

### Hydrogen as a road fuel challenges and opportunities from a fuel-providers' perspective

Dr Joe Paton



### **Company Profile**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (exchange rate : 200JPY/GBP)

Marubeni was founded in May 1858 as a textile company and expanded to other consumer goods in the 1920s. In 1949, it was incorporated and started to diversify into machinery, metals and chemicals, followed by energy and power infrastructure.

In 1991, **Marubeni Europower Ltd**. was founded in the UK to develop renewable energy projects in Europe.

The decision to switch to renewables supported massive business growth, and Marubeni now has a net profit of approx. £2.4 billion (JPY 471 billion), 130 branches and offices globally, 50,200 employees as Marubeni Group, and collaborates with 490 companies.

Established	May 1858
Net profit	Circa £2.4 billion (JPY 471 billion)
Number of employees	4,337 (Number of employees of the Group 50,200)
Number of Branches and Offices (*)	130 (Including Tokyo Head Office)
Number of Consolidated Companies	490

#### Marubeni Europower

#### **Power Business & Infrastructure Group – UK**





# What is the hydrogen value chain for use as a road fuel?

- Hydrogen has been used as a road-fuel for decades
- In the customer's eyes, the value chain of hydrogen as a road fuel represents a close approximation of the diesel value chain
- Hydrogen offers long-distances without refuelling, fast refuelling times and high payload
- Current policy broadly encourages:
  - Hydrogen production via the electrolytic ('green') pathway
  - · Dispensing and usage in fuel cell vehicles
- Areas for further development:
  - Hydrogen ICE (reducing capital cost of vehicles, supporting current supply chains)
  - Enhancing demand-side support and/or mandates





Hydrogen Value Chain Services UK - For A Carbon-Free Future | TÜV SÜD

### Hydrogen as a road fuel: the opportunity...

- In any scenario, mobility is a large opportunity for hydrogen demand
- Trucking is the near-term opportunity, aviation and maritime will follow
- Most major commercial vehicle OEMs have announced plans or ambitions for hydrogen Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) production
- Direct electrification is always the most efficient use of renewable power ... but hydrogen is essential for journeys that cannot be economically completed with batteries
- For customers: hydrogen vehicles allow decarbonisation of their fleets without the need to completely change their operations



Global Energy Perspective 2023: Hydrogen outlook | McKinsey



### **Case study 1:** UK Hydrogen Refuelling Production led model





25.7MW onshore wind farm, expected to generate c.70GWh per annum from around 2027 at Bridgend



Subsidised production project in Bridgend (HyBont) funded by DESNZ under the Hydrogen Production Business Model



Participation in HyHAUL

- Developing infrastructure projects along M4 between Swindon and Swansea
- UK Grant on H2 infrastructure project
- Deploying hydrogen fuel cell heavy goods vehicles, and multiple hydrogen refuelling stations starting around 2026

Marubeni Hydrogen Value Chain @ Bridgend in Wales



#### **Case study 2:** Japan Hydrogen Refuelling: Truck OEM/consortium model

- The "Strategic Roadmap for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells" of Japan has set a target of 1,000 hydrogen refuelling stations by 2030, in line with the spread of fuel cell vehicles
- Marubeni provides a variety of services including gasoline, diesel, kerosene and other fuel oils through approximately 650 service stations including affiliated dealers nationwide. Ambition to transition fuel forecourt to hydrogen, reducing the operation cost of HRS'
- Targeting partnerships with Japanese automakers to create a business model that packages hydrogen and FC trucks into a service offering
- A consortium-project "Commercial Japan Partnership Technologies" develops the vehicles in-partnership with the fuel provider network









### **Case study 3:** USA Hydrogen Refuelling Demand led model



- Marubeni signed an MOU with a major U.S. truck station operator to collaborate on the establishment of a hydrogen ecosystem, including HRS', in the U.S.
- Focus on California; via the Advanced Clean Fleet Directive:
  - Mandates to force transition of 'drayage trucks' to ZEV between 2024 and 2035
  - Hydrogen networks already exist
  - Customers appear willing to transition in small numbers
- Mobile refuelling (depot-based) creates further opportunity
- · Production-side carbon intensity not considered
- Aggregation of end-users can allow the development of public refuelling



Geospatial Data Science | NREL

# A comparison of three case studies that aim to incentivise the roll-out of hydrogen vehicles



		Risk sharing	Investibility	Scalability	Speed of execution	Incentive or mandate- driven?
1	production led	Difference between the lifecycle of a vehicle and Government CfDs	HAR projects well developed and deliverable but FIDs to be confirmed	Pricing certainty for large volumes can allow scale-up	Requires careful line-up of the value chain to realise speed	Incentive
2	truck OEM led	All value chain moves together with known risk & business model	Business models still in development;	Demonstration projects only; up to hundreds of vehicles in the first-instance	Bureaucracy can hamper speed	Mixture
3	demand led	Mandates forces the end- user to transition; independent of existence of the rest of the value chain	Combined with IRA and local-subsidies, business models could work	Forced-adoption of ZEV encourages scale-up	Will force behaviours to change	Mandate

#### **Current status for zero emission HGVs**



- Battery electric is seen as limiting, difficult to scale and expensive for many use cases
- Hydrogen fuel cell is seen as expensive and technologically immature

We will need a combination of both technologies to get to net zero; neither is developed enough to be commercially viable

- Vehicle availability and capital cost remains an issue; demonstration and then scale-up is key
- Cross-functional collaboration is a key to success: industry, Government and academia





- The size and complexity of the challenge is significant; we are displacing a very convenient fuel
- The key to get projects to work is having the entire value chain lined-up; underpinned by Government support



- Commercialisation will happen when the economy of scale for vehicle production exists
- The comparator fuel for Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) will evolve from diesel to battery electric

### Thank you



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