



A major decarbonisation project  
for industrial activities in the  
Grand Ouest region

## PRESS RELEASE

# Completion of the GOCO2 project's preliminary consultation phase with dialogue set to continue

On 16 December 2025, the final public meeting of the preliminary consultation on the GOCO2 project was held, in Saint-Nazaire. This initiative is led by Heidelberg Materials France, Lafarge Ciments, Lhoist, NaTran, Elengy and RTE. This presents an opportunity to collectively review the information and public participation process, which began on 29 September and is set to conclude on 19 December. Exchanges with local residents and stakeholders will continue through ongoing consultation in the months ahead.

## The consultation in figures

Since 29 September, a preliminary consultation has been underway regarding the GOCO2 project. This consultation is being conducted under the guidance of the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP), which appointed three guarantors – Jean-Pierre Bompard, Marc Navez and Catherine Trebaol – to assist with preparing the consultation framework and to ensure its proper conduct.

Across the five affected departments (Deux-Sèvres, Ille-et-Vilaine, Loire-Atlantique, Maine-et-Loire, Mayenne), 35 meetings have been held, attended by almost 1,500 participants. Attendees were given the opportunity to obtain information, express their views and ask questions to the project sponsors through public meetings, workshops on pipelines, market-focused sessions and webinars. Additionally, the consultation mini site (<https://concertation.goco2.fr>) has collected 60 contributions and 15 stakeholder dossiers (as of 16 December), submitted by local authorities, chambers of commerce, economic players, associations and others. These exchanges and contributions have enabled the project sponsors to fully appreciate the local issues at stake and to inform the next stages of the project's development.

## Topics addressed during the preliminary consultation

At the public general meeting held in Saint-Nazaire, the project sponsors gave an update on the key issues that shaped the three months of preliminary consultation.

**Jean-François Bricaud**, Director of Decarbonisation & Industrial Development at Heidelberg Materials France, started by reiterating the rationale behind decarbonising cement and lime production: "We have frequently been asked about the value of continuing to produce cement and lime, and the relevance of CO2 capture. Our roadmap is clear: our primary objective is to support evolving demand which, although declining, remains significant, while continuing to produce in France; this is a matter of industrial sovereignty. Within this context, and given the



climate challenge, we are fully committed to reducing greenhouse gases as much as we can and, as a last resort, we are considering capturing the residual CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by our furnaces.”

Matters related to the financing of the project, representing a projected investment of 2.5 billion euro, were discussed. “GOCO<sub>2</sub> relies on private funding but also requires public support. The latter is essential to ensure the project’s commitment within the shortest possible timeframe and to finance infrastructure that will be vital for the Grand Ouest region’s economy in the future,” underscored **Thomas de Charette**, Directeur of Cement Decarbonisation at Lafarge Ciments.

**Vincent Lelong**, Head of Decarbonisation for Southern Europe at Lhoist, also reviewed the carbon footprint of the GOCO<sub>2</sub> project. “Our project aims to prevent the emission of 2.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. We have often been asked for more precise figures: we will present them as soon as they are available. But one thing is certain: GOCO<sub>2</sub> will have a positive impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions from its very first year of operation.”

**Laurent Muzart**, Project Development Manager for GOCO<sub>2</sub> at NaTran, added: “Through the consultation process, we have been able to visit all the areas affected by the pipeline survey zones. We have notably heard a strong demand from local authorities, the agricultural sector and environmental associations for dialogue – dialogue we will continue to pursue as the project progresses. The coming months will allow us to refine the pipeline corridors based on the feedback we have received.”

The downstream aspect of the project, particularly the challenges related to geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage, was also addressed: “We anticipated that CO<sub>2</sub> storage would raise numerous questions, even though this topic is beyond the scope of the consultation and will take place outside of France. The preliminary consultation has enabled us to engage with subject matter experts and provide answers, and will continue to further the discussion in future exchanges,” stated **Joachim Labauge**, CO<sub>2</sub> Development Director at Elengy.

## Next steps

The preliminary consultation will conclude on Friday 19 December. The project website will remain accessible following the consultation for those wishing to review the information related to the project, as will all contributions, including position papers submitted by organised groups.

Subsequently, the consultation guarantors will draft a report on the preliminary consultation, synthesise the participant’s contributions and provide recommendations for the continuation of public engagement regarding the GOCO<sub>2</sub> project.

Within a maximum of two months following the publication of this report, the project sponsors will present the lessons learned from the preliminary consultation, the commitments they are making for the next stages of the project and their responses to the recommendations put forward by the guarantors.

Public participation will continue through an ongoing consultation, overseen by a guarantor appointed by the CNDP. This process will support the upcoming phases of study and the preparation of administrative procedures. The ongoing consultation will thus allow for a deeper exploration of certain topics raised during the preliminary consultation and provide updated information on the project.

### GOCO<sub>2</sub> in brief

Launched in 2021, GOCO<sub>2</sub> brings together Heidelberg Materials France, Lafarge Ciments, Lhoist, NaTran, Elengy and RTE to tackle the challenge of decarbonising cement and lime production in the Grand Ouest region. The project covers several departments: Deux-Sèvres, Mayenne, Maine-et-Loire, Ille-et-Vilaine and Loire-Atlantique. The objective is to prevent the

release of 2.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually into the atmosphere from 2031 onwards (equivalent to the emissions of the Nantes metropolitan area). GOCO<sub>2</sub>, by enabling the future connection of new emitters, supports the long-term viability of the industrial activities in the Grand Ouest and fosters the development of a CO<sub>2</sub> recovery sector. The total estimated investment for GOCO<sub>2</sub> is approximately 2.5 billion euro.

GOCO<sub>2</sub> is an umbrella for several complementary operations enabling the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> and its transport for the purpose of permanent geological storage:

- The capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Heidelberg Materials cement plant in Airvault, Deux-Sèvres;
- The capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Lafarge Ciments cement plant in Saint-Pierre-la-Cour, Mayenne;
- The capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from Lhoist's lime kilns in Neau, also in Mayenne;
- The transport of CO<sub>2</sub> via an underground pipeline network approximately 375 kilometres in length, developed by NaTran;
- The CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction terminal and ship loading facility in Montoir-de-Bretagne, developed by Elengy;
- Connection to the electricity transmission network, managed by RTE.

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**Heidelberg Materials** is a global leader in the building materials and solutions industry, holding leading market positions in cement, aggregates and ready-mix concrete. We operate in more than 50 countries, employing over 51,000 people across nearly 3,000 sites. Environmental responsibility is at the heart of everything we do. As a pioneer on the path to carbon neutrality and a circular economy within the building materials sector, we are committed to developing sustainable building materials and solutions for the future. Through digital innovation, we offer new opportunities to our customers.

**Lafarge Ciments** is a subsidiary of the Holcim Group, the leading partner in sustainable construction. The group employs over 48,000 people across 45 countries, in Europe, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. In France, Lafarge brings its expertise as a leader in innovative and sustainable construction materials across four sectors: Cement, Ready-Mix Concrete, Aggregates and Building Solutions. The company employs 4,200 people and operates more than 400 industrial sites throughout mainland France. By making its low-carbon cements and concretes widely available, Lafarge is committed to enhancing the environmental performance of the construction industry.

Belgian group **Lhoist** is one of the world's leading producers of lime, dolomite and mineral solutions. The group operates 135 sites in over 25 countries with a workforce of 6,650 employees representing more than 70 nationalities. Lhoist aims to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the design and development of new technologies and processes that minimise the environmental footprint of its operations, notably by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

NaTran is the new name of GRTgaz. In 2025, NaTran changed its name and launched a new corporate project focused on energy transition and carbon neutrality. To achieve its strategic goals, the company is adapting its networks and practices to address ecological, economic, and digital challenges. It provides infrastructure and logistics solutions tailored to gases that contribute to the energy transition (biomethane, hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub>). NaTran is the second-largest gas transmission operator in Europe. The Group has two subsidiaries: Elengy (Europe's leading LNG terminal operator) and NaTran Deutschland (operator of the MEGAL network). NaTran undertakes public service missions aimed at ensuring safe gas transport for its customers. The NaTran R&I research center (formerly RICE) is an international benchmark in research and innovation applied to the energy transition. NaTran Group key figures: 33,800 km of pipelines, 590 TWh of gas transported, nearly 3,850 employees, nearly €2.5 billion in revenue in 2024. To find out more about NaTran and its initiatives, visit [NaTrangroupe.com](https://NaTrangroupe.com), X, LinkedIn, or Instagram.

A leading LNG expert and pioneer operator of regasification terminals in France, **Elengy** leverages over sixty years of experience in the design, development, operation and maintenance of advanced industrial facilities for its clients. Elengy owns and operates three regulated LNG terminals in France: Montoir-de-Bretagne, on the Atlantic coast, and Fos Cavaou and Fos Tonkin on the Mediterranean. Today, Elengy is committed to transforming its LNG terminals into multi-service decarbonisation hubs, particularly for carbon capture and storage chains as well as for new molecules such as bio-LNG, hydrogen and low-carbon ammonia.

**RTE**, the operator of the French electricity transmission network, fulfils a public service mission: to guarantee the supply of electricity at all times and with consistent quality across the national territory., thanks to the dedication of its 10,025 employees. RTE manages electricity flows and balances production and consumption in real time. It maintains and develops the high and extra-high voltage network (from 63,000 to 400,000 volts), which comprises nearly 100,000 kilometres of overhead lines, 7,000 kilometres of underground cables, 2,900 substations under operation or co-operation, and around 50 cross-border lines. The French network, the most extensive in Europe, has 37 interconnections with neighbouring countries. As a neutral and independent industrial operator of the energy transition, RTE optimises and transforms its network to connect electricity generation and consumption facilities.