

Press release

Start of construction at one of Germany's largest solar parks

Showcase project in the Uckermark, where the 180 MW "Boitzenburger Land" project is being built

Boitzenburg / Reußenköge, 02.09.2022

GP JOULE is the general contractor of one of the largest renewable energy projects: For the solar park of the entrepreneur Dietrich Twietmeyer in the districts of Kuhz and Wichmannsdorf in the Brandenburg municipality of Boitzenburger Land (Uckermark district), the company is taking on both the planning of the technical plant and the building of the PV plants as well as the construction of the transformer station and the route to the grid interconnection point as part of an EPC contract. GP JOULE EPC is responsible for all services up to grid connection and successful feed-in to the high-voltage grid, supplies all system components and is in charge of running the construction process smoothly. Completion of the solar park is planned for summer 2023.

Construction started in early August 2022. The developer and operator of the plant is SEBG Energiepark GmbH. The shareholders are Solarenergie Boitzenburger Land GmbH, owned by local farmer Dietrich Twietmeyer (majority shareholder), the GP JOULE Group and Mainova AG. The initiator and project developer is Dietrich Twietmeyer - with the support of Solarparc GmbH from Bonn - who, together with his brother Karsten Twietmeyer, also owns the majority of the land on which the solar parks are being built.

Mainova AG markets the electricity. For this purpose, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was concluded with the Frankfurt energy supplier, under which the entire electricity production of the plant that can be fed into the grid at the grid connection point was acquired for the first ten years of production.

GP JOULE and Mainova were the initiator's preferred partners for constructing a high-quality plant and for ensuring its economic viability. At a joint on-site meeting, all participants were informed about the progress of the work on the joint project. Dietrich Twietmeyer said of the project: "By working together to provide the suitable areas, GP JOULE as the general contractor and Mainova as the electricity marketer, the team is creating a large piece of high-performance infrastructure great prospects for the future. In addition, we are setting important economic impulses in the region."

New potential for soils with low yields

The project uses arable land that is suitable for alternative use due to its low soil quality. Once completed, the solar park will generate around 180 gigawatt hours of CO₂-free electricity per year on an area of around 170 hectares. The energy from the solar park can be used to supply around 64,000 households with electricity. Switching to green electricity will save around 90,000 tons of CO₂ per year.

Ove Petersen, CEO GP JOULE, said: "The Boitzenburger Land solar park shows how photovoltaic open spaces are a sensible and climate-protecting complement to agriculture. With our own agricultural background and decades of experience in project planning and plant construction, we feel closely connected to this project and look forward to further cooperation."

Subsidy-free, green energy

Mainova CEO Dr Constantin H. Alsheimer, highlighted: "Together with our partners, we are taking the energy transition a great step forward and thus strengthening climate protection. In addition to our participation, we market the entire climate-friendly electricity yield of the solar park directly to our customers by means of so-called Power Purchase Agreements. In this way, we are meeting their strong demand for affordable green energy from regional sources at reliable conditions." Moreover, due to this direct marketing, the operators do not need any feed-in tariff according to the Renewable Energy Sources Act.

Good planning makes for fast implementation

Thanks to GP JOULE EPC's proactive project and execution planning, civil engineering works started immediately after obtaining the construction permit in June 2022. The necessary preparations had included, among other things, the entire planning for the plant design and the construction of the route, as well as soil expertises, statics expertises and the fire protection concept. GP JOULE EPC was also able to prevent delays due to long delivery times with the help of a stable manufacturer network, so that work on the stud frame and substructure could start as early as August.

Only 21 months had passed since the decision to develop the site before planning permission was granted. What was decisive for this in the eyes of the project partners present was the professional cooperation with the responsible offices and authorities in Boitzenburg and Prenzlau in the course of the approval procedure. They also highlighted the fact that all those involved pulled together in implementing the projects.

Images



Caption 1 Site inspection at the "Boitzenburger Land" solar park by initiator and project developer Dietrich Twietmeyer and partners Ove Petersen from GP JOULE and Dr. Constantin H. Alsheimer from Mainova (from left to right). (Copyright: Mainova)



Caption 2 Construction work has begun at the "Boitzenburger Land" solar park. (Example image from the Lausitz Energy Park, copyright: GP JOULE / Jörn Lehmann)

About the project participants

The initiator, majority shareholder and project developer is Dietrich Twietmeyer, who, together with his brother Karsten Twietmeyer, also owns the majority of the land on which the solar parks are being built.

Solarparc GmbH from Bonn provided support with technical, project planning and financing expertise as well as selecting other project partners. It is a minority shareholder in the project planning company Solarenergie Boitzenburger Land GmbH.

GP JOULE was taken up into the project company as a further partner. GP JOULE is an experienced project developer of renewable energy plants and, as EPC, the general contractor for the turnkey construction of the solar plants. GP JOULE supplies all system components and is responsible for the entire construction planning and implementation of the solar plants, the transformer station and the route to the grid interconnection point, as well as the feed-in to the high-voltage grid.

As a third partner, the Frankfurt-based energy supplier Mainova also holds a minority stake in the project company. The company is thus further expanding its existing renewable energy portfolio of around 150 megawatts to date. In addition, Mainova has acquired all of the plant's electricity for the first ten years of production for direct power marketing (PPA).

About GP JOULE

Founded in 2009 based on the belief that a 100% renewable energy supply is feasible, GP JOULE is now a system provider for integrated energy solutions from solar, wind and biomass power as well as being a partner at the supply level for electricity, heat, hydrogen and electric mobility. GP JOULE is thus a pioneering company in sector cross-linkage. Around 500 people work for the medium-sized group of companies in Germany, Europe and North America. GP JOULE is the winner of the Schleswig-Holstein Business Environment Award 2019 and the German Renewables Award 2020.

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