

Pau, 25 February 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Teréga and the UPPA are to cement their ongoing research and innovation partnership through the creation of a shared laboratory dedicated to the study of geological storage of decarbonised gases.

Laurent Bordes, President of the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (UPPA), and Dominique Mockly, Chairman and General Manager of Teréga, have announced the creation of a shared research laboratory to be known as SEnGA (from the French for Storage of Gas Energy in Aquifers), recognised by the I-SITE (Initiatives – Sciences – Regional Innovations – Economics) excellence project, the aim of which is to encourage the international visibility of university sites.

As longstanding partners, the two regionally committed actors hope to turn this organisation into an innovative and competitive tool in the field of energy transition, linked to the storage of gas in geological reservoirs, by 2025.

SEnGA, a shared laboratory bringing business and academic research together

The mass storage of energy, allowing the largescale integration of intermittent renewable energies into the gas mix, is one component of the energy transition. Analysis of the new gases which are more decarbonised than methane from fossil sources, and assessment of their geological storage potential, are part of a whole area of strategic research for the future, requiring an interdisciplinary approach. Co-led by Teréga and the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour, SEnGA aims to:

- become a top location for discussions about the geological storage of decarbonised gases by pooling the UPPA's scientific know-how and Teréga's expertise as an innovative and responsible actor in gas infrastructures, and to centralise human, financial and technical resources;
- to gather together researchers working at the various UPPA laboratories in a diversity of disciplines such as processes, analytical chemistry, fluid mechanics, geology and microbiology, enabling access to complementary skills;
- to provide the keys to understanding and in time developing solutions for the optimal management of decarbonised gases and their storage.

A research and innovation partnership in line with the challenges of “greening” gas.

This shared laboratory is an integral part of a dynamic innovation process. Joining forces with UPPA, which for many years has been committed to the field of energy and the environment, was an obvious choice for Teréga. As an accelerator of the energy transition, and in accordance with its IMPACTS 2025 strategic plan, Teréga is keen to innovate and conceive the energy model of tomorrow: a low carbon gas mix, diversified and from increasingly delocalised sources, where renewable energies such as biomethane and hydrogen will play a major part. For UPPA, as part of its E2S project, cementing lasting relationships with industrial partners is a major consideration, the aim being to roll out long-term research activities, particularly in the field of energy and the environment. The partnership with Teréga is one of those key undertakings, and has experienced dynamic development since the framework agreement was signed in 2016. Through the creation of SEnGA, the company is reaffirming its investment in sustainable regional development by means of a high-performing network integrated into its environment and the careful management of natural resources.

The launch on 7 July last year of the HyGéo project in partnership with Hydrogène de France (HDF), the objective being to convert an existing salt cavern, located 700 metres underground in Carresse-Cassaber (Pyrénées-Atlantiques), into a hydrogen storage site bears witness to the willingness to move forward in the management of those new gases, and in the deployment of new storage networks.

"The creation of SEnGA is the result of a fruitful partnership going back more than twenty years with the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour. As a gas operator and an actor in the transformation of the energy sector, we strive every day to think about new gas transport and storage solutions. This shared research laboratory will enable us to improve our knowledge of geological structures and to demonstrate the safety of geological storage for decarbonised gases. "

Dominique Mockly – Chairman and CEO of Teréga

"For UPPA, the shared SEnGA laboratory is an important building block in the strategy to structure relationships with industrial partners, aiming to bring together public and private research in the region, particularly through objectives which the university has set for itself with the I-SITE Solutions for Energy and the Environment project. SEnGA seals a dynamic partnership with Teréga around energy and the environment. It will enable researchers to carry out research on geological structures and geological storage of decarbonised gases, to enhance the excellence of the research and make it quickly transferrable on the ground. "

Laurent Bordes – President of the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (UPPA)

About Teréga

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. 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 24.5% of national storage capacities. In 2019, the company generated revenues of €500 million and had more than 650 employees.

About UPPA

Having received two Investment in the Future accreditations, the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (UPPA) is recognised as a university of excellence for the E2S UPPA, Solutions for Energy and the Environment project, driven by the UPPA, INRA, Inria, CNRS consortium (I-SITE accreditation for Science Innovation, Regions, Economics) and for its SPACE project (progressive and supported specialisation in student training) (NCU – new university course – accreditation). Interdisciplinary and multi-site, UPPA is located across 5 campuses: Pau, Bayonne, Anglet, Mont-de-Marsan et Tarbes. It prepares around 14,000 students for around 100 different degrees and diplomas ranging from Bac+1 to Bac+8, in law, economics, management, literature, languages, human sciences, sport, science and technology. With 23 research units, 30 high level advisory chairs, and 8 shared laboratories in partnership with major research organisations (CNRS, INRAE, Inria) and institutional and industrial partners, UPPA is a major actor in the scientific and economic development of Southern Aquitaine.

Thanks to its international cooperation, UPPA is also achieving recognition at the European level with European Universities accreditation of its UNITA project, Universitas Montium, which brings together with UPPA the universities of Turin (Italy), Savoie Mont Blanc, Covilhã-Beira (Portugal), West Timisoara (Romania) and Saragossa (Spain). This, combined with EDENE (European Doctoral Programme in Energy and Environment) allows the financing of 30 international doctorates in the field of Energy and the Environment, alongside partnerships with a number of local industrial actors.

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