

PRESS RELEASE

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Ricardo to help South Australian Hydrogen Hubs Inc investigate feasibility of hydrogen technology retrofitting for heavy duty vehicles

Feasibility study is part of a wider objective to help South Australia understand the opportunities for hydrogen to support the economy and help achieve national net zero targets

Ricardo, a global strategic environmental and engineering consulting company, has been chosen by South Australian Hydrogen Hubs Inc (SA-H2H[™]) to undertake a feasibility study into hydrogen technology retrofitting as a decarbonisation pathway for heavy duty vehicles in South Australia.

South Australia is currently a leading player in the emergence of a sustainable hydrogen industry, with the South Australian Government funding one of the largest green hydrogen electrolyzers in the world and establishing a precinct at Whyalla, located close to some of the state's prime solar and wind assets for industrial-scale green hydrogen production.

However, it also faces two distinct challenges: how this hydrogen industry can be nurtured towards making significant decarbonisation progress, and how to support long-term skilled 'green' jobs in the region.

SA-H2H[™] is delivering two projects to address these challenges. The first, centred around hydrogen mobile refuelling, is underway with industry support. The second is a hydrogen retrofitting programme for heavy vehicles, with the first phase feasibility study to be led by Ricardo.

Given Australia's dependence on its agriculture, mining and freight industries to maintain its economic prosperity – as well as the vast distances between communities and its relatively low population - heavy vehicles that support these sectors need affordable decarbonisation pathways to enable Australia to meet national net zero targets. The feasibility study will therefore represent a significant step in the nation's decarbonisation journey.

Additionally, because South Australia is soon to become a significant producer of hydrogen through government or industry projects in construction or development, the feasibility study will also support regional authorities' understanding of the opportunities for local use of hydrogen for mobility, and the potential for the creation of long-term local jobs which support industries' access to, and use of, hydrogen to make Australia cleaner, more sustainable and less reliant on imported fuel sources.

Nicholas Mumford, founder of (SA-H2H[™]) said: "We are excited with the commencement of this retrofitting project and the opportunities that it might unlock in decarbonising our mobility sector and potential for providing regional jobs and skills in the hydrogen industry. It is great to have such an experienced player as Ricardo, an SA-H2H[™] member, leading the project and a great example of industry collaboration that evolves from the hydrogen eco-system that is the essence of what SA-H2H[™] is about."

Chris Hewitson, Director Ricardo Australia and New Zealand said: “Ricardo is excited to be working with SA-H2H™, its members and the South Australia Government to provide a pathway for large-scale hydrogen retrofitting in South Australia. It is a privilege to connect the significant skill base at Ricardo - and its decades of mobility decarbonisation experience across the UK, Europe and the US - with a real need for long-term hydrogen use and industry jobs in South Australia. Our Manager of Sustainable Transport activities in the region, Jorge Martin Gistau, will lead this nationally-important study through our office in Adelaide, South Australia, bringing world-class hydrogen mobility expertise into Australia.”

The feasibility study will leverage Ricardo’s proven global expertise in innovating and safely implementing hydrogen technology in light vehicles, heavy vehicles, trains, planes and ships combined with capability in local delivery.

Ricardo has previously provided specialist support to the SA Government in the early phases of its Hydrogen Jobs Program (HJP) and, through its Australia-based team, Ricardo has been active members of SA-H2H™ for the past three years. This study will be the company’s first work with the industry member association.

Ricardo is also currently undertaking a net zero rail study for the Government of South Australia Department for Infrastructure and Transport, assessing the viability of sustainable options for Adelaide’s remaining diesel passenger train lines.

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About Ricardo

Ricardo plc is a global strategic, environmental, and engineering consulting company, listed on the London Stock Exchange. With over 100 years of engineering excellence and employing close to 3,000 employees in more than 20 countries, we provide exceptional levels of expertise in delivering leading-edge and innovative cross-sector sustainable products and solutions. Ricardo has 200 employees in Australia with offices in all major cities. The Adelaide office located at 101 Flinders Street is one of the biggest Ricardo offices in Australia. Visit www.ricardo.com

About South Australian Hydrogen Hubs Inc (SA-H2H™)

SA-H2H™ is an industry led membership-based organisation founded in 2021, now with over 60 financial members and supporters, including the Office of Hydrogen Power SA (OHPSA) and 22 original founding industry members including the South Australian Government Departments for Energy and Mining (DEM) and Trade and Investment (DTI).

SA-H2H™ is the home of hydrogen collaboration in South Australia. SA-H2H™ fosters collaboration by actively engaging with all tiers of government and across industry to build collaborative project based outcomes that build the hydrogen ecosystem in South Australia.

The SA-H2H™ mission is to deliver hydrogen supply-chain scale in South Australia through enabling hydrogen hubs, accelerating the hydrogen ecosystem, fostering hydrogen innovation, building hydrogen skills, capability and attracting hydrogen investment.

The strategic goals of SA-H2H™ include to establish hydrogen hubs by 2025, through:

- Industry led collaboration & investment,
- Multi-hub & project aggregation strategies, and
- Accelerating local market supply-demand.

Website: www.sah2h.org

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