

Press release

**Cimo Compagnie industrielle de Monthey SA
confirms sale of Troistorrents electricity grid
to Société électrique de Champéry – Val-d'Illiez SA**

Monthey and Champéry, 10 December 2010 – **The agreement to cede ownership of the Troistorrents power distribution grid was signed on 9 December 2010. The sale will take effect on 1 January 2011.**

Pursuant to the declaration of intent signed on 18 November 2010, Société électrique de Champéry – Val-d'Illiez SA (hereinafter SECVI SA), which is owned by Romande Energie Holding SA and the municipalities of Champéry and Val-d'Illiez, will fully acquire the business assets relating to the Troistorrents medium- and low-voltage grid (serving some 3,650 customers). The sale will take effect on 1 January 2011.

As part of the transaction, it has furthermore been agreed that the municipality of Troistorrents will be granted a seat on the Board of Directors of SECVI SA as well as the possibility of acquiring an equity interest in the company.

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. Following a competitive selection procedure, Cimo has chosen a Valais-based 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.

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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