

Conergy joins B Grimm Power for solar plant

GERMAN SOLAR-power company Conergy has signed a contract with B Grimm Power to construct a solar plant with an 8-megawatt peak (MWp) capacity in Sa Kaew province in support of the government's mission to have 20 per cent of the country's energy needs supplied by renewable sources by 2036.

The 176,000-square-metre solar park is one of numerous installations being developed by Conergy in partnership with private domestic power producers and is geared to exploit the natural sunlight available and help create a sustainable renewable energy supply. It is hoped that this will contribute to the Kingdom's future economic growth and also reduce the use of fossil fuels, thereby preserving and enhancing the environment. The radical reduction of carbon-dioxide emissions created in traditional fossil-fuel electricity generation is a guiding ambition.

"With abundant year-around sunshine and also the availability of highly suitable sites for solar-power plants, Thailand is leading the way in Asean in terms of increasing its capacity to produce energy from renewable sources," said Conergy's president for Asia and the Middle East, Alexander Lenz.

"By partnering with visionary companies such as B Grimm Power Ltd, Conergy is able to integrate its global expertise and experience into Thailand's dynamic programme to focus on renewable energy and reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. The bold investment in renewable energy from solar sources is a long-term initiative that will continue to pay dividends for decades and help ensure a sustainable energy supply for future generations," he said.

Appropriately, the provincial seal of Sa Kaew province shows the sun rising over the Khmer temple ruins of Prasart Kao Noi Si Chom Poo, indicating the importance of the sun to the fast-growing province in the Eastern region.

B Grimm Power president Preeyanart Soontornwata said the new partnership was a significant move for the company, one of Thailand's private power-generation pioneers.

Long-term mission

"The provision of clean, reliable and affordable electricity for Thailand's national power grids and hundreds of large manufacturing enterprises is a long-term mission for B Grimm and we are constantly seeking new partnerships with like-minded companies such as Conergy. Together we can help build a sustainable future for the country," she said.

Conergy will begin the engineering and component-supply work shortly, after the contract was signed in Bangkok in June. The deadline for the mechanical completion of the project is December. Conergy will be responsible for the planning, engineering and design as well as the component supply of the solar plant. They will be working with local partner, the Ensys Group, for the on-ground construction.

Once completed, a total of 25,800 solar modules will produce more than 12,000-megawatt-hours of clean electricity annually, sufficient power to supply more than 5,300 homes. Conergy's calculations show that the new solar-power plant will provide the equivalent electricity that would have created 7,400 tonnes of carbon-dioxide emissions annually if produced using fossil fuels.

"The Thai government wants to meet 20 per cent of the country's energy requirements using renewable energy sources by the year 2036," Lenz said. "This is providing a baseline of support to the development of a solar-energy market in Thailand.

"The country currently still imports about half of the national energy needs at high costs. These new solar installations will bring Conergy's total contracted volume in this fast-growing Asian market to nearly 130MWp and contribute to the gradual reduction of both dependence on energy imports and their costs for the government."

Conergy has built more than 100MWp of solar electricity capacity across Thailand in key locations such as Ayutthaya, Lop Buri, Suphan Buri and Kanchanaburi.

