PRESS RELEASE – Canal Seine-Nord Europe

May 12, 2026

Seine-Nord Europe Canal: NGE wins a major new contract for the Oisy-le-Verger lock, as part of a consortium with Spie Batignolles as lead contractor and BESIX

Awarded by Société du Canal Seine-Nord Europe to the consortium led by Spie Batignolles Génie Civil, NGE will mobilize its foundations and earthworks expertise to build one of the Canal's largest hydraulic structures.

« Winning this new contract on the Seine-Nord Europe Canal is a real source of pride for NGE. Our teams are taking on a major technical challenge for a strategic structure that contributes to more sustainable transport and better-connected regions."
Bruno Parent, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of NGE

The overall value of the project is **€315 million**.

At peak activity, it will mobilize up to **700 people** and generate nearly **200,000 hours of professional integration work**.

Construction work on the lock will begin in **spring 2027**, following the preparation period and the ongoing preliminary earthworks for the lock, with commissioning scheduled between **2031 and 2032**.

A major lock on the Seine-Nord Europe Canal

A central link in the Seine-Scheldt inland waterway connection, the Seine-Nord Europe Canal will connect Compiègne to Aubencheul-au-Bac. It will enable large-gauge barges to travel between France, Belgium and the Netherlands, strengthening inland freight transport and encouraging modal shift. Located in the northern part of the project, the Oisy-le-Verger lock is one of the Canal's major structures.

The Oisy-le-Verger lock is designed to meet particularly demanding hydraulic performance requirements. Its operation will rely in particular on water-saving basins that reduce water consumption by reusing four-sixths of the volume of water used during each lockage. The structure will also include high-capacity pumping stations, ranging from **8 to 14 m³/s**, making it possible to recycle lockage water, offset water losses and rapidly transfer water from south to north as part of the Canal's water supply system.

A multi-disciplinary mobilization for a complex hydraulic structure

The contract covers the construction of the structure and its approach harbors. It will mobilize several complementary areas of expertise: earthworks, drainage, roads and utility networks, special foundations — diaphragm walls and grouted plugs — watertight walls, retaining structures and civil engineering.

Two concrete batching plants will be installed on site to ensure the necessary production capacity and limit equipment transfers.

The works will include the construction of **30,000 m² of diaphragm walls**, the treatment of around **140,000 m³ of ground by grouted plug over a depth of 8 meters**, and the placement of approximately **180,000 m³ of concrete** for the civil engineering works.

The consortium also plans to transport almost all aggregates intended for concrete production by inland waterway, in order to limit road traffic.

Environmental, social and regional commitments

The consortium has committed to meeting the ambitions of the major Seine-Nord Europe Canal project in terms of professional integration, local economic development and carbon footprint reduction. Nearly **200,000 hours** will be dedicated to professional integration on the worksite. In addition, more than **€60 million** in revenue will be entrusted to small and medium-sized enterprises, contributing to the strengthening of the local economic fabric.

On the environmental side, the consortium is targeting a **20% reduction** in the project's carbon footprint compared with initial forecasts. An in-depth analysis of the modal shift potential was also carried out for each material, resulting in an overall commitment of **61.5%**, above the minimum requirement.

Key figures for the Oisy-le-Verger lock

- 25 meters nominal lift
- 195 meters useful length and 12.5 meters width
- 200,000 m³ of concrete
- 30,000 m² of diaphragm walls
- 140,000 m³ of ground treated by grouted plug
- More than 1,000 tonnes of hydromechanical equipment
- Up to 500 workers mobilized at peak activity on the worksite, and up to 700 people including management and service providers
- Nearly 200,000 hours of professional integration work
- Revenue entrusted to SMEs: more than €60 million
- Carbon footprint reduction target: -20%

Project information

- Contracting authority: Société du Canal Seine-Nord Europe — SCSNE
- Project management: ONE 5 – EGIS / INGEROP / ISL / BEE / Michel Desvigne Paysagiste / AEI
- Consortium: Spie Batignolles Génie Civil — lead contractor, BESIX, NGE Fondations, Guintoli, Spie Batignolles Valérian, Spie Batignolles Fondations, Atlas Fondations, Artelia
- Overall contract value: €315 million, including €33.3 million for NGE

About NGE :

NGE — Nouvelles Générations d'Entrepreneurs — is France's fourth-largest construction and civil engineering group. It builds major infrastructure, urban projects and local development schemes. With expertise in financing, design, construction and maintenance, the Group is a leading player in delivering structures adapted to the economic and environmental challenges facing regions.
Its entrepreneurial momentum is supported by a strong employee shareholding structure: the founders, management and employees hold **72%** of the Group's capital, supported by the French investment fund Montefiore, which holds **28%**.
With revenue of **€5 billion**, NGE operates in around twenty countries and supports private and public contracting authorities in financing, designing and delivering their transition projects in the fields of water, mobility, urban renewal, energy and telecommunications. NGE's **25,000 employees** are proud to contribute to the construction of works that change the world.

Contact Presse : Eloi Fouquoire, eloi.fouquoire@gmail.com 06 76 77 11 56