

# NAMIBIA'S LARGEST SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT INAUGURATED



**The 37 MW Hardap Solar PV Power Plant, located on farm Koichas near Mariental was officially inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Kornelia Shilunga on Thursday, 20 June 2019.**

The USD 70 million investment, with an expected lifespan of 25 years has approximately 140,000 crystalline silicon panels mounted on single axis solar trackers and covers a 100 hectare land area.

The facility is one of the most productive in the world because of the location's extremely high irradiation levels and is expected to meet  $\pm 5\%$  of the country's annual energy demand.

The power plant reached its Commercial Operation Date (COD) in November 2018 and it is forecasted that around 112 GWh of clean electricity will be evacuated into Namibia's National Grid every year.

The power plant was procured on a competitive basis, with a minimum reservation of 30% shareholding for Previously Disadvantaged Namibians (PDN). The contract was awarded to the Alten Energy Consortium as the successful tenderer. Alten Africa, has a controlling interest of 51% in the Alten Solar Power (Hardap) (Pty) Ltd investment vehicle, NamPower (Pty) Ltd 19% and local PDN shareholders, namely, First Place Investment

CC, Mangrove (Pty) Ltd and Talyeni Investments (Pty) Ltd a collective 30%.

Alten Solar Power (Hardap) (Pty) Ltd is financed by Standard Bank South Africa and Proparco for over USD 50 million.

The PV plant will aid in reducing reliance on energy imports in the region and at the same time help Namibia advance towards security of supply, through the effective and economic use of locally available resources.



**FLTR:** Mayor of Mariental, Willem Mensah, NamPower MD, Kahenge S. Haulofu, Hardap Regional Governor, Hon. Esme Isaack, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, Alten Africa Executive President, Juan Laso and Leefa Ndilula, Mangrove (Pty) Ltd.