



## **IPHE Country Update Austria**

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<b>Covered Period</b>	June 2025 – Oct 2024 (report created on October 30)

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

#### **Council of Ministers Approves Development of a Hydrogen Import Strategy**

On September 17, 2025, the Council of Ministers – in addition to the national hydrogen strategy from 2022 – approved the development of an import strategy for climate-neutral hydrogen. The strategy will be developed by the Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism in coordination with other ministries, relevant stakeholders, and existing initiatives.

#### **Updated Recommendations of the HyPA Advisory Board on the Hydrogen Strategy**

The advisory board supports the implementation of the National Hydrogen Strategy by developing recommendations for the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET) and the Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), based on inputs from the HyPA dialogue process. The recommendations were first submitted in January 2024 and updated in August 2025.

#### **Trilateral Working Group on the Southern Hydrogen Corridor**

In October, the 6<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Working Group Meeting of the Southern Hydrogen Corridor took place in Vienna. The meeting brought together not only the DGs of the participating countries (Austria, Germany and Italy), but also observer countries as well as EC representatives, NRAs, TSOs and financial institutions. One of the major outcomes was the decision on establishing a UNIDO-led Secretariat. The secretariat will support the working group with coordination of its members and implementation of the work plan.

### **2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update**

#### **Hydrogen Research Center opened in Wels**

In the research center, 26 employees of the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria will conduct research in close cooperation with small and medium-sized enterprises. The goal is to explore possible hydrogen applications for industry. In addition, the development of components and materials that can be used in hydrogen systems and machinery is also a focus.



### **3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update**

#### **OMV: Start for 140 MW Electrolysis Plant**

On September 29, 2025, OMV laid the foundation stone for one of Europe's largest electrolysis plants in Bruck an der Leitha. With a planned capacity of 140 MW, the plant will be the largest in Austria and one of the five largest in Europe. Operations are scheduled to begin at the end of 2027. The plant is expected to produce up to 23,000 tons of green hydrogen annually and, according to OMV's own calculations, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the OMV refinery in Schwechat by up to 150,000 tons per year. A 22-kilometer pipeline will connect the electrolysis plant directly to the refinery. The project volume is in the upper three-digit million-euro range. A funding agreement with Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws), which is responsible for implementing the national funding track of the European Hydrogen Bank, is currently being finalized.

#### **Hy4Smelt: Groundbreaking for Pilot Plant in Linz**

On September 25 the groundbreaking ceremony for Hy4Smelt took place in Linz. This demonstration project aims to decarbonize the steel industry by producing green iron ("green hot metal") on an industrial scale for the first time using a novel combination of hydrogen-based direct reduction and electric melting. The project builds on the experience of the HYFOR pilot plant in Donawitz. HYFOR ("hydrogen-based fine-ore reduction") enables the direct reduction of very fine iron ores using only hydrogen – without pelletizing or sintering. The process has been successfully tested in Donawitz since 2021.

#### **Hydrogen Transport via Pipelines**

To meet the future hydrogen demand in Europe, imports will be necessary, along with hydrogen-powered pipelines. In addition to new constructions, repurposing existing pipelines is also possible. This presents several opportunities but also challenges. The HyPA platform has published a [fact sheet](#) on this topic.



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

### Passenger cars in the fleet.

Table 1: Passenger cars in the fleet.

Drivetrain	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Gasoline	2,133,473	2,173,772	2,190,388	2,192,128	2,189,530	2,184,042	2,183,076
Diesel	2,776,333	2,772,854	2,762,273	2,717,475	2,651,280	2,584,985	2,510,099
Electric	20,831	29,523	44,507	76,539	110,225	155,490	200,603
LPG	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
CNG	2,365	2,602	2,753	2,654	2,564	2,342	2,172
Hydrogen (H <sub>2</sub> )	24	41	45	55	62	67	62
Bivalent gasoline/ethanol (E85)	5,769	5,770	5,190	4,878	4,595	4,326	3,424
Bivalent gasoline/LPG	333	330	330	331	331	334	297
Bivalent gasoline/CNG	3,177	3,143	2,978	2,801	2,616	2,437	2,224
Hybrid gasoline/electric	34,086	45,645	68,983	108,978	148,284	195,439	257,588
Hybrid diesel/electric	2,463	6,172	14,378	27,996	41,402	55,543	72,347
Total	4,978,856	5,039,854	5,091,827	5,133,836	5,150,890	5,185,006	5,231,893

In addition to passenger cars, 8 buses, 3 trucks and 2 non-road mobile machinery have been in the Austrian fleet 2024.

### 4. Events and Solicitations and other

#### **Post-Event Report on the HyPA Conference 2025**

At the annual conference of the Hydrogen Partnership Austria (HyPA) and the Service Center for Renewable Gases (SEG), more than 250 professionals from politics, administration, business, and science gathered together on October 22, 2025, at Palais Auersperg in Vienna. The focus was on strategic and practical questions regarding the development and expansion of Austria's hydrogen and biomethane economy – from legal and regulatory frameworks to financing models and certification, all the way to industrial applications.

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

#### **WFÖG**

The Hydrogen Promotion Act (WFÖG) aims to support the production of RFNBO hydrogen. Austria participated in the EU Hydrogen Bank's competitive auction under the Innovation Fund in 2024 through the "auction-as-a-service" model. While the EU provided a budget of €1.2 billion, Austria allocated a national funding budget of €400 million for the 2024 auction, with a maximum of €200 million per project. As a result, four Austrian projects were awarded funding totaling €275 million, representing a combined expected electrolysis capacity of 171 MW.



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

### Transformation of industry

The funding scheme supports investment costs for climate-friendly technologies. The available call volume amounts to €100 million, with a maximum funding of €80 million per project or €1,000 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced. The funding intensity covers up to 80% of investment costs. The call criteria were published on 2 June 2025, followed by the release of the official guidelines in July 2025. The submission deadline was 2 October 2025, and results are expected in the fourth quarter of 2025.