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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies, Teréga's endowment fund, becomes a patron of the Polar Pod maritime expedition**

**Through its recently-created Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies endowment fund, Teréga, a committed actor in the energy transition, has become a patron of the Polar Pod maritime expedition set up by Jean-Louis Étienne. By making this commitment, Teréga is lending significant support to a project which will enable the collection of data of major scientific interest.**

*"Teréga is delighted to join the support committee of the Polar Pod maritime expedition led by Jean-Louis Étienne. For the energy transition to be a success, we need to improve our scientific knowledge, and carry out a massive education exercise. That is exactly what Polar Pod aims to do. We also share its expeditionary spirit: driving forward a daring project to show everyone, particularly young people, that we need to dream the dream, commit to it and believe in our ambitions!"*

**Dominique Mockly – Chairman of Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies**

*"The Southern Ocean is the planet's main oceanic carbon well, an essential element in regulating the climate, and about whose performance little is known. Polar Pod, keenly anticipated by the international scientific community, will enable us to explore this stormy ocean nicknamed the "Furious Fifties" by mariners. This extraordinary expedition, worthy of Jules Verne, will support an educational programme on life and Earth sciences, particularly about climate change and marine biodiversity."*

**Jean-Louis Étienne – Chairman of the Polar Pod project**

### **Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies: an endowment fund supporting activities in the general interest and regional development**

With a budget of 500,000 euros, the Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies endowment fund is the extension of Teréga's Corporate social responsibility activities. It finances philanthropic projects in the general interest and capitalises on the strengths of our territories to promote economic and social development constructed in harmony with our regions and respectful of both the people and their environment.

As an independent, non-profit patronage system, Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies supports influential talent and initiatives to accompany the social and economic development of the far South-West, to preserve biodiversity, encourage social inclusion and promote French scientific and cultural heritage. To do that, the fund creates synergies between meaningful projects covering cultural, scientific, sporting, educational or social issues. In practical terms, the endowment fund concentrates on four main action areas:

- 1. Development of the regions and the sharing of success.** By supporting projects that create activities with a direct effect on improving social life, the endowment fund helps maximise the benefits of positive initiatives taking place in the South-West and finances actions to support local talent.
- 2. Mobilising people around environmental protection and biodiversity.** This commitment to the environment takes the form of support for original projects that include greater respect for the balance of nature and encourage actions to help preserve and develop biodiversity.
- 3. Supporting inclusion through training, and supporting improved employability.** Teréga Accélérateur d'énergies is committed to promoting diversity and equality of opportunity. It is involved in the creation and development of action plans in education and training, professional integration and entrepreneurship, particularly through sport and digital technologies.
- 4. Contribution to the promotion of French scientific and cultural heritage.** Since art is the reflection of movements occurring in our world and prefigures the world of tomorrow, the endowment fund supports artistic projects to encourage the emergence of new ways of thinking. The partnership with Centre Pompidou Accélérations fulfils two ambitions: to encourage interactions between the artistic and business worlds, and to establish a dialogue between creativity and innovation.

## Polar Pod: an extraordinary maritime and scientific expedition

The **Polar Pod** project, an extraordinary maritime expedition, will help us [study the Southern Ocean](#). Little explored because of its remoteness and particularly difficult sea conditions, this ocean surrounding Antarctica has a crucial role to play for our planet. Indeed, this ocean's cold waters are considered to be the planet's main oceanic carbon well. That is why the Polar Pod expedition will help compile scientific data which will be of major interest.

Led by Jean-Louis Étienne, this expedition will also be a chance to study the Antarctic circumpolar current, which is an essential driver of the world's ocean currents and, by extension, the climate mechanism. A silent ship, Polar Pod, will also allow researchers to establish an inventory of marine fauna by acoustic means, using hydrophones fixed in position 80 metres below the surface.

The Polar Pod project is supported by benchmark institutions such as the CNRS, alongside numerous high-profile personalities. It will share its scientific data on an *open source* basis, benefitting the entire international scientific community. Alongside this, the expedition will be the foundation of an ambitious educational project.

## A new action for the endowment fund

the Polar Pod maritime expedition will be supported by the endowment fund, starting this year and running for five years. Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies will therefore be one of the expedition's patrons and a member of the Polar Pod support committee.

As a continuation of the support for inspirational projects in the South-West and France and the partnership established with the Centre Pompidou, this commitment to Polar Pod constitutes a major new action from the endowment fund.

### About Teréga

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Established in South-West France, at the crossroads between major European gas flows, Teréga has exercised exceptional expertise for over 75 years in the development of gas transport and storage infrastructures. Today, it continues to develop innovative solutions to overcome the major energy challenges facing France and Europe.

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