

Innovation driver duisport

Climate protection: Preliminary study for a hydrogen switcher in the Port of Duisburg

Duisburg, 4 March 2021

“The mobility sector is a primary building block for achieving Europe's climate targets. As Europe's largest hinterland hub, we take our commitment to the large-scale reduction of emissions in our industry very seriously. In this context, we become active at many different levels,” explains duisport CEO Erich Staake.

Pilot project with an eye to the future – The Port of Duisburg (duisport), together with the DLR (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt) and the ZBT (Zentrum für Brennstoffzellen-Technik), is committed to the development and start-up of a hydrogen switcher. A milestone for the long-term prevention of greenhouse emissions and the further development of environmentally-friendly transportation.

The project will cost EUR 185,000 in total. The funding commitment for 50 percent of the costs has now been officially approved by the Ministry for Innovation, Digitization and Energy for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Project details - Focus on reducing diesel emissions

At this time, approximately 2,700 diesel switchers are still in use in Germany. Many of these were built before the year 1972, and without emission regulations. This leads to a negative impact on air quality, especially at the locations where they are used.

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Duisburger Hafen AG owns and manages the Port of Duisburg, the world's largest inland port. For this port and logistics location, the duisport Group offers full-service packages in the area of infra- and suprastructure, including relocation management. In addition, the subsidiaries also provide logistics services, such as the development and optimization of transport and logistics chains, rail freight services, building management, contract and packing logistics.

www.duisport.de

**Presseinformation/
Press release**

Duisburger Hafen AG

Hafennummer / Port Number 3650
Alte Ruhrorter Straße 42–52
47119 Duisburg
Tel. +49 203 803-0
Fax +49 203 803-4232
www.duisport.de
mail@duisport.de

Ansprechpartner/ Contact Person

Thomas Hüser
Tel +49 203 803-4465
Fax +49 203 803-4409
presse@duisport.de

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia has taken up this challenge with the preliminary study conducted by duisport, which is supported by progres.nrw - program area Low-Emission Mobility, with the objective of studying the long-term and full-scale conversion to hydrogen-operated locomotives. Besides studying the feasibility of this step, the study will also analyze the requirements and possible solutions that must be considered for retrofitting or new builds. The study must also determine whether existing vehicles should be converted or whether new vehicles would be a preferable option.

Alexander Garbar, Deputy Head of Corporate Development and Strategy at duisport: “The official funding commitment forms the starting point for a unique study in a complex application field. Given its practical relevance, we (the Port of Duisburg) can make a major contribution towards achieving the climate protection targets. The insights that are gained would also be made available to other ports and terminals. It is a powerful signal for the development of the entire mobility industry and the commitment of those involved in the project.”

At duisport, sustainability is part of the corporate mission for all business divisions, projects and activities. As a result, duisport combines sustainability with technical innovations, ecological transportation chains and the efficient use of space, and is actively engaged in numerous promotional projects to ensure further progress.

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