

Essen, January 2026

Fact Sheet H2UB GmbH

H2UB has established the leading European innovation ecosystem for hydrogen and energy. It connects start-ups, corporations, technology partners and research institutes, significantly accelerating the scaling up of H2 solutions. It works with strong industrial partners to support start-ups in rapidly entering the market and implementing innovation and pilot projects.

Hydrogen and its derivatives are essential for decarbonizing various economic sectors and achieving our climate targets. This enables companies to transform their value creation in the long term and access new, economically viable business models.

Integrated into a system of energy production, supply and use, hydrogen and its derivatives contribute significantly to supply security, ecological sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

While many H2 technologies are already technically mature, their economic implementation in areas such as green hydrogen remains challenging. This is precisely the area in which H2UB steps in: Working alongside start-ups and corporations, H2UB launches pilot projects, prototypes and demonstrators, reducing risks and creating the basis for scalable, marketable solutions.

The cornerstones of H2UB's success:

- **A strong European ecosystem:** H2UB is an established and successful matchmaker and thought leader at the interface between start-ups, industry, research, investors and politics in the European hydrogen industry along the entire value chain — from the production of green molecules to transport and storage and industrial applications. This creates transparency, exploits synergies, combines expertise and in this way helps to promote market ramp-up.
- **Market Intelligence & Exploration:** H2UB provides in-depth analysis and guidance in the dynamic hydrogen environment. Access to international hydrogen, energy and start-up databases, as well as the involvement of top-class experts from German and international companies as well as start-ups, form the basis for "[H2UB Market Intelligence](#)."
- **H2UB SPRINT:** H2UB supports start-ups in bringing their technologies to market more quickly. Coaching, expertise, financing and targeted networking create momentum and reduce risks. H2UB programs have so far supported over 78 teams from eleven European countries and contributed more than €230 million in capital raised and a cumulative valuation of over €516 million.
- **[HYDROVERSE CONVENTION](#):** H2UB brings people, ideas and technologies together – live, every year. The HYDROVERSE CONVENTION is Europe's



largest event for hydrogen innovation and start-ups, focusing on trends and technologies, start-ups, innovation and networking among international players in the energy industry.

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
- Yokogawa Deutschland GmbH



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