FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PitPoint invests in High V.LO-City hydrogen refuelling station in Antwerp

Brussels, 3rd April 2017

PitPoint acquired its first hydrogen refuelling station by taking over the High V.LO-City refuelling station in Antwerp on the 1st of January 2017.

Antwerp is one of the demonstration sites in the High V.LO-City project, which aims at facilitating the deployment of fuel cell electric buses and their related hydrogen refuelling infrastructure in four European cities.

The refuelling station in Antwerp has been in operation since the 1st December 2014. The ownership of the station was transferred from Solvay to PitPoint on the 1st of January 2017, when Solvay left the High V.LO-City project as part of a strategic refocus of the company's hydrogen activities. The role of existing partner PitPoint Clean Fuels has therefore been extended in the project.

The hydrogen refuelling station in Antwerp is a non-public fuelling station with Flemish public transport operator 'De Lijn' as its dedicated customer. The station is currently refuelling De Lijn's five fuel cell electric buses on a daily basis. The hydrogen is delivered to the refuelling station by Air Liquide through a pipeline. The hydrogen used is an industrial by-product from chlorine production via electrolysis. The refuelling station, which is currently located in the port of Antwerp, will eventually be moved to De Lijn's bus depot in Antwerp. This will ensure a smoother daily operation of the buses.

For PitPoint this investment is an important next step to realise its mission of clean transport by 2030. Oskar Voorsmit, Business Development Manager at PitPoint, said: "Our investment in this station is important to further intensify our role in the High V.LO-City project. The use of fuel cell electric buses improves the air quality and is an important step to realise clean transport by 2030. Our experience with providing clean fuels to our customers makes us the perfect candidate to operate and maintain the hydrogen refuelling station in Antwerp."

PitPoint's role in the High V.LO-City project also includes the design, construction and operation of the hydrogen refuelling station for the Groningen site, where Dutch bus operator QBuzz is operating two High V.LO-City fuel cell electric buses since February 2017.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About the High V.LO-City project: cities speeding up the integration of hydrogen buses

The High V.LO-City project, coordinated by the bus manufacturer Van Hool, started in 2012 and will run until the end of 2019. During the course of the project, 14 fuel cell electric buses will be operated in 4 locations: Aberdeen, Scotland (4 buses), Antwerp, Belgium (5 buses), San Remo, Italy (3 buses) and Groningen, Netherlands (2 buses). The 14 buses will be used as like-to-like replacement of conventional diesel buses and trolley buses. The key project objectives are to increase the energy efficiency of the buses and reduce the cost of ownership, as well as to demonstrate an operational availability of the buses equivalent to diesel (over 90%). Another objective of the project is to contribute to the commercialisation of fuel cell electric buses in Europe. Since the start of the project, more than 570.000km have already been travelled by the buses and their daily operation is proving that fuel cell electric buses can be put in operation with the same level of efficiency and flexibility as diesel buses. Different methods of hydrogen production are tested and the overall availability of the buses is expected to continue to increase as experience is accumulated by the project partners.

About fuel cell electric buses

Europe is rapidly expanding the demonstration of fuel cell hydrogen buses in regular public transport services in several cities across the continent. Fuel cell electric buses are a type of electric buses. Hydrogen is used to fuel the buses; a fuel cell then transforms the hydrogen into electricity, which is then used to power the bus. Other FCH-JU funded projects demonstrating fuel cell electric buses are CHIC, HyTransit, 3Emotion and JIVE.

About the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) is a public-private partnership between the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation), Europe's FCH industry (Hydrogen Europe) and research organisations (N.ERGHY), aiming at accelerating the market introduction of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. It is also a funding agency, supporting R&D and Demonstration projects in transport and energy. So far, more than 200 projects have been selected for funding, including High V.LO-City. For more information, please visit www.fch.europa.eu.

About PitPoint

PitPoint constantly works on expansion of clean fuel stations in Europe for governments, businesses, and individuals. Through constant innovation and investment in CNG/Biomethane, opening new CNG/Biomethane and LNG filling stations, facilitating electrical charge stations and the construction of hydrogen stations, PitPoint is making it possible to drive and provide cleaner air at the same time. For more information please visit www.pitpoint.nl/en.

About De Lijn

De Lijn is the public transport operator in Flanders, funded by the Flemish government. De Lijn is operating 5 fuel cell buses in Antwerp since December 2014. For more information please visit https://www.delijn.be/en/

The High V.LO-City project has received funding from the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking under the European Union's 7th Framework Programme under grant agreement n°278192