



PRESS RELEASE

Construction of biggest solar park in Benelux starts in October ENGIE Fabricom selected to build Kristal Solar Park in Lommel

The construction of Kristal Solar Park, the biggest in the Benelux region, will begin in October. The mega solar park, with a capacity of 99 MWp, is an initiative of the Limburg investment company LRM, the city of Lommel and Nyrstar. A competitive international request for quotation has reduced the cost of the project by 30%. This is also good news for the Flemish government, which will be required to pay €34 million less in subsidies. Thirty companies from across Europe competed for the contract. ENGIE Fabricom came out on top and will start building the solar park in Lommel in October.

Kristal Solar Park will be built in Lommel's Kristalpark industrial park and is an initiative of the Limburg investment company LRM, the city of Lommel and Nyrstar. The planned solar park is financed by ING Lease and will have a capacity of 99 MWp. With 300,000 solar panels, 2,200 km of cables and an area equivalent to 200 football pitches, it will be the largest solar park in the Benelux region.

Lower banding factor

The banding factor determines the number of green power certificates per MWh of power generated. On December 22, 2017, Flemish Energy Minister Bart Tommelein signed the ministerial decree awarding the mega solar park a provisional banding factor of 0.8, which amounts to €74.4 per MWh.

After an international price negotiation by the project partners, Mr Tommelein, at the suggestion of the Flemish Energy Agency (VEA), submitted the final banding factor to the Flemish government on July 20, 2018. The final banding factor is only 0.515 (€47.9 per MWh). The VEA intends to update this figure annually to ensure that the project always has the right support. If electricity prices rise, the project will receive less support.

Flemish Energy Minister Bart Tommelein says: *"The Kristal Solar Park will require up to 34% less support than initially calculated. This proves that renewable energy is becoming more and more viable, especially if international competition can play a role, as it has with this project. This is the first major solar park to be built since the certification system was reformed in 2013 and will be the biggest in the entire Benelux region. Hopefully, such a large-scale project can inspire others to invest in solar energy in Flanders as well."*

ENGIE Fabricom

In January 2018, Kristal Solar Park published a request for quotation in the newspapers *De Tijd* and *The Economist*. Thirty bids were received from more than 10 countries. An initial screening process selected the six most suitable providers. All applicants submitted a detailed proposal based on extensive specifications.

Stijn Bijmens, CEO of LRM, says: *"A lot of European EPC contractors were interested in this assignment. The bids we received were very competitive in terms of content and price. Thanks to the request for quotation, the construction and maintenance of the solar park is considerably cheaper than expected. We're very happy with the reasonable prices. The contracts for the construction of the solar park were signed on July 4, 2018."*

ENGIE Fabricom, part of the ENGIE Group, submitted the winning bid. Mark Dirckx, General Manager, is delighted: *"As a Belgian industrial company with more than 20 years' experience in the construction of solar parks, ENGIE Fabricom is perfectly placed to successfully build this facility"*



and connect it directly to Nyrstar's network. We will also maintain the solar park once it's built. This is a fantastic project, so we're grateful for the confidence shown in our expertise."

Power offtake

On July 4, contracts were also signed with Nyrstar Belgium. The zinc processor will purchase all of the power via a direct line between the solar park and its technical facilities. Companies that establish themselves later at the Kristalpark III business park will also be able to be connected to the solar park. This approach is unique.

Mega solar park

Peter Vanvelthoven, Mayor of Lommel, concludes: *"This solar park can generate enough green energy to supply all the homes in Lommel, Neerpelt and Overpelt. Construction begins on October 1, 2018 and will take nine months, meaning that the park will be able to supply energy from the summer of 2019. We are proud that Lommel will be home to this solar park. The initiative perfectly suits the city's slogan: 'Pure Energy'."*

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About Kristal Solar Park

Kristal Solar Park NV/SA was established in 2018 and is a partnership between LRM NV/SA, the city of Lommel and Nyrstar Belgium. The company is the client for the construction and operation of the solar park and is targeting renewable energy generation. The Kristal Solar Park will be built in and around the grounds of the Kristalpark III business park in Lommel.

About ENGIE Fabricom

ENGIE Fabricom designs, builds and maintains multi-technical facilities for companies and local authorities. Many of its solutions improve mobility, safety, distribution systems and the share of renewable energies, as well as operational and energy performance in industrial environments. ENGIE Fabricom and its subsidiaries are active in both Belgium and abroad. They recorded a turnover of €1.27 billion in 2017 and employs over 6,000 people.

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