

# Keeping expansion plans on track



Creating opportunity on previously limited sites: Ideematec's unmatched terrain-following capabilities mean more power, in more places

Ideematec has industry experience in 25 countries across six continents, shipping over 4 GW of trackers worldwide. Now it faces perhaps its biggest challenge to date, playing its part in providing enough low-cost electricity to power around 130,000 Texas homes. PES was keen to hear all about the project from Ideematec, Inc. President & CEO Philipp Klemm.

**PES:** Welcome back to PES Philipp, I'm looking forward to getting an update on all things Ideematec. What's new since we last spoke?

**Philipp Klemm:** Thank you for the invite. It's a pleasure to speak again and I am looking forward to our discussion.

There's been a lot of movement, particularly professionally. Our organisation has grown internationally, introduced a new product at the last RE+ in Anaheim, sold over 1.5 GW of our next generation tracker to date and is about to enter another exciting collaboration in the US market. What would you like to discuss in more detail today?

**PES:** You've recently been selected by Parliament Solar to supply a tracking system, correct?

**PK:** That's correct and the entire Ideematec group is excited to report that first material deliveries are already underway in Texas, where the official install kick-off will commence late August.

**PES:** Tell us about the project and what it involves.

**PK:** The Parliament project is a true milestone for Ideematec, not only in North America. It's a 640 MW project fitted with our new Horizon L:TEC® 1P tracker, located in Waller County, Texas, and delivering electricity into the Electric Reliability Council of Texas 'ERCOT' territory in the near future.

The project will provide enough low-cost electricity to power about 130,000 Texas homes. The project execution is a partnership between Ideematec and Parliament Solar, LLC, the initial asset for Parliament Energy Holdings LLC. Parliament Solar is a portfolio company of EnCap Investments L.P. and Mercuria Energy. Another important partner is Solar Proponent LLC, which is an EnCap and Mercuria portfolio company. Solar Proponent is a solar development company with approximately 7 GW of projects under development and is providing construction management services to Parliament Solar.

The collaboration comes at an important junction for our North American expansion plans, and you can see our local team

taking shape as we speak. We look forward to working with all participating parties to supply GWs of our Horizon L:TEC® product into additional projects.

**PES:** How and why did Ideematec get selected?

**PK:** Our customer has long held admiration for Ideematec's technology and through very thorough vetting efforts, both direct commercial-and third-party technology, recognised the key advantages we are offering, not only for projects like Parliament Solar. The more challenging large solar sites become, for example through difficult topography and high wind loads, the more impactful our patented system benefits turn out to be for our clients.

**PES:** It was the Horizon L:TEC® that was used, tell us about this.

**PK:** Ideematec's latest tracker platform, the L:TEC, available in 1P and 2P, offers technical advances the organisation accumulated and perfected over the last 13 years of product development. We collected unique experience derived from over 4 GW of operational trackers in the field.

Our heritage lies in challenging projects and the L:TEC tracking platform melts knowledge with economics at large scale. It's fair to assume that we've all recognised utility solar projects becoming ever more



Philipp Klemm



Generating 800MW of peak capacity, Ideematec has supported Qatar and its communities in constructing the largest 2P solar park in the world

challenging. Easier to build projects on flat land, with no environmental impacts like strong wind, are more frequently a story of the past. The combination of our flat stowing ability, our decoupled drive technology and added locking mechanism, the L in L:TEC stands for locking, put the L:TEC tracker ahead of its peers and make it the solution for projects of the future.

**PES: Is this the first project of this size and nature you've been involved with?**

**PK:** Ideematec has successfully delivered large utility scale projects in many regions, both standard and challenging. A few examples are Australia, Jordan, South Africa and many European countries as well. Our established international supply chain was put to the test during Covid-19, when we delivered the 800 MW Qatar project as planned and on time. A logistical masterpiece.

**PES: Can you tell us what makes the Horizon L:TEC® a suitable solution?**

**PK:** The Parliament Solar project has some higher than standard wind loads. The higher the engineering wind loads get, the greater our system benefits become. Many of our competitors' trackers are more sensitive to increasing wind speeds and the result is the need for more tonnage per MW, or heavier systems, which yields a significant cost impact to the customer.

The combination of our decoupled drive, flat stow, and locking mechanism compensate for these impacts in smart and efficient ways. The flat stow feature ensures your solar plant will experience up to 50% less stress on the solar modules, all while lessening foundation loads. This is also important as module sizes continue to increase. The flexible configuration and locking technology of our Horizon L:TEC® tracker is an ideal combination for the demanding environments throughout Texas.

**PES: After this project, what are your**

**plans in the US?**

**PK:** We are advancing our local capabilities in the region and are confident in harnessing our technological advantages in the coming years. Alongside training centers and team strength, smart local manufacturing has seen significant attention. Local collaboration and long-term partnerships are at the core of current activities for North America.

**PES: Besides the L:TEC tracker, what other services and solutions have you been working on since we last spoke?**

**PK:** Our R&D department is always keen to stay a few steps ahead. What I can share is that we are investing in smarter cleaning technology implementation, software improvements, efficient hardware upgrades and the ability to build lighter- and more cost competitive systems into the coming decade.

**PES: What is your overall assessment of the market?**

**PK:** The North American market will remain a strong driver of the global energy transition effort. My career in the US began way before large-scale solar made economic sense for our industry. We've

come a long way since 2007 and the current support mechanisms, which are further strengthened by the IRA, accelerate the deployment of large scale solar, while being economically sound. Energy transition and environmental impact reduction are not only bipartisan issues but global generational challenges. Our hope is to see the uninterrupted continuation of a work toward a fair, clean energy reality.

**PES: How do you think this will develop?**

**PK:** Along with government initiatives, decreasing prices in Solar PV, plus the increased demand for reliable energy supply, the United States will continue to dominate the solar market. We are expecting a compound annual growth rate of >20%. 6.1 gigawatts of capacity were installed in the first quarter of 2023, making it the best first quarter in the solar industry to date. That is astonishing progress from 4,751 MW installed within 2013, as an example from a decade ago. California has long been the leader, but Texas emerged as a solid key market state. Land availability and an independent grid managed by ERCOT have made Texas the leader in solar developments.

The increase in solar power generation has also been important to meet the growing energy demand, especially with the recent heat waves. Rapid solar developments bring clean affordable energy and it's also a major driver of clean energy job growth. The future of solar will expand with the influx of investment and innovation and it's really a positive for all. What started as a dream has attracted enormous investment and employs over 250,000 Americans today.

**PES: What's next for Ideematec specifically?**

**PK:** We set our aim at becoming the lightest, most advanced and cost-effective tracking provider in the global market. Together with a very smart and engaged international team, we are setting new expectations for the entire industry.

I'm excited to see this through.

[www.ideematec.com](http://www.ideematec.com)



Producing 56MW of peak capacity, construction was recently completed on Bulgaria's first 1P L:TEC solar park