



Mining operations commence at the hydroelectric development site

An important new phase of civil engineering work is underway.

The Construction of the Nachtigal Hydroelectric Power Plant reached a new milestone on 12 September 2019 with the very first of a long series of explosives firings.

This event marks the start of mining operations that will last approximately 8 months and whose objective is to dig excavations of the future hydroelectric plant, the tailrace and the headrace.

An impressively dimensioned factory and headrace canal

The building of the future hydroelectric plant, which will house 7 turbines with a unit capacity of 60 MW, will be one of the emblematic structures of the Nachtigal Hydroelectric Plant. Its features are commensurate with its size: 160 m long, 80 m wide and 45 m high.

Its construction will require digging an excavation that is nearly 50 metres deep as compared to the natural terrain. The earthworks, which began in June, have made it possible to evacuate all the loose soil, leaving room for the rock from which nearly 1,500,000 m³ will have to be extracted.



70 tons excavator and dumper at work in the excavation Plant

Before getting to the hydroelectric plant, the water diverted from the Sanaga will flow through the headrace canal. This other major structure will be nearly 3.3 km long and will have an average width of about 20 m. Its construction involves extracting nearly 500,000 m³ of rocky excavated material.

Structures built with materials extracted from the site itself.

The rocky excavated materials from the excavations are then used to transform them into aggregates on the Site, and then to form part of the concrete used for the construction of the hydroelectric plant.

Some figures to remember

- 2,000,000 m³ of rock to be excavated
- 8 months of mining operations
- More than 200 shots planned

Safety as a top priority.

Closely accompanied by the Armed Forces present on site, the firing process is subject to very strict security measures. Thus a security perimeter of nearly 200 m is established at each firing, within which only the blaster, a highly qualified fireworks technician, is authorized to enter in order to carry out the final checks and do the firing..