

PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of the new LNG (liquefied natural gas), bioLNG and L-CNG (compressed natural gas) refueling station for TPER buses in Bologna

TPER Spa, SOL Spa and CEDEM Scarl together for increasingly sustainable mobility

Bologna, 15 October 2024 - **TPER** has inaugurated **the new LNG** (liquefied natural gas), **bioLNG** and **L-CNG** (compressed natural gas derived from liquid methane) distribution station inside the **company depot in via Ferrarese, Bologna**.

The inauguration was held today in the presence of local institutions, as a testimony of the link between TPER and the local community and as confirmation of the company's continuous commitment to increasingly sustainable mobility.

The plant, now operational, will guarantee the refueling of a large part of TPER's natural gas vehicle fleet: **the fleet of the Bologna basin has 451 methane buses, of which 329 are compressed natural gas and 122 are liquefied natural gas**.

In particular, the new plant will primarily supply LNG buses, an allocation that increasingly characterizes TPER's ecological footprint. TPER, in fact, was a pioneer in Europe - in 2019 - for tenders to purchase LNG buses, a solution now adopted for many long-distance fleets across the continent for the ecological contribution offered by this fuel, in addition to the guarantee service autonomy for long journeys. Natural gas is, in fact, recognized by the EU as a 'bridging fuel' in the current phase of transition towards zero-emission local public transport. Methane buses, in addition to reducing harmful emissions compared to diesel, have the great advantage of being able to be powered by biofuels without the need for technical modifications to the vehicles or further infrastructure, thus guaranteeing the possibility of decarbonised public transport (with total compensation of CO₂ in the entire well-to-wheel cycle).

The new dispensing system **allows buses to be refueled in a convenient, efficient and ecological way directly inside the TPER depot**, being able to **serve both LNG and compressed natural gas** obtained by regasifying methane from the liquid state, also allowing **optimization and speed up filling operations** compared to distributors connected to the gas pipeline network. Already now, thanks to the supply guaranteed by SOL, the station **can also supply bioLNG**, for a further ecological benefit.

The construction of the refueling station was carried out by two leading operators in the plant engineering sector: the mandatory company **SOL SpA** and **CEDEM Scarl**.

SOL's long experience in the distribution and sale of cryogenic gases, construction of cryogenic storage systems and supply of LNG and bioLNG, combined with **CEDEM's** decades-long



experience in plant engineering, were decisive factors in choosing the right partners to accompany **TPER** in this step towards the transition energy sustainability.

The construction of the refueling station involved a **total investment of 1.5 million euros** supported with public resources made available by the Emilia-Romagna Region - **420,000 euros from the Funds for Development and Cohesion (FSC) and 560,000 euros from funds of the Strategic Plan National Sustainable Mobility (PSNMS)** - and for the remaining part, **510,000 euros, with TPER resources.**

It is an investment made **in line with the metropolitan Urban Plan for Sustainable Mobility of Bologna and in line with national and European environmental policies envisaged on the subject of ecological transport development** and supported by dedicated public funding. The new construction is functional to the path of continuous renewal of the TPER fleet which takes the form of an energy and technological mix of different solutions, tailor-made to extend eco-sustainability to the entire vast territory served.

The President and CEO of TPER SpA, Giuseppina Gualtieri, presented the new project, a further element of the eco-sustainable strategy carried out with determination by the company: *"Aware of the importance of public transport in protecting the environment, we have long been committed to guaranteeing top environmental sustainability in every area of our service. For long distances, today liquid methane represents the best solution, confirming the validity of an operational choice that has proved to be far-sighted. This refueling system testifies to Tper's commitment to maximizing investments in support of the ecological transition, using all the public resources made available by our institutions and supplementing them with significant amounts of self-financing from the company".*

"We are proud of this collaboration for the realization of this important project which, once again, brings SOL more and more to the center of the energy transition and sustainable mobility, for a local public transport increasingly attentive to the environment and oriented towards the future" - commented **Daniele Forni, Deputy General Manager of Technical Gases of SOL Group.**

"We too join in the expressions of satisfaction relating to this very important project which, as CEDEM, we have followed in all phases of implementation and start-up, proud to have worked for a strategic reality for mobility in the region such as TPER. More and more convinced of the choice to operate in a virtuous partnership now consolidated with SOL SpA, corroborating a mission that has long been aimed at supporting the public transport companies of the TPL, and in the now ten-year vision aimed at strengthening innovation and the process of digital and ecological transition, such as the recent construction of plants/products and services in the hydrogen sector" - commented **Marco Malagoli, CEO of the CEDEM Scarl group.**

TPER is the main local public transport company in Emilia-Romagna in terms of service volumes and is at the head of one of the largest industrial groups for sustainable mobility in Italy. TPER manages local public transport by road in the Bologna and Ferrara basins and, in partnership



with Trenitalia - through the company TrenitaliaTper - the regional rail passenger service; also operates the full electric sharing Corrente. TPER holds shares in 13 companies, mainly operating in the mobility and logistics sector, of which 8 subsidiaries, 4 associates and 1 investee, and is configured as a Public Interest Body.

SOL is an Italian multinational Group that operates in Europe, Turkey, Morocco, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, China and India in two distinct main sectors: that of the production, applied research and marketing of technical, pure and medicinal gases (Technical Gases Division) and that of Home Medical Assistance (Home Care Division - VIVISOL).

CEDEM is a consortium of Italian companies that develops, produces and creates services and solutions dedicated to both public and private service stations. The focus is on low environmental impact fuels such as LPG, compressed natural gas and liquid methane. With over 100 compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and over 50 liquid methane L-LNG stations, it is among the top national companies for green fuels. Engineering spirit, reliability, research and passion for eco-technologies are the strengths of CEDEM, which recently also invested in research and development in the hydrogen sector (CedeMOVE)

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