



## PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, May 6th, 2021

# HyTrucks consortium aims to have 300 hydrogen-powered trucks on the road in Belgium by 2025

**Air Liquide, DATS 24 and Port of Antwerp join forces in the HyTrucks consortium to deploy 300 hydrogen-powered trucks and the related renewable hydrogen production infrastructure and supply chain assets in Belgium as part of the HyTrucks initiative. This project aims at enabling in total 1,000 hydrogen-powered zero-emission trucks on the roads and building the adequate infrastructure connecting Belgium, the Netherlands and western Germany by 2025.**

The partnership aims to deploy hydrogen-powered trucks mainly in the area around the Port of Antwerp and major logistics hubs in Belgium. Hydrogen trucks will be used for intensive local and international transport.

The **HyTrucks initiative** is one of the largest European projects to deploy zero-emission heavy-duty fleets in Europe's most intense traffic areas. It aims at **reducing significantly CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated amount of more than 100,000 tonnes per year**, equivalent to 110 million kilometers driven, thanks to **1,000 trucks, and a first network of 25 high-capacity hydrogen stations connecting Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Duisburg**. In Belgium, the HyTrucks project aims at reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated amount of more than 30,000 tonnes per year, equivalent to 33 million kilometres driven.

Clean hydrogen is one of the energy carriers particularly suited for heavy-duty vehicles that enables the reduction of greenhouse gases, urban pollution, and dependency on fossil fuels. On top of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, hydrogen-powered transport will have a positive impact on health and will also contribute to avoid particulate matter, NO<sub>x</sub>, noise, and vibrations compared to diesel engines.

A growing set of partners representing the whole value chain -truck manufacturers, transport companies, leading fuel cell suppliers- have already agreed to join the initiative announced earlier this year. The companies represented in the larger HyTrucks initiative in the 3 concerned countries will jointly perform the feasibility study.

The initiatives of Air Liquide and DATS 24 have been selected by the Flemish and Dutch government for EU notification as an "important project of common European interest" (IPCEI), and thus obtained eligibility for funding status from European, Federal and Flemish governments. IPCEI allows for enhanced state aid and will help the project as a first of its kind with new technology forward.

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**Diederick Luijten**, Vice President Hydrogen Energy Europe for Air Liquide said: *"Fighting climate change is central to the mission of Air Liquide. With our significant hydrogen infrastructure and investments in Belgium, we are ideally positioned to bring solutions to decarbonise transports. We are convinced of the pivotal role that hydrogen will play in the energy transition, especially for heavy-duty applications. Air Liquide is proud to bring its 50 years of expertise in the hydrogen value chain to the HyTrucks project."*

**Raf Flebus**, BU manager of DATS 24, said: *"Colruyt Group has produced its own, 100% green hydrogen for almost a decade. Three years ago, we opened the very first all inclusive public hydrogen fuel station in Europe. The upcoming months, four additional public fuel stations will be fitted with a hydrogen installation for cars: Haasrode, Wilrijk, Erpe-Mere & Herve. At the end of 2020, Colruyt Group also put the first 44-tonne hydrogen powered electric truck in Europe into service. So clearly, we believe fuel cell and hydrogen technology is a very promising zero-emission powertrain solution for transports and logistics. This HyTrucks project is yet another significant step towards zero emissions in transport"*.

**Jacques Vandermeiren**, CEO of Port of Antwerp, said: *"We want to give hydrogen every chance as an energy carrier, a basic element for chemistry and a fuel, and are therefore committing ourselves as an active pioneer in the hydrogen economy. As a world port and Europe's largest integrated chemical cluster, we are an important link in this chain. Thanks to the collaboration between partners with the right expertise, we have all the assets we need to take further concrete steps in this regard and to set an example for other ports and regions."*

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### About Air Liquide

A world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 78 countries with approximately 64,500 employees and serves more than 3.8 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen are essential small molecules for life, matter and energy. They embody Air Liquide's scientific territory and have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902.

Air Liquide's ambition is to be a leader in its industry, deliver long term performance and contribute to sustainability - with a strong commitment to climate change and energy transition at the heart of its strategy. The company's customer-centric transformation strategy aims at profitable, regular and responsible growth over the long term. It relies on operational excellence, selective investments, open innovation and a network organization implemented by the Group worldwide. Through the commitment and inventiveness of its people, Air Liquide leverages energy and environment transition, changes in healthcare and digitization, and delivers greater value to all its stakeholders.

Air Liquide's revenue amounted to more than 20 billion euros in 2020. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40, EURO STOXX 50 and FTSE4Good indexes

### About DATS 24

DATS 24 is Colruyt Group's fuel and energy expert and has an important mission. Customers can go there for all traditional and alternative fuels: petrol and diesel, but also CNG (compressed natural gas), electricity and hydrogen. 75% of its fuel stations are in a location of one or several Colruyt Group store formulas. DATS 24 is the largest supplier of natural gas for vehicles in Belgium and pioneers with green hydrogen. Eighty-five fuel stations are equipped with a CNG pump and in one station, private people can also fill up with hydrogen and quick-charge. It also has electric charging posts in more than 125 locations.

And in 2020, DATS 24 started rolling out AdBlue in some of its fuel stations. Since many years, the fuel expert complies with the strict ISO 14001 standard thanks to its rigorous environmental policy. In January 2019, DATS 24 was the first in Belgium to launch mobile refuelling with the Xtra app. In doing this, it is once again honouring its history as a pioneer. This app focuses on a smooth and pleasant experience for the customer. 6 April 2021 marks the history of DATS 24 once again, as on that day it will start supplying natural gas and 100% green, local electricity to private individuals and families.

### About Port of Antwerp

As Europe's second-largest port, the Port of Antwerp is a major lifeline for the Belgian economy: more than 300 line services to over 800 destinations ensure global connectivity. The Port of Antwerp annually handles around 231 million tonnes of international maritime freight, and is home to Europe's largest integrated chemical cluster. The Port of Antwerp accounts, directly and indirectly, for a total of around 143.000 jobs and more than €20 billion added value.

True to its mission 'a home port vital for a sustainable future', Antwerp Port Authority aims to flexibly respond to a rapidly evolving maritime market, allowing the port to continue playing its role as a leading world port. The emphasis in this respect is on cooperation, adaptability, a strong focus on innovation and digitisation, and on sustainable added value, as well as on responsibility towards society.

Antwerp Port Authority is a limited liability company of public law, with the City of Antwerp as sole shareholder. It employs over 1.600 people. Port alderman Annick De Ridder is chairman of the Board of Directors and Jacques Vandermeiren is CEO and President of the Executive Committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day management. [www.portofantwerp.com](http://www.portofantwerp.com)