

# PRESS RELEASE

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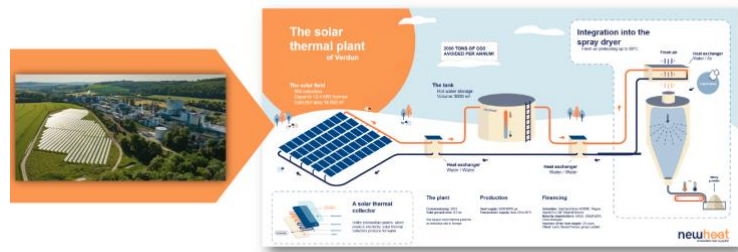
## Newheat project wins IEA SHC 2024 Solar Award

**Limassol, Cyprus, 29 August 2024** – Newheat's LACTOSOL project in Verdun, France, is the winner of the International Energy Agency Solar Heating Programme (IEA SHC) SOLAR AWARD.

LACTOSOL plant demonstrates an industrial process that competitively reduces gas consumption using solar heat technology. **François-Xavier Sarda**, Industry Key Account Manager, **Thomas Colin De Verdière**, Control Engineer, and **Alexis Gonnelle**, Principal Scientist, received the award on behalf of Newheat during EuroSun 2024, the International Conference on Sustainable and Solar Energy for Buildings and Industry, of the IEA SHC and ISES held this year in Limassol, Cyprus.



**SHC 2024 Solar Award recipients – Alexis Gonnelle, François-Xavier Sarda and Thomas Colin De Verdière of Newheat.**



Project: NEWHEAT / photo credit: IMAGESinAIR Productions

*"The 2024 SHC Solar Award celebrates projects of substantial achievement and measurable impact on an industrial process to reduce costs and emissions by incorporating solar thermal technologies. Newheat's LACTOSOL project is certainly substantial, the largest solar thermal plant in France and second largest in Europe, and is not only reducing production costs but reducing CO2 emissions by using a combination of new technology and financing mechanism."* Lucio Mesquita, IEA SHC Executive Committee Chair

The SHC Solar Award recognizes an individual, company, or private/public institution that has shown outstanding leadership or achievements in solar heating and cooling. With this year's award, the IEA SHC recognizes a **project that reduces costs and emissions by incorporating solar thermal technologies in an industrial process.**

For Newheat, *"We are honored to receive this award, which acknowledges our team's work and the confidence shown by LACTALIS Ingredients, a world leader renowned for its industrial excellence and capacity for innovation. This project demonstrates NEWHEAT's ability to provide its customers with reliable and competitive solutions, even in a sector known for its very high-quality standards."* Hugues Defréville, CEO Newheat

### Project Impact

Newheat, a supplier of renewable heat and the leading French supplier of solar heat, commissioned the solar thermal plant at LACTOSOL in Verdun, France, in 2023.

This plant provides heat for one of the Ingredients division sites of the Lactalis Group. This massive solar heat project is **cutting the CO2 emissions of the site's drying tower by 2,000 tons per year**, in other words, **7 % of the site's total emissions.**

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**LACTOSOL is France's largest solar thermal plant and the second largest in Europe**, serving an industrial site. The process-level integration of this project is a unique showcase of the potential to decarbonize heat in industrial processes competitively and effectively. **The project was developed under the “Heat as a Service Scheme,” with Newheat as a majority shareholder and EPC contractor**, thus taking on the technical and financial risk for the project. This model is particularly promising for developing industrial solar heat – it allows the industrial heat consumer to focus on their core business.

The plant delivers approximately **8,000 MWheat annually** using a **15,000 m<sup>2</sup> solar collector area** and a **3,000 m<sup>3</sup> storage tank** capable of storing several days' worth of heat production to ensure continuity of supply at night and on cloudy days during the summer.

Lactalis Ingredients chose solar thermal technology for the LACTOSOL plant to meet its carbon footprint reduction commitment. The partnership with Newheat was initially established through a trust-based relationship with Lactalis Ingredients, who believed in solar thermal solutions. This relationship led to direct negotiations, which formed the foundation of the partnership throughout the project development, the new spray dryer tower, and the solar thermal field.

**Newheat designed, built, and financed the solar thermal plant.** An onsite proprietary hot water loop generates solar heat to convert liquid whey, a by-product of cheesemaking, into whey powder for the food industry. By replacing the gas boiler that powered the drying tower to dry the liquid whey, LACTOSOL has **reduced the site's gas consumption by 6%** (11% for the drying tower and 30% for preheating needs).

**This facility marks a milestone in the large-scale deployment of solar heat, of renewable heat, of Newheat.**

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**IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC)**, building on over 40 years of experience, provides a platform for member countries and international organizations to conduct collaborative RD&D work on solar thermal energy and solar buildings. [www.iea-shc.org](http://www.iea-shc.org)



**Newheat**, a renewable heat supplier preserves and develops local energy resources, using a tailor-made approach to help towns and industries transition to sustainable and renewable heat. Its unique expertise lies in prioritizing these different available resources with short-term competitiveness and medium- to long-term environmental sustainability in mind. [www.newheat.com](http://www.newheat.com)

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