

# Press Release

## O'MEGA1, AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT

Akuo Energy launches the construction of the first floating solar plant in France and the most powerful in Europe

**Paris, 20th September, 2018** – Akuo Energy, the leading French IPP in renewable energy, is launching the construction of O'MEGA1 in Piolenc (Vaucluse, southeast France), the first floating solar plant in France and the most powerful in Europe.

### **France's first floating solar plant**

When operational, the plant will produce 100% green energy covering the power consumption of 4,733 homes. With an output of 17MwC, the plant will be deployed on 17 hectares of land and will enable the emission of 1,093 tonnes of CO2 to be avoided.

### **The world's most advanced modular structure**

This revolutionary solar plant and its 47,000 solar PV panels will be deployed on the lake in the old Piolenc quarry and will be equipped with the latest generation Hydrelío® by Ciel & Terre floating structure. This system, which helps reduce conflicts over land use, will be installed on flood and irrigation overflow lakes, drinking water reservoirs, industrial pools, flood plains and quarry lakes. To date, the technology developed by Ciel & Terre already has a proven international track record with 235 MwC of floating solar plants installed with Hydrelío® products worldwide. Akuo Energy is the manufacturer and exclusive distributor of the Hydrelío® by Ciel & Terre product in France. This first plant will be built by Bouygues Energies Services.

### **First opening up of capital to crowdfunding**

For the first time, Akuo Energy has opened up the project's capital to physical people who have a home in the Vaucluse or neighbouring 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. The municipality of Piolenc has also decided to invest alongside local residents under the same conditions in order to benefit from the project's financial profitability.

### **Akuo Energy has chosen E6 as aggregator**

O'MEGA 1 will be the first Akuo Energy plant to operate within the framework of the additional remuneration mechanism. The plant's electricity production will be directly sold on the markets via the E6 aggregator, and the additional remuneration will offset the discrepancy between the income from these sales and the price set during the tender process. This new remuneration tool enables markets' renewable energy lines to be brought closer together.

### **First bank financing of floating solar**

Natixis Energeco has financed the project to the tune of €12.8 million, and is thus the first bank in France to provide such a sum of non-recourse financing to a floating photovoltaic plant. This is a major step for the development, in France, of this technology that enables open spaces that are not competing with agricultural or natural land to be used.

### **Deployment of the Akuo Farm® concept**

Driven by its regional commitment, Akuo Energy 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, run in accordance with the principles of agroecology, will be devoted to organic market gardening with production aimed at the local market: canteens, short sales channels, etc. This project thus has a substantial environmental component to drive the site's ecological rehabilitation.

### **An educational component**

In partnership with Piolenc town hall, the Akuo Foundation and Akuo Energy teams regularly organise educational workshops in the town's civic centre to increase children's awareness of renewable energies and the importance of protecting the environment. The Akuo Farm includes an educational path made from these workshops to increase local residents' awareness about agroecology, biodiversity and the energy transition.

**Louis Driey, Mayor of Piolenc, told us:** *"For Piolenc, the finalisation of this project is the result of many years of battles with the authorities to convince them of the value of this groundbreaking idea of a floating solar plant, the first – and currently only – such plant in France. The materialisation of this technological prowess that we have supported from the outset will make Piolenc the first "positive energy" town in France, producing more energy than it uses".*

**Eric Scotto, President and Co-founder of Akuo Energy, adds:** *"For Akuo Energy, O'MEGA1 is the culmination of a number of firsts: first floating solar plant in France, first time the Group has opened up a project's capital to individuals and a municipality, first bank financing for floating solar...! Through this communal project, we are operating as a global player in the energy transition and hope this plant will serve as an example to follow for our future projects. It is a source of great pride for us to be working hand in hand with all these players making this an exemplary project!"*

### About Natixis

Natixis is the international corporate & investment banking, asset management, insurance and financial services arm of Groupe BPCE, the second-largest banking group in France with 31 million clients through its two networks, Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Epargne. With more than 21,000 employees, Natixis has substantial business expertise in four areas of activity: Asset & Wealth Management, Corporate & Investment Banking, Insurance and Specialised Financial Services. It provides global long-term support for its own clientele of corporates, financial institutions and institutional investors and for the Groupe BPCE networks' individual, professional and SME clients.

### About Bouygues Energies & Services

Bouygues Energies and Services, a subsidiary of Bouygues Construction, for over 10 years as experts in energy performance, design, install, maintain and operate solar photovoltaic (PV) plants (rooftops, ground-mounted and carports). With more than 800MWp built and 450MWp currently under operation and maintenance (O&M), Bouygues Energies and Services aims to lower construction costs and maximize output for each photovoltaic project in order to achieve the most competitive kWh renewable price.

### About Ciel & Terre

Founded in 2006 as a supplier and installer of ground-based and rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, from 2011 Ciel & Terre completely refocused its activity on the innovative 'floating solar' segment. As a pioneer and leader in this sector, the company has developed HYDRELIO® technology, the first patented industrial-scale solution. Today, the Hydrelío® solution is installed in more than 25 countries via more than 120 projects providing 235 MWh of power. Ciel & Terre is established in 10 countries, and is continuing to open new markets while continually investing in Research & Development in order to remain competitive and offer its sustainable solution around the world.

### 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-2017, Akuo Energy had invested more than EUR 2.1 billion for a total capacity of 1.1 GW in operation, under construction or with financing underway and over 2 GW in projects being developed. With to date more than 340 staff, the Group, whose headquarters are in Paris, France, operates in 14 other countries around the world: the United States, Uruguay, Indonesia, Turkey, Poland, Croatia, Australia, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Dominican Republic, Mali, Bulgaria, Argentina and Dubai. Akuo Energy aims to have a global production capacity of 3,500 MW in 2022.



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