



Partnership of HES International,  
Vopak and Gasunie

## **Cepsa and ACE Terminal join forces to create green hydrogen supply chain from Spain to the Netherlands**

- **Cepsa to supply green ammonia to ACE Terminal in the Port of Rotterdam for conversion into green hydrogen for multiple industries in northern Europe or direct use in shipping**
- **The MoU with Cepsa is the first of agreements ACE signs for green hydrogen and ammonia imports to create Europe's largest green ammonia import terminal**
- **The agreement strengthens the green hydrogen corridor between the north and south of Europe and represents a significant milestone in the European strategy to decarbonize and develop renewable hydrogen and sustainable fuels**

Cepsa and ACE Terminal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by which the Spanish energy company will supply green ammonia to the planned import terminal in the port of Rotterdam, for end use applications in the industry after conversion of the ammonia back into hydrogen, or for direct end use in the shipping and other industries in Northwest Europe.

Cepsa is developing 2GW of green hydrogen at its two Energy Parks in Andalusia, southern Spain, as part of its 2030 Positive Motion strategy to become a leader in sustainable mobility and the production of renewable hydrogen and advanced biofuels and a benchmark in the energy transition. The two hydrogen plants, with a 3 billion euro investment, will form part of the Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley, the largest green hydrogen hub in Europe, for which Cepsa has recently signed a number of partnership agreements across the hydrogen value chain.

On the import side, Gasunie, HES International and Vopak have partnered to develop ACE Terminal as an entry point to the Netherlands for ammonia as a carrier for green hydrogen as well as a sustainable feedstock. The open access terminal will be located in the port of Rotterdam, a very important port for Northwest Europe from an energy point of view. With the planned reuse of assets and infrastructure, ACE Terminal is a project with a short time to market. The MoU with Cepsa is the first of agreements aimed between additional clients and the ACE open access hub terminal for green hydrogen and ammonia imports.

The MoU between Cepsa and ACE Terminal entails a cooperation intended to lead to a binding commercial agreement to facilitate the oversea transport of green ammonia, to redistribute the green ammonia to end markets in the hinterland, and to process the green ammonia into green hydrogen ready for use by end customers in Northwest Europe. The location of ACE Terminal in the port of Rotterdam offers direct connection

to Rotterdam's industry and the planned national hydrogen network, and has an excellent connection to the infrastructure into Northwest Europe.

By importing green energy that can be produced competitively by Cepsa in southern Spain thanks to conditions such as ample sun, wind and land, a solid electricity grid and access to high traffic ports, the alliance helps to decarbonize industry and transport in the North and ensure energy independence, security and affordability in Europe.

The alliance with ACE Terminal reinforces Cepsa's agreement with the Port of Rotterdam to export hydrogen produced at its San Roque Energy Park near the Bay of Algeciras through hydrogen carriers such as ammonia, establishing the first green hydrogen corridor between southern and northern Europe and ensuring a green hydrogen supply chain between two of Europe's main ports, Rotterdam and Algeciras.

Cepsa aims to start the first green hydrogen exports from Spain in 2027, timing that is well aligned with the ACE Terminal project timeline.

Rob Jetten, Minister for Climate and Energy, who was present at the signing of the MoU in Madrid, said: "This MoU between Cepsa and ACE Terminal is a great example of the type of collaborations that are needed and we want to stimulate with the new Memorandum of Understanding in the field of renewable hydrogen between Spain and the Netherlands. It constitutes a significant milestone for the European Hydrogen Strategy in developing hydrogen corridors between south and north Europe. This will enable us to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to achieve the Dutch decarbonization and climate goals".

Maarten Wetselaar, CEO of Cepsa, said: "This alliance makes the Green Hydrogen Corridor a tangible reality and increases the international potential of the Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley, allowing green hydrogen produced by Cepsa in southern Spain to be used for industry and shipping in northern Europe. Partnerships like these are examples of the collaboration needed across Europe to ensure energy security without jeopardising climate targets, and the important role that Cepsa, and Spain, can and must play in this journey."

Egbert Vrijen, project director ACE Terminal, said: "We are delighted that Cepsa has stepped forward and has chosen ACE Terminal. We hope that in addition to Cepsa, more parties will join our open access ammonia/hydrogen import terminal in the port of Rotterdam."

Rotterdam is the most important energy port in Europe, handling 13% of European energy demand, while the Port of Algeciras is first in Spain, fourth in Europe, and an important trade route between Europe and Asia. The future demand for green hydrogen in Northwest Europe exceeds the capacity that can be produced locally from sustainable sources, thus the need to import green hydrogen on a large scale.

**Cepsa** is a leading international company committed to sustainable mobility and energy with a solid technical experience after more than 90 years of activity. The company also has a world-leading chemicals business with increasingly sustainable operations.

In 2022, Cepsa presented its new strategic plan for 2030, Positive Motion, which projects its ambition to be a leader in sustainable mobility, biofuels, and green hydrogen in Spain and Portugal, and to become a benchmark in the energy transition. The company places customers at the heart of its business and will work with them to help them advance their decarbonization objectives.

ESG criteria inspire all of Cepsa's actions as it advances toward its net positive objective. Over the course of this decade, it will reduce our Scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 55% and the carbon intensity index of our products by 15-20%, with the goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

#### **About ACE Terminal**

Three strategic partners: Gasunie, HES International and Vopak have joined forces and knowledge to develop ACE Terminal, an import terminal in the port of Rotterdam for ammonia as hydrogen carrier. The terminal will facilitate the reception, storage and transit of the ammonia to its customers locally and in Northwest Europe. A future cracker will allow ACE Terminal to convert the ammonia back into green hydrogen, ready for use by customers. Benefitting from the re-use of existing infrastructure, a strategic location with direct deep sea access in the port of Rotterdam, and excellent connections to Rotterdam's industry and Gasunie's pipeline infrastructure into Northwest Europe, enables ACE Terminal a short time to market.

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#### **Cepsa – Communications**

[medios@cepsa.com](mailto:medios@cepsa.com)

[www.cepsa.com](http://www.cepsa.com)

Tel.: (34) 91 337 60 00

#### **ACE Terminal – Communications**

Susan Kimkes, communications advisor

[info@aceterminal.nl](mailto:info@aceterminal.nl)

[www.aceterminal.nl/en](http://www.aceterminal.nl/en)