

Microgrid energy storage sao tome

The United Nations Development Program is seeking consultants to build a 2 MW solar project and three hydropower plants ranging in generation capacity from 1.15-2 MW.

The United Nations Development Program is seeking consultants to conduct feasibility studies for a 2 MW solar project and three mini hydropower plants ranging in size from 1.15-2 MW in S?o Tom? and Principe.

The African Development Bank says S?o Tom? & Pr?ncipe has an electricity access rate of around 70% and installed power generation capacity of 35 MW, some 95% of which comes from thermal power. Of that theoretical capacity, however, only 58% is available, due to ageing generation assets and lack of maintenance.

The Macauhub website which reports on relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries quoted Celestino Andrade, MD of S?o Tom? & Pr?ncipe state-owned utility EMAE as describing his electric company as "technically insolvent and [in] need [of] urgent restructuring."

Macauhub reported the monopoly-holding utility owes around \$140 million to national fuel and oil company ENCO and \$80 million to other suppliers and spends \$2 million per month on 2.2 million liters of fuel for its interconnected and isolated power plants.

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The island nation of Sao Tome and Principe switched on the initial phase of its first 2 MW solar project in August. Construction of 1.4 MW of PV capacity is now underway at two airports, and developers plan to install a total of 1.7 MW by 2023.

The government of Sao Tome and Pr?ncipe and Portugal-based Cleanwatts have signed a contract to develop 1.7 MW of solar in the West African island nation. The project will include three solar installations.

Cleanwatts told pv magazine that it started developing 1.1 MW at Sao Tome airport and 300 kWp at Principe airport in August. It expects to complete the arrays by the end of this year. Another 300 kWp will be installed next year at other communities in Sao Tome.



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"Like many islands around the world, Sao Tome depends greatly on a stable and affordable supply of energy. What we propose to do in this country is precisely to reduce dependence on imported energy through the production of locally sourced clean energy," said Michael Pinto, the CEO of Cleanwatts. "We look forward to expanding this project into a second phase and broadening the perimeter of the communities that we serve."

The country's first solar project went online in August. The first phase of the 2 MW installation was built at a diesel power station in the city of Santo Amaro, with a capacity of 540 kWp. The project was backed by an investment of \$690,000, funded by the United Nations Development Program and the Global Environment Fund.

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