

**Press release**

Morges, 18 April 2024

*New departure for Romande Energie*

## **Romande Energie agrees PPA with Denner covering output from new agrivoltaic facility**

**Serial innovator Romande Energie has signed its first power purchase agreement (PPA) with Denner for its next agrivoltaic installation using Insolight technology. Located in Conthey (in the canton of Valais), the installation will protect berry crops from storms and produce solar energy that will be sold directly to the Swiss retailer for its sites.**

Encouraged by the compelling results of a trial at Conthey with Agroscope and agrivoltaic tech developer Insolight, Romande Energie is now taking the next step forward by investing in a new agrivoltaic project. This solar power plant will initially provide storm protection for around 3,700 sq.m. of strawberries and raspberries and ultimately generate around 600 MWh p.a. in electricity, equivalent to the consumption of 240 homes.

### **Romande Energie's first PPA**

Denner's various sites will run on agrivoltaic power supplied by Romande Energie from this new project by mid-2025. The entire output from the new plant's installation will be sold to the retail chain under a PPA, a long-term power purchase agreement between an energy generator and an energy consumer.

### **Strategic benefits**

Amid current uncertainties concerning the direction of electricity prices, a PPA guarantees stability for consumers. They enjoy the benefit of a fixed price for a portion of their electricity supply and access to 100% renewable power from dedicated generating facilities. What's more, the charges they pay remain stable for several years.

In this instance, the partnership will also help Denner to further its energy transition and shrink its carbon footprint. This is also a way for electricity consumers such as Denner to support and advance the development of local, sustainable and innovative projects.

"With this project we will help to meet the goals of the federal government's Energy Strategy 2050 targets," said Adrian Bodmer, Denner's Interim CEO. "We want to champion renewable energies and are delighted to be joining forces with Romande Energie for this agrivoltaic plant."

Through its partnership with the Migros Group, Insolight has been able to bring Denner into this project, which is Romande Energie's first PPA.

“This teamwork between Romande Energie, Denner and Insolight shows that we have a productive solution to promote agriculture and renewable energies in Switzerland,” said Laurent Coulot, the CEO and co-founder of Insolight.

## Romande Energie’s ambitions

In today’s world, the climate emergency calls for a high degree of electrification of society and how we use energy, while the energy crisis reminds us that energy is a precious commodity. To help reconcile these conflicting demands, Romande Energie aims to make Western Switzerland the first net-zero region in the country by standing alongside its customers as they pursue their own energy transition and by expanding its portfolio of domestic renewable energy generation facilities.

Romande Energie aims to adopt the same business model at other renewable energy generating facilities.

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## Romande Energie at a glance

The Romande Energie Group, the leading supplier of electricity in Western Switzerland, provides its customers with a wide range of sustainable solutions, which help to lower energy consumption and carbon emissions. These solutions include made-to-measure support to generate its own energy, products and services to enhance energy efficiency, and to champion energy efficiency.

**Romande Energie aims to make Western Switzerland the country’s first net-zero region.** We are constantly investing significant amounts in expanding our local base of facilities generating renewable energy. Our solar, hydro and biomass power plants, our various district heating networks and our geothermal and wind projects are fulfilling this commitment and distributing more and more renewable energy to our customers.

We have established ourselves as a trusted partner for a society mindful of the importance of protecting the environment, looking after individuals and maintaining a sustainable economy. **Keeping Western Switzerland on track for a sustainable future** lies at the heart of our core purpose.

**For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit [www.romande-energie.ch](http://www.romande-energie.ch)**

## About Insolight

Insolight is a provider of agrivoltaic solutions founded in Lausanne, in 2015, by Laurent Coulot (CEO), Mathieu Ackermann (CTO) and Florian Gerlich (Product Architect). It has developed *insolagriv*, which using a unique infrastructure enables both crop growing and electricity generation on the same land. As well as producing solar energy, *insolagriv* opens up a range of other opportunities for farmers. By controlling light transmission, they can optimise crop growth at any time of year in response to changing weather conditions.

The team's aim was to provide a solution that would have a far-reaching impact on the energy and agricultural sectors. Insolight has developed an extensive partnership programme that today includes Migros, the SwissRe Foundation and Fruits Rouges & Co.