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Teréga and UPPA strengthen their research and innovation partnership to support the energy transition

The framework agreement is renewed for the period 2027-2029 and the SEnGA joint laboratory extended until 2029.

On the occasion of Teréga's Innovation Day (InnovDay), Carolle Foissaud, CEO of Teréga, and Laurent Bordes, President of the University of Pau and the Adour Region (UPPA), announce the renewal of their framework cooperation agreement for the 2027-2029 period, as well as the extension until 2029 of the Joint Research Laboratory SEnGA (Gas Energy Storage in Aquifers). Committed for over twenty years, this collaboration takes a new step forward to address energy transition challenges, particularly regarding gas storage, technological innovation, and training.

Over twenty years of joint research and innovation



Initiated in 2005, the collaboration between Teréga and UPPA was structured around a first framework agreement signed in 2016, renewed in 2023. It has enabled the development of joint work in several strategic areas for energy infrastructure: gas analysis and characterization, steel corrosion, underground behavior in response to new gas storage (notably biomethane and hydrogen), and multi-energy system optimization.

This cooperation notably materialized with the creation, in September 2020, of the joint laboratory SEnGA, bringing together Teréga, UPPA, and the CNRS. Dedicated to the study of geological gas storage, it mobilizes the expertise of the IPREM, LFCR, and LaTEP laboratories.

Over the years, this collaboration has made it possible to better master the integration of biomethane and synthetic methane into our infrastructure and to elevate the knowledge acquired to the highest international level. This work illustrates the complementarity between Teréga's operational needs and UPPA's scientific expertise.

The partnership is also part of a broader research dynamic, through Teréga's support for the industrial chair *"Net Zero Reconciliation"*, dedicated to the territorial and socio-economic dimensions of decarbonization, and the evolution of the Carnot ISIFoR Institute, covering the Greater South-West, toward Carnot "Geo-Transitions", covering the theme at a national scale starting in 2027.

SEnGA: a renewed scientific roadmap until 2029

Extended for three additional years, from January 1st, 2027 to December 31, 2029, the joint laboratory SEnGA will continue its work on scientific and technological challenges related to geological gas storage. This new phase will revolve around five priorities: monitoring storage sites, studying materials and corrosion phenomena, hydrogen storage in salt caverns, process optimization, as well as societal acceptability and territorial integration of projects.

By combining scientific research and industrial challenges, Teréga and UPPA intend to deepen the knowledge necessary for the evolution of energy infrastructure and support the development of new decarbonization sectors.

Training and skills transfer: another pillar of the partnership

Beyond research work, Teréga and UPPA will continue their cooperation in training and professional integration. This is reflected in particular by Teréga experts giving lectures to students, hosting interns and work-study students, and developing continuing education actions for company employees.

The two partners will also continue to promote exchanges between the academic and industrial worlds through the organization of conferences, site visits, and access to UPPA's scientific and technological equipment, notably that of the UPPA Tech instrumental service center.

"The renewal of our framework agreement with UPPA and the extension of the SEnGA joint laboratory mark an important milestone for the future of our infrastructure. The scientific expertise developed with UPPA and the CNRS constitutes a valuable asset in supporting new geological storage challenges.
This flagship partnership contributes to the influence of the Pays de l'Adour innovation ecosystem while providing a fantastic pool of talent to accelerate the decarbonization of our regions."
Carolle Foissaud – Chairman and CEO of Teréga

"For the University of Pau and the Adour Region, the extension of the SEnGA joint laboratory until 2029 and the renewal of our framework agreement demonstrate a firmly established and fruitful partnership. Alongside the CNRS and with the mobilization of our IPREM, LFCR, LaTEP, and TREE laboratories, our researchers and students benefit from a real-world testing ground for crucial energy transition challenges. By combining fundamental research, concrete industrial challenges, and societal integration, we strengthen the local roots and international standing of our university hub."

Laurent Bordes – President of the University of Pau and the Adour Region (UPPA)

About Teréga

Established in the Greater South-West, at the crossroads of major European gas flows, Teréga has for 80 years deployed exceptional expertise in developing gas transport and storage infrastructure, and today designs innovative solutions to meet major energy challenges in France and Europe. As a true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and two underground storage sites, representing 16% of the French gas transport network and 25% of national storage capacities respectively. The company projects itself as a multi-energy infrastructure manager and actively works toward decarbonization through the progressive replacement of fossil gas with biomethane and synthetic methane, as well as through the development of new infrastructures dedicated to hydrogen and CO2 transport and storage.

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About UPPA

The University of Pau and the Adour Region (UPPA) educates nearly 13,500 students across its campuses in Pau, Bayonne, Anglet, Mont-de-Marsan, and Tarbes. With nineteen research units, around thirty expertise chairs, and about ten joint laboratories, it actively contributes to increasing knowledge in energy, environmental, and societal transition fields. UPPA is among the seventeen French universities recognized for excellence and holds the I-SITE label (Initiative Science-Innovation-Territories-Economy) obtained for the "Solutions for Energy and the Environment" project, led jointly with CNRS, INRAE, and Inria. As a key player in the responsible development of its regions, UPPA leads the University Innovation Hub (PUI) "Sud Aquitaine Innovation", puts its analytical capabilities at the service of socio-economic stakeholders through its UPPA Tech instrumental service center, and holds the national "Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility" label. Open to Europe and the world, UPPA is a founding member of UNITA, an alliance of twelve universities spread across seven European countries.

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