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Roads2HyCom release report on the current status of European hydrogen infrastructure

In May 2006, EU project Roads2HyCom launched an in-depth analysis of the current European hydrogen infrastructure. Today the results of this analysis are published on www.roads2hy.com.

The existing hydrogen infrastructure in Europe might play an important role in the future since available surplus hydrogen or distribution networks can form a starting point in the early transition phase to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Past and present demonstration projects already act as a showcase for possible early-adopters, but could also become seeds for future large-scale demonstrations of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

In the first report, 130 demonstration projects are identified and mapped geographically, which reveals first clusters of projects in the German Rhein-Ruhr area and southern Scandinavia. A subset is used for a detailed discussion of project type, ownership, or system complexity.

Nearly 500 European industrial hydrogen production sites are being reviewed with information on ownership, capacity, or hydrogen producing processes. A further analysis of the availability of industrial surplus hydrogen shows that there are approximately 2-10bn m³ of hydrogen available in the short-term, either from production margins or through valorisation, i.e. substitution with natural gas.

For industrial hydrogen to be distributed, 1600 km of European hydrogen pipelines are currently in place. The third report displays their location, explains how these pipelines are grouped into larger networks and which main production areas they interconnect. Up to 400 million m³ are alternatively distributed by trailer or cylinder. This includes not only gaseous, but also liquid hydrogen, although the present liquefaction capacity of 20 t/day limits this amount. For automotive applications, 35 hydrogen fuelling stations are currently operating in Europe.

These reports are available to download from www.roads2hy.com/pub_download.asp.

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