

Communiqué - Energy Observer lights up the Eiffel Tower using zero-emission hydrogen within the context of the "Paris de l'hydrogène" event

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- "Paris de l'hydrogène": a unique event at the very heart of the French capital, organised by Energy Observer, with the support of the City of Paris.
- Within the context of an historic recovery plan, which is giving the hydrogen sector pride of place, the "Paris de l'hydrogène" event is championing various community-based objectives raising awareness about the need for sustainable energy transition and shining a spotlight on the whole of the hydrogen value chain.
- Until 30 May, at the Champ-de-Mars, the Energy Observer exhibition village is grouping together a range of practical mobility applications and hydrogen systems for the first time with the presence of EODev, Toyota, Delanchy, Air Liquide, Chéreau, Alstom, Airbus, La Poste, Engie and Pragma Industries...

• In celebration, the Eiffel Tower is being illuminated using an electro hydrogen generator developed by EODev (Energy Observer Developments) with certified renewable hydrogen.



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Les vidéos

Filterer par thème

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26/05/21 - 02h44 - Energy Observer illumine la Tour Eiffel grâce à l'hydrogène - © Energy Observer Productions



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Christened in 2017 in Paris by Anne Hidalgo, Florence Lambert and Nicolas Hulot, the then Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Energy Observer has already navigated over 64,000 km. This self-sufficient and emission-free round the world Odyssey has been possible thanks to an energy mix combining hydrogen and renewable energies. More than a boat, Energy Observer is an advocate and laboratory for energy transition. Four years after setting sail from Paris, her crew is organising a unique event in the city to showcase today's sustainable energies and hydrogen mobility. All over the World, Energy Observer is witnessing an acceleration in energy transition together with a series of highly proactive objectives exhibited by various protagonists and countries, such as during the virtual Leaders' Summit on Climate organised by President Joe Biden, on 22 April 2021, the same day that the vessel made landfall in California.

The "Paris de l'hydrogène" event is being hosted at a time when numerous countries – spearheaded by France among others – are accelerating the development of their hydrogen sector, which is a key factor in energy transition. It is within this competitive and strategic international context, in anticipation of the COP 26 and the French Presidency of the European Union that this remarkable event is being organised.

At Champ-de-Mars (Place Jacques Rueff), Energy Observer is presenting the international version of its new interactive and immersive village dedicated to ecological transition, renewable energies and hydrogen for the very first time.

The most heavily involved manufacturers, ranging from energy protagonists to designers of hydrogen mobility solutions, are exhibiting their vehicles and innovations to provide a practical, optimistic and innovative perspective of tomorrow's cities (electro hydrogen generator, marine propulsion and energy system, bicycle, car, coach, forklift, articulated lorry, commercial vehicle, train, plane...).



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This event is also providing a platform for a highly symbolic technological demonstration. Indeed, for the very first time, the Eiffel Tower has been illuminated with certified renewable hydrogen via zero-emission electro hydrogen generators developed by EODev, the fledgling company that resulted from research and development work carried out aboard the boat Energy Observer. It's this same electro hydrogen generator, which is powering the whole village during the 10-day event.

Paris, the starting point in the Odyssey embarked upon by Energy Observer, the primary French ambassador for the 17 sustainable development goals

Back in 2017, the laboratory vessel began her circumnavigation of the globe in France and then toured the Mediterranean basin before criss-crossing northern Europe and beyond the Arctic circle as far up as Spitsbergen. In 2020, the vessel continued her Odyssey to other continents. After a first transatlantic passage completed entirely self-sufficiently in energy, she made landfall in various overseas territories as far as French Guiana, negotiated the Panama Canal and then reached the Galapagos Islands. After some intense stopovers in Long Beach and San Francisco, she's setting sail today on her first Transpacific passage.



© Energy Observer Productions - George Conty

These first 4 years around the world have enabled the teams to witness first-hand the acceleration of numerous local initiatives and sustainable solutions, as well as observe the political and industrial ambitions in northern Europe and on America's West coast. Now it will get the chance to discover the scope of the Asian developments and projects in the race for ecological transition.

The tens of thousands of miles spent navigating the ocean have also enabled the team to step things up a gear by moving from a technological demonstration to the implementation of reliable and affordable energy solutions. The EODev subsidiary, through its electro hydrogen generator in particular, intends to share these technologies with the widest possible audience. In this vein, EODev's passenger shuttles and maritime mobile station have already been selected after a 'Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Mobilities' call for innovations aimed at supporting innovative projects and developing them in the period spanning the Games.

Moreover, Energy Observer Foundation, which provides a platform for Energy Observer's community-based activities, has prioritised

awareness raising, training and the passing on of know-how in terms of hydrogen. In this way, the emphasis is on contributing to the acceleration in the growth of the sector as a whole and to the democratisation of new sustainable energy technologies. The "Paris de l'hydrogène" event is very much in line with this mission.

A window on today's sustainable energies and hydrogen mobility

Made from recycled containers from the CMA-CGM group, this exhibition unveils a timeline designed with the support and expertise of Ademe, retracing the history of energy transition, ecological awareness and the Energy Observer laboratory. Both immersive and educational, its two geodesic domes house monumental screenings together with special screens enabling the showcasing of all the different technologies aboard the laboratory vessel, their applications both at sea and on land, as well as the pioneering solutions encountered around the world through the prism of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for which Energy Observer is the primary French ambassador.

Lighting up the Eiffel Tower using zero-emission hydrogen

The highlight of this demonstration of the potential of zero-emission energies is the illumination of the Eiffel Tower with hydrogen using EODev's electro hydrogen GEH2® generator. The latter is powered with hydrogen certified renewable by Air Liquide. Highly symbolic and a major first, the structure is all lit up in a striking blue-green hue soundtracked by an original musical composition by Jean-Benoît Dunckel (Air).



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Bruno Le Maire, Minister of the Economy and Finance : *"The economic recovery plan must be an opportunity for France to position itself at the forefront of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production technologies. Like the illumination of the Eiffel Tower to accelerate the development of the sector in France and Europe, France is budgeting 7 billion euros by 2030, including 2 billion euros from 2021-2022 with France Relance."*

Pierre Rabadan, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of sport, Olympic and Paralympic Games at Ville de Paris : *"Consuming fewer fossil energies and carbon and reducing waste lies at the heart of the city's aims in terms of climate. To achieve this, the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a formative prospect as they have the potential to be a genuine boost for the development of renewable energy, as much in terms of mobility, with the notable development of one of the world's main fleets of hydrogen-powered taxis at the end of this year, as in the sustainable event sector."*

Jean-Philippe Dugouin Clement, Vice-President of the Region in charge of the Environment and Sustainable Development: *"This event really fits the bill in terms of the development of green hydrogen, a vector for energy transition. Our presence today alongside Energy Observer testifies to our commitment to the Ile-de-France region, with all the economic and community protagonists from this ecosystem, so that we can collectively promote ecological progress which is virtuous on an economic and social level."*

Benoît Potier, Air Liquide Chairman and CEO, co-chair of the "Conseil National de l'Hydrogène": *"Europe has set up an ambitious policy, France has a commitment to invest more than 7 billion euros in an hydrogen development program, all this will be a success if we can implement an effective coordination strategy between the various French stakeholders, the state, manufacturers and associations. This is why we have created the French National Hydrogen Council, which has identified the technologies, regulations and skills to be developed as key issues for implementing a coherent strategy. To achieve success, we need to massively increase usage and structure ecosystems by bringing together industry and mobility. We need to articulate national policies with the territories. We need to establish technological partnerships on a French and European scale. I am very proud to see a ship like Energy Observer sailing around the 5 continents, showcasing a French initiative which is very promising for the sector."*

Victorien Erussard, captain and Founder of Energy Observer: *"As the founder of Energy Observer, I should talk about ambition, strategy. But I will rather talk about conviction, tenacity, expertise, trust, will, urgency, a rendez-vous with history that commits us to the planet, to the fight against global warming. With our partners, we wanted to highlight the French industry, its vitality, its extraordinary capacity for innovation, by organizing this event in our hydrogen-powered village for 10 days. And ... above all to offer an historic moment, the illumination of the Eiffel Tower!"*

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the city of Paris and the Ile de France region for hosting the 'Paris de l'hydrogène' event. Being at the heart of the capital, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, is a powerful symbol and the perfect way to demonstrate the potential of this energy vector and its ability to ensure zero emissions in numerous sectors of the industry and mobility, in line with some highly active industrial policies both locally and nationally."

Practical information:

- Place Jacques Rueff, 75007 Paris
- Event open to the public on the weekend of 22, 23, 29 and 30 May from 10:30 to 18:30 hrs with respect to the currently accepted guidelines
- Dates: from 20 to 30 May 2021

About Energy Observer

The Energy Observer project was born in 2013 from the commitment of Victorien Erussard, merchant navy officer and ocean racer. Aware that it is now vital to commit to saving the planet, he assembled a complementary team of sailors, scientists, engineers and reporters in order to create the first self-sufficient vessel capable of drawing its energy from nature whilst also preserving it.

The dream became a reality 4 years later, when the Energy Observer ship was launched for the first time. Developed from a legendary catamaran, Energy Observer is a laboratory for the ecological transition, designed to push the limits of zero emission technologies. Hydrogen, solar, wind, and water power, all solutions are experimented with, tested and optimized with a view to making clean energy a practical reality that is accessible to all. Criss-crossing the oceans to meet those coming up with sustainable solutions for the planet every day, Energy Observer has become a movement, a round-the-world Odyssey, where every stopover is an opportunity to learn, to understand and to share these different forms of energy.

Energy Observer has received the High Patronage of Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. As the first French ambassador for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, it is officially supported by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, UNESCO, the European Union, Irena and Ademe.

