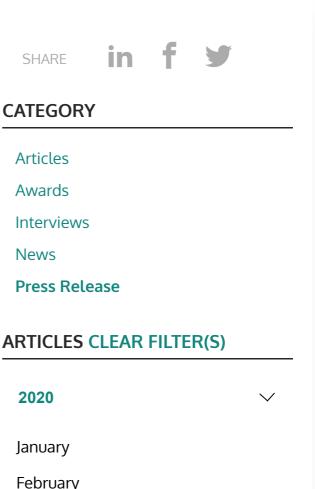
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AIIM's 86 MW Droogfontein 2 Solar Park begins full operation



Kimberley, 31 August 2020: The Droogfontein 2 Solar Park situated near Kimberley in the Northern Cape, has reached full grid code compliance and Commercial Operation reports Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor juwi Renewable Energies ("juwi"). The 179 hectare solar area (comprising over 260,000 solar panels on a single axis tracker system) is supplying 75 MW (86 MW DC) into the ESKOM grid. The site was handed over to the Operations & Maintenance team in February 2020.

"Droogfontein 2 is the first of the three projects totalling 250 MW juwi was





awarded in 2018 to reach completion. The project team, together with our various partners, the sponsors and shareholders have done an excellent job," says Greg Austin, MD of juwi. The project sponsors and equity investors are African Infrastructure Investment Managers (AIIM) through its IDEAS Fund, Phakwe Group, Reatile Group and AREP.

Senior construction manager and site manager, Nkosikhona Yeko, attributes the smooth progression to the detailed planning and scheduling of the project prior to commencement: "Our baseline approach to scheduling is to ensure that everything is done not only in accordance with our project deliverables schedule but also of course within budget while meeting juwi's stringent attention to quality."

"Our planning has ensured that we have managed the challenges of coordinating several different contractors – with a combined workforce of many hundreds of people – on site at the same time. We have succeeded in getting all the different subcontractors to work together as one team, with shared objectives."

Community involvement and benefit

Local community involvement is key to the success of the project, as indicated by Austin: "We have worked very closely with all the key stakeholders including the sponsor's Community Operations team and the Droogfontein Communal Property Association (CPA), who are the land owners and represent the local community interests."

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535 local community members were direc 738 people employed, and additional emp out of various services. "In effect, 2,000 in impacted by the project, and of course the the community," said Austin.

"The Droogfontein CPA community consistence beneficiaries of the CPA have been employ the greater Kimberley area.

"The project is leasing 200 hectares of lan Park has been constructed; the revenue fro of the CPA business plan."

Global players, local impact

Stephan Hansen, the Chief Operating Offiof the project is an important milestone in South Africa: "This is one of our core mark project development and also build projec

"This portfolio is a very important bridge, African market, and we've been awarded Programme. We're one of the largest play importantly, we are now submitting our ov

"Once these three projects on concluded i South African market share in both the EP(

"We are very eagerly looking forward to R very good and it's creating a sustainable e market.

Solar is one big pillar, we are also active ir This makes South Africa a unique market f where we do solar and wind development success we have. Given the circumstances going to be continued success and that we future energy mix of South Africa and to th our projects."

