

Joint press release

Brussels, 18 December 2007

Electrabel and Honda Belgium Factory to install 6,500 m² of photovoltaic cells in Aalst

Today, 18 December 2007, Honda Belgium Factory and Electrabel signed a contract to install around 6,500 m² of photovoltaic cells at the Honda site in Aalst. The 880 kW project represents an investment of nearly €4 million. In total, 13,000 m² of the roof will be covered with photovoltaic panels, making this the largest ever industrial application of solar energy in Belgium.

Installation will begin in January, with the facility due to commission in March 2008.

Next year, Electrabel will install 11 MW of photovoltaic capacity for some 15 industrial customers in Flanders.

Keen to reduce their environmental impact, industrial customers are increasingly looking to renewable sources of energy that can be installed on their sites. In anticipation of this development and based on its strategy of being more than just an energy supplier, Electrabel has decided to support its customers in their efforts to develop these kinds of projects.

This investment is part of the sustainable development policy of Electrabel to limit as much as possible the environmental impact of her own activities and contribute to reach the objective of disposing of 18% of the generation capacity from renewable sources

The contract with Honda Belgium Factory is one of the first steps in this direction.

Honda Belgium Factory is investing in a new European distribution centre for body parts in Aalst. For this project, Honda was determined to have a 'green' warehouse so as to reduce its impact on the environment. In addition to a strict policy on waste management and drainage, a sustainable solution was also sought for energy. The installed capacity should be in line with the estimated annual energy consumption of the new distribution centre.

Honda Belgium Factory produces and distributes parts and employs 200 workers. It was established in 1963 as Honda's first overseas site.

Honda designs, manufactures and sells cars, motorcycles and power products globally. Honda is the world's largest engine maker, producing more than 11.5 million engines annually. Honda makes products in 109 plants in 31 countries and has a total of 125,000 employees.

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*Ce communiqué est également disponible en français.
This press release is also available in English.*