

**Precious Metals** 

Heraeus

Platinum

999,5

500g

**PRECIOUS METALS –** SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTHCARE, HYDROGEN ECONOMY AND RECYCLING

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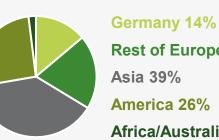
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#### WHO WE ARE





**Rest of Europe 20%** America 26%

Africa/Australia 2%

6% expenditures for **RESEARCH** & DEVELOPMENT



US\$ calculated with 2021 average exchange rate (1€ = 1.1827 US\$)

Region breakdown based on revenues excl. Precious Metals

based on revenues excl. Precious Metals

12 market-oriented **GLOBAL BUSINESS UNITS**  **TOP 10** FAMILY-OWNED COMPANIES in Germany











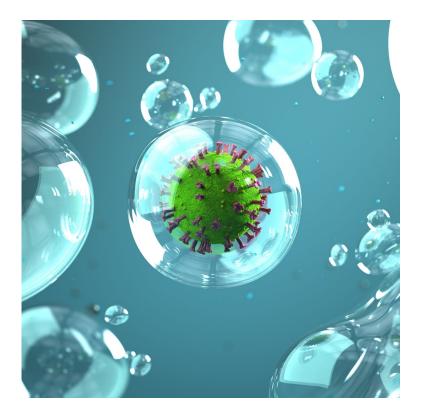
Germany 33% **Rest of Europe 16%** Asia 27% America 24%

Africa/Australia 1%

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### THREE EVENTS SHAKING OLD BELIEFS



**Covid Pandemic** 



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**Geopolitical Developments** 



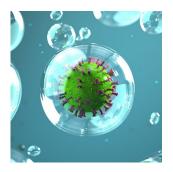


**Global Warming** 





#### LESSONS LEARNED



#### **Covid Pandemic:**

- Iong and tedious procedures in pharma production are not sufficient
- demand for fast and efficient pharmaceutical syntheses
  - → renewed push for efficient & specialized precious metal catalysts



#### **Geopolitical Developments:**

- reduce dependence on oil & gas as our primary sources of energy
- make solar power electricity storable and transportable
  - → efficient precious metal catalysts for hydrogen generation and usage are a key factor



#### **Global Warming:**

- minimize the carbon footprint of each part of the value chain
- the mining of precious metal is quite energy intensive
  - $\rightarrow$  the recycling of precious metals has become even more important

# PHARMACEUTICAL EFFICIENCY



#### COVID PANDEMIC INCREASES NEED FOR PHARMACEUTICAL EFFICIENCY

#### Lesson learned during the pandemic:

Need for rapid and efficient pharma syntheses

#### What does that mean for the PGM-world?

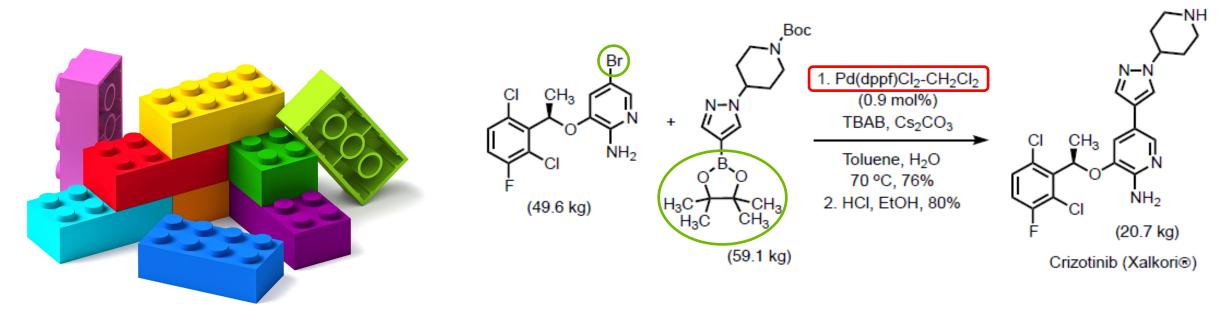
- Rising: soluble homogeneous PGM catalysts
- Iridium, Rhodium and Ruthenium complexes for asymmetric hydrogenations
- Osmium compounds for the synthesis of hormonelike molecules
- Palladium complexes for C-C coupling reactions:
  - Enable the direct creation of carbon-to-carbon bonds between building blocks of an API (active pharmaceutical ingredient)



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### PHARMACEUTICAL SYNTHESIS: C-C COUPLING REACTIONS

Instead of long linear syntheses with low overall yields researchers can now use convergent syntheses starting from two or more building blocks, almost like building with LEGO<sup>®</sup>



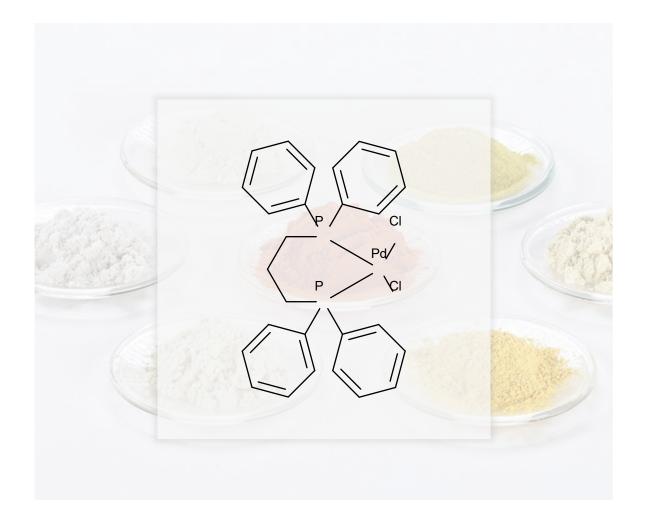
de Koning, P. D. et. al. Org. Proc. Res. Dev. 2011, 15, 1018-1026.

#### PALLADIUM COMPLEXES: FIRST CHOICE FOR C-C COUPLING REACTIONS

- Palladium complexes (so-called phosphines) are particularly good at catalyzing C-C couplings
- They are built with a certain class of phosphorous containing ligands
- One example is Pd(dppp)Cl<sub>2</sub> (see illustration), dozens of palladium phosphines exist

#### Working Principle:

- modify the electron density on the palladium
- enable access to catalytic center only from one side
  - the reaction can run only in one way
  - side products are avoided



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#### PD-PHOSPHINE COMPLEXES: MAGIC POWDER COLLECTION





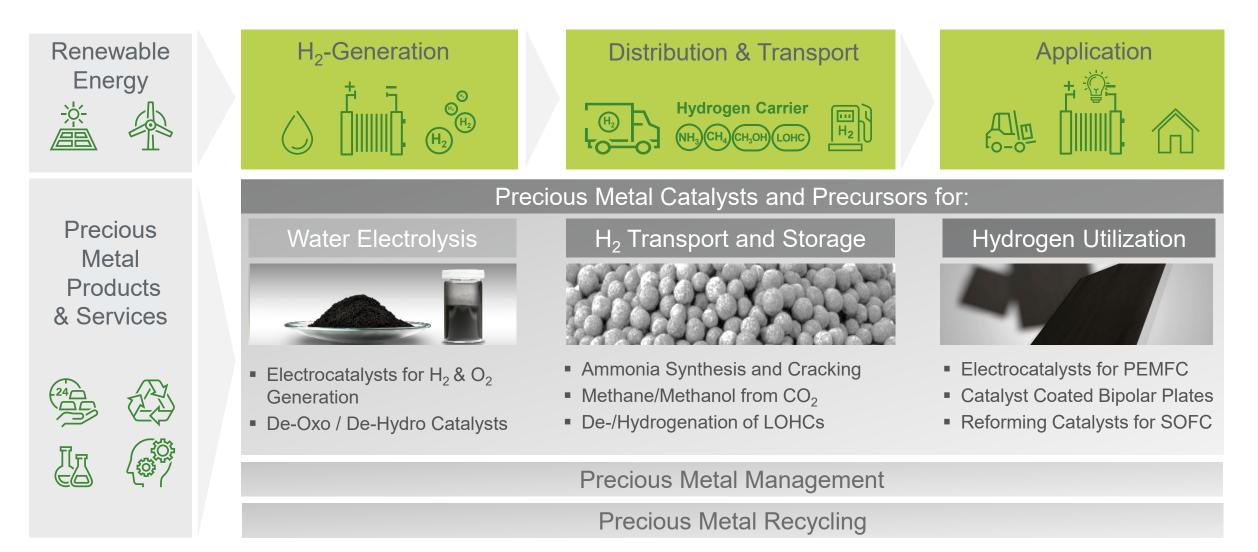
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# HYDROGEN ECONOMY

6 c

.8

### HYDROGEN ECONOMY: REPLACE FOSSIL FUELS



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### HYDROGEN ECONOMY: PRECIOUS METALS ARE INDISPENSABLE



#### HYDROGEN ECONOMY: WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE RAMP UP?



Innovative catalysts for efficient use of Ir and Pt in PEM electrolyzer & fuel cells

- Variety of catalysts with different Pt loadings and carbon supports
- Special catalysts for long life performance
- Innovative Ir-catalysts for electrolysis with significantly reduced Ir content



Recycling of precious metals from production scrap and end-of-life

- High return rates for sustainable use of Ir & Pt
- Global capabilities
- Broad range of recycling technologies to fit the requirements of the waste stream



Metal Management of price volatility and financing of precious metals

- Precious metal trading and PMcontaining material in one hand
- Supply security for metals / strategic sourcing by partnerships
- Risk management & mitigation of price volatilities

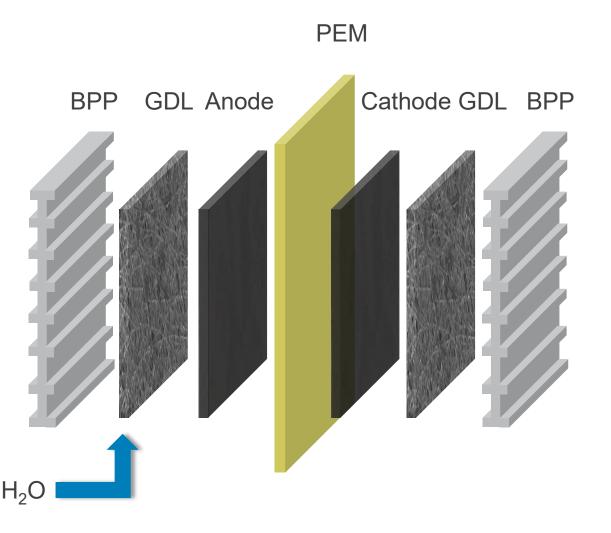
### HYDROGEN GENERATION: MATERIALS FOR PEM ELECTROLYZERS

#### Anode Catalysts – different catalyst classes

- H2EL-Ir
  - Iridium black catalysts with high surface area and high intrinsic conductivity
- H2EL-IrO
  - IrO<sub>2</sub> catalyst with high surface area and good intrinsic conductivity
  - Medium volumetric density
- H2EL-xxIrO-Sxx
  - Highly variable catalyst on high surface area TiO<sub>2</sub> support
  - High activity and variable conductive
  - High volumetric density for extremely low Ir loadings
- H2EL-xxlrRu
  - Highly active Ir-Ru mixed oxides for low Ir loadings

#### **Bipolar Plates**

Precursors for stable conductive electroplated coatings



Iridium black

shows best

performance at

high loadings.

Iridium oxide is

optimal for the

materials balance

content with high

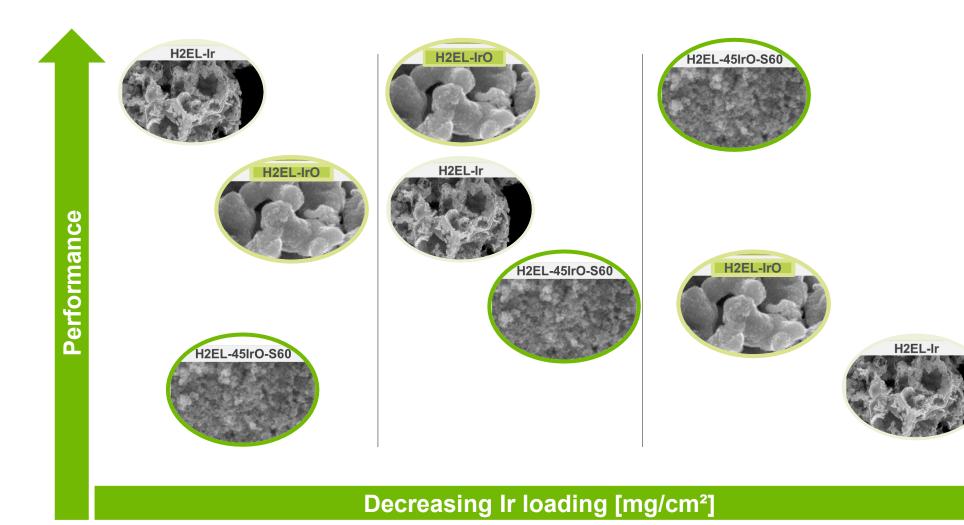
middle area.

Innovative

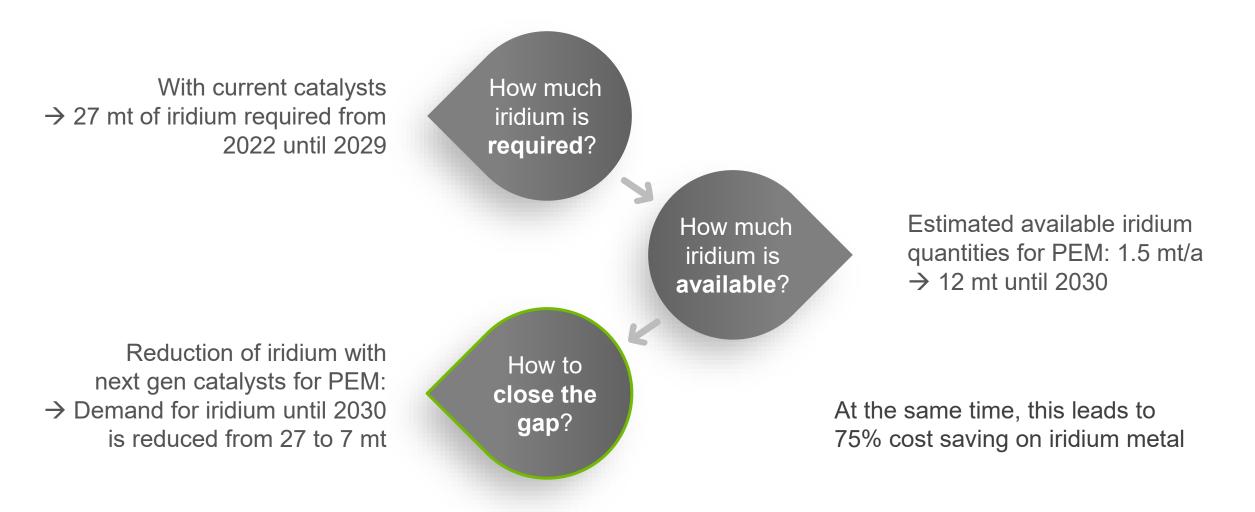
low iridium

performance

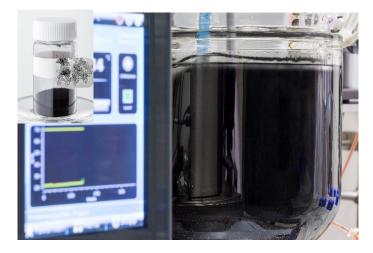
#### INNOVATIVE MATERIALS SHOW OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE AT LOW LOADINGS



#### FOR THE HYDROGEN RAMP-UP THE IRIDIUM GAP NEEDS TO BE CLOSED



## FULLY EQUIPPED TEST LABS SUPPORT THE CATALYST ADOPTION PROCESS



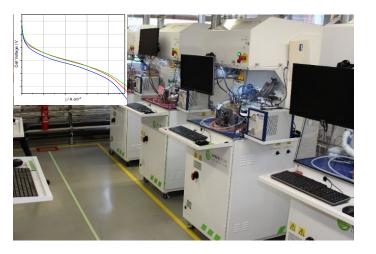
# Catalyst Synthesis & Characterization

- Automated catalyst synthesis for high reproducibility
- Tailoring catalysts for various customer applications



#### CCM manufacturing

- Established coating process for catalyst benchmarking
- Ink-formulation expertise to support customer directly

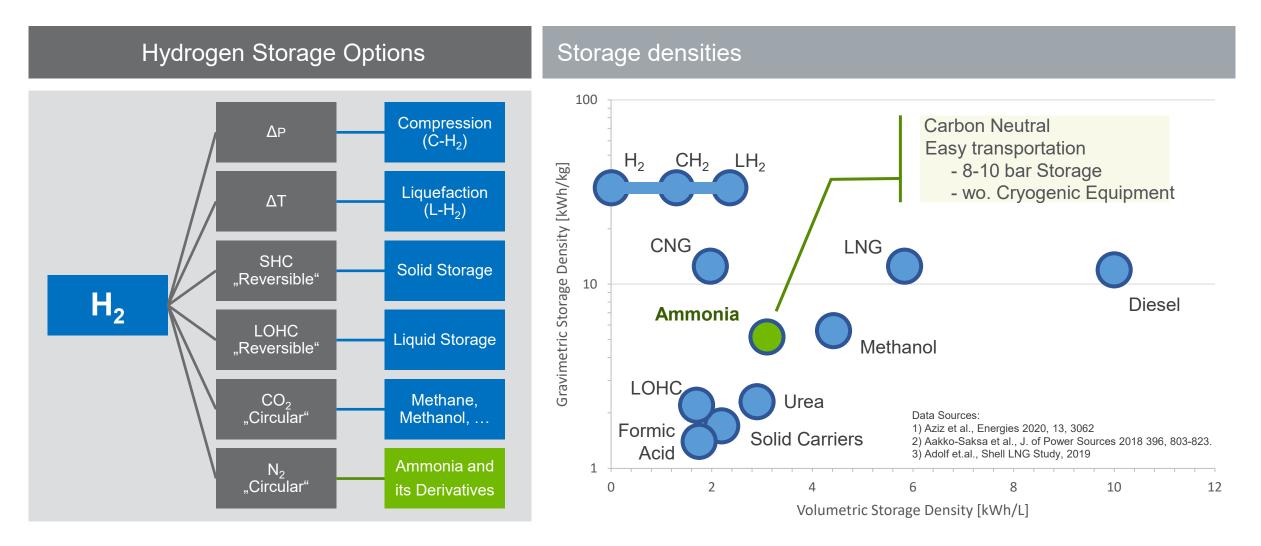


#### Single Cell Testing

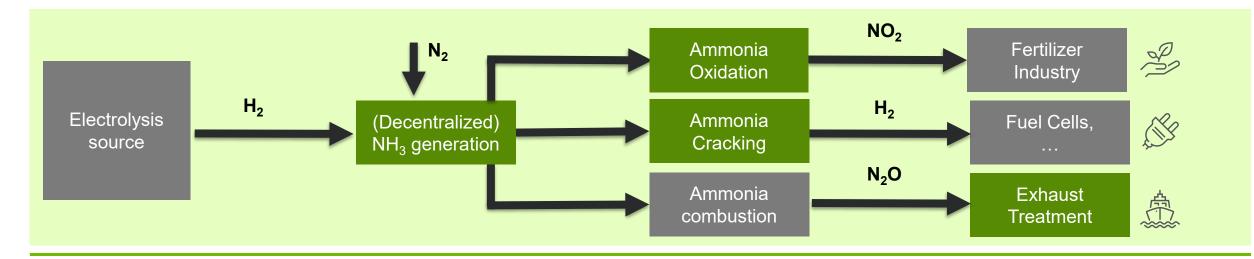
- Testing under various realistic conditions
- Fast implementation of customer requirements
- Detailed assessment of electrode stress events

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#### HYDROGEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT: THE ROLE OF AMMONIA



#### HYDROGEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT: GREEN AMMONIA





Chemical Products Ruthenium Salts KAA Process, ...



Catalytic Gauzes FTC Gauzes, Ostwald process







Emission Catalysts Coated Substrates, N<sub>2</sub>O Abatement

Catalysts

### HYDROGEN UTILIZATION: PEM FUEL CELL

#### **Cathode Catalysts**

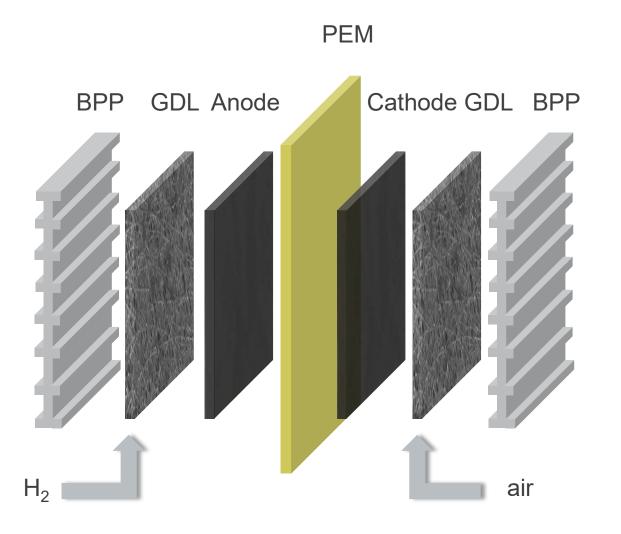
- Tailormade solutions for high and low humidity and current operations
- Optimized Pt surface area utilization
- Stability optimized catalysts
- High surface area to medium surface area carbon support

#### **Anode Catalysts**

- Solutions for cell reversal tolerant anode recipes
- IrO<sub>2</sub> OER (oxygen evolution reaction) catalyst

#### **Bipolar Plates**

Precursors for stable conductive electroplated coatings

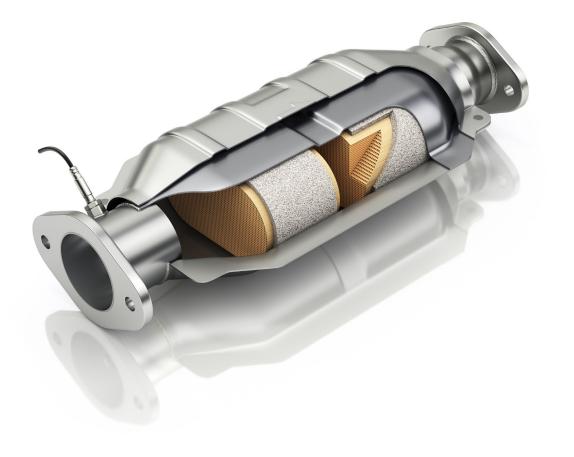


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# RECYCLING OF PRECIOUS METALS & SUSTAINABILITY

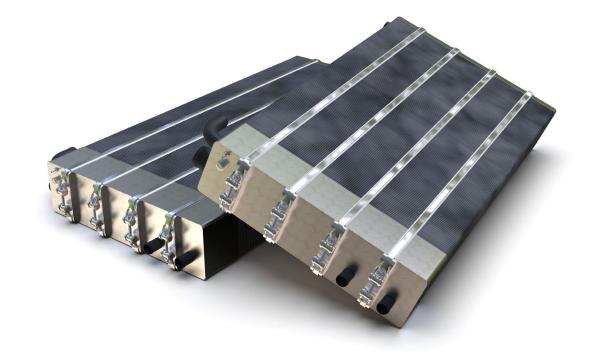
#### RECYCLING OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

- End of lifetime: catalytic converters containing several grams of precious metals are dismantled
- The housing is removed "de-canning"
- The PGM-coated monolithic honeycomb ceramic is ground up
- The ceramic powder is molten in an electric arc furnace and separated into a slag phase and a metal phase
- The precious metals are extracted from the metal phase



### CCM RECYCLING

- End of lifetime: electrolyzer or fuel cell stacks consisting of hundreds of CCMs (catalyst coated membranes) which contain the precious metal
- Stacks have to be dismantled and CCMs have to be extracted
- In most cases membranes are fluorinated polymers and the catalyst coating is carbon based
- New concepts will have to be developed on how to process CCMs:
  - Total Incineration
  - Mechanical removal of catalyst coatings
  - Chemical separation of membrane and coating



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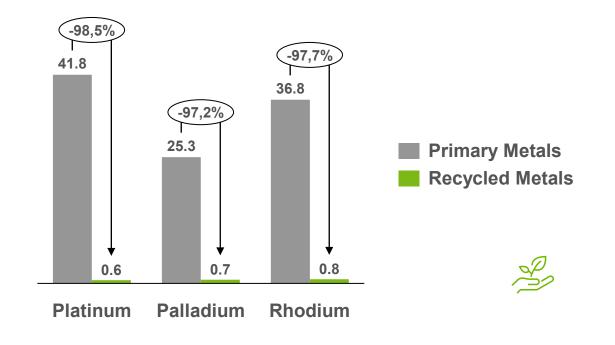
#### SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE: MASSIVE CO<sub>2</sub> SAVING POTENTIAL

Recycled Precious Metals show a much lower carbon footprint than mining material

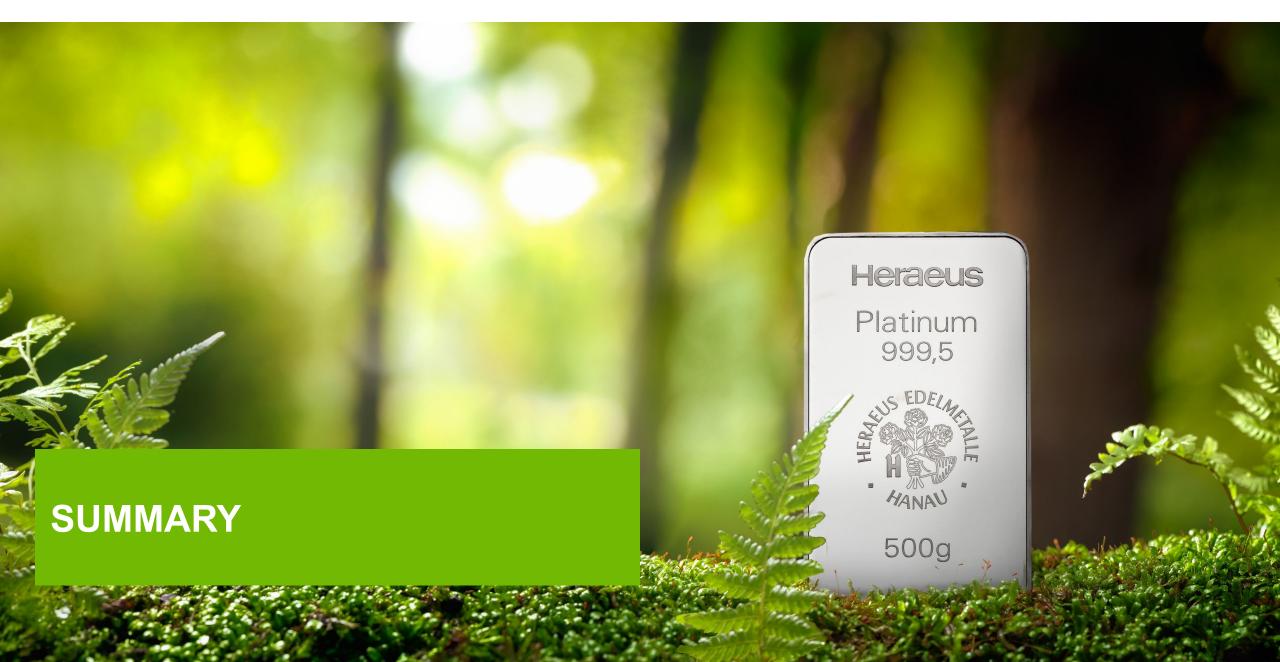
- Precious metals can either originate from mines (primary metals) or from recycling of used precious metal products (secondary metals).
- Primary metals account for roughly 67-76 % of annual precious metal (Pt, Pd, Rh) supply while only 24-33 % is coming from recycled metals.
- Although recycled metals can only cover a fraction of total PGM demand, their contribution is significant:

Recycled metals provide a massive CO<sub>2</sub> saving potential compared to primary metals by reducing the carbon footprint up to 98.5 %!

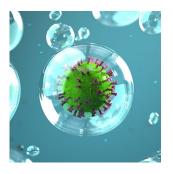
Carbon footprint of primary vs. recycled precious metals in kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq per gram precious metal:







### SUMMARY



#### **Pharmaceutical Efficiency:**

 Need for new and more efficient syntheses for pharmaceutical, agro- and finechemical ingredients 

 homogeneous precious metal catalysts



#### **Urgency for Hydrogen Economy:**

- generation of hydrogen in electrolyzers  $\rightarrow$  Iridium
- transformation of hydrogen into other fuels (mostly ammonia)  $\rightarrow$  various coated catalysts
- usage of hydrogen in fuel cells  $\rightarrow$  Platinum



#### Recycling & Sustainability:

 Massive CO<sub>2</sub> saving potential compared to primary metals by reducing the carbon footprint up to 98.5 %! → Recycled metals