

SGV and Synhelion sign offtake agreement for solar fuel to power historic steamboats on Lake Lucerne

Zurich, October 7, 2024

Lake Lucerne Navigation Company (SGV) AG, a leading Swiss transportation company, has signed a five-year fuel offtake agreement with cleantech company Synhelion. SGV will purchase nearly 100 tons of solar fuel annually to power its fleet. This will make SGV the first navigation company in the world to use Synhelion's solar fuel.

SGV's iconic steamboats, integral to Lake Lucerne's landscape for over a century, were originally powered by coal and later by fossil heating oil. With Synhelion's drop-in solar fuels, they can transition to renewable energy without any engine modifications. SGV has signed a five-year offtake agreement for solar fuels from plant [RISE](#), Synhelion's first commercial plant in Spain, which is scheduled to begin production from 2027.

Solar marine fuels for sustainable transportation

This offtake agreement is part of SGV's broader commitment to sustainability and aligns perfectly with Synhelion's mission to contribute to a net-zero transportation sector by replacing fossil fuels with renewable solar fuels. Philipp Furler, Co-CEO and Co-Founder of Synhelion, comments: "We are proud to partner with SGV, a forward-thinking navigation company committed to sustainability. By signing an offtake agreement, SGV is directly supporting the scale up of our solar fuel technology and is a true solar fuel pioneer. This agreement proves not only the need for renewable fuels in the maritime sector, but also the huge emerging market for sustainable fuels."

Setting a course toward sustainability

From 2027, SGV aims to fully power its historic steamboat Gallia with solar fuel as part of its new exclusive offering "Legends of Lake Lucerne". This shows how innovation and tradition can be combined to create a more sustainable future. Stefan Schulthess, Managing Director of SGV AG, adds: "Sustainability is a cornerstone of our philosophy. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint by minimizing the use of fossil fuel. Synhelion's renewable solar fuels offer the ideal solution to defossilize our historic steamboats. We're excited to support this disruptive technology."

Step by step to commercial solar fuel production

In June 2024, [Synhelion inaugurated DAWN](#), the world's first industrial solar fuel plant in Jülich, Germany, proving the technology's readiness for large-scale production. Looking ahead, Synhelion plans to build its first commercial solar fuel plant RISE in Spain, with a target production capacity of 1'000 tons of solar fuel per year. Plant RISE will produce renewable kerosene, diesel, and gasoline and will supply pioneering customers from various transportation sectors. This commitment from SGV follows the recent offtake agreement with [Pilatus Aircraft](#) and reinforces the growing momentum behind Synhelion's solar fuel technology.

About Lake Lucerne Navigation Company (SGV) AG

Lake Lucerne Navigation Company (SGV) AG, along with Shiptec AG and Tavolago AG, is a subsidiary of SGV Holding AG. Its origins date back to 1836. As a licensed, private transport company, SGV AG operates a fleet of five historic steamboats and 14 motor vessels, transporting around 3 million passengers annually on Lake Lucerne.

For more information, please visit www.lakelucerne.ch

About Synhelion

Synhelion produces sustainable solar fuels. The cleantech scale-up company is on a mission to contribute to a net-zero transportation sector by replacing fossil fuels with renewable solar fuels. Founded in 2016 as a spin-off of ETH Zurich, Synhelion is now commercializing the Sun-to-Liquid technology. In June 2024, the company inaugurated DAWN, the world's first industrial plant for the production of solar fuel in Jülich, Germany. RISE, Synhelion's first commercial production plant will be located in Spain and is scheduled to begin production from 2027. On its road to defossilize transportation, Synhelion is supported by a network of international partners such as Eni, Cemex, Lufthansa Group, Swiss International Air Lines, SMS group, Wood, AMAG Group, Zurich Airport, and Pilatus Aircraft.

For more information, please visit www.synhelion.com.

Press picture ([download](#))



Caption: Michel Scheurer (Head of Nautics, SGV), Stefan Schulthess (Managing Director, SGV), Ronald Perren (Managing Director, Shiptec), Philipp Furler (Co-CEO & Co-Founder, Synhelion), Gianluca Ambrosetti (Co-CEO & Co-Founder, Synhelion) in front of plant DAWN. Source: Synhelion.

Press Kit

Further information about Synhelion as well as image and video material are available in our press kit: <https://synhelion.com/press-kit>.

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