

ACWA Power launches 120 MW Khalladi wind farm in Morocco



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- The Khalladi project will help Morocco to achieve its 2020 target of increasing the renewables energy component of its energy mix to 42 percent

LONDON: The energy and desalinated water producer ACWA Power has opened the 120 MW Khalladi wind farm near the Moroccan city of Tangier. The facility will supply cost-effective clean energy to a number of large industrial companies, mainly operating in the country's cement sector.

The wind farm, developed by ACWA Power in collaboration with ARIF investment fund, and located at Jbel Sendouq, 30 km from Tangiers, represents an investment of 1.7 billion dirhams (\$170 million).

The entirely privately funded investment was financed with equity from ACWA Power and ARIF and long tenor debt, from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in collaboration with the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), and the Moroccan BMCE Bank of Africa (BMCE). While ACWA Power, ARIF and BMCE are well established investors in the renewable energy sector in the Kingdom, the Khalladi project will be the first renewable energy financing by the EBRD in Morocco.

The 370 GWh of energy that the plant will produce and supply annually to industrial companies is equivalent to a yearly average consumption of a city of 400,000 people and will contribute to the reduction of more than 144,000 tons of CO₂ emissions per year.

With renewable energy playing an important role in the overall development of countries in Africa, including Morocco, the Khalladi project will help Morocco to achieve its 2020 target of increasing the renewables energy component of its energy mix to 42 percent and to developing 2,000 MW of wind capacity.

ACWA Power Chairman Mohammad Abunayyan said: “Morocco’s energy sector offers attractive investment opportunities, due to a well-established regulatory framework put in place by the Moroccan government and due to the country having already attracted significant investments in solar and wind energy all of which has made it possible for ACWA Power to, within six years, deliver the NOORo I solar plant (160 MWe) and the Khalladi wind farm (120 MW) and a series of other investments in construction which by the end of 2018 will cumulate to 800 MW of generation capacity in the Kingdom.”

Mr. Abunayyan added: “Today, we are proud of having been able to establish in Morocco a solid foundation of seven power plants which will all be operational by the end of this year. With a portfolio valued at over \$3.2 billion, we look forward to participating in the future tenders that will be offered to the private sector for power generation and desalinated water production capacity.”

ACWA Power has made significant investments in Morocco, with projects and operations expected to be rolled out over the coming decades. ACWA Power Morocco aims to serve as a platform for the development of other energy projects in the continent as the company grows its operations into West Africa.