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European Clean Hydrogen Alliance

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Dear Readers,

The 21st edition of this newsletter arrives as the European Parliament votes on the next College of Commissioners. Once confirmed, the new group of Executive Vice-Presidents and Commissioners will take over the leadership of the European Commission under President Ursula von der Leyen.

In this edition, we bring you a number of updates on the latest group of hydrogen projects awarded Innovation Funding as well as information about the 2nd Hydrogen Bank auction. We also bring you info about the future of the Alliance and details of upcoming events, including the Electrolyser Summit, an event for SMEs interested in investing in Japan, and a public event on the hydrogen IPCEI.

Your hydrogen team in the Directorate-General for Industry and Internal Market

Second Hydrogen Bank auction to open on 3 December

Following the success of the first auction under the Innovation Fund, the second Hydrogen Bank auction will open for bids on 3 December. The second auction has a budget of EUR 1.2 billion, which includes a dedicated EUR 200 million basket for hydrogen producers with maritime off-takers. Successful proposals will receive fixed premium payments in EUR/kg of released upon verified and certified renewable hydrogen production for a maximum of ten years.

The key changes from the second auction are:

- An auction ceiling price of EUR 4 per kilogram of hydrogen;
- Mandatory reach of financial close within two and a half years and

in addition to a maximum time to entry into operation within of five years;

- Completion guarantees are set at 8% of the requested grant amount;
- New requirements related to resilience of the electrolyzers used in the project.

The European Commission is organising an Info Day on 10 December for prospective bidders. You can register using the [following link](#).

For more information about the auction, including the terms and conditions, [please visit the European Commission webpage on the auction](#).

Winners of 2023 Innovation Fund announced

On 23 October, the European Commission announced the winners of the latest Innovation Fund calls. Overall, 85 innovative net-zero projects will receive EUR 4.8 billion in grants from the Innovation Fund.

In the large-scale topic, three hydrogen projects were selected: H2HubEmden (located in Germany); H2BE and Enhance (both located in Belgium). In the medium-scale topic, Hydrogreen (located in Finland) was selected for Innovation funding, and in the pilot project topic HYODE (in France) and KHP (in Sweden) were selected for grants.

In the clean-tech manufacturing topic, a number of hydrogen technology projects were selected: PM Hy-Factory (in Germany), Battolyser (Netherlands), HSS-Gen2 (Germany), GRAND PIANO (Belgium), Project Sagitta (Norway), Project HYPE (Norway), ELCOI (Estonia), Fich2tel (Germany), H2ManuNet (Italy), Rhyno (Greece), HTEM300 (Germany), and H2-GIGA (Denmark).

More information is available in the [European Commission press release](#).

Have your say on the future of the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance!

As we reported in the newsletter in July/August, the [European Court of Auditors recommended](#) that the European Commission decide on the scope and number of roundtables and adopt a clear and time-bound mandate for the Alliance's future work.

We are therefore seeking your views on the Alliance's scope, governance,

roundtables, and future work. Your views are important to deciding on the future of the Alliance! The [attached document](#) of 1.5 pages includes some short questions for which we would greatly appreciate your answers.

Please send your input by 21 November to GROW-HYDROGEN-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu.

Electrolyser Summit takes place on 19 November

The 3rd Electrolyser Summit will take place on 19 November during EU Hydrogen Week. It will bring together the CEOs of the Electrolyser Partnership. During this closed-door

meeting, participants will discuss with Director-General for Industry and Internal Market Ms Jorna how to improve the business case for European electrolyzers.

IPCEI Hydrogen Public Conference takes place on 17 December

On 17 December, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance, and Industry of France is organising a public conference on the four hydrogen IPCEI. The conference will be held at the Ministry in Paris and will begin at 9.30. All interested participants are welcome

to attend.

For more details and to register, please visit the [Ministry's dedicated page on the conference](#).

Registration closes on 2 December.



Updates from the Alliance

The **Industrial Applications roundtable** met on 26 September to discuss what is needed to reach the 2030 hydrogen targets for industry. This follows on from the European Court of Auditors' report on renewable hydrogen and the roundtable's publication in May of a paper (available on the [Alliance website](#)) on the challenges related to financing hydrogen projects from an industry perspective.

The **Buildings roundtable** met on

18 October to discuss the draft report on the hydrogen readiness of energy grids and heating appliances that they have been working on for the past few months. The final report will be published by the end of the year. In addition, roundtable members presented two of their projects: a consortium of gas distribution network operators presented the "Ready4H2 Transformation Roadmap," and Málaga TechPark presented the "H2Excellence" project for training hydrogen operators.

Transmission and Distribution roundtable publishes report on hydrogen supply corridors

On 7 November the Transmission and Distribution roundtable of the Alliance published its 'Learnbook on Implementation of Hydrogen Supply Corridors', which describes how the six identified hydrogen supply corridors will be created by 2030 through projects, most of which are already in the 1st PCI/PMI list published, based on the revised TEN-E Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/869). The report also

includes a description of the technical characteristics and interconnections of each corridor, as well as the potential contribution they offer to the development of the EU hydrogen economy. Specific barriers to the further development of these corridors are also assessed.

The full report is available on the DG [GROW Alliance webpage](#).

Call for applications: SMEs working on green tech that wish to exhibit at Tokyo's Decarbonization Expo 2025

Are you a European SME specialising in green technologies? Would you like to exhibit in Japan? If so, the EU-Japan Centre can help. Apply to join our Green Business Mission and get a chance to showcase your company at the Decarbonization Expo in Tokyo in February 2025!

Selected applicants will enjoy free space at the EU-Japan Centre's booth. They will also benefit from free translation of their company profile into Japanese, and free onsite English-Japanese

interpretation. Finally, the centre will organise B2B activities before the fair to give selected SMEs maximum visibility with Japanese companies.

The deadline for applications is 6 December. SMEs interested in participating can submit their applications through the [web form here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Denis Ledent: d.ledent@eu-japan.eu.

MorGen Energy's 1 GW green hydrogen project in Denmark progresses despite infrastructure challenges

MorGen Energy (formerly H2 Energy Europe), a developer of green hydrogen ecosystems and a Trafigura Group company, is developing the 1 GW Njordkraft green hydrogen production plant in Esbjerg, Denmark. Planned for commercial operation in 2028, the project is designed to support decarbonisation in hard-to-abate sectors

across Europe and will significantly contribute to European renewable hydrogen production targets.

However, a recent announcement of a delay in the Danish Backbone West pipeline's completion, from 2028 to 2031, introduces an infrastructure challenge. MorGen Energy is actively





engaged with Denmark's Transmission System Operator to align on a commissioning schedule for the pipeline, aiming to start hydrogen deliveries to Germany's core network in 2028-2029. Once operational, the facility will generate over 135,000 metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually, meeting standards under the Delegated Act on Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBOs). Given its substantial production capacity, Njordkraft is designed with a cross-border strategy in mind. Advanced negotiations are underway with off-takers in Germany, predominately from hard-to-abate sectors including refineries and steel plants.

The renewable hydrogen is planned to be transported via the European Hydrogen Backbone (EHB) through subsections including the Danish Backbone West and Hyperlink 3, linking regional networks between Denmark

and Germany. As such, clear financial commitments in 2025, followed by the timely commissioning of the EHB infrastructure from 2028, are critical for a positive final investment decision on the Njordkraft facility.

The project has already secured key permits, completed FEED studies, and procured essential equipment. As a first mover, it provides a replicable model for future hydrogen plants across Europe. By achieving economies of scale, MorGen Energy's approach will enable European industries to access competitively priced green hydrogen, supporting the decarbonisation of high-emission sectors.

MorGen Energy is optimistic that infrastructure delays can be resolved, clearing the way for the project to support the acceleration of Europe's hydrogen industry and broader energy transition.

