

ORGANISATION: Méthelec

VISIT: Production of renewable energy

VISIT DATE: Tuesday 06 October 2026

CONTACT NUMBER: LE MOUROUX PIERRICK – 06 62 28 68 17

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

Introduction

The company **MÉTHÉLEC** was founded in 2015 by the LHOSPITALIER family, owns an agricultural biogas plant, which was originally **one of the first large-scale plants in France**, located at Ennezat in the Puy de Dôme département (63).

The Petit Rollet site

"Going further than feeding you, your local farmer supplies you with energy".

Consolidation of several companies, as follows:

- **SARL REILA** (Lhospitalier family holding)
- **SAS LOPA** (farm business consolidating a poultry unit, finished ducks, cattle, and crops)
 - o 55 ha of cereal crops
 - o 40 ha of secondary crops
 - o 4 poultry units (750,000 poultry/year)
 - o 1 duck finishing unit (reared for foie gras) a unit for 2,200 ducks (18 batches/year) for a total of 35,000 ducks/year
 - o 1 beef finishing unit for 399 head on a rolling 6-month basis, i.e. 790 cattle/year
 - o All our buildings are fitted with solar panels.
- **SAS METHELEC** (farm business processing all our farm's by-products agro-industrial co-products to produce green energy).

Informations générales

MÉTHÉLEC is a farm biogas plant located close to Clermont-Ferrand. It processes **36,000 tonnes of farm effluent**, agricultural by-products, agro-industrial co-products and bio-waste from local agri-food industries **to produce local and sustainable green energy**.

Initially designed to operate in cogeneration with a 1.56 MW engine and a 1.1 MW boiler to cover the farm's heating requirements.

The unit suffered a major breakdown in October 2023, with the engine breaking down, it was the only source of farm income at the time. This sudden interruption in business precipitated a **strategic transition**, supported by new shareholders who finalised a majority stake acquisition in October 2024, with the ambition to **convert the unit to inject biomethane into national gas network (GRDF)**.

In 2024, **AGRIPOWER France** specialist in biogas production unveiled plans to **relaunch the MÉTHÉLEC agricultural biogas unit**, in line with its new **strategy** which aims to focus its development on biogas units producing **injected biomethane**.

General information

In response, a transformation programme was launched to enable the injection of **350 to 400 Nm³/h of biomethane into the national grid for Q 1. 2025.**

This first **phase was successfully completed.** The Prodeval purifier has been installed and the first injection of biomethane into the GRDF grid at Ennezat occurred this 19th of February.

A supply contract for CPB and molecular gas signed with SAVE Energie guaranteeing the purchase of all CPBs produced by the site, and the sale of biomethane at a fixed price for 330 Nm³/h or at the daily price (for the portion above 330 Nm³/h).



General information

Today, the unit demonstrated that it is operating in line with expectations and has a capped injection capacity awaiting completion of connection work to the gas national grid.

The connection with Saint Beuzire was established on the 15th of June 2025 with a max capacity set at 200 Nm³/h certain days (notably the weekends).

The connection with the agglomeration of Clermont-Ferrand was established on the 18th of July 2025 with a max capacity set at 500 Nm³/h in the summer and weekends. Consequently, the unit can inject a minimum of 500 Nm³/h, 24/7.

Today, MÉTHÉLEC launches a new investment phase that aims to consolidate the site's technical and economic performance through several levers:

- **The redesign of the supervisory control system to optimise interventions and secure operations,**
- **Smoothing the incorporation of materials to avoid production peaks,**
- **Construction of a new solid plant materials line and reinforcing the biogas pipelines.**

These investments will enable the company to, progressively, reach a capacity to inject between 550 and 600 Nm³/h by early 2027, and to produce in the long term between 30 and 35 GWh.

PCS of biomethane per year. This ramp-up will bring annual revenues to €6 million, ensuring the sustainability of MÉTHÉLEC's business model and the contribution of energy transfer into the Clermont-Ferrand basin.