



Press release

HYDROVERSE CONVENTION 2024: industry gathering for the European hydrogen economy

Essen, 19 June, 2024

Around 600 hydrogen experts from Europe, Asia and the USA attended the second HYDROVERSE CONVENTION on 18 June, 2024 at the Colosseum Theatre in Essen, Germany. The event focused on innovations in the industry and the discussion of latest developments and technologies from start-ups as well as growing and established companies. An extensive program was offered, including start-up pitches and an exhibition with 38 selected start-ups, companies and international institutions. 14 renowned speakers shared their views on innovation and support for hydrogen start-ups.

What opportunities do experts see for the hydrogen industry in Europe?

The HYDROVERSE CONVENTION provided a forum for a range of different voices in the political and economic debate on the contribution of hydrogen to the energy transition and a climate-neutral economy. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe, made a fiery plea for a rapid and strong expansion of the hydrogen economy. In addition to binding political decisions, more flexibility and a move away from the color theory of hydrogen as well as more financial resources and investments are crucial for the market ramp-up.

Analyst and investor Michael Liebreich, CEO of Liebreich Associates, took a different view. He warned against exaggerated expectations of the importance of hydrogen, citing huge funding requirements and an efficiency gap, and called instead for a focus on economic solutions for industries that are absolutely dependent on hydrogen.

The future of the hydrogen industry in pitches and panels

More than 50 hydrogen start-ups from across Europe played a key role in shaping the program, providing input on current technologies and the future of the hydrogen industry on stage and in the start-up exhibition.

In three panels, experts shared their experiences of building the hydrogen economy, including Dr. Sopna Sury, COO Hydrogen at RWE Generation, Dr. Thomas Hübener, Member of the Management Board of OGE, Dr. Christoph Noeres, Head of Green Hydrogen at thyssenkrupp nucera and Christian von Olshausen, CTO at Sunfire.

Many decision-makers and hydrogen pioneers were present in the audience. The lively discussions and new contacts between the various players from business, science and



the start-up scene showed that the H2UB is pursuing the right mission: to bring together the best minds from all fields to initiate and implement projects together.

Stargate Hydrogen wins "HYDROVERSE CONVENTION Award"

The best pitch of the day was honored with the "HYDROVERSE CONVENTION Award". H2UB CEO Uwe Kerkmann and Anke Hosse-Doblinger from NRW.Bank presented the award to Marko Virkebau, CEO and co-founder of Stargate Hydrogen. The NRW.Bank also donated a symbolic prize money of 2024 euros. The winner impressed the international jury with its innovative alkaline electrolyser, which uses breakthrough materials to achieve higher current densities without using precious metals. The jury assessed the pitches in the categories of innovative power, team and presentation quality, and impact on the hydrogen economy.

"The HYDROVERSE CONVENTION is the largest innovation and start-up event for the hydrogen industry in Europe. The discussions on the ramp-up of the market, success stories of start-ups and their collaboration with corporates, as well as the positive feedback from international guests show the energy and entrepreneurial drive of our community," says Uwe Kerkmann, CEO of H2UB.

Event photos are [available here](#).

Please contact us if you have questions.

Press contact

Marina Scheider, Senior Communications & PR Manager
Phone: +49 151 14358595, e-mail: marina.scheider@h2ub.com

About H2UB

H2UB is Europe's leading Open Innovation Platform for the whole hydrogen value chain. It collaborates with the brightest entrepreneurs, corporate innovators and investors to reach the common goal: Net Zero.

H2UB's programs are tailored to the needs of start-ups and entrepreneurs: The 10-week H2UB SPRINT supports teams from Seed to Series A in finding their next customer and/or investor. Special emphasis is placed on individual support from high-level business and industry experts.

The track record: In five batches, 23 teams from 8 different European countries have been accelerated. The teams have raised around €150 million euros in external funding and achieved a market valuation of over €320 million euros.

More about H2UB: www.h2ub.com/about