

North macedonia australia solar power

Continuing the efforts that earned it the title of the most successful country in the Western Balkans in the replacement of coal power with photovoltaics, North Macedonia is advancing a solar power project. Government-controlled power utility ESM is about to bolster its portfolio with another two units. A call is on until January 17 for a contractor for facilities in both coal complexes in the country - REK Oslomej and REK Bitola.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development approved a loan of up to EUR 25 million more than three years ago for the endeavor. The lender's data shows ESM is repaying the debt for the 30 MW project.

The contractor would be responsible for the design, procurement, construction and grid connection. The investment consists of Oslomej 2 (of 10 MW, already under construction, and the Bitola PV facility, of 20 MW in connection capacity.

North Macedonia was the first in the region to commission a solar power plant on a former coal mine, in 2022. There is one under construction in Serbia while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\* are preparing to build such PV units.

The latest data shows the country is nearing 800 MW in solar power. The Western Balkans overall are picking up speed in expansion, but North Macedonia now likely hosts almost as much PV capacity as the rest of the region put together.

The North Macedonian government wants to award a 15-year PPA through the procurement exercise. Selected developers will be granted a feed-in premium tariff paid on top of the electricity price.



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