

Powering the energy transition

Producing over 560 GWh of energy annually, the Baynouna solar park is helping Jordan achieve its objective of meeting 50% of its electricity needs from renewables by 2030. Creating enough energy to power 160,000 homes, this is a large-scale project that is also providing jobs and economic opportunities for the area.

The Baynouna Solar Energy Company (BSCE), a joint venture between the UAE's world-leading renewable energy company, Masdar, and Finnish investment and asset management group Taaleri, has formally inaugurated the 200 MW Baynouna Solar Park, the largest clean energy project in Jordan.

The significance of the moment was clear by the list of dignitaries in attendance, including His Excellency Bisher Al-Khasawneh, Prime Minister of Jordan, HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate, and Chairman of Masdar; HE Dr Saleh Al Kharabsheh, Jordan's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources; and HE Sheikh Khalifa Bin Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Jordan.

Developed through a power purchase agreement between Masdar and National Electric Power Company, Jordan's state electricity provider, the Baynouna solar park produces over 560 GWh of energy annually. The plant also displaces 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to taking nearly 80,000 cars off the road.

The idea behind the solar park is clear; to contribute to Jordan's climate targets, provide access to clean energy, create jobs and ensure economic growth. Along with the Tafila wind farm, Masdar is already helping Jordan produce 29% of its

electricity from renewable sources and will support its goal of increasing that to 50% by the end of the decade.

Arguably, ambitious, transformative partnerships of this nature are necessary if the promises of the Paris Agreement are to be met and countries are to ensure that they are holding back emissions, rather than progress. Particularly as COP28 is likely to focus on moving from goals to implementation, with a clear focus on demonstrable action on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and finance, with the objective of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

HE Dr Saleh Al Kharabsheh, Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, said: 'Under the directive of His Majesty King Abdullah II to make Jordan a regional center for green development, the Ministry is focused on developing local energy sources to achieve energy security, enhance self-reliance and limit the effects of climate change. If we look at the world today, we see that renewable energy, especially solar and wind energy, are the fastest growing and widespread renewable energy sources and the time has come to maximize the benefits of renewables.'

Masdar also operates the 117 MW Tafila wind farm, which was completed in 2015 and is the first commercial utility-scale wind project in the Middle East. In

November 2022, Masdar signed a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to explore the development of a further 2 GW of renewable energy projects in the country.

HE Sheikh Khalifa Bin Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Nahyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary representative of the UAE to Jordan, said: 'This inauguration is a landmark moment in the history of our two nations and will serve to strengthen the already powerful relationship between us. The UAE is committed to helping our brother nations in the region achieve their clean energy objectives and we stand ready to share our expertise further with the Government and people of Jordan and to help deliver sustainable economic development.'

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer, Masdar, said: 'The project is one of the fruits of Masdar's long collaborative partnership with Jordan. We stand ready to support Jordan in its energy transition and will look to increase our presence in the Kingdom through the development of further clean energy projects that will drive economic growth for the nation.'

Financial institutions that supported the Baynouna project include the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the KfW



Group's DEG, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Peter Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer, Taaleri Group, said: 'We are very excited to be inaugurating the largest solar park in Jordan. This impressive project is a testament to the strength of cooperation between Masdar and Taaleri, two pioneers who have been active in

the renewable energy field for a long time. We are proud to advance our common global climate change mitigation goals together with our partners and investors.'

The energy transition is a central component of the UAE's priorities as it prepares to host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change

(COP28) in November and December.

The conference, the largest annual gathering of policymakers and practitioners focused on climate change and sustainability, will see well over 70,000 officials from across the public and private sectors gather at Expo City in Dubai.

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About Masdar

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, also known as Masdar, is the UAE's clean energy champion and one of the largest companies of its kind in the world, advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies to address global sustainability challenges.

Established in 2006, Masdar is today active in over 40 countries, helping them to achieve their clean energy objectives and advance sustainable development. Masdar is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), and under this ownership the company is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of at least 100 GW by 2030 and an annual green hydrogen production capacity of up to 1 million tonnes by the same year.