



PRESS RELEASE
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**Solaire Direct, the first French Photovoltaic energetics specialist,
raises € 6.1 M from TechFund, Demeter Partners and Schneider
Electric Ventures**

Created in October 2006, Solaire Direct is the first photovoltaic energetics specialist dedicated entirely to solar energy production in France. The company designs, installs and exploits photovoltaic structures of all sizes from residential installations to ground power stations.

At the end of a round table with emblematic players of the energy sector in France, Solaire Direct is ambitiously deploying its offer: make solar electricity accessible to all communities, homeowners, companies.

1. A € 6.1 M investment in Solaire Direct's capital

Three institutional benchmark players in the French energy sector chose to support Solaire Direct by investing in its capital:

- **TechFund**, Investment fund based in Paris and Sophia Antipolis, close to EDF, one of the French pioneers of the venture capital in the energy sector;
- **Demeter Partners**, Investment fund dedicated to energy and environment, sponsored by La Caisse des Dépôts and L'Institut Français du Pétrole, with ten investments already under its belt;
- **Schneider Electric Ventures**, venture capital fund sponsored by Schneider Electric, world leader of electric distribution, automatism and control.

« We are very proud to have the support of these three institutional players of the French energy sector, who are true visionaries. Their support contributed in making Solaire Direct the benchmark in an activity destined to experience a considerable development. It is a sign that our country is henceforth taking action to develop new industries necessary to cope with climatic changes », declared **Thierry Lepercq**, CEO of Solaire Direct.

**2. A French initiative against climate change. Solar electricity for all arrives,
a few weeks from the electricity market's opening**

The plans set by the authorities in 2006 and the swift progress of the photovoltaic industry in the world make solar electricity economic today in France, but the infrastructures remain to be build.

Solaire Direct develops and exploits **photovoltaic infrastructures** (electricity production by transformation of solar radiations through silicon cells) of any size, from **2 KW** residential-roof installations to **10 MW** ground power stations and more.

Solaire Direct prepares, in collaboration with the PACA Region local authorities, the first **three photovoltaic power stations construction site** in France for a total amount of



16 MW on 43 hectares. These installations should provide the necessary electricity for **5400 households** and therefore **avoid the emission of 16.000 tons of CO₂ per year**.

In addition, the company will soon launch a turn-key residential offer, unmatched in France with a complete service (supply, installation, authorizations, connection, exploitation), profitable and without any investment.

« Much of generally accepted ideas on solar energy are false. We are noticing on a daily basis that the photovoltaic market is in ebullience in the world. Whereas the upstream field is very industrialized, the downstream remains to be structured. The team of Solaire Direct is developing a photovoltaic energeticist model which has proven to be reliable in the United States and meets the current need to decentralized infrastructures of energy production », underlines Grégoire Aladjidi, Project Manager of Techfund.

3. A highly qualified team and front-rank partners (top-hand partners)

Solaire Direct assembled a team of professionals which benefit from their solid experience in the photovoltaic engineering field, energy marketing, legal, administrative engineering, as well as financing, around its founders **Thierry Lepercq** (Founder of NetsCapital), **Amaury Korniloff** (ex- Business Development Director of Poweo), **Stéphane Jallat** (ex Industrial Director Tenesol) et **Abdel Bounia** (ex Engineering Manager Photowatt).

The company concluded strategic partnerships with major players of the French photovoltaic field: International engineering Groups, Industrials of the photovoltaic and electric equipment field, large banks.

Lastly, Solaire Direct is developing an active collaboration with many local authorities of the PACA Region, Languedoc-Roussillon, Rhône-alpes, Aquitaine, Corsica and Ile-de-France.

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