

PRESS INFORMATION – 2024

How can we free solar PV from competition for use?

At the EnerGaia Forum, to be held on December 11 and 12, 2024 at the Parc des Expositions in Montpellier, the DERBI competitiveness cluster, a long-standing partner of the show, will be showcasing a number of Occitan companies it has supported. Among them, SolarinBlue: the leading French start-up in floating offshore solar energy.

Find out how SolarinBlue is transforming the use of photovoltaic solar energy. And what are the short- and medium-term market prospects for floating solar power in the three segments targeted by SolarinBlue?



Sun'Sète – First offshore solar farm in the Mediterranean, December 2023

How can we free solar PV from competition for use?

Photovoltaic solar power has established itself as the cheapest renewable energy, and its deployment is central to the decarbonization of our economies. However, photovoltaic solar power requires space: 1 MW of photovoltaic solar power takes up 1 hectare. Competition over land use therefore limits the development of photovoltaic solar power.

By 2024, over 60% of new solar PV installations in France will be small-scale. These will be smaller than 250 kW. Yet solar power plants are all the more competitive the larger they are: a gigawatt plant (i.e. 10km²) can produce electricity at a cost 5 to 8 times lower than that of an individual installation. The deployment of large-scale onshore solar projects in most developed countries has therefore become impossible, as land is a scarce resource, mobilized for multiple uses (agriculture, forestry, leisure, settlement, etc.).

SolarinBlue, France's leading offshore solar start-up

SolarinBlue frees solar photovoltaics from land-use competition by taking solar PV offshore. In 2023, we inaugurated the very first offshore solar farm in France and in the Mediterranean Sea. We are currently extending the project to 1 MW, which should be commissioned by the end of 2025. Our technology is designed to power ports, islands and create co-located hybrid offshore wind and solar farms, with an existing onshore connection.

We're aiming for a production cost of €50/MWh by 2030, and we're adapting to extreme offshore conditions, with waves of over 10m and winds of 200km/h, over 30 years at sea.

Deployment of the Sun'Sète project

As of 2021, we have begun implementation of the Sun'Sète project. The “Sun'Sète” project involves the deployment of two floats as part of an offshore photovoltaic power plant demonstrator in the Mediterranean Sea. The aim of this step is to demonstrate the considerable potential of this new industrial sector in the field of photovoltaic energy.

Our project has been supported by the DERBI cluster in certain phases of its development, and in particular during its nomination for the SparX Hackathon in 2021 in Béziers. The Sun'Sète project has been accredited by the 2 competitiveness clusters DERBI and Mer Méditerranée, guaranteeing the project a high level of quality. The label contributes to both the improvement process and the selection of innovative projects.

At the beginning of 2023, the inauguration of the Sun'Sète project marked the start of an experiment to :

- validate marine behavior
- demonstrate offshore photovoltaic production

Sun'Sète project results

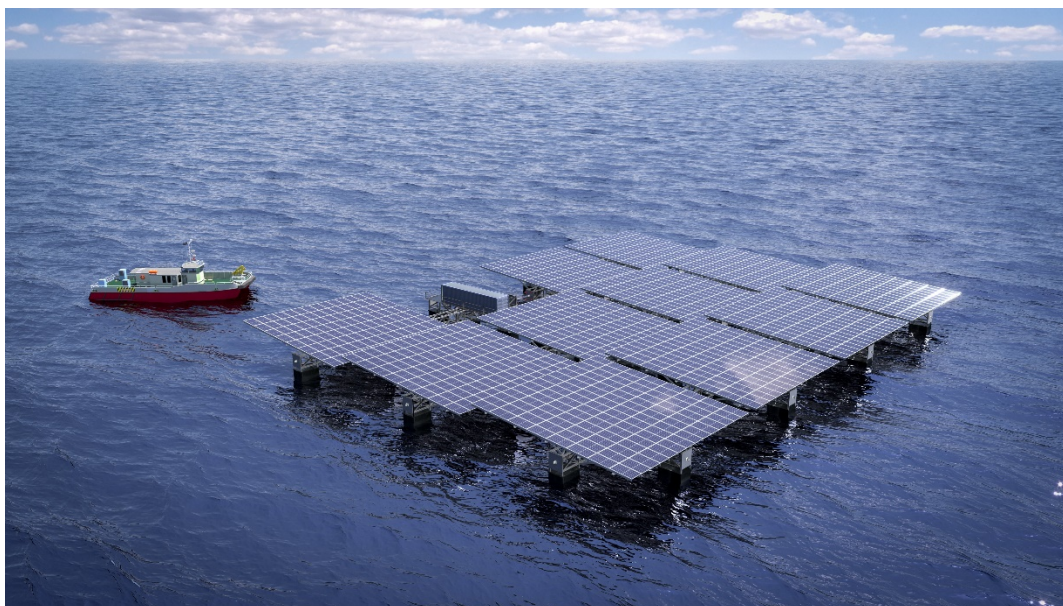
The results obtained by Sun'Sète are excellent:

- record wave resistance in March 2024, with waves of 8.7 meters
- photovoltaic output 6% higher than that of a comparable roof.

Since 2024 and the support of France 2030 for Mega Sète (a project also accredited by the DERBI cluster), an extension has been planned.

Mega Sète will increase installed capacity to 1 MW, by integrating :

- an optimized version of our float
- a floating transformer substation
- a shore connection
- an environmental impact study



Mega Sète - Commissioning scheduled for late 2025

In the short to medium term, market prospects are expected in 3 segments

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| Ports & Industries | Îles | Co-localisations Éolien & Solaire |
| Taille typique d'un projet | 1 MW à 50MW Autoconsommation | 5 MW à 100 MW Connexion au réseau |
| Marché | 6+ GW dans plus de 200 ports en Europe | 10+ GW dans plus de 100 projets dans le monde |
| | | 50 MW à 2 GW Partage du raccordement |
| | | 200+ GW en 2030 |

About DERBI

An innovation gas pedal serving the energy transition in Occitania, the DERBI competitiveness cluster is active in the Occitanie-Pyrénées Méditerranée region. Its mission is to develop innovation to encourage the creation and development of companies in the energy transition sector.

It covers three main strategic areas of activity: renewable energy production adapted to local conditions; smart energy networks and energy efficiency; and new uses, complemented by digital technology, societal issues and training. Sectors covered: solar, wind, bioenergy, hydrogen, sustainable building, energy storage, hydraulics, geothermal energy...

Since the creation of Energaia, the cluster has been exhibiting at this forum, which is a must-attend event for players in the renewable energies sector in the Occitanie region, as well as nationally and internationally. As a long-standing partner of the show, the DERBI cluster participates in the steering committee for the organization and programming of conferences. These two days of exchange and business enable us to meet and share with members of our ecosystem and industry professionals.

About Forum EnerGaïa

An annual event with nationwide and international reach dedicated to renewable energy industry professionals, Forum EnerGaïa has been accompanying all the sector's stakeholders for 18 years. Initiated by the Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée Regional Authority, Forum EnerGaïa is today a showcase for the actions the authority is taking to promote the energy transition and achieve its objective of becoming the first positive energy region in Europe. SPL Occitanie Events, the organiser of the Forum EnerGaïa, is committed to an eco-responsible approach. It has been ISO 20121 certified by AFNOR since January 2021 for all its activities.

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