



foundation RURAL ENERGY SERVICES

## Press release

Amsterdam, 8 June 2018

### FRES appoints Wim Plaizier as Chairman of the Board and successor to Annemarie Goedmakers

***The Supervisory Board of the Foundation Rural Energy Services ([www.fres.nl](http://www.fres.nl)) appointed Wim Plaizier as successor to Annemarie Goedmakers per 7 June 2018. Goedmakers is leaving FRES after a period of 14 years.***

After studying Biochemistry, Annemarie Goedmakers obtained her PhD in the field of aquatic ecology. She continued to be active and engaged in the field of the environment and sustainability throughout her career. As Director Sustainable Energy at Nuon as of 1997, she and her team created a commercial concept for electrification of rural areas in developing countries. After a period as Sustainability Director at Nuon, she became Chairman of FRES, the foundation that took over the rural electrification efforts in Africa from Nuon, in 2004. During her time as Chairman she convincingly and persistently gave shape to FRES' activities in the Netherlands and in Africa as an exceptionally inspired and driven leader, and she will be missed by her colleagues in Amsterdam and the local FRES companies alike.

After studying at the Maritime Academy in Delfzijl, Wim Plaizier achieved an MBA at Henley Management College. He started his career as a navigation officer at Nedlloyd Lines before transferring to Royal Dutch Shell. From 1996 to late 2017, Wim held various positions at the international management consultancy agency A.T. Kearney. As Partner his tasks included responsibility for the offices in Amsterdam and Brussels and being part of the global management team. Until December 2017 he was responsible for the company's activities in Africa. During his career Wim represented A.T. Kearney in various countries on the African continent, mainly in the processing industry, mining and electricity. In addition, for a period of three years, he was responsible for A.T. Kearney's involvement in the GrowAfrica programme of the World Economic Forum. Wim lives in Naarden and his current activities include being a board member for Cappella Amsterdam and a facilitator of leadership trails for the Foundation for Natural Leadership.

Wim has already completed his training and will start implementing FRES' strategy for the coming years and the associated composition of the board as of June.

The Supervisory Board believes that FRES and Wim Plaizier are heading for an interesting, challenging time and that the chairmanship of the company will continue to be in more than capable hands.

#### **About FRES**

FRES (Foundation Rural Energy Services) enables households and small companies in Africa access to safe, healthy and affordable electricity from solar energy. The availability of electricity has a positive influence on the lives of people in rural areas and contributes to fighting poverty and improving living conditions. At this moment, FRES is managing five companies in Africa, namely in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Uganda and South Africa. FRES Netherlands delivers the necessary expertise and investments to start the local companies, let them grow and eventually become fully independent.

More information on FRES is available via [www.fres.nl](http://www.fres.nl)