

## Communiqué de Presse

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### **Approval of Solar Power Contract in Zambia**

The Chamber of Mines is very pleased to note that the Industrial Development Corporation of Zambia is to develop two new solar power projects each of 50MW at extremely competitive tariffs of US¢6.02/kWh and US¢7.84/kWh. This development is to be with the support of the World Bank and their Scaling Solar initiative, <http://www.scalingsolar.org>.

The addition of 100MW into the regional supply in the near term will assist greatly with power stability in the region and the addition of further solar initiatives in the coming years is also a very welcome development. It is also understood that “Round 2 of the Scaling Solar program in Zambia, with a target capacity of a further 200 MW, has recently been launched by Zambia’s President, His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu. Work has already commenced on a high-level study of the national grid to determine the optimal location and size of these and other future solar PV projects”. This could see Zambia becoming a net exporter of power in the next few years.

The Chamber remains extremely concerned about the power situation in the DR Congo and deplores the fact that SNEL has not been able to initiate similar projects in Katanga. Such solar projects could be used in conjunction with the lakes Tshangalele and Delcommune so that the water can be better managed to optimise production from Mwadingusha, Koni, Nzilo and Nseke.

It is essential that a truly independent regulator be put in place and that the power liberalization textes d’application be finalized and put in place so that IPP initiatives such as this one in Zambia can be implemented in the Congo.

It is equally important that an independent grid operator be put in place so that the transport of power to the customers is done in a fair and transparent manner. This will give IPP operators the certainty they need to raise the funds necessary to build new projects in the Congo.

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