

HOLDIGAZ GROUP'S GENERAL MEETING PLEASED WITH FINANCIAL YEAR AND COMMITTED TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES

- *The financial year ended 31 March 2018 generated good results in all business segments.*
- *Since 1 April 2017 Energiapro has taken over as natural gas supplier.*
- *Renewable energy sources performed well.*
- *A CHF 5 dividend will be paid on each share (par value CHF 10).*

Vevey, 27 September 2018 – **HOLDIGAZ SA** held its 14th annual general meeting on **Wednesday 26 September** in **Montreux**, chaired by **Philippe Petitpierre**. The 2017-2018 financial year ended 31 March brought good results in all the group's business segments. Operating revenues totalled CHF 227.5 million, with EBITDA amounting to CHF 59.6 million. Consolidated net profit came to CHF 30 million. The shareholders approved an ordinary dividend of CHF 5 per share with a par value of CHF 10, as proposed by the board of directors, marking an increase on the previous year.

Gas companies

During the 01.04.2017 - 31.03.2018 reporting year, the natural gas supplied by Energiapro via the group's three distributors – Compagnie Industrielle et Commerciale du Gaz (Vevey), Société du Gaz de la Plaine du Rhône (Aigle) and Cosvegaz (Cossonay) – totalled more than 1.63 billion kWh (including the biogas produced in Lavigny, Roche and Penthaz), up 0.3% compared with the year-earlier level.

This volume was achieved thanks to nearly 500 new connections to the existing networks and cooler average temperatures at the end of the financial year. This led to positive results despite the rate cut introduced by Energiapro at the start of the financial year.

Renewable energies

The group continued to develop renewable energy sources during the reporting period. A total of 18.3 million kWh of biogas was injected into the networks of the group's gas companies at Lavigny (biogas produced from organic waste), Roche and Penthaz (biogas produced from sewage sludge), marking an increase of almost 6% compared with the previous financial year.

The photovoltaic and thermal solar energy segments performed well in the reporting period despite the lesser incentive factored into the fee system since the new federal Energy Act came into force on 1 January this year.

Building techniques

The revenues of the group's four construction companies – Joseph Diémand (sanitary blocks), Brauchli and Taxa (heating systems) and Roos Ventilation – were flat. Consolidated profit in this segment totalled CHF 46.1 million, equivalent to 20.3% of group operating revenues.



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) 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 et 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. The production of biogas on the Ecorecyclage site combined with those of the Roche and Penthaz sites (sewage sludge) make HOLDIGAZ one of the largest biogas producers in French-speaking Switzerland. In addition, HOLDIGAZ is majority shareholder of Swiss Gas Invest, a company involved in the transport of gas across Switzerland.

HOLDIGAZ has a workforce of over 430 employees. To foster the next generation of industry professionals, it employs more than 60 apprentices.

For more information, see www.holdigaz.ch

Further information:

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