

SOLAR POWER SAVES EGYPTIAN FARMER FUEL

Al-Wahat Al-Bahariya, Western Desert of Egypt





The Egyptian energy sector is currently undergoing a rapid transformation into greener and more sustainable power sources. The aim is that 20% of the electricity is being generated from renewable sources by 2022 and 42% by 2035. So far, the energy sector primarily has been based on fossil fuel. However, the country's high wind speeds, climate and location make solar and wind power a great alternative for sustainable energy.

Farming is one of the main occupations in Egypt and for a fruit grower in Bahryia Oasis, Al-Wahat Al-Bahariya in the Western Desert of Egypt, implementing solar power will make his farm greener and more economical. Not only does the solar plant make his production more sustainable but also saves him thousands of litres of fuel every month.

The Egyptian manufacturer of electrical solutions Gila Al Tawakol Electric is a regional leader in solar power solutions, and the company has been a codeveloper on four PV plants in Benban, Aswan. The project in Benban is a 140 MW solar project and thereby one of the world's largest solar projects.

Fast commissioning with reliable components

For the solar plant in Al-Wahat Al-Bahariya, Gila Al Tawakol Electric was advised by its partner Schneider Electric to cooperate with DEIF. Schneider and DEIF have worked together on many projects worldwide, and the cooperation has always been successful. Project Manager Eng. Mohamed El-Shinawy contacted DEIF's sales manager Gaëtan

Floriach, and the project was initiated. Having commissioned the solar plant, the project manager is satisfied with the partnership.

"DEIF's components are very easy to install and extremely reliable. ATOS' engineering team onsite



with Commissioning & Testing Engineer Rami Mansour in charge made the commissioning in only a few days with online support from DEIF's Sales Manager Gaëtan Floriach. Everything went very fast and satisfying", says Eng. Mohamed El-Shinawy.

In close cooperation with Gila Electric Al Tawakol and DEIF's distributor ATOS Generator in Egypt, DEIF delivered a control solution to the farmer's three existing gensets (400/250/110 KVA). DEIF provided Al Tawakol with the technical solution and DEIF's Egyptian distributor and genset packager ATOS Generators supplied the components.

The three older gensets are now being controlled by DEIF's ASC-4 solar controller and MIC power meters. The MIC power meter sends signals to the ASC-4 controller that optimises the consumption.

The installation and commissioning went very smooth, and in only three days, the plant was up



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Mohammed El-Shinawy

and running. The results so far are convincing and during the first month, the owner of the farm reduced his monthly fuel consumption with 50,000 litres, equalling approximately a fourth of his monthly consumption.

"The plant has been in operation for three months now, and it is running stable and efficient, and the cooperation has been smooth and professional", explains Eng. Mohamed El-Shinawy.

The farmer is happy with the current results and currently, the second phase of the project is initiated, which is an expansion of the solar power plant. The project will include adding two additional generators which will be controlled by the ASC controller and MIC power meters.

Renewables are booming

Egypt's Feed-in-Tariff program initiative aims at promoting renewables, and several projects are in the pipeline. Both Gila Al Tawakol Electric and ATOS Generators are currently working on several upcoming PV power projects, and according to Commissioning & Testing Engineer Rami Mansour from ATOS Generators the launch of DEIF's new AGC 150 hybrid controller opens up for new possibilities.

"The new AGC-150 Hybrid controller is very suitable for customers with smaller and more simple setups as it is less expensive, I believe this controller is going to be installed in several PV plants in Egypt", Rami concludes.

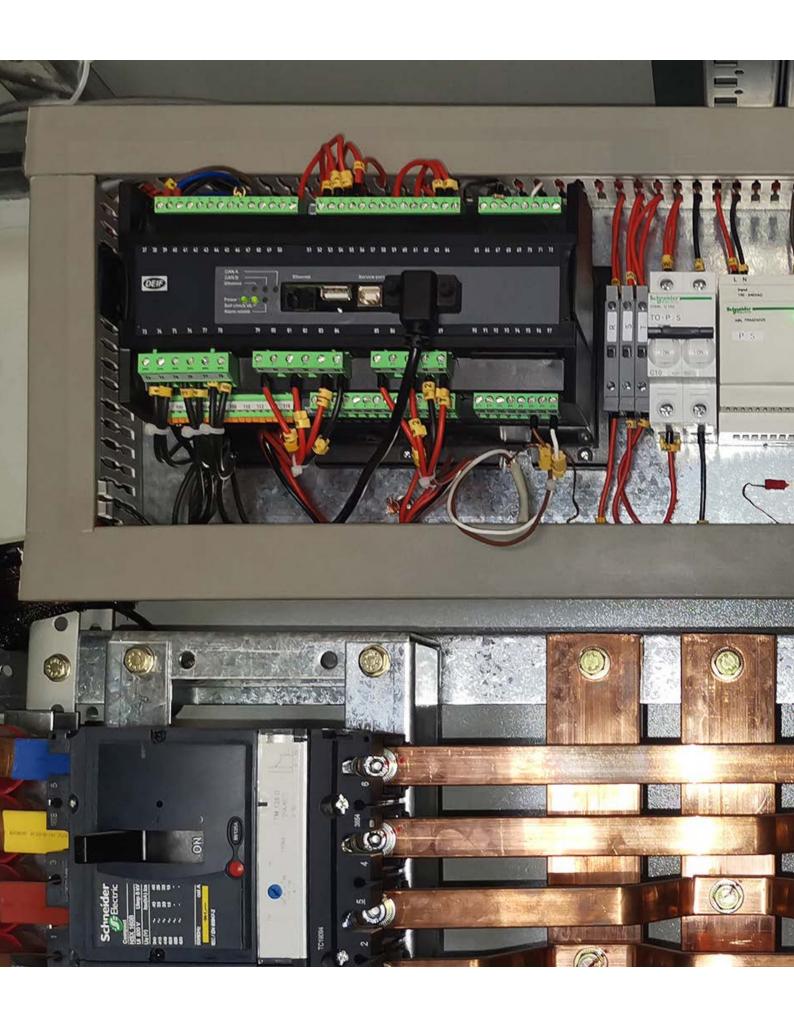


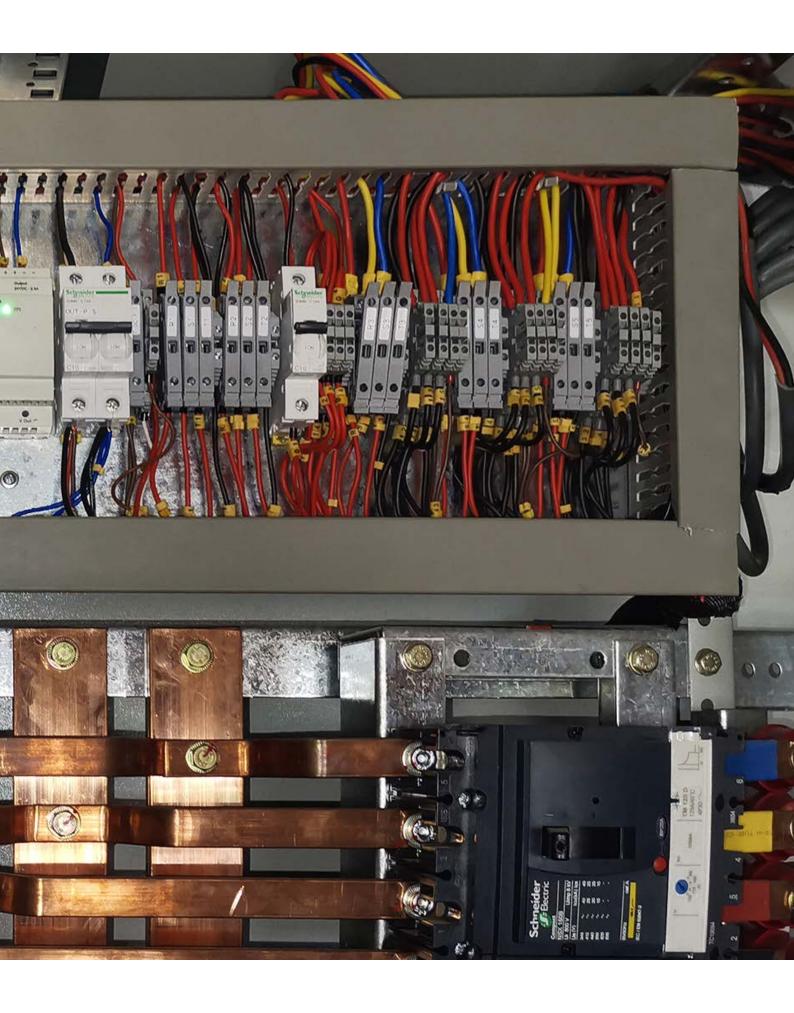
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