

Press Release
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Sections: economy – renewable energy – agriculture – food industry

Sustainable energy: the Boortmalt malting plant at Issoudun (part of the Axereal cooperative group), Kyotherm and ADEME officially announce the commissioning of the site's solar thermal power plant, the largest facility of its kind supplying an industrial site in France.

First there was cogeneration and biomass, and now the Boortmalt malting plant in Issoudun can draw on solar thermal power for its heating needs. On 20 September 2021, the site inaugurated a solar thermal power plant covering an area of 14,252 square metres, third-party financed by Kyotherm with the support of ADEME. The facility generates 8.5 GWh of sustainable, low-carbon heat per year, representing around 10% of the site's needs.

This facility will make it possible to avoid the annual discharge of 2,100 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere, or the annual equivalent of the emissions from 1,050 cars. Thanks to this new facility, 50% of the heat needed to run the malting plant now comes from sustainable sources. This proportion is destined to increase in the years to come.



Sustainable development: a pillar of the Axereal cooperative model

"The Issoudun malting plant, the historical processing site for the cooperative's malt activities, has played an essential role in our industrial development. Over the years, it has been able to keep pace with changing times and incorporate cutting-edge technology for increasingly sustainable malt production. Today, it perfectly embodies the dynamics of our forward momentum, as we aim to accelerate agricultural and food transition," declares **Jean-François Loiseau, Chairman of the Axereal Group**. This large-scale facility is representative of the Axereal Group's overall sustainable development strategy. *"We aim to increase our profitability, in particular by focusing on the structuring of our channels. Environmentally friendly-production, high environmental value, low-carbon channels and new generation grain storage are all topics in which we are assuming a leading role, as well as in many other areas. Each step towards more sustainable production is a further step towards meeting the expectations of our customers, and ultimately of consumers,"* says **Paul-Yves L'Anthoën, Axereal Group CEO**.

Making the reduction of the carbon footprint a priority for the world's leading malt producer: Boortmalt

Producing malt in a sustainable way requires a daily commitment to continuous improvement. Reducing energy consumption and emissions is one of Boortmalt's four main objectives for sustainable development, along with water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and health and safety issues. *"Our goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 50% by 2030 across Boortmalt's activities worldwide, in line with the Paris climate agreements",* states **Yvan Schaepman, Boortmalt CEO** (malting subsidiary of the Axereal group). For several years, Boortmalt has been investing in alternative energy sources to reduce its carbon emissions and limit its consumption of fossil fuels. The Issoudun site is one of the most advanced malting plants in the carbon reduction process, as it is demonstrating once again with this latest development.

ADEME and Kyotherm: key partners in this ambitious project

This solar thermal power plant project was the winner of the 2018 RFP for "Large-scale solar thermal facilities" issued by ADEME, the French agency for ecological transition. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the emergence of channels capable of proposing competitive energy solutions. *"An agreement, concluded on 5 December 2018 with ADEME, provided the Issoudun malting plant project with a subsidy of more than €3 million, as well as reimbursable aid amounting to more than €500,000, contributing significantly to its competitiveness,"* explains **Mohamed Amjahdi, Regional Director of ADEME Centre-Val de Loire**.

The project was developed and funded by Kyotherm. The company finances solar thermal projects through equity financing with an optimised cost of capital. For this project it has been able to draw on the support of experts on this topic: NewHeat for the project management and operation of the installation (with optimisation of the solar thermal yield); Savosolar for the design and construction of the solar arrays; Sunoptimo for the design and construction of the hydraulic equipment; Dalkia for the integration of the solar thermal system into the existing installations; and Eiffage for the design and construction of the tank. Kyotherm has also been supported by Crédit Coopératif for the bank financing. All this bank's energy funding goes into renewable energy. The bank has made supporting this type of local and low-carbon project a major focus of its financing policy for 15 years.

“Kyotherm is delighted that the special financial engineering implemented for the Issoudun project has been acknowledged by the International Energy Agency, which awarded Kyotherm the 2019 ‘Solar Award’ in the ‘Heating & Cooling’ category. Kyotherm will continue to support with conviction the financing of solar thermal projects worldwide, especially in the industrial sector,” says **Arnaud Susplugas, Kyotherm CEO**, in conclusion.

CONTACTS PRESSE

AXÉRÉAL

Antoine Part
antoine.part@axereal.com
+ 33 6 31 85 13 12

BOORTMALT

Sébastien Garnier
sebastien.garnier@boortmalt.com
+32 4 70 88 17 64

ADEME

Maud Beraud
maud.beraud@ademe.fr
+33 6 85 81 24 88

KYOTHERM

Rémi Cuer
remi.cuer@kyotherm.com
+ 33 6 14 23 36 74

About Axereal

Axereal is one of France's foremost cereals cooperative groups, with locations in France and around the world, specialising in growing and processing cereals for the brewing, baking and livestock industries. Axereal has 11,000 cooperative members and 4,000 employees. It generates turnover of around €3 billion per year. As the leading collector of sustainably produced grain, Axereal helps bring high-quality food to the market and aims to become the benchmark cooperative for sustainable agriculture. It has an international presence, operating in 18 countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, the UK and the USA). www.axereal.com

About Boortmalt

Boortmalt, Axereal's malting subsidiary, is world leader in malt production, with a production capacity of 3 million tonnes. The group has a presence on five continents, with 27 malting plants. Boortmalt's expertise is widely recognised by brewers and distillers who rely on its supply of quality barley malt for the production of their beers and whiskies.

The company's ability to influence every link in its supply chain, from grain to malt, is an essential aspect of its uncompromising commitment to quality. Its close links with Axereal and its entire network of barley producers around the world enables it to guarantee optimal quality in compliance with the strictest environmental and food safety standards.

www.boortmalt.com

About Kyotherm

Kyotherm is an investor specialised in financing and structuring renewable heat production and energy-saving projects. The company has already financed more than 100 MW of projects (geothermal, biomass, heat pumps, waste heat recovery, solar thermal, energy performance contracts) enabling the production of 290 GWh of carbon-free heat per year or the realisation of energy savings.

www.kyotherm.com

About ADEME

ADEME, the French Agency for Ecological Transition, is committed to combating global warming and the depletion of resources. On every front it mobilises citizens, economic stakeholders and territories, offering them the means to move towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon, fairer and more harmonious society. In all areas - energy, air, circular economy, food, waste, soil, etc. - the Agency provides advice and facilitation and helps finance many projects, from research through to shared solutions. At every level, it places its expertise and forecasting capacities at the disposal of the public policy makers. ADEME is a public institution operating under the aegis of the French Ministries of Ecological Transition and of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

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