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## Droogfontein solar power project, South Africa

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Droogfontein solar power project, Northern Cape, South Africa.

### Client

The project is owned by a consortium including Globeleq, Mainstream Renewable Power, Thebe Investment Corporation, the Droogfontein Communal Property Association, the Droogfontein Solar Park Trust, Enzani Technologies and Usizo Engineering.

### Project Description

The Droogfontein solar power project is located 15 km outside Kimberley, in the Sol Plaatje municipality, in the Northern Cape.

The project is expected to generate 50 MW of clean renewable power at peak production, converting energy from the sun into

electricity using 168 720 photovoltaic panels and feeding the electricity directly into Eskom's 132 kV distribution system.

The plant will produce 82 674 MWh/y of electricity and avoid 79 368 t/y of carbon emissions; the project will also ensure water savings of 156-million litres a year.

The PV project is one of the first and also the largest of the solar facilities arising from the first bid window of the South African government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.

### **Value**

Not stated.

### **Duration**

Construction started in December 2012 and is expected to be completed in mid-2014.

### **Latest Developments**

Globeleq South Africa MD Mark Pickering says current activities at the Droogfontein site include the construction of the foundation of the high-voltage substation, the site security fence and buildings and the operation building. PV module piling, racking and installation, as well as electrical trenching and cabling, are also taking place.

To date, about 10% of the 168 720 PV modules, which will convert energy from the sun into electricity that will be fed into State-owned power utility's Eskom's 132 kV distribution system, have been installed on the site.

Pickering says that, during the project's construction phase, about 70 workers will be employed at the site and, at the peak of construction, about 300 jobs will be created.

“During the 20-year operating period of the solar plant, about 20 long-term jobs will be created to operate and maintain the facility,” he concludes.

### **Key Contracts and Suppliers**

Siemens Southern Africa (engineering procurement and construction).

### **On Budget and on Time?**

The project is within budget and on schedule to be completed by mid-2014.

### **Contact Details for Project Information**

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