

Rabat, September 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

## RTE signs a cooperation agreement with ONE, the Moroccan transmission system operator

**Dominique Maillard, Chairman of the RTE Management Board, and Ali Fassi Fihri, Chief Executive of Morocco's *Office National de l'Electricité* (ONE), met in Rabat today to sign a cooperation and technical assistance agreement, that aims to promote exchanges between the two countries in the area of electricity transmission networks. The agreement sets out the terms under which RTE will provide advice and assistance to its Moroccan counterpart. The move builds upon the existing cooperation between RTE and ONE, which began with the signing of a Framework Agreement in December 2003, laying the foundations for sound and controlled collaboration between the two system operators.**

The cooperation between RTE and ONE concerns the management and transmission of electrical energy. For example, RTE may offer ONE the benefit of its expertise to audit its infrastructures including power lines and transforming substations. The French TSO may also make available to ONE the maintenance methods it has developed, such as live line work and helicopter-based work. Network studies, and assistance with analyzing significant incidents and establishing the protection plan for the Moroccan power system, also form an integral part of the cooperation agreement. The agreement also covers strategic aspects such as training for ONE's staff, the creation of an electricity market, the integration of renewable energy sources and the development of international interconnections.

Mr Ali Fassi Fihri, Chief Executive of Morocco's *Office National de l'Electricité* (ONE), said *"RTE is an historic partner for ONE, and this agreement will serve to strengthen the existing cooperation between our two organizations, within the updated framework that our joint teams have successfully established. The partnership will be developed further in the future, with the emergence of a Euro-Maghreb electricity market, and will extend into other areas linked to our basic operations"*.

Chairman of the RTE Management Board, Dominique Maillard, was keen to highlight *"the pivotal role of Morocco in the electrical interconnection of the European and Mediterranean zones, and the construction of an electricity market that spans the Mediterranean Sea"*.

This latest agreement is confirmation of RTE's internationally recognized expertise in the management of major power systems, and the organization of the electricity sector. Since 2001, RTE has signed more than twenty cooperation agreements with other TSOs or electricity companies throughout the world, a quarter of them in the Mediterranean zone. These agreements have led to 75 service provision contracts for RTE International, a fully-owned subsidiary of RTE.

*RTE is the French electricity transmission system operator. A public service company, its mission is to operate, maintain and develop the high- and extra-high voltage network. It guarantees the reliability and proper operation of the power network. RTE transports electricity between electricity suppliers (French and European) and consumers, whether they are electricity distributors (ERDF and the local distribution companies) or industrial sites directly connected to the transmission system. With 100,000 km of lines between 63,000 and 400,000 volts and 45 cross-border lines, the network operated by RTE is the biggest in Europe. In 2009, RTE posted turnover of €4,130m and currently employs around 8,500 staff.*

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**Press Contacts:**

Thierry Lartigau: T +33 (0)141 021 678 - M +33 (0)623 678 393 - [thierry.lartigau@rte-france.com](mailto:thierry.lartigau@rte-france.com)

Claire de Villele: T +33 (0)141 021 777 - M +33 (0)665 497 090 - [claire.de-villele@rte-france.com](mailto:claire.de-villele@rte-france.com)