

press release

Koblenz, 21-11-2017



NEW HYDROGEN FILLING STATION IN KOBLENZ

Air Liquide officially inaugurates new hydrogen filling station in Koblenz ·First public H2 station in Rhineland-Palatinate

Around 900,000 EUR funded by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) under the National Innovation Program for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP)

Another important milestone in the establishment of a nationwide hydrogen infrastructure in Germany

Berlin/Koblenz, 21 November 2017 - The hydrogen filling station network in Germany continues to grow. Today, Air Liquide celebrated the official opening of its hydrogen filling station in Koblenz - which has already been in operation since October - in the presence of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate's Minister of Environment, Energy, Food and Forestry.

The Air Liquide filling station is conveniently located directly on the A61 motorway at the 'Autohof Bolz-Platz' service station in the Metternich district of Koblenz. It is the first public hydrogen filling station in Rhineland-Palatinate and Germany's third H2 station at a motorway service station. The refuelling process takes only three to five minutes. After refuelling, the average range of the vehicles is 500 km.

The new H2 station in Koblenz is one of the first 50 hydrogen filling stations to be built in Germany as part of the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) and subsidised by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure via its National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel-cell Technology (NIP). The BMVI is subsidising the construction and operation of the H2 filling station on the Am Rübenacher Wald road with around EUR 900,000.

Philipp Braunsdorf, Programme Manager Infrastructure Hydrogen, National Organisation for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NOW):

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"Electromobility using hydrogen and fuel cells will make a significant contribution to the broad-scale electrification of road traffic in the years ahead. The introduction and spread of fuel-cell vehicles and the accompanying opportunity to decarbonise the transport sector will help us to make the agreed climate protection targets. The expansion of the network of hydrogen filling stations is progressing well, which serves to increase the appeal of fuel-cell vehicles for consumers."

Ulrike Höfken, Rhineland-Palatinate Minister of State for the Environment, Energy, Food and Forestry:

"Around 20 percent of CO2 emissions and about 40 to 50 percent of nitrogen oxide emissions in Germany come from the transport sector. Like other places, the City of Koblenz is struggling with an exceedance of harmful long-term nitrogen dioxide levels," said Höfken. By opening the first public hydrogen filling station in Rhineland-Palatinate, Air Liquide is sending an important signal for a pollution-free form of future mobility, and helps protect the environment and the health of citizens in the region, she added.

Thomas Hammann, City of Koblenz Office for Economic Development:

"The City of Koblenz is very proud that the first hydrogen station in Rhineland-Palatinate is now open to the public here in the A61//Koblenz freight service centre industrial park."

Markus Schewitza, Managing Director/CEO AIR LIQUIDE Advanced Technologies GmbH:

"We need to face the challenges of energy transition now. And Hydrogen is today one of our best solutions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Hydrogen has notably the potential to efficiently decarbonize the transport sector which is one of the major source of pollution in our cities, but it requires a dedicated infrastructure to achieve this goal. Air Liquide is proud to contribute, together with the key private and public players, to the building of the biggest hydrogen infrastructure in Europe, and thus enable the deployment of FCEVs on the territory."

Carina Bolz, a member of the Autohof Bolz-Platz Gebr. Bolz GmbH Executive Board:

"We, the Bolz family, are proud to be working with Air Liquide to promote progress in Rhineland-Palatinate in general and the Koblenz area in particular at our 'Bolz-Platz'. We were happy to provide the property free of charge because we have always believed in and promoted eco-friendly alternative energy sources. At the Bolz-Platz, alongside the natural gas, Ad Blue, electromobility, car workshop, and diverse catering with classic and chain restaurants we already offer, the hydrogen filling station adds another important element that makes us a one-of-a-kind service station."

Thomas Bystry, Chairman of the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP):

"With the opening of the H2 station in Koblenz, we have come another step closer to establishing mobility with hydrogen and fuel-cells on the market. The first series-production vehicles are on the road and the development of the infrastructure is progressing. We are on the right track, so the CEP partners have decided to continue to act as a team."

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In cooperation with policymakers and industry, with the federal and state governments, we can fully exploit the potential of hydrogen as a fuel and storage medium and make an important contribution to the energy shift."

About Air Liquide

"The world leader in gases, technologies and services for industry and health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 65,000 employees and serves more than 3 million customers and patients. In the hydrogen sector, Air Liquide is a pioneer with decades of experience. The Group's activities cover the entire hydrogen energy chain - from production, storage and distribution to a wide variety of applications. In the area of hydrogen infrastructure, Air Liquide is represented worldwide with nearly 100 H2 filling stations and is continuously pushing ahead with the market penetration of environmentally friendly technologies. www.airliquide.com

About NOW

The NOW GmbH National Organisation for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology was founded in 2008 by the German federal government, represented by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure. It coordinates two federal funding programs - the National Innovation Program for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP), as well as the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive of the BMVI. Both programs serve to prepare the market in order to make mobility and energy supply efficient and low-emission in the future. In addition, NOW supports the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure with regard to the implementation of infrastructure for electromobility and the further development of the overall mobility and fuel strategy. www.now-gmbh.de

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