

ENERGY HOTSPOT JADE-WESER REGION

The ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven has the potential to become a key contributor to the market ramp-up of hydrogen. If every hydrogen production plant planned by the member companies in the Jade-Weser region were operated at maximum capacity, they would produce at least 194 and up to 374 tonnes of hydrogen an hour in 2031 – a good 60% of the predicted German demand.

Berlin, 9 May 2023: On Tuesday more than 300 guests from the fields of business and politics met at an annual conference to present and discuss national issues related to the energy transition, hosted by the ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven in Berlin's government district. A study recently published by the German Energy Agency (dena) provided the event's core messages: the location of the Jade-Weser region offers unique infrastructural and geological benefits along with tremendous potential for development. The ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven, an association of companies and projects with more than 30 member companies, can therefore contribute significantly to securing a sustainable supply of energy and achieving climate goals. According to conservative estimates – and depending on transportation capacities – the region could meet up to 61% of Germany's hydrogen needs by 2031 alone.

In four discussion rounds and several keynote speeches held at the Representative Office of the State of Lower Saxony in Berlin, experts took an intense look at the most pressing issues and challenges. Under the headings 'How can we maintain *Deutschlandgeschwindigkeit*, the new German speed?' and 'Infrastructure and energy imports as matters of national interest', it became very clear that the upcoming transformation process requires transparent political and legal framework that needs to integrate the experiences gathered over the course of the LNG acceleration process.

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Sientje Möller, member of the Bundestag for the region, Parliamentary State Secretary for the Federal Minister of Defence and co-initiator of the ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven, made her motivation very clear, saying, *‘The things we do today determine the world of tomorrow’*. The second co-initiator, Lower Saxony’s Minister for Economic Affairs Olaf Mies, added, *‘Green hydrogen is essential for Germany as an industrial location, for the energy transition and especially for the transformation of our economy.’*

As core demands of the network event, participants identified the need for an act on hydrogen acceleration and hydrogen infrastructure as well as clear funding mechanisms and regulations. Again and again, it became apparent that on the whole, the future of Germany as an industrial location needs international energy partnerships and interim technologies, and that port locations along the entire German coast need strengthening.

Today, the Wilhelmshaven region is a key hub within the European energy system, a development that could be continued with plans for an electrolysis output of almost 6 GW; for a 1.4 GW power link to the UK via the NeuConnect Interconnector in 2028 (NeuConnect Germany); and for connecting two offshore wind farms with a total output of 4 GW to the grid (TenneT TSO). The connection of offshore wind farms BalWin3 (2029) and LanWin4 (2031), with a transmission capacity of two times 2 GW, is a step in that direction.

However, seeing the Jade-Weser region as nothing but a hub does not do the area justice. Participants at the Representative Office of the State of Lower Saxony also elaborated on carbon management matters as well as strategies within the framework of a circular economy. The ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven projects are key components of climate-neutral production and synergy processes – in light of the fact that the companies within the ENERGY HUB see growth potential for the production and import of hydrogen beyond 2031. Key success factors here include sufficient available space, an adequate expansion of the port and the connection to the grid as well as the necessary infrastructure to transport hydrogen, said Uwe Oppitz, spokesperson of the ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven, and Alexander Leonhardt, managing director of Wilhelmshaven Business Development Agency (‘Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft Wilhelmshaven’).

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At a parliamentary breakfast meeting, representatives of the ENERGY HUB furthermore presented infrastructural framework conditions and the necessary power requirements of up to 18 GW by 2030 in detail. Decarbonising the industry in the near future, they explained, requires an H₂ pipeline infrastructure and, above all, the associated risk protection for the companies providing that infrastructure.

On the whole, it became apparent that the Jade-Weser region is a powerful one – and has been for quite some time: for decades, the Wilhelmshaven region has been a key hub for the energy supply and the port of call for the very things that drive Germany and its industry. Business and politics have joined forces to drive the energy transition in the region, which stands for education, science, quality of life and the economic diversity of circular processes.

FURTHER QUOTES

- ‘It’s a marathon against time. The Jade-Weser region is of the utmost systemic importance – and is taking on responsibility today.’ Carsten Feist Lord Mayor of the City of Wilhelmshaven
- ‘Without wind power, the energy transition would be unthinkable. We are ready: onshore or off – our coastal region is a land of winds. It’s one of our core competencies.’ Sven Ambrosy Administrative Head of Frisia County
- ‘We consider ourselves a region of opportunities. Our goal of expanding our educational and vocational training offer is connected to that.’ Stephan Siefken Administrative Head of Wesermarsch county
- ‘The infrastructural framework in the Jade-Weser region is unique.’ Holger Heymann Administrative Head of Wittmund County
- ‘The ENERGY HUB is pure energy expertise. we are ready for the next chapter: renewable energy.’ Uwe Oppitz Rhenus Ports and ENERGY HUB spokesperson
- ‘As a motor for the establishment of renewable energy projects, the ENERGY HUB has major economic meaning – for the entire Jade-Weser region.’ Tom Nietiedt Chairman of the Supervisory Board at the Wilhelmshaven Business Development Agency (“Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft Wilhelmshaven mbH”) and President of the Jade Employer and Economic Association (“Arbeitgeber- und Wirtschaftsverband Jade e.V.”)

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EXCERPT FROM THE GUEST LIST

ENERGY HUB PORT OF WILHELMSHAVEN

- Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry, Jan Christian Vestre
- Ole Erik Almlid, Director General of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO)
- Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, State Secretary Bjelland Eriksen
- Ambassador of Columbia, Yadir Salazar Mejia
- Confederation of Danish Industry, Stella Bücken
- Federal Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary State Secretary, Benjamin Strasser
- Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, Parliamentary State Secretary Oliver Luksic
- Maritime Coordinator Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Dieter Janecek
- Head of the Department of Heat, Hydrogen and Efficiency within the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Christian Maass
- Envoy Extraordinary of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action for the German-Namibian Climate and Energy Cooperation, Rainer Baake
- Lower Saxony Minister for Economic Affairs, Traffic, Construction and Digitalisation, Olaf Lies
- Lower Saxony Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Action, Christian Meyer
- Head of the State Trade Supervisory Board in Oldenburg, Jerzy Gohlke
- Head of the Lower Saxony State Company for Water Management, Coastal Protection and Nature Conservation, Anne Rickmeyer
- Heidelberg Materials, Head of the Berlin Connection Office, Carolin Bossmeyer
- VTG, Business Development New Energies, Stefan Siegemund

ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven – an association of companies and projects that was honoured as a Game-Changer at the Innovation Awards of the German Gas Sector. Over 30 national and international companies that believe in the Jade-Weser region. Together, they are now writing the next chapter, titled Renewable Energies. By advocating the expansion of the national infrastructure. By promoting – and demanding – the import, production and transportation of hydrogen. The ENERGY HUB strengthens the Wilhelmshaven region's position as a central hub for security of supply. With unparalleled energy expertise. A unique willingness to cooperate among the companies involved. And unprecedented solidarity between politics, business and the scientific community. The ENERGY HUB – ready for tomorrow today.

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ATTACHMENTS

(1) Dena analysis, ENERGY HUB Port of Wilhelmshaven – Infrastructural needs to transform the Wilhelmshaven region and become climate neutral

Link to download (German only):

<https://www.dena.de/newsroom/publikationsdetailansicht/pub/analyse-energy-hub-port-of-wilhelmshaven-1/>

(2) *ENERGY HOTSPOT JADE-WESER REGION, Responsibility for Germany's future* brochure

(3) Presentation held at the Parliamentary Breakfast on 10/05/2023

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