

## **RDS-PP<sup>®</sup>** Key System

From project to operation  
Documentation and licensing

- | Basic legal information
- | Documents
- | Licensing

# **RDS-PP® – Reference Designation System for Power Plants**

## Documentation and Licensing

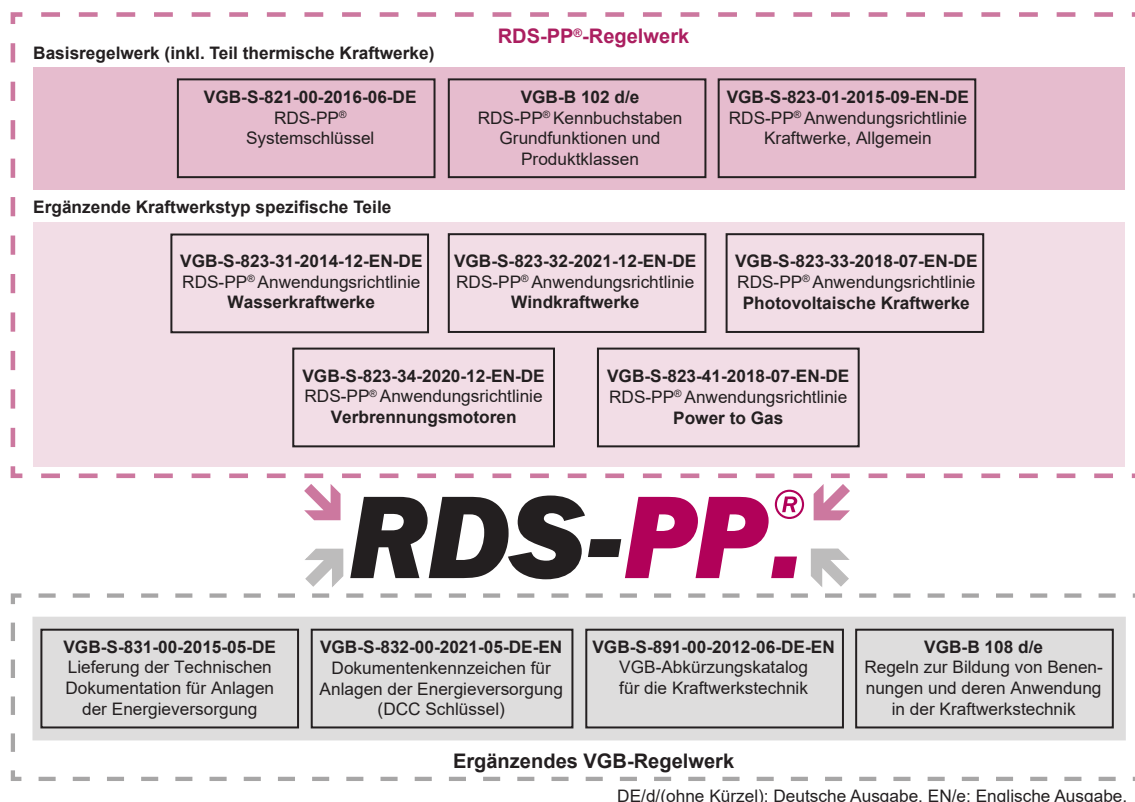
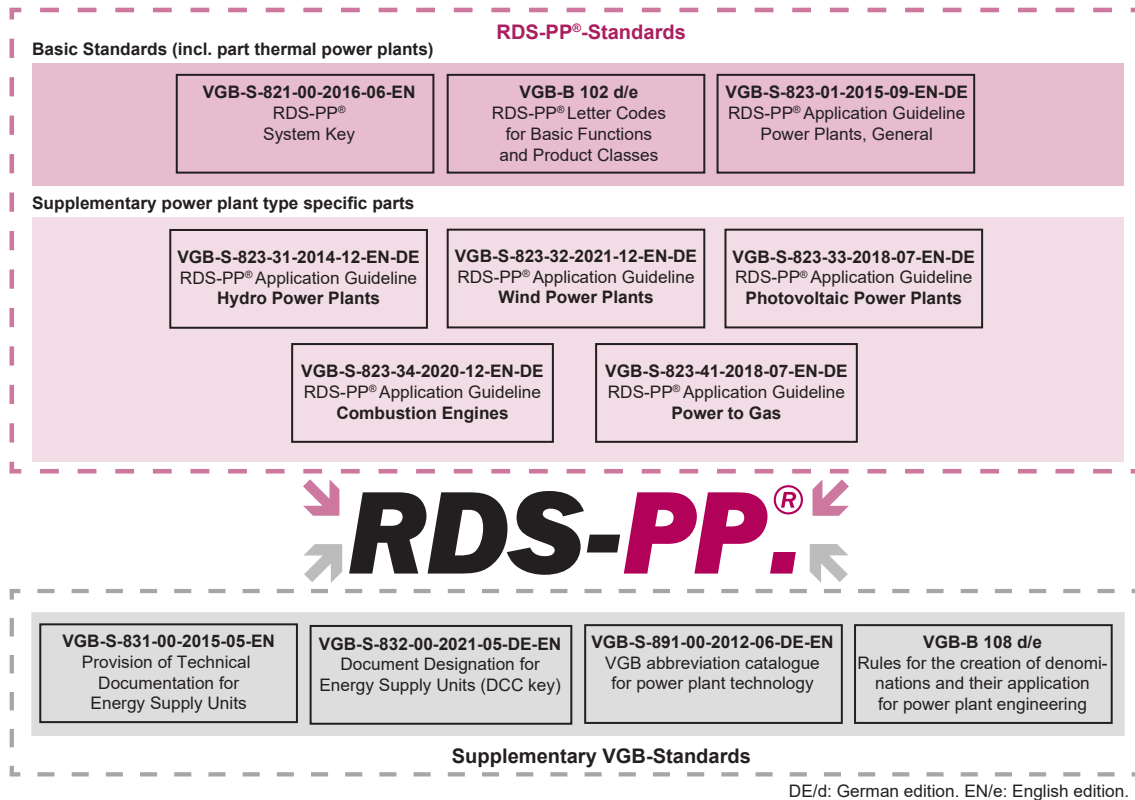
- | Basic legal information
- | Documents
- | Licensing

Publisher  
vgbe energy e.V.

Publishing house  
vgbe energy service GmbH  
Verlag technisch-wissenschaftlicher Schriften  
Deilbachtal 173, 45257 Essen, Germany  
Phone: +49 201 8128-444  
Fax: +49 201 8128-302  
E-mail: [license@vgbe.energy](mailto:license@vgbe.energy)

Essen, 1 January 2023

## Overview of vgbe's English and German publications related to the RDS-PP (Reference Designation System for Power Plants)



## Preface

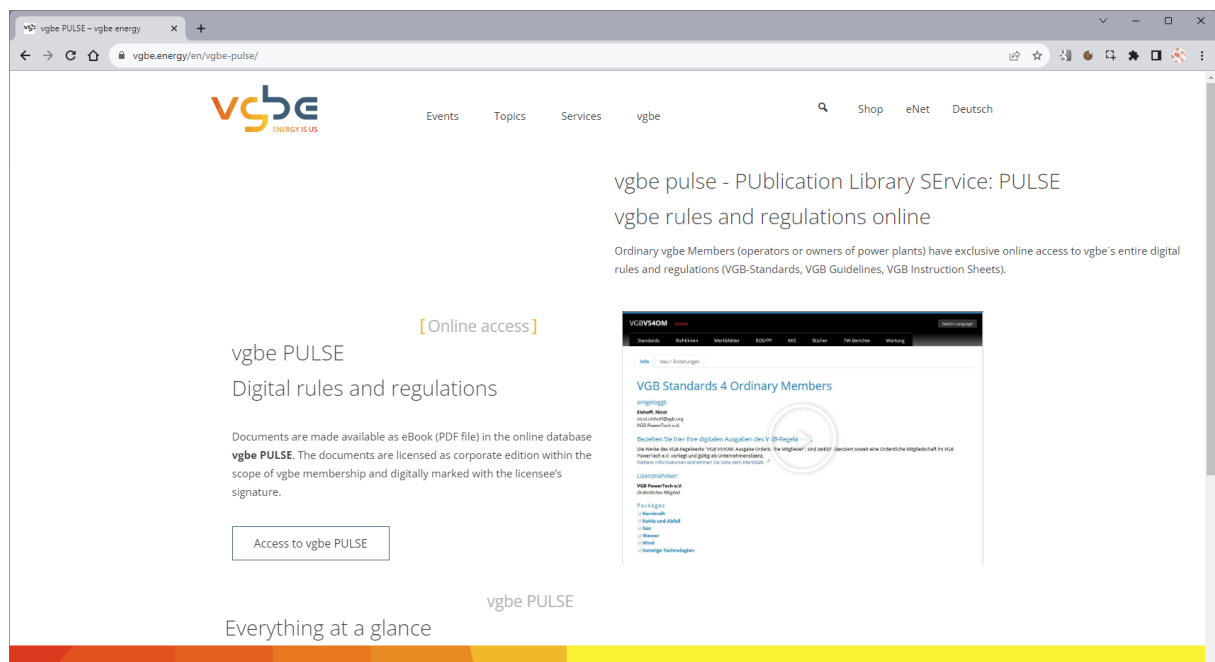
### The **Purchase** of:

- **Publications** provides  
a detailed overview of the contents of RDS-PP® % KKS as well as all information necessary for the application of the designation systems.  
The purchase of publications does not include any further rights for copying, extracting or transferring of any contents or parts of it.
- **License** permits  
the application of vgbe's RDS-PP® & KKS designation systems for energy plants by users.

The free “Info Collections” & “Pocketbooks” provide a comprehensive look inside of KKS & RDS-PP®.

**vgbe pulse:** vgbe standards database service for Ordinary Members of the vgbe energy e.V.

Info: <https://www.vgbe.energy/vgbe-pulse/>



**vgbe energy RDS-PP® – Documents and Licensing: From project to operation**  
**Development license | Manufacturing license | Operating license**

Essen/Germany, January 2023

**1. vgbe energy e.V. – General information**

vgbe energy e.V.\* is a non-profit association with head-office in Essen, Germany, and the technical centre of competence in all sectors of power and heat generation and storage.

vgbe's 440 members are located in 34 countries worldwide. vgbe's main task is to support its Ordinary Members (operators & plant owners), Sponsoring Members (manufacturers and suppliers) and Affiliated Members (authorities, federations and associations) in all tasks of their operational business. The membership is open to all companies and associations worldwide.

vgbe provides an international platform for the exchange and transfer of technical know-how in accordance to compliance rules and anti-trust rules. It is a gatekeeper and provider of technical know-how for members.

Results of vgbe's activities are also published as books (standards) and in the monthly published special magazine vgbe energy journal also to make them available for further interested parties beyond members of vgbe.

The operative business is carried out by the vgbe energy service GmbH.

*\* Known as VGB PowerTech until April 2022.*

**2. RDS-PP® – General information**

The RDS-PP® (Reference Designation System for Power Plants) is the further development for the proven identification system for power plants KKS (Kraftwerk-Kennzeichensystem/Identification System for Power Stations). It provides a number of innovations and extensions, coming up for today's requirements for designation of power plants components and also related technologies. RDS-PP® was enhanced with a view on new forms of power generation, e. g. decentralised plants.

The new designation system takes into account international standards, especially ISO/TS 81346-10, ISO/TS 81346-3, related to the structuring principles and the designation systematic.

The vgbe Working Panel "Reference Designation and Plant Documentation" takes an active part in the development of the RDS-PP® and is underlying national and international standards.

### 3. Legal matter

The publications, “works”, of the RDS-PP® and their contents are protected by national and international law, copyright acts and ancillary copyright, with consideration of the “Berne Convention” and the mission of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), agency of the United Nations.

The transfer of contents of the works is strictly limited; only few excerpts are permitted within the copyright limitations. According to the copyright acts the **purchase** of the documents **does not include** any rights for the transfer of contents to other documents or electronic system.

A license agreement is mandatory for the transfer of contents of the works (including all kind of data, e.g. EXCEL-files), e.g. the use and application of the RDS-PP® in electronic systems or transfer to documents of third parties.

vgbe offers a graduated concept for the user. The concept is taking into account known and reported requirements of users and legal matter, e.g. the German law governing resale prices of books.

The overall license concept covers the two independent options:

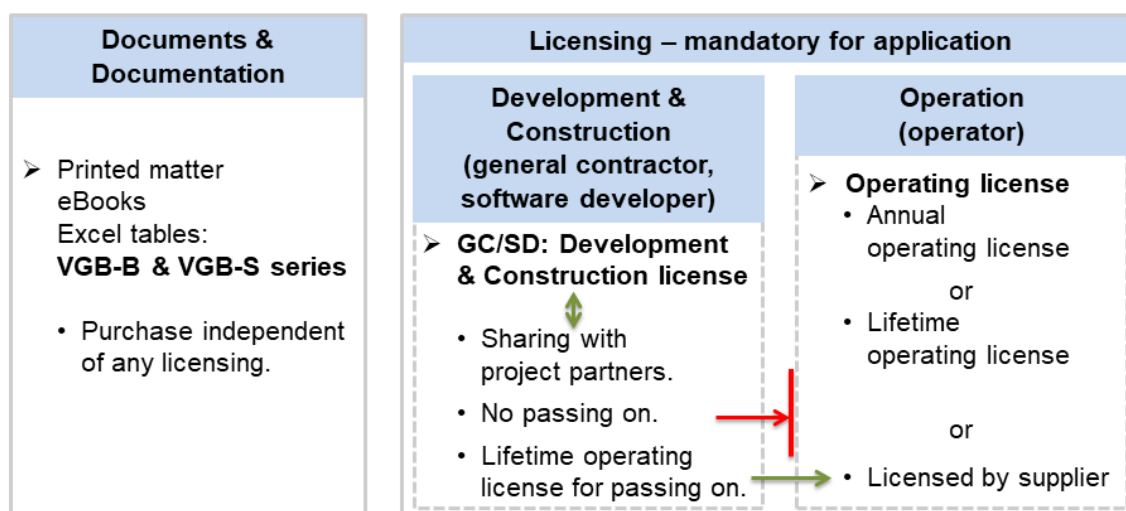
1. **Purchase** of the documentation, the publications, (Chapter 4)

and

2. **License agreement** for use and application as well as integration in electronic system for operators, manufacturers & service providers (Chapter 5).

#### **RDS-PP®** Overview of licensing

Open for vgbe energy members and all interested non-members.



#### 4. RDS-PP® – Publications

Several books about the contents and application of the RDS-PP® are available.

The so-called “Basic Standards” contain all information for a complete and detailed overview about the RDS-PP®. They also contain all information for thermal power generation plants.

Updates as of 2022-12 are included.

- VGB-S-821-00-2016-06-EN (English), RDS-PP® Letter Code for Power Plant Systems (System key), 636 pages, 2016
- VGB-S-821-00-2016-06-DE (Deutsch), RDS-PP® Referenzkennzeichensystem für Kraftwerke – Kennbuchstaben für Kraftwerkssysteme (Systemschlüssel), 636 Seiten, 2016
- VGB-B 102 (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP® Reference Designation System for Power Plants, Letter Codes for Basic Functions and Product Classes / Referenzkennzeichensystem für Kraftwerke – Kennbuchstaben für Grundfunktionen und Produktklassen, 270 pages, 2010
- VGB-S-823-01-2015-09-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP® Application Guideline, Part 01: Power Plants, General / Anwendungsrichtlinie Teil 01: Kraftwerke, Allgemein, 390 pages, 2015

The so-called “Power Plant Type Specific Parts” contain further information about the application of the RDS-PP for specific energy plant types:

- VGB-S-823-31-2014-12-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP – Application Guideline, Part 31: Hydro Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 31: Wasserkraftwerke, 221 pages, 2014
- VGB-S-823-32-2021-12-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP – Application Guideline, Part 32: Wind Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 32: Windkraftwerke, 412 pages, 2nd Edition / 2. Ausgabe, 2021
- VGB-S-823-33-2018-07-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP – Application Guideline, Part 33: Photovoltaic Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 33: Photovoltaische Kraftwerke, 150 pages, 2018
- VGB-S-823-34-2020-12-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline; Part 34: Plants for Energy Supply with Combustion Engines / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 34: Anlagen der Energieversorgung mit Verbrennungsmotoren, 260 p., 2020
- VGB-S-823-41-2018-07-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline, Part 41: Power to Gas / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 41: Power to Gas, 160 pages, 2018

#### Free iOS and Android app

Free English and German smartphone and tablet app  
(iOS and Android) for decoding of RDS-PP® designation codes.  
Download and further services on request.  
<https://tipware.de/rdspp/index.html>



vgbe recommends some further “Supplementary Publications” related to power plant designation and technical documentation:

- VGB-B 108 (English/German), Guideline Rules for the creation of denominations and their application for power plant engineering / Regeln zur Bildung von Benennungen und deren Anwendung in der Kraftwerkstechnik, 36 pages, 2010
- VGB-S-831-00-2015-05-EN (English), Provision of Technical Documentation, 114 pages, 2015
- VGB-S-831-00-2015-05-DE (German), Lieferung der Technischen Dokumentation (Technische Anlagendaten, Dokumente) für Anlagen der Energieversorgung, 114 Seiten, 2015
- VGB-S-832-00-2021-05-DE-EN (English/German), Document Designation for Energy Supply Units (DCC key) / Dokumentenkennzeichen für Anlagen der Energieversorgung, 210 pages, 2021
- VGB-S-891-00-2012-06-DE-EN (English/German), VGB abbreviation-catalogue for power plant technology / VGB-Abkürzungskatalog für die Kraftwerkstechnik, 1001 pages, 2012

#### 4.1. Purchase of the documentation

VGBE/VGB publications, also related to RDS-PP®, are available for purchase ([www.vgb.org/en/shop/](http://www.vgb.org/en/shop/)) independent of any licensing and are not included in licenses.

eBooks (electronic matter) may not be shared or passed on to third parties due to legal regulations.

<b>Single/multi-user versions of the publications (eBooks*), printed matter available.</b>		
VGBE/VGB ref. ordering number	vgbe-Member** (EUR)	Non-member (EUR)
VGB-S-821-00-2016-06-EN (English), RDS-PP® Reference Designation System for Power Plants – Letter Code for Power Plant Systems (System key – English), 636 p., 2016	490.00	680.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company: up to 5 up to 25 up to 50	955.50 1,935.50 3,405.50	1,326.00 2,686.00 4,726.00
VGB-S-821-00-2016-06-DE (Deutsch), RDS-PP® Referenzkennzeichensystem für Kraftwerke – Kennbuchstaben für Kraftwerkssysteme (Systemschlüssel – Deutsch), 636 S., 2016	490.00	680.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company: up to 5 up to 25 up to 50	955.50 1,935.50 3,405.50	1,326.00 2,686.00 4,726.00
VGB-B 102 (English/Deutsch), Reference Designation System for Power Plants, Letter Codes for Basic Functions and Product Classes / Referenzkennzeichensystem für Kraftwerke - Kennbuchstaben für Grundfunktionen und Produktklassen, 270 p., 2010	230.00	350.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company: up to 5 up to 25 up to 50	448.50 908.50 1,598.50	682.50 1,382.50 2,432.50
VGB-S-823-01-2015-09-EN-DE (English/Deutsch), RDS-PP – Application Guideline, Part 01: Power Plants, General / Anwendungsrichtlinie Teil 01: Kraftwerke, Allgemein, 390 p., 2015	390.00	585.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company: up to 5 up to 25 up to 50	760.50 1,540.50 2,710.50	1,140.75 2,310.75 4,065.75
VGB-RDS-PP®-EXCEL-EN (English), Reference Designation System for Power Plants – Excel-table, System Key (English), 2018 No rights for use and application are passed on, further licensing mandatory, approx. 8,000 data sets	1,950.00	2,950.00

VGB-RDS-PP®-EXCEL-DE (Deutsch), Reference Designation System for Power Plants – Excel-table, System Key (Deutsch), 2018 No rights for use and application are passed on, further licensing mandatory, approx. 8,000 data sets	1,950.00	2,950.00
--	----------	----------

<b>Specific publications related to different power plant technologies, optionally.</b>		
VGB-S-823-31-2014-12-EN-DE (English/German), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline, Part 31: Hydro Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 31: Wasserkraftwerke, 221 p., 2014	280.00	420.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company:		
up to 5	546.00	819.00
up to 25	1,106.00	1,659.00
up to 50	1,946.00	2,919.00
VGB-S-823-32-2021-12-EN-DE (English/German), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline; Part 32: Wind Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 32: Windkraftwerke, 414 p., 2021	430.00	645.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company:		
up to 5	838.50	1,257.75
up to 25	1,698.50	2,547.75
up to 50	2,988.50	4,482.75
VGB-S-823-33-2018-07-EN-DE (English/German), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline; Part 33: Photovoltaic Power Plants / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 33: Photovoltaische Kraftwerke, 150 p., 2018	280.00	420.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company:		
up to 5	546.00	819.00
up to 25	1,106.00	1,659.00
up to 50	1,946.00	2,919.00
VGB-S-823-34-2020-12-EN-DE (English/German), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline; Part 34: Plants for Energy Supply with Combustion Engines /Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 34: Anlagen der Energieversorgung mit Verbrennungsmotoren, 260 p., 2020	320.00	480.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company:		
up to 5	624.00	936.00
up to 25	1,264.00	1,264.00
up to 50	2,224.00	2,224.00
VGB-S-823-41-2018-07-EN-DE (English/German), RDS-PP® – Application Guideline; Part 41: Power to Gas / Anwendungsrichtlinie, Teil 41: Power to Gas, 160 p., 2018	280.00	420.00
Multi-user versions, number of users within company:		
up to 5	546.00	819.00
up to 25	1,106.00	1,659.00
up to 50	1,946.00	2,919.00

<b>The purchase of the following additional documents is recommended but not necessary. Single-user versions of the publications (eBooks), printed matter available.</b>		
VGBE/VGB ref. ordering number Multi-user versions on request.	vgbe-Member * (EUR)	Non-member (EUR)
VGB-B 108, Guideline Rules for the creation of denominations and their application for power plant engineering / Regeln zur Bildung von Benennungen und deren Anwendung in der Kraftwerkstechnik, 36 p., 2010	70.00	100.00
VGB-S-831-00-2015-05-EN, Provision of Technical Documentation, 114 p., 2015	420.00	630.00
VGB-S-831-00-2015-05-DE, Lieferung der Technischen Dokumentation (Technische Anlagendaten, Dokumente) für Anlagen der Energieversorgung, 114 S., 2015	420.00	630.00
VGB-S-832-00-2021-05-DE-EN, Document Designation for Energy Supply Units (DCC key) / Dokumentenkennzeichen für Anlagen der Energieversorgung, 210 pages, 2021	320.00	480.00
VGB-S-891-00-2012-06-DE-EN, VGB abbreviation-catalogue for power plant technology / VGB-Abkürzungskatalog für die Kraftwerkstechnik, 1001 p., 2012	390.00	585.00

\* Free for Ordinary Members (Operators & Plant Owners), <https://www.vgbe.energy/en/vgbe-pulse/>

\*\* Discounted for Affiliated and Sponsoring Members.

All prices net, without VAT, as of 1 January 2023

## 5. Licensing for the use and application, transfer of contents

vgbe offers a gradual concept of RDS-PP® licenses for users, members of vgbe energy e.V. and other third parties:

1. Manufacturers (general supplier), Service providers (software developers), etc. (Chapter 5.1, **Development & construction license**)

and

2. Operators, etc. (Chapter 5.2, **Operating license**)

taking into account all project stages and the whole lifetime of a plant, from development to construction to operation.

There are no licensing obligations and fees after the final shut-down of a plant, decommissioning phase.

### Users

- (1) Ordinary members (Plant Operators, Plant Owners, acc. §3 (1) of the statutes):  
The access to digital documents and the licenses are included in the membership fees for the duration of the membership; no license fee is invoiced; printed matter is discounted.  
(vgbe standards database “vgbe pulse”, info: <https://www.vgbe.energy/vgbe-pulse/>)
- (2) Affiliated Members (Authorities, Institutes, Associations) and Sponsoring Members (Manufacturers, Service Providers):  
The access to printed and digital documents and licenses is discounted.
- (3) Third Parties, non-members of vgbe energy e.V.:  
Access to printed and digital documents and licenses at regular prices for manufacturers and service providers (Chapter 5.1), operators (Chapter 5.2) etc.

### 5.1. Development & construction license

With the **development & construction license**, vgbe RDS-PP® and its contents may be used and applied (preparation of designation codes, designation/labelling and documentation) during the design and construction phase of a project by the licensee (manufacturers, service providers, etc.). The preparation of designation codes acc. to vgbe's RDS-PP® and their implementation are the main subjects of the license.

Licensing is mandatory for **General Contractors**. Suppliers or subcontractors are excepted from licensing, even if codes are generated and supplied, if only single systems or a small share of the project is provided.

Only **one license** is mandatory for one project, usually contracted by the key party; if no party licenses a project, vgbe reserves the right to charge all parties.

RDS-PP®-designation codes and their descriptions (documentation) may be shared with project partners (if no active part in preparation of codes) by the original licensee during the licensed period.

All VGBE/VGB-Standards referring to the vgbe RDS-PP® are available for project partners also as multi-user versions (Corporate version).

RDS-PP®-designation codes and their descriptions (documentation) for the licensed project may be **passed on** to a customer (end-user) **with a lifetime operating license** acc. to Chapter 5.2. Otherwise, the customer (operator) is responsible for further licensing (the development & construction license does not include the right for passing on any contents to these third parties (end-users)).

The purchase of the RDS-PP®-documents (Chapter 4) is independent of the license.

The license fee of the **development & construction license** depends on the capacity of the plant/plants (if more than one type of plant is supported).  
The license fee is based on an (1.) annual base or on an (2.) overall project license with a term, agreed in advance. If the project period exceeds the contracted license-time the additional fee depends on the unchanged overall annual project license fee; no surcharge fee will be required.

1. Annual project license, annual license fee

	vgbe-Member (EUR)	Non-member (EUR)
0 to 299 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	1,350.00	1,950.00
300 to 999 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	2,050.00	2,950.00
more than 999 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	on request	on request

2. Overall project license, Total price: (term of license) x (license fee base)

	vgbe-Member (license fee base in EUR)	Non-member (license fee base in EUR)
0 to 299 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	1,000.00 p.a.	1,550.00 p.a.
300 to 999 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	1,750.00 p.a.	2,550.00 p.a.
more than 999 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	on request	on request

**Lifetime operating license (passing on): The one-off cost depends on the capacity of the licensed plant(s), the license may be passed on to a third party (Operator).**

	Third party = vgbe-Member*	Third party = Non-member (EUR)
€ per MW <sub>el,gross</sub> , one-off (for electricity capacity)	Not applicable	150.00
€ per MW <sub>th,net</sub> , one-off (for heat supply)	Not applicable	100.00
more than 100 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	Not applicable	on request

\* vgbe-Member = Ordinary Member (Operator or Plant owner), licensed during valid membership.  
The lifetime operating license may be purchased by manufacturers, service providers etc. for passing on to a third party.

## 5.2. Operating license

With the **operating license**, vgbe-RDS-PP® may be used and implemented in digital systems by the operator or owner of a plant during the operating phase of a plant.

With final shut-down of the plant the need for licensing of vgbe-RDS-PP® expires.

An **annual operating license** and a **lifetime operating license** are offered.

The purchase of the license (Chapter 5) is mandatory for the operation of a plant.

The purchase of the RDS-PP®-documents (Chapter 4) is independent of the license.

Note: Licensing/license fees are included in the membership for Ordinary Members of vgbe energy e.V. for the duration of the membership (<https://www.vgbe.energy/vgbe-pulse/>);  
vgbe standards database “vgbe pulse”: <https://pulse.vgbe.energy/>

The license includes also updates of purchased documents for the final license holder (Operator or Plant Owner).

<b>Annual operating license: the fee depends on the capacity of the plant(s)</b>		
	vgbe-Member* (EUR), included in membership	Non-member (EUR)
Basic license:	0.00	250.00
plus € per MW <sub>el,gross</sub> p.a. (for electricity capacity)	0.00	7.50
plus € per MW <sub>th,net</sub> p.a. (for heat supply)	0.00	5.00
more than 250 MW <sub>el,gross</sub> p.a.	0.00	on request

\* vgbe-Member = Ordinary Member (Operator or Plant owner), licensed during valid membership.

<b>Lifetime operating license (one-off payment): The one-off cost depends on the capacity of the licensed plant(s), the license may be passed on to a third party.</b>		
	vgbe-Member*	Non-member (EUR)
€ per MW <sub>el,gross</sub> , one-off (for electricity capacity)	Not applicable	150.00
€ per MW <sub>th,net</sub> , one-off (for heat supply)	Not applicable	100.00
more than 100 MW <sub>el,gross</sub>	Not applicable	on request

\* vgbe-Member = Ordinary Member (Operator or Plant owner), licensed during valid membership.  
The lifetime operating license may be purchased by manufacturers, service providers etc. for passing on to a third party.

All prices net prices in Euro, VAT (if applicable).

**vgbe energy service GmbH**  
Deilbachtal 173 | 45257 Essen, Germany

Essen, January 2023

**Contact**

t +49 201 8128-444 (License)

t +49 201 8128-200 (Sales)

e [license@vgbe.energy](mailto:license@vgbe.energy)

e [sales-media@vgbe.energy](mailto:sales-media@vgbe.energy)

Shop [www.vgb.org/shop](http://www.vgb.org/shop)

Newsletter [www.vgbe.energy/en/newsletter.html](http://www.vgbe.energy/en/newsletter.html)



**be** informed [www.vgbe.energy](http://www.vgbe.energy)

**be** connected

