

Press Release

July 18, 2024

Successful GOCO2 Calls For Expressions of Interest to decarbonize industry in the Greater-Western area in France.

As part of their commitment to the energy transition, GRTgaz, France's main gas transmission operator, and Elengy, the operator of LNG terminals in France, launched their call for expressions of interest in March with a view to developing, respectively, a CO₂ transmission network covering several departments (Ille-et-Vilaine, Mayenne, Loire-Atlantique, Vendée, Deux-Sèvres) and a CO₂ liquefaction and export terminal at the Montoir-de-Bretagne LNG terminal.

Three historical CO₂ emitters, partners in the GOCO2 project, and two new industrial companies, future users of this CO₂, have committed to the development of GOCO2 by 2030.

Building on this success, GRTgaz and Elengy have announced the launch of their feasibility studies.

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The calls for expressions of interest launched by GRTgaz and Elengy as part of the GOCO2 project targeted all the players involved in creating a new CO₂ value chain: manufacturers with a CO₂ capture project and looking for a transport and storage solution (so-called CCS projects), and manufacturers with CO₂ recovery projects (so-called CCU projects) up to 2030.

To date, five companies have committed to GRTgaz and Elengy to continue developing GOCO2 up to 2030: Heidelberg Materials, Lafarge and Lhoist as emitters, and Hynamics and Elyse Energy for their CO₂ utilization projects.

Ten other companies have indicated a potential interest in CO₂ projects beyond 2035.

These results confirm industry's need for a CO₂ transport, liquefaction and export infrastructure in the Greater West of France. They will also support the emergence of CO₂ recovery projects, in particular for the production of synthetic fuels.

For Sandrine Meunier, CEO of GRTgaz, “CO₂ capture and storage will be a key factor in attracting industry to countries that offer suitable logistics. Our ability to plan infrastructure now with public and private players, to meet all the region's needs, is a guarantee of success for the future.”

For Nelly Nicoli, Elengy's CEO, “this result confirms our strategic commitment to developing concrete decarbonization solutions for industry and thus contributing to the emergence of a CO₂ capture, storage and utilization chain in France.”

Launch of prefeed studies

GRTgaz and Elengy have announced the launch of their feasibility studies. These studies will establish the dimensions of the transmission infrastructure and the terminal, as well as an assessment of their cost and of the regulatory and environmental issues involved in integrating them into the areas concerned.

Detailed engineering studies can then be initiated from 2025. A grant application is being prepared for these studies under the CEF (Connecting Europe Facilities) funds, following the approval of the European PCI (Project of Common Interest) project.

About GOCO2

Launched in July 2023 and supported by the Pays de la Loire Region and the Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire, GOCO2 is currently the largest decarbonization project in Western France in terms of the volume of CO₂ captured and transported.

Located mainly in the Pays de la Loire and Nouvelle-Aquitaine regions, it could eventually transport and export up to 4 million tons of residual CO₂ per year by 2050.

GOCO2 is identified as phase 1 (priority) in the French government's Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) strategy, published in July 2024. It is also part of the local Loire Estuaire Decarbonation initiative, which won the ADEME's ZIBAC (*Zones Industrielles Bas Carbone*) call for projects.

About CO₂ capture, transport and storage and decarbonization of industry (CCUS)

Industrial CO₂ capture, transport, conversion into synthetic fuels or storage in suitable geological formations (CCUS) is an essential solution for capturing the incompressible residual emissions, known as by-products, from industrial manufacturing processes and converting the so-called biogenic CO₂ from the production of biofuels or the conversion of biomass products and waste. These CCUS solutions are now essential if we are to 'take the final step' and meet our targets for reducing CO₂ emissions, while participating in the reindustrialization of territories.

GRTgaz and Elengy contribute to the development of this value chain by offering infrastructure for the transport, liquefaction, and export of CO₂ to permanent geological storage areas.

About GRTgaz

GRTgaz is France's leading gas transmission operator and Europe's 2nd largest transmission operator. The Group has two subsidiaries: Elengy (Europe's leading LNG terminal operator) and GRTgaz Deutschland (operator of the MEGAL system). In line with its raison d'être 'Together, making a secure, affordable and climate-neutral energy future possible', GRTgaz carries out public service missions aimed at guaranteeing secure transmission for its 865 customers (biomethane producers, shippers, industrial companies, power stations and distributors). GRTgaz is committed to carbon neutrality and is adapting its network to ecological and digital challenges; it supports the development of low-carbon hydrogen and renewable gases (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). It is also developing the transport of CO₂ to decarbonise industry.

Key figures: 32,600 km of pipelines, 625 TWh of gas transported, 3,300 employees, sales of €2.1 billion in 2023 (€2.6 billion at Group level).

About Elengy

Expert in liquefied natural gas (LNG) and a pioneering operator of LNG terminals in France, Elengy brings its customers almost sixty years' experience in the design, development, operation and maintenance of high-level industrial facilities. Elengy owns and operates three regulated LNG terminals in France: Montoir-de-Bretagne on the Atlantic coast, Fos Cavaou and Fos Tonkin in the Mediterranean. Today, Elengy's ambition is to transform its LNG terminals into multi-service decarbonisation hubs, particularly for carbon capture and storage (CCS) chains and for new molecules: bio-GNL, hydrogen and low-carbon ammonia.

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