



PROVENCE PROMOTION

Interview with Luc L'Hostis

“Capénergies is attempting to create a regional balance between energy generation and consumption“

ITER has children ... such as the Capénergies cluster ... even before it was born! This is the result of a study carried out by the CEA and EDF on means to be implemented to multiply the economic impact of ITER and to put the PACA energy industry in a good position. Capenergies was labeled in July 2005 and would like to promote research and generation of energy that does not generate greenhouse gases, in perfect harmony with France's July 2005 energy orientation and programming law. Therefore, its first action was to federate all players in this field in the region, including Provence Promotion that is a key vector for its international development.

Luc L'Hostis, Vice-President of the Capenergies cluster, is Director of Regional Development within EDF, and emphasises the relevance of this cluster for which the energy, social and environmental challenge at the moment is crucial.



Luc L'Hostis

> Were there such mutual studies between CEA and EDF in the past?

Luc L'Hostis : Yes! And one of our first studies resulted in construction of the Energy and Environment City with the objective of becoming a demonstration site including sharing of infrastructures and knowledge in the energy field. The call for the "Competitiveness Cluster" project issued by the State enabled us to pass a new milestone by bringing together even more players and obtaining the Capenergies label based on energies that do not generate greenhouse effect gases; control of the energy demand including hydroelectric, solar, wind power, biomass-hydrogen, fission, fusion.

At the moment, the cluster is composed of more than 120 members, more than half of whom are industrialists, research laboratories and training organizations. More than 2 700 research workers are working in the PACA region in the field of energies that do not generate greenhouse effect gases.

> What are the main assets of Capenergies?

Luc L'Hostis :

- A wide variety of abundant natural resources present in PACA including sunshine, wind, hydroelectric (2nd region in France), biomass-hydrogen (3rd forest region in France);
- an ambitious energy policy in the region for control of energy demand and development of renewable energies. The Eco-Energy plan deployed since 2003 forms an economic development lever generating innovation;
- a dense fabric of small and medium sized companies and laboratories in the energy field;
- and obviously, the ITER international project installed in Cadarache, that is a wonderful springboard for our companies and laboratories.

> More specifically, what projects are ongoing?

Luc L'Hostis : 12 projects labeled by the cluster were subsidised by the ANR (National Research Agency) in 2005, worth 9.3 million Euros. 46 projects were labeled by the cluster in 2006, for a global investment of 60 million Euros. Many of them have already been presented to the different financing authorities (ANR, OSEO-ANVAR, Region, General Councils, Company competitiveness fund). They will provide Capenergies with a showcase. Some projects concentrate on input side research, others on the development of innovative products with fast marketing. As an illustration, the Valendis-HEC project that plans to install micro-turbines built into high pressure water conveyance pipes in order to generate electricity. This project was introduced by the Canal de Provence Company. .

Key figures for the Capenergies cluster :

- 7 fields: control of energy demand, hydraulic, solar, wind power, biomass-hydrogen, fission, fusion
- 58 labeled projects since 2005 worth 90 million €.
- 2 700 research workers
- 120 players in industry, research and training
- 20 000 direct and indirect jobs created in the region by 2010 – 2015



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> What will be the impact of all these projects?

Luc L'Hostis : After nine months, projects labeled by Capenergies will create about a hundred direct jobs while they are implemented in the 7 Capenergies fields. Globally, it is estimated that 20 000 new direct and indirect jobs will be created in the PACA region by 2010-2015, with complementary national and international outfalls.

Apart from this economic aspect, the ambition of this cluster is to contribute to accepting the major challenges of our century, such as energy and control of environmental and climate change impacts. Capenergies is attempting to build up a regional balance between energy generation and consumption; its projects reflect this determination; to find economic and cost effective solutions that create new jobs and do not release greenhouse effect gases.

> And internationally?

Luc L'Hostis : Capenergies is a cluster with a worldwide ambition. Energy is a challenge on the planetary scale. Energy company markets are also on the planetary scale. This is why we are now aiming our action in this direction. For example, consider our participation in the InterSolar Fair in Fribourg in partnership with Provence Promotion, which opens up world scale opportunities for us. Also with Provence Promotion, we are initiating this international movement and we are setting up specific development plans in partnership with key partners in the region (CRCI, CCIMP, CCI Nice Côte d'Azur, UBI France, MDER, MT, etc.), and obviously bearing in mind that our best business card is the projects that we have completed!