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Press release
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Axègaz
LNG Motion, a European high added value project,
reached a new milestone on 26 October 2016.



With its partners, Charles André Group (GCA) and PitPoint.LNG, Axègaz develops the initiative of LNG Motion project.

With support from Europe, it plans to develop a European natural gas distribution network, in liquefied and compressed form, in order to achieve sustainable road transport.

LNG Motion receives European financing through a subsidy contract which has laid the groundwork for a future network of 400 LNG/CNG/biomethane vehicle service stations till 2030.

Unveiled in March during the SITL trade show, and selected in June by the European Commission as part of the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport (CEF-T) program, the Motion LNG project reached a new milestone on 26 October 2016.



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“This subsidy contract was signed with the Executive Agency for Innovation and Networks (INEA) that is managing the CEF-T program for the European Commission. Till December 2020, it provides for the payment of a subsidy to the LNG Motion project of a total amount of M€ 27.8”, states Edouard de Montmarin, the Business Development Manager for Axègaz Transport Solutions.

This European financing represents 50 % of the project cost, which is estimated M€ 60.

Creating a distribution network

Today, the importance of natural gas as the most viable sustainable alternative to diesel has been acknowledged by all players in the field of public and private road transport of goods.

“To support the investments from commercial road transport companies asked by their shipping clients and to help OEM’s in promoting their new high performance gas engines, the availability of a dense distribution network at the scale of Europe is key factor of success.”

This is the goal pursued by the LNG Motion project. Its capability of deploying and rendering 42 public vehicle service stations operational in 9 Member Nations, within 3 years, along the major road corridors was a decisive factor in the choice made by the European Commission.

New tasks

The subsidy contract states all the objectives of the LNG Motion project through 9 tasks. Entrusted to Axègaz, the project coordinator, the first task involves managing and coordinating the project and communicating the results through a dedicated website in particular.

The next two tasks involve the deployment, logistical provisioning and operation of 14 LNG vehicle service stations, with a capacity of 20 m³, and 28 LNG/CNG vehicle service stations of a capacity of 60 to 80 m³.

“The template used for the 14 20 m³ stations is the Axègaz LNG Box, winner of the best innovation “Transport Equipment” Award during the SITL 2016”, states Edouard de Montmarin.

The tasks of acquisition of a fleet of 200 heavy gas trucks, half of which are ADR, and its operation in the prevalent conditions throughout Europe have been entrusted to the Charles André Group (GCA). This task provides for analyses of vehicle performance levels and their greenhouse gas, Nitrogen oxide, fine particulate matter and noise emissions.



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The regularisation and standardisation of the process for managing the network as well as the definition of its computer systems and payment methods in the 9 Member Nations are the core aspects of the 5th task.

400 stations and biomethane study

Once the groundwork for the network has been laid, the four other tasks are dedicated to prepare for transition towards sustainable road transport in Europe. Socio-economic, cost-benefit and profitability analyses shall be carried out on the basis of the infrastructure obtained from the infrastructure and the deployed fleet.

“Their results shall be used as inputs for the final assessment of the project. This assessment shall be used to identify the conditions for creating a network throughout Europe for distribution of gas, consisting of 400 vehicle service stations from now to 2030”, said Edouard de Montmarin.

The final assessment also includes a regulatory and administrative section in order to facilitate and accelerate the creation of new stations throughout Europe.

“To optimise the environmental advantages of gas as a fuel, the subsidy contract for the LNG Motion project also includes a feasibility study for the potential of bio-LNG in road transport of goods”.

Pilot stations

The day after the signature of the subsidy contract with INEA, Axègaz completed a capital raising operation for M€ 7.5, of which M€ 5 were contributed by the Caisse Des Dépôts and M€ 2.5 by the capital-investment company 123 Venture, who has been a traditional partner of Axègaz. **This capital raising was intended to support the development of Axègaz in the provision of natural gas for road transport”.**

After the station which was developed this year at the Lille Lesquin CRT, five new 20 m3 LNG vehicle service stations, which are a part of the LNG Motion project, shall be opened in France in 2017 (including Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois and Dijon).

* France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Poland, Italy and Spain