



IPHE Country Update Jun 2025 – Nov 2025:

FRANCE

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1. New Initiatives, Programs, and Policies on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells

- [Transposition of European legislation into national framework](#) The next bill of transposition is scheduled in February 2026. It concerns the transposition of several key European texts, including in particular: the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III); the net-zero industry act (NZIA), which includes provisions on facilitating access to geophysical data for native hydrogen project developers; the introduction of the Incentive for the Reduction of Carbon Intensity in Fuels (IRICC), which will replace the Incentive Tax for the Use of renewable energy in the Transport sector (TIRUERT); the gas package (regulation and directive), which sets, among other, the framework for low-carbon hydrogen.
- [Publication of an economic action program following the Franco-German Summit](#). In their economic action program presented on September 1, 2025, following the 25th Franco-German Council of Ministers, held on 29 August 2025 in Toulon, France and Germany placed hydrogen among their priorities. In particular, the two countries reaffirm “their long-term commitment and joint support for the rapid completion of a Southwest hydrogen corridor”. The text also stresses the importance of “supporting the development of a hydrogen equipment value chain, through major projects of common European interest (PIIEC)”. The two countries also commit to “improving our understanding of the economic and technical model for electrolytic hydrogen production [...] in order to design appropriate support and incentive mechanisms,” in conjunction with industry and research, as well as on insuring the non-discrimination among all net-zero and low-carbon energy technologies.
- [Study on alternative technologies to diesel trucks](#). On July 10, the Directorate-General for Enterprises published an analysis of alternative technologies to diesel trucks for road freight transport. The five technologies used in road freight transport are investigated (BEV, biofuels, NGV, and FCEV) against three criteria (environmental, economic benefits for the sector, and sovereignty). The study concludes that: “Battery electric technology is the only one offering significant environmental benefits in the short/medium term.” Despite “very significant additional acquisition costs,” this option “could become the most competitive alternative within five years.” Biofuels, which currently benefit from favourable tax incentives, would, on the contrary, have “no significant decarbonization potential,” and their availability could lead to conflicts of use. With regard to hydrogen, the environmental performance of fuel cell vehicles is comparable to that of BEV (with a reduction in GHG emissions of around 65 to 85%), provided that the hydrogen is low-emissions.



2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update

- [IFPEN report on natural hydrogen](#). The French Institute of Petroleum and New Energies (Ifpen) has submitted the report requested by the government summarizing current knowledge on the “potential” of native hydrogen. In particular, the report lists areas where the presence of native hydrogen has been confirmed, such as the Aquitaine Basin, the Pyrenean foothills, and the Lorraine coal basin. While the government considers this resource to be a “major asset for French energy sovereignty,” it also stresses that “studies on the subject remain few and far between and will need to be supplemented.” To better assess the real potential of the identified areas, exploratory drilling on site will be necessary. In this context, on February 21, 2025, the Minister of Industry and Energy issued two new exclusive exploration permits in the Landes and Pyrenees regions. Furthermore, France was one of the first countries to recognize native hydrogen as a mining substance, through the revision of the mining code in 2022, thus paving the way for its exploration (exclusive exploration permit) and exploitation (concession). In the short term, the government emphasizes the financial challenge associated with the risk of unsuccessful exploration. In addition, capture and purification technologies are not yet sufficiently developed. “It is too early to say whether this substance can be exploited industrially and at what cost,” the Ministry of Economy told the press.
- [In the Pyrenees, this 3D mapping tool to assess the potential of natural hydrogen](#). French start-up Mantle8 has just completed a 3D map of an underground deposit of active natural hydrogen in the Pyrenees. Thanks to its proprietary HOREX technology, Mantle8 has succeeded in creating a 3D image of a complete underground natural hydrogen system located in the French Pyrenees. Over several weeks, hundreds of sensors collected millions of data points across an area of 700 km². The result: a complete visual representation of the hydrogen cycle, from its formation in the rocks to the reservoir where it accumulates.

3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update

- [From municipal solid waste to hydrogen](#). Créteil (Val-de-Marne county) has just inaugurated the H2 Créteil renewable hydrogen station. It is the largest production and distribution station in France directly connected to a municipal solid waste incineration (MSWI) unit. The project targets one metric ton of low-emissions hydrogen per day through water electrolysis, using the power generated by the MSWI.
- [Air Liquide's giant Normand'Hy electrolyzer reaches a new milestone](#). Nine PEM electrolyzers have been delivered to the Normand'Hy project site, developed by Air Liquide in Port-Jérôme-sur-Seine (Seine-Maritime county). This marks a key milestone in the implementation of this future industrial platform for low-emissions hydrogen production. Commissioning is scheduled for 2026, with an expected production of 28,000 tons of low-emissions hydrogen per year. This volume would avoid up to 250,000 tons of CO₂ emissions each year.
- [Beyond Aero validates a key milestone for its hydrogen-powered aircraft](#). Specializing in hydrogen-electric propulsion for business aviation, Beyond Aero



has just reached a decisive milestone. The company has achieved Technology Readiness Level 6 (TRL6) thanks to a series of tests conducted on a full-scale propulsion system in a representative environment. The tests were carried out in its new laboratory in Toulouse, designed to simulate operational conditions close to actual flight.

4. Events and Solicitations

- [Hyvolution Paris](#), “World leader in Hydrogen - January 27, 28 & 29, 2026” In 2026, Hyvolution will be the global meeting point for hydrogen, bringing together all the key players in the industry. The event will focus on business opportunities, project implementation, and the creation of new hydrogen ecosystems, all within an international context. For this 10th anniversary edition, Hyvolution Paris is reaching a new milestone with an even more ambitious editorial strategy: a new staging of strategic content and dynamic formats. With round tables, masterclasses, and workshops – open to all visitors – Hyvolution Paris offers you the opportunity to strengthen your expertise, expand your network, and accelerate your projects.

5. Investments: Government and Collaborative Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Funding

- [Financing the native hydrogen exploration](#). On the 17 October 2025 a workshop gathering stakeholders of native hydrogen sector, as well as financial institutions, was held with the purpose to find ways to mitigate the financial risks associated with the native hydrogen exploration wells. A public-private investment mechanism seem to be the best way forward. The life cycle assessment (LCA) of native hydrogen was also discussed.