

STEAG subsidiary develops further solar farm in Italy

SENS Italia builds 17 megawatt plant in Emilia Romagna for investor KGAL

Emilia Romagna/Essen/Würzburg. In Montecchio Emilia in northern Italy, STEAG Solar Energy Solutions GmbH (SENS) is planning and constructing a further solar farm on the site of a former quarry for the investor KGAL. The plant will be completed in the coming months and will have a capacity of 17 megawatts (MWp). This means that the new solar farm will be able to supply the region with around 25 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of green electricity each year. With up to ten hours of sunshine per day, the region is an ideal location for generating power using photovoltaics. The Italian subsidiary SENS Italia is responsible for implementing the project.

Since the investor KGAL and STEAG Solar Energy Solutions GmbH (SENS) can already look back on several successful and jointly implemented PV projects, initiation of the project took place in a record-breaking four weeks from the first meeting to conclusion of the contract. In addition to the relationship of mutual confidence and trust that the two partners share as a result of their many years of cooperation, this is primarily due to the support provided by the legal advisors DWF (for SENS) and Orrick (for KGAL).

Satisfied partner

“We are once again delighted with the professional and extremely rapid preparation by the SENS team,” says Michael Ebner, Director of Sustainable Infrastructure at KGAL Investment Management GmbH & Co KG. For KGAL and SENS, the project represents a continuation of their long-standing partnership. The two companies have already worked together successfully, for example in Italy and Spain.

Construction of the project is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2022. SENS Italia will act as the project developer and EPC partner until completion at the end of the year. That means that in addition to designing the project, the solar experts at the Italian SENS subsidiary will also take care of the turnkey construction of the solar farm and the subsequent operation of the plant. The latter also includes the plant management, feeding of the renewable energy into the regional power grid and subsequent operation and maintenance services.

6,250 metric tons of CO₂ saved

When the solar farm is connected to an existing substation, the Emilia Romagna region in northern Italy will in future benefit from 25 million kWh per year of electricity generated from a renewable source. This photovoltaic farm alone will save around 6,250 metric tons of climate-damaging CO₂ emissions every year.

SENS wins subsidized tariff in auction

The new PV plant in Montecchio Emilia is a special success for the Italian staff and the SENS team as a whole. This is because SENS was awarded a subsidized tariff for the plant in an auction held by the Italian government. This success not only confirms the good prospects of the solar farm itself, but at the same time underlines the high regard in which SENS is held as a developer of ambitious PV projects in Southern Europe. This is also reflected in the fact that so far there are only a few PV plants of this size in Italy that have been developed to the construction stage with the help of a subsidized tariff.

Further expansion by up to three GWp planned by 2025

However, the current project in Montecchio Emilia is only an intermediate step on the way to achieving much more ambitious expansion targets: In the next few years, another nearby construction phase will follow, as will other SENS projects in surrounding districts and regions with a total capacity of around 60 MWp. When these are completed, the plants in the region will have a total power generation from renewable energy sources of around 100 million kWh per year.

“With this project pipeline, we are getting closer and closer to the establishment of the first gigawatt of capacity in Italy,” explains Sarah Herresthal, Managing Director of SENS Italia. “I am incredibly proud of the entire team, which is working day after day to ensure that the expansion of renewables in Italy continues to progress. This will also allow us to reach our goal of building another three GWp of capacity across Italy by 2025,” says the SENS country manager, looking forward to the impending projects.

About STEAG

For over 80 years, STEAG has stood for efficient and reliable power generation, both in Germany and abroad. As an experienced partner, we support our customers comprehensively in all phases of power supply. We design, develop, implement, operate and market highly efficient energy solutions – from distributed generation facilities and those based on renewable sources to large central power plants. Together with customized solutions in the field of electricity and heat supply, we also provide a wide range of energy services – increasingly on the basis of renewables. Successfully so: Since 1990, STEAG has permanently reduced its own CO₂ emissions in Germany by approximately 85 percent.

About SENS

STEAG Solar Energy Solutions (SENS) is a service provider based in Würzburg, Germany, with international operations in the renewable energy sector. Its range of services includes the development and construction of turnkey solar farms, the operation and maintenance of photovoltaic plants and the implementation of energy solutions for commerce and industry. SENS has been part of the STEAG Group since July 2019, and employs around 270 people at nine locations in Germany and abroad.

About KGAL

KGAL is a leading independent investment and asset manager with a managed investment volume of more than 15 billion euros. The focus of the investments is on long-term real capital investments for institutional and private investors in real estate, sustainable infrastructure and aviation. The group, which operates throughout Europe, was founded more than 50 years ago and is headquartered in Grünwald near Munich. 345 employees contribute to achieving sustainably stable earnings, taking account of yield and risk aspects.

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