

Press Release

Underground Energy Storage Operators (UESO) Joins Forces with H2eart for Europe to Advance Underground Energy Storage

[Brussels, April 3rd 2024]

Underground Energy Storage Operators (UESO) and H2eart for Europe proudly announce their partnership and shared commitment to advancing Underground Hydrogen Storage (UHS) technologies.

Recognising the pressing challenge of climate change and the increasing use of intermittently produced renewable energy sources (RES) by many EU member states, H2eart for Europe emphasizes the need for clean storage options capable of providing necessary flexibility.

Hydrogen is a pivotal flexibility vector, providing both the short- and long-term energy storage necessary to balance out intermittent electricity production and to bridge seasonal consumption differences. Addressing the substantial gap of 36 TWh between identified flexibility needs and the currently planned project pipeline for 2030, H2eart for Europe stresses the urgency of accelerating hydrogen storage projects. Narrowing this gap would require between €18 and €36 billion (15-30 billion GBP) in investments.

UESO, representing Owners/Operators of underground energy storage facilities & projects in the UK, is collaborating with H2eart for Europe to contribute to the urgent need for flexibility in the ever-evolving energy landscape.

Key Highlights of the Partnership:

- Flexibility Solutions:** The partnership emphasizes the importance of clean storage options, particularly hydrogen, as a crucial flexibility vector for maintaining a steady energy supply amidst the increasing utilization of intermittently produced renewable energy sources (RES).
- Creating Synergies:** UESO's collaboration with H2eart for Europe signifies a united effort to advance underground energy storage technologies. By joining forces, the organisations aim to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of energy storage in Europe.
- Collaboration with Stakeholders:** UESO, in partnership with H2eart for Europe, will actively engage with government bodies, regulators, consumer organisations, network operators, and industry participants. This collaboration aims to foster an environment where underground energy storage can flourish and contribute to European energy security.

Quotes

- Michael Schmöltzer, Co-Chairperson H2eart for Europe:** “UESO's unique focus on underground energy storage in the UK aligns seamlessly with the objectives of H2eart for Europe. Together, we look forward to leveraging our collective expertise and advocating for innovations that drive the transition towards cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions.”
- Nick Wye, Chairperson UESO:** “UESO is looking forward to working with H2eart for Europe in promoting the delivery of significant volumes of energy storage necessary to support decarbonisation while ensuring security of supply to customers.”

About H2eart for Europe

H2eart for Europe is an EU-wide, CEO-led alliance committed to accelerating the decarbonisation of the European energy system at the lowest cost to society by scaling up the deployment of underground hydrogen storage (UHS). Launched in Brussels on 23rd of January 2024, the alliance aims to provide fact-based reports and analysis that can serve policymakers as guidance, and that utilise and build on the experience of our members, leading companies paving the future of hydrogen storage across Europe. We are committed to invest in scaling up UHS infrastructure to meet the flexibility demand in a decarbonised energy system.

The organisations listed below are the founding members of H2eart for Europe.



For media inquiries, please contact h2eart@guidehouse.com.

About UESO

UESO was created in 2021 by the members of the now discontinued Gas Storage Operators Group with the purpose of serving the interests of operators of all forms of underground energy storage. UESO provides a forum for members to discuss common issues with a focus on playing an active role in influencing regulatory policies, market design and technical standards. It will collaborate with the government, regulators, consumer bodies, network operators, and other industry participants to ensure that energy underground storage is able to flourish going forward.



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