



Press release

## ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF ROMANDE ENERGIE HOLDING SA GROUP

### RESULTS INFLUENCED BY PARTICIPATIONS AND 6<sup>TH</sup> DIVIDEND INCREASE

The 2007 financial statements showing consolidated net income of CHF 172 million and a proposal to increase the dividend from CHF 18 to CHF 30 will be placed before the AGM of Romande Energie Holding SA this afternoon.

Morges, 8 May 2008 – As previously announced on 13 March at the annual press conference of the Romande Energie Group, 2007 saw the implementation of the strategic decisions taken in 2006, in particular the creation of Romande Energie Commerce SA and the partnership with Atel, together with detailed studies which led up to the formation of the new Environment Business Unit on 1 February 2008. At the financial level, the explosion of expenditure on electricity supplies and border bottleneck costs were not passed on to our customers; that explains the CHF 23 million downturn in our operating result (EBIT). The net income reached CHF 172 million (+76% on 2006), greatly influenced by the financial performance of the Group's participations in its affiliated companies.

#### **Sixth consecutive dividend rise**

For the record, the Board of Directors will today be recommending to the AGM the distribution of an ordinary dividend of CHF 20 and an extraordinary dividend of CHF 10. This is the sixth consecutive increase in the dividend (CHF 4 in 2003, CHF 8 in 2004, CHF 12 in 2005, CHF 15 in 2006 and CHF 18 in 2007). If this recommendation is approved by the AGM, and taking account of the number of shares in circulation, the value of the dividends paid out will be CHF 33 million.

#### **Changes on the Board of Directors**

The Council of State has appointed Mr Laurent Francfort, currently an elected member of the Board of Directors, to take over from Mr Hubert Barde who will be retiring.

To replace Mr Francfort, who is now a member appointed by the Council of State, the Board of Directors is proposing Mr Giovanni Leonardi, CEO of Atel Aar et Tessin SA d'Electricité in Olten. Born in 1960, Mr Leonardi comes from the Ticino. He is an EPFZ graduate electrical engineer and worked in several engineering consultancies before joining the Atel Group in 1991. He became its CEO in 2004.

The reappointment of the Ernst & Young company as auditors of the parent company and consolidated financial statements for the financial year 2008 will also be proposed.

#### **Outlook for 2008**

In 2008, the Romande Energie Group will give priority to the business of Romande Energie Commerce SA, expansion of own-power generation capacity, optimum management of its distribution networks and development of promising activities within the new Environment business unit.

\* \* \* \* \*

**For further information, please contact:**  
Daniel Herrera, Head of Communications  
+41 21 802 95 67  
[daniel.herrera@romande-energie.ch](mailto:daniel.herrera@romande-energie.ch)