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## Full Steam Ahead – CNG & Biogas Trains Taking to the Tracks

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World first biogas train hits the tracks in Sweden

Rail trains powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) and biogas are opening new markets for the NGV industry, with trains being launched on three different continents in the space of two months, two of them in the past week.

While the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for rail locomotives is not uncommon, CNG for rail has, until now, been quite rare. Another new development is the use of biogas, with Sweden once again leading the charge.

India Railways commenced trials of their first CNG train in April, launching a dual-fuel CNG diesel locomotive on a line between Delhi and Rewari. Conversions to dual fuel operation are believed to have been conducted by German company Deutsche Bahn AG. Initial trials of the engine were reported to have resulted in a 50:50 CNG/diesel use ratio.

Meanwhile in Peru last week, operator of the world's highest railway (16,000 ft), Ferrocarril Central Andino, launched their first CNG train, operating on two dual-fuel CNG/diesel engines supplied by General Electric. The train has a 400 km range on CNG. Ferrocarril Central Andino has a total of eight locomotives which it intends converting to dual-fuel operation over the next seven months.

Sweden's Svensk Biogas has this week inaugurated a world first biogas train, ahead of commencing commercial operations with the train in September. The train operates on two biogas Volvo bus engines, replacing two diesel engines, and will operate an 80 km (50 mile) east coast route between Linköping and Vaestervik. The train has a top speed of 130km/h (80mph) and can travel 600km (372 miles) before it needs to refuel. Svensk Biogas has disclosed that 10 million kronor (1.08m euros; \$1.3m) was spent on development.

The train joins almost 780 biogas buses and thousands of biogas cars already on Sweden's roads. Biogas vehicles recently topped the Swedish Green Motorist Association list of environmentally friendly vehicles - see report.

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