



# Topsoes Ammonia cracking technology – Delivering green Hydrogen

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# Fully dynamic green ammonia plant initiated and in operation Q2 2023

24MTPD green ammonia directly coupled to wind and solar power

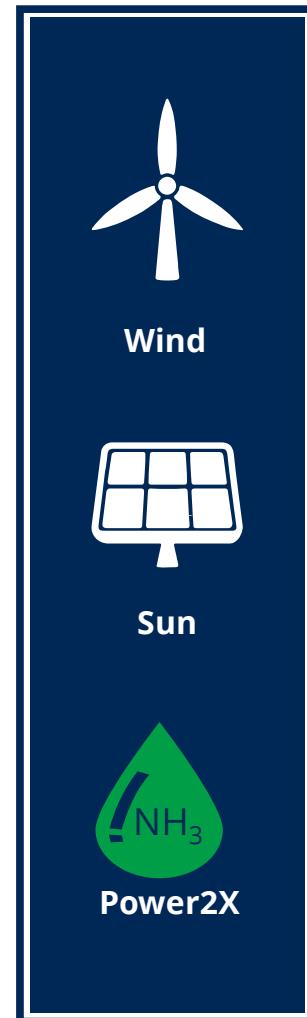


HALDOR TOPSOE 

**vestas**<sup>®</sup>

**EUDP** 

The Energy Technology  
Development and  
Demonstration Programme



**12 MW**

**Wind turbines**  
6 x 2 MW Vestas V90

**50 MW**

**PV power**  
91 hectare with bi-facial  
tracker PV panels

**10 MW**

**Power-to-Ammonia**  
Worlds first green ammonia  
plant in dynamic mode

**Topsoe**

Power-to-Ammonia

- Fully flexible operation 10-100% plant load
- No hydrogen storage
- Store energy as NH<sub>3</sub>
- Grid balancing
- Available for AE/PEM/SOEC electrolyzer technology

# Topsoe Ammonia Catalysts

## Knowledge platform for cracking catalysts

- Leading ammonia synthesis catalysts supplier
  - Strong knowledge base within field
  - Topsøe key competence
- Catalyst for ammonia cracking in same family
  - Necessary to understand differences
  - We co-develop catalyst and technology
- Topsøe ammonia cracking catalyst
  - A range of commercial available catalysts
  - Fine tuned for Topsøe technologies



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



Journal of Catalysis 230 (2005) 309–312

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Why the optimal ammonia synthesis catalyst is not the optimal ammonia decomposition catalyst

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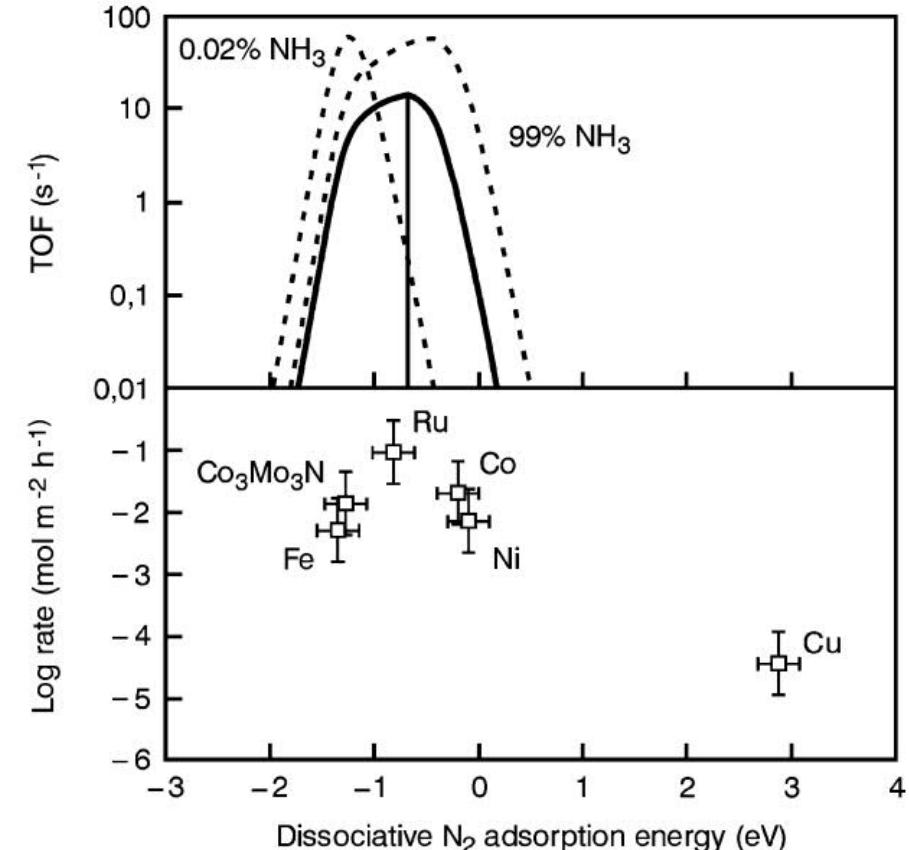
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# The Topsøe Ammonia Cracking Catalysts

## DNK series

- D NK-2R – Medium Temp
  - Co-Fe based
  - A workhorse in existing plants
  - High durability
- D NK-5R – Medium Temp
  - Fe based
  - Proven performance at lower
- D NK-10 Low Temp
  - Ru based
  - Very high activity catalyst
- D NK-X High temp
  - Ni based catalyst
- <sup>4</sup> Strong Topsøe experience – need to fit process development

How do we choose the right catalyst?

Combining catalyst and process technology understanding enable a very strong overall solution



# Topsoe ammonia cracking technology

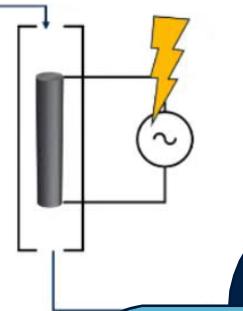
Building upon a strong technology core

- Topsoe Ammonia Crackers in operation for + 30 years
- Existing design for 100-2400 MTPD ammonia feed
- New and optimized design
- Scope of supply:
  - License
  - Basic Engineering Design Package
  - Proprietary Hardware
  - Catalysts
  - Training & Technical Services

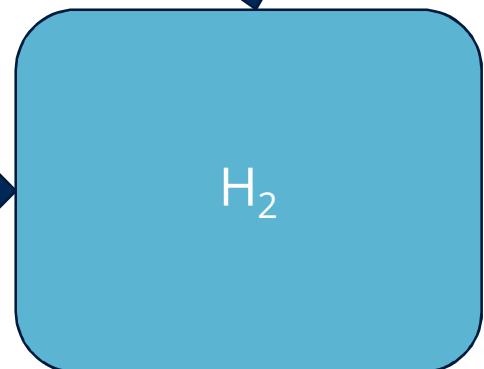


# Catalytic decomposition of ammonia

Endothermic – need energy to run



Partial oxidation (auto-thermal) – energy  
Provided by oxidizing part of the hydrogen.



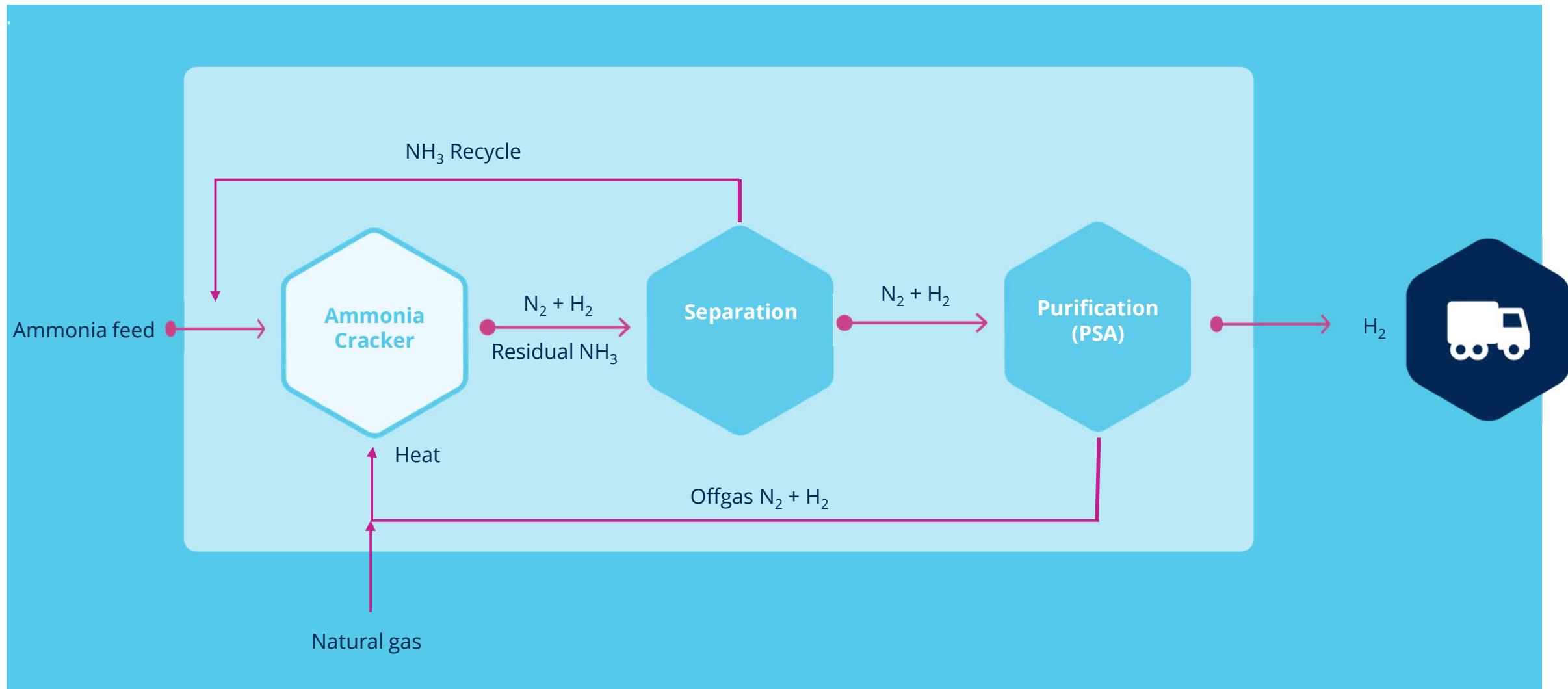
Electrically heated cracking (eCracker)

Fired ammonia cracker – energy provided by  
fired heating (like trad. SMR)



## How it works

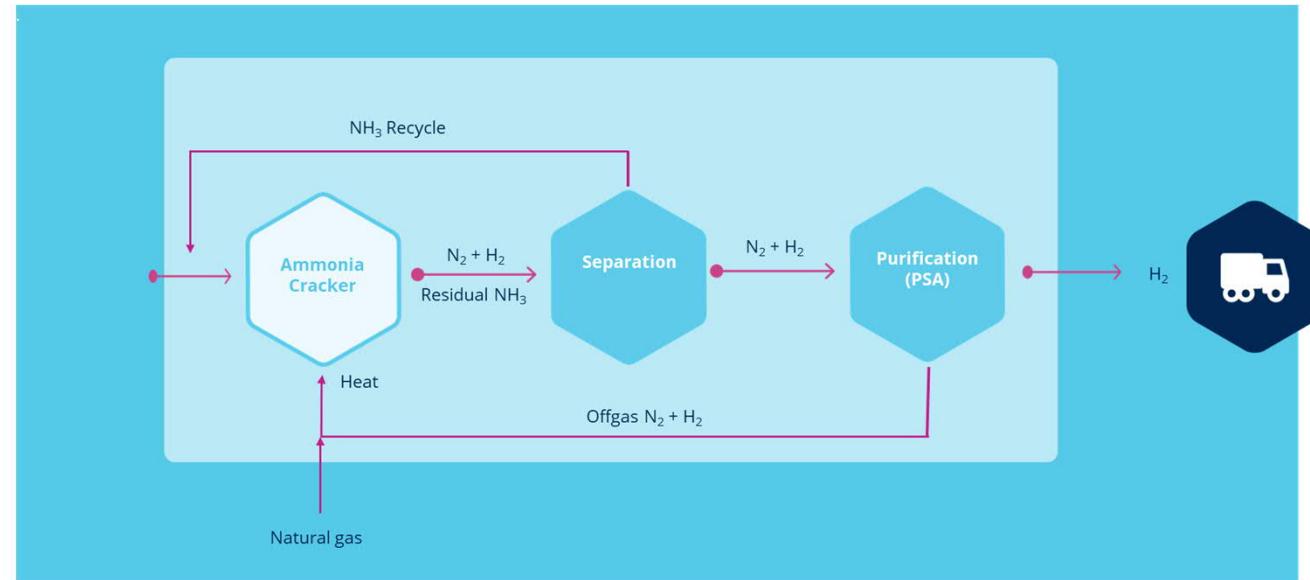
Topsoe high efficiency ammonia cracker ensures near to full conversion of the ammonia feed to high purity hydrogen



# The Topsøe Ammonia Cracking Technology

## Optimise for local optimum

- Large scale plants
  - 5-500 MTPD H<sub>2</sub>
  - Highly energy efficient process
  - ~97% NH<sub>3</sub> to H<sub>2</sub>
- Process optimisation built on top of current references
- May be tailored to the individual demands
- Example: (30 MTPD H<sub>2</sub>):
  - Energy input - Natural gas: 740 Nm<sup>3</sup>/t<sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub>
  - Operation pressure 30-50 barg
  - Carbon footprint 15 H<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>
  - PSAs for H<sub>2</sub> separation – 99.9% purity
  - <1 ppm NH<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>
  - Ideal for FCEV - hydrogen fuel



# The Topsøe Solutions

- Strong experience from existing plants
  - Both on catalyst and technology
  - Knowledge on all the small details
  - Our expertise area is design of large scale plants
    - >5 MTPD Hydrogen
- We combine knowledge from catalyst and process
  - We can optimise for local infrastructure
  - Adjust for local legislation
  - Available energy source dictates ideal process solution
- SOFC may be a future alternative
  - Generate  $H_2$  + Power
  - Flexible operation

Energy is key		
Heat source	External input	NH <sub>3</sub> efficiency
Natural gas	~740 Nm <sup>3</sup> /t <sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub>	>97%
NH <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> )	0	~75%
Electricity	6-8 MWh/t <sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub>	>95%
HP Steam	6-10 MWh/t <sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub>	>95%

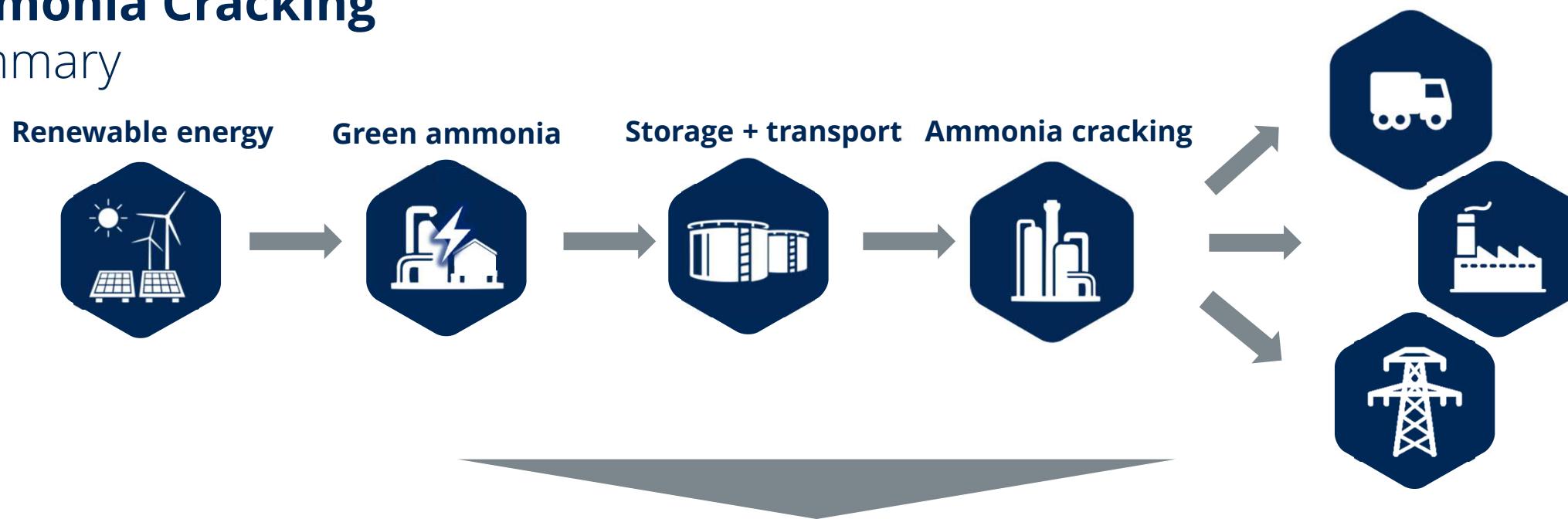
# Ammonia cracking potential

- Ammonia cracking still market in early phase
  - Where will the market be strongest?
- Hydrogen for transport
  - FCEVs
- Power generation
  - Eg. in combination with gas turbines etc
- Greener refineries
- Replacement of fossil heat sources
  - Steel industry etc.
- Hydrogen as pilot fuel for engines
  - Ships/power etc



# Ammonia Cracking

## Summary



- Ammonia is an excellent energy vector: fuel and energy storage
- Ammonia cracking – many potential opportunities
- Topsoe have long experience in ammonia cracking
- High TRL level on catalyst + technology
- We can tailor the process to each individual market



# Thank you!

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