

R2,2 billion for wind farm

In a major coup for the Eastern Cape a tract of rural land is being transformed into the site of one of South Africa's first large-scale renewable energy wind farm projects.

The Dorper Wind Farm, between the towns of Molteno and Sterkstroom in the Inkwanca Local Municipality, is a pioneering project that will see 100 megawatts (MW) of energy harnessed from the wind pumping through the region.

The area, situated in the northern Eastern Cape, is characterised by excellent wind conditions, particularly during winter months.

"This marks the onset of a definitive new era for both South Africa and the Eastern Cape, and we are immensely excited to be at the forefront," said Gavin James, Executive Director of Rainmaker Energy, one of the companies involved

in the joint project, which has seen South African business linking with Japanese counterparts to develop a partnership that embraces both local economic development and foreign direct investment.

"Power and access to this incredible resource will define the growth path of South Africa for years to come.

"The significance of government's focus on diversifying the power base through moving from a reliance on traditional power sources to emergent and renewable energy will ensure that the power grid is supplemented by solar and wind energy, which will in turn cut costs and enables our country's socio-economic and industrial development," added Rainmaker Energy Executive Director, Luke Callcott-Stevens.

A high level delegation

from Japan and Germany as well as national, provincial and local government were in attendance. Community members and local farmers also joined in the celebrations.

The Dorper Wind Farm is an onshore wind energy facility that will consist of 40 wind turbines, each with a generating capacity of 2.5MW. The turbines will be supplied by Nordex Energy South Africa which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the German manufacturer, Nordex SE.

A total of approximately R2,2-billion will be collectively invested to construct the Dorper wind farm.

The Eastern Cape is set to become a leading wind and renewable energy hub in an effort to help the Department of Energy meet its procurement objectives of 3 725 MW of renewable energy. Major wind farm developments



Celebrations for the sod turning of the Dorper Wind Farm: From left were: Minister Ken Okaniwa of the Embassy of Japan in Pretoria, Dr Wolsey Barnard Deputy Director General for Energy: Programme and Projects and Luke Callcott-Stevens, Executive Director at Rainmaker Corporation

in the province include, amongst others, the Jeffrey's Bay Wind Farm which also recently launched construc-

tion and three major projects planned for the Coega Industrial Development Zone.
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