

Cote d ivoire office energy storage

Paris, May 11th 2022 - Saft, a subsidiary of TotalEnergies, has won a major contract from Eiffage Energie Systèmes to deliver a 10 MW energy storage system (ESS) that will ensure smooth grid integration for the Boundiali solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant. The 37.5 MWp (megawatt-peak) plant, owned and operated by CI-Energies (Côte d'Ivoire Energies), will be the first large-scale solar project in Côte d'Ivoire.

The primary role of the ESS will be capacity firming and smoothing of the solar plant's inherently intermittent output to ensure a predictable and reliable feed into the local grid. The fully-integrated lithium-ion ESS will comprise six Saft Intensium Max High Energy containers, providing a total of 13.8 MWh (megawatt-hour) energy storage, together with power conversion and medium voltage power station systems.

"As the main contractor for the Boundiali project, it was vital to find an ESS partner that could not only meet the technical requirements, but would also ensure that the system would operate reliably throughout a 10-year life," said Ludovic Bavière of Eiffage Energie Systems. "The quality of our discussions and a previous experience reassured us of Saft's ability to carry out this strategic project for our client, CI-Energies".

Côte d'Ivoire had an installed electricity production capacity of 2229 MW in 2019 and is expected to double its production by 2030. Electricity supply is currently largely provided by thermal energy and hydroelectric dams. The government aims to make the country the energy hub of West Africa by 2030 with an energy mix of 42 percent renewables.

Boundiali, a city of around 40,000 in the north of Côte d'Ivoire, will soon be home to the country's first solar power plant. It will produce clean electricity for around 30,000 households, avoid the emission of 27,000 tonnes of CO₂, and will help create 300 jobs in the region.

The area is classified as a semi-arid zone with a hot and very dry climate. In addition to ensuring reliability and long-life in ambient temperatures that can reach 37°C, the battery containers are designed to resist hot and dusty winds.

Saft is a wholly owned subsidiary of TotalEnergies, a broad energy company that produces and markets energies on a global scale: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité (CIE), a utility in the Ivory Coast, is set to inaugurate its first solar plant - a EUR40 million (\$42.6 million), 37.5 MW installation, backed by a 10 MW storage system by Saft.

The director of CIE, Ivory Coast's state-owned utility, said last week that the country is set to inaugurate its first solar plant, but he did not provide details about the launch date. The 37.5 MW installation in Boundiali, in the northern part of the West African country, will sell electricity to CIE.

"After having experimented with fossil fuels and hydroelectricity, [Ivory Coast], which is rich in renewable energy potential, is about to commission its first solar power plant, marking its intention to vary its energy mix as much as possible," said Noumory Sidibé, the director general of CIE

Germany's Development Bank KfW financed the EUR40 million project with EUR27 million through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The European Union added EUR9.7 million, and the government of Ivory Coast contributed the remaining sum.

In May, Saft - a subsidiary of France's TotalEnergies - was selected to build a 10 MW storage system to the solar project. It will install six of its Intensium Max High Energy containers, equipped with lithium-ion batteries. The energy storage system will provide capacity firming and PV smoothing services to the solar project, according to Saft.

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