

Communiqué de presse

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GRTgaz and Cerema formalise their partnership at the European Energy Transition Conference

Cerema (a French public agency for developing public expertise in the fields of urban planning, regional cohesion and the ecological and energy transition) and GRTgaz (France's leading gas transmission operator) are heavily involved in the ecological and energy transition. They are joining forces as part of a combined national- and regional-level action plan concerning the role of renewable gas sectors in the regions.

Cerema and GRTgaz have worked together on several projects. Their collaboration as part of the Pact for the ecological and industrial transition of the Cordemais power plant and the Loire (44) estuary led to an initial French “hydrothermal gasification” demonstrator project (the so-called “GHAMa”) being established as one of the Pact’s future projects. This technology recovers of all types of organic wet waste as renewable gas, at both regional and national levels. Cerema also plays an active role in the national hydrothermal gasification working group launched in March 2021 by GRTgaz, the goal of which is to give this technology a foothold in the regions and expand it to an industrial scale.

As a next step, GRTgaz and Cerema have decided to formalise a national and regional partnership with the following strategic goals:

- 1- Work together to increase knowledge about renewable gas throughout France: set up regional discussions; develop intersecting skills related to regional issues and renewable gas (including hydrogen); inform local authorities and promote regional dialogue about planning issues and the energy transition;
- 2- Support the emergence of French innovative renewable gas production sectors as waste recovery solutions for local authorities (hydrothermal gasification and pyrogasification¹) by generating feedback, addressing regulatory aspects, stressing their ecological and climatic benefits, and broaching acceptability issues;
- 3- Expand discussions on target topics such as the energy transition in industrial port zones, ecological continuity, and the energy outlook.

In the words of Annabelle Ferry, Cerema Director for Regions and Cities: *“This partnership with GRTgaz reflects our shared desire to help step up the development of renewable gas in line with national goals and in response to the challenges facing local authorities, which have become especially pressing due to the international crisis affecting the energy sector.”*

¹ These innovative renewable and low-carbon gas production technologies transform wet and solid waste materials that are currently poorly recovered or non-recovered (sludge from sewage plants, SRF, recycling rejects, etc.) into gas for injection into the existing gas networks

For Catherine Brun, General Secretary of GRTgaz: *“This partnership with Cerema reflects GRTgaz’s desire to work as closely as possible with the regions by sharing its expertise in renewable gas, including hydrogen. The collaboration is a demonstration of our core purpose: the energy transition is something that happens in practical terms, working on the ground with all regional stakeholders.”*

A propos de GRTgaz :

GRTgaz is Europe's second-largest gas carrier, with 32,500 km of pipes and 640 TWh of gas transported. The company has 3,000 employees and generated nearly €2.3 billion in turnover in 2020. GRTgaz has a mission statement: “Together, we enable an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral”. GRTgaz is an innovative company undergoing a major transformation to adapt its network to new ecological and digital challenges. It is committed to a 100% carbon-neutral French gas mix by 2050. It supports the hydrogen and renewable gas sectors (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). GRTgaz carries out public service missions to guarantee the safety of gas transmission for its 945 clients (shippers, distributors, industrial companies, biomethane plants and producers). With its subsidiaries Elengy, the European leader in LNG terminal services, and GRTgaz Deutschland, operator of the MEGAL transmission network in Germany, GRTgaz plays a key role on the European gas infrastructure scene. The company exports its know-how internationally, in particular services developed by its research centre, RICE. Find us at <https://www.grtgaz.com/>, on Twitter, on LinkedIn, Instagram and on Facebook.

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About Cerema:

Cerema is a public institution operating under the Ministry of the Ecological Transition. It is present throughout Metropolitan France and the Overseas Territories, with 26 facilities and 2,400 agents. It provides technical support for all stakeholders involved in implementing land planning and sustainable development policies (the State, regional authorities, economic and organisational stakeholders, scientific partners).

Cerema uses its integrated national-level expertise to support the State and regional authorities with issues relating to the energy transition, adapting to climate change and regional cohesion via cooperative development and the implementation and assessment of public policies relating to land planning and transport. Cerema possesses significant innovation and research potential, as exemplified by its “Carnot Clim’adapt” institute, and its actions are centred in the following six areas: Regional Expertise and Engineering; Buildings, Mobility, Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Risks, Sea and Coasts.

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