ORGANIZATION: Méthelec

NAME OF THE VISIT: Renewable Energy Production

DATE OF THE VISIT: Tuesday, October 7, 2025

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DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

Presentation

The company MÉTHÉLEC was founded in 2015 by the LHOSPITALIER family. It operates an agricultural biogas (methanisation) unit and was originally one of the first large-scale units in France, located in the municipality of Ennezat in the Puy-de-Dôme department (63).

The Petit Rollet site

"In addition to feeding you, your local agriculture also provides you with energy."

Group of several companies, including:

- **SARL REILA** (family holding company of the Lhospitalier family)
- **SAS LOPA** (farming business combining poultry, duck, cattle, and crop production)
    - 55 ha of cereal crops
    - 40 ha of secondary crops
    - 4 poultry units (750,000 birds/year)
    - 1 finishing unit for fattened ducks (foie gras): 2,200 places (18 batches/year), i.e. 35,000 ducks/year
    - 1 cattle fattening unit: 399 head on rotation over 6 months, i.e. 790 cattle/year
    - All our buildings are fitted with photovoltaic panels
- **SAS MÉTHÉLEC** (farming company processing by-products from our farm and agri-industrial co-products to generate green energy)

General Information

The company **MÉTHÉLEC** is an agricultural anaerobic digestion unit located near Clermont-Ferrand. Each year, it recycles more than **36,000 tonnes of livestock effluents**, agricultural by-products, agri-industrial co-products, and biowaste from local agri-food industries **to produce green, local, and sustainable energy.**

Initially designed to operate in cogeneration with a 1.56 MWe engine and a 1.1 MWe boiler covering the thermal needs of the farm.

The unit experienced a major breakdown in October 2023, when the engine — its only source of revenue at the time — failed. This interruption accelerated a **strategic transition**, driven by new shareholders who acquired a majority stake in October 2024, with the ambition to **convert the unit to biomethane injection into the GRDF network**.

In 2024, the French company **AGRIPOWER France**, a specialist in anaerobic digestion, announced a project to **restart MÉTHÉLEC's agricultural biogas unit**, in line with its new strategy now focused on developing **biomethane injection plants.**

General Information

From then on, a conversion program was launched to enable the injection of **350 to 400 Nm³/h of biomethane as early as the first quarter of 2025.**

This **first phase was successfully completed**: the Prodeval upgrader was installed, and the first injection of biomethane into the GRDF network in Ennezat took place on February 19, 2025.

A sales contract for CPB and gas molecules was signed with SAVE Energie. It guarantees the purchase of all CPB produced by the site, and also secures the sale of biomethane either at a fixed tariff (for 330 Nm³/h) or at the daily market price (for the share above 330 Nm³/h).





General Information

Today, the unit has demonstrated operations in line with expectations, with an injection capacity capped pending the completion of connection works on the gas network.

The connection to Saint Beauzire was established on June 15, 2025, with a limited capacity of 200 Nm³/h on certain days (particularly weekends).

The connection to Greater Clermont-Ferrand was completed on July 18, 2025, with a capped capacity of 500 Nm³/h during summer weekends. As a result, the unit can now inject at least 500 Nm³/h, 24/7.

MÉTHÉLEC is now launching a new phase of investment, aimed at strengthening the site's technical and economic performance through several measures:

- **Redesigning the supervisory control system to optimize interventions and ensure operational safety,**
- **Smoothing the feeding of inputs to prevent production peaks,**
- **Creating a new line for solid plant-based inputs and doubling the biogas pipelines.**

These investments will gradually enable the company to reach an injection capacity of 550 to 600 Nm³/h by early 2027, and ultimately produce between 30 and 35 GWh (gross calorific value) of biomethane per year.

This increase in capacity will bring annual revenues to €6 million, ensuring the long-term sustainability of MÉTHÉLEC's business model and reinforcing its contribution to the energy transition of the Clermont area.