

## Bamako energy storage industry

The latest PV installation in West Africa by France's Akuo features an agricultural and social component on a 5-hectare plot of land next to the project site.

According to the company, the facility is the largest solar park in West Africa. "This plant is contributing to reducing the country's dependence on hydroelectricity - currently jeopardized by climate change - and vis-a-vis imported fossil fuel and the use of wood fuel from the country's natural forests," it said.

The West African Development Bank, the National Bank for Agricultural Development, the Dutch Development Finance Co., and the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund provided funding. PASH Global is Akuo's co-shareholder on the project.

"We are delighted to have co-invested a 49.9% share in this prestigious project, the first of its kind in Mali," said Kofi Owusu Bempah and Vine Mwense, co-founders of PASH.

"Today we want to accelerate our development in Africa by targeting a gigawatt of power plants using renewable energies in the medium term," said Pierre-Antoine Berthold, director of Akuo Energy Africa. "This first major project demonstrates, in particular, the viability of the agro-energy model in the Sahel region."

The company said that the project also has an agricultural and social component. A 5-hectare plot of land next to the project site will provide gardens for the communities near the solar plant. The Akuo Foundation will also provide training on organic gardening techniques.

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The Malian government has awarded a 30-year concession to Legendre Energie, a unit of French construction company Legendre, to finance, design, build and operate a 50 MWp solar power plant.

The project, for which a preliminary agreement was signed with the Malian government in 2016, will require



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an investment of CFA60.8 billion (EUR92.7 million).

In addition, Bamako approved the construction of a photovoltaic solar power plant in the Ségou Cercle administrative subdivision of the Ségou region. Dormant since 2015, when it secured authorization from the Malian authorities, this project benefits from the fall in the price of solar equipment on international markets and from the additional financing of related infrastructure by the Norwegian government, allowing a review of the project costs.

The solar power plant to be built by Norwegian independent power producer Scatec, in the municipality of Pèlengana, in the Ségou district, will have a capacity of 33 MW.

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