



Press release | Juin 2021

## 45-8 ENERGY OBTAINS ITS FIRST EXPLORATION LICENCE, NAMED FONTS-BOUILLANTS, A UNIQUE PROJECT IN EUROPE!

Applied in October 2019, over an area of 251km<sup>2</sup> of the Nièvre department (France) and for an initial 5 years period, the exploration licence for helium, carbon dioxide and possible associated resources, named Fonts-Bouillants, has been granted to 45-8 ENERGY by the French Ministry of Mines, after a thorough investigation process involving a period of call for competition and public consultation.

This exploration licence officially allows us to carry out our exploratory program aiming to characterize the helium and carbon dioxide natural seeps occurring along the Saint-Parize fault. A seismic 2D and 3D survey will be carried out this summer followed in September by a well test and a shallow borehole drilling campaign. If the results are promising, 45-8 ENERGY plans to implement rapidly a pilot production unit by 2023, to demonstrate the technical and economic viability of such eco-responsible project.

The PROMET-Hé project was acknowledged by the French Ministry in charge of Industry and BPI France which have selected the project as part of the call for projects "Recovery plan for industry - Strategic sectors" allocating a grant of 1.6 million euros. A pioneering approach in Europe which enables the reconciliation between a small scale industrial project and respect for the environment in regard to the production of strategic resources essential to our everyday life.



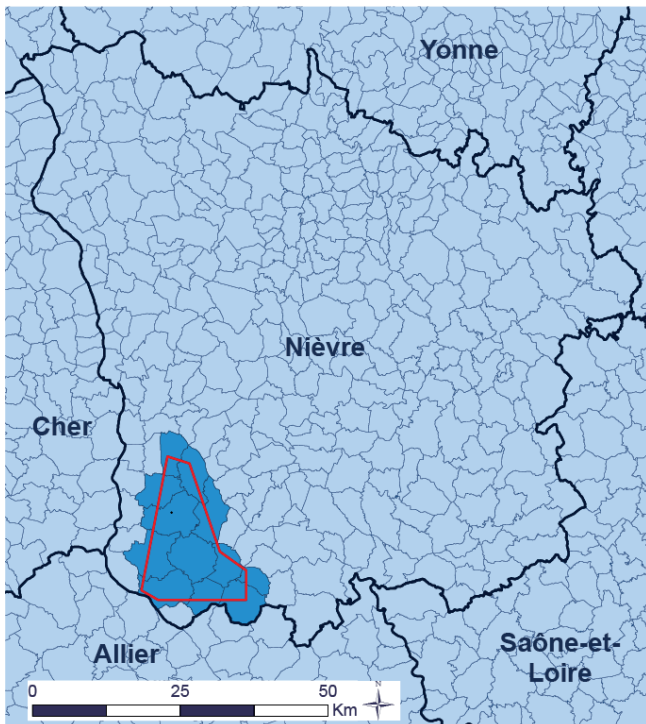
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To support the realisation of this project but also to expend company global activity, 45-8 ENERGY is launching a series A fundraising in June 2021.



The Fonts-Bouillants project has been labeled "Greentech Innovation" by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition, reflecting the contribution of our activity to the current environmental challenges.



Opposite the map locating the Fonts-Bouillants exploration licence, spread over 12 municipalities:

- Azy-le-Vif ;
- Chantenay-Saint-Imbert ;
- Chevenon ;
- Dornes ;
- Luthenay-Uxeloup ;
- Magny-Cours ;
- Neuville-les-Decize ;
- Saint-Parize-en-Viry ;
- Saint-Parize-le-Châtel ;
- Saint-Pierre-le-Moûtier ;
- Sermoise-sur-Loire ;
- Toury-sur-Jour.

## WHAT IS HELIUM?

Helium is a natural resource present in the subsurface and, to date, exclusively imported into Western Europe at high energy costs. Its unique characteristics (inert, light, non-toxic, high thermal conductivity, odorless, low viscous...) make it essential to multiple crucial industries like medical (MRI), electronics (semiconductors, fiber optics, LCD screens...) or aeronautics and space.

## ABOUT 45-8 ENERGY

The two main co-founders of 45-8 ENERGY, Nicolas PELISSIER and Benoît HAUVILLE, aware of the environmental issues of our planet and willing to apply their geological expertise into an eco-committed action, started from a strong point: 100% of the helium consumed in Western Europe is imported from the USA, Qatar and Algeria at high energy costs. In 2018, this represented 31 million cubic meters, the second largest market in the world with almost 19% of consumption.

From this alarming assessment was born 45-8 ENERGY, in 2017, based in Metz (France) and dedicated to an eco-responsible exploration and production of helium, valued in short supply chain. The innovative approach of 45-8 ENERGY aims to value jointly resources that can be associated with helium in certain geological contexts such as natural hydrogen or carbon dioxide in the case of the Fonts-Bouillants project.



**MORE INFORMATION:**

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