

Press Release

Tuesday, 1st of December, 2015

The Symbiosis of Energy and Design: Building-integrated Organic PV Installations for Vic-Montaner in South-West France

The combination of aesthetically pleasing sun-shading and energy-production are key benefits of BELECTRIC OPV installations. Led by the French regional government, the Communauté des Communes de Vic-Montaner, with Axess Tech, and the Institut des Sciences Analytiques et de Physico-chimie pour l'Environnement et les Matériaux (IPREM), a team will deploy BELECTRIC OPV solutions in a variety of urban projects demonstrating the remarkable adaptability and resilience of OPV (organic photovoltaic) installations.

Vic-Montaner and Pau, France and Nuremberg, Germany: Having a superior design while retaining good functionality is visible trend in many industries. However, over the last decade the conventional photovoltaic market has been rushing in a different direction, often ignoring design and aesthetics, leading to photovoltaic installations are either debatable in look or excluded from use in rural and inner-city environments alike. In a complete reversal, as a major step-change in technology, based on tried-and-tested installations at the German Pavilion, EXPO 2015 in Milan, and at the African Union's building for "Security and Peace" in Addis Ababa, BELECTRIC OPV and its partners, the Communauté des Communes de Vic-Montaner (CCVM), Axess Tech, and the Institut des Sciences Analytiques et de Physico-chimie pour l'Environnement et les Matériaux (IPREM), are proving that things can be done differently: **photovoltaics performing as multi-functional components in new buildings and renovations while respectfully adapting to the needs of local aesthetics.** The installations will show that OPV can play an important role in delivering safe and reliable clean energy, as well as providing a protective and educative role in supporting our communities and daily lives.

The CCVM is convinced that OPV can be integrated harmoniously and respectfully into the public environment, producing renewable energy and offering shade from sun, rain and hail, in community-scale installations, making it a perfect fit to the weather conditions in south-west France. The CCVM is teaming up with local partners to explore the creation of local industries to deploy these new OPVs in a style that confirms and integrates seamlessly with local needs. The teaming process was led by the IPREM, an institute run by the CNRS and the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, and involved in OPV research and development, and well placed through its coordination of European networks to access the right partners for this action. Axess tech will play a key role in ensuring the link between Belectric OPV and local artisans by providing advice and technical knowledge, facilitating a transfer of this advanced technology in conformity with French regulations. For OPV components and systems technologies, this group of partners is now joining forces with BELECTRIC OPV, the market leader for OPV projects.

Four initial projects in the communities of: Andrest, Pujo, Sedze-Maubecq, and Vic-en Bigorre are planned. Once feed-back from these communities has been made, follow-up projects in Ponson-Debats-Pouts, Pontiacq-Viellepinte and other villages will be carried out. The range of the projects, from shaded walkways, church-yards, and public shopping malls, will demonstrate the way in which OPV can adapt to local aesthetics and needs. All the projects, despite their being commercial in nature, will be used to train local partners in the deployment of OPV in integrated projects, setting the base for the subsequent creation of an OPV industry based on the distinctive advantages of BELECTRIC OPV's technology based on a unique manufacturing process, combining printing, lamination and laser structuring technologies, allowing high scalability and the implementation of custom designs. Furthermore BELECTRIC OPV will support its French partners with the integration in the individual projects by means of accompanying system solutions.

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"We are proud to be the first communities deploying OPV in integrated fashions in city-centre installations," says M. Jean-Louis Curret, the President of CCVM. "Moreover, with this first set of projects we are laying the ground-work for an upcoming OPV industry in our region, by means of training our local industries for this new technology." M. Patrick Baylère, President for Renewable Energies at the CCVM says, "It is remarkable that within a radius of several kilometres we have researchers that are actively giving their knowledge and *savoir-faire* for the local population and helping Vic-Montaner in becoming a first-class player in renewable energies in France. Accordingly, we are already in the phase of planning follow-up projects on an even larger scale," he adds.

"Organic Photovoltaics is a key technology for our region and we support this move 200%. Having this technology on our doorstep confirms the IPREM's key role in OPV research and development," says Dr. Olivier Donard, Director of the IPREM. Dr. Roger Hiorns, Chargé de Recherche, CNRS says that, "We believe that OPV will play an important role in our energy sourcing of tomorrow. To have these installations near-by will allow us to strengthen our research and development base, testing our materials in a safe and in a real-life environment. This will be directly relevant for future projects and for the education of our students, giving them a good chance to develop high-tech jobs in this region. We're looking forward to expanding our science education and outreach projects with local communities and schools."

Dr. Claude Viguier of Axess Tech said, "Axess Tech, with its understanding of the importance of new technologies, electrical installations, and artisanal work will provide a pivotal role in helping incorporate this renewable energy technology into a natural landscape, respecting French values, customs, and local legal needs. We will work closely with Belectric OPV and the IPREM and advise local artisans to ensure that this exciting new technology is implemented safely so that France has a strong implication in this technology."

"After the installations in Milan and Addis Ababa we are now looking forward to the projects in Vic-Montaner region, showing OPV in direct placement in city-centre environments and in several very innovative integration forms, exemplifying the versatility of our technology. The initial projects with completely different OPV setups will be another proof of the endless possibilities OPV can offer," comments Mr. Hermann Issa, Director of Business Development and Sales, BELECTRIC OPV. "Furthermore the cooperation with the local partners creates the environment needed for follow-up projects and will be a good opportunity to make OPV installations more widely used in the coming years."



Picture: Sketch of the OPV walkway planned in the community of Pujo. Design by M. J.-C. Cousin of Atelier Cousin, Lourdes.



About the *Communauté de Communes Vic-Montaner (CCVM)*: CCVM is a local authority in south-western France which includes 29 municipalities. Its goal is to develop the community infrastructure that the municipalities of its sparsely populated territory cannot individually achieve. Its ambition is to create the conditions for a harmonious development for local residents and businesses of the area. Its activities are concentrated around four main areas:

- Facilitating economic development;
- Promoting tourism;
- Improving the local habitat;
- Providing public services at the inter-municipal level.

Since 2008, officials have worked with the aim of ensuring that renewable energies and sustainable developments go hand-in-hand to economically reduce costs and systematically support the four areas given above. The *Communauté de Communes Vic-Montaner* is convinced that the harmonious development of an area relies on an economic, social, and environmentally approach being at the core of its values and actions.

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About the *Institut des Sciences Analytiques et de Physico-chimie pour l'Environnement et les Matériaux (IPREM)*: IPREM is a joint research unit run by the Université de Pau et les Pays de l'Adour and the CNRS. It brings together four research teams combining the complementary skills of more than 200 researchers. Their scientific work is organized around the five core disciplines of analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, theoretical chemistry, polymer physics and chemistry, and microbiology. The IPREM performs advanced research for tomorrows' solar technologies and works closely with local communities and schools in outreach and educational programmes. For more information about the IPREM, see: iprem.univ-pau.fr
For information about the ESTABLIS OPV project giving an example of IPREM coordinated actions, see: www.project-establis.eu

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About *Axess Tech S.A.R.L.*: Axess Tech is a company specializing in making high-vacuum and ultra-high-vacuum systems. Created by researchers and by being in contact with multiple labs around France and Europe, Axess Tech has earned a very solid knowledge in designing, engineering, building systems and specific instruments for deposition, sample preparations and characterization of inorganic and organic materials for applications in surface science, micro- and nano-technologies, aerospace, renewable energies and so on. Axess Tech provides technical know-how for the utilisation of electrical and metal equipment in a safe environment and supports large and small industries in the use of new technologies.

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About BELECTRIC OPV: BELECTRIC OPV GmbH, with offices in Nuremberg and Kitzingen, is the market leader in the area of organic photovoltaics. BELECTRIC OPV produces bespoke organic solar cells and systems, tailored to customers' specific requirements. Furthermore, BELECTRIC OPV is active in the area of research and development, in order to continuously provide their customers with creative and innovative solutions. Additionally, BELECTRIC OPV employs a unique manufacturing process, based on a combination of printing, lamination and laser structuring processes. These give a distinct advantage due to their high scalability and, moreover, allow the implementation of custom designs. BELECTRIC OPV supports its customers with the integration of OPV in existing as well as new products and delivers the accompanying system solutions. BELECTRIC OPV currently has two product lines: SOLARTE® for architects and designers and POWER PLASTIC® for large scale industrial applications. Products from BELECTRIC OPV stand for innovation, quality, and design. Further information can be found at www.solarte.com.