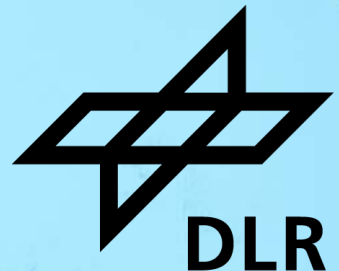


Costs and environmental impacts of a cryogenic H2 tank demonstrator

EASN Conference 2025

Dr. Christian Bülow – German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Institute of Lightweight Systems (SY)

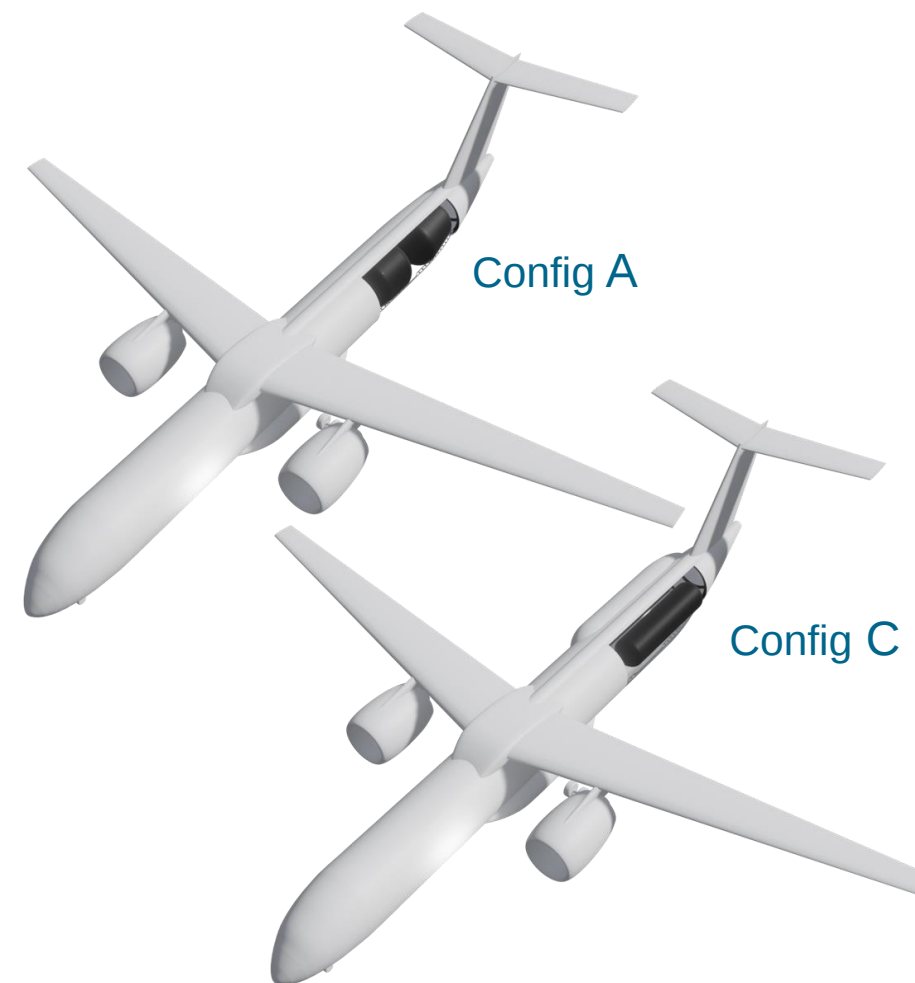
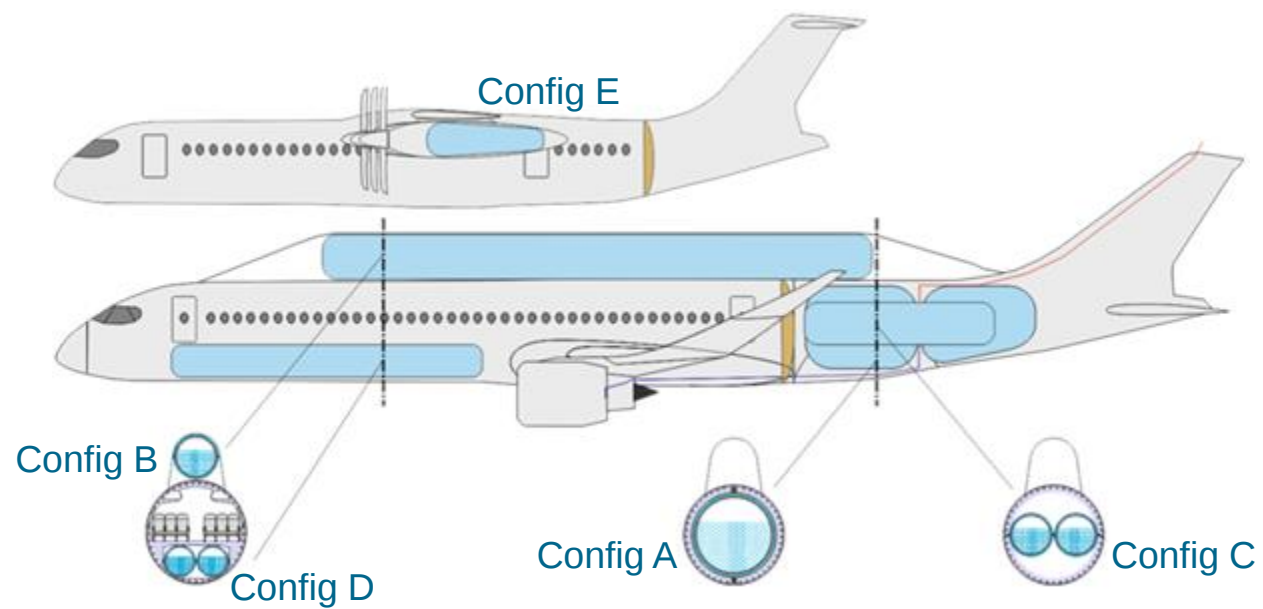


Content

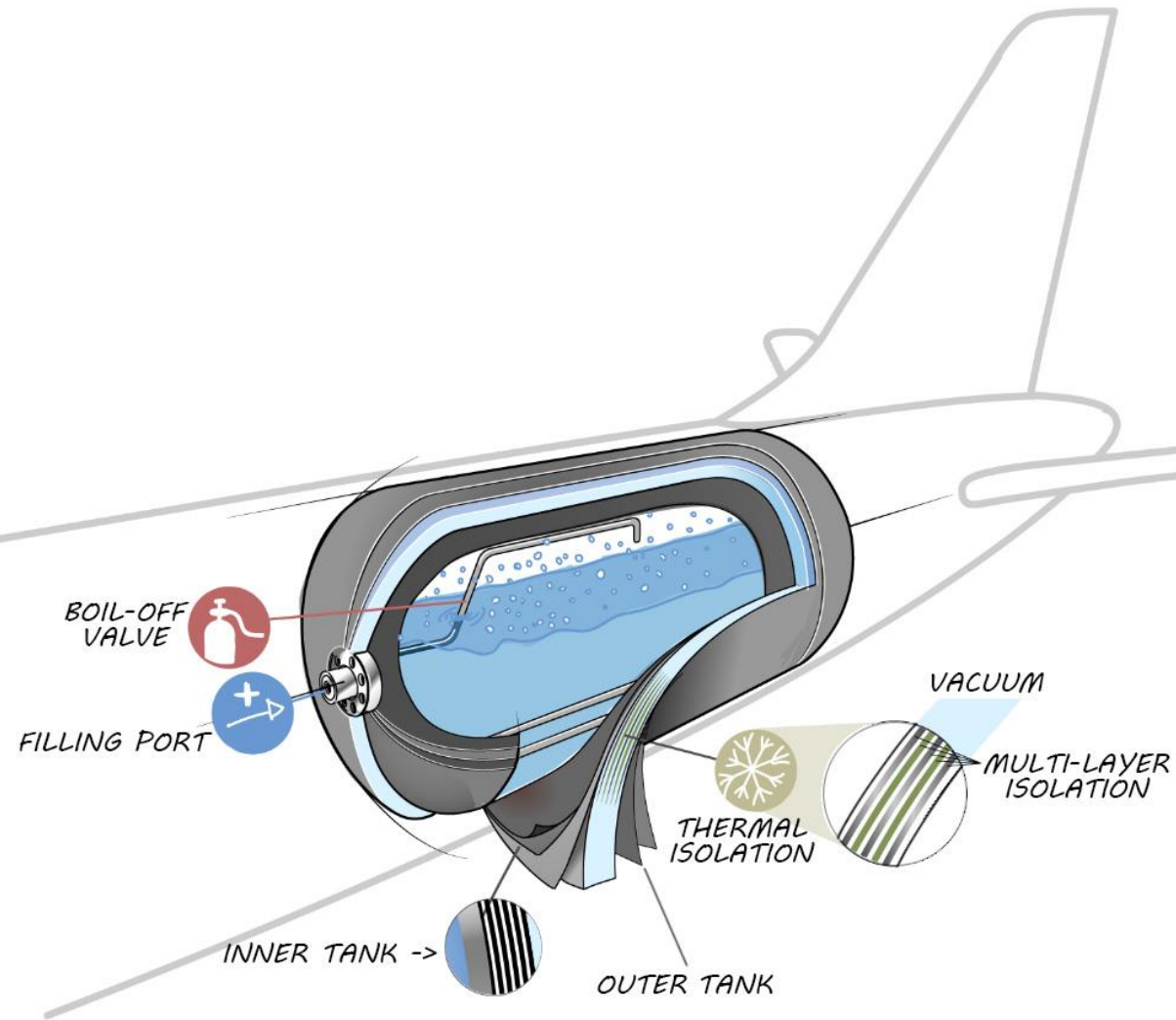


1. Tank configuration and structure
2. HyStor and Tacoma project
3. Cost assessment
4. Environmental impacts
5. Conclusions and Outlook

2. Possible tank configurations



2. Tank structure



3. HyStor and Tacoma project

HyStor

- Funding by: Federal State of Lower Saxony - NBank
- Duration: 2021 – 2023
- Aim: production demonstrator in the form of a half tank (Config A)
- Provided the LCI data

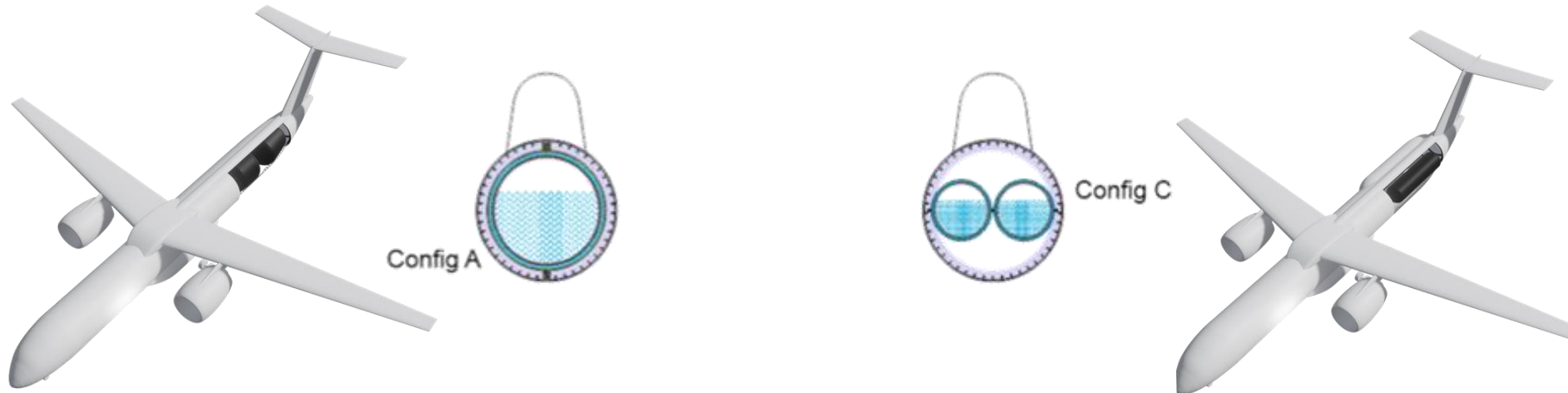
Tacoma

- Funding: National aviation research program of Germany – LuFo
- Duration: 2023 - 2026
- Aim: Development of a cryogenic aviation tank (Config C)
- LCA and cost assessment are performed

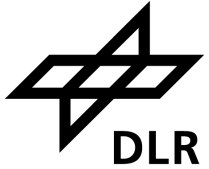


3. Scaling between the configurations A & C

- Fictitious tank geometries served as production demonstrators in the projects HyStor (Config A) and Tacoma (Config C)
- No complete data set yet available for Config C
- Use of Config A production as reference
- Scaling of the Config A results to Config C based on volume $\rightarrow$ Factor 2



4. Process chain and LCI of the tank production

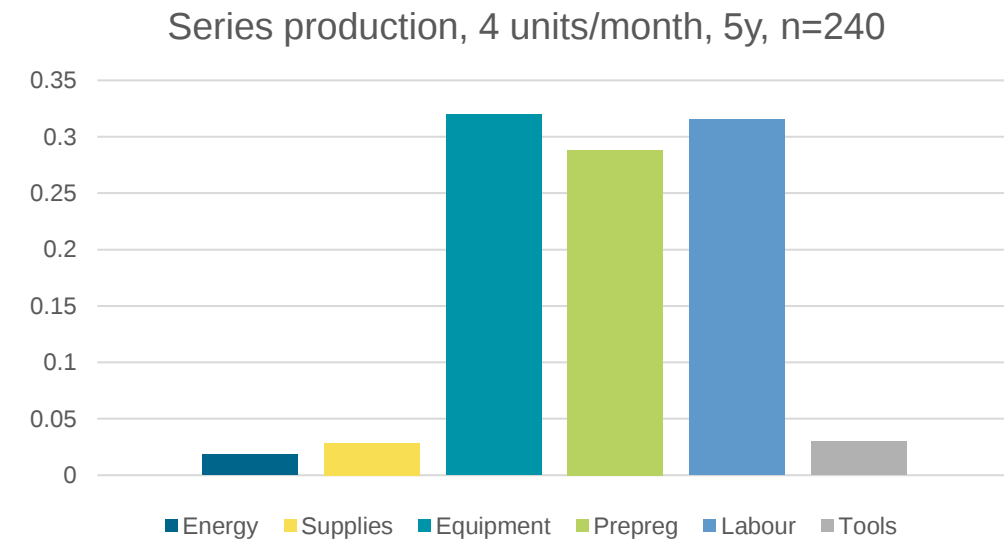
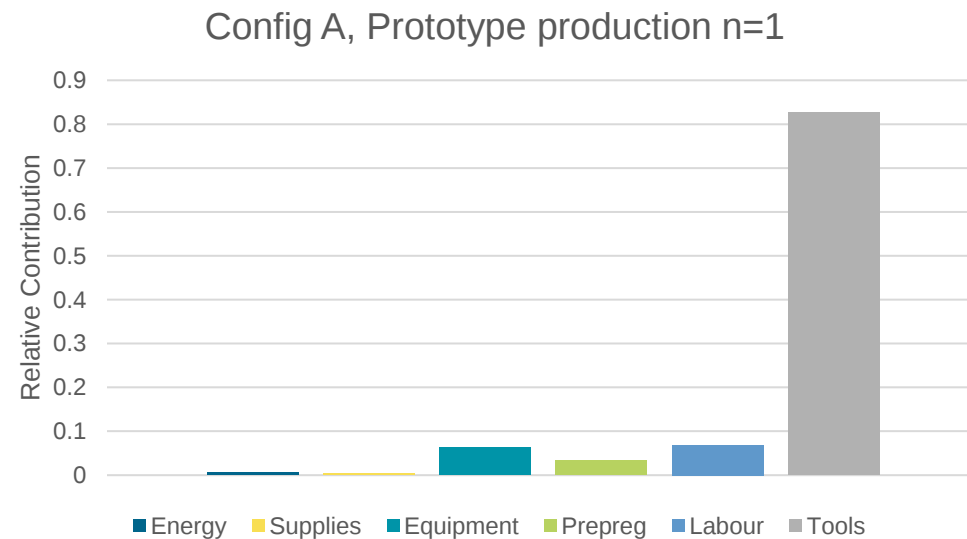


- Definition of the system boundaries
- Setting up the process chain
- Common LCI for economic & ecological evaluation



4. Cost assessment

- Cost estimation of Config A production based on DLR costs
- Estimation of the costs of series production

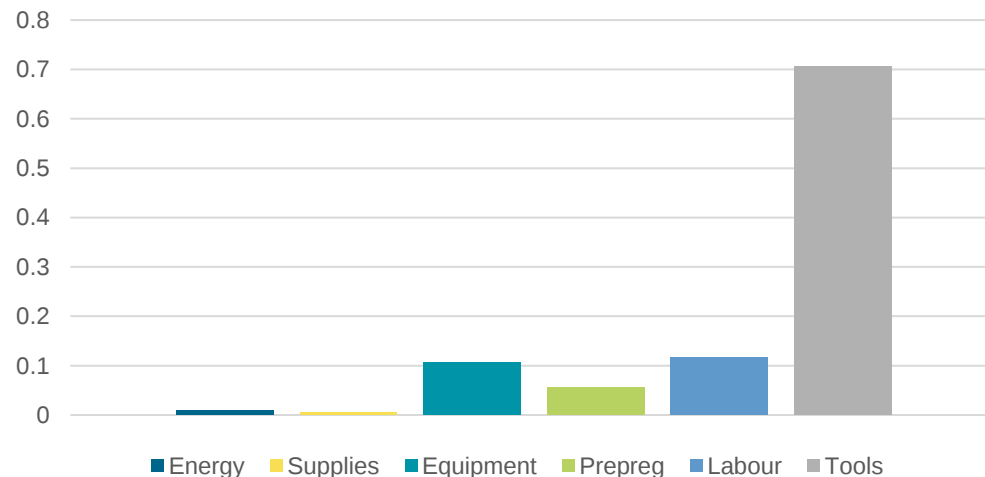


→ Cost reduction of **89%** compared to prototype production

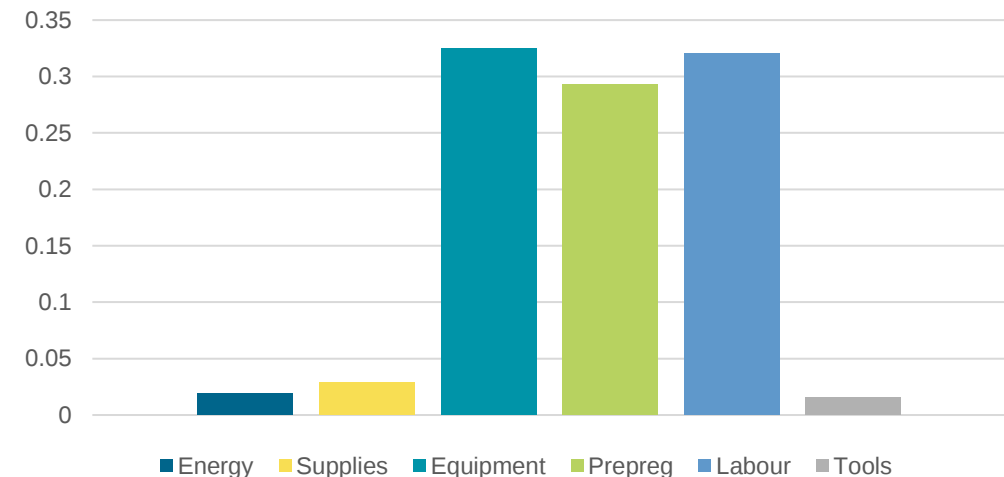
4. Scaling the costs to Config C

- Scaling the HyStor costs to Tacoma tank configuration
 - Factor 2 -> Tank cost in series production ~2x

Config C, Prototype production n=1

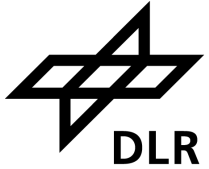


Series production, 4 units/month, 5y, n=240



→ Cost reduction of **81%** compared to prototype production

5. Life Cycle Assessment - LCA



- Intended application:
 - Preliminary LCA of LH2 CFRP tank shell for Tacoma
- Product system:
 - Production of the inner CFRP shell of the Tacoma LH2 tank
- Declared Unit
 - 1 unit of a CFRP shell for a LH2 tank
- System boundaries:
 - Cradle to gate
 - Included:
 - manufacturing processes of CFRP layers (primary lab data, assumptions)
 - Tool and demoulding device
 - Materials (secondary data based on literature and LCA databases)
 - Excluded in this version:
 - Assembly (merging of half-tank segments to one layer)
 - detailed material composition of the hydrogen tank including isolation and systems
 - Autoclave production and infrastructure
 - transportation of manufactured tank to the assembly line
 - manufacturing and maintenance of equipment
 - mechanic-related impacts (e.g. lunch, commute, ...)

5. LCA background

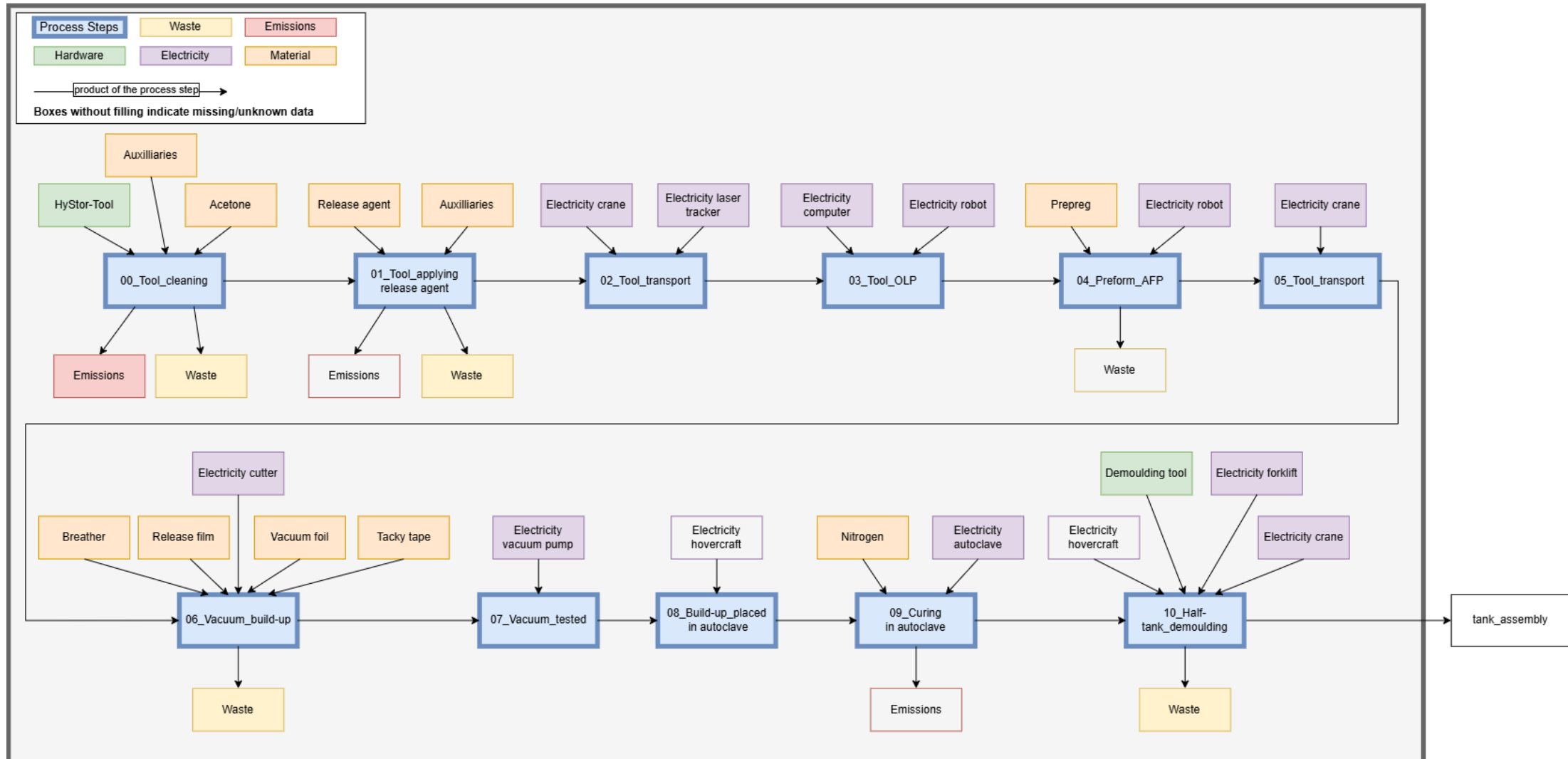


- Allocation procedures:
 - Based on masses
- LCIA methodology:
 - Environmental Footprint (EF 3.1)
- Database:
 - Ecolnvent 3.9.1. cut-off is used as a background database
- Software:
 - Open-source software brightway2/Activity-Browser
- Modelling approach:
 - Attributional
- Assumptions:
 - Production activities are assumed to take place in *Europe* or in Germany depending on the available inventory data
- Limitations:
 - There is a lack of reliable data for certain impact categories (e.g. water demand).
 - The impacts from the design and development of the aircraft concepts are not considered.

ecolnvent

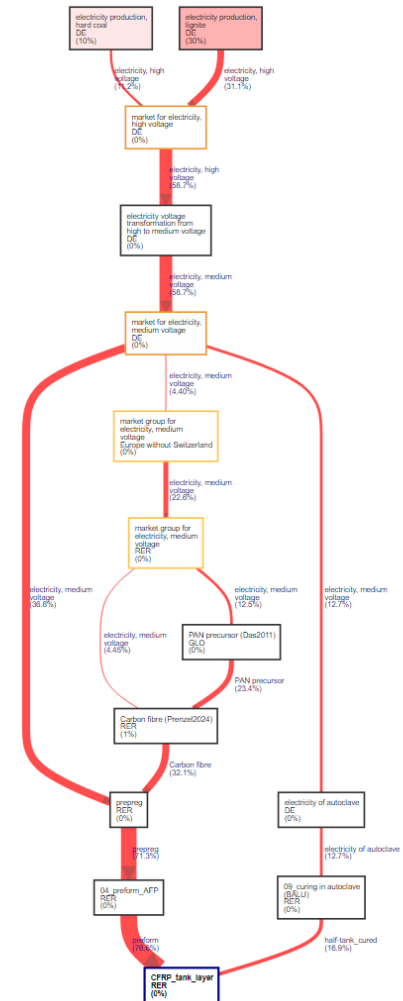


5. Process description for the LCA



5. Absolute impacts EF 3.1

reference product		CFRP_tank_lay er_total	tool_clean	tool_prepared	tool_placed	tool_tested	preform	preform_placed	vacuum build- up	vacuum build- up_tested	vacuum build_up_place d	half-tank_cured
name		CFRP_tank_lay er_total	00_tool_cleanin g	01_tool_applyin g release agent	02_tool_transp ort to GroFi facility	03_tool_OLP	04_preform_AFP	05_preform_tra nsport to the autoclave wagon	06_vacuum build-up	07_vacuum build-up_tested	08_vacuum build_up_place d in autoclave	09_curing in autoclave (BALU)
location		RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER	RER
	unit											
Acidification	mol H+ eq	27.07016658	0.124678054	0.153067481	0.003341934	0.020631712	21.40819946	0.003278878	0.81302138	0.006809978		0
Climate Change (GWP100)	kg CO2 eq	9412.349812	22.00549043	17.1057381	1.166209167	7.199691308	7214.287941	1.14420522	560.2564688	2.376426226		0
Ecotoxicity Freshwater	CTUe	39198.55474	126.3021817	253.055955	2.774904164	17.13110646	35601.39427	2.722547482	770.5821109	5.654521693		0
Resource Use Fossil	MJ	158511.5455	347.58887	507.6764631	17.7071209	109.3164143	126497.5807	17.37302428	3538.507429	36.08243505		0
Aquatic Freshwater Eutrophication	kg P eq	9.488012467	0.005776446	0.002106089	0.001666203	0.010286446	7.365747528	0.001634765	0.03407705	0.003395282		0
Marina Eutrophication	kg N eq	7.549657323	0.031636097	0.039841563	0.000872401	0.005385844	6.082737246	0.000855941	0.193522942	0.001777724		0
Terrestrial Eutrophication	mol N eq	57.51029054	0.310396833	0.416124791	0.006653835	0.041078013	46.08589001	0.006528291	1.457286538	0.013558757		0
Human Toxicity Cancer Effects	CTUh	3.37305E-06	4.22417E-08	1.01775E-08	5.08732E-10	3.1407E-09	2.36401E-06	4.99133E-10	4.81162E-07	1.03666E-09		0
Human Toxicity Non-cancer Effects	CTUh	7.42208E-05	2.56838E-07	1.74233E-07	1.95166E-08	1.20488E-07	5.83167E-05	1.91484E-08	2.00425E-06	3.97697E-08		0
Ionising radiation	kBq U235	2614.912883	1.349414845	0.354136222	0.267735436	1.652887449	2063.918982	0.262683824	8.285148509	0.545574097		0
Land Use	pt	20860.53871	99.74441634	107.8366021	4.221373028	26.06100481	16380.72226	4.14172448	340.5554874	8.602043151		0
Resource Use Minerals and Metals	kg Sb eq	0.027434871	9.3659E-05	8.25718E-05	1.28206E-05	7.91491E-05	0.018769062	1.25787E-05	0.00551596	2.6125E-05		0
Ozone Depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	0.010556409	3.21634E-07	1.87869E-06	1.33318E-08	8.23049E-08	0.000139906	1.30802E-08	0.010396328	2.71667E-08		0
Particulate Matter	Disease incidents	0.00013013	1.25658E-06	9.76582E-07	1.65258E-08	1.02024E-07	0.000101837	1.6214E-08	7.79727E-06	3.36753E-08		0
Photochemical Ozone Formation	kg NMVOC eq	17.67674969	0.757836337	0.178062546	0.00189494	0.011698576	13.47657522	0.001859187	0.558481251	0.003861388		0
Water Scarcity	m3 world eq deprived water	3507.355744	7.241822111	4.5082968	0.265683412	1.640219099	2213.171517	0.260670517	133.7846553	0.541392612		0

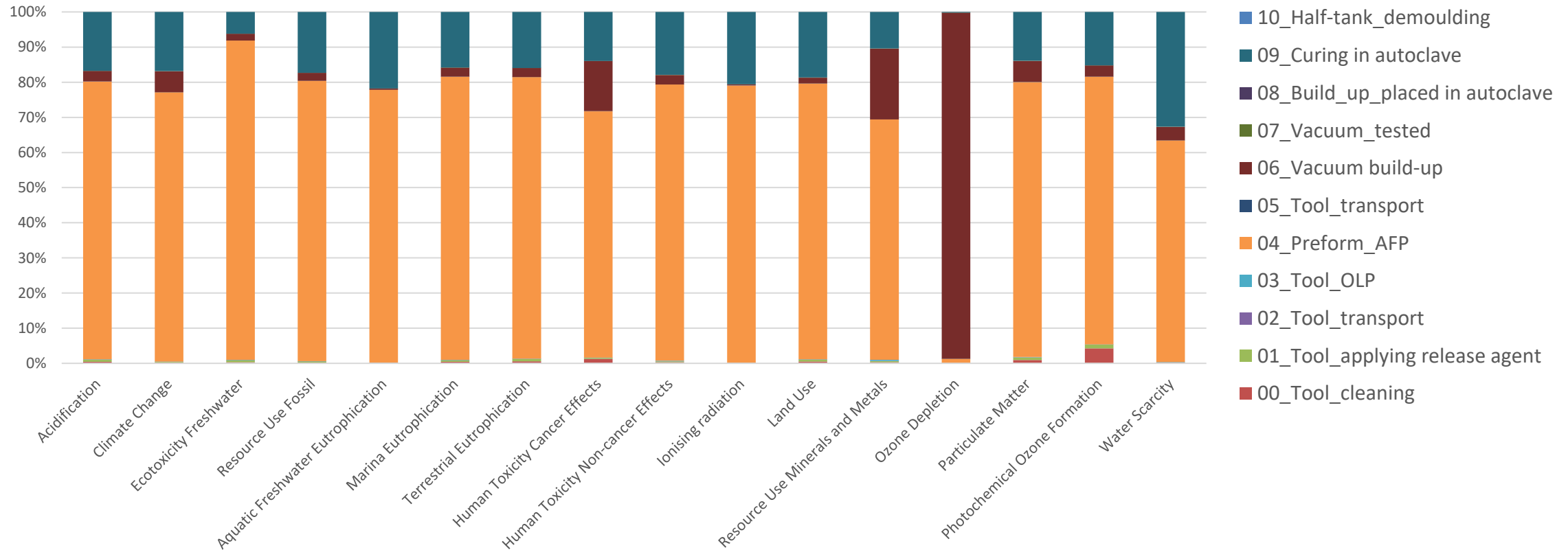
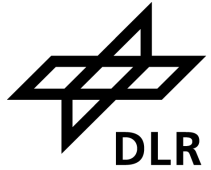


GWP100_ConfigA = 5003 kg CO2 eq.

GWP100_ConfigC = 9412 kg CO2 eq.

↓
= 0 because data for
electricity hovercraft
missing

5. Preliminary relative results for Tacoma LH2 CFRP layer



- Main Process drivers
 - Preforming
 - Curing in the autoclave
 - Vacuum build-up

6. Conclusions and Outlook



- Consideration of 2 tank configurations for cost and ecological assessment
- Main cost factors in the series production: equipment, material and labour
- Main ecological process drivers: preforming, curing and vacuum build up

- LCI of dome and cylinder in Tacoma
- Economical and ecological assessment on a broader data base

Thank you for your attention!



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