



Vélizy-Villacoublay



Press release
6 July 2021

Multi-drain geothermal drilling: ENGIE Solutions wins the European Innovation Award

Of the 16 innovations in the running to win the Ruggero Bertani European Geothermal Innovation Award 2021, the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) has chosen the multi-drain geothermal drilling innovation developed by the Antea Group and ENGIE Solutions. This innovative technology - a first in Europe - has been developed in Vélizy-Villacoublay and opens up the prospect of providing access to geothermal energy in areas such as western Paris where it was previously not feasible.

“Multi-drain” drilling, a first in Europe

The principle of the system is that the wellbore comprises three drains, enabling the productive levels to be tapped to a greater extent and maximising the volume drained naturally from the reservoir. The results are largely as expected: whilst enhancing the potential of geothermal layers containing water (termed aquifers), this technique promotes the recovery of water at 65°C and provides over 16 MW of heating energy. This innovative method has enabled the original production capacity of the Vélizy-Villacoublay geothermal site to be doubled to up to 400 m³ per hour.

The innovation opens great prospects for the development of geothermal energy in France, particularly within geographic areas with genuine needs but hitherto unexploitable geothermal potential.

Promising prospects for the development of geothermal energy

The award was presented to the ENGIE Solutions teams in the presence of five other finalist teams on Thursday 24 June. The success of multi-drain drilling has been welcomed by many players working on the energy transition. This project - which represents an overall investment of €25 million - has received support of €3 million from the Île-de-France region as part of the implementation of its regional energy/climate strategy, of €5.95 million from ADEME and €5 million from the town of Vélizy-Villacoublay in its capacity of co-shareholder with ENGIE Solutions in renewable energy production company Véligéo.

“This is a great honour, and we are proud to see our multi-drain drilling technology recognised with the Ruggero Bertani Innovation Award 2021”, says Nicolas Monneyron, Geothermal Energy Director at ENGIE Solutions. “Innovating to support the energy transition in cities, industries and businesses in the services sector is core to our DNA and is what we focus on every day. This award is the culmination of work undertaken by our geothermal

energy teams. It will encourage us in our mission and strengthen our expertise, and will help us to bring sustainable and ever-more efficient energy solutions to local authorities and residents.”

Miklos Antics, Chairman of the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) and a member of the panel, adds: *“This innovation opens up many opportunities for development in the geothermal energy sector. The ease with which it can be replicated in towns throughout Europe will transform a large number of areas with lower geothermal capacity into possible new targets. The technology has huge potential to reduce emissions in the coming years, all the more so when you realise the extent to which geothermal energy is under-exploited at the moment.”*

Press contact:

ENGIE Solutions:

Cécile de Bentzmann - cecile.de-bentzmann@engie.com - +33 (0)6 03 18 97 73

À propos d'ENGIE Solutions

ENGIE Solutions accompagne les villes, les industries et les entreprises du secteur tertiaire dans la réalisation de leur transition vers la neutralité carbone, en les aidant à consommer moins d'énergie et une énergie plus verte et décarbonée.

Les activités d'ENGIE Solutions concentrent les compétences du groupe ENGIE en France en ce qui concerne les réseaux de chaud et de froid, la production sur site d'électricité et de chaleur (photovoltaïque et cogénérations/chaufferies), la mobilité décarbonée (électrique, bioGNV et hydrogène), l'éclairage public et les services d'exploitation / maintenance et d'efficacité énergétique.

En France, ENGIE Solutions s'appuie sur plus de 15 000 collaborateurs et réalise 4,9 milliards d'euros de chiffre d'affaires.

Pour en savoir plus : <http://www.engie-solutions.com>

A propos de l'ADEME

À l'ADEME - l'Agence de la transition écologique -, nous sommes résolument engagés dans la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique et la dégradation des ressources. Sur tous les fronts, nous mobilisons les citoyens, les acteurs économiques et les territoires, leur donnons les moyens de progresser vers une société économe en ressources, plus sobre en carbone, plus juste et harmonieuse. Dans tous les domaines - énergie, air, économie circulaire, gaspillage alimentaire, déchets, sols... - nous conseillons, facilitons et aidons au financement de nombreux projets, de la recherche jusqu'au partage des solutions. À tous les niveaux, nous mettons nos capacités d'expertise et de prospective au service des politiques publiques. **L'ADEME est un établissement public sous la tutelle conjointe du ministère de la Transition écologique et du ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation.** www.ademe.fr et sur [@ademe](https://twitter.com/ademe).