

Commissioning of Europe's largest floating solar plant and launch of “*Electricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée*”

AKUO has inaugurated O'MEGA1, Europe's most powerful floating solar plant and is launching an unprecedented partnership for supplying green energy produced exclusively in France

France, Piolenc, October 18, 2019 - Akuo, a global renewable energy independent power producer and developer, today inaugurated O'MEGA1 in Piolenc (Vaucluse, southern France), the most powerful floating solar PV plant in France and Europe.

Two Ministers for an unprecedented inauguration

This inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of Mrs. Elisabeth Borne, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and Mrs. Brune Poirson, Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition. The two Ministers welcomed the commissioning of this new plant, which provides a response to the need to develop renewable energy projects on a large scale. The innovative aspect of O'MEGA1 offers promising prospects for expanding floating solar technology in France and a bright future for this cutting-edge French industry.

Europe's biggest floating solar plant

O'MEGA1 is currently Europe's most powerful floating solar plant. It produces 100% renewable energy covering the power consumption of 4,373 homes. With an output of 17 MWp, the plant occupies 17 hectares and will enable the emission of 1,093 tonnes of CO₂ to be avoided.

This revolutionary solar plant with 47,000 solar PV panels is deployed on a lake in the old Piolenc quarry and is equipped with the latest generation Hydrelío® by Ciel & Terre floating structure. This system, which helps reduce conflicts over land use, can be installed on flood and irrigation overflow lakes, drinking water reservoirs, industrial pools, flood plains and quarry lakes. Akuo is the manufacturer and exclusive distributor of the Hydrelío® by Ciel & Terre product in France. This first plant was constructed by Bouygues Energies Services.

First opening up of capital to crowdfunding

For the first time, Akuo Energy has opened up the capital of a project – O'MEGA1 – to physical people who have a home in the Vaucluse or neighboring departments. The aim of this approach is to encourage citizens to become involved in the financing of the energy transition using the region's stakeholders.

Furthermore, the municipality of Piolenc and the Énergie Partagée citizen investment tool have decided to acquire a stake in O'MEGA1 alongside local inhabitants, under the same conditions, to encourage the project's regional foothold and ensure long-term citizen involvement in its governance while benefiting from project's financial profitability.

Since September, O'MEGA1 is also open to crowdfunding via the AkuoCoop platform, which allows citizens to participate in the financing of the plant.

First « Électricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée » electron injected by O'MEGA1

The commissioning of O'MEGA1 also provided 7 independent producers and electricity supplier PLÜM with an opportunity to launch, for the first time in France, an unprecedented brand: "Électricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée" (green electricity of controlled origin). This offer guarantees its future clients 100% renewable energy produced exclusively in France, hence creating value in this country.

O'MEGA1 is thus the first renewable energy plant to guarantee electricity under the "Électricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée" brand.

French search engine QWANT, which is committed to the ecological transition, is supporting this initiative by becoming the first French Tech client to subscribe to and promote "Électricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée".

Akuo, a stakeholder in this initiative, is encouraging – through its Chairman Eric Scotto – its fellow producers and all suppliers who "share our values" to join "Électricité Verte d'Origine Contrôlée".

An environmental and educative component: deployment of the Akuo Farm® concept

Driven by its regional commitment, Akuo wanted O'MEGA1 to combine the production of electricity from renewable sources with organic agricultural production via the *Ferme d'Akuo®*, or Akuo Farm. This farm is devoted to organic market gardening with production aimed at the local market: short sales channels, school canteens, etc. Furthermore, Piolenc's schoolchildren have been made aware of issues associated with environmental protection and renewable energies through educational workshops led by the Akuo Foundation, in partnership with Piolenc town hall. This work has resulted in an educational path to increase local residents' awareness of agroecology and the energy transition.

Eric Scotto, Chairman and Co-founder of Akuo, says: *"Today, as well as inaugurating Europe's largest floating solar plant, we are showing that fighting climate change requires a collective effort. With my fellow independent producers and green electricity supplier Plüm, we are playing an integral role by enabling every citizen who opts for green electricity of controlled origin to become a genuine player in the energy transition, by thus supporting the development of renewable energy in our country. It is now up to citizens to choose their energy mix. Producers, suppliers, citizens, join us: our success depends on the strength of our community!"*

Brune Poirson, Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, adds: *"We need pioneers, "Entrepreneurs by nature" like Akuo, for such projects that will be widely driven by future generations. O'MEGA1 is an innovative project as regards its approach to cutting CO2 emissions, the conservation of biodiversity and its local aspect through crowdfunding!"*

Elisabeth Borne, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, concludes: *"This is an exceptional project that, with its 47,000 solar panels, deserves every superlative. Today's inauguration is not only a major event for Piolenc and the Vaucluse department, but also a source of national and European pride. O'MEGA1 is one of the finest examples of the very best the energy transition has to offer, embodying our ambition for the development of renewable energies. This project reflects a committed and positive ecological transition involving citizens and regions".*



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 1.2 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 <http://www.akuoenergy.com/en>.

About Énergie Partagée

A national citizen energy movement, Énergie Partagée supports and finances citizen-led projects in the field of renewable energy production. Initiated by citizen groups and local authorities who control their governance, these projects ensure that their local area can enjoy the economic benefits they generate. Approved as a "solidarity-based enterprise of social utility" and with Finansol certification, Énergie Partagée is also an investment tool that supports citizen-led projects in the field of renewable energy, by investing capital from the savings of its more than 5,600 citizen shareholders. Backed by a national network of organizers and support structures, Énergie Partagée provides project leaders with numerous resources, training sessions, publications, etc.

For more information, visit <https://energie-partagee.org/>.

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