



Press Release No. 5/99
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Bavaria's minister for economy today opens tomorrow's filling station

Liquid hydrogen now available at Munich airport

Bavaria's minister for economy, Otto Wiesheu, and managers of 13 important companies today opened a hydrogen filling station at Munich airport. It is the first installation like this in the world which provides not only compressed gas, but also the cryogenic liquid. (A gas station was opened in January at Hamburg.)

Wiesheu said that hydrogen will be the "energy carrier of the future" and that Bavaria has the lead in this field. For years now this German Land supports hydrogen and fuel cells in a much greater extent than the others of the federation.

The car filling station is fully automated: the driver not even leaves the car, but only inserts an identification card in a reader. The rest is done by the tank robot. This enhances not only comfort, but also safety because wrong handling is almost impossible.

The Munich airport project demonstrates the whole technological chain, starting with electrolysis on the basis of renewable primary energy to the end use in cars and apron buses. Knowledge about everyday suitability and economic aspects of hydrogen energy will be gained. Part of the project is on-site hydrogen generation by electrolysis. One half of the investment of 34 Million DM (17 Million Euro) will be paid from public Bavarian funds, the other by the industrial partners. These are Aral, BMW, FMG, GHW, Grimm, HDW, IAW, Linde, MAN-Nutzfahrzeuge, MAN-Technologie, Mannesmann, Neoplan and Siemens, plus safety engineering support by TÜV Bavaria.

Infrastructure, together with costs, is seen as a key problem in the introduction of alternative energy carriers or technologies. The filling stations in Germany have found worldwide interest. There is, however, no "Federal Hydrogen Program" here comparable to that in the USA.

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<p>Top of page </p>	<p>Press Releases </p>
<p>Hydrogen Mirror </p>	<p>Event Calendar </p>
<p>DWV Homepage </p>	<p>Please mail us! </p>