
Order Focus: Suntech to supply 'largest' PV array in Latin America

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By Ben Willis - 22 July 2013

Troubled Chinese manufacturer Suntech Power Holdings is to supply PV modules for what is claimed will be Latin America's largest PV array, a 30MW plant in La Paz, Baja California Sur in Mexico.

The 132,000 Suntech Ve and Vd panels will be installed by Portugal-based [EPC firm Martifer Solar](#) on a 100-hectare site.

Owned by Corporacion Aura Solar, the project is being developed by Gauss Energia, a leading Mexican energy project developer focused on renewable energy.

It is Mexico's first utility-scale solar project with a power purchase agreement from Mexico's federal power company.

E L McDaniel, managing director of Suntech America, said: "We are very excited to supply the panels for the largest solar field in Latin America. With Mexico's excellent sunlight and strong renewable energy demand, we expect to see excellent growth of PV in the region."

Henrique Rodrigues, CEO of Martifer Solar, said: "The construction of Latin America's largest PV plant confirms our best expectations for 2013. This is an emblematic project for Martifer Solar, in a region that, due to its irradiation characteristics, finds solar electricity as a viable and more competitive alternative, when compared with non-renewable energy sources."

Hector Olea, CEO of Gauss Energia, said: "Aura Solar is the first project of a larger initiative that aims to become a platform to develop utility-scale PV facilities in Mexico. With Mexico's solar potential expected to reach around 2,000 MW by 2020, Aura Solar has broken ground in the PV sector, and it is paving the way for future projects in the field."

The plant is expected to have a production capacity of 82 GWh/year and construction is scheduled to be completed in August 2013.