



Service intercommunal de l'électricité



## **Press release**

*Morges, 10 February 2021*

### **Service intercommunal de l'électricité (SIE) and Romande Energie establish the ECUCAD joint venture**

**To further the development of renewable energies in Ecublens and Chavannes-près-Renens, Service intercommunal de l'électricité and Romande Energie SA are setting up the ECUCAD joint venture to develop a district heating network. They will bring to bear their local knowledge and expertise in network management and power distribution for their customers' benefit.**

Ecublens, which already holds the European energy award accreditation, and Chavannes-près-Renens are pushing ahead with plans to spearhead the shift to cleaner energies and promote renewable energies by developing an extensive district heating network.

Romande Energie Group, with its considerable expertise in building and operating district heating networks, is making its expertise available to the new company. Service intercommunal de l'électricité (SIE), a power distribution and telecom service provider operating west of Lausanne, will also harness its technical expertise to deliver seamless joint operation, tight cost control and asset development perfectly aligned with Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050.

#### **Wood as a fuel**

One key feature of the ECUCAD-built district heating network is its use of wood. The wood harvested from local forests will replace the fossil fuels currently being used, which are big CO<sub>2</sub> emitters. Approximately, 4,470 tonnes p.a. of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to be saved. What's more, the smoke emissions will move away from residential areas, leading to a major improvement in air quality there.

"Romande Energie is delighted that this project, which we've been working on for several years now, is coming to fruition," explained Giulio Caimi, a physicist by training who heads up Romande Energie Services' district heating networks. "Rolling out a district heating network is the best way of achieving the Energy Strategy 2050 goals in high-density areas".

#### **Consumption of 3,000 households**

ECUCAD, which is based in the Le Croset industrial zone in Ecublens, will supply its immediate neighbours, including JOWA and Migros Vaud, as well as all municipal buildings, residential housing and retail stores in the local district. Out to 2040, the power facility is expected to generate 30 gigawatts (GWh) of heat annually, covering the heating needs of around 3,000 households. "We are very proud to be involved in bringing the ECUCAD project to life," added Christophe Bossel, SIE's managing director. "As a regional distribution network manager, it sits well with the value we place on local service. It also dovetails perfectly with our strategy and our active commitment to renewable energy sources."

SIE and Romande Energie are delighted to team up and make a direct contribution to safeguarding the environment. They wish to place on record their gratitude for the trust placed in them by Chavannes-près-Renens and Ecublens, and the mayor of Ecublens, Christian Maeder, who is also a director of ECUCAD.



Service intercommunal de l'électricité



## Contacts

Michèle Cassani  
Spokesperson, Romande Energie  
+41 (0)21 802 95 67  
[michele.cassani@romande-energie.ch](mailto:michele.cassani@romande-energie.ch)

Fabienne Clerc  
Head of Communications, SIE  
+41 (0)21 631 55 44  
[f.clerc@sie.ch](mailto:f.clerc@sie.ch)

### **Romande Energie at a glance**

Romande Energie Group is the leading supplier of electricity in Western Switzerland and a mainstay in the Swiss energy industry. It offers a wealth of sustainable solutions for the distribution and generation of electricity, and in energy services, energy efficiency and electromobility.

All its generation assets are driven by renewable sources of energy. Additionally, it is working hand in hand with customers, investors and employees to provide ever-better standards of living through innovative services and a commitment to corporate social responsibility. Romande Energie is dedicated, day in day out, to offering high-grade services and security of supply, just as customers expect, as well as supporting them in transitioning to more sustainable forms of energy.

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

### **SIE at a glance**

SIE SA, a company with 80 employees, manages the distribution network supplying over 350 million kilowatt-hours every year to the 50,000 inhabitants of Chavannes, Crissier, Ecublens and Renens. SIE is the reference in the area west of Lausanne for power grids, energy services and regional multimedia services, offered through TvT Services SA, its sister company.

**For more information on SIE, visit**  
[www.sie.ch](http://www.sie.ch)