



Press release

**France's largest solar farm inaugurated in Les Mées:
a sustainable development by Eco Delta and Sumitomo Corporation**

30.9 MWp

LES MÉES (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Region, France), October 13th, 2011 -

This morning, Raymond Philippe, Mayor of Les Mées, Ronald Knoche, Chairman of Eco Delta's Management Board, and Hiroaki Mizobuchi, Executive Officer of Sumitomo Corporation, inaugurated the largest solar farm built to date in France.

With a capacity of 30.9 MWp, the Les Mées solar farm, in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region, was designed and developed by Eco Delta, the independent developer and operator of wind and solar farms, with support from its partner, the Japanese giant Sumitomo Corporation.

"The official commissioning of the Les Mées solar farm, France's largest photovoltaic facility to date, represents a major event for Eco Delta and for the future of the French photovoltaic industry. It confirms that independent SMEs like ours should be given an opportunity, because they represent the driving force behind the sector's diversity and dynamic development, respecting the environmental, social and societal principles of sustainable development. We would like to thank the Les Mées district, Sumitomo Corporation and all our partners for having made such an outstanding achievement possible", confirms Ronald Knoche, Chairman of Eco Delta's Management Board.

"First we would like to convey our sincere gratefulness for all the people supported us in completion of this monumental Les Mées solar project. We are delighted with our utmost pleasure at inauguration of the project, not only because this is the largest photovoltaic power project we have ever participated in, but also because this project is expected to make a significant contribution to preservation of environment of the region, as well as to utilization of renewable energy in France. We, as a company who put the highest priority on relationship based on trust, would like to meet expectation of all the people related with this project, through a sound operation and management of the project for more than 20 years, together with Eco Delta", confirms Hiroaki Mizobuchi, Executive Officer of Sumitomo Corporation.

- **One of the highest possible yields in France**

The Les Mées solar power plant is made up of six farms, five of which are already operational, with the sixth to follow in just a few days. It is spread over 70 hectares on the Plateau de la colle des Mées, an outstanding site characterized by:

- The combination of record levels of sunshine all year round (1,550 kWh of horizontal radiant exposure per year) and relatively low temperatures,
- As well as pure air thanks to its high altitude (800 meters) and the fact that there is no heavy industry in the region.

With over 1,455 kWh/KWp per year, the facility offers one of the highest possible yields in France. It will produce 50 GW/year, making it possible to supply 83,000 people across the region with electricity.

- **Sustainable development for the environment and agriculture**

As the bedrock underpinning Eco Delta's business ethics, environmental and agricultural sustainability guided the design and development of the Les Mées solar farm, in the same way as all its other projects. The 70 hectares of former uncultivated farmland occupied by the facility were prepared in line with the mulching method (crushing plant cover) in order to make it suitable for cultivation. In the same way, to protect the site, Eco Delta decided to limit the use of concrete by choosing to set up the photovoltaic panel support structures using screws. The site will be reseeded with melliferous plants for producing honey and essential oils, while helping protect bees. Lastly, the transformation of the Les Mées solar farm into agricultural land, at the end of its life, and the recycling of its photovoltaic panels have been planned for as of the design stage.

Launched in January this year, the construction work was carried out with a turnkey approach by Siemens France's Energy sector. More specifically, 112,780 polycrystalline panels supplied by Suntech have been assembled.

Olivier Gueydan, Head of Siemens Energy Sector for France, is delighted with the confidence and trust shown by Eco Delta, with which *"we share the same values of excellence and innovation and the same approach for designing an environmentally-friendly solar farm. Our teams in Grenoble have been in charge of this project, from bespoke research to the engineering, delivery and installation of all the necessary components, and they will provide the extensive services required. We are very proud of the Les Mées site, which proves our ability to be the ideal contact for our customers for successfully overseeing the complete development of photovoltaic facilities within a very short timeframe"*.

- **Successful partnership between Eco Delta, Sumitomo Corporation and local authorities**

The investment made by Lavansol 1, the Les Mées solar farm's operating company, owned jointly by Eco Delta and Sumitomo Corporation, represents €110 million, financed through equity and a bank loan. Over a full year, Lavansol 1 is expected to generate €14.5 million revenues.

To successfully complete this highly ambitious development, making a major contribution to energy diversification in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region, both partners have benefited from support from the local authorities.

"It is extremely satisfying to see the completion of such an important project, which Eco Delta's managers have been working towards for several years, building a close relationship with the district. I would like to congratulate them for their expertise and their tenacity, as well as their Japanese partner Sumitomo Corporation and the Siemens group, which carried out the work. The district has made a major investment to ensure the success of this project, in line with its belief that renewable energy production is vital to combat greenhouse gases and safeguard

the planet. In addition, the site is particularly well-suited to photovoltaic facilities. There is minimum inconvenience for agriculture and for the community in general. Lastly, despite agreeing to not apply business tax, the district expects to receive tax income that will enable it to meet the needs of inhabitants even more effectively. I would like to wish France's largest solar farm every success", concludes Raymond Philippe, Mayor of Les Mées.

ABOUT ECO DELTA

An independent developer and operator of wind and solar farms, Eco Delta has building permits for a total capacity of over 220 MW in Southern and Central France.

Since being founded in 2002, starting off from a first patent filed by its R&D teams, Eco Delta has successfully built up specific know-how on energy infrastructures. Eco Delta is looking to continue setting up partnerships with local authorities and landowners, offering them the opportunity to actively contribute towards the national plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions, thanks to the installation of solar or wind farms.

With the design and development of solar farms in Revest-du-Bion (1.2 MWp), built on the former Groupement de Missiles Stratégiques site, Chaillac (4.4 MWp), on an area of industrial wasteland, and Les Mées (30.9 MWp), the Group has shown its commitment to environmental and agricultural sustainability.

Eco Delta benefits from industrial and capital backing from the Caisse des Dépôts, which has a 10% stake in its capital, as well as support from the French innovation agency (ANVAR). Eco Delta's teams, experts from the world of energy and the environment, cover all levels of projects: development, coordination, financing, principal assistance and operations.

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ABOUT SUMITOMO CORPORATION

Sumitomo Corporation, as one of the leading firms in Japan, engages in multifaceted business activities benefitting from its Integrated corporate strength, selling a variety of domestic products and services, conducting import/export and trilateral business transactions, providing domestic and international business investment, and participating in numerous other profitable activities facilitated by global network and the relationships of trust built with corporate business partners and consumers in various industrial sectors around the world.

In the field of power projects, Sumitomo prides itself on the vast supply record of more than 47,000 MW of power equipment and on more than 5,000 MW of operating power generation assets located all over the world, which includes more than 30 MW of PV generation assets on net holding basis, including Les Mées 30.9 MW PV project in France, Finca Verde and Finca Roja 12.6 MW PV project in Spain and the Region of Puglia 9.7MW PV project in Italy.