

PRESS RELEASE

New project explores hydrogen potential in Europe

DSOs from 13 countries across Europe launch a new project called 'Ready4H2' (Ready for Hydrogen). The project aims to combine the hydrogen expertise and experiences across the European DSOs creating a common understanding of how the DSOs and distribution networks can help facilitate the injection for hydrogen producers and access to hydrogen for consumers along the hydrogen value chain.

Hydrogen is key to the European energy transition, and gas DSOs across Europe are a natural part of the rapid hydrogen development expected in years to come. For decades DSOs across Europe have shown the ability to deliver cost-effective and safe pipeline distribution of gas and have built up extensive knowledge and experience that is key to the transformation of the European energy infrastructure.

Now, DSOs across 13 countries launch the project 'Ready4H2' to combine existing knowledge on how the gas distribution networks around Europe can support the built up of a strong hydrogen market and create a common European understanding of the future related to the transformation of the gas distributors towards climate neutrality. The DSOs want to make sure that their knowledge and know-how from working closely with other hydrogen actors are brought together and benefit EU policymakers and national decision-makers on their development of a H2 economy.

- While national regulation is central in the way DSOs operate, the evolutions regarding network code developments, gas quality management, and facilitating the injection of renewable gases will mean a more central role for the EU in coming years. We want to share our experiences and best practices to get a clear picture of development pathways for renewable and low-carbon gas distribution. Only through such an exercise and project will EU policymakers have the necessary information and tools to roll out a comprehensive regulatory framework that will work for the benefit of DSOs, citizens, and the objective of climate neutrality, says Peter Kristensen, the chairman of Ready4H2.

The DSOs initiating the Ready4H2 project want to show how the distribution networks might be a possible key to realize the huge growth potential and deliver the CO2 reduction potential of hydrogen utilization

- The DSOs and distribution networks will be key to unlock the scaling of hydrogen production and consumption in Europe. With widespread networks across Europe, the DSOs are needed to complement the European TSOs' plans about the Hydrogen Backbone, which will continue to handle gas at very high volumes. This decentralized presence of gas grids will contribute to unlock distributed hydrogen production and consumption through cost-effective injection solutions, says Peter Kristensen.

For further details, please contact

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Facts on the Ready4H2 project

At this point there is DSOs participating from the following countries:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden

At this point these organizations have committed to participate:

- Energy Community Secretariat (representing DSOs from the Contracting Parties to the Energy Community in this project)
- Eurogas
- Cedec
- Marcogaz
- Geode
- GERG

At this point these companies have committed to participate:

- Locusview

It is expected that more countries, companies and organizations will join after the launch of the project. For more information, please see www.ready4h2.com which will be updated throughout of the project.

The Ready4Hydrogen project will run until February 2022 and consist of three new studies:

- 1. The DSOs' hydrogen knowledge:** The first analysis will be a collection of the experiences that the European DSOs have with hydrogen projects and hydrogen infrastructure. It will furthermore investigate how the DSOs are involved in their country's hydrogen developments and how far the country's hydrogen strategy is evolved
- 2. How can the DSOs contribute to the hydrogen value chain:** The second analysis will build upon the first analysis by analyzing how the European DSOs can contribute to the hydrogen development. The DSOs' experiences and knowledge will be analyzed and converted into value propositions for the hydrogen value chain. Not just hydrogen experience but also the DSOs' unique positions and contribution to strategic land planning. It will also emphasize the DSOs' historical and currently evolving role in the gas market and how the historical experience and competencies can be used in the hydrogen sectors.
- 3. A roadmap on how the DSOs can transform into Europe's primary hydrogen distribution infrastructure:** The third analysis will provide a roadmap with concrete initiatives for how the DSOs at the European and national level can be a link between hydrogen producers and consumers. It should describe possible barriers and opportunities along the DSOs road to being the responsible hydrogen pipeline distributor.