Plug Power Vice President, Public Affairs:

**”I am blown away by the local commitment”**

Written by Henrik Kastoft

Tuesday 3 September a delegation from Plug Power – a world-leading provider of green hydrogen and fuel cell energy solutions, headquartered in the state of New York (US) – visited a decommissioned agriculture a few kilometers West of Holstebro.

Plug Power has acquired the land soon to be the Southernmost part of the future Energy Hub located at Idomlund. The Energy Hub will be a cutting-edge hot spot for several global pioneers specialized in transforming wind and solar energy into green hydrogen and ammonia.

So far, closely cooperating with the Municipality of Holstebro five domestic and international businesses are involved in developing the Energy Hub: RWE (GE), CIP/COP (DK), Skovgaard Energy (DK), Everfuel (DK), and Plug Power (US).

Plug Power has outlined a two-phase approach for its plant in Idomlund. The first phase will begin prior to the area's connection to Denmark's hydrogen backbone. The second phase, contingent on the completion of the hydrogen backbone, will commence once the infrastructure is in place.

**“Holstebro is the right place to lead”**

There’s nothing but opportunity to see at the location right now. Plug Power Public Affairs Vice President, Erin Lane, was thrilled to visit what is soon to become a busy construction site:

“It is my first visit to this region in Denmark – and I assure you: I am blown away by the local commitment. Over the past two days I have met with community residents and businesses, civil servants and politicians, investors and partners. The knowledge of green energy transition and the displays of commitment has been overwhelming, making it an easy decision for us to capitalize on opportunity. Denmark is the right place for Plug Power to be – Holstebro is the right place to lead”.

Plug Power’s investment in a green hydrogen power plant at Idomlund would be a significant step into the European market, and the paradigm shift to an increasingly electrified world with green hydrogen and fuel cell solutions to support an array of industries, replacing fossil fuels, and phase out energy dependency that from a geopolitical point of view is compromised.

“"We were pioneers in the U.S. market, having commissioned the first-of-its-kind green hydrogen plant in Georgia, capable of producing carbon-free hydrogen at commercial scale, powered entirely by renewable energy sources. From our presence elsewhere in Europe – including the Netherlands and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges in Belgium– we have solid market understanding, and see incentives start to have impact. The European green hydrogen market will grow substantially. I feel confident that US and Europe will learn from each other on green hydrogen. Idomlund is basically work in progress with two strong allies – Denmark and the United States – that between them have an outstanding relationship”.

**The hydrogen pipeline is crucial**

Like green energy businesses, investors, and local decisionmakers Plug Power have fingers crossed that the Danish Government and national Parliament will succeed to agree on a national decision for a hydrogen pipeline to Germany and Europe.

“We hope a political decision on the pipeline will be processed sooner than later. For our part a full-scale investment will depend on the pipeline. We cannot wait forever. We are not worried though. The bigger picture is crystal clear: Denmark is a global leader in green energy transition. We rest assured that political leaders will strive to maintain and strengthen that unique position by taking the right decision”.

Establishing a new business in Holstebro is far more than politics, however:

“Plug Power will commit itself to a strong involvement locally. We have learned that handball is an extremely popular sport around here. As a consequence, we have had the first meetings to discuss what a sponsorship could look like”.

**No workforce worries**

Based on her visit, Erin Lane has no issues regarding the future Energy Hub and Plug Power hydrogen plant – that goes for the future workforce as well:

“We have nurtured the ‘clean energy job’ workforce for more than 25 years. We have established green hydrogen plants inthe United States and are establishing others in Europe. . Our experience attracting engineers and experts has been positive. I cannot foresee that being an issue here in Denmark. From other sites around the world, we have learned that former military personnel and experienced construction workers are a great workforce. Brilliant team players with strong capacities to get things done”.

After their visit to Idomlund Erin Lane and the Plug Power delegation is soon on their way to Thorsminde. To inspect the Westcoast site where electricity from giant offshore wind turbine parks will power to x – transform the force of wind into green hydrogen and ammonia at several specialized plants in the Energy Hub.

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**(((Bonus information I)))**

**Making green hydrogen a reality today**

Plug Power was founded 25 years ago with the goal of powering the world using renewable energy. Since then, the US-headquartered company has grown to become the leading provider of green hydrogen with the world’s largest fueling station footprint with 60,000 fuel cell systems and more than 185 fueling stations.

Customers include Walmart, Amazon, and Carrefour. Green hydrogen is the only form of hydrogen produced using renewable sources, resulting in zero carbon emissions.

* Plug Power is using a technology called PEM water electrolysis that can be paired with renewable and intermittent sources of energy such as solar, wind, and hydro-electric power to produce green hydrogen.
* Plug Power liquefaction products make storage and transportation of hydrogen safe and efficient by cooling hydrogen at atmospheric pressure to temperatures below -400 °F (-204 °C).
* Plug Power has a fleet of hydrogen transport vehicles providing customers with liquid and gaseous green hydrogen.
* Plug Power offers on-site storage and handling systems designed for each customer’s individual requirements, including warehouses, hydrogen fueling stations, data centers or industrial plants.
* Plug Power develops and manufactures PEM based fuel cells that power a variety of customer applications including forklifts, trucks, robotics and aerospace. Fuel cells also serve as backup or primary generators at distribution and data centers.

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**(((Bonus information II)))**

**Green energy will fuel many jobs**

March 2023 Denmark and Germany signed a declaration of intend to establish an underground pipeline enabling transportation of hydrogen from the Western part of Jutland to Germany. The ambition is for the pipeline to be fully established in 2028.

May 2023 a political agreement was reached. In the agreement it has been decided that Evida and Energinet will hold the public ownership to the pipeline.

Surveys suggest that the green energy transition will establish 100,000 jobs in Denmark. Calculations suggest that several thousand jobs may arise in the Holstebro region. The service port being established at Thorsminde indicates a significant job potential as the green energy transition gain momentum.

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