

# AGRA OTJIWARONGO GOES SOLAR

Agra took the first step to make use of alternative energy, with the installation of solar panels at their Otjiwarongo branch – confirming Agra's value of caring for the environment and building innovative and sustainable businesses. On September 6, representatives of the board, management and staff of this branch celebrated this milestone.

Agra appointed HopSol Africa Pty Ltd with this turnkey installation of a 55.6kWp grid connected solar power plant. HopSol's technical approach and experience in the installation of solar power in desert regions convinced Agra to make use of them as their supplier of choice. It is estimated that this solar power installation will produce about 110.000 kWh per annum,

and that it would thus supply about 70% of the electricity demand of Agra Otjiwarongo.

All such installations require prior approval from the regional electricity distribution company, in this case Cenored, and Agra is pleased to confirm that such was obtained without delay.

As Agra believes in and wishes to encourage the use of alternative energy, Agra is finalising a partnership agreement with HopSol that will then enable Agra to act as an agent for HopSol products in Namibia.

HopSol works with CIS Thin film Technology from Solar Frontier. These solar modules have a very low temperature coefficient and can withstand and handle the daily heat and radiation locally significantly better than

any other solar modules. Compared to mono- and polycrystalline solar modules, this solution provides up to 15% more electricity (kWh) out of the same installed capacity. Another advantage of the CIS Thin film Modules is the fact that they do not necessarily need to be installed in the optimal angle to the sun.

As predictions are that electricity costs will increase far in excess of the inflation rate, and that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future, it makes sense to look for an alternative source for the supply of electricity to contain this important operational cost component. Considering various factors, it is anticipated that this investment will pay for itself within 5 – 6 years, and as the solar modules

have a 25 year warranty, a minimum of 20 years of free electricity can be achieved.

"We are very pleased

with this investment and excited to see what difference it will make,"

said Henning Tiemann, Senior Manager:

Properties and Business Development at Agra. He added: "It will not only save Agra money in the long term, but it

contributes positively to the environment by reducing our carbon footprint."

*Solar panels at the Agra Otjiwarongo Branch*

