Italy's biggest photovoltaic rooftop installation at Interporto Padova runs at full capacity

PADUA, 28 September 2011. Today marks the inauguration of a record-breaking photovoltaic rooftop installation, the largest in Italy: 12.3 million Watts installed on the roofs of 18 buildings and 7 carpark shelters of the logistics firm Interporto di Padova. The system is being developed by Solon S.p.A., an Italian subsidiary of the Berlin-based Solon SE group and leading manufacturer of photovoltaic modules and systems in Italy.

The system produces energy which is fed into the power grid: the power produced on the roofs of Interporto di Padova will supply electrical energy to roughly 4,000 households.

The customer couldn't be more satisfied! Interporto Solare S.r.l. is a project company jointly owned by Orizzonte SGR (Fondo Sistema Infrastrutture) and Fondaco SGR (Fondo PPP Italia) which together hold 90% of the shares, while Sinloc S.p.A. holds 6% and Solon S.p.A. holds the remaining 4%.

"The inauguration of the plant running at full capacity is an important event," stated Giuseppe D'Agostino, President of Interporto Solare S.r.l. "Speaking for all the partners I can affirm that we are extremely pleased with our investment of over 50 million Euros, repaid by the excellent performance of the installation which in these first few months has already produced far more that Solon had initially guaranteed."

In fact the Interporto plant represents the best possible future for photovoltaics: not just because of its record-breaking dimensions, but above all because of the type of installation. "By making use of all the roofs of the buildings and work sheds," explained the Solon S.p.A.'s CEO Emiliano Pizzini, "we developed a zero environmental impact installation by occupying surfaces that would otherwise be left unused. This is a perfect example of sustainable industrial development which is precisely the direction that Solon S.p.A.'s future is heading in. Furthermore, we used ‘0 kilometre’ modules, that is, modules produced locally in our factory in Carmignano di Brenta near Padua, which is in keeping with our policy of local production and consumption."

"The construction of this immense photovoltaic installation is in perfect harmony with the philosophy that Interporto Padova has always upheld: that is, to provide both the local and national productive fabric with environmentally sustainable transport and logistics infrastructures," stated Sergio Giordani the President of Interporto Padova S.p.A. "The properties we offer boast sustainability as one of the leading edge technical features that make them stand out from the crowd. Together, our rail-road intermodal terminal and Cityporto, our urban freight distribution service, reinforce our commitment to achieving sustainable logistics."

The huge investment was backed by BIIS, Banca Infrastrutture Innovazione e Sviluppo, assisted by Banca Popolare Dell’Alto Adige Volksbank, Cassa Centrale Raiffeisen dell’Alto Adige S.p.A. and Banca Popolare di Verona S.p.A.

"Our participation in this project," explained Andrea Bressani, Head of Client Relationships Italy at BIIS, "stems from the conviction that the project concerns a major infrastructure located in an area, the
Northeast, identified as critical to the country’s economic development. Our commitment to the renewable energy sector, in which we have to date invested over 2 billion Euros, springs from the prospect of combining environmental protection, through the generation of energy produced and utilized on the spot without greenhouse gas emissions, with the creation of job opportunities having an economic impact on the territory.

“Our having been chosen as the only photovoltaic inverter supplier for this record-breaking roof-top installation, was not only a strategic opportunity for Power-One, but a great honour as well,” commented Giuseppe Ricci, Director General and CEO of Power-One Italy S.p.A. “The extent, the importance and the location make the Interporto installation a reference model for how to best harness clean energy from the sun for use by industry and private households.”

Facts and figures relating to the plant

Peak output: 12.3 MW

Plant sections: flush-mounted modules, tilted modules on flat roofs, solutions with asbestos roof abatement, photovoltaic carports, integrated systems

Covered surface: 250,000 square metres over 18 roofs (11.3 MW) and 7 carpark shelters (1 MW)

Asbestos abated area: 40,000 square metres

Number and type of photovoltaic modules employed: 49,000 polycrystalline silicon modules SOLON BLUE (11.2 MW), 7,500 amorphous silicon modules Unisolar PVL (1.1 MW)

Number and type of inverters employed: 49 inverters Power-One PVI central TL

Finish date: December 2010

Grid connection date: between October 2010 and April 2011

Feed-in tariff incentive: various incentives provided by the 2nd Italian Conto Energia (Feed-in Tariff), corresponding to the different levels of integration

CO2 saving: 8,000 tonnes per year

Expected annual production: 13 million kilowatt hours, equal to an annual consumption of 4,000 households

Investment: 50 million Euros

Customer: Interporto Solare S.r.l.

SOLON S.p.A.

Solon is one of the major manufacturers of photovoltaic modules and systems in Europe. The Solon Group has subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, France, and the U.S., and employs over 800 people worldwide. Solon offers a comprehensive and diversified range of products for the construction of roof and ground mounted systems with an overall production capacity of 450 MW.
As a general contractor, Solon deals with all the aspects involved in the realization of a turnkey photovoltaic system, from the management of authorizations through to design, installation and commissioning.

Solon operates in Italy through Solon S.p.A., a company based in Carmignano di Brenta (PD) that employs over 200 workers. Founded in 1994, the company was a pioneer in the Italian photovoltaic industry. Owned by the Berlin-based Solon SE Group since December 2006, it became Solon S.p.A in January 2008. As the leader in Italy in its field with an annual production capacity of 100 MW, Solon S.p.A. is able to meet the most demanding Customer requirements through the use of automated lines to produce mono and polycrystalline silicon photovoltaic modules and systems, having power up to 290 Wp.

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