

2025 Kvetoslav Janatka

NET4GAS

Kap. 3 Rahmenbedingungen Modellierung

We welcome the fact that the (CZ part of the) CGHI is considered in the draft 2025 NEP and modelled as part of the German hydrogen core network. However, since the CGHI is being prepared as a bi-directional project, we believe, with reference (not only) to chapter 3.4.3.4 of the draft NEP, that the cross-border entry and exit capacities at both the Waidhaus VIP and the Deutschneudorf IP should be set as bidirectional, reflecting the CGHI capacity of 144 GWh per day (see <https://www.cghi.eu>). The bidirectional capacity will provide flexibility not only as to supply sources but also enables hydrogen storage utilization located in one part of Germany for use in the other part interconnected by CGHI. This will foster market competition with positive impact on hydrogen price for end consumers. Moreover, this will also increase security of supply by diversification of supply routes and sources.

Kap. 4 Stand Umsetzung Netz-ausbaumaßnahmen

There are structural capacity bottlenecks at the DE/CZ border for the transport of natural gas to the CEE region. As consistently highlighted by NET4GAS, the commissioning of CS Rehden (875-01) and CS Wittenburg (880-02) play a key role for security of supply in CZ and wider CEE region in the context of the phase out of RU gas. Moreover, the route is also used for UA supplies as demonstrated in 2025. Based on previous information provided by GASCADE, CS Rehden should be commissioned by the end of '26, with CS Wittenburg following in 09/'28. NET4GAS stresses the need for their timely implementation, as this is essential for security of supply and for enabling the replacement of remaining RU pipeline gas in the EU. Planned commissioning of the CS Rehden at the end of '26 does not allow utilization of increased capacity already for the summer '26 injection period, when storage injection in CEE will be particularly challenging. Based on flow simulations considering capacity limitations towards CZ, the required UGSs filling level might not be fully met. Therefore, any delay in the project can cause winter supply shortage in the CEE region. The commissioning of the CS Wittenburg is still planned for 09/'28, which after discontinuation of RU gas supply to EU puts stress on the CEE countries in winter '27/'28 and particularly in summer '28, when UGSs will have to be refilled. In any case, we deem this project the most beneficial for capacity increase from DE to CZ and crucial to the security of supply of whole CEE region after '27. Moreover, the resulting capacity has to be made available on a firm basis (FZK) at VIP Brandov without any further conditions like point-to-point transport or other conditions. As discussed in the previous CZ-DE dialogue, firm exit capacity of around 24 GWh/h with CS Rehden, increasing to approx. 30 GWh/h with CS Wittenburg, should be made available as FZK at VIP Brandov to support REPowerEU objectives and security of supply in wider CEE region.

Kap. 5 Versorgungssicherheitsbetrachtung 2030

In addition to new infrastructure, NET4GAS highlights that past bookings of interruptible capacity clearly demonstrate market interest and the potential to align its firm Czech entry capacity with corresponding firm exit capacity on the German side at VIP Waidhaus, should such capacity be offered in Germany. This capacity is physically available and has already facilitated west-east flows, including in 2025. However, while Czech entry capacity is offered on a firm basis, no firm exit capacity is currently available on the German side. NET4GAS therefore stresses the importance of making firm exit capacity available at VIP Waidhaus—even on a short term or conditional basis—including also for the 2026 storage injection season, when new infrastructure will not yet be in place. This would additionally support also higher overall utilisation of the German gas transmission system.

Given current structure of EU gas market, landlocked countries are dependent on their neighbours endowed with sea access and LNG terminals. Here Czech Republic relies in the field of security of gas supply on German infrastructure. Existence of Waidhaus firm capacities would at least provide certain transportation corridor redundancy to major importing point VIP Brandov.

Kap. 7 Netzausbauvorschlag

We appreciate the reconfirmation of projects currently denoted as H2-023, H2-024 and H2-086, which constitute the sections which are an integral part of the CGHI, directly connected to the CZ H2 backbone WEST project. At the same time, we would plead for the project H2-086 to be put into operation already by the end of 2030 to (broadly) match the timing of the CZ part of the CGHI as well as of the projects H2-023 and H2-024. Such a synchronisation would allow hydrogen economy stakeholders from DE, CZ and beyond to reap the benefits from the bi-directional, robust and high-capacity supply route from the Baltic and the North Sea to the Czech Republic, south Germany and other CEE countries.

As regards the H2-BAL pipeline (i.e. projects currently denoted as H2-1005, H2-1006 and H2-1007), we continue to have doubts about its actual need. Given the highly robust but capital-intensive nature of the German Hydrogen Core Network (Kernnetz), priority should be given to efficient and proportionate investments. In this regard, the Czech–German Hydrogen Interconnector (CGHI), based on repurposing of existing infrastructure, represents a more cost-effective, higher capacity, environmentally friendly and timely solution (2 years earlier in operation) than parallel new-build project H2-BAL. This is also the objective of the joint German-Czech hydrogen ministerial working group, established in November 2025.