



# THE HYDROGEN ACADEMY

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## THE HYDROGEN ACADEMY

The Hydrogen Academy is an initiative organised by Grupa Azoty Zakłady Chemiczne "Police" S.A., the Faculty of Technology and Chemical Engineering at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin and the West Pomeranian Hydrogen Valley to train and develop highly specialised personnel in hydrogen technology.

The mission of the Hydrogen Academy is to communicate the benefits and challenges of using hydrogen and to promote innovative solutions based on this rapidly developing technology.

The initiative is aimed at individuals who are under 30 years of age on the date of enrolment, - is a student studying S1 or S2, in a technical or agricultural field of study, who has achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher in the last semester of study, or is a graduate of a technical or agricultural field of study S1 or S2, who has achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher, or is a doctoral student in the Doctoral School who is the author or co-author of at least one publication in a journal indexed on the Journal Citation Report list.

A key stage to qualify candidates for participation in the Hydrogen Academy was to produce a description of a solution related to hydrogen innovation and technology.

### **The description should fit in with the Azoty Group's strategy covering, for example, the following aspects:**

- a. development of the hydrogen market,
- b. implementation of the European Union's hydrogen strategy, taking into account the potential of Grupa Azoty,
- c. raw material diversification in a "green direction",
- d. implementation of technical solutions related to hydrogen technologies,
- e. use of hydrogen technologies in decarbonisation and reduction of environmentally harmful emissions,
- f. Developing the market for 'green hydrogen',
- g. the production and use of 'green hydrogen',
- h. hydrogen transport.

As part of the Hydrogen Academy programme, the programme authors have planned a series of free training courses, workshops, lectures and meetings with experts and scientists whose professional and research activities are related to hydrogen technologies.

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**The Hydrogen Academy consisted of two stages:**

## **Stage I - Implementation of the Hydrogen Academy**

Free training, workshops, lectures and meetings with experts and scientists whose professional and research activities are related to hydrogen technologies. Participants in the Hydrogen Academy will carry out independent projects. Project topics will be announced at the first lecture session. The projects developed were the basis for the selection of Candidates for internships in companies participating in the Hydrogen Academy.

## **Stage II - Internships**

Selected participants of the Hydrogen Academy had the opportunity to realise paid internships in enterprises - partners of the West Pomeranian Hydrogen Valley. The selection was based on an evaluation of the projects that the participants in the Hydrogen Academy were required to prepare during its duration.

The substantive summary of the Hydrogen Academy's activities was the Conference entitled "ENERGY CRISIS AND THE GROWTH OF HODORIUM", which took place in Szczecin from 26 to 27.09.2023 at the Radisson Hotel.

Its key message was to demonstrate the helicity and commitment of all relevant partners within the very dynamic new Hydrogen industry.

The conference was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, the West Pomeranian Governor, the National Centre for Research and Development, the Rector of the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, representatives of the Poznań University of Life Sciences, representatives of the Jagiellonian University and representatives of Grupa Azoty and other companies involved in the development of Hydrogen Technology. Key participants at the conference were alumni of the Hydrogen Academy who presented their projects prepared and developed during the two days of the Hydrogen Academy. A total of 21 alumni presented their studies.

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**The Hydrogen Academy** is a very good example of how business and science can work together to solve new problems. Unfortunately, the formal vocational education system is not flexible enough to keep up with the high dynamics of change on the labour market, especially when a new sector of the economy is being created and emerging before our very eyes. Initiatives of this kind require great social recognition and are worth recommending and following in the name of developing the future and securing appropriate professional staff with a high level of qualification and competence.

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