

PRESS RELEASE

„Decisive step towards a European hydrogen economy“

8 July 2020, Bochum/Eszen/Münster. The five partners of the hydrogen project GET H2 Nukleus (bp, Evonik, Nowega, OGE, RWE) very much welcome the European Hydrogen Strategy published today. "In conjunction with Germany's National Hydrogen Strategy, the EU concept is a decisive step towards a European hydrogen economy and thus towards achieving the climate targets," says Bernhard Niemeyer-Pilgrim, Member of the Board of Management of BP Europa SE.

With the production of green hydrogen from renewable energies, transport over 130 kilometres of pipelines and acceptance in the industrial sector, the GET H2 Nukleus is one of the pioneering projects for an integrated hydrogen infrastructure. "We are starting in Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, in the vicinity of central energy hubs in Europe. This makes the GET H2 Nukleus an ideal first building block of the European hydrogen network", says Roger Miesen, CEO of RWE Generation SE.

The German and European hydrogen strategies are important foundations. But: "Now we need a timely implementation of the planned measures of the German and European hydrogen strategies. This is the only way to create the necessary investment security for the companies involved in hydrogen projects," says Thomas Basten, head of Pipelines in Evonik's Technology & Infrastructure Division. The indications from politicians so far have been very positive.

The partners of the GET H2 Nukleus have already initiated numerous steps to realize the CO₂ savings potential of green hydrogen as early as possible:

- Site preparation and technical planning for the 100 MW electrolyser in Lingen are underway.
- The feasibility study for the construction of the hydrogen feed-in station has been completed.
- The grid connection application for the feed-in of green hydrogen in Lingen has been submitted.
- TÜV studies for the first of the pipelines to be converted are completed.
- Preparations are being made for the first measures to convert existing natural gas pipelines for hydrogen transport.
- Construction of the connecting pipeline from Evonik's Chemical Park in Marl to bp's refinery in Gelsenkirchen-Scholven will begin in August 2020.
- The technical planning for the preparation of the bp Lingen grid connection point for the acceptance of hydrogen has started.
- The exchange of information with the approval authorities for the pipeline conversion, the construction of the new pipeline and the construction of the electrolyser has started.



Production of the green hydrogen and supply to customers is to start as early as 2023, provided that the necessary legal and economic framework conditions are adopted and implemented by the necessary legal changes in the coming months. This creates the basis for positive investment decisions by the partners.

Background: transporting H₂ and its role in the energy turnaround

Transporting hydrogen in dedicated networks is something that has been carried out in Germany and other European countries for several decades now. So far, however, these networks have been private ones in the industrial sector without any access for outsiders.

Producing green hydrogen from wind and solar power makes it possible to transport renewable energies over long stretches, store it on a large-scale for a long time, and use it in sectors which are difficult to be directly electrified. It is for these reasons that the production of green hydrogen and the building-up of hydrogen infrastructure can be important steps on the path to reaching climate targets.

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GET H2 Nukleus project partners:

BP Europa SE

BP Europa SE employs around 10,500 people in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. The company is based in Hamburg, where its lubricants, aviation and shipping businesses are handled. Bochum is the administrative headquarters of bp in Germany, as well as being the hometown of the German retail market business Aral. The supply and sales units of BP Europa SE are also based here. The company also operates refineries and retail stations in other European countries. With around 43 million tonnes of petroleum products under the brand names of Aral, bp and Castrol, BP Europa SE meets a large part of annual demand in Europe. Bp has set itself the ambitious aim of becoming net zero by 2050 or earlier. This applies particularly to all of bp's operative activities on an absolute basis and includes a stepwise increase in investments in alternative businesses.

Evonik Industries AG



Evonik is a global leader in specialty chemicals. The Group is active in over 100 countries and in 2019 generated sales of 13.1 billion and a profit (adjusted EBITDA) of EUR 2.15 billion. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create value-adding and sustainable solutions as a partner to its customers. More than 32,000 employees are united by a common drive: We want to make life better, day after day.

As an integral part of Evonik, the division **Technology & Infrastructure GmbH** supports customers on their growth path with reliable technology and infrastructure services from the Energy & Utilities, Technical Service, Process Technology & Engineering, Logistics and Site Management units. At Evonik sites around the world, customers can draw on the services and expertise of Technology & Infrastructure, which employs about 8,000 people. The company is part of the Services segment of Evonik, which generated sales of €763 million in fiscal 2019 with a total of about 12,000 employees.

Nowega GmbH

Nowega GmbH is a transmission system operator, based in Münster. A subsidiary of Erdgas Münster GmbH, Nowega operates, maintains and markets around 1,500 kilometres of high-pressure gas pipelines. The pipeline network stretches from the Dutch border across Lower Saxony and parts of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Wendland, and it is part of the inner European transportation route for natural gas.

OGE GmbH

OGE is one of the leading transmission system operators in Europe. With a pipeline network measuring around 12,000 kilometres, the company transports gas throughout Germany. Due to its geographical position, OGE connects up the gas flows in the European internal market. The company's 1,450 staff stand for security of supplies. OGE makes its network available to all market players in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, and in line with market requirements. The company shapes energy supplies, both today and with the energy mix of the future.

RWE Generation SE

RWE Generation SE, based in Essen, is responsible within the RWE company for power generation on the basis of gas, coal, hydrogen and biomass. The company has a workforce of around 2,700 people – in Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Turkey – who operate power stations with a total output of around 25 gigawatts. Performing securely and flexibly, these power stations help to make sure that there is a reliable supply of power for Europe's power grids, alongside the steadily growing – though by nature volatile – contribution made by renewable energies.

