

# Hydrogen Fuel Cells – Sustainable solution for the future

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## Sustainability of Hydrogen





Source: https://sinnovations.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Circular\_economy\_schema.png

- Hydrogen will be a sustainable energy carrier, if it produced via renewable energy
- Hydrogen can be used in many sectors (sector coupling)
- Hydrogen Fuel Cells are a perfect energy converter with zero emissions
- Important is that also the circular of economy of fuel cells will be taken into account

## Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH





German manufacturer of fuel cell stacks and fuel cell systems to provide solutions for clean energy supply and clean mobility.

Located: Puchheim (Bavaria)

**CEO:** Faiz Nahab PhD

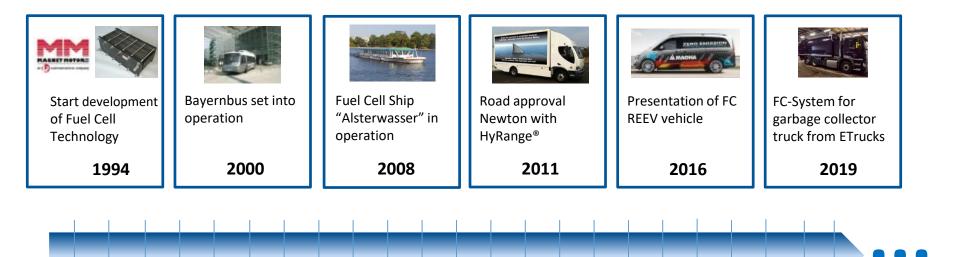
Employees: approx. 100

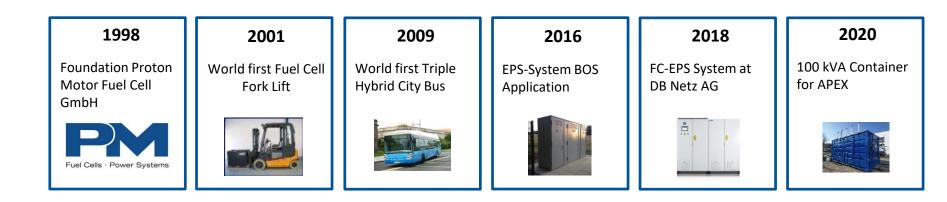


- 1994: Start of fuel cell development
- 1998: Founding of Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH
- 2006: Stock market launch of Proton Motor Power Systems
- 2007: Relocation from Starnberg to Munich
- 2015: Integration SPower GmbH into Proton Motor
- 2018: 20 years Fuel Cells Made in Germany
- 2019: Installation of Stacking robot

#### Proton Motor History

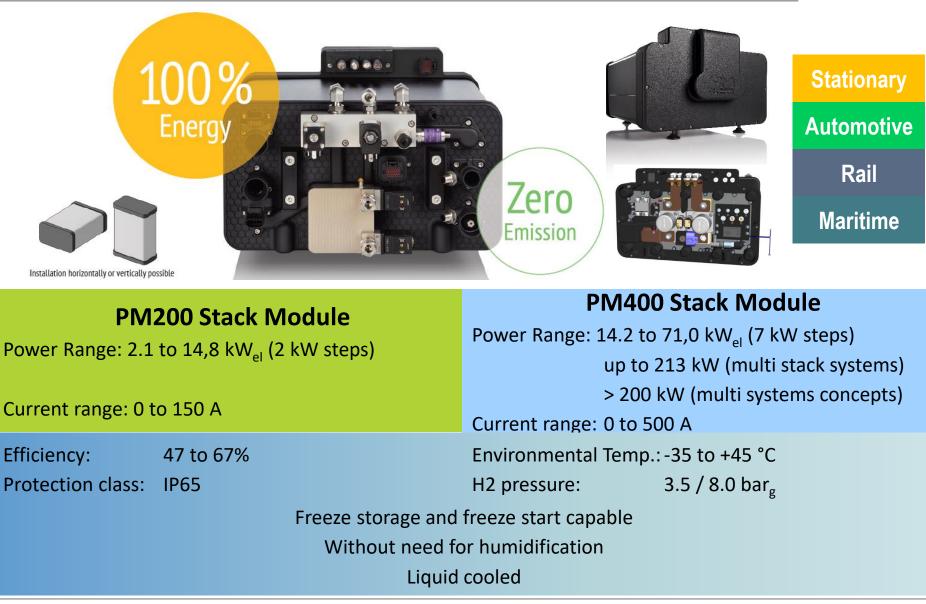






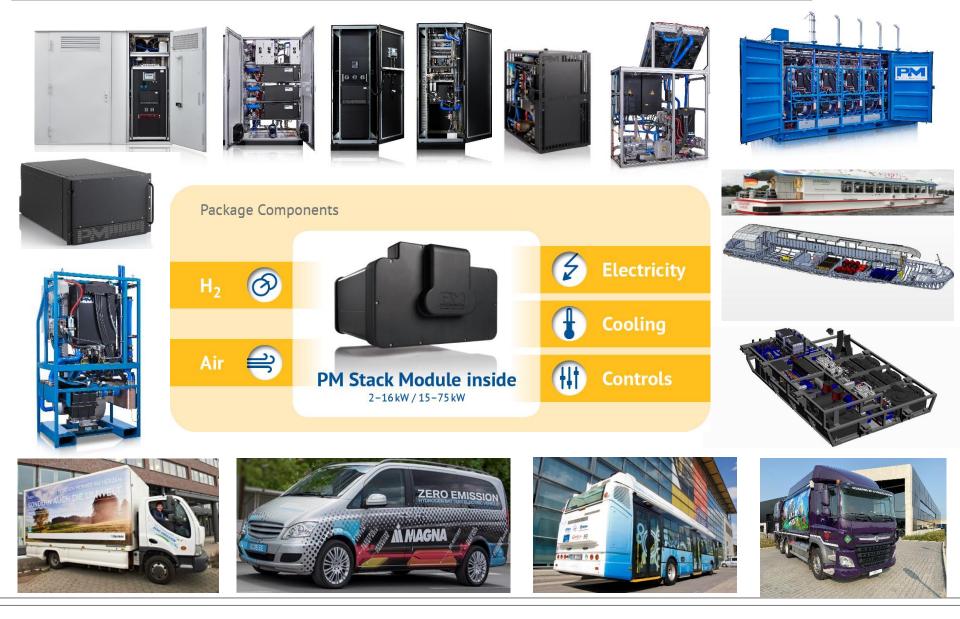
## Modular Highly Integrated Fuel Cell Stack Modules





## **Fuel Cell System Applications**





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## **Reference Mobility**



#### Automotive





Application:	Garbage Truck
FC Power:	43 kW
H2 Storage:	20/30 kg 350 bar
Battery:	136 kWh

#### Rail







#### Maritime





Application:	Marine Vessel
FC Power:	144 kW
H2 Storage:	50 kg Metal-Hydride
Battery:	To be announced

## **References Stationary Applications**



#### Grid Stabilisation / Peak Shaving (decentralized hydrogen production)

FC Power:	178kW
Voltage:	400 VAC ( Grid dependent)
Customer:	APEX
Location:	Rostock (Germany)



#### Grid Independent Power Supply (e.g. for a hydrogen filling station)

FC Power:	129 kW
Battery :	180 kWh
Voltage:	400 VAC ( Grid independent)
Customer:	Shell
Location:	Munich (Germany)



## **References Stationary Applications**



#### UPS / Emergency Power Supply (hydrogen supply)

UPS Telecom Customer: DB Bahnbau FC Power: 6 & 8 kW UPS Road Tunnels Customer: To be announced FC Power: 28, 36, 43 kW

#### Seasonal Energy Shift / Peak Shaving (decentralized hydrogen production)

Houses & Appartments Projects: Hy2Green (I) Brütten (CH) FC Power: 9 kW

Housing Block Customer: Vonovia FC Power: 36 kW

















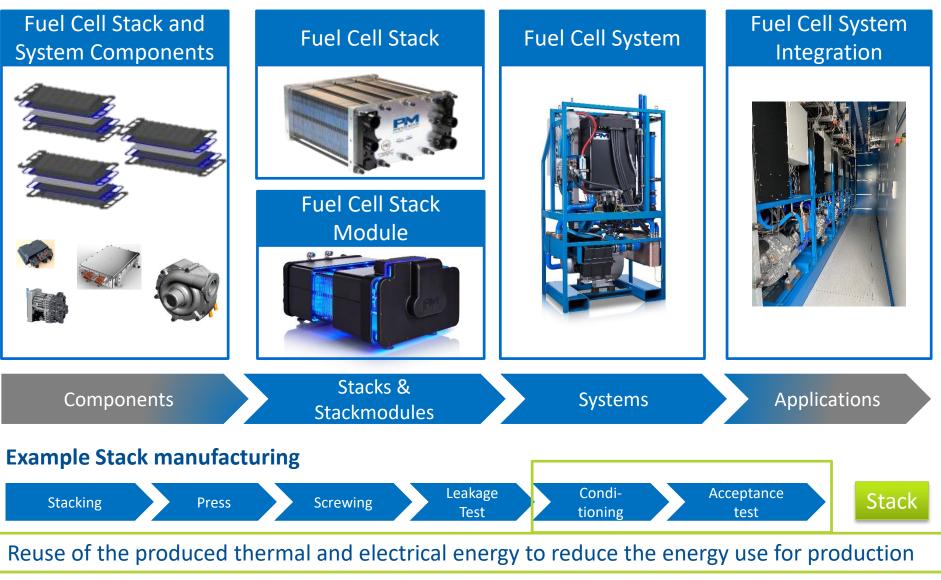
## **Circular Economy**





## Overview value chain





## **BreCycle Project**



- Project name: BReCycle Circular economy concept for fuel cells
- Duration, project / funding volume : March 2020 March 2023; 1.85 Mio € / 1.30 Mio €
- Funding program: 7. Energieforschungsprogramm "Innovationen für die Energiewende" from BMWi
- Funding agency: PTJ (Germany)
- Targets:
  - Development of an efficient process for the preparation of fuel cells to generate high-quality material fractions, especially from the electrode coatings
  - Improving recyclability (Design for Circularity)
  - Promotion of the use of secondary materials



#### Project partner:











## First steps in Recycling of Stacks



#### **Ongoing steps:**

- Crushing of the cells and separation in the catalyst coating (Pt / C), MEA and GDL
- Separation of Pt / C as a fine fraction by means of wet sieving (630 µm)





Crushing

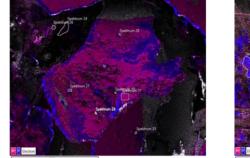


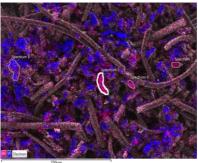
Disassembled cells

Pt/C - catalyst

#### **Challenges:**

- Remnants of MEA and GDL in fine fraction
- Increase the recovery rate of Pt





REM-EDX of the fine fraction with MEA (left, 1200  $\mu m)$  and GDL (right, 900  $\mu m)$  according to EHZ, pink: Pt (catalyst), violet: F (made of Nafion, PTFE)

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