



## PRESS RELEASE

### Call for proposals “Creating the multi-purpose maritime platform of the future”: 5 winners selected

On 6 June 2019, at the international Seanergy forum, François Brottes, Chairman of the RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Electricité) Management Board, and Patrice Vergriete, President of the CUD (Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque), awarded 5 projects on potential alternative uses of the future offshore energy platform that will connect the upcoming wind farm off Dunkirk.

In a period of 3 months, **65 “company” applications** and 167 “**student or academic**” applications were submitted in response to RTE and the CUD call for proposals, **marking a first in Europe for this type of call for proposals**. In addition to local and regional companies and start-ups, the call for proposals attracted a number of European and international candidates (Australia, Canada, etc.).

A **jury** of experts from the CUD, RTE and external partners (Frédéric Moncany De Saint Aignan, President of the Cluster Maritime Français, Thierry Dereux, representative of France Nature Environnement Hauts-de-France, Isabelle Kerkhof, Vice-President of Digital at the CUD, and Franck Merelle, Director of the Dunkirk urban planning agency) assessed the applications based on the relevance of the proposed project, its originality, technical feasibility and the overall quality of the presentation and the application.

#### 5 projects were awarded:

- **the joint RTE/CUD award for the best digital project: Géodunes**, Dunkirk start-up, **for its project GEOCEAN** to monitor the marine environment, specifically to measure ocean currents and the swell. This project is backed by 20,000 euros and an incubation in Dunkirk.
- **the RTE award for the best non-digital project: French companies Sofresid, PersEE and McPhy for their project HYBSEA** to produce green hydrogen offshore. RTE will fund a feasibility study.
- **two awards for student projects:**
  - **the Eye Five team**, comprised of **2 ISEP students**, **for their project CLEANWHALE** to collect waste using underwater drones. They will have the opportunity to visit a European construction site for an offshore electricity platform.
  - **the LG team**, comprised of **2 ESME Sudria students**, **for their algaculture project** to produce algae for primarily food and pharmaceutical uses. They will be invited to visit the RTE and discover its activities.
- The CUD and RTE also handed out **a special “Art and Energy” award to Point Triiiple** (Villeneuve-d'Ascq) for its original and unconventional **project VENTALION** which would transform physical data from the wind into a musical symphony.

The selected projects will be studied in partnership with RTE and/or the CUD for development on the Dunkirk offshore platform.

In addition, the President of RTE wanted to offer **other tangible avenues to the students**:

- **Cluster Maritime Français**, which brings together more than 400 maritime companies, is offering all the finalists a personalised interview to better qualify the feasibility of their offshore projects and to encourage networking.
- **The start-up “My Job Glasses”**, specialising in connecting young talent with opportunities, also agreed to welcome the winners to spend a day at the biggest campus of Station F in Paris.
- RTE also plans to offer internships to the winners or finalists with its teams to support and further develop their projects.

In light of the extremely positive results of this call for proposals, **RTE intends to launch a similar initiative for its upcoming offshore connection projects**, adapting it to meet the needs and goals of the specific territories.

As a reminder, on 6 February 2019, RTE and the CUD launched a call for proposals for the future maritime electrical platform connecting the offshore wind farm, to be completed off Dunkirk by 2025. RTE and the CUD hoped to look beyond the solely electrical dimension of this structure to make it a tool for value creation and innovation available to territories and various maritime users.

This challenge is part of the third call for proposals launched by the State to develop renewable marine energy in France. RTE will be in charge of the electrical connection of the national terrestrial electrical network, **including the construction, operation and maintenance of its first offshore electrical platform**.

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RTE, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité, is a utility company. Our fundamental mission is to ensure that all our customers have access to economic, safe and clean electrical power. RTE connects its customers through a tailored infrastructure and provides them with all the tools and services required to meet their needs, with a focus on cost efficiency, respect for the environment, and power supply security. To this end, RTE operates, maintains and develops the high and extra-high voltage network. It is responsible for ensuring the proper functioning and reliability of the power system. RTE delivers electricity from the suppliers (French and European) to consumers, whether they are electricity distributors or industrial customers connected directly to the transmission grid. 105,000 km of lines, ranging between 63,000 and 400,000 volts, and 50 cross-border lines connect the French network to 33 European countries, thus providing opportunities for power exchanges that are essential to the economic optimisation of the power system. RTE employs 8,500 people.

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Thanks to its over 40-km coastline and its strategic location at the heart of one of the most travelled straits in the world, the Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque benefits from an industrial port ecosystem that includes the biggest energy platform in Europe. Since its creation 50 years ago, industrial ecology has played a vital role in its development. Today, thanks to a collective ambition, the CUD is the only territory in Hauts-de-France to win in the first phase of the call for proposals for Territoires d'Innovation (i.e. Territoires d'Innovation de Grande Ambition). As a result, the CUD has entered the second phase of the call for proposals under the banner “Dunkirk, creative energy”. Backed by innovation and the cooperation of all its partners, the CUD asserts its ambition to invent the energy-industrial-port platform model of the future. The objective: to become a global leader in sustainable development and quality of life for its residents.