



# 20 STORIES TO TELL 2020

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**THE FUTURE  
IS YOU**  **SOCIÉTÉ  
GÉNÉRALE**

## 20 STORIES TO TELL 2020

2020 was an unexpected year.

But at the heart of the crisis,  
our clients and our teams remained  
committed to a better world.

This document gathers a series of  
stories and testimonies illustrating  
our long-lasting commitment  
alongside our clients, to energy  
transition, to Africa, to more  
sustainable cities and societies.

We thank all our clients and  
partners for their trust.

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A full-page background image showing two workers in the foreground, wearing red hard hats and high-visibility vests, crouching over a large array of solar panels. They are looking at a blueprint or document. In the background, several wind turbines are visible against a blue sky with light clouds. Another worker in a red hard hat and safety vest is standing further back, holding a red toolbox. The overall scene represents a renewable energy project.

# ENERGY TRANSITION

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## JANUARY 2020, SOCIETE GENERALE JOINS THE HYDROGEN COUNCIL, SUPPORTING ITS DEVELOPMENT FOR ENERGY TRANSITION

By joining the Hydrogen Council, Societe Generale demonstrates once again its commitment to a sustainable and climate resilient future.

Launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos in early 2017, the Hydrogen Council is a CEO-led initiative to foster the role of hydrogen solutions in the global energy transition, thereby fighting global warming by decarbonizing energy systems and industrial processes in pursuit of both the Paris COP21 Accords, and the UN Sustainability Development Goals.

The Hydrogen Council gathers more than 80 multinational companies from diverse industry and energy sectors along the hydrogen value chain such as utilities, energy, oil & gas, chemical, industry feedstock, metals and mining, automotive & trucks, OEMs, and other transports (aeronautics, trains, shipping).

Each of the founding member recognize the huge potential “clean hydrogen” offers to meaningfully cut greenhouse gas emissions, in particular the “hard to abate” sectors less easily addressed by other options as heavy transportation, space heating and industrial processes. For quite some time, hydrogen solutions have been mature and ready to scale-up; now it is time to work together to make “clean hydrogen” an economic reality.

**To attain the vision of a commercially viable “clean hydrogen” economy, very substantial smart investments and innovative financing will be required to deploy hydrogen technologies on a mass scale.** Societe Generale played a leading role in the debt and equity structuring and financing of the scaling-up of earlier energy transition technologies such as solar, offshore wind (both fixed and floating), carbon capture & storage and batteries. Therefore, the Bank plans to use the strength of its equity and debt advisory and financing franchises to enable the structuring and funding of large-scale hydrogen projects.

Historically made from natural gas or coal, hydrogen is an abundant resource and a versatile energy carrier, with demonstrable value. It has been used in large quantities for many years in the ammonia and petroleum refining industries. The fuel cells that convert hydrogen and oxygen from the air into electricity and water have been around for more than 50 years.

Decarbonization potential through applications of this “clean hydrogen” is endless, such as:

- By displacing coal, oil and gas in a vast range of sectors: steel, refineries, cement, agriculture, etc.
- Transportation (from buses, trucks to mass transit including trains, or airplanes and ships);
- Building heat (residential, commercial and public);
- Long-term energy storage: offering efficient, large scale, integration and storage of intermittent renewable energy, while providing energy security;
- Distribution of energy across sectors and regions.

**By 2050, hydrogen could meet up to 18% of the global energy demand and cut carbon emissions by 6 Gt every year which represents 13% of global emissions.**

As mentioned above, Societe Generale is working in the Hydrogen Council to develop financing schemes for a range of archetype projects. Given the unprecedented momentum that “low carbon” hydrogen has now built up, we are convinced that mandates will soon materialize. Societe Generale is already in discussions with its clients on various opportunities, either assisting them in defining their hydrogen strategy, meeting with potential partners and clients, or discussing the structuring and funding of future hydrogen projects, stay tuned!



**READ MORE**  
Hydrogen: future proofing  
the ecological transition?



# THE ANNUAL POWER CONSUMPTION OF NEARLY 800,000 PEOPLE GOES GREEN!

In July, EDF Renouvelables, Enbridge and wpd AG started the construction of an offshore wind farm off Fécamp, for a total investment estimated at €2bn. This major project should generate enough annual electricity to meet the power needs for 770,000 people by 2023.

The wind farm will consist of 71 wind turbines located between 13 to 22 kilometers off the coast of Fécamp over an area of approximately 60 square kilometers, for a total capacity of 500 megawatts. This project will not only create 1 400 direct and indirect local jobs, but ultimately produce enough annual electricity consumption for more than 60% of the inhabitants of Seine-Maritime in France.

Societe Generale has been active in the offshore wind power sector since 2007 and remains the only bank to have supported projects in the United States, Europe and Asia. As a world leader in offshore wind power, this project is further proof of Societe Generale's commitment to the fight against climate change.



## Bruno BENSASSON

CEO of EDF Renouvelables

*"We are thrilled to have contributed to the creation of an industrial sector that creates value and jobs for the region. These orders come at a time when the country intends to boost its activity after two months of lockdown."*

## Benoîte CHENUT

Head of Offshore Financing, EDF Renouvelables

*"We are thankful to EIB and the underwriters for the remarkable transaction for our Fécamp French offshore wind project closed in the particular context of during the Covid-19 crisis, proving their expertise in executing this transaction in a timely manner."*

## Matthias BOLL

Director M&A and offshore finance France, wpd AG

*"We would like to thank the whole Societe Generale team for the very trustful partnership and strong support in the financing of the Fécamp offshore wind farm project. After Societe Generale had already accompanied us in the financing of our offshore wind farms "Butendiek" in Germany and "Yunlin" in Taiwan, we are very proud to work now with Societe Generale in 3 jurisdictions which are key markets of wpd in terms of offshore wind but also for onshore wind and solar projects."*

**READ MORE**



## THE FIRST GREEN BOND IN THE EUROPEAN CHEMICALS SECTOR, SUPPORTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

In May, BASF issued the first green bond in the European chemicals sector. The proceeds will be used for several green projects, including the production of electric vehicle batteries and accelerator products.

There's little doubt nowadays that electric vehicles are one part of the future of automotive transportation. Powerful batteries are indispensable when it comes to making the sustainable future happen.

**With its innovations in electric car battery materials, BASF aims to double the driving range of midsize cars from 300 to 600 km on a single charge, decrease the size of batteries and expand their lifespan by 2025.**

A significant portion of the proceeds from this green bond will be used for the development, manufacturing and acquisition of low carbon transportation components and Accelerator Products that make a substantial sustainability contribution in the value chain across product and industry categories. The company has identified over 12,000 solutions and wants to considerably increase the sales to €22 billion by 2025, vs €15 billion in 2019. This target reflects a strong commitment to further drive innovation beyond today's state of the art.

BASF's newly established Green Finance Framework not only allows to use the proceeds from the green bond to be used for accelerator products and electric vehicle battery materials, however, but also to finance or refinance several other green projects. These include the planning, construction, development and installation of renewable energy production and storage units. Projects in the field of carbon management (reducing CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions) and chemical recycling will profit from the bond issue as well.

.....

**Dr. Dirk ELVERMANN**

*President Corporate Finance, BASF*

*"We are pleased with the successful placement and with the strong support we received from Societe Generale. The high demand from investors for this bond underscores the capital market's confidence in our solid financial policies and our sustainability-driven corporate strategy. The initial issue of a green bond now firmly anchors sustainability in BASF's financing strategy as well."*

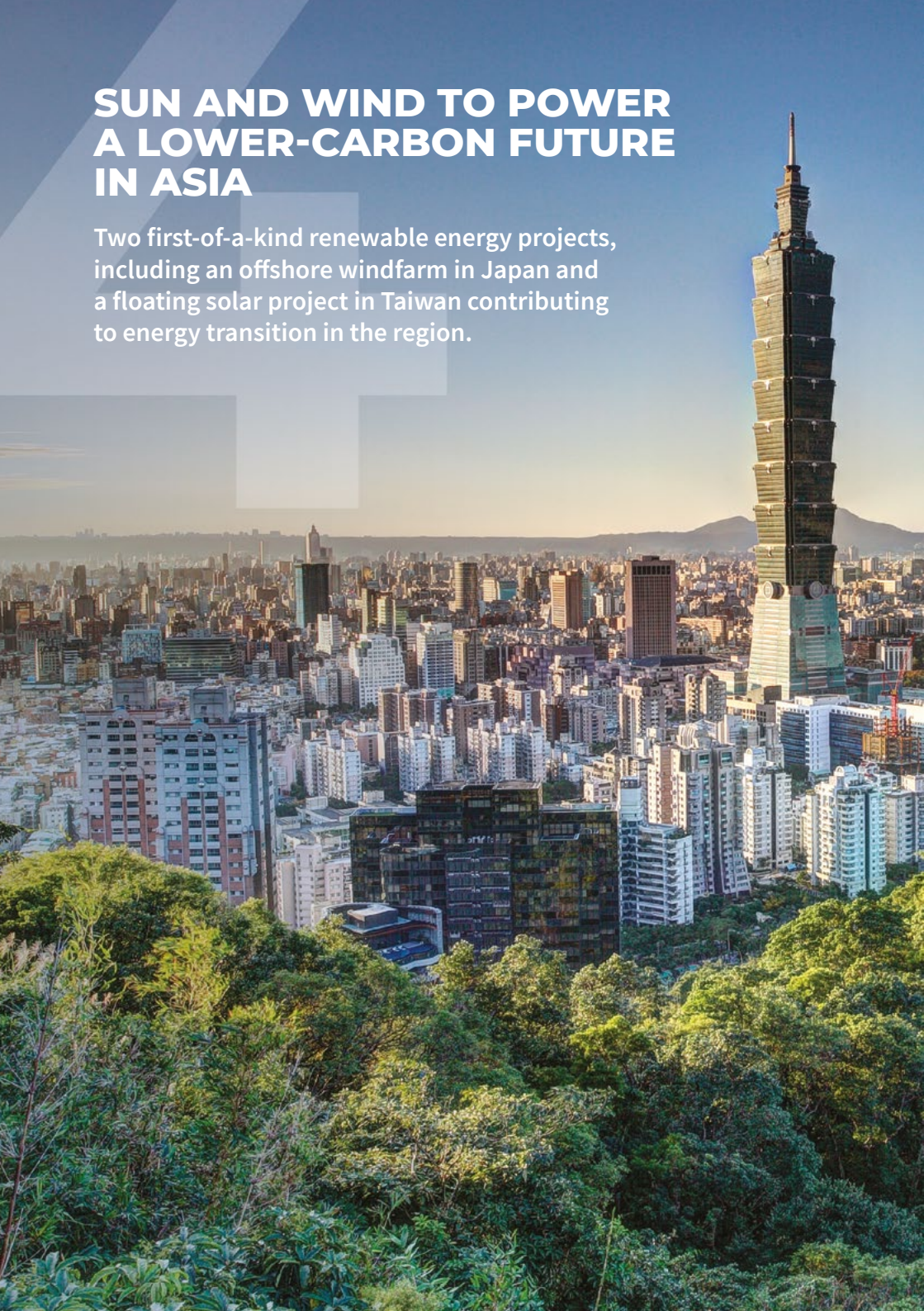
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 **EXPERT VIEW**  
Bridging Europe's electric vehicle finance gap



# SUN AND WIND TO POWER A LOWER-CARBON FUTURE IN ASIA

Two first-of-a-kind renewable energy projects, including an offshore windfarm in Japan and a floating solar project in Taiwan contributing to energy transition in the region.



Asia is embracing renewable energy as governments around the region seek to play their part in global efforts to meet the climate change target of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Japan has commissioned its first large-scale commercial offshore windfarm project, while Taiwan is building on its successes with offshore wind power and ground-mounted solar by adding a new asset class, floating solar, to its energy mix.


Japan's Marubeni Corporation is the sponsor of both the groundbreaking Akita offshore windfarm project in Japan and the Changhua floating solar project in Taiwan, which serve excellent examples to meet its sustainability agenda.


The Akita project is the first large-scale commercial offshore windfarm in Japan. Scheduled to begin operations in 2022, Akita is expected to generate enough electricity to serve the needs of nearly 50,000 households.


Changhua is a solar photovoltaic floating project located in an inter-tidal area on the Western coast of Taiwan. It is one of the largest floating solar energy projects in the world, and the first industry scale floating solar project in Taiwan. Floating solar projects offer a number of advantages. They can provide a better energy yield because water has a cooling effect on the panels and they also overcome land constraints associated with the traditional solar power plant installations.


**Floating solar is an asset class for which Asia is likely to play a leading role globally.**

## AKITA PROJECT


 **140MW**  
of electricity


 for **47,000**  
households


 Offshore wind in Japan could cut  
**71M tons** from Japan's  
carbon emissions by 2030

 **1st** large-scale commercial offshore  
windfarm project in Japan

## CHANGHUA PROJECT

 **181MW**  
solar photovoltaic floating project

 Taiwan aims to install **20GW**  
of solar photovoltaic capacity by 2025

 **1st** industry scale floating solar project in  
Taiwan and one of the largest in the world

### Keiji OKAGAKI

President & CEO of Akita Offshore Wind Corporation

*"There is a growing commitment across the region towards reducing the share of fossil fuels in the overall energy mix and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are accelerating climate change. Marubeni, as the largest sponsor of these projects, shares this commitment and is striving to be a leader in the renewable energy generation business, which we believe benefits the economy and society as well as the environment."*

### Takehiro MORINO

General Manager of Business Team 2, Power Business Department 1, Marubeni Corporation

*"These projects are at the forefront of a broader shift towards renewable energy in Asia. We are pleased to partner with Societe Generale on these exciting projects, capitalising on its market-leading expertise in Asian renewable energy."*





# TOWARDS LOWER CARBON CEMENT

The global production of cement, the world's most important building material, shows no signs of abating. LafargeHolcim partnered with Societe Generale for the first sustainability-linked bond in the building materials sector.

**Recognizing its responsibility as a global leader in building solutions to address the industry's carbon footprint, LafargeHolcim stands at the forefront of initiatives for a transition towards low-carbon construction.**

LafargeHolcim has joined the Business Ambition for 1.5°C, becoming the first global building materials company to sign the pledge with intermediate targets for 2030, validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). This commitment builds on LafargeHolcim's leadership in green construction, with cutting-edge solutions such as ECOPact, its green concrete, and Susteno, its leading circular cement, pushing the boundaries of green construction.

In November 2020, LafargeHolcim issued its first sustainability-linked bond, demonstrating the strength of its long-term climate commitments. **The bond's coupon is linked to a target to reduce emissions to 475 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per ton of cementitious material by 2030.**

LafargeHolcim's Sustainability-Linked Financing Framework is in line with the International Capital Market Association's Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles, and has been reviewed by ISS ESG.

.....  
**Géraldine PICAUD**

*Chief Financial Officer, LafargeHolcim*

*"We are proud to be the first in our industry to launch a sustainability-linked bond. The order book of EUR 2.6 billion demonstrates the confidence of investors in the company's financial strength, strategy and ability to deliver on its sustainability targets. Societe Generale's expertise and experience with green and sustainability-linked bonds helped make this transaction a landmark success."*

.....

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# ZERO-EMISSION TARGET FOR BERGEN CITY BUSES IN NORWAY

Keolis is expanding its footprint in Norway and taking a new step in its strategy for sustainable mobility with the operation of its first 100% carbon-free bus network in the city of Bergen.

In the midst of mountains and fjords, stands the city of Bergen. Located on the southwest coast of Norway, it is the second largest city in the country behind Oslo. Starting point for many exchanges between Europe and Norway, the city enjoys an intense cultural life, proximity to the sea, international relations and its university hub, and has a population of nearly 300,000 inhabitants. Residents who can now benefit from a 100% carbon-free bus network.

In 2019, the Bergen public transport authority (Skyss) awarded Keolis the operation of its first bus network in Norway, which began in December 2020. The fleet of 138 buses, running exclusively on alternative energies and mainly on electricity, operates in the center and west areas of the city. They are expected to run a total of 5.7 million kilometers and carry 17 million passengers every year.

**About 50 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year are saved when a diesel bus is replaced by an electric vehicle. Putting these carbon-free buses into service will thus reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 85% over the life of the contract and will help provide a better quality of life for Bergen residents and tourists.**

Keolis is one of the world leaders in shared mobility and each year transports more than 3 billion travelers in fifteen countries across five continents. With this new network, the Group now operates nearly 3,800 low-carbon buses in France and internationally, demonstrating its expertise in sustainable mobility. Keolis is also strengthening its presence in Norway, where it has already been operating the Bergen city tram network since 2010. The infrastructure of the network's bus depot has also been upgraded to be able to charge up to 91 buses simultaneously overnight.

.....  
**Julie WATREMEZ**

*Head of Structured Finance, Keolis Group*

*"We are pleased to have worked with Societe Generale on our first sizeable lease financing for fossil free bus fleets. The cross-border nature of the transaction as well as the number of parties involved brought some complexity, and Societe Generale team's flexibility and responsiveness has been much appreciated throughout the process."*

.....

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# HEALTH



# A MODERN AND INNOVATIVE HOSPITAL FOR THE POPULATIONS IN BENIN

In 2023, a new university hospital center near Cotonou will offer state-of-the-art benefits and services enabling an on-site management of all the pathologies that have been evacuated so far.

By contributing to the financing of this new health facility in Benin, Societe Generale is contributing to SDGs as well as to the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Intended to become the standard hospital in Benin, the new university hospital center (UHC) will have the capacity for approximately 430 beds spread over two floors. This modern and innovative construction will include six large hospitalization units, a high-level technical platform with three-day hospitals, emergency facilities, a laboratory, medical imaging, radiotherapy and nine operating rooms. It will also have teaching spaces, accommodation for staff and a funeral home as well as medical, hotel and technical logistics units.

**Ensuring a healthy life as well as promoting the well-being of all is essential for sustainable development.**

The construction of this hospital center, by Bouygues Bâtiment International, is important for Benin and is part of a 2018-2025 National Development Plan which matches economic emergence and sustainable development while also focusing on poverty reduction and inequalities. The new facility fits in with one of the four major axes of the plan - human capital and the well-being of populations - and will facilitate access to basic and better care for a large part of the citizens. It will also help reduce congestion in the country's main hospital, in Cotonou.

.....  
**Emmanuel BERNARD**

Head of Development department - Bouygues Bâtiment International

*"We are delighted to have been able to structure and implement a beautiful project for Benin. It is a project that is in line with the government's priorities and, above all, makes sense for the populations. Healthcare is a key focus for Bouygues Bâtiment International, both for its corporate values and in terms of product strategy."*

.....  
**Romuald WADAGNI**

Minister of Economy and Finance of Benin

*"To date, the Beninese health system is facing many difficulties, including health evacuations with a high financial impact on the national budget. The new Abomey-Calavy University Hospital will be the most complete reference hospital in the sub-region. It will offer state-of-the-art benefits and services that will soon enable us to guarantee an on-site management of all the pathologies that have been evacuated so far. In general, the hospital will enable Benin to take a key step forward in the health reforms and innovations included in the Government's Action Plan."*

.....  
**Thierry EISENSTEIN**

Head of Export Finance, Bouygues Construction

*"Since the beginning of the operation in 2017, we have been more than pleased with our collaboration with Societe Generale. The Finance Export team was pro-active from start to finish and was able to adapt to the demands and requirements of the Beninese government. The bank has not hesitated to accompany us in the various stages of negotiations and to show initiative and efficiency especially during the process of lifting the precedent conditions. Their knowledge of Africa as well as their presence in the territory are real assets. We will not hesitate to renew our partnership and show them our assurance in this country and elsewhere."*

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## FIRST COVID-19 COVERED BOND ISSUE IN SUPPORT OF FRENCH PUBLIC HOSPITALS

A social bond issue to support the hospital sector in the face of the COVID crisis, by financing or refinancing loans to French public hospitals.

In June, SFIL successfully launched a social bond issue of one billion euros with a five-year maturity. Both a bank and an agency owned by “Caisse des Dépôts”, SFIL has 2 missions: lending to local authorities in France and refinancing export loans guaranteed by the French State.

As a leader in lending to local authorities, SFIL is a particularly active lender in the hospital sector and currently finances more than 1,000 public hospitals in France. In the context of Covid-19, SFIL's mission in financing local authorities is therefore particularly critical for the hospital sector.

The proceeds of this first Covid-19 related bond will be used to finance public hospitals whose additional costs linked to the current health crisis are constantly increasing.

**It is the first Covid-19 Covered Bond issued by a European financial institution and dedicated to raising funds in response to the health and economic crisis.**

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# CARING FOR OUR SENIORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

In the context of the pandemic crisis, taking care of fragile individuals was a concern for all. During lock down, strong CSR commitments to positive care enhancing seniors' well-being and bringing joy into their lives were set.

Korian is a European leader in support and care services for the elderly operating in six countries. With the support of Societe Generale, Korian placed a Sustainability-Linked private bond placement (Euro PP) for an amount of €173m, associated with the achievement of three key indicators linked to its Environmental, Social and Governance performance by 2023:

1. **Deployment of ISO 9001 certification across all its facilities in Europe**
2. **Doubling of staff members participating in qualifying training programs**
3. **Reduction of its direct & indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

This operation is an extension of the 15 ESG commitments made by Korian around the business project "In caring hands" which ambition is to create a positive impact for its customers, staff and stakeholders.

This Sustainability-Linked Euro PP is the largest ever issued, and also the first one priced since the released of the Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles published by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) in June 2020, thereby strengthening Societe Generale's status as a key player in sustainable and positive impact finance.

## KORIAN'S FIRST SUSTAINABILITY LINKED BOND ISSUE



**1<sup>st</sup>** in Europe in support and care services for the elderly with **850** establishments in **6** countries



**1<sup>st</sup>** sustainability-linked private bond placement (Euro PP) for an amount of **€173M** and with a maturity of **8** years



**3** main commitments to achieve by 2023



**1.** Deployment of ISO 9001 certification across all facilities in Europe



**2.** Doubling employees in qualifying training programs



**3.** Reduction of its direct & indirect carbon dioxide emissions

**Philippe GARIN**  
CFO Korian

*"We were delighted to work with Societe Generale on this financing that is both innovative and ambitious, not only in its structure – the first sustainable financing in the sector – but also in its timing since the operation was managed during the lockdown. Societe Generale drove the project with this innovative approach as well as with efficiency. We were pleased with the level of appetite shown by the investors but also agreeably surprised by the interest generated by the financing on announcement."*







# SUSTAINABLE CITIES

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# SUPPORTING LUXEMBOURG IN ITS SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is the first European sovereign to issue a sustainability bond, for an amount of €1.5bn. The proceeds will be used to fund government expenditures that contribute positively to the country's environmental and social goals.



**The proceeds raised from this bond issuance will enable Luxembourg to fund government expenditures with environmental and / or social benefits such as investments to support the development of low carbon transportation, climate finance, as well as the access to essential services (social inclusion, healthcare, education) or affordable housing.**

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is committed to sustainability and, as such, pursues a clear and robust strategy for the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As such Luxembourg established a Sustainability Bond Framework that is designed to comply with the draft EU Green Bonds Standard and incorporates eligibility criteria fully in line with the Technical Expert Group (TEG) final report on the EU Taxonomy. A first for a Sovereign, highlighting the ambitious approach of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as well as its commitment to act as a European leader in Sustainable Finance.

Thanks to the strong structuring expertise of Societe Generale CIB teams and SG Luxembourg's intimate knowledge of the Luxembourg environment, Societe Generale was able to deliver to the Grand Duchy a highly innovative financing solution through a sustainability bond combining both the environmental and social dimensions.

.....  
**Bob KIEFFER**

*Director of the Treasury of Luxembourg*

*"The issuance of this first sustainability bond was anything but business as usual, as it involved substantially more work in the lead-up to going to market, not least in defining and setting up a dedicated sustainability bond framework, identifying eligible projects and establishing a second party opinion. In order to make this possible, the Treasury needed a trusted partner."*

.....

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## A NEW SORTING CENTER AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY

At the heart of the circular economy, a new enlarged and modernized sorting center will treat all waste from the Drôme and Ardèche departments in one single place from September 2021.

This is the perfect illustration of Veolia's ambition, one of the European recycling market's leaders, which plans to multiply by five its plastic recycling activities and to reinvent the plastic market by integrating it into a circular economy approach.

Each year, nearly 26,000 tonnes of recyclable waste are received by the Sytrad sorting center in Portes-lès-Valence, a French commune located in the Drôme department. This number will increase to 40,000 tonnes in September 2021 thanks to the modernization of the center which will then treat the waste of all the Drôme and 80% of the Ardèche department. This single sorting center for the entire territory will enable to have a single waste sorting instruction for the population of Drôme and Ardèche, which will simplify the lives of their 730,000 inhabitants.

This new sorting center is a key project for Drôme-Ardèche since it represents a significant improvement in terms of sustainability. Omnipresent in our daily life, the recycling of all plastic materials is a major challenge for our society. The modernization of the center will make it possible to sort out all the packaging, such as fruit trays, yogurt pots or plastic bags for example, which cannot be recycled at the Sytrad center in its current state. The new sorting center will thus be able to comply with the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act, which will extend sorting instructions to all household packaging by 2022.

**This project illustrates Societe Generale's ability to provide effective structured financing solutions for projects with significant environmental and social impacts and contributing to the circular economy.**

.....

### Hervé PENEAU

Director of Veolia's Waste Recycling & Recovery activity for the Rhin Rhône region

*"The partnership with Societe Generale has made it possible to offer our clients a solution that meets the societal challenges of the territory while guaranteeing budget control. A tool at the heart of the circular economy, at the cutting edge of technology and performing socially."*

.....

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# UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCES TO ECOLOGICALLY POWER 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN GERMANY

Geothermal energy is heat derived from the sub-surface of the earth and has one significant advantage: It is always available - independent of the time of day, the season and the weather.

The future potential of geothermal energy is considerable as there is a phenomenal amount of heat stored under our feet and the constant, “baseload” production of geothermal energy makes it a reliable and stable energy provider. Moreover, land consumption of geothermal energy is very low, and structures can be integrated harmoniously and ecologically into the local landscape.

This source of power generation requires suitable underground reservoirs of hot water and locations where drilling into these reservoirs can be carried out. These two elements come into play in Garching an der Alz in Bavaria, Germany where Austrian companies, STRABAG and RAG, are constructing jointly the Bruck geothermal power plant.

**This project aims to decrease dependence on fossil fuels and could help the region to become less reliant on energy imports. Thus, the project is completely in line with European Energy Policies which are targeting to achieve carbon neutrality within the next decades.**

The plant scheduled to complete and commission in the fourth quarter 2020 and will guarantee renewable energy supply of about 14,000 households in the region with additionally planned heat extraction for the community of Garching an der Alz.

## **Wolfgang ZECHMEISTER**

Executive Board Member STRABAG AG

*“Generating geothermal energy with heat extraction is becoming increasingly important for ecological power generation and supplements the EPC Activities of our affiliate company STRABAG Umwelttechnik GmbH.*

*We, as developer and co-investor, recognize the financial close of this first internationally placed Project Finance in the geothermal power sector in Germany as a landmark for further transactions in the future. The close working relation with Societe Generale as structuring bank ensured a closing even in times when the Coronavirus hit the financial markets.”*

## **Dr. Michael LÄNGLE**

Chief Financial Officer, RAG Austria AG

*“RAG Austria AG as an experienced energy storage company contributed its montanistic technical and project management expertise to the geothermal project “Bruck” which is an important landmark in European renewable energy generation.*

*We are pleased to have found experienced and committed banking partners in an international consortium led by Societe Generale for the implementation and execution of a tailor-made project finance facility which was a significant element for the overall success of the project.”*





# FINANCING OF THE IZMIR METRO

This investment project is part of the joint work of Izmir and the EBRD to improve the urban environment and people's lives in the city.

In 2018, Izmir joined EBRD Green Cities, an urban sustainability program active in 40 cities, and committed to developing a comprehensive step-by-step investment plan addressing its most pressing environmental challenges.

Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, received a new funding boost as Societe Generale joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in financing the expansion of the city's metro network with the construction of a new 7.2 kilometer metro line along Izmir's east-west corridor.

The Fahrettin Altay-Narlidere-Kaymakamlik line is expected to become operational in 2022 and will improve the connection between a university campus, a hospital and retail areas. It will extend the existing 19 kilometer Evka 3-Fahrettin Altay line and will link up with bus, suburban rail and tram networks.

.....

## **Tunc SOYER**

Mayor of Izmir

*"The works to build the Fahrettin Altay-Narlidere-Kaymakamlik metro line continue at full speed and the line will become operational as planned. This loan is a good example of the support given to Izmir despite the Covid-19 outbreak."*

.....

## **Arvid TUERKNER**

EBRD Managing Director for Turkey

*"Izmir is one of our long-standing partners in Turkey. We welcome its drive to expand the transport network in a green, sustainable manner, and improve the quality of urban travel. The EBRD is pleased to play a role in financing this undertaking and attract other lenders to the cause."*

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# A NEW HIGHWAY TO SOLVE MOBILITY ISSUES BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

We are committed to support our clients in this unprecedented context, especially in projects like this that will improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants.

Sacyr Concesiones, via the Unión Vial Río Pamplonita concession, has secured the financing of \$520 million for the Pamplona-Cúcuta highway in Colombia.

Pamplona – Cúcuta is one of the four roads that Sacyr Concesiones is developing in Colombia, within the Fourth-Generation projects, launched by the government of the country. This 62 kilometer road project will solve mobility issues between Colombia and Venezuela, as well as the northeast of the country. It will reduce travel times, operating costs for users and improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants.

At present, the project is in the construction stage. Operations are undergoing on 80 work fronts, generating 2,224 direct and indirect jobs, over 70% of which belong to the region. The concession has already carried out more than 90 socio-environmental and sales training and promotion activities that have directly and indirectly benefited over 2,400 people.

## PAMPLONA - CÚCUTA PROJECT



Approved amount of  
**USD 520 million**



### GENERAL DATA



**Length** (back& forth)  
**62,2 km**



**New road** (double & single way)  
**52,2 km**



**25** vehicular  
bridges



**4** pedestrian  
bridges



**23** rehabilitated  
existing bridges



**2** round-  
abouts



**2** weigh-in  
zones



**2** services  
areas



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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue blazer, stands in the lower-left foreground, looking at a tablet. The background is a blurred city skyline at night with many lights.

# **INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS**

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## NEW SOLUTIONS TO INVEST IN CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT COMPANIES

As part of its expanding ESG platform, Societe Generale developed new investment products based on a novel “Smart” index that identifies U.S. companies that are taking positive climate change action.

To create the index, Societe Generale teamed up with the technology company Entelligent, incorporating “E-Score” metric, which selects stocks based on a company’s climate change behavior. Specifically, the “E-Score” metric measures a company’s resilience to climate change. It answers the question of viability of each company’s business model given the potential climate developments, including physical effects, social effects, economic shifts, and policy changes. Crucially, it forecasts the impact of these effects on profitability, using a refined global climate model and statistical scenario analysis.

**This statistical profitability function allows Societe Generale to develop an ESG stock selection strategy that can focus on enhanced returns in addition to sustainability.**

The “E-Score” is especially compelling because it is differentiated among competing indicators. It represents a truly sector-agnostic and financially conscious approach to measuring the impact of climate change on the equity market.

.....  
**Thomas STONER**  
CEO of Entelligent

*“It’s been gratifying to work with Societe Generale to produce an index that will drive capital towards companies with environmentally sustainable strategies.”*

.....



## BOOSTING AFRICAN TRADE POWER

Africa's trade finance deficit is estimated at around US \$120 billion\* – representing about 25% of the demand for trade finance in Africa. In 2020, CDC and Societe Generale played a key role in bridging this gap by supporting local financial institutions to expand financing to businesses across Africa.

CDC Group plc, the UK's publicly owned impact investor, has closed a US \$100 million trade finance risk sharing facility with Societe Generale. This first partnership between CDC and Societe Generale was critical in addressing the lack of commercial capital, at a time when there is limited access to international capital for local companies and importers. This commitment will therefore strengthen Societe Generale's ability to provide critical funding to local importers of essential foodstuffs and resources, to help companies through the current economic crisis and to support job creation in Africa. In addition, several trades facilitated by CDC's capital will support food and agricultural value chains.

This partnership contributed to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9 by supporting African economic growth, as well as creating job opportunities as importers increase their distribution networks. In addition, it will increase efficiency throughout supply chains enabling expanded access to commodities for households at more competitive prices.

**By supporting trade activity, this facility will help sustainable industrialisation by contributing to employment and African countries' GDP.**

.....  
**Admir IMAMI**

Director of Trade and Supply Chain Finance at CDC Group

*"Societe Generale is a leading international bank with a positive commitment to Africa. Our partnership is a significant step closer to narrowing the trade finance gap in the region. This commitment will stimulate trade and supply chain efficiency in Africa by supporting banks and smaller financial institutions in providing capital and increasing credit that businesses need for their continued growth. We know our capital will ultimately help business owners sustain company growth and create further jobs for those in their communities."*

.....  
*\*Estimation by the International Chamber of Commerce*

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# FIRST EVER GREEN CONVERTIBLE BOND ISSUE IN EUROPE

Another step forward  
in strengthening Neoen's  
commitment to be  
at the forefront of  
sustainable finance.

In June 2020, Neoen, one of the world's leading and fastest-growing independent producers of exclusively renewable energy, issued the first ever Green Convertible Bond in Europe (OCEANE "verte"), maturing in 2025 and for a nominal amount of 170 million euros.

The proceeds from this "OCEANE verte" issue will be allocated to finance or refinance projects for the production of renewable energy (solar photovoltaic and wind energy) or energy storage in accordance with the requirements of the European Union's taxonomy.

This issue will thus enable Neoen to finance its growth towards its target of having more than 5.0 GW in capacity in operation or under construction by the end of 2021, while optimizing its balance sheet.

.....

## **Xavier BARBARO**

*Chairman and CEO of Neoen*

*"We are extremely happy to innovate with the launch of this first ever European green convertible bond issue. This confirms Neoen's commitment to be at the forefront of sustainable finance, having made the choice of focusing mainly on mature carbon-free technologies, with a mission to produce the most competitive renewable electricity, sustainably and on a large scale. This transaction will contribute financing our investments in sustainable growth. This issue also provides an opportunity for investors to participate actively in the global combat against greenhouse gas emissions and climate change."*

.....

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# SOCIAL BONDS TO PRESERVE EMPLOYMENT

Finance has played a major role in the reaction of governments to the Covid-19 crisis with the issuing of Social Bonds.

While unemployment has been falling in France and Unédic, France's social security agency, was close to balancing its budget, the state of emergency triggered by Covid-19 has forced the agency to step up a funding programme for this year.

An agreement with the government that Unédic would lead the nation's furlough scheme, with the state assisting with direct funding of its own, was accompanied by an impressively efficient increase in the size of its funding programme.

This latest fundraising, a six-year, €4 billion from the French agency also marks the first time the agency has raised such a large amount of money without the support of a government guarantee. As an intrinsic part of the country's social security system, the agency was able to secure interest from a large number of investors and commanded a hefty orderbook. There was no haste in the creation of the new type of bond, with the agency's plans merely accelerated by a crisis that has also served to publicise the cause.

The bond also included a provision whereby Unédic commits to segregate and invest any proceeds not instantly used in responsible investment funds, an initiative introduced to comfort dedicated socially responsible funds that were considering a participation in the new bond.

**The proceeds will help companies in France to preserve jobs in cases of economic or health crisis and neutralise periods of job loss through the contribution to supplemental retirement regimes.**

The broad, replacement income protection covers the vagaries of the job market, such as dismissals, unemployment, decreases in activity, precarious employment contracts and is available for those with short-term or part-time contracts. The funds can also be used to help with professional qualifications and skills as well as entrepreneurial projects or career changes.

.....  
**Jun DUMOLARD**

Chief Financial Officer at Unédic

*"In June 2019, the Unédic Board came together to adapt its capital market funding to the Social Bond Principles. Structuring work had been ongoing in early 2020, when the pandemic spread started. The effect of the Covid-19 crisis on the French economy required massive response measures to protect and support companies and the workforce. To finance the exceptional effort, it was only natural to answer to our investor support, built up over many years. In providing additional transparency and commitment to implementing the new Social Bond Framework Protect and support sustainable employment, Unédic demonstrates its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals."*

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# TREASURY MANAGEMENT SIMPLIFIED WITH NEW VIRTUAL ACCOUNTS

In 2020, Societe Generale launched a new virtual accounts offer. Targeting large European corporates, this bespoke solution makes treasury management easier through the improved identification and monitoring of payments.

The new virtual accounts offer provides European corporate clients with an unlimited amount of virtual account numbers (vIBAN), all related to the same real bank account that holds the company's liquidity. Coupled with a tailor-made reporting system, it allows real time reporting on the liquidity, both aggregated and analytical.

Through the customisable allocation of vIBANs among their own clients and providers (individual, grouped, geographical, etc), corporates can benefit from a comprehensive overview of every incoming and outgoing payment, suited to their own monitoring needs.

The solution allows for:

- automated reconciliation of incoming payments and invoices, making reporting, monitoring and the sending of reminders easier;
- account structure rationalisation to reduce the constraints of administering numerous real bank accounts.

This offer is fully in line with our strategy to support our corporate clients with tailor-made, added-value solutions. Virtual accounts have a strong potential to simplify liquidity management and optimisation, thanks to operational gains on bank account administration and the possibility to optimise Days of Sales Outstanding through the native reconciliation of payment flows.

.....

**ICF Habitat was among the pilot customers of Societe Generale's to implement the virtual accounts solution, customised to meet the specific needs of the organisation.**

**Anaïs MARTIN**

*Head of Treasury & Finance for ICF Habitat*

*"Our need was to be able to identify, shorten and, above all, automate our process of reconciliation of paid rents.*

*Societe Generale was developing the VAM@ SG solution. We chose to entrust them with the project and were among the first pilot customers.*

*We were supported throughout the project by our Cash Management business manager and a team of experts who were very responsive and attentive to our needs."*

.....

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Interview of Anaïs MARTIN,  
Head of Treasury &  
Finance at ICF Habitat



# A UNIQUE VERTICAL INCUBATION PLATFORM FULLY DEDICATED TO FINANCIAL MARKETS IN ASIA

After the success of the Global Markets Incubator launched in Europe in 2018 and two European promotions, Societe Generale opened the doors of its trading floors in Asia Pacific.



Societe Generale's Global Markets Incubator provides a direct and resourceful platform for fintechs to jointly shape the investment solutions and market activities of tomorrow, by turning their innovative ideas into market proof solutions.

The Global Markets Incubator is an open framework that benefits from world class experts to build tailored and valuable collaborations. This is a one-of-a-kind chance for fintechs to expose their products and solutions to real life business environments.

In 2020, Societe Generale has decided to launch the Global Market Incubator in Asia, as we believe that this region has proven to be an area where innovation and growth are key characteristics in many areas. The dynamism of capital markets in the region, where investors are constantly looking for innovative and responsible solutions, is an asset to leverage from. From market analytics, quantitative trading solutions to asset tokenization and climate investing, these companies have the potential to keep improving our business and give us an extra edge.

**Societe Generale is committed to giving entrepreneurs the tools they need to drive the future.**

Selected applicants are entitled to a 6-month incubation period, gaining access to dedicated resources from Societe Generale to define and develop their proposed solutions.

## PROMOTION 2020



Augmented Analytics  
for Better Investment  
Decisions



Predictive Analytics  
for Smart Climate  
Investing



Societe Generale  
Forge is building a  
simple and financial  
grade solution to  
access crypto assets



Kesitys technology  
helps traders optimize  
their automated  
quantitative strategies



Plug & Play for risk  
analysis and portfolio  
optimisation



Online treasury  
solutions for  
commercial  
banking clients



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## **A new milestone in the Middle East's energy transition**

Leader in renewable energy and sustainable real estate in the Middle East region, Masdar has issued the first Green...



## **Bighorn Solar: Clean energy to power a local Colorado steel mill**

This is the latest project supported by Societe Generale to help promote the world's energy transition.



## **Huge milestone for the shipping industry in Asia with "Green Jade", the first offshore installation vessel in Taiwan**

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Program is part of efforts to electrify and...



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The Spanish contractor Makiber (ACS group) has finished the construction of a new hospital, which marks a major social...



## **First Blue Bond in Asia: oceans can help save the planet**

Blue bonds are dedicated to funding marine-related projects such as protecting ocean life...

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A person with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a plaid shirt and a backpack, is seen from behind, holding hands with another person whose hand is visible in the foreground. They are standing on a rocky outcrop, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. In the distance, a turquoise lake is nestled between dark, forested mountains. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds, and the sun is shining brightly from the upper left, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is one of adventure and companionship.

# TRENDS TOWARD 2021 AND THE FUTURE

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# FUTURE OF TELECOMS

EXPERT VIEW BY JONATHAN TWEED, HEAD OF TMT FINANCE  
AND ARNAUD BURGER, CO-HEAD OF THE TMT INDUSTRY  
GROUP

The social & economic dependence on telecom networks is now so well-developed that the sector has transformed into a utility, with people relying on their broadband as much as their gas, electricity and water. But, while Covid-19 has served to affirm this new reality, the legacy networks are neither fit for purpose or future proof, particularly in the face of the massive explosion in data demand and the need for guaranteed internet coverage.

**We all use more and more telecom, which creates the perception that this is a booming sector, although this is far from the truth, with the shares of European telecoms companies performing badly on the stock exchange.** The main problem is that the provision of telecom services is a commodity. When you buy bandwidth, there is enough competition to create downward pressure on prices, which eats into profits. Furthermore, the cost of delivery is going up as a result of regulatory constraints. The entire industry is cutting costs with telecom operators running to stand still. While some players are doing better than others, the industry is flat overall, with capital expenditure going up as increased data usage creates demand for more capacity and speed that will culminate in the capex requirements of fibre rollout and 5G. As free cashflow goes down, share prices have fallen.

**Possible solutions are based around infrastructure sharing, change to business models and the chase for growth.**

Infrastructure is the most important of these and is where we, as a bank, can have the most impact. Until recently, the European Union's competition regulator has largely blocked national consolidation. As a result, operators have looked to share network access to reduce costs or converge fixed and mobile products to produce synergies and reduce customer churn. The further twist is that telecom operators tend to trade at an enterprise value of around six times Ebitda, while telecom infrastructure players, such as mobile tower companies, are valued at 15 to 20 times. In 5 or 10 years, we think this mutualised infrastructure will be owned by investors with a low cost of equity and low return requirements, such as pension funds, due to the fact that this is a safe and fundamental infrastructure. Alongside this development, the interest and involvement of infrastructure funds has been piqued. While telecom operators generally do not have the financial means to pay for 5G and fibre, the infrastructure funds not only have money but are used to investing in core infrastructure – such as ports, motorways, airports – which matches their need for safe investments. Telecoms infrastructure delivers a higher return, mainly due to its acceptance as core infrastructure. Ten years ago, telecom was not considered infrastructure enough, largely due to the amount of demand risk, which has reduced as its value as a core infrastructure has gone up. Covid-19 has served to confirm the necessity status.

**Societe Generale has led the way in providing structured financing to help telecom corporates and alternative network providers fund the substantial capex required and fill the gap left by stretched corporate balance sheets.**



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Read the full experts views



# COVID-19 TURBOCHARGES THE GREENING OF AVIATION

**EXPERT VIEW BY YANN SONNALIER,  
GLOBAL HEAD OF AVIATION FINANCE**

The global pandemic tipped the aviation industry into crisis, but has revitalised the drive to significantly reduce commercial aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It's well known that the global pandemic virtually shut down international aviation, tipping the industry into crisis. What's less recognised is the fact that the global downturn has revitalised the drive to significantly reduce commercial aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The pace of fleet renewal has picked up as airlines hasten the retirement of their oldest, most fuel-hungry aircraft. And policymakers have been prompted to place the development of zero-emission planes at the heart of the industry's support packages. Indeed, aircraft manufacturers could produce prototypes in little more than a decade.

This acceleration towards more sustainable aviation is welcome, as the global industry produces around 2% of human-induced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Aviation is responsible for approximately 12% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all transports sources, compared to 74% from road transport.

## RESEARCHING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The industry has already made significant progress in cutting emissions over several decades. In fact, the newest aircraft in service today are over 80% more fuel efficient per seat and kilometre than the first jets in the 1960's, thanks to massive investments in research and development. But far more needs to be done for the industry to meet its pledge of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2050, compared with a baseline of 2005's levels.

Recognising the industry's important role in its economy, the French government has announced a €15 billion support plan for the aerospace industry, which specifically includes €1.5 billion for research over three years into greener aircraft. This will speed up the development of a new generation of aircraft and engines, helping the sector to fulfil its goal of building a zero-emission plane by 2035, possibly as a successor to the Airbus A320, the world's best-selling aircraft.

At the present time, airlines are cutting fleet capacity and aligning it with lower levels of passenger demand. As they withdraw older planes such as the Boeing 747 jumbo jet and the Airbus A380, they're renewing their fleets with greener planes, notably the Airbus A320neo, A350 and Boeing B787 Dreamliner.

## SUSTAINING 65 MILLION JOBS

The importance of maintaining a viable aviation industry cannot be overstated. In 2019, almost 30,000 aircraft carried 4.5 billion passengers from around the world. The industry's value chain – including airlines, lessors, manufacturers, their supply chains and connected businesses such as tourism – employed 65 million people.

## FINANCING RENEWAL

Banks are playing a key role in sustaining aviation in these difficult times. Strongly committed to our clients, we're helping them to weather the crisis and prepare for the future.

Looking ahead, we expect to help the major airlines and aerospace manufacturers to refinance themselves as economies and passenger numbers recover. Many of these companies will need to revisit their capital structures, reducing the levels of debt taken on to help withstand the industry's first ever global crisis.

While the industry did not choose this crisis, it's a dark cloud with a silver lining. Out of it may come a rebirth of aviation, as hydrogen technology is trialled to develop the first zero-emission planes little more than 10 years from now.



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Time and time again, correspondent banking has...



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ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment in Asia Pacific is often assumed to be in..



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