

Sydney & Paris, 5 November 2020

## Neoen to build 300 MW Victorian Big Battery in Australia, one of the world's largest batteries

- Neoen has been awarded a 250 MW grid services contract with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in a competitive tender initiated by the Victorian Government
- This contract enables Neoen to proceed with the next phase of its 300 MW / 450 MWh Victorian Big Battery in Geelong, Australia
- The Victorian Big Battery will become one of the world's largest batteries at double the size of Hornsdale Power Reserve in South Australia, also owned and operated by Neoen
- To be delivered together with Tesla, and network partner AusNet Services, the Victorian Big Battery will make highly effective use of new technology to modernise the grid and unlock substantial capacity within the existing Victorian electricity network

Neoen (ISIN: FR0011675362, Ticker: NEOEN), one of the world's leading and fastest-growing producers of exclusively renewable energy, has been awarded a 250 MW grid services contract by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). The services will be provided by Neoen's future 300 MW Victorian Big Battery, set to become one of the largest batteries in the world. The battery storage facility will be located next to Moorabool Terminal Station in Geelong, Victoria. It will be delivered in collaboration with Tesla, using its Megapack technology, and network partner AusNet Services.

This System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) contract with AEMO will run until 2032 and is the result of the SIPS 2020 procurement process initiated by the Victorian Government. It will unlock up to an additional 250 MW of peak capacity on the existing Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector (VNI) over the next decade of Australian summers. Under the contract, the battery will provide an automatic response in the event of an unexpected network outage, providing AEMO with an additional means of ensuring grid stability. Batteries are genuinely well suited to perform this service because they can respond in a fraction of a second. The battery will also participate in the National Electricity Market and support increased penetration of renewables in Victoria through network services such as fast frequency control.

The Victorian Big Battery will help to modernise and stabilise the grid in Victoria and will be instrumental in helping the State reach its objective of 50% renewables by 2030. Independent analysis shows that for every \$1 invested the battery will deliver more than \$2 in benefits to Victorian households and businesses. The savings that big batteries can provide to energy consumers are now well-established, with independent reviews demonstrating that Neoen's Hornsdale Power Reserve has delivered more than \$150 million AUD in savings in its first two years of operation.

The battery, which is targeted to be operational by the end of 2021, will also deliver a significant economic boost to the Geelong region, creating over 80 construction jobs and 6 full time permanent jobs. Where possible, local suppliers will be contracted, with AusNet already having sourced the project's power transformers from Melbourne-based Wilson Transformer Company. Local community building and education initiatives will also be supported across the project's lifetime through a Community Benefit Fund.

**Louis de Sambucy, Neoen Australia's Managing Director said:** *"We are delighted to have won the SIPS*

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### Australian media

### Press

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*contract and would like to thank AEMO and the Victorian Government for placing their trust in us. We are looking forward to working once again with Tesla and AusNet to deliver this world-leading battery storage facility over the coming months. We are extremely proud to be launching a project of this scale and innovation in support of Victoria's clean energy transition."*

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change said:** "By securing one of the biggest batteries in the world, Victoria is taking a decisive step away from coal-fired power and embracing new technologies that will unlock more renewable energy than ever before."

**Audrey Zibelman, AEMO's CEO, commented:** "AEMO's competitive procurement and evaluation process attracted significant interest. Neoen's solution, developed with Tesla and AusNet Services, on a unit cost basis, was a significantly more cost competitive and attractive market response than other recent major battery developments in Australia."

**Tony Narvaez, AusNet Services Managing Director said:** "AusNet Services is proud to be the network partner with Neoen and Tesla on this world-leading project. Large scale energy storage is an important component in the transition to a renewable future, while helping to maintain network stability and energy security for Victoria."

**Xavier Barbaro, Neoen's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer concluded:** "The Victorian Big Battery and the grid support services it will provide heralds a new era for large scale energy storage in Australia. We are fiercely proud to be at the forefront of this vital element of the energy transition. We will continue to build on this experience to deliver world-leading solutions that help to shape and transform the grid of the future for the benefit of industry and consumers across Australia and around the globe."

## About Neoen

Neoen is one of the world's leading and fastest growing independent producers of exclusively renewable energy. With a capacity of more than 3.6 GW in operation or under construction, Neoen is a high-growth company. Neoen is notably active in Australia, Argentina, El Salvador, Finland, France, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal and Zambia. In particular, Neoen operates France's most powerful solar farm (300 MWp) in Cestas, and the world's first big battery (150 MW storage capacity) in Hornsdale, Australia. Neoen is targeting at least 5 GW capacity in operation or under construction by end of 2021. Neoen (ISIN Code: FR0011675362, ticker: NEOEN) is listed in Compartment A of the regulated market of Euronext Paris.

For more information: [www.neoen.com](http://www.neoen.com)

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