



Press release

31 May 2022

## **ENGIE, NEOEN and the Banque des Territoires announce a new stage in development of the HORIZEO renewable energy project**

**ENGIE, NEOEN and the Banque des Territoires, committed players in the energy transition of the regions, announce the continued development of the HORIZEO project with several changes and new commitments. This decision follows the public debate organised by the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP) between 9 September 2021 and 9 January 2022, and the publication of the report from the Special Commission for Public Debate (CPDP) and the CNDP review on 9 March this year.**

HORIZEO is a large-scale renewable energy project located in Saucats in the Gironde, led by ENGIE, NEOEN and the Banque des Territoires. This innovative project combines a 1 GW photovoltaic farm, producing competitive green energy, with up-and-coming technologies, and will make a lasting contribution to the national and regional goals to accelerate the energy transition.

The public debate organised by the CNDP gathered comments and observations from the public, helping to focus the project owners' thinking. ENGIE, NEOEN and the Banque des Territoires were attentive to all the topics raised during the debate, especially environmental, economic and societal issues and the management of the risks inherent in the project.

Given the climate emergency, the growing importance of France's energy independence, the ambition of regional and national energy transition goals, and the lessons learnt from the public debate, **the project owners have decided to continue development of the HORIZEO project, with several changes and new commitments.**

The project will proceed along the following lines:

- confirmation of the **identified installation site in Saucats** due to its unique characteristics and the considerable feedback available to the project owners, particularly relating to control of the environmental issues;
- confirmation of the target capacity of **1 GW for the photovoltaic farm** provided that consideration of environmental issues, risk management and technical methods allows it;
- **relocation of the data centre outside the HORIZEO study area**, in a built-up or urban area, supplied with 100% renewable energy;
- confirmation of the size and suitability of the **storage batteries** and the **energy cropping** activity;
- study of the advisability of increasing the area dedicated to farming activities within the site by **favouring joint agricultural and photovoltaic activities**;

- continuation of the **study on the installation of an electrolyser** to produce renewable hydrogen, in view of its potential uses.

In addition, the project owners have undertaken or confirmed **a series of measures and commitments** that are **important for the continuation of the project**. Particular attention will be paid to minimising environmental impacts in the design of the project, managing risks in an exemplary manner, and implementing enhanced reforestation measures. Commitments have been made to promote and augment the benefits of the project for the region, both for residents and for the local economic fabric. Finally, as a continuation of the public debate, a public notification and participation approach will be adopted throughout the life of the project.

→ The project owners' full decision is available on the HORIZEO project website: [www.horizeo-saucats.fr](http://www.horizeo-saucats.fr)

*“The HORIZEO project will accelerate the energy transition and the public debate that has taken place will help us to continue its development with and for the region. The decision we are taking today is commensurate with these challenges and offers guarantees of exemplarity and transparency for the continued development of HORIZEO, in line with ENGIE Group’s recent Sustainable Energy Transition (TED) label for its approach to the development and operation of renewable activities, giving regions and their residents guarantees of rigour and transparency.”*

**Rosaline Corinthien, CEO France Renouvelables - ENGIE**

*“The public debate and the worsening of the energy crisis have reinforced our belief in the need to massively develop renewable energy and photovoltaic in particular. HORIZEO is a capacity-building project for Nouvelle-Aquitaine that would offer reliable, green, local and competitive energy. We are aware of the issues and concerns surrounding it, and we are committed to continuing the development work to build a responsible and exemplary project.”*

**Xavier Barbaro, Chairman and CEO – NEOEN**

*“The HORIZEO project has already been adapted as a result of the public debate. In keeping with our aim to work for the benefit of the region and its renewable energy production needs, we have heard and taken into consideration the public’s demands. There is still a long way to go and the forthcoming consultation process should contribute to the design of an ambitious project in line with local expectations. Alongside its partners, the Banque des Territoires is also committed to pursuing its actions aimed at producing renewable energy on land unsuited to any other use, as it has just done at Bordeaux Labarde, the largest photovoltaic plant in Europe located on a former landfill site.”*

**Patrick Martinez, Regional director for Nouvelle-Aquitaine – Banque des Territoires**

## About ENGIE

Our group is a global reference in low-carbon energy and services. Together with our 170,000 employees, our customers, partners and stakeholders, we are committed to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral world, through reduced energy consumption and more environmentally-friendly solutions. Inspired by our purpose (“raison d’être”), we reconcile economic performance with a positive impact on people and the planet, building on our key businesses (gas, renewable energy, services) to offer competitive solutions to our customers.

Turnover in 2021: 57.9 billion Euros. The Group is listed on the Paris and Brussels stock exchanges (ENGI) and is represented in the main financial indices (CAC 40, Euronext 100, FTSE Eurotop 100, MSCI Europe) and non-financial indices (DJSI World, DJSI Europe, Euronext Vigeo Eiris - Eurozone 120/ Europe 120/ France 20, MSCI EMU ESG screened, MSCI EUROPE ESG Universal Select, Stoxx Europe 600 ESG, and Stoxx Global 1800 ESG).

## About NEOEN

Neoen is one of the world’s leading independent producers of exclusively renewable energy. Neoen has over 5.4 GW of solar, wind and storage capacity in operation or under construction in Australia, France, Finland, Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, Ireland, Portugal, Jamaica, Mozambique, and Zambia. The company is also active in Croatia, Ecuador, Italy, Sweden, and the USA. Neoen’s flagship assets include France’s most powerful solar farm in Cestas (300 MWp), and two of the world’s largest lithium-ion batteries: Hornsdale Power Reserve (150 MW / 193.5 MWh) and the Victorian Big Battery (300 MW / 450 MWh), in Australia. Neoen is targeting more than 10 GW capacity in operation or under construction by the end of 2025. Neoen (ISIN Code: FR001675362, ticker: NEOEN) is listed in Compartment A of the regulated market of Euronext Paris.

For more information : [www.neoen.com](http://www.neoen.com)

### ENGIE Group press contact:

Tel. France: +33 (0)1 44 22 24 35  
Email: [engiepress@engie.com](mailto:engiepress@engie.com)  
[ENGIEpress](mailto:ENGIEpress)

### Investor relations contact:

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 22 66 29  
Email: [ir@engie.com](mailto:ir@engie.com)

### NEOEN press contact:

[communication@neoen.com](mailto:communication@neoen.com)

Isabelle Laurent  
+33 (0)1 53 32 61 51  
[Isabelle.laurent@oprqfinancial.fr](mailto:Isabelle.laurent@oprqfinancial.fr)

Fabrice Baron  
+33 (0)1 53 32 61 27  
[Fabrice.baron@oprqfinancial.fr](mailto:Fabrice.baron@oprqfinancial.fr)

### Banque des Territoires press contact:

Pascale Artaz | [pascale.artaz@caissedesdepots.fr](mailto:pascale.artaz@caissedesdepots.fr) | +33 (0)6 72 95 14 07

### Local and regional press contact:

Eric Bonté | [contact@ebconseil.org](mailto:contact@ebconseil.org) | +33 (0)6 27 01 32 64