

Press release

## **H<sub>2</sub> Import Consortium Bavaria: Industry takes the initiative and builds on state support!**

Burghausen/Burgkirchen/Ingolstadt/Munich/Vienna, 20 June 2023. – Six companies from the energy and chemical industries are developing a roadmap to build up a value creation chain for the import of hydrogen to Bavaria. The objective is to provide sufficient quantities of hydrogen in an economically viable and sustainable way, the focus of the initiative being on supplying hydrogen to Bavarian industries. The activities of the companies bayernets GmbH, BAYERNOIL Raffineriegesellschaft mbH, Gas Connect Austria GmbH, Wacker Chemie AG, Westlake Vinnolit GmbH & Co. KG and Verbund AG are of great significance for the whole diversified European hydrogen market.

The required steps of the individual companies will be coordinated along the value chain to ensure the ramp-up of the hydrogen economy in 2030. The necessary infrastructure projects were submitted to the European Commission as Projects of Common Interest (PCI). The H<sub>2</sub> Import Consortium is currently focusing on the southern hydrogen import corridor (production in North Africa, e.g. Tunisia and transport via Italy and Austria). The work of the consortium shows that Bavaria with its existing gas infrastructure can play an important role in the diversified European H<sub>2</sub> network. However, to implement the hydrogen import roadmap, regulatory issues and bureaucratic obstacles must first be solved. Establishing the hydrogen import corridor also requires financial state incentives in the ramp-up phase.

Hydrogen is indispensable for successful transformation to climate neutrality. Industry especially requires green hydrogen soon in order to defossilise its processes in terms of materials and energy and thus reduce greenhouse gases. The availability of large quantities of hydrogen produced under economically viable conditions is crucial for highly developed industrial sites in Bavaria.

On the one hand, development of regional hydrogen production is extremely important for Bavaria's immediate hydrogen supply. At the same time, it is necessary to supply highly industrialised regions that do not have sufficient renewable energy to produce hydrogen due to their geographical conditions via a European hydrogen network. This means import from regions with very good wind and solar conditions to produce hydrogen is necessary. Transporting hydrogen via pipelines constitutes the most cost-effective and scalable solution for importing to Bavaria. Existing natural gas pipelines can be converted efficiently and inexpensively for transporting hydrogen. Non-discriminatory access can be given to all interested market participants to use these hydrogen import routes ("Open Access").

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### About bayernets GmbH

bayernets GmbH is the Bavarian transmission system operator. As part of the European gas transmission system, we transport gas through South 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 network in line with demand and developing our grid sustainably, we ensure a high-performance transmission network. We are shaping the energy transition and are already setting the course for transporting hydrogen as an important building block in the energy system of the future. Further information available at: [www.bayernets.de](http://www.bayernets.de)

### About BAYERNOIL Raffineriegesellschaft mbH

BAYERNOIL Raffineriegesellschaft mbH is a refinery network with production sites in Vohburg and Neustadt an der Donau and operates the largest refinery located in Bavaria.

Further information available at: [www.bayernoil.de](http://www.bayernoil.de)

### About Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria is a gas transmission and distribution grid operator headquartered in Vienna. With 280 employees, 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 sites and production facilities. Our core business consists of selling shipping capacities for the European and national gas supply. VERBUND owns 51 % of the company, Allianz Capital Partners and SNAM hold 49 % in a ratio of 60:40. Gas Connect Austria holds shares in AGGM, AGCS, TAG GmbH and PRISMA and is a member of ENTSO, GIE, Hydrogen Europe, Clean Hydrogen Alliance and the European Hydrogen Backbone Initiative.

Further information available at: [www.gasconnect.at](http://www.gasconnect.at)

### **About Wacker Chemie AG**

Wacker Chemie AG is a company offering state-of-the-art specialty chemical products that operates worldwide. The products can be found in countless everyday things, ranging from cosmetic powder to solar cells. WACKER's portfolio includes more than 3,200 products delivered to more than 100 countries. Worldwide, WACKER operates 27 production sites, 26 technical competence centres and 51 sales offices. In the financial year 2022, the corporate group achieved a turnover of € 8.21 billion with approximately 15,700 employees. Wacker Chemie AG is listed in the Prime Standard of the German Stock Exchange and in the MDAX (ISIN: DE000WCH8881).

Further information available at: [www.wacker.com](http://www.wacker.com)

### **About Westlake Vinnolit GmbH & Co. KG**

As a leading producer of PVC and caustic soda, Westlake Vinnolit offers individual solutions for customers from various industries such as the construction industry, automotive industry, medical technology and pulp and paper production sectors. As a manufacturer of high-end PVC specialty products, Westlake Vinnolit is a worldwide market leader. In their headquarters in Ismaning near Munich and the four production sites in Burghausen, Gendorf, Knapsack and Cologne, 1,400 employees generate annual revenues of more than € 1 billion.

Westlake Vinnolit participates in the chemical industry's Responsible Care Initiative to continually improve safety, health and environment protection and supports VinylPlus®, the European PVC industry's voluntary commitment to sustainable development as an "Official Partner" – financially, ideally and with active participation.

Further information available at: [www.westlakevinnolit.com](http://www.westlakevinnolit.com)

### **About VERBUND**

VERBUND is Austria's leading energy company and one of the largest producers of electricity from hydropower in Europe. The company generates approximately 96 percent of the electricity from renewable energy, predominantly hydropower. VERBUND trades electricity in 12 countries and generated a group result of approximately € 1,700 million and an EBITDA of about € 3,160 million with approximately 3,500 employees in 2022. With its subsidiaries and business partners, VERBUND participates in everything from electricity generation and transmission to international trading and sales. Since 1988, VERBUND has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange. 51 % of the share capital is owned by the Republic of Austria.

To achieve the ambitious climate goals and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, we are promoting the production, transport and utilisation of green hydrogen. Together with our partners, we are implementing local projects and driving the establishment of a green hydrogen economy via import routes. We are thereby targeting the whole value creation chain – from hydrogen production and transport to utilisation by customers.

Further information available at: [www.verbund.com](http://www.verbund.com)