

Press release

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When industry and academia pool their expertise

HEIG-VD and Romande Energie working more closely together to promote innovation and the green energy transition

The Western Switzerland School of Engineering and Management (HEIG-VD) and Romande Energie have signed an expanded master agreement that will take their partnership to the next level. Building on their 2020 agreement, the two institutions will unlock further synergies in the fields of applied research, training, innovation and skills transfer by pooling academic excellence, on the one hand, and practical experience, on the other.

Partnership based on complementarity

Collaboration between universities and the business world today plays a vital role in addressing the needs and challenges arising from the energy transition, decarbonisation and technological advances. Under this new framework for cooperation, HEIG-VD and Romande Energie are strengthening a relationship that combines scientific knowledge and engineering prowess with the on-the-ground realities of the energy industry.

HEIG-VD contributes expertise in applied research, innovation and training capabilities in the fields of engineering and management. Romande Energie brings to the table its industry experience, understanding of energy issues and deep roots in the regional economy.

Accelerating innovation for the benefit of the region

The partnership covers a wide range of activities – from applied research and development projects to hosting interns. Also covered are collaboration in B.Sc. dissertations, continuing professional development, scientific and technological monitoring, and support for innovation-driven projects.

This collaboration will also enable solutions that meet the needs on the ground to be identified more quickly while offering students practical opportunities to contribute to tackling the energy challenges of the future. Working together in this way will also promote the transfer of research-based knowledge towards applications with a significant impact on society.

Joint governance to drive long-term projects

To give further impetus to this process, the two partners are setting up a steering committee on which representatives from both entities will sit. Its main tasks will be identifying emerging issues, promoting the development of new projects and supporting the dissemination of results.

This approach reflects a shared commitment to building a sustainable, agile and forward-looking partnership.

Mutual benefits

Thanks to this broadened scope of cooperation, HEIG-VD will be able to expand its teaching and research activities by engaging with the practical challenges facing the energy industry. Students and researchers will benefit from exclusive access to real-world case studies and cutting-edge expertise.

“The major energy-related challenges we’re facing call for close collaboration between researchers and practitioners,” says Professor Massimiliano Capezzali, Director of the Institute of Energy at HEIG-VD. “This even stronger partnership with Romande Energie will enable us to turn knowledge into practical solutions, whilst offering our students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in high-impact projects.”

For Romande Energie, this partnership provides a further means of accelerating innovation, anticipating technological developments and strengthening skills development against a backdrop of profound transformation in the energy industry.

“Innovation is sparked when ideas, skills and experience are fused together,” says François Fellay, CEO of Romande Energie. “By deepening our collaboration with HEIG-VD, we’re strengthening our ability to meet the challenges of the energy transition while helping to train the talent that will shape the energy framework of the future.”

By joining forces, HEIG-VD and Romande Energie are reaffirming their shared commitment to an innovative, sustainable economy that will unlock value for Western Switzerland.

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Romande Energie at a glance

The Romande Energie Group is a multi-service energy company and the leading electricity provider in French-speaking Switzerland. It offers its customers tailored support for their own energy transition and to help them become more independent. It provides them with sustainable products and solutions to produce their own energy, improve their energy efficiency, while encouraging them to reduce their CO2 emissions and practise energy sobriety.

Romande Energie aims to make Western Switzerland the country's first net-zero region. We are constantly investing significant amounts in expanding our local base of facilities generating renewable energy. Our solar, hydro, wind and biomass power plants and projects, our various district heating networks and our geothermal and hydrogen participations are fulfilling this commitment and distributing more and more renewable energy to our customers.

We have established ourselves as a trusted partner for a society mindful of the importance of protecting the environment, looking after individuals and maintaining a sustainable economy. **Keeping Western Switzerland on track for a sustainable future** lies at the heart of our core purpose.

For more information, visit www.romande-energie.ch

HEIG-VD

HEIG-VD, the Western Switzerland School of Engineering and Management, has two cross-fertilising missions: teaching and research.

It offers vocational undergraduate programmes in the main branches of engineering, rounded out by a business studies programme that delivers comprehensive training in corporate management. In addition to its basic training programmes, HEIG-VD supports professionals throughout their careers by offering continuing professional development tailored to changes in the workplace and the needs of businesses.

Through its work in applied research, innovation, skills transfer and collaboration with the business world, HEIG-VD is playing an active role in the development of the socio-economic fabric in the canton of Vaud. HEIG-VD also works to foster the interchange between academic expertise and real-world experience as it seeks to support businesses, institutions and other organisations in their current projects and future-facing efforts.

For more information, visit www.heig-vd.ch