

Press release

Essen, 18 November 2024

Hydrogen for Essen from Germany's nationwide H2 core network: Stadtwerke Essen and OGE in partnership

The gas transmission system operator OGE and the municipal utility Stadtwerke Essen are working together on the future of hydrogen transportation to and within Essen. The partnership agreement signed by both companies will enable Stadtwerke Essen and OGE to explore how hydrogen can be transported through the nationwide core network to businesses and consumers in Essen. OGE designs and builds pipeline systems and operates a network totalling 12,000 kilometres in Germany, with which it connects major customers. Local utilities like Stadtwerke Essen distribute the natural gas – and in future hydrogen – via their local grids to end users.

The partnership will examine future capacity requirements as well as network connection and transformation plans. That also means answering specific questions, like when and how the hydrogen will flow through which parts of the Stadtwerke Essen distribution grid.

“The partnership between two strong Essen-based organisations highlights the seriousness with which we are driving forward the decarbonisation and transformation of energy supply in the Rhine/Ruhr region. Since this industrial region is crucial to Germany as a whole, supplying Essen with hydrogen for business and end users alike is hugely important,” said **Dr Thomas Hüwener, CEO of OGE**.

Dr Frank Pieper, CEO of SWE, added: “We are a local supplier, so for us it is strategically important to act early in tackling innovative solutions for the sustainable energy supply of tomorrow. We have therefore decided to also utilise the potential of hydrogen for Essen. This requires strong partnerships – and we’re working to build them, as now with OGE.”

The mayor of Essen Thomas Kufen was also full of praise for the partnership: “As Europe’s energy capital, Essen has a pioneering role to play in the area of hydrogen, too. We see H2 not only as a key technology for actively shaping the energy transition and developing sustainable solutions for the future, but also as a concrete way to strengthen our local economy through the provision of hydrogen as an energy source. I am therefore delighted that two key Essen players in the field of energy are working together to secure the supply.”

Background: At the end of October, the Federal Network Agency approved the construction of a nationwide hydrogen core network in Germany. By 2032, the country will thus have Europe’s largest hydrogen network with a total length of 9,040 kilometres, part of which is being built by OGE. The core network will mainly consist of repurposed natural gas pipelines (approx. 60%). Investment



costs for the project amount to around 19 billion euros, and the core network will cross the city of Essen.

About OGE

OGE gets gaseous molecules flowing. We create and maintain a modern, safe and efficient infrastructure for natural gas, hydrogen and CO2. Our pipeline network with a length of more than 12,000 kilometres is fundamental to Germany's energy supply and ensures the prosperity of our society. As the market-leading gas transmission system operator, we are a pioneer, driver and enabler of the energy transition and climate neutrality. We see ourselves as transformation consultants and service providers for industry, power plants, distribution system operators and our partners from production and politics. OGE is also a future-proof, modern workplace for more than 2,000 people. In the interests of our employees and shareholders, we continually adapt our business model to ensure lastingly profitable development. For more information on the company, go to www.oge.net.

About Stadtwerke Essen AG

Stadtwerke Essen is a municipal utility company with a long history. Since 1867, it has been an established and reliable partner supplying energy and water to the city of Essen. As an innovative company, Stadtwerke Essen is continually evolving in its efforts to ensure an efficient and environmentally friendly energy supply. It reliably supplies consumers in the greater Essen area with heating, natural gas, green electricity and fresh drinking water around the clock, 365 days a year. Stadtwerke Essen also offers its customers a wide range of attractive services. As a network operator, it manages natural gas and drinking water supply networks totalling 3,230 kilometres in length. It also builds drainage systems and operates the 1,650-kilometre-long wastewater network in Essen. These wide-ranging tasks are accomplished with a workforce of more than 800. www.stadtwerke-essen.de

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