

Emerging trade corridors for hydrogen and its derivatives

Hydrogen Council - International Hydrogen Trade Forum joint initiative

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Key takeaways (1/2)

Hydrogen and its derivatives are a critical enabler of the energy transition. Hydrogen can make a key contribution to global decarbonization targets, with 180 Mtpa total H₂e required by 2035 to stay on track to net zero. There is a continued momentum in the hydrogen industry with maturing projects that could make a significant contribution to decarbonization. However, final investment decisions are facing delays due to macroeconomic headwinds, including inflation and rising interest rates, as well as lack of certainty around the demand-side incentives and the enabling frameworks for hydrogen and its derivatives.

Cross-border trade of hydrogen and its derivatives could save USD 3.7 trillion in investment costs by 2050. Global trade routes could lower energy system costs by connecting high-demand areas with regions that can supply low-cost clean hydrogen and its derivatives. This would cut total system costs by 30%, or USD 3.7 tn compared to a scenario where all hydrogen is produced and consumed locally. Global trade can also increase the speed at which value chains grow by tapping into production areas that have limited scaling constraints and abundant access to clean energy and other input factors (e.g., iron ore, biogenic CO₂). Overall, USD 25 can be saved for every dollar invested in trade infrastructure.

Hydrogen trade flows could boost energy security, diversify supply, and enable an inclusive transition. The future hydrogen trade flows could connect all regions of the world with >30 active corridors required by 2035. The global hydrogen economy has the potential to create 20-25 mn jobs by 2050 in hydrogen production and transportation, of which 50% are expected to be created in the emerging markets and developing economies.

>180 Mtpa

total H₂e supply required by 2035 to stay on track with climate targets¹

USD 25 saved

for every 1 USD invested in trade infrastructure

40 Mtpa

clean hydrogen transported over long distances by 2035, subject to demand drivers and infra readiness

20-25 mn

Jobs created globally in hydrogen production & transportation by 2050

Key takeaways (2/2)

Mind the gap: Government measures to incentivize and mandate hydrogen demand formation could fall short of their announced 2030 ambition. While key importing countries have put forward aspirational targets of ~25 Mtpa in hydrogen and derivative demand, only 3-7 Mtpa is supported by government demand-side mandates and support schemes. On the production side, there is a total 50 Mtpa announced reflecting up to 600 USD bn in required investments, of which 10 Mtpa are in FEED or beyond.

Clean hydrogen products are 2-4 times more expensive than their fossil fuel alternatives¹. These high prices make it difficult for industrial consumers to commit to using hydrogen, as they risk losing their competitive edge in downstream markets. Mechanisms to support the cost-competitiveness of clean products (e.g., CfDs, tax credits, carbon penalties) coupled with safeguards against carbon leakage would help enable the large investments required in hydrogen technologies, underpinned by offtake commitments.

To kick-start the scaling of a global hydrogen ecosystem, this report identifies three key unlocks:

- 1. Ensure more clarity, certainty, and support for demand drivers, with focus on accelerating the implementation of the announced demand-pull measures key to kick-start the market and secure the first 3-7 Mtpa of mandated demand volumes by 2030.
- 2. Retrofit, repurpose, and build infrastructure to enable interregional corridors and allow technologies to compete without 'picking winners' ensuring the most cost-effective and sustainable solutions thrive.
- 3. Establish aligned and consistent global market rules, industry standards and mutually recognized certification schemes could support the development of an international hydrogen market.

600 USD bn

required to deploy clean hydrogen project pipeline announced to date

2-4x

more costly¹ to produce clean hydrogen vs. fossil alternatives

20 mtpa gap

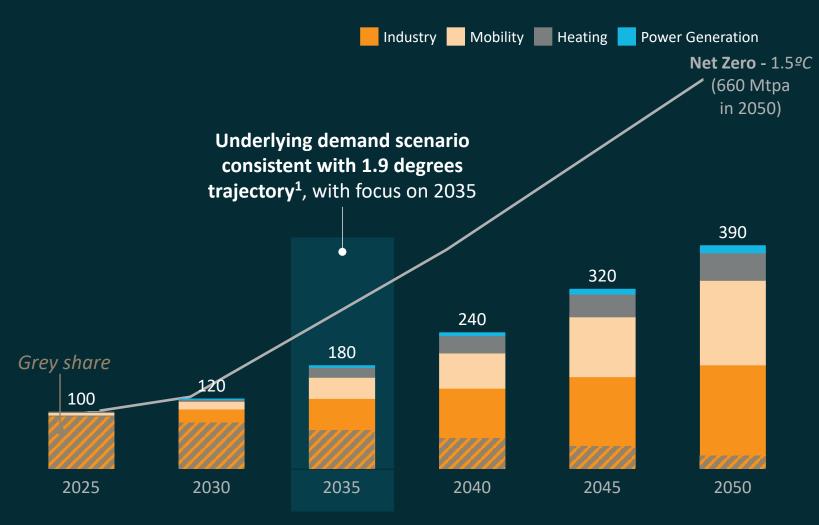
between aspirational demand targets and announced incentives in 2030 (or 1,000 TWh)

3-7 Mtpa

of demand could be unlocked by announced incentives by 2030 subject to their implementation

>180 Mtpa hydrogen required by 2035 for the energy transition to stay on course

Required global demand for H₂ and derivatives, Mtpa grey and clean H₂ equivalent



1. The demand scenario predicts momentum towards further decarbonization across countries and sectors, driven by country-specific commitments to reach net-zero targets, but with significant hurdles to overcome (McKinsey Global Energy Perspective "Further Acceleration" scenario, 1.6 - 2.4 degrees)

180 Mtpa

of global demand for H₂ and derivatives required by 2035 to achieve longer term decarbonization ambitions in line with 1.9 degrees trajectory (focus of this report)

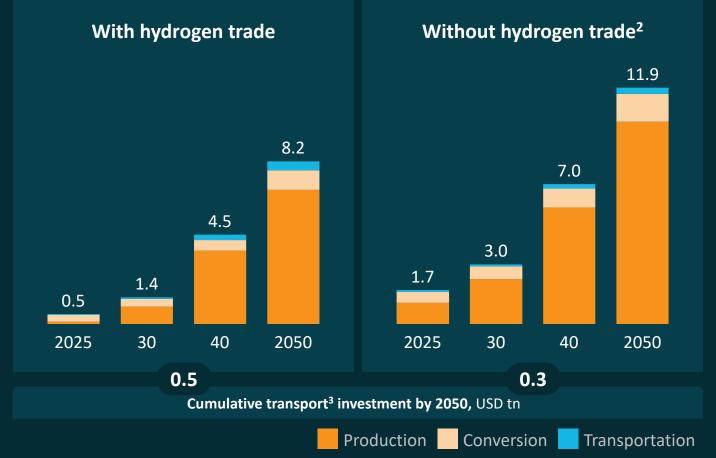
70%

of H₂ demand required by industries which have no or limited alternative decarbonization options

Source: McKinsey Global Energy Perspective (2023)

USD 3.7 tn could be saved globally by 2050 through linking demand centers to regions with advantageous access to renewable and low-carbon energy resources

Cumulative capex investments¹ in H₂ and derivatives, USD tn



1. Capex incl. upstream renewables, low carbon plants, CCUS, electrolyser. Savings driven by exporters' lower cost renewables and low carbon endowment 2. Scenario where international trade is prohibited. Any region that would not be able to meet their demand due to production constraints have been given the option to build extra offshore wind at a cost equivalent to that of South Korea, among the higher unit costs.

3. For H₂ contains conversion, reconversion, domestic and international pipeline and shipping; for derivatives contains reconversion, domestic pipeline (i.e., H₂ to port for exports) and shipping

USD 3.7 tn

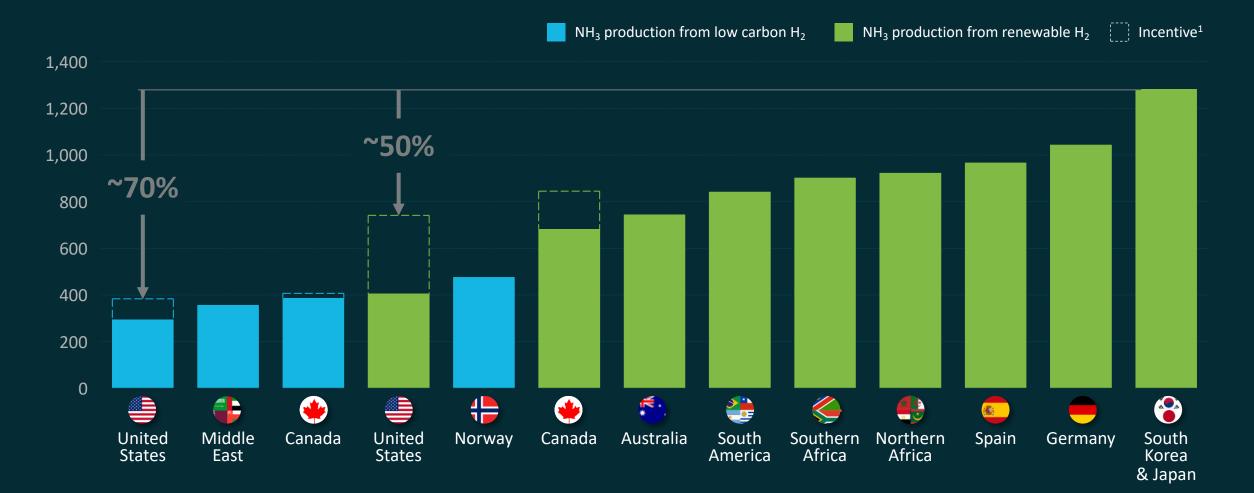
reduction in hydrogenrelated investment¹ costs by 2050

USD 25 saved

for every \$1 invested in H₂ trade infrastructure through 2050

Regions with abundant resource endowments can produce hydrogen and its derivatives at a lower cost

Global clean ammonia production cost curve – production by 2035 (2030 FID), USD/ton



1. Cost reduction due to national incentive schemes

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023)

Hydrogen trade flows can connect all regions of the world by 2050

Europe, Japan, and South Korea are the main demand centers for interregional flows of hydrogen and derivatives



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By 2035, 40 Mtpa expected to be transported by ships or pipelines over long distance

Global clean hydrogen and derivatives long-distance trade flows, 2035

Su	opliers	40 Mtpa H ₂ equivalent	Consumers
4	Middle East		
14		Shipped for end-use H ₂ (NH ₃ , LH ₂ , LOHC)	Japan & South Korea 8
	North America		
		Ammonia	Europe 17
4	Australia		Europe 17
4	South America	Synthetic kerosene	
		HBI (for steelmaking)	China 4
5	Rest of World	Methanol	North America 6
2	China	Piped H ₂	Rest of World 2
4	Europe	Tiped Tig	Rest of Asia 3

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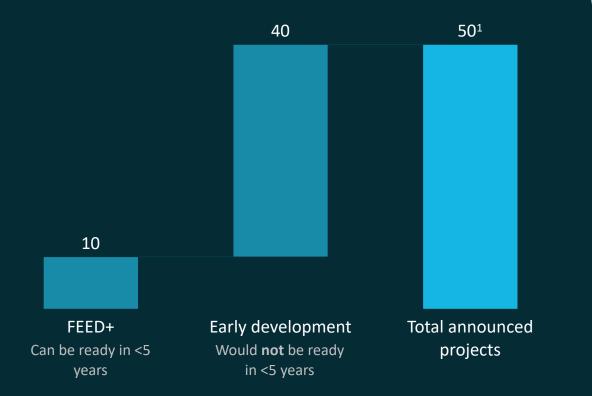
While projects on the supply side are maturing, implementation of mandated demand-side measures and incentives is critical to kick-start the market Supply-side projects in advanced stages could cover the incentivized demand of 3-7 Mtpa in Europe, Japan and South Korea by 2030

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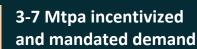
3-7

2030 global demand targets (Europe, Japan, South Korea)

Supply side: Global announced project pipeline



Demand side: Aspiration and support in core demand centers (Europe, South Korea, and Japan)



Estimates based on mandated demand in the EU³ e.g., REDIII for industry subject to implementation at Member State level, and incentives for hydrogen and derivative imports in Japan and South Korea

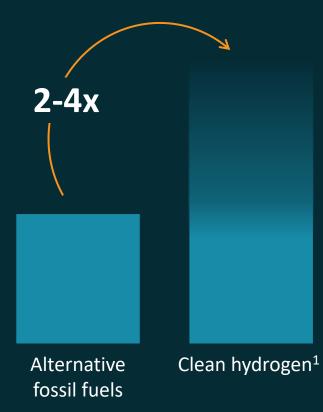
1. ~15 Mtpa produced in Europe, ~10 Mtpa produced in North America, ~7 produced in Latin America, ~6 Mtpa produced in Australia, ~2 Mtpa produced in Middle East and ~10 produced in Rest of World

2. 20 Mtpa target in EU, 3 Mtpa target in Japan and 3.9 Mtpa target in South Korea

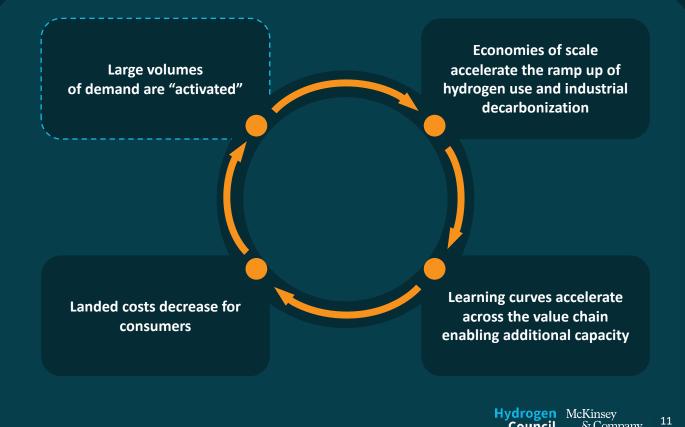
On a cost basis, clean hydrogen products are 2-4x more expensive than alternatives with higher carbon intensity

Differential between production costs for hydrogen and fossil alternatives, production by 2035 (2030 FID)

Cost differential between clean and grey remains high...



... however, scaling up the demand can accelerate the cost decrease



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1. Without incentives – which can help bridge the gap Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023)

There are 3 main unlocks that could enable and accelerate the hydrogen economy

Hydrogen "demand pull" is the key lever, supported by infrastructure development, global standards and mutually recognized certification schemes

01 Clarity, certainty and support for demand

02

Infrastructure expansion, repurposing and buildout

WHY

A sufficiently **strong "demand-pull"** enables the business case and thus offtake commitments, drives investment decisions, and creates a "ripple effect" across the value chain **supporting project bankability**

HOW

"Demand-pull" could be supported by creating long-term incentives for uptake of clean solutions and/or leveling the playing field between clean and higher carbon intensity solutions **Strengthened infrastructure** (including repurposed or new pipelines, ships and ammonia crackers, storage) **and supporting technology scale-up** enables global supply and demand matching and **long-distance clean H**₂ **trade**

Expand global clean H₂ transport (pipeline and maritime) and storage capacity by retrofitting, repurposing and expanding brownfield facilities as well as building infrastructure. **Develop transformation technology** and capacity for H₂ carrier

03 Global standards and mutually recognized certification schemes

Transparent frameworks enable coherent global clean hydrogen and derivatives market by reducing transaction cost and market friction facilitating deployment of large-scale clean hydrogen projects

Development of the global industry standards for GHG emissions assessment of hydrogen on a lifecycle analysis basis, and for example, implementation of the COP28 Declaration of Intent on Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Renewable and Low-Carbon

Unlock

Clarity, certainty and support for demand

Certainty over the enabling frameworks and qualifications for hydrogen is key for getting projects over the line

Illustrative product cost gap between clean hydrogen vs. grey alternatives

Cost

Expected clean cost (through technology learning curves)

Expected grey cost *including carbon penalty*

Cost gap to bridge

> **Expected grey cost** *excluding carbon penalty*

Examples of existing mechanisms to bridge the gap

Long-term offtake incentives

CfDs and auction-based supply contracts for the duration of 15-20 years (e.g., Japan's 15-year CfD) Mandated industry targets (e.g., EU RED III¹)

Carbon pricing to level the playing field Cap-and-trade systems, carbon taxes and carbon border measures (e.g., Europe ETS and CBAM)

Time



Appendices to the report

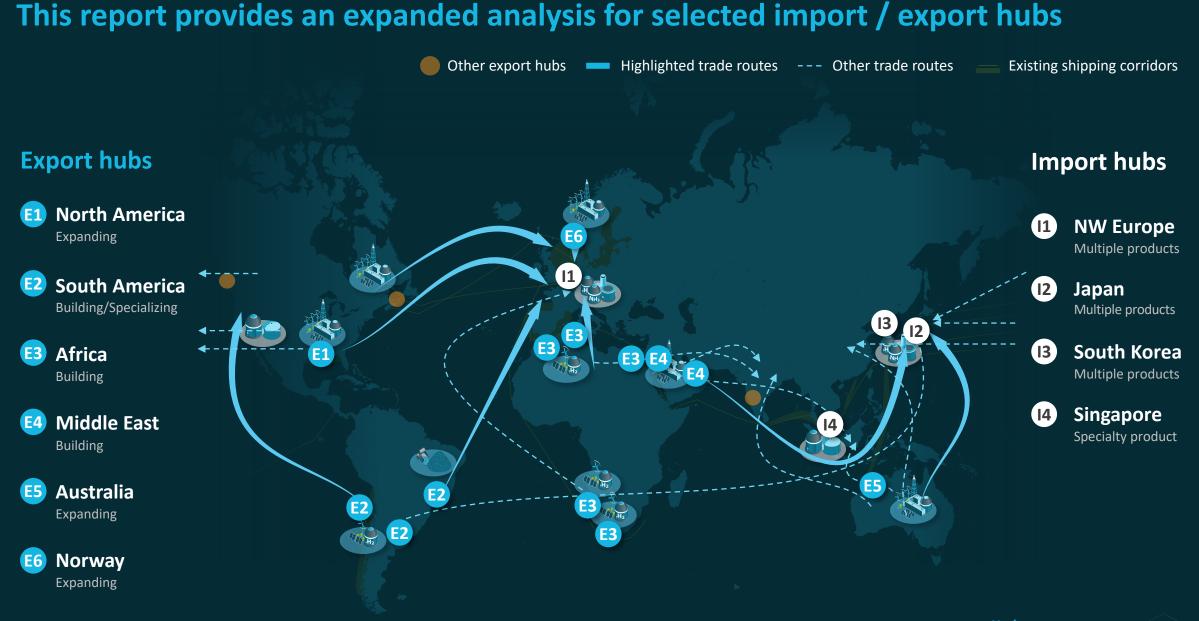


Appendix 1: Snapshots - Overview

Appendix 2: Snapshots – Supply hubs

Appendix 3: Snapshots – Demand hubs





In the report, we assessed the characteristics of the export hubs, as well as the infrastructure required to unlock their potential

Export hubs in 2035

US Gulf Coast (North America) Expanding

2.2 Mtpa of H₂e of exports in 2035, mainly shipped H₂ carriers and ammonia end-use to Northwestern Europe, Japan, and South Korea

In-land H₂ and CO₂ transportation is partially supported by **existing pipelines**

Export infrastructure for **ammonia and liquid H_2 needs expansion** from 0.5 to 2.4 Mtpa H_2 e

E4 Middle East Building

4.4 Mtpa H₂e of exports in 2035, mainly shipped H_2 carriers and ammonia end-use to Japan, South Korea and Europe

Export terminals and **ports are being built** close to production sites E2 South America Building/Specializing

Chile targets to export 3.0 Mtpa of H₂e, mostly as ammonia and syn-kerosene, greenfield ammonia infrastructure required

Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay could become specialized exporters, aiming to export 1.1 Mtpa H₂e, mainly in the form of syn-kerosene and HBI for steelmaking

Existing infrastructure from iron ore and kerosene can be utilized, but buildout of CO₂ infrastructure needed

E5 Australia Expanding

Targets to export 4.4 Mtpa H_2e in 2035, most shipped H_2 carriers and ammonia enduse to Japan and South Korea

Expansion of liquid H₂ and ammonia export capacity from **0.2 Mtpa to 4.1 Mtpa H₂** needed to cater for increased export volumes



Aims to export 2.4 Mtpa H₂e, with 0.9 Mtpa expected via H₂ pipelines to Europe

Greenfield infrastructure and projects are still in **early stages**



Aims to supply Europe with 2.4 Mtpa H₂ through new or repurposed pipelines connected to Northwestern Europe, and could become Europe's top H₂ supplier

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We also assessed the characteristics of the import hubs, as well as the infrastructure needed to deliver on the transition

Import hubs in 2035

I1 NW Europe Multiple products

Strong growth in shipped H₂ carriers and ammonia end-use imports – **75%** covered by Norway, Middle East, and the North America

Large **investment in transformation technology** required. **24,800 km pipeline needs to be built** or repurposed to unlock the "European backbone" – the expected main delivery route of H_2 to end-users. For remaining products other transport means needs to be repurposed and expanded

I3 South Korea Multiple products

Strong growth in shipped H₂ carriers and ammonia end-use import could be driven by the **power and transportation sector**, primarily covered by North America, Australia, Middle East, and Chile

Investment need for **2 Mtpa H₂e transformation technology**, 3 Mtpa H₂e offloading expansion, and 100 kt storage. For transportation to end-users there is potential to repurpose some of the **5,000 km existing gas pipelines** or expand truck network with 2,000+ vehicles

2) Japan Multiple products

Strong growth of shipped H₂ carriers and ammonia end-use import could be driven by the **power and transport sector**, primarily covered by the Middle East, Australia and North America

Investment **need for 2 Mtpa H₂e transformation technology**, and **3 Mtpa H₂e offloading** expansion. As industrial clusters are close to shore and ports, last-mile infrastructure need is minor

4) **Singapore** Specialty product

Emerging as a **key port for green fuels** – already with significant investments in methanol bunkering and terminal capacity. Additional capacity for offloading and storing of 0.2 Mtpa H_2e needed before 2035

Limited domestic demand and production

Appendix 1: Snapshots - Overview

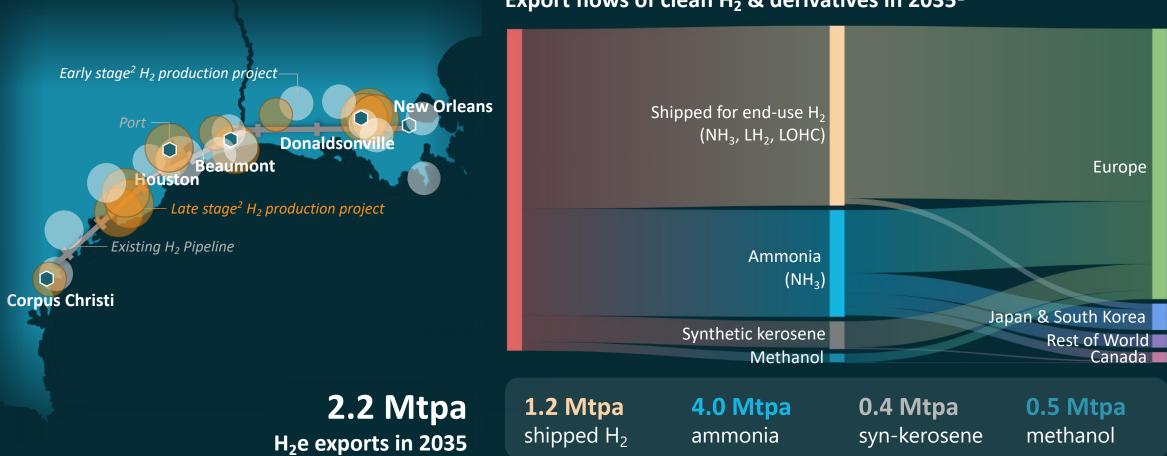
Appendix 2: Snapshots – Supply hubs

Appendix 3: Snapshots – Demand hubs



US Gulf Coast: Supply of hydrogen for export

Production projects located close to ports, with 90% of exports targeting Europe or Asia



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹

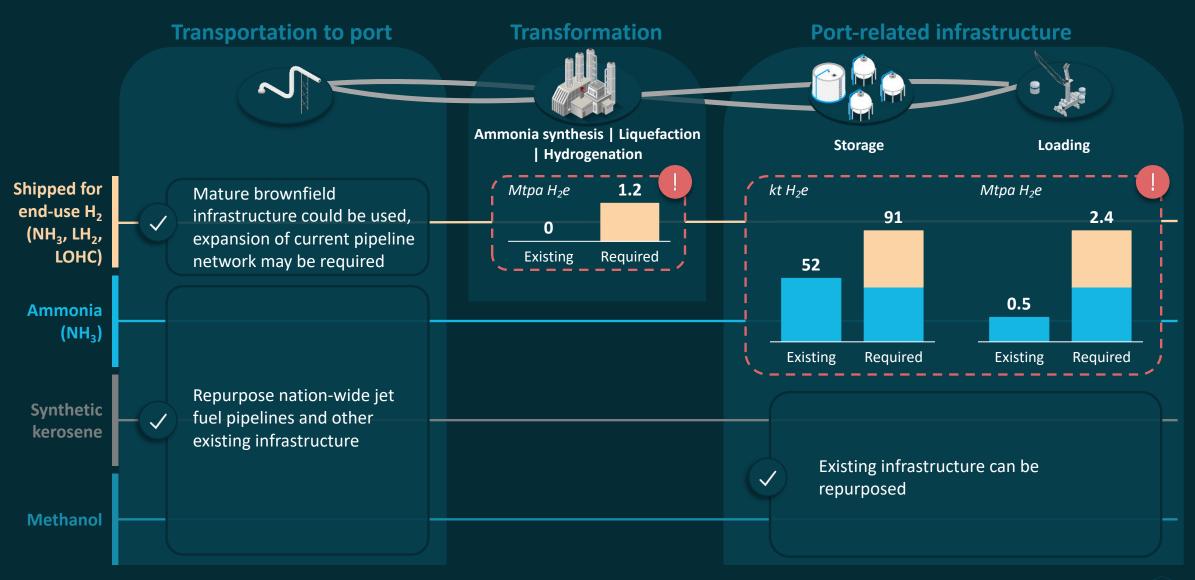
1. Under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H_2 supply

2. Early stage includes projects that are announced or in feasibility studies, late stage includes projects in FEED or beyond

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

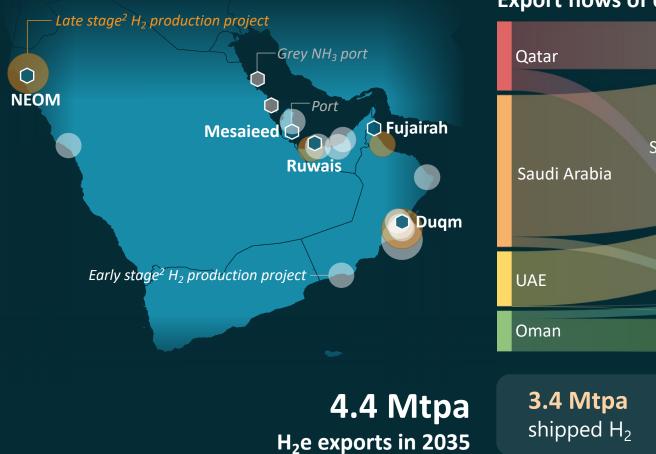
US Gulf Coast: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Mature brownfield infrastructure – 5x expansion needed to cater for greater export volumes of NH₃ and LH₂

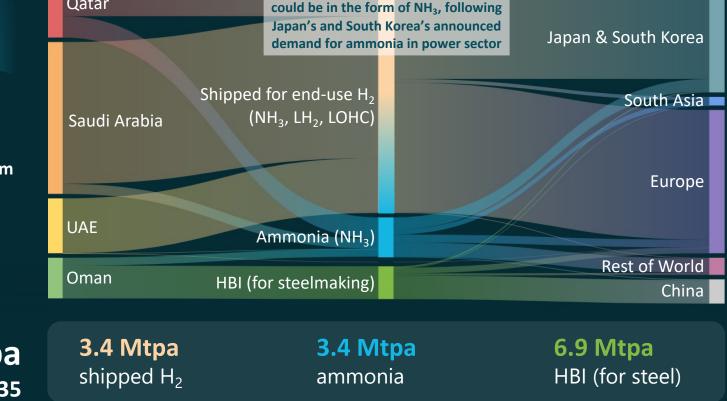


Middle East: Supply of hydrogen for export

>80% of exports targeting Europe, Japan, and South Korea with the largest projects located close to planned terminals



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹, Mtpa H₂e



Large share of shipped for end-use H₂

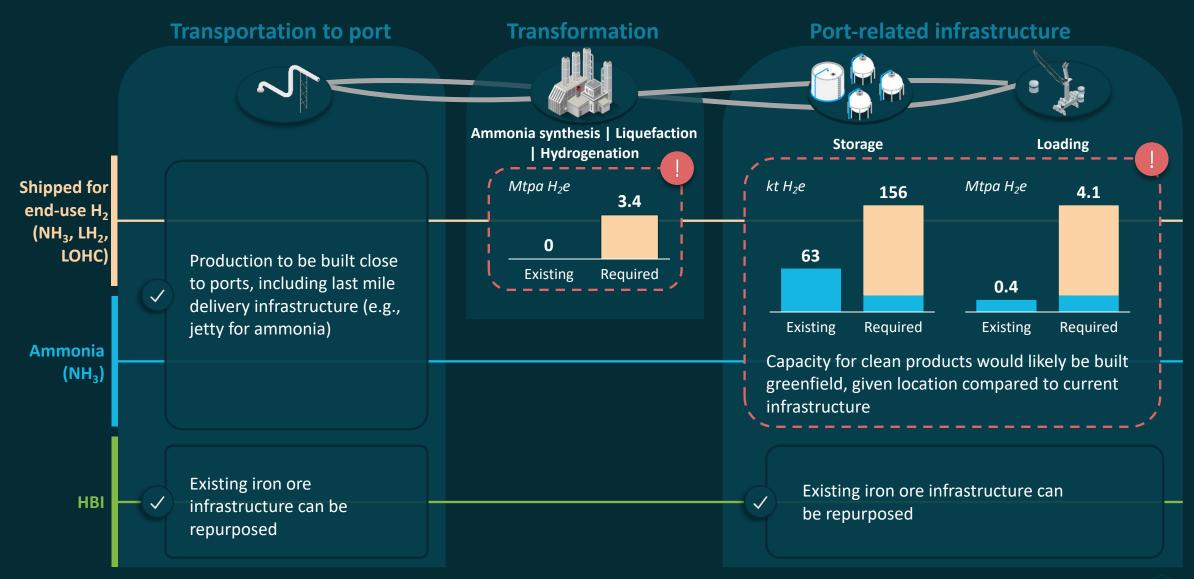
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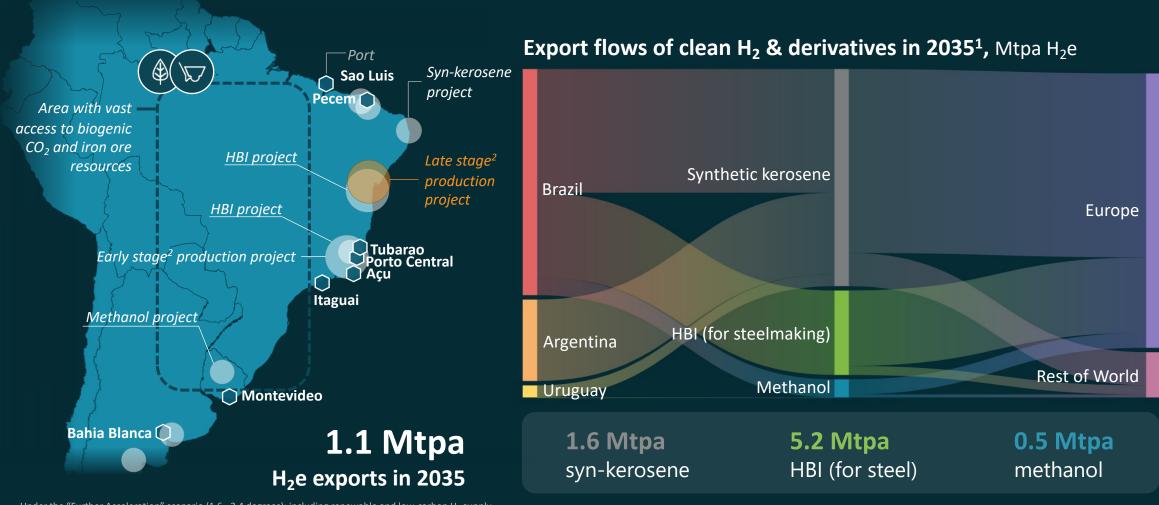
Middle East: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

>3.4 Mtpa H₂e of transformation capacity and 3.7 Mtpa newbuild NH₃ export capacity needs to be built



Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay: Supply of hydrogen for export

>80% specialized product exports targeting Europe, taking advantage of vast iron ore and biogenic CO₂ access



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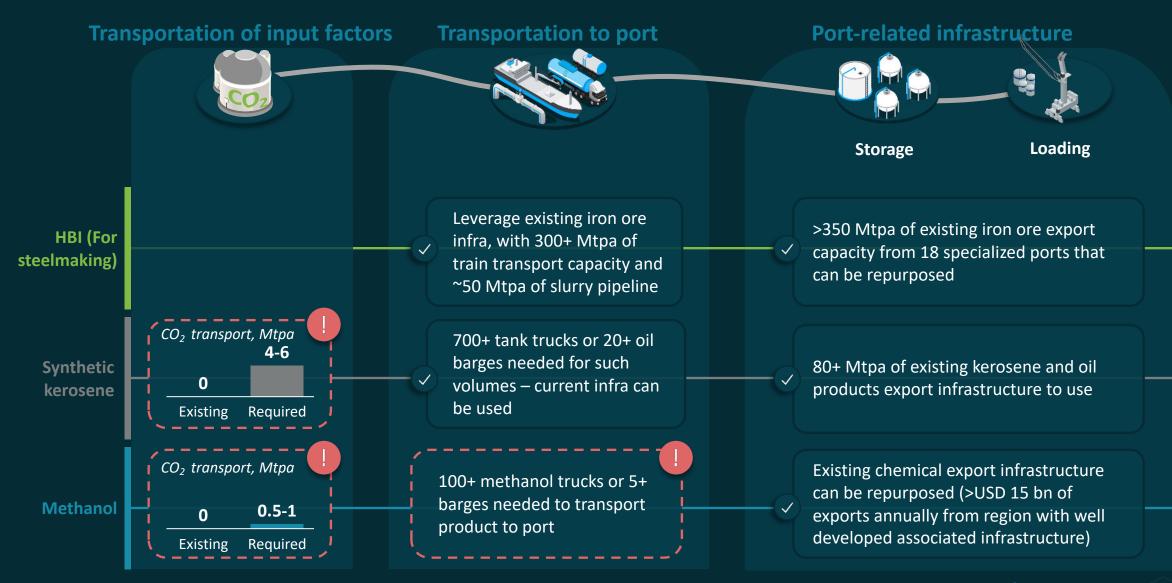
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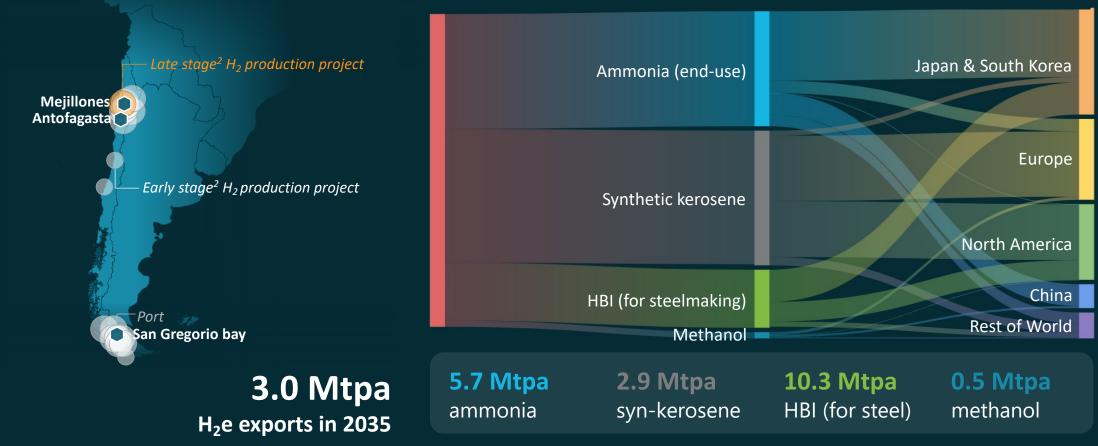
Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Existing infrastructure from iron ore and kerosene can be utilized, but buildout of biogenic CO₂ infrastructure needed



Chile: Supply of hydrogen for export

Specialized projects centered around existing commodity export hubs, while ammonia hubs in north and south are being built, with 60% of exports targeting Japan, South Korea and Europe



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹, Mtpa H₂e

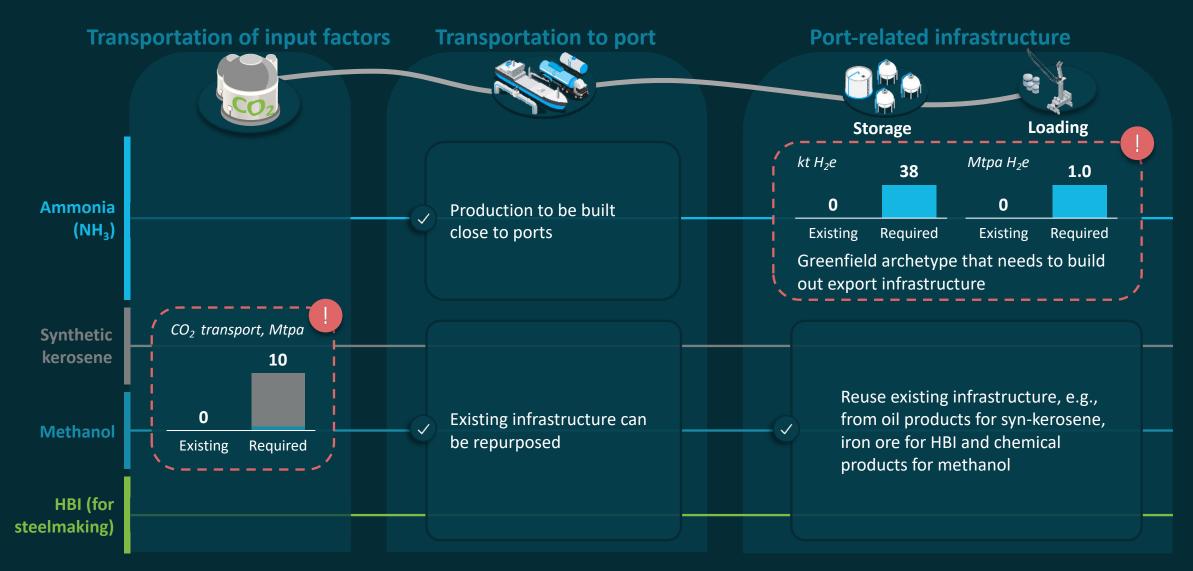
Under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H $_2$ supply

2. Early stage includes projects that are announced or in feasibility studies, late stage includes projects in FEED or beyond

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

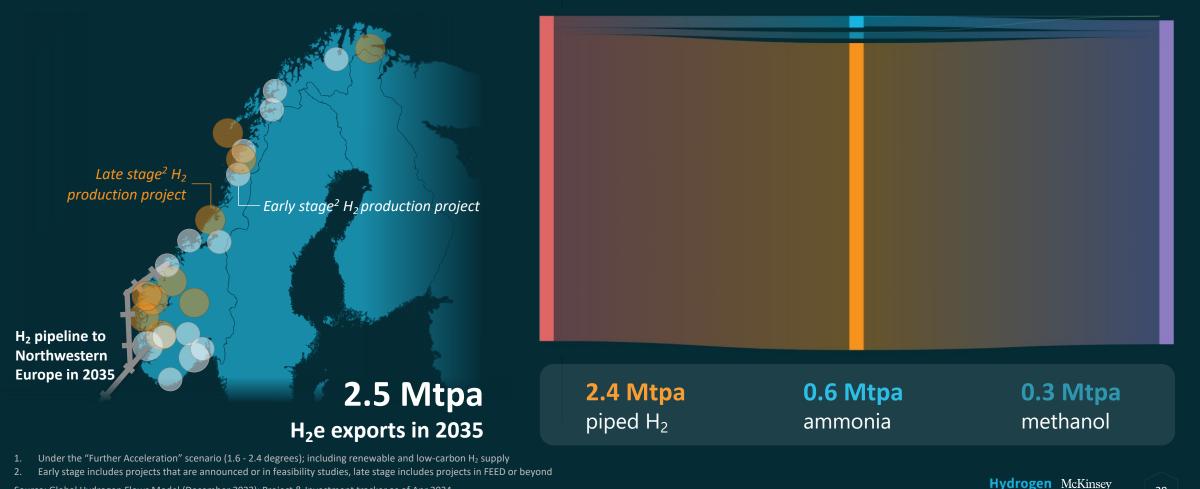
Chile: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Buildout of ammonia terminals for 1 Mtpa of exports and 10 Mtpa of CO₂ transportation needed



Norway: Supply of hydrogen for export

Norway could be one of Europe's top supplier of hydrogen with 2.4 Mtpa piped H₂ to Northwestern Europe



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹, Mtpa H₂e

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Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

Norway: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Transportation to pipeline

4 Mtpa H₂ pipeline capacity planned from Western Norway to Northwestern Europe



Production expected to happen on-site at the starting points of the pipeline in Kårstø, Mongstad and Nyhamna

4 Mtpa

of H₂ pipeline capacity expected to be built from Nyhamna, Mongstad and Kårstø in Norway to Dornum or Wilhelmshaven in Germany

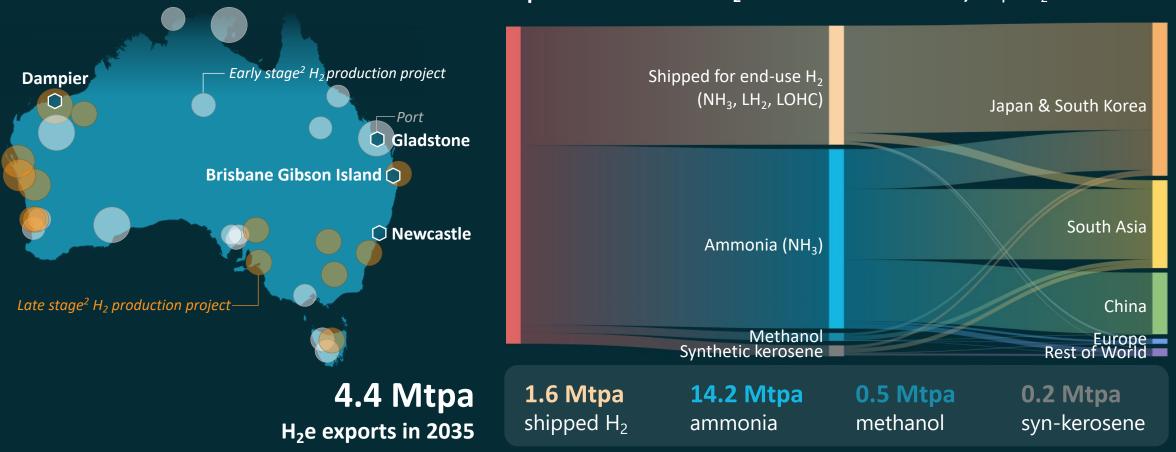
Pipeline

In total 1,250+ km of pipeline needed, discussions in place regarding how much would be repurposed vs. newbuilt

Pipeline would connect to the German H_2 network, including H_2 ercules

Australia: Supply of hydrogen for export

50% of exports target Japan and South Korea, and 60% could be for ammonia end-use



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹, Mtpa H₂e

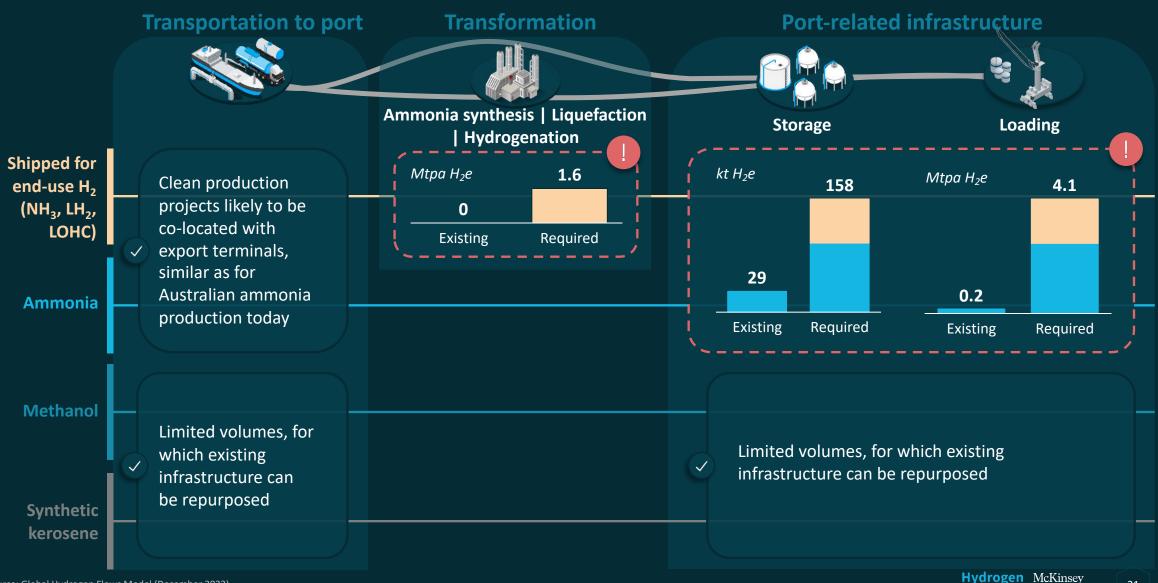
1. Under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H_2 supply

2. Early stage includes projects that are announced or in feasibility studies, late stage includes projects in FEED or beyond

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

Australia: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Export infrastructure for ammonia and liquid H_2 needs a >20x capacity expansion



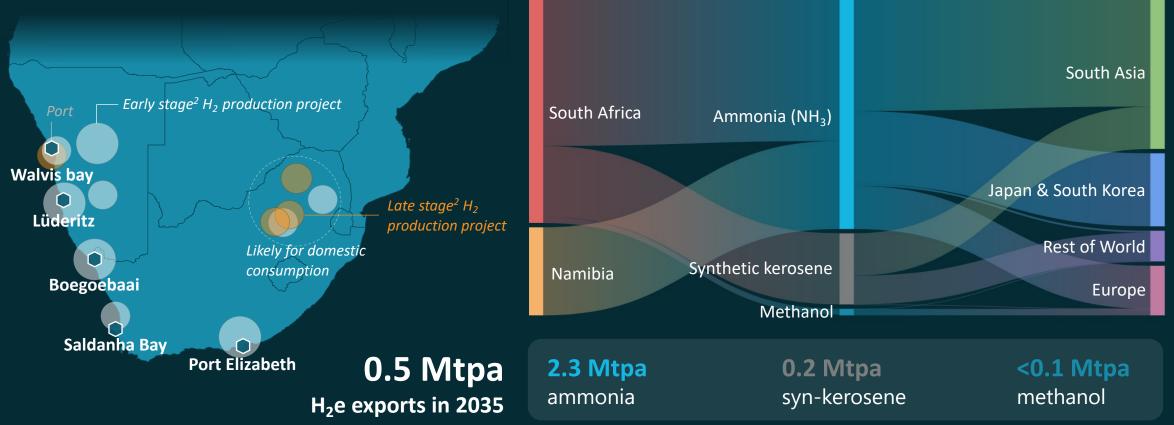
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Southern Africa: Supply of hydrogen for export

40% exports target Japan, South Korea and Europe, with largest projects co-located with planned export terminal



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035¹, Mtpa H₂e

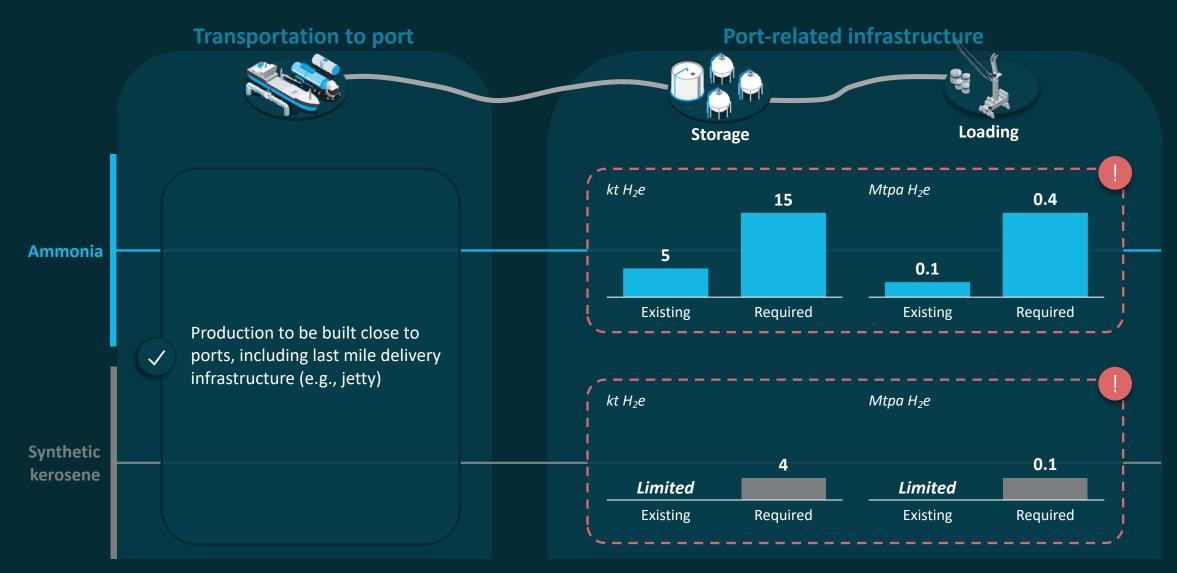
1. Under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees) ; including renewable and low-carbon H₂ supply

2. Early stage includes projects that are announced or in feasibility studies, late stage includes projects in FEED or beyond

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

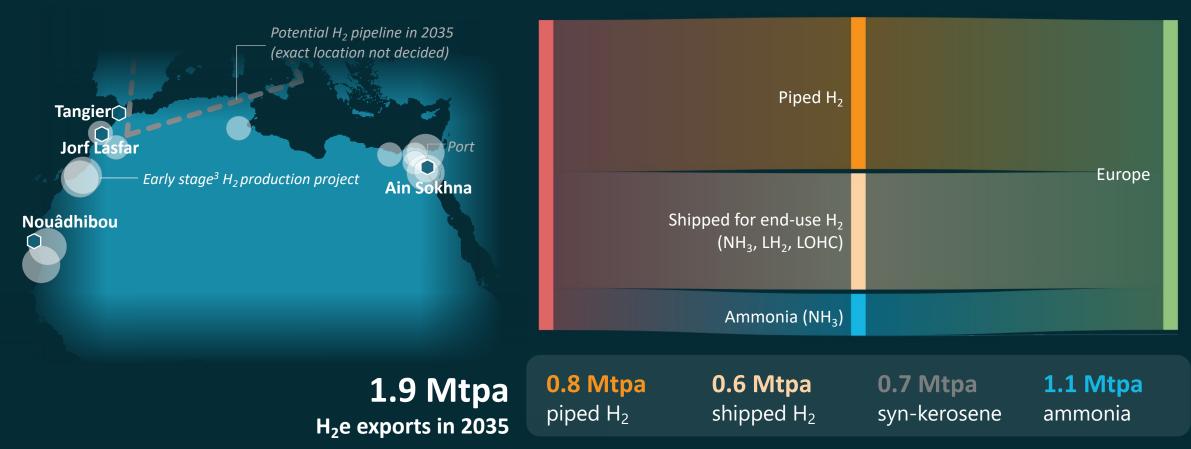
Southern Africa: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

4x expansion of ammonia terminal capacity needed to accommodate the growth in export volumes



Northern Africa: Supply of hydrogen for export

Almost all exports target Europe, of which 40% expected through pipelines – plans and projects still in early stages



Export flows of clean H₂ & derivatives in 2035^{1,2}, Mtpa H₂e

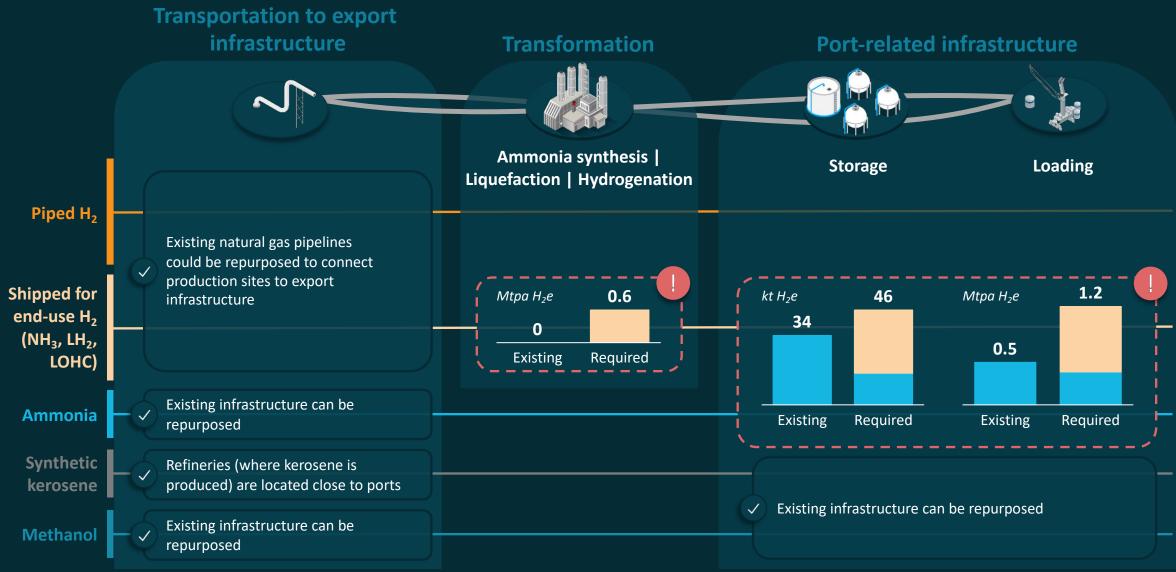
1. Under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H₂ supply | 2. Includes exports from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania

3. Early stage includes projects that are announced or in feasibility studies; includes also projects with capacity possibly online post-2030

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

Northern Africa: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Existing gas pipelines can be repurposed, and >2x expansion needed of ammonia and liquid H₂ export capacity



Appendix 1: Snapshots - Overview

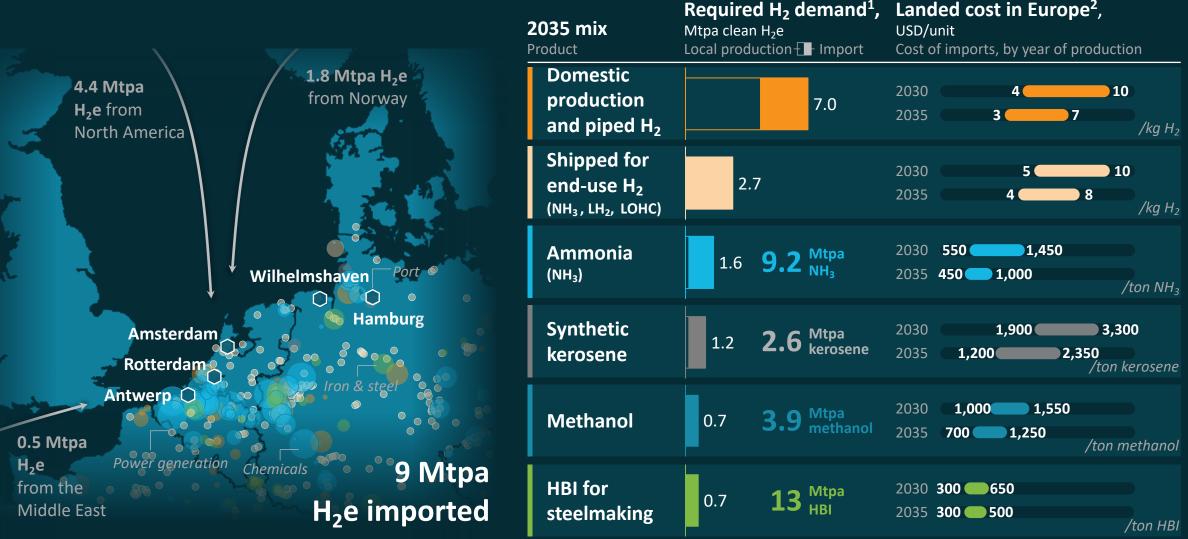
Appendix 2: Snapshots – Supply hubs

Appendix 3: Snapshots – Demand hubs



Northwestern Europe: Hydrogen demand and supply

Strong growth in hydrogen and ammonia imports – 75% could be covered by Norway, Middle East and North America

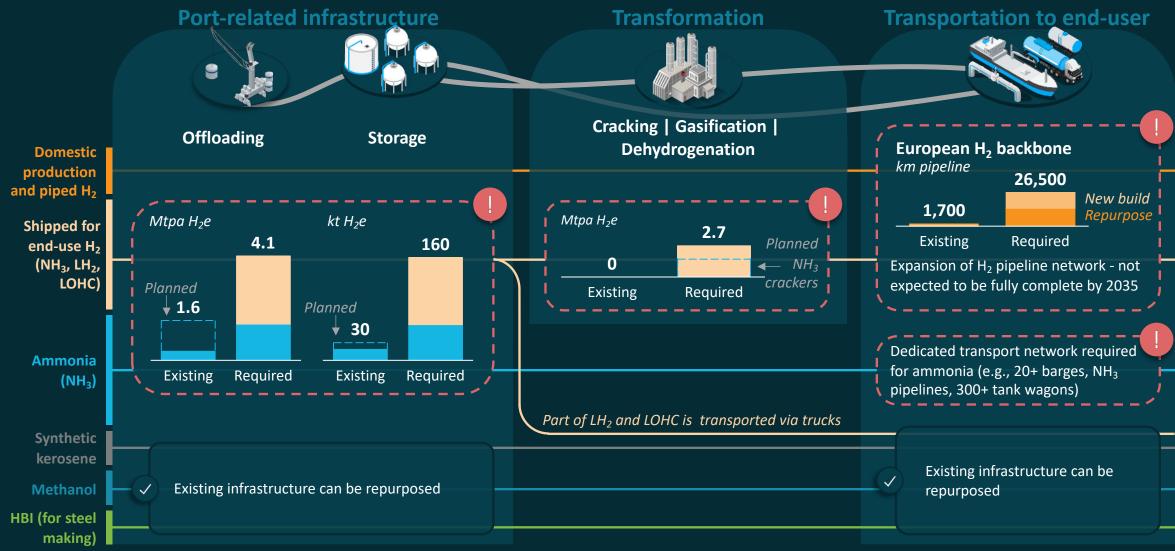


1. Meets target under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H₂ supply 2. Landed cost of clean H₂ at port, excluding taxes, duties, and distribution and including national incentive programs

Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023)

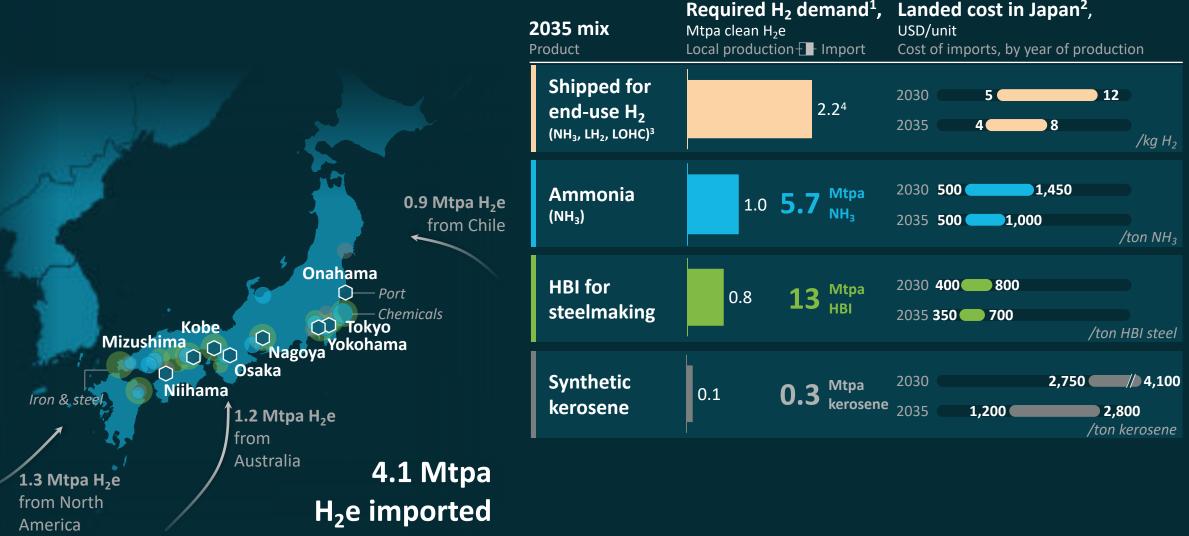
Northwestern Europe: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

Need for transformation technologies, development of the European H₂ backbone and tailored transportation solutions to end-users



Japan: Hydrogen demand and supply

Power and mobility sectors could drive significant demand growth – 85% could come from North America, Australia and Chile

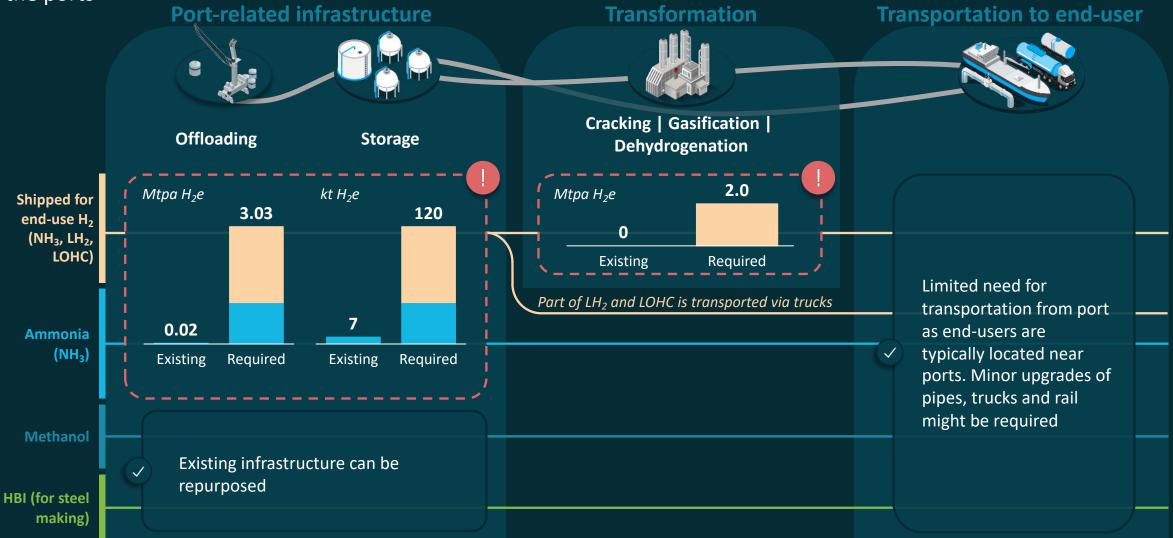


1. Meets target under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H₂ supply | 2. Landed cost of clean H₂ at port, excluding taxes, duties, and distribution and including national incentive programs | 3. Potentially e-methane. Several Japanese gas utilities are exploring e-methane as an energy carrier | 4. 1.1 Mtpa H₂ produced locally Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023)

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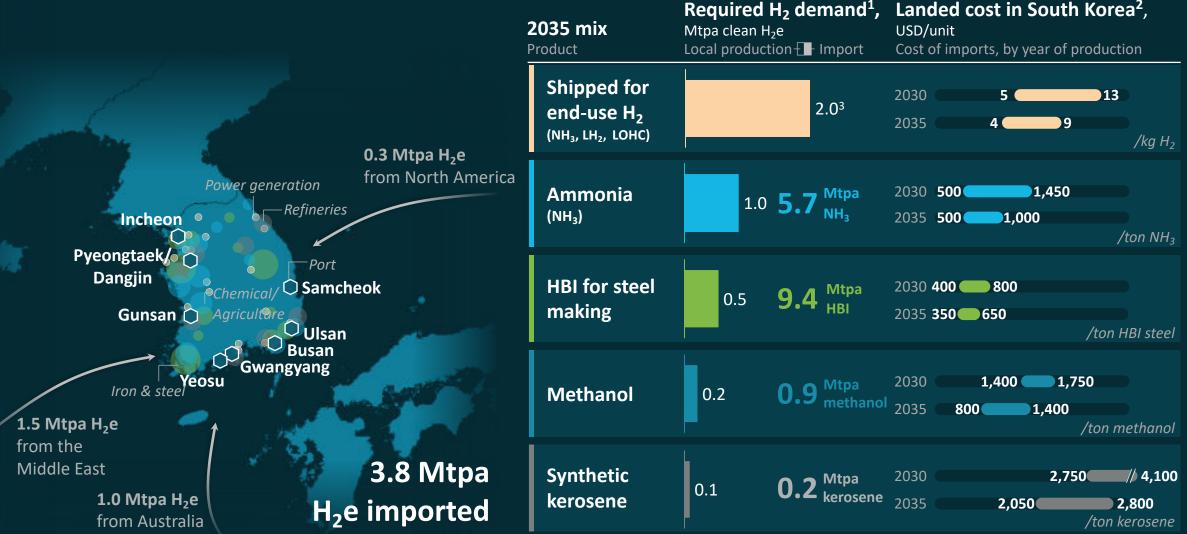
Japan: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

150x increase in offloading and 17x in storage capacity, limited need for last-mile transportation as end-users are near the ports



South Korea: Hydrogen demand and supply

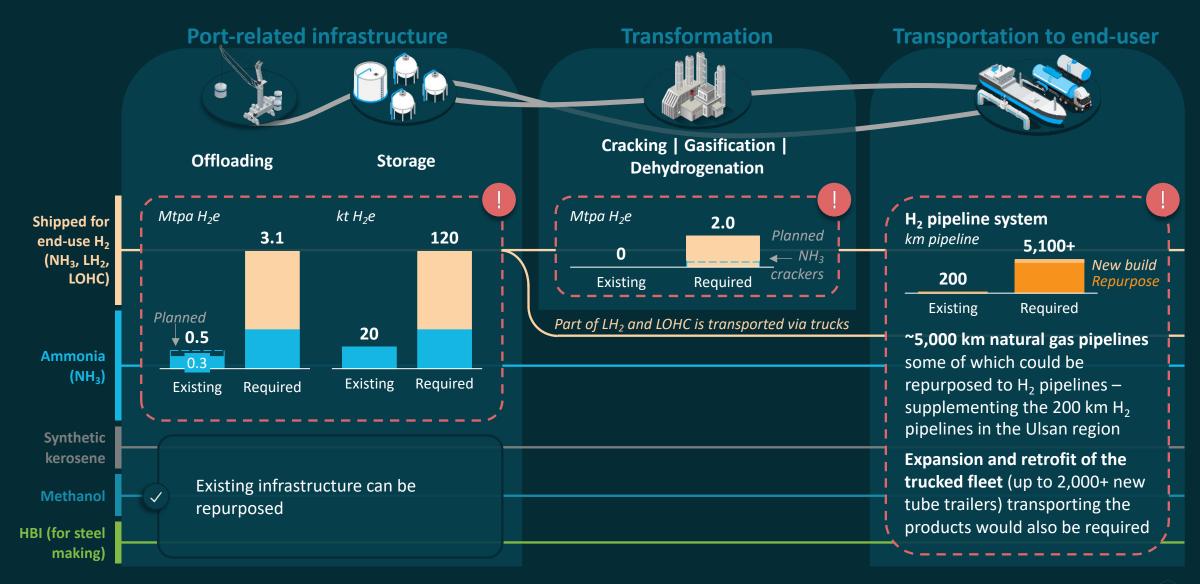
Power and mobility sectors could drive significant hydrogen demand – 70% could come from the Middle East, Australia and North America



1. Meets target under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable and low-carbon H₂ supply | 2. Landed cost of clean H₂ at port, excluding taxes, duties, and distribution and including national incentive programs | 3. 0.6 Mtpa H2 produced locally

South Korea: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

6-10x increase in offloading and storage capacity, potential to build out pipeline network or trailer fleet



Singapore: Hydrogen demand and supply

An emerging bunkering hub for renewable fuels of which 60% could be imported from Australia and the Middle East



1. Meets target under the "Further Acceleration" scenario (1.6 - 2.4 degrees); including renewable, low-carbon, and grey H₂ supply | 2. Landed cost of clean H₂ at port, excluding taxes, duties, and distribution and including national incentive programs | 3. 0.2 Mtpa H₂ produced locally in addition

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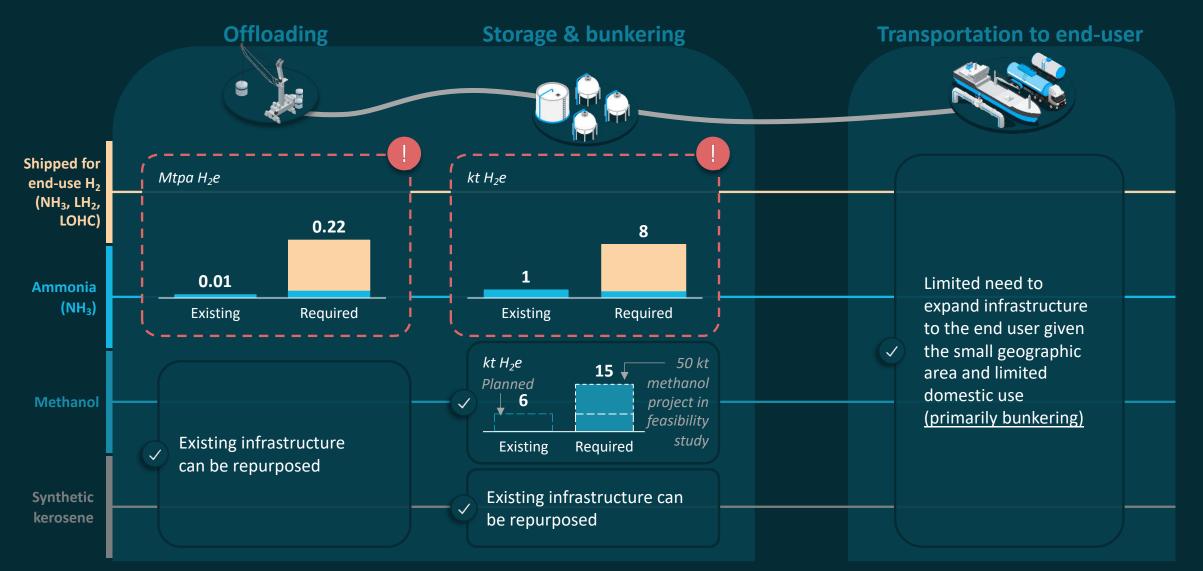
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Source: Global Hydrogen Flows Model (December 2023); Project & Investment tracker as of Apr 2024

Singapore: Infrastructure requirements by 2035

>20x increase in offloading capacity, and 2.5-8x increase in bunkering capacity



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