



# Kinshasa = hydrogen energy storage

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Hydrogène de France (HDF Energy) has entered into a partnership with the province of Kinshasa. It concerns the construction and operation of a green hydrogen photovoltaic solar power plant. This is the first project of its kind planned in Central Africa.

HDF Energy, the global pioneer in hydrogen power, has established a partnership with the province of Kinshasa for the development and management of a solar-powered green hydrogen plant. The project is the first of its kind in Central Africa.

The province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will soon include green hydrogen in its energy mix. An agreement between the provincial government of Kinshasa and the French independent power producer (IPP) has been signed with the aim of reducing the intermittent nature of solar power plants in the province by utilizing the new opportunities provided by the development of green hydrogen.

HDF Energy has started the feasibility study on the establishment of the green hydrogen power plant in the south of Kinshasa. The government authorities in Kinshasa are also supporting HDF to make effective progress in the development of its first green hydrogen plant.

Flavien Nkui Misuru, a Commissioner-General in the Government of Kinshasa, said the city province is looking forward to rapidly reinforcing the means of electricity production. The project by HDF and its technical characteristics are welcomed with great satisfaction. The government will plan to duplicate this type of green hydrogen project soon after its successful implementation.

Kinshasa and other provinces in the DRC are heavily dependent on hydroelectricity, which fails to provide sufficient energy during drought seasons. The Central African country generates 98% of its electricity from hydroelectric dams which have a combined capacity of just 2,844 MW.

Kinshasa remains prone to power cuts, while the rate of access to electricity in the province is estimated at only 44% by the National Investment Promotion Energy (ANAPI). The province is thus turning to solar energy, which has a high potential in the province with an average sunshine of 3.22-4.89 kWh per square meter per day.

Hydrogen could soon become part of the energy mix in the province of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is the aim of an agreement reached between the provincial government of Kinshasa and Hydrogène de France (HDF Energy), which wants to use the new possibilities provided by the development of hydrogen technologies to reduce the intermittence of solar photovoltaic power stations.

The provincial authorities of Kinshasa are supporting HDF to make effective progress in the development of



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this first hydrogen power plant". The company, based in Bordeaux, France, is studying the possibility of establishing this power plant in the south of Kinshasa.

"In a context where we need to rapidly reinforce the means of electricity production for the city-province, the power plant project by HDF, given its technical characteristics, is welcomed with great satisfaction. Through the measures we are putting in place under the memorandum of understanding, we are seeking to encourage the emergence, as soon as possible, of this first hydrogen power plant project, which can then be duplicated," says Flavien Nkui Misuru, the commissioner-general in charge of energy, fisheries and livestock for the provincial government of Kinshasa.

The population of the city-province is estimated at more than 17 million, equivalent to the population of a country like Chad, but spread over an area of more than 9 900 km<sup>2</sup>. Like other cities in the DRC, Kinshasa remains prone to load shedding, while the rate of access to electricity in the city-province is estimated at only 44% by the Agence nationale pour la promotion des investissements (ANAPI). The province of Kinshasa is therefore turning to solar energy with a potential (average sunshine) estimated at between 3.22 and 4.89 kWh per m<sup>2</sup> per day.

For the time being, Kinshasa and other provinces of the DRC are largely dependent on hydroelectricity. With an installed capacity of 2,844 MW, the Central African country produces 98% of its electricity from hydroelectric plants on the Congo, Ruzizi and Rutshuru rivers.

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