



## Press Release

### **Romande Energie acquires the electricity grids of Champéry and Val d'Illeiez**

*Morges, 3 July 2008.* In accordance with the plans announced at the end of 2007, the acquisition of the electricity grids of Champéry and Val d'Illeiez by Romande Energie took effect on 2 July 2008. Under the final agreements, Romande Energie acquires the operating management of the Société de distribution électrique de Champéry (SDEC) and the Société hydroélectrique de Val d'Illeiez (SHEVI).

The majority ownership of the power grids serving these two municipalities in the Canton of Valais was hitherto in the hands of private individuals. Given the growing complexity of legislation and network management, the owners wanted to ensure the sustainability and viability of power distribution by selling their grids to a Western Swiss utilities group which is ready for deregulation of the Swiss electricity market.

The municipal authorities of Champéry and Val d'Illeiez fully support this transfer of ownership, which has been carried out under the best possible conditions, and retain a 5% stake in the Société électrique de distribution de Champéry.

Romande Energie, which already operates in 5 Valais municipalities via its subsidiary Société électrique du Bas-Valais (SEBV), confirms that it intends to extend its distribution grids in this region in close cooperation with the municipal authorities and taking into account local and regional specificities.

The amount of the transaction, which concerns private individuals, remains within the private domain and has not been disclosed.

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#### **Note to editorial desks**

This press release is being issued outside the trading hours of the SWX Swiss Exchange in compliance with the principles of ad hoc disclosure pursuant to the SWX Listing Rules.

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