



## Press Release

### First fully mobile and portable solar energy units commissioned in Madagascar

**44 Solar GEM® photovoltaic solutions will bring 2.9MW of solar energy to the country**

**Antananarivo, Madagascar, 12 November 2020** - Today, Groupe Filatex, one of the leading renewable energy and real estate players in Madagascar, in collaboration with the independent global renewable energy power producer and developer, Akuo, has announced the launch of its fully operational Solar GEM® mobile and portable solar units in the port city of Tulear in Madagascar, the first of its kind in the country.

The project is being delivered by Akuo and Groupe Filatex's energy division, "Enelec", and will complement the Malagasy government's ambitious plans to extend energy access to 70% of the population by 2030 and encourage the development of innovative high-tech renewable energy solutions. This project has received long-term funding from the non-profit organization Atmosfair, which aims to contribute to the development of renewable energy worldwide.

Having tested the solution over 100 times, Enelec and Akuo have today commissioned the state-of-the-art units for a total investment of 6 million Euros. The plant is made of 44 Solar GEM®, a containerized "plug and play" solution comprising 200 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels each, with a total capacity of 2.9MWp.

The pre-assembled and pre-wired units can be deployed in just 30 minutes and folded away in 45 minutes, and can, therefore, be relocated between spells of harsh weather conditions, providing protective solutions in territories with unstable environments.

In Madagascar, only 15% of the population has access to electricity, which, according to the World Bank, is one of the lowest rates in the world.

**Hasnaine Yavarhousen, CEO of Groupe Filatex, said:** *"At Groupe Filatex one of our principal goals is to transition from fossil energy production to renewable energy in Madagascar, and across in Africa, and to develop innovative ways of increasing energy access to rural communities.*

*The world has suffered from the effects of the global pandemic this year, and no country more so than Madagascar due to its poor rate of reliable energy access, which is vital for the healthcare sector. Our innovative solar units are helping us to close the energy gap with a portable, mobile, and green solution. Our pilot project will add 2.9MW of energy to the nation energy grid and, if all goes well, we plan to roll out further such units in the months to come."*

**Eric Scotto, President and co-founder of Akuo said:** *"This project lies at the heart of Akuo's core values. With solar electricity, we are enabling Tulear to make its energy production greener and support its population to access a basic need, whilst respecting the environment. Moreover, we*



*are embarking upon an industrialisation phase with our hybrid energy solutions. It is a source of great pride for Akuo to announce the launch of this project."*

Before the end of 2020, Enelec will have completed the construction of solar energy plants at four sites across Madagascar totalling 50MW. By 2022, Enelec will have completed an additional 280 MW of renewable energy projects: 170 MW in Madagascar and 110 MW in Africa and Europe, including Guinea, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Albania. The company intends to triple its renewable energy output by 2022 and become a fully renewable energy producer in the next decade.

On top of its ambitions in the energy sector, Groupe Filatex aims to continue investing in special economic industrial free zones in Madagascar, of which the company is a sector leader.

#### **About Akuo: Entrepreneurs by Nature**

Akuo is an independent global renewable energy power producer and developer. The company is present across the entire value chain, including project development, financing, construction, and operation. Akuo had invested more than EUR 2.5 billion to build a portfolio of over 1.3 GW of assets in operation or under construction and a robust 5 GW development pipeline. With more than 350 employees, the Group, headquartered in Paris, France, has a presence in over 15 countries around the world. For more information, please visit [www.akuoenergy.com](http://www.akuoenergy.com)

#### **About Enelec**

Enelec is a private Malagasy power producer – a subsidiary of Groupe Filatex. Since 2007, Enelec has been one of the island's top private energy producers, contributing to increased access to electricity. Today, Enelec delivers 35% of Madagascar's energy production. The company has positioned itself as the market leader in private energy production in Madagascar.

#### **About Filatex**

Groupe Filatex, founded in 1979, is a leading renewable energy, real estate and free zones business based in Madagascar. The company's approach is to harness Madagascar's rich natural resources and talent to support sustainable development. Groupe Filatex invests in projects across the country and are now exporting their expertise to the rest of Africa and around world. For more information, please visit: <https://groupe-filatex.com>

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