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The island nation has agreed a deal with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation to develop at least 15 MW of generation capacity in a US\$15 million project.

State-owned utility Energy Fiji Ltd is ready to start the search for a private sector partner to develop the largest solar project of its kind in the Pacific to date; after signing a financing agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

A press release issued by the IFC, the private sector arm of multilateral development lender the World Bank, revealed plans for a US\$15 million solar project to install at least 15 MW of generation capacity connected to the Energy Fiji grid which supplies 90% of the nation's population.

With the authorities in Suva targeting a fully renewables-powered energy system in 2030, the solar project is being backed by the governments of Australia and New Zealand - through the Fiji Partnership - and of Denmark.

The IFC said Fiji currently generates half its electricity from hydropower plants - identified on the Energy Fiji website as 80 MW and 40 MW facilities on Viti Levu; 45% from fossil fuel imports which contributed around a fifth, or FJ\$1.17 billion (US\$550 million), of the nation's total imports bill last year; and 5% from biomass and wind plants. Energy Fiji says its 237 MW generation portfolio includes 112 MW of diesel facilities at 14 locations. The nation has a total generation capacity of 267 MW, according to the IFC.

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