



# Côte d'Azur, setting the pace in sustainable development

The Côte d'Azur concept was invented in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century on the strength of majestic landscapes and exceptional botanical collections. Today, the region wants to preserve the natural harmony of the scenery, while bolstering international economic development.

The Plaine du Var project is the first large-scale national interest project in France in the area of sustainable development and reflects the region's good stewardship policies.

The Côte d'Azur is also a major contributor to international programs and projects in science and industry, such as GMES and ITER, through which it plays a pioneering role in sustainable development.



## WHY CHOOSE CÔTE D'AZUR ?

Energy conservation, preservation of nature and water resources, sustainable urban development and efficient waste management are among the main concerns of the national institutes, local organizations and businesses operating on the Côte d'Azur.

With hundreds of experts employed by institutions ranging from start-ups to international corporations and major private and public research labs, the Côte d'Azur enjoys tremendous R&D potential in a variety of fields, from renewable energies, to optimisation of national resources like biomass and solar energy, new technologies applied to construction and management and prevention of natural hazards.

### - SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES IN THE PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR REGION :

- 1<sup>st</sup> region in France for solar radiation
- 2<sup>nd</sup> region for hydro resources
- 3<sup>rd</sup> region for wind power and biomass
- ITER, the global research program on nuclear fusion

### - LEADERS IN A DYNAMIC REGION

Major companies, like EDF R&D, Veolia Energy, Schneider Electric, EDM and IMRA Europe, have chosen the region, often to develop their R&D teams.

Many of these companies are driving new innovative research in areas related to sustainable development, like MDInternational, which has invented a car fuelled by compressed air.

Several SMEs are contributing to the growth of innovative activities related to sustainable development. Examples include MDI International, inventor of the compressed air engine vehicle, and Cristopia, the designer of unique technology for thermal energy storage systems.



## Companies:

### - CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH POTENTIAL

- ▶ **Ecole des Mines de Paris**
- ▶ **CSTB** the scientific and technical centre for the building industry
- ▶ **CEP** the centre for energy and processes
- ▶ **LEML** the Nice marine environment lab
- ▶ **CEMEF** the materials processing centre
- ▶ **INRIA Sophia Antipolis** the National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control
- ▶ **Laboratoire Océanographique de Villefranche sur mer**
- ▶ **UNSA** University of Nice Sophia Antipolis

### Supported by a vibrant network of institutions and non-profit organisations, such as:

ADEME, the French environment and energy management agency, AGORA energy, Enerplan, the International Water Institute, the Blue Plan, the Mediterranean Energy Observatory, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

### - SPECIALISED HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES FEEDING A RESERVOIR OF TALENTS

The Côte d'Azur not only attracts but trains scientists. World-class institutions of higher learning notably include the Ecole Supérieure des Mines de Paris, the Eurecom Institute, the Polytech group and the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis. There are five professional masters degrees dedicated to the environment and sustainable development.

### 4 COMPETITIVENESS CLUSTERS SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Innovation in areas such as Earth observation, natural risk prevention, as well as management of national

resources and energy is sustained by the following regional competitiveness clusters:



### THE CÔTE D'AZUR IS FULLY COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**OIN – Plaine du Var:** The Plaine du Var valley in Nice spanning 10,000 hectares is poised to become a **global model in sustainable urban planning** and has received the "national interest project" label. Dubbed the "Eco Valley", the Plaine du Var site will be particularly attractive to companies and research centres that focus on technologies linked to sustainable development and management.

**The Eco-Energy Plan** is a program for the management of electricity demand and the development of renewable energies. It was developed in the east of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region by institutional players, with the help of ADEME, the French environment and energy management agency.

**Local government subsidies:** To promote the use of renewable energies, the General Council pays for 50% of the cost of approved solar equipment or referenced wood or geothermal facilities. This subsidy is available in addition to those granted by the State and by the regional authorities. Altogether, renewable energy facilities may be subsidized by up to 80%.

- ACCENTURE TECHNOLOGY LABS
- ACRI
- ALPHEIS
- AMC – ETEC
- ARECO
- AUGIER
- AURINCO
- AXUN
- BAYER CROPSCIENCE
- CEPIM
- CETE Méditerranée
- CRISTOPIA
- CHROMAGEM
- COFATECH SERVICES
- CRYSTAL
- DESSALATOR
- EDM – ELECTRICITE DE MARSEILLE
- ELYO
- EMM
- EOLTEC
- ERAMM
- GENIMAR
- GEOMEDITERRANEE
- HITACHI EUROPE
- HEM – HYDRO ELECTRIQUE MARINE
- IBM La Gaude
- ILOG
- IMRA Europe
- LEGRAND SA
- LINDE GAS
- LUMILOG
- LUMIWAY
- MALVERN INSTRUMENT
- METTLE
- NEODITEL
- MDI INTERNATIONAL
- PLANITEC
- POLYIMAGE
- REUS
- SCHNEIDER ELECTRICS
- SIGMA CONSULTANT
- SITA SUD
- SODITECH
- SOLTRACE
- SONITHERM
- SPACEYES
- SUNMASTER
- TEP
- TRANSENERGIE MEDITERRANEE
- VEOLIA ENERGIE
- VU LOG
- WIFI France