

## Dakar off-grid solar

Off-Grid Europe has successfully implemented more than 50 electrification projects of various sizes in recent years. These include systems with use cases as diverse as powering three hospitals in Nigeria, in remote mining operations in Mauritania, a rural airport electrification in Papua New Guinea and a large ranch in Paraguay.

One of the aims of the project in Senegal is to supply electricity to run water pumps so that local women no longer have to carry water for miles. There is a great need to catch up: less than 50% of the Senegalese population in rural areas are connected to the grid.

All the more reason to use the solar systems from Off-Grid Europe. The solar containers are customized to every village's specific needs. They arrive at the respective villages as plug-and-play systems in a standard 20-foot shipping container and are installed and commissioned there within just two to four days. With only minor groundwork and the installation of the solar panels needing to be done on site once the container arrives, these systems will be delivering electricity within a matter of days.

Quality & Made in Germany is enormously important to Christiane and Mark Kragh. Thus, 90 % of all components of the systems come from Germany, among others from SMA, one of the leading suppliers of inverters and other solar technology.

The roadmap is a busy one: 80 villages are to be electrified by the end of 2021, and once that's done, the real work begins: Thanks to our good performance, we are already planning a follow-up order for another 120 villages in the next two years. For us, this is an incentive to invest even more resources in research and development in order to be able to offer even more efficient solutions. The faster we can implement projects, the better. To this end, we are also investing heavily in the further development of our software, the Off-Grid Controller, says Mark Kragh.

With the project in Senegal, Mark and his team have once again proven what it means to go all out. Within a very short time, the subsidiary in Senegal, Off-Grid Africa SUARL, was founded last year with a team of 20 employees. It consists of engineers, electricians, and support staff. Not only the manpower, but also the number of machines and trucks is to be doubled in the coming weeks.

The solar storage project has been commissioned by the Senegalese Energy Agency (ASER) and is funded by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) with a total budget of 130 million euros. It is managed by Gauff Engineering (Nuremberg) and implemented by Off-Grid Europe and Off-Grid Africa, among others. The Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation) has trained many prospective installers on site, some of whom will be present during the installations.



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Contact us for free full report

Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

