REGATRACE NEWSLETTER I IRELAND I

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REGATRACE
Renewable Gas Trade Centre in Europe

Renewable Gas Forum Ireland

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETHANE AND REGATRACE PROJECT NEWS

37 million Euro from the Climate Change Program for energy, transport and agriculture

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, EUR 37 million have been allocated from the Climate Change Program for the energy, transport and agriculture sectors.

15 million EUR have been allocated to purchase vehicles using electricity, compressed or liquefied natural gas, biomethane or hydrogen. The subsidy reaches up to 40% and it is dedicated to businesses that are involved with passenger transport, utilities services, commercial or logistics services and that are developing alternative fuel infrastructure.

EUR 14 million are for the use of renewable energy sources in private companies, public, industrial buildings or other structures. Subsidies reach up to 30 percent.

EUR 8 million are intended to support the biomethane production and upgrading installations. Subsidies reach up to 65%.

REGATRACE Network Officially Launched

Within the Regatrace Network, partners regularly share information on common topics surrounding the documentation, tracking and cross-border trading of renewable gases, including legislative developments, such as the RED II proposal and the Union Database. All the while, a particular focus is put on organisations involved in the certification and documentation of renewable gases through certification systems, guarantees of origin or European schemes. At the same time, the Network offers a space to exchange ideas beyond existing types of certificates or platforms.

The Network currently includes the following members:

- Amber Grid (Lithuania)
- AIB – Association of Issuing Bodies (Europewide)
- AGCS Gas Clearing & Settlement AG (Austria)
- EBA – European Biogas Association (Europewide)
- Energigas (Sweden)
- Energinet (Denmark)
- ERGaR – European Renewable Gas Registry (Europewide)
- NEN – Royal Netherlands Standardisation Institute (the Netherlands)
- REDCert (Germany)
- REAL – Renewable Gas Assurance Limited (UK)
- RGFI (Renewable Gas Forum Ireland)
- SPP Distribucia (Slovakia)
- UPEBI – **Unia Producentów i Pracodawców Przemysłu Biogazowego** (Poland)
- VSG – Verband der Schweizerischen Gasindustrie (Switzerland)

Guarantees of Origin

To strengthen a market for renewable gas certificates, the concept of energy carrier conversion deserves key attention, since the ongoing integration of energy sectors in Europe depends on energy carriers being converted into each other. While procedures for documenting the renewable character of energy carriers are well established, transferring information documented on guarantees of origin (GOs) of such energy carriers across energy carrier conversion still is not highly elaborated.

Recently the REGATRACE consortium published its report with proposals for harmonised rules for handling guarantees of origin in relation with energy conversion (referred to as REGATRACE deliverable D4.3). This intends to support issuing bodies and registry operators by establishing a common understanding of the practical challenges and to recommend solutions.

Harmonised rules are essential for a functional market for guarantees of origin that facilitates cross-border transfer from nationally governed GO systems. Harmonisation enables trust with regards to imported GOs from other countries and enhances efficiency in the management of the GO system.

Have a look at the D4.3 report: https://www.regatrace.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/REGATRACE-D4.3.pdf

IRELAND NEWS

Proposed Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme

The Renewable Gas Forum Ireland welcomed the opportunity to participate in the public consultation, from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, on the proposed introduction of a Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme as a welcome and necessary step to support the renewable gas industry to play its part in contributing to deliver ambitious and legally binding targets under the Programme for Government to reduce GHG emissions.

By supporting the renewable heat technologies, through the production and supply of sustainable renewable gas indigenous, the RHO would, in particular, support the decarbonisation of the heat sector across the market segments of residential, SME's, hospitality, industrial and commercial use.

The RHO is urgently needed to establish a renewable gas industry in Ireland, which lags well behind other European countries in this respect, and which also has the lowest percentage in Europe in terms of having its heat sector demand met by renewable fuels.

Climate Action Plan

Momentum is gathering in Ireland to embrace the production of sustainable indigenous biomethane and bio-fertiliser production and use, to help meet decarbonisation targets, within a new policy and legislative framework and with strong consumer support from key market segment's of manufacturing and processing (thermal demand) and transport (heavy goods vehicles).

The Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan, published in October 2021, includes biomethane for the first time, reflecting evidence from the RGFI commissioned KPMG Integrated Business Case for Biomethane Production in Ireland, 2019; the Project Clover industry collaboration Feasibility Study; the Renewable Energy Ireland 40by30 Report (that also informs the draft National Heat Study); and the Gas Networks Ireland commissioned KPMG/Devenish Sustainable Feedstock Report 2021.

Biomethane, is ready to be implemented now, subject to necessary Government policy and support, to meet targets to 2030, while green hydrogen technology is at an embryonic stage and has a future potential role in decarbonising the economy by 2050.

On-going collaboration

The Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI), sectoral representations and collaborations from industry members in hard to decarbonise sectors, continue to liaise with government departments, state agencies, key stakeholders and farming representatives, to gather momentum for change.

As part of the Regatrace Project, RGFI hosted two participatory workshops in June and July 2021, which placed the work being done in Ireland within the European context and developed a focus for the shared Vision and Roadmap. The next workshop is scheduled for 15 December 2021 and will present this Roadmap and the draft D6.4 Guidance on a Feasibility Analysis for Project Development.

The Shared Vision

The focus up to 2030 is on using sustainable agricultural feedstock for AD biomethane and bio-fertilisers to help decarbonise industrial thermal demand, transport and agriculture. Transport has been identified as the other main market for biomethane in collaboration with the sectoral representation and demands for economic and scalable solutions. In the last decade, the number of CNG/LNG trucks on the European road network has increased sharply and the first ships with gas engines have been developed.

The vision is for a consumer-led collaboration, at scale, with a renewable gas industry that incorporates the socio economic benefits and environmentally responsible production and use of biomethane and its role in the circular bio-economy:

- *decarbonising difficult to decarbonise sectors ie the thermal demands of industry, and agriculture;*
- *supporting sustainable, profitable agriculture and the circular rural economy;*
- *supporting sustainable transport;*
- *aligned with EU and national sustainability and climate action policies;*
- *with Green Gas Certification in place;*
- under written by AD Charter.(under development)

The *Climate Action Bill* stipulates a 51% reduction in Ireland's carbon footprint by the end of the decade and Ireland will be legally bound to reduce its emissions (carbon footprint) by 7 % per year to hit its new 2030 target.

Elements of the Roadmap to 2030:

- The early introduction of a Renewable Heat Fuel Obligation scheme, in 2021/2022, with implementation by 2023, and a biomethane target of 11% by 2030.In a survey taken at the 2nd Regatrace Participatory Workshop, a higher carbon price tax ranked slightly ahead of exchequer funding and other tax incentives, as additional measures to support the business case for biomethane.
- Required government support.
- Capital funding from the Irish government / Europe.
- A scheme of at scale AD plants built by 2025 to prove the concept and pilot work on monetising bio-fertilisers and maximising soil carbon sequestration potential.
- A Green Gas Certification Scheme / Guarantees of Origin – already in place.
- Greater public awareness of the opportunity to decarbonise and the associated biodiversity and environmental benefits.
- Facilitating cross border trade of renewable gases and certificates.
- Research, knowledge and information transfer especially in relation to co-products such as bio-fertilisers and soil carbon sequestration.

Biomethane has a key role to play and will be a valuable addition to the (renewable) energy portfolio in Ireland. It has unique characteristics compared to other renewable sources: meets the technical standards required, can utilise the existing gas grid, it can be stored for longer periods without loss of energy, on demand and flexible and it is the lowest cost, least disruptive renewable heat technology to meet hard to decarbonise market segments.

3rd Ireland Regatrace Workshop

The 3rd workshop will take place on 15 December and will focus on the D6.4 *Guidance on Feasibility Analysis* and the Roadmap.

PARTICIPANTS' UPDATE – FOCUS ON LITHUANIA

In Lithuania the Requested Support for Biomethane Production Has Almost Tripled Expectations

The call for applications for biomethane gas production and biogas upgrading plants ended beginning of November. The Environmental Project Management Agency (APVA) received applications from 17 companies for over 40 million euros. A total of € 15 million has been allocated to the call from the Climate Change Program.

The maximum grant amount per applicant is 4 million euros. The project investment support can vary from 45 to 65 percent. This amount depends on the size of the company.

Investment support is provided for a newly built biomethane plants, together with biogas upgrading facility that allows purified biomethane to be injected into natural gas networks, to be used in the transport sector or used to meet own electricity and heating needs. Also investment support is provided for newly built biogas upgrading facilities near existing biogas plants, which allow purified biomethane to be injected into natural gas networks or used in the transport sector.

Applications will be selected through established evaluation criteria. One of the most important criteria is the effectiveness of the project.

The evaluation of applications will be completed no later than 60 working days after the end of the call for proposals.

Source: https://www.apva.lt/prasoma-parama-bioduju-gamybai-kone-triskart-virsijo-lukescius/

REGATRACE CONSORTIUM

The REGATRACE consortium is comprised of 15 partners from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain.)