

PRESS RELEASE:

BVES STATUS CONFERENCE: HEAT TRANSITION NEEDS STORAGE - LOUD APPEAL FOR A PROMPT HEAT STORAGE STRATEGY

The heating sector should not remain an "elephant in the room" of the energy transition - the heating transition can succeed both sustainably and economically with versatile storage solutions, if the suitable regulatory framework is established. This was the core message of the status conference "Thermal Storage for the Heat Transition" of the BVES Bundesverband Energiespeicher Systeme, which took place on June 27 in Berlin with over 300 participants on site and via livestream. The conference focused on the crucial role of thermal storage systems in the decarbonization of heating requirements and the demand for suitable framework conditions to ensure that the heating transition is not held back any longer.

Urban Windelen, Managing Director of BVES, emphasized: *"The electricity sector is only half the battle of the energy transition. The other half is the heating sector. This is where 2/3 of emissions are generated. The heating transition is therefore indispensable for a successful energy transition and essential for meeting climate targets. Thermal storage systems are a multifunctional tool for the needs of the heating sector, and their use must finally be included in the regulatory framework."*

Over the past few months, the topic of the heat transition has finally gained political importance. Christian Maaß, Head of Department for Heat, Hydrogen and Efficiency at the BMWK, presented the current status of the development of the heat storage strategy, which is to be part of an overall storage strategy and will soon be presented for consultation. Dr. Beate Baron, Sub-Department Head for Climate and Environmental Protection in Industry, presented the BMWK's goals and policy instruments for the decarbonization of industry, referring directly to the important tool of thermal storage for the provision of process heat. Support also came from the Bundestag: Maria-Lena Weiss, Member of Parliament, CDU/CSU parliamentary group, emphasized the need to electrify the heat supply with the help of thermal storage systems and promised to work in the Bundestag for the right framework conditions to initiate the heat transition beyond large-scale industry, specifically in medium-sized companies, faster and more efficiently.

Urban Windelen added: *"Many exciting projects using thermal storage are currently underway, unfortunately mostly abroad, where the regulatory framework has already been adapted to the new reality of renewable energy systems. The BMWK's electricity storage strategy has shown what forces can be unleashed in the markets. Now is the time to focus on thermal storage systems and their areas of application."*

A range of technology pitches from companies such as Kraftblock, GP Joule, Malta, LUMENION, Carbon Clean Solutions, Iqony, EnergyNest and Flamco have shown that a wide portfolio of

technologies is already available. These technologies can be used both stationary and mobile in all necessary temperature categories and are easily scalable.

Process heat requirements in industry and commerce offer a particularly large potential for reducing CO2 emissions. With thermal storage systems, the electrification of industrial processes can be achieved and easily integrated into the energy system. However, the right regulatory framework and the needed impetus from politicians to encourage long-term investment in large-scale projects are still lacking. German companies are global leaders in thermal storage systems. It is essential to bring these innovations to the market and recognize them as an important part of the future industrial landscape.

Susanne König, CFO of Kraftblock and Vice President of BVES, added: "Thermal storage systems already offer solutions for a reliable heat supply, waste heat utilization and efficient sector coupling. This added value must be politically recognized and specifically incorporated into the wording of the legislation. Only then can thermal storage systems be promoted and recognized as an efficient solution for decarbonization. This is an opportunity for Germany as an industrial powerhouse."

The BVES welcomes the productive dialog with the BMWK and the end-user industries and offers its expertise for the further development of the heat storage strategy. At the same time, the BVES called for an unbiased approach to technology and not getting caught up in individual technology subsidies. Above all, the industry needs a stable regulatory framework and approval procedures that are free of excessive bureaucracy in order to facilitate investment and make storage projects economically viable. Only a strategy that has the overall system in mind can make decarbonization a reality.

BVES – Germany's Energy Storage Systems Association is the leading voice for companies and organizations from all areas of systemic energy storage in the electricity, heat, and mobility sectors. As a non-technology-specific industry association, BVES is a dialog partner for politics, administration, science, and the public. It unites the forces of the most relevant industry representatives, shapes the public and political debate, and advises on the design of the political and legal framework, as well as standards and norms at the regional, federal, and EU levels.

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