

## Hydrogen: A Pathway for Energy Transition in Africa - Revolutionising the Energy Sector

**Cape Town, South Africa: 18 July 2023** - The global energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by the need for cleaner and more sustainable alternatives. Hydrogen, often referred to as the "fuel of the future," is emerging as a promising solution that has the potential to revolutionise the energy sector in Africa and beyond.

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the [Africa Energy Indaba](#), to be hosted at the CTICC in Cape Town, South Africa from the 5 – 7 March 2024 will feature a focused Hydrogen Forum. The Hydrogen Forum will explore the role of hydrogen in the energy transition, its benefits and the potential impact it can have on Africa's energy landscape.

Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier that can be produced through various processes, including electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources. Its usage in various sectors can significantly reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the achievement of climate goals.

Here's how hydrogen can revolutionise the energy sector:

**Decarbonising Energy:** Hydrogen can play a crucial role in decarbonising the energy sector by replacing fossil fuels in applications that are challenging to electrify directly. It can be used as a clean fuel for transportation, power generation, and industrial processes, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.

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**Energy Storage and Grid Balancing:** Hydrogen can serve as an energy storage medium, helping to address the intermittency of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Excess renewable energy can be converted into hydrogen through electrolysis and stored for later use. This stored hydrogen can be utilised during periods of high energy demand or when renewable energy generation is low, supporting grid stability and balancing.

**Renewable Energy Integration:** Hydrogen enables the integration of renewable energy sources into sectors traditionally reliant on fossil fuels. For instance, in Africa, where vast renewable energy resources exist, hydrogen can facilitate the storage and transport of renewable energy across long distances, unlocking remote regions' energy potential and reducing dependency on fossil fuel imports.

**Industrial Applications:** Hydrogen has diverse industrial applications, including ammonia production for fertilizers, metal refining, and chemical manufacturing. By substituting hydrogen for fossil fuels in these processes, significant emissions reductions can be achieved, supporting sustainable industrial growth.

**Job Creation and Economic Opportunities:** The development of a hydrogen economy can create new job opportunities and drive economic growth. The production, distribution and utilisation of hydrogen technologies require a skilled workforce, fostering employment in various sectors, including manufacturing, construction, and research and development.

**Unlocking Africa's hydrogen potential:**

Africa is rich in renewable energy resources, making it well-positioned to harness the potential of hydrogen for its energy transition. The continent's abundance of solar and wind resources can support large-scale renewable hydrogen production, serving both domestic and export markets. Leveraging hydrogen as an energy carrier can promote energy security, drive economic development, and reduce reliance on fossil fuel imports.

Collaborative efforts are necessary to unlock Africa's hydrogen potential, involving governments, industry players, research institutions, and international partners. Investment in infrastructure, policy frameworks, and research and development is essential to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen technologies and ensure their successful integration into the energy sector.

Hydrogen's potential to revolutionise the energy sector in Africa is significant. By embracing this versatile energy carrier, Africa can spearhead a sustainable energy transition, drive economic growth, and contribute to global climate objectives.



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### **About the Africa Energy Indaba**

5 – 7 March 2024

CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa

*The Africa Energy Indaba is the continent's definitive energy event, providing an agenda that influences energy policy for Africa and drives energy deal flow. Attended by Ministers and private sector decision-makers, the prestigious event serves as the ideal platform for achieving Africa's energy vision for a sustainable energy future and keeping abreast of energy growth opportunities in this dynamic landscape. The event has proven its success year on year, demonstrating extreme efficaciousness in addressing key issues impacting the African energy sector while devising solutions to best mitigate these pressing concerns. Strategic partnerships with the Host Government Department, the South African Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and the African Union Development Agency as well as many leading African energy industry associations, ensure the event is backed by leading energy drivers. The symposium provides invaluable business growth opportunities for the continent's energy realm, subsequently inspiring much-needed transformation within the sector.*

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