

Creation of a business unit Environment entirely dedicated to sustainable development

Determined as it is to play a key role in the renewable energy field, Romande Energie has decided to go one step further by creating a "business unit Environment". The new unit will enable the Group to refocus its efforts and skills in an important strategic issue for the company.

Morges, 29 January 2008

The remarkably successful performance of Romande Energie Renouvelable SA, together with the potential of this burgeoning sector and the Group's determination to foster a more responsible attitude towards energy consumption, underpinned Romande Energie's decision to set up a new business unit dedicated to its environmental approach. This business unit will be called "business unit Environment" and be operational from February 1, 2008. Another member of Romande Energie management board will be at its head. She or he will be subsequently nominated. In the future, 50 employees will become part of it.

In order to accelerate Romande Energie's commitment in the sustainable development field, the unit will focus on:

- hydroelectric power generation (present production units and new major projects)
- production of new types of renewable energy (activities conducted by Romande Energie Renouvelable SA)
- rational use of energy, particularly by installing heat pumps in place of fossil fuel heating installations
- research & development.

Five years to prove its worth

It should take about five years for the new unit to meet profit expectations. During this period, the unit should register concrete results. Adequate human and financial resources will be allocated to it. Actions will be implemented in order to heighten clients' awareness of rational energy use. Moreover, an entity dedicated to the promotion of heat pumps will be attached to the unit, in addition to existing activities such as energetic audits. On the R&D front, joint projects will be undertaken with universities and young talent displaying strong innovative abilities.

Firm commitment to sustainable development

Since the Group was founded, all the energy produced by Romande Energie has come from hydraulic sources, i.e. it is and remains fully renewable. Furthermore, the Group has taken concrete steps to promote sustainable development in recent years, including educational activities to heighten young people's awareness of the energy problem (Explorateurs de l'Energie), an offering of green products (the Vivonatur range) and comprehensive energy audits for households and businesses geared to more rational energy use, amongst other.

The creation at the end of 2006 of Romande Energie Renouvelable SA, a company dedicated to the production of new forms of renewable energy (solar, mini-hydraulic, biomass and wind) marked an important step forward for the Group. Today Romande Energie Renouvelable is considering getting involved in projects, which represent altogether more than CHF 100 million of investments in case of realisation.

Favourable background

The Swiss government is implementing important measures aimed at creating new framework conditions to promote the development of renewable energy, as well as energy efficiency. Romande Energie intends to assume its role as a responsible enterprise and to meet the legitimate needs of its clients, citizens and the public at large.

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