

Project Kick off Meeting – Bilbao (ES), 23-24 of September 2024

The **DESSERT** project has started on 01 Jul 2024 and it has received funding from the European Union's Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) programme under the GA No. 101157797. DESSERT, which stands for *Advanced thread connected production string for hydrogen storage in underground formations*, held its official Kick-off Meeting in Bilbao on 23 and 24 of September 2024. TUBACEX INNOVACIÓN, as the Project Coordinator, welcomed all partners in their headquarters to discuss the project's objectives and plans.

The primary focus of this **36-month** project is the development of a new stainless steel prototype pipe designed for injecting and withdrawing hydrogen from underground reservoirs. This innovative technology aims to establish hydrogen as a readily available and sustainable energy source, positioning it as a crucial component in the global transition to cleaner energy solutions.

The DESSERT project consortium consists of six partners with extensive expertise in the relevant fields, including steel manufacturers, universities and R&D centres, and innovation and research-consulting firm. During the meeting, all project partners presented their specific activities and contributions to the DESSERT initiative. The collaborative atmosphere fostered productive discussions on the technical, operational, and environmental aspects of the project. Each partner showcased their expertise and outlined how their work will support the project's overarching goals.

- **Tubacex Innovación** and **Tubacex Upstream Technologies**, having all the expertise and technologies to design, manufacture and characterize new and advanced high nickel alloys and stainless steel products for energy and mobility sector.
- **TEKNIKER, TU Clausthal, AC2T research GmbH, and Johannes Kepler University Linz**, having the most advanced instruments, equipment and developed methodologies for materials analysis, testing and modelling
- **ENCO srl**, for ensuring a maximal exploitation and dissemination of the project results.

The event also included a comprehensive tour of key facilities. The project coordinators graciously opened their laboratories to all partners, allowing them to explore advanced tools and technologies essential for the development of the stainless steel pipes. These technologies are pivotal in achieving the project's ambitious goals.

In addition, partners had the opportunity to visit the steel mill ACERALAVA and the tube production mill TUBACEX TUBOS INOXIDABLES, where they observed innovative technologies and manufacturing processes firsthand. These visits provided valuable insights into the complex production and quality control mechanisms that will ensure the success of the project.

The event was graced by the presence and valuable contribution of Dr. Miguel Medina Cobo, Project Officer from European Research Executive Agency (REA), who helped guide discussions and align efforts toward achieving the project's goals.

The KoM marked the start of a strong collaborative effort among the partners, with each contributing to the DESSERT project's mission to develop sustainable hydrogen solutions.

More information soon on www.dessert-project.eu or please contact: vastigarraga@tubacex.com

