

PRESS RELEASE

BSTOR and Duferco Wallonie launch the construction of D-STOR, a 140 MWh battery energy storage park in La Louvière

Brussels, January 16, 2025 - **BSTOR, a Belgian company specializing in the development and financing of battery energy storage parks, and Duferco Wallonie, a company active in the redevelopment of industrial brownfields, renewable energies, and logistics services, are launching the construction of D-STOR, a 140 MWh battery park with a connection power of 50 MW in La Louvière, scheduled to be operational by summer 2026.**

The project, a 50/50 joint venture between BSTOR and Duferco Wallonie, represents a total investment of over 70 million euros. It is financed for nearly 55% by a non-recourse loan granted by a banking consortium consisting of KBC, Belfius, and Triodos. The balance is covered by equity.

The purpose of D-STOR is to meet the growing needs for fast regulation capacity related to the energy transition. Among others, it will help addressing "incompressibility" issues observed during periods of high renewable electricity generation. In these increasingly frequent situations, the export capacities of the Belgian electrical system are saturated, making it vulnerable to sudden and unexpected situations such as higher renewable electricity production or lower consumption than initially anticipated. To stabilize the grid and avoid a blackout (large-scale general power outage), downward regulation capacities (reduction of production or increase in consumption) must be mobilized very quickly, but this type of capacity is increasingly scarce in such situations. Battery parks offer instant regulation capacity, both upward and downward. Thanks to this additional flexibility, battery parks allow to accommodate larger shares of green electricity on the grid while significantly reducing regulation costs that are passed on to consumers' bills.

The D-STOR battery park will be located on the Duferco site in La Louvière. It will consist of 36 TESLA Megapacks (lithium-ion battery containers), each with a storage capacity of slightly less than 4 MWh, and of the control systems and connection infrastructure to ELIA's 150,000-volt network. High-voltage equipment and auxiliary systems will be supplied and installed by the multi-technical services company Equans.

The park will have a connection capacity of 50 MW and a storage capacity of 140 MWh. Eneco, which has signed a long-term Flexibility Purchase Agreement with D-STOR, will be responsible for using this flexible capacity across the different markets.

The installation on the Duferco site, which will cover just over one hectare, including 3000 m² of green area as part of the project, is part of the overall Master Plan developed with local and regional authorities. This plan includes a 25-hectare extension of the Garocentre multimodal economic activity park and the development of Duferco Wallonie's activities in the energy and logistics services sectors.

Works started last October. The commissioning of D-STOR is scheduled for the summer of 2026.

Cédric Legros, Managing Director of BSTOR: "ESTOR-LUX, first battery storage park connected to the Belgian transmission system, developed by BSTOR in Bastogne and operational since December 2021, has demonstrated the robustness from our development and financing models. With this second project, we are confirming our position and establishing BSTOR as the leading independent developer of battery parks in Belgium. Our position is set to strengthen further in the coming months and years, given the projects we have in the pipeline. I would also like to highlight the excellent cooperation with Duferco Wallonie, whose site, project development experience, and local anchoring are real assets for D-STOR".

Olivier Waleffe, Managing Director of Duferco Wallonie: "I am delighted with the exemplary role of this initiative in the energy transition. The D-STOR project makes sense both economically and environmentally and fits perfectly with our group's vision, which considers innovation and sustainability as the drivers of our future development, as well as with the intention of the Master Plan for the site's redevelopment. BSTOR's project development management was marked by great expertise. It was essential for us to partner with an experienced developer, recognized by the main counterparts and endowed with the necessary agility to adapt its model to the concrete situation".

About BSTOR

BSTOR SA/NV is a vehicle for the development, financing, and operation of battery storage parks owned by GreenStor (Ackermans & van Haaren and CFE), Wallonie Entreprendre, and BEWATT (Bruno Vanderschueren).

BSTOR holds 75% of the ESTOR-LUX project in Bastogne (10MW / 20MWh), operational since December 2021, and 50% of the D-STOR project in La Louvière (50MW/140 MWh), under construction.

BSTOR aims to develop a cumulative storage capacity of over 400 MWh through the various battery storage parks it plans to commission by the end of 2026.

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About Duferco Wallonie

Duferco Wallonie SA, which employs 45 people, is mainly active in the redevelopment of industrial brownfields, renewable energies, and logistics services and aims to combine its various skills on sites such as Duferco La Louvière. It notably operates the Garocentre multimodal terminal and contributes to modal transfer to waterways and rail.

Duferco Wallonie is also exploring new activities focused on the circular economy, such as the recycling of secondary materials or phytomanagement for biomass production.

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