

France : Forsee Power accompagné dans sa croissance par la BEI à hauteur de 50 millions d'euros



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- The EIB is providing €50 million to Forsee Power to help create a European battery champion.
- This second loan – following an initial €20 million granted in late 2017 under the Juncker Plan – will finance the expansion of the company's range of products for 100% battery-powered, hydrogen hybrid and thermal hybrid vehicles.
- It will facilitate product development for new markets and strengthen Forsee Power's manufacturing capacity.

Forsee Power – the smart battery systems for the electromobility markets expert – has announced the conclusion of €105 million in financing to support its expansion into new electromobility markets and regions. This includes a €50 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Confidence in electromobility to mitigate climate change

The signature of this loan confirms the European Union's determination to act via the EIB to help create a European battery champion and develop the market helping to cut CO₂ emissions to benefit the climate. It comes in addition to significant financing secured by Forsee Power shareholders and banks in 2020. This substantial total contribution of €105 million has already made it possible to launch the development of new ultra-thin batteries and to increase the industrial performance of its plant near Poitiers in France. It will also enable the long-term development of commercial activities in new market segments and the continuation of the Group's research and development

efforts.

Forsee Power CEO Christophe Gurtner was proud to highlight that the company “*has the transport market’s most complete range of batteries and has already signed major battery supply contracts with leading bus manufacturers including CNHI (Iveco, Heuliez), Alstom (Aptis), CaetanoBus in Portugal and Wrightbus in the United Kingdom.*” The Group is also establishing a presence in the rail (Alstom/TER Regiolis and SOCOFER) and industrial vehicle (Kubota) markets.

“This financing is a great opportunity for the Group to consolidate its expertise and expand its smart and sustainable battery system ranges. Electric transport shouldn’t just be the future when it can be a reality today. It is the only way to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.”

*“Climate and innovation investments were at the heart of our strategy in 2020 and we are pleased to once again support Forsee Power’s development after initial financing in late 2017 under the Juncker plan,” said **EIB Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle**. “We are convinced that the electromobility sector can constantly reinvent itself and become ever more efficient, and we want to support this extremely buoyant European market.”*

Supporting Forsee Power’s growth

The Group supplies sustainable, high-performance batteries for original equipment manufacturers around the world, to equip light electric vehicles (LEVs), commercial vehicles, buses, non-road vehicles, rail vehicles and marine vessels (excluding cars – automobile manufacturers generally make their own battery systems). With its longstanding Industrial Tech operations, Forsee Power also designs battery systems for portable industrial technologies including medical and well-being technologies, robotics, household appliances and safety devices.

The €50 million EIB loan will finance the strategic development of the Forsee Power Group through the expansion of its range of products for 100% battery-powered, hydrogen hybrid and thermal hybrid vehicles. The Group will therefore be able to strengthen its range of battery systems in the market segments already covered and develop products for new markets, such as non-road vehicles (construction and agricultural vehicles) and light urban utility vehicles.

It will also make it possible to increase manufacturing capacity and provide working capital to meet existing orders, and will provide greater market scope via increased marketing and sales spending. With an installed production capacity of 1 GWh expandable to 4 GWh, Forsee Power is well positioned to support the electrification of all modes of transport.

About Forsee Power

Forsee Power is a French industrial group specialising in smart battery systems for sustainable electric transport (LEVs, trucks, buses, trains and

marine vessels).

A major player in Europe, Asia, and North America, the Group designs, assembles and supplies energy management systems based on the most robust cells available on the market, as well as providing installation, commissioning and on-site or remote maintenance.

Forsee Power also offers financing solutions (battery rental) and second life solutions for transport batteries.

COVID-19 transport measures: Council signs off on slots and licences



The Council today adopted two sets of temporary rules to **support the transport sector**, which continues to be heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Relief from airport slot use requirements will protect airlines and prevent the environmental harm that would be caused by running empty flights merely for the sake of keeping the slots for the next year. An extension of the possibility to **temporarily prolong the validity** of driving licences, roadworthiness tests and other **specific licences, certificates and authorisations** will help transport operators and citizens who are unable to fulfil certain administrative requirements because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Slot relief

Under the general EU airport slot requirements, airlines must use at least 80% of their take-off and landing slots in order to keep them the following year. Airlines will now be granted the possibility to return 50% of their slot series before the start of the 2021 summer season, but they will have to use at least 50% of the remaining slots if they want to hold on to them.

The Commission will be empowered to adopt delegated acts for one year to cover the following two seasons. With such acts, the Commission may change the minimum utilisation rate to between 30% and 70% in order to respond flexibly to different air traffic levels.

The possibility to hand back 50% of the entire slot series only applies to summer 2021. However, airlines will have to return any slot they do not intend to use, no less than three weeks before the planned flight, so that other airlines have the possibility to take up this unused capacity. This three-week rule will also apply if the measures are extended by delegated acts. The rules on handing back slots are an example of the measures to start relaunching the industry and encourage competition that are included in the

regulation.

The swift adoption of the regulation gives the industry a stable legal framework to plan their operations for the coming seasons. It also means that the new rules will be in place in time for the start of the 2021 summer season on 28 March 2021.

The slot relief follows on from a full slot waiver applicable in summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021.

Document extensions

The renewed rules on document extensions continue to cover road, rail and inland waterway transport, as well as maritime security.

The validity of certificates, licences and authorisations with expiry dates falling between 1 September 2020 and 30 June 2021 can be extended by 10 months if the member state in which renewals are to be issued is facing restrictions due to COVID-19.

Member states which do not need the extensions may opt out of them. However, they will have to accept those certificates, licences and authorisations whose validity has been extended in other member states. This will ensure the smooth functioning of the single market and continued cross-border activity.

Transport safety and security concerns are paramount for both the Council and the European Parliament. The approved text establishes that if renewals remain impracticable for a longer period, the affected member state may seek authorisation from the Commission for a further extension. However, it must be clear that the requested extension will not lead to disproportionate risks in terms of transport safety or security.

The first set of rules on licence extensions was adopted in May 2020.

Procedure and next steps

Both regulations were adopted by the Council by **written procedure**.

The Council and the European Parliament agreed on a fast-track procedure and worked closely together to reach a common understanding, which allowed for quick adoption of the files. The Parliament voted on 10 February.

The legal acts will now be signed by both institutions and published in the EU Official Journal. They will enter into force the day after their publication.

Announcement n° 1/2021 of the Community Plant Variety Office.

Decision of the Administrative Council of the Community Plant Variety Office on test guidelines 11/12/2020

Technical examinations which are initiated or are to be approved by the Community Plant Variety Office must be performed in accordance with the test guidelines which have been adopted by the Administrative Council. Technical examinations started prior to the decision are not affected unless otherwise announced. The plant species concerned as well as the date of the decision are accordingly published in the Official Gazette of the Office. The technical protocol can be consulted through the website of the Office, or upon request can be transmitted by the Office. Technical questionnaires for the plant species called in question were amended accordingly. The technical questionnaires can be downloaded from the website, or upon request can be sent by the Office.

Decisions were taken in respect of the following plant species:

Gossypium L.

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Official Gazette 1.2021 and annex to the Annual Report 2020

The official Gazette of the CPVO 1.2021, the S2 Gazette and the annex to the Annual Report 2020 have been published and are available for free in electronic format only (PDF).

You may download both gazettes from the [Gazette page](#), the annex to the Annual Report from the [Annual Reports page](#).

A search tool is available to identify these modifications on the web site of the Office: [S2 Gazette](#)