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Bambous, March 1, 2023 - Qair, an independent renewable energy producer, announces the signature with the Central Electricity Board (CEB) of four power purchase agreements for Renewable Energy from Solar PV and Battery Storage (BESS) Hybrid Facilities.

This investment, worth more than Rs 7 billion (approx. 163 M USD), represents the largest investment in the energy sector over the last fifteen years in the country, and one of the largest in the Indian Ocean.

The four Stor"Sun solar plants located in Trou d"Eau Douce (SS1 and SS2), Balaclava (SS3) and Petite-Rivi?re (SS4) will integrate large scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to provide a clean and firm renewable power to the grid.

This flexible and scalable technology allows the massive integration of renewable energy on the grid by shifting solar power production for the evening demand peak where traditional solar plant do not produce. They are also designed to provide stability to the grid using the latest BESS technologies thus contributing to the phasing-out of fossil-fuel powered plants.

The signature took place on 7th February between Mr. Radhakrishna Chellapermal, Chairman of the CEB, and Mr. Olivier Gaering, Managing Director of Qair Mauritius, in the presence of Mr. Chavan Dabeedin, Renewable Energy and Strategic Projects Manager of the CEB and Mr. Cyril Luiz Oudin, Business Development Partner at Qair.

With more than 1 GW of capacity in operation, the group's 660 employees are developing a portfolio pipeline of 34 GW in 20 countries across Europe, Latin America and Africa. Our ambition is to become an independent leader in responsible energy.

The large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS), provided by German engineering company Siemens, was inaugurated on the morning of 28 May, with dignitaries in attendance including the country's minister of energy and public utilities Georges Pierre Lesjongard.

It brings the total BESS capacity operated by the government-owned Central Electricity Board (CEB) to 38MW. That includes two 2MW systems built first in 2018, followed by 14MW of batteries split across four sites at substations, three of 4MW and another 2MW connected to the grid.

The BESS resources are aimed at enabling Mauritius to reach its energy policy goals, including a target of sourcing 60% of its electricity from renewables by 2030 and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 40% and ending the burning of coal for electricity by that year.



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CEB is responsible for electricity transmission, distribution and supply to the island, producing about 37% of the country"s total power requirement from four thermal power plants and 10 hydroelectric plants, and along with coal, heavy fuel oil are the main sources of generation, and both are expensive, imported and polluting.

The new system at Amaury substation's total cost was cited at MR700 million (US\$15.5 million), installed and commissioned by the French subsidiary of Siemens. A government media statement noted that the containerised system will be capable of sub-20 millisecond response times to fluctuations in grid frequency.

At the Amaury projects inauguration this week, CEB general manager Rajden Chowdharry described it as a crucial step towards a more stable and resilient power grid helping to buffer against frequency and voltage deviations, while also performing peak shaving applications by shifting off-peak solar-generated power to output to the grid during afternoon and evening peaks.

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