

Angola energy storage solutions

Our recent venture into rural electrification is a testament to our commitment to making a positive economic and social impact.

What are the next milestones for the solar parks project that MCA is involved in? The solar parks of Bi?pio and Ba?a Farta, which have a total capacity of approximately 290 MW, have already been successfully delivered and are a significant part of our 370-MW portfolio. The remaining 80 MW are divided among five projects, with three in the eastern region. In April 2024 we delivered the Saurimo solar park project. These three projects contribute around 60 MW to our portfolio. The other two projects, which account for the remaining 20 MW, have now entered their more intensive phases, and we anticipate their completion no later than early 2025.

Where do you envision MCA's presence and impact in Angola five years from now? Our vision for the future in Angola is to persist in our strategy of delivering projects that align with the community's needs and government objectives. We aim to sustain our role as a bridge between financiers, technology suppliers and project execution to provide solutions that serve a meaningful purpose. Our commitment is to continue forging this path, contributing to sustainable solutions in energy and water management. In the coming years, we see MCA as a catalyst for positive change, where everyone involved in our projects emerges as a winner.

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[Home](#) > [News Articles](#) > [Renewable Developments Accelerate Angola's Energy Transition](#)

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Angola – sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy, a major oil exporter and OPEC member - has placed increased access to electricity as a top national priority, targeting 9.9 GW of installed generation capacity and a 60% electrification rate by 2025. Despite reliance on offshore oil resources - accounting for 30% of the country's GDP and representing more than 95% of total exports and 52% of fiscal revenues - the country is strongly committed to the use of renewable energies to support the national electricity system.

Currently, Angola has an installed energy generation capacity of 6,143 MW, with 56% accounted for by hydro (3,440 MW), 12% by gas (750 MW), and a combination of solar, wind, biomass and waste accounting for 32% (1,965 MW). The current electricity access rate in the country is 45%, with a 65% electrification rate in urban areas and six percent in rural areas. However, mapping studies conducted in 2014 revealed the potential for 55 GW of solar power in the country, 3 GW of wind power and 18 GW of hydropower.

Despite this potential, Angola faces several challenges that must be addressed, including the creditworthiness

of utilities, cost-reflective tariffs and the local currency risk. However, large-scale projects implemented since 2017/18 have contributed greatly to Angola's energy transition. The Soyo combined-cycle natural gas plant and the La?ca hydroelectric power project have added 750 MW and 2.1 GW, respectively, towards diversification of the country's energy matrix.

As the Angolan population increases and its economy grows, energy demand is projected to increase from 103,000 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) in 2020 to 270,000 BOE by 2035 and 660,000 BOE by 2050. In a bid to meet rising demand and electrification targets, Angola is, therefore, opting for the integration of renewables with fossil fuels into its energy transition.

Renewable energy sources are well-suited to meet rural demand – where grid connectivity is not feasible – through the development and implementation of micro- and mini-grids. In June 2019, Italian energy company Eni collaborated with Angola's national hydrocarbons company Sonangol to develop Solenova, a joint venture to implement renewable energy projects in the country. The venture's first project comprises the installation of a 50-MW photovoltaic (PV) plant in Angola's southern Namibe Province. In September 2019, Minister of Energy and Water H.E. Jo?o Baptista Borges announced Angola's plans to incentivize the private sector to install 30,000 solar PV off-grid systems in the country's rural areas for the production of 600 MW of solar electricity by 2022.

In addition to hydro and solar, there is a substantial opportunity for Angola to develop its wind energy potential. The SEFA appraisal report has indicated that 100 MW could be generated from two to five wind farms in the southern part of the country.

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