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Engie subsidiary Ausar Energy has launched construction of a 400kW solar-thermal hybrid plant at Ndjol? in Moyen-Ogoou? province. The plant is the first of eight planned solar hybrid plants with a combined capacity of 2.2MW being developed under an agreement signed between Engie and Gabonese financial institution Caisse des D?p?ts et Consignations (CDC) in August 2018.

ENGIE has signed an agreement with CDC, the Gabonese financial institution Caisse des D?p?ts et Consignations, to deploy eight hybrid solar power plants in Gabon, representing a combined capacity of 2.2 MW.

The implemented solution was developed by ENGIE"s subsidiary, Ausar Energy in collaboration with CDC, the Gabonese Ministry of Energy, and the Gabonese energy and water company Soci?t? d"?nergie et d"Eau du Gabon (SEEG) and means that solar energy can be used in eight locations that are currently supplied by oil-fired thermal power stations.

Get regular updates on new job opportunities in the African solar industry.

ENGIE Africa and its subsidiary AUSAR Energy are launching the construction of 8 hybrid solar power plants at remote sites in the Northwest, in partnership with the Caisse des D?p?ts et Consignation du Gabon. It"s a major pilot project to give energy access to isolated villages and help the environment.

The 8 solar power plants we will build will save one million litres of fuel oil per year, or 2600 tonnes of CO2, and reduce production costs by 30%. Installed near isolated villages, they will supply nearly 1600 homes. Their technology constitutes a major innovation for Gabon, which for the first time will be developing skills in photovoltaic solar power. These plants will contribute to the country"s climate plan to reverse the Gabonese energy mix, until now consisting mainly of fossil fuels.

The Ndjol? hybrid solar power (1.440 panels) plant project is the first application of fuel save technology in Gabon. The plant"s photovoltaic panels are connected to three 100kW inverters. The solar power generated is sent to the transformer station over a medium-voltage line, and then a further 500m to the national grid, using 7 poles put up by Ausar Energy. Communication between the photovoltaic controller and the four generator-set controllers takes place directly from the thermal power plant. Communication between the two plants to ensure continuous supply is through a 3.5km optical fibre installed between the solar power plant and the Soci?t? d"Electricit? et d"Eau du Gabon thermal power plant.

The lifespan of the main photovoltaic equipment (the panels and installation structures, in particular) is 25 years. The solar power is constant over the lifetime of the power plants during this period, namely 2.8 MWp. After this period, solar energy production will decrease linearly due to natural ageing of the photovoltaic

panels. For comparison, a generator set must be replaced completely every three or four years.

As part of this project for 8 solar power plants, 26 direct full-time jobs have been created in Gabon for periods varying between 6 and 24 months. Once the Ndjol? power plant is installed, staff activity will be reduced and will relate to maintenance of the system and land as well as cleaning the solar panels every six months, requiring two people for a week.

The technical team at Ausar Energy, a subsidiary of ENGIE Africa, has built up experience in the design and management of projects to install solar power plants of more than 20MW at remote sites. The companies selected by Ausar Energy and ENGIE Africa to install the solar power plants in Gabon, namely Sagemcom and Engie Maroc, have carried out comparable installations in Morocco, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Niger, Tanzania, Madagascar and Zambia. The installation of the equipment is guaranteed for 10 years.

Ausar Energy is a subsidiary of our Group, specialised in decentralisedproduction solutions based on renewable energies. Its missions:

o Serving the regions and the main electricity operators in a way that has the most social and economic impact