



Press Release

Romande Energie and ewz join forces to develop the largest wind-farm project in Switzerland

Romande Energie, acting through its subsidiary Romande Energie Renouvelable, and ewz, the electricity utility in Zurich, have formed a consortium to launch a wind-farm project in the municipalities of Provence, Romairon, Fontanezier and Val-de-Travers. The two electricity utilities plan to be the investors and prime contractors for around 40 wind turbines to be constructed in the part of the Jura region located within the cantons of Vaud and Neuchâtel. They will generate 160m kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, which is equal to the energy consumed by approximately 45,000 households (based on an average of 3,600 kWh per household per year). A total of about CHF 240 million will be invested in this project.

Morges and Zurich, 17 June 2009 – The consortium formed by Romande Energie Renouvelable (60%) and ewz (40%) plans to develop a wind farm spanning across the municipalities of Provence, Romairon, Fontanezier and Val-de-Travers. The turbines could be up and running by 2013.

The sites were selected from a long list of places identified by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) in its 2004 report "Swiss Wind Energy Concept" and by Vaud Canton in the 2007 document "Wind Potential in Vaud Canton". These sites meet the criteria relative to national conservation areas, forests, built-up areas and residential buildings. Wind conditions, which determine the potential of each site, were naturally taken into account as well. The energy produced by the turbines under this project will contribute to the "Horizon 2025" objective set by the SFOE, under which 600m kWh per year are to be generated by wind facilities set up on cantonal sites and priority sites identified by the "Swiss Wind Energy Concept" report.

In joining forces to implement this large-scale wind energy project, Romande Energie and ewz are able to draw on their wide experience in new renewable energies.

This is Romande Energie's second investment in a wind-farm project, following the one in Sainte-Croix, and represents another step towards the ambitious objective that the electricity utility has set for itself: to use new renewable energies to produce 250-300m kWh of electricity – equal to 10% of the amount it currently delivers to its customers – by 2020-25. In pursuit of this goal, projects totalling CHF 570 million are being developed by its subsidiary Romande Energie Renouvelable in the areas of wind power, small hydro, biomass and solar power. One example is the partnership between Romande Energie and the municipality of Provence to install a solar power station on the roof of the new village hall.

The other member of the consortium, ewz, aims to supply 100-200m kWh in wind energy per year by 2018, equal to 3-6% of the electricity it currently delivers. In a vote on the city's energy policy on 30 November 2008, the people of Zurich clearly spoke out in favour of environmentally conscious development. Through its involvement in this project, ewz will greatly contribute to the provision of renewable energy to Zurich and the surrounding region.

This wind-farm project is aimed at significantly increasing the contribution of new renewable energies to meeting the country's electricity needs. Romande Energie and ewz are proud to be a part of this initiative.

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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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Contacts

Karin Devalte
Head of Communications
Romande Energie SA
Rue de Lausanne 53
1110 Morges

Phone: 021 802 95 67
Mobile: 079 386 47 67
Email: karin.devalte@romande-energie.ch

Website
www.romande-energie.ch

Harry Graf
Head of Communications
Ewz
Tramstrasse 35
8050 Zürich

Phone : 058 319 49 67
Mobile : 079 638 96 25
E-mail : harry.graf@ewz.ch

Website
www.ewz.ch



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