100 MW Saran solar park commissioned in Kazakhstan

The SES Saran solar project is in the Karaganda region. The project was financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and built by German developer Goldbeck.

JANUARY 24, 2019 EMILIANO BELLINI

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The SES Saran 100 MW solar plant.

Image: Goldbeck Solar











The government of Kazakhstan's northern region of Karaganda has announced completion of the 164-hectare, 100 MW SES Saran solar project, near the city of Saran.

The commissioning ceremony for the project was attended by Kazakh energy minister Kanat



Bozumbayev, who called for local authorities to develop wind power projects in the region.

The plant was built by Solarnet Investment GmbH, an affiliate of German developer Goldbeck Solar under the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)-GCF Kazakhstan Renewables Framework, with the former lending some \$73.4 million to the project in November. The project cost, according to the EBRD, amounted to \$103.5 million including construction of a dedicated substation near Saran.

According to information released by Goldbeck at a recent conference held in Berlin, Germany, in November, the plant was built Goldbeck Solar GmbH / Solarnet GmbH, with Enerparc providing engineering and support services. The facility is selling power to a government-run entity under a 15-year PPA at a price of 34.61 KZT (\$0.091) per kWh indexed with inflation.

Bozumbayev said the solar park is among 60 renewable energy power plants, with a total capacity of 531 MW, that are online in the country.

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There are also four solar projects totaling 170 MW of capacity that Kazakhstan electricity and power market operator JSC KOREM tendered in October. The auction was the first of a series of renewable energy tenders planned by the Kazakh government.

* the article was updated on Jan. 25, 07:26 to add additional information on the project provided by Goldbeck.