

Press information

Berlin, 20th May 2008

Hydrogen Region Berlin-Hamburg Grows Together

With the expansion of the Clean Energy Partnership, the establishment of a leading hydrogen region in Europe, Berlin-Hamburg, is approaching. The new partners are Shell and the Public transport company Hamburger Hochbahn. The priorities for further planning are market preparation and the supply of 'green' hydrogen from renewable sources.

In May 2008 the CEP is starting a new phase with twelve partners: the Berlin Public Transport Company (BVG), BMW, Daimler, Ford, GM/Opel, the Transport Company Hamburger Hochbahn, Linde, Shell, StatoilHydro, TOTAL, Vattenfall Europe and Volkswagen. The leading technology, oil and energy companies, as well as the majority of German car manufacturers, are thus taking part in this trailblazing project. In future the CEP will be supported by the National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP). As a lighthouse project it will have international effect and thus contribute to the establishment of hydrogen as the 'fuel of the future'.

Since 2004 the Clean Energy Partnership as one of the largest hydrogen demonstration project in the world, that this emissions-free technology of the future is also suitable for everyday use. The current balance shows over 500,000 safely driven, emissions free kilometres and over 4,000 problem-free fuelling of cars and busses. The CEP will develop the Berlin-Hamburg Hydrogen Region until 2016. The first phase until 2010 is concentrating on validation of technologies in everyday use ahead of further development of relevant technologies for market introduction. The plans include an increase in the car fleet to about 40 vehicles, an expansion of the Berlin and Hamburg bus fleets and the construction of three new filling stations in Berlin and Hamburg's Harbour City. The enlargement of the Berlin hydrogen fleet by ten GM/Opel HydroGen4 vehicles with a 700 bar fuel system is a first milestone.

Local Network with three hydrogen filling stations in Berlin - 'flagship station' in Hamburg's Harbour City – regionally integrated system with Hamburg

Increased demand and better coverage of the Berlin city area will be guaranteed by 2010 through three hydrogen filling stations: with the aid of technology from Linde, TOTAL is currently modernising and expanding the hydrogen filling station in Berlin-Spandau which has been operating since 2006, to become the most efficient filling station in the world. The construction of two further filling stations located centrally in Berlin in 2009 is also planned: TOTAL, StatoilHydro and Linde are jointly planning to put a public filling station into operation in Berlin-Mitte; Shell intends to construct a hydrogen filling station south of Berlin's centre. Together with Shell Vattenfall Europe is planning the construction of a new filling station in Hamburg's Harbour City to supply the growing bus fleet of the Hamburg public transport company Hamburg Hochbahn. The filling stations will be constructed using state of the art technology and will be signposts in hydrogen application. The construction of a new hydrogen filling station for buses by TOTAL, in cooperation with the Berlin public transport company (BVG), is also under discussion.

With the expiration of the first phase of the Clean Energy Partnership, BP Germany, a CEP member since 2002, has decided not to take part in the new expansion phase and leave the partnership at the End of April 2008. The dismantlement of the Aral hydrogen filling station at Messedamm in Berlin, is now under way. The hydrogen infrastructure installed there will be re-used within the CEP at other locations.

The third phase of the Clean Energy Partnership, from 2011 to 2016, is entirely dedicated to market preparation. The sustainable supply of hydrogen, especially from renewable energy, will not remain a local issue, but has to be solved on a national or international level. A priority in the third phase will thus be the development of a Berlin-Hamburg Hydrogen Region with a potential link to Scandinavia, as well as the construction of a central production portfolio for hydrogen, with relevant quotas from renewable energy.

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