Towards commercial solar thermochemical production of sustainable drop-in fuels (Project SUNFUELS)

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To determine the techno-economic feasibility...

...of industrial-scale production of drop-in transportation fuels...

...using CO₂, H₂O and concentrated solar energy.





Why drop-in transportation fuels?

High energy density







Existing infrastructure













Why solar fuels?

• High thermodynamic efficiencies → economic feasibility

Industrial scalability at the global scale Solar Tower Solar Receiver/Reactor/TES Sustainability: carbon neutrality, no competition with agricultural land **Syngas Solar Energy** $H_2 + CO$ Sun-tracking **ETH**zürich Heliostat Synhelion Field CO₂ Source $H_2O + CO_2$ **GTL** Bio/DAC Solar Gas-to-Liquid (GTL) **Drop-in Fuels** Unit Solar Fuel Tank





Research plan

2022

Q1 2023

Technological examination

Economic and environmental assessment

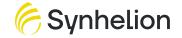
Identification of R&D needs

Comparison with other pathways

ETH Zurich:









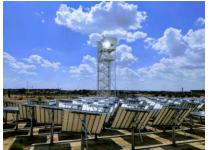
Key stakeholders

Governments



R&D institutes and industrial developers





Businesses in fuel storage, transportation, distribution, sale







Fuel consumers











