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How membrane reactors can affect H₂ production cycles

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WGS Process Design and Simulation/1

Definition of industrial requirements for WGS - MR system

- H₂ production capacity
- Feed composition and feed pressure
- Feed temperature range
- Pressure Hydrogen output
- MR performance target



Simulation of WGS fixed bed MR

- MR operating conditions
- Membrane area required
- MR performance



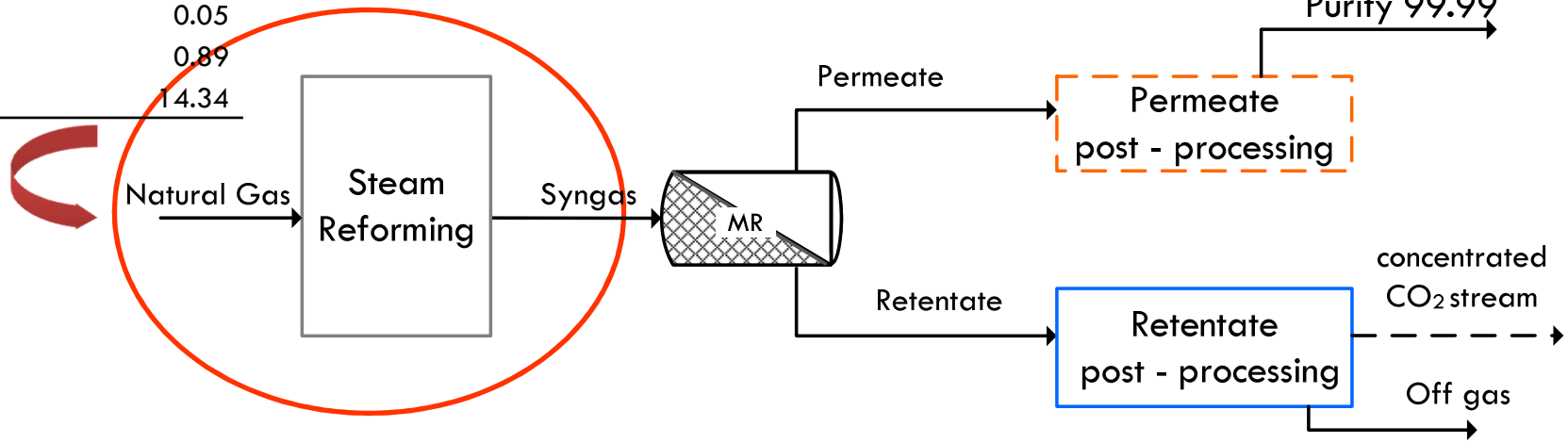
WGS Process design and simulation

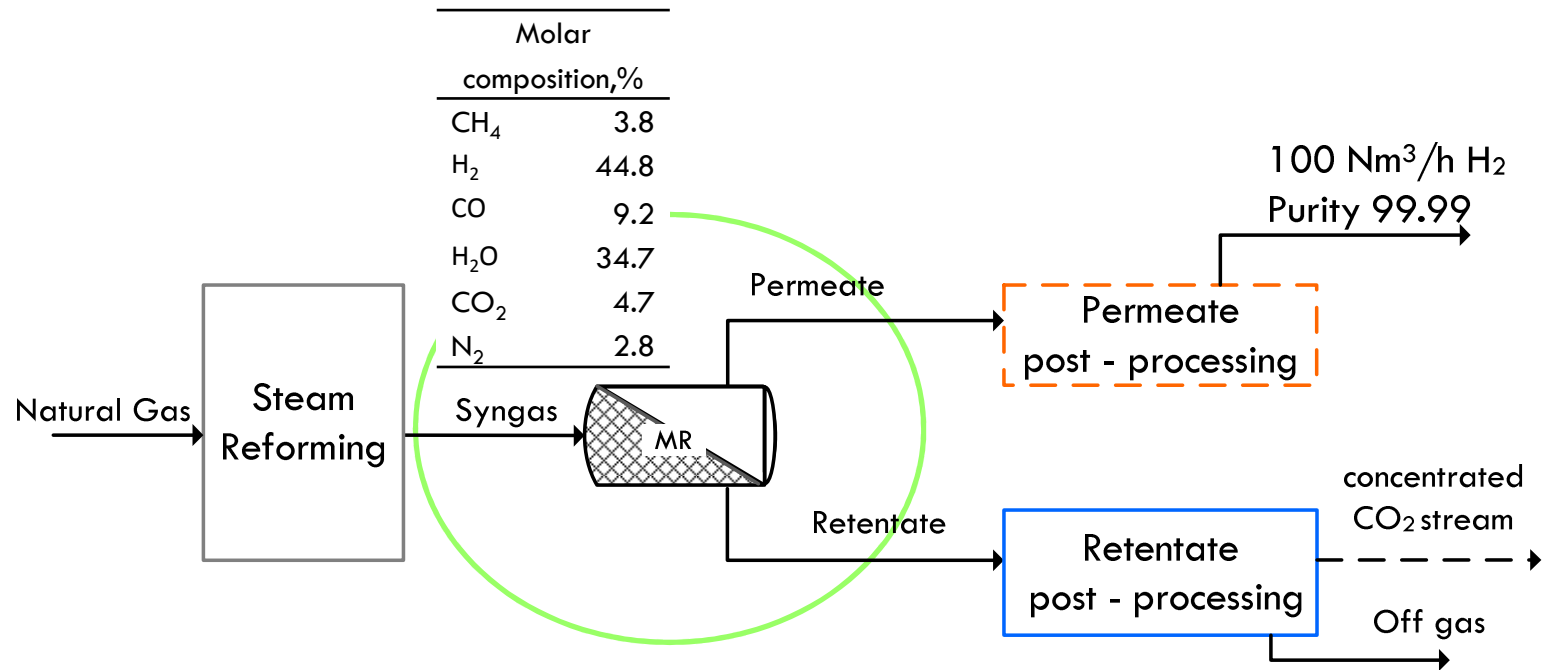
- Design of new process integrated with WGS-MR
- Retentate post processing
- Permeate post processing





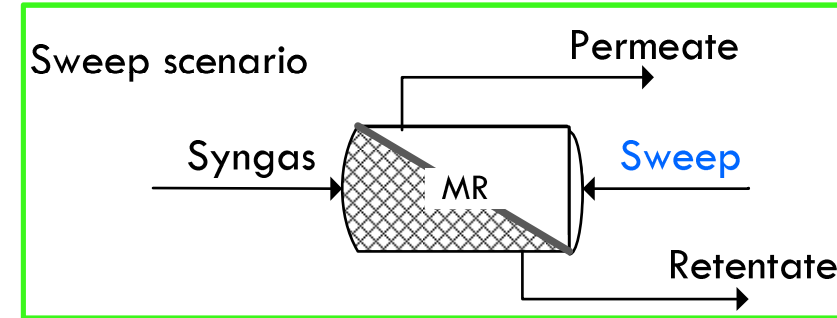
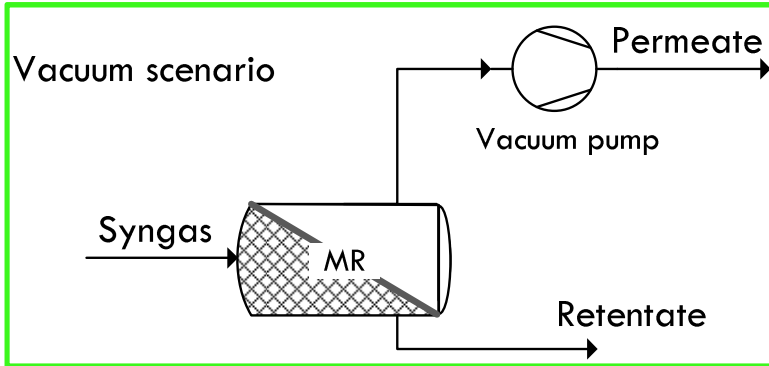
| NG from Groningen region (The Netherlands) | |
|---|-------|
| Molar composition | |
| % | |
| CH ₄ | 81.30 |
| C ₂ H ₆ | 2.87 |
| C ₃ H ₈ | 0.39 |
| C ₄ H ₁₀ | 0.16 |
| C ₅ H ₁₂ | 0.05 |
| CO ₂ | 0.89 |
| N ₂ | 14.34 |





| Membrane characteristics | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Membrane | Pd-Ag supported (Tecnalia) |
| Target permeance at 400 °C, mmol m ⁻² Pa ⁻¹ s ⁻¹ | 2.17 |
| E _a , kJ mol ⁻¹ | 8 |
| Pre-exponential factor in permeance expression, mmol m ⁻² Pa ⁻¹ s ⁻¹ | 9.06 |
| Length tubes in packed bed, m | 0.44 |





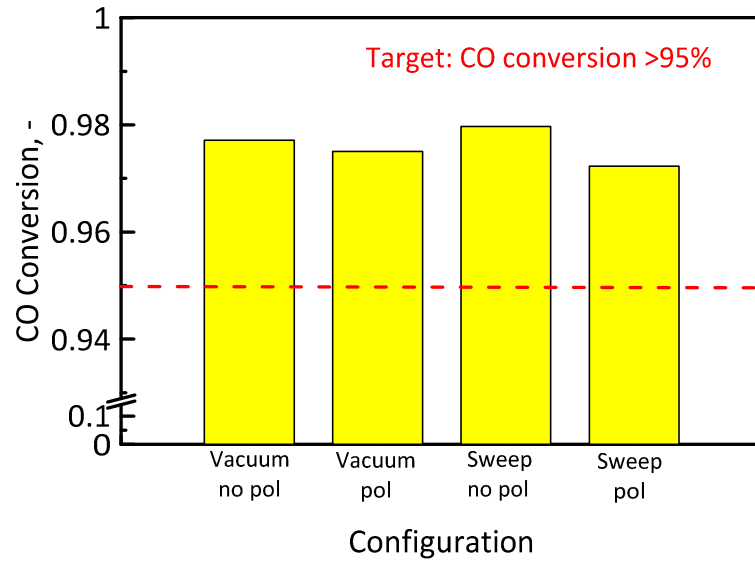
| Operating Condition | Vacuum | Sweep |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Feed pressure, bar | 7 | |
| Permeate pressure, bar | 0.35 | 1.2 |
| Feed temperature, C | 360 | |
| Sweep Factor, - | N.A. | 0.12 |
| Membrane area, m ² | 3.6 | |

$$* \text{ Sweep factor} = \frac{\text{Sweep molar flow rate fed in the permeate side}}{\text{Syngas molar flow rate fed in the reaction side}}$$

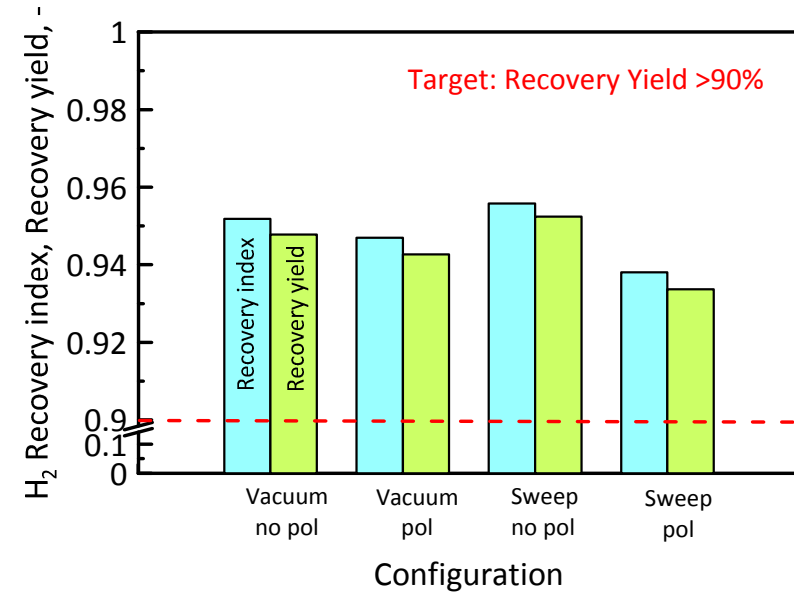


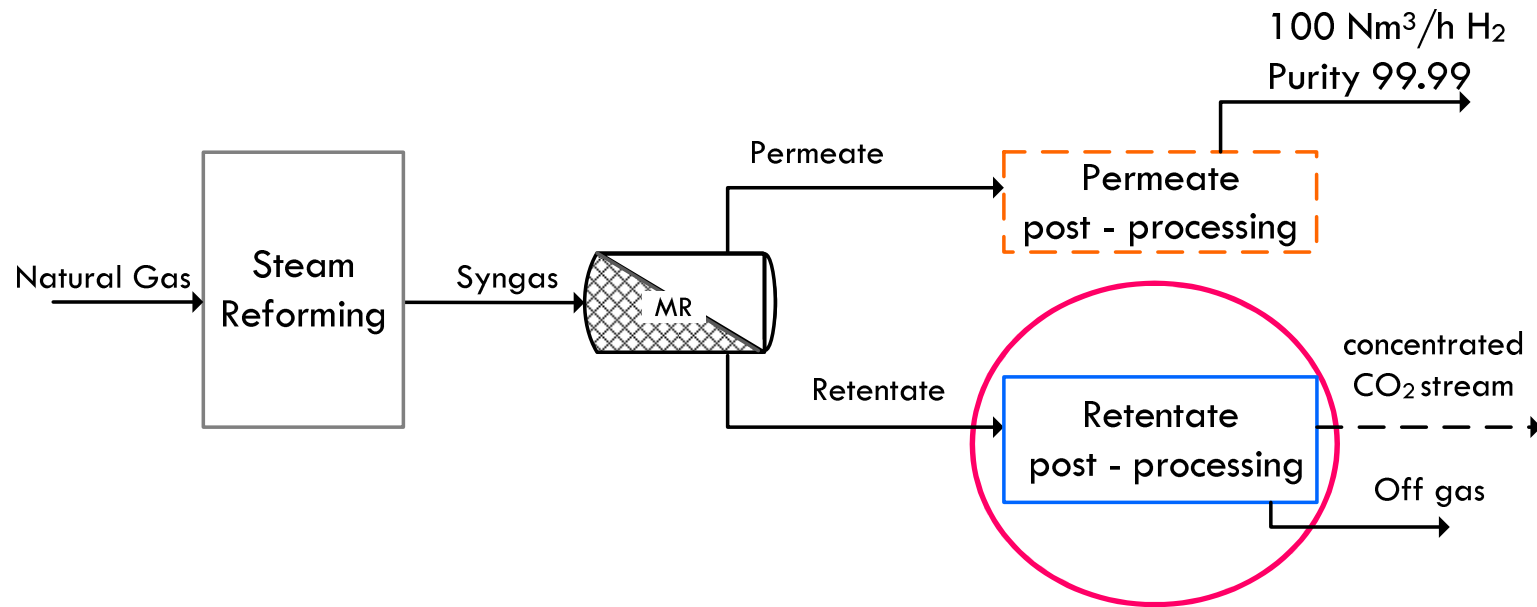
Membrane area scaled-up from pilot of 5 Nm³/h of H₂ produced by MR unit

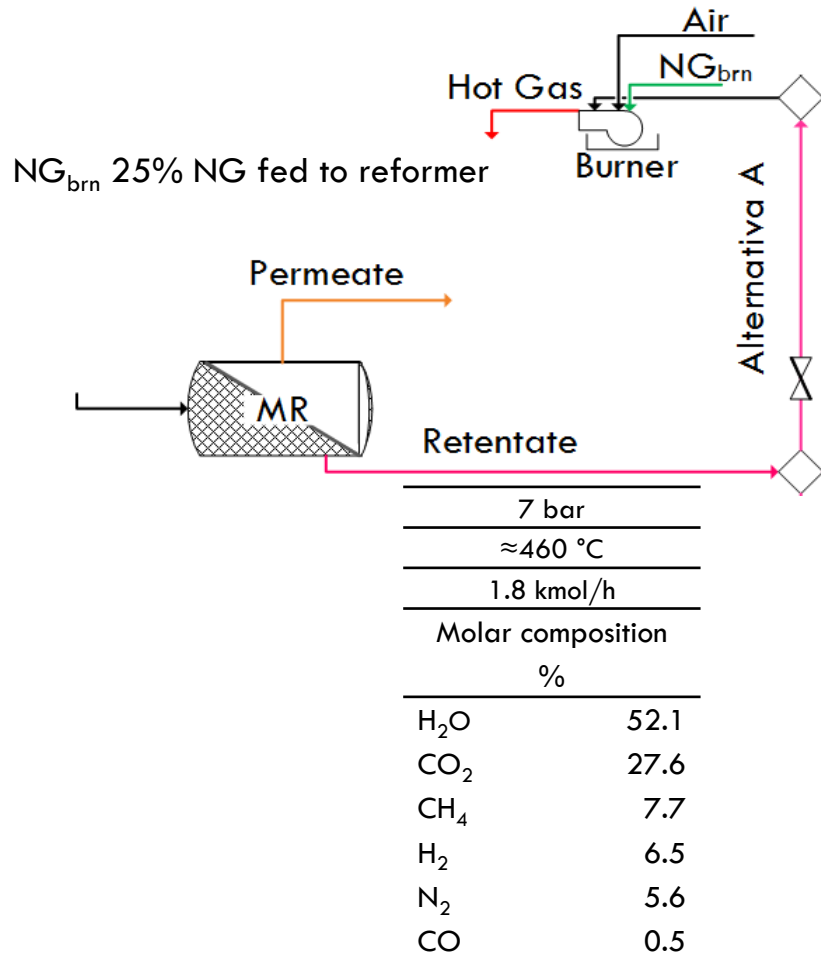


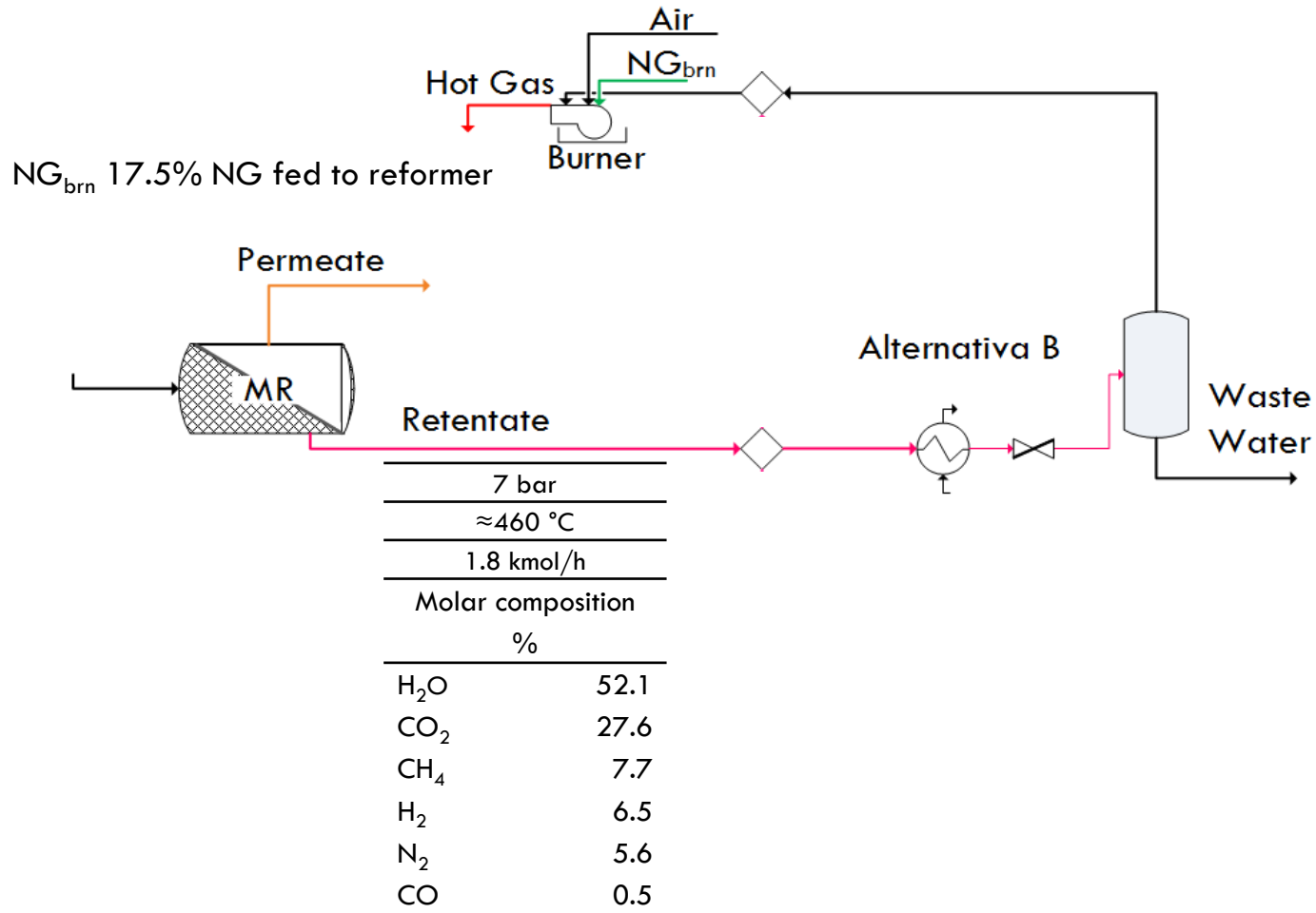


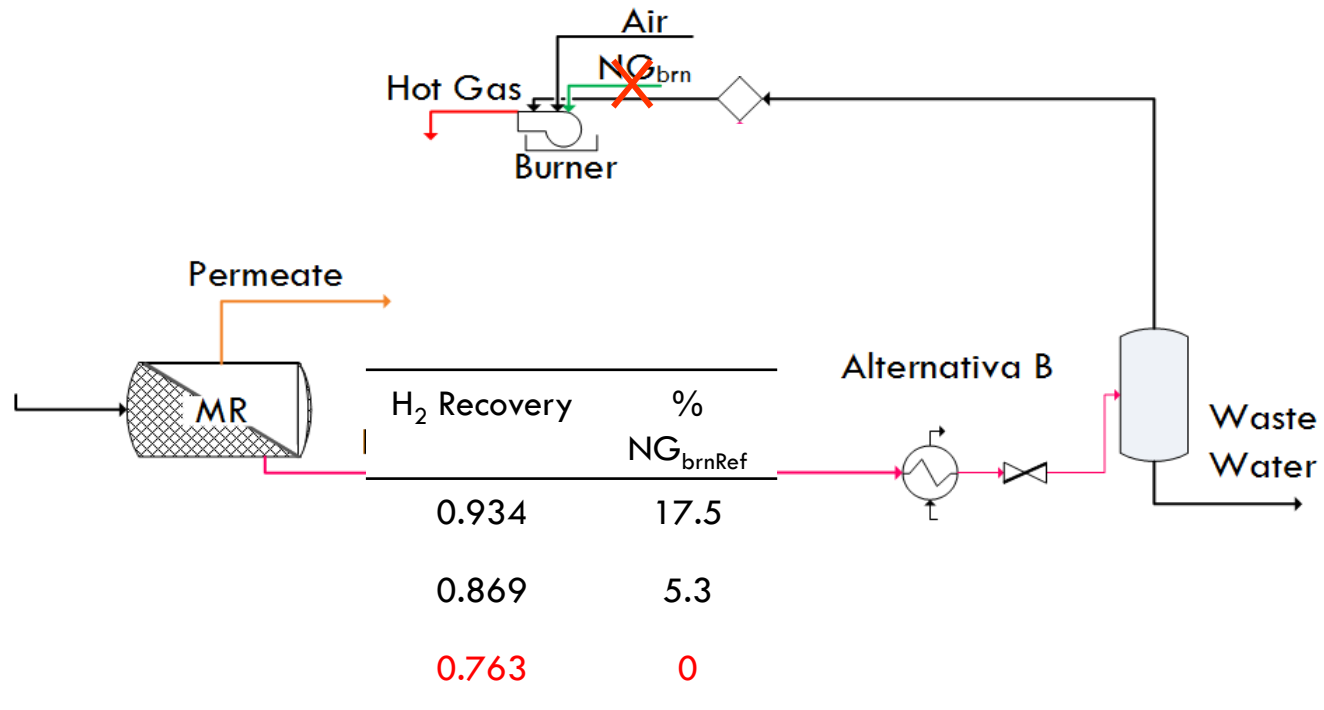
| Performance | Vacuum (CPC) | Sweep (CPC) |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| CO conversion, % | 97.5 | 97.2 |
| H ₂ Recovery (R _{H2}), % | 94.3 | 93.4 |

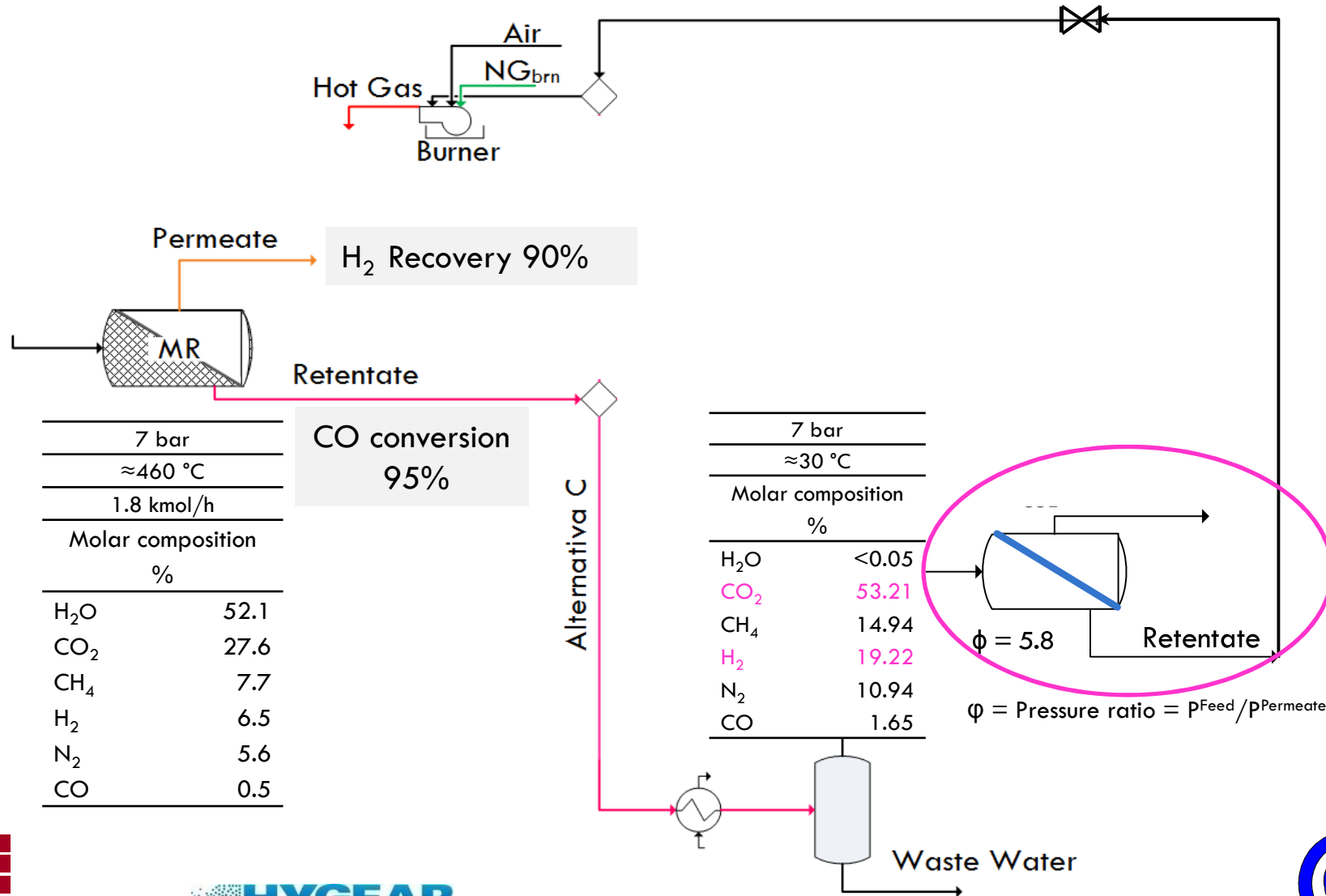




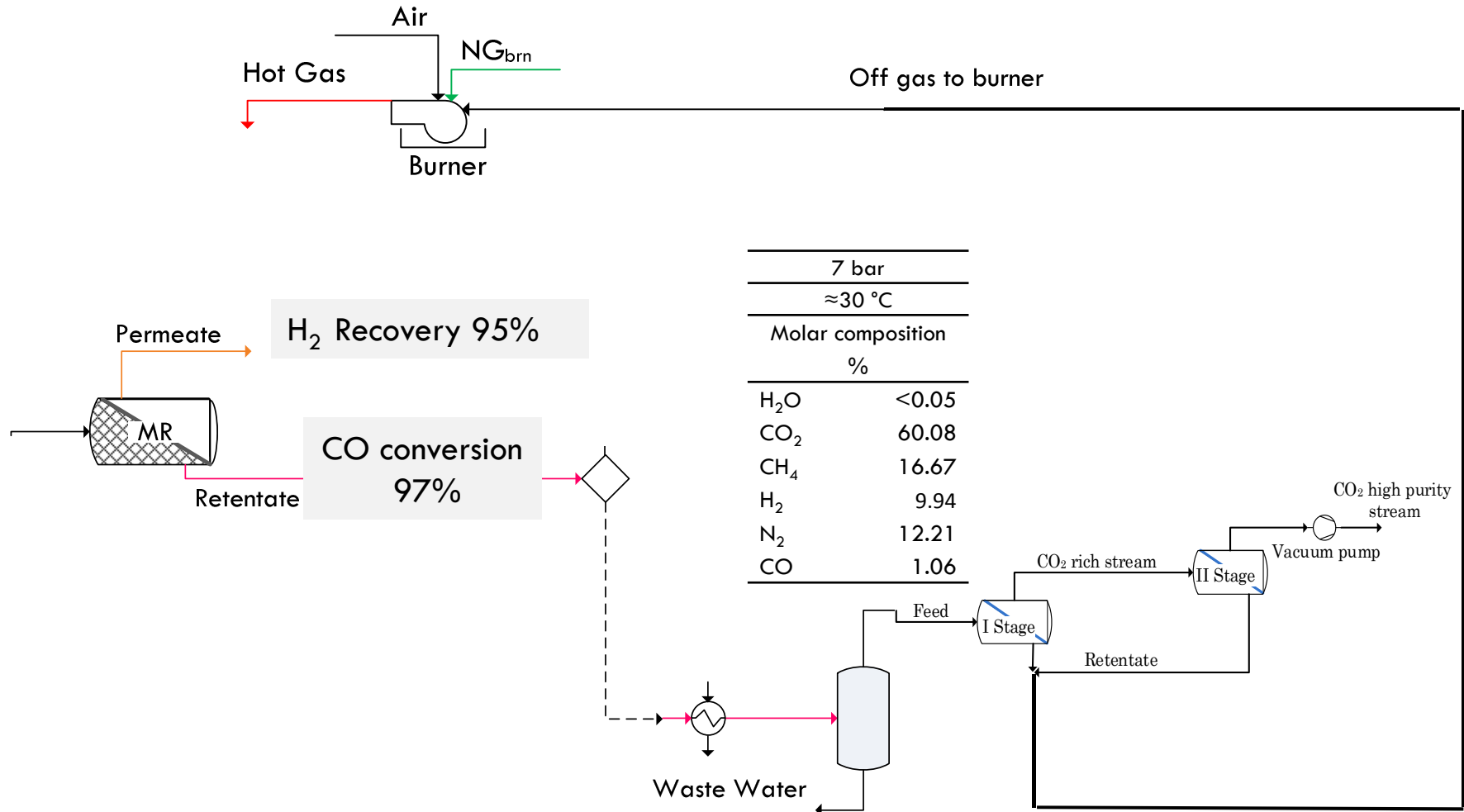








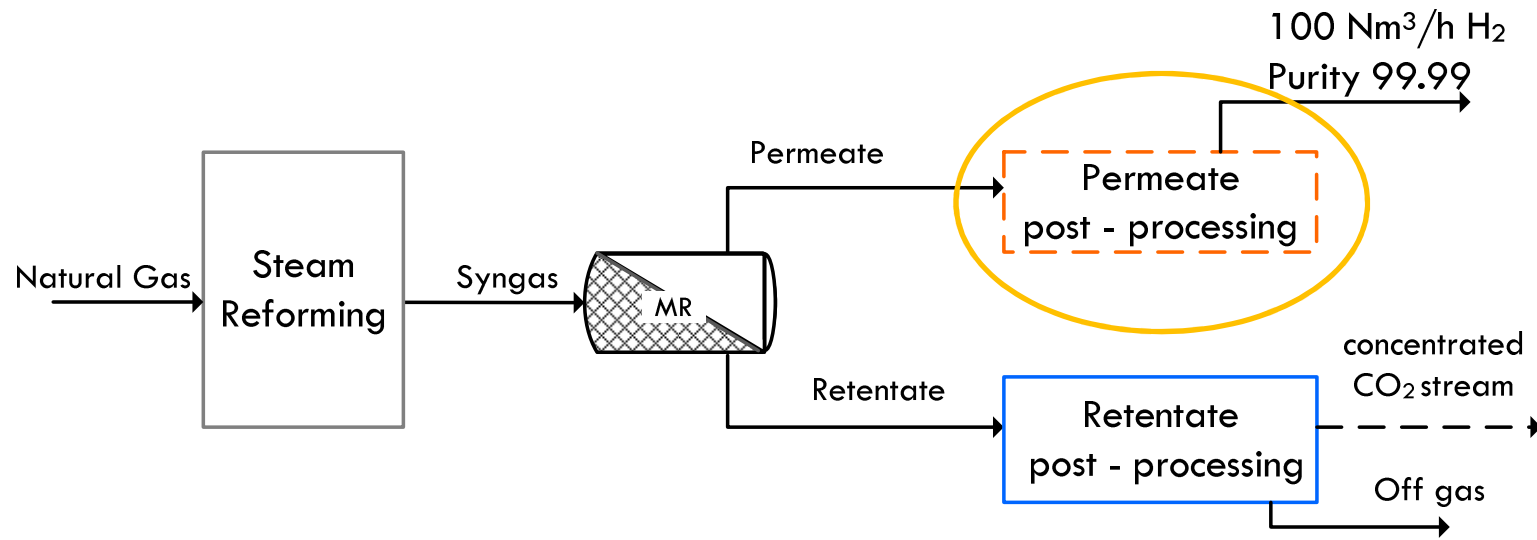
Retentate post-processing section/3



| 7 bar | |
|-------------------|-------|
| ≈30 °C | |
| Molar composition | |
| % | |
| H ₂ O | <0.05 |
| CO ₂ | 60.08 |
| CH ₄ | 16.67 |
| H ₂ | 9.94 |
| N ₂ | 12.21 |
| CO | 1.06 |

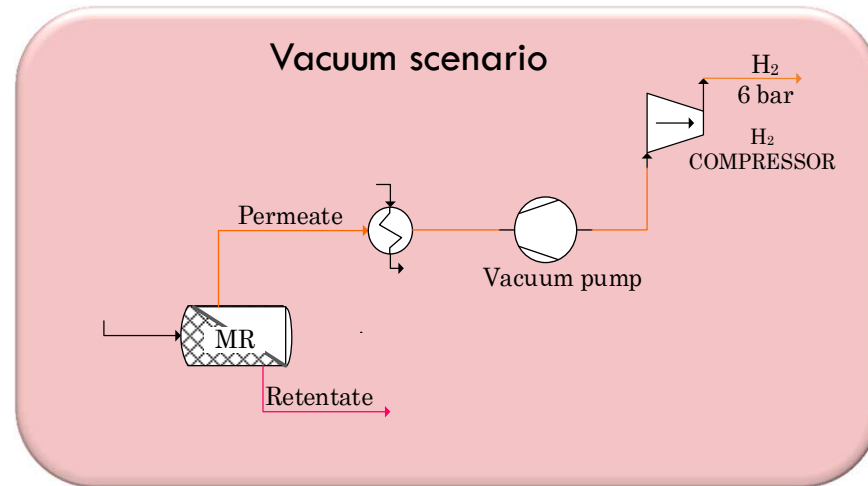
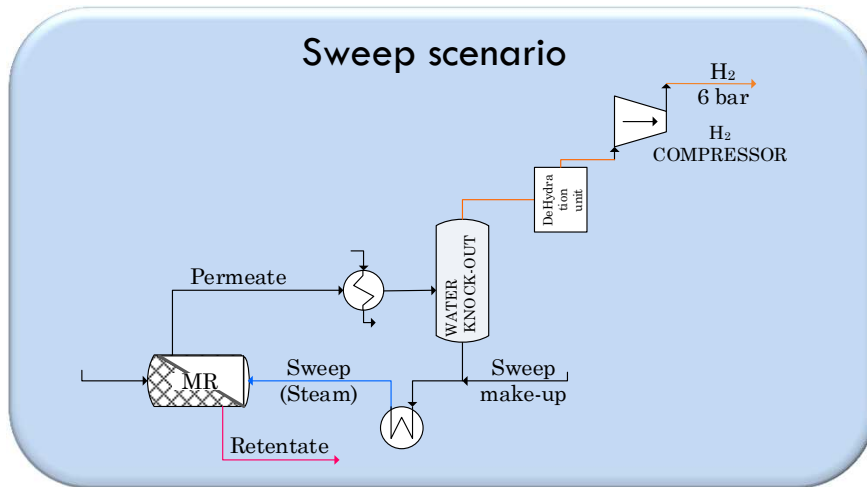
| CO ₂ purity | CO ₂ Recovery |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ~ 97 % | 51 % |



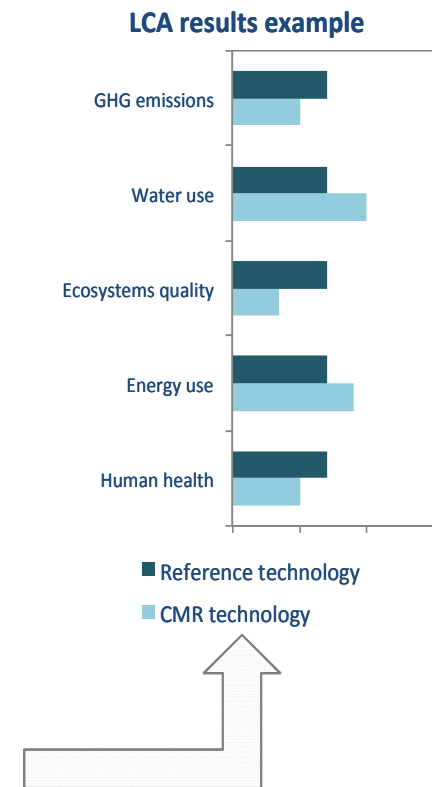
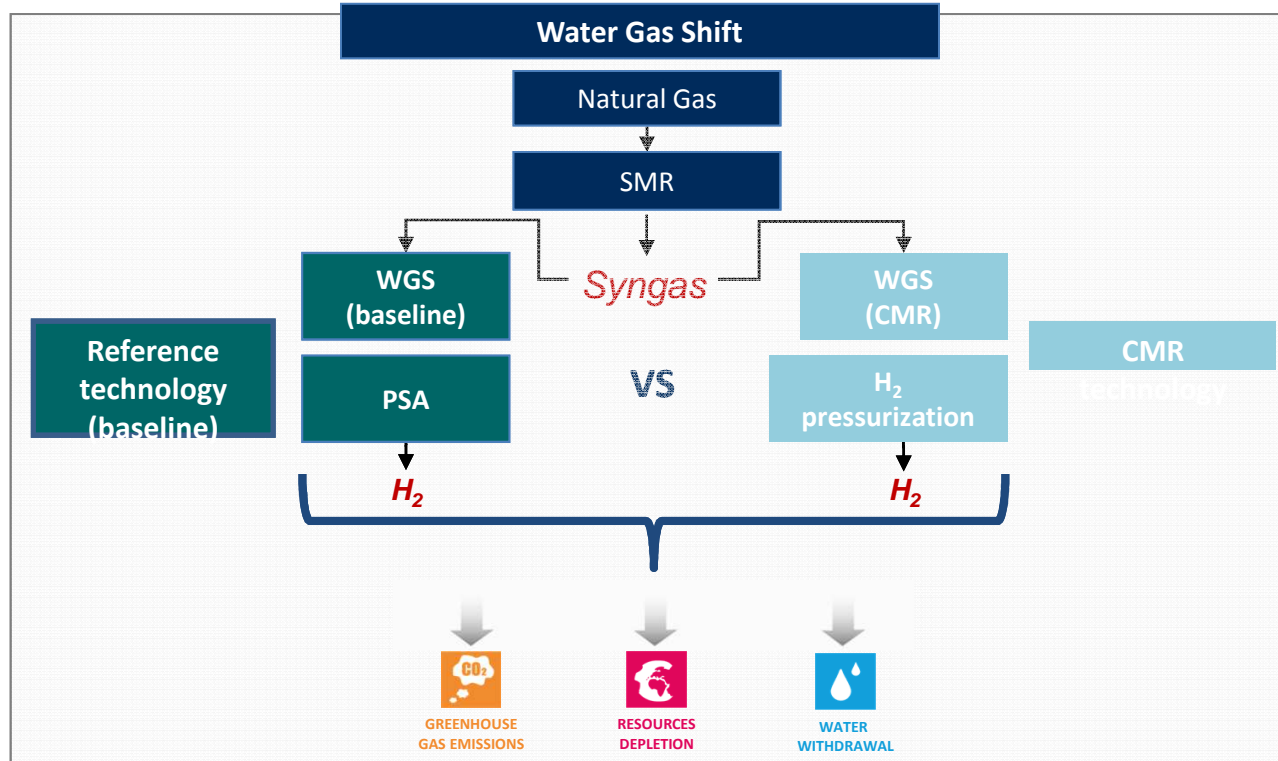




Permeate post-processing section



What about the environmental impacts of the CMR technologies compared to the reference technology?



Not included in the screening LCA:

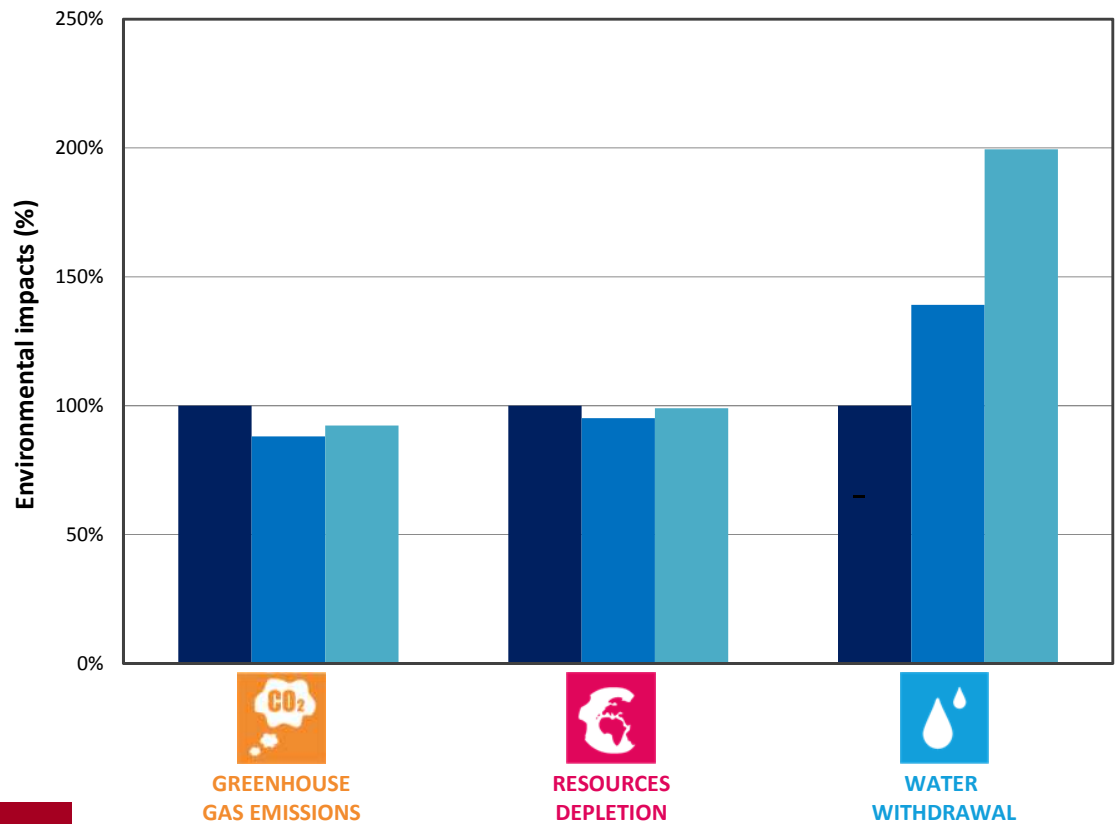
- Product (H₂ or C₂H₄) distribution and use (equivalent for compared systems)
- Infrastructure (reactor and membranes)
- Downstream separation with membranes

The impact of the electricity consumption for the different processes depends on the geography. Conclusions can be drawn only for average European technologies



Screening results: water gas shift (packed bed)

The production of 1 Nm³ of H₂ using CMR technologies results in impact **reductions for greenhouse gas emissions and resources depletion, and an increase for water withdrawal**



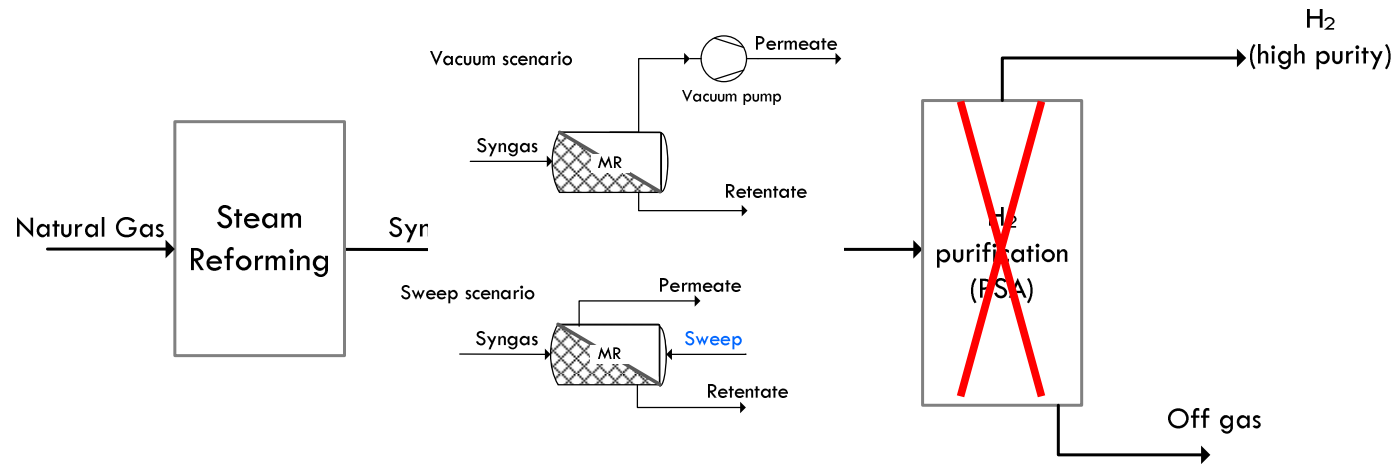
Key learnings

The **key contributors** to overall environmental impacts of WGS process are the following:

- ✓ Feedstock (steam and natural gas)
- ✓ Direct emissions from burner (only for GHG emissions indicator)
- ✓ Electricity consumption (only for water withdrawal indicator)

- WGS reference technology
- WGS PBMR Sweep
- WGS PBMR Vacuum





■ A new process integrated with WGS-MR has been designed

■ H₂ separation and purification (PSA) is NO more required → more than 90% of H₂ produced is directly recovered in the permeate stream

■ Permeate post processing only requires H₂ compression
 (for sweep scenario the steam used as sweep gas has to be condensed and removed).

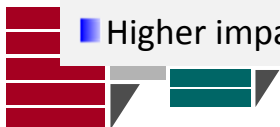
■ Retentate post processing:

- Retentate can be sent to the burner
- Retentate can be sent to a CO₂ membrane separation unit recovering a concentrated CO₂ stream

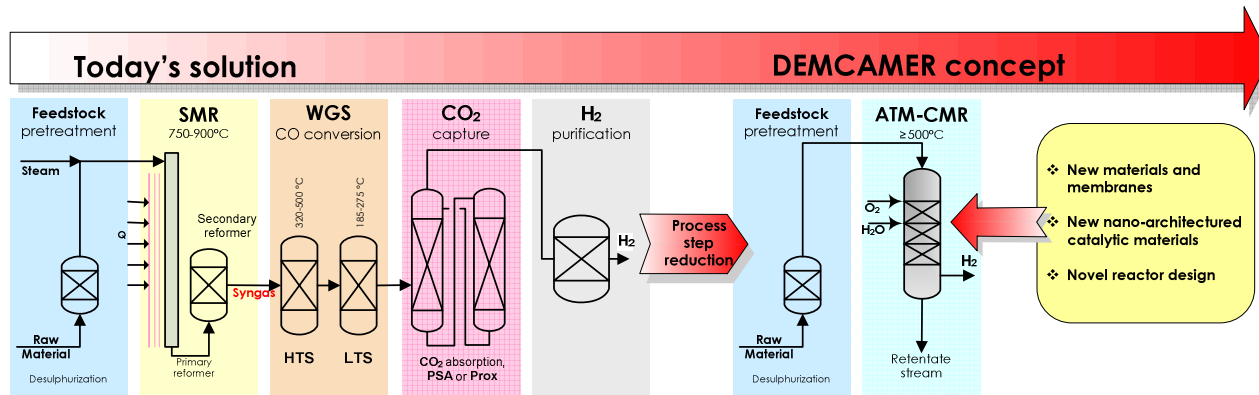
■ Lower impacts related to lower feedstock consumption

- natural gas
- Steam

■ Higher impacts related to higher electricity and heat requirements



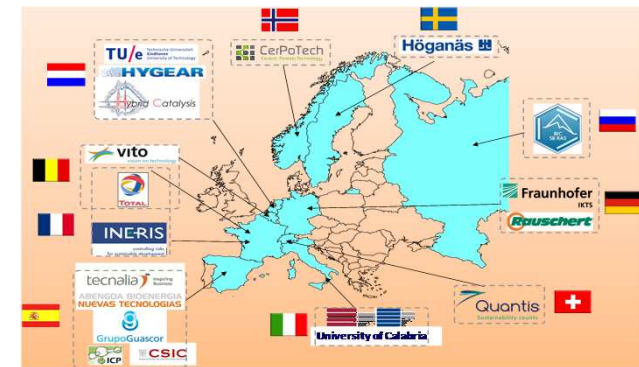
Design and Manufacturing of Catalytic Membrane Reactors by Developing New Nano-architected Catalytic and Selective Membrane Materials



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Consortium

18 Partners from 10 different countries; 8 Research Centres and Universities; 4 SMEs; 6 Large Enterprises.





Thank you for your attention

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