

PRESS RELEASE



First energy produced at a new wind power station in Auvergne

Saran, 8 January 2009 - Last July, Aérowatt acquired a 66% share in a 12 MW wind power station under construction in Haute-Loire (see press release dated 7 July 2008), which began producing its first kilowatt-hours in December 2008 within the time limit set by Aérowatt. The energy sale price will be 8.2 centimes per kWh, a rate laid down by the decree dated 17 November 2008.

According to Jérôme Billerey, Chairman of the Aérowatt board, *"this new plant brings our installed wind power capacity to almost 70 MW and is another step towards reaching our targets of 350 MW for wind energy and 50 MWc for solar energy by the end of 2013. We are confident in continuing our activity and in the progress of our development plan."*

Use of a significant wind resource

The wind farm, with a total capacity of 12 MW, comprises 6 Enercon E70 three-blade turbines with a power per unit of 2 MW and represents a total investment of €15 million. The plant, which is in a particularly windy location, will generate the equivalent of the electricity consumption (domestic and heating) of more than 15,000 inhabitants, which corresponds to an estimated annual turnover of €2 million.

A 12-year maintenance contact has been signed with Enercon, who have set up an onsite service centre to which two people have already been assigned, ready to carry out work on the turbines at any time.

Local support for the project

After a concerted effort, this project received overwhelming support from residents and local representatives. In fact, with the wind farms located on land belonging to all inhabitants and managed by the municipality, close dialogue was essential for the success of the project.

"In our line of work, a visible presence makes dialogue easier and allows projects to be implemented in favourable conditions. Our philosophy is to take the time needed and to prioritise communication so that our projects are accepted", emphasises Jérôme Billerey.

About Aérowatt

ISIN code: FR0010396119
Mnemonic ALWAT

An independent producer of power from renewable energy sources in Metropolitan France and overseas, Aérowatt is involved in every stage of the development of its wind and solar power stations, from identifying sites to selling electricity.

As of 31 December 2008, Aérowatt owns and operates 22 wind power stations producing 69 MW and 17 solar sites producing the equivalent of 2.8 MWc and has a portfolio of projects for 1,240 MW of wind energy and more than 110 MWc of solar energy. It has set itself the objective of achieving an installed capacity to produce 350 MW of wind energy and 50 MWc of solar energy by the end of 2013.

Contacts

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