



Sierra leone solar energy storage

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Asantys Systems has developed containerized solar-storage solutions in Sierra Leone, featuring solar containers with capacities ranging from 30 kW to 130 kW. The containers include inverters from German manufacturer SMA and batteries from Hoppecke Batterien.

PowerGen will use the systems for a series of projects in Sierra Leone under the Rural Renewable Energy Project (RREP) initiative. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) provided about EUR44 million (\$48.5 million) of funding for the project, which will be overseen by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The solar containers range in capacity from 30 kW to 130 kW and come with inverters from German manufacturer SMA and batteries from Hoppecke Batterien. Their combined capacity is 1.3 MW and their storage capacity is 5.76 MWh.

Sierra Leone had 9 MW of installed solar capacity at the end of 2022, which is more than double its recorded capacity from 2021, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

The World Bank has said that only 23% of people in Sierra Leone have access to electricity, which is below the Sub-Saharan average of 30%. This figure drops to less than 6% in rural areas, it noted.

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A consortium of financial institutions last week announced they co-invested \$52 million to help finance the development of a 50 MW greenfield project in Sierra Leone titled Planet Solar spearheaded by Frontier Energy and Planet One Group.

United Kingdom government-owned finance institution British International Investment, Dutch development bank FMO and French finance development institution Proparco said in a press release they poured \$52 million of investment into a 50 MW solar project in Sierra Leone.

Dubai-headquartered energy company Planet One Group announced in 2018 that construction had started on



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the project, titled Planet Solar, and the company had signed a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Sierra Leone's Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Ministry of Energy.

In 2022 California-based energy company Frontier Energy trumpeted it had become the majority owner of Planet Solar, located in four locations - Kenema, Port Loko, Makoth and Kono.

The project is expected to increase the Western African country's installed electricity capacity by 30%, according to Proparco Deputy Head of Private Equity Africa and Middle East, Tibor Asboth. Proparco said in the press release that Planet Solar will be the first large-scale grid-connected solar Independent Power Producer (IPP) in the country.

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