

Press Release

Hyliko to deliver Europe's first hydrogen-powered « vacuum excavator » heavy truck to Tapir



Paris, March 30, 2026

Hyliko announces the signing of a leasing contract with Tapir, a company specializing in the rental with operator of vacuum trucks for public works and industrial cleaning. The contract covers the provision, in 2027, of Europe's very first hydrogen-powered "vacuum excavator" heavy truck. The company is thus strengthening its portfolio of decarbonized solutions for the construction and public works sector and taking a new step forward in the "designed and assembled in France" decarbonization of industrial vehicle fleets.

Hyliko, a retrofitter of hydrogen fuel cell heavy trucks, continues to innovate and position itself as a pioneer in the construction sector, with the unveiling of France's first hydrogen-powered "vacuum excavator" heavy truck for earthworks activities.

Fully retrofitted in France, this Hyliko 8x4 rigid truck, designed for construction site operations and equipped with an excavator developed by RSP, will be operated by Tapir on worksites in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, particularly for uncovering underground networks (pipelines, electricity, telecoms) and urban excavation.

Hyliko's 32-ton "Hy R32 Excavator 8x4" vehicle is equipped with a 360 kW (490 hp) powertrain, comparable to diesel standards in the segment, and an excavator offering a suction capacity of 42,000 m³/h.

A sustainable solution for local authorities

For Tapir, founded in 2008, deploying decarbonized vehicles strengthens its reputation and positioning as an innovation leader in the construction sector. Hyliko's "vacuum excavator" truck also enables Tapir to offer a sustainable, zero-emission solution to local authorities, where urban operations are frequent.

Tapir's choice of Hyliko's retrofit offering reflects the company's environmental approach, embodied by its MASE (Safety Improvement Manual for Companies) certification obtained in 2019. This includes reducing fleet energy consumption, lowering noise pollution to improve quality of life for residents and on-site personnel, and promoting waste sorting and recycling.

"At Tapir, innovation is a commitment reflected in every decision we make, including our choice of equipment. We have always placed environmental responsibility at the heart of our strategy, and this partnership with Hyliko is a direct demonstration of that. Being the first operator in Europe to run a hydrogen-powered excavator truck sends a strong message: decarbonizing earthworks is not only possible, but operationally viable," explains Jérôme Hennequin, CEO of the Tapir Group.

In addition to leasing the 8x4 truck, the contract between Hyliko and Tapir includes maintenance and potential repairs at Hyliko's workshops in Saint-Priest, near Lyon, as well as the provision of digital services. These include a mobile app enabling real-time monitoring of hydrogen fuel availability and equipment at Hyliko stations and those of its partners (up to 14 stations in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region over time).

Combining operational performance and CSR

Committed to decarbonizing earthworks activities, Tapir will be the first operator in Europe to use this first-of-its-kind hydrogen vehicle, designed to combine operational performance with reduced carbon footprint. Hyliko's truck ensures continuous operation throughout a full working day without intermediate refueling - an essential requirement for this type of site.

"The advantage of hydrogen for a company like Tapir lies in its ability to deliver performance equivalent to diesel, both in terms of range and availability, while eliminating local CO₂ emissions. The signing of this contract with Tapir and the upcoming delivery of the very first retrofitted excavator truck confirm Hyliko's ability to enter new markets and to concretely support fleet decarbonization in transport, logistics, and now construction," says Ovarith Troeung.

About Hyliko:

Hyliko is the first turnkey solution to accelerate the decarbonization of road transport using hydrogen. Its offering includes hydrogen trucks (new or retrofitted), maintenance, and a network of green and low-carbon hydrogen refueling stations. With a pay-per-use model, tailor-made support, and carbon

footprint monitoring, Hyliko facilitates the rapid, concrete, measurable, and sustainable deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty mobility. www.hyliko.com

About Tapir:

Tapir is the French leader in vacuum excavator rental with operator. The company's core values revolve around people, innovation, expertise, and service. With in-house training services and a fleet equipped with nearly all available options in the field, Tapir aims to be the technical benchmark in its sector. In line with this vision, Tapir is extremely proud of its partnership with Hyliko, which reflects the company's values.

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