WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia Jasper Solar Energy Project

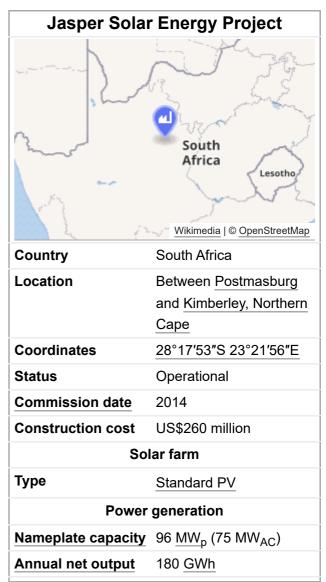
Coordinates: 28°17′53″S 23°21′56″E

The **Jasper Solar Energy Project** (or **Jasper PV Project**) is a 96 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station, located 120 km west of Kimberley, in South Africa's Northern Cape. Construction of the project was completed in October 2014 and it is fully operational to power up to 80,000 homes.^[1]

<u>Google</u> has a recent history of investing in wind and solar power, and since 2010 has committed to more than US\$1 billion in renewable energy projects worldwide. Until 2013 little of this was spent on renewable energy in Africa. A new \$12 million investment in the Jasper power project, at a project cost of approximately ZAR2.3 billion (\$260 million) signals a change in policy. It is one of the largest solar installations in Africa, comprising over $325,000 \text{ PV}^{[2]}$ modules.

Background

Since 2008 South African households and industry endure rolling blackouts due to a severe lack of generating capacity. Only since then has the government been active in looking at new potential sources of electricity. These incentives led to South Africa having the highest growth in clean energy investment in the world in 2012.^[1] While it is dependent on fossil fuels, its generous resources of wind and sun have made it opportune to diversify and to set itself the goal of installing 18 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.^[3]



<u>SolarReserve</u>, a developer of large-scale solar energy projects, joined forces with the Kensani Group and Intikon Energy, two South African companies, to develop three <u>photovoltaic</u> (PV) solar energy projects in South Africa. This consortium was awarded preferred bidder status in May 2012 by the South Africa Department of Energy. SolarReserve is busy on two other 75 megawatt projects, Letsatsi and Lesedi.^{[1][4]} The consortium closed the \$260-million contract with investments coming from <u>Google</u>, the government's <u>Public Investment Corporation</u> (PIC), the <u>Development Bank of Southern Africa</u> and the PEACE Humansrus Trust.^[5] SolarReserve appointed <u>SgurrEnergy</u> as technical advisor on the projects involving the Letsatsi PV plant at Soutdrif north of Bloemfontein and Lesedi PV plant at Humansrus east of Postmasburg.^[6]

See also





List of power stations in South Africa

References

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- 3. <u>"Energy" (http://www.treehugger.com/renewable-energy/google-invests-96-megawatt-solar-proj</u> ect-south-africa.html).
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- 5. "SolarReserve, Kensani and Intikon Complete \$260 million Solar Project Financing with Key Investment from Google and the PIC" (http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/solarreserve -kensani-and-intikon-complete-260-million-solar-project-financing-with-key-investment-from-go ogle-and-the-pic-209515921.html).
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