

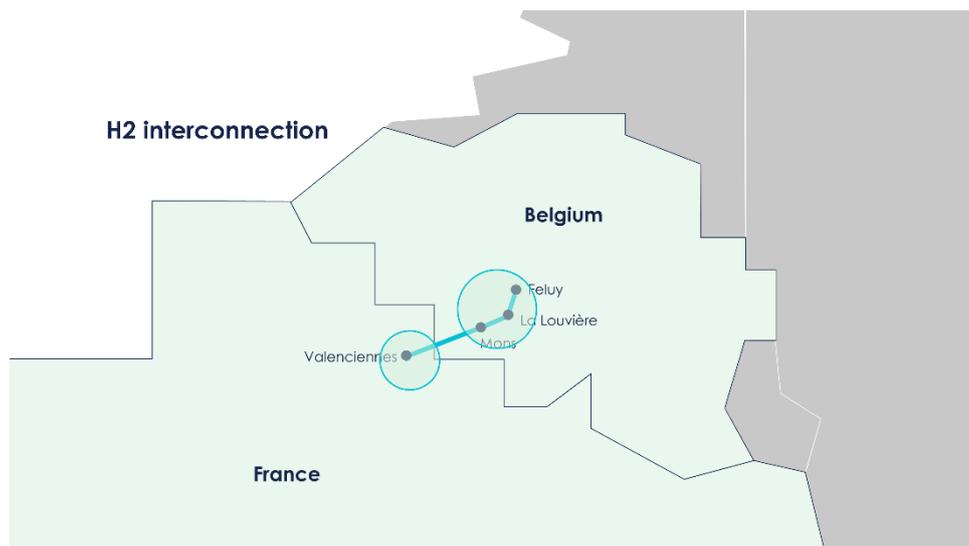
PRESS RELEASE

16 June 2022

GRTgaz and Fluxys are willing to develop the first open-access, cross-border hydrogen transmission network between France and Belgium

This partnership between GRTgaz and Fluxys builds on the consultations conducted and Belgium in 2021-2022 to assess market players' hydrogen transmission needs. As such, the two gas transmission system operators have decided to launch a call for developing an open-access, cross-border network for the transmission of low-carbon hydrogen in Hainaut, more specifically between the areas of Valenciennes in France and Mons in Belgium.

Forming the first hydrogen infrastructure between Belgium and France, this network would span around 70 km and would help decarbonise this area, which is known for its strong shared industrial heritage. This project marks the first step in the development of interconnected networks transporting low-carbon hydrogen in Europe, as envisaged by the European Hydrogen Backbone¹ initiative.



Fluxys and GRTgaz launch a call for interest to market players (open season)

The project is intended to connect emerging low-carbon hydrogen production and consumption projects in this area and to foster the development of a cross-border, low-carbon hydrogen ecosystem that ensures security of supply, flexibility and local impetus through shared network infrastructure.

¹ The European Hydrogen Backbone project brings together 31 gas transmission system operators (TSOs) from 28 European countries. The latest report published in this regard confirms the viability of pan-European hydrogen infrastructure, more specifically infrastructure based on the conversion of existing gas infrastructure. According to this study, a hydrogen pipeline network spanning almost 40,000 km would be in place by 2040.



The first phase of the project comprises a market consultation to confirm the economic interest in establishing transmission infrastructure in the border region of Hainaut. This will make it possible to carry out initial technical studies.

After conducting initial hydrogen market consultations in France and Belgium in 2021-2022, during which the two companies spoke to market players about their transmission infrastructure needs, GRTgaz and Fluxys have identified the Valenciennes area in France and the greater Mons area, including La Louvière and Feluy in Belgium as a region showing considerable potential when it comes to hydrogen development.

Based on this finding, GRTgaz and Fluxys have decided to work together on a proposal for hydrogen transmission infrastructure via a cross-border pipeline.

A step towards a European hydrogen backbone

Given the challenges of the ecological transition, low-carbon hydrogen is emerging as a key energy carrier for achieving Europe's carbon neutrality targets by 2050.

The proposed infrastructure marks the first stage in the development of an integrated European transmission network. It is in line with the vision of the European Hydrogen Backbone promoted by some 30 gas transmission operators in Europe to ensure security of supply for hydrogen consumers and create a common European market.

"This new partnership with Fluxys will enable to further contribute to the construction of the European hydrogen backbone. In line with the territorial projects, we are already carrying out (mosaHYc, Rhyn, etc.), I am delighted to work with Fluxys on this joint cross-border project, which will help to promote the hydrogen ecosystem and give economic impetus to the Valenciennes cross-border region," says Thierry Trouvé, CEO of GRTgaz.

"At Fluxys, we are doing everything we can to help the hydrogen market grow rapidly. The partnership with GRTgaz to create a cross-border network between Belgium and France fully dovetails with our overall approach to help build key decarbonisation infrastructure across Belgium and to neighbouring countries. By developing our infrastructure, we want to turn Belgium into an import and transmission hub within a European hydrogen backbone," says Pascal De Buck, CEO of Fluxys.

About GRTgaz

In France, GRTgaz plans to develop a hydrogen network spanning approximately 1,000 km by 2030 by constructing new pipelines as well as converting part of the existing gas network. The most advanced project, mosaHYc, aims to develop the first European hydrogen network by converting gas pipelines between Moselle, Saarland and Luxembourg. This year, GRTgaz also launched the Rhine HYdrogen Network (RHYn), a second project to convert the natural gas transmission network to hydrogen in Alsace.

GRTgaz is Europe's second-largest gas transporter, with 32,500 km of pipelines and 640 TWh of gas transported. The company has 3,000 employees and generated nearly €2.3 billion in turnover in 2020. GRTgaz has a stated core purpose: "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 ecological and digital challenges. The company is committed to establishing a fully carbon-neutral gas mix in France 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 safe transmission for its 945 customers (shippers, distributors, industrial clients, biomethane producers and plants). Alongside its subsidiaries Elengy, Europe's leader in LNG terminals, and GRTgaz Deutschland, the operator of the MEGAL transmission network in Germany, GRTgaz plays a key role on the European gas infrastructure scene. The company exports its know-how internationally, especially those services developed by its research centre, RICE.

Find us at <https://www.grtgaz.com/> and on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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About Fluxys

Headquartered in Belgium, Fluxys is a fully independent energy infrastructure group with 1,300 employees active in gas transmission & storage and liquefied natural gas terminalling. Through its associated companies across the world, Fluxys operates 12,000 kilometres of pipeline and liquefied natural gas terminals totalling a yearly regasification capacity of 29 billion cubic metres. Among Fluxys' subsidiaries is Euronext listed Fluxys Belgium, owner and operator of the infrastructure for gas transmission & storage and liquefied natural gas terminalling in Belgium. As a purpose-led company, Fluxys together with its stakeholders contributes to a better society by shaping a bright energy future. Building on the unique assets of its infrastructure and its commercial and technical expertise, Fluxys is committed to transporting hydrogen, biomethane or any other carbon-neutral energy carrier as well as CO₂, accommodating the capture, usage and storage of the latter. www.fluxys.com

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