

Press Release

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Tenesol building most powerful PV system in southern Belgium – reduces factory utility bills and generates revenue

Tenesol, the global solar power provider owned by energy giants TOTAL and EDF, is building the most powerful private PV installation in Wallonia for industrial painting specialist Monnaie Bays. The 250 kWp turnkey system will provide 50% of the company's annual electricity needs and generate revenue by selling part of the electricity it generates to the local electricity grid. The 1,700m² installation is one of the largest car park PV systems in Wallonia.

Located in Strépy-Bracquegnies, the system is being installed on a sunshade structure, which is positioned over Monnaie Bays' car park – a first in Belgium. Doing so means the car park provides two services and removes the need to strengthen a rooftop or purchase available space – not to mention the weather protection it offers vehicles.

“We hope that this installation will be one of the first steps towards the growth of PV installations in Wallonia,” says Pascal Couneson, project manager at Monnaie Bays. “Many small to medium sized businesses in the region operate in industrial sectors or manufacturing and use a lot of electricity. To manage this cost over the long-term, PV technology presents the ideal solution. It is a sound investment that significantly reduces our reliance on traditional electricity, does not disturb the landscape and improves our green credentials.”

Tenesol has more than 27 years' experience delivering turnkey solar systems that match individual project requirements. Systems can be installed on rooftops, building facades, glass roofs and as aesthetically pleasing structures architecturally integrated into a building's design.

Solar incentive

The current feed-in-tariff in Wallonia only covers systems up to 250 kWp. This can cause an economic for an investor. “As demand for solar energy increases, the need for an improved solar incentive package intensifies,” says Claude Escala, European Director at Tenesol.

Stepping into solar

As a manufacturing business, Monnaie Bays uses a lot of power at its workshop. The company's annual electricity consumption is around 500 MWh. With electricity prices rising in Wallonia, Monnaie Bays was concerned with increasing costs, which prompted an investigation into alternative power solutions. After looking at various renewable technologies, solar power was selected as the most viable

choice.

In 2010, the company asked several suppliers to tender for the project. From the 15 companies that responded, Tenesol was selected for its professionalism and the assistance it offered during the financial planning of the project. The company provides a complete service that includes technical and financial engineering, manufacturing, installation, operation and PV system maintenance.

After two years of detailed planning and approvals, construction finally began in January 2011 and is due to complete in March. The system will be fully operational and grid connected in the summer.

The 250 kWp installation – the equivalent power consumption of 80 households – consists of more than 1,000 of Tenesol's most powerful 250 Wp modules, which are manufactured at the company's advanced production facility in Toulouse, France. As the majority of global PV manufacturers are satiated in Asia, this location reduces the environmental impact of transporting materials to the project. It also means that Tenesol is ideally positioned to service the growing needs of the Belgian market.

"We have established a very good partnership with Tenesol and we will promote our work together to clients and businesses in the hope that they too will see the benefits a PV system can afford," adds Mr Couneson.

The Monnaie Bays project is supported by Jean-Claude Marcourt, Minister for Economy, SMEs, Foreign Trade and New Technologies in Wallonia.

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About Tenesol

A rapidly expanding global player in the field of solar energy (*with a turnover of €300 million in 2010, +30% per year for 3 years*), Tenesol works on behalf of businesses, local authorities and private individuals. For more than 26 years, Tenesol has been engineering, designing, manufacturing, installing and managing solar energy systems including production and consumption of supplied systems (*Off-grid sites, general grid supply via direct connection, solar water heating*) for its customers around the globe. A benchmark player in its sector, Tenesol currently has a staff of over 1,100 employees across 20 subsidiaries including two production facilities, one in Toulouse (France), the other in Cape Town (South Africa).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.tenesol.com/?lang=en>

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