

## THE 2019-2020 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR HOLDIGAZ SA: GOOD RESULTS TO MARK THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VEVEY-BASED GROUP

- *Good financial results were posted for the financial year that ended on 31 March 2020*
- *Since 1st October 2019, the customers of Energiapro SA benefit from climate-neutral gas supply, which means a full offset of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions*
- *The period under review was associated with a slight reduction in average temperature levels*
- *The number of new customers connected continues to rise*
- *The Group continues to pursue its diversification strategy through a share in an offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea off Germany*
- *A similar dividend to last year will be proposed at the next Annual General Meeting*

Vevey, 23 July 2020 - The **HOLDIGAZ Group** is announcing good results for the **2019-2020 financial year** as it marks its **15th anniversary**. Total consolidated operating revenue amounted to **CHF 230.9 million**, an increase of **1.4%** on the previous year. Operating profit (EBITDA) is also up significantly. Consolidated net profit is up too at **CHF 25 million**. These good results, after something of a mixed picture in the 2018-2019 financial year, will allow the Management Board to propose the payment of a dividend similar to last year's at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for **September**.

### Gas business

During the year under review (01.04.2019 – 31.03.2020) the volumes of natural gas sold by Energiapro SA across the Group's three distribution networks amounted to 1.53 billion kWh (including the biogas produced at Lavigny, Roche and Penthaz), an increase of 2.1% on the previous financial year. This result is due to the slightly lower average temperatures compared with the 2018-2019 financial year. Since 1 October 2019 all Energiapro SA customers have enjoyed natural gas that is 100% CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral thanks to projects funded by the myclimate foundation and recognised as beneficial for the environment. This has been achieved without any increase in prices.

The three network companies – Compagnie Industrielle et Commerciale du Gaz SA (Vevey), Société du Gaz de la Plaine du Rhône SA (Aigle) and Cosvegaz SA (Cossonay) – are recording some 400 new connections to existing networks, with a large proportion of these involving switches from other forms of energy.

These positive results were achieved thanks to networks becoming denser and a drop in average temperature levels.

### Renewable energies

More and more work is being done in the field of renewable energies. Biogas production reached 24.7 million kWh in the past financial year at the sites of Ecorecyclage SA, at Lavigny (biogas produced from green and food waste) and at those of Roche and Penthaz (sewage sludge). This represents an increase in production of 2.8% on the previous financial year, with the Lavigny site accounting for much of the increase.



In the sector for photovoltaic and thermal solar installations, where Agena SA is active, the period under review was associated with good performance. The decline in the particular sector associated with thermal panels – indicative of a broader trend across the Swiss thermal market – was offset by a 10% growth in photovoltaics compared with the 2018-2019 financial year.

### **Building technology**

Revenue levels of construction companies – Joseph Diémand SA (plumbing), Brauchli SA and Taxa SA (heating) and also Roos Ventilation SA – remained stable. The consolidated operating revenue for this sector amounts to CHF 46.7 million, which corresponds to 20.2% of the Group's operating revenue. This result is due to a slight improvement in the finishing work and building technology sector. Trades firms were able to benefit therefore from a slightly better economic climate, despite the ongoing pressure on sales prices and margins.

### **Initiative promoting energy transition**

Also during the period under review, the Group continued to pursue its diversification strategy with the acquisition, in October 2019, of an 6.9% stake in an offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea off Germany. This has been operational since 16 April 2019 and has a nominal capacity of 378 MW. In terms of scale, this wind farm produces enough electricity to meet the annual needs of the Riviera vaudoise (a section of the shore of Lake Geneva).

### **About HOLDIGAZ Group**

The HOLDIGAZ Group, established in 2005, is a major player in natural gas and biogas distribution in French-speaking Switzerland. Through its transportation network – Compagnie Industrielle et Commerciale du Gaz SA, Société du Gaz de la Plaine du Rhône SA and Cosvegaz SA – it serves 162 municipalities in the Cantons of Vaud, Valais and Fribourg. Since April 2017, Energiapro SA has undertaken all energy marketing activities, primarily natural gas, enabling the three incumbent gas operators (CICG, SGPR and Cosvegaz SA) to concentrate on the technical activities related to the management and development of the networks. Corelltech SA, specialising notably in the analysis of gas networks and the security of natural gas distribution, also joined the group in April 2017.

The HOLDIGAZ Group's other subsidiaries operate in sectors with direct or indirect synergies with the gas business, and provide solutions in the building and renewable energy sources sectors. Its specialist areas include plumbing (Joseph Diémand SA), heating (Brauchli SA and Taxa SA) and ventilation (Roos Ventilation SA). The Group is also involved in solar energy (Agena SA), and the recycling of organic waste for biogas production (Ecorecyclage SA) completes the range of services the Group provides. In addition, HOLDIGAZ SA is majority shareholder of Swiss Gas Invest SA, a company involved in the transport of gas across Switzerland.

HOLDIGAZ SA has a workforce of almost 470 employees. To foster the next generation of industry professionals, it employs 63 apprentices.

You can find more information at [www.holdigaz.ch](http://www.holdigaz.ch)

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