

### Working with the European Commission



It has been a busy few months for GERG and its interactions with the European Commission, particularly in relation to new and renewable gases and hydrogen.

- 1) The EC accepted the report produced for our Phase 2a “**Lowering barriers to the introduction of biomethane**” project, funded through CEN with support from several GERG members and in association with CEN TC408. The outcome of the project led to the allocation of two further tranches of European funding totalling €4.8M. GERG partners have worked, alongside Engie, to produce a detailed quotation for CEN for the next phase due to begin this year. The proposal still sits with the Commission awaiting final approval. This phase of the project will begin detailed experimental investigations into issues surrounding siloxanes and sulphur as well as oxygen in underground storage.
- 2) The GERG Secretary was invited in July to present to a new DG Energy Working Group on hydrogen, chaired by Klaus Dieter Borchardt, the Deputy Director General. GERG was introduced to the meeting as **pioneers of the European activities related to understanding hydrogen introduction in the energy system, particularly relating to power to gas and sector integration**. The GERG view was invited to counter what is seen as the rapid increase in less technically grounded outlook of the future of gas and hydrogen in Europe.
- 3) The Second stage of work of the CEN/ JRC Sector Forum Energy Management Working `group Hydrogen came to a conclusion this Summer with publication of the [Second Report](#). GERG has convened one of the five Tas Forces (Cross Cutting) and contributed to others. The work to develop PNR and standardisation roadmaps for hydrogen introduction into our energy system will continue in this group next year.
- 4) GERG was invited by DG Energy, along with CEN TC234 (gas infrastructure) and CEN TC408 , to meetings in late June to discuss a new CEN-led work programme on PNR priorities for hydrogen introduction in the gas networks. The work process for this program parallels the one that has already shown success for biomethane.

Through an extensive consultation process during the Summer, involving many CEN TCs and the Sector Fora, **8 consolidated priorities** were identified for detailed review, within a **1-year work programme**. GERG members have been working hard with the Secretariat to construct a detailed CEN quote. The quote is being submitted by CEN at the time of writing, with a view to finalising contracts with the EC this year.

- 5) GERG was involved in the development of a proposal, led by ENGIE, for the **project THyGa** – a new R&D project within the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. We are pleased to report the project was successful in evaluation and will start at the beginning of 2020 for a period of 3 years. The project will screen the portfolio of technologies in the domestic and commercial sectors and assess theoretically and experimentally the impact of hydrogen / natural gas admixtures. Tests of up to 100 residential and commercial gas appliances (hobs, boilers, CHP, heat pumps, etc.) will be carried out.

Future certification methods will also be explored, as well as mitigation solutions for appliances/technologies having proven to be sensitive. As well as Engie and GERG, partners include DGC, GasBe, DVGW(EBI) and GWI, CEA and Electrolux. Several companies, both operators and manufacturers, have agreed to be part of an advisory group.

## PROJECTS



### *Removing the barriers to Biomethane Injection*

See above for the latest news

### *MEEM2 – Validation of the MEEM emissions estimation portfolio*

Kiwa has now begun work to deliver an important project to experimentally validate the results of the MEEM project. We have been able to raise commitments for financial support from E.ON, GRT Gaz, Nedbeer Nederland, Sedigas, and Innogy, to cover the entire project budget.

The objective is to develop an approach for a European set of measurements of underground leakages to be used in a methane emission evaluation method. The initial and major part of the project concerns the evaluation of the (statistical) accuracy of the suction method for the measurement of reference leaks. For the emission of methane from underground pipelines, the emission measurement by suction sampling has been identified as widely used and effective. However, measurements show a large variation in leak flow sizes. Details of the suction sampling technique, soil and weather conditions have a significant influence on the measurements. The challenge is to quantify these uncertainties and to develop a rational plan for a coordinated European measurement program, that substantiates the statistical accuracy of methane emission measurement protocols, using a suitable set of reference measurements.

## Other Projects and Initiatives

Hydrogen projects with GERG involvement such as Elegancy, Hyready, Hydeploy are all proceeding well and updates can be accessed through links on the GERG website.

The Hydeploy project (within which GERG has an advisory role) reached the key milestone of evidence-based approval by the HSE for the trial at Keele University involving the injection of up to 20% v/v hydrogen in the local university gas distribution network. The trial itself commences this Autumn. This is a major step forward for the development of the roadmap for the use of hydrogen in UK gas networks.

## GERG Strategy



The strategy of the Group continues to evolve; at the last Board meeting GERG agreed to proceed with the development of three new Working Groups, chaired by our VPs, which align with the current priorities of the gas industry in Europe. These will deal with the topics of hydrogen (Werner Wessing), biomethane (Grzegorz Roslonek) and Methane Emissions (Berenice Crabs). The Working Groups will be tasked with developing roadmaps for the three areas, as well as feeding the strategic project requirement to the Programme Committees.

Some restructure of the Programme Committees is expected with more carefully defined Terms of Reference.

## GERG Symposium – Joint PC Meeting, Apeldoorn



Kiwa kindly hosted a joint meeting of PCDUT and PCLNG in September, which also included a plenary session to discuss GERG strategy and new project development.

The two-day meeting was attended by over 25 GERG members and provided an excellent opportunity to brainstorm ideas for the way forward, as well as hear updates and provide input on the major GERG initiatives.

## GERG MEETINGS



### September

The workshop **Methane Emissions along the gas value chain**, organised by Marcogaz and GIE on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, brought together representatives of international associations, industry and Commission to discuss the challenges of this high-profile issue. An action plan was put together during the meeting, summarising all the ongoing projects and initiatives in tackling Methane Emissions from the gas sector, including the GERG projects **MEEM (Phases I & II)**, **Quantifying underground leakages from (gas) pipelines**, and **Detection and measurement of the emission of natural gas from the gas transmission system**.

### October

The 8th International Natural Gas Congress and Fair (**INGAS 2019**), one of the biggest congress and fair organizations of Turkey, and brought together leaders of the natural gas industry in Istanbul the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

GERG was represented by the Vice President Werner Wessing.



### November

The **EGATEC 2019** conference organised by GERG and Marcogaz, and hosted by EnTranCE, will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. The conference offers a rich program built on the theme 'Gas in the Future European Energy Mix', with technical visits and 36 presentations from prominent and expert speakers. The conference will also host the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **GERG Young Researchers Awards**, offering young scientists and industry professionals the chance to exchange ideas, and encouraging research in the gas domain.

The GERG Board and General Assembly will take place in Groningen on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> November, at the head office of Gasunie.

### June 2020

The next **HIPSNET** members workshop will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at the GERG office in Brussels. The past edition, on 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, was highly successful with an attendance of over 25 people. The presentations are available in the members' area of the HIPS-NET website.

<https://www.dbi-gruppe.de/hips-net.html>