

Solar energy for southern Europe

STEAG SENS and KGAL building more PV parks on Sicily and in southern Spain

Würzburg/Essen/Palermo/Madrid. Würzburg-based STEAG Solar Energy Solutions GmbH (SENS) steps up its cooperation with the prestigious investor KGAL: plans for a solar project in Sicily receive another substantial extension in scope. At the same time, SENS is developing, planning and building two more solar parks at locations in southern Spain near the cities of Granada and Almeria.

If you were to place all the solar modules installed by SENS in Italy and Spain in line one after the other, they would form a continuous causeway of modules from Palermo in northern Sicily to Andalusia in southern Spain. A distance of 3,520 kilometres separates the projects, which are being built on behalf of KGAL GmbH & Co. KG. The major project on Sicily was initially intended to have a total output of 440 megawatts. A little more than 250 MWp is now to be added to the not inconsiderable original capacity. The extension to the contract was approved by the project's investor KGAL and will raise the solar park's installed capacity to almost 700 MWp.

Extended Sicilian project will save half a million tonnes of CO₂ annually

"The capacity is about the equivalent of a large conventional power plant. The PV system will feed more than 1,400 gigawatt hours (GWh) a year into the grid," says SENS Managing Director André Kremer. SENS, or to be more precise its Italian subsidiary SENS Italia, acts as project developer, EPC and service provider on this project on behalf of KGAL. The project reinforces SENS' position in the Italian PV business, which has long been an important sales market for the PV expert with its headquarters in Würzburg (Lower Franconia). "Working with KGAL is an absolute pleasure in all respects. Pragmatic, quick and solution oriented – that suits us fine," says André Kremer.

Planning and preparation are already well underway, with the start of construction of the first section scheduled for Q3 2021. Whether it is earthworks, supplies, modules or inverters: everything about this project is huge. The same applies to CO₂ emissions savings: the plant will save a gigantic 560,000 tonnes of the harmful greenhouse gas. This saving is almost enough to compensate for the average amount of CO₂ emitted annually by all the take-offs and landings at Munich Airport.

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SENS and KGAL also cooperate in Spain

But that is not all: the successful and trusting cooperation between SENS and KGAL has also led to another joint project in southern Spain. Two more solar parks with a total capacity of 40 MWp are to be built at locations near Grenada and Almeria in 2021. “We are thrilled with the commitment and directness of our working relationship. Through its highly solutions-orientated approach, especially in these difficult times brought about by the coronavirus, we see SENS as an ideal partner for future projects,” says Matej Lednický, Head of Transaction Management at KGAL.

The development and implementation of the two projects is in the hands of the Spanish subsidiary STEAG Solar Energy Solutions Iberica, which has offices in Madrid and Seville. “As with earlier comparable projects, SENS again put together an all-round carefree package covering all stages from concept development to turnkey handover for our partner KGAL,” says André Kremer. SENS then takes over the operation and maintenance of the plant. The solar parks in this sun-drenched region of Spain will produce up to 84 gigawatt hours (GWh) of green electricity annually.

Self-declared goals within reach

The new project in Spain represents a further step in the direction of the SENS goal of 500 MW of installed capacity on the Spanish photovoltaic market. “Based on the excellent progress of recent months, we will reach this figure earlier than expected and be in the happy position of setting another, much higher goal,” says André Kremer concerning the ambitious future plans of the company, and adds “We will probably exceed the 2 GWp mark by 2023.”

About STEAG

For more than 80 years STEAG has represented efficient and reliable power generation, both in Germany and internationally. As experienced partners we provide our customers with comprehensive support on all aspects of energy supplies. We plan, develop, implement, operate and market highly efficient energy solutions – from decentralised and regenerative generation facilities to large power stations and their associated products. In addition to custom-made solutions for the supply of electricity and heating, we offer a wide range of energy services based to an ever-increasing extent on renewable energies.

About STEAG Solar Energy Solutions

STEAG Solar Energy Solutions GmbH (SENS) is a service provider based in Würzburg with worldwide operations in the field of renewable energies. Its range of services includes the development and construction of turnkey solar parks, the maintenance and operational management of PV systems and the implementation of energy solutions for commerce and industry such as rooftop PV systems, e-charging stations and energy storage systems. SENS has been part of the STEAG Group since July 2019 and employs approx. 270 people at nine locations in Germany and abroad. In the UK SENS is operating through its affiliate STEAG Solar Energy Solutions (UK) Ltd, seated in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

About KGAL

KGAL Group is a leading independent investment and asset manager with an investment volume of around €20.2 billion. The focus of its investments is on long-term real capital investments for institutional and private investors in real estate, infrastructure and aircraft. The group, which operates throughout Europe, was founded more than 50 years ago and is headquartered in Grünwald near Munich. 371 employees contribute to achieving sustainably stable returns, taking into account return and risk aspects.