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THE CITIZENERGY 2016 PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Awarded by the crowd to

ECrowd! and the Mar de Fulles project
for its contribution to a sustainable
energy future

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BACKGROUND

The award celebrates the one-year anniversary of the Citizenergy portal for community energy investment. Citizenergy, a platform uniting the worlds of crowdfunding and energy cooperatives from across Europe, went online late 2015 with the goal of promoting citizen engagement in the energy transition. Just over one year after its launch, over 28 crowdfunding platforms and energy cooperatives from 12 European countries now feature their projects on Citizenergy.

In December 2016, some 430 individuals cast their votes for project on Citizenergy that most contributes to a sustainable energy future. The results were overwhelming and clear: Congratulations to Spanish crowdfunding platform ECrowd! with the Mar de Fulles eco-complex!

THE WINNERS

ECrowd! is the online crowd-lending marketplace for meaningful investments in Spain. They put owners of local investment projects in direct contact with investors that are looking for smarter ways to invest. By directly investing in such projects, they contribute to the local economy and to a better and more sustainable environment. ECrowd! offers the possibility to invest in profitable projects with high social impact. Anybody that is a member of ECrowd! can participate with a minimum investment of € 50. Potential investors using the ECrowd! platform can browse projects open for investment and select those best suited to their needs. ECrowd!, in cooperation with independent experts, evaluates each project it features with respect to technical, legal and financial compliance. The ECrowd! team



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consists of business and financial experts, engineers and programmers, all with a wealth of experience in their respective sectors. The platform has already received recognition from Barcelona's city Council (BarcelonActiva), Catalonia's Government (ACCIÓ) and the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (ENISA), and has been an official Citizenenergy featured platform since April 2016. Mar de Fulles was the first ECrowd! project to be featured on Citizenenergy.



Matthieu van Haperen is a chemical engineer with an MBA from the IESE Business School. He has a wealth of experience in project management, finance and engineering. He has worked in large organisations and has also worked as a strategy consultant with McKinsey & Co, but decided that his true calling is in starting new things. He loves the chaos and the creative energy necessary to start a company from nothing. Before founding ECrowd!, he worked for over 6 years in the renewable energy sector as a founder and director of Solariza Energía.

The Mar de Fulles project is a brand new ecotourism concept, which describes itself as a Sustainable Eco-Management Network. It consists of a bioclimatic tourism complex located next to the nature park of Sierra de Espadán (Castelló, Spain) and a wild bird special protection area managed by Natura 2000. This pioneering and innovative project brings together ecology, sustainability and energy efficiency at a level never before seen in Spain. The construction of the complex respects in its entirety the surrounding forest and follows the strictest possible criteria for environmental integration.

The Mar de Fulles complex will cover all its electricity requirements through photovoltaic panels with support batteries. The purchase and install solar panels and support batteries is precisely the part of the Mar de Fulles for which finance via crowdfunding was sought. The system will make complete energy autonomy possible, generated purely from clean, renewable sources.



Josep Antoni Nebot Garriga is a low-carbon economy expert with over 20 years of experience in the field. Having started his career as a lawyer, he later expanded his professional background as an Environmental Engineer and Rural and Natural Project Manager. Besides being partner in Mar de Fulles Ecotourism project, he has managed other sustainability and low carbon economy projects. He is founder of several SMEs such as HELIOTEC and has participated in various European projects within the frameworks of LIFE, LEADER, ERASMUS, and others. Winner of CLIMATE KIC ACCELERATOR Programme, he is currently serving as president of the LOWCARBONECONOMY foundation.