

Gabon panasonic solar panels

Gabon has opened its first utility-scale solar plant - the largest in Central Africa. Developer Solen SA Gabon has said it aims to expand the Ay?m? project's capacity to 30 MW to power more than 300,000 homes.

Gabon has inaugurated its first utility-scale solar project. The Ay?m? PV plant is located in the Plaine-Ayeme area of northwestern Gabon, around 30 km from the country's capital, Libreville.

Solen SA Gabon, a subsidiary of Solen Renewable Dubai, built and operates the project, with an initial capacity of 11 MW, according to local media outlet L'Union.

The plant, announced in 2021, faced delays and reductions in funding after construction began in August 2022. Initially planned as a 120 MW project split into two 60 MW phases, it was scaled back during development.

At the inauguration, President Brice Oligui Nguema highlighted the project as a symbol of the nation's commitment to sustainable development and climate action.

"It is indeed an important milestone in the production and distribution of clean, sustainable and modern electricity, thus illustrating our country's commitment to improving access to energy and the fight against climate change," he said.

Gabon's electricity mix currently relies on hydropower (47.7%), natural gas (35%), oil (16.9%), and biofuels (0.3%), according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The country reported just 1 MW of installed solar capacity at the end of 2022, unchanged since 2021, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

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The launch of the Ay?m? Plaine solar photovoltaic power plant in Gabon comes almost six months after the



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signing of the related framework agreement (in March 2022) between the Gabonese Minister of Energy and Hydraulic Resources, Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze, and Praveen Pai, Solen's Operations Manager. The company, which is implementing the power supply project, has until July 2023 to deliver the future installation.

Initially, Solen SA Gabon, the subsidiary of Solen Renewable Dubai, will install solar panels with a combined capacity of 60 MWp, equipped with a 15-hour battery energy storage system.

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