

Press Release

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Gas companies present the Central European Hydrogen Corridor

- **Four leading Central European gas infrastructure companies have joined forces to develop a hydrogen highway through Central Europe**

The focus of the joint initiative called the Central European Hydrogen Corridor is on developing a hydrogen “highway” in Central Europe for the transport of hydrogen from promising future major hydrogen supply areas in Ukraine that offers excellent conditions for large-scale, green hydrogen production via Slovakia and the Czech Republic to large hydrogen demand areas in Germany and the EU. The hydrogen corridor will also enable transporting hydrogen between hydrogen production facilities and hydrogen consumers in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Participating companies include EUSTREAM (the Slovak gas TSO), Gas TSO of Ukraine (GTSOU), NET4GAS (the Czech gas TSO) and OGE (a leading German gas TSO).

«Natural gas will remain a major source of energy and a strong point on the decarbonisation agenda for the next two decades. That said, hydrogen is likely to play a significant role by the year 2050, when the European economies are expected to reach carbon-neutrality, so we have to start exploring the opportunities today. Hydrogen is a promising technology at the early stage of economy-wide adoption. Partnership with the neighboring TSOs could provide great synergies for green hydrogen development.» says Pawel Stanczak, Deputy CEO for Development and Transformation of Gas TSO of Ukraine.

Slovakia and the Czech Republic are operating a large natural gas pipeline corridor connecting Ukraine with European demand areas. The Slovak, Czech and German gas pipeline systems can be repurposed to transport hydrogen. Rastislav Ňukovič, EUSTREAM’s General Director explains, “Our robust transmission system would offer a flexible and very cost-effective way of transporting green energy further to EU markets. We are committed to making our infrastructure hydrogen-ready and thus strongly contribute to the EU’s decarbonisation objectives.”

On the other hand, Germany is expected to be a major demand area of hydrogen in Europe. Importing a significant amount of hydrogen is essential to meet the projected demand in this region.

The project promoters believe that the Central European Hydrogen Corridor can be created partially by repurposing existing gas infrastructure, combined with targeted investments in new dedicated hydrogen pipelines and compressor stations. This enables dedicated hydrogen transport over long distances at an affordable cost.

The project promoters have already started to explore the technical feasibility of creating a Central European Hydrogen Corridor for the transportation of up to 120 GWh per day of pure hydrogen from Ukraine to Germany by 2030. Andreas Rau, NET4GAS's Managing Director, points out that "even if such technical studies are very complex, we are positive that this strong international partnership will deliver its first results on the feasibility, capacity and cost of such transportation of hydrogen as soon as next year."

"A transnational hydrogen network is essential for a future European hydrogen market. The Central European Hydrogen Corridor is an important step on the way there as it offers the possibility of delivering substantial amounts of hydrogen to German industrial demand centers already by 2030," concludes Dr Jörg Bergmann, OGE's CEO. He adds, "One thing, after all, is certain. Without the widespread use of hydrogen alongside renewable energy, we will be unable to reach our climate targets."

For more information, please contact the partner companies or go to the project website at www.cehc.eu:

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About EUSTREAM

EUSTREAM, a.s. is a natural gas transmission system operator properly authorized to perform activities of natural gas transmission in Slovakia. EUSTREAM's transmission system provides an important energy link between the East and the West and will interconnect the North and the South in the near future. EUSTREAM pursues the objective of ensuring the safe, reliable and ecological transport of gas to European markets. For more information, go to [www. https://www.eustream.sk/en_eustream](https://www.eustream.sk/en_eustream).

About the Gas TSO of Ukraine

Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine LCC is a natural monopoly that ensures natural gas transportation to Ukrainian consumers and transit to the countries of the European Union. The gas transportation system of Ukraine includes six interconnection points with operators of six neighboring countries for which interconnection agreements were signed, 65 active industrial sites in all regions of Ukraine, more than 33,000 km of pipelines, 57 compressor stations, 33 gas metering stations and 1,389 gas distribution stations. For more information, go to [www. https://www. https://tsoua.com/en/](https://www.tsoua.com/en/).

About NET4GAS

NET4GAS, s.r.o. is the gas transmission system operator in the Czech Republic, securing the international transit of natural gas, domestic transmission and associated commercial and technical services. NET4GAS transports around 45 billion m³ of natural gas per year and operates more than 3,800 km of pipelines, three border transfer stations, five compressor stations, and 100 transfer stations at the interface with the domestic gas distribution system. The company is a member of the Czech Gas Association, the international organisations ENTSOG, GIE, EASEE-gas, and the IGU and Marcogaz working groups. For more information, go to www.net4gas.cz/en.

About OGE

With a gas transmission system spanning 12,000 kilometres, OGE, seated in Essen, is among Europe's leading transmission system operators. Two thirds of natural gas consumed in Germany flows through OGE's pipeline system, comprising about 100 compressor units and about 1,100 exit points. All over Germany, OGE's approximately 1,450 staff ensure safe, environmentally friendly and customer-oriented gas transmission. OGE also offers the technical and commercial services to go with it, and it provides commercial, technical and IT services for other companies on the basis of third-party arrangements. Moreover, the company actively supports the European gas market and works together with the European distribution network operators to create the prerequisites for transnational gas transportation and trading. For more information, go to <https://oge.net/en>.