

Residential solar chad

Savannah Energy plans to install up to 300 MW of solar and a battery to power operations at its recently acquired Doba Oil project in Chad. It has also pledged up to 100 MW of solar and the same amount of wind to generate power for the capital, N'Djamena.

Reuters reported in January that London-based Savannah Energy paid \$626 million to Exxon Mobil and Petronas to acquire interests in Chad and neighboring Cameroon, including a 75% stake in the Doba Oil Project. The agreement announced by the company last week included a commitment to develop up to 300 MW of solar capacity plus a battery system to power the oil project and nearby towns of Moundou and Doba.

Savannah Energy did not state what proportion of the electricity to be generated by the Centrale Solaire de Kom? solar-plus-storage project would power operations at the oil field. It did not specify the size of the battery system.

The company also agreed to install up to 100 MW of solar capacity, and the same volume of wind turbines, to generate electricity for the Chadian capital, N'Djamena. A press release issued by Savannah Energy last week stated that the Centrales d'Energie Renouvelable de N'Djamena project is anticipated to benefit from the installation of a [battery energy storage system].

If the latter projects reaches 200 MW in scale, Savannah Energy said, it would more than double the capital's grid-connected power generation capacity and would raise the power capacity of the entire nation by around 63%. At 300 MW, the Centrale Solaire de Kom? facility would be the largest solar project in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa), according to the energy company. It said it would also represent the largest battery storage project in Africa.

Savannah Energy CEO Andrew Knott said the agreement signed with Chad's Ministry of Petroleum and Energy marked one of the African nation's biggest foreign direct investment deals. He said it is likely the largest ever by a British company in Chad.

The energy company said the Centrale Solaire de Kom? project will likely be approved in 2023. It is expected generate its first electricity in 2025. For the Centrales d'Energie Renouvelable de N'Djamena facility, the respective dates given were 2023-24 and 2025-26.

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The first project, located in the south of the country and due to be operational in 2025, comprises up to 300MW of solar PV and a battery energy storage system (BESS) that will provide power for the Doba Oil Project and two nearby towns.

The tariff for the electricity generated from installation is expected to be significantly less than that being paid for the current hydrocarbon-based power generation in the region, according to Savannah Energy, which said the installation will provide electricity "on a potential 24/7 basis".

A second project covered by the company's agreement involves the development of solar and wind farms of up to 100MW each - with a portion anticipated to benefit from the installation of a BESS - to supply power to Chad's capital, N'Djamena. This project is due to send its first power to the grid in 2025 or 2026.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

