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News

Consortium seeks US\$425 million for CSP plant in Jordan

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Jordan's BADR Investments is leading a consortium to raise up to US\$425 million for a new 100 MW concentrating solar power (CSP) plant - one of the largest in the world - in Ma'an, southern Jordan.

The newly-formed consortium, YATAGAN, is a collaboration between BADR Investments, Chescor Capital, maisam architects & engineers and Parsons Brinckerhoff, as well as a number of regional and international companies.

The team, which has experience of project management, and capital and debt raising for large-scale infrastructure projects, including power generation and transmission in Jordan and elsewhere in the region, will soon be announcing a suite of investments and other major development projects in the Rift Valley.

Dr Amin Badr El Din, Chairman of BADR Investments and YATAGAN, said: "The Yatagan consortium is focusing on the critical interdependence of sustainable water, energy and food production and we will continue to widen and strengthen our dialogue with technology providers in these fields."

The CSP solar power plant in Ma'an would underpin Jordan's strategy of sustainable energy diversification, and was evidence of YATAGAN's long-term commitment to helping the Government secure additional and valuable new sources of energy, **Dr Amin** added.

Coinciding with a dialogue at the recent World Economic Forum on Sustainability in the Middle East, Eng. Mohamed N. Bataineh signed on behalf of BADR Investments a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ma'an Development Company (MDC) CEO, Mohammed Turk, for a 30-year renewable lease covering 200 hectares of land.

The Ma'an Development Area enjoys about 320 days of sunshine a year, with a high level of irradiance that allows over 2500 million kWh of primary energy to be harvested annually from each square kilometre.

At full capacity, the planned flagship CSP plant could meet some 4% of the Kingdom's electricity needs, reducing the reliance on electricity imports from neighbouring countries. Surplus energy could in turn be sold to Syria, Egypt and Palestine, whose networks are connected to Jordan.

The consortium also plans to support R&D activities with Ma'an Development Company in cooperation with Al-Hussein Bin Talal University and the Skill Development Centre near the site of the solar plant.

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The US government will fund a US\$738,492 feasibility study for installing more than 50 MW of concentrated solar power (CSP) in Jordan's Ma'an development zone.

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Consider harnessing marine energy, an alternative form of renewable energy, as well.

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You can have desalination plant along with CSP plant at almost no extra cost. With this a large quantities of fresh water could be generated as by-product. Also, the cost estimation for 100MW CSP plant is higher by at least 20%. In other words, You could solve problems of electricity as well as fresh water with this plant, that too at lower cost. This is the advantage of making use of renewable energy on large scale.

Hiro Chandwani

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