

PRESS RELEASE

CARBON will establish its R&D and training center in Istres, within the territory of the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis

Marseille, June 27, 2024 – **The Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis and CARBON have officially committed to developing a major center of innovation and excellence for the photovoltaic industry in Istres: CARBON Lab. This new initiative marks a significant step for CARBON on its journey to becoming the future European leader in the solar industry.**

The Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis is facilitating the transformation of a former industrial site.

As the authority responsible for urban planning and territorial development, the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis is spearheading the implementation of a comprehensive strategy that promotes business growth, job creation, and environmental preservation in collaboration with public and private partners. CARBON's significant industrial project for the solar industry plays a crucial role in this initiative, contributing to sustainable economic development locally, nationally, and across Europe. This project also supports the energy and economic sovereignty of France and Europe.

Upon the proposal of **Martine Vassal, President of the Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Council and the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis**, the Metropolitan Council has adopted a report today regarding a construction lease with CARBON. This lease will enable the establishment of the CARBON Lab project on a 13.9-hectare site located in the commune of Istres, adjacent to Miramas. The site includes several currently disused industrial buildings that will be rehabilitated. The project, which involves investments of at least 33 million euros (excluding tax) over multiple phases, is **supported by the State through the France 2030 program**. Ultimately, CARBON Lab will create 200 jobs in the metropolitan area, in addition to the 3000 jobs at the Fos-sur-Mer gigafactory.

With CARBON Lab, CARBON solidifies and expands its presence in the south of France.

In addition to its gigafactory in Fos-sur-Mer and its industrial and commercial accelerator, CARBON One, the company is developing a new strategic component: CARBON Lab. Starting in 2027, this site will become a true center of innovation and excellence, supporting the activities of CARBON's other locations.

For the record, CARBON has placed technological innovation at the heart of its industrial project. At least 3% of its annual turnover will be dedicated to R&D. **The Istres site will host CARBON's**

research, development, and innovation center, focusing on production processes and photovoltaic products. Additionally, it will support part of the company's training activities. This site will feature technical platforms and operational production equipment to facilitate these activities.

In a second phase, the site will host a **Solar Campus**, an iconic venue and central hub for the entire solar industry and beyond. This landmark will serve as a meeting and exchange forum, as well as an international documentation and training center, open to the educational and economic sectors.



View of the CARBON implantation site in Istres © CARBON

"We are proud of this new establishment in Istres, which demonstrates our commitment to the South and marks a new step forward for CARBON. We will ensure it becomes a symbol of successful industrial site conversion! We thank the French State, the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis and the municipalities of Istres and Miramas for their unwavering support in this project."

Pierre-Emmanuel MARTIN, President and founder of CARBON

"Supporting the establishment of the CARBON factory and its CARBON Lab R&D and training center means permanently embedding a complete sector focused on solar energy within the metropolitan territory, thus contributing to its energy sovereignty. The Metropolis once again demonstrates its ability to respond concretely and effectively to the needs of businesses, firmly anchoring innovation and job creation in the region. This will provide lasting benefits to the metropolitan population for many years to come!"

Martine VASSAL, President of the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis

"Planning for the future means envisioning sustainable, coherent projects that meet the energy challenges we face. CARBON Lab perfectly addresses this need by offering a unique training and R&D facility focused on solar energy. I am very proud of this achievement for Istres and the Metropolis."

François BERNARDINI, Mayor of Istres, Vice-President of the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis

"The city of Miramas is working closely with the CARBON team to welcome the Solar Campus and CARBON's center of innovation and excellence to the historic Areva (ORANO) site. This site is strategically located adjacent to the Triage, a vital industrial tool for railway freight, near the passenger station and the city center. This establishment is great news for the region!"

Frédéric VIGOUROUX, Mayor of Miramas, Metropolitan Councilor

About CARBON

CARBON aims to become the European leader in the photovoltaic industry through the building of an entire sovereign, sustainable and competitive industrial ecosystem. Our main project is a gigafactory with an annual capacity of 5 GWp, encompassing the core of the industrial value chain of photovoltaics (ingot, wafer, cell, module) to manufacture made in France solar panels. This project represents an investment of 1.7 billion euros and will create 3,000 direct industrial jobs and 9,000 indirect jobs. The gigafactory will be located in the industrial-port area of Fos-sur-Mer (South of France), on a 45-hectare site. CARBON is supported by France 2030, the South Region – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis, and the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille.

For more information, visit carbon-solar.com

About the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis:

Established on January 1, 2016, the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis encompasses 92 municipalities and is home to over 1.8 million inhabitants. It holds significant strategic responsibilities that shape the development of the region. As part of its Metropolitan Economic Development Agenda, adopted in June 2022, the Metropolis identified six sectors of excellence within its territory, including the "Environment and Energy" sector. This sector aims to build a robust ecosystem for research, development, and industrial production, with a strong emphasis on renewable energies. The objective is to enhance the region's attractiveness by capitalizing on its numerous strengths and to contribute to its energy sovereignty.

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