Politicians from Germany, Italy and Switzerland back power-to-gas pilot plants

The STORE&GO pilot plants now have political support, as important figures in Germany, Italy and Switzerland have agreed to back the project as part of their respective political and public agendas. The aim of the European STORE&GO flagship project is to produce and store renewable gases using power-to-gas technology in combination with a methanation process. The pilot plants are being used to research how these processes can be integrated into the daily operations of European energy networks.

In Germany, Dr. Christian Ehler, member of the European Parliament for the Federal State of Brandenburg, is vouching for the success of the methanisation plant in Falkenhagen, which will be inaugurated on May 9th, 2018. “I am delighted to support STORE&GO, the pioneering and innovative European research project in the energy industry,” said Ehler, who is the coordinator of the EU Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

The power-to-gas plant in Falkenhagen uses wind energy to produce pure hydrogen, which then is fed directly into the natural gas grid. The new methanation process enables the system to produce “green” methane. Together with CO2 from a bioethanol plant, the renewable hydrogen is converted into methane. According to Ehler, this CO2-neutral gas can make a significant contribution towards attaining European climate targets. “I will continue to advocate at a European level for the framework we need to integrate power-to-gas technology into future energy systems in Europe,” he added.

Pina Picierno has agreed to back the pilot project in Troia on the Apulian region, where solar energy and power-to-gas technology are used to generate hydrogen. The new plant is designed to convert the substance into methane. Originating from southern Italy – a region where solar energy and photovoltaic power plants play a major role – Picierno is only too aware of the importance of renewable energy sources. “Power-to-gas is the technological solution that allows mitigation of congestion in the power grid by converting surpluses of electricity into synthetic natural gas. I strongly support the pilot plant in Troia because it can be considered as a lighthouse project that will support the reduction of CO2 emissions and the smart integration of renewable energy,” said Picierno.

The third pilot plant in the Swiss town of Solothurn is supported by Dr. Stefan Müller-Altermatt, politician and member of Switzerland’s National Council. Methanation at this plant occurs with the help of bacteria (archaea) that use CO2 in their metabolic process to convert the hydrogen from the power-to-gas plant into methane. For Müller-Altermatt, environmental and energy issues have been a key focus for many years. “The STORE&GO project and plant impressively combine exactly what renewable and intelligent energy production needs – the sun, existing

networks and, last but not least, an unimaginably high number of single-cell organisms that assist the energy storage process," commented Müller-Altermatt.

About Dr. Christian Ehler, who supports the methanation pilot plant in Falkenhagen, Brandenburg, Germany:
Since 2004 Dr. Ehler represents the Federeal State of Brandenburg in the European Parliament. He is – among other activities – a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, the Subcommittee on Security and Defense and a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

More information (only in German):
https://ehler.eu/index.php

About Pina Picierno, who backs the methanation pilot plant in Troia, Puglio, Italy:
In 2014, Miss Picierno was elected Member of the European Parliament for the Southern Italy constituency. She is committed to human rights and a member of the parliamentary committee Women's Rights and Gender Equality, among others.

More information:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/de/124846/PINA_PICIERNO_home.html

About Dr. Stefan Müller-Altermatt, who supports the methanation pilot plant in Solothurn, Switzerland:
Dr. Müler-Altermatt was elected Member of National Council of Switzerland and is member of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Committee of the National Council. His fields of interest are environmental and climate protection as well as energy politics, among others.

More information:
http://www.mueller-altermatt.ch/

About STORE&GO
The international project STORE&GO was launched in 2016 as part of Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and innovation program. The focus of research is on the production of renewable gases via methanation, then storing them on an industrial scale for the purpose of enabling cost-effective operations. In addition to the technological issues involved, economic and legal concerns are also addressed. Research is carried out using three different power-to-gas concepts at three sites in Germany (Falkenhagen, Brandenburg), Italy (Troia, Apulia) and Switzerland (Solothurn). The project consortium is comprised of 27 partners from six European countries. The STORE&GO project is scheduled to run for a period of four years (2016-2020) with a total budget of approx. 28 million euros, of which approx. 18 million euros will be funded by the EU.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/200559_en.html

https://www.storeandgo.info/

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