

Marketing success for STEAG hydrogen project in Saarland

HydroHub Fenne to supply green oxygen to Nippon Gases Germany in the future

Völklingen/Essen. STEAG GmbH intends to supply Nippon Gases Deutschland GmbH with oxygen from its site at Völklingen-Fenne in Saarland in the future. The oxygen will soon be produced there as a by-product from the “HydroHub Fenne” electrolyzer planned by STEAG and its partner Siemens Energy for the production of green, i.e. climate-neutral, hydrogen. The gas will be supplied via an oxygen pipeline owned by Nippon Gases, to which STEAG’s long-established power plant site is already connected, and therefore no further investment in transport infrastructure is required.

Oxygen is a by-product of water electrolysis. An electrolysis plant with a capacity of around 53 megawatts (MW) is to be built at the Völklingen-Fenne site as part of the “HydroHub Fenne” project. “The hydrogen (H₂) produced in the process will make a significant contribution to the decarbonization of the steel industry in Saarland,” says STEAG’s project manager Philipp Brammen.

Agreement signed

The agreement now concluded with Nippon Gases is a sensible addition to the economic viability of this pioneering project for the future. The industrial gas manufacturer plans to purchase the additional oxygen (O₂) produced for delivery to customers. The advantage for all parties involved is in the use of a pipeline network which is already in place in the Saar region to transport oxygen for reliable supply to the locally based steel industry. The “HydroHub Fenne” project provides economic proof of the new electrolyzer’s added value resulting from the simultaneous use of hydrogen and oxygen. This agreement is another decisive step on the part of Nippon Gases to create added value for society and provide practical support for the use of new technologies.

Milestone for the HydroHub Fenne project

This marketing success is a further step on the way to implementing the hydrogen project, which is important for the industrial location of Saarland as a whole. “The agreement that has now been reached with Nippon Gases is a successful step in ensuring the profitability of the overall project,” says Karl Resch, who is in particular responsible for the area of “Sales & Origination” in STEAG’s Trading Division and was in charge of negotiating the Letter of Intent with Nippon Gases and Siemens Energy on behalf of STEAG.

Shortly before Christmas 2021, the “HydroHub Fenne” had reached the next phase for funding as an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI). “This interim success also shows that we are on the right track with our concept,” emphasizes Dr. Ralf Schiele, who is responsible for the Market and Technology divisions on the management board of STEAG GmbH.

This is also the view of STEAG project partner Siemens Energy: “The marketing of the by-product oxygen, which is expected in the near future, shows that the HydroHub Fenne is a sustainable and forward-looking project in the best sense of the word. Not only can it provide hydrogen as a key element of a future climate-neutral energy system, but it also supplies the oxygen that is frequently needed in industrial processes,” says Eric Klein, Vice President Sales Europe New Energy Business at Siemens Energy, summarizing the advantages of the project for the climate and the environment.

[HydroHub Fenne as the nucleus of a cross-border hydrogen economy](#)

Together with its international partners Creos Deutschland, Encevo, GazelEnergie, GRTgaz, H2V, Hydrogène de France and Stahl-Holding-Saar, STEAG has also joined forces in the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) “Grande Region Hydrogen”. In this respect, the future HydroHub Fenne is also an integral component of a cross-border hydrogen economy in Luxembourg, the French region of Lorraine (Grande-Est) and Saarland.

About STEAG

For over 80 years, STEAG has stood for efficient and reliable power generation, both in Germany and abroad. As an experienced partner, we support our customers comprehensively in all phases of power supply. We design, develop, implement, operate and market highly efficient energy solutions – from distributed generation facilities and those based on renewable sources to large central power plants. Together with customized solutions in the field of electricity and heat supply, we also provide a wide range of energy services – increasingly on the basis of renewables. Successfully so: From 1990 to the present day, STEAG has permanently reduced its own CO₂ emissions in Germany by more than 80 percent.

About Nippon Gases

Nippon Gases, one of the leading industrial and medical gas companies in Europe, is part of Nippon Sanso Holdings Corporation, which can look back on more than 100 years of experience and is also present in Japan, Southeast Asia, Australia, the United States and Canada, with more than 19,000 employees in 31 countries. In Europe, more than 3,000 employees, 27 percent of whom are women, now work for Nippon Gases in 13 countries, serving more than 150,000 customers. Safety is a top priority in our company, and we continuously work to improve it even further. We analyze risk factors and hazardous behavior to eliminate the risks, and ensure strict adherence to our safety principles by all our employees. Nippon Gases' commitment to customers, employees and partners, and to the communities in which we operate, reflects our commitment to the environment and sustainability. Together, we are "The Gas Professionals" and we all share the same goal: "Making life better through gas technology".

Nippon Gases Germany is certified to ISO 9001, 14001 and 50001 and has a nationwide presence with twelve of its own sites and almost 250 sales partners.

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