

November 28, 2025

Inauguration of First Methane Pyrolysis Plant: Sulzer Supports the Swiss Association for the Decarbonization of Industry (VZDI)

Sulzer has been a member of VZDI, the Association for the Decarbonization of Industry, since 2022. Today, together with its partners, VZDI inaugurated a unique methane pyrolysis plant at the production site of V-ZUG, a VZDI member and market leader in household appliances. The plant enables methane to be used as a CO₂-neutral energy source. Sulzer sees long-term potential for this technology in its own processes and in the association as an important partner for cross-industry knowledge transfer.

Methane pyrolysis is an advanced process in which methane (CH₄) is split in a microwave-generated plasma, producing hydrogen (H₂) and solid carbon (C). This approach enables the use of methane as an energy source without releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas. The resulting carbon can be repurposed as a valuable raw material for applications in construction and agriculture.

Michael Schüepp, Head of Ventures at Sulzer, stated: “This unique Swiss collaboration demonstrates that even processes traditionally considered difficult to decarbonize can be made more sustainable. Developing sustainable solutions requires innovation and perseverance—qualities that inspire us to continue championing the association’s efforts.”

Collaboration between leading companies, Empa, and the Canton of Zug

As one of the 16 industry partners, Sulzer brought its process expertise to the core work on carbon purification. The company sees potential, for example, in the continued use of carbon in wastewater treatment, an essential part of its core business in water processing. Together with its partners, Empa as a scientific institution, and the support of the Canton of Zug, the association also acts as a platform for dialogue and collaboration. This exchange is essential to driving forward other decarbonization projects, such as carbon capture initiatives.

Cantonal Councilor Silvia Thalmann-Gut emphasized the benefits: “From a cantonal perspective, we are pleased to see industrial and scientific partners join forces. This facility demonstrates the potential of such collaboration. I am convinced that this is the right path toward achieving our goal of a net-zero industry.”

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