



PRESS RELEASE

FLEXGRID: Call for expressions of interest to roll out Smart Grids in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) Region and the Capenergies and SCS competitiveness clusters have issued a call for expressions of interest, marking the first step towards wide-scale deployment of the regional FLEXGRID smart grids programme.

The call, which closes on 31 October 2016, aims to get players from across the smart grids sector (businesses, research and training centres, etc.) involved in the programme, in an effort to identify new technologies, services, expertise and training provision.

The mature technologies and services selected through the call will supplement existing provision promoted through the FLEXGRID project portfolio, and will bring them to the attention of major buyers, solution integrators and, more generally, emerging smart grid markets. This qualification and promotion scheme aims to foster faster, more effective convergence between supply and demand - one of the main challenges facing the smart grid sector - and to enhance the standing of French "smart companies" on the national and global stage.

Moreover, the new project identified through this call for expressions of interest will support the wide-scale deployment and industrialisation of smart grids, will meet sociological and cybersecurity demands, and will receive full support from the thriving FLEXGRID programme.

The FLEXGRID project was chosen by the French government as part of the national call for projects to deploy smart grids. It aims to foster the deployment of smart grid technology solutions to meet the challenges of the energy transition. Backed by the PACA region, working in tandem with the Capenergies and SCS competitiveness clusters, this wide-reaching project brings together the region's industrial and academic ecosystem, alongside local authorities. It offers an outstanding opportunity to create jobs in the region and help enhance its economic standing, safeguard electricity supply in the east of the region, and tackle climate change.

Smart grids are one of the key areas of focus of the "New Face of Industry in France" plan, which aims to create 25,000 jobs and generate €6 billion of revenue in the sector by 2020. Smart grids offer outstanding growth prospects in the global economy, with the potential to create jobs in the energy and ICT sectors. In 2015, the smart grids sector was worth an estimated €30 billion worldwide, with annual growth expected to hit around 10%.

About the Capenergies Competitiveness Cluster

The Capenergies Competitiveness Cluster, which focuses on the production of low-carbon energy, has more than 1,400 partners and 500 members, including businesses, research and training organisations, and financial backers. The cluster supports innovative projects in three key, market-oriented areas:

- Energy efficiency and rational energy use
- Meeting the energy needs of island systems and remote areas
- Increasing low-carbon energy as a percentage of the energy mix

The cluster fosters networking and helps its members play a leading role in the energy transition across the areas in which it works: PACA, Corsica, Principality of Monaco, Guadeloupe and Reunion. To date, Capenergies has certified more than 600 innovative projects and funded an additional 335 projects, with total assistance amounting to €545 million.

For more information, visit: www.capenergies.fr

PRESS CONTACT

Céline Ferrato

celine.ferrato@capenergies.fr

+33 (0)6 37 19 97 87 - +33 (0)4 84 49 10 36

About the SCS Cluster:

The Secure Communicating Solutions (SCS) World Competitiveness Cluster: a more secure future

The SCS World Competitiveness Cluster - awarded the European “Gold” label for outstanding management - is located in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur (PACA) Region. Its 300 members (groups, SMEs and research organisations) are leaders in contactless technology, networks, M2M & mobile services, and digital security & identities, forming a vibrant ecosystem that is recognised on the international stage.

The SCS Cluster helps drive innovation and collaboration, securing more than €900 million of investment in more than 220 collaborative R&D projects, with a particular focus on member growth.

PRESS CONTACT:

Audrey Rivollet Erétéo

audrey.rivollet@pole-scs.org - +33 (0)6 31 40

57 65 For more information, visit:

www.pole-scs.org

Follow us on Twitter: @Pole_SCS and on Facebook: PoleSCS

Région



Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

