

N djamena retail store energy storage

The Republic of Chad is a landlocked country in Central Africa. It borders Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon and Nigeria to the southwest, and Niger to the west. The capital and largest city is N’Djamena. It is one of the least developed countries in the world and an economically backward agricultural and animal husbandry country. In 2016, the United Nations Human Development Index ranked third in the world.

Only 6.4% of Chad’s population have access to reliable electricity. According to data from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as of the end of 2019, Chad’s installed solar capacity was 1 MW. The United States Agency for International Development estimates that the total power generation of this landlocked country is only 125 MW, most of which is diesel and heavy fuel oil, mainly serving N’Djamena.

In early July, the United Nations Development Program launched the ‘Sunshine Health’ project in the country. The project aims to help people who suffer from lack of reliable energy. The program funds more than US\$3 million.

A few days ago, the country’s leader Idriss Deby announced on social media networks that representatives of the Argentina-based Alcaal Group visited Chad in early August to discuss the country’s agribusiness. And prospects for investment in renewable energy.

Two days later, the Minister of Finance and Budget, the Minister of Energy and the company signed a memorandum of understanding. The agreement involves a feasibility study for the construction, operation and maintenance of a photovoltaic power station with a capacity of 200 MW in the suburbs of N’Djamena, the capital of Chad.

The African Development Bank has provided an EUR18 million loan and a partial risk guarantee for the first, 32 MW phase of a 60 MW solar power project under development in Chad.

British power plant developer Aldwich International Limited and independent power producer Smart Energies will develop the projects under a private-public partnership with the utility and the Chadian government.

The interconnection infrastructure includes a 33 kV overhead transmission line, two 33/90 kV transformers at a local substation and a 4 MWh battery system for network stabilization, the African Development Bank added.

The European Union - through its EU-Africa Investment Trust Fund - approved a EUR6.35 million loan for construction of the transmission line, substation and other electrical works required for grid connection. The



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EU previously announced the project was intended to be fully financed in 2017 and operational last year.

The solar-plus-storage project is part of the African nation's efforts to address a power deficit which means only 1.4 million people from a population of 14.4 million have access to electricity.

UAE-based developer Amea Power has proposed a 120 MW solar project near N'Djamena and compatriot Almaden Emirates Fortune Power LLC is planning a 200-400 MW facility in the central African nation.

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