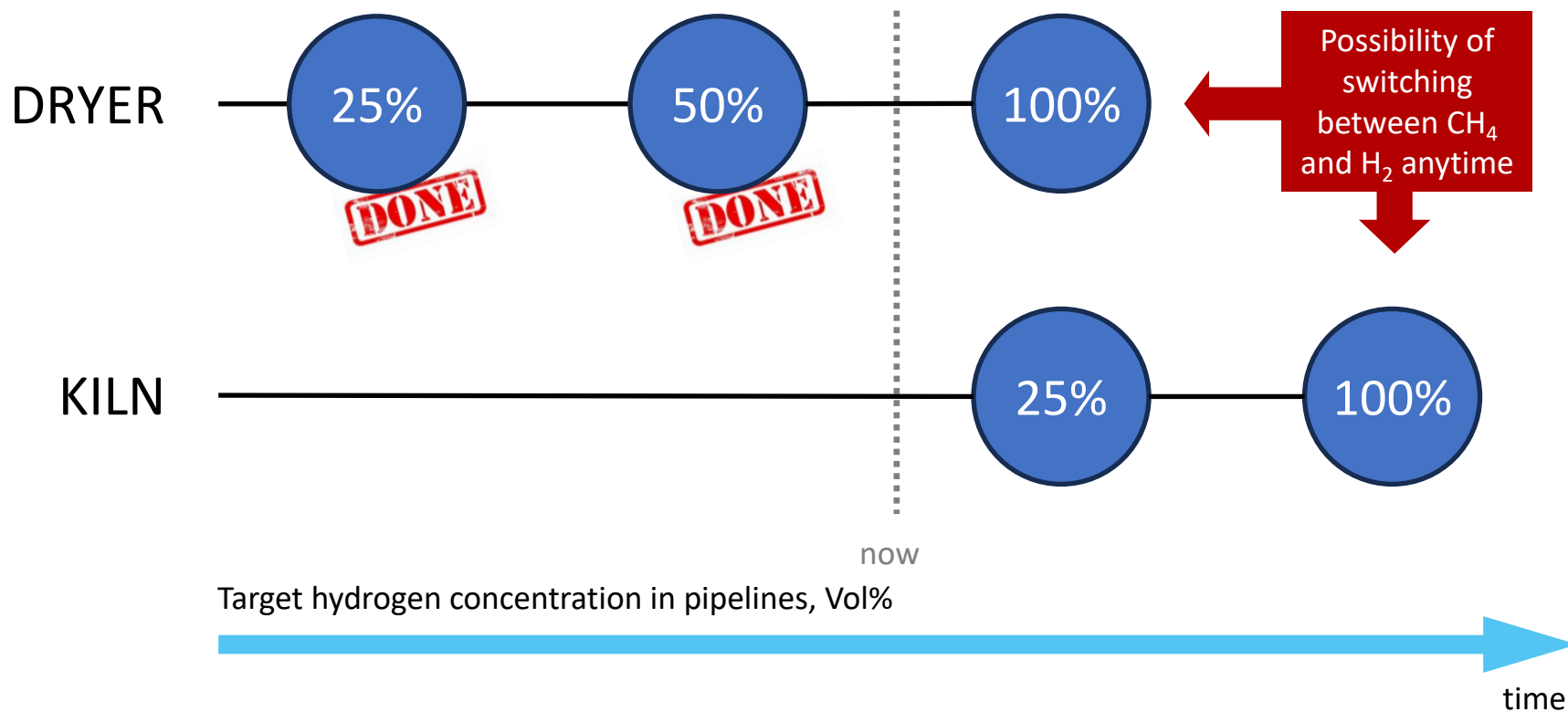
Flame - dryer



100% H₂, 510 kW



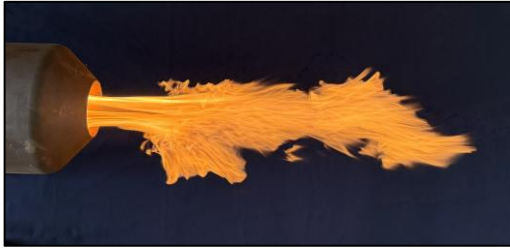
Where are we now?



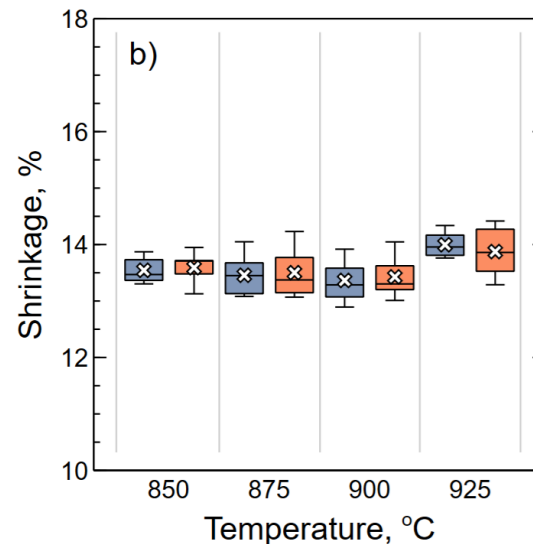
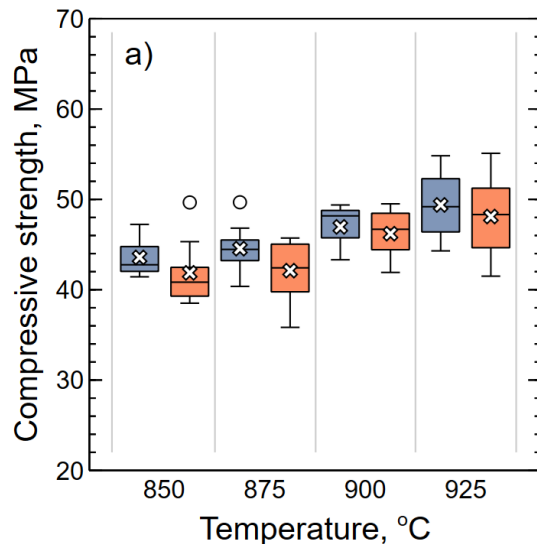
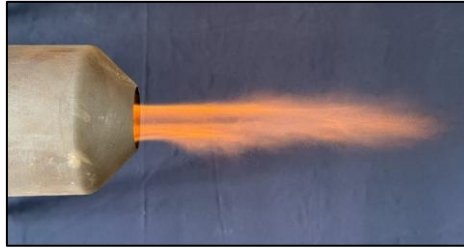
Pilot demonstrations

- Focus on kiln operation, investigation up to 925 °C
- No detrimental influence of atmosphere change on brick properties
- Compressive strengt -> slight increase with H₂, needs validation

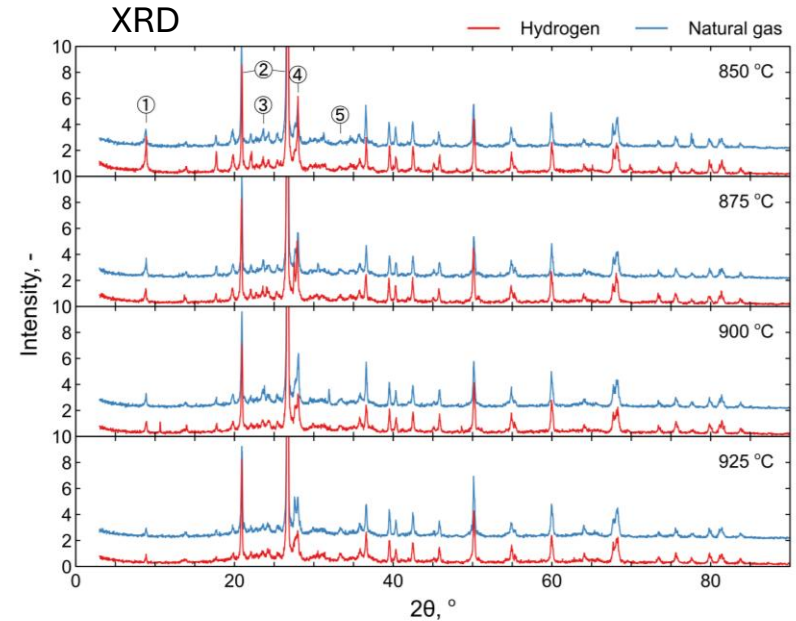
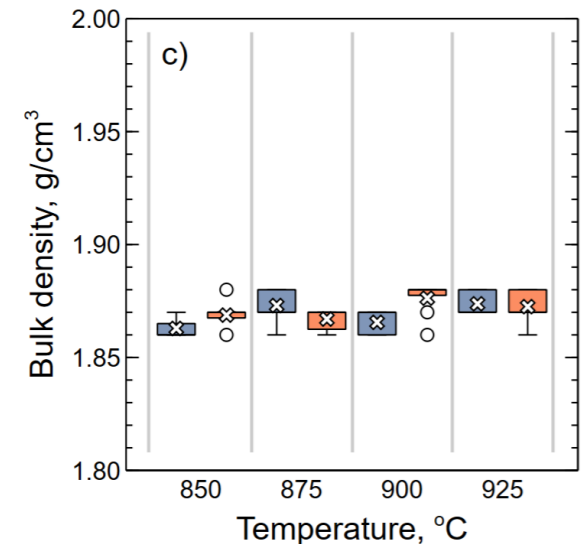
Natural gas



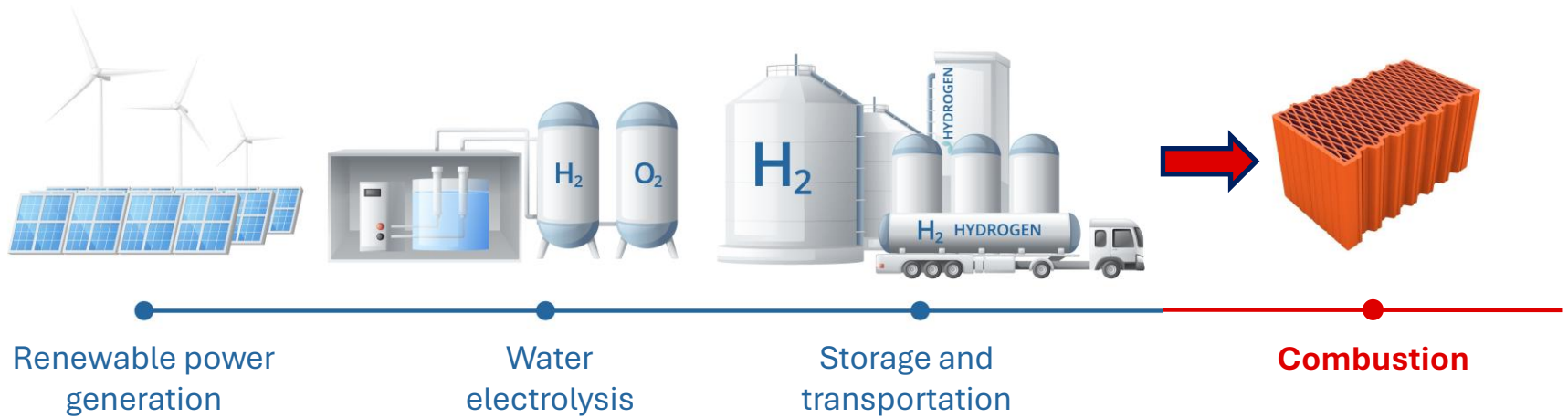
Hydrogen



Hydrogen Natural gas



Source of hydrogen?



A large wind turbine stands prominently in the foreground on the left, its three blades reaching towards a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The turbine is white with orange and yellow safety stripes on the blades. In the background, a vast green field stretches to the horizon, dotted with several other wind turbines and a few scattered trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

Thank you for your attention!



MISKOLCI
EGYETEM
UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC