

Romande Energie acquires hydropower station in southern French Alps

Romande Energie has acquired a hydropower station in the southern French Alps through its subsidiary, Romande Energie France. The power plant — which is Romande Energie's first-ever installation outside Switzerland — has an annual output equivalent to the power needs of 2,800 households. The transaction is an expression of its strategy to increase generation of electricity from renewable sources.

Morges, 3 July 2013 – Romande Energie is increasing the number of projects and expanding investment in the development of proprietary power generation, with a focus both on new types of renewable energy and conventional hydropower. Whilst projects in Switzerland take precedence, the company a few months back announced that it would look to seize opportunities arising in France and Germany in the areas of wind and hydroelectric power. With this in mind, Romande Energie France SAS was incorporated in early 2013.

Rounding out its network of 100% renewable power-generation facilities

Romande Energie's French subsidiary has carried out its first acquisition, a hydropower station with an installed capacity of 1.8 megawatts (MW) situated in Meyronnes, in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. It will be integrated into Romande Energie's generation network, which is exclusively comprised of installations fuelled by renewable energy (hydro, solar and biomass power).

The Meyronnes power plant, belonging since its inception to a private-sector company in the region, was built in 1989 and has been regularly maintained and modernised. Its turbines are driven by water from the Ubayette river and the Meyronnes mountain torrent, producing 10 million kilowatt hours (kWh) annually, which corresponds to the average demand from 2,800 households. Thus, the acquisition broadens Romande Energie's supply base.

Romande Energie France

Through its French subsidiary, Romande Energie has the effective means to acquire and manage power-generation assets in France, a country with high potential in this area. Romande Energie France, a simplified joint-stock company (SAS), is supported by Romande Energie's specialist teams in technical, financial and legal fields. Rapid progress is being made in regard to other operations. As such, more generation facilities may be added to Romande Energie's portfolio of supply assets in the coming months.

Note to editorial desks

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

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Romande Energie Group at a glance

Romande Energie Group is the leading electricity distributor in Western Switzerland. Through its subsidiary Romande Energie Commerce, it supplies more than 300,000 end-clients directly (representing a catchment population of 500,000 people) in over 300 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva. Its core businesses are the **production, distribution** and **marketing** of electricity. 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