

## **Iberdrola closed 2016 with an economic impact of 580 million euros in CyL**



IBERDROLA

***It will focus its efforts this year on the development of the smart grid and the strengthening of its distribution infrastructure***

VALLADOLID, Mar 31 (EUROPA PRESS) –

Iberdrola closed the 2016 financial year with an economic impact of 580 million euros in Castilla y León where it made purchases for more than 240 million to about 900 Castilian-Leon companies and invested around 100 million euros.

According to their data, the fiscal impact of Iberdrola's economic activity exceeded 160 million euros in Castilla y León, salaries and other remunerations reached 75 million and the workforce amounts to about 1.100 people.

Iberdrola has advanced this data on the occasion of the celebration of Iberdrola Shareholder Day this Friday in which the group's president, Ignacio Galán, has highlighted his long-term business model, "capable not only of achieving economic results but of generating progress and well-being in our environment through the promotion of the business fabric with purchases, investments and job creation and whose ultimate goal is to provide a quality energy supply without neglecting respect for the environment".

According to their data, Castilla y León is one of the most suppliers in 2016 to Iberdrola and among the company's most active Castilian-Leon contractors in 2016 are companies such as Enusa, Unión Minera del Norte, Administración, Organización y Control de Proyectos, Eugenio Álvarez del Collado, Ecología y Espacio, Tecinsa, Talleres Norte Palencia, Marval Seguridad Integral, Transformadores Gedelsa, Cuarta Esfera, Servitec Medioambiente, Royba 98, Talartos, Construcciones y Montajes Metálicos Guardo or Madison.

In addition, Iberdrola plans to focus its efforts in 2017 on the development of the smart grid implementation project in the Region, "a deployment that has already resulted in the reform of 8,800 transformation centers and the replacement of 1.28 million traditional meters for the new equipment equipped with tele-management throughout the region, with contracted power equal to and less than 15 kilovolts (kV), about 85 percent of its entire meter park in the Community".

Iberdrola explained in this regard that the STAR project (Spanish acronym for Tele-management and Automation Systems of the Network) will allow the modernization of Iberdrola's electrical infrastructure and boost the economy of the Community through contracts with local companies and a greater hiring of qualified personnel.

Iberdrola's investment in this initiative in Castilla y León will reach 180 million euros so that in 2018 the more than 1.5 million supply points that the company serves in the Region will have smart meters and more than 15.360 Transformation centers will also work with this technology.

Iberdrola has assured that it will continue strengthening its traditional distribution facilities to improve the quality of supply in Castilla y León and recalled that in 2016 it improved 9.5 percent the service it offers to its customers in the Community compared to the previous year, "the best record of the last four years".

Other notable initiatives focus on the field of I+D, such as collaboration with Arbórea Intellbird, S.L. The company invested in 2013 in this Salamanca company through its Perseo venture capital fund and since then Arbórea has become an "ally in the development of new technologies" for the review and maintenance of its wind turbines, "sector in the one that Iberdrola pioneered in 2001 and in which it continues to be a world leader today".

This commitment to entrepreneurship and the industrial fabric of the region has materialized in the development of the *Aracnocóptero* platform, composed of a multi-rotor folding helicopter capable of checking the condition of the blades and analyzing and storing information to improve their maintenance.

Given the "good results" of the use of such devices, the company is expanding the range of possibilities of use of drones and has begun pilot projects to review telecommunications towers and also of hydraulic infrastructure channels in hydroelectric generation plants.

He has also highlighted the "permanent collaboration" of the company with universities and the granting of scholarships to students and researchers in Castilla

y León as well as support for innovative business projects through the Science Park of the University of Salamanca (USAL), which It already exceeds 800 employees and an occupancy level of 100 percent.

These facilities house the expansion of the Technological Innovation Center of Aldeatejada, promoted by Iberdrola "where cutting-edge work is carried out in the field". Likewise, last year the Iberdrola VIII Centenary Chair of the USAL was established, the first of the VIII Centenary Chairs included in the University's Program of Excellence, whose priority objective is to promote research in the area of energy and sustainability.

The second phase of the Atlantic Romanesque Plan, a cross-border cooperation project for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage developed by Iberdrola together with the Ministry of Culture of Portugal and the Junta de Castilla y León, advanced at a "good pace" and enhanced socio-economic growth sustainable territory based on its own resources, "the people who inhabit it, its natural environment and its cultural heritage".

To achieve this, the Plan has focused on three fundamental lines of action: comprehensive interventions that facilitate not only restoration but also preventive conservation and effective asset management; the design and implementation of a cultural and tourism management plan, based on the creation of a public-private network and, finally, the development of dissemination and promotion activities.

[Link to original](#) (Spanish)