



## PRESS RELEASE

# Evergaz and Meridiam strengthen their partnership to invest in biogas in Europe

## Evergaz reinforces its capital

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**French and European biogas specialist, Evergaz, strengthens its capital and infrastructure platform with Meridiam Transition, a fund dedicated to the ecological transition in European infrastructures. This transaction will enhance Evergaz's development and investment capacity, as they intend to own and operate, in partnership with territorial stakeholders (farmers, public authorities, industrial companies, etc.), thirty biogas plants in Europe by 2020.**

French and European biogas specialist Evergaz strengthens its capital and infrastructure platform with Meridiam Transition, a fund dedicated to the ecological transition in European infrastructures. Meridiam, a leader in the investment in and long-term management of infrastructure projects, with €6.2 billion of assets under management, will ultimately invest nearly €30 million to support Evergaz's ambitious development policy and finance projects developed by Evergaz in France and Europe, via an investment firm jointly owned with Meridiam.

This partnership is consistent with the cooperation between Evergaz and Meridiam, initiated in Germany with the joint ownership of anaerobic digestion projects since February 2017.

Biogas is at the very heart of energy and ecological transition. As an organic waste treatment solution, biogas production by anaerobic digestion also produces renewable energy – electricity and heat, biomethane fed into gas networks, or bioNGV (fuel gas) – and a natural fertiliser with recognised agronomic properties, substitutable for chemical fertilisers. Underdeveloped in France – 600 biogas plants only, compared with 9,000 in Germany – the anaerobic digestion sector is one of the French government's priorities. A working group has been formed, led by Sébastien Lecornu, Secretary of State for the Minister of Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and incentives aimed at developing biogas on French territory have been announced on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Evergaz is fully in line with the dynamic of the sector in France and Europe, and leverages its unique expertise, gained with feedback from the operation of its anaerobic digestion units. With 7 existing biogas plants in France, Germany and Belgium, Evergaz is targeting a portfolio of 30 biogas plants in Europe by 2020, to achieve an objective of 100 million Nm<sup>3</sup> annual biomethane energy production, 50MWel. installed capacity and the treatment of 1 million metric tons of waste per year.

*“Building on the success of our partnership on German acquisitions, our objective was to strengthen our ties and make Meridiam one of Evergaz's major shareholders, alongside the management team and our long-term shareholder AQUA. We chose a trusted shareholder, who shares the long-term vision*

of our business and our principles of action, notably the partnership with territorial stakeholders”, state Alain Planchot and Frédéric Flipo, respectively Evergaz’s CEO and Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

*“We are delighted to support Evergaz’s ambition to become a European leader in biogas and to co-invest with them in high-impact projects which are often difficult for investors to gain access to, because of their size. Biogas is a future-oriented sector which fully illustrates the interdependent relationships between rural and urban territories, and the virtuous logic of the circular economy. This partnership reflects Meridiam’s flexible approach to addressing the transition challenge”. Julien Touati, Meridiam’s Partner and Development Director.*

This alliance follows the agreement entered into at the end of February with a new Evergaz shareholder, SICAE-OISE, to create a company dedicated to the joint development of anaerobic digestion units in the Oise, Somme and Aisne departments, aimed at raising €20 million investment over 5 years.

With these two transactions, Evergaz and its partners have established a budget of €50 million for the development of biogas, one of the government’s priorities announced in the energy transition law. GRDF intends to raise the share of gas from renewable origin in the overall gas consumption to 30% by 2030.

Evergaz’s shareholders are committed to pursuing the development of biogas to benefit the territories, by providing solutions to local concerns and issues.

#### ABOUT EVERGAZ

As an integrated operator specialising in biogas production and usage development, Evergaz develops, owns and operates a portfolio of biogas production plants. Created in 2008 as Holding Verte under the initiative of AQUA, investor-accelerator in the environment and energy sector, Evergaz supports and brings together territorial stakeholders - farmers, industrial companies and public authorities - to provide a sustainable organic waste management and treatment solution while producing green energy as well as a natural fertiliser.

Committed to developing the French biogas industry, Evergaz is a founding member of Biogaz Vallée® and France Biométhane. Evergaz is run by Alain Planchot, CEO, and Frédéric Flipo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and co-founder. Evergaz is an independent company, majority owned by its management team, AQUA and Meridiam.

Find out more on: [www.evergaz.com](http://www.evergaz.com)

#### ABOUT MERIDIAM

Created in 2005 by Thierry Déau, Meridiam is an independent investment firm specialising in the development, financing and management of long-term, sustainable public infrastructure projects. Its business model is underpinned by the belief that the alignment of interests between the public and the private sector can provide key solutions to the needs of the community. With offices in Paris, New York, Toronto, Luxembourg, Istanbul, Vienna, Addis Ababa and Dakar, Meridiam manages assets worth €6 billion and has more than

60 projects under development, construction or operation to date.

Find out more on: [www.meridiam.com](http://www.meridiam.com)

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