
Press Release

28 June 2016

HopSol Otjozondjupa 5 MegaWatt Solar Park

HopSol goes live with first REFIT installation

Namibian Solar Market Leader HopSol has finalized the Otjozondjupa Solar Park. It claims the title of the largest grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in Namibia. The plant has commenced operation on 28 June 2016.

At the same time it is the first completed project out of 14 projects approved within Nampower's REFIT program which aims to provide renewable energy projects to contribute to the nation's power supply.

The plant was constructed by HopSol only with local work force and provided work for ca. 40 people of the local community during the 3 month construction phase. Another ca. 10 local people will have permanent jobs in security and maintenance of the plant.

The 5 MegaWatt (MW) PV power plant is located near Grootfontein and will account for approximately one percent of the country's total generation capacity. The project will supply almost 14,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity per year to the state owned utility company, NamPower, which is enough energy to power 3,700 average households in Namibia. The country currently has a total generation capacity of approximately 500MW and imports over half of its power from the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

The PV plant is built with 52,000 thinfilm solar modules from First Solar, a US company which is the global leader in thinfilm technology and has more than 10 GigaWatt installed worldwide. The solar panels are fixed on a single-axis tracking system from IdeemaTec, a German brand leader, to maximize energy yields. Furthermore supplier SMA, the world market leader in solar inverters from Germany, provides high efficient inverter technology.

This is the most eco-efficient PV technology, with the lowest environmental impact of any renewable technology.

"We needed a reliable module technology that would thrive in Namibia's hot temperatures that are common in the summer months and at the same time also be able to deliver energy in cloudy, low-light conditions." Dr. Robert Hopperdietzel, director at HopSol, said of their decision for choosing First Solar's thin film modules technology. "In fact, by our long years of solar experience, the modules will deliver more energy in Namibia than conventional polycrystalline PV panels would have." Hopperdietzel continued.

The plant will provide safe, clean and local PV energy and escalates Namibia's independency from energy imports and broadens the country's energy mix. It will generate electricity with minimum usage of water. With the smallest carbon footprint, lowest life cycle water use, and fastest energy

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payback time in the industry, the thin-film PV modules provide a sustainable solution to climate change, water scarcity, and energy security.

The Otjozondjupa Solar Park exemplifies Namibia's ambitions of energy security and demonstrates the role that cost competitive solar can play in an independent power production ecosystem.

Already last year HopSol has successfully commissioned another 5 MegaWatt solar park which since then is providing clean and reliable energy in Otjiwarongo for offtaker Cenored.



HopSol Otjozondjupa Solar Park