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[Press contact: Paola Trucco, Hinicio: paola.trucco@hinicio.com / +32 22 11 34 11]



Leading European partners team up to assess the potential for large scale storage of renewable electricity through underground hydrogen storage

[Brussels, 10 September 2012] Twelve European leading organizations have announced the launch of the HyUnder project, co-financed by the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.

A kick-off meeting was held in Brussels on June 20th to launch the project HyUnder: *“Assessment of the potential for large scale storage of renewable electricity through underground hydrogen storage in different regions of Europe”*

HyUnder will provide the first complete assessment of the potentials for large scale storage of fluctuating renewable electricity in underground salt caverns for hydrogen, with specific focus on using synergies with its application as transport fuel and other markets.

The project will run for a period of two years and will develop 6 case studies across Europe and an EU Implementation Plan on large scale underground hydrogen storage, with particular focus on salt caverns.

Project scope

HyUnder will consolidate case studies into an EU implementation plan to move underground hydrogen storage from development to demonstration and deployment. It will also define a timeline and pathway towards commercial deployment of hydrogen storage in EU, on the basis of the geographic match between intermittent renewables and suitable storage sites.

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Furthermore, HyUnder will provide economic and CO₂ mitigation recommendations focusing on where 'green' hydrogen is to be best used (grid balancing, admixture to natural gas pipelines, industrial use, hydrogen as transport fuel).

Policy recommendations addressing technical, commercial, regulatory and deployment hurdles, as well as the strategy to achieve a kick-start of 'H₂ storage' industry in Europe will complete the project's agenda.

Project partners

The HyUnder consortium comprises **12 leading organizations from 7 different European countries** including large industrial representatives, Small Medium Enterprises and research institutes. This variety ensures all the fundamental competencies to carry out the project, including geology of underground formations suitable for gas storage and below ground technology, underground storage engineering along with above ground process technology. Other competencies with a more stringent focus on hydrogen are also included, such as electrolysis, hydrogen use for wind energy load balancing, hydrogen rich gas mixtures and hydrogen use in transport.



Further **supporting partners** will also collaborate on the development of the project by sharing information; these include industry representatives from all across Europe.

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