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Liquid hydrogen: LNG's successor?

The discussion around using hydrogen as a cleaner alternative to natural gas has been growing in recent years, with gas stakeholders around the world describing it as 'the future' of gaseous fuels. Using existing gas pipelines, and by blending increasing amounts of hydrogen in the grid, it is seen as a promising way to decarbonise energy systems while still using gas infrastructure.

As has been the case with LNG, a new parallel supply chain for hydrogen in liquid form is now growing too, which in the coming years could see new liquid hydrogen, or LH2, trade routes developing between countries that are not connected by pipeline. But while some serious names in energy are getting involved in the segment, as with the early days of the LNG industry, development in liquid hydrogen is likely to start small. Whether it can grow to become a significant, internationally traded commodity like LNG will depend on how successfully innovation can overcome the hurdles it faces.



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