



Utility-scale solar democratic republic of the congo

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Soleos Energy, in collaboration with Melci Holdings, has announced the development of a 200MW solar photovoltaic (PV) project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project, valued at \$200 million, is expected to significantly boost the region's renewable energy capacity, providing clean electricity to over a million people and supporting the country's environmental and economic growth.

The solar power plant will be located in Fipango village, within the Kipushi territory in Haut-Katanga province. The project is projected to generate approximately 350 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually and reduce 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

"We are excited to collaborate with Melci Holdings on this transformative project, which will provide much-needed renewable energy infrastructure in the DRC," said Dhaval Jiyani, CEO of Soleos Energy. "This initiative will address the region's growing energy demand while delivering social and environmental benefits, including job creation and community development."

Melci Holdings' Director, Prof. Madiba, emphasized the project's impact on the DRC's energy landscape: "This project represents a turning point in the energy landscape of the DRC. By harnessing solar energy at this scale, we will be able to meet the critical energy demands of the region and pave the way for sustainable growth."

The solar project will be executed under a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the national utility, Soci   Nationale d'  lectricit   (SNEL), ensuring long-term energy stability for the DRC and solid returns for investors.

According to Jason Temasfieldt, CFO of Soleos Energy, the partnership with Melci Holdings strengthens Soleos's ability to deliver large-scale solar infrastructure. "This is not just about energy--it's about creating economic opportunities and sustainable development for local communities," he added, noting that the company aims to execute up to 1GW of solar projects in the DRC.

The project is expected to create over 2,000 jobs during construction and more than 500 permanent jobs during operation. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for October 19, 2024, with completion expected by late 2025.

Canada-based renewables firm SkyPower has signed a joint development agreement with financial institution Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) to develop a 200MW solar project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



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The project represents the first phase of a 1GW power purchase agreement (PPA) signed between SkyPower and the DRC's state-owned utility Soci t  Nationale d'Electricit  (SNEL). Construction will begin by 2025.

"Partnering with SkyPower is well aligned with our mission to advance energy access on the continent through renewable energy. Through this collaboration, we aim to contribute significantly to rapid industrialisation, local job creation, sustainable economic growth and a pragmatic transition to net zero in DRC and Africa as a whole," said Amadou Wadda, senior director of project development and technical solutions at AFC.

Elsewhere in the DRC, last month solar PV plants were installed in two gold mines. According to Mark Bristow, president and chief executive of Canadian mining company Barrick Gold Corporation (which owns the mines), after the commissioning of a 16MW solar PV plant coupled with battery energy storage systems (BESS), it is expected that the mine's overall renewable electricity supply will increase from 81% to 90%. Construction of the solar PV plant will commence in the first quarter of 2024. Both the solar PV plant and BESS will be operational in 2025.

Additionally, DRC energy company Nuru has secured US\$40 million for the construction of a 13.7 MWp project.

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