

FLIGHT PATH TO SAF:

Innovation, Economics, and the 2030
Mandate

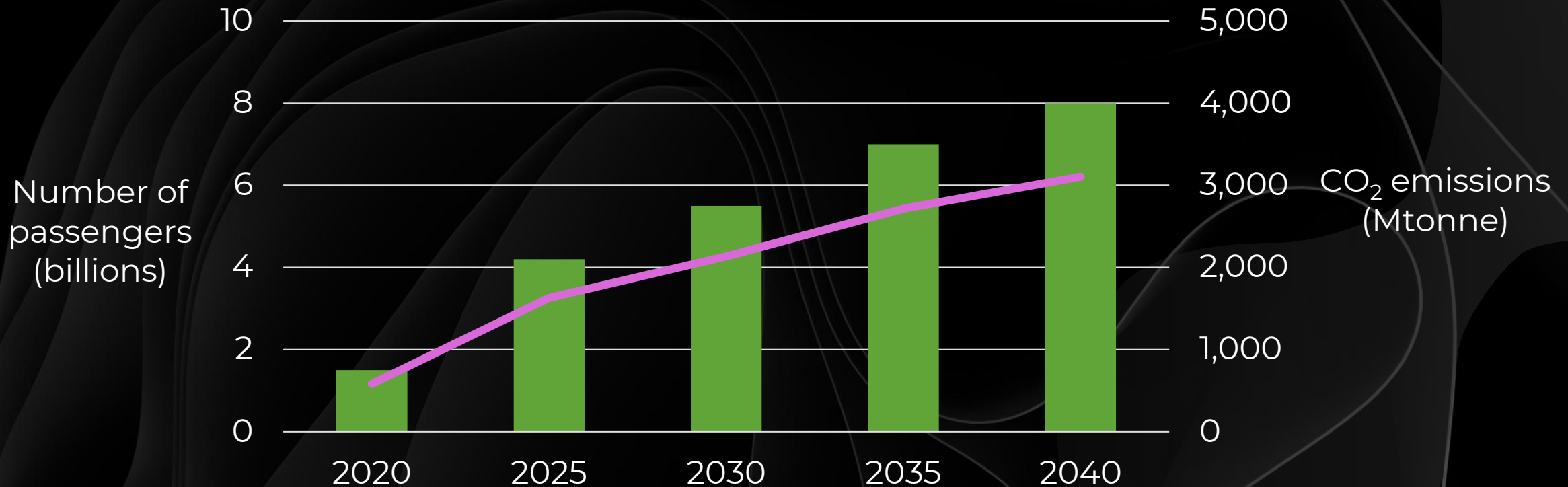


Runeel Daliah
Principal Analyst

AVIATION SECTOR WILL DOUBLE IN SIZE

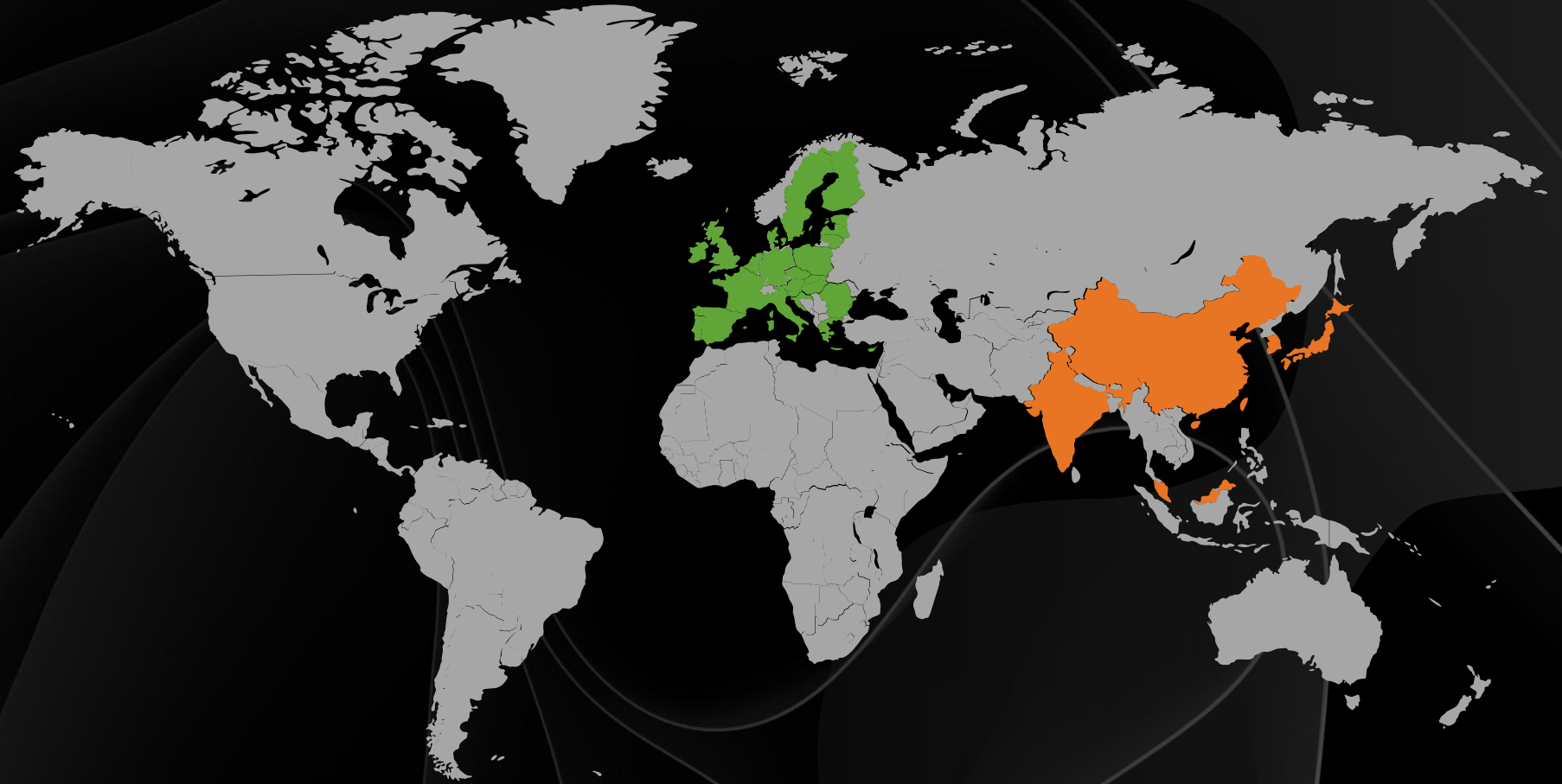
The aviation sector will grow to 8 billion passengers by 2040, leading to over 3 Gtonne of CO₂ emissions

Global Air Passengers



SAF MANDATES WORLDWIDE

The U.K. and EU have active SAF mandates in 2025; multiple other countries plan adoption before 2030.



SAF MANDATES WORLDWIDE

The U.K. and EU have active SAF mandates in 2025; multiple other countries plan adoption before 2030.

United Kingdom

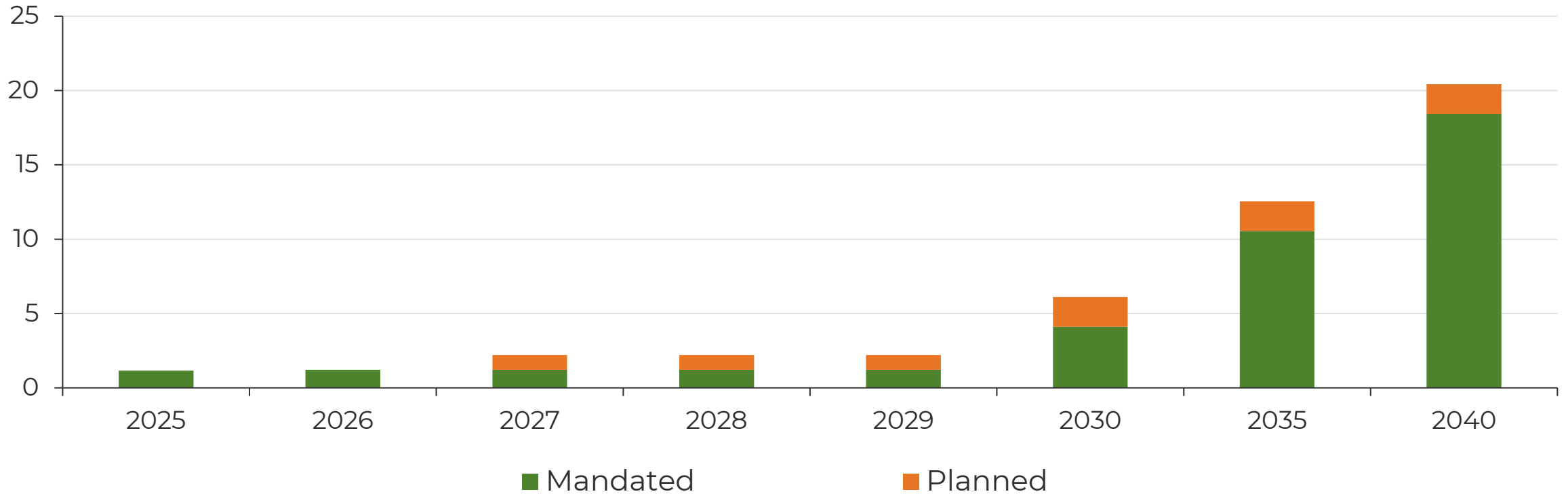
- 2% by 2025
- 10% by 2030
 - 0.5% e-SAF
- 24% by 2040
 - 4% e-SAF

European Union

- 2% by 2025
- 6% by 2030
 - 1.2% e-SAF
- 70% by 2050
 - 35% e-SAF

4 MTONNE SAF WILL BE MANDATED BY 2030

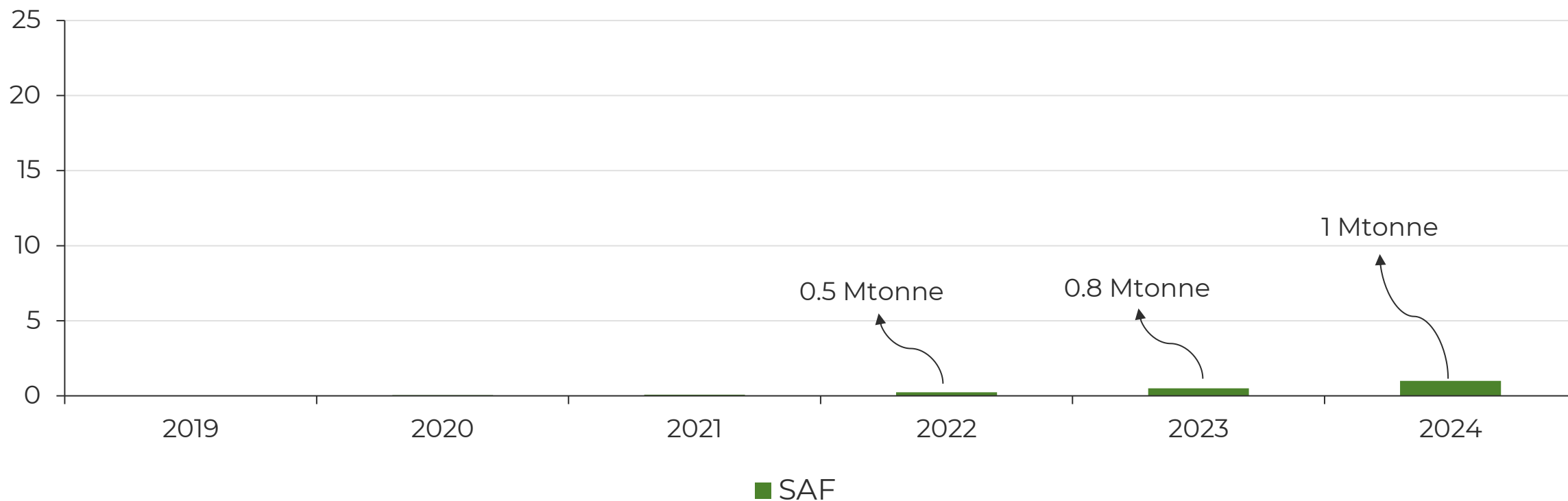
Projected SAF Demand
SAF (Mtonne)



BUT ONLY 1 MTONNE SAF WAS PRODUCED IN 2024

Global SAF Production








































SAF (Mtonne)









**Where will the remaining 4 Mtonne
of SAF come from?**

MULTIPLE COMPANIES OFFER SAF TECHNOLOGY

BIO-OIL TO SAF	CO2 TO SAF	ALCOHOL TO SAF
             	          	          
		BIOMASS TO SAF
		      

THE PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

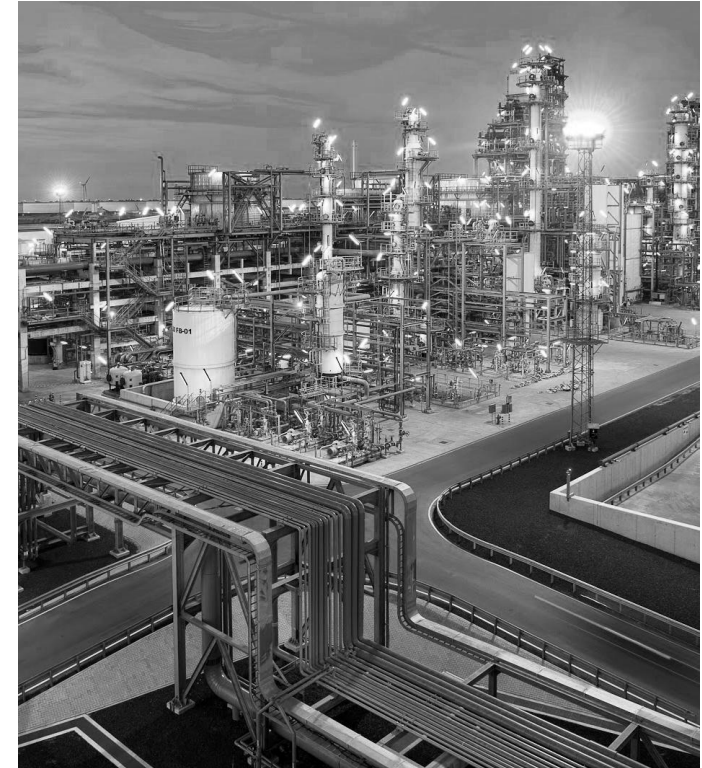
	Abundant feedstock	No feedstock limitations
	Sustainable feedstock	SAF should have a low carbon intensity
	Scalable technology	Fuel is a commodity market
	Experienced developers	Multi-billion-dollar projects

BIO-OIL – TO – SAF

Enabling Technology:





*Hydrotreated Esters & Fatty Acids (HEFA)
(ASTM approved, 2011)*

- Vegetable oil or waste oil (used cooking oil and animal fats) is converted to SAF.
- The technology catalytically converts the feedstock in the presence of hydrogen to remove oxygen, followed by hydrocracking into renewable diesel, naphtha, and SAF
- The typical jet fuel fraction in a HEFA facility is 15%; it can be adjusted to up to 80% for maximum jet output.



- **Maturity:** Commercial
- **Key focus area:** Feedstock pre-treatment, feedstock supply chain management

NOT A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

	Limited feedstock	Waste oil is limited and distributed in supply
	Sustainable feedstock	Waste oil has a low carbon intensity
	Scalable technology	Hydrotreatment is fully commercial
	Mature developers	Multiple large corporations in the market (Neste, Honeywell UOP, Axens, etc.)

BIOMASS – TO – SAF

Enabling Technologies:





Gasification/Fischer-Tropsch (ASTM approved, 2009), biomass liquefaction

- Cellulosic biomass or MSW is converted to SAF.
- Most common approach is to gasify bio-based feedstock into synthesis gas (CO/H₂), which is then fed into a Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce diesel, waxes, and SAF.
- Emerging approaches include biomass liquefaction into biocrude, which is then refined into SAF.



- **Maturity:** Introduction (Gasification), Development (Pyrolysis and HTL)
- **Key focus area:** Gasifier capex, tar formation, O₂ content in biocrude

NOT A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

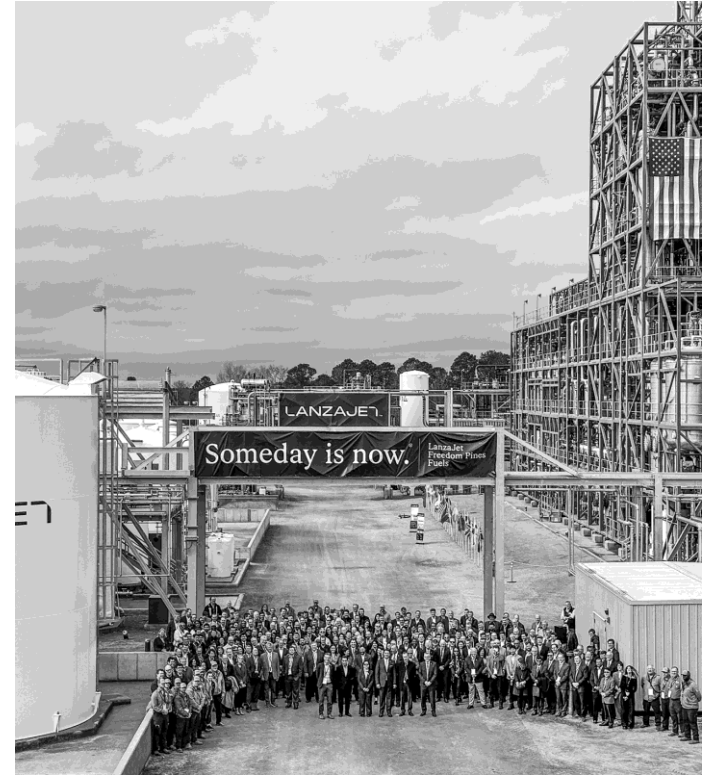
	Abundant feedstock	Forestry & agricultural feedstock is widely available globally
	Sustainable feedstock	Biomass has a low carbon intensity
	Developing technology	Biomass/MSW gasification is under development; FT for SAF is not yet at scale
	Emerging developers	No strong leader in gasification yet; experienced developers in FT

ETHANOL – TO – SAF

Enabling Technology:





Ethanol-to-jet (ETJ) (ASTM approved, 2016)

- Ethanol-to-jet (ETJ) is a three-step catalytic conversion of ethanol into jet fuel. Ethanol is first dehydrated into ethylene, which is then oligomerized into long-chain hydrocarbons before hydrogenation into jet fuel.
- The ethanol can be first generation (1G) from food crops or second generation (2G) from cellulosic sugars.



- **Maturity:** Demonstration
- **Key focus area:** Catalyst stability, product yield, 2G ethanol supply

NOT A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

	Abundant feedstock	1G ethanol is a commodity and widely available globally; 2G ethanol is limited
	Sustainable feedstock	1G ethanol is not sustainable; 2G ethanol has a low carbon intensity
	Developing technology	ETJ is currently at demo scale; cellulosic ethanol is stagnating
	Experienced developers	Multiple large corporations in the market (Honeywell UOP, Axens, etc.)

CO₂ – TO – SAF

Enabling Technologies:





Fischer-Tropsch (FT) (ASTM approved, 2009), Methanol-to-jet (MTJ)

- The conversion of CO₂ and hydrogen into SAF via multi-step pathways.
- The main pathway is via FT; CO₂ and hydrogen is converted into syngas via reverse water gas shift, which is then converted to fuel via FT.
- An emerging pathway is through methanol; CO₂ and hydrogen is converted to methanol via CO₂ hydrogenation, which is then dehydrogenated, oligomerized, and hydrotreated into jet fuel.



- **Maturity:** Development
- **Key focus area:** Electrolysis scale-up, source of CO₂,

NOT A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

	Abundant feedstock	CO ₂ from ambient air and green hydrogen are (theoretically) abundant; biogenic CO ₂ less so
	Sustainable feedstock	(Ambient or biogenic) CO ₂ and green hydrogen have a low carbon intensity
	Developing technology	DAC and electrolysis are emerging; FT and MTJ for SAF are not yet at scale
	Experienced developers	Multiple large corporations for electrolysis, FT, and MTJ

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

Bio-oil to SAF

- Limited feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- + Scalable technology
- + Mature developers

Biomass to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- Emerging developers

Ethanol to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- + Mature developers

CO₂ to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Scalable technology
- + Mature developers

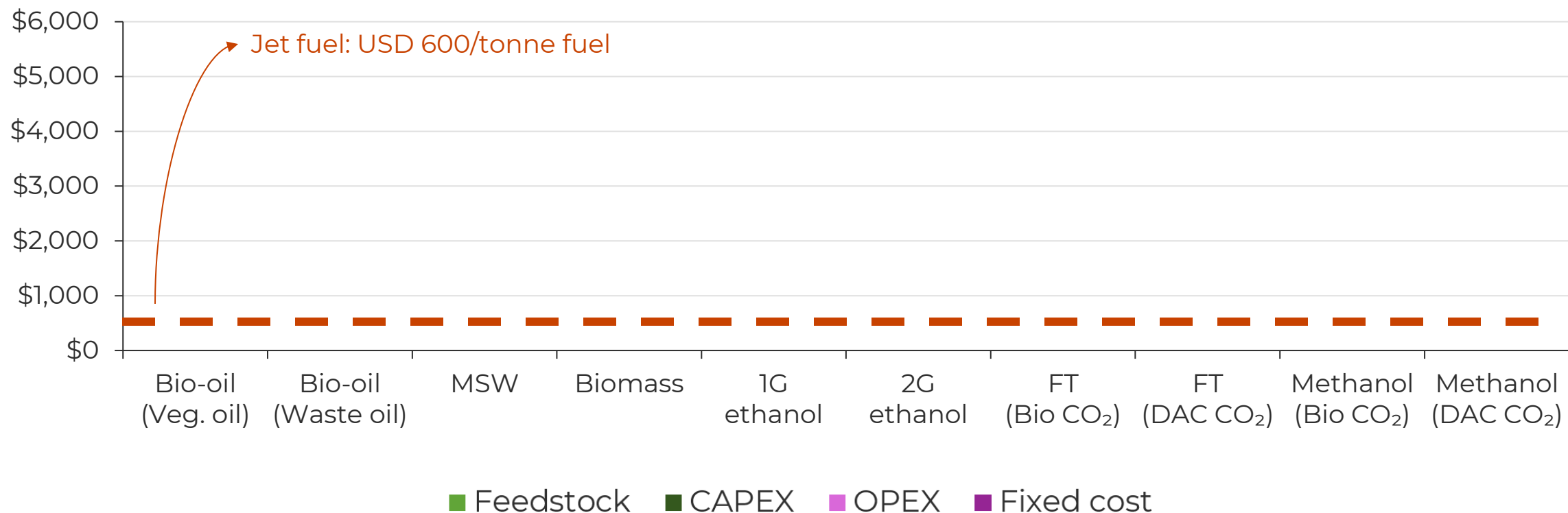


At what cost?

ECONOMICS OF SAF

COST OF SAF

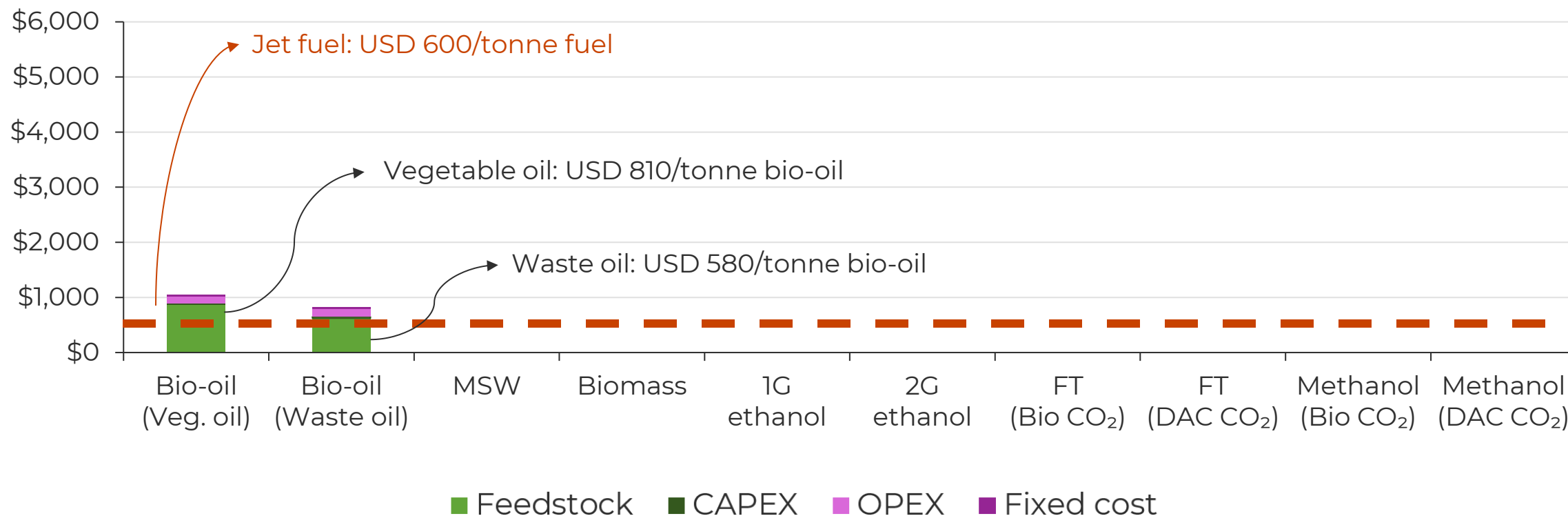
SAF (USD/tonne)



ECONOMICS OF SAF – BIO OIL TO SAF

COST OF SAF

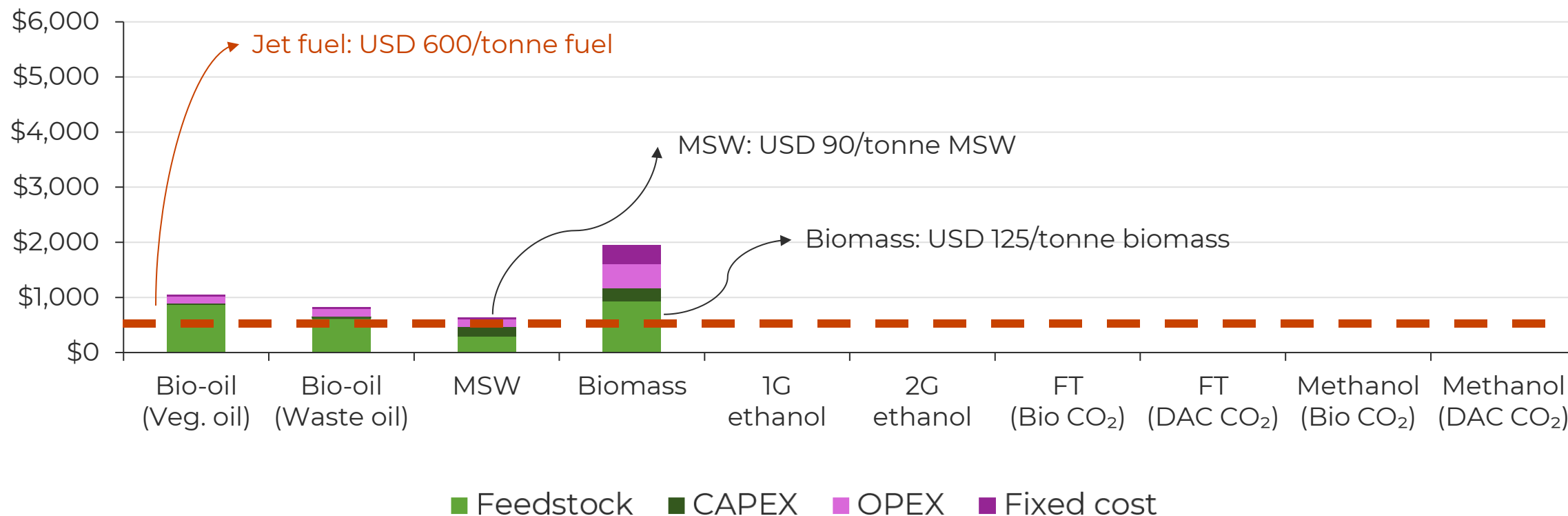
SAF (USD/tonne)



ECONOMICS OF SAF – BIOMASS TO SAF

COST OF SAF

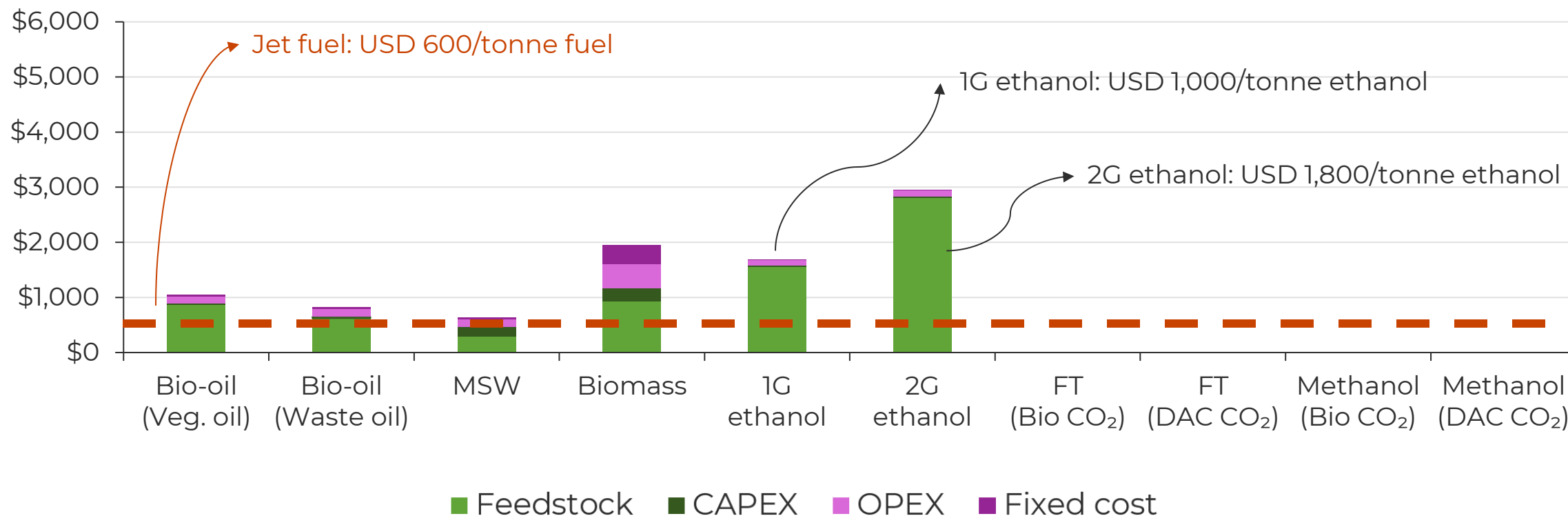
SAF (USD/tonne)



ECONOMICS OF SAF – ETHANOL TO SAF

COST OF SAF

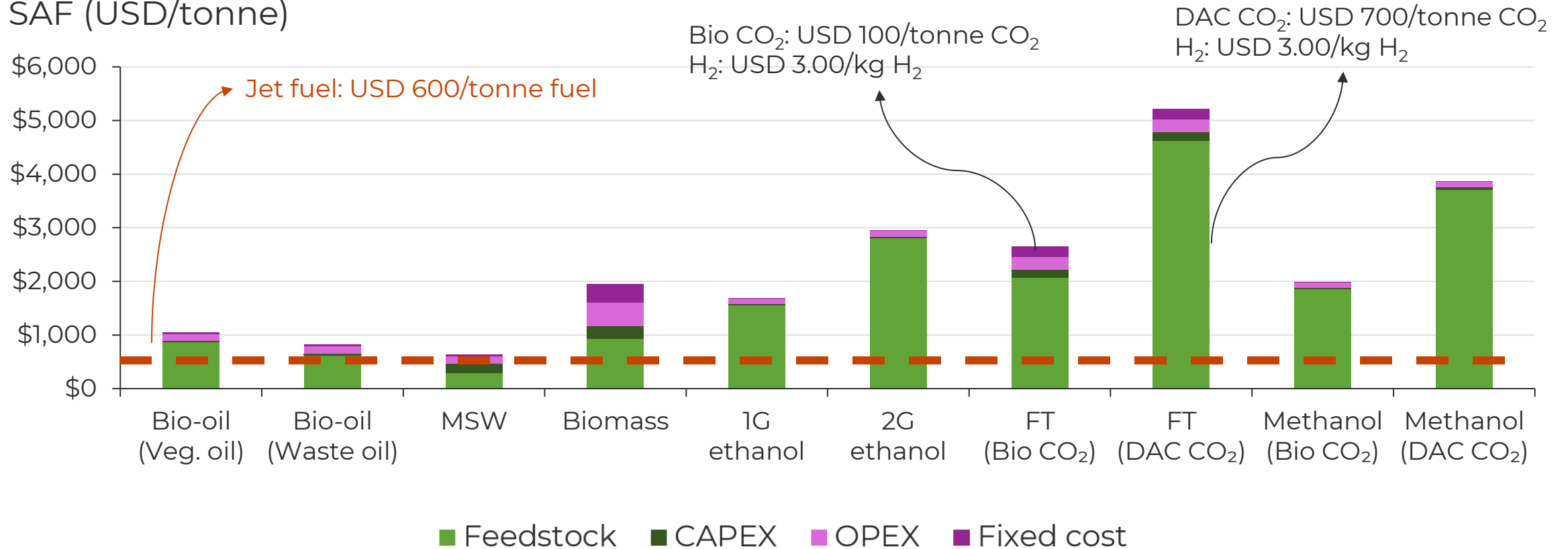
SAF (USD/tonne)



ECONOMICS OF SAF – CO₂ TO SAF

COST OF SAF

SAF (USD/tonne)





How does it play out for an airline?

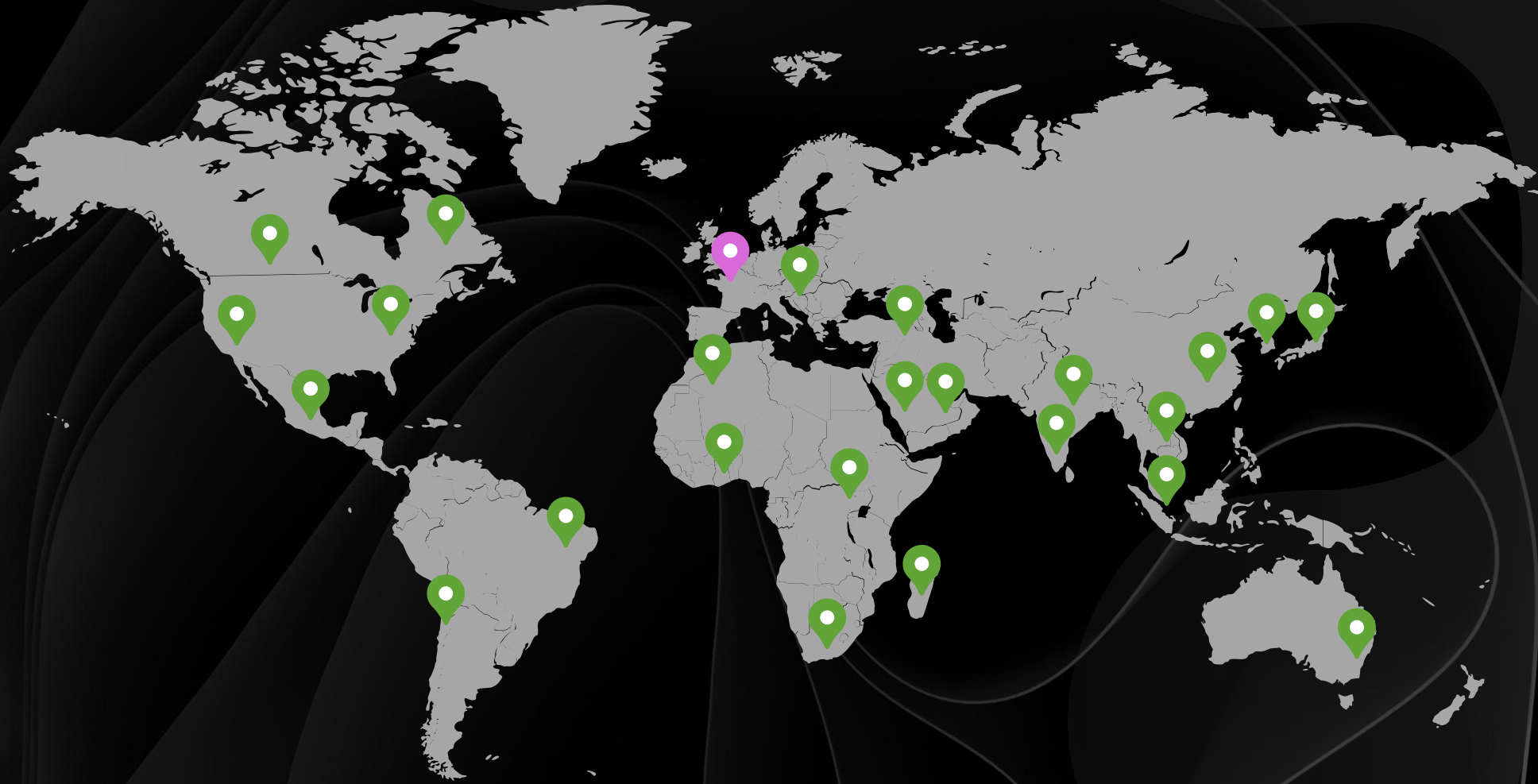
“ ”

“We aim to incorporate at least 10% of SAF globally by 2030, far exceeding European regulations within this timeframe.”

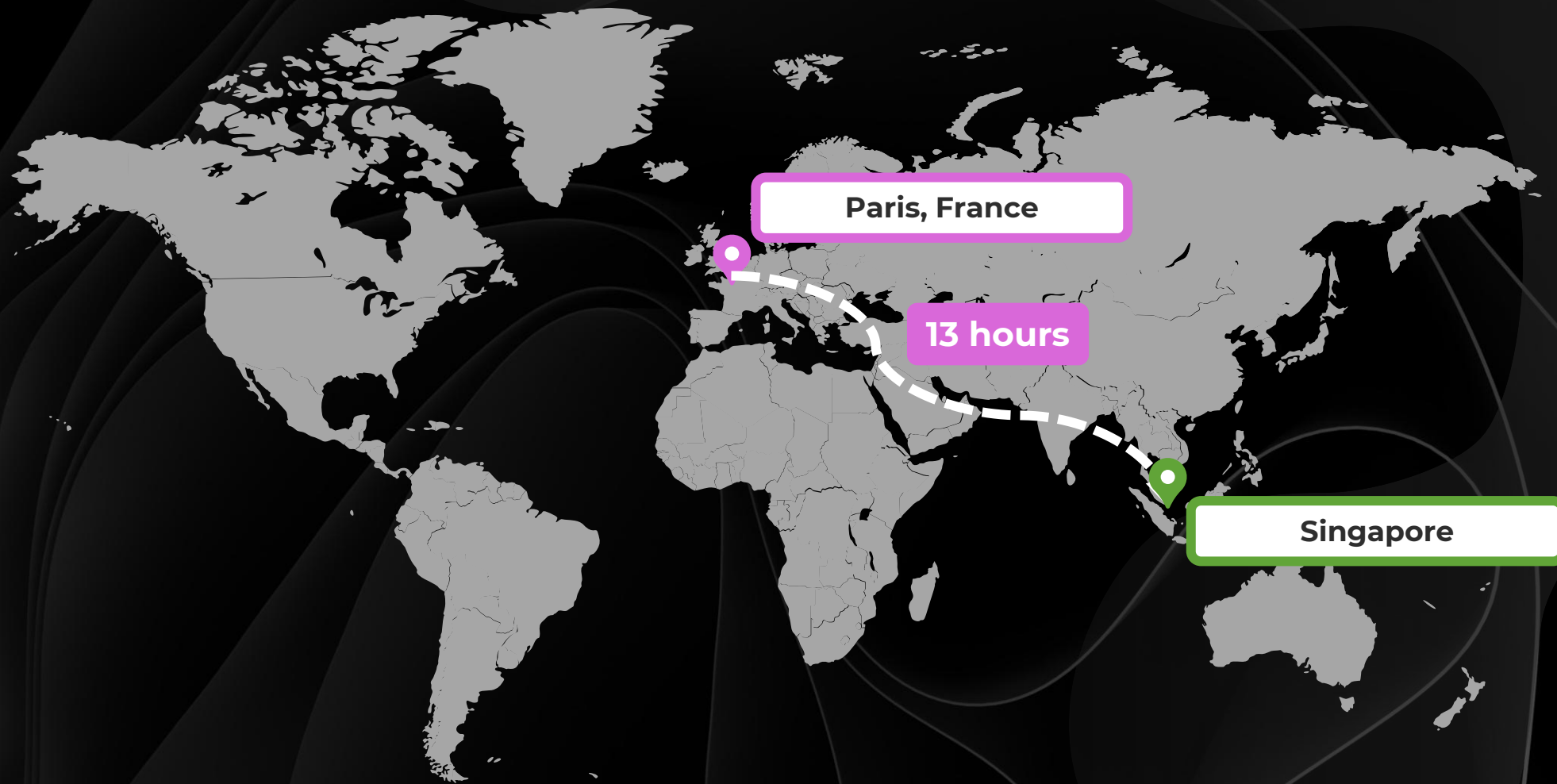
AIRFRANCE 



AIR FRANCE FLIES TO 85 COUNTRIES



PARIS TO SINGAPORE

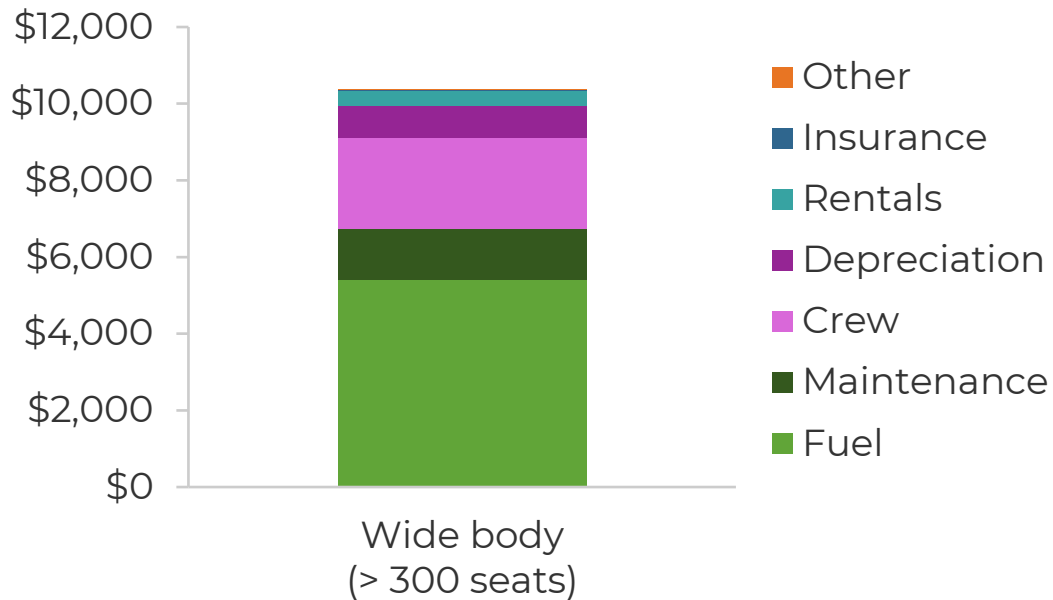


COST OF AVIATION

Operating cost of airplanes

COST OF OPERATING AIRPLANE

Operating & fixed costs (USD/h)



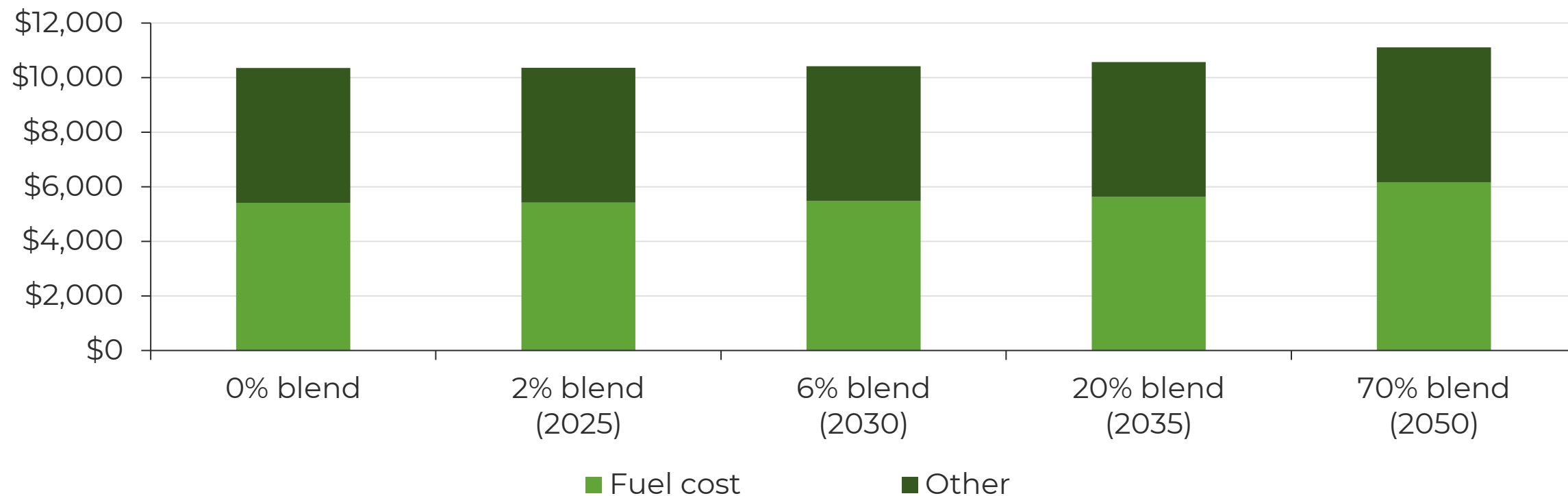
The total operating cost of a 13-h, 300-passenger flight from Paris to Singapore is roughly USD 135,000.

IMPACT OF HEFA IS MINIMAL

IMPACT OF BIO-OIL SAF BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Operating cost (USD/h)

Bio-oil cost premium:
20%

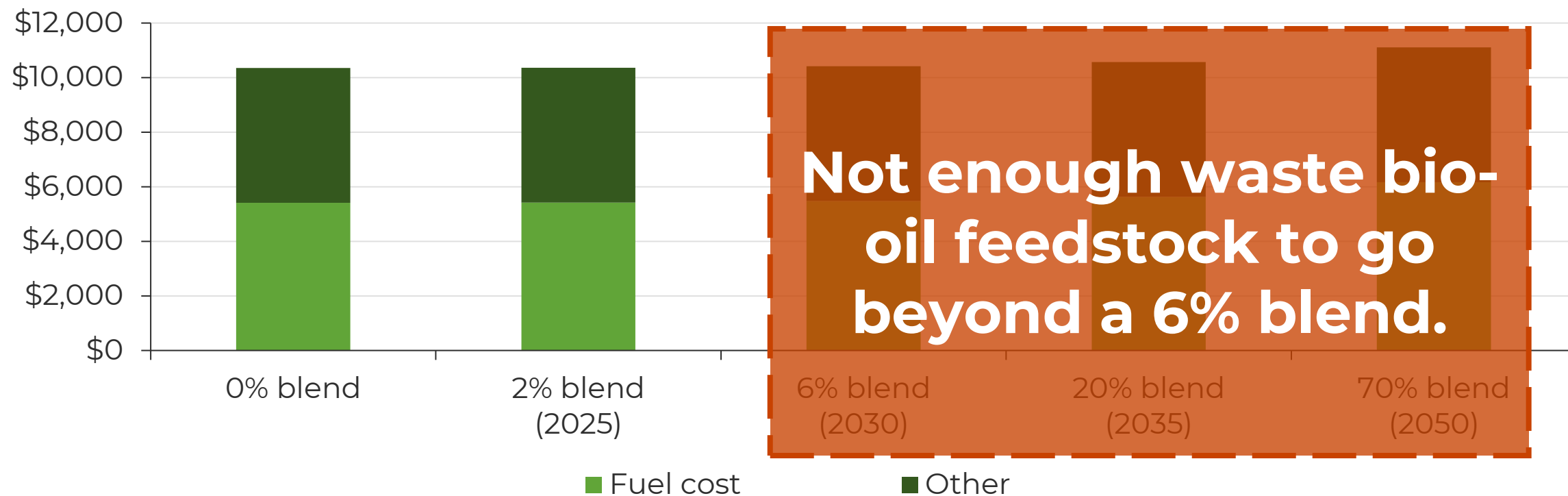


IMPACT OF HEFA IS MINIMAL

IMPACT OF BIO-OIL SAF BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Operating cost (USD/h)

Bio-oil cost premium:
20%

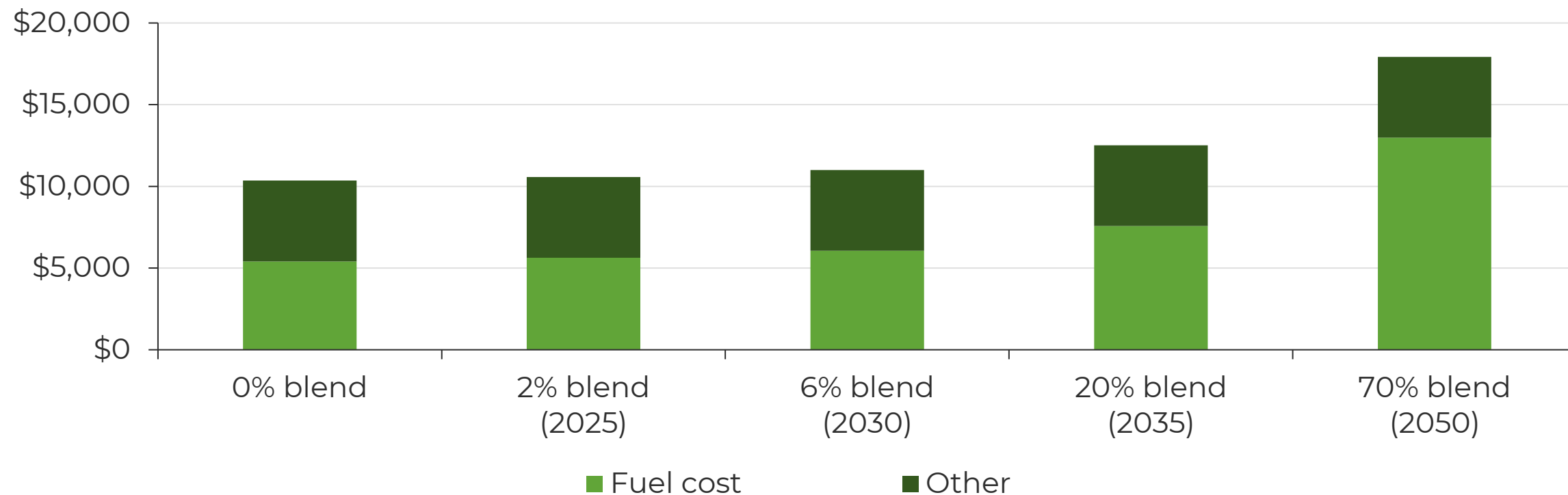


IMPACT OF BIOMASS FT IS NOTICEABLE

IMPACT OF BIOMASS-FT BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Biomass-FT cost premium:
180%

Operating cost (USD/h)

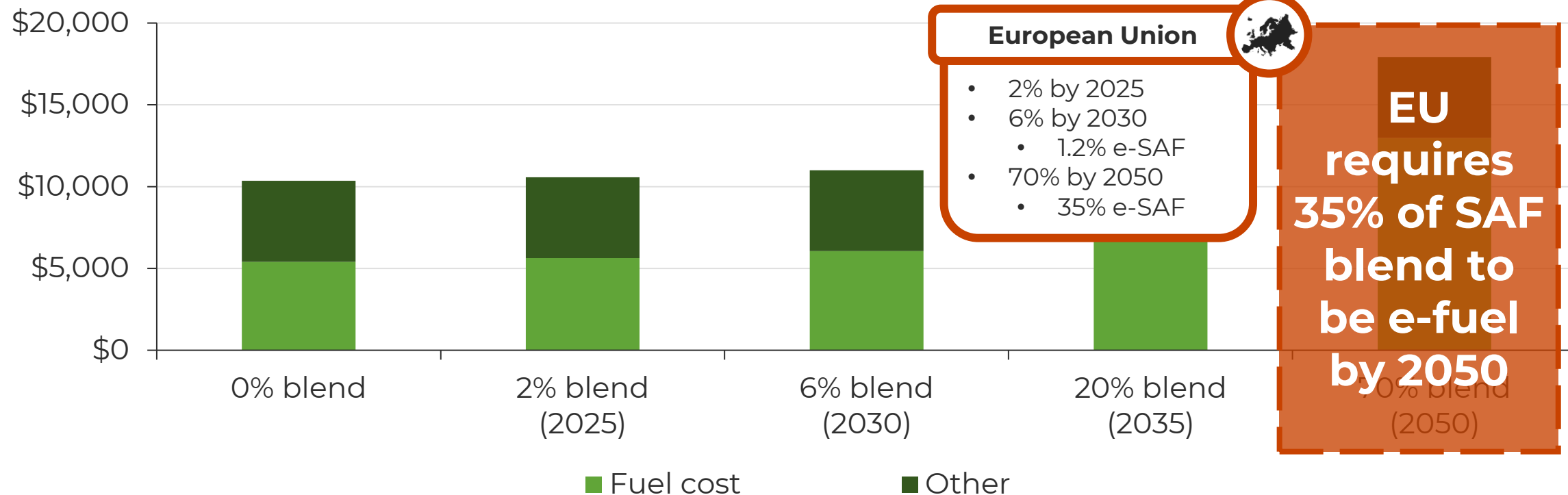


IMPACT OF BIOMASS FT IS NOTICEABLE

IMPACT OF BIOMASS-FT BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Biomass-FT cost premium:
180%

Operating cost (USD/h)

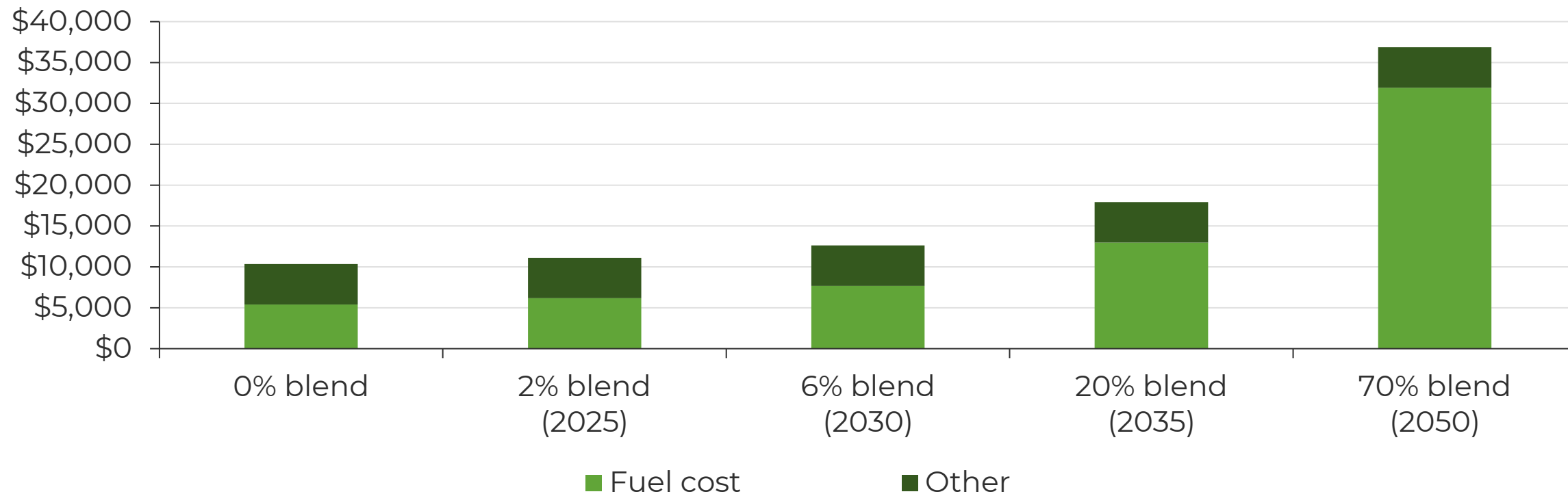


IMPACT OF E-FUELS IS UNFATHOMABLE

IMPACT OF E-FUELS BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Operating cost (USD/h)

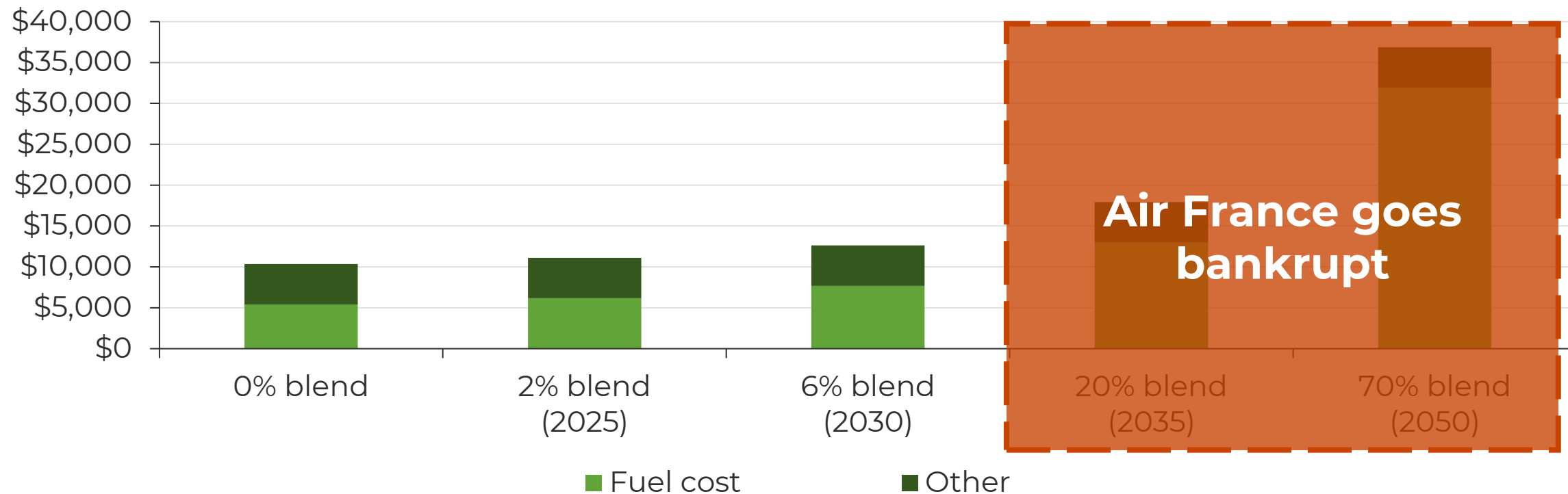
E-fuel cost premium:
645%



IMPACT OF E-FUELS IS UNFATHOMABLE

IMPACT OF E-FUELS BLENDS ON OPERATING COST

Operating cost (USD/h)





What can you do?

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

Bio-oil to SAF

- Limited feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- + Scalable technology
- + Mature developers

Biomass to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- Emerging developers

Ethanol to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- + Mature developers

CO₂ to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Scalable technology
- + Mature developers

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

Bio-oil to SAF

- Limited feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- + Scalable technology
- + Mature developers



CEMVITA

Develops a microbial platform to convert CO₂ and water into bio-oil feedstock for HEFA.

LUX TAKE

Bio-oil from CO₂ is a breakthrough, but scalability will remain an issue.



MONTANA
RENEWABLES™

Uses non-food camelina oil to produce SAF from HEFA.

LUX TAKE

Innovations in energy crops will resurface as feedstock supply challenges loom.

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

Biomass to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- Emerging developers



Develops a combined thermolysis and cracking technology for syngas from biomass.

LUX TAKE

Full tar elimination will be crucial for successful deployment.



Develops a pyrolysis oil treatment technology to reduce oxygen content below 10%.

LUX TAKE

Unlocking pyrolysis oil for existing refinery assets will be a breakthrough.

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

Ethanol to SAF

- + Abundant feedstock
- + Sustainable feedstock
- Developing technology
- + Mature developers



Develops steam-assisted pyrolysis of biomass into fermentable sugars.

LUX TAKE

Technology validation is key as ETJ is ready to scale.



Develops microbial conversion of syngas into ethanol for jet fuel.

LUX TAKE

ETJ must showcase better economics versus MTJ for commercial success.

BUILDING A PERFECT SAF TECHNOLOGY

CO₂ to SAF

+

Abundant feedstock

+

Sustainable feedstock

-

Scalable technology

+

Mature developers

OXCCU

Develops a technology to convert CO₂ and hydrogen directly into SAF via FT.

LUX TAKE

Technology will reduce capex, but high feedstock costs will remain a barrier.

sora fuel 

Develops a technology for single-step DAC and syngas generation.

LUX TAKE

Reducing energy demand will lower CO₂ cost, but tech is still at lab scale.



**Novel SAF technologies are not yet
ready to scale; the space is full of
innovation opportunities**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

The EU's SAF mandate for 2030 will fail.

Lack of feedstock supply for waste oil and immature technologies will cause the EU to delay implementation of the 6% blend level; the e-fuel sub-mandate is likely to be scrapped due to high production costs for CO₂-based SAF.

2

DAC should not be used for SAF.

It will always be cheaper to sequester CO₂ than transform it into fuel. Beware of any projects that rely on DAC as they are likely to fail.

3

Innovate in biobased feedstock & technology.

The only chance to meet the demands of the mandate is through bio-SAF. Focus on unlocking energy crops for HEFA and scaling gasification and pyrolysis to convert cellulosic biomass into SAF.



THANK YOU



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