Most current solar parks are installed on roofs or in open fields. In the first case, solar panels compete with a building’s other needs (i.e., cooling and elevators); in the second, they use land that could be otherwise productive, often far from where the electricity is actually needed. “HORIZON can go right onsite, in places where you cannot put a fixed system, with no interference with the primary purpose,” explains Gian Andri Diem, Managing Director, DHP Technology.

New paradigm for solar power

HORIZON is an automatic, retractable system that deploys like an awning 5-6m above ground. “Our core technology is so lightweight, it can go high above ground, on poles 25m apart. Even trucks can drive under it,” says Mr. Diem. Unlike other solar technology, HORIZON can cover a large surface without hindering operations. HORIZON even offers two other advantages: shade and non-reflectivity. “Our panels provide shade, as well as electricity. And no glare, which is important in urban areas,” Mr. Diem says.

“Euresearch and Enterprise Europe Network helped us find a specialist in the industrial manufacturing process and helped with resources, advice and PR.”

Good advice from Euresearch

Thanks to a grant from Industrial Leadership SME Instrument, DHP Technology has been able to prove HORIZON’s potential for the European market. “Without it, we would have had to fund the feasibility study with our equity or cash flow,” Mr. Diem says. “The Horizon 2020 label is a big door opener. We have been able to tap into a network we didn’t have access to before. To any company interested in Horizon 2020, I advise, first, go for it; second, don’t go it alone. Small Swiss companies are not used to funding schemes and the EU economy is based on them. Euresearch and Enterprise Europe Network helped us find a specialist in the industrial manufacturing process and helped with resources, advice and PR.”

For now, the company is concentrating on the needs of water treatment plants. “These plants use vast amounts of electricity and HORIZON can produce what they need on the spot, dramatically raising energy efficiency,” Mr. Diem says. The EU alone has some 80,000 water treatment plants and Mr. Diem believes HORIZON’s patented technology fills a global need. “It’s a big pond,” he says. “And we’re the only fish.”
“Our core technology is so lightweight, it can go high above ground, on poles 25m apart. Even trucks can drive under it.”

Gian Andri Diem, Managing Director, DHP Technology

**About HORIZON, the folding roof**

**CONTENT SUMMARY**

HORIZON is a lightweight, folding solar roof that can be used in commercially exploited spaces such as wastewater treatment plants, parking lots, storage and logistics facilities. Sensors automatically retract the roof in case of bad weather. HORIZON helps end the competition between solar energy production and industry, housing, cropland and recreational spaces.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **Project Name**: Horizon, Cableway-based Photovoltaic Retractable Folding Roof for Dual Usage of Spaces
- **Research Area**: Energy
- **Organisations**: DHP Technology – Zizers
- **Start Date – End Date**: 01.2018 – 06.2018
- **Duration**: 6 Months

- **Project Cost**: €71,429
- **Project Funding**: €50,000
- **Programme**: Industrial Leadership SME Instrument phase 1
- **More Information**: www.dhp-technology.ch

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