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Launch of the construction of the Taconnaz hydropower plant : water from Mont-Blanc will contribute to fighting climate change

Voltalia (Euronext Paris, ISIN code: FR0011995588), an international player in renewable energies, announces the beginning of the construction of its 4.5 MW run-of-the-river hydropower power plant on the Taconnaz torrent in the Haute-Savoie department (France).

"While most European glaciers are melting as a result of global warming, the construction of a hydropower plant at the foot of the Taconnaz glacier contributes to tackling climate change by producing a greenhouse gas free electricity. Voltalia teams are particularly proud of this project as its environmental relevance is as significant as its local foothold. This construction begins after the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition has just selected two new small hydropower projects developed by Voltalia, highlighting our strengths to grow further on this small hydropower market" comments Sebastien Clerc, CEO of Voltalia.

Won by Voltalia in 2016¹, the Taconnaz small hydropower project is located on the municipalities of Chamonix and Les Houches in the Haute-Savoie department. Adjacent to the Taconnaz avalanche dam, a remarkable infrastructure protecting the Chamonix valley, the power plant will have a minor impact on the environment and the landscape.

This power plant will consist in:

- a water intake structure installed on the stream bed, at an altitude of 1,471 meters, thus avoiding the creation of a dam;
- a 1,700-meter long underground penstock supplying water to the power plant;
- a semi-underground plant, limiting its vulnerability; and
- a buried transmission line injecting power into the local grid.



In line with its mission to "improve global environment, foster local development", Voltalia not only favored an anthropized site but also works with well-reputed local partners: the civil works company Benedetti-Guelpa and Girus engineering consultants. Lastly, the Taconnaz power plant is part of the Valley's Regional Climate and Energy Plan, which sets a minimum target of 20% of renewable energies in its final energy consumption in 2020.

The power plant is expected to be commissioned in Q4 2019 and the electricity sales contract signed with the Régie Électrique des Houches runs over 20 years. The Chamonix and Les Houches municipalities will take a 33% stake in Voltalia's project company. Beyond the usual economic benefits associated with local taxes, the municipalities will also

¹ See press release dated September 8, 2016

have a direct interest in electricity sales through royalties proportionate to power production, and to the power plant's profits in the form of dividends.

The Taconnaz hydropower plant's production should provide for the annual electricity consumption of about 4,800 households², equivalent to nearly 90% of the population of Chamonix and les Houches.

Next on the agenda : H1 2018 results on September 26, 2018

About Voltalia (www.voltalia.com)

- Voltalia is an international player in the renewable energy sector. The Company produces and sells electricity generated from wind, solar, hydro and biomass power plants; it owns a total installed capacity of 524 MW.
- Voltalia is also a service provider, assisting its investor clients active in renewables at each project stages, from conception to operation and maintenance.
- With more than 460 employees in 18 countries, over 4 continents. Voltalia is able to act worldwide on behalf of its clients.
- Voltalia has been listed on the Euronext regulated market in Paris since July 2014 (FR0011995588 – VL TSA) and is a component stock of the Euronext Tech 40 index and the CAC Mid&Small index.

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² Excluding heating