A consortium of major industry players in the hydrogen field has been awarded NOK 33.5 million under the PILOT-E funding scheme for the development of a liquid hydrogen (LH2) supply chain for maritime applications.

The aim of the project is to build a full-scale national hydrogen infrastructure in order to secure a reliable supply chain of LH2 to decarbonize maritime transport in Norway. This value chain will be the first of its kind in the world.

The consortium consists of BKK, Equinor, Air Liquide, NCE Maritime CleanTech, NORCE, Norled, NorSea Group, Viking Ocean Cruises and Wilhelmsen. Gexcon is a part of this consortium through our parent company, NORCE.

“We are very glad and thankful to be a part in developing a green hydrogen solution in Norway and we are looking forward to work together with our partners,” said Geirmund Vislie, Vice President Hydrogen Safety of Gexcon AS. “Gexcon’s role in the project will be focused on ensuring safe implementation of the hydrogen supply chain infrastructure.”

Important for The Industry

Jannicke Hilland, CEO of BKK, mentioned, “this is a very important day for the industry and for the maritime sector. Currently, there are ongoing hydrogen projects within the fields of cruise ships, offshore vessels, ferries and fast ferries in Norway, but in order to accelerate shipping’s transition to zero-emission solutions we need to establish a supply chain for green hydrogen. This project therefore gives great potential for both industrial development and significant emission reductions.”

Lars Strandberg, VP Hydrogen Energy Europe Industries of Air Liquide, stated, “Air Liquide brings to the project more than 40 years of experience in producing and distributing liquid hydrogen, safely and reliably. Liquid hydrogen based on renewable energy will become a competitive zero-emission option for shipping when produced at strategic locations in large volumes, and when offered through an efficient and secured supply chain. The project aims to facilitate the efficient and secured supply chain to make this transition happen”.

The First of Its Kind in The World

Steinar Eikaas, Vice President for Low Carbon Solutions of Equinor, said, “this value chain would be a first of its kind in the world, and would be an important step in developing clean fuels for the maritime sector. Equinor is happy to be part of this strong consortium, and to be working with the very innovative and forward-looking Norwegian maritime ecosystem.”
which include public and private actors.”

Trond Moengen, Director of PILOT-E, stated, “we are happy to support an ambitious and innovative project that will be of great importance for the development towards zero-emission shipping, both in Norway and internationally. Hydrogen is one of the solutions we have great expectations for, and this project will contribute to promoting Norway’s leading position within the development of green maritime solutions.”

About Pilot-E
The PILOT-E scheme is a funding scheme for the Norwegian business sector launched as a collaboration between the Research Council, Innovation Norway and Enova SF. The objective of the scheme is to promote more rapid development and deployment of new, environment-friendly energy technologies and services to help reduce emissions both in Norway and internationally.

For more information

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About Members of the Consortium

BKK
BKK’s core activities are the generation, sale and transmission of electric power, and the extension of fibre networks. Our vision is “We provide new opportunities for tomorrow”. BKK shall lead the way in developing climate-friendly energy and future-oriented infrastructure solutions.
https://www.bkk.no/

Equinor
Equinor is the leading operator on the Norwegian continental shelf and have substantial international activities. We are engaged in exploration, development and production of oil and gas, as well as wind and solar power. We sell crude oil and are a major supplier of natural gas, with activities in processing, refining, and trading.
https://www.equinor.com/

Air Liquide
A world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 66,000 employees and serves more than 3.6 million customers and patients.
https://www.airliquide.com/

NCE Maritime Cleantech
NCE Maritime CleanTech (NCE MCT) represents one of the world’s most complete maritime commercial hubs. We focus on establishing sustainable innovation projects with commercial potential and work together for new clean maritime solutions.
https://maritimecleantech.no/

NORCE (Norwegian Research Centre)
NORCE is a new and forward-looking research institute, with expertise in a wide range of fields and strong communities of knowledge. We deliver research and innovation in energy, health care, climate, the environment, society and technology.
https://www.norceresearch.no/

Norled
Norled is one of Norway’s largest ferry and express boat operators. The company has 80 vessels and operates ferry and express boat services from the Oslofjord to Troms county. Norled has invested significantly in new types of vessels and eco-friendly technology and has developed solutions used solely by the company.
https://www.norled.no/

NorSea Group
NorSea provides supply bases and integrated logistics solutions to the energy industry. NorSea and its associates and joint ventures operate nine supply bases along the coast of Norway, as well as supply bases in Denmark and the UK.
https://norseagroup.com/

Viking Ocean Cruises
With an operational office in Basel, Switzerland, Viking provides destination-focused itineraries designed for experienced travelers who have an interest in geography, culture and history.
https://www.vikingcruises.co.uk/

Wilhelmsen
The Wilhelmsen group operates the largest maritime network on the planet, with over 2,200 locations worldwide. Delivering market-leading products and services to over half of the worlds merchant fleet, we also supply best in class crew and technical management to the biggest and most complex vessels currently at sea.
https://www.wilhelmsen.com/

As Part of NORCE

Gexcon
Gexcon is a world-leading company in the field of safety and risk management and advanced dispersion, explosion and fire modelling. Our experience is built up throughout extensive research projects, safety assessments, accident investigations and physical experiments.
https://www.gexcon.com/

Prototech
Prototech is a provider of technology development, engineering, product design and manufacturing services covering a broad spectrum of areas including space applications, new energy systems, offshore technology as well as industrial and consumer products.
https://www.prototech.no/
About Gexcon
Gexcon is a world-leading company in the field of safety and risk management and advanced dispersion, explosion and fire modelling.

Our experience arises from detailed knowledge of explosion phenomena built up throughout years of conducting extensive research projects, carrying out safety assessments, performing accident investigations, and performing physical testing at the company's facilities.

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