

Press release
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KRAFTWERK and SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS construct a PV power plant for self-consumption at CPL SOUANI in Tunisia



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After months of planning and procurement, German EPC provider KRAFTWERK Renewable Power Solutions GmbH and its Tunisian partner SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS S.A.R.L. have completed the construction of a photovoltaic (PV) power plant for the cheese dairy Centrale de Produits Laitiers SOUANI in Tebourba, Tunisia.

In 2020, KRAFTWERK, known for its international collaborations on the implementation of solar energy, and the Tunisian solar energy expert Ali Kanzari and his company SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS (SES) formed a strategic partnership. By pooling their international as well as local know-how and experience, they strive to jointly develop and implement PV power plants for self-consumption in the industrial and commercial sector in Tunisia. The partnership aims at cost-efficient and reliable PV systems customized to the electricity needs of the consumers and to the Tunisian regulations.

In summer/ autumn 2021, KRAFTWERK and SES started designing and implementing their first joint project for CPL SOUANI in Tebourba, 30 km from the capital Tunis. CPL SOUANI is a family-owned and -managed cheese dairy renowned for its high-quality European cheese variety for the Tunisian market.

The 85 kWp PV system is mounted on the roof of CPL SOUANI's production facility and will be connected to the medium-voltage grid. It should cover up to 60% of CPL SOUANI's electricity needs during sunshine hours and reduce its grid-power consumption by 30% per year. Solar surpluses will be injected into the grid. Besides being a financially profitable investment, the PV system will reduce CPL SOUANI's CO₂ emissions by around 70 tons per year. The installation is financed by a loan from UIB, partner bank of the program SUNREF Tunisia, and shall receive an investment subsidy from Agence Nationale pour La Maitrise de l'Énergie (ANME).

Commissioning and grid-connection of the PV power plant as well as an inauguration ceremony are planned for December 2021.

Mr. Walid Gahbiche, Managing Director of CPL SOUANI, states: "Two of our core values at CPL SOUANI are environmental and financial sustainability. That's why we are aiming to become more independent from fossil energy and to substantially decrease our carbon footprint. The PV power plant concept presented by KRAFTWERK and SES has encouraged us to take a huge step forward and to invest in our own solar power generation."

"We are delighted about our partnership with SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS and about implementing our first reference PV installation in Tunisia which we hope will enable sustainable business for all project partners," said Dr. Roman Brinzanik, Director New Markets at KRAFTWERK. "We are especially proud to contribute to Tunisia's ambitious transition to renewable energies and to the success and core values of CPL SOUANI by decarbonizing its power supply."

Dr. Ali Kanzari, CEO of SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, adds: "In view of the abundant solar irradiation and good framework conditions in Tunisia, the prospects of decentralized solar PV power plants are very promising. So far, only a few PV installations have been connected to the medium-voltage grid and we expect that market segment to take off in the forthcoming years. Our partnership with KRAFTWERK and our first joint reference installation happened just at the right time."

The PV power plant for CPL SOUANI was selected as a showcase installation. This project is part of the worldwide dena Renewable Energy Solutions Programme coordinated by the Deutsche Energie-Agentur (dena) - the German Energy Agency - and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) within the German Energy Solutions Initiative. The dena RES Programme, known for its high selection criteria and standards, has previously worked with KRAFTWERK on another lighthouse project in Chile.

Technical Project Information

Location:	CPL SOUANI, Tebourba, Governate Manouba, Tunisia
PV power:	85 kWp
Plant type:	Grid-connected (medium voltage)
Business model:	Self-consumption
Solar output:	~ 130,000 kWh p.a.
CO ₂ savings:	~ 70 tons p.a.
Modules:	JinkoSolar JKM520M-7TL4-V
Inverter:	REFUsoL 100K
Mounting structure:	K2 Systems TiltUp Vento
Completion:	November 2021

About the project partners:

Kraftwerk Renewable Power Solutions

Kraftwerk Renewable Power Solutions was founded in 2010 in Weingarten, Germany and has project offices in Berlin, Frankfurt, Tunis, Cairo, Lima, and Santiago de Chile. Kraftwerk develops and implements customized solar energy solutions for grid-connected and off-grid applications and provides owner's engineering and EPCM services. www.kraftwerk-rps.com

Solar Energy Systems

Solar Energy Systems is a Tunisian company providing engineering and installation of turnkey renewable energy projects. It was established by Dr. Ali Kanzari in 1992 and is a Tunisian leader. Solar Energy Systems operates in several fields: photovoltaics (decentralized electrification with solar energy, solar water pumping, cathodic protection, marine lighting, solar water desalination, grid-connected PV), biogas, CHP&CCHP, and wind energy.

CPL Souani

CPL Souani was founded in 1983 by Mr. Mohamed Salah Gahbiche. The company is known for its high-quality cheese variety, especially for its French Camembert and for other cheese specialties such as Swiss cheese and Italian Mozzarella among others. The plant is located in the agricultural area of Lansarine, about 30 km West of Tunis, known for its organic agricultural products that are exported to Europe and also to the United States. www.souani.tn

German Energy Agency (dena)

dena is the centre of expertise for energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and intelligent energy systems. As Agency for Applied Energy Transition we help achieve energy and climate policy objectives by developing solutions and putting them into practice, both nationally and internationally. In order to do this, we bring partners from politics and business together, across sectors. dena's shareholders are the Federal Republic of Germany and the KfW Group. www.dena.de/en

German Energy Solutions Initiative

The transfer of energy expertise, the promotion of foreign trade and the facilitation of international development cooperation are part of the German Energy Solutions Initiative, which is coordinated and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The initiative offers networking and business opportunities in Germany and abroad, it showcases reference projects and facilitates know-how exchange. www.german-energy-solutions.de/en

dena Renewable Energy Solutions Programme (dena RES Programme)

The dena RES Programme was developed by the Deutsche Energie-Agentur (dena) – the German Energy Agency. This programme, supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy within the German Energy Solutions Initiative, helps German renewable energy companies enter new markets. Within the framework of the programme, reference and demonstration projects are installed in cooperation with prestigious institutions. The installation is accompanied by comprehensive PR, marketing and training programmes. These projects show-case high-quality German renewable energy technology and help participating companies gain a foothold in new markets. www.german-energy-solutions.de/en/res

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