



Press release | October 2021

## 45-8 ENERGY RAISES 4.9 MILLION EUROS IN SERIES A.

A year and half after its first round of financing of 1.3 million euros, 45-8 ENERGY, the French company exploring subsurface with the aim of producing helium and natural hydrogen in an eco-friendly and local way, has just completed its second round of financing, in Series A, of 4.9 million euros from 3 private and public partners: HELING, Bpifrance and TotalEnergies Développement Régional.

To do so, 45-8 ENERGY benefited from the support of Julie Chapuy, lawyer, Boris Ouarnier (Blue Omingmak) and the FIN4GOOD company, experts in fundraising and impact strategy.

### THE CHALLENGES OF THIS FUNDRAISING FOR 45-8 ENERGY

In a context of a climate emergency, it is becoming more necessary than ever to find eco-responsible solutions to ensure the resilience of our territories, particularly regarding the supply of strategic resources. With this new fundraising, 45-8 ENERGY is signing for the future and more precisely for the emergence of two European essential sectors for our industries – in a context of ecological transition: helium and natural hydrogen. This 4.9 million euros raised will allow 45-8 ENERGY to support its exploration and production activities for these two gases by strengthening its team, ensuring the successful deployment of its first production pilot and accelerating its international expansion.

### A FIRST HELIUM PRODUCTION PILOT IN FRANCE

45-8 ENERGY aims, through this first pilot project, to capture and valorise a helium-rich gas that escapes naturally at the surface via thermo-mineral springs and a major geological fault in the Nièvre region in France. To do so, a compact and eco-responsible helium recovery process is being developed with the “Laboratoire Réactions & Génie des Procédés” (LRGP), the Université de Lorraine, the CNRS and Naldeo Technologies and has also received support from the Ministry in charge of Industry as part of the “Recovery Plan – Strategic Sectors”.

This round of financing will make it possible to support its deployment and directly contribute to the emergence of the French and European sector of this rare and highly sought-after resource, from 2023.



## AN INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

Over the past four years, the 45-8 ENERGY's technical teams have worked to build a world-class Helium – Natural Hydrogen portfolio that currently includes 7 high potential areas. This fundraising will secure and accelerate the exploration of identified areas as the most promising ones; confirming the company's ambition to become the European leader of helium and natural hydrogen exploration and eco-friendly production.

## A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

The two 45-8 ENERGY's co-founders, Nicolas Péliissier and Benoît Hauville, aware of our planet's environmental challenges and keen to convert their geological expertise into an eco-committed action, started from two strong observations:

- ⇒ 100% of the helium consumed in Western Europe is imported from the United States, Qatar and Algeria at great energy costs. In 2018, this represented 31 million cubic meters, the second largest market in the world with nearly 19% of consumption.
- ⇒ 95% of the hydrogen consumed comes from the steam reforming of hydrocarbons and coal which, for 1t of hydrogen produced, emits 10t to 12t of CO<sub>2</sub>.

45-8 ENERGY was born out this alarming assessment, with the main goal of satisfying locally two market in needs and thus drastically reducing the ecological impact of these sectors. Convinced by the benefits of this approach to the current challenges of ecological transition, the Ministry of Ecological Transition granted 45-8 ENERGY the "Greentech Innovation" label in 2020.

## KEY FIGURES



## OBJECTIVES 2030



in



FIN4GOOD



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