



# N djamena energy storage regulations

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The African Development Bank has provided an EUR18 million loan and a partial risk guarantee for the first, 32 MW phase of a 60 MW solar power project under development in Chad.

British power plant developer Aldwich International Limited and independent power producer Smart Energies will develop the projects under a private-public partnership with the utility and the Chadian government.

The interconnection infrastructure includes a 33 kV overhead transmission line, two 33/90 kV transformers at a local substation and a 4 MWh battery system for network stabilization, the African Development Bank added.

The European Union - through its EU-Africa Investment Trust Fund - approved a EUR6.35 million loan for construction of the transmission line, substation and other electrical works required for grid connection. The EU previously announced the project was intended to be fully financed in 2017 and operational last year.

The solar-plus-storage project is part of the African nation's efforts to address a power deficit which means only 1.4 million people from a population of 14.4 million have access to electricity.

UAE-based developer Amea Power has proposed a 120 MW solar project near N'Djamena and compatriot Almaden Emirates Fortune Power LLC is planning a 200-400 MW facility in the central African nation.

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Two 50 MW solar parks are planned to be built near N'Djamena, the country's capital. These facilities will sell power to the national utility, SNE, at a price of EUR0.083/kWh.

"Chad is emerging from the shadows," said Idriss Deby, the president of Chad during a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for two future photovoltaic power plants to be built in the Gaoui district on the outskirts of N'Djamena, the country's capital. Intended to strengthen the capacity of the country's utility, National Electricity Company (SNE), and meet the capital's electrical energy needs, the two projects will have a capacity of 50 MW each.

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Their construction will require an investment of around \$150 million (EUR126 million) dollars and its developer is Austrian company Merl Solar. According to the managing director of the company, construction will be completed within 12 months and the solar parks will be linked to 10 MWh of storage capacity.

"This is a first phase, a major project that we have been supporting for years," said Deby, adding that the country is now open to industrial partners and investors wishing to set up projects in the energy sector. "We have tax-exempted everything that accompanies projects of the kind," he said. The announcement comes just days after the announcement of another 30 MWp solar PV plant, to be set up in Sarh, a town of over 110,000 inhabitants located in southeastern Chad.

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