

Think globally, act locally!

Verbier, 3rd December 2019

Time to be bold and rethink mobility in the Alps for future generations!

The Verbier Mobility Investment Forum (VMIF) goes from strength to strength. Its 4th edition on 5 December 2019 will gather more than 150 participants, mobility professionals and practitioners. Furthermore, this year the VMIF collaborates with CleantechAlps to launch the participation of Western Switzerland to a new mobility initiative from Tech Tour.

In the morning, the Forum will focus on mobility governance and on the necessary integration between territorial planning and energy and mobility planning. Concrete examples will be showcased, including the planning for telecabine connections between valleys and summits, the planning of mobility networks for the Valais Central agglomeration, within an energy context, and the roll out of electric mobility infrastructure in alpine regions.

In the afternoon the Forum will turn its attention to the investments in new technologies and the new mobility ecosystem underpinned by the 'ACES' trends, i.e. autonomous, connected, electrical and smart mobility. A speaker panel will discuss the enabling role of data to make mobility more sustainable. Regional transport operators will present different types of mobility platforms, with focus on on-demand transport.

The VMIF is the first European Forum focused on sustainable and smart mobility in the Alps, The VMIF is a community of interest and expertise and a launchpad to start innovative projects for smart and sustainable mobility in the Alps. The 2019 VMIF will gather participants from diverse backgrounds, including the Altis SA group, the Regional Antenna for French speaking Valais (Antenne Région Valais Romand), the Canton of Valais, EPFL, CREM, the HES-SO, regional transport operators (TL, TPC, TMR), the Best Mile SA and Motiontag GmbH startups SwissTraffic SA.

As a backdrop, Bernard Wuthrich, political journalist with Le Temps newspaper, will analyse the political economy of transport in Switzerland. Marcel Maurer, former President of the city of Sion, will share his experience and enthusiasm for the mobility of the future. Thibaut Müller, associate partner with McKinsey & Company in Geneva, will provide an overview of investment trends in mobility technology whilst Fabrice Delaye, scientific journalist with Heidi News will facilitate the technology discussions les discussions.

Heidi.news, new Swiss independent media specialised in sciences and technology, is the media partner of the VMIF.

The VMIF and the innovation cluster CleantechAlps have collaborated with Tech Tour to organise the participation of Western Switzerland to a new European initiative to foster the deployment of innovative mobility projects at scale: The Tech Tour Mobility Scale Up programme. This participation will be formally launched during the closing session of the VMIF by William Stevens, Founder and CEO of Tech Tour, and Eric Plan, general secretary of CleantechAlps, with an official welcome from Pierre-Yves Déléze, General Secretary and Head of communication of the Department of Economy and Education, Canton of Valais.

Under the common « Swiss Mobility Challenges » umbrella, the two events aim at strengthening innovation and cross fertilisation between local and international decision makers in pioneering regions and fostering the development of innovative mobility projects.

A few words from the key stakeholders:

Eric Plan, general secretary of CleantechAlps : *Under the umbrella of the « Swiss Mobility Challenges », with the support of InnoSuisse, the Swiss Agency for the promotion of innovation, we are watching a historical moment and a powerful entry of Swiss actors in the mobility of the future.*

Eloi Rossier, President of the Commune de Bagnes: *The Commune of Bagnes renews its strong support to the VMIF, an event which combines overviews of the latest developments in technology and business models with sharing experience drawn from concrete projects. We find the VMIF very useful as it helps us improve and enhance our mobility offer.*

Isabelle Schirmer, VMIF Founder: *The mobility sector is undergoing radical change in response to societal and technological changes. It is now possible to transition towards sustainable, smart and user-friendly mobility in the mountains as well as in the cities. The VMIF strives to accelerate this transition. I am truly delighted to collaborate with CleantechAlps, Tech Tour et the Western Switzerland cantons around the European programme of 'Mobility Scale Up' from Tech Tour.*

William Stevens, Founder and CEO of Tech Tour: Mobility and transport are being transformed worldwide by data, AI and new technologies as well as changing needs. The Tech Tour Scaling programme aims to facilitate the financing and growth of selected tech scale-up companies by a collaborative programme with regional stakeholders and corporate partners. We are delighted with the partnerships with Business Valais and Cleantech Alps for western Switzerland and of course with the VMIF event in beautiful Verbier.

The Verbier Mobility Investment Forum (VMIF) was created on 5 December 2014 à Verbier by Isabelle Schirmer, expert in sustainable development and investment in new technologies. The participants are professionals operating across the entire mobility value chain, political decision makers, planners, transport operators, equipment vendors, service and solutions

providers, consultants, investors, entrepreneurs and researchers. The Forum provides investors and local governments with access to deep expertise and best practices to develop strategies and projects in smart and sustainable mobility.

A pillar of the strategy of the Commune de Bagnes is to become an Alpine reference in sports, culture and the environment, in particular with respect to sustainable mobility.

CleantechAlps is the Swiss innovation cluster for the promotion of clean technologies in Western Switzerland. A specialised agency of the Swiss cleantech innovation ecosystem. It works across the energy, environment and mobility sectors. Thanks to its network of about 800 companies (of which 200 start-up), CleantechAlps provides a dedicated access to all cleantech verticals (mobility, smart grid, agritech, etc.) and to potential cleantech partners. CleantechAlps plays a key role in cleantech innovation. It orchestrates the key actors to create enabling conditions for the development and growth of companies tackling the challenges of the energy transition and climate change.

Tech Tour is one of the largest investor-oriented communities in Europe connecting entrepreneurs, investors and corporate partners from across the world. Over 2000 high-tech companies apply and 750 investors take part in its 25 leading tech events held each year.

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- www.cleantech-alps.com
- www.vmif.org
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