

FenHYx: 1st demonstrator on a European scale to test hydrogen and decarbonised gases in the networks

After the creation of its research centre (RICE) in January 2018, GRTgaz announces the launch of a project for a research, innovation and European cooperation platform on new gases including hydrogen. GRTgaz will be responsible for the design of this demonstrator, call FenHYx, whose purpose will be to define the technical, economic and regulatory conditions for injecting hydrogen and decarbonised gases into the gas infrastructure.

The FenHYx platform in particular aims to reproduce the features of gas networks and especially those of the gas transmission networks: compression, expansion, measurement, analysis, injection loop, etc. Trials, at different pressures and concentrations of hydrogen and methane, will be used to test, assess and certify innovative processes for producing new gases including hydrogen as well as innovations in equipment. The opening up of this platform to other operators (European gas network managers, equipment suppliers, etc.) will contribute to the emergence of the hydrogen sector. GRTgaz plans to put FenHYx into service in 2020.

On the occasion of this announcement, Thierry Trouvé, GRTgaz CEO stated: “FenHYx, is a prototype of the “network of possibilities”! GRTgaz wishes to try out with its future French and European partners the conditions for carrying as much hydrogen and decarbonised energies as possible in the gas networks in the years to come. After Jupiter 1000 the *Power to Gas* demonstrator under construction at Fos-sur-Mer, this innovative platform confirms GRTgaz’s commitment to the energy transition.”

With over 230,000 km of buried gas pipes and large storage facilities, France has a unique industrial heritage in order to meet the challenges of the energy transition and play a role in implementing the plan for deploying hydrogen presented on 1st June by Nicolas Hulot, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition.

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GRTgaz is one of Europe's leading natural gas transmission companies and a world expert in gas grids and transmission systems. In France, GRTgaz owns and operates 32,410 km of underground pipelines and 26 compressor stations to transmit natural gas between suppliers and consumers (distributors or industrial firms directly connected to the transmission system). GRTgaz performs a public service role in guaranteeing the security of supply to consumers and sells transmission services to system users. A significant player in the energy transition process, GRTgaz is investing in innovative solutions to adapt its system and to reconcile competitiveness, security of supply and environmental protection.