

## On the occasion of Global Wind Day, NRB, Luminus and Sogepa inaugurate NRB's wind turbine at the Hauts-Sarts business park

This wind turbine with a maximum capacity of 2.99 MW was the first one to be constructed at the Hauts-Sarts business park in Herstal on the site of IT company NRB in 2021. It was inaugurated on Tuesday 14 June in the presence of ministers Frédéric Daerden, Philippe Henry and Willy Borsus, CEO of NRB Pascal Laffineur, CEO of Luminus Grégoire Dallemagne and General Manager of SPI Cédric Swennen.

### NRB : carbon footprint reduction for Green IT

In 2021, Luminus constructed the first wind turbine of the Hauts-Sarts business park at Herstal on the site of IT company NRB. This project was made possible by the company Demainvest (partnership between Luminus (51%) and Sogepa (49%)), the corporate purpose of which is to assist enterprises in their energy transition.

With a maximum capacity of 2.99 MW and a total height of 185 metres, NRB's wind turbine will generate 7,322 MWh annually. NRB will consume 90% of the energy generated, while the remaining 10% will be injected into the grid. The installation of this Enercon E115 wind turbine will enable NRB to reduce its annual CO2 emissions by 3,097 tonnes and cover at least 40% of the electricity needs of the NRB site at Herstal.

*"The installation of this wind turbine is an important step in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, which started several years ago", Pascal Laffineur, Chief Executive Officer of NRB, explains. "Being among the leading IT service providers in Belgium, we are very proud to welcome the first wind turbine of this size in Wallonia, which will cover 50% of our electricity needs. This is a major step towards a 'green IT' offer."*

*"Herstal and its business park are home to a multitude of companies, some of which, like NRB, are internationally recognised Walloon flagships. In view of the climate emergency and the increase in energy costs, the arrival of the first wind turbine in Hauts-Sarts augurs new developments in renewable energy projects in the near future", stated Frédéric Daerden, Mayor of Herstal and Vice-President and Minister for the Budget, the Public administration and Equal Opportunities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.*

*"In a context of major economic recovery, the energy transition is an essential dimension of a more resilient model of society, the development of which we must encourage," emphasises Philippe Henry, Walloon Minister for Climate and Energy. "The Héron site is also a good example of a cross-cutting approach combining renewable energy and respect for biodiversity."*

## A green project supported by the staff of NRB

Conceived in 2017, the project has taken five years to complete. *“After applying for the necessary authorisations and permits, the construction works started in March 2021: a perimeter fence and construction trailers were installed and heavy equipment was brought in. The foundations and cables were laid and the site, in particular the car park, was redesigned,”* according to **Didier Mosbeux, Technical Coordinator** at the Facilities Management department of NRB. The wind turbine is now in operation and generated its first kilowatt at the end of January 2022.

*“The rotor blades were delivered on a Friday at 3 a.m.”* Didier Mosbeux adds. *“I was there, I didn’t want to miss it. However, the special transport was 65 metres long and was unable to reach the construction site as a bank in a bend blocked its passage by just a few centimetres. By the time the soil from the bank could be removed, it was already 6 a.m. and the staff members who arrived on site took pictures. The atmosphere was fantastic. A wonderful memory!”* Didier Mosbeux kept a log of the wind turbine’s construction on NRB’s internal social network. Staff members could thus keep track of the construction works on a daily basis and turned out to be very enthusiastic and involved.

## Demainvest: helping companies finance their energy transition

Not only is this wind turbine the very first to be installed at the Hauts-Sarts business park, it's also the first concrete result of S.A. Demainvest, the public-private partnership (PPP) between Luminus and Sogepa (*Société publique wallonne de Gestion et de Participations*). The ambition of this public limited company under Belgian law, owned by Sogepa for 49% and by Luminus for 51%, is to finance the development, construction and operation of projects in the field of energy efficiency, electricity supply and energy and heat production for enterprises.

**Philippe Buelen, President of S.A. Demainvest**, emphasises in this respect that *“this wind turbine will also supply green energy to three enterprises that are part of the portfolio of SOGEPA, i.e. BRITTE-MUSTAD, ICARUS and PROXY SERVICES SPRL, which account for 410 jobs and will jointly generate 13,450,751 euros of added value. In short, at a time when climate change has become a reality and enterprises not always have the financial means to invest in the energy transition, Demainvest has a variety of solutions to assist them and thus guarantee their competitiveness. Luminus provides the expertise and tools needed to realise the different projects and is responsible for the operational activities.”*

## Luminus: over 359,000 households supplied with wind energy

With 259 wind turbines, Luminus has an installed capacity of 658 MW, which is sufficient to provide over 359,000 households with green electricity. Occupying a leading position in the fields of onshore wind energy and hydropower, Luminus is a major player and stakeholder and contributes to the energy transition of the industrial sector by offering its customers innovating solutions as regards energy efficiency and by making major investments in renewable energy. Luminus erects wind turbines in industrial estates, on car parks or in the storage areas of their customers. The customers practically do not lose any space and consume the 100% renewable energy generated directly on their premises. **Grégoire Dallemagne, Chief Executive Officer of Luminus:** *“This project at NRB perfectly reflects our ambition to help our customers reduce their carbon footprint. We thank NRB for their confidence*



in us. To decrease their reliance on fossil fuels and in view of the energy price increases, the development of wind energy on industrial estates enables companies to achieve the triple economic, societal and environmental transition. This will in turn allow them to increase *their competitiveness*, *reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions* and enhance the attractiveness of Wallonia. Through the installation of this wind turbine on its premises, NRB will be able to reduce its ecological footprint by generating the green power it needs. *This wind turbine on NRB's premises* is a good example of the contribution made by Luminus to meeting the decarbonisation challenge. We have 8 years to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 55%. Now that the *Walloon* government has set more ambitious objectives with regard to the deployment of renewable energy sources, we can only encourage *them* to allow other companies to access locally produced green energy without any CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by promoting wind power development in Walloon business parks.”

### About the NRB Group

With a consolidated turnover of 501.6 million euros in 2021 and 3,300 employees, the NRB Group is one of the leading Belgian players in the ICT sector. NRB positions itself as the ICT partner that supports its clients in their digital transformation. Building on technological evolution and innovation, NRB wants to offer them the best solutions adapted to their environment. In this context, NRB offers a broad spectrum of IT services based on four axes: consultancy, software, infrastructure & hybrid cloud, and managed staffing. NRB focuses on a wide range of sectors: the public and social sectors, the energy and utilities sectors, the financial sector, as well as industry and the biotechnology sector. A team is dedicated to European and international institutions and companies.

The NRB Group subsidiaries offer sector-specific solutions (healthcare, local public sector, SMEs), benefiting from the group's size, ICT infrastructure and other support.

In 2022, NRB received the “Top Employer” certification for the second consecutive year, in recognition of its innovative and sound HR practices and its concern for providing its employees with a satisfying and friendly work environment.

More information is available at [www.nrb.be](http://www.nrb.be)

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