

## Clean electricity rabat

The Kingdom of Morocco is taking another step forward in its ambitions to develop the renewable energy sector. ONEE's recently published 2022 annual report shows that renewable energies made a significant contribution to the country's national electricity production in 2022.

Moroccan sustainable energy agency Mazen revealed that six consortia of companies have qualified to build a new 400 MW solar power plant in the Atlas Mountains, Nour-Midelt 2. The six alliances are led respectively by Cobra Servicesus and Communications Inc. Enercia Telecom and Energy of Spain, EDF of France, Enel Green Power of Italy, Iberdrola Renovables International of Spain, International Power of Belgium and ACWA Power of Saudi Arabia.

According to Mazen, the project aims to "build a solar power plant using photovoltaic technology, with a high production capacity and a two-hour storage capacity". However, the value of the plant and the date on which the winning consortium will be announced have not yet been determined.

The agency, founded in 2010, spearheaded the first large-scale solar harvest in the Middle East and North Africa. It aims to make solar energy affordable and reduce the country's dependence on high-carbon imports. Mazen is working in tandem with ONEE to coordinate the solar energy development strategy of the country's renewable energy plan and lead projects to generate six gigawatts of clean electricity generation capacity.

By using green energy, the Kingdom of Morocco is seeking to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels by around 2.5 million tonnes of oil a year and eventually export the surplus to neighbouring countries. For years, Rabat has been the largest importer of fossil fuels in the region, relying on foreign sources for over 97 % of its energy.

In recent years, renewable energies in Morocco have emerged as one of the top three promising markets for attracting investment, in light of the country's ambitious plan to increase solar, wind and green hydrogen production capacity. The ultimate aim is to increase the share of these green energies to more than 52 % of national electricity production by 2030.

Morocco's efforts to develop the clean and renewable energy sector have been highlighted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). At the meeting of the Bureau of the Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly, presided by Morocco, UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen praised Morocco's leadership and firm commitment to tackling environmental challenges.

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