

# Biocat – Power to Gas technology by Biological methanation

Integration to a resource treatment plant



## What is the Power-to-gas ?

### Charging the natural gas grid



- Excess renewable power
- Grid congestion
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

- Established grid, storage and uses for natural gas.
- Decarbonization
- Need for renewable gas



## What is Biological methanation ?



Temperature 62°C, Pressure 1 to 10 bar(a)



#### **Opportunities for process integration**

**Power-to-Gas Energy Storage** 





### **Electrochaea Executive Summary**

Electrochaea's vision is to become the world's leading technology provider in power-to-gas energy storage

- Opportunity
  - Conversion of low cost energy and carbon dioxide into natural gas, leveraging existing infrastructure
  - Decarbonization of power generation, transport fuel, and industrial processes
- Technology
  - Proprietary, simple and robust biocatalytic methanation system
  - Dynamic and scalable process to meet a broad range of conversion and storage applications (1 to >100 MW)
- Execution
  - Expert team with proven track record
  - 1 MWe commercial scale operation commissioned in 2016
  - 1 MWe plant erected in 2017-2018
  - 10 MWe study for Hungary

#### • Funding

Consortium of venture and strategic investors with 1:1 non-diluting capital





#### Mich Hein, PhD Managing Director

- Co-founder and managing partner at Nidus Partners
- Passionate entrepreneur
- Raised \$50 Mio for start-ups



#### Doris Hafenbradl, PhD CTO

- 20 years of experience in biotech and pharmaceutical industries
- Expert in hyperthermophilic archaea



#### Markus Forstmeier, PhD VP Business Development

- 15 years of experience in renewable energy and water treatment space
- Closed major partnerships and contracts >\$25 Mio



#### Laurent Lardon Biocat Project Leader

- 15 years of experience in development and technology maturation of biological processes
- Anaerobic processes and Process Control specialist



### Rapid technology de-risking and scale-up





#### How it Began: Chicago, USA

Dr. Laurens Mets' Laboratory, University of Chicago

The seeds were planted in the laboratory of Dr. Laurens Mets at the University of Chicago

- Demonstration of high efficiency conversion of carbon dioxide and electrical energy into methane
- Optimization of a unique strain of Archaea
- Filed patent applications on stirred cell system and bioelectrochemical systems





#### How it Began: Chicago, USA

Dr. Laurens Mets' Laboratory, University of Chicago

- Highly efficient biocatalysis with Archaea in stirred cell reactors and in bioelectrochemical systems was established
- Scalability towards commercial storage of renewable energy was demonstrated





# Foulum, Denmark

Foulum Project "Carbon Dioxide to Methane – System Integration"

- In 2012, Electrochaea.dk proposed the project "Carbon Dioxide to Methane System Integration" with its partners Aarhus University, EON and NEAS Energy
- The 12mio DKK project was supported with a 6.6mio DKK grant from EUDP and additional project support from Electrochaea LLC, EWZ, and Energie 360°





# Foulum, Denmark

**Continous Operation for 3 600hrs** 

- The reactor operated in 4 800 liters of reactor volume for 3 600 hours, demonstrating scalability and process efficiency
- product gas was used in the local CHP generator









# **The BioCat Project**

Avedøre, Denmark

- As part of the Foulum project, Electrochaea.dk identified potential sites for its first megawatt scale reactor, called "BioCat", with the capacity to inject biomethane into the Danish gas grid
- Funding for the project was secured from the ForskEl program in 2014
- Detailed engineering and construction for the BioCat Project began in 2015 after completion collaboration agreements among the Project Partners





**Can We Reach High Efficiency at this Scale?** 

We started with a greenfield site adjacent to the planned gas testing and gas injection site for HMN's commercial grid in Copenhagen





**Managing Full Site and System Integration** 

The methanation reactor and balance of plant systems were contracted to Zeton, Inc., in Enschede NL





**Managing Full Site and System Integration** 

The biomethanation reactor, agitator and balance plant were laid in place in less than one day





**Aiming for Grid Injection** 

Biocatalyst inoculation and first conversion of CO2 to methane in April





#### Who are these bugs?

Here our most valuable employees, the Archaea should be presented







#### A methanation reactor integrated to a Wastewater Treatment Plant

#### **Operational results**

- Cold start in 45 minutes after 60 hours idle
- Methane content > 97% before polishing
- CO<sub>2</sub> conversion > 98%





#### BioCat: Biological methanation system in Megawatt scale

Conversion of excess renewable power into biomethane



- Proprietary Bio-Catalyst (4 patents), in-house system design & operation
- Scaling: to 10 MW and 50 MW systems and regionally
- Competitive Advantage: dynamic operation, high tolerance to impurities



### **The Future**

**Continue Operation of BioCat Plant – Integration to WWTP** 

- Electrochaea and the project partners intend to continue operating the BioCat reactor and electrolyzers as a commercial scale power to gas facility
- Commercial sale of renewable biomethane to the Danish gas grid, to demonstrate conditions for economically viable power to gas conversion in Denmark
- Serve as a reference facility for future projects

Intensify industrial symbiosis

- Heat exchange from the electrolysers
- Scaling of Oxygen injection to activated sludge.

Environmental Technology Verification

- 1000 hours of operation
- Different operation modes: continuous, power-regulation, biogas / CO2





## **Business model and growth strategy**

Be the key technology provider for biological methanation

#### Focus on key markets

#### Tap multiple revenue streams

- Payments for feasibility studies on special feed gases
- Fee for initial engineering of BioCat core and interfaces
- Royalties for utilization of proprietary bio-catalyst
- Operation & maintenance fees

#### What are the next steps?

- Expand BioCat plant size to grid scale at 10 MW and 50 MW
- Secure contracts and financing to execute first grid scale project
- Expand technology and IP advantage
- Reduce overall system cost
- Engage with industrial partners to identify first of a kind 50 MW project



#### **Partners and Investors**



NEAS NERGY



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ECOSUMMIT AWARD Fame and Fortupe for the Best Smart Green Startups

Bronze medalist 2016 in early stage category



#### Thank you for your attention and questions

#### laurent.lardon@electrochaea.com



#### **St Louis, USA** Does it Work as Advertised?

Electrochaea demonstrated the ability to replicate Dr. Met's work in an industrial environment and towards commercial application:

- Developed scalable protocols for biocatalyst production
- Designed the first generation reactor for commercial application







# We are Moving to Europe

Targeting the Danish Market

- In 2011, Electrochaea identified Denmark and other northern EU markets as the target markets for technology scale up and sales of renewable natural gas
- Electrochaea.dk was formed in August 2011, with funding from Electrochaea LLC





