



CROATIAN
GAS
CENTRE Ltd.



CROATIAN
GAS
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER OF



INTERNATIONAL GAS UNION
UNION INTERNATIONALE DU GAZ



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**
host: Assoc. Prof. Dalibor Pudić, PhD.,
President of Croatian Gas Association

Welcome address / Welcome host speech on the
proposed topics / Short short welcoming speeches of
renowned gas experts from ministries, main partners and
sponsors, (30 min)

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

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**, Zsuzsanna
Ortutay, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (E),
(15 min)

10:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
GAS MARKET AND IMPACT ON SUPPLY SECURITY**
(45 min)

10:45 **Regional gas infrastructure and the strategic position
of LNG terminal**, Marina Piškorjanac, Prvo plinarsko
društvo Ltd., Vukovar, Croatia, (C), (15 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 **PANEL DISCUSSION: DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL GAS
INFRASTRUCTURE** (45 min)

12:00 **WELCOME COCKTAIL**: sponsor: **SIEMENS ENERGY Ltd.**,
Zagreb, Croatia, (20 min)

2 **INTRODUCTORY LECTURES AND PANEL DISCUSSION: NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION PROJECTS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAS INFRASTRUCTURE**

12:20 **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, (C), (12 min),

12:32 **Underground gas storage – between energy transition
and the race for filling targets**, Laslo Farkaš Višontai,
Darko Markovinović, Gracijan Krklec, Bruno Ernečić,
Podzemno skladište plina Ltd, Zagreb, Croatia, (C),
(12 min)

12:44 **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)

12:56 **Pressure-Dependent Effects of Injected Gas
Composition During Gas Cycling in Gas Condensate**



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- 12:56 **Reservoirs**, Ishak Boufatah, SONATRACH, Algiers, Algeria, (E), (12 min)
- 13:08 **Subsea gas pipeline cathodic protection system retrofit project**, Hrvoje Goreta, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Krešimir Kekez, PA-EL Ltd., Veliko Trgovišće, Hrvoje Krpan, INA-Industrija nafte d.d., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 13:20 **Regulation and balancing of the electric power and gas system**, Nenad Švarc, MSc., HEP Proizvodnja Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 13:32 **ROUND TABLE: Centrifugal and reciprocating compressor modernizations and upgrades**, Frits Datema, Siemens Energy S.r.l., Milano, Italy, (E), (12 min)
- 13:44 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 2** (10 min)
- 13:54 **LUNCH BREAK** (until 16:30 o'clock)

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

- 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, (C), (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)
- 17:30 **ROUND TABLE: Ensuring continuous and priority biomethane injection under high network pressure conditions**, 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

- 18:04 **LNG Terminal capacity increase project**, Dario Ferencaba, Marko Častek, LNG Croatia LLC, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (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)



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THURSDAY
MAY 7TH

- 18:28 **Strategic analysis of the European LNG market using weighted SWOT approach**, Kamel Karim, MSc., SONATRACH, Boumerdes, Algeria, (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 Šoštarko, HEP-Trgovina Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 18:52 **Accredited calibration and emerging standards for direct LNG measurement technologies**, Dr of Engineering Joey Walker, Jonathan Britain, EffecTech Ltd., Uttoxeter, United Kingdom, (E), (12 min)
- 19:04 **DISCUSSION: SESSION 5** (10 min)
- 20:30 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL PARTY**, for all participants, **terrace of the Grand Hotel Adriatic's outdoor pool** - Sponsor: **Croatian Gas Center Ltd.**, Zagreb Croatia, (until 22,30 o'clock)

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

- 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 **How gas power plants and heat pumps complement each other**, Klaus Payrhuber, PhD., Teki Suajibi, INNIO Jenbacher GmbH & Co OG, Jenbach, Austria, (C), (12 min)
- 9:54 **PANEL DISCUSSION: SESSION 5** (45 min)

- 10:39 **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

- 11:09 **Strategic geomechanical framework for Unconventional Gas Development and safe CO₂ storage in Algeria**, Kamr Eddine Aissou, MSc., National Agency for the Valorization of Hydrocarbon Resources "ALNAFT", Alžir, Algeria, (E), (12 min)
- 11:21 **Repurposing of existing gas pipelines for hydrogen transport (Hydrogen ready pipeline)**, Goran Erceg, Bureau Veritas Croatia, Rijeka, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 11:33 **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)
- 11:45 **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)
- 11:57 **Diagnostic challenges in natural gas compressor thrust bearings: A case study of misleading sensor indications**, Abdullah Zaman Al-Merza, Kuwait oil company (KOC), Ahmadi, Kuwait, (E), (12 min)
- 12:09 **Relevance of surface roughness for Coatings performance**, Martin Durcik, MONTI-Werkzeuge GmbH, Hennef, Germany, (C), (12 min)

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12:21 **PANEL DISCUSSION: NEW GAS DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY** (45 min)

13:06 **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

16:00 **Plinacro's implementation of the Zero Tolerance for Methane strategy in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2024/1787**, Marija Gilja, Luka Dermišek, Assoc. Prof. Darko Pavlović, PhD., Tvrtko Begović, Plinacro Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)

16:12 **Application of Vibroacoustic Technology for Real-Time Leak Detection on Gas Pipelines**, Fabio Chiappa, PhD., Massimiliano Biagini, Ilenia Romagnoli, Icaro Gargione, Ramtin Mehraram, PhD., Ana Paula Gomes, Marco Marino, Enivibes S.r.l., Milan, 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., 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, (C), (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, (C), (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)

17:48 **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

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)



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- 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: SESSION 8** (45 min)
- 20:30 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL PARTY**, for all participants, **terrace of the Grand Hotel Adriatic's outdoor pool** - Sponsor: **Croatian Gas Center Ltd.**, Zagreb Croatia, (until 22,30 o'clock)

FRIDAY
MAY 8TH

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

OPENING OF THE POSTER SESSION (exhibition area),
Coordinator: Zoran Dojčinović, Croatian Gas Association,
Zagreb, Croatia, (duration of the session 90 min)

- 9:30
- **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, 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)

- **Geopolitika kao pokretač promjena: Transformacija dobavnih pravaca plina u Europskoj uniji**, Filip Špehar, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Rudarsko-geološko-naftni fakultet, Zagreb, Republika Hrvatska, (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

- 11:00 **Effects of the proposed amendments to the Public Procurement Act on public procurement procedures in the gas sector**, Petra Šantić, LL.M., Odvjetnički ured Petra Šantić, Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)



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- 11:12 **Natural gas distribution in energy transition: investment sustainability, regulatory framework and affordability**, Janja Kulić, Kulić & Sperk Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia, (C), (12 min)
- 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** (10 min)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME



UNDER THE HIGH AUSPICES:



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
Ministry of
Economy



HZN

Hrvatski zavod za norme
Croatian Standards Institute

CONFIRMED MAIN PARTNERS:



PPD

INA

CONFIRMED GOLD SPONSOR:



međimurjeplin
za opskrbu prirodnim plinom

CONFIRMED SPONSORS:



SIEMENS
energy



CONFIRMED CO-ORGANIZERS:



TERMOPLIN d.d. VARAŽDIN
regionalni distributer



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