

Iqony's hydrogen project in Völklingen-Fenne, Saarland, classified as Important Project of Common European Interest

IPCEI notification by the European Union gives "HydroHub Fenne" access to federal and state funding

Völklingen/Saarbrücken/Essen. HydroHub Fenne, an electrolysis project for the production of green, i.e. climate-neutral, hydrogen in Völklingen-Fenne, Saarland, has been classified by the EU as an "Important Project of Common European Interest" (IPCEI). This decision means that the EU approval required under German state aid law has now been granted so that the project can be funded by the German federal government and the state government of Saarland.

The HydroHub Fenne project has reached an important milestone with the exemption from restrictions under state aid law: "The decision to classify the HydroHub Fenne as an IPCEI is good news for the project, for regional industry and for Saarland as a whole," says Dr. Andreas Reichel, Chairman of the Management Boards of STEAG and Iqony. This is because the green hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources in Völklingen in future will make an important contribution to the decarbonization of industry and the mobility sector in the region.

As the EU's decision has now been made much later than originally envisaged by the EU itself, Iqony is now endeavoring to implement the next steps in the project process even more rapidly: "The national funding application for the project was already submitted in anticipation of the IPCEI decision, which has now also been formally made. At the same time, we have applied for an early start of work in order to complete the actual implementation quickly," explains Anke Langner, spokesperson for the management of Saarbrücken-based Iqony Energies GmbH, which is responsible for the project within the Group.

Since the final decision by the national funding bodies is still outstanding, it is not yet possible to provide any information on the final funding amount. The total investment for the project is around 150 million euros.

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Ongoing expression of interest procedure for hydrogen from Fenne

With the IPCEI notification and the associated further firming up of the project, the ongoing expression of interest procedure for potential customers of the green hydrogen to be produced in Völklingen is becoming even more important.

“Industrial and commercial companies, and mobility service providers, who might wish to purchase hydrogen from us in the future should let us know if they are interested in being supplied. This is very easy to do via our website and, ideally, the expression of interest should also include an approximate estimate of the expected demand,” as the two project managers Dr. Patrick Staudt and Dominik Waller explain.

State and city welcome decision

The city of Völklingen and the Saarland state government as a proportionate funding provider also welcome the European Union’s IPCEI decision: “The IPCEI notification is an important step on the way to realizing a pioneering investment in Saarland as an industrial and business location. The development of a hydrogen economy, to which the project in Fenne will make an important contribution, will ensure reliable framework conditions, particularly for industry. This will secure skilled jobs and social prosperity for the people of Saarland in the long term. The Saarland state government, together with the federal German government, stands ready to provide substantial support in this area,” explains Jürgen Barke, Saarland’s Minister for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digital and Energy.

Christiane Blatt, Mayor of the City of Völklingen, comments as follows: “Völklingen has a long and successful history as a business location. The hydrogen produced here in Fenne in the future will help to successfully shape the structural change in the economy leading to climate-neutral production – and thus open up secure future prospects for the local economy.”

Timeline

Iqony plans to commission the HydroHub Fenne in 2027, when the plant will produce up to 8,200 metric tons of green, climate-neutral hydrogen each year.

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About Iqony Energies

Distributed, sustainable, efficient and renewable – with this aspiration Iqony Energies develops the best energy solutions involving electricity, heat, district heating, cooling, compressed air or process steam for and with our customers and partners. Our range of services extends from wind energy, mine gas and biomass to geothermal energy and the design, construction and operation of heating networks. This makes us the market leader in Germany for geothermal heat supply, one of the largest operators of biomass cogeneration plants, one of the largest suppliers of district heating and contracting services with more than 100 combined heat and power plants in the megawatt range, and the leading user of mine gas. In this way, we ensure greater efficiency and less consumption of resources in energy generation every day.

About Iqony

Iqony makes green energy feasible. With more than 85 years of experience in the planning, construction and operation of energy facilities, the company provides holistic solutions for the decarbonization, decentralization and digitalization of the energy supply. Iqony focuses on renewable energies and bridging technologies that can be used in a climate-neutral way now and in the future. In addition to solar, wind and geothermal energy, the portfolio includes hydrogen solutions, storage technologies, engineering services and gas-fired power plants. Around 2,300 employees worldwide implement projects for major industrial companies, utilities, cities and municipalities in numerous countries across the globe. Specializing in tailor-made solutions for complex challenges, Iqony draws on its broad and in-depth knowledge of the energy industry across the full range of technologies and services.

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