



Tuesday 21 September 2021

Press release

Joint effort to accelerate the energy transition

Four partners based in Western Switzerland working together to add hydrogen to the property sector's energy mix. Green hydrogen produced and stored locally thanks to a flexible, decentralised supply chain to provide a valuable addition to the renewable energies required for the energy transition.

The Nomads Foundation is today unveiling Aurora, a large-scale project also involving GreenGT SA, Romande Energie SA and Realstone Group. The goal of this partnership is to develop solutions using locally produced hydrogen as an energy source for the property sector. The Nomads Foundation will also conduct advance planning within the training sector to encourage the emergence of the skillsets required by the construction industry in the future.

This partnership, driven by the vision that hydrogen molecules can further increase the efficiency of renewable energies, will pave the way for the addition of integrated solutions – such as water electrolysis and fuel cells – to existing systems such as solar photovoltaic and storage battery technologies. Harnessing this combination will help to meet demand for heating and electricity.

Aurora is a multi-year project that initially aims to model, install the system in a set of buildings and ultimately market green-hydrogen solutions. The implementation phase could potentially be supported further out by public infrastructure and regional development institutions.

Aurora includes various innovations in hydrogen production, distribution and utilisation. By joining forces, the partners want to explore the applicability of different technological solutions as a way of addressing the climate emergency and decarbonising (or decarbonating) the property sector. Effectively working together within a foundation that foresees the new specialisations stemming from the energy transition, they possess the complementary engineering, energy and property-related skills crucial for the project's success. Together, they aspire to create a prototype building that will serve as a blueprint for incorporating hydrogen in the property sector's energy mix.

Aurora's partners :

The **Nomads Foundation** is a private, non-profit, public benefit foundation. It provides its partners with a multidisciplinary co-creation platform. It builds relationships and helps to design and develop high-impact joint projects linked to cross-business themes (mobility, energy efficiency, green jobs, etc.). In addition to delivering collaborative practical solutions to the contemporary and future issues affecting society, the Nomads Foundation draws on these projects and on its members to help adapt to the changing skillsets needed. By doing so and working with its partners, it plays a part in planning ahead for future training needs.

GreenGT is a public limited company present in Switzerland and France active in hydrogen engineering and consulting. Over the past decade it has developed high-power mobility solutions and supported project leaders with the implementation of hydrogen ecosystems. It applies its expertise in three business areas: motor sports, the mobility industry, and infrastructure and regional development.

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 using more sustainable forms of energy and advancing the decarbonisation of Western Switzerland.

Realstone Group is a specialist in collective property investments and manages CHF 3.6 billion in assets in Switzerland. It selects investments using strict sustainability and energy efficiency standards, both in the development of new projects and for upgrades of its existing property portfolio. Its Local Energy SA subsidiary's team of energy efficiency specialists helps it to eliminate fossil fuels from its properties and to make use of clean, locally generated renewable energy at the best possible price. Under its Real Impact philosophy, Realstone Group implements responsible and sustainable initiatives aimed at making a real difference.

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