


Press release

SIGNATURE OF CESTAS CONTRACT CONFIRMS SOCOTEC'S LEADERSHIP IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

SOCOTEC, a major player in risk management and trusted partner to its client companies, has strengthened its position in the photovoltaic market by winning the contract to perform periodic checks on Europe's biggest PV power plant, located near Bordeaux, France. The contract is signed with Clemessy, the company in charge of operating the plant on behalf of the owner, Neoen.

CESTAS CONTRACT: ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR SOCOTEC IN PHOTOVOLTAICS

During construction of the Constantin photovoltaic power plant in Cestas, the SOCOTEC Group provided **services in Construction Technical Inspection and Health & Safety Coordination for the worksite**. Located to the south of Bordeaux on a 260-hectare site, the plant's **overall power capacity is 300 MWp** (equal to the electricity consumption of the entire Bordeaux municipality). **The plant opened in December 2015.**

In June 2018, the Group signed a new contract with Clemessy, which operates the plant for Neoen, owner of the solar farm. The checks involve almost **1 million PV panels**, 16,542 supports, 3,700 km of power cables, almost 4,000 electrical switchboards, 200 HV transformers and a 225 kV substation.

SOCOTEC's assignment will be to **conduct regulatory periodic checks** to ensure the plant's installations are safe and to **carry out infrared thermal inspections to identify any defects that might lower output**. Inspections of the PV modules will be carried out **using drones**. This technique **greatly speeds up inspections** and reduces downtime, while also making it possible to carry out more in-depth investigations. The use of drones should generate significant productivity gains.

SOCOTEC has been involved in photovoltaics since the emergence of the sector **and is now one of the leaders in the French market**. The company has specialised teams – 70 people in France – working exclusively in photovoltaics; their expert knowledge of the installations, processes and regulations enable SOCOTEC to provide a high level of assistance and consultancy to solar PV farm installers and operators.

SOCOTEC, A VALUE CREATOR FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAYERS

SOCOTEC is also a leader in the wind power sector, with a 50-strong specialist team in France, **and offers expertise to operators in the different bioenergy activities** for all types of materials and technologies: biomass plants, anaerobic digesters, etc.

Thanks to its many different kinds of expertise, SOCOTEC **can assist players in the renewable energy industry at each stage of the lifecycle** of their facilities. We offer the benefits of:

- **unrivalled coverage of France**, with close to **150 dedicated specialists capable of intervening rapidly and autonomously** throughout the country
- **comprehensive services at competitive prices** resulting from dedicated resources and techniques that are both specific and innovative: **inspections using drones, non-destructive testing**, 4x4 vehicles fitted with wind turbine loaders, equipment for slinging and marking, etc.
- **accreditation to issue Renewable energy certificate of conformity** (« Attestations ENR » in French)
- recognised know-how **in training personnel**, including Global Wind Organisation (GWO) accreditation for personnel working on wind turbines.

In total, SOCOTEC generates revenue of €20 million in the different renewable energy activities.

The photovoltaic power plants it has worked on include Toul (115 MW), Arzac (86 MW), Losse (67 MW) and Crucey (60 MW), and clients in the wind power sector include Vestas, EDF EN, RES, EDPR, Akuo, Siemens Gamesa, Engie Compagnie du Vent and WPO. It has participated in the construction and operation of several bioenergy facilities.

SOCOTEC can offer owners consultancy for **sizing and locating their facilities** as a function of the goals identified, and also offers **operations support to improve the performance of machines and equipment**. It is positioned as a **value creator for all players in renewable energy**.

ABOUT SOCOTEC

The SOCOTEC Group, headed by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation over more than 60 years as a trusted partner assisting companies in the areas of quality, health and safety, and the environment.

*SOCOTEC's mission is to ensure the integrity and performance of assets and people's safety. Through its **inspection and measurement, assistance and consultancy, and training and certification services**, SOCOTEC helps to optimise the performance of companies in every sector by managing the risks inherent in their activities. Drawing on its expertise and positioning itself as a long-term partner, SOCOTEC supports its clients throughout their project's lifecycle.*

As France's No. 1 in construction inspection and a major player in TIC¹ for the construction and infrastructure sectors, the SOCOTEC Group generates consolidated revenue of €650 million (30% outside France) with 200,000 clients. It has operations in 26 countries, 6,800 employees and over 250 forms of external recognition. In France, its network of 150 locations covers the entire country and includes 32 training centres.

For more information, go to www.socotec.com

¹TIC: Testing, Inspection, Certification

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