

Press release

Hamburg/Munich, 12 April 2021 - SUNTRACE AND BAYWA R.E. COMPLETE LARGEST OFF-GRID SOLAR-BATTERY HYBRID SYSTEM FOR MINING INDUSTRY

Suntrace GmbH and BayWa r.e., together with B2Gold Corp. (CA), have completed commissioning of the world's largest off-grid solar-battery hybrid system for the mining industry, at the Fekola gold mine in Mali, West Africa. The solar-battery hybrid plant was integrated and commissioned successfully with the existing power plant operation, and the solar plant is on course to be 100% complete by the end of June.

Hybrid projects such as this, which combine solar energy with conventional energy generation and battery storage, are an effective way to provide reliable power supply day and night in off-grid areas. Ideally suited to their needs, B2Gold approved the hybrid project for implementation in July 2019, following completion of preliminary studies by Suntrace and BayWa r.e..

The Fekola gold mine operates 24-hours a day. During the daytime, the new 30 MW solar plant allows three out of six heavy fuel oil generators to be shut down; the energy production of the residual three generators could also be significantly reduced. The 15.4 MWh battery storage compensates energy generation fluctuations and assures a reliable operation, which allows up to 75% of the electricity demand of the gold mine to be covered by renewable energy during the daytime.

Dennis Stansbury, Senior Vice President at B2BGold, commented: *"Suntrace and BayWa r.e. have played a vital role in our work towards more sustainable production at Fekola. The implementation of a solar-battery hybrid system was an obvious choice to help achieve this, not only for its environmental credentials, but also its economic viability. This is a landmark project which we expect to pave the way for more sustainable power generation within the mining industry in West Africa."*

The integration of the solar power plant with the battery system will ensure safe and reliable power, saving 13.1 million litres of heavy fuel oil (HFO) a year. The close collaboration of all three parties as one team was vital to implementing this complex project, helping to realise the huge potential of solar battery hybrid systems.

Martin Schlecht, COO at Suntrace, commented: *"We are very proud that B2Gold has entrusted Suntrace, together with BayWa r.e. as Engineering and Procurement contractor, to support the development and implementation of this innovative project. Thanks to excellent team work with*

B2Gold and BayWa r.e., we were able to manage the completion despite the global challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on all of us. We are proud to jointly deliver a functioning project, well integrated with the mining operations, which reduces CO2 emissions from power generation for the Fekola mine by roughly 20%.”

The PV-battery system will help to reduce CO2 emissions by 39 000 tonnes per year.

Thorsten Althaus, Project Manager at BayWa r.e., added: *“Integrating such a large amount of solar into a small, isolated grid safely and reliably has been a major technical challenge and required the use of battery storage as well as a tailor-made control system. This was conceptualised in the early stages of the project and we ensured that our vision was implemented accordingly by the suppliers. It is extremely rewarding to see how well this solution performs in reality and shows that the technology works and is just waiting to be applied on further projects.”*

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BayWa r.e. AG (BayWa r.e.):

At BayWa r.e we r.e. think energy - how it is produced, stored and can be best used to enable the global renewable energy transition that is essential to the future of our planet.

We are a leading global developer, service supplier, distributor and solutions provider and have brought over 4 GW of energy online and manage over 10 GW of assets. We are also an Independent Power Producer with an expanding energy trading business.

BayWa r.e. works with businesses worldwide to provide tailored renewable solutions. Operating 100% carbon neutral, we are also committed to our own sustainability journey.

Every day, we are working hard to actively shape the future of energy in a diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace.

Our shareholders are BayWa AG, a €17.2 billion global business, and Energy Infrastructure Partners, a leader in energy infrastructure investment.

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Suntrace GmbH: Founded in Hamburg in 2009, Suntrace today contributes to the successful development of customer Renewable Energy projects around the world. Thanks to many years of experience and leading technical expertise, Suntrace has implemented solutions for more than 100 projects in over 40 countries in Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. In total, Suntrace contributed to renewable power projects with over 7.000 MW capacity.

The company's services range from Renewable Energy Resource Assessment to Owner's Engineering and Commissioning. In addition to complete technical planning, Suntrace also offers support in financing and project development.

Since 2019, Suntrace is part of the Dornier Group and can thus draw on a strong network of expertise in all infrastructure sectors, covering not only the energy sector but also the aviation, real estate, mobility and water sectors in particular.

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