13 May 2026, Milan

PROCEED project officially launches to advance next-generation hydrogen technologies in Europe

"Proton Conductive Electrolysis with Enhanced Durability" (PROCEED), a new Horizon Europe project funded by the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, officially launched with a kick-off meeting held in Milan, Italy, on 11-12 May 2026. The project brings together a multidisciplinary European consortium of research organisations, industry partners and technology institutions with the shared ambition of advancing next-generation hydrogen production technologies.

The project focuses on the development and industrial uptake of Proton Conducting Ceramic Electrolyser (PCCEL) technology for efficient, scalable and high-purity green hydrogen production. By combining advanced materials, innovative metal-supported ceramic cells and system-level optimisation, PROCEED aims to contribute to Europe's transition toward a climate-neutral and sustainable energy system.

Over the next four years, the consortium will work on the design, manufacturing and validation of advanced PCCEL systems capable of improving electrolysis performance, durability and cost-effectiveness. The project will develop and validate two innovative short stack configurations and demonstrate a 20 kW industrial prototype, supporting the scale-up and future commercialisation of hydrogen technologies in Europe.

A strong focus will also be placed on reducing system degradation, improving operational lifetime and enabling safer and resource-efficient manufacturing approaches. In addition to technological innovation, PROCEED will deliver sustainability and techno-economic assessments to support future industrial deployment and market uptake.

The kick-off meeting in Milan marked the official start of the collaboration, allowing project partners to align technical activities and long-term strategic objectives. Throughout the project, the consortium will actively engage with scientific, industrial and policy stakeholders through conferences, publications, events and outreach activities.

> *"PROCEED represents an important step toward achieving Europe's climate and hydrogen ambitions by advancing innovative electrolysis technologies that can support a more sustainable and robust energy system," said the project coordinator Alessandro Donazzi, Associate professor at the Department of Energy of Politecnico di Milano.*

By advancing innovative electrolysis solutions, PROCEED contributes to key European priorities including the European Green Deal, the EU Hydrogen Strategy and REPowerEU, supporting the development of a competitive hydrogen economy in Europe.

The project is supported by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and its members.