

Port of Spain solar energy for businesses

The use of solar paving in the Port of Valencia has been developed by SOLUM, one of the start-ups selected by the Port Authority of Valencia (PAV) and the Valenciaport Foundation within the framework of the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator, which responded to the challenge launched by Valenciaport on innovation in photovoltaic installations in ports and which, on reaching phase 3 of the accelerator, has received financial support of 30,000 euros.

For his part, SOLUM's Director of Product and Innovation, Luis Muñoz, indicated that "this solar floor is 100% walkable with a design integrated into the urban architecture that guarantees anti-slip, with regenerative properties and a greater resistance than concrete that makes it resistant to loads, impacts and scratches. The system generates clean energy thanks to the high-efficiency photovoltaic cells integrated in its interior".

This innovative photovoltaic solution can be installed both in pedestrian areas and in areas with occasional traffic. These solar panels are much more resistant to erosion and easy maintenance and, in a place like the Port of Valencia, they also have the advantage of being able to produce energy in areas where a panel could not be installed.

This project is part of #SuperLabPorts, a space of international projection designed and conceived for innovation and entrepreneurship in the maritime and port sector in the field of climate change, promoted by the PAV, the Valenciaport Foundation and EIT Climate-KIC (the Climate Change Innovation Centre) which has been set up by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology; whose main mission is to promote the development of a low-carbon economy with the aim of facilitating actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

During the presentation, and as a detail to those present, this solar pavement, installed on the balcony of the north dyke of the extension, has supplied energy to a mobile service of horchata Denominaci?n de Origen Chufa de Valencia, as an example of what the plates can produce on a small scale. The installation has been placed next to the solar panels, on top of which the event was held, on the balcony of the north dock, which allows a view of the north and south beaches and the whole of the port area.

The Minister of Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy of the Regional Government of Andalusia highlighted "a clear commitment to the greening and decarbonisation of Andalusian ports as the key to a sustainable blue economy", which contributes added value in the region.

European ports are facing the challenge of responding in the short term to the regulatory requirements and initiatives that are an essential feature of a number of national environmental plans, including the National Air Quality Plan, the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy, as

well as in the Marine Strategies and Hydrological Plans linked to the improvement of marine and coastal aquatic ecosystems.

In this regard, this action protocol offers the Port of Huelva a framework for collaboration for the organisation and development of actions that will help to achieve a greener port model in an open, digital, decarbonised and sustainable ecosystem, which will enable the energy and climate objectives established by the European Union to be achieved by 2030.

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