

STEAG cooperation with ADNOC pays off

First shipment of ammonia imminent to arrive in Hamburg // Talks about follow-up projects underway

Hamburg/Abu Dhabi/Essen. Part of the demonstration deliveries of carbon-reduced ammonia agreed in spring between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and various German energy and chemical companies has arrived in Hamburg; the tranche destined for STEAG will follow in the coming days. Representatives of ADNOC, STEAG and other companies as well as government representatives of the United Arab Emirates and the Federal Republic of Germany met in Hamburg today to mark the occasion. The aim was not only to take stock, but also to discuss options for further cooperation. ADNOC and STEAG are currently negotiating an expansion of their cooperation.

"We are very pleased that the cooperation that began in the spring has developed so positively within such a short time," says Dr Andreas Reichel, CEO of STEAG GmbH. Especially in the face of the current crisis on the energy markets, this shows the declared will of the partners to quickly find solutions to secure the energy supply in the long term while not losing sight of the needs of climate protection.

For STEAG, ammonia offers various options for use: "On the one hand, ammonia is used in our hard coal-fired power plants in the denitrification of flue gases," explains Dr Ralf Schiele, who is responsible for the Market and Technology divisions in the STEAG management. In denitrification, ammonia is added to the flue gases, which then reacts with the nitrogen oxides contained in the flue gas to form water and nitrogen, thus purifying the flue gases.

Ammonia as a hydrogen transport medium

"In addition, ammonia can also be a transport medium for hydrogen," Ralf Schiele continues. By means of the well-known Haber-Bosch process, ammonia can be produced synthetically from hydrogen and nitrogen. "Since the transport of ammonia is much easier than that of hydrogen, the material diversions via ammonia is a thoroughly sensible alternative," says Ralf Schiele. The ammonia can then be split into the components nitrogen and hydrogen again at the customer's production plant.

Talks on further cooperation

In view of the broad range of applications for ammonia, particularly in industry and energy generation, ADNOC and STEAG, together with other potential partners, are holding talks on intensifying the cooperation that was agreed during a delegation trip by Federal Minister of Economics and Climate Action Robert Habeck to the United Arab Emirates in March 2022. "It is now generally recognised that hydrogen is the key element for a successful energy transition. Consequently, STEAG is developing projects for green hydrogen production by means of electrolysis on an industrial scale at two locations," says Andreas Reichel. However, in view of the foreseeably high demand for hydrogen, it is necessary to import hydrogen in addition to producing it domestically in order to meet the needs of customers in the long term.

Talks between the two partners are ongoing. "As soon as there is something concrete to report, we will of course make a statement," said Andreas Reichel. At the same time, he thanked Federal Minister of Economics Habeck, whose delegation trip provided the initial impetus for the deepened cooperation that is now taking shape.

About STEAG

For 85 years, STEAG has stood for efficient and reliable power generation, both in Germany and abroad. As an experienced partner, we support our customers comprehensively in all phases of power supply. We design, develop, implement, operate and market highly efficient energy solutions – from distributed generation facilities and those based on renewable sources to large central power plants. Together with customized solutions in the field of electricity and heat supply, we also provide a wide range of energy services – increasingly on the basis of renewables. Successfully so: From 1990 until the end of 2021, STEAG has permanently reduced its own CO₂ emissions in Germany by more than 80 percent.

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