







Press release 31 August 2020

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Village to be supplied with local and renewable energies

SMIREC's district heating network, managed by Plaine Commune Energie, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ENGIE Solutions, is to be extended to the future Olympic and Paralympic Village.

As such, it will supply heating and cooling to the Village, the future Pleyel business park, including the Lumières Pleyel project, and to the Tour Pleyel which has been refurbished as a hotel. The complex comprises more than 609,000 m² of building, which will be supplied by this heat network and particularly by geothermal energy. The Olympic and Paralympic Village therefore will benefit from local and renewable energy, 68% of which will be geothermal. In June 2020, SOLIDEO, SMIREC and ENGIE Solutions signed a three-party agreement.

SMIREC's district heating network, managed by Plaine Commune Energie, is the largest in Seine-Saint-Denis and the second largest in Ile-de-France, and will simultaneously produce heating and cooling thanks to the installation of near-surface geothermal thermo-refrigeration pumps.

A network for the environmental transition and the fight against global warming

The development of a cooling network is essential for the comfort of the athletes as the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in August, the hottest period in the city.

Cooling will be especially necessary, however, in the post-Olympics period, to cool offices, business premises and facilities in order to prevent a plethora of individual air conditioning systems appearing in the buildings.

To cope with the rise in heatwaves, it will even be possible to cool housing units in this district in the medium term.

"This extension of our network uses innovative technology that makes it possible to supply heating and cooling simultaneously. We are already anticipating the post-Paris Olympics period with sustainable, quality facilities for the whole of the future Pleyel district," said Yann Madigou, Managing Director of Plaine Commune Energie.

"Carbon neutrality is pushing us to use renewable energies to fuel our heating and cooling networks. Geothermal energy will therefore take the honours by becoming an Olympic energy for the athletes and for the repurposed facilities. The energy transition is accelerating," said Wilfrid Petrie, Executive Vice President of ENGIE Group responsible for ENGIE Solutions.

Geothermal energy to supply the network

The heating and cooling network will be supplied by local, renewable energies essentially from a shallow geothermal source (at a depth of about a hundred metres).

Eleven boreholes will be drilled in the district to use the energy from the ground and convert it into heating or cooling. The drilling will commence in late 2020. ENGIE Solutions designed this energy architecture under the impetus of SMIREC (Syndicat Mixte des Réseaux d'Energie Calorifique) and SOLIDEO (SOciété de Livraison Des ouvrages Olympiques).

Complementing the geothermal energy produced by the Plaine Commune Energie district heating network, the energy is primarily generated by the Compagnie Parisienne de Chauffage Urbain (CPCU) heat network, located nearby and itself mostly supplied by local and renewable energies.

The project meets the requirements of environmental excellence set out by SOLIDEO and Paris 2024, which have set a target of low-CO2 emissions.

"The creation of the Olympic and Paralympic Village makes it possible to extend the district heating network operated by Plaine Commune Energie, improve its environmental performance and create a new low-carbon cooling system. This meets SOLIDEO's ambitions for the environmental excellence and regional legacy of the Olympic infrastructure," said Nicolas Ferrand, CEO of SOLIDEO.

Paris 2024... and beyond

The particularity of SMIREC's extension to the Plaine Commune Energie network is to offer a long-term heating and cooling solution that is pooled at regional level. The Olympic and Paralympic Village will be connected to the existing system.

Over the past three years, SMIREC and the local authorities have been working to pool the distribution and production capacities on a larger scale than the Village, in order to meet the heating and cooling needs of the entire Pleyel district. "We can but highlight the project's coherence in supporting the work with ENGIE Solutions, which developed and is already operating the existing system, the largest in the department and the second largest in Ile de France," said Didier Paillard, Chairman of SMIREC.

The installation is designed to meet the initially demanding needs of the Paris 2024 period. It will also be scaled for the legacy phase, in other words the post-Olympics period with a forecast through to 2050.

Sustainability is a key focus of the project as the facilities are planned to be recycled. It is, therefore, a truly regional joint-construction managed by ENGIE Solutions in close collaboration with all the players.

The three-party agreement to extend the district heating and cooling network, across Saint Denis and Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, has been signed by SOLIDEO, which is responsible for the infrastructure works required for the Paris Olympic Games and for their later repurposing. Through its subsidiary Plaine Commune Energie (PCE), ENGIE Solutions will carry out the works in Saint-Denis and operate the network, as a public service concession holder of the Syndicat Mixte des Réseaux d'Energie Calorifique (SMIREC).

About ENGIE Solutions

ENGIE Solutions supports cities, industries and businesses in the tertiary sector by providing solutions to the challenge of energy transition thanks to turn-key and custom services. The experts at ENGIE Solutions put their knowledge to work to achieve three objectives: optimise the use of energies and resources, green energies and reinvent living and working environments.

ENGIE Solutions is the promise of a single point of contact and a combination of complementary services that extend beyond energy. The company is committed to achieving results and its 50,000 employees which operate throughout France (900 sites) have expertise in a diverse number of areas, ranging from design to operation of infrastructure and services, to funding, installation and maintenance.

ENGIE Solutions is part of the ENGIE group, a global leader in low-carbon energy and services whose ambition is to become the leader in the zero-carbon transition.

Turnover: €10 billion

For further information: www.engie-solutions.com

About Plaine Commune Energie

Plaine Commune Energie is the concession holder of the public service contract to supply heating to the towns of Saint Denis, Stains, Pierrefitte and L'Ile-Saint-Denis, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of ENGIE Solutions, ENGIE Group. 50% fuelled by renewable energy, the heat network supports sustainable development initiatives across the region.

About SOLIDEO

SOLIDEO's mission is to deliver the infrastructure and implement the development works needed for the organisation of the 2024 Paris Olympics, in line with a set budget and with objectives for an ambitious, sustainable and exemplary legacy. The infrastructure has been conceived and designed to be repurposed from 2025 as facilities, housing units and offices.

About SMIREC

The Syndicat Mixte des Réseau d'Energie Calorifique is an urban heating syndicate which provides the public service of heating and cooling production and distribution across La Courneuve, Saint-Denis, Stains, Pierrefitte, Ile Saint-Denis and Aubervilliers alongside the housing agencies Plaine Commune Habitat and Seine-Saint-Denis Habitat. SMIREC supplies heating and domestic hot water to the equivalent of 47,000 housing units. It is the second largest heat network in Ile de France.

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