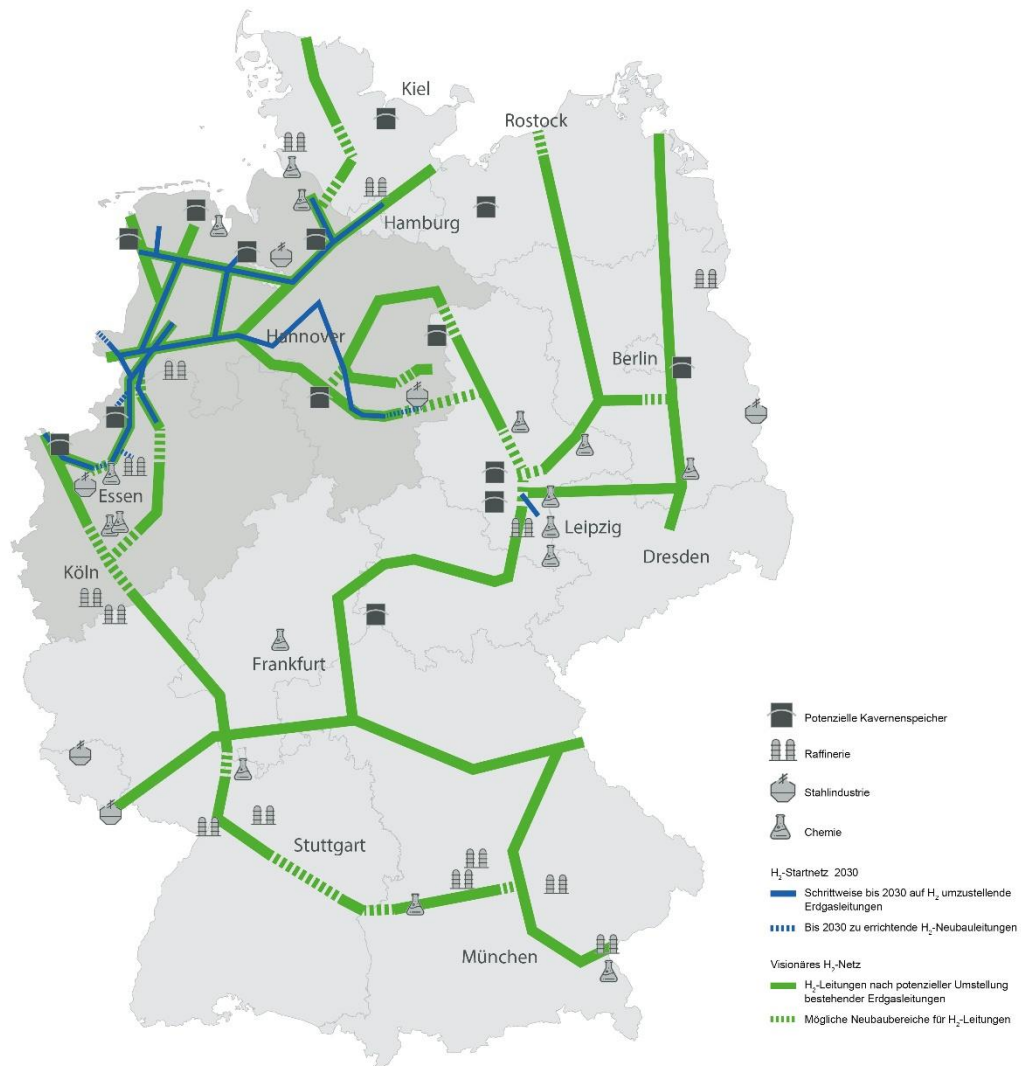


H₂-Startnetz 2030



Disclaimer: Bei der Karte handelt es sich um eine schematische Darstellung, die hinsichtlich der eingezeichneten Speicher und Abnehmer keinen Anspruch auf Vollständigkeit erhebt.

Explanatory note

From vision to delivery: The H₂ starter network 2030

The plans for a hydrogen pipeline network set out in the Gas Network Development Plan (NDP) 2020-2030 have confirmed key elements of the visionary H₂ network of January 2020. A first hydrogen network (H₂ starter network 2030), which is needed to establish a hydrogen economy in Germany, can be developed quickly and at reasonable cost.

The Gas NDP consultation document published by the transmission system operators on 4 May 2020 outlines concrete steps for the development of an H₂ network. The first converted pipelines, which are expected to be available as early as the end of 2022, will provide the core of a nationwide H₂ network gradually evolving until 2030 (especially in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony).

The H₂ starter network 2030 with a length of more than 1,200 km will essentially connect demand centres in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony with green hydrogen production projects in Northern Germany. By 2030, the length of the starter network will have already reached more than a fifth of the visionary H₂ network, most of which will be pipeline conversions, while only about 100 km will be newly built dedicated H₂ pipelines. There are also plans for a first interconnection point for imports via the Netherlands. The starting point for the H₂ starter network 2030 was the market partner survey conducted by FNB Gas, which found that a total of 31 green gas projects are under development. These include projects planned by large industrial customers such as steelworks and projects at refinery sites.

As part of the Gas NDP 2020, the processes established for the development of the natural gas infrastructure were also used for hydrogen for the first time. This together with the use of existing natural gas pipelines makes it possible to rapidly advance the development of the hydrogen infrastructure. Investments of around €290 million are expected to be needed by the end of 2025 to build the H₂ starter network, and a total of some €660 million by the end of 2030, resulting in a moderate increase in transmission system tariffs of less than 1% in 2031.

A prerequisite for the implementation of the H₂ starter network, however, is that the adjustments to the legal framework already proposed in April by a broad alliance of industry and energy industry associations are initiated before the end of this legislative period.