

Essen, September 2025

Fact Sheet H2UB GmbH

H2UB is **Europe's leading open innovation platform**, empowering the **net zero world of tomorrow**. Its mission is to co-innovate with leading start-ups, corporate innovators and investors, leveraging technological solutions and their deployment in the hydrogen/energy sector.

H2UB scouts breakthrough ideas and facilitates collaboration between start-ups, corporate partners and investors to realize projects. By providing market-leading, ecosystem-based knowledge and assessments, H2UB **supports entrepreneurs, companies and investors along the whole hydrogen value chain and beyond**.

As a **thought leader and think tank**, H2UB contributes to expert discussions on the development of the hydrogen economy and the transformation of sectors and industries towards net zero. As part of an international ecosystem, H2UB has exclusive access to verified information on over 500 hydrogen start-ups and to relevant international databases. Based on a variety of research tools and on an extensive network of international experts, H2UB provides **market intelligence reports** that not only scout innovative ideas and start-ups but also conduct dedicated technology assessments of highly rated start-ups and innovative technologies.

H2UB collaborates with the most forward-thinking corporate innovation teams, leveraging **venture clienting** activities to support projects from proof of concept to delivery. It also scouts and selects start-ups to deliver innovative solutions that decarbonize business operations and maximize efficiency.

H2UB's **acceleration approach** provides start-ups in the hydrogen sector with compact, focused and customized coaching from mentors and industry experts. The track record of H2UB SPRINT & H2UB TARGET: 78 teams from 11 different European countries have raised over €230 million in external funding and achieved a market valuation of over €516 million. Based on feedback and results, the **H2UB SPRINT** program is continuously adapted to meet the specific challenges of corporate-startup cooperation in the hydrogen sector – ensuring more matches, more pilots and faster scaling, thereby creating real economic value.

The **[HYDROVERSE CONVENTION](#)** is Europe's largest hydrogen innovation event. Focusing on start-up innovation, venture clienting, the implementation of innovative hydrogen technologies, financing and funding and recruitment. It is the place to be for anyone interested in the hydrogen economy. H2UB also organizes **delegation tours** to the world's leading hydrogen events and hosts **networking events** for its community.

The H2UB is co-funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia and supported by numerous companies and institutions. Its shareholders are the RAG-Stiftung, OGE (Open Grid Europe), TÜV SÜD and the German Aerospace Center (DLR).



H2UB at a glance

Employees:	11
Location:	Essen
Year of foundation:	2021
Management:	Uwe Kerkmann, CEO
Start-ups in the ecosystem:	168
Start-ups accelerated:	78
Money raised by start-ups:	€230M+
Network partners:	More than 40

Shareholders of the H2UB:

- OGE (Open Grid Europe)
- RAG-Stiftung
- TÜV SÜD
- German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.)

Partners & members of the H2UB:

- 3M
- Digital Campus Zollverein
- DILO Armaturen und Anlagen GmbH
- Drägerwerk AG & Co. KGaA
- EWG - Essen Economic Development Agency
- Essener Versorgungs- und Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH (EVV)
- MSA Technology and Enterprises Service GmbH
- P3 Automotive GmbH
- RWE Generation SE
- Uniper Hydrogen GmbH
- Friedrich Vorwerk Group SE
- Yokogawa Deutschland GmbH

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