

## Solar power zambia

Bangweulu Solar Power Station (BSPS), is a 54MW (72,000hp) solar power plant in Zambia. The solar farm that was commercially commissioned in March 2019, was developed and is owned by a consortium comprising Neoen, a French IPP, Industrial Development Corporation of Zambia (IDC Zambia), a government parastatal company and First Solar, a US-based solar panel manufacturer. The power station cost US\$60 million to develop.

The power plant is located in the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone, in Kafue District, in Lusaka Province, approximately 25 kilometres (16mi), by road, southeast of the central business district of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia and the largest city in that country. BSPS is on 52 hectares (130 acres) of real estate. The geographical coordinates of Bangweulu Solar Power Station are 15°30'42.0"S, 28°25'54.0"E (Latitude:-15.511667; Longitude:28.431667), just north of the Ngonye Solar Power Station.

The Government of Zambia, through IDC Zambia, working with the World Bank Group, as part of the bank's program "Scaling Solar", awarded the tender to develop this power station to Neoen, a French independent power producer. The American solar panel manufacturer First Solar Inc. was selected to manufacture and supply the solar panels for the power station.

The power generated here is purchased by Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (ZESCO) under a 25-year power purchase agreement executed between ZESCO and Neoen at US\$0.0602 per kWh.

This power station is owned by a consortium whose members are illustrated in the table below. The members of the consortium formed a special purpose vehicle company Bangweulu Power Company Limited, which operates and maintains the power station.

This renewable energy infrastructure development project received a grant of US\$2 million, from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (formerly OPIC, now DFC), jointly lent US\$39 million to the consortium of owner/developers of BSPS.

The EPC contract was awarded to Sterling & Wilson, an engineering and Construction company, based in India. Construction started in December 2017, with commercial commissioning taking place in March 2019.

The Kabwe 100MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project, undertaken by POWERCHINA, broke ground in



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Zambia on Feb 1. Officials and representatives from Zambia and POWERCHINA attended the ceremony.

The Kabwe Solar PV Project was signed during Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema's visit to China on Sept 14, 2023. The main construction work includes 100 MW photovoltaic installations, a 330 kV booster station, and the construction of transmission lines.

Once completed, this will be Zambia's largest solar power plant. The project will significantly improve the power supply in the central region of Zambia, supporting its industry, agriculture, and mining sectors. It will also address regional and seasonal contradictions in power supply and demand, ensure power supply security, and promote the development and improvement of local infrastructure.

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