

## PRESS RELEASE

### The European network for gas research ERIG gains pace

Three years after its start, the European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG) is taking shape and currently being transferred into a legal non-profit organization. During the General Assembly on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the first Board of Directors was elected. Moreover, in personnel matters, ERIG president Prof. Dr. Catrinus Jepma was confirmed as founding president of the new legal entity. Hans Rasmusson from the German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW) assumes the position of Secretary General.

“We have to bring molecules and electrons together by using wisely and connecting the infrastructures of both gas and electricity; because it is cheaper to move and store energy with molecules. Bearing in mind climate protection, it is indispensable - and an enormous challenge - to switch from natural gas to green gases. Power-to-Gas is here an important component for the transformation of electrons into molecules”, said Prof. Dr. Catrinus Jepma about the vital role of gases in the future energy system.

Furthermore, the first ERIG Scientific Advisory Board was appointed. It consists of five experts from the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Austria:

- Prof. Catrinus Jepma, University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business (founding ERIG President)
- Prof. Jacob Østergaard, Technical University of Denmark, Department of Electrical Engineering (tbc)
- Prof. Dimosthenis Trimis, Engler-Bunte-Institute at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Section of Combustion Technology
- Prof. Massimiliano Capezzali, University of Applied Sciences and Management of the Canton Vaud, Institute of Energy and Electrical Systems
- Prof. Horst Steinmüller, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Energy Institute

In addition, the ERIG Workgroup Summit was held on December 14, 2018. The aim of this gathering was to initiate the three thematic working groups: "Renewable Gases", "Smart Energy Systems" and "North Sea", and to draw up a road map of short- to medium-term actions.

### About ERIG

The European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG) is a non-profit organisation which aims at strengthening the important role that gas plays as an energy source for the transition of the European energy system in synergy with intermittent renewable energy production. The members are national technical and scientific gas organizations and associations in Europe. They represent, in particular, the interests of the energy and gas sectors in Northern and Western Europe. Currently, ERIG consists of the following member associations:

- Danish Gas Technology Centre (DGC)
- German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW)
- Koninklijke vereniging van Gasfabrikanten in Nederland KVG (Niederlande),
- Austrian Association for Gas and Water (ÖVGW)

- Swiss Gas and Water Association (SVGW)
- Association of the Swiss Natural Gas Industry (VSG)

The network focuses particularly on promoting innovation and development. Through its members, ERIG is directly linked to research institutes, universities and industry in the respective countries. The broad research portfolio covers all aspects of the supply chain, from extraction to use of gas, and promotes European cooperation in energy research and development projects specifically in the area of sustainable gases and related innovative technologies.

Moreover, ERIG will also support the strategic research agenda of the EU in the area of energy and gas. This includes initiating joint European research projects on the future role of gases in the energy system.