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Laos: commissioning of Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric power station, constructed for NTPC by EDF

The Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric power station in Laos, with a total power output of 1070 MW has just been commissioned, marking the completion of the construction of this major project undertaken by the EDF Group in South East Asia.

Having been conceived and constructed by EDF on behalf of NTPC (Nam Theun Power Company), a 35% subsidiary of EDF, the Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric complex highlights the Group's expertise in the field of hydraulic engineering. The power station is equipped with 4 x 250 MW turbo-alternator groups delivering electricity to Thailand's electricity grid, and 2 x 37 MW turbo-alternator groups supplying electricity to Laos. 95% of the electricity generated are therefore being exported to Thailand over 138 kilometres of very high-voltage supply cable (500 kV). The remaining 5% of output will be sufficient to satisfy around 20% of the annual electricity requirement of Laos.

EDF will be participating in the operations of the power station as part of NTPC, within the context of a concession agreement signed with the Government of Laos for a period of 25 years, with the Lao government then taking over ownership of the installation at the end of this term.

Construction of the Nam Theun 2 power station commenced in 2005 and at the peak of the site's activity there was a workforce of more than 9,000 working on the project, more than 80% of whom were Laotians. The project also includes ambitious environmental and social programmes, designed and implemented in cooperation with the Government and people of Laos and its backers from international funds, including the World Bank, Asiatic Development Bank, the European Investment bank and the French Development Agency.

Upstream from the dam, 15 new villages of more than 1,200 families will now benefit, for the first time, from a supply of electricity, drinking water and new infrastructure (schools, community buildings, roads, people's dispensaries, etc.) A further environmental and social programme specifically aimed at the downstream area of the plant was launched in 2006, run jointly by NTPC and the Government of Laos. This will be rolled out to cover 200 villages by 2014.

The EDF Group, one of the leaders in the energy market in Europe, is an integrated energy company active in all businesses: generation, transmission, distribution, energy supply and trading. The Group is the leading electricity producer in Europe. In France, it has mainly nuclear and hydraulic production facilities where 95% of the electricity output involves no CO₂ emissions. EDF's transport and distribution subsidiaries in France operate 1,285,000 km of low and medium voltage overhead and underground electricity lines and around 100,000 km of high and very high voltage networks. The Group is involved in supplying energy and services to around 38 million customers around the world, including close to 28 million in France. The Group generated consolidated sales of €66.3 billion in 2009, of which 49% in Europe excluding France. EDF is listed on the Paris Stock Exchange and is a member of the CAC 40 index.



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