Dutch and Danish companies synergize in order to build the largest thermal solar plant in the Netherlands

When the largest solar installation in the Netherlands starts up early summer 2010, it will be based on Dutch and Danish technology. The project called “Almere Sun Island” is build by NV Nuon Energy, one of the biggest Dutch energy companies. Nuon has recently signed the contract with the Dutch company Nacap and Sunmark A/S which is located in Denmark. They will be responsible for the delivery and installation of more than 7,000 m2 of solar collectors to provide hot water to 2.700 households in the Dutch city of Almere. Nacap will be in charge of all pipe work and installation, whereas SUNMARK will deliver the approximately 520 solar collectors with a dimension of 14m2 each. When the installation is complete it will provide energy equivalent to one million showers annually, thus providing a significant contribution to reducing CO2 emissions.

Innovative Design

The largest solar plant in the Netherlands is designed in a way that it emerges as a natural part of the area and will undoubtedly become one of the world's most beautiful thermal solar plants. "The quite unconventional design has given us challenges in the project phase, but it has certainly been worth it," said Hans Grydehøj CEO of Sunmark A/S. “The design is a very important factor – following closely behind performance - since such a large plant will be an excursion place" explains Hans Grydehøj.

Using synergistic effects

N.V. Nuon Energy has chosen Nacap and Sunmark since they both have their core competences within district heating and thermal solar energy. The Dutch company Nacap is operating worldwide and has a consolidated knowledge in the field of solutions for the transportation of oil, gas, water, electricity and data. The competence of the Danish company Sunmark draws upon more than 20 years of experience and they have implemented it in numerous large scale projects around the world. Combining the know-how of these two companies will give Nuon beneficial synergistic effects.

FACTS

NV Nuon

Nuon is an energy company whose 6,000 employees serve around three million consumers, businesses and organizations in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Its key commitment is to supply energy that is reliable, affordable and as clean as possible. Nuon produces and supplies gas, electricity, heat and natural cooling and helps customers to reduce their energy use. The company operates as Business Group Benelux of the Vattenfall Group.

Read more on www.nuon.com

FACTS

Nacap

Nacap operates worldwide as managing contractor, providing a wide range of multidisciplinary solutions for the transportation of oil, gas, water, electricity and data. Nacap employs some 3,000 people worldwide.

Nacap carries out projects in Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa, Asia Pacific and Australia.

Nacap has offices in Australia, the far east, middle east, CIS, Germany, UK and the Benelux.

Since the early 1960's Nacap has circled the globe with the construction of more than 45,000 km of pipelines in a variety of diameters up to DN 1500 (60")

Read more on www.nacap.nl

Sunmark A/S

Sunmark A/S in its present form was established in Denmark in 2000 as a pioneer in large solar heating systems. However, Sunmark incorporates more than 20 years of experience in the solar heating business in Europe.

In 2003 Sunmark established a production facility in Vietnam according to the highest international standards, which employs approximately 100 employees.

Sunmark develops and produces advanced thermal solar collectors. Moreover they deliver individual turnkey solutions.

The aim of Sunmark is to produce sustainable solar solutions in all phases of development and production, in order to make thermal solar energy a major future source of energy.

Read more on www.sunmark.com

FACTS

Thermal solar energy

The idea of a flat plate collector is that its surface is able to receive as much sunlight/energy as possible, which is converted into heat afterwards.

The solar collector absorbs both direct and diffuse radiation. The solar energy is transformed into heat by the absorber which is located in the inside of the solar collector. It absorbs the solar heat and transmits it to a frost-resisting liquid which circulates in a system of pipes. The heated liquid is lead through a heat exchanger to a storage tank or directly to the end-user. A flat plate solar collector can reach a temperature of approximately 100 degrees.