

press release

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SUEZ VENTURES, THE SUEZ VENTURE CAPITAL FUND, IS SUPPORTING PRODEVAL IN ITS DEVELOPMENT ON THE BIOGAS RECOVERY MARKET

SUEZ Ventures is supporting the development of PRODEVAL on the biogas recovery market by acquiring a 22% minority share through a financial investment in the company.

Based in Châteauneuf-sur-Isère, France, the family company PRODEVAL achieved strong growth in 2015 through the development and sale of its VALOPUR® product, which recovers the biogas produced by the methanation of organic waste and sewage sludge as biomethane.

An innovation at the heart of the regional energy transition

Biomethane is a new source of carbon-free, local and renewable energy. This green gas can be injected into the local gas distribution network to supplement natural gas. The production of biomethane is contributing to the development of renewables, with the support of the French and European authorities. The European directive 2009/28/EC has set the target of incorporating 20% of renewable energies in the total energy consumption of the European Union by 2020.

PRODEVAL leads the market for the production of biomethane in France, mainly thanks to the development of the innovative and efficient VALOPUR® technology for the purification of biogas. Based on high-performance membranes, this process can reach a purification efficiency in excess of 99%, meaning that less than 1% of the methane is lost. The purified biogas is then transformed into natural gas for vehicles or biomethane that can be injected into urban natural gas networks.

Biomethane: a fast-growing energy source

The production of biomethane is growing strongly in France and Europe, where it is driving the development of renewables, thanks to its performance in terms of reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The development of this substitute for natural gas could cut greenhouse gas emissions in France by more than 750,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents by 2020, for an estimated quantity of biomethane of 4 TWh by the same time¹.

PRODEVAL and SUEZ have already successfully collaborated on the recovery of biogas produced by the methanation of sewage sludge. Since 2015, they have won several joint contracts, including one for the construction of a biomethane production unit in the wastewater treatment plant in Grenoble, which was inaugurated on 24 September, and other references in Angers, La-Roche-sur-Foron, Annecy and Quimper.

“SUEZ Venture’s acquisition of a share in PRODEVAL will consolidate our collaboration and support the development of this innovative young company on the high-growth biomethane market in France and abroad, by speeding up the commercial deployment of its VALOPUR® product. This technology of the future offers a new form of local and renewable energy to local authorities that will help them in their energy transition,” declared Eric Landais, Managing Director of SUEZ Ventures.

Sébastien Paolozzi, Managing Director of PRODEVAL added: *“As a long-established player in biogas, PRODEVAL must act as a driving force behind the development of biomethane in France and abroad. The acquisition of a minority stake in PRODEVAL’s capital by SUEZ Ventures will speed up our growth in order to propose a durable response to the market’s demands, and to develop R&D and export activities, while remaining independent and reactive.”*

¹ Study of the assessment of the impacts on greenhouse gas emissions of the injection of biomethane into natural gas networks, ADEME and GrDF, 2015



The SUEZ Group is a pioneer and a leader in the production and recovery of biomethane from wastewater in France. It has numerous references with almost 170 methanation units in its water and waste treatment facilities all over the world. This investment in PRODEVAL will strengthen its presence on the biogas market, where the Group intends to increase its production by 30% to 50% in the next five years.

About PRODEVAL

The French company PRODEVAL has been specialised in the treatment and recovery of biogas since 1990.

Independent and of human dimensions, PRODEVAL has honed its skills for the past 25 years to offer its customers innovative and tailor-made solutions, in response to all biogas related issues:

- Biogas membrane purification for biomethane production (recovery yield > 99 %)
- Biogas and biomethane boilers
- Biogas dryers and boosters
- Flares
- H₂S - VOC - siloxane treatment
- Biomethane odorization
- On-site production and delivery of bio-CNG
- Degassing of landfill centres, biogas and leachate transport networks
- Maintenance, spare parts

PRODEVAL provides quality services, whether for the installation, the commissioning, the training, the maintenance operations or the performance control.

Surrounded by local and specialised partners, PRODEVAL designs and produces its major technologies in France, in the Drôme department.

With a headcount of 30, PRODEVAL generated revenues of €6.9 million in 2015.

About SUEZ and SUEZ Ventures

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers waste water treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 34 million, recovers 16 million tonnes of waste each year and produces 7 TWh of local and renewable energy. With 82,530 employees, SUEZ, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in the circular economy for sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of €15.1 billion in 2015.

Founded in 2010, SUEZ Ventures is the SUEZ Group's corporate investment fund for new water and waste technologies. SUEZ Ventures supports the commercial and industrial growth of young companies that develop innovative technologies. It operates by investing in the acquisition of minority stakes in the capital. SUEZ Ventures also benefits from the Group's R&D programmes.

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