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May 5, 2021 / In Member's News

BIOTHERM ENERGY COMPLETES ITS FOURTH SA PROJECT IN TEN MONTHS

Cookhouse, Eastern Cape

BioTherm Energy has announced the completion of all four of its renewable energy projects in South Africa, with the latest project having come on stream in the Eastern Cape. The company's R6.5bn investment, connects 284MW into South Africa's national grid and is partnered by Thebe Investment Corporation (TIC), which has a 37.5% stake in all four projects.

The 123MW Golden Valley Wind Energy Facility reached commercial operations 1 May 2021, and is expected to generate over 477GWh of renewable power each year, equivalent to the energy needs of approximately 120 000 households. It joins 33MW Excelsior Wind Energy Facility, in the Western Cape; and two solar PV projects in the Northern Cape, namely 46MW Aggeneys Solar and its sister plant 86MW Konkoonsies II Solar, all of which form part of the government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme's fourth bid round.

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deliver on our mandate of "building communities" to make a significant economic impact in South Africa," commented Sunil Ramkillawan, CEO of Thebe Energy and Resources.

BioTherm Energy's portfolio extends across South Africa's boarders into Kenya, where its fifth renewable energy asset is nearing operations, increasing this pan-African renewable power producer's portfolio close to 400MW.

"Bringing four IPPs into operation in South Africa, over the last nine months under challenging circumstances, has been a proud achievement for us. Our Kenyan wind energy project, southwest of Nairobi, is already connected to the country's national grid and energized, so we expect to have our current portfolio fully operational before the close of this quarter," said Robert Skjodt, CEO of BioTherm Energy, which is majority owned by Actis, a leading emerging markets investor.

Golden Valley Wind Energy Facility is located approximately 5km from Cookhouse, on 9 000 hectares of farm land. It is connected to the grid through an on-site substation and a dedicated 132 kV power line connecting to the Kopleegte substation.

Construction commenced two years ago and provided jobs to circa 500 workers, the majority of which came from its surrounding beneficiary communities within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipal area.

These are the same communities that will continue to benefit from economic development programmes, during the 20-year operations period. The focus of will be on education, skills development, healthcare and local enterprise, addressed through collaboration and partnership with local stakeholders and members of the community.

"Golden Valley has committed a percentage of revenue earned to the community in the form of socio-economic and enterprise development investments. We are also in the process of establishing a Community Trust, which will belong to the community themselves. Through these initiatives, we are deeply committed to investing in areas of real need, and which result in long term sustainable impact in our communities," concluded Robert Skjodt,

Fact File:

- Financial Close reached: July 2018
- Construction Commenced/ground breaking: July 2018
- Commercial Operations Date: 1 May 2021

BOILERPLATE:

BioTherm Energy, has been operating in South Africa since 2003 and is positioned as a leading Pan-African renewable power developer with expertise in project development, financial, construction management and operations. The company is owned by Actis, the world's leading emerging markets investor, following an acquisition in 2019.

Golden Valley Wind Energy Facility is owned by BioTherm (60%), Thebe Investment Corporation (37.5%) and a Local Community Trust (2.5%).



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