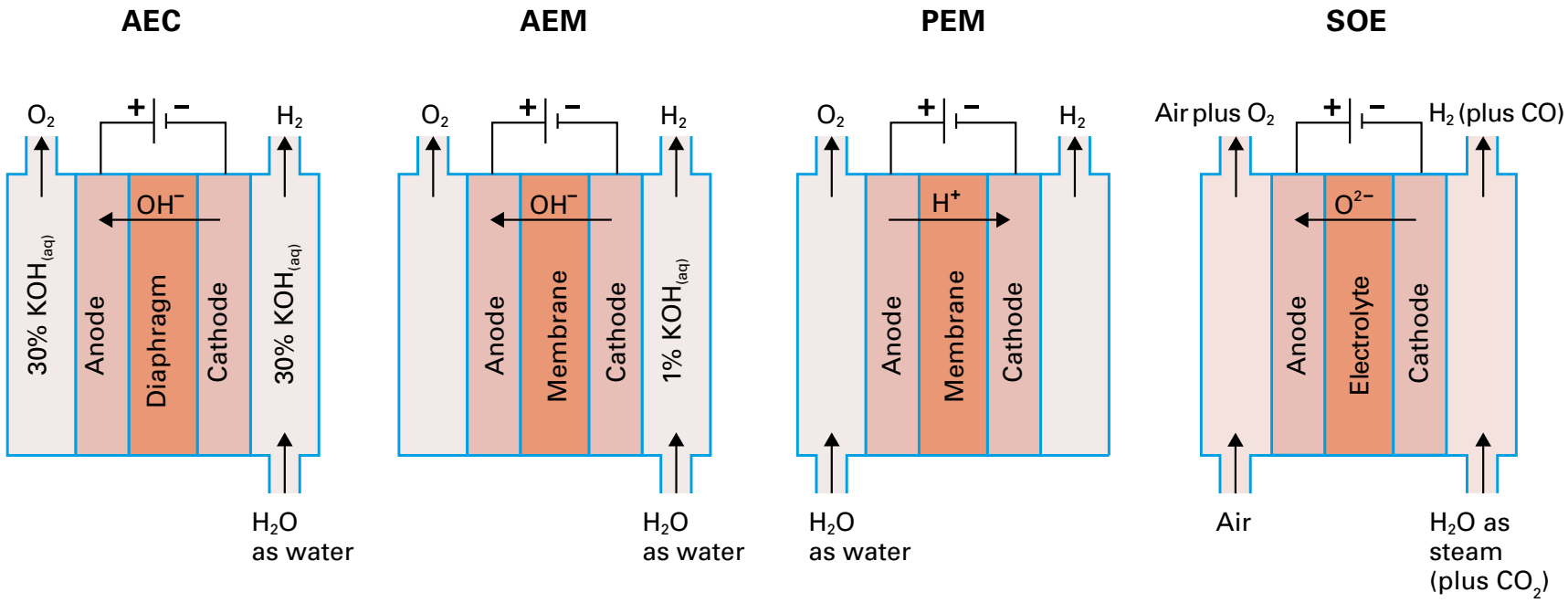
Electrolysers: AEC, AEM, PEM and SOE for hydrogen (and syngas) production

sbh4 consulting

Notes:

- In the AEC, AEM and PEM, lye or water flow from the electrolyser cell with the oxygen and/or hydrogen gases. These liquids are mixed and recirculated to the electrolyser.
- Air is used to purge the SOE anode to avoid oxygen accumulation which may present a hazard at the high operating temperature.
- Bipolar plates made of stainless steel (titanium for PEM) are used to stack adjacent cells in each electrolyser type.



	Alkaline Electrolysis Cell AEC	Anion Exchange Membrane / Alkaline Electrolyte Membrane AEM	Polymer Electrolyte Membrane/ Proton Exchange Membrane PEM/PEMEC	Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell SOE/SOEC
Electrode material	– Cathode: Ni, Co or Fe – Anode: Ni	– Cathode: Ni / Ni alloys – Anode: Fe, Ni, Co oxides	– Cathode: Pt/Pd – Anode: IrO_2/RuO_2	– Cathode: Ni – Anode: La/Sr/MnO (LSM) or La/Sr/Co/FeO (LSCF)
Electrolyte	Lye: 25-30% Potassium Hydroxide solution in water	Anion Exchange ionomer (e.g. AS-4)	Fluoropolymer ionomer (eg Nafion, a DuPont brand)	Zirconium Oxide with ~8% Yttrium Oxide
Energy source	100% electrical power	100% electrical power	100% electrical power	~25% heat from steam, ~75% electrical power
Current density	Up to 0.5 A/cm²	0.2 – 1 A/cm²	Up to 3 A/cm²	Up to 0.5 A/cm²
Hydrogen or syngas product	Hydrogen	Hydrogen	Hydrogen	Hydrogen (or syngas if fed with steam and CO_2)
Gas outlet pressure	Up to 40 bar	Up to 35 bar H_2, 1 bar O_2	Up to 40 bar	Close to atmospheric
Cell temperature	~80 °C	~60 °C	~60 °C	~750 to 850 °C