

CARBON chooses Fos-sur-Mer, in Région Sud (FR), for its first PV gigafactory

Lyon, March 3rd, 2023 – **The French industrial company CARBON reveals the location of its first PV products gigafactory: it will be installed in Fos-sur-Mer, on the perimeter of the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille (GPMM). The company's ambitions are to support the decarbonization effort, participate in the reindustrialization of France and contribute to European energy sovereignty.**

- This first gigafactory will have **an annual production capacity of 5 GW for PV cells and 3.5 GW for PV modules.**
- **The opening is scheduled at the end of 2025**, with a gradual ramp-up in 2026.
- The investment budget for this gigafactory is **1.5 billion €.**
- Beyond the construction phase, **the project will create more than 3,000 direct and sustainable jobs on the territory.**

This announcement follows the latest working meetings held yesterday with the Prefect of the Région, Christophe MIRMAND, the President of Région Sud, Renaud MUSELIER, and the Chairman of the GPMM Supervisory Board, Christophe CASTANER, whom we would like to thank for their warm welcome and support. This is a decisive step for CARBON, as it gives concrete expression to the vision of its shareholders and founders. The choice of Fos-sur-Mer is the result of an in-depth study of nearly 15 sites across France by CARBON's teams.

This site, **covering an area of around 60 hectares**, is ideally located in Région Sud, on the Mediterranean coast within the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille. It meets all the necessary conditions for the establishment of our first gigafactory, because **it benefits from direct road, rail, river and sea links and is located at the heart of an attractive employment area.**

CARBON's vision of its production model, working conditions and landscape integration implies **a clear architectural ambition** for this gigafactory. It must become a human-scale industrial campus, taking into account territorial balance, respect for the environment and quality of life at work.

CARBON intends to build a rich partnership and lasting cooperation with local players (State and local authorities, businesses, unions, associations, sports clubs, etc.), and more particularly with the municipality of Fos-sur-Mer and neighboring municipalities, the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille, the Marseille-Aix-Provence Metropolis, the Région Sud, as well as the Prefecture of the Région and the State services, whose support and commitment have been crucial.

The project is now entering its public consultation phase. CARBON intends to make this consultation a model of information and participation so that this project becomes a real territory-based project, involving all its stakeholders. **To ensure that this process runs smoothly, CARBON will soon refer to the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP).**

Pierre-Emmanuel Martin, president and cofounder of CARBON:

"This announcement represents an important step for our industrial project. CARBON is gaining a foothold in the heart of a Region whose history and tradition are rich, which set in motion and looks forward to the future, particularly in terms of low-carbon and sovereign energy. Now, the matter is to build an exemplary plant as quickly as possible, with our partners and in collaboration with all the players in the Region, whom we warmly thank for their vigilance and trust."

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister of Energy Transition:

"CARBON's announcement comes at a key moment. France and Europe must quickly reposition themselves in the photovoltaic value chain to avoid moving from one dependency to another. This is why I launched an ambitious working group on the renewable energy sector with Roland Lescure, on January 20. Today, it is a tangible illustration of this desire to win back the industry."

Roland Lescure, Minister delegated for Industry:

"This announcement by CARBON is good news for the French and European photovoltaic industry, which we want to revitalize. The stakes are high: we have set an ambitious course for the development of solar electricity, and we must now speed up the organization and industrialization of a sector whose production must be relocated around efficient ecosystems. We keep working, in the context of the green reindustrialization bill and on the long term, for this promising sector!"

Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Région, Deputy President of Régions de France:

"Everyone is talking about green reindustrialization in Europe. We are doing it in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. With CARBON, more than 3,000 direct jobs will be created in the area, serving an industry that is essential to the ecological transition. Our success in this field is the result of a very dynamic strategy for attractiveness, which we have undertaken as a pilot Région for ecological planning in France. A planning of solutions, and a planning of employment in the Région Sud, in support of a positive ecology, full of common sense! I would like to thank the Prefect of the Région, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Port of Marseille-Fos, the President of the Aix-Marseille Provence Metropolis, and all our partners for their decisive support in this case."

Martine Vassal, President of the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis and the Bouches-du-Rhône Department:

"By choosing Fos-sur-Mer to develop its project, CARBON is confirming the appeal of Aix-Marseille-Provence, with its many assets, including its geostrategic positioning, its connectivity and the competitiveness of its Grand Port Maritime, and its innovation potential. I am very pleased with the concerted and effective mobilization of the State, the Région and the Municipality to defend our bid. With this new photovoltaic panels factory, the Metropolis will amplify its commitment to the development of an industry of the future, focused on low-carbon energy and the strengthening of European sovereignty. In addition to the 3,000 direct jobs and investments announced, a whole sector will be created in the Région, boosting the existing businesses."

Christophe Castaner, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille:

"Environmental performance is a differentiating factor in the competition between major harbors. For a long time, the Port of Marseille-Fos has made it a priority, and it is the guiding principle of its actions to defend and develop its businesses. We welcome CARBON to the Marseille-Fos Harbor community. CARBON has thus enriched a community of players driven by innovation and sharing the same ambition: speeding up the sustainable growth of our territory."

René Raimondi, Mayor of Fos-sur-Mer :

"France must prove at Fos-sur-Mer that it has reconnected with its industrial history and that we are capable of writing the future: a sustainable future that will position our territory as a world leader in the energy transition.

The development of renewable energies and hydrogen production will be central topics, as will the decarbonization of primary industries and the manufacturing of equipment for renewable energies (photovoltaic panels and wind turbines).

The City of Fos-sur-Mer resolutely supports the CARBON project and calls on all partners to join efforts for its realization."

About CARBON

Europe is facing the challenge of decarbonizing its economy and the question of its energy sovereignty. In this context, **CARBON, a French initiative with a European dimension, aims to participate in the sustainable reindustrialization of France and Europe by building a large-scale industrial solution for the solar sector.**

CARBON is supported by an unprecedented alliance of entrepreneurs, industrialists and solar energy experts, who are convinced of the need for an energy transition to meet the climate challenge, and who are determined to create local jobs by helping to rebuild an entire industrial

sector, **supported by a rich French and European ecosystem that CARBON's success will help to consolidate and expand:** R&D centers, equipment manufacturers, raw material suppliers, module assemblers, etc.

Our project? To develop in Europe, and in particular in France, an industry integrating the core of the value chain to **produce and market on a large scale photovoltaic silicon wafers, cells and modules that are competitive, reliable, durable, high-yield and with a very low-carbon content.**

By 2030, CARBON aims to produce and market 30 GW of wafers, 20 GW of cells and 15 GW of photovoltaic modules by building several gigafactories in Europe. This will involve massive investments and lead to the creation of more than 10,000 direct jobs.

Press contact: Steven Dolbeau (Anima) | +33 (0)6 12 22 38 71 | sdolbeau@animaconseil.com