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John Cockerill to provide a green and smart charging hub in the Flemish region

John Cockerill has won a contract with WDP in the Flemish region (Belgium). This real estate company, specialized in logistics real estate, is making some of its warehouses located in Zellik available to VPD, a logistician active in last-mile delivery, which was recently elected "Transporter of the Year 2022". The contract covers the installation of 1.5MW of photovoltaic panels, a battery storage system, 10 DC fast chargers, 17 AC chargers and an Energy Management System, the energy management system developed by John Cockerill.

VPD knows that in a few years, thermal delivery trucks will be banned from Brussels (Belgium). In order to be ahead of the game, improve its competitiveness and offer a carbon-free service, VPD has planned to purchase more than 40 electric trucks and vans. The demand for electric vehicles will therefore explode. This is where John Cockerill's Integrated Renewable Solutions department comes in by sizing and optimizing the energy infrastructure. The result for the client: 1.5 MWp of photovoltaic panels, 4 x 150 kW DC chargers, 6 x 60 kW DC chargers, 17 AC chargers, 1.3 MWh of battery storage and an Energy Management System (EMS) to control everything. This installation will enable WDP to meet the growing demand for electricity from its end customers, but also to reduce the electricity bill thanks to the panels and the optimal use of the batteries and chargers controlled by the EMS. All this will benefit VPD's competitiveness.

But the project does not stop there. As well as maximizing the income from self-consumption of the photovoltaic production via the battery, WDP and John Cockerill will make the flexible capacity of the battery available to Elia, in order to contribute to the balance of the Belgian electricity network. This will create a new source of income and strengthen the business case proposed by John Cockerill. Some of the terminals will also be accessible to the public.

"The main idea is to increase the customer's self-consumption rate by charging the electric vehicle and the battery during the hours when the photovoltaic panels are producing and to make the battery available to the grid at the appropriate times. The EMS also has an important function in maintaining the stability of the customer's internal grid," explains Dieter Hasevoets, Head of IRS business at John Cockerill. John Cockerill will also act as EPC - Engineering, Procurement and Construction - on this project. *"We will be the main contact between WDP, the various suppliers and stakeholders during the development, installation and commissioning of the project. This allows our client to stay focused on their work knowing that they are investing in a consistent overall solution. At John Cockerill, we are pursuing the ambition to decarbonize human activities and act against climate change. Our goal is to deploy green charging centers for 100% electric trucks and buses wherever necessary,"* continues Dieter Hasevoets. *We will also be able to combine electric and hydrogen solutions, thanks to the electrolyzers and H2 charging stations manufactured by John Cockerill."*

The support in the day-to-day maintenance of the installation also helped to reassure the client about the business plan presented. The project will take 10 months to complete. After this time, WDP and VPD, recently elected "Best Transporter of the Year 2022", will be able to take advantage of the new recharging facilities.

Through this project, John Cockerill is proud to participate, on the one hand, in reducing its customer's energy bill and, on the other hand, to contribute to a more sustainable, less CO2 emitting transport and to a greener mobility in and around Brussels.

MiRiS: an innovative microgrid that continues to grow

MiRiS is an electrical microgrid project that combines renewable energy production with battery storage. The particularity of MiRiS, which makes it a unique project in Europe, is the diversity of the installed battery storage systems and the great flexibility of the possible configurations of the electrical network which constitutes it. Currently MiRiS has green energy production from a 2 MW photovoltaic system installed on the roofs of the John Cockerill headquarters workshops. The storage capacities add up to four different technologies, for a total of 2.5 MW of power and 5.5 MWh of energy capacity. The system is installed on a power grid that can replicate different configurations: grid-connected, islanded or in situations of weak or failed grids. The system is controlled by an intelligent software developed by John Cockerill. Precise measurements, collected through a secure and efficient communication system, allow real-time monitoring of the equipment. Computer algorithms and forecasting models optimize the energy flows exchanged between renewable production, battery, consumption site and the electrical grid, to which the excess energy is sold. Launched in 2018, the MiRiS project powers the Group's Headquarters with renewable electricity and helps greening John Cockerill's vehicle fleet.

John Cockerill, leading the energy transition

John Cockerill is a world player in the energy transition. With the strength of more than 200 years of experience in energy and industry behind it, the Group is today developing innovative technological solutions which contribute to the decarbonization of human activities, whether by developing new electricity production capacities from renewable sources, storing green electricity or optimizing the electricity output of existing electric power plants and industrial installations. It adapts its technologies and expertise – heat recuperation boilers for combined cycle gas-steam electric power plant, units for the production, storage and distribution of green hydrogen, receivers for thermo-solar concentration power plants, integrated units for the production, storage and management of green electricity, industrial boilers, wind turbine and hydroelectric installation maintenance, nuclear pipe-work, the automation of industrial processes – to the specific needs of its clients in the industrial and energy domains. John Cockerill is thus providing its technological contribution to the fight against climate change.

John Cockerill, enabler of opportunities

Driven since 1817 by the entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovation of its founder, the John Cockerill Group develops large-scale technological solutions to meet the needs of its time: preserving natural resources, contributing to greener mobility, manufacturing sustainably, building security and facilitating access to renewable energy.

Its offer to businesses, governments and communities consists of services and associated equipment for the sectors of energy, defence, industry, the environment, transport and infrastructures. John Cockerill achieved a turnover of 947 million euro in 22 countries on five continents in 2021.

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