

45-8 ENERGY REPORTS A NEW HELIUM DISCOVERY ON ITS FONTS-BOUILLANTS EXPLORATION LICENSE (FRANCE)

A deep drilling campaign reaffirms France's helium potential.

45-8 ENERGY announces the successful results of its deep drilling campaign conducted between April and September 2025 on its Font-Bouillants exploration license (Nièvre, France). These operations identified helium and nitrogen-rich gas-bearing intervals at depths up to approximately 1,500 meters.

HELIUM AND NITROGEN-RICH DEEP FORMATIONS IDENTIFIED: CONFIRMED INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

As part of its exploration program, 45-8 ENERGY conducted in 2025 a deep drilling campaign aiming at identifying new helium resources at depths greater than those encountered during previous campaigns.

These operations are a direct continuation of previous discoveries at shallower depths, currently being produced through a pilot production unit commissioned in September 2024.

Geophysical datasets acquired across the license had highlighted the potential of deeper geological formations, likely to host gas accumulations with higher helium and nitrogen concentrations. This interpretation guided the decision to drill to greater depths, and the results fully validate this geological model.

Several stratigraphic intervals exhibited strong helium shows while drilling, together with characteristic free-gas signatures on wireline logs. Subsequent well tests confirmed:

- the presence of free gas accumulations containing high helium concentrations, consistent with pre-drill expectations.
- the ability of the reservoirs to flow naturally to surface, with flow rates compatible with industrial-scale production.

Pressure build-up monitoring conducted over several months demonstrates a significant lateral extension of the gas accumulation beyond the currently tested area. As the basement was not yet reached, additional exploration upside remains, with the potential for additional gas-bearing intervals below the identified horizons.

In addition, the achievement of such results was made possible thanks to the deployment of a proprietary continuous gas monitoring system during drilling and testing, allowing real-time measurement of helium and natural hydrogen concentrations on site — a capability that remains largely unprecedented in the strategic gas exploration sector.

A DECISIVE STEP TOWARD THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE

This milestone marks a decisive step for the project, which is now entering an operational development phase. In particular, 45-8 ENERGY plans to:

- submit a mining concession application to the mining authority in summer 2026;
- launch detailed engineering studies to design the required infrastructure ahead of a final investment decision (FID).

This discovery comes at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, fragile supply chains, and rapidly growing demand for helium across strategic industrial sectors, including healthcare, semiconductors, defense, artificial intelligence, and aerospace. As such, it represents a key step toward the emergence of a sovereign and local helium resource, serving French and European industrial needs.

DETAILED TECHNICAL DATA

- **Fonts-Bouillants exploration license:** 251 km² - Nièvre (France)
- **Operator:** 45-8 Fonts-Bouillants, a 100% subsidiary of 45-8 ENERGY
- **Drilling depth:** 1,465 meters (maximum depth reached); Producing intervals located between 900 meters and 1,250 meters
- **Well testing:** conducted in cemented and perforated casing
 - Measured flow rate: up to 53,000 Nm³/day (constrained by equipment)
 - Estimated potential: >70 000 Nm³/day
 - No water production
- **Measured helium concentration:** 0.31% – 0.35% (*Analyses performed by 45-8 ENERGY and validated by an independent external laboratory*)
- **Technical partners:**
 - SMP Energies (drilling rig)
 - Elyteq (mud logging)
 - Gexplore / PetroLS / Weatherford (wireline logging, perforation)
 - Well Service Group (well testing)
 - Smart Seismic Solutions (3D seismic reflection)



View of the helium pilot production unit located in the French Nièvre department

ABOUT 45-8 ENERGY

45-8 ENERGY, an Ad Terra company, is a pioneering European player in the short-cycle supply chain of strategic industrial gases, including helium and natural hydrogen, producing these critical resources as close as possible to consumption areas to reduce imports and carbon footprint.

Active across the entire helium value chain, from exploration and production to distribution and recycling, the company also developed RECYCL'He, the first helium recovery and recycling service in Europe. In natural hydrogen, 45-8 ENERGY combines geosciences expertise with operational innovation to advance the understanding and future production of this low-carbon resource.

Present in France, Germany, the Balkans, and the United States, 45-8 ENERGY launched the first helium production in France and Western Europe (Nièvre) in 2024, with additional projects underway to strengthen European sovereignty over strategic resources.

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