



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



Paris, March 24, 2026 - ReStart, an industrial project for the production of sustainable synthetic aviation fuels (e-SAF) developed by VERSO ENERGY and carried out in consortium with RAYONIER A.M. (RYAM) under the Innovation Fund, 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 ReStart as one of the most mature e-SAF projects in Europe, ready to support the growth of European e-SAF demand between 2030 and 2050.

Located in Tartas (Landes, France), the ReStart project (Renewable e-SAF Tartas) aims to become one of the first large-scale synthetic aviation fuel production plants in Europe, by capturing and valorizing biogenic CO₂ emissions from the local specialty cellulose plant operated by RYAM. The project aims to contribute to the aviation sector's decarbonization targets set by the ReFuelEU Aviation regulation, with increasing blending mandates between 2030 and 2050, in line with the European Green Deal, while supporting European energy sovereignty and industrial leadership.

Following a replication strategy based on a standard plant concept developed for the DEZiR project (developed by Verso Energy in Normandy and also selected under the Innovation Fund), ReStart will integrate within a single facility biogenic CO₂ capture, water electrolysis powered by renewable and low-carbon electricity, e-methanol synthesis, and its conversion into e-kerosene (e-SAF) via the Methanol-to-Jet (MtJ) process. This standardized, replicable plant design is currently being developed as part of the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) studies carried out by Rely, a joint venture between Technip Energies and John Cockerill, for the DEZiR project, launched in late 2025.

RYAM's participation in the consortium helps secure the supply of biogenic CO₂, a key input, for e-SAF production. The signing of the 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. By replicating the standardized plant concept developed for the DEZiR project on ReStart, Verso Energy aims to facilitate and accelerate the emergence of a European e-SAF industry and support, from 2030 onwards, the rollout and ramp-up of the targets set by ReFuelEU Aviation," 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 fuels. By combining vision, technology and industrial capabilities, Verso Energy is committed to building a decarbonized future.



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

Press contact: Stéphanie LEFEBVRE – OUSTRY (slefebvre@aromates.fr, +33 6 11 47 48 83)

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”



Funded by the European Union
Emissions Trading System
Innovation Fund