

Joint press release

Brussels, 5 June 2009

Electrabel and Beaulieu International Group put 5 900 solar panels into operation

On 5 June, the 5 900 photovoltaic panels installed by Electrabel, GDF SUEZ Group in collaboration with Beaulieu International Group on the roof of the latter's huge factory in Kruishoutem will be officially commissioned. The installation has a capacity of 1.1 MW and will produce an estimated 1 000 MWh of electricity annually, enough to supply some 300 households. The project represents an investment of 4.3 million euros, largely financed by Electrabel.

The investment fits in perfectly with the sustainable development plan introduced by Electrabel at the end of 2008 under the title "Together for less CO₂." Electrabel as an energy supplier has undertaken to assist its customers in three areas, namely rational use of energy, in-house energy generation and a supply of "green electricity."

The many years of collaboration between Electrabel and Beaulieu International Group are an excellent example of this. For its production plants in Belgium and France, BIG has opted for electricity from 100% renewable sources.

With this project in Kruishoutem the group is going one step further by generating electricity from solar energy on its own site, thus helping to reduce its ecological footprint even more.

Beaulieu is also taking initiatives aimed at rational use of energy. In parallel with the installation of photovoltaic panels, a campaign is being carried out within all the group's companies to save five times more energy than will be produced by the solar panels. All employees in the Beaulieu group are being involved in the campaign, encouraging them to put forward ideas for further energy savings.

Some figures:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Area of solar panels: | 18 000 m ² |
| Cost: | 4.3 million euros |
| Capacity: | 1.1 MW |
| Expected output/year: | 1 000 MWh |

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*Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français.
Deze persmededeling is ook in het nederlands verkrijgbaar.*