

## SolarTech Power Solutions

# Niger solar Module Project



## Overview

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The Niger Solar Electricity Access Project (NESAP), aimed at enhancing electricity access in rural and peri-urban areas of Niger through solar energy, started in 2017 and has built 15 solar power plants. Who financed a solar power plant in Niger?

The European Union, the French Development Bank and the government of Niger co-financed the installation. A French consortium made up of Akuo and Sagecom has finished building a 30 MW solar power plant in Gorou Banda, Niger. The Niger government had initially planned the project to have a capacity of 50 MW.

How many households can a 50MW solar power plant supply in Niger?

The 50MW capacity Gorou Banda PV solar power plant is capable of supplying 500 000 households in Niger. Equipped with 55,776 solar panels installed on a 27-hectare site located just 12 km from the capital Niamey, the plant will be operational from 25 August 2023, the planned date for connection to Niger's national electricity grid.

Where is solar energy used in Niger?

Solar energy is well-suited for use in Niamey and Zinder, located at lower latitudes, as they show less variability in solar radiation throughout the year. Niger has a long history of solar energy use, which began in the mid-1960s with the establishment of the Centre National d'Énergie Solaire (National Solar Energy Centre; CNES).

Why is Niger a pioneer in solar energy?

Niger was one of the first countries to consider renewable energy technologies as a solution to its energy needs. This commitment dates back to the 1960s, when Niger set up the Solar Energy Office (Office de l'Énergie Solaire - ONERSOL), later renamed the National Solar Energy Centre (Centre National d'Énergie Solaire - CNES).

Are there any off-grid solar energy systems in Niger?

Yes, there is considerable experience of off-grid solar energy systems in Niger. These include off-grid PV electrification, water pumping, and solar water heating systems. The main decentralised renewable energy system promoted in Niger for rural electricity is solar PV.

What is the proposed price of the solar plant in Niger?

The government of Niger is negotiating a PPA for a 20 MW solar plant with a French company. However, this project is facing opposition due to the proposed price of USD 0.165/kWh, which is significantly higher than imports from Nigeria but lower than the utility domestic generation costs.

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