



NAME OF PROJECT

IREC, Catalan Energy Research Institute

MUNICIPALITIES

Barcelona and Tarragona

HEADING

The Catalan Energy Research Institute was founded as the energy technologies research centre of reference in Catalonia, with an international profile. Its main line of work will relate to energy efficiency technologies.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Both the Energy Plan and the Research and Innovation Plan for Catalonia envisage the creation of an energy research institute to develop research and technology along lines that the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Finance and Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise consider to be strategic for Catalonia and in response to the needs of its business sector.

The institute will become the main body of reference for the Government of Catalonia for channelling the promotion of technological research and development in energy, with its orientation towards both the markets and long-term research.

The IREC Board comprises three Catalan Ministries - Economy and Finance, Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, and Science and Innovation, the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce, the University of Barcelona (UB), the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), the Rovira and Virgili University in Tarragona (URV), Endesa, Gas Natural and AGBAR. Similarly, and scientific and business committees will give support and advice to the Board.

The institute's mission is to contribute to sustainable development in society and increase company competitiveness. It will act through innovation and the development of new technological products, medium and long-term research, scientific development and technological knowledge in the field of energy.

The IREC was created in 2008. In 2009 it will develop five lines of research. The main line will be energy efficiency and will be complemented by technological lines: electric networks, the capture, confinement and uses of CO₂, bioenergy and marine eolics; along with the following crossover activities: power electronics, advanced materials for energy and socio-technical research.

The centre expects to hire thirty-two staff towards the end of its first year of activity.

MAIN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIGURES

- Investment: €30 M
- Surface area: 9,000 m² (between the Barcelona and Tarragona centres)

REFERENCE WEB SITE

www.irec.cat

RESPONSIBLE

Antoni Martínez, General Manager of the Catalan Energy Research Institute.