Kampala utility-scale solar



Kampala utility-scale solar

Electricity generated by the Ituka project will be fed into the national grid via the newly built Lira-Gulu-Nebbi-Arua 132kV transmission line. This line is operated by the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company. Uganda grapples with frequent electricity blackouts and other energy infrastructure issues. The Ituka solar plant is poised to address some of these challenges, especially in the West Nile region. It is a crucial addition to the continent's ongoing efforts to develop sustainable energy infrastructure.

AMEA Power, a leading renewable energy firm, has announced the groundbreaking of a 24 MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) project in Uganda. The ceremony, held today, was attended by notable figures including Hon. Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu, Uganda"s Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Ms. Irene Bateebe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and Mr. Aqueel Bohra, Chief Investment Officer at AMEA Power.

The event saw participation from senior representatives of Uleppi Subcounty, Madi Okollo District, local Members of Parliament, and various energy sector agencies, including the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL), the Electricity Regulatory Authority, and the Ugandan Embassy to the UAE.

Located in Ombachi village, Uleppi Subcounty, Madi Okollo District, the 24 MWp Solar PV project will occupy a 52-hectare site approximately 450 km from Kampala. It includes a 1X24 MVA 33/132 kV transformer substation/switchyard and will utilize the newly constructed Lira-Gulu-Nebbi-Arua 132 kV transmission line, operated by UETCL. This project will be the largest utility-scale grid-connected solar PV installation in the West Nile Region upon completion.

The USD 19 million project financing was secured at COP28 from the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF), with additional support from the African Trade and Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI) through its Regional Liquidity Support Facility (RLSF).

AMEA Power's Chairman, Hussain Al Nowais, commented: "We are thrilled to start construction on this pivotal solar project in Uganda. This initiative represents a significant milestone in our efforts to expand across East Africa. The project aligns with Uganda's goals for a sustainable energy future and promises considerable economic and environmental benefits for the nation."

The solar PV power plant is slated for commissioning in Q3 2025. It will be AMEA Power's first operational asset in Uganda, generating approximately 53,940 MWh of clean energy annually, powering over 192,640 households, and reducing carbon emissions by 26,600 tonnes per year.

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Kampala utility-scale solar

The Power Purchase Agreement with UETCL and the Implementation Agreement with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development were finalized in September 2023. AMEA Power is also committed to local community engagement and will implement socio-economic development programs focusing on gender equality, education, and training through its "Community Investment and Development Programs."

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda who was the Guest of Honour, Irene Bateebe, the Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and Aqueel Bohra, Chief Investment Officer, AMEA Power.

Senior representatives from the Uleppi Subcounty, the Madi Okollo District, local Members of Parliament, the Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited, the Electricity Regulatory Authority, the Ugandan Embassy to the United Arab Emirates, and other government and private energy sector agencies were also present at the event.

The investment for the USD 19 million project financing was secured during COP28 from Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF). African Trade and Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI) is supporting the project via its Regional Liquidity Support Facility (RLSF).

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