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INES conducts market survey on hydrogen storage systems

In April, INES conducts a market survey on the specific demand structures for hydrogen storage (Market Assessment for Hydrogen Storage, MAHS) for the first time. In accordance with Article 8 of the EU Regulation on internal markets for renewable gases and natural gas and for hydrogen, storage operators will in future be obliged to determine the market demand for hydrogen storage for new investments every two years. With the market survey, INES is creating a bundled, Germany-wide basis for storage operators to fulfill this obligation and develop storage facilities. In addition, company-specific market surveys will continue to take place.

On February 2, 2024, the Initiative Energien Speichern e.V. (INES) announced that it will conduct a Market Assessment for Hydrogen Storage (MAHS) between April 1, 2024 and April 30, 2024 to determine the specific demand structures for hydrogen storage. With the survey, INES will collect relevant information for investments in the development of hydrogen storage and make it available to storage operators and the relevant regulatory authorities on a non-discriminatory basis.

For the development of hydrogen storage systems required by the market economy, it is essential for storage system operators to gain knowledge of the specific demand structures and the associated user requirements. The storage operators have special expertise and therefore ask the relevant questions in order to enable a tailor-made development of storage capacities. The storage operators will drive the development of hydrogen storage systems in the emerging market framework in a customer- and competition-oriented manner. The market survey therefore serves to provide market players with the best possible access to hydrogen storage capacities in the future.

The background to the market survey is the future obligation of storage operators under Article 8 ("Market assessment for renewable gas and low-carbon gas by LNG and storage system operators") of the EU Regulation on internal markets for renewable gases, natural gas and hydrogen (from the EU gas package). The regulation stipulates that storage operators must carry out a market assessment for investments in storage facilities for renewable and low-carbon gases, including hydrogen, at least every two years. The storage operators are to inform the relevant regulatory authorities of the result of the market assessment.

In the past, individual storage system operators have already carried out market surveys. INES uses the experience gained from previous and future market surveys of individual storage system operators when conducting the market survey.

Sebastian Heinermann, INES Managing Director, explains the announcement as follows: *"In future, the EU will oblige storage operators to determine the market demand for hydrogen storage so that well-founded investment planning can take place. The MAHS (Market Assessment for Hydrogen Storage) will not only help storage operators to implement the obligations arising from the gas package, but is primarily intended to provide answers to specific questions from storage operators in order to develop customer-oriented and competitive storage offers."*

ABOUT US

INES is the association of gas and hydrogen storage system operators in Germany. INES' members represent over 90 per cent of German gas storage capacities and account for about 25 per cent of gas storage capacities in the European Union. INES' member companies also push the development of underground hydrogen storage in numerous projects and thereby form pioneers in this important technology field for the energy transition.

The members of INES are astora GmbH, bayernugs GmbH, Enovos Storage GmbH, Erdgasspeicher Peissen GmbH, Etzel-Kavernenbetriebsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, EWE Gasspeicher GmbH, HanseWerk AG, OMV Gas Storage Germany GmbH, RWE Gas Storage West, NAFTA Speicher GmbH & Co. KG, STORAG Etzel GmbH, Storengy Deutschland GmbH, Trianel Gasspeicher Epe GmbH & Co. KG, Uniper Energy Storage GmbH, USG Blexen GmbH and VNG Gasspeicher GmbH.

PRESS CONTACT:

Sebastian Heinermann
Managing Director
Initiative Energien Speichern e.V.
Glockenturmstraße 18
14053 Berlin

Tel: +49 30 36418-086
Fax: +49 30 36418-255
info@energien-speichern.de
www.energien-speichern.de