

## Press release

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### **Business France and RTE partnership agreement: Access to the electricity network, key to increasing the France's economic attractiveness**

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, Laurent Saint-Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Business France, and Xavier Piechaczyk, Chairman of the RTE Executive Board, signed a partnership agreement to strengthen joint mobilization in the service of green re-industrialization, the decarbonization of industry involving accelerated electrification. RTE is joining Team France Invest, launched in 2021, to better support foreign investors by bringing together all public stakeholders (Business France, government departments and operators, regional governments, economic development agencies, etc.). This in-depth collaboration is part of the rise of Team France Invest with the entry of new stakeholders, such as the Banque des Territoires and the Grands Ports Maritimes.

This strategic partnership formalizes the collaboration that has existed between RTE and Business France, for several years, to facilitate the establishment of new industrial prospects in the region by anticipating their electricity supply needs. Business France and RTE thereby promote the economic attractiveness of France, via its infrastructure, and the provision of sites suitable for hosting key industrial projects.

By combining their respective expertise and knowledge concerning, on the one hand, the electricity needs of foreign investors (required electrical power, volumes and consumption profile) and, on the other hand, the capacity to accommodate new consumption needs on the electricity transmission network, this strategic partnership should make it easier to identify sites suitable for welcoming electro-intensive industrialists to France and to anticipate new investments.

This partnership reflects the importance given to the quality of the electricity network and access to carbon-free electricity (nuclear and renewable energies) in the location choices of industrial investors.

These are differentiating criteria for the economic attractiveness and competitiveness of the nation, in particular for the green technology sector (electric vehicle batteries, etc.), major industries that require decarbonization (chemical, agrochemicals, etc.) or data centers. Recent success stories reflect the realization of this collaboration.

In 2023, 1,815 foreign investment decisions were recorded, according to the Annual Report from Business France. The industry and construction sectors accounted for 48% of foreign investments and 43% of jobs generated.

**Laurent Saint-Martin**, Chief Executive Officer at Business France, said: "For foreign businesses, access to competitive, carbon-free electricity is a determining factor in France's economic attractiveness. This partnership between Business France and RTE will fast-track our ability to quickly identify locations suitable for major strategic projects, in line with the 'France 2030'".

objectives and promoting the transition to a zero-carbon economy. Together, we're working towards a greener and more competitive industry, one that matches the environmental and economic aspirations of our country."

**Xavier Piechaczyk**, Chairman of the RTE Management Board, said: "Decarbonizing industry and attracting new industrial investors will require increased use of electricity, replacing gas and oil in particular. Now more than ever, the French electricity transmission network is a factor in economic attractiveness for businesses. Through this strategic partnership, RTE and Business France are mobilizing and working together to support the re-industrialization of France, by strengthening its attractiveness and competitiveness."

RTE maintains and develops an electricity transmission network of more than 107,000 km of high and very high voltage lines, which positions itself as a vehicle of France's economic attractiveness. The next strategic plan for the network, by 2040, will identify areas for renewal and development of the transport network, which are essential to maintain and increase the attractiveness of France for manufacturers.

By joining Team France Invest, RTE will also continue to raise awareness, among those involved in promoting the economic attractiveness of France, regarding the challenges of network development and the decarbonization of industry to better guide industrial project leaders.

### **About RTE**

RTE, the operator of the French electricity transmission network, carries out a public service mission: guaranteeing the supply of electricity at all times and with the same quality of service across the country, thanks to the mobilization of its 9,500 employees. RTE manages electricity flows and the balance between production and consumption in real time. RTE maintains and develops the high and very high voltage network (from 63,000 to 400,000 volts), which includes nearly 100,000 km (62,000 miles) of overhead lines, 7,000 km (4,350 miles) of underground lines, 2,900 electrical substations in operation or co-operation and around fifty cross-border lines. The French network, which is the largest in Europe, has 37 interconnections with its neighboring countries. As a neutral and independent industrial operator of the energy transition, RTE optimizes and transforms its network to connect electricity production facilities, regardless of future energy choices. RTE, through its expertise and reports, illuminates the choices of public authorities.

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### **About Business France**

Business France is the national agency supporting the international development of the French economy, responsible for fostering export growth by French businesses, as well as promoting and facilitating international investment in France.

It promotes France's companies, business image and nationwide attractiveness as an investment location, and also runs the VIE international internship program.

Business France has more than 1,400 personnel, both in France and in 55 countries throughout the world, who work with a network of partners.

Since January 2019, as part of the reform of the state support system for exports, Business France has given private-sector partners responsibility for supporting French SMEs and mid-size companies in the following markets: Belgium, Hungary, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines and Singapore.

For further information, please visit: [www.businessfrance.fr](http://www.businessfrance.fr) [@businessfrance](https://twitter.com/businessfrance)

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