

Djibouti energy storage for load shifting

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- A new wind farm is set to boost installed capacity by 50%, averting 252,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually
- Legal reforms have opened the door for independent power producer-led projects
- A solar-powered desalination plant represents a shift away from hydrocarbons
- 45-MW expansion planned by private and public investment partners

Efforts in Djibouti to increase energy capacity and accelerate the shift from hydrocarbons to renewables moved forwards in September 2023 with the inauguration of the Ghoubet wind farm.

As the first significant international investment in the renewable energy segment in Djibouti, the \$122m project represents the country's first independent power producer (IPP) initiative and sets a template for further private investment.

The wind farm spans 387 ha, equivalent to over 700 football pitches. The site's 17 Siemens turbines each have a capacity of 3.4 MW, served by a 220-MVA substation and connected by a 5-km overhead transmission line.

Commissioned by the government in 2019 and inaugurated by President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh in September 2023, it marks Djibouti's first IPP project, following legislative reforms implemented in 2015 to regulate IPPs.

The wind farm has been financed through a public-private partnership (PPP) between the government and Red Sea Power (RSP), a consortium comprising several investors, including the Africa Finance Corporation; FMO, the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank; and Great Horn Investment Holding, which is owned by the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority and the Djibouti Sovereign Fund.

The government has recognised the critical function of PPPs in diversifying and enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy.

"PPPs are ideal because they facilitate efficient capital allocation without adding to the country's public debt, and private investors provide the requisite financing and appropriate technologies," Yonis Ali Guedi, minister of energy and natural resources, told OBG.



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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

