

PRESS RELEASE

CARBON officially submits the building permit application for its gigafactory in Fos-sur-Mer

Fos-sur-Mer, April 18, 2024– **The project to establish Europe's largest gigafactory for the production of photovoltaic panels, led by CARBON, reached a crucial milestone this Thursday, April 18, with the official submission of the building permit application by Nicolas Chandellier, CEO of the company.**

Nicolas Chandellier, CEO of CARBON, officially submitted the building permit application dossier for the gigafactory on Thursday, April 18, 2024, to the municipality of Fos-sur-Mer for the planned gigafactory project in the commune, within the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis, in the South Region. **The timing aligns with commitments made to authorities and various stakeholders,** particularly during the preliminary consultation phase.

This occasion served:

- to once again thank local authorities (Marseille-Fos Port Authority, City of Fos, Metropolis, Department, Region, Prefecture...) and state services **for their commitment and support over the past year** regarding the industrial project undertaken by CARBON;
- to discuss **the favorable evolution of the French and European public framework** in support of the photovoltaic industry to meet the challenge of energy transition;
- to reiterate CARBON's aim to build **the European leader in the photovoltaic industry,** placing sustainability, competitiveness, and innovation at the heart of its strategy, and deploying the only European project guaranteeing full industrial sovereignty (from ingot to module).

Launch of the operational phase of the gigafactory project

Following the preliminary consultation held in autumn 2023, CARBON has committed to continue dialogue with citizens and stakeholders until the public inquiry scheduled for summer 2024, through ongoing consultation that has already commenced in March.

CARBON is keeping its ambitious commitments and progressing through the stages to start producing its first photovoltaic modules in Fos by 2026. The submission of the building permit application is a significant milestone in meeting this timeline.

45 hectares of industrial installations on the Marseille-Fos Port

The industrial installations will cover nearly 45 hectares, including 30 hectares of developed land with 24.5 hectares of floor area (including 210,000 m² for production on 2 levels) accommodating the 3,000 direct jobs. Natural spaces will also be preserved and enhanced, including a 4-hectare "sanctuary" for biodiversity.



New 3D view of CARBON's future gigafactory for photovoltaic panels, in Fos-sur-Mer. © CARBON

A favorable context for the photovoltaic industry

This announcement follows several political, legislative, and regulatory commitments at both the national and European levels in favor of developing the photovoltaic industry in Europe, amidst ultra-dependence on imports from Asia, particularly China.

The signing of the **solar pact** between the State and the French solar industry on April 5, 2024, the signing of the **European Solar Charter** involving 23 EU member countries on April 15, 2024, the final adoption of the **European regulation for net zero emission** industries (NZIA) in a few days, and the announced establishment of the **InduScore**... This new framework further strengthens the strategic industrial project undertaken by CARBON.

« This submission of the building permit application marks an important operational step for our large-scale industrial project. I already want to congratulate all the teams at CARBON and

*all our partners for the work done and to thank the local authorities and state services for their constant support » rejoices **Pierre-Emmanuel MARTIN, President-founder of CARBON.***

About CARBON

Europe is quickly reaching a point of no return: it must decarbonize its economy and at the same time establish its energy sovereignty. In this context, CARBON, a French initiative with a European presence, wants to contribute to the sustainable reindustrialization of France and Europe by building a large-scale industrial solution for the solar sector.

CARBON, a French company located in Lyon and Marseille, brings together an unprecedented coalition of entrepreneurs, industrial operators, and solar professionals, all of whom are both convinced of the need for energetic transition in response to the climate challenge, and are determined to create local employment by contributing to the reconstruction of an entire industrial network, that CARBON's success will contribute to consolidate and amplify: R&D centers, equipment manufacturers, raw material suppliers, modules assemblers...

Our project? A 5 GWp gigafactory integrating the core of the photovoltaics industrial value chain to produce in France and widely market competitive, reliable, sustainable, high-yield and ultra-low carbon PV cells and modules, fully traceable and compliant with the highest ESG standards. This 4.0 and 100% electrical gigafactory will be located on the maritime industrial zone of Fos-sur-Mer (South of France), on a 45 hectares plot. The result: more economic sovereignty and energy independence for France and Europe, at least 3,000 direct industrial jobs and 40 million tCO₂e emissions avoided in 10 years.

More information: carbon-solar.com

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