

## €1.5M crowdfunding already achieved for the Béthune project

**Forbach, France, December 23, 2020 at 6 p.m.** – La Française de l'Énergie (Euronext: LFDE - ISIN: FR0013030152), leader in industrial ecology, innovates / diversifies its funding sources and launches a crowdfunding campaign on Lendosphere, the leading crowdfunding platform for energy transition projects in France. This fundraising, divided into two separate campaigns of € 2.25 million each, aims to raise a maximum of € 4.5 million for the Gazonor Béthune project. Over 760 investors participated so far for more than €1.5 million of committed capital. Entries are open until December 31 for the first campaign.

La Française de l'Énergie, through its subsidiary Gazonor Béthune, is finalizing this local, sustainable and virtuous project, with the installation of two cogeneration units that will enable abandoned mine methane to be used in the form of electricity, gas and heat. From beginning of January 2021 onwards, these two units, with a total capacity of 2.7 MW, will supply heat to the Béthune district heating network managed by Dalkia (EDF group), i.e. 3,700 housing units, a network that will be extended to nearly of 14 kilometers, providing heat to the equivalent of 6,500 homes.

Thanks to the energy of Gazonor Béthune cogenerations, more than 80% of the network's supply will come from this locally sourced energy. The VAT applied to heat will therefore be 5% instead of 20%; a saving that will be passed on to end user invoices. Indeed, this solution will make it possible to reduce the cost of MWh from € 100 to € 65 and will thus make a lasting contribution to reducing energy poverty in this region.

Through this innovative and participatory financing approach, La Française de l'Énergie confirms its commitment to maximise its positive impact on local communities by even offering citizens the possibility of participating in the greening of French energy.

**Link to the Lendosphere platform :** [www.lendosphere.com/bethune](http://www.lendosphere.com/bethune)

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### **About La Française de l'Énergie**

*La Française de l'Énergie is a Lorraine SME, leader in industrial ecology, specializing in producing the gas present directly in the coal and in the former coal mines of France and Belgium. Thanks to its recognised know-how in geology and engineering combined to its local positioning, La Française de l'Énergie supplies gas, green electricity and heat to regional players, replacing imported energy by energy*

local and cleaner energy. La Française de l'Energie is on a significant growth path and aims to become a major player in the energy sector in Europe. The company is labelled as a young innovative company by Bpifrance.

More information available on [www.francaisedelenergie.fr](http://www.francaisedelenergie.fr)

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