

Water France

## communiqué de presse

06 October 2015

### Creation of first SemOp in France

**The town of Dole and SUEZ have adopted an innovative approach, opting for a new Water and Sanitation management mode**

**On 6 October, MP and Mayor of Dole Jean-Marie Sermier and Didier Demongeot, Deputy CEO of SUEZ responsible for Water activities in France, signed the agreement creating “Doléa Eau” and “Doléa Assainissement”, the first two *semi-public companies with a single purpose* (Société d'Economie Mixte à Opération Unique or SemOp) in France. This development is part of the €67 million contracts won by SUEZ to deliver Water and Sanitation services.**

Doléa will commence its activities on 01 January 2016 and its purpose will be to distribute drinking water and treat wastewater for the 25,000 residents of the town of Dole.

Jean-Marie Sermier, MP and Mayor of Dole, declares *"I am very happy that the first SemOp in France has been established in Dole. Doléa will ensure that local elected representatives are more closely involved in the primordial matters of water supply and sanitation,"* he adds, *"with the support and professionalism of a Group such as SUEZ."*

Doléa's capital of 980,000 EUR will be 49% owned by the town of Dole and 51% by the SUEZ Group.



### Original governance for greater transparency

SemOp undertakings are created for a specific purpose and a fixed term. They open the way to a new mode of shared management combining a local authority and a private operator, selected through a tender procedure. The authority is involved in each decision concerning the SemOp and has an equal vote with the operator on the actions to implement.

Membership of the Board of Directors of Doléa is shared equally between the town of Dole authorities and SUEZ. Each has three members. The Board is chaired by Jean-Marie Sermier, MP and Mayor of Dole, the company CEO is SUEZ employee Franck Gagnard.



### **Doléa Board :**

Chairman of the Board: Jean-Marie Sermier

Members:

Town of Dole - Philippe Jaboviste, Deputy Mayor and Catherine Nonnotte-Bouton, Town Councillor.

SUEZ - Marc Bonnieux, Regional Director, Jean-Pierre Boyer, Chief Commercial Officer, Pascal Grenier, Deputy CFO for SUEZ.

### **A long-term vision for water and sanitation management**

Doléa was created to operate for a 13-year term, enabling the partners to work together on a long term project to serve Dole residents.

*"The winding-up date of Doléa seems a long time away, but 2028 will be here tomorrow" comments Didier Demongeot, "so we jointly decided to set a sustained rhythm of innovative projects to modernise the water and sanitation services provided and protect the environment." So starting in 2016, the 14 employees of Doléa will be active on significant projects:*

- Replacement of 600 water pipe connections and 12 km of distribution pipes.
- Protection of the biodiversity of the Doubs river through modernisation work on the wastewater network.
- Optimisation of flows on the wastewater network to reduce the amount of clean water discharged on the network.

New technologies such as remote metering will also be installed in Dole. Indeed, before the end of 2017, 12,000 new remotely-read meters will be installed in the town.

In parallel, Dole will equip its water management services with the Aquadvanced technology. This system offers real-time vision of the distribution network and enables fast identification of leaks. Water losses are reduced and the quality of service to residents vastly improved.

## Doléa in figures

**01 July 2014:** enactment of the law authorising the creation of SemOp semi-public entities

**24 September 2015:** Decision of Municipal Council

**06 October 2015:** creation of Doléa Eau and Doléa Assainissement, the first SemOp in France

**01 January 2016:** Commencement of Doléa activities

**2028:** Winding-up date of Doléa

**14:** employees working at Doléa

**€5,000,000:** investment on the drinking water network

**€8,000 000:** investment on the wastewater network

**€980,000:** Doléa capital

### Press contacts:

**Town of Dole:** Xavier Ducordeaux - +33 (0)3 84 79 78 49 - [xavier.ducordeaux@grand-dole.fr](mailto:xavier.ducordeaux@grand-dole.fr)

**Eau France** - Clémentine Duclert - +33 (0)3 80 27 39 13 [clementine.duclert@lyonnaise-des-eaux.fr](mailto:clementine.duclert@lyonnaise-des-eaux.fr)

**SUEZ** – Isabelle Herrier Naufle - +33 (0)1 58 81 55 62 - [isabelle.naufle@suez-env.com](mailto:isabelle.naufle@suez-env.com)



**Jean-Marie Sermier, MP and Mayor of Dole (left on the pictures) and Didier Demongeot, deputy CEO of SUEZ responsible for Water activities in France (right on the picture), signed the agreement creating “Doléa Eau” and “Doléa Assainissement”, the first two semi-public companies with a single purpose (Société d’Economie Mixte à Opération Unique or SemOp) in France.**

*Picture available in the [newsroom](#)*



### **Dole**

*The town of Dole is located in eastern France, in the département of Jura. It is host to the Sub-Prefecture. The town is home to 25,000 residents although the conurbation of Grand Dole has 52,000 residents. It is located midway between the regional capitals of Besançon and Dijon (45 km, 35 min by motorway). This strategic location, supported by 2 motorway exits, a TGV high speed train station (only 2 hours from Paris) and a regional airport means that the town is at the heart of the future Burgundy / Franche-Comté region. Since 2005, Dole had entrusted the management of its drinking water and wastewater networks to Lyonnaise des Eaux through a Public Service Concession contract. In 2015 it became the first town in France to opt for a SemOP structure to manage a public service.*

### **SUEZ**

*We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. Faced with an increasing world population, growing urban development and rarefied resources, the security, optimisation and recovery of resources are indispensable to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies 92 million people with drinking water and 65 million with sanitation services, collects waste from almost 50 million people, recovers 14 million tonnes of waste per year and generates 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. With 80,990 employees, SUEZ is present on all five continents and a key player in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of €14.3 billion in 2014.*

### **FedEpl**

*The Federation of local public enterprises (FedEpl) represents the 1,208 semi-public or mixed-economy companies (Sem), Local public companies (Spl) and single-purpose semi-public companies (SemOp) active in France. It represents their interests before public authorities and private partners at regional, national and European levels. Epl are active in around 40 different fields, mainly land development, tourism, housing, environment, business development and mobility. They employ in the region of 60,000 people. Their capital investment amounts to €3.9 billion, of which 63% is owned by local authorities. In 2014 they generated total revenues of €12.1 billion.*