



Solar industry cape town

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Ener-G-Africa (EGA), a multi-faceted African company tackling the challenges of climate change through research, development and the manufacturing of clean energy products, officially launched its new 15 MW per annum women-led solar panel assembly plant in Cape Town on 2 February 2023 - only the second such facility in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Moolman says that South Africa is the most technologically capable country on the continent with readily available skills that are necessary to run the plant. Being located in Cape Town means EGA also has access to a port, which is a logistical advantage for both raw material imports and finished product exports.

The plant has a maximum capacity of 15 MW per annum, has created 53 jobs and will operate 24 hours a day, five days a week. The plant manager and employees are all women. "Factory workers in all sectors are predominantly men, and we wanted to give the employment opportunity to women from previously disadvantaged communities," explains Moolman.

The plant is unique for several reasons, including its focus on small solar panels. "Small panels are generally more time consuming and difficult to make than larger panels," says Rene Salmon, Plant Manager at EGA's Cape Town facility. "As a result, they are more expensive per watt to make than a larger panel. However, high quality and low price are our priorities for a customer base that usually only has access to high-price, low-quality panels," she adds.

The 20W panels will sell for \$18 each. In addition to domestic South African sales, they will also be distributed to Malawi, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. EGA will increase the size of the plant to scale with demand.



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