

May 5th 2023

Inauguration of Uruguay's Largest Solar Public Lighting Demonstration Site

The installation of the 188 solar streetlights manufactured by the French company Fonroche Lighting has just been completed in Uruguay. Financed as part of the FASEP program (Fund for Studies and Assistance to the Private Sector), this solar public lighting demonstration project, unique in the country, will secure and illuminate rural areas that were previously without lighting.



Signing of the FASEP project on June 23, 2022, at the French Embassy in Montevideo.

On June 23, 2022, Fonroche Lighting, a global leader in solar public lighting, signed a memorandum of understanding with the departments of Canelones, Paysandú, and the French Embassy in Uruguay for the deployment of a solar lighting pilot project. Less than a year later, the 188 solar streetlights, manufactured in France and remotely controlled, have been installed in the two departments. This demonstrator, totaling €639,000, was financed under the FASEP program set up by the French Treasury Directorate to promote innovative solutions from French companies and assist them in conquering new export markets.

Each of these two departments is now equipped with 94 Fonroche Lighting solar streetlights. They were mainly installed on rural roads, which are widespread throughout the country and represent heavily trafficked routes. Devoid of light, these roads were very dangerous and prone to accidents for the local populations. Solar lighting helps secure these high-traffic areas while enhancing the safety feeling for drivers and pedestrians. In addition to the safety aspect, solar lighting also helps boost economic and social activities by allowing activities to continue after nightfall.

The inauguration of this pilot project, unique in Uruguay, will take place in two stages:

- **The inauguration of the project in the department of Canelones will be held on May 29, 2023**, starting at 6:00 PM on Camino Cortada Marino between routes 6 and 7, in the presence of the Intendant of the department of Canelones, Mr. Yamandú Orsi.
- **The inauguration of the project in the department of Paysandu will take place on May 30, 2023**, starting at 6:00 PM on Avenida Batalla de Quebracho in Quebracho, in the presence of the Intendant of the department, Mr. Nicolás Olivera Seiguerman.

INVITATION

Solar lighting to address Uruguay's economic and societal challenges

Committed to a National Energy Efficiency Plan since 2015, Uruguay seeks to develop more sustainable solutions for its infrastructure while reducing energy costs and carbon footprint. With this solar-powered public lighting demonstrator, the country adopts an eco-friendly and highly cost-effective solution for its departments. Its easy installation, without cables or electrical cabinets, and autonomous operation without an electricity bill make solar streetlights more competitive than conventional grid-connected lighting. Being 100% solar-powered, it requires no grid connection and is guaranteed to operate maintenance-free for 10 years without operating costs.

Fonroche Lighting accelerates its deployment in Latin America

Already established in Chile since 2020 with its subsidiary Fonroche Lighting Latin America, the French company continues its robust development in the continent. With projects completed in Colombia, where the company notably illuminated the second largest viaduct in Latin America spanning 5 km, as well as in Panama, Costa Rica, and Argentina, Fonroche Lighting, through this initial project in Uruguay, aims to establish its presence in the country and more broadly in the Eastern Andean region, making it a preferred area for its future activities.

In the United States and Europe as well, deployment is picking up pace

With 1,000 new municipalities equipped by Fonroche Lighting each year, the global market for public lighting is undergoing a profound transformation. Opting for sustainable, energy-efficient solutions is now becoming the norm to equip cities and villages. In the United States, after acquiring its main competitor in 2019, the French company continues its rise and has recently opened its new industrial unit in Dallas. This facility will enable large-scale deployment across all states of its sustainable and competitive lighting solution.

About Fonroche Lighting : In less than 10 years, Fonroche Lighting has become the global leader in solar public lighting. Located in the southwest of France, the company designs, develops, manufactures, and installs autonomous solar streetlights to illuminate all types of infrastructures. With nearly 200 employees, Fonroche Lighting exports its innovative technology internationally, with subsidiaries in Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the United States. Handling over 2000 new projects each year, the company meets the needs of communities and businesses worldwide, assisting them in addressing new energy challenges. Fonroche Lighting is experiencing robust growth and plans to double its workforce by 2025.

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