

PRESS RELEASE

Heidelberg, 05 Feb 2020

OMV hydrogen filling station in Heidelberg celebrates official opening

- **H₂ MOBILITY, Air Liquide, and OMV join Heidelberg's Mayor Eckart Würzner in opening the city's first hydrogen station**
- **Site strengthens eco-friendly mobility in the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region**
- **Funded by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure**

Fuel-cell vehicles can now refuel in Heidelberg as well. On February 5, 2020, in the presence of Mayor Würzner, the partners H₂ MOBILITY Deutschland, Air Liquide, and OMV opened the city's first hydrogen station at Speyerer Strasse 20 in Heidelberg. The second supply point for hydrogen cars in the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region is the station on Bergstrasse in Hirschberg, which has been in operation since 2017.

The technology for the H₂ plant in Speyerer Strasse is by Air Liquide and enables the refuelling of around 40 vehicles per day. The owner and operator is the H₂ MOBILITY Deutschland joint venture between the companies Air Liquide, Daimler, Linde, OMV, Shell and TOTAL have joined forces. The partners' first goal, to be achieved in the course of 2020, is to operate 100 stations in German metropolitan areas and along major roads and motorways. Further hydrogen filling stations are to be added as the number of fuel-cell vehicles increases.

For the construction of the hydrogen station in Heidelberg, H₂ MOBILITY received funding of close to 950,000 euros from the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) through the National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP).

Hydrogen-powered electromobility reduces CO₂ emissions

Environmentally friendly electric mobility using hydrogen causes neither local pollutants nor CO₂ emissions and offers a high level of driving convenience thanks to short refuelling times and long ranges. Fuel-cell vehicles can be refuelled in just three minutes for a range of 500 to 700 kilometres.

Professor Dr Eckart Würzner, Mayor of the City of Heidelberg:

“The opening of the hydrogen filling station in Heidelberg is an important step on our way to becoming a climate-neutral city. Fuel cells are the technology of the future. They enable emissions-free heavy goods transport, bus and long-distance traffic in the region and help ensure clean air in our cities. With the new hydrogen filling station, the city has committed itself to building a fuel-cell vehicle fleet of 30 vehicles by 2021. We are already leading by example: Our municipal vehicle fleet currently includes four cars using this technology – The first fuel-cell waste removal vehicle is to be added in 2020. All this can only work with the necessary infrastructure. That’s what we’re laying the foundations for today.”

Michael Mayer-Sonnenburg, Head of the Service Station Business, OMV Deutschland:

“Petrol stations are key contact and supply points for the mobility transition. They provide the necessary infrastructure and thus make an important contribution to the ecologically and economically sustainable mobility of the future. We believe in the long-term success of hydrogen and have therefore been committed to the infrastructure’s network expansion for a long time.”

Frédéric Minaud, Managing Director Air Liquide Advanced Technologies GmbH:

“At this point, hydrogen is one of our best solutions for achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. In particular, hydrogen has the potential to efficiently decarbonize the transport sector, one of the major sources of pollution in our cities. Air Liquide is proud to be involved alongside other key private and public players in building Europe’s largest hydrogen infrastructure, and thereby creating the conditions for the roll-out of fuel-cell vehicles in Germany.”

Nikolas Iwan, Managing Director H₂ MOBILITY:

H₂ MOBILITY is systematically expanding the hydrogen refilling station network in Germany. After completing 100 fuelling stations in the course of the year, H₂ MOBILITY will in future purposefully build where there is demand. Because zero-emissions fuel-cell passenger cars and commercial vehicles will command a significant market share worldwide and will make a major contribution to reducing emissions in traffic and transport. We are creating the conditions that will enable more and more people and companies to switch to hydrogen.

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