

Calogena launches a preliminary public consultation on its nuclear heating plant on the CEA's Cadarache site

From 28 September to 28 November 2026, Calogena will hold a voluntary preliminary consultation on its proposed nuclear district-heating plant at the CEA site in Cadarache, in Bouches-du-Rhône. This consultation is overseen by two guarantors appointed by the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP). Over the course of two months, the public will be able to find out more about the project, ask questions and share their views at a series of public meetings and via the consultation website

A first module at a leading site in the nuclear sector

The project involves the installation of a small modular reactor (SMR) designed to generate heat. SMRs are low-power nuclear reactors designed to meet a range of energy needs. The facility is intended to replace the current gas-fired plant in order to supply low-carbon heat to the centre's heating network.

In July 2025, the CEA and Calogena signed a letter of intent to carry out feasibility studies and connect a facility – designed, built and operated by Calogena – to the Cadarache centre's district heating network.

The choice of the CEA's Cadarache site is based, in particular, on the presence of existing infrastructure, technical expertise in the nuclear field and a recognised safety culture. For Calogena, this project represents an opportunity to demonstrate, under real operating conditions, the viability of a module connected to a district heating network.

A voluntary initiative by Calogena

In accordance with Article L.121-17 of the Environment Code, Calogena requested that the National Commission for Public Debate appoint guarantors to support the organisation of a preliminary consultation process. Given the nature of the project, this request was not a regulatory obligation: Calogena chose to undertake this process voluntarily.

The nuclear heating technology developed by Calogena is still little known to the general public. Against this background, Calogena wishes to present the project and its features, address any questions it may raise, and gather comments and suggestions from the public at this early stage of its development.

The CNDP has appointed Mr Jacques Finetti and Mr Jean-Michel Fourniau as facilitators for the consultation process. As neutral and independent figures, they ensure the quality and clarity of the information made available to the public, as well as the smooth running of the consultation.

Two months to find out more, discuss and contribute

The preliminary consultation will run from 28 September to 28 November 2026. Several events open to the public will be organised across the region and online:

- 30 September at 6.30 pm – opening public meeting at the Château de Cadarache, in Saint-Paul-lès-Durance;
- 10 October from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm – local meeting at the Village des Sciences, Manosque;
- 11 October, 8.30 am to 11 am – local community meeting at the market in Vinon-sur-Verdon;
- 28 October at 6.30 pm – webinar: ‘Characteristics and development challenges of SMRs, and the specific features of Calogena’s solution’;
- 4 November at 6.30 pm – webinar: ‘How can SMRs decarbonise district heating?’;
- 10 November at 6.30 pm – webinar: ‘From the reactor to the operation of district heating networks: what business model?’;
- 25 November at 6.30 pm – closing public meeting at the Osco Manosco hall, in Manosque.

Presentations are also planned for school classes and staff at the Cadarache centre.

Throughout the consultation period, the public will also be able to find out more and contribute via the dedicated website: www.calogena-cadarache-concertation.fr. There they will find, in particular, the consultation document, the detailed programme of meetings, an online feedback section and, as the process progresses, presentation materials and meeting minutes.

ABOUT CALOGENA

Calogena specialises in carbon-free district heating, drawing on the industrial expertise and financial strength of the Gorgé Group, a leading player with 3,500 employees and an annual turnover of 600 million euros. As a successful bidder under the France 2030 plan (phase 2), the company has secured total funding of €100 million from a consortium of industrial and institutional investors. Calogena utilises proven nuclear research reactor technology, specially adapted to the specific requirements of district heating. Operating exclusively at low temperature and low pressure, the reactor’s design is considerably simplified, ensuring intrinsic safety and exceptional economic competitiveness. With development projects underway in several European countries and the first commercial deployment scheduled for 2032, Calogena offers a resilient, carbon-free heating solution, designed to ensure a stable heat supply and strengthen energy sovereignty across Europe.

[For further information, visit www.calogena.com](http://www.calogena.com)

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