

Saint kitts and nevis utility-scale solar

The launch of the SOLEC power plant is nearly 18 months later than expected with the start of construction first announced back in December 2020, covered by Energy-Storage.news. Covid had a role to play in delaying the project, which pairs a 35.6MW solar PV farm with 44.2MWh of lithium-ion battery storage, but extra funding which helped move it forward was secured in March 2021.

Since March 2021, MPC Energy Solutions became a shareholder in SOLEC alongside the original backers of the project, Swiss-based vertically integrated lithium-ion battery manufacturer Leclanch? and local company Solrid.

Leclanch? has the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract and will also provide its in-house Energy Management Software for the long-term running of the plant.

SOLEC will provide state-owned utility St Kitts Electric Company (SKELEC), which has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) for the offtake, with roughly a third of the island's energy needs.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony on Friday 17 June, MPC CEO Martin Vogt said: "Today marks the start of a pioneering hybrid renewable energy project that combines solar power and battery storage not just for Saint Kitts and Nevis, but for the entire Caribbean region. This is the first of its kind and the first utility-scale power plant to combine these two technologies here in the region."

"Once operational, this project will demonstrate the material advantages that hybrid projects can offer for the generation and storage of energy, grid integration and grid support as much as a competitive cost basis compared to conventional power."

This project is an example of the bold thinking and actions being undertaken by our electric utility to ensure a reliable power supply and a cleaner, more sustainable environment for our citizens and tourists", said St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Sylvester Harris.

This solar-plus-storage project is expected to have a high fuel avoidance cost, and contribute significantly to the island's energy demand and security, while providing clean energy in line with carbon emission reduction goals.

This project "sends a strong signal to other Caribbean countries, and those around the world, that there is a cleaner, more cost-efficient and viable alternative to diesel power", said Leclanch?CEO Anil Srivastava. It "marks the first time a megawatt-scale solar energy system, stabilised by a state-of-the art lithium battery energy storage system, can be utilised to provide true base load power for a utility on a Caribbean island."



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