



Press release
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Environmental transition : Paprec and Vicat establish an industrial Waste-Energy scheme in the PACA region

Waste management specialist Paprec and construction materials specialist Vicat have founded the joint venture "ALTèreNATIVE CSR", based in Bouches-du-Rhône, South of France. 20 employees and 80 subcontractors will operate a plant producing fuel from non-recyclable waste. The Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) produced is a "fuel of the future" and will replace the fossil-derived fuels used in the local Vicat cement plant.



Guy Sidos, Président-directeur général du groupe Vicat, et Sébastien Petithuguenin, Directeur Général de Paprec.

Paprec and Vicat are both major French players in their respective sectors. Together, they have established a joint venture to develop an alternative solution to disposing of waste in landfill: ALTèreNATIVE CSR. This joint project involves the design, construction, and operation of a facility producing Solid Recovered Fuels (SRF) from non-recyclable waste.

The plant will be operated in Bouches-du-Rhône, ultimately achieving annual production of 50,000 tonnes of SRF, making it the largest facility of its kind in the country. Its feedstock will be post-sorting residue from Paprec group facilities, for which the only current solution is landfill. The preliminary design work started in April and the ground work is scheduled to start in summer 2022, with commissioning planned for January 2023. The overall investment amounts to €15 million.

"This project is consistent with the energy transition law, which stipulates that landfill waste must be halved by 2025", explains Sébastien Petithuguenin, CEO of Paprec. "It is definitely in the mindset of our people to set up a regional industrial processing stream, based on the circular economy and French excellence in technology."



Circulère is the Vicat group subsidiary focusing on the circular economy. It will secure commercial outlets for the SRF, firstly to Vicat's La Grave de Peille cement plant (Alpes-Maritimes), then subsequently to the group's other plants or SRF heating plants that will progressively be built in the region. This industrial waste-to-energy activity will support the region's energy independence.

Chairman and CEO of the Vicat group Guy Sidos insists that "Making the circular economy a central focus of our manufacturing processes is constantly at the forefront of our employees' minds. It is our fervent ambition to substitute alternative fuels for 100% of the fossil-derived energy used at our European cement plants by 2025. We are firmly and actively committed to the environmental transition and reducing our carbon footprint. Our investments contribute to local development."

Focus on Solid recovered fuel (SRF):

SRF is made from dry, non-recyclable and non-hazardous waste such as waste furniture, bulky waste from recycling centres, ordinary industrial waste, and sorting centre rejects. After several phases including sorting, crushing, screening, metal removal, etc. the waste is shredded into particles smaller than 20 mm in size, then delivered to cement plants to replace coal and petroleum coke. This limits the use of these fossil-derived fuels and reduces the amount of greenhouse gases accordingly.

About Paprec Group :

The group was founded and has been headed since its creation by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin. With the acquisition of Coved on 5 April 2017, the recycling specialist has become a specialist in the full waste management chain. Over 25 years, it has grown from 45 to 12,500 employees working at over 220 sites in France and Switzerland. It has a turnover of €2bn.

Active in all existing recycling sub-sectors, the group is number one in plastic, paper, cardboard, and building waste recycling, as well as selective household collections. It is number two for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment, and number three for organic waste, wood, biomass and routine industrial waste. Following the acquisition of Coved, the group is now the third-largest player in the French waste treatment sector and the largest recycling industry player.

From the outset, Paprec Group has been known and acknowledged for its commitment to promoting diversity, secularism and the fight against all forms of discrimination within the company. In October 2016, the Paprec Group received the Trophée Global Axa des Entreprises Responsables (Overall trophy of responsible companies, presented by Axa). And in November 2016, Jean-Luc Petithuguenin won the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the BFM Business Awards.

About Vicat :

With 200 years of experience, Vicat is a key industrial player in mineral and bio-based construction materials. In following a trajectory for carbon neutrality throughout its value chain by 2050, the listed family firm operates three core lines of business: Cement, Ready-Mixed Concrete, and Aggregates, together with complementary activities. The Group has almost 9,900 employees, and generated consolidated sales of €2.8 billion in 2020. It operates in twelve countries: France, Switzerland, Italy, United States, Turkey, Egypt, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Kazakhstan, India, and Brazil. More than 2/3 of its sales are generated outside France.

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