

Joint press release
September 9, 2021

Milestone reached: Joint hydrogen project “Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park” receives funding decision as “real laboratory for energy transition” (Reallabor der Energiewende)

- **Joint project investigates production, storage, transport, marketing and use of green hydrogen**
- **Construction and development of first project components to begin in fall 2021**
- **Common goal of the six participating consortium partners: to develop Central Germany into a hydrogen model region**

The “Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park” has reached the next milestone. Today, Andreas Feicht, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), in the presence of Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Prime Minister of Saxony-Anhalt, handed over the notification for funding as a “real laboratory of the energy transition” (Reallabor der Energiewende) for around 34 million euros, presented by Andreas Feicht, State Secretary in the responsible Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

Cornelia Müller-Pagel, head of the project in the consortium and head of “Green Gases” at VNG says: “In the “Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park”, the project partners seek to investigate the production, storage, transport, and economic use of green hydrogen under real conditions on an industrial scale. After the BMWi declared the project to be a real laboratory worthy of funding as part of the two-stage application process as early as 2019, those responsible for the consortium of companies involved have in the meantime fleshed out the plans and pressed ahead with them. We are very happy to now hold the long-awaited decision in our hands and to finally be able to get down to the actual work. With this showcase project, we want to demonstrate together that the industrial use of green hydrogen is absolutely possible and makes economic sense.

With our project, we want to contribute to further research into green hydrogen as a pioneering future technology and bring it to market maturity. At the same time, our goal is to provide important impetus for the region and to develop Central Germany into a technologically strong and future-oriented hydrogen region.”

Dr. Reiner Haseloff Saxony-Anhalt's Minister says: “In the nineties, we developed the chemical park model very successfully in Saxony-Anhalt. I am firmly convinced that we are also pioneers with the Bad Lauchstädt energy park and that the model will become a success story. Today we are giving the starting signal for a secure and climate-friendly energy supply for Germany.

With the funding decision now received, the project will start work immediately. Behind the “Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park” is a consortium of companies consisting of Terrawatt Planungsgesellschaft mbH, Uniper, VNG Gasspeicher GmbH (VGS), ONTRAS Gastransport GmbH (ONTRAS), DBI - Gastechnologisches Institut gGmbH Freiberg (DBI) and VNG AG.

The aim of the joint project is to map the entire value chain for green hydrogen in southern Saxony-Anhalt. Renewable electricity from a new wind farm to be built will be converted into climate-friendly hydrogen by means of a large-scale electrolysis plant with a capacity of around 30 megawatts and supplied to the chemical industry in neighbouring Leuna via a 20-kilometer pipeline to be redirected by ONTRAS. To this end, hydrogen production and hydrogen transport as well as central components of hydrogen storage such as efficient gas purification and safety technology will initially be further developed and tested from fall 2021. In the second phase, the salt cavern planned for hydrogen storage, which will be almost 180 meters high, is to be completed and integrated into the value chain from 2026. The project has a total investment volume of around €140 million.



TERRAWATT



ontras



DBI GTI
Gastechnologisches Institut



VNG

The development and construction of the energy park is basically planned in two phases, which will be processed and implemented independently of each other: Starting this autumn, the approved funding will initially be used to further develop and test hydrogen production and hydrogen transport as well as central components of hydrogen storage as a "real laboratory of the energy transition". The latter include, for example, efficient gas purification and safety technology. In a second phase, which is not part of the current research project, the aim is to complete the cavern for hydrogen storage and integrate it into the value chain from 2026. Overall, the Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park is characterised by a high density of innovations and close interaction between the various stages of the value chain. It also contributes to the decarbonisation of the chemical industry, which is strongly represented in the region. In the future, the energy park can also be integrated into the emerging European hydrogen infrastructure via other eastern German hydrogen projects.

With its National Hydrogen Strategy, the German government decided to anchor hydrogen in the energy system as the energy carrier of the future. Green hydrogen in particular was assigned a key role in this framework, because it is produced from renewable electricity by means of electrolysis and is thus considered to be particularly environmentally friendly. As part of the 7th Energy Research Program, the BMWi had previously launched the "real laboratory of the energy transition" competition and announced total funding of 100 million euros. The aim of the energy transition real laboratories is to promote the application of innovations in practice.)

About our project partners for „Energiepark Bad Lauchstädt“:

Terrawatt Planungsgesellschaft mbH has been developing and implementing turnkey projects in the fields of wind power and photovoltaics for over 15 years. Its years of experience in planning, investing, operation and management enable the company to oversee every aspect of project implementation, from the search for a site on through to turnkey handover of the facility and to apply its specialized skills in fashioning each individual phase of a project. In addition, the company is active both domestically and internationally as a service provider and technical consultant and can draw on its wealth of experience from over 300 projects involving more than 1,500 wind turbines. More at: www.terrawatt.de.

Uniper

Uniper is an international energy company with around 12,000 employees in more than 40 countries. The company plans to make its power generation CO₂-neutral in Europe by 2035. With about 35 GW of installed generation capacity, Uniper is among the largest global power generators. Its main activities include power generation in Europe and Russia as well as global energy trading, including a diversified gas portfolio that makes Uniper one of Europe's leading gas companies. In 2020, Uniper had a gas turnover of more than 220 bcm. Uniper is also a reliable partner for municipalities, public utilities, and industrial companies for developing and implementing innovative, CO₂-reducing solutions on their way to decarbonizing their activities. As a pioneer in the field of hydrogen, Uniper is active worldwide along the entire value chain and is implementing projects to make hydrogen usable as a mainstay of energy supply.

The company is headquartered in Düsseldorf and currently the third-largest listed German utility. Together with its main shareholder Fortum, Uniper is also the third-largest producer of CO₂-free energy in Europe. More at: www.uniper.energy.

VNG Gasspeicher GmbH (VGS), with its current roughly 2.2 billion cubic meters of usable storage capacity, is the third largest storage operator in Germany. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of VNG AG, headquartered in Leipzig, VNG has nearly 50 years of experience in building and operating underground gas storage facilities and associated technological processes. VGS's core activity is the operation of storage facilities and the marketing of storage capacities. In addition, VGS also functions as technical operations manager for third-party storage facilities and provides engineering services to its customers in the areas of plant engineering and measurement technology. More at: www.vng-gasspeicher.de.



TERRAWATT



ontras



DBI GTI
Gastechnologisches Institut



VNG

ONTRAS Gastransport GmbH, headquartered in Leipzig, is a multi-region operator of long-distance pipelines in the European gas transport system. To transport gas to customers, ONTRAS operates Germany's second most extensive gas grid, with over 7,000 kilometers of pipe and around 450 grid coupling stations. The company is a reliable partner that manages to bring together the interests of transport customers, distributors, regional grid operators and producers of regenerative gases. 22 biogas facilities and two power-to-gas plants supply green gases (bio-methane, synthetic methane or hydrogen) to the ONTRAS network. More at: www.ontras.com.

DBI – Gastechnologisches Institut GmbH Freiberg is a research institute of the DVGW Deutsche Vereinigung des Gas und Wasserfaches e.V. [German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water]. It conducts numerous projects researching the entire supply chain of gasiform energy sources. Projects have been underway since 2005 on integrating green hydrogen. The institute's experience extends from underground gas storage and transport through to hydrogen technologies for use by industry and in the home. More at: www.dbi-gruppe.de.

VNG is a group of companies active across Europe with more than 20 companies, a broad, future-oriented portfolio of gas and infrastructure services and over 60 years of experience in the energy market. The Group, headquartered in Leipzig, employs around 1,300 people and achieved invoiced sales of around €9.8 billion in the 2020 financial year. Along the gas value chain, VNG focuses on the four business areas of trading & sales, transport, storage and biogas. Based on its core competence in gas, VNG is increasingly focusing on new business areas with its "VNG 2030+" strategy, including "green gases" and digital infrastructure. More at: under www.vng.de.

For further information please contact:

Uniper SE

Georg Oppermann

T +49 211-4579-5532

georg.oppermann@uniper.energy

Diese Pressemitteilung enthält möglicherweise bestimmte in die Zukunft gerichtete Aussagen, die auf den gegenwärtigen Annahmen und Prognosen der Unternehmensleitung der Uniper SE und anderen derzeit für diese verfügbaren Informationen beruhen. Verschiedene bekannte wie auch unbekannt Risiken und Ungewissheiten sowie sonstige Faktoren können dazu führen, dass die tatsächlichen Ergebnisse, die Finanzlage, die Entwicklung oder die Performance der Gesellschaft wesentlich von den hier abgegebenen Einschätzungen abweichen. Die Uniper SE beabsichtigt nicht und übernimmt keinerlei Verpflichtung, derartige zukunftsgerichtete Aussagen zu aktualisieren oder an zukünftige Ereignisse oder Entwicklungen anzupassen.