

Cote d ivoire solar storage

Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité (CIE), a utility in the Ivory Coast, is set to inaugurate its first solar plant - a EUR40 million (\$42.6 million), 37.5 MW installation, backed by a 10 MW storage system by Saft.

The director of CIE, Ivory Coast's state-owned utility, said last week that the country is set to inaugurate its first solar plant, but he did not provide details about the launch date. The 37.5 MW installation in Boundiali, in the northern part of the West African country, will sell electricity to CIE.

"After having experimented with fossil fuels and hydroelectricity, [Ivory Coast], which is rich in renewable energy potential, is about to commission its first solar power plant, marking its intention to vary its energy mix as much as possible," said Noumory Sidibé, the director general of CIE.

Germany's Development Bank KfW financed the EUR40 million project with EUR27 million through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The European Union added EUR9.7 million, and the government of Ivory Coast contributed the remaining sum.

In May, Saft - a subsidiary of France's TotalEnergies - was selected to build a 10 MW storage system to the solar project. It will install six of its Intensium Max High Energy containers, equipped with lithium-ion batteries. The energy storage system will provide capacity firming and PV smoothing services to the solar project, according to Saft.

The Boundiali project is part of the "Compact with Africa" program, an initiative that was launched in March 2017 by the Group of 20 leading economies countries under the German presidency. The program seeks to promote private investment in renewable energy development in Africa.

In May 2018, the Ivory Coast government said that a 25 MW solar project in the town of Bengoué-bougou would be the country's first solar plant. However, the Boundiali project, which was announced in October 2018, has reached the commissioning phase first.

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In a groundbreaking development, the government of C?te d’Ivoire has joined hands with PFO AFRICA, a subsidiary of PFO Energies, for the signing of a concession agreement and a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This collaboration marks a historic milestone, as it paves the way for the design, financing, construction, operation, and transfer of a colossal 52 MWp photovoltaic solar power plant. Notably, this project stands as the largest solar power plant construction initiative undertaken by an Ivorian independent power producer (IPP).

Known as the FERKE SOLAR project, it exemplifies the dynamic nature of Public-Private Partnerships in Ivory Coast, aligning with the national sustainable development plan’s objectives to augment electricity production capacities. The signing ceremony, held on January 24, 2024, involved key representatives, including Mr. Mamadou SANGAFOWA-COULIBALY, Minister of Mines, Oil, and Energy, Mr. Clyde FAKHOURY, General Administrator of PFO AFRICA group, and Ahmadou BAKAYOKO, General Director of the Ivorian Electricity Company (CIE).

Situated in Sokhoro, Tchologo region, in the north of the country, the solar power plant plays a pivotal role in C?te d’Ivoire’s ambitious journey towards energy independence and aligning with COP26 goals. With an investment of 39.5 billion CFA francs (60 million euros), the plant is expected to generate 90 GWh of clean energy annually from its first year of commissioning, supplying electricity to over 370,000 residents.

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