

Fonroche Lighting wins world's largest solar streetlamp project, covering 30% of Senegal



Access road at Blaise Diagne International Airport, Dakar – Fonroche Lighting.

Dakar, 7 February 2018

Senegal's President Macky Sall and French President Emmanuel Macron today inaugurated the launch of the world's most extensive public solar lighting project. Fonroche Lighting, Europe's leading provider of solar lighting solutions, has won the contract, which will meet more than 30% of Senegal's public lighting requirements, significantly improving quality of life in the areas served. French construction company Eiffage will be responsible for street-level installation.

Senegal has enjoyed strong economic growth in recent years, driven by the visionary ambition of its President, who is keen to make the country a regional hub for West Africa. After four large-scale innovative projects inaugurated in 2017, including the new Blaise Diagne International Airport (see pictures), President Macky Sall has today launched the world's largest-ever public solar lighting project.

Two years ago, Senegal's National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER), under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy, initiated a unique international consultation for the supply of 50,000 off-grid solar streetlamps.

French know-how and innovation

France-based company **Fonroche Lighting**, the European market leader in solar lighting solutions, was awarded the contract, valued at more than €87 million, after putting forward the most competitive bid and financing arrangement. Financing is provided by French backers, French investment bank BPI and the Treasury Department. The project also has the support of the French Government.

With more than €100 million in equity capital, Fonroche Lighting designs, manufactures and assembles solar streetlamps at its production facility in Roquefort, near Agen in southwest France. The company offers innovative technological solutions as a real, practical alternative to grid-connected lighting, coupled with full project management services, from design concept to solar and photometric surveys, manufacture, installation and maintenance. **Fonroche streetlamps are backed by a five-year warranty** and have a 10-year maintenance-free service life, whereas the average service life of solar streetlamps was previously just two years.

"It's a tremendous success for Fonroche, involving a unique project on an unparalleled scale, which we hope will persuade many other countries to make the move to sustainable lighting," says **Yann Maus, Chairman of Fonroche Group**. "The project wouldn't have happened without the visionary ambition of Senegal's President and his decision to take advantage of French technology and expertise. The choice to work with Fonroche Lighting reflects our company's proven ability to deliver large-scale projects, thanks in particular to the performance and quality of our products, but also our recognized expertise and track record of success around the world."

Fonroche Lighting operates in 40 countries, including 20 in Africa, with numerous successful projects in Gabon, Niger, Morocco, Senegal and Burkina Faso. The company has provided lighting for the world's largest solar plant in Ouarzazate, Morocco, as well as for the access roads at Dakar's new Blaise Diagne International Airport. In France, thousands of Fonroche streetlamps are in operation. The company has also signed a major contract to provide lighting for the parking complex at the Carrefour hypermarket in Portet-sur-Garonne, near Toulouse.

Solar street lighting for all

In 2017, Fonroche Lighting won a contract with UGAP, France's central purchasing agency for local authorities, to provide communities across the country with sustainable lighting solutions.

"Fonroche Lighting is a next-generation operator with the stated aim of **bringing solar street lighting to all**," says Yann Maus. "Our teams offer integrated, turnkey solutions for public- and private-sector customers anywhere in the world, who can call on us to meet their lighting requirements for roads, villages, towns and cities or even entire countries – as in Senegal."

Today's inauguration ceremony was also a chance for Fonroche Lighting to unveil its new proprietary remote monitoring system, designed to track the actual performance of streetlamps in real time.

Skills transfer with Senegal

In addition, the Fonroche proposal selected by President Macky Sall includes an industrial facility in Dakar for the local assembly of solar streetlamps, combined with a skills transfer agreement to support the development of new projects across Africa in the years ahead.

About Fonroche Lighting

Fonroche Lighting is a major player in solar lighting solutions. The company is based in southwest France and is part of the Fonroche Group, an industry leader in renewable energies. In addition to its solar lighting business, Fonroche has extensive expertise in biogas and high-temperature geothermal solutions. Fonroche exports its technologies around the globe. The company employs over 100 people and has invested more than €600 million to date in renewable energies in France and internationally.

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