

Statkraft has officially opened the 73MW Banja hydropower plant in Albania, the first of two projects that will make up the 256MW Devoll hydro scheme.

The plant, which is located 65 kilometres southeast of the capital Tirana and is Statkraft's first in the country, will generate about 255GWh of electricity a year.

It consists of two main units, as well as an eco-flow system utilising even the minimum flow for renewable power production, Statkraft said.

The company said the dam above the power plant is 80 metres high and creates a 14 square kilometre reservoir.

In addition to the dam, the power station and the transmission line, construction also includes new roads and measures linked the social and environmental aspects of the project.

Statkraft said construction of the second Devoll plant - the 183MW Moglice project - is ongoing, with commercial operation expected in 2018.

It added that the river was diverted from the Moglice's dam site this week, making it possible to start dam construction.

Total investment in the Devoll project is estimated to approximately €500m, Statkraft said.  
source: [renews.biz](http://renews.biz)