



## Hydrogen Financial Analysis Scenario Tool (H2FAST) Updates with Analysis of 101st Station

Marc Melaina (P.I.)

Michael Penev (Presenter)

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program

2017 Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting

June 8, 2017

Project ID  
SA062

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

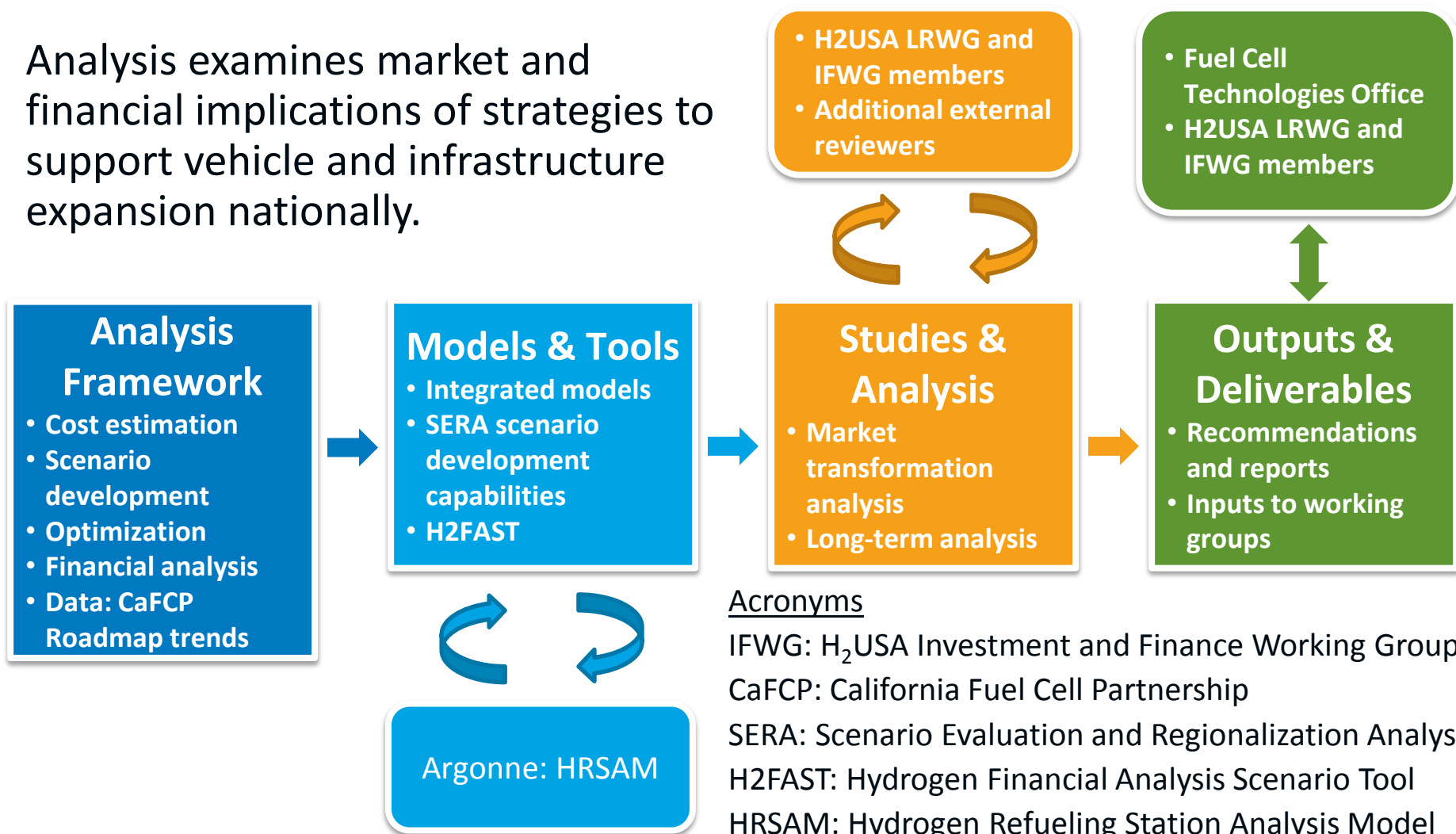
# Overview

| Timeline   | Barriers   |
|--|--|
| <p>Start: September 2014</p> <p>End: September 2017*</p> <p>* Annual direction determined by DOE</p>           | <p><b>4.2 Technical Approach:</b><br/>Infrastructure analysis</p> <p><b>4.5 A. Future Market Behavior:</b><br/>Scenarios to understand vehicle-fuel interactions</p> <p><b>4.5 E. Unplanned Studies and Analysis</b><br/>Response to H2USA public-private partnership and infrastructure deployment goals</p>  |
| Budget   | Partners   |
| <p>FY16 DOE Funding: \$100K</p> <p>FY17 Planned DOE Funding: \$150K</p> <p>Total DOE Funds to Date: \$250K</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H2USA Investment and Finance Working Group</li><li>• California Energy Commission</li><li>• Multiple external and internal subject expert reviewers</li><li>• Fuel Pathways and Integration Tech Team (FPITT)</li><li>• Independent and in-depth technical review by financial analysis consultant</li></ul> |

# H2FAST enables detailed infrastructure financial analysis and can interface with multitude of models

Relevance/Impact 1

Analysis examines market and financial implications of strategies to support vehicle and infrastructure expansion nationally.



## Acronyms

IFWG: H<sub>2</sub>USA Investment and Finance Working Group

CaFCP: California Fuel Cell Partnership

SERA: Scenario Evaluation and Regionalization Analysis

H2FAST: Hydrogen Financial Analysis Scenario Tool

HRSAM: Hydrogen Refueling Station Analysis Model

LRWG: H<sub>2</sub>USA Location Roadmap Working Group

## Objectives

- Provide convenient detailed hydrogen infrastructure financial analysis to facilitate investments in hydrogen refueling stations and improve policy-design decisions to support early hydrogen station and fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) market development
- Inform multiple stakeholders:
  - Policy and government decision makers
  - Station operators
  - Equity investors
  - Strategic investors
  - Lenders
- Enable transparent incentive analysis
- Provide embedded investment risk analysis



## Impacts on FCTO barriers during reporting period

- Enhanced analysis of future hydrogen fueling market behavior (Barrier A)
- Provided timely analytical capabilities to H<sub>2</sub>USA partnership and FCTO (Barrier E)

**Investment grade finances**  
**Easy to use**  
**Multi-stakeholder perspective**  
**Engaged with industry**

## Model computation framework: Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

- Income statement projections (revenues, expenses, taxes)
- Cash flow statement projections (cash on hand, capital expenditures, financing transactions)
- Balance sheet projections (assets, liabilities, equity)

## User inputs

- Capital and Maintenance costs
- Incentives (grants, operating incentives, take or pay contracts)
- Demand profile (e.g., construction time, demand ramp-up)
- Feedstock use (consumption, H2 purchase cost, escalation)
- Retail price of hydrogen
- Financial parameters (e.g. depreciation schedule, interest rates, etc.)

## Model outputs

- Financial performance parameters (e.g., internal rate of return, pay-back period, break-even price of hydrogen)
- Time series charts for all line item parameters
- Per-kilogram cash flows break-down (revenues, expenses, financing cash flows)
- Uncertainty distributions (for risk analysis studies)



## GAAP analysis framework

### Inputs:

station capital  
performance  
financial circumstances

### Outputs:

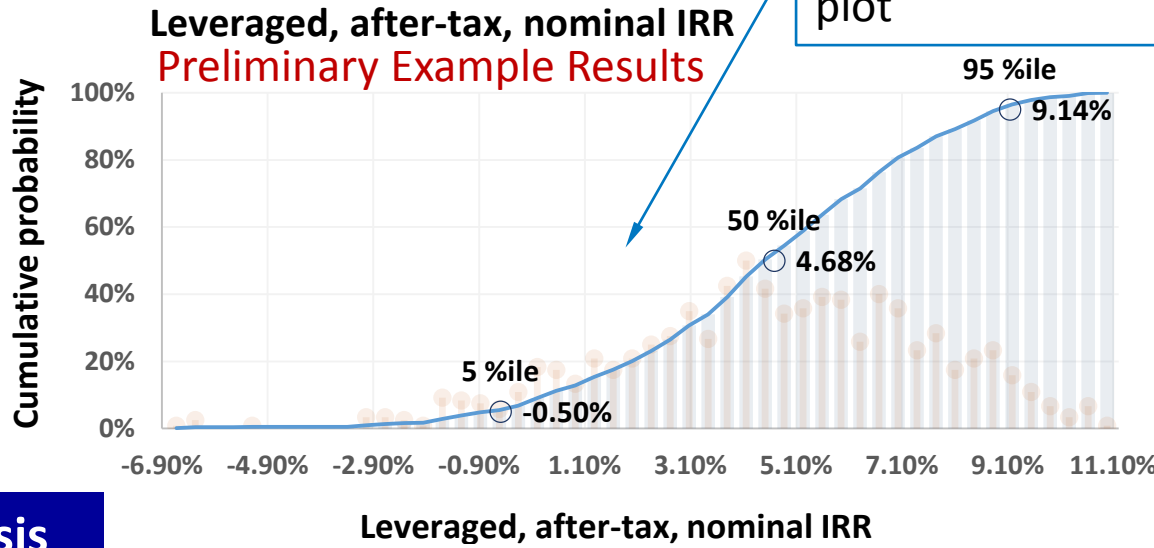
graphical and tabular

# Model allows for range specification of uncertain variables and computes uncertainty ranges of outputs

| Overall Financial Performance Metrics        | Most likely value | 5%'ile         | 95%'ile      | Plot                             |
|--|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Leveraged, after-tax, nominal IRR            | 5.88%             | -0.54%         | 9.50%        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Profitability index                          | 1.35              | 0.83           | 1.78         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Investor payback period                      | 10 years          | 8              | 16           | <input type="radio"/>            |
| First year of positive EBITD                 | analysis year 2   | 2              | 2            | <input type="radio"/>            |
| After-tax, nominal NPV @ 10% discount        | \$ (894,655)      | \$ (2,345,175) | \$ (102,307) | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Estimated break-even leveraged price (\$/kg) | \$ 12.45          | \$ 10.28       | \$ 16.42     | <input type="radio"/>            |

Break-even leveraged price can be used to yield IRR target

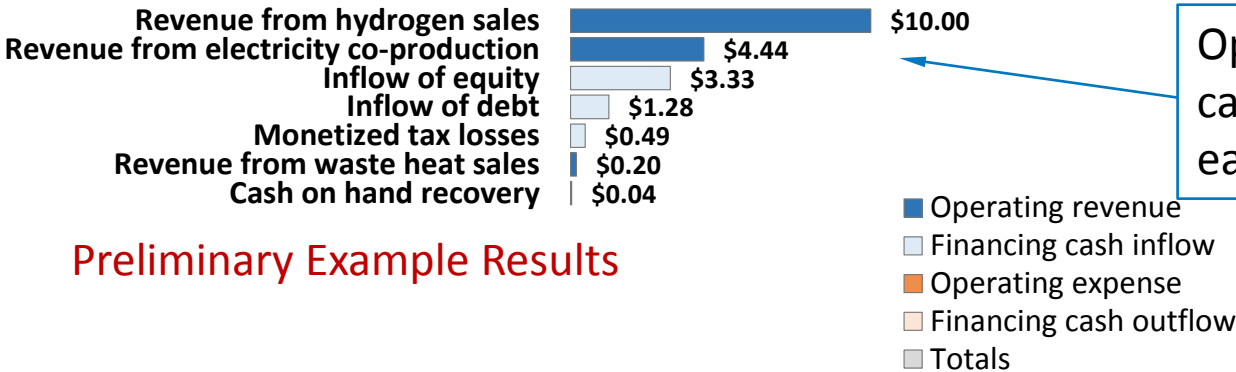
Click to select distribution to plot



**Model does uncertainty analysis**  
**Most input values can be varied**  
**Results reflect uncertainty ranges**

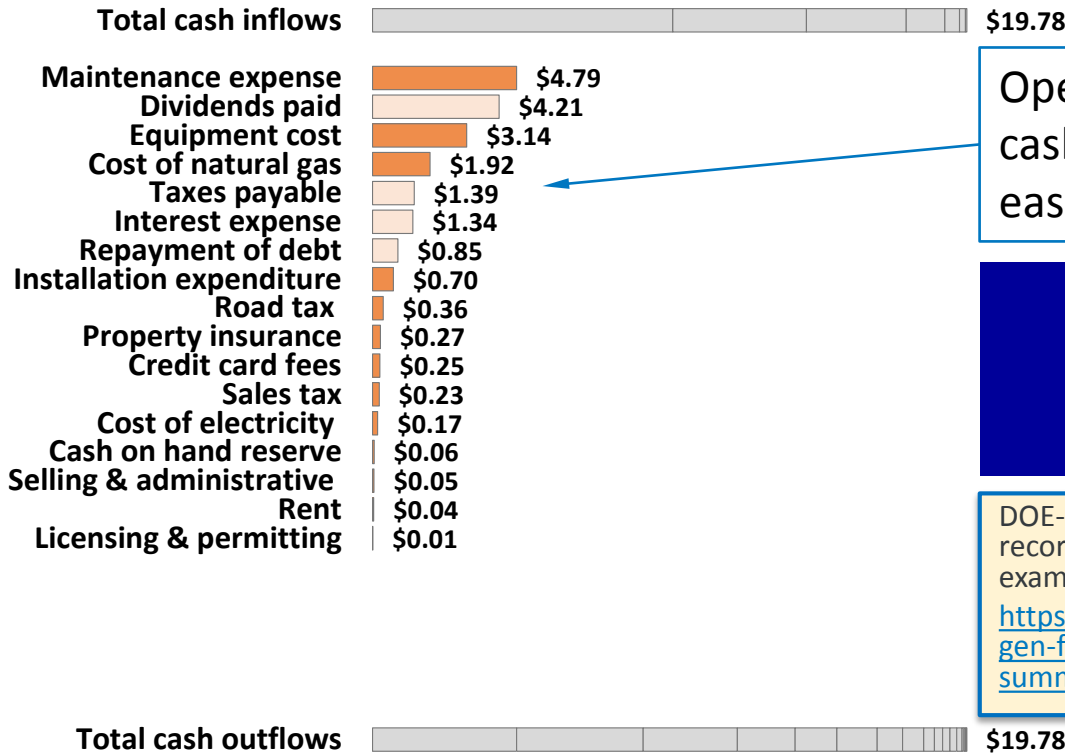
# Model allows instant attribution of revenues, expenses and financial cash flows

## Real levelized values (\$/kg H<sub>2</sub>)



Operating revenues and financing cash inflows are normalized for ease of comparison.

## Preliminary Example Results



Operating expenses and financing cash outflows are normalized for ease of comparison.

**Model provides instant revenue and expense attribution**

DOE-FCO Webinar on H2FAST was presented and recorded for stakeholders with guidance and examples:  
<https://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/downloads/hydrogen-financial-analysis-scenario-tool-h2fast-model-summary-and>

## Analysis summary

- Three H<sub>2</sub> infrastructure deployment scenarios
- Contiguous 48 states
- Timeframe: 2015–2050
- Station count and size support urban region H<sub>2</sub> demand growth

## Financial performance drivers

- Station cost reduction (learning curves)
- Larger stations over time (driven by higher demand per location)
- Faster utilization growth

## Objective of analysis

- Estimate cross-over point when stations will be financially profitable without incentives

## Approach

- Model relevant local conditions
- Estimate NPV of every projected station

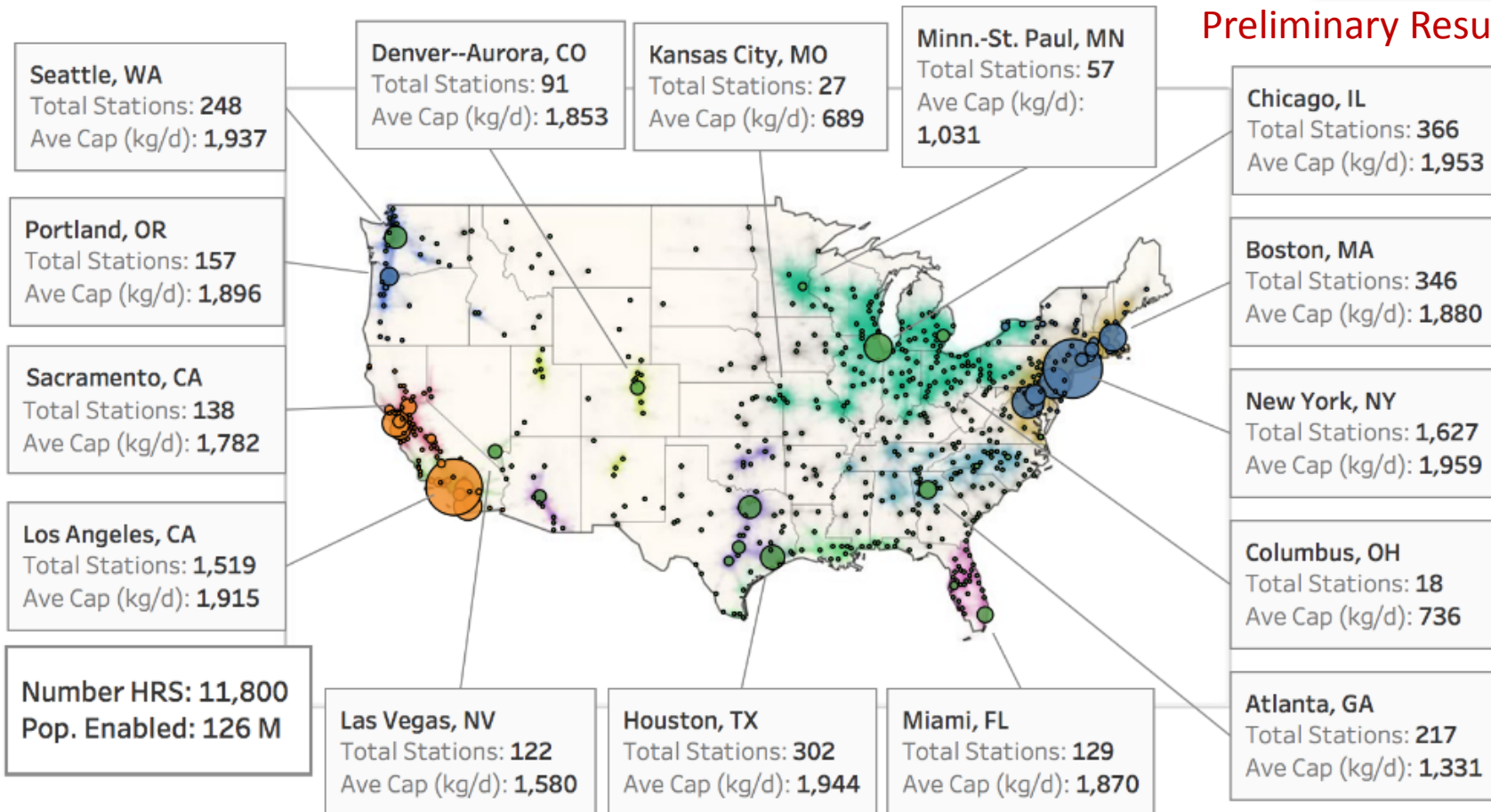


**H2FAST is embedded in SERA**  
**Evaluates financial performance of each projected**



# Example results: cumulative number of stations built from 2015–2050

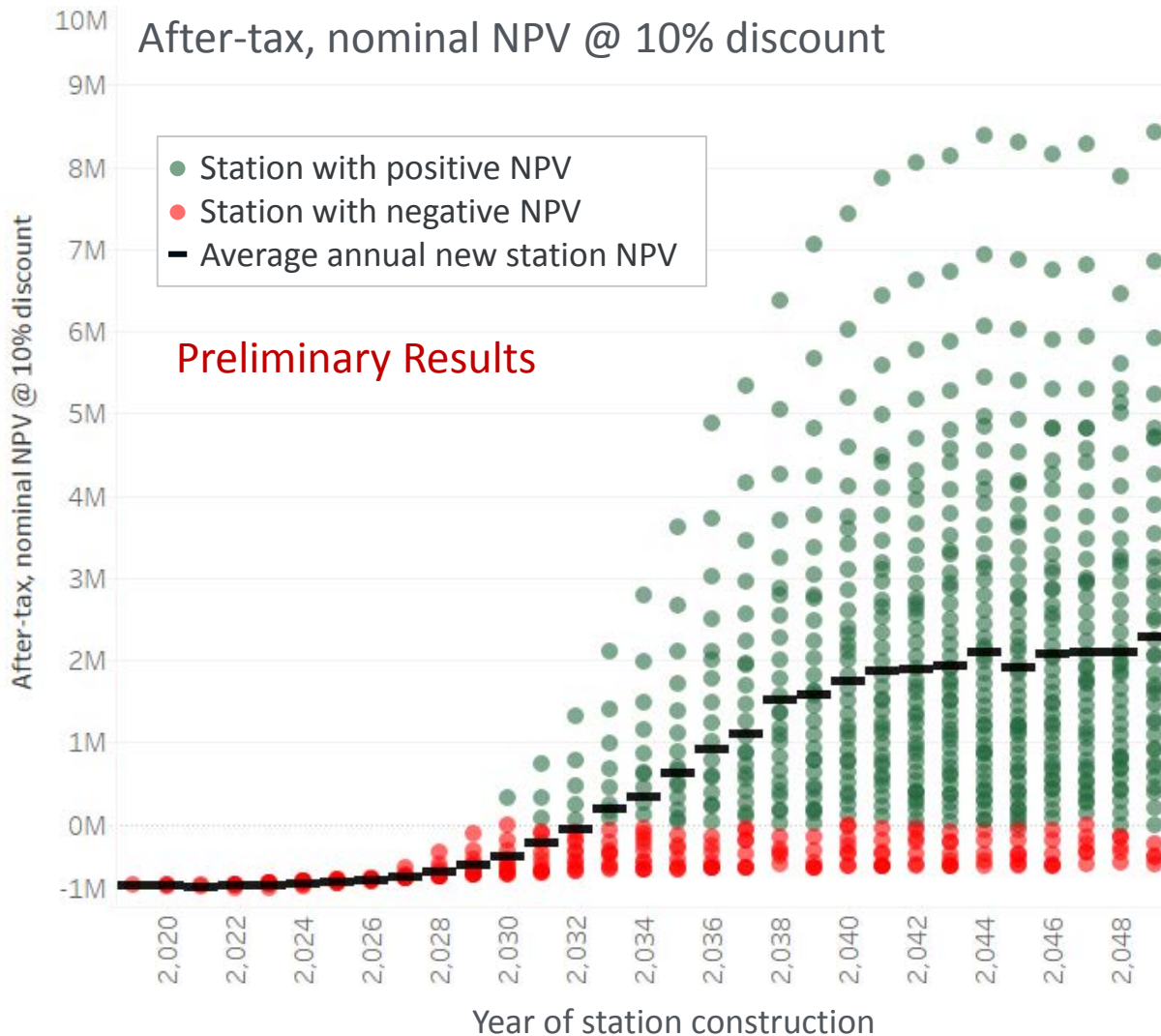
## Preliminary Results



## H2FAST financial analysis was performed for each station

- Capital cost vs. year and size
- Cost of delivered hydrogen
- Price of retail hydrogen
- Cost of energy commodities

**Densest markets are populated first  
Early markets get most stations and  
benefit from economies of scale**



## Observations:

- Poorly performing stations are seen throughout analysis span
- Average station NPV indicates when profits from well performing stations can offset losses of other stations
- Average NPV may be a good indicator of when infrastructure may be self-sustaining
- In this scenario, Massachusetts infrastructure could be self-sustaining after 2033

**Annual average new station NPV is used for assessing financial sustainability**



## Retail station analysis (California, California Energy Commission-funded)

- Yielded real world data and examples of infrastructure deployment

## Highlighted lesson learned: Cost of electricity for new hydrogen stations

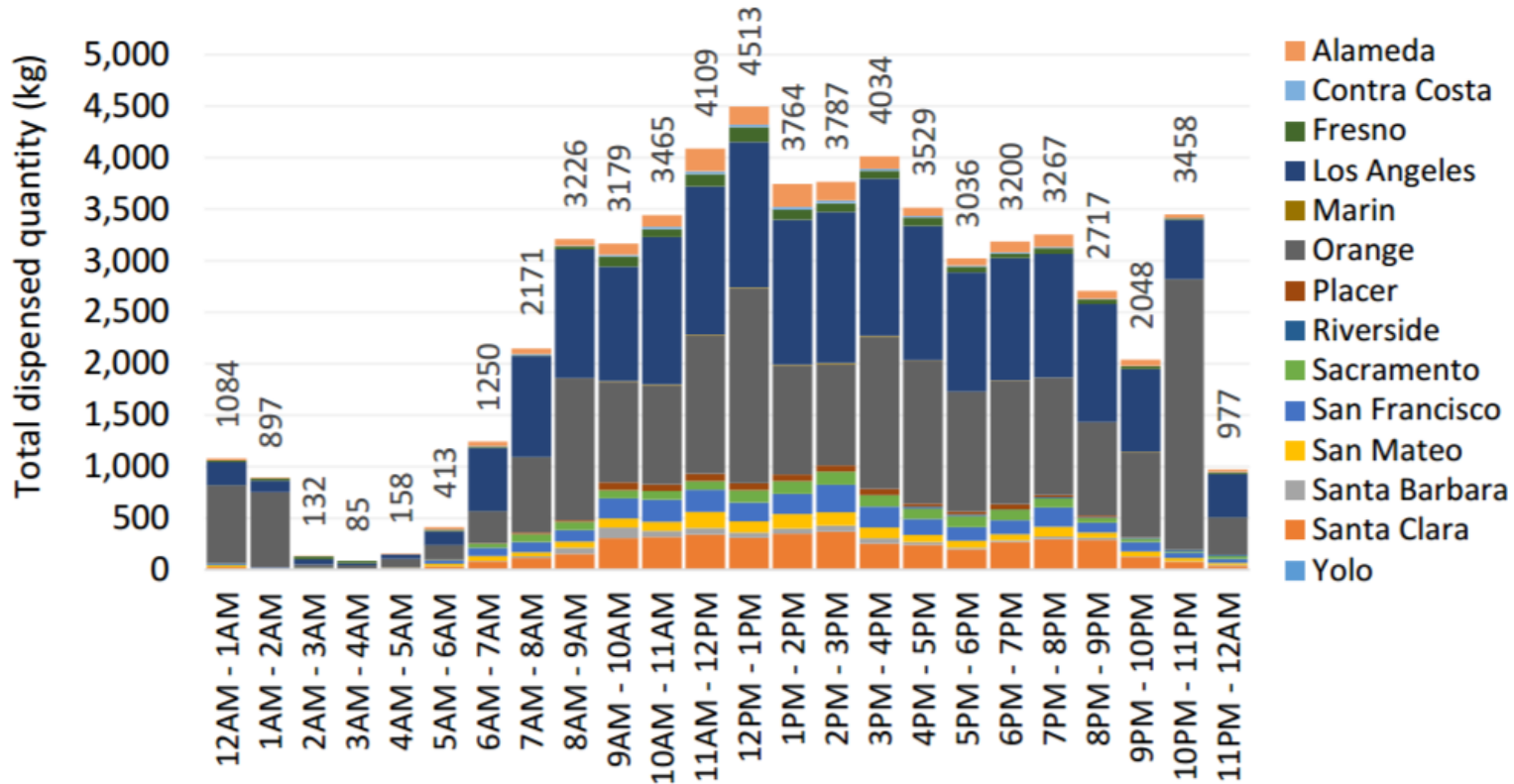
- California blended electricity rate = 15.73 ¢/kWh\*
- California stations experience cost of electricity = 50 ¢/kWh\*\*

**California stations experience substantially higher cost of electricity than EIA would suggest**

\* Source: EIA, Table 2.10 Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customer by End-Use Sector, by State, 2015 and 2014

\*\* Source: Joint Agency Staff Report on Assembly Bill 8: 2016 Assessment of Time and Cost Needed to Attain 100 Hydrogen Refueling Stations in California, <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2017publications/CEC-600-2017-002/CEC-600-2017-002.pdf>

Figure D-7: Total Dispensing vs. Hour of Day by County (H70 and H35)



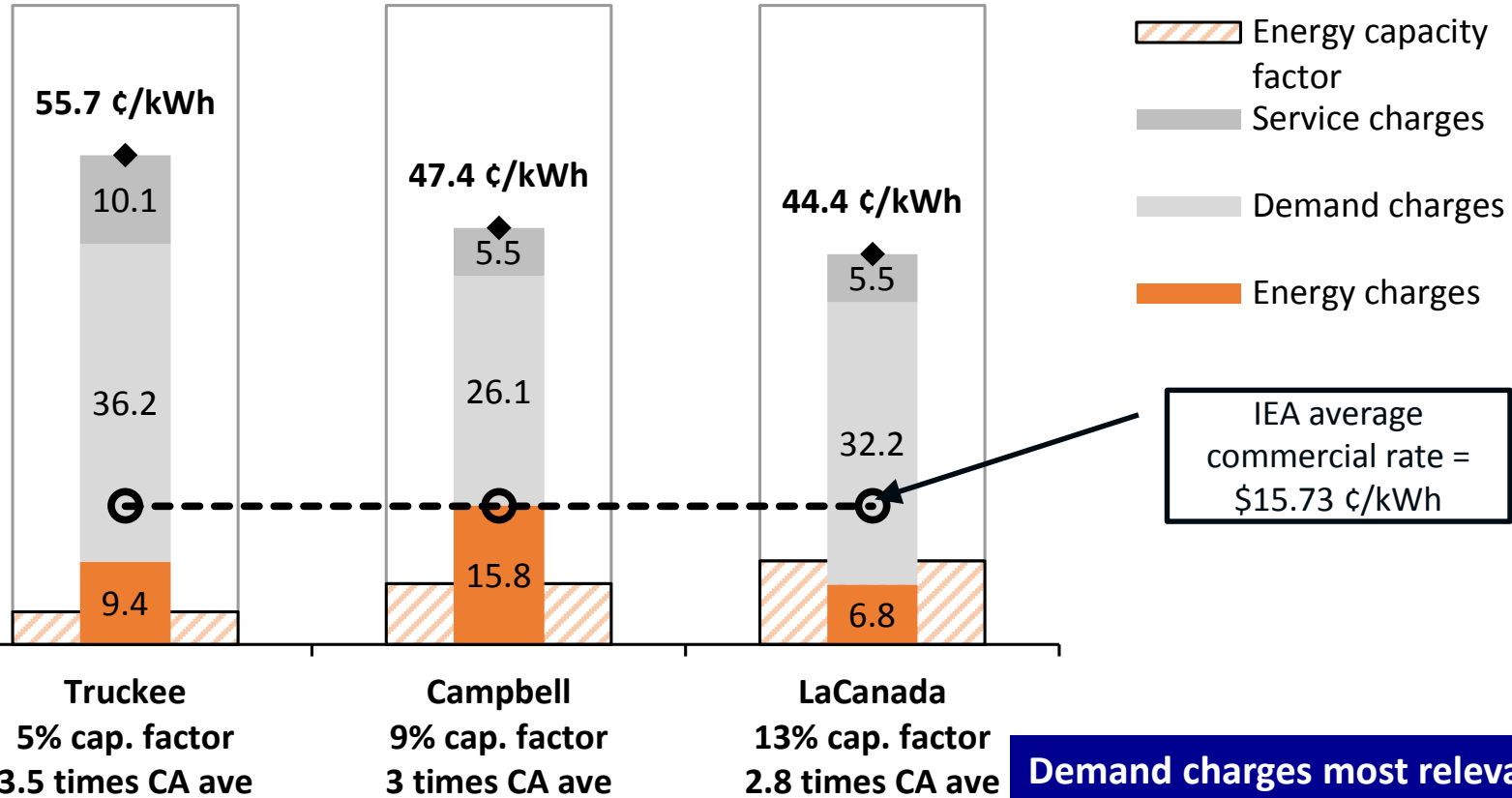
## Stations use electricity at peak daily rate times

Use profile source: Joint Agency Staff Report on Assembly Bill 8: 2016 Assessment of Time and Cost Needed to Attain 100 Hydrogen Refueling Stations in California,

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2017publications/CEC-600-2017-002/CEC-600-2017-002.pdf>

Rate structure source: First Element Electricity bills, with permission of Tim Brown, COO

## Empirical cost of electricity for hydrogen refueling stations in operation in California in 2016



**Demand charges most relevant at low station utilization (@10 kWh/kg = ~\$5/kg)**

**Maximum demand charges are incurred even at minimal utilization**

**Demand charges should be treated as a fixed operating cost**

### **Model development contributors**

- H<sub>2</sub>USA Investment and Finance Working Group (IFWG) – provided requirements and review
- Bill MacLeod (Hyundai Motor Group) – provided requirements and review
- Sanjeeva Senanayake (Welford Energy) – provided review and methodology guidance
- Mike Curry, MBA (Curry & Co.) – provided requirements and review
- Mike Levy, MBA (Aaquis) – provided requirements
- Remy Garderet (Energy Independence Now) – provided model review

### **State and federal government**

- H<sub>2</sub>USA Investment and Finance Working Group (IFWG) – provided requirements and review
- California Energy Commission – provided review and model utilization
- Tyson Eckerle (California Governor's Office) – provided model review and incentive framework

### **Federal laboratory and university**

- Ricardo Bracho, MBA and Michael Elchinger, MBA (NREL) – compliance with accounting and finance standards
- Jeff Grover, DBA (CEO, Grover Group Inc.) – line-by-line model review and validation

Apply modeling methodology to explore National and regional scenarios

- H<sub>2</sub>USA, CEC, Northeast, Hawaii

Increase model integration with SERA

- Integrate hydrogen production scenarios
- Evaluate transitions to renewable hydrogen

Implement additional features

- Additional fixed operating costs (e.g., demand charges)
- More detailed demand ramp-up specifications
- Ability to provide custom feedstock and retail price profiles

Ongoing maintenance and support

- Support custom analysis and user base requests
- Produce model updates as needed

**Any proposed future work is subject to change based on funding levels**



# Summary

## Relevance

- Examine FCEV markets and financial strategies to support infrastructure expansion nationally
- Provide convenient detailed infrastructure financial analysis to facilitate investments in hydrogen

## Approach

- Use GAAP financial calculations with extensive modeling inputs and outputs
- Include detailed risk analysis to project ranges of financial outcomes

## Accomplishments

- H2FAST was incorporated into SERA model
- National scenarios show variable transition to un-incentivized financial profitability for different states
- H2FAST was used to evaluate real-world installations
- Early station operation demand charges were found to be big cost factors

## Collaboration

- Model and framework leverages stakeholder
  - Department of Energy Fuel Cell Technologies Office, H2USA, California Energy Commission
- Model is thoroughly reviewed by internal and external reviewers

## Proposed future work

- H2FAST scenarios will be further refined to reflect more financial factors for National scenarios
- New H2FAST features, such as fixed operating costs reflective of real-world experience

# Questions?

Contact:  
[Michael.Penev@nrel.gov](mailto:Michael.Penev@nrel.gov)

# Technical Back-Up Slides

Recording of DOE-sponsored H2FAST webinar:

<https://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/downloads/hydrogen-financial-analysis-scenario-tool-h2fast-model-summary-and>

H2FAST Excel version URL:

<http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/h2fast/>

H2FAST documentation URL:

<http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/h2fast/documentation.html>