

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Teréga Group and HyLight test a low-carbon surveillance solution for gas pipelines using an airship**

**Teréga, a long-standing operator of gas transport and storage infrastructure in the Grand Sud-Ouest, and HyLight, a specialist in low-carbon aerial surveillance solutions, are conducting an experiment to test the use of an airship for the regulatory surveillance of pipeline networks.**



This experiment is part of the systematic leak detection obligations and covers the **Cazilhac – Narbonne – Clair** section, which is **107 kilometers** long. It involves bimonthly overflights using the **HyLighter** airship, developed and operated by HyLight, equipped with a **Pergam Falcon+** methane leak detection sensor, in addition to the overflights carried out by helicopter. The data collected by the two devices will be subject to comparative analysis. The trials plan for **six bimonthly overflights in 2026**, subject to obtaining the necessary regulatory authorizations.

### **Evaluating a low-carbon alternative to traditional methods**

The objective of this project is to evaluate, under real operating conditions, the capability of an airship to meet the technical, regulatory, and operational requirements for network surveillance, while contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of operations. The HyLighter airship, inflated with helium, flies at low altitude, between 20 and 30 meters, emits no greenhouse gases during flight, and drastically reduces noise pollution compared to helicopters.

This project is part of Teréga's innovation (R&I) approach, which aims to mobilize new technologies to strengthen the performance and reliability of methane leak detection and quantification, while limiting the environmental impact of its activities.

*"This operation allows us to field-test a new modality for pipeline surveillance, in addition to existing systems. The use of an airship offers interesting perspectives in terms of measurement precision and reduction of the environmental footprint, while fitting within a demanding regulatory and operational framework."*

**Eric Vergez Thèze, Teréga Planning and Operational Assistance Manager**

### **An experiment conducted within a strict regulatory framework**



The flights are carried out within a strictly regulated framework, including the implementation of a prior risk analysis (SORA) and obtaining the necessary authorizations from the competent authorities. The operation of the airship mobilizes a dedicated team, combining ground operators and a remote pilot, and integrates safety and redundancy devices adapted to aerial operations. This experimentation phase should enable Teréga to evaluate the relevance of

this solution for its future regulatory surveillance campaigns, with lessons learned potentially informing reflections on the evolution of network surveillance systems.

*"This experiment illustrates our intention to mobilizing innovative solutions to enhance the performance of our infrastructure surveillance, while reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. Testing, under real conditions, an alternative technology to traditional overflights allows us to evaluate new ways to meet our regulatory obligations for methane leak detection."*

**Carolle Foissaud, President and CEO of Teréga**

*"The project conducted with Teréga demonstrates the HyLighter's capability to meet the operational and regulatory requirements of an infrastructure operator, in a real industrial context. This experiment is a key step in evaluating the contribution of a low-carbon, precise aerial surveillance solution that is compatible with the constraints of gas transport networks."*

**Thomas Laporte, Co-founder and Commercial Director of HyLight**

### **The HyLighter – main characteristics**

An automatic airship drone, 12 meters long and 2 meters in diameter, inflated with helium, the HyLighter has a total flying weight of 2 kg and a payload capacity of up to 10 kg. It flies at low altitude, between 20 and 30 meters, at a speed of 10 to 20 km/h. Propelled by electric motors and powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, assisted by a buffer battery, it can achieve up to 7 hours of autonomy depending on weather conditions, without emitting greenhouse gases during flight.

**About HyLight**

HyLight is a French startup founded in 2022. Its ambition is to make companies resilient to the effects of climate change by focusing on the crucial step of infrastructure observation and inspection. The company has developed the HyLighter, a hydrogen airship drone capable of collecting various data over hundreds of kilometers without emitting greenhouse gases. It offers an alternative to drones, helicopters, and satellites that meets the new needs of industry. In less than three years, the company has developed 10 iterations of its airship drone, flown over 260 hours, and secured its first inspection contracts with the largest energy infrastructure operators in Europe. It is also one of the rare "hardware" startups to have integrated Y Combinator, the world's best acceleration program. HyLight is based in Brétigny-sur-Orge, at Air Base 217, in Ile-de-France.

**HyLight Media Relations**

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**About Teréga**

Established in South-West France, at the crossroads between major European gas flows, Teréga has exercised exceptional expertise for 80 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. A true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and 2 underground storage reservoirs representing 15.6% of the French gas transport network and 26.9% of national storage capacity. In 2023, the company generated turnover of €494 million (excluding balancing and congestion) and had more than 646 employees. Corporate social responsibility is at the heart of Teréga's strategy, as it embarks on the energy transition to carbon neutrality. Teréga has rolled out programmes in all areas of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance): its employee safety and its infrastructure security via the PARI 2025 programme, sustainable development of territories and social responsibility via the ENERGIZ MOUV programme, support of philanthropic projects via the Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies endowment fund, and reduction of environmental impacts via the BE POSITIF programme with a commitment to a 34% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2021 on all scopes 1, 2 and 3, which would allow us to achieve -54% across scopes 1 and 2 compared with 2017.

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