

# Green Steel

## Past and Present Outlook

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Green Steel Past and Present Outlook

### Overview

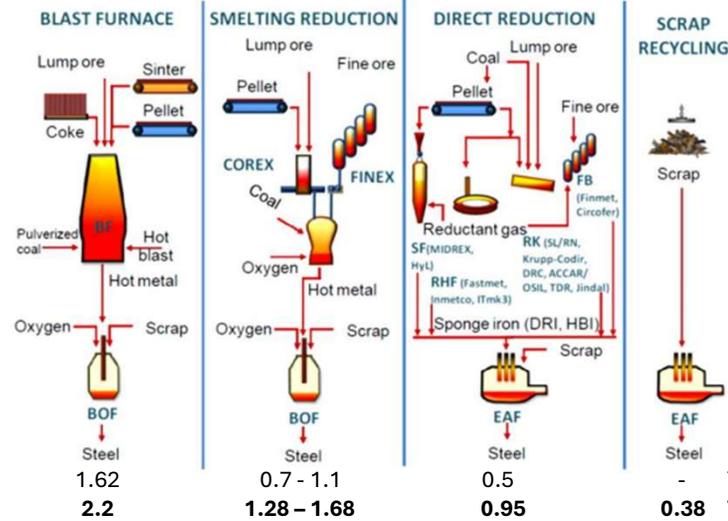
- Introduction
- Industry Challenges
- Original solution
- Today's reality
- Anticipated future
- Summary

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# Introduction – Current Iron & Steelmaking

From Zulhan 2013



- “Green steel” definition: Net-zero steelmaking using fossil free energy
- Moving from legacy steelmaking (BF/BOF) to modern EAF steelmaking
- H<sub>2</sub> enhanced steelmaking promises (90+%) CO<sub>2</sub> emission
- 2015 IEA solution was 95% H<sub>2</sub> DRI EAF steelmaking by 2070

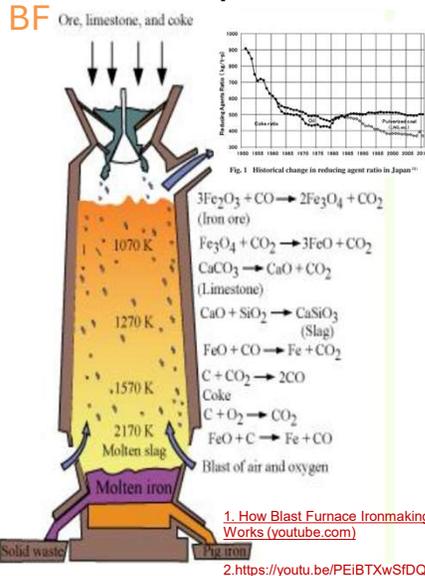
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## Carbon Dependence



## EAF Foamy Slag (FS), chemical energy & reactions

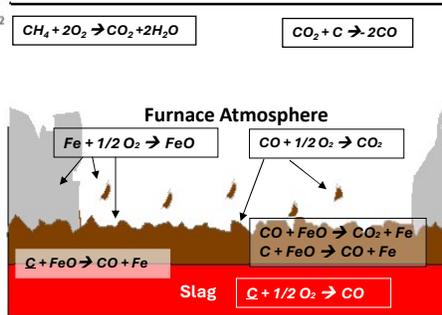


Exothermic Oxidation Reactions

- $2C + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$  9.8 kWh/Nm<sup>3</sup> O<sub>2</sub>
- $CO + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$  6.3 kWh/Nm<sup>3</sup> O<sub>2</sub>
- $Fe + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow FeO$  19.0 kWh/Nm<sup>3</sup> O<sub>2</sub>
- $4Al + 3O_2 \rightarrow 2Al_2O_3$
- $Si + O_2 \rightarrow SiO_2$
- $Mn + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow MnO$
- $4P + 5O_2 \rightarrow 2P_2O_5$

Reduction Reactions

- $CO_2 + C \rightarrow 2CO$
- $Fe_3O_4 + CO \rightarrow 3FeO + CO_2$
- $FeO + CO \rightarrow Fe + CO_2$
- $Fe_3O_4 + 4C \rightarrow 3Fe + 4CO$



- FS reduces kWh/Te, heat loss, wall attack, arc noise, increases Surface Area (SA), yield & productivity
- The “green steel solution” challenges EAF reactions as 0%C H<sub>2</sub> DRI

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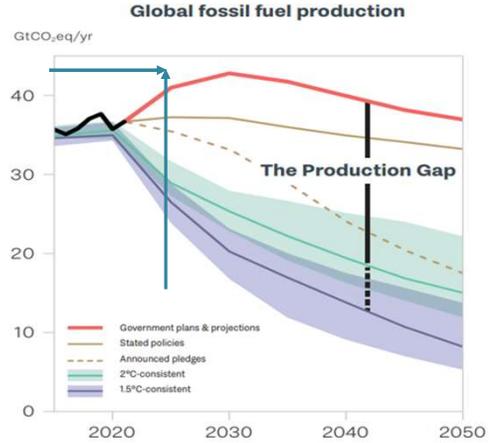
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# Global Warming Target – 1.5°C

- We are missing it! (Our World in Data 2024)
  - Global CO<sub>2</sub> 37.8Gt (2023) → 42.2Gt (2025 estimate)\*
  - ❖ 86.6% from fossil fuel combustion (coal, oil, & NG -2023)
  - ❖ Steel industry produces 7% to 9% (depending upon source)!

2022		2023	
Coal: 15.5 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq	Other industry: 301.13 million t	Gas: 7.90 billion t	2023: 1.57 billion t
Oil: 11.2 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq	Flaring: 410.94 million t	Oil: 12.21 billion t	
Natural gas: 7.3 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq	Cement: 1.57 billion t	Coal: 15.40 billion t	
Waste: 0.3 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq			
Industrial processes: 2.6 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq			
Methane: 4.0 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq			
Nitrous oxide: 0.3 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq			
CO <sub>2</sub> flaring: 0.3 GtCO <sub>2</sub> eq			



- <https://www.wri.org/insights/4-charts-explain-greenhouse-gas-emissions-countries-and-sectors> - 4 graphs identifying global emissions
  - ❖ Energy represents 75.7% global emissions (manufacturing & construction = 12.7%)
  - ❖ Agriculture 11.7%; Industrial processes 6.5%; Waste 3.4%; land use, changes & forestry 2.7%

\* 2025 est. = 38.1Gt FF (+1.1% YoY) + land-use changes = 42.2GtE

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# Net-zero – Conversion to 95% H<sub>2</sub> DRI EAFs (International Energy Authority (IEA) 2015)

- Technically feasible though fraught with challenges
  - ❖ Driving new technologies R&D – TRL 3 (lab) to 7 (demo) some in <4y
- Green Challenges:
  - ❖ Unreachable “Build Rates”
    - 411MteDRI/y (15.2Mte/y build) total, 213Mte H<sub>2</sub>DRI, 11.5MteH<sub>2</sub>/y, 692TW, (1240 x 20MW) PEMs for H<sub>2</sub> & 810EAFs (& >TW to melt 0%CDRI) (Defossilization: Through the Looking Glass, STI Sustainable Steel Strategies, 9/22, S. Hornby)
    - Supply chain challenges (Dustin Bruce – Keiwi 2024 AIST DeCTC presentation) - delivery & costs
  - ❖ Sourcing:
    - Renewable Energy (RE)
    - Green H<sub>2</sub>
    - DRI grade ore
    - Scrap
    - Green C
  - ❖ Melting 0%CDRI
  - ❖ CCUS suitability & capacity
  - ❖ Conversions costs – Infrastructure, technology capex
  - ❖ Regional challenges – Governments; local technology; infrastructure
- All leading to the delay or demise of the projects

Estimated H <sub>2</sub> Use in Industry by 2040	
Linde STI H <sub>2</sub> Seminar 1/2026	
DRI Production	2.6Mte
Blast Furnaces	0.4Mte
EAF, Preheating, Cutting	0.2Mte
Reheating	1.0Mte
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.2Mte</b>

Reducing gas 70%  
Fuel 30%



Time Kleier et al, SMS Group, forecasted data for steel to 2050 on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MTe/y steel production @ constant steel consumption/capita

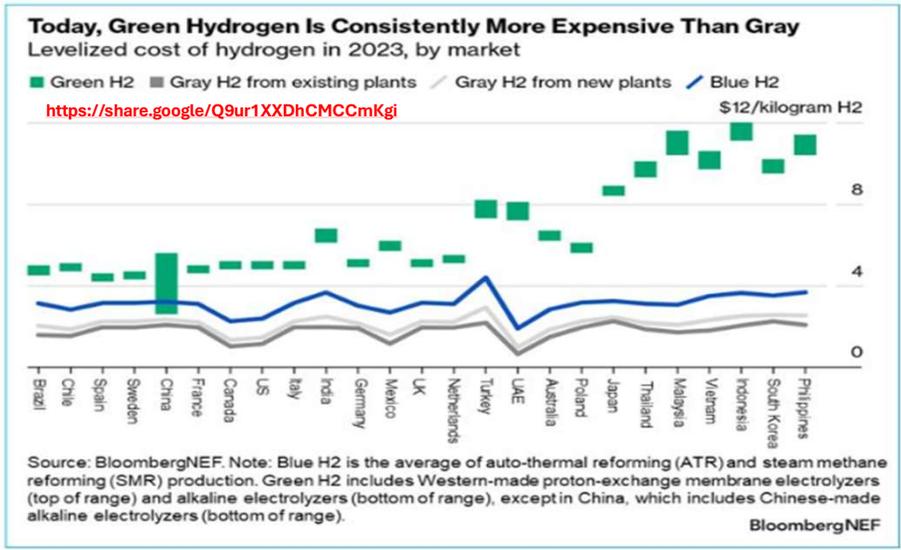
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# Cost of Green H<sub>2</sub> versus Grey & Blue H<sub>2</sub> by Country



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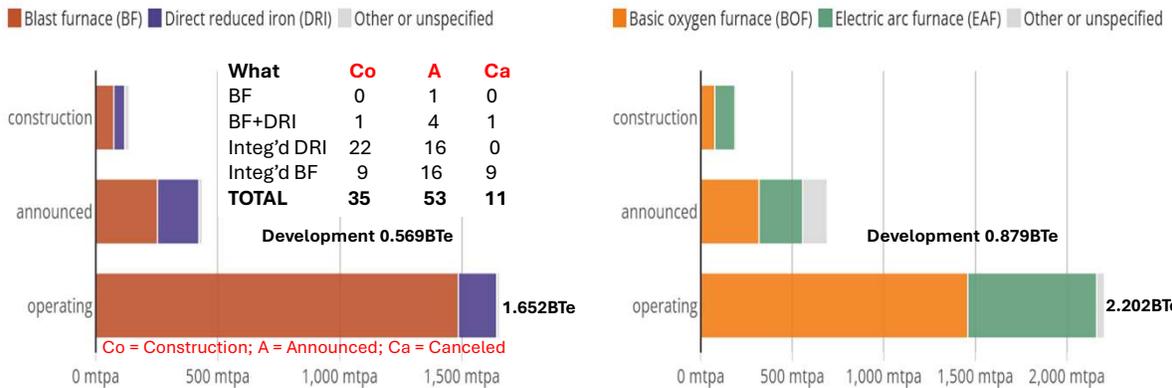


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# Industry Status

- > <https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-plant-tracker/tracker-map> & <https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-plant-tracker/tracker-map/dashboard>
- > Operating & developing ironmaking capacity by status and technology type
- > Operating & developing steelmaking capacity by status and technology type



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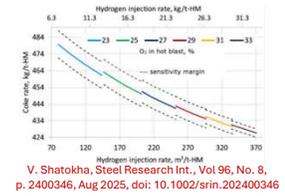


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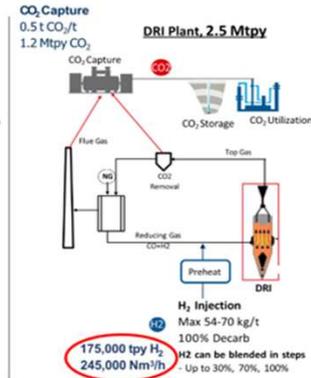
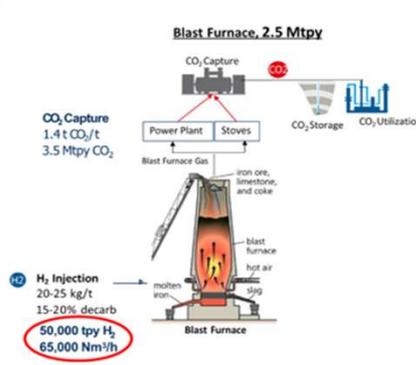
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# Some Ironmaking Decarbonization Solutions

- World Steel anticipates 50% ore-based steelmaking to 2050; BAT (25%)CO<sub>2</sub>  
Claire Broadbent, AIST Green Steel Labeling Webinar Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024; Sunil, Hatch AISTech 2024
- Significant decarb. with existing infrastructure  
SteelUniversity Sept 2025, The "Green Steel" Revolution - 10 years on, S. Hornby
  - ❖ Hatch projected 35kgH<sub>2</sub> injection +TGR + CCUS → (80%)CO<sub>2</sub> or ≈ 0.4Te<sub>CO2</sub>/Te<sub>HM</sub> close to EAF 100% scrap
  - ❖ Japanese Course50 Program, (30%)CO<sub>2</sub> proven; 2024 test with 90kgH<sub>2</sub>/h achieved (43%)CO<sub>2</sub>



System	Economics	Benefits
H <sub>2</sub> Injection	\$50-\$100M/BF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased coke rate</li> <li>• Increased productivity (HBI &amp; efficient operations)</li> <li>• Reduced C cost &amp; environmental compliance</li> <li>• Enhanced operational flexibility</li> <li>• Fuel diversification</li> </ul>
Adv PCI+O <sub>2</sub>	\$20-\$40M/BF	
HBI Handling & Prep	\$30-\$60M /facility	
Cold Bonded Pellets	\$200-\$400M /new facility	



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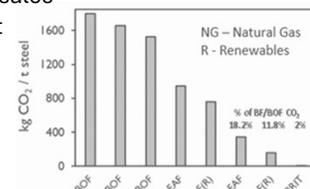
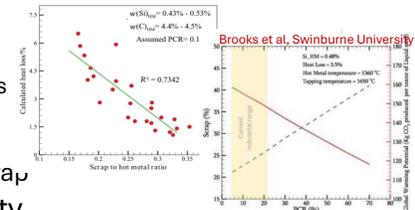


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# Brownfield Steelmaking Decarbonization Solutions

- BOF – minimal 0.181TeCO<sub>2</sub>/Te<sub>liquid steel</sub>
  - ❖ Increase scrap to 40% to 50%? (17% world ave.)
    - 35% scrap charge, 0.9% heat loss; 10% scrap, ~6.75% heat loss
    - Increasing PCR from 10% to 30%:
      - ✓ Scrap 22% → 28%; GWP decreases by 10% (red line)
  - ❖ HBI -> cooling intensity, quality, density & productivity vs scrap
- EAF - Green energy is the key! Followed by scrap quality
  - ❖ RE 100% scrap melting - 0.18Te<sub>CO2</sub>/Te<sub>steel</sub> (w/out RE 0.38Te<sub>CO2</sub>)
  - ❖ Beneficiate scrap; maximize use (reduce OBM use)
    - Shred in-house -> quality, density (1.6Te/m<sup>3</sup>), yield (89%→98.5%) & SR sales
    - Residual control - guaranteed chemistry or continuous analysis in-plant
  - ❖ Burners – OFB or OH<sub>2</sub>B – support CCUS
    - (25%) flue gas volume (reduction) & increased %CO<sub>2</sub>
    - Preheat combustion “air” - ≤ 200kWh/Te & 16m MDT savings
  - ❖ Lowest cost liquid steel; maximize operating efficiency using
    - Value in Use (VIU) to define charge mixes (CO<sub>2</sub>)
    - OGA - < heat loss to OGS; lower C footprint, >combustion efficiency; explosion prevention



C. Pistorius, CMU3

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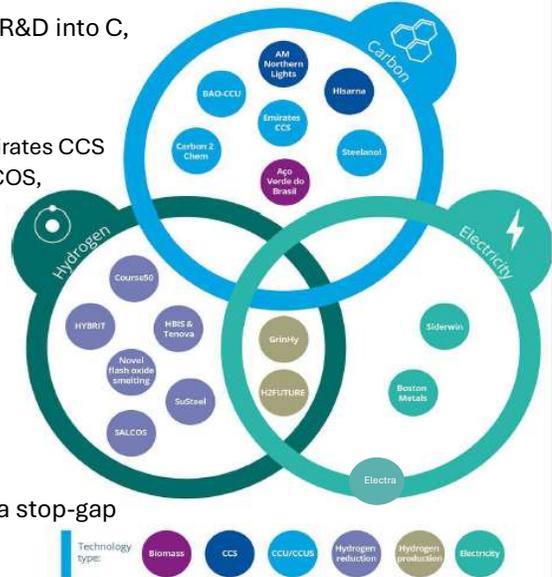


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## New Technology Developments

- Concurrent with conversion to H<sub>2</sub> DRI EAF steelmaking, R&D into C, Electricity & H<sub>2</sub>, electrolysis; projects coded
  - ❖ Biomass – Aço Verde do Brasil
  - ❖ CCS – AM Northern Lights, Hlsarna
  - ❖ CCU/CCUS – Steelanol, Bao-CCU, Carbon2Chem, Emirates CCS
  - ❖ H<sub>2</sub> reduction – Course 50, HBIS & Tenova, SuSteel, SALCOS, HYBRIT, Flash Oxide Smelting
  - ❖ H<sub>2</sub> production – GrinHy, H2Future
  - ❖ Electricity – SiderWin, Boston Metals, Electra
- Upscaling non-steel “old technologies”?
  - ❖ ESFs (SAF, OSBF), IF...
- Challenges appear to be
  - ❖ Increased energy (MOE, low T Electra...)
  - ❖ Scalability (MOE, IFs, OSBFs, H<sub>2</sub>, CCUS ....)
  - ❖ Timeliness to market
  - ❖ Chinese techno-economic advantage (H<sub>2</sub>, GE)
- BAT, & more AR&D, at brownfield sites must be used as a stop-gap whilst adequate cheap RE &, thus, H<sub>2</sub> arrive
  - ❖ Less socio-economical impact



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## New Technology Developments – Timely Solutions?

- **Finex fluidized bed (FB) smelt reduction - 15y?** Showing **80y+** highlights:

- ❖ 1940s - modern FB reaction technology pioneered through petroleum catalytic cracking
- ❖ 2020s – FB/SR crucial, on-going, R&D focused on greater efficiency, less cost & GHG

- **Hlsarna – 38y** cyclone converter over a smelt reduction furnace (Tata Steel youTube)

- ❖ 1986 - Hoogovens, Corus Ijmuiden, Tata began investigating to decrease E & C footprint
- ❖ 2024 – Further testing in collaboration with ArcelorMittal, ThyssenKrupp, voestalpine, Paul Wurth to design, build & test industrial scale pilot for commercial viability demo (Global Energy Monitor)



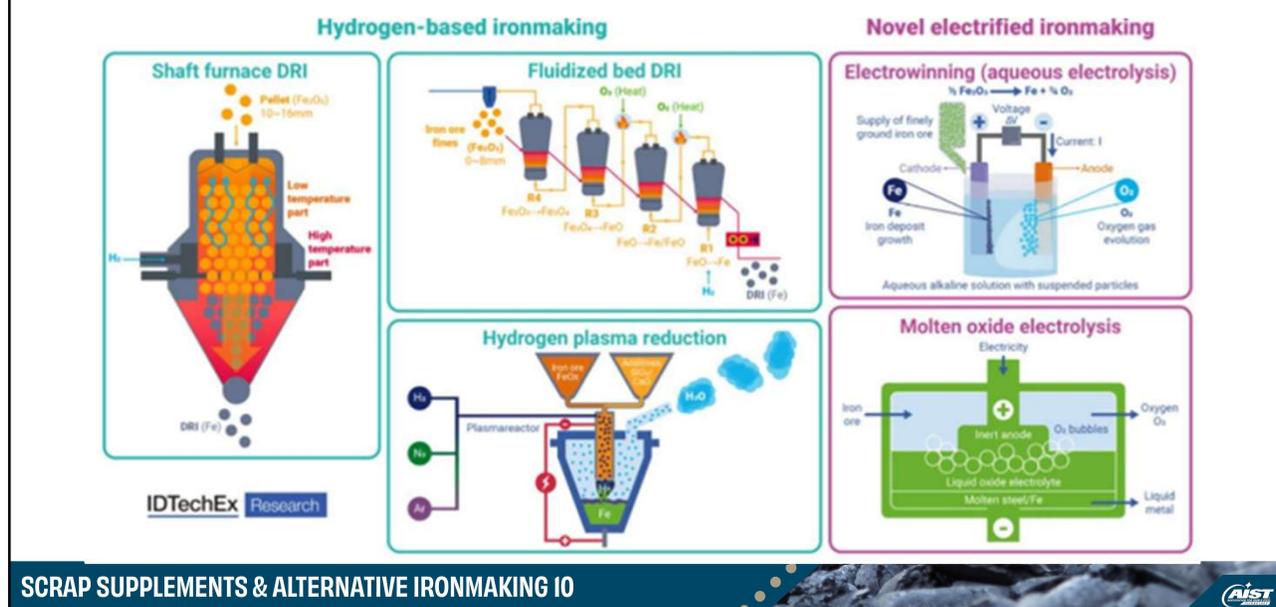
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## Green Ironmaking Technologies for Green Steel



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## DRI Processes – Shaft & Rotary Kiln

- DRI Shafts are shown as “TRL 6-8”? Why?
  - ❖ HYBRIT H<sub>2</sub>DRI EAF pilot only?
  - ❖ C<sub>DRI</sub> or not C<sub>DRI</sub> ?
  - ❖ Lean ore melting definition? (DRI – ESF)
- **HYBRIT** – proven pilot & H<sub>2</sub> Lined Rock Storage (100m<sup>3</sup>)
  - ❖ 1.3MTe/y demo @ SSAB/LKAB/Vattenfall, Gallivare, Sweden; ≤120km<sup>3</sup> LRS (100GWh, 3d ops)  
STI International 12/18/23
- **Calix ZESTY** – pilot tested fines “flash reduction” process
  - ❖ 30kTe/y demo – ARENA; Rio Tinto
- **FerroSilva** - claims a 0.845Te<sub>CO2</sub> sink/Te<sub>steel</sub> making green DRI with
  - ❖ Syngas (forestry, agricultural waste); Biochar to mill + CCU biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> for ship e-fuel
  - ❖ Swedish Agency funded \$3.42M study for 1st 50kTe<sub>DRI</sub>/y plant @ Ovako Hyfors Sweden
- **H<sub>2</sub> Rotary Kiln** - solar & wind RE sources
  - ❖ 1Q23 - 0.5Te/h HyIron DRI pilot Lingen Germany, 14MW RE
  - ❖ 4Q24 HyIron JV with HyIron Steel, Namibia - 15kTe<sub>DRI</sub>/y with 20MW solar
    - 2MTe<sub>DRI</sub>/y ultimately with additional 18MW wind & 140MW solar E

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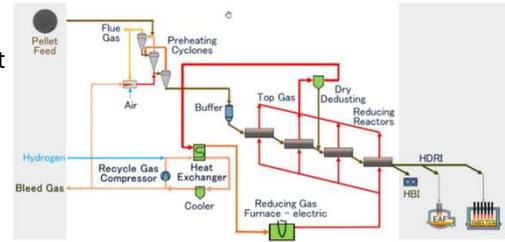
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## Fluidized Bed Fines Processes

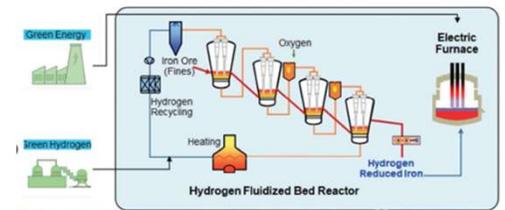
- Hlsarna (ULCOS) – Tata “Isarna” cyclone + Rio Tinto Hlsmelt
- FB “proven” in W. Indes commercial Circored (300kTe)
  - ❖ Metso Tech Frankfurt pilot; SMS purchase by New Year 2026
- HYFOR & HyREX – new gen 4-staged FB reactors (>4 in future?)
  - ❖ Under development, differentiated by final products
  - ❖ No pelletisation; Temp control to prevent sticking issues

Feature	HYFOR	
	H <sub>2</sub> Fine Ore (<0.15mm) Reduction	H <sub>2</sub> Reduction
Final Product	HDR/HBI – direct charge EAF (-90%CO <sub>2</sub> ) 1Te/h pilot since 2021 (2016)	Liquid HM similar to the BF. Pilot 2024, 24Te <sub>HM</sub> /d, 8760Te/y – H <sub>2</sub> optimization; 0% C DRI melting; stable Fe production
Smelting Step	Solid DRI fed to an EAF If low-grade ore charge to smelter for HM (Hy4Smelt; ESTEP, voestalpine, PM: R&D green HM)	Integrated ESF to melt fines from FB reactors. (ESF replaces FINEX melt-gasifier)
Integrated process	DR process. Modular Smelter can be added - 3TeHM/h prototype by mid-2027 with RE smelter (Hy4Smelt)	2-step process: FB + ESF. 315,360Te/y (36Te/h), \$591M, demo plant due 2027 (funding secured). 1MTe/y commercial production anticipated by 2030
Developers	Primetals/Mitsubishi HI, HILT-CRC, voestalpine, Rio Tinto (Fortescue pulled out). VA “green wire rod” in Spring 2024	Posco & Primetals (FINEX extension) Challenges: Costly H <sub>2</sub> ; E demand strain S Korean grid



HYFOR – Hydrogen-based Fine-Ore Reduction, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Technical Review Vol. 59 No. 2 (June 2022)

HyREX - Overview of Australian Initiatives in Decarbonisation of Iron & Steel Production, G. Brooks, Seoul National University lecture June 2025



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Plasma Ironmaking (& H<sub>2</sub>)

- H<sub>2</sub> plasma arc to the ore in an EAF or melter - single step steelmaking “proven”
  - ❖ SuSteel (SuSustainable Steelmaking) U of Loeben pre-pilot, voestalpine collaboration
  - ❖ Very energetic exothermic H<sub>2</sub> species overcomes endothermic reduction
    - Promotes efficient redox reactions; enhanced kinetics & energy savings; lower reaction T
- Historically, overpriced failure in 80’s/90s.
  - ❖ Hi Capex, refractory use & kWh/Te; low reactant efficiency (use rate); batch process
- Process examples:
  - ❖ **Hertha Metals, TX** – 1Te/d (9/24) iron or semi-continuous, single step, steelmaking
    - US made 99.7%Fe permanent (rare earth) magnets (70%Fe - NdFeB) versus
    - Importing 90% hi purity Fe imported from China
    - 9kTe/y 01/2026 (\$17M funding); next phase 0.5MTe/y
    - CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 50% (NG) to 99% (H<sub>2</sub>)
  - ❖ **PlasmaRed** – EU R&D, 2024 lab smelt reactor at Max Planck Institute
    - 2025 pilot (100kg HSPR+5Te DC EAF) – EU Horizon Europe Fund + investors (Emerging Technology Concepts to Fully Decarbonize Ironmaking Christina M. Chang et al, ARPA-E 2021) & (Max Planck Institute for Sustainable Materials)
  - ❖ Turn Alumina **Bauxite waste** (180MTe/y, 4BTe globally) into ironmaking feedstock

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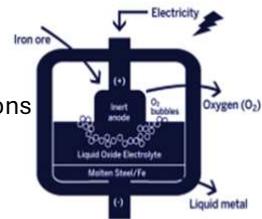


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# Electrolytic Ironmaking

- Electro-win @ high (>~1500°C) & low (<-110°C) temp; redox using ore's oxide anions
- **High Temp.** process dissolves ores in molten electrolyte → Liquid Iron
  - ❖ Faster kinetics; higher Capex & Opex
  - ❖ **Boston Metals** (MIT Spin-off) – Batch MOE @ ≤2000°C addressing a wide ore range
    - Limited productivity/cell due to current density & Faraday's Law
    - Critical factors – re-carburizing, anode, scale-up, cell V, batch; **400 cells for 0.5MTe/y**; automation? (None for Aluminium Hall-Héroult MOE in >100y)
    - Missed Brazil n& US funding window in February - Brazilian equipment failure (Cr, Mn, Nb)
    - *Steel commercial – 2026?*
  - ❖ **Ulcowis - AM ULCOS Off-Shoot** - high temperature electrolysis (like Boston Metals)
- **Low-Temp.** solid iron process - slow reaction rate; lower RE use, Capex / Opex?
  - ❖ AM ULCOS Off-shoots (2004-2010) (TGR Hisarna+)
    - **SIDERWIN (now VOLTERON)** is the evolution & industrial continuation of **Ulcowin**
      - ✓ Aqueous ~110°C process using RE to transform prime & non-Fe<sup>++</sup> waste into Fe plates
      - ✓ TRL 6; (87%)CO<sub>2</sub> & (31%) direct E use
  - ❖ **Electra**, Boulder, CO – 60°C process p
    - Producing >99%Fe plate from <55%Fe ore with (90%)CO<sub>2</sub> with variable scrap
    - Gates & Amazon backed; \$186M to scale to 0.5MTe/y 2026; 1MTe/y by 2029
    - Modular – 1 electrical array = 50kTe/y
    - Nucor, Yamato Kogyo, Interfer Edelstahl Gp, BHP, RT, Roy Hill, Toyota Tsuho Corp, + investment Co's
  - ❖ **Element Zero**, Port Headland, OZ – electrochemical non-aqueous process for winning multiple metals



[www.greencarcongress.com/2021/02/20210214-bostonmetal.html](http://www.greencarcongress.com/2021/02/20210214-bostonmetal.html)  
Allanore et al Nature, 2013



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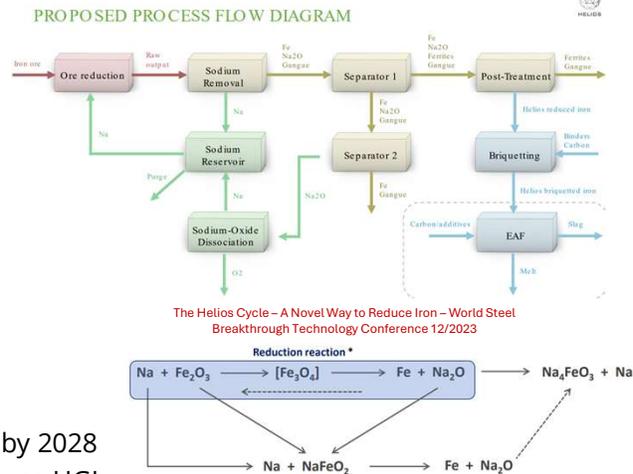


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# Helios™ - Sodium Based Ironmaking

- Helios Cycle, developed in Israel:
  - ❖ Dissolution of iron ores to produce hi purity Fe @ 250-350°C
    - Recycle Na
  - ❖ HILT-CRC project in Australia
  - ❖ Benefits:
    - No CO<sub>2</sub>; >efficiency (-30% E); -30% OPEX
      - ✓ No ore beneficiation
      - ✓ High cost H<sub>2</sub> production or storage
    - Na is available worldwide
    - Can be used for Cu, Ni, Co, etc.
    - **Can still be C intensive**
  - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> pilot 2026 several kTe/y; commercial by 2028
  - ❖ \$6M seed funding + BlueScope MOU to use HGI
  - ❖ Only non-steelmaking member of World Steel



The Helios Cycle – A Novel Way to Reduce Iron – World Steel Breakthrough Technology Conference 12/2023

\* Addison, C. C. et al. Journal of the Chemical Society, Dalton Transactions 1017-1019 (1972)  
Bhat, N. P. et al. Journal of Nuclear Materials 158, 7-11 (1988).

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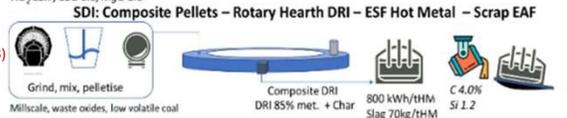
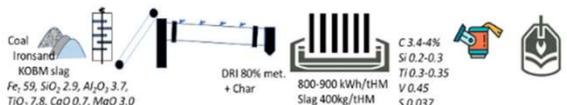
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# Electric Smelting Furnaces

- ESF (OSBFs, SAFs) – new smelting tech.?
- “Saviour” for XS “lean ore”, unsuitable DRI for EAF melt?
  - ❖ Reduction/melting in 1 vessel (BHP, Pathways to deC, Episode 7 – ESF)
  - ❖ Expected 0.18-0.29kg<sub>CO2</sub>/Te<sub>HM</sub> DRI-OSBF-BOF-CCUS
- Need to determine integration viability; scalability, melting & final product implications:
  - ❖ Gangue & C impact – melting, chemistry (C, Si); Slag (250-330kg/Te<sub>HM</sub>?) & off-take VIU (Cement?)
  - ❖ Optimum power intensity, RE use, electrodes
- **NeoSmelt**, (~85% CO<sub>2</sub>) Kwinana, WA; FID 2026
  - ❖ BlueScope, BHP & Rio Tinto, ARENA, Woodside Energy, Mitsui Iron Ore Development
  - (BHP, Pathways to deC, Episode 7 – ESF)
  - ❖ 30kTe<sub>HM</sub> (Energiiron DRP + CRISP® ESF) pilot - low/med ore
    - \$50.25M WA gov't & \$13.27M ARENA; 2028 NG start-up →H<sub>2</sub>
- **RedSmelt NST**, RHF + SAF, claiming C Neutrality
  - ❖ 35kTe/y Italian demo (SMS Demag/Luchini) in 2003
  - ❖ Commercialization – Brazil? When?
- Other ESF participants:
  - ❖ Primetals EU, HILT-CRC (Swinburne) & ARENA (U of Newcastle)
  - ❖ ESF selected by Tata EU, Thyssen Krupp, voestalpine, POSCO

New Zealand: Multi Hearth SL/RN Kiln DRI – ESF Hot Metal – Vanadium Slag - KOBM



Hedging Bets?

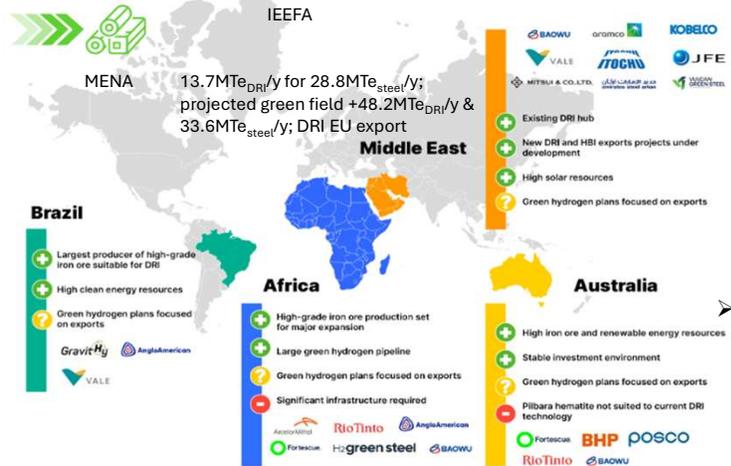
BlueScope	Rio Tinto
Relining BF – gov't funding	Calix investment – Biolron (microwave technology) delayed
H <sub>2</sub> injection to BFs & DRP	High grade ore supply to : GravitHy DRP (IOC) & market HBI
Helios Green Iron	HyFOR prototype, Austria & Stegra H <sub>2</sub> DRI EAF mill, Sweden
New EAF in NZ Steel	

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# International Solution? Decoupling?

Australia needs to step up if it wants to compete in the green steel race



- Global Warming Solutions & RE sources vary considerably by location:
  - ❖ China - young BFs (54% world steel); largest RE investor \$676B (≈ 810MTeCO<sub>2</sub>)/y ?export RE? Reuters quoting Nature study in C Briefings 8/29/24
  - ❖ India - low Te<sub>scrap</sub> – produce 2<sup>nd</sup> largest steel tonnage; 36.34% world DRI; 42%EAF
  - ❖ EU – transition costs stalling adoption of H<sub>2</sub>DI EAF;
  - ❖ MENA – potential green iron (& steel) world leader & global DRI/HBI & E/RE supplier
  - ❖ Australia – slow adoption?! Great potential RE, ship 36% ore, government & investment support
  - ❖ Brazil – High grade ore; 80+% RE
  - ❖ Africa – 1<sup>st</sup> Simandou shipments
- International alliances/agreements
  - ❖ Magnum Mining, Moolong & SDM China – Licensing Hismelt IP & plant & are licensing
  - ❖ Magnum's Buena Vista N. NV Fe project (≥67%Fe magnetite ore) → merchant PI
  - ❖ RT – IOC pellets to GravitHy France; market HBI
  - ❖ Saudi Arabia green Hismelt PI plant 50/50 MidMetal JV – Malaysian biochar, Saudi mill waste

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## Summary

- Scale of progress & investment in the “Green Steel” Revolution falls short of 1.5°C Global Warming Goal Accenture.com “Powered for Change, A pathway to faster, financially viable decarbonization” research report
- H<sub>2</sub> DRI EAF steelmaking - technically viable but significantly challenged
- BF ironmaking will continue (50% out to 2060 now?)
- CCUS are not a true “fix” for steel – currently 0.12% total CO<sub>2</sub><sup>e</sup>
- Innovation & new technologies are a long way from commercialization
- Solutions?
  - ❖ Education – governments, investors (technology, infrastructure needs)
  - ❖ Apply BAT & continue AR&D for the BF as a techno-economic stop gap
  - ❖ Speed up “innovation to market” & build rates
  - ❖ Improve availability, cost & delivery – RE & H<sub>2</sub>
  - ❖ Decouple iron & steelmaking
  - ❖ Determine an equitable International Carbon accounting system

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Thank you for your attention!  
Questions?

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