

Selection criteria for projects relating to the production of and demand for hydrogen and green gases to be included in the Scenario Framework consultation document for the Gas Network Development Plan 2022-2032

On 11 January 2021, the gas transmission system operators (TSOs) launched their survey on projects relating to the production of and demand for hydrogen and green gases to be included in the Scenario Framework for the Gas Network Development Plan 2022-2032. The TSOs have defined the following criteria for the selection process:

- A project can be included in the 2022 Scenario Framework consultation document if it was notified as part of the market consultation process from 11 January 2021 to 16 April 2021.
- The notification must be made to a responsible TSO using [the published form](#). Projects already notified as part of the Scenario Framework for the Gas Network Development Plan 2020-2030 must be resubmitted based on an updated version.
- A project will be included in the Scenario Framework consultation document once the information required for its connection to the pipeline transmission system has been provided in full via the form and it has been checked for plausibility by the transmission system operators.
- A project will be included in the Scenario Framework consultation document if the marked fields in the market survey form can be published.

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In addition, project developers are required to provide evidence of their intention to actually go ahead with the project as a prerequisite for being included in the modelling process for the Gas Network Development Plan 2022-2032. Project developers are therefore expected to conclude a declaration of intent (Memorandum of Understanding – MoU) with the relevant transmission system operator in order to be considered in the approval process. The MoU should include agreements on the following:

- a. Project implementation date, capacity and gas quality requirements
- b. Control concept allowing the associated entry and exit capacities to be adjusted
- c. Obligation to conclude a project delivery schedule (incl. payment of a planning fee) after clarification of the regulatory framework (incl. feed-in pressure, grid charges, grid access conditions), insofar as this is economically reasonable for all parties involved.

A project will be included in the Scenario Framework if an MoU has been agreed with the transmission system operator by the start of modelling exercise at the latest, i.e. most probably by 1 October 2021.

Regardless of which transmission system operator is contacted by a project developer submitting a project proposal, all transmission system operators will always jointly decide as

part of their modelling work which network the proposed plant should reasonably be connected to.

Further prerequisites for delivering network expansions for hydrogen and green gas projects

Upon approval of a proposed project by the Federal Network Agency (expected in Q4/2022), the relevant project developer will submit a project delivery roadmap detailing the arrangements for:

- a. Payment of the planning fee still to be determined
- b. Obligation to conclude a network connection contract
- c. Obligation to make a binding capacity booking under the terms of the regulatory framework agreed with the Federal Network Agency.

It should be noted that a legally compliant clarification of the legal/regulatory framework is a prerequisite for the conclusion of an MoU and implementation schedule.

Additional information on distribution system operators

Distribution system operators (DSOs) are expressly requested to report any planned projects as part of the market survey to allow a comprehensive assessment of all hydrogen and green gas projects. All hydrogen and green gas projects planned by or in the service areas of DSOs should be reported using the form developed for the market survey.

At the same time, the TSOs will start a process to adapt the template for submitting long-term forecast in accordance with the Agreement on Cooperation between Operators of Gas Supply Networks (KoV) to include the option to report any decline in natural gas demand (e.g. where hydrogen from a green gas project replaces natural gas).

So if there are plans to connect a hydrogen or green gas project to a distribution network or if there is a demand for hydrogen needed to produce hydrogen/natural gas mixtures and if these green gases replace natural gas, the project can be included in the Gas Network Development Plan 2022-2032. This requires the company operating the distribution network to which the project is to be connected to include the project in its long-term forecast.