



WORKING FOR YOU

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

JULY 2024 – JULY 2025

adbioresources.org

FOREWORD FROM THE ADBA CHAIR



When we look back over the last year, I suspect that we will see it as a key inflection point when UK policymakers began to take the biogas and biomethane sector seriously. Ministers have begun to recognise our potential. Miatta Fahnbulleh, the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero minister, told the ADBA national conference in December: *"We are looking at a transformative decade for this sector. You have set your sights high in terms of growth, and I share your ambition for the industry."* Subsequently, one ministerial parliamentary answer confirms that biomethane is regarded as critical national infrastructure.

This marks a clear shift from passive acknowledgment to active support, signalling a more engaged and ambitious approach from government towards our sector. This is not just because the Government changed a little more than a year ago, but because there has been a change in the environment for our sector. Energy security and its impact on the cost of living and economic activity are now the dominant considerations so we can be thankful that the days when the Government had no brain space for anything except Brexit have gone.

ADBA's own report with Business Modelling Applications showed major savings - £405 per year per UK household - from using more biomethane in the transition to Net Zero. That report also showed that even our conservative assumptions about feedstock would lead to a biogas sector as big as nuclear. The gas networks joined us in the Green Gas Task Force, bringing some welcome heavy artillery to the battle to recognise biomethane as a major option.

And all that is just in the UK. The environment internationally has also provided a hard-blowing tailwind. The European Union decided to use biogas as one of its three prongs in response to the gas crisis after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The sector is growing rapidly. The latest biogas report from the International Energy Agency was the first for five years and estimated that the sector has been growing globally by 20 per cent a year. It foresaw greater days ahead. As the world has become a more volatile place, the advantages of biogas for energy security have come to the fore as a home-grown, easily stored and available-when-needed energy resource. Green gas can keep the lights on when intermittent renewables like solar and wind cannot. With these examples of international growth - not least in our neighbour France - British policymakers are rightly beginning to feel left behind, like they are missing out on a great opportunity.

And let us be honest: we have been through some lean years, and we still have a lot of work to do in the UK to improve the climate for the sector. ADBA is pushing to stop artificial deadlines on support schemes like the Green Gas

Support Scheme, which is coming to an end far too soon. We want the Government to recognise the key role of the sector with a clear biomethane target.

It must stop penalising green gas in the Emissions Trading Scheme by treating us as if we were fossil gas. We need easier planning and permitting. We want legacy electric (combined heat and power) plants supported so they do not come off line when faced with a large bill for replacement kit, and we want the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to start the hard thinking on the essential role of small on-farm AD - and of our biofertiliser digestate - in our net zero farming future.

All of this will require the full support of the sector and our members: none of what we do could be achieved without membership subscriptions. One of ADBA's most successful programmes this year has been to arrange visits to AD sites by new MPs, often in their constituencies. Nothing does more to persuade people about the benefits of the industry than seeing a plant with their own eyes, so thank you to all our members who facilitated these important and often eye-opening meetings.

We are making new friends across the House of Commons - and the civil service - as a result. We also have the whole-hearted support for green gas from one of the most influential trade unions, the GMB (General and Municipal Workers), who fund more Labour MPs than any other. Our political outreach has become much more effective over the last year. I am confident that, if we can maintain this momentum, we can turn growing goodwill into hard Government commitments over the year to come.

ADBA is also doing its bit to ensure that the sector is ready for the expansion to come. Our policy and technical teams have been beefed up over the last year with the addition of key expertise, and many members have found key practical benefit to their bottom line. Our policy, market and innovation reports keep you abreast of what is moving in the sector - and of the economic outlook. The AD certification scheme provides a state-of-the-art external view that helps to improve safety - and profits. One plant was able to add more than £500,000 a year to revenue just by plugging methane leaks in its systems.

And ADBA listens. We are still small and dedicated enough to respond to our members' good ideas and are more than happy to take them up and run with them (and take the credit for them!). As the voice of the sector, ADBA will continue to have your back. The best days for biogas are still ahead of us.

Chris Huhne, ADBA Chair

POLICY: SHAPING THE MESSAGE

LANDMARK REPORT PUBLISHED

ADBA published the landmark report entitled *The Role of Green Gas in Net Zero; Cutting the Cost of Keeping the Lights On*. This showed the cost of meeting Britain's net zero targets in 2050 could be nearly £300 billion less than official projections, according to analysis based on the computer model used by Whitehall. The savings over the period to 2050 – equivalent to £415 for every household every year – would come about from a greater use of home-grown renewable green gas in the energy mix.

Launched at the ADBA National Conference, it was presented to the event's keynote speaker Miatta Fahnbulleh, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DESNZ (Minister for Energy Consumers) and shared widely with government departments, resulting in ongoing discussions with Ms Fahnbulleh and Climate Minister Kerry McCarthy about the pathway to maximise the role of green gas in the UK's energy mix.



ADBA becomes a founding member of the Green Gas Taskforce, to promote the role biomethane can play in Net Zero and help expedite the sector's growth.



ADBA REGULARLY ENGAGES WITH...

- DESNZ (quarterly) • His Majesty's Treasury • Defra • DAERA • Department for Transport • Ofgem (quarterly) • Ofwat
- Environment Agency • Health & Safety Executive • Climate Change Committee • Network Customer Forum
- Biowaste Regulatory Forum • Regulated Business Forum • WRAP • AD Quality Protocol Group • NFU • Alder BioInsights
- Scottish Whisky Association • Cadent Gas • Wales & West Utilities • SGN • Northern Gas Networks
- Renewable Energies Association • Renewable Transport Fuel Association • Future Energy Networks
- Universities, including Cranfield, Harper Adams, Imperial College, Teeside and Coventry

MEMBER SERVICES

189

Member enquiries, covering policy and regulation

185

Member enquiries, covering technical issues

366

Written responses to technical queries

20

Government consultations responded to

12

Site visits*

18

Training sessions

*Accompanied by MPs, local authority dignitaries and foreign delegations

20 POLICY CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- UK Emissions Trading Scheme Scope Expansion: Waste
- Integrating Greenhouse Gas Removals in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme
- Proposed EA Resource Framework on Digestate
- Developing Biomethane Production in Northern Ireland
- National Policy Framework Review
- Proposed EA Resource Framework on Biomethane from Waste
- Invest 2035 The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy
- Electricity Infrastructure Consenting in Scotland
- Sustainable Investment Principles
- Farming Rules For Water Guidance
- UK Emissions Trading Scheme: Non-Pipeline Transportation of Carbon Dioxide
- UK ETS Scope Expansion: Maritime Sector
- RTFO Statutory Review and Future of the Scheme
- Welsh Government's Preferred Policy on Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage
- The Proposed Gas Shipper Obligation
- Extending the UK ETS Cap Beyond 2030
- Land Use Consultation
- Greenhouse Gas Removals and Power BECCS Business Models
- Greenhouse Gas Removals for Independent Review
- Voluntary Carbon and Nature Markets

FOCUS ON FARMING

ADBA's **Small On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion (SOFAD)** working group is highly engaged, meeting every two months. The group has already achieved a key milestone: producing a concise one-page briefing to promote small on-farm AD, which has been circulated to key government departments.

Our ongoing objectives include:

- Promoting the SOFAD model as a scalable, low-carbon farming solution
- Building a strong evidence base through case studies, research, and real-world data from operational sites
- Engaging with government departments such as DBT, Defra, and DESNZ to help shape supportive policy

- Positioning SOFAD as Best Available Technique (BAT) for sustainable farm-based waste management and energy production
- Demonstrating environmental benefits and cost-effectiveness, including emissions reduction and energy resilience
- Highlighting wider co-benefits, such as biofertiliser production, export opportunities, and positive environmental outcomes.

The group may evolve into a formal taskforce as its work and influence expand. To find out more contact Gamze Yasar, gamze.yasar@adbioresources.org



TECHNICAL SUPPORT; GUIDANCE & APPLICATION

551
OPERATOR ENGAGEMENTS

ADBA's technical team answered 551 enquiries, offering **technical guidance and support** to operator and developer members. The team is in regular first-hand communications with stakeholders, such as regulatory bodies the **Health and Safety Executive** and **Environment Agency**, to ensure the most effective contact and technical updates are available to members. ADBA issued **Operational Guidance Notes** on compliance topics to assist the progress and growth of the sector and provide members with the correct guidance to protect their business.

OPERATOR TRAINING AND LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

- **Electrical Safety**
- **Biomethane Grid Injection** (x7 across the year)
- **Health and Safety Essentials in AD**
- **Plant Optimisation**
- **Temperatures and Biology** (x2 across the year)
- **Feedstock**
- **Electrical Safety Awareness**

CERTIFIED FOR SUCCESS

ADCS UK certification is the mark of efficiency, best practice and professionalism in AD operation. As such, the best-practice certification boosts plant performance and therefore the bottom line.

The **Anaerobic Digestion Certification Scheme** is revised and updated annually to reflect industry developments and new regulations and better support the industry. The ADCS scheme now has 11 modules with a dedicated module for Biomethane and new Life Cycle Assessment guidance and methodology.

The scheme is now available for different sectors related to the biogas industry, such as industrial and municipal organic waste, wastewater treatment, agricultural plants and others. ADBA's Operational Guide Notes will support operators to achieve the Scheme. A new ADCS audit process enables all UK biogas plants to progress step by step toward full accreditation.

For further information on ADCS visit www.adcertificationscheme.co.uk or contact Thibaut Raharofalimanana thibaut.raharofalimanana@adbioresources.org



9 ADCS Certified Plants

- Biocapital Granville Ecopark • Biocapital Energen Biogas
- Biocapital Barkip Biogas • Biocapital Emerald Biogas
- Biocapital Earnside Energy • Biocapital East London Biogas
- Vale Green Energy Rotherdale
- Vale Green Energy Springhill • Malaby Biogas



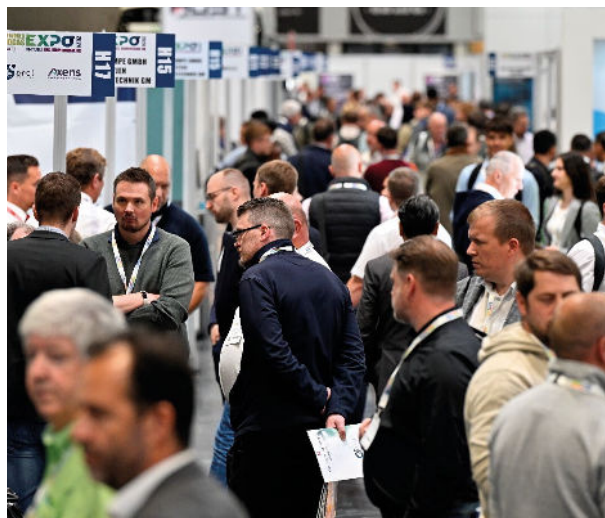
EVENTS; NETWORKING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

THE WORLD BIOGAS EXPO

The **15th annual biogas trade show hosted by ADBA** (latterly in collaboration with the World Biogas Association (WBA), and co-located World Biogas Summit) took place at the NEC, Birmingham on 9-10 July. With a focus on delivery, the **World Biogas Expo 2025** attracted over **3,800 registered delegates** from **50 countries**, **160 exhibitors** and over **80 expert speakers**. Event promotion attracted just short of half a million impressions to our event website, newsletter and LinkedIn pages.

"The World Biogas Expo - it is not just a case of 'will you be attending, but can you really afford to miss it?'"

David Hurren, CEO, DAH Renewable Consulting



ADBA | NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The **ADBA National Conference 2024** at One Great George Street, Westminster, London, attracted over **240 delegates**, **16 high-level speakers**, including Minister for Energy Miatta Fahnbulleh, and **9 exhibitors**; Vogelsang, Wolf Construction, Atlas Co, Safety Revolution, Marches Biogas, OSS Enviro (Global), Agricom, Blumethane, Rural & Agricultural Services.

"The ADBA National Conference is the essential place to discover how biogas is shaping the future of energy, agriculture and sustainability."

Dr Nick Primmer, Policy Lead, Future Biogas.



ADBA | NORTHERN IRELAND CONFERENCE

The **ADBA Northern Ireland Conference 2024** at the ICC, Belfast, in September attracted **188 registered delegates**. The event was sponsored by **Firmus Energy** and **Action Renewables** and featured **12 exhibitors**; Livelab, DPS, Vogelsang, Realistic Agri, Wolf System, Approvis, Clarke Energy, agriKomp, Genesis, Landia, Alps ecoscience and OSS Enviro. On the eve of the conference, a site visit to **Granville Eco Park** sold out.

"The ADBA Northern Ireland Conference is the largest forum for the biogas industry in Ireland. It is the ideal assembly to meet, listen and exchange knowledge with all stakeholders and their communities."

Jack Dyer-Jones, Operations Director, ALPS ecoscience.



ADBA Chair Chris Huhne with ADBA Chief Executive Charlotte Morton and Andre Muir MLA

ADBA | **SCOTTISH CONFERENCE**

The **ADBA Scottish Conference 2025** at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, in March attracted **165 registered delegates**. The event was sponsored by **SGS, Sinclair** and **Agrico** and featured **10 exhibitors**: Alpheus, Alps ecoscience, CPL Puragen, EMS Industries, inspectahire, Landia, OSS Enviro, Saveco, Vogelsang, WASE and Wolf System. On the eve of the conference, a site visit to **Inchdairnie Renewable Energy AD** plant sold out and 10 operators, 2 MSPs and 2 sponsors attended an **operators' dinner** hosted by ADBA's technical team.



"ADBA plays a critical role in our journey towards a more circular economy. Both UK and Scottish Governments must support the sector and work with ADBA to deliver massive climate change and economic benefits."

Maurice Golden MSP (Con), Chair, Cross Party Group on Circular Economy, the Scottish Parliament



ADBA's bi-yearly **Members' Meetings** were hosted at **Bath University** (Autumn) and **Coventry University** (Spring), attracting 96 and 75 members and stakeholders respectively. 20 delegates to the Spring meeting attended a factory tour of **Gas Data's** manufacturing centre.

The invitation only **Finance Forums** were both hosted in London, at Osborne Clarke's London HQ.

AGENDA-SETTING SPEAKERS

ADBA conferences present agenda-setting speakers from industry and politics to inform decision-making, enhance markets and optimise the sector. Speakers who have addressed ADBA events this year include:

- **Andrew Muir MLA**, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland Executive
- **James Earl**, Chief Executive, Future Energy Networks
- **Daniel Lambert**, Downstream and Innovation Director, Acorn Bioenergy
- **Michael Matheson MSP**, Deputy Convener, Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, the Scottish Parliament
- **Nic Crowe**, Development and Government Affairs Director, Grissan Renewable Energy
- **David Watson**, Head of Energy Transition, Cadent Gas
- **Lucy Hopwood**, Director and Lead Consultant, NNFFC
- **Miatta Fahnbulleh MP**, Minister for Energy Consumers, DESNZ, UK Government
- **Dr Jonathan Scurlock**, Chief Adviser Renewable Energy and Climate Change, NFU
- **Professor Peter Hammond**, Co-Founder & CTO, CCm Technologies



SECTOR ADVOCACY: SPREADING THE WORD

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SITE VISITS

- **Local Generation**, March, Peterborough (BioteCH4), with local authority food waste delegation. (July 2024)
- **Olleco Aylesbury**, Buckinghamshire, with local authority food waste delegation. (July)
- **Bygrave Lodge Biogas Plant**, Baldock, Hertfordshire (Biogen), with local authority delegations from across the EU and EC. (December)
- **Fraddon Biogas**, St Austell, Cornwall, with Noah Law MP. (January 2025)
- **Energen Biogas**, Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire (Bio Capital), with Katrina Murray MP. (February)
- **Beckton STW** (Sewage Treatment Works), East London (Thames Water), with James Asser MP. (February)
- **Afan WWTW** (CHP), Neath, Port Talbot (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water), with Health Minister Stephen Kinnock MP. (March)
- **Old Whittington WWTC**, Chesterfield, Yorkshire (Yorkshire Water), with Toby Perkins MP, Chair of the Environment Audit Committee. (March)
- **Mansfield STW**, Nottingham (Severn Trent Water), with Steve Yemm MP. (April)
- **Lochhead Landfill** (CHP), Dunfermline, Fife (ENER-G) with Graeme Downie MP (May) and MSPs Emma Harper and Rachel Hamilton, also in May.
- **Inchdairnie Renewable Energy**, Glenrothes, Fife (GCP Infrastructure). (March 2025)
- **St Boswells Biogas**, Charlesfield, Scottish Borders (SGN), with Rachel Hamilton MSP. (May 2025)



Katrina Murray MSP (left)



**Stephen Kinnock MP (left)
with ADBA's Cameron Ball**



"I recently visited Fraddon Biogas, where organic waste from local farms and food producers is being turned into renewable energy and biofertiliser. This is a prime example of how biogas not only helps tackle climate change but also benefits the local economy and supports sustainable farming. However, we need the Government to act swiftly in removing the barriers holding back this industry. I have requested a meeting with the energy minister to discuss how we can reform the UK Emissions Trading Scheme to recognise the environmental benefits of biomethane and address the regulatory hurdles that are stifling the growth of this vital sector."

Noah Law MP, speaking at a talk hosted by former Environment Secretary George Eustice at the Eden Project.

ADBA CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



ADBA wrote an open letter to **Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves** ahead of the highly anticipated **Spring Statement** in March calling on her to back biogas to achieve the **UK's energy security and net zero ambitions**. **IGEM, SGN, Cadent** and **Welsh Water** were among **80** co-signatories.

ADBA is spearheading a campaign to have AD included under the **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Planning system**, which would remove barriers to the rapid deployment of AD plants. The campaign is supported by the **Green Gas Taskforce** and industry leaders such as **Future Biogas, Bio Capital** and **Generate Upcycle**.

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WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Submitted to DESNZ and DEFRA ministers on AD, focused on the emissions trading scheme, long-term support planning and whether AD is considered Critical National Infrastructure by MPs **Toby Perkins** (Lab), Chesterfield; **Peter Prinsley** (Lab), Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket; **Wera Hobhouse** (Lib-Dem), Bath; **Josh Newbury** (Lab), Cannock Chase; **Jim Shannon** (DUP), Strangford.

LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

Over the past year, ADBA has engaged with policymakers and key industry stakeholders through participation in the following events and roundtables:

- **Parliamentary reception for Industry and Energy**
Arden Strategies and GMB union hosted a reception for MPs and Public Affairs professionals including top CEOs focusing on energy and infrastructure. Attendees included Climate Minister Kerry McCarthy, Environment Minister Daniel Zeichner, GMB General Secretary Gary Smith, and Chair of the DESNZ Select Committee Bill Esterson. (January 2025)
- **'Scots in the City Reception'** Scottish Labour stakeholder event with industry and finance. Invitation-only reception for industry and finance with leading Scottish Labour figures including Anas Sarwar, Jackie Baillie, Ian Murray (Secretary of State for Scotland), and numerous Scottish Labour MPs. (January 2025).
- **Grand Opening of Moor Bioenergy by Minister Fahnbulleh** Opening of the UK's first unsubsidised AD Plant funded by AstraZeneca in Lincolnshire. Attended by high Level DESNZ representatives and opened officially by Energy Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh. (February 2025).
- **Scottish Conservative private stakeholder event at the Royal Highland Show** An invitation-only stakeholder event with the Leader of the Scottish Conservatives and all front bench Scottish Conservatives - Russell Findlay, Douglass Lumsden, Brian Whittle, Murdo Fraser and Rachel Hamilton - and the Shadow Minister for Farming at Westminster Robbie Moor MP. (June 2025)
- **Private roundtable with Arden Strategies and Juergen Maier, Chair of GB Energy** (June 2025)
- **Net Zero Plan for the Waste and Resources** Invitation-only, sector-focused review of transition planning as a Net Zero Council priority, including scoping best practice and the opportunities posed by sector planning. (July)



Pictured (l-r) Shaun Grady, Chair of AstraZeneca UK, Liz Chatwin, VP, Global Sustainability and SHE at AstraZeneca, Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh and Future Biogas CEO Philipp Lukas.

- **Third Party Events** ADBA participated in included **The Environmental Services & Solutions Expo (ESS Expo) 2024** (September); **Bio360** (February 2025); **Low Carbon Agriculture Show** (March); **Principle Clean Seminar on Food Waste Recycling** (May); and **All Energy Exhibition & Conference 2025** (May).

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT



Following the General Election ADBA welcomed key cabinet ministers to post and said it looks forward to working together to deliver the government's missions. We have subsequently had in-person meetings with DESNZ Ministers **Miatta Fahnbulleh MP** (Energy) (pictured top of page) and **Kerry McCarthy MP** (Climate) (above).

ADBA has also spoken to and maintains regular contact with ministers across several departments, including the Cabinet Office, Treasury, DEFRA, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Department for Business and Trade and Department for Transport, in regard to issues such as future funding for the sector and its potential for growth, simpler recycling and food waste, the government's clean power 2030 targets, as well as more specific issues such as support schemes for small on-farm AD (SOFAD).

AMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE

110

MEDIA ARTICLES

Articles achieved by ADBA activity across the media (including in the US, Spain, France, Sweden and Italy)

ADBA's commentary on the change in government, energy futures and the contribution biomethane can make to reducing the cost of achieving net zero were highlights in a busy news year.

A podcast interview of ADBA Chair Chris Huhne by gasworld's journalist Rob Cockerill recorded as part of **Net Zero Week 2024** achieved 300K views across the Net Zero Week, gasworld and ADBA platforms.



The related press release reflecting on the **new Labour government** in the wake of the 2024 General Election achieved c500K reach across 11 UK media outlets.

A press release about ADBA's letter to the Chancellor **Rachel Reeves** ahead of the 2025 Spring Statement achieved c600K reach across 14 UK media outlets.

ADBA's national and regional conferences also attracted widespread coverage, especially keynote interventions from political leaders in the respective countries, e.g. the **ADBA Northern Ireland Conference 2024** featuring **Andrew Muir MLA** achieved coverage in 7 outlets and a reach of 1.7M.



Our site visits for MPs and local authority delegations secured a lot of coverage in local and regional media, such as the **Warrington Guardian**, **Cornish Times** and **East Lothian Courier**. Regional and local media are key campaign channels, building grassroots credibility, engaging decision-makers and amplifying our voice through stories that resonate in communities across the country.

The press release about a Local Authorities site visit to the BiotechCH4 plant organised by ADBA was covered by 5 media outlets with a combined reach of 352K.



ADBA activity frequently secures coverage across Europe, reflecting international recognition of our expertise, innovation and role in advancing the green gas transition. German Electrochaea secured coverage across national media and press agencies, with a combined total reach of 124.4M, when it announced it had won a AD&Biogas Industry Award, co-sponsored by ADBA.

UK OUTLETS THAT COVERED ADBA NEWS INCLUDE:



FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ADBA NETWORKING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



Members' Meeting TBC, **October, 2025**



Finance Forum TBC, **October, 2025**



NEC, Birmingham, 8-9 July, 2026

ADBA TRAINING

DSEAR with **David Woolgar**, **25 September, 2025**

Feedstock with **Angela Cronje**, **7 October, 2025**

LDAR & Methane Slippage Guidance, **6 November, 2025**

Biomethane Grid Injection, **2 December, 2025**

KEEP IN TOUCH



If you'd like to speak to us about your membership, contact

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Anaerobic Digestion and
Bioresources Association

**THE ENERGY BEHIND
THE AD REVOLUTION**

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