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First Announcement: MADEGASCAR conference

February 4, 2010, Prague, Hotel Dorint Don Giovanni

The international MADEGASCAR conference "On the Road with CNG and Biomethane" will be held in cooperation with the Third International NGV 2010 conference, which is themed "Prospects for the Development and Use of CNG in Transport", and is organised by the Czech Gas Association in cooperation with NGVA Europe. The conference will take place in the Dorint Hotel Don Giovanni Prague on 3 and 4 February, 2010. The MADEGASCAR conference is arranged as a separate session and will be held in the afternoon of 4 February, 2010. Participation in the MADEGASCAR session is free.

The programme of the MADEGASCAR session will include the highlights of the European best practice examples carried out within the scope of MADEGASCAR and will have a special focus on biomethane. The detailed programme will be available from the beginning of January 2010 on the website www.madegascar.eu.

News from the MADEGASCAR regions

Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany)

GASAG (Berlin's municipal gas supply company) is planning to install 15 biogas plants until 2015. The first plant in Rathenow, Brandenburg, operates since early September 2009. The plant is the first in the region of Berlin-Brandenburg feeding-in bio-methane into the CNG grid.

A 20 %-share of bio-methane is now offered at all NGV filling stations which are supplied by GASAG in the region of Berlin. To promote this initiative the Berliner Energieagentur GmbH has published a brochure on bio-methane. The brochure offers information on the production of bio-methane and the environmental benefits of this fuel in comparison to other fuels. It has been dispensed at bio-methane filling stations, at the IAA International Motor Show 2009 in Frankfurt/Main and other events.



The last MADEGASCAR project meeting took place between 21st and 22nd September in Berlin. At this meeting, the projects progress in regions and the individual work-packages have been discussed. Furthermore the consortium members inspected the biogas plant in Rathenow.

At the beginning of December 2009, Berliner Energieagentur GmbH and GASAG will organise a workshop for logistic companies and fleet operators, providing information about the use of natural gas in general as well as on assets and drawbacks of bio-methane for mobility.

Lithuania

Opening of three filling stations

Since the start of the project three gas filling stations have been established in Lithuania – two for public transport in Vilnius and Klaipeda and one for private car users in Vilnius. Due to active involvement of a private company, the municipality of Kaunas as well as the public transport authority a third public CNG filling station will be constructed in Kaunas.



CNG bus fleet

The Municipality of Klaipeda town, together with the bus fleet management company UAB "SG dujos" and the NG supply and distribution company "Lietuvos dujos" make strong efforts to raise awareness about the environmental and economical advantages of CNG in order to increase the CNG use in Lithuania. One successful step is the introduction of a public CNG bus fleet which operates in Klaipeda.

The Lithuanian Energy Agency, supported by private companies, advocates natural gas and biogas as fuel for transport so that these energy carriers would be defined as alternative fuels by the government and thus part of the National Energy Strategic Plan.

As a reaction to the efforts of private companies and the MADEGASCAR partner LEI, the Government of Lithuania has announced to amend legislation and to lower the excise tax for compressed natural gas used for public transport by the end of 2009. It is expected that due to this measure, the usage of CNG will increase in the near future.

Lower Austria



Erdgas(CNG) als Kraftstoff

Umweltschonend fahren
Geld und Energie sparen
Bewährte Motortechnologie



In early 2008, when the MADEGASCAR activities in Lower Austria were started, 13 CNG filling stations were situated in Lower Austria, nine of which were located in the proximity of Vienna. Since then the total number of CNG filling stations has increased to 28, securing an almost area-wide CNG supply in Lower Austria.

In order to increase awareness for CNG as a transport fuel, lots of marketing activities have been carried out by the Austrian Energy Agency in close cooperation with a consortium of stakeholders from the bio-methane and CNG sector in the region. An information leaflet entitled "CNG as a vehicle fuel" (see picture) was printed and distributed to certain target groups. The benefits of CNG and NGVs were presented at several large trade fairs and events. Current activities include efforts to lift the ban on CNG vehicles in garages, efforts to extend subsidies for NGVs to taxi companies and driving schools as well as media work.

Malardalen, Middle East of Sweden

Large biogas conference with car exhibition

This April, a large biogas conference was arranged at Uppsala Castle in Sweden. Over 130 attendants took part in the event, and more than 10 different gas vehicles were displayed in front of the castle.

Opening of Sweden´s 100th filling station in the region.



On August 11th, in the city of Västerås, Sweden´s 100th gas filling station was opened. The owner of the biogas plant and of the filling station, Svensk Växtkraft AB, offered gas vehicle owners the opportunity to fill their vehicles with bio methane for free. This event was very appreciated. Mälardalen Energy Agency and the MADEGASCAR project was involved in the opening event which received lots of media attention.

Launching of car sticker to promote gas vehicles

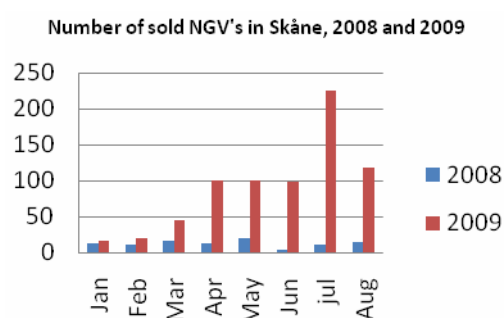
In order to promote gas vehicles in the region, a car sticker logo has been developed within the MADEGASCAR project. So far the interest for the sticker is very high, and gas vehicle owners all over the country have contacted Mälardalen Energy Agency to order the sticker.



Skåne, Sweden

Large increase of sold NGV's in South Sweden

In 2008 and 2009 the MADEGASCAR partner in Skåne, Skåne Energy Agency, has done lots of activities to inform municipalities, companies and private persons about the environmental and economical advantages of CNG as a vehicle fuel. Skåne Energy Agency participated at three large motor shows with a total of about 100,000 attendants. Furthermore several so called 'breakfast meetings', which are directed to private companies, and meetings with municipalities have been arranged. Several training seminars have been carried out for car resellers, which are an important target group.



After two thirds of the year 2009 a massive increase in sales of gas driven personal cars was observed in the Skåne region. Within the first eight months of 2009 a total of 727 NGV's have been registered in the region, compared to 105 in the same period of the previous year.

The CNG which is used by vehicles within the Skåne region consists of more than 50 % bio methane. Accordingly, the 727 new NGV's will annually save approximately 980 tons of CO₂.

Southeast Sweden

Information seminars in Southeast Sweden

Biogas Sydost currently organises a biogas seminar in order to emphasize best practice and hands on in establishing bio methane production plants and filling stations. Target groups for the seminars are politicians, county and municipality officials and employees, and individuals with interest in establishing

production plants or filling stations. The seminars are planned to be conducted in Växjö on 11 November 2009, in Ekerum and Öland on 20 January, 2010, and in Målilla and Nybro on 21 January, 2010. The seminars focus on the following questions and issues: Possibilities with Biomethane? Biomethane on the farm – a business opportunity? Biomethane for vehicles! Biomethane in the municipality? Biomethane in public transports!

Podravje (Slovenia)

Due to legal barriers CNG and biogas are still not an issue in the transport sector in Slovenia. Since there is no infrastructure for CNG vehicles there is also no possibility to buy gas vehicles in Slovenia. Therefore the Slovenian Energy Agency of Podravje (EnergPa) concentrates on the creation of a market for biogas and CNG and aims to raise awareness on this issue.

EnergPa promotes CNG publishing lots of information material and presenting the MADEGASCAR project to several stakeholders. The main achievement so far is the involvement of the Slovenian National Association of Gas Supply where all 16 gas providing companies count among its members.

National Workshop in CNG

Together with the Slovenian National Association of Gas Supply, EnergPa has organised a big national workshop in Ljubljana in cooperation with Slovenian National Chamber of Commerce. Several MADEGASCAR partners presented best practices from their country. The Swedish partner concentrated on the use of biogas in cars, while partners from Austria gave an overview on the use of natural gas in the transport sector in general and the partner from the Czech Republic presented the step by step implementation of gas cars at national and local level. Beside these lectures the participants had the opportunity to test various CNG cars. The results of the workshop were presented to the Ministry responsible for energy use, with the effect, that some new activities in the field of CNG development are currently on the horizon.



South Bulgarian Black Sea Region



The public transport company 'Bourgasbus' has bought 22 'Tedom' buses which are driven by CNG. After putting those into operation, an one month evaluation has been carried out which showed that a CNG bus saved about 20 Euros per every 100 km, depending on the run and operational conditions.

The renovation of the bus fleet of 'Bourgasbus' is a chief priority for the development of the company and the provision of sustainable transport in the municipality. The action has an ecological, economic and social effect. The smaller amount of exhaust gases, released in the atmosphere leads to a reduction

of CO₂ emissions and to an improvement of the atmospheric air. The low price of the fuel leads to financial resource saving as well. The tangible benefits from using CNG in transport rank it among the most efficient and ecologically clean alternative energy sources.

Aragon, Castilla and León (Spain)

In 2009, the Spanish network participated at a workshop and two international fairs and presented the MADEGASCAR project as well as the actions taken so far.

César Romero Tierno, the Deputy Director of the San Valero Foundation, has presented MADEGASCAR at the BIOSOFC workshop which was held in Santiago de Compostela in March 2009. In June 2009 Gas Natural S.L., a member of the Spanish MADEGASCAR network, participated at the GNV 09 International Fair in Madrid. In October 2009 MADEGASCAR has been presented International Fair on Bioenergy "Expobioenergía 09".



Prague (Czech Republic)



Information leaflet on biogas in transport

The Czech MADEGASCAR partner, SEVEn, published an information leaflet about the use of biogas in transport. The intention is to inform the Czech professional public about technical, economical and legal aspects of the conversion of biogas into bio methane, which is a full-value substitute for natural gas. Bio methane can be used for electricity and heat generation as well as to fuel motor vehicles. Moreover the leaflet contains detailed information about successfully implemented projects abroad in order to encourage the realization of similar projects in the Czech Republic.

Upgrading biogas to bio methane results into higher energy efficiency and at the same time has positive environmental effects due to lower lifecycle CO₂ emissions than petrol and diesel, less toxic pollutants and a reduced noise level.

Due to these advantages SEVEn, in co-operation with a number of institutions (the Czech Gas Association, the Energy Regulatory Office, the Czech Biogas Association, etc.), is actively striving to remove barriers, both when it comes to technical standards and the current legislation.

Somerset (UK)

After much lobbying Mercedes have now introduced the 'NGT Sprinter' into the UK, Iveco have made the 'Daily' available, and Volkswagen the 'Caddy'. The Organic Power Ltd. has fully taken advantage of this and demonstrated all three Mercedes models, the People Carrier, the Van, and the Dropside at various events, both nationally and in Somerset.



Recent events include the Brighton to London EcoRally, the national conference "Developing Biogas in the UK" at Stoneleigh, a visit by the Bishop of Bath and Wells to Horsington Fete and Organic Power Ltd, the Royal Bath & West Show and the SSDC Drive Smarter event.

Warsaw (Poland)

In the region geographically covered by the Institute for Renewable Energy (IEO), e.g. the Mazovian Voivodship of Poland (where the capital city of Warsaw is located), only two natural gas filling stations are in operation so far. The main users of the existing station at Kasprzaka St. are currently the cabs of Wawa Taxi, the station's owner and operators like the Mazovian Gas Company (Mazowiecka Spółka Gazownictwa). So far the Wawa Taxi cooperation is the only taxi company nationwide using natural gas to fuel their cabs. Currently 160 Wawa cabs are operated. The Mazovian Gas



Company which is a subsidiary of Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) – the national gas producer and distributor – runs 50 vans fuelled by natural gas: 40 Fiat Doblo and 10 Iveco Daily. The vehicles were originally equipped with mounted gas installation. Other users of the filling station are Dar Natury – company delivering bottled drinking water – and some private cars. The main disadvantage about this gas filling station is its inconvenient opening time from 8 am to 10 pm daily. Furthermore, it has only two fast fuelling points.

Construction of new gas filling station

IEO estimates that the lack of stations has strongly limited the number of gas fueled cars in the region. But this is due to change soon. A new gas filling station in Warsaw, Prądyńskiego Street, will be in operation from January 2010 and feature six fast filling points.

Website

We have updated the results of our work within the project and continued to upload interesting marketing materials from the partners regions. Therefore we encourage you to visit our MADEGASCAR project website www.madegascar.eu frequently.