

Paris, 11 January 2021

## ENGIE and NEOEN present the HORIZEO project, a low-carbon energy platform unprecedented in France

- ENGIE and NEOEN, both committed to energy transition in the regions and leaders in the renewable energy sector, are joining forces to develop HORIZEO, a large-scale renewable energy production project based on a new-concept low-carbon energy platform in Saucats, in the Gironde.
- The project is led by ENGIE, NEOEN, the electrical grid manager RTE, and Saucats town hall. In December last year, all the actors referred the project to the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP), which decided to organise a public consultation to allow the whole area to take part in developing HORIZEO.

The project aims to develop a new model of renewable energy production, with both technical and economic innovation and respect for the environment at the heart of its development.

It consists of:

- a 1 GW photovoltaic farm, producing electricity equivalent to the annual consumption of more than 600,000 people,
- combined with complementary technological building blocks. These include local production and consumption of renewable energy using
  - o batteries for electricity storage,
  - o a green hydrogen production unit targeting individual and collective regional mobility in particular,
  - o a data centre,
  - o and an area combining farming and photovoltaic electricity production.

HORIZEO is a project on an unprecedented scale that contributes to achieving the energy transition goals set by France. In the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, the aim is to reach 8.5 GW of photovoltaic energy production by 2030, compared with the current 2 GW. This project alone would represent more than 15% of this regional target. These highly ambitious goals constitute real challenges that ENGIE and NEOEN are now ready to take up, alongside territorial players.

The energy produced by the photovoltaic plant will be sold under private Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), i.e. outside the tender process organised by the French energy regulator (CRE), and hence without recourse to public support mechanisms. ENGIE and NEOEN thus intend to demonstrate that photovoltaic solar energy is now sufficiently mature, reliable and competitive to ensure direct supply of electricity to industrial users. The local production of renewable and competitive energy will also allow the development

of an electrolyser and a data centre powered directly by the solar photovoltaic plant, a first of its kind in France.

Given the scale of the project, close attention is being paid to its environmental impacts, particularly on the forest environment. The project, covering an area of approximately 1,000 hectares, comes within an area of fenced private plots dedicated to maritime pine production, and currently used by two private hunts. The impact on forestry, dealt with through a set of regulatory, administrative and technical procedures, will be subject to environmental authorisation. This will include approval for clearance, associated with compensatory reforestation over a larger area. These data will be the subject of discussions with the forestry sector and the general public.

ENGIE and NEOEN welcomed the decision taken by the CNDP on 2 December 2020 to organise a public debate, a step that will allow collective thinking on a scale consistent with the project's challenges. This procedure will guarantee transparency, as well as broad expression of opinion by the region and the public, in bringing the shared project to the best fruition possible.

*"The HORIZEO project is unprecedented and innovative in terms of its renewable energy production capacity and it goes much further by combining, on a single site, some technologies of the future. It is also an ambitious project for its business model, in which the energy produced will be sold through PPA negotiated with private companies, outside the State tender process with its associated subsidies. This is a real break with the current business model for renewable energies in France. We are also committed to carrying out a project that is exemplary in its environmental and societal approach. The forthcoming public debate will allow us, in particular, to enrich and nourish all the project's components."*

**Gwénaëlle Avice-Huet, ENGIE's Executive Vice President in charge of renewable energies**

*"HORIZEO is a large-scale project intended to demonstrate that it is possible to speed up the energy transition in France by offering competitive renewable energy directly to companies. This project is designed as a true low-carbon energy platform, combining mature solar energy with ambitious technological innovations, such as electricity storage batteries. Our priority is to integrate this project into the characteristics of the region, from an ecological, societal and economic point of view. In keeping with the unprecedented scale of the project, the public debate will allow all local players and the general public to be involved as widely as possible, to develop all its potential for the benefit of the region."*

**Paul-François Croisille, NEOEN's Chief Operating Officer**

## About Neoen

Neoen is one of the world's leading and fastest growing independent producers of exclusively renewable energy. With a capacity of more than 3.6 GW in operation or under construction, Neoen is a high-growth company. Neoen is notably active in France, Argentina, Australia, El Salvador, Finland, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal, and Zambia. In particular, Neoen operates France's most powerful solar farm (300 MWp) in Cestas, and the world's first big battery (150 MW storage capacity) in Hornsdale, Australia. Neoen is targeting at least 5 GW capacity in operation or under construction by end of 2021. Neoen (ISIN Code: FR0011675362, ticker: NEOEN) is listed in Compartment A of the regulated market of Euronext Paris.

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

**Contact****Neoen**

communication@neoen.com

**Press****OPRG Financial**

Isabelle Laurent  
+33 (0)1 53 32 61 51  
Isabelle.laurent@oprgfinancial.fr

Fabrice Baron  
+33 (0)1 53 32 61 27  
Fabrice.baron@oprgfinancial.fr

**About ENGIE**

We are a global group that leads the world in the provision of low-carbon energy and services. ENGIE's purpose ("raison d'être") is to act to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy, through reduced energy consumption and more environmentally friendly solutions, reconciling economic performance with a positive impact on people and the planet. We use our expertise in our key business areas (gas, renewable energies, services) to provide competitive and bespoke solutions. Our 170,000 employees, clients, partners and stakeholders work together to form a community of Imaginative Builders, constantly striving to achieve more harmonious progress - worldwide.

Turnover in 2019: €60.1 billion. The Group is listed on the Paris and Brussels stock exchanges (ENGI) and is represented in the main financial indices (CAC 40, DJ Euro Stoxx 50, Euronext 100, FTSE Eurotop 100, MSCI Europe) and non-financial indices (DJSI World, DJSI Europe and Euronext Vigeo Eiris - World 120, Eurozone 120, Europe 120, France 20, CAC 40 Governance).

**ENGIE Group press contact:**

Tel. France: +33 (0)1 44 22 24 35

Email: [engiepress@engie.com](mailto:engiepress@engie.com)[ENGIEpress](#)**Investor relations contact:**

Tel. +33 (0)1 44 22 66 29

Email: [ir@engie.com](mailto:ir@engie.com)**Daily local and regional press contact:**Eric Bonté | [contact@ebconseil.org](mailto:contact@ebconseil.org) | +33 (0)6 27 01 32 64