

Press release

Company News

Thyssengas and Cogas have agreed to the first cross-border connection of a Dutch distribution system operator to the German hydrogen core network

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Cross-border cooperation: Today, the Dutch distribution system operator Cogas signed a contract with Thyssengas H2 GmbH for a T-piece, which will connect to the hydrogen pipeline from Vlieghuis to Ochtrup. This is the first time that a German transmission system operator has established a connection with a Dutch distribution system operator. The collaboration aims to facilitate an early H2 supply to industry and small and medium-sized enterprises in the Dutch region Twente. The project is supported by a German-Dutch consortium comprising Province of Overijssel, H2HUB Twente and TECHLAND, among others*.

Dr. Stefanie Kesting, CEO of Thyssengas, explains: “Together with Cogas, we recognised the potential of cross-border partnerships for ramping up hydrogen, and we have put this potential to practical use. Through the T-piece, we are connecting regional demand with European infrastructure. Our Vlieghuis-Ochtrup H2 pipeline provides access to the Dutch import market and, by connecting the T-piece to the German hydrogen core network, improves the supply outlook for industry and small and medium-sized enterprises in the Twente region.”

Gerald de Haan, CEO of Cogas, says: “Together with our Twente and German partners, we are seizing this unique opportunity to connect to the German hydrogen core network. The energy system of the future cannot run on sun and wind alone. Sustainable molecules such as hydrogen are urgently needed. With this first step, we are preparing Twente for a future in which

hydrogen becomes a valuable source for our companies and for the reliability of our energy system.”

The T-piece is scheduled for construction in 2027 on the Thyssengas Vlieghuis-Ochtrup H2 pipeline near Nordhorn. It will provide a technical connection to an unused Dutch natural gas pipeline operated by Cogas, which is set to be converted for hydrogen transportation in the future. The pipeline runs from the German-Dutch border to the south of Denekamp in the Overijssel province. The Twente region will then have access to the hydrogen network, with the aim of supplying local industry in Enschede, Hengelo and Almelo in the future.

Connecting a Dutch distribution system operator to the H2 core network via a German transmission system operator is a first. Through this project, Thyssengas is combining its strong regional presence in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony with a cross-border approach to scaling up hydrogen usage.

Connection to the core hydrogen network

The planned T-piece will connect to the Thyssengas Vlieghuis-Ochtrup pipeline. According to the draft of the network development plan 2025, the pipeline is scheduled to come into operation at the end of 2027. This will be the first cross-border hydrogen pipeline between the Netherlands and Germany. The conversion of the 53-kilometre natural gas pipeline for hydrogen transport is currently underway. The pipeline is part of Germany's core hydrogen network and the GET H2 hydrogen initiative, securing access to the significant import market of the Netherlands.

Thanks to its proximity to the German-Dutch border, the Vlieghuis-Ochtrup H2 pipeline provides the Twente region a decisive locational advantage. The connection near Denekamp can already be established via a 300-metre-long pipeline to the T-piece. This will enable Twente to meet the anticipated demand for hydrogen from industry and small and medium-sized enterprises at an early stage and to achieve its sustainability goals.

International partnership

In addition, a consortium of 13 partners has signed an agreement that goes beyond the construction of the T-piece. The German and Dutch partners have reaffirmed their commitment to establishing a regional hydrogen infrastructure in Twente. The aim is to ensure a comprehensive hydrogen supply across the region and strengthen cross-border cooperation. The agreement was signed at the Twente Safety Campus in Enschede. This is where a new hydrogen testing and training facility called 'HyField' is being developed in collaboration with Cogas, set to commence operations in summer 2026.

*The consortium comprises the following partners: Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Almelo, Municipality of Hengelo, Municipality of Oldenzaal, Industrie und Handelskammer Nord Westfalen, Oost NL, TECHLAND, H2HUB Twente, Twenteboard, Energy Strategy Twente (RES Twente), Cogas, Province of Overijssel, Thyssengas

About Thyssengas

Thyssengas GmbH is a German transmission system operator. Headquartered in Dortmund, the company celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021. It operates a gas network spanning around 4,400 kilometres, primarily in North Rhine-Westphalia but also in Lower Saxony. This network supplies downstream distribution system operators, industrial plants, and power stations. In order to achieve a climate-neutral future, Thyssengas is focusing on hydrogen as a gaseous energy carrier. The Dortmund-based network operator is involved in numerous initiatives to this end. At the same time, it is investing in the conversion of its pipeline system to enable the rapid scaling up of hydrogen as part of the energy transition. The company currently employs around 550 people across eight sites within its network area.