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RÉSEAU ENTREPRENDRE[®] AND KIC INNOENERGY PARTNER TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

Réseau Entreprendre[®], a French non-profit group that provides entrepreneurship support services via a nationwide network, and KIC InnoEnergy, the innovation engine for Europe's energy industry, are set to collaborate to help France's energy industry entrepreneurs.

The companies both serve as catalysts within France's entrepreneurship ecosystem, detecting emerging projects and assisting entrepreneurs seeking to set up companies likely to bring value and new jobs to France's economy.

KIC InnoEnergy's eight-country pan-European business accelerator Highway, for instance, provides funding and support services to 105 innovative start-ups in the energy industry with 20 of them based in France. Réseau Entreprendre[®] counts more than 11,000 business leaders amongst its members and since the introduction of specific financing programs and support services in 2007, has been helping technology entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs selected to receive backing from Réseau Entreprendre[®] become members of a growing national community of 1,500 innovation-focused entrepreneurs with whom they can compare notes on everything from strategy to day-to-day business management issues.

"We are pleased to be able to offer KIC InnoEnergy's proven experience in the energy industry to our award recipients and are convinced that this partnership will help them grow their businesses," says Pierre Violo, Vice President of the Réseau Entreprendre[®] National Board in charge of industry-specific programming.

The partnership will help both networks bolster their services in support of innovative energy-industry start-ups. The two networks will work together to identify and select potential projects, deliver support services, and accelerate time-to-market.

Jean-Michel Amaré, CEO of start-up Ataway, a company which received the support of both networks, says: "KIC InnoEnergy brought our company the credibility and international scope it needed – 90% of our market is international – and gave us access to its network of corporate partners. Réseau Entreprendre[®] is supporting me in my role as CEO through a network of other entrepreneurs and one-on-one help from a dedicated mentor."

Richard Biagioni, CEO, KIC InnoEnergy France, adds: "We have been working with business incubators, clusters, France's RETIS innovation support network, angel investor clubs, and other investors and financiers since 2010. These partners' entrepreneurship support services round out our own. We are obviously thrilled to make our partnership with Réseau Entreprendre[®] official, and become the go-to source of support for energy-industry start-ups".



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About KIC InnoEnergy (www.kic-innoenergy.com)

KIC InnoEnergy SE is a European company for innovation, business creation, and education in sustainable energy. Founded in 2010 by a world-class alliance of European energy-sector stakeholders, KIC InnoEnergy supports high-potential startups and invests in technological innovations to secure Europe's competitiveness on the global sustainable energy market. With headquarters in the Netherlands, the company boasts a network of offices located in Benelux, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Sweden, and France (Grenoble). KIC InnoEnergy is financed in part by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

About Réseau Entreprendre® 'Committed to your success!' (www.reseau-entreprendre.org)

Réseau Entreprendre® is a non-profit group bringing together entrepreneurs and business leaders. It was founded in 1986 by André Mulliez, himself an entrepreneur. Our credo? To create jobs, you must first create new businesses! We do this by providing high-potential entrepreneurs (our award recipients) with financing and free, long-term support services delivered by committed, experienced practicing entrepreneurs.

Key figures in France

- 5,200 members and 8,500 support recipients since 1986.
- 82 locations in France, 28 in other European countries and in North Africa.
- 1,980 award-winners currently receiving support, with more than 900 new recipients each year; 650 startups will be created as a result of this support.
- 92% of the businesses that receive support are still operating on their third anniversary.
- More than €21 million in entrepreneurship loans granted each year.
- More than 6,000 jobs created or saved each year.
- 30,000 new jobs and 3,800 recipients in the past five years alone.

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