

Galp Distribuição will inject hydrogen into the natural gas network by June

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The Seixal pilot project only needs the OK of the Government and the regulator to move forward, says CEO Gabriel Sousa. For 2021 DouroGás also promises hydrogen in the network and vehicle filling stations.

Producing hydrogen and injecting it into the gas distribution networks in Portugal is much closer than we think. **In Seixal, there are 80 consumers, mostly residential, who during the first half of 2021 will receive natural gas at home with a percentage of green hydrogen (between 2 and 20%) incorporated.**

The only thing missing is the Government's final OK. Gabriel Sousa, CEO of Galp Gás Natural Distribuição, guarantees that, from that moment on, it will be possible to start injecting hydrogen in this network in Seixal in just two months, since on the producer side of this renewable gas everything is ready to move forward. **"By the end of the first half of this year, we will have hydrogen injection into the Seixal network," says the official.**

This is the first pilot project of its kind in Portugal, called the **Green Pipeline Project, it is led by Galp Gás Natural Distribuição, in partnership with several companies (PRF, Gestene, ISQ, Vulcano / Bosch). It will cost half a million euros to be fully developed in two years.**

"The project is complete in terms of concept. It has already been presented to the Portuguese authorities, we have the green light from the Portuguese regulator and **we are refining some final questions to start the production process.** It is a small project, has 80 clients, mainly residential and an industry, but it will allow us to test and control injection procedures in the network", revealed Gabriel Sousa, CEO of GALP Gás Natural Distribuição.

The official also explained that **the project includes the construction of a 1.4 km gas pipeline that will transport 100% hydrogen, between the hydrogen producer, to the point of mixing with natural gas.** "We are currently in the regulatory review phase and receiving positive feedback from the regulator," said Gabriel Sousa.

The green hydrogen itself will be produced by Gestene, a local company. "The industry is in Seixal, in the industrial park, which has already built a photovoltaic solar generation park. Here we are talking mainly about **green hydrogen with electrolyzers or renewable energy from the grid at some times of the year**", he added.

Gabriel Sousa also highlighted the modern gas networks and distribution and that Portugal has a great ally in decarbonisation. "We have a very suitable network to make the adjustments, the changes that are necessary to receive renewable gases, namely, hydrogen. We are talking about very modern networks. This gives us a good position compared to other European countries".

Dourogás promises hydrogen in the network and filling stations in 2021/2022

Another company that is already advanced in hydrogen projects, both in mobility and in network injection, is Dourogás. The CEO, Nuno Moreira, reveals that they are already producing **biomethane from an Organic Recovery Plant, installed in Mirandela, which may soon also have a connection to the gas network, as soon as it is approved by DGEG.** From that biomethane, they will now also produce hydrogen through electrolysis.

"The Biogas Move project will be a cluster of various renewable gases, connected to a network of almost 2 km with domestic and industrial customers. We will test soon and exchange experiences with the Seixal project", revealed Nuno Moreira.

Dourogás Renovável's CEO also said that they have a **"special project" in Lisbon, where they will produce hydrogen from biogas.** "It is approved, we will start construction as early as next month," he said.

As for the possibility of Portugal **opening hydrogen fuel stations for light vehicles, buses and trucks soon, in Portugal**, he revealed: "I hope it will happen in the near future. **If not at the end of this year, at the beginning of the next.** It will start soon, we have already signed the contract - this is an approved research project, which is why we signed the contract with ANI, the National Innovation Agency".