



Press release

20 YEARS OF HYDROGEN ONLY!

Cheers to the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP): The hydrogen pioneers are celebrating 20 years of collaboration for green mobility powered by hydrogen and fuel cells

On 16 May 2022, the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) looks back on many years of cross-industry cooperation as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. The work of the CEP began as a beacon and funding project as part of the German government's National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP 1), with a specific research and development mission: to prepare mobility with hydrogen and fuel cells for market activation with zero vehicles or infrastructure at the time. Over the past 20 years, the Clean Energy Partnership has made mobility with hydrogen a reality – and achieved market maturity: today there are 94 H2 filling stations in Germany, 156 across the EU, and series-production vehicles are on the road. But there is more to come – because in the context of the energy transition, the desire for a clean mobile future is increasingly coming to the fore and, thanks to new partners from a wide range of sectors, is helping the industry network to keep growing. And so, the CEP team is pleased to welcome its latest full members LIFTE H2 and cellcentric to the expert platform.

Launched in 2002 as a 'public-private' initiative by politics and industry, in 2017 the CEP had evolved into a pure industry partnership, in which technology, mineral oil and energy companies, gas producers as well as automobile manufacturers and suppliers work hand in hand across sectors to achieve a timely, nationwide market ramp-up of green mobility powered by hydrogen and fuel cells. To this end, the partners came together in tech working groups to jointly develop solutions for fast, efficient refuelling. The CEP served as a funding project, responsible for the construction of the first 50 H2 filling stations. The CEP partner H2-Mobility has since taken over the expansion and operation of the H2 infrastructure. A basic network for car refuelling (700 bar) has been created; at some of the stations, it is already possible to refuel commercial vehicles (350 bar).

One of the CEP partners' focus topics is the development and definition of universal standards for refuelling hydrogen – for all the different modes of transport. Defining these standards in advance is indispensable for a successful market ramp-up of green, hydrogen-powered mobility. Whether cars, buses, trucks, trains or other modes of transport – the working groups are working hand-in-hand to design the further market ramp-up.

hydrogen, naturally.

For further information or interview requests, please contact us by phone or email at.

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The Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) partners/members work as an industry alliance to further establish green, hydrogen- and fuel cell-powered mobility on the market. With a focus on supply security and environmental compatibility. Here, technology, petroleum and energy/utility companies, gas producers, and car manufacturers collaborate across industries and sectors. Together, we set standards across all modes of transport. Innovatively and with a view to the future. We are natives of the mobility sector, but consider all adjacent sectors. We see the big picture. Our solution for a successful energy and transport transformation?

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In this context, the CEP offers a cross-industry platform to work on various issues of interoperability and to make refuelling technologies that have already been developed even more efficient and cost-effective, taking into account the entire impact chain. With its combined expertise, the industry initiative has already contributed significantly to defining the globally valid standard for 700-bar refuelling for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. The CEP has also worked with Wenger Engineering to develop a 350-bar refuelling protocol for trains, buses and smaller trucks up to a size of 25 t. Various refuelling paths for heavy-duty refuelling are currently being discussed – another big step towards H2 mobility across the nation.

“Twenty years ago, the CEP already saw hydrogen as the key to the future and sensed the great potential of hydrogen and fuel-cell technology. We are therefore very pleased that our team is constantly growing and that, as a cross-industry authority and reference, we benefit from the synergy effects between our partners,” says Jörg Starr, Chairman of the Clean Energy Partnership, who has served as Head of Department POS/ HRS at GP Joule since 1 May 2022. “With our most recent additions LIFTE H2 and cellcentric, we have gained new associates who will use their expertise to achieve unprecedented leverage effects in hydrogen projects,” Starr adds.

LIFTE H2 operates along the entire value chain to realize reliable and scalable hydrogen supply chains and implement next-generation hydrogen projects. “We see that the hydrogen industry is currently facing two major challenges: how to accelerate the decarbonization process and commercialize hydrogen projects. To achieve these goals, we look at the entire supply chain, rather than only trying to optimise every single element. By working closely with our customers and partners, we make hydrogen projects profitable, reliable, and efficient.” said Paul Karzel, Managing Director and Head of Industrial Relations, LIFTE H2.

cellcentric is the latest member to join the expert platform. A joint venture of Daimler Truck AG and Volvo Group AB, cellcentric is pursuing the goal of becoming the world’s leading manufacturer of fuel cells and thus making a decisive contribution to climate-neutral and sustainable transport by the year 2050. cellcentric focuses on the development, production, and marketing of fuel-cell systems for use in heavy-duty commercial vehicles as well as for other applications with similar requirements. “By joining the forces of Daimler Truck AG and Volvo Group AB, we combine 30 years of experience in the development, production, and marketing of safe and efficient top-quality fuel-cell systems. By using hydrogen in our fuel cells, we generate clean energy without emitting anything other than pure water,” explains Uwe Sontheimer, Development Engineer Robustness & Verification at cellcentric.

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