

## **Industrial Initiatives Dii and Medgrid join forces for the development of industrial-scale renewable energy,**

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Today, the industrial initiatives Dii and Medgrid signed an agreement to strengthen their co-operation on the development of industrial-scale renewable energy from the deserts and a suitable transmission infrastructure. The co-operation is supported by Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Energy Commission, the French Minister of Industry, Energy and the Digital Economy and the German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology.

The two international industrial consortiums, founded respectively in Germany and France, complement each other well and will therefore coordinate their work for the long term generation, transmission and marketability of renewable energy in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. In line with the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) this will be a key contribution towards a new EU-MENA partnership based on renewable energy. Co-ordinated actions defining cost-efficient pathways whilst taking into account, geopolitical and socio-economic aspects have already started.

Dii, with its 56 partners from 15 countries, aims to create the necessary conditions for an accelerated implementation of the Desertec vision. It's activities focus on enabling an industrial-scale market for renewable energy from the North African and Middle Eastern deserts by 2050. These activities also include the development of integrated energy markets and the identification of suitable technologies for power generation and transmission.

Medgrid was created at the end of 2010, within the framework of the MSP, by 20 associate companies from the Mediterranean Basin. Its primary task is to study the technical, economic and institutional feasibility of the Mediterranean transmission system which, by 2020, would enable the export to Europe of up to 5 GW of electricity generated from renewable sources.

Paul van Son, Dii's CEO said: "The long term development of renewable energy from the deserts would be neither thinkable without tight co-operation with local authorities and industries in MENA, nor without close collaboration between Medgrid and Dii. I am happy that the European Commission and national governments are looking beyond borders to support our plans."

André Merlin, Medgrid's CEO, stressed the role of the transmission infrastructures: "The electrical interconnections are vital for the development of renewable energies in the Middle-East and Maghreb countries; they will make possible the export of a share of renewable electricity from the Southern countries of the Mediterranean Sea to Europe and thus contribute to their financing. I am therefore very pleased by the cooperation agreement signed today between Dii and Medgrid, and I sincerely thank the European authorities for their support."