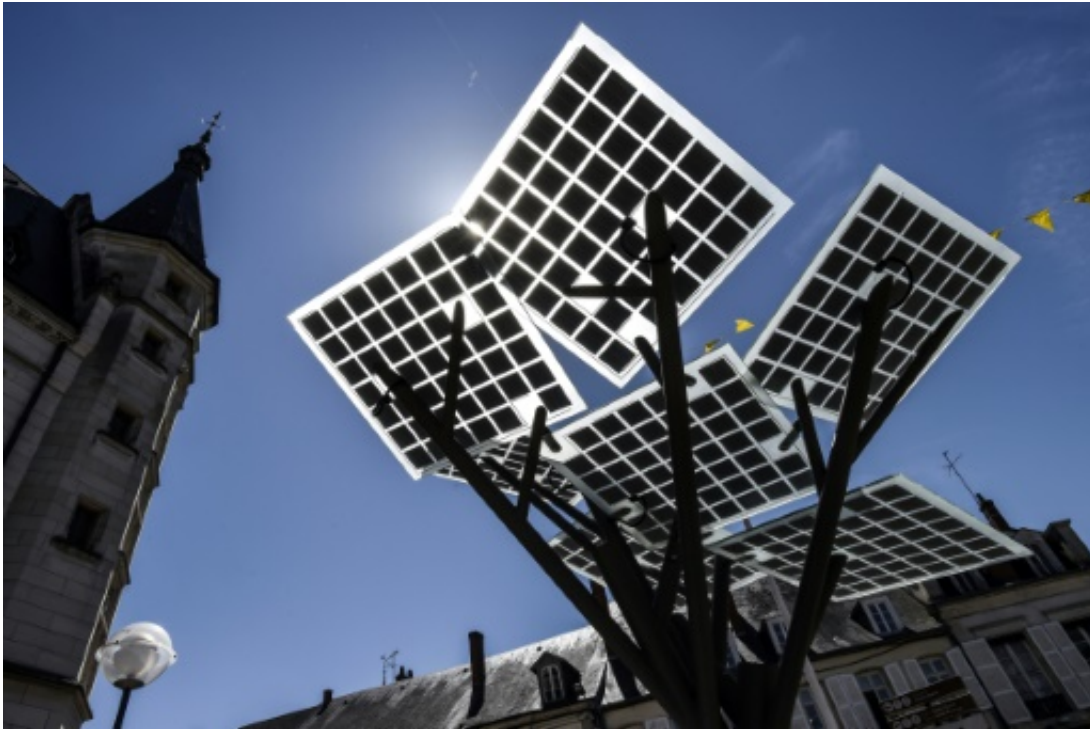# Europe's first 'eTree' puts down roots in central France

May 29 2017

The first "eTree" technology used in Europe developed by Solar Tree Europ, a French-Israeli start up, pictured during an inauguration ceremony in Nevers, northern France on May 29, 2017

A solar tree with giant square leaves that convert sunlight into electricity was unveiled in the central French town of Nevers on Monday, allowing passers-by to charge their phones, surf the internet... or just enjoy the shade.

The town of 37,000 on the Loire river is the first in Europe to experiment with the technology developed by Israeli company Sol-logic.

Inspired by the acacia tree found in the Israeli desert and African savanna, the futuristic-looking "eTree" also supplies water and street lighting.

The first prototype was unveiled in Israel in 2014. A year later the first operational model was presented at the COP 21 climate conference in Paris.

Since then solar trees have been planted in around 10 cities in Israel and the US.

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Citation: Europe's first 'eTree' puts down roots in central France (2017, May 29) retrieved 27 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2017-05-europe-etree-roots-central-france.html