

Press Release

Eneo Cameroon commissions its first solar power plant in Djoum, Cameroon

Ebolowa, 25 January 2018. Eneo Cameroon announces the commissioning, in Djoum, South Region, of its first photovoltaic power plant, making Djoum the first hybrid thermo-solar system in Cameroon.

With a capacity of **186** kilowatts peak (KW) and built on nearly **3500 m²** of surface area, the solar farm in Djoum, which is currently the largest that has ever been built in Cameroon, is equipped with 600 solar panels and works simultaneously with diesel units of the thermal power plant.

In addition to contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Eneo's goal is to offer better service quality than that of the conventional single-source system, cushion the impact of rising fuel prices, and reduce the operating costs. Hybrid generation provides remote areas with an opportunity to have access to drinking water, basic health care, education and other essential services that rely heavily on electricity.

For **Joël Nana Kontchou, GM of Eneo Cameroon**, *"with the commissioning of the pilot project in Djoum, we are confirming, through actions, the saying that the sun shines on everyone and we want encourage local economic stakeholders to invest in this green energy, which is a real opportunity today. Solar infrastructure is becoming less expensive and can attract more investment in this sector. We are developing our skills and are willing to collaborate with actors interested in the sector to accelerate access to electricity in rural areas through decentralized generation."*

The main benefits brought by the hybridization of a diesel thermal power plant by the solar, such as in Djoum, comprise: improvement in service quality, extension of the service duration during periods of low demand, reduction of fuel consumption, as well as a decrease in the solicitation of thermal units, leading to a reduction in maintenance costs.

The development of solar capacities in Djoum comes as a supplement to the installed thermal capacity (1115 KW). It is part of the Solar Program of Eneo Cameroon driven by a study conducted by Actis and updated by Eneo on seven sites (Lagdo, Garoua, Lome, Ngaoundal, Bertoua, Yokadouma and Djoum). In the Far North, 25 MWp of solar power is already being awarded to an independent producer.

According to **Eugene Ngueha**, the Central Director for Technical Activities at Eneo Cameroon, *"concretely in Djoum, during the day we inject into the remote network both solar and thermal energy. The fuel saved during the day can be used in the evening to cover the entire demand. In addition, the operating time of the thermal units is reduced. This consequently limits the risk of breakdowns and therefore brings about a better availability of machines"*.

For the **Eneo Regional Director for the South and Mbalmayo (DRSM), Michel Mbopda**, *"Tests carried out since 14 December have seen a significant improvement in the quality of power supply to the city. We have operational flexibility that ensures a better continuity of service."*

In Cameroon, the increase in electricity generation often faced with physical limitations of the transmission and distribution network, and part of our territory, particularly in the East and the Far North, are in non-interconnected networks, and cities and the villages are supplied from remote power plants. In the area of renewable energies, efforts should focus on these areas. Despite the efforts still to be made, Cameroon, with about 49% of households covered by the electricity grid, is relatively well off compared to the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

About Eneo Cameroon

Driving force in the electricity sector and a major growth catalyst in Cameroon, Eneo Cameroon has as mission to provide reliable energy and quality service while positioning itself as a model of governance in Africa.

Building on the values of integrity, cohesion, respect, and commitment, since 2014, the company has safely connected more than 350,000 new families and industries. At the end of the year 2017, unserved energy dropped by 31% compared to the same period in 2016. With an estimated workforce of 3,700 employees and a portfolio of more than one million two hundred customers, Eneo Cameroon is a public-private partnership that generates and distributes energy in Cameroon. For more information about the company, go to www.eneocameroon.cm

Visit of the GM and a Board Member to the Hybrid Solar -Diesel Power Plant in Djoum

Thursday, 25 January 2018



Information Sheet

The plant operates simultaneously with solar and thermal energy during the day; that is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This plant will be the first of its kind in this part of West Africa. The project includes a 186 kWp (kilowatt-peak) solar power plant connected to a 1115 KW thermal power plant.

It is a direct injection power plant, with inverters. Consequently, thermal power plant needs to be permanently operational to allow the solar power plant to function. It comes in to supplement the thermal power plant. The facility operates smartly with the help of the Fuel Save Controller, which is a key component of the thermo-solar system by balancing the generation sources and the load.

The project is part of the Eneo Solar Programme. Studies have already been conducted on seven sites (Maroua, Guider, Lomié, Ngaoundal, Bertoua, Yokadouma and Djoum) with a thermal power plant each.

Main technical and financial data

- **Peak capacity of solar farm:** 186 KWc (kilowatt-peak)
- **Farm surface area:** 3500 m²
- **Total number of panels:** 600
- **Peak capacity per panel:** 310 Wp (peak watts)
- **Available load at inverter output:**
 - 150 kW (kilowatts)
- **Total number of inverters:** 06
- **Capacity per inverter:** 25 kW (kilowatts)
- **Direct injection solar plant (without batteries) and supplement to the thermal power plant.**
- **Capacity expandable to** 372 KWc
- **EPC cost (ELEC NOR):** CFAF 319 million.
- **Financing:** Eneo Cameroon S. A.
- **Construction:** ELEC NOR, Cameroon Subsidiary
- **Project Duration:** 4 months

Project Team

- **Mathieu NDTUNGU NZHIE**, PMP, Project Manager
- **Moumini HAMADOU**, Works Supervisor
- **Darlin NANGMO**, Civil Engineering Supervisor
- **Mireille MINKOMA**, Site Acquisition and Safeguard Manager
- **Alésia DIMITE**, HSE Officer
- **Eric ELOM**, Architect
- **Patrick ESSIANE**, Designer