

Impact of Energy Transition on Process Safety

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Presenter



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The Need for Energy Transition

- Why do we need renewable energy resources?
- Why can't we just continue to use non-renewable resources?



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- CO₂ is at 415 ppm (2021)
- Global warming ~ 1.1°C in the past 200 years
- Ocean acidification
- Rising sea level ~ 3.2mm each year
- o Decreasing ice sheet mass
- o Retreating glaciers (Alps, Himalayas,...)
- Decreasing Arctic ice at a rate of 13% each decade (413 Gt/yr)
- $\circ~$ The climate challenge is no longer a scientific debate !





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 FaceBook post of Bjorn Moerman (captain/instructor on Airbus A380 overflying the North Pole en route from Dubai to Los Angeles at the end of July 2021):

"Global warming and climate change have become part of our daily vocabularies and often lead to heated discussions on both a political an a personal level. I am not here to say who is right or wrong, but want to share a recent aerial image shot over the North Pole, which is – at least to me – quite telling !"





The climate challenge is no longer a scientific debate !

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Extensive studies show that the extent of the arctic sea ice has been on a steady decline since the first reliable satellite data have become available in 1979. The 2021 spring and summer melt till now, shows that this year unfortunately could be breaking the previous 2012 record for the lowest amount of polar sea ice.

- o Massive floods in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands in July 2021
- At least 228 people have died in the floods, including 184 in Germany and 41 in Belgium. Belgian Minister of Home Affairs Annelies Verlinden described the events as "one of the greatest natural disasters our country has ever known."
- The floods are estimated to have cost up to €2.55 billion in insured losses, with the total damage costs being much higher.
- In the aftermath, scientists, activists and reporters all highlighted the connection to global trends in extreme weather, especially more frequent heavy rainfall caused by climate change.







AR6 Report of IPCC (2021)

- o Prepared by 234 authors during the last 4 years, report endorsed by 195 countries
- o Based on 14.000 scientific papers

Conclusions

- o Code red for humanity !
- Global surface temperature was 1.09C higher in the decade between 2011-2020 than between 1850-1900.
- The past five years have been the hottest on record since 1850
- o The recent rate of sea level rise has nearly tripled compared with 1901-1971
- Human influence is "very likely" (90%) the main driver of the global retreat of glaciers since the 1990s and the decrease in Arctic sea-ice
- It is "virtually certain" that hot extremes including heatwaves have become more frequent and more intense since the 1950s, while cold events have become less frequent and less severe
 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations that is dedicated to providing the world with objective, scientific information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced climate change, its natural, political, and economic impacts and risks, and possible response options.
 - The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. Membership is open to all members of the WMO and UN.

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Five future impacts (AR6 IPCC)

- Temperatures will reach 1.5°C above 1850-1900 levels by 2040 under all emissions scenarios
- The Arctic is likely to be practically ice-free in September at least once before 2050 in all scenarios assessed
- There will be an increasing occurrence of some extreme events "unprecedented in the historical record" even at warming of 1.5°C
- Extreme sea level events that occurred once a century in the recent past are projected to occur at least annually at more than half of tidal gauge locations by 2100
- There will be likely increases in fire weather in many regions

The Need for Energy Transition: World Green House Gas Emissions



combustion of fossil fuels at consumer level

Source: Adapted from CO₂ Emissions from fuel combustion 2016 IEA report and UNEP emissions Gap report

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Climate: Activity Areas

→ Setting up business structures in TotalEnergies to develop renewable energy sources:





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Climate: Activity Areas

























Main Hazards related to New Energies



Hydrogen

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Safety Aspects related to New Energies

Some safety aspects related to the development of new energies are given in the following slides:

- o Hydrogen
- o LNG/CNG
- o Batteries
- \circ Wind









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Accidents related to Hydrogen

Hydrogen accidents marking the public opinion





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Properties of Hydrogen: Flammability Characteristics

Stored electrical energies $\frac{1}{2}CU^2$ in non-earthed items of different capacitances C, charged to different voltages U



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Properties of Hydrogen: Flame Visibility

- The flame of a hydrogen fire emits predominantly radiation in the UV region and few in the visible region.
- Hydrogen flames are not (or difficultly visible) in daylight!



Properties of Hydrogen: Burning Velocities

- The laminar burning velocity is the flame front velocity relative to the unburnt mixture just ahead of the flame when burning in a laminar regime.
- o Most hydrocarbons encountered in oil & gas industry have a maximum burning velocity of about 40 cm/s.
- Hydrogen has a much higher maximum burning velocity (about 10 times higher).
- High laminar burning velocities indicate a greater tendency for a deflagration-to-detonation (DDT) transition to occur.



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Hydrogen explosion in hydrogen fueling station (Kjorbo (N), 2019)

1. Starting condition

- Green bolts torqued properly
- Blue bolts not torqued properly

2. Red sealing fails

- Starting with small leak on red sealing area
- Small leak wears red sealing out and escalates
- Large leak exceeding capacity of leak bore, caus increases inside blue sealing area
- 3. Bushing with Plug lifts and the blue seal fails
 - Insufficient pre-tension of bolts leads to lift of the plug and sealings fail immediately
 - Spread of Hydrogen leaks out in uncontrolled way









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Lead Acid Battery Explosion

- During excessive charging (high current) of lead-acid batteries, hydrogen gas will be produced by electrolysis of the water in the electrolyte
- In most cases the battery itself will explode. The plastic casing ruptures and acid is ejected. Potential damage is thus related to splashing of the acid or impact by the plastic casing missiles.
- However, especially in large battery bank rooms, hydrogen gas can accumulate in the room. This might lead to more severe impact by explosion in the room. Pictures of the room explosion show the result of an incident during which a local hydrogen detector alarm had been sounding for 3 days at a vacated plant.







Hydrogen explosion following failure of rupture disk

- o Date: 8 January 2007
- o Location: American Electrical Power (AEP), Muskingum River Plant, Ohio (US), hydrogen trailer unloading unit
- o Fatalities: truck driver killed in explosion, 10 other injured
- Cause: premature failure of 255 bar set pressure rupture discs on the receival storage cylinder (operating at 170 bar) during unloading of tube trailer. Rupture disc incorrectly replaced during annual maintenance.





Hydrogen explosion in dome of sulfuric acid tank

- Hydrogen explosion in empty 97% H2SO4 storage tank during inspection.
- 3 people were injured, of which 2 severely. At the time of the accident, the workers 3 were standing on the roof of the tank cutting the bolts of the manhole on the dome of the tank using a grinder.
- The hydrogen was formed in the tank upon cleaning of the tank with water prior to its inspection.



Natural Gas (CNG, LNG)

- The use of natural gas (compressed or liquefied) will play a critical role in the transition towards renewable energy sources
- O Application as fuel for electricity generation (CCGT,....)
- New application as fuel for transport applications (cars, ships, trucks,...)







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Natural Gas (CNG): Hazards



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Natural Gas (LNG): Hazards

Cryogenic product storage: around -160°C

- o Severe frost injury to men from liquid / spray / vapors: cold burns
- o Sudden brittle rupture of non cryogenic materials

High expansion ratio: 1 m³ of LNG generates 600 m³ of gas at 20°C

- o BOG management
- o Rapid Phase Transition (RPT) if trapped, in water for example





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Natural Gas (LNG): LNG Bunkering



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Li-Ion Batteries

Electricity Storage Systems



Source: World Energy Council, 2016

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Li-Ion Batteries

• Electrodes

- ✓ Primary function: determine the voltage, capacity.
- ✓ Can be solid, liquid, gas.
- Electrolyte
 - Primary function: assure the ionic path /transportation
 - ✓ Must have conduction properties : solvent + salt
- \circ Separator
 - Primary function: physical barrier to avoid electric contact between both electrodes
 - ✓ Paper, microporous polymer.
- Passivation layer (SEI: Solid Electrolyte Interface)
 - ✓ Formation during 1st charge with a small ratio of electrolyte reduction on the anode electrode surface
 - ✓ To protect the anode against corrosion (oxidation) by electrolyte
 - Cycling stability thanks to electrodes volumes stability



Li-Ion Batteries

o Benefits

- ✓ High average voltage (3,3 3,8 V)
- ✓ High specific energy (>180 Wh/kg
- ✓ Huge volumic energy (> 500 Wh/l)
- ✓ Good cyclability (> 1000 cycles)
- ✓ Small self discharge during storage
- ✓ Coulometric efficiency close to 100% and energy efficiency > 90
- ✓ Fast charge compliancy
- ✓ No memory effect like Ni/Cd or Ni/MH
- $\checkmark\,$ Better safety behavior than lithium metal



\circ Drawbacks

- ✓ Lithium, LiCx reacts with water
 - Use of organic electrolytes
- ✓ No involvement of the electrolyte in the reactions (no recombination reactions, like e.g. water on Lead and NI/Cd batteries)
 - > Strict control of the charging voltage needed (protection circuits) to prevent overloading of the electrolyte

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Li-Ion Batteries: Hazards

Degradation in lithium ion (Li-ion) battery cells is the result of a complex interplay of a host of different physical and chemical mechanisms.



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Li-Ion Batteries: Hazards

Chain reactions contributing to heat, smoke, and potential runaway (General Li-ion case)



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- o Thermal runaway is a phenomenon which consists in a melting of the separator of the Lithium-Ion cell at high temperature.
- o This non-mastered action results to put in contact the positive and negative electrodes of the cell.
- o It is followed by a high increase of the internal temperature & pressure of the Lithium-Ion cell.
- o It can result into a cell vent opening and electrolyte, carbon powder and gas release.



Li-Ion Batteries: Experience Feedback



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Li-Ion Batteries: Experience Feedback

- Explosions can occur during charging of EVs as shown in the video below (explosion after extinguishment of the fire).
- These explosions are related to ignition or reignition of flammable vapors generated during thermal runaway of the Li-Ion batteries in the confined geometry of the car or battery



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Li-Ion Battery Fires: Recent Events

- A huge cargo ship carrying thousands of luxury vehicles from Germany to the United States, including 4000 luxury cars (Porsche, Bentley, Audi), caught fire in February 2022, forcing all 22 crew members to abandon ship and leave the vessel adrift in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.
- A fire broke out Wednesday morning (16/02/2022) on the Felicity Ace, a ship about 650 feet long, near Portugal's Azores Islands, according to the Portuguese navy. The ship had departed from Emden, Germany, on Feb. 10 and was scheduled to complete its 13-day trip and arrive in Davisville, R.I., next week. The Volkswagen Group estimated that nearly 4,000 cars were aboard the Felicity Ace (1100 Porsches, 2000 Audi's, 189 Bentleys and 100 Lamborghini's).
- o The Portuguese navy said it rescued all 22 crew members via helicopter
- The fire was still burning on the ship as of Friday, according to the Portuguese navy, and photos showed white smoke billowing out of the vessel. Joao Mendes Cabecas, a captain of the nearby port of Hortas, told Reuters that lithium-ion batteries in the electric cars on the Felicity Ace caught fire, but it was unclear whether that is what started the blaze.



o The ship sank on March 1st 2022





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Li-Ion Battery Fires: Recent Events

- o Monday 4 April 2022
- o Electric bus of RATP on the Boulevard Saint-Germain in Paris
- o The driver had the time to evacuate all passengers
- o It took 1 hour to extinguish the fire (3 fire hoses)



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Li-Ion Battery Fires: Recent Events

- o Friday 29 April 2022
- o Electric bus (Bluebus 5SE of Bolloré) of RATP in the XIIIe arrondissement of Paris.
- o Battery explosion followed by fire









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Battery Energy Storage Systems







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Li-Ion Batteries: Hazards



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Li-Ion Batteries: Hazards

• The gases discharged during thermal runaway of Li-Ion batteries contain large amounts of hydrogen (flammable) and carbon monoxide (toxic)



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Battery Energy Storage Systems: electric risks

- o Direct and indirect contact
 - ✓ Direct contact with active parts of the equipment which are under voltage
 - ✓ Indirect contact with metallic parts accidentally set under voltage





Battery Energy Storage Systems: Experience Feedback





BESS Fires & Explosions: Recent Events

France, 2020 (Perles-et-Castelet)

• A fire broke out in a container with 60 Li-Ion batteries on 01/12/2020 at 09:30. Four people living near the disaster were evacuated and relocated. 45 fire fighters were mobilized to fight the fire.

UK, 2020 (Liverpool)

• Fire at the Carnegie Road 20MW battery energy storage system (BESS) project in Liverpool, England (project owner Ørsted). Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, local first-responders, said that crews were alerted shortly before 1 am on 15 September and arrived to find a "large grid battery system container well alight". The blaze went on for several hours, with an update from the service at 7:30am noting that although operations at the site had been scaled down, firefighting was ongoing, with two ground monitor units and a main water jet still in use.

China, 2021 (Beijing)

o At 12:17 pm on 16th April 2021, the Fire Command Center of Beijing received a report of the fire accident occurred on the Beijng Jimei Dahongmen power station (located in the south area). 47 fire trucks and 235 fire fighters from 15 local fire brigades were sent to the fire site. Around 14:15 pm, when the fire fighters were dealing with the fire of the power station in the south area, a sudden explosion occurred in the power station in the north area without a warning, leading to the death of 2 fire fighters, injury of 1 fire fighter and missing of 1 employee of the power station.

Australia, 2021 (Moorabool)

o Fire of two containers holding Tesla Megapack batteries (3 MWh) during testing at the newly registered Victoria Big Battery at Moorabool, near Geelong (biggest battery park in Australia, 300/450 MWh). Fire extinguished after 4 days of burning.

Risks related to the Use of Batteries. STS/HSE/RM/SPI $^{\odot}$. May 2022. All rights reserved. Slide 42.



BESS Fires & Explosions: Recent Events

New Caledonia, 2021 (Boulouparis)

- o A fire broke out in 2 BESS containers installed in a solar park
- o An explosion occurred in one of the 2 containers a couple of minutes after the door was opened
- o The cause of the simultaneous fire in both containers would be related to production errors in the batteries



Prevention and Mitigation Barriers

Risk	Description	Prevention Barriers	Mitigation Barriers
Thermal	Large amounts of flammable gases are generated upon thermal runaway of a Li-Ion battery (H2, CO, CH4). However, the radiation levels upon ignitio of these flammable gases is not very high.	 Fire extinghuising systems : ✓ Inert gas (N₂, Ar) ✓ Water mist Smoke and/or heat detection Thermally isolated BESS container (walls) Water drainage system to avoid flooding of the container Safety distance between containers to avoid escalation effects 	 Safety perimeter Dedicated vents for evacuation of generated gas / flames Blast panel Water curtain EPI External audible alarm External thermometer EPI Water monitor (variable water flow 500 l/min)
Electrical	 Electrocution risk. This risk is relevant for several voltage levels and different current types: 225 kV AC 33 kV AC 400 V AC 220 V AC 690 V AC 1500 V DC 	 Grounding of all components and chassis or electrical isolation Automated battery management system (BMS) Warning signs 	Safety perimeter General electrical isolation if available Avoiding standing in water Not touching equipment inside container
Toxic Smoke	Large amounts of flammable gases are generated upon thermal runaway of a Li-Ion battery. Some of the gas components are toxic (CO). Smaller quantities of the toxic HF may also be formed, together with toxic compounds resulting from the thermal degradation of battery components (plastics etc.)	 Smoke detection Early extinction 	 Safety perimeter Breathing protection for intervention teams during the different intervention phases. Installation of a network of ambient measuring points for CO, HF,
Explosion	Large amounts of flammable gases are generated upon thermal runaway of a Li-Ion battery (H2, CO, CH4). These gases can form a flammable atmosphere inside the container.	 Gas detection Inert gas fire extinguishing system (nitrogen, argonite) 	 Blast panel Safety perimeter Stay out of the line of fire (doors) Monitoring of flammable gas concentration inside container (sampling via openings in the walls if available)

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Intervention Strategies



Five scenarios were elaborated to facilitate decision making by intervention teams:

- o Scenario 1: Visual and audible alarm without observation of smoke/flames
- o Scenario 2: Generation of smoke / gas
- o Scenario 3: Flames escaping from the BESS
- Scenario 4: BESS exposed to external thermal impact (forest fire, fire of nearby equipment,...)
- o Scenario 5: Incident during storage, transport, ...



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Wind Turbines

- Horizontal-axis wind turbine (HAWT)
 - \checkmark More efficient than the vertical axis turbine
 - \checkmark The turbine is mounted on top of a tower.
 - \checkmark The rotor and blades of the horizontal wind turbine are connected to the generator by a shaft.
 - ✓ The majority of installed wind turbines are of the HAWT type (approx. 99.9%) and have a high level of maturity.

• Vertical-axis wind turbine (VAWT)

- ✓ Shaped like an egg-beater and uses lift forces on its blades to get them to turn.
- ✓ The design allows the blades to rotate at higher speeds than the wind.
- ✓ VAWT has only been installed in some experimental facilities and on top of buildings.



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Wind Turbines

HALIADE-X14 MW

GE Renewable Energy is developing **Haliade-X 14 MW** the most powerful offshore wind turbine in operation i the world, with **220-meter rotor**, **107-meter blade**, leading capacity factor (**61%**), and **digital capabilities** that will help our customers. Ind success in an increasinely commetitive environment.



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Wind Turbines







Wind Class IEC: IC

88)



Wind Turbines: Hazards

Hazards/Risks:

- o Fall of objects (of nacelle, rotor, pylon/tower,...)
- o Fire in nacelle
- o Projection of wind turbine blades (missile effects)
- o Ship collision (offshore wind farms)

Répartition des événements accidentels dans le monde entre 2000 et 2011





New Energies and Major Risks: Organization

Dedicated ressources from the One HSE and One Tech organization within TotalEnergies



New Energies and Major Risks: Support Organization



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