

## Press Release

# INES Joins "H2eart for Europe" as a Partner Association in Advancing Underground Hydrogen Storage and Addressing Urgent Flexibility Needs

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The Initiative Energien Speichern e.V. (INES), representing leading operators of German gas and hydrogen storage facilities, and "H2eart for Europe," a European alliance dedicated to accelerating the adoption of Underground Hydrogen Storage (UHS) technologies, proudly announce their partnership.

As a strategic partner, INES brings invaluable expertise and a wealth of experience, representing over 90 percent of German gas storage capacities and approximately one-quarter of the gas storage capacities in the European Union. This collaboration underscores the commitment of both organisations to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of sustainable energy storage solutions, and advancing the important role UHS can play in providing short- and long-term flexibility for the European energy system.

Currently, an acceleration of UHS projects is urgently needed because, different studies show a big gap between identified flexibility needs and currently planned project pipeline for 2030. This gap seems to be even wider considering it takes several years to develop Underground Hydrogen Storages.

### Key Highlights of the Partnership:

- Flexibility Solutions for a Sustainable Future:** Both "H2eart for Europe" and INES emphasise that the increasing utilisation of intermittently produced renewable energy sources (RES) increases the energy system's need for flexibility, and acknowledge that UHS can play a key role in providing both short- and long-term energy storage.
- European Thought-Leadership:** With INES as a key partner, "H2eart for Europe" strengthens its leadership position in driving the UHS agenda within the European energy landscape. Through coordinated efforts, INES and "H2eart for Europe" aim to promote a deeper understanding of these technologies as integral components of a sustainable and resilient energy future.
- Advocacy:** Together, INES and "H2eart for Europe" will actively engage with policymakers and industry stakeholders, advocating for a supportive market framework that fosters the growth of Underground Hydrogen Storage.

### Quotes

- Michael Schmöltzer, Co-Chairperson "H2eart for Europe":** *"INES brings a breadth of experience to our alliance. Together, we are committed to accelerate the development and adoption of Underground Hydrogen Storage, contributing to Europe's energy transition and achieving our ambitious decarbonization goals."*
- Sebastian Heinermann, INES Managing Director, comments:** *"H2eart for Europe presents the challenges hydrogen storage operators in Europe have to overcome. Policy makers and the storage system operators have to work together, to bring the deeply needed Hydrogen Storages to life and so make a successful energy transition possible. H2eart for Europe can play a key role in this engagement."*

## About H2eart for Europe

H2eart for Europe is an EU-wide, CEO-led alliance committed to accelerating the decarbonisation of the European energy system at the lowest cost to society by scaling up the deployment of underground hydrogen storage (UHS). Launched in Brussels on 23rd of January 2024, the alliance aims to provide fact-based reports and analysis that can serve policymakers as guidance, and that utilise and build on the experience of our members, leading companies paving the future of hydrogen storage across Europe. We are committed to invest in scaling up UHS infrastructure to meet the flexibility demand in a decarbonised energy system.

The organisations listed below are the members of H2eart for Europe.



For media inquiries, please contact [h2eart@guidehouse.com](mailto:h2eart@guidehouse.com).

## About INES

INES is the association of German gas and hydrogen storage system operators. It represents over 90 percent of German gas storage capacities and about a quarter of gas storage capacities in the European Union. The central task of INES is to promote the public perception of the contribution of German gas and hydrogen storage facilities to energy policy goals.

The members of the initiative 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, NAFTA Speicher GmbH & Co. KG, RWE Gas Storage West GmbH, STORAG ETZEL GmbH, Storengy Deutschland GmbH, Trianel Gasspeicher Epe GmbH & Co. KG, USG Blexen GmbH, Uniper Energy Storage GmbH and VNG Gasspeicher GmbH.

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