

Emerald Technology Ventures chosen to run SFr200m Swiss Technology FundExclusive

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Emerald Technology Ventures, a cleantech venture capital company based in Zurich, has been appointed by the Swiss government to run a fund that will support Swiss companies developing technologies that deliver clean energy or conserve natural resources.

The Swiss Technology Fund will have assets of SFr200 million (\$223 million) by 2020 and will support selected projects by providing banks and other lenders with loan guarantees of up to SFr500 million, a source close to the fund told *Environmental Finance*.

The fund is capitalised by up to SFr25 million a year from a tax on fuels such as heating oil and natural gas that has been levied since 2008. This levy was raised to SFr60 per tonne of carbon dioxide from SFr36/tonne on 1 January.

South Pole Carbon, a leading developer of emission reduction projects, also headquartered in Zurich, will act as a sub-contractor to Emerald, the source said. The two firms will aim to attract applications from around 100 companies each year and propose 30 of these to a committee in the environment ministry that will decide on 20 who will be awarded loan guarantees.

Emerald Technology Ventures was created in a management buy-out of SAM Private Equity in 2007, when Dutch asset management company Robeco bought a majority stake in Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) Group. The company operates [three cleantech funds](#) and currently has around €340 million (\$463 million) under management in these funds and other mandates.

Emerald could not be reached for comment.

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