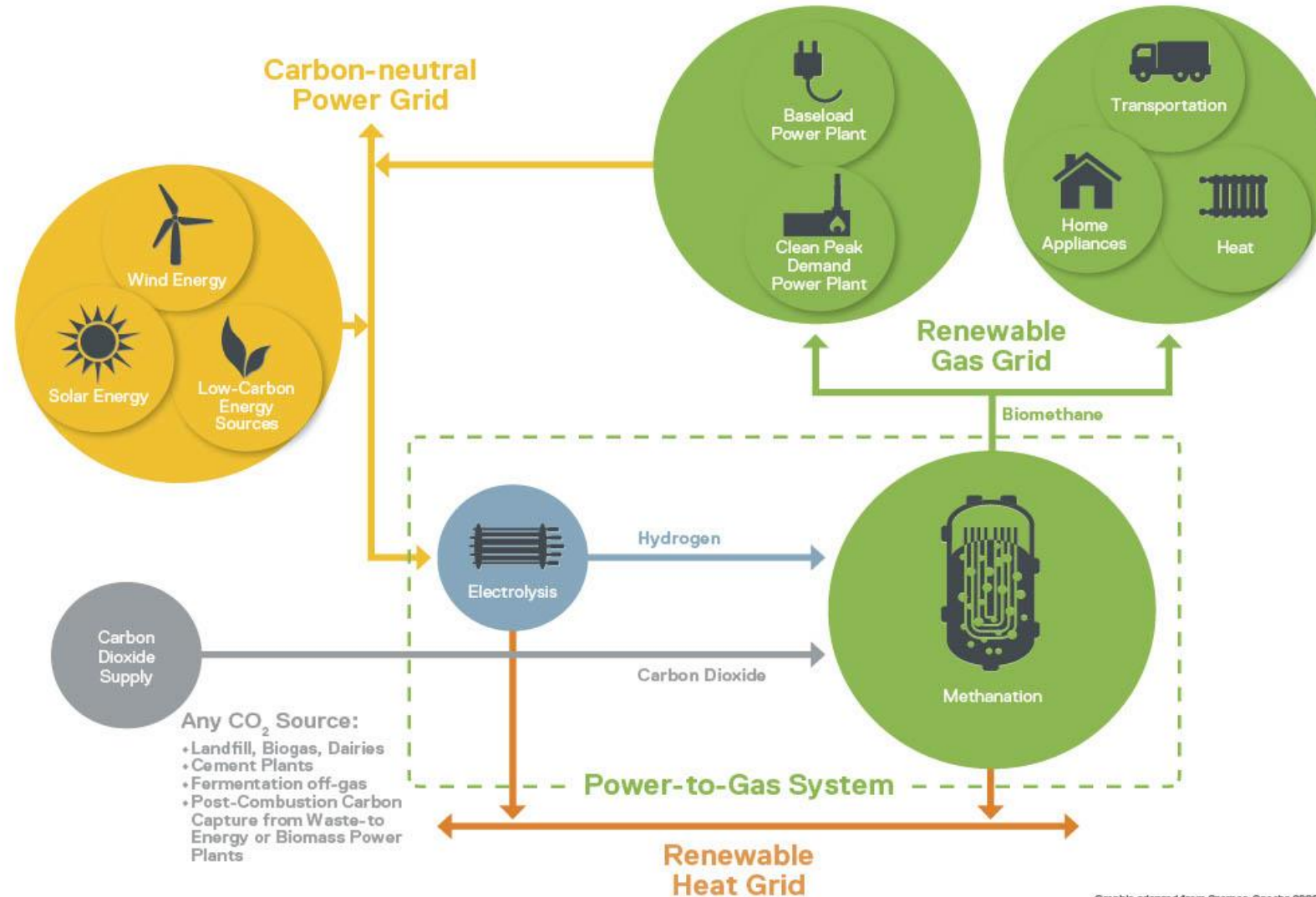


# Biologische Methanisierung – von CO<sub>2</sub> und Wasserstoff zu e-Methan

Vortrag zum Seminar der WIVA P&G  
06. July 2022  
MSc. Theresa Ahrens  
Development Engineer



# Renewable Gas Charges our Largest Battery: the Gas Grid



Graphic adapted from Sterner, Specht 2008

# Storing Renewable Energy as Methane in the Natural Gas Grid



 **Electrochaea**  
Proprietary Biocatalytic System



- Abundant renewable power
- Available CO<sub>2</sub> sources



- Natural gas grid storage - distribution to all energy sectors
- Energy and CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration

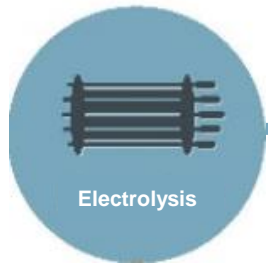


# The Archaea Transform Every Molecule of CO<sub>2</sub> into Molecule of CH<sub>4</sub> Without Using Fossil Fuels

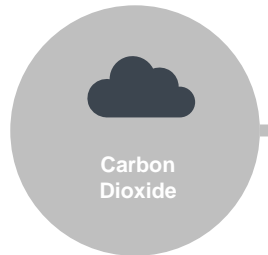
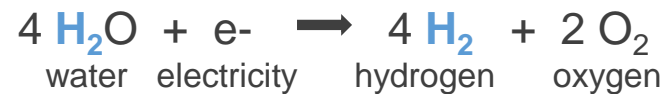


Electrolysis is the process that produces hydrogen.

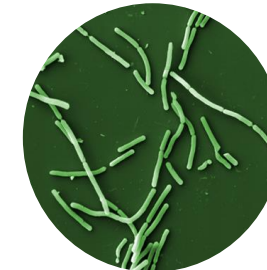
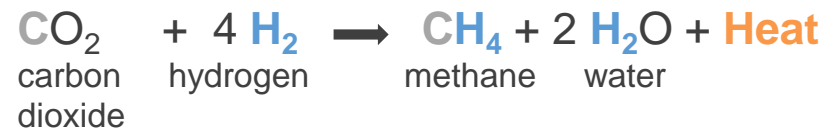
Renewable hydrogen is synthesized in the electrolyzer from water and renewable electricity.



Electrolysis



Carbon Dioxide



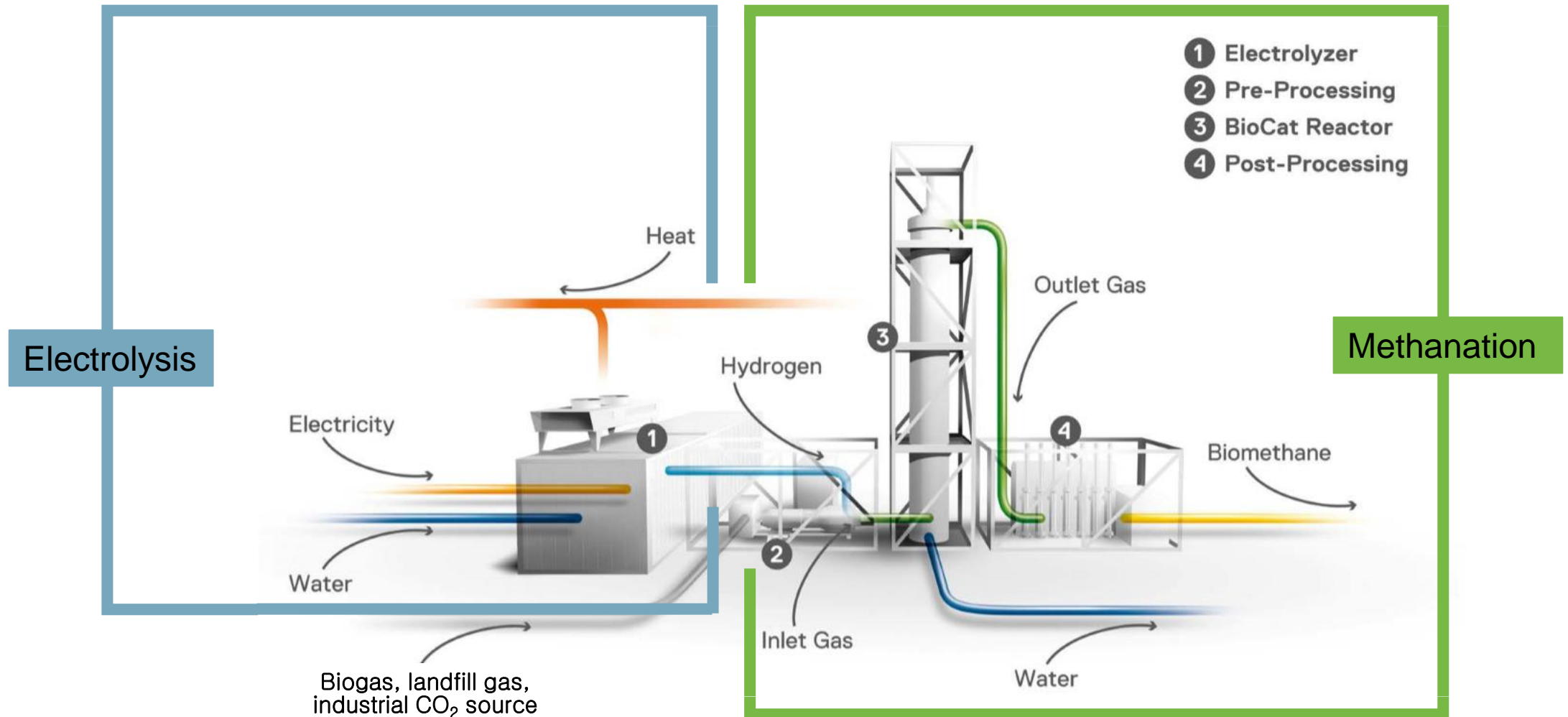
Methanation

The methane is synthesized in each cell of the biocatalyst. There are trillions of cells working to produce methane in the reactor.

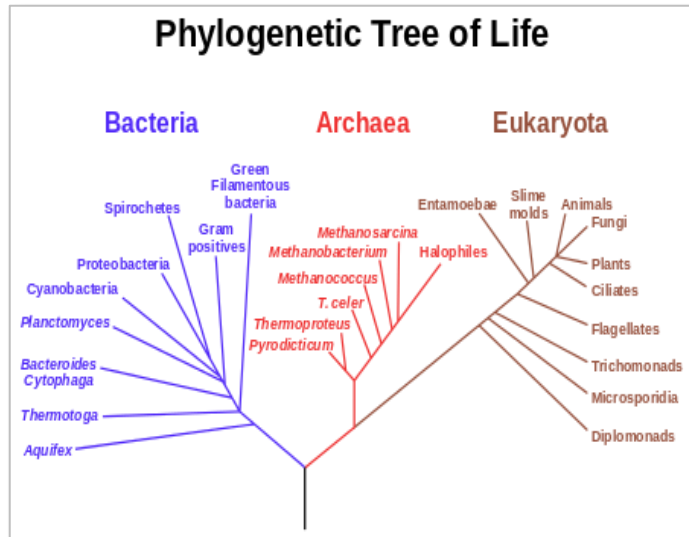
The biocatalyst is a single-celled microorganism that belongs to the domain of Archaea.

The cells are self-replicating in the reactor, as such, the system can sustain itself.

# A Scalable and Simple System Design



# Our biocatalyst: methanogenic Archaea



- **Methanogenic Archaea:**
  - 3.5 billion year-old single-celled organisms
  - Described only 30 years ago by pioneers Prof Carl Woese (Illinois) and Prof Karl Stetter (Regensburg)
  - Specialized „tiny chemical plants“ pre-engineered by nature
  - „Archaeal diet“: CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> (no other carbon source needed!), 65 °C
- **Electrochaeta biocatalyst:** proprietary, selectively evolved, highly efficient, optimised Archaea

# Electrochaea's Rapid Technology De-risking and Scale-up



## 75 MW Commercial-Scale

With support from strategic investors Electrochaea focuses on scale-up and integration for grid scale commercial projects

## 10 MW Commercial-Scale

Scale-up for first commercial biomethanation plant co-funded by EIC Accelerator program

## Commercial-Scale Field Trial

Preparing for market entry with a commercial-scale demonstration unit, using an optimized reactor, Copenhagen, Denmark

## Pre-Commercial Field Trial

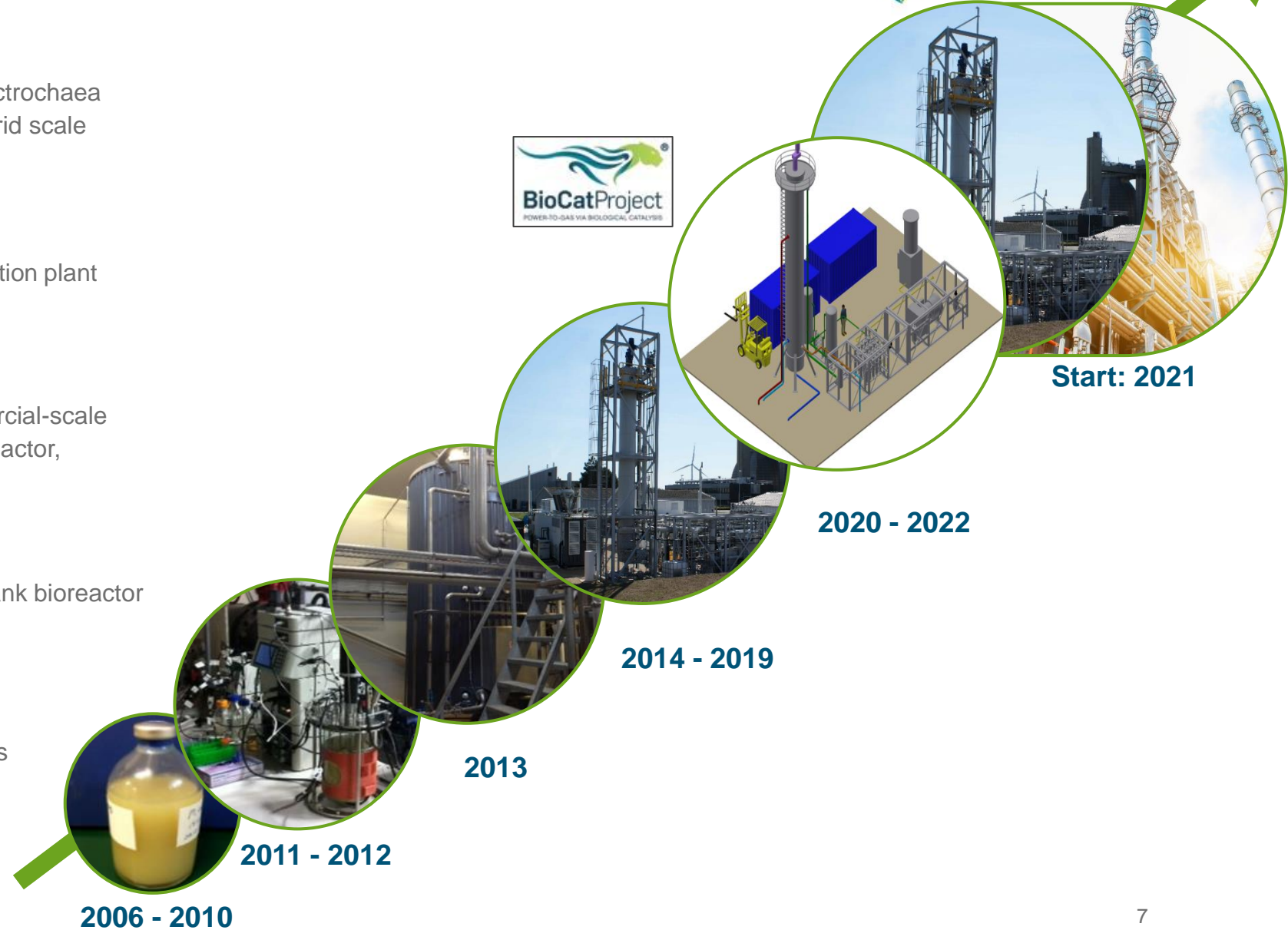
Process demonstration in a 5m<sup>3</sup> stirred tank bioreactor using raw biogas, Foulum, Denmark

## Lab-Scale Field Trial

Biocatalytic capability test with raw biogas

## Basic Research

In Dr. Mets' laboratory at the University of Chicago





# Our Technology in Industrial-Scale Pilots

(0.25 MWe)  
**Golden, Colorado, US**  
July 2019



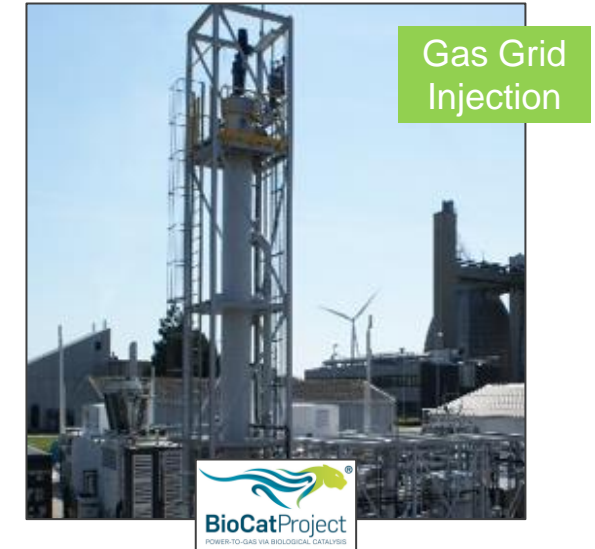
- ✓ Commissioning completed
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> US biological methanation
- ✓ High pressure (18 bar)
- ✓ Project support SoCal Gas, NREL (US DOE)
- ✓ **New DOE grant (9/2021) will relocate the plant to a Summit Utilities (Maine) dairy biogas site for gas grid RNG injection.**

(0.7 MWe)  
**Solothurn, Switzerland**  
May 2019



- ✓ Gas grid injection within 96h
- ✓ Operation >1200h, 17 216 Nm<sup>3</sup> RNG injected
- ✓ Automated operation
- ✓ Commercial design
- ✓ Project support EC (H2020), RES
- ✓ [Click here for a virtual tour of Solothurn](#)

(1 MWe)  
**Avedøre, Denmark**  
April 2016



- ✓ WWTP site integration
- ✓ Flexible operation, load following
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> grid scale demonstration
- ✓ Project support EUDP, Energinet, HMN, AUDI, Insero, Hydrogenics, BioFos



# 1MWe Demonstration Plant Achievements

Electrochaeta technology feedstock flexibility demonstrated by pilot facility



CO<sub>2</sub>  
Operation

1 MW electrical  
power

200 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h H<sub>2</sub>

50 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h CO<sub>2</sub>



Heat  
320 kW

Synthetic Biomethane 50  
Nm<sup>3</sup>/h

grid

Biogas  
Upgrade

1 MW electrical  
power

200 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h H<sub>2</sub>

50 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h CO<sub>2</sub>  
(from Biogas)

75 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h CH<sub>4</sub>  
(from Biogas)

Biogas



Heat  
320 kW

Synthetic Biomethane 50  
Nm<sup>3</sup>/h

Organic Biomethane  
75 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h

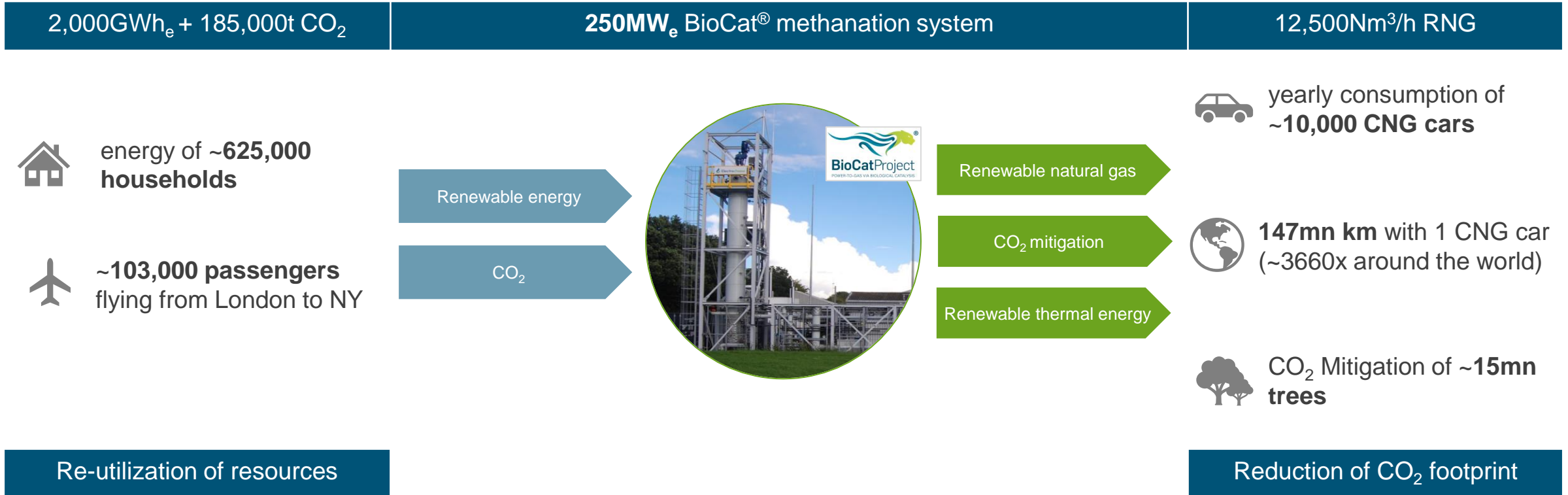
grid



Horizon 2020 funding

confidential

# Impact of Electrochaea's scalable technology



## \*assumptions:

- Heat and electricity for one year 3,200 kWh in a household with 4 person in Germany (2013)
- Consumption average CNG car: 4.5kg CNG/100km, yearly distance: 15 000km/year
- 8,000 h/a of operation, electrolysis included
- One beech binds 12,5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/year
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions calculator [www.atmosfair.de](http://www.atmosfair.de)

# The Team – Multi-Disciplinary with Experienced Leadership



**Mich Hein, PhD**  
*CEO & Managing Director, USA*

-----  
Co-founder and managing partner at Nidus Partners. Passionate entrepreneur.  
Raised €60 mn for start-ups



**Doris Hafenbradl, PhD**  
*CTO & Managing Director, EMEA*

-----  
Over 20 years of experience in biotech, biofuels and pharmaceutical industries. Expert in hyperthermophilic archaea. Commercialized multiple technology ideas



**Harald Beschid**  
*Chief Operation Officer*

-----  
15 years hands-on expertise in project management, project controls, operations and various cross-department consulting assignments. Managing budgets directly with over €320 million.

## HIGHLY MOTIVATED, SKILLED AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM





# Vielen Dank!



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## Electrochaea's Investors:



European  
Innovation  
Council



Sirius  
Venture Partners



36Mio EUR Series D closed in Dec21