

Port of Spain solar power

Valenciaport has awarded a contract for the installation and maintenance of the solar energy plant to compatriot firm Electromur. The project, which has a capacity of 990 MWh/year, is expected to make Gandia the first European port to be energy self-sufficient.

The Port of Gandia will feature a photovoltaic energy plant for self-consumption, whose solar energy collectors will be located on the roof of shed 4, with a floor area of 4,500 square metres. Electrical energy storage equipment will also be installed. The construction of the solar power plant is expected to be finished within eight months and the maintenance period encompasses 52 months.

Valenciaport plans to inject EUR130 million in sustainability actions to meet the strategic objective of 2030 zero emissions, which will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote energy security.

In addition to this photovoltaic plant at the Port of Gandia, Valenciaport plans to install two other solar power plants at the Port of Valencia, one of them in the Valencia Terminal Europa, and the other between the Principe Felipe dock and the Club Nautico de Valencia. Both projects are expected to enable the port to produce 14% of the electrical energy it needs.

Moreover, there are other initiatives such as the installation of wind turbines at the Port of Valencia, the construction of two electrical substations to connect the engines of ships docking at the port to the electricity grid, and the use of hydrogen in the port operations.

Valenciaport is the first in Europe to install a green hydrogen plant to reduce the environmental impact of its terminal machinery operations. The station is mobile and will provide the necessary fuel, in the appropriate conditions and quantities to guarantee the continuous working cycles of the equipment forming part of the H2Ports project.

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The use of solar pavement in the Port of Valencia has been developed by SOLUM, one of the start-ups selected by the Port Authority of Valencia (PAV) and the Valenciaport Foundation within the framework of the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator, which responded to the challenge launched by Valenciaport on innovation in photovoltaic installations in ports and which, by accessing phase 3 of the accelerator has received financial support of 30,000 euros.

For his part, SOLUM's Product and Innovation Director, Luis Muñoz, indicated that "this solar floor is 100% walkable with a design integrated into the urban architecture that guarantees anti-slip, with regenerative properties and a greater resistance than concrete that makes it resistant to loads, impacts and scratching. The system generates clean energy thanks to the high-efficiency photovoltaic cells integrated inside."

This innovative photovoltaic solution can be installed in both pedestrian zones and areas with occasional traffic. These solar panels are much more resistant to erosion and easy maintenance and, in a place like the Port of Valencia, they also have the advantage of being able to produce energy in areas where a panel could not be installed.

This project is integrated in #SuperLabPorts, a space of international projection designed and intended for innovation and entrepreneurship in the maritime and port sector on climate change, promoted by the PAV, Fundaci3n Valenciaport and EIT Climate-KIC (the Climate Change Innovation Center)-which has been launched by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology-, whose main mission is to enhance the development of a low carbon economy with the aim of facilitating actions to adapt and mitigate climate change.

During the presentation, and as a detail to those present, this solar pavement, installed on the balcony of the north dock of the extension, has supplied energy to a mobile service of horchata Denominaci3n de Origen Chufa de Val3ncia (Denomination of Origin Tigernut of Valencia), as an example of what the plates can produce on a small scale. The installation has been placed next to the solar panels, on top of which the event has been held, on the balcony of the north dock that allows to see the north and south beaches and the whole port area.

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