

Gasunie

Exceeding expectations to reach environmental targets

Gasunie in The Netherlands takes emission management seriously. They go the extra mile to reach their environmental targets and to present accurate and trustworthy data of their emissions. Why are they upholding these standards?

"We have been executing traditional Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) ever since the environmental legislation for gas processing installations was included in the permit" says Ronald Kenter, Environmental Coordinator at Gasunie.

Back in 2007, Gasunie therefore searched a service provider that could help them manage fugitive emissions. *"We came across Intero - The Sniffers and we have been working closely with them ever since and, most importantly, we have seen great results"* Ronald adds.

Setting the bar

The collaboration between Gasunie and Intero - The Sniffers thus far consisted of executing classic LDAR with Flame Ionization Detector (FID) or Photoionization Detector devices at approximately 27 different locations and reporting these emission figures.

"By having our fugitive emissions measured and reported by a certified third party, we already complied with environmental legislation" says Ronald.

"However, Gasunie has set its own emission targets for 2030", adds Henk Brands, Gasunie's Emission & Compliance Advisor. "These targets are based on those set by the Dutch environmental regulator DCMR. If we want to realize our ambitions, we need to look beyond traditional LDAR and find techniques and technologies to reduce our fugitive emissions even more."

The need for accurate emission data

Gasunie does not settle for estimations when it comes to their emission figures. Ronald explains that *"we look for accurate emission data.*

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Emission quantification with a High Flow Sampler

However, multiple techniques, including FID/PID, quantification of the leaks using a High Flow Sampler and screening with IR cameras, are required to report accurate data."

"I believe that quantifying leaks with High Flow Samplers, also known as bagging, is currently the measurement technique that gives the most credible emission figures. That is why we recently added both bagging and screening with IR cameras to our contract with Intero - The Sniffers. Besides these different measurement techniques, we are currently also discussing the possibilities of emission management software to capture all emission data in a fast and reliable way."

Complying with more strict legislation

"Gasunie now has set its own ambitious emission targets but I expect that environmental legislations will follow and become more strict as well. In fact, the gas industry is currently already preparing itself in order to comply with more strict legislation. We are working together with the CCAC – Climate & Clean Air Coalition, Distribution System Operators (DSO's), Transmission System Operators (TSO's) and OG&P to discuss different techniques and measures to collectively reduce fugitive emissions significantly."

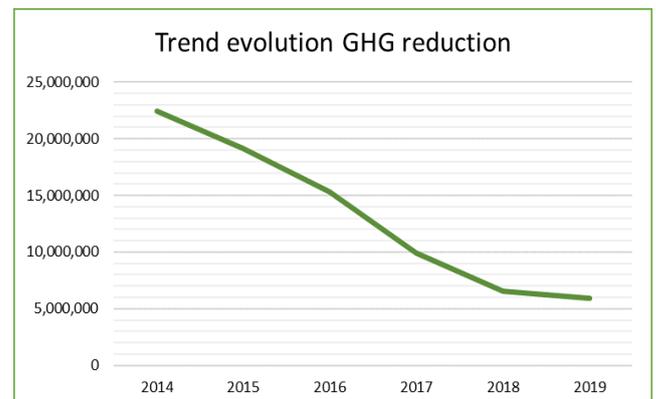
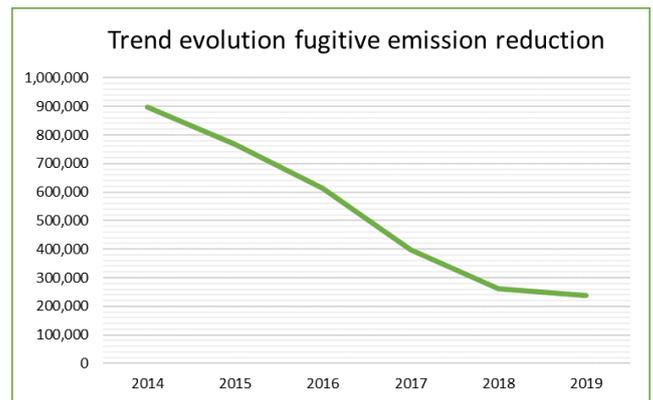
"The development of emission factors specifically for methane is also being discussed. The reduction of methane emissions is high on the industry's environmental agenda and rightfully so. Knowing where methane emissions occur and creating a plan to reduce them is needed."

Significant results with classic LDAR

"Even though we have now added other measurement techniques, that does not mean we have not reduced fugitive emissions by using classic LDAR. In fact, it is quite the opposite."



Leak Detection And Repair with the SFEMP Mobile application to collect emission data.



Bas Hermans, Operations Director of Intero - The Sniffers' Emission Division, explains how Gasunie realizes these impressive results. *"By having consistent yearly LDAR campaigns executed and by repairing leaks immediately after they are detected, Gasunie really is a leading example."*

"Their own efforts to repair detected leaks immediately, shows their commitment towards emission reduction and also translates in these graphs in kg/year and in GHG emission reductions. The collaboration between Gasunie's operational team and our own is very constructive and it a pleasure to work with them."

According to Gasunie, these results are also realized because of the *"high quality of the LDAR program and the detailed repair orders of Intero - The Sniffers."*

Due to the high quality of the LDAR program and the detailed repair orders, our team has all the information at their fingertips to make well-considered decisions on reparation and maintenance activities.



"Our team has all the information at their fingertips to make well-considered decisions on reparation and maintenance activities. The repair orders really give us in-depth information about the leaks. We saw a significant reduction of emissions in the beginning, which eventually resulted in a more stable situation with lower emission rates and we hope to maintain this stability" says Ronald.

"Especially now that we added bagging and screening with IR cameras to the scope of work, we hope to obtain even more accurate emission figures and reach our own targets."

One step ahead of the competition

Henk Brands, Gasunie's Emission & Compliance Advisor emphasizes our expertise in the industry. *"In my opinion, Intero - The Sniffers is one step ahead of the competition. Their recently developed emission management software application SFEMP, for example, is promising and will allow us to capture all emission types."*

According to Ronald Kenter, Intero - The Sniffers helps HSE and maintenance departments instead of checking them. *"Our collaboration runs smoothly. The measurements are executed in a professional manner and they know the best practices. Their reports give us insight and allow us to act immediately. Their approach is based on helping our HSE and maintenance teams to realize emission reductions instead of performing checks. We look forward to taking the next steps in effective emission management together with the team of Intero - The Sniffers."*

More about Gasunie

Gasunie manages and maintains the infrastructure for large-scale transport and storage of gas in the Netherlands and the northern part of Germany. Safety, reliability, sustainability and cost-effectiveness are central in everything they do.

The company was founded in 1963, four years after the discovery of natural gas in the northern Dutch province of Groningen. They are a public limited company under Dutch law and fully owned by the State of the Netherlands.

Gasunie has two subsidiaries that manage the gas transport network: Gasunie Deutschland in Germany, and Gasunie Transport Services (GTS) in the Netherlands.