

press release



Marseille, 8 March 2018

ENERGY TRANSITION: IN MARSEILLE, SUEZ LAUNCHES A BIOMETHANE INJECTION PLANT, PRODUCED FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROCESS

On Thursday 8 March SUEZ, through its subsidiary SERAMM in Marseille (France), officially begins the construction of a biomethane production and injection plant, produced from wastewater treatment process. Aix-Marseille-Provence metropolitan area, SUEZ, the French Water Agency, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) and Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region invest €9.2 million in the conversion of part of Marseille's Géolide wastewater treatment plant, with the aim of producing enough biomethane to supply 2,500 households from 1 January 2019.

As the company manages the wastewater treatment system for Marseille urban area and four other municipalities¹ in the Aix-Marseille-Provence metropolitan area, SUEZ provides local solutions to improve its customers' economic and environmental performance. Thus, in Marseille, SUEZ invest the conversion of its sewage sludge treatment plant, located in Sormiou quarry since 1987, to launch the biggest biomethane production project ever seen in France.

Biogas, green energy for a sustainable city

From 1 January 2019, the biogas produced in the sludge digestion process will be collected, converted into biomethane and injected into the public natural gas network at a rate of 2.3 million Nm³ a year². The facility has been designed with a future extension in mind, allowing for a rate of 3.8 million Nm³/year, which will make it the largest in France.

Aix-Marseille-Provence metropolitan area will be able to produce enough green energy to supply about 2,500 households. This biomethane – *in compressed form* – could also, in the longer term, be used as a biofuel for public transport running on natural gas (NGV).

The new biomethane production plant will offer several environmental benefits. **Indeed, the proportion of recoverable biogas will increase by 35% while CO₂ emissions should drop by 30%.**

¹ Allauch, Septèmes-les-Vallons, Carnoux en Provence and Gémenos industrial estate.

² The normal cubic metre is a unit of measurement for a quantity of gas equivalent to the volume of a cubic metre, for a gas in standard conditions for temperature and pressure.

SUEZ

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Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ, said *“In partnership with its local authority and industrial customers, SUEZ is planning to increase its production of biomethane in France by 30 to 50% by 2020. This new plant shows that Aix-Marseille-Provence metropolitan area is working towards the same goal as our Group – taking immediate, concrete action to promote the circular economy.”*

Jean-Claude Gaudin, President of Aix-Marseille-Provence metropolitan area and Mayor of Marseille, said *“This facility will enable our metropolitan area to produce a more environmentally friendly green energy. Aix-Marseille-Provence takes action in a wide range of areas including transport, economic development, the energy transition and a better quality of life for our residents.”*



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The sewage sludge treatment plant, located in Sormiou quarry, in Marseille (France)

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About SUEZ

With 90 000 people on the five continents, SUEZ is a world leader in smart and sustainable resource management. We provide water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries optimize their resource management and strengthen their environmental and economic performances, in line with regulatory standards. To meet increasing demands to overcome resource quality and scarcity challenges, SUEZ is fully engaged in the resource revolution. With the full potential of digital technologies and innovative solutions, the Group recovers 17 million tons of waste a year, produces 3.9 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also secures water resources, delivering wastewater treatment services to 58 million people and reusing 882 million m³ of wastewater. SUEZ generated total revenues of 15.9 billion euros in 2017.

Find out more about the SUEZ Group
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