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CANMET ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

# Introduction of Hydrogen Technologies to Ramea Island

CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

**Morel Oprisan**  
**IEA Wind – KWEA Joint Workshop**  
**April, 2007**

**Canada**



# Presentation Overview

1. Ramea Island
2. Background
3. Hydrogen Integration
4. Project Phases
5. Project Partners
6. Equipment Sizing
7. Project Timeline
8. Expected Performance



# 1. Ramea Island



Newfoundland



Ramea Island

## Island of Newfoundland

- World class wind resource
- Potential for many 100's of MW

## Ramea Island

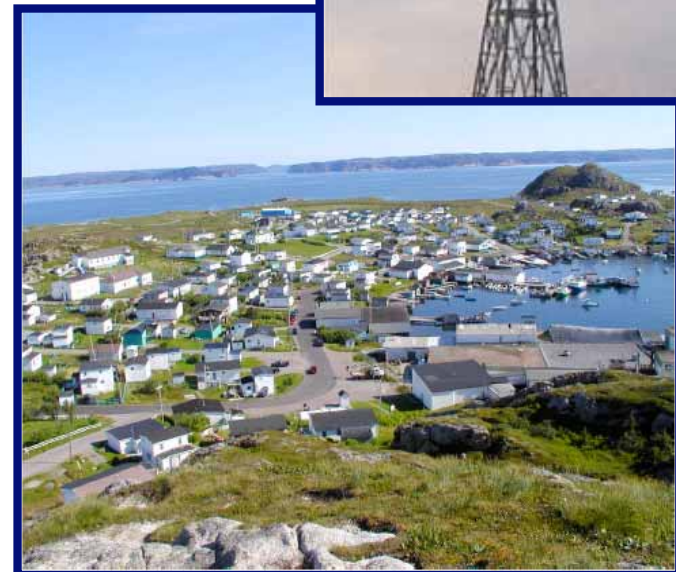
- Not connected to Island grid
- Ferry access only
- ~ 350 customers
- 1,078 kW peak load (winter)



## 2. Background

- Commissioning of first Wind-Diesel demonstration project in Canada in 2004
- NRCan's unique control system integrates wind with existing diesel generation
- +12 months of successful operation:
  - CF = 0.33
  - Wind production ~ 1 million kWh electricity / yr
  - Diesel fuel savings ~ 10%
  - ~ 750 tonnes / yr GHG emissions reductions
  - Improved air quality

Windmatic 65 kW  
Turbine



Town of Ramea



# Current Situation on Ramea

- Installed wind capacity:  $6 \times 65 \text{ kW} = 390 \text{ kW}$
- Real wind capacity:  $390 \text{ kW} \times 0.33 = 129 \text{ kW}$
- Total energy produced = 4,201 MWh in 2005
  - Diesel / Wind (90% / 10%)
- Installed diesel capacity:  
 $3 \times 925 \text{ kW} = 2,775 \text{ kW}$
- Often one only diesel generator running at 300 kW
- Excess wind energy is dumped, therefore, **storage** would increase wind penetration



Wind-Diesel System in Ramea,  
Newfoundland





# Potential for Commercialization

Existing NL Hydro isolated diesel systems:

- Black Tickle
- Cartwright
- Charlottetown
- Hopedale
- L'Anse au Loup
- Makkovik
- Mary's Harbour
- Nain
- Norman Bay
- Paradise River
- Port Hope Simpson
- Postville
- Rigolet
- St. Lewis
- Williams Harbour

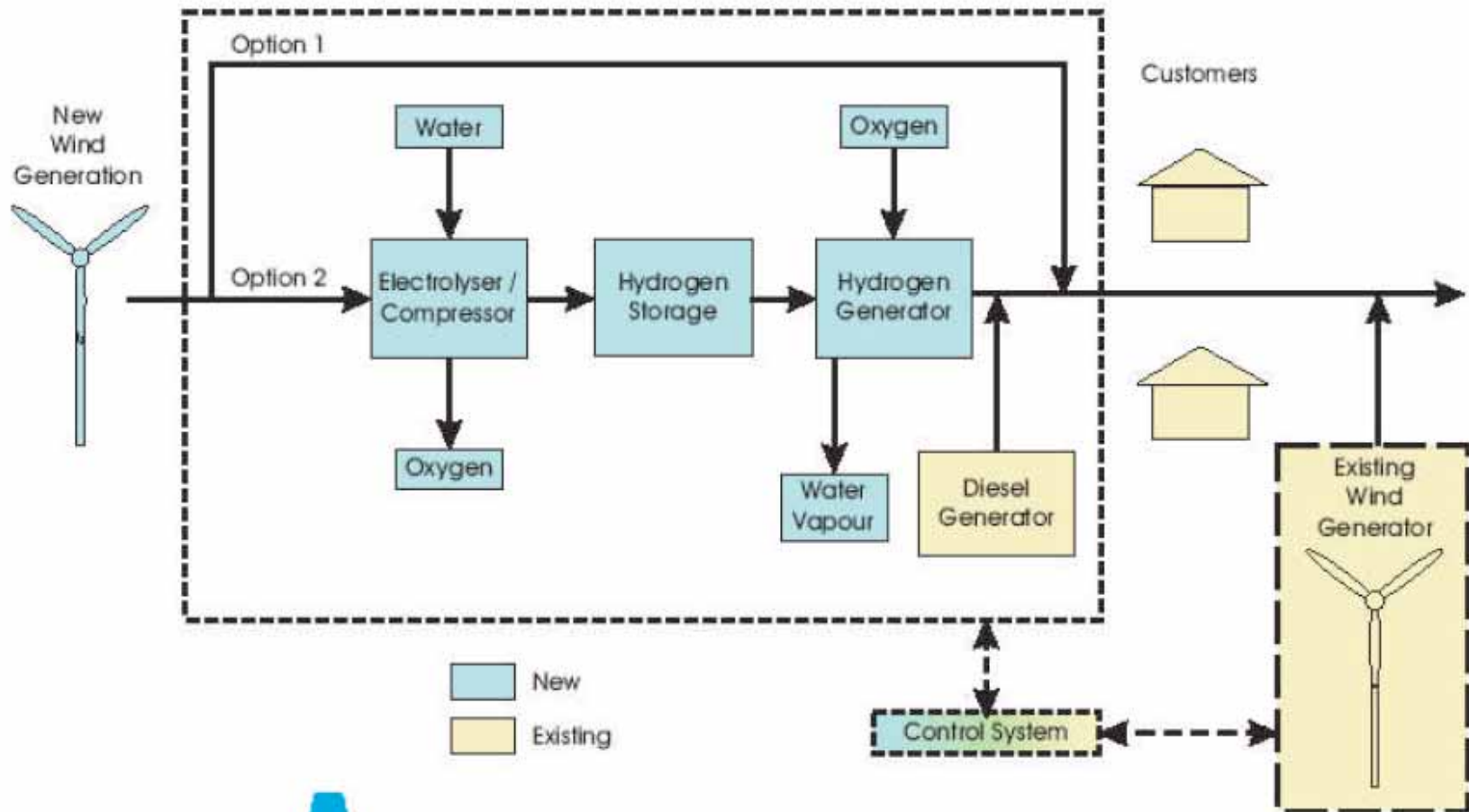


- Francois
- Grey River
- Little Bay Islands
- McCallum
- Ramea
- St Brendan's

Significant potential for deployment in remote communities in Canada and around the world



# 3. Hydrogen Integration



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## 4. Project Phases

### A. Feasibility study

- Modelling and feasibility study done by NRCan
- Goals: Establish potential for hydrogen storage and contribute to **equipment sizing**

### B. Implementation on Ramea

- Led by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
- Other Canadian Federal Government funding: \$3M CAD confirmed, \$1.7M CAD pending







# 5. Project Partners



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**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

**FRONTIER  
POWER  
SYSTEMS**



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## 6. Equipment Sizing

Hydrogen Generator

Hydrogen Storage /  
Compression

Electrolyzer

Wind Capacity

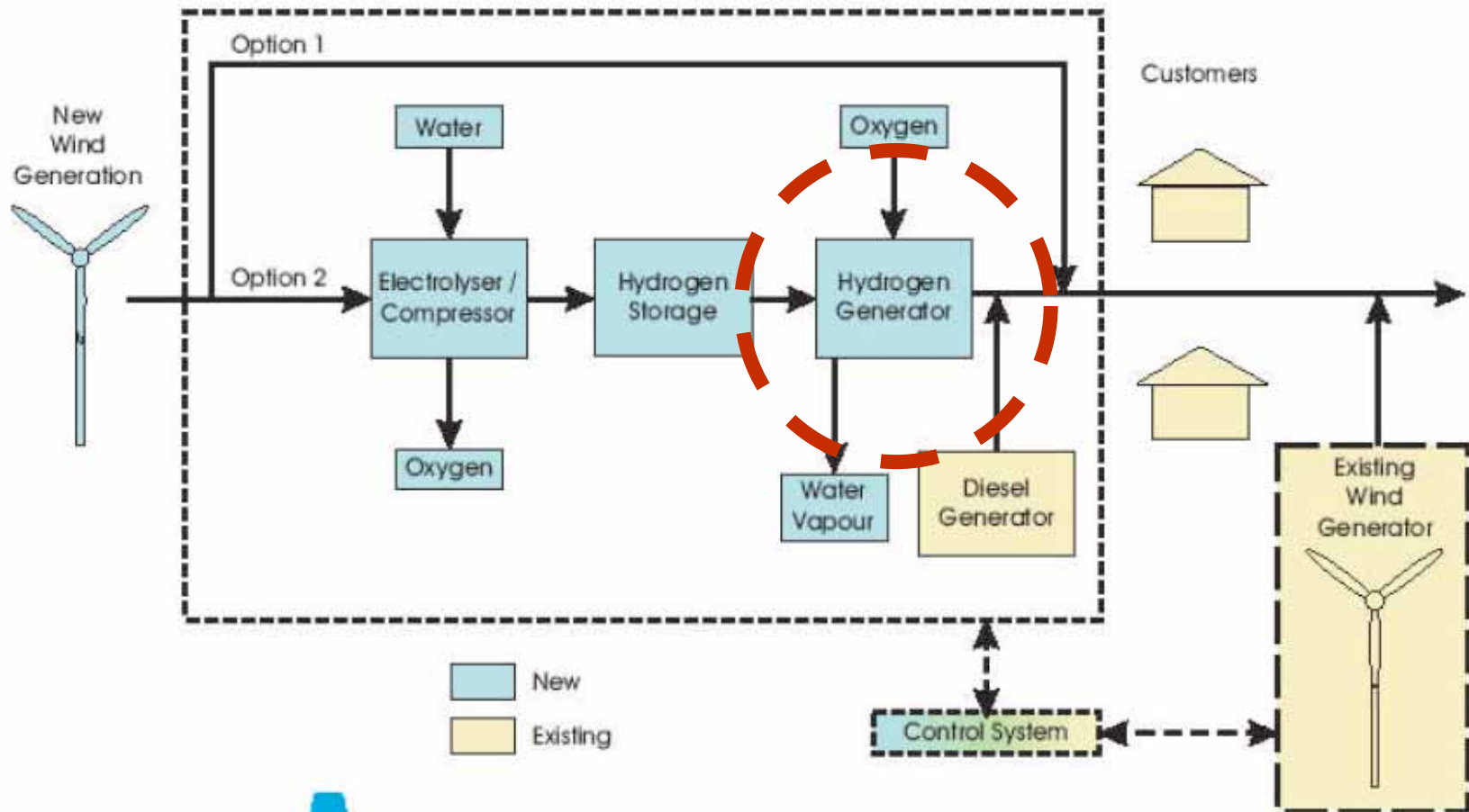
Control System

Relationship  
between  
components is  
complex





# Hydrogen Generator



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# Hydrogen Generator

- Known, reliable internal combustion technology
- Lower cost than fuel cell
- Current fuel cell technology not mature enough
- Previous operator experience



HEC 250 kW H<sub>2</sub> Genset



# Hydrogen Generator

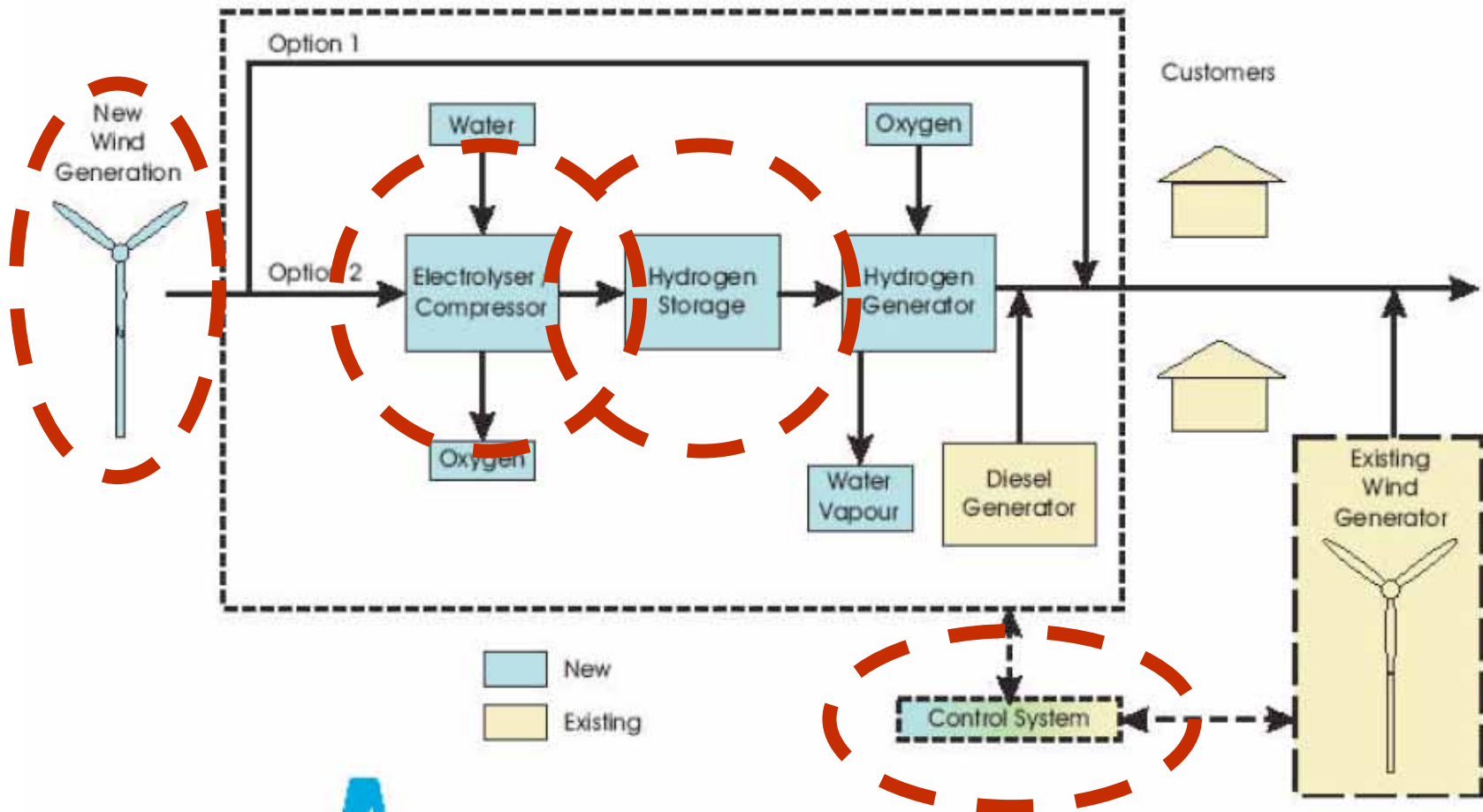
- 250 kW (4+1 engines, 4 x 62.5 kW)
- Supplied by Hydrogen Engine Center Canada
- Based on 4.9 L Ford engines
- Testing for performance, emissions, modelling parameters in Spring 2007
- Post-testing: Loaned and delivered to NL Hydro



Interior View of HEC  
250 kW H<sub>2</sub> Genset



# Other Equipment



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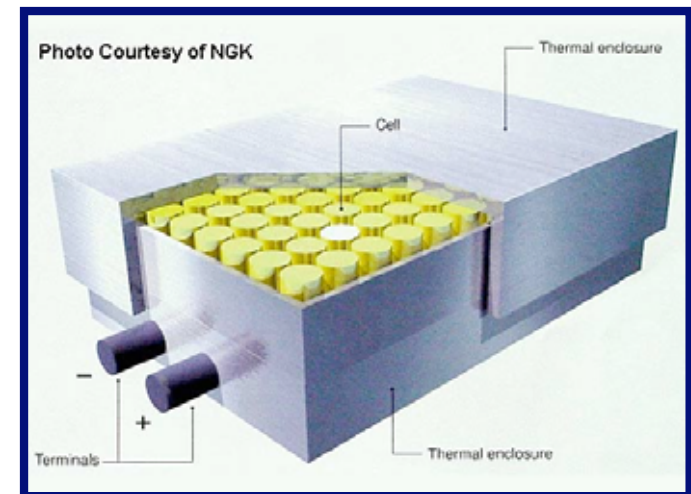


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# Hydrogen Storage

- Conventional H<sub>2</sub> storage leaves smaller environmental footprint than batteries
- Looking at long-term storage applications towards a H<sub>2</sub> economy
- Complementary to NRCan's existing R&D into advanced utility-sized batteries (e.g. VRB and NaS)



Sodium Sulphur  
Battery



# Hydrogen Storage / Compression

## Preliminary Estimate

- Work backwards from genset requirement to determine how large storage needs to be
- Genset H<sub>2</sub> consumption: 250 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr
- Min genset autonomy: 8 hours  
8 hr x 250 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr ≈ **2000 Nm<sup>3</sup> required storage**
- At 6700 psi (typical steel storage), require  
6837 L H<sub>2</sub>O equivalent volume



H<sub>2</sub> Storage

**9 x 19-ft cylinders**





# Electrolyzer

## Preliminary Estimate

- Work backwards from storage requirement to determine minimum electrolyzer H<sub>2</sub> production
- Maximum time to fill H<sub>2</sub> storage: 24 hrs  
2000 Nm<sup>3</sup> / 24 hrs = 79 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr  
+ additional capacity

**~ 90 m<sup>3</sup>/hr electrolyser**



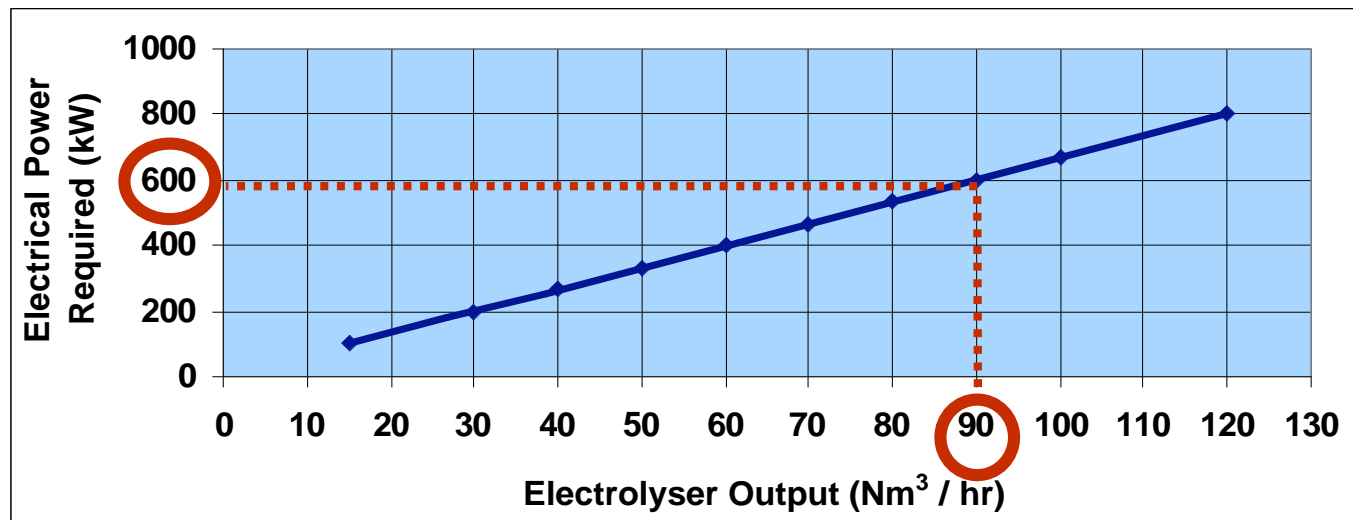
Hydrogenics Electrolyzer



# Wind Capacity

## Preliminary Estimate

- Work backwards from electrolyzer electrical requirement to determine minimum wind capacity (kW)
- Assume  $CF = 0.33$



**~ 1500 kW planned installed wind capacity**



# Control System

- Control system must work with each component's control system and with the existing wind-diesel control system
- Must optimize each component's production so that overall wind penetration is maximized



Enercon E33 Turbine



## 7. Project Timeline

### *August 2007: Project Definition & Sanctioning*

- Committed funding finalized & funding contracts completed
- Project partnerships established and agreements in place
- System modelling, component sizing and project design

### *December 2008: Project In Service*

- Finalize equipment selection and design
- Procure equipment
- Control system design, testing, development and commissioning

### *December 2011: Three Years Operations & Reporting*



## 8. Expected Performance

- Preliminary performance will be optimized through feasibility study
- Round trip efficiency expected to be approximately 25%

| Component                                | Approximate Efficiency |
|--|------------------------|
| Electrolysis + Compression               | 80%                    |
| Storage + Decompression                  | 90%                    |
| Hydrogen Internal Combustion             | 35%                    |
| <b>Approximate Round Trip Efficiency</b> | <b>25%</b>             |





# Thank You

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