

WITZENBERG – 19.5MW CERES SOLAR PV PLANT

PROJECT SUMMARY



The proposed Witzenberg 19.5MW Ceres Solar PV Plant is a strategic renewable energy project aimed at strengthening local energy resilience, reducing dependence on the constrained Eskom distribution network, and supporting economic growth within the Witzenberg Municipality. The project entails the development of a 28-hectare solar photovoltaic facility near Ceres, including PV panels, inverters, transformers, underground cabling, internal access roads and a 1.7 km 11–33 kV transmission line connecting to the Bon Chretien substation.

The project will supply renewable electricity into the municipal network, easing pressure on existing electricity infrastructure that currently limits industrial expansion and new business connections. It will also support the agricultural value chain, including agri-processing and cold-storage facilities, while contributing to lower carbon emissions, improved municipal energy security and long-term climate resilience.

PROJECT STATUS



The project is currently at concept and pre-feasibility stage, with supporting procurement documentation indicated in the project summary. The preferred operational route is an Independent Power Producer / PPP model, with private-sector participation expected to play a key role in the development, financing, construction and operation of the facility.

The project has also been supported by various planning and environmental documents, including the Witzenberg IDP, Spatial Development Framework, Basic Assessment Report, Environmental Management Programme, and site verification documentation. These documents provide the basis for further project preparation, funding discussions and transaction structuring.

FINANCIAL NEEDS



The estimated project value is approximately R230 million. The project is currently recorded as not funded, with the co-funder and co-funding amount still to be confirmed.

Funding is required to take the project through the next stages of preparation and implementation, including detailed technical work, financial and transaction structuring, procurement support, construction and commissioning. Given the proposed IPP/PPP route, the project presents an opportunity for private-sector investment, supported by appropriate public-sector facilitation and municipal approvals.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITY



The project presents a clear opportunity for collaboration between the public and private sectors. The public sector role would include project facilitation, municipal approvals, planning alignment, grid integration support and ensuring that the project aligns with local development priorities. Private-sector participation could include:

Independent Power Producer participation

Project finance and investment

Engineering, procurement and construction services

Solar PV technology supply and installation

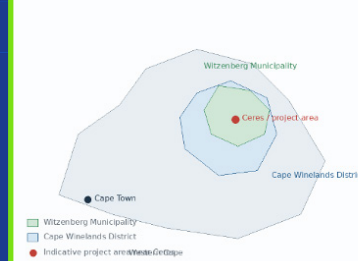
Operations and maintenance of the solar facility

Skills development and SMME participation during construction and operational phases

The project has strong catalytic potential as it can crowd in private finance, improve municipal financial sustainability, strengthen energy resilience and demonstrate a scalable renewable energy model for other municipalities.

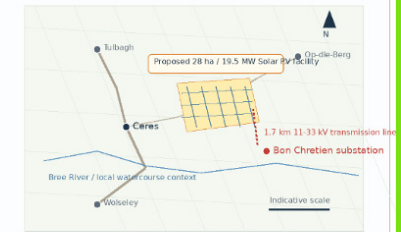
Location Context

Western Cape > Cape Winelands > Witzenberg



Indicative Project Location

Solar PV facility near Ceres with 1.7 km line to Bon Chretien substation



MAP OF THE PROJECT

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KEY PARTIES



Key parties include:

Witzenberg Municipality: Project owner and municipal network beneficiary

Western Cape Government / Department of Local Government: SIDAFF-related support and municipal infrastructure coordination

Pegasys / SIDAFF Programme: Project preparation and financing support

Potential Independent Power Producer / Private Sector Partner – Development, financing, construction and operation

Cape Winelands District Municipality: Regional alignment and support

Local businesses and communities – Beneficiaries of improved energy reliability

Technical and environmental consultants – Supporting technical, environmental and project preparation documentation

Relevant energy and regulatory stakeholders: For grid connection, approvals and implementation support

The concept note indicates that the project forms part of Witzenberg's broader infrastructure programme and is aligned to the municipality's IDP, SDF and renewable energy priorities.

TIMELINE



This is a high-level implementation period rather than a detailed project programme. It indicates that the Witzenberg 19.5MW Ceres Solar PV Plant falls within the 2-4 year implementation category, with a specific note of 2-3 years. The timeline below therefore sets out an indicative implementation pathway based on the project status, funding position and required next steps reflected in the concept note.

PHASE	INDICATIVE TIMELINE	KEY ACTIVITIES
Project identification and planning	2024-2025	Project identified as a 19.5MW Solar PV facility near Ceres, supported by municipal planning and renewable energy priorities.
Concept and pre-feasibility	2025	Project developed at concept / pre-feasibility level, including project scope, estimated value, operational model and strategic rationale.
Funding and transaction structuring	To be confirmed	Confirm funding approach, co-funder, IPP / PPP structure, financial model and municipal approvals.
Procurement / IPP appointment	To be confirmed	Procurement process for private sector / IPP partner, including bid preparation, evaluation and appointment.
Construction and grid connection	Indicative within 2-3 years	Construction of the 28-hectare solar PV facility, inverters, transformers, cabling, access roads and 1.7 km transmission line to Bon Chretien substation. Concept note indicates an implementation timeline category of 2-4 years, with a note stating "Timeline: 2-3 years."
Commissioning and operations	To be confirmed	Testing, commissioning and operation of the facility through the preferred IPP / PPP model.