

Press Release  
dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Transforming the Loire Estuary Regional Community into a Low-Carbon Energy Hub

The Loire Estuary Regional Community has just been designated as the successful tenderer following the call for proposals by the French National Agency for Energy Transition (ADEME) for a low-carbon industrial activity zone (ZIBaC) within the framework of the "France 2030" Programme. The consortium comprising AILE, the Loire Estuary Association of Industrial Firms, of which Arcelormittal, Cargill, EDF, Elengy, Engie, Eqiom, TotalEnergies, and Yara are all members, Saint Nazaire Urban Area District Authority, Estuaire et Sillon Community District Authority, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port, and Pays de la Loire Regional Authority, is proposing some thirty concrete actions to speed up the decarbonization and energy transition of this industrial area. The ZIBaC label will make it possible to secure funding to prepare and to ramp up the deployment of those actions.

A common ambition and roadmap have been elaborated, with the threefold objective of achieving carbon neutrality in the port area by 2050, of building industrial resilience in the face of the anticipated consequences of climate change, and of encouraging the emergence of new sectors supporting energy transition.

### Towards a Low-Carbon Energy Hub

The action programme representing an investment amounting to 8.2 million euros over 2 years, 4.1 million euros of which are to be provided by ADEME, aims to accelerate the transformation of this industrial and port activity zone employing 28 500 people into a massive low-carbon energy hub, thanks to the development of infrastructures making the connection between low-carbon energy producers and the emerging and future needs of France as a whole, involving notably:

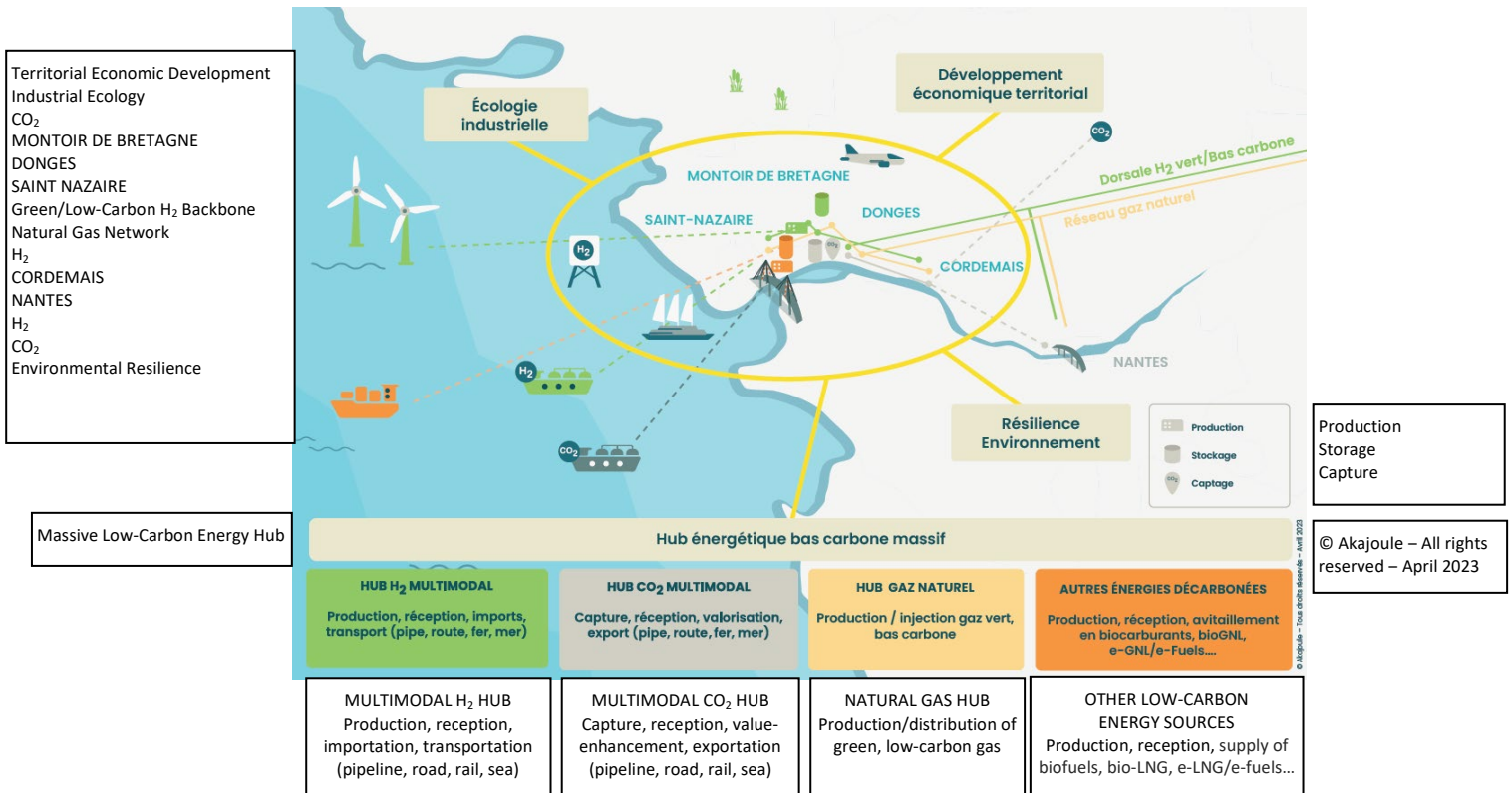
- a multimodal hydrogen hub permitting the production, importation and transportation of low-carbon hydrogen;
- a multimodal CO<sub>2</sub> hub enabling the capture, reception, value-enhancement and exportation of industrial CO<sub>2</sub>;
- a natural gas hub for the production and distribution of green/low-carbon gas;
- a centre of operations dedicated to other low-carbon energy sources and permitting the production and supply of biofuels, bio-LNG...

The other areas of focus are those themes relating to industrial ecology (the establishment of local loops for electrical power produced from renewable energy sources, the installation of a heating network, the development of the biomass, and the decarbonization of industrial processes and port throughput) and to environmental resilience: how best to adapt to climate change and to collectively improve water management.

This initiative serves to provide support for the decarbonization projects of industrial firms that have committed to a deliberate trajectory to attain net zero by 2050, by relying on synergies between Regional Community players and by strengthening the economic appeal of the entire area.

Press Release  
dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Established by the five founding partners, ADELE (the Association for the Decarbonization of the Loire Estuary) will drive this collective dynamic to decarbonize the Regional Community, which has already demonstrated its ability to reinvent itself.



### Loire Estuary, a Community of Industries

Possessing the leading port on France's Atlantic Seaboard (30 MT of cargo handled per year), a location close to offshore wind energy fields (first 480 MW offshore wind farm, first floating wind turbine, 20 GW of potential), and being open directly to international markets, the Loire Estuary Regional Community is characterized by a major energy hub that provides 10 % of the nation's energy supplies, an industrial base for manufacturing and technology bringing together several worldwide leaders (28 500 jobs, 500 businesses), "Community of Industries" recognition since 2018, and a vital, firmly rooted public-sector – private-sector partnership DNA. 5.9 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted per year in the Regional Community, over 85 % of which by Loire Estuary ZIBaC project participants.

### The ZIBaC Initiative

In the spring of 2022, the French National Agency for Energy Transition (ADEME) issued the call for proposals for a low-carbon industrial activity zone (ZIBaC). Through this initiative, Central Government is seeking to support industrial communities in their process of ecological and energy transformation, and to speed up the decarbonization of France's main industrial regions, so as to boost competitiveness and appeal with a view to supporting economic recovery.