

Challenges in energy system transformation

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KEY CHALLENGES

Delivering a Net Zero energy system raises many challenges



ANNUAL AVERAGE ENERGY INVESTMENT NEEDS (NZE 2050)

Encouraging Investment

Policy frameworks and market designs will need to signal commitment to, and value of, net zero investments

- Supporting Innovation

 Anticipated reliance on emerging or unproven technologies to meet future needs

Coordinating Infrastructure

 Facilitating investment in infrastructure will need to be coordinated across the value chain and promote new business models to realise the potential

- Ensuring Inclusion

 Behavioural change is a critical component of a net zero society. Distributional effects across sectors and regions will need to be acknowledged and managed



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HYDROGEN IN EUROPE

European hydrogen ambitions will require over €450bn in investment, but is there an appetite to invest?



📕 Heat (Residential, commercial, industrial) 🔝 Transport 🔜 Power 📰 Industry (feedstock)

Sources: AFRY analysis based on Q2 2021 modelling and AFRY & Agora Energiewende No Regret Hydrogen study 2020





Current interest is focused on replacing 'grey' hydrogen with low-carbon 'blue' and renewable 'green' hydrogen in the industrial sector

INVESTMENT FUND FOCUS FOR PROJECTS IN HYDROGEN VALUE CHAIN WITHIN NEXT 5 YEARS







Investors will assess projects according to a number of criteria

INVESTMENT CRITERIA



Regulatory environment



Technology risk



Sustainability



Subsidies will be required for a profitable project

- No preference for subsidy type (CAPEX subsidy, CFD type or feed in tariff)
- Subsidies should not cover too large a share of the cash flows, in case government's retrospectively change subsidy levels

Country has track-record of stable regulation

 No history of retroactively changing subsidy schemes and reducing amounts

Use of proven technology is required

- Technology needs to have demonstrated to be scalable and a potential for cost reduction
- The EPC contractor needs to assume the technology and construction risk

Hydrogen needs to qualify as 'green'

 Guarantees that the hydrogen can earn a premium in the long run

Counterparty risk



Secured revenues with few off-takers

- Strong preference for industrial offtaker of hydrogen (to replace grey hydrogen)
- Investors would challenge the creditworthiness of the counterparty of the offtake contract (based on their PPA experience)
- Offtaker needs to have experience in hydrogen (not a `first-timer')
- Counterparty needs to have a stable business outlook

Project complexity



Fewer stakeholders are preferred

- Multisite projects or international projects add complexity and are excluded
- Large transport infrastructure would also lead to additional complexity due to multiple revenue sources
- CCU/S and blue hydrogen with the required CCS infrastructure would raise complexity as well





Some financial investors already prepare now for first projects, while most financial investors expect to become more active after 2025 **INVOLVEMENT OF FINANCIAL INVESTORS OVER TIME**





