

PRESS RELEASE

ERIG presents "Theses for the European energy future"

Successful green deal in Europe with gas and energy innovation

Brussels, May 27th 2021 - The European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG) has published their "**Theses for the European energy future**".

This document defines a path for the future development of the European energy sector in line with the ambitions of the EU Green Deal. The overall goal is to achieve international and European climate targets, including keeping the global temperature rise below 2 ° C and preferably 1.5 ° C.

Accordingly, a successful energy transition is only possible through a holistic approach in which climate-neutral gases play a leading role.

*"The international climate protection goals can only be achieved together and in an international context. ERIG gives special weight to the European voice with the "**Theses for the european energy future**" and presents a holistic approach. Even if the emphasis is put on the indispensable innovations of the energy sector, social acceptance and economic feasibility are given special consideration as well. The indispensable role of gas as an energy carrier and the innovative strength of our industry is of particular benefit to society when dealing with these key questions about the future."*, states ERIG President Prof. Gerald Linke.

"With the thesis paper, ERIG is taking a giant step forward. We have now formulated what ERIG collectively stands for. It forms the framework and the basis on which we will continue to build on." so ERIG Secretary General Hans Rasmusson.

"In the energy discourse, gas topics and the associated research and development have so far played a subordinate role, while renewable electricity was the focus. The ERIG thesis paper shows that a change of perspective is required here, in which gas comes more into focus - together with electricity. Energy research should be strengthened, while considering the full potential of gas." argues Prof. Horst Steinmüller, Chairman Scientific Advisory Board.

The document picks up the approach that ERIG has followed as a guiding principle right from the start, namely, to consider an entire world of energy, consisting of electrons and molecules as energy carriers and with the associated technologies and infrastructure.

This holistic approach is also reflected in the overarching guiding principles of the document:

- **Quality** - Suggestions for actions must be based on accountable research and realistic projections of possible developments
- **Completeness** -Time, existing infrastructure, and overall systemic effects must be primary considerations

- **Feasibility** - Disruption must be minimised for social acceptance and feasibility.

From ERIG's point of view, these guiding principles are universal and undeniable. They do not only serve ERIG itself as a guideline, but should also be used as a benchmark when assessing third-party proposals. They reflect ERIG's attitude towards energy innovation in general.

ERIG also stands for gas innovation. Amongst the energy molecules, gas is closest to the world of electrons, and it is also the cleanest burning with the lowest share of emissions. ERIG regards three theses on the topic of gas innovation as necessary for a successful energy transition in line with the guiding principles:

- **Gas in the center** - Gas is the key factor in achieving an integrated energy system of electron- and molecule-based
- **Multi-gas not Mono-gas** - All types of energy gas should be considered and deployed on the market based on their GHG reduction potential
- **Gas is an R&D priority** - R&D efforts for gas solutions must be intensified.

Please find more information at www.erig.eu/news.

About ERIG

The European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG) is a non-profit organisation which aims at strengthening the important role that gas plays as an energy source for the transition of the European energy system in synergy with intermittent renewable energy production. The members are national technical and scientific gas organizations and associations in Europe. They represent, in particular, the interests of the energy and gas sectors in Europe. Currently, ERIG consists of the following member associations:

- Danish Gas Technology Centre (DGC)
- German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW)
- Austrian Association for Gas and Water (ÖVGW)
- Swiss Gas and Water Association (SVGW) and Association of the Swiss Natural Gas Industry (VSG)
- GASSCO (Norway)
- Slovak Gas and Oil Association (SGOA)
- New Energy Coalition (NEC)

The network focuses particularly on promoting innovation and development. Through its members, ERIG is directly linked to research institutes, universities and industry in the respective countries. The broad research portfolio covers all aspects of the supply chain, from extraction to use of gas, and promotes European cooperation in energy research and development projects specifically in the area of sustainable gases and related innovative technologies. Moreover, ERIG will also support the strategic research agenda of the EU in the area of energy and gas. This includes initiating joint European research projects on the future role of gases in the energy system.

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