RENEWABLE. Interview with founders Conor McGuigan and Aldo Giretti

Green energy, Vespera Energy's mission

Sustainable energy remains *an unavoidable priority for the future of our planet.*
In this report, we will explore the contribution of Vespera Energy, a cutting-edge company in the sector, led by Conor McGuigan and Aldo Giretti, with a clear and ambitious vision. We will discover their missions , large-scale projects, and the key role of agrivoltaics in the energy field.

Who are the founders of Vespera Energy and what is their vision for the future of energy?
Vespera Energy is a company active in the renewable energy sector that deals mainly with the development of solar photovoltaic plants in Italy and operates throughout Europe. Vespera Energy was founded in 2021 by **Conor McGuigan, former director of LightsourceBP Europe and Australia, and Aldo Giretti, previously head of development at LightsourceBP Italia.**
Today Vespera Energy is protagonist of the international market and its vision is to guarantee Italy its transition towards the energy transition so that the future of the country is increasingly green and depends less and less on fossil fuels. Vespera is committed to being a circular company that seeks to give back as much as possible to the environment and the local community, thinking about sustainability in all aspects of its business model.
With offices in Grottaglie (Taranto), Milan and Rome, we are committed to building relationships on the territories in order to create a network capable of directing the market in the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
After all, choosing renewable energy means choosing life for a better future. Our experienced experts have extensive experience in the field and can ensure maximum benefit and utilization of our solar infrastructure. We adapt ESG principles to our business model, in line with international guidelines and frameworks, thus having a positive impact on our environment and taking steps towards building an increasingly sustainable future.

What is Vespera Energy's m1ss1on in the sustainable energy landscape? How do you intend to achieve your goals?
We aim to reach 2 GW of solar plants and 1 GW of BESS (Battery Energy Storage Solutions) within the next 5 years. We already work with local partners, such as introducers and farmers, focusing on gre enfield projects and joint ventures, strategic decisions to achieve our goals. We want to help improve the world and strive to make a difference, no matter how small. Our main objective is to accelerate the transition to net zero through our investments, building and managing a diversified portfolio of renewable energy assets across Italy. We are thus committed to playing an important role in the decarbonisation of the Italian energy sector.
Thanks to the expansion of its investment mandate, Vespera is well positioned to support the growth objectives of renewable energy and foster the transition to a sustainable future. We want to build a strong brand, synonymous with professionalism and competence within the Italian and international market.
Of course, this leads to different types of strategies: in the short term, by concluding cooperation agreements with local partners, you will gain a better understanding of the conditions for working with local partners.

> Offices in Grottaglie, Milan and Rome. The commitment: dialogue with the territories for the green transition

Then there are the medium to long-term strategies based on introducers, Joint Ventures (JVs) and Protocols of Understanding (MoU), which allow us to expand our network with the help of local agricultural experts, greenhouse developers and EPC suppliers; in return we can exchange contacts and skills to focus on the growth of photovoltaic developments in Italy, especially in the agricultural sector. The latter will help to fuel Italy's growth in the development of photovoltaics applied to the agricultural world.
The fact is that with the beginning of the Ukrainian conflict and the consequent realignment of government policy to ensure energy stability and security, we have witnessed a positive change in the need for renewable energies which has led to the optimisation of the development process and to faster decisions that we could and should take.

How does Vespera Energy face the challenge of plants on industrial and contaminated land? What are the **benefits of this strategy for environmental sustainability?**
Current photovoltaic technologies- and BESS allow flexibility in their installation and can be implemented on most areas depending on the slope of the terrain. Floating systems are also possible. Industrial sites are generally the preferred type of land given their existing network infrastructure, while contaminated areas can be reclaimed during the construction phase of any new installation, making them further suitable for solar..

Agrivoltaics represent a turning point in the energy industry. What are the main advantages of this technology and how could it revolutionize the sector?
The agrivoltaic plant, compared to traditional photovoltaic plants, is a model that is compatible with the agricultural context of reference, consistent with the framework of territorial planning and programming in the field of energy. It has now been shown that agricultural activities and photovoltaics can work in harmony. They can coexist perfectly and studies have also shown that harvesting can actually improve, by reducing water consumption, through intelligent software that controls the microclimate below the high photovoltaic structure. Agrivoltaic, which was once thought to be the future, today is actually the present. This activity creates a positive impact on local communities and brings benefits to all stakeholders involved, from energy operators to farmers. The hybrid use of land represents a great opportunity for the future by contributing to the creation of new professional figures linked to the maintenance of plants. In addition, while investors can take advantage of land that would otherwise be unusable while reducing their environmental impact, farmers have the opportunity to refinance their activities and boost their economic impact.
Graphically and designally. In
From this point of view, the renewable energy production sector is configured not only as a public utility work for the impact it determines on the reduction of emissions from fossil sources for the generation of electricity, but also as a tool aimed at encouraging and supporting the development of agriculture. The positive impact of agrivoltaics on both sectors reveals unequivocal factors which seal its usefulness:
1 The maintenance of the agricultural vocation of the land.
2 The improvement of biodiversity.
3 Improving soil quality.
4 The integration, diversification and stabilization of agricultural incomes.
5 Optimization of agricultural services.
6 The optimization of photovoltaic performance.

How does Vespera Energy intend to collaborate with other companies and institutions to promote the adoption of sustainable energy on a large scale?
Vespera Energy has confirmed, for example, partnerships with important players in the sector such as Signify (also known as Philips Lighting, active with a division dedicated to agricultural projects), the Global Fresh Fruit Consortium (aimed at the sustainable development of the territory and its numerous agricultural companies of a wide area that today includes Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria); We do Filiera (consulting company dedicated to supporting the agricultural world); i Pergola (technological partner that has developed innovative systems for the construction of agrivoltaic plants) in order to expand the Vespera Energy network and share the goal towards a greener future.
The relationship with the institutions is fundamental damentale. We think that today we should all run towards the same goal, so it is important to

> The objectives to be achieved within the next five years. The advantages of photovoltaic and agrivoltaic

There is so much availability, dialogue and the same degree of urgency. Not everyone is yet able to understand the advantage and importance of renewable energies. Our goal is to make people understand and educate, with the support of institutions, what renewable energy can do without fossil fuels and how it can benefit our planet.

What are the future prospects for Vespera Energy? Are there any projects under development that can have a significant impact on the global energy transition?
Vespera will continue to support the grovoltaic to achieve its goals. We hope that all Vespera projects, regardless of their size, will contribute to the clean energy transition. Among the most recent strategic partnerships signed by Vespera is the one with JSS Ener gy Italy and Volt Infrastructure: both companies are engaged in the development of solar energy in Italy and this will contribute to the growth of photovoltaics in Italy. The partnership will lead to the growth of photovoltaic projects with a capacity of over 100 MWp with Volt Infrastructure and 600 MW with JSS Energy, distributed throughout Italy.