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EXSOLUTION-BASED NANOPARTICLES FOR LOWEST COST GREEN HYDROGEN VIA ELECTROLYSIS



Data Management Plan (Deliverable D7.4)

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NOTICES

For information, please contact the project coordinator, Mari Šavel, e-mail: mari.savel@stargatehydrogen.com. This document is intended to fulfil the contractual obligations of the EXSOTHyC project, which has received funding from the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and its members, concerning deliverable D7.4 described in contract 101137604.

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Table of revisions

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List of Partners

Stargate Hydrogen Solutions OÜ (Stargate)
University of St Andrews (St Andrews)
Agfa-Gevaert NV (AGFA)
Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE)
Fraunhofer IFAM (IFAM)

List of Abbreviations

AST – Accelerated Stress Tests
CCD – Catalyst Coated Diaphragm
DMP – Data Management Plan
DOI – Digital Object Identifier
DSA – Data Sharing Agreement
EU – European Union
FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable
GA – Grant Agreement
HTO – Hydrogen-in-Oxygen
JRC – Joint Research Centre
MTA – Material Transfer Agreements
SOTA – State-of-the-Art
TDR – Trustworthy Digital Repositories
WP – Work Package
WPL – Work Package Leader

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1 DMP overview

The EXSOTHyC Data Management Plan (DMP) is the Deliverable 7.4 (D7.4) from the Research and Innovation Action (RIA), EXSOTHyC project - grant agreement (GA) 101137604. The DMP outlines the ways in which the project-related data is collected, generated and/or processed throughout the lifespan of EXSOTHyC and supports achieving the project objectives with relevant data handling.

Within the project, a breakthrough concept for catalyst materials, processes and sub-components for an alkaline electrolyser stack is proposed. This results in a novel stack design including disruptive components like next-generation Zirfon membranes with reduced HTO (hydrogen-in-oxygen), catalyst coated diaphragm (CCD), and novel class of catalyst materials, which remarkably improve the voltage efficiency. The scientific innovation is three-fold:

- Alternative pathways to the O₂ and H₂ evolution reactions by new anode and cathode approaches
- Novel concepts of membrane electrode assemblies with integrated components
- Novel cell design to enhance overall cell efficiency by integrating disruptive concepts

To achieve the listed innovations, the data will be generated, collected and processed during the project implementation. Collecting and sharing of data not only within the consortium but also with relevant stakeholders is essential for reaching goal of the project.

The purpose for data collection in each Work Package (WP) is outlined below:

WP1 Electrode development

WP1 aims to develop electrode materials, a powder metallurgical process for applying a catalyst to a substrate, and a stable and electrically conductive attachment of exsolved catalyst material to the substrate. The electrode and electrode coating-related data will be collected based on observations, experiments and literature.

WP2 Zirfon with reduced gas cross-over

WP2 identifies suitable recombination catalysts, develops Zirfon with reduced gas cross-over and integrates recombination catalyst into/onto Zirfon diaphragm and also demonstrates reduced HTO. Data will be collected based on observations, experiments and literature. This includes data related to dope preparation and membrane coating, data related to membrane synthesis, data related to membrane ex-situ characterization, and data related to membrane in-situ characterization.

WP3 Catalyst coated membrane development

Within WP3 a CCD solution based on the Zirfon diaphragm will be developed, coating methods, active layer structure, catalyst composition, and fabrication method will be optimised and the effect of electrodes will be studied. The data necessary for the catalyst coated membrane development will be collected from observations, experiments, as well as raw and processed data, and modelling.

WP4 Dynamic operation stability

This WP aims to develop a model that can describe reverse currents in alkaline electrolyzers, to develop advanced cell characterization, as well as to develop and use an accelerated stress test protocol. Here experimental data will be collected to determine the drift in individual cell potentials in an electrochemical stack upon shutdown. This experimental data will be used in the development of the reverse current model. Also, experimental electrochemical impedance data will be collected to be able to distinguish different contributors to the cell potential. Models that will be developed will also generate new data on the expected reverse current behaviour in other stack designs.

WP5 – Integration and validation

WP5 aims to validate each most promising solution separately on a single cell level under industrially relevant conditions and test combined solution on single cell level and in a short stack of at least 15 cells. Data will be collected to compare the electrochemical performance and gas purity of different stack single-repeat units under industrial conditions, as well as to compare the microstructural parameters of the samples, in order to identify the most promising stack repeat-unit candidates (developed in WPs 1-4). Furthermore, data covering the design and validation of the 10-kW stack prototype will be generated and collected, including electrochemical and gas purity data, as well as the results of stack post-mortem analysis. The goal of data collection is to allow benchmarking of the EXSOTHyC stack with stacks previously reported in the literature. Finally, a computer-aided design model of an industrial 500-kW stack will be generated as part of WP5.

WP6 – Dissemination and exploitation

WP6 aims to raise awareness and efficiently disseminate the knowledge generated in EXSOTHyC to all the target groups maximising the impact of outcomes in adequate scientific channels and to identify market opportunities and further exploitation routes. Data will be collected to actively communicate and disseminate results to the broadest range of audiences possible and making the project concept attractive for market adoption.

WP7 – Management

The main goal of WP7 is to ensure a timely execution of the project and the accomplishment of its objectives. The policies and guidelines for handling all the data collected, processed and generated during EXSOTHyC will be set as a part of WP7.

For handling the data, the DMP describes the way in which the EXSOTHyC consortium will manage the datasets that will emerge from the project, and how best practices in terms of metadata and archiving will be used to ensure that the data will be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) for other potential users. Furthermore, the DMP provides information about what datasets the consortium is aiming to preserve and in which format.

The document is based on EU Horizon Europe Data Management Plan template v1.1. The DMP is intended to be a living document where information will be continuously added and revised as the implementation progresses.

2 Collected and generated data

The data will be collected from various sources. Information regarding the origin, type, format and size of datasets collected or generated during the implementation of the project will be collected from each beneficiary using a questionnaire provided in Annex 1. The questionnaires will be annually updated to ensure that all the relevant information is included. Types of data collected during the project will include:

- Experimental and observational data collected using measurement devices and analytical instruments
- Derived data from the experimental or literature data
- Survey and interview data, from EXSOTHyC partners, potential stakeholders and target groups
- Market-related information
- Methodologies and workflows, standard operating procedures
- Multimedia and physical documents (reports, spreadsheets, presentations) to present project data
- Images
- Videos
- Recorded data (interviews)
- Laboratory notebooks, field notebooks, diaries

The main formats of data generated/collected will include:

- Reports, spreadsheets, presentations - Microsoft Office formats, .ai
- Observed data (experimental) - original format, .csv, .txt
- Images – .jpg, .gif, .png, .tiff, .ai
- Audio – .mp3
- Videos – .mpg, .avi, .mp4

2.1 Reuse of existing data

As EXSOTHyC is committed to expand the knowledge beyond the state-of-the-art, previously generated datasets will be utilised to take advantage and build up on the past advances made in the field. The existing data utilised comes mainly from previous data collected by the partners and from scientific literature. In addition, public and commercial databases will be used to collect required information. Specific envisioned instances for the re-use of existing data include e.g.:

- Peer-reviewed published data and data disclosed in public repositories will be studied when implementing the project tasks
- In WP1 we will reuse publicly available data on electrode development as well as data from previous projects.
- WP2 will not re-use any preexisting data.
- In WP3 we will compare the data against benchmarks from previous projects and experiments, to gather a good comparison of the newly developed CCDs.

- In WP4, publicly available data on accelerated stress test protocols and advanced characterization from public institutes such as the JRC will be used.
- In WP5, publicly available data on stack repeat-unit testing from e.g. other EU projects, as well as not publicly available data from Stargate for benchmarking internally in the project
- For WP6, publicly available data about the markets will be collected via online search and available market reports.

2.2 Origin of the data

The data will be derived from numerous sources throughout the project, including:

- Lab trials and experiments
- Prototype experiments
- Models
- Literature
- External databases
- Stakeholders
- From EXSOTHyC partners' previous and/or ongoing projects (when possible)
- Data subjects who interact with the project website
- Data subjects (surveys, interviews, training workshops, questionnaires)
- Mathematical simulations

2.3 Size of the data

Expected size of data collected in each WP is presented in the Table 1. Size values will be revised during project execution.

Table 1 Type and estimated size of data collected in the WPs.

WP	Types of data	Estimated size
1	Observations, experiments, raw and processed data (.csv, .idf, .tiff, .elid, .odt, .emsa, .spa)	< 10 GB
2	Dope preparation and membrane coating data, membrane synthesis, as well as membrane ex-situ and in-situ characterization (.xlsx, .docx, .pptx, .tiff, .csv, .txt, .jpg, .gif, .png, .mp3, .mpg, .avi, .mp4)	< 50 GB
3	Observations, experiments, raw and processed data, and modelling data (.csv, .idf, .tiff, .elid, .odt, .emsa, .spa)	< 10 GB
4	Potentiostat data (.idf, .xlsx) and COMSOL model data (.mph)	< 10 GB
5	Stack repeating-unit and stack testing data (.csv, .xlsx) + test report (.txt, .docx) Stack component microstructural and other analyses (.tiff, .csv, .xlsx, .txt)	< 1 GB

	Stack CAD drawings (.step)	
6	Website user data (e.g. newsletter subscribers)	<5MB
	Documentation (.xlsx, .docx, .pdf, .pptx, .ai)	<100 MB
7	Documentation (.xlsx, .docx, .pdf, .pptx)	<100 MB

2.4 Utilisation

The generated data will be useful for the project consortium partners for their own research and for exploitation of the data generated in the project. Datasets will be actively shared within the consortium to ensure successful transfer of knowledge. In addition, the generated data will be of interest for researchers outside the consortium working on related fields, including but not limited to:

- Material science
- Electrochemistry
- Sustainability
- Techno-economic analysis of green hydrogen projects

The generated data will raise awareness to all societal actors (general audience, stakeholders, researchers and policymakers) on the solutions that EXSOTHyC can provide as well as on the need of a CO₂-based industrial sector to fight climate change as well as boosting EU's economy.

3 FAIR data

3.1 Making data findable, including provisions for metadata

To make data findable, metadata will be used. All partners will agree in terms of providing relevant metadata and keywords, so that their data will be easily discoverable. Clear version numbers will be included, and standard naming conventions will be defined.

Naming conventions

The naming convention to be used for documents in the EXSOTHyC project will be as follows:

EXSOTHyC_WPX_L_N_YYYYMMDD_vX.Y	
WPX	Work Package This can be left out for documents that are not related to a specific WP.
L	Label and number of the dataset/document Examples: Deliverable 7.4 – D7.4 Technical report M24 – TR_M24 Financial report M24 – FR_M24
N	Name of the dataset/document
YYYYMMDD	Date
vX.Y	Version

Version numbers incremented at each revision will be included in the filenames. The version control will be as follows:

- Initial drafts (before submission) will be labelled as v0.X
- Revisions to draft prior to submission will be numbered in ascending order (e.g. v0.1, v0.2, v0.3)
- The submitted document (final draft) will be labelled as v1.0
- If a document needs to be resubmitted, or requires major changes, the first number in the version identifier will increase by 1 (e.g. v2.0, v3.0)

Metadata

A data object should be accompanied with metadata that makes it easily findable for both humans and computers. Descriptive metadata is essential also for allowing stakeholders outside the project to re-utilise the generated datasets. We outline the discoverability of data by fostering the use of metadata standards¹ providing specific information for data

¹ <https://rdamsc.bath.ac.uk/>

related to the project. If no specific recommended standard exists for the dataset type or the repository, DataCite's metadata standard² will be followed.

Examples of metadata expected to be generated include:

- Title of project (including 'European Union (EU)' 'Horizon Europe' 'Clean Hydrogen Partnership', project acronym and grant number)
- Title of dataset
- Name of data owner
- Date of submission
- Subject
- Description of data
- Format of data
- Type of data (e.g. data set, article, audio file, image)
- Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
- Access rights
- Keywords

To ensure that the data is easily findable, the metadata of all datasets deposited in repositories will include keywords, which are selected from controlled vocabularies that are suitable for the specific type of data, e.g. following the officially recommended analytical nomenclature mandated by recognised associations and unions.

The bibliographic metadata will include the following:

- the terms "European Union (EU)", "Horizon Europe", "Clean Hydrogen Partnership"
- the name of the action, acronym and grant number,
- the publication date and the length of embargo period, if applicable,
- a persistent identifier

3.2 Making data available

All the project-generated documentation will be internally stored in a *Microsoft sharepoint.com* shared folder which is restricted to project partner contacts who have been appointed by partners as main contacts. We consider also an internal platform of the project website (www.EXSOTHYC.com) for storing project related documents. Suitable and well-described conditions for access will be defined for the users to enter the internal area by using username and password.

During the project course, it will be identified which data will be made openly available and which cannot be shared due to legitimate issues or shared under restriction (e.g. in a protected internal platform of the project website). Access to confidential or restricted data will be awarded under the discretion of the Work Package Leader (WPL) of the work package that generates the data, alongside the coordinator.

The consortium aims at using the project website or other easily accessible repositories for open-access data, ensuring easy access. For the data, which is made publicly available, we will take all necessary actions to ensure free access to peer-reviewed articles resulting from the project. Such actions may include either green or gold open access. Alternatively, open data will be collected in Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/>), an open online research data

² DataCite Metadata Working Group, 2021. DataCite Metadata Schema Documentation for the Publication and Citation of Research Data and Other Research Outputs. Version 4.5. Available at: <https://schema.datacite.org/meta/kernel-4.5/>

repository, the repository structure, facilities and management of which follow the FAIR data principles.

Data will be made accessible through online repositories and, therefore, specialist software tools should not be required to access the data. Whenever possible, the data will be shared in a format that is readable with cost-free software. If special software or tools are required for accessing the data, a short text file (e.g. ASCII) will be provided with the data file to explain the software required. The research data and associated metadata, documentation and code will be deposited to one of these repositories.

To protect the copyright of the knowledge generated in the project, Creative Commons license will be used in certain circumstances. The access to the data repository will be layered, integrating a pertinent licensing system, with the purpose of limiting the accessibility to the different types of data depending on the data owners' agreement. Any associated metadata, documentation and code will also be deposited in the repository. The owner of the data will determine which of these licenses will be used when data is posted on the repositories. Zenodo provides well-described conditions for access (see <http://about.zenodo.org/policies/>).

When data are publicly shared, the person accessing the data will not be directly identified. The users are expected to follow 'The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.'³

3.3 Making data accessible

The data will be made available following the 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary' principle, meaning that all the data will be made available for verification and re-use, unless the owner of the data can justify why data cannot be made openly accessible. To maximise the impact of the EXSOTHyC project, selected data and results will be shared with the scientific community and other stakeholders by publishing them in scientific journals, by presenting them at scientific conferences and by sharing them in open access data repositories. Unless there is a specific reason why the data cannot be made public, all the data associated with scientific publications will be made openly available. The reasons why data cannot be made publicly available include, but are not limited:

- Sharing is restricted for legal and contractual reasons
- Data was obtained with the permission of third parties, but the third parties have not agreed to make the data publicly available
- Data compromises the protection of a partner(s) intellectual property
- Data is commercially sensitive

EXSOTHyC will strictly follow an open access policy by providing on-line access to scientific information that is free of charge to the end-user and that is re-usable. In the context of this project, scientific information refers to peer reviewed scientific research articles (published in scholarly journals), pre-print articles, conference papers, patents, books and research data (data underlying publications, curated data and/or raw data). Each consortium partner commits to deposit each latest publication as soon as possible. Each partner will ensure open access to the publications immediately, if an electronic version is available for free via the publisher, or within six months of publication, if it is not.

³ The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2017. All European Academies (ALLEA). Available at: <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

3.4 Making data interoperable

Provisions are taken to make data interoperable, making it easier to exchange and reuse them across research institutions. This could be more difficult for project-specific technical datasets, but we strive in making all open data interoperable.

For example, EXSOTHyC consortium tries to follow EU Harmonised Testing protocols for low-temperature electrolysers. In addition, we are developing new methodologies (e.g. for accelerated reverse current testing) which will help and feed into future projects.

To ensure that the data can be easily read and understood, it will be accompanied by standardised metadata. The relevant metadata and its presentation depend on the type of the dataset and the used repository and thus the metadata standard used will be individually selected for each dataset.

3.5 Increase data re-use

EXSOTHyC commits to sharing data as openly as possible. However, to protect the ownership of the datasets, Creative Commons licenses might be assigned in certain circumstances like for digital creations (web page, contents of digital channels, etc.); other software might have specific (owner defined) terms of use. The owner of the data will determine which of these licenses will be used when data is posted on the repositories.

Information regarding the reusability of the data will be provided for each dataset separately. For data used in articles published in open access journals, data sharing may be limited due to an embargo period. The consortium will provide relevant information on embargo periods and the intended period that their data will remain reusable. European Commission recommends a maximum embargo period of 6 months. Access to datasets deposited on public data repositories such as Zenodo will be unlimited.

Restrictions on re-use policy will be applied on data that requires protection and can be re-used only by the consortium.

Datasets will not be published before the date of publication of the associated scientific article, considering any restrictions and embargo periods. Data Reports will become available after each related deliverable if the dissemination level allows it. Data produced and/or used in the project will be useable by third parties for any purpose dependent on the selected licences and confidentiality requirements. The data that is re-useable will be intended to be so for its lifetime.

Files classified as public will be accessible and downloadable for at least 5 years after the end of the project. Files classified as internal and/or confidential will be accessible only to project partners from the internal platform for at least 5 years after the end of the project. If Zenodo is used as the online repository, any data stored in the repository will be retained for the entire existence of the repository, as is the policy of Zenodo.

4 Other research outputs

Managing other research outputs involves considering various factors to ensure they are effectively handled and shared in line with the FAIR principles. Firstly, the consortium will identify the types of outputs, whether they are digital (e.g., software, models) or physical (e.g., materials, samples) and then assesses their FAIRness. For each output, proper metadata standards and protocols will be implemented to enhance their discoverability and usability.

Access to research outputs will be governed by a tiered system based on the level of sensitivity and intellectual property considerations. All digital outputs, including software, workflows, and models, will be made openly accessible through reputable repositories immediately upon publication or project completion, under appropriate open licenses to facilitate reuse and reproducibility. Physical outputs, such as e.g. materials, will be made available upon request to qualified researchers, subject to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to safeguard intellectual property and ensure proper usage. In cases where outputs contain sensitive or proprietary information, access will be restricted to authorized personnel only, with provisions for controlled access mechanisms and data sharing agreements (DSAs) to protect confidentiality while enabling collaborative research endeavours. Clear guidelines and procedures for requesting access will be provided on project website and communicated to relevant stakeholders, ensuring transparency and adherence to ethical and legal standards.

The consortium will regularly update and maintain the outputs throughout the project lifecycle, documenting any changes or versioning. The outputs will be disseminated through appropriate repositories, platforms, or publication channels to maximize their impact and facilitate reusability by the research community.

5 Allocation of resources

Although there are no specific efforts defined for data management, most of the activities foreseen to carry out the DMP fall into WP6 and WP7. And at this point, it is hard to estimate the exact costs for making research data and outputs FAIR. EXSOTHyC has considered costs for publications, patents and has allocated additional resources for dissemination purposes. These costs are compliant with the Grant Agreement which states that costs related to open access of the research data in Horizon Europe are eligible for reimbursement. If a cost-free repository is used, there will be no allocation of resources necessary for data storage.

The project coordinator will be responsible for data management and quality assurance with the help of WPLs. However, each partner must respect the policies set out in this DMP and the datasets must be created, managed and stored appropriately and in line with applicable legislation. The partner that generates the data is responsible for the validation and registration of the datasets, for providing the required metadata and for sharing the data through the open access repositories.

If selected repositories do not provide the desired storage length, additional resources for long term preservation of data will be evaluated based on the type and the size of the data requiring long-term preservation.

6 Data security

For safe long-term preservation and curation of data we prefer certified Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDR) with General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR 2016/679) compliant features and security measures. Archiving and preservation of data generated by EXSOTHyC partners at their respective institutions is the responsibility of the partners individually.

To ensure the security of sensitive data, the following guidelines are followed:

- Files are named systematically to ensure coherence of the final dataset
- Data is stored in at least two separate locations to avoid the loss of data
- Data is encrypted, if necessary
- The use of Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drives will be minimised

All project deliverables and data will be stored and shared in the Stargate's sharepoint shared folder restricted to the project consortium, in the Funding and Tenders portal and in the project's website. Initially, only the consortium members will have access to the folders where datasets and metadata are filed.

7 Ethics

Each project partner must adhere to their own institutional policies and procedures for data management and strictly follow to the European Commission policies on open data management principles.

Although in EXSOTHyC we do not foresee any data-related ethics and/or legal issues causing any impact on data sharing as the project objectives, methodology and outcomes are not causing any ethical issues themselves, all partners will assure that the EU standards regarding ethics and data management are fulfilled in compliance with confidentiality and security (GA Article 13) and ethics and values principles (GA Article 14). Shall any of the ethics issues raise, the consortium respects fundamental ethical principles and follows researcher ethics rules as laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as The European Charter for Researchers. In all phases of the project crucial ethical and legal aspects will be considered.

8 Other issues

At the first place we do not foresee to use other procedures for data management, however we are open to include, shall it be needed.

Annex 1 – Data collection questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire regarding the datasets that are generated and used during the implementation of the project and the handling of data according to your current knowledge.

Partner:	
Are you handling personal data?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have an appointed Data Protection Officer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Institutional policies and procedures for data management:	
Please describe the policies and procedures that your institution has in place that can affect the handling and sharing of the data that is generated and/or used in the project. If these are available as a document that you can share, please return them with this questionnaire.	

Are you planning to use any institutional and national data repositories for sharing the data of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide a description (and a link, if available) of the relevant repositories. You may include information also about repositories that you think that could be of interest to other participants.	

Datasets generated during the project:

Fill in the following table for each dataset expected to be generated or an existing dataset that is used in the project. Fill in as many of the fields as possible, but if the information is not available yet, the cells can be left blank and updated later.

Item	Description
Dataset identifier (WP_Task_partner_number, e.g. WP7_T7.4_Stargate_1)	
Dataset name	
Dataset description	
Contains personal data	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Informed consent required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key contact [Beneficiary]	
Other contributing beneficiaries	
Dataset file format and size (estimation, if not know)	
Other associated tasks (if any)	
Keywords	
Metadata standard, if specific	
To whom this data is useful for? (e.g. other researcher working on (which?) fields, policy makers, public and industrial stakeholders)	
Key data sources /origin of the data	
Are there any ethical or legal issues that can have an impact on data sharing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, please elaborate</i>	
Dataset can be made public	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If no, please justify</i>	
Repository (-ies) (if known)	
Dataset DOI	
Dataset version history	