

# Basecamp Pyrenees relies on Victron Energy



Final wiring work



System running



View on Mount Canigou

**Old Catalan farm in the French Pyrenees becomes exclusive hostelry accommodation.**

## First stage powered up: 27kVA of Victron Multis in three-phase parallel

**Basecamp Explorer** was established in 1998 in Oslo, Norway. Today, it is the parent company of 7 high-end tourist ventures located in some of the most magnificent areas on the planet: Kenya, the Arctic Circle, Russia, India, and, coming soon, France. Each destination has its own, special story; all are part of a global network of unusual meeting places, with an atmosphere where profound interaction between people, cultures, wildlife and the natural environment takes place. The group focuses on responsible eco-tourism; the projects rely on operations based on ecologically sound solutions as far as possible ([www.basecampexplorer.com](http://www.basecampexplorer.com))

**The Pyrenees.** Basecamp Pyrenees will be completed next spring, and will accommodate up to 25 people. With 150 hectares and breathtaking scenery, it has been built on the ruins of an old Catalan farm, Mas Can Rigall, remotely situated 800 meters up the mountain slopes of the French Pyrenees, just opposite Mont Canigou. Its solitude allows peace of mind, energy and inspiration to flow. Walks, riding trips in the surrounding areas will bring guests closer to nature.

**No electricity.** Remoteness and solitude however have a drawback: no electricity, and no way to get it there except at extreme cost while spoiling the landscape with power lines and poles. The only sound solution was to set up a hybrid eco-technology energy system, consisting of a generator, solar panels, batteries and inverter-chargers. The generator, a 50kW set from Benza (Spain) was installed at an early stage to power the reconstruction work. Recently, a set of 9 Victron Energy MultiPlus units and a battery bank of 48V/2000Ah were added. This completes the first stage of the project. Plans for the near future include 100m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels, two more battery banks and up to doubling the amount of MultiPlus units to reach 50kW, almost the double when PowerAssist kicks in. Space for extension of the solar field to 300m<sup>2</sup> meters is foreseen. In the end, the generator will be almost superfluous.

**Ecotech Solar.** The project was engineered and installed by Victron Energy partner Sébastien Méline, who runs a business called Ecotech Solar. This one, obviously, is the biggest he achieved so far. Mr Méline has a long history with Victron products and is specialised in remote off grid installations. He is very concerned by environmental issues. He teamed up with Perpignan-based E.F.E., another specialist in the same field and a loyal Victron Customer.

**Victron Energy.** The system was commissioned and started up by Victron Energy Area Manager Pieter Vader in early December. The Multis feature the new VE.Bus technology, so it all came down to starting the VE.Bus System Configurator, call-up the units from the network, name them and drag them in the appropriate boxes on the computer screen. In less than 10 minutes, the system went online, flawlessly.