



# Madagascar energy storage for backup power

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Axian has secured MGA 47.1 billion (\$10.9 million) to finance a 40 MW solar plant and a 5 MWh storage facility in Madagascar. The installation is the island state's largest solar park.

Axian says it has secured funding to finance 20 MW of additional solar capacity and 5 MWh of storage at the Ambatolampy solar power station in the island nation of Madagascar.

The project currently includes 40 MW of PV and 5 MWh of storage and is already the largest grid-connected solar plant in the Indian Ocean region, according to Axian. It is operated by Axian and French independent power producer (IPP) Green Yellow.

The expansion received MGA 47.1 billion in financing in the form of A credit facility, covered by a credit guarantee with a nine-year tenor. French financial services provider Soci?t? G?n?rale acted as the main lender. UK-based GuarantCo provided a guarantee of MGA 23.6 billion and the African Guarantee Fund (AGF) offered a guarantee of MGA 9.4 billion.

GuarantCo and the AGF already financed the first phase of the Ambatolampy project in 2020. Green Yellow and Axian also started operating another 1.8 MW PV project in Antalaha, in northeastern Madagascar, in late January.

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Saft Sunica plus nickel-cadmium batteries store solar energy in a scheme set up by Schneider Electric to provide safe and clean electricity to residents of an isolated village.

Schneider Electric's programme of social responsibility, named BipBop (Business, Innovation and People at the Base Of the Pyramid) aims to use the electrical systems firm's expertise to provide safe, affordable and green energy to the people who need it most. With an operation in Madagascar serving the mining industry, Schneider saw an opportunity to provide a reliable off-grid power supply to the population of the village of Marovato, on the east coast of the island.



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Saft developed its Sunica.plus Ni-Cd battery specifically for storing photovoltaic, wind and hybrid energy in isolated locations, with many remote installations for utilities, signaling and telecoms applications. The cells can operate reliably at various states of charge and depth of discharge, wide temperature fluctuations and under mechanical and electrical abuses.

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In 2018, Zutari was appointed as technical advisor for a power and fuel supply options study for the mineral sands focused Toliara Project in Madagascar for the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) listed mining company, Base Resources. After a prefeasibility study and options analysis, Zutari recommended a hybrid power plant consisting of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system, reciprocating engines, and battery energy storage, to be procured through an independent power producer (IPP).

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