IGNITING THE FUTURE Soldac meets Marker

Industrial Workshop | 25th June 2025 - Barcelona (Spain)



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement no. 101069359, and from UK Research and Innovation - Innovate UK under Innovation Funding Service (ISF) 10039331 and 10038044.



*** AGENDA**

09:30 – 09:45 Opening session - Aim and the structure of the workshop

Session 1 – SolDAC's outputs showroom

SolDAC sub-units on stage – an opportunity for joint or individual exploitation.

 Direct Air Capture unit - Giulio Santori, University of Edinburgh, Paul Wright, University of St Andrews & Valeria Palomba, National Centre for Research Italy.

09:45 – 11:00

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- Photoelectrochemical cell Juan Ramon Morante, Catalonia Institute for Energy Research.
- Full Spectrum Solar system Daniel Chemisana, University of Lleida.

Sustainability performance and social embeddedness of the SolDAC' solution – Edgar Contreras, Mihaela Mirea LOMARTOV

11:00 – 11.30 Coffee break – 30 min

Session 2 – Market pulse: industry voices

SOLATOM – Antonio Famiglietti

11:30 – 12:30 Captur Tower – Thomas Louagie

H2B2 Electrolysis Technologies – Macarena Olias Sanchez

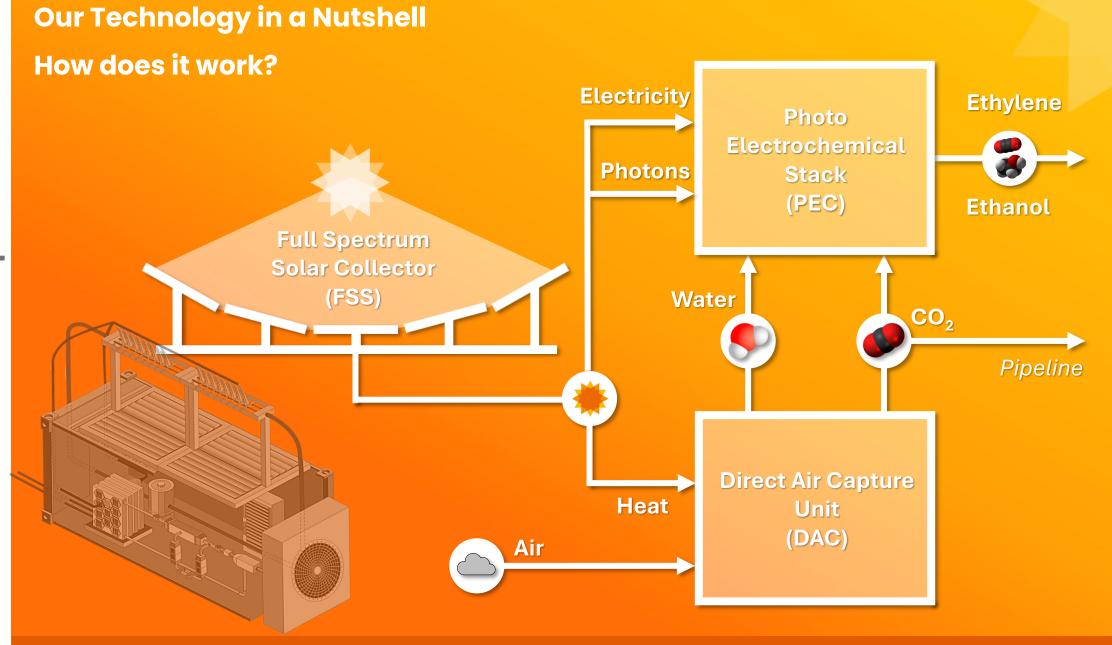
eChemicles – Mariia Shabalina

12:30 – 13.15 Panel session – Bridging Potential and Practice: SolDAC's Way Forward

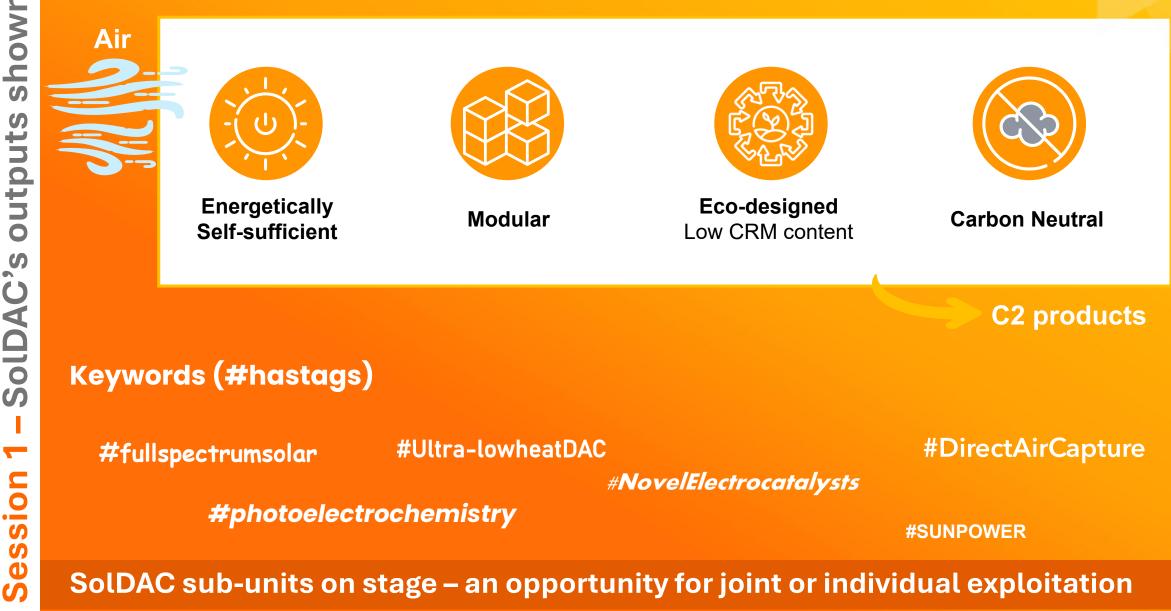
13:15 – 13:30 Main takeaways and wrap-up

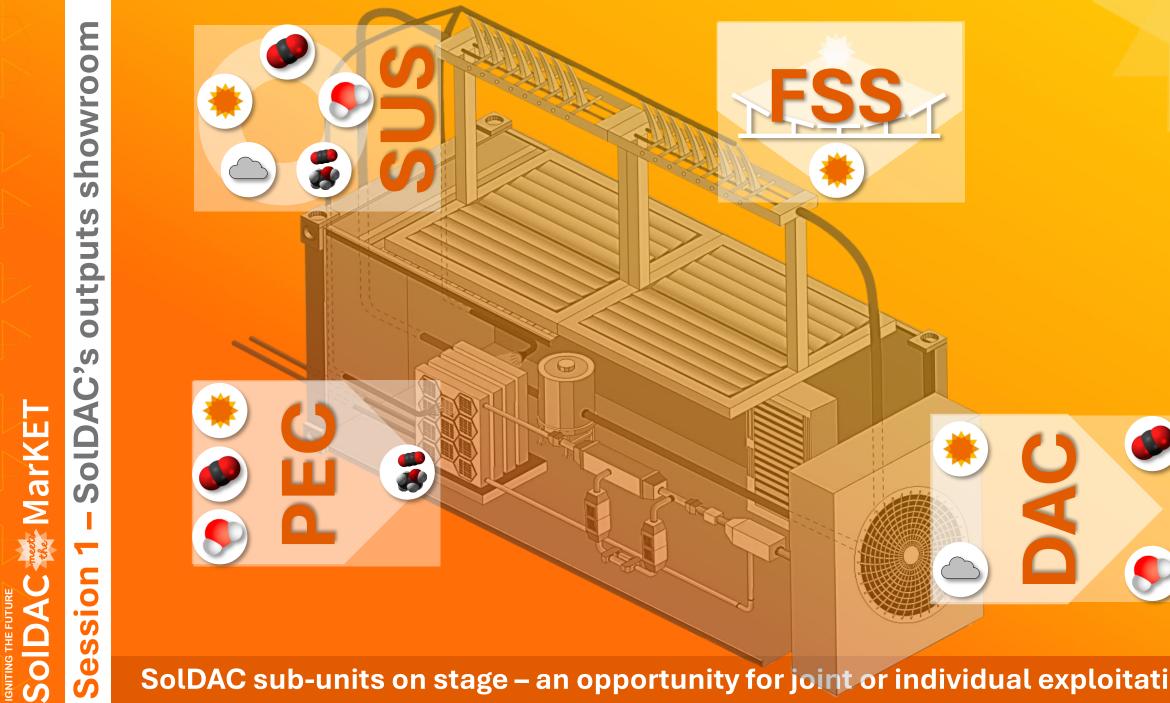
13:30 – 14:30 Networking lunch





Unique selling point at System Level





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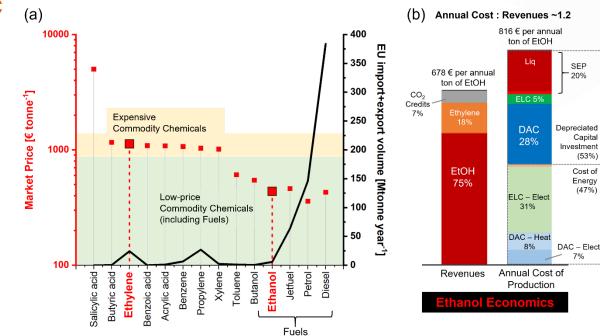
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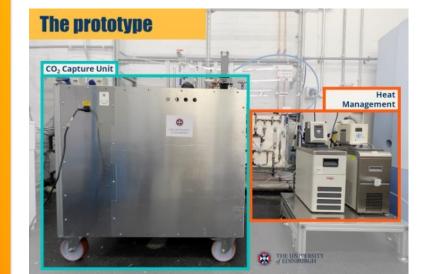
EDIN) Direct Air Capture (DAC) Unit ri@ed.ac.uk santo Santori Giulio Уd

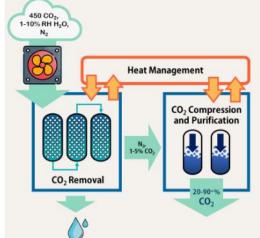
1.

Introduction – Role in SolDAC

Efficientremovalandconcentrationofatmospheric CO_2 from thepre-dried air stream by usingultralow-grade heat (60 °C –80 °C) and no vacuum.







2. System Architecture and Operation

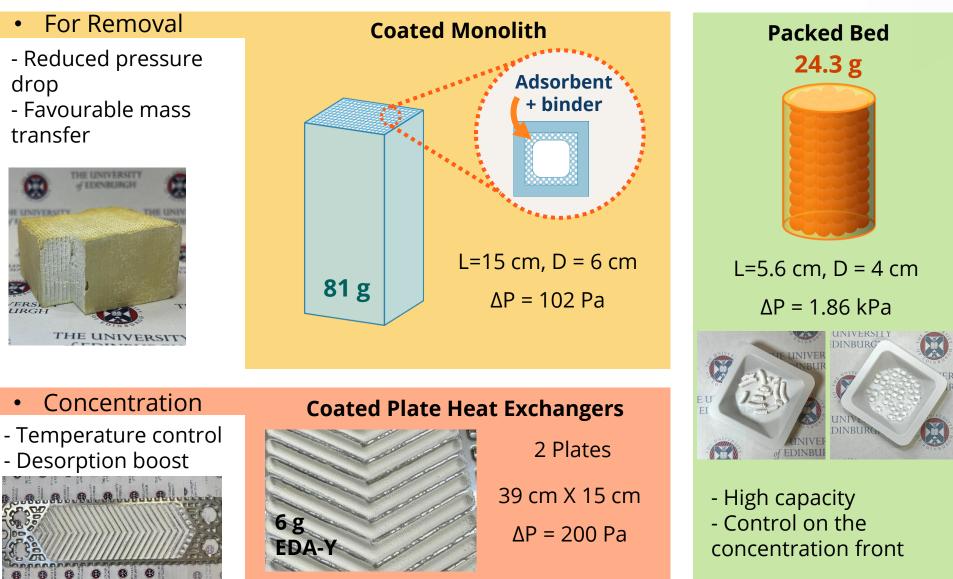


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3. Key Research Results: Component Design







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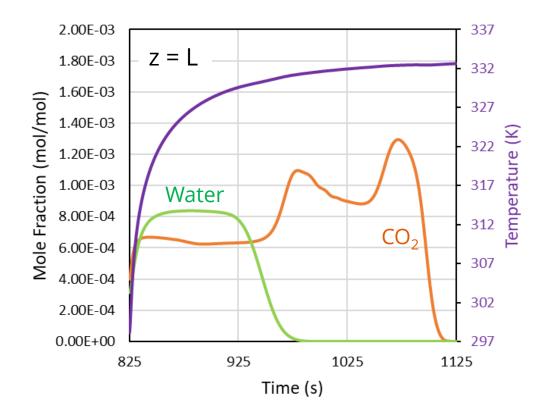
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Giulio

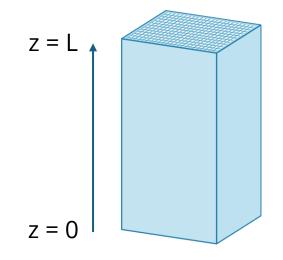
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3. Key Research Results: Contactor dynamics

Design predictions for the CO₂ Removal Area



- Purity: 1057 ppm before concentration
- Productivity: 0.41 kg_{CO2} kg⁻¹_{ADS} day⁻¹



- Cycle Time: 1h10
- T_{HOT}: 60 °C
- T_{COLD}: 20 °C
- Primary Energy: 1.45 MJ kg⁻¹co2
- Elec Energy: 31.09 MJ kg⁻¹_{CO2}





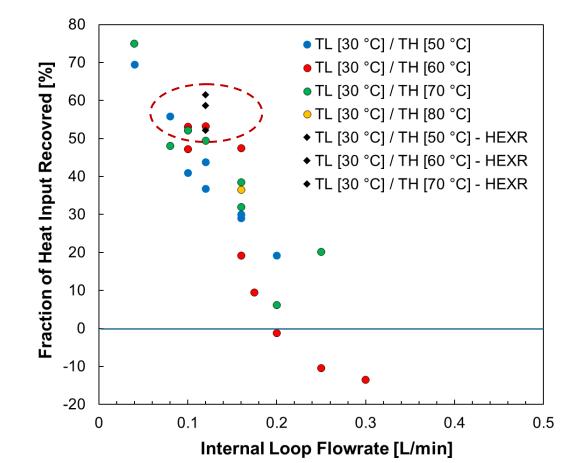
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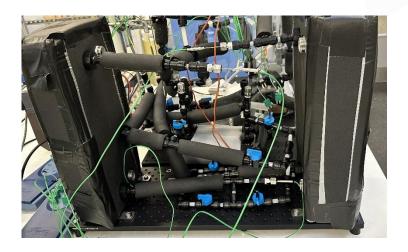
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3. Key Research Results: Thermal Wave Heat Recovery







 Up to 61.5% Heat Input is internally recoverable with the Thermal Wave method, more than halving the heat input.



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UEDIN Capture (DAC) Unit ri@ed.ac.uk Santo Santori **Direct Air** Giulio Уd

DAC •

4. Challenges & Next Steps: CO₂ Removal Area



IQ0704_5C0L_3C2L1: Loads CONT CCol 1200 1200 Cycle time: 4h40 1000 1000 CD1, Cycle 6 CD2, Cycle 6 (mqq) CD2, Cycle 7 Т_{нот}: 70 °С CD1, Cycle 7 CO2 (ppm) 800 800 CD1, Cycle 8 CD2, Cycle 8 600 600 CD2, Cycle 6 CD6, Cycle 6 T_{COLD}: 20 °C C02 CD2, Cycle 7 CD6, Cycle 7 400 400 WWWWWWWW CD6, Cycle 8 — CD2, Cycle 8 200 200 0.0150 0.0150 Primary Energy: RHT3, Cycle 6 0.0125 RHT3, Cycle 7 0.0125 15.56 MJ kg⁻¹_{CO2} CD1, Cycle 6 RHT3, Cycle 8 CD1, Cycle 7 (: 0.0100 CD1, Cycle 8 RHT4, Cycle 6 0.0075 0.0050 0.0075 RHT4, Cycle 7 CD2, Cycle 6 RHT4, Cycle 8 - CD2, Cycle 7 H 0.0050 — CD2, Cycle 8 RHT6, Cycle 6 Elec Energy: 0.0025 RHT6, Cycle 7 0.0025 RHT6, Cycle 8 132.97 MJ kg⁻¹co₂ 0.0000 0.0000 60 60 RHT3, Cycle 6 RHT3, Cycle 7 CD1, Cycle 6 50 50 RHT3, Cycle 8 CD1, Cycle 7 CD1, Cycle 8 () 40 -() 10 -() 0° RHT4, Cycle 6 RHT4, Cycle 7 CD2, Cycle 6 RHT4, Cycle 8 \vdash CD2, Cycle 7 30 -30 — CD2, Cycle 8 RHT6, Cycle 6 RHT6, Cycle 7 20 -20 -RHT6, Cycle 8 contCOOL 2 03:30:04 ADS cDES 2 03:50:04 03:50:04 \DS wDES 2 04:15:04 DES wADS 2 02:20:03 tDES wADS 1 00:00:02 ES_CADS_1 00:40:02 contcool 1 01:10:03 DS wDES 1 01:30:03 ES wADS 2 02:20:03 ES_CADS_2 03:00:03 ES wADS 1 00:00:02 DES CADS 1 00:40:02 contCOOL 1 01:10:03 DS wDES 1 01:30:03 DES_CADS_2 03:00:03 03:30:04 03:30:04 03:50:04 03:50:04 04:15:04 04:39:57 04:39:57 Cycle Time Cycle Time

Productivity: 0.43 kg_{CO2} kg⁻¹_{ADS} day⁻¹

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5. Key Exploitable Results & Cross-sector Transferability



KER	Description	TRL	Transferability to other sectors	Needs
1	Process for amospheric Co2 removal and concentration	3	Organic chemicals manufacturing, CO2 removal in building sector, CO2 enrichment users (e.g. Greenhouses, beverage)	Pilot-scale validation







CONFIDENTIAL

Prior Art Search – EI0000777 / TEC1104592

Process for atmospheric CO2 removal and concentration

Inventors: Giulio Santori, Stefano Brandani, Paul Wright, Isabella Cavalcante Quaranta, Harpreet Kaur Report by: Nessim Kichik, Marek Munko

Background and Invention Summary:

The process described in this document is a part of a larger system, which leverages low-grade heat and photo-electrochemical conversion (PEC) to provide an energy-efficient method of capturing CO2 from air and converting it into ethylene. However, the focus of the disclosed process is solely the removal and concentration of extremely dilute CO2 from a gas stream (such as a stream of atmospheric air). The process diagram consists of three stages/areas:

- 1. Removal area (RA) where CO2 is captured and pre-concentrated;
- 2. Compression area (CA) where CO2 purity is built up to the required level;
- 3. Heating and cooling area (H&C) where heat and cold integration is managed to achieve the target efficiency.

The complete diagram of the process is presented in Figure 1. While all stages are

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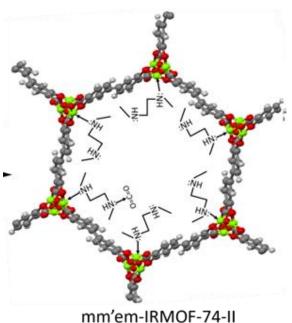
Introduction – Role in SolDAC

Prepare and characterize materials for different stages of the DAC unit, including the contactor, concentrator and compression stages. Supply scaled-up materials to UEDIN

2. DAC unit Materials

- Prepare and screen porous solids for best capture performance in different stages
- Identify amines on zeolites as superior to state-of-the-art direct air capture contactor materials for low grade heat process, on basis of capacity, kinetics and value
- Identify ultramicroporous MOFs as viable for concentrator/compressor beds as fast fully reversible adsorbents with low heat demand.
- Scaled-up amounts (ca. 0.5 kg) supplied to Edinburgh.

Literature



J. Long et al. *J. Am. Chem.* Soc. 2012, 134, 7056



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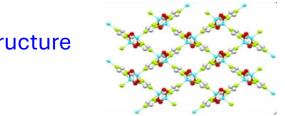
3. Key Research Results : Porous Materials

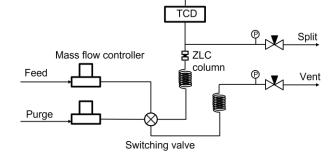
Mission: Adsorbents for direct air capture and concentration of CO_2 in the presence of moisture at moderate temperatures and without vacuum with short cycle times

Established Methodology for testing of capacity and kinetics of adsorption and desorption at 400 ppm and in presence of moisture (USTAN, EDIN)

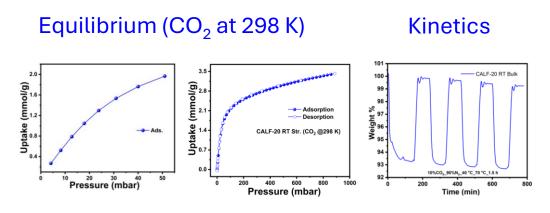
Confirmed that ultra-microporous MOFs are suitable for **concentration** / compressor steps (>3% CO₂), even in presence of 5% RH

Structure









CALF-20 G. Shimizu et al Science, 2021, 336, 1018



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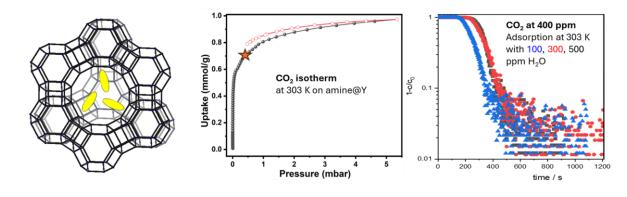
3. Key Research Results: Porous Materials

Mission: **Adsorbents** for direct air capture and concentration of CO_2 in the presence of moisture at low temperatures and without vacuum with short cycle times

Some literature state-of-the-art materials ruled out through kinetic considerations

First demonstration that zeolite-immobilized diamine is effective for 400 ppm CO₂ and in presence of some moisture. Optimised readily available and inexpensive amine@zeolite for kinetics.

amine@zeolite: structure, adsorption isotherm, kinetics



Routestoscale-upandformingofporousadsorbentsforCO2adsorptionatdifferentconcentrationsandgas flows





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4. Challenges & Next Steps

Presence of water in gas streams: Optimise configuration for moisture and develop functionalised materials for carbon capture at high RH

Optimise coating methodology for monoliths and heat exchangers

Optimise amines@MOFs for increased uptake in contactor

5. Key Exploitable Results & Cross-sector Transferability

KER	Description	TRL	Transferability to other sectors	Needs
1	Modified zeolites for DAC	4	Carbon capture over range of CO ₂ partial pressures and process configurations	Development of coating methodology



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. Introduction – Role in SolDAC

In carbon capture systems based on sorption processes, water and CO_2 adsorption are competitive .



To increase the adsorption of CO_2 , water needs to be eliminated and hence a water harvesting step is needed.



Water harvesting from atmosphere and deep dehumidification are getting more important nowadays for alleviating water stress and scarcity and in industrial sectors such as Li-ion batteries production.



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2. System Architecture and Operation

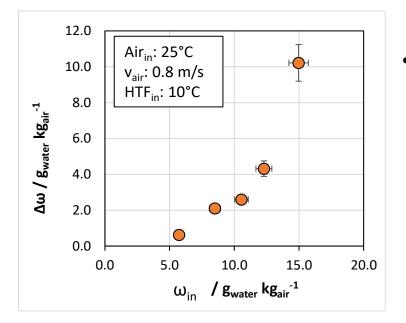


- Almost stand-alone system: only requires connection to a solar collector and a fan for heat dissipation
- 600 W thermal energy required @70-90°C
- 300 W electric energy required
- Fully realised using off-the-shelf commercial components

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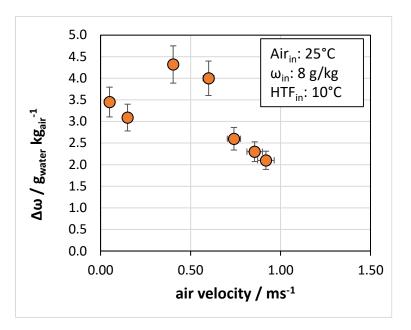
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3. Key Research Results



- There is an optimal air velocity 04. to 0.6 m/s
- Comes from the trade-off between heat exchanger chatacteristics and dynamics of the sorbent.

• Proportionality between the adsorption capacity, and the inlet humidity ratio, with a quadratic trend.



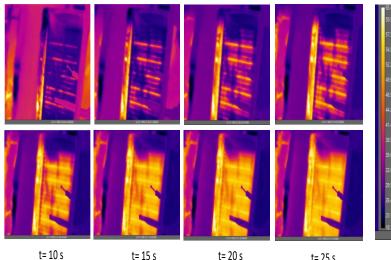
• The best results are achieved when the ambient temperature is between 10°C and 20°C.

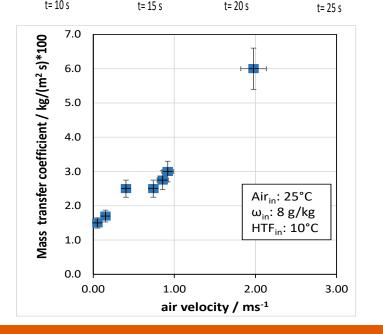
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Water Harverster Unit by Valeria Palomba (CNR)







As preliminary test, an entire cycle was recorded with IR camera. Overall heating/cooling requires 30 to 60 s, indicating good efficiency of the selected heat exchanger.

RESULTS ARE +30% COMPARED TO STATE OF ART

Mass transfer is the dominating process in the system \rightarrow increasing mass transfer will improve the performance of the overall water harvesting device

RESULTS ARE UP +100% COMPARED TO STATE OF ART



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4. Challenges & Next Steps

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Pilot scale demonstration

Full demonstration in pilot scale over continuous operation for several weeks.

Cost-effective design

The design should be cost-effective for large scaling up.

Stand-alone system

The system should be fully stand-alone and connectable within air-based industrial systems.

Made with ≽ Napkin



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Water Harverster Unit by Valeria Palomba (CNR)

5. Key Exploitable Results & Cross-sector Transferability

KER	Description	TRL	Transferability to other sectors	Needs
1	Atmospheric wáter harvester	5	Industrial heat processes, water production in desertic areas	Cost-effective large-scale design, pilot- scale validation

Read our related paper here: https://doi.org/10.3390/en18102418





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(<u>UdL</u>)

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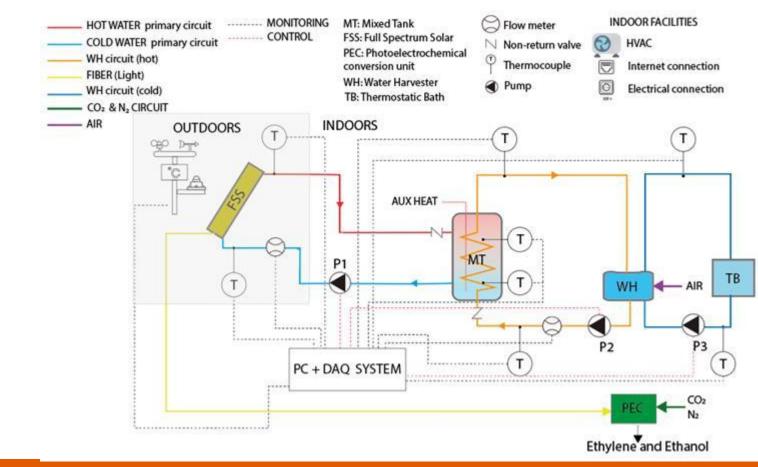
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Introduction – Role in SolDAC

The full-spectrum solar system is the energy backbone of SolDAC. Our mission was to develop a compact, hybrid solar unit capable of delivering thermal and electrical energy, and photons — powering the DAC and PEC blocks simultaneously.







Solar system

Full Spectrum

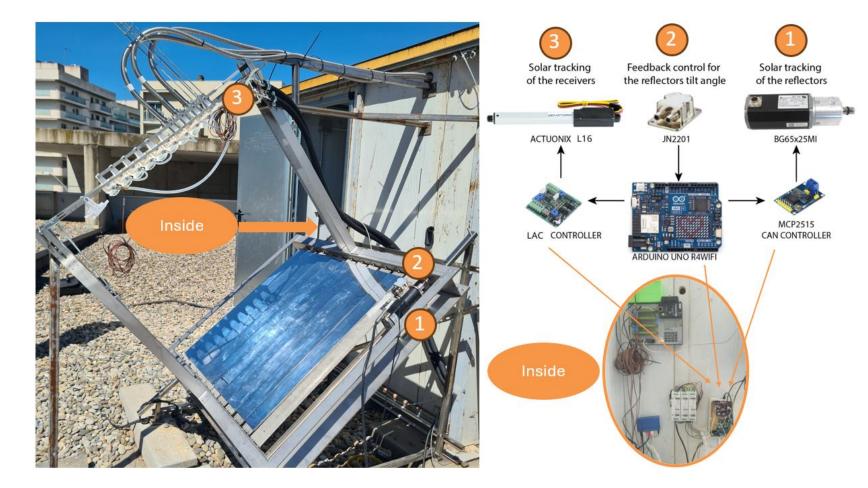
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2. System Architecture and Operation



Beam splitting of the incident spectrum depending on the downstream units Linear focus to point focus Electricity needed for the tracking system (12 V/24 V) and the control system.

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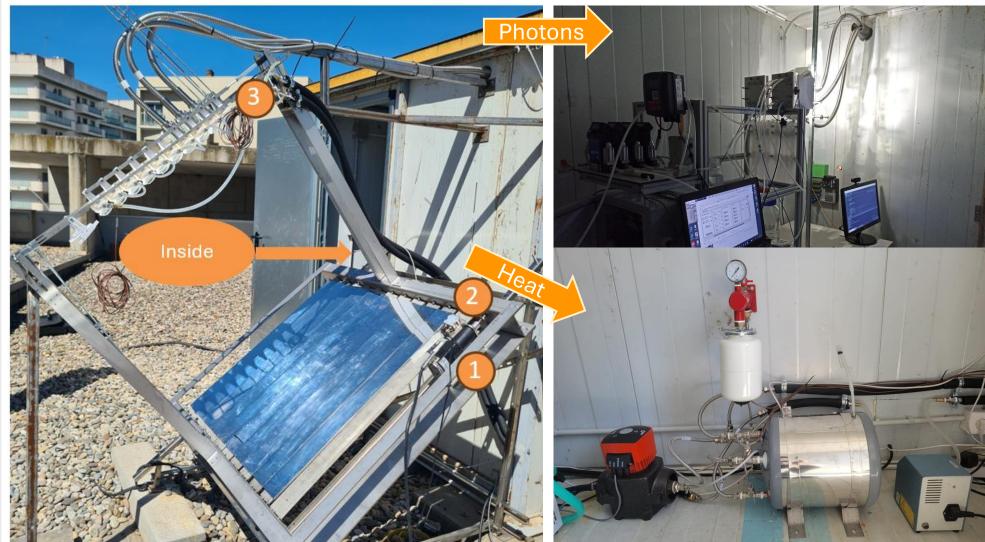


<u>Solar system</u> Daniel Chemisana (UdL Full Spectrum þ



2. System Architecture and Operation

GaInP/GaInAs dual-junction solar cells



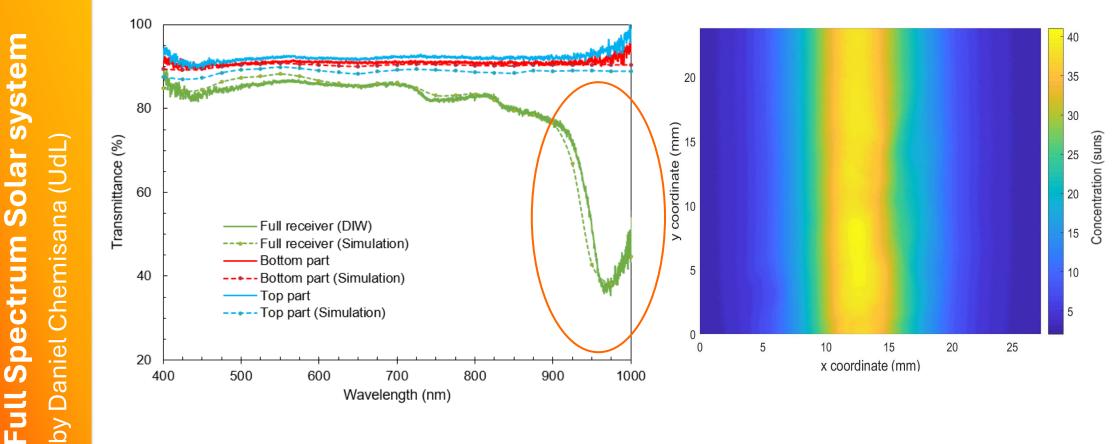


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3. Key Research Results

Solar concentration at the focus of the Fresnel concentrator: ~ 41 suns Solar concentration at the exit of the optical system: ~ 195 suns



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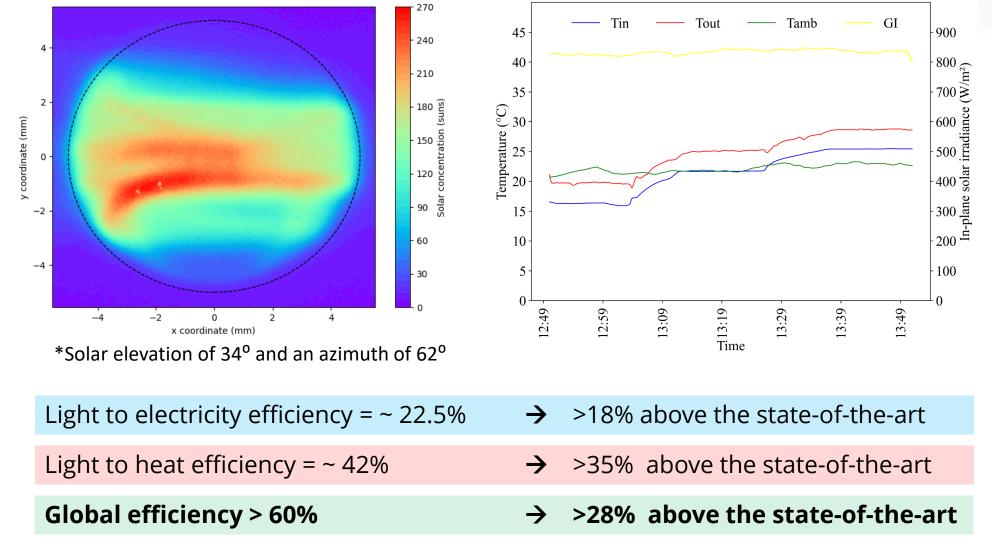
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Solar system

Spectrum

Full

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4. Challenges & Next Steps FSS Challenges

- High-optical efficiency of system components at a reasonable cost.
- Materials involved in the hybrid receiver.
- Robust control and solar tracking system.
- Cost-effective light-guiding elements

Next Steps

- Re-design of the primary optical concentrator.
- Optimisation of the hybrid receiver and the light-guiding system
- Manufacturing improvement in several FSS components

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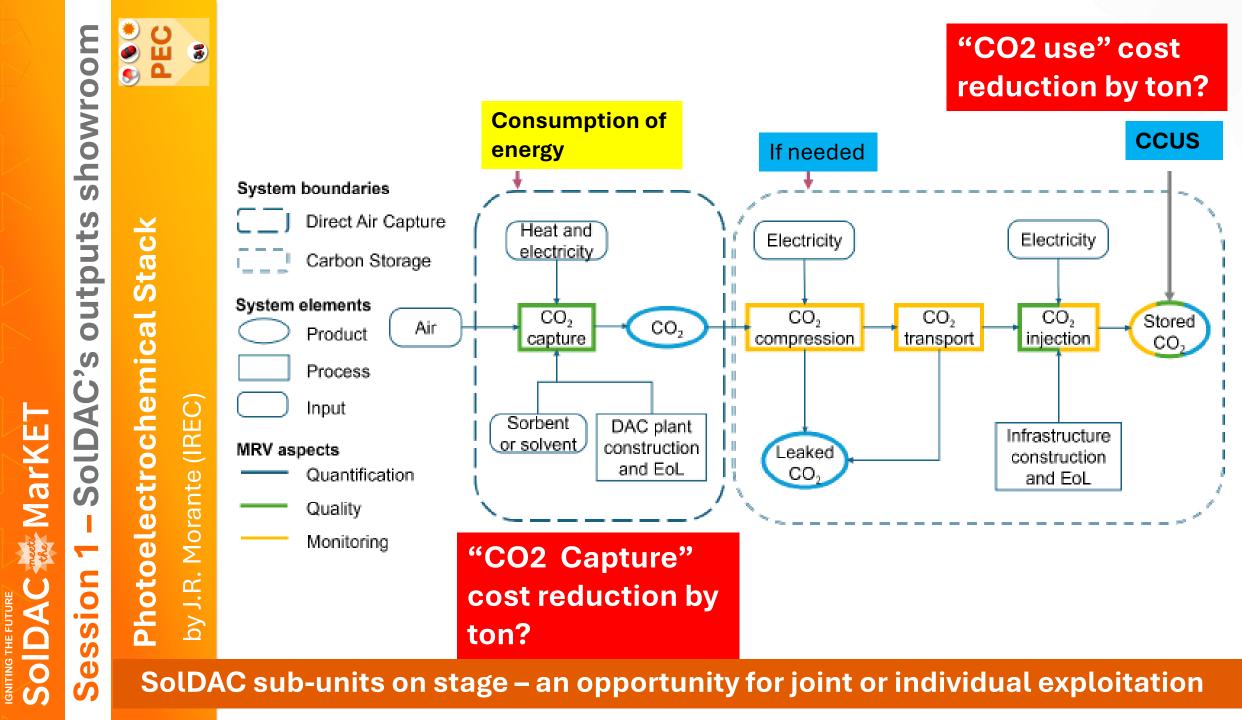
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<u>Solar system</u> Daniel Chemisana (UdL) Full Spectrum by

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5. Key Exploitable Results & Cross-sector Transferability

KER	Description	TRL	Transferability to other sectors	Needs
1	Full Spectrum Solar Collector	5	Industrial heat processes, agrivoltaics, energy for buildings	Thermal storage integration, pilot- scale validation



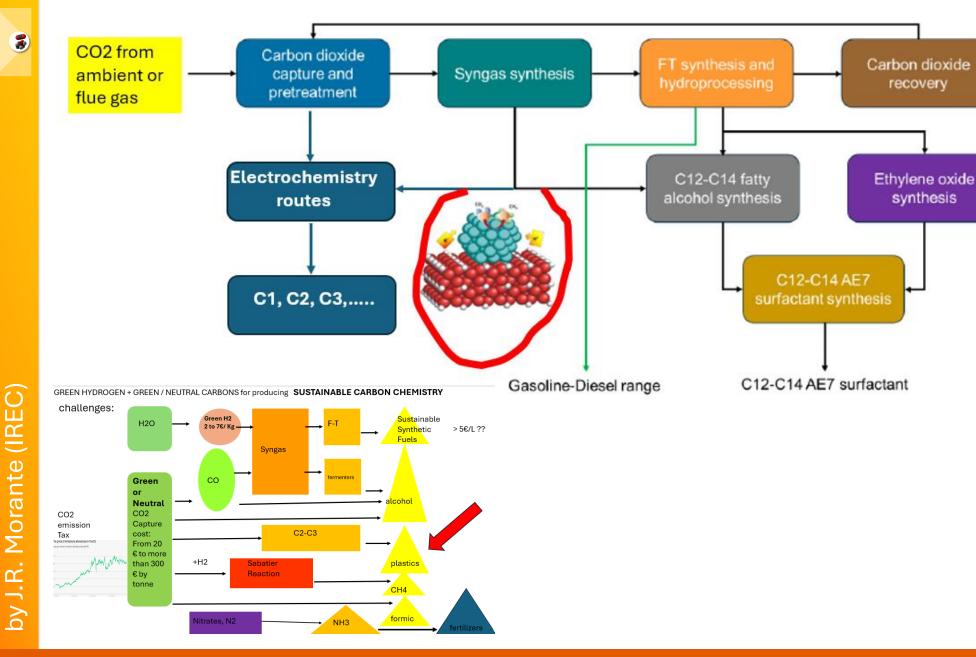
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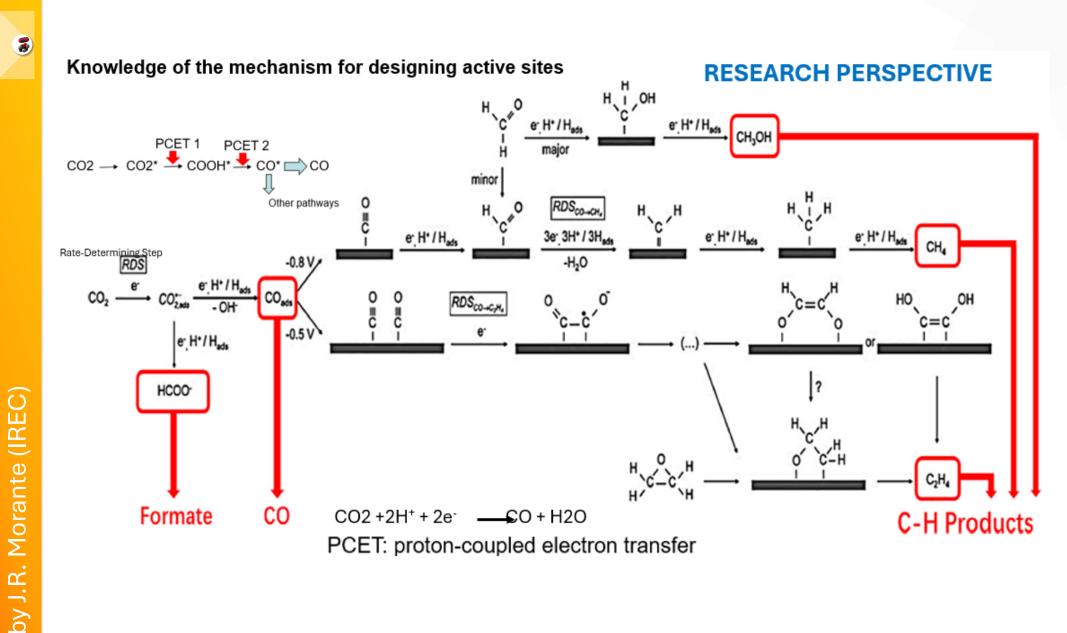


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PEC









Photoelectrochemical Stack

Morante (IREC)

by J.R. I

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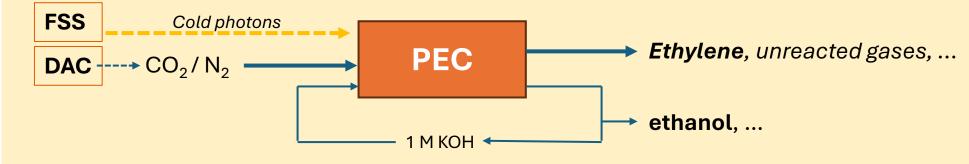
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1. Introduction – Role in SolDAC

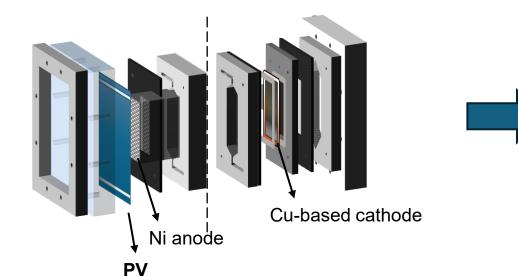
The **PEC** stack converts the CO₂ captured from DAC into ethylene and ethanol (C₂ products) using photons collected from the FSS



2. System Architecture and Operation

Single-Cell architecture

4-Cells prototype (25 x 4 cm²)





SolDAC sub-units on stage – an opportunity for joint or individual exploitation

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Photoelectrochemical Stack

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by J.R. Morante (IREC)



WHY ethylene????? To replace plastic, polymers,.... Introduced in the current lifestyle. Cost is essential!!! 1 ton of plastic = 20.000 bottles is admissible duplicate cost?

- Around 413,8 Mt of plastics are produced in the world (2023)
- Europe produced 54 million tons of plastic.
- About 2800€/ton More that 150.000 Millions of revenue.
- CAGR >3,5% (compound annual growth rate)
- (PP, PE), PVC and PS/EPS.
- Each ton of fabricated fossil plastic is producing about 2,5t of CO2.
- □ The recycling is producing abut 2,7t of CO2
- The GHG impact of European plastics production is estimated at 140Mt CO2 eq. +95 Mt for the recycling circuit.
- Approximately almost 4% % of the total CO2 eq. in Europe 27+UK (3593Mt)
- $\hfill\square$ For comparison, the whole emission of CO2 in Spain is 217Mt of CO2 eq.

Decarbonization opportunities in the plastics industry



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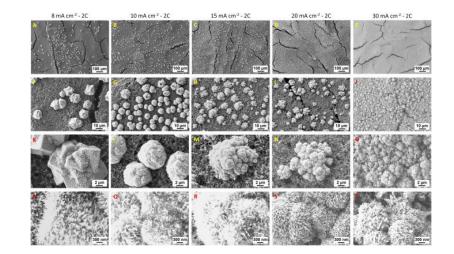
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3. Key Research Results

Development of materials for cathodes - Optimization of electrodeposition parameters for Cu-based catalysts for electrochemical CO₂ reduction

IREC - UEDIN



- Low cost and abundant materials for the catalyst
 - Systematic study of electrodeposition of Cubased catalysts
 - Scalable methodology for electrodeposition of Cu-based catalysts on commercial GDEs
 - Catalytic material saving of 50%, decrease in 75% electrodeposition time

Mater. Today Sustain. 31, **2025**, 101116. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mtsust.2025.101116



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Photoelectrochemical Stack

Morante (IREC)

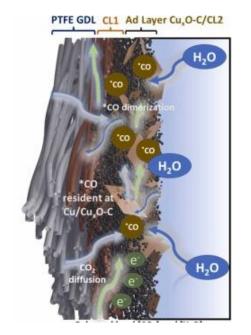
by J.R.



3. Key Research Results

Optimization the architecture of GDEs for Cu-based catalysts for electrochemical CO₂ reduction

IREC - UEDIN



 Optimization of PTFE/Cu-based GDEs architectures in cathodes for electrochemical CO₂ reduction

Implementation of now expensive, effective and feasible technology

- Faradaic efficiencies to ethylene \geq 70%. Combined C₂₊ products FE \geq 90% at industrially relevant current density of 250 mA·cm⁻²
- Stability tested 25 hours

Appl. Catal. B-Environ 371, **2025**, 125276. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2025.125276



Photoelectrochemical Stack

Morante (IREC)

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4. Challenges & Next Steps

Scalability

Demonstrations with higher total surface area (> 1000 cm²) and higher productivity

Stability

Demonstrate stability for > 1000 h @ 250 mA·cm⁻²

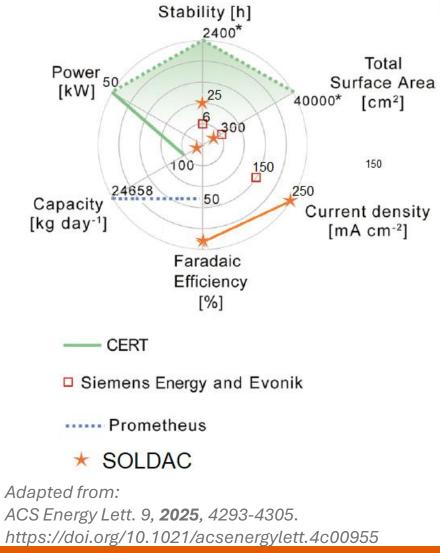
Energy Efficiency

Optimize photoanodes for increased energy conversion efficiency

Systems Integration

Improve performance under streams with $\rm CO_2$ concentration lower than 50%

Reported performance metrics for C₂ products







Photoelectrochemical Stack by J.R. Morante (IREC)



5. Key Exploitable Results & Cross-sector Transferability

KER	Description	TRL	Transferability to other sectors	Needs
1	New catalysts and GDE formulations for CO_2 reduction to C_2 products	5	Electrochemical reactors and Fuel cells	Optimized selectivity and charge transfer
2	Innovative photoelectrode architectures for water oxidation	5	Electrolyzers, Green Hydrogen, CCUS	Energy optimization, Solar energy harvesting
3	Device for photoelectrochemical conversion of CO ₂	5	Electrolyzers, Green Hydrogen, CCUS	Solar energy harvesting; CO ₂ conversion

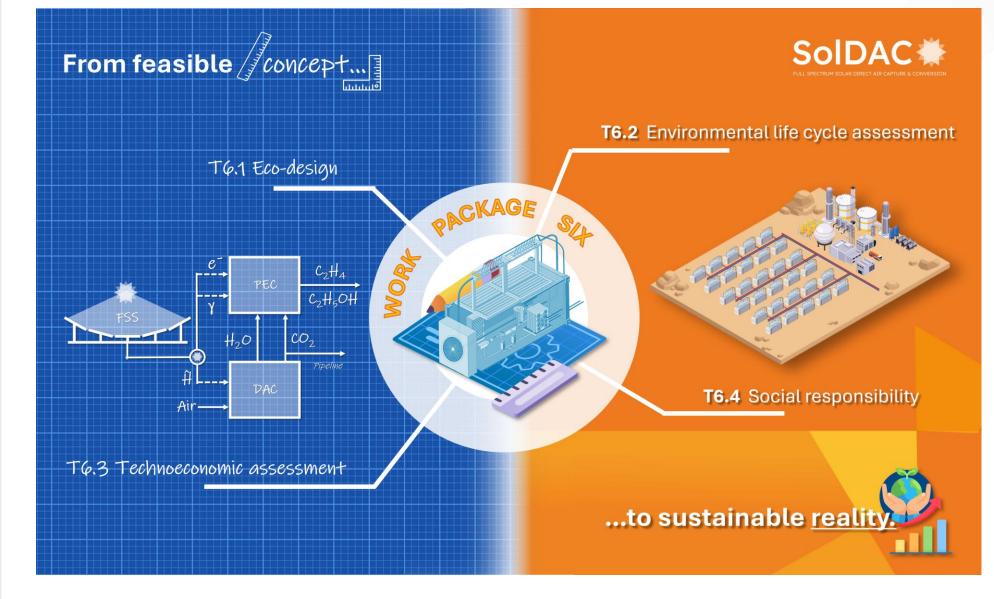
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Sustainability validation

(HOM) **Contreras & Mihaela Mirea** by Edgar





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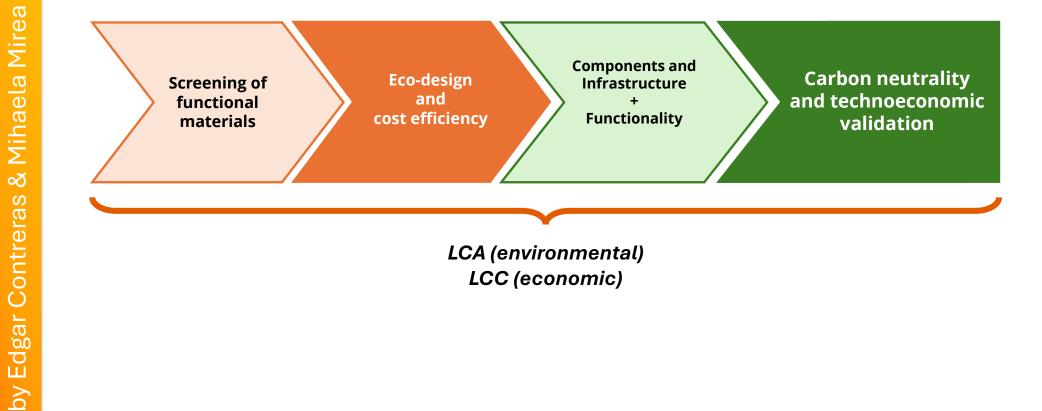
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Sustainability validation



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SolDAC's sustainability strategy





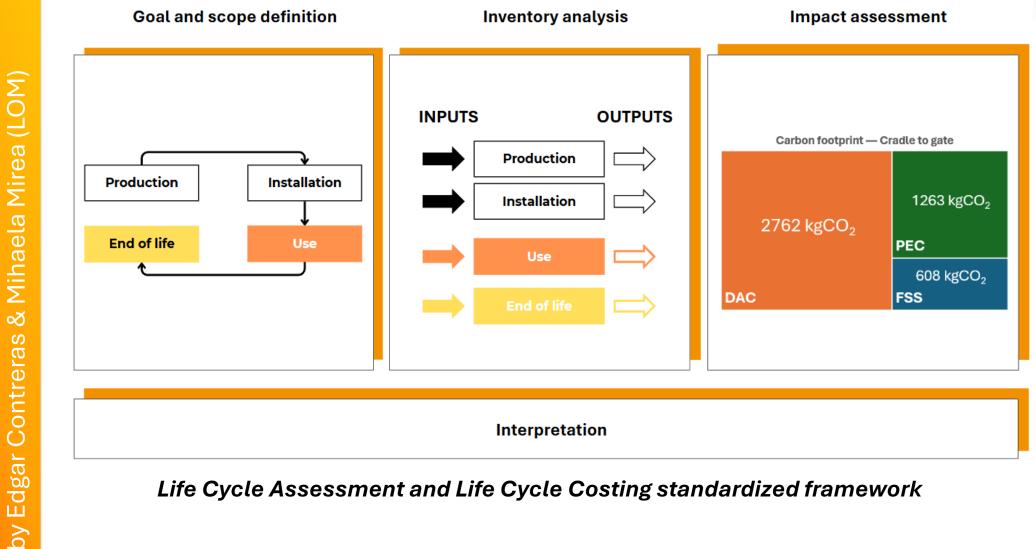


Sustainability validation

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SolDAC's sustainability strategy





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Key findings

T6.1 Eco-design recommendations

Recommendations			
FSS	Selection of material composition for light-guiding optical element.		
гээ	Selection of material composition for absorptive liquid element.		
	Selection of composition for water harvester active material.		
DAC	Minimisation of organic precursors use in the synthesis of nanoporous materials.		
DAC	Optimisation of critical precursors for zeolite functionalisation.		
	Restriction of PGMs in nanoporous materials synthesis.		
	Selection of cathode catalyst composition.		
PEC	Selection of anode material composition.		
PEC	Selection of cathode substrate composition.		
	Selection of cell technology for photoanode		

T6.2 Preliminary technoeconomic assessment

Development of assessment tool

Sensitivity verification

Demonstrator commissioning costs



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Contreras & Mihaela Mirea

by Edgar

validation

Sustainability

Key findings

T6.3 Environmental validation

	Total footprint	4 633 kgCO _{2 eq}	Lifetime	20 years	
	Carbon removal rate		16.4 kgCO ₂ /day		—
	Ethylene product	ion	1 kg ethylene/day		—
	Break-even point		10 months; 282 kg of ethylene		—
	276	2 kgCO ₂	1263 kg PEC	CO ₂	- Titanium components (35%)
Specialty Chemicals (80%)	DAC		608 kg(FSS	CO ₂	- Steel parts
		olDAC's cradle-to-{ r sub-unit at demoi	-	rint	(75%)





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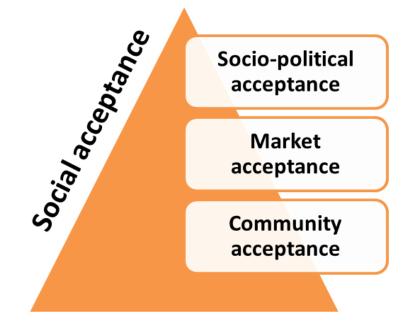
<u>embeddedness</u>

Social

by Mihaela Mirea (LOM)

1. Why social acceptance matters - from technology to transformation?

- Innovation alone is insufficient true adoption relies on public trust, societal alignment, and perceived legitimacy.
- Industrial uptake depends on an enabling environment: market demand, political support, and community endorsement.
- SolDAC serves as a model case, embedding stakeholder perspectives from the earliest stages of development.
- Aligning societal and technical readiness reduces risk, builds confidence, and accelerates deployment.



Social acceptance triangle. Adapted from Wüstenhagen et all (2007)

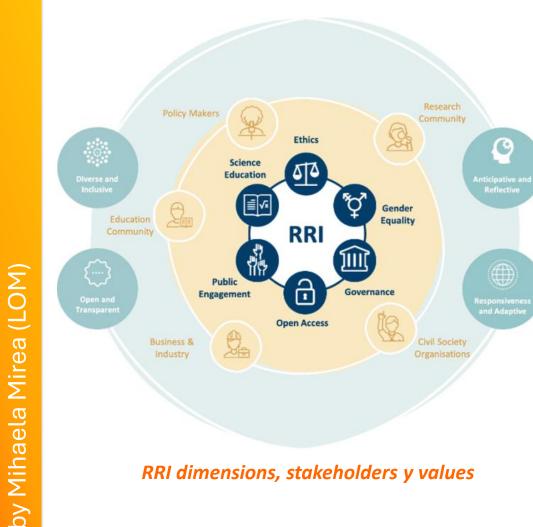


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Social embeddedness



2. Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI) - embedding responsibility into research from day one



- SolDAC integrates six RRI dimensions:
 Ethics, Public Engagement, Open
 Access, Gender Equality, Governance,
 and Science Education.
- The approach is guided by four core values: **inclusion, anticipation, reflexivity, and responsiveness.**
- Internal RRI workshops across partners to map societal expectations, stakeholder needs, and ethical risks.
- RRI is treated not as compliance but as a co-creative process to shape technology in line with societal values.



embeddedness

Social

by Mihaela Mirea (LOM)

3. Societal Embeddedness Level (SEL) Framework - bridging technical progress and societal readiness

- SEL complements TRL addressing **non-technical conditions for successful innovation.**
- It includes four dimensions: Environmental Impact, Stakeholder Involvement, Policy & Regulation, Market and Financial Viability.
- SolDAC applied the SEL framework from early TRL stages (2–3) to guide socially responsive design.
- Unlike traditional "readiness" models, SEL ensures that **innovations are embedded into real-world systems and expectations.**

Dimension	SEL 1 (Exploration)	SEL 2 (Development)	SEL 3 (Demonstration)	SEL 4 (Deployment)	Current SEL
Environmental Impact			Prototype (TRL4)	Not yet achieved	2-3
Stakeholder Involvement		Engaging workshops	Public acceptance	Not fully deployed	2-3
Policy & Regulations		Policy engagement	Awaiting legislation	Not fully deployed	1-2
Market & Finance Susiness case		Early partnerships	Not yet widespread	2-3	
Legend: 🔽 Completed	In progress / not	t fully achieved 🛑 Not in	itiated		



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Social

by Mihaela Mirea (LOM)

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4. SolDAC's stakeholder communication strategy – how to build support

Transparency - Open and honest communication about both successes and limitations.

- Reports include LCA results, energy demand data, and prototype constraints.
- Communicates uncertainties around DAC efficiency and materials sustainability from early stages.
- Transparency builds technical credibility and public trust, especially when sharing incomplete or evolving results.

Bidirectional Dialogue -Two-way engagement that incorporates feedback and enables co-creation.

- **Stakeholder Board** formed at Month 4 and engaged throughout R&D.
- **Co-creation workshops** used to surface stakeholder values and concerns.
- **Digital forms and feedback channels** (e.g., website inputs, online polls) ensure accessibility across geographies.
- Outcomes influence research direction and communication framing.



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Social

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5. Industry Takeaways from SolDAC - societal embeddedness: from risk to competitive advantage

Audience-specific narratives

Open and honest communication about both successes and limitations.

Audience	Narrative Focus
🏭 Industry	"SolDAC is a modular decarbonisation solution that integrates into existing processes."
n Policymakers	"SolDAC enables progress on the EU Green Deal through circular CO_2 utilisation."
확 Academia	"SolDAC contributes to CCU and PEC research, data-sharing, and responsible innovation."
👥 Civil Society	"SolDAC offers greener production, local job potential, and supports climate justice."

SOIDAC MarkET

Panel session – Bridging Potential and Practice: SolDAC's Way Forward











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This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement no. 101069359, and from UK Research and Innovation - Innovate UK under Innovation Funding Service (ISF) 10039331 and 10038044.

