HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

PROJECT EXPANSION IN HUNGARY

We continued implementing our growth strategy in 2019 by expanding our proprietary portfolio and by preparing the ground for new opportunities in 2020. During the reporting period, we completed and grid-connected 20.1 MWp of PV power plants across six locations in Hungary, which proves the dedication of our team to successfully take projects from inception to completion in a timely manner. With the grid connection of another 5.4 MWp in March 2020, we now have 46 PV power plants in operation, bringing the company’s total proprietary portfolio in the country to 31.5 MWp.

Our pipeline of additional projects, consisting of 17.7 MWp at the time of publishing this report, puts us well on the way to achieving our increased goal of expanding our proprietary portfolio to 75 MWp until year-end 2021, across the support schemes of KÁT, KÁT-METÁR and METÁR licenses.

LONG-TERM FINANCING SECURED FOR 46 PROJECTS IN HUNGARY

The Company secured long-term non-recourse financing for 46 projects with a combined capacity of 31.5 MWp in its strategic Hungarian market. The financing, totalling 28.3 million EUR, was provided by K&H Bank for a period of 15 years. K&H Bank is the Hungarian subsidiary of Belgian KBC Group N.V. and one of Hungary’s largest banking and financial services firms as well as a leading local player in project finance.

49 MWP OF NEW O&M CONTRACTS ADDED

We remained focused on further expanding our Operations & Maintenance business in Europe. In the reporting period, we expanded our O&M services portfolio with a total of 41.6 MWp of PV power plants across six locations in Hungary, which proves the dedication of our team to successfully take projects from inception to completion in a timely manner. With the grid connection of another 5.4 MWp in March 2020, we now have 46 PV power plants in operation, bringing the company’s total proprietary portfolio in the country to 31.5 MWp.

In addition to Hungary, we concluded contracts in the Czech Republic and Australia, with a capacity of 2.4 MWp and 3.1 MWp, respectively, and reached another milestone by entering into the Slovenian market, with a 2.0 MWp PV power plant being the first Photon Energy solar asset operated and maintained in the country.

With additional O&M contracts inked after the reporting period, our total O&M services portfolio under contract amounts to over 300 MWp worldwide.
LORD HOWE ISLAND IS GOING HYBRID

In Q4 2019, we won a tender to design and build an integrated solar (1.2 MWp) and battery storage (with over 3.2 MWh capacity) system on the pristine Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, Australia and is in the final stage of preparation works before commencing the construction works on the site. The proposed solar battery solution will reduce the local community’s reliance on diesel-generated power on the island and, more importantly, will lessen the carbon footprint globally.

The Lord Howe Island project, purposely designed for a small and remote location, will be a challenging but exciting opportunity for us to demonstrate our expertise and capability in executing complex solar systems addressing the specific needs of our end-users. The construction of the system will commence shortly and is expected to be completed in Q3 2020.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT EXITS DOWN UNDER

In Q3 2019, we sold our 25% stakes in two utility-scale projects “Suntop 1” and “Gunnedah” with a total capacity of 335 MWp and realized a capital gain of EUR 4.1 million on top of the book value of EUR 1.1 million.

These successful exits are proof of the good cooperation with Canadian Solar, less than two years after the start of our joint development of five utility-scale PV projects in New South Wales in January 2018.

Later in Q4 2019, we sold our 51% stake in another utility-scale project in Brewongle, which was still in a relatively early stage of development. The financial impact of this exit has so far not materialized, but has enabled us to de-risk our Australian project portfolio, while maintaining reasonable upside potential in case of the successful completion of the development phase.

4.6 MWP OF SOLAR PROJECTS COMPLETED FOR ALDI AUSTRALIA

31 rooftop installations have been constructed across 30 stores and a distribution centre of the distribution chain in New South Wales and Queensland and are designed to generate more than 6.3 GWh of clean energy every year. Winning the trust of ALDI in Australia underscores our capabilities and market position in our core market Down Under.

We are very proud to have been given the opportunity to transform its stores into solar power generators capable of providing a large proportion of their daytime electricity consumption. All projects have now been grid-connected, except one for which the final commissioning was delayed due to repair works carried out by the investor.