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PRESS RELEASE

CLUB NATACIÓ BARCELONA
Pioners de l'esport 1907

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CNB INAUGURATES EUROPE'S LARGEST HYBRID SOLAR FIELD AT A PRIVATE INSTITUTION.

- Club Natació Barcelona chooses Grupo Construcía and Abora Solar to renovate its spaces by promoting the use of renewable energies.
- The CNB receives a grant from the EU's Next Generation programme to modernise sports facilities in terms of energy efficiency, sustainability, and inclusion, through the CSD, to the value of €1.8 million, especially for the recurrent participation in the Water Polo Champions League, to initiate its energy efficiency technology project, classified as exemplary.

Barcelona, 14 November 2023 | Club Natació Barcelona (CNB), one of the most renowned sporting institutions in Barcelona and a pioneer of aquatic sport in Spain, is launching an ambitious sustainability plan as part of the Club's major remodelling project: "CNB S-XXI", with the creation of the largest hybrid solar field in Europe of a private institution, becoming a worldwide benchmark, hand in hand with the ecosystem of circular economy companies, Grupo Construcía, and Abora Solar, Aragonese manufacturer of hybrid solar panels.

The immersion of this project in the EU's Next Generation Funds programme for the value of €1,802,116.96, the support of the Consejo Superior de Deportes and the recurrent participation of the Club in the Men's Water Polo Champions League, have been key factors in obtaining this subsidy that seeks to modernise sports facilities, promoting some of the Sustainable Development Goals such as energy efficiency, sustainable cities and communities, among other social objectives.

Rehabilitate, modernise, and seek sustainable solutions as a catchment strategy.

By highlighting the strategic location of the CNB and its reputation, the sports organisation has made the refurbishment of the facilities a priority that will help it to consolidate the prestige and quality that the Club has always enjoyed historically.

Construcía Instalaciones, a Grupo Construcía company dedicated to electromechanical installations, contextualised the work by developing an energy study for the implementation of solar energy for the entire complex. With Abora Solar technology, it installed hybrid solar panels that simultaneously generate both electricity and hot water, achieving a yield of 89%, making them the most efficient solar panels in the world. This milestone marks a significant step forward towards sustainability for the dean Club Natació Barcelona, acting on one of the key factors in the decarbonisation of its activity: the origin of the energy.

Among the areas that have undergone the greatest transformation is the aquatic area, starting with the 50-metre pool of the CNB. The hybrid solar field installed on the roof by Construcía Instalaciones, with innovative Abora technology, generates some 1,275 kW of thermal energy to heat the new outdoor water polo pool (inaugurated last June) in the winter months, while also providing energy for other systems such as lighting. The surplus energy is also used for other needs of the Club, such as regulating the temperature of the other pools or showers. Construcía, the Group's construction company, has overseen the adaptation works for the new outdoor pool, which is already hosting international competitions such as the LEN Euro Cup Waterpolo Phase, which was held on 22, 23 and 24 September.

The focus of the Energy Study with the implementation of the solar field as a key vector in the CNB's sustainability and decarbonisation plan extends to the rest of the sports facilities: the new functional training room, the roofs of the fronton stadium and building B. The installation of these 1,041 state-of-the-art hybrid solar panels, which generate thermal and electrical energy simultaneously, implies an estimated saving of 1,050 tonnes of CO2 per year.

Roger Catalán, project engineer at Construcía Instalaciones, states that "for more than 5 years, we have collaborated in the preparation of the documentation, authorisations and concessions necessary to carry out the CNB refurbishment project. In response to the needs of this entity, Construcía Instalaciones, together with Abora Solar, have calculated and designed a solar energy collection installation that will allow the Club to have an open-air swimming pool in which training and competitions can be held almost uninterruptedly, receiving the approval of the Barcelona Energy Agency".

Construcía has also collaborated with the modernisation of other areas of the Club, such as the changing rooms, rest areas and common areas. Special attention has been paid to the design and functionality of these spaces, creating welcoming and comfortable environments for CNB members to enjoy a complete experience, taking care of the privileged natural environment in which, they are located.

"The pioneering and innovative nature of a leading sports institution such as the CNB made it essential for us to be at the forefront of environmental responsibility and awareness. This commitment (which is closely linked to our founding values) stems from the need to reduce as much as possible the CO2 emissions generated by our pools and sports facilities due to the intensive use of fossil fuels. Our commitment to this goal is unwavering and aligned with the founding values of Club Natació Barcelona", said Bernat Antràs, president of Club Natació Barcelona.

In addition, Xosé-Carlos Fernández, general manager of Club Natació Barelona, says that "the organisational and strategic challenge has been enormous, not only because of the implementation of the 1,041 hybrid panels but also because of the constructive challenge of intervening on the roofs (existing and non-existing) of the CNB to cover around 5,500 m2 of surface area needed in height, which is where the solar field is located (technological and constructive challenge). This solar field allows us to continue advancing towards the objective of increasing our autonomy from fossil fuels (of which the Club was an intensive user). This leads to an increase in energy efficiency and considerable savings in our Profit and Loss Account, allowing us to free up monetary resources to be able to invest them in what we are all about: strengthening our sporting base and the professional teams in top competition, but in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way".

Looking to the future, committed to the environment.

The installation of Abora's hybrid solar panels at the Club Natació Barcelona is an example of an innovative initiative to maximise the use of renewable energy. The panels, carefully positioned on the Club's roofs, efficiently harness the abundant sunlight of Barcelona's coastline, and convert it into electricity and heat with the best performance on the market. This energy powers various areas of the Club, such as the facility's lighting, swimming pools and various ancillary equipment, significantly reducing dependence on traditional energy sources and carbon emissions. In addition to their exceptional performance and energy production capacity, Abora's hybrid panels offer a tangible economic advantage. By generating its own electricity, the Club will see a significant reduction in its energy bills, freeing up resources to invest in other equipment and improvements for its members to enjoy.

"In this energy transition, buildings are in a sea of doubts about which technology allows them to be more efficient, sustainable and to reduce their bills as much as possible. That is why good technical advice is one of the keys to making the right decision. In general, there is a dilemma: take the cheapest solution or take the solution with what I can save the most, even if it is not the cheapest. In this case, the CNB has opted to produce the maximum energy with its roof, taking a medium and long-term view in which, it is able to save three times more than using traditional photovoltaic technology. The CNB has opted for hybrid panels because it is the only solution that allows them to reduce their gas bill as much as possible (around 70%) and allows them to generate the same electricity as if they had installed photovoltaics. So, although it is initially a higher investment solution, it has clear benefits in terms of energy, emissions reduction and reduction in energy bills that allow them to overcome this roller coaster of energy prices much better. And, because it is a cost-effective solution, it is also financeable, so this investment is not borne by the Barcelona Swimming Club but is accompanied by a financial plan. This increased saving allows them to pay for the installation and to start saving from the very first moment", said Dr. Alejandro del Amo, CEO of Abora Solar.

The collaboration between Club Natació Barcelona, Abora and Grupo Construcía illustrates the Club's forward-looking approach to environmental responsibility. By choosing Abora's hybrid solar panels, the CNB demonstrates its commitment to sustainable practices and positions itself as the influential entity in promoting the adoption of renewable energy within the local community.

About Club Natació Barcelona

The Club Natació Barcelona, since its foundation in 1907, has promoted and encouraged sport, especially in aquatic disciplines. The entity introduced water polo in Spain, as well as being the founder of the Catalan and Spanish Swimming Federations, as well as being the inspiration for the creation of the Spanish Olympic Committee.

Throughout its history, the CNB has had 166 Olympic athletes, such as Manel Estiarte (water polo), Olympic medallist, or Martín López-Zubero, the first Spanish swimmer to win an Olympic medal.

It currently has 8 active sports sections (water polo, swimming, diving, sailing, pelota, triathlon, karate and artistic swimming) with more than 400 athletes with national and international representation.

In addition, the CNB currently has around 6,000 members who enjoy 365 days a year a total of 34,000m2 of facilities dedicated to sport and leisure, adapted for the whole family, to disconnect and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

During the first quarter of 2024, the CNB will complete a large part of the ambitious project called "CNB S-XXI", which includes the refurbishment of its facilities, the creation of new ones with the latest technology and a clear sustainable objective: efficiency and responsibility towards the environment.

About Abora Solar

Abora Solar, a Spanish manufacturer of hybrid solar panels, is an innovative and visionary company in the field of renewable energies, more specifically in the solar energy sector. Founded in 2017, the Spanish manufacturer has quickly positioned itself as a major player in the development of sustainable and high-performance solar solutions.

At the heart of Abora Solar's identity is a global approach to solar energy, offering the latest generation hybrid solar panel with the highest performance on the market, while providing a vision that encompasses the entire process, from design to manufacturing, including the monitoring of installations. This enables the company to offer its customers turnkey solutions for projects in industrial, tertiary and residential buildings.

In short, Abora Solar embodies the future of solar energy, combining technological innovation with a deep commitment to the environment, accessibility and improving society. The company is a major player in the energy transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Discover our installations in more than 35,000 m2 installed around the world on our website.: www.abora-solar.com/en/

About Grupo Construcía

Grupo Construcía is an ecosystem of companies that seeks to transform the construction sector and industry through the circular economy. Its five companies operate throughout the value chain, from investment to the chemistry of products. It is currently made up of: Construcía (pioneer in circular construction), Eco Intelligent Growth (Cradle to Cradle Circular Economy consultancy, Cradle to Cradle Certified® Accredited Assessment Body), Construcía Instalaciones, Circular Capital (impact investment management) and Dear Planet (brand communication spaces). http://www.grupoconstrucia.com/

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