

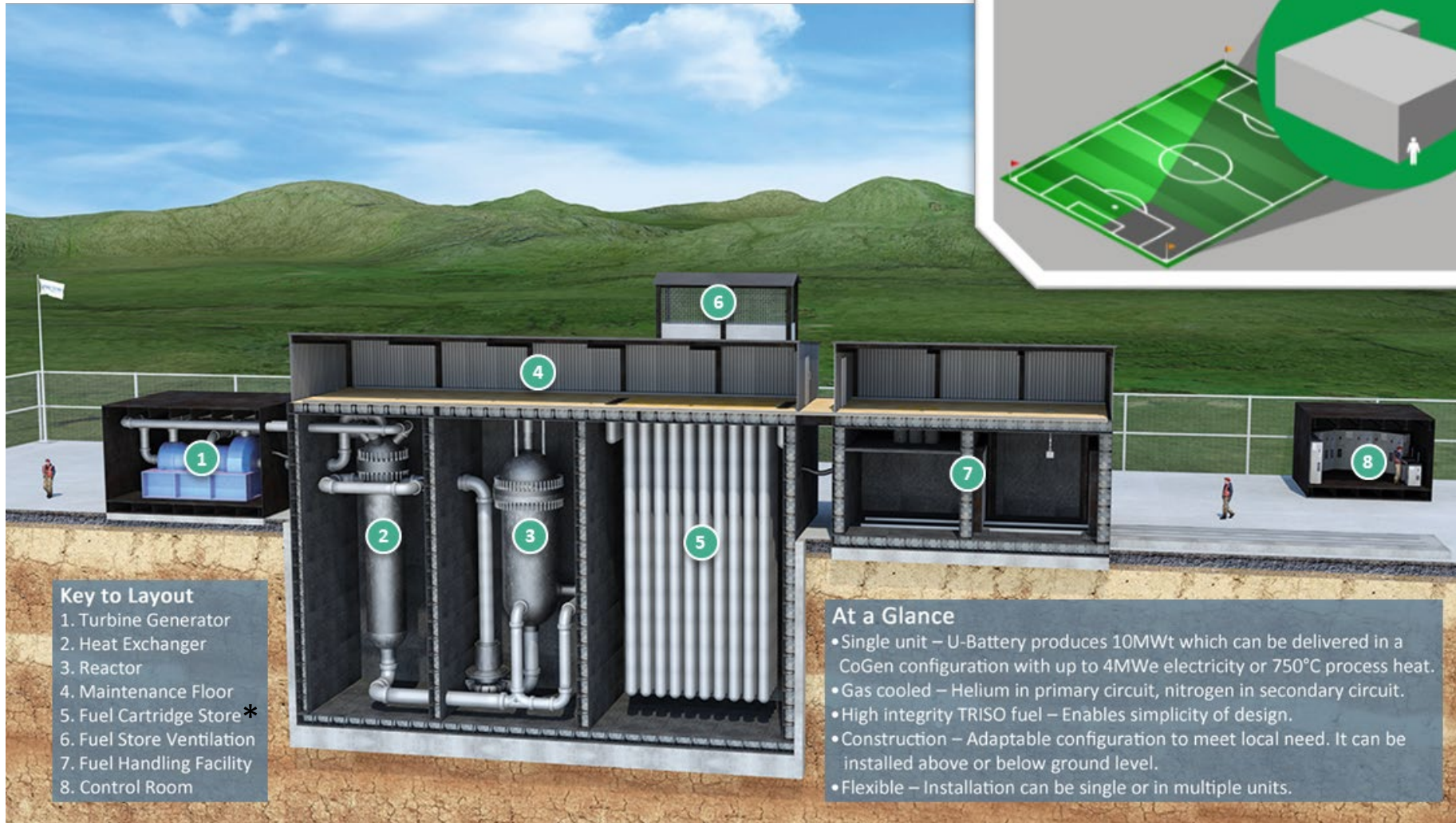


**UK Academics Meeting, Cambridge**

8th September 2021



# U-Battery Layout



\*Indicative fuel storage solution – dependent on intended lifetime of specific plant and potential for offsite alternatives

# U-Battery Applications

| Sector                           | Key application                                    | Market Size 2035        | Market drivers                                       | Market Size 2050                                  | U-BATTERY Local Modular Energy Target |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Remote communities               | Diesel/oil replacement                             | 125-150 units           | Regional electrification; wider adoption rates       | +100 units  |                                       |
| High value mining                | Asset life; economics; diesel replacement demanded | 25 units                | Wider adoption rates; learning curve economics       | many units  |                                       |
| Industrial CHP                   | Replacing gas/carbon red.                          | 175-350 units           | Net zero targets; application of carbon tax          | +30 units   |                                       |
| Hydrogen economy                 | Poly-generation for transport and energy storage   | 75-100 units            | Net zero targets; 18% of final energy demand by 2050 | Order of magnitude higher than 2035 est.**        |                                       |
| Data centres                     | Payback over short life                            | 50 units                | Gig-economy growth                                   | +40 units   |                                       |
| Low value mining                 | Asset life; economics                              | 30 units                | Wider adoption rates; Learning curve economics       | +20 units   |                                       |
| Desalination                     | Remote location                                    | 25 units                | Population growth; climate change                    | +110 units  |                                       |
| Flexible baseload                | LCOE competitive gen.                              | 100-190 units           | Wider adoption rates; Learning curve economics       | +110 units  |                                       |
| Nuclear power back-up            | Safety/life extensions                             | 230 units               | NPP growth; new nuclear countries                    | +30 units   |                                       |
| Strategic military               | NATO requirements                                  | 60 units                | Wider adoption (50% rate); higher defence spending   | +60 units   |                                       |
| <b>Total estimated potential</b> |  | <b>~900-1,200 units</b> |  | <b>+ ~500 units + 1,000 H<sub>2</sub> overlay</b> |                                       |

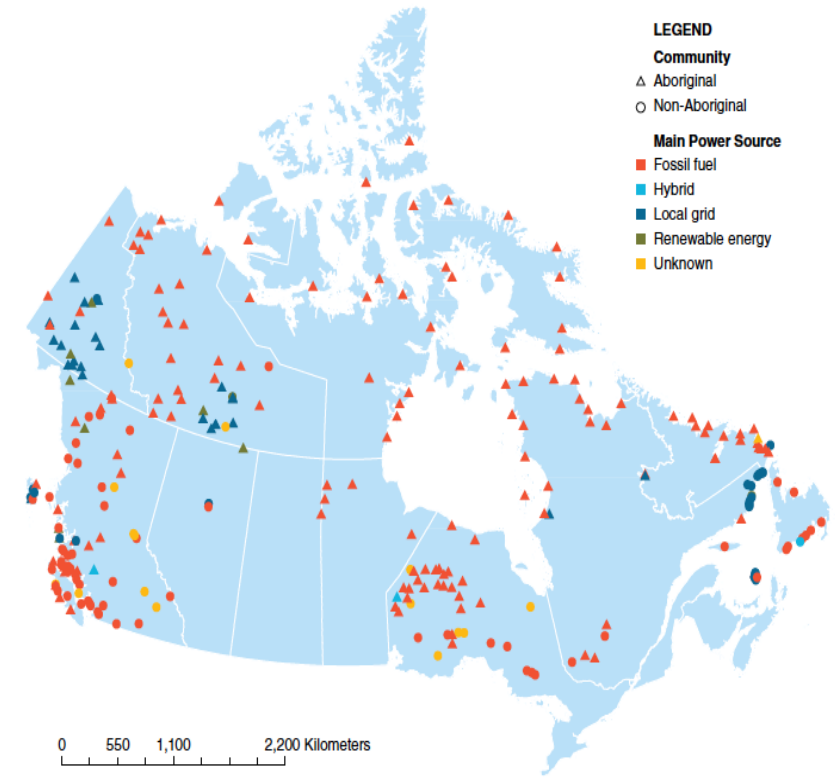
\* Delivered by increased adoption and/or market growth beyond 2040. Default growth is EIA 1% p.a.

\*\* Up to 1,300 units based on increase adoption of hydrogen to decarbonise the transport sector; for which MIT foresees a global demand of 1,315GWe for nuclear capacity

# Application: Remote communities and mines

## The opportunity:

- U-Battery's modularity and unique capabilities, make it significantly adaptable to meet broader local needs in remote communities and off-grid location, such as mining operations. Typically energy costs are 2-4 times as high as UK.
- In Canada, remote regions facing higher food and energy costs could see these significantly reduced and low-carbon sustainable energy generated for these diesel-dependent communities
- Improve the competitiveness of Canadian mining operations in remote areas like Ontario's Ring of Fire and other parks of Northern Canada, by accelerating their transition away from diesel.
- U-Battery could provide a cheaper, green electricity solution for remote communities and mines reliant on diesel, which is transported via air freight.
- Natural Resources Canada has identified 600 diesel generators for remote communities and mine sites that could be replaced by U-Batteries
- While Canada is a first focus, there is a global market for remote energy supply









**Indicative cost c. £100-200/MWe<sup>1</sup>  
(vs flown in diesel c.£400/MWe)<sup>2</sup>**

# Application: Decarbonisation of industrial heat

## The opportunity:

- Providing clean process heat and electricity to the hard to decarbonise Foundation Industries, which currently contributing 10% of all UK CO2 emissions
- The sector is worth around £52 billion to the UK economy alone, provides 500,000 skilled jobs in 31,400 firms, mainly in North of England and Midlands
- We have identified a sizeable initial market
- Particular focus of UK Government, but with global potential
- Potential to scale up reactor size within inherent safety envelope to gain economies of scale for specific use cases

| Sector  | Use                                  | Sector   | Use   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
|  Glass   | Heating raw materials and annealing  |  Ceramics   | Process heat need 220-650°C for drying and spray drying |
|  Paper  | Drying paper                         |  Minerals  | Cement production                                       |
|  Steel | Less likely – due to scale of demand |  Chemical | Heating fluids at 450°C                                 |

**Indicative cost**  
**c.£100-120/MWh<sup>1</sup> – at 10MWth**  
**perhaps half at 50MWth**  
**and reducing further at larger scale**



# Application: Clean hydrogen production

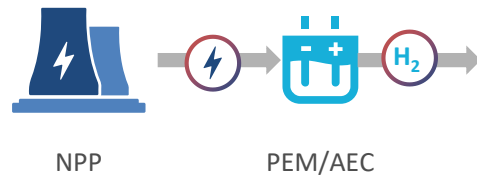
Use of SMRs in high temperature hydrogen production could be more competitive than conventional nuclear powered low temperature solutions

U-Battery study underway with a leading UK solid oxide electrolyser developer

## Low-T electrolysis in dedicated NPP

Electrolysis (50-150 °C) with electricity directly from conventional nuclear power plant (NPP)<sup>1</sup>

H<sub>2</sub> production process chain



Overall efficiency

20-30%

H<sub>2</sub> production cost €/kg

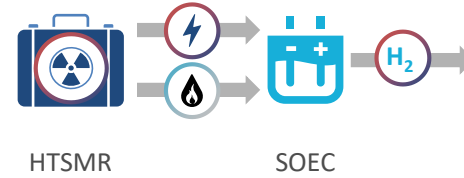
5.5 - 6.5

- H<sub>2</sub> production sourcing fixed amount of NPP output through PPA
- Nuclear costs based on current values, assumed to remain constant over time
- AEM electrolyzer technology on-site on NPP

Benchmark for low-carbon H<sub>2</sub> from nuclear as most mature technology

## High-T electrolysis in dedicated SMR

High-T (600-850 °C) electrolysis with heat & electricity directly from high-T SMR (HTSMR)<sup>2</sup>



35-45%

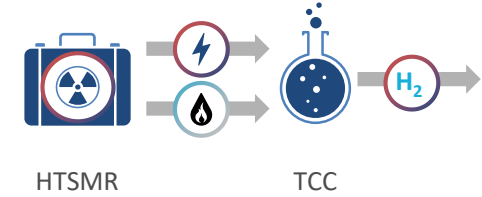
4 - 6

- H<sub>2</sub> production sourcing fixed amount of heat/electricity output through PPA
- Nuclear costs mainly based on projections from JAEA's HTTR reactor
- SOEC electrolyzer technology close to SMR and off taker

Good potential in mid term to increase competitiveness of nuclear low-carbon H<sub>2</sub>

## Thermochemical cycling in dedicated SMR

TCC (600-850 °C) with heat & electricity directly from HTSMR<sup>3</sup>



25-45%

6 - 10

- H<sub>2</sub> production sourcing fixed amount of heat/electricity output through PPA
- Nuclear costs mainly based on projections from JAEA's HTTR reactor
- TCC costs based on projection for Copper-chlorine pilot plant

Despite high efficiency potential still out of the money due to technology immaturity

1. Source: World Nuclear Association 2. Source: JAEA 3. Source: General Atomics, University of Ontario

● High maturity, tested in field

● Mid maturity, significant uncertainties

● Low maturity, R&D phase



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

## UK Government has selected HTGR as AMR technology (July 2021)

- Following Royal Society report HTGRs are now being considered as focus for AMR demonstrator **£170m budget**.
- Recent “Call for Evidence” by 9 September reinforces the likelihood of HTGR selection.
- Budget is to cover supply chain and regulatory framework as well as direct reactor development costs
- HTGRs prioritized since they *“could help unlock the decarbonisation of several energy vectors such as efficient hydrogen production and industrial processes like steel, cement and paper production”*.
- NIRAB has recommended further funding for AMR development in future spending periods



## U-Battery is natural focus for Government initiative – it has the potential to be a “national endeavour”

- ✓ U-Battery is the only HTGR design of three projects currently funded under the AMR programme
- ✓ UK Government is aligned with U-Battery on key applications – hydrogen and industrial process heat
- ✓ BEIS are inviting U-Battery to propose a route forward with their funding

***U-Battery is well placed.***

