TOKAI COBEX

EXTERNAL ANNOUNCEMENT
27 January 2026

NEWS

A forward-looking investment supporting today’s jobs

Vénissieux, [27 January 2026] – In December 2025, an agreement relating to the shared gas infrastructure project was signed between Tokai COBEX Savoie, UGI’RING, the French State, the Region, the SAS (a semi-public company of the Department of Savoie), and local authorities. This agreement marks a decisive milestone for the region.

As a reminder, an initial consortium agreement was signed in December 2023 with the target to secure the energy supply of industrial sites, strengthen their competitiveness, and prepare for the gradual integration of renewable gases (biogas, followed by hydrogen).

Pooling resources to secure and accelerate

The project is based on shared infrastructure serving several industrial sites. This pooling approach optimizes costs, accelerates implementation timelines, and reduces vulnerability to energy market fluctuations.

In practical terms, industrial facilities benefit from more predictable energy supply, which is essential to stabilise operations, plan investments, and ensure continuity of employment.

Designed for renewable gases

Designed from the outset to accommodate biogas and, in the longer term, hydrogen, the network offers a credible pathway towards decarbonisation.

The approach is progressive and pragmatic: addressing today’s needs while paving the way for low-carbon solutions as volumes and standards gradually develop.

Employment and skills at the heart of the project

By securing industrial production facilities, the project protects local know-how and sustains skilled jobs across the region.

A demanding and effective partnership

The agreement reflects a collective working approach between industrial stakeholders and public authorities, based on shared decision-making, a common strategic vision, and rigorous monitoring of operational milestones.

This cooperation ensures the project delivers long-term, tangible benefits for residents, businesses, and local public finances.

“This project reflects our conviction: the transition succeeds when it is useful. By securing our energy supply and preparing for the arrival of renewable gases, we strengthen the competitiveness of our sites and protect jobs here, at the heart of the valley.”

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— **Fabrice Pannekoucke, President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region**

About the project

The project aims to develop **shared energy infrastructure** sized to meet current needs and compatible with **biogas and hydrogen**.

- **Total investment:** €9.6 million
- **Start of construction:** Q1 2028
- **Public subsidies:** €2.1 million

The project is jointly led by **industrial and public partners** committed to competitiveness, energy transition, and regional development.

About Tokai COBEX

Tokai COBEX, a subsidiary of the Tokai Carbon Group, is globally recognized for its specialization in manufacturing high-quality carbon and graphite products. The company's diverse product portfolio includes cathode blocks for aluminium smelting, linings for blast furnaces used in pig iron production, carbon electrodes, Soederberg paste for metallurgical smelting processes, and specialty graphite products for various applications, including those in the chemical industry. Our team of seasoned professionals offers innovative solutions, technical expertise, and knowledge in product development and application. Headquartered in Wiesbaden, Germany, Tokai COBEX operates four state-of-the-art production plants: two in Poland (Racibórz and Nowy Sącz) and two in France (Vénissieux and Notre Dame de Briançon).

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