

Press release

Montreux and Morges, 20 December 2021

Romande Energie wins invitation to tender to build Montreux's district heating system

Part of Montreux's energy policy is to equip the municipality with a next-generation district heating installation that works by pumping water from the lake. Approximately 250 buildings, including the 2m2c Conference Centre, are due to be connected to this thermal network supplying both heating and cooling. This network will generate 90 GWh/year with at least 90% renewable energy. Following an invitation to tender, Montreux selected the bid by Romande Energie SA, and they will form a partnership to bring this project to fruition. The partnership will go ahead subject to approval of the motion to be shortly submitted to the council executive.

Montreux has earned the Gold label under the European energy award accreditation scheme and continues to work proactively to transition to clean energy. The development of a large-scale distance heating network giving renewable energy pride of place in the municipality will help to achieve this goal. Lake Geneva provides an abundant natural resource from which 250 buildings will be supplied with heat and cooling.

Romande Energie Services SA, part of the Romande Energie Group, can draw on a huge amount of expertise in designing, building and operating district heating networks. This will now be made available for this project, which is perfectly in tune with Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050.

Extremely energy-efficient

Low-temperature networks (known as Anergy networks) use special technology to distribute district heating and cooling in a way which harnesses renewable energies both safely and economically. Waste heat is recovered in the process and turned into a new resource, thereby reducing consumption of fossil energy by more than 90%. This equates to a carbon saving of 15,000 tonnes annually. Each connection point on the network, which will run from the municipalities of Clarens in the west to Territet in the east, will contribute significantly to curbing greenhouse gas emissions in and around Montreux.

Harnessing heat

The water circulating in the network will transfer the heat energy between the various users and the water pumped from the lake. Heat pumps will generate heat up to the designated temperature while consuming only a low amount of electricity. Neighbourhood energy centres then pool the heat generated between different users.

Schedule

Work is scheduled to begin in 2023 and the first connections are expected as early as 2024. The thermal network will then be expanded to cover the planned area by 2026. To ensure the project is fully aligned with users' requirements, Romande Energie will start marketing the service early so that the degree of interest from property owners can be gauged from the outset. The first connections will be possible in the vicinity of the 2m2c Conference Centre and along the lake shore between Clarens and Territet.

Partnering to drive the energy transition forward

"Montreux city council is delighted by this partnership, which will harness the limitless resources of Lake Geneva, enabling us to reach the next milestone in our transition to clean energy," states Olivier Gfeller, Mayor of Montreux. "Romande Energie Services is honoured to continue working towards the net-zero goal by designing and building this important network," says Oliviero Lubatti, CEO of Romande Energie

Services SA. “Building a district heating system is the best way to meet the targets of Energy Strategy 2050 in built-up areas.”

The Romande Energie Group recently unveiled its new strategy, heavily geared towards the expansion of thermal generation solutions including district heating assets, as it contributes its expertise to reducing carbon intensity in Western Switzerland. This latest project is a definite step in that direction.

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Romande Energie at a glance

Romande Energie Group, the leading supplier of electricity in Western Switzerland, is a pillar in the Swiss energy industry, offering sustainability-driven solutions for distributing and generating power. It also provides energy services, including efficiency and electromobility solutions.

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. In addition to security of supply, the Group is dedicated to offering innovative services that meet customers’ expectations, as it supports them in switching to more sustainable sources of energy in pursuit of a net-zero goal in Western Switzerland.

For more information on Romande Energie Group:
www.romande-energie.ch