

Case study

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DOME SOLAR'S ABILITY TO SIMPLIFY LIFE FOR INSTALLERS

Solar panel installation can present unexpected challenges. When it does, Solewa has found it pays to work with a supplier that has designed its products to be easy-to-use and resistant, and which has the in-house technical expertise to help installers make the most efficient use of materials and man-hours.

Dome Solar's ability to simplify life for installers is one of the reasons Solewa has been using Dome Solar's products and services for the last three years. Solewa, which operates in Western France from Normandy in the north right down to Bordeaux in the south, installs solar panels on projects that range from 36 K watts to 250 K watts and works in several sectors, including industry and agriculture.

When Solewa, which was founded in 2006, was weighing up new solar panel equipment suppliers in early 2012 it was won over by the simplicity and strength of Dome Solar's fixation systems.

In particular, "Dome Solar is one of the few companies that enables us to fix the aluminium rail directly into the purlin. Not only does this mean the installation is more secure and better able to resist storms, it also means that we fix the rails in place without extra extra holes in the steel tray. This means that in twenty or thirty years' time if we dismantle the solar panels, we can leave the rails and steel tray in place for several more years to come, as they won't have had lots of holes drilled in them, according to Laurent Baillet, CEO of Solewa.



Solewa, which has worked on over 800 installation projects in total for its clients, also appreciates that Dome Solar's fixation system in aluminium or stainless steel is designed to use a minimum amount of parts. Dome Solar's pre-mounted clamp, for example, is based on three principal parts and has a spring-action mechanism to connect in a single click to the roof-mounting rails.

"The parts are light and easy to handle, which means our teams can install panels quickly and without wearing themselves out," explains Mr. Baillet.

Dome Solar has also built a technical team to advise clients on less straightforward installations.

Working in the agricultural sector means that Solewa often has to fix solar panels on the roofs of buildings that house livestock.

"Cows need light and the windows that provide it are typically placed on roofs," says Mr. Baillet. This means drawing up plans to ensure the most efficient distribution of solar panels across the surface of the roof, while taking into account the sometimes tricky positioning of windows.



Fortunately, Dome Solar's technical team has proven adept at advising Solewa on the best way to pose panels around multiple sky-lights.

In addition to running a feasibility analysis to determine a roof's suitability for solar panel mounting, Dome Solar can draw up a detailed plan showing where to mount the rails, brackets and panels so that Solewa optimises its use of equipment and saves time in planning and execution. And Dome Solar responds quickly, again ensuring clients do not waste precious time and man-hours.

"Dome Solar's team is extremely reactive to customer demands," says Mr Baillet.