



## PRESS RELEASE

### RENEWABLE ENERGIES

#### **Climate-tech Sweetch Energy wins the 2023 Grand Prize of the Hello Tomorrow Global Challenge and confirms its capacity to build a global industrial sector for osmotic energy**

Rennes, France - March 16, 2023 - Sweetch Energy, a renewable energy company specializing in osmotic energy, won the 2023 Grand Prize of the Hello Tomorrow Global Challenge, the international deeptech contest for start-ups, organized by Hello Tomorrow since 2014. The jury, which included tier-one scientists, entrepreneurs, investors, and industrialists, chose Sweetch Energy amongst 4,000 deeptech start-ups from 115 countries.

This award further sheds light on the INOD® technology developed by Sweetch Energy. Applying the most recent breakthroughs in nanofluidic and biomaterials, the INOD® technology enables for the first time ever the large-scale generation of clean electricity using osmotic energy on an industrial scale. This next-generation renewable energy is naturally generated when fresh water from rivers meets sea water. Non-intermittent and massively available and in all deltas and estuaries, osmotic energy could eventually supply up to 15% of the world's electricity needs, avoiding 4 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.

Already supported by its partners EDF Hydro and CNR (Compagnie Nationale du Rhône), Sweetch Energy's ambition is to rapidly exploit the global potential of osmotic energy and to become the leader of this new industrial sector. This will require an investment of 5 billion dollars to deploy the first gigawatt of renewable electricity production capacity in the next few years.

For Nicolas Heuzé, co-founder and CEO of Sweetch Energy: *"To be rewarded amongst the best start-ups on the planet is a great pride for our team and partners. By shedding light on our technology and project, this award will enable us to broaden the ecosystem of scientists, industrials, investors we are creating around osmotic energy. We share the belief that this energy will inevitably become one of the pillars of the energy transition the planet so direly needs. "*

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**Osmotic energy** is generated by the difference in salinity between fresh water from rivers and sea water when they meet. It has the advantage of not being subject to weather conditions and produces renewable and decarbonated electricity. Massively available world-wide, nearly 30,000 TWh of osmotic energy - more than the world's electricity demand - are released each year from deltas and estuaries around the globe.

**Sweetch Energy's INOD® technology** 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. They are also manufactured with environmentally friendly bio-sourced materials.

### ***About Sweetch Energy***

*Founded in 2015 and based in Rennes with around 30 employees, Sweetch Energy is a renewable energy player specializing in osmotic energy, committed to a carbon neutral world. Its INOD® technology enables the production of clean and competitive electricity from salt water, a permanent and abundant source of energy that has not been exploited to date. Driven by a desire to push back the frontiers of renewable energy, its multicultural and highly qualified team combines scientific expertise and industrial vision. Sweetch Energy benefits from the support of multiple renowned European and French institutions. It is notably financially supported by industrial, deeptech and cleantech investors (EDF, CNR, Go Capital, Demeter Investment Managers, Future Positive Capital) as well as by BPI, Ademe and the European Innovation Council, and cooperates closely with French research institutions, notably with the teams of Professor Lydéric Bocquet (CNRS, ENS). Sweetch Energy has won the Mondial de Innovation, I-Nov and I-Lab competitions and participated in the European Nanophlow consortium founded by H2020 as part of the FET-Open program.*

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