

02

La Tontouta pumped- storage project

The largest clean energy
storage project ever
proposed in New Caledonia

60 years
Expected
operating life

40%
Of investment
expected to benefit
the local economy

**€400–500
million**
Estimated investment

THE PROJECT

The La Tontouta pumped-storage hydropower facility will use surplus solar electricity to pump water into an elevated reservoir, then release it to generate power during peak demand.

It is New Caledonia's most advanced large-scale energy storage project, led by ENERCAL with technical support from EDF Hydro, and will complement the Boulouparis battery facility.

La Tontouta pumped-storage project

PROJECT LEADS

ENERCAL, with technical support from **EDF Hydro**.

The proposed delivery structure is a dedicated project company.



INVESTMENT AND FUNDING

€400–500 million, based on estimates developed between 2023 and 2025 and currently being refined. Funding for the current detailed design phase: XPF 700 million, provided by the French State and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The project forms part of a ten-year energy transition programme representing €2–3 billion in investment, with the pumped-storage facility as its first major investment.



TIMELINE

Launched in February 2023, the project has progressively completed technical, legal and financial milestones, leading to its presentation to New Caledonia's Congress in April 2025.

The next step is to begin the detailed design phase, scheduled for completion by the end of 2027.



PROJECT STATUS

The legal and financial structure is being finalised.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The project company is open to institutional investors. Caisse des Dépôts, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have already been involved in discussions.

Potential partners may also include companies in the metals industry and the future construction contractor.



WHY INVEST

- **A proven technology.** Long-duration storage, grid inertia and frequency regulation capabilities that batteries alone cannot provide.
- **Reduced project risk.** Several years of technical, land and environmental studies have already been completed.
- **Significant local economic benefits.** Around 40% of the investment is expected to flow into the local economy through earthworks and civil engineering.
- **A long-term asset.** An operating life of more than 60 years, aligned with New Caledonia's energy transition objectives.