

PRESS RELEASE

European hydrogen backbone: Teréga and the SALINS group join forces on a storage project

The SALINS group and Teréga recently signed a memorandum of understanding on the development of a salt cavern project to store hydrogen by 2035. This project will provide the storage capacity needed to implement the HySoW project developed by Teréga.

The SALINS group and Teréga have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at combining their complementary skills and expertise to contribute to the development of salt caverns in support of the emerging hydrogen industry. In fact, this storage capacity will help achieve the decarbonisation ambitions of local authorities and manufacturers, who will thus have the resources to ensure the long-term viability of new uses, particularly in the field of mobility.

Both partners are currently involved in the HySoW (Hydrogen South West Corridor) project, and more specifically in the storage part of this project.

The HySoW project plans to implement transport and storage infrastructures that can decarbonise the major industrial and mobility hubs in the territories of Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine by interconnecting them with flows of locally produced hydrogen such as those coming from Southern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coast (French production and imports). The project will also help enhance the security of supply and flexibility of the entire energy system by providing hydrogen storage capacity.

This storage project is based on one of the special features of the Aquitaine basin, which has several geological sites suitable for storage, particularly hydrogen storage, with the presence of salt diapirs. The diapir, which has been used by the SALINS group for several decades, could eventually provide a storage potential of around 1 TWh.

The two partners are currently working closely together on feasibility studies to ascertain the possibility of building such infrastructure. These storage capacities, an integral part of the HySoW project, were included in the application for the European Project of Community Interest label submitted to the European Commission on 15 December last.

The agreement will be made official at the launch of the call for expressions of interest on 26 June for hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure as part of the HySoW project. For the two companies, it is a new stage of their commitment to accelerate the energy transition and to offer manufacturers effective decarbonisation solutions.

Key figures for the HySoW project:

- ★ **Hydrogen storage** with a capacity of around **500 GWh by 2030** and a potential of 1 TWh in the long term.
- ★ **600 km of pipelines:** 30% converted pipelines and 70% new pipelines
- ★ Capacity **44 GWh/d to the east (Cruzy) and 60 GWh/d to the west (Bordeaux)**
- ★ 2 potential interconnections with Spain by 2040

About Teréga

Established in South-West France, at the crossroads between major European gas flows, Teréga has exercised exceptional expertise for over 75 years in the development of gas transport and storage infrastructures. Today, it continues to develop innovative solutions to overcome the major energy challenges facing France and Europe. A true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and 2 underground storage reservoirs representing 15.6% of the French gas transport network and 25.4% of national storage capacity. The company had a turnover of €799 million in 2022, and has about 650 employees.

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Teréga Media Relations:

Céline Dallest
celine.dallest@terega.fr
+33 (0)6 38 89 11 07

AUVRAY & BORACAY Agency Regional and specialist press:

Vanessa Walter
v.walter@auvray-boracay.com
+33 (0)6 60 05 56 65

Candide Heiz
c.heiz@auvray-boracay.com
+33 (0)1 58 22 21 13

TILDER

European and national press:

Mariana Pires Da Silva
m.piresdasilva@tilder.com
+33 (0)6 01 02 72 61

About the SALINS Group

The Salins Group has been in existence for almost 170 years.

Today it employs more than 2,000 people who work every day in its factories, marshes and salt works in France, Europe, Africa and elsewhere in the world.

With a production capacity of more than 4 million tonnes of salt a year and sales of more than €251 million, the company is committed to responsible development in order to offer high-quality salt and contribute to the success of more than 20 million of its customers.

Proud of its experience, the Salins Group now masters all the manufacturing (solar, gem, igneous) and processing techniques needed to meet the requirements of every application.

It contributes to the satisfaction of manufacturers and consumers in many areas of activity (food, agriculture, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, snow removal, water treatment, etc.).

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