

\$1 billion Israeli solar commitment to ECOWAS

\$20 million agreement for Liberia's first solar field inked as Prime Minister Netanyahu arrives

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, June 2, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "Power to the African people," says Israeli MP Neguise

MONROVIA, Liberia--Under the MOU signed today between the State of Israel and ECOWAS, Israel's leading solar developer will invest \$1 billion over the next four years to advance green energy power projects across the 15 member states of the West African economic community.

"In honor of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's two terms in office, and Liberia's friendship with the State of Israel,

Energiya Global and our international partners will finance and build a commercial-scale solar field at the Roberts International Airport, which will supply 25% of the country's generation capacity," says Yosef I. Abramowitz, CEO. "We are prepared to finance and build the first National Demonstration

Solar Projects in all ECOWAS-affiliated countries in order to promote political stability and social and economic development, as well as to advance knowledge transfer."

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Increasing access and power generation is the foundation for economic prosperity and human development."

*U.S. Power Africa Coordinator
Andrew Herscowitz*

Energiya Global and its associated companies developed the first commercial scale solar field in sub-Saharan Africa in Rwanda, which is supplying 6% of the country's power, and the group broke ground on a similar power plant in Burundi, which will supply 15% of the country's power by the end of the year. The solar group has fields at various stages of

development in ten African countries and expects to announce its full program at the Israel-Africa Summit in Togo at the end of October.

In a historic first, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled today to address the 15 West African heads of state of ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States), as well as the head of the African Union. "Israel is coming back to Africa," the Prime Minister will announce, and will outline the technological innovations in agriculture, water, green energy and more that can support economic development in West Africa.

The \$20 million investment comes as Israel and ECOWAS sign Sunday an historic Memorandum of Understanding to promote investments, technology and cooperation.



Solar pioneer Yosef Abramowitz with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu greets African heads of state (July, 2016) to promote solar investments on the continent.

“With 600 million Africans without electricity, the State of Israel can literally help African heads of state bring power to the African people,” says Member of Knesset Avraham Neguse, chairman of the Israel-Africa Caucus of the Israeli Parliament, who accompanied the Prime Minister. “Our humanitarian and diplomatic goals are supported by the private sector as well, which can work quickly and efficiently to improve the lives of millions of people. I want to thank my friend Yosef Abramowitz for his investments in solar in Africa. We look forward to working with ECOWAS to deploy \$1 billion over the next four years, starting with this first investment of \$20 million in Liberia by Energiya Global.”

A working session between ECOWAS, representatives of the State of Israel and Abramowitz will take place Monday morning in Monrovia, to plan for the deployment of the green energy investments in fulfillment of the MOU signed by Prime Minister Netanyahu and the President of ECOWAS.

U.S. Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscowitz underlined the important of Energiya Global’s work by saying, “As a founding Power Africa partner, Energiya Global continues to demonstrate its industry leadership with this important investment in Liberia. Increasing access and power generation is the foundation for economic prosperity and human development. We look forward to Energiya Global’s transformative impact on the lives of the Liberian people.”

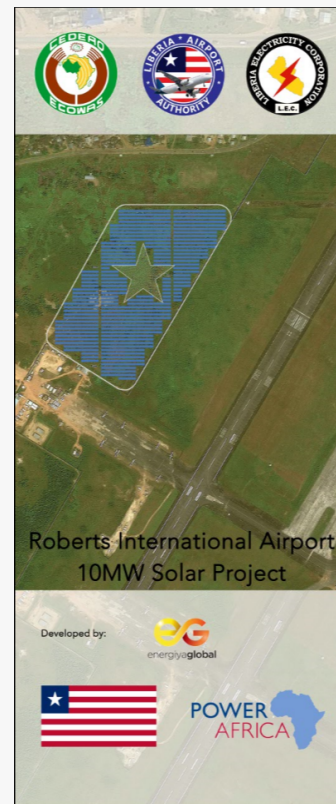
“We are proud to be involved in the creation of cutting-edge, clean energy for Liberia,” says Remy Reinstein, Energiya Global’s country director. “We are honored to have the seal of approval from President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel, whose initiatives have made the sustainable development of Liberia possible.”

About Energiya Global

Energiya Global is an Israeli renewable energy company and impact platform bringing new sources of power and social development to Africa and other emerging markets. Led by a team of seasoned project developers, financiers and solar energy experts, the Jerusalem-based company develops



Liberian President H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf approves the \$20 million investment in Liberia’s energy sector, with Israeli Ambassador Ami Mehl and Liberia Country Director Remy Reinstein.



Mock up of the approved solar field at the Roberts International Airport, Monrovia, Liberia.

renewable energy installations (solar, wind and hydro) across the African continent, with international financing partners and governments from around the world.

About Power Africa:

The USAID Power Africa Initiative's goal is to enable electricity access by adding 60 million new electricity connections and 30,000 MW of new and cleaner power generation. Power Africa works to bring together technical and legal experts, the private sectors, and governments from around the world to work in partnership to increase the number of people with access to power.

About ECOWAS:

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a 15-member regional group with the goal of promoting economic integration in all participating countries. Member countries include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo. Today, the economies of African countries continue to witness steady growth, with West Africa's as one of the strongest on the continent, growing by as much as 6.3% in 2013 and this is largely due to the work of ECOWAS.

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