

## Chârl'Hy, a project by CVE in partnership with Haffner Energy, Wins Châlons Agglo's call for expressions of interest

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Châlons-en-Champagne, November 10, 2023,

The urban community of Châlons-en-Champagne today announced the winner of its Call for Expressions of Interest (AMI) "Financial support for the creation and development of industrial activities with low environmental impact", launched in autumn 2022: the Chârl'Hy project. With this project, CVE, a French independent producer of renewable energies, in partnership with Haffner Energy, a specialist in the production of renewable energies from biomass, will develop a hub for the production of renewable gases in the Châlonnais basin, for use by players in heavy mobility, industry and local authorities.

### Chârl'Hy: a project with a positive impact on the environment and the economy of Châlons Agglo

The Chârl'Hy project aims to set up an industrial renewable gas production site in the Châlonnais area by 2026/2027, following a study and development phase. It will involve numerous partners and local players, and will generate around twenty direct and indirect jobs thanks to the mobilization of local companies for the construction, operation and maintenance of the production site.

The Chârl'Hy project will comprise two complementary components with an overall investment estimated at over 20 million euros:

- **unit for the production and distribution of renewable hydrogen by electrolysis of water**, with an initial capacity of 800 kg of hydrogen per day, which can be increased with the development of hydrogen applications. This facility will contribute to decarbonizing the heavy mobility of local and visiting transporters and logisticians, as well as local industry. This project is supported by CVE, with the interest of the Banque des Territoires;
- **a renewable heat production unit based on biomass thermolysis**, using the SYNOCA® technology developed by Haffner Energy, to recover biomass residues, particularly from forestry. This component will meet industrial and urban heating needs, following a study phase carried out by CVE and Haffner Energy.

An ambitious project unprecedented in the Champagne region, Chârl'Hy will help to decarbonize current and future uses of heavy mobility and industrial and urban heat in the area. It makes perfect sense for Châlons Agglo, located on a major road hub and where local economic activity is booming.

**Chârl'Hy has been designed to encourage local synergies.** From a commercial standpoint, it will offer a complete range of solutions for local manufacturers. From a territorial point of view, it will unite local authorities and the agricultural, industrial and urban worlds around the project, thus creating a genuine territorial and circular dynamic to enhance the quality of the living environment.

The Chârl'Hy project led by CVE, in partnership with Haffner Energy, thus meets the objectives of the AMI to contribute both to the dynamism and to the ecological and energy transition of companies in the Châlonnais basin, which aims to be sustainable and exemplary.

### A project that will benefit from tailored support from Châlons Agglo

Feasibility and development studies for each of the 2 parts of the project will run until 2025/2026, with construction of the hydrogen production unit scheduled for 2026 and the renewable heat production unit for 2027.

For the 2nd phase of the project, Châlons Agglo will contribute an initial €45,000 to the feasibility study and analysis of the SYNOCA® technology developed by Haffner Energy for the production of additional low-carbon heat for the region. A second financial package may be considered depending on the results of the study and the investment project.

Finally, Châlons Agglo will provide human support to facilitate the success of the project and integrate it into the local economy, in particular by facilitating meetings with players who are catalysts for the project.

With the Chârl'Hy project, Châlons Agglo hopes to boost the region's attractiveness and attract other innovative project leaders.

**Jérôme Mât, 1st Vice-President of Châlons Agglo in charge of economic and sustainable development, comments:** *"This support is a further concrete illustration of the determination of Châlons Agglo's elected representatives to position the region as a priority host for innovative industrial solutions for the production of renewable energy, helping to mitigate climate change. We want to play our full part in the reindustrialization of France and the development of green industries."*

**Marion Henriët, Director of Hydrogen France at CVE, comments:** *"We are proud of the confidence shown in us by Châlons Agglo, which has enabled us to announce this first project in the Grand Est region. This is the first step in the development of a project at the heart of the energy transition and anchored in a local circular economy, in conjunction with local stakeholders. Working towards the production of renewable hydrogen, produced and consumed locally, and the study of decarbonization alternatives are at the heart of CVE's vision".*

**Philippe Haffner, CEO of Haffner Energy, comments:** *"We're delighted to be able to put our expertise in valorizing locally abundant biomass at the service of this ambitious project to decarbonize the Châlonnais basin. Our technologies offer the dual advantage of producing competitive and carbon-negative green energies, thanks to the co-production of biochar, which brings significant agronomic benefits and removes CO2 from the atmosphere in the long term".*

The AMI "Financial support for the Creation and development of industrial activities with low environmental impact" launched in autumn 2022, aimed to support innovative private investment projects, to facilitate and accelerate the local deployment of industrial units contributing to sustainable development and the circular economy. This AMI is in line with the region's ambitious policy of setting an example and accelerating the ecological transition of local economic players.

Châlons Agglo will provide personalized support for the Chârl'Hy project over a one-year period, from site selection and financing to the development of innovation through local institutional partnerships, integration into the local economic network and support for the recruitment of qualified employees, to ensure that the project is part of a comprehensive approach to the circular economy.

For further information, [click here](#).

## About Châlons Agglo

Châlons Agglo, just 1 hour from Paris by TGV and 1h45 by car, with direct access to the A4-A26 freeways, has a catchment area of 120,000 inhabitants, and is home to a flourishing economic environment, with over 6,000 companies, including Joseph Perrier, Mc Cain, Ecolab, Ti Automotiv, Machaon, Luzéal and Mosolf.

Concerned about its environment and the living comfort of its residents, Châlons Agglo has been committed since 2015 to supporting the creation of a sustainable and responsible economy, welcoming companies that recycle plastics, manufacture biomaterials for construction, and produce renewable energies directly on its territory (Total Energies, Engie Solutions, SCE), notably with the creation of the first urban heating network supplying 100% decarbonated energy. Nearly 43% of households in the conurbation now benefit from locally-produced renewable energy. Elected representatives are encouraging innovation and job creation, with over 500 million euros invested in private projects, 45 million euros in public funding to support new projects, and the possibility of obtaining up to 1 million euros in aid per project to support industrial projects contributing to the greening of the local economy.

In addition to its financial aid, Châlons Agglo provides project developers with its Economic Concierge Service, comprising a financial aid advisor, a land and property advisor, an employment/recruitment advisor, a housing advisor and an administrative procedures advisor. This tailor-made support helps to simplify the installation and development of businesses, and to lighten the workload of project developers.

## About CVE

Created in 2009, CVE, a company with a mission since 2022, is a French independent producer of renewable energies, multi-country and multi-energy. The group develops, finances and builds solar power plants, anaerobic digestion plants and green hydrogen production units, and operates them itself over the long term. CVE's aim is to create the energy models of tomorrow by producing local renewable energies to meet the needs of local authorities, businesses and farmers, in a model of direct energy sales. CVE is ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified. Headquartered in Marseilles, CVE relies in France on a team of 300 employees spread over 8 regional offices to be as close as possible to the regions. Internationally, the Group is present in Chile, the United States, South Africa and Spain. CVE currently employs 400 people and plans to build a 2.7 GW wind farm by 2027. The company is also certified "B Corp", a prestigious CSR label, and thus joins a community of international companies respecting very high social and environmental standards.

More information: [www.cvegroup.com](http://www.cvegroup.com)

## About Haffner Energy

A listed family-owned company, co-founded and co-directed by Marc and Philippe Haffner, Haffner Energy has been a key player in the energy transition for 30 years, designing and supplying innovative decarbonization solutions for mobility, industry and local authorities. Its HYNOCA®, SYNOCA® and SAFNOCA® solutions, based on biomass thermolysis, a technology protected by 15 patent families, enable customers to produce locally renewable hydrogen and gas, as well as other green energies such as Sustainable Aviation Fuel, while capturing carbon from the atmosphere through the co-production of biochar.

More information: [www.haffner-energy.com](http://www.haffner-energy.com)

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