

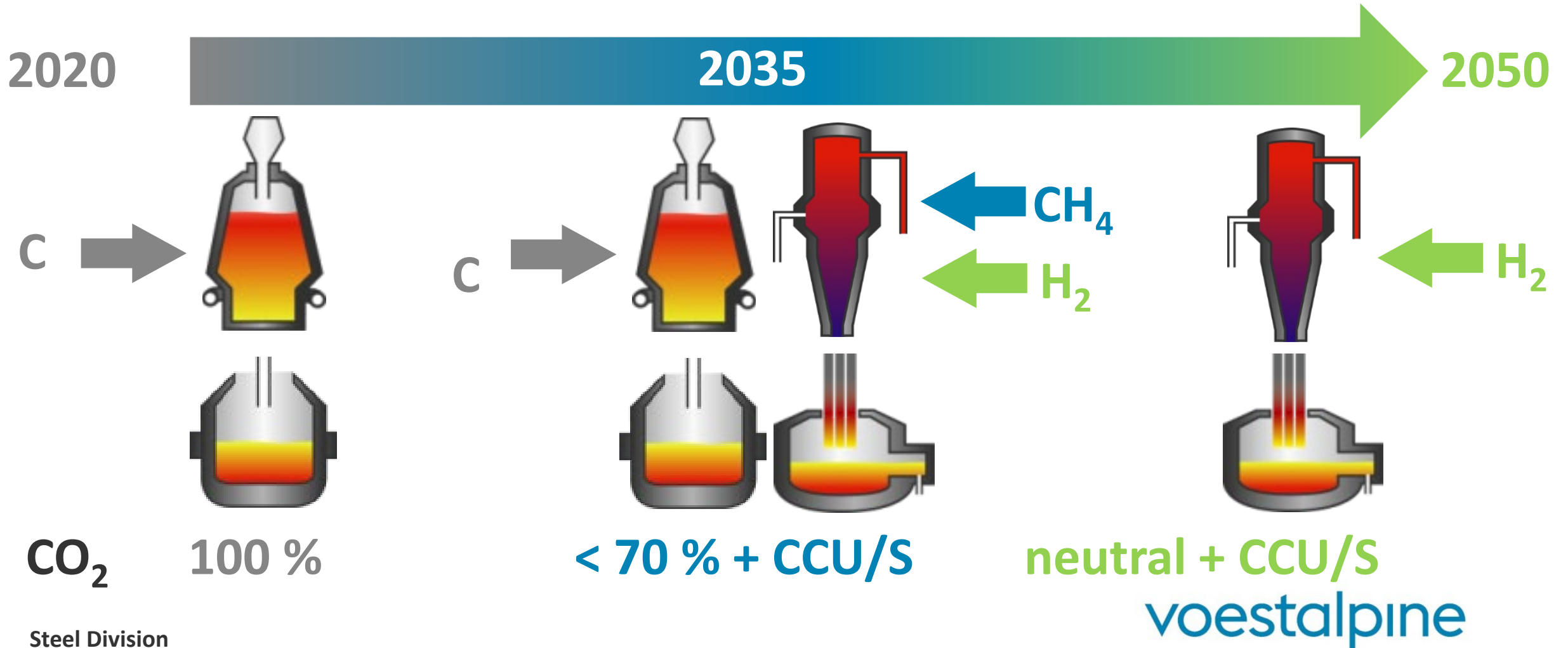
# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FOR ORE BASED METALLICS IN STEELMAKING

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Abu Dhabi, 12/06/2023

Thomas Buergler

# CLIMATE NEUTRAL STEELMAKING FROM CARBON TO HYDROGEN



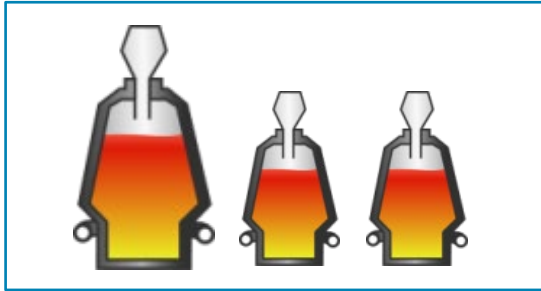
# CLIMATE NEUTRAL STEELMAKING

## FIRST STEP HYBRID PROCESS CONCEPT

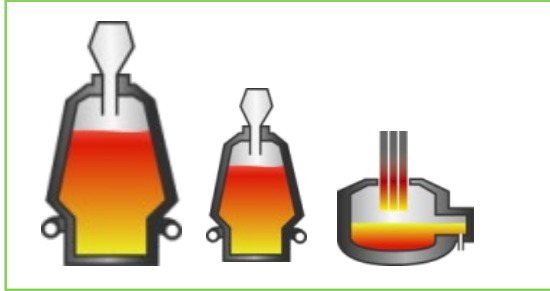


voestalpine Linz site

Status Quo

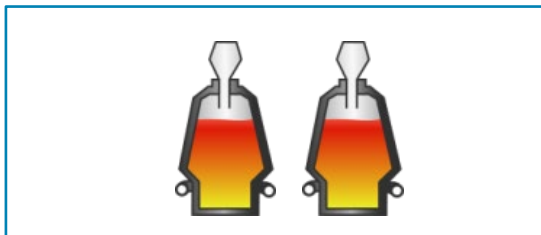


2027

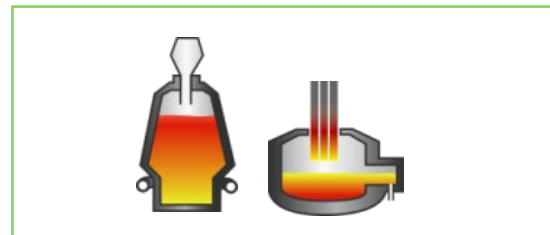


voestalpine Donawitz site

Status Quo



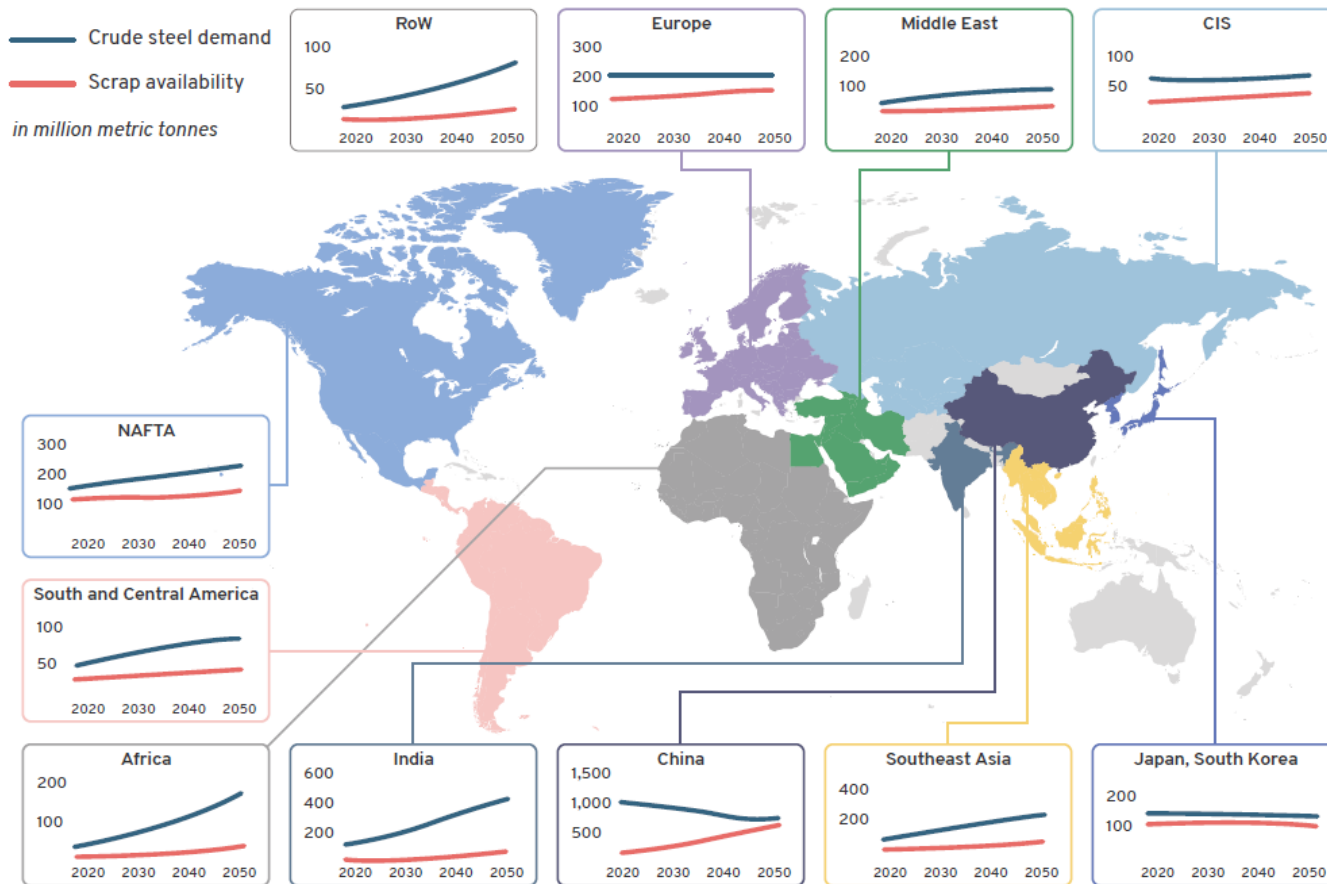
2027



- Hybrid technology with EAF process additional to BF/DR/BOF until 2030
- Stepwise decrease of BF/BOF capacity at integrated sites
- Up to 30 % CO<sub>2</sub> reduction independent from green hydrogen
- High potential for further CO<sub>2</sub> decrease as soon as green hydrogen is economical available
- Concept ready for integration of breakthrough technologies 2035+

# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OBM

## GLOBAL TRENDS FOR SCRAP AVAILABILITY

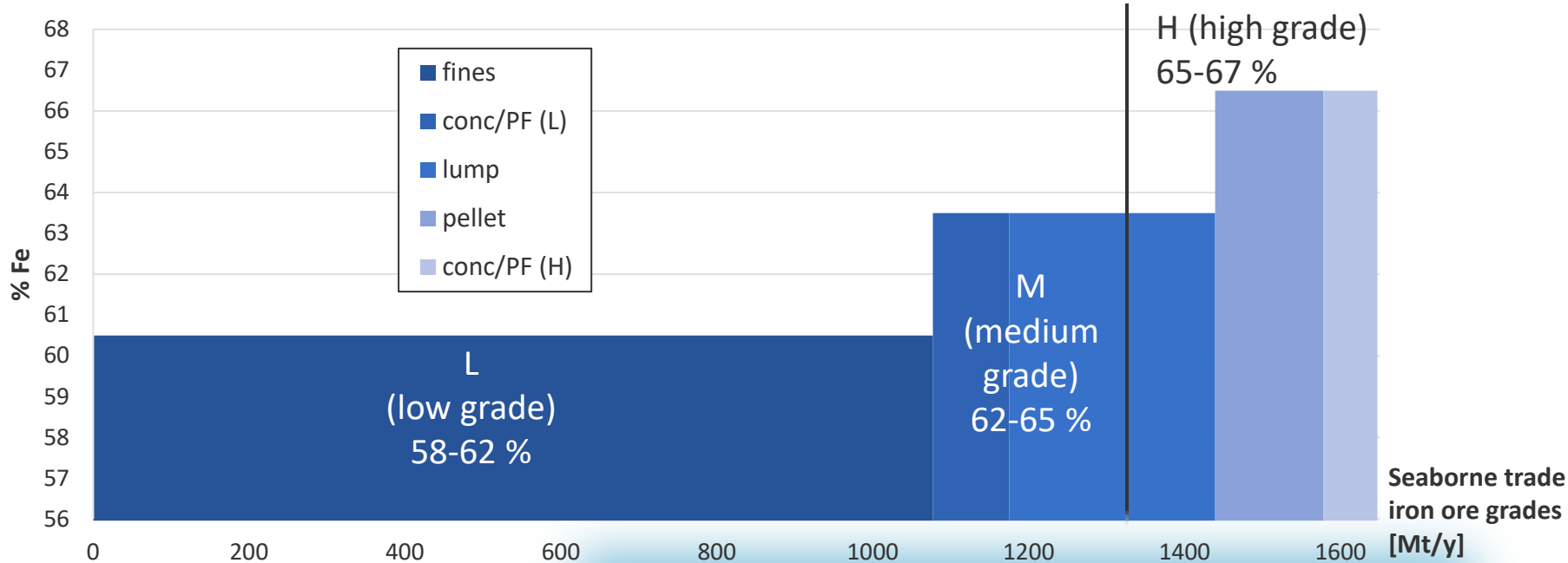


- Crude steel demand will be 30 % higher in 2050 than today
- Much of this growth will be in emerging economies with declining demand in China, Europe, Japan, and South Korea
- Contribution of scrap in the total steel charge will likely grow up to 50 % in 2050 from 30 % than today
- Process technologies for OBM will have an important role in future CO<sub>2</sub> neutral steelmaking

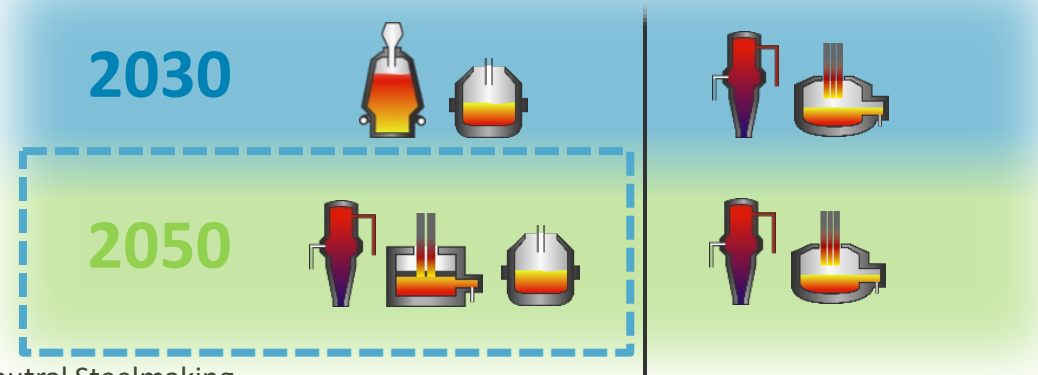
<https://missionpossiblepartnership.org/>

# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OBM

## IRON ORE GRADES AND PROCESS ROUTES

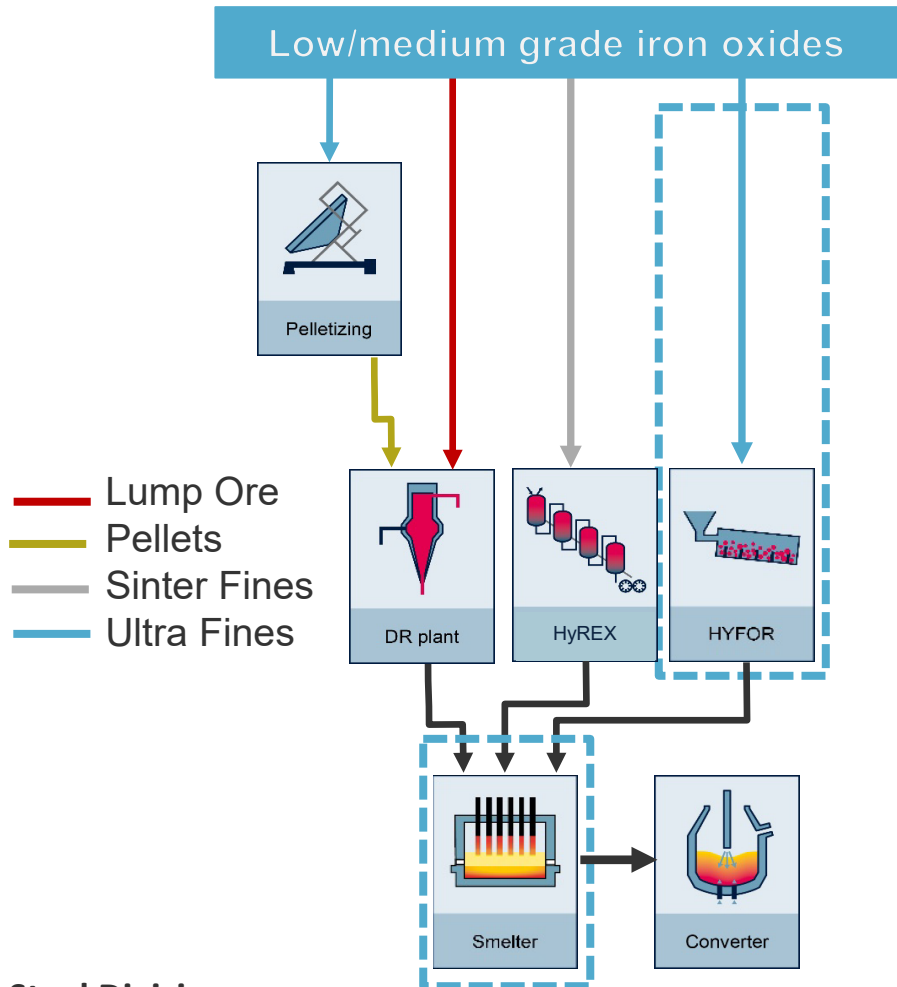


- World iron ore market is dominated by low and medium grade iron ores
- Replacement BF/BOF by DR/EAF process route requires an adapted concept for steelmaking from low and medium grades iron ores



# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OBM

## PROCESS ROUTES FOR GREEN HOT METAL



- » HYFOR is an alternative **direct reduction process** for **ultrafine iron ores** that will not require any agglomeration steps
- » A combination with **Smelter technology** is used for melting and final reduction of direct reduced iron (DRI) based on low and medium grade iron ores with Fe < 65 %
- » In that way **green hot metal** is produced with **hydrogen** for BOF or EAF steelmaking



20 mm

2 mm

200 μm

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ONE STEP AHEAD.



# DIRECT REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY

## PROCESS DEVELOPMENT HYFOR

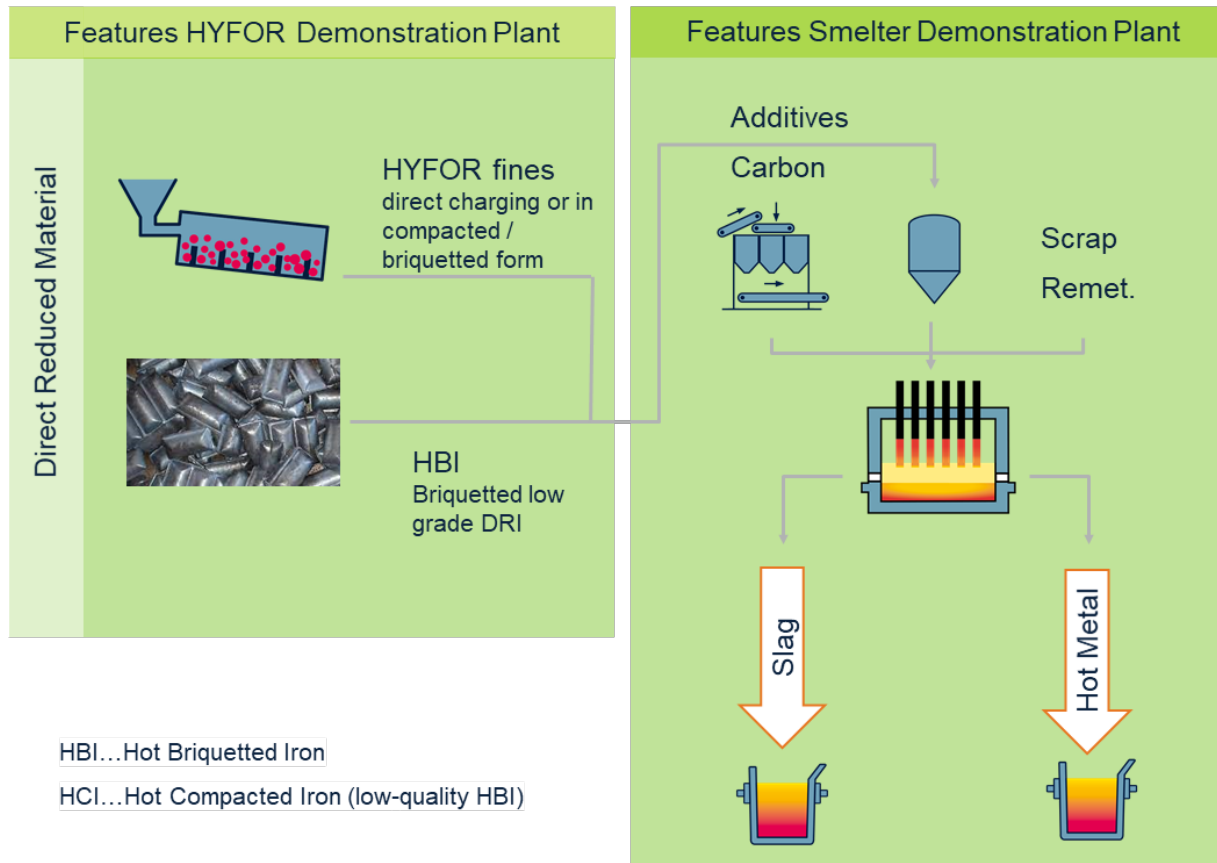


- Test the performance of HYFOR reactor and preheating/oxidation cyclone under real operating conditions
- Direct reduction of magnetite/hematite iron ore fines with H<sub>2</sub> in fluidized bed reactor at 700 °C up to a metallization degree of 97 %
- Typical grain size: 100 % < 150 μm  
Max. grain size: < 500 μm (up to 1 mm possible)
- Batch operation with 800 kg ultrafine iron ore is equal to 200 kg DRI per hour
- Pilot plant at voestalpine Donawitz site as technical basis for next development phase



# DEMONSTRATION PLANT

## BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GREEN HOT METAL



- Continuous operation from preheating iron ores to hot metal (HBI) in longer campaigns
- Flexible Ore Basis - Utilization of multiple iron ore qualities (low to high grades)
- Carbon addition – Based on bio-char and other carbon carriers
- Hot link of DRI fines to Smelter (alternatively HCl) and addition of HBI/Scrap
- Addition of slag forming materials → slag shall be utilized in the cement industry (cross-sectorial approach)
- Autonomous operation of Smelter part

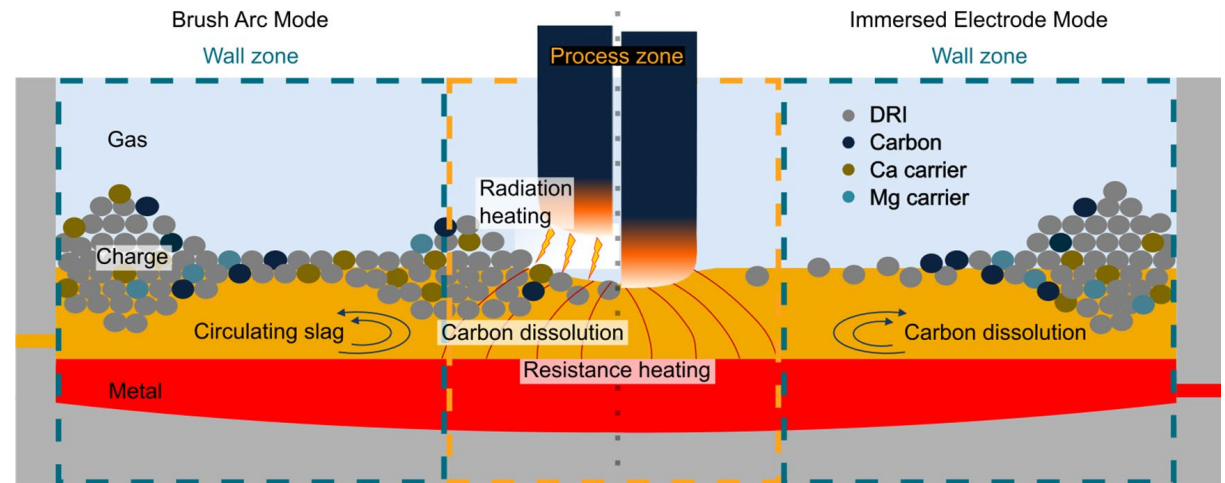
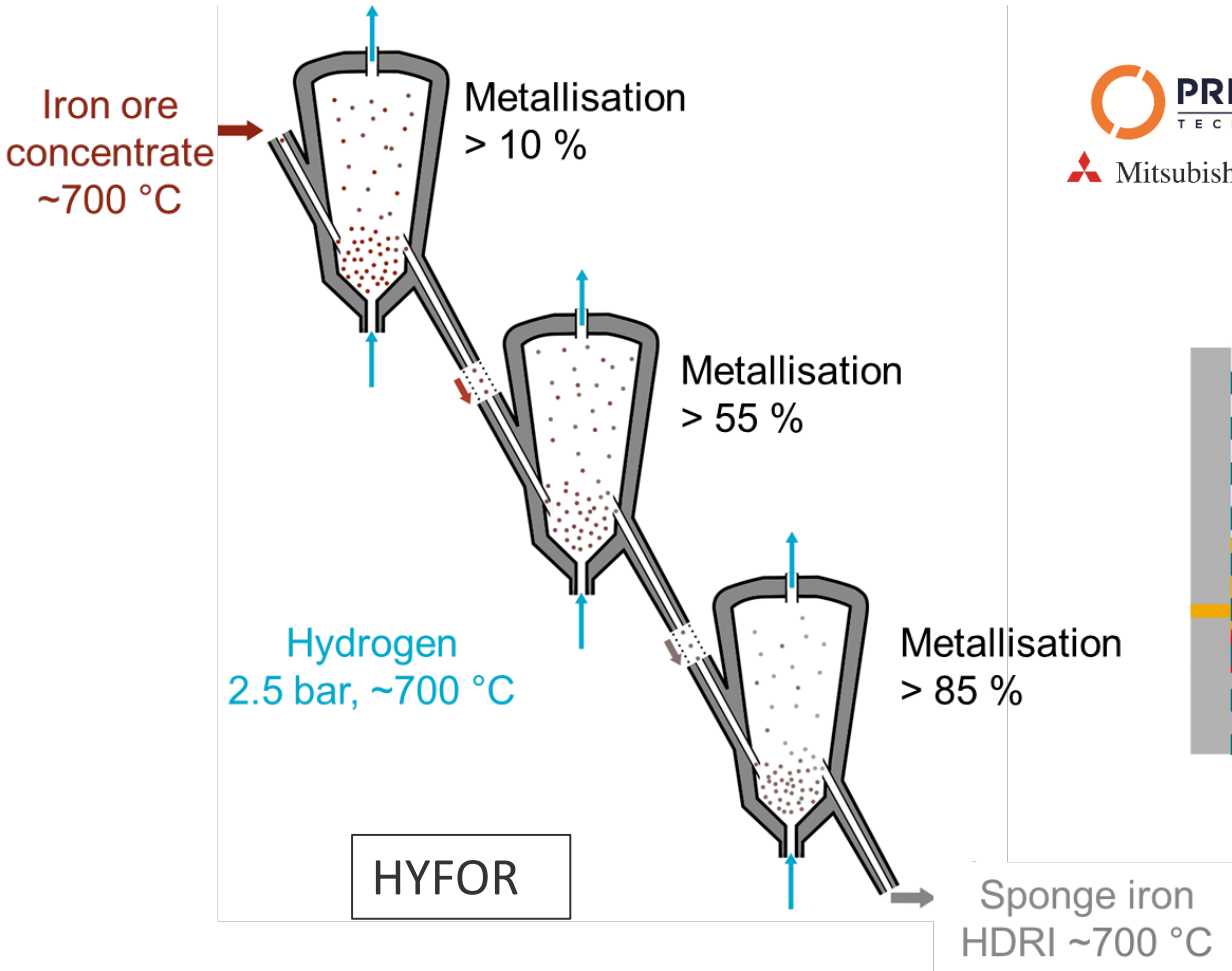
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# DEMONSTRATION PLANT

## METALLURGICAL TASKS HYFOR/SMELTER



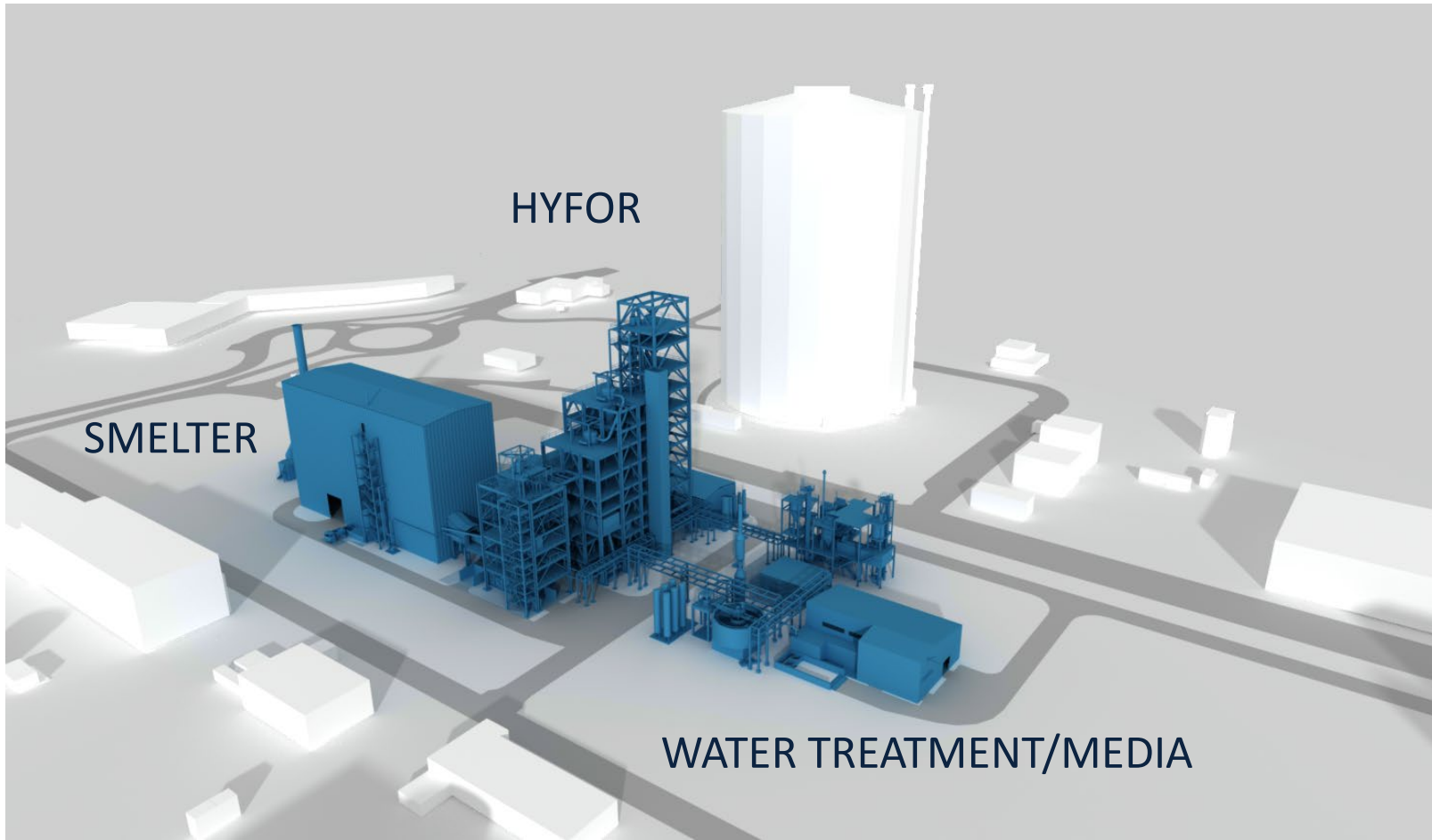
**SMELTER**



ONE STEP AHEAD.

# DEMONSTRATION PLANT

## BASIC DESIGN HYFOR/SMELTER



Iron ore 2 – 3 t/h

Hydrogen 1.500 m<sup>3</sup>/h

Hot metal 2 – 3 t/h

Slag < 1 t/h

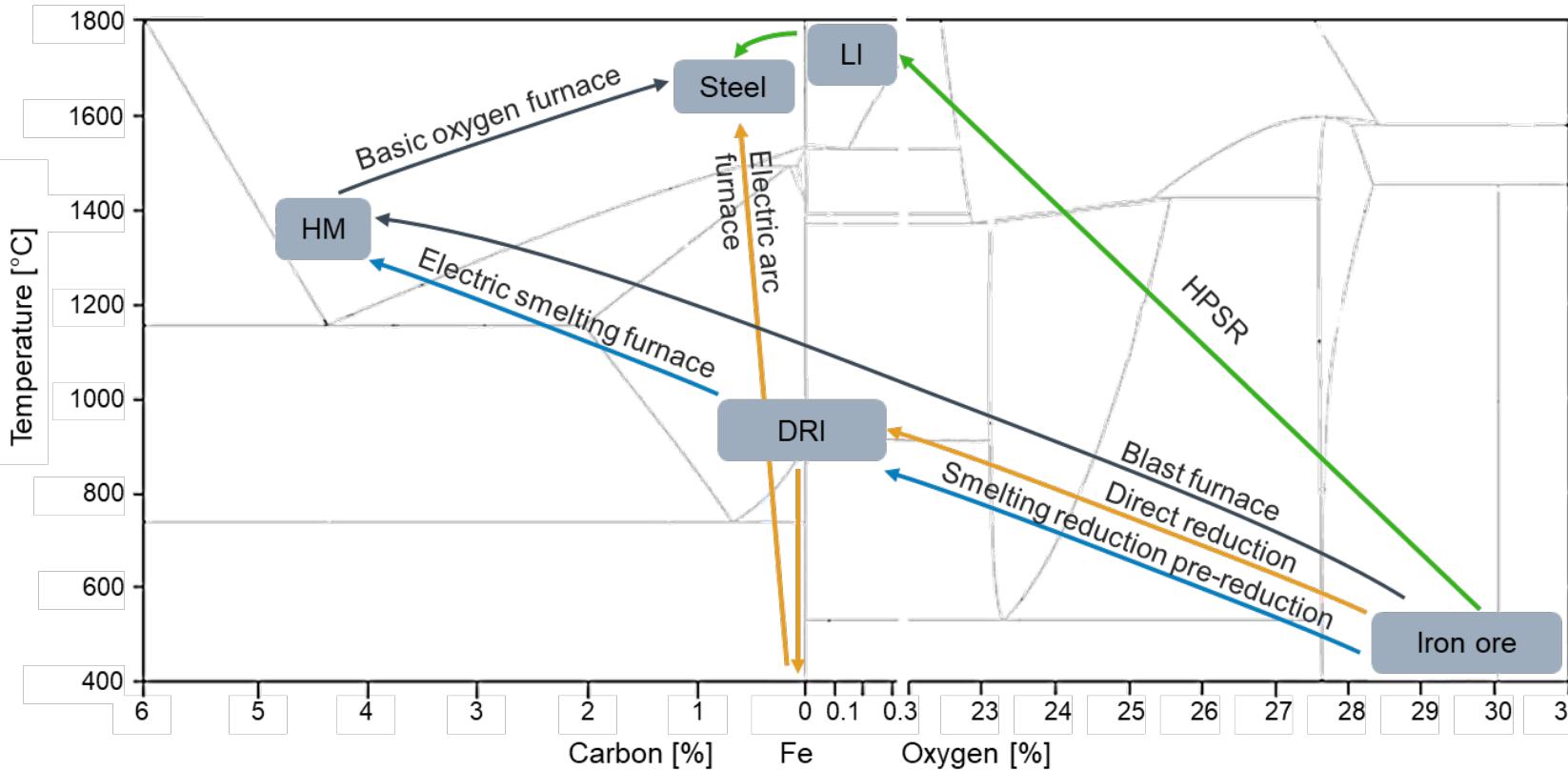
Location voestalpine  
Linz site

voestalpine

ONE STEP AHEAD.

# STEELMAKING PROCESS ROUTES

## PROCESS DEVELOPMENT SUSTEEL



DRI ... direct reduced iron  
 HM ... hot metal (pig iron)  
 LI ... liquid iron (steel-like liquid product)  
 HPSR ... hydrogen plasma smelting reduction

- Steelmaking from iron ores is a multi step process within the phase diagrams Fe-C and Fe-O.
- Scrap based EAF is the State-of-the-art process for direct steelmaking.
- Hydrogen Plasma Smelting Reduction (HPSR) is a breakthrough technology for direct steelmaking from iron ores.

# HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION PROCESS DEVELOPMENT SUSTEEL

- Fundamental research project for direct steelmaking from iron oxides with H<sub>2</sub> plasma smelting reduction (HPSR)
- Verify of process concept with batch operation in a DC electric arc furnace (EAF) with 250 kVA
- Upscaling the technology from 100 g to 50 kg tapping weight
- Creating design parameters for an increased reactor size and continuous operation
- Demo plant located at voestalpine Donawitz

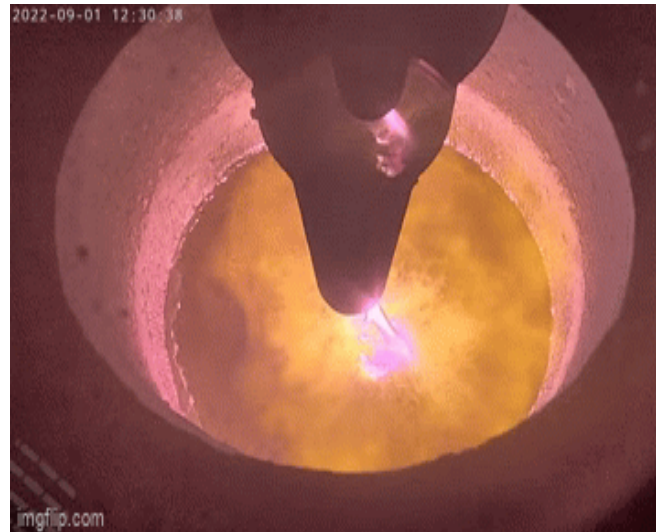
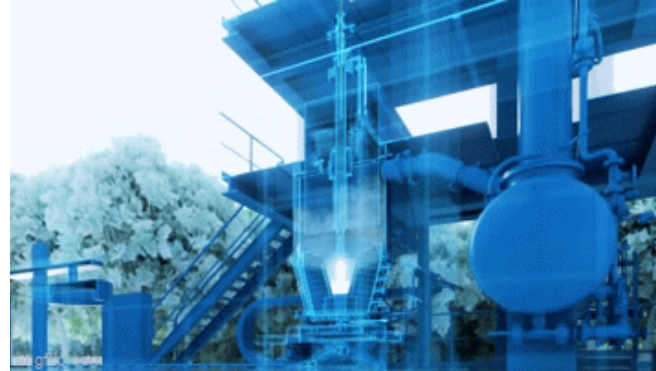
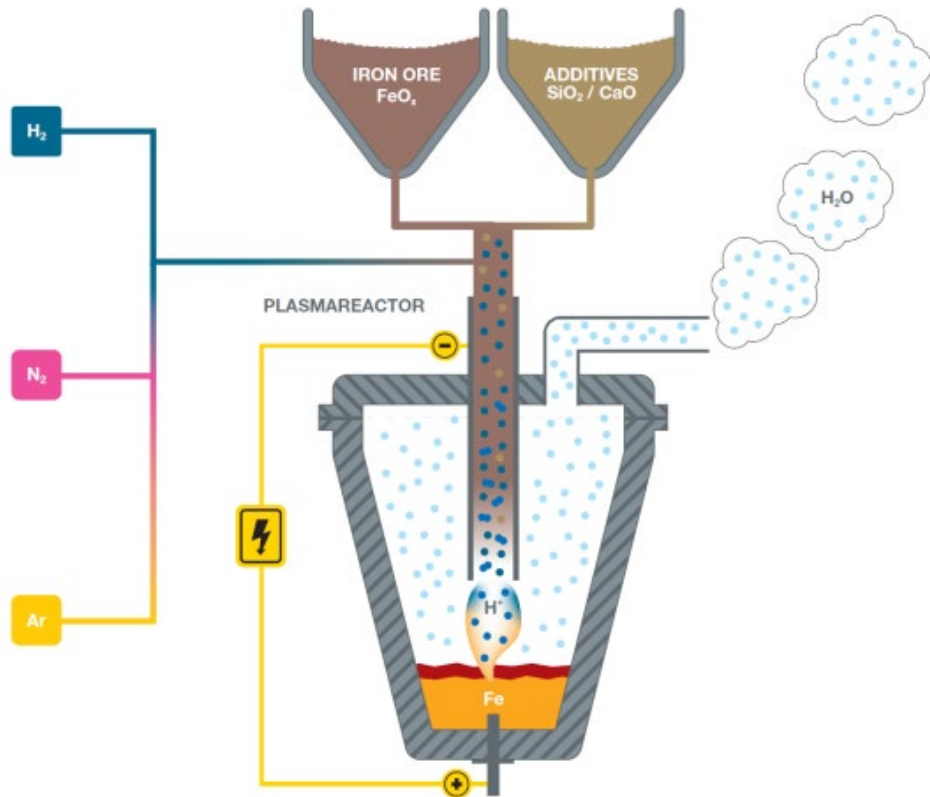


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ONE STEP AHEAD.



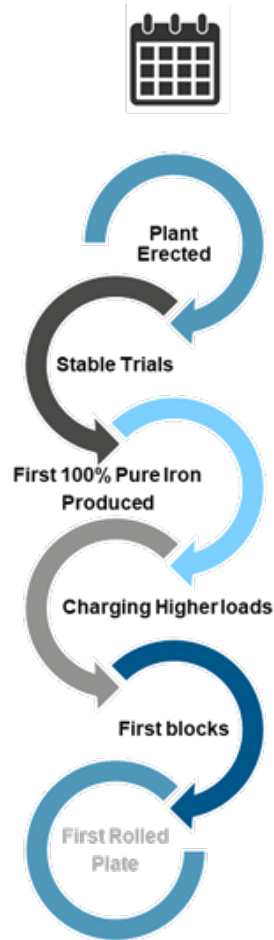
# HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION PILOT PLANT CONCEPT



- Iron ore and hydrogen enter the reactor via a **hollow electrode**
- **Transferred arc** for the energy input
- **Hydrogen is ionised** into plasma where iron ore is melted and reduced
- At the end of the process, **crude steel** is produced and only water vapour escapes

# HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION

## CURRENT STATUS SUSTEEL



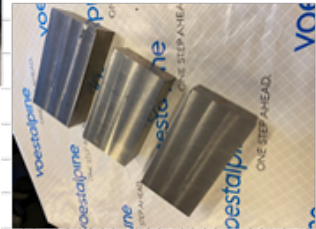
March 21

May 22

February 23

April 23

May 23



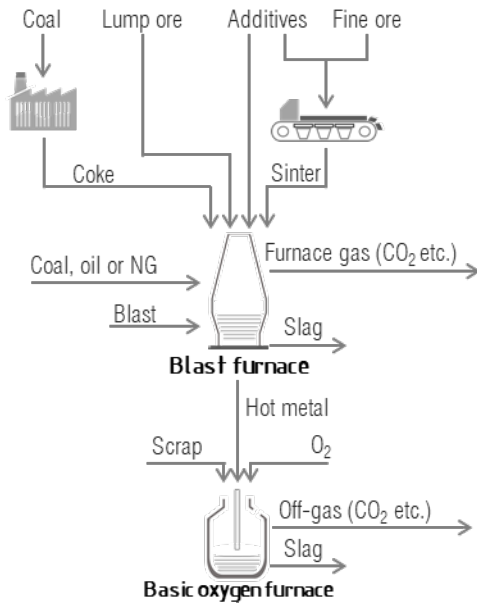
ONE STEP AHEAD.



# HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION TASKS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

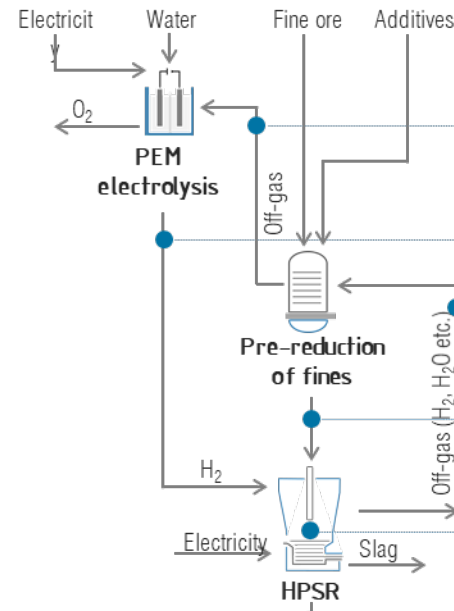
## INTEGRATED ROUTE (STATE OF THE ART)

Integrated route consisting of raw material preparation, blast furnace (iron making) and basic oxygen furnace (steel making)



## HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION

HPSR route consisting of green hydrogen supply, pre-reduction of fines and HPSR



## SUS-F

Objectives

Recycling of water

Continuous supply of green hydrogen  
(incl. desktop study of integrated hydrogen production)

Recycling & further use of off-gas

Continuous feeding of ultra fine ore

Automated and digitalized system

Semi-continuous tapping of carbon lean steel

Dissemination

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ONE STEP AHEAD.

# HYDROGEN PLASMA SMELTING REDUCTION PILOT PLANT voestalpine DONAWITZ SITE

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# Thank you! Questions?

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Thomas Buergler

T. +43/664/615 5506

[thomas.buergler@voestalpine.com](mailto:thomas.buergler@voestalpine.com)

**Steel Division**

[www.voestalpine.com](http://www.voestalpine.com)

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ONE STEP AHEAD.