

Press release

RWE builds further solar-storage plant in opencast mine

- **“RWE Neuland Solar Farm” being constructed in the Hambach opencast mine to supply more than 3,100 homes with green electricity from 22,000 solar modules**
- **Efficient modules absorb sunlight at front and rear, optimised electricity feed-in thanks to battery storage**
- **RWE and Neuland Hambach GmbH plan joint operation of solar projects at Hambach opencast mine**

Cologne/Essen, 24 August 2023

RWE is continuing to progress full speed ahead on green electricity production in the Rhenish mining district. Construction of a photovoltaics plant with integrated battery storage system has commenced at the Hambach lignite opencast mine, where RWE will install some 22,000 solar modules, enough to supply more than 3,100 households with green electricity. RWE is planning to operate the solar projects at the Hambach opencast mine in collaboration with Neuland Hambach GmbH. The company is coordinating the structural change around the opencast mine and is playing a key role in shaping it. Accordingly, the solar-storage project, which is part of the inter-municipal framework plan for re-landscaping the mine and for its intermediate use, has been named “RWE Neuland Solar Farm”.

The RWE Neuland Solar Farm is similar in size to the [“RWE indeland Solar Farm”](#) at the Inden opencast mine, which has 26,500 solar modules and was presented a few weeks ago.

Katja Wünschel, CEO RWE Renewables Europe & Australia: “This is already the fourth large solar project we are launching in the Rhenish mining district within a very short period of time, again in combination with a storage system. We are stepping up the pace, in particular in our home state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and we are implementing every wind and solar project possible. Across Germany, the capacity of these renewable energy projects will amount to 1,000 megawatts by 2030, with at least 500 megawatts to be located in the Rhenish mining district. To this end, we are investing around €4 billion gross.”

Lars Kulik, CTO Lignite at RWE Power: “The “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” will also be built on a recultivated opencast mining site. It is located near the shore of the future Hambach Lake and will be reached by its water level in decades only. Until the lake is completely filled with water, around 40 years from now, the area is being put to good use temporarily for solar farms. In this way, even opencast mines that are still active can already contribute towards the energy transition.”

RWE

After completion, currently planned for the end of 2023, the “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” will have a capacity of 8.4 megawatts (MWac). Bifacial modules, which are photosensitive on both sides are installed. The advantage of these is that, in addition to sunlight hitting the panels directly, they can also utilise light reflected by the ground to the rearside of the modules. This makes these modules extremely efficient. The battery storage system is designed for a two-hour charging and supply cycle of over 8 megawatt hours, functioning as a buffer between generation and grid.

The new plant is being built next to the “[RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm](#)” with a planned capacity of 17.6 MWac . Subject to planning permission going through quickly, installation could commence as early as this year.

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You can **find additional information on RWE’s solar projects** [here](#).

Photovoltaic plants at the Hambach opencast mine (under construction / planned)

Photovoltaic plant “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” (under construction)	12.2 MWp	8.4 MWac
Battery storage system “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” (under construction)	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh
Photovoltaic plant “RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm” (in planning)	20 MWp	17.6 MWac

Photovoltaics-storage plant in the Garzweiler opencast mine (commissioning stage)

Garzweiler photovoltaics plant	19.4 MWp	12 MWac
Garzweiler battery storage system	6.5 MW	13 MWh
Jackerath photovoltaics plant	12.1 MWp	8 MWac
Jackerath battery storage system	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh

“RWE indeland Solar Farm” at the Inden opencast mine (operational)

Photovoltaics plant	14.4 MWp	8 MWac
Battery storage system	4.8 MW	9.6 MWh

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RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydropower, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH

The structural change in the region is a multi-dimensional puzzle. Climate-protection, renaturation and infrastructure aspects as well as economic and social perspectives all come into play. NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH represents the common interests of the six neighbouring municipalities of Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz. The development company pools knowledge, manages projects and devises future uses for the 8,500 hectares making up Hambach opencast mine and its surroundings. Its objective is to create a liveable and sustainable post-mining landscape for the current and future generations of people living in the region – to meet and exceed the expectations of all. <https://www.neuland-hambach.de/>

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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