

PRESS INFORMATION – 2024

How did industrialist AUBERT & DUVAL set about decarbonizing its Pamiers (09) site?

At the EnerGaia Forum, to be held on December 11 and 12, 2024 at the Parc des Expositions in Montpellier, ADEME, a long-standing partner of the show, will be showcasing a number of companies it has supported. Among them will be Aubert et Duval, a manufacturer specializing in the design, production and processing of complex metallic materials. Find out how ADEME is supporting Aubert et Duval's Pamiers plant (Ariège) in its decarbonization trajectory.



Target: reduce GHG emissions by 38% by 2030

Aubert et Duval's Pamiers plant specializes in the design, production and transformation of complex metallic materials for sectors such as aeronautics, space and nuclear power. It is the largest private employer in the Ariège department, with just over 1,000 employees on site.

Due to its activity, the site is a major energy consumer. The process requires natural gas and electricity to heat parts and tools, work the metal and carry out heat treatments to obtain the finished products, generating significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To reduce the impact of its activity, Aubert et Duval has embarked on a decarbonization trajectory with the aim of achieving -38% GHG emissions (direct emissions known as scope 1 and 2) by 2030 compared with 2018, and moving towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

This trajectory relies on a specific organization, multiple action plans and ambitious projects to achieve these objectives.

Solutions implemented

Following studies and measurement campaigns, several concrete actions have been identified to enable the site to reduce its GHG emissions:

- Installing a new, more modern and less energy-intensive heat treatment line. The old generation of gas furnaces will be replaced by more recent, automated equipment that consumes mostly electricity.
- Following a fire on the site in September 2021 and the destruction of a workshop dedicated to surface inspection (engine and structural parts), this activity was relocated. Today, Aubert et Duval wishes to rebuild the workshop close to the plant. For this new workshop, the decision was made to use 100% electricity and to dispense with gas altogether, unlike in the past.
- On one of the production lines, raw materials and tooling are heated in gas-fired ovens and furnaces, before being transformed on a forging press. The plan is to replace this natural gas-fired heating equipment with electric furnaces and ovens.

Deployment underway with ADEME

These various decarbonation projects require substantial investment, both in terms of purchasing new equipment and carrying out the work. After several site visits and discussions with ADEME engineers, the company applied to the DECARB IND call for projects, operated by ADEME, for the 3 projects.

After technical appraisal by ADEME, the projects were selected.

ADEME is thus supporting these 3 friendly projects through the Fonds de Décarbonation Industrie (Industry Decarbonation Fund) to the tune of 7 million euros, for a total investment envelope of almost 30 million euros.

The new thermal line project was initiated first and finalized during 2024, with production scheduled to ramp up over the coming months. The other 2 projects - the new control workshop and the electrification of the forging press heating system - are scheduled to start in 2025.

Perspectives

Thanks to these 3 projects, the site's GHG emissions will eventually fall by almost 23%. Other projects are currently being studied, in order to continue the trajectory of emissions reduction and reach the targets set for 2030.

In addition, the installation of these new lines will give Aubert & Duval access to a recent industrial tool adapted to the constraints of current and future markets. With one of the most modern production facilities on the market, Aubert & Duval will be able to guarantee the high levels of quality, traceability and repeatability demanded by the aerospace and energy sectors, enabling the site to pursue its development and maintain its technological leadership.

In addition to reducing environmental impact and improving the site's competitiveness, this project will also significantly improve working conditions for employees, thanks to safer, automated tools.

Between now and 2030, the industry will need to further accelerate the pace of its decarbonization, while pursuing the objective of relocating production. Through projects such as Aubert & Duval's, ADEME is proud to contribute to the decarbonization of the region, and to the development of renewable and low-carbon energies.

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.

Press contact

Agence Hikou - presse.energaia@hikou.fr
Marion CHANSON +33 (0)6 15 71 16 76
Laura TAVERNE +33 (0)6 15 59 85 76