

PEARL Infrastructure Capital pursues its expansion in renewable energy throughout Europe and announces the acquisition of UNI VIRIDAS, a biomass cogeneration plant (from wood residues and waste from forestry and sawmills) with a production capacity of 8.6 MW electrical and 16 MW thermal. Located near the city of Babina Greda in the Vukovar-Srijem region, UNI VIRIDAS is the largest biomass cogeneration plant in Croatia. It supplies the electricity grid with renewable and continuous electricity through a 14-year feed-in-tariff contract. The carbon-neutral electricity produced is equivalent to the consumption of about 20,000 households.

The sustainable biomass supply of UNI VIRIDAS is structured - in accordance with PEARL's environmental guidelines and commitment - in partnership with reputable players, including Hrvatske šume, the FSC-certified manager of Croatia's public forests, and the Florian Group, a major player in the wood processing sector in Croatia. These partnerships illustrate PEARL's values and ambitions towards supporting local development while offering a sustainable and economically sound utilisation of forest residues and sawmill by-products, thus supporting the wood construction and furniture sectors.



To optimize its energy efficiency, the UNI VIRIDAS plant supplies heat to a large wood drying facility owned by the Florian group, thus enabling to ensure the quality of the finished products of its sawmills. This project therefore allows PEARL to contribute to a double objective: a decentralized renewable electrical and thermal energy production combined with a support to local and sustainable forestry and wood transformation industries.

This project also contributes to the industrial, agricultural and energy development of the region with 70 jobs both on site and in the broader biomass sector, as well as the supply of heat to agricultural projects through long-term contracts.

With this new transaction, PEARL Infrastructure Capital continues its development, initiated in 2020 with the acquisition of the Energy 9 biomass cogeneration plant in Croatia, and the launch of the construction of the Bioenergie Wismar biomass cogeneration plant in Germany in March 2021.