



# **Sensors – key component for safe and efficient use of hydrogen**

**David Nilebo, Business Manager, Insplorion**  
**2024-12-11 Vätgaskonferensen**

# Insplorion in short

Based in Gothenburg,  
Sweden. 13 FTE

Public company listed  
on Nasdaq First North

Founded as spinoff  
from Chalmers  
University in 2010

Core is Nano  
Plasmonic Sensing  
(NPS) Technology



## Research Instruments

- Research instruments for measurements in gas or liquid
- More than 125 research articles published by our users



## H<sub>2</sub> Sensors

- Fast & specific
- Flexible platform
- Optical readout
- Commercial prototype phase

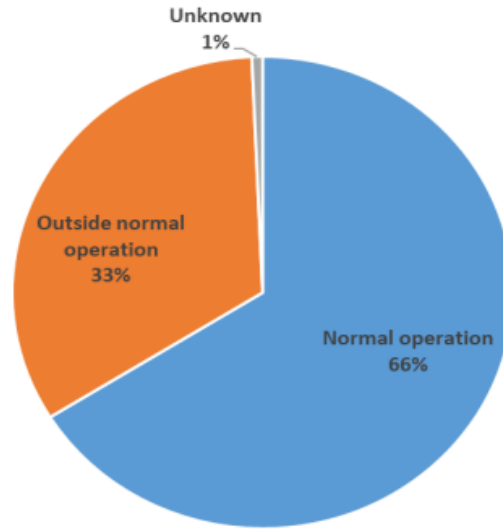
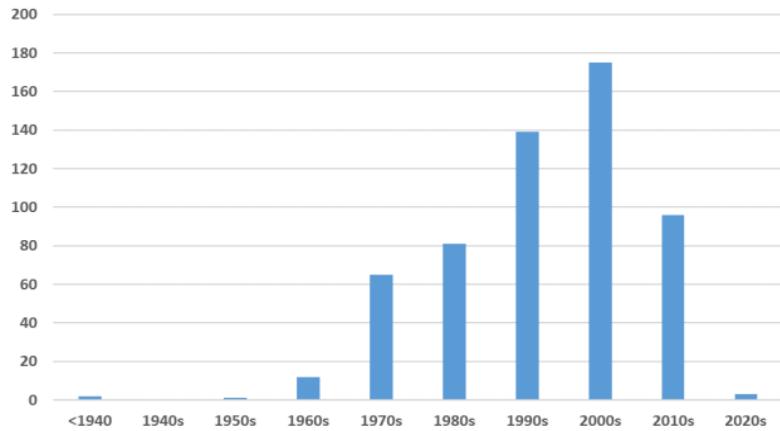
# Hydrogen properties: A comparison

	Hydrogen Gas	Natural Gas	Gasoline
<b>Toxicity</b>	None	Some	High
<b>Odor</b>	Odorless	Yes (mercaptan)	Yes (benzene)
<b>Buoyancy</b> <i>Relative to Air</i>	14X Lighter	2X Lighter	Vapor is 3.75X Heavier
<b>Flammable Range</b> <i>by volume in air</i>	4-75%	5-15%	1.4-7.6%
<b>Autoignition Temperature (C)</b>	585°	539°	232°
<b>Minimum Ignition Energy (mJ)</b>	0.017	0.288	0.250-0.300
<b>Energy</b> <i>by Weight</i>	2.8X > Gasoline	~1.2X > Gasoline	43 MJ/kg
<b>Energy</b> <i>by Volume</i>	4X < Gasoline	1.5X < Gasoline	120 MJ/Gallon

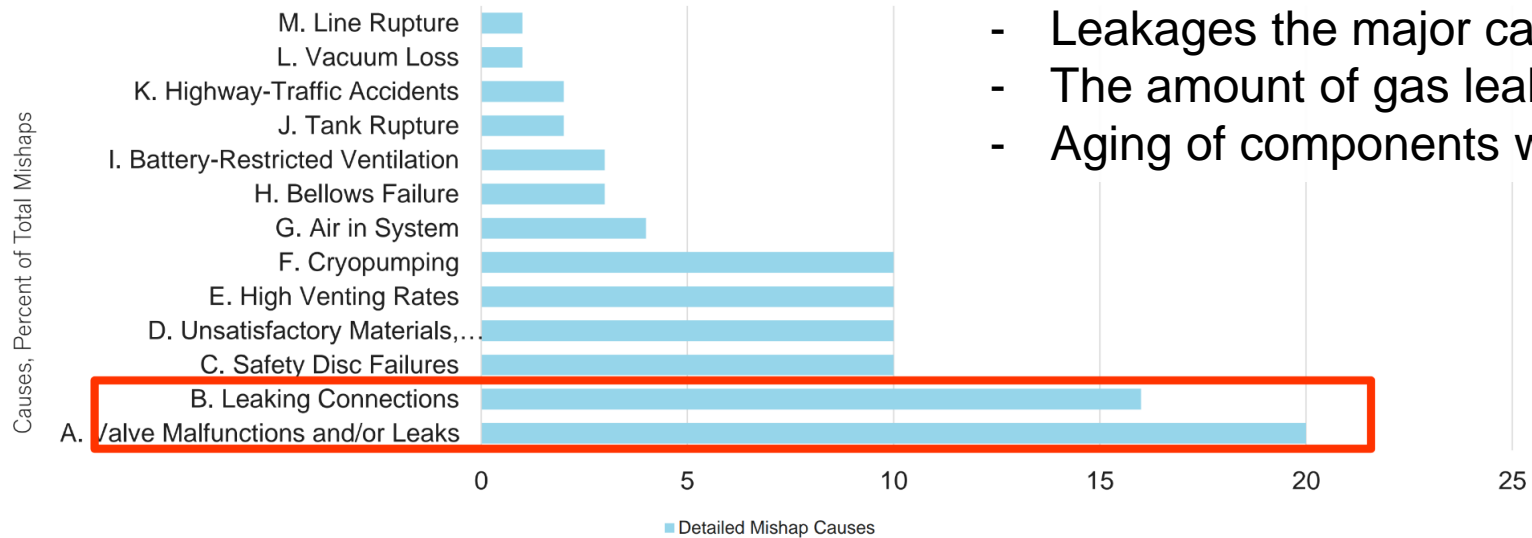
<https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Documents/Slides-Nick%20Barilo.pdf>



# Hydrogen incidents

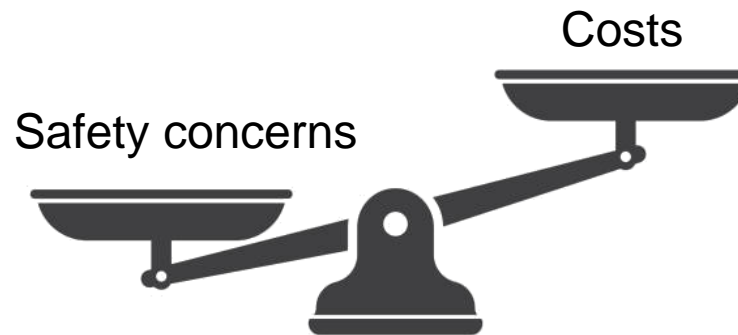
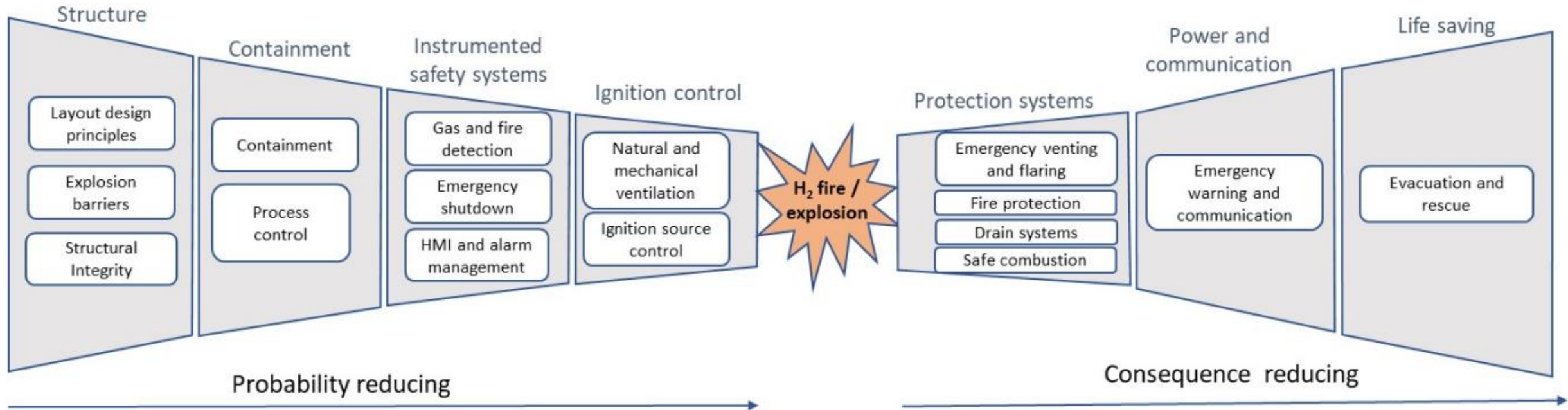


## Lessons learned from previous incidents



- Leakages the major cause for hydrogen related incidents
- The amount of gas leakage is underestimated by 60 % <sup>1, 2</sup>
- Aging of components will increase leakage

# Hydrogen specific requirements to safety barriers





# Need for H<sub>2</sub> Sensors

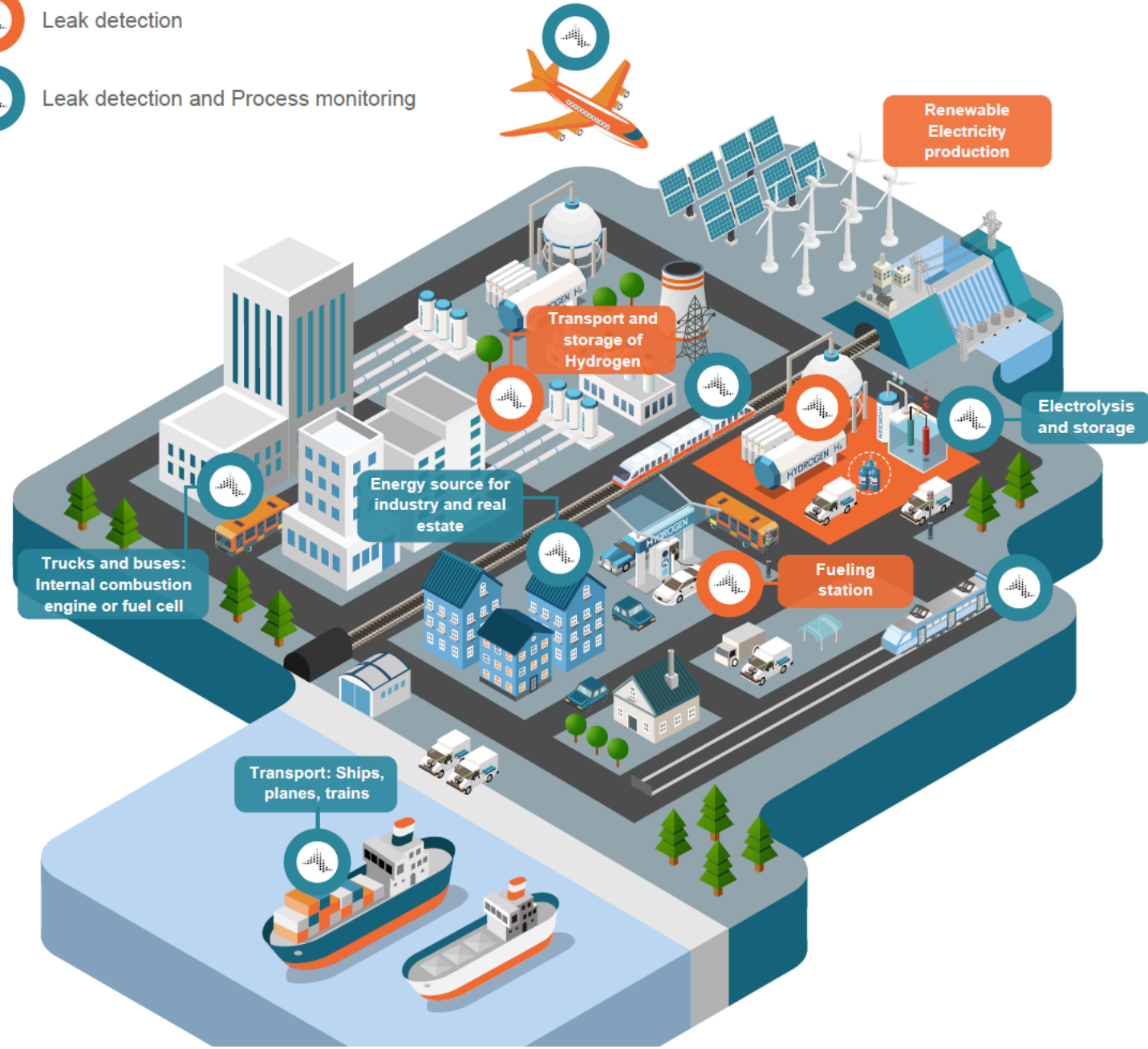
## Safety

Accidents mean physical damage, to property and potentially human lives, financial damage, and setbacks in public perception.

## Efficiency

Downtime and yield has direct effect on profitability.

-  Leak detection
-  Leak detection and Process monitoring



# Gas detection development



1900



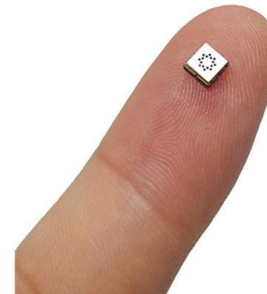
Catalytic



Electrochemical

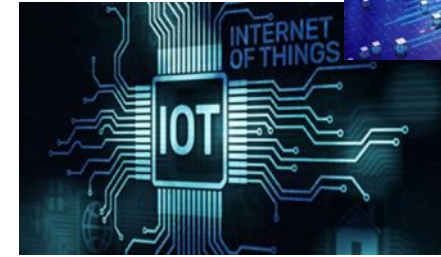


TCD



2000

2020



# Detection solutions



Leak detection tapes (passive)



Point detectors



Portable devices



Ultrasonic detectors



Flame detectors



# New gas detection needs in the H2 industry



## New industries are demanding:

- Increased safety concern
- Maximization operation efficiency
- Low weight
- Limited space
- Minimize impact on operating costs



## New sensing needs

- Actual **real-time** data
- Limit any **false responses**
- Detection in **confined spaces**
- Operation in **complex gas environments**
- Autonomous operation, minimize **calibration**

# State of the art H2 sensors

	Traditional sensors		
Sensor technologies	Electro-chemical	Catalytic	TCD
Technical performance			
Response time, $t_{90}$	20 s	10-30 s	5 s
O <sub>2</sub> requirements	> 10 vol%	> 10 vol%	None
H <sub>2</sub> limit range	2 vol%	5 vol%	100 vol%
Specificity H <sub>2</sub>	Low	Low	Low
Recalibration routines	6-12 months	6-12 months	12-24 months
Lifetime	1-3 years	2-5 years	2-5 years

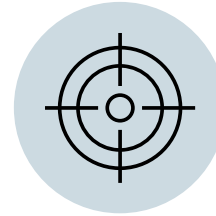
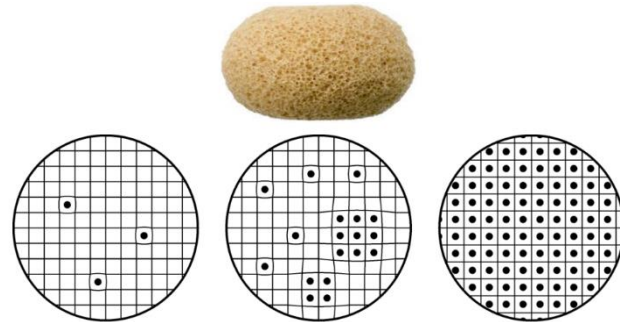
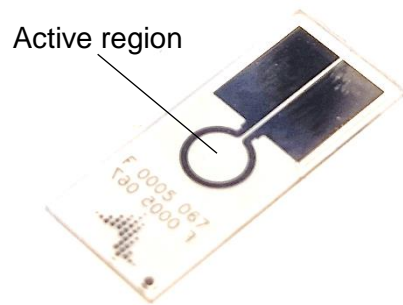
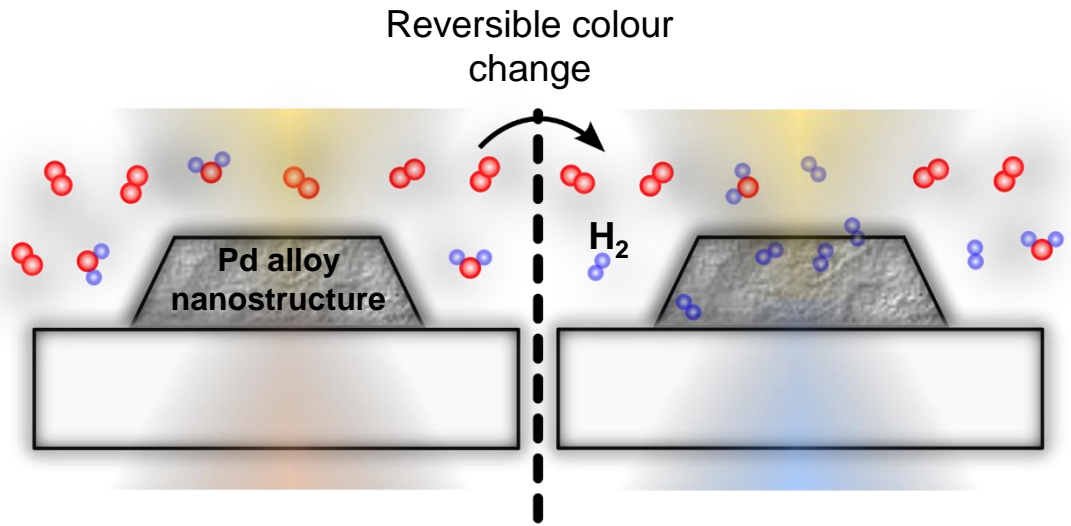
# State of the art H2 sensors

	Traditional sensors			Emerging solutions	
Sensor technologies	Electro-chemical	Catalytic	TCD	MPS	Pd thin film
Technical performance					
Response time, $t_{90}$	20 s	10-30 s	5 s	20 s	30 s
O <sub>2</sub> requirements	> 10 vol%	> 10 vol%	None	> 15 vol%	None
H <sub>2</sub> limit range	2 vol%	5 vol%	100 vol%	4 vol%	100 vol%
Specificity H2	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Recalibration routines	6-12 months	6-12 months	12-24 months	None	None
Lifetime	1-3 years	2-5 years	2-5 years	> 5 years	> 5 years

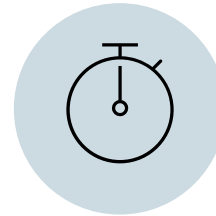
# State of the art H2 sensors

	Traditional sensors			Emerging solutions		
Sensor technologies	Electro-chemical	Catalytic	TCD	MPS	Pd thin film	Inspiorion NPS
Technical performance						
Response time, $t_{90}$	20 s	10-30 s	5 s	20 s	30 s	1 s
O <sub>2</sub> requirements	> 10 vol%	> 10 vol%	None	> 15 vol%	None	None
H <sub>2</sub> limit range	2 vol%	5 vol%	100 vol%	4 vol%	100 vol%	100 vol%
Specificity H2	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High
Recalibration routines	6-12 months	6-12 months	12-24 months	None	None	None (target)
Lifetime	1-3 years	2-5 years	2-5 years	> 5 years	> 5 years	10 years (target)

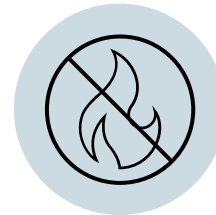
# Insplorion NPS sensor technology



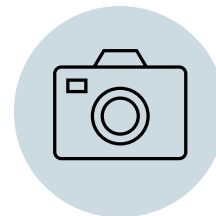
**Highly specific to H<sub>2</sub>** - detects H<sub>2</sub> in presence of other gases



**Fast response** - enables quick action

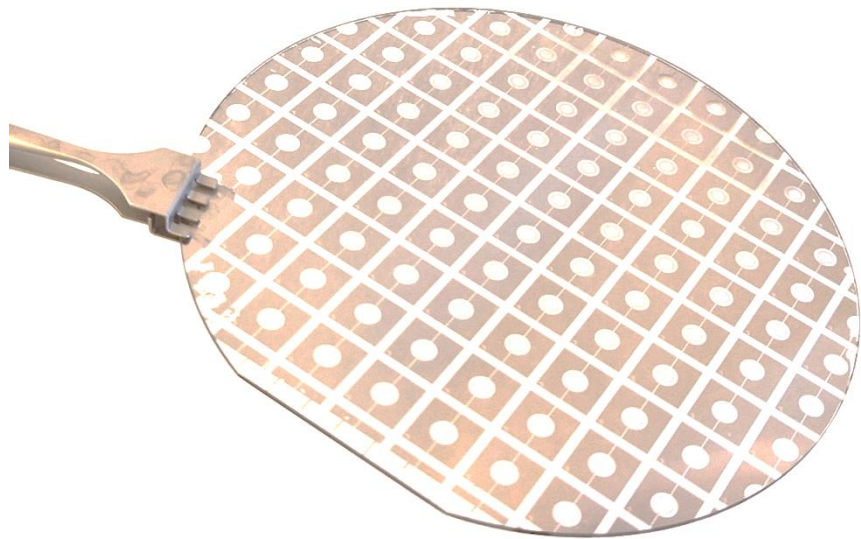


**Low oxygen environments** - Able to measure in reduced oxygen environments



**Optical readout** - sensor can be separated from electronics

# Sensor manufacture



# Insplorion NPS-P2 hydrogen detector

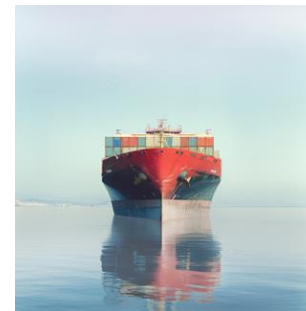


## Primary applications:

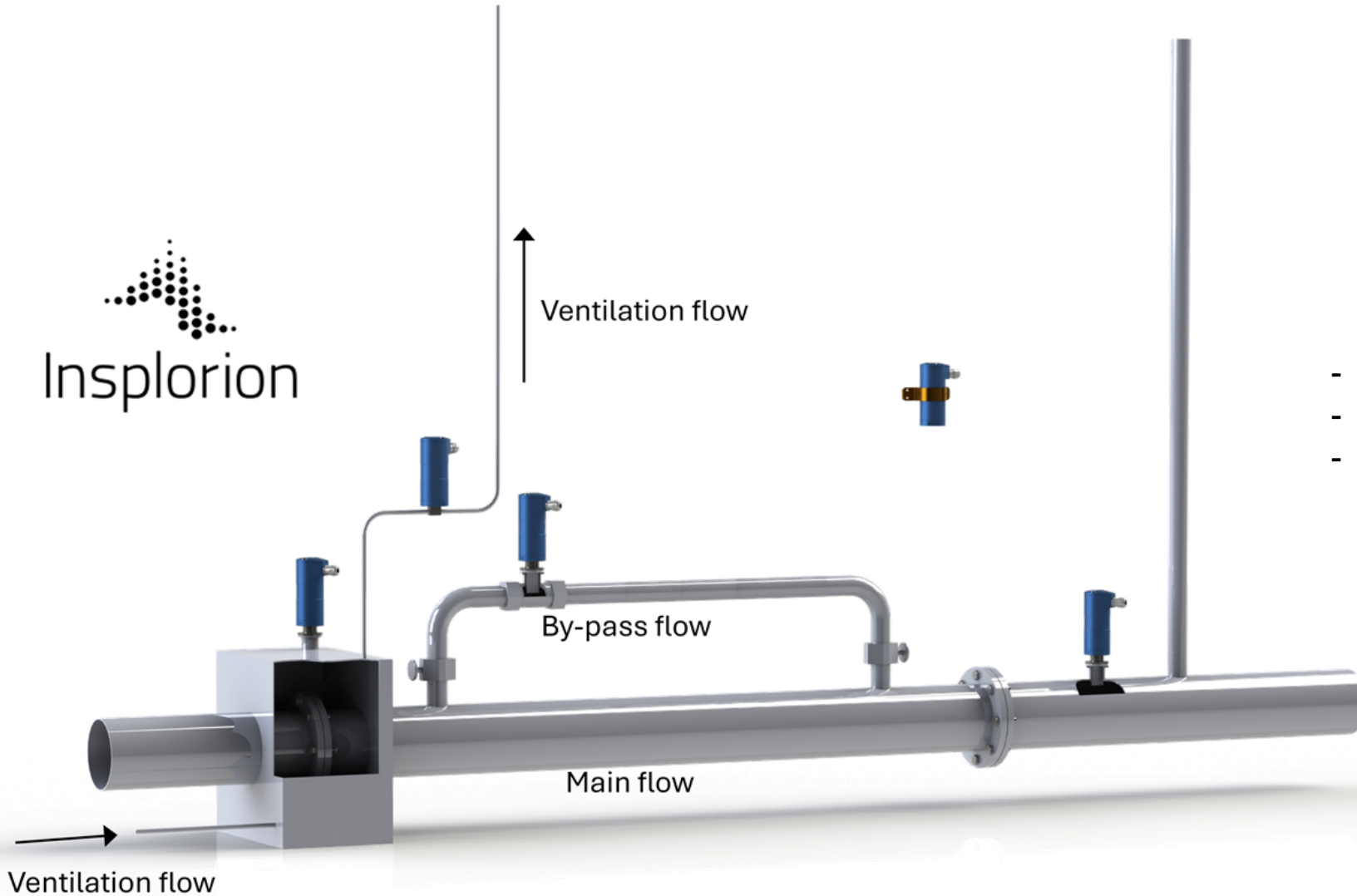
- Confined spaces
- Inerted systems
- Ambient air

## Offering:

- Fixed detection by diffusion/in-line sampling
- Ultrafast detection of leakages
- Small form factor



# Enable safe and efficient usage of hydrogen

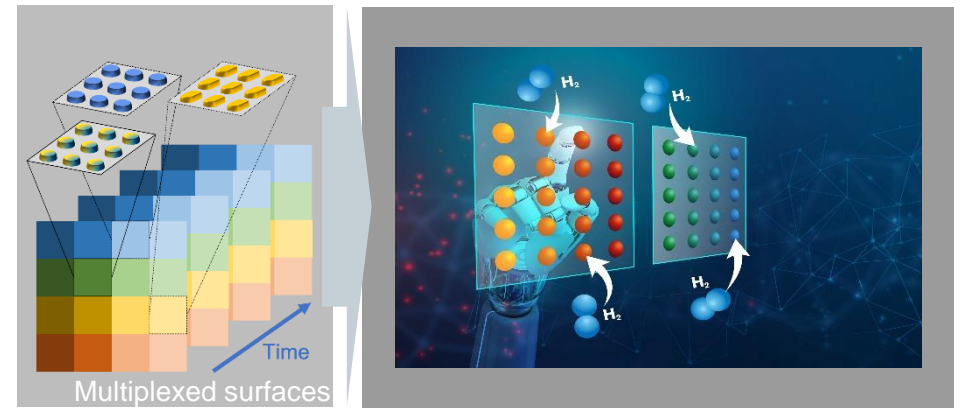


- Reduces installation complexity
- Limiting costs of ventilation
- Reducing risks of delayed actions



# Research in NPS based H2 sensing

- "Worlds fastest H2 sensor" (2019)
- H2 detection over 7 order of magnitudes in pressure (2021)
- Sub ppm H2 detection limit (2022)
- 3D printed plastic H2 sensor (2023)
- Accelerated H2 sensing by 40 times (2024)
- AI to enable operation in complex gas environments (2024)



**CHALMERS**

Nugroho, Ferry AA, et al. "Metal-polymer hybrid nanomaterials for plasmonic ultrafast hydrogen detection." *Nature materials* 18.5 (2019): 489-495  
Bannenberg, Lars, Herman Schreuders, and Bernard Dam. "Tantalum-palladium: hysteresis-free optical hydrogen sensor over 7 orders of magnitude in pressure with sub-second response." *Advanced Functional Materials* 31.16 (2021): 2010483  
Nugroho, Ferry Anggoro Ardy, et al. "Inverse designed plasmonic metasurface with parts per billion optical hydrogen detection." *Nature Communications* 13.1 (2022): 5737  
Darmadi, Iwan, et al. "Bulk-processed plasmonic plastic nanocomposite materials for optical hydrogen detection." *Accounts of chemical research* 56.13 (2023): 1850-1861.  
Martvall, Viktor, et al. "Accelerating Plasmonic Hydrogen Sensors for Inert Gas Environments by Transformer-Based Deep Learning." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.15372* (2023).  
Tomeček, David, et al. "Neural network enabled nanoplasmonic hydrogen sensors with 100 ppm limit of detection in humid air." *Nature Communications* 15.1 (2024): 1208.

# Co-development projects

**Hydra**  
Specma



## H2 detection for processes

- In-line detection



**SAAB**



## H2 detection of aircrafts

- Remote and multiple detection
- Minimizing weight
- Integration in confined areas

# Insplorion strategy – commercial roll-out



**Provides prototype detectors for system design, validation and pilot projects**

- Leak detection/safety
- Process monitoring

**Launch ATEX certified leak detector (NPS-P2) in 2025**

**Partnerships for**

- Commercial rollout of NPS-P2
- Co-development for specific segments/applications



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# Thank you for your attention

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



[info@insplorion.com](mailto:info@insplorion.com)



+46 (0)31 380 26 95

