



Press release

Forces Motrices de l'Avançon decides to join forces with Romande Energie Commerce

Forces Motrices de l'Avançon SA (FMA), based in Bex, has decided to acquire an equity stake in Romande Energie Commerce, the largest energy marketing company in French-speaking Switzerland. Beginning in July 2010, FMA will delegate to Romande Energie Commerce the management of the electricity supply to its customers in the communes of Bex, Ollon, Gryon and Lavey-Morcles. The rates charged to FMA's customers will be reduced considerably from current levels starting on 1 January 2010. This decision must still be approved at FMA's Extraordinary General Meeting.

Morges and Bex, 18 September 2009 – Forces Motrices de l'Avançon SA (FMA), based in Bex, distributes electricity to just over 13,000 residential and business customers in the communes of Bex, Ollon, Gryon and Lavey-Morcles. Faced with the growing complexity of a rapidly changing electricity market, FMA in recent months developed and assessed various strategic scenarios aimed at securing the company's future and offering its customers more competitive terms governing electricity supply and service.

At the end of this study phase, FMA's Board of Directors selected Romande Energie Commerce SA as the company's future partner, Romande Energie Group being FMA's most important shareholder.

Created at the end of 2007, Romande Energie Commerce is the largest electricity marketing company in French-speaking Switzerland with a volume of energy sold of approximately 3 TWh and more than 260,000 customers. It offers high quality, competitive and innovative services designed to support sustainable development.

Residential and business customers in the aforementioned communes will soon benefit from this move, as FMA has decided to delegate the management of customer services (supply, billing, call centre, etc.) to Romande Energie Commerce beginning on 1 July 2010. In the future, Romande Energie Commerce will handle FMA's energy supply within its energy portfolio.

FMA will continue to manage, operate and maintain its distribution network, hydro station in Sublin and other properties, using local staff and ensuring the same quality of service.

The advantages procured by this new partnership with Romande Energie Commerce will quickly be reflected in lower electricity rates. All of FMA's customers will see a significant decrease in their electricity bills beginning in January following a one-off reduction of the 2010 rates published on 31 August 2009.

The two partners look forward to working together, as FMA becomes a shareholder in Romande Energie Commerce SA. The partnership will be submitted for approval at FMA's Extraordinary General Meeting, and the agreements governing the partnership will be finalised by the two companies' Boards of Directors by the end of autumn 2009.

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Romande Energie Commerce shareholders

The shareholders of Romande Energie Commerce are: Romande Energie Group (with its subsidiaries Société électrique Vevey-Montreux and Société électrique du Bas-Valais), SIE SA (Service intercommunal de l'électricité, Renens), Atel (Aare-Tessin Ltd. for Electricity, Olten), the City of Lausanne, and the communes of Bussigny-près-Lausanne, Pully, Romanel s/Lausanne, Belmont s/Lausanne and Paudex.

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Note to editorial desks

This press release is being issued outside the trading hours of the SIX Swiss Exchange as required by the SIX Listing Rules on ad hoc publicity.

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