



PRESS RELEASE

Isabel Marey-Semper and Yves Rannou join the Board of Directors of Sweetch Energy to support its industrial and commercial development

Rennes, 28 April 2022 -

Today, Sweetch Energy – the renewable energy company specializing in osmotic energy¹ – has announced the appointment of two new directors, Isabel Marey-Semper and Yves Rannou, to support the industrial and commercial development of its INOD® technology. For the first time ever, this technology makes it possible to produce 100% renewable, permanent, and competitively priced electricity from osmotic energy on a large scale.

Recognised leaders consolidate operations at Sweetch Energy's Board of Directors

Isabel Marey-Semper and Yves Rannou are both recognised experts in the industrial innovation and energy sectors, having held senior positions in major companies and committed to fighting climate change.

Isabel Marey-Semper holds both a PhD and an MBA. She started her career as a strategy and finance consultant. She then served for 15 years in executive committee positions in major French companies including Saint Gobain, Stellantis and L'Oréal. Isabel brings with her extensive experience in strategy, research and innovation, finance, communication, public affairs, and scaling up highly innovative industrial projects. In 2019, she directed the working group on research partnerships and innovation for the draft law on research planning and actively contributed to France 2030, both large-scale projects launched by the French state to respond to major future challenges including the ecological transition and the emergence of the technological leaders of tomorrow. Formerly a member of the boards of Nokia and Rexel, Isabel Marey-Semper now sits on the boards of the American company APTAR and two foundations, IMAGINE (rare diseases in children) and INRIA (the Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology). She is also a Senior Advisor for the investment fund Jolt Capital.

Over the past 25 years, Yves Rannou has built a career helping develop renewable energies worldwide. After 18 years in various management positions at Alstom and GE, where he was President of Alstom Wind and CEO of Alstom Hydro China, Yves Rannou became President and CEO of GE Hydro. He then joined Senvion (a wind energy player) as CEO, leading its restructuring and sale to Siemens Gamesa. As a business angel, Yves Rannou is also a board member and senior advisor of French, European and North American cleantech and deeptech companies like Natel Energy, Green Praxis, Bloom Energy, Sanko Enerjje, Vulcain Engineering, and PA Consulting.

With these appointments included, the Board of Directors now consists of the following members:

- Isabel Marey-Semper
- Yves Rannou
- Bertrand Distinguin, representing the investment fund Go Capital

- Olivier Bordelanne, representing the Demeter investment fund
- Nicolas Heuzé, co-founder and managing director of Sweetch Energy
- Pascal Le Mélinaire, co-founder and chairman of Sweetch Energy

Sweetch Energy will also continue to receive support from Dominique Gaillard (the former head of Ardian, the European leader in alternative investment and ex-president of France Invest, the association of 400 private equity players in France), Fabio Ferrari (co-founder and former CEO of Symbio, a forerunner in hydrogen mobility, and CEO of aDryada), Alexandre Terrien (representative of the investment fund Future Positive Capital), Francois Duliege (co-founder of Sweetch, formerly of Galileo Partners) and Bruno Mottet (co-founder and chief scientific officer of Sweetch Energy).

Creating an industrial sector for osmotic energy in France and across the world

“Isabel and Yves each have a remarkable professional background and we are delighted make the most of their operational experience and in-depth knowledge of the energy transition ecosystem. Our team’s talent, combined with the diverse expertise of our renewed board, reinforces our ambition to create an industrial sector in osmotic energy in France and internationally, and become a recognised player in climate tech,” says Pascal Le Mélinaire, President and co-founder of Sweetch Energy.

For Nicolas Heuzé, CEO and co-founder: “These appointments come as we have just taken an important first step in industrialising of our INOD® technology, having an innovative partnership with CNR (Compagnie Nationale du Rhône) last February to install the first osmotic power plant for electricity production in France on the Rhone delta. Sweetch Energy now has everything it takes to become the company of reference for osmotic energy at a time when climate and energy issues (including the IPCC recommendations, European taxonomy, and the importance of energy sovereignty) have never been so critical.”

¹ About osmotic energy: an untapped source of permanent renewable electricity

Osmotic energy is generated by the difference in salinity when fresh river water and salty sea water meet. It has the advantage of not being affected by weather conditions and it can produce green electricity on a permanent basis. It is 100% natural and renewable and is massively available across the planet. Each year, nearly 30,000 TWh of osmotic energy – more than the world's electricity demand – is released from deltas and estuaries around the world. While the most optimistic projections see the share of current renewables being capped at 50% of global electricity production in 2050, using osmotic energy could increase this share to over 65%.

About INOD® technology developed by Sweetch Energy: a breakthrough technology in osmotic energy

For the past 75 years, researchers and industry specialists have been striving to find a membrane technology that can harvest osmotic energy and convert it into electricity in a cost-effective way. The INOD® technology developed by Sweetch Energy is based on a new generation of nanoscale membranes specifically designed to harness osmotic energy. Combined with proprietary electrode systems, these membranes combine high ion selectivity and high ion transport to achieve unmatched performance. Additionally, they are made from environmentally friendly bio-sourced materials.

About Sweetch Energy – www.sweetch.energy

Sweetch Energy was founded in 2015. With nearly 20 employees based in Rennes, France, Sweetch Energy is a player in the renewable energy space specialising in osmotic energy. Sweetch Energy is committed to a carbon neutral world. Its INOD® technology makes it possible to produce clean, competitively priced electricity from salt water, a permanent and abundant source of energy that remains untapped. Driven by a desire to push the frontiers of renewable energy, its multicultural, highly qualified team combines scientific expertise and industrial vision. Sweetch Energy is supported by many well-respected European and French institutions. Financially, it is backed by deeptech and cleantech investors (Go Capital, Demeter Ventures, Future Positive Capital) as well as by the French BPI and ADEME. It works closely with French research institutions, notably teams led by Professor Lydéric Bocquet (CNRS, ENS). Sweetch Energy has won the Mondial Innovation, I-Nov and I-Lab competitions and participated in the European Nanophlow consortium, founded by H2020 within the FET-Open program.

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ANNEX / BIOGRAPHIES

Isabel Marey-Semper

Isabel Marey-Semper, PhD/MBA started her professional career at Telesis in 1996, then joined Saint-Gobain in 2002 and became its Director of Planning and Strategy in 2004. In 2006, she joined the Thomson Group as Director of Operations for the Intellectual Property and Licensing Division. In 2007, she was appointed Director of Strategy, Research and Innovation at PSA Peugeot Citroën, and then Group Financial Director during the 2008 crisis. In 2010, Isabel Marey-Semper joined L'Oréal as Head of Advanced Research, before being appointed in 2015 as a member of the group's executive committee, in charge of communications, sustainable development and public affairs, and Managing Director of the L'Oréal Foundation. In 2018, she left L'Oréal to contribute to the emergence of new global leaders from France in the health and energy sectors. In 2019, she was appointed by the French government to lead the working group on partnership research and innovation, as part of the draft law on research programming. Isabel Marey-Semper also participated in France 2030, an investment plan launched in October 2021 by the French government to meet the major challenges ahead: supporting the ecological and energy transitions and nurturing the technological leaders of tomorrow. Isabel Marey-Semper was a member of the boards of Nokia (2009-2013) and Rexel (2014-2016). She is currently a member of the Board of Directors and the Governance Committee of APTAR (USA) and a member of the Boards of Directors of the IMAGINE and INRIA (Institut de recherche en sciences et technologies du numérique) Foundations since 2018.

Aged 54, Isabel Marey-Semper is an alumna of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) on the rue d'Ulm, has a PhD in neuropharmacology from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and an MBA from the Collège des Ingénieurs. In 2008, she was included in the Wall Street Journal's annual ranking of the 10 women to watch in Europe. She is an auditor of the 73rd session of the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale and a colonel in the Air Force and Space Reserve. By decree of 13 July 2021, Isabel was appointed to the rank of Knight in the National Order of Merit.

Yves Rannou

Yves Rannou has more than 25 years of experience in the renewable energy sector and has held several management positions through which he has carried out major operations in France and abroad. He joined GE/Alstom in 1997 and held various general management positions in the group's hydro, solar, geothermal, onshore and offshore wind activities in Thailand, France, Switzerland, China and Spain. In particular, he was Managing Director of GE Hydro Asia from 2011 to 2014, then Senior Vice President of Alstom Wind in Spain from 2014 to 2016 and President and Managing Director of GE Hydro from 2015 to 2018. In 2019, he became CEO and member of the board of Senvion (wind turbine sales and production). Since 2020, Yves Rannou has been the CEO and founder of Kentel Associates, a consulting firm in sustainable development and transformation. A business angel, Yves Rannou is also a board member and senior advisor to French, European and North American cleantech and deeptech companies (Natel Energy, Green Praxis, Bloom Energy, Sanko Enerjje, Vulcain Engineering, PA Consulting).

Aged 50, Yves Rannou is an electrical and mechanical engineer and a graduate of the Ecole Spéciale des Travaux Publics and the Sorbonne.