



Thermal Propulsion Systems Roadmap 2020

Narrative Report

February 2021 | Version 1.0



Overview: Thermal Propulsion Systems

Although the internal combustion engine has been the bedrock of automotive propulsion since the 1900s, a focussed effort on improved thermal efficiency, systems optimisation, hybridisation and new net-zero carbon fuels is required to meet stricter emissions regulations.

- Engine efficiency, commonly measured as Brake Thermal Efficiency, has continued to increase since the last TPS roadmap was published in 2017. For light duty vehicles, this is expected to reach 48% by 2025 and 53% by 2035. Engine developments for heavy duty vehicles could see 60% reached by 2035.
- Future thermal propulsion systems will include some level of hybridisation to manage stricter GhG emission standards and deliver higher overall system efficiencies. A radical shift away from fossil fuels is already underway with net-zero fuels favoured.
- Innovations in light duty vehicles include: the use of advanced coatings and materials to reduce heat loss; more efficient combustion through, for example, lean burn and water injection; together with integrated hybrid engines.
- In contrast, for heavy duty vehicles, with their unique duty cycles and powertrain architectures, innovations are likely from waste-heat recovery, low-temperature combustion and in the longer term, adaptations to use alternative fuels.
- Key benefits of ICEs are the high degree of equipment recyclability, low LCA impact and a mature repurposing & remanufacturing industry backbone. Engines are already manufactured at carbon-neutral plants, worldwide.
- Significant research is underway to find sustainable net-zero alternatives to fossil fuels that take advantage of well-known production systems, established materials supply and low-cost manufacturing of ICE. These fuels are a new feature of the 2020 TPS roadmap and represent the key to meeting green-house gas emission and air quality targets in the long term.
- Our survey of experts showed that cost parity between ICE and BEV is expected by 2035, driving a radical shift from existing fossil fuels to alternatives, in particular bio-fuels and hydrogen. Several of these fuels including bio-fuels and e-fuels can partly or fully replace the existing fuel mix in current engines. Modification of the engine opens up the possibility of using a wider range of synthetic fuels. Industry experts are very confident that new ICE architectures with sustainable net-zero are achievable near-term.
- Recycling regulations and consideration of whole life impacts are encouraging a wide range of approaches across supply chains from design for disassembly and remanufacturing to recycling of components and more efficient production. It is important that life-cycle principles are embedded in new net-zero fuel combustion systems.

Foreword and Acknowledgements



Neville Jackson
On behalf of the
UK Automotive Council

The APC would like to acknowledge the extensive support provided by industry and academia in development and publishing this roadmap.

We are grateful to the Automotive Council for entrusting us with the product and technology roadmaps refresh and their continued support.

This work has received significant support from BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).

I am delighted to share the 2020 automotive propulsion technology roadmaps developed closely in collaboration with industry by the Advanced Propulsion Centre. These roadmaps define critical future targets and the most promising pathways to achieve a decarbonised and more sustainable future vehicle parc. They are an essential tool in developing a focused R&D agenda, particularly relevant for collaborative innovation.

The roadmaps build on the foundations of original UK Automotive Council roadmaps and developed further by the APC in 2017. These have been refreshed to reflect the urgency in transitioning to the UK target of net-zero emissions by 2050. The rate of change in propulsion technologies has accelerated rapidly in recent years; electrified vehicle adoption is on the rise, battery prices have come down faster than previously forecast, alternative zero-emission technologies like fuel cells are maturing at significant pace and clean fuels for combustion, including hydrogen, are emerging to replace existing fossil fuels.

However, there are significant challenges to overcome as the rate of change must increase further, requiring more intensive R&D and commercialisation that will deliver affordable products to market that are even more attractive for consumers. The 2020 technology roadmaps have been developed by industry expert surveys and panels, delivering a consensed view of future automotive propulsion targets, technologies and timescales.

Our aim with this report is to support the automotive sector with insights and a common technology focus to accelerate and deliver world-class solutions. The roadmaps are an important source of information in building collaborative R&D opportunities to address future mobility challenges, goods transport and off-highway vehicle research and development.

Prof Chris Brace
University of Bath, APC Spoke

Thermal propulsion systems will remain at the forefront of technology to 2040 and beyond. We know that engines will still be important for the foreseeable future, but we are much less sure what they will be burning in that time period.

Progress towards net-zero means that fuels must be decarbonised rapidly. Reduced carbon fuels for today's fleet are a critical part of this work. Further progress will be possible with radically new sustainable fuels, for which we will develop new efficient engine and propulsion system technologies.

I am hugely optimistic that engineering and science can help us to bring the benefits of clean, sustainable mobility to ever more of the world's population.

Prof Rob Morgan
University of Brighton, APC Spoke

This roadmap, unlike the 2017 version is aligned to meeting the net-zero target. The critical importance of a rapid transition to sustainable fuels came through strongly during its development. There will be a range of fuel solutions with different impacts on the future requirements of the powertrain and a tremendous opportunity to cut carbon emissions quickly and sustainably especially in the 'hard to electrify sectors' such as long-haul freight.

The roadmap was developed with inputs from a broad range of industrial and academic experts and given the challenges and complexity of the problem, a remarkable consensus was achieved. I personally feel privileged to have participated in this project and hope the roadmaps are helpful in guiding the sector in delivering a clean, sustainable future.

Insights from the 2020 Industry Experts Online Survey

A radical shift in fuels used in combustion engines is underway as cost parity between BEVs and ICE appears likely by 2035.

Technology survey respondents

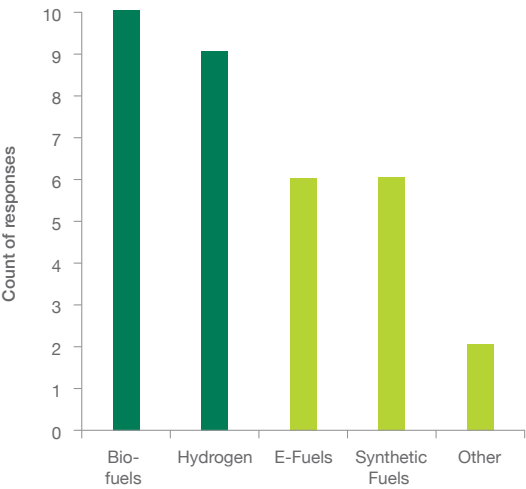
A spread of industry specialists responded to the online technology survey carried out in September 2020.



- Engineering Consultancy / Service Provider (22%)
- Other (17%)
- Technology Developer (17%)
- Academia (11%)
- Research Technology Organisation (11%)
- SME (11%)
- Tier 1 supplier (11%)

Which fuels are expected to dominate the combustion engine market by 2040?

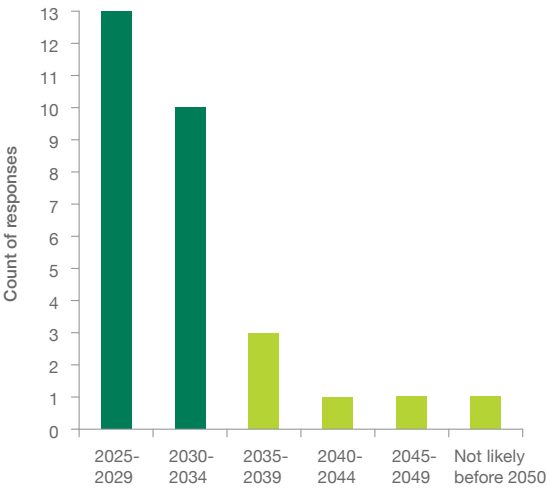
The fuels most likely to dominate the light duty combustion engine market by 2040 are bio-fuels and hydrogen.



NB: Bio-fuels cannot currently be supplied in high volumes due to bio-waste supply constraints.

When will cost parity be achieved between BEVs & ICE?

When asked when BEV and ICE would achieve cost parity, almost 80% of responders thought this would be possible before 2035.



NB: This could be sooner for high volume small passenger cars.



Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

Technology Indicators and Drivers



Technology indicators for light duty and heavy duty applications

Technology indicators that industry is likely to achieve in a mass-market competitive environment.

Brake Thermal Efficiency (BTE)



	2020	2025	2035
Light Duty	42%	48%	53%



	2020	2025	2035
Heavy Duty	47%	55%	60%

Notes:

- BTE refers to Peak Brake Thermal Efficiency.
- BTE is a common indicator for engine efficiency. The values listed are best-in-class figures.
- Although single point peak BTE values are shown, these are not accurate indicators of real world vehicle efficiency which will vary across propulsion technologies and product applications.

Green House Gas and Air Quality Regulation Drivers

 Defined driver Predicted driver

Light Duty	CO ₂ e Emission	95 g/km (NEDC)	-15% (WLTP)	PC -37.5% and Van -31% (WLTP)	Towards net-zero CO ₂ e and LCA compliance				
	Pollution and Resource	Euro 6d / EPA Tier 3	Euro 7 / EPA Tier 3	Holistic environmental impact legislation (VOC, resource use, land use) and LCA compliance					
Heavy Duty	CO ₂ e Emission	CO ₂ : VECTO Uptake	CO ₂ : -15%	CO ₂ : -30%	Towards net-zero CO ₂ e and LCA compliance				
	Pollution and Resource	Euro VI / EPA 2015 NRE Stage V	Euro VII / EPA 2015 NRE Stage V+	Euro VII + / EPA 2015 MY27 NRE Stage V++	Holistic environmental impact legislation (VOC, resource use, land use) and LCA compliance				
		▲ 2020	▲ 2025	▲ 2030	▲ 2035	▲ 2040	▲ 2045	▲ 2050	▲ ...



Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

Technology Indicators and Drivers

Technology indicators for light duty and heavy duty applications

Technology indicators that industry is likely to achieve in a mass-market competitive environment.

Technology indicators

In 2020, these replace targets in the roadmaps, providing a direction of travel and an approach to measuring best-in-class performance for this technology.

Brake Thermal Efficiency (BTE)



	2020	2025	2035
Light Duty	42%	48%	53%



	2020	2025	2035
Heavy Duty	47%	55%	60%

Brake Thermal Efficiency (BTE)

The indicators for light duty and heavy duty vehicles are provided separately, as their duty cycles and technology selection differ.

Green House Gas and Air Quality Regulation Drivers

Defined driver Predicted driver

Light Duty	CO ₂ e Emission	95 g/km (NEDC)	-15% (WLTP)	PC -37.5% and Van -31% (WLTP)	Towards net-zero CO ₂ e and LCA compliance
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Regulation Drivers

Evolving CO₂ emissions, pollution and resources regulations are shown on the TPS roadmap. These strongly influence the development and implementations of combustion engine technologies.



Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

Technology Indicators and Drivers

Technology indicators for light duty and heavy duty applications

Technology indicators that industry is likely to achieve in a mass-market competitive environment.

Brake Thermal Efficiency (BTE)



	2020	2025	2035
Light Duty	42%	48%	53%

Light duty

In order to achieve proposed fuel economy requirements, engines must make better use of the available fuel energy. Regardless of how efficient the engine is, there will still be a significant fraction of the fuel energy that is rejected in the exhaust and coolant streams.

Engine efficiency, commonly measured as brake thermal efficiency, has continued to increase since the last TPS roadmap was published in 2017. By 2026, a standard 4-stroke is expected to achieve a BTE of 48–50%, with the potential of a further increase to a BTE of 52% by applying Organic Rankin Cycle principles. Current commercial engines are capable of achieving a peak BTE of 42% or higher.



	2020	2025	2035
Heavy Duty	47%	55%	60%

Heavy duty

Heavy duty powertrain efficiency will continue to improve - significant advances are expected through waste heat recovery and radical new engine concepts.

There are examples of production programmes for heavy goods vehicles targeting a BTE of 55% by 2026, achieving Euro VII emission standards and super ultra-low emission vehicle (SULEV) compliance, based on water injection technology to reduce the compression work. By 2030, some engine developers are targeting a BTE of 60% by adding ORC, cylinder deactivation and other high efficiency principles.

General notes

Although higher peak BTEs are possible, e.g. by tuning the engine to a single optimisation point, this is impractical in achieving what we are really after – increased ‘net’ duty cycle efficiencies.

Averaged drive cycle BTE values are preferred that quantify system efficiency, but were unavailable. Peak BTE provides an indicator of trajectory development and innovation.

The projections have been derived from senior experts within industry via APC-facilitated workshops.

Resource		Holistic environmental impact legislation (VOC, resource use, land use) and LCA compliance		
Heavy Duty	CO ₂ e Emission	CO ₂ : VECTO Uptake	CO ₂ : -15%	CO ₂ : -30%
	Pollution and Resource	Euro VI / EPA 2015 NRE Stage V	Euro VII / EPA 2015 NRE Stage V+	Euro VII + / EPA 2015 MY27 NRE Stage V++
		Towards net-zero CO ₂ e and LCA compliance		
		Holistic environmental impact legislation (VOC, resource use, land use) and LCA compliance		



Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

General notes

The defined and predicted drivers for GhG are listed under the CO_{2e} (carbon dioxide equivalent) section. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO_{2e} signifies the amount of CO₂ which would have the equivalent global warming impact.

NEDC: The New European Driving Cycle, last updated in 1997, is designed to assess the emission levels of car engines and fuel economy in passenger cars (which excludes light trucks and commercial vehicles).

WLTP: The world harmonised light duty vehicles test procedure is a global, harmonised standard for determining the levels of pollutants, CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption of traditional and hybrid cars, as well as the range of fully electric vehicles.

Light duty

The indicators are taken from the European Commission CO₂ emission performance standards for cars and vans (2020 onwards) regulation documentation. The standard for passenger cars and vans are listed separately in the roadmap.

Pollution and resource are provided as a separate category to support the range of natural resource considerations becoming increasingly important for automotive manufacturing. This includes air, water, land, biological and raw materials.

The Euro 6d standard for light duty vehicles is required for all new cars to be type-approved from January 2020 and this incorporates the real driving emissions requirement for an oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) limit. The Tier 3 standard refers to a set of fuel and vehicle standards adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), closely aligned with California LEV III standards, that are being phased in over the period 2017–2025. The regulation also tightens sulphur limits for petrol. Increasingly stringent and more holistic natural resource regulations are expected in this category.

Heavy duty

A similar approach to GhG and pollution mitigation is demanded for heavy duty vehicles. VECTO, the new simulation tool that has been developed by the European Commission, is used for determining CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption from heavy duty vehicles (trucks, buses and coaches) with a gross vehicle weight above 3.5 tonnes.

Other regions like Japan and the US have opted for fuel economy or CO₂ standards, similar to light duty vehicles. Japan for example, on average, is mandating a 11.9% improvement in fuel economy for trucks by 2025 from a 2015 baseline.

European emission standards for engines (category NRE) used in new non-road mobile machinery have gradually more stringent tiers, known as Stage I to V standards. Stage V regulation introduced a new limit for particle number emissions. The PN limit is designed to ensure that a highly efficient particle control technology, such as wall-flow particulate filters, be used on all affected engine categories. In addition to other changes, the Stage V regulation also tightened the mass-based PM limit for several engine categories, from 0.025 g/kWh to 0.015 g/kWh.

Progressively stringent standards for heavy duty and off-highway vehicles can be expected from 2035 onwards.

Green House Gas and Air Quality Regulation Drivers

Light Duty	CO _{2e} Emission	95 g/km (NEDC)	-15% (WLTP)	PC -37.5% and Van -31% (WLTP)	Towards net-zero CO _{2e} and LCA compliance
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Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

Technology Roadmap

Technology indicators for 2020-2035 can be seen on page 1



This roadmap represents a snapshot-in-time view of the global automotive industry propulsion technology forecast for mass market adoption. Specific application-tailored technologies will vary from region to region.



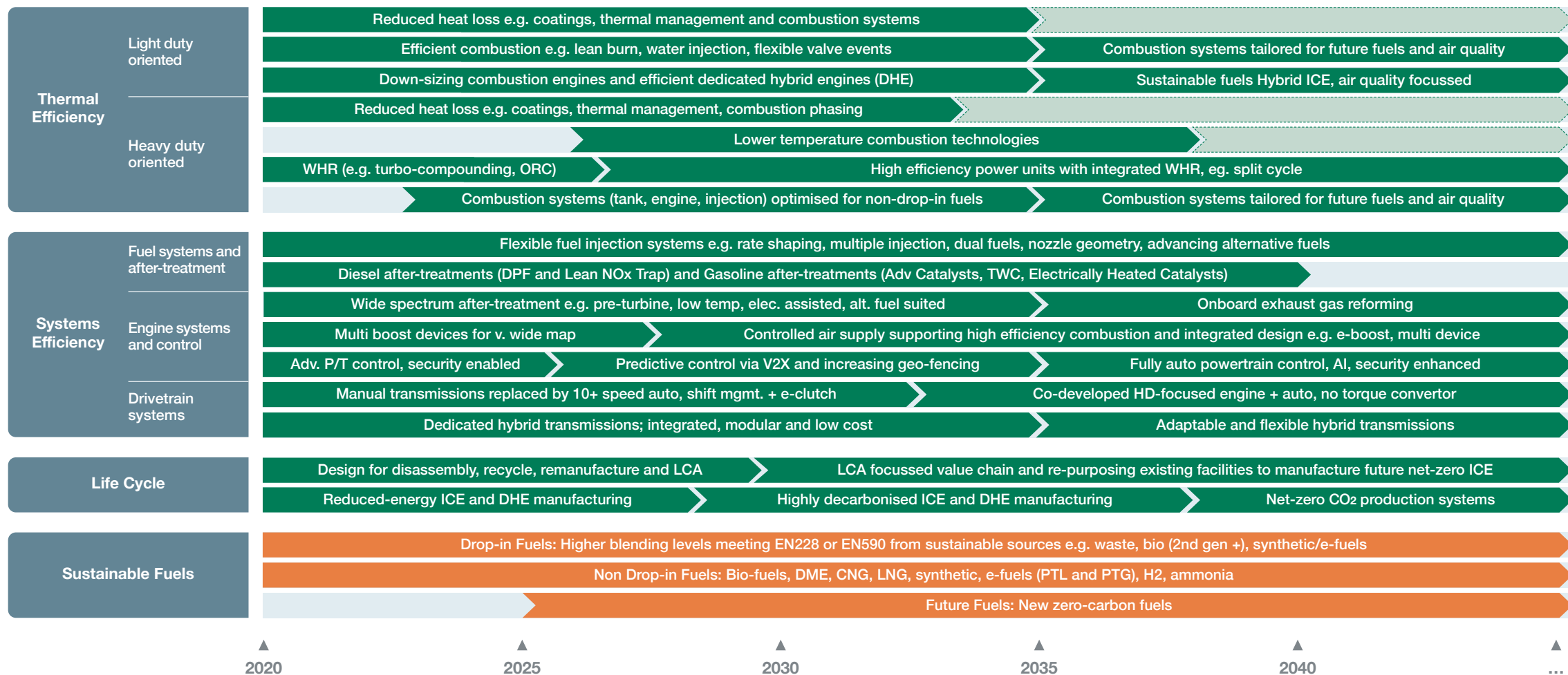
Dark bar:
Technology is in a mass market application. Significant innovation is expected in this time frame



Transition:
Transitions do not mean a phase out from market but a change of R&D emphasis



Dotted line bar:
Market Mature – technology has reached maturity. Likely to remain in mass market until it fades out where it's superseded



Primary Technology Themes



Roadmap 2020

Thermal Propulsion Systems

Technology Roadmap

Thermal Efficiency

Light duty oriented

Heavy duty oriented

Light duty oriented: This is a dedicated section on light duty combustion technologies. Smaller combustion engines and a move to dedicated hybrid engines (DHEs) are the key trends in this category.

Heavy duty oriented: The duty cycle and emission demands for HDVs are significantly different to light duty vehicles. Targeted improvements in combustion technology and redesigned drive-system architectures provide opportunities for lower emissions and improve fuel economy figures for short- and long-haul journeys.

Systems Efficiency

Fuel systems and after-treatment

Engine systems and control

Drivetrain systems

Systems Efficiency:

Fuel systems and after-treatment has been separated in the 2020 roadmap to provide better clarity on technology changes and trajectories for on-board fuel delivery as well as CO₂ and pollutant-mitigating after-treatments.

Engine systems and control covers efficiency improvements through air, heat and exhaust gas management, parasitic loss reduction and advances in powertrain control.

Drivetrain systems enable thermal propulsion systems to operate in a reduced speed/load envelope, allowing significant efficiency and emissions improvements. Integrated and hybrid transmission are a key theme.

Life Cycle

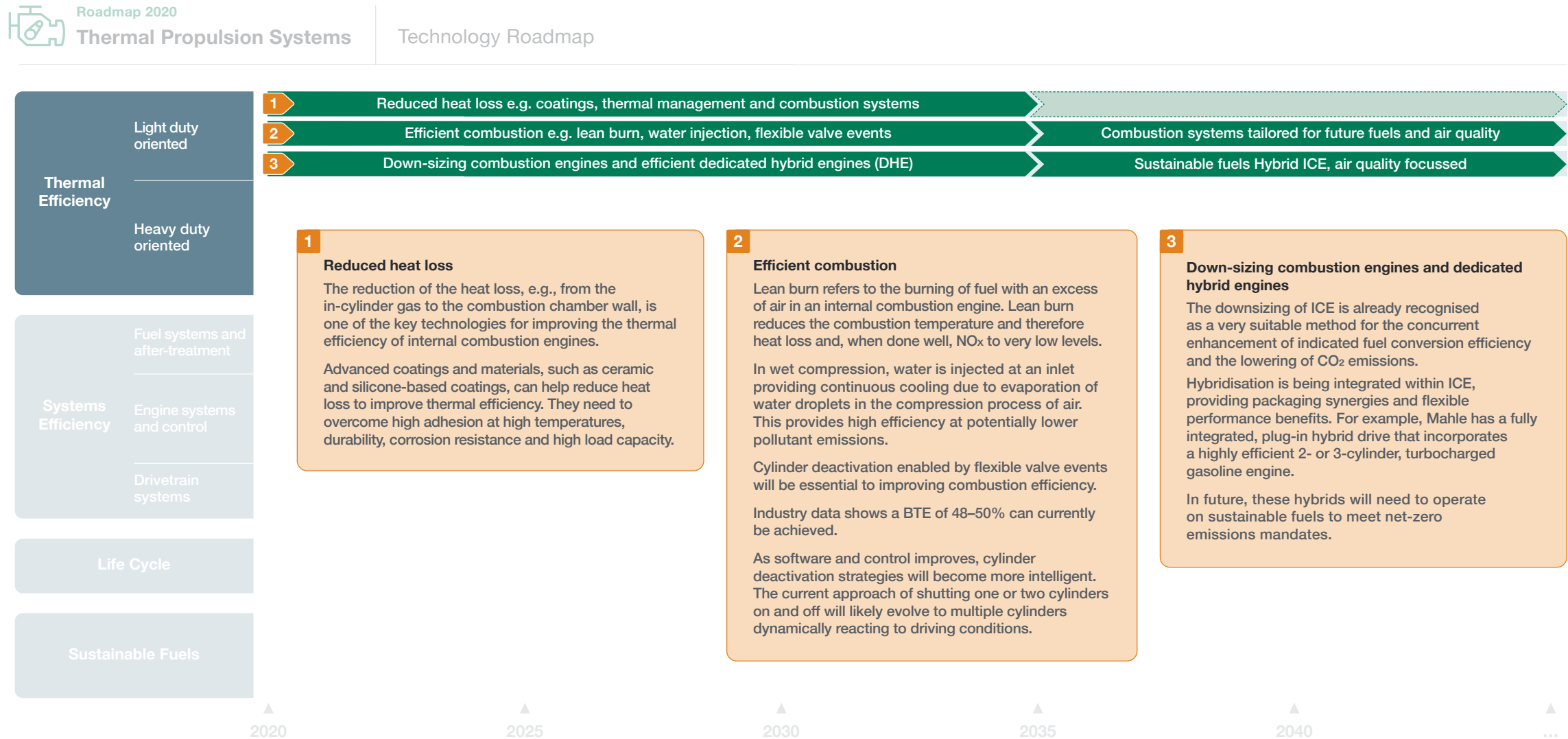
Life cycle includes the energy intensity, LCA impact, resource consumption and recyclability value chain for TPS components. Designing for disassembly, recycle and remanufacturing are current themes. Dedicated hybrid engines and new net-zero fuel combustion systems will need life-cycle principles embedded up-front.

Sustainable Fuels

Sustainable fuels: A brand new section on sustainable fuel has been added to the roadmap. Combustion engines are consumers of fuel, resulting in their related emission effects. Tackling fuels used in engines has a direct benefit to tail-pipe emissions and future net-zero ambitions. Three fuel themes are listed on the roadmap (Drop-in, non drop-in and future fuels), with examples of low and net-zero carbon options currently available or in development.

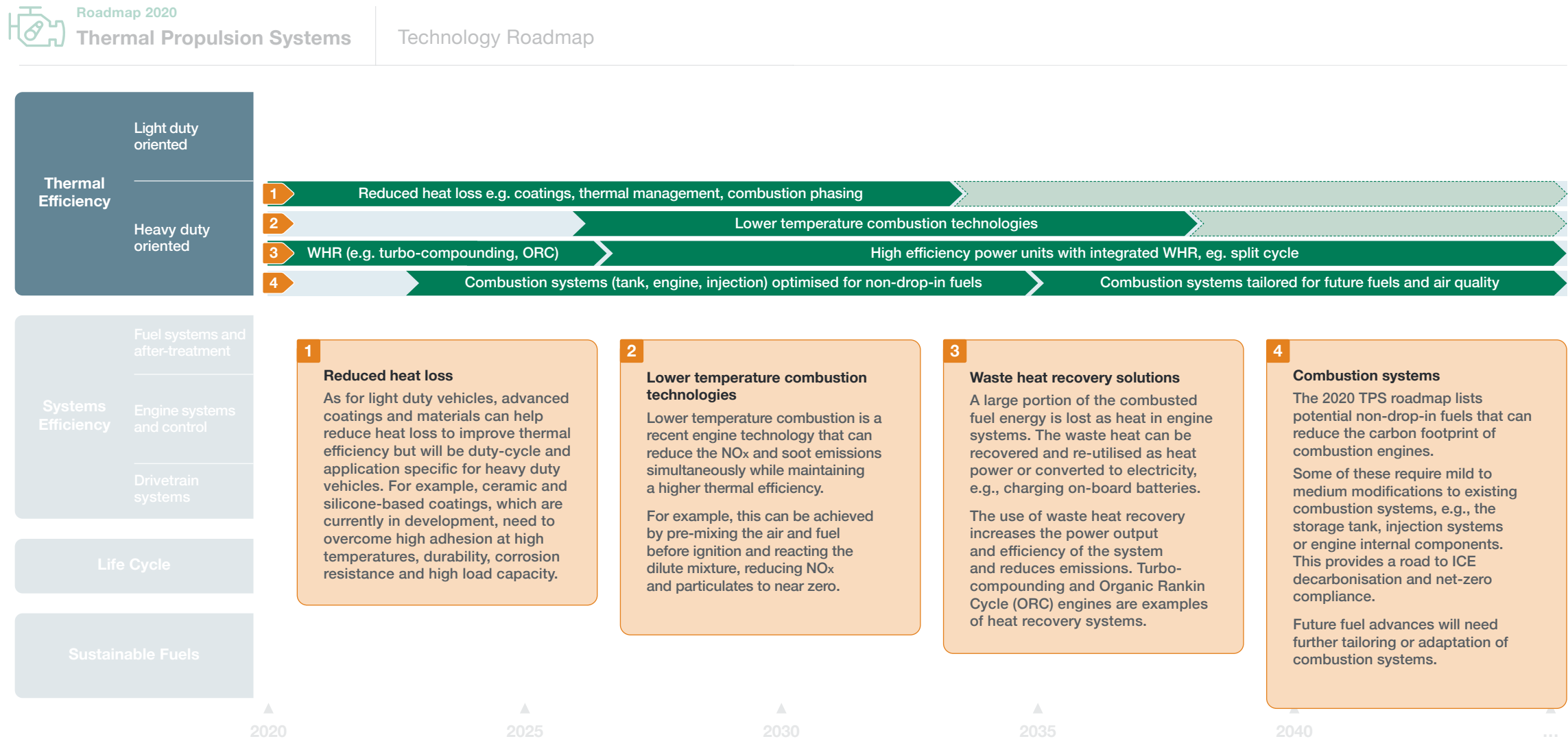
Thermal efficiency (light duty)

Reduced heat loss, efficient combustion and hybridisation are key strategies to increase performance and meet regulatory requirements, especially for inner-city vehicles.



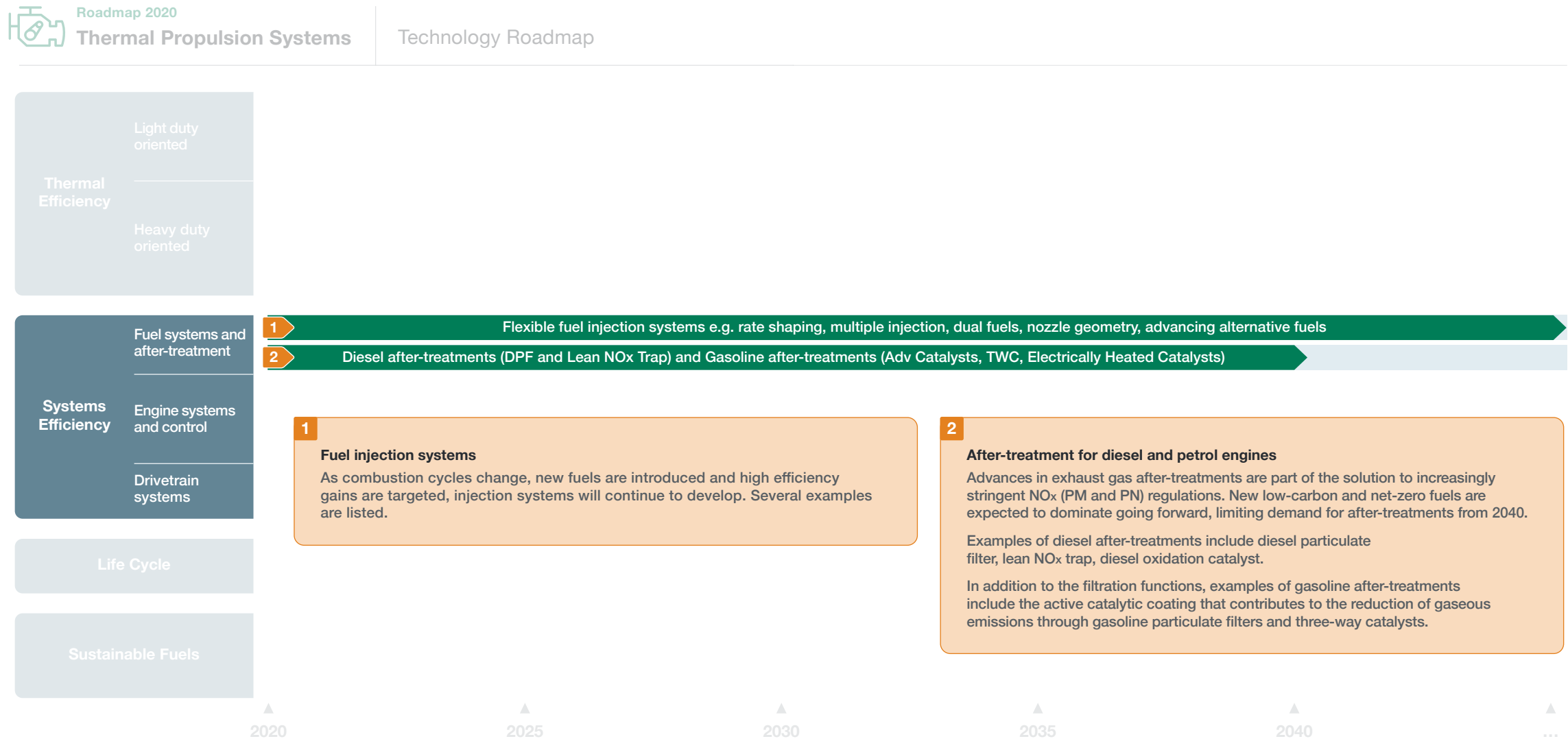
Thermal efficiency (heavy duty)

With their unique duty cycles and powertrain architectures, waste-heat recovery, low-temperature combustion and adaptations for future fuels provide opportunities for ICE technology.



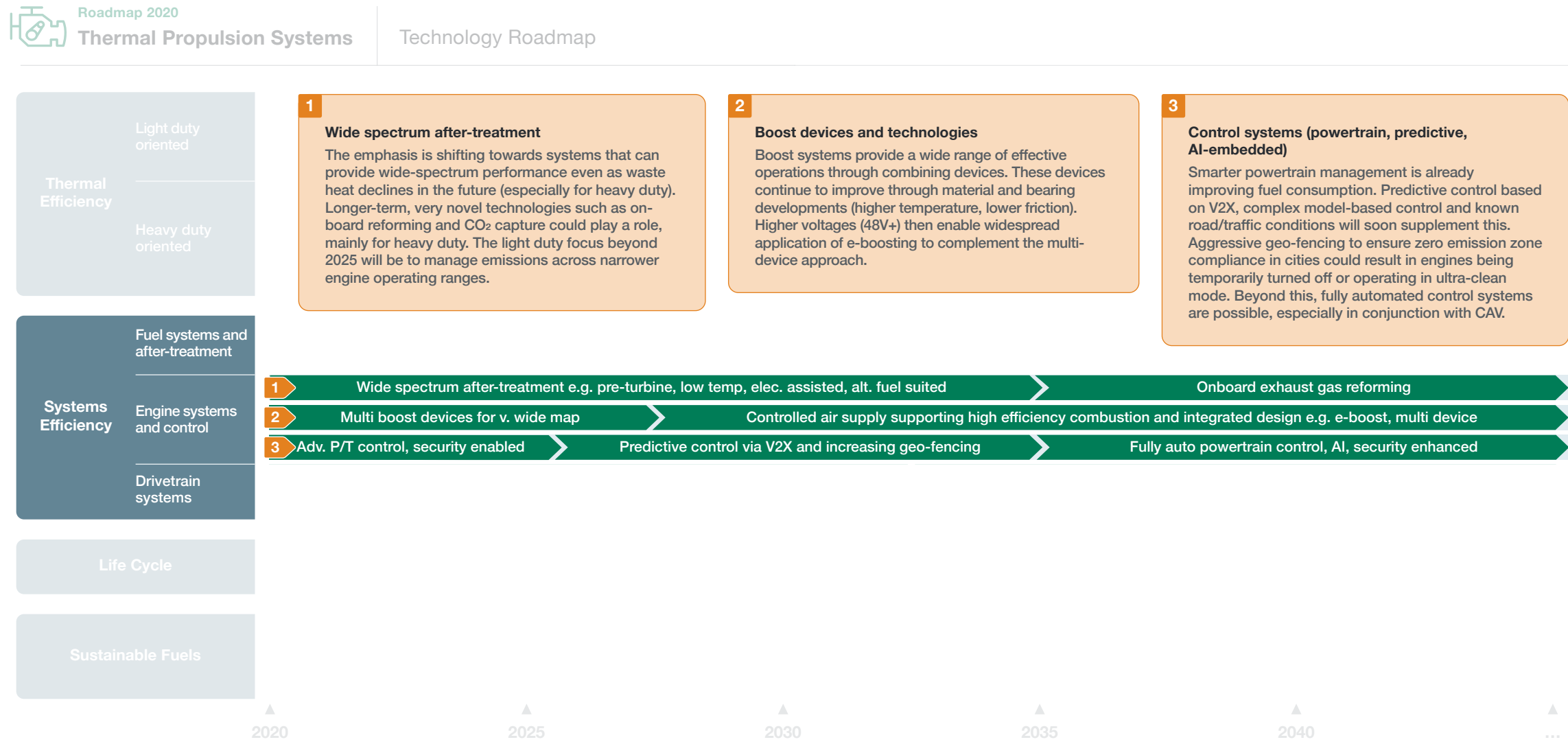
Fuel systems and after-treatment

After-treatments continue to develop to mitigate particulate and NO_x emissions but will transition to managing new fuels of the future.



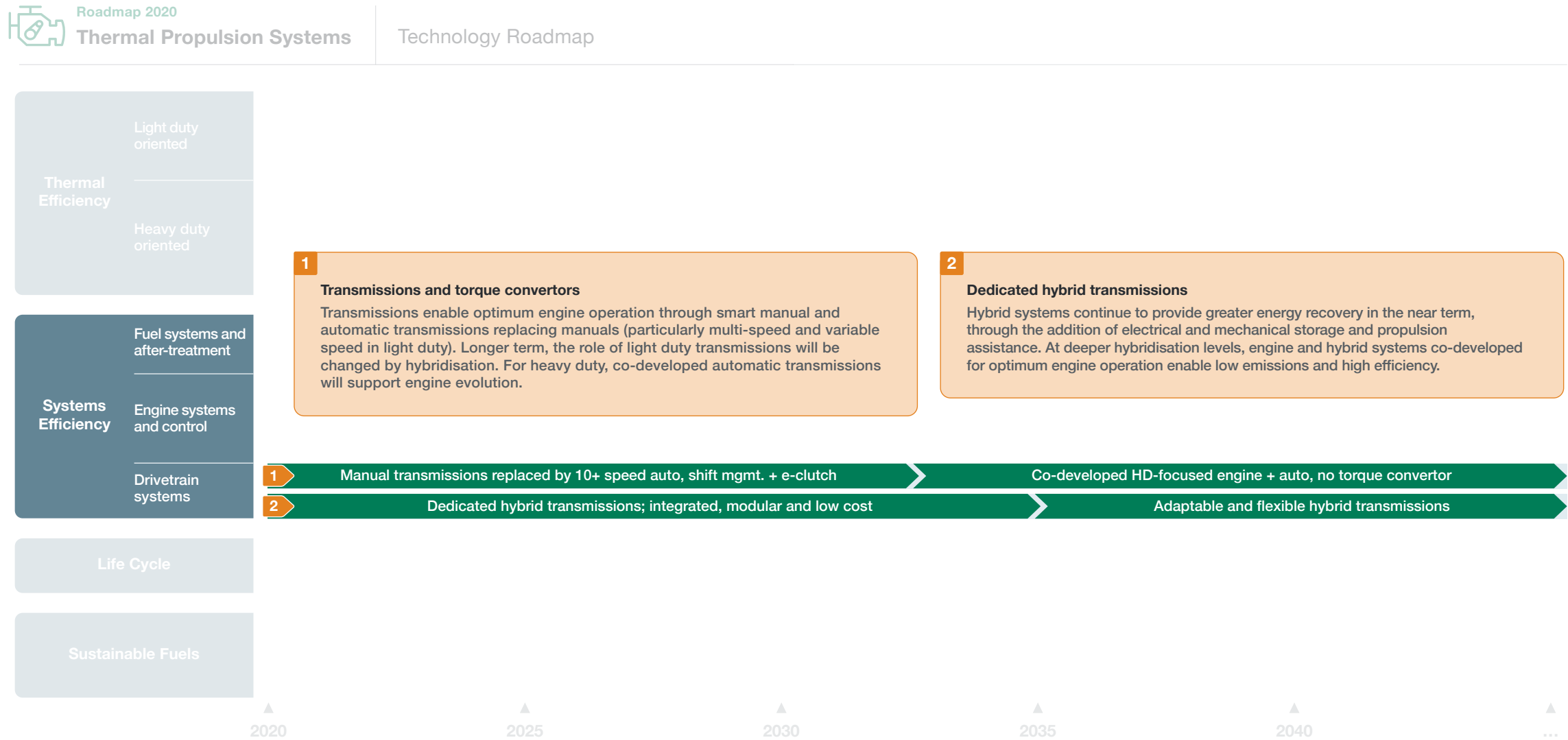
Engine systems and control

A wide range of improvements in engine systems and control will support developments in existing engines and the emergence of more novel designs.



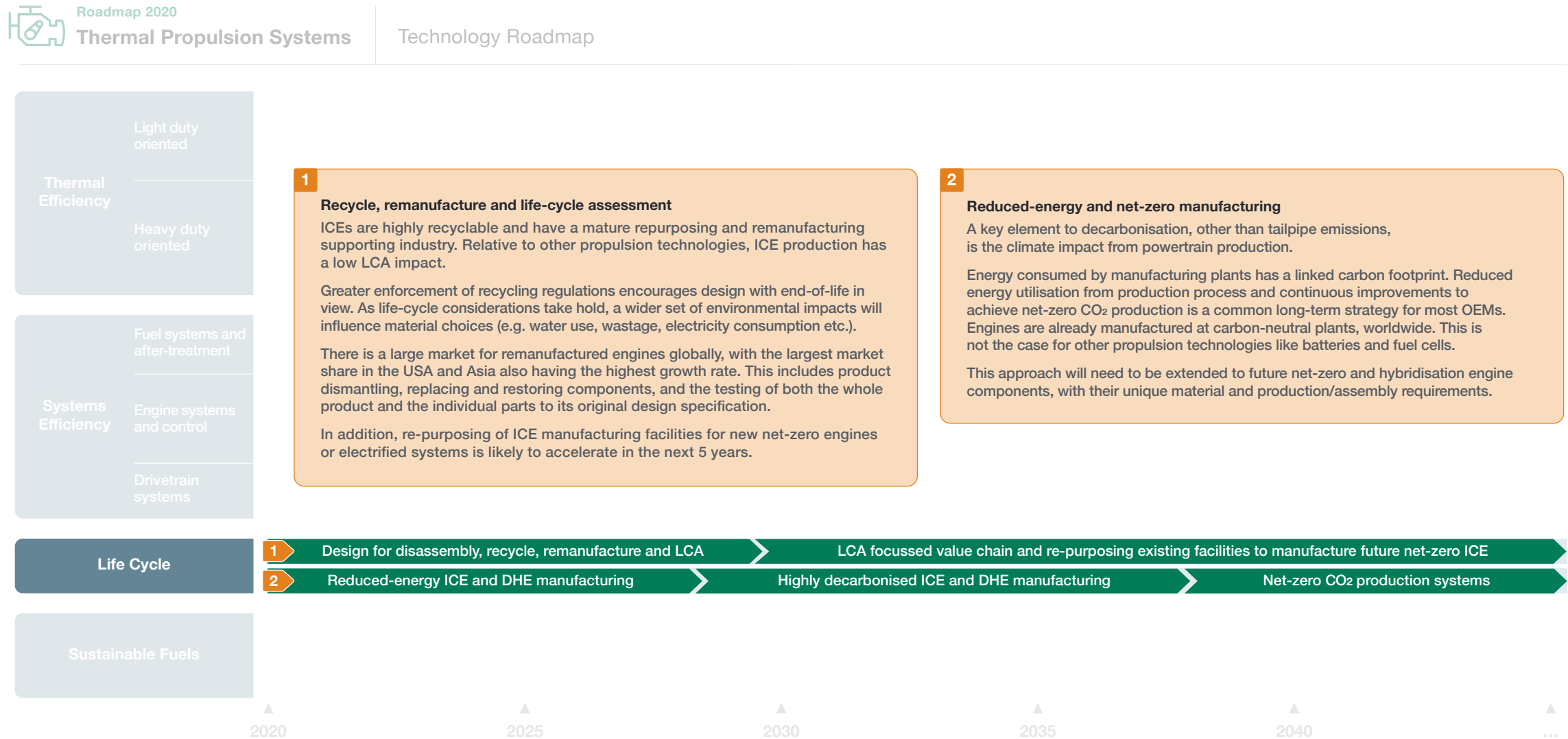
Drivetrain systems

Transmissions and hybridisation are vital enablers for propulsion system efficiency; co-development will allow them to be operated closer to peak efficiency.



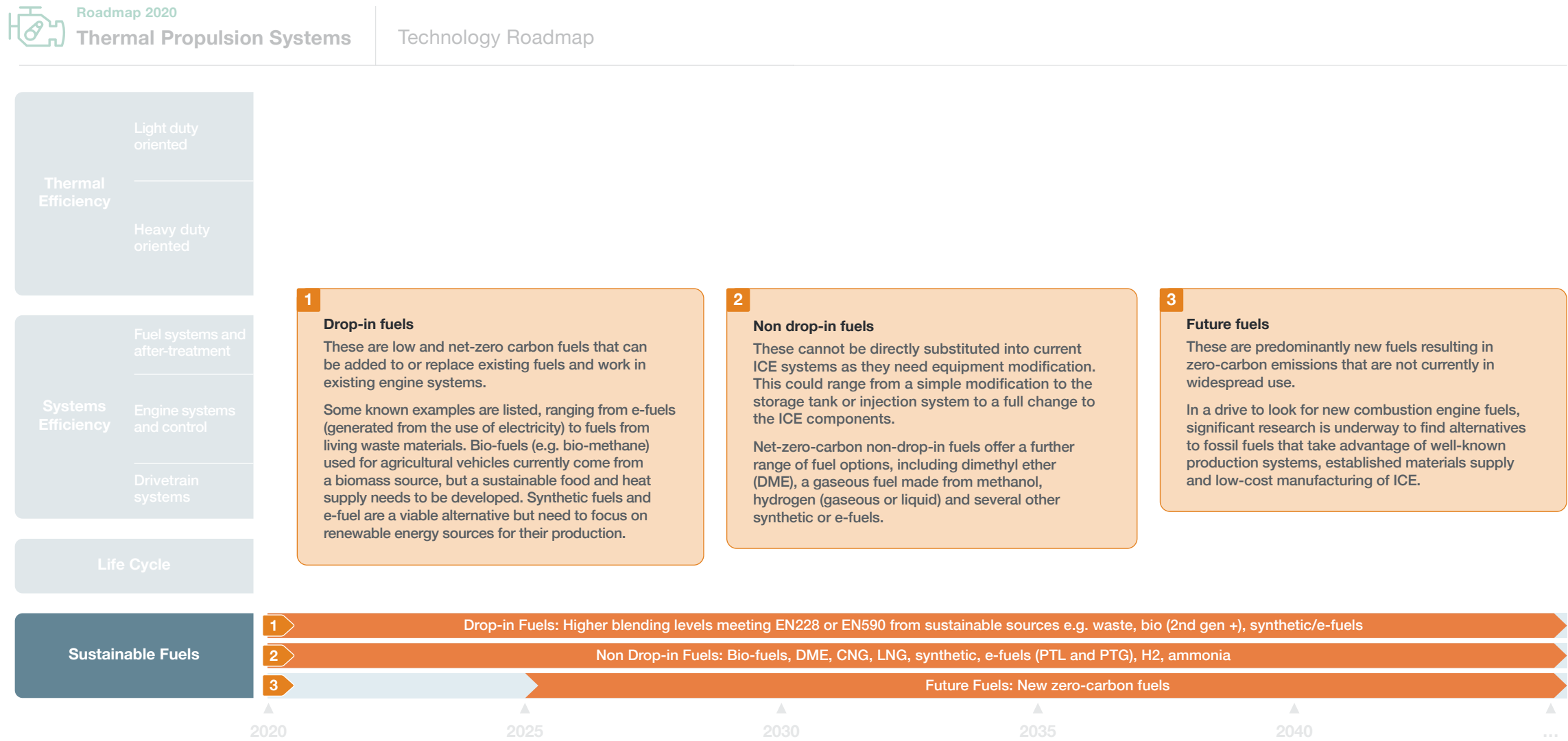
Life cycle

Environmentally sustainable manufacturing is crucial for net impact assessment of all production processes, raw materials and plant operations.



Sustainable fuels

Net-zero carbon drop-in, non-drop-in and developing future fuels are increasing in focus to deliver performance and cost-competitive solutions to transition from existing fossil fuels.



Glossary

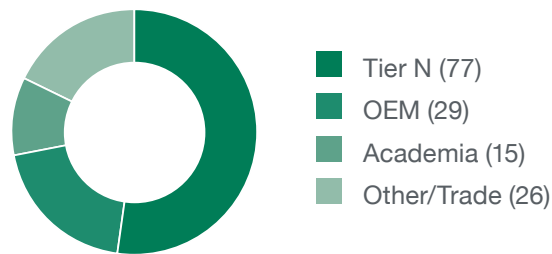
Abbreviation	Explanation
AI	Artificial intelligence. Smart machines and algorithms capable of performing tasks that usually require human intelligence.
BEV	Battery electric vehicle
BTE	Brake thermal efficiency represents, in percentage terms, the amount of energy converted into useful mechanical work by a base engine at the crankshaft (excludes transmission and driveline losses).
CAVs	Connected and autonomous vehicles is an umbrella term to capture the varying levels of autonomy and technologies relating to self-driving vehicles.
GhG	Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. Include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases.
HDV	Heavy-duty vehicle
ICE	Internal combustion engine
LCA	Life-cycle assessment. Assessing environmental impacts over all stages of the life-cycle of a product (for instance from raw material extraction, through processing, to manufacture, use and ultimately recycling/disposal).
ORC	Organic Rankine Cycle. Generating additional power from waste heat. The principle is similar to a traditional steam turbine but using an organic fluid rather than water vapour offers several performance benefits.
PM	Particulate matter is the term for the complex mixture of solid and liquid particles of organics and inorganic substances suspended in air. Limits relate to the concentration of pollutants.
PN	Particulate number captures the number of particles of different sizes, reflecting evidence that particle size is important in observed health effects.
TPS	Thermal propulsion systems. A device that integrates an engine or fuel cell with thermal and / or electrical systems to manage power delivery to the wheels and recover waste energy to improved performance and efficiency. The key feature of a TPS is that the primary energy is stored chemically (rather than electrochemically like in a battery).
V2X	Vehicle-to-X refers to an intelligent transport system where all vehicles and infrastructure systems are interconnected with each other.

This is an industry consensus roadmap facilitated by the APC

Summary of engagements during the 2020 roadmap refresh

Spread of companies that participated in the refresh

109 industry organisations participated in Workshops and Interviews
38 additional industry organisations participated via the Online Survey
Total engagements 147 Industry Organisations



A global view with international participation

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Austria | Singapore |
| Belgium | Sweden |
| England | Switzerland |
| Germany | United States |
| Netherlands | Wales |
| Scotland | Japan |

