PRESS RELEASE

SA TO CONTINUE TO BOOST INVESTMENT IN *RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMMES*

4. November: As South Africa's economy and population continues to grow, so the demand for energy in the country is intensifying. In order to keep up with the demand for energy, as well as maintain a low carbon footprint, South Africa's future energy supply will need to be dominated by sources that are reliable, sustainable, cleaner and cheaper than fossil fuels.

The success of recently completed solar and wind projects within the country confirms that South Africa needs to continue investing in renewables. This is according to Arthur Chien, VP of Talesun Energy, who says that South Africa's renewable energy sector, which is derived from the sun, the wind, the sea and biomass, will develop significantly should more local businesses buy into the vision that renewable sources are the answer to the country's energy dilemmas and future energy security.

Chien says, renewable energy isn't too expensive to invest in. "South Africa's energy intensive economy is still too reliant on coal as its main energy source and that the country's energy funders mostly finance fossil infrastructure which, in his opinion, is a short-term solution to the country's energy crisis, as opposed to promoting renewable infrastructure.

He says renewables will in fact soon be cheaper than electricity from Eskom and points to Mergence Investment who recently said Eskom's tariffs are expected to increase higher than inflation with the new generation capacity from the Medupi and Kusile power plants, each with an average expected generation cost in the region of R0.97kWh. "This cost will overtake that of PV (*photovoltaics)* and wind energy, as the current average wind energy tariff is R0.65/kWh and the average solar energy tariff is R0.80/kWh."

According to Chien, renewables are a viable energy supply even during times when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. "It has been argued that unpredictable seasonal and daily weather changes will prevent renewable energy sources from generating enough electricity. This is certainly not the case in South Africa where the conditions for solar and wind energy are brilliant, with the irradiation levels of 2,500 hours of sunshine each year being amongst the highest worldwide and strong wind generation, especially along the coastal areas of Western and Eastern Cape where the wind is consistently strong."

He advises that if optimised with a mix of other renewable power generation and energy storage technologies, reliable electricity supply can be guaranteed. "For example, 40% of Demark's electricity is derived from a mix of renewables largely solar and wind. Other countries which are successfully using mix renewables include e.g. Germany, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom, south Australia and the US states of Colorado and Texas."

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Furthermore, Chien says it is believed by critics that renewables require too much land to produce electricity. He says that this is completely opposite from the truth, as points to the *WWF Report 2013* which looks at land use requirements for Nuclear, PV and Wind systems. “The report suggests that renewables like solar PV and wind tend to be less land intensive as they are ‘fuel free’ and that once technologies are constructed, they do not require further extraction of resources and therefore require less land than conventional technologies do.”

Chien adds that the deconstructing and decommissioning of power plants that are either ageing or are definitively ceasing activity is an expensive and dangerous process. “The deconstructing of one nuclear power plant cost multiple billion rand and can be a very dangerous process as **there is always the risk of radioactivity being released and harming someone**. Whereas the deconstruction and recycling of PV and wind renewable infrastructure will not cost a fraction of this amount and the recycling process of PV infrastructure - once it has reached the end of its 20 to 30 year lifestyle - is completely safe and not harmful to those involved in the process.”

“With only 13.5% of South Africa’s land being considered usable or suitable for food production; large regions across the country have been without any purpose for many years. Areas in the Northern Cape for example, are either too dry or infertile for planting crops, and have soil which is too rocky, dense and hard for building purposes, which is very similar to northern KwaZulu Natal. It is estimated that for every 101171 square meters of land, a 5MW solar farm which will power 1,515 homes for a year and save 2,150 tonnes (2150000 kilograms) of CO^2 can be installed. Although these vast open spaces in South Africa are seen as unusable, they provide the perfect location for commercial solar farms,” concludes Chien.

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About Talesun Energy

Talesun Energy, a subsidiary of global solar solutions company Zhongli Talesun Solar, consistently produces industry-leading quality, crystalline photovoltaic modules manufactured in one of the world's largest, fully automated production facility (2,260,000 square feet or the size of forty football fields). This systematic production process provides Talesun customers with front-runner price-performance ratios. Supporting its partners in the solar value chain, Talesun Energy also offers project development services, engineering support and financing. As an advancing solar leader, Talesun is dedicated to delivering exceptional sales support and customer service in Europe, the United States, Africa, South America, Japan, Australia and China. Zhongli Talesun Solar is a subsidiary of Zhongli Sci-Tech Group Co., Ltd., an international market leader in special cables, optical fiber cables and photovoltaic product manufacturing. For more information please visit www.talesunenergy.com

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