Wind hydrogen is a key technology of the energy transition

Lower Elbe region invests into infrastructure for power-to-gas

The expansion of renewable energies, particularly wind energy, is the declared objective of Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. A key project is the implementation of a wind-hydrogen value chain in the Lower Elbe region until 2025. Ways to set up and operate the innovative technology were recently examined by a survey conducted jointly by Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH (LBST), the law firm Becker Büttner Held (BBH) and the consultants of Ernst & Young by order of ChemCoast e.V.

The storage of power generated with renewable energies is a key challenge of the energy transition, with power-to-gas offering the most promising technology. It not only allows to store the wind energy as gas, but also transform it back into electricity. Furthermore, the gas obtained by wind could also be used as fuel, e.g. for fuel cell busses, or as a basic chemical product.

According to the survey, 531 million Euro should be invested into the implementation of infrastructure needed for the production, storage and distribution of hydrogen at three locations in the Hamburg Metropolitan Region. Refinancing is to be effected by future revenues. The survey’s timeline suggests the construction of a 20 MW industrial electrolysis plant in Hamburg in 2015. Once finished, the construction of a similar electrolysis plant in Brunsbüttel is to follow. All hydrogen generated there could already be distributed to companies located along the existing pipeline between Brunsbüttel and Heide, with a dense network of pipelines set up by 2025. Also scheduled for 2025 is a performance increase of the electrolysis plants and the construction of a cavern storage.

chemcoast.de

Shaping a new city: Hamburg showcase future-oriented projects at EXPO REAL

First-class perspectives for the real estate industry in the Hamburg Metropolitan Region

At Europe's largest trade fair for commercial property and real estate investments EXPO REAL, Hamburg will showcase premium perspectives and projects 7-9 October in Munich, with “Shaping a New City” as central claim. A growing city, Hamburg is to welcome 100,000 new inhabitants over the next decade. The city-state currently expands its infrastructure. With 44 exhibitors and six sponsors from the Hamburg Metropolitan Region at the stand, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein teamed up to present their assets in a magazine. The Northern German co-operation is also central theme of a panel discussion titled „Hamburg Metropolitan Region – strong by the interplay of regional development and urban growth“, hosted by Hamburg Marketing GmbH, the Urban Land Institute Germany and the Regional Council for Economic Development of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region” on 7 October at 2.30 pm at the Hamburg stand.

exporeal.hamburg.de
Hamburg benefits from Russia’s WTO membership
The Elbe city is Russia’s main hub of trade with the European Union and overseas

The start of Russia’s WTO membership on 22 August 2012 gave trade relations with Europe a significant boost. Hamburg, in particular, benefited from the improved economic conditions. The dismantling of trade barriers strengthened Hamburg’s role as the most important hub of Russian trade with the European Union and overseas. Today, some 150 companies with a Russian parent are active in Hamburg. 25 of them came in the past twelve months with support of HFW.

Cargo throughput via the Port of Hamburg also increases above average. Next to China, Russia is the port’s second most important trade partner in seaborne container traffic. In 2012, container handling with Russia increased by 13.3 per cent to 676,000 TEU. In the first six months of 2013, container traffic between Hamburg and Russian ports continued to grow significantly, with volumes climbing by 8.3 per cent to 343,000 TEU.

The positive development is rooted in the introduction of several new Baltic Sea feeder lines, serving also the Russian ports of St. Petersburg and Ust-Luga. Roughly 92 per cent of Russian traffic via the Port of Hamburg is handled by the Russian Baltic Sea port of St. Petersburg.

Northern Germany’s air and space industry keeps on flying high, with Airbus alone being fully booked until 2018 with 5,200 new jets ordered. A survey by the trade union IG Metall Küste confirms the positive industry outlook. Nine out of the 13 companies with a total of 25,000 staff that participated in the survey expect improved order situations. Five of them announced to hire a total of 631 new employees. Since March 2012, staff figures were increased by 1,574 people. High in demand is well-trained young personnel. The Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg) and the vocational school for manufacturing and aviation technology (G 15) are thus currently testing a new tuition concept at the Hamburg Centre of Aviation Training (HCAT). Unlike with other preparatory courses, the credit points achieved during the so-called HCAT-Propädeutikum will be recognised in future degree studies.

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Success of Hamburg’s campaign: naturalisation up by 40 per cent

More and more migrants are choosing the German passport: from January until June 2013, the number of naturalisations in Hamburg rose by 40 per cent. 3,747 Hamburg migrants were granted the German nationality, and thus 1,100 persons more compared to last year’s 2,687. Applications for naturalisation increased by six per cent to 3,768 people in the same period. Hamburg’s naturalisation campaign thus bears fruit and proves to be truly successful. Since December 2011, the Hamburg Senate has been promoting naturalisation, with First Mayor Olaf Scholz himself heading the campaign. Out of the 137,000 Hamburg local fulfilling the legal requirements for German citizenship, some 75,000 migrants have been contacted in writing by Olaf Scholz, who personally encouraged them to become a German citizen and promoting its advantages. Throughout Germany, 112,300 foreigners were granted German citizenship. Compared to 2011, naturalisation increased by 5.1 per cent. Since the start of Hamburg’s naturalisation campaign, the approval process has been significantly accelerated. To handle applications for naturalisation faster and more efficiently, seven new positions have been created at the central registration office. Since then, the application time has been shortened from one year to eight months.

Hamburg-Tourism reports highest growth in Germany

Hamburg lures more and more tourists to the banks of the Elbe and Alster river. From January to June 2013, overnight stays in the Elbe city increased by some 450,000 guests to 5.3 million nights. With tourism grown by 9.2 per cent in the first six months of 2013, Hamburg reports the highest growth rate of all German cities. And much is due to international tourism, the Office of Statistics North says. The number of foreign guests grew by 7.2 per cent. Leading the ranking of foreign visitors are the British, with arrivals augmenting by +20.2 per cent, but also more Swiss and Danish tourists (+2.9 and +5.1 percent respectively) head to Hamburg. The reasons for the positive development are diverse and range from high urban investments into infrastructure, new transport links and new travel inducements to investments into new hotel projects. In 2012 alone, 5,280 new beds were added to Hamburg’s dynamic hotel market. Still, beds are in high demand. In the first half year of 2013, the occupancy rate of Hamburg’s hotels rose to 75 per cent. The Elbe metropolis thus takes the nation’s top position ahead of Munich (73.4 per cent) and Berlin (69.4 per cent), while being ranked third in Europe after Paris and London. Due to its dynamic growth, the Hamburg tourism developed into a key industry of Hamburg’s economy. The visitor flow will bring some 94 million euro of added value into the city this year.

Business-Kick-Off 2013 focuses on Hamburg’s assets

Panel discussion by the German-Swedish Chamber of Commerce with 200 guests

For five years, the German-Swedish Chamber of Commerce has been starting autumn with a so-called Business Kick-Off in Stockholm. This year focusing on the business location Hamburg, the chamber’s honorary Vice-President Hans-Theodor Kutsch, HMG and HFW welcomed more than 200 guests at the Scandic Park Hotel. Born and bred in Hamburg, Kutsch was particularly pleased to host the evening.

Hamburg origins

Hamburg has been expanding its activities in the Scandinavian region, with partners like STRING and Baltic Sea Network. Fast connections to Stockholm, Göteborg and Umea are offered by Hamburg Airport.

deutschschwedischehandelskammer.de
24 hours IBA: deep insights behind closed doors
Hamburg’s Elbe islands showcased best practises for sustainable development at 30 locations

Would you like to eat seaweed sushi at Hamburg’s algae house, or dance Tango on the energy mount? To swap clothes at a SWIMP party and create hip fashion from cast-off clothes at the “fabric” deck? Or listen to the latest NDR radio play title “To the water!” live in the entry hall of the Hamburg Ministry of Urban Development and the Environment?

A new kind of Open House
With “24 hours of IBA – 24 hours of diversity”, the International Building Exhibition IBA Hamburg invited visitors in mid-September to discover its diversity in a 24 hour programme. At its second edition – the first one took place in May, some 5,000 visitors familiarised themselves free of charge with the lesser-known corners of the Elbe islands and experienced innovative architecture and exemplary solutions for the climate-neutral city of the future.

A diverse programme of events from art, music, theatre, fashion, and film and sports along with guided night walks thrilled the crowds that thoroughly enjoyed the more than 60 events at 30 IBA locations.

The 24-hour-programme was complemented by standard IBA tours conducted by bus, boat, bicycle or on foot.

IBA Hamburg’s future impact
In addition to the 60 projects that are to be discovered until 3 November 2013, IBA Hamburg initiated numerous construction projects that will reach out far beyond the presentation year of the building exhibition. Thus, construction of Harburg’s “Maritime living at Kaufhauskanal” project and the “Georg-Wilhelm-Höfe” in the west of Wilhelmsburg with a total of 400 flats will be completed after the closing of the gates. In total, 1,733 flats have been erected or completed by IBA in 2013, comprising 516 modernisations. Also realised by IBA were more than 100,000 sq m of industrial real estate, eight educational institutions, two retirement and nursing homes, three day care centres for children, four sports facilities, a business park, a centre for artists and creative heads, the extension of Aßmann canal and more than 70 hectares of green spaces.

ibahamburg.de

News Bits

Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach was the most important musician between the Baroque and Vienna’s classical era. Life and work of the man who spent the last 20 years before his death working as musical director of Hamburg’s five main churches can be discovered at the C.P.E. Bach Year 2014. cpebach.de

“Hamburg: das Magazin aus der Metropole” is not only the region’s largest and most successful printed magazine, but also loved on Facebook, where more than 10,467 users liked the magazine, now available with its third edition. hamburg-ahoi.com

CCH facelift: restauration works planned for 194 million euro

Redesign of forecourt and foyer • barrier-free access from Dammtor station

CCH Congress Center Hamburg, Europe’s often copied model for convention centres inaugurated in 1973, will undergo extensive reconstruction and modernisation works until 2018. According to the Hamburg senate, costs will total 194 million euro at the utmost. CCH’s reconstruction will be the first projects to see the implementation of the senate’s new principles on cost-neutral construction. The new guidelines will ensure the compliance of cost, timeline and quality even in complex projects.

Based on plans by the architects Jost Schramm, Gerd Pempeffort and partner, CCH was built 1969-1973 in a unique location between Dammtor-Bahnhof station, the fairgrounds of Hamburg-Messe and Hamburg’s Botanic Gardens. 38,000 cubic metres concrete and 4,800 tonnes of steel were used in the construction of the five-storey CCH and its two basement levels, with its added hotel tower being a landmark since then. For 40 years, CCH belonged to the ‘Champions League’ of MICE locations, with 130 world congresses hosted. To ensure its leading role in the future, CCH’s central part will be restored, while the eastern side will be torn down up to ground level. Details will be defined in the preliminary planning, design engineering and approval planning.

Next to the renewal of technical building equipment (TGA), the heating, air conditioning and fire protection plus the works on the facades and flat roofs, also the redesign of the foyer visited by nearly 200,000 people each year is high on the agenda. Also comprised in the work load is a barrier-free access to Dammtor station.

cch.de