



## Hydrogen Energy Storage System at Borrego Springs Towards an H2 Enabled 100 Renewable Microgrid

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Annual Merit Review

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2023 Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting

Project ID: SDI002

# Project Goal

## MAJOR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Implement, characterize, and analyze advanced H<sub>2</sub> distributed energy resources and controls towards a 100% renewable Borrego Springs Microgrid:

- ✓ **Establish** intelligent control of H<sub>2</sub> distributed energy resources to stabilize the microgrid and reduce PV curtailment
- ✓ **Develop** hardware and conduct power hardware in the loop (PHIL) performance analysis to de-risk field deployment
- ✓ **Analyze** baseline and future operational characteristics of the Borrego Springs Microgrid under different H<sub>2</sub> configurations and characterize resiliency improvements
- ✓ **Share lessons learned** with the community and other stakeholders, via whitepapers, presentations, educational site visits, and other materials



# Overview

## Timeline and Budget

- Project Start Date: 09/01/22
  - Project End Date: 08/30/24
  - Total Project Budget: \$4,674,000
    - Total DOE Share: \$4,160,000
    - Total Cost Share: \$514,000
    - Total DOE Funds Spent\*: \$34,359
    - Total Cost Share Funds Spent\*: \$0
- \* As of 04/07/2023

## Barriers

- Barriers and Targets
  - Field deployment of electrolyzer and grid-forming fuel cell inverter to support advanced microgrid operation.
  - Disseminate field deployment results and characterize through data collected from the field and technical report.
  - Document and disseminate safety requirements for substation collocated hydrogen assets (electrolyzer and fuel cell assets).

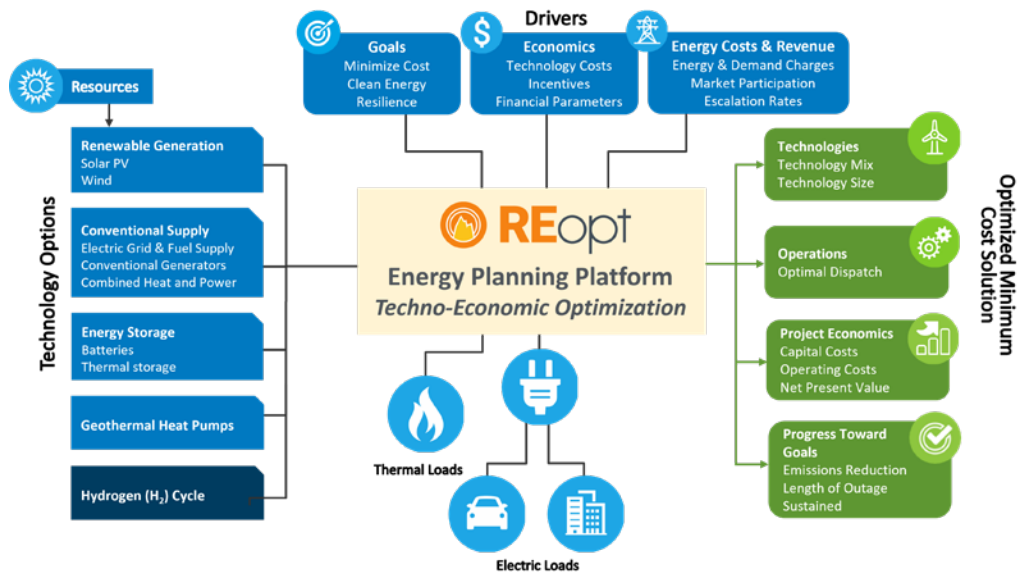
## Partners

- NREL
- San Diego Gas & Electric Company, field deployment lead.
- PXiSE Energy Solutions, microgrid controller vendor.

# Relevance/Potential Impact (analysis)

In this project, NREL will add hydrogen energy storage system (which includes fuel cell, storage tanks, and electrolyzer) as one of the technology options available in REopt<sup>®</sup>—a publicly available techno-economic decision-support platform developed by NREL researchers for energy system planning.

- Integrating hydrogen energy storage system into REopt will advance the DOE Hydrogen Program goals through the following project objectives:
  - Identifying the optimal sizing of hydrogen fuel cell, electrolyzer, and storage tanks required to achieve a 100% renewable microgrid for Borrego Springs
  - Quantifying reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and criteria pollutants resulting from: (i) replacing on-site diesel generators with H<sub>2</sub> storage system, and (ii) using H<sub>2</sub> assets to supply site loads during grid-connected microgrid operations.
  - Improve accessibility of planning for H<sub>2</sub> assets for a wide range of REopt users including developers, researchers, government organizations, and utility and industry partners.

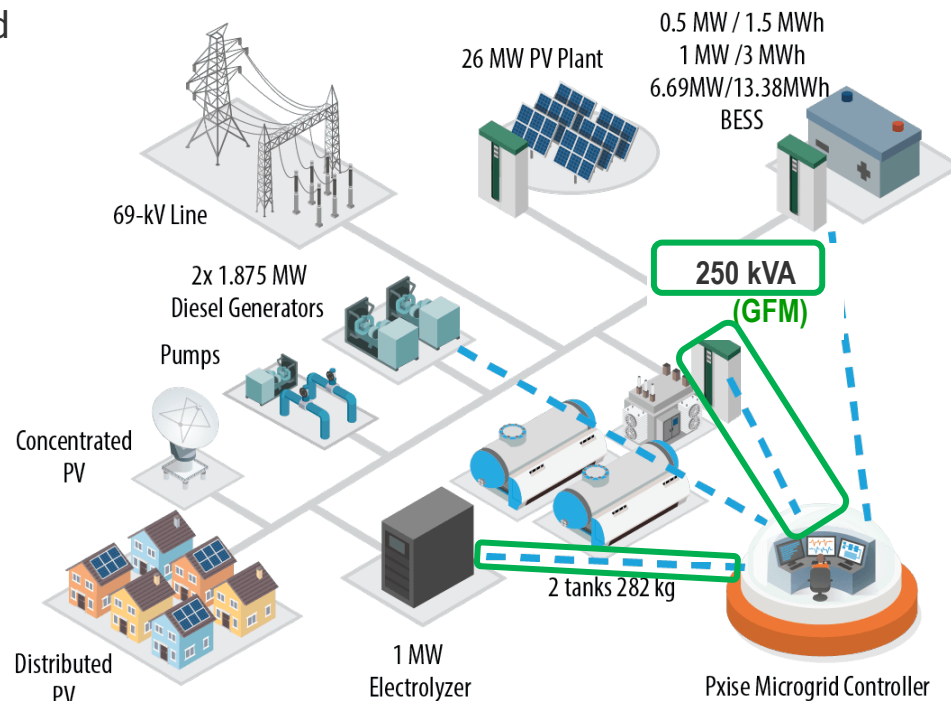


# Relevance/Potential Impact (lab/field demonstration)

- Proposed project leverages existing and planned SDG&E funded H<sub>2</sub>FC, electrolyzer, and storage.

|                              |  |                        |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>Electrolyzer</b>          | Power consumption  | 1 MW                   |
|                              | H <sub>2</sub> Production Rate   | 18 kg/hr.              |
| <b>H<sub>2</sub> Storage</b> | Working Capacity (total)   | 282 kg                 |
|                              | # tanks  | 2                      |
|                              | Operating Pressure Range   | 145-580 psig           |
| <b>Fuel Cell</b>             | Power Output   | 250 kVA (grid-forming) |
|                              | H <sub>2</sub> Consumption   | 17 kg/hr.              |
| <b>Microgrid Controller</b>  | <b>H<sub>2</sub> assets integrated into Borrego microgrid controller</b> |                        |

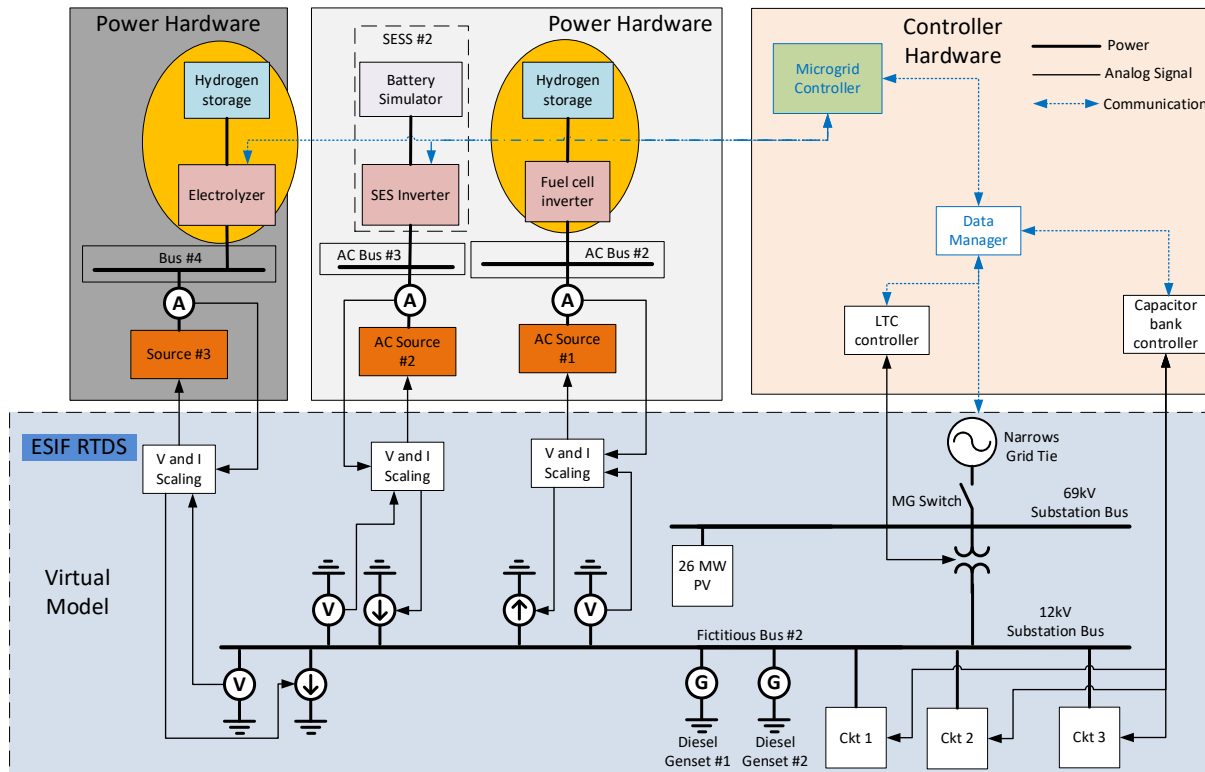
- Upgrade inverter with grid-forming capability
- Integrate hydrogen assets into Borrego Springs microgrid controller to demonstrate optimized control strategy
- \*Green denotes planned upgrades through proposed project.



## Hydrogen Energy Storage System (HESS) upgrade elements

# Relevance/Potential Impact (lab/field demonstration)

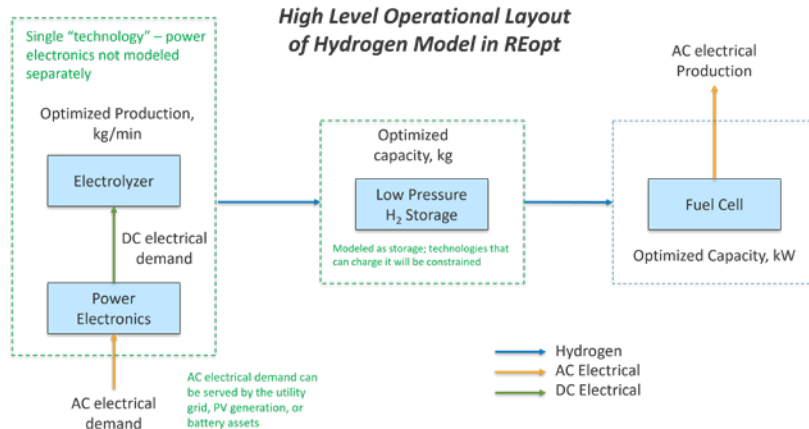
- Use of ARIES assets to run power and controller hardware-in-the-loop experiments to de-risk field deployment.



# Approach (analysis)

## Phase I - Model development

- Integrate hydrogen storage system components into REopt
  - Components that will be modeled near-term include hydrogen fuel cell, storage tanks, and electrolyzer
  - Future work could include the addition of high-pressure storage and compressor models to support hydrogen transportation analysis
- Integrate hydrogen fuel cell, storage tanks, and electrolyzer into REopt's resilience performance model to quantify outage survivability of the optimal hydrogen microgrid based on component **reliability and availability**.



## Phase II - Analysis

### • **Scenarios Analyzed:**

- Benchmark current microgrid operation without hydrogen assets
- Quantify the benefits of integrating hydrogen storage system components into the microgrid with financial and resilience analyses in REopt:

- Report metrics for the planned hydrogen system
- Report metrics for a 100% renewable microgrid scenario

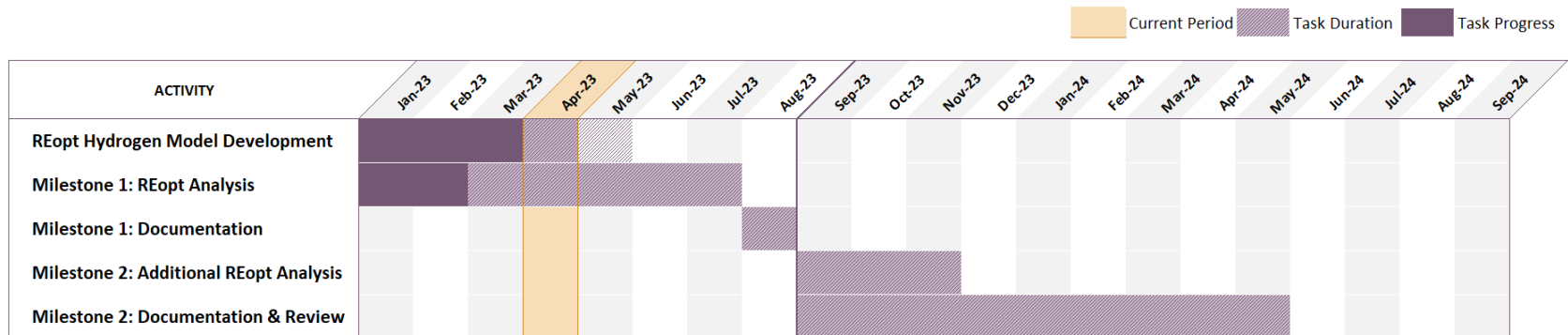
### • **Outputs and Metrics:**

- Optimal system sizes required to achieve the analysis goal
- Optimal dispatch strategies (including minimizing PV curtailment)
- Economic metrics (including capital costs, O&M costs, fuel costs, utility costs, and net present value)
- Resilience metrics (outage survivability, reported as probability of survival)
- Emissions metrics (including climate and health emissions)

# Accomplishments and Progress

- The REopt task is currently in the model development phase. Since the receipt of the award, the project team has developed a fuel cell model within REopt (pending a few feature additions to improve the model).
- A detailed data request seeking site-specific inputs (such as typical annual interval loads, existing distributed resources at Borrego Springs, and technology specifications of the hydrogen assets procured) has been sent to SDG&E
- An extensive literature review is underway to identify the appropriate defaults, assumptions, and constraints for each of the hydrogen storage system components.

## Borrego Springs - REopt Development and Analysis Timeline





# Response to Previous Year Reviewers'

- This is a new project.
- This project was not presented in the previous year annual merit review.
- No reviewer comments.

# Collaboration and Coordination

| Partner   | Comment                                 |
|---|---|
| San Diego Gas and Electric Company,<br>Sub contractor | Utility partner, field deployment lead. |
| PXiSE Energy Solutions,<br>Sub contractor to SDG&E    | Microgrid controller vendor.            |
| Electrolyzer vendor                                   | Not finalized                           |
| Fuel cell vendor                                      | Not finalized                           |

# Remaining Challenges and Barriers

- Execute subcontract with SDG&E and initiate information exchange.
- Initiate shakedown experiments using ARIES equipment.
- Identify and complete subcontractors for SDG&E field assets upgrade (grid-forming inverter and microgrid controller interoperability).
- Conduct comprehensive literature review and engage subject matter experts in identifying appropriate defaults and assumptions to use in the analysis for hydrogen storage system components in REopt.

# Proposed Future Work (analysis)

- FY23
  - Key milestone: Complete REopt analysis (8/31/2023)
    - Continue optimization model development:
      - Adding inputs and constraints for fuel cell, electrolyzer, and hydrogen fuel storage
      - Updating REopt's existing objective function to include the hydrogen assets
    - Integrate fuel cell, electrolyzer, and into REopt's resilience performance tool
    - Send additional data requests to SDG&E to obtain all the required site-specific inputs
    - Once the model development is concluded, request project stakeholders to perform validation and testing of the new REopt and resilience model
    - Perform REopt analysis for the three key scenarios identified
- FY24
  - Key milestone: Report analysis results (2/29/2024)
    - Seek stakeholder inputs on any additional REopt scenarios that might be beneficial to perform
    - Compile the relevant results and metrics for all the scenarios evaluated into a detailed report

# Proposed Future Work (lab experiments/field deployment)

- Complete lab shakedown experiments with the hydrogen assets.
- Complete test plan documentation.
- Complete installation of hydrogen assets
- Complete installation of sensing equipment to collect and store data.

# Summary

- **Optimal performance strategy and resulting annual hourly and annual energy use, emissions, operating costs, battery charge-levels, and hydrogen storage levels defined** (via analysis)
- **Demonstration that conventional diesel generators are not required when utilizing H<sub>2</sub> assets using optimized microgrid control scheme** (via field and analysis)
- **Resiliency benefits of additional H<sub>2</sub> assets** established (via analysis)
- Cost and resiliency benefits of **reduced PV curtailment** quantified (via HIL and analysis)
- Balance of system requirements established for **large scale deployment** (via HIL and analysis)
- Development of H<sub>2</sub> assets **hardware-in-the-loop testbed** using ARIES equipment (via HIL)
- **Transient stability utilizing H<sub>2</sub>FC inverter as grid-forming asset** during islanding operations characterized (via HIL)
- **Operation of H<sub>2</sub> assets under different modes of microgrid operation** and power system events described (via HIL)
- **H<sub>2</sub>FC fuel cell inverter control strategy and microgrid controller strategy established** (via HIL and field)
- Documentation outlining **safety precautions** identified during field operations (via field)
- **Whitepapers, publications, stakeholder and community site visits**

**Feasibility of H<sub>2</sub> enabled 24/7 100% renewable microgrid demonstrated**

# Thank You

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[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

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# Technical Backup and Additional Information

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# Technology Transfer Activities

- No tech transfer activities.

# Special Recognitions and Awards

- No special recognitions or awards this work received.

# Publications and Presentations

- No publications.