



## Press Release

### Amprion and OGE push ahead with "hybridge" power-to-gas project

Berlin, 11 February 2019

**With their "hybridge" project, Amprion and Open Grid Europe (OGE) are ready to start sector coupling at system level in Germany. The project partners are planning to build a 100MW electrolysis plant along with hydrogen infrastructure in the district of Emsland in Lower Saxony in Germany.**

At a press conference in Berlin today, the project partners Amprion and OGE presented the status of their plans for and the next steps of their "hybridge" project, a power-to-gas plant in the 100 MW range including hydrogen infrastructure. "We have now progressed to a stage where we can start the planning approval process for hybridge," said Dr. Thomas Hübener, Member of the Board of Management of OGE. "But we still need the go-ahead from political decision-makers." This must now come quickly, Hübener added, so that sector coupling at system level can play its part in achieving the Paris climate targets.

Dr. Klaus Kleinekorte, the Chief Technical Officer of Amprion, said: "Germany's climate targets, the nuclear phase-out and the looming coal phase-out pose an enormous challenge for our energy system. We must therefore act now to create the prerequisites for power-to-gas to be available on a gigawatt scale after 2030 and for sector coupling to be possible at system level."

#### **District of Emsland is the ideal pilot region**

At an intersection between the Amprion and OGE networks in the district of Emsland the project partners have found the ideal site for the first power-to-gas plant of this size, in which electricity from renewable sources will be converted into green hydrogen and partly into green methane. Apart from the 100MW electrolyser, the project partners intend to also convert an existing OGE pipeline into a dedicated hydrogen pipeline. The partners expect project costs to be around €150 million.

Thomas Hübener explained: "In Lingen we have ideal conditions for building a hydrogen network. There are companies that can use the hydrogen directly, and there is also a hydrogen filling and loading station in the region." The project partners already had a constructive dialogue with the city of Lingen and the district of Emsland. Hübener continued: "In the medium to long term, the natural gas storage facilities in this the region can also be used for hydrogen storage. Part of the existing gas transmission system can also be dedicated to hydrogen. In the future, further parts of the gas infrastructure will be converted to allow transportation of hydrogen to the Ruhr area and beyond. We can also inject small quantities of hydrogen directly into the natural gas grid or convert the



hydrogen to methane, which could then be fed into the natural gas pipeline system without any restrictions."

### **Infrastructure will be made available to market players on a non-discriminatory basis**

Amprion's and OGE's basic plan for sector coupling at system level is to make the planned infrastructure required for coupling their grids available to all market players on a non-discriminatory basis ("Third Party Access"). The energy transmitted via both grids is never owned by the grid operators.

The limited "bridge capacity" between electricity and gas infrastructure will be auctioned off to traders or direct customers. The proceeds of these auctions will be set off against the costs, which will reduce the costs for costumers. This principle has long been established throughout Europe for cross-border electricity interconnectors and gas transmission capacities.

### **It's now up to the politicians to make things happen**

"We want to successfully implement this technology for the German economy on an industrial scale. We have everything we need: a technical concept, a suitable location and potential hydrogen users. We're ready to start," said Hübener. "All we need now is regulatory approval to implement the project. The ball is in the politicians' court. If we get the go-ahead now, the plant can go into operation as early as 2023," added Kleinekorte.

### **About Amprion**

Amprion GmbH operates a transmission grid in Germany comprising 11,000 kilometres of extra-high voltage lines with voltage levels of 220 and 380 kilovolts. More than 29 million people live in our network area, which extends from Lower Saxony to the Alps. Amprion employs approximately 1,400 people.

For more information about the company, go to [www.amprion.net](http://www.amprion.net)

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### **About Open Grid Europe**

With a pipeline network of around 12,000 kilometres in length, Open Grid Europe is one of Europe's leading transmission system operators. 1,450 employees provide safe, customer-focused gas transportation throughout Germany.

For more information about the company, go to [www.open-grid-europe.com](http://www.open-grid-europe.com)

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