



PtX Press Monitoring – Week 43/2024

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The Green Hydrogen Business Alliance serves as an interface between the European hydrogen industry and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The business network supports a socio-ecological transformation in selected partner countries by promoting a sustainable market ramp-up of green hydrogen and Power-to-X (PtX). The Green Hydrogen Business Alliance is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the BMZ.

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Bundesnetzagentur (22/10/2024): Bundesnetzagentur approves hydrogen core network

GER

Extract: The German Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur) has approved the hydrogen core network proposed by the gas transmission system operators. The network is made up of a total of 9,040 kilometres of pipelines that are due to go into operation step by step up to 2032. About 60% of these pipelines are natural gas pipelines that will be converted to hydrogen, while 40% will be newly built. The total investment costs are expected to be €18.9bn. (...) The hydrogen core network is the first step in the process of establishing a nationwide hydrogen infrastructure in Germany. The hydrogen core network will connect future hydrogen clusters across the country with each other. (...) The German Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur) gave the application its approval following minor changes, for instance only those pipelines were approved that will be necessary for transport tasks in the hydrogen core network. [View press release](#)

BMWK (22/10/2024): Hydrogen core grid approved - construction of the future infrastructure can begin

GER

Extract: The German Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur) has approved the core network application submitted by the transmission system operators on 22 July 2024. This concludes the intensive planning phase and paves the way for the realisation of the hydrogen core network. (...) Federal Minister of Economics and Climate Protection Robert Habeck: 'The hydrogen core network is a decisive signal for the future viability of Germany as a business location. It is a basic prerequisite for the successful introduction of hydrogen and thus for the decarbonisation and competitiveness of industry in Germany. With the approved core network, we are creating planning security for all parties involved - from hydrogen producers in Germany and abroad, to operators of power plants and storage facilities, to future industrial users.' [View press release](#)

BMWK (23/10/2024): Update for the economy - Impetus for a modernisation agenda

GER

Extract: Federal Economics Minister Robert Habeck today presented impulses for a modernisation agenda. The focus is on innovation and investment, simplification and reliability. In the impulse paper entitled 'Update for the economy - impetus for a modernisation agenda', the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, makes proposals on how Germany's economy can be given a boost again. (...) The paper contains seven key areas: Strengthening innovation dynamics, reducing bureaucracy, climate protection as a location factor, boosting skilled labour and the workforce, strengthening investment and infrastructure, lowering electricity costs and a new offensive for trade agreements. [View press release](#)

European Commission (23/10/2024): EU invests €4.8 billion of emissions trading revenues in innovative net-zero projects ^{EN}

Extract: Today, the Commission has selected 85 innovative net-zero projects to receive €4.8 billion in grants from the Innovation Fund, helping to put cutting-edge clean technologies into action across Europe. For the first time, projects of different scales (large, medium and small, alongside pilots) and with a cleantech manufacturing focus are awarded under the 2023 call for proposals. (...) Today's selected projects particularly contribute to reaching the following EU policy objectives: (...) Renewable hydrogen: Selected projects will deliver 61 kilotons of RFNBO (renewable fuel of non-biological origin) annually, contributing to increase the use and production of renewable energy in hydrogen in hard-to-abate applications in industry and transport. [View press release](#)

(Political) Debates and measures

GERMANY

FuelCellsworks (18/10/2024): Germany Commits €2.8B to Decarbonization, Highlighting Hydrogen for Power Transition, with Over €1B Allocated to Five Key Industrial Projects ^{EN}

Extract: Germany allocates €2.8 billion (\$3 billion) to support decarbonization through "climate protection contracts," targeting up to 15 projects to bridge the cost gap between hydrogen and fossil fuels. The funding aims to enhance hydrogen use in industries, providing financial stability and promoting eco-friendly energy solutions. Germany has earmarked €2.8 billion (\$3 billion) to foster industry-wide decarbonization, spotlighting hydrogen's pivotal role in this green transformation. Through the innovative "climate protection contracts," the German government will financially bolster up to 15 projects, underscoring its commitment to close the economic disparity between hydrogen and traditional fossil fuels. These efforts aim not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also to support the sustainable advancement of clean energy technologies. [View article](#)

Montel (21/10/2024): Implementation of German H2 plans is disappointing ^{GER}

Extract: After a wave of announcements for hydrogen projects, there is disillusionment in the industry, said Katherina Reiche, Chairwoman of the National Hydrogen Council (NWR), in an interview with Montel. In Germany, investment decisions have only been made for a fraction of the planned 10 GW of electrolysis capacity. Ms. Reiche, recently there have been numerous negative reports about hydrogen projects in Germany and Europe. Where do we currently stand with the ramp-up of the hydrogen economy? Reiche: The traffic light for hydrogen is anything but green. Reports such as the hydrogen core network, which is about to be approved by the Federal Network Agency, are making positive headlines. (...) Overall, however, the hydrogen ramp-up is faltering though. [View article](#)

Wirtschaftswoche (22/10/2024): Hydrogen core network: South feels left behind on 'hydrogen highways' ^{GER}

Extract: The German government is taking the right step with the planned new infrastructure for the transport of hydrogen, according to its most important advisors. (...) Federal Economics Minister Robert Habeck (Greens) presented the approved infrastructure for the hydrogen fuel together with the President of the Federal Network Agency, Klaus Müller, on Tuesday morning. Habeck described the approval time as record-breaking, as the first talks for this were only two and a half years ago. The core network now covers 9040 kilometres, which is around 600 kilometres less than originally applied for. This means white spots without access to the network, especially in southern Germany. This is why CDU energy expert Andreas Jung called the plans a 'low blow to the south-west'. The member of the Bundestag demands: 'The glaring north-south imbalance must be eliminated'. [View article](#)

EUROPE

AFP News (22/10/2024): Windfall Tax Backlash Menaces Spain's Green Energy Sector ^{EN}

Extract: Spain's left-wing government has infuriated banking and energy giants by wanting to maintain a windfall tax on them, threatening crucial investments for the European country's green energy transition. The tax entered force for two years in January 2023 to fund measures aimed at protecting consumer purchasing power as inflation spiked following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. But Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government intends to keep it as part of a coalition deal with far-left party Sumar, a choice confirmed this month by Economy Minister Carlos Cuerdo. The permanent windfall tax threatens to send "billions" of euros of investment to other countries, Repsol boss Josu Imaz wrote in newspaper La Vanguardia, slamming the government's "fiscal populism". [View article](#)

Euractiv (23/10/2024): 'Winning the European way': Habeck's vision for a green, successful Germany ^{EN}

Extract: Germany's Economic Minister Robert Habeck proposed cutting German electricity taxes to the EU minimum and leveraging the country's climate commitment to attract business and investment in his vision paper published on Wednesday (23 October). (...) the paper states the problem is Berlin is "too dependent on the success of traditional industrial sectors" and that these sectors are now "under particular pressure", reiterating a strong commitment to Brussels: "We can only win the competition for the decisive innovations of the future (...) on a European level", the paper claims (...). For Habeck, this 'European way' takes many forms. (...) It (...) means making climate protection a "unique selling point" for Germany and the EU as a whole. Increased public financing could allow transformation technology industries like wind turbines and electrolyser production to grow and remain independent from China and the USA. [View article](#)

Hydrogen Industry Leaders (24/10/2024): 2024 Innovation Fund Grants: Hydrogen Projects Account for 30% of Total Awards ^{EN}

Extract: The EU Innovation Fund has awarded a grant allocation of €4.8 billion to 85 innovative projects, with hydrogen projects making up one-third of total awards. This significant funding initiative marks the largest allocation since the fund's inception in 2020, increasing the overall support to €12 billion and expanding the number of projects by 70%. (...) Among the awarded projects, 26 focus on hydrogen technologies, representing 30% of the total. This group includes six large projects, four medium projects in the general category, twelve manufacturing projects, and four pilot projects. [View article](#)

GLOBAL

The Straits Times (22/10/2024): Malaysia's Sarawak state aims to be regional green energy powerhouse, boost talent pool ^{EN}

Extract: Malaysia's Sarawak state aims to become a regional renewable-energy "powerhouse" over the next decade and is persuading its skilled workforce to return home to achieve this ambition. As such, the Sarawak government is offering to make green technology courses, such as hydrogen production and carbon storage, free for locals at state tertiary education institutions, starting in 2026. "Sarawak will be the powerhouse of Asean. We will connect our renewable energy-sourced power grid to Asean and share a maximum of 1,000 megawatts (annually) with Singapore," said Sarawak Premier Abang Johari Openg on Oct 19. "We need more Sarawak-born electrical engineers to realise this," he added. [View article](#)

Clean Energy Wire (24/10/2024): Green hydrogen, free trade, skilled workers on the agenda as German lawmakers visit India ^{EN}

Extract: Germany's economy and climate minister Robert Habeck and Indian renewable energy minister Pralhad Joshi are set to unveil a green hydrogen roadmap during a meeting to bolster economic and political ties between the two nations in New Delhi this week. "India, the world's most populous country, is a key partner for the German economy in the Indo-Pacific and plays a decisive role in the diversification of the German economy," said Habeck ahead of the trip, adding that the countries will strengthen their "climate protection and energy policy cooperation." [View article](#)

Practice

DEVELOPING AND EMERGING COUNTRIES

Reuters (23/10/2024): Brazil launches platform to attract foreign investment for climate and ecological projects ^{EN}

Extract: Brazil's government launched a climate and ecological transformation investment platform in Washington on Wednesday, named BIP, aimed at mobilizing international capital with an initial target of \$10.8 billion. As Reuters reported on Tuesday, the platform unveiled on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings will

bring together projects across three sectors: energy, industry and mobility, and nature-based solutions. Initially, the platform will seek investments for seven pilot projects, including one from Vale (VALE3.SA) to attract around \$2.5 billion for building industrial hubs in Brazil focused on producing green hydrogen and hot-briquetted iron as part of efforts to decarbonize the steel industry. The government only decided on the inclusion of this initiative on Tuesday. [View article](#)

Hespress (24/10/2024): Morocco's Offer Steering Committee Shortlists Green Hydrogen Projects for Southern Provinces ^{EN}

Extract: Moroccan Head of Government Aziz Akhannouch chaired, on Thursday in Rabat, a meeting of the steering committee responsible for Morocco's Offer in the field of green hydrogen. During this gathering, a series of projects covering the three regions of the Kingdom's southern provinces were shortlisted. The regions concerned with these projects are Guelmin-Oued Noun, Laayoune Sakia El Hamra and Dakhla-Oued Eddahab, specifies a press release from the Head of Government's Department, adding that these projects will be examined in greater detail with their promoters. [View article](#)

INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES AND OTHER

Reuters (21/10 /2024): Repsol freezes green hydrogen projects in Spain ^{EN}

Extract: Spanish oil major Repsol (REP.MC) has put on hold planned green hydrogen projects in Spain with an electrolysis capacity of 350 megawatts (MW) due to an unfavourable regulatory environment, a spokesperson told Reuters on Monday.

The company had already warned that regulatory uncertainty, including the possibility that a windfall tax on energy companies and banks could be redesigned and become permanent, could affect its investment in the nascent industry. With Spain targeting 12 gigawatts (GW) of green hydrogen production capacity by the end of the decade, Repsol's move, first reported by El Mundo newspaper, may have broader implications for the country's green agenda. [View article](#)

Tank News International (21/10/2024): Topsoe and Alfa Laval partner to accelerate hydrogen and Power-to-X commercialisation ^{EN}

Extract: Topsoe and Alfa Laval have entered into a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating the energy transition by developing cost-competitive and energy-efficient components and solutions for the commercialisation of hydrogen and Power-to-X processes. The two companies formalised their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, marking the beginning of a long-term partnership. (...) This partnership is expected to leverage both companies' expertise to drive forward energy-efficient solutions that support global sustainability goals. [View article](#)

Nordkurier (22/10/2024): Big plans for Lubmin: Five companies want to produce green hydrogen ^{GER}

Extract: There were once many different plans for the site of the former Lubmin nuclear power plant. Interested parties wanted to build gas and even coal-fired power plants here. But with the landing of power lines from offshore wind farms off the coast of Rügen, the construction of a harbour and the laying of natural gas pipelines in the hinterland, the new 'Lubminer Heide commercial and industrial area' became attractive for a completely different, new industry. The availability of more and more wind power, the connection to the German gas grid and the availability of sufficiently large areas for settlement have triggered a regular run of companies from the hydrogen industry to Lubmin. 'Five companies in Lubmin already want to produce green hydrogen from wind energy,' says Henrike Knopf, hydrogen coordinator in the district of Vorpommern-Greifswald. [View article](#)

H2 View (23/10/24): Blastr, Knauf Interfer look to deliver hydrogen-based steel to Central Europe ^{EN}

Extract: Blastr Green Steel is exploring the potential to supply 100,000 tonnes of hydrogen-based steel per year to Central Europe with metals processing firm Knauf Interfer. Having entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the pair plan to develop a low-carbon dioxide (CO₂) steel supply network, centred around Knauf Interfer's hub in Duisburg, Germany. Blastr has plans to build a €4bn green steel plant with an integrated hydrogen production facility in Inkoo, Finland. The firm also wants to set up a green pellets plant in the UK. [View article](#)

Science

idw (21/10/24): New Fast and Sustainable Method for Hydrogen Production ^{EN}

Extract: Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Francesco Ciucci from the University of Bayreuth, a German-Chinese research team has developed a new method for the electrochemical splitting of water. (...) This approach employs atomically dispersed iridium as reaction accelerators, coupling them with dimethylimidazole and cobalt-iron hydroxide. The key innovation lies in the geometric arrangement of these components, which are configured in an out-of-plane orientation, optimizing performance and efficiency. This innovative approach significantly increases OER activity and also exhibits an ultra-low overpotential. Additionally, it reduces the use of noble metals, as only individual iridium atoms are used, and it positively impacts the stability of the acceleration reaction. [View article](#)

Airbus (16/10/24): Airbus and Toshiba to partner on superconductivity research ^{EN}

Extract: Airbus UpNext, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Airbus, and Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation (Toshiba), Toshiba Group's energy arm, will cooperate and mutualise experience on superconducting technologies for future hydrogen-powered aircraft. In the quest to decarbonise the aviation industry, hydrogen-powered aircraft are one of the promising solutions to achieve net zero emission by 2050. Superconducting technologies offer a unique advantage for these aircraft, using -253°C liquid hydrogen as a fuel but also to efficiently cool the electric propulsion systems. Cryogenic technology could allow for a nearly unimpaired power transmission within the electric systems of the aircraft, significantly improving their energy efficiency and performance. [View press release](#)

KenGen (17/10/2024): KenGen Unveils Ambitious 10-Year Plan to Accelerate Green Energy, Bolster Kenya's Economic Transformation ^{EN}

Extract: Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen) has today unveiled its bold G2G Strategy 2024–2034, a visionary roadmap aimed at spearheading Kenya's transition to a sustainable and green energy future. This strategic plan cements KenGen's position as a trailblazer in renewable energy, with a clear focus on expanding geothermal, wind, and solar investments, advancing operational efficiency, and integrating cutting-edge technology for the good of all Kenyan consumers. (...) The CS went on to say that the G2G Strategy was built on key pillars that focus on expanding geothermal power capacity, scaling up wind and solar projects, and exploring new technologies like hydrogen energy and energy storage solutions. This diversification he said would not only strengthen Kenya's energy resilience but also ensure KenGen remains a leader in the global renewable energy landscape. [View press release](#)

KEYOU (17/10/24): KEYOU and French hydrogen producer Lhyfe sign memorandum of understanding to develop hydrogen mobility in southern Germany ^{GER}

Extract: Lhyfe, a global pioneer in the production of green hydrogen, and KEYOU, a recognised technology leader in the development of hydrogen combustion engines, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop hydrogen mobility in Germany and Europe. With the production capacity for green hydrogen planned by Lhyfe in the Schwäbisch Gmünd region, around 100 trucks can be put into operation between 2026 and 2030. These will be supplied by KEYOU to customers in the region. [View press release](#)

Nel Hydrogen (22/10/24): Nel ASA: Awarded EUR 135 million in grants for industrialization of next-generation electrolyser technology in Norway ^{EN}

Extract: Nel Hydrogen Electrolyser AS, a fully owned subsidiary of Nel ASA (Nel, OSE:NEL), has today been awarded a grant from the EU Innovation Fund of up to EUR 135 million for industrialization of its next-generation pressurized alkaline technology. The technology is currently being prototyped, and the potential industrialization is planned at Herøya, Norway. "We continue to realize the full potential of our current technology at the same time as we develop future technologies to help our customers drive down the cost of green hydrogen.

This grant will make it significantly easier for us to bring our new innovative pressurized alkaline technology to market,” said Nel’s President and CEO, Håkon Volldal. [View press release](#)