

## Solar industry swaziland

The Kingdom of Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, has begun the procurement process for 40 MW of PV capacity. The projects, which will be assigned by 2020, will also include 40 MW of biomass. The new capacity will make the kingdom less dependent on power imports from South African utility Eskom, which currently faces a financial and operational crisis.

The Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) has begun the process of procuring new generating capacity from independent power producers, with the support of Eswatini's Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE).

The authority now seeks to create a database of parties who may be interested in participating in the development of 40 MW of solar by 2020 and 40 MW of biomass by 2021. The projects, which will be part of the MNRE's recently released Short-Term Generation Expansion Plan, will be designed to reduce the country's dependence on power imports from troubled South African utility Eskom, which is currently grappling with a financial and operational crisis.

"Due to the constraints faced by Eskom and the expected significant tariff increases from Eskom, the reliance by Eswatini on electricity imports from South Africa is no longer secured," the ESERA said in the document.

Formerly known as Swaziland, the Kingdom of Eswatini issued its first utility-scale solar tender in June. It aims to increase the share of renewables in the country's electricity mix to 50% by 2030. The current installed capacity of Eswatini Electricity Co. (EEC), a state-owned utility formerly known as Swaziland Electricity Co. (SEC), is only around 60 MW, which is enough to cover just 10% of the kingdom's electricity demand. The vast majority of the electricity the small country consumes comes from Mozambique and South Africa, via the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

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With an initial capacity of 100 MW, the plant will supply more than 100 million kWh a year to countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, helping to reduce load shedding by providing



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much needed power at peak times.

Frazium Energy - part of the Australian-German Frazer Solar group - has signed a 40-year contract with the government of the Southern African kingdom of Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland) for a EUR100 million (\$115 million) solar battery project.

The mega solar-storage project, which will be located at the Edwaleni Power Station in the central town of Matsapha, will have an initial capacity of 100 MW and supply more than 100 million kWh a year to countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The solar farm, which will comprise 75,000 panels covering 45 hectares on a site totaling 54 hectares, is expected to help reduce load shedding in South Africa and other neighboring SADC states by providing much needed power at peak times.

"We are so grateful to the government of Eswatini for their support, confidence, and belief in our vision for this project, and we are so excited for the role we can play in Eswatini's and Africa's green energy future," said Frazium Energy director Robert Frazer. "We believe in the strength of Eswatini's future."

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