

## Press release

### Municipalities around Hambach opencast mine invest in renewables together with RWE

- **RWE and NEULAND HAMBACH establish project company**
- **Double benefit for the region: Solar farms generate green electricity and revenue**
- **87,000 solar modules generate electricity for 14,500 households – further projects planned at Hambach opencast mine**

Essen/Elsdorf, 28 August 2024

Renewable energy for “Neuland Hambach”: The municipalities at the Hambach opencast mine are joining RWE in setting the course for the energy transition and investing in the expansion of renewables. NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH, which represents the interests of the surrounding municipalities of Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz, has combined forces with RWE to establish the project company “RWE Neuland Erneuerbare Energien GmbH & Co. KG”.

The municipal authorities will hold 49 percent of the shares in the RWE Neuland solar farms, which went onto the grid at the Hambach opencast mine in recent months. They also have the option to acquire 49 percent of the shares in all future renewable energy projects at the Hambach opencast mine.

**Boris Linden, Managing Director NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH:** “With this project company we are continuing the tradition of the opencast mine as an energy site and are beginning a new chapter at the same time. The municipalities around the opencast mine will benefit from the supply of solar electricity and the build-up of their own capacities. Simultaneously, investing in renewables also means investing in the future of Neuland Hambach.”

**Katja Wünschel, CEO RWE Renewables Europe & Australia:** “The expansion of renewables is proceeding according to plan in the Rhenish area – in the Hambach opencast mine and beyond. We believe it is important for the municipal authorities and the people living in the area to be involved. This collaboration with NEULAND HAMBACH is an excellent example of how the area can participate in the energy transition.”

In the Hambach opencast mine, a total of 87,000 modules are currently generating about 50 million kilowatt hours of solar electricity per year in an area the size of about 60 football fields (approx. 45 hectares). Together, the “RWE Neuland Solarpark” and the “RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” plants deliver peak power of 47.2 MW, which represents enough green electricity to supply about 14,500 households per year. A battery storage system with a capacity of eight

megawatt hours has also been installed in order to align the electricity feed-in even better with actual requirements. Just in time for the establishment of the new company, the second extension phase of the [“RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark”](#) was put into operation.

Following the exit from coal in 2030, the Hambach opencast mine will be developed into an attractive landscape that can be used in a variety of ways. The plans have been developed in close consultation with the neighbouring communities and with public input. These form the basis for the [collaboration](#) between RWE and NEULAND HAMBACH in the further development of the region surrounding the opencast mine.

### Andreas Heller, Mayor of Elsdorf and Chair of the Supervisory Board of NEULAND

**HAMBACH GmbH:** “Redeveloping the region is a task that will take generations. What was originally 8,500 hectares of opencast mine landscape will be transformed into an attractive and diverse lake environment. Our vision for Neuland Hambach is a location that will live up to its responsibilities. One that will bear its burdens but also seize its opportunities. Establishing this project company for renewables creates exactly that opportunity for us, while expanding our scope for future activities.”

**Dr Lars Kulik, CTO Lignite at RWE Power:** “For at least the next 20 years, the solar farms will provide an ideal interim purpose for the opencast mining areas until the lake at Hambach is completely filled with water. The new plants also create prospects for employees at RWE Power, who are already contributing the knowledge and experience they have gained from decades of safe and reliable electricity generation to the construction and operation of wind and solar farms.”

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**Pictures and video footage for media use** are available at the [RWE Media Centre](#)

#### Photovoltaic panels at the Hambach opencast mine

<b>“RWE Neuland Solarpark” photovoltaic plant (in operation)</b>	12 MWp	8.4 MWac
<b>“RWE Neuland Solarpark” battery storage system (in operation)</b>	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh
<b>Photovoltaic plant (in operation) “RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark”</b>	20 MWp	17.6 MWac
<b>Photovoltaic plant (in operation) “RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” – expansion</b>	15.2 MWp	12 MWac

#### NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH

The structural change in the region is a multi-dimensional puzzle. Climate-protection, renaturation and infrastructure aspects as well as economic and social perspectives all come into play. NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH represents the common interests of the six neighbouring municipalities of Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz. The development company pools knowledge, manages projects and devises future uses for the 8,500 hectares making up Hambach opencast mine and its surroundings. Its objective is to create a liveable and sustainable post-mining landscape for the current and future generations of people living in the region – to meet and exceed the expectations of all. <https://www.neuland-hambach.de/>

## RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company's green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

## Forward-looking statements

*This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.*

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