

LNG Motion

Axègaz opens the first LNG station on the Lille-Lesquin CRT

Developed by Axègaz Solutions Transport, the first public LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) service station has been operational on the Lille-Lesquin CRT since May 30.

It's the first facility in the Axègaz European LNG Motion project, and is contributing to launching the market for LNG vehicles with flexible and competitive LNG distribution for road transporters.

By the end of 2016, other public stations will open at Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois, Dijon, Corbas and Orange.

To the south of Lille, on one of the principal north-south transport corridors, the first LNG service station in the European LNG Motion project was opened on Monday, May 30, 2016, on the Lille-Lesquin CRT.

The innovation marks the roll-out of the European public natural gas fuel network at the initiative of Axègaz, at the biggest transport and logistics centre in Northern France.

"In the long-term, the network will consist of 42 stations in 9 European countries, for sustainable road transport," proudly declares Edouard de Montmarin, Development Director at Axègaz Solutions Transport.

A facilitated energy transition

This first site is on a 2,500 m² land plot, is based on the mobile and compact service station of 20 m³ capacity, and has won the Best Innovation in Transport Systems award at the SITL Europe Transport Next Generation 2016 show.

It's compliant with French regulations on safety at ICPE sites, is MID-approved, and addresses the needs of regional and international transit traffic at the heart of a motorway node point (A1, A22 and A23). The service station is intended to draw the attention of French and European carriers with LNG trucks, and will help them start a progressive conversion of their fleet to LNG:

"The environmental advantages of gas power are recognised in the Euro VI diesel engines: a 10% reduction in CO₂ emissions, elimination of 70% of Nox and nearly 100% of particles, with a division by 2 of audible noise."

Right from its opening, through certificates of guaranteed origin, the station is offering access to bio-methane or Bio-LNG, which decreases CO₂ emissions by more than 60%.

Advantageous price difference

At a time when industrial vehicle manufacturers are announcing LNG models of more than 400 HP by the end of the year, the Lille service station is open for self-service use via an Axègaz card. The card is issued free of charge and automatically identifies the driver and the vehicle's registration number.

Equipped with a remote surveillance system, the site can refuel up to 20 or so vehicles regularly, with fuel deliveries being fed back to the transportation client. Wearing Individual Protection Equipment (IPE), the time required by a driver to refill with LNG is the same as with diesel.

“The prices offered are clear and very cost-effective, are known in advance, and are on a sliding scale according to quantity. With a difference of 15 euro cents between a kilo of gas and a litre of diesel, the additional cost of a gas-fuelled vehicle is amortized in less than two years, as from 100,000 km per year,” reassures Edouard de Montmarin.

The financial conditions have already been exceeded at a time when the price of diesel is rising again, while the price of gas is known for its stability over time.

Deployment underway

During 2017, the service station on the Lille-Lesquin CRT will accommodate an addition 60 m³ storage capacity. Its LNG distribution will be tripled, with the addition of a pump offering compressed natural gas (CNG).

Meantime, the LNG Motion network – which is candidate for the European CEF program – will expand on the Lille-Paris-Lyon-Marseilles route, says Edouard de Montmarin:

“In September, a new public station will be opened in the Paris area, at Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois, and by the end of 2016, others will be opened at Dijon, Corbas and Orange.”

The LNG Motion network isn't waiting for the prize winners of the call for candidatures of the CEF program in July 2016, and is already in motion. It is part of the European drive to increase the use of gas and bio-methane as an ecological fuel for sustainable road transport.