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CROATIAN
GAS
CENTRE Ltd.



41ST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC & EXPERT
MEETING OF GAS PROFESSIONALS
OPATIJA, CROATIA, 6 - 8 MAY 2026



DETAILED PROGRAMME

**TUESDAY,
MAY 5TH**

14:00 - 20:00 h Arranging of exhibition area
17:00 - 21:00 h Registration of participants

**WEDNESDAY,
MAY 6TH**

7:00 Registration of participants
8:30 **PRESS CONFERENCE**, (room Camelia 1) Coordinator:
Assoc. Prof. Dalibor Pudić, PhD., President of Croatian Gas
Association, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (20 min)

9:00 **Opening ceremony**
Welcome address: Assoc. Prof. Dalibor Pudić, PhD.,
President of Croatian Gas Association
Short welcoming speeches from representatives of
ministries, main partners and sponsors (30 min)

1 KEYNOTE LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GAS MARKET AND IMPACT ON SUPPLY SECURITY

Moderator: Marko Biočina, NOVA TV, Zagreb, Croatia
9:30 **INVITED LECTURE: Global Developments in the Gas
Market and Impact on Supply Security in the Era of
Energy Transition – 25 Years of Plinacro's Role in the
European Gas System**, Assoc.Prof. Darko Pavlović, PhD.,
Plinacro Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (15 min)
9:45 **Projects in Natural Gas Exploration and Production
and the Development of Gas Infrastructure**, Marin
Zovko, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (E),
(15 min)
10:00 **Regional gas infrastructure and the strategic position
of LNG terminal**, Marina Piškorjanac, Prvo plinarsko
društvo Ltd., Vukovar, Croatia, (C), (15 min)

10:15 **PANEL DISCUSSION: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE GAS MARKET** Moderator: Marko Biočina, NOVA
TV, Zagreb, Croatia, Panelists: Vedran Špehar, Ministry of
Economy, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Zsuzsanna Ortutay, INA-
Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (E), Zvonimir Šibalić,
Prvo plinarsko društvo Ltd., Vukovar, Croatia, (C), Boris
Miljavac, Siemens Energy Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Valter
Uravić, MET Croatia Energy Trade Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia,
(C), (45 min)

11:00 **The role of natural gas in the Republic of Croatia**,
Daniel Golja, Vlatka Kos Grabar Robina, PhD., Robert
Fabek, MSc., Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, Zagreb,
Croatia, (C), (15 min)

11:15 **Regulation and balancing of the Croatian system**,
Nenad Švarc, MSc., HEP Proizvodnja Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia,
(C), (15 min)

11:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: IMPACT ON SUPPLY SECURITY**,
Moderator: Marko Biočina, NOVA TV, Zagreb, Croatia,
Panelists: Assist. Prof. Nikola Vištica, PhD., Croatian
Energy Regulatory Agency, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Ivan
Fugaš, LNG Croatia LLC, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Prof.
Vladislav Brkić, PhD., University of Zagreb, Faculty of
Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb,
Croatia, (C), Ivana Marković, Plinacro Ltd., Zagreb,
Croatia, (C), Vlado Vlašić, Podzemno skladište plina Ltd.,
Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Nenad Švarc, MSc., HEP Proizvodnja
Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (45 min)

12:15 **WELCOME COCKTAIL: SPONSOR: SIEMENS ENERGY Ltd.**,
Zagreb, Croatia, (20 min)



2

NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION PROJECTS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderator: Darko Markovinović, Podzemno skladište plina Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia

- 12:35 **INA's expanding onshore exploration portfolio: Becoming Croatia's largest acreage holder**, Marcell Lux, MSc., Tomislav Baketarić, Stipica Brnada, Josip Bubnić, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (E), (12 min)
- 12:47 **Underground gas storage – between energy transition and the race for filling targets**, Laslo Farkaš Višontai, Darko Markovinović, Gracijan Krklec, Bruno Ernečić, Petra Valjak, Podzemno skladište plina Ltd, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 12:59 **EUH2STARS: Practical Considerations for the Reservoir Engineering Design of Underground Porous Hydrogen Storages**, Bela Szocs, MSc., Hungarian Gas Storage Ltd., Budapest, Hungary, (E), (12 min)
- 13:11 **Pressure-Dependent Effects of Injected Gas Composition During Gas Cycling in Gas Condensate Reservoirs**, Ishak Boufatah, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E), (12 min)
- 13:23 **Subsea gas pipeline cathodic protection system retrofit project**, Hrvoje Goreta, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, Krešimir Kekez, PA-EL Ltd., Veliko Trgovišće, Croatia, Hrvoje Krpan, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 13:35 **ROUND TABLE: Centrifugal and reciprocating compressor modernizations and upgrades**, Frits Datema, Siemens Energy S.r.l., Milano, Italy (E), (12 min)

13:47 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 2** (10 min)

13:57 **LUNCH BREAK** (until 16:30 o'clock)

3

HYDROGEN, RENEWABLE GASES AND LOW-CARBON GASES – KEY COMPLEMENTS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Luka Perković, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia

- 16:30 **The Role of Hydrogen in Meeting Targets of Renewable Energy in the Transport Sector**, Ivana Čović Knezović, Hrvoje Matković, INA-Industrija nafte, d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (E), (12 min)
- 16:42 **Hydrogen as an energy carrier for balancing a virtual microgrid based on variable renewable energy sources**, Assoc. Prof. Luka Perković, PhD., Filip Milešević, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 16:54 **Bridging the Gap between Capacity and Market-Ready Hydrogen: A System-Level Approach**, Djallal Boucheneb, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E), (12 min)
- 17:06 **Isolating flanges at station–pipeline interfaces: H₂ and CO₂ considerations for selection, verification, and installation assurance**, Steffen Rathmann, Tim Vogel, MSc., ISOflanges GmbH, Winsen, Germany, (E), (12 min)
- 17:18 **Ammonia as a low-carbon vector: A system-level techno-economic assessment of production, integration, and export applications**, Djallal Boucheneb, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E), (12 min)



DETAILED PROGRAMME

- 17:30 **ROUND TABLE: BIOMETHANE: From Critical Issue to Valuable Resource**, Tommaso Russo, Automa Srl, Ancona, Italy, (E), (12 min)
- 17:42 **ROUND TABLE: Intelligent gas grid (IGG) Project's**, Tom Jeffries, Steve Dawson, Utonomy Ltd., Southampton, United Kingdom, (E), (12 min)
- 17:54 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 3** (10 min)

4 FUTURE OF LNG IN EUROPE AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS SECTOR

Moderator: Prof. Daria Karasalihović Sedlar, PhD., University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia

- 18:04 **LNG Terminal capacity increase project**, Dario Ferencaba, Marko Častek, LNG Croatia LLC, Zagreb, Croatia, (E), (12 min)
- 18:16 **ROUND TABLE: Thermal and acoustic insulation for cryogenic pipes in LNG terminals. Construction and maintenance. Practical experience.**, Jarema Chmielarski, MSc., Armacell, Energy Destination Market, Środa Śląska, Poland, Djura Bindas, MSc., Armacell, Energy Destination Market, Novi Sad, Serbia, (E), (12 min)
- 18:28 **Strategic analysis of the European LNG market using weighted SWOT approach**, Kamel Karim, MSc. SONATRACH, Alžir, Alžir, (E), (12 min)
- 18:40 **How new LNG import capacities are transforming security of supply and market flexibility in Croatia's natural gas market**, Ivan Smajla, PhD., Prof. Daria Karasalihović Sedlar, PhD., University of Zagreb, Faculty

of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia, Marko Blažević, Ivan Šošarko, HEP-Trgovina Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (E), (12 min)

- 18:52 **Standardising Direct LNG Measurement: From Reference Mixtures to ISO Framework**, Dr of Engineering, Joey Walker, Jonathan Britain, EffectTech Ltd., Uttoxeter, United Kingdom, (E), (12 min)
- 19:04 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 4** (10 min)
- 20:30 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL PARTY**, for all participants, **Gala hall of the Grand Hotel Adriatic** – Sponsor: **Croatian Gas Center Ltd.**, Zagreb Croatia, (until 22,30 o'clock)

THURSDAY
MAY 7TH

5 INTRODUCTORY LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSION: KEY ISSUES IN GAS SUPPLY

Moderator: Marko Blažević, HEP-Trgovina Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia

- 9:30 **Estimation of the relationship between gas and electricity prices using the NARDL (Non-linear Autoregressive Distributed Lag method)**, Kamel Karim, MSc., SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E), (12 min)
- 9:42 **PANEL DISCUSSION: KEY ISSUES IN GAS SUPPLY**, Moderator: Marko Biočina, NOVA TV, Zagreb, Croatia, Panelists: Davor Matić, MSc., Ministry of Economy, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Goran Babić, Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency (HERA), Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Nenad Hranilović, Međimurje-plin Ltd., Čakovec, Croatia, (C), Marijeta Majer, ENNA Next, Vukovar, Croatia, (C), Marko Križanec, Energo Ltd., Rijeka, Croatia, (C), (45 min)

DETAILED PROGRAMME



10:27 **COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK: MAIN PARTNER:**
INA-INDUSTRIJA NAFTE d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (30 min)

6 **INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION: ISSUES OF GAS TRANSPORT, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE**

Moderator: Srećko Ezgeta, Gradska plinara Bjelovar, Ltd., Bjelovar, Croatia

10:57 **Repurposing of existing gas pipelines for hydrogen transport (Hydrogen ready pipeline)**, Goran Erceg, Bureau Veritas Croatia, Rijeka, Croatia, (C), (12 min)

11:09 **Development and Qualification of hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure in Algeria: Assessment of existing pipelines and advanced composite materials with hydrogen barrier liners**, Omar Bouledroua, PhD., SONATRACH, Boumerdès, Algeria, (E), (12 min)

11:21 **Report on behavior of low pressure gas regulators after long term operating in gas network**, Berislav Pavlović, PhD., Fikret Nasić, Gradska plinara Zagreb Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)

11:33 **Relevance of surface roughness for Coatings performance**, Martin Durcik, MONTI - Werkzeuge GmbH, Hennef, Germany, (E), (12 min)

11:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION: ISSUES OF GAS TRANSPORT, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE**, Moderator: Srećko Ezgeta, Gradska plinara Bjelovar, Bjelovar, Ltd., Croatia, Panelists: Ivana Lukač, Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency (HERA), Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Robert Bošnjak, Plinacro Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Dalibor Bukvić, Brod-plin Ltd., Slavonski Brod, Croatia, (C), Darko Markovinović,

Podzemno skladište plina Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Nikola Novaković, E.ON Distribucija plina Ltd., Koprivnica, Croatia, (C), (45 min)

12:30 **LUNCH BREAK** (until 16:00 o'clock)

7 **SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, OF THE GAS AND ENERGY SECTOR, METHANE EMISSION REDUCTION, LEAK PREVENTION AND REPORTING**

Moderator: Alan Vranjković, PhD., INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia

16:00 **Experiences in the application and enforcement of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the gas transmission system**, Luka Ivanec, Goran Rončević, Plinacro Ltd, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)

16:12 **Application of vibroacoustic technology for real-time leak detection on gas pipelines**, Fabio Chiappa, PhD., Ramtin Mehraram, PhD., Gerardo Califano, Valeria Vandone, Massimiliano Biagini, Ilenia Romagnoli, Icaro Gargione, Ana Paula Gomes, Marco Marino, Enivibes S.r.l., Milano, Italy, (E), (12 min)

16:24 **ROUND TABLE: A solution for the quantification and reduction of methane emissions**, Tommaso Russo, Automa Srl, Ancona, Italy, (E), (12 min)

16:36 **ROUND TABLE: Mobile Compressor Unit for Methane Emission Reduction**, Damir Jeličić, Pico Flow Controls Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)



- 16:48 **Transforming Legacy Reports into Strategic Assets - “Gen AI-Powered Digitalization of Legacy Geological and Well Test Reports into Structured Database for Enhanced Exploration and Production”**, Alan Vranjković, PhD., Tomislav Antolić, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, Chafaa Badis, Latif Yalcinoglu, Halliburton Landmark, Houston, USA, (E), (12 min)
- 17:00 **ROUND TABLE: Xplorobot Laser OGI: An Integrated TDLAS-Based Platform for methane emission detection, quantification, and compliance management in oil and gas operations**, Richard Clarke, PhD., Xplorobot, Houston, USA, Oleg Mikhailov, PhD., Xplorobot, Piedmont, USA, Eugene Kleyn, Xplorobot, Houston, USA, (E), (12 min)
- 17:12 **ROUND TABLE: MISTRAS - Uniting expertise, specialized engineering, and high-value data**, Filip Caušević, MISTRAS Adriatic Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (H), (12 min)
- 17:24 **Smart Management and Process Digitalization in Gas Distribution through GIS and WFM**, Tomislav Medvarić, E.ON Distribucija plina Ltd., Koprivnica, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 17:36 **How to achieve NIS2 compliance?** Dražen Dorić, MSc., FERIT Osijek, Kruno Jurlina, Sandra Vdovjak, ATO Inženjering Ltd., Osijek, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 16:48 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 7**, (10 min)

8

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION: USE OF CNG, LNG, AND LPG AND THE POTENTIAL OF FUELS FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES FOR THE DECARBONIZATION OF TRANSPORT

Moderator: Krešimir Marijanović, Brod-plin Ltd., Brod-plin, Slavonski Brod, Croatia

- 17:58 **The condition of the vehicle fleet in Croatia, testing and approval vehicles powered by gas as a propulsion fuel**, Igor Marjanović, Center for Vehicles of Croatia d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 18:10 **Retrospective of the Construction of the CNG and LPG Refueling Station in Pula – from an EU Project to the Green Energy Transition**, Moris Gergorić, Plinara Ltd., Pula, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 18:22 **Renewable compressed natural gas (R-CNG) as an important factor in the decarbonization of transport and an equal partner of electromobility**, Krešimir Marijanović, Brod-plin Ltd., Slavonski Brod, Croatia, Luka Čarapović, MSc., Abaco Ltd., Slavonski Brod, Croatia, Katarina Knežević, Porche Croatia Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, Dalibor Bukvić, Brod-plin Ltd. Slavonski Brod, Croatia (C), (12 min)
- 18:34 **CNG vehicles: a missed opportunity for gas distributors?**, Marko Horvacki Zivalov, KONCEPTING Ltd., Vukovar, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 18:46 **PANEL DISCUSSION: USE OF CNG, LNG, AND LPG AND THE POTENTIAL OF FUELS FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES FOR THE DECARBONIZATION OF TRANSPORT**, Moderator: Krešimir Marijanović, Brod-plin Ltd., Slavonski Brod, Croatia, Panelists: Igor Marjanović, Centar za vozila Hrvatske d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), Moris Gergorić, Plinara Ltd., Pula, Pula,



DETAILED PROGRAMME

FRIDAY
MAY 8TH

Croatia, (C), Marko Horvacki Zivalov, KONCEPTING Ltd., Vukovar, Croatia, (C), Zoran Dojčinović, Croatian Gas Association, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (45 min)

20:30 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL PARTY**, for all participants, **Gala hall of the Grand Hotel Adriatic's** – Sponsor: **Croatian Gas Center Ltd.**, Zagreb Croatia, (until 22,30 o'clock)

9 POSTER SESSION: ISSUES IN THE GAS INDUSTRY AND ENERGY SECTOR

9:30 **OPENING OF THE POSTER SESSION** (exhibition area), Coordinator: Zoran Dojčinović – Croatian Gas Association, Zagreb, Croatia, (90 min)

- **Smart Integration of Gas, Heat and Water – the Path Toward Integrated Energy Management**, Miroslav Šolić, Alen Počinak, Dalibor Bukvić, Vjekoslav Kovačević, Damir Hrajnek, Brod-plin Ltd., Slavonski Brod, Croatia, (C)
- **The Importance of an Energy Management System in Oil and Gas Exploration and Production**, Ines Hemetek-Potroško, PhD., INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C)
- **Geopolitics as a Driver of Change: The Transformation of Natural Gas Supply Routes in the European Union**, Filip Špehar, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia, (C)
- **Natural Gas as a Pillar of Energy Security and the African–European Partnership: An Analytical Insight into the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP)**, Brikat Abdelghani, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E)

- **From Potential to Profitability: The Economics of Hydrogen Production and Storage**, Vladimir Žganjer, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering, Zagreb, Croatia, (C)
- **Technical and operational aspects of blending H₂ with natural gas, utilization of the mixture, and hydrogen separation at selected points in the system using the existing gas pipeline infrastructure**, Mislav Kalafatić, Mario Perić, PhD., Končar- Elektroindustrija d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C)
- **Modeling Sulfur Solubility in Sour Gas Mixtures using Artificial Neural Network**, Khaled Ourabah, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, Hakim Djema, SONATRACH, Boumerdes, Algeria, (E)

10 LEGAL FRAMEWORK, TECHNICAL REGULATIONS, PROFESSIONAL RULES, REGULATORY ISSUES AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Moderator: Fikret Nasić, Gradska plinara Zagreb Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia

- 11:00 **Effects of the proposed amendments to the Public Procurement Act on public procurement procedures in the gas sector**, Petra Šantić, LL.M., Law Office Petra Šantić, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 11:12. **Natural gas distribution in energy transition: investment sustainability, regulatory framework and affordability**, Janja Kulić, MSc., Kulić & Sperk Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)

DETAILED PROGRAMME



- 11:24 **Application of the Ordinance on the Minimum Requirements for the Safety and Health of Workers and the Technical Supervision of Plants, Equipment, Installations and Devices in Areas at Risk of Explosive Atmospheres (Official Gazette 39/06, 106/07)**, Stjepan Pavliša, Pavliša Objekti Ltd., Veliko Trgovišće, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 11:36 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 10** (10 min)
- 11:46 **ORGANISER'S CLOSING SPEECH**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

UNDER THE HIGH AUSPICES:



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
Ministry of
Economy



HZN

Hrvatski zavod za norme
Croatian Standards Institute



MAIN PARTNERS:



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