

PRESS RELEASE

## **CARBON's gigafactory obtains the status of Major National Interest Project**

*Marseille, July 5, 2024* – **A decree published today grants CARBON's gigafactory the status of Major National Interest Project. This industrial company's project is among the first to benefit from this new status, dedicated to strategic industrial initiatives that promote ecological transition and strengthen France's independence.**

Major National Interest Projects are those which, by the nature of their productions, **reduce France's dependence** in strategic sectors or **contribute to the ecological transition** and hold **national interest** due to their significance in terms of investment and job creation. This new status, provided for by the so-called "Green Industry" law, allows the projects to benefit from various types of exemptions and to be prioritized for administrative procedures to facilitate and accelerate their establishment on French territory.

**The granting of this status confirms the State's recognition of the highly strategic nature of the project led by CARBON.** In the field of the photovoltaic industry, it is the most significant European project with **an investment of 1.7 billion euros**. The gigafactory based in Fos-sur-Mer, at the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille, will be the largest in Europe, with a yearly production capacity of 5GWp and the vertical integration of the core steps of the industrial value chain (ingots, wafers, cells, modules). It will drastically reduce our dependence on imports of photovoltaic panels produced outside Europe.

The goal of this project is to build **the European leader in the photovoltaic industry** and **to develop a complete industrial ecosystem in Europe**, from upstream to downstream.

CARBON's gigafactory will:

- Produce **more than 10 million photovoltaic panels per year in France**, equivalent to the domestic electricity needs of over 1 million French households,
- Massively create jobs: **3,000 direct and sustainable jobs**, and at least 9,000 indirect jobs for the regional and national ecosystem,
- Significantly decarbonize our economy by avoiding **4 million tons of CO2 equivalent emissions each year**.

Beyond the recognition conferred by this status, this is also good news regarding the project's strategic schedule, with a start of construction in mid-2025 and beginning of commissioning by the end of 2026.



"Receiving the status of a major national interest project confirms the highly strategic nature of our gigafactory project in Fos-sur-Mer. With CARBON, we are not merely building a factory; we are reviving a fully sovereign, sustainable, and competitive European industry for photovoltaic solar energy. This status will enable us to adhere to our construction and commissioning schedule, for which we are very pleased. We would like to thank all the teams involved, as well as the state services and local authorities who have been strongly committed and involved with us since day one."

***Pierre-Emmanuel MARTIN**, President and founder of CARBON*

## **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](https://carbon-solar.com)

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