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## Activation of a battery system at the Sint-Lambertus' Buren residential care campus of Senior Living Group in Halen (Flanders).

### The final part of a profound energy renovation.

April 30, 2019. Today a (salt-water) battery system was started at the residential care campus 'Sint-Lambertus' Buren' in Halen by the Flemish minister for energy - Lydia Peeters. This battery project is the culmination of a thorough energy renovation of the residential care campus. This energy renovation will reduce the consumption of the campus by more than 35% and reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 40%. An energy renovation that also benefits the comfort of our residents as a result of the continuous monitoring of the new installations and the low risk of failure for the new installations.



This energy renovation was carried out by Wattson, which as an 'Energy service company' (ESCO) is responsible for the study and realisation of the investments, the financing as well as the maintenance and monitoring of the installations for the next 10 years. In 'Sint-Lambertus' Buren', investments were made in the insulation of 3600 m<sup>2</sup> of roofs, the realisation of a new, cleverly controlled main boiler room, the installation of photovoltaic solar panels with a capacity of 212 kWp, and recently also in a 90kWh battery system. In

this way, the electricity from the solar panels can be used to the full on the campus itself, instead of having to inject it into the distribution network.

For the financing of this battery system, Wattson could also count on the support of the Flemish Region and, in particular, the Flemish Minister of Energy - Lydia Peeters, who contributed 52,500 euros. The battery system is supplied by the Austrian GREENROCK and consists of a sustainable saltwater battery. 3E will provide smart control of the battery system on the basis of their new SynaptiQ power software.



The 'Sint-Lambertus' Buren' residential care campus is part of a broader portfolio of residential care campuses that Wattson, on behalf of the care operator Senior Living Group, has made more sustainable. At present, Wattson has activities in 22 residential care campuses of Senior Living Group, representing a total investment of 6 million euros. These investments are financed by Piet Colruyt's investment fund - Impact Capital, PMV (Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen, an investment company



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with the support of the Flemish government) and KBC the latest has refinanced a significant part of the initial investments.

The investment in the new installation is cost-neutral for the operator, as the investment is repaid over a period of 10 years via the energy savings. The funds released as a result are reinvested by Senior Living Group in the renovation of its buildings. In this way, these residential care campuses emit 2,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> less per year, or almost 1 ton per inhabitant per year. Taking into account an average CO<sub>2</sub> emission per Fleming of 10 tons per year, this amounts to a reduction of 10%. These positive environmental results fit in perfectly with the policy of Senior Living Group, which has a strong focus on environmental awareness and thus wishes to meet the ever-increasing expectations of its residents, the families and the staff in this area. Of course, the comfort of the residents is always at the forefront and care is taken to ensure that they lack nothing.

Here are some quotes from the stakeholders involved in this project.

Stijn De Roo - Wattson: "With the 'Sint-Lambertus' Buren' residential care campus battery, we now have a first project in which we integrate this new battery technology into our EPC approach. We hope to be able to put a lot more effort into this in the future, especially when the prices of these batteries drop even further in the coming years".

Dominiek Beelen – Senior Living Group CEO: "Sustainable entrepreneurship is very high on our agenda at Senior Living Group. For example, environmental awareness and sustainable ecological policy are invariably discussed at our Board of Directors. That is why, together with Wattson, we have developed an economic model in which we can make the necessary investments in our infrastructure and our lighting and heating installations in a cost-neutral way, so that we can make our buildings more ecological and more sustainable. This goes hand in hand with the necessary guarantees of proper operation through remote monitoring and full comprehensive maintenance contracts. In addition, we have noticed that the comfort of our residents themselves has also increased, which is still the first priority in the care sector.

Geert Palmers - 3E: "In the integration of large solar installations as well as the electrification of the heating and cooling of buildings, the interaction with the distribution network is becoming an important point of attention. Smart control of the building and of the existing batteries can be used to the fullest and prevent possible grid problems. 3E is therefore fully committed to the development and deployment of a technology-neutral platform for the intelligent control of flexible loads in buildings".

Piet Colruyt - Impact Capital: "As a social investor, I am always looking for innovative solutions to major social problems. If a smart, new combination of partners, technology and financing can create sustainable added value for all stakeholders and at the same time do something good for challenges such as climate and ageing, Impact Capital is always willing to pioneer and thus enable system change".

Tom Mortier, energy business manager at PMV: "The cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. That is why the Flemish investment company finances companies that improve the energy efficiency of the Flemish economy. Companies that produce alternative energy or promote energy innovation can also



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come to us for appropriate financing. In this way, we hope to help provide an answer to the global climate challenges and to make Flanders more energy-independent. Two years ago, our participation in Wattson was our first investment in an ESCO (Energy Service Company). The battery project proves the success and future potential of a single service package with energy-saving measures. There is great potential in Flanders for this type of project."

Wim Eraly, Director of KBC Corporate Banking: "At KBC, we strive for sustainable and profitable growth. In addition, we take on our role in society and are constantly looking for initiatives to take on our environmental responsibility. For us, the collaboration with Wattson has been successful at various levels. We are pleased that Wattson is taking this step and integrating the new technology into the energy renovation project."

Bart Bossyns - GREENROCK: "As a manufacturer of the saltwater battery and the associated ready-made systems, we are pleased to be able to participate in this project. BlueSky Energy, the company behind the GREENROCK products, specialises in the integration of stationary energy storage systems and once again ensures that the entire installation can be completed by the installer in less than two days".

Lydia Peeters - Flemish Minister for Energy: "Batteries are an important link in our new energy model. Self-generated solar energy can be used even more locally thanks to energy storage. Using a smart algorithm, charging and discharging the battery is also regulated more efficiently".

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