

Press Release – For immediate release

Pointe-à-Pitre, March 2023

Feasibility of a green hydrogen production and distribution chain in Caribbean ports

Five actors covering the whole value chain have gathered within the framework of the MAGHIC project (Maritime Green H2 Infrastructure in the Eastern Caribbeans) to study the implementation of a new green hydrogen energy chain produced at sea and coupled with a land-based unloading, storage and distribution infrastructure.

The green hydrogen will be produced locally from far offshore wind, thanks to the revolutionary technology of energy ships designed by Farwind Energy, the leader of the project. The hydrogen will be delivered by sea in the Eastern Caribbean to the Grands Ports Maritimes of Guadeloupe (GPMG) and Martinique (GPLML). The two key partners will bring their capacity to host the energy ships and H2 transfer facilities on land.

The Société Anonyme de la Raffinerie des Antilles (SARA) supports the project with its expertise to explore H2 potential in the Caribbean and onshore storage and logistics means. Unite Caribbean, an international cooperation consulting firm, will study the conditions for the emergence and acceleration of the green hydrogen market in St. Lucia.

Interreg
Caraïbes



Projet MAGHIC



Fonds européen de développement régional



1 - Energy ship developed by Farwind Energy for hydrogen production at sea

The MAGHIC project will last 15 months. It aims to study the feasibility of hydrogen production, unloading and storage infrastructures in ports and to anticipate market needs.

Arnaud Poitou, president of FARWIND ENERGY, explains "*The potential of hydrogen for the Caribbean economy is tremendous. With the technology of the energy ship, which allows to locally produce electricity from far-offshore wind and transform it into hydrogen, the MAGHIC project will make it possible to reshape the role of ports in the energy transition, develop new economic activities and diversify the Caribbean energy system.*"

The project offers many potential benefits for the territories:

- contributing to energy autonomy, by increasing the share of renewable energy
- participating in the decarbonization of heavy transport and in particular maritime transport on a Caribbean scale
- allowing the blue economy (marine energies) and green economy (hydrogen) development

As part of its policy to develop renewable energies in the Eastern Caribbean, the European Union has decided to support the MAGHIC project, which benefits from €1.76M of ERDF funds through the Interreg Caribbean program.



From left to right : Olivier Cotta, CEO of SARA, Jean-Pierre Chalus, President of the Board of Directors of the Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe, Sébastien Correcher, Sustainable development and innovation department, Grand Port Maritime de la Martinique, Arnaud Poitou, President of Farwind Energy, Maryline Mangenot, Manager Communications, Environment and Climate Change Unite Caribbean in the presence of Mrs. Sylvie Vanoukian, Chairwoman of the Energy Commission of the Regional Council, Gilles Bazajet, Director of the Interreg Caribbean Joint Technical Secretariat and Rebecca Joseph, Interreg Caribbean Project Manager



About Farwind Energy

Farwind Energy designs, develops, markets and operates integrated solutions for the conversion, storage and delivery of far-offshore wind energy, an exceptional resource that is currently unexploited. These solutions are based on wind-powered energy ships that transform the kinetic energy into electricity stored on board.

With its energy ship, Farwind Energy has imagined a renewable, stored, mobile energy solution, allowing territories to increase their energy independence without conflict of use on land or at sea and developing jobs in the blue economy.

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About the Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe

The Grand Port Maritime de Guadeloupe (GPMG) is a public institution of the State. The GPMG represents the main logistic platform on which the local economy relies for its exchanges with the outside world. It is also anchored in its territory within a port and maritime ecosystem that generates more than 12,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs. Its openness to the outside world has also positioned it for many years at the crossroads of lines between Europe and the Caribbean/American region. This positioning has contributed significantly to the development of its transshipment traffic.

The GPMG is also a driving force in the protection of natural environments and to this end has been committed for several years to a proactive environmental policy. In particular, the challenges of adapting to climate change have become strategic for its development and are closely linked to the issues of decarbonizing maritime and port activities.

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About the Grand Port Maritime de Martinique

Due to its geographical position and the quality of its infrastructures, the Grand Port Maritime de La Martinique, assumes a role of catalyst for the economic development of the territory. An industrial and commercial public institution since October 1, 2012, it became the owner and trustee of the Port of Fort-de-France in 2013 and the Port of Bellefontaine in 2014. Equipped with modern facilities, it handles diversified traffic (containerized goods, bulk goods, passengers) and ship repair.

The Grand Port Maritime de la Martinique is a maritime hub for the region and is developing around three main axes: the Entrepreneur Port, a key player in the economic development of Martinique, the Green Port, with the ambition to participate in the sustainable development of the territory and the Citizen Port, open to the city.

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About SARA

SARA, an industrial and historical player in Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Martinique, has been producing and providing logistics for energy products for over 50 years for industry and for land, sea and air mobility.

Driven by its Corporate Social Responsibility approach, SARA is developing new innovative and low-carbon energy solutions, including hydrogen, in order to ensure its mission for the population while supporting the energy and eco-circular transition of the territories where it is located.

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About Unite Caribbean

Unite Caribbean is a cooperation consultancy firm that supports the sustainable social and economic development of Caribbean territories through regional technical cooperation. Unite Caribbean meets the challenges of the Caribbean basin with two complementary approaches: support to Caribbean development actors on consulting missions and design and implementation of development projects in collaboration with local actors. Unite Caribbean focuses on four sectors of primary importance for the region: Environment and Climate Change; Water and Waste; Governance; and Sustainable Economic and Social Development.

To learn more about Unite Caribbean: <https://unite-caribbean.com>

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