

## Manufacturing energy storage ouagadougou

The plant, in the industrial zone of the Kossodo district of the Burkinabe capital, is expected to deliver 60-100 PV panels per day. Modules with power outputs ranging from 260 W to more than 330 W are being made at the XOF3.25 billion (\$5.78 million) factory.

Faso Energy secured almost XOF1 billion worth of tax exemptions during construction of the facility, which features a semi-automated PV production line supplied by Spanish equipment provider Mondragon.

It is estimated less than 20% of the population of fossil fuel-dependent Burkina Faso has access to electricity. The sub-Saharan African nation had 82 MW of solar generation capacity at the end of 2019, according to International Renewable Energy Agency figures.

Strategic Power Solutions Ltd. (SPS) in Ghana commissioned and started operating a 30MW per year crystalline solar PV module factory in March 2016 with equipment set from Japan, Germany, Italy and China. It has just recently added new PV module production equipment from Italy with current total annual capacity of at least 160MW.

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The PV panel manufacturing facility is being built by local company Faso Energy with the support of the country's government and Spanish equipment provider Mondragon.

The company said the factory is being built with the financial support of the country's government and in partnership with Spanish equipment provider Mondragon, which has supplied a semi-automatic PV production line for the facility.

The factory, which will have an initial capacity of 40 MW, will produce both mono and multicrystalline modules of 4 busbars to 5 busbars with a TUV certification for the IEC6125 and IEC61730 standards. The panels, which will have a power range of 100 W to 325 W, will be commercialized mostly in the African markets, the company said in its statement.

The initial investment in the factory was around EUR5 million and was made by private investors. The company also said it will probably expand by another 20 MW the capacity of the manufacturing facility at a later stage, without providing further details.

Burkina Faso has an abundant solar resource, but remains one of the least-developed countries in the region in terms of energy infrastructure. Less than 20% of the population has access to electricity, and there is heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels.

A 33 MW solar plant is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in August. The project is being financed by France's Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union with EUR22.5 million and EUR25 million funds respectively. Upon its completion, the Zagtouli plant will supply 5% - about 55 GWh per year- of the country's total electricity consumption at a very competitive price, said the AFD.

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