



EDF Group opens its first floating solar power plant on the Lazer hydro power plant reservoir in the French Alps

Lazer, 20 June 2023 – The EDF Group has opened the Lazer floating solar power plant, the first facility of its type to be constructed in France by subsidiary EDF Renewables, and the first to combine photovoltaic and hydroelectric power generation at a single site. Installed on the reservoir at the Lazer dam hydro power plant, operated by EDF, the new facility doubles the site's capacity for renewable electricity generation.

The Lazer floating solar power plant comprises over 50,000 solar panels, with a total installed capacity of 20 MWp (megawatts peak). By supplying sufficient electricity to meet the annual consumption needs of 12,500 people, the facility will help France to meet its target of 100 GW of solar energy capacity by 2050.

The solar power plant complements the hydro power scheme, particularly in the summer months, by continuing to supply electricity when the water from the Lazer reservoir is used primarily for crop irrigation. The facility's anchor and float systems allow it to adapt to variations in the reservoir water level, with no impact on its operation.

Launched in 2017, the project was selected as a winning candidate in the call for proposals by the French Energy Regulatory Commission (*Commission de la Régulation de l'Énergie*) in 2018. A participatory financing campaign was successfully launched in 2021, allowing the local population to invest a total of €179,000. Construction of the solar power plant itself began in 2021, with the performance of geotechnical studies and the placement of the anchors. The photovoltaic panels were then assembled on their floats, launched onto the water in groups (known as "islets"), and towed by boat to their final location. The floating solar power plant has a scheduled operating lifetime of around 30 years.

Bruno Bensasson, EDF Group Senior Executive Vice President, Renewable Energies, commented: *"We are proud to open the Lazer floating solar power plant. The new facility provides a perfect illustration of the complementary nature of the EDF Group's expertise and our capacity for innovation. To achieve this first for France, EDF Renewables drew on the expertise it has developed at international level, with four floating solar power plants already constructed in Israel and the USA. By combining two sources of renewable electricity generation at a single site, this project will help France meet its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050."*

EDF Renewables in France's Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

The new plant boosts EDF Renewables' presence in the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region, where five new solar power plants, including Lazer, will enter service in 2023. The new plants will join five facilities already in operation, increasing EDF Renewables' solar generation capacity in the region to a total of 85 MW. EDF Renewables is also building France's first pilot floating offshore wind farm, which will be installed 17 km from the coast at Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône in south-eastern France.



Print only if necessary.

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About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables is an international leader in renewable electricity generation, with a gross installed wind and solar capacity of 13.8 GW around the world. Mainly operating in Europe and North America, EDF Renewables continues to develop by establishing positions in promising emerging markets, such as Brazil, China, India, South Africa and the Middle East. With a historic background in onshore wind and photovoltaic power generation, the company is now strongly positioned in offshore wind as well as in new technologies such as energy storage. EDF Renewables manages the development and construction of renewable energy projects, as well as the operation and maintenance of facilities. EDF Renewables is a subsidiary of the EDF Group.

Find out more: www.edf-renouvelables.com

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About EDF

As a major player in energy transition, the EDF Group is an integrated energy company active in all businesses: generation, transmission, distribution, energy trading, energy sales and energy services. EDF group is a world leader in low-carbon energy, having developed a diverse production mix based mainly on nuclear and renewable energy (including hydropower). It is also investing in new technologies to support energy transition. EDF's raison d'être is to build a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services, to help save the planet and drive well-being and economic development. The Group is involved in supplying energy and services to approximately 40.3 million customers (1), of whom 30.3 million in France (2). It generated consolidated sales of €143.5 billion in 2022.

(1) Customers are counted per delivery site. A customer can have two delivery points: one for electricity and another one for gas.

(2) Including ÉS (Électricité de Strasbourg) and SEI

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