

Vienna, 22. November 2023

## **Expansion Development of the European hydrogen backbone is progressing: New H2 roadmap shows current projects and costs**

**Vienna, 22 November 2023 - The European Hydrogen Backbone (EHB) initiative, an association of European energy transmission system operators, is driving forward the expansion of the hydrogen infrastructure in Europe. As part of its new report, the EHB initiative has published an updated H2 roadmap. This provides an overview of current cross-border hydrogen projects and cost estimates, including the forward-looking initiatives of Gas Connect Austria (GCA) and Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH (TAG).**

The development of a European hydrogen backbone is of central importance for securing Europe's future energy supply and decarbonising the economy with the help of climate-friendly hydrogen. Such a comprehensive project requires transnational cooperation in order to coordinate supply and demand at European level and thus minimise the risk for market participants. Guided by the vision of a climate-neutral Europe, the European Hydrogen Backbone initiative has therefore set itself the goal of establishing an economically efficient European hydrogen market. Currently, 33 network operators are part of the EHB, including Gas Connect Austria and Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH, which have been committed to the expansion and development of the Austrian hydrogen infrastructure for many years and are actively driving this forward.

### **New H2 roadmap provides an overview of current hydrogen projects**

In its latest report, the EHB initiative publishes an updated H2 roadmap. This provides a comprehensive overview of current hydrogen infrastructure projects and shows how the development of a European hydrogen backbone is progressing. The report is dedicated to a total of 40 specific projects by members of the EHB, including projects by Gas Connect Austria and Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH. All of the EHB's projects add up to a hydrogen pipeline network of around 31,500 kilometres - scheduled for completion in 2030. The European hydrogen backbone is made up of a total of five supply corridors, which were adopted as part of the REPowerEU plan.

### **GCA and TAG accelerate expansion of hydrogen infrastructure**

The two companies Gas Connect Austria and Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH are working hard to integrate Austria into the European hydrogen backbone - including with the projects [„H2 Backbone WAG + Penta-West“](#) and [„H2 Backbone Murfeld“](#) as well as [„H2 Readiness of the TAG pipeline system“](#). These projects will establish important connections to supply corridors such as the [„SouthH2 Corridor“](#) and the [„SunsHyne Corridor“](#) from the south, but also from the north and east, e.g. via the [„H2EU + Store“](#) initiative. This means that Austria could act as a

central hub for intra-European hydrogen transit in the future. In addition, the connection to several future hydrogen sources will ensure a diversified and secure domestic energy supply.

### **Financing as a key issue**

In view of current crises and challenges such as climate change, the war in Ukraine and ongoing inflation, the issue of financing is of great importance for the realisation of a European hydrogen backbone. Accordingly, the current EHB report also provides updated estimates and forecasts on the investment costs for the necessary expansion and renewal of the existing energy system for the safe and efficient transport of hydrogen.

The complete European Hydrogen Backbone Report including the H2 roadmap is available [here](#).

### **Gas Connect Austria GmbH:**

Gas Connect Austria is a gas transmission and distribution system operator headquartered in Vienna. The company has 288 employees and is anchored at 6 locations in Vienna, Lower Austria and Upper Austria. Starting from the Baumgarten node, Gas Connect Austria operates a modern and high-performance high-pressure network with connections to Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary as well as to storage and production facilities. There are 5 compressor stations, 56 metering and transfer stations and over 100 transfer metering points along the 900 kilometre pipeline system. The core business is the marketing of transport capacities at international border points and for domestic gas supply. Gas Connect Austria is intensively involved in the issues surrounding the energy transition at national and European level and is actively working on solutions for decarbonisation. VERBUND owns 51% of the company, while 49% is held by Allianz Capital Partners and SNAM in a 60:40 ratio. Gas Connect Austria holds stakes in AGGM, AGCS, TAG GmbH and PRISMA and is a member of ENTSOG, GIE, Hydrogen Europe, Clean Hydrogen Alliance and the European Hydrogen Backbone Initiative.

### **About Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH:**

Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH is a transmission system operator in Austria. Its pipeline system connects Baumgarten in Austria with Tarvisio in Italy over a distance of 380 kilometres. The TAG pipeline network consists of around 1,140 km of high-pressure natural gas pipelines from the Slovakian-Austrian border to the Austrian-Italian border. Gas can be transported from Austria to Italy ("flow direction") and from Italy to Austria ("reverse flow direction") within the technical limits of the TAG pipeline system. Along the route in Austria, the natural gas pipeline also supplies natural gas for the federal states of Lower Austria, Styria and Carinthia and also for transport to Slovenia via the SOL pipeline. TAG is intensively involved with the possibilities for a rapid energy transition and is working on solutions both nationally and internationally within the framework of memberships. The shareholders of Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH are the Italian company Snam S.p.A. with a share of 84.47% and the Austrian company Gas Connect Austria GmbH with a share of 15.53%. Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH is co-owner of PRISMA and is a member of ENTSOG, GIE, European Clean Hydrogen Alliance and the European Hydrogen Backbone Initiative.

**For further information please contact:**

**Gas Connect Austria GmbH**

Tel. +43 (1) 27500-88052

E-Mail: [publicrelations@gasconnect.at](mailto:publicrelations@gasconnect.at)

**Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH**

Tel. +43 (1) 5975116 - 58092

E-Mail: [public.affairs@taggmbh.at](mailto:public.affairs@taggmbh.at)