



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

PRESS RELEASE

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European funding for 8 new hydrogen refuelling stations in the Benelux

TURNHOUT - A consortium - consisting of WaterstofNet as coordinator and Colruyt Group, PitPoint, Shell and Rijkswaterstaat as partners - joins forces in the comprehensive hydrogen 'H2Benelux' project. Within H2Benelux 8 hydrogen refuelling stations (HRS) and 80 hydrogen-fuelled fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) will be deployed in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg by 2020.

The main objective of H2Benelux is the roll out of a basic HRS Benelux network, through the design and the implementation of 8 hydrogen refuelling stations along the 'TEN-T' (Trans-European Transport Network) Corridors: 3 in Belgium, 4 in the Netherlands and 1 in Luxembourg. As a consequence, H2Benelux aims to accelerate the market uptake of FCEV and strengthen the existing network.

H2Benelux will test under real conditions the technical and economic performance of a network of 8 HRS under daily utilization. Each station will be accompanied by at least 10 FCEV that will be used by a focus group of end users. A call for interested end users will be organised shortly, as their involvement is paramount. The project will also test the environmental performances of the use of hydrogen produced from conventional energy sources: trucked in or on-site produced from renewable sources.

Moreover, the technical viability and operational efficiency of the HRS will be monitored, studied and improved. Data will be collected on efficiency and time of operations and reliability of each HRS. In addition, the business client relationship will be optimized to prepare the basis for the roll-out in the market and a business case will be developed for each of the HRS. H2Benelux will also prepare a business plan case for HRS using the demand-led business model to further boost the deployment of hydrogen as alternative fuel in Benelux and to finance the future roll out of the stations.

"In 2015, the Benelux Union launched a framework to stimulate cross-border cooperation on alternative fuels. In this context we are delighted to see that the H2Benelux project will contribute positively to sustainable mobility in the region. This also fits perfectly within the broader Benelux efforts to focus on green hydrogen within the energy transition," comments Deputy Secretary-General Benelux, Luuk Blom.

According to Adwin Martens, director of WaterstofNet, the H2Benelux project is of key strategic importance for the region: "WaterstofNet has demonstrated through the realisation of hydrogen projects in South-Netherlands and Flanders that cross-border collaboration strengthens the global position of the region in terms of value chain development and early adopter deployment clusters. This project further strengthens this position by realising a network of connected hydrogen refuelling stations in the Benelux that allows local hydrogen user communities to expand to national and cross-border playgrounds."

H2Benelux is co-financed by the European Union's **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** - Transport Programme to a maximum of **€ 7,218,875** and runs **until the end of 2020**. The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) of the European Commission will be supervising the project's implementation throughout its whole life-cycle.

Shell and PitPoint also receive subsidies from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (DKTI Transport) for the construction of the Dutch stations.

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WaterstofNet



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European HRS Network

H2Benelux falls within the scope of the Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014. The Directive defines a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the European Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. It sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including hydrogen refuelling stations (HRS) for hydrogen-fuelled fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV). The current lack of refuelling infrastructure and the scarcity of FCEV are the key barriers to development of the hydrogen market. Public interventions for stimulating implementation of HRS infrastructure and hydrogen market pull are therefore necessary.

H2Benelux is part of a global project whose objective is to build a complete infrastructure for hydrogen fuelled road transport in the Benelux. This will consist of a roll out of 400 HRS to supply around 140,000 FCEV to reach a market penetration of 5% among traditional fuel stations integrating hydrogen in their offer by 2030. Furthermore, the global project aims at fostering the transition the traditional sources for producing hydrogen (grey hydrogen) to full renewable sources (green hydrogen).

The H2Benelux project aims at accelerating the market deployment of hydrogen stations and vehicles to achieve the objective of the global project. It consists of a study with pilot real life trial for the deployment of at least 8 HRS stations and the introduction of 80 FCEV along the BENELUX sections of the TEN-T Core Network Corridors: North Sea-Baltic, North-Sea-Mediterranean and Rhine-Alp. By doing so, it will allow to interconnect the HRS networks in the United Kingdom, France and Germany, contributing to the creation a continuous network of HRS in Europe.

More info:

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