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50-MW BulacanSol power plant: Powering the good life through sustainable energy

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By BusinessWorld

MERALCO PowerGen Corp. (MGen) is taking serious strides on the renewable energy front with the start of commercial operations of its first solar power plant.

Now called **BulacanSol**, the newly completed power station now provides clean and renewable power to the Luzon grid.

Located in San Miguel, Bulacan, the P4.25-billion project is a joint undertaking of MGen Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen), which owns 60% of the project; and PowerSource Energy Holdings Corp., with 40%.

BulacanSol last February reached 1.5 million safe man-hours without lost time incident, reflecting the commitment to safety and security in all its activities.

This was achieved notwithstanding hurdles encountered including delays brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and a string of weather disturbances that limited movements at the power plant site.

“We share this achievement with our employees, engineers, contractors, and partners in the government and private sector who worked together to bring this project into reality. With their perseverance, determination and hard work, we are finally going to see the light,” said PowerSource Chairman Aloysius B. Colayco.

“Not even the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns we experienced during the construction period hindered us from completing this renewable project. We are confident that this solar plant will help the much needed power requirements of our country especially during these challenging times,” said Ricardo G. Lazatin, PowerSource president & CEO, said.



SOLAR POWER. The 50-megawatt BulacanSol solar power plant of PowerSource First Bulacan Solar, Inc. in San Miguel, Bulacan. BulacanSol starts providing additional renewable power to the Luzon grid. (Photo courtesy of MGen)

MGen President & CEO Rogelio L. Singson acknowledged the very strong support **BulacanSol** received from national government agencies including the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Public Works and Highways; as well as from the local government unit of San Miguel.

BulacanSol signifies the commitment of MGen to help ensure energy security through clean, cost-competitive, and sustainable power.

“We pledge to continue building more environmentally conscious projects as part of our commitment to a sustainable energy transition for the future generations,” said Mr. Singson.

“As the first operational project of MGreen, **BulacanSol** is a very important milestone that drives us to aggressively pursue more projects that will help us achieve our target of building a renewable energy portfolio with a capacity of up to 1,500MW in the next five to seven years,” he added.



BulacanSol now plays a significant role in One MERALCO Group’s long-term sustainability agenda.

“This is a modest step into renewables but a significant one for MERALCO. We look forward to many more investments in renewables, particularly solar, as we attempt to achieve that balance in fuel sourcing, which will ultimately be biased towards renewables,” MERALCO Chairman Manuel V Pangilinan said.

“In June 2019, MERALCO made the first announcement that it would join the shift to renewable energy and it will adopt sustainable practices for the One MERALCO Group. And today, we realize the very first renewable power plant — the first of several that One MERALCO has lined up for investment and sourcing,” added MERALCO President & CEO Atty. Ray C. Espinosa.

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