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Energypolis Campus

Green light for Sion's innovation park

The Energypolis Campus will soon have an innovation park in Sion. The Cantonal Parliament has decided to grant a credit of 25 million francs to create an innovation park in Valais. Two companies, Natron Energy, a Californian start-up, and H55, a spin-off of Solar Impulse, have already shown their interest in being part of the new innovation park. This new stage in the evolution of the Energypolis Campus will strengthen the transfer of technology to the economic fabric of Valais and will create jobs with high added value.

As a member of the Switzerland Innovation Park Network West EPFL, the Energypolis Campus continues to develop, positioning Switzerland and Valais as global leaders of innovation. Thanks to the favourable decision from Valais's parliament granting a credit of 25 million francs to the project, the campus's innovation park will be open for business from early 2022, forming a regional hub of EPFL's innovation park network.

The project aims to provide campus start-ups and research units at large companies with workspaces, facilities and scientific equipment, as well as access to an ecosystem of innovation. The innovation park will be operational from early 2022.

The credit of 25 million of francs will be granted by the fund for major infrastructure projects of the 21st century and will be used to finance the development of research facilities, technology platforms and technical installations on-site.

In the first stage, Valais's innovation park would welcome Natron Energy, a Californian start-up, and H55, a spin-off of Solar Impulse. Both companies work in the field of renewable energy research and share the campus's vision of the project. A second stage concerning start-ups and scale-ups will be the next focus.

Natron Energy develops new batteries which use electrodes made from Prussian blue, and is already collaborating closely with Lonza. The production and assembly site for this technology will open in Sion, and is expected to create between 25 and 42 jobs. The Canton of Valais will invest 20 million francs in equipment for the company, which has already raised 60 million to finance its activities. Natron Energy will also work closely with EPFL to optimise its technology and a collaboration with HES-SO Valais-Wallis will work on optimising industrial processes.

Currently at Sion airport and supported by The Ark Foundation, H55 is developing a new electric propulsion system to make air travel cleaner, safer, less noise polluting and more accessible. H55 is growing rapidly and expects to employ 50 people by 2021 and 100 by 2023. The Canton of Valais will provide up to five million francs in funding for the equipment needed to build prototypes, the required certification tests and the development and preparation of pilot production. The first deliveries of the electric propulsion system will begin in early 2022.



Natron Energy and H55 are currently negotiating the contracts for their move to the innovation park at the Energypolis Campus.

The Energypolis Campus provides an ecosystem of innovation, bringing together skills and knowledge from EPFL Valais Wallis, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, The Ark Foundation and many other contributors influential in the fields of energy, green chemistry, Alpine and polar environments and health. Together, these partners respond to today's major concerns, such as ageing populations, global warming, energy and mobility. The Energypolis Campus aims to transfer cutting-edge technology to the economic fabric of the region, as well as providing jobs with high added value.

Contact

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