

Hardt Hyperloop is expanding in Europe through multi-million investment by InnoEnergy

Deutsche Bahn, ENGIE Laborelec and Continental also contribute to hyperloop development

Delft, 5 September 2018 – InnoEnergy, the European community for knowledge and innovation in sustainable energy, is investing up to five million euros in Hardt Hyperloop. Hardt, the Dutch start-up that is developing the hyperloop in Europe, is investing the funds in the consortium that has been established to realise the hyperloop in Europe. Deutsche Bahn represented by DB Engineering & Consulting, Continental and Engie Laborelec have announced today that they are joining the consortium. This consortium's activities focus on starting the process of standardising and regulating the technology behind the hyperloop to accelerate its successful implementation in Europe.

The investment by InnoEnergy is part of a bigger round of investments for which Hardt is still seeking other parties to join. Tim Houter, CEO Hardt Hyperloop: 'We're delighted with the investment of five million euros in Hardt Hyperloop. InnoEnergy makes it clear through this investment that the development of the hyperloop has entered a new phase. It also highlights the importance and urgency of investing in the development of a cleaner and better alternative to long-haul transport. Hardt Hyperloop believes InnoEnergy's pledge will encourage other investors to join this round of investments.'

Sustainable alternative

Making the transport sector more sustainable is a key item on the European Community agenda and, given the recent discussions on the sharp increase in the number of flight movements, the hyperloop is increasingly being named as a sustainable alternative. Lucienne Krosse of InnoEnergy: 'The hyperloop uses clean energy and is perfect for commuters between the major European cities. With the exponential growth in air traffic and the related CO2 emissions, it is vitally important that the development of the hyperloop receives an extra boost to accelerate the actual implementation and European rollout.'

European hyperloop consortium

Hardt initiated a consortium with Royal BAM Group, Tata Steel and Royal IHC in April of this year that focuses on the hyperloop's technological development. With the addition of DB Engineering & Consulting, Continental and Engie Laborelec, the consortium now encompasses a strong combination of key innovators from the industrial sector, each with their own expertise. Tim Houter: 'This consortium is a movement of industrial partners who are working together to realise the hyperloop. Collaboration at this level is crucial. We're delighted with these new partners.'

About Hardt

Hardt is a European technology company that specialises in hyperloop. We believe it is our duty to improve the lives of current and future generations by creating technologies that challenge time and distance and remove physical boundaries. We envision a world where you can go and be with everyone and everything you care about. *A world where distance does not matter.*

To make this possible, Hardt is developing smart, convenient and sustainable transportation through the hyperloop, which is supported by the Lower House of the Dutch parliament, Tata Steel, Royal IHC, the Dutch Railways, Deutsche Bahn, Continental, Royal BAM, Engie and InnoEnergy.

About InnoEnergy

InnoEnergy is the innovation engine for sustainable energy across Europe supported by the EIT. We support and invest in innovation at every stage of the journey – from classroom to end-customer. With our network of partners, we build connections across Europe, bringing together inventors and industry, graduates and employers, researchers and entrepreneurs, businesses and markets.

We work in three essential areas of the innovation mix:

- Education to help create an informed and ambitious workforce that understands the demands of sustainability and the needs of industry.
- Innovation Projects to bring together ideas, inventors and industry to create commercially attractive technologies that deliver real results to customers.
- Business Creation Services to support entrepreneurs and start-ups who are expanding Europe's energy ecosystem with their innovative offerings.

Bringing these disciplines together maximizes the impact of each, accelerates the development of market-ready solutions and creates a fertile environment in which we can sell the innovative results of our work.

About Continental

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2017, Continental generated sales of €44 billion and currently employs more than 243,000 people in 60 countries.

For over 90 years, Continental has been ensuring greater safety, comfort and increased fire protection in high-speed, local, regional and goods trains and reducing rail traffic noise for the benefit of people and the environment. The technology company works globally and across divisions on products, systems and service solutions for passenger compartments, driver workplaces, drive units, bogies and bodies.

About DB Engineering & Consulting (Deutsche Bahn)

At DB Engineering & Consulting, our mission is to provide you with customized high-tech solutions for infrastructure, mobility and transport. By offering sustainable solutions, we help to

ensure the future success of our clients and make an important contribution to environmental protection, thereby shaping the world of tomorrow.

About Engie Laborelec

ENGIE Laborelec, an entity of the ENGIE Group, is a leading expertise and research centre in electrical power technology. Drawing on the skills of 240 highly specialised engineers and technicians, it provides operational assistance, technical consultancy and applied R&D services, and is active in the entire electricity value chain. Its services support a wide range of customers in the areas of electricity generation, transmission, distribution, storage and final use, with a particular focus on the energy transition and its so called 3 Ds - decentralisation, decarbonisation and digitalisation. ENGIE Laborelec, today part of the ENGIE business unit Tractebel, is a global actor, with activities in more than 60 countries and offices in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Chile and Abu Dhabi. www.laborelec.com

Note, not for publication:

Photographs of renders of the hyperloop are provided. They can be downloaded from the attachments and used, referencing Hardt Hyperloop.

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