



Press Release

Akuo Energy, a French SME leader in renewable energy, and the R20, founded by Arnold Schwarzenegger, will build solar and hydroelectric plants in Mali

Brussels, June 24, 2013 – Akuo Energy, the leading French independent power producer of renewable energy, announced today the signing of an exclusive partnership agreement with the R20, for the construction of solar and hydroelectric plants in Mali. The signing of this agreement took place as part of the opening ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors and during Europe's Sustainable Energy Week. The agreement was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, founder of the R20, and Eric Scotto, President of Akuo Energy, in the presence of José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission.

With this agreement, Akuo Energy becomes the exclusive partner of the R20 for the implementation and operation of projects the R20 has already identified, and for which the Malian government has already committed to provide land. Together, the projects have a total power capacity of more than 160 MW.

Akuo Energy is committed to developing the solar projects, Kita and Kangaba (total power 41 MW, west Mali), which are priorities for the Malian government, particularly after finding positive results in its pre-feasibility studies, which were conducted over several months. Akuo will ensure the financing and construction of these two projects in the coming months.

Christophe Nuttall, Executive Director of the R20 stated, *"We are very happy to officially count Akuo Energy among our partners from this point forward. Akuo Energy is a major actor in sustainable development, known for its strong values and its proven capacity for innovation. We are convinced that the teams at Akuo Energy will use their expertise to propose the people of Mali solar and hydroelectric power plants that will be perfectly adapted to their needs, taking into account both favorable local conditions, as well as local constraints."*

Eric Scotto, President of Akuo Energy, concluded, *"Africa appears to us to be particularly promising for renewable energy development. Combining a strong potential for renewable energy in terms of resources and biodiversity, as well as and well-known constraints, such as population density and a weak electric grid infrastructure, this continent presents us with all of the types of challenges that we love and know how to take on. We are even prouder to be chosen by the R20 since this first African challenge will take place in Mali: as a French SME, we will build energy infrastructures that will lead the Mali to greater energy independence. We want to thank the R20 —whose initiative we salute— for their confidence in Akuo and for signing onto this partnership, which we consider to be very promising."*

About the R20

The R20 is a not-for-profit organization with headquarters in Geneva and offices in Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, Peking, and Dakar. It fosters public-private partnerships between local governments, private companies, financial institutions, universities, governmental agencies, and United Nations organizations. The R20's mission is to help states, provinces, regions and other subnational governments implement renewable energy and low-carbon economic development projects, policies and best practices that promote sustainable development. The R20 was founded in 2010 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. More information can be found at www.regions20.org

About the Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committed to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union's goal to reduce CO2 emissions 20% by 2020. The Covenant of Mayors has 4,751 signatures today. On June 24th, 2013 it held the fourth annual Covenant of Mayors Ceremony.

More information can be found at www.covenantofmayors.eu

About Akuo Energy

Akuo Energy is a French independent renewable energy power producer that is present across the value chain, including project development, financing, construction, and operation. Akuo Energy currently operates a portfolio of electrical generation plants totaling 193 MW in installed capacity, and 409 MW has already been financed and is in the construction pipeline. The Group has more than 130 employees worldwide and operates in 13 geographic zones, including France, Reunion Island, Corsica, The Antilles, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Morocco, the United States, Uruguay, Indonesia, and Turkey. Akuo Energy generated 72 million euros in sales in 2012, and it aims to have a global production capacity of 3,000 MW by 2018.

More information can be found at www.akuoenergy.com



Contacts Akuo Energy

Axelle Vuillermet
+ 33 (0)1 47 66 62 69
vuillermet@akuoenergy.com

R20

Christophe Nuttall
Executive Director
cnuttall@regions20.org

Mamadou Saliou Sow
West Africa Director
msow@regions20.org

+41 22 755 65 45

Agence Open Space

Alexandra Romano
+33 (0)6 17 40 04 26
+33 (0)1 47 64 16 41
alexandra@openspace.fr

Valérie Fuchs
+33 (0)6 62 49 64 85
+33 (0)1 43 67 94 38
vafuchs@wanadoo.fr