

# Africa's largest thin film solar farm completed

Construzioni Moncada South Africa, a subsidiary of the Italian Moncada Energy Group, has completed the R1.75bn Solar Capital De Aar Project in the Northern Cape.



The solar farm, which extends over 270ha and has 203,948 thin film solar panels, has an installation capacity of 85.26MWp and has been fully operational since 15 August 2014. The project is part of the South African government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme and has a 20 year power purchase agreement to feed 75MW in Eskom's grid. It supplies the Eskom 132kV grid line and generates around 150,000MWh per year - enough clean renewable energy to power more than 35,000 households. The project will allow a saving of CO<sup>2</sup> of around three billion tons.

## Italian technology

Moncada Energy is also one of the major shareholders of Solar Capital De Aar, the Cape Town based South African company that commissioned the project which broke ground in January 2013 and created more than 3,000 jobs during construction. The technology used for the project (amorphous silicon) is entirely made in Italy, manufactured in the photovoltaic (PV) thin film modules factory of one of the Moncada Energy Group subsidiaries.



Moncada Energy Group CEO, Salvatore Moncada, welcomed the success and said the group has achieved a result of great international importance, despite the present situation of severe economic crisis and other challenges. "The project provides the group with a new considerable position in the global green energy market, and brings Italian technology around the world. Moncada Energy would also like to thank all the authorities and the South African financial institutions that

made this great achievement possible."

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