PRESS RELEASE

Hydrogen consortium applies for EU funding

- **Project is groundbreaking for the ramp-up of the hydrogen economy in Germany**
- **Funding and regulatory course setting important building blocks for realisation**

Lingen/Essen/Bochum, 20. November 2020. The GET H2 Nukleus project continues to take shape. The aim is to create the country's first publicly accessible hydrogen network with scalable industrial production of green hydrogen. The hydrogen consortium around RWE Generation, bp, Evonik, Nowega and OGE has now submitted an application for funding from the EU Innovation Fund.

In concrete terms, the funding application is for the assumption of part of the investment and operating costs of RWE and bp for the production and purchase of green hydrogen in the GET H2 Nukleus. The funding applied for amounts to a medium double-digit million euro amount spread over ten years. A funding commitment would be important in order to bring the project to economic viability in the context of the ramp-up of climate-neutral hydrogen aimed at achieving the climate targets and to enable binding investment decisions to be taken.

GET H2 Nukleus aims to initiate the national expansion of a hydrogen economy along the value chain in Germany. To this end, RWE Generation plans to build a 100-megawatt electrolysis plant on the site of its gas power station in Lingen as a first step. The largest existing plant of this kind in Germany will probably produce two tonnes of green hydrogen per hour from 2024. This hydrogen will be transported in existing pipelines of the natural gas pipeline network to the bp refinery in Gelsenkirchen, to Evonik's Marl Chemical Park and possibly to other customers.

Hydrogen is already an important component in the chemical industry today and will play an even greater role in the future. In the Marl Chemical Park, for example, it is evident how versatile hydrogen is already being used today. The material is used on the site, which has almost 20 companies, in almost every laboratory and every plant - and almost always in decisive processes.

At the bp refinery in Gelsenkirchen, green hydrogen is expected to save 105,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year. Over the funding period of ten years, this would mean a total saving of around 1 million tonnes of CO_2. In support of the EU Innovation Fund application, the use of green hydrogen at the bp refinery in Gelsenkirchen was analysed in detail in a technical study. This confirmed the basic feasibility.

In order for the entire project to progress rapidly, it requires not only funding but also the right governmental framework conditions - for example, the EEG surcharges on the

electricity used in hydrogen production must be reduced and legal regulations for the operation of the hydrogen networks must be in place so that the existing gas pipelines can be converted. For future customers such as bp, the ability of green hydrogen to be counted towards its greenhouse gas reduction targets is crucial.

The EU Innovation Fund (EU IF) is one of the world's largest funding programmes for the demonstration of low-carbon technologies and processes. It focuses on flagship projects with the potential for significant emission reductions. After reviewing the application, the EU IF is expected to decide by spring 2021 whether GET H2 Nukleus will be approved for the second application phase. By the end of 2021 it will be clear whether the GET H2 Nukleus will be eligible for funding.

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GET H2 Nukleus project partners:

BP Europa SE
BP Europa SE employs around 10,500 people in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. The company is based in Hamburg, where its lubricants, aviation and shipping businesses are handled. Bochum is the administrative headquarters of bp in Germany, as well as being the hometown of the German retail market business Aral. The supply and sales units of BP Europa SE are also based here. The company also operates refineries and retail stations in other European countries. With around 43 million tonnes of petroleum products under the brand names of Aral, bp and Castrol, BP Europa SE meets a large part of annual demand in Europe. Bp has set itself the ambitious aim of becoming net zero by 2050 or earlier. This applies particularly to all of bp's operative activities on an absolute basis and includes a stepwise increase in investments in alternative businesses.

Evonik Industries AG
Evonik is a global leader in specialty chemicals. The Group is active in over 100 countries and in 2019 generated sales of 13.1 billion and a profit (adjusted EBITDA) of EUR 2.15 billion. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create value-adding and sustainable solutions

as a partner to its customers. More than 32,000 employees are united by a common drive: We want to make life better, day after day.
As an integral part of Evonik, the division **Technology & Infrastructure GmbH** supports customers on their growth path with reliable technology and infrastructure services from the Energy & Utilities, Technical Service, Process Technology & Engineering, Logistics and Site Management units. At Evonik sites around the world, customers can draw on the services and expertise of Technology & Infrastructure, which employs about 8,000 people.

Nowega GmbH
Nowega GmbH is a transmission system operator, based in Münster. A subsidiary of Erdgas Münster GmbH, Nowega operates, maintains and markets around 1,500 kilometres of high-pressure gas pipelines. The pipeline network stretches from the Dutch border across Lower Saxony and parts of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Wendland, and it is part of the inner European transportation route for natural gas.

OGE GmbH
OGE is one of the leading transmission system operators in Europe. With a pipeline network measuring around 12,000 kilometres, the company transports gas throughout Germany. Due to its geographical position, OGE connects up the gas flows in the European internal market. The company's 1,450 staff stand for security of supplies. OGE makes its network available to all market players in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, and in line with market requirements. The company shapes energy supplies, both today and with the energy mix of the future.

RWE Generation SE
RWE Generation SE, based in Essen, is responsible within the RWE company for power generation on the basis of gas, coal, hydrogen and biomass. The company has a workforce of around 2,700 people – in Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Turkey – who operate power stations with a total output of around 25 gigawatts. Performing securely and flexibly, these power stations help to make sure that there is a reliable supply of power for Europe's power grids, alongside the steadily growing – though by nature volatile – contribution made by renewable energies.