

Laying of the first panel of one of the largest solar power plants in the Île-de-France region

France, Annet-sur-Marne, November 14, 2019 - Akuo, a global renewable energy independent power producer and developer, and ECT, a company specialized in the reuse of inert materials resulting from construction and civil engineering work, have today launched the construction of the "Les Gabots" solar power plant in Annet-sur-Marne, to the east of Paris, which will stand out in the Île-de-France region through its size and production capacity.

One of the Paris region's largest solar power plants

With an output of 17 MWp, the *Les Gabots* plant will become one of the largest solar power plants in the Île-de-France region around Paris. Covering 18.5 hectares of land, the plant will comprise 44,000 photovoltaic modules and will help avoid the emission of 847 metric tons of CO₂ each year. Providing power to 3,700 homes, or close to 10,000 inhabitants, the *Les Gabots* plant will make the Annet-sur-Marne municipality (3,300 inhabitants) a positive energy town.

Give artificialized land a new lease of life

The Annet-sur-Marne solar PV plant was born of a partnership between Akuo and ECT. The solar panels are being installed on inert ground, giving it a new usefulness and thus a new lease of life. With their joint subsidiary ACT-E, Akuo and ECT intend to replicate the *Les Gabots* project elsewhere in Île-de-France. The aim is to substantially develop the production of solar PV energy in this region, reaching an output of 100 MWp on the sites operated by ACT-E.

Multiple players involved in financing the project

Crédit Coopératif has financed the project's debt to the tune of €8.5 million, or 75% of the total investment cost.

Beyond this, Akuo and ECT wanted to open up *Les Gabots*' capital to participative funding. The SEM SIPeN, SDESM ENERGIES and IDF Energies regional funds, the Annet-sur-Marne town hall and the *Communauté de Communes Plaines et Monts de France* community of surrounding villages have thus contributed some 50% of the project's equity financing requirements.

These players are delighted with the realization of such a large project in Seine-et-Marne, which is participating in the objective promoted by the Île-de-France region of developing solar energy.

Launch of a crowdfunding campaign open to all citizens

As well as the participative funding led by local authorities, Akuo and ECT have decided to give all citizens an opportunity to benefit from the *Les Gabots* solar power plant's profitability by enabling them to participate in the refinancing of the project via an equity loan on its AkuoCoop digital platform. This mechanism aims to encourage citizens to help finance the energy transition, backed by the territories that are its players. Since its creation, the platform has enabled over €5.2 million to be collected in just two years to finance 11 green energy power plants.

Christian Marchandeu, the Mayor of Annet-sur-Marne, says: “We have supported this wonderful solar farm project from the outset. My municipality, which is already suffering from the disastrous effects of climate change – flooding, drought, heatwaves – is committing itself to the energy transition through this solar PV plant, not with hollow words but with practical action”.

Eric Scotto, Chairman and Co-founder of Akuo, comments: “This first project resulting from our partnership with ECT is a source of pride for the AKUO group, as this is our first photovoltaic power plant in Île-de-France and one of the largest in this region. We are thus playing an integral part in the dynamism of the Île-de-France ecological transformation plan driven by regional President Valérie Pécresse. This project was also made possible by the strength of conviction of the Mayor of Annet-sur-Marne, Christian Marchandeu. Moreover, this project illustrates the participative aspect that lies at the heart of all our projects with regard to both investment and financing. In this respect, here we're giving inhabitants of the Paris region the possibility of fully participating in their region's energy transition and giving their savings real meaning via our AkuoCoop platform. Lastly, we firmly believe that the development of photovoltaic power will see a significant surge in this region in the coming years, particularly on land or surfaces that have been abandoned or artificialized”.

Laurent Mogno, Chairman of ECT, adds: “Today's laying of the first panel of the Annet-sur-Marne PV power plant materializes ECT's desire to provide local authorities with a renewable energy offer, in addition to our ability to create leisure, sports, reforested or agricultural spaces. The development of solar PV energy projects is embodied through our partnership with Akuo, a natural partner with whom we share values such as innovation and local involvement. This first solar power plant with an output of 17MWp is an integral part of our joint ambition to produce 100MW of power for the Paris region”.

Jean-Philippe Dugoin-Clément, Vice-President of the Île-de-France region, states: “The ‘Les Gabots’ site is a perfect illustration of the Île-de-France region's ambitions regarding the energy and environmental transition. The region has pledged to invest 10 billion euros in the ecological transformation by 2024. The launch of this solar power plant's construction, for which we are all here today, reflects the materialization of the region's efforts to make Île-de-France a solar energy-producing region”.

For Jacques Bouvard, Chairman of SEM SIPEnR: “After installing more than a hundred solar roofs on public buildings in the Île-de-France region, SIPPÉREC (“Syndicat Intercommunal de la Périphérie de Paris pour les Energies et les REseaux de Communication”) has created SEM SIPEnR to continue and intensify the development of renewable energies. By investing in this solar project in Seine-et-Marne, SEM SIPEnR wanted to help upcycle a former waste storage site to enable it to produce clean and renewable electricity and thus allow the region to get involved in the energy transition”.

SDESM ENERGIES, as a Seine-et-Marne player, is delighted that such a major project is being materialized in this department. Heavily involved in backing the energy transition alongside this department's villages, SDESM ENERGIES is supporting the Annet-sur-Marne solar PV project.

Benjamin Chkroun, Chairman of IDF Energies, says: “This region has announced its major ambition in terms of developing solar power. Ile-de-France Energies will play a pivotal role as operator to achieve these aims, and is today demonstrating this by investing in the project alongside Akuo and a number of public partners”.

About Akuo, Entrepreneurs by nature

Akuo is a global renewable energy independent power producer and developer. The company is present across the entire value chain, including project development, financing, construction, and operation. As of end-2018, Akuo Energy had invested more than EUR 2.2 billion for a total capacity of more than 1 GW in operation or under construction, and had over 3 GW in projects being developed. With more than 350 employees, the Group, whose headquarters are in Paris, France, has offices in some 15 countries around the world. Akuo Energy is targeting a global production capacity of 3,500 MW by 2022. For more information, visit www.akuoenergy.com/en.

About ECT

By reusing construction soil for land-use developments, ECT is a committed player in the circular economy. Our sustainable projects are developed in collaboration with local authorities and financed by excavated soil. These projects include renaturation and reforestation of sensitive land, re-establishment of agricultural land, creation of urban parks, sports facilities or golf courses. Key figures: Created in 1997 | 190 employees | Fifteen sites in operation in the Ile-de-France region | 15 million tonnes of excavated soil processed annually | 20,000 trees planted per year. For more information, visit www.groupe-ect.com/.

Akuo

Press contact

Olivia VENDRAME

vendr@akuoenergy.com

+33 1 47 66 09 90

ECT

Press contact

Agence Hopscotch

agateau@hopscotch.fr

seladak@hopscotch.fr

+33 1 58 65 10 72