

## Banjul solar energy storage

To this effect, The Government of the Gambia through MoPE and NAWEC intends to select an Independent Power Producer (IPP) under a Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) approach. The IPP will be responsible for the financing, construction and operation of the solar power park in the first phase of 50 MWp with a Battery Energy Storage System for 25 years (the Project).

A complete set of Request for Qualification document can be purchased by interested firms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD 500 (Five Hundred US Dollars) to the National Water and Electricity Company, Project Implementation Unit Emporium III Building, Fajara.

The country's power utility has completed the pre-selection process to seek developers for a 20 MW solar project in the Banjul region. The project will feature up to four PV plants and will be developed under the national Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project.

Gambia's National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) has completed the preliminary phase of a tender for a 20 MW solar project in the Greater Banjul area in the west of the country.

The facility is being developed under the \$121 million Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project for the Gambia, funded by the World Bank, the European Union and the European Investment Bank. The initiative aims to improve power and increase the West African nation's grid capacity. Around 2 million Gambians rely on just 120 MW of installed power generation capacity.

The solar project will be built on 23ha allocated by the Ministry of Lands and Regional Governments and will include up to four PV plants ranging in size from 3 MW to 6 MW of generation capacity. The utility said developing the projects in different locations was not an attractive option. "Splitting up the planned 20 MW and sharing it among three to four different locations will effectively mean multiplying the potential negative impacts of the project by three to four fold," said NAWEC.

The World Bank began seeking consultants for the project in September 2018. At the time, the development lender said the solar facilities could include battery electricity storage to adapt output to demand and minimize grid integration concerns. "Available capacity in the Greater Banjul area deteriorated to 27 MW in October 2017, against a demand of 70 MW - not counting suppressed demand - leading to widespread blackouts when some parts of the [area] reported two to three hours of power per day throughout the summer," the World Bank said at the time.

The Gambian electricity network consists mainly of mini-grids which the government hopes to improve by transforming into hybrid mini-grids, integrated with renewable energy generation capacity.

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