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# Chile hydrogen watch: Incoming minister lays out sector plans

Published: 02/22/2022

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Chile's incoming energy minister is laying out plans for the sector that include a higher level of public coordination and a focus on national development instead of individual sectors.

Claudio Huepe, who is set to take office together with the new administration of president-elect Gabriel Boric on March 11, said in his first public appearance since being appointed that specific projects and industries will be encouraged in so far as they fit in an integral national plan aimed at spurring decentralized economic development.

One such industry is green hydrogen. Chile published last year an [ambitious green hydrogen strategy](#) aimed at becoming a world class producer and exporter starting in 2030. But Huepe has argued this strategy, while beneficial, is not sufficient to get Chile where it needs to be.

"We need to go a step further," Huepe told a webinar organized by Fundación Chilena del Pacífico, an organization tasked with supporting Chile's economic insertion into the Pacific basin. "We are lacking an integrating vision ... As we understand it, green hydrogen must be a key element in national development ... To develop this potential that we aspire to, we must consider how green hydrogen fits into an integral development model," Huepe said.

He also downplayed a controversial plan, mentioned in Boric's campaign program, to create a public company exclusively focused on green hydrogen production, arguing the government's plans for the sector could be handled by state oil firm [Enap](#).

"The idea is not to create new institutions and new companies," Huepe said. "What we're looking for is to develop a capacity to coordinate. To establish a public company that can set virtuous relationships with private players. Not to replace what the private sector does, but to work in a complementary way."

"If this ultimately means we have to create a specific company that's a minor issue. Today, we have a company that can do most of that. If eventually the circumstances dictate [a new company is needed], we will have to make a decision. If not, it will not be necessary to do so," Huepe said.

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In related news, details have emerged of a new green hydrogen project in far south Magallanes region.

The project, of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), involves building 1.7GW of wind power capacity and 1.3GW of electrolyzing capacity to produce green hydrogen and, through its combination with nitrogen, to supply green ammonia mainly to Europe and the US.

"With the intrinsic of the Magallanes region, we will be able to land very competitive products in Europe," Philip Christiani, a partner at the firm, told the webinar. "[Green hydrogen] will be an amazing opportunity for the development of Magallanes over the next 40 years."

CIP expects a final investment decision on the project in 2025.

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