

# Press Release

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON AQUA BELLA

*With a 2.2 MW capacity, AQUA BELLA is Akuo Energy's second hydroelectric plant to be built in the Alps.*

*A territorial project, AQUA BELLA has decided to call on crowdfunding via AkuoCoop*

**Paris, December 19th 2017** - Akuo Energy, the leading French IPP in renewable energy, today announces that construction has begun on Aqua Bella, a 2.2 MW run-of-river hydroelectric plant in the Savoie region of the French Alps.

Located between the villages of Aiguebelle and Randens, Aqua Bella is a low-head (5 meters) hydroelectric plant project established on the river Arc, a tributary of the Isère. It is a run-of-river plant, which means that the current is used as is, rather than being regulated depending on requirements (unlike dams with tank). Fitted with discreet and innovative turbines, Aqua Bella is an exemplary territorial project in terms of its visual integration within the landscape and the way it respects the existing fauna and flora.

### **AQUA BELLA is Akuo Energy's second hydroelectric project in the Alps**

Entirely developed in-house, Aqua Bella has benefited from all the expertise accumulated by the teams through their work on Chavort, the first hydroelectric project undertaken by the Group, which is now operational. Aqua Bella was able to reach the construction phase in record time. Crédit Coopératif financed the senior bank debt part of the project. The capital was provided by Johes, Vatel Capital and Akuo Energy, which will also be the plant's operator. The work contract was awarded to Léon Grosse. Eager to give local inhabitants an opportunity to participate in the economy of this territorial project as well, Akuo Energy has moreover chosen to offer the one-off refinancing of part of the capital it has supplied by opening a €250k tranche to crowdfunding via its AkuoCoop proprietary platform ([www.akuocoop.com](http://www.akuocoop.com)).

**Eric Scotto, Chairman of Akuo Energy, says:** *“Hydroelectricity is playing a crucial role in the development of renewable energy and perfectly complements our energy mix that mainly consists of solar and wind power. This is why we have chosen to successfully internalise this key expertise: our portfolio of hydroelectric projects under development currently represents hundreds of megawatts, both in France and especially abroad, and additional projects should thus rapidly reach maturity”.*

**About Akuo Energy: Entrepreneur by Nature**

Akuo Energy is the leading French independent renewable energy power producer. Akuo Energy is present across the whole value chain, including project development, financing, construction, and operation. As of end-2016, Akuo Energy had invested USD 1.9 billion for a total capacity of 1.1 GW in operation and under construction and over 2 GW in projects being developed. The Group's energy sales over this period totaled EUR 173 million. With to date more than 340 staff, the Group, whose headquarters are in Paris, France, operates in 13 other countries around the world: the United States, Uruguay, Indonesia, Turkey, Poland, Croatia, Australia, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Dominican Republic, Mali, Bulgaria and Dubai. Akuo Energy aims to have a global production capacity of 3,500 MW in 2022. For more information please visit [www.akuoenergy.com](http://www.akuoenergy.com)

**Akuo Energy Contact  
Investors & Media**

+ 33 (0)1 47 66 09 90

[akuoenergy@akuoenergy.com](mailto:akuoenergy@akuoenergy.com)