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Equatorial Guinea signs $750m 500 MWp solar contract

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Equatorial Guinea has signed a $750 million contract to construct a 500 MWp solar photovoltaic plant, marking one of the largest single renewable energy commitments in Central Africa to date. The agreement was announced by the Equatorial Guinea government's official information office, though the article does not identify the contractor or the project's precise location within the country.

The 500 MWp nameplate capacity represents a substantial addition to Equatorial Guinea's installed power base. The country currently relies heavily on gas-fired generation and hydropower, and a utility-scale solar facility of this size would materially alter its generation mix. No timeline for completion, financing structure, or grid interconnection details were disclosed in the source material.

Equatorial Guinea has been signalling a broader energy diversification strategy in recent years, partly in response to declining upstream oil and gas production from its mature offshore fields. Adding large-scale solar generation addresses chronic domestic electricity access constraints while potentially freeing up associated gas that would otherwise be consumed in power generation for higher-value export or industrial uses. Whether the $750 million figure reflects a turnkey engineering, procurement and construction contract, a public-private partnership arrangement, or another financing modality is not specified in the available information.

The scale of the commitment — $1,500 per installed kilowatt at the stated contract value — is consistent with utility-scale solar EPC pricing across sub-Saharan markets

when transmission infrastructure and grid integration works are included, though the article does not break down what the contract scope covers. Land acquisition, environmental permitting, and grid upgrade requirements for a project of this magnitude in a country with limited existing high-voltage transmission infrastructure would typically form part of a multi-year development timeline.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The contract as reported is signed, making it appropriate to monitor procurement pipelines for balance-of-plant and grid infrastructure subcontracts that may emerge. Norwegian companies with power systems integration, subsea cable, or offshore-to-onshore grid expertise should track public tenders from the Equatorial Guinea government or the named EPC contractor once identified. Direct procurement outreach is premature until the contractor and subcontracting structure are publicly disclosed.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Grid integration and high-voltage substation specialists should monitor for subcontract packages once the EPC contractor and project scope are publicly confirmed.
- **Pipeline:** Transmission line and underground cabling contractors may find opportunity in the grid extension works typically required to connect a 500 MWp facility to the national grid.
- **LNG:** If solar displaces domestic gas burn, incremental gas volumes could support LNG export expansion — worth tracking for implications to existing and planned gas monetisation projects.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** No direct subsea angle in this contract, but freed-up associated gas from reduced domestic power consumption may support offshore gas field redevelopment discussions worth monitoring.

Original source: Guinea Ecuatorial Press - Oficina de Información y Prensa del Gobierno - Últimas noticias →

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