

Momentum for the hydrogen economy: VDE Group joins Hydrogen Europe

- **Burkhard Holder, CEO of VDE Renewables, and Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe, sign membership agreement at Intersolar 2022**
- **Core issues facing hydrogen economy include bankability and insurability of products and systems as well as gaps in standards**
- **VDE Renewables brings 15 years of experience in working with banks and insurance companies and in developing quality seals**

(Munich, May 11, 2022) The VDE Group has joined Hydrogen Europe, a non-profit organization with more than 350 members from the field of fuel cell and hydrogen technology. “Joining Hydrogen Europe will help us further leverage our experience in areas such as solar and wind energy to the benefit of the hydrogen industry,” said Burkhard Holder, CEO of VDE Renewables, as the membership agreement was signed at the 2022 Intersolar Europe exhibition in Munich. Manufacturers in this sector must consider not only electrical and functional safety but also performance, installation quality, monitoring and maintenance strategies if they want their products – everything from 2-gigawatt electrolyzers for wind turbines, to vehicle fuel cells, to sensors and safety valves for hydrogen filling stations – to be bankable and insurable. Over the last 15 years, VDE has established an international initiative to develop quality criteria with over 2,000 representatives from banks and insurance companies.

Pre-standards: synchronizing technology and safety

VDE will also be working within Hydrogen Europe to ensure the safety and quality of new products. Developing new standards takes several years due to the set processes and lengthy consultation periods that must be followed. In fast-moving fields like renewable energy or storage technologies, this means that standards and certifications do not reflect the current state of the art and are overtaken by new developments. To solve this problem, VDE will therefore develop pre-standards – supplementary criteria based on existing standards. “This is

how we can synchronize the latest technical design in hydrogen systems with safety aspects,” said Holder. Manufacturers can then sell their products with a quality seal indicating that they have been independently tested by VDE.

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe, is excited about the new opportunities: “We are delighted by VDE’s decision to join and by the expertise that VDE Renewables will be bringing aboard. We will now be able to even more systematically address the issues facing our member companies.”

VDE sees great potential for hydrogen to expand the use of renewable energy. The gas is an excellent storage medium, allowing use of renewables to be decoupled from production in terms of time and location. In the context of sector coupling, this will have a positive impact on the whole energy sector and especially on grid stability.

About VDE Renewables

VDE Renewables, a subsidiary of the VDE Group, offers quality assurance services for the global renewable energy sector. Based in Alzenau, Germany, the company’s services include quality testing and certification according to the highest safety, reliability, and performance standards, as well as independent engineering and technical due diligence. VDE Renewables works closely with all structures of the VDE Group and its internationally renowned network, which include the leading research and development bodies such as the Fraunhofer Institutes and insurance firms such as Allianz and Munich Re. Together with its partners, VDE Renewables supports its customers with their specific requirements, such as gaining access to new markets, differentiating themselves from their competitors or enabling them to receive more attractive insurance or financing conditions.

For more information, visit www.vde.com/renewables

About VDE

VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 125 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development “on the job”. Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main.

For more information, visit www.vde.com

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