

## PRESS RELEASE

### Paul Lucchese appointed new Deputy Director of the Capenergies competitiveness cluster

*27 March 2017 – The Capenergies competitiveness cluster announces the appointment of Paul Lucchese as Deputy Director with effect from 3 April 2017. He will lead the cluster's international strategy together with its innovation, emerging R&D projects and fundraising initiatives and will sit on the Capenergies Accreditation Committee.*

After graduating in 1983 from the *Ecole Centrale de Paris*, Paul Lucchese started his career with Framatome before moving on to the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in 1990 where he spent 8 years managing an applied research laboratory specialising in materials for the Military Applications Division. His interest in strengthening links between the worlds of industry and research drove him to develop a marketing initiative for the same division to transfer technologies to SMEs and industrial groups. In 2001 he joined the CEA's Technological Research Division where he was heavily involved in developing New Energy Technology Programmes (for PV, hydrogen storage, biofuels and energy efficiency), firstly as a project manager and then as CEA programme director until 2010. On the subject of hydrogen and fuel cells specifically, he plays an active role in French, European and international associations and organisations. An energy expert of national and international renown, he has been consulted on OPECST<sup>1</sup> matters and was a member of the panel of experts sitting on the national committee presiding over the national energy transition debate in 2013/2014 chaired by Alain Grandjean. Between 2013 and 2016, he led the FutuRIS team at the ANRT<sup>2</sup> chaired by Thierry Breton, working in collaboration with Olivier Appert, Chairman of the French Energy Council and Chief Executive of the National Academy of Technologies, on research into energy in France from a business perspective. This work was submitted to the OPECST in February 2017 in connection with the SNRE<sup>3</sup> 2017.

Paul Lucchese succeeds Bernard Besnainou to the role of Deputy Director of Capenergies. He will be responsible for leading initiatives to promote innovation and support project sponsors, new projects and fundraising activities and will also sit on the cluster's Accreditation Committee chaired by Olivier Appert. He will draw on his experience at the highest level to drive the cluster's international strategy forward and will assume a strategic advisory role at senior management level within the CEA, as well as being the French representative on the executive committee for the International Energy Agency's Hydrogen Implementing Agreement (IEA HIA).

#### *About the CAPENERGIES Competitiveness Cluster*

#### *A network of energy transition stakeholders working towards sustainable territories*

*The Capenergies competitiveness cluster has a network of 520 members and nearly 1500 specialist energy partners, including major industrial groups, companies, research and educational organisations and financial backers. The Capenergies network is a robust ecosystem, driving economic growth and boosting the competitiveness of low-carbon energy solutions in Southern-Eastern France (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), Corsica, Guadeloupe, Reunion and the Principality of Monaco. It focuses its activities on three key areas: Energy efficiency, Energy management and Low-carbon energy production, concentrating on three categories of area: urban and metropolitan, rural and mountainous, and islands and remote areas. Since its creation, Capenergies has accredited 630 innovative projects and funded 359 projects, representing a total of 475 million euros.*

*For more information, visit [www.capenergies.fr](http://www.capenergies.fr)*

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<sup>1</sup> OPECST: French Parliamentary Office For Scientific and Technological Assessment

<sup>2</sup> ANRT: French National Research and Technology Association

<sup>3</sup> SNRE: French National Energy Research Strategy