

# CENTRE D'INNOVATION CENTRE



## Transport Canada

Overview of a project to assess feasibility of a switcher locomotive retrofitted with hydrogen fuel cells



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada

Canada

- **Canada has the opportunity to capitalize on a robust hydrogen economy**

## Hydrogen production

- Canada is one of the top 10 producers of hydrogen in the world
- **82% of our electricity is from non-GHG sources**; Canada's electricity supply system is amongst the lowest carbon intensity globally

## Hydrogen expertise

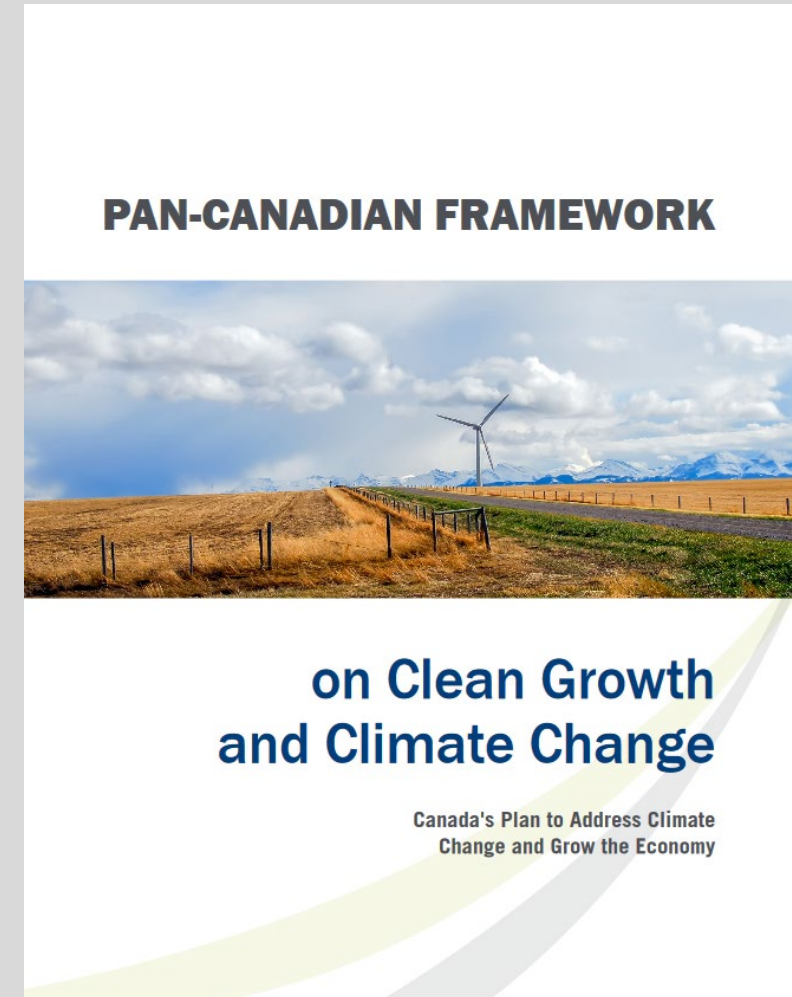
- Canada is host to internationally-leading hydrogen and fuel cell tech companies
- Canadian fuel cell technology is used in vehicles around the world
- Fuel cells are used in buses, locomotives, trucks, cars, forklifts, cranes, and more.

## Existing Infrastructure

- Canada has widespread natural gas pipelines and storage infrastructure; could be repurposed for hydrogen
- Lots of naturally occurring places to store carbon created from the production of hydrogen

# Canada's Emission Goals

- **Canada has made commitments to reduce its emissions**
  - ✓ 30% reduction in 2030 compared to 2005
  - ✓ Net-zero emissions in 2050
- **The rail sector contributes a small amount to our national GHG emissions; about 4%.**
- **Rail equipment is long-lived -> 30+ years.**
- **We must examine zero-emissions options now, so that they are commercially ready in time to be common-place by 2050.**



# Hydrogen Switcher Locomotive Feasibility Study

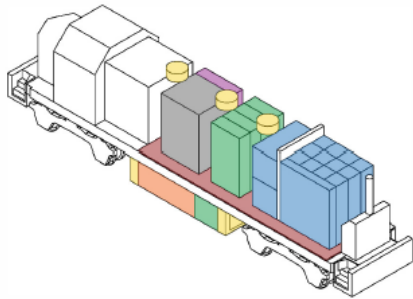
**CHANGE**  
energy services

*Environment & Climate Change Canada – Contract No. 30000704788  
Assessment of the Design, Deployment Characteristics and  
Requirements of  
a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Switcher Locomotive  
Report of the Phase I Work Plan*

*Prepared for:*

*Technical Authority for the contract: Paul Izdebski, Policy Analyst*

*June 2020*



*Prepared by:*

*Change Energy Services Inc. on behalf of the Project Team*

*CAD Railway Industries  
Change Energy Services  
Hydrogenics  
Telligence Group*

As this report is produced under contract to ECOC, any disclosure, use, or duplication of this document or any information contained within, is prohibited except as may otherwise be agreed to in writing.



Transport  
Canada



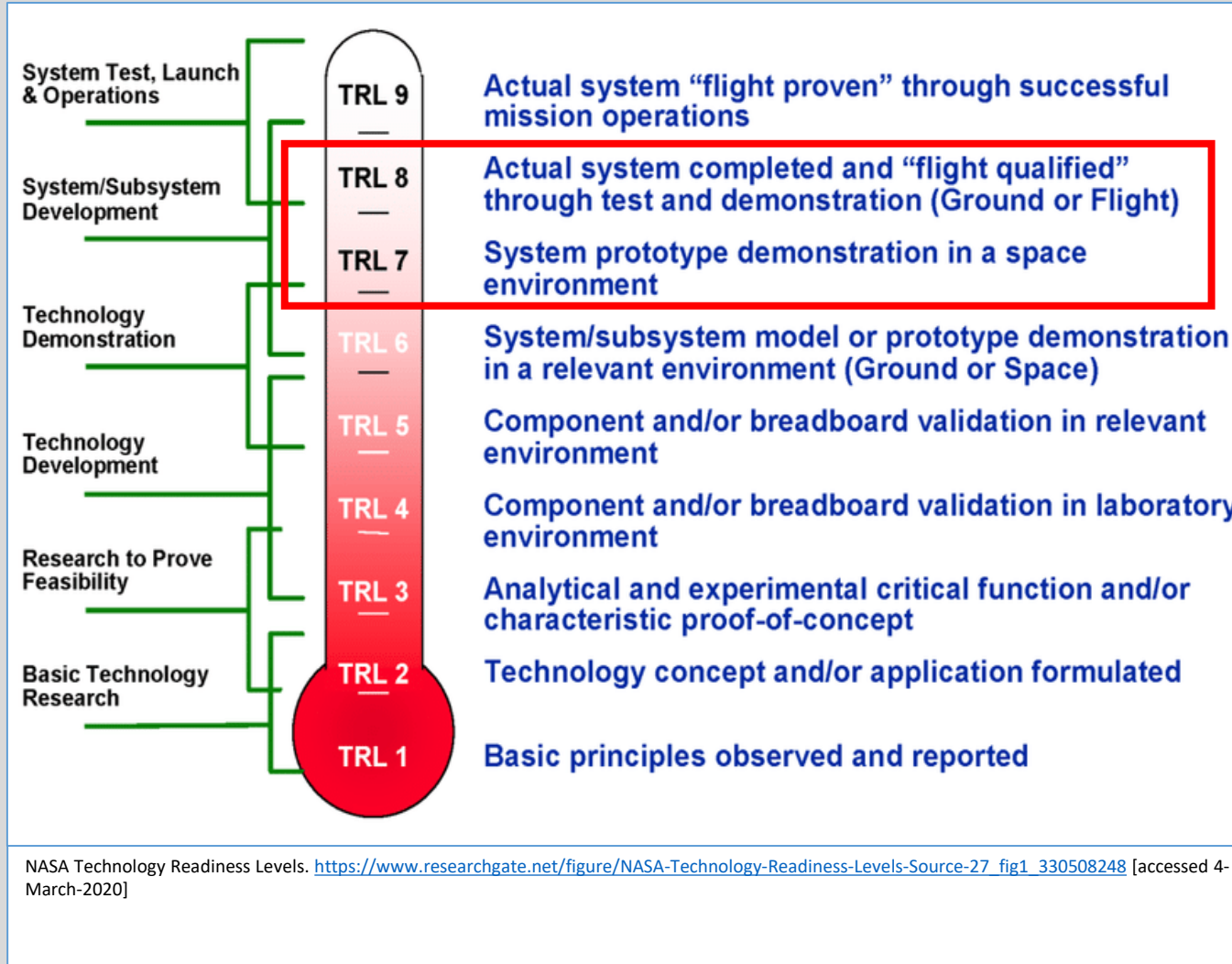
Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Canada

- **Brings together industry experts:**
  - Understanding the current status of hydrogen technology, and TRL for the rail sector
- **Offers insights into the cost of a locomotive conversion; infrastructure cost.**
- **Provides guidance for what a Canadian demonstration project could look like.**

Report is available [online](#)

# Why a Switcher Locomotive?

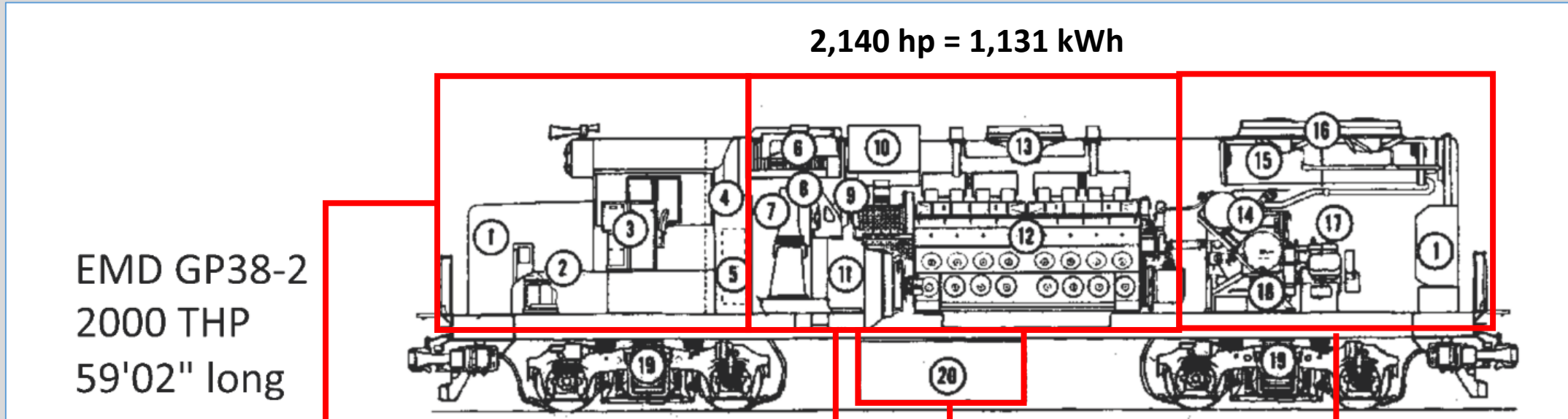


EMD Model GP-38-2/3



- Similar to line-haul locomotives
- Emissions are localized
- Close to refuelling

# Quick Look at a Diesel Locomotive



- Operator Cab
- Electronic control systems

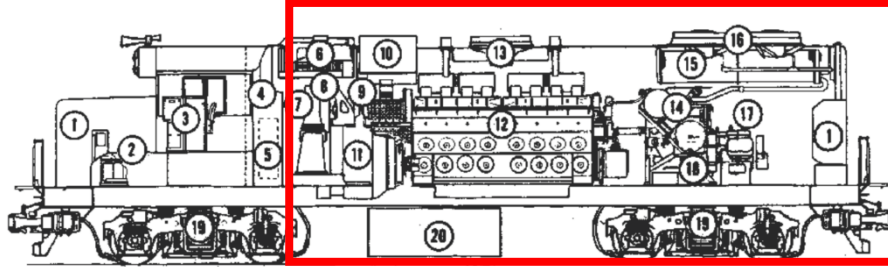
- Diesel Engine
- Electrical generators
- Exhaust controls

- Fuel tank

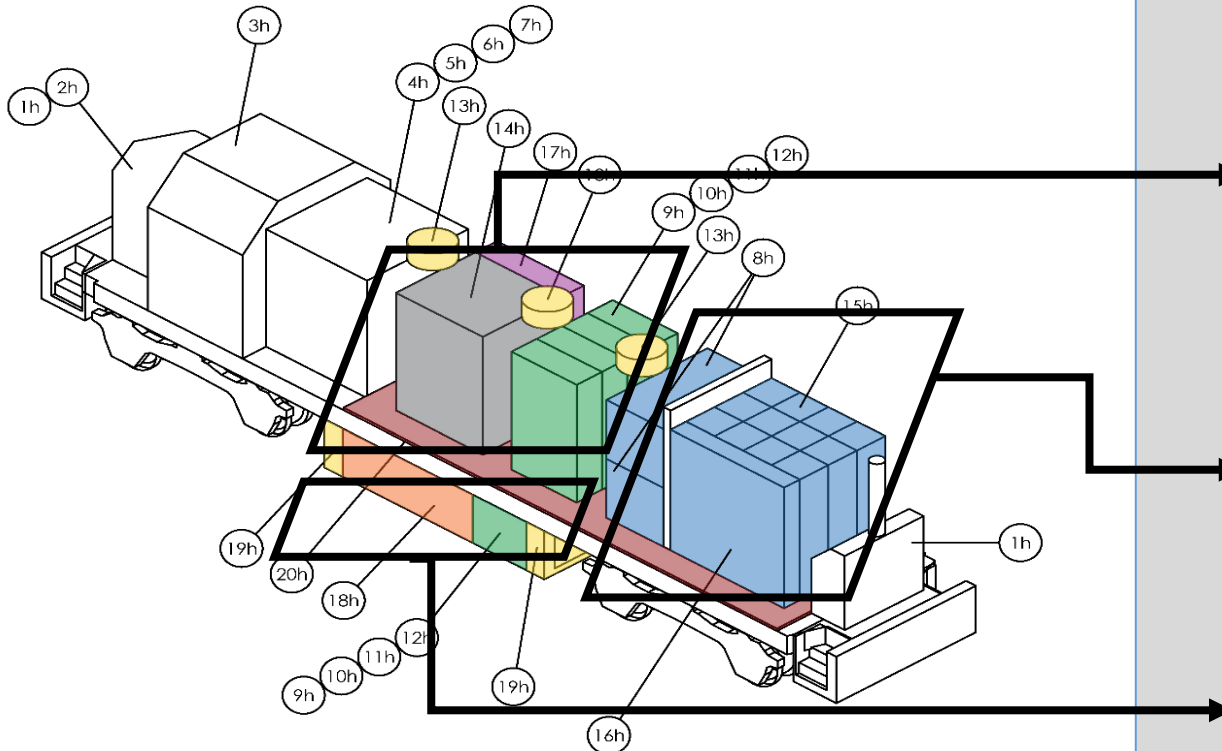
- Cooling fans and radiators
- Air compressor (brakes)

# Changes from Diesel to Hydrogen

EMD GP38-2  
2000 THP  
59'02" long



- Remove the diesel engine, fuel tank, cooling system, electricity generators
- New equipment will be required for these components in a hydrogen locomotive



- Air compressor
- Power converter (DC/ AC power as needed)

- Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells
  - 1,760 kWh vs 1,131 kWh
- Hydrogen fuel storage tanks

- Lithium-ion battery packs

# Status of the Key Components for Hydrail



**Fuel Cells**



**Lithium-Ion Batteries**



**Hydrogen Storage Tanks**



**Power Control System**



**How does it all come together in a locomotive?**



# Vision for a Demonstration Program

A demonstration program could build experience and identify best design & operating practices. It could help advance a Proof of Concept that is safe, reliable, and sustainable.

*Commercial success is the goal*  
*Exploration: Find out what works*  
*Share the knowledge*



- Partner with rail industry

More than just proving the tech works; prove its benefits and self-sustainability

- Develop low-carbon supply chains wherever possible

Develop a hydrogen ecosystem for rail

# What a demonstration program could look like



**Kyle Beaulia**  
Research Engineer  
Rail RD&D, Innovation Centre  
Transport Canada  
[kyle.beaulia@tc.gc.ca](mailto:kyle.beaulia@tc.gc.ca)

