SOLAR POWER AFRICA

10-12 February 2025
Cape Town International
Convention Centre South
Africa

THE LEADING SOLAR & ENERGY STORAGE EVENT IN AFRICA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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Powering Africa's Renewable Transition: Advancing Solar Innovation, Sustainable Investments, and Energy Storage Solutions

Keynote Address 1	
Time:	09h20 - 10h00
Venue:	Hall 8
MEDIA WALK @ 10H00	
Plenary Session 1	
Time	10h00 - 11h00
Venue:	Hall 8
Theme:	Are Energy Policies Driving Us Forward? A Private and Public Sector Perspective
Theme Description:	This session explores the evolving energy policies and regulatory frameworks shaping South Africa's renewable energy future, with a focus on solar. Key to the discussion is the upcoming Market Code, which will be developed under the Electricity Regulation Act (ERA) Amendment Bill, assigning the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) as the central buyer and market operator. Attendees will gain insights into how these changes, including the qualifying criteria for power market participants, impact the private and public sectors, and whether current policies, including modeling forecasts, are propelling clean energy adoption and growth.
11h00 - 11h30 Tea Break	
Plenary Session 2	
Time	11h30 - 12h30
Venue:	Hall 8
Theme:	Unlocking Funds for Africa's Just Energy Transition: Access, Success Stories, and Skills Development
Theme Description:	This session will focus on the Just Energy Transition (JET) in Africa, exploring the available funding mechanisms, how to access these funds, and the skills development programs supporting the shift to renewable energy. Attendees will learn about real-world examples of projects that have successfully utilized JET funds, showcasing their impact on energy access and economic development. The discussion will also highlight the critical role of skills development in ensuring a workforce ready for this transition, and provide insights into strategies for overcoming financial and logistical barriers to scaling up renewable investments across the continent.
12h30- 13h30 Lunch & Exhibition	

	Breakaway Session 1: Solar and Storage: The Future Hub	Breakaway Session 2: Investment and Collaboration
Time:	13h30 - 14h30	
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage	Hall 8.1
Theme:	Technological Advancements in Solar Energy: Innovations Driving Efficiency and Cost Reduction	Financing Solar Projects in Africa: Overcoming Challenges with Innovative Solutions
Theme Description:	This session will explore cutting-edge innovations in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, focusing on advancements that are revolutionising the solar industry. From efficiency breakthroughs to the integration of new materials like perovskites, attendees will gain insights into how these technological developments are enhancing solar performance, reducing costs, and accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. The discussion will also cover how these innovations are shaping the next generation of solar systems, making solar power more accessible and sustainable.	This session will explore the evolving financing landscape for large-scale solar projects across Africa, addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in the region. Attendees will gain insights into innovative financing models such as blended finance, which combines public and private sector funding to mitigate risks and unlock new investment opportunities. The discussion will also highlight the critical role of international investors and development banks in accelerating solar adoption, showcasing successful case studies and strategies to overcome financial barriers in driving Africa's renewable energy growth.
14h30- 14h45 REFRESHMENT BREAK AND ROOM SHIFT		
	Breakaway Session 3: Solar and Storage: The Future Hub	**Breakaway Session 4: Sustainable Development**
Time	14h45- 15h45	
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage	Hall 8.1
Theme:	Battery Storage Technologies: Unlocking the Future of Solar Energy	The Future of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Solar Power Integration: Driving the Future of Transportation
Theme Description:	As solar power grows, the need for effective energy storage becomes crucial. This topic explores the cutting-edge advancements in battery storage technologies and their potential to revolutionise energy storage. By addressing key challenges such as reliability and capacity, these innovations hold the key to maximising solar energy's efficiency. Battery storage is rapidly emerging as the next major leap in making solar energy a dominant and reliable power source.	As the world transitions to a greener future, the integration of solar power with electric vehicles (EVs) is pivotal for reducing carbon emissions and lowering energy costs. This session will explore the innovations behind solar-powered EV charging stations—both grid-tied and off-grid solutions—and examine how the New Energy Vehicle (NEV) policy guidelines and potential incentives will accelerate this shift. The discussion will focus on the future of fleet fast-charging systems using modular solar PV, the role of battery storage as grid support, and how these advancements can ensure grid stability without overloading the system, driving us toward a more resilient and sustainable transportation infrastructure.
15:45 CLOSING TEA AND REFRESHMENTS /OPEN NETWORKING		
18:30 GALA DINNER		

Keynote Address 2	
Time:	09h00 - 09h30
Venue:	Hall 8
Plenary Session 3	
Time	09h30 - 10h30
Venue:	Hall 8
Theme:	The Impact of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) on South Africa's Solar Energy Landscape
Theme Description:	This session delves into the transformative role of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) in driving South Africa's energy transition. It offers an in-depth analysis of the program's progress, highlighting its influence on the development of solar energy projects and the investment opportunities it has unlocked. The session will review the latest bid window(7) and the pro's and cons of the program.
Keynote Address 3	
Time	10h30 - 11h00
Venue:	Hall 8
Theme:	Green Hydrogen and Solar: Applications for South Africa's Clean Energy Future
Theme Description:	This session explores the synergy between solar energy and green hydrogen production, highlighting how solar power can drive the development of green hydrogen as a clean, sustainable energy source. Attendees will gain insights into the potential of integrating green hydrogen into South Africa's energy mix and the potentail application long-haul trucking, freight and shipping and the transformative impact it could have on the country's path towards carbon neutrality.
11h00 - 11h30 Tea Break	
Plenary Session 4	
Time	11h30 - 12h30
Venue:	Hall 8
Theme:	Regulatory and Policy Frameworks Shaping Solar Energy Development in Africa
Theme Description:	This discussion provides valuable insights into the regulatory challenges and policy incentives influencing the growth of the solar energy market across Africa. It will explore how governments are addressing these hurdles and fostering a supportive environment for solar adoption. A focus will be placed on the importance of harmonising regional standards and best practices to accelerate solar development and unlock the continent's vast renewable energy potential.

12h30- 13h30 Lunch & Exhibition		
	Breakaway Session 5: Sustainable Development	**Breakaway Session 6: Investment and Collaboration**
Time:	13h30 - 14h30	
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage	Hall 8.1
Theme:	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturing in South Africa and Africa: Risks and Opportunities:	Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems: Integrating Wind, Solar, and Storage for Maximum Efficiency
Theme Description:	Assessing the current state of solar PV manufacturing on the continent, exploring both challenges and market opportunities for growth. How will Governments imposing of a 10% import tariff on solar panels affect localisation efforts.	This session will explore real-world case studies of successful mini grid and off grid hybrid renewable energy systems that seamlessly combine solar, wind, and energy storage technologies. By examining how these systems optimize energy output, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the potential for hybrid models to enhance energy reliability and efficiency, offering a blueprint for future renewable energy projects.
14h30- 14h45 REFRESHMENT BREAK AND ROOM SHIFT		
	Breakaway Session 7: Solar and Storage: The Future Hub	**Breakaway Session 8: Sustainable Development**
Time	14h45- 15h45	
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage	Hall 8.1
Theme:	Scaling Solar + Storage Solutions for Commercial & Industrial Sectors	Decentralised Solar Solutions for Electrification
Theme Description:	This session provides an in-depth analysis of the latest market trends and innovative strategies for expanding solar-plus-storage systems in the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors. It will explore how businesses can leverage these integrated solutions to enhance energy efficiency, reduce costs, and achieve greater energy independence, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities in scaling these systems for large-scale operations. Aspects like fire safety regulations and insurance aspects related to batteries will be addressed by the panel.	This session explores the transformative potential of small-scale solar and storage systems in delivering reliable, off-grid energy to rural communities and urban areas not yet electrified. It will examine how decentralized solar solutions and mico-grid solutions can bridge the energy access gap, empower local economies, and foster sustainable development in remote areas that are traditionally underserved by conventional power infrastructure.The panel will address how we use technology to drive and foster poverty eleviation
15:45 CLOSING		

Plenary Session 5	
Time:	09h00 - 10h00
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage
Theme:	The Future of Solar in South Africa's Liberalised Energy Market
Theme:	This session examines how the liberalisation of South Africa's energy market is unlocking new opportunities for solar power producers and Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Attendees will gain insights into emerging trends, such as the rise of private off-take agreements, and how these developments are reshaping the landscape for solar energy investment, production, and distribution. The session will highlight how market reform is paving the way for greater competition and innovation in the solar sector, and the imapct of the market code.
Plenary Session 6	
Time	10h00 - 11h00
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage
Theme:	The Environmental Impact of Solar Energy and Its Role in the Transition to a Circular Economy
Theme Description:	This session will examine the environmental benefits and challenges of solar energy within the context of a circular economy. It will explore how solar power contributes to reducing carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, while also addressing concerns around the lifecycle of solar technology, such as manufacturing, waste management, and recycling. Attendees will gain insights into how the solar industry can adopt circular economy principles, minimising its environmental footprint and creating a more sustainable, resource-efficient energy future.
11h00 - 11h30 Tea Break	
Plenary Session 7	
Time	11h30 - 12h30
Venue:	Hall 8 Main Stage
Theme:	Building Smarter Grids: Energy Efficiency, Solar, and the Future of Dynamic, Resilient Energy Systems
Theme Description:	This session explores how the shift to smart grids, combined with energy efficiency measures, solar power, and storage technologies, can create resilient energy ecosystems. What investment and finacing mechnanisms need to be in place for a much needed grid update. The session will also delve into the path to smart grids and dynamic tariffs are key to transforming the future of energy distribution that will provide equitable access for all, supporting both commercial and residential sectors, and driving the shift towards sustainable, utility-driven grid for all.
12h30 Lunch and Exhibition	
16h30 Closing of Event	