

Negotiations on the acquisition of electricity grids of Cimo Compagnie industrielle de Monthey by Société électrique de Champéry – Val-d'Illiez at an advanced stage

Monthey and Champéry, 18 November 2010 – Cimo and SECVI SA signed a declaration of intent on 18 November 2010 concerning the acquisition of the above electricity grids.

As previously announced in 2008, Cimo Compagnie industrielle de Monthey SA has decided to sell its electricity transportation and distribution facilities outside the chemical site at Monthey, in order to refocus on its strategic activities.

The purpose of this declaration of intent is to finalize all the related contracts and concessions before the end of the year.

The final agreement should take effect on 1 January 2011.

After assessing the technical, financial and commercial aspects of the tenders submitted and under an agreement made with the municipality of Troistorrents, Cimo has selected Société électrique de Champéry – Val-d'Illiez SA (SECVI SA) to be the acquirer of the Troistorrents electricity network serving around 3,650 clients, and of the medium voltage lines supplying the power grids on the territory of Vérossaz and Massongex. SECVI SA is owned by Romande Energie Holding SA and the municipalities of Champéry and Val-d'Illiez.

Cimo has therefore chosen a company belonging to a major Western Swiss utilities group that is ready for deregulation of the power market and capable of guaranteeing long-term security of supply for its clients as well as providing top-flight services at competitive prices. SECVI SA meets all the criteria set by Cimo and the municipality of Troistorrents

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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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SECVI and Romande Energie at a glance

Société électrique de Champéry – Val-d'Illeiez SA (SECVI SA) distributes electricity to over 4,000 clients in the municipalities of Champéry and Val-d'Illeiez. It was created through the merger of Société de Distribution Electrique de Champéry SA (SDEC) and Société Hydroélectrique de Val-d'Illeiez (SHEVI), effective 1 January 2010. SECVI is owned by Romande Energie and the above two municipalities.

Meeting the electricity needs of 280,000 direct clients (representing a catchment population of 500,000 people) spread over 318 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva, Romande Energie Group is one of Switzerland's top five electricity distributors. Its core businesses are the production, distribution and marketing of electricity, and the management of power grids. The Group's priorities are to provide its clients with high-quality services and guarantee reliable, competitively priced electricity supplies on a long-term basis; to expand its own-power production by investing primarily in new renewable energy sources; and to promote innovative solutions in the field of energy efficiency.

For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit www.romande-energie.ch

Cimo, technology at the service of the chemical industry

Cimo Compagnie industrielle de Monthey SA has been operating in Monthey since 1 January 1997. A joint venture owned by BASF and Syngenta, Cimo offers a wide range of highly specialized services for companies active on the chemical site at Monthey. The company employs around 400 people and operates in the following fields: residue treatment, energy production and distribution, environmental protection, technical maintenance, engineering and automation, occupational medicine, education, etc.

Find out more at www.cimo.ch