

HydroGEN Consortium: Advancements in Renewable Hydrogen Production

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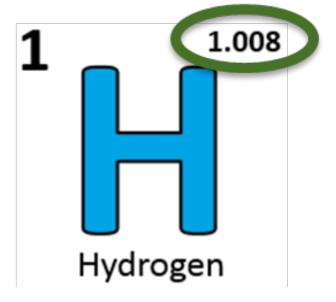
October 6, 2024

LO4 – Solar Hydrogen Evolution Reaction or Water Reduction

When is hydrogen day?

Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Day October 8

 Held on hydrogen's very own atomic weight-day





2035

Carbon-free U.S. electricity generation 2050

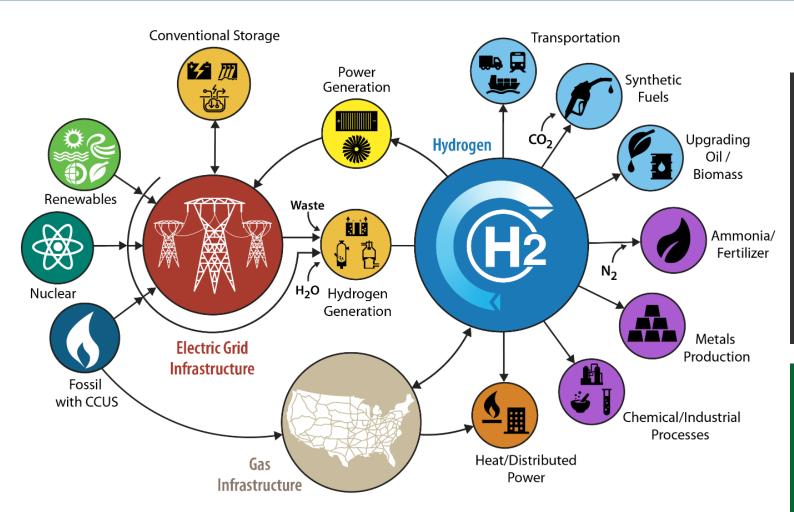
Net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—including transportation, buildings, industry, and agriculture

Environmental Justice

Diversity, equity, and inclusion for energy jobs, manufacturing, and supply chain all over the **United States**



H2@Scale: Enabling Affordable, Reliable, Clean and Secure energy



Transportation and Beyond

Large-scale, low-cost hydrogen from diverse domestic resources enables an economically competitive and environmentally beneficial future energy system across sectors

Hydrogen can address specific applications that are hard to decarbonize

Today: 10 MMT H₂ in the US

Economic potential: 2x to 4x more

Materials innovations are key to enhancing performance, durability, and reduce cost of hydrogen generation, storage, distribution, and utilization technologies key to H2@Scale

Source: DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office, https://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/h2-scale

"Hydrogen at Scale (H_2 @Scale): Key to a Clean, Economic, and Sustainable Energy System," Bryan Pivovar, Neha Rustagi, Sunita Satyapal, Electrochem. Soc. Interface Spring 2018 27(1): 47-52; doi:10.1149/2.F04181if.

Improving the economics of H2@Scale

Early-stage research is required to evolve and derisk the technologies.

MAKE

Hydrogen production technologies MOVE



Hydrogen storage, compression, and distribution, and thermal integration

USE

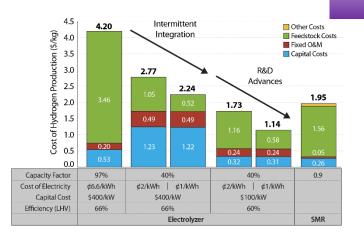


Hydrogen end use technologies and demand

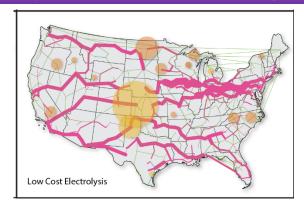
Preliminary Use Refineries & CPI

MMT/yr 8 Metals 12 Ammonia Synthetic 14 Chemicals Biofuels 1 Natural Gas 10 **Light Duty Vehicles** 57 Other Transport 17 **Electricity Storage** 28 Total 151

Decreasing cost of H₂ production



STORE Improved Bulk Storage Technologies



Optimizing H₂ storage and distribution

Leveraging of national laboratories' early-stage R&D capabilities needed to develop affordable technologies for production, delivery, and end use applications.

What is Hydrogen Energy EarthShot?



Hydrogen Energy Earthshot

"Hydrogen Shot"

"111" \$1 for 1 kg clean hydrogen in 1 decade

> Launched June 7, 2021 Summit Aug 31-Sept 1, 2021

S. Satyapal, et al., "Overview of DOE RFI Supporting Hydrogen Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Provisions, Environmental Justice, and Workforce Priorities, Feb. 24, 2022



U.S. National Clean Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap

www.hydrogen.gov

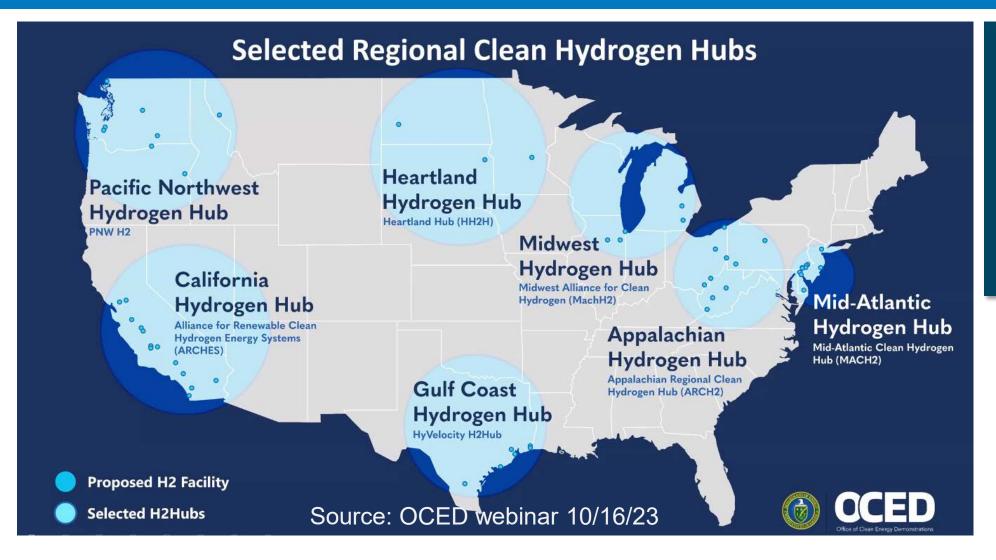
Released June 5, 2023



Opportunity: 10MMT/yr by 2030 > 20 MMT/yr by 2040 > 50 MMT/yr by 2050

~100K Jobs by 2030. ~10% Emissions Reduction by 2050.

\$7B for 7 Hydrogen Hubs Announced October 13, 2023



DOE selects
consortium to bridge
demand for clean H₂
providing market
certainty and unlock
private capital
Jan 2024

H2 Hubs managed by OCED: See https://www.energy.gov/oced/office-clean-energy-demonstrations

National Laboratory Collaboration is Critical for Success



Hydrogen **Production**



Production & Fuel Cells



























































BioH2

Hydrogen **Production**

















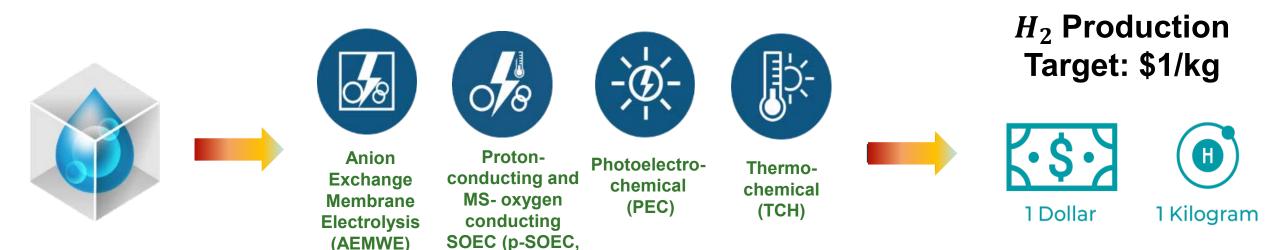






HydroGEN: an AWSM Consortium

<u>Goal</u>: Accelerate foundational R&D of innovative materials for advanced water splitting (AWS) technologies to enable clean, sustainable, and low-cost ($$1/kg\ H_2$) hydrogen production.



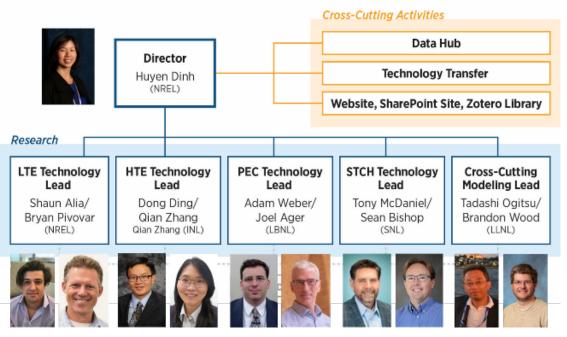
HydroGEN is focused on early-stage R&D in H₂ production and fosters cross-cutting innovation using theory-guided applied materials R&D to advance all emerging water-splitting pathways for hydrogen production

MS-SOEC)



HydroGEN Lab R&D + Lab Capability Support

Lab R&D Early-Stage Materials R&D Projects









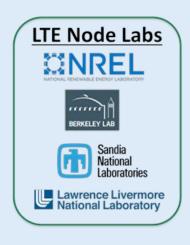




Lab Support

Lab capabilities + experts support early-stage materials R&D projects

HydroGEN Materials Capability Network 55 Lab- and FOA-awarded Projects



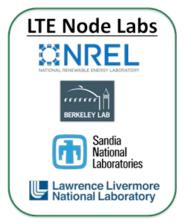






Lab Capability Support of 24 New "Seedling" Projects

5 AEME projects: 3 FOA-awarded projects & 2 Lab-call awarded projects



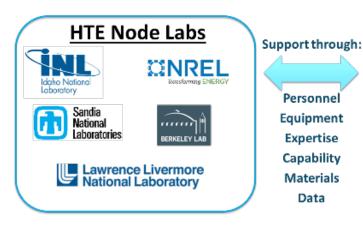


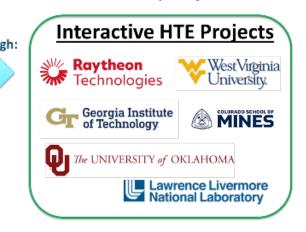


6 p-SOEC projects: 4 FOA-awarded projects & 2 Lab-call awarded projects

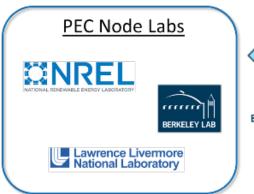
5 TCH FOA-awarded projects

Support



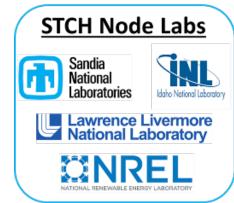


6 PEC FOA-awarded projects











Capability Materials Data



Science Challenges for Impactful HydroGEN Lab R&D:



LTE: improve AEM electrolysis performance and durability



HTE:

MS-SOEC: improve performance and durability with a scaled-up cell

p-SOEC: understand the proton conduction and electronic leakage mechanisms of electrolyte materials in proton-conducting SOEC

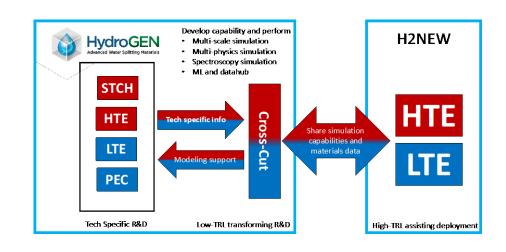


PEC: materials stability and device durability



STCH: identify and understand how structural features, composition, and defect dynamics engender high capacity—high yield behavior in materials

Cross-Cutting Modeling: theoryguided design to analyze performance and durability of materials under simulated operating conditions





HydroGEN PEC Lab R&D Goal and Approach

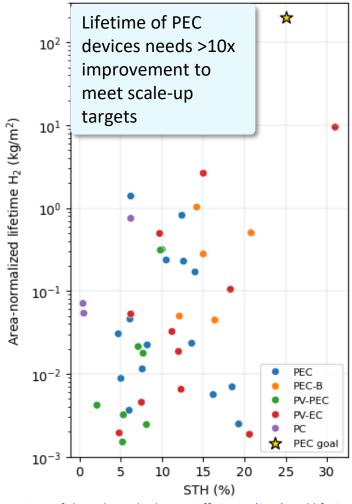
(Lead: Joel Ager, LBNL)

STH efficiency has improved but durability has not and is limiting PEC advancement

Goal: Elucidate the degradation mechanism(s) and improve the durability of PEC materials and devices.

Approach:

- Prioritize durability stressors and establish PEC device durability protocol
- Use density functional theory (DFT) and microkinetic modeling to describe the local environment at the electrode/electrolyte interface under operation
- Provide mechanistic understanding of PEC device degradation guided by theory and in operando characterization

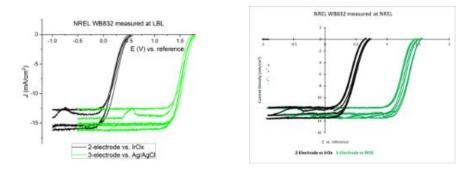


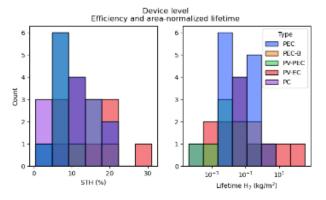
Comparison of the solar to hydrogen efficiency (STH) and lifetime H2 produced for unassisted water splitting devices. The "PEC Goal" point in the upper right. Data sourced with permission from Cheng et al. in 2022 Solar Fuels Roadmap, *J. Phys. D. Appl. Phys.* **2022**, 55 323003. PEC goal from Ben-Naim et al., *ACS Energy Lett.* **2020**, 5, 2631–2640.

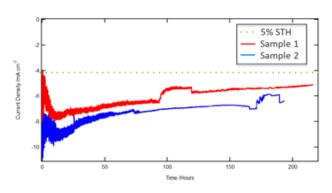


HydroGEN PEC Lab R&D Relevance and *Potential Impact*

- Develop standardized PEC device measurement techniques
 Improves reproducibility between labs
- Develop device and system-level performance metrics
 Clearly define improvements needed for economic
 viability
- Develop reliability science needed for closing the durability gap
 New materials for durable PEC water-splitting devices
 Accelerated wear protocols to quantify progress



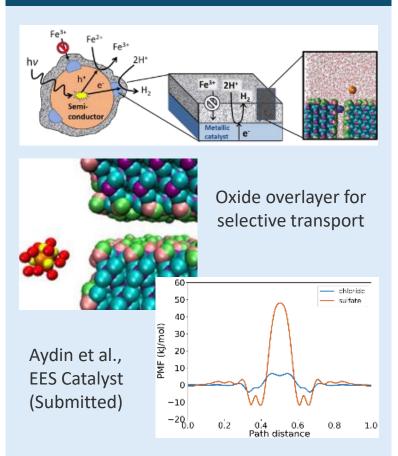






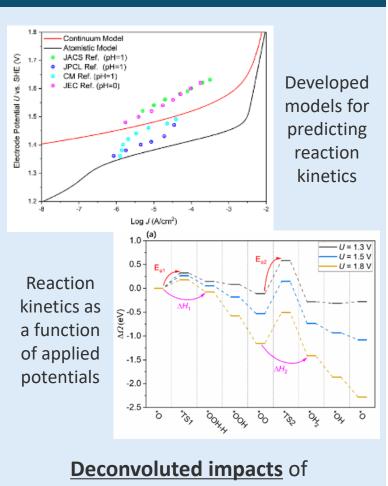
PEC/LTE: Atomistic insights into transport, OER activities, stability

PEC: Protective layers



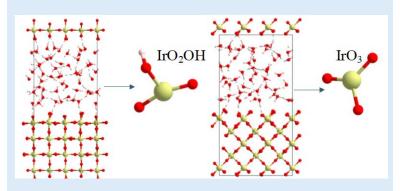
Developed **design principles** for optimizing protective layers

PEC: OER Activity

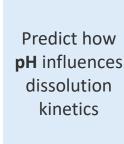


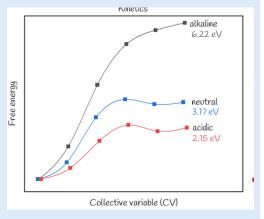
operating conditions on activity

LTE: Catalyst Stability



Deconvolute impacts of surface morphology





Identified most important factors controlling catalyst durability



Proposed PEC device- and system-level performance metrics

Device-level metrics

- Solar to hydrogen conversion efficiency
 STH (%)
- Area-normalized lifetime production of H₂
 kg/m²
 normalized to PV area for concentrators

Parkinson, B. Acc. Chem. Res. 1984, 17, 431–437

Pinaud et al, Energy Env. Sci. 2013.

Ager, J. W.; Shaner, M. R.; Walczak, K. A.; Sharp, I. D.; Ardo, S. *Energy Environ. Sci.* **2015**

Ben-Naim, M.; Britto, R. J.; Aldridge, C. W.; Mow, R.; Steiner, M. A.; Nielander, A. C.; King, L. A.; Friedman, D. J.; Deutsch, T. G.; Young, J. L.; Jaramillo, T. F. *ACS Energy Lett.* **2020**,

Cheng, W.-H., Deutsch, T. G., Xiang, X. in 2022 Solar Fuels Roadmap, *J. Phys. D. Appl. Phys.* 2022

Holmes-Gentle, I.; Tembhurne, S.; Suter, C.; Haussener, S. *Nat. Energy* **2023**

System-level metrics

Area

 m^2

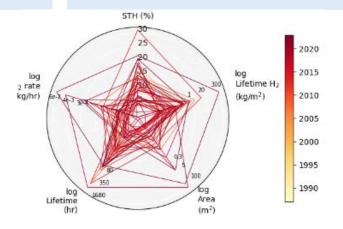
receiver area for concentrators

Lifetime

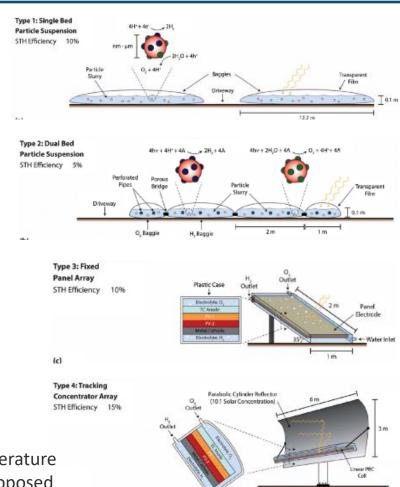
hours

as reported by source

 System H₂ production rate kg/hr



Analysis of 44 literature reports using proposed performance metrics





HydroGEN PEC Seedling Projects & Lab Collaboration

PEC Node Labs







Support through:

Personnel
Equipment
Expertise/Protocols
Capability
Materials/cells
Data

Interactive PEC projects







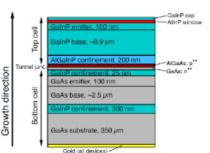






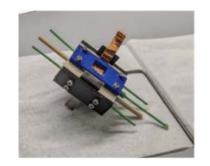


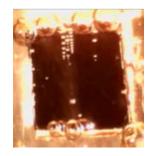














Semi-Monolithic Devices for Photoelectrochemical Hydrogen Production - Nicolas Gaillard (PI), University of Hawaii

Project Vision: Develop innovative technologies to combine dissimilar material classes, such as **chalcopyrites** and **perovskites**, into multi-junction (MJ) devices for efficient, low-cost and durable PEC water splitting.

Task 1 - Perovskite-Chalcopyrite PEC devices

Combine high efficiency wide bandgap perovskite (PCE record = 21.05% with 1.7 eV absorber) and high efficiency narrow bandgap chalcopyrite (PCE record = 23.3% with 1.1 eV absorber) single junction cells into standalone water splitting MJ devices

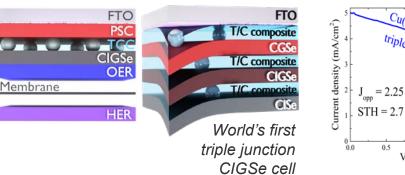
Task 2 - All-Chalcopyrite PEC devices

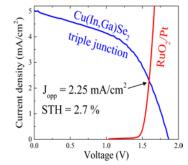
Develop efficient wide bandgap chalcopyrites (e.g., CuGaSe₂, CuGa₃Se₅, CuInGaS₂)

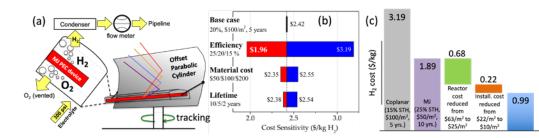
Task 3 - Durable PEC devices

- Develop unique organic (polymer-based) and inorganic (non-precious catalysts) coating strategies to extend durability of PEC MJ devices
- Superstrate MJ structure: photo-absorbers are sandwiched between an FTO-coated glass substrate and a thick stable OER catalyst layer, which shields the solar absorbers from the electrolyte, ensuring long-term operation.

Metric	State of the Art	Expected Advance
STH	3-5%	>15%
Durability	250-500 hrs.	> 1,000 hrs.





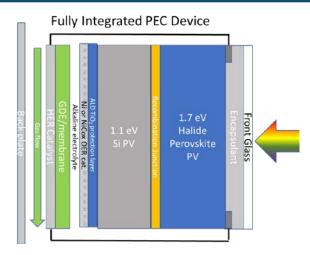




Demonstration of a Robust, Compact Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Hydrogen Generator – Joel A. Haber (PI), Caltech

Project Vision: Holistic PEC device design to enable water-splitting electrolysis at potentials that maximize photocurrent from two-terminal, dual junction Si/organohalide perovskite photovoltaics. Design electrolysis components that minimizes electrocatalytic overpotentials, electrolyte polarization, membrane resistance, and flow inhomogeneities, enabling operation below 1.7 V photopotential.

Holistic
Design of
Efficient,
Durable,
Cost-effective
H₂
Generation.



Project Impact

- On ≥0.25 cm² area-matched devices demonstrate ≥15% STH efficiency for 1000 h under continuous AM1.5 illumination
- Demonstrate 0.1 g/h H₂ generation under diurnal cycle for 2 weeks at NREL PEC outdoor test facility

Project Approach

- Dual junction organo-halide perovskite (1.7 eV) and silicon heterojunction (SHJ) PV architectures
- Device integration levels to provide diagnostic insight into interface impacts on performance and degradation
 - 2-terminal monolithically integrated PVSK/Si PV—probe integration and durability
 - Ni activated ALD-TiO2 protected Si PV for OER
 - Fully integrated device, minimum shadowing from contacts, minimum charge carrier and ionic transport distances—highest potential efficiency
- Scale up: Design large-area hydrogen generator device, including reactant feeds and product collection using experimental measurements and multiphysics modeling.



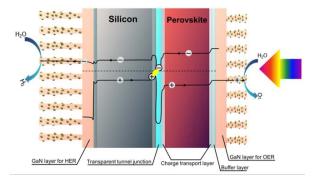
Gallium Nitride (GaN) Protected Tandem Photoelectrodes for High Efficiency, Low Cost, and Stable Solar Water Splitting — Zetian Mi (PI) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Project Vision: Develop GaN-protected multi-junction tandem photoelectrodes to achieve both high efficiency (STH >20%) and long-term stable (1,000 h) spontaneous water splitting systems.

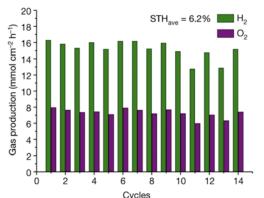
Metric	State of the Art	Expected Advance
STH Efficiency	10-20%	15-20%
Stability	<200 h	>1,000 h

Project Approach

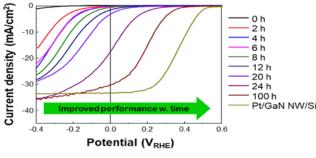
- Integrate GaN with high efficiency perovskite and III-V photoelectrodes to achieve stable operation
 - Have demonstrated the formation of GaON layer from GaN leads to self-improved performance and long-term stability (3,000 h).
- Address the processing incompatibility between III-V (or perovskites) with GaN by utilizing a low-temperature epitaxial growth process and nanoscale engineering to achieve high quality GaN surface protection.
- Use concentrated sunlight to significantly reduce the amount of photocatalyst and therefore the overall system cost.
 - With the use of GaN-based nanostructures, we have recently demonstrated direct solar water splitting with STH of 6.2% under 160x concentrated sunlight.

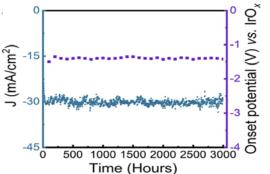


A wireless Si/perovskite photoelectrode protected by GaN.



Nat. Commun. **2023**, 14, 2047.







Scalable halide perovskite photoelectrochemical cell modules with 20% solar-to-hydrogen efficiency and 1000 hours of diurnal durability — Aditya Mohite (PI) Rice University

Project Vision: Develop halide-perovskite based tandem PEC module with an area of 200 cm², with an unassisted STH efficiency of 20%, with 1000 hours of diurnal operation .

Project	Approach
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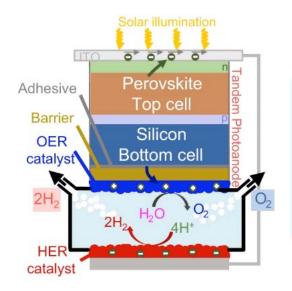
High-efficiency PVs: Exploit 3D/2D perovskite solar cells and Si-Perovskite tandem solar cells and minimodules with Voc > 1.9 V and Jmpp > 18 mA cm⁻²

Barriers: Conductive Adhesive Barrier (CAB) design for protection and efficient electron/hole transport to catalysts Integration of catalysts: Reactor design to integrate HER and OER catalysts with CAB in low-gap configuration e.g. PEMs or AWE reactors

(20 Table 20					% initial solar to rogen efficiency		
Current Density (mA cm ⁻²)				100	+ lifetime		
Unassisted water splitting photocurrent							
0	20	40	60	80	100		
		Time	e (h)				

Integrated PEC-PEM reactor design

Metric	State of the Art	Expected Advance
STH Efficiency	20.7	> 24.5%
Stability	100 h	250 h diurnal stability
Scale	1 cm ² (BP1)	25 cm ² (BP2)



Integrated PEC-PEM design: Monolithic Perovskite/Si photoanode with conductive adhesive barrier

HydroGEN: Advanced Water Splitting Materials



All-Perovskite Tandem Photoelectrodes for Low-Cost Solar Hydrogen Fuel Production from Water Splitting – Yanfa Yan (PI), University of Toledo

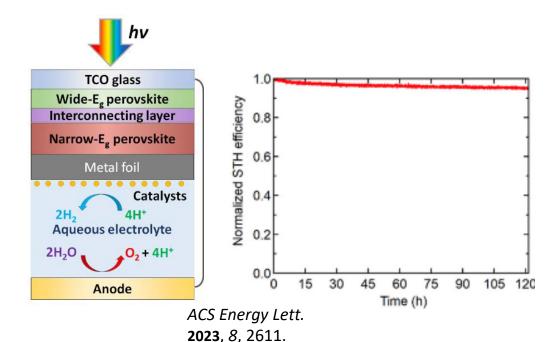
Project Vision: Design, fabricate, and test all-perovskite tandem photoelectrodes and panels to achieve low-cost, high solar-to-hydrogen efficiency as well as long-term stable, unassisted photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting systems.

Project Approach

- Wide-bandgap (1.7 1.8 eV) perovskite top absorbers
 - Suppress halide segregation by reducing defect density
 - Use mixed 2D/3D and all-inorganic perovskites
- Narrow-bandgap (1.2 1.5 eV) perovskite bottom absorbers
 - Develop a single-crystal-synthesis route
 - Avoid catalytic interface erosion
- Scaling-up production of tandem photoelectrode panels
 - All-perovskite tandem photoelectrodes promise theoretical STH efficiencies of more than 22%.
- Understand material properties and intrinsic stability
- On-sun PCE testing

Achieved continuous operation in water for >120 h at 1 sun

Metric	State of the Art	Expected Advance
STH Efficiency	15-18%	> 20%
Stability	100 - 500 h	> 1000 h
Scale	0.1 - 1 cm ²	> 25 cm ²



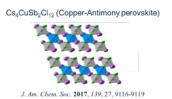


>200 cm² Type-3 PEC Water Splitting Prototype Using Bandgap-Tunable Perovskite Tandem and Molecular-Scale Designer Coatings – Shu Hu (PI), Yale University

Project Vision: Develop a Type-3 PEC water splitting system, combining low-cost hybrid organic-inorganic perovskite (HOIP) with molecularly-engineered ALD-grown coatings of protective, conductive, and catalytic multi-functionalities

Project Impact & Approach:

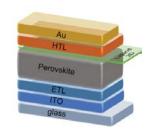
- High efficiency (>18%), high purity (>99.999 vol% H₂), stability (>2-week diurnal), and 0.12 gram H₂ per hour throughput;
- Discovery of <1.15 eV bandgap new hybrid perovskite materials
 - Fabrication of thin films of a new Pb-free perovskite-like material (Cs₄CuSb₂Cl₁₂). Potentially more stable to light, temperature and water and can be mass-produced.
- Develop low-temperature protective coating (TiAlO_v)
 - 100 nm TiAlOx film grown at 85°C show good protection
- Advanced manufacturing approach
 - Quality control large scale fabrication by computer numerical control (CNC) machine
 - For each unit cell, the O2 and H2 can be generated and collected separately. Therefore,
 when assembled into the large-area device, no extra effort is needed to separate O₂ and H₂.



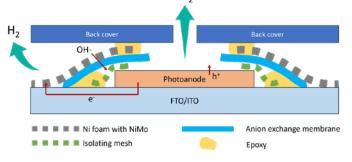
Coating integration (photoanode or PEC device)

Photoanode

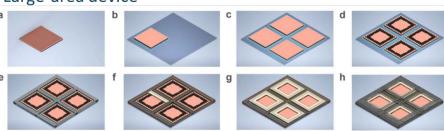
Ni
Perovskite
FTO/ITO



Metric	State of the Art	Expected Advance
Low-T coating	150 °C	85 °C
Bandgap	1.2-1.8 eV	<1.15 eV
HOIP tandem	1.8/1.2 eV	1.7/1.1 eV



Large-area device













Acknowledgements

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James Vickers



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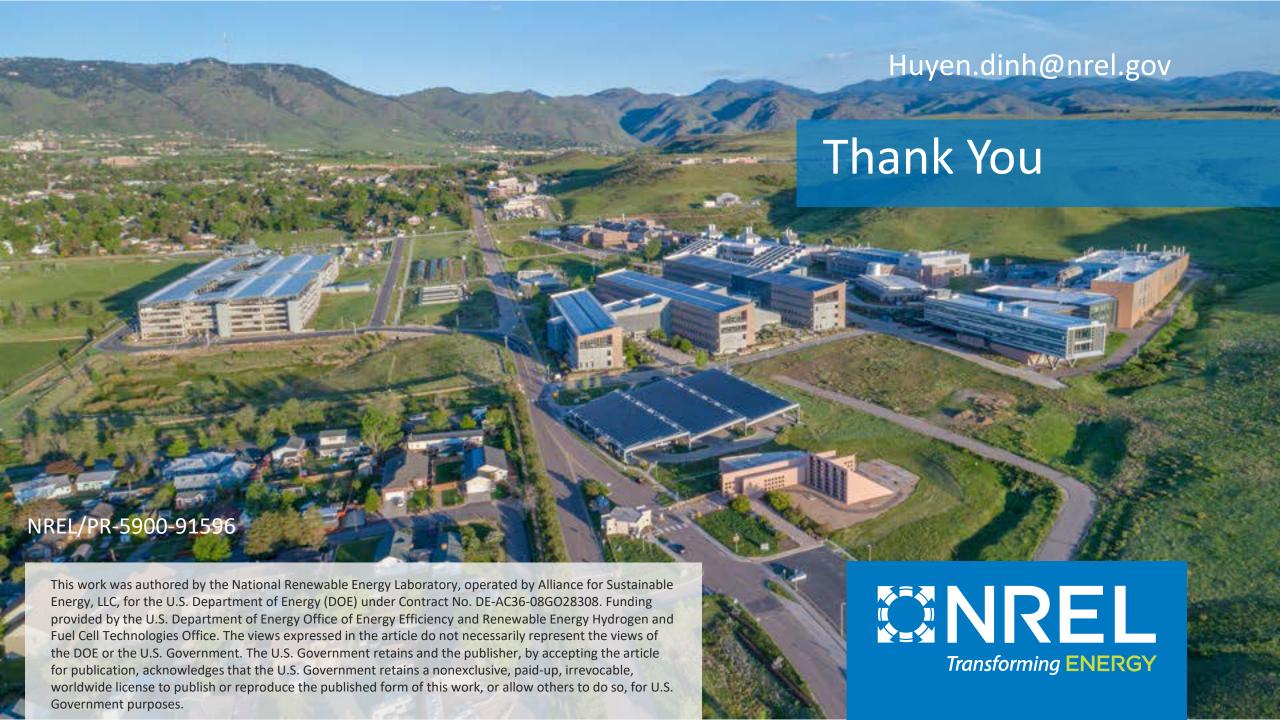
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