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PASH Global has invested in major solar photovoltaic farm project in Mali | TrafiguraKITA - 50 MW MaliAkuo's 50-MWp Kita solar farm in Mali fully aliveMALI: Akuo Energy commissions its 50 MWp Kita solar power plantMali makes electrification gains with 50MW solar plant Mali: Akuo Energy commissions 50MW Kita solar farmAkuo commissions 50 MW solar plant in Mali

Opportunities to develop renewable energies, including hydro, solar, and wind, are abundant but underutilized. The Agency for Renewable Energies (AER) was created to promote the large-scale use of renewable energies in Mali. Energy sector services and equipment supply may also be options. The government is working to diversify its energy mix by moving away from expensive thermal sources and increasing renewable energy production, particularly solar.

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As Mali grapples with an ongoing electricity crisis that hampers economic growth, transitional President Assimi Go'ta laid the foundation stone for a new 200 MW photovoltaic solar power plant. The Russian company NovaWind, a subsidiary of Rosatom, is constructing the plant, marking a significant step in the country's energy sector.

In recent weeks, Mali's transitional government has intensified efforts to implement this solution nationwide. On May 24, 2024, President Go'ta visited Sanankoroba in the Kati Cercle to initiate the construction of the largest solar power plant in sub-Saharan Africa, covering 314 hectares. About thirty kilometers from the capital, Bamako, this project is part of a government partnership with NovaWind. The company, based in Moscow, recently entered into an agreement with Kyrgyzstan to develop 1,000 MW of renewable energy.

NovaWind will invest EUR200 million in the Mali project, expected to be operational in 12 months. The plant aims to supply 10% of Mali's electricity. Before the construction commenced, President Go'ta met with NovaWind's Managing Director, Grigory Nazarov, to discuss the project's progress. The Malian government emphasized that this initiative is crucial for diversifying Mali's energy mix and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

"With this state-of-the-art infrastructure in Sanankoroba, Mali is on the path to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future," said President Go'ta. Additionally, the Malian government recently approved an amendment

to the concession agreement for constructing a 50 MWp solar photovoltaic power plant in Tiakadougou-Dialokoro, also in the Kati Cercle. This plant, in development since 2020, will be built by the Emirati company Amea Power under a public-private partnership (PPP).

The Fana Solar Power Station is a planned 50MW (67,000hp) solar power plant in Mali. The power station is in the development stage, under concessional terms by the company Legendre Energy, a subsidiary of the Legendre Group, a French conglomerate, under a public private partnership arrangement.

The power station is located near the town of Fana, in Guegneka in Mali's Koulikoro Region. Fana lies approximately 127 kilometres (79mi), by road, east of Bamako, the country's capital city.

The power station is designed to have a 50 megawatt capacity. Its output is intended to be sold directly to the Energie du Mali (EDM-SA), the national electricity utility monopoly company, for integration into the national grid, under a long-term power purchase agreement. In April 2021, the government of Mali, granted the special purpose vehicle company of the PPP consortium, Fana Solar Power, a 30-year window to design, fund, build and operate this 50 megawatt solar power station.

In July 2021, Legendre Energie, the owner/developer of the solar farm signed a concession contract for this project with the Malian Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Economy and Finance. The agreement is to last 25 years. The parties agreed to use the build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) model for this Public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure project.

The construction costs for this project were reported to be EUR92.7 million (US\$108 million). The initial agreements were signed in 2016. In 2019, it was reported that Legendre Energy had won the contract to build this power station. In April 2021, the Malian Cabinet approved the agreements between the parties, therefore allowing the project to proceed.

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