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**JOINT PRESS RELEASE** – October 25th, 2021

**Develop and optimize a Hydrogen Economy in the Greater Region - Companies from France, Germany and Luxembourg constitute European Economic Business Interest Grouping**

Creos Germany, Encevo, GazelEnergie, GRTgaz, H2V, Hydrogène de France, Stahl-Holding-Saar GmbH and Steag GmbH have constituted themselves as the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) "Grande Region Hydrogen".

The Members of the EEIG have, each individually and partially together, set themselves the goal of establishing an integrated cross-border energy system in the Greater Region by linking cross-sector projects (hydrogen production, transport, and consumption). The “Grande Region Hydrogen” is composed of interconnected projects that are relying on each other. Furthermore, it will foster synergies to develop the whole value chain of the hydrogen market.

The focus area is the Federal state of Saarland (Germany), the Lorraine Region (Grand-Est - France) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The aim is to develop and optimize a hydrogen economy along the entire value chain using the outstandingly suitable structural conditions of the focus area.

Environmental impacts

The Grande Region Hydrogen will help decarbonize the industry and parts of the mobility sector and generate emission savings, which comes in line with the objectives set by the European Commission and the Green Deal to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The projects part of the ecosystem should reduce CO2 emissions by more than 980,000 tons/year by 2030.

Social impacts

Moreover, the projects part of the Grande Region Hydrogen will enable the transformation of Carling - Saint-Avold and Völklingen platforms toward hydrogen production, providing new expertise and job creation in the heart of Europe. Over 140 new direct jobs and 230 indirect jobs are expected, thus improving skills development through research and universities programs.

Economic impacts

Finally, the projects part of the Grande Region Hydrogen will participate in the economic growth of the region, with significant investments (more than 600 M€ for production facilities and transportation infrastructures). On the one hand, it will produce up to 61,000 tons of hydrogen per year. On the other hand, the open access transport infrastructure will generate economic gains through optimized demand and supply matching. This scaling up effect will contribute to reducing the renewable hydrogen final price, an important step in the European hydrogen market development.

The Grande Region Hydrogen will also contribute to the attractiveness of this cross-border region because it opens the perspective for a new industrial chapter after the coal era, relying on green energy at a competitive price.

More details on each member project: [www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu](http://www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu)

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**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE** – 25 octobre 2021

**Développer et optimiser une économie de l'hydrogène dans la Grande Région - Des industriels français, allemands et luxembourgeois se constituent en Groupement Européen d'Intérêt Économique (GEIE)**

Creos Deutschland, Encevo, GazelEnergie, GRTgaz, H2V, Hydrogène de France, Stahl-Holding-Saar GmbH et Steag GmbH se sont réunis pour former un Groupement Européen d'Intérêt Économique (GEIE) : « Grande Region Hydrogen ». Les Membres du GEIE se sont fixés, individuellement et collectivement, l'objectif de mettre en place un écosystème hydrogène intégré et transfrontalier à la maille de la Grande Région en connectant des projets de l’ensemble de la chaine de valeur : production, transport et consommation. La « Grande Region Hydrogen » est composée de projets interdépendants les uns des autres et favorisera l’émergence de synergies.

Le périmètre actuel est l'État fédéral de la Sarre (Allemagne), la région Lorraine (Grand-Est - France) et le Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. L'objectif est de développer et d'optimiser une économie de l'hydrogène intégrée en bénéficiant des conditions favorables de ces territoires.

Impacts environnementaux

La « Grande Region Hydrogen » contribuera à décarboner l'industrie de l’acier et le secteur de la mobilité , conformément aux objectifs fixés par la Commission européenne et le Green Deal pour atteindre la neutralité carbone d'ici 2050. l'écosystème devrait réduire les émissions de CO2 de plus de 980 000 tonnes/an d'ici 2030.

Impacts sociaux

Par ailleurs, la « Grande Region Hydrogen » permettra la mutation des plateformes de Carling - Saint-Avold et Völklingen vers la production massive d'hydrogène par électrolyseur, apportant ainsi une nouvelle dynamique au cœur de l'Europe. Plus de 140 nouveaux emplois directs et 230 emplois indirects sont attendus, entrainant le développement de programmes de recherche et de professionnalisation au sein des universités.

Impacts économiques

Enfin, les projets de la « Grande Region Hydrogen » participeront à la croissance économique et à l’attractivité de la région, avec des investissements importants (plus de 600 M€ pour les installations de production et les infrastructures de transport) pour produire jusqu'à 61 000 tonnes d'hydrogène par an. L'infrastructure de transport, non discriminante, générera des gains économiques en optimisant l'adéquation entre l'offre et la demande au fur et à mesure des nouvelles connexions. Cet effet d'échelle contribuera à réduire le prix final de l'hydrogène renouvelable, une étape importante dans le développement d’un marché européen de l'hydrogène.

La « Grande Region Hydrogen » contribuera également à l'attractivité de cette région transfrontalière car elle ouvre la perspective d'un nouveau chapitre industriel après l'ère du charbon, s'appuyant sur une énergie verte à un prix compétitif.

Plus de détails sur chaque projet membre : [www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu](http://www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu)

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**GEMEINSAME PRESSEMITTEILUNG** - 25. Oktober 2021

**Für eine Wasserstoffwirtschaft in der Großregion - Unternehmen aus Frankreich, Deutschland und Luxemburg bilden Europäische wirtschaftliche Interessenvereinigung**

Creos Deutschland, Encevo, GazelEnergie, GRTgaz, H2V, Hydrogène de France, Stahl-Holding-Saar und Steag haben sich als Europäische wirtschaftliche Interessenvereinigung (EWIV) "Grande Region Hydrogen" konstituiert.

Als Mitglieder der EWIV haben sich die beteiligten Unternehmen zum Ziel gesetzt, sektorübergreifende Projekte zur Wasserstofferzeugung, -nutzung und zum Wasserstoffransport zu verknüpfen, um damit ein integriertes, grenzüberschreitendes Energiesystem zu etablieren. Dafür nutzen die Mitglieder die besonderen strukturellen Bedingungen: Die „Grande Region Hydrogen“ setzt sich aus Projekten zusammen, die eng miteinander verbunden und aufeinander angewiesen sind. Ziel ist es, Synergien zu fördern und in der Großregion eine Wasserstoffwirtschaft entlang der gesamten Wertschöpfungskette zu entwickeln und zu optimieren.

Das Schwerpunktgebiet der Großregion ist das Saarland (Deutschland), die Region Lothringen (Grand-Est - Frankreich) und das Großherzogtum Luxemburg.

Umweltauswirkungen

Die „Grande Region Hydrogen“ wird dazu beitragen, die Industrie und Teile des Mobilitätssektors zu dekarbonisieren und Emissionen einzusparen. Dies entspricht den Zielen der Europäischen Kommission und des Green Deal, bis 2050 Kohlenstoffneutralität zu erreichen. Die Projekte der „Grande Region Hydrogen“, dürften die CO2-Emissionen bis 2030 um mehr als 980.000 Tonnen pro Jahr reduzieren.

Soziale Auswirkungen

Darüber hinaus werden die Projekte im Rahmen der „Grande Region Hydrogen“ die Wasserstoffproduktion in Völklingen und auf der Industrieplattform in St. Avold/Carling ermöglichen. Daruch entstehen neues Know-how und neue Arbeitsplätze im Herzen Europas: Es werden über 140 neue direkte und 230 indirekte Arbeitsplätze erwartet. Dadurch können Forschungs- und Hochschulprogramme verbessert und neue Kompetenzen entwickelt werden.

Wirtschaftliche Auswirkungen

Schließlich werden die Projekte der „Grande Region Hydrogen“ mit Investitionen zum Wirtschaftswachstum der Region beitragen: Für Produktionsanlagen und Transportinfrastrukturen werden mehr als 600 Millionen Euro an Investitionen erwartet.

Durch die Projekte werden bis zu 61.000 Tonnen Wasserstoff pro Jahr produziert. In Kombination mit der für jeden Marktteilnehmer frei zugänglichen Transportinfrastruktur wird die Abstimmung von Angebot und Nachfrage wirtschaftliche Vorteile bringen. Dieser Skaleneffekt wird dazu beitragen, den Endpreis für erneuerbaren Wasserstoff zu senken, was ein wichtiger Schritt in der Entwicklung des europäischen Wasserstoffmarktes ist.

Attraktivität der Region

Die „Grande Region Hydrogen“ wird auch zur Attraktivität dieser grenzüberschreitenden Region beitragen. Sie eröffnet eine Zukunftsperspektive für ein neues industrielles Kapitel: Nach der Kohle-Ära setzen Marktteilnehmer auf grüne Energie zu einem wettbewerbsfähigen Preis.

Weitere Informationen zur Grande Region Hydrogen und den einzelnen Projekten unter [www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu](http://www.grande-region-hydrogen.eu)

**About Creos Deutschland GmbH**

Creos Deutschland GmbH, headquartered in Homburg-Saar, supplies more than two million people in 340 towns and communities in the Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate with its approximately 1,650-kilometer high-pressure gas grid and an approximately 450-kilometer high- and medium-voltage grid. The core competencies of Creos Deutschland include the management of energy grids and associated facilities as well as the optimization of grid infrastructure. The Creos Deutschland Group employs around 180 people and is a member of the leading Luxembourg energy group Encevo S.A.

[*https://www.creos-net.de*](https://www.creos-net.de)

**About Encevo S.A.**

The Encevo Group is Luxembourg’s largest energy player. It is also active in Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Encevo is present throughout the entire energy value chain, spanning production, storage, supply, transportation, trading, distribution and services. The group is based on three pillars. These are mainly represented by three separate entities and their respective subsidiaries: energy supply and the generation of renewable energies through Enovos; network operations through Creos; and energy-related services (decentralised production, energy efficiency, ecomobility, etc.) through Enovos Services. The Encevo Group is a regional energy leader and a key player in Luxembourg’s energy transition. It currently employs more than 2,200 people. The group has more than 330,000 delivery points (electricity and natural gas) and operates more than 10,473 km of power lines and over 3,700 km of gas pipelines.

[*www.encevo.eu*](http://www.encevo.eu)

**About GazelEnergie**

GazelEnergie is a French energy production and supply company, fully-owned by the European public utility group EPH, which operates installations in the electricity, gas and heat sectors in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Hungary and Poland. EPH recorded turnover of 7 billion euros in 2018 and employs nearly 25,000 people.

GazelEnergie operates in three sectors: electricity production (with a diversified portfolio of power plants in the Grand Est and Sud regions of France including biomass, wind and solar farms with a total production capacity of 2,263 MW(e)), electricity and gas supply (20 TWh and 8 TWh respectively) and renewable electricity aggregation. GazelEnergie aims to be a pioneer in the energy transition and reindustrialisation for the territories of coal power plant, in particular through the development of green hydrogen systems. GazelEnergie wishes to develop its industrial sites to make them regional clean-energy platforms.

[*https://gazelenergie.fr/*](https://gazelenergie.fr/)

**About GRTgaz**

GRTgaz is Europe's second-largest gas carrier, with 32,500 km of pipes and 640 TWh of gas transported. The company has 3,000 employees and generated nearly €2.3 billion in turnover in 2020. The GRTgaz core purpose is: “Together, we enable an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral”. GRTgaz is an innovative company undergoing a major transformation to adapt its network to new ecological and digital challenges. It is committed to a 100% carbon-neutral French gas mix by 2050. It supports the hydrogen and renewable gas sectors (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). GRTgaz carries out public service missions to guarantee the safety of gas transmission for its 945 customers (shippers, distributors, industrial companies, biomethane plants and producers). With its subsidiaries Elengy, the European leader in LNG terminal services, and GRTgaz Deutschland, operator of the MEGAL transmission network in Germany, GRTgaz plays a key role in the European gas infrastructure scene. The company exports its know-how internationally, in particular services developed by its research centre, RICE. Find us onwww.grtgaz.com and Twitter.

[*www.grtgaz.com*](http://www.grtgaz.com)

**About H2V**

H2V is itself part of the group SAMFI INVEST. The group is an independent Frenchcompany (based in Normandy), with 100% French capital, which develops and invests in renewable energy since its creation in the year 2000 (more than 1 GW of solar and wind capacity developed in the last 20 years). SAMFI INVEST is present on the entire value chain of renewable energies: wind energy, photovoltaic and renewable hydrogen production for industry and mobility uses and refueling stations. The group is also highly active on the hydrogen use side, with Malherbe Transports operating a large truck fleet that it expects to transform to fuel cell vehicles by 2030.

H2V is already well known in the hydrogen sector in France due to its pioneer projects H2V59 and H2V NORMANDY in Hauts-de-France and Normandy.

[*https://h2v.net/*](https://h2v.net/)

**About HDF**

HDF Energy is a global pioneer in hydrogen energy. HDF develops, finances and operates multi-megawatts Hydrogen-Power plants. These plants provide continuous or on-demand electricity from renewable energy sources (wind or solar), combined with high power fuel cells supplied by HDF.

HDF has developed the world’s first mass production plant for high-power fuel cells for energy, which will be commissioned in France in 2023. Through this activity, HDF Energy will also serve the maritime and data center markets.

HDF Energy is a powerful accelerator of the energy transition by offering non-intermittent, grid-friendly and on-demand renewable power. HDF is a company listed on the regulated market of Euronext Paris.

[*https://www.hdf-energy.com/*](https://www.hdf-energy.com/)

**About SHS – Stahl-Holding-Saar, Dillinger and Saarstahl**

Founded in 2001, SHS – Stahl-Holding-Saar GmbH & Co. KGaA (SHS) is today an operational management holding company which since 2010 has been actively taking on activities for the Saarland steel companies Dillinger and Saarstahl. Dillinger is a world leader in the manufacture of high-grade heavy plate steel. High-tech plate from Dillinger is used to realize extraordinary and technically advanced projects all over the globe, including in the areas of steel construction, engineering, offshore, offshore wind power, and line pipe and boiler construction. Dillinger is already producing the steels today that are needed for the energy transition and climate reversal. Saarstahl specializes in the production of wire rod, bar steel, billets and forged products in premium qualities. With innovative products and intelligent technologies, Saarstahl is helping find answers to global challenges like mobility, energy efficiency and safety. Saarstahl products are in demand by the automotive and construction industries, the power engineering industry, the aerospace industry, by general mechanical engineering and by other steel processing industries, and they are used in applications that can be subjected to the most extreme conditions. Both companies are working in unison to grow, become more flexible and enhance the competitive edge in their respective markets. Close to 14,000 people worldwide are employed under the SHS umbrella.

[*www.stahl-holding-saar.de*](http://www.stahl-holding-saar.de)

**About STEAG GmbH**

For over 80 years, STEAG is standing 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: Since 1990, STEAG has permanently reduced its own CO2 emissions in Germany by approximately 85 percent.

[*www.steag.com*](http://www.steag.com)

**Contacts for media inquiries**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contact Creos Deutschland GmbH*****Mrs. Carola Jung*** *Tel: +49 (0)6841 9886 66 44-113* *Mob: +49 (0)175 1825-086* *carola.jung@creos-net.de*[*https://www.creos-net.de*](https://www.creos-net.de) | **Contact Encevo S.A.*****Corporate Communication****Tel: (+352) 2737 -9510* *communication@encevo.eu*[*www.encevo.eu*](http://www.encevo.eu) | **Contact GazelEnergie*****Mrs. Camille Jaffrelo****Tel : +33 (0)6 32 70 05 38**camille.jaffrelo@gazelenergie.fr*[*https://gazelenergie.fr/*](https://gazelenergie.fr/) | **Contact GRTgaz*****Mrs. Sylvie Antonini*** *Tel : (+33) (0)7 60 53 33 10* *sylvie.antonini@grtgaz.com*[*www.grtgaz.com*](http://www.grtgaz.com) |
| **Contact H2V*****Mrs. Ann-Katrin Bureau Jégo*** *Tel: + 33 (0)6 64 68 84 81**ann-katrin.bureaujego@h2v.net*<https://h2v.net/>  | **Contact HDF*****Mrs. Hanane El Hamraoui*** *Tel: +33 (0)6 26 99 68 99**Hanane.elhamraoui@hdf-energy.com* | **Contacts SHS –** **Stahl-Holding-Saar*****Mrs. Juliane Wernet****Tel: +49 (0)6898 10-2234**juliane.wernet@stahl-holding-saar.de****Mrs. Ute Engel****Tel: +49 (0)6898 10-2265**ute.engel@stahl-holding-saar.de*[*www.stahl-holding-saar.de*](http://www.stahl-holding-saar.de) | **Contact Steag*****Mr. Daniel Mühlenfeld****Tel : +49 (0)201 801-4262**Daniel.Muehlenfeld@steag.com*[*www.steag.com*](http://www.steag.com) |