



IPHE Country Update Nov 2024 – Apr 2025: FRANCE

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Covered Period	November 2025 – May 2025

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

- [Revision of the French national hydrogen strategy](#): On Wednesday 16 April the government published the revised version of the National Decarbonised Hydrogen Deployment Strategy, reaffirming its commitment to the national hydrogen industry, with updated targets and renewed support of €9 billion to be committed between now and 2030.
- [Announcement of the winners of the Carb Aéro call for projects](#). Philippe TABAROT, the French Minister for Transport, and Marc FERRACCI, the French Minister for Industry and Energy, together with Bruno Bonnell, the Secretary General for Investment in charge of France 2030, have announced the 4 winners of the Carb Aero call for projects to develop a French sector for sustainable aviation fuels production. €100 million be allocated to the four selected FEED projects, which will eventually enable the deployment of almost one gigawatt of electrolysis capacity.

2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update

- [Announcements by the Prime Minister at the Interministerial Innovation Committee meeting](#). The Prime Minister confirmed his support for innovation. The French government has confirmed that it will invest €15 billion over the next 3 years. Low-carbon hydrogen is one of the strategic sectors in France 2030:
 - More than 400 MW of electrolysis capacity secured in the short term,
 - Funding for industrial projects such as Gen'Hy, Masshyla and Green Lhyfe Horizon,
 - Targeted investment in the production of e-fuels for sustainable aviation, with 4 FEED projects announced,
 - 50,000 training places are already guaranteed to structure the sector.
- As research and development (R&D) has a major role to play in supporting the deployment of new industrial sectors, the [PEPR-H2 Priority Research Programme and Equipment](#), led by the CEA and the CNRS, has been set up to support the construction of the hydrogen sector. Three times a year, it publishes a newsletter to keep track of the progress of the programme's various projects and keep you up to date with their news and that of the low-carbon hydrogen sector.
- [Genvia enters the top 50 patent filers in France](#). For the first time, two SMEs feature in the National patent top 50 patent filers. And one of them is in the field



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of hydrogen. As in previous years, Stellantis remains the largest patent filer in France. The CEA, CNRS, Air Liquide and IFPEN are also at the forefront. For the first time, two SMEs feature in the top 50 patent filers: Genvia and Verkor. Both are involved in gigafactory projects. Specialising in high-temperature electrolyzers, Genvia run is pushing innovation to the limit before moving on to the industrial stage. 80 patents have already been filed: 40 patents filed before its creation in 2021, and another 40 since.

3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update

- [Steel giant ArcelorMittal plans to invest €1.2 billion in Dunkirk](#). ArcelorMittal has announced its intention to invest €1.2 billion to build an electric furnace at its Dunkirk site.
- [€149 million for Nantes-based Lhyfe](#). Lhyfe, a Nantes-based company specialising in low-carbon hydrogen, has confirmed financial support from the French government for the construction of a hydrogen production plant in Le Havre.
- [France authorises two exploration licences for geological hydrogen in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region](#). The French Ministry in charge of Industry and Energy has approved the granting of two exclusive research permits (PER) to Storengy and 45-8 ENERGY for the exploration of natural hydrogen in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. The projects, named 'Grand Rieu' and 'Marensin', cover 266 km² in Pyrénées-Atlantiques county and several communes in Landes respectively. The corresponding ministerial decisions were published in the Journal Officiel on 29 March 2025, setting out an initial exploration period of five years.
- [The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region steps up its hydrogen drive](#). Hydrogen mobility is taking a new step forward in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes with the introduction of the first hydrogen-powered buses and coaches, supported by HYmpulsion created in 2017. The deployment of 16 intercity coaches retrofitted with hydrogen by GCK Mobility, a company based in Auvergne that specialises in retrofitting heavy vehicles, has just got under way. Since September 2024, 14 hydrogen-powered buses, managed by the Syndicat mixte des transports en commun de l'agglomération clermontoise (SMTC-AC) and awarded to Keolis, have been running on a suburban route linking Clermont-Ferrand, Lempdes and Pont-du-Château.

4. Events and Solicitations

- [the 12th Journées Hydrogène dans les Territoires](#) from 1 to 3 July 2025 at the Hôtel de Région in Lyon on the theme 'Reality and necessity for the energy transformation of territories'."
- [Hyvolution Paris conference and exposition](#) held in late January.



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

- [Call for projects – Ademe: Hydrogen-powered light commercial vehicles - VUL H₂](#). The scheme was announced as part of the National Hydrogen Strategy. Its aim is to identify pertinent light commercial FCEV use cases. Applications must be submitted by 27 June 2025.
- [Call for projects – Ademe: Hydrogen Innovation and Demonstration](#). The aim of this call for projects is to support innovation and demonstration work to develop or improve components and systems linked to the production, transport and use of hydrogen. Projects must fit into at least one of the four areas described below:
 - Area 1 - Technological building blocks: innovative components and systems.
 - Area 2 - Innovative industrial and network pilots (or commercial firsts), temporary or localised energy supply.
 - Area 3 - Design and demonstration of new vehicles.
 - Area 4 - Ecodesign and recyclability.

Closing date: 25 September 2026