

Specific energy storage applications swaziland

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With an initial capacity of 100 MW, the plant will supply more than 100 million kWh a year to countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, helping to reduce load shedding by providing much needed power at peak times.

Image: Frazer Solar

Frazium Energy - part of the Australian-German Frazer Solar group - has signed a 40-year contract with the government of the Southern African kingdom of Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland) for a EUR100 million (\$115 million) solar battery project.

The mega solar-storage project, which will be located at the Edwaleni Power Station in the central town of Matsapha, will have an initial capacity of 100 MW and supply more than 100 million kWh a year to countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The solar farm, which will comprise 75,000 panels covering 45 hectares on a site totaling 54 hectares, is expected to help reduce load shedding in South Africa and other neighboring SADC states by providing much needed power at peak times.

"We are so grateful to the government of Eswatini for their support, confidence, and belief in our vision for this project, and we are so excited for the role we can play in Eswatini's and Africa's green energy future," said Frazium Energy director Robert Frazer. "We believe in the strength of Eswatini's future."

The company intends to invest beyond the EUR100 million already committed for the solar-storage project in the coming years, Frazer added. "Africa's largest battery is coming, and it is coming to Eswatini. The future is not just bright, it is solar-powered."

Manqoba Khumalo, Eswatini's minister of commerce, industry and trade, said: "Frazer Solar has shown again that it is a friend and partner to Eswatini, and a trusted investor and true pioneer in the future of our energy sector. The mega solar-storage project will provide a real and tangible benefit to all Eswatini, both in the creation of at least 200 new jobs, and in the provision of green, solar power, and dispatchable electricity across the Kingdom and beyond."

Frazium Energy chose the Kingdom of Eswatini to host the project after considering 11 countries. The company had planned a similar project in the Kingdom of Lesotho in 2018 but it was canceled following a



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dispute with the government.

The large-scale solar-storage project follows Frazium Energy's completion of a solar healthcare project in the Kingdom of Eswatini earlier this year. "Responding to the acute healthcare needs exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the company delivered 92 solar-powered hotwater units to every governmental medical clinic nationwide, providing free hot running water for medical staff and patients' use," Frazium Energy stated.

That project was funded by Frazer Solar with assistance from the German Development Finance Institution (DEG), a subsidiary of the KfW development bank, and delivered by Frazium Energy.

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