Greening steel production – technologies and policies

Marlene Arens – Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, Germany January, 27th 2021 Greening High-Temperature Manufacturing: Toward an RD&D Agenda

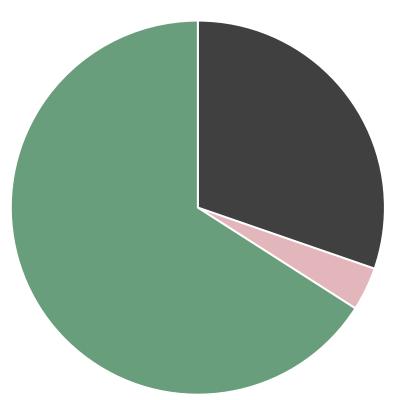


Outline

- US steel production 2019
- Alternatives to coal
- The challenge
- Technologies
 - Hydrogen Direct Reduction
 - Electrolysis
 - Plasmasmelting
- Conclusions

US steel production 2019

88 million tons



coal based (coal & iron ore)
natural gas based (natural gas & iron ore)
scrap based (scrap & electricity)

Sources: Worldsteel Steel in Figures, 2019, Midrex 2019.

Steel sector's CO₂ emissions – it's not only about heat, it is also about chemical reactions

Coal based steelmaking:				
Fe ₂ O ₃	+	C →	Fe	+ CO ₂
Iron Ore	+	Carbon \rightarrow	Iron	+ Carbon Dioxide
Hydrogen based steelmaking:				
Fe_2O_3	+	$H_2 \rightarrow$	Fe	+ <i>H</i> ₂ O
Iron Ore	+	Hydrogen -	lron	+ Water
Electricity based steelmaking:				
Fe ₂ O ₃	+	e- →	Fe	+ O ₂
Iron Ore	+	Electricity ->	Iron	+ Oxygen
Coal based steelmaking + carbon capture:				
Fe ₂ O ₃	+	C →	Fe	+ $(CO_2) \rightarrow$
Iron Ore	+	Carbon →	Iron	+ Carbon Dioxide

Coal based steel production site (example)



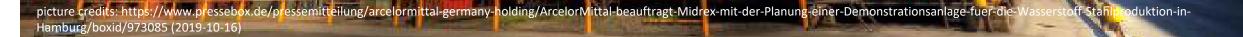
Rolling/Finishing

- Hydrogen Direct Reduction
- Electrolysis
- Plasmasmelting
- (Carbon capture)
- demand reduction

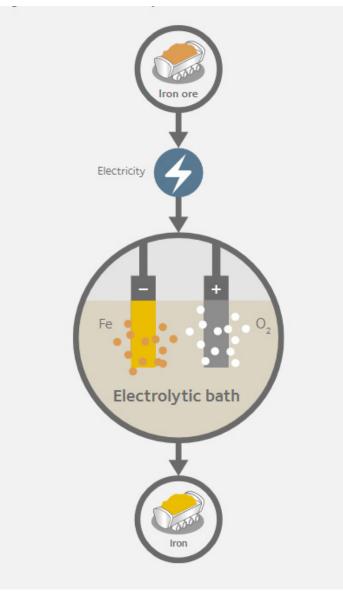
Source: http://www.talk-finance.co.uk/economics/tata-steel-staff-wages-are-frozen-by-agreement-with-trade-union/ (2021-01-25)

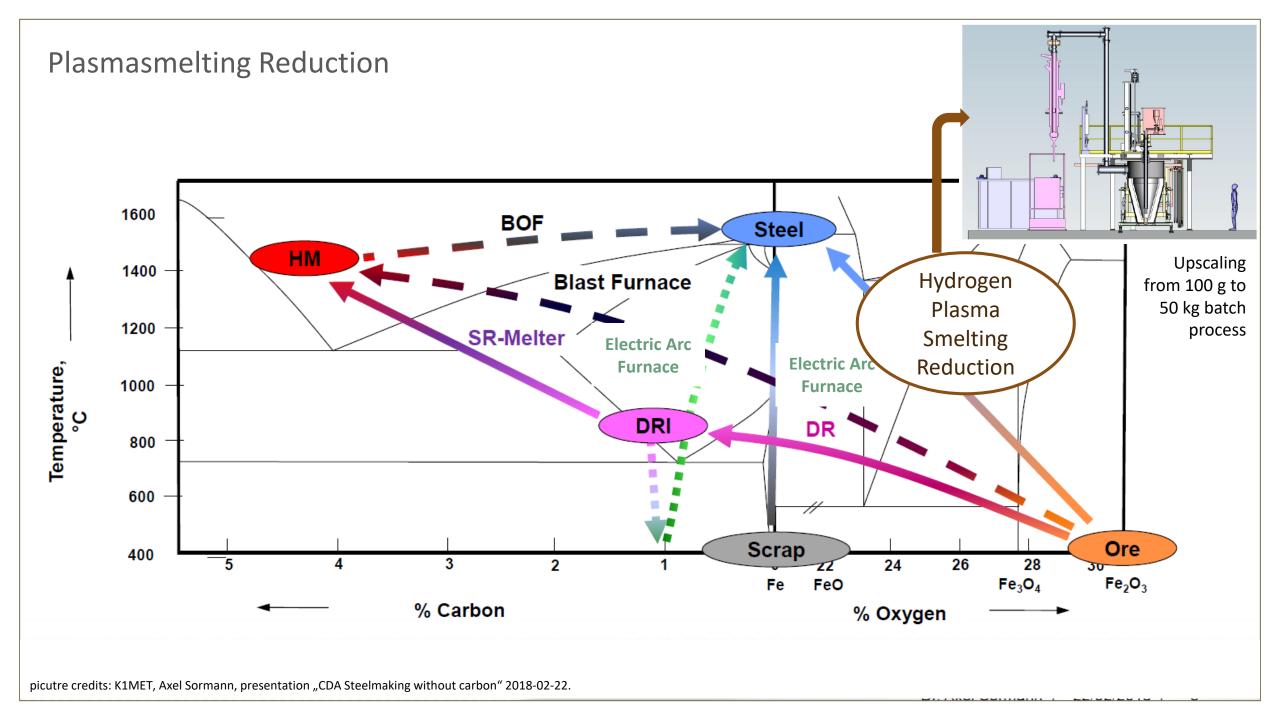
Gas-based direct reduction

- commercial, 82 Mt globally in 2019
- can be switched to hydrogen with minor changes (flexible use as well)
- in Europe: HYBRIT (Pilot), SALCOS (Pilot), ThyssenKrupp, Dillinger, ArcleorMittal (grey hydrogen)
- in Asia: HBIS Group 0.6 Mt plant ordered Nov 2020; Baosteel Carbon Neutrality Goal 2050 (?)



Electricity based steelmaking at ArcelorMittal (Siderwin)





Conclusions

- Hydrogen direct reduction for close to zero emissions steelmaking is (almost) commercially available
- Steelmaking plants that use natural gas can be run with hydrogen as well (with minor adjustements)
- Other low CO₂ steelmaking technologies are at early stage of development.
- Carbon capture as a low-CO₂ technologies may be reserved for sectors harder to abate (air transport, chemicals) or to achieve negative emissions to compensation agriculture and landuse
- Material efficiency!
- Major barriers: operational costs & availability of low-CO₂ hydrogen
- Policies that adress operational costs: e.g. lead markets, quotas, carbon contracts for difference, carbon border adjustments

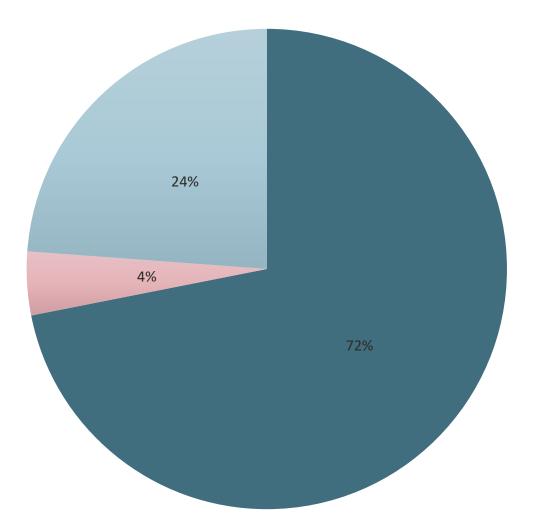
Thanks for listening!

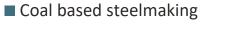
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Back up

Why coal matters – Global steel production today





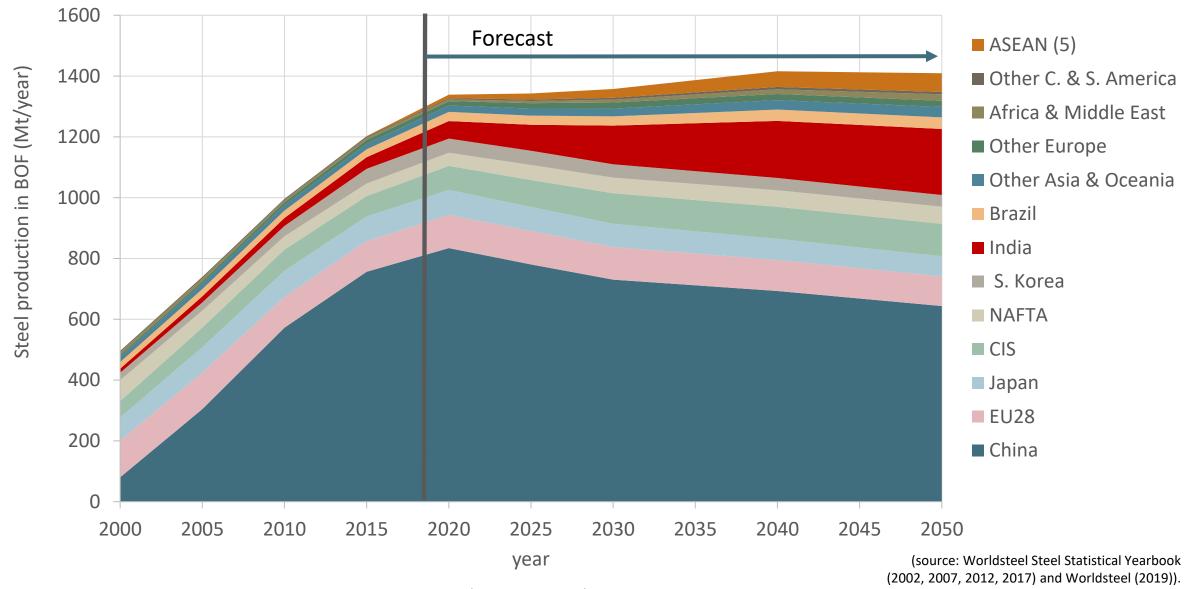
- Natural gas based steelmaking
- Scrap based steelmaking (Recycling)

total 1.7 billion ton steel (2017)

sources: Worldsteel, Midrex [neglecting coal based steelmaking in rotary kilns (15 Mio t, 2017)]

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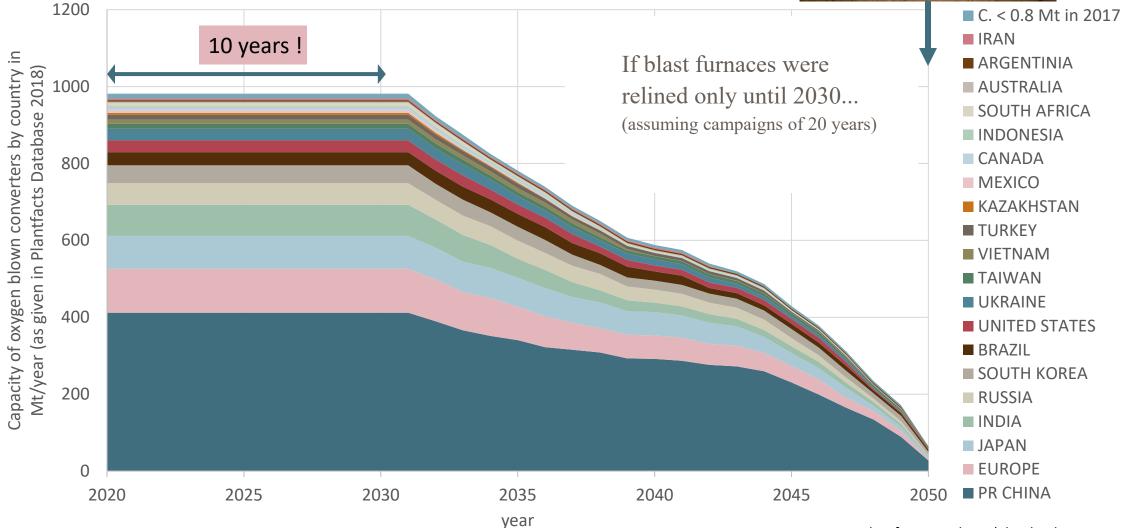
What is going to happen - Primary steel production (2000-2015) & Forecast (2020-2050)



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What should happen?





source: Plantfacts Database (The database lacks several 100 Mts for China)

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