

Press Release

Wednesday, 27 December 2017

BELECTRIC has built solar power plant to supply UN refugee camp in Jordan

- Largest project of its kind in a refugee camp provides additional power to 80,000 residents and slashes energy costs

Kolitzheim (Germany) – The largest solar plant ever built in a refugee camp went live in Jordan, providing clean and much-needed additional power to 80,000 Syrian refugees living in Jordan's Za'atari camp. The PV plant with an installed capacity of 12.9 MWp was built by BELECTRIC Gulf, a joint venture of Alghaz Holding and BELECTRIC Solar & Battery GmbH, on behalf of the Jordanian and German governments which has funded the plant through the KfW Development Bank.

Electricity provides an essential lifeline for the camp residents, from lighting shelters to preserving food and maintaining hygiene. Because of the high cost of powering the Za'atari camp electricity use was rationed previously. The new solar plant will increase the electricity supply to refugees' homes from eight hours a day up to 14 hours. In addition the solar plant will deliver high annual cost savings. UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency – calculates with savings of around US\$5.5 million, which they plan to reinvest in vital humanitarian assistance.

"We're more than proud that we could contribute making the difficult lives of so many refugees in the Jordanian desert a little bit easier", Martin Zembsch, CCO BELECTRIC Solar & Battery GmbH, explains. "This is the first PV plant we have constructed for a refugee camp but not the last one. Just some days ago BELECTRIC was awarded to build an additional 46 MW PV plant near to Amman, which will provide power to different refugee camps in Jordan."

The PV plant on the outskirts of the UN camp Za'atari consists of 40,000 photovoltaic panels arranged in rows hundreds of meters long covering an area roughly the size of 33 soccer fields. The electricity generated by the new plant will be used to power refugees' shelters, ensuring that residents are the prime beneficiaries. However, the solar plant is connected to Jordan's national grid, meaning any unused power is fed back into the network to support the energy needs of the local community and help the country meet its renewable energy goals.

In addition the project provided employment to workers from the local Jordanian community, as well as 75 Syrian refugees living in the camp under an existing cash-for-work scheme. Many of them will stay on to manage the power station together with BELECTRIC employees.

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For more information www.belectric.com

Publication and reprint free of charge; specimen copy is requested.

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About BELECTRIC: BELECTRIC Solar & Battery GmbH is one of the most successful enterprises in the development and construction of utility scale solar power plants and energy storage systems. The company was established in 2001 and has been expanded to an international group with activities on all continents since then. BELECTRIC has constructed 300 solar PV power plants with over 1.6 GWp PV capacity. In addition, the company realized battery energy storage systems and hybrid power solutions, which combines different technologies to autarkic systems. As one of the largest O&M providers globally, BELECTRIC's full-integrated services provide continuous operation. State-of-the-art solar power plant technology and energy storage technology support the grid infrastructure and contribute to cost reductions in the energy sector. With numerous patents and innovations, BELECTRIC has proven its technological leadership in the industry.

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