

# Media release

21 September 2023

## Axpo, Nobian and WIRCON sign long-term solar PPA in Netherlands

**Axpo and leading industrial chemicals manufacturer Nobian have signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) in the Netherlands, the companies announced today. The PPA will see Axpo provide solar power to Nobian's operations at Delfzijl from a facility developed by WIRCON, a large and growing international solar energy developer.**

Under the 15-year agreement, Axpo will procure 17 GWh of renewable energy annually from a WIRCON solar park in the Netherlands and deliver it to Nobian's production facilities. This corresponds to the annual consumption of nearly 6,000 Dutch households, saving the equivalent of more than 6,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a year.

Axpo Netherlands' Branch Manager, Michiel Rutgers, said: "We are delighted to have entered into this long-term PPA with Nobian and WIRCON, which will make a significant contribution towards delivering Nobian's specific renewable energy needs for a considerable time to come. It is through agreements like these that Axpo brings added value to our clients, assuming and managing risks on their behalf to help realise their renewable projects and achieve their sustainability targets."

Nobian's Director Energy, Johan Hospers, added: "The Northern Netherlands plays an important role in large-scale energy generation. In addition, Delfzijl is home to about 10 - 15% of basic chemicals in the Netherlands. With the renewable electricity we purchase from the WIRCON solar farm located near the chemical park Delfzijl, we reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in our salt, chlorine, caustic soda and hydrogen production in Delfzijl. And in doing so, we boost our renewable energy portfolio and the transition to a sustainable energy system, in line with Nobian's 'Grow Greener Together' strategy."

WIRCON's Managing Director Dr. Jörg Gerike added: "We are pleased to have built a second solar park with in the north-east of the Netherlands in just five months together with Groningen Seaports as the landowner and provide renewable energy with Valgenweg solar park. After the construction and operation of a first solar park with 30,8 MWp, WIRCON realised the high quality Valgenweg solar park on time and budget. This is a great basis for further successful partnerships."

Groningen Seaports' CEO Cas König said: "We are proud to take part in solar and wind energy projects, in this way we will contribute to a sustainable energy production within our area. Groningen Seaports and its customers need renewable power in order to make the operations and production more sustainable. Participation by Groningen Seaports in this solar park as one of the shareholders fits well in this strategy. One of the local energy



corporations “Bronnen van ons” is as well involved as shareholder. In this way also local households in the province of Groningen can benefit from this renewable energy.”

More information about Axpo’s PPA business can be found on our [website](#).

### **About Axpo**

Axpo is driven by a single purpose – to enable a sustainable future through innovative energy solutions. Axpo is Switzerland's largest producer of renewable energy and an international leader in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power. Axpo combines the experience and expertise of more than 6,000 employees who are driven by a passion for innovation, collaboration and impactful change. Using cutting-edge technologies, Axpo innovates to meet the evolving needs of its customers in over 30 countries across Europe, North America and Asia.

### **About Axpo Netherlands**

Axpo concluded its first wind PPA in the Netherlands back in 2015. Since then, the company has facilitated several bespoke PPAs between developers and offtakers.

Based in Amsterdam, Axpo’s Dutch subsidiary is a leading marketer of wind and solar energy in the country, drawing on its long-standing experience in this market across Europe. In addition to its PPA business, Axpo’s core expertise includes power and natural gas supply and structuring for corporate offtakers and providing market access to independent retailers and wholesale counterparties.

### **About Nobian**

Nobian is a European market leader in the production of salt, essential chemicals, and energy for industry, varying from construction and cleaning to pharmaceuticals and water treatment. We excel in the safe and reliable provision of high-purity salt, chlor-alkali, chloromethane, and hydrogen, thanks to our integrated value chain with modern production locations in the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark.

We have a strong history in salt production which goes back more than 100 years to 1918, and we have deep experience in underground energy storage. Our 1,600 employees are dedicated to becoming safer, more efficient, and more sustainable. This is how we ensure that today’s essential products keep improving our lives in the future through chemistry on which you can rely. [www.nobian.com](http://www.nobian.com)

### **About WIRCON**

WIRCON is a global renewable energy group, which develops high quality renewable energy assets. Since entering the market in 2013 WIRCON has been focusing on expansion in domestic and international locations to initiate the development and construction of solar parks. The WIRCON group has more than 30 employees at its German locations in Mannheim, Berlin and Saarbruecken. [www.wircon.com](http://www.wircon.com)

### **About GSP**

Groningen Seaports is the manager, commercial operator and developer of Eemshaven and the port of Delfzijl, including the inland ports and several business parks. Groningen Seaports focuses on strong clusters, like the biobased chemical industry, green energy and circular industry. We provide suitable plots and good infrastructure to facilitate the exchange of energy, raw materials and residual streams. Finally, we supply all port services, from logistics services to the allocation, maintenance and development of the sites in both port areas.

### **More information**

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