



## **VERSO ENERGY and the European Commission have signed the Innovation Fund grant agreement for the DEZiR project, a synthetic fuel for aviation (e-SAF) production facility**



Paris, March 24, 2026 – **DEZiR, an industrial project for the production of sustainable synthetic aviation fuels (e-SAF) developed by VERSO ENERGY, is one of the three e-SAF projects selected under the Large-Scale call of the Innovation Fund by the European Commission in November 2025 and invited to a grant agreement preparation phase. This agreement was officially signed by the parties on March 18, 2026. It positions DEZiR among the most advanced e-SAF projects in Europe, on track to deliver first volumes of e-SAF as early as 2030 and contribute to meeting the mandates set by European regulation.**

Located near Rouen, France, the **DEZiR project (*Décarbonation en Seine Eure et sur la Zone industrielle de Rouen*)** is set to become one of the first large-scale synthetic aviation fuel production plants in Europe. It aims to contribute, from 2030 onwards, to the decarbonization targets of the aviation sector defined by the ReFuelEU Aviation regulation, in line with the European Green Deal, while supporting European energy sovereignty and industrial leadership.

The project will integrate within a single facility the capture of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, water electrolysis powered by renewable and low-carbon electricity, the synthesis of e-methanol, and its conversion into e-kerosene (e-SAF) via the Methanol-to-Jet (MtJ) process. The plant design is currently being optimized as part of Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) studies carried out by Rely, a joint venture between Technip Energies and John Cockerill, on behalf of Verso Energy since late 2025. These FEED studies, expected to be completed by the end of 2026, will enable definitive assessment of the project's capital expenditures, and prepare the execution and construction phases, paving the way for a Final Investment Decision in mid-2027 and commissioning by 2030.

Following initial support from the French government under the France 2030 program, through the ADEME-managed "FEED CARB AERO" scheme dedicated to funding FEED engineering studies, the signing of this Innovation Fund grant agreement with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) formally confirms the European Union's support for the project.

"Recent geopolitical events are a stark reminder of the need to strengthen Europe's energy sovereignty and reduce its reliance on fossil fuel imports. As one of the most advanced e-SAF projects in Europe, DEZiR is on track to deliver its first volumes by 2030, in line with ReFuelEU targets, and to play a concrete role in scaling up this strategic industrial sector," said Antoine Huard, CEO and co-founder of Verso Energy.

### **About Verso Energy**

A pioneer integrated energy company, Verso Energy is accelerating the decarbonization of industry and aviation and maritime transport through the production of next-generation low-carbon molecules. With 2 GW of renewable energy projects under development, construction or operation, and flagship initiatives such as CarlHyng—the first European green steel project—Verso Energy stands at the forefront of innovation. The company is also developing eight e-fuel production plants across France, Finland and the United States, positioning itself as a European leader in synthetic



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fuels. By combining vision, technology and industrial capabilities, Verso Energy is committed to building a decarbonized future.

Learn more: <https://verso.energy/en/homepage/>

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