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H2Accelerate TRUCKS bid wins Clean Hydrogen Partnership funding, signalling continued European support for the scale-up of zero emission, hydrogen fuelled truck deployment.

The H2Accelerate collaboration can confirm that it has secured funding for two of its primary initiatives, the deployment of eight heavy-duty hydrogen refuelling stations under the Connecting Europe Facility and a 150 fuel cell truck project funded by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership. This announcement is accompanied by a whitepaper setting out the Phase 1 deployment plans of H2Accelerate collaboration members (Daimler Truck, Iveco Group, Linde, OMV, Shell, TotalEnergies, Volvo Group) for fuel cell trucks and refuelling infrastructure.

The H2Accelerate TRUCKS and Inaugural Station Deployment projects

The H2Accelerate TRUCKS project is an innovative collaboration among three of the leading global OEMs (Daimler Truck, Volvo Group, and Iveco Group), Finnish research institution VTT, International Road Transport Union (IRU), Romanian National Union of Road Transporters (UNTRR), Italian (Federazione Italiana Autotrasportatori Professionali - FIAP), Austrian (WKÖ) associations and Element Energy France (an ERM Group company). The project will be coordinated by SINTEF, one of Norway's leading research institutes. H2Accelerate TRUCKS is also supported by energy infrastructure providers, including Shell, TotalEnergies, OMV and Everfuel.



This project will see 150 fuel cell trucks deployed across Europe by the mid-to-late 2020s, to develop the technology to be suitable for the mass market. The funding granted by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership of €30M will enable the coordinated roll-out of heavy-duty, zero-emission vehicles fuelled by green hydrogen, bringing zero emission targets for transport closer. The trucks will be deployed with trusted

customers of the OEMs and tested in real world conditions over several years in order to assess their performance. Results from the project will be used to set the scene for large scale fuel cell truck deployment in the coming years.

Bart Biebuyck, Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, said: "We are delighted to provide funding support to the H2Accelerate TRUCKS project, a flagship project which will pave the way for the commercialisation of Europe's hydrogen trucking system. It is especially auspicious that these 150 vehicles deployed within this project will be supported by an expanding network of hydrogen refuelling stations, which will include the H2Accelerate Inaugural Station Deployment project that has been selected to receive EU funding support. Through both projects, we can witness first-hand how different funding programmes can work together to accelerate the realisation of a hydrogen trucking ecosystem in Europe."

Giandomenico Fioretti, Head of Alternative Propulsion Business Development at Iveco Group, said of the H2Accelerate TRUCKS project:

"Iveco Group has a history of being among the first to hit unchartered territory, in fact we have been pioneer of alternative propulsions for more than twenty years. Hydrogen is an exciting energy vector for the sustainable future of heavy-duty vehicles, as this technology offers the best trade-off between autonomy range, payload and recharging time. Today we are proud of the work we will undertake with our partners in the ground-breaking H2Accelerate TRUCKS project, and with the support of Clean Hydrogen Partnership funding, to provide a tangible contribution in paving the way for the technical and commercial viability of long-haul hydrogen trucking."

Benefiting from the success of the H2Accelerate TRUCKS project, is the H2Accelerate Inaugural Station Deployment (ISD) project. As announced in September, this project was successful in its bid to the Connecting Europe Facility Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Funding call for funding to support the deployment of eight hydrogen refuelling stations in France and the Netherlands. Each station will have higher capacity (>1 tonne/day) than any public stations currently in operation and aim for ultra-high levels of availability through the use of N+1 redundancy in station design. Stations will be positioned along key TEN-T transport corridors, allowing easy access for truck end users driving on major highways.

H2Accelerate infrastructure members intend to complement this initial network with the further deployment of stations along strategic corridors between Scandinavia and Northern Italy in future. The stations will service the growing fleet of hydrogen fuelled heavy-duty vehicles, including those deployed by the H2Accelerate TRUCKS project. The H2Accelerate ISD comes as the first in a series of planned deployments of hydrogen refuelling stations as part of Phase 1 of the H2Accelerate collaboration.

Approval of these projects for funding by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and the Connecting Europe Facility indicate the high level of maturity of the plans and the strategic importance of developing the hydrogen trucking sector in Europe. The funding is expected to enable the synchronised deployment of both heavy-duty vehicles and refuelling infrastructure, removing the barrier to first mover action commonly linked to complex projects such as these.

This project will contribute to a growing network of funded projects propelling the hydrogen value chain, and the participation of some participants is predicated on these other enabling projects going forward as well.

Tackling first mover barriers through synchronised deployment and Innovative technology

Through the H2Accelerate collaboration, the technology, geography, and timescales of fuel cell truck and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure can be synchronised, providing security of supply for end users and derisking the necessary large-scale investments for OEMs and infrastructure providers alike. This will enable the development of relevant technologies and standards, paving the way for the wider roll-out of zero emissions hydrogen trucks throughout Europe, with future projects and the eventual industrialisation of hydrogen truck production targeted.

The trucks to be deployed in the first stage are expected to be either 4x2 or 6x2, with up to 44 tonne capacity and long ranges of at least 600km. These state-of-the-art trucks will enable crucial feedback, with the customers acting as first fleet users.

These trucks will be linked to Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS) network deployment plans from H2Accelerate infrastructure members Linde, OMV, Shell, and TotalEnergies, as well as Everfuel who will deploy stations across Scandinavia in a linked project that has successfully acquired CEF funding. H2Accelerate is propelling innovation in HRS with high-capacity, testing dual-pressure refuelling of greater than 1 tonne per day available at both 350 and 700 bar hydrogen refuelling. The availability of multiple refuelling technologies is an exciting move in enabling a consumer decision led, lighthouse roll-out of HRS, informing on customer needs and a preferred set of standards. The stations will be located with an average spread of about 150km between each other in close proximity to the TEN-T corridors, and this will unlock the ability for hydrogen fuelled heavy-duty vehicle operators to use these vehicles in much the same way as their diesel counterparts.

Feedback from users and operators will provide insight into their experience with hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, which will be used to determine optimum technology solution(s) for the wider rollout of hydrogen refuelling stations. These shared learnings and the data collected will also streamline future heavy-duty vehicle deployments.

About H2Accelerate

H2Accelerate is a collaboration agreement signed between the participants under which the participants will work together to:

- seek public support to fund early pre-commercial projects to activate the market on the path towards a mass market roll-out;
- communicate around the technical and commercial viability of hydrogen fuelled trucking at scale; and
- hold discussions with policymakers and regulators to encourage policies which can support a sustainable and speedy activation of the zero emissions long haul trucking market.

You can follow the H2Accelerate collaboration on Twitter (@H2AccelerateEU).