

Eskom becomes a farmer (of wind)

The National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) has granted Eskom a licence for its Sere wind farm in the Western Cape, the power parastatal said on Monday (20 May).



"This is an exciting milestone in Eskom's move towards a cleaner energy mix," Eskom's chief executive Brian Dames said in a statement.

"Sere is our first, large-scale, renewable energy project. It demonstrates our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and to investing in a sustainable energy future," he said.

The licence would allow Eskom to start construction of the R2.4bn farm, which was expected to deliver its first power to the national grid in the first half of next year, with full commercial operation by the end of 2014.

Sere is the Nama word for "cool breeze".

Eskom said the wind-farm, to be located near Koekenaap, would generate up to 100MW of power for the national grid and would mean carbon emissions would be cut by 4.7m tons over 20 years.

The project was funded by a group of development finance institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, Clean Technology Fund, and Agence Francaise de Developpement.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to take advantage of attractive financing from international development finance institutions to construct the project at costs which compare favourably with the market," Dames said.

The wind-farm would comprise 46 Siemens 2.3-108 wind turbine generators and the costs include construction of a new substation and of a 132KV distribution line.

It had an expected operating life of 20 years, with average annual energy production of about 233,000MWh, which was enough to power about 97,000 standard homes.

Source: Sapa via I-Net Bridge

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