



BANQUE des
TERRITOIRES



The ELLO solar power plant

A project financed by a public equity contribution

ELLO, a solar power station financed by public equity

Located on the Cerdagnes plateau in the Pyrénées-Orientales (in the Occitanie region), this concentrated solar power plant enjoys the highest level of sunlight exposure in France. The region is already home to the Thémis de Targassone plant, built by the same group as ELLO : the CNIM group, all of whose solar activities are now gathered under SUNCNIM.

Distributed over 33 hectares, the ELLO plant has a power capacity of 9 MW and a storage capacity of 3 hours, and cost approximately 60 million euros (with a public equity contribution of 10 million euros from Banque des Territoires). Building work lasted two years.

CNIM opted for Fresnel mirror technology (mobile units that follow the sun's path). 153 000 square metres of mirrors were installed to follow the sun's path, heating long fixed tubes to produce water vapour that then turns a 9 MW turbine. ELLO's storage system is made up of 9 tanks that hold this vapour under pressure for long periods.

Storage capacity corresponds to 4 hours of power production in strong sunlight. The plant will thus be able to adjust production according to the needs of the power grid, rather than only producing power when the weather permits it.

This project is part of the Banque des Territoires strategy to improve the sustainability of regions.



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