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MF Hydra – world's first LH₂ driven ship and the challenges ahead towards zero-emission shipping

Ivan Østvik, September 2021



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A major ferry operator in Norway

#2 Ferry company



57 ro-ro ferries

29 routes

#1 Express boat company



28 fast ferries

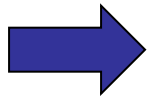
18 routes



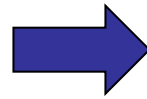
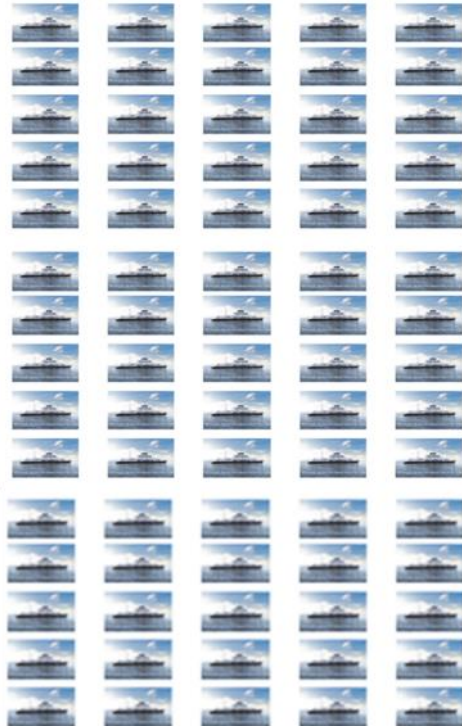
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The “green ferry” revolution in Norway

2015: The first el-ferry
“Ampere” is launched



2022: About 80 el-
ferries in Norway



2022: World-first LH2-driven ship
“Hydra” in operation with others to come





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The MF Hydra project

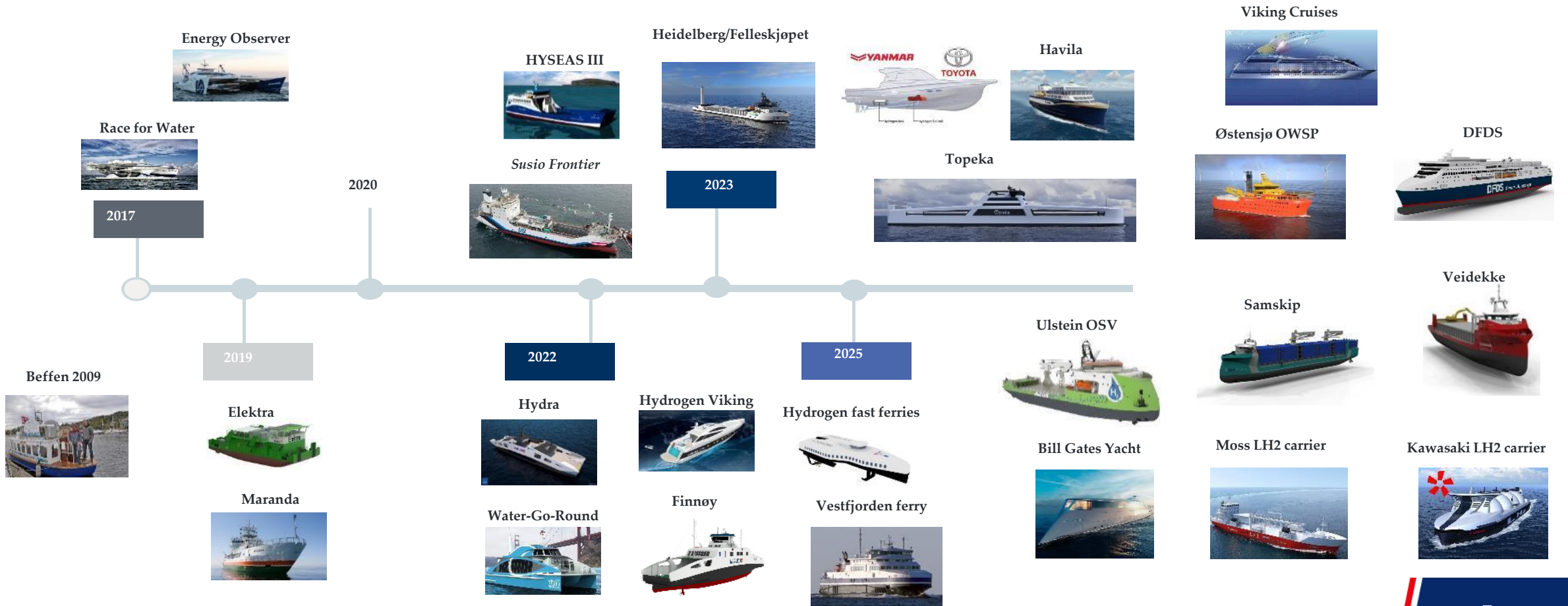


- Contract signed with Westcon Yard, Ølensvåg in May 2019
- Delivered for el-operation July 2021 for the Hjelmeland-Nesvik-Skipavik route
- LH₂ plant installation and testing Q1 2022 and in operation Q2 2022
- Hydra is 82m long, carries 80 cars and 299 passengers.
- LH₂-tank 4 tons capacity, PEM FC 400 kW, Battery 1,5 MWh
- Route utilised to demonstrate/develop hydrogen ship technology:
 - Hydra can sail on a full fuel-cell mode with only peak loads required to be supplied from batteries – FCs providing 85-90% of required power
 - Hydra can operate 12 days on one LH₂ tank filling
- Hydrogen system solutions on Hydra are scalable to ocean-going vessels (coastal and shortsea)
- Alternative design process (IMO 1455) applied and system risks accommodated by ship design



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Hydrogen-driven ship projects





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Why hydrogen-driven ship projects?


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"Hydrogen-drevne ferjer vil trolig utkonkurrere både diesel- og LNG-drevne ferjer innen 2030," sier prosjektleder for MF Hydra [Ivan Ostvik](#) i et intervju med [Linde](#).

Du kan lese mer (på engelsk) her: <https://bit.ly/2RHHJMu>
[#hydrogen](#) [#greentransport](#) [#zeroemission](#)

[See translation](#)



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- **Ship technology** (storage and fuel cells) will develop, improve and see cost reductions. The new technology will be effectively integrated in new ship designs, as other techs have been earlier.
- **Hydrogen fuels** can be provided as GH₂, LH₂, NH₃ and LOHC and need to have a low carbon content
- **Maritime hydrogen supply chains** will be established and see a high-rate growth towards 2030 - costs will be greatly reduced and hydrogen will be available in port areas.
- **Target costs** quoted from suppliers range 2-3 Euro for GH₂ in 2030. NH₃ and LH₂ will initially see a cost premium.
- **CO₂ taxation** will add costs to fossil fuels, and cost parity between MGO and hydrogen is expected by 2030.
- **Risks and safety** issues being targeted and solved by industry.



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Challenges ahead

- Lack of **hydrogen supply chains and bunkering hubs** to realise hydrogen as maritime fuel.
 - Current developments by new actors/companies in a “**project-by-project approach**”
 - Difficult for projects to reach investment decision as risk is too high and costs unknown
- The **associated high costs** for hydrogen technology and fuels for the first projects:
 - Reduces ability for many ship types/owners to convert to hydrogen technology to meet CO2 reduction targets
 - **Contract for difference (CfD)** could be implemented to cover the price gap between MGO and GH2/LH2, and this will accelerate the technology shift in the shipping industry.
- The **ship tech solutions** will be tested and proven from 2022 and onwards world-wide:
 - **Storage systems** for hydrogen fuels (NH3, GH2, LH2, LOHC) are being developed for maritime use.
 - **Technology improvements and cost reductions** will be rapid for LH2/GH2 storage and PEM fuel cells as market increases for these items with an already high TRL.
 - **NH3 combustion engines** are undergoing testing for market introduction in 2023/2024.
 - High-temperature fuel cells (**SOFC**) are years from market introduction - can use all hydrogen-fuels



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World's first LH₂-driven ship "MF Hydra"



Length 82.40 m
Beam 16.75 m
Draught 2.8 m

Car capacity 80
Truck capacity 10
Passenger capacity 299

LMG REDEH2

