

SolarTech Power Solutions

Senegal Commercial Solar Power Generation System



Overview

Senegal has begun commercial operations at a new solar energy facility that combines photovoltaic power with lithium-ion battery storage, the first of its kind in West Africa, as the country of over 18 million people moves to strengthen its electricity grid. Is a solar energy project in Senegal the biggest in West Africa?

Work on a solar energy and battery storage project in Senegal, touted to be the biggest in West Africa once it goes live, is set to begin next month after an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contract for its development was recently signed. The Kolda project will encompass a 60MWp PV solar plant coupled with a 90MWh storage system.

Does Senegal have a solar energy sector?

Senegal's energy sector is increasingly reliant on solar power, making it essential to assess its long-term viability under changing climate conditions. This study evaluates future solar energy production in Senegal up to 2050, focusing on eight operational solar plants: Bokhol, Sakal, Malicounda, Kahone, Ten Merina, Mekhe, Ndiass, and Kael.

When will a solar power plant be built in Senegal?

“This agreement paves the way for the construction to begin in May 2025, with the deployment of a 60MWp photovoltaic plant coupled with a 90MWh storage system.” Voltalia is to supply the PV infrastructure for the solar power plant, which will operate on Senegal’s national grid managed by SENELEC.

How will Senegal contribute to the energy transition?

The country's nationally determined contributions outline two main goals relating to the energy transition: increasing the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix to 40 % by 2035 and increasing the use of natural gas to replace fossil fuel power plants (CDN Senegal, 2020).

Is Senegal achieving universal energy access?

With a national electricity access rate of 84%, Senegal is making progress towards universal energy access, yet more than 30% of rural communities remain disconnected from the grid.

Who sponsors Senegal's energy plants?

The two plants are sponsored by Engie, Meridiam, and the Senegalese Sovereign Wealth Fund for Strategic Investments (FONSIS). The competitive tendering was led by Senegal's Energy Regulatory Commission (CRSE).

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