

## Press Release

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# Energy Ministries of Germany, Austria and Italy sign joint letter of support for the development of the SouthH<sub>2</sub> Corridor

The projects are candidates to obtain the status of Project of Common Interest (PCI)

**Munich, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** – The ministries for Energy of Germany, Austria and Italy signed a joint letter of political support for the development of a “southern hydrogen corridor” in the European Union and for the respective infrastructure projects to obtain the status of Project of Common Interest (PCI). *bayernets* in Germany, Snam Italy’s gas infrastructure operator, Trans Austria Gasleitung (TAG) and Gas Connect Austria (GCA) in Austria welcome this political support.

The southern hydrogen corridor (also called “SouthH<sub>2</sub> Corridor”) is a 3,300 km dedicated hydrogen-ready pipeline corridor led by four major European TSOs: *bayernets*, GCA, TAG and Snam. The corridor would connect North Africa, Italy, Austria and Germany, thereby enabling the supply of competitive renewable hydrogen produced in the Southern Mediterranean area to reach key European clusters of demand.

The development of the SouthH<sub>2</sub> Corridor, which is part of the European Hydrogen Backbone, will guarantee security of supply and is crucial for the development of an interconnected and diversified hydrogen backbone. With a hydrogen import capacity of more than 4 Mtpa (Million tonnes per annum) from North Africa, the corridor could deliver 40 % of the REPowerEU import target. The initiative is centred around the utilisation of existing repurposed midstream gas infrastructure to transport hydrogen, with the inclusion of some new dedicated infrastructure where necessary. A high proportion of repurposed pipelines (> 70 %) will enable cost effective transportation, whilst access to favourable renewable hydrogen production locations (wind and solar) in North Africa will be beneficial mostly to hard to abate industries.

The SouthH<sub>2</sub> Corridor, which is expected to be fully operational as early as 2030, consists of the following individual PCI project candidates:

- [“HyPipe Bavaria – The Hydrogen Hub”](#) promoted by *bayernets* GmbH
- [“H<sub>2</sub> Backbone WAG + Penta-West”](#) promoted by Gas Connect Austria GmbH
- [“H<sub>2</sub> Readiness of the TAG pipeline system”](#) promoted by Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH
- [“Italian H<sub>2</sub> Backbone”](#) promoted by Snam Rete Gas

Each TSO individually submitted Project of Common Interest (PCI) applications under the EU Commission's TEN-E regulation in December 2022.

You can find continuously updated information about the initiative at <https://www.south2corridor.net>.

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About *bayernets* GmbH

*bayernets* GmbH is the transmission system operator in Bavaria. As part of the European gas transmission system, we transport gas through Southern Germany efficiently, safely and in an environmentally friendly way. Sustainability is at the core of everything we do.

We make a central contribution to the security of supply in our network area. By operating our pipelines safely, optimising our grid in line with demand and developing our network sustainably, we ensure a high-performance transmission network.

We are shaping the energy transition and already setting the course for transporting hydrogen as an important building block in the energy system of the future.