

PRESS RELEASE

Hydrogen: AREVA H₂Gen inaugurates the first French plant to manufacture electrolyzers, in Les Ulis (91).

In the presence of Mrs Segolène Royal, Minister of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, responsible for international climate relations

Les Ulis, 24 June 2016 - By building this plant to manufacture electrolyzers, AREVA H₂Gen, a recently founded industrial company, offers an innovative French technology system that responds to the need for high-volume storage of the energy provided by renewable sources. It is one of the major drivers of energy transition. Located in Les Ulis (91), this plant manufactures the latest generation of electrolyzers designed to produce hydrogen using water and electricity.

The hydrogen thus derived from electric power produced by renewable energy sources is a completely carbon-free form of energy. It can be used to store the excess supply from these intermittently used alternative power sources for long periods of time. AREVA H₂Gen's electrolyzers then re-supply the stored hydrogen in whatever form is desired: solid, gas or liquid.

The areas for application are services provided to electric power grids, clean mobility for fuel-cell electric vehicles, and industrial uses.

Initially tested on space programmes, PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) electrolysis is now ready for industrial uses. This new French technology benefited from 25 years of R&D before becoming a compact, flexible, easy-to-use system with low operating maintenance.

AREVA H₂Gen is the only manufacturer of electrolyzers in France and aims to enter a fast-growing world market. An industrial equipment manufacturer, the company provides project design engineering.

Its order book amounts to nearly 10 million euros in June 2016 and it has doubled the number of its employees in two years of existence.

The production of hydrogen and as energy source offers strategic opportunities that have already caught the eye of public authorities. The law on energy transition for green growth, and the *Ecological mobility* aspect of the "New France Industrial Plan" bear witness to this.

In fact, the environmental advantages of hydrogen and its excellent power output will enhance opportunities for shifting to a more sustainable world. Renewable energy sources will be better integrated into power distribution grids with this massive means of storing their excess production. This type of storage promotes flexible, de-centralised operations.

Clean electric vehicle mobility will result from combining regional hydrogen production sites with the deployment of local refuelling stations. AREVA H₂Gen is currently preparing to build the largest hydrogen refuelling station to date for the Braley company in Rodez. We note that a fuel-cell powered car is an electric vehicle with the same advantages as a gasoline-powered car, which means that it has an operating range of more than 500 km and can be recharged in less than 5 minutes.

AREVA H₂Gen arose in May 2014 through the combination of an R&D company and AREVA electrolysis assets. It has received funding support from the Future Investments Programme

(*Programme d'investissement d'avenir*) administered by ADEME. It is an industrial start-up that brings together AREVA, ADEME and SMART ENERGIES.

It is a partner in a number of French and European development and R&D programmes.

About AREVA:

AREVA H₂Gen, the leading company in France for electrolysis, produces Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolysers. Hydrogen is produced using water and electricity, preferably generated by renewable energy sources (solar and wind). The markets for it are mainly found in sectors such as services for electric power grids, clean mobility (hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles) and industrial uses.

Areva H₂Gen press contact: Martine Cartier

Tel.: + 33 1 39 70 72 68 - + 33 6 15 23 28 59. martine.cartier@cartier-rp.fr

Iconography and more information at: www.cartier-rp.fr

Areva H₂Gen:

Stéphanie Grenault, Marketing and Communication Manager: 01 81 87 12 53

stephanie.grenault@arevah2gen.com