



# The European Gas Research Group

## The Research Roadmap for the 2030 European Gas Industry Vision

### Why a Roadmap?

- The GERG Research Roadmap takes a strategic look at the issues that will face the European gas industry over the next 20+ years.
- It develops a set of tentative RTD roadmaps to support and/or stimulate the options available for the transmission, distribution and the use of gas across Europe and beyond – including a move towards the hydrogen economy.
- It takes account of the European Union's recently cited energy objectives for European research and technological development (RTD) efforts to:
  - contribute to completing the internal gas market;
  - reinforce the security of supply and the prevention of breaks in energy supplies;
  - prepare Europe for the transition towards a reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emission regime.

### Four Priority areas to meet the challenges to 2030:

- Securing the European gas supply by the diversification of gas supply sources and routes, and improving the interoperability of European gas networks.
- Improving the safety and integrity of gas networks by increasing European gas network integrity, durability, robustness of its management, and developing simulation tools.
- Developing smart gas uses / managing energy demand for the three energy markets, residential and commercial, industry and transportation.
- Improving the sustainability of natural gas supply and use by reducing the gas industry's greenhouse gas emissions, and investigating future energy sources.

### Who needs a Roadmap?

The Roadmap is to be used in consultation with the major stakeholders:- gas pipeline and infrastructure operators, international gas organisations, the elements of the European Union, both Commission and Parliament, regulators, national authorities and providers of gas technology worldwide, including manufacturers. It formed the basis of the GERG contribution to the European Unions' Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan.

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## The GERG Vision

### *Tough challenges*

Energy and environmental challenges are acute for the Europe Union, which must secure competitive and clean energy for Europe against a backdrop of climate change, escalating global energy demand and future supply uncertainties.

The European gas industry is faced with a growing demand for natural gas and increasing pressure to address the problems associated with energy efficiency and emissions, set against the requirement to deliver benefits to shareholders in newly privatised companies. Almost inevitably, this means significant reductions in R&D expenditure at a time when there remains a demand for high quality research and innovation.

### *R&D is essential*

It is absolutely vital to look ahead and to maintain involvement in organisations that promote collaboration in R&D.

Europe is facing major energy challenges and will need contributions from all of the stakeholders if it is to succeed, as acknowledged in the European Commission's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) plan.

### *GERG has a key role*

It is imperative that the gas industry develops the latest technology to be in a position to adapt to new and changing requirements.

GERG ensures that the gas industry is a leader in collaborative research and it will have a key role to play if the European gas industry is to progress.

It must continue to:

- provide a forum for high quality information and exchange;
- ensure that flexible mechanisms exist for shared cost and shared risk activities and;
- be the voice of natural gas R&D in Europe, and its interface beyond.

## **What is GERG?**

GERG, the European Gas Research Group, is a research and development organisation with a unique role in Europe, in that it provides both support and stimulus for the technological innovation necessary to ensure that the European gas industry can rise to meet the technological challenges of the new century.

It was founded in 1961 to strengthen the gas industry within the European Community and it achieves this by promoting research and technological innovation in all aspects of the gas chain. Established as a network to enable exchange of information between a select group of specialist R&D centres to avoid duplication of effort, it has grown steadily to its current size whilst retaining and expanding its original aims. Its priorities are networking, technical information exchange, and the promotion of collaborative R&D.

GERG membership currently stands at 20 members from 11 countries, each actively involved in natural gas R&D. It's worth noting that despite, or maybe as a result of, the changes in the European natural gas landscape, GERG membership has doubled in recent years.

GERG is based in Brussels to benefit from proximity to the institutions of the European Union and great emphasis is placed on maintenance of links with the EU, working for recognition of the importance of natural gas-related R&D and providing support to members in setting up collaborative R&D projects under the European Union's R&D Framework Programmes.

It is worth reinforcing the point that the members of GERG represent some of the most expert technical performers in the international natural gas R&D community, combining to contribute key skills and experience that would be impossible to resource at the purely national level. GERG is, without doubt, very well-equipped to undertake energy sector research and technological development and make a significant contribution into the 21st century.