

Press Release

30 June 2022

Signing of a partnership agreement for the construction of the first industrial demonstrator for green hydrogen production in Armenia

Lyon – In the presence of Mr. Vatché Terteryan, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Mrs. Anne Louyot, Ambassador of France in Armenia, and Mrs. Hasmik Tolmajyan, Ambassador of Armenia in France, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and HyGreenCo company (subsidiary of the French group Solges-Energy) have signed a partnership agreement aimed at the construction of the first industrial demonstrator of Smart Grid in Armenia, integrating the entire chain production of green hydrogen.

This industrial demonstrator, developed in partnership with French research institutes and laboratories, will originally supply clean electricity to the SMART Center created by COAF in Debet, Armenia, and eventually to the Debet community. A solar farm will produce the electrical energy that will power a French technology electrolyser for the production of green hydrogen. The hydrogen produced will be stored to be used either directly by supplying a hydrogen station with charging terminals, or to be retransformed into electricity using a hydrogen fuel cell, which is also based on French technology, and thus ensure that the end users are served in an uninterrupted way and free of any CO2 emission.

This innovative process of hybrid renewable energy production solves the problem of intermittency related to solar or wind sources. Carried out in the form of an industrial demonstrator, it will enable further development of this technology and conceive its large-scale expansion in Armenia.

This partnership between French and Armenian stakeholders will on one hand allow French companies to develop their know-how in clean energy – and particularly hydrogen – on a national scale, and on the other hand Armenia to be among the leaders in achieving low carbon goals and developing a thriving green economy.

This project is one of the first achievements of the "Ambitions: France-Armenia" Roadmap signed between France and Armenia on December 9, 2021, with the

specific aim to increase cooperation between the two countries in the fields of sustainable development and new technologies.

Armen Sédéfian, president of the Solges-Energy group, particularly stated that *"Armenia represents an extraordinary opportunity to develop the best of French technology in the field of renewable energies and to create a real industrial sector in collaboration with our partner companies and equipment manufacturers in France. We wish to actively contribute to the process undertaken by Armenia to develop its green economy and make it the 1st Smart & Green Nation in the region thanks to French industrial excellence. As a result, Armenia can very soon become a great technological showcase for the neighboring markets of the Eurasian economic area, as well as those of Iran and the Gulf countries."*

Korioun Khatchadourian, for his part, affirmed *"We are very happy about the outcome of this partnership with the SOLGES-ENERGY group, as this renewable energy production project empowers us to add the last brick of innovation and sustainable development in the foundation of our SMART Center in Debet. Since its inception COAF has in fact been entirely dedicated to a sustainable development approach, which has inspired the entirety of the projects we have carried out to this date. It is also yet another way for us to contribute to the image of an Armenia resolutely committed to the global cause of reducing greenhouse gases."*

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About COAF

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF's target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 64 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting more than 107,000 beneficiaries.

Since 2015, COAF has developed and started implementing the SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. As an exemplary model of development, COAF SMART will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was inaugurated on May 27, 2018, near the village of Debet, Lori Region.

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The SOLGES-ENERGY Group was created in France by Armen Sédéfian with the aim to develop innovative, hybrid and controllable renewable energy production infrastructures with an entire ecosystem of French partner companies, institutes and research centers. The HyGreenCo subsidiary was created for a particular purpose of implementing projects which integrate the entire hydrogen chain in France and abroad, more specifically in Armenia. The SOLGES-ENERGY group acts as a global operator of all its operations, being solely responsible for their conception, development, production, financing and operation.