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Mr Peña is a Research Scientist at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). He holds a PhD in Chemistry from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (1990). He has been a CSIC researcher since 1993, and has been Visiting Lecturer at the University of Notre Dame (USA), at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (China), and at the Istituto di Tecnologie Avanzate per l'Energia (Italy).

He is currently head of the Energy and Sustainable Chemistry research group at CSIC, Secretary of the Spanish Hydrogen Association, President of UNE's technical committee on Hydrogen Technologies, member of different advisory committees of government agencies, and organizer of several international congresses on sustainable energies. He is also the scientific head officer of the Photoelectron Spectroscopy service at the Instituto de Catálisis y Petroleoquímica.

His areas of scientific work are mainly focused on catalytic processes for clean energy production, and more specifically on catalytic applications of perovskite-type oxides (the subject of his doctoral thesis), natural gas conversion, catalytic combustion, catalytic membrane reactors, hydrogen production and catalysts for fuel cells and electrolyzers. He is co-author of about 130 scientific papers and 7 book chapters, co-inventor of 6 patents, director of 7 PhD theses, and is an active participant in courses, events and conferences for scientific dissemination and training.