SWEETHY

Dear reader,

Welcome to **SWEETHY Newsletter #4**.

In this edition, we are pleased to share updates on recent project activities, including the successful 1-year status update meeting (GA02) held in Brest, France, as well as SWEETHY's contributions to the European Hydrogen Energy Conference 2026 in Seville. You will also find partner interviews and other dissemination activities.

In addition, we provide an overview of upcoming events where SWEETHY will be present or featured in the coming months.

Finally, we would like to remind you of the **European Symposium on Durability Issues in Low-Temperature Water Electrolysis (A Marcus Wallenberg Symposium)**, taking place in **Stockholm, Sweden, from 13–15 October 2026**, and we warmly encourage researchers to submit an abstract.

We hope you enjoy reading this fourth edition of our newsletter.

Kind regards,

The SWEETHY team

Upcoming events

ASTERISK third webinar featuring SWEETHY
Save the Date: 26 May 2026 13:00-14:30
More info coming soon

EU Sustainability Week 2026
Website: EUSW2026
Date: 9-11 June 2026
Location: Brussels, Belgium

European Symposium on Durability Issues in Low-Temperature Water Electrolysis
Website: Symposium 2026
Date: 13-15 October 2026
Location: Stockholm, Sweden

European Hydrogen Week 2026
Website: EHW2026
Date: 26-30 October 2026
Location: Brussels, Belgium

News and Events

Reminder: European Symposium on Durability Issues in Low-Temperature Water Electrolysis (A Marcus Wallenberg Symposium)

We would like to remind you of the upcoming European Symposium on Durability Issues in Low-Temperature Water Electrolysis (A Marcus Wallenberg Symposium), which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13–15 October 2026.

The symposium is organised by RISE, the French Corrosion Institute, SINTEF, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and the University of Galway, and provides a dedicated platform for exchange between academia, research institutes, and industry active in water electrolysis and clean hydrogen technologies.

We encourage researchers and professionals in the field to submit an abstract, contribute to the scientific programme and join the symposium.

Key dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: **15 May 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: around **20 May 2026**
- Early-bird registration (€150): **until 15 June 202**6 (registration opens in May)

More detailed information is available here.

SWEETHY 1-year status update meeting - GA02

On 18–19 March 2026, the SWEETHY consortium gathered for the 1-year status update meeting (GA02) to review progress, align on upcoming deliverables, and strengthen collaboration across all partners. The meeting was organized by the French Corrosion Institute (IC) in Brest, France, on the coast of the Sea of Iroise, and took place over two productive days filled with presentations, discussions, and a collaborative workshop.

Day 1 – 18 March 2026
The meeting began with a warm get-together at 9:00, followed by internal discussions. Later, the consortium met with the Advisory Board (AB), who provided valuable guidance and constructive feedback on the project's progress.
For lunch, participants enjoyed a scenic meal at Pointe Saint Mathieu, featuring delicious crepes and stunning coastal views, where the group photo was also taken.
The afternoon sessions included:

- Advisory Board presentations
- SWEETHY project overview (RISE)
- WP3: Electrocatalysts (CNR)
- WP4: Membrane and ionomer (CENMAT)
- WP5: Corrosion risk protection (IC)
- WP7: Electrolyser configuration (RISE)
- WP6, 8, 9: Preparation and testing of the SWEETHY prototype (CNR, DLR, ProPuls)

The day concluded with free time and a delightful dinner at La Maison de l'Océan.

Want to know how Day 2 went? Read the full article on our website here.

SWEETHY Celebrates a Successful Showcase at EHEC 2026

SWEETHY partners successfully presented their latest research at the European Hydrogen Energy Conference 2026 in Seville, Spain (11–13 March). Contributions focused on improving electrolyzer performance and durability, including diagnostic tools, corrosion protection, strategies for electrochemical stability in direct seawater electrolysis, and high-pressure PEM electrolysis testing.

The presentations were very well received, highlighting SWEETHY's progress toward efficient, durable, and scalable hydrogen production technologies.

SWEETHY at HySchoolDays 2026 in Oslo

Last week, Sepanta Dokhani, PhD student at RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, had the opportunity to attend HySchoolDays 2026 in Oslo, Norway, where he presented ongoing research activities, including his work within the SWEETHY project.

His presentation, titled *"Lifetime Assessment of Anion Exchange Water Electrolyzer (AEMWE)"*, focused on hydrogen production through water electrolysis, with a specific emphasis on anion exchange membrane water electrolysis (AEMWE). He also discussed related research on the lifetime assessment of AEMWE systems, including SWEETHY.

More information about HySchool is available here.

Coffee break interview series

Get to know Julien Fage from CENmat

With a decade of experience as a polymer chemist, Julien Fage specializes in custom performance polymers and holds a PhD from Darmstadt University. Since 2021, he has been working at CENmat, where he collaborates with his team to develop polyelectrolytes for AEM and PEM water electrolysis.
More broadly, CENmat is a vertically integrated water electrolyzer company focused on the climate era. Its sustainable, scalable, highly efficient, and low-cost water electrolysis technologies enable the production of economical and truly green hydrogen.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?
Already as a kid, I could spend hours trying to understand how things around me worked and how they could be improved. When I discovered chemistry, it was love at first sight. I wanted to work on something relevant to today's challenges, and contributing to the green hydrogen field became an obvious choice.

What is your (main) research area today?
I am responsible for the development of highly efficient, cost-effective, and scalable polymers for water electrolysis, both PEM and AEM technologies. My work focuses on improving

performance, durability, and processability while ensuring that the materials can be produced at industrial scale.
At CENmat, an important priority is the development of products that are free from so-called “forever chemicals” (PFAS). Therefore, a key aspect of my research is designing sustainable polymer solutions that combine high electrochemical performance with environmental responsibility.

Read the full interview here.

Get to know Kristine Bly from SINTEF

Kristine Bly is originally from Canada and holds an academic background in geography and natural resources management. She currently works at SINTEF Industry in the Sustainable Energy Technology department, within the Operations Research and Economics group in Trondheim, Norway. There, she leads the sustainability assessment work packages in the SWEETHY project.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?
My main motivation for becoming a researcher was my deep interest in sustainability, and the belief in the importance of bridging the social and natural sciences. I am fascinated by the ways environmental challenges shape societies and communities, and I wanted to contribute to a more holistic understanding of these relationships. This interdisciplinary curiosity inspired me to pursue a path where I could examine how human behaviour, social structures, and environmental systems influence one another, and how research can guide the development of more sustainable and resilient societies.

What is your (main) research area today?
My main research area focuses on integrating qualitative methods into the sustainability assessment of new and emerging technologies. I am particularly involved in projects related to hydrogen and other green technologies, where I examine how social perspectives, stakeholder experiences, and community impacts can enrich and contextualize technological sustainability evaluations. In addition, I contribute to work on Social Life Cycle Assessment (sLCA), including within the SWEETHY project.

In this context, qualitative insights play an important role in complementing quantitative results, offering a deeper understanding of context-dependent social impacts that cannot be captured through quantitative analyses alone.

Read the full interview here.

Get to know Alessandra Carbone from CNR-ITAE

Alessandra Carbone is a senior researcher at the National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Advanced Technologies for Energy (CNR-ITAE) in Messina. Her work focuses on sustainable energy technologies, including fuel cells, electrochemical storage, and hydrogen production and storage. She specializes in advanced polymers and membranes for applications such as electrolysis, fuel cells, and CO_2 conversion. Since 2014, she has been the Italian agent for the IEA Advanced Fuel Cells Annex 31 and is actively involved in leading European clean energy projects.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?
My original motivation to become a researcher was a deep curiosity about how things work and to contribute to important matters such as energy sector.

What is your (main) research area today?
My research area is the development and characterization of ion exchange membranes for electrochemical devices applications.

Read the full interview here.

Partners

LinkedIn Website