



Press release

Morges, 29 May 2015

Romande Energie acquires part of Alpiq's shareholding in Swissgrid SA as member of Western-Swiss consortium

In late May 2014, Alpiq Group announced that it intended to sell its stake in Swissgrid, the company operating the extra-high-voltage transmission grid in Switzerland.

On 18 March of this year, Alpiq reported that IST3 Investment Foundation had acquired 49.9% of its total interest in Alpiq Grid Beteiligungs AG, which holds Alpiq's Swissgrid shares, together with 49.9% of the shareholder loan granted to Swissgrid by Alpiq.

Alpiq's remaining 50.1% interest in Alpiq Grid Beteiligungs AG is now being sold to a consortium of ten Western Swiss investment partners, including Romande Energie, under the impetus and auspices of Switzerland's French-speaking cantons, namely Fribourg, Geneva, Jura, Neuchâtel, Valais and Vaud.

The consortium chiefly comprises pension funds and other semi-public bodies in Western Switzerland, alongside regional power companies. Together, the investors have founded SIRESO to hold their interest in Alpiq Grid Beteiligungs AG and, indirectly, in Swissgrid. The transaction is subject to the pre-emptive right held by other Swissgrid shareholders.

Romande Energie has agreed to invest CHF 4.6m, corresponding to 3.1152% of SIRESO's equity capital. This investment conveys the Group's strategy of increasing equity holdings in the all-important sector of transmission grids. At the same time, it is supporting cantonal-led efforts to ensure that the interests of Western Switzerland are adequately represented within Swissgrid.

Notes 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.

Cantonal representatives together with SIRESO shareholders will outline the importance of this transaction at a press briefing on 29 May, at 3pm, taking place in the Continental Hotel, Place de la Gare 2, Lausanne, Switzerland.

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Romande Energie 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-customers directly in approximately 300 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva. Its core business lines are the **generation, distribution** and **marketing** of power together with **energy services**.

Priorities are liaising with customers to ensure high-quality services in line with expectations; guaranteeing a reliable, sustainable and competitive supply of energy; developing proprietary power generation through priority investments in renewable energy; and promoting innovative energy-efficiency solutions.

Romande Energie's corporate social responsibility policy systematically guides its approach to business.

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