



Press release

**Omnes and Bpifrance acquire a stake in UNITE, an independent renewable energy producer, to support its growth over the long term**

**Paris, Lyon, 19th December 2018** - Omnes, through its Capenergie 3 fund, and Bpifrance, through its France Investissement Energie Environnement (FIEE) fund, are jointly acquiring a minority stake in UNITE, an independent renewable energy producer.

Founded in 1985 by Hugues Albanel, UNITE, through its subsidiary Hydrowatt, is a renowned specialist in hydropower in France. The family group develops, builds and operates mainly mid-size hydropower plants, while also being active in the onshore wind, solar power and tidal energy sectors. UNITE currently owns a park with a total installed capacity of 77 MW across France's regions. Its goal is to double its installed capacity. The company achieved a turnover of €26 million in 2017.

The aim of this deal is to enable the company to pursue its growth, based on a strategy of developing power plants in France and abroad. With 64 production sites (including 47 directly owned by the group), the group is one of the leading independent producers of 100% renewable electricity in France.

**Hugues Albanel**, CEO, UNITE, says: *"Competition in the renewable energy sector is intensifying. We want to keep a strategy of independence while maintaining sustained development. The support of renowned financial investors will help us remain at the forefront of renewable energy, and above all, to scale up our core business, hydropower."*

**Serge Savasta**, Managing Partner, Omnes, comments: *"UNITE is one of the pioneers of renewable energy in France with more than 30 years of expertise in mid-size hydropower. We have been following this company for many years. We share the firm's conviction that energy produced in the heart of France's territories, as close as possible to the end consumer, is a model for the future, creating wealth and jobs. We are proud to support this quality partner, the first hydropower investment of the Capenergie 3 fund."*

**Jacques Solleau**, Director of Bpifrance's subsidiary funds, concludes: *"This deal is at the heart of the FIEE fund's strategy and demonstrates our commitment to promoting renewable energies. We are delighted to support a long-standing player in renewable energies in its future development projects and its strong ambition for growth in France and abroad. "*

Participants:

**Investors:**

- Omnes: Serge Savasta, Laurent Perret, Elisa Steccaglia,
- Bpifrance Investissement: Jacques Solleau, Denis Talaron, Aurélien Hüe

**Investor advisors:**

- M&A and legal due diligence advice: Allen & Overy (Alexandre Ancel, Flora Leon-Serviere, Anaita Massoumi, Romaric Lazerges and Antoine Coursaut-Durand)
- Financial and tax due diligence: Accuracy (Delphine Sztermer, Elyse Salzmann), Arsene Taxand (Olivier Vergniolle and Brice Picard)
- Technical due diligence: Hydronnov (William Dufour), Natural Power (Clarence Vigarié, Christopher Renna, Marion Le Doeuff)
- Insurance due diligence: Marsh (Jean Marie Dargainaratz, Ersida Ago)

**Seller advisors:**

- Legal advisors: CMS Francis Lefebvre (Jacques Rivoire, Jean Thomas Heintz)

**About Omnes**

Omnes is a leading Paris-based European investor in private equity and infrastructure. With €3.6 billion of assets under management, Omnes provides SMEs with the capital needed to finance growth. The firm has dedicated investment teams across three key areas: Venture Capital, Buyout & Growth Capital and Infrastructure. Omnes is a pioneer in the energy transition, having raised Capenergie, its first fund dedicated to renewably energy, in 2006. Since then, its infrastructure team has made over 40 investments in renewable energy projects and companies across Europe, deploying €900 million. In 2016, Omnes widened its energy transition product offer by launching Construction Energie Plus, the first French fund entirely focused on the construction of high-environmental-performance buildings. Omnes is owned by its employees. Omnes is committed to ESG issues and has set up the Omnes Foundation in aid of children's charities. It is also a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

**Press contacts**

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**About Bpifrance**

Bpifrance is the French national investment bank: it finances businesses – at every stage of their development – through loans, guarantees, equity investments and export insurances. Bpifrance also provides extrafinancial services (training, consultancy.) to help entrepreneurs meet their challenges (innovation, export...).

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