



# First solar myanmar

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(The Nation/ANN) — The Minbo Solar Power Plant project, hailed as a triumph by some Myanmar people and the Thai investors who supported this first phase, was celebrated with an opening ceremony on Thursday.

The opening event attracted representatives from leading financial institutions, investors, distinguished guests from China, Japan and Myanmar and media from Thailand.

Minbu Solar Power Plant was designed to be efficient and conforms to international standards. The first phase of the project will result in a power generation capacity of 50 MWDC, with a final target of 220MWDC upon completion and will cover 2,115 rai (338 hectares) leased from the government and a private Myanmar company.

Electricity from the plant will be sold to the Myanmar's Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to satisfy up to 350,000,000 kWh of power demand per year, equivalent to power usage by 200,000 households.

According to Aung Thiha, CEO of Green Earth Power (Thailand) Co Ltd and GEP (Myanmar) Co Ltd or GEP, the project had received the government's full support. As many of Myanmar's people are still in need of power, this solar power plant is sure to better the lives of many, said the CEO.

"The success of this endeavor will also guarantee that GEP will be able to continue to undertake development projects into the future. As a citizen of Myanmar myself and as a pioneer of clean energy in the country, I am immensely grateful for all the support this project has received from investors, financial institutions and our partners in Thailand and other countries," said Aung Thiha.

The country's Ministry of Electricity and Energy allocated all tendered solar capacity in its first procurement exercise for large-scale PV. Final prices ranged from \$0.0348 to \$0.051 per kWh. China Machinery Engineering and Sungrow were the main winners, securing eight and nine projects, respectively.

Myanmar's Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) has concluded a 1 GW PV tender it launched in May by allocating all of the procured capacity. Final prices ranged from \$0.0348/kWh to \$0.051/kWh, according to a list of winning bidders, published by China Dialogue, a nonprofit organization.

A consortium formed by China's State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC) and local company Khaing Long Gems secured four projects. Two more consortia - including a group involving Chinese solar manufacturers Longi and GGL Systems - also won projects. The remaining two bidders, including groups led by German developer ib vogt and Myanmar's Gold Energy, also secured projects.

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“We can confirm that ib vogt has been selected as a winner for one of the projects in the Myanmar tender and we are currently in PPA negotiations with the utility,” a spokesperson from the company told pv magazine. “We are very pleased that our effort in putting out a competitive bid in a short timeframe was successful, despite the Covid-19 restrictions and the fact that this is the first project we develop in Myanmar.”

Offgrid solar already plays a key role in Myanmar's electrification strategy. A number of rooftop PV arrays and minigrid projects have already been developed in rural parts of the country. However, the utility-scale solar segment has also started to take off. According to the latest statistics from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Myanmar had cumulatively installed 88 MW of PV capacity by the end of 2019.

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