

Australia solar power bamako

The implementation strategy of the WAPP assumes the realisation of distinct but mutually complementary infrastructure sub-programmes which, when realised, will result in an integrated efficient electricity system in West Africa. The WAPP Regional Solar Power Park Project in Mali of potential capacity 150 MW features prominently among the Priority Projects. The Project is scalable, multiphase and multisite.

o Reduce the demand-supply imbalance within the ECOWAS sub-region and augment the renewable energy component in the regional energy mixo Develop and realization of key priority infrastructure that permit the accessibility to economic and sustainable energy resources, to all Member States of ECOWASo Augment the portion of Renewables (Solar, Wind) in the regional energy mix.

The government of Mali has announced the construction of a 200 MW solar plant on 314 hectares in the southwestern part of the country. The Sanankoroba solar plant will be built by Russia's Novawind, which is the renewable energy division of nuclear group Rosatom.

Rosatom will build the plant for around XOF 120 billion (\$198.6 million), with construction expected to last a year. Mali's transitional government, led by Colonel Assimi Go?ta, has signed a 20-year operation agreement, with the Malian Ministry of Energy to assume control of the project after 10 years.

In October 2023, Mali and Russia agreed to develop civil nuclear power, according to Voice of America (VOA). The construction of two additional 200 MW solar power plants near Bamako is set to begin on May 28 and June 1.

The electricity sector in Mali heavily relies on imported fossil fuels for thermal production. A May 2023 report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stated that in 2020, Mali had a production capacity of 1,024.92 MW, including 162 MW from self-producers - all thermal. Electricity production stood 2,577.44 GWh, comprising 69% thermal energy, 26.8% hydroelectricity, and 4.2% solar.

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Mali has started construction of West Africa's largest solar plant with the support of Russia's NovaWind



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&#8211; a subsidiary of nuclear energy corporation Rosatom. The 200 MW solar plant will span 314 hectares in Sanankoroba, near Bamako. Upon completion, it is projected to increase the West African nation's electricity production by 10%.

With a 20-year operational lifespan, the project is part of a trio of projects in Mali, with two additional solar plants set to be constructed by Chinese and Emirati companies starting on May 28 and June 1, respectively.

Novawind is also developing two additional solar projects totaling 240 MWp as well as a 225 kV transmission line. These include the 100 MWp Bougouni solar park and the 140 MWp Sanankoroba solar park in southern Mali, with all three projects set to be complete by December 2024.

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