

Press Release**Under embargo until 09.00, 8th July 2021****BEIS MINISTER VISITS ENCIRC AS COMPANY ANNOUNCES PLANS TO BOOST JOBS AND DECARBONISE USING HYDROGEN**

Leading glass bottle manufacturer and filler, [Encirc](#) has announced its firm commitment to **decarbonising by the middle of this decade, using hydrogen** in its furnaces to create billions of ultra-low-carbon glass bottles. The availability of hydrogen will enable the further expansion of Encirc's Elton facility, **leading to the creation of at least 200 jobs**, while futureproofing existing roles. [Encirc](#) (a Vidrala company), which employs more than 1,000 people at its Elton facility will use the supply from the proposed [HyNet North West](#) project in its furnaces to **lead the decarbonisation of glass packaging**.

HyNet North West is an innovative **hydrogen and carbon capture and storage project that will unlock a low carbon economy for the North West and put the region at the forefront of the UK's drive to net zero**.

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, the UK's Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, visited the Cheshire-based manufacturer and bottler to learn more about the economic and environmental impact on the region if businesses like Encirc were able to be connected to hydrogen.

After touring Encirc's factory and learning more about how the glass manufacturer and bottler could take advantage of a new supply of hydrogen, Trevelyan said: "I'm delighted Encirc has announced its ambition to create the first ultra-low carbon glass by 2025 as part of the HyNet North West project. It is a sign our Plan for Jobs is working and will create not only over 200 jobs on the ground in Chester but a skills base fit for the future.

"Working together with Government and ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, I'm delighted to see British industries are building back greener, meaning firms can play their part in creating jobs and meeting our ambitious climate commitments."

Adrian Curry, Managing Director at Encirc, added: "It is vital that glass packaging decarbonises to meet our zero-emission future. Glass already has so many incredible environmental and health benefits over other materials, but the carbon intensity of our

furnaces is a key challenge we need to address. We are delighted to be leading the charge, creating the world's most sustainable glass bottles.”

The HyNet North West scheme is bidding alongside other clusters in the UK to be one of at least two chosen by Government to produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry in the North West of England and North Wales by 2025.

The game-changing project has the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes every year by 2030 – the equivalent of taking 4 million cars off the road. By achieving this, HyNet will create and maintain thousands of local jobs, as well as enable long-term sustainability for businesses and financial security for communities across the region.

Encirc's commitment to hydrogen follows this year's successful fuel-switching initiative at its County Fermanagh plant in Northern Ireland where, alongside industry body Glass Futures, it [used bio-fuel in one of its furnaces and 100% recycled glass](#), reducing the carbon footprint of its bottles by up to 90% as a result. The campaign was a success and resulted in Encirc now running regular fuel-switching at the plant.

For more information about Encirc, visit www.encirc360.com. For more information about HyNet, visit www.hynet.co.uk.

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Notes to editors:

Encirc (www.encirc360.com)

Encirc, part of the Vidrala group, is a market leader in glass container design, manufacturing, bottling and logistics solutions for the UK, Irish and European food and beverages industries.

With over 1,700 employees, it operates from its three purpose-built sites in Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, Elton, Cheshire and Corsico, Italy, the company produces more than 3 billion glass bottles and other containers annually, and can fill up to 250 million litres of bulk shipped beverages every year.

The integrated group offering means customers benefit from a unique supply chain approach, which includes access to Europe's largest bonded warehouse, significantly shortening the supply chain and delivering considerable cost and environmental savings to customers.

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HyNet North West (www.hynet.co.uk)

About HyNet North West HyNet North West is a low carbon energy project at the forefront of the UK's journey to a Net Zero future, being developed by a consortium of world-leading organisations.

From 2025, HyNet North West will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capturing and storing carbon. It will decarbonise the North West of England and North Wales through the creation of state-of-the-art infrastructure. This game-changing project has the potential to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 10 million tonnes every year by 2030 – the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road.

HyNet North West will create and maintain thousands of local jobs, as well as enable long-term sustainability for businesses and financial security for communities across the region.

The HyNet consortium includes Progressive Energy, Cadent, Essar, INOVYN, Eni, University of Chester, CF Fertilisers and Hanson. The consortium is also working with Pilkington NSG, Unilever, Intergen and Viridor to integrate them into HyNet's plans.

About Glass Futures (www.glass-futures.org)

Glass Futures Ltd is a not-for-profit Research and Technology Organisation connecting the glass industry and academia to create a Centre of Excellence in glass comprising R&D, innovation, training and up-skilling. Central to the proposition is a demonstration-scale glass making facility of 30 tonnes per day capacity.

Glass Futures operates a membership model open to like-minded organisations to work alongside some of the world's largest glass manufacturers, supply-chain partners, brands and academic institutions collaborating to deliver net-zero to the glass industry.

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