

Research Facility with ETOGAS Electrolysis is inaugurated

Unique research project on the underground storage of solar and wind energy is launched in Austria.

Stuttgart, Germany / Pilsbach, Austria - October 5th, 2015 - The research facility of the Underground Sun Storage project was officially opened by the Austrian Minister of Technology, Alois Stöger, at its site in the Austrian town of Plisbach at an inauguration ceremony attended by representatives from the press and the world of politics. The project is currently the only project in Europe to test the possibility of storing hydrogen in former natural gas reservoirs as an additive to natural gas on the basis of the power-to-gas principle. The green hydrogen will be obtained from the electrolyser developed by ETOGAS, which uses surplus electricity from wind power plants and solar plants to split water into its elements of oxygen and hydrogen.

“We are proud to be the partner of such a future-oriented project. As a company founded in Austria and a power-to-gas pioneer, ETOGAS is particularly pleased to support this project and supply it with our innovative electrolysis system”, declares Dr Karl Maria Grünauer, a Managing Partner of ETOGAS GmbH.

The Underground Sun Storage research project, which involves total cost of 4.5 million euros, has been granted funding of 2.8 million euros by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit) and the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund. The Project Consortium, which is led by the energy company RAG Rohöl-Aufsuchungs Aktiengesellschaft, is now continuing its research activities in the newly commissioned storage facility. Completion of the project is expected in 2016.



Underground Sun Storage Test Facility in Pilsbach, Austria // Photo: RAG

RAG CEO Markus Mitteregger: “The results from laboratory tests conducted as part of the project have been very promising, and have fed into implementation of the test facility. We are even more excited about the data and insights that operating the new installation will generate.”