



# USA and Ghana Partnership for Solar Energy

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Minister of Energy, the Honorable John Peter Amewu, Our other distinguished guests from the Government of Ghana, Personnel of Strategic Security Systems International and Strategic Power Solutions, The Most Reverend Philip Naameh, the President of the Ghana Catholic Bishop's Conference and the Archbishop of Tamale, Other Reverend Bishops and members of the Ghana Catholic Church, Members of the press, Ladies and gentlemen, All protocols observed.

Good morning. We're here today to celebrate a new partnership between the Ghanaian company Strategic Security Systems International and its subsidiary solar energy company Strategic Power Solutions, and the U.S. company AEG International.

Solar power is an incredible opportunity for Ghana. The cost of solar panels has declined so dramatically over the last decade that choosing solar is less expensive than choosing almost any other solution. Solar can light up inaccessible, off-grid areas. And sunshine is something that Ghana has in abundance. Indeed, the legendary Ghanaian music group Osibisa sang about a "Sunshine Day"; long before this factory was a twinkle in anybody's eye.

The second reason is that this is an excellent example of how companies in Ghana can increase local content and create jobs while engaging in smart international trade and solving issues critical to Ghana's long-term development, such as accessible, reliable, and affordable energy. The Government of Ghana has made it a priority to move Beyond Aid and to increase industrialization, and this partnership supports those goals.

The fourth reason is that the first project these companies are doing together is one that will bring benefits to people across Ghana. It will bring solar power to three-hundred and ten (310) schools, twenty-eight (28) health facilities, and over five-hundred (500) other buildings and offices in six dioceses of the Ghana Catholic Church.

This power will literally save lives by, for example, providing light and medical equipment during childbirth, providing the electricity needed for respirators, and providing refrigeration for vaccines and other important medicines. It will also improve lives, allowing schoolchildren to do their homework, making sure the water pump is always working, and providing electricity for things like household refrigeration for teachers and others who live in these dioceses.

This kind of cooperation is worth celebrating. The United States and Ghana are each bringing something to the table to help improve the lives of thousands of people through new solar energy. After all, it is about improving the lives of people so they can fulfill their potential and contribute to national development. We hope this new partnership will mark the first of many projects together. I look forward to visiting the "after"



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version during my tenure in Ghana.

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