

Switzerland pushes hydrogen mobility with first stations

World's first AVIA hydrogen filling station opened in St. Gallen. Five more sites will also be operational in the Lake Constance - Lake Geneva axis by the end of the year.

With the opening of the world's first AVIA hydrogen filling station in St. Gallen, Switzerland's second site of this kind is going into operation. By the end of this year, five more hydrogen filling stations will also be operational on the route between Lake Constance and Lake Geneva.

The first hydrogen filling station rolled out in Switzerland was a Coops site in Hunzenschwil in operation since 2016.

In addition to the St. Gallen site, the new hydrogen filling stations will open in Rümlang, Hunzenschwil, Zofingen, Berne and Crissier. They will offer green hydrogen for commercial vehicles (350 bar) and cars (700 bar).

The hydrogen mobility scheme will be scaled up from 2021 to 2025 to include a total of 1'600 hydrogen-electric commercial vehicles and a widespread network of hydrogen filling stations by 2023.

Hydrospider, Hyundai Hydrogen Mobility (HHM), the H2 Mobility Switzerland Association and H2 ENERGY Ltd are the actors currently building this carbon-free e-mobility system in the alpine nation. The partnership is based on a business ecosystem that unites various players in the energy and mobility sector in a joint, private-sector system. Each element of this cycle, from the energy source and production to the use in the electric vehicle, is completely free of CO2 emissions.

Hydrospider – a joint venture between Alpiq, H2 Energy and Linde founded in early 2019 – will be responsible for the production of green hydrogen. Hyundai Hydrogen Mobility AG will import the 1,600 H2 trucks, the members of the H2 Mobility Switzerland Development Association will use these vehicles and set up the nationwide refuelling infrastructure, and H2 Energy AG will operate the central platform for implementing the mobility system.

"Switzerland's private sector has created something that is truly unique. Many believed that the hydrogen industry would always remain a utopian vision of the future, but Switzerland is proving that electrically powered commercial vehicles and passenger cars can be refuelled with clean hydrogen and driven without CO2 emissions," said launcher of St. Gallen station Bertrand Piccard, advocate of new technologies in Switzerland and President of the Solar Impulse Foundation.

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