

Kipeto wind power project adds 100MW to Kenya's national grid

Kipeto wind farm has been connected to Kenya's national grid and will start generating power in the next week.



Kipeto wind farm

The plant is connected by a 17km (220KV) high voltage transmission line, linking the facility to the national grid at the Isinya substation. The project's 60 GE 1.7-103 wind turbines, each capable of producing 1.7MW, will be switched on in stages as part of a gradual ramp up process, with all commercial tests due to be concluded within the next few months.

Located in Kajiado county, Kipeto is Kenya's second largest wind power project. It has a 20-year power purchase agreement with Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), and once it is at full capacity, Kipeto will generate 100MW of clean wind energy for the Kenyan people, providing power to the equivalent of approximately 250,000 households. This will be a significant contribution to Kenya's Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda.

The Kipeto project reached financial close in December of 2018, marking the beginning of its two-year construction phase. The project is funded by equity from Actis-backed BioTherm Energy (88%) and Kenyan company Craftskills Ltd (12%) alongside senior debt from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the US government's development finance institution.

Job creation

KEP leased and secured more than 60 plots within the project area for the wind turbine footprint and the transmission line through voluntary participation of land owners, and has undertaken a number of local initiatives, including constructing new housing for local families outside the project's 500m buffer zone, supporting schools with PPE and sanitisation equipment as protection against the pandemic, drilling community water borings, and establishing a youth vocational skills training programme to increase employment from within the local community.

More than 800 jobs were created during the construction phase of the project and an additional 60 permanent jobs are anticipated during the operational phase. Around 200 families are expected to benefit directly from the turbine revenue located on their land, with the company establishing a Community Trust to oversee further distribution of profits to the wider local area.

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