

# 200 BICYCLES FOR HYDROGEN-POWERED MOBILITY AT THE G7

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Biarritz is hosting the G7 from 24 to 26 August which will see thirty or so heads of state and government leaders rubbing shoulders with one another on the Basque coast.

ENGIE will make its 200 hydrogen-powered bicycles available to the thousands of accredited journalists to help them make their way around the various zones making up this international gathering, promoting soft forms of mobility in the process.

This will be the first outing for these freshly built bikes, the acquisition of which was announced back in May at the VivaTech conference.





These bikes built by Biarritz-based start-up Pragma Industries will be available at two locations in the town:

- The Iraty hall, just by the car park and the press centre.
- The "Midi" railway station,
  23 Avenue Maréchal Foch, 64200 Biarritz.

To ensure a constant turnover of users over these areas and maximise the number of journeys they make, each journalist will be able to borrow a bike for up to two consecutive hours. There will be no restrictions on the number of times each person can borrow a bike. Journalists will be able to pick up their bikes directly or pre-register online at: *pragma-mobility.com* to save time.

The service will be available over the three days of the summit:

23 to 25 August: 9 am to 11 pm26 August: 9 am to 3 pm

In addition to providing these bicycles, ENGIE and the ENGIE Foundation will be supporting the first eco-friendly G7 summit via a donation in kind and the provision of skills-based sponsorship, by providing green energy and low-environmental impact solutions to make life easier for the 3000 or so expected visitors.

# **ENGIE AND HYDROGEN**

For ENGIE, renewable hydrogen is one of the missing links needed to create a more sustainable energy system. ENGIE therefore supports the development of renewable hydrogen and firmly believes that it will help speed up the energy transition in towns and cities over to a green, local form of energy that will benefit all stakeholders in the economy.

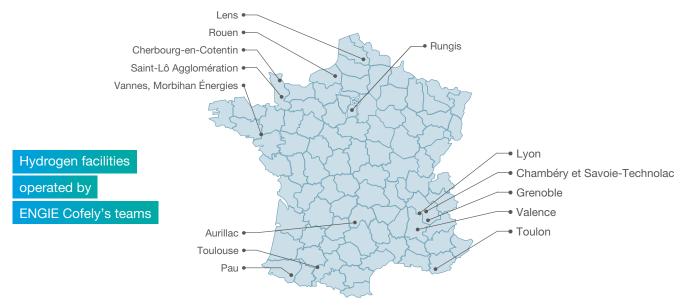
This conviction led the Group to create, in early 2018, a global business unit dedicated to this promising new market.

Through its subsidiary ENGIE Cofely, ENGIE is a forerunner in this area and already has numerous projects – in operation and forthcoming. These

include the HyPort project in France's Occitanie region, Morbihan Energies, Hynovar and the Zero Emission Valley project with the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

In 2017, Engie Cofely was also the first company to provide its employees with a fleet of fifty hydrogen-powered utility vehicles for some of its operations in the Ile-de-France region.

The acquisition of these 200 hydrogen-powered bicycles is evidence of just how firmly committed ENGIE is to developing more environmentally-friendly forms of mobility and its desire to support a promising new sector.



# A favourable context and support for the French sector

Over the last few years, the government has given a great deal of encouragement to initiatives to develop renewable hydrogen in France.

#### May 2016

"Territoires hydrogène" label launched by the Ministry of Environment

#### June 2018

"Plan hydrogène" launched by Nicolas Hulot, Minister for the ecological and inclusive transition

## October 2018

"écosystème de mobilité hydrogène" call for projects, launched by the ADEME (France's agency for the environment and energy management)

According to a study entitled "Let's develop hydrogen for the French economy"\*, by 2050, hydrogen could cover 20% of energy requirements in France.

\*Study conducted with support from McKinsey&Company for the AFHYPAC (French association for hydrogen and fuel cells), the French atomic energy agency, Air Liquide, Alstom, EDF, ENGIE, Hyundai, Faurecia, Michelin, Plastic Omnium, SNCF, Total and Toyota.

# A local economic development project

These "Alpha" bicycles are manufactured by Pragma Industries, a Biarritz-based French company. Founded in 2004, Pragma Industries specialises in developing fuel cells. The company has developed and marketed Alpha – the first mass-produced E-bike powered by a hydrogen fuel cell instead of a battery.

So far, the Biarritz company has built 100 bikes which are already in operation in Chambéry, Saint-Lô, Cherbourg, the Bayonne urban area, Biarritz, Anglet and Boucau, as well as at a location near Toulouse.

By placing an order for 200 mass-produced bikes, ENGIE is supporting Pragma Industries as it grows, helping it to step up to production on a more "industrial" scale.

The bikes are put together at the premises of MILC Industries, based in La Barthe de Neste (in the Pyrenees, in the Occitanie region).



These Alpha bikes are genuine innovations: high-end bicycles providing comfort and peace of mind for users... and entirely powered by renewable energies.

They have a significantly greater range than electrically-powered bicycles and can cover up to 150 km. And it only takes a few minutes to recharge them.

Building these bicycles involved ten or so people over six months of the project. **Around thirty ENGIE and Pragma Industries employees will also be involved during the G7.** 

## After the G7



After the G7 summit, these bicycles will be sold by ENGIE and could serve a number of purposes. They could be used as part of an urban bicycle service or for green tourism... or incorporated into bicycle fleets for companies.

ENGIE is working alongside Pragma Industries, the Nouvelle Aquitaine region and the Basque Country

urban area in particular on opportunities to deploy these bikes across the Basque region and create a fully-fledged hydrogen-powered bicycle mobility laboratory.

Companies and local authorities wishing to take advantage of these initiatives will get support in putting together their own bespoke projects.

The bicycles will be marketed as long-term rentals, with maintenance included, together with the hydrogen refuelling solution.

Energy could either be produced on site, or it could be supplied in the form of green hydrogen.

These bicycles will help combat climate change, as well as conveying an innovative, positive and responsible image.





In partnership with ENGIE, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region is working to develop and structure the hydrogen sector across its towns and communities.

Since 2016, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region's regional council and been committed to developing the emerging hydrogen sector.

The Nouvelle-Aquitaine region's stakeholders who are active on the hydrogen economy can get collective support through the "Energy Storage Cluster" that the Region created in July 2017, and which is co-managed by the Agency for Innovation and Development (Agence de développement et d'innovation). Workshops are held for companies and laboratories so they can meet and develop partnerships in order to work on collaborative projects. Individual support is also available via the Agency for Innovation and Development and the Region, with the shared aim of providing access to the market.

During the G7 summit which will run from 24 to 26 August in Biarritz, ENGIE and Pragma Industries will provide attendees (delegations, journalists, security personnel, etc) with 200 freely available hydrogen-powered E-bikes.

After the summit, ENGIE would like to redeploy these hydrogenpowered E-bikes and the secondary filling stations along the length of the Vélodyssée route (cycling route which runs along the length of the Atlantic coast from Brittany down to the Basque Country) as part of other "soft mobility" projects across the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. Ultimately, we wish to deploy the bikes in batches of 10 or 20 - together with the associated refuelling equipment - to local authorities, bike hiring companies, natural parks and tourist offices, preferably in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

Within the framework of this partnership and its policy to develop the hydrogen sector, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council granted ENGIE – at its meeting on 8 July – a repayable advance of €320,076 for the main equipment required: acquisition of 200 hydrogen-powered bicycles, together with the main hydrogen electrolysis and ten smaller secondary refuelling stations.



# RENEWABLE HYDROGEN, PARTNER OF THE TERRITORIES AND INDUSTRIALISTS

