



**“Running a society 100% on renewables affordably requires sector coupling, integration of storage solutions and implementation of emerging technologies**

*Berndt Schalin, CEO Flexens*

# Flexens

FLEXIBLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

**Demonstrating a society level solution to the renewables integration challenge**

Presentation to Aalto University Forum 2021

Berndt Schalin, CEO

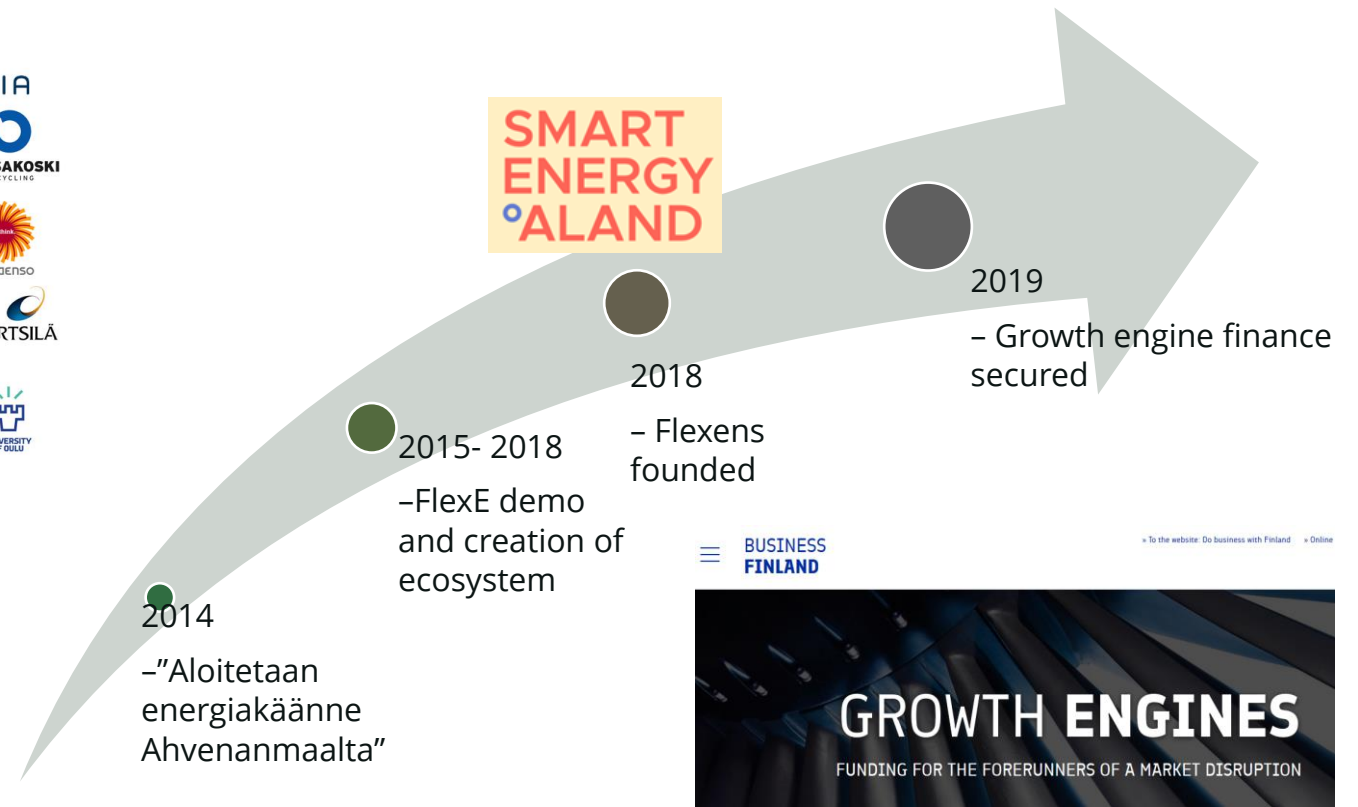
# Advanced project development rooted in research

With a society scale demonstration as reference



## Background in strategic research, Tekes SHOK programs:

- 2010-2015 Smart Grids and Energy Markets
- 2010-2014 Future Combustion Engine Power Plants
- 2012-2016 Efficient Energy Use
- 2015-2016 Future Flexible Energy Systems



2014  
–"Aloitetaan energiakäännö Ahvenanmaalta"

2015- 2018  
–FlexE demo and creation of ecosystem

2018  
– Flexens founded

2019  
– Growth engine finance secured



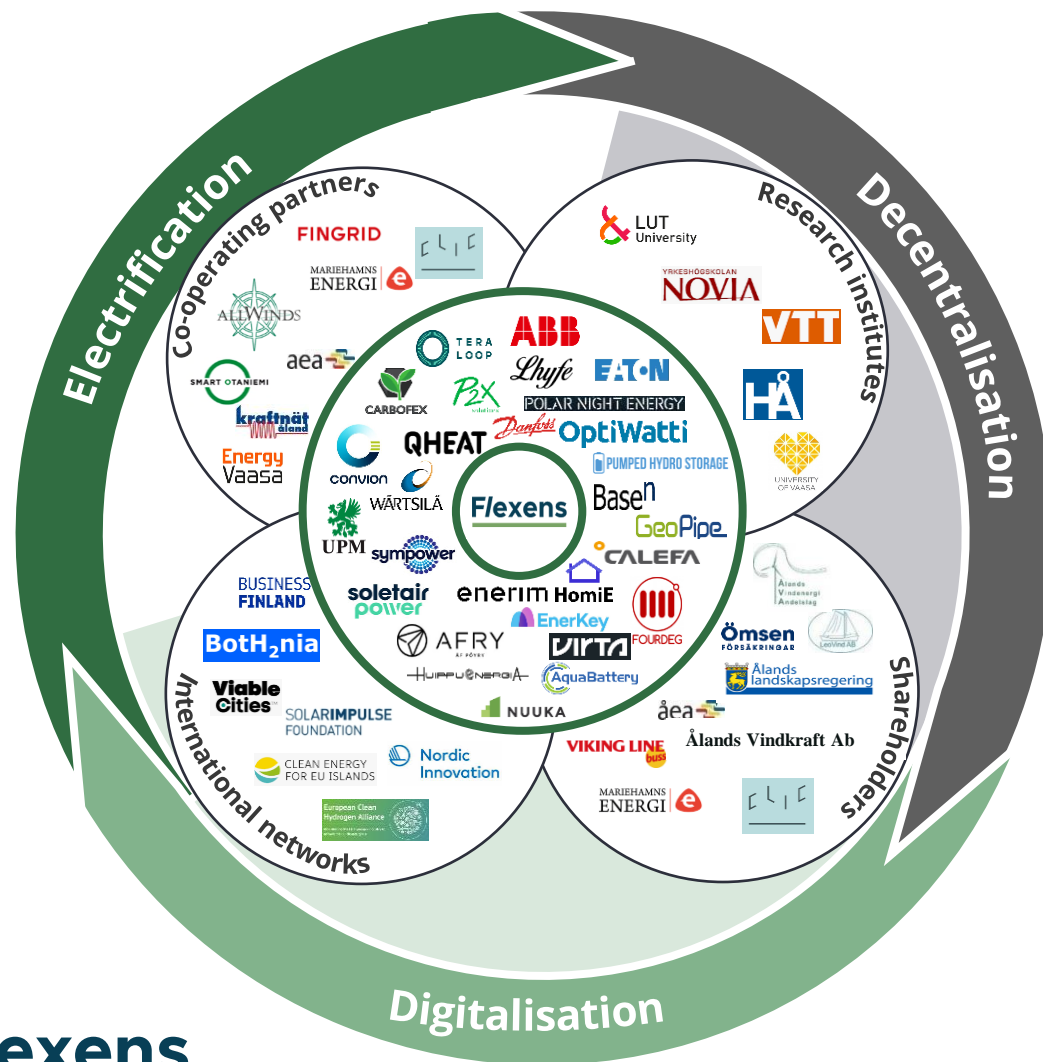
# Åland as the test and demo location

- **Åland – the ideal place**
  - Best wind and solar conditions in the region
  - Self-governed (own energy market regulation) and own grid area
  - Ambitious and rewarded sustainability agenda
  - Ideally positioned for Nordic cooperation
- **Full society scale**
  - 30.000 inhabitants, industry & service sector - Results applicable to large markets
  - Operating in a deregulated environment connected to the efficient Nordpool market
- **Adopting future EU regulation**
  - Current and future market models enabling investments in flexibility sources in focus
- **In the tempered climate zone**
  - Heating and cooling central part of the energy mix
- **A platform supporting open innovation**
  - Cooperation with leading R&D&I operator



# Our cooperation platform

Core strength

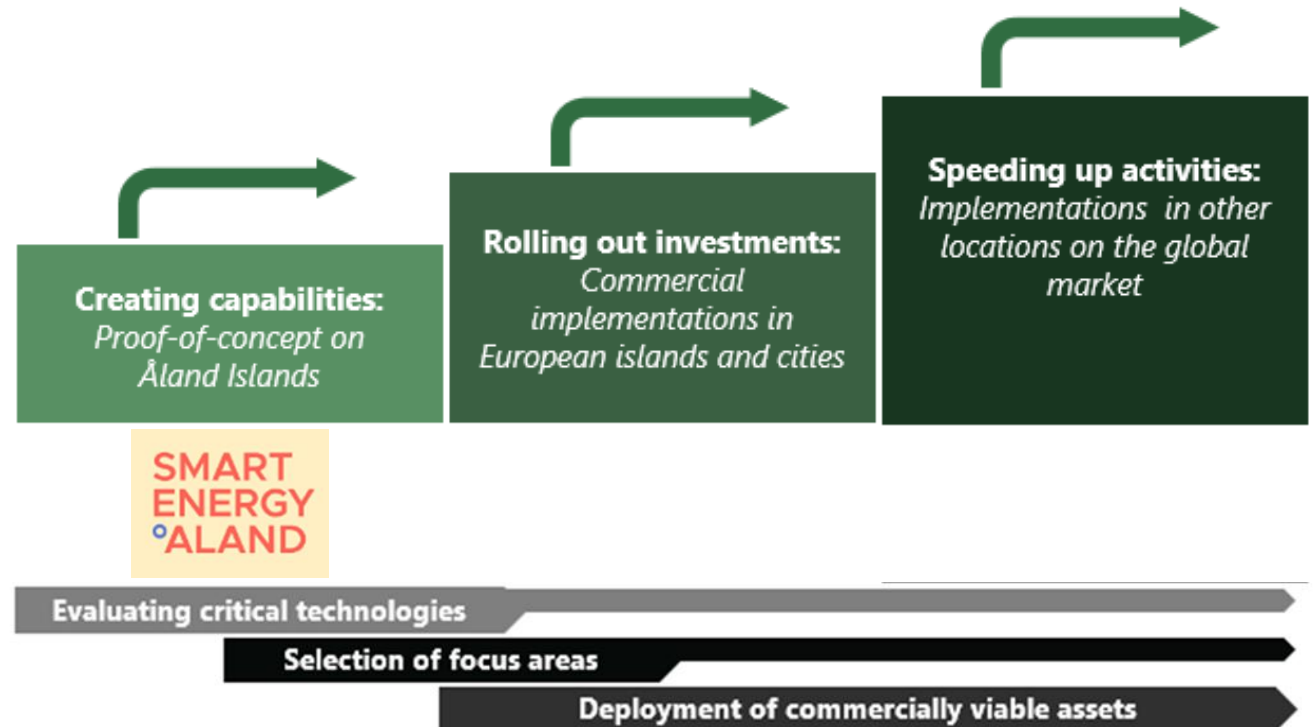


- **Business Ecosystem:** Large multinationals and cutting-edge technology start-ups, providing Flexens with the deep sector and technology insights needed to be at the front of the energy transition. Currently, 28 companies are part of Flexens business ecosystem.
- **Research institutes:** Universities and research agencies with extensive competence within the novel field of flexibility resources and disruptive technologies
- **International networks:** Change agencies with a common interest in facilitating the energy transition gives Flexens a global network of experts
- **Co-operating partners:** Local actors in the Flexens' vicinity who are vital to co-operate with in achieving the Smart Energy Åland targets
- **Shareholders:** Flexens' owners provide both industrial advice and strategic business development support

# Business plan overview

Replicating solutions created in a world leading demonstration

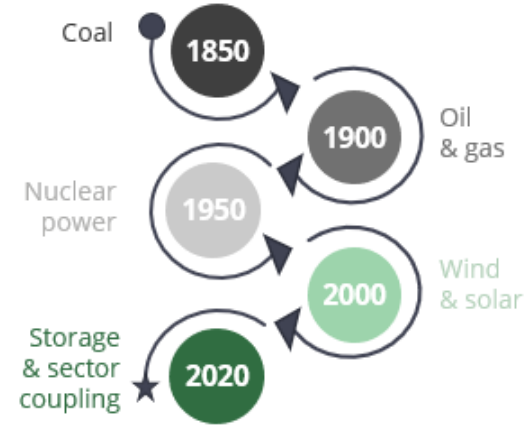
- The company was founded in 2018 to capitalise on the capabilities accumulated in the world leading Smart Energy Åland testbed and demonstration
- With this unique background Flexens plans to become a significant player in the RES project development market globally
- Islands are ideal starting points for the energy transition
- Flexens is already an ideal partner for renewable investors, project developers and communities seeking renewable energy solutions





# The roll-out of renewables creates disruption

- In the same way as successful wind- and solar power developers succeeded in the last 10-15 years, the next big wave in the renewable energy market will be the massive deployment of energy storage and other flexibility resources – necessary for the energy transition
- By creating and managing a world leading demonstration of these new technologies Flexens has developed a unique capability to develop this type of critical assets
- Flexens is well placed to take a leading role in this fast growing market, and in this way make a real impact and a significant contribution to the energy transition



There are good examples and role models of success stories in the market for renewable energy project development with their origins in the previous wave:

NEOEN

res

OX2

<https://www.res-group.com/en>

<https://www.neoen.com/en/>

<https://www.ox2.com/>

A new player with focus on the emerging critical technologies of the next wave can take a significant role in a fast growing market



SMART  
ENERGY  
ALAND

# Smart Energy Åland

Goals, tasks & responsibilities

## Project goals

- Build a full society scale demonstration of an affordable and self sustained energy system based on 100% renewables
- Provide a unique piloting platform for solutions supporting the implementation of variable renewable energy sources
- Accumulated knowledge that can be utilized in other regions

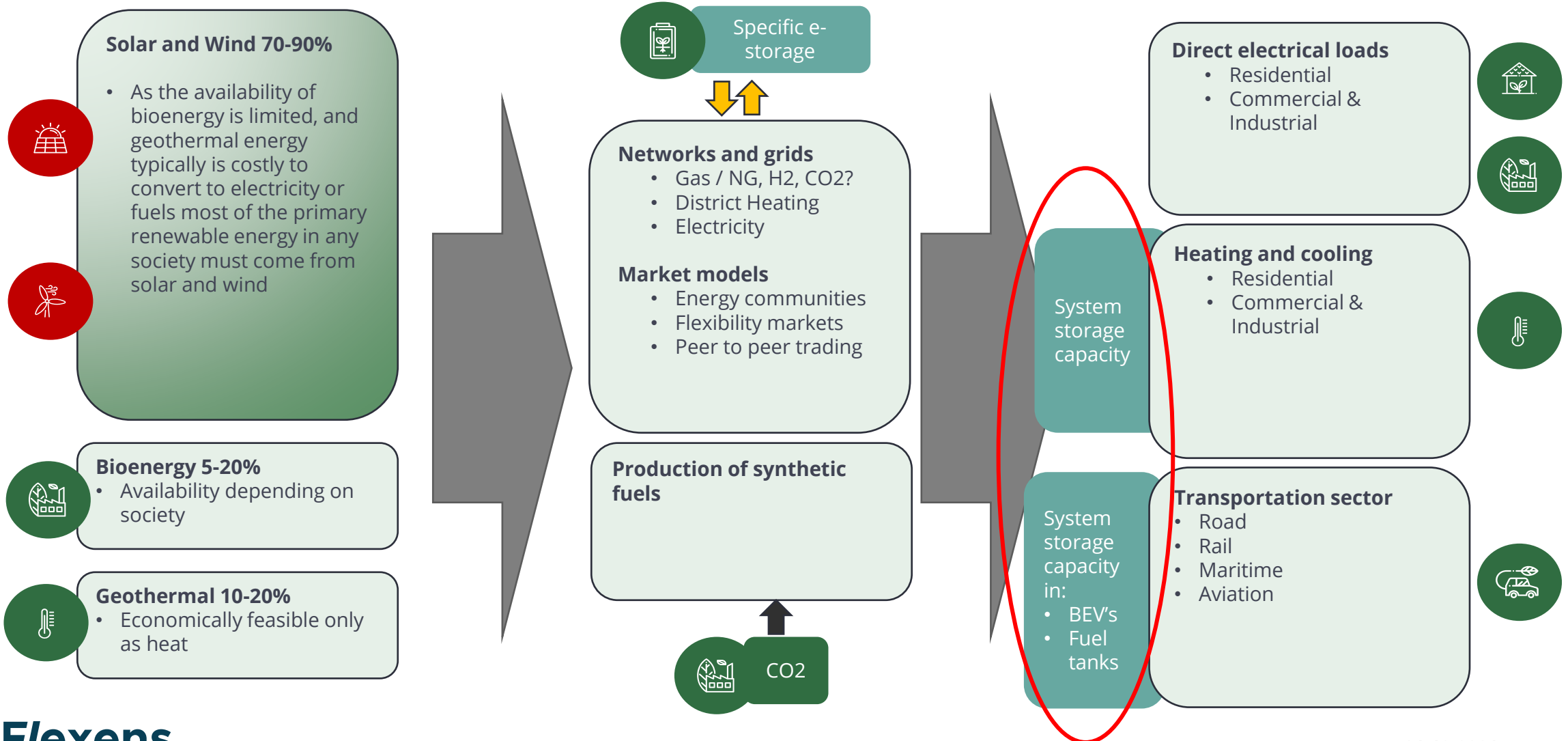
## Flexens tasks & responsibilities

- Lead the energy system development
- Lead multiparty projects to provide holistic solutions
- Engage local citizens and decision-makers
- Raise capital and project financing



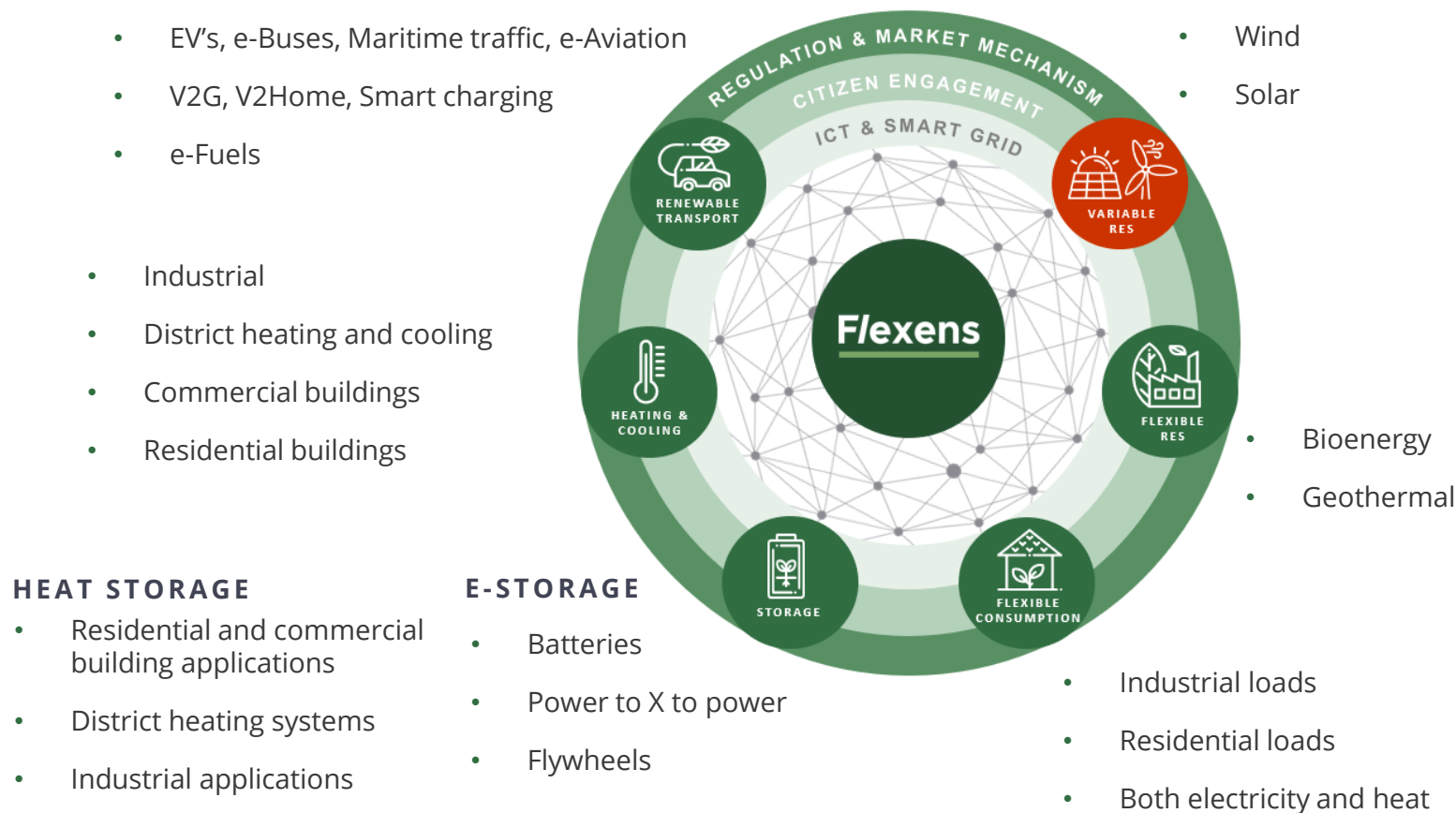


# Key findings and concept



# Sector coupling and system integration

Key theme for Flexens capabilities - demonstrations in several areas ongoing



INCREASING FOCUS ON P-2-X as sector coupling and large scale energy storage solution

Hydrogen for maritime transportation as spearhead project

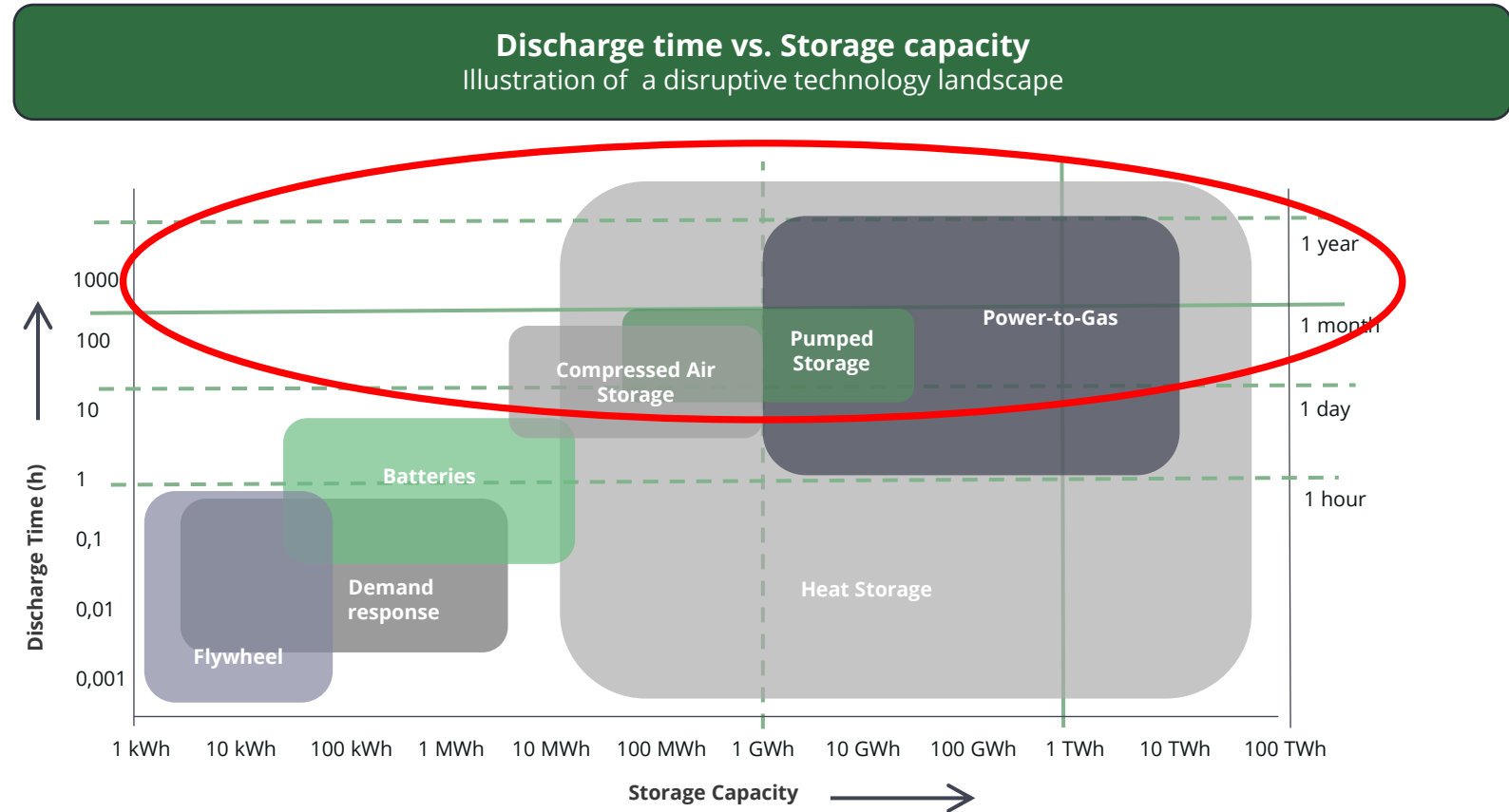
Memberships in

- EU Clean Hydrogen Alliance
  - Seat at CEO Roundtable for mobility
- Finland National Hydrogen Cluster
- GreenE2 Ecosystem

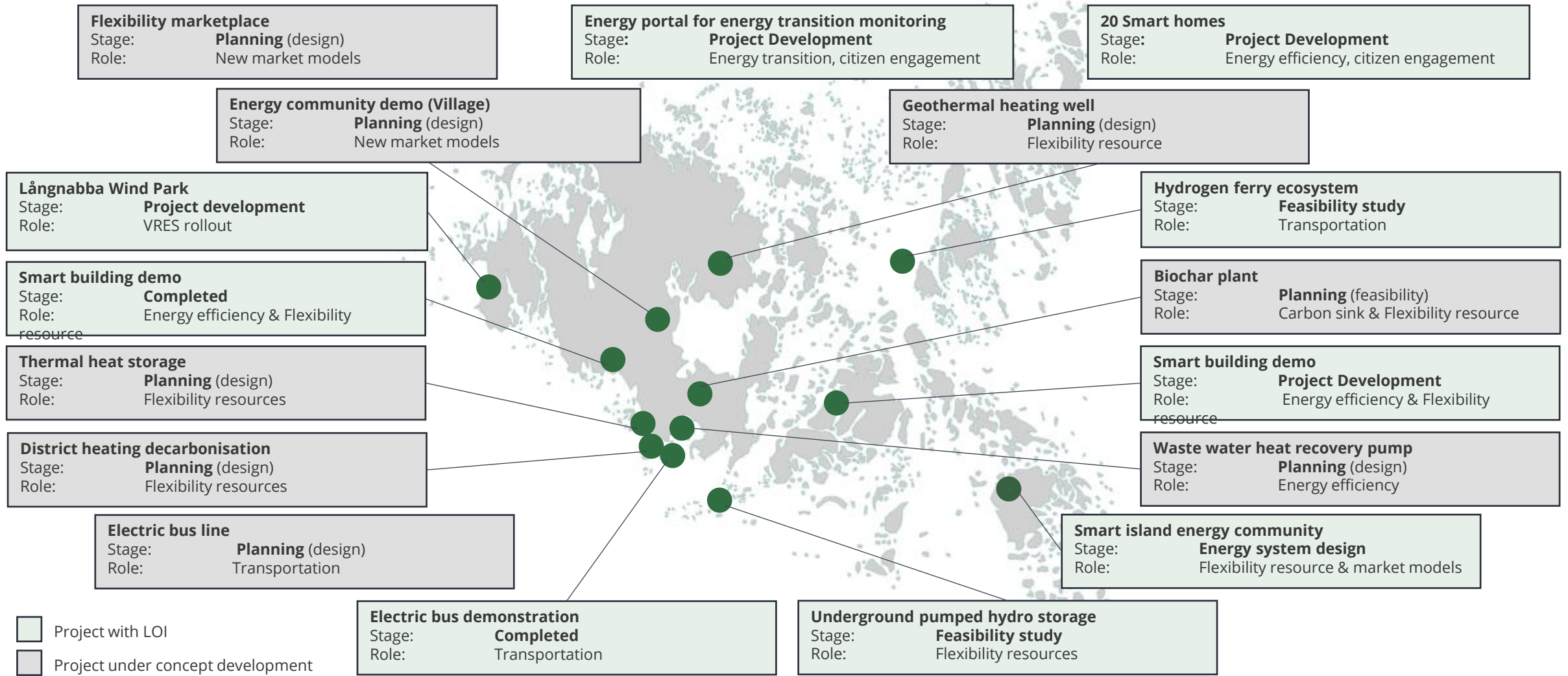
# Sector coupling focus

Flexens is having its core competence focus on selecting and implementing mid term and seasonal energy storage solutions ("days-all year")

Initial target markets being island "island like" societies



# Smart Energy Åland subproject overview



20+ subproject leads in pipeline

# Examples of demo projects



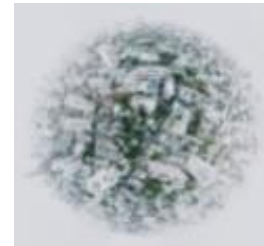
Hydrogen ferry running on locally produced green hydrogen



Energy storage integrated in wind farm



Pumped hydro energy storage



Flexibility market



Energy Island community



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under the Grant Agreement no. 957819



Energy portal



An aerial view of a city at night, overlaid with a green network of nodes and lines. The nodes are connected by thin lines, forming a complex web. Various icons are scattered across the network, including a battery with a lightning bolt, a solar panel, a house, a car, and a building. The background is a dark, grayscale aerial photograph of a city with buildings and streets.

# Case studies / projects

# Case study: Underground pumped hydro storage

## Project overview

An underground pumped-hydro storage (UPHS) to be build in an abandoned mine on a small island in direct connection with an existing wind park

- Filling the caves with water running through a turbine at periods of light winds <-> Pumping the water out at periods of strong wind
- The first plant of PHS technology implemented in an old mine

Major benefits from UPHS:

- Absorb excess power in the grid particularly when balancing energy produced by wind & solar plants
- Absorb base load production particularly from nuclear and coal plants



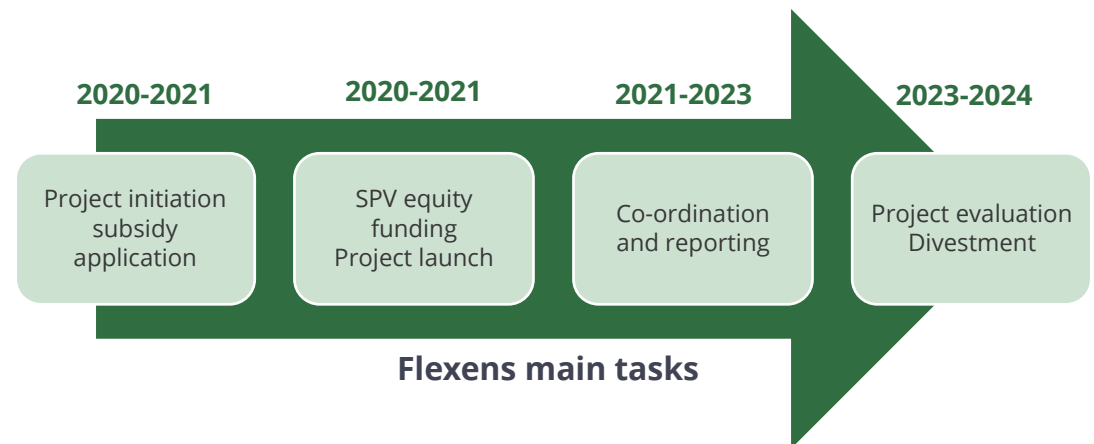
Power capacity: **2 MW**  
Storage capacity: **8 MWh**  
Commercially viable by: **2023**

## Funded by the Energimyndigheten

**The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate a new, highly innovative method for large scale underground energy storage that enables storage with 70-80% round-trip efficiency.**

The project include the following sub-objectives:

- 1 Verify the innovative concept and full operating conditions
- 2 Develop and verify a scalable standard design concept
- 3 Perform a fast replication and commercialization



# Case study: Kökar smart island energy community

## Kökar in a nutshell

- Total land area of 64 km<sup>2</sup> with 170 inhabitants during winter, and up to 1,000 during summer
- Annual electricity consumption is 2.9 GWh
- The electric cable to mainland 1.5 MW (Min-max load 400-800 kW)
  - Occasional outages (3-4 interruptions per year)
- Wind power 500 kW and approx. 75 kW of PV and micro wind
- Ferry transport to and from the island accounts for most of the total energy consumption

## Overall goal and ongoing actions



To become a fully renewable energy system

Modelling the system and creating the decarbonisation plan for Kökar

**Flexens**

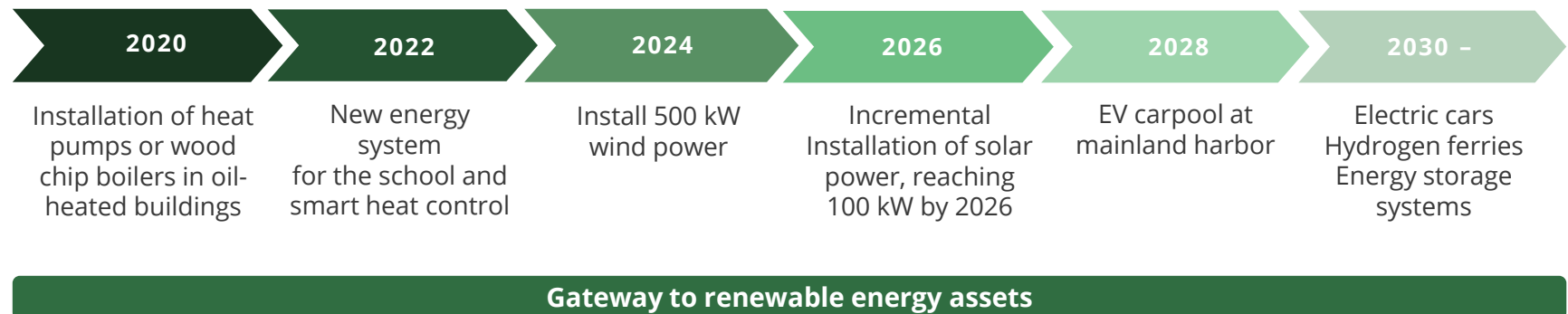
Thermal heat storage solar PV & battery in progress  
Received EU Horizon 2020 funding



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under the Grant Agreement no. 957819



## Energy Transition Agenda powered by Flexens



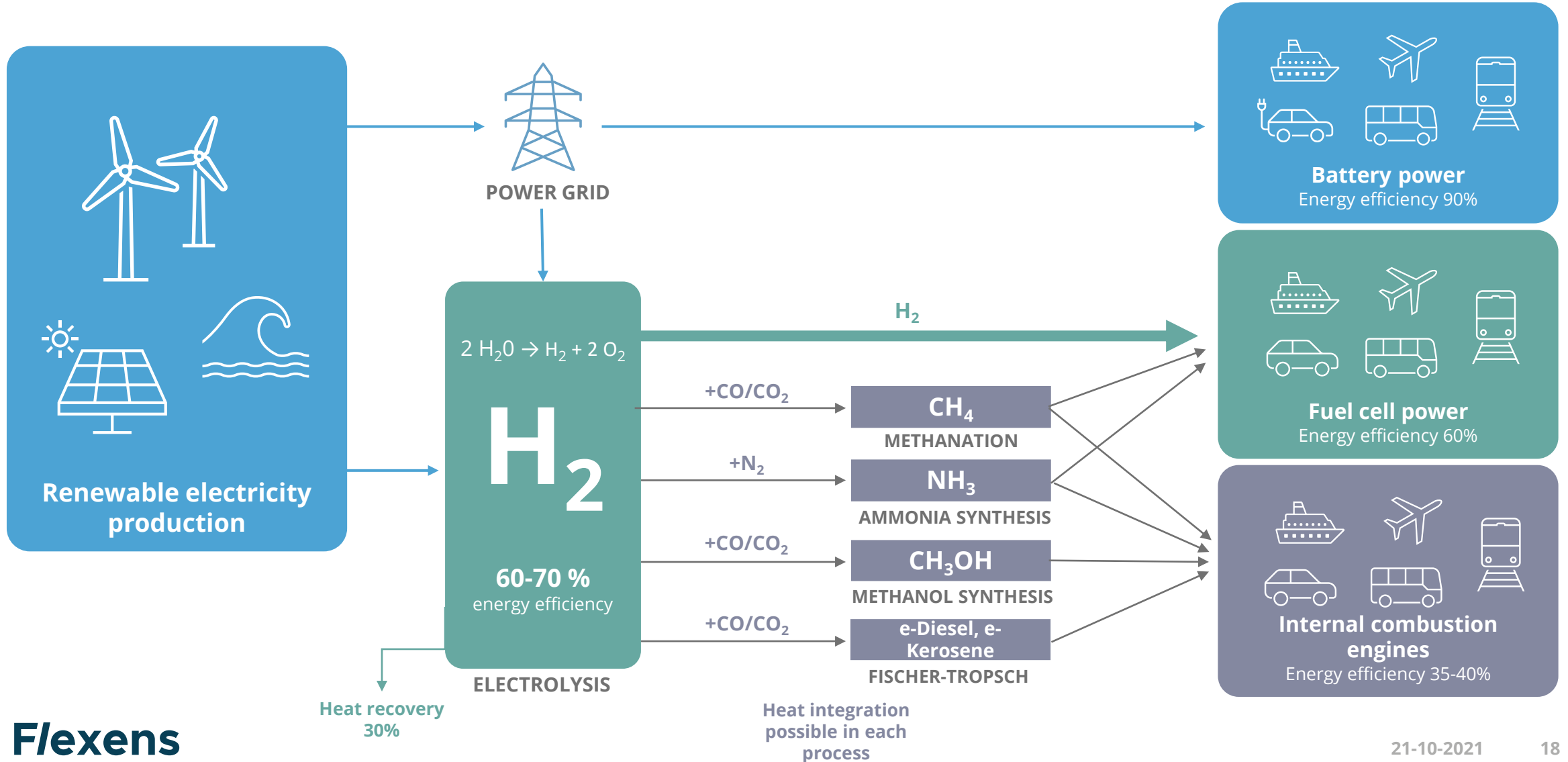


# Replicable Hydrogen Concept and vision



# Power sector will run future logistics

Availability of biofuels is limited; E-fuel will be needed.





# Hydrogen Ferry Concept

Integrated solution for Green Hydrogen

## Main target area: European islands

- In most Island societies the "getting to and from the Island" represents the biggest CO2 emitter
- In the EU alone there are 2400 inhabited islands, and most of the pilot islands in the Clean Energy for European Islands initiative has identified the opportunity for a hydrogen ferry in their energy transition plan (source: <https://euislands.eu/clean-energy-islands>)
- Islands typically have good local wind and/or solar conditions but also grid challenges, thus providing ideal conditions for storage and power-to-x solutions

## Alternative target area: Other ferry traffic

- The concept is also applicable to other ferry routes whenever the local conditions for renewable electricity generation are good



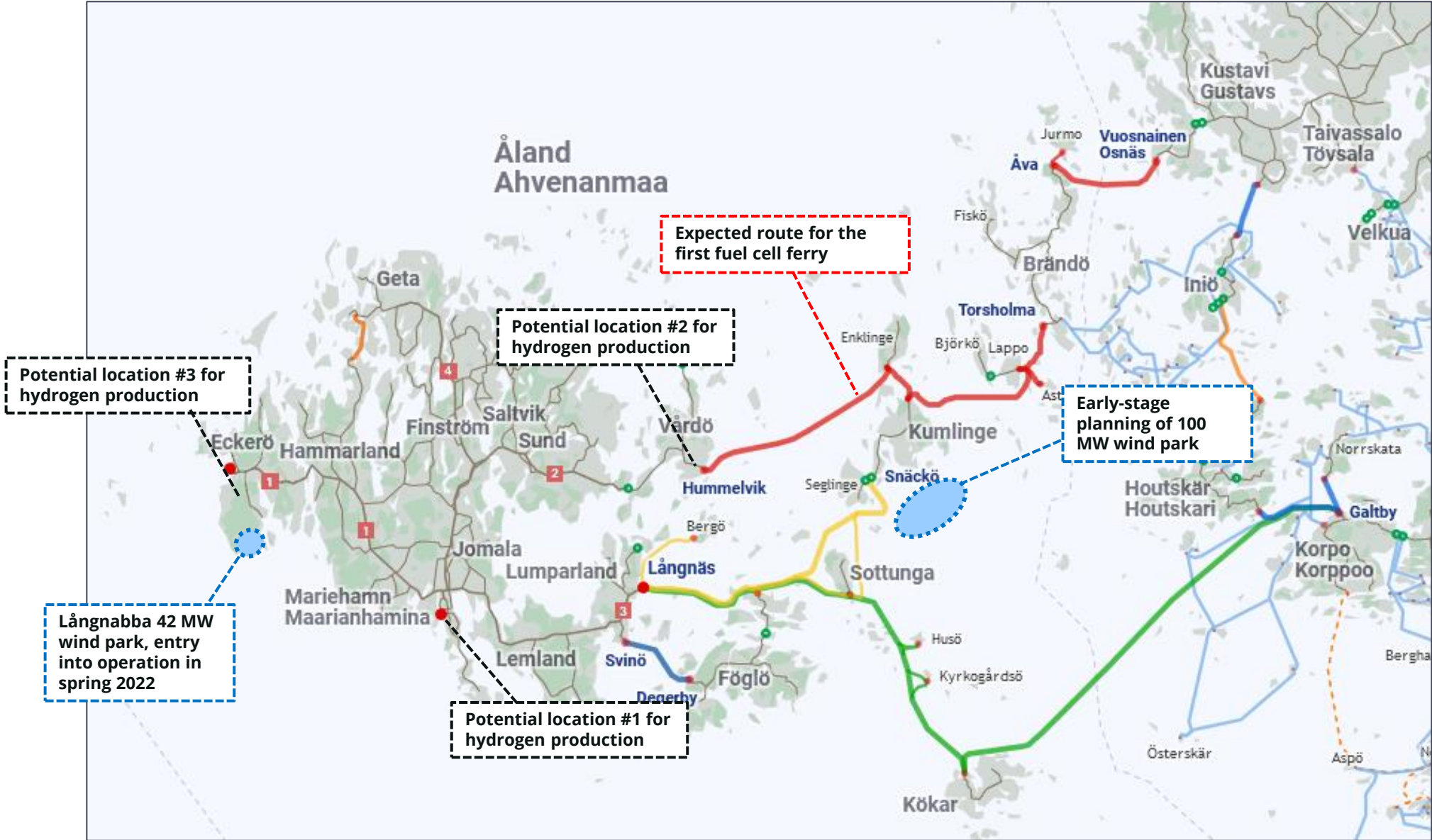
# Power2AX PROJECT

## LOCAL GREEN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION FOR A FUEL CELL FERRY IN ÅLAND, FINLAND

The feasibility study of Power2AX project was delivered by two engineering offices, Deltamarin and Elomatic in November 2020. In the best-case scenario, if the project would be advanced full-speed, hydrogen ferries could be expected to enter operation in 2024:



(Archipelago ferry routes as coloured lines)



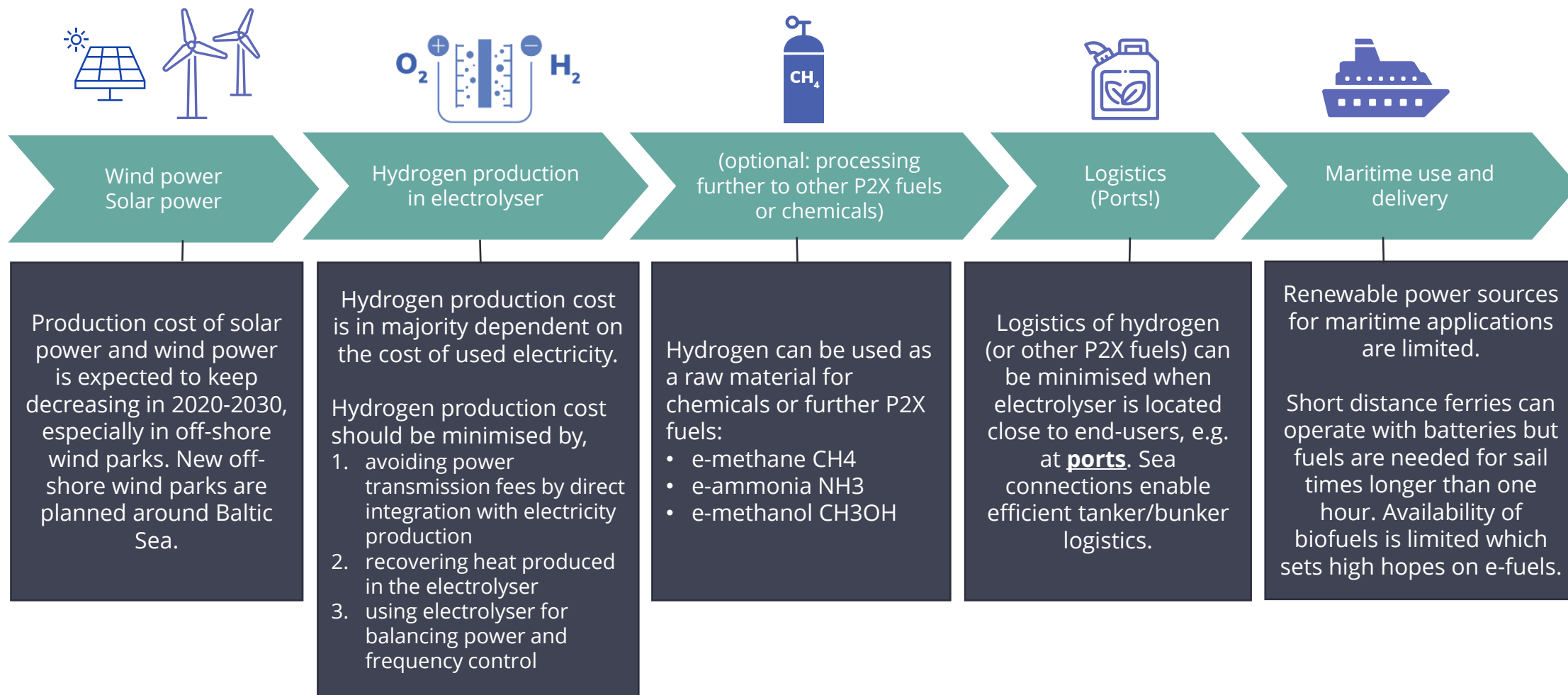


An aerial view of a city at night, overlaid with a green network of nodes and lines. The network is dense and interconnected, with nodes of varying sizes. Several icons are placed at specific nodes: a battery with a lightning bolt, a solar panel, a house, a factory, a car, and a group of people. The background is dark, with city lights visible.

# Vision for next steps

# Expanding the Hydrogen ferry concept

Matching optimal hydrogen production costs with high value transport use





# Matching Baltic Sea with Power-to-X

## Key conditions

**Great wind power potential at coastal areas...**

**Scattered population and industry...**

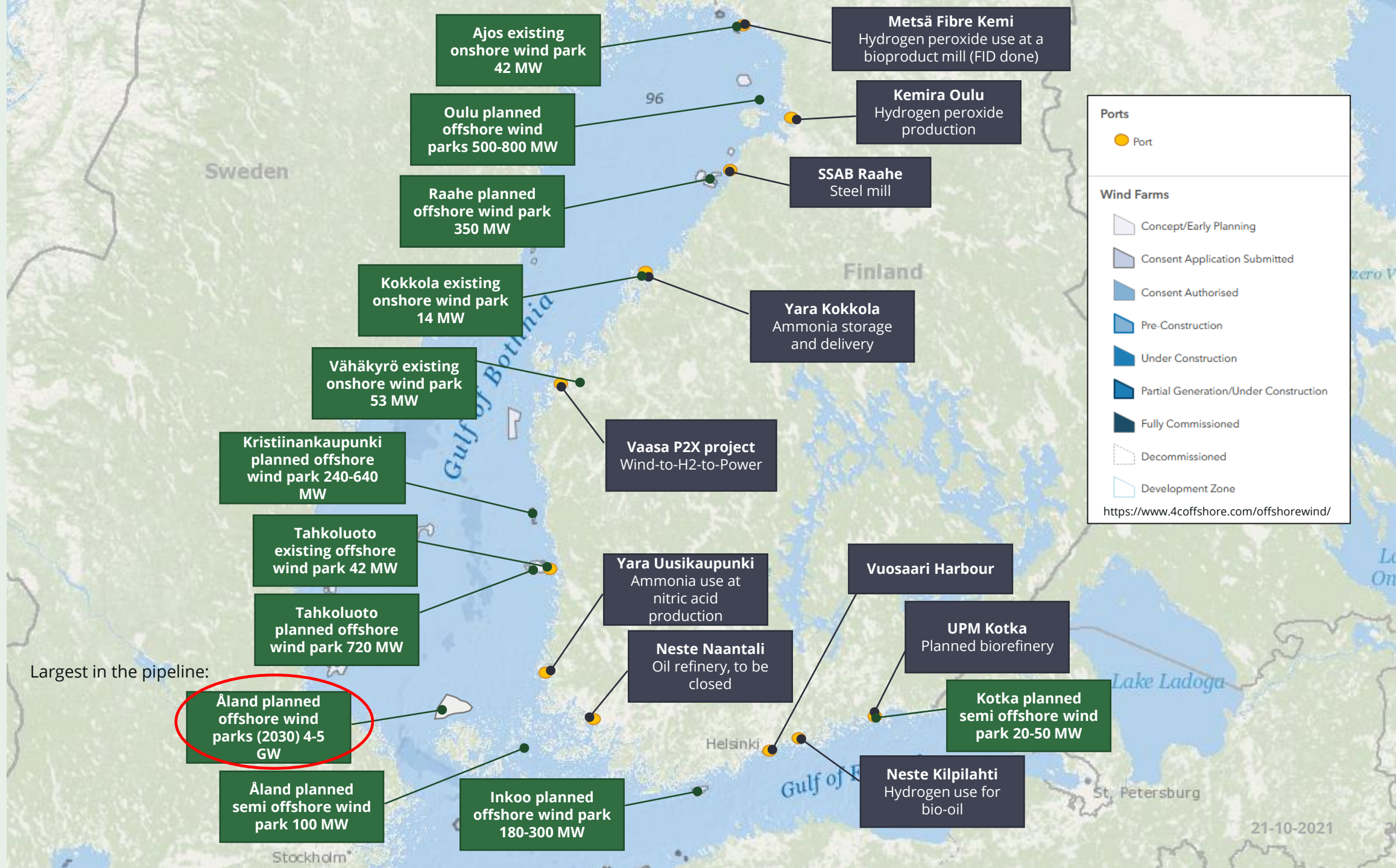
**Strong maritime industries...**

## Unique potential to build the value chain

→ **Coastal hydrogen production with wind power**

→ **Batchwise hydrogen and e-fuel delivery**

→ **Development of zero carbon shipping industry**



**Ajos existing onshore wind park 42 MW**

**Metsä Fibre Kemi**  
Hydrogen peroxide use at a bioproduct mill (FID done)

**Oulu planned offshore wind parks 500-800 MW**

**Kemira Oulu**  
Hydrogen peroxide production

**Raahe planned offshore wind park 350 MW**

**SSAB Raahe**  
Steel mill

**Kokkola existing onshore wind park 14 MW**

**Yara Kokkola**  
Ammonia storage and delivery

**Vähäkyrö existing onshore wind park 53 MW**

**Vaasa P2X project**  
Wind-to-H2-to-Power

**Kristiinankaupunki planned offshore wind park 240-640 MW**

**Tahkoluoto existing offshore wind park 42 MW**

**Yara Uusikaupunki**  
Ammonia use at nitric acid production

**Vuosaari Harbour**

**Tahkoluoto planned offshore wind park 720 MW**

**Neste Naantali**  
Oil refinery, to be closed

**UPM Kotka**  
Planned biorefinery

Largest in the pipeline:

**Åland planned offshore wind parks (2030) 4-5 GW**

**Kotka planned semi offshore wind park 20-50 MW**

**Åland planned semi offshore wind park 100 MW**

**Inkoo planned offshore wind park 180-300 MW**

**Neste Kilpilahti**  
Hydrogen use for bio-oil

**Ports**

- Port

**Wind Farms**

- Concept/Early Planning
- Consent Application Submitted
- Consent Authorised
- Pre-Construction
- Under Construction
- Partial Generation/Under Construction
- Fully Commissioned
- Decommissioned
- Development Zone

<https://www.4coffshore.com/offshorewind/>



**Vision:** Interconnecting Baltic Sea Region through network of Power-to-X fuel plants at ports and vessel connections.

1. Vessels using and transporting Power-to-X fuels

2. Ports with Power-to-X production and logistics

**On-going development:** x00 MW offshore and coastal wind parks around Baltic Sea

3. Power connections and smart grids

4. Off-shore and coastal wind power

# Membership in Finnish national hydrogen cluster and BothH<sub>2</sub>nia initiative

**BothH<sub>2</sub>nia**

Hydrogen bay of the North

# Gulf of Bothnia – the hydrogen bay of the North

## Large industrial H<sub>2</sub> users

- SSAB, LKAB, Kemira, Kokkola Industrial Park ...

## Multiple bio-product plants

- GHG-neutral CO<sub>2</sub>

## Renewable energy available

- > 20 GW of new wind power capacity planned
- Lots of hydropower and biomass

## New nuclear power plants

- OL3, Pyhäjoki, total 2.8 GW

## Developed infrastructure

- Stable power grid, joint market
- >15 industrial harbours
- H<sub>2</sub> grid proposed (see line)



European Hydrogen Backbone; vision 2035

## Public-Private -cooperation

- Very close cooperation compared to most other areas
- Good examples of successful cross-border projects

## Active projects on-going

- Nordic Arc & Hydrogen Bay

## National H<sub>2</sub> clusters

- Swedish H<sub>2</sub> Development Center
- Finnish H<sub>2</sub> Cluster

## Cooperation within EU

- ECH2A
- Hydrogen Europe

## EU financing possibilities

- EIC / EASME
- IPCEI
- EIB / EIF / RRF ...



The background is a dark, aerial view of a city at night, with buildings and streets visible. Overlaid on this is a green network of lines and dots, representing a smart grid or energy network. Various energy-related icons are scattered throughout the network, including a sun, solar panels, wind turbines, a battery, and a house.

# Flexens

FLEXIBLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

## Thank you