

PRESS RELEASE

On the occasion of CHOOSE France 2024, CARBON announces the launch of its CARBON one project

Lyon, May 13, 2024 – As part of the CHOOSE FRANCE summit organized in Versailles by the Presidency of the Republic, where the company was represented for the second consecutive year, CARBON announced the launch of its CARBON one project, an initial industrial step involving the establishment of a photovoltaic module production unit in France.

This unit is scheduled to become operational in the fall of 2025, **one year ahead of the giga-factory in Fos-sur-Mer**, which will open at the end of 2026. CARBON one will have a production capacity of 500 MWp, equivalent to over one million solar panels per year, representing about 10% of the future capacity of the giga-factory. CARBON one will create 200 direct and sustainable jobs.

CARBON one will be an **accelerator for the CARBON project**:

- **Industrial accelerator**: CARBON one will serve as a pilot unit, necessary for any industrial project of this scale, to test, validate, and optimize production processes (automation, robotization, digitalization, etc.).
- **Commercial accelerator**: CARBON one will meet the increasing demand for Made in France photovoltaic panels, related to the evolution of the ongoing regulatory framework, continuing the recent signing of the Solar Pact.
- **Ecosystem accelerator**: CARBON one will support the integration of CARBON into its ecosystem, enabling the realization of long-term partnerships with suppliers (raw materials and equipment), R&D centers, etc.

For the record, CARBON is carrying **the most significant industrial project for the photovoltaic sector in Europe**, including **the biggest integrated giga-factory in Europe**, which will cover **all the steps at the heart of the industrial value chain** (from ingot to module) and will be located in France, at Fos-sur-Mer, on a 45 Ha site at the core of the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille. CARBON will create about **3,000 direct jobs** and approximately 9,000 indirect jobs.

For the solar industry, this is **the only project** that will ensure **competitiveness, sustainability,** and **sovereignty**, thanks to:

- **Scale change** (5 GWp/year production capacity or over 10 million PV panels/year),
- **Vertical integration** (3-in-1 industrial site: ingot & wafer / cell / module),
- **Innovation** (3% of annual turnover dedicated to R&D),
- **Industrial optimization** (Industry 5.0).

The project – with a budget of **€1.7 billion** over 4 years – is becoming increasingly concrete, including the recent filing of the construction permit for the giga-factory in Fos-sur-Mer.

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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