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South African solar power plant sets record for continuous, round the clock electricity supply

_Record six days of 24 hours full-load operation of the Bokpoort Concentrated Solar Power Plant

Northern Cape, South Africa, 26 April, 2016: A South African solar power plant has set a new African record for the continuous, round the clock supply of electricity.

Within the first month of its commercial operation, the newly inaugurated 50 MW Bokpoort Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant built and operated by ACWA Power has produced electricity for a continuous period of 161 hours, equivalent to over six days.

Located in Groblershoop, within the !Kheis Municipality in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, the project's optimised performance was boosted by its 1300 MWh molten salt energy storage facility which provides 9.3 hours of thermal storage, the highest on the African continent. Chief executive officer Paddy Padmanathan commented: "Round the clock electricity supply from a solar power plant is not only a significant milestone for ACWA Power, but for South Africa and the renewables industry."

"Our goal is to provide power as safely, reliably and efficiently as possible at the lowest possible cost. By applying innovative technology and capturing the natural energy from the sun, this is a breakthrough in the commercial, utility scale use of solar power."

Nandu Bhula, CEO of Bokpoort CSP plant, added: "Globally the biggest challenge of CSP has been its ability to produce energy consistently long after sunset. The performance of this plant is a clear indication that CSP technology can be used as a base-load capacity option in the same way as conventional power plants."

In South Africa the country's daily evening peak demand is from 5pm to 9pm and the newly introduced CSP Peak tariff, means that developers are encouraged to have thermal storage capacity. Bokpoort CSP has shown that due to the good design of the plant and the solar

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radiation available at the site, its' 9.3 hours of thermal storage can easily be extended to allow 24/7 continuous operations.

ACWA Power's next project is the 100 MW Redstone CSP plant which is expected to begin construction this year. According to Bhula this plant will offer 12 hours of storage capacity by applying the latest innovations in thermal storage technology.

He said: "The success of the Bokpoort operation and the application of new technology prove that commercial scale CSP plants with adequate storage are valuable and efficient contributors to the future energy needs of South Africa under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme."

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ACWA Power is a developer, investor, co-owner and operator of a portfolio of power generation and desalinated water production plants currently with presence in 12 countries including in the Middle East and North Africa, Southern Africa and South East Asia regions. ACWA Power's portfolio, with an investment value in excess of USD 32 billion, can generate 22.8 GW of power and produce 2.5 million m3 /day of desalinated water to be delivered on a bulk basis to state utilities and industrial majors on long term off-take contracts under Public-Private-Partnership, Concession and Utility Services Outsourcing models.

ACWA Power, registered and head-quartered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is owned by eight Saudi conglomerates, Sanabil Direct Investment Company (owned by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia), the Saudi Public Pensions Agency and the International Finance Corporation (a member of the World Bank Group).

ACWA Power pursues a mission to reliably deliver electricity and desalinated water at the lowest possible cost while seeking to maximize local content and local employment creation, thereby contributing to the social and economic development of the communities and countries it invests in and serves.

ACWA Power strives to achieve success by adhering to the values of Safety, People and Performance in operating its business.

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Hulisani Nemaxwi | Senior Manager Communications & External Affairs |

ACWA Power Africa Holdings (Pty) Ltd **MEDIA INFORMATION**

7th Floor | 90 Grayston Drive
Sandton | South Africa | 2196
Office: +27 11 722 4101
Mob (SA): +27 63 688 9946
hdnemaxwi@acwapower.com | www.acwapower.com