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PRESS RELEASE

RTE and SuperGrid Institute sign a partnership agreement to create a centre of excellence for direct current

On Friday the 22nd of January, Xavier Piechaczyk, Chairman of the board of directors at RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Electricité) and Hubert de la Grandière, CEO of the Institute for Energy Transition (ITE) SuperGrid Institute, signed a partnership agreement to develop a centre of excellence for direct current and power electronics. This partnership makes it possible to develop new collaborations in order to meet the challenges involved in energy transition by bringing together R&D skills and cutting-edge technologies.

Xavier Piechaczyk, Chairman of RTE's board of directors and Hubert de la Grandière, CEO of SuperGrid Institute, signed this partnership agreement with a view to creating a French centre of excellence for direct current, with its base in the Greater Lyon area. The aim is to share the R&D skills, high-voltage technological facilities and simulation resources of the two organisations; SuperGrid Institute, a research and technological innovation centre working on the energy transmission systems of the future, based in Villeurbanne (69), and the RTE Transfo Campus, a training and innovation centre in the field of electricity transmission, located in Jonage (69) in the Greater Lyon area.

Among the targeted joint actions, RTE and SuperGrid Institute intend to work together on R&D projects for the development of a direct current meshed grid, notably in response to the increase in power generated by offshore wind farms.

They will also study the energetic and environmental performance of underground and submarine cables which use durable insulation materials to minimise electrical losses through continuously monitoring technological developments together.

Their ambition is also to provide training for the academic sector, drawing on both structures' technological facilities and simulation platforms. Furthermore, collaborations dealing with the issues surrounding DC/AC converter substation model standardisation at a European level have also been identified.

"As direct current technology is essential for developing interconnections between countries and connecting offshore wind farms, this partnership answers our mutual desire to tackle the challenges facing energy transition in France and throughout Europe," says Xavier Piechaczyk, Chairman of RTE's board of directors.

"This centre of excellence in the Greater Lyon area, the only one of its kind in Europe, is a major asset for sharing our expertise, test facilities and simulation platforms and offers us an optimal vantage point from which to prepare and train the European energy ecosystem for the future," adds Hubert de la Grandière, CEO of SuperGrid Institute.

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