

€4.7B for advanced biomethane and biofuels in Italy

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS APPROVED UNDER EU STATE AID RULES AN ITALIAN SUPPORT SCHEME FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS, INCLUDING ADVANCED BIOMETHANE. THE MEASURE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REACHING EU ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS WHILE LIMITING DISTORTIONS OF COMPETITION.

The Italian scheme supports the production and distribution of advanced biofuels and advanced biomethane, also known as second and third-generation biofuels, for use in the transport sector. The scheme has an indicative budget of €4.7 billion (US\$5.8 billion) and will run from 2018 until 2022.

Advanced biofuels and biomethane are the most sustainable and environmentally friendly biofuels. They are produced from feedstock that do not require agricultural land for their production, such as waste, agricultural residues, and algae. Therefore, they pose a significantly lower risk of indirect CO₂ emissions caused by the use of additional land to grow crops for biofuels rather than for food and feed, and are particularly suited to help the EU achieve its climate and energy objectives.

Advanced biofuels and biomethane have much higher production costs than fossil fuels. Under the scheme, producers of advanced biomethane and biofuels receive a premium which allows them to compensate for these higher costs and compete with fossil fuels in the transport sector. The premium can be increased if producers also make investments to improve the distribution and liquefaction of advanced biomethane.

The level of the premium will be updated each year in relation to the production costs to ensure that producers are not overcompensated.

The scheme will also incentivize farmers to produce biofuel and biomethane from manure and other residues originating from their farming activities and use them in turn to power their agricultural machines and vehicles.

The scheme will be financed by transport fuel retailers who are obliged by law to include a certain percentage of advanced biofuels and biomethane in their fuel blends.

On this basis, the Commission concluded that the measure will help Italy reach its 2020 target for the use of renewable energy in transport, fight climate change and replace fossil fuels in the transport sector, while at the same time limiting distortions of competition, in line with the Commission's 2014 Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy.

As part of the EU 2020 strategy, the Renewable Energy Directive requires all Member States to ensure that at least 10% of all energy consumed in transport come from renewable sources by 2020. Sustainable biofuels are, together with electric vehicles, one of the main low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels used in transport, as they are easily deployable on existing transport infrastructure.

The Commission's 2014 Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy allow Member States to support advanced biofuels under certain conditions.

Source: greencarcongress

LNG-fuelled Vehicles welcomed in Jamaica

IGL LIMITED IS THE FIRST COMPANY IN JAMAICA TO INTRODUCE LNG TO FUEL ITS VEHICLES. THE MOVE IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE HARMFUL EMISSIONS AND SAVE ON FUEL COSTS FOR THE COMPANY, WHICH IS A LEADING DISTRIBUTOR OF LPG AND THE PRIMARY MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF INDUSTRIAL AND MEDICAL GASES. JAMAICA'S SCIENCE, ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER, DR. THE HON. ANDREW WHEATLEY, HAS COMMENDED IGL FOR ITS INNOVATION.

The gas distributor on April 5 launched three LNG-powered tractor heads at Devon House in St. Andrew. The fuel is supplied by New Fortress Energy.

The Minister noted that such a launch by IGL demonstrates the company's commitment to energy efficiency and to the Government's overall energy policy developed in 2009, which speaks to energy diversification. That policy provides a framework for the sustainable management of energy resources and the development of viable renewable energy resources, with the latter expected to represent no less than 20 per cent of the energy mix by 2030.

The Minister pointed out that LNG is the better choice of fuel, as it is efficient and is extremely suitable for long-distance movements.

"The move to LNG is not purely by chance. We're seeing that in a number of developed countries they are looking to transfer from the traditional fuel to LNG" – he said, while emphasising the Government's commitment to energy security.

IGL General Manager, Wayne Kirkpatrick, said the use of LNG to fuel its tractor heads is part of the company's Clean Air Initiative aimed at reducing its carbon footprint, while protecting people and the environment.

"Jamaica's National 2030 Development Plan recommends that, as a country, we create prosperity through the sustainable use and management of our natural resources" – he noted.

Data provided by Mr. Kirkpatrick indicates that LNG vehicles reduce 20 to 45 per cent of smog-producing pollutants and about five to nine per cent less of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Thus, LNG gas-fired power is more competitive when long-term costs associated with climate change and the impact of air pollution, both on people and the environment, are included" – he said.

For his part, owner of New Fortress Energy, Wes Edens, said that IGL's use of LNG mirrors his company's own foray into the natural gas business in order to reduce energy costs while providing environmental benefits. Mr. Edens argued that the transportation industry consumes more fuel than the electricity sector and IGL's move "is a real beacon of hope in terms of what can happen here in Jamaica".

He indicated that other partnerships to provide LNG for the transportation sector are to come on stream shortly.

Source: Jamaica Information Service

Pojazdy napędzane LNG na Jamajce

IGL LIMITED JEST PIERWSZĄ FIRMĄ NA JAMAJCE, KTÓRA WPROWADZIŁA LNG DO ZASILANIA SWOICH POJAZDÓW. OCZEKUJE SIĘ, ŻE RUCH TEN ZREDUKUJE SZKODLIWE EMISJE I OBNIŻY KOSZTY PALIWA DLA FIRMY, KTÓRA JEST CZŁOWYM DYSTRYBUTOREM LPG ORAZ GŁÓWNYM PRODUCENTEM I DYSTRYBUTOREM GAZÓW PRZEMYSŁOWYCH I MEDYCZNYCH. MINISTER NAUKI, ENERGII I TECHNOLOGII JAMAJKI, DR. THE HON. ANDREW WHEATLEY POCHWALIŁ FIRMĘ IGL ZA JEJ INNOWACYJNOŚĆ.

Dystrybutor gazu w dniu 5 kwietnia uruchomił trzy traktory zasilane LNG w Devon House w St. Andrew. Paliwo dostarczane jest przez New Fortress Energy.

Minister zauważył, że takie działania IGL świadczą o zaangażowaniu firmy w efektywność energetyczną i ogólną politykę energetyczną rządu, opracowaną w 2009 roku. Mówi ona o dywersyfikacji energetycznej, zapewnienia ramy dla zrównoważonego zarządzania zasobami energetycznymi i rozwoju opłacalnych odnawialnych źródeł energii, przy czym ta ostatnia ma reprezentować nie mniej niż 20% koszyka energetycznego do 2030 r.

Minister zaznaczył, że LNG jest najlepszym wyborem, ponieważ jest wydajny i doskonale nadaje się do przewozów dalekobieżnych.

"Przejęcie na LNG nie jest przypadkowe. Widzimy, że takie działania mają miejsce w wielu krajach rozwiniętych" – powiedział Wheatley, podkreślając jednocześnie zaangażowanie rządu w bezpieczeństwo energetyczne.

Dyrektor generalny IGL, Wayne Kirkpatrick, dodał, że wykorzystanie LNG do zasilania traktorów jest częścią inicjatywy Clean Air Initiative, mającej na celu zmniejszenie szkodliwych emisji węglowych, jednocześnie chroniąc ludzi i środowisko.

"Narodowy Plan Rozwoju 2030 Jamajki zaleca, abyśmy jako kraj tworzyli dobrobyt poprzez zrównoważone użytkowanie i zarządzanie naszymi zasobami naturalnymi. W ten sposób energia pozyskiwana z LNG będzie bardziej konkurencyjna, gdy uwzględnione zostaną długoterminowe koszty związane ze zmianą klimatu i wpływem zanieczyszczenia powietrza, zarówno na ludzi, jak i środowisko" – powiedział.

Źródło: Serwis Informacyjny Jamajki



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