

HOLDIGAZ GROUP POSTS GOOD RESULTS FOR 2022–2023 IN A FRAUGHT ENERGY ENVIRONMENT

- *The past financial year, which ended on 31 March 2023, brought positive results against the backdrop of the energy crisis.*
- *An increased dividend will be proposed at the next annual general meeting.*

HOLDIGAZ SA remains committed to the energy transition and diversifying its income streams:

- *Biogas: building a fifth production site and feeding biogas into its distribution network.*
- *Solar energy and renewable heat: investing more in solar contracting and district heating in Bourgen-Lavaux.*
- *Energy retrofits in buildings: leveraging synergy effects between the Group's companies specialising in buildings and energy.*
- *Local investments: putting nearly half the Group's direct investment towards renewable-energy projects in French-speaking Switzerland.*

Vevey, 27 July 2023 – The HOLDIGAZ Group has posted positive results for the 2022/23 financial year against the backdrop of the energy crisis. Consolidated turnover reached CHF 315.2 million, an increase of 13.8% compared with the previous year. Operating income (EBITDA) rose sharply by 64.9% to CHF 69.7 million. Consolidated net profit followed the same trend, climbing 45.0% year on year to CHF 25.8 million. These outstanding results are attributable to positive business performance across the Group's areas of activity and to the earnings generated by its interests in projects in Switzerland and abroad. The Board of Directors will propose an increased dividend at the annual general meeting to be held in September.

Renewable energy

The Group continued its renewable energy activities in 2022/23 in the biogas and solar segments as well as with construction of a district heating network for Bourgen-Lavaux, thus reinforcing its commitment to the energy transition.

Biogas production reached 28.2 million kWh in the financial year under review (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) at the Ecorecyclage SA site in Lavigny as well as the Roche, Penthaz and Collombey-Muraz sites. This represents a year-on-year increase in production of 6.5%, most of which is attributable to Lavigny. A new biogas site was put into operation at the wastewater treatment plant in Ecublens in the canton of Fribourg at the end of April 2023, bringing the total number of biogas production facilities in HOLDIGAZ SA's network to five. This new site will enable the Group to feed more than 30 million kWh of renewable energy into the gas grid in 2023, enough to heat 2,000 average four-person households for a whole year. Thanks to these efforts, HOLDIGAZ SA is now the leading biogas producer in French-speaking Switzerland.

Agena SA's photovoltaic and thermal solar installations business put in an excellent performance in the period under review, growing turnover by 32% year on year and installing over 33,000 m² of solar panels.

In the solar contracting segment, HOLDIGAZ SA generated nearly 5.4 million kWh of electricity from renewable sources. This is 35% more than in the previous year and is equivalent to the average annual power consumption of around 1,400 households.

The Group also continued to invest in its district heating and electricity microgrid project in Bourg-en-Lavaux during the financial year, meaning that renewable energy in French-speaking Switzerland now accounts for 46.7% of its total direct investment.

In terms of international developments, HOLDIGAZ SA acquired a new stake in a renewable energy investment fund during the period under review to complement its various interests in extensive portfolios of solar and onshore and offshore wind farms.

Gas activities

Energiapro SA supplied 1.35 billion kWh of gas (including biogas produced at the Lavigny, Roche, Penthaz and Collombey-Muraz sites) during the financial year under review (01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023), 19.8% less than in the previous year. This decline was due mainly to the 14.5% fall in degree days year on year on account of milder temperatures, to the switching of dual-fuel customers to an alternative energy source (a preventive measure introduced by the Swiss government to secure gas supplies for heating during the winter) and to appeals made to consumers to save energy.

An unprecedented rise in prices on the international markets forced Energiapro SA to introduce two successive tariff increases during the financial year, specifically on 1 April and 1 November 2022.

Building technology

The Group's building companies, whose day-to-day activities serve the energy transition and see them provide services for refurbishing technical systems and carrying out energy retrofits, performed well in their various specialist areas. Despite a mixed economic environment in which their sales prices and margins came under pressure, these companies – Holdibat SA, Joseph Diémand SA, Brauchli SA, Roos Ventilation SA, Taxa SA and CoGen SA – enjoyed a favourable trend in their total turnover, which rose 10.3% to CHF 67.5 million (21.4% of consolidated operating income).

About HOLDIGAZ Group

The HOLDIGAZ Group comprises 18 companies and is a major actor in energy and building fields in Western Switzerland. Through its gas network, operated by the Compagnie Industrielle et Commerciale du Gaz SA, the Société du Gaz de la Plaine du Rhône SA and Cosvegaz SA, the HOLDIGAZ Group supplies 153 municipalities in the Cantons of Vaud, Valais and Fribourg. Since 2017, Energiapro SA operates all energy marketing activities (gas, biogas, solar energy). Corelltech SA, specialized mainly in gas, water and wastewater networks, contributes to the security of gas distribution.

The HOLDIGAZ Group's other subsidiaries operate in sectors with direct or indirect synergies with the gas business and provide solutions for the building and renewable energy sectors. Its specialized fields include plumbing (Joseph Diémand SA), heating (Brauchli SA and Taxa SA), ventilation & air conditioning (Roos Ventilation SA), cogeneration (CoGen SA) and general contracting in building technology (Holdibat SA). Solar energy (Agena SA) as well as organic waste valorisation for compost and biogas production (Ecorecyclage SA) complete the range of services provided by the Group.



Additionally, HOLDIGAZ SA is majority shareholder of Swiss Gas Invest SA, a company involved in the high pressure gas transport across Switzerland using the Transitgas SA network, in partnership with FluxSwiss Sarl.

HOLDIGAZ SA has a workforce of round 490 employees and employs 64 apprentices to foster the next generation of industry professionals.

Look under www.holdigaz.ch for more information

For any inquires:

Mr Philippe Petitpierre, President and Chief Executive

✉ philippe.petitpierre@holdigaz.ch

☎ +41 21 925 87 02