

Press release

Hydrogen: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes launches the first real-world zero-emission truck trials with transport operators



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The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Hyliko and HYmpulsion are launching a first-of-its-kind initiative enabling transport operators and shippers to test a zero-emission hydrogen-powered truck free of charge under real operating conditions. The trial will take place during summer 2026 as part of the IMAGHyNE project.

The initiative will run throughout July and September 2026, giving transport professionals the opportunity to operate a second-generation Hyliko 4x2 hydrogen-powered tractor unit for several days within their day-to-day operations. Designed and assembled in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, the vehicle will be tested under real operating conditions to assess its suitability for intensive freight transport.

With a minimum driving range of 500 kilometers and an average refueling time of just 16 minutes on the HYmpulsion network, the vehicle will be made available to participating companies, enabling them to integrate it directly into their daily routes and evaluate the practical use, operational performance and requirements of hydrogen mobility.

A region driving the deployment of hydrogen mobility

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is uniquely positioned to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen mobility, thanks to one of France's most extensive hydrogen refueling networks and a strong industrial ecosystem supported by flagship projects such as IMAGHyNE.

"For several years, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region has been committed to building a comprehensive hydrogen value chain, from production to end-use applications. This initiative gives transport operators and shippers the opportunity to see first-hand that

viable solutions already exist to accelerate the decarbonization of road freight transport," said Fabrice Pannekoucke, President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

The initiative also builds on Hyliko's experience gained through similar operations previously carried out in other French regions, particularly in Occitanie, helping transport stakeholders discover and adopt hydrogen mobility under real operating conditions.

"The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region has all the assets needed to become a leading hub for hydrogen-powered heavy-duty mobility, with established infrastructure and a committed industrial ecosystem. The fact that our vehicles are designed and assembled locally further strengthens this regional and industrial momentum. Through this trial, we are demonstrating that hydrogen is already a practical and operational solution for heavy-duty transport," added Ovarith Troeung, Chief Executive Officer of Hyliko.

Accelerating the decarbonization of heavy-duty transport

This trial reflects the shared commitment of Hyliko, HYmpulsion and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region to accelerate the decarbonization of road freight transport by giving transport operators and shippers the opportunity to test a hydrogen-powered solution, with no commitment, under real operating conditions. The initiative also aims to foster the development of a regional ecosystem bringing together vehicle manufacturers, infrastructure operators and end users around zero-emission heavy-duty mobility.

"After several years of deployment and continuous expansion, our network now provides the reliability, availability and regional coverage required to support the first intensive use cases for hydrogen-powered heavy-duty transport. We are particularly proud to make this infrastructure available as part of the initiative led alongside Hyliko and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, enabling transport stakeholders to experience this transition first-hand," said

About Hyliko

Hyliko is the first integrated hydrogen solution designed to accelerate the decarbonization of road freight transport. Its offering includes hydrogen-powered trucks (both new and retrofitted), maintenance services, and a network of green and low-carbon hydrogen refueling stations. Through a pay-per-use business model, tailored operational support and carbon footprint monitoring, Hyliko enables the rapid, practical, measurable and sustainable deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty mobility.

About the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

Since 2017, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region has been a pioneer in the hydrogen sector. It coordinated the Zero Emission Valley (ZEV) project and supported the creation of HYmpulsion, a public-private partnership bringing together the Region, Banque des Territoires, Michelin, ENGIE and Crédit Agricole. Supported by the European Union and ADEME, the ZEV project enabled the deployment of 12 hydrogen refuelling stations across the region, creating one of France's most extensive hydrogen networks. Building on this momentum, the Region now coordinates the IMAGHyNE project, selected under the Clean Hydrogen Partnership's "Large-Scale Hydrogen Valleys" programme. IMAGHyNE aims to scale up the production of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen while developing the storage, transport and distribution infrastructure needed to support industrial, energy and mobility applications. The project brings together 35 public and private partners covering the entire hydrogen value chain. For the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, hydrogen is a key solution not only for decarbonizing mobility, but also for accelerating the decarbonization of industry.

About HYmpulsion

Founded through a partnership between public and private stakeholders, including the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, ENGIE, Michelin, Crédit Agricole and Banque des Territoires, HYmpulsion is a pioneer in renewable hydrogen mobility, helping connect territories through sustainable transportation solutions. Through the development and operation of 15 renewable hydrogen refueling stations across the region, HYmpulsion is driving the deployment of environmentally friendly, reliable and high-performance mobility as part of the Zero Emission Valley project. Its ambition is to build an interconnected regional network and support the deployment of more than 1,000 hydrogen-powered vehicles through dedicated funding schemes and strategic partnerships. By contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and supporting climate objectives, HYmpulsion's role extends far beyond infrastructure development. From businesses and large corporations to fleet operators and local authorities, HYmpulsion supports organizations in their transition toward low-carbon mobility.

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