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MERIDIAM and EVERGAZ build an additional €51 million capacity to invest in biogas in France

Evergaz and Meridiam strengthen their capacity for investing in the biogas sector with a €51 million transaction designed to finance their French projects.

Evergaz and Meridiam raised **€51 million in bank loans** from a pool consisting of Arkéa Banque Entreprises et Institutionnels, Banque Populaire Grand Ouest, Caisse d'Épargne et de Prévoyance Loire-Centre and Edmond de Rothschild Asset Management (EDRAM). This funding will go towards the construction of new projects and the optimisation of the operational performance of their **9 power stations in operation in France**. This innovative funding in the anaerobic digestion sector will benefit the French platform of biogas projects jointly held by the two partners, Evergaz and Meridiam. Awarded to the company in charge of the biogas facilities, it helps extend to all project companies the benefit of more advantageous contract conditions than for the individual financing of each separate company.

It attests to **the commitment of Meridiam and Evergaz to helping their partners, in particular in the agricultural world, develop this new activity which has a positive impact on their territories**. The platform includes optimisation projects for the Tiper Méthanisation (Deux-Sèvres department), Cap'ter Méthanisation / Sain'ter Méthanisation (Vendée department) and Marnay Energie sites (Cher department), as well as the construction and completion of new projects such as Bioénergie Bressane (BEB, in the Saône-et-Loire department), Aube Sud Energie (Aube department) and Métha Horizon (Marne department). This transaction also helps refinance the debt of facilities already in operation – Biogaz du Pays de Château Gontier (Mayenne department), Sensienergies (Morbihan department), Marnay Energie (Cher department), while financing improvements and extensions on these sites.

This funding will allow **Evergaz to continue its strategic development in France**, drawing on the expertise gained from the feedback of its anaerobic digestion units, in operation since 2014. Since its creation in 2008, Evergaz has already invested more than €150 million in the biogas sector with its partners.

“Evergaz is delighted with this historic funding in the portfolio of biogas facilities. This new capacity will allow us to optimise the performance of our sites and continue our development, with the firm belief that biogas should be viewed as one of the key components of ecological transition. As a solution combining waste treatment with renewable gas or electricity generation, our sector provides local public and private stakeholders with environmental as well as economic services”, say Alain Planchot, CEO of Evergaz, and Frédéric Flipo, Deputy CEO of Evergaz.

According to Thierry Déau, CEO of Meridiam: *“This financing transaction is a perfect example of how Meridiam can work hand in hand with an industrial player to develop projects in the heart of the territories with our farming partners. Anaerobic digestion is a solution for the future consistent with energy transition and circular economy issues. With this new investment, we reaffirm that we consider anaerobic digestion a sustainable waste management and carbon footprint reduction solution”.*

With 15 biogas facilities in France, Germany and Belgium, and a 30 MW_e capacity, Evergaz has a daily output equivalent to the energy consumption of 130,000 people, avoiding 70,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year. Evergaz and Meridiam wish to double production by 2025, with an annual biomethane energy production objective of 125 million Nm³, an installed capacity of 63MW_e and the

treatment of more than 1 million tonnes of waste per year, which is equivalent to supplying 280,000 people with green energy.

The anaerobic digestion units developed, owned and managed by Evergaz and Meridiam, enable the local production of green, circular and non-intermittent energy, while offering numerous positive externalities (reduction in CO₂ emissions, preservation of agriculture, etc.). They also provide a solution for the recovery of organic waste and the production of a natural fertiliser substitutable for chemical fertilisers.

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About Evergaz

An integrated operator specialising in the production of biogas and the development of its uses, Evergaz develops, owns and operates a network of biogas production facilities. Created in 2008 as Holding Verte under the impetus of AQUA, investor-accelerator in the environment and energy sector, Evergaz supports and brings together territorial stakeholders - farmers, industrial companies and local authorities - to provide a sustainable organic waste management and treatment solution while producing green energy and a natural fertiliser.

With 15 biogas facilities in Europe, 10 of which in France, Evergaz and Meridiam treat 700,000 tonnes of waste per year, for a production capacity of 30 MWel, i.e. 7,250 Nm³/h of biomethane, avoiding 70,000 tonnes of Co₂ emissions and currently supplying the equivalent of more than 130,000 people with energy.

Committed to developing the French biogas industry, Evergaz is a founding member of Biogaz Vallée® and France Biométhane. Evergaz is headed by Alain Planchot, CEO, and Frédéric Flipo, Deputy CEO and co-founder. Evergaz is an independent company in which its management, AQUA, Meridiam and SWEN Capital Partners have a majority stake.

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About Meridiam

Meridiam was founded in 2005 by Thierry Déau, with the belief that the alignment of interests between the public and private sector can provide critical solutions to the collective needs of communities. Meridiam is an independent investment Benefit Corporation under French law and an asset manager. The firm specializes in the development, financing, and long-term management of sustainable public infrastructure in three core sectors: mobility, energy transition and environment, and social infrastructure. Meridiam currently manages US\$8 billion and more than 90 projects and assets to date. Meridiam is certified ISO 9001: 2015, Advanced Sustainability rating by VigeoEiris and applies a proprietary methodology in relation to ESG and impact based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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