



## VSB France sets its sights on 500 MW with new agrivoltaics strategy

**Nîmes, 31 August 2023 – As it takes part in the SPACE\* trade fair for the first time, VSB Énergies Nouvelles, the French subsidiary of the VSB Group, will present its strategy in the field of agrivoltaics. It aims to develop 500 MW per year by 2025 and become a key player in this new market.**

### **Developing sustainable agroforestry**

French agriculture faces many challenges with ageing farmers, falling profitability of arable land, declining soil fertility, ecological transformation and the uncertainties of climate change. Agrivoltaics offers practical solutions to optimise agricultural production, without replacing it.

By combining photovoltaics with their main activity, farming, farmers can stabilise their income while increasing the value of land that has been affected by the climate or has become less fertile.

### **Working together for coherent, considered projects that respect everyone**

VSB Énergies Nouvelles plans to develop its agrivoltaic activities in line with its overall strategy, which prioritises the development of well-considered projects and seeks cooperation early in the development process. Agriculture is at the heart of the VSB Énergies Nouvelles strategy: photovoltaics should optimise and complement agriculture, not replace it.

In order to achieve this objective, VSB Énergies Nouvelles has developed a methodology for selecting plots of land that complies with local authority requirements and the regulations in force, and which involves close collaboration with the Chamber of Agriculture. The Chamber of Agriculture is invited to participate in or help shape the preliminary agricultural surveys, ensuring continuity of land use. When suitable land is identified, such as fallow land or land that is less intensively farmed than in the past, the project is developed in consultation with the farmer and their needs. A successful project should combine carefully considered synergies, positive income effects and a fair, transparent distribution of profits. The aim is to develop relevant projects, revive livestock initiatives or even initiate entirely new projects.

### **Aiming high through efficient organisation and a growing workforce**

VSB Énergies Nouvelles is currently working on the development of 300 MW, spread over 30 projects. The company has set itself the target of achieving 500 MW per year by 2025. VSB Énergies Nouvelles strives to be a market leader and excels in bespoke projects that are perfectly adapted to farmers' needs. Here VSB Énergies Nouvelles will draw on its 20 years of experience, which it has used to implement proven development processes based on consultation, a key element for any project developer.

To achieve this goal, VSB has reorganised its teams and created a specialised department. It is made up of an agricultural engineer as lead developer and eight regional representatives with industry experience. Further recruitment is underway and another regional officer specialising in agrivoltaics will join the team shortly. The team will eventually consist of around ten experts.

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**Maël Lagarde, Managing Director of VSB Énergies Nouvelles**, says: “Given the challenges of climate change for agriculture, rapid ecological change is needed. Agrivoltaics offers a practical solution. Our aim is to work closely with farmers and industry to drive this development and shape the agriculture of tomorrow.”

\*The VSB Énergies Nouvelles teams will be present at the SPACE exhibition at Rennes Parc-Expo from 12 to 14 September 2023: Stand A08, Hall 4, Aisle A. SPACE is an agricultural exhibition that brings together all the stakeholders in the livestock sector. It focuses on a wide range of topics including feed and animal nutrition, housing, genetics, animal health, milking equipment, energy, manure treatment, organic farming, etc.

#### **About VSB Énergies Nouvelles**

VSB Énergies Nouvelles, based in Nîmes, is a subsidiary of the VSB Group and has been a major player in the renewable energy sector in France for over 20 years. Recognised for its expertise and the quality of its projects, VSB Énergies Nouvelles covers the entire value chain: from development, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and management to the exploitation and production of renewable energy. With more than 140 employees in six offices throughout the country, VSB Énergies Nouvelles has a turnover of 16 million euros as of 2022 and manages wind turbines and solar plants with a total capacity of more than 800 MW, covering the needs of more than 900,000 residents.

#### **About VSB Group**

VSB, headquartered in Dresden (Germany), is one of Europe’s leading vertically integrated developers in the field of renewable energies. Its core business is project development of onshore wind and photovoltaic parks, their operational management as well as the operation of its own assets as a growing independent power producer. VSB operates in nine European countries and has a pipeline of more than 15 GW. Since 1996, VSB has commissioned more than 700 wind energy and photovoltaic plants with a combined installed capacity of approximately 1.3 GW. VSB also provides services for around 3.2 GW worth of installed plants. With its affiliated companies, the Group employs over 500 people. Further information: [www.vsb.energy](http://www.vsb.energy)