

PRESS RELEASE

Large-scale green energy project: 27,000 photovoltaic panels on the rooftops of 28 Auchan and Leroy Merlin stores, installed by Helexia

12.8 MW installed power and an area of over 63,000 square meters, equivalent to approx. 9 soccer fields

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In one of the largest green energy transition projects, 28 stores of retailers Auchan and Leroy Merlin are equipped with more than 27,000 photovoltaic panels in a partnership with Helexia, a subsidiary of Voltalia, a major European supplier for energy transition. The photovoltaic installations cover approx. 20% of each store's energy consumption and lead to a total approximate production of more than 14,000 MWh per year. Also, by developing this green energy project, the companies actively contribute to reducing the negative impact on the environment, avoiding the production of more than 8000 tons of CO2 annually.

16 Auchan and 12 Leroy Merlin stores across the country are part of a large-scale project to equip them with photovoltaic panels, covering a total area of more than 63,000 square meters. On the roof of each store, an average of about 1000 panels are installed, with an average power of 400 W/panel, providing up to 20-30% of a store's energy consumption.

The development, construction and maintenance of solar roofs are provided by Helexia, a major player in the energy transition sector, present in Romania since 2022. In addition to energy production, Helexia addresses with financing solutions, electric mobility or energy efficiency projects to help organisations in Romania to decarbonize their operations.

” It is a privilege to expand our successful partnership with Leroy Merlin and Auchan Retail in Central Europe. Today, as we inaugurate these projects, we reaffirm our belief that Romania is a fundamental piece in our global puzzle and we are proud to have made this investment in its future. Being a successful global player means we must excel at being a local business partner.”

— Benjamin Simonis, CEO of Helexia Group.

The photovoltaic panels installed by Helexia have a lifetime of 25-30 years and are 95% recyclable.

For Auchan, the project to install photovoltaic panels is part of the decarbonisation and green energy transition measures already set out in the 2030 Climate Plan, with the aim of having a direct impact in the fight against climate change. Alongside this, in line with the company's

strategy to decarbonise its operations, in 2022 the retailer has started an extensive set of actions to ensure that the company's energy consumption decreases by 20%.

” Climate change and decarbonising operations is a vitally important issue for us and future generations. That is why we have made a strong commitment to continue to invest in measures to protect the planet, with the photovoltaic panel project being one of these initiatives. 16 of our stores are equipped with more than 18,000 panels, saving us around 20% of a store's consumption. The savings already made through energy efficiency and the energy sobriety plan we have in place are making an important contribution to keeping prices low day by day. We thank the Helexia team for their support in this transition and in accelerating the achievement of our Climate Plan objectives.”

— Ionuț Ardeleanu, General Manager Auchan Retail Romania.

For Leroy Merlin, this initiative is a concrete manifestation of the company's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. From 2022 onwards, the retailer has set itself the target of reducing its carbon footprint by 5% each year, so that by 2035 it will halve it compared to the baseline year. To achieve this ambitious goal, Leroy Merlin has implemented a series of innovative measures, from offering sustainable solutions for the energy renovation of Romanians' homes, to decarbonising its product offering and optimising its transport solutions.

"We're committed to contributing to a healthier planet, happier people and prosperity through steady, incremental action. We have reduced lighting in parking lots at night, conducted energy audits and introduced LED and motion sensor lighting. We've also replaced halogen bulbs with LED bulbs and, through our tree recycling campaign, we're turning used trees into environmentally friendly products. The photovoltaic panels installed on the store roofs are helping us to save up to 27% of our energy and we would like to thank our partners at Helexia for their support in realizing this project."

— Mathieu Bauduin, CEO of Leroy Merlin Romania.

The ambitions and development plans for the coming years were presented by the three CEOs on Monday, September 2, during the inauguration of the photovoltaic installations. Mr. Mircea Fechet, Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests and Dragoș Roibu, Cabinet Director - Ministry of Energy, were also present at the event, marking the importance of energy independence and the role of such measures in protecting the environment.

About Helexia

Helexia is a major player in the energy transition sector. Created in 2010, Helexia, a subsidiary of Voltalia (ISIN Euronext Paris: FRO011995588), specialises in building energy performance and on-site photovoltaic energy production (on rooftops and solar carports). With more than 470 employees in 11 countries, Helexia has completed more than 1,785 PV projects, representing 386 MW in operation. Helexia supports its commercial and industrial customers in various energy efficiency and energy management projects.

The wide range of services offered to its clients includes the definition of an energy strategy tailored to their needs, the design and execution of construction, as well as the operation, management and maintenance of equipment and installations to achieve decarbonisation and energy reduction targets.

About Auchan Romania

Auchan Romania has over 430 stores in its portfolio, including 28 hypermarkets and 7 Auchan supermarkets, 5 Atac Hiper Discount hypermarkets, the Auchan Go store, almost 400 MyAuchan ultra-proximity stores, most of which are in Petrom stations, 1 Simply by Auchan franchise store, as well as the online store auchan.ro. With a turnover with taxes in 2023 of over 1.6 billion Euros, Auchan proposes to the inhabitants of the cities where its stores are present an omnichannel, modern, quality commerce, with the widest range of products and a responsible discount concept, with all low prices, every day. Auchan Romania carries out a number of important actions to promote social responsibility and youth integration activities, as well as programs to protect the environment, aimed at waste management, saving resources, etc. Among the projects the company has carried out are the planting of 100,000 trees through the Mobilizatron project, the making of the film "Romania untamed", the first documentary about Romania's nature, and the setting up of two medical support units for patients with non-critical forms of Covid-19. Currently, Auchan has several active projects: Zero Waste (through which more than 19 million products and more than 21,907 tons of CO2 have been saved), the National Used Oil Collection Program (through which it has collected and recycled more than one million liters of oil), the Personal Sustainability Program, as well as many other actions aimed at helping the environment and society.

Moreover, in the face of the great climate challenge, the company will integrate clear objectives into each segment of its business strategy, aimed at contributing to a more sustainable future while preserving the planet. The climate strategy, part of the #nueuepreventnow umbrella, will be the cornerstone of the company's blueprint, with the retailer focusing on all three goals: refrigeration equipment, energy, transportation and products.

About Leroy Merlin

Leroy Merlin, a member of the French ADEO Group, is the European leader in the DIY market, with more than 100 years of history as a specialized retailer in construction, decoration and gardening.

The ADEO map includes over 1000 stores located in 20 countries serving 500 million people and professionals. We are 150,000 colleagues, leaders developed in a culture of intrapreneurship, driven by a common purpose: to be of service to ourselves, each other, our communities and the world, to provide effective and responsible home improvement solutions.

There are 21 Leroy Merlin stores in Romania, with almost 3,500 employees in 15 cities: Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Ploiesti, Brasov, Constanta, Sibiu, Sibiu, Suceava, Targu Mures, Bacau, Iasi, Timisoara, Oradea, Targoviste and Arad.

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