



## JANUARY

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### **Sogreah buys TECSEN**

Sogreah has bought TECSEN, a company specialising in advice on the introduction of waste management policies for public- and private-sector clients. This purchase strengthens the group's skills in this area and confirms its determination to expand in the field of waste treatment.

### **2008 orders worth €115m!**

2008 was another very good year for Sogreah. The group's orders amounted to €111m, an 4% increase on the already high figures of 2007. International projects account for 46% of these orders.

### **Sogreah moves further up the Top 10 global port and maritime engineering consultants**

ENR (Engineering News Records) has just ranked Sogreah fifth in its list of the Top 10 global port and maritime engineering consultants for 2007. Sogreah was ranked seventh in 2006 and tenth in 2005.

## FEBRUARY

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### **Sogreah expands in the field of marine energy**

In recent years, Sogreah has considerably expanded its activities in the field of renewable energies (wind, solar photovoltaic, low-temperature geothermal, biogas, biomass). Thanks to its competence in marine hydrodynamics, hydrosedimentary and environmental studies, Sogreah is a key player when it comes to marine energy. The company is thus in a position to assist investors by providing technical and environmental advice concerning wind farm projects in the Atlantic and Channel.

Sogreah is also a major contributor to research in this sector and in this respect is in contact with developers of innovative technologies (marine current turbines, wave and tidal power). Sogreah performed laboratory tests on the Sabella D03 marine current turbine developed by Hydrohélix Energies in the context of a research programme backed by the French Environment and Energy Demand Management Agency.

### **Turnover from private-sector projects continues to climb dramatically**

Private-sector clients represented almost 35% of Sogreah's turnover in 2008, a further 30% increase in comparison with 2007. Private clients account for a large proportion of the group's growth. Internationally, private clients still represent nearly 50% of turnover (which is itself growing fast), while on the national market their share has been increasing rapidly and exceeded 20% in 2008. The group's international subsidiaries, whose activity is also growing quickly, are extremely active on the private-sector market, in particular in assisting European and North American companies with their international development projects.

All categories of private-sector clients are growing, be they industries (with Sogreah having won some new major industrial clients), construction firms, developers and operators, main contractors or general engineering firms. A good half of our contracts ultimately concern an industrial project, while the rest concern residential or tourist development projects.

### **Increased research and development effort in 2008**

The group's expenditure on research and development grew considerably in 2008, by nearly 20%. This expenditure was made in the framework of self-financed projects within the group, research projects carried out in partnership and partly subsidised by national or European programmes, and contracts in which a particular research effort was required in order to meet the client's expectations. Research and innovation represent almost 5% of the group's turnover, making this area a major target for the years to come.



## MARCH

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### The Group's Near and Middle East subsidiaries meet in Cairo

The managers of the group's Near and Middle East subsidiaries met in Cairo on 12 March to examine ways of improving synergy between them. The meeting took place in the brand new offices of Sogreah Middle East. The Near and Middle East represented nearly one third of the group's international orders in 2008. Sogreah has two subsidiaries in the region (Sogreah Middle East in Cairo and Sogreah Gulf in Dubai) and three offices in Abu Dhabi, Oman and Qatar. The permanent staff of these offices now exceeds 50 people. Sogreah Cyprus, which is technically one of the group's European subsidiaries, also took part in the meeting in Cairo in view of its geographical situation.

### Sogreah at the World Water Forum in Istanbul

Sogreah had a large and active contingent at the 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 16 to 20 March. The priority issues raised at this forum, attended by 20,000 participants, are at the heart of Sogreah's concerns and activity.

## APRIL

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### Group turnover up by 7%

At €103.5m, the group's consolidated turnover for 2008 should be 7% higher than during the previous financial year. International activity, 13% up in comparison with 2007, represents over 44% of this total, with the subsidiaries boasting considerable growth. The French market was not overly affected by the local elections, and grew by 3%.

The figures for 2008 also show a healthy profit margin.

The group's payroll rose to over 1150, with the international subsidiaries employing 210 people.



### Port Revel shiphandling training centre expands

In spite of the financial crisis, Sogreah's shiphandling training centre at Port Revel is fully booked again this year. The major European and North American pilotages, which are the centre's traditional clients, confirmed their bookings for 2009 and the training season started at the beginning of April. To handle the increasing number of course attendees, Port Revel has started major work to expand its installations and develop its fleet for the benefit of 2009's intake. The first stage of these extensions is to be opened and inaugurated on 30 April.

## MAY

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### Sogreah takes part in the 23rd International Congress on Large Dams in Brasilia

The 23rd CIGB/ICOLD (and its 77th annual meeting) took place in Brasilia from 21 to 29 May 2009. A sizeable team from Sogreah took an active part in the French delegation, which was as large as ever and just as influential in the field of dams.

Sogreah chaired one of the questions (Q89) concerning the problems linked with managing reservoir sedimentation, while a paper written by a team from Sogreah was published in the framework of Question Q91 (dam safety).



### Sogreah invests over a million euros in its Port Revel centre

**On Thursday 30 April**, Sogreah, a firm of consulting engineers working in the fields of water, energy and the environment, launched the "Otello", a 1:25 scale model of one of the largest French container carriers. This event was part of the celebrations to mark the extension of its Port Revel shiphandling training centre. Representing an investment of over one million euros, the new facilities consolidate the centre's worldwide leadership in training pilots in shiphandling operations.

By extending the lake to cover a total of 5 hectares, of which 70% is shallow water, doubling the number of quays and installing additional current-generating equipment, Port Revel can now offer an extremely varied range of situations and host 10-12 trainees each week as opposed to 8 previously.

The construction of Otello, which is a faithful reproduction of a 334 m container carrier capable of transporting 8500 TEU, bears further witness to Sogreah's intention to keep abreast of current developments. With this new model, mariners can experience the sensations of working on one of the giants that now ply the world's oceans. Since the beginning of April, when the centre reopened, numerous French, Canadian, American, Belgian, Danish and Norwegian pilots have already been able to appreciate the new installations. Some 200 are expected in the months ahead to attend conventional courses or customised programmes drawn up by the centre's experienced and highly motivated instructors to suit particular requirements.

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## JUNE

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### Sogreah strengthens its economic expertise

On 9 June 2009, Sogreah purchased the international activity of ICEA (Ingénieurs Conseil et Économistes Associés). Based in Paris, ICEA specialises in technical and economic studies and consultancy in the management of market-sector public services.

### Sogreah takes part in several events

- **3 - 4 June 2009**, Lyons: MEEDDAT/Cemagref national conference on "Flood risks: what challenges for research in support of public action?"
- **15 - 18 June 2009**, Algiers: SIEE Pollutec - Stand no. D48 (Engineering sector).
- **23 - 25 June 2009**, Padua: HYDRICA (International Exhibition of Water Technologies)  
- Stand no. 8B45.
- **28 - 30 June 2009**, Marseilles: 5th World Bank Urban Research Symposium on "Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda".



## JULY / AUGUST

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### Projected Merger Deal between SOGREAH and COTEBA

On the 1st of July 2009, the Chairmen of COTEBA and SOGREAH signed a Letter of Intent marking the launch of exclusive negotiations for a projected merger deal between the two Groups.

The new Group, whose name remains to be defined, will announce a turnover of approximately 300 Million Euros per year and total staff size of 2400. It will thus represent a front-rank French private sector company among leading European engineering firms.

The two Groups, which share the same shareholding philosophy enabling managers and employees to hold 100% share, will therefore constitute the "number one" independent firm in the construction engineering and project management sector.

The merger process which has started on the 25th of June 2009 by consultation of staff representative bodies, should reach a conclusion by the end of 2009.

[>> Read more](#)



### The Sogreah Group's 2008 Annual Report is available

[>> Click to download the English version](#)

[>> Click to download the French version](#)

### Inauguration of the Giants' Garden in Lille

On **Friday 19 June**, Lille inaugurated the Giants' Garden situated between the offices of the urban area authority and the ring road. Comprising three areas - the Plaza of Clouds, Giants' Lawn and Garden of Springs - covering a total of 3 hectares, the Giants' Garden offers a series of different areas for relaxation and walking. Sogreah has been actively involved in the project since 2006, as part of a joint venture responsible for supervising the following infrastructure: earthworks, sewerage, utility networks, network connections, lighting, civil works, soils, hydraulic circuit, pumping of water from boreholes, and pools).

### Sustainable development makes an appearance at Lake Le Bourget

On **Saturday 27 June**, the regional council of Savoie inaugurated a new development on the shores of Lake Le Bourget. This ceremony marked the fulfilment of a redevelopment project to which Sogreah contributed its expertise from 2004 to 2009 by designing and supervising the works (a waterside promenade over 3 km long, two pontoons, two headlands and a pedestrian footbridge).



## SEPTEMBER

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### Sogreah signs the Copenhagen Communiqué on Climate Change

Jacques Gaillard has signed the Copenhagen Communiqué on Climate Change on behalf of Sogreah, joining more than 500 companies from all over the world (including a few engineering firms). This communiqué was handed to the United Nations Secretary General on **Tuesday 22 September** during the New York summit. It calls for an ambitious agreement to be reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Our signature of the Communiqué demonstrates our professional commitment to play an active role in meeting this major challenge for our planet and for all its people.

Attached is the [text of the Communiqué](#) and the list of [signatories to date](#). To find out more: [www.copenhagencommunique.com](http://www.copenhagencommunique.com)



### Sogreah boosts its climate and energy strategy capabilities

On **1 August 2009** Sogreah took over the activity of Ecofys France, and a team of consultants specialising in climate and energy strategy joined Sogreah Consultants.

This team of economists and engineers will contribute to Sogreah's proactive efforts to develop its consultancy services to public- and private-sector players, helping them adapt to climate change, reduce their carbon emissions and adopt an efficient, sustainable energy policy.

The team's previous clients include several ministries, the French Interministerial Mission on Climate Change, ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency), industrial firms and local authorities, with references both in France and abroad.

### Sogreah is developing its business in Italy

Sogreah is continuing to develop in Europe by boosting its presence in Italy. After having won several major projects, mainly in the river and maritime fields, and built some interesting partnerships, on **1 September 2009** Sogreah recruited a senior engineer who will be based in Verona and responsible for developing and expanding the group's business on the Italian market, in all sectors and for both public and private-sector clients.

In the past few years, Sogreah has been involved in designing several industrial ports and terminals and has performed several studies in the fields of river development, flood control and soil remediation.

## OCTOBER

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### The Coteba / Sogreah merger moves further forward

On **Thursday 15 October**, Jacques Gaillard and Alain Bentéjac, chairmen respectively of the Sogreah and Coteba groups, signed a memorandum of understanding with the chairmen of the Sogreah and Coteba investment funds in the name of the two groups and the shareholding managers, confirming the legal and financial procedures of the merger between the two groups that will come into effect at the end of 2009. The merger is already generating considerable technical and commercial synergy both in France and internationally.



### Sogreah coordinating assessment of the costs of climate change in France

In **September 2009**, the National Observatory on the Effects of Global Warming (ONERC) published a report from the Inter-ministerial Group on the impacts of climate change, adaptation and the associated costs in France, set up by the Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development in March 2007.

The purpose of this group was to produce initial data for a sector-by-sector evaluation of the costs of these impacts and of the corresponding adaptations required. This work is intended to assist with the definition of a national plan for adapting to climate change, expected by 2011, for which nationwide consultations will begin in 2010, involving players from the public and private sectors.

In the context of the inter-ministerial group, ten thematic groups led by the ministries and government agencies concerned - health, agriculture, forestry, water, transport infrastructure and construction, energy, tourism, natural risks and insurance, biodiversity, regional government - were created and charged with carrying out the evaluations.

Sogreah's Climate and Energy team (formerly Ecofys France) coordinated the ten thematic groups, drew up the summary reports, carried out part of the economic evaluations and organised a feedback seminar on 2 October in Paris.

The documents can be downloaded from the ONERC site:

[www.ecologie.gouv.fr/-ONERC](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/-ONERC)

### Sogreah present at the following events:

- **4th Summer Environment School organised by the APPEL**  
Lyon - 30 September - 1 October 2009
- **8th Construction and industrial engineering conference**  
CNIT / Paris La Défense - 22 October 2009
- **Pollutec Maroc 2009**  
Casablanca - 22, 23 and 24 October 2009
- **Hydro 2009**  
Lyon - 26, 27 and 28 October 2009
- **French Mayors' and Local Authorities' Fair**  
Paris, Porte de Versailles - 17, 18 and 19 November 2009  
Stand no. 3J51

## NOVEMBER

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### 60 years of working in Madagascar

On **5 and 6 November**, Sogreah celebrated 60 years of working in Madagascar. It was back in 1949 that the Laboratoire Dauphinois d'Hydraulique, as Sogreah was then known, sent its first engineers and technicians to the island to define the layout for the great drain in the marshes around Lake Alaotra that was to help develop the basin for rice-growing. Today, the 70 employees of Sogreah are following in their footsteps, working in a wide range of fields. A few examples illustrate this diversity:

- Monitoring and supervision of rehabilitation works in the port of Diego-Suarez
- Monitoring and supervision of rehabilitation works in the Manombo irrigation area
- Pre-feasibility study for a major hydropower development scheme
- Assistance in promoting renewable energies and energy-saving
- Research programme concerning the adaptation of agriculture to climate change
- Environmental impact assessment for the Bemolanga oil exploration programme



### Sogreah well represented at Hydro 2009

Sogreah was well represented at the world hydroelectricity conference, Hydro 2009, which took place in Lyons from **26 to 28 October**. The many visitors who came to Sogreah's stand simply confirmed the company's status as a major international player in the field of dams and hydropower. Recent orders for dam design studies in Tunisia and Mali in particular are helping to ensure continued growth in this area, which has always been central to Sogreah's activity.

### Mekong Delta Small Cities & Towns Water Supply Project

On **14th October**, SOGREAH and its partner ICT signed with the Vietnam Development Bank a major contract to provide technical assistance to 6 Provincial Water Supply Companies in the Mekong Delta.

The TA package is part of an innovative program aiming at contributing to finance water supply facilities, but also at assisting Water Companies gain improved management capabilities, financial autonomy and credit-worthiness, vis-à-vis VDB in particular. Efficiency and potential for duplication will be major aims of the Program.

The signing of this contract therefore marks a new step in the development of SOGREAH's activities in Vietnam with the initiation of a permanent presence with Coteba. In addition, it is particularly apt that the project is located in the Mekong Delta, almost 50 years after SOGREAH's first references in the region corresponding to the creation of one of the world's first hydrodynamic models representing the Mekong!

### New contracts in Central and Eastern Europe

Sogreah, as part of a consortium, has signed with the water company S.C. Compania Apa Braşov S.A. a new contract in Romania for providing Technical Assistance for Works Supervision, Rehabilitation and Extension of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in Brasov County. Sogeah - Enviro Asist, subsidiary of Sogreah in Romania, will be a key player in the execution of this contract and will provide several long term engineers for the works supervision.

Sogreah, as part of a consortium, has signed with the Lower Silesia Board of Amelioration and Water Structures in Wroclaw a contract for the Design and Construction Supervision of Flood Protection Works for Modernization of Wroclaw City Floodway System (WFS). This contract is under the Odra Basin Flood Protection Programme. In addition, Sogreah has just signed a contract for Technical Support and Institutional Strengthening of IMGW's Institutional Capacity. IMGW is the national Institute of Meteorology and Water Management. Sogreah Polska will play an important role in these projects.

### Physical modelling, fundamentally important in designing hydraulic structures

Sogreah played a major role in organising the SHF (Société Hydrotechnique de France) conference on physical modelling held in Lyons on **24 and 25 November**. Some of the participants made the journey to Grenoble on 25 November to visit Sogreah's hydraulics laboratory, which has been very busy for several years now, with some 15 models in operation. Sogreah is one of the rare consulting and engineering firms to possess its own hydraulics laboratory.

Physical models, which are extremely complementary to mathematical models, are essential in ensuring reliable designs for maritime and river works and dams, and for studying singular features in pipe flows. Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the way physical models are operated and results delivered, with construction, validation and operation becoming cheaper and faster. Demand has grown very considerably over the past ten years, and did not slacken during the economic crisis.



## DECEMBER

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### Sogreah continues to develop in the Paris region

The greater Paris water authority (SEDIF) has just awarded Sogreah and its partners lot 1 of the single-contractor framework agreements for project management services relating to drinking water production, supply and distribution structures throughout the authority's territory and network, comprising 144 municipalities.

Sogreah will provide management services concerning works to lay pipes between 100 and 1600 mm in diameter, as part of a consortium and over a 4-year period.

SEDIF's assets include:

- 3 main drinking water production plants (Choisy-le-Roi, Neuilly-sur-Marne, Méry-sur-Oise),
- 3 underground water production well plants,
- 46 drinking water pumping stations,
- 64 drinking water storage reservoirs,
- 49 chlorination units,
- 3 warning stations,
- 8800 km of supply and distribution mains.

This contract, which follows on from several other major orders signed recently in the fields of water and sewerage, underscores the solid growth of Sogreah's Paris office.



### Another new model at the Port Revel centre

The world's largest LNG carrier, the "Q-Max", now has a little brother at Sogreah's Port Revel shiphandling training centre. The 345 m long ship with a capacity of 266 000 m<sup>3</sup> has been reproduced to the scale of 1/25th and is now operational for training pilots from ports all over the world. It marks a further step in the major investment programme implemented by Sogreah in 2008 and 2009 to develop the Port Revel centre. The centre now operates 11 ships and 3 escort tugs ([www.portrevel.com](http://www.portrevel.com)).

### A recent contract signing of Sogreah China to protect the water resources of Baiyangdian lake

SOGREAH has recently been appointed by Baoding Municipal Government, Hebei Province to provide a technical assistance over four years for the Integrated Ecosystem and Water Resources Management of the Baiyangdian Basin.

The famous "White Ocean Lake", is located in Anxin Country about 80 kilometres east of Baoding City, itself approximately 140 km south of Beijing. Water pollution and ecosystem degradation in the Baiyangdian Basin have accelerated in the last two decades due to continued pressure from rapid economic growth, industrialization, and urbanization. The degradation of the lake has diminished livelihood opportunities for communities living in the lake's surrounding areas and has put them at risk from various types of diseases. This is one of the numerous contracts signed this year by Sogreah China, which is continuing to expand from its four offices in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing and Beijing.